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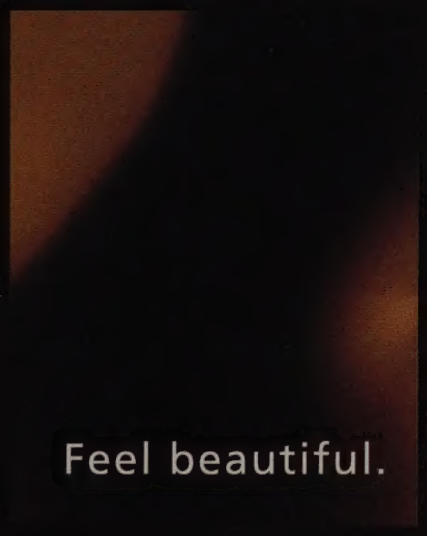

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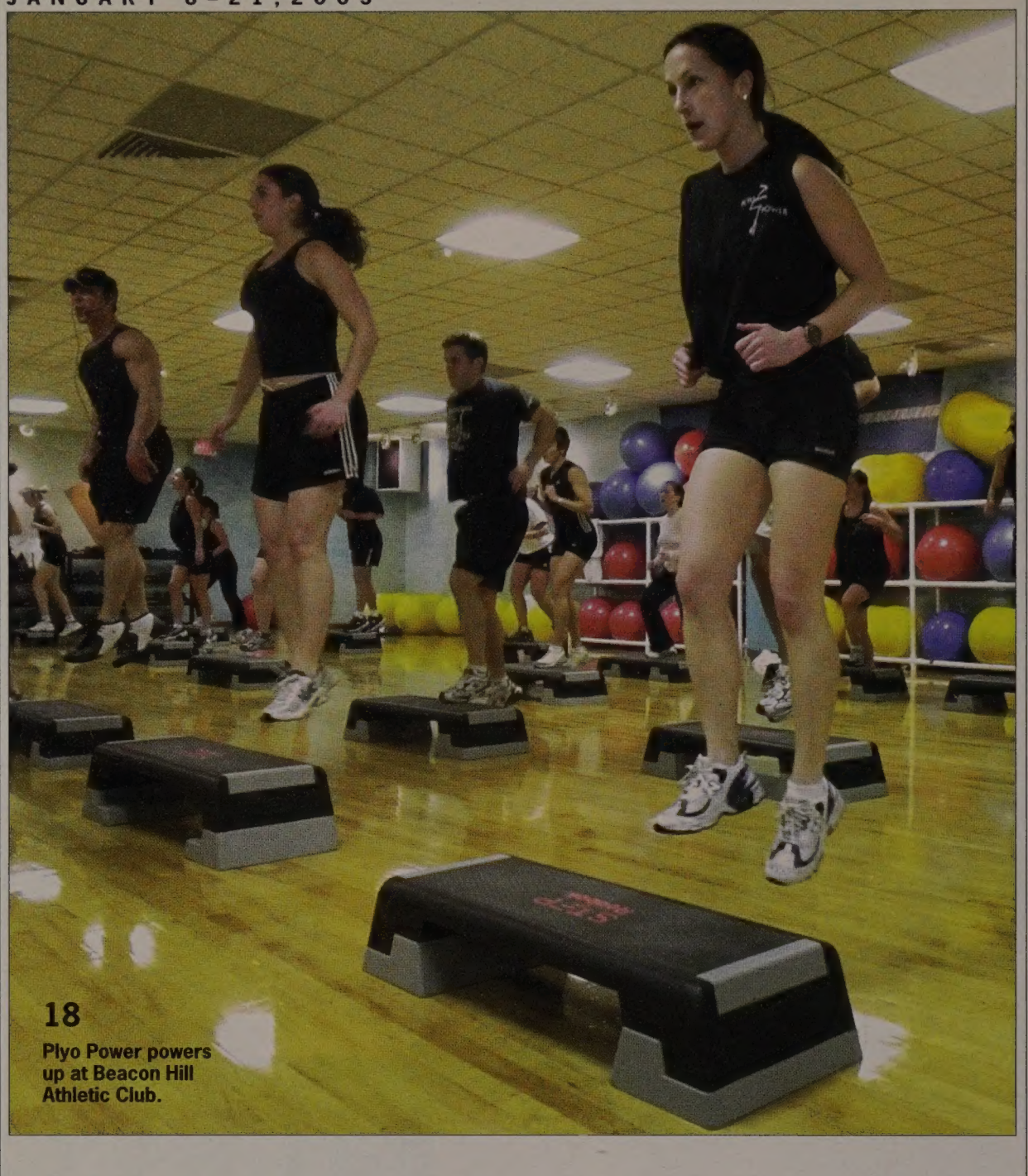

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On the Cover:
Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Joe Greene
joegreenephoto.com

Trainers: **Alexis Tyson/Boston Athletic Club; Brandon Kolar/The Sports Club/LA**
Hair and Makeup: **Emily Goodwin/ James Joseph Salon, Newbury Street**
On Alexis: **sports bra and dumbbell provided by City Sports; pants provided by the c.i.t.e. boutique at The Sports Club/LA**
On Brandon: **shirt provided by City Sports; pants provided by Nike**

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MIKE MEI

COMING SOON — A WAY TO GET YOUR RAH, RAHS OUT.
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letters

FROM THE EDITOR

If the buff woman on this issue's cover looks familiar (and you don't work out at Boston Athletic Club, where she runs the personal training program and teaches classes), think back to the episode of *Fear Factor* that ran last February after the Super Bowl. Our cover girl, Alexis Tyson, was the first of six contestants to clamber down a 35-foot ladder hanging from the Monster.com blimp as it hovered over the Pacific Ocean. Her goal: to retrieve a flag placed at its bottom rung. (Unfortunately, she didn't end up with the fastest time, but having competed in itself is still a pretty good story to share at a cocktail party.)

As trainers who obviously practice what they preach, Tyson and colleague Brandon Kolar of the Sports Club/LA make fitting models for the IMPROPER's first-ever health and fitness issue, which we've timed to coincide with those New Year's resolutions we've all made. This month, you may be among the legions of well-intentioned souls heading to the gym with visions of weight loss and newly minted muscle dancing in your head.

If you're one of the hell-bent-for-svelte, though, you may do better to forgo the big plans. According to many of the Boston fitness gurus and nutritionists we interviewed for this issue, it's those visions of grandeur that can squash your resolutions in the long run. It's better to start small.

"Set realistic goals," advises Tyson, who has worked at BAC since 1997 and has a degree in exercise science and fitness management. "People come in and say 'I want to lose 20 pounds in a month.' Instead, make short-term goals to get to your long-term goals. Start out with trying to lose two pounds, then two more." Also, she says, schedule your workouts. "If it's in the planner, you're more likely to do it." Kolar, who has been a trainer for five years and holds a degree in nutrition, agrees. "Incremental goals are key—start out by getting in here once a week instead of trying to go from zero to five," he says. "Find a sense of accomplishment in something."

Whether you haven't set foot in the gym in years or are determined to get in top shape for your first marathon this year, staying committed and positive about your progress will likely be your biggest challenge. For more motivational tips from 10 local trainers and instructors, turn to "You Say You Want a Resolution" on page 26.

Eating more healthfully—you've heard it a hundred times—should go hand-in-hand with your exercise plan, and, here too, reachable goals, as well as an understanding of your habits and emotions, can help ensure that you make healthy changes that stick, say nutritionists. Susan Abbattista's "Fear and Loathing on the Bathroom Scale" (page 23) describes five simple things you can do to improve your diet and control your weight this year.

Varying your workout and keeping it fun can also help you stay motivated, so we sent two staffers out to try some of the latest classes at eight local gyms—from Crunch's Cardio Strip Tease class to Alexis Tyson's own Body Blast class at BAC. Find out how these classes rated for fun and difficulty in Julie Short and Ezra Dyer's "Get Pumped Up" on page 18.

Rounding out this issue are short features on tasteful ways to get a date at the gym, based on interviews with male and female gym-goers on how they like to be approached (page 29) and on the latest workout clothes for men and women (page 31)—even trainers acknowledge that a new outfit can even help you stay motivated or serve as a reward for sticking to it.

Whatever your current fitness level and health goals, we hope you'll find something in this issue to help you stay on the right track. Your challenge is not simply getting to the gym or eating right for a short period of time; it's working every day to produce long-term cumulative health benefits. While that may be a slightly abstract concept when compared with the immediate appeal of eating a plate of nachos in front of the TV, don't get discouraged if you slip up. As trainer Robyn Dalton of the Beacon Hill Athletic Clubs says, "The biggest mistake is giving up too soon. Becoming fit is a lifelong thing."

Veronica A. Chao

—Veronica Chao
Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

JOE GREENE

This month's cover photographer, Joe Greene, has been shooting fashion and advertising photography in Boston for 20 years. Born into a family of professional entertainers and trained as a musician, Joe found his first visual inspiration with a paintbrush. He turned to the camera as a teenager when he "couldn't get his ideas on canvas fast enough."

Entirely self-taught, Joe's never worked for any other photographers. His only training was at Mass Art, where he received honors as a dual major in photography and graphic design. His work in advertising photography has taken him all around the country, while his fine art photos hang in private homes and public spaces. For example, more than 200 views of Boston are installed at boutique hotel XV Beacon.

Joe applies his unique awareness of color and light to capture everything from American subcultures, captains of industry and local heroes. After following Harley Davidson riders around with his camera for five years, a major body of work, *Tough Guys*, is now awaiting publication.

Currently he continues to editorialize Peter Wolf's Sleepless tour, shooting both onstage and off-stage moments. Some of Greene's photos appear in the CD booklet as well. You can see more of Greene's ASMP award-winning photography on the Web at *www.joegreenephoto.com*.

Tell Us What You Think

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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Lily Alt, Jessica Iredale, Joy Peterson, Maria Zade**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

FASHION & BEAUTY EDITOR **Samantha House**

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER **Alison Morant**

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RECEPTIONIST **Robyn Sarkisian**

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the Word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

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NEW IN TOWN

Late-Night Realization

Late-night dining spots are few and far between in this town, so we felt the blow when Oskar's on South Street closed last year. But now there's **Epiphany** to fill the void (and literally the empty storefront) that Oskar's left in the Leather District. With a stylish lounge atmosphere and exotic Asian fusion menu (offered late into the night until the kitchen closes at 1am) Epiphany promises to draw hip hordes from Boston and beyond.

Po Chiu, director of operations at Epiphany, with owner Sierra Towers.

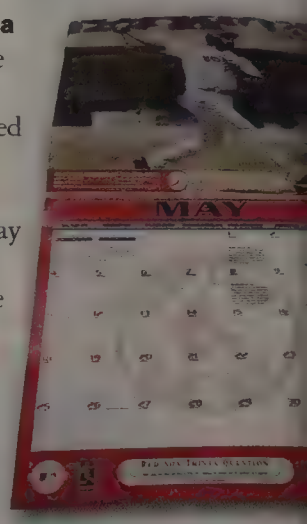
We were sold as soon as they said "Here's our menu." Choices included green-tea duck in a fig reduction, Pacific yellowtail morels, vegetarian glass noodles and spicy Maine lobster—not to mention gourmet sushi and sashimi. Epiphany's executive chef, Hong Kong native Cardin Lau, was most recently a master chef at Bamboo Forest at Connecticut's Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino and sushi chef at Haruki's & Oki's Japanese steakhouse in Rhode Island.

Owner Sierra Towers, formerly a manager at Big City and Sunset Bar & Grille, is aiming for a friendly atmosphere: "We're hoping for the '*Cheers* complex,'" she says. "Everyone walking in should feel like Norm." The setting is more ritzy than *Cheers,* with its exposed brick walls, soft red lighting, black granite bars, funky menu and smoking lounge. With about 50 booths and tables and a smattering of banquettes, Epiphany is cozy while being fairly large—big enough to seat 200. *107 South St., Boston (617-338-7999). Lunch and dinner Mon.-Fri., 11am-1am; Sat., 5pm-1am.* www.epiphanyboston.com.

—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short

SPORTS

Calendar Boys



From the "Lead Time Is Such a Drag" Department... Near the end of December, we eagerly tore open our official 2003 Red Sox calendar, ready to start a new year with a fresh dose of optimism. Imagine our dismay when we realized that four of the 12 featured players on the calendar are no longer with the team. Perhaps the print run was done before several free-agent deals were sorted out in December, but Jose Offerman (Mr. May) was sent packing last *August*. Oh well—maybe seeing Offerman and Tony Clark staring at us for a month at a time will make us really appreciate the 2003 team.

General Yao Is in Town... The Celtics' Feb. 24 game against the Rockets will be the Boston premiere of 7-foot-5 Chinese giant-with-skills Yao Ming. If you get tickets, remember to put the ski rack on your car that night so you can take home your Yao bobblehead doll.

D'oh... Remember that infectious good cheer that pervaded New England after the Patriots' Super Bowl win? Since the Pats didn't even make the playoffs this year, we've long since thudded back to earth. But we still have to hope that syndicated columnist Dave Barry is wrong. In his year-in-review column, Barry wrote, "In sports, the New England Patriots win the Super Bowl, thus using up all the sports luck that New England has been accumulating for decades, and thereby guaranteeing that the Red Sox will not win the World Series for another 150 years."*—Ezra Dyer*

CLUB SCENE

Worldwide Contrast

•Friday Grooves... On the first and third Friday of every month, DJs Todd Hanna and Phil Jakob bring Groovefire night to GLO Fridays at Pravda 116. Hanna says, "We like to say that Groovefire is 'nightlife refined, house music defined.'" Catering to a well-dressed crowd that has outgrown what Hanna calls "the underage, glow-stick nonsense of some other clubs," he and his partner blend everything from deep house, funky house and disco house to Latin, tribal and progressive house. As the night moves from a relaxed pace to high-energy house, the Groovefire DJs keep the dance floor full until the last record spins. Check it out for yourself when Hanna and Jakob return to GLO Fridays at Pravda Jan. 18. *www.groovefire.com.*

Todd Hanna and Phil Jakob bring Groovefire to Pravda 116.

•Contrast Goes Worldwide... More than a year ago, after establishing her own globe-trotting DJ career, as well as a successful house music record label in Boston, DJ Courtney (a.k.a Courtney Powell) suddenly disappeared from the local scene. Not to worry: Both Courtney and her label, Contrast Music, have been busy working behind closed doors. After relocating to Prague, Courtney has played abroad, at such spots as Singapore's legendary Zouk, as well as in the Philippines, Peru and Spain. She recently announced, however, that she is taking an indefinite hiatus from DJ-ing while writing for an English-language weekly, *The Prague Post,* and running Contrast. Expect Contrast Music's 12-inch from some of Slovakia's top DJs: Mersey, Glaubic and Haberland. Also forthcoming is an EP from Boston's own Dana Kelley.

•Relaxing Rhythms... Adding some spicy, laid-back rhythms to the Central Square music scene, Rhythm and Spice now offers Downtempo every Friday night with DJ Ron Boston 6-9pm. Downtempo-goers can expect to hear a decidedly Boston interpretation of Mark Farina-esque Mushroom Jazz, fusing jazz, reggae, hip-hop and R&B. *315 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge.—Daniel Spurling*

SAM SAYS

Tremendous Tresses

Hair piec from Cha

Almost every celebrity has toyed with hair extensions at one time or another. Their use has become so commonplace that it doesn't faze us to see someone sporting a pixie cut one day and waist-long hair the next. Mega Hair Elite (454 Feery St. in Everett, 617-389-1900) works wonders with extensions, either adding in strategically placed pieces or creating a full head of glorious waves. That trend developed into brightly colored strips of hair that you can clip to your locks to add contrast—like a bright red strip on platinum blond hair. H&M sells a version of these hair strips (bright red and black for $4.50). Even funkier is the new trend of hair jewelry—made from either metal, beads or jewels rather than hair. I first spotted it on the runway at Chanel's fall 2002 show where the models had long strip of metal dangling from their hair. Look for the jewelry in beads and rhinestones—and, if you're rolling in it, diamonds. You can find the last of the fall line at the Chanel boutique, but other versions will be available in stores everywhere soon.*—Samantha House*

EPIPHANY: DEREK KOUYOUM

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TIDBITS AND MORSELS

Suds, Stars and Falafel

The second Bukowski Tavern is set to open next month.

•Dead Poet's Society... Fans of poet Charles Bukowski have a new reason to toast the deceased writer. His namesake, Bukowski Tavern on Dalton Street, is adding a second location in the Cambridge space formerly occupied by Jae's Restaurant. As any barfly who has tossed back a pint at Bukowski Tavern knows, the space is small but the spirits are high. This new location will have the same boisterous atmosphere—loud and smoky (the smoking ban will only pertain to Boston proper)—but it will be twice the size. More important, the new Bukowski's, unlike the original, will have a full liquor license—which is only fitting, since the poet's elixir of choice was the hard stuff. *1281 Cambridge St., Cambridge.*

•Star Bites...*Saturday Night Live* funny lady Rachel Dratch was spotted dining with three female friends at Arlington's Ristorante Olivio Dec. 30. Apparently, her presence caused quite a stir. Chef/owner Angelo Girolamo said his staff was so star-struck that they were placing phone calls to friends and looking up *SNL* photos on the Internet to confirm the star's identity.

•Falafel Fix... The word is out. Watertown's Sepal Restaurant features falafel tasty enough for PBS's special program called "Sandwiches That You Will Like," a survey of signature sandwiches across the country. Chef/owner Walid Masoud's Sepal Delight, a combination of falafel, hummus, tahini and shepherd salad in Syrian bread, has been pleasing folks for more than 11 years. It's available in our own backyard for a mere $6.95. Catch it on Channel 2 Jan. 8 at 8pm. *17 Nichols Ave., Watertown (617-924-5753).*

•Location, Location, Location... That's exactly what inspired Spire's new pre-theater menu. The onslaught of theatre-going diners moved chef Jeffrey Everts to design the four-course prix fixe menu, which includes a choice of three starters, soup, salad, two entrees and dessert—all for $40. Perhaps the best part about it is the $12 valet includes a personal car service that transports you to and from the show. What service! *90 Tremont St., Boston (617-772-0202).*

THIS JUST IN

Boston's A-List

We at the IMPROPER have always considered ourselves to be part of Boston's hip scene. So it came as no surprise when e-mailed invites to something called "Boston's A-List" popped into our inboxes. Once we came down from the self-congratulatory fit of egomania, we decided to investigate. Who's behind this so-called A-list, trying to lure us to sign up with offers of free admission to events, line-cutting privileges and private-party invites? And most important, who else is deemed "A-list material"?

It turns out that it's the brainchild of longtime Boston-area promoter Steve Rayner. He launched the list in July with the help of well-connected friends. It now boasts a membership of 10,000 and will expand to 22 cities. So who are the A-listers? You are. Anyone can write to alist@bostonsalist.com with an "I'm in" message, and he or she is good to go. (Yes, it's a blow to our egos.) Hurry—once membership reaches 20,000, it will be capped off.—*E.H. and Jessica Iredale*

ALL THE BUZZ

Kool Kat Shirts

Tired of the investment-banking biz, local entrepreneur Katie Tiger ditched her job as vice president of corporate operations at a Boston investment bank and tapped into her creative side to custom-make a line of high-end shirts out of her home in Winthrop. Her story is interesting, sure, but what makes it unique is Tiger's specialty: $85-$265 vintage-pattern Hawaiian shirts with coconut shell or banana leaf buttons—made with loving care about as far away from Hawaii as you can get on the mainland.

Flash back to seven years ago when Tiger's husband saw fabric with a tiger pattern in a store window and asked if she could make him a shirt. She did her research, produced a shirt and soon had back orders from friends and family. Finally this summer, she ditched the full-time job and launched Kool Kat. She's sold nearly 200 already. Not bad for a gal who's never even been to Hawaii. *www.koolkatfashion.com.*—*E.H. and J.S.*

IMPROPER REPORTS

Pricing Fitness in 2003

It's the new year, and you know what that means. You must rise up from the cookie crumbs and motivate yourself to start the diet and join the nearest gym. Here's the good news followed by the bad: Most gyms offer specials...but many ended Dec. 31. So here's a list of prices for a selection of local gyms. Sign up now. (We mean it!)

•Beacon Hill Athletic Club, multiple locations (617-367-2422). *www.beaconhillathleticclubs.com.* Daytime membership: **$49** initiation fee; **$54** monthly fee. Anytime membership: **$99** initiation fee; **$59** monthly fee.

•Boston Athletic Club, 653 Summer St., South Boston (617-269-4300). *www.bostonathleticclub.com.* Monthly membership: **$250-$495** initiation fee; **$64-$110** monthly fee. Yearly membership fee: **$760-$1,200.**

•Boston Sports Club, multiple locations (617-536-1247). *www.bostonsportsclub.com.* Monthly membership: **$99-$299** initiation fee; **$65** monthly fee.

•Crunch, 17 Winter St., Boston (617-338-9001). *www.crunch.com.* Monthly membership: **$49** initiation fee; **$49** monthly fee.

•Fitcorp, multiple locations (617-248-9797). *www.fitcorp.com.* Monthly membership: **$150** initiation fee; **$85** monthly fee. One-year membership: **$850**, including monthly fee.

•Gold's Gym, 71 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-6066). *www.goldsgym5.com.* Initiation and monthly fees depend on length of membership. Monthly membership: **$80**; one-year membership: **$99** initiation fee; **$39** monthly fee.

•Healthworks Fitness Centers for Women, multiple locations (617-859-7700). *www.healthworksfitness.com.* Monthly membership: **$49** initiation fee; **$57-$68** monthly fee.

•The Sports Club/LA, 2 Avery St., Boston (617-375-8200). *www.thesportsclubla.com.* Monthly membership: **$500** initiation fee; **$140** monthly fee.

•Wellbridge Health and Fitness Center, multiple locations (617-439-9600). *www.wellbridgeac.com.* **$200** initiation fee; **$90-$119** monthly fee.—*J.I.*

improper speaking SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Serene Skies... What with uneven airport security and fears that fellow passengers' shoes are more dangerous than they seem, travelers need a pretty long fuse to get through it all. That's why JetBlue Airways and Crunch Fitness International have collaborated to produce something called the Crunch Fitness Airplane Yoga card, which is available in seatback pockets on JetBlue flights. The card features—what else? A series of yoga positions designed to calm you down and "maximize inflight relaxation."

Easy Rider... Taking a cab in this city is often like a box of chocolates—you never know what you're gonna get. So consider yourself lucky if you've ever landed in Louise Samson's backseat. The 14-year veteran cabbie was named Taxi Driver of the Year by Mayor Menino as part of Taxi Driver Appreciation Day last month. (She's also the first woman to receive the award in its nine-year history.) If you hop into an Independent Taxi Owners Association cab and the driver hands you a Blowpop, you're in the winning cab.

Say Goodbye to Jazzercise... If a case of the Mondays has got you down, head to T.T. the Bear's Place for the recently launched Meow Mix Mondays. First you've got an installment of the most exciting and migrating workout class around—Punk Rock Aerobics (which came to T.T.'s from its residency at the Middle East Jan. 6). After the instructor lets you stop jumping, jiving and wailing, you can't ask for a better cooldown than this one: The class is immediately followed by live acoustic music. Who needs a shower anyway? *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). The first Monday of every month, 6:30pm. $7.*

One Fine Day... Long time sweethearts and Pigalle co-owners Marc Orfaly and Kerri Folley have at last made it official. The lovebirds bucked Christmas Eve tradition and took off to New York to tie the knot! Their last-minute elopement meant that their friends had only two hours' notice to get down to City Hall in New York to take part in the wedding. After the wedding, the couple threw a champagne celebration at the chic Balthazar and then dined at Le Bernadin.

Improper LP... Our IMPROPER Impersonals page may not inspire many walks down the aisle, but, to our surprise, it has inspired art. After reading an Impersonal in the Sept. 26, 2001, issue, Dana Labb of local rock outfit Labb wrote the song "14 Hour Date," a musing on an bittersweet Impersonal titled "Neighbor." Frontman Dana Labb says, "The Impersonal was like the greatest love song never written, so I just tried to do it some justice and get it heard by a few more ears."

Euro Haus... Feel as though every home you enter has a Pottery Barn catalog on the table and a Restoration Hardware knicknack tucked in a corner? Now there's a solution to the monotony of ubiquitous home furnishings. "Unique" is the name of the game. Literally. Lekker Unique Home Furnishings is set to open mid-January in the South End, and promises to stock rare American, Asian and European brands that are hard to find in the States. *1317 Washington St., Boston (617-542-6464).* www.lekkerhome.com.

Film Notes... Another Boston native's celluloid skills are making waves at the Sundance Film Festival. Local gal Nancy Kates' film, *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, a documentary on the gay civil-rights activist, will screen at Sundance Jan. 17. For those who couldn't make it to Utah, the film airs on PBS Jan. 20 at 10pm.

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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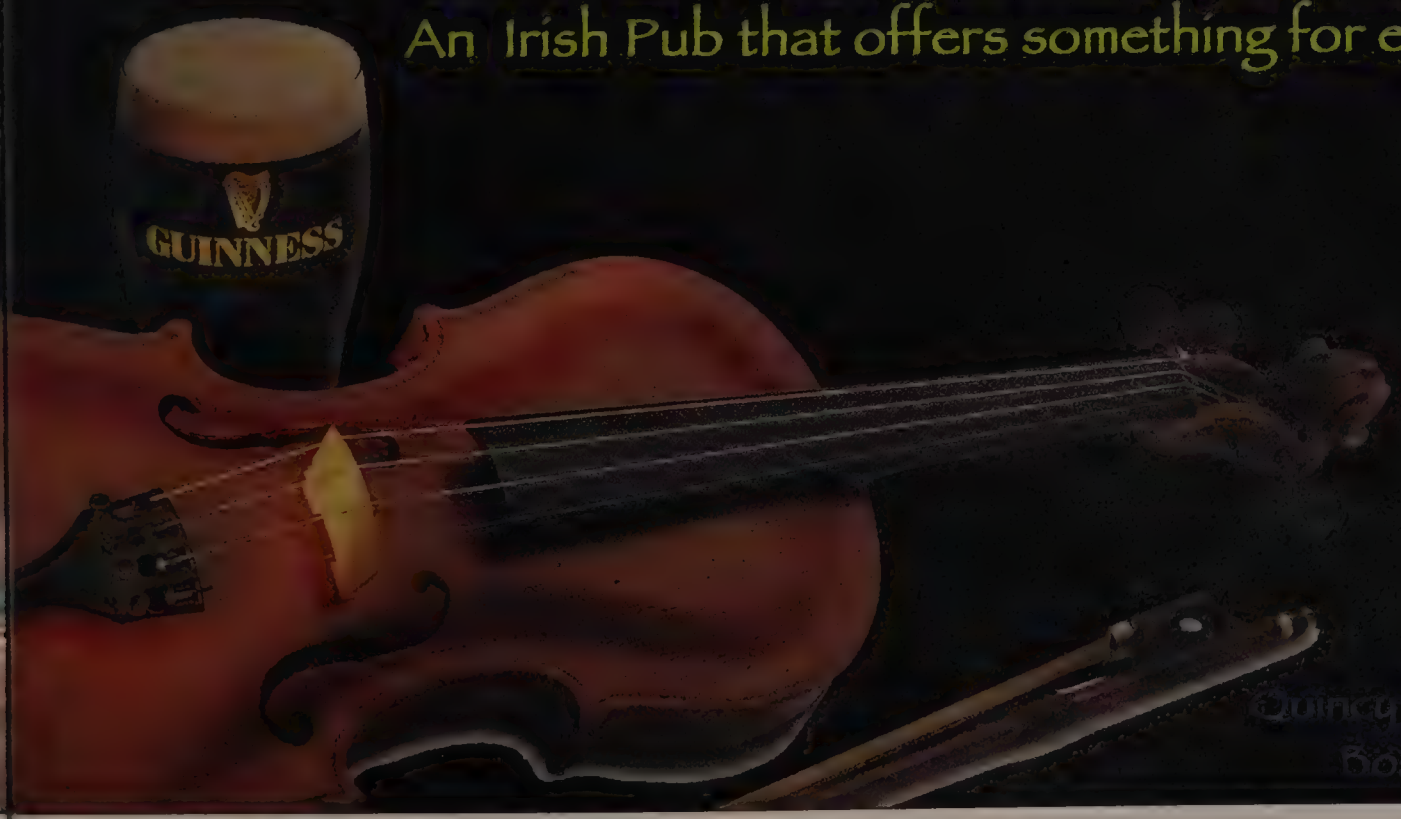

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Proper Bostonians BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

On Dec. 3, THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN hosted a screening of Boston director Dan McCarthy's new mob film, *Irish Eyes* at Loew's Boston Common. A party at Felt followed the screening.

1. From left: **Daniel McCarthy**, director/producer of *Irish Eyes*; **Olivia Sarratt**, associate producer of *Irish Eyes*; and actor **Daniel Baldwin**, who stars in the film.
2. Actor **John Ralston** (left), who plays an FBI agent, and **Julian Valdes**, producer of *Irish Eyes*.
3. Actor **Ronnie Marmo** (left) and **Thomas Kelley**, co-writer, of *Irish Eyes*.
4. From left: **Fred McCarthy**, chairman of Triumph Capital Group; **Luisa Medrano**, psychologist in the Back Bay, and **Brendan Hanley**, senior associate at Morgan Stanley in New York.
5. Actor **John Novak**, who stars in *Irish Eyes*.
6. **Anthony Stafford** (left), commercial loan officer for FleetBoston Financial, and **Michael Roche**, attorney for Donovan Hatem LLP.
7. **David Sardella**, state manager for Pearl Vodka and event sponsor, and his fiancée, **Courtney Mitchell**.

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The 19th Annual A Company Christmas at Pops benefit concert for the Boston Symphony Orchestra was held Dec. 11.

8. From left: **Tom O'Neill**, investment manager for Navigator Management; his wife, **Nancy**; attorney **Darlene Jordan**, and her husband, **Jerry**, president of Hellman Jordan Management.
9. From left: **Peter Meade** executive vice president of Blue Cross Blue Shield and chairman of A Company Christmas; his wife, **Rosanne**; **Donna May**; and her husband **Tom May**, CEO of NStar.
10. From left: **Keith Lockhart**, Boston Pops conductor; **Amy Grant**, Christian music recording artist; and her husband, country music recording artist **Vince Gill**.
11. **James Flynn**, investment associate for Putnam Investments and **Elaine Wong**, MIT student.
12. **Tom Webber** (left), vice president of human resources for Gillette, and **Chad Gifford**, president and CEO of FleetBoston.

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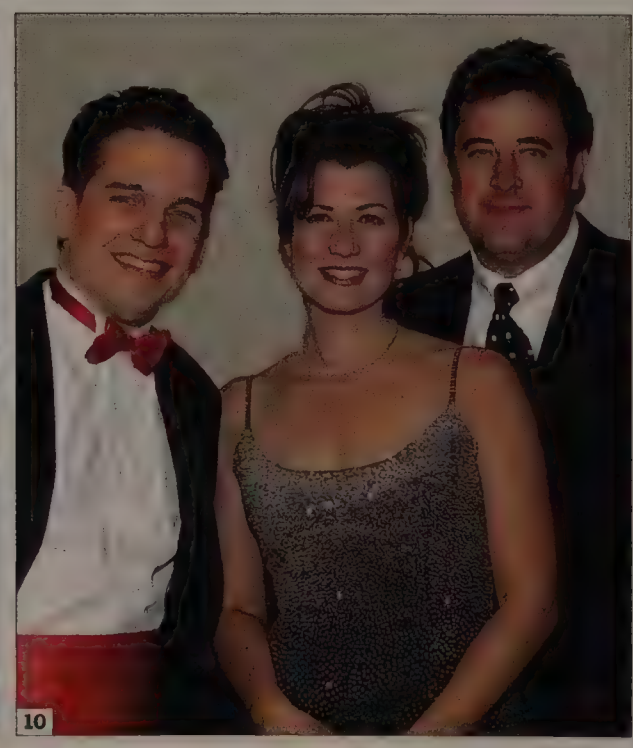
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Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Meet Lance

He doesn't cook Buffalo wings naked, but that's just as well

It's been more than a month since I pleaded with the IMPROPER reading public to come live with me, and you may be wondering how that all turned out.

My column generated a bunch of responses, and I think that I would've been happy to live with any of the ladies who came to look at the place. However, I was on the hook for December's rent, so I was more interested in finding the $670 Woman than in finding Ms. January. Hence I sucked it up and registered with an online roommate-finding service, coughing up $60 to get in touch with people looking for rooms. I figured it would be a sound investment if I found someone to pay for December.

It is a testament to the quality of this publication's readers that I was not actually scared by anyone who responded to my column. But I was immediately a bit skeptical of the convicted-ax-murderer factor of the online service. The first guy who e-mailed directed me to his user profile, which included his picture, sans shirt. Who puts a shirtless picture of himself on a roommate-matching site? Maybe that was my fault. Maybe I spaced out and wrote "must include shirtless picture of self" in my listing. But that eliminated him right away. His pecs were clearly too small.

However, I was soon e-mailed by a guy named Lance who sounded interested. With apologies to all the Lances out there, I had the irrational idea that I wouldn't like him because I knew a kid named Lance in preschool who always had a runny nose. I immediately conjured up an image of a guy with a constant runny nose, sitting on our couch, sniffling. A sniffly Lance—that would be the worst. Of course, just because someone has an unusual name is no reason to draw conclusions about him based on associations you have with someone else of that name. If you meet a guy named Ezra, you shouldn't automatically assume that he's chiseled and nice-smelling and humble, although that will likely be the case.

To get to the point, Lance came, he saw, he moved in Dec. 15. He called back with a yea the morning after he looked at the apartment, narrowly beating out Sara, who had also looked at the apartment and e-mailed later in the afternoon. The fact that two people expressed a desire to live with me on the same day is a sad commentary on the housing situation in this city.

So I didn't find a scantily clad female buffalo wing chef, but Lance is a solid prospect who brings a lot to the table (such as, I think, a table). He just moved here from Baltimore for a financial job, he's 23 and he likes to watch football. In fact, he was on his way down the stairs after looking at our place when he returned, knocked on the door, and said, "I forgot to ask...Do you guys like to watch football?" Does a bear wear a hat? I crossed my fingers that Lance's job didn't pay very much and he would want to live with us instead of at the much nicer place he'd just looked at around the corner.

Besides a shared interest in football, this is what I know of Lance thus far: He's pretty tall and thus angles the showerhead almost straight out, as tall people are wont to do. If Scott got in the shower after Lance and didn't adjust the showerhead, he'd never get wet. And Lance doesn't switch the valve back to the tub setting when he's done, which means that the next user gets his arm sprayed by cold water from the shower when he turns it on. I'm hopeful that Lance can be retrained on this issue.

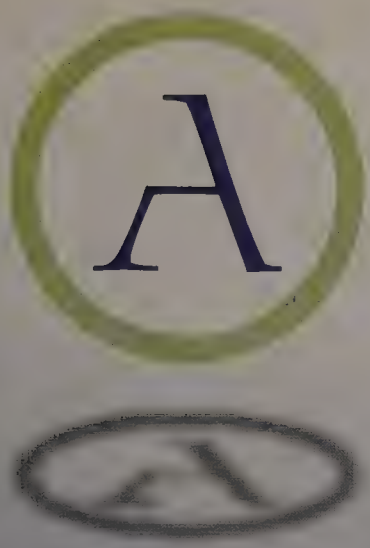
THE FACT THAT TWO PEOPLE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO LIVE WITH ME ON THE SAME DAY IS A SAD COMMENTARY ON THE HOUSING SITUATION IN THIS CITY.

More important, though, Lance has excellent remote control skills, and that's the sort of thing that just can't be taught. The big test came during *Monday Night Football*, when Lance found himself with the remote during most of the approximately 597 commercial breaks. As he flipped from the game to the Ginger Lynn *E! True Hollywood Story* and back to the game just as the commercials would end, I found myself thinking, "That's just when I would have changed the channel if I had the remote right now." This kid has instincts.

And if it's any consolation to Sara, the day after Lance moved in, the bolts holding the toilet tank to the bowl disintegrated into rust, and the water drained all over the floor. To Lance's credit, he didn't so much as sniffle about it. **iB**

You think that's funny?

Send buffalo wing recipes to ezra@improper.com.



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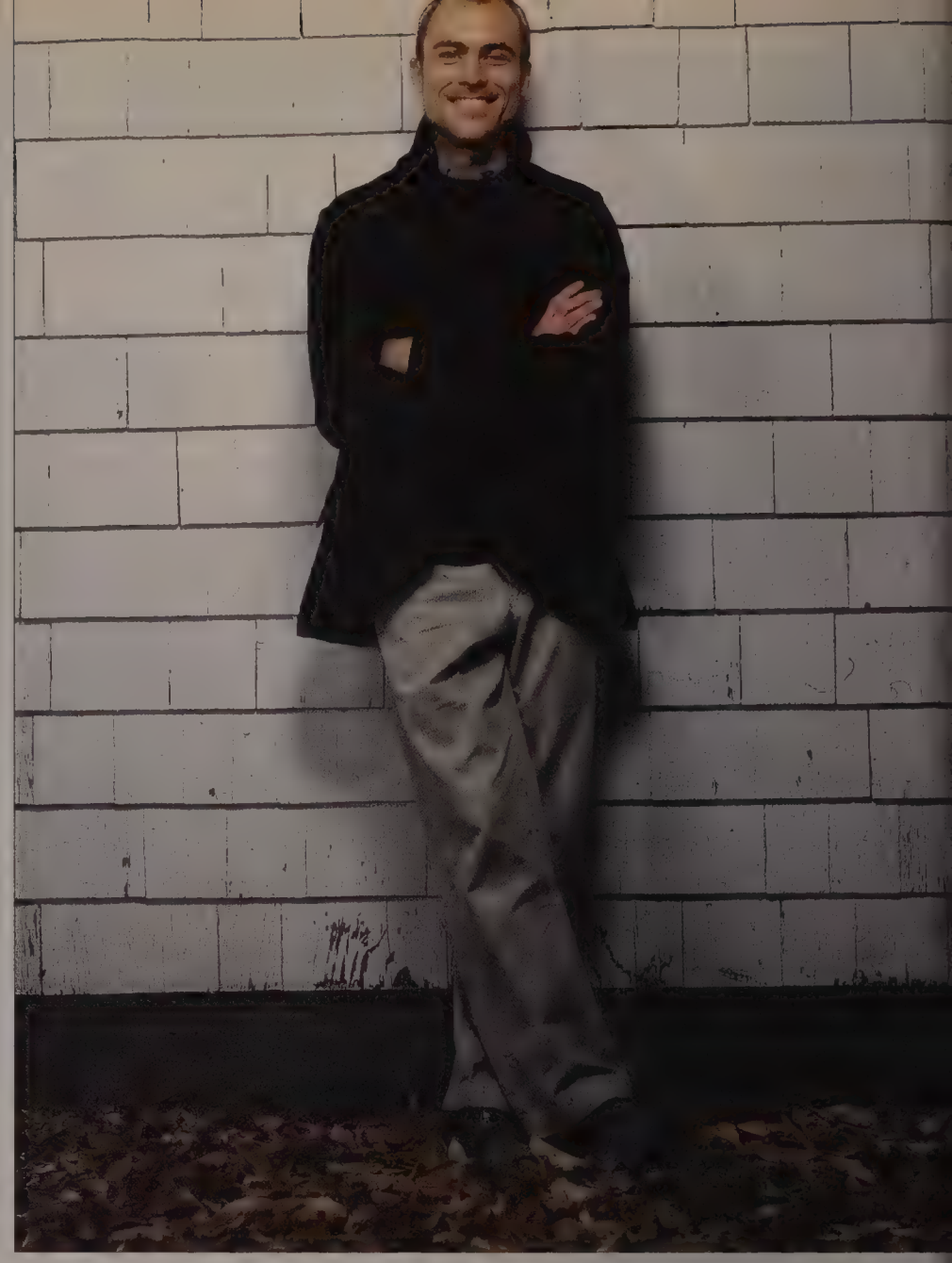
Soroff/On

Lars-Erik Fisk

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



Award-winning sculptor Lars-Erik Fisk, 31, grew up in Norwich, Vt., and went to high school in nearby Hanover, N.H. He studied art history and studio art at the University of Vermont, spending a semester in Rome. Since 1995, he has been creating artwork in the form of spheres he calls balls. A basic form that anyone can understand, he sees these orbs as a uniform system by which such familiar and iconic items as a Volkswagen bug, a school bus, buildings, highways and landscapes can be reduced to their essence.

In addition to his fine art career, he has served as art director for the wildly popular rock band Phish. An itinerant artist for the past two years, he opted to work out of a van to save on studio expenses. He was recently awarded the prestigious Rappaport Prize from the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln. His work has also been shown at the Hood Museum of Art in Hanover, N.H., the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, the Contemporary Artists Center in North Adams, the Socrates Sculpture Park in New York and the Franconia Sculpture Park in Shafer, Minn. He currently lives in Burlington, Vt.

Jonathan Soroff: *If I crumple this piece of paper into a ball, is it art?*
Lars-Erik Fisk: If you say so, then it is.
JS: *What's your definition of art?*
LF: In the here and now, it would have to include anything that questions art itself.
JS: *So what makes something a work of art as opposed to merely decoration?*
LF: Not too much. It's all context.
JS: *Favorite color in a box of 64 Crayola crayons?*
LF: Probably something pink. That waxy, opaque pink color that's like Barbie flesh.
JS: *Favorite texture?*
LF: I'm quite fond of the bumpy yellow strip on the edge of subway platforms.
JS: *Favorite artwork at a Boston museum?*
LF: Well, it's not a specific work, but I love the environment at the Isabella Stewart Gardner, the way there's no typical museum layout. I like how she stuffed things in corners and mismatched bits from totally different periods in history.
JS: *I've heard your work (deconstructing vastly disparate objects into a consistent form) compared to Jasper Johns'.*
LF: That's a huge honor. Obviously, he's someone I've thought a lot about.
JS: *Damien Hirst—his cow's heads in formaldehyde and frozen bags of his own blood—is he a con artist or a fine artist?*
LF: Good question. I admire his work quite a bit, but I admire his con artistry just as much. Not just the shock value of the work itself but the way he carries it all off and gets away with it.
JS: *On some level, are all artists charlatans?*
LF: In the sense of being magicians spinning something out of nothing, yeah.
JS: *What about the idea of the sacred monster, like Picasso, who by all accounts was a highly objectionable person? Do artists deserve to get away with that?*
LF: I think people want that of artists. They pin a lot of their own desires and fantasies on them.
JS: *If you could have created one piece of public art that you've ever seen, anywhere in the world, what would it be?*

"I THINK PEOPLE PIN A LOT OF THEIR OWN DESIRES AND FANTASIES ON ARTISTS."

LF: Well, a lot of my work is very site specific, so I'm pretty sensitive to that. I think Jeff Koons' *Flower Puppy* looked fabulous in Rockefeller Center.
JS: *Speaking of Koons, how do you feel about artists who don't actually make the work that has their names attached to it—someone who has a factory full of employees making the stuff he tells 'em to?*
LF: I don't think it's really relevant anymore, or ever was.
JS: *Is that because artists like Rubens and Michelangelo had workshops cranking out stuff they were credited with?*
LF: Sure. It's basically the same. I don't think artists have a responsibility in the making as much as in the conceptualizing.
JS: *So is Phish the Grateful Dead of the new millennium, or what?*
LF: They were fortunate to have inherited quite a bit from the Dead. They offer not just great music but this whole cult of somebody to follow around. There's a lot of folklore in the whole experience.
JS: *How did you get involved with Phish?*
LF: I was in college at the time they were becoming popular. They were the best band in Burlington. They're great fun to see and really good guys. It was fun to watch them get where they got to. Anyway, I eventually got connected to them through their management company.
JS: *What did being art director for them entail?*
LF: Well, that was a special occasion thing: three days of multimedia festivities, anything visual to do with those shows, creating environmental installations. We essentially had to design cities that had all the elements and infrastructure. For instance, one year I laid it out with Roman urban planning in mind. Another year, I was thinking of a Chinese garden. It could involve 50 portable toilets and working them into an installation that would accommodate huge groups of people.
JS: *Let's test your Vermont IQ. Pot-smoking: pro or con?*
LF: I'm pro.
JS: *Gay marriage?*
LF: Hey, I'm a Vermonter.
JS: *How does an artist price his work?*
LF: Well, the smart-ass answer is that it's worth whatever the dealer says it is. I've always been told to imagine what you think is fair and then double that.
JS: *So one of your balls goes for...?*
LF: Depends. Anywhere from $3,000 to $50,000.
JS: *Is art school worth it?*
LF: Interesting question. I had a liberal arts education, and only one semester of art school. I'm considering going back for my MFA, which I don't know is necessary, but I'm beginning to understand the value of a formal technical program.
JS: *One collection—public or private—you'd most like to see your work in?*
LF: The Museum of Modern Art in New York.
JS: *What role should the visual arts play in society?*
LF: They should please, baffle, clarify, mystify, edify, everything you can imagine.
JS: *Why are people so intimidated by art?*
LF: I think it comes from a fear that they may not understand it, or that somebody's trying to pull the wool over their eyes, which drives me to do what I do, actually. I aim for the notion behind the work to be absolutely understandable and accessible to everyone.
JS: *Is there anyone in the canon whose work you think is a load of BS?*
LF: Well, I've read about the pop artists in the '60s who were making work solely in response to the abstract expressionists. Their whole mentality was how important it was to express their own selves with a capital "S." So anyone who thinks their ego is the point that sort of bugs me. It's self-indulgent.
JS: *Most important quality in an artist?*
LF: Integrity. IB

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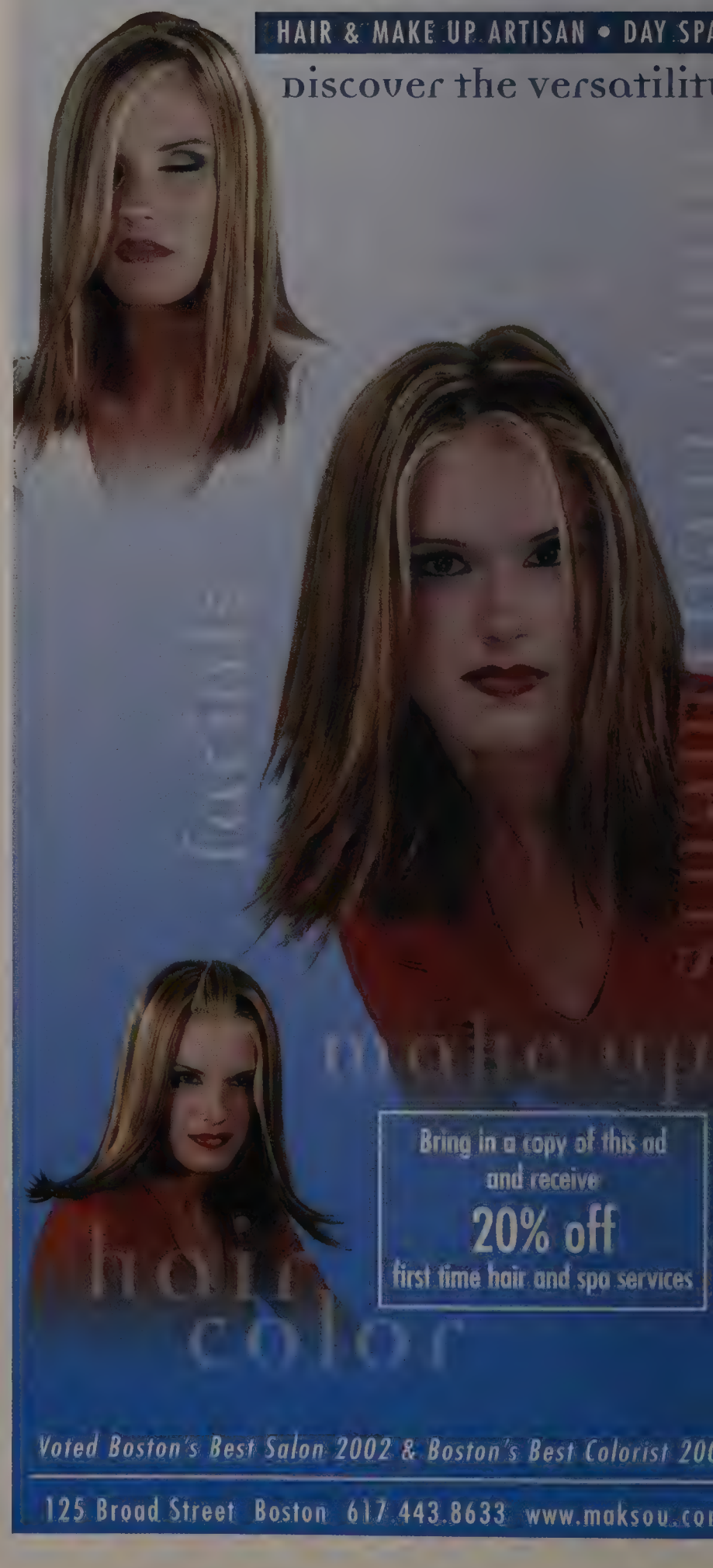

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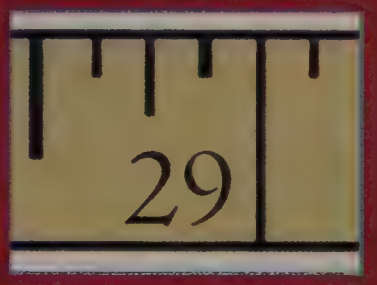
Wherever you are on the fitness ladder, you'd probably like to move up a rung or two in the next year. Whether you've got KFC on speed-dial or you're a tofu-eating gym rat, the basic challenge is the same: staying committed to a healthy lifestyle. To that end, we've compiled diet and exercise tips from local nutritionists, tested eight classes that can spice up your workout routine and asked 10 fitness gurus how to keep at it once your burst of motivation wears off. And since you're going to be looking and feeling so good, we've also included guides to dating fellow gym-goers and workout garb to show off that sculpted bod of yours. So lace up those sneakers, and let's go.

18
Get Pumped Up



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Fear and Loathing on the Bathroom Scale

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You Say You Want a Resolution

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Dates & Dumbbells

31
Fit and Fabulous

BOTTOM: GET PUMPED UP: MIKE MERGEN; YOU SAY YOU WANT A RESOLUTION: MERCEDES MCDONALD/GETTY IMAGES; DATES & DUMBBELLS: RAPHER: ELIZABETH MARKEL, MODEL: JULIA B., TOP: PROVIDED BY CITYSPORTS; FIT AND FABULOUS: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

GET PUMPED UP

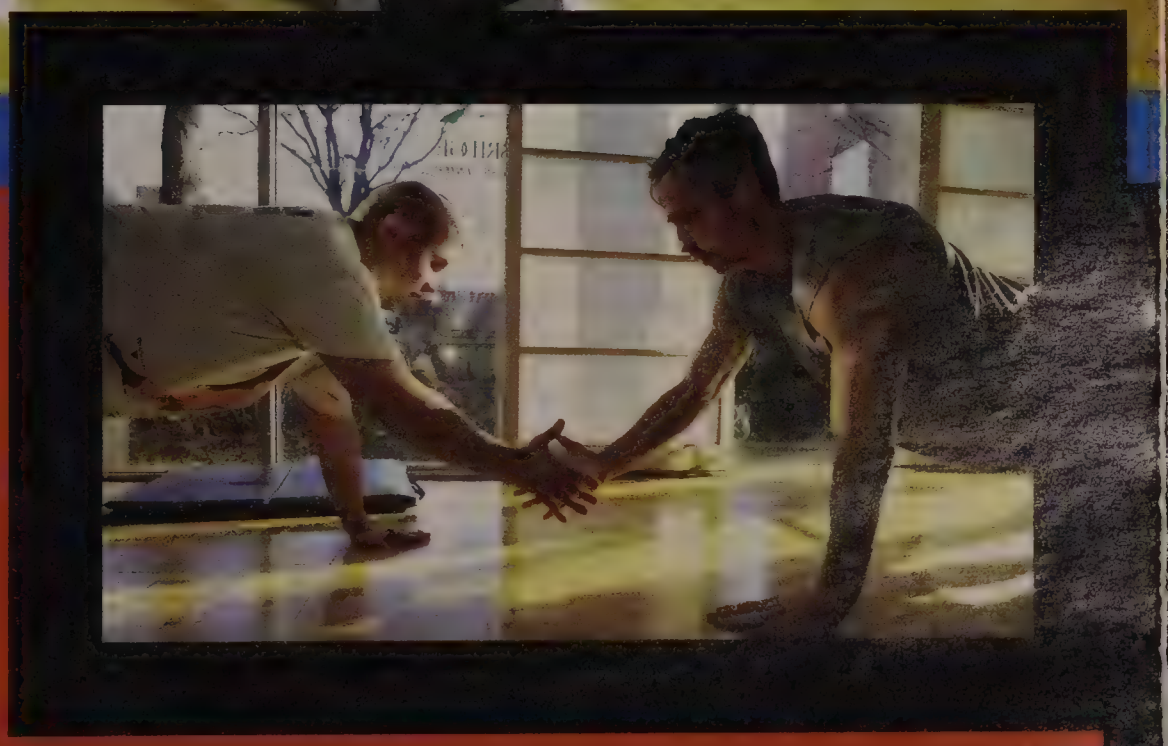
BY JULIE SHORT AND EZRA DYER PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MERGEN

A couple of years ago, two IMPROPER staffers, Ezra Dyer and Julie Short, abandoned their regular weight-lifting and running routines to try some of the hottest fitness classes around the city, including kung fu, water aerobics, urban rebounding and video dance. This year, Ezra and Julie checked in with local gyms once more to test out the latest trends and help readers find ways to mix up their exercise regimens. Pilates and power yoga, big in 2001, still top the list of popular classes, say the trainers we spoke to this year. But a few new routines have cropped up, with fusion classes such as Body Blast (a combination of spinning, running and abdominal work) and Power Interval Training (like high school gym class, but kicked up a notch) drawing hard-core gymheads. Classes that develop both body and mind—such as Spin Yoga (a stationary bike workout followed by a yoga segment) and Yoga for Golfers—are also in vogue among the fit set.

Maria Shea, corporate fitness director at Healthworks, attributes the popularity of cross-training classes to the time constraints most people face. "They're trying to fit everything into one hour: some cardio, some flexibility, some mind and some strength," she says.

So put on your sneakers, grab a water bottle and join us for our latest tour de fitness, a survey of some of the trendiest classes at eight local clubs. We've scored each workout for fun and difficulty (10 signifies the most fun and the most exhausting), and we promise to make you sweat.

Clockwise from top: Workout goddesses show some skin at Crunch's Cardio Strip Tease; members of Acea Theroux's Plyo Power class at the Beacon Hill Athletic Clubs get some lift; Nikolai Caswell (left) and Eric Jacobsen clap hands between push-ups at Wellbridge's P.I.T. (Power Interval Training) class; in Yoga for Golfers, instructor Bethany Cantin of the Sports Club/LA tells writer Ezra Dyer to reach for the stars.

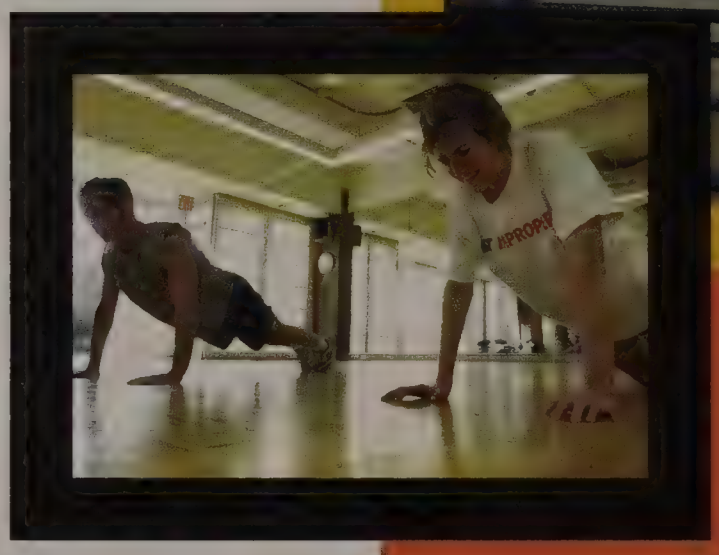


P.I.T. STOP — Julie

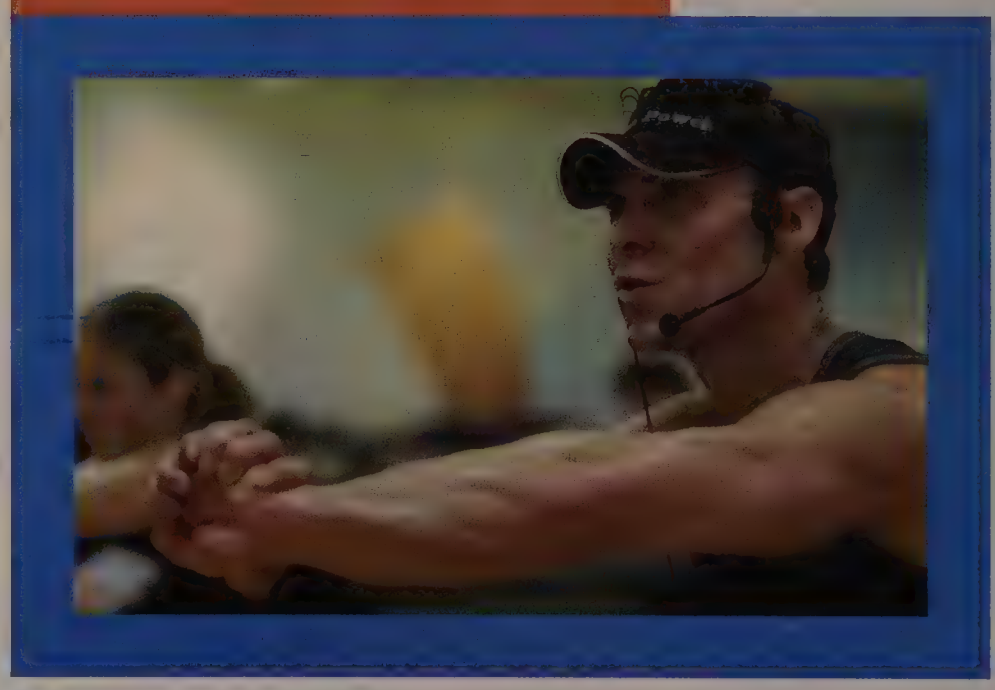
Wellbridge's P.I.T. (Power Interval Training) is like going back to gym class in junior high—minus the dorky uniforms, smelly lockers and shower-room antics (not to mention the dreaded Presidential Physical Fitness Awards). Sure, there are the popular kids—a group of men and women who attend the class regularly and seem to know each other well—but classmates are actually nice to uncoordinated newcomers (read: me), offering shouts of encouragement and high-fives.

We start by forming a circle and doing a series of warm-ups—sit-ups, push-ups and jumping jacks. Then we pair off and head to various stations around the room for two-minute intervals. At one station, there are dumbbells; for two minutes, the two people stationed there do arm curls, deltoid raises, tricep presses and shoulder presses. At the same time, two folks across the room face each other and do 20 push-ups, clapping hands with each other in between each push-up. At another station, people hold themselves up on their elbows and toes in a horizontal "plank position"; at yet another, they do sit-ups while facing each other and passing a heavy ball between them. My partner and I begin at the obstacle course. At instructor Chris Cabe's command, I race around a zigzag line of cones and then jump over a series of weight bars spanning two plastic steps and back. Then it's back around the cones again to tag my partner, who completes the same course—all in two minutes or less. "Switch!" shouts Cabe, and we move to the next station. An hour later, it's over. The class combines elements of sports training with short, high-intensity intervals (including both cardio and weight-resistance drills)—but it sure felt more like playtime to me.

Wellbridge Health and Fitness Center, 5 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-441-0800). Tue. and Thu., 12pm. Difficulty level: 8. Fun level: 10.



Steven Sinapi (above) jumps through an obstacle course, while writer Julie Short (left) attempts one measly push-up at Wellbridge's P.I.T. class. Below: Acea Theroux leads Plyo Power.



A GAME OF ONE-ON-ONE — Ezra

If anyone is a candidate for BodyScapes' personal training program, it's me. I've been working out for about eight years, yet I've never once had a lesson of any sort. Am I doing the right type of exercises for what I want to accomplish? Is my form correct? How can I stay motivated when I just got *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City* for Christmas? Trainer Shaun Spaulding set out to answer these questions and more in the course of designing a custom workout for me.

First, I have to state my goals. This is the easy part. My primary goal is to have a body like Terrell Owens without going to the gym much at all. So now what?

I'd assumed that at BodyScapes, you have your program designed, a trainer demonstrates how to do it and then you're returned to the wild of your own gym to put it into practice. That's partly true, but a good chunk of the reason you're at BodyScapes is that you can get a much better workout with someone challenging you every step of the way than you would by yourself. For instance, when Spaulding has me pick up dumbbells for bicep curls, in the middle of the set he presses down on the top of the weights as I strain to pull them up. After that routine I can barely lift a cup of water, which I well know is something that never happens when I'm the only person dictating how hard I work out.

As I move from the elliptical machine to triceps presses, medicine-ball squats and cable flies while lying on an exercise ball, I come to the conclusion that the BodyScapes program is like working out with an extremely demanding friend. Besides learning from your coach's expertise, the physical interaction takes you beyond the fatigue level that you typically reach solo. Some people use BodyScapes as their primary workout; others check in every now and then to tune up their routine. Even as a supplement to a gym membership, the BodyScapes program strikes me as a good way to push yourself and, perhaps most important, to keep you motivated.

BodyScapes, 1 Huntington Ave. (617-267-5766). One-hour sessions by appointment. Difficulty level: 6-10. Fun level: 6.

IRONMEN NEED APPLY — Julie

The name of the class is Body Blast—but it should b called Body Torture. That's the best way to describe th class at Boston Athletic Club that combines 25 minutes spinning (on a stationary bike), 35 minutes of interv training on the treadmill and 15 minutes of abdomin work. Trainer Alexis Tyson (the IMPROPER's cover girl th issue) developed the course this year after noticing tha more and more club members were interested in triathlo training. She combined two out of the three legs of triathlon—cycling and running—and then added an ab dominal workout for the last segment. BAC members pa extra for the privilege of being pushed to their limits fo eight weeks. "Most people tend not to challenge them selves as much as they think they do," Tyson says. "That my job." Down the road, Tyson says she may add swim ming for the true triathlon experience, but for now, th course is grueling enough, if you ask me.

In the spinning studio, we do a series of sprints an high-tension intervals set to pounding music. Just whe I think I can't spin another minute, Tyson says it's time fo running. We head to a line of treadmills reserved for th class and do a series of sprints and hills for 35 minute Normally, that's the total time that I work out; my energ stores are already depleted after 25 minutes of spinning Tyson stands in front of us and instructs us to adjust ou speed and incline for two- or three-minute interval Sometimes we sprint, and sometimes we climb hills at base speed that we determine individually. We end th session with a one-minute, all-out sprint. I'm spent, bu now it's time to do sit-ups and stretching. After that, limp to the showers. My body has definitely been blaste

Boston Athletic Club, 653 Summer St., South Boston (617 269-4300). Wed., 11:15am-12:30pm. Difficulty level: 1 Fun level: 7.

TAKE IT OFF — Ezra

It's possible that the cheer residents of Camp X-Ray i Cuba might be the only pe ple in the western hem sphere who haven't yet hear of Crunch's Cardio Stri Tease class. Michael Jackso dangling his baby over tha railing didn't get this muc media attention. The sessio I attended had a 2-to-1 stu dent-to-journalist ratio, wit six actual students sharin the room with myself, IM PROPER photographer Mik Mergen and a guy from NP who didn't ask to intervie me. (Apparently my body not made for radio.)

Instructor Cey Jay doesn usually teach this class but is pressed into duty for th first time because the regular instructor has pneumoni I worry that this might be a stripping-related malais until I enter the aerobics room, which is so hot that I do i fact want to take off all my clothes.

For a non-stripper, Jay knows his stuff. We begin b stretching and warming up, then quickly move into th lesson, putting together a series of moves until we have basic routine involving a real feather boa and the remova of one piece of clothing. We repeat the moves and ad new ones at such a rapid pace that I find myself sweatin and panting. At one point I even take off my T-shirt in fit of sexiness.

The class winds down with a freestyle session in whic we are all given portable waist-high "stripper poles" wit

which to do our thang. I grab a boa and get buck wild, but, as you know, it's hard to go too crazy when your stripper pole isn't bolted down. A word to the wise: Wear a few layers so that you can practice garment-removal without embarrassment. A word to the guys: I was the only male student in the class. Enough said?

Crunch, 17 Winter St., Boston (617-338-9001). Wed., 7:30pm and Sat., 12pm. Difficulty level: 7. Fun level: 9.

BODY AND MIND — Julie

"Spin Yoga? Is that where you sit and meditate on the benefits of spinning and hope that it has a positive effect on your body?" jokes a friend as I head to Healthworks on a Sunday morning. Although I wish that were the case, I quickly discover that sweating is a big part of this class. First, instructor Mary Oscategui helps me adjust a stationary bicycle, and then we take off. I'm a newcomer to spinning, and it takes me a while to feel comfortable as we do a series of seated and upright sprints and hill climbs set to music over the next 45 minutes. It's amazing how exhausting and painful cycling can be on the quadriceps. Though Oscategui suggests speed and tension increases, the good news is that you can pedal at your own pace and adjust the tension to suit your own strength. Some of the women cycle so fast that their legs are a blur.

Finally, we coast to a stop, do some stretching and then head upstairs to a studio for 45 minutes of meditative, mind-soothing body stretching based on hatha yoga. We unroll our mats and stretch our bodies, opening up the hip joints, chest, back and shoulders—"all the muscles that get a lot of work during the class," says Oscategui. People have a tendency to hold tension in one area more than others—whether it be from gripping the handlebars too tightly, pushing the pedals with the balls of their feet instead of their whole foot, or tensing up their shoulders. The yoga portion of the class helps restore you to both a healthy mental and physical state." We continue to stretch, using static and isometric holds to release the muscles, and at the end, we close our eyes and relax fully lying on the floor in corpse pose. I nearly fall asleep.

Healthworks Fitness Center for Women, 41 Stuart St., Boston (617-859-7700). Sun., 10am. Difficulty level: 8. Fun level: 8.

GOLF POSE — Ezra

A lot of guys think that yoga classes are filled with a bunch of lithe vegetarian women who can fold themselves into carry-on luggage. Whether that's true at any other yoga class, Sports Club/LA's Bethany Cantin says that her Yoga for Golfers class attracts plenty of neophytes (aka men), which means that even if you think "*Ujaya* breath" requires some Listerine, you'll fit right in.

I'm about as flexible as an icicle, and a common yoga pose like *jatharna parivartanasana* (spinal twist) sounded like it would be as hard to execute as it is to pronounce. But as we begin taking deep breaths and slowly stretching into various poses, the intimidation goes away, and I see how this would apply to golf. The slow breathing and meditative aspect help maintain focus in a game that demands the ability to narrow your attention repeatedly over a span of hours, while the poses are designed to stretch and strengthen muscles that you use in your swing .

In "lightning bolt," for instance, you bend your knees and touch your right elbow to your left knee, then reach up behind you toward the ceiling as far as you can go. This strengthens the legs, improves balance and releases stiffness in the shoulders, all of which should help your game from tee box to green. Cantin even recommends striking a pose now and then during the course of a game to help concentrate on your next swing, but if your golf buddies are like mine, then you might want to make sure you're behind a tree before coming into tree pose, as a barrage of beer cans will definitely disturb your balance. That notwithstanding, yoga seems like a good way to lower your handicap while learning a few tricks that will make you feel healthier and avoid injuries both on and off the course.

Sports Club/LA, 4 Avery St., Boston (617-375-8200). Classes consists of three one-hour sessions, beginning in February. Difficulty level: 5. Fun level: 7.

ACEAMETRICS — Julie

Jumping, leaping, hopping and bounding over objects sounds like a lot of fun, doesn't it? It may remind you of a childhood romp through the woods, but when you add a stopwatch, plus the demands of coach Acea Theroux (named Boston's Best personal trainer by this magazine in 2002), you've got a rigorous, leg-sculpting, heart-pumping aerobics class that's both exhausting and exhilarating. It's called Plyo Power, and it focuses on building lower body strength, speed, power, coordination and endurance.

Theroux says the class is designed to keep your heart rate in the "fat-burning zone" for the entire time. To accomplish this goal, the hard-core group of 15 that's gathered at Beacon Hill Athletic Club (at the ungodly hour of 6:15am) jumps up, over and around a plastic step—performing each jumping exercise for one minute. Those are immediately followed by a speed/agility drill—high knees or speed step-ups, for example—focusing on creating a rhythm first, then speeding up the tempo once we feel comfortable. Theroux stresses the importance of correct stance (keeping the spine straight and the hips tucked under to absorb the body's weight as the knees bend) and takeoff and landing positions (landing from the outside part of the foot and immediately rocking back on the heels). Between segments, we rest for only 45 seconds. Theroux says a longer resting period encourages muscle bulk to increase. Apparently, this is how Plyo Power is different from plyometrics—Theroux's class focuses on developing and shaping the muscles instead of building bulk. Looking around at Theroux's devotees, I see that he's been successful—so successful that he's trademarked the name "Plyo Power." The class is thoroughly exhausting, and my upper thighs and calves ache for days. I'd go back in a second…if only the class started after dawn.

Beacon Hill Athletic Clubs, 85 Atlantic Ave., Boston (617-742-0055). Times vary. Difficulty level: 9. Fun level: 8.

SLIPPERY SLOPE — Ezra

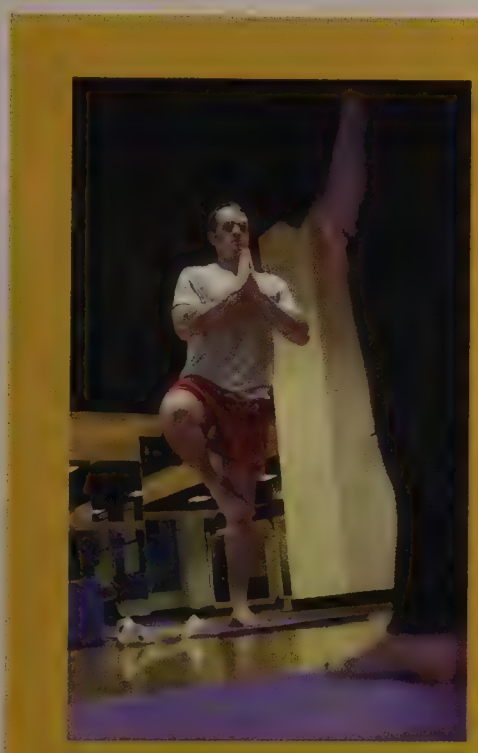
I'm not a very hard-core skier. I make a few runs in the morning, eat lunch, ski some more and quit early because my legs are burning and the choice between pain and cold beer is all too easy. But what if my legs didn't sign off at 2 o'clock? I'd enjoy myself more, get better value from my insanely expensive lift ticket and maybe burn a few of the calories that I inevitably chug back at the lodge. Enter Fitcorp's Ski and Snowboard Conditioning class.

Exercise physiologist Eric Monahan puts together a circuit of exercises designed to keep you carving turns from sunrise 'til the lifts close. Participants spend a minute and a half at each station and make two laps around the room. Exercises include weighted lunges, squats on a CoreBoard and a variety of diabolical ab-killing exercise-ball routines.

On my first trip around the room, I go all out, mainly because I don't realize that there *is* a second lap. "Nobody ever does push-ups for the whole time. I'm impressed," says Monahan as I finish my first station. By the second time I hit the push-up area, I am considerably less gung-ho. The circuit is a good mix of exercises that get your heart going (the spin bikes) and strengthen specific muscle groups (the CoreBoard squats).

Perhaps the best testament to the program's effectiveness is that I was sore in all the same places that I am after a day on the slopes…which means that the next time I go skiing, maybe I'll quit a little later. Maybe.

Fitcorp, Prudential Center, Second Floor (617-262-2050). Tue., 2-2:45pm. Difficulty level: 6-10 (you determine how hard you work). Fun level: 5. IB



Left: Ezra envisions lowering his handicap to 20 while practicing the tree pose in Yoga for Golfers. Below: Cardio Strip Tease instructor Cey Jay demonstrates how to roll those hips while working the boa with attitude.

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TEAR AND LOATHING
ON THE BATHROOM SCALE

If you've started the new year with a resolution to shed those extra pounds, be sure you've got the right attitude for long-term success

BY SUSAN ABBATTISTA

Nothing instills anxiety in quite the same way as slipping on your favorite pair of jeans nd realizing, with a squeeze of panic, hat they are too tight. Many of us have hat experience around the new year, vhen we see visible proof—the zipper's trained grimace—of what we've sus-pected all along: We've gained weight. Maybe we were lured by too many empting treats during the holidays, or naybe we mindlessly munched hrough a year of chips and cookies. But nake no mistake; the jeans are tight. This is it!" we proclaim. "I'm going on diet!"

If losing weight is (or should be) one f your top New Year's resolutions, you re not alone. More than 60 percent of dults in this country are overweight, ccording to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Indeed, lots of eople struggle with the personal an-uish of tugging on a zipper, becoming reathless when they climb stairs or vanting to hide their eating from pub-ic view. And if those things aren't bad nough, doctors repeatedly say that eing overweight increases the risk for erious health problems, such as heart isease, diabetes and cancer.

But before you put yourself on a strict iet and vow to swear off the late night Oreo binges and eat nothing but Lean Cuisine, give yourself an attitude heck. Are you unwittingly setting ourself up for failure? The fact is, de-pite the best of intentions, our resolve o eat better can disintegrate when we et tired, stressed and hungry. That's hy we've asked five local nutrition ex-erts to share their pointers for making neaningful, health-related New Year's esolutions—ones that will last. (To nd out more about nutritionists, see ne sidebar on page 24.) Here are their ips for not only starting off the new ear on the right foot but keeping your-elf fit for a lifetime.

TY IMAGES

DON'T SABOTAGE YOURSELF BY SKIPPING BREAKFAST

The old-fashioned advice you used to get from your mom is still the first rule for a healthy lifestyle: Eat breakfast. "The attitude in America is 'Oh, food is fattening, and I don't have time to eat breakfast,'" says Nancy Clark, a registered dietitian, author and nutrition counselor at SportsMedicine Associates in Brookline. "But you need to fuel up your body for an active day just as you'd fuel up a car before a long trip." Those who skip meals, especially breakfast, just get hungrier and fatter in the long run, says Clark.

Consider the irony: Even though eating breakfast has numerous benefits, such as improving metabolism and helping to prevent overeating later in the day, skipping breakfast is one of the most common errors that overweight people make when they go on a diet, doctors say. They may be "saving up" those calories for later or they may not have the time to prepare a healthy breakfast. But research has shown that those who lose weight—and keep it off for years—are tried-and-true breakfast eaters, according to the National Weight Control Registry, an ongoing study conducted by Brown University Medical School.

Even people who barely have enough time to dress themselves in the morning can still eat breakfast, say nutritionists. You just have to "think outside the Wheaties box," says Jenna Hollenstein, a registered dietitian who does nutritional counseling at Healthworks Back Bay. "If you don't have time for a bowl of whole-grain cereal, low-fat milk and fruit, find an alternative that works for you." Good choices include a cup of yogurt and a handful of granola; an energy bar (like Luna, Pria or Balance) and a banana; or a packet of instant oatmeal that you can make at work, along with a café latte made with low- or nonfat milk.

FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO GET "FIVE A DAY"

You've known it since you were a kid: Fruits and vegetables are good for you. Still, many of us think it's impossible to consume the five daily servings of fruits and veggies combined (minimum!) recommended by government agencies and the American Cancer Society to reduce the risk of many diseases.

To boost the quality of your diet with the vitamins, minerals and fiber that fruits and veggies provide, first remember that a serving is smaller than you might think: just a half-cup of raw, cooked, canned or frozen fruits/vegetables, or one cup of raw leafy vegetables. Then realize that with a little forethought, you can boost the nutritional value of foods you already enjoy. Nutritionists suggest the following: add frozen vegetables to soups and sauces; toss some sliced vegetables on top of a slice of pizza; add an extra serving of vegetables to a container of Lean Cuisine; keep baby carrots or grape tomatoes at your desk at work; stir some chopped broccoli or peppers into scrambled eggs; mix shredded carrots into your tuna salad; add slices of cucumber or roasted peppers to your sandwich.

Don't be afraid to rely on frozen vegetables and canned fruits; some experts say that their nutritional values are equal to those of fresh produce, especially if the foods are frozen or canned just after being picked. And new resealable bags make it easy to pour out some vegetables or berries and save the rest for next time. (To learn more about incorporating more healthful foods into your diet, visit *www.5aday.gov*.)

INCREASE YOUR AWARENESS OF YOUR HABITS, EMOTIONS AND FOOD CHOICES

Awareness starts with your own behavior: what you eat, when and why. If you don't have a clear picture of how your diet looks as a whole, perhaps you should try a useful tool that nutritionists use with their clients: the food journal. By writing down everything you eat for a week, you may discover that you consume most of your calories at night. In fact, nutritionists say, many clients have a common evening ritual: come home from work, throw open the refrigerator and consume anything in sight. If that's the case for you, you can reduce that after-work ravenous feeling by eating a "timed snack" (such as a tablespoon of peanut butter on a slice of wheat bread, or a carton of yogurt with a piece of fruit) at 5pm to ensure that you won't go overboard when you get home.

Amy Gleason, a registered dietitian who does counseling at Wellbridge Fitness Centers and McLean Hospital's eating disorder program, also uses the food journal to help clients distinguish between "emotional hunger" and "stomach hunger." Along with writing down what and when they ate, she urges clients to record "whatever was going through their head." Gradually, she says, people begin to see patterns. "It takes time to get to the bottom of emotional eating, and to replace that kind of eating with something else enjoyable, like taking a bubble bath or going for a walk," says Gleason. She helps clients to come up with a list of 10 things they can do to comfort themselves besides eat. "If those other things don't work," she says, "then they can go ahead and eat."

It is also important to increase your awareness about food, what constitutes a healthy diet and how much is enough. Commit to finding out as much as you can about the foods you gravitate toward. Learn about the food groups, read labels, log on to fast-food restaurants' Web sites and ask how dishes are prepared when you go out to eat. For more information about making healthy choices and understanding the latest fitness recommendations and trends, visit the American Dietetic Association's (ADA's) *www.eatright.org*, and Tufts University's Nutrition Navigator, *www.navigator.tufts.edu*, which ranks other nutrition-related sites based on their timeliness and credibility.

SET REALISTIC GOALS, AND TAKE YOUR TIME

Being panicked or fed up about how much you weigh can make you set unrealistic goals, like starving yourself for six weeks or wanting to look like Shakira in a string bikini. "Stick to things that you can achieve, like eating breakfast every day and eating one more serving of fruit and vegetables each day, or adding 10 minutes to your walk to and from the bus stop," says Heidi Reichenberger, a registered dietitian who is also a spokeswoman for the ADA.

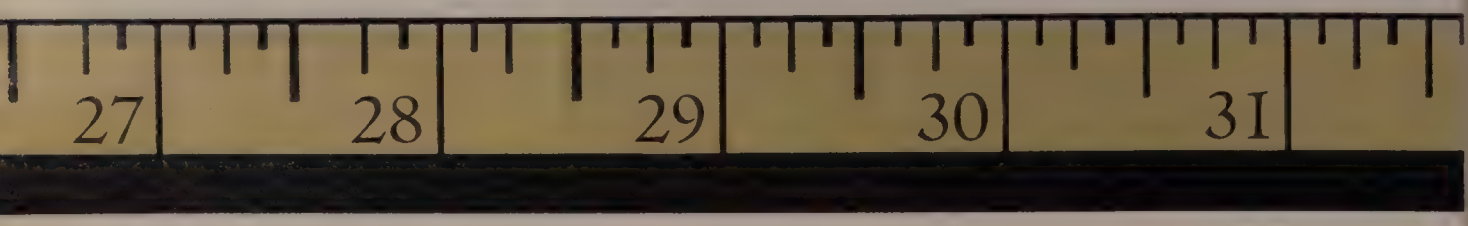
Nutritionists emphasize that fast results will not be long-term results, and that small, healthy changes are extremely valuable because they add up over time and slowly replace old habits. "There's no rush to lose the weight," says Amy Gleason. "Instead of saying 'I'm going on a diet for six weeks,' say 'I'm going to take the next six weeks to figure out how to take better care of myself for the long term.'"

It bears mentioning that if you plan to lose more than 15 to 20 pounds or have health problems, you should check with your doctor before starting a weight-loss program.

FEEL THE JOY OF TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF, MOMENT BY MOMENT

Whether they realize it or not, many people use extreme diets as a way to punish themselves for their "lack of will power" or for simply "feeling like a blob." But lifestyle changes don't have to be painful. "One of the things I tell clients is to enjoy the process of taking better care of themselves and realize how much progress they're making," says Randi Konikoff Beranbaum, a registered dietitian at Tufts University. "The whole process is very powerful—power to make positive changes, and to do things that they weren't able to do before, like saying 'no' to a big piece of cheesecake, being able to walk an extra mile or increasing the resistance on the treadmill."

Sometimes, a punishing attitude is fueled by the belief that being healthy is an all-or-nothing proposition. After eating something they've deemed "forbidden," many people feel that they've blown it for the day, and that causes a downward spiral of unhealthy eating. "Just because you had a huge brunch doesn't mean you can't go for a walk afterward and round out the day with a salad or something similarly light," says Jenna Hollenstein. "Every moment is another chance to start fresh. Put down the fork, walk out the door, cut that portion in half, step away from the french fries. Realize that you are capable of achieving a healthy lifestyle and taking the steps to get there." **iB**



WHAT THE EXPERTS CAN DO FOR YOU

In a world of "Supersize it," drive-through windows, grabbing a candy bar for lunch and trying to make sense of confusing nutritional claims, it's hard to know what to eat and how healthy we really are. Nutritionists are there to help. They promote healthy eating habits by evaluating a person's eating patterns, educating about food and exercise and strategizing with each client to find a program that works.

People seek a nutritionist's help for a number of reasons. Some are professional athletes who are concerned with physical performance. Others have medical problems, such as high-blood pressure or diabetes, that must be managed on a day-to-day basis. Many more are ordinary people who want to lose weight and can't figure out how to stop eating in ways that they know are unhealthy.

Much of nutritionists' appeal—and their success—is tied to their one-on-one approach. Unlike a diet book that lists the same meals for everyone, nutritionists get to know you; they find out what changes you need to make and which strategies "work" for you. During a typical visit a nutritionist will interview you about your lifestyle, diet and overall health. Based on your weight and height, the nutritionist will calculate your Body Mass Index, one indicator of a healthy weight. (Not all clients are overweight; some are underweight and others are at a healthy weight but struggle with conditions such as fatigue, digestive disorders, food allergies and headaches, among others.) To check for deficiencies, the clinician may also evaluate your muscle strength, reflexes, and the condition of your hair, skin, nails and eyes.

After coming up with a clear picture of your health, the nutritionist will devise a plan that incorporates the healthy behaviors and food choices that have been lacking. Sometimes the strategy will involve a weight-loss plan, but nutritionists emphasize that weight loss is just one part of the big picture. For most people, the plan will include adding more fruits and vegetables, more lean forms of protein, more whole grains and more exercise. Sometimes nutritionists will also recommend supplements, like a daily vitamin, depending on a client's health.

When seeking a nutritionist's help, be sure to check his or her credentials. According to the American Dietetic Association (ADA), the nation's largest organization of nutrition professionals, anyone can claim to be a "nutritionist," but true nutrition experts are registered dietitians. A registered dietitian, or RD, has completed a series of academic and professional requirements. Be aware that many dietitians do prefer to use the term "nutritionist," because it more accurately describes what they do—help people make better nutritional choices. "Dietitian," on the other hand, can sometimes imply "putting people on diet," which is a misguided view.

Although it has become easier and easier to make poor dietary choices (just think "value meals"), it has also become easier to find someone who can guide you. The ADA reports that its national membership has nearly doubled in the past two decades, with about 40,000 members in 1980 and 70,000 in 2002. To find a nutritionist, check with your doctor or your gym, or use the "Find a Dietitian" feature of the ADA's Web site, *www.eatright.org*. In the Boston area, a one-hour session with a registered dietitian in private practice usually costs between $80 and $120, according to the ADA.—*S.A.*

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YOU SAY YOU WANT A RESOLUTION

SURE, YOU MADE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO WORK OUT MORE. BUT ARE YOU STICKING TO THAT PLEDGE ONE MONTH OR EVEN ONE WEEK LATER? TEN FITNESS GURUS REVEAL HOW THEY KEEP THEIR CLIENTS ON TRACK

INTERVIEWS BY JESSICA IREDALE

MERCEDES MCDONALD/GETTY IMAGES

SPORTS CLUB/LA

4 Avery St., Boston; 617-375-8200

Karen Kerney Fincutter: Assistant fitness manager, five months; personal trainer, two and a half years

Don't look at this as a huge lifestyle change. Rather, focus on small changes in physical activities or diet that you can do one day at a time. Someone who never eats breakfast and just drinks coffee all day can try eating breakfast four days a week for a month. Over time, those small changes become major changes. They become lifetime habits.

Also, hire a trainer. It's an unbelievable source of motivation, support and accountability. A trainer will get you the most results in the least amount of time. Even a trainer needs a trainer. For the first time in my life, I have a trainer, and now I notice changes that have happened because of him.

CAMBRIDGE RACQUET AND FITNESS CLUB

215 First St., Cambridge; 617-491-8989

Josh Smith: Fitness and program director, six years

Work out with someone. When I play basketball with a friend, I don't really think of it as exercise; it's more of a social thing. I've been running with the same person for four years, and it's kept me motivated. Instead of going out for drinks after work, meet someone for a run. It's easy to fall off the wagon without someone helping you out.

In addition, it's important to be comfortable in your gym. A lot of women feel intimidated in the weight room with all the guys because, quite honestly, a lot of guys are dumb. But a lot of gyms now have a women's-only fitness room with its own dumbbell section. And vice versa with the aerobics classes. For men, it can be cliquey and intimidating with lots of women. Find a spot where you're comfortable. I also suggest running outside three or four times a week. It's more of a natural surface, if you can bear the New England weather. You can get right out there, and you don't have to be a member of a health club.

BOSTON SPORTS CLUB

15 Gorham St., Allston; 617-731-4177

Nine additional Boston-area locations.

Kira Stokes: Pro trainer at BSC, five years; personal trainer, eight years

People who have trouble [sticking to a workout schedule] usually make unrealistic goals. Their New Year's resolution is to go to the gym every day, and it's not going to happen, especially for people who don't work out in the first place. Don't expect immediate results. In January, the gym is packed. Everyone thinks they're going to lose 10 pounds in a month, but losing weight slowly is better. Don't jump in full-bore, but keep a steady commitment.

At the gym, change your routine. Don't always use the same piece of equipment at the same intensity level. I try to get people to keep a jump rope behind them on the machine so they can quickly get off and do a few jumps. Throw some intervals into the mix.

BEACON HILL ATHLETIC CLUB

85 Atlantic Ave., Boston; 617-742-0055

Three additional Boston-area locations.

Robyn Dalton: Master trainer at BHAC and lifestyle and weight-management consultant, two years; personal trainer, six years

Consistency is key. People get frustrated when they don't see results right away, but I always tell them, "You didn't gain the weight overnight, and you aren't going to lose it overnight."

You can get a workout anywhere, and that goes for people who travel. It's not what you do only during that hour but the rest of the day too. Walking is a great place to start. All you need is a pair of sneakers.

Just as important is what you put into your body. Eat small, frequent meals. Don't be afraid to eat fat. People need fat in their diet. I would never say don't drink alcohol or don't have a doughnut—just do everything in moderation.

The biggest mistake people make is giving up too soon. Becoming fit is a lifelong thing. You're creating the body you want, and it takes time to do it.

HEALTHWORKS FITNESS CENTERS FOR WOMEN

441 Stuart St., Boston; 617-859-7700

Two additional Boston-area locations.

Parul Patel: Master trainer and physical therapist, nine months

My philosophy is don't beat yourself up. Doing something is better than doing nothing, and positive reinforcement is better for the mind and soul. Always give yourself a pat on the back.

Progress motivates people, like seeing your abs get tighter or your kicks get higher. People start off too gung-ho with too-high expectations. People with New Year's resolutions say they're going to exercise five times a week and then feel bad when they don't make it. Start off small. Don't go all-out right away. Begin at a moderate level, two to three times a week. When you don't achieve goals, it's disappointing. But it's not the all-or-nothing principle. It's finding a balance of exercising and leading the rest of your life.

WELLBRIDGE HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTER

135 Wells Ave., Newton; 617-928-2000

Three additional Boston-area locations.

Kristin Nelson: Personal trainer and Pilates instructor/athletic director, five and a half years

Set short, attainable goals that you're going to see results from within two months. If you're unsure about an attainable goal, consult a professional.

Sign up for an event, like a marathon, swim-a-thon, or a triathlon. If you've never run, don't say, "I want to run a marathon in five months." Sign up for a 5K. That big goal can be your ultimate goal, but you need to set smaller goals to get there. Tell your goals to people who are going to cheer you on.

Try a new activity that matches your personality. If you like to dance, check to see if there's a hip-hop or salsa class. If you like intensity, look for a boot-camp class. And if your goal is weight loss, don't reward yourself with cupcakes. Get a new outfit or something not food-related.

FITCORP

1 Beacon St., Boston; 617-248-9797

14 additional Boston-area locations

Damian Dow: Exercise physiologist and personal trainer, nine years

I've used a fitness contract with clients. I have them sign a contract that I draw up, and they have to do it. Mental well-being is mostly the reward. Schedule a time each day to do the exercises, just like a meeting. Get in, get your business done, and have the rest of the day to yourself.

One of the things a lot of people neglect is meeting with a personal trainer even one time just to rekindle the interest in different exercises. Take a fitness test based on your goals. See where you are now and where you want to go. If people score below-average on the test, they like to improve. It doesn't necessarily mean going to the gym; you can just go home and go for a run or a walk. People don't always look at the big picture when it comes to exercise. They want instant success. You have to do the time to see the benefits.

I have a five-minute rule with most of my clients: If you're not motivated for that day, jump on a piece of equipment and see how you feel after five minutes. Most people are locked in by then. Or go out and buy a new pair of exercise shoes, outfit or shorts. Sometimes that motivates people because they're excited to wear their new gear.

BAPTISTE POWER YOGA

139 Columbus Ave., Boston; 617-661-9642

2000 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-661-YOGA

Baron Baptiste: Owner, Baptiste Power Yoga; yoga instructor, 20 years

When we're not taking care of ourselves, we're not feeling good about ourselves. People often feel shame about it. It is important to remember the pain of not taking care of yourself. Usually the time you don't feel like exercising counts the most and very often becomes your best workout. Sometimes we encounter resistance [to doing exercise], but we can't let the resistance get out of control. If we give in to it, it just starts a downward spiral. We can't let resistance and our feelings guide us; there has to be a higher purpose. That's become part of my value system. I have a "true north" that I follow. I have to stay committed to doing things to stay healthy. It could be hiking, going to the gym, being disciplined with the foods that I eat. It's OK to splurge as long as I come back to the healthy track. You have to want to make it a part of your life—health, fitness and a sound mind. If you're really committed at that level, even if you fall off the wagon, you'll come back to the right path.

BODY SCAPES

1 Huntington Ave., Boston; 617-267-5766

Mitch Shechtman: Director of fitness operations, six years; personal trainer, eight years

The main thing I try to get clients to do is to stick to an exercise program. It's challenging, so you try to give them the tools to adhere to it all year round. For example, pack a gym bag. Keep it in the car or by the door so you don't have an excuse. Also, buy specific workout clothes. Sometimes people feel that if they've spent the money, they should use them.

If you're used to driving to work, park a mile away. It's a way to get yourself that extra 10 minutes to and from work to get a walk in, at the very least. If you're at the office, use stairs instead of the elevator. Those are good ways to increase your caloric expenditure throughout the day.

You've also got to keep it fun. If you're always looking at exercise as a burden you're probably not going to stick to it. Get a schedule you can stick with. Don't just blow it off—"I'll do it the next day, the next day"— pretty soon it's a week or a month, and then you're off the program. If you get someone who has stuck with a program for five or six months, they've really changed their lifestyle. The old way is out of their life.

BOSTON BODY

6 Newbury St., Boston; 617-262-3333

Zayna Gold: Founder, owner and director of Boston Body; personal trainer, 15 years

Growing up, I was a really lazy couch potato, always struggling to keep my weight down. I wasn't born with a fit body, and I really had a hard time disciplining myself. I would do nothing for months; there was no consistency. I changed when I started taking Pilates. It really made sense to me. If you want a real tip, it's not about discipline, it's about finding what you love. It's hard to stay disciplined with all the distractions in life. The first step might be going out salsa dancing every Friday night, walking the dog or taking power yoga. For me, it's Pilates and fitness. I'm so committed, not because of a discipline to change my body, but because I love it. IB

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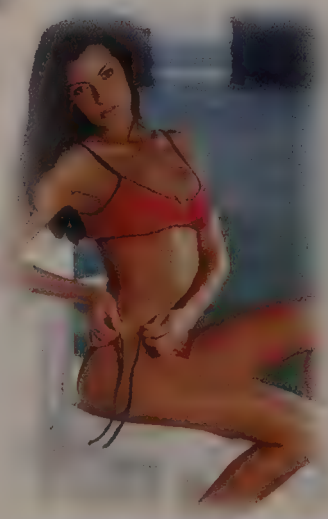

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dates & DUMBBELLS

TIPS ON SOCIALIZING AS YOU SWEAT

BY JULIE SHORT

The only reason we go to the gym is to work out, right? Sure it is...at least that's what we tell ourselves. But if hard-pressed, most single guys and gals would admit to occasionally sneaking a peek at the buff bodybuilder on the bench or the lithe lady at the leg press. Hey, we're only human. There's just something about sweaty, half-clothed bodies in a warm, enclosed environment that fuels the imagination.

Just look at *Sex and the City*'s resident attorney-cum-spinning-addict, Miranda Hobbes, who snagged a date with a guy she swift-kicked in the head during a kick-boxing class. It happens (and not just on TV), and it's about time it happened to you. We set off to gyms around the city to solicit tips from both men and women on the best way to score a date at the gym.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY... HAPPY DAYS

Head to the gym at 6 o'clock on a weeknight, and you're likely to face long lines at the machines and crowded classes—not exactly ideal conditions for working out, but perfect for meeting fellow fitness nuts. Carrie, 26, says that Mondays through Wednesdays are best. "Thursday night is out because of Must-See TV. Friday either is date night or you go out for drinks after work. On Saturday morning, you're recovering from the night before—you might go to the gym later in the day, but probably not," she says definitively. "Sundays aren't bad, but between 12 and 7pm, men are watching football, and women are either exercising or shopping." Kelly, 23, agrees. "The kind of men I'd want to date should be out at bars on Thursday and Friday nights."

Men are divided: "I prefer weekends because I'm in less of a hurry," says Jon, 32. On the other hand, Ken, 34, says that he's not likely to make the trek from his apartment in Brookline to the gym in the Financial District on weekends. "I like to go after work," he says.

All agree that it's better when the gym is crowded. "The options are plentiful, and fewer people are paying attention as you try to meet people," says Kim, 29.

WHERE THE BOYS ARE

Let's face it: Men are in the minority when it comes to fitness classes. "The only reason to take a class," says George, 23, "is to meet a girl." Caryn, 28, agrees. "If a guy wants to meet women, he'll take yoga or spinning. But then again, if he did, I might think he was batting for the other team."

Most guys we talked to say the best way for women to meet a guy is to hang around the free weights or the cardio machines—although they caution that it's a bit difficult to start up a conversation when you're out of breath. Jon, 29, prefers the stationary bicycles: "You can still talk and pedal." Several women agree, adding that the elliptical machines are another good option.

Angie, 25, met her current boyfriend as she was bench-pressing. "I needed someone to spot for me," she says. Josie, 27, had a similar situation: "I was between machines in the free-weight section when [my boyfriend] and I met." But she advises others: "Don't cater your workout to what another person is doing. You'll cross paths sooner or later."

YOU HAD ME AT HELLO

Men and women are mixed on how they'd like to be approached. "I'd rather initiate conversation. Otherwise, my first reaction is always, 'Ew, why is this guy hitting on me?' " says Carolina, 32. Instead, try for low-key, natural conversation. "I usually just say 'hi,' " says Jon. "What's the worst that can happen? If she gives you back one-word answers, you move on." If you're on the elliptical, discuss what's on the TV in front of you. Or if you frequently see the same person at the gym, introduce yourself. Better yet, "If she misses a day or two, approach her and say, 'I see you here all the time, but I noticed you haven't been here for a little while,' " says Jon. Chances are, the woman will be flattered you noticed.

Once you've made a connection, don't try to get her number after talking to her for only a few minutes. "Establish a friendly relationship over a period of several weeks," says Josie. "That way you can find out if she has a significant other or what her interests might be."

For men, a word of caution: Don't use the same pickup lines that you'd use at a bar. "If a guy says, 'Do you come here often?' all that means to me is that he doesn't go to the gym regularly. It's a major turnoff," says Josie. "Instead, I'd ask, 'Are you on this machine?' or 'How many sets do you have left?' "

Men love the idea of women approaching them. "Ask him if he wants a spot," says George. Most of the men we talked to say they would appreciate any overture from a woman. "Heck, she could say 'Your shoe's untied,' and I'd be hers," says Todd, 28.

Gary, 34, has a suggestion for men. "If a woman is using the elliptical, for example, and she looks confused or is using it wrong, it's easy to approach and ask if you can help." But Sarah, 24, demurs. "I hate it when guys try to correct me when I'm working out on one of the machines." Our advice is to proceed cautiously. If you meet with any resistance, back off and try a different approach later.

WORKOUT BARBIE

When it comes to looking good at the gym, both men and women are clear: No makeup. Period. "I don't like women who get dolled up to go to the gym," says Gary. Jon says that he expects women to look like they're at the gym to work out. However, he adds, "That doesn't mean dirty old sweats."

Hmm, no makeup, no sweats. What should women take away from this mixed message? Josie suggests, "Just don't *plan* to wear anything special. Be normal. People who over-coordinate their outfits at the gym look lame." Angie adds, "Wear clothes that complement your figure but are comfortable." (See "Fit and Fabulous" on page 31 for fashion tips.)

Women, take heart: "There's nothing sexier than a woman who's just run five miles on the treadmill," says Steve, 35. Amen!

THE WARM-DOWN

There you have it. Words of wisdom from gym rats themselves. Before we send you off on your own, keep in mind the following advice from a veteran of gym dating (a real pro who's met three out of her last four boyfriends at the gym): "Remember why you're at the gym: to work out. It's a nice place to meet people, but if you don't go about it in the right way, it's just like a meat market at any bar," says Cyndi, 26. Now go forth and conquer. IB

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ELIZABETH MARKEL; MODELS: JULIA B. AND JEREMY/CLICK MODELS OF BOSTON; LOCATION: WELLBRIDGE HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTER; CLOTHING PROVIDED BY NIKE AND CITYSPORTS

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Red Agile jacket, $52; matching pants, $35. Both by Puma.

Dri-Fit yoga sweater by Nike, $55.

Track Star T-shirt, $22; Tempo track shorts, $28. Both by Nike.

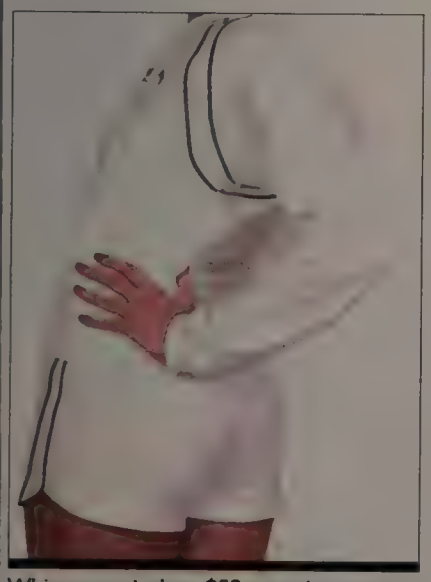
Half-zip top, $55; retro pants with 7 cm. stripe, $45. Both by Puma.

Lace-up pants, $95; jacket, $122; tank, $60. All by Sandra McCray and available at c.i.t.e. at The Sports Club/LA.

Tank, $45; hot pants, $45. Both part of Puma's Serena Williams collection.

Beach V-Ball T-shirt, $22; Sun Tech Shorty Shorts, $40. Both by Nike.

Sleeveless logo T-shirt, $18; shorts, $26. Both by Puma.



White terry jacket, $52; matching terry shorts, $26. Both by Puma.

Heritage pinstriped warm-up suit by Nike, $95.

Dri-Fit yoga cat suit by Nike, $80.

Muscle T-shirt, $24; mesh pants, $40. Both by Puma.

For women's Nike products, visit www.nikegoddess.com; for men's Nike products, visit www.niketown.com; for Puma products, visit the Puma store at 333 Newbury Street or www.puma.com. The c.i.t.e. boutique is located inside The Sports Club LA at 1 Avery Street, next to the new Ritz Carlton.

Red and pink demi-cup bra by Lise Charmel, $160; matching thong, $110. Both available at Belle de Jour. White-gold necklace with diamonds, $13,000; white-gold earrings with pavé diamonds, $2,500; matching bracelet, $10,000; matching ring, $4,500. All available at Lux, Bond & Green.

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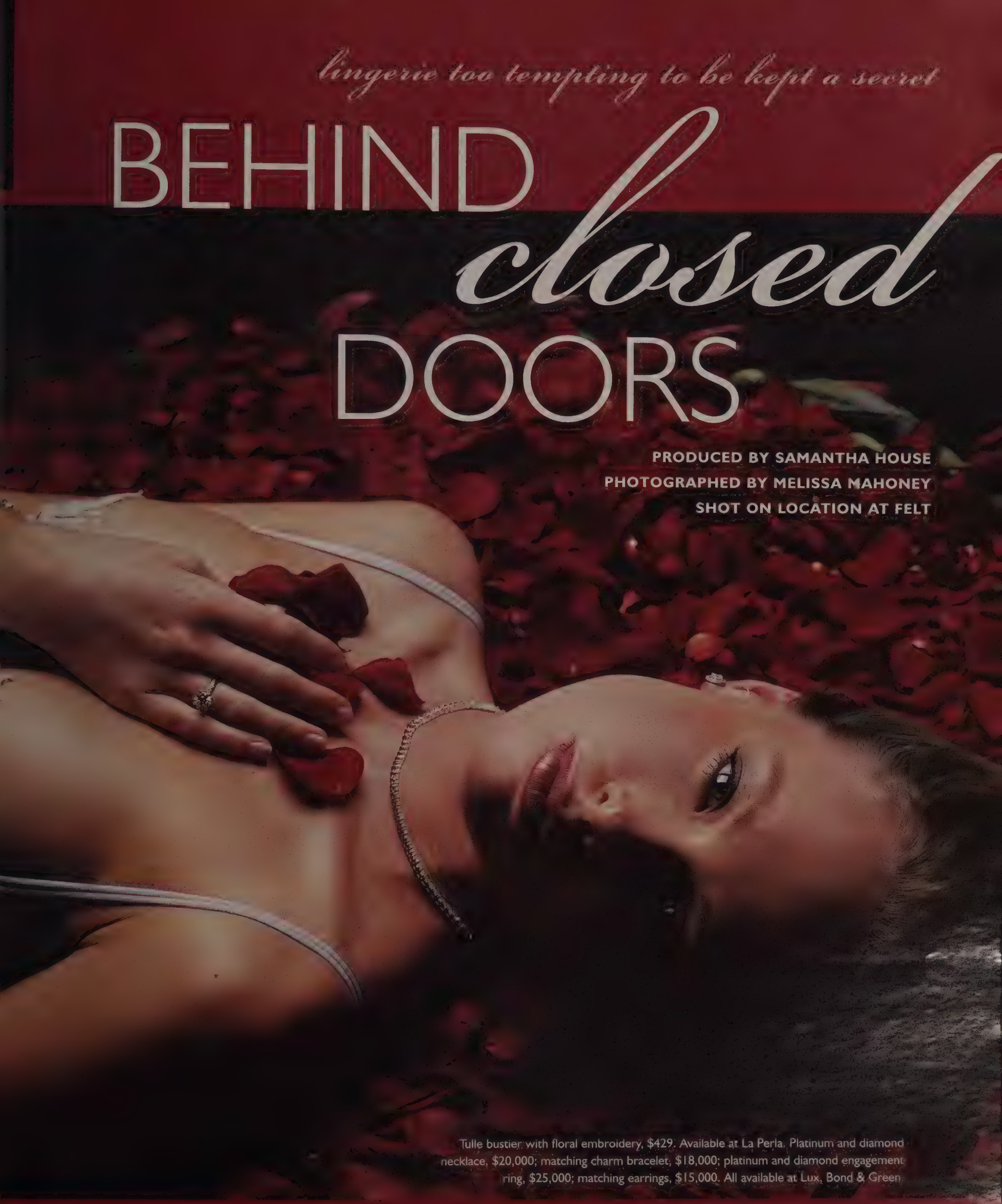

Tulle bustier with floral embroidery, $429. Available at La Perla. Platinum and diamond necklace, $20,000; matching charm bracelet, $18,000; platinum and diamond engagement ring, $25,000; matching earrings, $15,000. All available at Lux, Bond & Green

Black silk demi-cup bra, $150; thong, $110; garter belt, $145. All by Parah and available at Belle de Jour. Eighteen-karat yellow-gold necklace, $4,725; matching bracelet, $2,575; matching ring, $850. All available at Lux, Bond & Green.

Olive bra by Huit, $62; matching French knickers, $38. Both available at Lingerie Studio. Eighteen-karat white-gold necklace with diamonds, $14,000; 18-karat white-gold bracelet with diamonds and sapphires, $7,650; matching earrings, $6,950; matching ring, $4,350. All available at Lux Bond & Green

Left: Embroidered corset by De Pledge, $365; black skirt by Cosabella, $40. Both available at Belle de Jour. Eighteen-karat white-gold heart necklace with pavé diamonds, $6,500; matching bracelet, $9,600; 18-karat white-gold ring, $1,000;

Right: Purple bra by Andres Sarda, $95; matching bikini, $36. Both available at Lingerie Studio. Eighteen-karat white-gold necklace with diamonds $6,400; 18-karat white-gold zebra bracelet with onyx and diamonds, $7,980; matching ring, $3,100. All available at Lux, Bond & Green.

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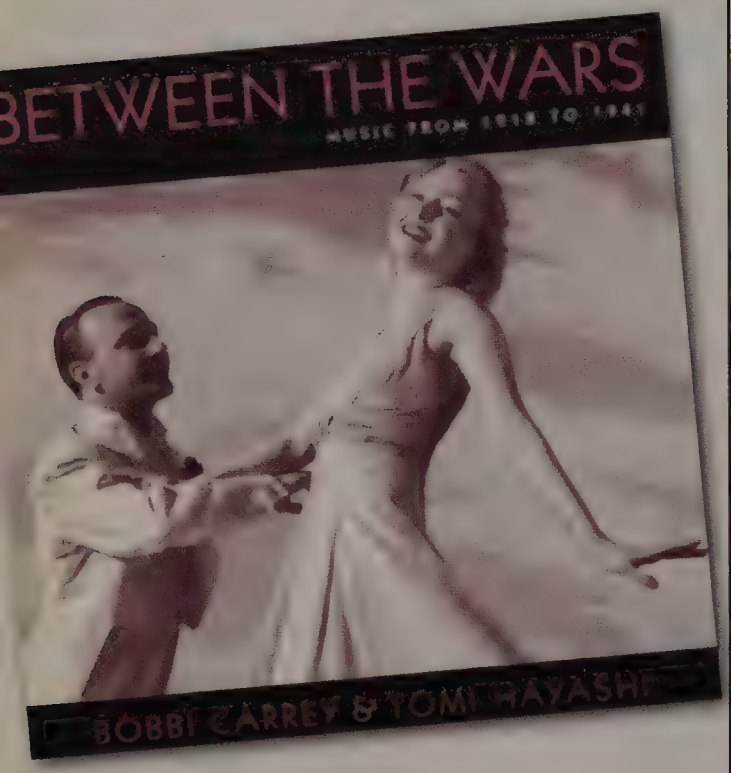
Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



PEARLS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR

Between The Wars—an appealing CD featuring Cambridge-based cabaret performer Bobbi Carrey on vocals, Tomi Hayashi on piano and John Clark on soprano and tenor saxes and clarinet—covers the luscious songs composed between 1918 and 1941. Available online at *www.bobbicarrey.com* or at Amazon.

Put on this CD and roam around your house, and you'll find a certain daydreamy feeling blossoming. One of the cozy virtues of cabaret is the way it blurs the lines between romance, sadness and humor. When Carrey comes in, hauntingly, on the somber "I'll Be Seeing You," the melancholy is evident—even figuratively with the swirling dress on the CD cover moving in slow motion. The songs recall that precious time bracketed by the two world wars, sweeping across the fizzy twenties, then on through the down-swoop of the Depression and up again through recovery. Tunes include samples of the great American Songbook, from Oscar Hammerstein and Irving Berlin through the Gershwins and Johnny Mercer. Al Jolson's galloping ragtime piano in "Toot, Toot, Tootsie, Goodbye" sits alongside the throaty disillusion of "Falling in Love Again," which, in conjunction with "Just a Gigolo," spoofily suggests that we're all love's fools. There are moods of stouthearted bravado in the face of disaster ("I've Got Plenty of Nothing"), of longing (in the affectionately quotidian letter-song "P.S. I Love You"), rueful loneliness ("What'll I Do?") and sexual jealousy, jauntily explored ("How Many Times?"). These songs follow you around like a pink kitten.

GREECE IS THE SWEET WORD

Athan's is a Greek pastry shop and cafe at 1621 Beacon St. in Washington Square, Brookline (617-734-7028).

Athan's (no, not Nathan's) is a European pastry shop and cafe with delicate etched glass windows stretching around the corner, bringing light from Greece—or is it Brookline? This shop is an exact copy of a twin cafe in Greece. Despite globalism, the exotic European element still exists, delicious and refined. Accordingly, everything at Athan's is painstakingly made from scratch: real chocolate, real cream. Pastries, bigger than a cupcake and "each more excruciatingly gorgeous than the last" as one lover of sweets put it, are made of *genoise*, a mousselike, slightly spongy cake, sometimes covered with a luscious chocolate *ganache*. Trump indecision about a birthday cake by assembling a colorful, polyglot version: Get several small cakes (each suitable for one person)—Black Forest, apricot mousse, orange and marron. A chic little sliver of Belgian chocolate says Happy Birthday in gold lettering. (Alternatively, you can buy a whole cake.) Trays of baklava, famed Greek indulgence, with honeyed syrup oozing forth, come in "more variations than you can shake a stick at," says owner Ari. Athan's cookies, including almond and other clever nutty creations, are tantalizingly on the edge of sweet. Tinier longings can be satisfied with miniature petit fours.

WONDER WOMAN FOREVER!

Buckaroo's Mercantile at 1297 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-492-4792 and at *www.buckmerc.com*) sells campy, nostalgic items from various decades. It's a Christmas bonanza!

Buckaroo's owner, Brooks, calls his merchandise "things I like." He likes the eternally comic, charming and optimistic imagery of decades past, roughly the '50s through '70s, often tinged with irony in retrospect. Hula girls become magnets, and a sparks-spitting "Nunzilla" sits side by side with things leopard-skin; eternal proliferations of Elvis; cowgirls cheeringly emblazoned on shirts, lamps, notebooks; and vivid, lurid pictures from pulp magazines where good girls go wonderfully bad. Wonder Woman, a Buckaroo fave, zooms across lamp shades, mouse pads and custom light-switch covers. Other covers feature robots, Mexican themes and the ever-colorful Rosie the Riveter. The innocence of the domestic '50s is preserved in dishcloths decorated with dancing tea kettles, a shiny black panther lamp holding little containers "for fake plants," and there's even a kitchenette banquette. A toy car made of tin battery covers with black-and-gold letters just proves it: Art is hidden everywhere. Buckaroo's offers endless entertaining tchotchkes that reminisce or comment lovingly or critically. Promoting ride-sharing during WWII, one ad creepily proclaims: "If you ride alone, you ride with Hitler." The sweeter "Can't sleep, the clowns will eat me" adorns various knicks and knacks.

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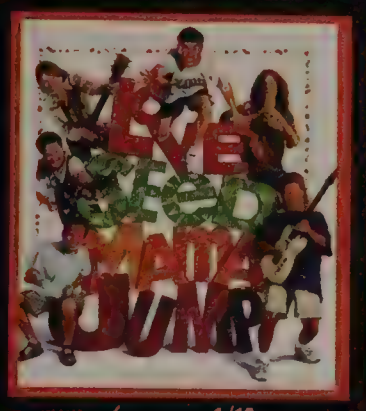

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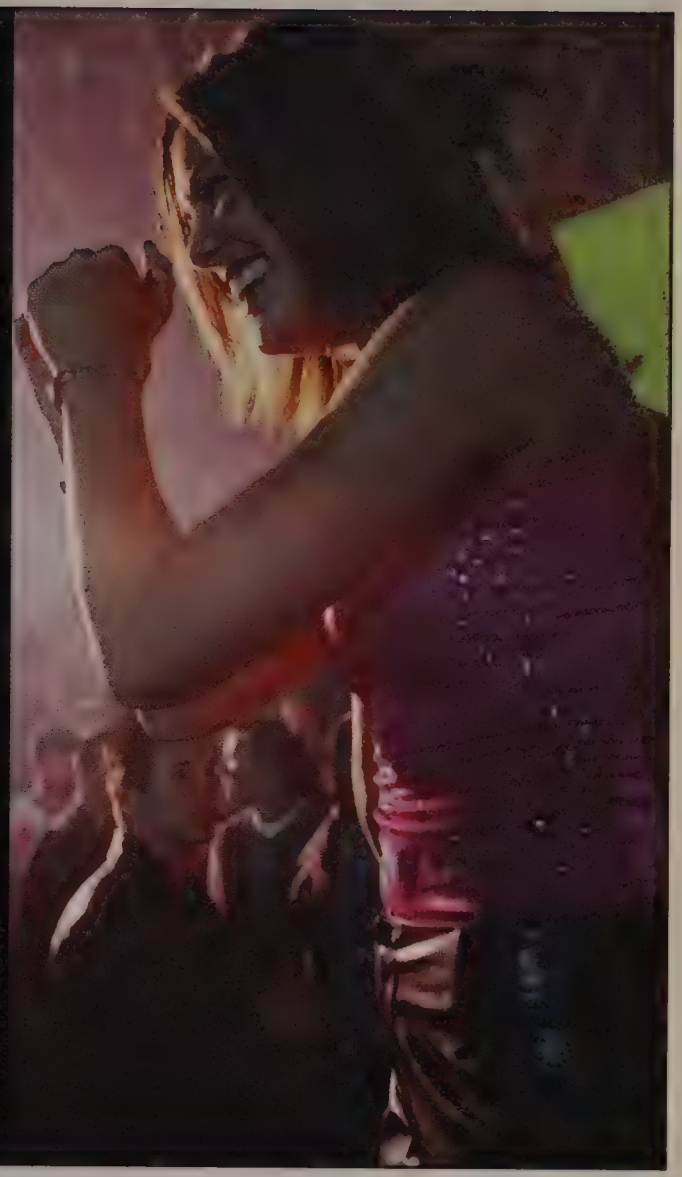

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in this section:
Review: Craigie Street Bistrot
Dish: Draghi on the move
Wine: Sonoma County wines
Tasty Tidbit: Luis Tiant at the Bay Tow

REVIEW

Hidden Gem

First-rate food and reasonable prices make the Craigie Street Bistrot in Cambridge a real find.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MERGEN

When Butterfish closed its doors several months ago after a two-year run, I was saddened and disappointed. The splendid little boîte served well-conceived, professionally prepared and reasonably priced food. Upon closing the restaurant, former owner Christopher Bussell announced that he was forsaking the restaurant business for the field of education. His talents in the kitchen will be missed.

Almost without missing a beat, however, chef/owner Tony Maws opened the Craigie Street Bistrot in the same space. Fortunately, it continues the fine food and reasonable prices of its predecessor.

Maws has changed the color scheme from gray walls, cobalt-blue trim and turquoise upholstered banquettes to mellow mustard walls and maroon banquettes. Colorful framed posters from France and beyond have replaced black-and-white photographs of cityscapes. Tablecloths and napkins are still white, but as if to satisfy its bistro designation—and to save on laundry to boot—butcher paper covers the tablecloths.

Meals start with a stainless-steel basket (a carryover from Butterfish) of Iggy's bread: classic French baguettes, epines (loaves shaped like sheaves of wheat) and crusty rolls accompanied by softened butter. In one pleasant departure from standard restaurant practice, servers do not push pricey bottled water. Moreover, the wine list features remarkably inexpensive choices, with prices dipping to $14 and $15 a bottle for certain whites. On the red side, the 2000 Cote de Brouilly at $6 a glass ($25 a bottle), was a fruity and pleasant Beaujolais. An even better value was a large carafe (500 ml) of northern Rhone red, predominantly Sirah and Cabernet Franc, for only $13. Soft but well structured, it lacked the sometimes excessive pepperiness of many Côtes du Rhones.

The bistro's menu changes daily, although certain offerings reappeared on both of our visits. One of those was the pan-roasted mussels with toasted garlic, New Mexican Caribe (a type of chile) and fresh herbs ($10). Served in a large shallow bowl covered by an inverted bowl to keep the dish warm and serve as a receptacle for discarded shells, the mussels were impeccably clean, sweet and flavorful, with flecks of red chile and green parsley in a delicious, if borderline salty, broth.

Another repeat item on the menu was the terrine of foie gras with Verjus onions, sun-dried corn and Spanish paprika ($14). This fine, velvety, rich terrine is made on the premises from foie gras imported from New York state. Its reasonable price alone distinguished it from the foie gras at many competing establishments. Finally, but certainly not least among the first courses, was the potage Parmentier ($9), a warm leek-and-potato soup with poached oysters. Its light but intensely flavorful broth complemented and enhanced the succulent, briny oysters.

Main courses included black cod with French coco beans, chorizo and grilled fennel ($25). This wedge of fresh, boneless whitefish was accompanied by small, firm-textured white beans, numerous slices of mildly spicy Spanish sausage and mild grilled fennel. Small purple onions completed the ensemble, delightful in its combination of contrasting tastes and textures.

The roasted breast and confit thigh of chicken with creamy polenta and stewed dried plums ($19) required a 35-minute preparation time. It was well worth the wait. The moist, tender chicken breast and the rich, full flavor of the confit were complemented by a mound of pleasantly bitter chard, a dividend that the menu had not mentioned. Unfortunately, an overwrought presentation marred this delightful ensemble. Following the tiresome layering affectation all too common in Boston restaurants, in which meat or fish is routinely plopped on top of, rather than alongside of, accompanying starches, the chicken arrived on top of the polenta, with the chard hiding at the bottom of the heap. Fortunately, in this instance the compatible yet distinctive flavors and textures of the ingredients survived this treatment.

Not quite as successful was the red chile–marinated skirt steak ($21). This generous mound of rare, flavorful beef, sliced and arrayed around a large marrow bone, was accompanied by "forked" potatoes and roasted carrots. The potatoes were a toothsome cross between

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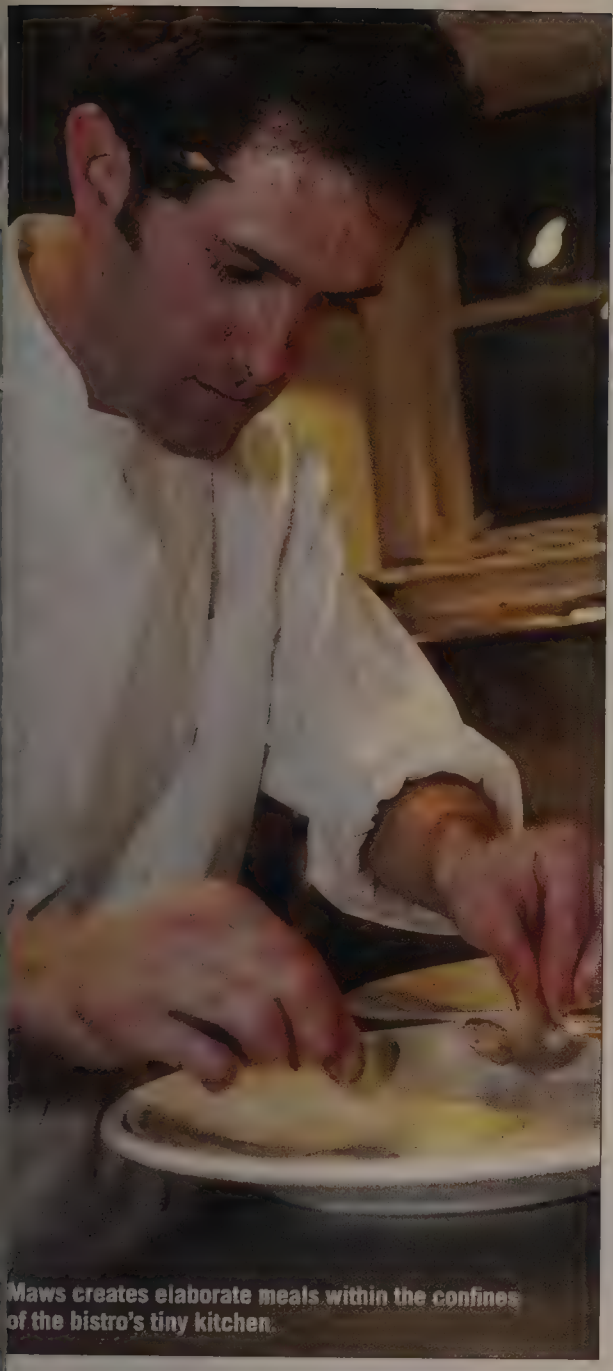
Chef/owner Tony Maws has decorated his cozy Cambridge boîte with vintage posters and postcards found at local yard sales.



Maws creates elaborate meals within the confines of the bistro's tiny kitchen.

The roasted breast of Muscovy duck with lentils du Puy is a specialty at Craigie Street Bistrot.

baked and mashed, and the carrots, reasonably resilient with a tender but not mushy texture, boasted a sweet, earthy flavor. The meat itself, however, was tougher than one would expect, even from a skirt steak, perhaps because of the way it had been sliced.

Desserts at Craigie Street were uniformly superb. Best, at least for chocoholics, was the chocolate mousse terrine ($9) with espresso ice cream and toasted almonds. This deep, dark, intensely chocolate mousse had a velvety texture and intense bittersweet chocolate flavor, with the added richness of chocolate sauce and a scoop of espresso ice cream, made in house, as are all of the bistro's ice creams. The crunch of the toasted almonds provided an enjoyable texture counterpoint. Lighter desserts, but no less well executed, were the port-poached Anjou pear with Oregon huckleberries (small blackish-purple berries with an intriguing flavor) and lemon verbena ice cream ($8), and the fresh market fruits crisp ($7), served with sweet canella ice cream. On the night we sampled the latter, the crisp featured blackberries and huckleberries, providing an enjoyably tart fruitiness to go with the sweet pastry.

Adding another option to its already reasonable prices, the bistro offers on weekday evenings a prix fixe dinner that includes appetizer, main course and dessert, for $29. (The same items ordered individually would've totaled $37.)

Service at Craigie Street was informed and generally efficient and professional. On my first visit, there seemed to be a large number of servers for such a small (50 seat) restaurant, and at times they seemed a hovering presence. On my most recent visit, in contrast, it took a considerable period of time to catch the attention of a server who seemed distracted and oblivious to my presence several minutes after I put the menu aside, folded my hands and waited to place my order.

All told, however, the Craigie Street Bistrot delivers incredible value. One hopes that its location in a parking-starved residential neighborhood not wholly convenient to the T will be overcome by its first-rate food and value-packed prices. iB

DISH

Out In the Cold, Ring In the New

Ch-ch-changes at 33 and Mistral... Bravo, Teatro!

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Joshua Botsford, who recently replaced Charles Draghi as executive chef at 33 Restaurant & Lounge, will further refine the "symmetrical menu" of French and Italian cuisine.

He's been good—very, very good—for years now, but did that mean Santa Claus brought chef **Charles Draghi** a restaurant to call his very own? Of course not. Those of us who've followed Draghi's career path through the kitchens of **Marcuccio's**, **Limbo** and **33 Restaurant & Lounge** know that he is not the kind of guy to sit on another man's lap and whisper his life's dream into the man's ear...and at this point, he's not the kind of guy who wants to work for someone else, either.

So as we enter a new year, Draghi has left 33, where he trained his chef de cuisine, **Joshua Botsford**, in the subtleties of the much-vaunted "symmetrical menu" of French and Italian cuisine. Botsford is now officially executive chef, and Draghi has no official plans...yet.

In Boston's theatre district, **Paul Roiff** and **Jamie Mammano** will be raising the curtain on **Teatro** any day now at 177 Tremont St. Taking center stage will be executive chef **Robert Jean** and his menu of Northern Italian dishes such as monkfish roasted on the bone with charred lemon and pepperoncini, and veal saltimbocca with creamed spinach and mushrooms. Set design is by **Celeste Cooper** of Repertoire. Just about 100 seats are available nightly in the dining room and at the bar, where a full menu will be served until 1am Monday through Saturday, and until midnight on Sunday.

Meanwhile, back at **Mistral**, new sommelier **Dawn Lamendola** intends to add smaller wine producers and build more value into the wine list. Lamendola's credentials are impressive, from her less-than-humble beginnings as sommelier at Tribeca's **Montrachet** to a stint as wine director and sommelier at **Jean-Louis Palladin**'s Manhattan bistro. She's just completed the first level of the Court of Master Sommeliers examination, and is working toward Master Sommelier certification.

Where will the **Perdix** land? Chef/owner **Tim Partridge** closed his tiny restaurant (now **Ten Tables**) in Jamaica Plain to seek out a bigger nesting place. And he's reportedly found it in a richer demographic—near Coolidge Corner in Brookline. We'll keep you posted.

For a taste of firehouse chic, check out the newly opened **Engine Seven Café** at **The Kendall** boutique hotel near MIT. Inside the former fire engine bay of what used to be a fire station, and surrounded by kitschy firehouse memorabilia, you can take a seat and order breakfast until 11am and lunch until 3pm. The menu is simple—homemade scones, Caesar salads, BBQ pork sandwich—and the prices are reasonable (Sunday brunch buffet tops out at $18), so you won't get hosed.

Excelsior may be quite hot once it opens in the former **Biba** space, but the warm-up is taking longer than anticipated: The projected opening date for the forthcoming **Tim Lynch/Lydia Shire** co-production is now April.

And in sports-related food news: Where there's a Super Bowl, there's usually food that crosses the foul line: nachos made with Easy Cheese, onion-soup-mix dip, football-shaped meatloaf...you know the score. Yet there's also an event, unimaginatively dubbed **Taste of the NFL**, that showcases 32 accomplished chefs (one for each NFL team) who whip up the culinary equivalent of a touchdown to benefit child hunger relief organizations. Our local representative in San Diego on Jan. 25 will be **Chris Schlesinger** of **East Coast Grill and Raw Bar**, who will prepare black pepper-crusted New Bedford scallops with Macomber turnip puree and white truffle oil. Unfortunately, the Patriots won't be there—at least not on the playing field. **iB**

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Singing Sonoma's Praises

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

One of the major developments in California wine over the past few years has been a rising awareness of the flavor profile you can expect from grapes produced in specific sub-regions within the state. Although most consumers still buy bottles based on familiarity with the brand or company name, it often pays to note where the grapes originate if you want to pick a particular style of wine that closely fits your palate preferences.

To me, Sonoma County is fascinating largely because of the wide range of wines it produces. In contrast to the manicured estates of neighboring Napa, Sonoma's atmosphere has remained thoroughly agricultural. While a number of well-known large companies own vineyards throughout the county, the vast majority of Sonoma's nearly 150 wineries are small-scale artisan family businesses. In contrast to Napa, Sonoma's proximity to the moderating influence of the Pacific Ocean makes it a cooler climate region. The styles of wine that Sonoma produces reflect this, although temperatures vary dramatically depending on the exact location of the vineyards.

Within Sonoma there are several distinct legally demarcated zones, or AVAs (American Viticultural Areas), each of which has established its identity based on the specialized production of particular kinds of wine. When I'm scanning a wine list, I'll often make my selection based on a wine's origin, as this factor is such a heavy influence on the wine's flavor. Following is a rundown of some of Sonoma's major districts, and the kind of wine you can expect from each.

One of California's oldest grape-growing areas, **Sonoma Valley** is probably the county's most versatile region in terms of the grapes that ripen here, although red wine predominates. At the heart of Sonoma County, the region is famous for its sturdy cabernets, merlots and zinfandels, but the chillier parts of the valley floor, where fog is prevalent, yield a good bit of crisp, appley flavored chardonnay. Bottle prices in general are among the most moderate in Sonoma ($15 -$25).

Sonoma Mountain is a smaller part of the Sonoma Valley set apart by its altitude and climate, which is generally warmer as the vineyards lie above the fog line. The area's east-facing vineyards produce boldly flavored, herb-scented, very concentrated cabernets and zinfandels that cost more than those from the valley ($20-$30).

Russian River Valley comprises about a quarter of the county's vineyards and is predominantly a cooler, fog-influenced zone set in the hills that extend out to the ocean. It's best known for beautifully perfumed chardonnays and pinot noirs—wines of refinement, balance and grace rather than maximum flavor impact. Acidity levels tend to be among the highest here in comparison with most other California wines. Interestingly, some delicious, brightly fruity, medium-bodied zinfandel is also grown on the district's higher elevation vineyards. Russian River wines tend to run between $25 and $35.

Warmer and less foggy than Russian River, **Dry Creek Valley** also experiences more rainfall, the reason many of the vineyards are unirrigated. Rich, flavorful "old vine" zinfandel is the heart and soul of Dry Creek. The wines' brilliant red berry flavors, firm acidity, spiciness and soft textures set them apart from others made elsewhere in the state. ($20-$30).

The long, sunny summer days of Sonoma's largest viticultural area, **Alexander Valley,** ripen cabernet sauvignon, merlot and some chardonnay in a smooth, mellower style. The reds often have intense fruit and supple textures, while the chardonnays display lower than average acidity. Wines from this region are often the most expensive in the county (reds averaging $35-$45 and chardonnays $25-$30).

Carneros is the breezy, cool-climate area at the southern end of Sonoma that runs along the north shore of San Pablo Bay and is also partly in Napa County. This zone is trendy because of the high-profile chardonnay, pinot noir and sparkling wines produced here. These are very firmly acidic wines that are a bit less fleshy and ripe, but perhaps more elegant in style than most others produced in California. ($25-$40) **iB**

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Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

EVENTS

Barnes & Noble Cookbook Extravaganza
Barnes & Noble, Prudential Center, Boston (508-879-0133). Jan. 19, 1-2pm and 3-4pm. Local chefs prepare samples of their Boston Dine-Around menus while guest authors sign copies of their latest cookbooks.

Boston DineAround
Various restaurants throughout the city. www.BostonUSA.com/dinearound. *Jan. 17-26.* Chefs from more than 40 local restaurants host cookbook authors from around the country to create memorable menus.

Boston DineAround Gala
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). Jan. 20, 5:30-8pm. $55. Meet chefs and authors, samples their cuisine and purchase autographed cookbooks.

Boston Wine Festival
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (888-660-WINE). www.bostonwinefestival.net. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Jan. 10-April 11.* More than 50 events, including seminars, vertical tastings, dinner dances and celebrity guest speakers, are scheduled at this annual event. •Jan. 10, 7pm, $75: Grand Opening Reception. Taste more than 50 wines from around the world paired with a buffet prepared by chef **Daniel Bruce**. •Jan. 14-15, 7pm, $195: The Battle of the Cabernets •Jan. 20-21, 7pm, $185: *Quarterly Review of Wines'* Best of the Best.

Boston Winter Jubilee
Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston. www.beersummit.com. *Jan. 18, 5-10pm. $25.* Sample big beers (7 percent and higher alcohol by volume) from 20 international breweries.

Casablanca Dinner
Argana, 1287 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-868-1247). Jan. 14, 6:30 and 8:30pm. $50. In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the movie *Casablanca*, Argana offers a five-course Moroccan meal, plus a showing of the film.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sat., 1-3pm. Jan. 11-March 1. $315 for eight weeks or $45 per class. Nationally and regionally known chefs and cookbook authors demonstrate their specialties. •Jan. 11: **Kerry Downey Romaniello** of Westport Rivers Winery •Jan. 18: **Laurent Poulain**, executive chef at the Fairmont Copley Plaza.

Chapoutier Wine Dinner
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Orange Line to Back Bay. Jan. 20, 6:30pm. $65. This four-course dinner will be paired with Rhone wines from the Chapoutier Vineyard of Southern France.

Cooking and Commuting
South Station, Boston. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. •Jan. 15, 12-1pm: Chef **Christos Tsardounis** of Ariadne and cookbook author **Stan Frankenthaler** demonstrate why fusion cuisine has become a trend. •Jan. 22, 12-1pm: Cookbook author **Dominique Macquet** and Sandrine's chef **Raymond Ost** offer tips on French cooking.

Culinary Classes at L'Espalier
L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-362-3023). Three Thursdays, beginning Jan. 9; or Jan. 11, 12-8pm. $1,000. Go behind the scenes at L'Espalier and learn the tricks of the trade.

Great Oyster Open
Jasper White's Summer Shack, 149 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-520-9500). Jan. 13, 7pm. $35. Shellfish shuckers from local seafood restaurants compete for the title of "Best Shucker." Watch the competition, eat oysters and drink beer.

Guest Chef Program
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). 7-9pm. $30-$60. Some of Boston's most celebrated chefs offer cooking demonstrations. •Jan. 14: **Pakruti Majmudar** of Rangoli shares Southern Indian recipes. •Jan. 15: **Anthony Susi** of Sage prepares regional Italian and New American cuisine. •Jan. 21: **Eng S. Tay** prepares food from the menu of his Malaysian restaurant Pinang.

International Conference on the Mediterranean Diet
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-421-5500). www.oldwayspt.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Jan. 12-14. $325.* Hosted by Oldways and the Harvard School of Public Health, this conference updates studies and reinforces the Mediterranean-style eating pattern as the standard for lifelong health. Well-known chefs and food writers offer cooking demonstrations.

Wine Tastings
Union Street & The Attic, 107R Union St., Newton Centre (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Jan. 15, 6-8pm. Free. Enjoy a wine tasting with hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Commonwealth Wine & Spirits.

TASTY TIDBIT

EAT, SIP AND SMOKE

If ever there were an evening tailored perfectly for men, this is it: Luis Tiant, former pitcher for the Red Sox, hosts a four-course wild game dinner paired with wine and cigars at the Bay Tower Jan. 13. Tiant, a legend among Boston sports fans, has his own line of Nicaraguan-made cigars called El Tiante. He'll discuss blend, size, cutting and the elements of acquired taste at a pre-dinner reception. After the meal, the group will have an opportunity to light up, plus sip fine cognacs and mingle with others. Note: Testosterone not required. *The Bay Tower, 60 State St., 33rd Floor, Boston (617-723-1666). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Jan. 13, 6pm. $150.—J.S.*

Luis Tiant

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agenda

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

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Art, Books & Poetry,

Dance Clubs, Dance,

Film, Gay & Lesbian,

Museums, Music

JULIE SHORT

Around Town, Children,

Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope

and Sports

TUE./JAN. 21-SUN./JAN. 26

Performing Arts: Lullaby of Broadway

"An absolute knockout! From grand effects to minute detail, executed with savvy sensitivity. Prodigious sets, splendiferous costumes, caressing and coruscating lights and intoxicating configurations of dancers that defy our minds and muscles not to join in." So wrote John Simon of *New York* magazine about the revival of *42nd Street*, which comes to the Wang Theatre this month. Clearly, this is the skewed view of a musical fanatic. If you're more skeptical about musicals (as we are), maybe this will help: The production won the 2001 Tony Award, the 2001 Drama Desk Award and the 2001 Outer Critics Circle Award, so it's got to be good, right? In addition to the title number—danced down a flight of steps—*42nd Street* features songs like "We're in the Money," "You're Getting to Be a Habit With Me," "Lullaby of Broadway" and "I Only Have Eyes for You." Have your toes started tapping yet? If so, get to this production about a chorus girl's rise to fame on Broadway. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Jan. 21-26. $28-$73.*

SAT./JAN. 11

CityScope: Nanny Networking

We're always getting inundated with reader requests from single men asking for events that offer the possibility of... fraternizing... with swingin' single ladies. So when we came across an announcement for the Boston Area Nannies' holiday party at Jillian's, a light bulb went on. The party is open to all nannies—*and nanny supporters*—making this event tailor-made for you young men looking for a romantic, slightly maternal start to your new year. The party, which takes place at **Jillian's Boston**, includes a private VIP room with pool tables and a deli buffet. And if you strike out with the nannies, try the six bars in Jillian's mammoth complex. *145 Ipswich St., Boston (617-965-1674). 7-10pm. $30. www.bostonareanannies.com.*

WED./JAN. 8

Sports: Shape Up!

Okay, folks, it's time to make good on your New Year's resolutions. Giving up the cigs should be easy—as of May, smoking will be banned in Boston bars anyway. And how difficult is it to stop spending hand-over-fist when you've already maxed out your credit cards on holiday gifts? With those resolutions in the bag, you can turn your full attention to the extra padding around your midsection with **Boston's Favorite Workout**. Wellbridge Athletic Club turns South Station into a giant exercise studio during lunchtime and right after work. Hundreds of harried men and women will take time to touch their toes, do sit-ups, reach for the sky and jump around under the instruction of a Wellbridge fitness guru. *South Station, Boston (617-441-0800).12-2pm and 5-6:30pm.*

SUN./JAN. 19

CityScope: Get Ready to Rumble!

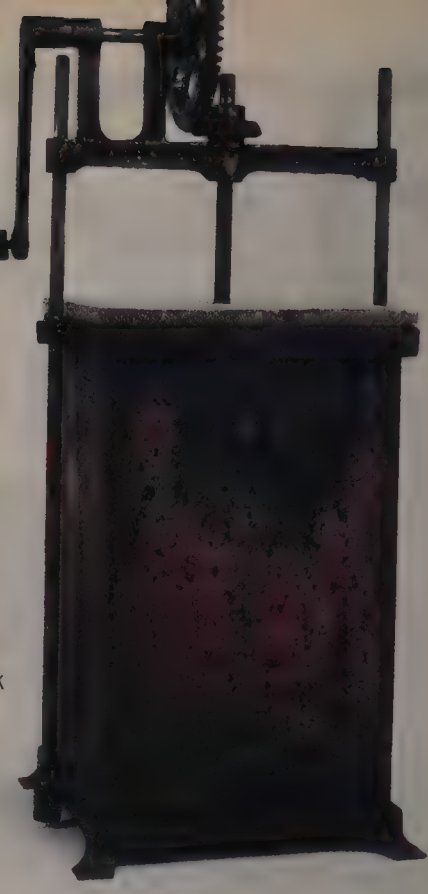
If you can't smell what the Rock is cooking, then maybe this isn't the event for you. But anyone who worships Kurt Angle, Triple H and Scott Steiner and thinks the Rock is god should get pumped to see World Wrestling Entertainment's **Royal Rumble** at the FleetCenter. At this event, each of 30 WWE SuperStars is assigned a number (1-30) that determines the order in which he'll enter the ring. One wrestler joins the battle every 60 seconds and is eliminated when he is thrown from the ring. The last wrestler standing inside the squared circle wins and earns the right to compete for the WWE title at Wrestlemania. We're ready to rumble! *FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000).* www.fleetcenter.com. *Jan. 19, 7:45pm. $25-$300.*

See the lovely and demure Scott Steiner at WWE's Royal Rumble.

SAT./JAN. 18 & SUN./ JAN. 19

CityScope: Treasure Hunt

Hard-core antiquers in search of all things obsolete, outdated and vintage usually have to travel far and wide to find their relic of choice. But this week, Boston-based treasure hunters (as well as those of us who consider antiquing a hobby rather than a sport) need only drive about 20 minutes north to Wilmington for the **Greater Boston Antiques Festival**. The two- day show features hundreds of items (Victorian furniture, ephemera, estate items, china, folk art, vintage jewelry and the like) from more than 150 dealers. Casual collectors beware: This is the largest local antique show in years, so be prepared to bring out your competitive nature. *Shriner's Auditorium (781-862-4039).* www.ne antiqueshow.com. *Sat., 10am-5pm and Sun., 10am-4pm. $6; early admission at 9am, $10.*



FRI./JAN. 17-SUN./JAN. 19

Performing Arts: Let's Dance

Maybe it's Yuletide fallout—the bickering family members, the Christmas cookie overdose and lingering strains of sappy carols. Whatever the reason, you're in need of some quiet downtime—a break from the eating, drinking, talking, shopping and did we say eating? Time to sit back and take in a show. The **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company** is best described as a fusion of dance and theater. The company teams up with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for three Boston performances—all of which feature the Boston premiere of Bill T. Jones' new works. The show is set to the music of Beethoven,Shostakovich and György Kurtág. *The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-447-7400). Jan. 17-19. $25-$65.* www.wangcenter.org.

TUE./JAN. 14

Tastings and Movies: Here's Eating With You

Attention Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart fans: You too can have a "date with fate in Casablanca." **Argana**, the Moroccan restaurant in Inman Square, hosts an affair to remembe in celebration of ***Casablanca***'s 60th anniversary. A special five course menu is offered durin the movie (with seatings at 6:30 and 8:30pm). Diners are encouraged to dress for the occasion, whether it be à la Bogie (don't forget the cigar) or a costume from the era. (Note: prizes are awarded for best costumes.) Argana bartender Sean Barney, who leads the event has created two new drinks for the occasion: the Casablanca Iced Tea and the Here's Lookin at You Kid. *Argana, 1287 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-868-1247). $50.*

MON./JAN. 13

Tastings: A Noisy Noise Annoys an Oyster

Think surgeons have the best fine-motor-coordination skills? Try oyster shucking. "A skilled shucker can open an oyster in three seconds," says Max Harvey, seafood manager at Jasper White's Summer Shack. "For a beginner, it could take up to a minute." You'll be awed by the talent displayed at the **Great Oyster Open** at the Summer Shack. Shellfish shuckers from the East Coast Grill, Skipjack's, Legal Sea Foods, Turner Fisheries, McCormick & Schmick's and the Summer Shack compete for the title of "Best Shucker," showing off their proficiency in unique and theatrical ways—shucking behind their backs, blindfolded or one handed, for example. Watch the competition, feast on all-you-can-eat oysters and specialty dishes from all the participating restaurants, and drink Sam Adams lager to your heart's delight. *Jasper White's Summer Shack, 149 Alewife Brook Pkway., Cambridge (617-520-9500). Jan. 13, 7pm. $35.*

TUE./ JAN. 14-SUN./JAN. 19

Performing Arts: Hot Stuff

Fans of the outrageous '59 hit film ***Some Like It Hot*** will have no problem adapting to the stage version. The film's leads Marilyn Monroe and Jack Lemmon are, of course, not in this theatrical version, but the film's other star **Tony Curtis**—one of the most sprightly septuagenarians in show biz—has a leading role in the play. For those unfamiliar with this most outrageous comedy, the show revolves around two musicians who witness the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and hide out as members of an all-girl jazz band. Despite a lack of talent for impersonating women, their hoax is convincing—until they start getting hit on by men and falling for their female bandmembers, and the mob catches on to their scheme. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Tue., Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Wed. and Sun., 7pm; Sat. and Sun.,1pm. $28-$68.*

FRI./JAN. 17-SUN./JAN. 26

Tastings: Food and Fun

Loosen your belts and prepare yourself for some major feasting this month, courtesy of **Boston DineAround**. Chefs at more than 40 local restaurants host cookbook authors from around the country to create memorable menus. Among the partnerships are Michael Romano, chef and author of *The Union Square Cafe Cookbook*, with Gordon Hamersley of Hamersley's Bistro creating a menu of seasonal American cuisine; and *The Barbecue Bible* author Steven Raichlen working with Todd English at Bonfire. To get up close and personal with some of the cookbook authors, stop by Barnes & Noble in the Prudential on Jan. 29, where some of the chefs will be signing copies of their books. Finally, for a taste of cuisine from all the restaurants participating in the DineAround, head to Le Meridien for an evening of live music and gourmet cuisine Jan. 20. *Various restaurants throughout the city. For a schedule, visit* www.BostonUSA.com/dinearound.

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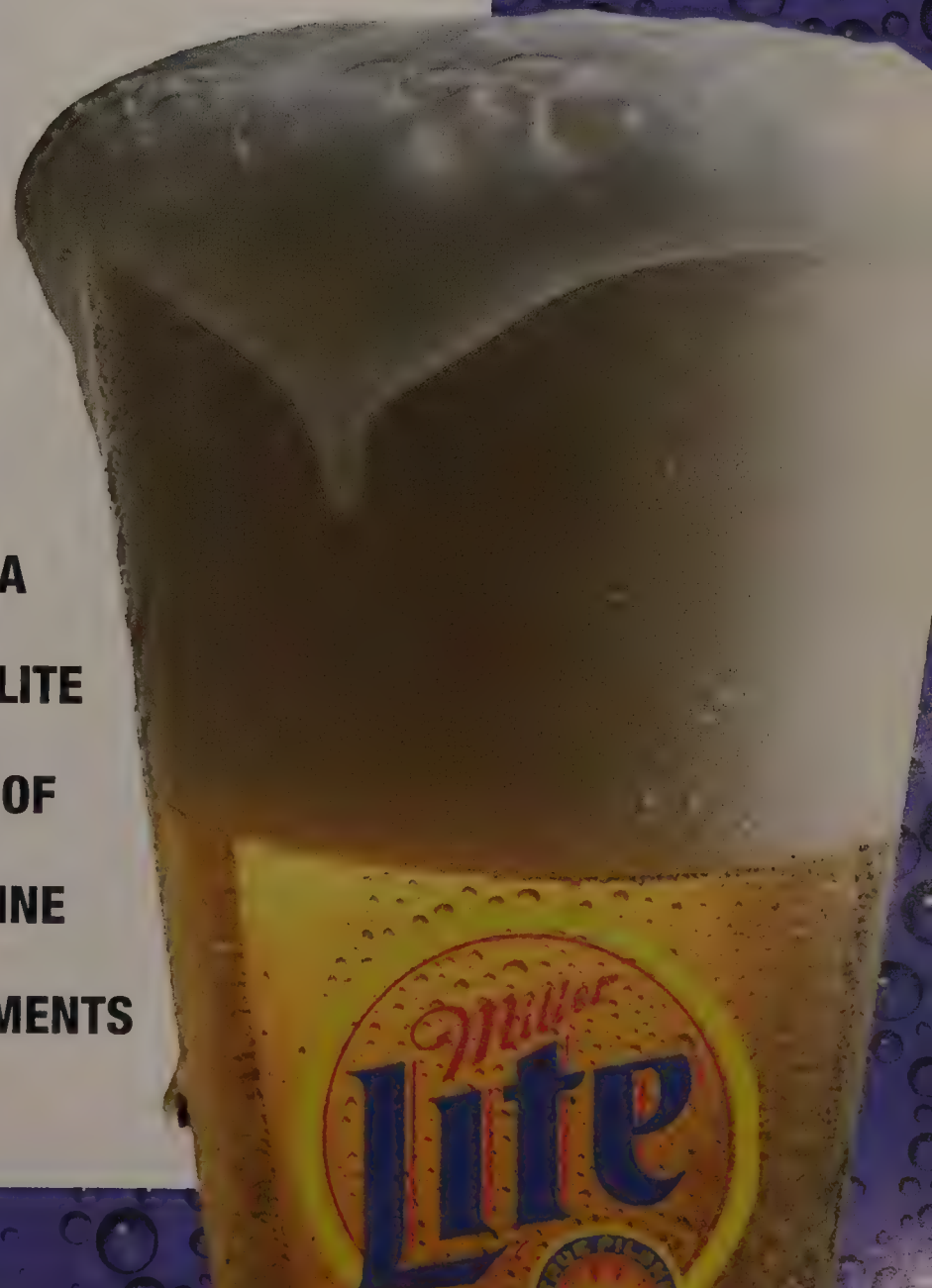

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Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

American Heart Association Raffle
American Heart Association, (800-662-1701, ext. 3103). www.heart.org. *$100.* The American Heart Association's annual Heart Ball isn't until April, but tickets for the associated raffle are on sale now through March 28. This year's grand prize is a 2003 Mercedes-Benz E320 sedan, and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. How d'ya like them odds?

Salsa/Mambo Dance Lessons for Singles
Knights of Columbus Hall, corner of Winslow and Prescott streets, Arlington (781-721-5844). www.FunFunFun.org. *Wed. nights, 7pm, through Jan. 22. $55.* Learn salsa dancing from instructor Karen Leeds while meeting people. Three one-and-a-half-hour sessions.

Stitch and Bitch
Redline, 59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). Wed. nights, 6-8pm. Free. Revive the tradition of the stitch-and-bitch by drinking cocktails while knitting. Niki Bronstein, owner of Woolcott & Co. knit shop, gives a brief demonstration each week.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

Boston Area Nannies Third Holiday Special
VIP room, Jillian's, 145 Ipswich St., Boston (617-965-1674). www.bostonareanannies.com. *7-10pm. $30.* Nannies and nanny supporters are welcome to attend this party that includes a deli buffet as well as use of pool tables and games.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

Cigar Dinner with Luis Tiant
The Bay Tower, 60 State St., Boston (617-723-1666). www.baytower.com. *6pm. $150, all-inclusive with cigars.* Sample cigars, eat a four-course wild game dinner and get the chance to hang out with the one-and-only, former Red Sox pitcher and cigar afficionado Luis Tiant. Also includes post-reception cognacs.

Great Oyster Open
Jasper White's Summer Shack, 149 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge (617-520-9500). 7pm. $35. Shellfish shuckers from local seafood restaurants compete for the title of "Best Shucker." Watch the competition, eat oysters and drink beer.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Boston DineAround
Various restaurants throughout the city. ww BostonUSA.com/dinearound. *Jan. 17-26.* Ch from more than 40 local restaurants work wi cookbook authors from around the country concoct memorable menus.

Secret Agent Man Benefit Concert
Berklee Center for Performing Arts, 136 Mass. Av Boston (617-931-2000). www.pfrr.org. *8p $32.50.* Oldies 103.3's JJ Wright hosts this bene concert for children with disabilities. The Pa Time Lovers Band opens for headliner Johnny Rive AKA Secret Agent Man.

Rio Night at The Palace
The Palace, 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-32 1660). 10pm; cover $10-25. Also, Sat., Jan. 18, 10 pm. At its grand opening, the Palace's late club, Rio, imports the spirit of Brazil's Carniva and features conga drummers, samba dancers, celebrity guest host and the unveiling of a 20-foo long "wall of water." The Jan. 18 opening party sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

Bridal Fashion Show and Luncheon
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-43 7000). www.bhh.com. *11am-3pm. $75.* Brides-to- will find a wide array of wedding-related merchan at this bridal fashion show, lunch and planning se sion. Guest speaker Linda Matzkin, of event planne Hopple People Inc., will provide insight into pla ning a successful wedding. A champagne receptio precedes the three-course lunch by chef Daniel Bruc

Greater Boston Antiques Festival
Shriner's Auditorium, Fordham Rd., Wilmington, (78 862-4039). www.neantiqueshows.com. *Sat., 10a 5pm; Sun., 10am-4pm. $6 ($10 with early 9am adm sion).* Hundreds of items, from Victorian furnitu to 17th century folk art will be for sale. Deale have been screened for the quality of their wares.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

Barnes & Noble Cookbook Extravaganza
Barnes & Noble, Prudential Center, Boston (508-87 0133). 1-2pm and 3-4pm. Free. Local chefs prepa samples of their Boston DineAround menus whi guest authors sign copies of their latest cookbook

WWE Royal Rumble
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.tick master.com. *Tickets start at $25.* You can stay hon and watch the first WWE pay-per-view event come to Boston in three years, or you can get to t Fleet-Center and see it in person. In the Roy Rumble format, 30 wrestlers are assigned numbe and a new challenger enters the ring every 60 se onds. The last one inside the ring competes for t WWE title at Wrestlemania.

MONDAY, JAN. 20

Boston DineAround Gala
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-45 1900). 5:30-8pm. $55. Meet chefs and autho samples their cuisine and purchase autograph cookbooks.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-635-391 www.cityofboston.gov. *12pm.* The Mayor's office Special Events, Film and Tourism hosts a Mart Luther King Jr. Day celebration at Faneuil Ha Marketplace. Reception follows at the City Hall lobb

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Cosmic Spelunkers Give and Take
Out of the Blue Art Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Jan. 17, 8pm. $5. This mime and poetry performance troupe has created a new theater piece incorporating members' own poetry and choreography. It's a meditation on exchange—be it buying or selling, bartering or thieving, gift giving or grifting.

42nd Street
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Wed., 7pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Jan. 21-26. $28-$73. The Tony award–winning revival of this legendary musical is chock-full of lively song and dance numbers that tell the story of a chorus girl's rise to fame on Broadway.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-2999). Jan. 11, 8pm. $24.50-$43.50. Four actors play more than 40 roles in this musical about male/female relationships. It celebrates the difficulties and joys of romance, dating and marriage.

Marathon
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Jan. 17-Jan.26. $15. In this one-act dramatic comedy, two men training for the New York marathon have a strange night that leads to an even stranger conclusion.

Seven Acts of Violence
Mobius, 354 Congress St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-542-7416). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Jan. 10-11, 8pm; Jan. 12, 3pm. $8. Join the And So No Sin Performance Troupe as they stage seven bloody acts.

Some Like It Hot
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Wed. and Sun., 7pm; Sat.-Sun., 1pm. Jan. 14-19. $28-$68. This show, starring Hollywood legend Tony Curtis, is based on the 1959 hit film about two musicians who witness the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and then disguise themselves as members of an all-girl jazz band.

Uncle Philip's Coat
Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (617-965-5226). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Jan. 9 and Jan. 12, 2pm; Jan. 11, 8pm. $26. In this one-man play, Larry Block plays Larry Zhivatovsky, a man who relives incidents from the life of his Uncle Philip, a peddler and dreamer. The drama touches on the hardships of immigration and family relations.

Preview

From the Balcony

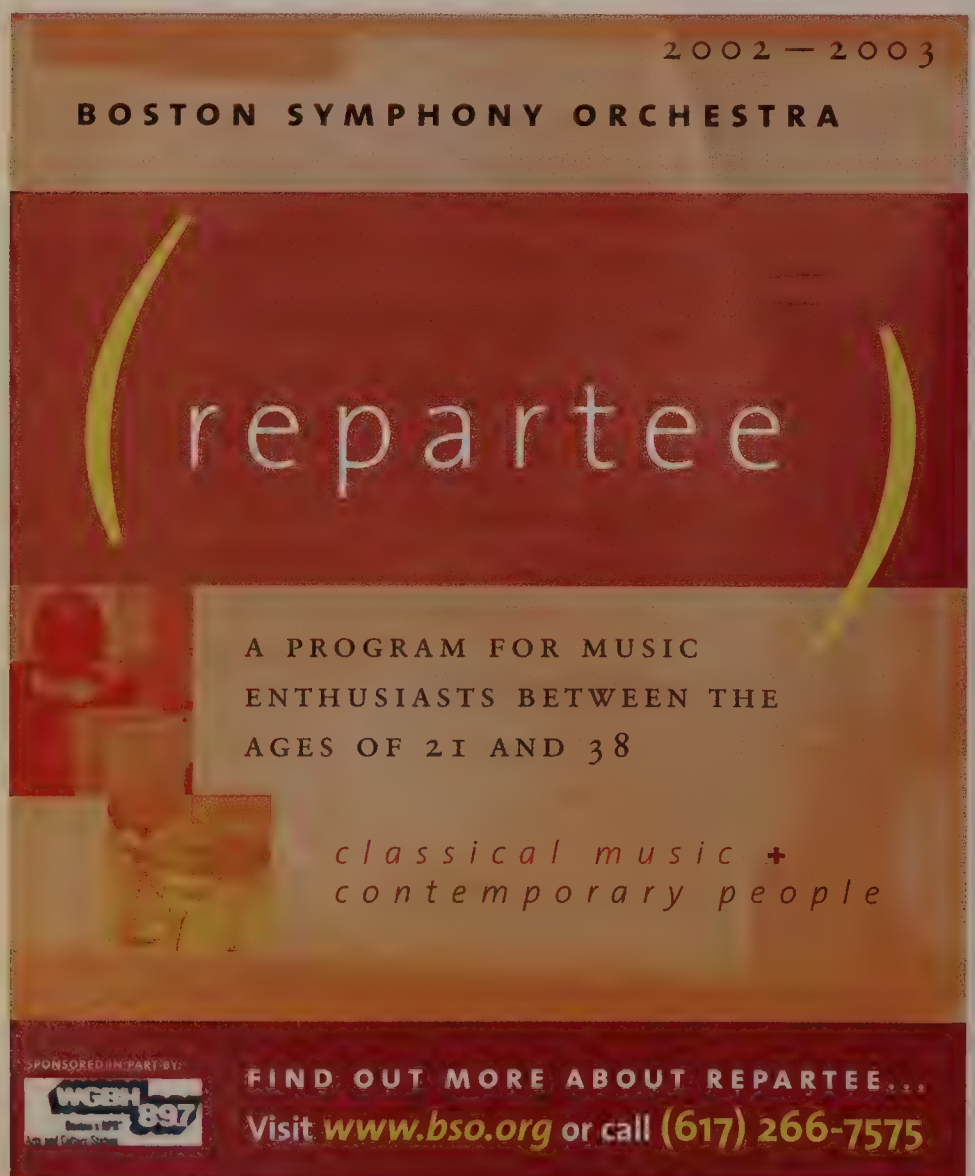
Shakespeare & Co. takes on the life of Golda Meir

Immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, Israeli-born director Daniel Gidron reread the script to *Golda's Balcony* and found its theme surrounding the Arab-Israeli conflict timely. This 90-minute, one-woman production, now showing at the Tremont Theatre, focuses on Golda Meir, Israel's impassioned prime minister from 1969-1974, as she boldly defends the Jewish state amidst the bloodshed of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Meir, played by actress Annette Miller, faces a grave situation when Egyptian and Syrian armies launch a surprise attack on Israel, and the U.S. delays assistance. She must decide whether to deploy the state's nuclear arms.

The play, an hour-and-a-half monologue written by William Gibson, tells the story of Golda Meir's political struggle during the war, raising questions about power and idealism, says Gidron. It also reflects on the decisions Meir made, both personal and political, that led her to public office. "She grapples with her own personal sacrifice, her life as a mother and a wife and how her political career affected her relationships," Gidron says. *Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont Ave., Boston (617-708-8351). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Through Feb.22. $27-$38.* —Sherene Azar

Annette Miller plays Golda Meir in Shakespeare & Company's *Golda's Balcony* at the Tremont Theatre.



NOW RUNNING

Back from Broadway
The Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-477-7400). Mon., Thu., Fri., 8pm; Tue., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 5 and 8pm; Sun., 3 and 7pm. Through Jan. 19. $29.50-$49.50. Hershey Felder and James Barbour perform music from *Carousel, Fiddler on the Roof* and *My Fair Lady.*

Bat Boy: The Musical
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3 and 7pm. Through Jan. 25. $25-$35. The SpeakEasy Stage Company reprises this musical based on a series of articles that appeared in the *Weekly World News* about a pointy-eared boy—half-man, half-bat—found in a West Virginia cave.

Beyond Belief
Lyric Stage Co., 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington; Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 1. $22-$40.* In the world premiere of Jack Neary's comedy, three elderly Catholic ladies try to understand unfathomable subjects like Monica Lewinsky, alternative lifestyles and priestly celibacy.

The Blue Demon
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Feb. 2. $12-$62. Director Darko Tresnjak takes the audience through the lives of a Jew, a Muslim and a Christian who are all accused of killing the Sultan's storyteller.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu., and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

The Children of Herakles
Loeb Drama Center, American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., and 7:30pm. Jan. 4-25. $34-$68. After their father's death, the children of Herakles are exiled from their home by a hostile regime. When they try to flee to different countries, they find every border closed to them.

Golda's Balcony
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont Ave., Boston (866-637-3353). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Wed., 2 and 8pm; Sat., 3 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb.22. $27-$38. Set around the time of the bloody 1973 Yom Kippur War, Golda Meir, Israel's Prime Minister from 1969-1974, faces a desperate situation in which the fate of Israel is at stake.

New Curtains For Macbeth
Lyric Stage Co. at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 939 Comm Ave., Boston (617-492-0431). Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Jan. 19. $15. Spiro Veloudos directs this one-man show about a small-time actor who explains to audience members why the performance they paid to see, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, has been cancelled.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as the longest-running play in the history of Boston theater.

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife
Broadway in Boston and the Huntington Theatre Co. at the Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Jan. 8, 2pm. Through Jan. 12

$25-$67. Valerie Harper, otherwise known as Rhoda from *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, stars in this Tony-nominated Broadway comedy about Marjorie Taub, a materialistic New Yorker in the midst of a midlife crisis.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Anna Karenina
Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre in Alumnae Hall, 106 Central St., Wellesley College, Wellesley (781-283-2000). Jan. 8, 5pm; Jan. 9, 16 and 23, 7pm; Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 8pm; Jan. 11, 18 and 25, 2 and 8pm. $20. Helen Edmundson brings Leo Tolstoy's classic novel to life.

Steel Magnolias
Bonn Studio, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (617-577-3736). MBTA: Green Line to Boston College. Jan. 16-19, 8pm. $5. This performance introduces audiences to the close-knit group of Southern belles who frequent Truvy's beauty salon.

Dance

Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company
The Shubert Theater, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 17, 7:30pm; Jan. 18, 8pm; Jan. 19, 3pm. $42-$65. As part of the FleetBoston Celebrity Series, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company joins the Chamber of Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Orion String Quartet in this fusion of chamber music and dance. The program features three new performances that Jones choreographed specifically for this collaboration.

Community Square Dance
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Jan. 11, 6pm. $6. Join the fun with dinner, beverages and dancing as the First and Second Church holds its annual square dance.

Dance Across the City! The Table Project
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (617-482-2393). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 16, 7:30pm. Free. This educational forum to integrate dance awareness throughout Boston features six members of the local community in a performance segment choreographed by Bill T. Jones, director of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Jones will also speak at the event.

Twelfth Night Dance Party
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-661-3353). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 10, 7:30pm. $8. Dancer Charles Garth and musicians and friends of the Renaissonics present a New Year's social gala of Renaissance dancing.

The Way We Look Forward
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-522-8019). Jan. 10-11, 8pm; Jan. 12, 6pm. $15. Boston choreographer Brian Crabtree and his company present an evening of premieres and revivals set to music by Oregonian composer Lou Harrison.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: stand-up •Sundays: Boston's wildest open-mike night.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $12 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Jan. 8, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins •Jan. 9, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Jan. 13, 8pm, $12: Amateur Showcase with host Kevin Knox •Jan. 14, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Jan. 15, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins •Jan. 16, 8:30, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Jan. 17, 8 and 10:15 pm: Carlos Mencia, from HBO's *Loco Slam* •Jan. 18, 8 and 10:15pm: Carlos Mencia •Jan. 20, 8pm, $12: Kevin Knox hosts Amateur Showcase. •Jan. 21, 8 pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Jan. 22, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform •Jan. 8: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Arthur Januario and Patrice Vinci •Jan. 9: Tim McIntire's Geek Comedy with Rich Gustus, Arthur Janario and Emily Singer •Jan. 10: Piston Honda, Kyria Abrahoams, Dan Sulman, James Patterson and Dave Walsh •Jan. 11: Rick Jenkins •Jan. 12: Sam Walters, Kathleen Kanz, Mary Beth Cowan and Jennifer Griffith •Jan. 15: Tony V Kelley MacFarland and Tim Kaelin •Jan. 16: Tim McIntire, TJ Griffin and Angelo Messina •Jan. 17: Piston Honda with guest Mindi Fay •Jan. 18: Showcase of Comedy Studio performers featuring Mindi Fay •Jan. 19: The Sam Walters Comics' Workout.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •Jan. 8, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox host All Star Jam •Jan. 10-11, 8:45pm: Kevin Knox, George Ham, Eric Handler •Jan. 16, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox host All Star Jam •Jan. 17-18, 8:45pm: Chris Zito, John Pizzi and George DeMartino.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. Open mike for creative talent.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces For Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thursdays, 8pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

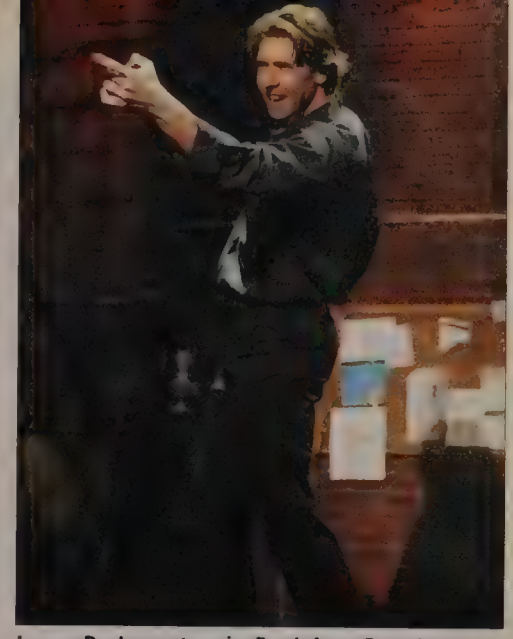
Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.* •Wed., 8pm, $15: NET Cast •Thu., 8pm, $15; Fri., 8 and 10pm, $20: Improv Asylum main stage cast •Sat., 8 and 10pm, $20: NET Cast.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). MBTA: Red Line to Central. $5-$12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe celebrates its 20th anniversary. •Wed., 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series features two guest troupes. •Thu., 8pm, $5: Micetro. 10pm, $5: Great & Secret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry. •Fri., 10pm: Theatre Sports •Sat., 8 and 10pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage •Sun., 7pm, $5: Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree.

Improv Foundry
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-308-6421). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Dec. 20, 10:30pm. $5. The Improv Foundry presents improvisational comedy.

COMEDY SHOWS

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). www.stashcomedyjam.com. *Jan. 19, 8pm, $2.* Enjoy stand-up comedy, open mike, improvisational comedy and blues music hosted by Stan Dzierzeski.



James Barbour stars in *Back from Broadway.*

Movies

THE UNKNOWN COMIC

Confessions bangs Chuck Barris' gong

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Remember Chuck Barris, the obnoxious, clapping, tuxedo-clad host of *The Gong Show*, TV's talent show for the untalented? He seems like the last person you'd ever want to see a movie about. But think again, because *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, based on Barris' own unauthorized autobiography, is a wild, crazy little quilt of a movie.

Arriving at the tail end of a year in which films with unreliable narrators—such as *Auto Focus* and *24 Hour Party People*—delivered some unusually interesting storytelling, *Confessions* might give us the most unreliable narrator yet. Barris' book isn't just about the Philadelphia native's career as a game show producer—he created both *The Dating Game* and *The Newlywed Game*. It isn't just about his life of sexual instability, and his on-again, off-again relationship with long-suffering lover Penny. It is also about how, between the meetings with network suits, the hours spent supervising game-show tapings and the one-night stands, Barris was also a hit man for the CIA. God Bless America—and God save her too.

That, more or less, is what the movie is about too. Like Barris, who's played with fitting nervous energy by Sam Rockwell (*Galaxy Quest*, *Charlie's Angels*), the movie is interestingly scattered. It darts between Barris' early days as a go-getter trying to break into showbiz (and writing Freddy Cannon's hit song, "Palisades Park"), his peak as a TV hit-maker and then star, his cloak-and-dagger overseas missions and his eventual bottoming out after he becomes burnt out on showbiz, spying and himself.

It's that absurd potion of elements that makes *Confessions* work. We know Barris gave us the romantic fluff of *The Dating Game*, but did he really get recruited by a CIA crew chief (George Clooney) and help assassinate a Latin-American radical in 1964, later sneak under the Berlin Wall to complete a mission and for years two-time Penny (Drew Barrymore) with a female spy (Julia Roberts)?

Inability to nail down Barris—to say what's true and what's not—is the fun of *Confessions*. In his directorial debut, Clooney embraces the stream-of-consciousness trip through Barris' looking glass and turns his story into a cut-and-paste kaleidoscope of 1960s and 1970s America. The movie throws drama, parody and lots of globe-trotting at us, set to off-kilter tunes by the likes of Esquivel, Yma Sumac and, at one point, a horrendous *Gong Show* Elvis impersonator. Like Barris' book, the movie is at its best an intoxicating, cinematic mix, one scene sometimes literally spilling into the next.

Clooney has a fitting ally at his side, screenwriter Charlie Kaufman (*Adaptation*). In *Adaptation*, Kaufman created a character who exists only in the protagonist's head; this time, Kaufman appears in scenes that may exist only in the head of another protagonist. To suggest the tenuous legitimacy of some events, Kaufman and Clooney treat them as parody. The CIA training melds Cold War paranoia with Barris' own paranoia, complete with firing range targets of Mao and Castro. Meanwhile, Barris' affair with fellow CIA agent Patricia (Roberts) features scenes that are like a burlesque of a 1940s spy movie, complete with trench coats, obvious wigs, poison pellets and switcheroos.

Confessions does stumble in a few places, where Clooney and Kaufman make questionable choices (though one embellishment of Barris' book, involving a dorky *Dating Game* winner, is inspired). Considering how the movie absurdly knots up truths, half-truths and perhaps untruths within the mind of Barris, the most obvious puzzler is why Clooney decided to include documentary interview cut-ins with such Barris colleagues as Dick Clark, *Dating Game* host Jim Lange and *Gong Show* regular The Unknown Comic. These cut-ins only pull us out of Barris' particular "reality" from time to time, the last thing we should be doing. We never know who or what the real Chuck Barris is, and that's a good thing. It's what makes *Confessions* such an entertaining head-scratcher. **iB**

Chuck Barris (Sam Rockwell) meets with his CIA contact (George Clooney).

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind ★★★

Directed by George Clooney. Written by Charlie Kaufman. With Sam Rockwell, Clooney, Drew Barrymore and Julia Roberts. Rated R. Miramax Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

About Schmidt ★★★
Alexander Payne's latest doesn't have the satiri sting of his previous *Citizen Ruth* and *Election*, but i never tries to. Instead, it's a quietly disarming sto of a 66-year-old Omaha insurance executive (Jack Nicholson) who, when he's put out to pasture by hi company and his wife suddenly dies, discovers some thing he would have never admitted to himself be fore: that he doesn't like how his life turned out Nicholson thankfully leaves his mannerisms be hind, and the movie's bittersweet, b.s.-free tone i much more real than Nicholson's slightly similar sitcomlike *As Good as It Gets*. (At Boston Common Fenway and suburbs.)

Adaptation ★★★½
Another inspired mind-bender from the guys who made *Being John Malkovich*. This time, director Spike Jonze and writer Charlie Kaufman have made a movie loosely based on a book: a movie about making a movie based on a book. It follows Kaufman (a terrific Nicolas Cage) in his desperate struggle to turn Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* into a screenplay, and comes up with the funniest, shrewdest peek into the creative process in years. Between Kaufman's hilariously low self-esteem, the imaginary twin brother (also Cage) who always one-ups him, his encounters with Orlean (Meryl Streep) and her encounters with the philosophical redneck (Chris Cooper) at the center of her book, this is absurd and inspired—right down to the "Hollywood ending" spoof resolution. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Antwone Fisher ★★★
The movie called *Antwone Fisher* was written by Antwone Fisher and tells the story of his emotional transformation—from rage-filled, much-abandoned orphan to relatively well-adjusted adult. Denzel Washington's directorial debut doesn't stray very far from the feel-good *Good Will Hunting* formula: Denzel plays a Navy shrink who, à la *GWH*, learns from his patient as he helps him work through his emotional baggage. But the movie's no-frills sincerity works, and newcomer Derek Luke has an endearing lack of polish. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Catch Me If You Can ★★★
Run, Leo, Run. DiCaprio plays a 1960s teen con man in a Steven Spielberg movie that, refreshingly, just tries to be brisk entertainment. DiCaprio's character turns to cons—bank fraud, impersonating an airline pilot and a doctor—after suffering the downward mobility of his family and the break-up of his parents (Christopher Walken, Nathalie Baye). His ill-gotten gains recompense for his dad's troubles with the IRS. So does leading FBI agent Tom Hanks on an amusing, years-long cat-and-mouse chase. In all-important movie semantics, this is inspired by a real story, not based on one, so it sometimes stretches credibility. It can also seem like the shallow version of *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. But it's an infectious ride, and amazingly, it has a John Williams score that isn't rehash. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a later Kander-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of this spoof of *Roaring Twenties Chicago*, in which a singing star (and murderess), a star wannabe (and murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender of murderesses) all fight for the spotlight and the headlines. Renee Zellweger is the wannabe who discovers murder was a great career move; Catherine Zeta Jones is the singer trying to keep her name alive while in jail; and a surprisingly amusing Richard Gere is the upscale shyster with all the answers. All three know just how to manipulate truth, justice and the American way through performance. Sometimes the relationship between the production numbers and the plot is awkward—and 1943's nonmusical version of the same story, *Roxie Hart*, is funnier—but this still has lots of gusto and laughs. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Die Another Day ★★
A big disappointment, from what is easily the least of the Pierce Brosnan Bond films. Just about everything here is subpar for what you expect from a Bond film: It has one of the series' worst theme songs yet, surprisingly bland villains, underdeveloped female characters (no pun intended), wintry CGI effects that are worse than those in *Extreme Ops* (ouch), so-so gadgets and a plot that struggles to make you care—and fails. Korea, Hong Kong, Cuba and Iceland are Bond's ports of call this time, while Halle Berry's American agent and Rosamund Pike's fellow British agent are his shag buddies. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Far from Heaven ★★
Todd Haynes' drama lovingly re-creates the glossy world of Douglas Sirk, whose brilliant 1950s Technicolor melodramas, such as *All That Heaven Allows*

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meticulously presented post-war suburbia as a superficially rich yet emotionally stifled community. Haynes attempts to up the ante in Sirk's "women's pictures" by surrounding housewife Julianne Moore with a husband (Dennis Quaid) no longer able to deny his homosexuality and a potential interracial and class-crossing romance with a sensitive black gardener (Dennis Haysbert). But save for the overt mention of homosexuality, Sirk's critiques of narrowmindedness covered all of this ground before. So Haynes' movie veers on postmodern pointlessness; it's one step above Gus Van Sant's *Psycho* remake. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Gangs of New York ★★
Daniel Day Lewis is the epitome of a charismatic villain in Martin Scorsese's long-awaited 19th-century story. With his swagger, sass and quick wit, this streetfighting, political wheeler-dealer makes you feel the lure of evil. So why is this epic still just a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing but production design and more production design? Maybe it's the familiar this-time-it's-personal plot with Leonardo DiCaprio as an Irish-American returning to the Lower East Side to wreak vengeance on Lewis, who killed his dad (Liam Neeson). Maybe it's the waste of using Cameron Diaz as the woman each man covets. Scorsese seems to pay more attention to minute historical detail than to the big picture, and the movie just sits there, unsure of what it's all about. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ★½
I can't understand in the least why this series—a big-budget, overgrown equivalent of such disposable 1980s popcorn movies as *Gremlins* and *Young Sherlock Holmes*—is accorded such respect. Director Chris Columbus has always been a Spielberg-wannabe hack, John Williams is still recycling the same four chord progressions, and the sequel, like its predecessor, is so intent on cramming in every corner of the book that little of its fantasy elements get a sufficient set-up, so most everything just seems arbitrary and meaningless. And the thing just won't end. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers ★½
A whole lotta Dungeons & Dragons mumbo-jumbo writ bombastically large. This series has had close to six hours to make me care about anything happening in it, and I still don't care a lick. Frodo can go bury the damn ring in the ground and go for a swim, for all I care. He, Gandalf and all the rest are back—including the addition of Miranda Otto (*Love Serenade*) and Brad Dourif (*Child's Play*) to the cast—but it's still as plodding and dull as the first film. Like the *Harry Potter* series, it crams in a lot, yet devotes little energy to making all those events meaningful. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Maid in Manhattan ★★
Can someone please find Jennifer Lopez a new agent? Maybe then we won't have to suffer through any more of her forgettable romantic comedies. This one's a Cinderella story in which she's a hotel maid for whom celebrity politician Ralph Fiennes falls. The pair set off as many sparks as two wet noodles, and the movie never met a cliche it didn't like. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Narc ★★
Writer-director Joe Carnahan's thriller starts as a stylish, lean police story in which disgraced undercover cop Jason Patric is asked back to the force to help high-strung detective Ray Liotta find the killer of another undercover narcotics cop. But instead of coming together coherently and dramatically, such elements as the undercover cop's frazzled mental state, the high-strung detective's brutality and the facts of the murder case just fizzle apart. And in its attempt to upend our perspective on one of the main characters, the ending sports a very dubious morality. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Pianist ★★★
It's the little moments in Roman Polanski's Holocaust drama that make it work, like when a hungry family of six on their way to a concentration camp matter-of-factly carve up and share a small piece of candy. Based on the memoirs of late Polish musician and Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, played here by Adrien Brody, the movie powerfully shows the gradual whittling away of Polish Jews' human rights (and humanity) once the Nazis invaded in 1939. It also details how the title character managed to stay alive, through being stripped of rights and crammed into the Warsaw ghetto, seeing his family deported to concentration camps, and hiding out for months at a time while locked into apartments the Nazis think are empty. For better or worse, the hero is a passive character who says little; but his path through history is involving. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner, Kendall Square and West Newton.)

Solaris ★★★
If Steven Soderbergh is going to make an artsy movie, better this sparse, enigmatic story than the endlessly self-referential *Full Frontal*. Think of his remake of the Soviet film *2001* as a futuristic, post-*Memento* mind-bender, with George Clooney as a psychiatrist sent to a space station where the crew has been physically and emotionally frazzled by the appearance of metaphysical visitors. Once there, the shrink is beset by his own visitor, his dead wife (Natascha McElhone). But is she his wife, his memory of his wife or a malevolent being sent in his wife's form? Not everything here makes literal sense—hello, ending—but the movie has an easy and eerie flow, thanks also to Clooney's body language, Cliff Martinez's music and Soderbergh's own cinematography. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Talk to Her ★★
Long after Pedro Almodovar was the hot European director, the Spaniard's movies remain interesting yet less involving. As usual, his latest has saturated colors and saturated emotions. It centers around two men involved in relationships with women who are comatose: a male nurse (Javier Camara) infatuated with his patient (Leonor Waitling), and a writer (Dario Grandinetti) whose matador lover (Rosario Flores) has been gored by a bull. If Almodovar hopes to wring pathos out of the nearly-asexual nurse's love for his patient, he fails. He also fails to convince you that the journalist would become a loyal ally of the nurse, especially when the nurse's "love" turns extreme. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

The 25th Floor ★★
There are some interesting elements to Spike Lee's latest—including Edward Norton's protagonist and the setting of a post-9/11 wounded New York City—but the story never really comes together. Norton plays a drug dealer sorting out his life before he starts serving a prison sentence, and those around him include girlfriend Rosario Dawson, buddies Barry Pepper and Philip Seymour Hoffman and dad Brian Cox. The relationships among the characters just aren't that convincing—the buddies don't feel like buddies, the lovers don't feel like lovers—though occasionally the film breaks into lively sequences, including a misanthropic Norton rant that's a worthy predecessor to the one in Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Renee Zellwegger discovers that murder is a great career move in *Chicago*, the movie that has swept this year's Golden Globe nominations.

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library

Morgan Freeman: The Easy Reader
•Jan. 13, 6pm. **Glory** *1989.* Edward Zwick directs this film adaptation of Lincoln Kirstein's book by the same title, in which Colonel Robert G. Shaw leads the first all-black volunteer corps in the US Civil War.

Brattle Theatre

•Jan. 13, 5:15, 7:45 and 10pm. **Sweet Smell of Success** *1957.* Tony Curtis stars as a sleazy press agent hired to break up a powerful newspaper columnist's sister and her fiance. Burt Lancaster co-stars in this Alexander Mackendrick drama.
•Jan. 20, 3:30, 7:30pm. **Pickup on South Street** *1953.* Sam Fuller directs this B-Noir in which Skip (Richard Widmark) steals a pocketbook from a young woman Candy (Jean Peters) on the subway. Neither knows that Candy was carrying microfilm to be passed on to communist spies.
•Jan. 20, 1:30, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **The Crimson Kimono** *1959.* Written and directed by Sam Fuller, this film noir revolves around detectives and roommates Charlie Bancroft and Joe Kojaku, both investigating the murder of a stripper. An interracial love triangle ensues when both detectives fall in love with the key witness.

Recent Raves
•Jan. 14, 7:30pm. **8 femmes** *(8 Women) 2002.* With a who's-who cast of French leading ladies, director Francois Ozon presents a musical whodunit—a family gathering in the secluded French countryside turns into a murder vaudeville.
•Jan. 14, 5:30 and 9:45pm. **Merci pour le chocolat** *(Nightcap) 2000.* Claude Chabrol's directs this Hitchcockian crime/thriller, in which a Swiss chocolate heiress (Isabelle Huppert) competes for her husband's attention with a beautiful young woman and her perfect hot chocolate.
•Jan. 21, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:45pm. **All or Nothing** *2002.* Writer/director Mike Leigh tells of rediscovered love when tragedy strikes a lower-class, struggling family living in South London's housing projects.

Area Premieres
•Jan. 8 and 9, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:45pm. **Le Bossu** *(On Guard) 1997.* In Phillipe de Broca's French adventure film, a man disguises himself as a hunchback for 16 years and waits for the perfect time to reap revenge.
•Jan. 17, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm; Jan. 18 and 19, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm. **Takhté siah** *(Blackboards) 2000.* A group of teachers travel throughout Iranian Kurdistan trading education for food. The winner of numerous awards at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival, this is director Samira Makhmalbaf's second feature film.

Dashiell Hammett Weekend
•Jan. 10 and 11, 7:30pm; Jan. 12, 3:15 and 7:30pm. **The Maltese Falcon** *1941.* Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor star in John Huston's film-noir classic, in which a private eye gets caught in a web of complexities while investigating the murder of his partner.
•Jan. 10, 5:30 and 9:45pm; Jan. 11 and 12, 1:15, 5:30 and 9:45pm. **The Thin Man** *1934.* W.S. Van Dyke's mystery/screwball comedy classic follows an ex-cop who invites all the suspects in a murder case to a dinner party at his house to see what unfolds.

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers Double Bill
•Jan. 15, 7:15pm. **Roberta** *1935.* William A. Se directs this musical romantic comedy about a Paris couturier who finds herself business partners with American football player. Rogers and Astaire p supporting roles.
•Jan. 15, 5 and 9:30pm. **Follow the Fleet** *1936.* flames reunite in Mark Sandrich's musical com about two Navy sailors looking for romance whil port in San Francisco.

Krysztof Kieslowski's The Decalogue
•Jan. 16, 5, 7:30 and 10pm. **The Decalogue Parts 2** *1987.* Each segment of Kieslowski's ten-part mi series is based on one of the Bible's 10 commandme In Part 1, a professor learns the infallibility of the co puter the hard way. Part 2 revolves around a pregn woman whose dying husband is not the father of unborn child.
•Jan. 22 and 23, 7:30pm. **The Decalogue Parts 3** *1987.* A man and his ex-lover explore their defunct lationship in Part 3. In Part 4, a young woman obeys the wishes of her dead mother, thereby fore changing her relationship with her father.
•Jan. 22 and 23, 5, 10pm. **The Decalogue Parts 5** *1987.* A critique on capital punishment, Part 5 sh a young boy paying a hefty price for his mutual mur of a cab driver. In Part 6, a peeping Tom becomes sessed with his promiscuous neighbor and creates portunities to make real-life contact with her.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

The Screening Room
•Now playing. **Fidel** *2002.* David Atwood's film dramatization of Fidel Castro's rise to command, fr respected Cuban lawyer to power-hungry politicia
•Now playing. **The Pianist** *2002.* Roman Polanski rects this drama set in WWII Poland about the t story of a brilliant Jewish pianist living in the ruin Warsaw to escape deportation.
•Opens Jan 17. **Takhté siah** *(Blackboards) 2000* group of teachers travels throughout Iranian Kur tan trading education for food. The winner of seve awards at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival, this is dir tor Samira Makhmalbaf's second feature film.

Midnight Movies: We Want Your Body
•Jan. 10 and 11, 12am. **Invasion of the Body Snat ers** *1956.* Screening in its original version, D Siegel's classic horror film features a small to whose residents find their friends and relatives placed with aliens.
•Jan. 17 and 18, 12am. **Night of the Living Dead** *19* People penned up in an old farmhouse are beseiged shambling zombies who are only destroyed by a bl to the head. George A. Romero directs.

Fenway 13 Theatre

Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema
•Jan. 12, 10am. Veteran film critic Harlan Jacob picks films from major festivals such as Cann

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Midnight Movies

•Jan. 10 and 11, 12am. **Pulp Fiction** *1994.* Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning film features three stories, including a pair of philosophical hitmen, a B-movie boxer and a druglord's wife, drenched in violence and celluloid imagery.

•Jan. 17 and 18, 12am. **The Shawshank Redemption** *1994.* Frank Darabont directs Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman as two inmates in a state penitentiary who unite against the corrupt prison system, implement minor improvements and prevail over the realities of life behind bars.

Harvard Film Archive

Classics of World Cinema

•Jan. 13, 7pm. **Vertigo** *1958.* Jimmy Stewart stars as a acrophobic retired detective who finds himself emotionally attached to his friend's wife in this Alfred Hitchcock classic.

Crossing Borders: New Films from Europe

•Jan. 17, 7pm. **Fleurs de sang** *2002.* Myriam Mézières and Alain Tanner's film unfolds through a young girl's reflection on the bohemian lifestyle she shared with her cabaret performer mother.

•Jan. 17, 9:30pm. **Meisje** *(Girl) 2002.* In an attempt to escape her mother's life, a factory worker ditches her job and her boyfriend and moves to Brussels to pursue her dreams. Dorothée Van Den Berghe directs.

•Jan. 18, 7pm; Jan. 21, 9pm. **Kato apo t'astra** *(Under the Stars) 2001.* Director Christos Georgiou explores the U.N.-enforced line between the Greek and Turkish sectors of Cyprus through this story of a reclusive Greek who confronts his past by traveling back to his village in the now Turkish sector.

•Jan. 18, 9pm; Jan. 19, 7pm. **Det nya landet** *(The New Country) 2000.* Geir Hansteen Jörgensen's film follows two political refugees, a teenage Somalian and a middle-aged Iranian, as they escape deportment in the Swedish countryside.

•Jan. 19, 9:30pm. **Petites misères** *(Shopping) 2002.* Phillipe Boon and Laurent Brandenbourger's comedy follows a miserly collection agent whose wife develops a shopping phobia as a result of his extreme thrift.

Global Visions: Lands of Promise: The Refugee Experience in Cinema

•Jan. 10 and 15, 7pm. **Alambrista!** *(The Illegal) 1978.* This recently restored director's cut of Robert M. Young's award-winning film follows a young Mexican who crosses the border in search of the American dream only to encounter hardship and exploitation.

•Jan. 10, 9pm; Jan. 14, 9:30pm. **La Promesse** *(The Promise) 1997.* An underhanded immigrant smuggler is forced to examine his business ethics when he promises to look after a dying employee's family. Luc and Jean Pierre Dardenne direct.

•Jan. 11, 7pm; Jan. 15, 9pm. **Delbaran** *2001.* Abolfazl Jalili directs this film about a young Afghan refugee living and working with an Iranian couple at their tavern, a hangout for truck drivers, merchants and opium smokers.

•Jan. 11, 9pm; Jan. 12, 7pm. **Günese yolculuk** *(Journey to the Sun) 1999.* When a Turkish man is mistaken for a Kurdish refugee in Istanbul, he is imprisoned, brutally punished and outcast from society. Yesim Ustaoglu directs.

•Jan. 12, 9pm; Jan. 14, 7pm. **El Norte** *(The North) 1983.* Gregory Nava directs this account of a brother and sister who flee Guatemala after their father's murder and find themselves struggling to survive as illegal immigrants in Los Angeles.

Museum of Fine Arts

Back by Popular Demand

•Jan. 12, 1:30pm. **La Vérité si je mens! 2** *(You Shouldn't Worry!) 2001.* In this sequel to 1997's *La Vérité si je mens! (Would I Lie to You?),* small-business owners in Paris's Jewish garment district compete against a large discount clothing store in Thomas Gilou's comedy.

Engagements

•Jan. 8, 5:30pm; Jan. 11, 1:15 pm; Jan. 15, 7:45pm. **Lucía y el sexo** *(Sex and Lucía) 2001.* After the loss of her boyfriend, a young waitress seeks solace on a Mediterranean island where she encounters two people connected to her lost love. Julio Medem directs.

•Jan. 9, 6pm; Jan.10, 8pm; Jan. 11, 11am; Jan. 12, 3:30pm. **Langrishe, Go Down** *1978.* Based on Aidan Higgins' novel of the same title, David Hugh Jones' film is the story of a once-aristocratic woman (Judi Dench) who has an affair with her much younger tenant (Jeremy Irons).

•Jan. 10, 5:30pm; Jan. 12, 11am; Jan. 15, 5:45pm; Jan. 16, 6pm; Jan. 18, 11am. **Étoiles: Dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet** *2000.* Nils Tavernier's documentary takes an inside look at Paris' prestigious corps de ballet. Footage includes rehearsals and performances, as well as interviews with company directors, choreographers and professional dancers.

•Jan. 17, 8pm; Jan. 18, 3:30pm. **Chekhovskie Motivy** *(Chekhov's Motifs) 2002.* Director Kira Muratova's satire of Russian culture features a cliché peasant couple whose children include a radical intellectual son, a teenage daughter and several young boys.

New England Film Artists Present

•Jan. 9, 8pm; Jan. 11, 1pm. **Touching Lives: Portraits of Deaf-Blind People** *2002.* Myles Gordon and Susan Hajjar Dagher's documentary captures the richness of the lives of five deaf-blind people.

•Jan. 16, 8pm. **Made-Up** *2002.* Shot mainly in Jamaica Plain, Tony Shalhoub's directorial debut features a middle-aged woman grappling with our cultural obsession with youthful good looks.

•Jan. 17, 6pm. **Museum School Master of Fine Arts Graduate Films** *2002.* The Museum School's Masters of Fine Arts candidates screen their latest works.

•Jan. 18, 1pm. **Green** *2000.* Laura Dunn documents the 100-mile area in Louisiana containing the highest concentration of toxic emissions in the country. The film looks at the way poverty-stricken residents bear the brunt of it. •Immediately following. **Become the Sky** *2002.* Laura Dunn directs this documentary that explores the destructive practices and effects of the Texas energy industry.

Special Presentations

•Jan. 8, 8pm. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2002.* The work of renowned sculptor Andy Goldsworthy is captured by documentary filmmaker Thomas Riedeisheimer.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Feb. 13. **Australia: Land Beyond Time.** The rugged beauty of Australia's varying landscapes are captured on a cinematic tour through the Outback, the Great Barrier Reef and more. *Call for show times.*

•Through March 30. **Mysteries of Egypt.** Travel back to the times of Pharoahs and pyramids and experience the customs and culture of ancient Egyptian civilization. *Call for show times.*

•Through June 23. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West.** Trek through raging rivers and across rugged mountains to commemorate the bicentennial of a remarkable exploration, brought to life by National Geographic. *Call for show times.*

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Jan. 31. **Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man.** Follow the stages of human development from birth to maturity. Each stage of life is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 31. **Into the Deep.** Venture to the kelp forest off the shores of California, a fascinating world where a garibaldi protects its nest and a giant starfish eats everything in its path. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 31. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance.** Harrison Ford narrates this exploration of earth's different climates on a journey from the Arctic to the equator. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 31. **Space Station 3D.** Take a trip to the International Space Station and experience life in zero gravity. The audience blasts off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome to rendezvous with their new home in orbit 220 miles above Earth. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 31. **Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones** *2002.* George Lucas' second installation of the *Star Wars* prequels is digitally remastered for the IMAX screen. Ten years after the events of *The Phantom Menace*, there is an attempt on Padmé Amidala's life. Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker are sent to investigate what turn out to be some of the biggest developments in the *Star Wars* saga. *Call for show times.*

Special Events

Argana Celebrates the 60th Anniversary of Casablanca

•Jan. 14, 6:30 and 8:30pm. $50. In celebration of the 60th anniversary of **Casablanca**, this Inman Square eatery serves up Mediterranean and Moroccan cuisine and screens Michael Curtiz's 1940s cl
sic in its entirety. Don't forget to dress the pa
Prizes will be awarded to those most resembli
Bogie or Bergman.

Newton Free Library's Classical Musical

•Jan. 19, 2pm. **The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan** *19*
The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society p
sents a screening of this classic movie musical, a ser
fictionalized account of the history of the famous d
Sidney Gilliat directs.

Cinema Venues

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*214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Gr
Line to Harvard Ave.*

BELMONT

Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation

*1126 Boylston St. (617-536-1540). MBTA: Green Li
to Hynes/ICA.*

Boston Public Library

*666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green
Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.*

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

*100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA:
Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.*

Fenway 13 Theatre

*201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA:
D Green Line to Fenway.*

Loews Boston Common

*175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Lin
to Boylston.*

Museum of Fine Arts

*465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA:
E Green Line to Museum.*

Museum of Science

*Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line
Science Park.*

New England Aquarium

*Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBT
Blue Line to Aquarium.*

Wang Center

*270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA:
Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New Englan
Medical Center.*

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas

*399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C
Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to
Reservoir.*

Coolidge Corner Theatre

*290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gree
Line to Coolidge Corner.*

CAMBRIDGE

Argana Restaurant

*1287 Cambridge St. (617-868-1247). MBTA: Red
Line to Central.*

Brattle Theatre

*40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to
Harvard.*

Fresh Pond

*168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBT
Red Line to Alewife.*

Harvard Film Archive

*24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to
Harvard.*

Kendall Square Cinema

*One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red
Line to Kendall/MIT.*

Loews/Sony

*10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to
Harvard.*

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

*27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green
Line to Chestnut Hill.*

Newton Free Library

330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

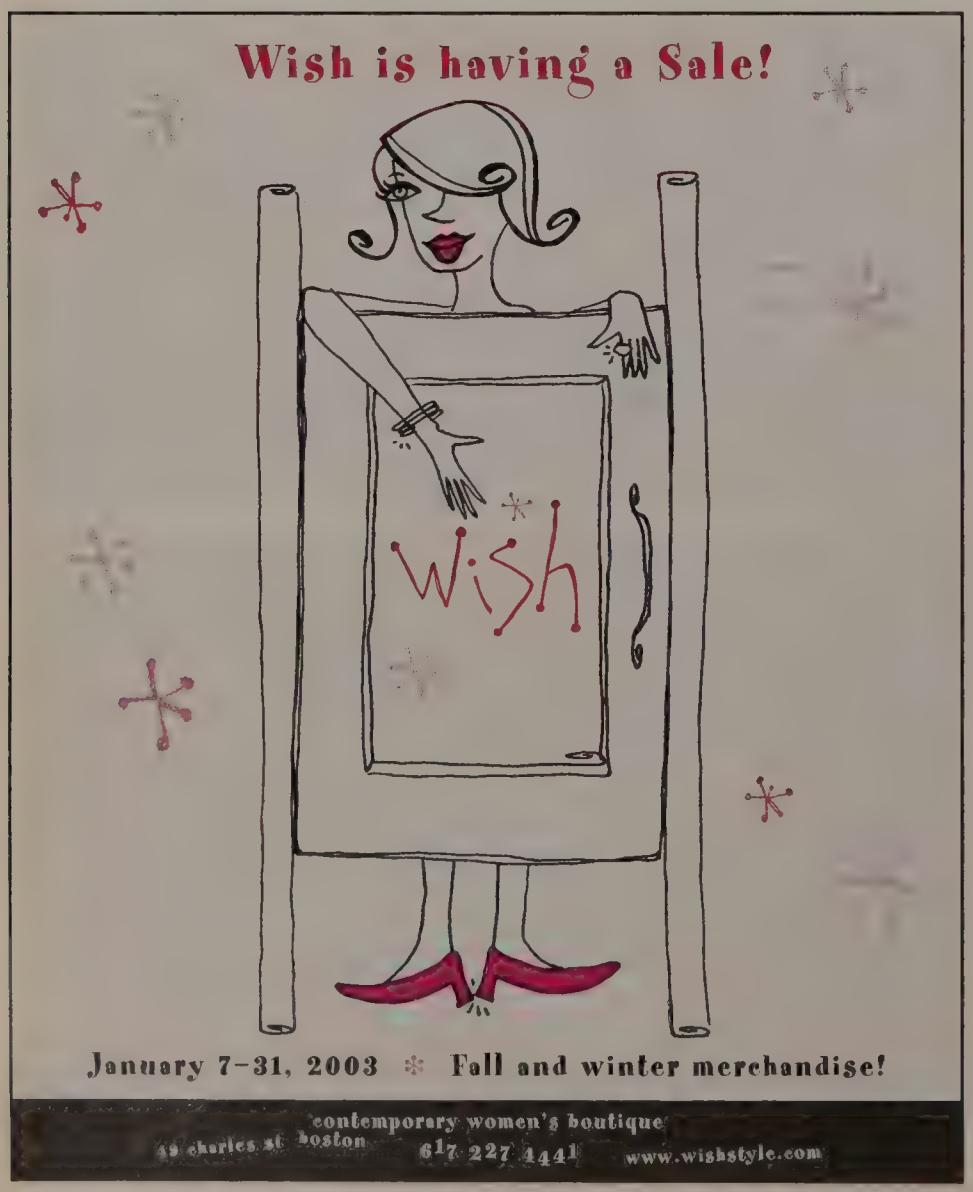
SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

*35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orang
Line to Sullivan Square.*

Somerville Theatre

*55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Li
to Davis.*



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Music

TOTAL ECLIPSE

Boston-launched Moonraker explores the brave new world of live electronica with a touch of soul. BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

As a youth in northern California, Kelli Scarr would sit in a circle with her Lutheran church-choir friends and make up melodic mantras around "shalom," the Hebrew word for peace.

Today, "Shalom" has also become one of the most popular tunes by Moonraker, Scarr's "live electronic soul" band, formed three years ago in Boston and now based in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"It's such a great word," says Scarr, who wrote the song's lyrics about being separated from a boyfriend leaving town. "It's kind of all-encompassing: It means 'hello,' 'goodbye' and 'peace…' So it was like 'Shalom, until we meet again.' But it turned into something totally different for me."

Scarr's musical life has also taken on new meanings in the years since she sang in church. "This gift of music is totally beyond me," Scarr says by phone from Folsom, Calif., where in the late '90s she sang in her high-school jazz choir, a powerhouse ensemble that toured both the U.S. and Europe. "It's like I'm being used as a toller, as a voice for something way greater."

Coming to Boston on a Berklee College of Music scholarship, Scarr landed in Moonraker after auditioning with guitarist David Moltz, bassist Kody Akhavi and drummer Dan Mintzer, a trio of Boston University students. They wanted a singer to build on their hip-hop, funk and groove-based compositions, and spin electronica-styled moods with live instruments.

"They put up a sign of what music they were heading toward: Portishead, Radiohead, Bjork, Aphex Twin, Squarepusher. It was weird too because the whole time I was at Berklee, I was just singing jazz," Scarr says. "I had never seen that much electronic stuff."

As a singer, Scarr nonetheless provided definite shades of Bjork (especially with her pixielike stage presence) and Portishead's Beth Gibbons, yet added more of a soulful bent.

"I can get intense vocally and so can Bjork: she can scream and she can be quiet and [express] all these emotions, and I'm a very emotional person and musician," says Scarr. Regarding the soul element in her voice, she adds, "I listen to a lot of neo-soul and older stuff like Motown and Stevie Wonder, and before I got into the band, I listened to a lot of jazz singers."

Scarr also introduced the group to keyboardist Dan "Shaolun" Chen and turntablist Nate Greenberg, who has since left the band but continues to produce its CDs. First, in 2001, came *Nada Brahma*, which refined Moonraker's trip-hop and drum 'n' bass aspirations and introduced "Shalom" to a growing fan-base around Boston. The more electronic *Moonraker EP* delved into up-tempo remixes, while the just released *Breathe… Live 2002* is a document of the band's stripped-down stage approach.

Moonraker is back in the studio this month before a Jan. 31 date at Bill's Bar, and Scarr says, "We're going to try to do the whole thing pretty much live, doing some production, but keeping the raw sound.… It's totally growing, and right now, it's going into more of an intense, urgent sound."

"We're getting into the improvisational element and feeding off the energy of the people who are at the shows," says the 21-year-old singer, noting the range of experiences they had on a recent tour that bridged the club and jam-band crowds.

"Every night was completely different, and it was all great," she says. "We played at this small place in Great Barrington called Club Helsinki, like a sit-down bar, and everyone was super. They were really vocal but sitting in chairs. The next night, we played in Toronto, where there were a couple hundred people dancing and sweating and screaming, and the next night, we were in Hartford in a huge auditorium. There were only a few people there, so we just brought them up and they sat onstage with us while we played. If we had one crowd, it would get boring."

The same might be said for Moonraker's all-encompassing music, which Scarr talks about with a sense of purpose.

"I think a lot of people are sad inside, because they feel alone and overwhelmed by problems that we're faced with," she says. "I hope that people are inspired, and I know they are, that we're doing the right thing. And I think it helps a lot as well that we're a female-fronted band. For women in particular, they come and see that I'm a strong female role model, and take a lot from that. It just means so much to me that other women can be inspired by what I'm doing." iB

Moonraker, from left to right: Kody Akhavi (bass), Dan Mintzer (drums), Kelli Scarr (vocals), Daniel Chen (keys) and David Moltz (guitar).

Moonraker

Plays Bill's Bar Jan. 31.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by f. (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by e-ma to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, pric phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four wee prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the pho*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from differe sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate da and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check da and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

India Arie, K-OS and Slum Village
Jan. 15, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-200)
Bonga
Jan. 10, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Boot Camp Clik, Coco Brovaz, Buckshot and Das EFX
Jan. 10, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Ben Heppner
Jan. 11, Jordan Hall (617-482-6661)
Dan Hicks & The Hot Licks
Jan. 14, Sculler's Jazz Club (617-562-4111)
Hobey Ford's Golden Rod Puppets
Jan. 13 and 14, The Wang Center (617-48 9393)
Les Percussions de Guinée
Jan. 15, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
The Rolling Stones and Ryan Adams
Jan. 12, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Super Diamond
Jan. 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Theory of a Dead Man and 3 Doors Down
Jan. 21, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

Atrium Lounge Nancy West, 5:30pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Wel 9pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm.
Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: the Brian Templeto Band, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim New Faces with Bridget Matro Philip Bell, Joe Kowan, Kate Klim and Chr O'Brien, 8pm, $8.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm no cover.
The Druid Pub Jeffrey Foucault.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGra 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The Matt Steckl Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Father Grundy, $4, 21+.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Charles Zarlengo and Under the Wire.
Lizard Lounge Mad Dog Trio and the Deisel E periment, 9pm, $7.
Lucky's Alex MacDougall, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Livesexact, Chainsaws an Children, Salem Fires and Scissorkiss, $9, 18+.
Pa's Lounge Pa's Blues Jam, 9pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack Michigan Blacksnake, 6pm, no cover.
Regattabar Marta Gomez and Friends, 8:30pm $12.
Scullers Freddie Hubbard and the New Jazz Con posers Octet , 8 and 10pm, $22.
Sky Bar Sex for Breakfast, Lava Baby, Lavender an Lunar Girl, 9pm.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band, 8pm, $5.
Toad Gato Malo, 7pm; Twinemen, 10pm, 21+, cover.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Trio, 8:30pm, cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Guts (ex Queers), N body's Heroes, Jonee Earthquake Band and A.F.U, $ 21+.
Les Zygomates Judith Murray, 8pm.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

Atrium Lounge Nancy West, 5:30pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Wel 9pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Provide 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.

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Mick and company celebrate 40 years of rock 'n' roll when the Rolling Stones' Licks world tour touches down at the FleetCenter Jan. 12, with Ryan Adams opening.

Cantab Lounge Upstairs: The Reagonomics, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Faces for Radio Improv, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Rachael Davis and Teddy Thompson, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Hair Club for Mensa, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callanan, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The Boston Horns, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Issi Rozen, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Plan B and Three Day Threshold, $6, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Jason Mraz, 7 and 10pm, $9, 18+.
Johnny D's Signals, 9:45pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Celtic Clan.
Kirkland Café Johnny Most, Green Dimension and Inverness, $5.
Limbo Ed Harlow Quartet.
The Linwood Red Zone Cuba, Jenna Keaney and Bruce Grover.
Lucky's Ray Greene, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Kitty Kill, Annette Farrington, the Curtain Society and Natalie Flanagan, $8, 18+.
Milky Way The Fighting Idols, the Jody Grind and Sugarfist.
Regattabar The Bert Seager Trio, 8:30pm, $12.
Rhythm and Spice DJ Quinton, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: James Merenda's Masked Marvels, 8:30pm; Matt Fogg Quartet, 10:30pm, $8. Upstairs: Temporada Latina, 8:30pm.
Scullers Freddie Hubbard and the New Jazz Composers Octet, 8 and 10pm, $22.
Sky Bar Thickly Settled and Tar Beach, 9pm.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band, 8pm, $5.
Toad Electrolux, 7pm; Billy Block's Western Beat Roots Revival Showcase, 9pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sam Bisbee CD-release show, Amusia, Aaron Perrino and the Music Emergency, $8.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, JAN. 10

Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15pm.
Big Easy The Mix, 9pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+. Upstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's No Way Jose, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne David, 7pm.
The Burren Jabe, 10pm.
Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: DJ Turn-ta-Bill, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Stephen Lynch, Eric Schwartz opens, 8pm, $15.
Common Ground The Swinging Johnsons, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort The Hit Squad, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Groove Authority, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Mariane Solivan, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Dick 'n' Jane.
The Green Briar Velvet Jones.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Pour Boys.
The Harp The Interns.
Harper's Ferry Southyrn Comfort and Classic Rock, $6, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30pm; Pig Pen.
Johnny D's Funky White Honkies, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Rusty Scott Quartet, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Groove Entertainment.
Kirkland Café 22-40's, Twighlight Ranchers, Local Jack and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo.
Limbo Jim Bridges Band.
The Linwood Amy Fairchild and Carla Ryder.
Lizard Lounge Daniel Barrett Group and Tom Burris, 9pm, $7.
Lucky's Alex MacDougall, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Agenda, the Action, Anchor Set CD-release show and Jet By Day, $9, 18+. Downstairs: C60, $8, 18+.
Milky Way Marie's Children, American Girls Club and My Own Worst Enemy.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm, no cover.
Paradise Boot Camp Clik, Coco Brovaz, Buckshot and DAS EFX.
Parris The Zoo.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park, 9pm, $5, 21+; DJ Greg Schneider, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar Roomful of Blues, 7:30 and 10pm, $18.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Ron Boston, 6pm; Dis & Dat, 11pm, $10, 19+; $8, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Boston Horns, 9pm, $10.
Scullers Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchestra 8 and 10:30pm, $20.
Sky Bar Flash In Blue, the Acro-brats, Krushr CD-release show, and Satellite 7, 9pm.
Somerville Theatre Bonga, 8pm, $25..
TK's Jazz Cafe Peter Golemme, 5pm, Black Sole Ensemble, 9pm, $10.
Toad Mickey Bones Zydeco, no cover.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Trio, 9pm, no cov
T.T. the Bear's Place The Raging Teens, Charms, the Coffin Lids and the Young Ones, $8.
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8pm.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

Abbey Lounge Downbeat 5, Sugabomb, Co Daggers.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15pm; Gi Barkan, 9pm.
Axis Suspect Device, 5pm, $10, all ages.
Big Easy The Mix, 9pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's W 9pm, $5, 21+. Upstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+
Bob the Chef's In the House, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm.
The Burren Katie and Arina.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Turn-ta-Bill, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Charlie Farren, 8pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Noway Jo 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown The Michael S Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Thomas Park.
The Green Briar 3 On the Tree.
The Harp The Interns.
Harper's Ferry Young Neil and the Vipers, Navigators and Memphis Raines, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Irish Sessuin, 4pm.
Johnny D's Nicole Nelson, 9:45pm.
Jordan Hall Ben Heppner, 8pm, $43-$58.
Jose McIntyre's Afternoons with Dave Lieb.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Acoustic Junction.
The Kinsale Christy O'Connell.

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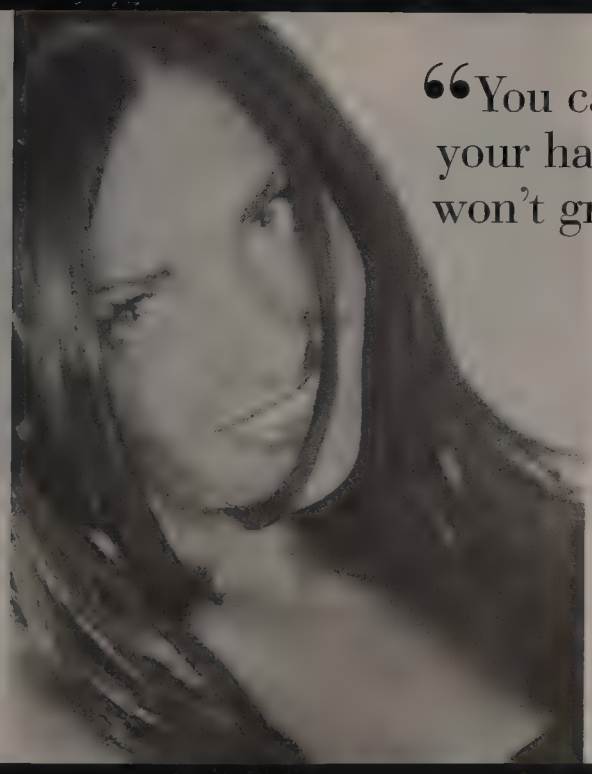

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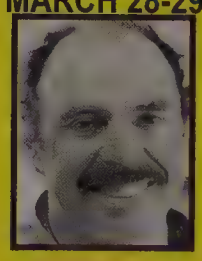
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Kirkland Café The *Noise* and Maxi Awards ceremony showcase.
Limbo Valerie Stephens.
The Linwood Dogfight and Cree 8.
Lucky's Groove Authority, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Cobraman, Lamont, Puny Human and Black Tail, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Camper van Beethoven, $18, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm, no cover.
Parris The Zoo.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen, 9pm, $5, 21+; DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Rhythm & Spice Hot Like Fire, 11pm, $10, 19+; $8, 21+, $8.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Wildest Dreams, 9pm, $10. Upstairs: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12.
Sky Bar Spike Emerson Society, Pagoda Red and Swissbomb CD-release show, 9pm.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Gay Duo, 11am, no cover; Steven Higgs, 3:30pm, no cover; Bruce Bartlett Quartet, 9pm, $10.
Toad Mayone Thing, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Jeremiah Freed, Throne, Give and Junction, $10, 18+.
Les Zygomates Eula Lawrence, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

Bill's Bar Skifington, 10pm, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Jazz Quartet, 10:30am-3pm.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Jazz Duo, 11am; Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Owen Plant, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Little Joe Cook, 10am-3pm; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Christy O'Connell and Finbar Doyle.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
FleetCenter The Rolling Stones and Ryan Adams.
Harper's Ferry Hot Like Fire, $4, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard, 5pm.
Henrietta's Table The Harvard Krokodiloes, 1:30pm.
Johnny D's Blues jam, 4:30pm; salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Julien Bar Alexei Tsganov, 11am; Jeffrey Moore, 6:30pm.
Kendall Cafe Professor & Maryanne.
The Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quartet.
Lizard Lounge The Lizard Lounge poetry slam with the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 and 9pm, $5.
Lucky's Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Useless CD-release show, No Ones Kind, Absolve and Synj, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Cursive and Neva Dinova, $10, 18+.
Milky Way Fire Balls.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Danish Radio Big Band, 7pm, no cover, all ages.
Sky Bar Bright Penny and Gran Fury, 9pm.
Toad Paul Ahlstrand and the Sax Man with Dave Mattacks, Ryan Claunch and Jesse Williams, 7pm; The Sunday Night Band with Mark Erelli, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kamikaze, Roosevelt Roosevelt and Jack's Smirking Revenge, $5.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Singer/songwriter open mike, 8pm; Eric Schwartz, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Seisiun.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open-mike Night.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with Manhattan Handoff, 8pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Lola Danza.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 7pm, $9.
Middle East Upstairs: Slot Machine: Untranquil, Relishgruv, Go For Broke and Chesterwhite, $8, 18+.
Milky Way Non Pod.
Ryles Jazz Club Danish Radio Big Band, 8:30pm, no cover, all ages.
TK's Jazz Cafe Davie Nate Trio, 7-11pm, $4.
Toad Schwang, 8pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear with Vic Vrilling and Calvin Dempsey.
Wang Center Hobey Ford's Golden Rod Puppets.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

Abbey Lounge Brett Rosenberg, William and Chris Perr, 8pm, $3.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass pickin' party, 8pm; McGann, O'Donovan and Eggleston, 10pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Paul Geremia, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Limbo Brian Kelly Band.
The Linwood Amnesty International presents a benefit for the Drapchi Nuns.
Lizard Lounge Dennis Brennan, 9:30pm, $7.
Lucky's Tim Gearan, 9:30pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Nuntronix (with Thurston Moore and Jim O'Rourke of Sonic Youth), Eloe Omoe, Major Stars and Life Partners, $8, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Mamacita, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, 8 and 10pm, $22.
Sky Bar Fortuitous Accident, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
TK's Jazz Cafe Gary Grasso's Jazster, 7-11pm, $4.
Toad Resophonics, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Gallery, Now Is Now and Vas Deferens, $5.
Wang Center Hobey Ford's Golden Rod Puppets.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

Abbey Lounge Abbey Residency with Muck and the Mires.
Atrium Lounge Nancy West, 5:30pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm.
Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: The Brian Templeton Band, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Rachel McCartney and Meg Hutchinson, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Druid Pub Flora Reed and Rose Polenzani, 9:30pm.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Weepin' Willie, 9:30pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Symbolics.
Limbo Marlene Jazz Trio.
Lizard Lounge Scara's Night Out, 9pm.
Lucky's Julie Johnson, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Drexel, Kicked In The Head, No Luck At All and Roxie, $9, 18+.
Orpheum Theatre India Arie, K-OS and Village.
Paradise Jimmy Fund Fundraiser with Kayley, Bill Janovitz, Crown Victoria and America Fi, 7pm, $20, 18+.
Pa's Lounge Pa's Blues Jam, 9pm, no cover.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack Michigan Blacksnake, 6pm, no cov
Regattabar The Katie Viqueira Group Nando Michelin, 8:30pm, $12.
Sanders Theatre Les Percussions de Guiné
Scullers Basilio Marquez y Eclipse, 8 and 1 $16.
Sky Bar Automind, Fake Providence, Laser Laser Laser and Munin, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
TK's Jazz Cafe The JV Band, 7pm, no cover
Toad Jimmy Ryan, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30p cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Furvis, the Steal Clown Down and Moonshot, $5.
Les Zygomates Larry Roland, 8pm.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

Abbey Lounge Console.
Atrium Lounge Nancy West, 5:30pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene B 9pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Nat Simpkins Jazz Qua 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Lois Lane and the Planet, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Fac Radio Improv, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Peter Mulvey, Jeffrey Fou opens, 8pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort Hair Club for M 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callanan, 9:30pm.

advance seating

THESE SHOWS ARE SURE TO SELL OUT, SO CALL FOR YOUR TICKETS SOON

Mappari plays the Paradise Jan. 31.

Averi, Labb and Mappari Jan. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Barra MacNeils Feb. 14, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Big Head Todd and the Monsters Jan. 31, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Blind Boys of Alabama Feb. 28, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Bon Jovi and the Goo Goo Dolls March 4, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Kasey Chambers March 1, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
The Chieftains March 12, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
The Del-Vikings March 30, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
The Donnas and Ok Go Feb. 8, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Ibrahim Ferrer Feb. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Neil Finn and Rhett Miller Feb. 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Vince Gill Feb. 14, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Arlo Guthrie March 7, Blackman Auditorium (617-373-2247)
Daryl Hall and John Oates March 3, Orpheu Theatre (617-931-2000)
Habib Koité Feb. 9, Somerville Theatre (617-87 4275)
Ladysmith Black Mambazo Jan. 31, Sanders The atre (617-876-4275)
Johnny Marr and the Healers and Mellowdron Jan. 24, Paradise Rock Club (617-42 NEXT)
Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Ell Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis an Reginald Veal March 3, Symphony Hall (617-93 2000)
Morcheeba Jan. 25, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The Pretenders and 30 Odd Foot of Grunts Feb. Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
The Shaolin Monks Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, Berklee Pe formance Center (617-931-2000)
Sister Hazel and Von Ray Jan. 23, Paradise Roc Club (617-423-NEXT)
Spooky Daly Pride Jan. 25, Paradise Rock Clu (617-423-NEXT)
Take 6 Feb. 27, Berklee College of Music (617 931-2000)
Chucho Valdes March 30, Berklee Performanc Center (617-931-2000)

he Good Life Cambridge he Boston Horns, 9:30pm, no ver.
he Good Life Downtown acksole, 9:30pm, no cover.
he Green Dragon Tavern e Spitting Vinnies.
ennessy's Me & Julio.
ohnny D's Homeless Coalition nefit with Jim's Big Ego, 9pm.
ulien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
he Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
rkland Café Somerville Jazz stival with ZMQ: Com'on Man l Rollow Tomasi Quartet, $5.
mbo Ray Brown.
e Linwood Naked Sams and ny.
zard Lounge Club D'Elf, n, $10.
cky's Alex MacDougall, m, 21+.
ddle East Upstairs: Araby and the Halogens, 18+.
gattabar Ahmad Jamal, 8:30pm, $20.
les Jazz Club Downstairs: Bob Sinicrope and World Leaders, 7pm, $12. Upstairs: Temporada ina, 8:30pm.
ullers Andre Ward 8 and 10pm, $16.
y Bar Roosevelt Roosevelt and Matt Tobin, 9pm, 21+.
's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band, 8pm, $5.
ad Electrolux, 7pm, no cover.
p of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm, no :r.
the Bear's Place Antigone Rising and the y Reds, $8.
Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

RIDAY, JAN. 17

bey Lounge Chandler Travis Philharmonic.
ium Lounge Dave Philip, 5:15pm; Gilad can, 9pm.
Easy Joe Rockstar, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, n, $5, 21+. Upstairs: Tony O' Riordan, 9pm, $5, .

3 Doors Down plays Avalon Jan. 21.

Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm.
The Burren Tim Ambrose, 10pm.
Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: DJ Turn-ta-Bill, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Peter Mulvey and Tim Gearan, 8pm, $14.
Common Ground Sugarcoat, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort Velvet Jones, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The Bill Robinson Experience, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Felonious Funk, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Incadence.
The Green Briar Ecco System.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
The Harp The Collectors.
Harper's Ferry Clutch Grabwell and Smit-Haus, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5pm; Spike the Punch, 21+.
House of Blues The Cat Sass Blues Band, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Babaloo, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Rusty Scott Quartet, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Groove Entertainment.
Kirkland Café Twisted Rico, 5 Easy Pieces, Leigh, Rosie Baby Red and Micky Bliss Organ Combo.
Limbo Athene Wilson.
Lizard Lounge Liz Dibiase CD-release, 9pm, $7.
Lucky's Alex MacDougall, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Pilot to Gunner, Retisonic and Instruction, $9, 18+.
Milky Way Venus Factor III.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm, no cover.
Parris Love Seed Mama Jump.
Purple Shamrock Moo Tycoon, 9pm, $5, 21+; DJ Greg Schneider, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6:30pm, no cover.
Regattabar Ahmad Jamal, 7:30pm, 10pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: A Festa Brazilian dance party, 9pm, $10. Downstairs: Thaddeus Hogarth, 9pm, $9.
Scullers Mark Murphy and Rebecca Parris, 8 and 10:30pm, $21.
TK's Jazz Cafe Michael Shea Quartet with Barry Reis, 9pm, $10.
Toad The John Cate Band, no cover.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway, 9pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler, 8pm.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

Abbey Lounge Hip Tanaka.
Atrium Lounge Dave Philip, 5:15pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm.
Big Easy Joe Rockstar, 9pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Tony O' Riordan, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm.
The Burren Shirley Lewis.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: DJ Turn-ta-Bill, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Maybe Baby Duo and Jabe, 8pm, $14.

India Arie performs at the Orpheum Jan. 15.

Dick's Last Resort Magnus, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Noway Jose, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Amanda Baisinger, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Brick Park.
The Green Briar Unlucky.
The Green Dragon Tavern Dog House.
The Harp Love Seed Mama Jump.
Harper's Ferry Mr. Brownstone's tribute to Guns n' Roses with Aural Sect, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Irish Sessuin, 5pm.
House of Blues David Maxwell's Maximum Blues Band, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Stymie, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's Afternoons with Dave Lieb.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Sunday's Well.
Kirkland Café Nova Special, Phontaine and Nigel Grover, $5.
Limbo Lance Martin Band.
The Linwood Kittymonkey, Linus and Top Heavy.
Lizard Lounge The Timbre Project CD-release, 9pm, $8.
Lucky's Alex MacDougall, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Cracktorch, the Humanoids CD-release show, Tiger Mountain and the Stoves, $9, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm, no cover.
Paradise Super Diamond.
Parris The Collectors.
Purple Shamrock DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar Ahmad Jamal, 7:30 and 10pm, $22.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12. Downstairs: Tony Lynn Washington, 9pm, $10.

Johnny Marr and the Healers (pictured) perform with Mellowdrone at the Paradise Rock Club Jan. 24.

Scullers Mark Murphy and Rebecca Parris, 8 and 10:30pm, $21.
Sky Bar Binaural, Paper Moon and Rabadango, 9pm, $5, 21+.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Gay Duo, 11am-3pm, no cover; Mark Greel Band, 9pm, $10.
Toad Gregg's Saturday Showcase, 7pm; Cash Monies and the Jetsetter, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Division of Laura Lee, Burning Brides, the Catheters, and the Sharks!, $10.
Zeitgeist Gallery Steve Lantner Group and Skull Session.
Les Zygomates Ron "Big Daddy" Murphy, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Zeke Martin's Jazz, 10:30pm-3pm.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Jazz Duo, 11am-2pm; Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joe Cook's blues jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Choppin' Block Matt Pond PA.
Club Passim Peter Ostroushko with Dirk Freymuth, 7:30pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelations, 10am-3pm; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Celtic Clan and Finbar Doyle.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard, 5-8pm.
Johnny D's Blues jam and salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Julien Bar Andy Baer, 11am-3pm; Jeffrey Moore, 6:30pm.
The Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet.
Lizard Lounge The Lizard Lounge Poetry Slamwith the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 and 9pm, $5.
Lucky's Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: God's Little Joke, $9, 18+.
Scullers Bobby "Blue" Bland, 7 and 9pm, $25.
Sky Bar Jiya, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10am-3pm.
TK's Jazz Cafe Jump Street Band, 6-10pm, no cover.
Toad Jake Brennan, 7pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm, no cover.

MONDAY, JAN. 20

Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8pm; Kellie Line Knott, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8pm, $10.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open-mike Night.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night, 8pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
Limbo Jonathan Sanson Trio.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 7pm, $9.
Middle East Upstairs: The High Strung, Critical Condition, the Thungs and Houston, $8, 18+.
TK's Jazz Cafe Davie Nate Trio, 7-11pm, $4.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Punk Rock Aerobics, 6:30pm, $7; the Other Side of the Bear with Steve Powers, Gene Dante and the Buckners, $3.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

Abbey Lounge Rosie Huntress, Heidi Saperstein, Emily Grogan, Krissy Lundgren and Rocketscience, $3.
Avalon Theory of a Dead Man and 3 Doors Down.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass pickin' party, 8pm; Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 10pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Jefferson Starship, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm.
The Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Limbo Alexi Tsiganov Band.
Lizard Lounge Dennis Brennan, 8:30pm, $7.
Lucky's Tim Gearan, 9:30pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Burning Paris, the Cassettes, Homage to Catalina and Brazil, $9, 18+.
Regattabar The Bob Nieske 3 with the Lydian String Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Ball in the House, 8:30pm, $8.
TK's Jazz Cafe Gary Grasso's Jazster, 7pm, no cover.
Toad The Resophonics, no cover.
Top of the Hub Joe Mulholland Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cafe Louis *234 Berkeley St., Boston (617-266-4680). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: E Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Henrietta's Table *1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-661-5005). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jordan Hall *30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-45 1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to P Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-557 MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-02 MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617 524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: G Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617 782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Av*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Pa Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasan*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (61 776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Governm Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-105 MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-66 5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambrid (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-62 5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambri (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wang Center *270 Tremont St., Boston (617-48 9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge S Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red L to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-5 5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Jaime d'Almeida of the Timbre Project throws a CD-release party at the Lizard Lounge Jan. 18.

classical music

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$50. James Levine conducts the music of Brahms and Harbison. Pianist Robert Taub accompanies.

FRIDAY, JAN. 10

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-349-0086). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Music by Chopin, Earl Kim and Schumann is performed.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$50. Same program as Jan. 9.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

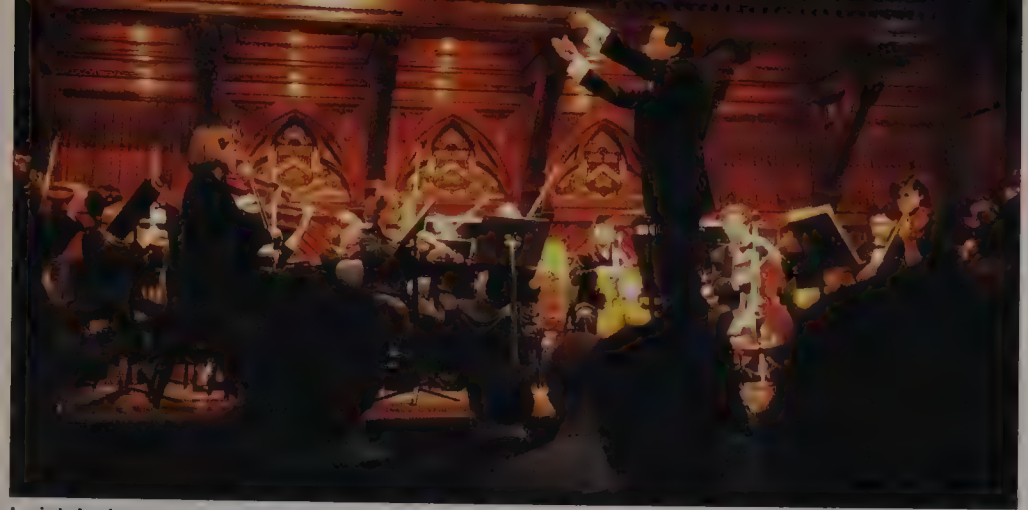
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$50. Same program as Jan. 9.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm, $43.* Ben Heppner, dramatic tenor, performs with Craig Rutenberg on piano.

From the Top
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2pm. $15. The New England Conservatory sponsors the live recording of "From the Top," a national radio program featuring performances and interviews with young musicians. Pianist Christopher O'Riley hosts.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, (617-349-0086). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Music by Chopin, Earl Kim and Schumann is performed.



Isaiah Jackson conducts the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra in a concert at the Sanders Theatre Jan. 12.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free.* This weekly Bach cantata features the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music conducted by Michael Beattie.

From the Top
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2pm. $15. Same program as Jan. 11.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $20. David Feltner conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Boston in Mozart's Symphony No. 29.

Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $9-$42. Isaiah Jackson conducts oboist James Bulger, clarinetist Julie Vaverka, French hornist Tom Haunton and bassoonist Ron Haroutunian in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante.*

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm Free. John Gibbons performs Bach on solo harpsichord.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$50. Tom Koopman conducts and countertenor Andreas Scholl performs selections by Bach and Haydn.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm Free. The conservatory performs selections by Gunther Schuller, Katherine Chi and John Gibbons as well as works by Bach, Brahms and Hindemith.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$50. Same program as Jan. 16.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$50. Same program as Jan. 16.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm Free. Boston Modern Orchestra Project performs new music composed by NEC faculty members.

Paolo Pandolfo
First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-661-1812). 8pm. Free. Violist Paolo Pandolfo performs music by Marais, Bach and Abel.

Violin Recital
Brandeis University, Slosberg Recital Hall, (617-269-7171). 8pm. $30. $10 students. Daniel Stepner and pianist Sergei Schepkin perform pieces by Prokofiev, Mussorgsky and Debussy in a recital to benefit the Sakharov Archives.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free.* This weekly Bach cantata features the orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music conducted by Michael Beattie.

New England String Ensemble
Jordan Hall, 290 Huntington Ave. Boston (781-224-1117). 3pm. Free. Selections by Mozart begin the concert and a series of string performances follows with Chen Yi's *Romance.*

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$50. Same program as Jan. 16.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6pm. Free. The Borromeo String Quartet performs Bartok's Quartet No. 5. A discussion of the work and an open question-and-answer session follows the performance.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm.* Celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs solos and duets with pianist Kathryn Stott.

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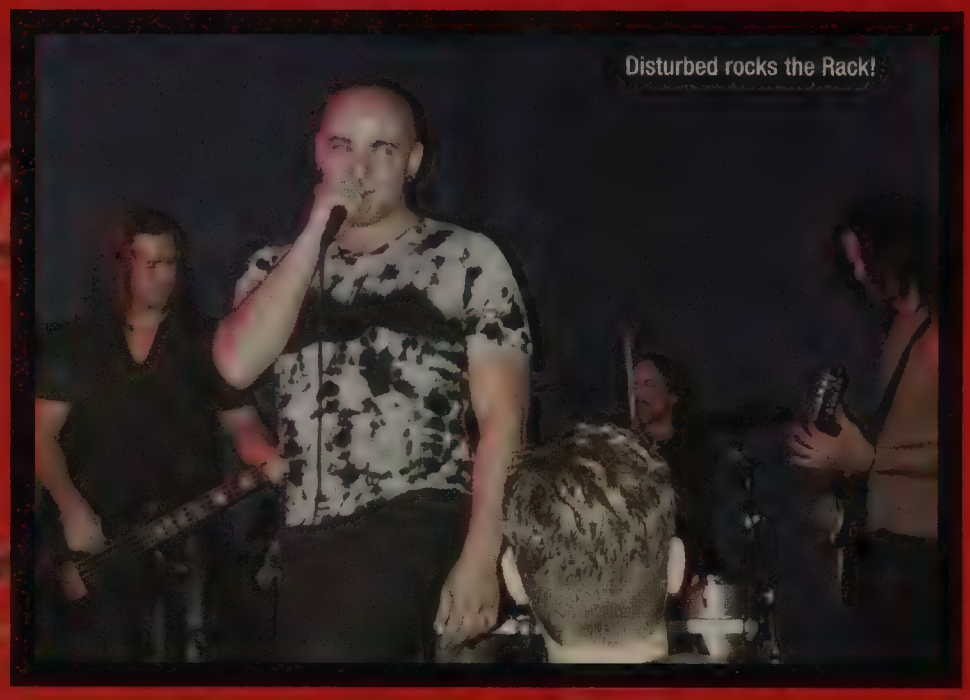

Disturbed rocks the Rack!

Join us every Friday night with Central Basement and DJ Johnny C hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party!

inside RACK

Every Monday Night, 9:30pm

NOT **just your average Monday Night! Featuring local bands, complimentary buffet and pool! DJ Mike Janedy 9:30pm-2am.**

Every Tuesday Night, 6pm

After work Jazz with Boston's Best Jazz band, Black Sole.

Every Wednesday Night, 6pm

Boston hottest bands featuring Michigan Blacksnake, Hypercane, and Scooby Snax!
Go to www.therackboston.com for complete schedule.

Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

Get a JUMP START on your weekend! In fact, blow off work on Friday with R&B, Jazz and Soul bands! DJ Ricky spins 10pm-2am!

Every Friday Night, 6pm

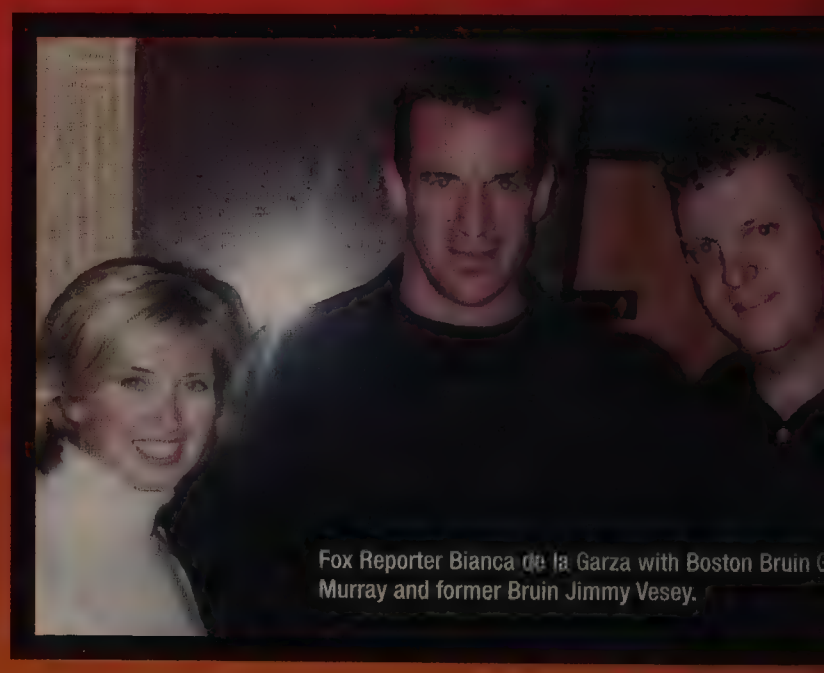
Join us right after work with the best band in Boston, Central Basement!
Hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party!
DJ Johnny C will keep you dancing 'til 2am!

Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way!
DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

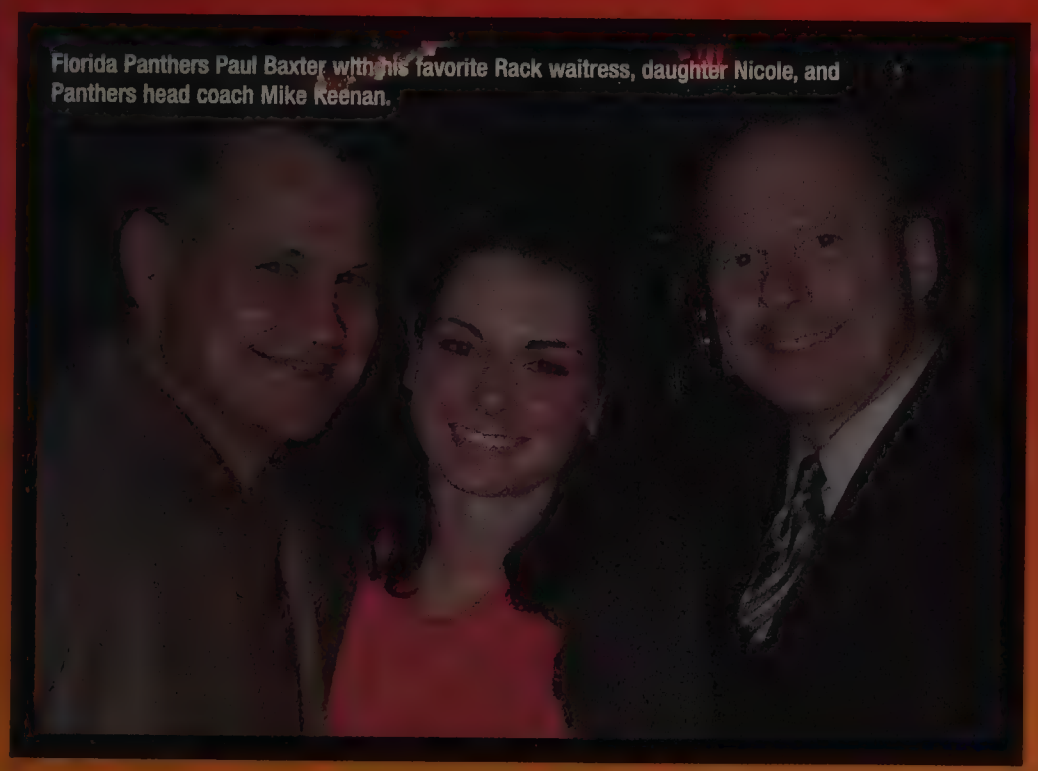

Fox Reporter Bianca de la Garza with Boston Bruin
Murray and former Bruin Jimmy Vesey.

Boston's Best 1997 The Improper Bostonian
Boston's Best 1998 The Improper Bostonian
Boston's Best 1999 The Improper Bostonian
Boston's Best 2000 The Improper Bostonian
Boston's Best 2001 The Improper Bostonian
Boston's Best 2002 The Improper Bostonian

Dining Room Open 11:30am - 1am 7 days a week!

NECN Sports Reporter Chris Collins with Boston Celtic Antoine Walker.

Sopranos' Bobby "Bacala" Bacilierie with Erin, Nicole and Felicia.



Florida Panthers Paul Baxter with his favorite Rack waitress, daughter Nicole, and Panthers head coach Mike Keenan.

Boston Celtic Walter McCarty with Coach Willie Mae

24 Clinton Street, Boston 02109 617.725.1051 www.therackboston.com

WATCH US LIVE ON WWW.THERACKBOSTON.COM!

THE RACK

dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Avenue Bar
Service Industry Night Featuring house and techno music, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ J Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge Attain transcendence in the exotic world of Buddha Bar with DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays, featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
Hip-hop night, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ B-spin, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Loune Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music in this swank billiards lounge, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays House, hip-hop and Latin with DJs Fuma, Modee and Franklin, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Peow! DJ Timmy Collins spins New York-style lounge music, $3, 21+; $5 under 21.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Green Briar
DJ Long John spins '80s, '90s and top-40 hits, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Drag queues up hip-hop, house and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
Live music with Michigan Blacksnake, 6-10pm. DJ Steve Anderson keeps the party going until 2am, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band speeds things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Venu
The Rinse Resident DJs Static, Benny B. and Damsel spin drum 'n' bass with guests, 10pm, 18+.

Vertigo
Anitya Psychedelic trance music and sets by D Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw, 10pm, $5, 21

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funk house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressi Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Lounge Night DJ Jason spins house tunes and the la est techno, 21+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
The Underground The latest underground mus from DJ Chris Rucker with performances by ne live acts, 9pm, $10, 18+; $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, n cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Night 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix feature retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $ 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-ho and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+ women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance an house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; Shelte Thursdays with live funk, jazz and electronica, $ 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top 40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Kiss 108 presents commercial dance hous proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins aci jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and danc ing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damo and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty queü up the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights host karaoke downstairs, 8 11pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party starte upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Fox spin dance tunes, 10pm, n cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Franklin cranks the noise, 11pm-2am 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins global lounge rhythms. Doo open at 10pm. No cover before 11pm, $15 afte 11pm, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando presen drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21+

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge al night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Thursday nights it's live music, 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10:30pm, 21+, no cover.

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Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton spins roots reggae, R&B and Soca, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.

RiverGods
Bitches Brew DJ Dali spins a mix, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, $21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJs Littles Renel spin top-40, hip-hop and dance music, 10pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Global DJs bring high-energy and vocal house to the main room. DJ Freakas stirs up the VIP room with hip-hop, R&B and classic hits while Deklab and local guest DJs spin progressive tribal and house in the back room at Nuvo, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music with no attitude, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Buck BC hosts TGIF nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Boston Rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays. DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell and the Late Night Lounge at 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Harp
•Jan. 10, Live music by the Zoo, 10pm, $10, 21+. •Jan. 17, Love Seed Mama Jump performs, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Dan McCarthy spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
There's a party on all floors with DJ Tom Connors downstairs, and DJ Massi upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Mark Lucas goes all-out with top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Doc spins house and everyone's old favorites, $5, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Roland Lopez, 10pm-2am, 21+.

Level
Velvet Lounge DJ Santangelo spins house and hip-hop, $10.

Matrix Fridays
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $20, 18+; $15, 21+. •**The Officers Club** DJ Statik Selektah and Chubby Chub spin hip-hop and R&B, and JR Swoosh spins reggae, proper dress, 8pm, ladies free, men $5, before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+, after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Tilt** DJ Freddie C spins progressive house and techno, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Pat Messina spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress required, $10, 21+, $15, after 10pm; $20, 18+. •**3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs pump the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm. •Jan. 10, Live music with Brick Park, 9pm, $5, 21+. •Jan. 17, Moo Tycoon performs, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement 6:15-10:45pm, then it's DJ Johnny C and Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Dance Party, 10:45pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 6-9pm. •Jan. 10, Dis & Dat play live reggae, 11pm, $8, 21+.

RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fishel pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Cat Club International house music, 10pm, $15, 21+; $20, 18+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Sharpen up your salsa and merengue moves with lessons from 7-10pm, then shake it to live music by the Latin Party Boys or hit the dance floor with DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 tunes and acoustic shows entertain on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, R&B and top-40 tunes with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Arsit spins the latest Eurohouse music; DJ Roger M. spins with spicy Latin flavor, jacket required, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Sexy Saturdays Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with progressive house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue Bar
T Night fills the place with house and techno beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Start! Hear DJ Gibby spin alternative rock and get nostalgic to '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down Losers and has-beens are welcome to boogie down with DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Euroh 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5,

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squ spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress,

Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in thi liards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, d Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and v house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 2

The Harp
•Jan. 11, The Interns perform, 10pm, $10, •Jan. 18, Live music with Love Seed Mama Ju 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins the latest top-40, R&B and hip- 9pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Hall queues up top-40, R&B and hip- 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag queues up dance, R&B and top while DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs top-40, 10pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 a night of unabashed music and dancing, 10pm, 2

Level
In the Russian Lounge, DJ Alert spins Russian an ternational music. In Elite, DJ Pace spins ho techno and international music on two levels, $10

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while back room features dance favorites from the '80s '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz m the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata be 10pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 1

The Palace
•**El Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music hip-hop by DJs Michael Mercardo, Rip Hernandez Willie D, proper dress, ladies free, men $5 be 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. • **Male Encounter** New England's longest-running male dance review, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1 $25, 18+; $20, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10 •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mi proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 a 10pm. •**Tilt** DJ OSheen spins progressive house techno, proper dress, 8pm-2am, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ fore 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Uptown** Pat Messina m up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $ 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 2

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, pro dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. •Jan. 11, L music with Pig Pen, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Rack
Join the dance party hosted by Star 93.7's Vinny ruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Jan. 11, Hot Like Fire plays soca music, 11pm, $8, 21

RiverGods
Easy Does It Shake your groove thang with DJs E and Goodwood spinning soft '70s, 9pm, no cov 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techr 10pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and internatio music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm; Dow stairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover before 10pm, 21

Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and mereng music while a Latin band plays on the first floor and Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second flo 9pm, $10, 21+.

DEREK KOLIVOS

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, R&B and top-40 tunes with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Mythos DJ Bruno spins house and hip-hop; DJ Yorgo Jr. spins Greek and Spanish hits, proper dress, 11pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house music in the club and DJ Derik queues up old-school hip-hop in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Ivy Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Nation and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Felt
Ivy DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Level
VuDu Sundays DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes while resident DJs Osheen and Rob D. and weekly guests spin house, hip-hop and techno music, $10.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae music, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 9pm, no cover, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Stickabush DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge Kick back and experience this trend-setting night, 10pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogans *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(Club Copa, Officers Club, Oxygen, Tilt, Uptown and Underground) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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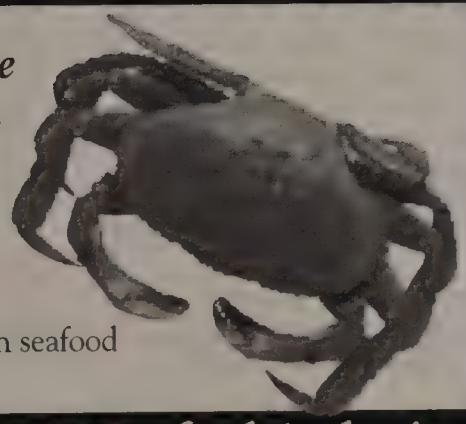

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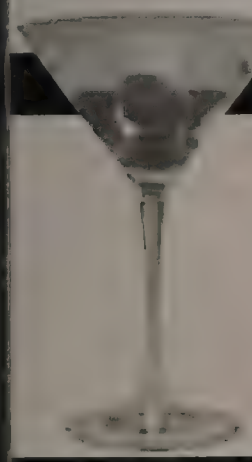

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T-stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •Botanical themes from China, Korea and Japan are displayed in *Plum, Orchid, Chrysanthemum and Bamboo: Botanical Motifs and Symbols in East Asian Painting.* Through Jan. 5. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* showcases precious jewelry, icons, religious amulets, textiles, coins and household items dating from the 4th through 15th centuries. Through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* presents artwork fueled by Europe's fascination with India from the 17th to 20th centuries. Through May 25.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows range from Italian to African art. •*The Last Expression: Art in Auschwitz* shows through May 31.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*This Is Not a Cloud,* photographs by Cindy Sedlmeyer, is ongoing. •*Necee Regis: Flight Patterns* shows through Jan. 31. •*Painting in Boston: 1950-2000* displays through Feb. 23. •*Looking at Ground Zero: Photographs by Kevin Bubriski* shows through Feb. 23. •*The Ambient Electron: Abstract Video Art* displays through Feb. 23. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski:Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams and dynamic spectrum shifts. Through Aug. 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Lois Orswell, David Smith and Modern Art* showcases works by Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Lachaise and Smith. Through Feb. 16. •Award-winning photographer Wolfgang Tillman presents 30 color prints. Through Feb. 23. •*Prints from the Serenissima: Connoisseurship and the Graphic Arts in 18th-Century Venice* showcases 62 examples. Through March 9. •*The Modern Quotidian: Furniture by Prouve, Perriand, Le Corbusier and Reitvald* displays modern design objects and furniture. Through March 30. •An installation of Marcel Breuer's furniture from the 1930s is on display through May 4.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*Glass Flowers,* featuring the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants and includes more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, is ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young,* also ongoing, displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. •*Dodos, Trilobites and Meteorite* showcases never-before-seen treasures from historic expeditions to remote environments. Through March 31.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •The ICA's next exhibition opens Jan. 22.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* • The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative arts including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*Mrs. Gardner's Holiday Table,* the annual display of Mrs. Gardner's holiday dinner party setting, shows through Jan. 12.

The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem will transform a city street into its central courtyard.

Preview

Adaptation

The Peabody Essex Museum joins the 21st century with a $125 million face lift

On Feb. 18, the oldest continuously operating museum in the country will close its galleries to complete a much-needed and much-anticipated make over. The Peabody Essex Museum's collection outgrew its space in seaside Salem long ago. With 2.4 million pieces, the museum has never shown the vast majority of its art collection. Adding 100,000 square feet, it's finally making room to display what it has accumulated since 1799—and it's taking over one of the city's streets to do so. The street will become the museum's central courtyard.

When this North Shore gem reopens June 21, 90 percent of the museum's exhibits will be reinstalled, and its complex will feature six new galleries, several gardens and a memorial park celebrating the birthplace of the volunteer militia. Most important, it will have the space to properly showcase its world-renowned collections, such as those on Asian export, contemporary Native American and post-colonial Indian art.

After seven years of planning and $125 million in fundraising, the museum that began in the 18th century will be brought into the 21st century. Technological advances include new facilities—an interactive family center, a state-of-the-art auditorium—and new tools such as audio guides to the collections that will allow visitors to bookmark specific pieces and later retrieve more information on those items: videos, music, interviews with curators. They can download the information at the museum or have it e-mailed to them. "You can come and create your own experience," says Dan Monroe, museum director and CEO.

To its collection of historic houses, the museum is adding an 18th-century Chinese house from a remote village 250 miles southwest of Shanghai. Eight generations of the Huang family called the Yin Yu Tang house home, and the museum will fully reconstruct it with all the furnishings.

While it completes construction, the Peabody Essex will continue to run lectures, concerts, films and the Phillips Library. *Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem (978-745-9500). www.pem.org. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm. $5.*

—Jorie Zlotnik and Marla Abramson

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers:* Travel through student life and learning over the last 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic,* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing. •*The Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* is on display through March 4.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed. after 4pm, admission is voluntary. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*Lens Landscape* shows photographers' visions of landscapes. Through Feb. 23. •In its only American venue, *Adam Fuss* features innovative photogram and daguerreotype images of such subjects as water and flowers. Through Jan. 12. •*Threads on the Edge: The Daphne Farago Fiber Art Collection* features 65 works by more than 40 artists from Farago's private collection. Through March 30. •*Sargent's Seven Sisters* is a selection of John Singer Sargent's murals and portraits, including *The Wyndham Sisters,* on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Through Jan. 31. •*18th Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* exhibits the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •American modernist Charles Sheeler's photographs display in his first major international exhibition. Through Feb. 2. •*Impressions of Light* surveys French landscape art from Corot to Monet. Through April 13. •*RSVP: Sarah Sze,* a contemporary installation, incorporates the architectural structures of the MFA's West Wing. Through May 3.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time* is a multimedia show that runs through Feb. 1. •*Med Tech: Beyond the Cutting Edge* explores the latest innovations in medical technology. Through February. •*The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt* is the largest selection of artifacts ever loaned by Egypt for an exhibition in North America. The Museum is the only northeastern U.S. stop for this extraordinary exhibition of Egyptian antiquities, which includes a life-size reconstruction of a pharaoh's tomb. Through March 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •Dana Chandler shows her work in *Denial, Reparations, Installations and Assemblages.* Jan. 19-March 16.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Rd., Lexington (781-861-6559). Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business* displays women's role in the world of business. Through Feb. 23. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community; Lexington Alarm'd;* and *Made in Massachusetts* are ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (978-745-9500). www.pem.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm. $10 adults, $8 seniors and students; for children under 16, free.* •*Shorelines,* ongoing, explores the impact of sea and shore on the lives of communities around the world. •Korean photographer Bohnchang Koo presents his images in a self-titled show. Through Feb. 18.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-495-2248). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* preserves hieroglyphic and iconographic information from original Mesoamerican monuments. Through Feb. 1. •Tapa cloth collections from the Pacific Islands are displayed in *Embedded Nature.* Through Jan. 31. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus's blueprint collection. Through March.

Galleries
FINE ART

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The work of gallery artists is featured through Feb. 20.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Reed Kay shows his oil paintings through Jan. 8. •Gyorgy Kepes and colleagues present *Photographs from the 1930s to the 1980s.* Jan. 11-Feb. 5.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Margaret Gerdine presents *New Landscapes,* a collection of paintings of expansive horizons. Through Jan. 30.

Art Institute of Boston
700 Beacon St., Boston (617-585-6676). www.lesley.edu. *Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*WordSpace: Experiments in Visual Language* features design pieces. Through Jan. 15.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Julian Opie presents *Sculptures and Gouaches.* Through Feb. 5.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Six self-taught artists present artwork in *Go Figure.* Through March 1.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-4672). Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 1-5pm. •*American Perspective: Photographs from the Polaroid Collection* shows through Jan. 26.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thurs.-Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment.* •Jorg Fraske, Keith Maddy, Isabel Rile and Nancy Murphy Spicer show their new works in *Surrounded.* Through Feb. 1.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Thu., 12-9pm; Fri.-Sun., 12-6pm.* •Portia Brockway presents *The Creative Spirit*, a collection of photos and performances. Through Jan. 31.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Sun., 12-11:30pm. •*Oliver Jackson/Marty Ehrlich: Making Place* displays through Jan. 19.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* •*Contemporary Glass Sculpture from Japan* shows through Jan. 11. •*The Glass Surface*, a group show, is on display Jan. 11-Feb. 15.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •John Evans displays his New England seascapes. Through Feb. 2.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •Leo J. Meissner's works display through Jan. 12. •*Southwestern Works on Paper. Artwork by Jack Kramer* and *Face to Face*, a show of portraits, displays Jan. 13-March 1.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •*Jing-hua Gao Dalia: Chinese Brush Poetry* shows through Feb. 1. •*Watercolor Traditions II* shows Jan. 9-Feb. 1.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, South Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •The gallery presents an ongoing exhibition of works by Jeff Eldrege, Dan McCole and Norman Crump.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing Italian Murano glass sculpture exhibition.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •Ivo Gretener shows photography. Through Jan. 31. •John Martino displays his black and white street photography in *At a Moment's Notice*. Through Feb. 1.

808 Gallery
808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-457-8700). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 12pm-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. •Hugh O'Donnell displays his paintings and drawings. Through Feb. 2.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm and by appointment. •Sharon Engelstein shows her inflatable and digital sculpture. Through March 1.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art from paintings to textiles and ceramics.

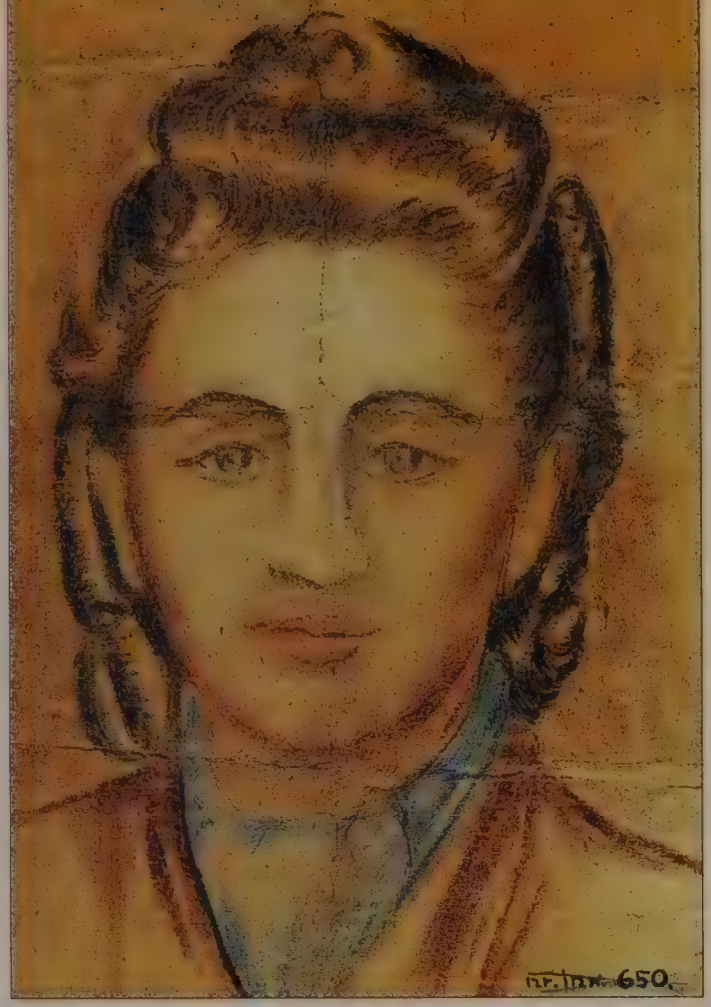
Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •Ralph Mercer and Daniel McManus display their photographs in *Images of Death Valley*. Through Jan. 26.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Esther Solondz shows her work in *They Left Their Clothes by the Water*. Jan. 10-Feb. 1.

Gateway Gallery
52 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-1577). www.gatewayarts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Fri., 9am-4:30pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Imaginary Constructions*, a group show of architecturally influenced drawings, paintings and sculpture, displays Jan. 21-March 22.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The gallery, displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints.



Zofia Stepien-Bator's *Portrait of Mala Zimetbaum* shows as part of the Davis Museum and Cultural Center's *Art and Auschwitz* exhibition.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Amanda Means presents *Polaroid Photos*. Through Feb. 11.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •Art Deco-style posters show in *Timeless Beauties, 1890-1939*. Through Jan. 31.

Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 8:30-1pm. •*The New Language* shows paintings by Greg A. Berstein, John A. Crowley and Mike Hammecker. Through Jan. 27.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-6pm. •John Provenzano, Jacob Kulin and Tristan Govignon display their paintings and sculptures. Jan. 9-Feb. 2.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •The next exhibition begins Jan. 25.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •Karen Ganz and Peter Buchman display their collages, paintings and construction pieces in a two-person show. Through Jan. 14.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Great Gifts, Small Packages* presents gifts for the holiday season. Through Jan. 15. •*Form and Function* features furniture, mirrors, rugs and other functional art. Through March 14.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markartgallery.com. *Wed. and Fri., 4pm-7pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Doug Adams and Stephen Springer Davis show their prints and pastels in a joint exhibition, *Places Near and Far*. Jan. 11-Feb. 21.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Adolph Gottlieb and Joseph Solman present *Two of the Ten: Works* Jan. 11-Feb. 5.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed., 12-5pm; Thurs.-Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •The next exhibition, *Boom Box: The Art of Sound*, shows Jan. 17-March 9.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm, Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •A National Juried Competition for Emerging Artists takes place Jan. 9-Feb. 2.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Sun.-Wed., 11am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 11am-11pm. •*More Small Wonders* opens Jan. 11.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Mildred Howard presents *Do We Have the Right to Remain Silent* in Gallery I •Duane Slick presents *Birth of Coyote* in Gallery II. Jan. 11-Feb. 15.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •*New Year/New Work*, a selection of work by gallery artists, shows Jan. 10-Feb. 1.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-778-5265). Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. •Eleven artists show their work in *The Fall Line: Intuition and Necessity in Contemporary Abstract Drawing*. Through Jan. 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri, 11:30am-5pm.* •Dozens of local artists present artwork of all types. Through Jan. 31. •Open mike night for poetry or music takes place every Wed., 8pm. •The Cosmic Spelunker Theater, a mime and poetry troupe, performs Jan. 17, 8pm.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston. com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Twenty artists show their paintings, drawings and photographs in *Winter Salon*. Through Jan. 11. •Eileen Gillespie presents *New Drawings* Jan. 16-Feb. 22.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Phil Rogers shows his pottery in *Form and Spirit* Jan. 11-Feb. 5.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Call for gallery hours.* •Michael Ronnen Safdie shows his work in a self-titled show. Through Jan. 31.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Examples of lithographs, etchings and linocuts by artists such as Braque, Chagall and Picasso will be on display. Through Feb. 28.

Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento St., Cambridge (617-349-6287). Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. •Jane Sherrill shows her paintings and sculpture in *Human*. Through Jan. 31.

Sherman Gallery
George Sherman Union, 775 Comm. Ave, Second Floor, Boston (617-353-3349). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. www.bu.edu/cfa. *Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm.* •Recent BU graduate Alfredo Gisholt shows his paintings in *Alfredo Gisholt: Flowers for a Revolution*. Through Feb. 7.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Our Cups Runneth Over* features ceramic cups by artists from across the country. Through Jan. 19.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). Tue. and by appointment; Wed.-Sat., 12-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Nancy Mitton shows her new paintings. Through Jan. 18.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (617-423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. www.space12gallery.com. *Tues.-Sat., 12-8pm; Wed., 12-9pm.* •DJ Mona showcases her paintings and music in *Mona 1* Jan. 15-Feb. 1.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •Christina Keating shows her acrylics in *Mexico*, Christine Warren displays pastels in *Provence* and William St. George shows recent oil paintings in *Island Visions*. Through Feb. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •The paintings of Aiden Lassell Ripley are showcased in a self-titled exhibition. Through Jan. 31. •A collection of small works titled *Little Gems* is on display through Jan. 15

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-2182). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7pm.* •Photographer Laurie Hoffman displays her work in a program entitled *American Soundscapes*, a collaboration with Boston-based band, Devil Gods. Jan. 17, 8pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9:30am-5:30pm.* •Catherine Pedemonti presents her photographs in A *Faces of Survivors: Voices Reclaimed*. Through Jan. 30.

The Jackson Homestead Museum
527 Washington St., Newton (617-796-1450). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun., 2pm-5pm. $1-$5. •*Classic New England Churches: Photography by Steve Rosenthal* showcases the beauty of churches throughout the historical New England landscape. Through Jan. 26.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Photographs by participants in its NESOP Workshop Program will be on display through Jan. 30.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm and by appointment.* •Nubar Alexanian presents his photographs in a retrospective exhibition. Through Feb. 15.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blandford. Tue., Wed. and Fri.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*American Perspectives: Photographs from the Polaroid Collection* showcases the evolution of Polaroid techniques from the '50s to '90s. Through Jan. 26. •Photographers Lynne Weinstein and Evie Lovett show their work in *Two Views*. Through Jan. 12.

Sarah Sze pus the finishing touches on her site-specific installation at the Museum of Fine Arts.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. **Nicholas Basbanes**, author of *A Gentle Madness* and *Patience & Fortitude* reads from his newest guide to book-collecting, *Among the Gently Mad: Strategies for the Book-Hunter in the 21st Century.*

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 6:30pm. Free. **Alexander Chee** reads from his debut novel, *Edinburgh*, the story of a Korean-American boy whose youth is corrupted when his choir director molests him and his friends.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 6pm. Free. Edgar Award-winner **Thomas Perry** reads from his 13th novel, *Dead Aim*, in which a man accidentally witnesses a suicide attempt.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:45pm. Free. Boston resident **J.G. Hayes** reads, discusses and signs copies of *This Thing Called Courage: South Boston Stories*, his collection about the lives of gay men in the predominately Irish-Catholic neighborhood of South Boston.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. In her latest novel, *Child of My Heart*, National Book Award-winner **Alice McDermott** tells the story of a 15-year old babysitter, whose parents moved her to East Hampton when they realized her potential to "marry up."

Newtonville Books & Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Lewis Robinson** reads from his debut collection, *Officer Friendly and Other Stories*, all of which take place around a dark seaside town in Maine.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Darshak Sanghavi** reads from *A Map of the Child: A Pediatrician's Tour of the Body*, which discusses the advances and limitations of modern-day medicine. The book describes what can go wrong in each part of a child's body and what medical science can do about it. Sanghavi is a pediatric cardiologist at Children's Hospital in Boston.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Harvard law professor **Randall Kennedy**, author of the controversial book *Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word*, discusses his newest cultural anthropology book, *Interracial Intimacies: Sex, Marriage, Identity and Adoption*, which addresses popular views on modern-day interracial relationships.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). 7:30pm. Free. **Allan Hobson**, a psychiatry professor at Harvard and sleep research expert, reads from *Dreaming: An Introduction to the Science of Sleep*, in which he sets out to disprove Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams* and explain the difference between dreaming and waking mental activity.

Edgar Award winner Thomas Perry reads from his 13th novel, *Dead Aim*, Jan. 13 at Kate's Mystery Books.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Suzanne Bender** discusses her new psychotherapy book, *Becoming a Therapist: What Do I Say and Why?*, which she co-authored with Edward Messner. The book features sample therapist-patient dialogues and other guidelines for those who work in mental health disciplines.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Environmental author **Deborah Cramer** reads from *Great Waters: An Atlantic Passage*, a history of the Atlantic ocean, in which she warns of the consequences of abusing our natural resources.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Tufts professor and MacArthur Prize Fellow **Jay Cantor** follows a group of mostly Jewish friends involved in the radicalism of the '60s in his newest novel, *Great Neck*.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. PEN Discovery Award winner **Risa Miller** reads and signs copies of her new novel, *Welcome to Heavenly Heights*, chronicling a group of American Jews who leave their comfortable homes to live on a settlement on Israel's West Bank.

ONGOING

Blacksmith House Poetry (Mondays)
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. The series exhibits diverse contemporary poetry and fiction.

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

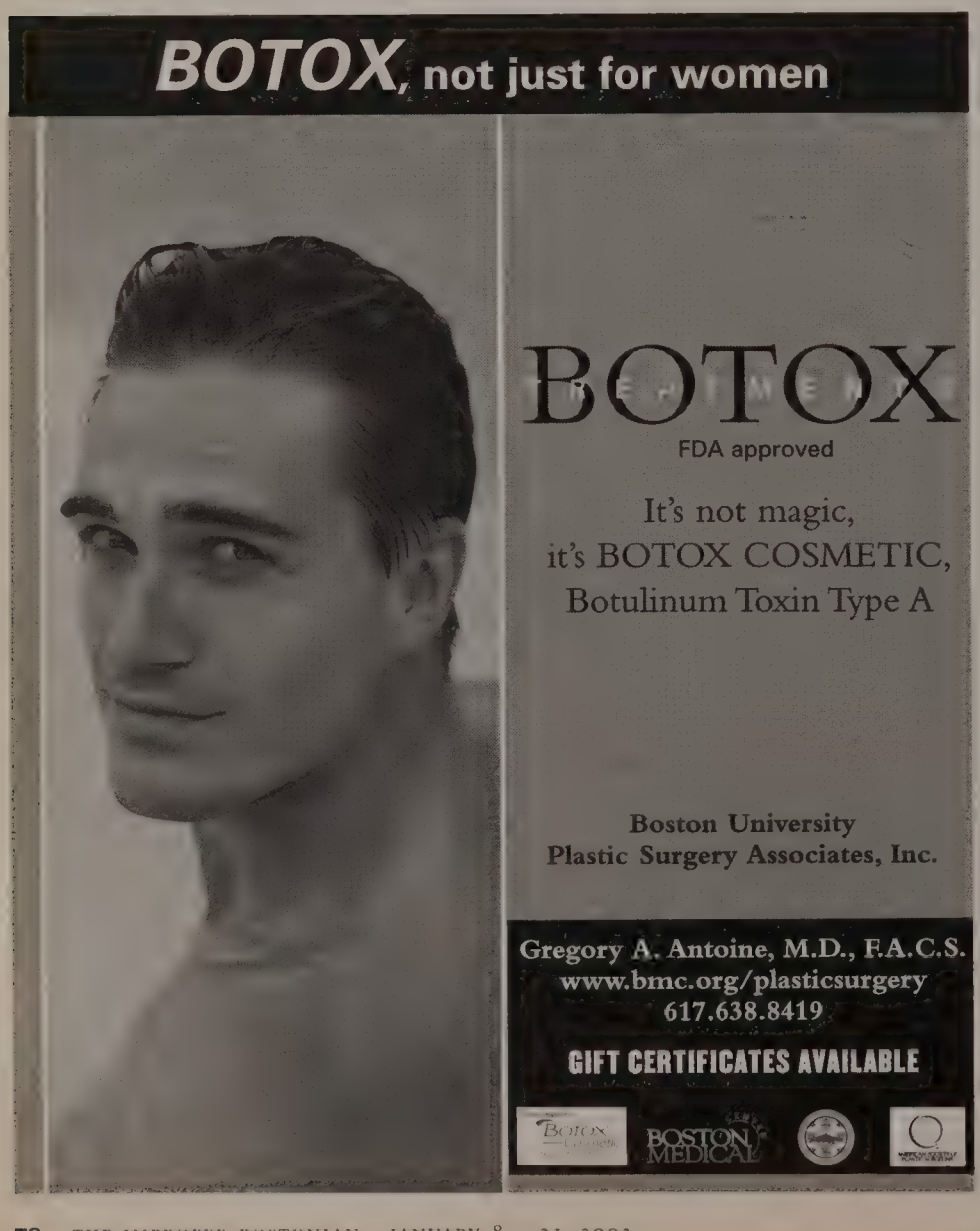
Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 9pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity at the open mike.



education

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by mail, fax (617-859-1446) or e-mail (education@improper.com). Include dates, times, location and a brief description of the event. Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.

CLASSES/LECTURES

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery
DoubleTree Guest Suites, 550 Winter St., Waltham (781-684-0880). www.masstel.org. *7:30-10am.* Many companies are planning to implement business continuity and disaster recovery plans for their organization. Learn about companies' strategies to ensure continuity of service.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

Greek Vase-Painting
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-367-9300). MBTA: E Green line to Museum of Fine Arts. 2pm. Free. Learn how the Greeks combined pottery and art to record history and myth.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

Creative Thinking and Problem Solving
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5:45pm. $39. Review problem-solving and decision-making techniques that will enable you to think clearly during on-the-job crises.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

Conservation Innovation in America
Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-496-0049). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. **James Levitt**, author of *Conservation in the Internet Age*, explores the impact of new technologies on open space and biodiversity, and the ways rapid changes in the Internet Age may offer context for landmark conservation initiatives.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

Methods in Contemporary Archaeology
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500), MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 7pm. **Dian Craig Patch**, senior research associate in the Department of Egyptian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, discusses the meticulous methods of archaeology and the findings of the recent excavation of Lady Sitwerut's tomb.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

Genealogical Workshop
Regional Archives, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham (866-406-2379). 6:30pm. Free. Participants learn how to locate and read a genealogical record. This class focuses on the census from 1790-1870.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

Duck, Duck, Goose?
Back Bay Fens, Rose Garden Area (across from 69 Park Drive), Boston (617-635-7383). 1pm. Free. A park ranger scopes out Boston's newest waterfowl visitors.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

Modern Art at the MFA
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 2pm. **Maea Brandt** leads a tour of modern art at the MFA.

MONDAY, JAN. 20

A Life Without Headaches
Harvard Vanguard, 147 Milk Street, First Floor, Post Office Square, Boston (617-723-2711). 12pm. Free. **Dr. John Beneski** discusses the true cause of migraine headaches and a variety of solutions to end the pain.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

Can I Really Afford to Retire?
Newton Public Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). 7pm. Financial experts Jim Thompson and Susan Kaplan discuss how people approaching retirement can weather bad times.

Dale Carnegie Course in Effective Leadership and Communication Skills
Sheraton Boston, 39 Dalton St., Boston (781-894-2700). Tuesdays beginning Jan. 21 (12 weeks), 6pm. $1,59 This business development class works on communication and people skills, leadership, control over str and worry, and self-confidence.

you want to be listed
bmit information, including telephone numbers and near-T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446), mail or e-mail aylesbian@improper.com).

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

ria (Wednesdays)
6 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins pro-essive house for Lust, the new Wednesday night gay d lesbian dance party. 10pm, $10, 21+.

valon (Sundays)
Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: een Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have nked out Sunday night parties for the boys of ston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate nce floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin edman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

xis (Mondays)
Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: een Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a ıg show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. ı amateur drag show is held the last Monday of ery month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

ızz (Fridays, Saturdays)
Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green ne to Boylston. •Fridays, Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava r, presents "Anything Goes." DJ Thom Delahunt ns house at this evening for women. *w.circuitgirl.com.* 10pm, $10, 21+. •On Saturdays zz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning pular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house d trance—a pool room and a lounge keep the men sy until at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

tyGirl Caffé (Daily)
4 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). 3TA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am-9pm; Sat., am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) d-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and erated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for loung-g and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

ub Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
9 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.bcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., :30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This lth End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and un-rusive music in the front room or video entertain-nt in the back at Moonshine. •On Tuesdays, catch the tro Rewind, 8:30pm. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ n Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic sic videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with Cliff Cunningham. No cover, all ages.

do's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). 3TA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay wd frequents this bar to check out clips from the lat-music scene as well as classic movies—compiled by bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jox. No cover, 21+.

gle (Daily)
0 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., n-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Or-ge Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighbor-od bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

itz (Daily)
Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Or-ge Line to Back Bay. The folks here are really ndly—and really into sports. DIRECTV is set up h screens scattered about and Fritz is home base to oftball league. Sun.-Fri., 12pm; Sat., 11am. No ver, 21+.

offrey's Café-Bar
0 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: een Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-11pm daily; open until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers 52 ieties of wine and midpriced bistro fare. Breakfast erved daily until 3pm.

llywood at the Ekco Lounge aturdays)
Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange e to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has two ors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

cques Cabaret
Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green e to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd d mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fridays d Saturdays feature live music. •Cabaret drag show. on.-Sat., 10:30pm; Sun., 10pm. $5 weekdays; $7 ekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu. and Sat.: Avalon bar-nder "Miss Chris" performs. 10:30pm, $5-$8. un.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by amond Dunhill. 10pm, $5-$8.

D CREDIT

The Theater Offensive's guerrilla acting group, Dagger, gathers Wednesdays at the CMAC.

Machine (Wednesdays-Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Curve Wed.: DJ Joe Bermudez spins house. 10pm-2am, $9, 19+; $7, 21+. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Manhunt Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Sun.: Trix lesbian night features DJ Mix Mistress spinning house, hip-hop and Latin. 10pm-2am, $5, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays and Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thursdays is Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $10, 19+; $8, 21+. •Liquid Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $10, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top 40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch. •Thu.: Primal Dance. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Groove, 10pm-2am, $3, 19+. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop, $5, 21+. •Fri.: Vibe with DJ Susan Esthera spinning tribal, $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:45pm. Boston resident **J. G. Hayes** reads, discusses and signs copies of *This Thing Called Courage: South Boston Stories*, his collection of stories about the lives of gay men in the predominately Irish-Catholic neighborhood of South Boston.

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Gender Crash
Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St, Jamaica Plain (617-524-6373). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. Jan. 9, 7:30pm. $7. This bi-monthly open mike is for poets, writers and journal-keepers from the bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgendered community.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian authors.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos. •Jan. 9, 6:30pm. **Alexander Chee** reads from his acclaimed novel *Edinburgh*.

SHOWS & EVENTS

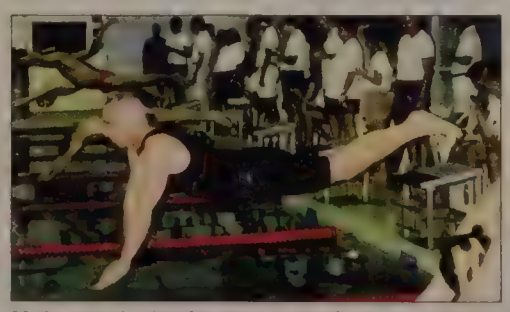
Out & About Club
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., (617-266-0800). Jan. 15, 6pm reception. $14-$64. Members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community are invited to mingle with fellow theatergoers at the Huntington Theatre Company's production of *The Blue Demon*, the story of a Jew, a Christian and a Muslim who stand trial for the murder of the sultan's storyteller. A post-show reception offers the chance to meet the artistic team.

Transgendered Film Festival
Crowne Plaza, 2 Forbes Road, Woburn (781-891-9325). Jan. 16-18, 12pm-12am. $10. The Tiffany Club of New England presents its first fundraising event of 2003. Keynote speaker Grace Sterling Stowell, a counselor and advocate in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities, leads the film festival. Proceeds benefit the transgendered community.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl-Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This Boston bowling league, offering a friendly social activity for gays and lesbians in the Boston area, meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets every second Tuesday of the month for a discussion with bisexual men.



Make a splash with the gay swimteam LANES.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss heritage, culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends. Meetings are Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston Glass Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Daily, 3-8pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group for people who think they might be bisexual meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create performances representing women's perspectives. E-mail *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, national hotline is confidential and provides information and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. A group for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles and their partners convenes every first and third Tuesday of the month.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians who want to get together and enjoy board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing, and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Assets New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim team.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to organize projects, which include making schools and communities safe.

body&mind

Advice to Contributors *Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to* bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Bridges for Spirit to Cross Over: A Multimedia Ecstatic Dance Event

In2iT Productions, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-369-9224 or 978-509-6834). www.ecstaticspirit.com. *Jan. 11, 8-10:30pm. Sliding scale, $12-$15.* Ecstatic dance is a form of active meditation or prayer where rhythm and music take the mind into unusually creative states of awareness. This workshop and event combines mythical and spiritual themes, world beat music spun by DJ Kiva, video projections by VJ Beez, interactive art installations and participatory ritual theater.

Dances of Universal Peace

Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 17, 7:30-9:30pm. Requested donation, $6-$10. Join hands in simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world.

Free Wellness Classes

In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Norwood (781-762-9281). www.inthemoment.org. *Pilates: Jan. 9, 7:30-8:30pm. Hula dancing: Jan. 10, 6:30-7:30pm. Kundalini yoga: Jan. 13, 5:15-6:30pm. Free.* Try out different healing modes. Pilates is a type of exercise designed to build muscle strength, improve flexibility and fix posture. Hula dancing is both graceful and spiritual. Finally, Kundalini yoga combines stretching, postures, chanting, breath work and meditation to help heal the body emotionally and physically.

Full-Moon Meditation

Theosophical Society, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *Jan. 18, 7 pm. Donations accepted.* Full-moon meditations are an opportunity for group meditation and spiritual appreciation.

LECTURES

Balanced Eating for a Balanced Life

The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Jan. 18, 2-5pm. $35.* Does your demanding lifestyle impact how healthfully you eat? It *is* possible to eat healthful foods that support your lifestyle and to prepare them with minimal fuss. Learn about foods that will give you energy and reduce cravings, and also sample some pick-me-up snacks.

Find Your Passion, Hear Your Call

All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline (617-739-5353). www.yoursoulswork.com. *MBTA: C Green line to Dean Road. Jan. 15, 7:30pm. Free.* With the pressures of everyday life, it can be hard to discover your "life's calling"—that which comes from your vital and creative self. Jason E. Smith, a depth-oriented career counselor, explores the ancient idea of one's calling and discusses how to discover what it is.

Five Secrets to Looking and Feeling Younger

147 Milk St., First Floor, Post Office Square, Boston (617-723-2711). Jan. 13, 12pm. Free. This workshop provides five sensible and effective actions you can take to lose weight, increase energy and improve your overall state of well-being.

Intro to Feng Shui

Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Jan. 17, 7-8:45pm. $25.* Lidia Scher, director of the Boston School of Feng Shui, explains how the ancient Chinese practice of harmonizing yourself with your environment may help you achieve health, wealth and happiness. Find out how to work with the flow of life energy, called Chi, and learn how colors, shapes, sounds, smells, textures and object placement may affect well-being.

Intro to Reiki

Brookline Adult and Community Education, 103 Bennett St., Brookline (617-730-2700). Jan. 18, 9am-3pm. $70. Reiki is a Japanese word meaning universal life-force energy. This healing method is an ancient hands-on technique that focuses on treating problems physically, emotionally and spiritually. Reiki is not tied to any one spiritual doctrine. It's said to be beneficial when used in conjunction with other forms of medicine. Learn about our anatomy, the Chakra system, how to administer treatments and how to maintain a healthy low-stress lifestyle.

Watch and learn ecstatic dance Jan. 11 at the Bridges for Spirit to Cross Over event.

WORKSHOPS

Equanimity Workshop

Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge. www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Jan. 18, 10am-4pm.* Equanimity is maintaining a balanced heart in the midst of change. Pleasure and pain, gain and loss, fame and disrepute, praise and blame are experiences we all encounter. Equanimity can make it possible to respond to these experiences with less reactivity and more wisdom.

New Year: New Vision

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Jan. 16, 7-9pm. $35.* The dark winter tends to encourage reflection and refocusing, but resolutions are a tricky thing. By examining your life and identifying personal resources, this workshop can help you develop clear vision and set realistic goals for the new year.

Psychic Development

Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Jan. 14, 7:45-9:30pm. $29.* Learn to communicate with spirit guides and departed loved ones. Develop the ability to read auras and discover how to channel healing energy and more.

Reiki Clinic

Arlington Reiki Associates, 366 Mass Ave., Suite 304, Arlington (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. *Jan. 10, 6:30-9:30pm. $10.* Experience a relaxing Reiki energy healing treatment at a discounted cost.

Restoring Meaning and Purpose

Plymouth (508-224-8818). www.roadnottaken.com. *Jan. 11. $75. Call for address and to preregister.* Personal coaches Janet Parks and Bradford Glass host this day-long workshop to help you connect with your values, figure out new possibilities, simplify your life and learn what's holding you back.

Steps to a Terrific Life

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 18, 10am-4pm. $83.* Achieving happiness can be hard work. Come and play games that may help you be happier, or at least help you enjoy sadness. Learn to laugh or cry about anything.

Winter Cooking for Stronger Kidneys

Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). Jan. 19, 2-5pm. $55. Learn how to prepare meals for greater vitality. Strengthening kidneys is said to strengthen hearing, bones, teeth, the lower back and the bladder. It also aids the function of the adrenal glands, which can help ease stress and anxiety.

Winter Iyengar Yoga Workshop

BKS Iyengar Center, 240A Elm St., Suite 23, Somerville (617-666-9551). www.yoganow.net. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Jan. 11, 1-5pm. $55.* Lou Hoyt, who established the first Iyengar studio in Memphis, Tenn., has taught yoga for many years.

ONGOING

Beginner's Yoga

Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-739-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or Bus Lines 57, 64, 66 and 501. Wed., 6:30-8pm. Sat., 10-11:30am. $14-$20.* Try the beginner's class at this attractive and peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time. Free parking is available, as are a variety of other classes.

Zen Insight

Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (617-576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. *Mon., 6:45pm. Free.* If you've had a hard Monday, drop-in on this meditation session designed to get you back to the center of your being.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

The Blue Demon

Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). Wed. and Thu., 7:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Feb. 2. $12-$62. Director Darko Tresnjak takes the audience through the lives of a Jew, a Muslim and a Christian who are all accused of killing the Sultan's storyteller.

Children's Hour Programs: Bamidele

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Jan. 20, 10:30am. Free. Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers, whose music, dance and choreography is flavored with African, Caribbean and Brazilian beats.

Puppet Showplace Theatre

32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. •Jan. 9, 10:30am, ages 3-6: *Fairy Circus* by Tanglewood Marionettes. •Jan. 11-12, 1 and 3pm, ages 4-10: *Raccoon Tales* by Paul Vincent Davis of Puppet Arts. •Jan. 15, 10:30am, ages 3-6: *Eeyore's Birthday* by Magpie Puppets. •Jan. 16, 10:30am, ages 3-6: *Fox Tales* by Blue Moon Puppets. •Jan. 18-19, 1 and 3pm, ages 5-12: *Animalia* by Hobey Ford.

Theatre 1 Children's Theatre

731 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-859-7480). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *Jan. 11, 18 and 25, 2pm. $8, $5 for children ages 3-12.* Theatre 1 creates improvisational plays, scenes, stories and songs from audience suggestions.

THINGS TO DO

The Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30pm, 6:15pm and 7:15pm. •Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts. •Jan. 11, 12-2pm: Kitchen Science. •Jan. 12, 11am-4pm: Japanese New Year. Kids can make traditional Japanese arts and crafts; dance with the *shishi,* or lion; beat taiko drums; pound rice; watch judo demonstrations and participate in a traditional tea ceremony. •Jan. 18: Critter Day. Learn what it takes to care for a pet. •Jan. 20, 10am-5pm: Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Listen to stories of freedom and identity by storyteller Derek Burrows at 11am and 12pm.

Micro-Mysteries

Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-2341). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 17, 9am-12pm. Grades 2-3. Children use hand-lenses, microscopes and micro-video cameras to explore the unseen world. Solve micro-mysteries such as how a bee stings and why pollen makes you sneeze.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $8-$11 Omni: $8, $6 children. •Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-12pm: the Museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits with live animals.

Newton Free Library

Druker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1370). •Mondays, 9:45am: storytime for 2-year-olds; 7pm: poetry writing workshops for children ages 8 and older •Tuesdays, 10:30am: preschool sing-a-longs •Wednesdays, 11am: 3- and 4-year-old storytimes •Thursdays, 3:30pm: 5-year-old storytime; 7pm, ages 4 and older: pajama storytime; 7:30pm, ages 8 and older: play reading. •Jan. 14, 3:30pm, ages 5 and older: World Cultures Program. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, children listen to stories about people around the world who have worked for peace. Create a craft and share a treat.

Take a Winter Walk at Gore Place

Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-2798). Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm, beginning Jan. 21. Ages 3-9. $4. With activity packs and brightly colored snowshoes, children and adults search for animal tracks, make a pine cone bird feeder and visit the animals on the farm.

sports

Students get pointers at the Boston Fencing clu

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mai Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sport improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subu stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the leagu event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listi cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Celtics

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849
Jan. 15, 7pm vs. Atlanta Hawks
Jan. 17, 7:30pm vs. Indiana Pacers

Boston Bruins

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 617-931-2222
Jan. 11, 7pm vs. Toronto Maple Leafs
Jan. 13, 7pm vs. Pittsburgh Penguins
Jan. 18, 7pm vs. Columbus Blue Jackets
Jan. 20, 1pm vs. Washington Capitals

Events

BSSC Sunday River Ski Trip

Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-407 www.bssc.com. *Jan. 10-12. Transportation leaves f Newton at 5:30pm and Newburyport at 6:45pm. $3 non-members add $30.* This weekend ski trip inclu transportation, a two-day lift ticket, two breakfast Saturday candlelight dinner and lodging at the Bet Inn and Country Club.

Cigar Dinner with Luis Tiant

Sample cigars, eat a four-course wild game din and get the chance to hang out with the one-and-o former Red Sox pitcher and cigar afficionado L Tiant. Also includes post-reception cognacs. *Bay Tower, 60 State St., Boston (617-723-166* www.baytower.com. *Jan. 13, 6pm. $150, all-in sive with cigars.*

Glide or Stride

Take a cross-country skiing excursion through on Boston's largest parks. Bring your own skis, but if weather doesn't cooperate, a pair of boots will suff as the "glide" will instead become a guided hi *Franklin Park Golf Course Parking Lot. Circuit Dr Boston. (617-635-7383).* www.cityofboston.g calendar. *11am-12pm. Free.*

To Play

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball

(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round bask ball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Bro line and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcon

Never Too Late Basketball

(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults o ages practice and work out in locations through Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club

125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-171 www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amat Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club

110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, even and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfenc

ub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as foot-
ork, conditioning and bladework.

LOOR HOCKEY

oed Floor Hockey
SC. Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-9-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

OOTBALL

oed Indoor Flag Football
SC. Games are played in Revere (617-789-4070, . 242). Sign up individually or with a group of ends.

RUGBY

oston Irish Wolfhounds RFC
17-254-9732).
vw.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and u. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural nter in Canton.* New and experienced players are lcome.

oston Rugby Club
17-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is look- for players for its national-level team.

oston Women's Rugby Football Club
81-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new yers for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

ystic River Rugby Club
. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mystic gby.com. This Division I men's rugby club wel- mes both new and experienced players who want to y a high level of competitive rugby.

d Gold Rugby Club
17-742-0678). www.oldgold rugby.com. *Tue. and u., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experi- ed players are welcome.

UNNING

oston Hash

ouse Harriers
rious locations (617-499-4835). www.boston sh.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year- nd.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing wdy songs, then consider joining these self-pro- imed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

KATING

y State Skating School
31-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. e nonprofit Bay State Skating School offers ting classes for children and adults at 15 MDC ks around the Greater Boston area. So strap on se blades, hit the ice and be sure to tip your mboni driver.

OCCER

SC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
7-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, mbridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Indi- uals and teams are welcome.

OLLEYBALL

gard Volleyball League
iversity Park, Cambridge (617-577-9100). Wed. hts. The Asgard, Newcastle and Forest City operty Management host a weekly volleyball gue for Cambridge businesses.

SC Volleyball League
ton Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). .-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in mbridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. ms and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' ke their way to glory.

RESTLING

ston Union Wrestling Club
7-868-8379). bostonwrestling @yahoo.com. ateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill els. Weekly practices held year-round.

e Boston Ski & Sports Club hits Sunday River . 10-12.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri., 10am-9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30am-6pm. $7.50.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/U Mass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm: Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(888-412-BIGS). Info. sessions on Tue. and Wed., 6pm; Thu., 12:15pm; and every other Saturday, 11am.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and mentors needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work in Cambridge public schools as tutors, aides and mentors.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elderly.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

The Museum of Natural History at Harvard University

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed for the Parental Stress Line.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111, ext. 17). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996, ext. 30). Battered women's agency seeks volunteers.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, groceries program and office work.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

VNA Care Network
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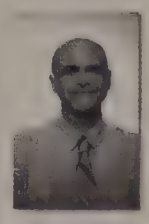

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Sincerely, Bob Azrak, Ed.D.

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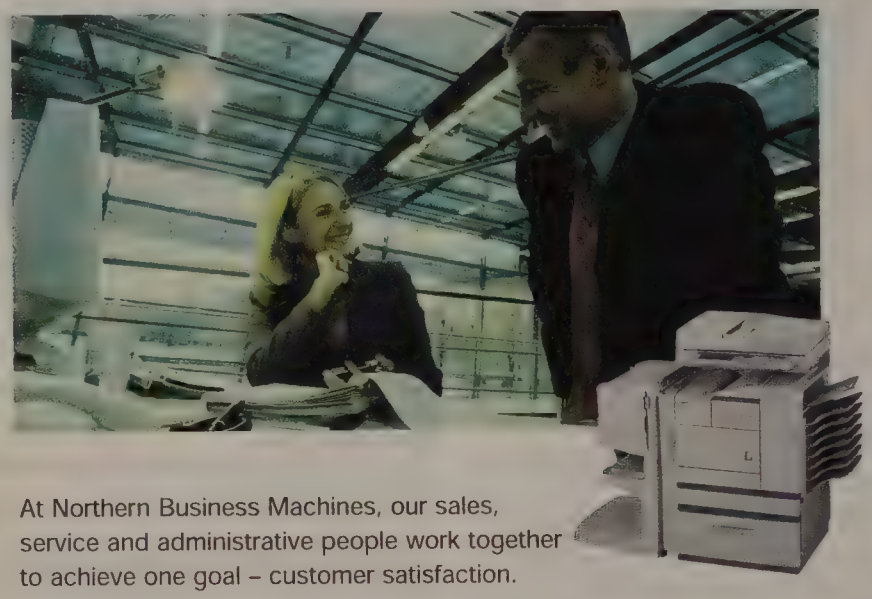

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Ri Rah

November 23, An Tua Nua (RiRa's) on Beacon St. You: very tall guy, wearing an off-white sweater with some sort of small green design on the front and a button-down shirt underneath. At one point, you took off both to reveal a black T-shirt. You must have sweat off about 10 pounds in all those clothes. You kept hanging out by the back bathrooms near the DJ for some reason, which I later figured was a great place to check out the crowd. Me: Girl with dark brown hair with red streaks in it, wearing a black patterned shirt and black pants. We walked by each other at so many points during the night and I wanted to compliment you on your crazy, curly brown hair but held back. I'd like to buy you a drink sometime... at a different bar.
—cant_find_a_sweaterman@hotmail.com

Turkey Trotter

Thanksgiving morning in Somerville, postrace. You were wearing a yellow and black windbreaker and having coffee in Dunkin' Donuts with a man, woman and cute toddler in a puffy snowsuit. I was at a nearby table with two fellow female runners. We exchanged several long glances. I'd love to hear from you to discover if we're running at the same pace.
—Racer374

Yet Another Note on "T" Etiquette

This letter is directed to the guy who was talking very loudly on the D-Line last Nov. 20 about having quit his job as a physician because he wasn't paid enough! You evidently have some job in health care management that pays so much that the $200K+ salary you had before looks like peanuts. In fact, you loudly stated that you'd have to take a 60 percent cut in pay if you were to return to your previous occupation. Do you have any idea what that sounds like? I'm sure I'm not the only person who's actually unemployed (laid off because the company for which I worked had financial problems) and will never make that kind of money even if I find another job. It was evident that the woman with whom you were holding the conversation, who seemed to be a friend of your parents, was not impressed by your attitude, either. My point is, I really don't care that you're egocentric, immature, and clearly oblivious to the financial status of most of the world, but I do care that you're interfering with my right to read or nap or whatever on the train ride home (from my pathetically paying temp job!). So please, keep it down next time!
—Thanks!

Red Hot Tamale

I saw you driving onto the highway, cruising down Soldiers Field Road in your blue Cabrio. Your hair, under your Red Sox hat, framed your perfect face, and as you danced alone to your music, I fell in love. Marry me, you red-haired vixen...
—tamalelover2003@yahoo.com

Let's Make the Third Time a Charm

The first time I saw you, I was jogging through the Public Gardens this spring. You sat in the shade, underneath a tree, reading a *Herald*. You have brown hair and dark brown, intent eyes. I stopped my run and pretended to stretch out momentarily and watched your cute smile form on your face when you read something funny. You recognized a passerby, and she called you "Vinny." I realized I had stopped running, didn't want to look obvious or foolish so I continued. Months later, as fate would hopefully have it, I bumped into you again, this time at Emily's. I had kicked myself about not approaching you that day in the park and this time, I took a grand approach. I was the nervous blonde that spilled some of my drink on you when we bumped into each other. To my surprise, you weren't mad but smirked and were very polite about the whole thing. Did we have a moment, while we stood there, face to face in smiling silence? I blinked and you were gone with a pack of friends....We should met for coffee and I promise, I'll offer more than a nervous grin this time.
—smittenkitten97@yahoo.com

To My Punk Rock Girlfriend

We met one night in July at the BHB. My world was flipped upside down for the better. I could not be any happier and I thank you for it. I am the luckiest man on Earth.
—AD

There We Were

Packed in like cattle on the C train going into Boston. 8:30am. Rush hour. The "Ba Humbug" feeling of people. There I was, carrying my large bag and immobile amongst everyone, without access to something to hold on to. Each stop was a struggle. When standing in the middle of the train, with nothing to hold on to, I tried to ride with the velocity of the train. Today was not that easy. You were standing right next to me trying to avoid all eye contact with everyone because it was too close for comfort during that ride. Someone had the audacity to push through the crowd toward me as the train was moving; we were at a crossroads. It was like playing chicken. Who was going to win this battle? The train was coming to a stop, slow and strong. I lost my balance trying to step aside. In essence, I lost the chicken fight. I then exclaimed for you to help me stay standing or I was going to fall all over the train. You grabbed my jacket, I think, and I clutched onto your coat with a near death grip. You never said a word but laughed when I exclaimed, "I didn't want to be that person on a train....geesh!" I want to say thank you for letting me grab on to your coat before I fell on my keister. You helped by reaching out to me and I appreciated that. Thanks.
—The multicolored scarf

Shy Guy

I think you know I would like to go on a date with you and that's why I haven't seen you around Charlestown anymore. No need to be shy. You: 5'8", blond and rugged, Lowell area home base, and the manifestation of all my dirty thoughts... Me: 5'6" brick house, brunette, professional, looking to ea you alive and meet up with you aga perhaps across from the Museum o Science or at your work site? Or at my job? We have gone out socially once, and you were so outrageous and social, I need to find out more about you and your interesting worl of cars. Given the chance, I can and will rock your world.
—The Duck

Kinkos

You were in Gore-Tex and collecti your report on Zimbabwe. I was th idiot out for a run who lost my dis and asked you the time. I found m disk. I was wondering if I could find you.
—kinkosinthecold@yahoo.com

Jingle Mingle

We shared a Sam Adams and 10 minutes of conversation before yo left with your friends. We spoke of Providence, waterfire, my discontentment, your move to Brookline. I watched you walk awa and you never looked back. I wish I had done something other than stand there. Can we talk again?
—kat6661@msn.com

I Wonder(bar)

Do you remember me? I was on a bad blind date on Dec. 7 and you waited our table between the bar and computer. I waited to talk to y but never did. I've been back since but had no luck. I've often thought of the way I made you laugh and m my date, the way your blue eyes lit up. Maybe if you're not married or a foreign country buying another b silver necklace we could spend another dinner together, just the t of us this time. What do you think
—scorpioman29@aol.com

Rockie Horoscope

JANUARY 8 – 21, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

There will be a major change as Saturn shifts methodology and mood when it enters Cancer in June. Crab-ville is not the best sign for your ruling planet to operate out of, but it makes you much more understanding when dealing with allies and antagonists alike. Lucky Jupiter's move into Virgo is a blessing for all earth signs; Caps could inherit big time, travel, maybe go back to school. Take-action Mars is exceptionally effective while it's in exaltation in Capricorn during March and April; make your move this spring or postpone for two more years.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

In March, your Uranus ruler moves on to Pisces then revisits Aquarius in September for the rest of 2003. You'll get a taste of what miracles Uranus can bring about when it's in the sign of faith, fakery and the Fish. Vaporous Neptune, ruler of Pisces, hovers between 10 and 13 degrees of Aquarius, making natives born on the January/February cusp (e.g., Dick Cheney) even harder to pin down, but artists and mystics thrive. Generous Jupiter leaves your Leo marriage house for discriminating Virgo in late August. Sorry.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Fish benefit from original Uranus, ruler of Aquarius, moving into Pisces in March while Neptune, ruler of Pisces, remains in Aquarius. Unpredictable Uranus in your sign will change things in ways few of us can imagine, unless your area of expertise is the years 1919-1927, the last time Uranus passed through Pisces. Partnership matters get a big boost in late summer as prosperous Jupiter enters Virgo. Saturn in Cancer, an empathetic water sign, should stabilize your home life.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Rams rule! It might take a few months to realize your elevated position, but that won't get in the way of your appointment with destiny. Your Mars ruler leaves clandestine Scorpio for spirited Sagittarius in mid-January. Valentine's Day weekend should be red-hot. Your role as CEO begins in early March when Mars enters pragmatic Capricorn, the sign in which it excels. Come Earth Day, Mars will be in Aquarius, offering advice. Then on Bloomsday, Mars (and you) launches a six-month voyage through artistic, inspirational Pisces.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Your current romance might come undone today as your Venus ruler leaves Scorpio and sexy Mars behind. Venus in Sagittarius tends to spread the love around, variety being the spice of life. Venus in Capricorn, her star-idolizing, social-climbing incarnation, kicks in on Feb. 4, in time for the award shows. March is basically sociable, Venus in Aquarius time; the goddess is exalted in sympathetic Pisces through Easter. Venus gets to Taurus, her best (for you) position May 16, right after the total Taurus-Scorpio full moon eclipse you can watch live!

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Your Mercury ruler is retrograde until Jan. 22, so don't sweat the planet's reluctance to bring new action in the New Year. Other retrograde periods are April 26-May 20; Aug. 28-Sept. 20; Dec. 17-Jan. 6, 2004. Schedule vacations and visits to old friends for those dates. The good news is that Saturn leaves your sign in June, freeing you from the restrictions and obligations it has imposed during the last two years. August could be sizzling for Twins born in May; career changes, or maybe a move or a remodel are in store.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

This year will be memorable. Saturn enters your sign in June, and it comes as close to the sun as its 29-year orbit takes it. There'll be challenges to the nation and the presidency: the last time Saturn was on the USA sun, Nixon resigned. In 1944, amid WWII, FDR died. Whether scandal or illness gets him, Bush (July 3) is at risk. But you, dear Crab, could rise to executive status or become an authentic grown-up during Saturn's visit. In March, innovative Uranus moves into Pisces; suddenly there are opportunities in art, aeronautics and aquaculture.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Unfortunately, protective Jupiter leaves Leo at the end of August; fortunately, it moves into your Virgo money house for the next 13 months. You do the math. Quirky Uranus exits your Aquarius marriage house in March; sexy Mars passes through from late April to mid-June; but idealistic, sometimes delusional, Neptune stays put. Relationships continue to be confusing. Valentine's Day could be very exciting—explosive too. Don't get mad, get even. Best time for sweet romance and favors: July 28-Aug. 22 when lovable Venus is in Leo.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

The Virgo new moon on Aug. 27 also marks the beginning of benevolent Jupiter's yearlong odyssey through your sign. Adding a genuine note of unpredictability, inventive, erotic Uranus will be in your Pisces marriage house for the next seven years. What's a Virgin to do? Check the Gemini forecast for dates when your Mercury ruler is retrograde and don't schedule a wedding or other major partnership doings for those periods. The summer solstice weekend in June also doesn't look good—way too much is happening in the heavens.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Where's the next Bill Clinton, an ambitious politico with Libra rising? That's who'll rise to the top, like cream, while Saturn is in your Cancer midheaven. But if you're not the executive type and don't want to shoulder more responsibility, find another forefront you can come to. The culinary arts would be a career with a nurturing, Cancerian slant. Or real estate. A relationship heats up while passionate Mars spends June-November in your house of romance, risk and recreation.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Some things change, some stay the same. Erratic Uranus stops upsetting your household after it moves out of fixed Aquarius into Pisces, a compatible water sign. Jupiter no longer presses your buttons once it switches from extravagant Leo to earth-friendly Virgo; however, it'll still provide opportunities to advance your career and reputation. Less glitz, more refinement. You're at your most potent, sexy beast best over the Feb. 14 weekend when both rulers, Mars and Pluto, merge. Plan accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Archers dealing with the constraints of having Saturn in your Gemini house of partners get a break in June, when the old man finally moves on to Cancer. While it might not vacate your marriage house right away, you can more readily adjust to its obstacles. Your Jupiter ruler leaves fiery but friendly Leo for perfectionist Virgo in late August, a tempestuous time for everybody. Expansive Jupiter in your Virgo midheaven will provide opportunities to grow, excel, maybe even fall flat on your face. Hey, it's another learning experience.

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Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. Since we want your feedback on the rest of the magazine, too, submissions that include a letter expressing your opinion will really get our attention.

Deborah and Frank Molino became so engrossed in their IMPROPERS while sailing the Mayan Riviera in Mexico that they ran aground.

Pat Trombetta, his son, Nicholas, and Peter Michelini got a hearty welcome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Jeanette Carroll played a little golf in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. She also enjoys skiing in Kashmir.

Margo Saulnier informs us that the town of Inverary, Scotland, will stand for absolutely no shinty on its public lawns. Violators face prosecution from Scotland Yard Care.

Ellen Gillis, Mike McEnany, Chris Gervais, Erika Carroll, Tracy Stewart and Amy Lyndon were going to charter a 64-foot boat to sail around the Greek Islands, but instead they drank Dr. Huxtley's Miracle Shrinking Tonic and took a 14-footer.

Enid Viana, Jessica Lass and Katie Olson shopped at Camden Market, London, where they bought Gucci knockoff shirts before heading to the Ferret & Pickle for a pint.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Drinking a Hurricane with Snoop Dogg on a balcony along Bourbon Street at Mardi Gras held at the end of February/early March, in—where else?—New Orleans, La.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN'S client-related promotions and events

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, 33 Restaurant and Lounge hosted a "Not Quite First Night" event to benefit the non-profit First Night Organization.

1. **Hillary Koritz Price**, insurance broker at Koritz Insurance; **Zvi Cole**, president of Zvi Marketing Group; and **Jodie Sasse**, business development at IBM.
2. **John Guehl**, a student at Boston College; **Jody Phillips**, fire safety, Anthelion; **Josh Bloom**, fire spinner, Anthelion; **Samiya Ahmed**, fire dancer, Anthelion; and **Joseph Donyo**, fire dancer, Anthelion.
3. **Bob Jacobs**, sales, Davol; **Dana D'Alfonso**, director of business development, 89.7FM and WGBH; **Marlo Fogelman**, VP of public relations at CM Communications; **Katherine Dell**, account coordinator at CM Communications; **Natalie Porto**, account coordinator at CM Communications; and **Bruce Emken**, regional director of Goldman Sachs.

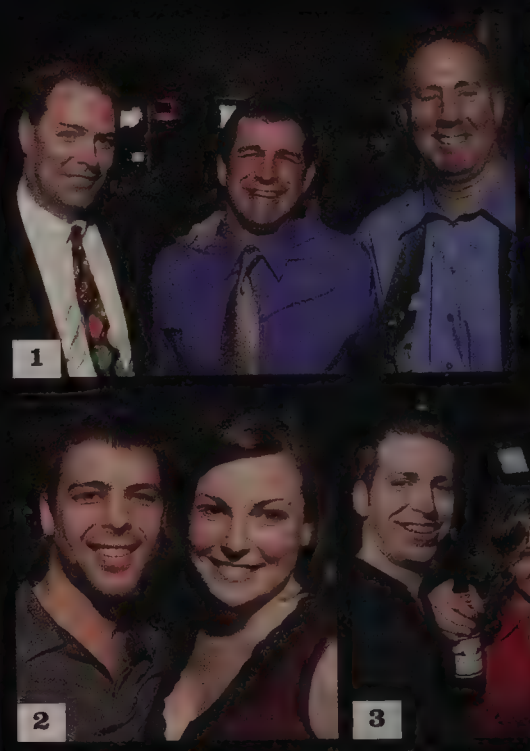
On Monday, Dec. 16, the Rasky/Baerlein Group decided to "Toast the Holidays" with a fête at the 406 Club at Fenway Park. The festivities were complemented by the musical entertainment of the Jim Weider Band.

1. **Ray de Rosas** of Nortel; **Janet Dennis** of the Redecoraters; **Joe Baerlein** of the Rasky/Baerlein Group; **Susan deRosas** of Carlson-GMC; and **Joan Gilman** of Polaroid Corp.
2. **Joe Baerlein** of the Rasky/Baerlein Group, and **Larry Rasky** of the Rasky/Baerlein Group.
3. **Steve DeLaurcey** of Lynch, DeSimone & Nylen, LLP; **John Lynch** of Lynch, DeSimone & Nylen, LLP; **Alicia Talanian**, associate vice president of the Rasky/ Baerlein Group; and **Mike Driscoll**, town manager, Watertown.

On Saturday, Dec. 21, Les Zygomates Wine Bar & Bistro held its 8th Anniversary Party.

1. **Gerard Chevalier**, general manager of Les Zygomates; **Sam Nedialkova**, program coordinator of Boston Preservation Alliance; **Pierre Sosnitsky**, maitre d' of Ben's Cafe; and **Marie Bobin**, manager of Sage.
2. **Geoffrey Fallon**, sommelier at Les Zygomates; and **Ian Just**, chef/co-owner of Les Zygomates.
3. **Randy Feeney**, chef de cuisine at Les Zygomates, and **Meg Paine**, pastry chef at Les Zygomates.

On Thursday, Dec. 19, Soho held its grand opening celebration.



1. **Steven Riley**, national account manager at M.S Walker; **Dave DeMarzo**, co-owner/general manager of Soho; and **Ken Schnied**, sales representatve at M.S Walker.
2. **William Ashmore**, president of Park Associates, and **Tracy Saradnik**, marketing director of the Glynn Co.
3. **Terrence McCrensky**, associate sales rep. at August A. Busch; **Kimberly Michels**, Bud girl at August A. Busch, **Mark Gaertner**, associate sales rep. at August A. Busch; and **Sean Cinvarro**, merchandiser at August A. Busch.

On Thursday, Dec. 19, Regan Communications Group, along with Congressman William Delahunt, hosted a holiday bash at Anthony's Pier 4. In recognition of their hard work and dedication, the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard were invited to the party as the evening's very special guests.

1. **Maureen Purcell** and husband **Pat Purcell**, publisher, Herald Media Inc.; **Gerry Walsh**, broadcasting consultant; and **Micha O'Keefe**, district attorney, Cape Cod.
2. **Roger Berkowitz**, president and CEO of Legal Sea Foods, and **George K. Regan Jr.**, president of Regan Communications.
3. **Vivian Crea**, rear admiral, United State Coast Guard; Congressman **William Delahunt** and **Dan Ma** captain, United State Coast Guard.

PHOTOS: 33 RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE, JULIE KANE; SOHO, DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; LES ZYGOMATES, MARLO FOLGE RASKY/BAERLEIN GROUP, JOEY LIBBY; REGAN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, GARY GO

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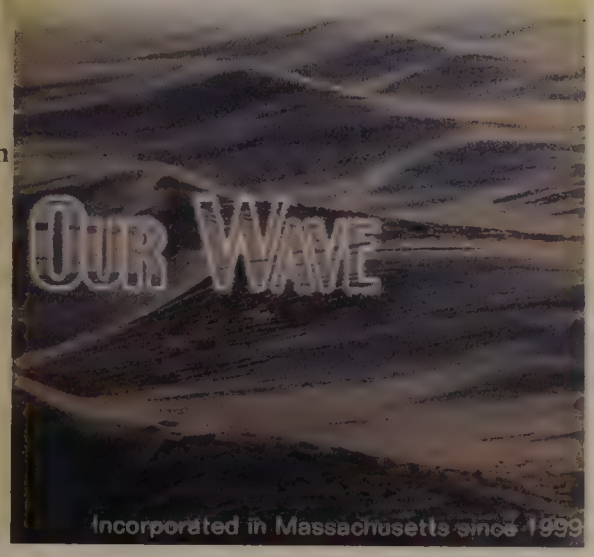

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The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.best-margaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.* It's always fresh, honest and simple at Henrietta's Table. Executive Chef Peter Davis, who has been awarded "Best Chef in the Northeast" by the James Beard Foundation, creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations highly recommended except breakfast. Mon-Thurs, 6:30am-10pm; Fri-Sat 6:30am-11pm. Call 617-661-5005 for reservations and information.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

Metro *1815 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA, 617-354-3727* This bustling brasserie boasts superb French food by noted chef Amanda Lydon. The meticulously selected wine list compliments outstanding entrees such as classically prepared coq-au-vin, and seven-hour leg of lamb seasoned with allspice, cinnamon, and fennel seed. Pastry chef Lee Napoli crafts desserts not to be missed. The bar at Metro is one of Cambridge's most sophisticated. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Complimentary parking.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000 & 2001 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

The Times Bar and Restaurant *Located at 112 Broad Street under the fading shadows of I-93.* Serving great food and fine wine. Silver medal winner in Boston Chowderfest 2001. Entertainment five nights a week with Wednesdays featuring a DJ; Ju Ju Cocktail - Blues, Grooves and Southern Hospitality each Thursday. Live bands/DJ's every Friday and Saturday. Karaoke Competition each Sunday. Dart tournaments and big screen. Serving food to 10p each night. Bar closes at 2am. Close to Boston Harbor, Wyndham, Meridien and Marriott Hotels. All major credit cards accepted. Phone (617)357-TIME, fax (617) 350-3163.

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 Rear Union St., Newton Centre, 617-964-6684 Off intersect. of Beacon St. & Center St.* Comfortable, casual and fun in a 100+ yr-old building with 3 floors and an outside patio. Focus is on fresh food with a menu that covers everything from classic appetizers to creative pastas and entrees. Locally known for fresh fish and Sat. & Sun. Brunch menu as well as for football and sports bar scene (20 TVs of Direct TV) and the live, original music in the top floor ATTIC Bar.

Vox Populi *755 Boylston St. Boston, MA ,617-424-8300* Comfortably sophisticated, Vox Populi has a downstairs bar and café, which is one of Boston's hottest nightspots. The elegant upstairs dining room and bar, overlooking Boylston Street, offers diners a slightly more intimate setting. Both dining and bar areas are awash in rich colors and warm lighting. Serving innovative Contemporary American cuisine, Vox was named one of Boston's best new restaurants by Food and Wine Magazine. Lunch, dinner daily, and brunch on weekends.

bars/clubs

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Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning ber bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Boston Billiard Club *126 Brookline Ave., Boston, 617-536-POOL* Winner of Boston Magazine's Best of Boston 1999 Award. Newly expanded this year, Boston Billiard Club has more of everything you're looking for. More-Brunswick Gold Crown tables. A bigger lounge. New plush leather couches. A giant flat screen TV. An unbelievable state of the art sound system. Newly added function rooms. Free lessons Mon, 7:30- 9pm. House leagues on Mon and Tues. "In the Biz" Nights on Sunday and Mondays. Ladies' Night on Wed. www.bostonbilliardclub.com

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes and Central Basement.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, MA, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

Tilt *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* A club truly in a class of its own. With its outrageous Light Show and Cat Walk spectacle, dance and groove with the spinning sensations on Saturday nights and to guest DJs spinning progressive house and trance on Friday. Dress code strictly enforced. Doors open at 10pm.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list. Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty microbrews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-005* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 1 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

The Times Bar and Restaurant *Located at 112 Broad Str under the fading shadows of I-93.* Serving great food a fine wine. Silver medal winner in Boston Chowderfe 2001. Entertainment five nights a week with Wednesda featuring a DJ; Ju Ju Cocktail - Blues, Grooves and Sout ern Hospitality each Thursday. Live bands/DJ's every F day and Saturday. Karaoke Competition each Sund Dart tournaments and big screen. Serving food to 1 each night. Bar closes at 2am. Close to Boston Harb Wyndham, Meridien and Marriott Hotels. All ma credit cards accepted. Phone (617)357-TIME, fax (61 350-3163.

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.leyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Str to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specia drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwa Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have someth for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The A where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Bost newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the nancial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in on our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof dec watching your hometown favorites on our high definit plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after w and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinn your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound

m all night long.

ue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, corner of New-ry Street, Boston, MA, 617-247-9922.* A hip restau-nt with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat afe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American assics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled rtabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi oli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with ique martini selections such as the now-famous ue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of oston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, C, MC, V.

e Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-01.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is cated in the heart of the Financial District just one ock from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck d a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social ent planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. rough Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-il info@the blackrhino.com

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eers, Faneuil Hall Marketplace *Boston, 617-227-50, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-m. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and turday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

eers, Beacon Hill *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-05, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-m. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your orite team on DirecTV.

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gen-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-7-1660.* Enjoy the best of 70's, 80's & 90's music on sday nights and a buffet from 8pm-9pm with DJ ris Fiore. Doors open at 8pm; 21+, $3 before 9pm $5 after 9pm. Friday 18+ ladies, 19+ men , casual ss. Saturday 18+ ladies, 21+ men, proper dress re-red.

y *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 7-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The test dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE TIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contem-ary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & . Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and se spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. ors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY TURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance es, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No s, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

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Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

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TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston, 617-227-7579, www.jazzcafe-faneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot!

VIDEO CLUB

Uptown-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Progressive dance music on Friday nights: 18+ ladies, 19+ men. Casual dress.

brunch

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room, *Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114* Enjoy Sunday Brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 11 a.m. or 1p.m., then check out the latest Omni film or the new Egyptian exhibit. Combination tickets start at $30 and include parking. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call 617-723-2500 or visit mos.org

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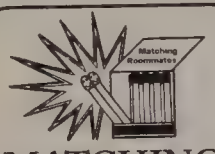

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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Festival of Lights, clockwise from upper left: Nancy Lee and Jeremy Dellaria; Deena Giancotti and Andy Levine; David Muir, Dr. Catherine Birgeneau, Dr. Kimberly Smith and David Daglio.

NIGHTCRAWLING BOOKWORMS...

How many prominent young Bostonians can you fit into the library?

Apparently, all of them, judging by the turnout at **Festival of Lights**, a fund-raiser hosted by the **Young Professionals of the Boston Public Library Foundation**.

Spotted in the second floor reading room, cocktailing and nibbling hors d'ouevres while bidding in a silent auction of photographs relating to the library, were such young worthies as **Jeremy Dellaria** and his gorgeous girlfriend, **Nancy Lee**; real estate scion **Tedd Saunders**; celebrity yoga instructor **Toby Levine** and her insaniac brother, **Andy**; with the fabulous **Deena Giancotti**; Channel 5 hottie **David Muir**; preeminent portrait photographer **Cheryl Richards**; absurdly attractive couple **Nicole** and **Jeff Bellows**; foxy blond TV reporter **Alisyn Camerota**; pint-sized pistol **Janet Wu**; her co-chairs, **Nicole** and **Ramsey Alsarraf** and **Russell Evans**; and one woman who had a bit too much to drink and decided to kick her shoes across the room while library president **Bernie Margolis** looked on, unamused.

Otherwise, everyone behaved with perfect decorum, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, the only criticism coming from one guest, who said, "I'd come to the library a lot more often if they served drinks here all the time."

LOVE ALL...

Brightly colored go-to-hell pants weren't exactly mandatory at the **Sportsmen's Tennis Club**'s gala roast and tribute to legendary tennis commentator **Bud Collins**, although the guest of honor did sport a pair of his trademark eye-poppingly loud trousers.

Among the luminaries who gathered at the **Seaport Hotel** to fete Collins and raise money for the nonprofit tennis club: Collins' statuesque wife, **Anita**; tennis legends **Billie Jean King**, **Zina Garrison** and **Pam Shriver**; one-named author **Touré**; former New York mayor **David Dinkins**; *60 Minutes* eminence grise **Mike Wallace**; Channel 2 chatelaine **Emily Rooney**; philanthropic cutie-pie **Carol Fulp**; Sovereign Bank smoothie **Ron Walker**; sports anchor **Steve Burton**; and numerous, equally glittery others.

Cocktails, hors d'ouevres and dinner were accompanied by music, a silent auction and a mock trial of Collins for such crimes as excessive niceness and violating the dress code. Needless to say, the evening's accessory of choice was the diamond tennis bracelet.

"You're not wearing yours?" one astonished guest asked a friend, to which the response was, "No, I thought that was a little too obvious, so I just opted for lots of diamonds and pearls."

At the Bud Collins tribute, clockwise from upper left: Touré, and Rita Nakouzi; Billie Jean King; Bud Collins; Zina Garrison and former Mayor of New York City David Dinkins.

At the Big Night party, from left: David Fialkow and Jim Pallota; Chris Myers.

LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN...

It's not often at a big-ticket charity gig that you walk into the men's room to find three guys in fishnet stockings lined up at the sink, but then again, the **Big Night** gala to benefit the **Big Brother Association** isn't your run-of-the-mill fund-raiser. The *Rocky Horror*–themed blowout, held at the **Park Plaza Castle**, featured a three-course feast concocted by celebrity chefs **Ming Tsai**, **Jasper White**, **Michael Schlow** and **Seth Raynor**, and a concert by iconic '70s act **Meat Loaf**, followed by sizzling '80s headliner **Morris Day and the Time**.

As specified on the invitation, the dress code was "drag optional, leather and fishnets preferred." Among the normally quite staid folks taking a walk on the wild side were Tudor Investments poobah and the party's co-chair **Jim Pallota**; Nutter, McLennen and Fish bigwig **Joe Ayoub**; ugliest drag queen alive **Tim Reed** and his extremely pregnant wife, **Carole Crittenden**; the equally pregnant **Kelly Verrochi** and her gazillionaire husband, **Paul**; his stunningly beautiful daughter, **Marisa**; ubiquitous party pair **David** and **Nina Fialkow**; bachelor-about-town **Christian Stallkamp**; entertainment mogul **Richie Balsbaugh** and his fashion plate other half, **Maureen**; the fantastically glamorous **Bianca Latessa**, and so on and so forth.

Proving that this party is nothing if not out-of-the-ordinary, a prominent young investment banker was overheard complaining to his wife, "I think I need some more lipstick," to which she replied, "Wait until after you eat, sweetie."

DEBS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN...

Anyone worried that Boston's Old Guard has become completely ossified need look no further than the **Winter Ball** to see that it hasn't.

The annual white-tie holiday hoedown, traditionally the domain of dewy young debutantes and prep-school alumnae of all ages, was held at the **Park Plaza Hotel**. Among the current crop of white-gloved girls coming out in the traditional (as opposed to the Rosie O'Donnell) sense were such exquisite young things as **Blake Whitney**, **Hilary Minot** and **Lindsay Talbot**, whose beaming mothers—**Vicky**, **Gale** and **Michele**, respectively—don't look old enough to have daughters who are out of diapers, let alone freshmen in college. Among the other attendees were such well-dressed and well-bred types as the party's organizer, **Hope Baker**; Beacon Hill grande dame **Smoki Bacon** and her royal consort, **Dick Concannon**; ubiquitous It-boy **Krystian von Speidel** and the luscious **Chantelle Carpenter**; brunette bombshell **Julie Sprague**; the affable **Alex Cabot**; sibling tag-team **Deborah** and **Richard Babson**; Haitian playboy **Ferguson Heriveaux**; the swanlike **Rhys Gardiner** and her sister, **Elin Schrann**, Elin's husband, **Steve**, and upper-crust Brit **Andrew MacIlwraith** with his delightful wife, **Tish Robbins**, to name a few.

"How are you?" someone asked an acquaintance, who responded, "Well, I'm still vertical." The evening's most drily amusing exchange, however, had to be the following:

"I love your cufflinks."

"Thanks. They're imperial Fabergé. I love your bracelet."

"Thanks. It's Medic Alert." iB

At the Winter Ball, clockwise from top: the debutantes; Lindsay and Michele Talbot; Hilary and Gale Minot.

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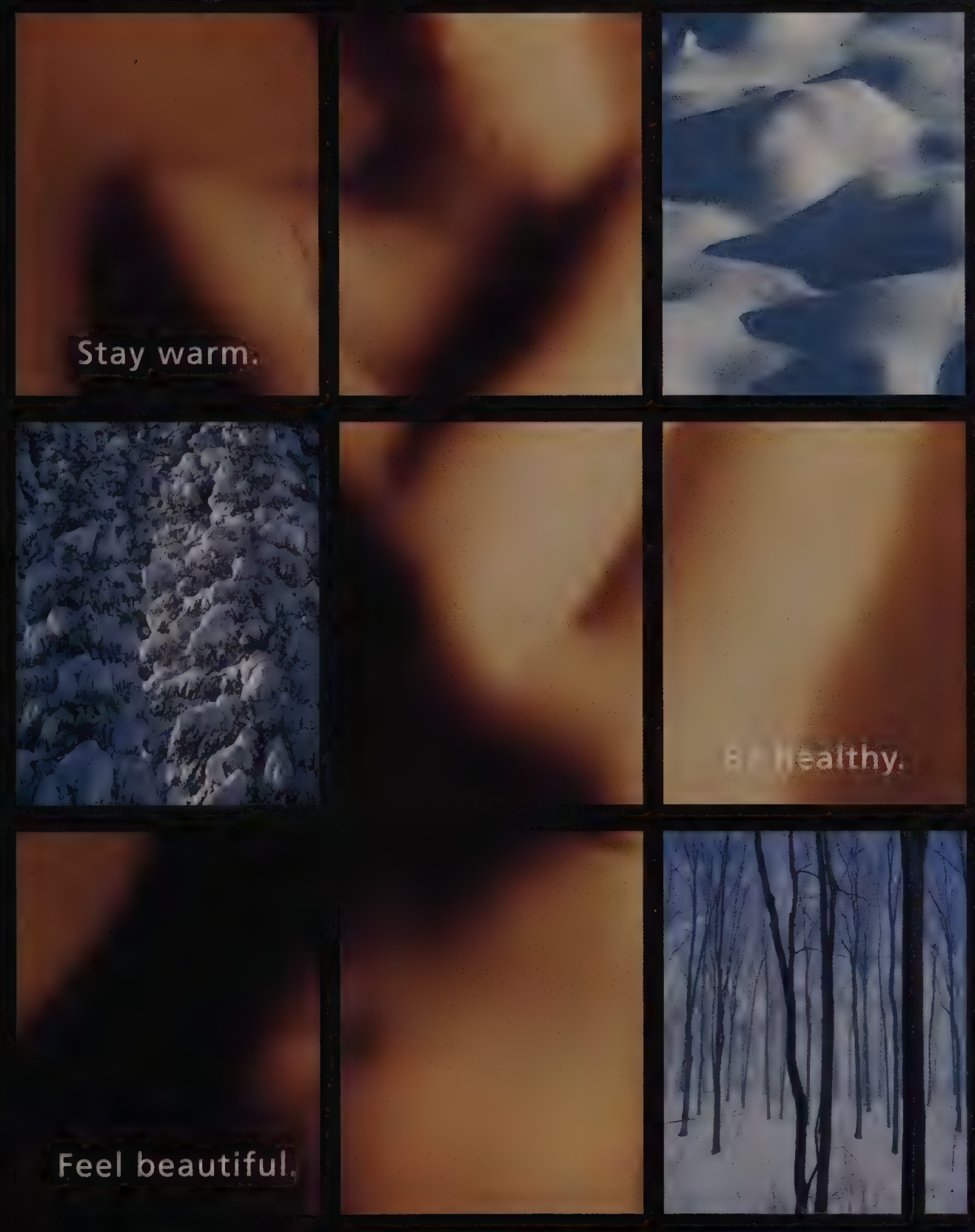

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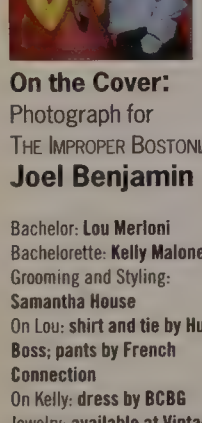

On the Cover:
Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Joel Benjamin**

Bachelor: **Lou Merloni**
Bachelorette: **Kelly Malone**
Grooming and Styling: **Samantha House**
On Lou: **shirt and tie by Hugo Boss; pants by French Connection**
On Kelly: **dress by BCBG**
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PHOTOGRAPHER: JOEL BENJAMIN; BACHELORETTE: KELLY MALONE, MIX 98.5; MAKEUP:SAMANTHA HOUSE; HAIR: LI OSBORN/RENZO SALON, WALTHAM; DRESS: BCBG; NECKLACE AND EARRINGS AVAILABLE AT VINTAGE JEWELRY, BROOKLIN BRACELET: SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW; FLOWERS BY BRYANN SWANN/WINSTON FLOWERS; CANDY: GOD

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letters

FROM THE EDITOR

With 85 percent of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's staff being single, you could say we have a personal interest in our annual bachelor/bachelorette issue. This year, reviving an old IMPROPER tradition, we invited you, our readers, to join us in the search for Boston's most eligible singles. You responded with a flood of nominations—dazzlingly heartfelt endorsements of your friends, sisters, brothers and coworkers that renewed our faith in this town's supply of interesting, accomplished and charming bachelors and bachelorettes.

It was no small chore, though, to boil the nominees down to just 10 men and 10 women. We hope the final list of 20 that we present on pages 16-22, a mix of reader nominees and high-profile Bostonians living single life in the spotlight, will give all our unattached readers renewed enthusiasm for your singlehood and put the lie to the sentiment "all the best ones are taken."

Special thanks go to the bachelor and bachelorette who agreed to pose for this issue's cover—Kelly Malone of Mix 98.5's *Lander in the Morning* show and Lou Merloni of the Boston Red Sox. With patience and seemingly endless good humor, they withstood our posing and re-posing them as we sought the perfect image for this issue's cover. A note to both of their moms, who we hear will be hoarding copies of this issue: Nice work!

Stay tuned to these pages or consult our Web site (*www.improper.com*) for information on our follow-up party to celebrate our bachelors and bachelorettes and the single life in general.

To our married or otherwise spoken-for readers, this issue's got more than just

I REALLY ENJOYED YOUR GYM ISSUE, ESPECIALLY THE LIST OF BOSTON HEALTH CLUBS WITH PRICES. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS TYPE OF ISSUE EVERY JANUARY.

—*SHALIN PATEL*
CANTON

singles stories. The luscious descriptions in Sandy Block's feature on the top trends in wine—and list of 10 wine categories to try now—will send you to the wine store. As the IMPROPER's long-time wine columnist and one of only a handful of wine experts in the U.S. with the master of wine credentials, Block knows what he's talking about, and he's refreshingly down-to-earth in his approach.

Veronica A. Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

CRITIQUING THE CRITIC

Decisive proof that *The Two Towers* and *Gangs of New York* are among 2002's finest films: Paul Sherman's clueless two-stars-or-less review-blurbs of both. But then, what should we expect from someone who not only gets the name of Spike Lee's latest movie wrong (it's *25th Hour*, Paul), but also refers, in his *Solaris* review, to "the Soviet film 2001"? One thing I'll say for Mr. Sherman's critical skills: They're at least fitting for a magazine that actually devotes precious wood pulp to articles about how to pick up dates at the gym.

—CHRIS PIERSON
Cambridge

Note: The *Solaris* mistake was an editing error, not a reporting mistake on Sherman's part.

MOUSSE-LEADING

This is in regard to Mopsy's review of Athan's Pastry Shop in the Jan 8 issue. There, a genoise is described as a "mousselike, slightly spongy cake." "Mousselike?" Definitely not. Indeed, a genoise is, of itself, a rather dry cake, usually brushed with a sugar syrup flavored with liqueur. A genoise is really a very simple cake with simple ingredients: normally ordinary wheat flour, a good number of eggs, a little butter, sugar and flavoring. That's it. It is also one of the most perfect cakes ever devised. It does not depend on the ground nuts, great quantities of butter or bittersweet chocolate, or mousse texture that seem to have become the current notion of what constitutes fine pastry.

—JOHN GREGOLI
Via e-mail

CORRECTIONS

We incorrectly identified the name of a health club in our Jan. 8 issue. The correct name is Wellbridge Health and Fitness Club.

Also from the Jan. 8 issue, the correct address for Boston Body is 8 Newbury St., 6th Floor.

Hair and makeup for page 29 of the Jan. 8 issue was by Jenny Brown/M.A.C.

CONTRIBUTORS

JOEL W. BENJAMIN

This issue's cover photographer, Joel W. Benjamin (far right), has a busy daylight studio in Boston's Fort Point Channel, where he takes photographs for fashion, commercial and editorial clients. He's been shooting for more than 10 years, and his work has appeared in numerous anthologies. Before becoming a photographer, Benjamin worked as an advertising creative director. In 1996, he co-wrote the musical-comedy, *The Paisley Sisters' Christmas Special*, which premiered in Boston and was hailed as one of the city's top 10 plays of 1998. He recently completed a new series of photos exploring the underlying homoerotic themes of professional wrestling in American culture. Work from that collection is featured in the current issue of the Australian magazine *Blue*. To see more of his work, visit *www.joelbenjamin.com*.

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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Lily Alt, Margeaux Estreicher, Jessica Iredale, Joy Peterson, Elizabeth Reh, Maria Zade**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

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142 Berkeley St., 3RD Floor
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EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

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NEW IN TOWN

Newsworthy

News adds a classy touch to Kneeland Street.

News, the swanky neighborhood restaurant/lounge that recently replaced the Blue Diner on Kneeland Street, may just be one of the best additions to the Boston scene in years.

First off, it's open weekdays until 4am, and weekends round the clock from 11am on Saturday to 4am Monday. Since its opening in late November, the 200-seat restaurant has been mobbed into the wee hours, says owner Jamie Giorgio. But unlike many other late-night haunts that dole out cold tea or pepperoni pies in a less-than-gorgeous setting, News is visually stunning, with exposed brick walls; giant windows that open onto the street; skylights; a smoothie bar; two cozy nooks outfitted with comfy leather couches, plants, flat-screen TVs; oriental rugs; brown leather booths; a long wooden bar; and decorative mirrors. Need we say more? Peruse the multipage menu of upscale comfort food and choose from breakfast items any hour of the day, plus gourmet salads, sandwiches and pasta dishes—even lobster (baked, stuffed or boiled). A sushi chef works the night shift, serving up all manner of rolls and nigiri.

News also lives up to its name by offering free newspapers, local magazines and wireless Internet, and tuning its five flat-screen TVs to CNN. The best touch of all, however, is the newsstand by the door, which sells everything from *Playboy,* Aleve and plastic combs to super glue, lottery tickets and cigars. *150 Kneeland St., Boston (617-426-NEWS).—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short*

CLUB SCENE

Feeling Saintly

Saint spices up Sunday nights.

•Studio 54 Redux.... According to the folks at **Saint**, Sunday is no longer a day of rest. Since Jan. 19, the first day of the week promises to deliver a hedonistic romp reminiscent of Manhattan's infamous Studio 54. On New Year's Eve, Saint modeled itself after the famed Studio 54 and welcomed 2003 in retro style, with revelers in their best 1970s-style sequined jumpsuits. The night was such a success that co-owner Ritchie Balsbaugh's team has decided to make the Studio 54 theme a regular occurrence, though '70s regalia isn't a requirement for the Sunday night soirees. But the atmosphere will be spiced up with acts ranging from drag queens to fashion shows to retro performers. It might not be as crazy as Manhattan's sex-in-the-balcony/narcotics-in-the-basement days of yore, but it's definitely a more lively alternative to watching Sunday-night *Sex In the City* reruns in your pajamas. *Doors open at 9pm, 21+, no cover.*

•Runnin' Fridays at the **Ecko Lounge** are now branching out to include the 19-and-older crowd. Upstairs, the 2-Step UK Garage crew presents an "old-skool mashup rewind" Jan. 24, as well as a CD-release party for *4XL: The Sound of SoulChampion* Jan. 31. Downstairs, the drum 'n' bass selectors also go classic Jan. 24, while special-guest DJs Superball and Trunks lay down the sounds of New York Jan. *31. 41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*

•The sun, sand and carefree sounds of Brazil are coming to the **Palace Entertainment Complex** in Saugus; in mid-January, the space formerly known as Tilt was transformed into Rio. Featuring a Carnaval theme, Rio promises to bring some of that sultry South American flair to the North Shore. *Doors open at 9pm; the cover charge is $20 for 18+, $15 for 21+ ($10 before 10pm for 21+).*

•The **Roxy** kicked off its new Latin Fridays Jan. 17 with the Argentinian group El Símbolo. Rotating DJs promise to spin more Spanish pop (think Enrique Iglesias and Loona) and dance music, and will focus less on the salsa and merengue element found in most Latin venues. In addition to *musica caliente*, club-goers can expect weekly surprises, including fashion shows and live music. *10pm, $10, ladies 18+, guys, 21+.*

—Daniel Spurling and Improper staff

SPORTS

Farewell to Will

Will McDonough, 1935-2003... It seems like ages since the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN chronicled the influential (and often controversial) views of sportswriter Will McDonough in its Aug. 27, 1997 issue. The cover story by then senior writer Scott Farmelant summed up McDonough's legendary career like this: "Will McDonough is unquestionably the city's hot-button sports authority. The public swears by him or at him." Those words remained true until Jan. 9, when McDonough passed away at his Hingham home. The late *Globe* scribe wasn't afraid to pick a fight—in fact, just this January he'd lambasted Red Sox CEO Larry Lucchino in his column. That take-no-prisoners approach earned him a few enemies—and a lot of respect—over the years. "The *Globe* used to be filled with guys like him," says former colleague John White, "guys who weren't afraid to piss people off." But in the end, anyone, not just any writer, would aspire to the kind of fame, money and self-assuredness that McDonough possessed. It's appropriate that his wake was held at the FleetCenter, because McDonough was one of the sporting world's biggest players. Our condolences to his family.

SAM SAYS

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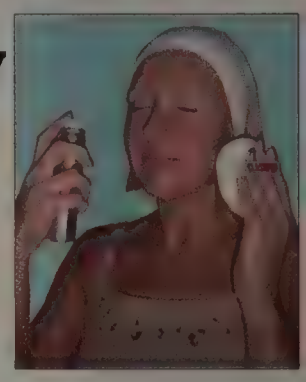

Recently, I hired a makeup artist named Ingrid (you can see her work in the fashion spread of this issue) for a photo shoot, and instead of using sponges to apply foundation, she pulled out an airbrush gun. The result was perfectly even-toned skin with light but flawless coverage. Since an airbrush compressor usually runs about $1,000 (and that doesn't include all the accessories that you need to make it work), I went in search of a more affordable alternative and found a spray-on foundation by Classified Cosmetics called Era Face. It comes out in a fine mist and works a lot like Ingrid's airbrush gun—and the result is natural and beautiful. The company was founded by celebrity makeup artist Yolanda Halston and her husband, Rodger Halston, in Malibu, Calif. *(866-ERA-FACE). www.classifiedcosmetics.com. $55.—Samantha House*

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Crepes, Pizza, Pints

100 Bottles of Wine on the Wall... Finding a good selection of wine by the glass in this city can be a challenge. So we were impressed to learn that Fleming's Prime Steak House & Wine Bar offers 100 different glasses of wine on a biweekly rotation, ranging from $6.75 to $17 per glass. This month, the featured wine is Wildekrans 2000 Pinotage, a warm-bodied mix between a pinot noir and Cinsault from the South African vineyards of Walker Bay. *$12.50 for a glass, $50 for a bottle. 217 Stuart St., Boston (617-292-0808).*

Pie O'Mine... Good news for suburbanites: Campo de Fiori, the 5-year-old Italian bakery café in Harvard Square beloved for its signature Roman-style pizza, recently opened a second outpost in Weston Centre. *37 Centre St., Weston Centre (781-893-6135).*

Bon Paris... Heads up for the newest crêpe restaurant. Paris Crêperie opened its second location in January on Beacon Hill. The new eatery is much larger than its flagship store in Coolidge Corner and touts a larger frozen yogurt selection. Look for a new addition to the crêpe menu: the MGH, with chicken, turkey and grilled onions and peppers. Bon appétit. *326 Cambridge St., Boston (617-589-0909).*

A Little Illumination... Whiskey's is shedding some light on its favorite subject—cocktails. The Boylston Street mixologists paired up with Finlandia vodka, Southern Comfort and Jack Daniels in a promotional endeavor featuring blue, red, yellow and green plastic light-up ice cubes available in five specialty drinks, including Finlandia electric slides and SoCo whiskey bombers. Now we can get lit in more ways than one. Nudge, nudge.

Nectar of the Demons... It's time we raise our glasses to the Huntington Theatre Company's production of *The Blue Demon*. Ambrosia on Huntington, Aquitaine, Betty's Wok & Noodle, the House of Blues, Jake Ivory's and Spire have all concocted a Blue Demon–inspired elixir in honor of Darko Tresnjak's play. The cocktails are available through January and include a $5 discount on a ticket to the show. Anyone who tests out all six Demons (and gets the coupons to prove it) gets a buy-one-get-one-free admission to a performance.

Comfort 101... It's official. Atlantic 101 has shed its upscale, nautical image in favor of a more homey atmosphere. As of Dec. 31, the Atlantic Avenue eatery has declared itself the Living Room. Gone are the wall-to-wall fish decorations and raw bar. Plush couches, floor-to-ceiling curtains and a dessert bar stand in their place. Proprietor John Hauck calls the new theme "a casual and comfortable alternative to the wall of seafood restaurants in the neighborhood." The new menu has doubled in size and still stocks lots of seafood but has more Asian, Southwestern and homestyle influences, thanks to chef Larry Dunn, former corporate kitchen manager for the Cheesecake Factory. *101 Atlantic Ave., Boston (617-723-5101).*

The Offspring... Irish families are rarely small. So it's a wonder that it took so long for Davis Square's the Burren to spawn a sister pub. The Skellig opened Dec. 23 in Waltham, and just like its older sib, features decor from the Motherland and live Irish music in the front room and contemporary bands in the back. A V.I.P. room is set to open in February, but until then, dine with the hoi polloi from a menu similar to the one in Somerville. *240 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0679).*

Jae-Walking... After a 10-year run, Jae's Grill is closing its Cambridge Street doors. No word yet on when, but it should be soon. The Asian-cuisine masters chose to let the lease run out so they can devote their attention to the four thriving Boston locations, as well as the recently launched Jae's Inn in Pittsfield.—*Jessica Iredale, E.H. and J.S.*

IMPROPER REPORTS

Trivial Pursuit

What's the point of maintaining a noggin full of useless facts unless you have an outlet to show it off? (No, shouting out *Jeopardy* answers from the couch doesn't count.) Head to one of these watering holes for trivia night, the perfect way to score some cool prizes while being publicly hailed for your random-information recall abilities.

- **The Asgard**, *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). Tue., 8:30-10:30pm.* General trivia with a broad range of categories. Prizes include $10-$30 gift certificates.
- **The Brendan Behan Pub**, *378 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-5386). Tue., 8pm.* General trivia. Prizes include gift certificates and T-shirts.
- **Buck Mulligan's**, *1734 Centre St., West Roxbury (617-323-4199). Sun., 8pm.* General trivia. Prizes include $20-$30 gift certificates.
- **Common Ground**, *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-0001). Mon., 7pm. Simpsons* trivia. Prizes vary.
- **Coolidge Corner Clubhouse**, *307 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-4948). Mon., 8:30pm.* General trivia. Prizes vary.
- **The Green Briar**, *304 Washington St, Brighton (617-789-4100). Tue. and Wed., 8pm.* General trivia. Prizes include gift certificates and beer promotion giveaways.
- **Hannah's**, *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-629-5302). Tue., 9pm.* General trivia. Prizes include gift certificates.
- **The Jeannie Johnston**, *144 South St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-9432). Wed., 8:30pm.* General trivia. Prizes include $25-$75 gift certificates.
- **Matt Murphy's**, *14 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-0188). Wed., 10pm.* General trivia. Prizes include a round of drinks.
- **Pat Flanagan's**, *808 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-730-5522). Mon., 9pm.* General trivia. Prizes include gift certificates.
- **T's Pub**, *973 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-254-0807). Thu., 9pm.* General trivia. Prizes include $10-$40 gift certificates.
- **The Thirsty Scholar**, *70 Beacon St., Somerville (617-497-2294). Sun., 8pm.* General trivia. Prizes include gift certificates, T-shirts and a round of drinks.

improper speaking

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

What Ever Happened to *Blind Date*?... NBC has joined the dating game with its upcoming *Around the World in 80 Dates*, yet another reality-based dating show. This time, as you may have guessed from the title, a lucky bachelor will take a group of girls on dates at exotic locations around the world. If you're looking for love and interested in traveling the world with strangers and are a woman between the ages of 21 and 33 or a man between 26 and 33, call Boston Casting for an appointment Jan. 22 or head to the Rack for an open casting call Feb. 1. Oh, right—you have to be "ambitious, fun and attractive" too. *(617-254-0990).*

California Dreamin'... Jessica Biel proved she's a true Bruin at heart—and we don't mean a Boston Bruin. The *Seventh Heaven* star and former Tufts undergrad traded in her Jumbo gear over winter break and is now an official UCLA Bruin. So what does the West Coast have that we don't? Her family, job and boyfriend. Fair enough.

Prenup Panic... Many know but few are willing to admit that wedding engagements aren't always a walk in the park. Allison Moir-Smith is saying it loud and proud with the introduction of her new workshop designed to put an end to the madness that can overshadow the excitement of weddings. "During my engagement, I couldn't find anything to help me get through these weird feelings of confusion about leaving my single life and what it meant to be a wife," she says. And so was born the Emotions of Being Engaged: A Bride's Psychological Journey, a workshop that tackles pushy parents and in-laws, marital expectations and cold feet through discussion sections and hands-on exercises. www.yoursoulswork.com/Brides.htm *Jan. 25, 10am-1pm; Feb. 15, 1-4pm. $29. (617-739-5353).*

Toast of the Town... It's that time of year again when THE IMPROPER staff begins searching the city's watering holes for Bostonians' most beloved bartenders. Even though we'd be glad to do all of the footwork ourselves, we take readers' opinions to heart. Everyone's got a favorite mixer of elixirs, so don't be shy about giving them some credit. Turn to page 5, fill out a ballot and send it in to us. But do it soon—we need them by Feb. 20.

Q-ed Up... John Somers' Irish pub empire is diversifying its interests. Q, the nightlife impresario's latest addition to his gaggle of hot spots, opens the end of January and bears neither the trademark Irish name nor atmosphere of Somers' other pubs. European DJs pump dance music throughout the house, which includes two V.I.P. lounges and a billiards parlor. *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).* —*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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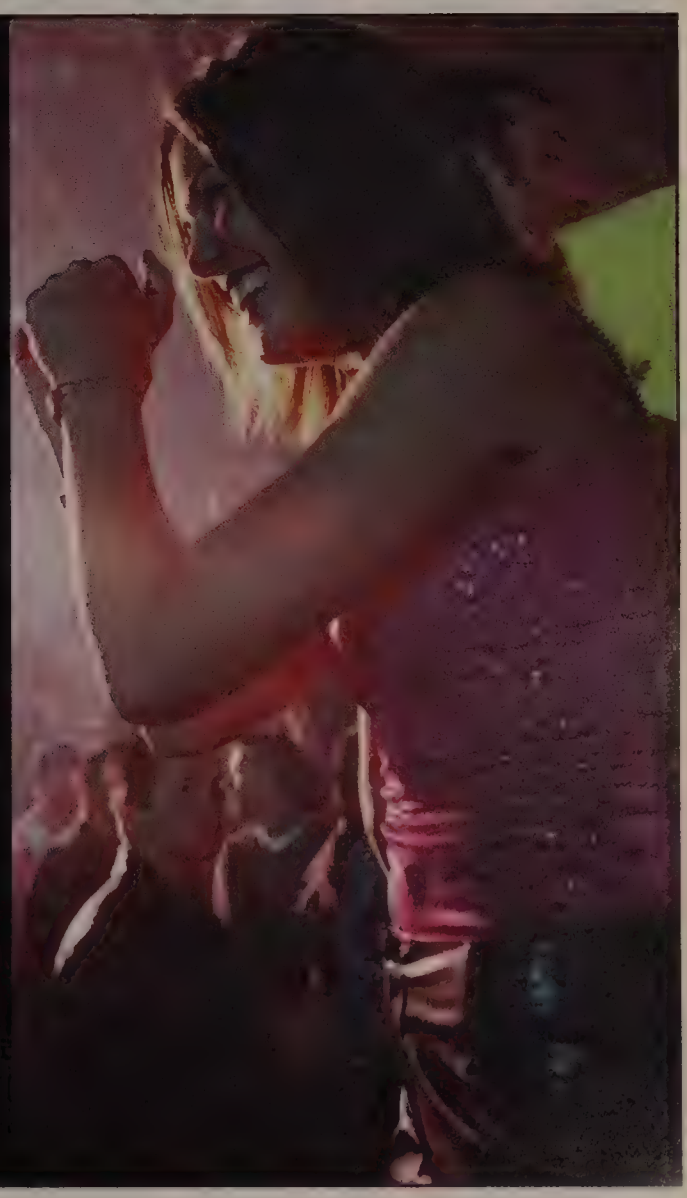

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

More than 7,000 people attended the Inaugural Ball for Governor Mitt Romney and Lt. Governor Kerry Healey on Jan. 2 at the World Trade Center. Highlights of the evening included the Governor's first dance, accompanied by music from Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops.

1. Lt. Governor **Kerry Healey** and her husband, **Sean Healey**.
2. From left: **Michael Valerio**, owner of the Ballymeade Country Club; his wife, **Jennifer**; **Julie Piantedosi**, attorney at Morrison, Mahoney and Miller; and her husband, **Joe**, owner of Piantedosi Baking Co. in Malden.
3. From left: **Tag Romney**, Healey's campaign manager, and **Rob Linder**, associate director of Protiviti.
4. Governor **Mitt Romney**.
5. **Peter Flaherty**, member of the Romney-Healey administration, and his wife, **Jennifer Mugar Flaherty**.
6. **Donna M. Morrissey** (left), spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Boston, and **Ashley McCown**, executive vice president of Bishoff Solomon Communications.
7. **Chris Dupuis**, budget analyst for the State House, and **Pam Russell**, director of policy for the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction.
8. **Edward Flynn**, new secretary of public safety, and his wife, **Susan**.

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A benefit screening of *Adaptation* was held Dec. 27 at the AMC Fenway Theatre. Proceeds went to AccesSportAmerica.

9. From left: **Ross Lilley**, executive director of AccesSportAmerica; **Marianne Leone Cooper**, actress; and her husband, **Chris Cooper**, actor and star of *Adaptation*.
10. From left: **John Britten**, principal for Snug Harbor Investments; **Peg Kelleher**, teacher; and her husband, **Dennis**, independent consultant.
11. From left: **Lisa Parrish**, office manager for Ovid Technologies; **Stacey Thirman**; **Dale Parrish**, exercise physiologist; and **Frank Pellegrini**, artist.
12. From left: **John Moos** and **Tricia Epstein**, partner and attorney, respectively, at Bowman, Moss & Hilton; and Epstein's husband, **Paul**, of Paul Epstein DMD & Associates.

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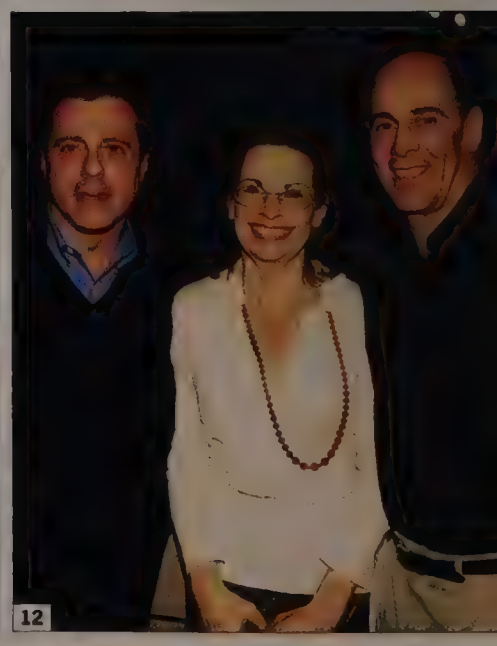
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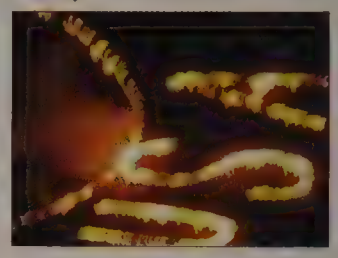
On the Bull

"Bull riding" is a misnomer. "Bull escaping" might be better.

Before I tell you about my trip to the Professional Bull Riders Worcester Classic, let me get something out of the way. Last year I wrote about a monster truck rally that also took place at the Worcester Centrum Centre, but don't get the wrong idea: The Centrum doesn't host *just* monster truck rallies and bull-riding competitions. It's home to a wide range of culturally diverse events, from the IFMA Freestyle Motocross to the Fishing and Outdoor Exposition to the Central New England RV and Camping Show. No doubt they'll stage an opera there any time now.

Sadly, I can't claim that it was my idea to go to the rodeo. But when I got an invitation that included the words "party bus," "bull riding" and "Worcester" in the same sentence, I signed up. After all, I'm usually wearing chaps on Saturday night anyway.



A party bus, for those who've yet to have the pleasure, is basically a 15-passenger shuttle van accessorized with a gigantic beverage cooler. Our bus also felt as if some prankster had stolen the springs out of the suspension and replaced them with granite pillars. Each pothole would send everyone bouncing off their seats, which, with one hand free and the other devoted to gripping a beer, lent an appropriate bull-riding atmosphere to the trip.

Outside the Centrum, there were three protesters holding signs that read, "Bulls are dying for your entertainment." However, nobody was holding a sign that read "Southerners are getting trampled by bulls for your entertainment," so apparently that aspect of the show wasn't a problem for the activists. To my untrained eye the bulls did not die at all, and in fact generally tossed off the unwanted passenger in a matter of seconds before chasing him around the ring for a bit of additional sport.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Before the riding began, the crowd had to get properly riled up. The introduction of the riders began when flame-belching towers in the ring shot whistling moon rockets into the ground, setting aflame a giant "USA" in the dirt. After the riders were introduced, the emcee led everyone in prayer. I don't normally pray in stadiums unless a crucial third down is involved, but when a bellowing voice from above commands you to pray, you should probably do it just in case it's actually God.

Once the competition started I quickly lost track of who was winning, partly because of the sheer number of riders and partly because of the sheer number of beers I'd consumed on the party bus. Basically, a bull would come running out with a hat-wearing man clinging precariously to his back; the bull would dislodge the man; and the man would either fling his hat triumphantly into the air, or cling to the fence if the bull decided to rough him up a bit.

Only one guy, who was unfortunate enough to fall off in front of the bull, really seemed to be in any danger throughout all this. The bull didn't poke him with his horns, but got right down in his face and appeared to be trying to bite him for a few seconds. I think that a bull's horns and impressive trampling ability tend to make people forget that bulls also have very large mouths, and getting bit by one wouldn't be very much fun at all.

A BULL'S HORNS AND TRAMPLING ABILITY MAKE PEOPLE FORGET THAT BULLS ALSO HAVE VERY LARGE MOUTHS.

That rider, Ednei Carminhas, escaped with only bruises (the PBR Web site has a section detailing the injuries suffered by riders). The PBR has its health coverage sponsored, which no doubt cuts costs, but it sounds a little strange when they work in a sponsor plug while describing gory injuries. For example, take this account, which concerns our friend "Bleedin'" Ednei: "Ednei Carminhas was struck behind his right ear by a horn, sustaining a laceration that required suturing in the HEALTHSOUTH Sportsmedicine Team training room." And after the blood stopped pouring out of his punctured head, Ednei took an American Red Cross Blood Break—Red Cross, the Right Blood for You!

At the end of the night, a guy named Lee Akin took home $53,095 in prize money. That's right, $53,095 for a total of 25 seconds' worth of work. I've downloaded a PBR membership application, and while I've not yet been aboard a bull, I'm an optimist. I'm practicing throwing my hat. iB

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Jimmy Tingle

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Stand-up comic and humorist Jimmy Tingle was born and raised in Cambridge and spent years on the local comedy circuit before attaining headliner status in the 1980s. In 1990, he began working on his first one-man show, *Jimmy Tingle's Uncommon Sense, The Education of an American Comic*, which played to positive reviews in Cambridge, New York and Los Angeles. His television appearances include *The Tonight Show, Larry King Weekend, The Late Show With Conan O'Brien, The Late, Late Show with Tom Snyder*, HBO's *One Night Stand*, the *American Comedy Awards* and a stint as contributor and satirist on MSNBC. More notably, he spent two seasons as the humorist/commentator (in the Andy Rooney spot) on CBS's *60 Minutes II*. A frequent guest on NPR and WBUR's *Morning Edition*, his film credits include *Next Stop Wonderland* and he recently finished work on the new Chris Rock movie *Head of State*. Through the end of January, he will appear in his one-man show, *Jimmy Tingle in the Promised Land*, at the Somerville theater he recently took over, Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway. He lives in the Boston area with his wife and child.

Jonathan Soroff: *So is that your real name, and if so, how much grief did you get for it growing up?*

Jimmy Tingle: It is, and the grief ended in kindergarten.

JS: *Your theater's in Somerville and it's called Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway. Isn't that a bit of an understatement?*

JT: It's off Broadway in Somerville.

JS: *Oh, I forgot about that. I don't get over there that often.*

JT: Well, build up those frequent flier miles and come see what you're missing.

JS: *Finish this joke: Dick Cheney and Condoleeza Rice walk into a bar…*

JT: A representative from Bob Jones University is there and he says, "Please. No interracial dating."

JS: *Who in public life right now is the easiest target for comedy?*

JT: For me, it's still the president, Dubya. The funniest thing recently was when he got the 12,000 page report on Iraq's supposed weapons of mass destruction. It was in Washington for all of 15 minutes and Bush roundly condemned it as a pack of lies. I was saying, "It's 12,000 pages and it's been there under an hour. What's he got—Evelyn Wood in his cabinet?"

JS: *OK. Most absurd topic in the current public discourse?*

JT: Gays in the military. I think there should be more, and then maybe there'd be less war. "Captain, I couldn't shoot him. He was gorgeous!" Of course, there's also the weapons inspectors in Iraq. How are they gonna find anything over there? It's three times the size of New England. The FBI couldn't find Whitey Bulger, and he was on the payroll! And then there's the idea that Mitt Romney's going to be such a great governor because he ran the Olympics. Well, that's nice, but Massachusetts is a little bit different. We've got the FBI protecting gangsters, the Catholic Church protecting child molesters, the Big Dig $10 billion over budget. We're more like the Special Olympics.

JS: *Best gig you ever had?*

JT: *60 Minutes II*. Millions of people watched, and I did a minute and a half to two minutes a week. It was a good gig. And when it flowed, it was fabulous. The hard thing was trying to get into a groove so it was happening every week. Which also made it the hardest gig I ever had.

JS: *How about the worst?*

JT: Losing on *Star Search*. That was tough. It's the first national television exposure, and it's a contest, so you have all these high hopes and everybody's watching it at home, and not only did you lose, but they filmed it.

JS: *What would happen if Andy Rooney started taking Prozac?*

JT: [Laughs.] I have no idea.

JS: *Is he as cranky as he seems?*

JT: He was very supportive and helpful to me.

JS: *Maybe he should wear looser underwear. Think that might help?*

JT: [Laughs.] I don't know. He's 80-something years old. I don't think he's gonna change.

JS: *So would you describe yourself as a curmudgeon or a malcontent?*

JT: Nah. I'm basically pretty happy.

JS: *Are you a big news junkie?*

JT: Not the way I was. I got married. I have a child. I have a house. Now I'm running a theater. I have to pay attention to the news, obviously, for my work, but I'm not obsessed with it the way I was when I was single, living in New York, reading two or three papers a day. And you know what? It was so damned depressing. I'm much happier now.

JS: *So if you lived in the woods in a cabin with no TV and no papers…*

JT: I'd be happy. For about half an hour.

JS: *So what's on TV right now that just makes your skin crawl?*

JT: I don't really know because as soon as I get to something that makes my skin crawl I shut it off. I don't know what I'm missing.

JS: *Worst part of doing TV?*

JT: The preparation for it. Radio, you can do it in your underwear. Live performance, you can do it no matter what. TV is lighting and sound and makeup and quiet and blah-blah-blah. It's just very involved.

JS: *Funniest person you know?*

JT: Probably my mother. I think that's where I get my sense of humor.

JS: *Favorite knock-knock joke of all time?*

JT: Well, here's the one I've used at comedy clubs when people weren't getting the material: Knock-knock. Who's there? Rita. Rita who? Rita newspaper, and maybe you'll know what the hell I'm talking about.

JS: *Stupidest current fad or craze?*

JT: Maybe the tattoos. You see these really attractive women in their 20s with tattoos on their necks, or their heads, and you're like, "Oh my God. Did you really think this through?"

JS: *You're on NPR a lot. Does everybody over there wear Birkenstocks and drink chai and secretly belong to the communist party?*

JT: [Laughs.] I'm the only one who does that. I wear my Birkenstocks through the middle of winter. I'm wearing them right now. And nothing else.

JS: *Your act is always billed as very clean…*

JT: Yeah, and let me just say that's bullshit. It's clean, in that there's not a lot of four-letter words, but it's certainly not G-rated. Especially if I'm in a little bit of an angry mood.

JS: *So what's profanity's proper place in comedy? I mean, Bill Cosby and Bob Newhart made a career out of being squeaky clean, but people like Lenny Bruce, George Carlin, Richard Pryor, and Eddie Murphy made a name by being really foul-mouthed.*

JT: That's a misunderstanding. They made a name by being really insightful and really funny. The four-letter words were just adjectives that went along with it. If the profanity is the punchline itself, it can only go so far. There's gotta be a premise leading up to it. So when they made a point about something, the material could stand on its own, and the swearing was like a spice thrown in.

JS: *What's the difference between a humorist and a comedian?*

JT: A one-man show isn't just "Set-up, punchline. Set-up, punchline." There's a theme to it. That's being a humorist. When I do straight stand-up, a half-hour at a club, there's no premise. There doesn't have to be a beginning, a middle and an end. I'm not necessarily there to present a point of view. But with a humorist, there is. It's the difference between satire and one-liners. And the reality is that a humorist is usually not as funny as a stand-up comic. Garrison Keillor isn't gonna compare with George Carlin in terms of the number of laughs he'll get in an hour.

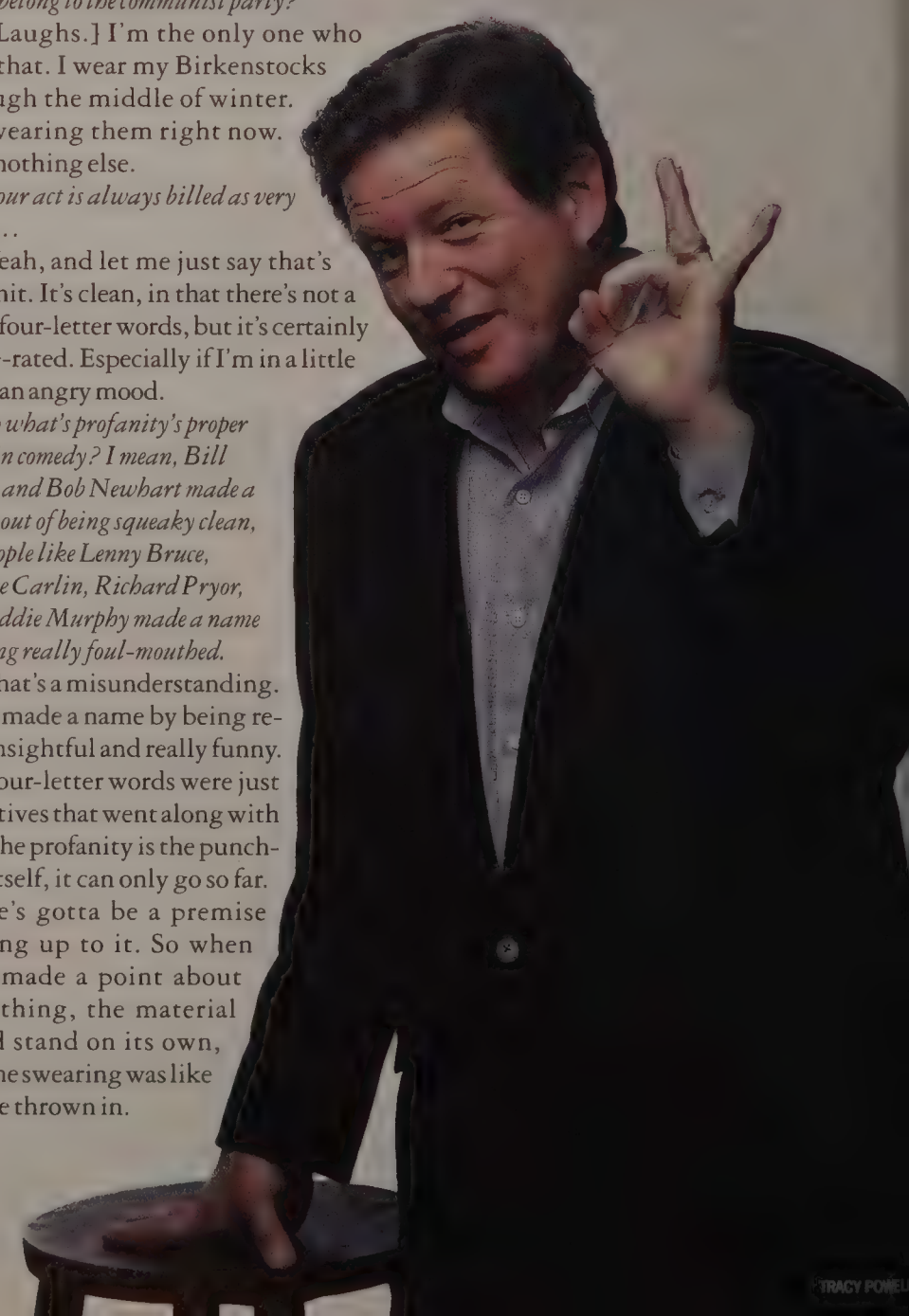
JS: *Last question: As a pick-up line, did you ever try "Wanna feel a little tingle?"*

JT: [Laughs.] No.

JS: *Well, you can have that. You don't even need to pay me.*

JT: Thank you. I guess. iB

"A ONE-MAN SHOW ISN'T JUST 'SET-UP, PUNCHLINE. SET-UP, PUNCHLINE.' THERE'S A THEME TO IT. THAT'S BEING A HUMORIST."



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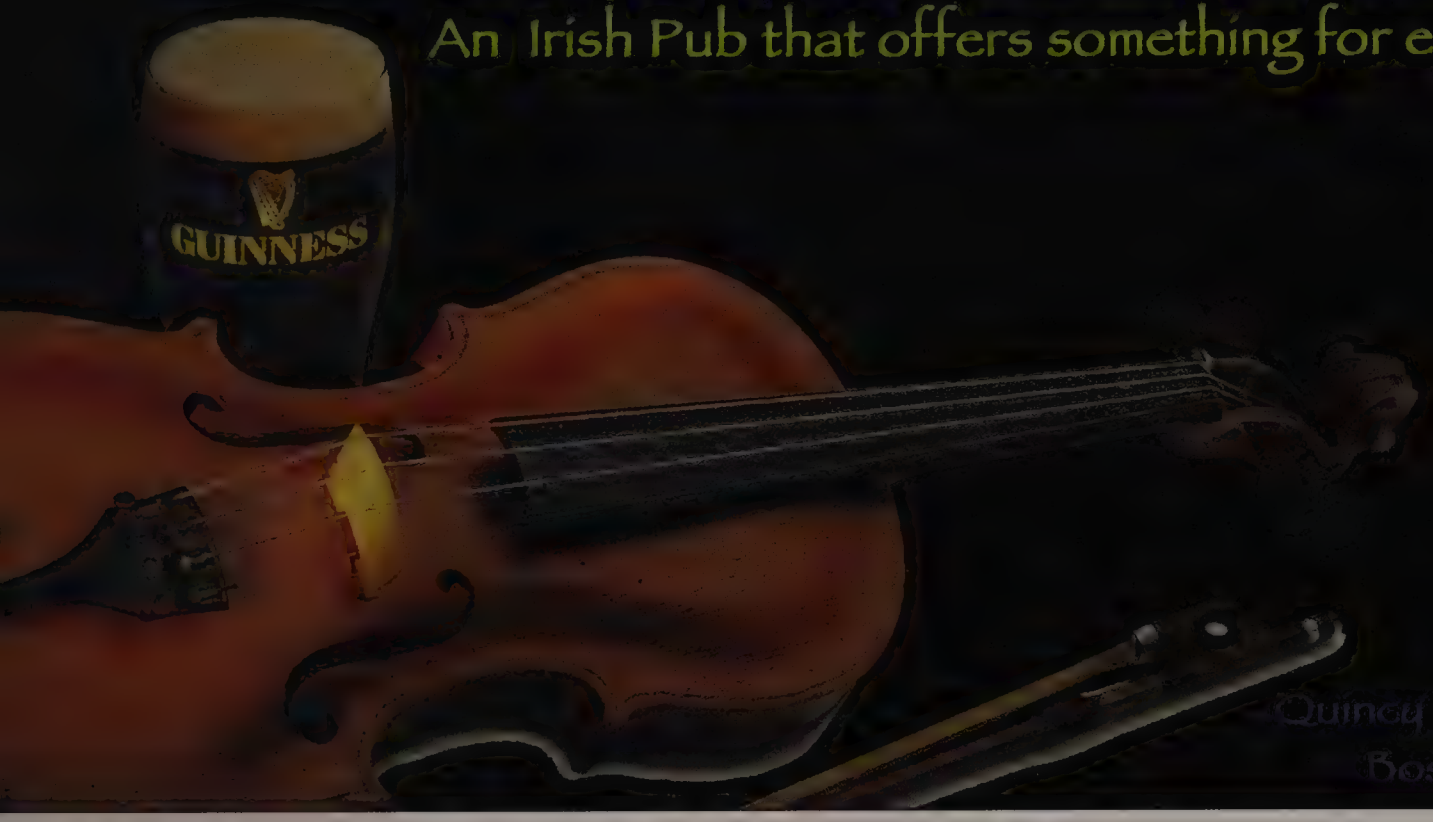

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Lou Merloni, 31, No. 26, Boston Red Sox

A major-league catch, Lou Merloni was born and raised in Framingham. Despite early plans to pursue a career in baseball, he recognized the importance of getting an education and went to Providence College, where he was honored as Big East College Player of the Year and Male Athlete of the Year. His dream of joining the Red Sox took time to realize; Merloni was a tenth-round pick in the 1993 draft, and he didn't make his major league debut until May 10, 1998. Five days later, he played his first home game, hitting a three-run homer in his first at-bat at Fenway. One indication of what a romantic, family-oriented guy he is: That night also happened to be his parents' 33rd wedding anniversary, so he hired a limousine to bring them to the game. Despite a knee injury that sidelined him in 1998, being bounced back and forth between the minor leagues and the Red Sox, and a year spent in Japan playing for the Yokohama Bay Stars, he's emerged as a valuable utility player for the Red Sox—he's a hometown boy grown from the Sox' own farm system. His persistence and equanimity, meanwhile, prove he's got heart. Off-season, Merloni is an avid golfer and movie buff and also enjoys playing racquetball and basketball. He earns bonus good-guy points for frequently visiting schools and sports events to motivate the kids. The fans love him, greeting his arrival on the field with chants of "Lou-oo-oo!" The ladies love him too, for obvious reasons. He's all that, and a bag of Fenway peanuts.

Kelly Malone, 25, morning personality, Mix 98.5 WBMX

Someone handed her an All-Access pass to being super cool, and she's never looked back. Effervescent and opinionated, Kelly Malone's got personality to spare and an infectious joie de vivre. The airwaves crackle with her charisma, whether she's acting as sidekick to morning host John Lander, pulling "nutcrackers" (the show's trademark prank phone calls), interacting with listeners or simply reading the news and traffic. Born and raised in Bedford, N.H., Malone studied communications at the University of New Hampshire and worked for two rock stations in New Hampshire as the midday DJ before moving to Boston in 2001 to join the morning crew at Mix. Backstage at concerts or in the studio, she's attracted the flirtatious attention of pop stars like John Mayer, Tony Kanal from No Doubt and Chris Martin of Coldplay, but any guy who wants to date her had better have an athletic side. She's a certified sports nut and loves going to games. As the public face of the radio station, Malone's tireless when it comes to hosting events and making the rounds. Although she does have a red-hot energy supply, Malone has a quiet side too that she indulges with hobbies like black-and-white photography. She's like the girl next door... assuming you live next to a fireworks factory.

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INTERVIEW

Getting to Know You:

Kelly Malone and Lou Merloni

IB: *What's your ideal first date?*
KM: Anything but dinner and a movie. I love salad, but I don't want someone watching me eat one, with lettuce sticking out of my mouth, and movies don't work, because you can't talk. What's good is something creative but low-key, like going to a Red Sox game. It's casual. You're outside. You don't have to get dressed up or try to impress the person.
LM: The most important thing on a first date is going somewhere quiet so you can talk and get to know each other. Maybe a romantic place for a nice, low-key dinner.

IB: *What was your worst date ever?*
KM: I went out with a guy once, and I spilled a beer all over myself. Then, while we were driving in his car, in the middle of an intersection, a headlight fell out, and he had to try and fix it. It was a disaster.
LM: I try not to have bad dates, and I've never had a date get sick or get into a fistfight or anything, but the worst is when, after 10 or 20 minutes, you realize you have nothing in common and you're just waiting for the night to be over.

IB: *What's the cheesiest pickup line you've ever heard?*
KM: A guy asked me if I was a Pisces because I had big, watery eyes.
LM: All lines are cheesy, and any girl who'd fall for one isn't the girl for me. But I guess the worst is when some guy looks at the tag on a woman's clothing and says, "I just wanted to see if you were made in heaven."

IB: *Secret crush?*
KM: Jake Gyllenhaal. I love him. And [Bruins goalie] Steve Shields is cute.
LM: I've had a crush on Michelle Pfeiffer forever, and she just keeps getting better, but Halle Berry's awful close. So is Jessica Biel.

IB: *When should you first attempt a French kiss?*
KM: Not on the first date, unless you've known the person for a while. I guess whenever you feel the butterflies. But not before.
LM: That's a total feeling thing. I have no problem waiting, but if everything clicks, it might be the first night.

IB: *Name some turn-ons.*
KM: A strong personality. Someone who can walk into a room and command attention and respect. He also has to be hilarious. A lot of girls say they value a sense of humor, but they really don't. I do.
LM: I'm a "legs guy." Someone who's athletic, obviously someone who likes sports, a sense of humor. I like the sexy, conservative type. In a group of girls, I'm always curious about the quietest one.

IB: *Turn-offs?*
KM: Gold chains. Someone who swears a lot. Someone who doesn't sound intelligent.
LM: In-your-face, obnoxious women. Women who look at you like "You're not good enough to talk to me." Or women who only like you for being a professional athlete. You can always tell who they are.

SINGLED OUT

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

"You're too picky."

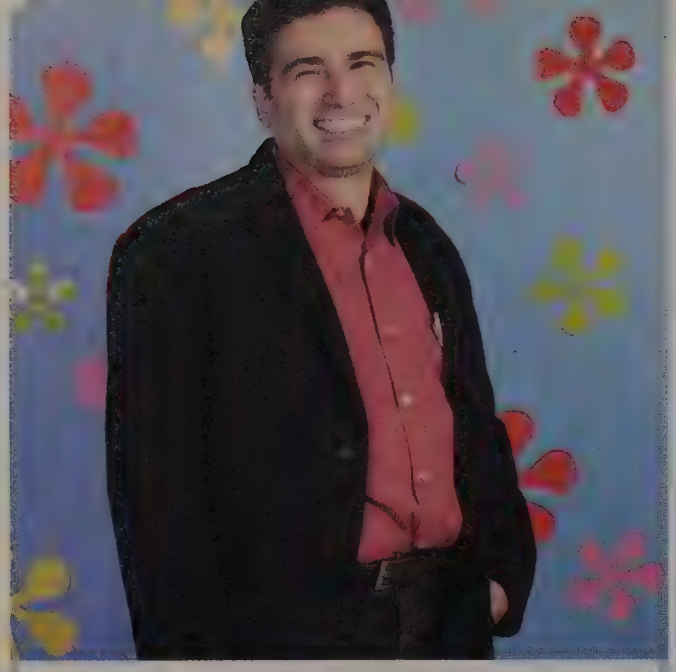
That's what a lot of single people hear from their friends (especially the ones who are already paired off), and it's a bit insulting, really.

Why shouldn't you be picky? Are you supposed to settle for the first person who says "I love you"? If that were the case, lots of us would now be married to the dates who threw up on us at the senior prom.

No, the right person is worth waiting for. Searching for. Even advertising for—hence the multibillion-dollar industry of personal ads, dating services, Internet chat rooms and even old-fashioned matchmakers, not to mention the proliferation of phenomena like "speed dating" and coffee shops devoted to matching up singles. Then there are the blind dates and introductions by well-intended family and friends, some of whom seem to regard being single as a stigma akin to eczema or poor personal hygiene, but one that can easily be cured with a phone call to the downstairs neighbor whose cousin just moved to town.

No wonder the search can get frustrating. Tedious. Dare we even say lonely? But for those of you in the trenches of singledom, we're here to offer inspiration.

Our 2003 batch of Boston's most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes contains a sampling of the accomplished and attractive people out there who happen not to be (currently or publicly) married. That's not to say that they aren't spoken for, or that they're waiting for you to call them and ask them out. In fact, one of the most attractive qualities they all share is that they lead full and interesting lives, regardless of romantic status. But they do offer proof that the good ones aren't all taken. We'd go so far as to say that there aren't enough superlatives in the dictionary to write personal ads to do them justice. So the next time one of your friends calls you "too picky," think of these folks. There are plenty of fish in the sea, but a real catch is worth waiting for.



Cha-Chi Loprete, 45,
creative services director, WBCN and WZLX

One of the most lovable men in radio, Loprete was born in Brighton, raised in Cambridge and attended Rindge Technical High School. He started his career at Polaroid, where he worked for seven years, although he'd set his sights on working at WBCN as a kid. In 1981, the station hired him to answer the listener line, and a year later he became a promotions assistant. In the late '80s and early '90s, he was on-air, working weekends and hosting a popular Beatles show, but he preferred working behind the scenes and returned to it. He interviewed three of the Beatles three times, partied like a rock star with icons like David Bowie, Lenny Kravitz, Snoop Dogg, Aerosmith, Beck and U2, and counts Tony Bennett among his close friends. (In his autobiography, Bennett credits Loprete for reintroducing him to the youth market.) For many years, Loprete hosted an uproariously funny cable TV show called *Your Mother's on the Roof*, and he has a fairly impressive collection of Beatles memorabilia. In his spare time, he's a homebody who lives on a five-acre farm and enjoys reading, movies and looking after his three cats. Overall snapshot: dark good looks married to a hilarious sense of humor and a healthy dose of teen spirit.

Dr. George Chiang, 28,
surgical resident

He's got all the intensity, skill and intelligence of a surgeon, without the arrogance and humorlessness that sometimes go along with them. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Chiang went to Johns Hopkins undergrad and medical school at Tufts. An admitted adrenaline junkie (which explains why he went into surgery), he likes to do things like bungee-jump and surf. He can also hold his own on a tennis court. He's dabbled in Web-site design and loves travel; the more exotic the destination, the better. Stamps in his passport include South Africa, Costa Rica, Brazil and Hong Kong. While following a busy schedule as a surgical resident (with plans to specialize in urology), he still finds the energy to work occasional shifts as a bartender at the enduringly trendy Olives. A wine enthusiast and an outstanding chef, Chiang describes his cooking as "Asian ingredients with French preparation and Latin flair." Best of all, he understands women the way only a man who grew up with three older sisters can. The dazzling smile is genuine, and according to his co-workers, he has an excellent bedside manner. What that means for his love life we'll leave up to the reader's imagination or some lucky woman to find out.

Heidi Strasnick, 28,
advertising sales executive, KISS 108

A winning combination of killer looks and chutzpah, she's originally from Marblehead and studied marketing at UMass Amherst. After a short stint in retail, Strasnick was recruited to work in radio and did sales for Smooth Jazz, FM Talk and WBCN. She left radio to help AOL/Time Warner open a local sales office and returned last August, joining Kiss 108, where she's bedazzled everyone from the top brass and on-air talent to (presumably) the guy who makes the coffee. A whirling dervish on the dance floor (or the bar, at certain downtown hot spots), she loves watching football, playing softball and skiing. In addition to hosting a fundraiser for Toys for Tots that has made her that charity's largest single donor in Massachusetts, she throws parties for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The fact that she works out religiously is obvious from the incredible abs, and her fluent Spanish frequently comes in handy when she travels for pleasure. She plays the piano and hates to cook, but you can't have everything, right? At least she knows all the best restaurants in town, and she adds her own spice wherever she goes.

Chris Collins, 32, sports anchor, NECN

The quintessential good guy who happens to have his dream job and looks like he just fell out of the pages of *GQ*. A native of Peabody, he went to New Hampton Prep and then Temple University, where he played outfield for the baseball team. Realizing that his two greatest skills were reading the sports page and watching sports on TV, he decided to make jock journalism his career. He got his first job as a sports reporter after teaching school in Peabody for a year, although he continues to visit schools at least once a month to talk to students about achieving success. A TV gig in Alexandria, La., was followed by a two-year stint in Milwaukee, and in 1998 he brought his high-energy reporting style to New England Cable News. Now the channel's star sports guy, he's also a regular on WEEI's top-rated *Big Show* (where he takes a ration of grief for driving a Mercedes SL 500). Collins spends a fair amount of his spare time socializing with the guys he covers; among his friends are Celtics point guard Tony Delk and fellow bachelors Joe Thornton of the Bruins and Lou Merloni of the Red Sox. When he's not working, however, he spends most of his time giving back—whether he's hosting charity events, volunteering for Paul Pierce's Reading Team or serving on committees for charities like One for the Kids. Quite possibly the best-dressed sports reporter ever, he's eye candy worth listening to.

Melissa Hurley, 29, senior account executive, the Rendon Group

The proverbial woman who does it all, this high-powered PR professional is a Medford native. After earning a bachelor's degree in public relations and broadcast journalism at Emerson, she attended the school of government at Yale University to do graduate work on women in government. A stint in the communications arm of a financial services giant followed, and she served as a speechwriter and special events manager for the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs, before joining the PR agency where she now works on projects like the New England Patriots Super Bin Recycling Program and the Leonard P. Zakim/Bunker Hill Bridge dedication. Since 1992, she's hosted a monthly public affairs program that airs on more than 20 cable stations and earned her Community Newspapers' award for TV Personality of the Year. Her political aspirations led her in 1996 to run for Middlesex County Commissioner and in 2000 for Register of Probate; she lost both races by a narrow margin. Since 2001, she has served as treasurer of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus. And if all that weren't enough, she was a finalist in the Miss Massachusetts Pageant and remains active in causes related to children and senior citizens, most notably the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Not bad for a mere mortal with a gorgeous mane of hair.

ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE EXCEPT CHRIS COLLINS: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; CHRIS COLLINS:COURTESY NE

Ken Oringer, 37, chef/owner, Clio

Unlike most chefs, the supremely talented and boyishly handsome Oringer isn't monomaniacal about food. Instead he prefers to surround himself with interesting, well-rounded people, as opposed to die-hard foodies. A native of Paramus, N.J., he got his business degree from Bryant College in Rhode Island and honed his cooking chops at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America. He began his career in 1987 at New York's famed River Café and worked with Jean-Georges Vongerichten at the Lafayette in New York before moving to Providence, R.I., for a stint at the critically lauded Al Forno. His first job in Boston was at the Swissôtel, after which he opened a restaurant in Greenwich, Conn., and then moved to San Francisco to work at the white-hot Silks. He returned to Boston as the chef at Tosca in Hingham, and in 1997, opened the chic Back Bay eatery that has catapulted him into the ranks of nationally recognized celebrity chefs. Heavily involved with numerous charities, Oringer participates in about 30 food-related events per year for causes like Operation Frontline, the Dana-Farber Cancer Center and Share Our Strength. He also finds creative inspiration in traveling extensively; during the past year alone, he has visited Thailand, Spain, Hawaii, Vienna, France and numerous places throughout the United States. A sports enthusiast, he played rugby in college, started snowboarding last year and enjoys baseball and basketball. With looks, talent and an energy level somewhere in the stratosphere, Oringer is a kitchen god worth panting over.

Terri Fuentes, 26, host, *Pachanga Latina*, WUNI-TV

This one-woman Mardi Gras was born in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, to a Mexican father and an American mother who had moved to the picturesque 16th-century silver-mining town and art colony to study painting. When her father died, Fuentes' mother moved the family back to her hometown of Framingham. After attending Framingham State, Fuentes took television by storm and now hosts and produces the wildly popular music and entertainment show for Univision New England, as well as serving as entertainment reporter for *Noticiero Breve* and sideline reporter for *Fight Night New England* on Fox Sports Net. She has interviewed Latin superstars such as Enrique Iglesias, Celia Cruz, Oscar de la Hoya and John Leguizamo. No prima donna, she produces and edits her own show, in addition to hosting. Recently, Fuentes branched out into acting, landing a role in the indie film *Cubicle Slaves*. An artist like her mother, she loves painting, as well as going to the theater, museums and traveling. A force to be reckoned with, her star is obviously on the ascent. J.Lo's got nothin' on her.

Lisa Conti, 34,
on-premise manager, Skyy Spirits

A party girl without the histrionics, this lighthearted blond bombshell was raised in Stoneham and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of New Hampshire. After working at Merrill Lynch for three years, she worked as a national sales trainer in the computer industry before discovering her niche in the liquor business. As the person who promotes the Skyy brand at the area's trendiest bars and restaurants, she's the life of the party, oozing charm from every pore and effortlessly making sure that everyone is having a good time. (Anyone who isn't either doesn't speak the language or has lapsed into a coma.) A confessed "gym rat," she runs, lifts weights and spins. In the winter, she skis; summers find her in Newport, R.I. Creative outlets include photography, and she's an inveterate shopper (obvious from her sense of style), but anyone who's ever attended a party she's thrown knows that her real strength lies in celebrating life on an epic scale. Due to her sunny nature, anyone spending time around her might consider wearing SPF-15.

Joe Thornton, 23,
captain, Boston Bruins

That rarest of breeds: an NHL superstar with modesty, intelligence, excellent manners, fashion sense and all but five of his own teeth. Born and raised in the hinterlands of Ontario, Canada, the youngest of three boys, he began playing hockey at age four in a backyard rink his father built. As the youngest member of Team Canada in 1997, he helped win the gold medal at the World Junior Championships. The same year, he was Boston's first pick, and first overall, in the NHL entry draft. Now in his sixth season with the team, he was named captain this year, only the 17th in Bruins history. Off the ice, he's gregarious and approachable—just as likely to be the unshaven guy sitting next to you at the bar watching the game as he is to be playing in it. As for looks, he could be cast as Prince Charming in Disney on Ice, except that he can't figure-skate worth a damn. He's got the looks and the talent (he was just named to his second NHL all-star team), and to top it all off, he comports himself like a gentleman.

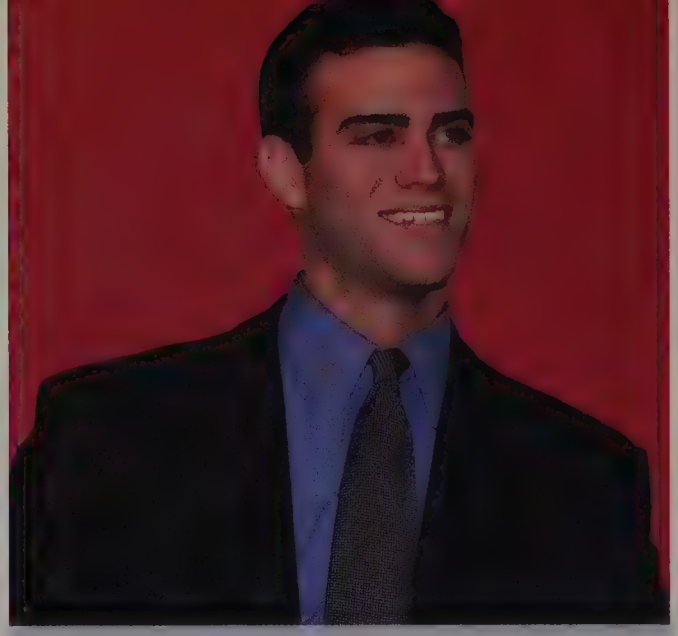
Chris Devaux, 32, vice president, Parsons Commercial Group

The picture of the young, successful happy-go-lucky guy. Born in Cortland, N.Y., and raised in Westborough, he graduated from Boston College in 1992 with a degree in communications. For the past nine years, he's navigated the shark-infested waters of commercial real estate while always behaving like a mensch. His company does development, brokerage and management, his bailiwick being sales and leasing. In his spare time, he plays golf (he's a member of Hudson's swanky Charter Oak Country Club), likes to ski and sails whenever he can. Soft-spoken and self-effacing, acquaintances will be surprised to learn that he's a voracious reader, devouring history, biography and fiction. His loyalty to friends and his love of travel are obvious in the fact that he's gone as far as Costa Rica and Ireland for bachelor parties and to Iceland to celebrate a birthday. A fixture at in-spots all over town, he's got the looks, brains and bank. In short, the total package.

JOE THORNTON: MICHAEL INDRESANO; TERRI FUENTES: ANDREW SWAINE; CHRIS DEVAUX AND LISA CONTI: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

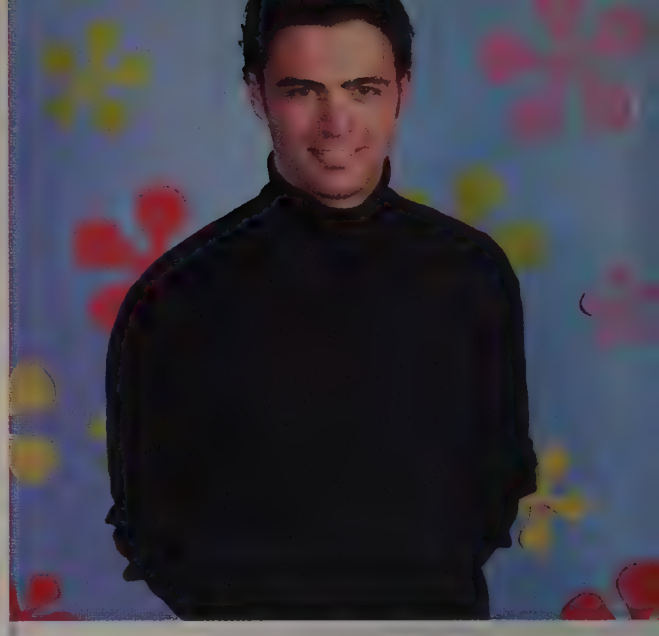
Michele Cotler, 26,
special projects producer, *10 O'Clock News* on WB-56 (WLVI-TV)

They don't come any more composed than this. Utterly unflappable and fearlessly capable, she's the embodiment of grace under pressure, making her job look easy and looking good while doing it. A native of Roslyn, N.Y., Cotler studied philosophy and communications at New England College in New Hampshire. She started her career at WB-56 as executive assistant to the general manager and swiftly made her way to segment producer and talent booker of (the now defunct) *Boston's WB in the Morning*. A world traveler who's been to such far-flung locales as India, Vietnam, Morocco and China, she's a superb cook of everything from Indian food and sushi to vegetarian cuisine. A fan of movement, Cotler is a devotee of yoga, an avid snowboarder and in-line skater, and her sense of adventure is equaled only by her sense of humor. Whether she's handling celebrities like Jason Alexander, Matt Damon and Ted Kennedy, or chilling with friends, she's the closest thing we've seen to a real-life Mary Tyler Moore. A party girl without the messiness, her social calendar is as crowded as her work schedule, and yet she always seems to find time to stop and smell the roses.



Theo Epstein, 29, general manager, Boston Red Sox

Sorry, girls—he's spoken for, with a serious girlfriend of more than a year. Nevertheless, until someone's got a ring on her finger, the ball is technically still in play, and the youngest GM in major league baseball history is certainly worthy of daydreaming about. A twin, Theo Epstein was born in New York City and raised in Brookline, the grandson of the Oscar-winning screenwriter Phillip Epstein, who collaborated on *Casablanca* with his own twin, Julius—one indication that Theo might have inherited a romantic streak. At Yale, he was a sports reporter for the college paper and managed the hockey team. After graduating, he began the career in professional sports that he had dreamed of since childhood, starting out as a PR intern for the Baltimore Orioles. He followed Larry Lucchino to San Diego, where he spent five years with the Padres and went to USD law school, passing the bar exam on his first try. Then came Lucchino's reign as president and CEO of the Red Sox and Epstein's ascent to GM, thrusting the supremely poised and self-effacing whippersnapper into the media spotlight, which he undoubtedly loathes but handles with charm and good humor. His looks are enough to break hearts, he's got musical talent (he plays guitar in the band Trauser), and his brains may be the magic charm that finally breaks the curse of the Bambino.



John Gidding, 26, architecture student, Harvard's Graduate School of Design

Our gay bachelor's credentials are almost absurdly impressive, although there's nothing arrogant or intimidating about him. Born and raised in Istanbul (his mother is Turkish; his father American), he went to boarding school in Switzerland and spent his undergrad years at Yale. Fluent in English, Turkish and French, and currently studying German, he's a gifted artist, a talented cook (specializing in French and Turkish cuisine but with a flair for sushi) and has both impeccable manners and an excellent sense of humor (even about himself). Classically trained on the piano, he's learning to play the guitar and sings with the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. As if all that weren't enough to turn heads, he also models. After appearing in a print ad for software a year and a half ago, he signed with an agent and has since done runway work for Giorgio Armani, Hugo Boss and Gucci. As a student in one of the world's most respected and competitive architecture programs, he's busy finishing his master's thesis on the Turkish embassy in Berlin. Amazingly down-to-earth for someone who belongs on Mount Olympus, he's an oddity among Adonises: gorgeous inside as well as out.

Kimberly Goff, 23,
staff assistant, Northeastern University and graduate student

Sexy and selfless, she's like a cross between Mother Teresa, Doris Day and a member of the Swedish bikini team. A native of Hyde Park, Goff studied communication disorders at the University of New Hampshire and graduated with honors while interning at the Red Cross. Currently working at Northeastern while she earns a graduate degree in nonprofit management, she still finds time to volunteer for the Jimmy Fund and participate in the Junior League, where she's now involved in a mentoring program with the Boys and Girls Clubs. A fan of anything athletic, Goff loves playing or watching basketball, and she's currently training for the 2003 Boston Marathon. She's also a self-diagnosed choc-o-holic, and an ace dessert and pastry chef. Blonde hair and a bewitching smile round out this impressive picture. She's like the homecoming queen of Do-Good High.

Shelli Lockhart, 30s, *Nightcast* anchor, UPN38 and weekend news anchor, Channel 4 (WBZ-TV)

Imagine the wholesome sass of a pep-squad leader combined with the no-nonsense brass of a seasoned journalist. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Lockhart moved to Texas at age 10 and wears her heritage as a Southerner loud and proud. A cheerleader in high school and then at Southern Methodist University, she cut her teeth as a reporter in Ardmore, Okla., before moving to Waco, Texas. Her outstanding coverage of the Branch Davidian siege brought her to the attention of a station in Dallas, and she came to Boston in 2001 to join the award-winning news team at WBZ. A fervent animal lover, she did animal rescue work in Texas and currently volunteers with the MSPCA, doing pet therapy at retirement homes with dogs and cats from shelters or one of her own two pets—an American Eskimo and a mutt she rescued from the pound. Currently training to run in the 2003 Boston Marathon on behalf of the American Liver Foundation, Lockhart enjoys sailing on Jamaica Pond and is game for almost anything, having recently tried snow-tubing for the first time. Although she works on weekends, she attends church regularly and maintains a dizzyingly busy social life. As pretty as she is accomplished, she's the total package and the ideal woman for any man who's a sucker for a Southern accent.

MICHELE COTLER, JOHN GIDDING AND KIMBERLY GOFF: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; THEO EPSTEIN: COURTESY OF BRITA MENG OUTZE

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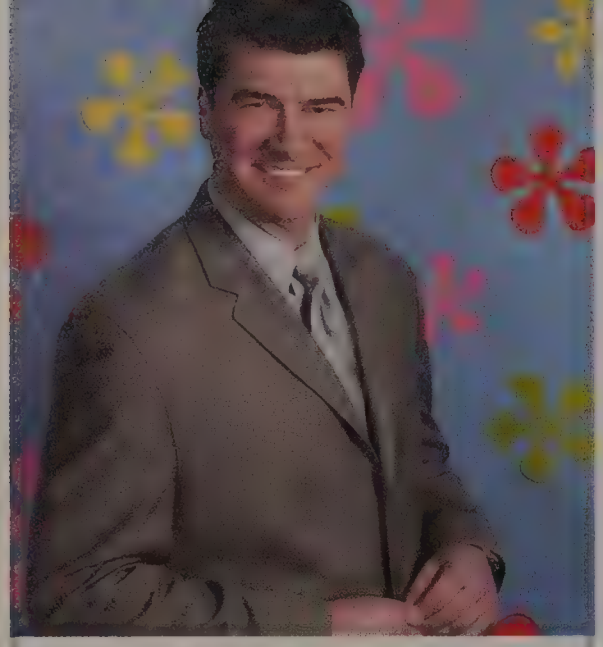

Mike Scanlan, 34,
entrepreneur and co-owner, Trio

Bearing a vague resemblance to George Clooney, this self-made man-about-town was born and raised in Walpole, the son of a Boston firefighter. He earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's in international finance from Providence College, where he was a track star and won the Big East championship in the 3,000 meter. He worked as a stockbroker and tended bar at clubs such as Pravda, the Roxy and Oscar's while starting his cleaning company, MD Commercial, with his brother. Today, their firm has more than 200 restaurant and hotel clients throughout New England. Three years ago, he and his best friend from childhood, Karl Prinz, opened Trio, the popular hipster hangout in the Leather District, and in April, the pair will open a three-story nightclub called the Pearl Room downtown. An expert chess player, Scanlan routinely does the *New York Times* crossword puzzle (in pen) in 11 minutes. He's also an avid basketball player and a fixture at the most happening hot spots all over town. Despite the playboy image, he's the salt of the earth, and more fun than a barrel of monkeys.

Lisa Austin, 38,
co-owner, Wild Women Outfitters

Together with her sister, our lesbian bachelorette owns and operates the area's premiere retailer of outdoor clothing and equipment specifically geared toward women (as opposed to the large chains, where 70 percent of the merchandise is marketed for men). Hailing from Kinderhook, N.Y., she has a bachelor's degree in women's studies and photography from UMass Amherst and is also a certified outdoor leader, qualified to take groups on just about any adventure in the great outdoors. Her own have included trekking overland from Nepal to Tibet, kayaking in Alaska's Glacier Bay, winter camping in the Adirondacks and hiking the Presidential Range. More at home in nature than anywhere else, she's currently training for her first triathlon and enjoys playing basketball and field hockey, as well as mountain biking. In quieter moments, she spends time with her Rhodesian Ridgeback, indulges her passion for black-and-white photography and is a year-round devotee of grilling. She's 100 percent natural and a natural-born leader.

Deborah Adams, 30, social worker

She's the type of person who prevents us from despairing over the human race. Raised in rural Contoocook, N.H., Adams studied in Belgium for a year after high school before earning a bachelor's degree in social work at Pennsylvania's Albright College. A master's degree in social work from Temple University followed, after which she returned to New Hampshire and began fighting the good fight. She now works as a clinician in an acute residential treatment program, helping troubled kids between the ages of 3 and 10. She speaks French fluently and fakes Spanish fairly well, reads voraciously and has a self-deprecating wit that buoys the spirits of everyone around. For instance, when it comes to dancing, she says, "I look like I'm having a seizure. I almost took out an entire family on the dance floor on New Year's Eve." Not obsessed with the search for Mr. Right, this gamine, doe-eyed beauty developed a social outing organization for married and single women in their 30s to connect and socialize through activities like a book club and trips to the theater. A true gem, she's the kind of woman any man would be proud to bring home to his mother.

IT'S A DATE

Find yourself a match with these online and in-person dating services

BY LILY ALT, JOY PETERSON AND ELIZABETH REH

National services that offer local events

HURRYDATE www.hurrydate.com. If seven to eight minutes is too long for you, try an evening of 25 three-minute dates. For $35, meet, chat and decide if you want to see any of these frantic faces again.

JDATE.COM (887-453-3861). www.jdate.com. The largest all-ages Jewish singles network provides an online dating service based on personal profiling and local events (clubs, theater, sporting events and so on) to mingle in person. They swear "it's not how you look—it's how you feel," but they do offer the option of posting photos. The site charges a small monthly fee for the ability to search, e-mail and instant-message with more than 500,000 members. Also see www.matzoball.org and www.speeddating.com.

WWW.SEVENMINUTES.COM and **8 MINUTE DATING** www.8minutedating.com. Those who have neither the time nor the desire to create and browse Web site profiles or chat online can try their luck the old-fashioned way—in person. This Boston-based, nationally acclaimed dating frenzy takes place in restaurants and separates participants into like-minded groups, whether by race, sexual preference or religion. It's cheap, it's quick, and when the whistle blows, the date's over, and you're free to move on.

PEOPLE2PEOPLE.COM www.people2people.com. This Web site's 1.2 million members are mostly between the ages of 18 and 44, and over 70 percent are college-educated. After you fill out a profile, the search engine works tirelessly to auto-match you with others' profiles based on shared interests. Within People2People.com are also Gaymen2meet.com and Lesbians2meet.com. These spin-offs allow you to search the People2People "datebase" for same-sex matches, be it for friendship, penpals or romance.

Boston-based dating services

CREATIVE ALLIES (617-236-6996). www.creativeallies.com. With a monthly calendar chock full of events (at least one per day, including holidays), Creative Allies is a good choice for those looking to meet like-minded, arts-oriented people.

FUNFUNFUN (781-721-5844). www.funfunfun.org. Catering to Massachusetts and New Hampshire singles, FunFunFun is shared by separate clubs. Special events for three age groups—20s and 30s, 30s and 40s, and 40s and 50s—include travel, dinner socials, cultural events and outdoor sports.

GENTLE PEOPLE LTD. (617-492-1200). www.gentlepeopleltd.com. President Zelda Fischer relies on her intuition to fix up clients. Catering mainly to the well-to-do, she touts a 40 percent marriage rate in the past 22 years of service. Call for membership prices.

GOOD GENES www.goodgenes.com. Slackers need not apply. With a little more than 600 members ages 22 to 77 years old, Good Genes bills itself as a more exclusive dating Web site. Each member is required to be a faculty member or hold a degree from one of the hallowed universities on the list. Once you fill out your member profile, Good Genes sends you a list of all their member profiles and encourages you to contact prospects by e-mail.

THE POST CLUB (617-332-CLUB). www.postclub.com. This 14-year-old dating service offers a monthly calendar of events (how about "Tabouli and Tango"?) and a concierge service to help new matches plan a date. Call for membership prices.

THE SINGLE GOURMET (617-497-0444). www.singlegourmet.com. Singles ages 20 to 60 meet and dine at swanky Boston restaurants. (No worries: The service provides prearranged seating according to age.) Yearly dues of $375 and events that cost $40 to $80 make this a not-so-wallet-friendly alternative but promise plenty of good eats and good times.

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WINE HITS ITS prime

Wine lovers, delight. Your favorite libation is easier to choose, more affordable and more delicious than ever. Before purchasing your next bottle, join us as we count down the 10 hottest wine trends.

BY SANDY BLOCK PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS BEAUDOIN

From a consumer's standpoint, this is truly the golden age of wine. Without question, there's a wider selection than ever before of high-quality, affordable wines in cities like Boston, and the chance you might make the "wrong choice" when buying wine, even one of modest price, has grown very slim. More of us are currently fascinated with learning about, drinking, collecting and enjoying wine, and we have better-trained professionals to advise us. Without much effort, you can find a potpourri of tastings, wine dinners and classes offered on any given night in Boston if you're interested in deepening your knowledge or just having some fun. And it appears that we're going to keep moving in this direction, with exciting new trends that promise to stimulate the palate of every wine lover and budding oenophile in the years to come.

Not that there aren't still hurdles to clear. Beyond a few cosmopolitan pockets like the Back Bay or Beacon Hill, and outside of the fine-dining context, America is still far from being a full-fledged wine culture where people open a bottle with their dinners as naturally as Europeans do. Only 12 percent of the overall adult population consumes close to 90 percent of the wine in this country. But the changes in consumption, and the swiftness with which they've occurred, have been truly profound.

To appreciate how far we've come, just look back 20 years. In 1983, wine was not considered cool. France was one of the largest exporters to the United States, and to most people, quality wine was synonymous with French wine. Therefore it seemed inaccessible to anyone who hadn't learned to *parlez-vous*. Sommeliers and wine purveyors often dismissed consumers' wine questions with condescension. Not all of the expensive wines produced back then tasted good or were even palatable, but they all shared an unassailable pedigree. Wine drinking still carried a snobbish, clubby image; if you tried a bottle that didn't appeal to you, those "in the know" would imply that you just didn't "understand" its characteristics.

Bordeaux ruled the scene, with few Boston restaurants offering a selection of American wines. Wine lists, leather-bound volumes with reproductions of the labels glaring from each page, were organized geographically, and for many, ordering a bottle was like taking a shot in the dark. Businesspeople dining out were just as likely to sip cocktails throughout their meal, and although Americans had begun drinking more wine than before, more than 80 percent was so-called jug wine—bland, modestly priced generic blends sold in large bottles. A significant percentage of the wine we bought was packaged in the form of "coolers," mixed with sweet fruit juices. (Remember Blue Nun, Riunite and Bartles & Jaymes?) Another hot item was white zinfandel. America had a sweet tooth, and apparently we wanted wines to satisfy it.

Needless to say, today's market is vastly different. The reasons it evolved are the subject for another article, but the major distinction appears to be that sound business principles have replaced the haphazard, arrogant way in which wine was made, marketed and sold in the past. Wine has become consumer-oriented, with the industry now focused on understanding and addressing the public's needs. And what have consumers demanded? That wine should be more accessible, easier to understand, easier to buy, attractively packaged, work well with food and taste better. In other words, exactly the opposite of what the wine world provided 20 years ago.

Paradoxically, as the range of wine options has grown more diverse, the market has also embraced more simplicity. The power of brands, loosely defined as trusted names that convey quality and help narrow down our choices, has asserted itself. In a sea of poorly understood options, brands make us comfortable. "Brand" can mean the choice of wine from a specific company, from a familiar grape variety or from a particular vineyard area; the brand is a magic word that sticks in our minds as a category representing quality, inspiring confidence and motivating us to buy.

WITH A NEW GENERATION OF WINE CONSUMERS, TRADITION COUNTS FOR VERY LITTLE, AND FLAVOR IS FOREMOST. SO IS VALUE.

So what are today's hottest trends? Which wine brands, or categories, are we embracing, and which ones will we buy more of in the future? With a new generation of wine consumers, tradition counts for very little, and flavor is foremost. So is value. The first, most glaring fact is that even though close to 90 percent of the bottles sold in the U.S. cost less than $10, the only segment of the market that's growing at a strong rate, despite our economic woes, is wine that costs more than $10 per bottle. That means the market is slowly embracing greater quality.

Second, red wine drinking has increased dramatically. In 1990, it constituted an endangered species, representing just 14.7 percent of the market, but it's estimated that today, in keeping with worldwide trends, we're consuming as much red wine as white.

Third, our palate has internationalized, with imports taking a greater share of the market (although domestic wine still accounts for more than 75 percent of the total). While France has slipped badly in its sales, Italy has maintained a leadership position. At the same time, wines from countries such as Australia and New Zealand—perceived as stylish, delicious and great values—have established a major presence.

Greater experimentation is a fourth trend. While wines made with a single type of grape continue to rule the market, we've also begun to embrace grapes beyond the triumvirate of chardonnay, merlot and cabernet sauvignon. This spirit of innovation extends into an interest in wines from far-flung, previously obscure regions; specialty styles of wine once considered exotic (ports, champagnes, dessert wines); new consumer-friendly ways of packaging wine (with screw-caps, for instance, rather than corks); and more environmentally friendly methods of production (wine made from organically grown grapes).

A huge development has been greater appreciation for wines conveying more natural and direct grape flavor rather than blandness or oakiness. While some people apparently used to prefer the flavor of wood to that of grapes in their wine, and others wanted neutral-tasting wines that would go down easily, those trends seem to be waning as consumers express a preference for bolder grape flavors and stronger-tasting wines. Younger consumers, in particular, are tasting "outside the box," outside the comfort zone of milder wines, attracted by the allure of distinctively styled, frankly acidic varieties like sauvignon blanc, pinot noir and Riesling.

In another vibrant trend, Americans are rediscovering the romance of wines produced by small-scale artisan vintners. They're increasingly attracted to wines made with traditional techniques (such as natural yeast fermentation and an absence of filtration) arising from single vineyards or tightly delineated regions of origin. Interest in artisan vintners has occurred simultaneously with the industry consolidating into ever-larger business entities. In fact, the two trends are complementary, as many major companies now own smaller wine estates and are investing substantial resources into those estates to maintain the "hand-crafted" production standards thought to enhance quality.

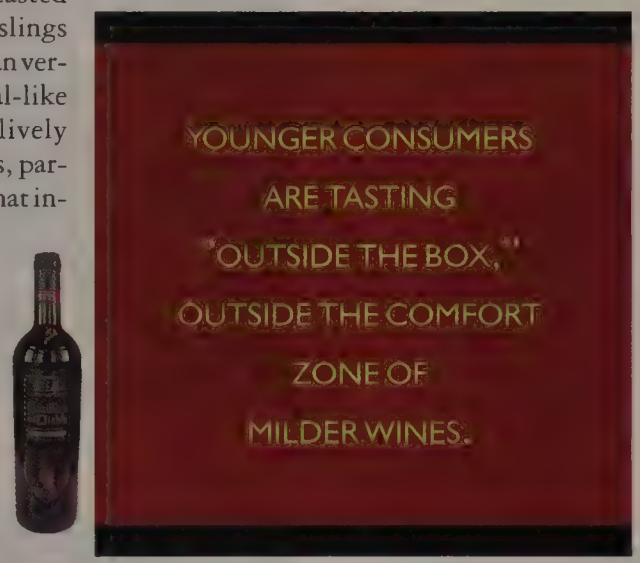
How can you hop on the hottest of these overall trends, the ones we're most likely to see continuing in the future? Here are our nominations for the top 10 categories, in descending order, some of which are still admittedly under the radar:

10. Aged tawny port: A trend within a trend. Port has been taking hold as a delicious after-dinner dessert specialty. It has an interesting story, comes from a beautiful region in Portugal, the Douro, and is marketed by a small number of prestigious, dominant brand owners (much in the manner of Cognac) with exacting production standards. The lush, silky tawnies have taken on a special momentum; great with chocolate, they remain pristine for up to a few months after you open the bottle.

9. Italian Barbera: Available in a range of styles, from simple and inexpensive wine with black-cherry flavor and tart acidity, to riper, more concentrated, smoky wines with rich, black-fruit flavors, this Piemontese specialty has just recently begun to garner the respect it deserves. Like most Italian red wine, it shines at the table, complementing everything from pizza, to burgers, to savory meat stews.

8. Cru Beaujolais: Huh? That's right, there is life after nouveau. Dedicated growers in this largest of Burgundy's subregions have been quietly laboring to revive the reputation of the local Gamay grape and in the process have created a quality revolution. Look for wines from the top villages: Moulin-à-Vent, Morgon, Brouilly and Fleurie, and you will not be disappointed if you want a red wine with vibrancy and prominent red-fruit flavor but not substantial tannins.

7. Riesling: After years of critical popularity but snubbing by consumers fearful they would look unsophisticated if they drank a wine that tasted sweet, a Riesling revolution is stirring. The sweeter Rieslings from Germany's Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, and the drier Alsatian versions, share incredibly enticing aromas and pure, mineral-like acidity. Since there's no noticeable oak and plenty of lively flavor, these are great, versatile dinner accompaniments, particularly with so much of the multiethnic cuisine today that incorporates fruit into its preparation.



6. Carmenere: How much trendier can you be than a grape variety virtually no one has heard of? This Chilean wine, originally from Bordeaux but now no longer grown there, has the added advantage of being a grape no one can pronounce either. But who cares? It's delicious. Think of a cross between merlot, but spicier, and cabernet sauvignon, but mellower. Juicy, lush, velvety on the palate, this abundantly flavorful grape variety exemplifies why Chile has become the No. 4 country we import from and why many of the major international corporations have invested there.

5. California's central coast: One of the big developments lately has been the emergence of cooler climate subzones in California for planting some of the trendiest grapes (pinot noir) that benefit from a longer growing season. In particular, look for wines from Monterey County (Santa Lucia Highlands) and from the southern reaches of Santa Barbara County (Santa Maria Valley, Santa Ynez) because of their brilliant aromas, soft textures and flavor balance.

4. American syrah: While we're acknowledging domestic developments, one of the most remarkable trends has been the advance of syrah in the United States, from a grape that was virtually unplanted 10 years ago (400 acres) to one that is growing everywhere (15,000 acres and climbing). Spicy but not very tannic, Syrah works well with hearty, robust foods like osso bucco, leg of lamb, grilled meats and game. Sales have been growing phenomenally, up 85 percent in 2000 from the year before, and almost as much each year since then. And the grape is planted in areas outside the high-rent Napa/Sonoma axis (Mendocino, central coast, Washington State), so the prices are reasonable.

3. Pinot gris: Italian pinot grigio (also called pinot gris) has become a force to be reckoned with in the market, constituting the No. 1 single category of imported wine in the United States. The hot trend, though, has been the arrival of the "next generation" of pinot gris, more concentrated, better-quality wines from places as diverse as Oregon, Alsace and the Collio subzone of Friuli in northeastern Italy. The best of those wines are necessarily a bit more expensive than bulk pinot grigio (whose popularity is due more to its easy-drinking qualities than flavor intensity) and are also more aromatic, with apple-blossom scents, crisper acidity and more weight on the palate. Oregon, where they have embraced pinot gris as the most popular white grape, is a wonderfully consistent source.

2. New Zealand sauvignon blanc: Sensationally aromatic, with piercing citric flavors and pungent acidity on the finish, sauvignon blanc from New Zealand encapsulates several trends in one. High on flavor, unoaked, innovatively packaged (many of the top wines are now packaged in screw-cap bottles to maintain flavor integrity), great with food and attractively priced, its only drawback has been lack of consistent availability. As New Zealand struggles to keep up with worldwide demand, the wild success of its cool-climate sauvignons has led to a renaissance of the grape (sometimes referred to as "fume blanc" in California), which was almost considered dead and buried by marketers. Here is the where the influence of the culinary arts has asserted itself: Many people believe that crisply acidic wines tend to go better with much of the seafood we're eating today.

1. Australian shiraz: Having just usurped France's position as the second-largest wine exporter to the United States, Australia captures the No. 1 spot for trendiest wine. Its shiraz takes into account what consumers want most: wine that's user-friendly, delicious with food and reasonably priced. And its success is directly tied to a consumer-centric attitude. Rather than protecting traditional ways of winemaking, Australians have sought to understand how Americans want their wines to look and taste and then have applied the technical skills and resources to produce those results. For instance, shiraz (or, as it's known elsewhere, "syrah") is the leading red grape, but just six years ago red grapes accounted for only 31 percent of total production in Australia. Today, in keeping with trends, red grapes cover more than 60 percent of the country's vineyards. iB

Sandy Block, who holds a Master of Wine certification, has been the IMPROPER*'s wine editor since 1993.*

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HE PAYS, she pays

Who spends more when it comes to dating? Check out our romance expense sheet.

BY ERIN HAGEDORN

As all singles who've spent time actively trying to shed their unmarried status know, the act of dating comes with a hefty price tag. Whether you're a guy or a gal, finding someone who is dateworthy, and then pursuing him or her, can fray not only your nerves but your wallet. If the two of you don't wind up at the altar, you may well end up swearing vows of poverty (or at least swearing about it). But who's really the bigger spender in all this—the guy or the gal? Who ends up putting more cash on the table before the deal is closed?

The way we see it, just how many benjamins dating requires depends largely on two factors: chivalry and self-consciousness. If one or both of you expect a certain amount of chivalry on the man's part (or, conversely, feel committed to "going dutch"), that will naturally affect who has ponied up the most cash by the end of the night. The level of prep work you feel is necessary—from getting a haircut to buying new clothes or hiring a maid to clean your apartment—will also have an effect on the dating expense sheet. (Of course, your costs will also be determined by where you go and how much you need to drink once you get there.)

What with the government's recent pro-marriage efforts like President Bush's push to eliminate the "marriage penalty" tax, we hope it's just matter of time until old-fashioned dating can be counted as a tax write-off. But until then, spend we must.

To find out just how much dating costs these days—and who winds up with the short end of the stick—we decided to break down one hypothetical couple's first four dates into his-and-hers expenses. (Take note that prices reflect the daters' respective chivalry and vanity levels; he ranks a near-perfect 9 on the chivalry scale, while she scores sky high on the vanity chart.)

THE PRELUDE: DRINKS AT A LOCAL BAR

Let's say Annie and Jack meet the old-fashioned way: in person. Fleeting acquaintances in college, they had a couple of science classes together (which, if you factor in $30,000 in tuition a year for each, has them starting out with a combined deficit of $240,000, but we'll chalk that up to the greater good of education). They reunite five years out of school, when they bump into each other at a bar. Jack's just bought a condo on Beacon Hill, while Annie's renting an apartment in the Back Bay. They fill each other in on their post-collegiate activities, and somewhere around the third-beer mark they realize there's something interesting happening between them—something they never noticed in professor Higgenbottom's "rocks for jocks" geology class. A hint or two is dropped, and before they know it, they're cruising down the bumpy road to Datesville.

DATE NO. 1: FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The old standby: dinner and a movie. He plays the "gentleman card" and springs for the date.

His Prep Work

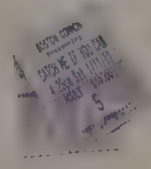
Haircut: $25
Shoe shine: $5
Giant espresso to get perked up: $5

Her Prep Work

Manicure: $20
Long-overdue eyebrow wax: $20
New lipstick : $12
Home teeth-whitening kit: $37
Predate hair blown-out/style: $30
Splurge on cute new first-date skirt: $60

His Date Expenses

Two movie tickets: $20
Popcorn and two small sodas: $11
After-movie drinks at Limbo (two cocktails each and a shared appetizer): $40



Her Date Expenses

Two T tokens: $2

His total: $106; Her total: $181

DATE NO. 2: SATURDAY ON THE CAPE

The first date was a smashing success. Jack decides to invest in a second: a cozy winter day-trip to Provincetown.

His Prep Work

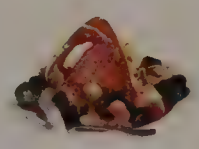
Car cleaning and wash: $40
Listerine: $3

Her Prep Work

Provincetown-appropriate new shoes: $60
New razor and lotion: $10
Early morning yoga class to calm the nerves: $10

His Date Expenses

Gas money: $15
Parking: $5
Seafood lunch for two on the waterfront: $50
A gift for her: a bracelet souvenir from a silversmith shop: $20



Her Date Expenses

Two hot chocolates: $6

His total: $133 ; Her total: $86

DATE NO. 3: SUNDAY AFTERNOON SKATING AND DINNER

Ice skating at the Frog Pond, a snack and trip to the theater, followed by an impromptu romantic evening at her house.

His Prep Work

New boxers (just in case): $6

Her Prep Work

Matching undergarments (just in case): $50
Long-distance 96-minute phone bill to sister in Seattle to discuss previous two dates: $7

His Date Expenses

Skate rentals: $10
Half-price theater tickets to the Huntington: $50
Soup at nearby Betty's Wok and Noodle (half of the bill): $10
At the store en route to her house: Champagne: $35

T token: $1
Cab ride to her place at the end of the night: $7

Her Date Expenses

Soup at Betty's (half of the bill): $10
At the store en route to her house: Pâté, cheese and French bread: $30
T token: $1

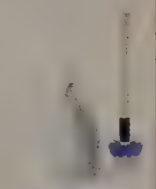
His total: $119; Her total: $98

DATE NO. 4: WEDNESDAY DINNER AT HIS PLACE

He cooks dinner at his place (she brings the groceries), and they rent a movie with the pretext of watching it.

His Prep Work

Toilet brush and Ajax: $10
New sheets: $60
Chick-friendly David Gray CD for background music: $15



Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* (to leave lying on the coffee table to impress her): $15
Stork stoppers: $4

Her Prep Work

Bikini wax: $25
Palm reading to see if the bikini wax was worth it: $15
Stork stoppers: $4

His Date Expenses

Movie rental: $5
Bottle of wine: $15

Her Date Expenses

Steak: $20
Salad fixin's: $10
Baguette: $3
Ice cream: $5

His total: $124; Her total: $82

GRAND TOTALS

His: $482
Hers: $447

Sticker shock? We agree. And if you're wondering what can you do for $400-plus besides go on four dates, it's best not to think about it. iB

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELISSA MAHONEY

Graphic jumpsuit by Chanel, $1,760. Available at Neiman Marcus. Black and green necklace, $140. Available at Holiday Balloons by Balloons for All Reasons.

Red shirt, $525; violet satin skirt, $795. Both by Yves St. Laurent and available at Neiman Marcus. Beaded necklace, $169. Available at Holiday.

Pink shift with ties, $120. Available at Holiday. White lace skirt by Shawn Ray Fawns, $2,820; round-toe shoes by Chanel, $475. Both available at Neiman Marcus. "Isabella" headpiece by Marie Galvin, $140. Available at Galvinized Headwear. Clutch with tassel, $320. Available at the Altered Bride.

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Hair: Patrick McGinley for Vidal Sassoon

Makeup: Ingrid Skousgard

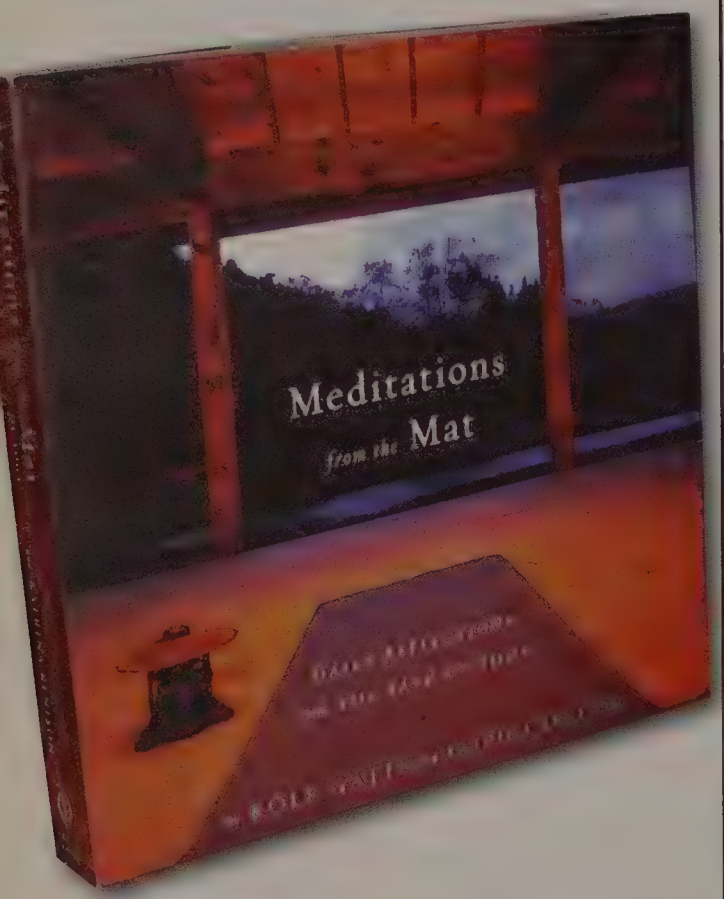
Model: Katherine for Click

Black shirt with gold piping by Chloe, $795; winter white pants by Chloe, $615. Both available at Neiman Marcus. Brazil collection scarves, $270 each. Available at Hermès.

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



LESSONS FROM THE LEOTARD

Meditations from the Mat, Daily Reflections on the Path of Yoga, by Rolf Gates and Katrina Kenison, extends the practice of yoga to 365 short meditations.

When you first begin to study yoga, you learn that along with its steadying and stretching postures and its particular method of breathing, yoga is also a spiritual practice. Its teachings include cultivating a positive relationship with ourselves, turning inward and learning to melt into a universal self. But, silent as life is inside that leotard, there's much to be said about the practice. Vibrant, glistening-pated Rolf Gates, a Baptiste Power Yoga instructor, and his student Katrina Kenison have devised 365 paragraph-long meditations that give voice, with a delicious philosophical creaminess, to the struggles and yieldings, the balance and expansion that yoga can offer. Gates pairs real-life dilemmas (was being in the Gulf War, as he was, right or wrong?) with questions and findings from his yoga practice. His once fiercely competitive spirit has been tamed, redirected and broadened, blending into the wide sky of equanimity and curiosity. Of course, even non-attachment—not to mention the rigors of the yoga postures—involves a process of learning and difficulty, so each little journey he describes demonstrates the everlasting hammock-swing between the problems of life and their potential solutions.

IN THE TIME BEFORE IKEA

Reside is a new shop at 266 Concord Avenue, Cambridge (617-547-2929), selling mid–20th century modern furniture that a younger generation is discovering. Reside buys some pieces too.

Reviving the elements of the popular Somerville shop NV 53, this new store, well, resides, invitingly on a Cambridge corner that nicely displays the airy coolness of its midcentury modern furniture. The designers of the era—Marcel Breuer, Mies van der Rohe, Herman Miller and various Scandinavian and Japanese artists—display their spare aesthetics in their furniture. The 1940 Springer chair puts bounce into its curvy metal base through suspension, not stuffing, feeling surprisingly deep and comfortable. The Eames chair, designed in wartime from available materials, is like two curvy flying saucers of wood, for back and butt. Unoccupied, it seems to float in the room. A very elegant oval Noguchi glass table recently for sale is an original, with a three-quarter-inch thick, juicy green glass rim. Yet another chair of latticed cotton webbing holds and molds you, reclining just slightly. Wall units here—often made of teak—rise up in their own spaciousness, including wide cabinets (for those LPs!) promising an unclogged look, even when filled up. Yellowish Heywood Wakefield dining room tables, a counterpoint to the grandiose lacquered skating-rink style, feel nicely intimate.

CAPTURE THE JAZZY FIREFLIES OF THE MOMENT

Improvisational actress, teacher, trainer and speaker Daena Giardella takes notions and principles from acting and helps you apply them to your own life. Her CD, *Improvisation in Everyday Life*, costs $20 and her next improv classes begin in March. For more information call 617-924-9596 or go to *www.daenagiardella.com*.

Imagine a cat curiously pondering the joys of the kitchen cabinet: Kitty is "in the moment." Actress Daena Giardella proposes that we can learn from emulating that attitude of being, which is also the specialty of professional improvisers. Actually, improvisation is unavoidable, since every moment of life is excitingly, dangerously created on the spot, however seemingly scripted and predictable it may seem. Giardella invites you to first take a positive attitude toward accepting a given reality, and then enter the situation in an active, intentional, alive state. That positivity may also hold a fierce No in its fist, because indeed improv, like life, is also about "conflict, the friction, the heat, when contradictory impulses rub against each other." By accepting this Zen-like state, you, Life Improviser, become loose and open to the perpetual freshness of life's possibilities, while at the same time staying internally centered. Koans and paradoxes abound here. There's tension between harmonizing with others and riffing on your own, between yielding and standing firm, between respecting the immediate past and future and opening up to the crystalline Now. Improvisation is fun because it's humorous, absurd and confronts the unknown sexily.

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REVIEW

A Room Apart

The Blue Room offers value and sublime winter dishes that warm and comfort.

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Wandering around Kendall Square in search of One Kendall Square is not my idea of the perfect way to work up an appetite. However, once we found the Blue Room—a few blocks away from the real Kendall Square, near the intersection of Portland and Hampshire streets—and were safely inside its inviting, garden-level space, all was forgiven. In fact, the Blue Room's misleading address is the only discordant note at this wonderful establishment, where well-conceived and professionally executed dishes accompanied by well-chosen, value-priced wines reward diners determined enough to persevere until they find the restaurant.

Exposed brick and stone walls, colorful painted wooden panels, track lighting, zinc-topped tables and upholstered banquettes provide an engaging dining environment. A large, quasi-circular bar separates the major part of the dining room from a more private space to the east. The open kitchen—designed with a combination of candor and showmanship—is a beehive of activity.

The Blue Room's large and varied wine list offers a number of reasonably priced selections that are a welcome departure from the usual suspects. Among the red wines offered by the glass is Carmignano Ambra ($6.75). This 1999 Tuscan blend of Sangiovese and cabernet sauvignon was soft but well structured, with good forward fruit and a fine bouquet. More unusual was the St. Michael-Eppan ($5.75), a red from Italy's northernmost Alto Adige province, which borders on Austria. This wine, made using the obscure Lagrein grape variety, has a restrained, almost steely dryness that marries well with dishes across the spectrum, from fish to fowl to beef. Wines were served in large, refined stemware, and in a simple but sophisticated gesture too infrequently encountered, they were poured at table—small taste first—rather than arriving without the bottle from the bar.

Among the Blue Room's appetizers, the puree of salt cod ($8) with sourdough toasts was a satisfying winter choice. Served in a small soufflé dish, this preparation, which usually goes by the French name *brandade*, was the perfect comfort food: a creamy mixture of cod and potato, accented with chopped chives. Provençal fisherman's soup ($6) had the thick consistency of gazpacho, what the French would call *soupe* in contrast to the more liquid *potage*. It boasted good fish flavors, an unabashed dose of garlic and a bouquet of Mediterranean herbs. The final appetizer we sampled was the pizza of the day ($9). This amply sized, thin-crusted pie came lavishly topped with Tuscan salami, broccoli rabe, oyster mushrooms, Bratenero cheese (from the Northern Italian town of Bra, near Milan) and caramelized onions.

Main courses included sautéed rainbow trout ($19), a crisp-skinned whole fish garnished with fingerling potatoes, savory spinach studded with nuggets of smoky bacon and a pleasant mustard-butter sauce. To the relief of bone-wary diners, the spine of the trout had been efficiently removed after cooking. The grilled tuna ($23), a sushi-quality slab, was simply seared and served with a *tonnato* sauce—a garlicky, aioli-based sauce usually served with veal *tonnato*—together with roasted potatoes and a generous mound of pleasantly bitter braised escarole. A pristine, juicy wedge of lemon and two large caper berries completed the garnish.

The huge, crisp-skinned roast chicken with rosemary, capers and garlic mashed potatoes ($18) was moist and flavorful. It seemed the kitchen had ventured beyond rosemary to give the chicken a more complex, even exotic, range of flavors usually associated with other herbs of the eastern Mediterranean. Even the voluptuously creamy potatoes yielded further flavor dividends, with lemony nuances complementing the restrained, mellow garlic.

While my youngest son was disappointed that the Blue Room, a quintessential bistro, did not offer steak-frites, his standard bistro choice, it was hard to argue with its beef offering. The grilled Black Angus steak ($22), a well-marbled strip

The Blue Room

One Kendall Square, Cambridge
(617-494-9034)
HOURS Mon.-Thu., 5:30-10pm; Fri. and Sat., 5:30-11pm; Sun., 11am-2:30pm and 5:30-10:30pm
RESERVATIONS recommended
CREDIT CARDS all major
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes
PARKING validated parking at the Kendall Square Cinema garage on Binney Street
LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

The Blue Room's entrees include braised lamb shank with kohlrabi and collard greens.

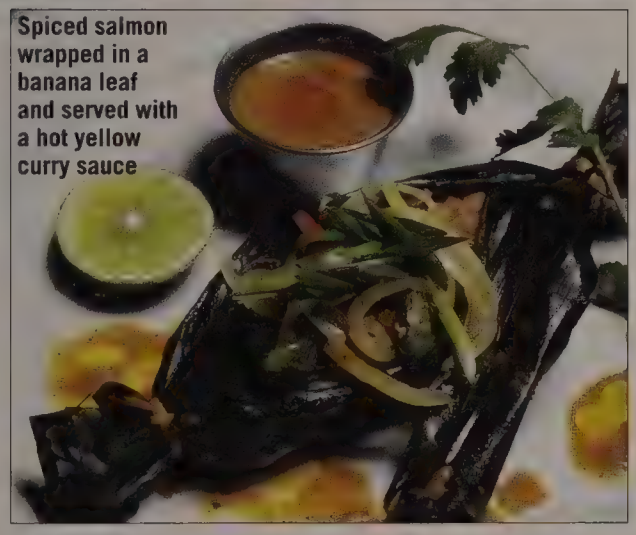
Exposed brick and stone walls, zinc-topped tables and upholstered banquettes provide the backdrop for an evening of upscale bistro cuisine.

sirloin, was grilled to rare perfection and served with truffle butter and a mountain of sautéed mushrooms. Parsnip mashed potatoes, which we had requested on the side for fear they would otherwise be buried beneath the steak, arrived in a small soufflé dish, nicely browned on top.

The Blue Room does even small things well. Hard-crusted, mildly sourdough loaves from Iggy's, Cambridge's primary boulangerie, are accompanied by soft, sweet butter. Substantial, serviceable tableware comes wrapped in large, absorbent white cotton napkins. Coarse salt and cracked pepper are set out in tiny wells, rather than shakers, adding a note of refinement.

The Blue Room's desserts would be amazing if for no other reason than their prices—$5 or $6 in contrast to the $9 and $10 dessert tariffs routinely encountered in upscale Boston restaurants. The warm chocolate cake with soft, cinnamon-spiced whipped cream and dark bittersweet chocolate sauce would have been a winner at twice the price. Warm apple tart with vanilla-bean ice cream featured firm, sweet-tangy apples aromatically spiced with nutmeg or allspice. Unfortunately, the tough, coarse pastry did not do justice to the fruit.

Service at the Blue Room was efficient, informed and professional. Oversize portions made it inevitable that some of our choices would be finished at home, and they were efficiently packaged and presented. Last, but certainly not least, in terms of quality as a function of price, the Blue Room is unbeatable. Its first-rate ingredients, top-notch preparation, generous portions and restrained prices deliver real value. Steve Johnson, a Hammersley alumnus, bought the Blue Room five years ago. Under his stewardship, it has remained one of the premiere bistros in the Boston area. As my IMPROPER colleague Carolyn Faye Fox has observed, this one's a keeper. **iB**



Spiced salmon wrapped in a banana leaf and served with a hot yellow curry sauce

Skillet-grilled skate wing with baby Brussels sprouts in a brown butter sauce

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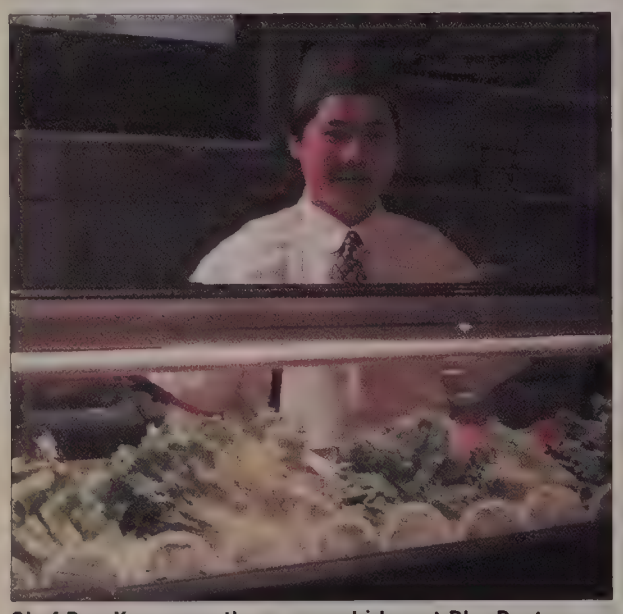
DISH

Whose Wine Is It, Anyway?

(Almost) local boy makes (very) good...

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX



Chef Ben Kuo mans the new sushi bar at Pho Pasteur.

David Weitzenhoffer, last seen hereabouts as sommelier at the new **Locke-Ober**, and previously wine director at the old **UpStairs at the Pudding**, has hit the big time in the big city: He's now wine director at **Lidia Bastianich**'s **Felidia** in New York City.

His new job is simply "great," says Weitzenhoffer, who oversees a list with "almost 1,200 labels" at the **Wine Spectator Grand Award** restaurant. Although he's busy, he plans to visit the new **UpStairs on the Square** soon to check out wine director/general manager **Lorenzo Savona**'s revamped wine list. Savona, by the way, was Weitzenhoffer's first employer (at **Les Zygomates**) after the Seattle native moved to Boston.

Meanwhile, the UpStairs crew is evolving into an all-star expansion team. In addition to marquee players such as chef de cuisine **Amanda Lydon** (ex-**Metro**, ex-**Truc**) and the aforementioned Savona, proprietors **Deborah Hughes** and **Mary Catherine Deibel** have added **Susan Regis**, formerly of **Biba**, to their roster.

Apparently, Regis, who recently moved back to Boston after a year on the West Coast, dropped in at the new UpStairs for a bite, chatted with Deibel...and the rest is not history, but future.

And the future will be a busy one for Regis, because Deibel has charged her with a multi-faceted mission. First, as new chef of the Monday Club Bar, the casual counterpart to the upstairs Soiree Room, Regis is expected to "bring an influx of interest to the cuisine downstairs," adding "lots of specials," says Deibel. Simultaneously, Regis will create and institute both an afternoon tea menu and a late-night bar menu. The tea is sure to be quite lovely, but the freshly minted Thursday Girls' Night Out, a Hughes/Deibel concept, sounds utterly irresistible.

"We know a lot of great women who would be part of that," says Deibel. No kidding—she may need the Jaws of Life to pry the girls off the stools come closing time!

SECOND COURSE

Ken Oringer has finally come up with an official name for **Clio**'s sashimi bar: **Uni**, after the luscious and pricey gonads of sea urchins served up as sashimi. Makes sense, when you consider the tiny sashimi bar is a few steps "down there" from Clio's dining room and bar. And it's so much more elegant than "The Lurchin' Urchin."

Speaking of sea creatures, Boston's dining scene continues to extend its tasty tentacles into nearby suburbs. **Pho Pasteur**, just a few months into residence at the Atrium Mall in Chestnut Hill, has added a 20-foot marble sushi bar to accommodate the creations of newly hired sushi master **Ben Kuo** (formerly of **Ginza**, **Fugakyu** and **Jae's**).

After a one-year hiatus, the **Architectural Masters of Pastry** competition will be held at **The Top of the Hub** March 20. About two dozen entries are expected for this year's theme: bridges. Just how much glow-in-the-dark blue sugar will it take to make a candied copy of the Zakim Bridge?

Finally, if one of your New Year's resolutions was to brush up on your barbecuing expertise, you should know about the **New England Barbecue Society** (*www.nebs.org/bbq/default.htm*). Membership entitles you to participate in road trips to local BBQ restaurants, enroll in BBQ cooking and judging classes at the Maynard Rod and Gun Club, and compete in BBQ competitions against teams like the Pyro Porkers, UFO Social Club, Petey's Crispy Critters and Dirty Dick and the Legless Wonders. Oink, oink. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

EVENTS

Beer and Barbecue Dinner
Rouge, 480 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600). Jan. 27. Chef **Andy Husbands** and his team took home the big prize at the Jack Daniels barbecue invitational in late October—here's your chance to help them celebrate. Drink Harpoon beer and feast on barbecue.

Boston DineAround
Various restaurants throughout the city. www.BostonUSA.com/dinearound. *Through Jan. 26.* Chefs from more than 40 local restaurants host cookbook authors from around the country to create memorable menus.

Boston Wine Expo
World Trade Center, Boston (877-946-3976). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Feb. 1-2, 1-5pm. Until Jan. 23: $60 for one day, $82 for two days. After Jan. 23: $70 and $92. This tasting showcases more than 440 international and domestic wineries from 18 countries pouring more than 1,800 different wines.

Boston Wine Festival
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). www.bostonwinefestival.net. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Through April 11.* More than 50 events are scheduled, including seminars, vertical tastings, dinner dances and celebrity guest speakers, at this annual event. •Jan. 23, 7pm, $125: Four-course dinner with wines of Argyle •Jan. 28-29, 7pm, $195: A panel of experts leads a blind tasting of eight Meritage wines paired with a four-course dinner. •Feb. 3, 7pm, $125: Dinner with wine from Bethel Heights •Feb. 4, 7pm, $125: Dinner with wine from Gundlach-Bundschu.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Saturdays, 1-3pm. Through March 1. $45 per class. Nationally and regionally known chefs and cookbook authors demonstrate their specialties. Sample the prepared dishes with matching wine. •Jan. 25: **Anne Willan**, author of *From My Chateau Kitchen* and *Cooking with Wine*. •Feb. 1: Mary Ann Esposito, host of *Ciao Italia*.

Guest Chef Program
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). 7-9pm. $30-$60. Some of Boston's most celebrated chefs offer cooking demonstrations. •Jan. 27: **Cathy Walthers**, author of *Greens, Glorious Greens*, shares recipes and techniques. •Jan. 28: Learn to cook barbecue with **Robert Gregory**, pit master for Redbones. •Jan. 29: A chef from Finagle a Bagel demonstrates how to make a bagel.

Mediterranean Wine Dinner
The Dish, 253 Shawmut Ave., Boston (617-426-7866). Feb. 3. Partake in a dinner pairing Mediterranean flavors and Italian wine provided by Martignetti Wines and Empson Imports.

Old and New World Wines Dinner
Gallia, 1525 Washington St., Boston (617-247-4455). Jan. 22, 7pm. $75. Chef **Stefano Zimei** and the IMPROPER's wine columnist **Sandy Block** pair a four-course dinner with European and American varietals.

Paella Tasting and Demonstration
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). Jan. 29, 6:30-9:30pm. The Culinary Guild of New England presents a cooking demonstration by chef **Ana Ortins**, author of *Portuguese Homestyle Cooking*.

Radius Winter Cooking Series
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Jan. 25, 11am-2:30pm. $125. Sous chef **Brian Reimer** shows you how to cook regional French cuisine from Lyon.

Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Grand Benefit Dinner
Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (781-344-4413). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Jan. 30. $500. Nine nationally renowned chefs each prepare a different course at this dinner benefiting the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Culinary Apprenticeship Program.

Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food & Wine
World Trade Center, Boston (781-344-4413). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Jan. 31, 7:30pm. $175. More than 130 restaurants and 90 winemakers participate in this fund-raiser.

A Taste of Eastie
Hilton Boston Logan Airport Hotel, Boston (617-561-1044). MBTA: Blue Line to Airport. Jan. 23, 6-9pm. $30. Restaurants specializing in Italian, Latin American and Asian cuisine provide samples of their most popular foods at this benefit for the East Boston Main Streets Program.

Wild Fish & Game Beer Dinner
Union Street & The Attic, 107R Union St., Newton Centre (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Jan. 23, 6:30pm. $35. Five brews from the Redhook Brewery will be paired with a five-course meal prepared by chef **John Tarnuzzer**.

Wine Dinner Series
Tosca, 14 North St., Hingham (781-740-0080). Feb. 3. $75. This dinner pairs the rustic-style cuisine of chef **Kevin Long** with notable wines from DeLoach Vineyards.

Wine Mondays
L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-362-3023). Jan. 27. $50. Chef **Frank McClelland** offers a four-course menu paired with merlot.

Skip breakfast before heading to the Boston Cooks! Kitchen & Culinary Expo at the World Trade Center Jan. 24-26. More than 100 exhibitors offer gourmet food, beer and wine samples—everything from carrot-ginger soup to Cajun nuts. Plus local chefs host culinary seminars throughout the weekend, and authors sell copies of their latest cookbooks. *164 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-439-7700). $10, $12 at the door.*

PHO PASTEUR: RITA GREELE

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agenda

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

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Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope

and Sports

improper picks

WED./JAN. 22

Education: Elvish Explained

Remember that nerdling group in high school who huddled in corners during lunch to exchange medievalist tidbits and spoke in Elvish (the ones who eschewed pep rallies to play Dungeons and Dragons and who read every fantasy novel that Lloyd Alexander wrote)? Chances are, they're now rich, early-retired dot commers. And what's more, they're having the time of their lives showing off their knowledge of Middle Earth and critiquing the *The Two Towers*. Here's your chance to play catch-up concerning the world's most popular medieval trilogy. Michael Drout, a professor at Wheaton College, has created a distinctive niche as an expert on the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien. The lucky medievalist discovered an unpublished book by Tolkien. He's now creating the world's most comprehensive database of works about the author and establishing *Tolkien Studies*, a scholarly journal. Hear Drout's talk, Understanding Tolkien and *The Lord of the Rings*, at the Boston Center for Adult Education. *44 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). 6:30-8:30pm. $15.*

SAT./ FEB. 1

Film: Rock Junk Meets Silent Film

Some of you more cinematically inclined readers will easily be able to place the classic black-and-white image of a pirate sliding down the giant sail of a ship while slicing it with a knife. For those who don't, it's from Douglas Fairbanks' greatest cinematic triumph, the 1926 silent film ***The Black Pirate***. Here's your chance to see the film that produced this standout image, in a screening set to live music by the Alloy Orchestra. For the fast-paced pirate scenes, the musicians thrash and grind out soulful music from an outrageous assemblage of found percussion instruments and state-of-the-art electronics. *Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-876-9170). 8pm. $15.*

THU./JAN. 23-SAT./FEB. 1

Performing Arts: Shock Rock

If you didn't make it to last fall's wildly successful production of ***Hedwig and the Angry Inch*** at the Institute of Contemporary Art, you're in luck. The Obie-winning off-Broadway smash is heading back to Boston at the end of January—this time, at Axis dance club on Lansdowne Street. It's the story of "internationally ignored song stylist" Hedwig Schmidt, an East German rock 'n' roll goddess—the victim of a botched sex-change operation that has left her with just "an angry inch." When we originally saw the production at the Stuart Street Playhouse, we dubbed it a hit. It's still just as groundbreaking three years later. *Axis, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-432-NEXT). 7:30pm. Jan. 23-25, 29-31 and Feb. 1. $25.*

Titian's *Europa*, 1559-62

SAT./FEB. 1-SUN./FEB. 2

Tastings: Boston Wine Expo

Gather more than 16,000 oenophiles in a giant room with 440 wineries from 18 countries pouring 1,800 different wines and what do you get? A spitting orgy. Though, judging by the raucous crowd of normally sedate individuals, there was more swallowing than expectorating going on at last year's **Boston Wine Expo**. Held at the World Trade Center, the expo is the largest consumer wine event in the country. But it's not all about imbibing. Sign up for wine seminars, watch cooking demonstrations and socialize with fellow wine drinkers. Or meet this year's celeb chef Rachael Ray, host of the Food Network's *30 Minute Meals* and *$40 a Day. World Trade Center, Boston (877-946-3976). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 1-5pm. Until Jan. 23: $60 for one day, $82 for two days. After Jan. 23: $70 and $92.*

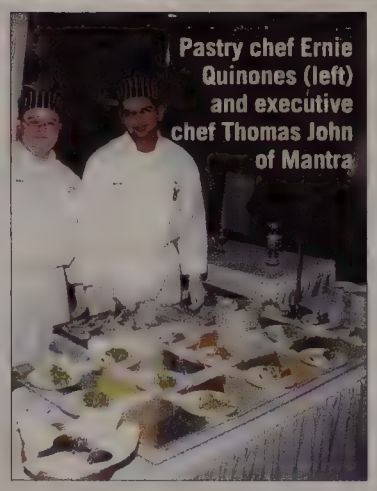
THROUGHOUT 2003

Art: Centennial Celebration

Irving, Texas. Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. The Tour de France. The Salmon and Trout Association. Ford Motor Company. What do these things have in common? They all turn 100 this year. Add to the list our very own **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**, which kicks off its centennial celebration this month. One hundred years ago, Mrs. Gardner created a personal museum in her extravagant home, filling it with artwork from Asia, Europe and the Middle East and building her collection to preeminence. In celebration of the 100-year milestone, the museum presents a series of special exhibitions and programs. The celebration kicks off on Jan. 24 with a show by conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth. Included is his famous textual neon work which will be installed along the museum's outer wall. Coming up in April is *The Making of a Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect & Designer. See www.gardnermuseum.org for schedules of special lectures, performances and programs. 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401).*

FRI./JAN. 31

Tastings: Food and Wine for All


Pastry chef Ernie Quinones (left) and executive chef Thomas John of Mantra

How many restaurants do you think you've sampled in Boston? 30? 40? Here's a chance to increase that number trifold. (A quick caveat: The IMPROPER does not encourage, promote or condone binge eating with the exception of this one day of the year, when you'll find us gorging on gorgonzola, galantine, gumbo and ganache.) At the **Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food & Wine** more than 130 restaurants dish up bite-size samples of their gourmet cuisine to benefit this charity dedicated to hunger relief, culinary education and job training for the homeless. Wash down duck à l'orange, potato blintzes with sour cream and caviar, or pumpkin risotto with a glass of chardonnay or Beaujolais from one of the 90 winemakers in attendance. It's a foodie's version of paradise. *World Trade Center, Boston (781-344-4413). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 7:30pm. $175.*

SAT./FEB. 1-MON/FEB. 3

Performing Arts: Twice as Nice on Ice

If we were to ask, What makes Boston Boston?, one of the half-dozen places that comes to mind is the Frog Pond on Boston Common. The Hub's answer to Rockefeller Center has a beautiful view of the State House and Beacon Hill from its nook on the north side of the Common. That said, there's no better place to see a series of free figure skating exhibitions by the **Boston Ice Theater**. The show features performances by former *Ice Capades* skater, Elin Gardiner Schran, former *Nutcracker on Ice* principal skater Jen Nestleberger and United States Senior Men's competitor Ian Macadam. The series culminates with *Greatest B.I.T.s*, featuring favorite numbers from past Boston Ice Theater shows and a special encore performance of its new production, *Snow*. Bring a donation of canned food or toiletries to benefit Rosie's Place. *Frog Pond Skating Rink, Boston Common, Boston (617-635-2120). Feb. 1-3, 4:30pm. Free.*

THU./JAN. 23-SUN./JAN. 26

Dance: A Hop, a Skip and a Jump

The optimal way to rid yourself of the end-of-January blahs is to plop yourself on a faraway, sunny beach, soak in the vitamin D and pump yourself full of piña coladas. Another, not so extravagant, method is to watch people who are so full of life that you're invigorated just by watching them. That's where the annual gusto-filled **Flamenco Festival** comes in. This annual Spanish dance extravaganza, now in its fourth year, showcases fiery flamenco dancers who radiate emotion and energy as they rhythmically writhe, clap and stamp their feet. This year, the fest features two faithful representatives of Gypsy-style flamenco, Juana Amaya and Farruquito. Consider the $30-$50 price tag a mental health expense. *Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393).*

WED., JAN. 22-SUN./FEB. 2

Performing Arts: Free at Last

With Illinois governor George Ryan commuting the death sentences of 167 condemned inmates in early January and labeling the state's penal system a "catastrophic failure," the timing couldn't be more perfect for Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's controversial new drama, ***The Exonerated***, at the Wilbur Theatre. Over the summer of 2000, the authors traveled across the United States, interviewing 40 former death row prisoners. The interviewees were from vastly different ethnic, religious and educational backgrounds. The only thing they had in common was that all 40 had been sentenced to death and were subsequently found innocent and freed by the state. The play is a compilation of their interviews and individual court documents and stars Brian Dennehy and Marlo Thomas. *The Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-4008). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5 and 9pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. $25-$67.*

SAT./ FEB. 1

Performing Arts: Sing Like an Egyptian

Romance and intrigue in ancient Egypt—it sounds like the makings of an Indiana Jones movie. Or since Elton John got involved in Disneyfying opera a few years back, you might recognize this as the plot of ***Aida***. On Feb. 1, Opera unMet presents a concert performance (minus the Elton John influence) of Giuseppe Verdi's most popular opera, which opened in Cairo in 1871. Opera aficionados already know the plot: a love triangle between an Ethiopian princess who has been enslaved in Egypt, an Egyptian princess and an Egyptian commander. Don't expect any happy endings. The atmospheric opera is performed in Italian and subtitled in English. *Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). $20, $10 children, students and seniors.*

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Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

American Heart Association Raffle
American Heart Association, (800-662-1701, ext. 3103). www.heart.org. *$100.* The American Heart Association's annual Heart Ball doesn't take place until April, but tickets for the associated raffle are on sale now through March 28. This year's grand prize is a 2003 Mercedes-Benz E320 sedan, and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. How d'ya like them odds?

Massachusetts Lodging Association Allied Reception
Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (617-720-1776). www.masslodging.com. *6pm. $80; $65 members.* Hotel general managers hit the runway "creatively dressed" to represent the prizes in the evening's silent auction, which includes more than 50 lodging giveaways. Those arriving early can become judges in the Hotel Cocktail Competition and admission includes a gourmet buffet and open bar. Proceeds benefit the MLA's education foundation, the Roger Saunders Lodging Institute.

Stitch and Bitch
Redline, 59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). Wed. nights, 6-8pm. Free. Revive the tradition of the stitch-and-bitch by drinking cocktails while knitting. Niki Bronstein, owner of Woolcott & Co. knit shop in Harvard Square, gives a brief demonstration each week.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

A Taste of Eastie
Boston Logan Airport Hilton Hotel, 85 Terminal Road, East Boston (617-561-1044). www.eastbostonmainstreets.com. *6-9pm. $30.* Get a taste of East Boston's diverse culinary scene, with Italian, Colombian, Mexican and Chinese restaurants offering tastings to benefit East Boston Main Streets. Cash bar.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

Waltham House Benefit
Randolph Country Club, 44 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph (617-893-7344). www.ImperialCourtofma.org. *8pm. $10.* This event, which includes a show, games, a raffle and a birthday party for Empress Emerita Daphne, benefits the Waltham House, one of only three group homes in the United States that serves gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual teens. Save $2 off the cover charge if you donate an item appropriate for a teen.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

Good Taste in Books: A Celebration of the Career of Barbara Haber
Agassiz Theatre, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8648). 4-5:30pm. Free. RSVP required. Barbara Haber, curator of printed books at the Schlesinger Library for the past 34 years, will be honored for the women's history and culinary collections she helped build. The reception is catered by chefs from restaurants including East Coast Grill, Maison Robert and Rialto.

Share Our Strength's Operation Frontline Volunteer Mixer
West Side Lounge, 1680 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-267-5828). www.strength.org. *5:30-7pm.* West Side Lounge hosts a this party for people interested in volunteering for Share Our Strength's Operation Frontline, which fights hunger.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

People Scavenger Hunt
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (781-444-7771). www.bostoneventguide.com. *6:30-9:30pm. $20 in advance; $30 at the door.* Meet people through the scavenger hunt and get your groove on with live music from Michigan Blacksnake. This event also includes a buffet and pool.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Friends of Spinazzola Grand Benefit Dinner
Aujourd'hui at the Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (781-344-4413). www.spinazzola.org. *$500.* Nine top-tier chefs from around the country will create a gourmet dinner that will be paired with fine wines. Proceeds benefit the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation's Culinary Apprenticeship Program.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food & Wine
World Trade Center, Boston (781-344-4413). 7:30pm. $175. More than 130 of Boston's best restaurants and 90 winemakers participate in this black-tie fund-raiser.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

If 103-year-old Russell Buchanan can walk to raise money for homeless veterans, you can too.

12th Annual James V. Jordan Benefit for the Alzheimer's Association
The International, 184 High St., Boston (617-542-4747). 8:30pm-1am. $20. A DJ, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and door prizes are all part of the Alzheimer's Association's annual winter party. All proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Valet parking.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

Indoor Walk-a-Thon for Homeless Veterans
Arsenal Mall, 485 Arsenal St., Watertown (617-926-1223). www.neshv.org. *9:30am-12pm.* Raise money for homeless veterans' programs at the eighth annual walk-a-thon. Russell Buchanan, a 103-year-old veteran of both World Wars, will participate and challenges as many people as possible to join the walk and help him blow out the candles on his birthday cake. Donations of clothing, toiletries, nonperishable food items and suitcases are also welcomed.

The Alzheimer's Association throws its annual winter benefit party Feb. 1 at the International.

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FLOSS FRIDAY'S PRESENTS:
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Saturday January 25th
Grand Opening of the new "Classic Saturday's"
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FASHION HOUSE THURSDAY'S PRESENTS:
Thursday January 30th
"Le Femme"
Celebration of the Exotic Woman"
DJ Roger M. Spinning International / Latin Haus

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Adult Puppetry
Puppet Showplace Theatre, 32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Puppets at Night presents two shows: The Little Altar of Don Cristobal and The Blackbird. Experience bawdy hand puppetry at its most visceral and shadow puppetry at its most gentle and lyrical.

Aida
The New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Feb. 1, 8pm. $20. Opera unMet presents Giuseppe Verdi's opera about a tragic love triangle between an Ethiopian princess who has been enslaved in Egypt, an Egyptian princess and an Egyptian commander. Performed in Italian and narrated in English.

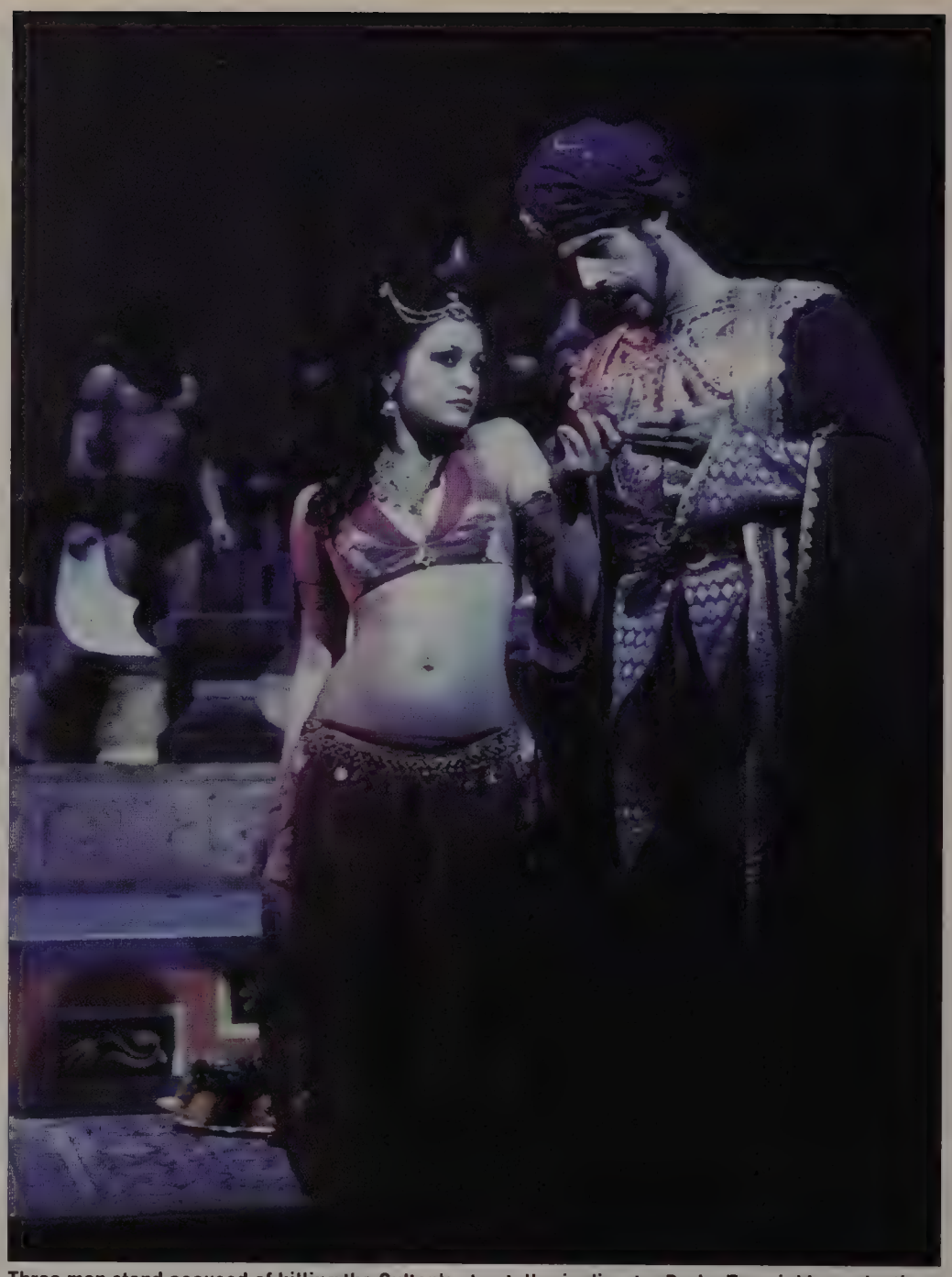
Annie
The Wang Theater, 270 Tremont St., Boston (888-889-8587). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 7pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Jan. 28-Feb. 2. $23-$63. The Tony Award–winning Broadway musical about 11-year-old Orphan Annie follows her adventures as she tries to escape from the municipal orphanage and Miss Hannigan's clutches.

Boston Ice Theater
Frog Pond Skating Rink, Boston Common, Boston (617-635-2120). MBTA: Green Line to Park. • Feb. 1-2, 4:30pm. Free. This skating exhibition features B.I.T. director and former Ice Capades skater Elin Gardiner Schran, former *Nutcracker on Ice* principal skater Jen Nestleberger and U.S. Senior Men's competitor Ian Macadam. • *Feb 3, 4:30pm. Free.* The Boston Ice Theater presents its second show of the season, *Greatest B.I.T.s*, featuring favorite numbers from past shows. The performance is a benefit for Rosie's Place, and audience members are encouraged to bring a donation of canned food or toiletries.

The Exonerated
The Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-4008). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5 and 9pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Feb. 2. $25-$67. This controversial new drama features the true stories of death row inmates wrongly convicted.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch
Axis, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-432-NEXT). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA . 7:30pm. Jan. 23-25, 29-31 and Feb. 1. $25. This Obie award–winning off-Broadway hit tells the story of Hedwig Schmidt, an East German rock 'n' roll goddess who is also the victim of a botched sex-change operation.

Howie the Rookie
Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., 7:30pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Jan. 24-Feb. 15. $24-$29. Mark O'Rowe's 2000 Irish Times New Play of the Year is set in Dublin's gangland and deals with a feud of honor in which enemies and allies are interchangeable.



Three men stand accused of killing the Sultan's storyteller in director Darko Tresnjak's production of *The Blue Demon*, playing at the Huntington Theatre Company through Feb. 2.

La Dispute
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat. 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Feb. 1-22. $17-$57. A tale of love, desire, betrayal and passion, written by 18th-century French dramatist Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux.

Mamma Mia!
The Colonial Theater, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm (no matinee performance Jan. 25); Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Jan. 25-March 2. $27-$87. The story of 40-something mom, Donna, and her daughter, Sophie, is told through ABBA's pop music hits.

Mummenschanz
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Feb. 2-9. Tue.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. $25-$57. The Swiss theater troupe Mummenschanz uses mime, puppetry, masks, dance and theater to tell a story.

Remuda
Boston Playwright's Theater, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Cambridge (617-257-7480). www.industrialtheater.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Jan. 24- Feb. 8. $15.* Industrial Theater presents William Donnelly's play about two shiftless brothers who find their lives upended when they meet a woman bearing baked goods.

Scooby-Doo in Stage Fright
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 11am, 3pm and 7pm; Sun., 11am, 2pm and 5pm. Feb. 4-9. $15-$38. The chicken-hearted Great Dane and his mystery-solving gang entertain theater-goers with hijinks, groovy music and magical special effects.

7x7: The New Works Festival
Leverett Old Library Theatre, Plympton and Mill streets, Boston (617-257-7480). www.industrialtheater.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Jan. 31- Feb. 15. $15.* Industrial Theater presents this festival featuring seven playwrights' works that focus on the mysterious number seven.

Shaolin Wheel of Life
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3 and 8pm. Jan. 31-Feb. 1. $35-$42.50. Theater and martial arts combine in a display of acrobatic kung-fu. The performers tell the story of 1,500 years of Shaolin monks and their fight to defend their freedom after they refused to join the Emperor's army.

The Shape of Things
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.speakeasystage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Jan. 31-Feb. 22. $28-$31.* The SpeakEasy Stage Company presents Neil LaBute's play about the nature of love and art.

The Tender Land
The New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Wed.-Thu., 8pm. Jan. 29-30. $20. Aaron Copland's American opera about Laurie Moss, a young woman who knows no other life than the simple one she leads on her family farm until the day a few young drifters arrive on the scene.

The Will Rogers Follies
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). MBTA: Green Line to Longwood or Fenway. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 3pm. Jan. 31-Feb. 23. $12-$18. The Tony Award–winning theater production recounts the colorful life and times of the "cowboy-philosopher and self-styled 'poet lariat.'"

NOW RUNNING

Bat Boy: The Musical
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm. Through Jan. 25. $25-$35. The SpeakEasy Stage Company reprises this musical based on a series of articles that appeared in the *Weekly World News* about a pointy-eared boy—half-man, half-bat—found in a West Virginia cave.

Beyond Belief
Lyric Stage Co., 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington; Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 1. $22-$40. In Jack Neary's comedy, three elderly Catholic ladies try to understand unfathomable subjects like Monica Lewinsky, alternative lifestyles and priestly celibacy.

The Blue Demon
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Feb. 2. $14-$64. Director Darko Tresnjak takes the audience through the lives of a Jew, a Muslim and a Christian who are all accused of killing the Sultan's storyteller.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu., 5 and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

The Children of Herakles
Loeb Drama Center, American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Through Jan. 25. $34-$68. After their father's death, the children of Herakles are exiled from their home by a hostile regime. When they try to flee to different countries, they find every border closed to them.

42nd Street
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 7pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Through Jan. 26. $28-$73. The Tony Award–winning revival of this legendary musical is chock-full of lively song-and-dance numbers that tell the story of a chorus girl's rise to fame on Broadway.

Golda's Balcony
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont Ave., Boston (866-637-3353). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Wed., 2 and 8pm; Sat., 3 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 22. $27-$38. In this play set around the time of the bloody 1973 Yom Kippur War, Golda Meir, Israel's Prime Minister from 1969-1974, faces a desperate situation in which Israel's fate is at stake.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Waiting for Godot
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 9. $27-$35. The New Repertory Theatre celebrates the 50th anniversary of Samuel Beckett's tragicomedy about the search for meaning in the post-nuclear world.

Dance

Angkor Dance Troupe
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Colombia Point, Dorchester (877-616-4599). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Jan. 25, 10:30am. Free.* This Cambodian dance troupe performs traditional dances in authentic costumes.

Anna Myer and Dancers
Tsai Performance Center, Boston University, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. East. Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 8pm. $23 and $28.* Cambridge-based Anna Myer and Dancers make their FleetBoston Celebrity Series debut with a performance of modern dance choreographed by Myer and performed to classical selections by Bach, Chopin, Verdi and others.

Compañía Sara Baras
Shubert Theater, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 24, 7pm; Jan. 25, 8pm. $30-50. Compañía Sara Baras debuts *Mariana Pineda*, a flamenco piece by Manolo Sanlúcar and inspired by the writings of Federico García Lorca featuring 13 musicians and 10 dancers.

Dance Music
Tsai Performance Center, Boston University, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: B Green to B.U. East. Jan. 25, 1 and 3pm. $20; $15 children.* Choreographer Seán Curran leads members of his dance company in an hour-long interactive dance concert for adults and children.

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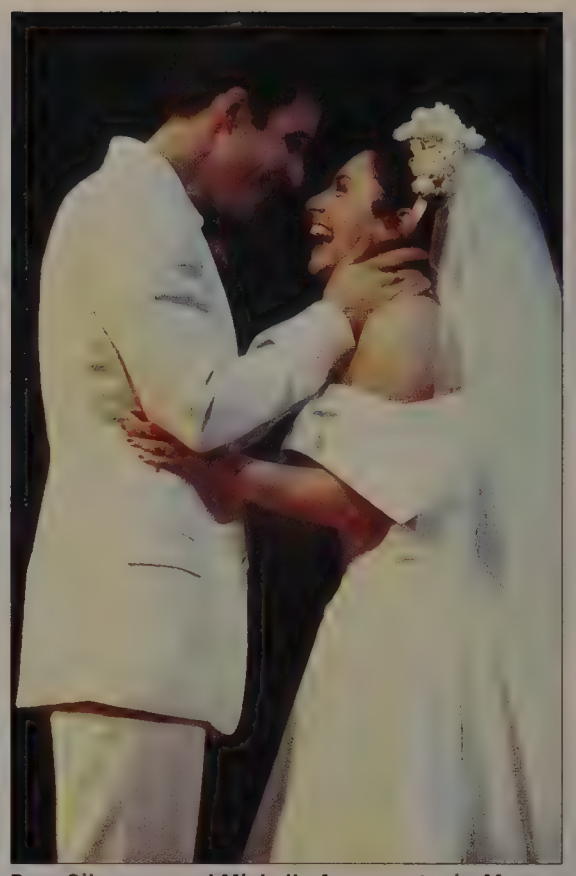

Ryan Silverman and Michelle Aravena star in *Mamma Mia!*, which returns to Boston Jan. 25-March 2.

Farruquito & Juana Amaya
Shubert Theater, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Jan. 23, 7pm; Jan. 26, 2pm. $30-$50. Farruquito and Juana Amaya are accompanied by two dancers and six musicians as they perform flamenco puro dancing.

Martha@Sanders
Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-876-4275). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb 8, 8pm. $22-30. Performance artist Richard Move honors and satirizes legendary choreographer Martha Graham through a series of monologues and dances.

Unfolding Portraits
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Jan. 24-25, 8pm. $9. In this shared performance, nine choreographers, including emerging and established artists, present works of a stylistically varied nature.

Zoé Dance
Tower Auditorium, Mass Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (781-599-5196). www.zoedance.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Longwood. Feb. 1, 8pm. $15; $10 students, and seniors.* Artistic director Callie Chapman and guest artist Ivan Korn present works choreographed for Zoé Dance, a newly established, Boston-based modern dance company.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: stand-up •Sundays: Boston's wildest open-mike night.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $12 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Jan. 22, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins •Jan. 23, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Jan. 24, 8 and 10:15pm, $20: Adam Ferrara from ABC's *The Job* •Jan. 25, 8 and 10:15pm, $22: Adam Ferrara •Jan. 27, 8pm, $12: Kevin Knox hosts Amateur Showcase •Jan. 28, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Jan. 29, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins •Jan. 30, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Jan. 31, 8 and 10:15pm, $25: Bob Nelson with *The Football Starting Line-Up.*

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Jan. 22: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Rob Young, Tony Moschetto, Kevin Carson and Peter Dutton •Jan. 23: Tim Mix. Comics with 10 years experience or more perform •Jan. 24: Piston Honda with guests Evan O'Television, Mary Beth Cowan, Larry Murphy and Tony Moschetto •Jan. 25: Rick Jenkins with Alex Fulsky and Walter Dixon •Jan. 29: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Steve Calechman, Michelle Pierce, Stan Schuldiner and Michael O'Brien •Jan. 30: Tim McIntire's Real Politik with Stefan Frey •Jan. 31: Pistol Honda with guests Tony Moschetto, Asterios Kokinas, Peter Dutton, Joe Huang and Ira Proctor •Feb. 1: Tony Moschetto and Brian Gordon •Feb. 2: Sam Walters with Rich Gustus, Carolyn Plummer, Myq Kaplan and Peter Dutton.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •Thursdays, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •Jan. 24 and 25, 8:45pm: Chance Langton from Fox TV's *Comic Strip Live* •Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 8:45pm: Brad Mastrangelo from HBO and Showtime.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. Open mike for creative talent.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thurs., 8pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.* •Wed., 8pm, $15 •Thu., 8pm, $15 •Fri. 8 and 10pm, $20 •Sat., 6, 8 and 10pm, $20. Enjoy improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. $5-$12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe celebrates its 20th anniversary. •Wed., 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series features two guest troupes every week. •Thu., 8pm, $5: Micetro. 10pm: The Great and Secret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri., 8pm, $12: Convoy. A trucker's adventure across the American heartland. 10pm: TheatreSports. Two teams of improvisers face off •Sat., 6pm, $12: Quest. A comedy show designed for the whole family. 8 and 10pm: ImprovBoston Mainstage •Sun., 7pm, $5: Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree. Three shows in one with an open jam.

COMEDY SHOWS

Jimmy Tingle in the Promised Land
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Jan. 22-25, 8pm; Jan. 26, 3pm. $20. Jimmy Tingle sounds off on politics in the post–September 11 world.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding
Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical. Jan. 25 and Feb. 1, 7:30pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance into Matrix. As a spoof on the traditional Italian wedding, this play incorporates impromptu dialogue and audience participation.

The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron?
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Jan. 29-Feb. 9 $19.50-$39.50. What do women want? Actor/writer **Robert Dubac** ransacks his brain to answer the age-old question in this humorous examination of male-female relationships.

The Sopranos' Last Supper
Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical. Jan. 24, 7pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance into Matrix. Indulge in this interactive dinner theater show that combines Italian-American food, music and the culture of a Mob family.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). www.stashcomedyjam.com. •Jan. 29, 6-7:30pm: a benefit blues jam and comedy show •Feb. 2, 8pm, $2: Stand-up comedy, open mike, improvisational comedy and blues music hosted by Stan Dzierzeski.

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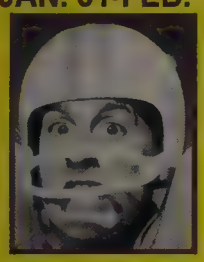


BOB NELSON

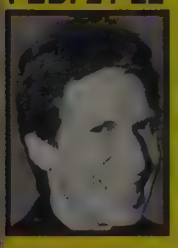
FEB. 7-8

BOBBY SLAYTON

FEB. 14-15

WENDY LIEBMAN

FEB. 21-22



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MARCH 28

STEVE SWEENEY

MARCH 29

BRIAN REGAN

APRIL 4-5

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APRIL 25-26

KEVIN POLLAK

MAY 9-10

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Movies

HITLER: THE PREQUEL

Max is a portrait of the dictator as a young artist

BY PAUL SHERMAN

If Adolf Hitler had succeeded as an artist, would he have still become the world's poster boy for unadulterated evil? That's one of the many provocative questions asked by *Max*, a fascinating blend of fiction and fact that dips back further in time than most Holocaust movies do. In fact, the movie takes place 15 years before Hitler came to power and 20 years before he foisted his policies on countries beyond Germany.

Max is more about World War I than World War II. The movie's Hitler, played by Noah Taylor of *Shine* and *Almost Famous*, is a German war veteran trying to put his life together after his country's defeat, and so is the movie's title character, Max Rothman (John Cusack). Life-changing war experience is the gut-level bond that draws uneducated, unkempt anti-Semite Hitler and urbane, well-dressed Jew Rothman together. While Hitler may have lost his faith in the future during the war, Rothman lost his right arm and with it his career as an artist. As the movie begins in Munich in late 1918, Rothman, who's based on several Jewish art dealers of the time, is opening a gallery in an abandoned iron foundry and embracing the explosive and irreverent modern works by non-traditional, post-war artists like George Grosz and Max Ernst.

A young Hitler (Noah Taylor, left) forges an unlikely friendship with a Jewish man, Max Rothman (John Cusack, right), in *Max*.

Hitler aspires to be an artist too, so he approaches Rothman with his portfolio. But Hitler and Rothman's art worlds are heading in two different directions. While the modern art Rothman favors is all about breaking down walls and forms, Hitler is stuck in Art 101. Ernst may be pioneering surrealism and Grosz may be lacing his caricatures with political meaning, but despite the storm brewing inside Hitler, his art always comes out as generic portraits and landscapes. Still, Rothman is fascinated by Hitler, a nebbish who walks and talks with a passion that never quite reaches his canvas. Rothman gives Hitler money for supplies, takes a few of his paintings on consignment and encourages the former corporal to dig deeper. Hitler becomes his new project.

It's in these scenes between the unlikely acquaintances that *Max* crackles with creative energy. Cusack's Rothman is glib and rich, but never arrogant; Hitler is uncouth, but never uninteresting. The pair banter about art, war and politics, with Rothman thriving on artistic and personal freedoms and Hitler squirming with discomfort whenever such freedoms get in his path (like when he sits down to paint or when Rothman takes him to a brothel). At one point, they're talking about the impact of the war on their art, and Rothman says to Hitler, "I was there and you were there, and I know what it looked like. But what did it *feel* like?"

But Hitler still can't get the chip on his shoulder into his art. He discovers, however, that he can channel such feelings into speaking, after he's asked to make speeches for the small extremist group that will later become the Nazis. To Rothman's dismay, Hitler starts turning to speaking instead of art as an emotional outlet. "I am the avant-garde! And politics is the new art," he shouts at Rothman, after the gallery owner confronts him following a speech.

Writer-director Menno Meyjes, making his directorial debut after writing scripts for *The Color Purple* and *The Siege*, among others, has certainly penned nothing quite so lively as this collision of time, place, character and history. *Max* colorfully evokes the heady days of post-war Germany, and through its fictionalized Hitler and its composite character of Rothman, it addresses politics and history in personal, everyday terms. Above all, *Max* carries a remarkably light touch, and blends levity and tragedy effortlessly. True to the movie, Cusack and Taylor never play their characters as symbols, just as men unsure where the future will take them. Were *Max* not such a rich mix, it might have seemed a misguided attempt to rationalize Hitler's emerging evil instead of the lyrical tragedy it is. **iB**

Max ★★★½

Written and directed by Menno Meyjes. With John Cusack, Noah Taylor, Molly Parker and Leelee Sobieski. Rated R. Lions Gate Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

About Schmidt ★★★
Alexander Payne's latest doesn't have the satiri sting of his previous *Citizen Ruth* and *Election*, but i never tries to. Instead, it's a quietly disarming stor of a 66-year-old Omaha insurance executive (Jac Nicholson) who, when he's put out to pasture by hi company and his wife suddenly dies, discovers some thing he would have never admitted to himself be fore: that he doesn't like how his life turned ou Nicholson thankfully leaves his mannerisms be hind, and the movie's bittersweet, b.s.-free tone i much more real than Nicholson's slightly simila sitcomlike *As Good as It Gets*. (At Boston Commor Fenway and suburbs.)

Adaptation ★★★½
Another inspired mind-bender from the guys wh made *Being John Malkovich*. This time, director Spik Jonze and writer Charlie Kaufman have made a movi loosely based on a book: a movie about making a movi based on a book. It follows Kaufman (a terrific Nicola Cage) in his desperate struggle to turn Susan Orlean *The Orchid Thief* into a screenplay, and comes up wit the funniest, shrewdest peek into the creative proce in years. Between Kaufman's hilariously low sel esteem, the imaginary twin brother (also Cage) wh always one-ups him, his encounters with Orlea (Meryl Streep) and her encounters with the philosoph ical redneck (Chris Cooper) at the center of her book this is absurd and inspired—right down to the "Ho lywood ending" spoof resolution. (At Boston Com mon, Fenway and suburbs.)

Antwone Fisher ★★★
The movie called *Antwone Fisher* was written b Antwone Fisher and tells the story of his emotiona transformation—from rage-filled, much-abandone orphan to relatively well-adjusted adult. Denze Washington's directorial debut doesn't stray very fa from putting a more "feel good" spin on the *Good Wi Hunting* formula: Denzel plays a Navy shrink who, à l *GWH*, learns from his patient as he helps him wor through his emotional baggage. But the movie's no frills sincerity works, and newcomer Derek Luke has a endearing lack of polish. (At Boston Common, Fenwa and suburbs.)

Catch Me If You Can ★★★
Run, Leo, Run. DiCaprio plays a 1960s teen con man i a Steven Spielberg movie that, refreshingly, just tri to be brisk entertainment. DiCaprio's character turn to cons—bank fraud, impersonating an airline pilo and a doctor—after suffering the downward mobilit of his family and the break-up of his parents (Christ pher Walken, Nathalie Baye). His ill-gotten gain recompense for his dad's troubles with the IRS. So do leading FBI agent Tom Hanks on an amusing, year long cat-and-mouse chase. In all-important movie s mantics, this is inspired by a real story, not based o one, so it sometimes stretches credibility. It can als seem like the shallow version of *The Talented Mr. Rip ley*. But it's an infectious ride, and amazingly, it has John Williams score that isn't a rehash. (At Bosto Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a later Kan der-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of th spoof of Roaring Twenties Chicago, in which singing star (and murderess), a star wannabe (an murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender of mu deresses) all fight for the spotlight and the headline Renée Zellweger is the wannabe who discovers mu der was a great career move; Catherine Zeta Jones the singer trying to keep her name alive while in jai and a surprisingly amusing Richard Gere is the up scale shyster with all the answers. All three know ju how to manipulate truth, justice and the America way through performance. Sometimes the relatio ship between the production numbers and the plot awkward—and 1943's nonmusical version of th same story, *Roxie Hart*, is funnier—but this still ha lots of gusto and laughs. (At Boston Common, Fe way and suburbs.)

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind ★★
Based on Chuck Barris' unauthorized autobiograph George Clooney's directorial debut is an absurd tri inside the fried mind of the *Dating Game* and *Newlywe Game* creator, *Gong Show* host and part-time CIA assa sin. What's that, you didn't know Chuckie Bab knocked off 30-odd undesirables in 15 years of clan destine service to Uncle Sam? Well, maybe he did an maybe he didn't. That's the fun thing about the movi which captures the patchwork structure and stream of-consciousness tussle with reality of Barris' book Clooney has *Adaptation* screenwriter Charlie Kau man handling script chores here, and a fittingly fra zled Sam Rockwell as Barris. (At Boston Commo Fenway and suburbs.)

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***Halbe Treppe* (*Grill Point*), which shows as part of the Harvard Film Archive's New Films from Europe series, follows two couples stuck in a rut until a scandalous affair adds a thrill to their lives.**

Die Another Day ★★
A big disappointment, from what is easily the least of the Pierce Brosnan Bond films. Just about everything here is subpar for what you expect from a Bond film: It has one of the series' worst theme songs yet, surprisingly bland villains, underdeveloped female characters (no pun intended), wintry CGI effects that are worse than those in *Extreme Ops* (ouch), so-so gadgets and a plot that struggles to make you care—and fails. Korea, Hong Kong, Cuba and Iceland are Bond's ports of call this time, while Halle Berry's American agent and Rosamund Pike's fellow British agent are his shag buddies. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Far from Heaven ★★
Todd Haynes' drama lovingly re-creates the glossy world of Douglas Sirk, whose brilliant 1950s Technicolor melodramas, such as *All That Heaven Allows*, meticulously presented post-war suburbia as a superficially rich yet emotionally stifled community. Haynes attempts to up the ante in Sirk's "women's pictures" by surrounding housewife Julianne Moore with a husband (Dennis Quaid) no longer able to deny his homosexuality and a potential interracial and class-crossing romance with a sensitive black gardener (Dennis Haysbert). But save for the overt mention of homosexuality, Sirk's critiques of narrowmindedness covered all of this ground before. So Haynes' movie veers on postmodern pointlessness; it's one step above Gus Van Sant's *Psycho* remake. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Gangs of New York ★★
Daniel Day Lewis is the epitome of a charismatic villain in Martin Scorsese's long-awaited 19th-century story. With his swagger, sass and quick wit, this streetfighting, political wheeler-dealer makes you feel the lure of evil. So why is this epic still just a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing but production design and more production design? Maybe it's the familiar this-time-it's-personal plot with Leonardo DiCaprio as an Irish-American returning to the Lower East Side to wreak vengeance on Lewis, who killed his dad (Liam Neeson). Maybe it's the waste of using Cameron Diaz as the woman each man covets. Scorsese seems to pay more attention to minute historical detail than to the big picture, and the movie just sits there, unsure of what it's all about. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Just Married ★★
It must be fear of being a chick flick that causes this romantic comedy to inject toilet humor at just about every opportunity. Too bad, too, because Brittany Murphy and Ashton Kutcher have an appealing chemistry together. But this story of their nightmarish honeymoon in Europe is too lazy to offer much more than stock characters, unoriginal gags (we all already saw a dog dive out a window in *There's Something About Mary*) and fart jokes. Director Shawn Levy's first movie, *Big Fat Liar*, worked wonders with so-so material, but this one is as so-so as it gets. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers ★½
A whole lotta Dungeons & Dragons mumbo-jumbo writ bombastically large. This series has had close to six hours to make me care about anything happening in it, and I still don't care a lick. Frodo can go bury the ring in the ground and go for a swim, for all I care. He, Gandalf and all the rest are back—including the addition of Miranda Otto (*Love Serenade*) and Brad Dourif (*Child's Play*) to the cast—but it's still as plodding and dull as the first film. Like the *Harry Potter* series, it crams in a lot, yet devotes little energy to making all those events meaningful. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Narc ★★
Writer-director Joe Carnahan's thriller starts as a stylish, lean police story in which disgraced undercover cop Jason Patric is asked back to the force to help high-strung detective Ray Liotta find the killer of another undercover narcotics cop. But instead of coming together coherently and dramatically, such elements as the undercover cop's frazzled mental state, the high-strung detective's brutality and the facts of the murder case just fizzle apart. And in its attempt to upend our perspective on one of the main characters, the ending sports a very dubious morality. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Pianist ★★★
It's the little moments in Roman Polanski's Holocaust drama that make it work, like when a hungry family of six on their way to a concentration camp matter-of-factly carve up and share a small piece of candy. Based on the memoirs of late Polish musician and Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, played here by Adrien Brody, the movie powerfully shows the gradual whittling away of Polish Jews' human rights (and humanity) once the Nazis invaded in 1939. It also details how the title character managed to stay alive, through being stripped of rights and crammed into the Warsaw ghetto, seeing his family deported to concentration camps, and hiding out for months at a time while locked into apartments the Nazis think are empty. For better or worse, the hero is a passive character who says little; but his path through history is involving. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner, Kendall Square and West Newton.)

Talk to Her ★★
Long after Pedro Almodovar was the hot European director, the Spaniard's movies remain interesting yet less involving. As usual, his latest has saturated colors and saturated emotions. It centers around two men involved in relationships with women who are comatose: a male nurse (Javier Camara) infatuated with his patient (Leonor Waitling), and a writer (Dario Grandinetti) whose matador lover (Rosario Flores) has been gored by a bull. If Almodovar hopes to wring pathos out of the nearly asexual nurse's love for his patient, he fails. He also fails to convince you that the journalist would become the nurse's loyal ally, especially when the nurse's "love" turns extreme. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

The 25th Hour ★★
There are some interesting elements to Spike Lee's latest—including Edward Norton's protagonist and the setting of a post-9/11 wounded New York City—but the story never really comes together. Norton plays a drug dealer sorting out his life before he starts serving a prison sentence, and those around him include girlfriend Rosario Dawson, buddies Barry Pepper and Philip Seymour Hoffman and dad Brian Cox. The relationships among the characters just aren't that convincing—the buddies don't feel like buddies, the

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lovers don't feel like lovers—though occasionally the film breaks into lively sequences, including a misanthropic Norton rant that's a worthy successor to the one in Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

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Boston Public Library

Morgan Freeman: The Easy Reader

•Jan. 27, 6pm. **Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves** *1991.* This Kevin Reynolds film stars Kevin Costner as the title character who returns from the Crusades to find his father murdered and his estate besieged by the corrupt Sheriff of Nottingham.

•Feb. 3, 6pm. **Unforgiven** *1992.* In this Academy Award winner for best picture, Clint Eastwood directs and stars with Freeman as two former gunslingers who pursue the bounty on two no-good cowboys.

Brattle Theatre

Fifties Film Noir

•Jan. 27, 5:15, 7;30 and 9:45pm. **Detective Story** *1951.* William Wyler directs Kirk Douglas as a hard-nosed detective who finds himself on the brink of self-destruction after an unusually eventful day at the precinct.

•Feb. 3, 7:30pm. **The Big Heat** *1953.* Glenn Ford stars as an honest cop whose workforce and family are caught in the crossfire of gangland murder and corruption. Fritz Lang directs.

•Feb. 3, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Human Desire** *1954.* Fritz Lang's adaptation of Emile Zola's *La Bete Humaine* follows a jealous husband as he trails his adulterous wife in what becomes a bloody spree.

Krysztof Kieslowski's The Decalogue

•Jan. 22 and 23, 7:30pm. **The Decalogue Parts 3 & 4** *1987.* A man and his ex-lover explore their defunct relationship in Part 3. In Part 4, a young woman disobeys her dead mother's wishes, thereby forever altering her relationship with her father.

•Jan. 22 and 23, 5 and 10pm. **The Decalogue Parts 5 & 6** *1987.* A critique on capital punishment, Part 5 shows a young boy paying a hefty price for murdering a cab driver. In Part 6, a peeping Tom becomes obsessed with his promiscuous neighbor and creates opportunities to make real-life contact with her.

•Jan. 29 and 30, 7:30pm. **The Decalogue Parts 7 & 8** *1987.* After growing up as sisters, a mother kidnaps her daughter in an attempt to forge a maternal bond in Part 7. Part 8 features a young Jewish woman who confronts an ethics professor who refused to protect her from Nazis during WWII.

•Jan 29 and 30, 5 and 10pm. **The Decalogue Parts 9 & 10** *1987.* Part 9 features an impotent man who insists his wife take another lover and later becomes jealous when he realizes she's already been having an affair. In Part 10, two brothers inherit a valuable stamp collection and are subsequently ensnared in the seedy side of the business.

Recent Raves

•Jan. 28, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45pm. **Bloody Sunday** *2002.* A realistic look at the unfolding of events that led to the fateful protest march in the Northern Ireland town of Derry on Jan. 30, 1972. Paul Greengrass directs.

•Feb. 4, 7:45pm. **Secretary** *2002.* Business becomes sadomasochistic pleasure when a compulsive lawyer and his self-hating secretary develop a kinky relationship. Steven Shainberg directs.

•Feb. 4, 5:30 and 10pm. **Auto Focus** *2002.* Director Paul Schrader explores the secret life and sexual exploits of *Hogan's Heroes'* Bob Crane (Greg Kinnear).

Special Engagements

•Jan 24-26, 5 and 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun. matinees, 12 and 2:30pm. **Roman Holiday** *1953.* Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck star in this romantic picture about a princess who escapes her structured royal life and is befriended by a reporter looking to get her story.

•Jan. 24-26, 10pm. **The Baby of Macon** *1993.* When a beautiful baby is born to an unattractive mother, the woman's older daughter claims the child is hers by way of immaculate conception, and mass hysteria ensues. Peter Greenaway directs.

•Jan 31-Feb. 2, 5:30 and 7:45pm; Sat. and Sun. matinees, 1 and 3:15pm. **The Bank** *2001.* A man tries to apply the chaos theory to the stock market and consequently finds himself in the greedy grasp of a powerful bank. Robert Connolly directs.

•Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 10pm. **Dog Soldiers** *2002.* An unlucky group of British soldiers encounters a pack of werewolves and a full moon in the Scottish wilderness. Neil Marshall directs.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

•Jan. 24, 6 and 8pm. **Justifiable Homicide** *2001.* Jon Osman and Academy Award–nominee Jonathan Stack unite to direct this documentary, which speculates on the cover-up of the 1995 murders of two Puerto Rican men from the Bronx.

•Jan. 25, 2pm. **Presumed Guilty** *2002.* Pamela Yates' film chronicles the daily struggle between San Francisco's public defenders and the police, court officials and their clients in the struggle to uphold the criminal justice system.

•Jan 25, 4pm; Jan 27, 7 and 9pm. **Profit and Nothing But!** *2002.* Director Raoul Peck's documentary criticizes the capitalist market and the Western powers who advocate it and contrasts it with his poverty-stricken native land of Haiti.

•Jan 25, 6 and 8pm. **August** *2002.* Director Avi Mograbi glimpses a stark view of the current state of Israel as he journeys through its streets in August 2001, armed only with a video camera.

•Jan 26, 1pm; Jan 28, 7 and 9pm. **War Photographer** *2001.* Christian Frei's 2002 Academy Award–nominated documentary profiles acclaimed war photographer James Nachtwey.

•Jan. 26, 3 and 5pm. **Georgie Girl** *2001.* Annie Goldson and Peter Wells chronicle the life of Georgina Beyer, a prostitute turned New Zealand Parliament official and the first transsexual to hold national office.

•Jan. 29, 7 and 9pm. **The Last Just Man** *2001.* Canadian Brigadier General Romeo Dallaire questions whether he could have done more to stop the 1994 Rwandan genocide in Steven Silver's film.

•Jan. 30, 7 and 9pm. **Seven Days in Tehran** *2002.* A French TV crew tries to get the real story of post-Islamic Iran after the reelection of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami. Reza Khatibi directs.

Midnight Movies: We Want Your Body!

•Jan. 24, 25, 31 and Feb. 1, 12am. **The Evil Dead** *1983.* Five friends stumble upon the Book of the Dead in a remote forest cabin where a zombified future awaits them. Directed by Sam Raimi with Bruce Campbell.

The Screening Room

•Now playing. **Takhté siah** *(Blackboards) 2000.* A group of teachers travels throughout Iranian Kurdistan trading education for food. The winner of several awards at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival, this is director Samira Makhmalbaf's second feature film.

•Opens Jan 31. **Noam Chomsky: Power & Terror** *2002.* John Junkerman's documentary is based on Noam Chomsky's post–Sept. 11 lectures urging the United States government to employ the same ethical standard it expects of other foreign powers in terms of terrorist acts.

Dreams of Freedom Immigration Museum

Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

•Jan. 24, 6 and 8pm. **Gaza Strip** *2002.* James Longley's documentary focuses on the ordinary Palestinians and their painful yet hopeful existence under Israeli occupation.

•Jan. 25, 12pm. **Afghanistan Year 1380** *2002.* A week after the Sept. 11 attacks, filmmakers Alberto Vendemmiati and Fabrizio Lazzaretti traveled to Afghanistan to film the continuing struggle to reopen a hospital that was shut down by the Taliban.

•Jan. 25, 4 and 6pm. **The Last Just Man** *2001.* Canadian Brigadier General Romeo Dallaire questions whether he could have done more to attempt to stop the 1994 Rwandan genocide in Steven Silver's film.

Fenway 13 Theatre

Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema

•Feb. 2, 10am. Veteran film critic Harlan Jacobson picks films from major festivals such as Cannes, Toronto, Sundance and New York. Attendees don't know which film is screening or who the guest speaker is until they arrive. *$120 for a season pass; $20 for one class. 800-551-9221.* www.talkcinema.com.

Midnight Movies

•Jan. 24 and 25, 12am. **Office Space** *1999.* Cubicle-bound employees fed up with everyday banalities use a computer virus to embezzle office funds into their own bank accounts. Mike Judge directs.

•Jan. 31, 12am; Feb. 1, 12am. **Fight Club** *1999.* Edward Norton and Brad Pitt star in this adaptation of Chuck Palahniuk's surreal novel in which a yuppie ditches his professional life to begin an underground fight club with a drifting soap maker.

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Ray Liotta (left) and Jason Patric (right) are cops battling crime and their own demons in Joe Carnahan's *Narc*.

Harvard Film Archive

Close Encounters

•Jan. 31, 7pm. **El Tiante** *2003.* Patricia Alvarado's film profiles Luis Tiant, the black Cuban exile who pitched his first game in the World Series for the Red Sox in 1975.

Crossing Borders: New Films from Europe

•Jan. 22, 7 and 9:15pm. **Los lunes al sol** *(Mondays in the Sun) 2002.* A group of friends attempt to deal with the emotional and spiritual hardships of unemployment, after losing their jobs at a shipyard. Fernando Leon de Aranoa directs.

•Jan. 24, 7pm; Jan. 28, 9pm. **Halbe Treppe** *(Grill Point) 2001.* Andreas Dresen's film, set in Germany, traces the lives of two couples unable to shake their bland lives until an affair breaks up the monotony.

•Jan. 24, 9:30pm; Jan. 29, 7pm. **Petites misères** *(Shopping) 2002.* Phillipe Boon and Laurent Brandenbourger's comedy follows a miserly collection agent whose wife develops a shopping phobia as a result of his extreme thrift.

•Jan. 25, 7pm; Jan. 26, 7pm. **Irreversible** *(Irreversible) 2002.* Gaspar Noe's graphic film narrates two friends' search for the man that has raped one of their girlfriends.

•Jan. 25, 9:30pm. **Fleurs de sang** *2002.* Myriam Méziéres and Alain Tanner's film unfolds through a young girl's reflection on the bohemian lifestyle she shared with her cabaret performer mother.

•Jan. 26, 9pm; Jan. 28, 7pm. **O Delfim** *(The Dauphin) 2002.* A rich playboy in late 1960s Portugal lives the good life until his wife and manservant are found dead. Fernando Lopes directs.

•Jan. 27, 7pm; Jan. 29, 9pm. **Strass** *2001.* Vincent Lannoo's mockumentary chronicles an eccentric acting teacher who stretches the boundaries of dramatic education at a Brussels theatre school .

•Jan.27, 9pm. **Det nya landet** *(The New Country) 2000.* Geir Hansteen Jörgensen's film follows two political refugees, a teenage Somalian and a middle-aged Iranian, as they escape deportment in the Swedish countryside.

Kinetica 4: Abstraction/ Animation/Music

•Feb. 1, 7pm; Feb. 2, 7pm. **The Sixties: Spirituality and Psychedelia**. A series of films by various directors from the 1960s and 1970s explore the technology of video, the analog computer and the optical printer to spiritually combine music and visual art.

•Feb. 1, 9pm; Feb. 2, 9pm. **Contemporary Works of Abstraction**. Animated films by various directors fuse religion and science to exemplify "visual music."

Les Annees Noires: French Film during the Occupation

•Feb. 3, 7pm. **Les Enfants du paradis** *(Children of Paradise) 1945.* A mime falls for a beautiful actress who is simultaneously being courted by three successful men in the Parisian theater district. Marcel Carne directs.

•Feb. 4, 7pm. **Le Corbeau** *(The Raven) 1943.* Based on a true story, a small French town speculates on rumors of abortion and drug use. Henri-Georges Clouzot directs.

•Feb. 4, 9pm. **Les Visiteurs du soir** *(The Devil's Envoys) 1942.* In Marcel Carne's film, the devil sends one of a pair of deceased lovers back to earth to come between two courting aristocrats.

Museum of Fine Arts

Current Engagements

•Jan. 23, 5:30pm; Jan. 25, 11am. **Étoiles: Dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet** *2000.* Nils Tavernier's documentary takes an inside look at Paris' prestigious corps de ballet. Footage includes rehearsals and performances, as well as interviews with company directors, choreographers and professional dancers.

Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

•Jan. 23, 7:30pm. **Sweet Sixteen** *2002.* An Irish teenager approaching his sixteenth birthday takes to dealing drugs in hopes of making enough money to buy a trailer home before his mother returns from prison. Ken Loach directs.

•Jan. 24, 6pm. **Jiyan** *2000.* A Kurdish-American man builds an orphanage in the city of Halaba, where 5,000 Kurds were killed during an attack by Saddam Hussein's forces in 1988. Signs of hope are revealed in his friendship with 10-year-old Jiyan. Jano Rosebiani directs.

•Jan. 24, 8pm. **Seven Days in Tehran** *2002.* A French TV crew tries to get the real story of post-Islamic Iran after the reelection of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami. Reza Khatibi directs.

•Jan. 25, 1pm. **The Pinochet Case** *2001.* Patricio Guzman's documentary provides insight into the ruthless former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet and his eventual arrest and trial.

•Jan. 25, 3:15pm. **Al Quods Fee Yom Akhar** *(Rana's Wedding) 2002.* A young girl is given an ultimatum from her father to either choose a husband from a list of men or go abroad. Hany Abu-Assad directs this romantic drama.

Tom Tykwer Retrospective

•Jan. 30, 7:30pm. **Die Toedliche Maria** *(Deadly Maria) 1993.* Maria has been pushed around by men all her life and her patience finally gives way to anger in Tykwer's feature debut.

•Jan. 31, 7:45pm. **Winterschlaefer** *(Winter Sleepers) 1997.* A mysterious stranger meets three people in a mountain town and unknowingly brings tragedy to their lives.

•Jan. 31, 5:30pm. **Lola Rennt** *(Run Lola Run) 1998.* Franka Potente stars in Tykwer's beat-the-clock adventure about a woman who scrambles to secure 100,000 Deutsche marks in 20 minutes. Preceded by Tykwer's short film **Because** *1990.*

•Feb. 1, 1pm. **Heaven** *2002.* Tykwer's English-language debut features a British widow who sets out to kill a drug dealer after her husband dies of an overdose. Preceded by Tykwer's short film **Epilog** *1992.*

•Feb. 1, 3:15pm. **Der Krieger und die Kaiserin** *(The Princess and the Warrior) 2000.* Franka Potente stars as an isolated nurse who finds herself pining away for a bank robber who injured her in a car accident.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Jan. 25. **Thrill Ride.** Twist and turn on virtual roller coasters from rare footage of the first rides to the scream-generators of today. *Call for showtimes.*

•Through Feb. 13. **Australia: Land Beyond Time**. The rugged beauty of Australia's varying landscapes is captured on a cinematic tour through the Outback, the Great Barrier Reef and more. *Call for show times.*

•Through March 30. **Mysteries of Egypt**. Travel back to the times of Pharoahs and pyramids and experience the customs and culture of ancient Egyptian civilization. *Call for show times.*

•Through June 23. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and across rugged mountains to commemorate the bicentennial of a remarkable exploration, brought to life by National Geographic. *Call for show times.*

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Feb. 10. **Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man**. Follow the stages of human development from birth to maturity. Each stage of life is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. *Call for show times.*

•Through Feb. 10. **Into the Deep**. Venture to the kelp forest off the shores of California, a fascinating world where a garibaldi protects its nest and a giant starfish eats everything in its path. *Call for showtimes.*

•Through Feb. 10. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this exploration of earth's different climates on a journey from the Arctic to the equator. *Call for show times.*

•Through Feb. 10. **Space Station 3D**. Take a trip to the International Space Station and experience life in zero gravity. The audience blasts off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome to rendezvous with their new home in orbit 220 miles above Earth. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 31. **Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones** *2002.* George Lucas' second installation of the *Star Wars* prequels is digitally remastered for the IMAX screen. Ten years after the events of *The Phantom Menace*, there is an attempt on Padmé Amidala's life. Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker are sent to investigate what turn out to be some of the biggest developments in the *Star Wars* saga. *Call for show times.*

Somerville Theatre

Alloy Orchestra

•Feb. 1, 8pm. **The Black Pirate** *1926.* Albert Parker directs Douglas Fairbanks in this epic pirate adventure. The Alloy Orchestra accompanies the screening with a live performance of their newly developed score for the originally silent film.

The Wang Center

Classic Film Series

•Jan. 27, 7pm. **Rear Window** *1954.* Jimmy Stewart stars as a wheelchair-bound photojournalist who after peering out his rear window at neighboring apartments, becomes convinced that a murder has occurred. Alfred Hitchcock directs.

Special Events

Festival of International Transgender Film

MIT Building 35, Rm 225, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-8844). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.

•Jan. 22, 6pm. **Different for Girls** *1997.* Two childhood playmates reunite as adults. One is now a transsexual harboring romantic feelings toward her former pal. Robert Spence directs. •Also playing, 8pm. **Ma vie en rose** *(My Life in Pink) 1997.* Alain Berliner directs this drama about a young boy who dreams of growing up to be a woman. His family , made uncomfortable by his behavior, hopes a psychiatrist will handle their problem.

•Jan. 27, 6pm. **You Don't Know Dick: Courageous Hearts of Transsexual Men** *1997.* Bestor Cram's documentary features the pasts, presents and futures of six men, all female-to-male transsexuals. •Also showing, 8pm. **Shinijuku Boys** *1995.* Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams' documentary glimpses the world of the New Marilyn club, a place where the title characters (actually cross-dressing Japanese girls) mingle with anyone looking to be treated as men.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Dreams of Freedom Immigration Museum
One Milk St. (617-338-6022). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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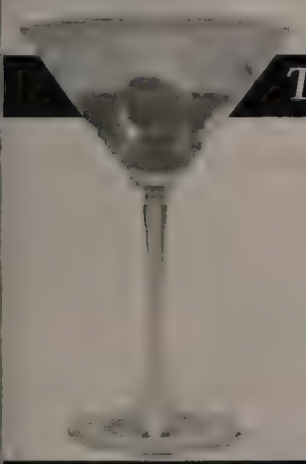

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Music

CHEMISTRY SET

Boston's eclectic Either/Orchestra refashions its bond with free-jazz pioneer John Tchicai

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

On the afternoon that the 2003 Grammy nominations are announced, Russ Gershon of the Either/Orchestra is counting back 10 years to the day, when he heard that one of his arrangements for the Boston-based band had been nominated for a Grammy. But that's not Gershon's only memory from that fateful day in 1993. On that same evening, the Either/Orchestra shared the stage at the Institute of Contemporary Art with saxophone icon John Tchicai.

"The thing about John is he has incredible charisma as a person and a player," the Either/Orchestra leader says of Tchicai (pronounced Chee-KAI), who played on John Coltrane's 1965 free-jazz landmark *Ascension*. "I feel like he brought us to places we haven't gone before with his music and his presence. That concert we did with him was one of my favorites that I've ever been involved with. It was a special night."

Alas, Either/Orchestra is not vying for a Grammy this time around. But the group is returning to the ICA with Tchicai Feb. 1, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of both that last meeting and the existence of the Boston Creative Music Alliance, the organizer of both concerts.

"That's kinda weird to me that it could have been 10 years since anything happened," jokes Gershon, 43, who has led various lineups of Either/Orchestra for 17 years. "Since 1985, I feel the jazz world has come in our direction quite a bit," he says from his Somerville office. "The whole attempt to connect the 'young lions' neo-mainstream thing with fusion, with the avant-garde, there was no one doing it. I felt we were a little ahead of our time, trying to include [Duke] Ellington and electric Miles [Davis] and rock stuff and whatever else we could put into the same repertoire.

The Either/Orchestra and saxophone great John Tchicai are collaborating for the first time in 10 years.

"In the early days, we were more inclined to put together dissimilar things in a collage-like way, like playing with a chemistry set and seeing if you can make something blow up," says Gershon, whose group also plays the Regattabar March 4.

"Now, maybe because I've gotten older and I've digested my influences or the personalities of the players more, I try to create pieces that are more consistent from beginning to end, or at least the juxtapositions are a little more subtle or controlled," he says. "It used to be like I was dealing with raw, wild colors, and slapping them together. Now I feel like I've learned how to mix paint better."

The results are impressive on both the band's new CD, *Afro-Cubism*, and its acclaimed predecessor, *More Beautiful Than Death*. Both showcase the 10-piece ensemble's shift into Afro-Cuban rhythms and Ethiopian pop from the '60s and '70s, buoyed by the Latin American drive of Surinam-bred drummer Harvey Wirht and Dominican conga player Vincente Lebron.

"A band is never better than its drummer," says saxophonist Gershon, whose group boasts such alumni as drummers Matt Wilson and Morphine co-founder Jerome Deupree, as well as keyboardist John Medeski, trombonist Josh Roseman and Club d'Elf/Natraj bassist Mike Rivard. "The Latin thing has gotten so much stronger based on the drummers we have now."

Besides a jazz-slanted companion to *Afro-Cubism* that the Either/Orchestra will release later this year, the ensemble is working on an entire CD of Ethiopian music. It's slated for a label headed by the producer of *Ethiopian Groove,* an album given to Gershon by Mark Sandman, the late leader of Morphine, which first recorded for Gershon's Accurate label. The 16-year-old label now has nearly 100 titles, including discs by Medeski Martin & Wood, the Jazz Mandolin Project and Dominique Eade, in addition to Either/Orchestra.

Tchicai is preparing four new pieces for the ICA concert and says he likes the African style Either/Orchestra is exploring. "I've tried to go in the same direction," says Tchicai, 66, from his home in France. "Of course all of the pieces are arranged in different kinds of ways. I always try to make a nice mixture of moods and ways to improvise."

"John obviously came up during the free-jazz '60s, but he's also very in touch with African music," Gershon says of the elder saxophonist, whose parents were Congolese and Danish. "But he also has a real European touch in his music. Some of it sounds like cabaret or classically influenced music."

Connecticut native Gershon traces his own eclecticism to his teenage years, when he saw concerts as diverse as Sly and the Family Stone and Tchicai's free-jazz peer Pharoah Sanders.

"I don't know if I had an agenda so much as a set of influences and a desire to honor all of them when I started this band," he says. "Basically, it was what turned me on. That was always my rule of thumb, and it still is." iB

Either/Orchestra

Plays the Institute of Contemporary Art with John Tchicai Feb. 1.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Averi, Labb and Mappari
Jan. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Big Head Todd and the Monsters
Jan. 31, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Either/Orchestra
Feb. 1, Institute of Contemporary Art, (617-628-4342)
Neil Finn and Rhett Miller
Feb. 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
David Gray
Jan. 30, Tsongas Arena (617-423-NEXT)
Hands Across the Sea
Feb. 2, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Jan. 31, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Johnny Marr and the Healers and Mellowdrone
Jan. 24, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Morcheeba
Jan. 25, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Henry Rollins Spoken Word
Feb. 4, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Sister Hazel and Von Ray
Jan. 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Spookie Daly Pride
Jan. 25, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Theory of a Dead Man and 3 Doors Down
Jan. 29, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Virginia Coalition
Feb. 1, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

Abbey Lounge Muck and the Mires, the Dents and the Marvels, 9pm.
Atrium Lounge Nancy West, 5:30pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, 21+. Upstairs: Innchoire, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm.
The Burren Live Traditional Music, 10pm
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: The Brian Templeton Band, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Noam Weinstein and David Berkeley, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground "What a Way to Go-Go," 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The Michael Shea Quartet, 9:30pm.
Harper's Ferry Crowding Out Effect, 8pm, $6, 21+.
House of Blues Zoux.
The Independent John Care Band, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm.
Kendall Café Shake, 8pm, $5; Beth Boucher Band, 9:30pm, $5; Shiner Jones, 10:30, $5.
Kinsale Paul Duffy, 7pm, no cover.
Limbo Christy Bluhm, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Kara Tondoff and Ari,, 7pm; Creatures of the Schneit and Krimsky's Renegades, 9:30pm, $7.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Soltero CD release, the Eyesores, Choo Choo La Rouge and Joel Thibodeau, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Danny the Wildchild, Phantom 45, DJ Wally, Miztah Lex, Elyte and DJ Reazon, featuring MC Bomshot, 7:30pm, $15, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack Michigan Blacksnake, 6:30pm.
Regattabar The Fred Hersch Trio CD release, 8:30pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: John Baboian Quartet, 8:30pm, $9.
Scullers Legends of the Bandstand, $22.
Sky Bar Pilot Light, Gatsby and the Spoilers, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Spring Hill Rounders, 7pm; Los Angels featuring Stan Martin, 10pm.

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Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Ninja, Helms, Diamonds and Lines, $8.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski, 8pm.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

Abbey Lounge Blank Tradition, Dirty Truckers, Peasants and the Vicelords.
Asgard Brogue, 7:30pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Nancy West, 5:30pm.
Bill's Bar The Underground, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Johnny Secret, 7pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar & the Soul Providers, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10pm
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: The Reaganomics, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Dennis Brennan and Jimmy Ryan, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground "Love Night," 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Hit Squad, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Dead Cat Bounce, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Groove Authority, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Splitting Vinnies, 9pm, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Lovewhip with Amun Ra, 8pm, $6, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5pm, cover varies, 21+.
House of Blues RANE, Joint Custody.
The Independent Ray Green Duo, no cover, 10pm.
Johnny D's Reggae Cowboys, 9pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Betsy Spivak, 9pm, $5; Frank Graham, 10pm, $5; Lucky 57, 11pm, $5.
Kinsale Sunday's Well, 7pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Flash in Blu, Insoma and Steadfast, $5.
Limbo Jonathan Singleton Trio, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Natalie Flanagan and Gregory Douglas, 9pm, $6.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: California Stadium, Tiger Saw and Mark Dwinell, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Fifth Annual Superbowl MC Battle, $10, 18+.
Milky Way Buxton, Sand Machine and Stolen Bike Crusade, 9pm, $5.
Old South Meeting House Cassandre McKinley, 12:15pm, $5.
Paradise Sister Hazel with Von Ray, 9pm, $14, 18+.
The Rack Dick 'n' Jane, 6:30pm.
Regattabar Sphere, Buster Williams and Ben Riley, 8:30pm, $16.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Quinton, 10:30pm, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Temporada Latina Salsa and Merengue Dancing, 8:30pm. Downstairs: Brian Kelley's Social Lubrication, 8:30pm, $8.
Scullers Legends of the Bandstand, $22.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band with Bob Gay, 8pm. $5.
Toad Electrolux, 7pm; Woodpile, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Cannon, Blackline, Two Steps to Infinity CD release and All Eyes On, $7.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

Abbey Lounge Bart Caruso, 9pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Philip, 5pm and 9pm.
The Attic Gary Backstrom, 9pm, $5.
The Big Easy Aphrodisiac, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Nocturnal, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Boss Hawg, 9pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+; Upstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Nick Groomis, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm; Suzanne Davis Duo, 9pm.
The Burren Jo Jo Mama, 10pm.
Cambridge Center for Adult Education Brian Patton hosts an open-mike night, 8pm, $7.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs:Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Jake Armerding CD-release, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Gaffney, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Dr. Blues and His Screamin' Blues Orchestra, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Issi Rozen, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

David Gray brings his acoustic folky-pop melodies to the Tsongas Arena for a show Jan. 30.

Grand Canal Cape Fear.
The Green Briar The Return.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scooby Snax, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Harp Zone, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Even Flow with Benjy Davis Project, 8pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5pm, cover varies, 21+.
House of Blues The Holmes Brothers with Dwight Ritcher Band.
The Independent Stretch, no cover, 10pm.
Jose McIntyre's Rusty Scott Quartet, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Café Mike Gent, 10pm, $10; Jason Ringenberg, 11pm, $10.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Patsy & Tony, 8pm.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment, 7pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Mickey Bliss' Soul Spectacular, Chicken Slacks Soul Revue, Jess Tardy and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Eula Lawrence, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood Pure Fiction CD release.
Lizard Lounge The Jack McCoys, the Beatings and Polaris Nine, 9pm, $6.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Vibewise and Kabir, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Lilys, Apollo Sunshine, Chauncey and Les Sans Culottes, $10, 18+.
Milky Way Booty Juice, Jen Kearney y la Cebolla, 9pm, $8.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
O'Leary's The John Cate Duo, 9:30pm, no cover.
Paradise Johnny Marr & The Healers, 9pm, $20, 18+.
Parris The Catunes.
Purple Shamrock Felix Brown, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar Sphere: Gary Bartz, Kenny Barron, Buster Williams and Ben Riley, 7:30pm, $16.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Ron Boston, 6pm; Danny Tucker, $8, 21+; $10, 19+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Yoron Israel, $10, 9pm. Upstairs: Brazilian Dance Party, $10, 9pm.
Scullers Charles Lloyd, $25.
TK's Jazz Cafe Steve Higgs, no cover, 5pm; James Williams–Bill Pierce Sextet, John Lockwood, Yoron Israel, Andy McGee and Billy Thompson, $10, 9pm.
Toad Paved Country.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway with Phil Grenadier, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Grant Hart, 33 Slade, Favorite Atomic Hero, and Lorntell, $8.
Les Zygomates Valerie Stephens, 8pm-12am.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25

Abbey Lounge Black Eggs, Broken Toys and the Last Ones, 9pm.
Asgard The Drift, 7:30pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Philip, 5pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm.
Avalon Morcheeba, 7pm, $15.25, 18+.
The Big Easy Dick 'n' Jane, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Alan and the Alligators 9pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+; Upstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Nicole Nelson, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm; Suzanne Davis Duo, 9pm.
The Burren The Wildcats, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Nini Camps and Cary Pierce, 7pm, $12.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm, no cover.
Emmanuel Church Jazz Composers Alliance Orchestra, 8pm, $10.
The Good Life Cambridge The No Way Jose Band, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Amanda Baisinger, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Good Times Reks, OVM, MSC, Paw Dukes and Skitzofreniks, 8:30pm, $10, 18+.
Grand Canal Pig Pen.
The Green Briar Side Show.
The Harp Central Basement, 21+.
Harper's Ferry The Bomb Squad, featuring Jen Durkin, 8pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Irish Sessuin, 4pm.
House of Blues The Prodigals.
The Independent Tim Gearan, no cover, 10pm.
Johnny D's Badfish (Sublime tribute), 9:45pm, cover varies, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's Dave Lieb, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Café Eric Marcos and Normal Noises, 10pm, $8; LP, 11pm, $8.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Patsy & Tony, 8pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café We Sell Soul Revue: Mr. Airplane Man, Downbeat 5 and Lyres, $7.
Limbo Chuck Langford Band, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Adonai and I, 9pm, $8.
Lucky's Lounge Julie Johnson, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Placer CD-release show, Victory At Sea, 27 and Eyes Like Knives, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Missing Joe, Seeking Homer, Suddenease and Motorskills, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
O'Leary's Bird Mancini, 9:30pm, no cover.
Paradise Spookie Daly Pride, Kevin Kinsella, Sam "The Breadman" Bigelow, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Zone.
Purple Shamrock Spike the Punch, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar Sphere: Gary Bartz, Kenny Barron, Buster Williams and Ben Riley, 7:30pm & 10pm, $18.
Rhythm & Spice Jack Lee & Diversity, $8 for 21+, $10 for 19+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Samuel Torres Group featuring Ernesto Simpson, $10, all ages, non-smoking, 9pm. Upstairs: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12.
Scullers Charles Lloyd, $25.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Gay Duo, no cover, 11am-3pm; Carl Walter, no cover, 3:30pm; James Williams-Bill Pierce Sextet, John Lockwood and Yoron Israel, 9pm, $10.
Toad Gregg's Saturday Showcase, 7pm; Dave Johnston, 10pm.
Top of the Hub The Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rock Bottom, Replaced, The Rudds, and the Knee-His, $8.
Les Zygomates Jim Bridges, 8:30pm.

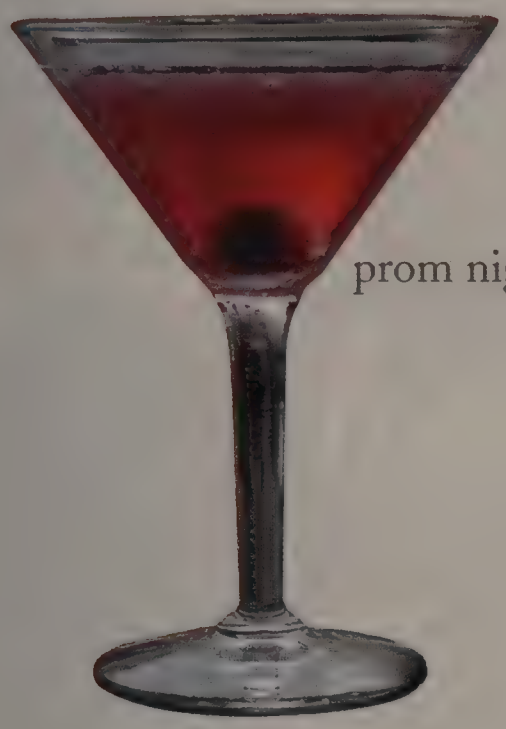
SUNDAY, JAN. 26

Bill's Bar JR. Holt & The CP Band, 18+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with the Rusty Scott Organ Group, 10:30am-3pm.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Jazz Duo, 11am-2pm; Alfredo Cardim, 7.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim UrbanMuse, 7:30pm, $12.
Common Ground Superbowl Party.
Dick's Last Resort Gospel Brunch: Silver Lining, 10am-3pm; The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords and Finbar Doyle.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons, 9pm, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Hot Like Fire, 8pm, $4, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard, 5pm.
The Independent Frank Morey, no cover, 8pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30pm; Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7pm, no cover.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7pm; poetry jam, featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio and poet Samantha Libby Sodickson, 9pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday featuring Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Fire Balls: Drag Bingo, 8pm, no cover.
O'Brien's Urbanmuse, 7:30pm, $12.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 9pm, 21+.
Rhythm & Spice DJ Jammin' Joe Johnson, 4pm, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10am-3pm. Downstairs: Amazon Poetry Slam, 7:30pm, $8.
TK's Jazz Cafe Charisma, no cover, 6pm.
Toad Jake Brennan, 7pm; The Sunday Night Band.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Players, 11am-3pm, no cover; Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mistaken Stars, Rain and Fixation, $5.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

Abbey Lounge BBQ and Live Blues Jam, 7pm.
Bill's Bar Twych, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 9pm.
The Burren Irish Set Dancing, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs:Singer-Songwriter Open Mike, 8pm, 21+; Dean Stevens, 10pm, 21+.
Club Passim Old Time Music-ALIA, 7pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Guitarioke with Leah, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike, 9pm, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Best Bands Showcase, 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Missing Joe performs downstairs at the Middle East Jan. 25.



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House of Blues Moe Jones Monday Night Revue
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with Acoustic Planet, 8pm, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan, 7pm, no cover.
Limbo Rick Costa Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Comedy hour with Kim Davis, 7pm, $9; the Fringe, 10pm.
Milky Way Marinate: Hip Hop on the Positive Tip, 9pm.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack Karmen, 6:30pm.
TK's Jazz Cafe Dave Nate Trio, $4, 7pm.
Toad Shwang, 8pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear with AdFrank, Kristin Forbes, and Chris Zerby, $3.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday with Rocket Science, 10:30pm, $3.
Asgard Trivia, 7:30pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Old School Hip Hop, $10, 19+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
The Burren Open Mike with Hugh McGowan, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8pm, 21+; Frank Drake, 10pm, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass Jam.
Club Passim Open Mike, 8pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Causeway, 9pm, 21+.
House of Blues Patrick McAloon with West Entrance.
Johnny D's Frank Morey, 8:30pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Sarah Brindell and Friends, 8pm, $5.
Kinsale Tom Courtney, 7pm, no cover.
Limbo John Kordalewski Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Mark Erelli Band, $7, 9pm.
Lizard Lounge Tim Gearan, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Keepsake, Mae and Hold This Moment, $8, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Dana Zagores, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack Jazz with Black Sole, 6:30pm.
Regattabar The Ken Schaphorst Ensemble, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Robin Kenyatta Homecoming, $10, 8:30pm.
Scullers Geoffrey Hicks Quartet, $18.
TK's Jazz Cafe Gary Grasso's Jazzster, 7pm, $4.
Toad The Resophonics
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lock and Key, Bender X, the Bluebloods and Not at All, $5.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Abbey Lounge Brett Rosenberg, Coffin Lids, Jay Allen and Muck & the Mires, 9pm.
Avalon 3 Doors Down and Theory of a Dead Man, 7:30pm, $23.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm.
The Burren Live Traditional Music, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: The Brian Templeton Band, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Kenny White and Jonathan Pointer, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Weepin' Willie, 9:30pm.
Harper's Ferry Pete Pidgeon and Acorda with Red Shift Six, 8pm, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Cody Chestnutt.
The Independent John Cate Band, no cover, 10pm.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Mo Lotman, 8:30pm, $5; Beth Boucher Band, 9:30pm, $5; Robert Gish, 10:30pm, $5.
Kinsale Paul Duffy, 7pm, no cover.
Limbo Amanda Baisinger, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Scara's Night Out: Cabaret featuring Burlesque Revival Association, Calypso Invaders, Lee Todd Lacks, Audity, Ethan Mackler and Sinus Brandy, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Julie Johnson, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Alabama Boys Choir, $9, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack Michigan Blacksnake, 6:30pm.
Regattabar The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine CD release, 8:30pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: The Downtown Sound, 8:30pm; Z.M.Q., 10:30pm, $9, all ages, non-smoking.
Scullers Miles Donahue Standard Band, $20.
TK's Jazz Cafe The Brian Walkley Band with Bob Gay and swing dance music by Hop to the Beat Dance Studio, 7pm, $10, 21+.
Toad The Spring Hill Rounders, 7pm; Jimmy Ryan, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Wheat, Kimone, Raymond CD-release and Kobe, $6.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski, 8pm.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Asgard Dave Tecce, 7:30pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Lipfloater and Knucklesandwich, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Bird Mancini, 7pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Little Joe Cook, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
The Burren Swinging Johnsons, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Lois Lane and the Daily Planet, 9pm, 21+.
Common Ground Love Night, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Hit Squad, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The Evan Goodrow Band, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Rollo Tomasi Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Splitting Vinnies, 9pm, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Seth Yacavone Band with Clemmy's Guttata, 8pm, $7, 21+.
House of Blues Dan's "Break Your New Year's Resolution" Night.
Johnny D's Nikulydon and ATP, 9pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Barn Burning, 10pm, $5; Linnane, 11pm, $5.
Kinsale Symbolics, 7pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Letterick, Marlena Tholl and Once Over, $5.
Limbo John Baboian Trio, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Zuzu: Mick Mondo's Flying Dutchman, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Enuma Elish and Annette Farrington.
Old South Meeting House Mili Bermejo and Dan Greenspan, 12:15pm, $5 adults, $4 students and seniors.
Paradise Rubyhorse, 9pm, $10.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan, 9pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack Dick 'n' Jane, 6:30pm.
Regattabar The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine CD release, 8:30pm, $22.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Kemp Harris, 8:30pm, $8. Upstairs: Temporada Latina, 8:30pm.
Scullers Toots Thielmans, Kenny Werner and Oscar Casro-Neves, $25.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band with Bob Gay, $5, 8pm.
Toad Deb Paternk, 7pm; The Family Jewels, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Waco Brothers and the Sadies, $10.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Abbey Lounge The Gladstones and the Kickbacks.
Asgard Sunset, 7:30pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Philip, 5:15pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm.
The Attic The Burn, 8pm, $5.
Avalon Big Todd Head and the Monsters, 7pm, $17, 18+.
Bill's Bar Moonraker with the Aaron Katz Band and Buttah, 18+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's No Way Jose, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm; Suzanne Davis Duo, 9pm.
The Burren Jabe, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.
Common Ground Big Bad Bollocks, 10pm, cover varies.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm, no cover.
First Church of Jamaica Plain Libana, 7:30pm, $15.
The Good Life Cambridge The Boston Horns, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Michael Shea Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal The Risk.
The Green Briar Pi Alley.
The Harp Steamroller Picnic, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Superhoney, 8pm, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Hookah Brown with Rich Robinson of the Black Crowes.
Independent Jake Brennan, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Pressure Cooker, 9:45pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Dorman, 9:30pm, $7; Blue Horizon, 10:30pm, $7; The Hayseed Prophets, 11:30pm, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-town Celtic Clan, 7:30pm.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment, 7pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Riverside Train, Calypso Invaders and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Wannetta Jackson, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood The Real Kids, the Kenmores and the Stoves, $7.
Lizard Lounge Writers with Drinks, $5, 6:30pm; Count Zero, Jack Drag and Kill Henry Sugar, $6, 9pm.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Good North CD-release show, Aberdeen City, Runner and the Thermodynamics and Emergency Music, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Bonnie Prince Billy, Ned Oldham and Long Live Death, $10, 18+.
Milky Way The Pill and Babystrange.
Mr. Dooley's Sunday's Well.
O'Leary's The Ed Jurdi Band, 9:30, no cover.
Paradise Averi, Mappari and Labb, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Peatmoss.
Purple Shamrock The Marcels, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine CD release, 7:30 and 10pm, $22.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Bucky Pizzarelli, Howard Alden and Frank Vignola, 9pm, $25 all ages, non-smoking. Upstairs: Brazilian Dance Party, $10, 9pm.
Sanders Theater Ladysmith Black Mambazo, 8pm, $20-$35.
Scullers Toots Thielmans, Kenny Werner and Oscar Casro-Neves, $28.
Toad Georgia Overdrive.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group featuring Phil Grenadier, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kings of Nuthin, the Deterrents and Dirty Water, $8.
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8pm.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Asgard Drilling 3's, 7:30pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Philip, 5:15pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm.
The Attic Chris Canty CD-release Party with Machinery Hall and Search Engine, 9:15pm, $6.
Avalon Neil Finn and Rhett Miller, 7pm, $16.75, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern John Astor, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm; Suzanne Davis Duo, 9pm.
Club Passim Erin McKeown, 8pm, $15.

The Sadies crossbreed their country genes with punk and surf for a sound all their own.

Preview

Band of Brothers

The Sadies are taking over the family business

Whether by chance or pedigree the Good brothers, Dallas and Travis, are making good on the family name. Their dad, Bruce, and uncles Brian and Larry are one of Canada's most prominent bands of brothers, the legendary country/bluegrass outfit the Good Brothers. Their mother, Margaret, got her start singing back-up for a country-and-western variety show on Canadian television before lending her heartrending voice to two generations of Goods, her husband's act, and later her sons' band, the Sadies.

"I was fully aware of what being a musician meant at an early age, the sacrifices, the pros and cons," says Dallas of his upbringing. He admits, though, that he didn't begin to embrace the family business until nearing his teens. "I wasn't even interested in playing guitar until I was 12 years old and learning Black Flag songs."

The brothers paid their dues, separately, in a variety of punk and rock 'n' roll bands before joining forces in the Sadies nine years ago—along with upright bassist Sean Dean and drummer Mike Belitsky—to improve on the family recipe for traditional country music with a genre-blurring melange of surf, psychedelia and rock 'n' roll. A fever-pitched tour schedule and a series of increasingly impressive albums have earned the band a growing audience in alt-country circles and beyond. This past November, the Sadies released their fourth long-player, *Stories Often Told*. On *Stories* their sound falls halfway between the Byrds circa *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* and the score to a classic western (around the point in the film when some unlucky cowpokes are fixing to get "regulated upon"). "It's safe to say this record is a lot darker than anything we've put out in the past," says Dallas.

Don't peg these boys as an overwrought alt-country act, though. Do expect them to raise the barn when they ride into Cambridge Jan. 30. *T.T. the Bear's Place, 10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-2327). 9 pm, $10.—Daniel Schulman*

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JOIN US
Tuesday January 21st

Join us every Friday night with Central Basement and DJ Johnny C hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party!

inside RACK

Every Monday Night, 5-9:30pm

NOT **just your average Monday Night! Featuring great bands, complimentary buffet and pool! DJ Mike Janedy 9:30pm-2am.**

Every Tuesday Night, 6pm

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Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

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The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way!
DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

Tuesday, January 21st

FULL MOON PARTY! Join us for the kick-off of The Rack's monthly Full Moon parties starting on Tuesday, January 21st, the Cool Moon Party featuring the R&B and Jazz sounds of Black Sole! Howl at the moon for the first of 12 great parties The Rack will host this year! It will be the highlight of your month! Feast on complimentary appetizers and complimentary Stoli flavored cocktails straight from Russia 7 - 9pm. RSVP to heather@therackboston.com

Saturday, February 1st, 4pm - 9pm

NBC SINGLES BASH AND A CASTING CALL! Want to be a CONTESTANT on an NBC SHOW? Check it out here! Around the World in 80 Dates! Are you a single guy or girl in your twenties or early thirties looking for international romance? Are you searching for love and adventure? Nash Entertainment is currently seeking singles for a new travel-dating show that will jet participants around the world in search of love!

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THE RACK

Common Ground Common Sounds, 10pm.
The Harp Steamroller Picnic, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Fighting Gravity, 8pm, $8, 21+.
Harvard-Epworth Church Libana, 8pm, $15.
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater Boston Creative Music Alliance 10th anniversary Concert, 8pm, $16.
Jose McIntyre's Dave Lieb, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Hansin Sisters, Thought Brigade and Porch Angels, $5.
Limbo Candida Rose Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
The Linwood Blackstone Valley Crew, Woodland Creatures and Average White Boys, $8.
Lizard Lounge The Ray Corvair Trio, 9pm, $6.
Middle East Upstairs: 90 Day Men, Car Crash Show, Boas and the Mobius Band, $9, 18+.
Paradise Virginia Coalition, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Peatmoss.
Purple Shamrock Josh Hall, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine CD release, 7:30 and 10pm, $24.
Sanders Theater Cho-Liang Lin and André-Michel Schub, 8pm, $15-$25.
Scullers Toots Thielmans, Kenny Werner and Oscar Casro-Neves, $28.
Sky Bar Junkhead, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Moistboyz, featuring Dickie Moist and Dean Ween and Instant Death, $12.
Zeitgeist Gallery Roman Stange and friends, 8pm, $10, all ages.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

Asgard Christy O'Connell.
The Attic The Coalboilers, 8pm, $5.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Hillary Noble, 10:30am-3pm.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Jazz Duo, 11am-2pm; Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
Club Passim Al Kooper 59th Birthday Party, 7:30pm, $20.
Common Ground Allston Steady Rock-Easy Sound System, 10pm, cover varies.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
House of Blues Rooney, 7pm, 18+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet, 9pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7pm; poetry jam, featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio and poet Monique Jarius, 9pm, $5.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 9pm, 21+.
Regattabar The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine CD-release, 3 and 7pm, $20.
Scullers Richie Havens .
Sky Bar The Difference Engine, Vintage Radio and the Steal Ring, 9pm $5, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place James Mercer, Rosie Thomas, Sam Beam and Sam Jayne , $8.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Abbey Lounge BBQ & Live Blues Jam, 7pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm.
Club Passim Judith Owen, 8pm, $10.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Limbo Kevin Harris Trio, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Comedy hour, hosted by Kim Davis, 7pm, no cover; the Fringe, 10pm, $9.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack Karmen, 6pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Punk Rock Aerobics, 6:30pm, $7.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday with Joe Wizda, Johnny Pape and Rosie Huntress, 9pm, $3.
Asgard Trivia, 7:30pm, no cover.
Avalon Henry Rollins Spoken Word, 8pm, $18.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm.
Club Passim Open mike, 7pm, $5.
Limbo Alexi Tsiganov Band, 8pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge All the Queen's Men, Spottiswoode and Valerie Forgione, 9pm, $6.
Middle East Zuzu: Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Henry Rollins Spoken Word, 7pm, $18.
Purple Shamrock Dana Zagores, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack Jazz with Black Sole, 6:30-12am.
Regattabar Charlie Kohlhase's CK5 CD-release, 8:30pm, $12.
Sky Bar Nothing Yet and Hayduke, 9pm, $5, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place "World War Twosday" with Shelley Winters Project, the Collisions, Paula Kelley and Ara Tap, $7
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
The Big Easy *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Emmanuel Church *15 Newbury St., Boston (781-899-3130). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
First Church of Jamaica Plain *6 Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-1747).*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Good Times *30 Assembly Square Drive, Somerville (617-628-5559). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Station.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Harvard-Epworth Church *1555 Mass Ave, Cambridge (617983-1747).*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater *955 Boylston St., Boston (617-354-6898. MBTA:.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jordan Hall *30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
O'Leary's Pub & Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tir na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617497-4950).*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Local band Averi (above) joins fellow Boston rockers Labb and Mappari at the Paradise Jan. 31.

advance seating

Steve Earle

Altan March 8, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Barra MacNeils Feb. 14, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Blind Boys of Alabama Feb. 28, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Bon Jovi and the Goo Goo Dolls March 4, Fleet-Center (617-931-2000)
Kasey Chambers March 1, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
The Chieftains March 12, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
The Del-Vikings March 30, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
The Donnas and Ok Go Feb. 8, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Steve Earle Feb. 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Ibrahim Ferrer Feb. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-876-4275)
Bela Fleck & The Flecktones April 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Vince Gill Feb. 14, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Arlo Guthrie March 7, Blackman Auditorium (617-373-2247)
Daryl Hall and John Oates March 3, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Joe Jackson Band April 4 Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Habib Koité Feb. 9, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Huun Huur Tu March 14, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Lunasa March 22, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Ellis Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis and Reginald Veal March 3, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Youssou N'Dour and Angelique Kidjo April 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-876-4275)
Preservation Hall Jazz Band March. 28, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
The Pretenders Feb. 8, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Shankar with Zakir Hussain & Ginger March 21, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Take 6 Feb. 27, Berklee College of Music (617-931-2000)
Chucho Valdes March 30, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
The Waifs and Jess Klein April 12, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Yanni April 3, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)

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classical music

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $45-$65. Celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs solos and duets with pianist Kathryn Scott.

Music in the Cathedral Series
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826 ext., 1103). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 12:15pm. $2. This 30-minute concert features organist Laurence Carson.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 10:30am open rehearsal; concert at 8pm. $25-$84. Conductor Sir Neville Marriner and cellist Lynn Harrell present Edward Elgar's *Cello Concerto*.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. $25-$84. Same program as Jan. 23.

Cantata Singers
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7pm pre-concert lecture; concert at 8pm. $16-$44. David Hoose conducts the Cantata Singers in Igor Stravinsky's 20th century masterpiece *The Rake's Progress*.

Janus 21
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-734-5174). www.janus21.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $21; $15 students, seniors. Renowned mezzo-soprano Jane Struss and pianist Brian Moll perform Schubert's song cycle *Winterreise*.

Lavazza Chamber Ensemble
Community Music Center of Boston, 34 Warren Ave., Boston (617-482-7494). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. 7pm. Free. Director Jan Pfeiffer leads the Lavazza Chamber Ensemble in a concert featuring works by Brahms, Stravinsky, Martinu and Debussy.

MIT Guest Artist Series
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-258-2906). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Free. The Arditti String Quartet performs Jonathan Harvey's *Quartet No. 3*, Laura Elise Schwendinger's *String Quartet*, Bartok's *No. 4* and Ligeti's *No. 2*.

Music at the Immaculate
Immaculate Conception Church (the Jesuit Urban Center), 775 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-536-8440). MBTA: Buses #1, 8, 10, 47 or 49. 8pm. $10. This performance features the Seraphim Singers.

Music for Viols & Friends
Lindsay Chapel, First Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-776-0692). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $16. Carol Lewis, Janet Hass, Paul Johnson, Mai-Lin Broekman, Alice Mroszczyk and Olav Chris Henriksen perform "Lachrimae," also known as "Seaven Teares," by John Dowland.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$90. Same program as Jan. 23.

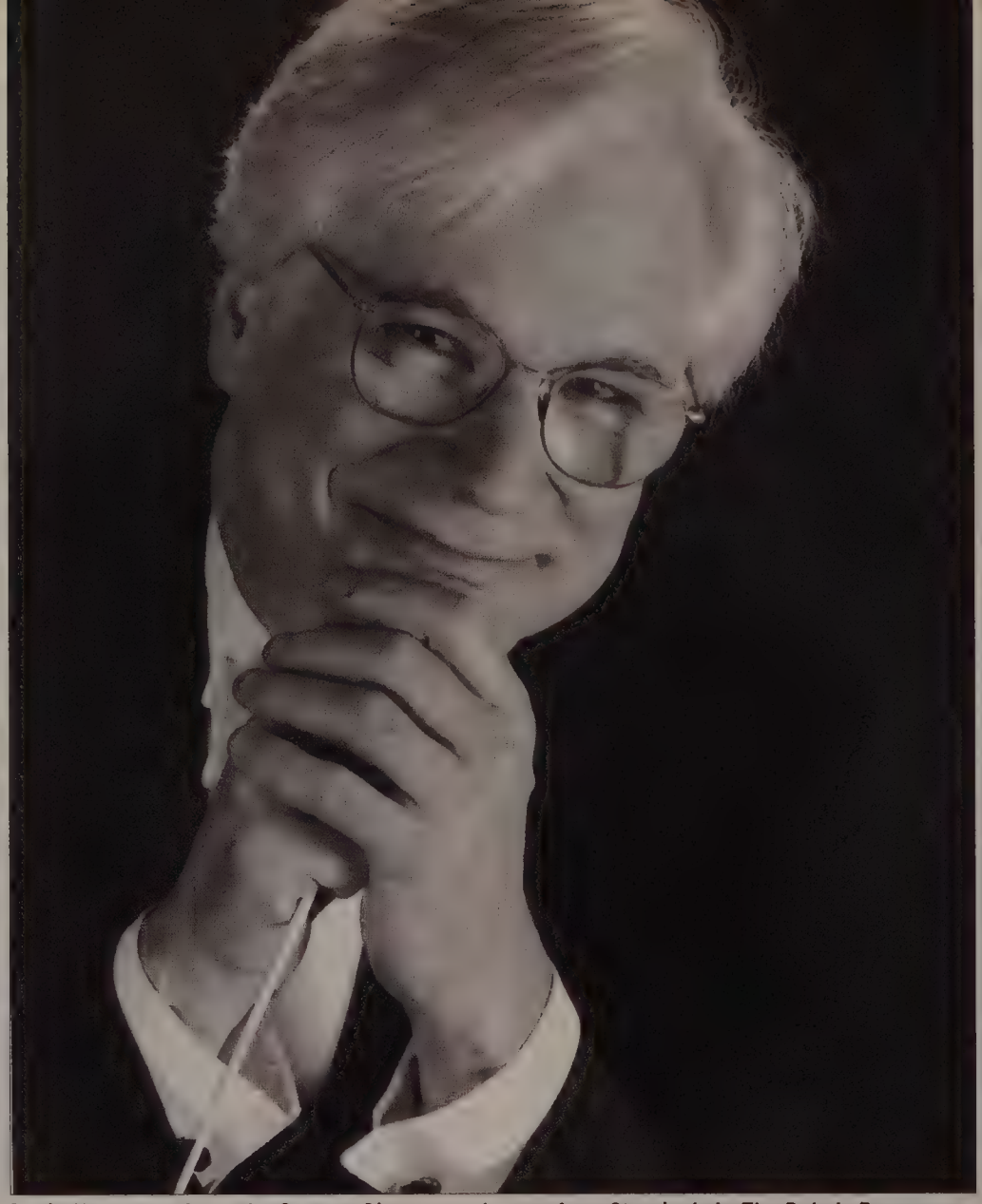
New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. The Collegiate Piano Department Festival presents a series of light-hearted works.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26

Cantata Singers
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2pm pre-concert lecture; concert at 3pm. $16-$44. Same program as Jan. 24.

Early Music Series
Somerville Museum, Central St. and Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Davis. 3pm. $14. Carol Lewis, Janet Hass, Paul Johnson, Mai-Lin Broekman, Alice Mroszczyk and Olav Chris Henriksen perform "Lachrimae," also known as "Seaven Teares," by John Dowland. John Gibbons performs Bach on harpsichord.

Four Centuries of Dance Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2pm. Free. This concert features piano students in the Preparatory, Continuing and Professional Studies Divisons.



David Hoose conducts the Cantata Singers as they perform Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress.*

Harmony Amidst Discord
Goeth-Institut, Inter Nationes Boston, 170 Beacon St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Copley. 3pm. Free. The program is dedicated to possible and essential dialogue between Jews and Arabs in Israel. It features cellist Inbal Megiddo and pianist Saleem Abboud-Ashkaar.

King's Chapel Concert Series
King's Chapel, Tremont and School St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to State St.; Red or Green Line to Park Street. 5pm. $10. Gerald Manley Hopkins' works are sung by the King's Chapel Choir and spoken by Dr. Daniel Pinkman and Fr. Robert Barth.

La Belle France
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3770). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 3pm. $24; $20 members, students, seniors. Boston Museum Trio, soprano Dominique Labelle and baroque flutist Christopher Krueger perform works by Couperin, LeClair, Bach, Monteclair and Clerambeau.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 11am-6pm. Free. This concert offers a chance to hear the youngest students from the NEC Preparatory School perform contemporary compositions.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. Pianist Sonia Chan performs Berg's *Sonata Op. 1*, Schubert's *Sonata D. 958* and Chopin's *Impromptus* and *Sonata Op. 35*.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84. Same program as Jan. 23.

King's Chapel Concert Series
King's Chapel, Tremont and School st., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. 5pm. $2. The program of music by Bach, Handel and Monteverdi features soprano Andrea Rash, Sheila Beardslee on recorder and organist Libor Dudas.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. Collegiate Piano Department Festival. Same performance as Jan. 25.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Music in the Cathedral Series
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826 ext., 1103). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 12:15pm. $2. This 30-minute concert features organist Stuart Forster.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. This concert features an evening of performances by the soloists of the Callithunpian Consort, an ensemble that explores modern compositions.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

All-Beethoven Concert
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-520-2200). 7:30pm. Free. The Boston Landmarks Orchestra, featuring pianist Victoria Korchinskaya-Kogan, performs works by Beethoven.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84. Estonian-born conductor Neeme Jarvi is joined by American soprano Barbara Hendricks to perform Richard Strauss' *Four Last Songs*.

Longy Chamber Winds
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956 ext., 500). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2pm. Free. This concert includes selections by Arthur Bird, Thomas Stone, Antonin Dvórak and Mozart.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. NEC Jazz theory faculty member Ben Schwendener performs on piano.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. The Collegiate Piano Department Festival. Same program as Jan. 25.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$90. Same program as Jan. 30.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7pm. Free. The performance, titled *Russian Winter's Eve*, features works by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky.

New England Conservatory
Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (617-227-5088). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 8pm. $15; $10 Old West Organ Society members; $5 students. James Dawson performs a recital of North German music.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7:30pm. $18-$48. Schubert's *Alfonso and Estrella* is the story of two young lovers who reunite their estranged fathers.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$90. Same program as Jan. 30.

Convivium Musicum
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 383 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-623-0656). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $12; $6 students, seniors. Under the direction of Scott Metcalf, the Convivium Musicum, Boston's choir for Renaissance music, performs a program titled Song of Songs: Works of Guerrero, Vivaldi & others.

Yet Still the Spirit that Endures
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-427-8200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7:30pm. $15-$30; $5 off for students and seniors. The Chamber ensemble performs with guest mezzo-soprano, Mary Nessinger.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

Borromeo String Quartet
Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (866-468-7619). www.gardnermuseum.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 8pm. $18 adults; $12 seniors; $10 students, $5 children. The quartet performs the last segment of its popular Mozart and Bartok series, which began in fall 2000.

Boston Symphony Chamber Players
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $17-$30. The Chamber Players and pianist Paul Badura-Skoda present Schubert's *Quintet in A for piano and strings*.

Convivium Musicum
St. John's Episcopal Church, Revere St. and Roanoke Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-623-0656). www.convivium.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. 3pm. $12; $6 students, seniors. Same program as Feb. 1.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $25-$60. Mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves and pianist Warren Jones perform classical selections from Brahms, Handel, Puccini and several others.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free; tickets required. Khachaturian works are performed by NEC alumni, faculty and special guests from the Armenian community.

Newton Community Chorus
Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 573 Washington St., Newton (617-527-6168). 2pm. $15; $12 seniors. Conductor Richard Travers leads the 65-voice chorus, renowned soloists and a full orchestra in a work by Mendelssohn.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. The NEC Preparatory String Chamber Orchestra and the NEC Youth Chorale perform their Winter Concert.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-7575). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84. Same program as Jan. 30.

Faculty Composers Showcase
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956 ext., 500). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free. This concert features new works by Longy School of Music faculty composers.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free. The NEC's Biava String Quartet performs works by Mozart, Dutilleux and Beethoven.

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Avenue Bar
Service Industry Night Featuring house and techno music, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge Attain transcendence in the exotic world of Buddha Bar with DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Karmen performs, 6-9:30pm, no cover, 21+. Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
Hip-hop night, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ B-spin, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music in this swank billiards lounge, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs. • Jan. 28, DJ Brandon Coy showcases his old-school electro, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

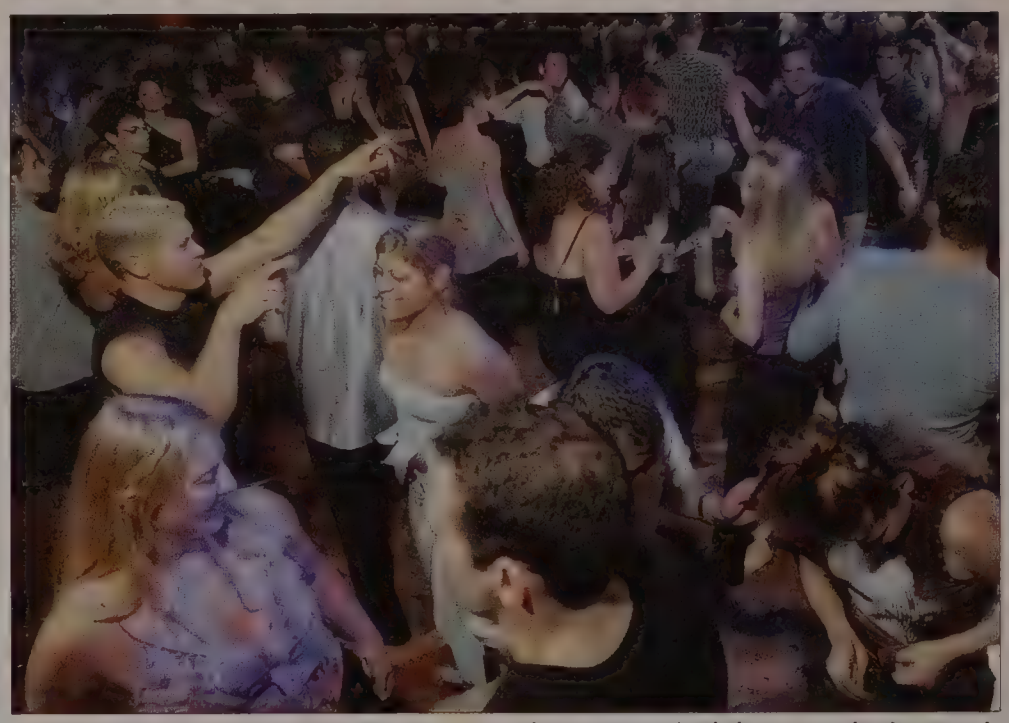
Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays House, hip-hop and Latin with DJs Fuma, Modee and Franklin, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.



Break out the Halloween costumes for Roxy's one-night metamorphosis into an erotic playground.

Preview

Leather and Lace

The Roxy is the first stop on the Erotic Ball tour

Now that the season of Santa Claus is behind us, you can stop worrying about that "naughty or nice" business for another 11 months. So why not indulge your naughty side on Jan. 23, when the kick-off party for the Erotic Ball 2003 tour takes place at the Roxy? Boston-based Kaos Productions is teaming up with Hubba Hubba of Cambridge and Video Warehouse of Peabody to transform one of Boston's biggest clubs into an adult playground for the night. It's all in good fun, but curious and experienced partygoers alike are encouraged to come dressed to impress.

That bondage costume you bought last year—the one that came with the riding crop and fuzzy handcuffs—has probably just been collecting dust in your closet since Halloween. The Roxy guarantees VIP treatment—as well as a chance to win prizes and be crowned king or queen of the ball—to all those who arrive wearing leather and lace.

Boston is the first stop on the Erotic Ball's 12-city tour of the Northeast. Organizers promise a unique experience, complete with mind-blowing visual effects, the Roxy dancers, special "erotic" performances, giveaways, and of course, the sexiest clubbing soundtrack this side of Berlin. Boston DJ Paul Dailey will lay down his signature hard-edged techno sound. Don't expect to see Dailey provocatively dressed, however. He explains, "Although I'll be happy to give out plenty of musical spankings, I don't think anyone wants to see me in leather or lace." Local funky house DJ Michael Knyte will warm up the crowd. *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). 9pm-2am. 21+. Tickets are available at Strawberries outlets for $22 and a limited number of tickets will be available at the door.—Daniel Spurling*

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Peow! DJ Timmy Collins spins New York-style lounge music, $3, 21+; $5 under 21.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Green Briar
DJ Long John spins '80s, '90s and top-40 hits, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
Live music with Michigan Blacksnake, 6-10pm. DJ Steve Anderson keeps the party going until 2am, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band speeds things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Venu
The Rinse Resident DJs Static, Benny B. and Damsel spin drum 'n' bass with guests, 10pm, 18+.

Vertigo
Anitya Psychedelic trance music and sets by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw, 10pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Lounge Night DJ Jason spins house tunes and the latest techno, 21+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
The Underground The latest underground music from DJ Chris Rucker with performances by new live acts, 9pm, $10, 18+; $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; Live music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top-40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Kiss 108 presents commercial dance house, proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty queue up the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights host karaoke downstairs, 8-11pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes and old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Franklin cranks the noise, 11pm-2am, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins global lounge rhythms. Doors open at 10pm. No cover before 11pm, $15 after 11pm, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Place

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The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Thursday nights it's live music with Dick 'n' Jane, 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10:30pm, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton spins roots reggae, R&B and Soca, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, $21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Global DJs bring high-energy and vocal house to the main room. DJ Freakas stirs up the VIP room with hip-hop, R&B and classic hits while Deklab and local guest DJs spin progressive tribal and house in the back room at Nuvo, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music with no attitude, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Buck BC hosts TGIF nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Boston Rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays. DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Harp
•Jan. 24, Live music by Zone, 10pm, $10, 21+. •Jan. 31, Steamroller Picnic performs, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Dan McCarthy spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
There's a party on all floors with DJ Tom Connors downstairs, and DJ Massi upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Doc goes all-out with top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Roland Lopez, 10pm-2am, 21+.

Level
Velvet Lounge DJ Santangelo spins house and hip-hop, $10.

Matrix Fridays
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $20, 18+; $15, 21+. •**The Officers Club** DJ Statik Selektah and Chubby Chub spin hip-hop and R&B, and JR Swoosh spins reggae, proper dress, 8pm, ladies free, men $5, before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+, after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Tilt** DJ Freddie C spins progressive house and techno, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Pat Messina spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress required, $10, 21+, $15, after 10pm; $20, 18+. •**3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs pump the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm. •Jan. 24, Live music with Felix Brown, 9pm, $5, 21+. •Jan. 31, The Marcels perform, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement 6:15-10:45pm, then it's DJ Johnny C and Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Dance Party, 10:45pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 6-9pm. •Jan. 24, Danny Tucker plays live reggae, 11pm, $8, 21+; $10, 19+.

RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fishel pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night full of hot Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies 18+, guys 21+.

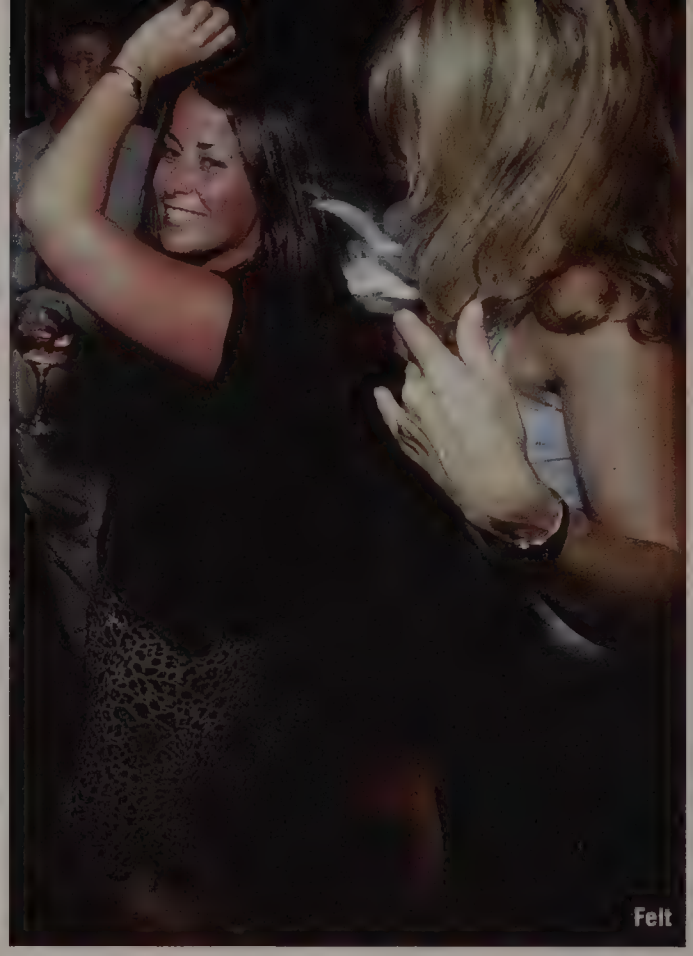
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Sharpen up your salsa and merengue moves with lessons from 7-10pm, then shake it to live music by the Latin Party Boys or hit the dance floor with DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 tunes and acoustic shows entertain on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.


Felt

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop and top-40 remix with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Arsit spins the latest Eurohouse music; DJ Roger M spins spicy Latin flavor, jacket required, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Sexy Saturdays Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with progressive house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue Bar
T Night fills the place with house and techno beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Start! Hear DJ Gibby spin alternative rock and get nostalgic to '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs host a night of dancing to top-40 and rock music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down Losers and has-beens are welcome to boogie down with DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V 21+.

The Harp
•Jan. 25, Central Basement performs, 10pm, $10 21+. •Feb. 1, Live music with Steamroller Picnic 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins the latest top-40, R&B and hip-hop 9pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Hall queues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag queues up dance, R&B and top-40 while DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs with top-40, 10pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 hos a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.

Level
In the Russian Lounge, DJ Alert spins Russian and international music. In Elite, DJ Pace spins house techno and international music on two levels, $10.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz move the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats 10pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+

The Palace
•**El Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Michael Mercardo, Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all male dance review, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am $25, 18+; $20, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Tilt** DJ OSheen spins progressive house and techno, proper dress, 8pm-2am, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Uptown** Pat Messina mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $20 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 21+

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. •Jan. 25, Live music with Spike the Punch, pm, $5, 21+.

The Rack
Join the dance party hosted by Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
•Jan. 25, Jack Lee and Diversity play soca music, 11pm $8, 21+; $10, 19+. •Jan. 31, Caribbean Cruize Band performs, 11pm, $8, 21+; $10, 19+.

RiverGods
Easy Does It Shake your groove thang with DJs Easy and Goodwood spinning soft '70s, 9pm, no cover 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno 10pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

DEREK KOUYOUMJ

Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengue music while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk with DJ Bruno, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Mythos DJ Yorgo Jr. spins Greek and Spanish hits, proper dress, 11pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house music in the club and DJ Derik cues up old- school hip-hop in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turn tables, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Level
VuDu Sundays DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes while resident DJs Osheen and Rob D. and weekly guests spin house, hip-hop and techno music, $10.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae music, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Stickabush DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge Kick back and experience this trend-setting night, 10pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogans *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(Club Copa, Officers Club, Oxygen, Tilt, Uptown and Underground) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T-stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* showcases precious jewelry, icons, religious amulets, textiles, coins and household items dating from the 4th to 15th centuries. Through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* presents artwork fueled by Europe's fascination with India from the 17th to 20th centuries. Through May 25.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •*Provincetown, 1949-1965: A Photographic Memoir by Jules Aarons* runs through Feb. 2. •*Quiet Helpers: Quaker Humanitarian Service in Postwar Germany* recognizes the contributions made by Quaker humanitarian aid workers in postwar Germany . Through Feb. 28.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows range from Italian to African art. •*The Last Expression: Art in Auschwitz* shows through May 31.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www. decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*This Is Not a Cloud,* photographs by Cindy Sedlmeyer, is ongoing. •*Necee Regis: Flight Patterns* shows through Jan. 31. •*Painting in Boston: 1950-2000* displays through Feb. 23. •*Looking at Ground Zero: Photographs by Kevin Bubriski* shows through Feb. 23. •*The Ambient Electron: Abstract Video Art* displays through Feb. 23. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski:Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams and dynamic spectrum shifts. Through Aug. 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Lois Orswell, David Smith and Modern Art* showcases works by Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Lachaise and Smith. Through Feb. 16. •Award-winning photographer Wolfgang Tillman presents 30 color prints. Through Feb. 23. •*Prints from the Serenissima: Connoisseurship and the Graphic Arts in 18th-Century Venice* showcases 62 examples. Through March 9. •*The Modern Quotidian: Furniture by Prouve, Perriand, Le Corbusier and Reitvald* displays modern design objects and furniture. Through March 30. •*Isolation + Integration: Works from the Permanent Collections, 1963-1973* shows through March 30. •An installation of Marcel Breuer's furniture from the 1930s is on display through May 4.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www. hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*Glass Flowers,* featuring the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants and including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, is ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young,* also ongoing, displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. •*Dodos, Trilobites and Meteorite* showcases never-before-seen treasures from historic expeditions to remote environments. Through March 31.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* • *Carsten Höller: Half Fiction* is the first solo exhibition of Belgian-born artist Carsten Höller. It includes one of his "slide sculptures," which museum visitors ride down two floors in order to reach the gallery. Through April 27. • *Building a Vision: Diller + Scofidio in Boston* gives museum-goers the chance to see the models for the ICA's new waterfront location, which is set to open in September. Through April 27.

***Billiards*, a painting by Samuel G., shows at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center through Jan. 31.**

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative arts including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •The work of conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth kicks off the museum's Centennial celebration. Jan. 24-April 6.

McMullen Museum
Boston College, 140 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill. (617-552-8587). www.bc.edu/artmuseum. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 12-5pm. Free.* • *Éire/Land,* a show of around 100 major works from Ireland's major galleries, displays Feb. 2-May 19.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers:* Travel through student life and learning over the last 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic,* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing. •*The Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through March 4.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed. after 4pm, admission is voluntary. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*Lens Landscape* shows photographers' visions of landscapes. Through Feb. 23. •*Threads on the Edge: The Daphne Farago Fiber Art Collection* features 65 works by more than 40 artists from Farago's private collection. Through March 30. •*Sargent's Seven Sisters* is a selection of John Singer Sargent's murals and portraits, including *The Wyndham Sisters,* on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Through Jan. 31. •*18th Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* exhibits the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •American modernist Charles Sheeler's photographs display in his first major international exhibition. Through Feb. 2. •*Impressions of Light* surveys French landscape art from Corot to Monet. Through April 13. •*RSVP: Sarah Sze*, a contemporary installation, incorporates the architectural structures of the MFA's West Wing. Through May 3.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*Journey to the Edge of Space and Time* is a multimedia show that runs through Feb. 1. •*Med Tech: Beyond the Cutting Edge* explores the latest innovations in medical technology. Through February. •*The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt* is the largest selection of artifacts ever loaned by Egypt for an exhibition in North America. The Museum is the only northeastern U.S. stop for this extraordinary exhibition of Egyptian antiquities, which includes a life-size reconstruction of a pharaoh's tomb. Through March 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •Dana Chandler shows her work in *Denial: Reparations, Installations and Assemblages.* Through March 16.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Rd., Lexington (781-861-6559). Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business* displays women's role in the world of business. Through Feb. 23. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community; Lexington Alarm'd;* and *Made in Massachusetts* are ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (978-745-9500). www.pem.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm. $10 adults, $8 seniors and students; for children under 16, free.* •*Shorelines,* ongoing, explores the impact of sea and shore on the lives of communities around the world. •Korean photographer Bohnchang Koo presents his images in a self-titled show. Through Feb. 18.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-495-2248). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* preserves hieroglyphic and iconographic information from original Mesoamerican monuments. Through Feb. 1. •Tapa cloth collections from the Pacific Islands are displayed in *Embedded Nature.* Through Jan. 31. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through March.

Galleries
FINE ART

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The work of gallery artists is featured through Feb. 20.

Allston Skirt Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #303, Boston (617-482-3652). www.allstonskirtgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11am-5pm.* •Nine Bay area artists show their work in *Taqueria Cancun: The San Francisco Hook-up.* Through Feb. 1.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Gyorgy Kepes and colleagues present *Photographs from the 1930s to the 1980s.* Through Feb. 5.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Margaret Gerding presents *New Landscapes,* a collection of paintings of expansive horizons. Through Jan. 30.

Bakalar Gallery
Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-879-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Longwood. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. •*Mystic,* a show of six international artists dealing with death, transcendence, clairvoyance and spiritualism, shows through March 29. •*Print, Power and Persuasion: Graphic Design in Germany, 1890-1945* displays the works of Peter Behrens, Kathe Kollwitz and others. Through March 22.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Julian Opie presents *Sculptures and Gouaches.* Through Feb. 5.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Six self-taught artists present artwork in *Go Figure.* Through March 1.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-4:30pm. •Jennifer Riley exhibits her work in *Recent Paintings.* Through Jan. 25.

Boston Architectural Center
320 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-5000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Mon.-Thu.: 9am-9pm; Fri.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •*Architectural Ornamentation: Fragments & Elements* features various interpretations of what is meant by architectural ornamentation. Through Feb. 14.

Boston University Art Gallery
855 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-4672). Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 1-5pm. •*American Perspectives: Photographs from the Polaroid Collection* shows through Jan. 26.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment.* •Jorg Fraske, Keith Maddy, Isabel Riley and Nancy Murphy Spicer show their new works in *Surrounded.* Through Feb. 1.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Thu., 12-9pm; Fri.-Sun., 12-6pm.* •Portia Brockway presents *The Creative Spirit,* a collection of photos and performances. Through Jan. 31.

Cambridge Mulitcultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:30pm.* •Catherine Pedemonti presents her photographs in *Faces of Survivors: Voices Reclaimed.* Through Jan. 30. •Samuel G. shows his paintings in *The Realm of Visual Lyric.* Through Jan. 31.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Sun., 12-11:30pm. •*New Spring Faculty 2003* features works by Gail Deery, Jim Dow, Mel Kendrick, John Obuck and Mark Steinmetz. Through Feb. 16.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* •*The Glass Surface*, a group show, displays through Feb. 15.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •John Evans displays his New England seascapes. Through Feb. 2.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •*Southwestern Works on Paper, Artwork by Jack Kramer* and *Face to Face,* a show of portraits, display through March 1.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •*Jing-hua Gao Dalia: Chinese Brush Poetry* and *Watercolor Traditions II* show through Feb. 1.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, South Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •The gallery presents an ongoing exhibition of works by Jeff Eldrege, Dan McCole and Norman Crump.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing

Italian Murano glass sculpture exhibition and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free. •*At A Moment's Notice* exhibits the black and white street photography of Bostonian John Martino. Through Feb. 1.

808 Gallery
Boston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-457-8700). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 12pm-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. •Hugh O'Donnell displays his paintings and drawings. Through Feb. 2.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm and by appointment. •Sharon Engelstein shows her inflatable and digital sculpture in *Cold Air*. Through March 1.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, from paintings to textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •Ralph Mercer and Daniel McManus display their photographs in *Images of Death Valley*. Through Jan. 26.

Galerie d'Orsay
83 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery at the Piano Craft Guild
791 Tremont St., Boston. MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. or Green Line to Symphony. Sat.-Sun., 1-6pm. •*Pre-Concept* explores the world of pre-adolescent girls through work by Julie Buck, Melissa Davenport, Mary Kenny and Karin Segal. Through Jan. 31.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Esther Solondz shows her work in *They Left Their Clothes by the Water*. Through Feb. 1.

Gateway Gallery
52 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-1577). www.gatewayarts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Fri., 9am-4:30pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Imaginary Constructions*, a group show of architecturally influenced drawings, paintings and sculpture, displays through March 22.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Artist Martin Ball's *New Works* shows through Feb. 4.

Haley & Steele
201 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hallspace.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Jeff Hull presents *New Paintings* Jan. 25-March 1.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Amanda Means presents *Glow.* Through Feb. 11.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •Art Deco-style posters show in *Timeless Beauties, 1890-1939*. Through Jan. 31.

Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 8:30-1pm. •*The New Language* shows paintings by Greg A. Berstein, John A. Crowley and Mike Hammecker. Through Jan. 27.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •John Provenzano, Jacob Kulin and Tristan Govignon display their paintings and sculptures in *Metal and Canvas*. Through Feb. 2. Larimer Richards and Bebe Beard's *Video Installations* is the first in a series of four Videopace installations curated by George Fifield. Through Feb. 2.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •The gallery presents *Icy Sky*, a group exhibition of painters, poets and musicians Jan. 25-Feb. 20.

Adolph Gottlieb's untitled portrait shows at the Mercury Gallery in *Two of the Ten* through Feb. 12.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Mr. Bad Example* presents the work of American contemporary artist Kevin T. Kelly. Jan. 23-March 2.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm. •*Impact* displays the work of Janet Hansen Kawada. Through Feb. 1.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Form and Function* features furniture, mirrors, rugs and other functional art. Through March 14.

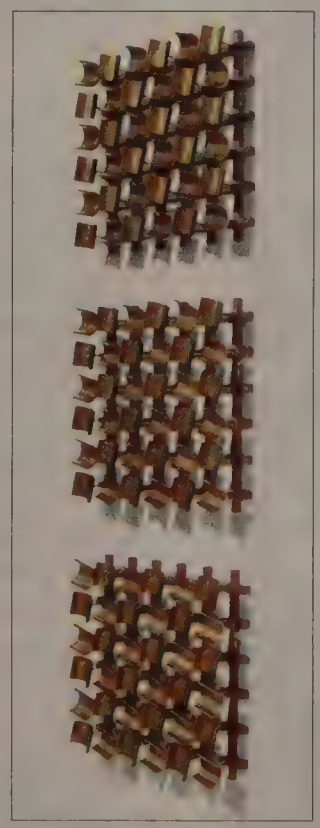
Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markartgallery.com. *Wed. and Fri., 4pm-7pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Doug Adams and Stephen Springer Davis show their prints and pastels in a joint exhibition, *Places Near and Far*. Through Feb. 21.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Adolph Gottlieb and Joseph Solman present *Two of the Ten: Works*. Through Feb. 12.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed., 12-5pm; Thu.-Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Boom Box: The Art of Sound* shows through March 9.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm.* •*Freeze* is a video/audio installation created by artists Shaun Irons and Lauren Petty. Through Feb. 1.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm, Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •A National Juried Competition for Emerging Artists takes place through Feb. 2.



Jacob Kulin's untitled work is at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Sun.-Wed., 11am-6pm; Thu.-Sat., 11am-11pm. •*Small Works and More* shows through Feb. 2

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Mildred Howard presents *Do We Have the Right to Remain Silent* in Gallery I and Duane Slick presents *Birth of Coyote* in Gallery II. Through Feb. 15.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •*New Year/New Work*, a selection of work by gallery artists, shows through Feb. 1.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-778-5265). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. •Eleven artists show their work in *The Fall Line: Intuition and Necessity in Contemporary Abstract Drawing*. Through Jan. 25.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri, 11:30am-5pm.* •Dozens of local artists present artwork of all types. Through Jan. 31. •Open mike night for poetry or music takes place every Wed., 8pm.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Eileen Gillespie presents *New Drawings*. Through Feb. 22.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Phil Rogers shows his pottery in *Form and Spirit*. Through Feb. 5.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Call for gallery hours.* •Michael Ronnen Safdie shows his work in a self-titled show. Through Jan. 31.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Examples of lithographs, etchings and linocuts by artists such as Braque, Chagall and Picasso display through Feb. 28.

Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento St., Cambridge (617-349-6287). Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. •Jane Sherrill shows her paintings and sculpture in *Human*. Through Jan. 31.

Sherman Gallery
George Sherman Union, 775 Comm. Ave. Second Floor, Boston (617-353-3349). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. West. www.bu.edu/cfa. *Tue.-Fri., 11am-5pm; Sat. and Sun., 1-5pm.* •Recent BU graduate Alfredo Gisholt shows his paintings in *Alfredo Gisholt: Flowers for a Revolution*. Through Feb. 7.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The next gallery exhibition opens Feb. 8.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (617-423-9760). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. www.space12gallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 12-8pm; Wed., 12-9pm.* •DJ Mona showcases her paintings and music in *Mona 1*. Through Feb. 1.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •Christina Keating shows her acrylics in *Mexico*, Christine Warren displays pastels in *Provence* and William St. George shows recent oil paintings in *Island Visions*. Through Feb. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •The paintings of Aiden Lassell Ripley are showcased in a self-titled exhibition. Through Jan. 31.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-2182). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7pm.* •Roman Stange and friends present *The North Shore Crew*, a show of music and fine art Feb. 1, 8pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Jackson Homestead Museum
527 Washington St., Newton (617-796-1450). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm. Sun., 2pm-5pm. $1-$5. •*Classic New England Churches: Photography by Steve Rosenthal* showcases the beauty of churches throughout the historical New England landscape. Through April 30.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Photographs by participants in its NESOP Workshop Program will be on display through Jan. 30.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm and by appointment.* •Nubar Alexanian displays his photographs in a retrospective exhibition. Through Feb. 15.

Photographic Resource Center
602 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-0700). MBTA: B Green Line to Blandford. Tue., Wed. and Fri.-Sun., 10am-5pm; Thu., 12-8pm. •*American Perspectives: Photographs from the Polaroid Collection* showcases the evolution of Polaroid techniques from the '50s-'90s. Through Jan. 26.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

Boston DineAround
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Open seating after 5:30pm. $60 prix fixe or a la carte. Cookbook author and chef/owner of New York's Sonora **Rafael Palomino** teams up with executive chef Felino Samson of Bomboa to create a four-course Latin dinner. Palomino is also available to sign his book *Viva la Vida*.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free (tickets are required). **Daniel Goleman**, best-selling author of *Emotional Intelligence*, discusses his new book *Destructive Emotions: A Scientific Dialogue with the Dalai Lama*. In this book, the Dalai Lama and a team of scientists and philosophers search for a way to tame the inner spirit.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

Barnes and Noble
Boston University, Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Lucy Honig**, associate professor at Boston University School of Health and winner of the Drue Heinz Literature Prize, discusses *Open Season*, her latest collection of short stories.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 7pm. Free. Boston-based author **Sara Bliss** discusses *The Thoroughly Modern Married Girl*, in which she shares wisdom gleaned from dozens of married women and and offers advice on leading a happy, fun married life.

Pete Hamill comes to Brookline Booksmith Jan. 30 to read from his newest novel, *Forever*.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Rolf Gates**, a local yoga instructor, and **Katrina Kenison**, author of the best-selling book *Mitten Strings for God*, team up to read from their new effort, *Meditations from the Mat*, a book of 365 quotations and meditations designed to bring reflection and mindfulness to readers' lives.

Harvard Book Store
Harvard Information Center in the Holyoke Center, 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. **Joyce Hackett** reads from her first novel, *Disturbance of the Inner Ear*, which follows a former cellist prodigy through her directionless and detached adult life.

Newtonville Books & Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Margot Livesey** reads from *Eva Moves the Furniture*, her novel about the connection between mother and daughter. Also, Mary McCarthy prize–winner **Brock Clarke** reads from his new novel, *The Ordinary White Boy*, the story of a bright young man coming of age in a depressed, small town.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free (tickets are required). Best-selling author **Susan Vreeland** discusses her books *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* and *The Passion of Artemisia*. Both works trace the existence of paintings through the lives they touch. The film *Brush with Fate*, based on *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, screens following the discussion.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. A three-person panel discussion is held with **Juliet Schor**, professor of sociology at Boston College, **Prasannan Parthasarathi**, associate professor of history at Boston College, and **Peter Forbes**, author of *The Great Remembering*. They discuss their book *Sustainable Planet: Solutions for the 21st Century*, a collection of 16 essays on consumerism and its effect on the environment.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Barnes and Noble
Prudential Center, Suite 179, 800 Boylston St., Boston (617-247-6959). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. Boston Globe sports writer **Dan Shaughnessy** and Pulitzer Prize–winning photographer **Stan Grossfeld** discuss their new book, *Spring Training: Baseball's Early Season*. It chronicles America's favorite pastime and follows various teams through the baseball pre-season.

First and Second Church
66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7:30pm. Free. Social critic **Wendy Kaminer** discusses her new book, *Free for All: Defending Liberty in America Today*, a collection of 48 essays decrying what she sees as a post–Sept. 11th Bush Administration trend to limit civil liberties.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free (tickets are required). Cambridge University–trained theoretical physicist **Joao Magueijo** discusses his new book, *Faster Than the Speed of Light: The Story of a Scientific Speculation*, which details his theory that light traveled faster in the early universe than it does today, a proposal that contradicts Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity.

The Learning Community Series
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-267-6730). 7:30pm. Free. Social critic **Wendy Kaminer** discusses her new book, *Free for All: Defending Liberty in America Today*, a collection of 48 essays decrying what she sees as a post–Sept. 11th Bush Administration trend to limit civil liberties.

McIntyre & Moore Booksellers
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-4840). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7:30pm. Free. The core members of The Local Reading Group present their quarterly open read. **Marcia Matthews** reads from *The Liberty Boys*, **Linda Savarese** reads from a collection of travel stories from Ireland, and **Alesia Selby** reads short stories about young professionals in New York City.

Newtonville Books & Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. Best-selling author of *The Lake of Dead Languages* **Carol Goodman** reads from her newest novel, *The Seduction of Water*, in which an aspiring writer investigates the mysterious death of her novelist mother.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Borders Books and Music
Cambrigdeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). MBTA: D or E Green Line to Lechmere. 7:30pm. Free. Pediatrician **Meg Meeker** discusses her new book, *Epidemic: How Teen Sex Is Killing Our Kids*, which draws upon medical studies and her own clinical experience to explain and trace an exponentially growing STD epidemic among American teenagers.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Pete Hamill**, columnist for the *New York Daily News*, reads from his latest novel, *Forever*, in which an Irish immigrant agrees to stay in Manhattan for life in exchange for immortality.

Harvard Book Store
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-661-1515). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. **bell hooks**, one of the most prolific social commentators of our time, reads from her new book, *Rock My Soul: Black Folk and Self-Esteem*, an exploration of the debate within the black community on the social stagnation of African-Americans.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center. 7:30pm. Free. Newton native **Charles Slack**, author of *Blue Fairways*, reads from his new book, *Noble Obsession: Charles Goodyear, Thomas Hancock and the Race to Unlock the Greatest Industrial Secret of the Nineteenth Century*, a historical novel about the discovery of rubber processing.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free (tickets are required). **Jared Diamond** discusses his Pulitzer Prize–winning book *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. The book is a discourse on the evolution of societies based on an ecologically and environmentally centered theory.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Newtonville Books Reading
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. Yale grad **Joan Sullivan** reads from her debut novel *An American Voter*, a memoir about her months working on Bill Bradley's 2000 presidential campaign. Also, **Mark Svenvold** reads from *Elmer McCurdy*, his novel exploring the origins of the American entertainment obsession.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

Poetry in the Chapel
Forsyth Chapel, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2pm. $4.* Four local poets, **Lisa Beatman**, **Doug Holder**, **Ellen Steinbaum** and **Mark Widershien**, read from their works.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Blacksmith House Poetry
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. Local scribes **Suzanne Berne**, author of the novel *A Perfect Arrangement*, and **Tom Perrotta**, author of *Joe College*, read their latest poetry.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Geoff Dyer** reads from his latest work, *Yoga for People Who Can't Be Bothered to Do It*, a collection of 11 essays about his travels around the globe.

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm, poetry slam. 9pm, poetry jam. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity at the open mike.

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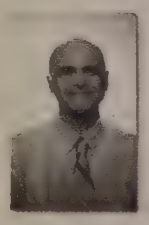

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

American Moderns
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3300). www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6pm. Free with admission.* **Stephanie Mayer** leads this gallery talk on American Modernist artists.

Architecture as Communication
Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. The Boston Society of Architects and the Boston Public Library co-sponsor this monthly lecture series. Two world-renowned architects and authors, **Robert Venturi** and **Scott Brown**, discuss their work and explore contextualism in modern America.

Does War Give Us Meaning?
Cambridge Forum, First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617). 7:30pm. Free. War correspondent **Chris Hedges** discusses the psychology of war. Drawing on 15 years of experience covering wars all over the globe, Hedges will look at war as disease and how it infects and intoxicates as societies are swept up in its call to action.

Understanding Tolkien and Lord of the Rings
Boston Center for Adult Education, College Club, 44 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30-8:30pm. $15.* J. R. R. Tolkien devoted himself to the study of medieval English literature and many of the "keys" to his best-known work, Lord of the Rings, lie in an understanding of this literature. Professor **Michael Drout** of Wheaton College explains Tolkien's influences, offering insight into the literary work and the films.

Why Music Matters
Brookline Adult & Community Education, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-730-2700). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-9pm. $5. **Livingston Taylor** leads this panel of music experts who'll speak about how they came to their vocation. They'll offer their views on how music education is currently valued and implemented in the lives of students today.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

Affirmative Action and Higher Education: The University of Michigan Cases
Northeastern University School of Law, Room 97, 400 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-3269). MBTA: E Green to Northeastern. 4:30pm. Free. Professor Martha Davis, former vice president of and legal director for the National Organization for Women Legal Defense and Education Fund, discusses the University of Michigan cases, which will be heard by the Supreme Court this year. The outcome of these cases has the potential to end affirmative action in higher education.

Art de Vivre: A Celebration of the Senses
The French Library and Cultural Center/Alliance Française, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). www.frenchlib.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 5:30-7:30pm. $15.* This lecture offers tips for savoir vivre: what to wear for every occasion and how to behave during dinner. Following the lecture, indulge in wine, cheese and baguettes.

The Art of Chinese Calligraphy
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6pm. Free with admission.* **Yiguo Zhang** leads a curatorial talk on Chinese calligraphy.

The Seven Sins of Memory
Mount Auburn Hospital, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St. (Sparks St. entrance), Cambridge (617-254-9500). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, then bus #71 or #73 to Mount Auburn Hospital. 10:15am refreshments, 11am talk. $10. Memory expert and Harvard professor of psychology **Daniel Schacter** presents a lecture on memory.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

Facing Catastrophe
Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Ave., Boston (617-566-3960). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 7:30pm. Free. Professor **Ronit Meroz** of Tel Aviv University lectures on the role of Jewish mysticism to explain the 400-year-old town of Safed's reaction to evil, suffering and hope for the future.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25

Arboretum Evergreens
Arnold Arboretum, Walter Street Gate, Arborway Street, Boston (617-635-7383). www.cityofboston.gov/calendar. *MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2-3:30pm. Free.* Park rangers lead a walk through the conifer section of the arboretum and discuss the reasons these trees stay green all year long.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26

White House Photographers
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1643). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 4-5:30pm. Free. White House photographers **Cecil Stoughton**, **David Hume Kennerly** and **Diana Walker** discuss photographing Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Bush and their families and administrations.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

Tour the Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-426-1885). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 5:30-7:30. $15. The library's chief architect **Bob Herlinger** and creative director **Chet Manchester** lead a private tour of this 11-story neoclassical building, showing off its $50 million renovation.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Building a Business
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30-8:30pm. $16.* Entrepreneur, fashion designer and refugee **Kim Pham** tells the story of how she escaped from Vietnam and came to Boston in 1984. She started a dry cleaning business that led to a career in Asian-inspired haute couture.

Invitation au Voyage
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Museum. 7pm. $13.* **George T. Shackelford**, MFA chair of the Art of Europe and co-curator of the exhibition *Impressions of Light*, lectures on the French landscape as depicted by Corot and Monet.

Photographers Interpret Architecture
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8am. $6.* Architectural photographer **Robert Alter** presents a lecture on the history and current trends of architecture photography and the importance of the artists' creative interpretation.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Human Rights and Culture
Northeastern University School of Law, Room 97, 400 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-3269). MBTA: E Green to Northeastern. 4:30pm. Free. Professor **Abdullahi An-Na'im**, an internationally recognized expert on human rights and Islamic culture and author of the book *Toward an Islamic Reformation: Civil Liberties, Human Rights and International Law*, presents a lecture entitled "Beyond Cultural Relativism: Toward a New Understanding of Human Rights and Culture."

Privatization and the Public Good
Mount Auburn Hospital, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St. (Sparks St. entrance), Cambridge (617-254-9500). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, then bus #71 or #73 to Mount Auburn Hospital. 10:15am refreshments, 11am talk. $10. Harvard law professor **Martha Minow** presents a lecture entitled "Who Should Own Schools, Hospitals and Water? Privatization and the Public Good."

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Bystanders to Genocide
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1643). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7pm. Free. **Samantha Power**, author of *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, and **Elizabeth Neuffer**, author of *The Key to My Neighbor's Holocaust*, examine U.S. responses to genocide since the Holocaust.

TUESDAY, FEB. 4

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture
Harvard University, The Radcliff Institute for Advanced Study, Murray Center Conference Room, Radcliff Yard, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8601). www.radcliffe.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12-1pm. Free.* Brown University sociology professor **José Itzigsohn** presents a lecture entitled "The Incorporation Paths and Transnational Linkages of Dominican Immigrants," which addresses the theme of multicultural perspectives in human development.

SUPER HUNGER BRUNCH

February 8 & 9, 2003

For just $20, $25, or $35 you can enjoy a sumptuous brunch from 11 am to 2 pm on either day. The 12th annual Super Hunger Brunch sponsored by The Greater Boston Food Bank and The Greater Table Foundation will feature 50 restaurants in Boston and beyond.

17 Summer Restaurant/Maynard • Appetito/Newton • Aujourd'hui/Boston • Azure/Boston • The Bay Tower/Boston
blu/Boston • Bob The Chef's Jazz Café/Boston • Bridgeman's/Hull • Cambridge Common Restaurant/Cambridge
Casa Romero/Boston • The Capital Grille/Boston • Centro/Cambridge • Chez Henri/Cambridge
Christopher's Restaurant/Cambridge • Davio's/Cambridge • Dockside Restaurant/Malden • Elephant Walk/Somerville
EVOO/Somerville • The Federalist/Boston • The Fireplace/Brookline • FocacciaRistorante/Wilmington
Gallia/Boston • Garden of Eden/Boston • The Gardner Cafe/Boston • The Grapevine/Salem
Green Street Grill/Cambridge • The Independent/Somerville • Jake's Dixie Road House/Waltham
John Harvard's Brew House/Cambridge • Kingfish Hall/Boston • Laurel Bar & Grill/Boston • Lumiere/West Newton
Maggiano's Little Italy/Boston • Maison Robert/Boston • Matt Murphy's/Brookline • Porcini's/Watertown
Red Rock Bistro/Swampscott • Reggio Italian Ristorante/South Weymouth • Rialto/Cambridge • Rouge/Boston
Sabur/Boston • Silvertone Bar & Grill/Boston • Ten Tables/Jamaica Plain • Tosca/Hingham
Tremont 647 & Sister Sorel/Boston • Tuscan Grill/Waltham • Via Matta/Boston • Veggie Planet/Cambridge
West Side Lounge/Cambridge • Zebra's Bistro/Medfield

Enjoy brunch and fight hunger at the same time! Call the restaurants listed above to make reservations. 100% of the proceeds from this brunch goes directly to The Greater Boston Food Bank and Share Our Strength's Operation Frontline. For more information call (617) 427-5200 or visit www.gbfb.org

THE GREATER BOSTON FOOD BANK

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winter readings 2003
writers & readers series

1/30 THURSDAY, 7PM
PETE HAMILL *Forever*
Forever is the magical, epic tale of Cormac O'Connor, who arrives in New York City from Ireland in 1741 and remains, well, forever. For Cormac has been given the gift of immortality, but only on the condition that he never leave the island of Manhattan. An unforgettable novel by the author of *Snow in August* and *A Drinking Life*.

2/4 TUESDAY, 7PM
GEOFF DYER
Yoga For People Who Can't Be Bothered To Do It
Geoff Dyer has traveled around the globe and in every place, the imperfections of reality compel him to take his own measure from the inside out and to become a perfect reflection of his own decline. Simply the funniest book of the year.

2/8 SATURDAY, 1PM
@ the Coolidge Corner Theatre: Tickets $2
A. S. BYATT *A Whistling Woman*
The world-renown author of *Possession* and *The Biographers Tale* returns with a brilliant new novel. Magical, provocative, at time's spine-chilling, *A Whistling Woman* serves as the triumphant conclusion to Antonia's fictional quartet about English life from the early 1950s to 1970.

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CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the new Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show is held the last Monday of every month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Fridays, Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Fridays, Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, presents "Anything Goes." DJ Thom Delahunt spins house at this evening for women. *www.circuitgirl.com.* 10pm, $10, 21+. •On Saturdays Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—a pool room and a lounge keep the men busy until at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am- 9pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Tuesdays, catch the Retro Rewind, 8:30pm. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, all ages.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scene as well as classic movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jacques. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. The folks here are really friendly—and really into sports. DIRECTV is set up with screens scattered about and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Sun.-Fri., 12pm; Sat., 11am. No cover, 21+.

Geoffrey's Café-Bar
160 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-11pm daily; bar open until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers 52 varieties of wine and mid-priced bistro fare. Breakfast is served daily until 3pm.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fridays and Saturdays feature live music. •Cabaret drag show. Mon.-Sat., 10:30pm; Sun., 10pm. $5 weekdays; $7 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu. and Sat.: Avalon bartender "Miss Chris" performs. 10:30pm, $5-$8.

The film *Ma vie en rose* shows at the Festival of International Transgender Film at MIT.

•Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Wednesdays-Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Curve Wed.: DJ Joe Bermudez spins house. 10pm-2am, $9, 19+; $7, 21+. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Manhunt Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Sun.: Trix lesbian night features DJ Mix Mistress spinning house, hip-hop and Latin. 10pm-2am, $5, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays and Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thursdays is Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $10, 19+; $8, 21+. •Liquid Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $10, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top-40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Groove, 10pm-2am, $3, 19+. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop, $5, 21+. •Fri.: Vibe with DJ Susan Esthera spinning tribal, $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian authors.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

SHOWS & EVENTS

The Boston Women's Rainbow Chorus
(617-424-8900). www.bgmc.org. *Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain. Jan. 24, 8pm. $10-$25. First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 25, 8pm. $10-$25.* Boston's leading chorus of lesbians, bisexual women and their allies presents *Everything's Possible*, their 5th Anniversary Winter Concert. The program features the music of lesbian singer/songwriter Holly Near, the African-American female a capella group Sweet Honey in the Rock, and the Broadway hit *Rent*.

Festival of International Transgender Film
MIT Building 35, Rm 225, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-8844). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. MIT's Program in Women's Studies presents a festival of documentary and fictional films celebrating diversity in the global transgendered community. Film topics range from bi-genders, transsexuals, drag-kings, and female-to-male individuals. Discussion follows each screening. •Jan. 22, 6pm. **Different for Girls** *1997.* Richard Spence directs. •Also showing, 8pm. **Ma vie en rose** *(My Life in Pink) 1997.* Alain Berliner directs. •Jan. 27, 6pm. **You Don't Know Dick** *1997.* Candance Schemerhorn and Bestor Cram direct. •Also showing, 8pm. **Shinijuku Boys** *1995.* Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams direct.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This Boston bowling league, offering a friendly social activity for gays and lesbians in the Boston area, meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets every second Tuesday of the month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss heritage, culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon-Thurs, 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston Glass, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting dykes.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 weeks) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create performances representing women's perspectives. E-mail *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(617-937-5858 ext. 6) or (401-467-6737). www.eastcoastwrestlingclub.org. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, national hotline is confidential and provides information and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. A group for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles and their partners convenes the first and third Tuesday of every month.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians who want to get together and enjoy board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Assets New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim team.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to organize projects, which include making schools and communities safe.

Project 10 East is a forum for GLBT and straight youth to support their schools and community.

BOTTOM: CHRIS MARKOWSKI

spring fashion

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body&mind

Advice to Contributors *Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to* bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Drum and Dance Saturday

Earth Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). www.earthdrum.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 1, 8-11:30pm. $6.* Bring your drums, spoons and tambourines and get ready to dance.

Holistic Expo

The Sheraton, 727 Marrett Road (Route 2A), Lexington (978-394-5166). www.myholisticnetwork. *Jan. 25, 10am-4pm. $10.* Sample the services of a wide range of holistic health practitioners: massage, Reiki, animal communicators, healing centers, metaphysical stores, nutritional supplements, psychics and environmental products.

LECTURES

Intro to Organics

Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1580). www.harvestcoop.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Jan. 28, 6-8pm. Free.* Nutritionist **Dawn Olcott** of the Harvest Co-op talks about the far-reaching benefits of organic food and answers your questions during an open forum.

The Secret Meaning of the Tantric Art of Love

The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Jan. 31, 7:30pm. Free.* **Dr. Sarah Caldwell** will tell you that Tantra is not just about sex—it's actually a system of knowledge about the origin and structure of the universe. It's also a set of practices outlining a path to liberation from suffering by attaining inner wholeness, as exemplified in the tantric symbol of union.

WORKSHOPS

Art as Healing

Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *Feb. 2, 1-5pm. Sliding scale: $35-$55.* Take a healing journey by creating works of art. This workshop will help you externalize your emotions from earlier traumas.

The Body Beloved: The Inside-Out Way to Loving Your Body

Yoga East Center for Alternative Medicine, 20 Del Carmine St., Wakefield (781-224-0722). www.bodybeloved.com *or* www.yogaeast.net. *Jan. 24, 7-10pm, $40.* Isabelle Tierney suggests ideas to help you connect positively with your body and direct your daily choices about your body with your heart rather than your mind.

Career Beliefs Weekend Workshop

Your Soul's Work, 219 Harvard St. #22, Brookline (617-739-5353). www.yoursoulswork.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Dean Road. Feb. 1, 10am-6pm; Feb. 2, 10am-2pm. Free consultation required. $195.* Career counselor **Jason E. Smith** helps you to dissolve self-defeating beliefs using guided imagery, exercises, artwork and writing. Discover how work can be a meaningful and satisfying part of your life.

Intro to Everyday Chi Gung

Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Jan. 26, 12:45-4pm. $40.* In your car or at the supermarket, you can use chi gung to stand, walk and sit with more comfort while keeping your energy flowing.

Intro to Thai Massage

Wellspace, One New St., Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (617-876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Jan. 25, 2-5pm. $50.* Thai massage is a blend of yoga, meditation, acupressure and massage therapy. Learn the traditions and basic techniques of this ancient healing art.

Natural Solutions for Digestive Problems

Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, 147 Milk St., First Floor, Post Office Square, Boston (617-723-2711). Jan. 27, 12pm. $10 (lunch provided). Learn how to improve digestion naturally for better overall health.

Partner Yoga

Center of Light Yoga Studio, 663 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-4411). www.centeroflightyoga.com. *MBTA: Bus Lines #39. Jan. 25, 1:30-3:30pm. $30/individual, $50/couple. Pre-registration is required.* Through communication and an expanded awareness of yourself and others, Partner Yoga allows you to experience the benefits of individual yoga while developing respect and trust for your partner.

Psychic medium and spiritual healer Gayle Kirk discusses psychic development Jan. 25.

Psychic/Intuitive Development Intensive

Illuminations Bookstore, 434 Littleton Road, Westford (978-486-4268 or 617-489-7717). www.gaylekirk.com. *Jan. 25, 10-5pm. $90.* Psychic medium and spiritual healer **Gayle Kirk** educates you about your six psychic senses and how to receive and recognize guidance from your soul and spirit guides.

Self-Hypnosis for Mind-Body Relaxation

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Jan. 26, 10am-4:30pm. $86.* The hypnotic trance offers a powerful way to develop inner imagery for personal change. In this workshop, learn the nature of hypnosis, the myths and various self-hypnotic inductions plus tips for deep relaxation.

Sex Tips for Gals

Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Jan. 26, 6:30-8:30pm. $34. Women only.* **Megara**, a certified sexuality educator, shares some tricks to increase pleasure and fun for you and your guy.

Stop Dieting and Start Losing Weight

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Jan. 26, 1-3pm. $35.* Former dieter **Jennifer Klein** helps you understand why diets have failed you. Learn techniques to help you overcome the pitfalls that every dieter faces.

Take Control of Your Pain

Mind/Body Medical Institute, 824 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-991-0102, ext. 213). www.mbmi.org. *MBTA: Bus #60 or 51. Jan. 25, 10am-12:30pm. Free.* This seminar covers ways of managing all types of pain and can teach you helpful relaxation exercises. **Dr. Herbert Benson**, a pioneer of mind/body medical practice, will share his knowledge and answer questions.

Winter Yoga

In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Norwood (781-762-9281). www.inthemoment.org. *Feb. 1, 9am-12pm. $25.* Rejuvenate body and spirit with an extended yoga class incorporating asana yoga, breathing and relaxation.

Yoga-Wise Weight

Phoenix Rising Center, 5 Albany Road (near Rt. 41 and Rt. 102), West Stockbridge (508-228-6961). Jan. 24-26. $235 (includes program, materials and meals). During this weekend workshop, dietitian and yoga therapist **Annie Kay** explains how yoga's element of self-observation lends itself to the practice of weight management.

RETREAT

Pema Chödrön: The Bodhisattva's Way of Life

Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (617-734-1498). www.primordialdot.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Jan. 28-March 25 (16 hours). $125.* The teachings of Shantideva in the book, *The Way of the Bodhisattva*, address the longing to awaken, the wish to alleviate suffering and the desire to connect with all beings. Buddhist nun **Pema Chödrön** presents these teachings through video talks, contemplative exercises, meditation instruction and discussion.

ONGOING

Beginner's Yoga

Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-739-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or bus lines #57, 64, 66 and 501. Wed., 6:30-8pm. Sat., 10-11:30am. $14-$20.* Try the beginner's class at Beacon Light Yoga. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time. Free parking is available.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Celtics

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849

Jan. 22, 7pm vs. Milwaukee Bucks
Jan. 24, 7:30pm vs. Denver Nuggets
Jan. 26, 1pm vs. Orlando Magic
Jan. 31, 7:30pm vs. Detroit Pistons

Boston Bruins

•FleetCenter. Tickets: 617-931-2222

Jan. 25, 7pm vs. Philadelphia Flyers
Jan. 28, 7pm vs. Nashville Predators
Jan. 30, 8pm vs. Chicago Blackhawks
Feb 4, 7pm vs. Colorado Avalanche

Events

Snowshoe Safari

Franklin Park Golf Course, Circuit Drive, Boston (617-635-7487). Feb. 1, 11am. Strap on your snowshoes and set out across 500-acre Franklin Park to learn about how plants and animals adapt to the winter months. If there's not enough snow for snowshoes, this becomes...the Hiking Safari!

Super 5K

Knickerbocker Function Hall, Lowell (978-459-1812). www.super5k.com. *Jan. 26, 1pm. $15 in advance, $20 day of race.* Burn off some of those calories you're going to ingest while watching the Super Bowl. This 5K race covers mostly flat territory and a post-race party will follow. Snow or shine.

To Play

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball

(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball

(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club

125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club

110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

Coed Floor Hockey

BSSC. Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

Coed Indoor Flag Football

BSSC. Games are played in Revere (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds RFC

(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club

(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club

(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club

P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club

(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers

Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

SKATING

Bay State Skating School

(781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. The nonprofit Bay State Skating School offers skating classes for children and adults at 15 MDC rinks around the Greater Boston area. So strap on those blades, hit the ice and be sure to tip your Zamboni driver.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer

(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

Asgard Volleyball League

University Park, Cambridge (617-577-9100). Wed. nights. The Asgard, Newcastle and Forest City Property Management host a weekly volleyball league for Cambridge businesses.

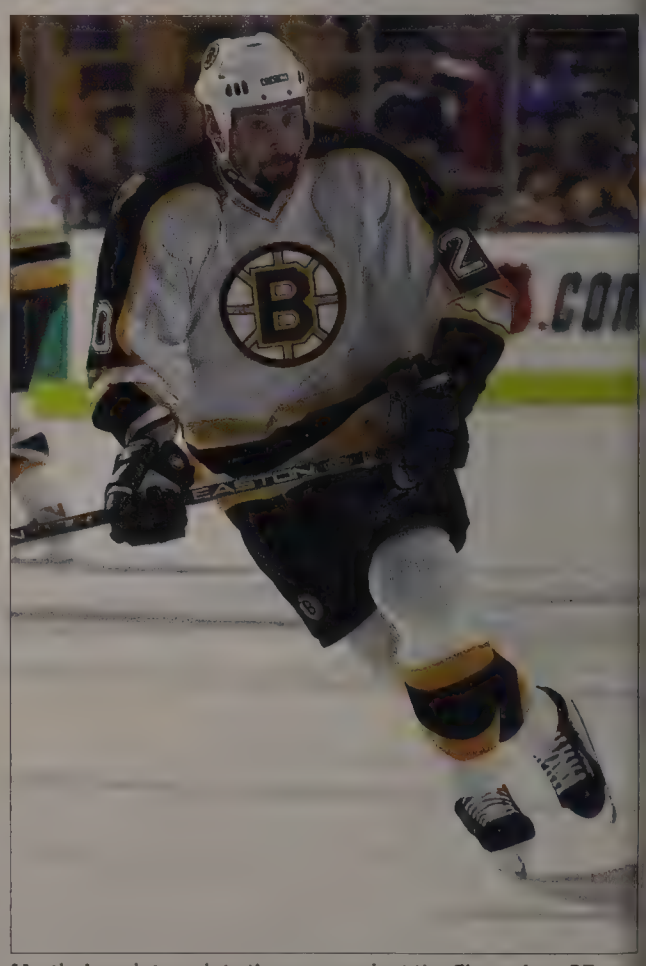
BSSC Volleyball League

Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club

(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling @yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.



Martin Lapointe points the way against the Flyers Jan. 25.

COURTESY OF THE BOSTON BRUINS

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

The Blue Demon
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Wed. and Thu., 7:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Feb. 2. $12-$62. Director Darko Tresnjak takes the audience through the lives of a Jew, a Muslim and a Christian who are all accused of killing the Sultan's storyteller.

Dance Ensemble
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (877-676-4599)MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. Jan. 25, 10:30am. Free. Cambodian dance ensemble Angkor Dance Troupe performs original works.

Kids Variety Show
290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501) MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 10:30am, $8.50, $6 for kids. Each show opens with a mix of music, dance, stories, games and prizes and is followed by a feature performer. •Jan. 25: Michael Mocolon jokes and juggles for laughs.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •Jan 22-23, ages 3 and older: Sparky's Puppies presents *Aesop's Fables* •Jan. 25-26, 1 and 3pm: Perry Alley Theatre presents *Tom Thumb* •Jan. 29-30, ages 3 and older: Nikki Tilroe and Palm of the Hand Theatre present *Clowns* •Feb 1-2, ages 3-6: Deborah Costline presents *Three Pigs and Other Tales*.

Storytime for Children
Cambridgeside Galleria, Corner of Cambridgeside and First streets, Cambridge (617-679-0887). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Saturdays, 12 pm. Borders hosts storytime for children •Jan. 25: Storytime focuses on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work as a civil rights activist. Featured books include *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport, *My Brother Martin* by Christine King Farris and *Thank You, Dr. King* from the Little Bill series.

THINGS TO DO

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8. $7 children.* •KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30pm, 6:15pm and 7:15pm. •Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts. •Feb.2, 11am-4pm: Celebrate the Chinese New Year. Festivities will include a Lion Dance, a Chinese dulcimer performance, crafts workshops, a traditional Chinese dance performance, and a special performance of *Dragon King* by Beijing Opera member Jamie Guan.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296), MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Jan. 25, 8-10 a.m. $12, $8 for children. Reservations only. Bring the family for a Dino Breakfast and a tour of *Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young*, the museum's newest exhibition. Afterwards, attend Diggin' Dinosaurs!, a hands-on interactive program for children. •Feb. 1, 9-11am, ages 4-5, $35: Living Rainbows. This class explores some of the most colorful animals, minerals and plants. •Feb. 1, 9-11 am, ages 5-6, $35: Wonderful Winter. This class discusses the various methods animals use to cope with seasonal and weather changes. Explore exhibits and meet live animals.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* •Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-12pm: the Museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits with live animals.

Newton Free Library
Druker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1370). •Mondays, 9:45am: storytime for 2-year-olds; 7pm: poetry writing workshops for children ages 8 and older •Tuesdays, 10:30am: preschool sing-a-longs •Wednesdays, 11am: 3- and 4-year-old storytimes •Thursdays, 3:30pm: 5-year-old storytime; 7pm, ages 4 and older: pajama storytime; 7:30pm, ages 8 and older: play reading.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights). Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri., 10am-9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30am-6pm. $7.50.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big brother to a little boy.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl. Info sessions: Jan. 22 and 29, 6-7pm.

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and mentors needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work in Cambridge public schools as tutors, aides and mentors.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elderly.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Faneuil Hall Marketplace

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Massachusetts Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed for the Parental Stress Line.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111, ext. 17). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996, ext. 30). Battered women's agency seeks volunteers.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, groceries program and office work.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal immigrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

NATURAL SUBSTANCES IN MOOD DISORDERS

If you have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder (manic depression) you may be eligible to participate in one of several research studies involving natural substances.

All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.
Please call Andrew L. Stoll, M.D. at
(617) 855-2614

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Psychopharmacology Research Laboratory
McLean Hospital

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—Dale Carnegie

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity). Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

To the People of Back Bay
If you walk by Workbench Furniture, please stop in and wish a belated happy birthday to Jose from a Marine who misses him.
—Recruit Bernard

Popcorn Platform
The date: Dec. 10. The place: a very unromantic, popcorn-smelling T platform at Government Center. You are 5' 10", have long, straight blond-brown hair and very possibly the bluest eyes and fairest skin that that T platform has ever seen (chuckle). I had a leather jacket and a backpack. We were standing there waiting for the Lechmere train, which pulled up and was packed with people. We both mumbled something about the chances of fitting on board. My backpack, the crush of people and my quick ride to Haymarket prevented me from doing anything but sharing a quick smile with you as we both made it on the train. I'll buy the popcorn if I am lucky enough to get the chance!
—bluizeonthegreenline@yahoo.com

The Day After Thanksgiving
I saw you on the Green Line Lechmere train at Kenmore the day after Turkey Day. You were wearing lowtop Chuck Taylors, had red hair, a tan jacket and deep eyes. I was the guy across from you in the hinge section: tall, black hair, glasses, black jacket. We made eye contact a few times but I wasn't sure if you were just looking around or looking at me. You were reading a book—I couldn't see what. I got off the train at Haymarket and we definitely looked right at each other for what seemed like a long time. I was a fool and didn't say anything. I know this is a shot in the dark but I hope you see it. I'd love to get together for coffee or a drink.
—roccia_del_punk@hotmail.com

To My Many Friends
Thank you for your faith and tenacity. With so many discouraging events this past year, I draw belief in people from you all. Toast and Roast one on me this New Year!
—improperimperson@aol.com

Countdown
You: a college student from the midwest who was going to spend her first summer in Boston. Me: college student from "just outside Boston" who was also going to spend summer in the city. It was the hottest summer I can remember! That was then... now look at us... just days from our big day. I can't wait to spend the rest of my days with you.
—Magicgroom

Wes Anderson and Beyond
Dec. 14, Tea Tray in the Sky, Arlington. You: with a friend or possibly a blind date. Me: On a blind date talking about Wes Anderson movies. You smiled and mentioned how much you like Wes Anderson movies, also. Sorry, but I couldn't help but continue to eaves drop on your conversation—it seems we both have an appreciation for Edward Burns movies. I wanted to give you my number, but the timing was wrong.
—seefee@anothermartini please.com

Starbucks, Davis Square
New Year's Day gift exchange: You have dissolvingly beautiful, lush, auburn-blond hair and were wearing blue jeans a brown top and a camel-hair coat. I was the man in the striped sweater editing at a table, utterly dissolved. (Your good friend the brunette knows.) Love,
—yketch@netscape.net

XMas Snowbank
The day after the Christmas snowstorm, your little black Benz coupe was stuck and I helped push you out. So you owe me a ride around town in it.
—rideinyourbenz@hotmail.com

Flight 333, Nashville to Providence Dec. 18
I flew recently on Flight 333 and met a man I can't forget. We talked about my Christmas tree and he said he didn't have that tradition. I thought he said he worked with wood products. The last time I flew this flight the plane nearly crashed and something triggered a panic attack and stopped me from getting to know this incredible man. I wanted so much to continue getting to know this gentleman but was overcome by the panic of flying. If I had another chance I would like so much to meet him again. His name was Phillip. He may have been the most attractive man I've ever seen—so charming and debonaire. If you know him (or are him) please e-mail.
—BMAylward@aol.com

My Darling Dobby
Don't worry anymore about where to go or who to invite on Saturday night. Pack your bag and clear your schedule as we're going to have a weekend of luxury in the Big Apple! Happy birthday! Lots of love,
—Your little Dobbette xxxx

Breathtaking at Harvard.
December 18, I think? I walked onto the Red line at Park Street and there you were! Standing about 5' 7", wearing a white lace hat that covered your beautiful auburn hair. We both got off at Harvard station and I knew that I had to tell you what an impression you had made on me. Just as we passed through the turnstile I went up to you and said "I need to let you know that you are absolutely breathtaking!" You thanked me for making your day and then we each went our separate ways. I went back up to Harvard Square to see if I could find you for a cup of coffee, but alas, you were nowhere to be found. If you are reading this, I would love to get that cup of coffee and get to know you. I am certain if I get the chance to know you much more than your beauty will take my breathe away.
—mtags33@yahoo.com

A Story
We flirt profusely. We exchange short, banal e-mails. Meet for coffee, dinner. Inevitably end up at his place or mine. Indulge in each other's flesh. More dinner, phone calls, e-mails. We sleep together. There are other boys, other men, new flirtations. My mind is elsewhere. Two years later: I cook dinner for him. I sleep at his place, he stays at mine. But he doesn't sleep well in my bed. I exchange trivial e-mails with new guys. Go for coffee or a movie. We indulge in each other's flesh—go all the way. I miss his body, the familiarity, his arms, his car. Tell myself that there are other guys, more creative and exciting guys, ones who appreciate me. But they're too tall, too short, call too often, don't pay enough attention. My mind is elsewhere, dreaming of him, the amalgamation of everyone I've met and everyone I want to know. He knows the answer before I ask the question, he gives me what I need, disappears when it becomes too much and re-appears when I desire him. He completes me.
—comfortably_numb@excite.com

Swinging Johnson, Dec. 12
I saw you in the back room of The Burren in Somerville having some dinner with a couple of your girlfriends. You: brunette with a pony tail, wearing jeans, with high cheekbones and beautiful eyes and smile. Me: dark blond curly hair and taller than you. I was wearing a white button-down shirt with a black overcoat, hanging with my friend. After dinner, we stayed and watched the Swinging Johnsons, but all I could do was watch you. You had the most amazing smile. I think you caught my eye a few times, but you were busy talking to your friend (boyfriend, brother?). He looked like a friend but maybe you can tell me more? I would do anything to see you again.
—burreningheart@aol.com

Rockie Horoscope

JANUARY 22 – FEBRUARY 4, 2002

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

AQUARIUS JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Your season in the sun began on the 20th when the sun entered Aquarius and your will-to-power was unleashed. The physical manifestation of your good intentions becomes apparent while take-action Mars in your midheaven is lit midweek. Blazing trails, setting records and defending your beliefs can make you a hero to your boss, parents, even a public official. Ever consider running for office? That altruistic, "we, the people" Aquarian vibe is very strong right now; find a way to make it work on your behalf as well as for the greater good.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

As soon as Mercury turns direct, why not sign up for a class that can bring you much pleasure as well as an opportunity to eventually make quite a bit of money? Recreational and risky activities would fill the bill, e.g., producing a play abroad or catering celebratory events. While Venus in your Sagittarius midheaven allies with protective Jupiter, the world is your oyster, plus the two planets will ensure there are pretty people around offering fun opportunities. Ignore any negativity coming from the family.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

As of tonight (1/22), Mercury stops reevaluating the path you've been following since mid-December. However, the Messenger probably needs more time before deciding what your next career move should be or which person will present it. Although you may be rarin' to go because your Mars ruler is in high-spirited Sagittarius, don't allow your restlessness or enthusiasm to distort what would be the correct timing of an important event. And when would that be? Around the Chinese New Year, when you become divinely inspired.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Bulls may get an unusual opportunity to make a killing when your Venus ruler merges with powerful Pluto around the 25th. But if you aren't connected to big business moguls or to the usual suspects in the underworld, try laying a trap for a would-be lover. No planetary aspect is quite as seductive as the annual meeting of magnetic Venus and passionate Pluto, nor as clandestine. Add the extra dollop of good fortune Jupiter is currently bestowing and you truly are a lucky stiff. Why not play it for all it's worth?

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

You would think that the minute your Mercury ruler comes out of its retrograde slump Wednesday night, you'd jump at the chance to take action, even if it's rash or ill-advised. Well, now you've been warned to wait until you see some semblance of a workable plan taking shape. Your first inkling of what lies ahead should come with the new moon and the Chinese New Year, but you may have to bide your time until Mercury returns to the position it held before it flipped on Jan. 2. How does a Feb. 11 launch date sound?

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

You might as well concentrate on the relationships that are already in the works rather than chase after one you can't lay claim to...yet. While perceptive Mercury in Capricorn reveals what was really happening over the holidays, as well as what's coming up next, you'll probably have to wait until affectionate Venus gets to your marriage sign in early February before your social life becomes as good as it gets. But for now, go with the flow emanating from lucky Jupiter in your Leo money house. Indulge in a little luxury.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

The action picks up, not only because Mercury is finally moving forward, but because your sun ruler is in Aquarius, the sign of your cosmic mate. Does that mean the elusive butterfly of love is about to appear? Not exactly. But you might find a gig you love, a co-worker you can really relate to or a charity that tears at your heartstrings. In the next few weeks, you'll participate in an especially meaningful (to you) event, be inspired by a poetic soul and willingly sacrifice something you hold dear.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

The latest changes are subtle, but they could be substantial. While the sun's trip through Aquarius can turn all of us into humanitarians and/or rebels, its free-wheeling attitude is sure to spice up your love life. However, Virgins may still idealize the object of their affections and perhaps fall for a scam artist. Your Mercury ruler's flip from retro to direct on the 22nd sets your focus on the future and your thoughts on mending family affairs or whatever else in the house isn't up to snuff.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Home might not be exactly where your heart is at the moment, but it is where a number of planets are gathering. January wouldn't be a bad time for a family reunion or a big Super Bowl party with neighbors, friends and fans in your clan. Once Mercury flips on the 22nd, you can buy the stuff you've had your eye on since the post-Christmas sales began. If your employer is fairly generous and has sufficient foresight, this would be a good time to ask for a raise. It's an iffy proposition, but right now Lady Luck is on your side.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Some call it a windfall, some karmic payback, some the chickens coming home to roost and lay those golden eggs. No matter which form your good fortune takes, thank the rewarding trine aspect between prosperous Jupiter in your career midheaven and Venus in your house of income earned. Performers and gamblers can do especially well, but anyone involved with entertainment, art and beautiful merchandise, e.g. lingerie, will benefit. You'll enjoy it all, especially the lingerie, while loving Venus and your sexy Pluto co-ruler merge.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

As your magnanimous Jupiter ruler reaches out to magnetic Venus in your sign this week, the gods of winter can bestow their real gifts. You're getting a double helping of good luck and good looks this year, so, damn it, be appreciative! Don't assume the rewards will continue to be as big or as satisfying after Jupiter vacates fiery, friendly Leo. Next year's holiday season could be more challenging, more family-centered and more frugal, too. But for the immediate future, until the Chinese New Year, let's overeat, drink and be merry.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Hanging with friends and participating in official group interaction, e.g., union elections, can suddenly take up a lot more of your time. Which of your many interests will you actively pursue with these folks? Human rights or an online book club? Something sexy is bound to come out of this project, simply because flirtatious Venus and passionate Pluto are headed for their yearly tryst. Make sure you keep a secret that you've uncovered to yourself, especially if a co-worker is involved or someone's health is under scrutiny.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405. *www.rockiehoroscope.com.* Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com.*

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ARE YOU

A healthy woman of normal weight?

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Massachusetts General Hospital and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are conducting a 6-day in-patient research study on the effects of fasting and nutritional hormones in women.

Qualified participants receive a comprehensive medical evaluation. You will receive up to $500 at the completion of the study and will be reimbursed for transportation.

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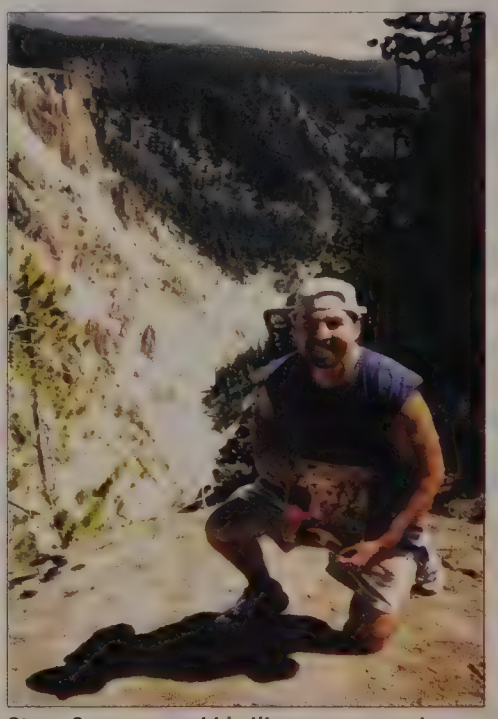
For more information, contact Sunita Schurgin, MD at (617) 724-9027
All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. Since we want your feedback on the rest of the magazine, too, submissions that include a letter expressing your opinion will really get our attention.

Alison Caiazza and Michael Flippin participate in the Adult Kangaroo Literacy Program somewhere in Australia.



Steve Sweeney and his likeness covered plenty of ground in Yellowstone National Park.

Meghan Maloney graced Graceland with a copy of the IMPROPER. She left Elvis a peanut butter and banana sandwich to eat when he comes out of hiding.

You know what they say about statues in Bratislava, Slovakia: They're rude. Steve McGinn, the subject of this picture, tells us that there's a nearby statue with his elbows on the table.

Sheila O'Connor and Mark Taylor found this IMPROPER while diving off Roataan, Honduras. It was aboard a Spanish galleon, along with lots of pirate skeletons and, of course, booty.

Khalid Amir (right) and his trusty driver, Abdul, take a relaxing break in the Atlas Mountains, between Marrakesh and Ouarzazate in Morocco. Ouarzazate craftsmen are known for their amazing invisible chairs.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
At the Festival of Color, held throughout Northern India in late February and early March. Extra points if you can get a monkey in the picture. We demand a monkey!

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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Women ages 30-40
Men ages 35-45

Wednesday, Jan 29th
Ages 25-35

Wednesday, Feb 12th
Ages 25-35

HurryDate™

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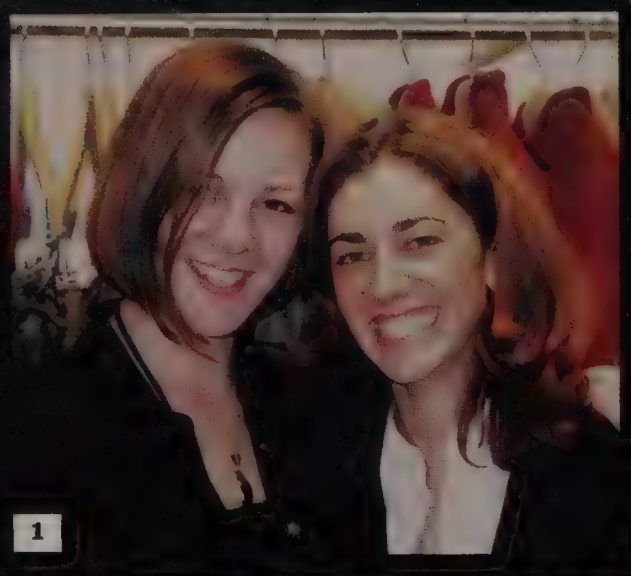
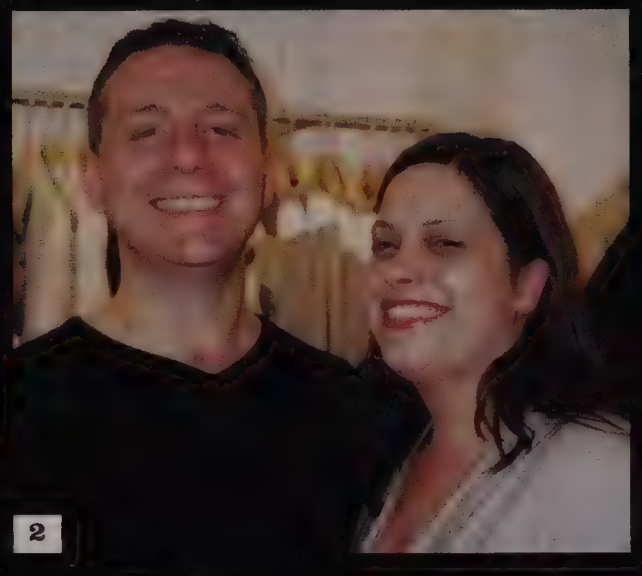
On Thursday, Dec. 12th, the DKNY Store on Newbury St., along with Esquire Magazine, hosted a party to celebrate the release of the book *Esquire Drinks*. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the new book went to the Jimmy Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



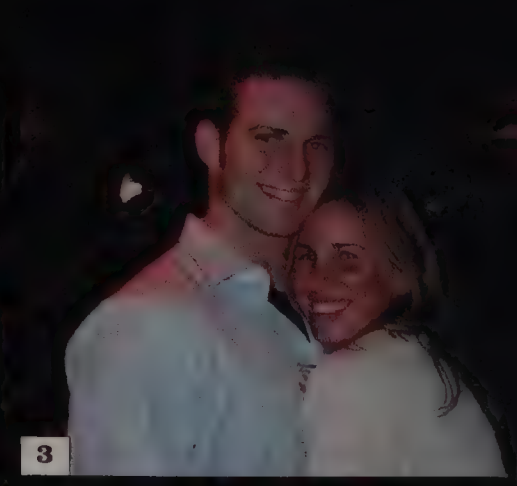


1. **Erin Cameron** and **Shannon Leary**, assistant managers, DKNY Store.
2. **Christopher Triccolo**, assistant manager, DKNY Store and **Desiree Pregnolato**, store manager, DKNY Store.
3. **Steve Muller**, artist, **Robin Lenehan**, author, **Nino DeAngelis**, owner and stylist, Runway Salon, **Bill Trifone**, interior designer.

On Wednesday, Jan. 8th, Wellbridge Athletic Club unleashed "Boston's Favorite Workout" at South Station. The workout was created based on a survey that Wellbridge conducted of Bostonians' favorite exercises.

1. **Sara Gottman**, account supervisor, MS&L and **Charisse Duroure**, east regional manager, Wellbridge Athletic Club.
2. **Lois Essenfeld**, regional marketing manager, Wellbridge Athletic Club and **Tracey Ross-Shannon**, director of strategic planning, Wellbridge Athletic Club.
3. **Steven Kim**, athletic director, Wellbridge Athletic Club, Harvard Square, Cambridge.

On Monday, Jan. 13th, Allied Domecq, USA threw a Stoli Ski Party for Boston-area bartenders. The event was held at the Roxy, which had been converted into an aprês ski lodge, to celebrate the launch of Fruia Liqueur.



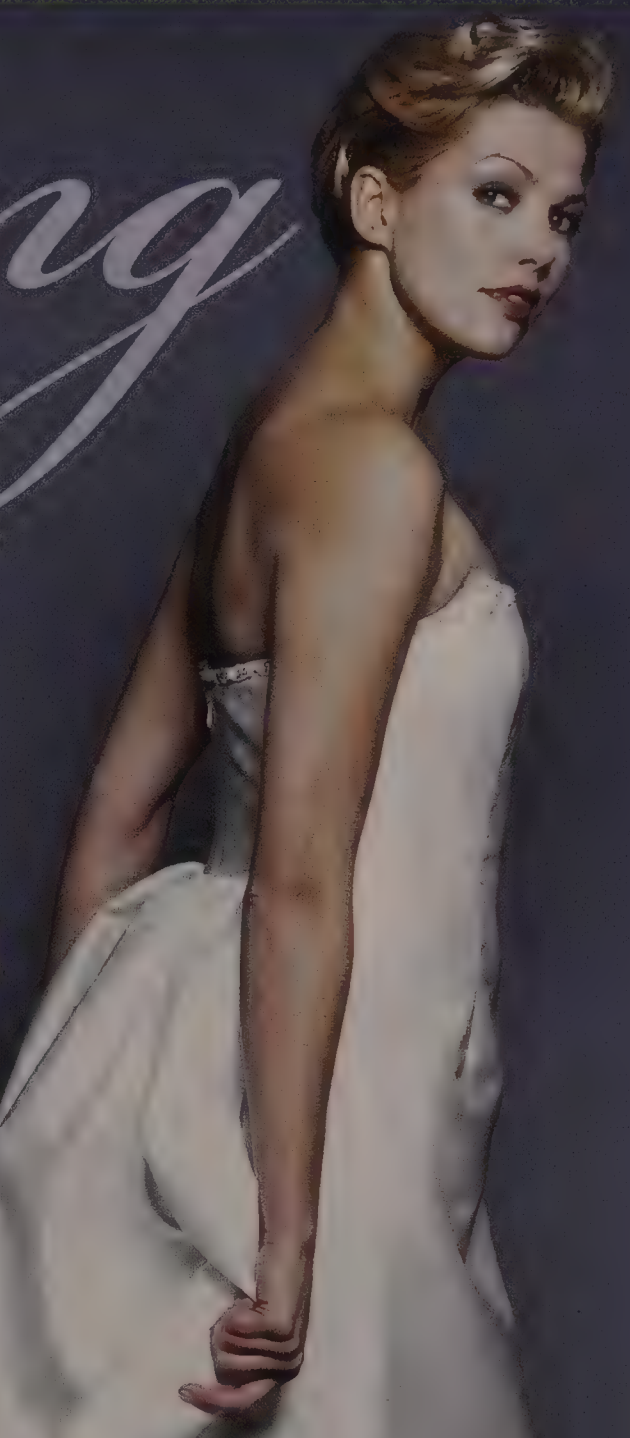
1. **Charles Dellavechia**, marketing director, **Ed Mella**, business manager, **Mark McKethan**, vice president of northeast division, **Dan Demeo**, territory manager and **Al Rand**, division-on-premise manager, all of Allied Domecq Spirits Northeast.
2. **Samantha Grazier**, Boston portfolio representative, First Choice Marketing, **Glenn Lawler**, stealth sales manager, Horizon Beverage Company and **Brandy Toth**, corporate affairs manager, Allied Domecq Spirits Northeast.
3. **Jamie Conn**, doorman, The Rack and **Jill Martocci**, regional portfolio representative, First Choice Marketing.

PHOTOS: WELLBRIDGE,CARRIE WALLACE; ALLIED DOMECQ,SCOTT BERNS

3rd Annual Wedding Planner

Wedding issue

February 5, 2003



To find the best dress for which she's always been hopin',
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For flowers, and rock bands, and gift bags for all,
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The Improper Bostonian's Wedding Issue
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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

restaurants

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut Street, Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

Barcode, *955 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02115, 617-421-1818.* This Über-hip Boston bar and restaurant boasts the best of both worlds. Barcode offers a spacious bar area and a dining room suited to a relaxed yet sophisticated experience. Adjacent to the Institute for Contemporary Art, Barcode is decorated with gleaming wood and exotic accets. Contemporary American food and creative drink offerings make Barcode more than a bar, but cooler than any restaurant. Summer nights those in the know visit Barcode's secret garden, and new outdoor bar and barbecue.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.best-margaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.* It's always fresh, honest and simple at Henrietta's Table. Executive Chef Peter Davis, who has been awarded "Best Chef in the Northeast" by the James Beard Foundation, creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations highly recommended except breakfast. Mon-Thurs, 6:30am-10pm; Fri-Sat 6:30am-11pm. Call 617-661-5005 for reservations and information.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel , 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

Metro *1815 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA, 617-354-3727* This bustling brasserie boasts superb French food by noted chef Amanda Lydon. The meticulously selected wine list compliments outstanding entrees such as classically prepared coq-au-vin, and seven-hour leg of lamb seasoned with allspice, cinnamon, and fennel seed. Pastry chef Lee Napoli crafts desserts not to be missed. The bar at Metro is one of Cambridge's most sophisticated. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Complimentary parking.

Science Street Cafe *Science Park, Boston, MA, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out the newest nightspot--The Museum of Science. Try our one-of-a-kind martinis, gourmet appetizers and desserts, then tour the Museum or catch an Omni movie. $25 package includes one drink, one appetizer, Mugar Omni Theater ticket, Exhibit Hall admission and parking. 6-10pm at the Museum of Science.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000 & 2001 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

The Times Bar and Restaurant *Located at 112 Broad Street under the fading shadows of I-93.* Serving great food and fine wine. Silver medal winner in Boston Chowderfest 2001. Entertainment five nights a week with Wednesdays featuring a DJ; Ju Ju Cocktail - Blues, Grooves and Southern Hospitality each Thursday. Live bands/DJ's every Friday and Saturday. Karaoke Competition each Sunday. Dart tournaments and big screen. Serving food to 10p each night. Bar closes at 2am. Close to Boston Harbor, Wyndham, Meridien and Marriott Hotels. All major credit cards accepted. Phone (617)357-TIME, fax (617) 350-3163.

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 Rear Union St., Newton Centre, 617-964-6684 Off intersect. of Beacon St. & Center St.* Comfortable, casual and fun in a 100+ yr-old building with 3 floors and an outside patio. Focus is on fresh food with a menu that covers everything from classic appetizers to creative pastas and entrees. Locally known for fresh fish and Sat. & Sun. Brunch menu as well as for football and sports bar scene (20 TVs of Direct TV) and the live, original music in the top floor ATTIC Bar.

Vox Populi *755 Boylston St. Boston, MA , 617-424-8300* Comfortably sophisticated, Vox Populi has a downstairs bar and café, which is one of Boston's hottest nightspots. The elegant upstairs dining room and bar, overlooking Boylston Street, offers diners a slightly more intimate setting. Both dining and bar areas are awash in rich colors and warm lighting. Serving innovative Contemporary American cuisine, Vox was named one of Boston's best new restaurants by Food and Wine Magazine. Lunch, dinner daily, and brunch on weekends.

bars/clubs

BEER SPECIALTY

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning ber bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Boston Billiard Club *126 Brookline Ave., Boston, 617-536-POOL* Winner of Boston Magazine's Best of Boston 1999 Award. Newly expanded this year, Boston Billiard Club has more of everything you're looking for. More-Brunswick Gold Crown tables. A bigger lounge. New plush leather couches. A giant flat screen TV. An unbelievable state of the art sound system. Newly added function rooms. Free lessons Mon, 7:30- 9pm. House leagues on Mon and Tues. "In the Biz" Nights on Sunday and Mondays. Ladies' Night on Wed. www.bostonbilliardclub.com

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes and Central Basement.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, MA, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

Tilt *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* A club truly in a class of its own. With its outrageous Light Show and Cat Walk spectacle, dance and groove with the spinning sensations on Saturday nights and to guest DJs spinning progressive house and trance on Friday. Dress code strictly enforced. Doors open at 10pm.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

The Times Bar and Restaurant *Located at 112 Broad Street under the fading shadows of I-93.* Serving great food and fine wine. Silver medal winner in Boston Chowderfest 2001. Entertainment five nights a week with Wednesdays featuring a DJ; Ju Ju Cocktail - Blues, Grooves and Southern Hospitality each Thursday. Live bands/DJ's every Friday and Saturday. Karaoke Competition each Sunday. Dart tournaments and big screen. Serving food to 10p each night. Bar closes at 2am. Close to Boston Harbor, Wyndham, Meridien and Marriott Hotels. All major credit cards accepted. Phone (617)357-TIME, fax (617) 350-3163.

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley

where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, corner of Newbury Street, Boston, MA, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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Oxygen-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Enjoy the best of 70's, 80's & 90's music on Tuesday nights and a buffet from 8pm-9pm with DJ Chris Fiore. Doors open at 8pm; 21+, $3 before 9pm and $5 after 9pm. Friday 18+ ladies, 19+ men , casual dress. Saturday 18+ ladies, 21+ men, proper dress required.

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TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston, 617-227-7579, www.jazzcafe-faneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

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Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

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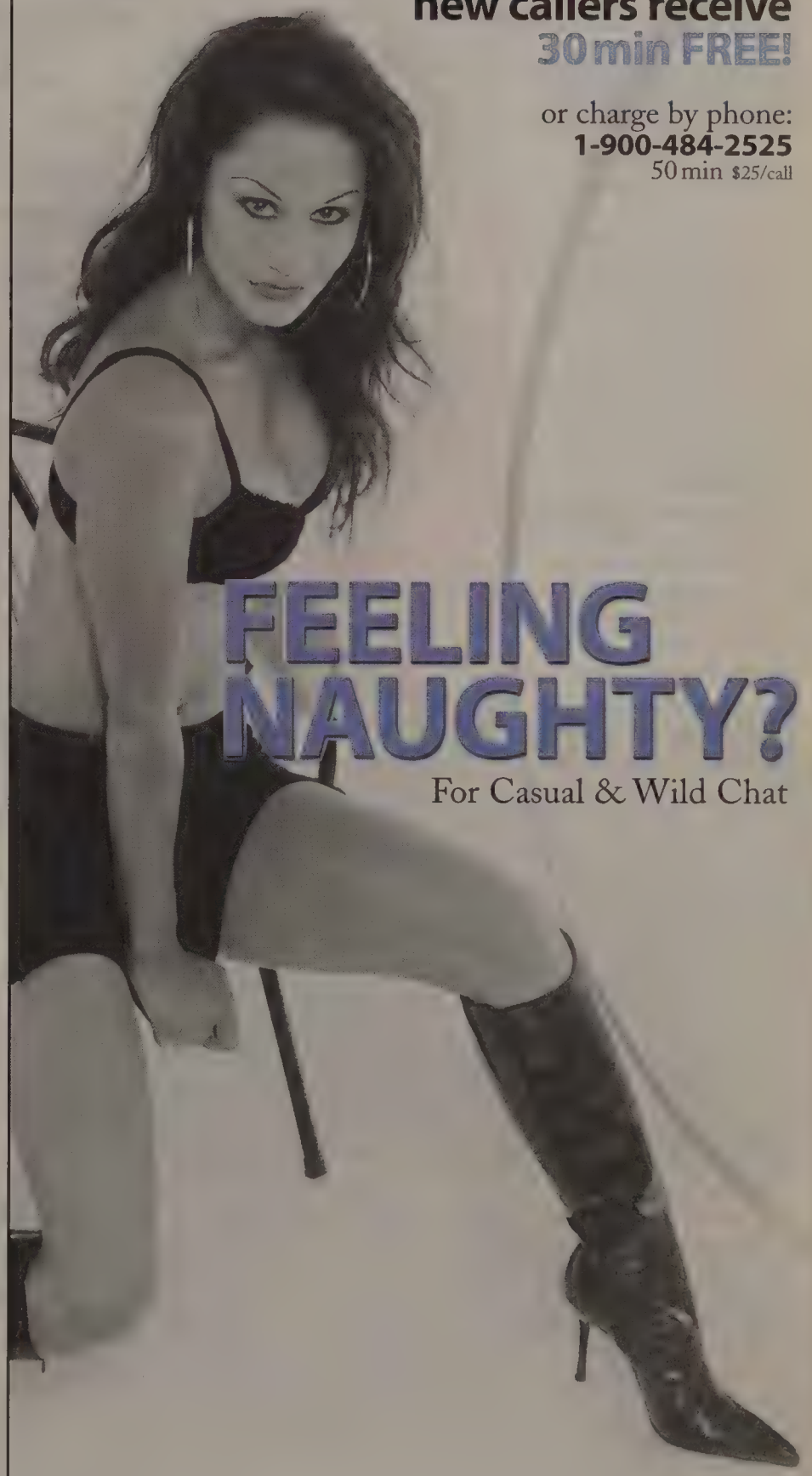

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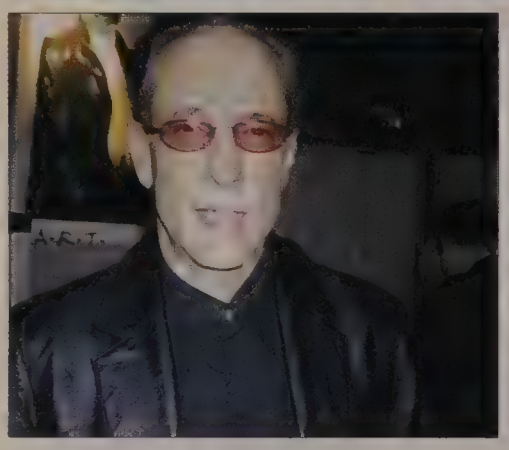

A HERCULEAN ACHIEVEMENT...

It might seem like 2,435 years is an awfully long time to wait for a theatrical debut, but it was worth the delay when the **American Repertory Theatre** staged the American premiere of **Peter Sellars**' production of the classic Euripides play ***The Children of Herakles***.

On hand for the historic opening night was an impressive array of glitterati drawn from the worlds of the arts, academia and big piles of money. Spotted at the pre-performance reception at the **Loeb Drama Center**: the puckish **Sellars** himself; theatrical visionaries **Bob Woodruff** and **David Wheeler**; über-philanthropists **Lee Day Gillespie**, **Hod and Cassandra Irvine** and **George and Liz Krupp**; symphonic composer **Osvaldo Golijov**; retired Harvard panjandrum **Henry Rosovsky**; real estate magnate **Tony Pangaro**; tech gazillionaire **Greg Carr** and the babe-a-licious **Nicol Golez**; physician and social activist **Len Rubinstein**; printing poobah **Steve Grossman** and his drama professor wife, **Barbara**; ART factotums **Rob Orchard** and **Gideon Lester**; ART board member and outgoing Armani honcha **Kathy Connor**; not-going-anywhere Chanel head **Barbara Lemperly Grant**; beloved ART pair **Jan** and **Jeremy Geidt**; and so on and so forth down a very swishy guest list.

After a delicious buffet catered by Sabur and a few words from the artists—like Sellars' observation that "art is not dessert; it's the main course"—attendees took their seats to watch a play that was written more than two millennia ago but deals with themes (war refugees) so contemporary it could have been penned yesterday.

All in all, an edifying evening, and one that boggles the mind when you consider that it took this long for a major classic to reach the American public, while *The Phantom of the Opera* is still on tour.

THE GIRL WHO CAME TO DINNER...

An unexpected guest threw a monkey wrench into the plans that super-cute foodie couple **Jill** and **Michael Leviton** had so carefully laid for the unveiling of the new Monday night prix fixe menu at their swanky suburban restaurant, **Lumiere**.

Jill, seven months pregnant, had intended to be there, in all her big-bellied splendor. After all, she's the front-of-the-room face who charms and schmoozes the heavy hitters and big shots who dine at the elegant West Newton eatery. (A sample snatch of conversation overheard on a banquette: "There was $230,000 in my checking account, which is odd, since I never keep more than $50,000 or $60,000 in it.")

However, on Jan. 3, Jill delivered a baby girl, six weeks early. Her name: Isadora.

Mother and daughter are doing fine, but Michael was left to hold down the fort alone, as the host's stand got crowded with baby gifts and congratulations for the new Dad added to the normal shower of compliments about his cooking. Mazel tov to the new parents, and welcome to Isadora. We hope she has her mother's stunning beauty and her old man's talent in the kitchen.

At the ART party, clockwise from upper left: Kathy Connor and Gideon Lester; Greg Carr, Len Rubinstein and Nicol Golez; Barbara Grossman and Hod and Cassandra Irvine; Jan and Jeremy Geidt; Bob Woodruff.

CHATEAU WHATEVER...

You'd think that immediately following the holidays, a feeding frenzy of wine and food would hold limited appeal, but the opening of the 14th annual **Boston Wine Festival** attracted upwards of 500 wine connoisseurs and enthusiasts, not to mention a few wine bores, as well as most of the card-carrying members of the free-shrimp circuit.

Seen sipping and grazing in the **Boston Harbor Hotel**'s spectacular **Wharf Room**, which overlooks the water, were such stalwarts of the social scene as power broker and PR czar **George Regan**; curvaceous WB producer and high-powered hottie **Michele Cotler**; the NAACP's affable head honcho **Lenny Akins**; surgical hotshot **Dr. Stanley Tam** and his wife, **Laura**; Boston Symphony Orchestra bad boy **Sean Kerrigan**; glamorous restaurant flack **Lynn Kortenhaus**; Back Bay junior socialite **Wendy Pierce**; *Playbill* publisher **Tim Montgomery** and his stunning spouse, **Donna**; MIT development bigwig **Martha Ballard** and her other half, restaurant construction mogul **Steve Matthews**; do-gooder and fashion plate **Debbie First**; a man who'd just recovered from surgery and said, "I have to admit—OxyContin is great"; and one *Boston Magazine* employee who inexplicably insists on looking like Adam Sandler as Opera Man.

With a mellow jazz combo tickling their eardrums, guests stood in line for a sip of over 50 wines from around the world or snaked through the bacchanalian buffet, and the new year's resolutions to shed those extra pounds from 2002 went the way of all good intentions: straight to hell.

"It's a nice party," said one attendee, summing up the evening, "but I wish there was a little less wine talk. My feeling is, shut up and pour."IB

At the Boston Wine Festival, far left: Diana Nicosia and Arthur Bauernfeind. Center, from top: Colette Sagar and Jason O'Brien; David Patrick and Cherie Maynard. Right, from top: Debbie First, Lynn Kortenhaus, Susan Withrow and Wendy Pierce; Neil and Yoshika Sherring and Ed Costa; Paul Jacques, Peter and Margo Shields, and Wendy Jacques.

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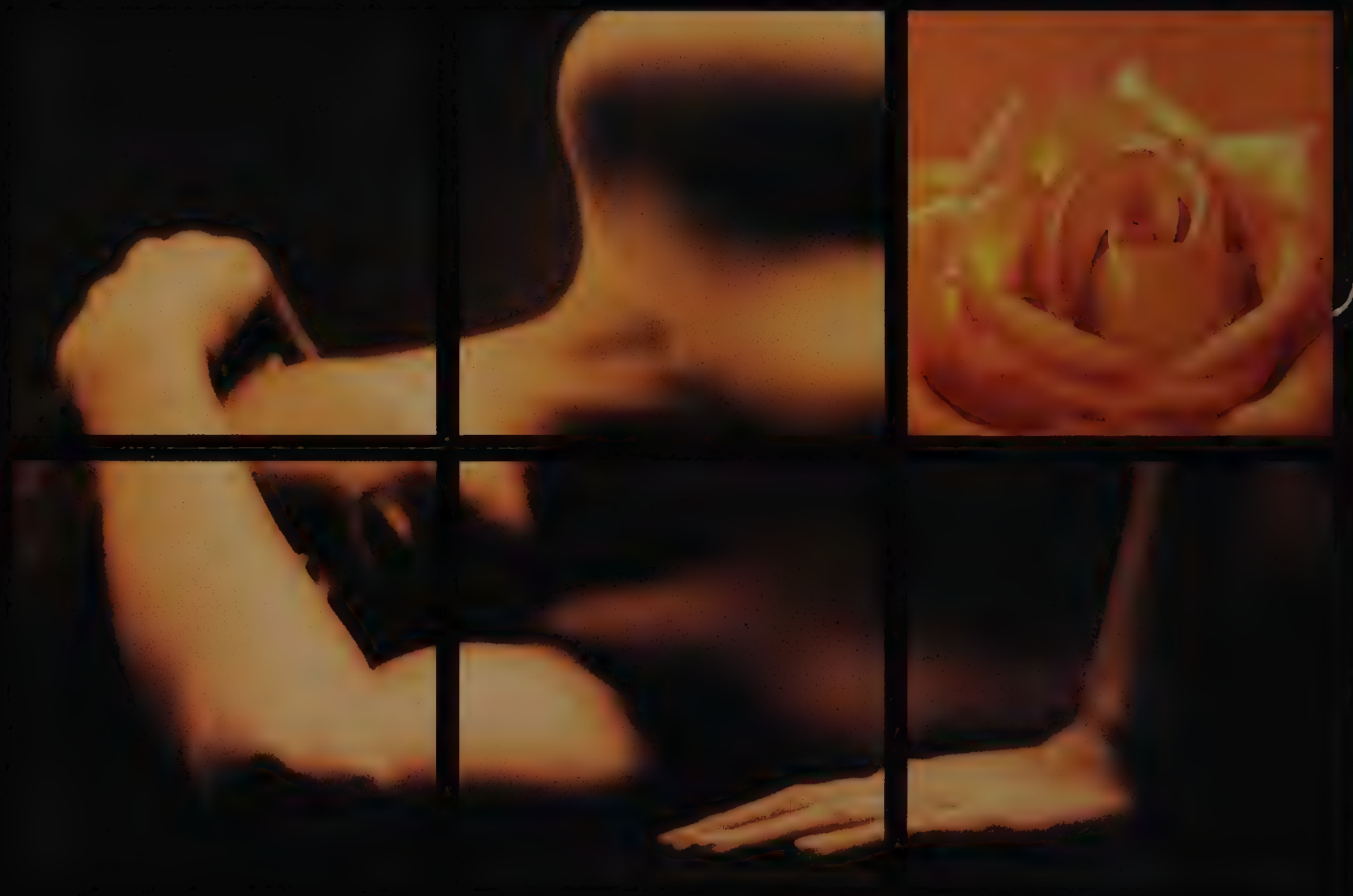

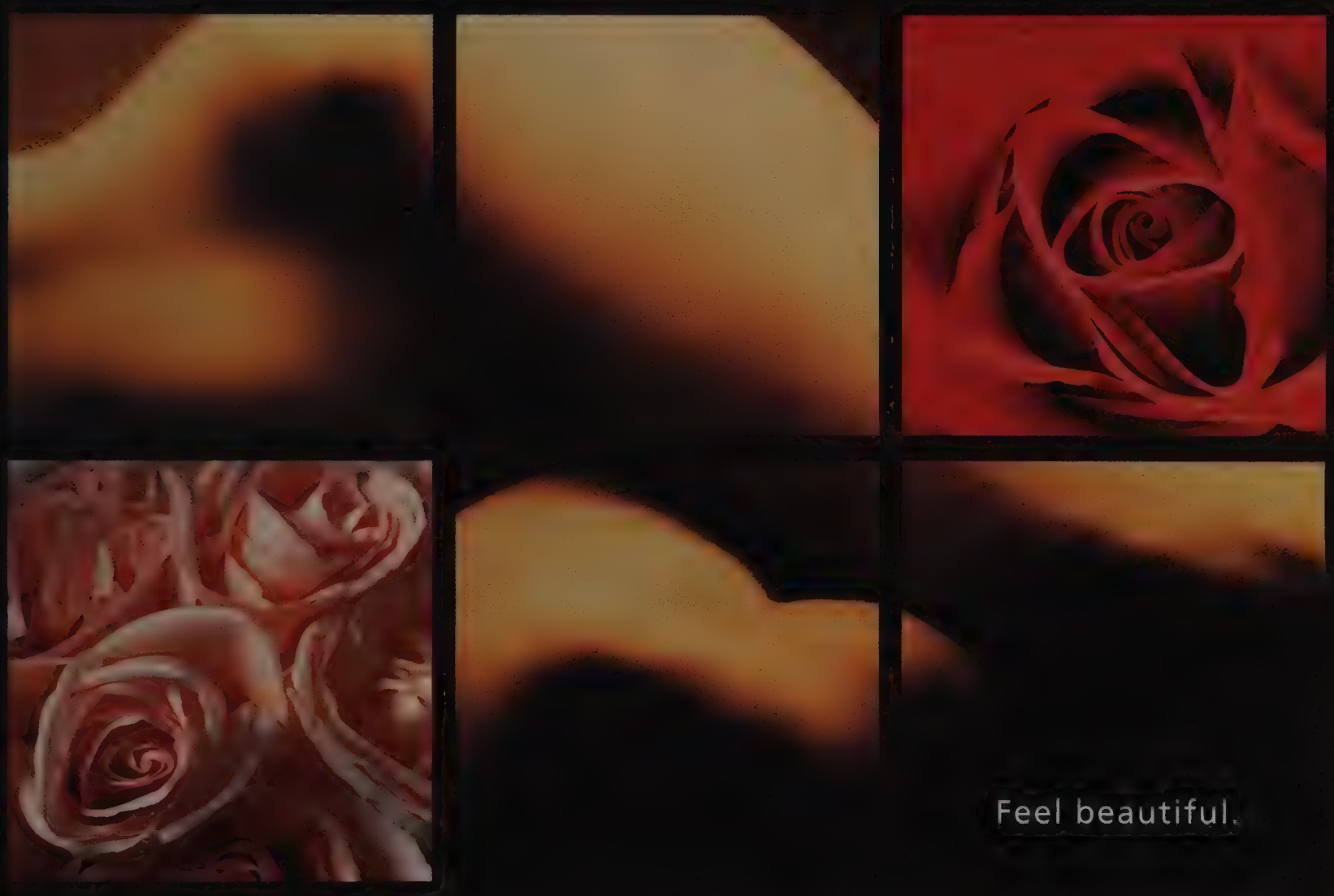

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CAMBRIDGE

THEY LOVE US, THEY LOVE US NOT

I just wanted to tell you that I thought your latest issue was great. It's comforting to see that there are so many other singles around Boston. I'm 29, female and single and I consider myself to be an eligible bachelorette. It's hard to believe that Lou Merloni hasn't found Ms. Right. From what you wrote about him in the article, he sounds fantastic (and certainly not just because he's a Red Sox player). Please pass the word along to him that someone in Cambridge thinks he's absolutely handsome and quite a catch—it won't take him much longer to meet someone!

—LYNN HIGGINS
Cambridge

Well, you did it again, IMPROPER. You completely missed the boat. With all the excitement surrounding the popular *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* TV shows, you resurrected your own rendition and bored us all to death. While the photos were nice and the *Dating Game* backdrop impeccable, you failed to recognize the reason those shows are so popular: They strike a chord with us because they feature everyday people, schmucks like me that ride the subway and wait in line to buy coffee and bagels. The reason reality shows capture our imagination is because we see ourselves in those people, our searches for happiness and love. Thanks for showing us that pro baseball and hockey players, sports anchors, famous chefs and real estate tycoons are "a great catch." Fine work. Next year why don't you add a couple of Calvin Klein models and Matt Damon into the mix. Your promotion of the event called on people throughout Boston to nominate their "favorite local single guy or gal." I figured your article would set out to show that the greatest city in the world is filled with wonderful and attainable people. Apparently not.

Reality TV is popular because it makes us all feel like our everyday lives aren't so boring after all, and our struggles to find happiness are interesting and worthy of a show. Maybe next year you'll deem them worthy of 10 pages.

—ANTHONY DETTORE
Boston

DEFINITION OF FAINT PRAISE

I just wanted to let Ezra know that he finally wrote a funny column. The one in which he advertised for a new apartment-mate was mildly amusing, but "Meet Lance" [Ezra, Jan. 8] actually made me laugh. And I totally concur with the comments regarding changing the shower back to tub setting and the importance of good remote control skills. By the way, for the last several years my official New York Mets calendars have featured roughly 50 percent long-gone players. Your whining about the Red Sox [The Word, Jan. 8] is nothing!

—LAURA MANDAT
Via e-mail

CORRECTION

We misidentified the name of a health club in our Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 issues. The correct name is Wellbridge Athletic Club.

FROM THE EDITOR

THE BIG DAY

Everything I know about weddings I learned on Martha's Vineyard. Well, that's hyperbole, but though I've attended my fair share of weddings and even participated in a few, the summer that I worked at an inn on the Vineyard gave me a behind-the-scenes education in the art of weddings.

We hosted a wedding or two almost every weekend at the inn, and they ranged from small, family-only affairs to large celebrations with big white tents pitched in the apple orchard. Though the details—vows, food, music, flowers—differed, and though all the brides and grooms were strangers to me, every ceremony (it sounds embarassingly romantic to say it) carried a sense of hope and excitement that added sweetness to my summer.

Certainly this rite of passage has inspired art and literature, music and film—and it inspires this annual issue of the IMPROPER.

First in our wedding-themed lineup is Julie Short's feature story on New England–style weddings. Wedding planners, caterers, florists and local brides and grooms all weigh in with tips for bringing New England's distinct flavor into your big day. (Even Boston's sainted Dunkin' Donuts and Red Sox could be featured in your wedding.)

In five pages devoted to wedding gowns, the IMPROPER's forward-thinking fashion goddess, Samantha House, describes the latest trends and shows you—in gorgeous color—that white is no longer the only option.

Men (I hope we haven't lost you yet), there's something for you here too: 1. Barney Beal's guide to buying the all-important nuptial hardware, and 2. Ezra's Dyer's feature on how to throw a Vegas-style bachelor party without leaving New England. (Unfortunately, you have to brave the first to qualify as guest of honor for the second.)

And finally, in defiance of all of the above, we've got Erin Hagedorn's feature on the shocking topic of unmarried cohabitation. One Boston couple has literally made a career out of it, and they've got advice—and some controversial views.

Whether you're married, single, or somewhere in between, we hope you enjoy.

Veronica A. Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

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SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:
The Improper Bostonian Magazine
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
E-mail: letters@improper.com
Fax: (617) 859-1446

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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Victoria Cook, Margeaux Estreicher, Jessica Iredale, Kate Marshall, Joy Peterson, Elizabeth Reh, Maria Zade**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Gloria Dawson, Zoe Parker Geisman**

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3RD Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 859-1400 Fax: (617) 859-1446
E-mail: info@improper.com
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the Word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

■ trends ■ tittle tattle ■ people ■ panache ■

NEW IN TOWN

Standing Ovation

Teatro, the swankiest new addition to the Ladder District, is perfect for the not-quite-Mistral crowd: the martini-sipping young professional who has yet to move to the 'burbs (or change a diaper, for that matter), who doesn't make dinner reservations in advance and who's the first to find out about the city's trendy new bars and restaurants. It makes sense, since Mistral chef/owner Jamie Mammano, who knows the Mistral crowd inside and out, created Teatro—a younger, hipper and less expensive version of his South End hot spot.

Instead of Mistral's Provençal-inspired dishes, Teatro serves Italian cuisine. There's also no valet, no table linens, no reservations and, yes, you can wear jeans and sneakers if you're on the way to the Loews Theatre next door, or a little black dress and heels if you're catching a show at the Colonial. "We want this to be a great place to come and eat," says general manager Jeff Iovino, who compares Teatro to the Franklin Cafe in the South End. "Before now, there was no place like that in this area—non-intimidating and casual, with really good food that's affordable." The menu of northern and southern Italian cuisine by chef Robert Jean includes pasta, fish and meat, and entrees range from $12 to $21. An even better deal is the wine list, which has more than 20 wines by the glass ($6 to $10) or carafe ($12 to $20).

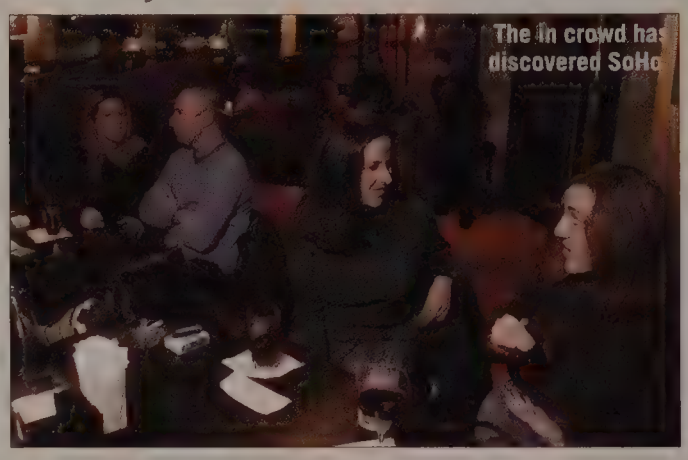
Overlooking Boston Common, Teatro's limestone walls, gold-painted plaster moldings, bejeweled spiral chandeliers, domed ceiling and soft blue lighting creates a theatrical atmosphere (which is appropriate considering its name means "theater" in Italian). It's a perfect place to come in from the cold and warm up with a Hot Tub: a Doli martini with Chambourd and fresh pineapple, topped off with champagne. *177 Tremont St., Boston (617-778-6841).*

Brighton Shines

What would compel nearly 30 young professionals decked out in skimpy late-night finery to stand in line outside a bar in 16-degree weather on Market Street in Brighton?

The answer is **SoHo**, the latest endeavor by Jon Cronin, owner of the Black Rhino, Aqua, the Playwright and Boston Beer Garden, among others. This mammoth new restaurant seats 300 and dishes up everything from tikki masala to buffalo wings—but with a capacity of 600 on two floors, it's also a bar, lounge and club all in one.

It seems as if just yesterday Brighton was the place to go when you wanted to throw on some jeans and get a cheap drink. Apparently, the end of that era may be in sight. Like the new Tonic on Comm. Ave. or Devlin's on Washington Street, SoHo is upscale, attracting city folks normally found at downtown bars. "Brighton Center is up-and-coming," says Cronin. "I predict it will be the next Davis Square." We can only imagine how far the line will stretch when SoHo gets its entertainment license. *386 Market St., Brighton (617-562-6000).*
—E.H. and J.S.


The in crowd has discovered SoHo

SPORTS

Winter Doldrums

Next month speed enthusiasts can give luging a try at Waterville Valley.

It's that time of year again... The football season is over, and spring training and March Madness seem far off. So you may as well get out of the house and take advantage of the frigorific temperatures we've been having by hitting the slopes, which are in their best shape in years. At **Killington**, you can catch the craziest airing out in the Budweiser All-Star Aerial Show, Feb. 8-9, as well as get your fix of colorful explosions at the Presidents' weekend fireworks Feb. 15. **Waterville Valley** serves up the Glen Plake Hotdog Tour Feb. 15, offering the chance to ski and party with the iconic mohawk-wearing madman. The Hotdog Tour, which includes a hotdog-eating contest, also hits **Loon** and **Cranmore** Feb. 16 and 17, respectively. At ever-chilly **Whiteface** Feb. 8-9 (and also at Waterville Valley March 1-2) the Verizon Luge Challenge lets speed freaks take luge lessons and then hurl themselves down a snowy track constructed on the mountain. This event is free, regardless of whether you buy a lift ticket. And if you and your honey consider yourselves slalom superstars, Feb. 15 the **Sugarbush** Run for the Roses offers a dozen roses and dinner for two to the couple with the fastest combined time in the slalom course. **Stowe** has a similar event Feb. 14.

If none of that gets you out for some winter hijinks, we suppose you can always watch *Destination Outdoors* reruns on ESPN2 until the Sox get fired up for spring training.—*Ezra Dyer*

CLUB SCENE

New Releases

Morgan Page

•Missing Morgan... For the past several years, Boston-based electronic-music artist Morgan Page has been building a name for himself around the world. As he winds up his senior year at Emerson College, the Vermont native is considering a move to California. Last year, Page released *Drifting into View*, a full-length debut album on Vancouver-based label Nordic Trax. "All I Need," the album's first 12-inch single, has finally arrived. The record features a pair of remixes by veteran West Coast dub-house maestro Brian "Halo" Varga, and is flying off store shelves.

•Café Sounds... With the release of *Visage* Feb. 4, brothers Félix and Lewis Cutillo proudly launch EuropaPop, a new local music label. Compiled and mixed by Félix, the *Visage* CD features 14 songs that span everything from the moody lounge sound of Yonderboi's "Pabadam" to the deep-house pulse of Kevin Yost's "7th Heaven." Experience Félix Cutillo live in the mix every Wednesday at Pravda 116's International Night.

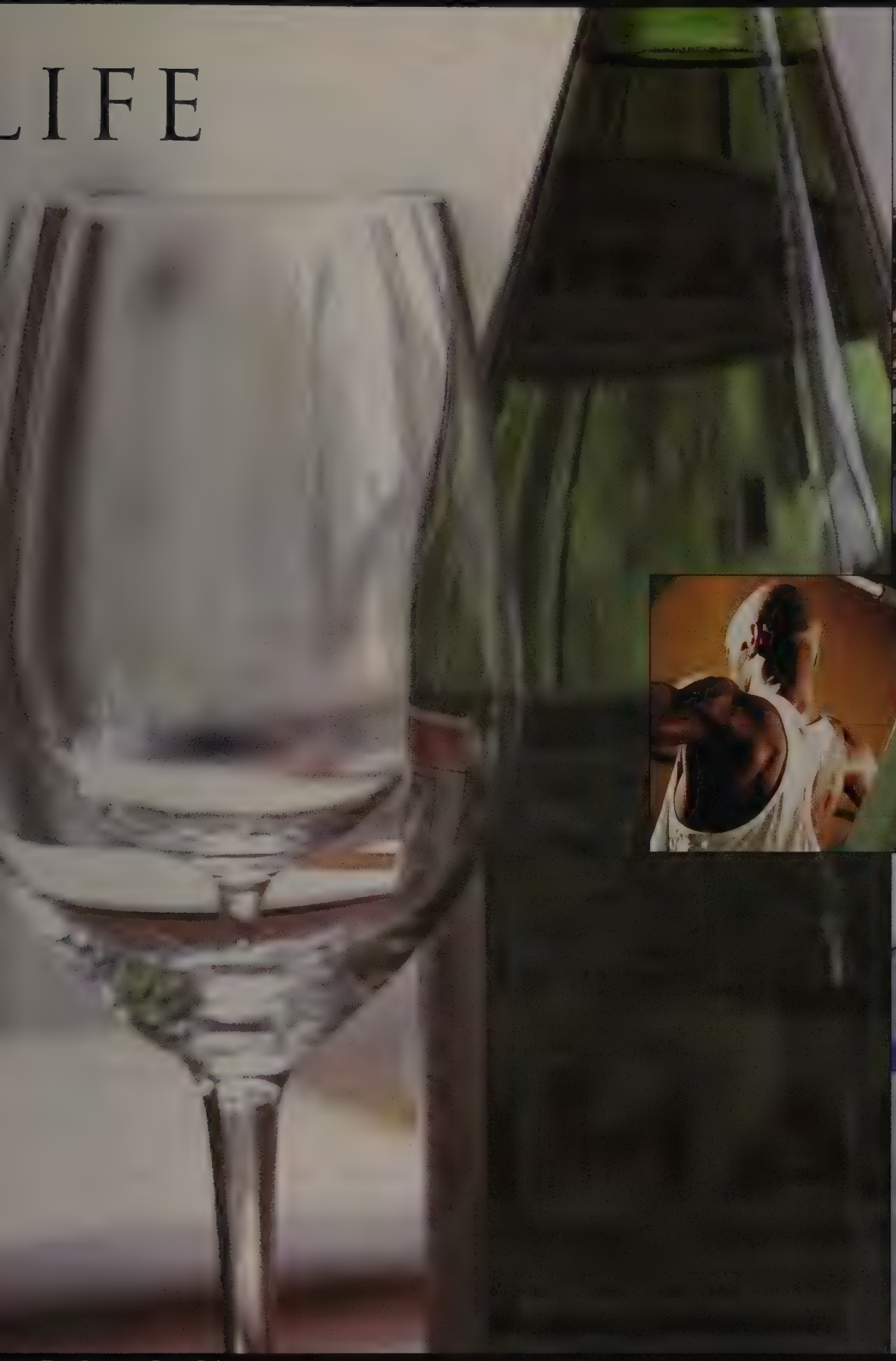
•Oasis... Every Wednesday night, Analog Lounge presents the relaxed side of things upstairs at Vertigo. Those in search of a soothing midweek oasis can settle down in one of the plush booths and enjoy a drink while residents Gregory Blake, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Pete Yagmin spin deep trance, progressive house and chilled grooves. Downstairs, Anitya residents Mathwin, Dino and Dave Henshaw provide a psychedelic trance soundtrack for the dance floor.

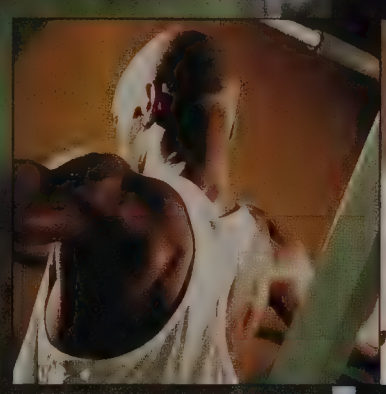
•Hip-Hop to Bruno... If you've checked out a hip-hop night in Boston at any time in recent years, there's a good chance that DJ Bruno had a hand in it. On Feb. 18, Bruno celebrates 15 years of hip-hop in Boston with a night of spinning classics that stretch back to the '80s. Fat Tuesdays, the longest running hip-hop night in Boston, held at Bill's Bar, hosts the anniversary bash.

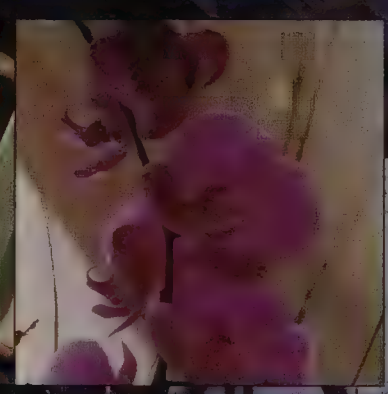
•Swing Time... If the mention of the word "lounge" does nothing except conjure up cringe-worthy scenes from *Swingers* in your mind, head to Aria for the new Classic Saturdays. Jam'n 94.5's DJ G-Spin is behind the music, spinning a cool blend of funk, rock and disco classics from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Club owner Seth Greenberg says he's "trying to approach a more professional crowd with music that people understand to make the night more comfortable." *11pm, $15, 19+ women, 21+ men.*

TEATRO: JACOB SILBERBERG; SOHO: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

LIFE







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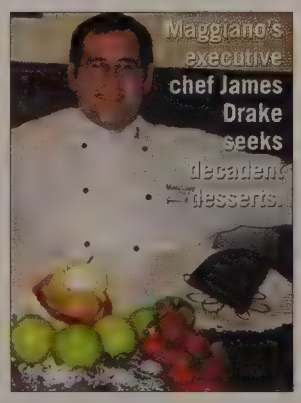
TIDBITS & MORSELS

Tasty Stuff

Houston's is open for business in Faneuil Hall.

Roger That, Houston's... Faneuil Hall unveiled the most recent addition to its eclectic bevy of boîtes Dec. 9—and no, it's not another Todd English incarnation. Houston's (best known on the East Coast for its trendy outpost in D.C.'s Georgetown) set up shop in the space that previously housed Houlihan's. The chain's made-from-scratch American dishes can be sampled at 43 other locations nationally, but this is its first foray in the Northeast. Keep an eye out for the electric-blue lights beckoning from the Marketplace. *60 State St., Boston (617-573-9777).*

Sugar 'n' Spice... Turns out, the mastermind behind the frozen delights at Cambridge's Christina's Homemade Ice Cream is as much an expert on spices as he is on sweets. Owner Ray Ford recently opened Christina's Spice and Specialty Foods next door. He's been wholesaling spices to restaurants for years and finally decided to dedicate a retail business to what he calls his "addiction." The spice seller now stocks 50 different kinds of chiles, along with rices, oils and exotic extracts. And it doesn't end there—he'll be adding teas, cereals and grains. "The biggest problem now is knowing where to stop," he says. *1261 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-492-7021).*


Maggiano's executive chef James Drake seeks decadent desserts.

Sweet Stuff... If you can bake a pretty mean dessert (Jell-O No Bake doesn't count), the folks at Maggiano's Little Italy want to know about it. Their How Sweet It Is recipe contest seeks the top original desserts in town, and Feb. 9, celebrity sweet tooths will determine the tastiest. The winner gets a goody bag that includes a trip for two to Waterbury, Vt., Valentine's dinner for two at Maggiano's and a year's supply of Ben & Jerry's. The blue-ribbon dessert will be a featured menu item during March, and its sales will benefit Project Bread. Entries are due by midnight Feb. 6.

Romancing the Bean... Cafe au lait might be something of an aphrodisiac these days. A recent survey conducted by Starbucks found that coffeehouses have become popular spots for romantic rendezvous. If you've had a coffee courtship, submit a 250-word essay detailing your affair to the Match Made Over Coffee contest at *www.starbucks.com* by Feb. 7, and the story deemed most "buzz-worthy" wins a trip for two to Vienna. (Needless to say, your encounter probably shouldn't reference Peet's or Dunkin' Donuts.)—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

IMPROPER REPORTS

He Loves Me....

A dozen red roses is a tried-and-true Valentine's Day gift for your sweetheart. Roses are simple and elegant, but certainly not cheap this time of year. Check out the going rates for the most popular way to say those three little words. (All prices include tax.)

•**Boston Blossoms**, *468 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (617-536-8600).* Regularly: $57.75; Valentine's week: $78.75

•**Boston Rose Florist**, *150 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-5900).* Regularly: $59; Valentine's week: $69

•**Brattle Square Florist**, *31 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-9839).* Regularly: $49.50; Valentine's week: $59.50

•**Exotic Flowers**, *Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-557-0909).* Regularly: $63; Valentine's week: $89.95 (with vase)

•**Justflowers.com:** Regularly $75.98; Valentine's week: $87.98

•**KaBloom**, *361 Hanover St., Boston (617-523-9250).* Regularly: $16.79; Valentine's week: $41.99.

•**Shaw's Supermarket Florists**, *1065 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-787-3049).* Regularly: $42; Valentine's week: $62.99

•**Winston Flowers**, *569 Boylston St., Boston (617-541-1100).* Regularly: $73.50; Valentine's week: $99.75

•**An addendum...** Maybe things didn't go quite according to plan. If you know a gal who's found herself on the receiving end of a broken heart, JR Corporate Gifts has just the thing: The **Mend Your Heart Basket** includes a bottle of wine, a handmade pillow of a broken heart, cookies and truffles. *1637 Beacon Street, Brookline (617-734-7123).* www.jrcorporategifts.com.

AROUND TOWN

Meet Rachael Ray

Rachael Ray, host of the Food Network's *30 Minute Meals* and *$40 a Day*, schooled us in the way of the quick and thrifty after her cooking demo at the Boston Wine Expo Feb. 1-2.

IMPROPER BOSTONIAN: What's the perfect way to spend $40 a day in Boston?

Rachael Ray: You can get a muffin and a cup of coffee at a bakeshop in Faneuil Hall. For lunch, grab a beer at Grendel's Den in Cambridge and then pizza at Cambridge One. Or go to No-Name in South Boston. Then go to Giacomo's in the North End for dinner. That place just blew me away. It had a line around the block. It was great—for only 15 bucks.

IB: What's the best place to shop for food and ingredients in Boston?

RR: A regular grocery store. Patés, imported cheese—all the things I used to buy in the gourmet market—I can find in the regular market now. That's one of the main misconceptions—that you have to spend a lot of money to dine well.

IB: What are your favorite restaurants in Boston?

RR: I think the North End has the best Italian food of any city. I've never been disappointed. In Manhattan, if I want Italian, the last place I go is Little Italy.

IB: What makes Boston different from other cities in terms of lifestyle/eating habits?

RR: New Englanders are good eaters. In New York or L.A., it's 10 or 10:30pm, and they're eating at a club. It's a scene. Bostonians eat from 8-11pm with their elbows on the table, and it's more of an event. You hang out.

IB: What's your favorite place in the world to go for a $40 day?

RR: Forty dollars in Rome goes a really long way. Plus, they have the best gelato in the world.

IB: How about more than $40 a day?

RR: New York. I would pick Mario Batali's Babbo—you can't do Babbo for $40, but it is a treat. It runs about $100 a person, reasonable by New York standards.—*Jessica Iredale*

improper speaking

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Gold Standard... Blue Man Group might seem a far cry from the divas and pop stars who rule the *Billboard* charts. But it's official—the tight-lipped men in blue have gone gold with their Grammy-nominated debut album, *Audio*. The Recording Industry Association of America has certified their gold status with *Audio*'s steady rank in the *Billboard* Top 200 since its 2000 release. But the group isn't resting on its laurels. Its next album, *The Complex*, drops April 22. We'll see if it meets the gold standard.

Buyer Beware... A new magazine on the street might have certain Boston businesses running for cover. The hot-off-the-presses *Boston Consumers' Checkbook* is naming names in terms of the best and the worst in the local service industries. From auto repair to cell-phone providers to health care, *Checkbook* has been giving San Francisco and Washington, D.C., subscribers the skinny on who's legit and who's a rip-off in bi-annual issues geared to those towns. Now Bostonians can be privy to the inside scoop too. $30 for a two-year subscription. *(800-213-7283) or www.checkbook.org.*

•Americans in Paris... In this horrid season of frostbitten toes and subzero temperatures, most of us are dreaming of a warm escape. While Paris isn't exactly balmy this time of year, it sure beats Boston. Throughout February, if you purchase tickets purchased for the Museum of Fine Arts' *Impressions of Light: The French Landscape from Corot to Monet* exhibition, you're automatically entered to win a trip for two to the Left Bank. The lucky winners get a first-hand look at what inspired the great Impressionists *(617-542-4MDA) or www.mfa.org.*

Win a trip to see Cezanne's paintings in Paris from the MFA.

•Conversation Piece... If you notice more than one person on the Red Line reading the same book, James McBride's *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, you're not seeing double. The new citywide book club, Cambridge Reads: Cover to Cover, is the collaborative effort of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, the Friends of the Library, Cambridge mayor Michael A. Sullivan's office and the Harvard Book Store. The season kicks off March 4 and regular discussions are held through September.

Toast of the Town...The Boston's Beloved Bartender ballots have been pouring into our office these past weeks (adding to the stress levels of our already overworked interns). But keep 'em coming, we say. To vote for your favorite bartender, visit *www.improper.com* and download a ballot. Be sure to send it back to us by Feb. 20. If your favorite mixer of elixirs gets enough votes, he or she might be featured in our annual Boston's Beloved Bartenders issue, which comes out April 16. Cheers! —*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

DOZEN ROSES: COURTESY OF WINSTON FLOWERS; MAGGIANO'S: ZOE PARKER GEISMAN; HOUSTON'S: RITA GREELEY; PAINTING: PAUL CÉZANNE, *TURN IN THE ROAD*, BEQUEST OF JOHN T. SPAULDING, © MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

At the Boston DineAround Gala, held Jan. 20 at Le Meridien Hotel, guests mixed and mingled with Boston's top chefs and some best-selling cookbook authors. The event benefited the Greater Boston Food Bank and the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation.

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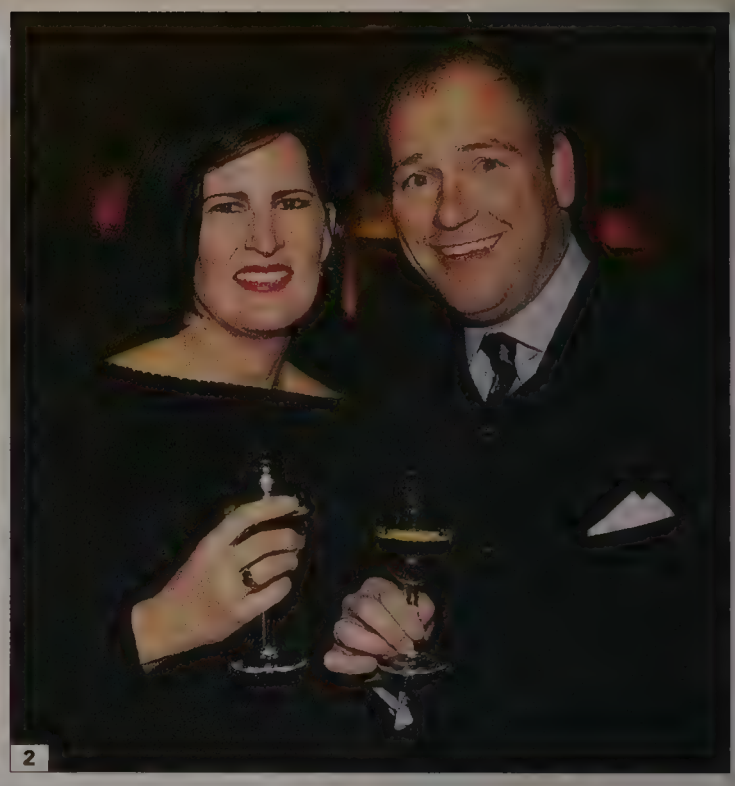
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1. From left: **Kevin Rivard**, food writer; his wife, **Jody Adams**, chef/owner of Rialto; and **David Lynch**, wine director for Babbo in New York City.
2. **Robyn Thieringer**, director of tourism for Cambridge, and her husband, **Stephan**, CEO of GTF Systems.
3. **Lydia Shire** (left), chef/co-owner of Locke-Ober and Excelsior, and **Deborah Hughes**, co-owner of Upstairs on the Square.
4. From left: **Smoki Bacon** and **Dick Concannon**, co-hosts of the *Smoki Bacon and Dick Concannon Show* on BNN-TV Channel 23; and **Lynne Kortenhaus**, president and CEO of Kortenhaus Communications.
5. **Serge Denis**, general manager of Le Meridien, and **Michelline Dufort**, executive director of the Spinazzola Foundation.
6. **Paul Kandarian**, freelance writer, and **Beth Van der Veer**, real estate broker for Jack Conway in Marion.

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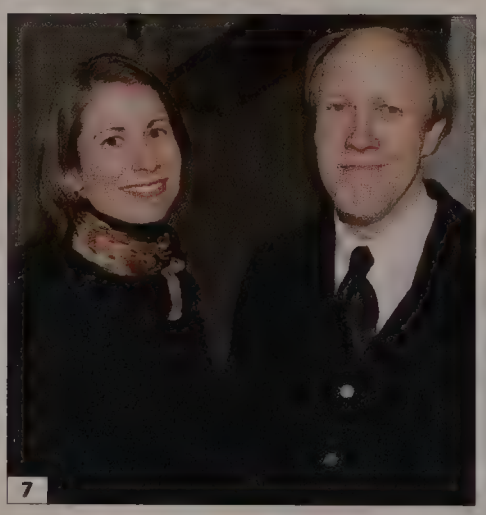
The opening preview party for the Institute of Contemporary Art's two new exhibitions, *Carsten Holler: Half Fiction* and *Building a Vision: Diller + Scifidio in Boston*, was held Jan. 21 at the ICA on Boylston Street. More than 300 friends and members of the museum attended.

7. **Deanna Griffin** and **Darcy Kuronen**, curatorial planning/project manager of the Art of Europe and curator of musical instruments, respectively, for the Museum of Fine Arts.
8. From left: **Jill Medvedow**, director of the ICA; and **Tom Smith** and **Becky Kidder Smith**, co-owners of Kidder Smith Gallery on Newbury Street.
9. **Jeremy Grainger**, web editor at MIT, and **Amanda Silberman**, assistant gallery manager for the ICA.
10. **Deane Simpson**, architect at Diller + Scifidio Architects in New York, and **Markus Schulte**, structural engineer for Arup in New York.
11. **Nicholas Baume** (left) and **Chris Mekal**, new chief curator and project director, respectively, for the ICA.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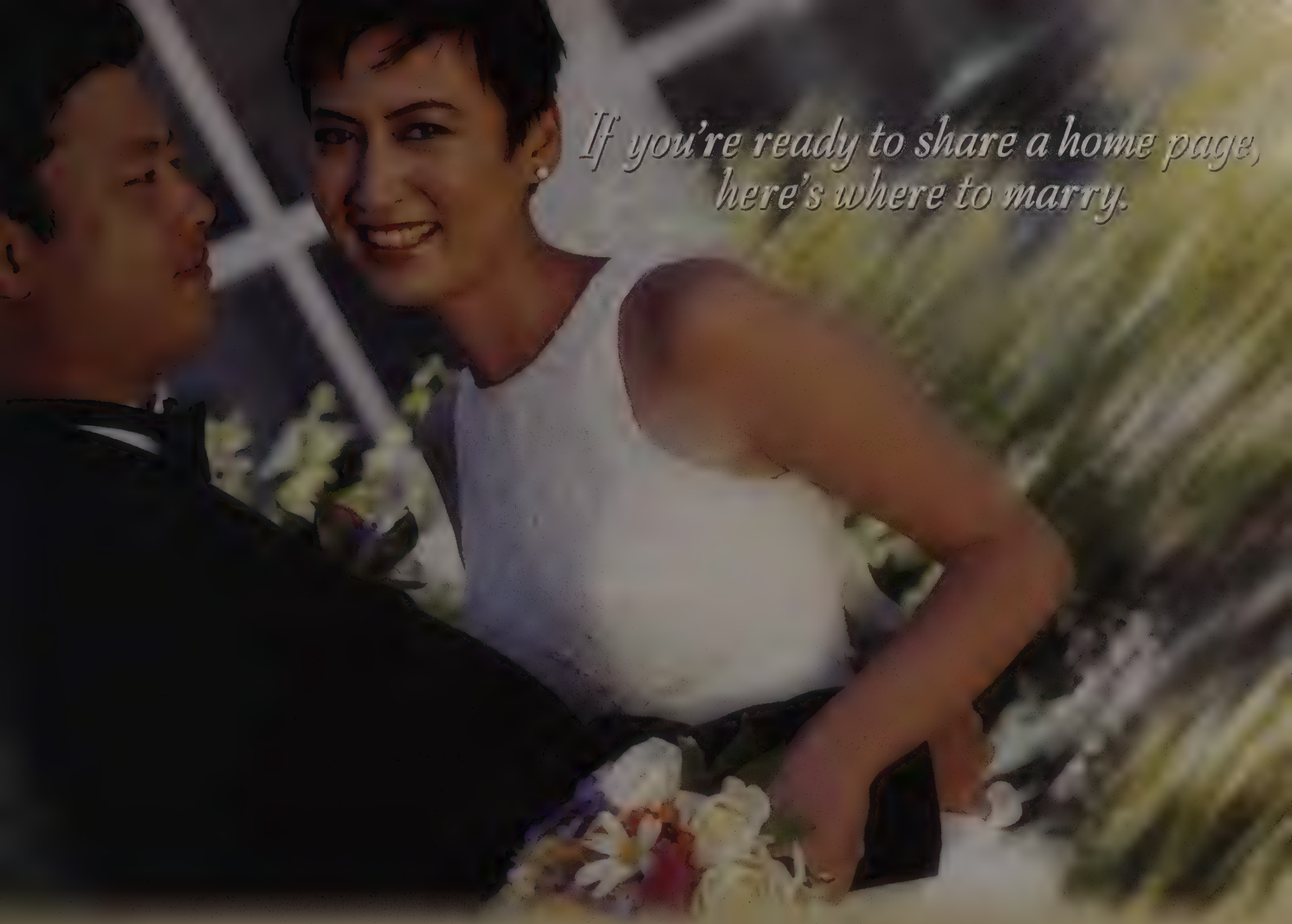

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Good Call

One of the last holdouts joins the cell phone cult

My friends would probably say that I've been in need of a cell phone for quite some time. Being phoneless, I've always been the guy who has to leech someone else's phone to make a call. Despite the pitfalls of this approach (annoying your friends and being called Amish, or contracting ear fungus from public pay phones), the occasional inconvenience never justified joining the cell phone crowd. I figured that having a phone would be nice, but you don't really need one unless you're a surgeon or a prostitute or a pizza guy—someone who needs to be available at all times. If Bin Laden can get by without a cell phone, so can I.

The turning point came a few months ago when I went skiing at Okemo. I was supposed to meet a group of friends at the mountain, but we didn't agree on a meeting time beforehand. Being phoneless, I used an Okemo pay phone to leave a message on my friend's voicemail. When my next credit card bill arrived, I found that my one-minute call cost $25.48. When you're paying that much for a phone call, the conversation should begin with "What are you wearing?" not "Where are you skiing?" Okemo's communications people are still trying to figure out why I was billed at the long-distance rate for the moon, but this whole mess could have been avoided if I'd just had a cell phone. (Not because I would have been able to use it, but because I would have discovered that there was no service and spent my $25 at the bar, which is where I found my friends anyway.)

Did this incident prompt me to finally go out and get a phone? No. But after complaining about my Okemo payphone mugging to anyone who would listen for several weeks, my parents got me a phone for Christmas. I think that my mother, in particular, wants me to have a phone so that if a wheel falls off my car and I crash into a river and I'm attacked by piranha while the current carries me toward a waterfall, I can use my phone to let the rescue crew know where to find my body. She's very into the safety benefits of having a cell phone.

I'm more concerned about the behavioral issues that accompany a cell phone. I can't really mock obnoxious cell phone users if I'm one of them myself. So will I compulsively check my voicemail in public places? Will I worry aloud about how many minutes I have left in my monthly plan? Will I set the *1812 Overture* as my personalized ring? Will I get a hands-free microphone and then walk down the street talking into my hands-free microphone but also carrying my phone conspicuously in one hand just so people know I'm not talking to the voices in my head? When I get a call, will I take my phone out of my pocket, look at the caller ID, frown, and put the phone back in my pocket, thus communicating that I don't deign to talk to just anyone? Will I answer calls on the golf course, only to say, "Could I call you right back? I'm putting for birdie." Will I wear my phone on my belt? If it's true that cell phones give you brain cancer, perhaps your belt isn't the best place to keep one, either. But if you think wearing your phone on your belt looks really cool, don't let me stop you, chief.

Behavioral qualms aside, one great thing about having a phone is that people can now reach me. That is, they can reach me assuming my phone is charged up and on my person and I'm within the service area and I hear it ring and decide to answer the call after checking the ID. So really, the chances of reaching me are nearly the same as they'd be if you just yelled my name loudly from wherever you are. But that's a moot point, as after a month of phonership I've found that I get calls about as frequently as a Kentucky dentist. I've had two wrong numbers, both of which I answered with a pathetic eagerness.

PEOPLE CAN NOW REACH ME. THAT IS, THEY CAN REACH ME IF MY PHONE IS CHARGED UP AND I'M WITHIN THE SERVICE AREA AND I HEAR IT RING AND DECIDE TO ANSWER THE CALL AFTER CHECKING THE ID.

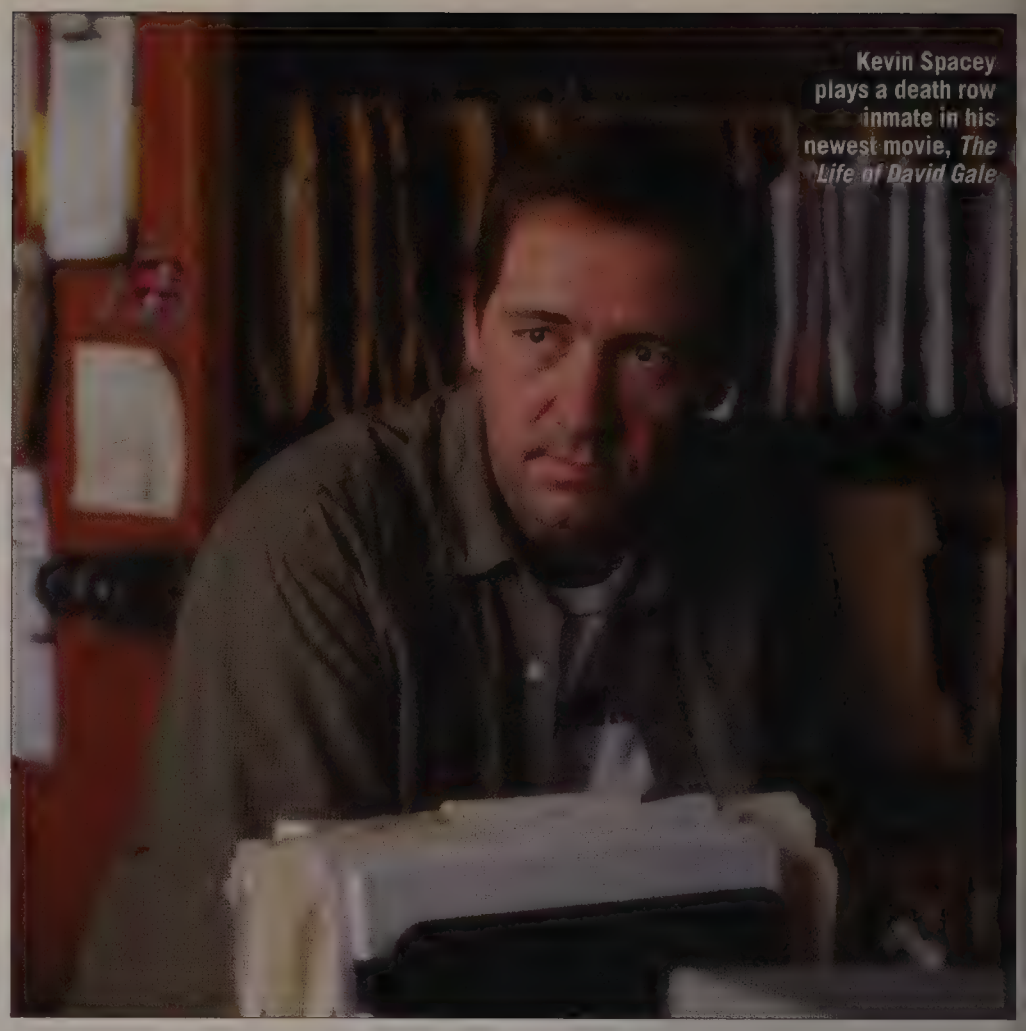
Hey "Tom," or should I say, "Mr. Popularity," why don't you tell all your stupid friends to dial the right number next time? I've only got 497 anytime minutes left. iB

You think that's funny?

Send a text message to ezra@improper.com.

Kevin Spacey

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



Kevin Spacey plays a death row inmate in his newest movie, *The Life of David Gale*

Two-time Oscar winner Kevin Spacey was born Kevin Fowler, in 1959, in South Orange, N.J. Raised in southern California, he became involved in acting. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at Los Angeles Valley College for a short while before heading east to attend Juilliard. He left in the middle of his second year to join the New York Shakespeare Festival and made his professional stage debut in 1981 with a small part in *Henry IV, Part One*. He was subsequently fired by director Joseph Papp but made his Broadway debut later the same year in *Ibsen's Ghosts*. His theatrical career continued with productions of Shakespeare, Chekhov and O'Neill, and his first film appearance came in 1986, with *Heartburn*. Numerous television appearances (including a PBS biopic about Clarence Darrow) and roles in films like *Working Girl*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Seven* followed, but his breakthrough came in 1995, with *The Usual Suspects*—the film that earned him his first Oscar (as Best Supporting Actor) and introduced the enigmatic fictional character of Keyser Sose to the world. Since then, Spacey has enjoyed a string of critical and box-office hits, including *L.A. Confidential*, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and *American Beauty*, for which he won the Academy Award for Best Actor. He was in Boston recently to promote his new film, *The Life of David Gale*, a thriller that opens at the end of February.

Jonathan Soroff: *You look a little tired in your new movie. Have you been getting enough sleep?*

Kevin Spacey: [Laughs.]Well, in the movie I should look tired, shouldn't I? I'm an alcoholic death row guy. How good do you think I should look?

JS: *If it was Brad Pitt or Tom Cruise playing that role, I guarantee they'd still look pretty.*

KS: [Shrugs and smiles.]

JS: *I've got to confess. I figured out the ending of the movie less than halfway through.*

KS: I guess you're smarter than the average bear.

JS: *If you were going to commit murder, how would you do it?*

KS: With an enormous amount of wit. [Laughs.]

JS: *It's time for the Kevin Spacey quiz: Name one adjective that describes how you feel when you smoke pot?*

KS: [Laughs.] Who says I smoke pot?

JS: *OK, work with me here, Kevin. Think of your last name.*

KS: Oh, Spacey. That's a Welsh name, I'll have you know. It's spelled without the *e* in Wales, and it's my great-great-grandfather's name, but I love the story that I made it up from a combination of Spencer and Tracy.

JS: *I never heard that. Back to the quiz. If Sammy Sosa has a son, what should he name him?*

KS: Suzie?

JS: *No. Keyser! C'mon Kevin, get on the ball!*

KS: [Laughs.] Sorry.

JS: *OK. Relate these three things to a role you played: mouthwash, macaque, legal process?*

"I SAID TO EVERYBODY, 'I'M GOING AWAY NOW, BECAUSE IF I'M SICK OF ME, I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW THE REST OF THE WORLD FEELS.' "

KS: Jesus, I'm stumped. Mouthwash…Listerine? Colgate? Umm, Scope. Scopes Monkey Trial! Clarence Darrow!

JS: *Ding! Ding! Ding! One out of three's not bad. So does being a movie star test your sense of humor?*

KS: No. But being an actor does.

JS: *What's worse: doing a press junket like this or having a root canal?*

KS: Depends on what city you're in.

JS: *Very tactful. So is Boston the smartest city in the United States?*

KS: Without question. Although Concord comes close.

JS: *Concord's not a city! It's a podunk little suburb!*

KS: It's not about size.

JS: *Best free stuff you got recently. Any good movie star swag?*

KS: Lemme think. I haven't been to an event in a while, so there hasn't been a lot of movie star swag. But those baskets are unbelievable. There's one problem, though. I've got friends who put tabs on stuff before I go to the event. They're like, "You always get everything. I want the blah-blah-blah." So I only get the leftovers.

JS: *Isn't there something funny about the fact that the richer you get the more free stuff people give you?*

KS: This is very true. Like anybody, I started out busting my ass and trying to get noticed. Finally, you start making money. You couldn't afford to buy anything before, and then when you can, all they wanna do is give it to you. It's a problem most people would love to have, but it's an irony that doesn't escape me.

JS: *What star from the golden era do you most relate to?*

KS: Hmmm. Interesting question. If you mean the one I like being compared to, that would be Spencer Tracy. If you look at the trajectory of his career, and how good he got from his first starring role in *The Power and the Glory*, in the late '30s, to 1969, with *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (he died 10 days after they completed shooting)—he was just an excellent actor.

JS: *Finish this rhyme: Roses are red, Violets are blue, Kevin Spacey's an actor…*

KS: But that you knew.

JS: *Ever feel overexposed?*

KS: I have—because there are choices you make and then there's a whole other world that happens without you even showing up, but it looks like you showed up. And whenever I've felt that way, I've disappeared for long periods of time. A year ago, when I'd finished filming this movie and I had rolled out two others within like a month of each other, I said to everybody, "I'm going away now, because if I'm sick of me, I can only imagine how the rest of the world feels."

JS: *When you go to the movies, what do you order at the concession stand?*

KS: Red licorice. Red Vines. They're like Twizzlers but better.

JS: *We don't have those here. Must be some fancy Hollywood candy.*

KS: Yup. And popcorn, if I'm not under strict supervision. And definitely either Milk Duds or chocolate-covered raisins.

JS: *Cocktail of choice?*

KS: A dirty martini.

JS: *Gin or vodka?*

KS: Vodka.

JS: *A role you weren't offered that you'd give anything to have played?*

KS: *Three Days of the Condor*. Awesome movie, one of the great thrillers ever, and Robert Redford was really good. But I would have f---ing killed him. [Laughs.] Sorry, Bob. Y'know I'm about to head to Sundance. Hope I don't see you on the street there, pardner.

JS: *I'm Fed-Exing this interview to him. So you've accepted roles that were turned down by people with more conventional leading man looks, like George Clooney and Will Smith.*

KS: [Smirking.] Yeah, guys who have dropped from the radar screen.

JS: *Ever feel like you're getting sloppy seconds?*

KS: No, and I'll tell you why. Here's a great story. 1941. George Raft. Not the greatest actor in the world, but a big star. Very upset that Warner Brothers has assigned this young upstart from Universal to make a movie with him. He walks off the set. Much to the delight of John Huston, who goes out and hires Humphrey Bogart and together they make *The Maltese Falcon*. That's just the way the movie business works. And besides, no actor owns a particular role.

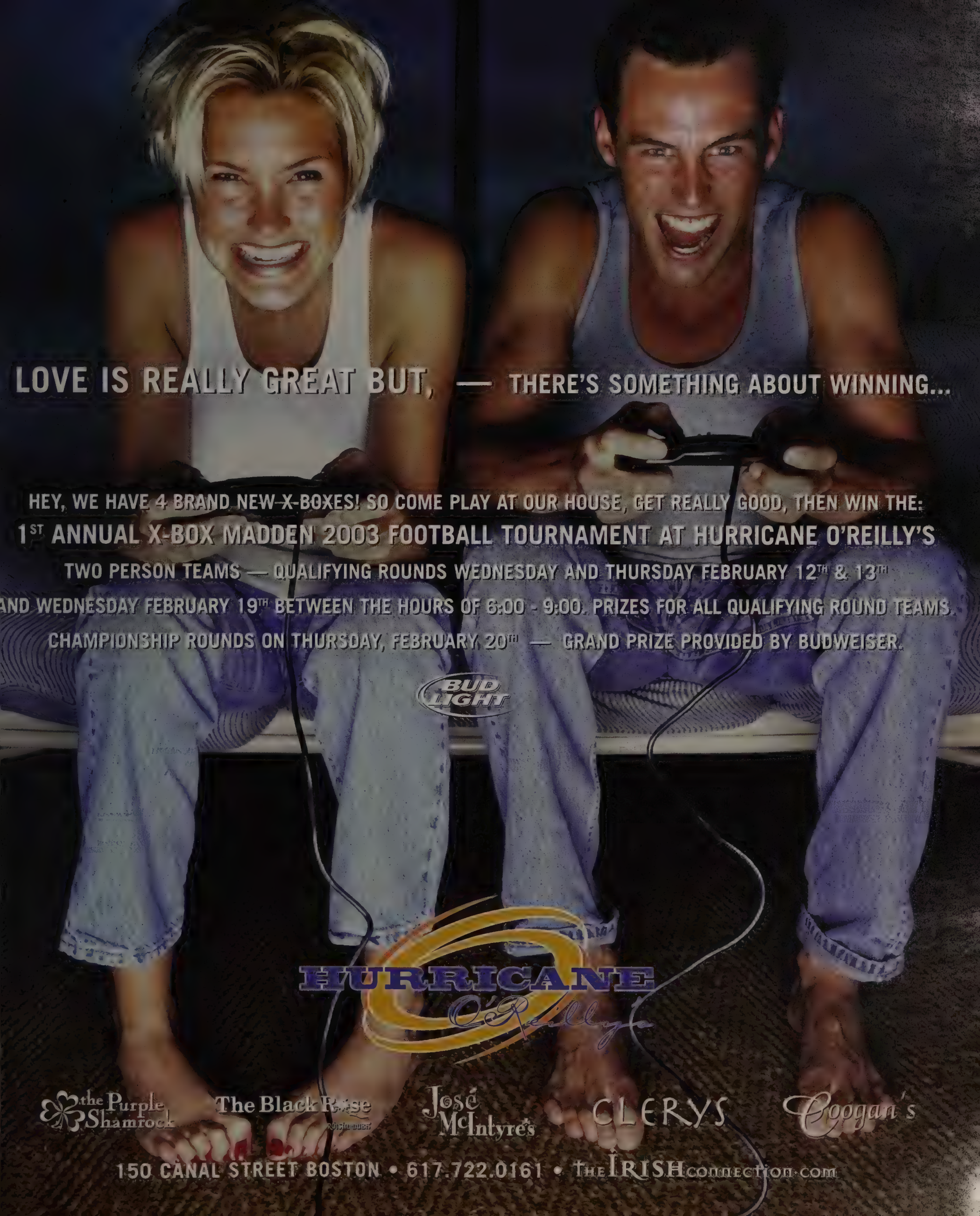
JS: *OK, Last question: Wanna come over to my house tonight and play board games?*

KS: I'd love to, but I'm leaving for Sundance. What kind of board games?

JS: *Cribbage, backgammon, Scrabble, Monopoly. Or we could play Celebrity. I'll bet you're good at that.*

KS: [Laughing.] Yeah, I am. iB

DAVID APPLE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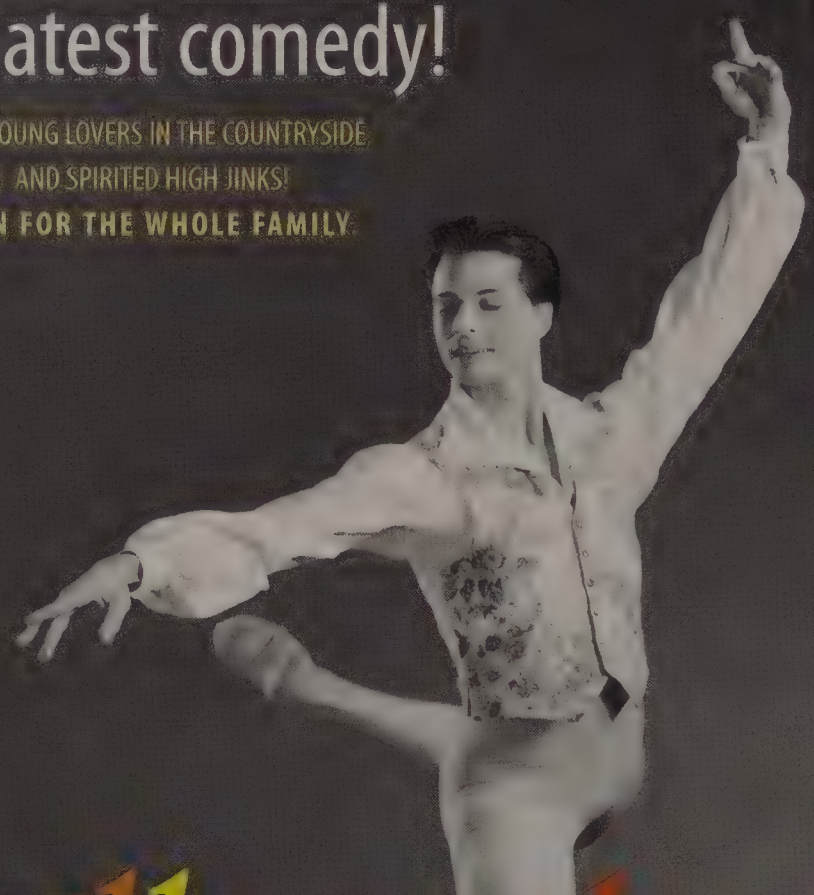

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an improper WEDDING GUIDE

Rings, dresses, flowers, receptions, even bachelor parties—our third annual guide to weddings has it all. Read on to discover how to infuse your big day with New England charm, find that perfect engagement ring here in Boston, throw a Las Vegas–style bachelor party without leaving the state—and feast your eyes and imagination on gorgeous wedding dresses and bouquets.

If you're in the never-say-marriage camp, however, forget all of the above and skip right to "The Art of Living Together." One unmarried Boston couple has a book and a project designed to take the guesswork out of the cohabitation decision and make "living in sin" heavenly.

Either way, here's to romance.

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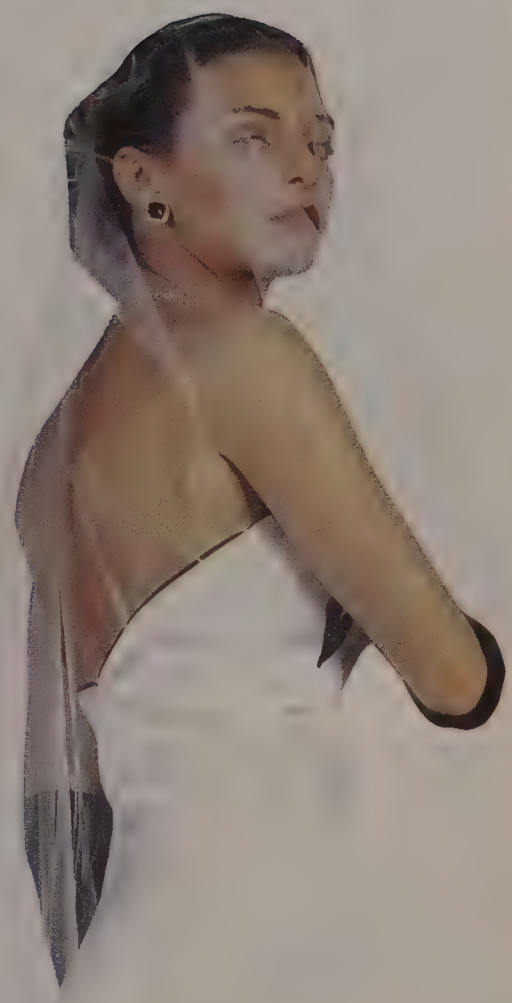


PHOTOGRAPH BY MELISSA MAHONEY. ADDITIONAL CREDITS ON P. 34

NEW ENGLAND *nuptials*

With a little Yankee ingenuity, you can give your wedding guests a taste of the region's finest

BY JULIE SHORT

Remember that last wedding reception you attended? The one held in the big ballroom at that chain hotel? You know the one we're talking about: It had pretty good food (a choice between salmon or steak), a decent band, yellow cake with sugary white frosting...and, oh yeah, a decorative take-home gift (a vase? a champagne glass?) with the happy couple's names printed on it. Sound familiar? Or does it sound too familiar—like half a dozen weddings you've endured in the past couple of years?

Now think about the ones you do remember. What made them stand out from the rest? We're willing to bet that most have three things in common: a spirit of fun, attention to detail and a distinctive sense of place.

For those of you planning a wedding in New England, why not give your guests—some of whom have flown in from different parts of the country—a sampling of the region's finest? With a theme in mind, and some creative forethought, it's easy to infuse a touch of New England into different aspects of the wedding—from the cake, flowers and decorations to the transportation, favors and cuisine. Whether you've settled on a traditional seaside clambake, a winter getaway in the mountains, a picturesque view of farmland or a bit of Boston's history, it's easy to add memorable touches to your wedding celebration. Here we offer suggestions culled from numerous interviews with professionals involved in every aspect of planning a wedding, plus tips from brides and grooms themselves.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED...

Your wedding invitation offers your guests the first hint of the festivities to come, says Donna Cina, manager of A Basket Case in West Boylston, Mass. "The couple should really think about the impression they want to reflect—whether it be formal, with a gold seashell embossed at the top, or more informal with colors, flowers or a different type of print," Cina says. "The invitation reflects the bride and groom's taste and lifestyle."

For seaside weddings, Arlene Cronk, owner of Invitations & Co. in Boston, recommends a seashell, lighthouse or even a Nantucket basket embossed on the invitation. Cronk does have one caveat: Avoid images of lobsters, except on rehearsal dinner invites or other informal enclosures. "You just can't make a lobster look very elegant," she says. To elaborate on historical themes and settings, such as Beacon Hill or the Freedom Trail, Bryan Rafanelli, owner of Rafanelli Events in Boston, suggests printing an old-fashioned gas lamppost at the top of the invitation.

For outdoor weddings, the paper can be thicker and less delicate than traditional invitations, with a more contemporary font and splashed with vibrant colors, says Lisa Lundgren, co-owner of Demetri Productions in Everett, Mass. If it's fall, the envelope can be lined with an autumnal color like cranberry or rust, and the invitation can be decorated with fall foliage.

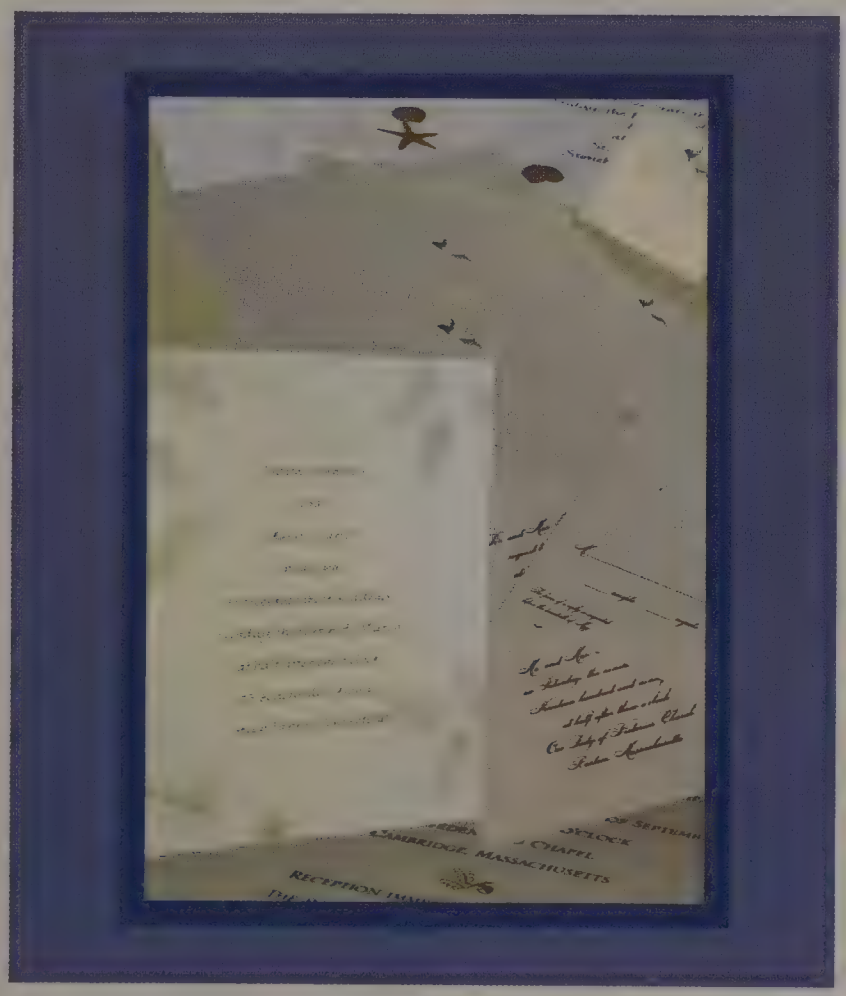
Of course, if these ideas sound too staid, there's always the other extreme: Event planner Ellen Weintraub of A-List Productions in Brookline has used invitations in the form of a message in a bottle, as well as printed on beach balls or on flip-flops.

LET THEM EAT CAKE

When it comes to wedding cakes, there's beautiful...and then there's fun. But there's no reason why your cake can't be both. Paula Kirrane, co-owner of The Icing on the Cake in Newton, recently designed a cake for a couple from the West Coast who wanted to show off their newly adopted city to their guests, many of whom had never been to Boston before. Kirrane's Freedom Trail cake had a brick path on each tier that wound around to the top of the cake. Along the path, she carved historical sites, like the Swan Boats, the Old State House and Faneuil Hall, out of fondant. At the top of the cake, a sculpture featured the bride and groom emerging from a bean pot.

That may sound a bit extreme (Kirrane admits it was one of the most untraditional cakes she's ever designed), but it gets you thinking outside the cake box. On the more conventional side, ropes made of icing wrapped around the cake and twisted into a love knot are popular for seaside weddings. "It's symbolic of tying the knot but with a nautical effect," says Kirrane. Or how about scattering handmade icing seashells around the base and adding a cake topper featuring a sugar sculpture of an open clamshell and a string of pearls? Kirrane's done it.

In keeping with the beach theme, Lisa Raffael, owner of Delicious Desserts in Falmouth, Mass., designed a cake with candy pebbles and fondant sea grass on the base level, shells made of white chocolate on the next level and a fondant lighthouse on top. The entire cake rested on a mirror to give the illusion of water.



You can also opt for seasonal flourishes. For autumn weddings, leaves made out of icing and sugar can be colored deep plum, rust, red and gold; to portray a winter scene, you can order a "snowflake cake" with handmade icing snowflakes. "Few places other than New England can provide such a perfect setting for a winter wonderland wedding," says Tasha Bracken, owner of Simple Details event planning in Newton.

GOIN' TO THE CHAPEL

Of course, arriving at the wedding in a white stretch limo is the tried-and-true option, but may we suggest a few alternatives to ensure that you and your wedding party travel in style? Boston Duck Tours at the Prudential Center in Boston, for example, will rent out a driver and a 32-passenger amphibious vehicle for 80 minutes within Boston city limits (quacking at pedestrians is optional).

Other means of transportation include the Boston-based Old Town Trolley Tours and the Beantown Trolley, both of which go anywhere in the state, carry 40 passengers, offer narration if desired and can be decorated to match the colors of the wedding. Both the ducks and the trolleys can be used to transport the wedding party to and from the ceremony and reception, as well as for prewedding festivities like the rehearsal dinner or private tours of the city for out-of-town guests—that way you don't have to worry about visiting guests getting lost.

Even more unique is Loon Meadow Farm, a horse-and-carriage business in Norfolk, Conn., that services most of Massachusetts (with the exception of downtown Boston and Cape Cod). Owners Beth and Steve Podhajecki will lease a horse and carriage to deliver a bride to the altar, plus horse-drawn "wagonettes" to transport the bride's attendants. Or there's always the method used by Zach Bressler, an outdoorsy groom who paddled up in a wooden canoe to meet his bride-to-be at the altar along the shoreline.

A BLOSSOMING ROMANCE

With the abundance of plants and shrubbery native to New England, it's relatively easy to choose flora that lends a sense of place to your wedding. In the winter, you can opt for decorative arrangements and centerpieces made with native greens like white pine, hemlock, cedar, dogwood or cranberries, says Janice E. Cox, owner and floral designer at The Secret Garden in West Boylston. In the fall, use crab apples, rose hips, colorful foliage, gourds or bittersweet—"anything harvest," says Paul Shusas, owner of Holmes-Shusas Florist in Worcester, Mass. Spring decorations could include skunk cabbages, pussy willows, irises, daffodils or tulips. In the summer, there's always the vivid blue hydrangea, which grows in profusion on Cape Cod and the islands, or sunflowers, peonies and zinnias.

For bouquets, Jeri Solomon, owner of Jeri Solomon Floral Designs in Melrose, Mass., uses any combination of tulips, lilacs, lilies of the valley, sweet pea or virburnum flowers in the spring. For a summertime wedding, Shusas likes to add New England wildflowers like Queen Anne's lace, black-eyed Susans, field asters, baby's breath, herbs or any type of meadow flower to a bouquet. You can even consider incorporating a few seashells into your bouquet for a seaside wedding.

Centerpieces for summer weddings can get creative: One guest remembers a wedding where the centerpieces were colorful plastic sand pails filled with flowers, seashells and sand. Other ideas for seaside centerpieces include lighthouses surrounded by sand, seashells, stones and mini lobster soaps; porcelain Nantucket baskets filled with hydrangea; or tiny frosted glass vases (reminiscent of sea glass) with single buds nestled into a pile of sand in the middle of the table, says Solomon. Many of the florists we spoke with recommended centerpieces made of fall flowers tucked into a hollowed-out pumpkin or a wooden fruit bowl filled with artificial leaves and apples.

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

Local brides and grooms have gotten really creative with favors. Some of our favorites: miniature bottles of maple syrup; Red Sox baseball caps inscribed with the couple's name and wedding date; small jugs of apple cider with customized labels; Yankee candles; and seashells made of chocolate. Nancy Vargas, owner of Le Jardin Blanc floral design in Southborough, Mass., offers this idea: "I recently suggested that a couple pack small white cake boxes with Dunkin' Donuts Munchkins for every guest." It's a perfect Bostonian touch, she adds, "since Dunkin' Donuts is like a cult here."

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RAFANELLI EVENTS; KATE LUCEY FOR MCGRATH CLAMBAKES INC.; JERI SOLOMON FLORAL DESIGN; LOON MEADOW FARMS; OLD TOWN TROLLEY TOURS; RAFANELLI EVENTS; JERI SOLOMON FLORAL DESIGNS; BOSTON DUCK TOURS; LOON MEADOW FARMS; RAFANELLI EVENTS. THIS PAGE: INVITATIONS BY INVITATIONS & COMPANY

Welcome baskets for out-of-town guests can include such local specialties as Boston baked beans, Cape Cod potato chips, Harbor Sweets, chocolate-covered cranberries, Necco wafers or Nantucket Nectars—even a recipe for Parker House rolls, says Beverly Ann Bonner, president of The Wedding Beautiful in Norwood, Mass. At Phillips Candy House on Morrissey Boulevard in Boston, store manager Terri Ferolito will make gift bags or boxes with a local theme. The New England Chest, for example, is filled with Boston teas, maple syrup, chocolate lobsters and seashells, and a New England guidebook.

FROM MOUNTAINS TO MOLEHILLS

Even the smallest details count when it comes to embracing a New England theme in your wedding. Event planner Kelly Scriven, owner of The Bride's Maid in Whitman, Mass., painted table numbers on large conch shells and placed them at the center of each guest table, surrounded by sea glass. To carry the beach theme further, she used an old lobster trap as a holder for wedding cards and a rope hammock for gifts. One guest attended a wedding on Martha's Vineyard where the bride strung her place cards on a clothesline alongside a beach house.

For a fall wedding, planner Tasha Bracken used brushed silver place card holders in the shape of apples. Bryan Rafanelli recommends creating a cobblestone tabletop to hold place cards if your wedding has a historic Boston theme. To make such a table, he found smooth stones on a local beach and glued them evenly onto a tabletop. Another trend is to name tables instead of numbering them. Newlyweds Frank and Rachel Parent, for example, used photographs of themselves on mountaintops all over New England and named the tables after each peak. It added a special personal touch to the reception, plus it offered extended family members and guests insight into the bride and groom as a couple, revealing their common interests.

BAKED BEANS AND BROWN BREAD

"First and foremost, people think of New England for seafood," says Glenn Gardinier, director of sales at Calla Lily Caterers in Needham, "and it's important that what you serve is indigenous." Consider offering Cape scallops, Bay shrimp, Maine lobster, coldwater whitefish like haddock or cod, or littleneck clams and oysters shucked to order. How the food is served, however, is up to you. For her wedding at the Popponesset Inn in New Seabury, Mass., Boston resident Kaitlyn Enright arranged to have a raw bar served in a dinghy surrounded by sand and seashells. New England clambakes are appropriate for both rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions. And you don't have to have a seaside wedding to take advantage of that option says Scriven of The Bride's Maid. Both Woodman's Catering in Essex, Mass., and McGrath Clambakes in Newport, R.I., will bring the shore to you.

"Incorporate traditional New England fare into your menu," says James Messinger, owner of The Crazy Chefs Caterers in Easton, Mass. That means brown bread, baked beans, blueberry pie, clam chowder (consider offering a chowder station during cocktail hour) or steamers, for example. The Top of the Hub is hosting a wedding for a local bride who's decided to offer "streets of Boston" food stations, with cuisine-based tables devoted to the Waterfront, the North End and Chinatown, among others. And don't forget the drinks: Cape Codders, apple cider, fruit wine from Nashoba Valley Winery in Bolton, Mass., sparkling wine from Westport Rivers Winery in Westport, Mass., or a local Boston brew like Sam Adams or Harpoon.

TOUR D' BOSTON

The most obvious way to let your guests experience New England is to schedule local activities throughout the weekend. Jenn and Jason Campoli, for example, invited their guests to join them for a Red Sox game at Fenway on the Friday night before their wedding (their rehearsal dinner was held on Thursday). They put their best man in charge, listing his name on their save-the-date card. He collected the money and arranged for 45 guests to attend the game. "Our friends from out of town loved it," says Jason. "After the game, a bunch of them headed to the nearest Irish bar."

"I always recommend leaving an itinerary at the hotel for the guests," says Kristen Weiss, owner of I Thee Wed in South Natick. Activities like a Boston Duck Tour, a sunset cruise on the Boston Harbor or the Charles River, a Beacon Hill garden tour or a fall foliage tour can be scheduled for all guests to attend—or you can simply list the local sights and let guests tour on their own. "Many of our clients create their own wedding Web sites with links to places of interest, like Kennebunk, the North End, Walden Pond, the Freedom Trail or the mansions in Newport that out-of-towners can visit," says Rafanelli. "Whether your guests go there or not, it makes them think of New England."

Then there's always Kate Shamon's suggestion: "On the Thursday before our wedding, we went to Route 1 Miniature Golf Course in Saugus and then had Chinese food and beverages at the Kowloon afterwards." You can't get any more New England than that. **iB**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: RAFANELLI EVENTS; DELICIOUS DESSERTS, PHOTO BY AMY RADER; SIMPLE DETAILS, PHOTO BY BOB KNOTT/CAPE COD WEDDINGS AND PORTRAITS, SANDWICH, MASS.

THE VENDORS

There you have it—dozens of ways to bring a New England feel to your event. Now that we've got your creative juices flowing, you're ready to take these ideas and tailor them to your own celebration. Here are just a few of the local resources that can help you.

A-List Productions (617-713-4440)
www.a-listproductions.com

A Basket Case (508-835-2250)
www.abasketcaseinc.com

Brush Hill Tours (781-986-6100)
www.brushhilltours.com

Boston Duck Tours (617-723-DUCK)
www.bostonducktours.com

Boston Wedding Group
www.bostonweddinggroup.com

The Bride's Maid (781-447-1040)
www.kellythebridesmaid.com

Calla Lily Caterers (781-444-2308)

The Crazy Chefs Caterers (508-238-4533) www.crazychefs.com

Delicious Desserts (508-540-3352)
www.deliciousdesserts.net

Demetri Productions (617-387-8202)
www.demetrivideo.com

Holmes-Shusas Florist (508-853-2550) www.holmesshusas.com

The Icing on the Cake (617-969-1830)
www.theicingonthecake.com

Invitations & Co. (617-227-2127)
www.bestinvite.invitations.com

I Thee Wed (508-653-3970)
www.itheewednewengland.com

Jeri Solomon Floral Design (781-391-8700) www.jerifloraldesign.com

Le Jardin Blanc (508-485-8445)
www.lejardinblanc.com

Loon Meadow Farm (860-542-6085)
www.loonmeadowfarm.com

McGrath Clambakes (401-847-7743)
www.riclambake.com

Old Town Trolley Tours (617-269-7150) www.historictours.com/boston/

Phillips Candy House (800-722-0905)
www.bostonchocolate.com

Rafanelli Events (617-357-1818)
www.rafanellievents.com

The Secret Garden (508-835-9036)
www.janiceecox.com

Simple Details (617-797-3285)
www.thesimpledetails.com

The Wedding Beautiful (781-255-1996) www.weddingbeautiful.com

Woodman's Caterers (978-768-2559)
www.woodmans.com

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Back Bay

NEVER leave for LAS VEGAS

BY EZRA DYER

Replicate a Vegas bachelor party in New England and spend your airfare money one dollar bill at a time

If you're going to throw a no-holds-barred, liquor-soaked, stripper-oogling, stay-up-all-night-gambling bachelor party, Las Vegas is your place. "Vegas is the quintessential spot for bachelor parties," says Chris Schultz, president of BachelorBlowOut.com, a company that markets party packages for bachelor (and bachelorette) bashes. "Vegas is a 24-hour party place."

But if you're at that age when one of your friends seems to be getting hitched every other weekend, multiple flights to Sin City can leave you broke before you pull up a seat at your first blackjack table. If you're the next guy in line to say "I do," you might consider saving your pals a load of cash by replicating the key elements of a Vegas vacation right here in New England.

Don't laugh. According to Schultz, the typical Vegas itinerary goes something like this: "Saturday is the bachelor party day. That might start with a round of golf. Then a lot of guys do a steak dinner. Then you get in the limo and go to bars. At the end of the night, usually about half the group takes the limo back, and half the group's still in the strip club or casino at 6 or 7 in the morning."

OK, so maybe it's not as easy to keep the party going 'til the break of dawn in New England, where the bars close at 2 am. That's why you'll need to compensate by kicking things off bright and early. First you'll want a ride. A 10-passenger stretch limo costs about $75 an hour, which is a bargain considering that you didn't have to pay for airfare, right? Now, you could go play golf or race go-carts or engage in some other semi-wholesome activity, but the doors open at noon at Centerfolds and there's no cover charge at that hour. So ask yourself: Is it ever too early to catch a little exotic dancing?

Post-Centerfolds, get in the limo and go for lunch—or dinner, as the case may be. To capture that Vegas flavor, consider hiring an Elvis impersonator to provide entertainment during the meal. (Make sure you've lined up a private function room at the restaurant, regardless.) Several local Elvis impersonators, such as "Slick" Scott Douglas, are available at www.ladyluckmusic.com.

After laying the gastronomic groundwork for a big night, tell your driver to head south to either Foxwoods or Mohegan Sun—either mega-casino is the closest thing New England has to the Strip. Upon your arrival, you can bid your driver farewell and go catch a Vegas-esque performance from the likes of Engelbert Humperdinck or Pat Boone (two upcoming acts at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun, respectively), or just get right to the business of wagering a few chips and trying to convince the cocktail waitress that you're so money.

If you know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em, everyone can return to Boston the next day in another limo. If it turns out you don't, there's always the bus service. To properly nurse a Vegas-style hangover, you'll need to spend the rest of the next day dozing by a pool. If it's summer, the Colonnade's rooftop pool ($22 per visit) is the obvious choice, but if it's not, the Cambridge Sonesta's pool is housed inside an atrium with a retractable glass roof and walls ($15 per visit).

So what's Las Vegas got that New England hasn't got? "In January the Palms hotel added two new suites specifically for bachelor parties," says Schultz. "One of them has its own stripper pole." Maybe airfare to Vegas isn't such a bad investment after all. **iB**

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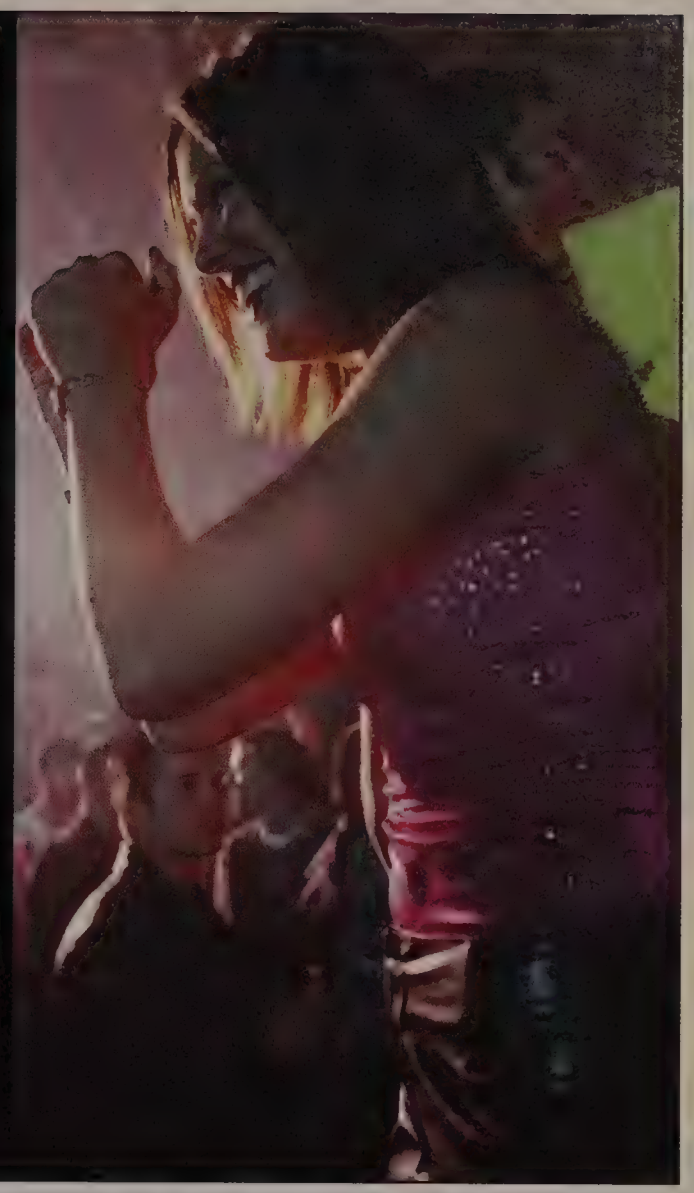

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with this ring...

Buying a diamond shouldn't make you feel like a bull in a china shop

You've found the love of your life, the woman who comforts you, makes you laugh and makes your heart sing. The decision—enormous as it may be—comes naturally: You want to marry her. Now comes the hard part: picking out a ring.

For single men who've decided to ask the most important question of their lives, the prospect of walking into a jewelry store and spending thousands of dollars on a small, shiny stone is a daunting one. You want to get something she'll adore, but you don't want to go completely broke doing it.

Aside from a car or a home, an engagement ring is one of the most expensive purchases a man can make. "The one piece of advice that really struck a chord with me was that this is the one purchase you don't want to cut corners on," says Tom Jackson, 33, an investment analyst who got married last year. "If you chintz on it, you'll only hear about it for the rest of your life."

That's music to the ears of jewelers who offer similar advice. "This can be an arduous and stressful time," says Michael Lebowitz, fine jewelry merchandise manager for Shreve, Crump & Low on Boylston Street. "When he gets down on bended knee, he wants to see a smile from ear to ear, and the only word he wants to hear is 'yes.' There are certain things in life you shouldn't sacrifice, and engagement rings are one of them."

Figuring out how much to spend can make the process even more stressful. While the oft-quoted "two months' salary" guideline was an invention of diamond giant De-Beers Co., it remains a common, though not absolute, standard. Lebowitz recommends that you tell the jeweler up front how much you are looking to spend. "A reputable store will work within your budget," he says. "This should be as comfortable and exciting a purchase as you're going to make in your life." And while the diamond is still considered the universal standard for an engagement ring, some people are moving to less costly alternatives. According to Lebowitz, sapphires, rubies and emeralds are the most popular, in that order.

For the amount of money you're spending and the emotional turmoil involved, at least one can take comfort in the fact that these diamonds dug out of the ground halfway around the world are a limited commodity, right? Well, not quite. Apparently, diamonds aren't all that rare. "There are enough diamonds in the world to fill a cupful for every man, woman and child on the planet," according to Diamondreview.com, an online tutorial for shoppers. They're expensive because diamond companies limit the quantity of diamonds produced for sale worldwide.

Still, when confronted with purchasing this expensive—if not naturally rare—item, would-be grooms need to educate themselves on the basics. There are several variables to consider when selecting an engagement ring: the shape of the stone; the style and metal of the setting; the quality and size of the diamond; whether to bring your fiancée along for the selection process; and, of course, the price.

Let's start with the basics. Typically, the four C's describe diamonds: carat weight, clarity, color and cut. Carat weight simply tells you the weight of the diamond: One carat equals 200 milligrams. Clarity is the number

BY BARNEY BEAL
PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH MARKEL

PHOTOGRAPHED AT SPIRE AT NINE ZERO, 90 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON 617.227.0002. MODEL: CARLINA MALDONADO, DYNASTY MODELS AND TALENT. MANICURE BY CONDELA SPA. DRESS BY TOCCA, AVAILABLE AT WASH. RING: "ASTRAL" DIAMOND SOLITAIRE WITH DIAMOND BAGUETTES, AVAILABLE AT SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW.

and extent of flaws in a diamond. Color refers to the diamond's tint and is ranked on a scale from D (clear) to Z (yellow), with the clearest diamonds the most highly valued. By most accounts, the cut is the most complicated and most important factor in pricing a diamond. It gives the diamond its brilliance, affecting the way it reflects and refracts light.

By far the most important tool when ring shopping is background knowledge. In addition to asking friends for help and visiting different jewelers, you can consult Web sites that provide helpful information. At *www.diamondscope.com*, you can find price comparisons of online jewelers, while *www.diamondreview.com* offers consumer information without ties to any sellers. Unfortunately, the terms used to measure a diamond require a veritable Ph.D. to understand. The Gemological Institute of America (*www.gia.org*) rates a diamond's clarity using a scale ranging from FL (flawless) and IF (internally flawless) to VSI (very slightly included) to I (included). (Inclusions are the flaws that occur naturally in gemstones.) There are terms to describe the way a stone has been cut, for example, step cuts, brilliant cuts, rose cuts, old European cuts. A popular trend these days is jewelers' own unique cuts.

The best way to learn about all this is to shop around. Jewelers, recent ring purchasers and online sites suggest spending some time looking at rings and getting a sense of what's out there before going through with the actual purchase. Of course, much of the anxiety over choosing the right ring can be reduced if you take your partner shopping.

"The only research I did was bringing my future wife with me," says Rice Bryan, 30, an education administrator who got married last summer. "With something she's going to wear for the rest of her life, I wanted to get her something she was going to like. If I picked it out myself, I know she wouldn't have liked it."

About half of ring buyers are in Bryan's camp, according to Sumner Dorfman, owner of Dorfman Jewelers on Newbury Street. "There are two types of buyers," he says. "Fifty percent are the knight on a white horse who say 'It's my gift; I'll pick it and surprise her.' Fifty percent come with the lady, the macho guys who say 'What do I know about these things?'"

The shopping-together approach takes much of the surprise out of the event. She knows she's getting a ring; she just doesn't know when. But you can still get creative with the actual proposal.

"I made the presentation a surprise on my birthday," says graphic designer Scott Oldham, 33. "I figured that would be the day she'd be least likely to expect it."

eased and the experience became far less nerve wracking. He eventually found the right ring, a round-cut center stone with two smaller diamonds on each side.

"It was hard because it was such a big thing in my life, and I wasn't able to talk to her about it," O'Brien says. "It was fun, and I can laugh about it now, but it was really hard not to spill the beans."

It all paid off in the end on a cold December night by the large Christmas tree on the Common. "I wanted it to be a surprise," O'Brien says. "She had no idea [that I would propose] and for me that made it more special, and I think it was special for her."

Once you've selected the kind of ring you want to buy, the next step is to find the right jeweler. Even though the jewelry business is very competitive, and jewelers depend heavily on word of mouth, that doesn't mean you can't get the short end of a deal.

"The biggest thing is to know you can trust your jeweler," says O'Brien, who was fortunate to have a family friend who is a jeweler. "You really don't know what you're getting."

The best way to ensure you're getting the diamond you're paying for, say jewelers, is with a certificate from the Gemological Institute of America. "The GIA is the best piece of consumer protection you can get," says Jim Hazard, a salesman with Amoroso Jewelers on Washington Street. "That's all consumers need." The GIA certificate includes information such as a gem's shape, clarity, dimensions and whether it has been treated in any way.

"It's probably the blindest item you're going to buy, something very few people feel comfortable purchasing." Lebowitz says. "The odds of getting fooled or shafted in the diamond business are great. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

In a large city there are always plenty of choices, but Boston provides seven floors full of jewelers in one building at the Jewelry Exchange downtown, not to mention numerous others within walking distance. Jewelers are scattered throughout the city as well as the suburbs.

There are other options besides buying new.

Scott Oldham and his wife, Alison Cook, had always been antique lovers, and when the time came to purchase a ring, they looked to some of the places where they shopped on the North Shore.

Alison didn't want to buy a new diamond. "For political reasons, she didn't want to support the diamond industry," Oldham says. But she had an idea of the ring she wanted and found it at an antique store. That meant savings of a couple of thousand dollars compared with buying a new ring, Oldham says. When shopping for an antique ring, Oldham says, "you either have to be really lucky or really open. I got really lucky."

Dan Dial, 27, a Boston accountant, and his fiancée, Jenny Douglass, considered the antique route as well but couldn't find what they were looking for. Instead she selected a nontraditional white-gold band with sapphires and diamonds embedded in the ring.

Once you have the right woman, how hard can it be to find the right ring?

"I did just what you're not supposed to," says education consultant John Faubert, 31. "We went out to Shreve, Crump & Low, and she fell in love with one thing. We kind of ended on ring No. 1." **iB**

POP GOES THE QUESTION

If you're at all nervous about getting down on bended knee, keep in mind that many have gone before you. In fact, these Boston spots are virtual flyways for flocks of marriage-hopeful swains.

TOP OF THE HUB: A romantic restaurant, sweeping views of the city and fine dining combine to make the Prudential Center restaurant a top choice for lovebirds.

"One year I wanted to host a party for all the people who have gotten engaged there, but the manager told me we'd fill the entire Prudential Center," says Rosanne Mercer, a spokeswoman for Top of the Hub. "There are literally tens of thousands."

During fireworks displays, it can seem as if half the men in the restaurant are on their knees, she says. The staff is happy to accommodate, placing rings in ice sculptures and helping to select the right table so she has the perfect view of airplanes pulling messages.

"You name it, we've done it," Mercer says.

Make plans early, though. Table 18, coveted for its corner view, is reserved up to a year in advance.

BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN/COMMON: What could be more quintessentially Boston than the Swan Boats, a favorite proposal spot for visitors and locals alike, according to Mary Hines, director of external affairs for the Parks and Recreation Department. Equally popular is the Frog Pond in winter, where the staff will play your music and make sure you're the last two left on the ice before the Zamboni comes out.

"Eighty percent get down on bended knee and do the whole bit on center ice," says Duncan Finch, the pond's general manager.

DALÍ, SOMERVILLE: After 14 years in business, the staff at Dalí have the proposal routine down pat. Not only do engagements merit attention from the restaurant at large, but waiters are also happy to bring the ring with dessert and include a glass of Cava, Spanish sparkling wine. Once the deal has been sealed, the waitstaff will bring out a wedding veil while blowing bubbles and singing "She's getting married in the morning," from *My Fair Lady*.

"Sung by a bunch of Spanish waiters it's pretty funny," says Mary Anne Carlson, party planner for the restaurant.

FENWAY PARK: For the greatest public exposure of your special moment, there's probably no more popular place than the center-field scoreboard during a Red Sox game. About 30,000 people are witnesses to the event, and who knows how many more are watching on television. Just make sure you'll get the answer you're looking for. A minimum $100 contribution to the Red Sox Foundation will get your message posted. (Celtics and Bruins fans are out of luck, by the way. The FleetCenter doesn't accept proposals via the scoreboard.)

> "The odds of getting fooled or shafted...are great. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

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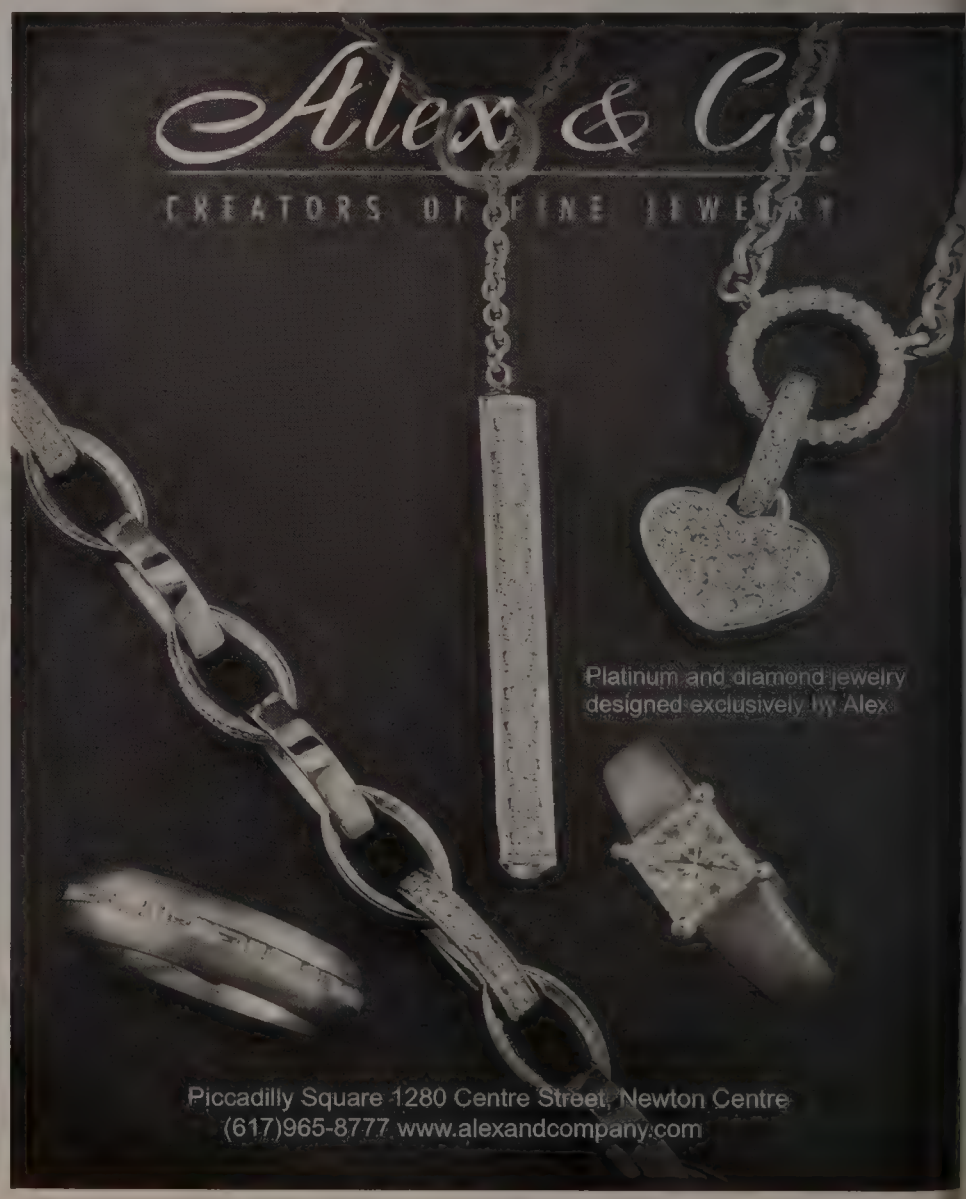

the art of living together

lie in skipping the wedding? does the secret to an endless honeymoon

BY ERIN HAGEDORN

You're his soulmate. He's "the one." You've finally found Mr. Right. Probably. Well, you're pretty sure. Right? Of course. Which is why you've decided to move in together. And why not? Your toothbrush has taken up permanent residence in his bathroom, half of your wardrobe is in his closet, you're at his place most of the time anyway and, let's face it, his furniture is so much nicer than yours. Are you a prospective or current unmarried cohabitor? Then read on.

Even though almost half of U.S. adults under the age of 45 live with a partner at some point without being married, chances are you're bombarded with advice that boils down to the particularly unhelpful "Don't do it." But you want to be together, and you're not ready to get married—or maybe you just don't believe in measuring commitment with wedding rings. So you pack up your things and take the plunge. But the confusion doesn't end there. Once you've moved in, you may

be faced with questions ranging from "Should we marry?" to "Can we make it work for the long haul without marrying?" to the more practical and sobering "Can we get domestic partner benefits?"

While there are scores of magazines, classes and books devoted to helping newlyweds and engaged couples navigate their relationship, there is a surprising lack of resources for unmarried couples. Determined to fill that void, Dorian Solot and her boyfriend/partner/POSSLQ (person of the opposite sex sharing living quarters, as the U.S. Census called it) of a decade, Marshall Miller, have devoted their lives and their relationship to helping unmarried partners.

A HANDBOOK FOR LIVING... TOGETHER

"There are tons of experts who give advice on how to date and how to have a good marriage, but a surprising lack of information about how to know whether you're ready to live together, how to cohabitate successfully, how to decide whether marriage is right for you," says Solot. "Is society in denial?" The couple's new book, *Unmarried to Each Other: The Essential Guide to Living Together as an Unwed Couple* (Marlowe & Co.), offers advice for cohabiting couples.

An introductory chapter for those considering living together includes a quiz that helps couples examine their reasons for moving in and determine whether their beliefs and desires match up. Do you want to live with her to spend more time together? To make sure you're compatible? Because you'll probably get engaged soon? Or perhaps it's a convenient escape route from a scary ex. It's best to find out those answers before calling U-Haul.

The book also offers advice for cohabitants in the midst of the "to wed or not to wed" decision; tips for staying together; ways to handle questions and objections from relatives; guidelines for parenting without a marriage license and for seeking domestic partner health benefits and other legal and financial protections.

Solot and Miller, who met when they were students at Brown University, have plenty of experience with that last topic—they're also the founders of the Alternatives to Marriage Project (AtMP), a Boston-based nonprofit group they started in 1998 as both a legal and emotional resource and a lobbying voice for unmarried couples. They lobby against discrimination based on marital status and work to build acceptance of cohabitation—both for heterosexual and same-sex couples—as a legally protected, socially accepted form of commitment.

"Unmarried couples constantly have to battle other people's assumptions and expectations about their relationship," Solot explains. "The 'When are you getting married?' hints can get exhausting. There's also this sense that no matter how good a relationship is or how long it lasts, it's not really taken seriously. Cohabitation is often seen as not quite good enough."

There are other challenges as well. "Landlords sometimes refuse to rent to unmarried couples," says Solot. "Couples often have to pay twice as much as a married couple when they rent a car or sign up for tenants' insurance. And there are some much larger discrimination issues, too, when it comes to adoption, immigration, Social Security and other situations where families come into contact with the law."

In Boston alone, one in five cohabiting couples is unmarried

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

The number of unmarried, cohabiting couples is larger than you might think. In Boston alone, one in five cohabiting couples is unmarried (in the United States overall, that ratio drops to one in 11 couples), according to the 2000 Census. There are 11 million cohabiting people in the United States today, an increase of 72 percent in the past decade alone. Unmarried cohabitation is a rapidly growing trend seldom acknowledged by traditionalists and governmental policies, says Solot.

In *Unmarried to Each Other*, Solot and Miller acknowledge the statistic that half of all marriages end in divorce, but their goal is not to knock the institution of marriage. "We aren't against marriage, but rather we support unmarried relationships," Solot explains. "We just point out that in order to understand the whole landscape of relationships and families today, you need to look beyond married couples." In the book, they argue that cohabitation without marriage is a valid option deserving of the privileges that married couples have—domestic partner benefits, legal and financial protection, to name a few.

Culturally, we've come leaps and bounds from times when hotel registration clerks requested evidence of marriage before handing over the room key (although eight states still have laws, albeit rarely enforced, making unmarried cohabitation illegal). But the United States is still far away from the progressive laws that exist in countries like Sweden, Canada and France, where unmarried partners can register and gain "marital rights."

In their book, Solot and Miller don't hold back on the subject of how the United States needs to change its legal codes so that all families are treated fairly. They also attempt to debunk what they feel are misperceptions about unmarried couples, for example, the statistic (often cited by right-wing groups) that there's a 50 percent higher divorce rate among couples who live together before marriage than among couples who don't. Solot and Miller say the statistic fails to take into account that people who marry without living together beforehand tend to be more religious, conservative and strongly opposed to divorce. What the data prove, they say, is that people who are historically opposed to divorce have a lower divorce rate.

SHOULD WE OR SHOULDN'T WE?

The divorce rate shows what too many couples have learned: A wedding ring isn't necessarily a passport to happiness. But even so, singles' views on unmarried "shacking up" vary widely. Some see cohabitation as a state of limbo for those seeking to avoid the personal and social commitment that marriage represents. "I'd never live with a guy," says Candice, a 27-year-old Boston professional. "I think when people live together it's a cop-out. You're just trying it out, so there's no real commitment. If you have it in your mind if they leave the toilet seat up it could end your relationship, you don't work through problems. When you get married, it's for better or worse."

Julia, a 30-year-old professional writer, sees living together as an obstacle to getting engaged. "I don't want to move in with my boyfriend because it will drag the process out longer," she says. "I want to get married, and what's the incentive if we're already living like we're married?"

Others see cohabitation as a necessary stepping stone on the path to marriage. Wilson, a 25-year-old financial consultant, recently made the jump to a live-in relationship. "I know we disagree about how long a 'trial' period should last, but we both agree that 'living in sin' for a while is an invaluable test of whether our relationship can last the trials and tribulations of marriage," he says. "Living together has been great, and I've actually fallen more in love, so it won't be long now, but I'm not sure I could have felt this way without knowing what it would be like living together beforehand."

But what if you've gotten used to living together, like it, and worry that marriage might snuff out your relationship's lively spark? What if you can't legally marry because you're gay? For some, it's as simple as Noel Coward's statement, "I've sometimes thought of marrying, and then I've thought again." The question for many live-in couples, then, often goes from "Why haven't we gotten married yet?" to "Honey, what's the rush to get married?" and sometimes even "Why get married at all?"

For example CB, an engineer, doesn't view living with her boyfriend as a stepping stone to marriage but rather the final commitment in itself. They've been together for 10 years, own a house in Arlington and share a car. Neither wants to get married (or start a family). "Most people just don't view that living together can be the end goal," she says. "I still view the institution of marriage as repressive, not to mention intrusive. But I also recognize that it's important to most people, and they view it differently. What are personal choices for some of us become moral crusades for others. But that's the same for most any lifestyle decision."

PRESSING POLITICAL BUTTONS

With such a large population of unmarried couples these days, especially in metropolitan areas like Boston, it's surprising the issue can be so controversial—and not just among the Jerry Falwell constituency. (Solot recently debated Falwell on TV.) Hosts of a radio show in the South had booked Solot and Miller as guests but canceled when they looked more closely at the book They didn't think their audience could handle it.

Controversy also came from the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank that released an article denouncing an AtMP report, *Let Them Eat Wedding Rings*, which derided the government's use of welfare dollars to promote marriage. Ron Haskins, a senior fellow at another research organization, the Brookings Institution, and adviser for welfare policy in the Bush administration, recently told the *Washington Times*, "Cohabiting is a plague, and we should do what we can do discourage it."

"The longer I do this work, the more convinced I am that there's a need for this project," Solot says.

These days, in between speaking and reading junkets, Solot and Miller spend most of their time writing op-ed pieces and making media appearances on NPR and other outlets. They recently added the 5,000th household to AtMP's mailing list. "Of course, given that there are 5.5 million unmarried couple households in the country, we have a ways to go," Solot says.

As far as their own unwed relationship goes, Solot and Miller have been together for 10 years. What's their reason for not sealing the deal with a wedding ceremony? First and foremost, they say they're happy this way. They're committed; they live together; and they're in love. And, well, getting married would ruin their gig. Solot says, "It's a strange thing to be sort of professionally unmarried. It's not what I expected to be when I grew up!" iB

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vows en vogue

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELISSA MAHONEY

When it comes to the all-important wedding dress, brides are no longer limited to what's on the racks. It's become commonplace for a woman to design her own masterpiece, selecting a neckline from this one and a hemline from the other. Whether created just for you or bought at the local boutique, the right choice is always what's most flattering on you and doesn't make your least favorite body part look big. But to get the ideas flowing, here are three trends that will be holding strong for the next few years.

THE ERA DRESS: The era dress is anything that looks like you plucked it from a classic decade. A 1930s-style gown, for example, features a shorter skirt with a bit of a flare, often accompanied by a train made of sheer layers. The 40s look features a plunging neckline and a high-slit skirt that's fitted all the way to the floor, while 50s-style dresses, usually calf-length, are designed with a small waist, full hips and a perfectly fitted top.

LADYLIKE LACE: Lace-covered dresses are very formal but can be perfect for an outdoor wedding because the fabric looks amazing against a natural backdrop. The texture gives an added dimension to bridal photos and is flattering against any bride's skin when paired with an tiqued coloring.

SPLASH OF COLOR: Bride after bride walks down the aisle looking like a vision in white, but imagine that entrance with splashes of red or pink in your gown. Color is on the hot list for wedding dresses right now, showing up in everything from embroidered flowers to velvet trim and beads. Using color in your gown to accent the rest of the bridal party can help ensure a striking photo.

On the next few pages, you'll see samples of all of the above. So toss out your old ideas about weddings and start dreaming up your signature look.

Multicolored embroidered gown on silk organza overlay with sheer back, $3,200; fly-away lavender veil on comb, $185. Both available at The Altered Bride. Freshwater pink pearls with diamonds by De Merini, $2,950. 18-karat white gold and diamond earrings, $1,250. Both available at Shreve, Crump & Low.

Duchesse silk slim gown with velvet accents, $2,600; long veil with black piping, $400. Both available at The Altered Bride. Earrings by David Yurman, $2,000; matching necklace, $1,850. Both available at Shreve, Crump & Low.

Magnified gold grid patterned suit $850, silk tie, $85, textured shirt $125. All available at BOSS Hugo Boss.

Strapless duchesse silk gown with lace insets at side seams, crystals and pearls, $2,100; magenta tulle flowing headpiece, available by special request. Both available at The Altered Bride. Platinum and diamond necklace, $29,000; pink sapphire and diamond earrings, $9,900. Both available at Shreve, Crump & Low. Burgundy white round bouquet with tulips, paperwhite narcissus, and Black Beauty roses by Winston Flowers.

Duchesse silk gown with blue and clear crystal embellishments, $2,700; royal blue fingertip-length veil, $195. Both available at The Altered Bride. Sapphire and diamond necklace, $28,700. Available at Shreve, Crump & Low. White rose and blue hyacinth bouquet by Winston's.

The Hampshire House
84 Beacon St.
617-227-9600

The Altered Bride
129 Newbury St.
617-859-8289

BOSS Hugo Boss
Copley Place
617-266-7492

Shreve, Crump & Low
330 Boylston St.
617-266-9100

Flower designs by Emma Curtis and Diane Darling
Winston Flowers
569 Boylston St.
800-457-4901

Models: Lauren Krol for Ford; Kaolin Bass, Seven, Jessica Carter and Jen Crecca for Click

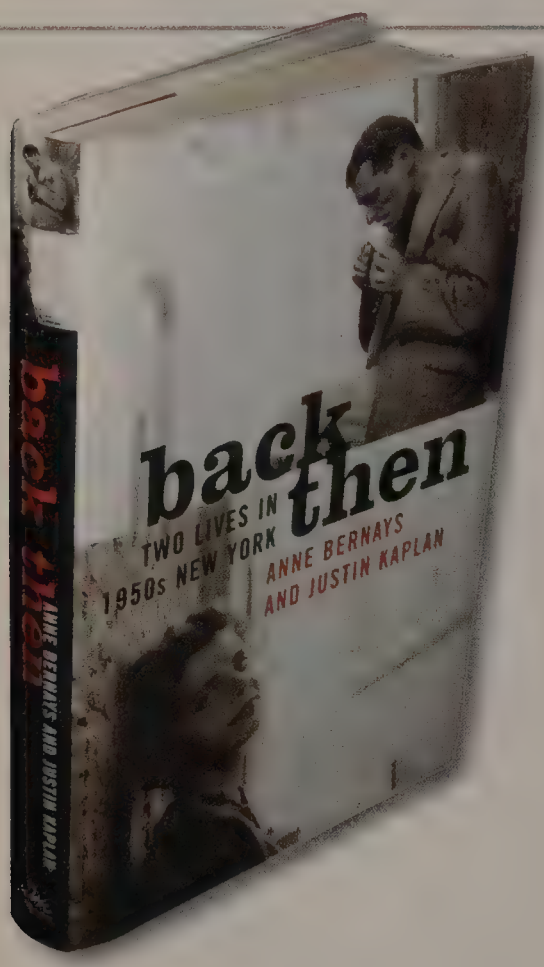
Hair: Yvette Medeiros for Maksou Salon
125 Broad St.
617-443-8633

Makeup: Sheila Young for The Beauty Mark
92B Pinckney St.
617-720-1555

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



LOVE IN LITERARY LAND

Back Then, a memoir by novelist Anne Bernays and her husband, Twain biographer Justin Kaplan, chronicles the New York coming of age of the couple who for decades have been Cambridge literary salon keepers.

Anne Bernays grew up rich in the 1940s on New York's East Side, a spirited, secular Jewish girl descended from Freud. Her father, Ed Bernays, was known as "the father of public relations." Justin Kaplan, orphaned early, grew up on the West Side. Swimming into their respective careers, she worked at patrician *Town & Country*, moving later to the ambitious literary magazine *discovery*. Kaplan, a Harvard graduate-school dropout, worked with Max Schuster of Simon & Schuster. Bernays' and Kaplan's eventually overlapping lives in New York's publishing industry were a hurly burly of energy, social verve, liberalism and sexual mischief. The rising-famous—like Norman Mailer and Bernays' former boyfriend, the fascinating, original writer Anatole Broyard—swarm through the book, young and ambitious. Amid this, the authors charmingly find each other. He writes, "She wore a rosy red wool coat, and she had a rosy aura." She writes, "There was something about him that adhered, like the smell of strong perfume on a woman who has left the room." They make work and love back then sound fun.

THINK MINK

Suphi Fur buys, sells, refurbishes and stores furs. At 2 Belmont Street, Watertown (617-926-8803).

So gorgeously are these long, glossy furs lined up, it's as if a flock of movie stars had checked their coats in an especially opulent cloakroom. Suphi, a store that sells, buys, repairs and reconfigures furs, has a rack of mouthwateringly glamorous, full-length minks. Colors include black, mahogany, leopard-patterned and golden, and as you sweep the universe with your mink, you'll find it surprisingly light. The fox coats come in sexy pale colors and possess a supreme fluffy loftiness, making you want to wear one to accept your Oscar. Mink and beaver in "sheared" form feel super velvety to the touch. Shearling lamb, in coats and jackets for both sexes, offers that modestly luxurious peek of furriness in linings and collars. Short of a magnificent full coat, you can experience fur in the form of lush linings, removable cuffs and collars, muffs, vests, scarves, hats—they even offer fur on workaday denim. Suphi can even meet fur needs for princely children.

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Clean as a whistle—since a company cannot recommend itself—Angie's List is a service that rates service companies. The listed companies' offerings range from help we all need, like carpenters, handymen and tax consultants, to the more particular: seasonal Santa Clauses, blinds cleaning, mailbox repair and pony rides. Customers rate the services from A to F. Angie's List calls itself an "anti-referral" service; you get the facts, then you decide. Ratings are based on "overall service experience," prices, quality of work, responsiveness, punctuality and professionalism (e.g. cleanliness and courtesy). A B or higher qualifies as a good recommendation. You can use your own subjective needs to weigh the grades that people assign to companies: For example, people who lack local resources may not mind paying a higher price; others might tolerate slowness if the workers are professional. Also valuable is Angie's ability to warn and inform of negatively rated companies. Best of all, the ever-flowing feedback from members using these services serves as a "probation officer" noting bad—and good—business practices. And when trouble strikes, Angie's can intervene and look for a solution.

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in this section:
Review: The Nightingale
Dish: Meatless matters
Tasty Tidbit: Death by Chocolate and other sinful events

REVIEW

The Nightingale Sings

Chef Michael Burgess' South End boîte offers satisfying, earthy food at restrained prices

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

The South End is awash in restaurants, from the highly touted Hamersley's Bistro to the red-hot Rouge. How does a new bistro muscle its way into the starting rotation among such distinguished company? The Nightingale's formula is simple and sure: Give people well-conceived and professionally executed food at restrained prices in attractive and comfortable surroundings, and the word will get out to this food-conscious neighborhood and beyond. And so it has.

The Nightingale is ensconced in a double storefront on Tremont Street, in a space that housed the original Hamersley's. That is appropriate, because chef Michael Burgess was the sous chef at Hamersley's at this very location before moving on to Eat in Somerville and Vox Populi in the Back Bay. Now back in his old neighborhood and commanding the kitchen in his own place, which he co-owns with Kevin Scheehan, Burgess acquits himself with justified confidence and surefire culinary instincts.

The two-section dining room is simply but attractively decorated and furnished and accommodates about 50 patrons. A handsome black Windsor bench, flanked by a huge vase of colorful fresh flowers, stands by the entrance. A small bar with four stools dominates the smaller section, while an open kitchen looks out on the larger. Black-and-white woodwork, lime-green walls adorned with modern paintings and prints, high ceilings and a glass-paned enclosure for the front door to keep the wintry weather outside all help to create a low-key but engaging ambiance. White butcher paper covers the tables, and Baroque sconces with bronzed putti (Baroque cupid-like figurines) holding teardrop-shaped lights grace the walls.

The Nightingale's food is honest and straightforward. A timbale of chicken livers and foie gras, served with small rounds of eggy brioche toast ($8), was accompanied by a sweet-tart onion marmalade. The mixture was mostly chicken liver, with a texture that was light and feathery rather than rich and buttery. A more substantial appetizer was the grilled lamb kabobs ($9) with tamarind glaze and bulgur wheat salad. Two skewers of tender, rare morsels of lamb were served inside a slightly sweet and aromatic glaze that sealed in their juicy goodness. The salad, moist and minty, was a refreshing counterpoint to the sweet succulence of the lamb.

Mushroom lovers in our party reveled in the Nightingale's wild mushroom tart ($8). Tender, flaky crust encased a quiche of wild mushrooms with an intense, almost exotic woodsy flavor. An accompanying watercress salad suffered from a common cress problem—tough, ubiquitous stems—but the truffle oil dressing rescued the dish. Garlic soup ($6) was less provocative than it sounded, with the garlic mellow rather than assertive. The medium-weight broth was accented with red pepper coulis and a Parmesan crouton. Finally among the appetizers, the pan-roasted cod cake with aioli and arugula salad ($7) was first-rate, moist and tasty, and in its lightness, almost a seafood counterpart to the chicken liver timbale. Strips of sweet roasted red peppers enlivened with vinaigrette made a colorful and satisfying garnish.

Among the main courses, one of the most successful was the *choucroute* with pork loin and garlic sausage ($17). This was a hearty winter dish, with mellow, mildly sweet and smoky sauerkraut—certainly not sour as the name suggests, and as far removed from the briny garnish typically served on ballpark hot dogs as a Mozart symphony is from a pop song. The pork arrived as two thick, juicy fillets, and the garlic sausage was a coarse, earthy blend of herbs and meat. Sweet carrots and fingerling potatoes rounded out this bountiful, filling platter. Grainy mustard and cornichons (tiny pickles), served on the side, transported us to Alsace, the origin of this traditional peasant dish. Stuffed roasted chicken ($17) was a satisfying rendition of

The Nightingale

578 Tremont St., Boston
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HOURS Lunch: Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2:30pm. Dinner: Sun.-Thu., 5:30-10pm, and Fri.-Sat., 5:30-10:30pm. Brunch: Sat.-Sun., 10am-2:30pm
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CREDIT CARDS MasterCard and Visa
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE no
PARKING on-street or valet
LIQUOR LICENSE beer and wine

Stuffed roasted chicken with green olives and fingerling potatoes.

Roasted cod loin with brandade is served over steamed spinach and garnished with a black olive vinaigrette.

this quintessential comfort food and, at the same time, was a creative and distinctive expression of a standard. A sizable half-chicken, it came with savory stuffing that had somehow been inserted between the crisp skin and moist flesh of the bird. A garnish of flavorful green olives and a marvelous mountain of tender young greens with a well-balanced vinaigrette were the perfect vegetable accompaniments.

The final main course we sampled was the roasted cod loin, served with brandade ($17). This thick cut of boneless cod, firm and flavorful, was mounted on a layer of classic brandade, a creamy-textured puree of salt cod and potatoes. An unexpected dividend hid beneath the brandade—a pleasantly bitter mound of tender spinach. Indeed, for once the layered presentation seemed to make sense, given the particular combination of ingredients. The dish was garnished with four dollops of what the menu called "black olive vinaigrette." More like a soupy tapanade, it was visually off-putting, but its warm, Mediterranean flavors significantly enhanced our enjoyment of the fish.

The Nightingale has a well-constructed wine list, with many offerings priced in the $20s, and glasses available from $5 to $7. We enjoyed a decent 1999 Cote de Rhone Cave des Papes, a generous pour at $6. So ample were the portions at the Nightingale that we had to summon extra capacity to accommodate dessert. The effort was worth it, for it would have been a shame to leave without sampling the chocolate hazelnut terrine ($7), served with crème anglaise and crushed praline. This rich, intensely chocolate, dense but moist confection was the definitive punctuation mark at the end of a substantial, thoroughly satisfying meal. iB

Chef Michael Burgess (shown here with a fishy friend) comes to the Nightingale by way of Eat and Vox Populi.

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DISH

Second Looks

Veggie Planet meets Planet of the "Aped"

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Chef Didi Emmons of Veggie Planet is scouting out new locations.

Beware of imitations, warns **Didi Emmons**. The forthcoming *Vegan Planet*, whose cover bears a striking resemblance to Emmons' *Vegetarian Planet*, is not, in fact, her sequel.

"Oh God, my old publishing company," sighs Emmons, who opened her restaurant **Veggie Planet** in Harvard Square in 2001, a couple of years after her first cookbook was published. "I don't even want to lay eyes on it. Maybe they tried to capitalize on *Veggie Planet*."

Maybe? Check it out yourself on Amazon.com. Meanwhile, Emmons' second book, *Entertaining for a Veggie Planet*, is set to be published in June. Maybe a new book calls for a new restaurant (or vice versa), because Emmons is looking at prospective sites in Jamaica Plain. Emmons says her future, "more creative than pizza" venue will open "maybe by next Christmas."

At **Harvest**, executive chef **Eric Brennan** is finally back in the kitchen after a long bout with back trouble. Fortunately, he had three sous chefs to keep the pot boiling while he was horizontal, and now he's behind the stove preparing some intriguing new menu items. Grilled cider-brined pork T-bone is served with house-made "winter sauerkraut"—grated cabbage, Macomber turnips, rutabaga and celery root fermented for seven days, then cooked with white wine, bay leaf, juniper and bacon. Brennan and his team are also hot-smoking Arctic char in-house and pickling their own beets.

Speaking of fish, **Legal Sea Foods** will soon open yet another restaurant in the space of the former **Giannino's**, behind the Charles Hotel. What's really news is that the Legal folks would dearly love to pitch a big tent in the brick courtyard to shelter an outdoor raw bar in the summer months. We'll keep you posted.

Trend watch: As well-regarded restaurants in the city and suburbs continue to jump on the value-added bandwagon of prix fixe menus (**Craigie Street Bistrot** in Cambridge, **Monica's** in the North End, **Lumiere** in West Newton), the softening-toward-mushy economy has apparently prompted other places to downscale their menus. **Barcode**, initially a showcase for former executive chef **George Leu**'s sophisticated French-Asian fusion dishes, now focuses on "more bar food...sandwiches, wraps, more American comfort food," according to assistant manager **Jim Rodgers**. It's both less expensive for diners and more cost-effective for Barcode's owners.

And **Margo Bistro**, whose first menu offered creative takes on New England seafood, has announced a new menu that includes chicken fingers and "mescaline salad." Have a nice trip.

Happy 20th birthday to **Grill 23**! While many local chefs were participating in the **Boston DineAround**, executive chef **Jay Murray** quietly traveled to New York City to cook up a James Beard House dinner for a sellout crowd. Expect a series of anniversary celebrations—wine dinners and other special events—to be announced soon.

Where are they now? Although chef **Ed Doyle**, formerly of **Aura** at the Seaport Hotel, had originally targeted April as the opening date for his own restaurant, he's now expecting a fall premiere, though he won't reveal any more details. **Billie Boudreau**, chef at the fabulous though short-lived **02129** in Charlestown and formerly pastry chef at **Seasons**, is living in the Berkshires and pondering a partnership with chef **Tom Tenuta** (of the former **Cena** near Symphony Hall) and his wife, **Loretta Huguez**, who opened **El Pelon Taqueria** in the Fenway several years ago. And **Stephen Lancaster**, whose full-flavored fare you may remember from the former **David's** in the Theater District, is now at the newly opened **Soho** in Brighton. iB

Serving Dish

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Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

EVENTS

Boston Wine Festival
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). www.bostonwinefestival.net. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Through April 11.* More than 50 events are scheduled at this annual festival, including seminars, vertical tastings, dinner dances and celebrity guest speakers.

Brewers Dinner
Cambridge Brewing Company, One Kendall Square, Cambridge (617-494-1994). Feb. 15, 6-10pm. $40. Enjoy a five-course menu paired with hand-crafted beers, including a flight of Blunderbuss barleywine.

Brunch and Belly Dancing
Argana, 1287 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-868-1247). Feb. 16, 12-2pm. $25. After brunch, learn how to belly dance from a professional.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Saturdays, 1-3pm. Through March 1. $45 per class. Chefs and cookbook authors demonstrate their specialties. •Feb. 8: **Philip Wang**, executive chef of Truc. •Feb. 15: **Seth Woods**, executive chef of Aquitaine Bistro.

Cooking with Gordon Hamersley
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-4130). Feb. 18, 6-9pm. $60. Chef **Gordon Hamersley** of Hamersley's Bistro demonstrates a menu that you can duplicate in your own home.

Dining for a Cure
Seven restaurants in the North End, Boston (781-431-0700). Feb. 9, 6pm. $150. Antico Forno, Sage, Prezza, Lucca, Bricco, Artu and Terramia will each offer a five-course menu with wine to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Dinner and a Movie
Science Street Café, Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Museum. Feb. 14, 6-10pm. See the premiere of the new Omni film *Coral Reef Adventure* and visit the Science Street Café for heart-shaped lobster ravioli and a red-hot Valentini martini.

Eddy and the Buzzard
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Feb. 15, 4-6:30pm. $50. Chef **Aaron DeRego** of the Back Eddy shares some favorite off-season recipes served alongside Buzzards Bay brews. Start off at the brewery for a tour and tasting.

The French Chef Dinner
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-876-0079). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Feb. 11, 7pm. $75. The American Institute of Wine and Food presents a dinner honoring the 40th anniversary of the first airing of Julia Child's *The French Chef*.

Gourmet Cooking 101
Maggiano's Little Italy, 4 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-542-3456). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 8. Free. Executive chef **James Drake** offers this one-day course on how to prepare simple yet delicious meals without gourmet prices.

Radius Winter Cooking Series
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-388-0259). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Feb. 8. Chef de cuisine **Gabriel Frasca** and *Food & Wine*'s best new chef **Amanda Lydon** show you how to prepare a romantic dinner for two.

Super Hunger Brunch
More than 50 participating restaurants. (617-427-5200). www.gbfb.org. *Feb. 8 and 9, 11am-2pm. $20, $25 or $35, depending on the restaurant.* At this benefit for the Greater Boston Food Bank, restaurants donate 100 percent of brunch proceeds to hunger relief efforts.

Tips on the Art of Love
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). Feb. 13, 5:30-7:30pm. $15. Indulge in wine, cheese and baguettes as you hear tips on the art of love—the rules of *galanterie*, the language of flowers and how to behave in a restaurant.

TASTY TIDBIT

MMM...CHOCOLATE

What is it about February that makes us crave chocolate? Could it be the nearly sub-zero temperatures? Or the impending Valentine's holiday? Or could it be that we simply use these facts as excuses to over-indulge? This month, there are more than a few cocoa-related events happening in the region. Some you have to travel to, like the Chocolate and Wine Tasting in Hull on Feb. 8. One, the Chocolate Trolley Tour, takes you to the chocolate, stopping at three locations (including Le Meridien's Chocolate Bar) for dessert. Bread & Circus offers Chocolate Fest, a day of demonstrations, samples and activities all related to chocolate, on Feb. 8. But our favorite is Death by Chocolate, a tasting of chocolate from Icing on the Cake, Geoff & Drew's Incredible Cookies, Cabot's Ice Cream and Pizzi Farm Stand, among others. •Chocolate Tasting: *Clarion Nantasket Beach Hotel and Conference Center, 45 Hull Shore Drive, Hull (781-925-9793). Feb. 8, 1-4pm. $25. Proceeds benefit Why Me Inc.* •Chocolate Tour: *Trolley Stop Store, corner of Boylston and South Charles streets, Boston (617-269-3626). Sat. and Sun., 11:30am and 12:45pm. Through March. $50.* •Chocolate Fest: *Bread & Circus/Whole Foods Market, 15 Washington St., Brighton, or 15 Westland Ave., Boston. Feb. 8, 11am-2pm.* •Death by Chocolate: *Sheraton-Newton Hotel, 320 Washington St., Newton (781-788-8384). Feb. 9, 1-5pm. $10. —J.S.*

Chocolate desserts at Le Meridien

DIDI EMMONS: RITA GRE

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agenda

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

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Dance Clubs, Dance,

Film, Gay & Lesbian,

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JULIE SHORT

Around Town, Children,

Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope

and Sports

SUN./FEB. 16–MON./FEB. 17

Education: Presidential Affairs

With all this talk about frivolities like love, chocolate and valentines, we thought we'd mention something a trifle more heavy-hitting that's happening over at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. Historians, journalists, family members of former presidents and members of their administrations will be in town to speak at the **Presidential Tapes Conference**. Guests will include Bob Woodward, Michael Beschloss, John Dean, David Eisenhower, Richard Reeves, Lynda Johnson Robb, Hugh Sidey and Brian Williams. Discussions will focus on what the taped presidential conversations reveal about crucial moments in the nation's history, such as the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement and the Nixon resignation. Former administrative staffers will share their views on listening to those recordings today in contrast with their first-hand experiences as participants in original discussions. And journalists who covered the White House will provide their perspectives on historic events now that they're privy to off-the-record Oval Office conversations. *Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). Feb. 16, 1-5:30pm; Feb. 17, 9am-5pm. Free (reservations required).*

THU./FEB. 6

CityScope: Party Like It's 1978!

In the current *Old Farmer's Almanac*, senior editor Mare-Anne Jarvela predicts "a major blizzard of the likes of the Blizzard of '78 hitting us the second week of February." The historic blizzard pounded the East Coast with 27.1 inches of snow, killing 54 people and inflicting $1 billion of damage upon the region. Of course, we're not looking for a storm that dangerous—but if it's going to be Ice Age cold, give us a bit of the white stuff, we say. You'll find us reflecting on Mother Nature's force with the rest of the IMPROPER gang, plus last issue's bachelorette covergal Kelly Malone of Mix 98.5, at Hurricane O'Reilly's **Blizzard of '78** party Feb. 6. There'll be a '70s fashion show produced by the IMPROPER's fashion editor, Samantha House (including a special performance of "Feva-Las Vegas" by "Elvis"), and prizes will be awarded for best '70s costume. FYI: Bone up on your blizzard trivia at a lecture by WBZ-TV meteorologist Bruce Schwoegler at the Old South Meeting House earlier that day. *150 Canal St, Boston (617-722-0161). 7pm. $5 (or bring winter apparel to donate to the Pine Street Inn). Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). 12:15pm. $5.*

TUE./FEB. 11–FRI./FEB. 14

CityScope: Sexy Singles

Has cupid left you high and dry this February? Forget the chubby little boy and take matters into your own hands by attending any of these Valentine's Day activities for singles on the prowl. On Feb. 11, make a last-ditch effort to end your singlehood at the **8-Minute Dating Cupid Parties** held at Limbo, Kennedy's Midtown and Fire and Ice. You can also join author Steve Almond for **Girls' Night Out**, a workshop on writing an effective personal ad at Salon 350. Or simply buy a date with a male bartender at the **Valentine's Day Male Auction** at Hurricane O'Reilly's Feb. 13. On Feb. 14, there's the **Flirt Fest** at the Big Easy or the **Red Party** at Felt (complete with a lingerie fashion show). Meanwhile, Lucy's restaurant in Brookline hosts a **Valentine's Day Singles Dinner**. After each course, diners switch tables and meet someone else. If all else fails, you can always catch **Wendy Liebman**'s performance at the Comedy Connection. She's sure to have some strong opinions on love and romance that may make you glad you're still single. *See CityScope on page 48 and Comedy on page 54 for more information.*

FRI./FEB. 14

Film: What's Up, Romeo?

This year, options are bountiful for a cinematic experience on Valentine's Day. Most guys know that it's the opening day of Ben Affleck's comic book adaptation, *Daredevil*. We hope some of you Y-chromosomers are forsaking opening night in favor of a romantic dinner. But for those of you bent on seeing a Valentine's Day movie, the Brattle Theatre offers ***Casablanca*** and the **Bugs Bunny Film Fest** with the Tasmanian Devil, Sylvester, Tweety, Yosemite Sam and crew. (Here's a tidbit to impress your date: Bugs' famous line "Of course you know this means war" was actually stolen from Groucho Marx.) If you've made other plans for Feb. 14, don't sweat it. The Bugs repertoire runs through Feb. 21. And on Sunday, Feb. 16, the Brattle celebrates its 50th anniversary by offering a Bugs matinee for only 80 cents. *40 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-6837).*

THROUGH FEB. 9

Performing Arts: What's Next?

The 30-year-old Swiss theater troupe Mummenschanz provides a rare form of wordless entertainment that is bound to render Bostonians speechless. A brand-new installment of the historic show, ***Mummenschanz Next,*** debuts at the Wilbur Theatre this month, and it's like nothing you've ever seen. The black-clad, five-member troupe of Mummenschanz (which roughly translates as "masquerade" in German) takes common everyday objects—like rolls of toilet paper, bean bags, cardboard boxes and long-handled scrub brushes—and turns them into fantastical puppet creatures. They get their message across without words, using mime, puppetry, masks, dance and theater, to tell intriguing, humorous stories. *Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787). Tue.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 9. $25-$57.*

SAT./FEB. 1–SAT./FEB. 22

Performing Arts: Love's Labor's Lost

Duplicitous lovers. Torrid affairs. The thin line between love and hate. These ultimate anti-Valentine's Day themes all come together in ***La Dispute***, a play by 18th-century French playwright Marivaux and directed by Anne Bogart at the American Repertory Theatre. The play is a sort of Adam and Eve story, set in a Garden of Eden filled with love and lust. The story goes like this: A group of meddling aristocrats try to simulate the conditions of the Garden of Eden to determine who is more unfaithful in love—men or women. Two men and two women, who share the unlikely distinction of having been raised in isolation from the opposite sex, are released into the same garden to see who falls for whom (and who cheats first). You can guess what happens—a massive love quadrangle. Some deep-thinkers will no doubt unearth the play's themes of biological determinism and developmental psychology, but we're happy to sit back just watch how badly love can stink. *64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). $34-$68.*

FRI./FEB. 14 AND SUN./FEB. 16

Classical Music: A Jazz Valentine

Still haven't made plans for the big day? We've got a harmonic outing sure to encourage amorous feelings from your date. Take him or her to hear to the music of one of the greatest jazz trumpeters of all time at Symphony Hall. The Handel and Haydn Society celebrates V Day with a concert titled **A Jazz Valentine: Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars**. For the program, Gillespie's legendary band performs jazz standards, and the Handel and Haydn Orchestra throws in a Baroque trumpet repertoire to honor the master trumpeter. *Feb. 14, 8pm; Feb. 16, 3pm. Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3605). $21-$56.*

SAT./FEB. 8

CityScope: Monte Carlo Night

You've certainly heard about the city's many fancy-schmantzy charity bashes, and you've probably even attended some. You know, the kind of party where women strut about in their Chanel dresses, men parade about in Hugo Boss, and Cristal is poured like water. But Cam and Paulina Neely's black-tie bash is taking it up another notch. Their bacchanal, **Betting on a Cause and a Cure**, is a Monte Carlo–themed fund-raiser at the Charles Hotel that supports three celebrity-led causes: the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care, the Leary Firefighters Foundation and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Celeb guests will include Michael J. Fox, Denis Leary, Dan Aykroyd and Ray Liotta. The evening includes a cocktail reception, dinner, gaming with celebrity dealers, a live auction, midnight entertainment and a chance to win a 2003 Mercedes CLK 320. A bonus: A room at the hotel and Sunday brunch are included in the ticket price. *Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-346-5900). 6pm. $2,500 per person.*

SAT./FEB. 8–SUN./FEB. 9

Tastings: C'mon Get Hungry

After compiling our list of more than 100 brunch spots in Greater Boston for our year-end issue, we've been on a real brunch kick. Our mouths water just thinking of eggs Benedict, blueberry pancakes and made-to-order omelettes, not to mention pitchers of spicy Bloody Marys. Now we finally have an excuse to get ourselves out of bed at a decent hour and indulge our fantasies. The Greater Boston Food Bank hosts its annual **Super Hunger Brunch**. "Do brunch" at one of more than 50 restaurants, including the Fireplace, Azure, the Bay Tower Room, Blu and the Capital Grille, for just $20, $25 or $35 (depending on the restaurant), and 100 percent of the proceeds will go to hunger relief efforts in the city. *(617-427-5200). www.gbfb.org. Feb. 8 and 9, 11am-2pm. $20, $25 or $35.*

SUN./FEB. 16–MON./FEB. 17

Film: Monsters and Mayhem

If you haven't yet experienced the annual **24-Hour Science Fiction Marathon**—1,440 solid minutes of sci-fi movies, contests, prizes and surprises—you're in for a treat. The monster mash began 27 years ago, and each year, the theater is sold out by more than 600 SF diehards and newcomers alike. While moviegoers are free to leave the theater for breaks, most don't want to. The crowd is dedicated (there is a costume contest in the wee hours of the morning), and generally well behaved. You can expect some heckling of the B movies and the occasional one-liner shouted out. This year's line-up fuses new movies and older movies, blockbusters and bombs. The following are booked so far: *Equilibrium, Metropolis, Minority Report, Screamers* and *Seconds. Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2500). $50. www.bostonsci-fi.com.*

TOP LEFT: WARNER BROTH

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Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, FEB 5

American Heart Association Raffle

American Heart Association, (800-662-1701, ext. 3103). www.heart.org. *$100.* The American Heart Association's annual Heart Ball isn't until April, but tickets for the associated raffle are on sale now through March 28. This year's grand prize is a 2003 Mercedes-Benz E320 sedan, and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. How d'ya like them odds?

Stitch and Bitch

Redline, 59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). Wed. nights, 6-8pm. Free. Revive the tradition of the stitch-and-bitch by drinking cocktails while knitting. Niki Bronstein, owner of Woolcott & Co. knit shop, gives a brief demonstration each week.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Blizzard of '78 Party

Hurricane O'Reilly's, 150 Canal St, Boston (617-722-0161). 7pm. Hurricane O'Reilly's celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Blizzard of '78 with a '70s party. Prizes will be awarded for best '70s costumes and a fashion show will capture the spirit of the decade. Bring winter apparel or $5 to donate to the Pine Street Inn. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and Mix 98.5.

These Shoes Were Made for Walking? Opening Reception

Tozzer Library Gallery, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, 11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *5-7pm. Free.* The Peabody Museum celebrates its new exhibit, which displays shoes from around the world, with a free opening reception.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

Green Street Studios Third Annual February Fund-Raiser

Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-864-3191). 8pm. Through Feb. 8. $25; $15 student. Green Street Studios' annual benefit includes performances and choreography by Fantezi Kreyol Dance Co., EgoArt Inc., Debra Bluth and others. Live music is provided by Jerry Bussiere and Igor Tkachenko.

On Location: Building the Future of the ICA

Max Ultimate Food and Lou Jones Studio, 100 Magazine St., Boston (617-927-6612). www.icaboston.org. *VIP cocktail party, 7:30-9pm. Main event, 9pm-12am. VIP, $125; New Group ICA members, $55; ICA members, $75; nonmembers, $100.* The New Group of the Institute of Contemporary Art hosts this annual benefit to raise funds to commission temporary public art in Boston. The event includes a raffle with vacation packages and works from local artists. Food and cocktails will be served, and the Patiokings provide live music to help you get your groove on.

Valentine's Wine Tasting and Silent Auction

The Lyceum, 43 Church St., Salem (978-762-4878). www.nsarc.org. *7:30-10pm. $50.* The North Shore Association for Retarded Citizens holds its annual silent auction to raise money for its legal and advocacy programs. Auction items include wine, artwork, gift baskets and trips.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

BHCA Black and White Ball

Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (617-227-1922). 7pm-1:30am. $125; $100 without the pre-dance reception. The Beacon Hill Civic Association's annual black tie and mask-optional soiree kicks off with a buffet dinner and a cocktail reception, with dessert and dancing from 9:30pm-1:30am.

Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology kicks off its new exhibition of shoes from around the world with a free opening reception Feb. 6. Clockwise from upper left: Sandals from Bosnia; Alaskan mukluks; French wooden dress sabots and Sioux parade moccasins.

Betting on a Cause and a Cure Benefit

Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-346-5900). 6pm. $2,500. Cam and Paulina Neely host a Monte Carlo Weekend at the Charles Hotel to benefit the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care, the Leary Firefighters Foundation and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Guests will include Fox, Leary, Dan Aykroyd and Ray Liotta. The evening includes a reception, dinner, gaming with celebrity dealers, a live auction and a chance to win a 2003 Mercedes CLK 320. A room at the hotel and brunch on Sunday are included in the ticket price.

Cherchez l'Amour Gala

The Harvard Club, 374 Comm. Ave., Boston (508-276-1200). 8:30pm-1:30am. $40 in advance, $50 at the door. Maybe you'll find love at this party, which includes a martini reception, hors d'oeuvres and swing music by Herb Heard's Big Band. Attire is creative black tie, although anything red will stand you in good stead. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Hearts for the Home Benefit

Seaport Hotel, Northern Ave., Boston (617-524-3116). www.italianhome.org. *7:30pm-1am. $50.* Gourmet food, a silent auction and dancing are all part of this benefit for the Italian Home for Children.

Super Hunger Brunch

Various restaurants around the city (617-427-5200, ext. 5050). 11am-2pm. Through Feb. 9. $20, $25 or $35. More than 45 restaurants participate in this annual benefit brunch. All proceeds go to the Greater Boston Food Bank and Share our Strength's Operation Frontline.

Valentine's Day Singles Dance

Best Western TLC Hotel, Totten Pond Road, Waltham (617-261-9600). 8:30pm-12:30am. $12. DJ Matt Fortin spins tunes at this V-Day singles dance.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Death by Chocolate

Sheraton-Newton Hotel, 320 Washington St., Newton (781-788-8384). 1-5pm. $10 adults, $5 children ages 12 and under. Chefs from the Sheraton-Newton Hotel, the Icing on the Cake, Geoff & Drew's Incredible Cookies, Cabot's Ice Cream & Restaurant and others compete to create the tastiest chocolate treats. Categories include best chocolate cake, brownie and cookie—and you're the judge. All proceeds benefit local charities.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

8-Minute Dating Cupid Parties

General party: Limbo, 49 Temple St., Boston (617-338-0280); Kennedy's Midtown, 42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333); Fire and Ice, 205 Berkeley St., Boston (617-482-3473). www.8minutedating.com. *All parties start at 7:08pm. $28.88, $33.88 after Feb. 6.* Singles looking to end their singlehood before Valentine's Day are invited to attend 8 Minute Dating's Cupid Party. The party comes to three venues in one night, with events at Limbo (men and women ages 30-40), Kennedy's Midtown (Jewish professionals, men ages 22-32, women ages 21-28) and Fire and Ice (African-American professionals ages 25-35). The format is the same at all events: Participants have eight eight-minute dates over the course of the evening, with mingling after the dating's done.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

Greater Boston Diabetes Society Winter Fund-Raiser

The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-731-2972). 6-9pm. $20. Your ticket to this benefit buys appetizers, pool and a chance to bid in the bachelor auction.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

Valentine's Day Male Auction

Hurricane O'Reilly's, 150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161). 9:30pm. $5. Dates with male bartenders from around the city are auctioned off to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

Chansons d'Amour: Love and the Elements in Medieval Song

The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). www.frenchlib.org. *7pm. $25 FLCC members; $35 non-members.* This Valentine's concert, presented by the Boston Camerata and performed in French, explores the state of love in France during the Middle Ages. A champagne reception and hors d'oeuvres follow the performance.

Flirt Fest

The Big Easy, 1 Boylston Place, Boston (781-444-7771). www.bostoneventguide.com. *9pm. $20 in advance; $25 at the door.* Break out your best and worst pick-up lines to win prizes. An award will also be given for the most flirtatious outfit. Open beer and white chocolate martini bar until 10:30pm.

The Red Party at Felt

Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-3555). 11pm. Free admission. Click Models and Belle du Jour team up to present a Valentine's Day lingerie fashion show. Sponsor Moet & Chandon provides the bubbly, and Latex Mania of New York demonstrates its body painting expertise.

Lucy's Valentine's Day Singles Dinner

Lucy's, 242 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-5829). 7:30pm. Lucy's offers a Valentine's Day dinner with a catch: After each course, diners will switch tables and meet someone else. The restaurant will have an equal mix of men and women, and wines will also be paired with each course.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

Something in Red: Valentines Dance for Women

Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester (781-648-0722). 8pm-12am. $10. Gay and lesbian singles are invited to come dance to music by DJ Dee. Cash bar.

Valentine's Argentine Tango Dance

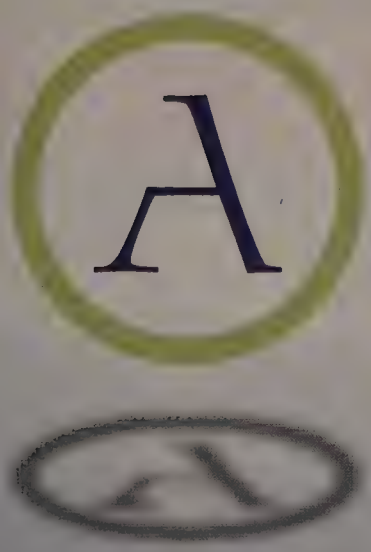
VFW Mt. Auburn Post, 688 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-699-6246). www.bostontango.org. *9:30pm-1:30am. $12.* Presented by the Tango Society of Boston, this dance includes complimentary champagne, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Elegant dress.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

Luz Cosmetics/HC Studio Bridal Beauty Event

HC Studio, 30 Station St., Brookline Village, (617-291-8327). www.luzcosmetics.com. *6-8pm. Free.* Brides-to-be can view an array of hair and make-up ideas for the big day. Refreshments will be served.

The Beacon Hill Civic Association holds its annual black-tie Black and White Ball Feb. 8 at the Four Seasons Hotel.



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Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

Get a JUMP START on your weekend! In fact, blow off work on Friday with R&B, Jazz and Soul bands! DJ Ricky spins 10pm-2am!

Every Friday Night, 6pm

Join us right after work with the best band in Boston, Central Basement! Hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party! DJ Johnny C will keep you dancing 'til 2am!

Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way! DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

Wednesday, February 12th, 6:30 pm

Join Channel 7 Reporters SEAN HENNESSEY and FRANCES RIVERA as they host a fundraiser for the GREATER BOSTON DIABETES SOCIETY (GBDS). Stick to New Year's resolutions to increase your charitable giving. Support a great organization whose mission is to prevent Type 2 Diabetes in high-risk Boston area school children. Meet a special someone just in time for Valentines Day. Beat the winter blues with a midweek night out. All proceeds support GBDS's Project NUWAVE. Tickets available in advance by calling GBDS at 617-731-2972. For more information, please visit: www.gbdsonline.org

Tuesday, February 13th, 7pm

FULL MOON PARTY! Join us for The Rack's monthly Full Moon parties featuring the R&B and Jazz sounds of Black Sole! Howl at the moon for the 2nd of 12 great parties The Rack will host this year. The Love Moon! It will be the highlight of your month! Complimentary appetizers and billiards. Sponsored by Smirnoff Black. RSVP to heather@therackboston.com

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THE RACK

performing arts

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Submit updated press releases by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of Faneuil Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

American One-Act Operas
Allen Hall at the Community Music Center of Boston, 34 Warren Ave., Boston (617-482-7494). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Feb. 9, 4pm. Free. The Community Music Center of Boston presents pieces from *West Side Story*, *Candide* and *Follies*, as well as *The Telephone* by Gian Carlo Menotti and *A Hand of Bridge* by Samuel Barber.

As Bees in Honey Drown
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat, 4 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Feb. 14-March 2. $25-$35. This Obie Award–winning comedy follows a rookie novelist as he is swept into New York's A-list scene after being hired to write the memoirs of a glamorous celebrity who is not all that she seems.

Aura Dulza: The Breath of the Breeze
French Library and Cultural Center/Alliance Francaise, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). www.frenchlib.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Copley, or Orange Line to Back Bay. Feb. 14, 7pm. $35.* This program, presented in French, examines different memories of love in the French Middle Ages.

Cabaret
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-2999). Feb. 13, 7:30pm. $24.50-$43.50. Winner of four 1998 Tony Awards, the story of the infamous Kit Kat Club is brought to Lowell as part of the Lowell Five Performing Arts Series.

Cosmic Spelunkers Give and Take
Gallery Diablo, 1514 Tremont St., Mission Hill, Boston (617-287-1072). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle or Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. Feb. 6, 7pm. $5 donation suggested. This mime and poetry performance troupe has created a new theater piece incorporating members' own poetry and choreography. It's a meditation on exchange, be it buying or selling, bartering or thieving, gift giving or grifting.

Dodging Bullets
The Theatre Coop, 227 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Feb. 7 and 8, 8pm. $10.* In one act, 30-something Miles and his therapist Carla attempt to understand the deplorable state of his love life. Discussions with the playwright follow each performance.

It's All True
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 2pm (Feb. 12 and March 5 only); Wed. and Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Feb. 7-March 8. $22-$38.* This show is Canadian playwright Jason Sherman's vision of Orson Welles' struggle to mount his 1937 pro-union play *The Cradle Will Rock* after the Works Progress Administration yanked its funding.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Sorenson Center for the Arts, Babson College, Wellesley (781-239-5682). www.shakespeare.org. *Feb. 6, 7pm. $12.* Shakespeare & Company performs this romantic comedy involving four young Athenian lovers. Bedazzled by the magic spells cast upon them by the fairy kingdom, confusion and humorous chaos result.

Negro Spirituals from Slave Times
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough Ave., Boston (617-267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 9, 5:30pm. $6. The Reverend Dr. Celestine Reid and the LovTones explore this period of black history through music, movement and narrative.

Rags
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Feb. 7-March 16. $15-$21. This musical depicts the journeys of six Jewish immigrants searching for the American dream in New York City's garment district at the turn of the century.

Experimental dance company Monkeyhouse presents *Agroof: An Odyssey of Amorous Adventures in B* at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center Feb. 14.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu., 5 and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to get its point across with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

From Slave Girl to Mistress
Durrell Hall, Cambridge Family YMCA, 820 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-964-7684). Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 7 and 9pm. Feb. 11-15. $15. Commedia dell' arte troupe i Sebastiani revives the ancient form of Italian improvisational theater in this romantic comedy, in which father and son are both enamored with a gorgeous slave girl.

Golda's Balcony
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont Ave., Boston (866-637-3353). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Wed., 2 and 8pm; Sat., 3 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 22. $27-$38. In this play set around the time of the bloody 1973 Yom Kippur War, Golda Meir, Israel's prime minister from 1969-1974, faces a desperate situation in which Israel's fate is at stake.

Greetings from Planet Girl
Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (781-648-5963). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Sq. Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Through Feb. 23. $12-$15. Founding member Cyndi Freeman returns with five other comedic vixens for an intergalactic journey of music and comedy.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch
Axis, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-432-NEXT). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA . 7:30pm. Feb. 5-8, 7:30pm. $25. This Obie award–winning off-Broadway hit tells the story of Hedwig Schmidt, an East German rock 'n' roll goddess who is also the victim of a botched sex-change operation.

Howie the Rookie
Black Box Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., 7:30pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 15. $24-$29. Mark O'Rowe's 2000 Irish Times New Play of the Year is set in Dublin's gangland and deals with a feud of honor in which enemies and allies are interchangeable.

La Dispute
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 22. $17-$57. In this comedy written by 18th-century French dramatist Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux, an experiment tests the fidelity of couples, resulting in passion, desire and, inevitably, betrayal.

Mamma Mia!
The Colonial Theater, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through March 2. $27-$87. The story of 40-something mom Donna and her daughter, Sophie, is told through ABBA's pop music hits.

Mummenschanz Next
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 9. $25-$57. The Swiss theater troupe Mummenschanz uses mime, puppetry, masks, dance and theater to tell a story.

Remuda
Boston Playwright's Theater, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Cambridge (617-257-7480). www.industrialtheater.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Feb. 8. $15.* Industrial Theater presents William Donnelly's play about two shiftless brothers who find their lives upended when they meet a woman bearing baked goods.

Scooby-Doo in Stage Fright
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 11am, 3pm and 7pm; Sun., 11am, 2pm and 5pm. Through Feb. 9. $15-$38. The chicken-hearted Great Dane and his mystery-solving gang entertain theater-goers with hijinks, groovy music and magical special effects.

7x7: The New Works Festival
Leverett Old Library Theatre, Plympton and Mill streets, Boston (617-257-7480). www.industrialtheater.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Feb. 15. $15.* Industrial Theater presents this festival featuring seven playwrights' works that focus on the mysterious number seven.

The Shape of Things
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.speakeasystage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Through Feb. 22. $28-$31.* The SpeakEasy Stage Company presents Neil LaBute's play about the nature of love and art.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Waiting for Godot
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 9. $27-$35. The New Repertory Theatre celebrates the 50th anniversary of Samuel Beckett's tragi-comedy about the search for meaning in the post-nuclear world.

The Will Rogers Follies
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). MBTA: Green Line to Longwood or Fenway. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 23. $12-$18. The Tony Award–winning theater production recounts the colorful life and times of the "cowboy-philosopher and self-styled 'poet lariat.'"

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Animal Farm
Laurie Theater at Springold Theater Center, 415 South St., Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). www.brandeis.edu/theater. *Tue.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 10am and 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2 and 7pm. Feb. 11-16. $12-$16.* The timeless satire of a yard of farm animals' attempt at democracy and the autocracy that ensues.

It's a Wonderful Afterlife
Hasty Pudding Theatricals, Harvard University, Cambridge (617-495-5205). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm; Sun., 3pm. Feb. 13-March 16. $25-$27. Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals puts a creative spin on life after death. When harsh economic times result in the clouds' silver lining being held together by duct tape, the (land) Lord threatens to evict all from heaven and hell if the rent is not paid.

Dance

Agroof: An Odyssey of Amorous Adventures in B
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400, ext. 10). www.kkrolak.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Feb. 14, 8pm. $12*

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Experimental dance company Monkeyhouse presents a program of nine solos and duets that comedically explore the time-honored tradition of courtship and mating.

Apokalypsis
Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-5000). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Feb. 14 and 15, 8pm; Feb. 16, 6pm. $15-$30. Prometheus Dance Company presents a restaged and expanded version of *Apokalypsis*, a performance that was named one of the 10 best dance performances of 2000 by the *Boston Globe*.

Martha@Sanders
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-876-4275). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 8, 8pm; Feb. 9, 3pm. $22 and $30. In this Boston premiere, choreographer, director, dancer and actor Richard Move pays tribute to 20th-century dance icon Martha Graham with a series of monologues, impersonations and interpretations of her signature dances.

Peter and the Wolf
Tsai Performance Center, Boston University, 685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (617-353-8724). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Feb. 9, 3pm. $20. The Boston Music Viva players and Northeast Youth Ballet present a newly choreographed version of Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* as part of BMV's 11th annual family concert.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Feb. 11-March 23. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5 and 9pm; Sun. 3 and 7pm. $45-$55.* In its return to Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Tango Buenos Aires
Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, Boston (617-679-0810). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. www.worldmusic.org. *Feb. 15, 7:30pm. $25-$40.* Considered one of the most authentic tango companies in the world, Tango Buenos Aires features six couples performing the drama and romance of the tango to a six-piece tango orchestra.

Valentine's Renaissance Dance
Jewett Hall, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-661-3353). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 14, 7:30pm. $8. Charles Garth, dancer and historian, joins the Renaissonics in a celebration of the dances of the 16th and 17th centuries. All are invited and no partner is needed to watch and learn.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: stand-up •Sundays: Boston's wildest open-mike night.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $12 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Feb. 5, 8pm, $12: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •Feb. 6, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Feb. 7, 8 and 10:15pm, $20: Bobby Slayton, the Pitbull of Comedy, from HBO's *The Mind of a Married Man* •Feb. 8, 8 and 10:15pm, $20: Bobby Slayton •Feb.10, 8pm, $12: Kevin Knox hosts Amateur Showcase •Feb.11, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Feb. 12, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins •Feb.13, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Feb. 14, 8 and 10:15pm, $22.50: Wendy Liebman, voted Best Female Stand-up Comic in 1997 •Feb. 15, 8 and 10:15pm, $21: Wendy Liebman; 12am, $20: Katt Williams from *Friday After Next* and *NYPD Blue* •Feb. 16, 7 and 9:30, $20: Katt Williams •Feb. 17, 8pm, $12: Kevin Knox hosts Amateur Showcase •Feb.18, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Feb.19, 8pm, $12: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Feb. 5: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Dot Dwyer, Mary Beth Cowan, Jessica Casiano, Deb Farrar-Parkman, Jen Ruelas and Alana Devich •Feb. 6: Mindi Fay •Feb. 7: Piston Honda, T.J. Griffin, Eric Riley Moore, Tissa Hami, Mina Hartong, Larry Murphy and Dan Sally • Feb. 8: T.J. Griffin, Dan Sally, Mandy Donovan and Eric Riley Moore •Feb. 9: Tony Moschetto, Jason Roberts, Kyria Abrahams and Kevin Carson • Feb. 12: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Art Januario, Jennifer Griffith, John Bussey, Peter Dutton and Tissa Hami •Feb. 13: Tim McIntire, Art Januario, Dan Sally, Denise Robichau, Walter Dixon and Tony Moschetto •Feb. 14: Piston Honda, Mary Beth Cowan, Rich Gustus, Peter Dutton and Nicole Luperelli •Feb. 15: "Alexander King of Fools," with Rich Gustus, Larry Star, Mikko Cook and Alana Devich •Feb. 16: Sam Walters, Patrick Vinci, Rich Gustus, Mary Beth Cowan, Tom Dustin and Andy O'Fish.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •Thursdays, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •Feb. 6, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox •Feb. 7 and 8, 8:45pm: Tom Hayes, Steve Bjork and John Turco •Feb. 13, 8:30pm: Tony V •Feb. 14 and 15: Tony V, Mike Katrobis and Artie Januario.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. Open mike for creative talent.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 and 10pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10pm. $15-$20.* Enjoy improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe celebrates its 20th anniversary. •Wed. 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series in February features David Mogolov, Jeremy Brothers and Harry Gordon •Thu. 8pm, $12: Micetro; 10pm, $5: The Great and Secret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri.8pm, $12: Convoy. A trucker's adventure across the American heartland. 10pm, $12: TheatreSports. Two teams of improvisers face off •Sat. 6pm, $12: Quest. A comedy show designed for the whole family. 8 and 10pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage. A comedy show designed for the whole family •Sun. 7pm, $5: Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree. Three shows in one with an open jam.

COMEDY SHOWS

Jimmy Tingle in the Promised Land
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Feb. 5 and 12, 3pm; Feb. 8-10 amd 15-17, 8pm. $20. Jimmy Tingle sounds off on politics in the post–September 11 world.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding
Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical. Feb. 8 and 15, 7:30pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance into Matrix. As a spoof on the traditional Italian wedding, this play incorporates impromptu dialogue and audience participation.

The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron?
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 9. $19.50-$39.50. What do women want? Actor/writer **Robert Dubac** ransacks his brain to answer the age-old question in this humorous examination of male-female relationships.

The Sopranos' Last Supper
Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical. Feb. 21, 7pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance into Matrix. Indulge in this interactive dinner theater show that combines Italian-American food, music and the culture of a Mob family.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). www.stashcomedyjam.com •Feb. 16, 8pm: Stand-up comedy, open mike, improvisational comedy and blues music hosted by Stan Dzierzeski.

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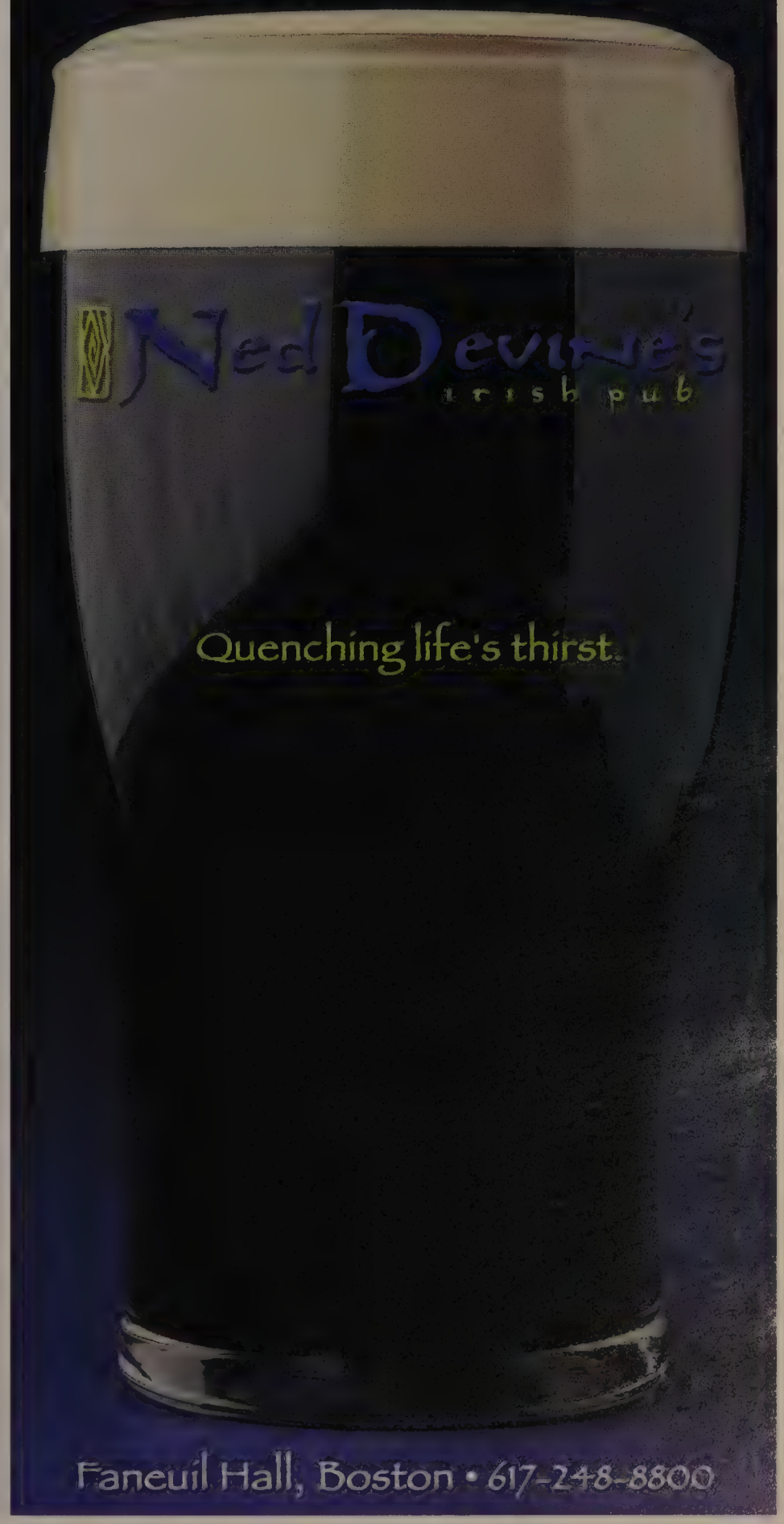

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Movies

THE ROAD TO LONDON

Chan and Wilson kick it old school in *Shanghai Knights*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Jackie Chan reached blockbuster status in the United States in the *Rush Hour* movies with Chris Tucker. But Chan's brand of action-comedy made its most creative and amusing transition to Hollywood in another buddy comedy—the more moderately successful *Shanghai Noon*, his Wild West pairing with the inimitable Owen Wilson. That thrill ride threw a determined Chinese Imperial Guard in search of a kidnapped princess together with an eager but inept train robber in 1880s Nevada. It put its stars through familiar mismatched-buddy movie paces, but the chemistry between businesslike Chan and easily distracted Wilson was so funny and affectionate the movie was a blast.

Chan and Wilson reprise their roles of Chon Wang and Roy O'Bannon in *Shanghai Knights,* and despite a slow start, the follow-up is another example of how their chemistry freshens up the most worn out material. The sequel starts with an evil English lord (Gary Oldman wannabe Aidan Gillen) murdering Wang's father (Kim Chan) and stealing the treasured Chinese Imperial Seal seal. Wang's sister (Fann Wong) gets word to him in Carson City, and Wang stops off in New York to grab Roy, whom Wang is stunned to find working as a "waiter-gigolo" after badly investing the pair's money. The three meet up in Victorian London to seek revenge on the killer, and they turn up plenty of malice in the palace.

Jackie Chan (bottom) and Owen Wilson combine comic relief and action as they avenge a murder/ robbery in *Shanghai Knights.*

But don't expect anything special from the plot. That's not the meat of *Shanghai Knights*. It's the bread. The meat is in the scrapes Wang and Roy get into and in the differences of opinion they have (mainly over Roy's crush on Wang's sister). And most of all it's in how Chan and Wilson play those scrapes and beefs. Considering that each actor just came off excruciating buddy comedies—Chan with Jennifer Love Hewitt in *The Tuxedo* and Wilson with Eddie Murphy in *I Spy*—it's obvious that chemistry between stars isn't a science—it's kismet that's either there or isn't.

It's hard to believe any other pair could do so much with the comedy schtick *Shanghai Knights* dusts off. At one point, Wang and Roy sneak into the evil lord's mansion, where real eyes spy at them through paintings and they keep ending up on different sides of a revolving fireplace that leads to a secret sanctum. Wang fights off henchmen (in one of many outstanding martial arts sequences) while Roy wonders where he went. Later, they end up tied together upside down over the Thames, bickering as they try to escape drowning. This stuff is so old, you keep expecting the Three Stooges to run in, yet Chan and Wilson still wring laughs from this vintage comedy-team material.

Although *Shanghai Knights* succeeds in comic archeology, and although it's silly to expect historical accuracy from a series that's made a running gag of Roy mishearing Chon Wang's name as "John Wayne," the historical free-for-all in *Shanghai Knights* can annoy. At times, you're not sure the movie-makers even realize they're being inaccurate, as when they use ragtime music in the 1880s New York scenes. Then there's the intentional and distracting use of 1960s British Invasion songs (like the Who's "Magic Bus" and The Zombies' "Time of the Season") for the London action. At least the too-early references to motion pictures and automobiles and the run-ins with Charlie Chaplin (Aaron Johnson), Arthur Conan Doyle (Tom Fisher) and Jack the Ripper (Oliver Cotton) have comic payoffs.

In all the best ways, though, Chan and Wilson's Shanghai movies are successors to Bob Hope and Bing Crosby's legendary Road pictures. If you watch any of those today, you might be struck by how flimsy the stories are, but amazed at how much charge Hope and Crosby's camaraderie brings to them. The same is true here. *Shanghai Noon* was hardly a big hit, so the decision to make *Shanghai Knights* may have stemmed more from the first's quality than its balance sheet. I'd like to think everyone involved realized they'd hit upon something special and didn't want to stop. I'm ready for more. **iB**

Shanghai Knights★★★

Directed by David Dobkin. Written by Alfred Gough and Miles Millar. With Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Fann Wong, Aidan Gillen and Donnie Yen. Rated PG-13. Touchstone Pictures.

New Releases
BY PAUL SHERMAN

About Schmidt ★★★
Alexander Payne's latest doesn't have the satiric sting of his previous *Citizen Ruth* and *Election*, but it never tries to. Instead, it's a quietly disarming story of a 66-year-old Omaha insurance executive (Jack Nicholson) who's put out to pasture by his company and whose wife suddenly dies, and who discovers something he would have never admitted to himself before: that he doesn't like how his life turned out. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Adaptation ★★★½
Another inspired mindbender from the guys who made *Being John Malkovich*. This time, director Spike Jonze and writer Charlie Kaufman have made a movie loosely based on a book, but it's also a movie about trying to film that book. It follows Kaufman (a terrific Nicolas Cage) in his desperate struggle to turn Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* into a screenplay, and comes up with the funniest, shrewdest peek into the creative process in years. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Antwone Fisher ★★★
Denzel Washington's directorial debut doesn't stray very far from putting a more feel-good spin on the *Good Will Hunting* formula, and Washington himself plays the Navy shrink who, a la *GWH*, learns from his patient as he helps him work through his emotional baggage. But the movie's no-frills sincerity works, and as the title character, newcomer Derek Luke has an endearing lack of polish. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Catch Me If You Can ★★★
Run, Leo, Run. DiCaprio plays a 1960s teen con man in a Steven Spielberg movie that, refreshingly, just tries to be brisk entertainment. DiCaprio's character turns to cons—bank fraud, impersonating an airline pilot and a doctor—after suffering the downward mobility of his family and the break-up of his parents (Christopher Walken, Nathalie Baye). It can seem like the shallow version of *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, but it's an intoxicating ride. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a later Kander-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of this lusty, laugh-filled spoof of Roaring Twenties Chicago in which a singing star (and murderess), a star wannabe (and murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender of murderesses) all fight for the spotlight and the headlines. Renée Zellweger is the wannabe who discovers murder was a great career move, Catherine Zeta Jones is the singer trying to keep her name alive while in jail and a surprisingly amusing Richard Gere is the upscale shyster with all the answers. All three know just how to manipulate truth, justice and the American way through performance. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

City of God ★★★½
Remember the lifesaving jolt of adrenalin Eric Stoltz shoots into Uma Thurman in *Pulp Fiction*? To moviegoers numbed by the blah forgettableness of most movies, this Brazilian dynamo is that jolt. The title refers to the Rio de Janeiro slum, as godforsaken a place as you'll ever find, where the action takes place. But the movie is as rich as its setting is impoverished. Bold and brutal from start to finish, its dog-eat-dog world and stylistic energy recall *Mean Streets* and *Amores Perros* as its stories stories crisscross and bubble into each other, and as 18-year-old hero Rocket (Alexandre Rodrigues) tries to get out of his crime-rocked neighborhood alive. Full of humanity, ambiguity and belligerence, it's a wonderfully orchestrated car crash that you can't take your eyes off of. (At Kendall Square.)

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind ★★★
Based on Chuck Barris' "unauthorized autobiography," George Clooney's directorial debut is an absurd trip inside the fried mind of the *Dating Game* and *Newlywed Game* creator, *Gong Show* host and part-time CIA assassin. What's that, you didn't know Chuckie Baby knocked off 30-odd undesirables in 15 years of clandestine service to Uncle Sam? Well, maybe he did and maybe he didn't. That's the fun thing about the movie, which captures the patchwork structure and stream-of-consciousness tussle with reality of Barris' book. Clooney has *Adaptation* screenwriter Charlie Kaufman handling script chores here and a fittingly frazzled Sam Rockwell as Barris. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Far From Heaven ★★
Todd Haynes' drama lovingly recreates the glossy world of Douglas Sirk, whose brilliant 1950s Technicolor melodramas, such as *All That Heaven Allows*, meticulously presented post-war suburbia as a superfi-

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cially rich yet emotionally stifled community. Haynes attempts to up the ante by surrounding housewife Julianne Moore with a husband (Dennis Quaid) no longer able to deny his homosexuality and a potential interracial and class-crossing romance with a sensitive black gardener (Dennis Haysbert). But save for the overt mention of homosexuality, Sirk's critiques of narrow-mindedness covered all of this ground before. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Gangs of New York ★★
Daniel Day Lewis is the epitome of a charismatic villain in Martin Scorsese's long-awaited 19th-century story. So why is this epic still just a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing but production design and more production design? Maybe it's the familiar this-time-it's-personal plot with Leonardo DiCaprio as an Irish-American returning to the Lower East Side to wreak vengeance on Lewis, who killed his dad (Liam Neeson). Maybe it's the wasting of Cameron Diaz as the woman each man covets. Maybe it's Scorsese's obsession with minute historical detail, at the expense of conveying what it's all about. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

A Guy Thing ★★½
A *Meet the Parents* knock-off that's surprisingly enjoyable. The central plot involving Jason Lee, fiancée Selma Blair and her cousin Julia Stiles (with whom Lee thinks he's slept after his bachelor party) is unremarkable at its center. But much of the comedy comes from supporting players such as James Brolin as Blair's hard-nosed dad, Thomas Lennon as Lee's lovelorn brother and Larry Miller as a perpetually disgusted clergyman. Lee also fares much better here than he did with a similar role in the painful *Stealing Harvard*. It's not original, it's often not very funny, but this romantic comedy musters more charm than most McMovies manage. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Just Married ★★
It must be fear of being a chick flick that causes this romantic comedy to inject toilet humor at just about every opportunity. Too bad, too, because Brittany Murphy and Ashton Kutcher have an appealing chemistry together. But this story of their nightmarish honeymoon in Europe is too lazy to offer much more than stock characters, unoriginal gags (we all already saw a dog dive out a window in *There's Something About Mary*) and fart jokes. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers ★½
A whole lot of Dungeons & Dragons mumbo jumbo writ bombastically large. This series has had close to six hours to make me care about anything happening in it, and I still don't care a lick. Frodo can go bury the damn ring in the ground and go for a swim, for all I care. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Max ★★★
Writer-director Menno Meyjes offers bracing speculative drama in his story set in Munich following World War I. The title character is Max Rothman (John Cusack), a fictional Jewish art dealer who's embraced the period's modern art. He befriends another war veteran, an aspiring artist—and, it turns out, emerging fascist—named Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor). Terrifically acted by the two leads and full of crisp dialogue, the movie engagingly addresses the relationship between creative expression, happiness and politics. It also offers the intriguing theory that Hitler might not have turned to extreme politics had he succeeded at art. (At Kendall Square and Copley Place.)

National Security ★★
Martin Lawrence and Steve Zahn keep it respectable, but this film puts little creative twist on its very creaky, mismatched-buddy-cop formula. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Pianist ★★★
It's the little moments in Roman Polanski's Holocaust drama that make it work, like when a hungry family of six on their way to a concentration camp matter-of-factly carves up and shares a small piece of candy. Based on the memoirs of late Polish musician and Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, played here by Adrien Brody, the movie powerfully shows the gradual whittling away of Polish Jews' human rights (and humanity) once the Nazis invaded in 1939. It also details how the title character managed to stay alive, through being stripped of rights and crammed into the Warsaw ghetto, seeing his family "deported" to concentration camps, and hiding out for months at a time while locked into apartments the Nazis think are empty. For better or worse, the hero is a passive character who says little; but his path through history is involving. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner, Kendall Square and West Newton.)

The Quiet American ★★★
The tragic legacy of U.S. "nation-building" abroad comes home powerfully in Philip Noyce's adaptation of Graham Greene's 1950s Vietnam-set thriller. Michael Caine plays the British journalist stationed in Saigon whose relationship to his second home and his young mistress (Do Thi Hai Yen) has a paternalistic sense of entitlement. Along comes Brendan Fraser as the title character, an idealistic U.S. medical aid worker who befriends the journalist and wins away his lover. The American also happens always to be in the right place at the right time, and it's soon clear that he's up to more than he says and is at the heart of American meddling in the battle between the French and Vietnamese. Although the movie works better on a historical level than a personal level—it expects us to sympathize with the "impartial" Englishman much more than seems possible—it's a shrewd, outspoken drama. (At Kendall Square.)

Talk to Her ★★
As usual, Pedro Almodovar's latest has saturated colors and saturated emotions. It centers around two men in relationships with women who are comatose: a male nurse (Javier Camara) infatuated with his patient (Leonor Waitling), and a writer (Dario Grandinetti) whose matador lover (Rosario Flores) has been gored by a bull. If Almodovar hopes to wring pathos out of the nearly asexual nurse's increasingly twisted love for his patient, he fails. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

25th Hour ★★
There are interesting elements in Spike Lee's latest—including Edward Norton's protagonist and the setting of a wounded, post-9/11 New York City—but the story never really comes together. Norton plays a drug dealer sorting out his life before he starts serving a prison sentence, and those around him include girlfriend Rosario Dawson, buddies Barry Pepper and Philip Seymour Hoffman and dad Brian Cox. The relationships among the characters just aren't that convincing, though occasionally the film breaks into lively sequences. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Soon-to-be-married Karen (Selma Blair) and Paul (Jason Lee) try to get to the bottom of his cold feet in Chris Koch's new comedy, *A Guy Thing*.

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library

•Feb. 10, 6pm. **The Shawshank Redemption** *1994*. Frank Darabont directs this movie about a banker who is wrongly convicted and jailed for the murder of his wife and her lover. He befriends a fellow prisoner, Red, who teaches him about the ways of life in prison.

Brattle Theatre

Boston Faith & Film Festival 2003: Cinematic Saints

•Feb. 7, 12:30pm. **Biruma no Tategoto** *(The Burmese Harp) 1965*. Set in 1943, Kon Ichikawa's film tells the story of Mizushima, a lute player in a Japanese platoon who becomes a Buddhist monk at the end of the war. •Also showing, 3:30pm. **The Apostle** *1997*. Robert Duvall's film concerns Dewey, a Texas preacher who attempts to start his life over when he finds out that his wife is having an affair with another minister. •Also showing, 8pm. **La Passion de Jean d'Arc** *(The Passion of Joan of Arc) 1928*. Carl Theodor Dreyer's film presents the political and religious sufferings of the famed Joan of Arc. •Also showing, 10:30pm. **Simón del Desierto** *(Simon of the Desert) 1965*. In Luis Buñuel's film, Simon is a religious man from the 4th century who wants to be closer to God. The Devil tries to seduce Simon into staying on Earth by taking him to a New York City club in the 1960s.

•Feb. 8, 1pm; Feb. 9 and 12, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:45pm. **Amélie** *2001*. Jean Pierre Jeunet's *Amélie* is a quirky film about a sweet French girl who decides to perform random acts of kindness. Through these acts, she embarks upon a journey of self-discovery and looks for true love.

•Feb. 8, 4pm. **Dancer in the Dark** *2000*. Using a musical format, Lars von Trier presents a story about a Czech immigrant in 1964 America and her struggle to make an honest living. •Also showing, 8pm. **Malcolm X** *1992*. Spike Lee's film is the biography of Malcolm X, one of the most influential civil rights activists of the 1960s. The film stars Denzel Washington, Angela Bassett, and Delroy Lindo.

Bugs Bunny Film Festival

•Feb. 14, 5:30pm; Feb. 16 and 18, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm. Program 1: In honor of its 50th Anniversary, the Brattle Theater shows classics such as *Duck Dodgers in the 24 ½ Century*, *Bully for Bugs* and *Duck Amuck*.

•Feb. 15 and 17, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm. Program 2: The Brattle shows the infamous *Rabbit of Seville* and the Tasmanian Devil in *Bedeviled Rabbit*. Viewers will be able to catch other favorite characters such as Pepe Le Pew, Wile E. Coyote and Foghorn Leghorn.

•Feb. 16, 1:30pm. 80-Cent Cartoon Matinee. Celebrate the Brattle's 50th Anniversary by paying the theater's original ticket price of 80 cents! The show will include the Feb. 14 Bugs Bunny program as well as other classic cartoon trailers.

Kieslowski: The Decalogue and More

•Feb. 5, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45pm. **Heaven** *2002*. Krzysztof Kieslowski wrote this script as the first installment of an intended trilogy based on Dante's *Inferno*. A grief-stricken widow living in Italy takes it upon herself to avenge her husband's death. Directed by Tom Tykwer.

•Feb. 12, 7:30pm. **Blue** *1993*. The first film of Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Three Colors* trilogy explores the meaning behind France's motto of liberty, equality and fraternity. In *Blue*, a young woman experiences sudden, unwanted independence when her daughter and husband die in a car accident. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9:45pm. **White** *1994*. In the most lighthearted film of Kieslowski's *Three Colors* trilogy, a frumpy man marries a beautiful French woman and discovers what it means to be his spouse's equal.

•Feb. 13, 5:15, 7:30 and 10:45pm. **Red** *1994*. The third film of Kieslowski's trilogy focuses on the burgeoning, unlikely friendship between a beautiful model and a retired judge.

Now Showing

•Feb. 6, 2, 6 and 9:30pm. **The Gleaners and I** *2000*. Agnes Varda directs this documentary about gleaning for potatoes and how this ancient practice relates to modern society. Proceeds go to the Food for Free Foundation. The 6pm screening is $30 and includes a pre-screening reception.

•Feb. 10, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm. **The Night of the Hunter** *1955*. The only film that actor Charles Laughton directed, *Night of the Hunter* is the tale of a man who commits a murder in exchange for $10,000 and, upon being caught, is sentenced to death. His cellmate, a preacher, discovers that the man has hidden the money away. After being released from prison, the preacher goes in search of the money.

•Feb. 11, 5, 7:30 and 10pm. **The Ring** *2002*. Gore Verbinski's remake of a Japanese cult film is a frightening tale of a mysterious videotape that causes whoever watches it to die within seven days of viewing.

•Feb. 14, 7:30 and 9:45pm. **Casablanca** *1942*. Directed by Michael Curtiz, the Brattle signature film concerns a love triangle in French-occupied Morocco during WWII.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Director's Cut

•Feb. 12, 7:30pm **Everyone's Got One** *2003*. In Garth Donovan's indie remake of Martin Scorsese's *The King of Comedy*, a young janitor dreams of escape through the promise of an ingenious movie script. However, he lacks talent and desperately attempts to redeem the script by his determination and work ethic.

Modern Cult Classics

•Feb. 7, 8, 14, and 15, 12am. **Bottle Rocket** *1996*. Wes Anderson's debut feature is a comedy about three friends who aim to go on a crime spree and instead find themselves the targets of others.

•Feb. 14 and 15, 12am. **Chuck and Buck** *2000*. After his mother dies, Buck attempts to revive his friendship with his former childhood friend, Chuck. Even though Chuck rejects this notion, Buck persists and his efforts eventually lead to obsession. Directed by Miguel Arteta (*The Good Girl*).

Queer-o-Rama

•Feb. 14-20. Queer-o-Rama is Coolidge Corner Theatre's annual celebration of queer cinema, documentaries and short films. Call 617-734-2501 or visit www.coolidge.org for more information about specific films and show times.

The 24-Hour Science Fiction Marathon

•Feb. 16, 12pm; Feb. 17, 12pm. $50. Come for the movies, contests, prizes and surprises at Coolidge Corner's 26th annual 24-hour sci-fi marathon. The

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schedule isn't completed yet, but so far the line-up includes **Equilibrium**, **Metropolis**, **Minority Report**, **Screamers** and **Seconds**. For more information visit *www.bostonsci-fi.com.*

Fenway 13 Theatre

Midnight Showings

•Feb. 7 and 8, 12am. **The Wizard of Oz** *1939*. Come cheer for Dorothy and Toto as they explore a foreign land, battle an evil witch and escape from flying monkeys. Directed by Victor Fleming.
•Feb. 14 and 15, 12am. **The Big Lebowski** *1998*. Joel Coen directs this film about a case of mistaken identity in which loser Lebowski is believed to be another Lebowski, a millionaire whose wife owes money to gangsters.

Harvard Film Archive

Breaking the Mirror: The Films of Maya Deren

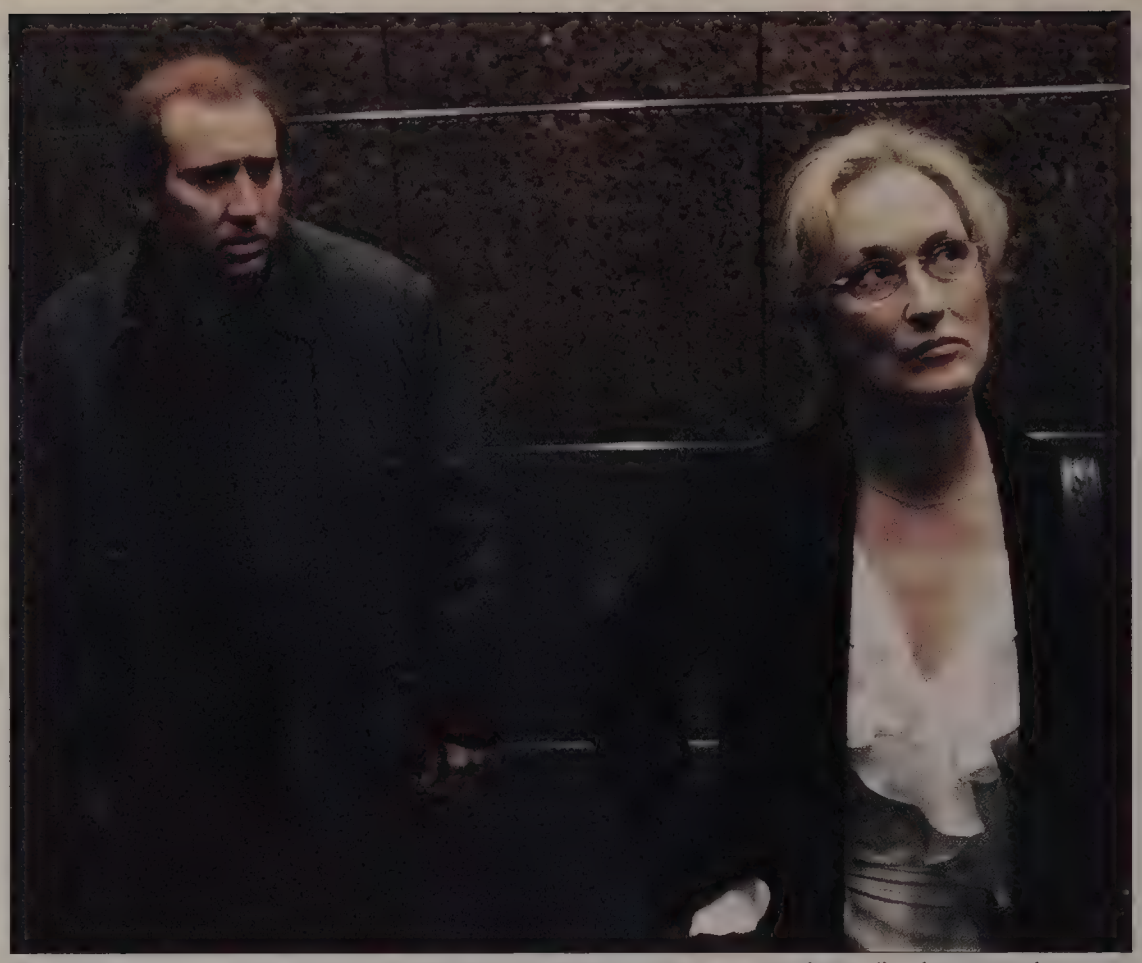
•Feb. 14-18, 7pm. **In the Mirror of Maya Deren** *2002*. Martina Kudlácek directs an introduction to the works of avant garde filmmaker Deren.
•Feb. 14, 9pm; Feb. 16, 9pm; Feb. 18, 9pm. **Meshes of the Afternoon** *1943*. In this Freudian-themed film, a woman has a dream within a dream about suicide, a phallic attack from her mate and threatening inanimate objects. •Immediately following, **At Land** *1944*. In this dream-like, Surrealist tale, a woman finds herself alienated and unable to interact with society. •Immediately following, **Ritual in Transfigured Time** *1945*. This film explores female sexuality and the human psyche through Greek mythological figures. •Immediately following, **A Study in Choreography for Camera** *1945*. This film is dedicated to the beauty of human movement as manifested in a dancer. •Immediately following, **Meditation on Violence** *1948*. Deren interprets the shift from peace to violence through three increasingly aggressive types of Chinese boxing: Wu-Tang, Shao-lin and Shao-lin with sword. •Immediately following, **The Very Eye of Night** *1952-1959*. Deren reenacts ancient constellation mythology using dancers from the Metropolitan Opera Ballet School.
•Feb. 15, 9pm; Feb. 17, 9pm. **The Private Life of a Cat** *1944*. Created by Deren's second husband, Alexander Hammid, this film is the story of a male and female cat who decide to live together. •Immediately following, **Witch's Cradle** *1944*. Deren's unfinished project was inspired by the Surrealist art work and architecture of Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century Gallery and stars famed Dada artist Marcel Duchamp.
•Immediately following, **Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti** *1947/1977*. This film is a study of Deren's immersion in Haitian voodoo practices, a religion Deren referred to as "The White Darkness."

Les Années Noires: French Film During the Occupation, Part 1

•Feb. 5, 7pm. **Lumière d'ête** *(The Summer of Light) 1943*. In Jean Grémillon's film, a young woman, disillusioned with marriage and love due to her drunken, dissolute fiancé, becomes attracted to a young engineer and inspired to believe in love again.
•Also showing, 9pm. **Le Ciel est à vous** *(The Sky is Yours) 1943*. Jean Grémillon suggests a political message regarding a Frenchman's wartime potential through his use of the story of a young woman's desire to break the women's world distance-flying record.

Uncensored: Selections from the Grove Press Collection

•Feb. 7, 7pm. **Science Friction** *1959*. Stan Vanderbeek's political satire focuses on society, conformism and the social fascination with rockets.
•Immediately following, **Film** *1965*. Alan Schneider directs this dialogueless, one-character drama.
•Immediately following, **Chafed Elbows** *1966*. Robery Downey directs this film about a man who has annual breakdowns and is in love with his mother. •Also showing, 9:30pm. **Psychomontage** *1962*. A documentary about Eberhard and Phyllis Kronhausen, psychotherapists who studied human sexuality. •Immediately following, **Freedom to Love** *1969*. Eberhard and Phyllis Kronhausen direct this film, which rejects the notion that sexual freedom is harmful to society and proposes that repressed sexuality is detrimental to social and family relationships.
•Feb. 8, 7pm. **Titicut Follies** *1967*. Frederick Wiseman's film was banned from public viewing in Massachusetts for two and a half decades because of the horrors it chronicled at an institution for the criminally insane and the threat that the state felt this movie posed to its stature. •Also showing, 9:30pm. **I Am Curious (Yellow)** *1967*. Vilgot Sjöman directs this controversial film, which portrays the social, sexual and political problems of contemporary youth.
•Feb. 9, 9pm. **The Queen** *1968*. Director Frank Simon explores the lives of drag queens through his documentary of a drag queen beauty contest.
•Feb. 10, 7pm. **Duet for Cannibals** *1969*. Susan Sontag directs this psychological comedy-drama in which an exiled German couple exert strong influence over a young Swedish couple. The group develops into a ménage à quatre when they become involved in strange erotic games. •Also showing, 9pm. **Passages from Finnegan's Wake** *1965*. Mary Ellen Bute's film, based on the classic story by James Joyce, melds visual and aural filmmaking techniques.
•Feb. 11, 7pm. **L'homme qui ment** *(The Man Who Lies) 1968*. A stranger lies about his identity in order to take refuge in the household of three beautiful women whose male family members have yet to return from the war. •Also showing, 9pm. **Getting his Goat** (aka *On the Beach*) *1922*. In this silent film, a young man tries to date three beautiful women simultaneously only to receive his comeuppance from a goat. •Immediately following, **Danish Blue** *1970*. Gabriel Axel's film documents the consequences of a lack of sexual censorship in Denmark and the subsequent rise of pornography.
•Feb. 12, 7pm. **Vladimir and Rosa** *1971*. Jean-Luc Godard's film fuses political analysis, fictional filmmaking and street theater to expound on political theory. •Also showing, 9pm. **Godard in America** *1970*. Ralph Thanhauser directs this documentary, which follows the travels of Godard and Jean Pierre Gorin as they tour major American universities to screen the film *See You at Mao*. •Immediately following, **See You at Mao** (aka *British Sounds*) *1969*. This attempt at revolutionary cinema mixes Maoism, the Beatles, various soundtracks, Warhol, nudity and excerpts from Nixon, Pompidou and *The Communist Manifesto*.



Charlie (Nicolas Cage) and Susan (Meryl Streep) struggle to turn her book into a film in *Adaptation.*

Museum of Fine Arts

The African American Film Festival

•Feb. 6, 8pm; Feb. 9, 3pm; Feb. 15, 10:30am; Feb. 16. 2:10pm. **Waiting for Happiness** *2002*. Abderrahmane Sissako's film is about a man's return to his hometown and his readjustment to rural life.
•Feb. 7, 8:15pm; Feb. 9, 5pm; Feb. 14, 6pm. **The Price of Forgiveness** *2001*. Mansour Sora Wade's film revolves around a love triangle involving two childhood friends in love with the same woman.
•Feb. 8, 11am; Feb. 16, 12pm. **Short African Films** The Museum shows five short independent African films, consecutively. The films include **One Sunday Morning**, **Mangwana**, **Sunglasses**, **Surrender** and **The Father**.
•Feb. 8, 1:30pm. **Bronx Barbés** *2000*. Eliane de Latour directs this film about two teenagers who decide to join a gang when they are unable to find employment.
•Feb. 9, 12:45pm. **Mama Africa** *2000*. Burkina Faso's film interweaves four different stories about people who strive to create a better life for themselves and their children.
•Feb. 14, 8pm; Feb. 15, 12:30pm. **Karmen Geï** *2001*. Loosely based on the opera *Carmen*, Joseph Geï Ramaka's modern-day film is about a woman who escapes from prison by seducing and overtaking the warden.
•Feb. 16, 4pm. **L'Afrance** *2001*. Alain Gomis' film focuses on the social and identity problems facing African immigrants in Europe.

Tom Tykwer Retrospective

•Feb. 5, 5:45pm; Feb. 7, 6pm; Feb. 8, 3:45pm; Feb. 15, 4pm. **Die Tödliche Maria** *(The Deadly Maria) 1993*. In Tykwer's psychodrama, Maria is an unassuming, mousy woman who is constantly being put down by the men in her life. The film investigates how her life changes once she begins exchanging glances with her neighbor.

Special Engagement

•Feb. 5, 8pm; Feb. 6, 6:15pm; Feb. 9, 11am and 7pm; Feb. 15, 2:15pm; Feb. 16, 10:30am and 6pm. **Derrida** *2002*. This film is a documentary of the philosopher Jacques Derrida, founder of deconstruction. The directors, Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering Kofman (a former student of Derrida), are present at the Feb. 9 screening.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Feb. 13. **Australia: Land Beyond Time**. The rugged beauty of Australia's varying landscapes is captured on a cinematic tour through the Outback, the Great Barrier Reef and more. Call for show times.
•Feb. 14-Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.
•Through March 30. **Mysteries of Egypt**. Travel back to the times of Pharaohs and pyramids to experience the customs and culture of ancient Egyptian civilization. Call for show times.
•Through June 23. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and across rugged mountains to commemorate the bicentennial of a remarkable exploration, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

•Opens Feb. 12. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Dive down to Caribbean coral and the Great Barrier Reef and discover the creatures that thrive on this ecosystem and how global warming threatens it. Call for showtimes.
•**Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man**. Follow the stages of human development from birth to maturity. Each stage of life is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. Call for show times.
•**Into the Deep**. Venture to the kelp forest off the shores of California, a fascinating world where a garibaldi protects its nest and a giant starfish eats everything in its path. Call for showtimes.
•**LostWorlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this exploration of earth's different climates on a journey from the Arctic to the equator. Call for show times.
• **Space Station 3D**. Take a trip to the International Space Station and experience life in zero gravity. The audience blasts off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome to rendezvous with their new home in orbit 220 miles above Earth. Call for show times.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-536-1540). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.
Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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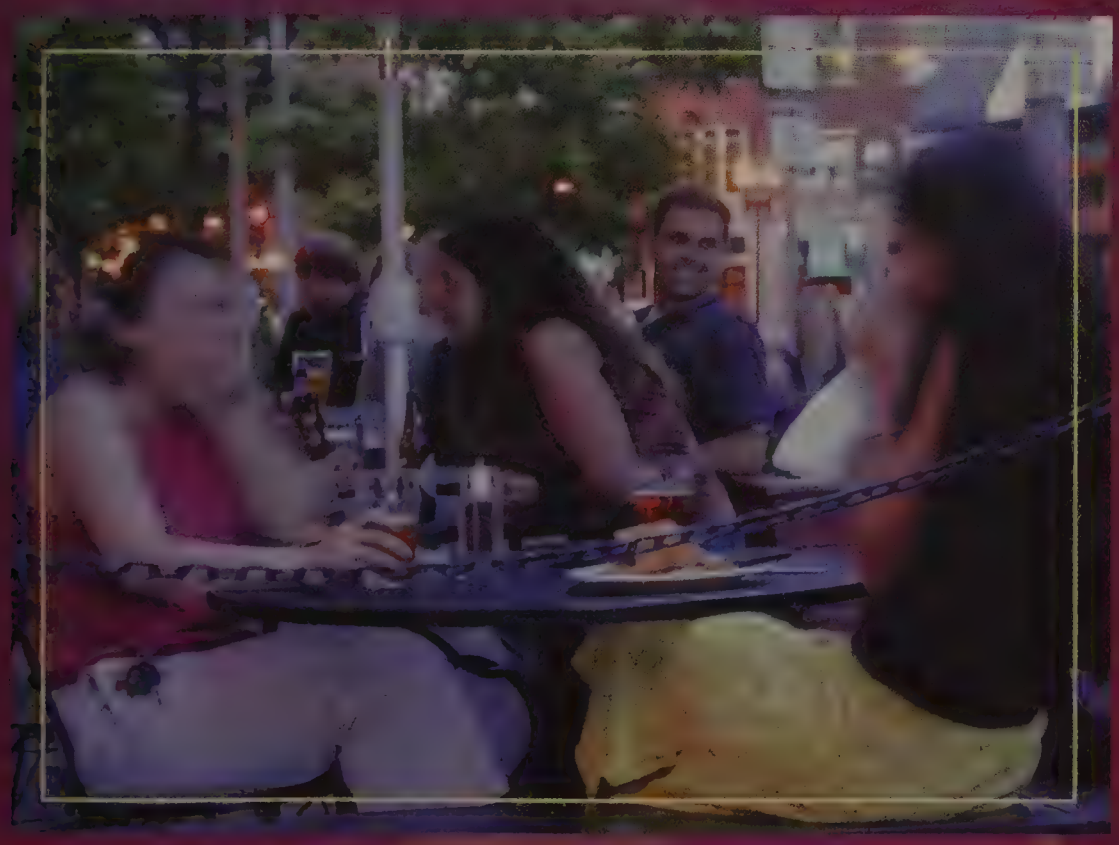

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Music

LOUD-MOUTHED GIRL

Kathleen Edwards makes noise in the alt-country world with her hard-bitten debut album

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

The September after she graduated from high school, aspiring musician Kathleen Edwards headed for the tattoo parlor, to get a guitar etched between her shoulder blades.

"It was exactly what I wanted to have on my body, to remind myself when I'm 50 that I once felt that way, in case I ever stopped," says the 24-year-old Canadian. "And the way it's going right now, I won't have to have that reminder."

Edwards has good reason for her sudden confidence in her career choice. *Rolling Stone* named her one of 10 artists to watch in 2003, and Edwards performed on *The Late Show with David Letterman* the same week that her Zoe/Rounder debut, *Failer*, was released to glowing reviews last month.

"It's kinda constant, having things happen that obviously I didn't think would happen to me at all, even in a lifetime," says Edwards, who plays T.T. the Bear's Place Feb. 18, then opens for fellow alt-country upstart Kasey Chambers at the Orpheum Theatre March 1. "So that's pretty overwhelming."

It all started around the time of the tattoo, when Edwards began writing songs and playing coffee shops. She had been trained on violin since age five, a talent that led her to arrange and play some string parts on *Failer*. But her inspiration was more classic rock than classical music.

Kathleen Edwards' well reviewed new release, *Failer*, straddles country and roots-rock.

"The stuff that stuck with me was stuff I realized that I'd been listening to for some time, and that was always the roots-rock stuff," says Edwards, citing Tom Petty, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Ryan Adams' old band Whiskeytown and Canadian roots-rocker Jim Bryson, who played on *Failer*.

Learning to play guitar by ear, Edwards was also influenced by Ani DiFranco's percussive finger-picking. But, she says, "I really connected more with male singer-songwriters," raising the issue of the frequent comparisons to Lucinda Williams that she receives. "She was never someone I listened to or was influenced by. I can totally understand why people do align me [with her], which is basically a gender-based alignment, and obviously a huge compliment. But it wasn't a gender thing for me."

Edwards wrote most of *Failer* in a rented house in rural Quebec, where she moved to escape the city—and a breakup with a boyfriend. "Every day before I served tables in the evening, I would take my truck up there and drive around. I was just dying to have a little bit of space and peace and quiet. I was living at a loud, busy intersection in Ottawa. I couldn't sleep at night, and I got up there and realized how tired I was, and how distracted. It took me about a month to adjust, but it was like a breath of fresh air."

If the hectic schedule of promoting a new CD on the road sounds a lot like what she was escaping, the daughter of a Canadian diplomat isn't worried. "I grew up overseas, so I was constantly being thrown into new places and situations and new faces," says Edwards, calling from a Manhattan hotel. "That's not new to me and it doesn't make me uncomfortable. But I will say, as much as I love waking up and having New York at my disposal to hang out for the day, I also really love waking up in the country. I'm really lucky to have the best of both worlds."

On *Failer*, Edwards straddles country atmosphere and roots-rock edginess, singing hard-bitten lyrics in her weathered warble. "Every song has an element of my life in it, so in that sense, a lot of the songs are incredibly personal," she says. "Sometimes it's an observation that I had, that had nothing to do with me, but it was still something in my life. I was able to understand and expose the moment."

So lines about a hard-drinking lifestyle or "a loud-mouthed girl" hit close to home for Edwards, who also admits there is truth and exaggeration in "Westby," which details an affair with an older, married man. But being pregnant by the man who shoots himself in "Six O'Clock News" is another story.

"[That's] about a time where there were all these husbands and ex-husbands locking their wives up in their homes at gunpoint, with their children standing right next to them," she says. "It was just sorta putting myself in that place."

Edwards dedicated the CD to her late grandmother, a farmer-activist whom she credits for her own fiery independence. "My mouth gets me into trouble," she says. "I can be a bit of a stubborn bitch, but I'm only calling myself that. No one has ever called me that because... I don't know why. I'm strong-headed, and I am in some ways very ambitious and focused right now. This is my dream. I've worked for it." iB

Kathleen Edwards

plays T.T. the Bear's Place Feb. 18.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

The Barra MacNeils
Feb. 14, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)

Blindside, Depswa, Pacifier and Trust Company
Feb. 14, Axis (617-423-NEXT)

Clutch
Feb. 16, Axis (617-423-NEXT)

Damn Personals, Dismemberment Plan and Les Savy Fav
Feb. 6, The Roxy (617-931-2000)

The Donnas, Longwave and OK Go
Feb. 8, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Steve Earle & the Dukes and Garrison Starr
Feb. 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Ibrahim Ferrer
Feb. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-482-0650)

Fiction Plane, the Juliana Theory, Something Corporate and Vendetta Red
Feb. 12, The Roxy, (617-423-NEXT)

40 Below Summer and E-Town Concrete
Feb. 11, Axis (617-423-NEXT)

Vince Gill
Feb. 14, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

King's X and Fluttr
Feb. 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Habib Koité
Feb. 9, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)

Lyricist Lounge with Dead Prez and Young Bloodz
Feb. 7, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

The Pretenders and the Almighty Senators
Feb. 8, Orpheum Theatre (617-482-0650)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

Abbey Lounge Scamper, the Weisstronauts, the Charms and Kipper Tin.

The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well; 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.

Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.

Cantab Lounge Upstairs: The Brian Templeton Band, 9pm, 21+.

Club Passim Fishken and Groves, 8pm, $12.

Common Ground What a Way to Go-Go, 10pm; 21+.

Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm; no cover, 21+.

Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGrafi, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.

The Good Life Cambridge The Matt Gordy Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Harper's Ferry Peter Prince and the Trauma Unit, 9:30pm, $5, 21+.

House of Blues The Life of Bob Marley, 7 and 9pm, $12, 18+.

The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm; no cover.

Irish Embassy Pub Mike Barnett.

Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D.

Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.

Kendall Café Steve Lourie, 8:30pm; Leo Blais, 9:30pm; Kieran Ridge Band, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.

Kinsale Brehan Law, 9pm, no cover, all ages.

Limbo Ken Cook Trio, 8pm, $15, 21+.

Lizard Lounge Leslie Helpert with Andrew Barr, The Slip, Geoff Scott of the Miracle Orchestra and Mike Rivard of Club D'elf, 9pm, $6.

Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9pm, no cover.

Middle East Upstairs: Illation, 5ive, Soho and Formosa, 8pm, $8, 18+. Zuzu: Kevin So, 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way Mercury Lounge open mike, 9pm, $5.

Pa's Blues Jam, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

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21 MEANS 21

Plough and Stars Bad Art, 9:30pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack Michigan Blacksnake, 6-10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Issi Rozen, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Myanna with Cercie Miller, 8 and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar Dreamchild, Tim Mungenast, Pre-Existing Conditions and the Scissormen, 9pm, $5, 21+.
TK's Jazz Cafe Sticky Skillet Swing Orchestra, 7pm, $5.
Toad Deb Pasternak, 7pm, no cover; Jimmy Ryan, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Place a Wish for Wire, Tracy Husky, Orange Park and Bowman, 9pm, $6, 18+.
Wonder Bar The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Larry Roland, 8pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Abbey Lounge Motormags, the Peasants and Edens Row.
Asgard The Symbolics, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Nick Goomis, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: The Reaganomics, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Sara Wheeler's CD-release, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Love Night, 10pm, $3, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Mario Perret and the Boston Blues All-Stars, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Railroad Earth, 9:30pm, $8, 18+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Buckwheat Zydeco, 10pm, $20, 18+.
Irish Embassy Pub The Return.
Johnny D's Szakcsi Lakatos, cover varies, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Josh Hall, 11pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Shellye Valauskas, 9pm; Rich Price, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Kirkland Café Dean Fields, Regressing to Apes and Dave Roche Band, $5.
Limbo Zeke Martin Band, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Sam Lowry, Sean P. Rogan and Marc Flynn, $6.
Lizard Lounge Andy Stochansky, 9pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Ray Greene, 10pm, no cover.
McGann's Pub The Eddie Dillon Band.
Middle East Downstairs: Joseph Arthur and Ben Lee, 8pm, $13, 18+. Corner: Board of Education, 10pm, no cover.
Milky Way Aqueduct, Tigersaw and Cowgirl Hangover, 9pm, $5.
Plough and Stars Family Jewels, 9:30pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan, 9pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack Dick'n' Jane, 6:30-10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Lee Konitz Trio, 8:30pm, $16.
The Roxy The Dismemberment Plan, Les Savy Fav and the Damn Personals, $13, 18+.
Scullers Wildest Dreams, 8 and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar Oak Street Jam Band, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band and the Real Deal Horns, 5:30pm, $5.
Toad Franc Graham, 7pm, no cover; the Black Eggs, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 12:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The D4, the Forty Fives and the Konks, 9:15pm, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

Abbey Lounge Cranktones.
Asgard Nate Watkins, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm.
Big Easy Bar Syndicate, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Hazie Maze, 10pm, $7, 18+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9:30pm, no cover. Upstairs: Bobbly Folkes, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's No Way Jose, 7:30pm.

Chicago-based rockers Cul de Sac play upstairs at the Middle East Feb. 12.

Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Choppin' Block Giamantis, the Shemps, Dean Dean the Sex Machine, Bully Pulpit, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Bill Cuddyer and Peter Donnelly, 8pm, $14.
Common Ground The Buckners and the Tint, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge The Michael Shea Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Evan Goodrow Band, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Dick 'n' Jane.
The Green Briar Infractions, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
The Harp Darik and the Funbags, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Bo Diddley, 8 and 11pm, $25, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5pm; Brick Park.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent Jake Brennan, 10pm, no cover.
Intrigue Café Johnny Souza and the Ray Santisi Trio, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's Mike Welch Band, 9:45pm, cover varies, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Brian Chu, 9pm; Josh Baumer, 10:30pm; Sam Bigelow, 11:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 5pm; Acoustic Junction.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment, 9pm, no cover, all ages
Kirkland Café Hula Blue, Uprise, Howling Devils and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Eula Lawrence, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Army of Jasons and Godboxer.
Lizard Lounge Reed Foehl and Stewart Lewis, 9pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Garrison CD-release, the Lot Six, Araby and the Feud, 8pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Suicide, Calla and the Cignal, 8pm, $15, 18+. Corner: Electrolux, 10pm, no cover.
Midway Café The Young Sexy Assassins, Devil Music, Secret Cock and Cornmo.
Milky Way Sistas Doin' It for Themselves, 9pm, $8.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy and Alan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm, no cover.
Orpheum Ibrahim Ferrer, 8pm, $30-$45.
Paradise Lyricist Lounge with Dead Prez and Young Bloodz, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Catunes, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Pa's Chickan Slacks Soul Revue, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Plough and Stars Kevin Connolly, 9:30pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar The Lee Konitz Trio, 7:30 and 10pm, $16.
Scullers Gary Burton–Makoto Ozone Duet, 8 and 10:30pm, $20.
Sky Bar Topheavy and Sona Nyl, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Mayone Thing.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Talalla, 5pm; Brian Walkley and the Real Deal Horns, 8pm, $5.
Toad The Coots, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm-1am.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Queers, Teen Idols, Armstrong and Gobsmacked, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

Abbey Lounge Triple Thick.
Asgard Joe Merrick and Stu Lee, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm.
Big Easy Bar Syndicate, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well and Jim Coyle. Upstairs: Bobby Folkes, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Tall Richards, 7:30pm, cover varies.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Choppin' Block Tony Nunez Band Quest, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Nick Danger and Sonny Aruba, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground The Let Down, 10pm, $3, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge No Way Jose, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Hakim Group, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Spike the Punch.
The Green Briar Inchicore, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Bald Walter.
Harper's Ferry Papa Grows Funk, 9:30pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent Tim Gearan, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Tony Lynn Washington, 9:45pm, cover varies, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Saul Zozana, 9:30pm; Darby Jones, 10:30pm; The Splendid Nobodies, 11:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kinsale Symbolics, 9pm, no cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café Six of One, $5.
Limbo Valerie Stevens, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Cherodovanie and Taylor Street.
Lizard Lounge Ad Frank and the Fast Easy Women, Lifestyle and California Test, 9pm.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Jack Drag and the Fly Seville, 8pm, 18+. Downstairs: Seether and Social Burn, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Midway Café Jan-ni-i.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy and Alan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm, no cover.
Orpheum The Pretenders and the All Mighty Senators, 7:30pm, $31-$46.
Paradise The Donnas, OK Go and Longwave, 9pm, $14, 18+.
Parris The Catunes, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Plough and Stars Nate Gibson and the Gashouse Gang, 9:30pm, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Richie Cole, 9pm, $22.
Sanders Richard Move, 8pm, $22-$30.
Scullers Gary Burton–Makoto Ozone Duet, 8 and 10:30pm, $20.
Sky Bar Groovehounds, Sparring with Margaret, the Day Jacob Smiled, Jack and Smirking Revenge, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Jabe.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Gay Duo, 11am-3pm; Dan Moretti CD-release, 7pm, $10.
Toad Gregg's Saturday Showcase, 7pm, no cover. One Thin Dime, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lincoln Conspiracy, Laguardia, Sally Crewe, 71 Sunbeam, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Wonder Bar The Rusty Scott Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Eula Lawrence, 8:30pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well and Jim Coyle, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Jazz Quartet, 10:30am-3pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Common Ground Allston Steady Rock-Easy Sound System, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Little Joe Cook, 10am-3pm, no cover; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaugnessy, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Briar Inchicore and Finbar Doyle, 3pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6:30pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Noam Weinstein, 8pm; Jess Tardy, 9pm; Pierce Woodward, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Martin Kellaher, 7:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quartet, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam with the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 and 9pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: The Allstonians, Mass Hysteria, Green Island, Amy Ryan and the Operatives, 8pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Apples in Stereo and Oranger, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Midway Café The Mistaken Stars.
Plough and Stars Tin Town Trio Rockabilly, 9:30pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Something Against You and Nurture People, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Habib Koite, 7pm, $22-$28.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Gay Duo, 11am-3pm; Steve Higgs, 3pm; Steve Assad, 6pm, $5.
Toad The Heygoods, 7pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm and 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ebris and Fingerbomb, 9:15pm, $5, 18+.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, FEB. 10

Abbey Lounge Double D Blues Band, 7pm.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Tony O'Riorda, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Singer-songwriter open mike, 8pm, 21+; Dean Stevens, 10pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Harper's Ferry The Charms, 9:30pm, $12, 21
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Matt Glaser, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Skott Freedman CD-release, 9p
Austin Kuebler, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7:30pm, no cover, a ages.
Limbo Evan Goodrow Trio, 8pm, $15, 21+.

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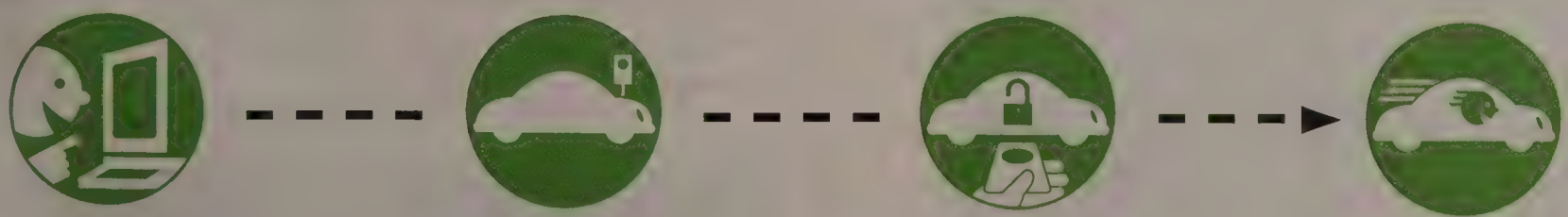

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Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, $9.
Lucky's Lounge Tim Gearan, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Madcap, Count the Stars and Breaking Pangea, 8pm, $9, 18+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe Delta Blues.
Plough and Stars Los Diablos, 9:30pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Karmen, 6:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Something Against You and Nurtured in Purple, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nOg John Cate.
TK's Jazz Cafe Davie Nate Trio, 7pm, $4.
Toad Shwang feat. Anita Suhanin, 8pm, no cover; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Punk Rock Aerobics, 6:30pm, $7, 18+.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

Axis 40 Below Summer, E-Town Concrete, 8pm, $10, all ages.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8pm, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Paperboys, 8:30pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Busker, 9:30pm; Sometimes She Burns, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Paul Duffy, 7:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Limbo Marianne Solivan Quartet, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge All the Queen's Men, Bourbon Princess and the Shelly Winters Project, 9pm, $7.
Lucky's Lounge Julie Johnson, 9pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: The Blood Brothers, True North, Daughters and the Vaux, 8pm, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, 8pm, 21+. Corner: Noche Mexicana, 9pm.
Midway Café Mancie and Friends.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Rack Jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Laszlo Gardony Trio, 8:30pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Bob Brookmeyer and the NEC Composers Orchestra, 8:30pm, $12.
Sky Bar SEC, 9pm, $5, 21+.
TK's Jazz Cafe John Licata Quartet, 7pm, $5.
Toad The Resophonics, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place American Girls Club, Feable Weiner and Famous, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

Abbey Lounge Scamper, Fooled by April, Baby Strange and Catapult.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge The Brian Templeton Band, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Matt's Birthday Party Show with Rachel McCartney, Julie Rosenthal, Rob Laurens, Jake Armerding, James O'Brien, Oen Kennedy and Sean Staples, 8pm, $15.
Common Ground What a Way to Go-Go, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge The Jesse Ciarmataro Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Peter Prince and the Trauma Unit, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Andrew Solomon, 9pm, $6, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm, cover varies, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Fluffy Puppy, 9pm; Kill Henry Sugar, 10pm, $5, 21+.

advance seating

THESE SHOWS ARE SURE TO SELL OUT, SO CALL FOR YOUR TICKETS SOON

The Bobs

Altan March 8, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
American Hi-Fi Feb. 25, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Audioslave March 3 and 4, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Blind Boys of Alabama Feb. 28, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
The Bobs March 29, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2787)
Bon Jovi and the Goo Goo Dolls March 4, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Kasey Chambers March 1, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
The Chieftains March 12, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
The Del-Vikings March 30, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Dropkick Murphys March 14-17, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Bela Fleck & The Flecktones April 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Jeffrey Gaines Feb. 20, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Arlo Guthrie March 7, Blackman Auditorium (617-373-2247)
Daryl Hall and John Oates March 3, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Huun Huur Tu March 14, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Interpol March 6, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Joe Jackson Band April 4 and 5, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Mason Jennings March 12, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Ladytron Feb. 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Lunasa March 22, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Ellis Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis and Reginald Veal March 3, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Edwin McCain March 27, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Youssou N'Dour and Angelique Kidjo April 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-876-4275)
Preservation Hall Jazz Band March.28, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Shankar with Zakir Hussain & Ginger March 21, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Sigur Ros March 15, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Sixpence None the Richer Feb. 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Sum 41 March 7, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Take 6 Feb. 27, Berklee College of Music (617-931-2000)
Susan Tedeschi March 29, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Toad the Wet Sprocket March 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Chucho Valdes March 30, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
The Waifs and Jess Klein April 12, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Paul Weller Feb. 22, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Yanni April 3, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)

Kinsale Brehan Law, 7:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Limbo Paulo Danay, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Scara's Night Out, 9pm, $7.
McGann's Pub Machinery Hall.
Middle East Upstairs: Damo Suzuki and Cul de Sac, $12, 18+. Downstairs: Aintry and Aloud, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Kevin So, 8pm, 21+, no cover.
Midway Café Hawly Sawer Rifle Company and the Great Northern.
Milky Way Mercury Lounge open mike, 9pm, $5.
Pa's Blues Jam, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Rack Michigan Blacksnake, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Fully Celebrated Orchestra, 8:30pm, $12.
Roxy Fiction Plane, the Juliana Theory, Something Corporate and Vendetta Red, $15.
Scullers Foellen Angels, 8pm, $18.
Sky Bar Bucky Spins, 9pm, $5, 21+.
TK's Jazz Cafe The JV Band, 7pm, $5.
Toad Deb Pasternak, 7pm, no cover; Woodpile, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Pleasure Club and the Naked Sams, 10pm, $7, 18+.
Wonder Bar The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates John Alamo, no cover.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

Abbey Lounge Bradshaw, the Thugs and Trustus, 8pm, no cover.
Asgard Brogue, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Lois Lane and the Daily Planet, 9pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block Neptune, Officer May, Pornbelt and Cathy Cathodic, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Alastair Moock and Hillbilly Voodoo, 8pm, $12.
Common Ground Love Night, 10pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Mario Perret and the Boston Blues All Stars, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Paulo Danay, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
The Independent Ray Green, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Orleans, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Josh Hall, 11-2pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Scott Janovitz, 9pm; Jake Brennan, 10pm; Christian McNeil, 11pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Sunday's Well, 7:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café Porcelain and Nathan Duprey, $5.
Limbo Amanda Baisinger, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Foam 'n' Mesh, $6.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, Micro Vard, Jerry Leonard and Duke Levine, 9pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: PD Saints CD-release, Lipfloater, Slidepiece and Lines, 8pm, $8, 18+. Downstairs: The Rapture, 8pm, $12, 18+. Corner: Board of Education, 10pm, no cover.
Paradise Kings X, Fluttr, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Plough and Stars Paved Country, 9:30pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Dick 'n' Jane, 6:30-10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Bill Pierce and the Rusty Scott Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Al Kooper and the Funky Faculty, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Gallery, Dali and Melodrome, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band and the Real Deal Horns, 5:30pm, $5.
Toad Franc Graham, 7pm, no cover; the Coming Grass, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place MC Paul Barman and Whirlwind Heat, 10:15pm, $10, 18+.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

Asgard Sunset, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm.
Axis Blindside, Depswa, Pacifier and Trust Company, 6pm, $15.
Big Easy Bar Dick 'n' Jane, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Charles Neville, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cafe Louis Dave Cirella Trio, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Choppin' Block The Skeptics, Chanticlear, the Glamourous Stuntcocks, the Photon Torpedoes and Black Tradition, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Brooke Williams CD-release, 8pm, $14
Common Ground The Swinging Johnsons 10pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Miss Karen Parker 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Hakim Group 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Pig Pen.
The Green Briar DJ Stelah, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Stain Glass Eye.
The Harp The Zoo, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30pm; Six Sho Brody.
House of Blues Antiblas Afrobeat Orchestra 10:30pm, $15, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
Intrigue Café Johnny Souza and the Ray Santis Trio, 7:30pm.
Johnny D's Tarbox Ramblers and Los Diablos 9:45pm, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's Tom Conners.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Mick Mondo, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 5pm Inchicore.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment, 9pm, no cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café Supachik, Girl on Top, Charms Emily Grogan, Baby Reds and Mickey Bliss Orga Combo, $5.
Limbo Athene Wilson, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Amnesty International 14 for 1 Benefit with Chris Brokaw, Amy Galdins and Ca Puckett, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Crown Electric Company, 9pm, $12
Middle East Upstairs: Lost City Angels, Kicked the Head and Every Forty Seconds, 8pm, $9, 18+ Downstairs: Babaloo, Dada's House of Hits, the Ch Cha Cha All-Stars and Furioso, 8pm, $12, 18+. Cor ner: Electrolux, 10pm, no cover.
Midway Café Stray Bullets and Last Mission.
Milky Way Spurs, Paved Country and Eric Royer One Man Band, 9pm, $10.
Mr. Dooley's Sundays Well.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm cover.
Paradise Vince Gill, 8pm, $40, 18+.
Parris Drop Dead Sexy, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Plough and Stars Voodoo Groove, 9:30pm, 21+
Purple Shamrock Thomas Park, 9pm, $5, 21+
Regattabar A Valentine from Irma Thomas, 7: and 10pm, $26.
Scullers John Lucien, 8 and 10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar Daisycutter and Brain Freeze Band, 9p $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre The Barra MacNeils, 8p $22-28.
Tír na nÓg Dave Foley.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Talalla, 5pm; Donald Har son Quartet, 8pm, $10.
Toad Lucky 57, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm-1am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ninja Tune presents Vadim and the Russian Percussion and DJ First Ra 9:40pm, $10, 18+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30p no cover, 21+.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

Abbey Lounge Grubstake.
Asgard Jack and Pleasant Co.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30pm; Gil Barkan, 9pm.
Avalon Steve Earle and the Dukes, 6pm, $20. 18+.
Big Easy Bar Bob's Day Off, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne a Tom O'Carroll, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quart 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm; cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and Thrillers, 9pm, 21+.

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Choppin' Block Vaguely Starshaped and Splitting Feathers, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Kris Delmhorst and Jabe, 7 and 10pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge The No Way Jose Band, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Amanda Baisinger, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Magnus.
The Green Briar Me & Julio, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis.
The Harp The Zoo, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Entrain, 9:30pm, $10, 21+.
House of Blues Antiblas Afrobeat Orchestra, 10:30pm, $15, 21+.
The Independent Tim Gearan, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Walter Wolfman Washington, 9:45, cover varies, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Marion Walsh, 9:30pm; The Sundrops, 10:30pm; Those Dirty Swedes, 11:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Inchicore.
Kinsale Undercover, 9pm, no cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café Eighteen Abbey and Molly Black Rumble, $5.
Limbo John Baboian Trio, 9pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 and 9pm, $5; The Crown Electric Company, 9pm, $12, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Julie Johnson, 10pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Shipping News, Helms and the Burning Paris, 8pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Willie Alexander and the Boom Boom Band, Robin Lane and the Chartbusters and Red Chord, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Midway Café Satellite 7, Suddenly Summer and Big Rocks.
Mr. Dooley's Sundays Well.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm, no cover.
Orpheum Tango Buenos Aires, 7:30pm, $25-$40.
Parris Drop Dead Sexy, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Plough and Stars Stumbleweeds, 9:30pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar A Valentine from Irma Thomas, 7:30 and 10pm, $26.
Scullers John Lucien, 8 and 10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar Oddway and Object Permanence, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Frank Morey.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Gay Duo, 11am-3pm; Steven Higgs, 3:30pm; Donald Harrison Quartet, 7:30pm, $10.
Toad Sarah Borges and the Confidence Men, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Jim's Big Ego, Rocktopus, Clown Down, 9:30pm, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Skip Smith, 8:30pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Axis Clutch, 7pm, $14.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne and Tom O'Carroll, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Zeke Martin's Jazz, 10:30am, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jams, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Kris Delmhorst and Jabe, 7:30pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelations, 10am-3pm, no cover; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaugnessy, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Briar Finbar Doyle, 3pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
House of Blues John Cleary, 9pm, $12, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6:30pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Scott Roy, 8pm; Jess Tardy, 9pm; Greta Gertler, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quartet, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 and 9pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, no cover.

Chrissie Hynde and the men of the Pretenders play the Orpheum Feb. 8.

Middle East Upstairs: The Beatings and Hissyfits, 8pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Grandmaster Flash, Rob Swift and Dalek, 8pm, $28, 18+.
Midway Café Ochmoneks, Ulysses and Good for Life.
Parris The Catunes, 9:30pm, $10, 21+.
Plough and Stars Tin Town Trio Rockabilly, 9:30pm, 21+.
Regattabar Boston Musical Theatre, 3:30 and 7pm, $20.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bob Gay Duo, 11am-3pm; Peter Golemme, 3pm; Carousel, 6pm.
Toad The Heygoods, 7pm; David Johnston, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm and 8pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

Abbey Lounge Double D Blues Band, 7pm.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Singer-songwriter open mike, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8pm, $10.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Fastball and Butch Walker, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Eric Hutchinson, 9pm; Patrick McAloon, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan, 7:30pm, no cover.
Limbo Maxim Lubarsky Trio, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Open-mike comedy hour, 7-9pm; The Fringe, 10pm, $9.
Middle East Downstairs: Rasputina, 8pm, $14, 18+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe Delta Blues.
Plough and Stars Los Diablos, 9:30pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Karmen, 6:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg John Cate.
TK's Jazz Cafe Davie Nate Trio, 7pm, $4.
Toad Schwang, 8pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Punk Rock Aerobics, 6:30pm, $7, 18+; The Other Side of the Bear with Phil Aiken, $3, 18+.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Abbey Lounge Rosie Huntress, 9:30pm; Rocketscience, 10:30pm, $3.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8pm, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass Jam, 10pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Kevin So and All About Buford, 8:30pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Chandler Travis, 9;30pm; Kevin Barnes, 10:30pm, $8, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtney, 7:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Limbo Brian Kelly Trio, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge All the Queen's Men with Munk and Otto's Daughter, 9pm, $7.
Lucky's Lounge Tim Gearan, 8pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Confront, Dirty Water, Boxing Water and Jeepers H Crackers, 8pm, $9, 18+.
Zuzu: Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover. Corner: Noche Mexicana, 10pm.
Midway Café Illation.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Rack Jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Guaranteed Swahili, 8:30pm, $12.
TK's Jazz Cafe John Licata Quartet, 7pm, $5.
Toad The Resophonics, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm-12:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kathleen Edwards, Jim Parish and the Mother Tongues and Natalie Flanagan, 9pm, $8. 18+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, no cover.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
The Big Easy *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Boston Harbor Hotel *Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-856-7744). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: E Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6021).*
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater *955 Boylston St., Boston (617-354-6898). MBTA:.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jordan Hall *30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Cafe *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green St.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Jackson Square.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northside Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950).*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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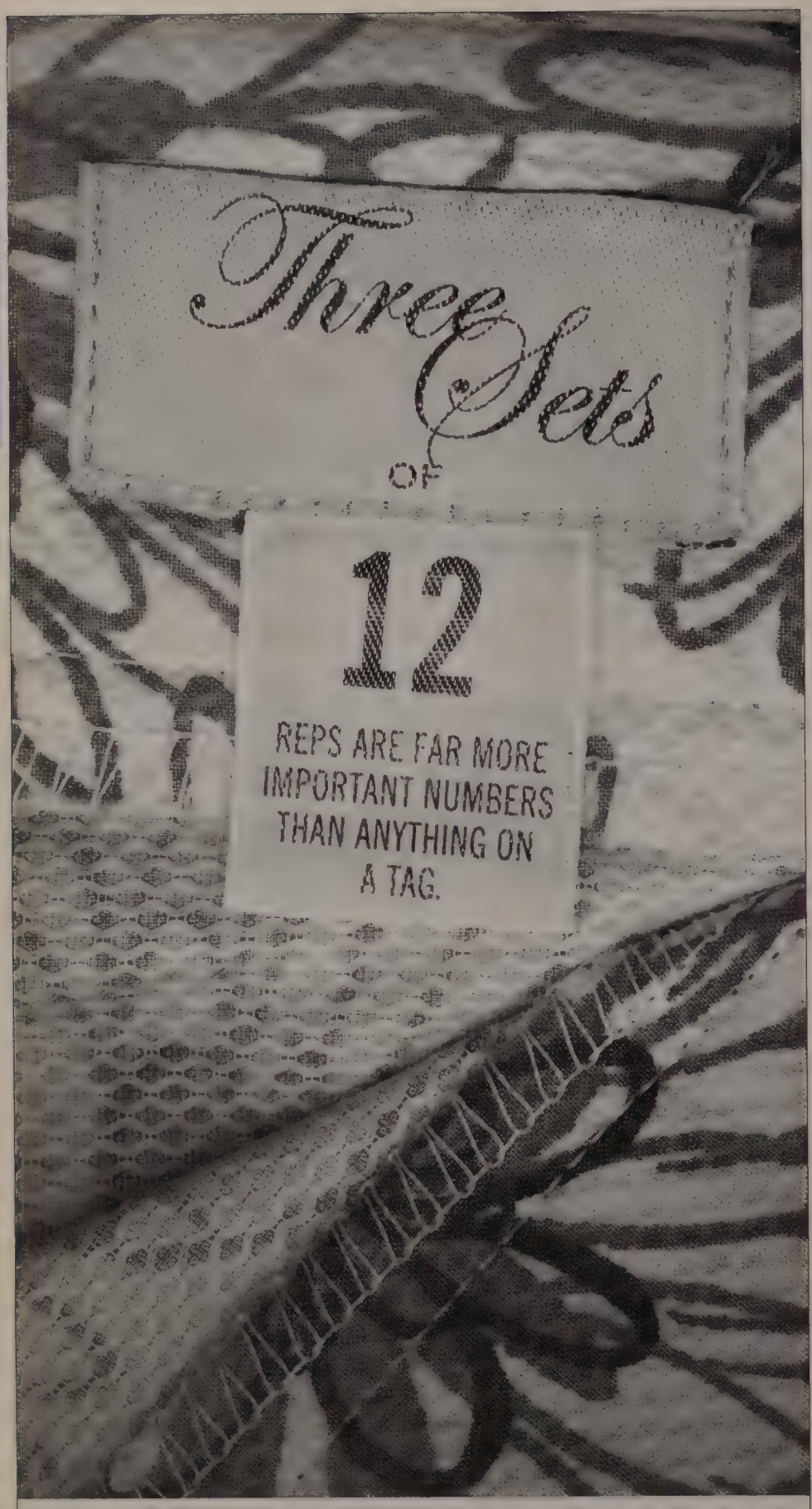

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classical music

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsals
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm.* $16. Leonard Slatkin conducts featured violinist Hilary Hahn in a performance of works by Berlioz, Meyer and Walton.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.bostonchambermusic.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. $16-$42.* This concert features works by Debussy, Zwilich and Brahms.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

Boston Recorder Society
First Baptist Church, Beacon and Center St., Newton Centre (617-669-4292). www.bostonrecordersociety.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center. 3pm. $15; $12 students, seniors.* The Trio Saltarello, featuring recorder player and Baroque flautist Sarah Cantor, viola da gambist Angus Lansing and harpsichordist Henry Lebedinsky, performs a concert entitled "A Musical Banquet" with guest artist Aldo Abreu on recorder.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $35-$40.* Pianist Stanislav Ioudenitch, Gold Medalist of the Eleventh Van Cliburn Piano Competition, performs works by Mozart, Stravinsky, Schubert and Liszt.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-520-2200). www.bostonchambermusic.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $16-$42.* Same program as Feb. 7.

Boston Recorder Society
Historic Loring-Greenough House, 12 South St., Jamaica Plain (617-669-4292). www.bostonrecordersociety.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Forrest Hills or bus #39. 3pm. $15; $12 students, seniors.* Same performance as Feb. 8.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free.* The orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music perform Bach's *Cantata BWV 14.*

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm.* $30-$80. Franz Welser-Möst conducts the Cleveland Orchestra in a program that includes the Boston premiere of *Orion* by Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho.

New Philharmonic Orchestra
First Baptist Church, 848 Beacon St., Newton (617-527-9717). MBTA: . 3pm. $25; $22 seniors; $15 students. Under the direction of Ronald Knudsen, the New Philharmonic Orchestra performs Leonard Bernstein's *Serenade*, featuring violinist Emanuel Borok, concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Stanislav Ioudenitch plays Jordan Hall Feb. 8.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

Valentine's Day Eve Concert
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3770). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 7pm. $24 $20 members, students, seniors. This concert, entitled "Starlight and Sweet Dreams," features soprano Nancy Armstrong, baritone Robert Honeysucker, electric violinist Daniel Stepner and electric viola da gambist Laura Jeppensen performing songs by George Gershwin and Cole Porter.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble
Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-492-4758). www.sarasamusic.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $16; $14 students, seniors free for children under 12.* The chamber ensemble and guest soprano Emily Van Evera perform a concert entitled "Two Centuries of German Baroque Music," featuring works by Bach, Handel, Schmelzer and Schop.

Valentine Serenade
Great Hall, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-547-8860). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. www.bostonvirtuosi.org. *8pm. $30 floor; $20 balcony $10 students, seniors.* The Boston Virtuosi chamber orchestra performs romantic works by Vivaldi, Suk and Tchaikovsky.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free.* The orchestra and chorus of Emmanuel Music perform Bach's *Cantata BWV 92.*

MONDAY, FEB. 17

Composers in Red Sneakers
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-9101). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $12; $8 students, seniors. CRS, an ensemble dedicated to 21st century chamber music, presents Season 2: Crossing the Line. The concert, entitled "Parallel Lines" includes works by Frazin, Gandolfi, McAllister, McLoskey, Sawyer, Stallman and Trester.

The Boston Recorder Society hosts the Trio Saltarello Feb. 8 and 9.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm.* $25-$8[illegible] Alan Gilbert directs music of Kirchner, Sibelius and Schuman. The performance features violinist Midori

STANISLAV IOUDENITCH: ELLEN

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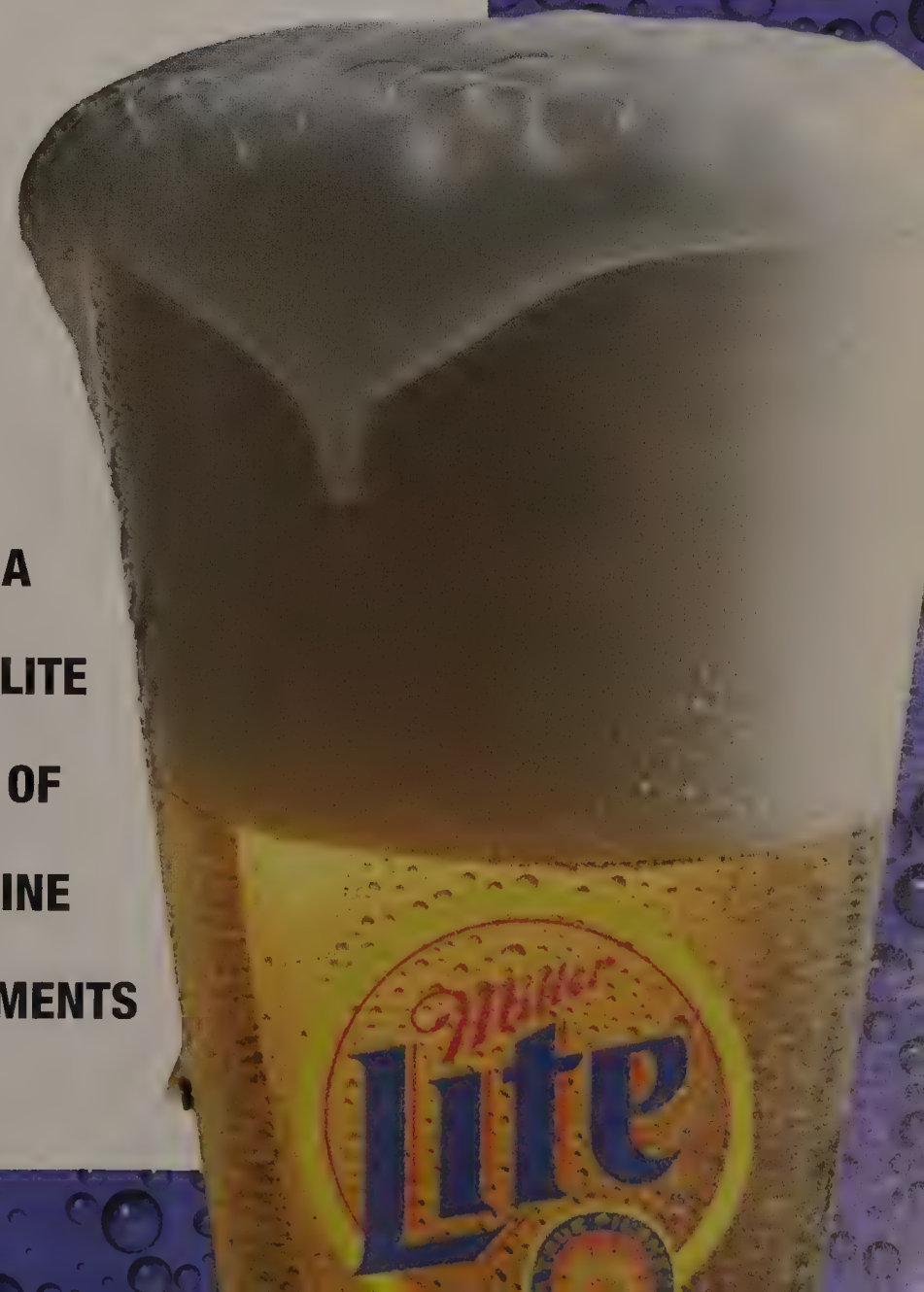


dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Avenue Bar
Service Industry Night Featuring house and techno music, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge Attain transcendence in the exotic world of Buddha Bar with DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Karmen performs, 6-9:30pm, no cover, 21+. Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
Hip-hop night, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ B-spin, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music in this swank billiards lounge, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

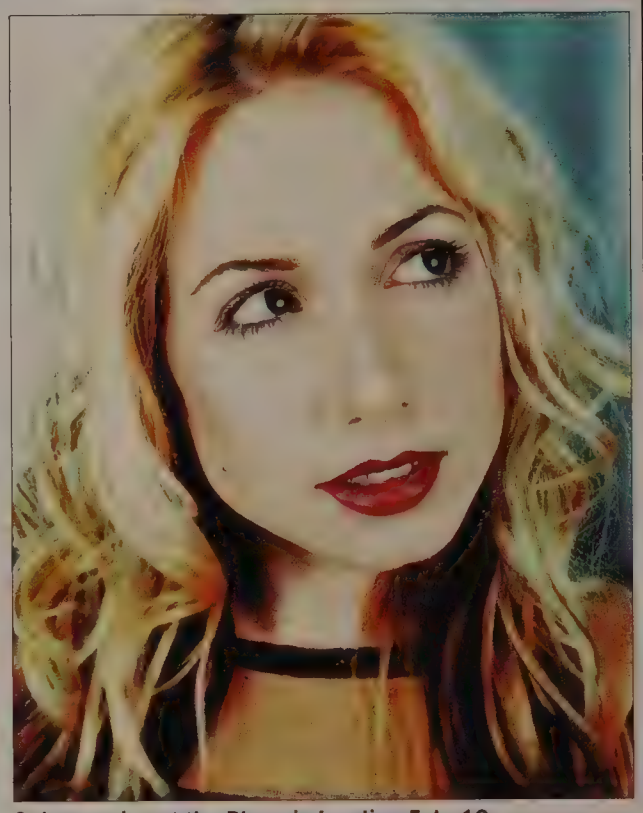
Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays House, hip-hop and Latin with DJs Fuma, Modee and Franklin, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

Preview

Bump on into Phoenix Landing

DJ Colette takes you for a spin

If you've heard *Drifting Into View*, last year's stunning debut album from Boston-based tech-house artist Morgan Page, then you already know that Colette is a talented and classy vocalist. Colette's voice can be heard on "All I Need," the first single from the album. If you make your way to Bump at the Phoenix Landing on Sunday, Feb. 16, you'll discover that Colette is also a talented and classy house music DJ.



Colette spins at the Phoenix Landing Feb. 16.

DJ Colette definitely does things her own way. Not satisfied with the limitations of typical dance music job categories like DJ or producer, Colette has blazed her own trail through the house music scene—a trail that has led from her hometown of Chicago to dance floors around the world. In 1997, she co-founded the groundbreaking women's DJ collective SuperJane with fellow Chicago DJs Dayhota, Heather, and Lady D. Today, Colette is known as much for her Chicago-inflected DJ sets as she is for her lilting vocal work on an ever-growing number of house music records. Recording her own original productions, as well as working for other well-known house music acts, Colette keeps herself busy in the recording studio. Sometimes summery and ethereal, sometimes downright sultry, her voice is instantly recognizable. When she's not performing a DJ set in Dublin or ensconced in the recording studio, you can find Colette hosting a weekly dance music show on KIIS-FM 102.7 in Los Angeles.

Despite her busy schedule, Colette plans to release her own full-length debut album in just a few months. "I'm expecting the album to be out later in the spring," she says. "It features collaborations with CPEN, Home & Garden, DJ Heather, Angel Alanis and Pete Moss. Musically, it spans everything from the dancefloor to downtempo. It's a new direction for me in terms of doing songwriting, one that I've been excited to work on for a long time."

Hopefully, Bump-goers will be treated to a preview of some music from the new album. Bump resident DJ Arturo warms it up, so be sure to arrive early.

Phoenix Landing, 512 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260). 19+. Feb. 16, 10pm-2am. $5. —Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Peow! DJ Timmy Collins spins New York-style lounge music, $3, 21+; $5 under 21.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Green Briar
DJ Long John spins '80s, '90s and top-40 hits, 10pm.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
Live music with Michigan Blacksnake, 6-10pm. DJ Steve Anderson keeps the party going until 2am, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band speeds things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Venu
The Rinse Resident DJs Static, Benny B. and Damsel spin drum 'n' bass with guests, 10pm, 18+.

Vertigo
Anitya Psychedelic trance music and sets by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw, 10pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Lounge Night DJ Jason spins house tunes and the latest techno, 21+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans-themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
The Underground The latest underground music from DJ Chris Rucker with performances by new live acts, 9pm, $10, 18+; $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+ women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; Live music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top-40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Kiss 108 presents commercial dance house, proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damo and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty queue up the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights host karaoke downstairs, 11pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes and old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Franklin cranks the noise, 11pm-2am, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins global lounge rhythms. Doors open at 10pm. No cover before 11pm, $15 after 11pm, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

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The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack
Thursday nights it's live music with Dick 'n' Jane, 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10:30pm, 21+, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice
Straight to the Point DJ Quinton, Bonafide, Jigga and Mr. Peyton spin roots reggae, R&B and soca, 10pm.
RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, $21+.
Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9pm, $10, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.
Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.
SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Venu
Global DJs bring high-energy and vocal house to the main room. DJ Freakas stirs up the VIP room with hip-hop, R&B and classic hits while Deklab and local guest DJs spin progressive tribal and house in the back room at Nuvo, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.
Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music with no attitude, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.
The Avenue Bar
Buck BC hosts TGIF nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
Boston rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Coogans
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Revolution Fridays. DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.
Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Harp
•Feb. 7, Live music by Darik and the Funbags, 10pm, $10, 21+. •Feb. 14, The Zoo performs, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Dan McCarthy spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
There's a party on all floors with DJ Tom Connors downstairs, and DJ Massi upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Rio at The Palace

The Kells
DJ Doc goes all-out with top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.
La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Roland Lopez, 10pm-2am, 21+.
Level
Velvet Lounge DJ Santangelo spins house and hip-hop, $10.
Matrix Fridays
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.
The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $20, 18+; $15, 21+. •**The Officers Club** DJ Statik Selektah and Chubby Chub spin hip-hop and R&B, and JR Swoosh spins reggae, proper dress, 8pm, ladies free, men $5, before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+, after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress required, $10, 21+, $15, after 10pm; $20, 18+. •**3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs pump the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.
Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm. •Feb. 7, Live music with Pig Pen, 9pm, $5, 21+. •Feb. 14, Thomas Park performs, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement 6:15-10:45pm, then it's DJ Johnny C and Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Dance Party, 10:45pm-2am, 21+, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 6-9pm. •Feb. 7, Hot Like Fire play live reggae, 11pm, $8, 21+; $10, 19+. •Feb. 14, Jack Lee and Diversity perform, 11pm, $8, 21+; $10, 19+.
RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fishel pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night full of hot Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies 18+, guys 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Sharpen up your salsa and merengue moves with lessons from 7-10pm, then shake it to live music by the Latin Party Boys or hit the dance floor with DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 tunes and acoustic shows entertain on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.
SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop and top-40 remix with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.
Venu
Roomba DJ Arsit spins the latest Eurohouse music; DJ Roger M spins spicy Latin flavor, jacket required, $15, 21+.
Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Sexy Saturdays Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with progressive house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The Avenue Bar
T Night fills the place with house and techno beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis
Start! Hear DJ Gibby spin alternative rock and get nostalgic to '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
DJs host a night of dancing to top-40 and rock music, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Common Ground
The Let Down Losers and has-beens are welcome to boogie down with DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.
Coogans
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with tw floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohous 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5, 21+
Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Square spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21-
Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this bi liards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disc Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and voc house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.
The Harp
•Feb. 15, The Zoo performs, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins the latest top-40, R&B and hip-hop 9pm, $10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Hall queues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Darren Drag queues up dance, R&B and top-4 while DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs wit top-40, 10pm, 21+.
La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 ho a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.
Level
In the Russian Lounge, DJ Alert spins Russian and ir ternational music. In Elite, DJ Pace spins hous techno and international music on two levels, $10.
Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while th back room features dance favorites from the '80s an '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.
Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz mov the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beat 10pm, $7.
The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+
The Palace
•**El Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music an hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, prop dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15, 18+ $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. •**The Male Encounter** Ne England's longest-running all-male dance review, doo at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $25, 18+; $20, 21+ b fore 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spi top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $20, 18+; $1 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Rio** DJ Donn Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmo sphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, prop dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm
Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 21+
The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, prop dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. •Feb. 15, Li music with Brick Park, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack
Join the dance party hosted by Star 93.7's Vinny P ruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, 21+, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice
•Feb. 8, Kolors play soca music, 11pm, $8, 21+; $1 19+. •Feb. 15, Dix & Dat performs, 11pm, $8, 21 $10, 19+.
RiverGods
Easy Does It Shake your groove thang with DJs Ea and Goodwood spinning soft '70s, 9pm, no cove 21+.
The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techn 10pm, $15, 21+.
711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and internation music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover befo 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengu music while a Latin band plays on the first floor and D Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floo 9pm, $10, 21+.

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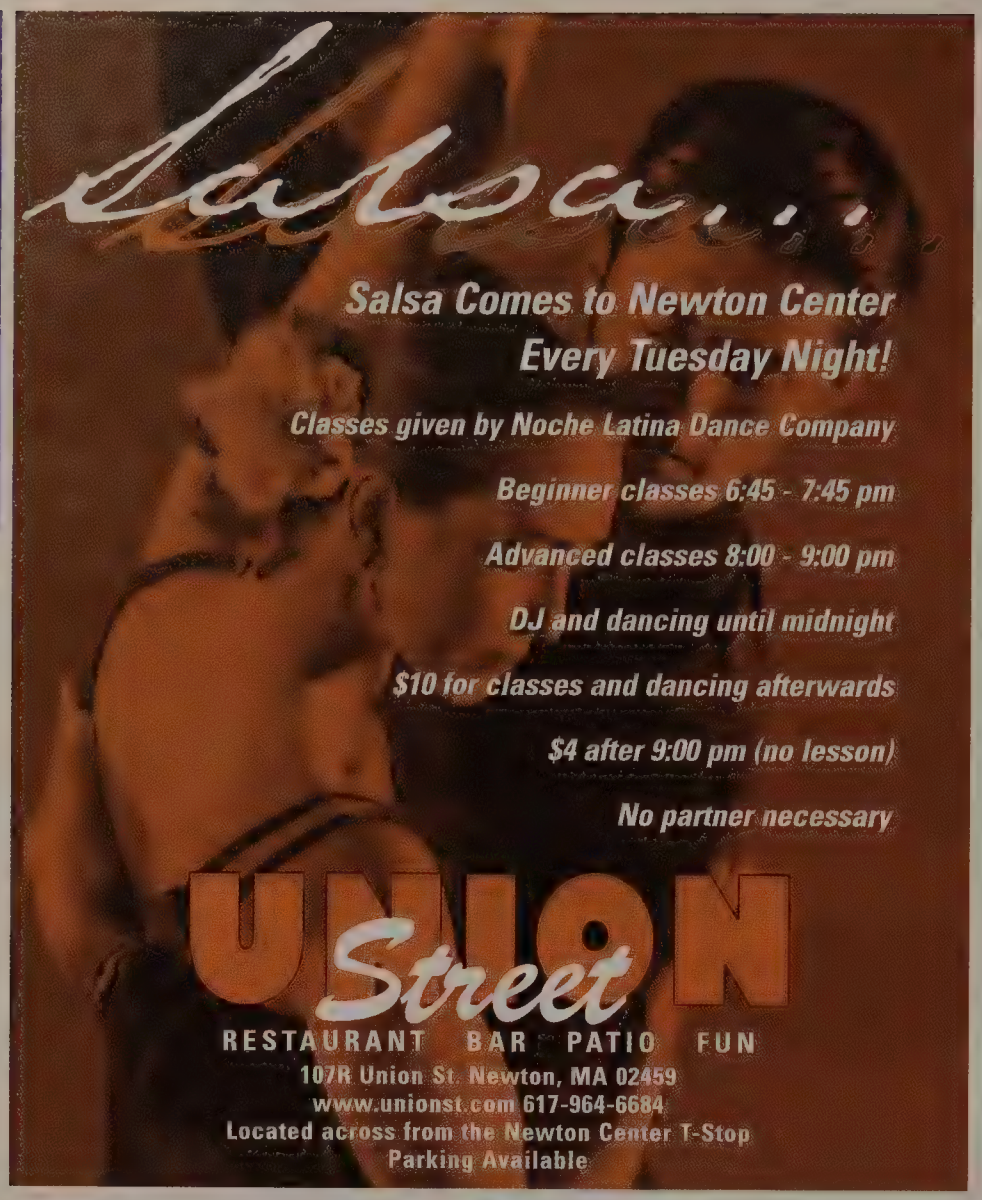

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk with DJ Bruno, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Mythos DJ Yorgo Jr. spins Greek and Spanish hits, proper dress, 11pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house music in the club and DJ Derik cues up old- school hip-hop in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turn tables, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm , $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a night of electric dance music, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Sundays DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes while resident DJs Osheen and Rob D. and weekly guests spin house, hip-hop and techno music, $10.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae music, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•Lumen Eclipse Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos. •Feb. 9, Savage McKee, 7:30-9:30pm, 21+. **•Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge Kick back and experience this trend-setting night, 10pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogans *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-720-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(Club Copa, Officers Club, Oxygen, Tilt, Uptown and Underground) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8062).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T-stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* showcases precious jewelry, icons, religious amulets, textiles, coins and household items dating from the 4th through 15th centuries. Through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* presents artwork fueled by Europe's fascination with India from the 17th to 20th centuries. Through May 25.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm.* •*Celebrating Boston: Design Visions for the Rose Kennedy Greenway* features proposed designs for the Surface Artery corridor. Through Feb. 28.•*A Tribute to John Barbour.* The Boston Afro-American Artists' Association celebrates Black History Month with Barbour's work. Through Feb. 28. •*Quiet Helpers: Quaker Humanitarian Service in Postwar Germany* recognizes the contributions made by Quaker humanitarian aid workers in postwar Germany. Through Feb. 28. •*Women in Design* celebrates women's contributions to architecture and design. Through Feb. 28.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows range from Italian to African art. •*The Last Expression: Art in Auschwitz* shows through Feb. 14. •*Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon* and *The Victor Weeps,* a show of three moving photographic installations, captures life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan. Feb. 13-June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*This Is Not a Cloud,* photographs by Cindy Sedlmeyer, is ongoing. •*Painting in Boston: 1950-2000* displays through Feb. 23. •*Looking at Ground Zero: Photographs by Kevin Bubriski* shows through Feb. 23. •*The Ambient Electron: Abstract Video Art* displays through Feb. 23. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams and dynamic spectrum shifts. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree form. Through August 31.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10am-6pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*Fire Upon the Hearth: A Celebration of Irish American Women* highlights the lives and work of several New Englanders, including Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Feb. 17-April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Lois Orswell, David Smith and Modern Art* showcases works by Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Lachaise and Smith. Through Feb. 16. •Award-winning photographer Wolfgang Tillman presents 30 color prints. Through Feb. 23. •*Prints from the Serenissima: Connoisseurship and the Graphic Arts in 18th-Century Venice* showcases 62 examples. Through March 9. •*The Modern Quotidian: Furniture by Prouvé, Perriand, Le Corbusier and Reitveld* displays modern design objects and furniture. Through March 30. •*Isolation + Integration: Works from the Permanent Collections, 1963-1973* shows through March 30.•*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* displays through May 4.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*The Glass Flowers,* featuring the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, is ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young,* also ongoing, displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. •*Dodos, Trilobites and Meteorites* showcases never-before-seen treasures from historic expeditions to remote environments. Through March 31.

Eileen Gillespie's charcoal drawing *59th Street Bridge* shows at the Pepper Gallery through Feb. 22.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Carsten Höller: Half Fiction,* the first stateside solo exhibition by Belgian-born artist Carsten Höller, includes one of his "slide sculptures," which museum visitors ride down two floors to reach the gallery. Through April 27. •*Building a Vision: Diller + Scofidio in Boston* is a preview of the models for the ICA's new waterfront location, which is set to open in September. Through April 27.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative arts including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •The work of conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth kicks off the museum's Centennial celebration. Through April 6.

McMullen Museum
Boston College, 140 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill. (617-52-8587). www.bc.edu/artmuseum. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat.-Sun., 12-5pm. Free.* •*Éire/Land,* a show of 100 major works from prominent Irish galleries, displays through May 19.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers:* Travel through student life and learning over the last 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic,* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing. •*The Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through March 4.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*18th Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* exhibits the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Art Carnival: Celebrating the Art of Many Lands* is an interactive exhibition featuring Brazilian musician Ricardo Frota and African storyteller J'miah Nabawi. Feb. 17-21.•*Lens Landscape* sho photographers' visions of landscapes. Through F 23. •*Threads on the Edge: The Daphne Farago Fiber Collection* features 65 works by more than 40 art from Farago's private collection. Through March •*Impressions of Light* surveys French landscape from Corot to Monet. Through April 13. •*RSV Sarah Sze,* a contemporary installation, incorpora the architectural structures of the MFA's West Wi Through May 3. •*The Most Expressive Art: Curs Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* sho through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Bl and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative art c lection from the late 20th century. Through Aug.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.o *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5 Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*M Tech: Beyond the Cutting Edge* explores the latest inno tions in medical technology. Through February. • *Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt* is largest selection of artifacts ever loaned by Egypt fo exhibition in North America. Through March 30. • *vention at Play* is a temporary exhibit that explores skills children develop in playtime activities. Throu April 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artist
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Su 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA memb free. •Dana Chandler shows her work in *Deni Reparations, Installations and Assemblages.* Throu March 16.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (978-745-9500). ww pem.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 12-5pm. $ adults, $8 seniors and students; children under 16 f* •*Shorelines,* ongoing, explores the impact of sea a shore on the lives of communities around the wor •Korean photographer Bohnchang Koo presents images in a self-titled show. Through Feb. 18.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-102 www.peabody.harvard.edu. *Mon.-Sun., 9am-5p $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*E counters with the Americas,* is an ongoing exhibit f turing original sculpture and plaster casts Mesoamerican cultures.•*Pacific Islands Hall,* a other ongoing exhibit, displays artifacts from t Pacific Islands. •*Hall of the North American Indi Change and Continuity* explores the native response the Europeans' arrival. Ongoing. •*Charles Fletc Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a sel tion of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collecti Through August.•*These Shoes Were Made for... Wa ing?,* a collection of shoes in a variety of styles a from cultures around the world, shows Feb. 6, 200 through Feb. 29, 2004.•*Distinguished Casts: Cur ing Lost Monuments at the Peabody Museum* displays t world's largest Mesoamerican cast collecti Through Feb. 29, 2004.

Galleries
FINE ART

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.ali zagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sa 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The work of gallery arti is featured through Feb. 20.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alp gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tu Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Gyorgy Kepes and colleag present *Photographs from the 1930s to the 198* Through Feb. 5. •*Large-Scale Works on Paper,* an ex bition by Katherine Porter, is on display Feb. March 5.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www dengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mo Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •*New Works,* a sh of acrylic paintings by Anthony James, shows throu Feb. 28.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-449 www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green L to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Donald Ju Editions: Prints and Sculptures.* Through March 19.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: G ange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Six se taught artists show their work in *Go Figure.* Throu March 1.

Boston Architectural Center
320 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-5000). MBT Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fr Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 12-5pm. •*Architectural Ornam*

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—*George Burns*

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tation: Fragments & Elements, a show of shadowboxes by 18 artists and architects, shows through Feb. 14.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment.* •*Under the Influence*, a members' exhibition, shows Feb. 9-March 8.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm.* •Wendy Hoo displays her new watercolors in *Coming Light.* Through Feb. 27.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Sun., 12-11:30pm. •*New Spring Faculty 2003* features works by Gail Deery, Jim Dow, Mel Kendrick, John Obuck and Mark Steinmetz. Through Feb. 16. •Abstract Expressionist Beauford Delaney displays his art in *The Color Yellow.* Feb. 15-May 4.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* •*The Glass Surface*, a group show, and Vladimira Klumpar's *Works from 1986 to 1998* show through Feb. 15.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Whitney Rivers shows her oil paintings in a self-titled show. Feb. 5-March 2.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •*Southwestern Works on Paper. Artwork by Jack Kramer* and *Face to Face*, a show of portraits, display through March 1.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •The *14th Annual Student Show* displays Feb. 6-22.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, South Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •A show of works by Jeff Eldrege, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing Italian Murano glass sculpture exhibition and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free. •Don Gurewitz presents his color photography in *Other Places, Other Faces.* Through March 1.

808 Gallery
Boston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-457-8700). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 12-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. •The work of French printmaker Henri Goetz and his followers is featured in *Carborundum Printmaking: Henri Goetz and His Legacy.* Feb. 13-April 6.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm, and by appointment. •Sharon Engelstein shows her inflatable and digital sculpture in *Cold Air.* Through March 1.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, from paintings to textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Between Evolution and Aberration* features works of imaginary anatomy by Lana Caplan, Danielle Kremar, Lisa Osborn and Charles Stigliano. Through March 7.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Tue.,6-9pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5pm.* •Isabel Riley shows her sculptures and Laurel Sparks presents her paintings. Feb. 7-March 15.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* • Masako Kamiya displays *Paintings* and Jaclyn Salvaggio shows *Photographs.* Feb. 7-March 1.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-1577). www.gatewayarts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Fri., 9am-4:30pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Imaginary Constructions*, a group show of architecturally influenced drawings, paintings and sculpture, displays through March 22.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Earthly Relations: Ceramics by Malcolm Wright and Photographs by Shaun Wright*, a father-and-son exhibition of earthly art, shows Feb. 7-March 4.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hallspace.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Jeff Hull presents *New Paintings.* Through March 1.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Amanda Means presents *Glow.* Through Feb. 11. •Denise Marika shows three video installations in *Bisected: Body Projections.* Feb. 14-March 18

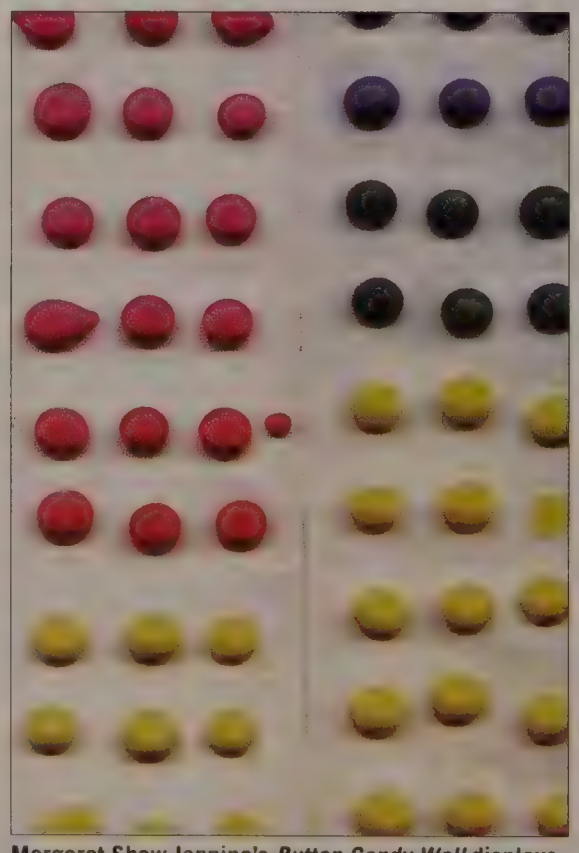
International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases vintage posters.

Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 8:30-1pm. •Four artists present their work in *There, Not There*, a mixed-media exhibition. Feb. 6-24.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-6pm. •Eight new artists show their works in *Introductions 2003*. Feb. 6-March 1. •Guest curator Denise Marika shows works by emerging video artists in *Videospace 2*. Feb. 13- March 9.

Judy Ann Goldman Fine Art
14 New bury St., Boston (617-424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. David Armstrong presents *New Color Photography.* Through March 1.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •The gallery presents *Icy Sky*, a group exhibition of painters, poets and musicians. Through Feb. 20.



Margaret Shaw Jannino's *Button Candy Wall* displays in a group show at the Oni Gallery through Feb. 16.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm.* •The Cambridge Art Association presents *Passion*, a show of sculpture, photography, paintings and multimedia by 100 artists. Through Feb.9. •*Influence*, a group show of paintings, photography and multimedia, shows Feb. 13-March 20.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Mr. Bad Example* shows the work of American contemporary artist Kevin T. Kelly. Through March 2.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Richard Deveau showcases his paintings in *Fade to Black.* Through March 1.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Form and Function* features furniture, mirrors, rugs and other functional art. Through March 14.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). http://web.mit.edu/lvac. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12pm-6pm; Fri., 12pm-8pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Paul Pfeiffer: Morning After the Deluge and Other Works* uses digital media to explore the universal themes of race, culture and identity. Through April 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markartgallery.com. *Wed. and Fri..4pm-7pm ; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Doug Adams and Stephen Springer Davis show their prints and pastels in a joint exhibition, *Places Near and Far.* Through Feb. 21.

Massachusetts College of Art
Huntington Gallery, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-879-7333). www.massart.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 11am-5pm.* •*Print, Power and Persuasion: Graphic Design in Germany, 1890-1945* features the work of Peter Behrens, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and others. Through March 22.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Adolph Gottlieb and Joseph Solman present *Two of the Ten: Works.* Through Feb. 12.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed., 12-5pm; Thu.-Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Boom Box: The Art of Sound* shows through March 9.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm.* •Sam Van Aken presents his multimedia installation *Filler.* Through March 1.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm, Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •American artists show their paintings of Ireland in *Art About Ireland.* Feb. 6-March 2.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany Street, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11am-4pm. •Andy Zimmerman presents *City Fields*, an exhibition of sculpture. Through Feb. 22.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Tue.-Sun., 11am-6pm. •*New Art for '03*, a group show featuring the horses of Eduardo Marquez, shows Feb. 8-March 3.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www. nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Mildred Howard presents *Do We Have the Right to Remain Silent* in Gallery I and Duane Slick shows *Birth of Coyote* in Gallery II. Through Feb. 15.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery. com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Suzan Batu displays her abstract work in *Paintings.* Feb. 8-March 1.

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., Boston (617-542-6983). www.onigallery.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown, Green Line to Boylston or Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Thu., 2-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 2-6pm, or appointment. $5 suggested donation.* •*Envisioning Information* features the works of seven artists. Through Feb. 16.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287) www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: R Line to Central. Mon.-Fri, 11:30am-5pm.* •T *Sixth Annual Figurative Art Show* displays Feb. 1 12-5pm.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.p pergalleryboston. com. *MBTA: Green Line to A lington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Eileen Gilles presents *New Drawings.* Through Feb. 22.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). ww puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copl Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Pl Rogers shows his pottery in *Form and Spir* Through Feb. 5.•Shigeru Matsuzaki shows dra ings in *Art and Alchemy*. Feb.8-March 6.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBT Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sa 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing c lection of 19th- and 20th-century American and E ropean paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). ww robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to A lington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5p* •Artists display portraits in *Face to Face*. Feb. March 14.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tu Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Lithograp etchings and linocuts by artists, including Braq Chagall and Picasso display through Feb. 28.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). ww societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Su 12-5pm.* •*Jewelry Hard and Soft*, a group show of ternational artists and craftsman, shows Feb. April 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBT Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 1 6pm. •Christina Keating shows her acrylics in *Me ico*, Christine Warren displays pastels in *Provence a* William St. George shows recent oil paintings in *land Visions*. Through Feb. 15.

University Place Gallery
124 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (617-876-024 www.cambridgeart.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harva Square. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-3pm.* •T Cambridge Art Association presents *Passion*, a gro show of more than 100 artists. Through Feb.9. •*Ar Love* shows the work of special-needs children. Feb. 1 March 20.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). ww vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copl Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •A sele tion of works from *Vose ArtNotes Vol. 11*, the galler collection, shows through March 31.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-403 Tue.- Sat., 10:30am- 5:30pm, and by appointme •*John Dowd: Boston Series* shows realist paintings flecting on urban landscapes. Feb. 7-March 1.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-606 www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7pm.* •*tween Rock and Art Place* showcases the artwork of r musicians, including Peter Wolf and Roger Mill Feb. 12-March 2.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Jackson Homestead Museum
527 Washington St., Newton (617-796-1450). Tu Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun., 2pm-5pm. $1-$5. •*Cla New England Churches: Photography by Steve Ros thal* showcases the beauty of churches throughc the historical New England landscape. Throu April 30.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-186 www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mo Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Keith Johnson's *Photographs* sho Feb.10-March 14.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). ww panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm and by appoi ment.* •Nubar Alexanian displays his photograp in a retrospective exhibition. Through Feb. •Charles Gauthier exhibits his photograp Feb.19-March 29.

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

Barnes and Noble
Boston University, Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Peter Wood**, a professor of anthropology at Boston University, discusses his book *Diversity: The Invention of a Concept*, in which he examines the history of diversity and rejects the conventional view of the concept in American culture.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Indian native **Bem Le Hunte** reads from *The Seduction of Silence*, her American debut, which illustrates Indian culture through the trials of several generations of a single family.

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St. Newton (617-244-6619). 7:30pm. Free. **Frederick Busch** reads from his latest novel, *A Memory of War*, the story of a successful man whose past comes back to haunt him after he gets lost in a professional and personal downward spiral.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

The Brookline Poetry Series
Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. First Friday of every month. 7pm. Free. Up-and-coming local poet **Indigo Moor** reads first, followed by Pulitzer Prize nominee **Franz Wright**. An open-mike session rounds out the night.

Booker Prize winner A.S. Byatt reads from her novel *A Whistling Woman* Feb. 8 at Brookline Booksmith.

The Dire Reader
Out of the Blue Art Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $4 suggested donation. **Barbara Kent Lawrence** reads from her memoir *Bitter Ice*, a chronicle of her 27-year marriage to a husband afflicted with a life-threatening eating disorder and alcoholism. Also, **Doug Holder**, editor of Somerville's *Ibbetson Street*, reads his poetry.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

Brookline Booksmith
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 1pm. $2. 1990 Booker Prize–winning novelist **A.S. Byatt** (*Possession*) reads from *A Whistling Woman*, the final novel in a series of four. The book follows the heroine, Frederica, into 1960s England—a time of discovery and intellectual upheaval.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Dante Books Celebration
Washburn Hall, Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-4491). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. First-time author and Yale Law School grad **Matthew Pearl** reads from his book, *The Dante Club*, a historical thriller in which a group of scholars recognize a pattern among a series of gruesome crimes and seek the killer. Also, **Lino Pertile**, Harvard professor of romance languages and literature, discusses America's earliest Dante scholars.

MONDAY, FEB. 10

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. 6pm. Free. **Linda Fairstein**, bestselling author and former head of the Manhattan district attorney's sex crimes unit, discusses *The Bone Vault*, her latest murder mystery featuring protagonist Alexandra Cooper.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Samrat Upadhyay**, a professor of English at Baldwin-Wallace College, reads from his new novel, *The Guru of Love*, the story of a Nepalese tutor who becomes infatuated with one of his students, a 15-year-old single mother.

Grub Street, Inc.
Salon 350, 350 Newbury Street, Boston (617-623-8100). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. 7:30pm. $15. Join **Steve Almond**, author of *My Life in Heavy Metal*, in a special event: Girl's Night Out, an unusual pairing of intellectual and physical enhancement in preparation for Valentine's Day. Almond leads a writing workshop on the mechanics of an effective personal ad and Salon 350 will provide makeovers for two winners.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Davis Square. 6pm. Free. **Nevada Barr** reads from her latest Anna Pigeon mystery, *Flashback*. This time Anna is caught between evidence of murder from the past and present on a small island in the Florida keys.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). 7pm. Free. **Al Blanchard**, president of the New England chapter of Mystery Writers of America, leads a workshop on the mechanics of writing and publishing mystery novels.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Linguistics scholar **John H. McWhorter** reads from his latest work *Authentically Black: Essays for the Black Silent Majority*, a collection of nine essays expressing his view on the current issues standing in the way of racial equality.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

Barnes and Noble
Boston University, Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. National Book Award winner **Sherwin Nuland** discusses his latest work, *Lost in America—A Journey with My Father*, the story of his immigrant father's difficult life in America and his own struggle to come to terms with a tempestuous childhood.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Colum McCann**, contributor to such publications as *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic Monthly*, reads from *Dancer*, a fictionalized life story of Russian dance legend Rudolf Nureyev.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

Barnes and Noble
Boston University, Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7421). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Best selling author **Wally Lamb** discusses his latest work, *Couldn't Keep It to Myself—Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters*, in which he collects autobiographical stories from his writ students at the York Correctional Institutio Connecticut.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MB Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Jonathan De** faculty member at the New School, reads from his est novel, *Palladio*, a *New York Times* Notable Book lection that follows two estranged individuals united by an eccentric advertising exec. Also, **Der Bock** reads from his first novel, *The Ash Garden*, a tionalized account of the dropping of the atomic bo in 1945.

Newtonville Books & Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). 7:30 Free. **Jessica Shattuck** reads from *The Hazard Good Breeding*, her debut novel about a young wor who returns home after her college graduatio find herself, and instead finds that her predicta family has come unhinged.

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett Street, Cambridge (6 354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. Free. **Richard Price** reads from his new novel, *San itan*, in which a former scriptwriter returns to hometown to share his newfound wealth only to come the victim of a mysterious crime.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MB Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Matthew Pearl** re from his book, *The Dante Club*. (See Feb. 9 for a scription.)

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. **Matthew Pearl** reads from his book, *The Dante C* (See Feb. 9 for a description.)

Newtonville Books & Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). 7:30 Free. **Michael Keith**, one of the nation's lead scholars on electronic media, discusses his most cent work, *The Next Better Place: A Father and So the Road*, a memoir about his cross-country tra with his alcoholic father. Also, **Lisa Gornick**, a m ber of Columbia University's Center for Psycho lytic Training, presents her first novel, *A Private cery*. The story follows a young doctor whose d addiction and subsequent breakdown lead to e tional reevaluation.

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (6 354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. ence fiction writer **William Gibson** reads from his book, *Pattern Recognition*, a contemporary myst about a market research consultant's investigatio strange Internet footage and its eerie cult followin

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-3 2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Ev Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a po slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MB Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what ot Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the H vard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MB Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm, poetry slam. 9pm, poetry $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tune the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and ken word is performed one Monday a month. The formers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (6 354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Ev Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambr (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30 $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have h weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston , 10-24 School St., Boston (617-5 4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown C ing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each mo offers a selection of featured poets and an opportu at the open mike.

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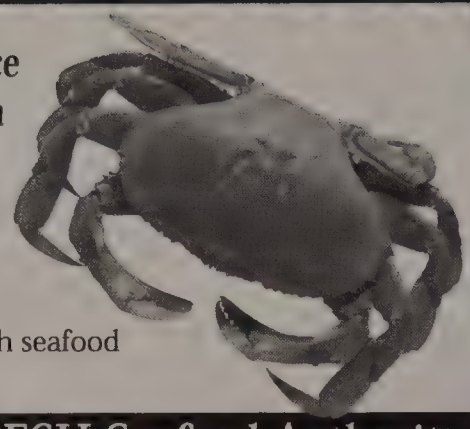

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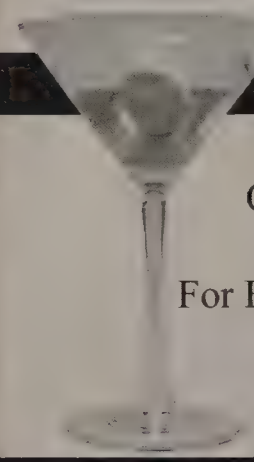

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Submit press releases by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Education or e-mail to education@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

Fixing Elections: The Failure of America's Winner-Take-All Politics
Cambridge Forum, First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-222-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. Political analyst **Steven Hill** suggests practical ways to fundamentally change our voting system and strengthen democracy. Do the vast majority of voters have any real choices when they go to the polls, or are their votes essentially meaningless?

THURSDAY, FEB. 6

The Blizzard of '78
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Park. 12:15-1pm. $5.* Chief meteorologist and science reporter for NBC and WBZ-TV in Boston **Bruce Schwoegler** gives his account of the Blizzard of 1978 and its effects on the people of New England.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

Bust into Freelance Writing
Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass. Ave., Arlington. www.newsjobs.net/seminar.asp. *10am-3:30pm. $100.* This one-day seminar for freelance writers is taught by two successful publishing professionals. Learn how to market yourself, write a perfect query letter and set up a freelance business.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Senator John F. Kerry
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1643). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. 7-8:30pm. Free (reservations required).* **Senator John Kerry**, a 2004 presidential candidate, discusses foreign affairs, environmental protection, domestic security, civil rights and liberties, and the economy. Former *Boston Globe* columnist **David Nyhan** moderates the conversation.

MONDAY, FEB. 10

An Evening with the Artist
Harvard University, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). www.ves.fas.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free.* With his work on display in collections at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, **Nayland Blake** has curated the first major American museum exhibition examining the impact of gay and lesbian artists on contemporary art.

Improving America's Schools
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Askwith Lecture Hall at Longfellow Hall, Cambridge (617-495-0740) 6pm. Free. **Eric Hanushek**, author of *Improving America's Schools*, speaks about education research and policy and improving school performance.

Stories I Tell My Friends
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1643). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. 7-8:30pm. Free (reservations required).* **Bob Schieffer**, chief Washington correspondent for CBS news and moderator of *Face the Nation*, shares stories from his new book, *This Just In: What I Couldn't Tell You on TV*, chronicling the major public figures he has covered and the sweep of American history he has reported on over the past 40 years.

Women's Health and Lifestyle Issues
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. Newton author **Dr. Machelle Seibel** will address the hormone replacement therapy debate, menopause and women's health and nutrition. She has written 12 books about endocrinology and the physiology of reproduction and women's health.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

Bits & Bites from Hip-Hop Life
Cambridge Forum, First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-222-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. Former editor of *The Source* magazine **Selwyn Seyfu Hinds** shares an insider's view of the world of hip-hop music and the dramatic lives of its stars. He traces the highs and lows of his hip-hop love affair and its indelible impact on American culture.

Communication for Non-Profits
The Lenox Hotel, 710 Boylston St., Boston (617-42[illegible] 1855). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. $50. A panel of speakers from the Greater Boston Food Bank, the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay, Slow Food Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts and the National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association will speak about working in the non-profit sector at this dinner hosted by Boston Women Communicators.

Human Rights in Morocco
Harvard University, The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Cronkhite Graduate Center, 6 A[illegible] Street, Cambridge (617-495-8601). MBTA: R[illegible] Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. **Susan Slyomovics** analyzes and documents the ways in which Morocco's plans to revamp its judicial, court and police systems go hand-in-hand with the nation's response to years of human rights violations.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

An Evening with the Artist
Harvard University, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). www.ves.fas.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* Photographer **Thomas Struth** started his career as a painter in the mid-1970s. A pioneer of large-scale photography, he is known for his series of museum interiors, including those of the Louvre and the Musée D'Orsay in Paris and the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Hurricane of 1938
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Park. 12:15-1pm. $5.* **William E. Minsinger**, author of *1938 Hurricane: An Historical and Pictorial Summary*, offers facts about the Hurricane of 1938: The Blue Hill Observatory recorded a gust of wind at 186 miles per hour, 700 people died and 63,000 people were left homeless.

Meet the Director of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence
Harvard University, Arthur M. Sackler Lecture Hall, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-4544) MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. **Annamaria Petrioli Tofani**, director of Florence's Uffizi Gallery, will reflect on the changes to the gallery brought by a reduction in governmental support, calls for greater privatization and the increasing influence of the European Union.

Slide Show on Mongolia and China
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). 7:30pm. Free. Seasoned photographer/traveler **Rob Holmes** presents a slide lecture about the backstreets of Mongolia and China.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

Democracy, Power and Trust
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Askwith Lecture Hall at Longfellow Hall, Cambridge (617-495-0740) 6pm. Free. A panel discussion with **Hubert Dyasi**, **Francisco Guarjado**, and **Deborah Meier** regarding three decades of work from the North Dakota Study Group, whose goal is to provide materials for teachers, parents, school administrators and governmental decision-makers that might encourage re-examination of issues regarding schools and schooling.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

Presidential Tapes Conference
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. Feb. 16, 1-5:30pm. Feb. 17, 9am-5pm. Free.* This national conference featuring speakers **Bob Woodward**, **Michael Beschloss**, **John Dean**, **David Eisenhower**, **Richard Reeves**, **Lynda Johnson Robb**, **Hugh Sidey** and **Brian Williams** focuses on the history of presidential taping systems and their impact on the individuals involved and the country at large.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Cosmic Inflation and the Universe
The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8600). www.radcliffe.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free.* MIT physics professor **Alan H. Guth** explains how inflation theory offers possible explanations for many features of the universe. He'll discuss the recently discovered acceleration of the universe and the mysterious "dark energy" that seems to cause it.

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CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the new Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show is held the last Monday of every month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Fridays, Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Fridays, Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, presents "Anything Goes." DJ Thom Delahunt spins house at this evening for women. *www.circuitgirl.com.* 10pm, $10, 21+. •On Saturdays Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—a pool room and a lounge keep the men busy until at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am-9pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Tuesdays, catch the Retro Rewind, 8:30pm. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music scene as well as classic movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jacques. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. The folks here are really friendly—and really into sports. DIRECTV is set up with screens scattered about and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Sun.-Fri., 12pm; Sat., 11am. No cover, 21+.

Geoffrey's Café-Bar (Daily)
160 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-11pm daily; bar open until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers 52 varieties of wine and mid-priced bistro fare. Breakfast is served daily until 3pm.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Cabaret drag show. Mon.-Sat., 10:30pm; Sun., 10pm. $5 weekdays; $7 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu. and Sat.: Avalon bartender "Miss Chris" performs. 10:30pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Wednesdays-Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Curve Wed.: DJ Joe Bermudez spins house and techno music. 10pm-2am, $9, 19+; $7, 21+. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Manhunt Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Sun.: Trix lesbian night features DJ Mix Mistress spinning house, hip-hop and Latin. 10pm-2am, $5, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays and Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thursdays is Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $10, 19+; $8, 21+. •Liquid Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $10, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top 40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Groove, 10pm-2am, $3, 19+. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop, $5, 21+. •Fri.: Vibe with DJ Susan Esthera spinning tribal, $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian authors.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos. •Feb. 5, 6:30pm. Free. **Michael Lowenthal** reads from his latest novel, *Avoidance,* the story of a Harvard graduate student who grapples with his homosexuality while researching social misfits.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Cabaret Casualty
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 16, 7:30pm. $20.* Drag-queenstar of stage and screen Kandi Kane presents her one-woman cabaret comedy show.

Gay and lesbian rowers and scullers participate in Boston Bay Blades.

Dyke Night Productions 3rd Annual Campy Game Show Valentine's Event
Midway Café, 3496 Washington St. Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *Feb. 13, 9pm. $8.* Couples and singles are invited to partake in classic game shows with a queer twist. Play to win thousands of dollars in dating giveaways in the Dyke Dating Game, the Not-Yet-Legal-Wed Game for couples and Who Wants to Marry a Blue-Collar Butch? Once the competitions cease, sexy songstress DJ Mix Mistress spins until 2am.

Skott Freedman CD-release Party
Kendall Cafe, 233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Feb. 10 9pm. Skott Freedman, singer/songwriter/pianist and bisexual activist, brings his internationally acclaimed pop music and his latest album, *Some Company*, to Cambridge. His third album is the follow up to 2001's *Something Worth Mentioning*, which was ranked the number-one album of the year on the Outvoice charts.

Something in Red: Valentine's Dance for Women
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester (781-648-0722). Feb. 15, 8pm. $10. Fever Dance's DJ Dee spins the night away for lesbians looking for love. Red attire is requested at this smoke-free, cash bar event.

Queer-o-Rama
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-9393). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Feb. 14-Feb. 20. The Coolidge Corner Theatre celebrates its annual tribute to gay cinema with a series of shorts, features and documentaries by or about the GLBT community. Call for schedule and showtimes.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl-Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This Boston bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets every second Tuesday of the month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss heritage, culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: E*

Skott Freedman performs at the Kendall Cafe.

Green Line to Symphony. The league comprises gay a lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offe full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: G Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon-Thurs, 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5 The center provides social activities for gay, lesbi bisexual, transgender and questioning young peop ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green L to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct action politi group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This dr in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-meml gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (61 424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal su port group meets on the first Wednesday and thi Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (61 927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for m and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of ea month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Ca bridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensiv guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create perf mances representing women's perspectives. E-m *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6). ww pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wres lers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Bos (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and ha some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, natio hotline is confidential and provides information a support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender a questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (617-74 7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. A group gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing ro and their partners convenes every first and third Tu day of the month.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in develop healthy gay relationships features alternatives for me ing and dating, communication games, singles mix and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for g men and lesbians who want to get together and en board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bos (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Mond evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing, and p and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Ass New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim tea

Meow_Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston/. This cial group caters to feminine bisexual women and bians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swi Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers prov information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLB GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to or nize projects, which include making schools communities safe.

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EVENTS

Contacting the Spirit World

Wyndham Andover Hotel, 123 Old River Road, Andover (978-474-8010). www.circlesofwisdom.com. *Feb. 13, 7-9:30pm (doors open at 6:30pm). $45.* Psychic medium John Holland will demonstrate how he connects with spirits on the other side. This lecture will answer some frequently asked questions, and Holland will deliver messages for some audience members from those who have passed on.

Dances of Universal Peace

Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 21, 7:30-9:30pm. Requested donation: $6-$10. Join in simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. All dances are taught and accompanied by live music.

Drum and Dance Saturday

Earth Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). www.earthdrum.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 15, 8-11:30pm. $6.* Bring your stomping feet, your clapping hands, your drums, spoons and tambourines. You won't stop moving once you're in the door.

LECTURES

Clinical Applications of Jungian Psychology

The Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-267-5984). www.cgjungboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 6-8. $350.* Members of the C.G. Jung Institute and Society will present their work, weaving together theory and methods such as dream interpretation, active imagination, art analysis and body work. Mythology, anthropology and story are integral to the practice and the analytic process.

Eat Smart with Nutrition Basics

Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1580). www.harvestcoop.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Feb. 18, 6-8pm. Free.* The basic elements of a healthy diet, including fats, carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, exercise and how to read labels will be discussed at Nutrition 101.

Understanding the Science of Acupuncture

New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (617-926-1788, ext. 5). www.nesa.edu. *Feb. 15, 10am-5pm. $100.* How does acupuncture work? Come explore the scientific theories proposed to explain acupuncture, including both neurophysiological mechanisms and various nonmolecular theories. Dr. Belinda Anderson hosts this workshop.

WORKSHOPS

The Ayurvedic Approach to Health

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 16, 10am-4:30pm. $79.* An ancient Eastern approach to health, Ayurveda recognizes that each individual is different, and these differing temperaments require different foods and exercise. This in-depth workshop helps you discover what your specific health needs are and introduces Ayurvedic theory and how to apply its principles in daily life.

Backbend Intensive Workshop

Baptiste Power Yoga Institute, 139 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-423-9642). www.bostonyoga.com. *Feb. 8, 1-3:30pm. $50. Open to all levels.* Learn the proper alignment for backbends and how to use backbends for reducing injuries and strain at this power yoga workshop.

An Extraordinary Valentine

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Feb. 13, 10am-12pm. $29.* Looking for a valentine treat that's better than chocolate or a hot bath? This workshop is dedicated to discovering what truly engages your attention, frees up your energy and provides you with comfort.

Find the Right Balance

The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Feb. 16, 1-3pm. $25.* Are you on the verge of burnout? Overwhelmed? Trapped? This workshop is designed to help you explore what you want in your life, get creative about alternatives and begin to develop balance so that your life can be more intentional and fulfilling.

Author Rebecca Chalker teaches a class on Sexual Revolutions from the Ice Age to the New Millennium at Grand Opening Feb. 16.

Introduction to Longevity Breathing

Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Feb. 8, 1:45-4pm. $30.* Do you get short of breath or have breathing troubles? Longevity breathing teaches you to naturally breathe gently and deeply with your belly, soothing nerves and quieting the mind, and possibly leading to improved health and vitality.

Life Without Headaches

Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, 147 Milk St., First Floor, Post Office Square, Boston (617-723-2711). Feb. 17, 6pm. Free. Dr. John Beneski discusses the true cause of most headaches and a variety of solutions to ease the pain.

Meridian Massage and the Meridian Clock

Theosophical Society, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *Feb. 8, 10am-1 pm. $30.* Transformational kinesiology is a holistic energy balancing method that uses muscle testing as a biofeedback indicator to access information from the body and mind. Practitioners use the method to identify limiting beliefs, stressors and energy blockages that inhibit clients from reaching their potential. Kate Rafferty, certified instructor of transformational kinesiology, discusses her practice and and teaches you a trick for eliminating jet lag.

Natural Solutions for Digestive Problems

Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, 147 Milk St., First Floor, Post Office Square, Boston (617-723-2711). Feb. 10, 12pm. $10. Lunch provided. Please pre-register. Learn how to improve digestion naturally for better overall health.

Reiki Clinic

Arlington Reiki Associates, 366 Mass Ave #304, Arlington (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. *Feb. 7, 6:30-9:30pm. $10.* Experience a relaxing Reiki energy healing treatment.

Restore Meaning and Purpose to Your Life

Plymouth (508-224-8818). www.RoadNotTaken.com. *Feb. 8. $75. Please pre-register.* Personal coaches Janet Parks and Bradford Glass host this day-long workshop to help you connect with your values, discover new possibilities, simplify your life, and find out what's holding you back.

Sexual Revolutions from the Ice Age to the New Millennium

Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Feb. 16, 6:30-8:30pm. $34.* Rebecca Chalker, author of *The Clitoral Truth,* teaches this informative class. The sexual revolution of the '60s is widely seen as "the big one," but there have been others which have affected the ways sexuality is perceived and practiced. This class explores the various social, cultural and sexual revolutions of the past and present.

RETREAT

Winter Lights Dance Meditation Retreat

Falmouth (508-495-3311). http://pages.prodigy.net/stevenmalkus1. *Feb. 14-16. $180 (includes meals and accommodations).* This retreat is designed to help you find inspiration from inner visions. You'll use your vision to work with the group and manifest it in dance.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

Disney on Ice Presents Princess Classics

FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Feb. 12-14, 7 pm; Feb. 15-16, 11 am, 3pm. and 7 pm; Feb. 17, 1 and 4:30pm; Feb. 18, 10:30 am and 2:30pm. $12-$60. Cinderella, Jasmine, Ariel, Sleeping Beauty, Belle, Mulan and Snow White join together in Disney's new on-ice adventure.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat., 6pm.* ImprovBoston's Family Showcase includes an improvised medieval fantasy show.

Kids Variety Show

290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 10:30am. $8.50, $6 children. Each show opens with a mix of music, dance, stories, games and prizes, and is followed by a feature performer. •Feb. 8: Wayne Martin tells stories with puppets. •Feb. 15: Gary Rosen presents the Teddy Bear Jamboree. Bring your own teddy bear to this Valentine party.

Puppet Showplace Theatre

32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •Feb. 5-6, 10:30 am, ages four and older: Michael Graham and his Spring Valley Puppets present *Jack and the Beanstalk.* •Feb. 6-8, 8 pm, $18: The Living House Theatre presents Charles Dickens' *Hard Times.* •Feb. 8-9, 1 and 3 pm, ages 4-10: Ventriloquist Sylvia Marson presents *The Magic Trunk.* •Feb 12-13, 10:30 am, ages 4-6: Paul Vincent Davis presents *The Singing Turtle.* •Feb. 15-16, 1 and 3pm, ages 3-8: Nappy's Puppets present *Jack and the Beanstalk.* •Feb. 17-19, 1 and 3 pm, ages 4-8: Puppet artist Paul Vincent Davis presents *Androcles and the Lion* and *The Golden Touch of Midas.*

Scooby-Doo in Stagefright: Live on Stage

Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.wangcenter.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue-Fri., 7pm; Sat., 11am, 3pm and 7pm; Sun, 11am, 2pm and 5pm. $15-$38.* Scooby-Doo and his friends come to life as part of the national tour. The show takes the form of a "long-lost episode" in which the gang solves the mystery of a supernatural specter wreaking havoc at the old Clawhammer movie studio.

Storytime for Children

Borders, Cambridgeside Galleria, Corner of Cambridgeside and First streets, Cambridge (617-679-0887). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Sat., 12 pm. Borders hosts storytime for children.

The Will Rogers Follies

The Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). MBTA: Green Line to Longwood or Fenway. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 3pm. Through Feb.23. $12-$18. The Tony Award–winning production recounts the colorful life and times of the "cowboy-philosopher and self-styled 'poet lariat.'"

Wizard's Crystal

The Leland Center at Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). Sat., 2pm. Feb. 8-22. The chase is on with this children's performance by the Pocket Full of Tales theater company. The good wizard Paraffin and the evil sorceress Balderdash race to find the lost magic crystal. The one who claims it will have the power to do anything they wish. Who will come out on top?

THINGS TO DO

The Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15pm. •Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts. •Feb. 7, 6 and 7pm, ages eight and older: Double Dutch jump roping with Robin Nelson. •Feb. 14: Ariel Blue performs love songs for Valentine's Day. •Feb. 17, 11am, 12, 1 and 2pm: Branches Steel Orchestra performs. •Feb. 18, 11am, 12, 1, and 2pm: Isaura Oliviera performs and teaches traditional African-Brazilian dances.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •Feb. 17-23, 9am-5pm. $12, $8 children: Winter Scavenger Hunt. Explore the museum for clues to a secret message while learning how people and animals survive during the snowy season. •Feb. 15, 9am-12pm, grades 2-3, $35: Creepy Crawly Critters. This hands-on class examines creepy crawlers and how they live.

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum

Columbia Point, Boston (877-626-4599). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Feb. 10:30am. Free.* Caribbean for Kids performs children's songs and Caribbean tunes for family audiences.

Museum of Fine Arts

295 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3300 www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Free with museum admission ($13-$15); children (17 and under) free.* •Feb. 17-21, 10am-4pm. *Art Carnival: Celebrating the Art of Many Lands.* Participate in self-guided activities that explore a variety of the art objects in the museum's permanent collection made specifically for celebrations, including masks, instruments and jewelry. Children and families may also participate in art-making activities including creating their own masks, instruments and jewelry.

Disney on Ice's new show, *Princess Classics,* glides into the FleetCenter Feb. 12-18.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* •Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-12pm: The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits with live animals. •Through April 30: The *Invention at Play* exhibit allows visitors to follow the creative processes of Alexander Graham Bell, James McLurkin, Newman Darby and other inventors •Feb. 14: The world premiere of the IMAX film *Coral Reef Adventure* takes viewers under the sea in Fiji, Tahiti, Rangiroa and the Great Barrier Reef.

Newton Free Library

Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1370). •Mon., 9:45am: Storytime for 2-year-olds; 7pm, ages 8 and older: Poetry writing workshop. •Tue., 10:30am: Preschool sing-a-longs •Wed. 11am: 3- and 4-year-old storytimes •Thursday 3:30pm: 5-year-old storytime; 7pm, ages 4 and older: Pajama storytime; 7:30pm, ages 8 and older: Play reading •Feb. 11, 3:30pm, ages five and older: Celebrate the Chinese New Year with stories, crafts, and special treat. •Feb. 12, 10:30am, ages 3-4; 4pm, ages 5 and older: Listen to stories and make valentines.

Old South Meeting House

310 Washington St, Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. $1-$5 (children under 6 free).* •Feb. 11am-12pm: Children can learn about the American Revolution from a performance of *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness* with General George Washington, John Adams and Abigail Adams. •Feb. 10am-12pm, ages 6 and older: *Meeting House Hi* puts children's detective skills to work as they search Old South for pieces of its Colonial history.

Walk at Gore Place

Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-2798 Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm. Ages 3-9. $4. With activity packs and brightly colored snowshoes, children and adults search for animal tracks, make a pine cone bird feeder and visit the animals on the farm.

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Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849
Feb. 5, 7pm vs. Seattle Supersonics
Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 617-931-2222
Feb. 6, 7pm vs. Montreal Canadiens
Feb. 8, 3pm vs. Pittsburgh Penguins

Events

Beanpot Tournament Finals
Boston College, Boston University, Harvard and Northeastern vie for Boston collegiate hockey supremacy at this annual tournament. The championship game pits the winners of the Feb. 3 preliminary games against one another. If you're a fan of one of the other teams, the consolation game starts at 5pm. *FleetCenter, Boston.* www.fleetcenter.com. *Feb. 10, 8pm. Tickets start at $22; available at the FleetCenter box office only.*

Water Polo Clinic
Learn the basics of water polo. No previous experience is necessary, but you must be able to swim. *MIT Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center, Cambridge. (617-270-4593).* www.metropolo.org. *Feb. 6, 13 and 20; 8:30-10pm. $80, plus $10 per session non-student facility use fee ($5 students).*

To Play

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

Coed Floor Hockey
BSSC. Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

Coed Indoor Flag Football
BSSC. Games are played in Revere (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds RFC
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Homefield at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
(781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. The nonprofit BSSS offers skating classes for children and adults at 15 MDC rinks.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

Asgard Volleyball League
University Park, Cambridge (617-577-9100). Wed. nights. The Asgard, Newcastle and Forest City Property Management host a weekly volleyball league for Cambridge businesses.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling @yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

Boston's top college hockey team will be crowned at the Beanpot Tournament Feb. 10.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri., 10am-9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30am-6pm. $7.50.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Boston Cares volunteers lend a hand at the Women's Lunch Place in the Back Bay.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big brot to a little boy.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer oppor nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of p ple between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organizat needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special ever

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and ment needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work in Ca bridge public schools as tutors, aides and mentors.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elderly.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly in vidual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or sh with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone w people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist eld

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed the Parental Stress Line.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guest

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111, ext. 17). Record textbooks in di tal formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996, ext. 30). Battered women's ager seeks volunteers.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dini room, clothing room, groceries program and office wo

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour c mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely pe ple over the phone.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal i migrants and refugees become naturalized citizens

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space a clarity). Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a p or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Jake at Il Panino
January, fourth floor, 11:30pm at Il Panino. You met a mystery woman. We danced and kissed the night away. Sorry for leaving like Cinderella. I'll be on the fourth floor on Saturdays waiting to dance with you again.
—interstar4297@hotmail.com

Scared Kenmore Girl
It was a windy Sunday evening close to 9pm. I was on the B Line going to meet a friend. You got on the T with a big white bag filled with papers, sat right next to me and kept looking over until I got off at the Kenmore stop. You then started to follow me saying "I like pretty girls. I like pretty girls." Then I quickly walked up the stairs and you continued to follow me. You introduced yourself as "Michael Michael I like motorcycle." I got scared and ran into the McDonalds for safety and you began to bang on the windows. Finally, you left. Please, if you ever see me again or any other girls do not go following them. You really scared me.
—Tracie

New Year's Eve at the Rack
While other girls were content with getting a New Year's kiss and moving along, you tried to make conversation. Unfortunately, it was too loud and chaotic to hear much. I know that your name is Liz and you're in Boston to get a PhD, though. And I may be wrong, but I believe that you're from Lincoln and were at the Rack with two female friends. You also confessed to seeing my friends and I play pool earlier in the evening. You're tall, blond and attractive... and after toasting champagne at midnight you returned to your friends saying, "If you want to talk, I'll be over there." Although I found you briefly on a trip to the bar, I lost you later when it mattered most: when things began to settle down after the midnight rush and I was hoping to have a real conversation. If you happen to read this, I hope we can meet again in a more subdued atmosphere for that elusive opportunity.
—PhDinWhat@hotmail.com

D-line
To the T operator who made my Jan. 14 ride home from work memorable. Thanks for cracking everyone up by mispronouncing every stop on the D Line with your Barry White-meets-the-Movie-phone-guy-from-France voice. The cherry on top however, had to be your announcement at Ressss-iv-voir to "Please be sure to remove all your belongings from the train, as anything left on the T will become my late Christmas gifts."
—Nira

Vince Vaughn Lookalike
Dec. 17 at karaoke night at the Milky Way: You look like Vince Vaughn, with a cowboy hat on. We chatted for a bit when I complimented you on your choice of "Stand by Your Man." Me, long dark-brown hair, white ruffled button-down and black lace pants. I was with the Christmas party from Figs. I know your name is Eric and I haven't been back to the Milky Way since, but why not e-mail me and avoid the cover charge—not that I wouldn't want to hear you sing again. I can't get you out of my mind. You were with two other women, friends I presume. Please, someone, tell him to e-mail me!
—celad@msn.com

The Girl on the Hill
Every time I think of you I smile, when I see you I begin to shine and being with you makes my heart dance. The last year with you has been the most amazing time in my life and that is because of what you have opened inside of me. You are the girl I have dreamed about falling in love with, and more importantly, you are my best friend. I want us to be together, so let me take your hand in mine and let's walk together.
—youcan callme_tyty @yahoo.com

Chris from South Carolina
Our eyes met by chance that random weeknight a few months ago at Common Ground. I was leaving with my roommate, but I went back inside. I figured, how often does a person get that kind of look? We spoke for a while... I even carded you and your roommate! Just before I left (again), you asked me for my number and I scribbled it toward the end of your journal. Did you lose my number... or just lose interest?
—penultimatepage@yahoo.com

Mr. Lawyer Man
At the West St. Grille and later at Christopher's, you asked for my number after telling me how you asked two dozen "Michael Vick fans" for their phone numbers. Get a clue! I wouldn't go out with you for all the free *USA Todays* in America! Besides, your polo shirt and love of Reagan were bizarre. Be careful who you try to impress, as most women don't like being rapped to!
—iapologize@hotmail.com

Admired You at the Sports Grille Jan. 19
You were the cutest guy at the Sports Grille near the Fleet duri the NFC Championship game a I could not take my eyes off you think you were rooting for the Eagles. You were wearing a dar baseball cap with a USPS/Nike logo, a tan v-neck sweater and black leather jacket. You also have the nicest smile I've seen a long time. You were with frien then watched some games by yourself and by the time I got u the nerve to talk to you, you had scooted out. If you're reading th I was the girl who couldn't help but admire you and smile.
—nomar_loyal@yahoo.com

Damsel in Distress
Allison, Nov. 12, Mt. Auburn Hospital emergency room: You ca in for chin stitches, the result of a bizarre volleyball incident. My frie was there for a nose job. It was there that I was exposed to your infectious smile. I had all the symptoms—rapid heartbeat, dilated pupils and sweaty palms. I'm not looking for a cure but I ha been searching for the cause. My prognosis was that by offering yo my card you would contact me. Before I hemorrhage from kicking myself for not asking a damsel in distress for her number, please call Show-Off, stat!
—Show-Off

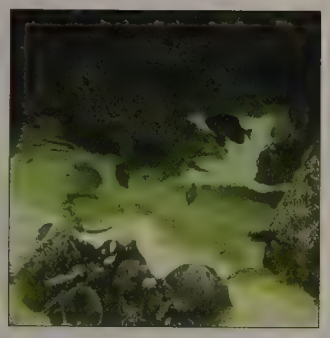
Icelandair
You were on the same flight to Iceland on Dec. 30. You sat acros from me at the gate and then on row ahead of me on the plane. I was seated next to a talkative American who liked to discuss hi travels and I was pretty sure you were eavesdropping. I was wishi I was sitting next to you instead. You are tall, blonde and blue-eye You may not even be American or living in Boston. I got on a connecting flight to London in Iceland. I'm not sure where you were headed from Iceland. We made eye contact plenty of times but never spoke. If by chance you do live in Boston and happen to read this, e-mail me.
—icelandairgirl@hotmail.com.

To the Nicest Man
I wish right now I could get your pain away from you. You do not deserve this pain because you are the nicest man. I wish I could take away your mother's sickness and put it on me. Ask me to do anythin for you and I will do it right away. My family and I are with you and your family every minute.
—A lady (hopefully your lady some day)

Rockie Horoscope

FEBRUARY 5 – 18, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER



AQUARIUS JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Happy birthday. There's precious little you can't pull off, no matter how wild or chaotic it may appear. February is the one time of year when rebels and kooks find favor with the public, when ordinary expectations don't squelch creative, anarchistic expression. Take advantage; the spotlight is on you, your ideals and what makes you different. Support, if you need it, comes from a generous co-worker; and your lover or child can be the steadying influence that'll keep you within the limits of the law. Great fun.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Precious "Eureka moments" may be more frequent this month, simply because of the cosmic energy that's focused on your higher mind, not on day-to-day doings and other trivial pursuits. Physicists and philosophers (the preferred professions of the Fish) will thrill to the possibilities that open up while the sun travels through inventive, iconoclastic Aquarius. Electronic wizards and enthusiastic lovers may already be anticipating the goodies due during the Valentine's Day/Presidents Day weekend. Yippee!

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

The idealistic Aquarius new moon may have inspired you to turn a creative impulse or your sympathy for a community cause into an everyday activity. But be sure that your approach is your own, that it's not diluted by vaporous Neptunian vibes. Unless you're aspiring to sainthood, in which case you'll need whatever spin you can get from PR people big on hooey and hierarchy. Also watch out for the Ram's latent militancy, your "my way or the highway" attitude. Planning to kill a tender Valentine's Day moment?

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

A sudden urge to take an art history course or a cruise through the Caribbean springs from the inspirational Aquarius new moon and the start of the Chinese New Year. As long as you're opening up to a culture that's exotic or unfamiliar, you'll feel you're making progress and enriching your life. Around this time, a financial matter that's been slow to show a profit or any satisfaction at all begins to make sense. If you can avoid getting into a grudge match, you might have a pleasure-filled Valentine's Day.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Because Twins are able to think ahead and weigh alternatives better than most, the potentially good and bad situations that can develop from the seeds sown at the Aquarius new moon may appear as plain as the name recently placed on a dotted line. Keep in mind that a partnership or contractual matter could evolve into a major problem by Valentine's Day. You'll probably have to appease the beast you live or work with if you want to get away for the long Presidents Day weekend—or even enjoy the holiday at home.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Despite a busy work schedule and a full social life, you may be tempted to develop another meaningful relationship after the Chinese New Year. This lunar cycle highlights ways to capitalize on a joint venture, so on the attraction you have for someone who shares your values. Although the romantic implications are not yet obvious, who knows what'll happen once affectionate Venus enters your Capricorn marriage sign on the 4th. Be careful you're not courting danger on Valentine's Day. No extreme sports.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

February is an excellent time for Leos to strut their stuff. Because your sun ruler contacts a wide variety of planets, your energy can bounce from spiritual pillar (when it merges with idealistic Neptune) to practical post (while it's being supported by sensible Saturn). In between you'll feel well-protected by generous Jupiter (and lucky, to boot) before daring to venture beyond the boundaries of convention on Valentine's Day. Expect changes as the sun meets unpredictable Uranus in Aquarius on the 17th.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

With so much hot-headed fire and air energy bouncing around, it may help to know that your Mercury ruler is still transiting reality-based Capricorn and that affectionate Venus is also in that friendly, down-to-earth sign. A measure of common sense and sensory pleasure should counteract the high-flying platitudes and fleeting desires that are motivating other signs. And while you might not be moved on a deep emotional level, come Valentine's Day weekend, you'll get enough sweet smiles and sugar to satisfy your cravings.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

If nothing else, the Chinese New Year can inaugurate a series of feasts celebrating the joys of having friends from different walks of life. Even achieving a bit of domestic bliss is not such a far-fetched ideal this month, not as long as intelligent life surrounds your home. If you want to do something out of the ordinary, save it for Presidents Day weekend when you and a loved one might be in jeopardy. No matter how well you ski, heart-stopping, ultimately reckless behavior should be postponed for another time.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You seem to be putting plenty of pressure on yourself to make a big splash, so you don't need a parent's enthusiasm or a client's assistance. However, be aware that both of your ruling planets, macho Mars and powerful Pluto, are about to join forces in your Sagittarius house of assets and values. If there's something you're determined to grab for yourself, mid-February would be the best time to take it. That's when you're able to prove just how passionate you are about what you desire and how willing you are to take a risk.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Fiery Mars in Sag provides a blast of energy and eagerness you can direct to a joint financial project or to your continuing search for answers to life's major philosophical questions: How? why? and why me? Because your protective Jupiter ruler is involved, the prospects for meeting specific goals look good. However, come Valentine's Day, when take-action Mars teams up with Pluto, ruler of the underworld and the collective unconscious, you could inadvertently sabotage what you set out to accomplish. Where is the love?

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Another rewarding week as the Aquarius sun supports your prudent Saturn ruler. Rarely does following tradition pay off the way it can now. If you're making plans for Valentine's Day and considering doing something unusual or original, fight the urge. When it comes to romance, tried and true is the way to go. Should you feel compelled to blaze a trail and make your mark, come up with an art work or a fashion trend you can cash in on instead. Few can resist the magnetic attraction of Venus when she's in Capricorn.

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Caroline Donnelly and Shane Richardson celebrated their nuptials on Trump Bay Beach in St. John's, Antigua. Since this picture was taken, Trump has subdivided the bay into a string of successful inlets and sold them off at an enormous profit.

Sarah Begley and David Wilkins (who, we add, won last fall's Halloween costume contest at Felt with their Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne getups) tied the knot in West Harwich last September. Ros McLean, Kate Bailey, Jenn Glanville, Alison Peters and Marleigh Brown helped them celebrate by drinking bubbly on the beach.

Paul and Kristen Guglielmino (far left and right) attended an Elvis wedding at the Silver Bell Chapel in Las Vegas. It looks tasteful.

Bernard and Kathleen Theisen-Remaud said aloha to matrimony in Honolulu.

April and Wilson Rey were pronounced mon and wife in Negril, Jamaica. Their guests, Denise Rico and Elizabeth Harriman, thought the wedding was quite *irie*.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Wearing one of the local costumes at any one of the Carnival celebrations that happen around the world throughout the month of February.

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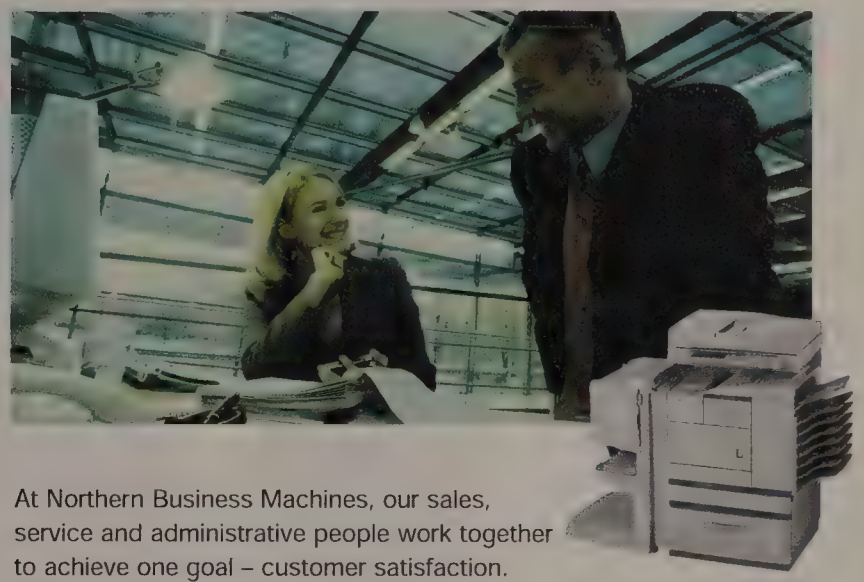

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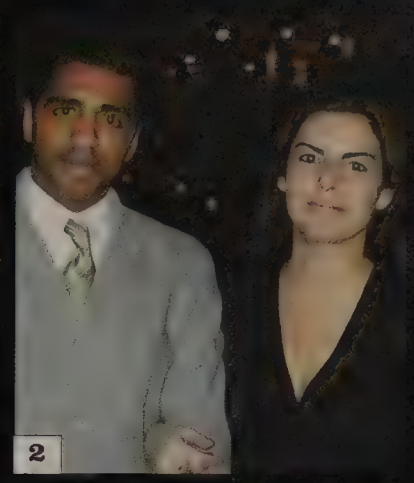
n Saturday, Jan. 18th, **The Palace** along with **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN** nd **Star 93.7** hosted a bash to celebrate the grand opening of the new ub, **Rio**. The Cirque de Soleil-like troupe, Imago, gave an awe-inspiring erformance and Miss Brazil 2002 made a special appearance to kick off e festivities.

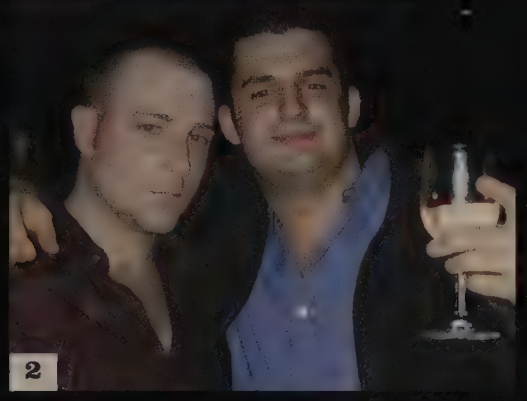
1. **Fast Freddy**, DJ, Star 93.7, **Russell Robbat**, owner, The Palace and **Taiza Thomsen**, Miss Brazil, 2002.
2. **Sonia Mattson**, recruiter, Reid & Co., and **Kristin Regis**, senior research analyst, Delahaye Medialink.
3. **Jack McKenney**, VP, Filene's Basement and **Kevin Battistelli**, bartender, Boston.

On Saturday, Jan.18th, **33 Restaurant and Lounge** hosted an event for **Single Gourmet**. The night included an enticing menu of classic dishes followed by dancing in the lounge.



1. **Debra Blyth**, nurse attorney, Kemper National Services, **Terry Seldon Calhoun**, owner, Fifth Estate, **Richard Quinn**, attorney, Boston and **Cheryl Viscont**, associate, Legal Research Services.
2. **Antoine Delgado**, general manager, 33 Restaurant and **Florence Azer**, assistant manager, 33 Restaurant.
3. **Juliette Cox**, founder, Verona Public Relations, **Bill Dykens**, private trainer, The Sports Club / LA, **Melanie Cabot**, owner, Single Gourmet Boston, **Greg Den Herder**, owner, 33 Restaurant and **J.C. Vancampenhoud**, manager, 33 Restaurant.

Saturday, Jan. 25th, **Kiss 108FM** presented "Wild On's Casino Royal" at **La Boom**. The party atured black jack, craps, roulette and lots of late night dancing.



David Meskell, card dealer and **Maria Strouzas**, student, Northeastern.
Greg Struck, student, Northeastern and **Mike Chicarelli**, student, Northeastern.
Nina Ricciardi, student, Suffolk University and **Sheldon Metallic**, bartender, Boston.

On Friday, Nov. 29th, the **Armenian Library and Museum of America** celebrated its 30th anniversary with an elegant dinner dance at the **Royal Sonesta Hotel**, Cambridge.

1. **Stella Aftandilian** of Weston, **Peter Onanian**, real estate developer, Weston, **Charleen Onanian**, realtor, DeWolfe Realty, **Randy Takian**, senior VP, Fleet Boston, **Elaine Mosesian**, president, Mosesian Properties and **Adrienne Alexanian**, United Nations representative.
2. **Charles Talanian**, president, Talanian Realty, **Gail Talanian O'Reilly**, director, Armenian Assembly of America, **Nevart Talanian**, Armenian Assembly of America and **Rev. Dajad Davidian**, St. James Armenian Church.

Tuesday, Jan. h, **Thomas k** on shington St. sted a special e and cheese eption for the mbers of the ish American siness Council d invited guests.

1. **Urszula Wojciechowska**, executive director, British American Business Council of New England, INC., **Jerry Alderman**, managing director, International Insurance Group Limited, **Nancy Jannitto**, assistant manager, Thomas Pink and **Kristen Grace**, store manager, Thomas Pink.
2. **Betsie Kamm**, sales assistant, Thomas Pink, **Janet Richey**, founder and president, Women in World Trade and **Malcolm Butehorn**, sales assistant, Thomas Pink.

PHOTOS:PALACE, 33 RESTAURANT, THOMAS PINK, JULIE KANE; LA BOOM, KYLE-MARIE LANDRY; ARMENIAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, STEPHEN SENERJIAN PHOTO

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The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.* It's always fresh, honest and simple at Henrietta's Table. Executive Chef Peter Davis, who has been awarded "Best Chef in the Northeast" by the James Beard Foundation, creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations highly recommended except breakfast. Mon-Thurs, 6:30am-10pm; Fri-Sat 6:30am-11pm. Call 617-661-5005 for reservations and information.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000 & 2001 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 Rear Union St., Newton Centre, 617-964-6684 Off intersect. of Beacon St. & Center St.* Comfortable, casual and fun in a 100+ yr-old building with 3 floors and an outside patio. Focus is on fresh food with a menu that covers everything from classic appetizers to creative pastas and entrees. Locally known for fresh fish and Sat. & Sun. Brunch menu as well as for football and sports bar scene (20 TVs of Direct TV) and the live, original music in the top floor ATTIC Bar.

bars/clubs

BEER SPECIALTY

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning ber bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Boston Billiard Club *126 Brookline Ave., Boston, 617-536-POOL* Winner of Boston Magazine's Best of Boston 1999 Award. Newly expanded this year, Boston Billiard Club has more of everything you're looking for. More Brunswick Gold Crown tables. A bigger lounge. New plush leather couches. A giant flat screen TV. An unbelievable state of the art sound system. Newly added function rooms. Free lessons Mon, 7:30- 9pm. House leagues on Mon and Tues. "In the Biz" Nights on Sunday and Mondays. Ladies' Night on Wed. www.bostonbilliardclub.com

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Catunes and Central Basement.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, MA, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

Tilt *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* A club truly in a class of its own. With its outrageous Light Show and Cat Walk spectacle, dance and groove with the spinning sensations on Saturday nights and to guest DJs spinning progressive house and trance on Friday. Dress code strictly enforced. Doors open at 10pm.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th yea Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, th menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Iris music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742 2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneu Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish tra ditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine lis Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy liv entertainment five nights a week with pop bands dire from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fin Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-111.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of Joh Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micr brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Can hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's onl 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots an Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367 0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this fa vorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giar cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serv ing lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfa every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boas over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" an imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainmer every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617 338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Finar cial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place f young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with ov 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Be Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2an featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. " great place for a pint and a chat."

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.a leyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Stre to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialt drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony f plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwat Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have somethin for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alle where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Bostor newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the F nancial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in or of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck watching your hometown favorites on our high defin tion plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for aft work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spir ning your favorite mixes through our state of the art soun system all night long.

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, corner of Newbu Street, Boston, MA, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant wit a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signatu it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Sele from items such as the Grilled Portabella Paninni or Par Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe al makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as th now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1an AE, DC, MC, V.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-010* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located the heart of the Financial District just one block from F neuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is a ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Liv music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. Fo more info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.co

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Cheers, Faneuil Hall Marketplace *Boston, 617-22 0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2an Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Satu

day, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.
Cheers, Beacon Hill *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.
Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).
Hurricane O'Reilly's, *150 Canal St., Boston, MA 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.
Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich Street, Boston, MA, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.
Oxygen-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Enjoy the best of 70's, 80's & 90's music on Tuesday nights and a buffet from 8pm-9pm with DJ Chris Fiore. Doors open at 8pm; 21+, $3 before 9pm and $5 after 9pm. Friday 18+ ladies, 19+ men, casual dress. Saturday 18+ ladies, 21+ men, proper dress required.
Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing til 2 am. House bands include Chad LaMarsh, Mark Morris & The Flatunes and Central Basement.
Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay watering-hole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

JAZZ

Regattabar *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Wed-Sat nights. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at the Charles Hotel in Harvard Square. Shows at 8pm Wed-Thurs, 8:30 & 10:30pm Fri-Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617-876-7777 for tickets and information, 800-881-1818 for hotel reservations and information.
Scat's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston, 617-227-7579, www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

SPORTS BAR-UPSCALE

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

VIDEO CLUB

Uptown-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Progressive dance music on Friday nights: 18+ ladies, 19+ men. Casual dress.

brunch

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm
Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.
Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended.617-661-5005.
Museum of Science *Skyline Room Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114.* Enjoy Sunday brunch beginning at noon in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River, then join the adventure with Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West at the Omni Theater at 2pm. Tickets are $30 for adults, $28 for seniors/children. Brunch only is $22. On -site parking included. Reservations recommended, call 617-723-2500.
Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

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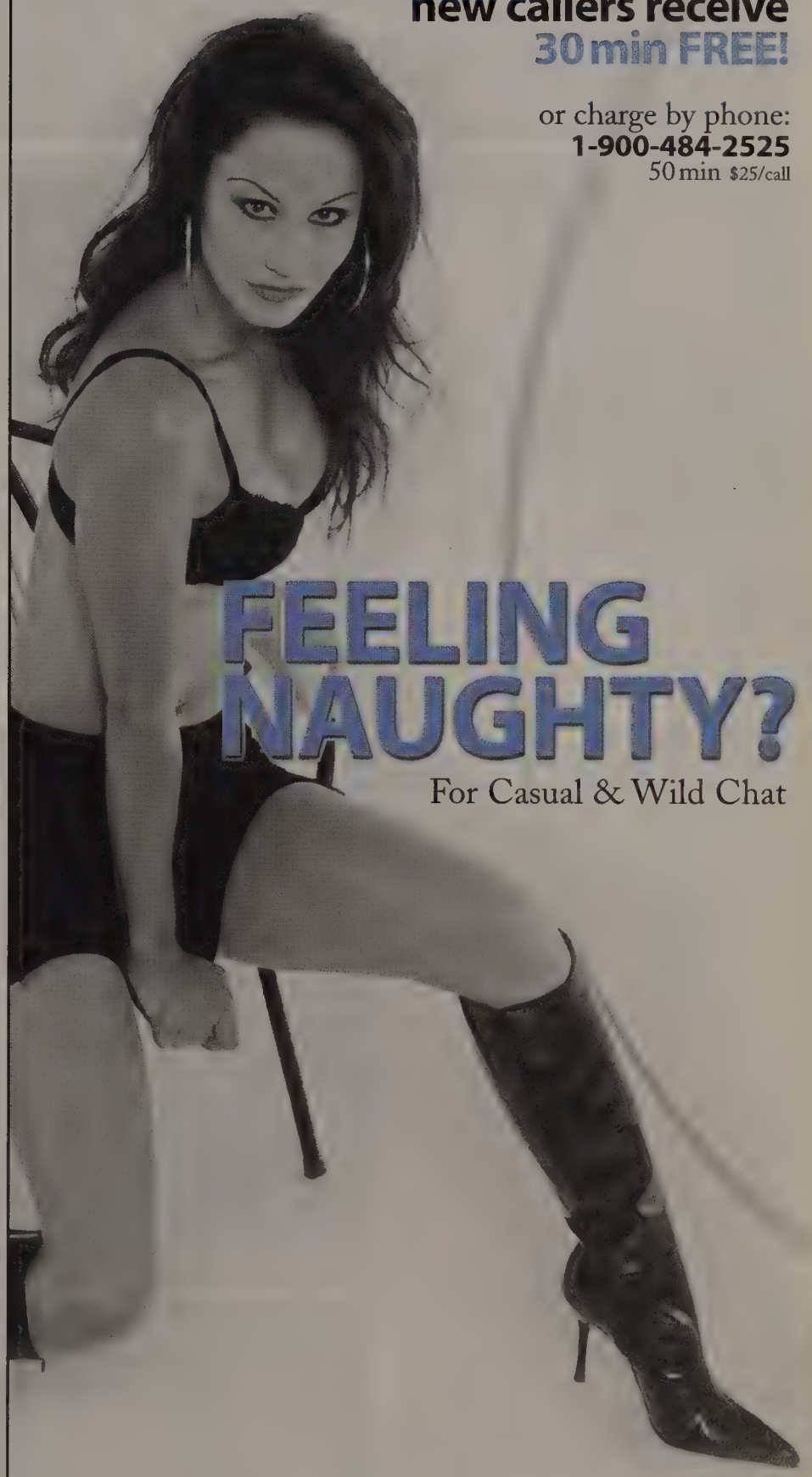

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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Gardner Museum, clockwise from upper left: Andrew Reale and Paul Nechipurenko; Raphael and Ricardo Jaimes-Branger; Frank Gilligan and Mario Russo; Anja Kola and Pieranna Cavalchini.

THE NEXT BEST THING TO A WEEK IN ST. BARTS...

There's no more civilized spot in all of Boston than the Venetian palazzo of the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**, and there was no more civilized gathering than the crowd who turned out there one bone-rattlingly cold evening for a cocktail party to kick off the museum's centennial celebration.

The reception included the obligatory wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres, as well as a sneak peek at the three-part installation by conceptual artist **Joseph Kosuth** that marks the anniversary.

In addition to Kosuth (an American who lives and works in Rome and is currently the Gardner's 41st artist-in-residence), the impressive guest list included the likes of curator **Pieranna Cavalchini**; the museum's stunning directrix, **Anne Hawley**; its first female board president, **Barbara Hostetter,** and her cable gazillionaire husband, **Amos**; Gardner descendant **John "Jack" Gardner**; Venezuelan painter **Raphael Jaimes-Branger** and his art collector brother, **Ricardo**; Beacon Hill social butterfly **Meg Talon**; arctic blond art dealer **Anja Kola**; bachelors-about-town **Paul Nechipurenko** and **Andrew Reale**; hair deity **Mario Russo** and his distinguished other half, **Frank Gilligan**; education czar **Tom Payzant**; broadcasting poobah **Paul LaCamera** of Channel 5; and others of that ilk.

Defying the Siberian sub-zero weather outside, guests gathered around the spectacular indoor courtyard, with its blooming orchids and whatnot, doing what one does at a cocktail party—namely, imbibing, ingesting and socializing.

"This is so lovely," said one woman, "I think I'll stay until spring. Think they'd mind if I called and had a mattress delivered?"

WARNING: FUN MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO FASHION FOOTWEAR...

"Wheeeeeeee!"

That (or some facsimile thereof) was the sound heard most often at the **Anti-Defamation League's Young Leadership Celebration**, held at the **Institute of Contemporary Art**.

The supremely chic evening—complete with passed trays of *mojitos*, a sushi buffet and dancing to a cavalcade of hits from the golden age of disco—attracted such social stalwarts as the evening's honorees, Back Bay fun couple and budding philanthropists **Rachael** and **Andy Goldfarb**, who received an award named after **Judi** and **Douglas Krupp**; the party's co-chairs, **Erin** and **David Appel**, **Liza Cohen**, **Janie** and **Jeffrey Dretler**, and **Maggie Gold Seelig** and her other half, **Jonathan**; such high-profile types as **Wendy** and **Chip Pierce**; event planner **Joan Jolley**; South African entrepreneur **Michael Walt**; ubiquitous gala-goers **Randi** and **Joel Cutler**; unfairly attractive couple **Glynis** and **Matt Hobika**; stunning blond divorcée **Leigh Weatherly**; Internet entrepreneur **Jean Robert** (one of the triplets whose family owns the legendary Maison-Robert restaurant); babe-a-licious Harvard Business School student **Jennifer Wynn**; the adorable **Jessica Luterman**; film actress and gadfly **Nada Kane** and her husband, **Steve**; fashion plate **Beth Dickerson**; environmental remediator and real estate scion **Tedd Saunders**; catering magnat **Dan Mathieu**; lovable art dealer **Abbi Ross** and her fiancé, bespectacled hipste **Marc Goodman**; Peruvian princess **Emm Colina DaVibero**; Oppenheimer fund fac totum **Eduardo Torres**; gorgeous blon interior designer **Carolina Tress Bals baugh** and her son, **Eric**; and bachelor about-town **Ron Luccio**, who bid $150 i the silent auction to be mentioned in thi column but who probably would hav been anyway. (Hey, Ronnie, it was for good cause).

The reason for all the childlike glee—aside from the fact that it was an off-the hook party—was the three-story slide in stalled by Belgian artist Carsten Holler which turned an otherwise sophisticate group of adults into rambunctious 3-year olds at a playground.

Needless to say, the see-through slide of fered some intimate glimpses, as skirt rode up on the ride down, and there were few people who were less than enchante by the momentary thrill.

"It ruined my shoes," complained on fashion plate. "I feel like asking whethe their insurance covers a pair of Jimm Choos." iB

At the ICA, clockwise from upper left: Leigh Weatherly going down the slide; Marc Goodman and Abbie Ross; Carolina Tress Balsbaugh; Ron Luccio, Emma Colina DaVibero and Eduardo Torres; Erin Appel, Jessica Aronoff and Maggie Gold Seelig; Jessica Luterman and Jennifer Wynn; Rachael Goldfarb; Andy Goldfarb and Chip Pierce.

Avez-vous dish?

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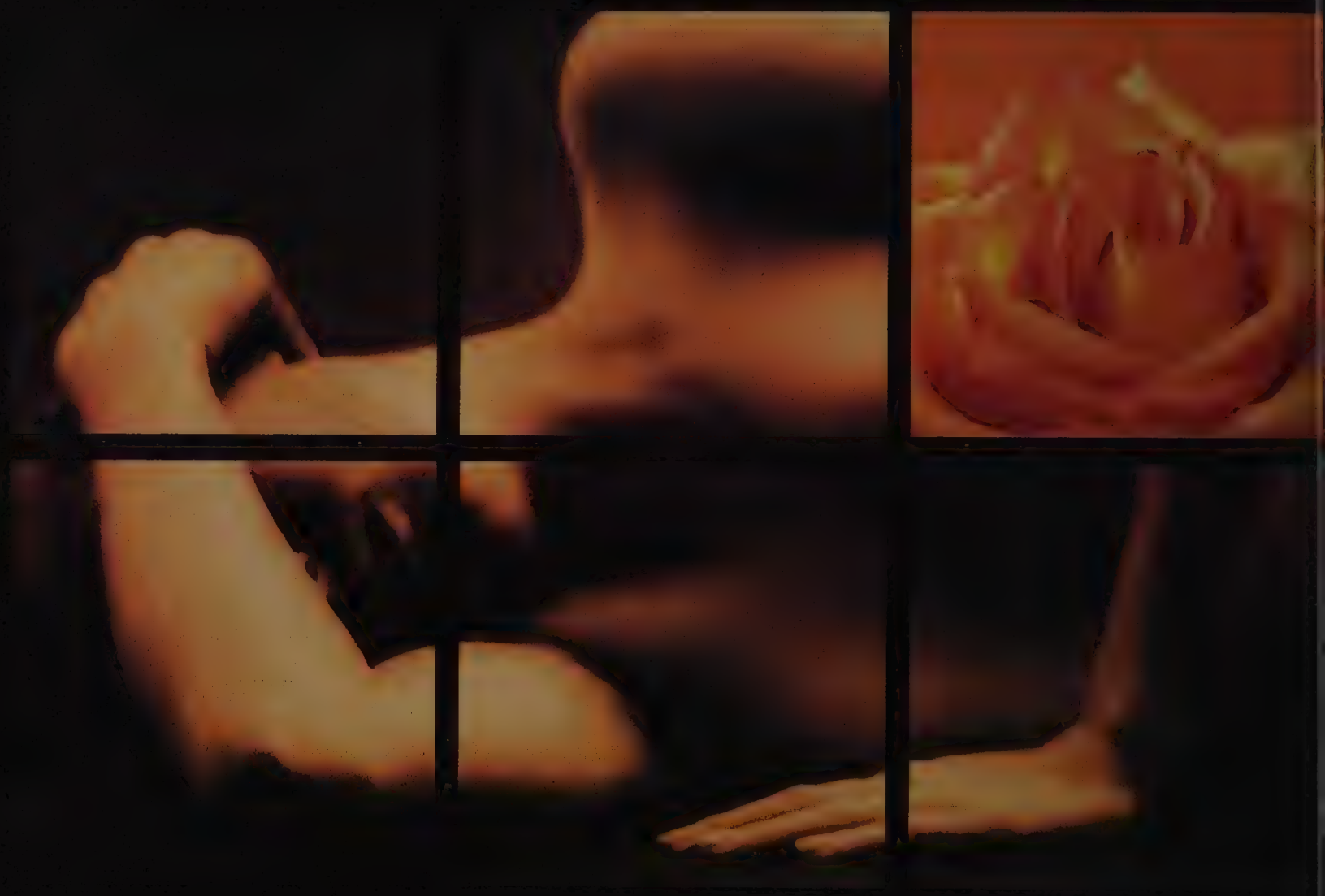
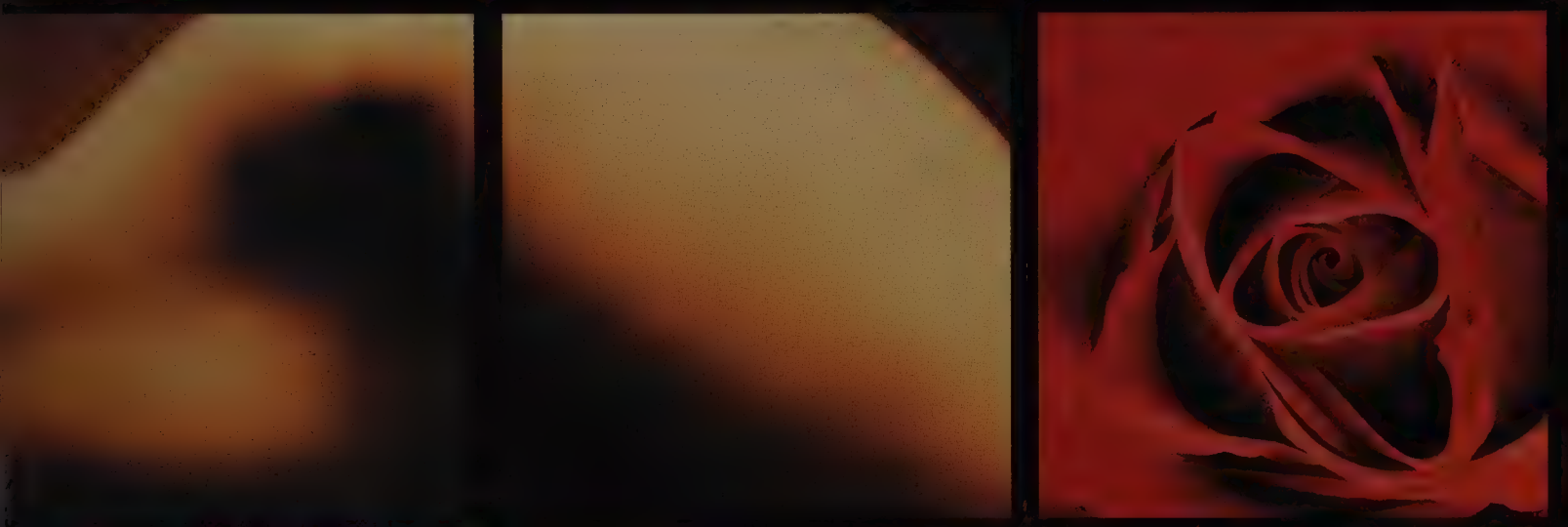
Love is an irresistible desire
to be irresistibly desired.

– Robert Frost





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On the Cover:
Photograph for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by **Joel Benjamin**

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ET CETERA

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Rockie Horoscope
Improper Sightings
Improperazzi
Improper Shopper

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZ

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; STYLED BY NICOLA MILLER; MODEL: EVELYN FOR MAGGIE INC.; HAIR: JOHN CENTOFANTI FOR VIDAL SASS PINK DRESS WITH GOLD LACE BY TRACEY REESE, AT HOLIDAY; ZEBRA SANDALS BY HOLLYWOULD, AT MOXIE; NECKLACE, $45 AT MA

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letters

SPACEY INVADER

I just finished reading the interview with Kevin Spacey (Soroff/On, Feb. 5), and I knew I liked him. He exhibited both class and courtesy to put up with Soroff's aimless and inappropriate badgering. Unless the Spaceys and Soroffs are natural enemies, I'm at a loss to understand the tone of Soroff's interview. I doubt celebrities line up for his interviews now, and I'd expect even fewer would in the future, given the way he treated Spacey.

I would expect that after reading this interview, your editor recognized the offense and sent Mr. Spacey a worthy gift basket in apology. If not—it's never too late.

—Gerry Connolly
Via e-mail

LUNCH-DRUNK LOVE

I was amazed to note that LunchDates was excluded from the sidebar on suggested ways for Boston area singles to meet that accompanied your annual listing of Boston's bachelors and bachelorettes (Jan. 22 issue). As Boston's oldest dating service (started in 1982), we have provided a confidential, tasteful and fun way for thousands of down-to-earth, professional singles to meet one another, for lunch or an after-work coffee or drink in nice restaurants. Our track record speaks for itself, as LunchDates matches have generated thousands of successful relationships.

I was also amused that once again your magazine primarily featured media personalities and professional athletes as examples of Boston's finest singles. Having interviewed thousands of single Bostonians, I can assure you that this city contains some fantastic single engineers, teachers, nurses and businesspeople who are very bright, interesting and attractive, even though they don't go to work at Fenway Park!

—Steve Penner
Co-Owner, LunchDates.com

OUAGADOUGOU IS THE CAPITAL OF BURKINA FASO!

I would like to thank you for the article listing pub trivia nights in Boston (The Word, Jan. 22). I run Primetime Trivia here in town, and I have been doing trivia gigs for more than three years and haven't heard much in the press about it. Since your article came out, the events have become bigger in the past week. Thank you for getting the trivia word out there.

—Bob Carney
www.primetimetrivia.com

FUR PAS

It's too bad Mopsy Strange Kennedy chose to feature Suphi Fur in her Feb. 5 column, "Think Mink." There is nothing glamorous about what happens to animals in order to make these coats. Ms. Kennedy mentioned that Suphi's fox coats are so luxurious it makes you want to wear one to accept your Oscar. In reality, celebrities and designers are increasingly refusing to wear fur. Designers Calvin Klein, Todd Oldham and Stella McCartney are just a few people who won't go near fur. Tell Mopsy to get with the times—fur is dead.

—K. Fanale
Somerville

Tell Us What You Think

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The Improper Bostonian Magazine
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Flr.
Boston, MA 02116
E-mail: letters@improper.com
Fax: (617) 859-1446

Letters to the editor must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

CONTRIBUTORS

PHILIP FRIEDMAN

Photographer Philip Friedman was born in Princeton, N.J., but was brought up in England, where he lived for 10 years before moving back to the United States with his family when he was 16. He went to college at the Mason Gross School of the Arts in New Brunswick, N.J., where he studied painting and photography. There, he studied under fashion photographer Sandi Fellman, who encouraged him to become a commercial photographer as well as a fine artist.

After a brief career as a fine artist, Friedman opened his studio in Gramercy Park in New York in 1996 and became a still-life and fashion photographer shortly thereafter. His work can be found in the pages of *Glamour*, *Entertainment Weekly*, the *New York Times* and, of course, the Improper Bostonian. He has photographed everyone from Michael C. Hall of *Six Feet Under* to Gisele Bündchen and Lil' Kim. To see more of Friedman's work, turn to this issue's men's fashion feature on page 27.

FROM THE EDITOR

BREAKING THE CODE

When it comes to going-out wear, one outfit's so ubiquitous among Boston women that it's been called a uniform. We know it well: black pants with a flirty top. Why not think beyond that convention? asks the Improper's fashion editor Samantha House.

"I encourage women to dress up when they go out to dinner or a club and not to feel self-conscious if they wear a dress to a cocktail party instead of what they wore to work," she says. "You should have one area of your closet for daytime clothes and one for nighttime wear."

If you've run into House at any after-5 event in this town (she'd be the tall redhead in the daring dress), you know she lives that advice.

Though House sees a growing interest overall among Bostonians in keeping up with fashion trends, the city's men may be a little more progressive than their female counterparts. "Men aren't playing it as safe as they used to," she says, adding that they can spruce up with simple changes. "Men can look hipper just by changing one thing—by wearing a brightly colored shirt or one with a funkier pattern."

In this our annual spring fashion issue, House shows you the coming season's trends. As is often the case when war looms and personal budgets are tight, the latest looks are classic rather than overly trendy, with an emphasis on suits for men, and dresses and skirts for women. That emphasis, combined with the coming thaw, makes spring the perfect time for the fairer sex to kick the trouser habit.

Finally, as evidence that Boston's gaining recognition on the fashion front, our work on this issue drew interest from music channel VH1. They filmed our spring shoe shoot and interviewed House and the models for the show *Pop Illustrated*. Look for that episode on VH1 in the spring.

I hope you'll find warmth and wardrobe inspiration in this issue. Maybe next time you're out on the town, you'll be the one breaking the dress code.

Samantha House and photographer Joel Benjamin

Veronica A. Chao

Veronica Chao, Editor
veronica@improper.com

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Victoria Cook, Margeaux Estreicher, Michelle Grabicki, Jessica Iredale, Joy Peterson, Elizabeth Reh**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Gloria Dawson, Zoe Parker Geisman**

FASHION & BEAUTY EDITOR **Samantha House**

FASHION ASSISTANT **Samantha Williams**

FASHION INTERN **Hilary Costa**

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER **Alison Morant**

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE **Sherry Riccio Atami**

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES **Julie Kane, Carrie Wallace**

CLASSIFIED ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE **Katie Schmidt**

ADVERTISING ART DIRECTOR **Julie Betters**

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TRAFFIC MANAGER **Karen Dana**

MARKETING MANAGER **Martha Brown**

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING INTERNS **Lindsay Gacad, Krisana Jaritsat, Kyle-Marie Landry**

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE **Bill Marks**

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FOUNDER **Mark Semonian**

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The New England Flower Show

Spring has arrived at The Shops at Prudential Center. From February 24 through March 10, we're pleased to bring you a sneak peek of this year's New England Flower Show.

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the Word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHOR

■ trends ■ tittle tattle ■ people ■ panache

NEW IN TOWN

Tea for Two

It takes a truly special occasion to inspire us to venture outside city limits—especially on a snowy Sunday in February. But the idea of having "high tea" in Arlington had a cozy allure. With a few laments about having to brave the cold weather, we made the trek.

The **Edwardian Tea Room** on Mass. Ave. has been open since last summer, but somehow it's managed to stay under the radar until recently. We walked into a room with high ceilings, bronze sculptures, potted palms, Oriental rugs and 22-karat gold-leaf chairs upholstered with silk. Truly replicating an Edwardian-era tea room, everything from the china to the teapots is authentic, says owner Anthony Apicella. Tea—more than 50 different types from around the world—is poured at two-person tables scattered about. Along with the liquid comfort comes a three-tiered tray with tasty blueberry and raisin scones (served with clotted cream, of course); finger sandwiches of cream cheese, watercress, cucumbers and cheese; and tiny pastries. "There are the

Starbucks-type tea places, and then there's the real thing," says Apicella. Customers agree. The waiting list for functions is six months long. *1332 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-648-6508).—E.H. and J.S.*

Kristin Slater (No. 18) leads the charge at the Passion Plunge

SPORTS

Slam Dunks

Ice, Ice, Baby... Boston Breakers Chrisy McCann and Kristin Slater (above) made diving headers into the frigorific waters at Nantasket Beach in Hull Feb. 8. The Breakers' participation in the annual Passion Plunge raised $3,000 for the Special Olympics—and probably helped them prepare for their first practice March 1.

Hoping for the Ichiro Effect... We mentioned a while back that the Celtics' Feb. 24 game against the Rockets might draw a larger-than-average crowd on the strength of Houston star Yao Ming. Well, the game's not yet sold out, but the C's have declared Feb. 24 the first-ever Asian-American Night at the FleetCenter, inviting fans to "come enjoy a culturally diverse evening of basketball." Ming's teammate, Bostjan Nachbar, is still waiting for an opposing team to declare Slovenian Night.

Branded... Sports marketing group Woolf Associates has created a brand identity for heavyweight champion John "the Quietman" Ruiz. When Ruiz fights Roy Jones Jr. in Las Vegas March 1, his new logo—his name over a sword inscribed with "the Quietman" on the blade—will be on display. If you're not sure what exactly a sword has to do with an unusually reserved boxer, Woolf chief creative officer Thomas S. Duane explains, "A complete identity goes beyond a simple logo. It incorporates all of the consumer touch points to ensure a uniform brand building experience." OK, OK. Could somebody get Mike Tyson to explain that to us?

New Jerseys... Last year Joe Thornton's No. 19 jersey was the top seller nationwide, according to hockey-gear gurus CCM. The Celtics aren't doing too shabby either, and since the start of the season Paul Pierce's No. 34 has been the hottest number both online and at the NBA store in New York. Now, if they could just get a few more people to come to the games....—*Ezra Dyer*

CLUB SCENE

Rockin' at Roxy

•Following the recent kickoff of Latin Fridays at Roxy, Global Jet Set has decamped and relocated its weekly happening to **Mantra**. Reinvented as "Sugar," Friday nights at Mantra promise to combine the style and flair of New York and Miami with cutting-edge house music from top local, national and international DJs. Expect a well-dressed Ladder District crowd enjoying the plush setting complete with dancers, live percussion and visual projections.

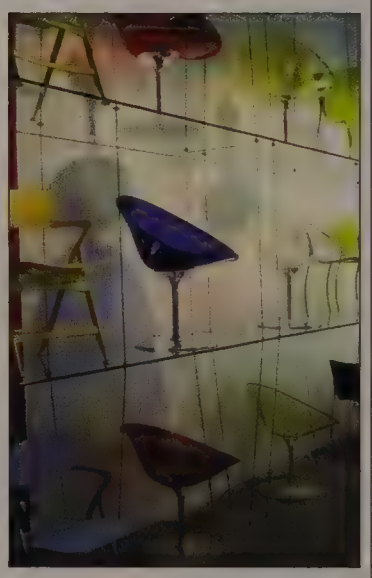
•Just after a launch party at **Roxy** in January, classes at the **DJ Mix Academy** DJ training center are now in full swing. In Boston, London and even Sydney these days, music equipment retailers report that turntables are regularly outselling guitars 2-to-1. Perhaps you (or people you know) recently invested in a couple of turntables and a mixer but haven't yet mastered the DJ craft. Don't try to dispose of all that expensive gear on eBay just yet—get some tutoring. DJ Mix Academy provides a starting point for aspiring DJs. Founded by DJ Manolo and Peter Souhleris, the academy has assembled an all-star roster of local DJ talent to serve as faculty. See *www.djmixacademy.com.*

•Hip-hop all-star **Tony Touch** (left) will make a guest DJ appearance at the **Ecko Lounge** Feb. 27 for Red Velvet Thursdays. Born and bred in Brooklyn, Tony "the Touch Man" has a rep that stretches from New York to Miami and even Puerto Rico for his legendary sets and bilingual work on the mike. Jam'n 94.5's **Roy Barboza** will warm things up. Proper dress is required, and ladies pay no cover before 11pm.—*Daniel Spurling*

AROUND TOWN

Funky Furniture x 2

They're not far apart geographically, but two new Boston furniture stores are poles apart aesthetically.



There's nary a cushion in sight at the space-agey **Kartell**, which recently opened in the Back Bay. It offers a wealth of '60s-throwback, *Jetsons*-style tables and chairs, most made of brightly colored see-through plastic. Eep app ork ah-ah! *10 Saint James St., Boston (617-728-4442).*

Meanwhile, plush is the name of the game at **Biltmore Furniture** in the South End, which opened in mid-February, selling custom-made sofas, love seats and chairs. You choose the fabric (from more than 3,000 options) and style, and they'll make it for you at an affordable price (from $1,500-$3,000 for a sofa). If you live in a tiny Beacon Hill apartment with narrow passageways, they'll even make a sofa with detachable arms and legs. *1313 Washington St., Boston (617-423-7632).—E.H. and J.S.*

SAM SAYS

Beating Beauty Blues

After this harsh winter has taken its toll on your body and skin, there's no better way to emerge refreshed for spring than to relax, sip some wine and be pampered from head to toe. Staff members of Avanti Salon, Bella Sante Spa and the Newbury Center for Cosmetic Facial Plastic Surgery pool their resources on March 4 with an evening meant to help you beat the winter blues. Whether you need a deep conditioning treatment, a revitalizing facial or even a shot of botox, there'll be someone to cater to your every whim. Bring a group of friends and enjoy complimentary refreshments at Avanti Salon March 4 at 7pm. *11 Newbury St., Boston. Call 617-375-0500 for an appointment.—Samantha Ho*

KARTEL: GLORIA DAWSON; TEA: JEREMY SURATT; BREAKERS: CARY WOL

DKNY
new york london los angeles boston las vegas

Pooch is king at Polka Dog Bakery.

TIDBITS & MORSELS

Express Yourself

In the Doghouse... The menu at a new bakery in the South End sounds positively mouthwatering—if you're a canine, that is. There are carob-dipped peanut-butter bones, carob-chip puppy dough, Treatza pizza, liver's lane and polka poodle power barks. Polka Dog Bakery, a boutique for dogs, opened in early February. Owners Robert Van Sickle and Deborah Gregg bake their all-natural goodies on site from scratch, with no added sugar, salt or preservatives. Sounds like a ruff life. *256 Shawmut Ave., Boston (617-338-5155).*

Pita Please... Falafel-addicted Cambridge residents were dismayed to learn that their favorite Middle Eastern eatery, Falafel Place, had lost its lease last fall. The good news is that it has resurfaced on the outskirts of Kenmore Square. Self-described "falafel-tologist" and chef Ahmad Kawash makes his falafel from scratch with fresh cilantro. "Everybody says they sell the best falafel," says Kawash, "but we really do." *512 Park Drive, Boston (617-266-8120).*

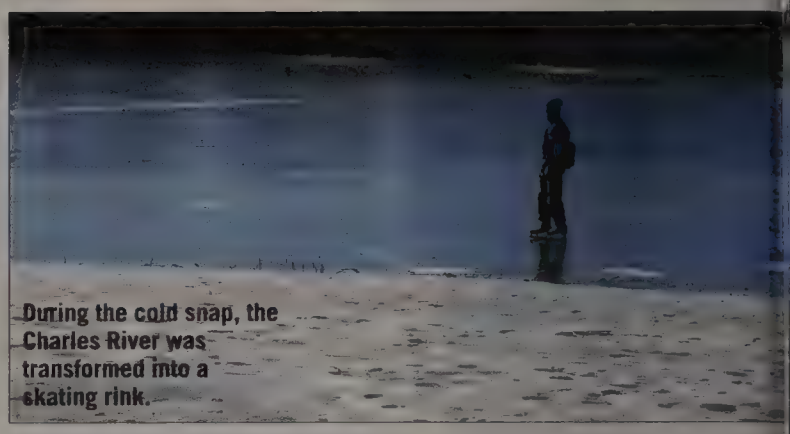
A New Mantra... Dinner for one at Mantra, the gourmet Indian/French fusion restaurant in the Ladder District, will set you back between $40 and $60. So the restaurant's new express lunch menu's price tag caught our eye—a mere $12. How can it be? Thomas John's award-winning cuisine for such a bargain? You get soup or salad and a choice of light entrees like tandoor-roasted chicken or grilled salmon. At a guaranteed 45 minutes from the time you order until you're out the door, it's one of the quickest (and tastiest) bargains around. *52 Temple Place, Boston (617-542-8111). Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2:30pm.*

Eat, Drink and Be Merry... When it comes to invigorating activities, belting out tunes in a bar runs a close second to singing in the shower. Here's an opportunity to do it with professionals (at a bar, that is, not in the shower). Join the Revels performing arts company for the first Revels Pub Sing of the season at Doyle's Café Feb. 25. If you don't know the words to 18th- to late 19th-century drinking songs like "Fathom the Bowl" and "Jones' Ale," the Revels will provide you with a pocket songbook with all the lyrics. *3484 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-972-8300, ext. 29). 6pm. $10.*

Bohemian Rhapsody... Back in days when intellectuals appreciated a bohemian aesthetic (think *Funny Face),* many profound thoughts were formed over drinks in a dim bar. A new science discussion group, Cafe Scientifique, has picked up the idea, hosting get-togethers that mix cocktails with contemplation at Redline bar in Cambridge. The Feb. 24 talk will focus on the Columbia space shuttle. The group (which we envision as made up of black-clad, bespectacled intellectuals who speak at least three languages) is open to one and all, but we recommend you offer up a few more Q's than A's if you aren't sure what you're talking about. *59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851).*

Tequila Sunset... The masterminds behind Allston late-night mainstays Sunset Grill & Tap, Big City and Redneck's Roast Beef just opened another watering hole on Comm. Ave. Brookline's new Sunset Cantina continues in the style of its sister establishments, with a little more chutzpah: a full liquor license. Diners can choose from no less than 150 menu items along with 50 draft beers, another 50 microbrews and more than 40 tequilas. *916 Comm. Ave. Brookline. (617-731-TOGO).*

—Jessica Iredale, E.H. and J.S.


During the cold snap, the Charles River was transformed into a skating rink.

IMPROPER REPORTS

Baby, It's Bitter Outside

Who can forget January's 30 days of temperatures that never rose above freezing? Trudging to the T in subzero temperatures had many of us chilled to the bone, but the weather had just as much of an impact on many local businesses.

•**Frog Pond**: "We've seen a huge decrease in skaters," says director of external affairs Mary Hines. "After a half hour on the ice, it's no good for people. We always have a few diehards out there who lov having the ice to themselves, though."

•**Brookline Ice and Coal**: "People are not putting as much ice in their drinks," says one employee. But the company has seen an unusual request: "People are buying 25-pound blocks of ice and sledding down hills. I have no idea how—or if—they sit on them," she adds.

•**Ambassador Brattle and Yellow Cab**: "There have been a lot more calls for short jobs like three blocks or so, which makes it hard to keep up with service," says controller George Fiorenza. "If it keeps going like this, my guys are going to be working 24 hours a day."

•**Steve's Ice Cream**: "It's definitely taken a toll on business," says manager Carol Troxel. "The diehards keep us going, though."

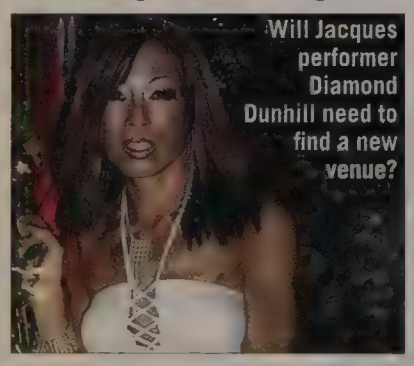
•**Massachusetts Bay Lines**: "Our commuter line that goes from Boston to Hingham has slowed down because ice keeps getting stuc in the engine," says director of marketing Shane Lemay. "We've had problems with the propellers, which can chip or bend from ice."

Cactus Club: "We've sold just as many margaritas," says Joe Sousa, director of operations,"but we've sold more on the rocks than frozen."

Dining In: "Our volume of orders has absolutely been higher," says marketing manager Greg Trombley. "Nobody wants to go outside."

Newbury Tan: "It's slow," says manager Allen Archibald III. "Tanning is a luxury. If the weather's bad, people aren't going to come out."

improper speaking SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTIO


Will Jacques performer Diamond Dunhill need to find a new venue?

Shock Jacques... In one corner is the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, champion of pristine streets. In the other is Jacques cabaret, longtime playground for transvestites, rockers and all things alternative. They're now facing off: The BVNA wants the Boston Licensing Board to revoke Jacques' liquor license, thus doing away with the "undesirable" clientele it claims loiter on the streets. The feud came to a head at the board hearing Feb. 4, when Jacques manager (and former member of the BVNA) Donald Richard defended his club, saying that any prostitution near his establishment is a policing problem. If you've got something to say about the dispute, the record remains open until March 3, and the commissioner is slated to render a decision March 6.

Boston Unplugged... Hard-core Friday-night partygoers weren't the only ones experiencing blackouts in the wee hours of Feb. 8. Several business in the Boston Common area were forced to either shut down or completely shuffle their schedules to accommodate a massive power outage, which left the Sports Club/LA, the Wang Center, Loews Boston Common, the Frog Pond and the Ritz-Carlton Boston Common all in the dark. Among the most inconvenienced were the 175 attendees of Blu's Super Hunger Brunch, who were forced to take their appetites elsewhere, and guests of the Ritz, who trekked across the park to the sister suites on Arlington Street. Tony Pangaro, principal at the Millennium Partners Boston, attributes the outage to a blown NStar transformer.

Cuddle Up with Charles... Looks like Cupid's arrow was right on target on Beacon Hill. The Charles Street Inn was dually noted as one of the top-10 most romantic inns of the year in both the Feb. 7 edition of *USA Today* and by *American Historic Inns.* The Inn's rep says, "We were booked solid before the article came out, and the phone has been ringing constantly since." *(617-371-0008).*

A room at the Charles Street Inn.

Forever Young...If your face is in need of a little pick-me-up and you don't want go the Michael Jackson route, Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary has a solution that's short and sweet. Jokingly referred to as "lunchtime facelifts," their mini-facelifts take between 15 and 30 minutes to perform. The specifics of the procedures are discussed over hors d'oeuvres at Davio's March 3 at 5:30pm.

Creatures of the Night...Good news for late-night revelers: On Feb. 11, the MBTA Advisory Board voted to keep the Night Owl bus service up and running. The late-night service, which began in September 2001, was at risk because of budget issues. Nightclubs in particular were up in arms—Avalon even circulated a petition to save the service and organized a protest on the day of the vote. Much to their (and our) relief, the committee voted to keep Night Owl going. "The safety of our citizens and the hospitality of our city has been maintained," says Paul Regan, executive director of the MBT Advisory Board. Perhaps we have a shot at attaining that elusive "world-class city" status after all...if partying until 2:30am counts.

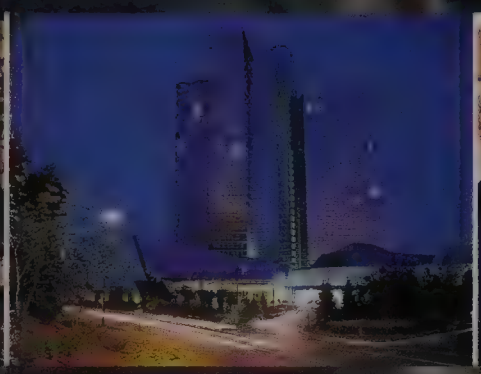
—E.H., J.I. and J.S.

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

DUNHILL: LEAH GOURLEY; INN: GLORIA DAWSON; CHARLES RIVER: RITA G

Why should Saturday and Sunday have all the fun?



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a legendary getaway experience

Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

Betting on a Cause and a Cure, a private fund-raiser benefiting the Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care, the Leary Firefighters Foundation and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, was held Feb. 8 at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge. The Monte Carlo–themed black-tie party included a cocktail reception, dinner, gaming with celebrity dealers, a live auction and music by Aerosmith.

1. **Michael J. Fox**, actor, and his wife, actress **Tracy Pollan**.
2. **Donna Dixon** and her husband, actor **Dan Aykroyd**.
3. From left: **Robin Brown**, hotelier, his wife, **Marcia,** and **Richard Friedman**, owner of the Charles Hotel.
4. **Brad Whitford** of Aerosmith and his wife, **Karen**.
5. **Cam Neely**, former Boston Bruin, and his wife, **Paulina**.
6. **Denis Leary** (left), actor/comedian and **Lenny Clarke**, actor/comedian.

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The 18th annual Anthony Spinazzola Foundation Gala Festival of Food and Wine took place Jan. 31 at the World Trade Center. More than 4,000 people attended the event, which featured 113 New England restaurants and 78 international vintners and brewers. Founded in memory of the late food and wine critic Anthony Spinazzola, the foundation's mission is to "feed hungry bodies and minds" through grants to hunger-relief agencies, programs for the homeless and culinary apprenticeships and scholarships. The event raised $600,000.

7. **Darryl Settles**, owner of Bob the Chef's, and his fiancée, **Dr. Lisa Owens**, a physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital.
8. From left: **Jennifer Kaner**; **Jamie Mammano**, chef/owner of Mistral; and **Christine Tuchler**.
9. **Marjorie Clapprood**, health care consultant, and her husband, **Chris Spinazzola**, chairman of the Spinazzola Foundation.
10. **Bob Lobel**, sports director for Channel 4 WBZ-TV, and his wife, **Suzanne**.
11. From left: **Hal Tovin**, group executive vice president for Citizens Bank; his wife, **Lisa**, owner of Tovin Media in Medfield; and **Regan Dillon** and **Chris Langley**, marketing manager and director of public relations, respectively, for the Sapphire Restaurant Group in Cambridge.
12. From left: **Deborah Elden**, catering sales manager at the Colonnade Hotel; **Antoine Camin** and **Jennifer Ucci**, chef du cuisine and events planner, respectively, at Brasserie Jo.

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Mature Material

Can adolescence be extended till the old folks' home?

On the way up to a recent ski trip to Canada with a bunch of male friends, Scott, Clay and I passed an exit sign or Bone Road. This prompted the question, If you lived on Bone Road, what would you call your house? The Bone Shack? Bone Manor? Home Sweet Bone? Over the next several miles, this sign provided almost as much entertainment as the exit for Scotrun, Pa., does on a trip west. A little while later, my overtired brain cranked out an unpleasant thought. "At what point will we stop thinking that the word 'bone' is funny?" I asked. "Never," Clay responded.

The evidence of the next four days with the guys would support that conclusion. Our primary sources of amusement were not what you'd call high-concept humor: folding Scott up into the sleep sofa. Letting trouser coughs fly in the gondola. Wilson asking a waitress, "Have you ever been to Subway?" after which he planned to sing a song that Clay has come to detest, "Clay Henry, Clay Henry, he's a fireman and a shared fan, Clay Henry. Got real big on burgers and fries, now he's down to a smaller size." (She adeptly shot him down by claiming that she'd never been to Subway.)

Of course, juvenile behavior is certainly exacerbated by an absence of women, and the estrogen-free nature of this trip probably contributed to the simian level of social interaction. By my reckoning, girls begin to surpass boys in maturity at roughly age 3, and boys never catch up. But the presence of females does tend to elevate the overall maturity level, because, whether they admit it or not, guys care what girls think of them. Had there been any women with us, for instance, I'm sure our grocery list might've included something other than beer, Tostitos, salsa, mac 'n' cheese, Entenmann's breakfast pastries and the kind of juice beverage whose label says "Contains no actual juice." Were there women around, we would've made sure we also picked up some carrot sticks or seven-grain bread or rice cakes. You know, *responsible* food.

Even on our own, however, there was evidence to contradict Clay's assertion that we will maintain our current lifestyles—call it "Billy Madison without the money"—until we're old and wizened. One day Doyle and I quit skiing at about 2pm so that we could devote more time to understanding Canadian culture by drinking Kokanees and watching snowmobile races on TV at a bar. We also ordered buffalo wings, the Canadian interpretation of which turned out to be emaciated little chicken bones slathered in K.C. Masterpiece barbecue sauce. After this savory fare, I was attempting to dislodge a stubborn chunk of poultry from my teeth with my fingernail (remember, again, that there were no women around) when Doyle began expounding upon the virtues of dental floss.

I'm a fan of dental floss myself, but Doyle, little did I know, is a floss fanatic. At his last teeth-cleaning, his dentist scared him by making him watch a video about gum disease that sounded more grotesque than any driver's-ed highway carnage film yet produced. He went on to tell me how, if you don't floss, "pockets" form in your gums, those pockets harbor bacteria, and then your teeth fall out and you end up living in a bell tower and saying "yeesss master" a lot. By the time he was done talking, the piece of chicken in my teeth may as well have been a wad of anthrax spores, and I was ready to jump over the bar and begin frantically flossing with the bartender's ponytail.

> GIRLS BEGIN TO SURPASS BOYS IN MATURITY AT ROUGHLY AGE 3, AND BOYS NEVER CATCH UP.

What was even scarier than gum disease, though, was that we were sitting in a bar on vacation *talking* about gum disease. When did this become an issue? Shouldn't we have been talking about who threw the sickest switch rodeo five tail-grab in the X Games? Or how wasted we were last night, dude? Or how many surfboards we fit inside a Honda Element while on our way to the bonfire to listen to techno music and vote for Democrats?

I suppose it doesn't always follow that as life's responsibilities mount, one's sense of humor changes, but I hope that as conversations turn to rising tuition costs and mortgage rates, colonoscopies and cholesterol levels, there'll still be a place for putting on a mullet wig and a Dicken's Cider T-shirt and folding someone up into the couch. I've got to set a good example for my kids. iB

You think that's funny?

Send grown-up e-mails to ezra@improper.com.

Thalassa Ali

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Novelist and Sufi mystic Thalassa Ali was born in Boston, the daughter of eminent archaeologist Hugh O'Neill Hencken and Thalassa Crusoe, the British television personality who hosted PBS's long-running horticultural program *Making Things Grow*. After graduating from Radcliffe, Ali married a businessman from Pakistan and moved to that country, where she spent 12 years, the last three as a widow with two children carrying on her husband's business. After returning to Boston in the late '70s, she spent 15 years working as a stockbroker. Raised as an Episcopalian, she converted to Islam nine years after her return to the U.S., when, on a visit to Pakistan, she met the leader of the Tauhidia mystic brotherhood. After retiring from the investment world, she began work on her first novel, the beginning of a proposed trilogy set in the region of 19th-century India that is now Pakistan. Entitled *A Singular Hostage*, it was published in November by Bantam. She lives in the Back Bay.

Jonathan Soroff: *Best thing about pushing a book?*

Thalassa Ali: Connecting with people you haven't seen in years, who suddenly treat you as if you've done something important.

JS: *Worst part?*

TA: The exhaustion. If you really try to do everything you're supposed to do, you'll end up with pneumonia, which is what I'm just getting over.

JS: *Favorite aspect of writing?*

TA: Disappearing into the story and not having to deal with what's going on around me—my bills, real life.

JS: *Most gratifying thing about seeing your name in print?*

TA: I don't know that I feel gratified by that. But I guess the best thing is that my mother wrote many books, and since we share the same first name, hers is also on my book.

JS: *Do you have your mother's green thumb?*

TA: In a way, except that every single thing on my porch just died while I had pneumonia.

JS: *How about your father's interest in the past—did you inherit that from him?*

TA: Both my parents were tremendously interested in the past. In fact, my mother was originally an archaeologist too, specializing in 19th-century England, and I honestly didn't think there was another moment in history that was less interesting. Yet my book involves that period.

JS: *Your heroine seems a lot like your mother: a bit of a renegade from the British upper class…*

TA: Well, the two ladies Eden in the book are both a lot like my grandmother, and I would say that my heroine is a combination of my mother and my daughter.

JS: *You were a single parent, which is hard enough, but you did it for a while in a foreign country. Hardest thing about that?*

TA: I was in my early 30s, and I found it a tense business just, for instance, going out to a party, because people would want to know how I was going to get home. Not that people were gossiping about me, so much, but everybody wanted to know. For somebody who's an introvert from Boston, I found that a bit tough. On the other hand, people just surrounded me and protected me from my pain. I really didn't know people liked me until my husband died. When you're married to someone as charismatic and exciting as he was, how could you know if they invited you for yourself or because of him?

JS: *Westerners think of countries like Pakistan as being extremely sexist, even misogynistic. How did it compare to working in the boys' club of Wall Street?*

TA: Well, the people in Pakistan always showed me respect. I never had someone try to corner me in the lunch room, or the elevator, which is what happened when I was a broker. I had to fight for every bit of respect there.

JS: *As a devout Muslim, the one thing you'd like all non-Muslims to understand?*

TA: The generality of people in this country don't really get that the God to whom Muslims pray is the same God to whom they pray. And our prophets are the same prophets, from Adam (God bless him) to David to Jonah, to Jesus… The prophet Mohammed—upon whom be peace—is descended from the prophet Ismael, who was the first son of Abraham. So the conflict in Israel is brother killing brother, not only because they're all Semites, but because the religions are first cousins.

JS: *What does the term* jihad *mean?*

TA: Well, it's divided into two meanings, both of which involve the idea of struggle. The lesser jihad is against those who oppose you because you are a Muslim. The greater jihad is your inner struggle against your own tendency to do the wrong thing.

JS: *So it's the lesser jihad that's been misinterpreted by Muslim fanatics?*

TA: Correct.

JS: *Hardest part of practicing Islam in Boston?*

TA: Islam is a sort of tribal, communal thing, so I guess it's a bit isolated. Muslims refer to God throughout their conversations. They never talk about sex. In this country, people talk about sex in an elevator full of total strangers, but if they talk about God, they kind of cover their mouths.

JS: *What does being a Sufi mean?*

TA: It's the mystical dimension of Islam, and to me, it means that I live in two places: Here, and what I call the country of the heart. In this part of the world, we tend to operate from the head. In the East, particularly if you follow a mystical path, you operate from the heart. It's a very different way of viewing the world.

JS: *How about psychic phenomena? Are you a believer?*

TA: Oh, yes. It's so simple, and anybody who follows that kind of path will be able to read people's thoughts within a few years.

JS: *So what am I thinking right now?*

TA: It's not quite like that. If I thought about it, I could probably work out the issue in your life that was most painful to you, but it's not my business, so I'm not going to.

JS: *It seems like your book has been positioned in this country as a bodice-ripper.*

TA: No, you might think that, because of the cover, but if they were marketing it that way, they wouldn't have put it on NPR and *The New Yorker*. It would have been in *TV Guide* and the tabloids.

JS: *Where are drivers worse: Karachi or Boston?*

TA: Karachi, no question, because the sp
cialty of Pakistanis is missing you b
barely an inch. I remember driving som
where with my Sufi teacher and absolute
screaming several times. He was the wor
driver I have ever met in my entire life. H
also used to put his shoes on the wrong fee
Being a Sufi doesn't necessarily make yo
practical.

JS: *Name three things that Lahore has that Boston doesn't.*

TA: Oh, there are lots. Dust storms. A
enormous, incredible mosque. Noise po
lution at an unbelievable level, fro
Vespa rickshaws. An ancient, walled cit
And some of the best people in the worl
You have to remember that the Punjab
are the Texans of that part of the worl
They're bigger. They're louder. They te
worse jokes and tend to slap you on th
back. People think they're crude an
uncultivated, but I don't care. I love them
They're the best.

JS: *Most notable things Boston has that Lahore doesn't?*

TA: The Symphony. An organized way
doing things, which is not true anywhe
in Pakistan. Pakistan is a do-it-yourse
country. If I wanted, say, a lamp, first I'
have to purchase something I though
might make a good lamp. Then I'd nee
to have it wired. And then I'd have to fin
someone I could talk into making
lampshade.

JS: *So what happens next in the story?*

TA: [Laughs.] Well, the next book is abou
what happens next. iB

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spring FASHION WOMEN

After a treacherous winter of cold days and even colder nights I'm overjoyed to be sending you the spring fashion issue. Thoughts of cute sundresses and warmer days have been dancing in my head for months now, and this issue is the result. The new season offers the most innovative looks and feminine clothing choices available in a decade. I encourage you to shove all your scarves, gloves and bulky clothes into a storage unit and swear off anything resembling knit for at least six months, just as I intend to do.

This season's two main styles are classy sex appeal and flirty fun. In the sexy department, we have micro miniskirts and hot pants so short that they almost look like fancy knickers. Also look for plunging necklines, a lot of draping (get out the double-sided tape) and head-to-toe sheer. Fabrics run the gamut from gold lamé to denim to lace. Think high glamour when you head out for the evening and load on the accessories; nothing is too bold.

Flirty fun is all about looking pure. For a short dress, opt for simple white with a pleated skirt that swirls when you spin. Many designers are pushing the fifties dress, which, with its tight bodice and an explosion of pleats at the hips, looks more like a prom gown than a sundress. For lazy Sunday afternoons, fitted cotton dresses are making a comeback (perfect for an outdoor brunch). Don't forget a casual blazer to drape over your shoulders in case a cool breeze comes in.

For a few more spring tips, I asked famed designer Donna Karan about her take on this season and what she can't live without:

Samantha House: *What are women looking for this spring?*
Donna Karan: I think that women are craving happiness in their spring wardrobes and want clothes that are uplifting. Both my DKNY and Donna Karan New York collections had polka dots for that reason.
SH: *How would you describe 2003 spring fashion?*
DK: Flirty, fun and glamorous.
SH: *What's the hottest trend we'll be seeing this spring for women?*
DK: Short shorts and feminine print dresses
SH: *What would you consider to be the staple that every woman must have in her wardrobe?*
DK: Cashmere.
SH: *What's your favorite item of clothing in your closet?*
DK: My kimono—I literally took it right off the runway.
SH: *What look do you think best suits Bostonian women?*
DK: My spring collection was titled To Suit a Woman. I think that suits are essential to a woman's wardrobe in both Boston and New York.

So, no matter what this spring, look for fabrics that make you feel good and help you forget about winter. iB

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE **PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STREICHER**

Black and white pearl necklace; flower pin. Both by Chanel. Call 1-800-550-0005 for details.

White dress, $398 at DKNY. Pintuck harlequin-stitched silk and taffeta fabric background at Zimman's.

Beige silk dress, $4,330 at select Chanel Boutiques. Drop earrings by Chanel, $160 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Satin and taffeta striped fabric background at Zimman's.

Polka dot dress, $348 at DKNY. Sterling silver amethyst necklace with heart pendant, $155 at Kayabelle.

Chiffon dress wi
metallic sued
appliqué b
Rebecca Tayl
$580 at Jasmin
Sola. Silk chenil
striped fabric bac
ground at Zimman

Chanel Boutique, 5 Newbury St, 617-859-0055
DKNY, 37 Newbury St, 617-236-0476
Jasmine Sola, 344 Newbury St, 617-867-4636
Zimman's Fabrics, 80 Market St, Lynn, 781-598-9432
Kayabelle, 1-888-KAYABEL, www.kayabelle.com
Hair: Elaine for Vidal Sassoon
Makeup: Bianca for M.A.C
Model: Jojana for Q

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spring FASHION MEN

In years past, Bostonian men have been known for their conservative style of dress. In fact, it's not an exaggeration to say that the majority of Boston men have pretty much stuck to dark pleated pants and white collared shirts. But more and more, the same men seem to be changing their ways. Looking around the streets of the Financial District, you'll now find bold colors mixed with different textures, all signs of men having more fun with their wardrobes. It won't be too long before men are swarming designer stores just as women flock to shoe sales. Lucky for men, there's a new crop of local designers catering to them. Among them, Wassim Kabarra, who designs men's dress shirts and manufactures them in Italy out of the finest fabrics. Set to launch his new collection at Taste boutique on Newbury Street this March, Kabarra gives Boston men some tips on how to stay up-to-date.

Samantha House: *What are the trends for men this spring?*

Wassim Kabarra: I love striped button-down shirts in candy colors; linen suits; and pastel colors.

SH: *What's your favorite item of clothing in your closet?*

WK: My Hermes ties.

SH: *What are your favorite stores in Boston?*

WK: Hermes, because the quality is unsurpassed. Taste has some great Swedish designers, and Louis has a very good mixture of up-and-coming designers. Brooks Brothers is a great staple place for classic, inexpensive designs.

SH: *Give Boston men the one piece of fashion advice they can't live without.*

WK: Clothes are an extension of your personality. They should make you look good and make you feel good about yourself. You can do that in a three-piece designer suit or in khakis and loafers. IB

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE **PHOTOGRAPHED BY PHILIP FRIEDMAN**

BUSINESS

Left to right: Khaki suit, $895, at Ralph Lauren. White shirt, $165, at Burberry. Burgundy shoes, $995, at Gucci. Jumpsuit, $495; white shirt, $175; black tie, $110. All by Dubuc. Market. Call 617-338-4500 for details. Black slip-on wing-tip shoes, $1,285, at Ralph Lauren. Purple label three-piece suit, $3,495; navy striped shirt with club collar, $295; navy tie, $115; pocket square, $25. All at Ralph Lauren. Dress shoes, $188, at Kenneth Cole.

k pin-striped suit, $2,190, at Gucci; 7 Diamonds shirt, $58, at Macy's. Beige silk suit jacket, $1,890; matching pants, $790; silk shirt, $590; polka-dot tie, $125; brown and
e shoes, $995. All at Gucci. Model: Pierre-Alexandre Nadeau for

CASUAL

Left to right: White pants, $89.50; tux shirt, $95. Both at DKNY. Tie by Pucci, $120, at Barney's Chestnut Hill. Black shoes, $138, at Kenneth Cole. Jeans, $149, at Diesel. Collage shirt by Robert Graham, $98, at Neiman Marcus. Hat by Kangol, $35, at www.kangol.com.

nen shirt by 7 Diamonds, $56, at Macy's. Jeans, $125, at DKNY. Blue polo shirt, $165; beige pants, $350. Both at Burberry. Suede shoes, $138, at Kenneth Cole. Model: uquette for Q. Stylist: Alexandra Greenawalt.

frocks

TRY THESE SPRING LOOKS AND FORGET ABOUT THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS

flirty

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

STYLED BY NICOLA MILLER

MODEL: EVELYN FOR MAGGIE, INC

HAIR: JOHN CENTOFANTI FOR VIDAL SASSOON

Red and pink dress by Tocca, $185. Available at Wish.
Zebra sandals by Hollywould, $245. Available at Moxie.
Beaded denim canteen bag by Elissa Bloom.
Log on to www.elissabloom.com for details

Pink floral dress by Milly, $325.
Available at Wish

Yellow floral dress by Rebe, $149.
Available at Holiday.

Paisley dress by BCBG, $198.
Available at BCBG Max Azria.

China dress with ties by Rebe, $149.
Available at Holiday

White dress with purple flowers by Rebe, $149;
petticoat by Rebe, $65. Both available at Holiday.

Pink dress with gold lace by Tracey Reese, $239;
belt by Prairie New York, $45. Both available at Holiday.

Holiday, 127 Charles St., 617-973-9730. Moxie, 73 Charles St., 617-557-9991. Wish, 49 Charles St., 617-227-4441. BCBG Max Azria, 71 Newbury St., 617-536-7182

steppin' out

TREAT YOUR FEET TO SPRING'S BEST SHOE

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Left to right: Gold slides with flower, $230 at Stuart Weitzman; silver stilettos with butterfly embellishments by Giuseppe Zanotti, $425 at Neiman Marcus; red heels with beaded flowers and ankle straps, $215 at Stuart Weitzman; multi-colored heels by Prada, $440 at Saks Fifth Avenue; snakeskin pumps, $298 at Stuart Weitzman; tuxedo shoes by Prada, $475 at Saks Fifth Avenue; red stilettos with ankle straps by Gucci, $425 at Neiman Marcus; black shoes with buckle by Prada, $480 at Saks Fifth Avenue

Photographed by Joel Benjamin. Models: Click. Fashion Assistant: Samantha Williams

Stuart Weitzman, Copley Place, 617-266-8699. Saks Fifth Avenue, The Prudential Center, 617-262-8500. Neiman Marcus, Copley Place, 617-536-3660.

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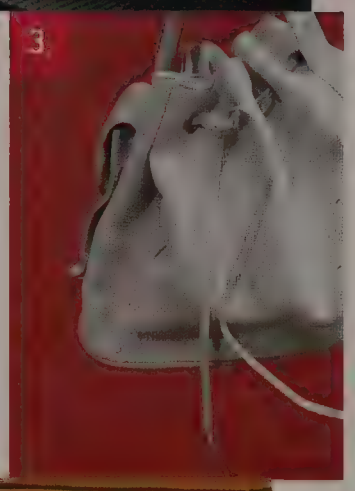
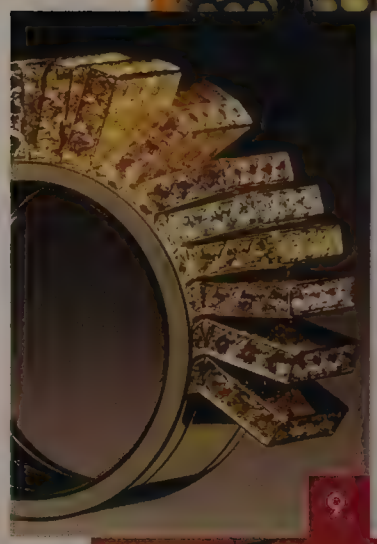
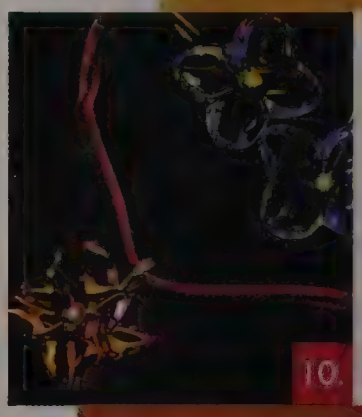
HOT ACCESSORIES TO LIVEN UP YOUR SPRING WARDROBE



Top to bottom: 1. Sterling-silver cube ring, $65, at Lazuli Jewelers. 2. Pink flower necklace, $125; blue flower necklace, $85. Both by M. Flynn at the Beauty Mark. 3. White bag with tie, $98, at Arden B. 4. So Pretty de Cartier ring, $4,000, at Cartier.

Top to bottom: 5. Beaded necklace with apple charm, $60, by Milada Huk, Renaissance Galleries. Call 250-629-3070 for details. 6. Antique Mystique necklace, $125; Summer Swirl necklace, $130. Both at www.kaya belle.com. 7. Makeup bag by Elissa Bloom. Log onto www.elissabloom.com for details. 8. Red bracelet by Monies, $105. Call 781-461-0606 for details.





Top to bottom: 9. Paillettes ring, $2,800, at Cartier. 10. Flower necklace, $195; matching earrings, $375. Both by Baccarat, at Belle de Jour. 11. "The Cherry" bag and "Polka Dot," $125, both at www.the bag somerville.com, or 617-501-5987. 12. Rectangle watch, $695; striped tie, $85; cufflinks, $225. All at Hugo Boss.

FASHION ASSISTANT: HILARY

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6. Creamy Lip Liner by Bobbi Brown in Nude, Pink Petal, Mocha, and Melon, $20 each 7. **Bronzer/Blush Duo by Bobbi Brown, $28.** 8. Eye shadow Duo by Nars in Mediteranee and Rated R, $27 each. 9. **Moisture Sheer Lipstick with SPF 15 by Clinique in Sheer Natural and Sheer Petal, $13.50 each.** 10. Ralph Lauren Romance, $65 at Filene's.

11. Le Vernis Nail Colour by Chanel in Black Tie, $16.50. 12. **Aqualumieres Multi-Effect Palette by Chanel in Exaltation, $60.** 13. Glosswear Nail Enamel by Clinique in Pinkini, White Wash and Adobe Pink, $12.50 each. 14. **Portable Paints by Lorac in Bronzed-Sandy and Tawny; Sunkissed-Pinky and Rosy, $24 each.** 15. Liquid Pearl for Eyes by Calvin Klein in Opaline and Mercury, $16 each.

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Mopsy

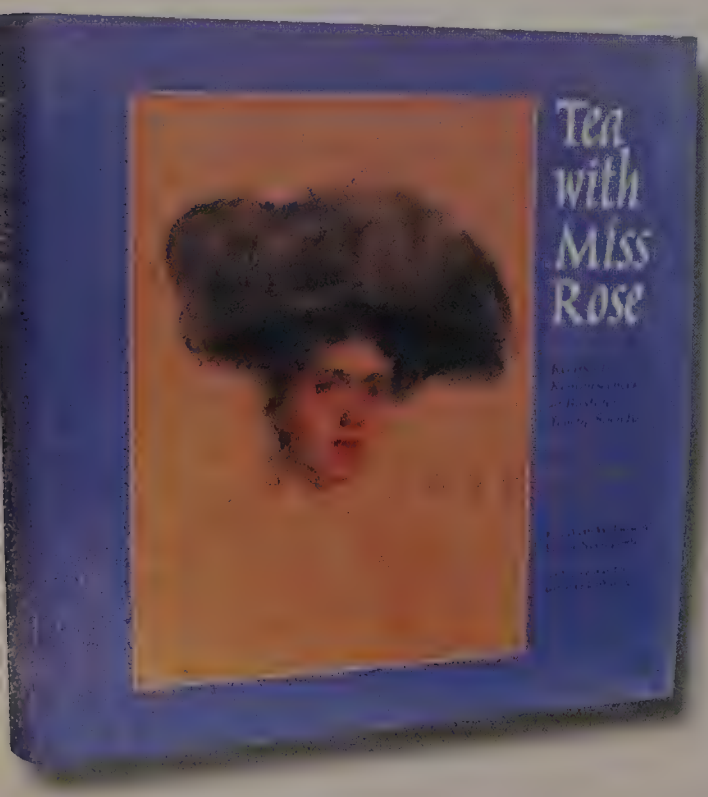
Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

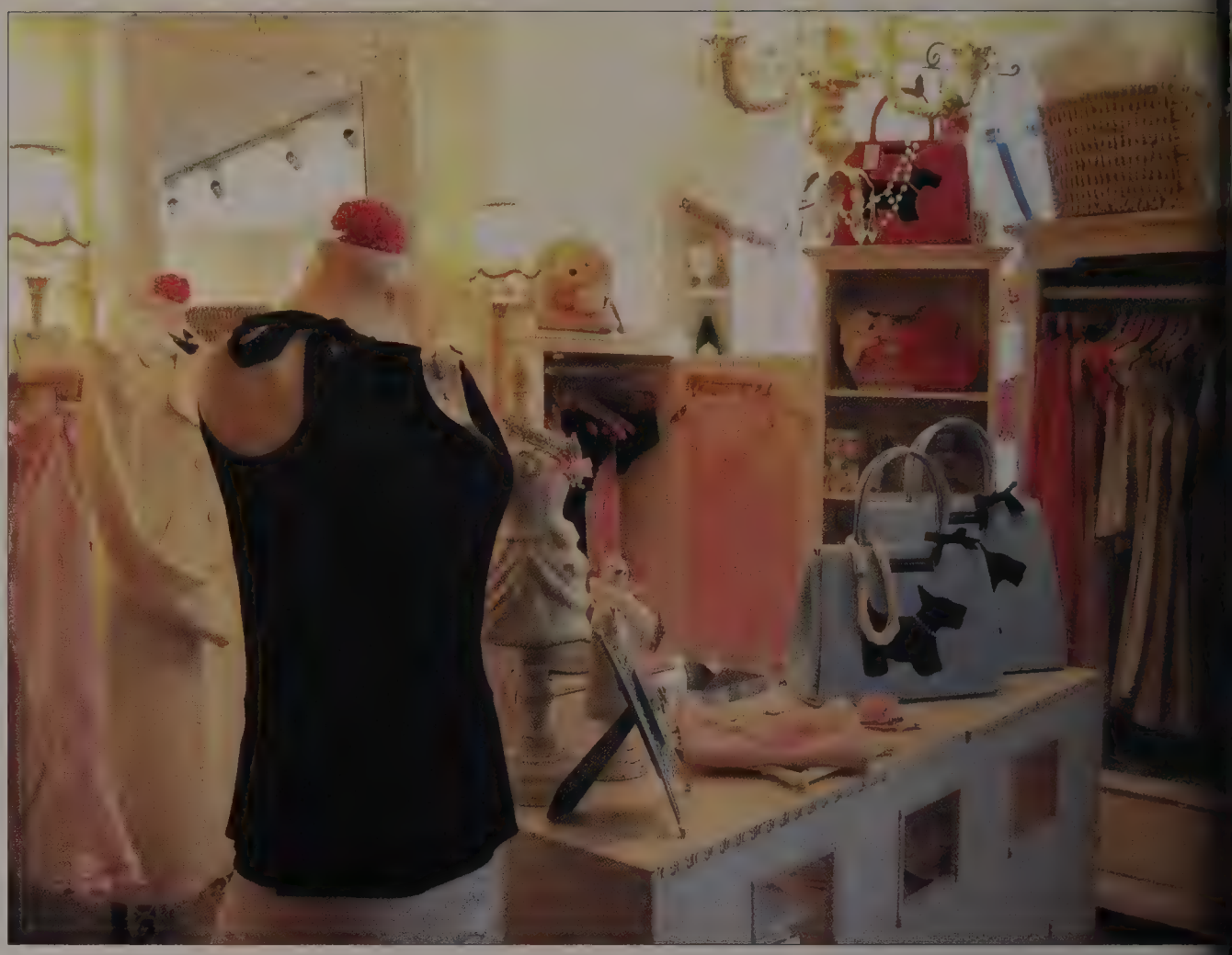
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

IN THIS CASE: PROPER BOSTONIANS

Tea with Miss Rose: Recipes and Reminiscences of Boston's Teacup Society, by Elizabeth Driscoll and Elaine Negroponte, paints a picture of Beacon Hill in the early 20th century and includes delicious fancy recipes for your own tea party. To order a copy, call 617-227-6993 or go to Amazon.com.

Back when people congregated on velvet sofas, both for social causes and mere socializing, there were salons and tea parties. Rose Standish Nichols, who had a touch of Katharine Hepburn's bold acerbic class, lived at 55 Mount Vernon Street, where she held lively, even intimidating teas—practically seminars—up through mid-20th century. She liked to mix improbably opposite guests, hoping sparks would fly. Born in 1872, Nichols was the first female landscape architect in America and lived almost half her life in Europe, befriending such cultural luminaries as art critic Bernard Berenson and the sculptor Saint-Gaudens. Founder of the Beacon Hill Reading Club in 1890, Nichols, along with other activist members of the "teacup society," involved herself in noble causes like world peace. In a slightly mischievous, arch tone, the book—which comes with a ribbon bookmark and gold Chinese tea paper end papers for added Beacon Hill flavor—specifies the terms of an haute tea party: You need an eight-foot table, a rented tea urn and muslin tea bags. Wonderfully refined recipes include Bell Ringers Eggnog, Lace Cookies, and Nut and Fruit Sandwiches. To follow Nichols' tea party format, we suggest you propose some vast, crackling discussion topic like, "What is your idea of heaven?"





SWEET BOUTIQUE

Holiday sells festive, pretty clothes and will photograph baby dresses and other memorable garments. At 127 Charles St., Boston, or call 617-973-9730.

Suggesting merriment in the wardrobe, this cute little shop has an air of Paris about it. Owner Jessika Pavlic, a former stylist, loves pretty clothes and pastel colors that bring festivity to special occasions as well as ordinary ones that need some spice. One simple, loosely woven cotton dress, with hemline frou-frous, recalls a Degas ballerina. Bella Bloomers from the designer Rebe—in pink and blue, and adorned with decoration at the bottom—are stylish, cottony and comfortable for yoga or just hanging. The "ta-da" feature of Rebe's elegant, body-hugging bateau-necked black dress is an enormous soft ribbon in pink, blue or red that dances off the side or the back, wherever you tie it. She also makes purses patched together from vintage fabrics. Another purse in the shop, stiffly at-attention in cheerful pink fleece, sports a chipper black Scottie. A simple top for everyday wear is given a party feel with crisscrossing ribbons and doily fabric. Holiday's staff photographer can create a framed photo of your baby's special-occasion dress to hold that precious, fleeting moment. The store's decor, which includes Venetian glass-mirrored picture frames and a veritable ballgown of a pink-gold silk curtain that covers the entrance to the changing room, adds Holiday flavor.

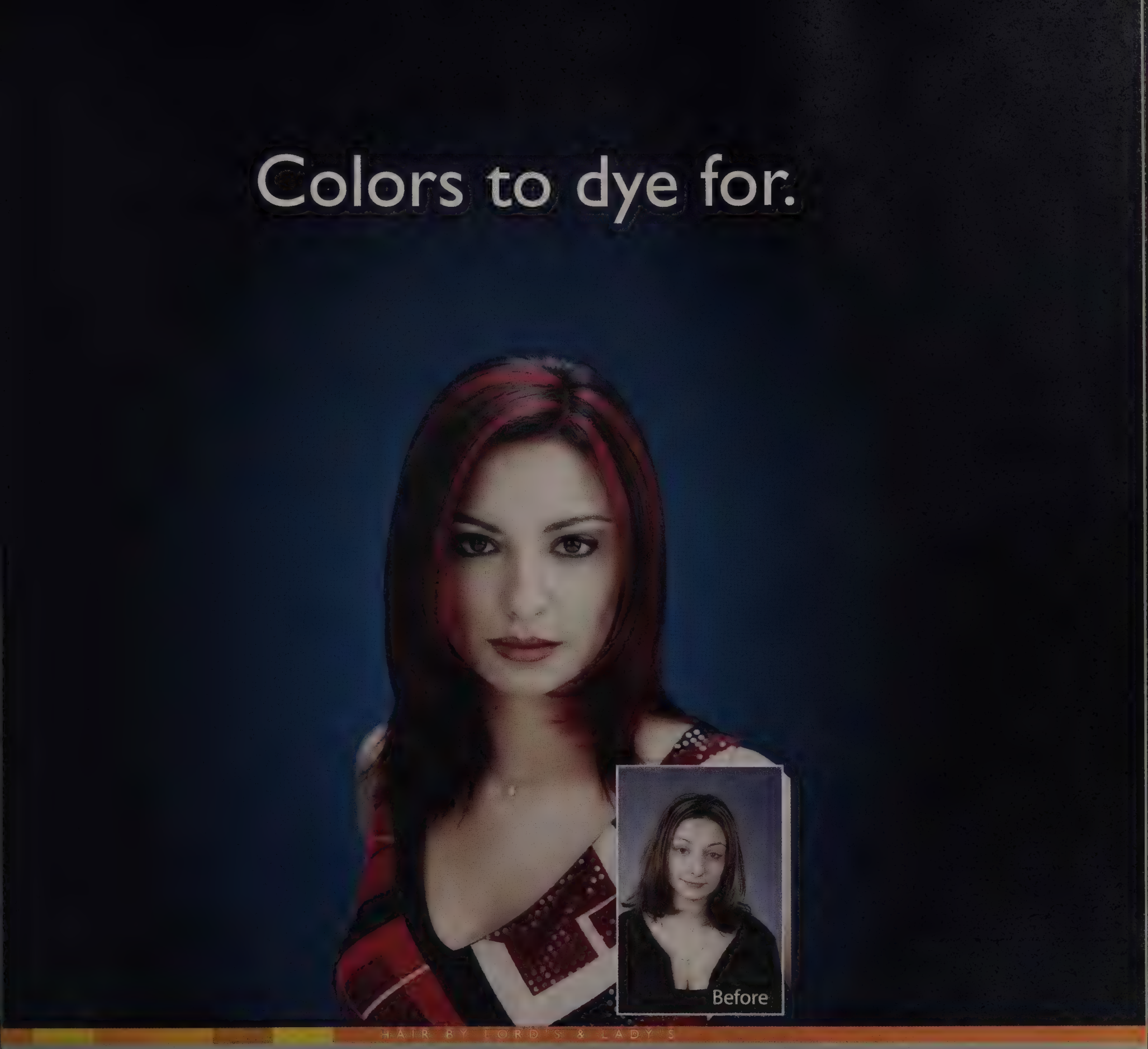
BEAT KEEPER

Rhythm Connections uses drumming to help people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other learning problems. Contact Jonathan Shulman of Rhythm Connections at 508-877-9282, or go to *www.rhythmconnections.com*.

Teacher and drummer Jonathan Shulman recognizes the therapeutic value in the throbbing of the drum. If ADHD sufferers are all over the place, they're also "all over the time," he says. Through "rhythmic entrainment," drumming can help bring into focus the discipline—and the fun—of the moment. Always studiously avoiding student crisis mode, Shulman's multisensory approach takes the person through simple stepping, clapping and paddle-drum exercises, incorporating personalized phrases (say, about a teacher: "Mr. Gerard, not so hard"), until the student mirrors Shulman and rests comfortably in the otherwise-elusive groove. From there, he moves to the West African drum, encouraging the student to really feel and connect with the beat. Drumming is the medium that allows the student to internalize the soothing, grounding patterns. His key goal is helping students recover from mistakes with a feeling of safety. Whatever drumming skills emerge are transferable and fun, but Shulman, with his engaging style, mainly aims to help kids with speech-processing or attention difficulties feel competent. He also works with the elderly with astonishing rapport; forgotten song lyrics shake out like butterflies from a dusty box.

TOP: RITA GR

Colors to dye for.



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in this section:
Review: The Vault
Dish: Tales spun from Spinazzola
Tasty Tidbit: McCormick & Schmic
winter clambake

REVIEW

Banking on Italian

Chef Carmen Quagliata has made the Vault one of downtown's most appetizing dinner options

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

When the Vault opened almost six years ago in the Financial District, it substantially enhanced the dining options in that neighborhood. Eventually, original chef Rebecca Esty parted company with the owners, and the quality of the restaurant's food declined from its promising beginnings. Then, early last year, new owner Brian O'Neill, owner of Centro and the Good Life, brought in talented Centro chef Rene Michelena, who embarked on a Marco Polo–inspired path of fusion cuisine that combined elements of Asian and Italian cookery. But after only a few months, Michelena departed the Vault. He was replaced temporarily by Brian Maxwell, Michelena's sous chef, who reinvented the Vault as a traditional chophouse with a rustic Italian flair.

I enjoyed two excellent dinners at the Vault under Maxwell's regime and concluded that the new format was a winner. But then, inexplicably, the Vault once again changed its menu to modern American cuisine. Fortunately that detour was relatively short-lived, and late last year a new chef and co-owner, Carmen Quagliata, relocated to Boston from a heralded Napa Valley restaurant and reinstituted an Italian culinary motif. Quagliata, assisted by the talented Maxwell, has put the Vault back on track and made it one of downtown's most appetizing dinner options.

The opening salvo of our recent dinners was the amuse gueule that arrived immediately after we ordered. On one evening, it was a rillette of poached salmon with aioli, dotted with minced chives, served on tiny, crispy house-made crostini. On another night, salt-cured anchovy with celery, parsley and olive oil replaced the salmon. Both of those free tidbits provided a hint of the delicious food that was to come. Of the appetizers, we were refreshed by a salad of Boston Bibb lettuce and cara cara oranges ($9) with mustard and onion confit vinaigrette and shaved Manchego cheese. Buttery-textured lettuce and thin slices of juicy orange contributed to a marvelous medley of tastes and textures, including the savory mustard; sweet, tangy orange; creamy, sharp sheep's cheese; and aromatic ground black pepper. An appetizer called cured meats ($10) was far more enticing than its off-putting name. It consisted of luscious, satiny-textured Parma prosciutto, well-marbled duck prosciutto, first-rate house-cured beef bresaola, mild Tuscan salami and robust Calabrian salami with a strong fennel flavor. These thin slices of delicatessen delicacies radiated from a hub of mildly pickled vegetables that included cauliflower, green beans, onions, sliced carrots, fennel and two kinds of olives, with the exquisite, unannounced dividend of two heavenly morsels of Parmigiano Reggiano cheese.

Thankfully, Quagliata has restored a number of pasta dishes to the Vault's menu. Whole-wheat pappardelle with tomato, toasted walnuts, rosemary and Pecorino Romano cheese ($16) was spectacular. The wide, flat noodles were almost silky in texture, a felicitous contrast with the crunch of the walnuts. Warm Mediterranean flavors, dominated by rosemary and the rustic sharpness of salty sheep's cheese, made this a memorable dish.

Although the menu offers only six main courses, there was ample choice to satisfy different tastes and palates, ranging from seafood to poultry to beef. The caramelized scallops ($29) featured eight scallops, between sea and Cape in size, each topped with a delicious purée of chickpeas, diced tomatoes and oranges. The chef's Sicilian heritage was reflected in his skillful use of tomatoes and oranges, often together. Another example was the fennel-spiced roasted quail ($25). These two small but plump, crisp-skinned birds were exquisitely sauced with a reduction of the cooking juices combined with blood orange. The accompanying fennel, an aromatic vegetable if not reined in can be obtrusive and overwhelming, was here rendered mild and most mellow, by careful cooking as a gratinata of Parmesan cheese with its salty sweetness.

No restaurant could survive down without a good steak on the menu, and Vault did not disappoint on this front a sirloin steak ($29) served with sea-s crispy potatoes wilted spinach. thick, juicy cut, seared on the ou yet rare and within, was gua teed to satisfy the unabashed carni The potatoes, an i inative cross bet french fries and h

The Vault

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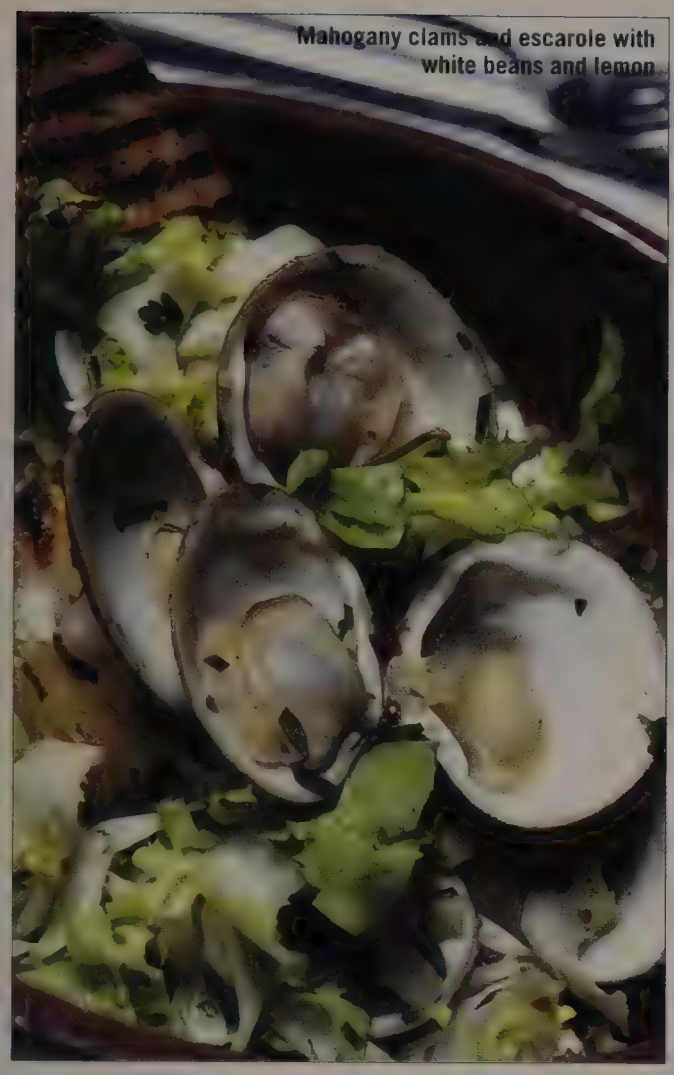
Diners enjoy liver-crostini-stuffed quail with fennel gratinata and blood-orange quail reduction.

s, arrived hot and crisp
h remnants of their thin
n intact. The spinach,
hed in a garlicky olive
complemented the
f. Admirably, these es-
able garnishes came
hout the side-dish tar-
encountered in most
steakhouses. It's worth
ing that with none of
menu offerings did we
the urge to reach for
. In fact, so confident is
f Quagliata that salt
cers are absent from the
es.


Mahogany clams and escarole with white beans and lemon

esserts (all $8) included
colate torta with espres-
zabaglione, a dense,
st wedge of deep, dark,
rless chocolate cake
n an intensely flavored,
yolk–enriched coffee
ce. Apple tart made
n tangy Macoun apples
e with an unannounced
op of rich, house-made
lla ice cream. Notwith-
ding the dry, nonde-
pt pastry, the apples,
ly balanced between tart and sweet,
ued the dish. After dessert, and even
n evening when I skipped dessert, the
er brought a tray of crunchy cookies:
chocolate, the other ginger.

o complement its fine food, the Vault
rs a decent selection of wines, includ-
a good number by the glass. The 2000
hael Chiarlo Barbera d'Asti ($8 per
s) boasted good forward fruit and
lium body that matched well with
the quail and the scallops. More ro-
, but without the crisp, clean finish of
Barbera, was the 2000 Ca del Vispo
nti Colli Senesi (also $8 a glass), a full-
ied Tuscan wine. A significant step up
a half-bottle of Rocca della Macie Chi-
Classico from the 1998 vintage ($16).
htly disappointed when it arrived—
menu had listed the 1997 vintage, her-
d as one of the best in decades—we
nd the 1998 quite exemplary: a big
e, aromatic and tannic but with a soft-
and fine finish that made it the perfect
mpaniment to the steak.

he Vault's service was first-rate. One
ing our waitress, at once vigilant, re-
sive and unobtrusive, offered a service
ancement seldom encountered in
on restaurants. When my spouse and I
red one salad and one pasta dish as appe-
rs, she offered, *sua sponte*, to have them
ded and served as separate courses.

s menu may change with the frequency
ew England weather, but the Vault's
r has not changed since its opening in
7. Luxurious green and gold plush
es extend from the high ceiling to the
wood floors. Dark wood adorned with
fashioned sconces with off-white fabric
es gives the room a clubby look. The

The Vault's co-owner, Brian O'Neill (left), and chef/co-owner Carmen Quagliata

restaurant is divided into two distinct spaces. A long copper bar dominates the area to the right of the entrance, which includes a row of comfortable booths upholstered in green leather. To the left of the entrance is an attractive, high-ceilinged room with gold and blue swirled wallpaper above the wainscoting and wood paneling below. A strategically placed divider used for storing wine helps break up the space into pleasant enclaves. Two huge gilt-framed mirrors dominate one wall.

The Vault in its recent incarnations has striven to find a formula by which it can satisfy its downtown business clientele with well-executed steaks while displaying a flair that can attract diners who might otherwise be tempted to stroll to the North End. With the arrival Quagliata and his fine Italian-accented cuisine, it appears to have found the key to success. IB

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DISH

Spin's Real Sparkle

A sumptuous spread and a spontaneous spirit... BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Paul Overgaag, former chef/owner of Giannino's, will open The Red Room next to the House of Blues in April.

So, is the glass half empty or half full? In the case of this year's **Spinazzola Gala Festival of Food and Wine**, the signature wineglass was figuratively overflowing with generosity, both planned and spontaneous.

As usual, the annual gala raised a bundle—more than $600,000—earmarked to fight hunger via grants to hunger relief agencies, programs for the homeless, culinary apprenticeships and scholarships.

In addition, the Spinazzola Foundation stepped up to the plate in fast-food time, mere days after the party, to grant an emergency $10,000 to the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans to help fend off a closing threatened by an enormous overdue utility bill. So the lights are on, and thanks to the good guys, we all feel a little warmer inside.

Does it really matter, then, that by 8:30pm at the gala, **Veuve Clicquot** had run out of champagne, and the **Clio** crew were hesitant to prepare any more fish tacos, since they'd exhausted their 20-gallon supply of freshly squeezed kalamansi lime juice? Not a bit. The Clio guys were easily persuaded to fix the tacos without the citrus, and they were delicious. More than 80 other wineries were on hand, and the sparkle of Spin isn't only to be found on evening gowns or in a champagne flute.

There was the devilish twinkle in chef **Robert Fathman**'s baby blues as he dared us to look up his kilt (OK, we'd asked what he was wearing under it). "I never wear underwear. Never!" he insisted as he brandished a plastic pitchfork. Behind him, the **Azure** crew, attired in playful satanic horns and tails, served up "demonic infusions" of bourbon flavored with cinnamon and figs.

And there was the camaraderie, commiseration and community support offered to **Robert Perry**, one of the owners of the **Elephant Walk** and **Carambola** restaurants, whose Boston Elephant Walk location had been heavily damaged by fire two days earlier. **Raymond Ost** of **Sandrine's** offered to provide any needed assistance as Perry embarks on the complicated process of rebuilding. **David Waters** of Community Servings shared his experience with insurance adjusters way back when he worked at **UpStairs at the Pudding**, which also had suffered a fire. Perry, who had the fortitude and humor to festoon the Elephant Walk's table with yellow "fire line" tape from the scene of the blaze, hopes to reopen the Boston restaurant by late spring.

SECOND COURSE

Although many Charles Square–area condo dwellers are mourning the loss of **Giannino's** (**Legal Sea Foods** is taking over the spot Giannino's vacated in the courtyard of the Charles Hotel), loyal followers of chef/owner **Paul Overgaag** will not be long deprived of his cooking. Even much of the Giannino's staff will be on hand when Overgaag opens **The Red House** sometime in April. Next to the **House of Blues** (will someone please open a Yellow Bistro nearby to complete the set of Restaurants of Primary Color?), the Red House—with a menu that's more broadly European-influenced than its Northern Italian predecessor—will continue to feature the popular Giannino's option of ordering dishes in either appetizer- or entrée-sized portions.

Because the little four-room cottage, built circa 1802, has significant historic value, it took three years for Overgaag to work out a design that satisfied his commercial needs while meeting the City of Cambridge Historical Commission's requirements. The original structure contains three small private dining rooms, and a large rear addition creates space for a 55-seat dining room, a bar area and a kitchen. So it turns out there's no truth to the rumor that the Red House would share cooking space with **Charlie's Kitchen**, just around the corner, although Overgaag does own the home of the famous double cheeseburger too. **iB**

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

EVENTS

Beer Dinner
Union Street & The Attic, 107R Union St., Newton Center (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center. Feb. 27, 7:30pm. $35. Enjoy a pairing of Spring Hibernian Ale from Harpoon Brewery with a five-course meal prepared by chef **John Tarnuzzer**.

Boston Wine Festival
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). www.bostonwinefestival.net. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Through April 11.* More than 50 events are scheduled, including seminars, vertical tastings, dinner dances and celebrity guest speakers, at this annual event. •Feb. 19, 6:30pm (seminar), 8pm (dinner), $175 (dinner only) and $225 (seminar and dinner): Vega Sicilia/Oremus •Feb. 20, 6:30pm (seminar), 8pm (dinner), $125 (dinner only) and $175 (seminar and dinner): Walk Through the Willamette •Feb. 24, 7pm, $125: Rivera •Feb. 25, 7pm, $125: Borgo Magredo/Torre Rosazza •Feb. 26, 7pm, $145: Opus One •Feb. 27, 6:30pm (seminar), 8pm (dinner), $125 (dinner only) and $175 (seminar and dinner): Chateau de Beaucastel/Tablas Creek •March 2, 10am, $75: New Orleans Jazz Brunch •March 3, 7pm, $125: Silverado Vineyards •March 4, 6:30pm (seminar), 8pm (dinner), $125 (dinner only) and $175 (seminar and dinner): Beaulieu Vineyards.

Carnivale
Caffe Umbra, 1395 Washington St., Boston (617-867-0707). March 4. $45. Chef/owner Laura Brennan hosts a four-course dinner in celebration of Mardi Gras. The Italian-style dinner begins with a family-style antipasti course at the bar.

Celebrity Chefs Culinary Program
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Saturdays, 1-3pm. Through March 1. $45 per class. Nationally and regionally known chefs and cookbook authors demonstrate their specialties. Sample the prepared dishes with matching wines. •Feb. 22: **Darryl Settles**, executive chef and owner of Bob the Chef's •March 1: **Michael McDonald**, executive chef of the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa.

Chefs Program
Boston Learning Center, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham Center (781-453-9800). Local chefs hosts these cooking workshops. •Feb. 24, 7pm, $39: Chef **Philip Wang** from Truc prepares a French country dinner •Feb. 25, 7-9pm, $39: Pastry chef **Maureen Kilpatrick** from Oleana prepares "sweet little things."

Chocolate Tour
Trolley Stop Store, corner of Boylston and South Charles streets, Boston (617-269-3626). Jan.-March: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am and 12:45pm. $50. This fully narrated three-hour journey stops for chocolate desserts at the Top of the Hub, the Omni Parker House Hotel and Le Meridien.

Italian Wine Dinner
33 Restaurant, 33 Stanhope St., Boston (617-572-3311). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 27, 6pm. $85. Taste some of the best Italian vintages from the past decade at this five-course dinner.

Monica's Prix-Fixe
143 Richmond St., Boston (617-227-0311). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Sun.-Thu.,

Winter Clambake

We don't normally associate clambakes with subarctic climes, but McCormick & Schmick is offering a special winter clambake that features all our summertime faves: steamed lobster, clam chowder, clams, mussels, corn on the cob and red potatoes. It takes place at both the Park Square and Faneuil Hall locations Monday through Friday from 3-6pm for a mere $19.95. *McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, 34 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-482-3999) or Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-720-5522).*

through the end of February. Chef **Jorge Mend** offers a three-course prix fixe menu for $20.0 wine pairing is available for an additional $9

New Emerging Wine Regions
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Co Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). www.bu.edu long. *MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. Feb. 6pm. $45.* Master of Wine **Jancis Robinson** cusses the world's emerging wine regions.

A Southern Menu
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. A Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Green Li Arlington. Feb. 24, 6:30pm. $60. Join Rou chef/owner **Andy Husbands** as he prepares sine from the American South.

Sunday Regional Tasting Menu
Pigalle, 75 Charles St., Boston (617-423-49 MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sunday 9:30pm. $40. This three-course French tast menu is paired with regional wines.

Tuesday Night Wine Tastings
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-5 5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. T days, 6 and 8pm. $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey Fa** educates guests about wine. Chef **Ian Just** hors d'oeuvres with the wines and offers a b cooking demonstration. •Feb. 25: Burgu reds •March 4: Burgundy whites.

Williams-Sonoma Guest Chef Serie
Williams-Sonoma, Copley Place, Boston (617-2 3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Saturdays, 2pm. Local chefs offer instructions and tastu •Feb. 22: **Roy Breiman** of Opus on Martha's Vi yard •March 1: **Paul Diogenes** of the Bay Tow

Wine Mondays
L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-3 3023). Mondays, 7pm. $50. Chef **Frank McC land** pairs a four-course menu with wines fro specific region of the world. Sommelier **Johnson** offers an educational talk. •Feb Burgundy with special guest **Alex Gam** •March 3: Southern France.

DISH: GLORIA DAWSON; TASTINGS: MICHELLE

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agenda

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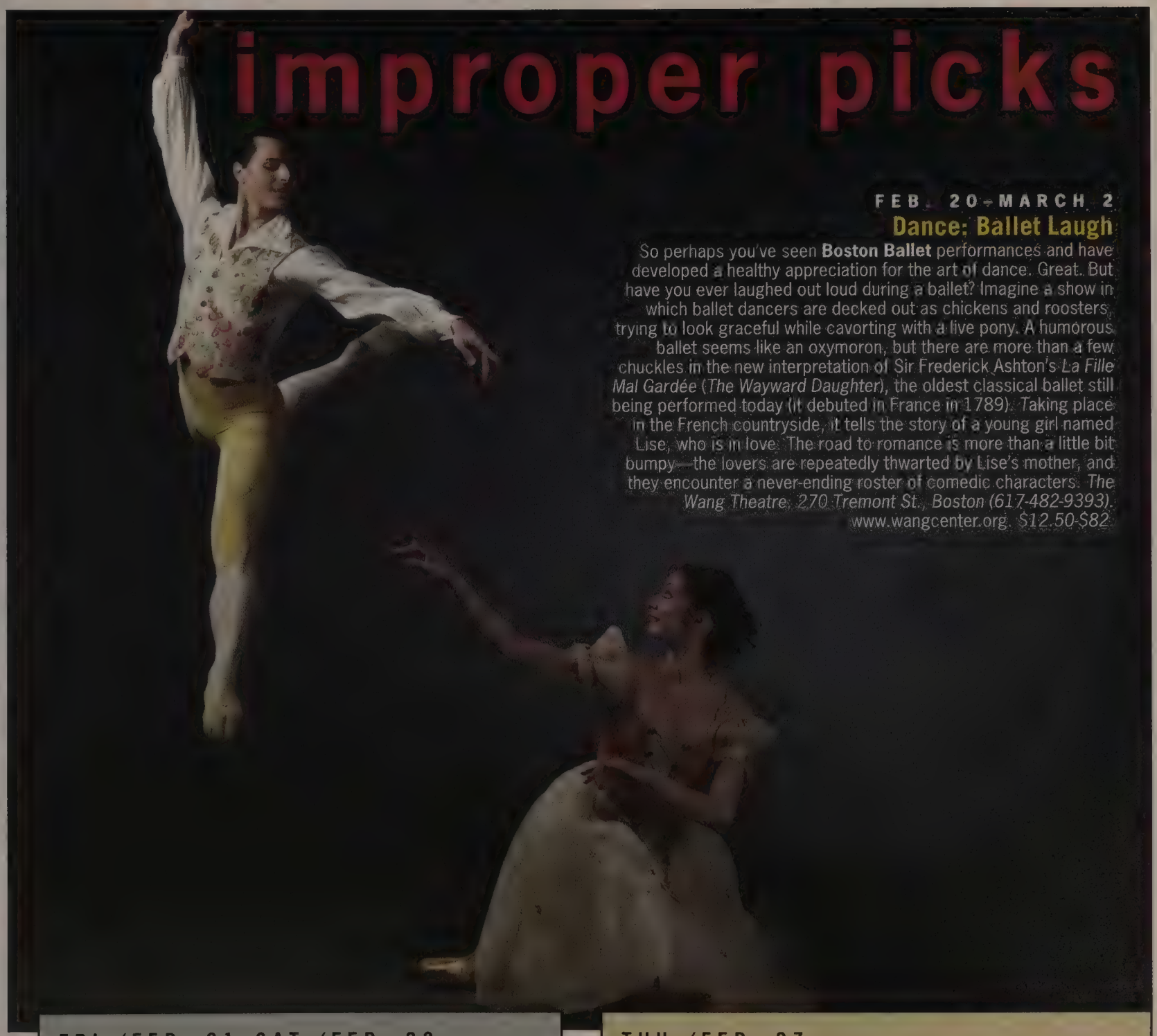


FEB. 20–MARCH 2

Dance: Ballet Laugh

So perhaps you've seen **Boston Ballet** performances and have developed a healthy appreciation for the art of dance. Great. But have you ever laughed out loud during a ballet? Imagine a show in which ballet dancers are decked out as chickens and roosters trying to look graceful while cavorting with a live pony. A humorous ballet seems like an oxymoron, but there are more than a few chuckles in the new interpretation of Sir Frederick Ashton's *La Fille Mal Gardée* (*The Wayward Daughter*), the oldest classical ballet still being performed today (it debuted in France in 1789). Taking place in the French countryside, it tells the story of a young girl named Lise, who is in love. The road to romance is more than a little bit bumpy—the lovers are repeatedly thwarted by Lise's mother, and they encounter a never-ending roster of comedic characters. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). www.wangcenter.org. $12.50-$82.*

FRI./FEB. 21–SAT./FEB. 22

Comedy: Laughter Is the Best Medicine

On the night of Sept. 11, 2001, comedian David Brenner had a performance in Las Vegas. Understandably, the room was only 25 percent full. Several days later, a show he gave in California, however, was sold out. But a week later, when Brenner returned to Vegas, where shows rely on tourists to fill their audiences, attendance was way down. He quickly recognized the emerging pattern. "Americans were afraid to leave their towns and cities, but not afraid to leave their homes." In response, Brenner launched his **Laughter to the People** tour, which makes its way to the Comedy Connection Feb. 21 and 22. "This is not a time for us to hide—but it *is* the time to escape, if only for an hour or two, or a minute or two," says Brenner, who's appeared on the *Tonight Show* a record 158 times. *245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. Feb. 21, 8 and 10:15pm; Feb. 22, 8 and 10:15pm. $25 and $27.*

THU./FEB. 27

Music: Club Anniversary

For the past five years, **Club D'elf** has electrified the cozy confines of Cambridge's Lizard Lounge with what the band's founder, Mike Rivard, calls "live dub-trance-groove excursions." The experimental group, which played its inaugural show at the Lizard Lounge, is celebrating its fifth anniversary with a performance at the Lizard this month. Club D'elf's sounds are as eclectic as ever—a range of electronica, hip-hop, funk, jazz and sometimes Moroccan and West African beats. Guest musicians add a special twist; some temporary artists who've made musical forays into D'elfdom have included John Medeski, DJ Logic, the late Mark Sandman and Dana Colley (Morphine). Doors open at 9pm, but the band doesn't get going until 10pm, which leaves plenty of time to swing by the adjoining Cambridge Common to grab an order of delectable sweet potato fries. *Tickets are $10; Club D'elf also plays at the Lizard Lounge March 13. 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-357-5825).*

ONGOING

Performing Arts: Free Willy II

Mind in the gutter? Leave it there. The newest act in town, *Puppetry of the Penis: The Ancient Art of Genital Origami*, might not be in good taste, but it *is* in good fun. The two-man show comes to the Copley Theatre Feb. 26, and let the bashful be forewarned: Full-frontal is the name of the game. Years ago, Australian upstart and show creator Simon Morley discovered a talent for contorting his manhood into recognizable shapes and has since parlayed his skill into an acclaimed comedy show. He and fellow Aussie David Friend have been brandishing their limber members at sold-out shows since 1998. Morley admits the exhibition has absolutely no plot: Puppeteers dressed in capes (and little else) twist and stretch their nether regions into more than 40 installations. Crowd favorites include the Hamburger, the Loch Ness Monster and the Windsurfer. Morley and Co. promise to localize the act by paying homage to Boston landmarks in creative ways. Perhaps the Prudential or the Zakim Bridge will get some stage time. *225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-236-1199). Opens Feb. 26. Ongoing. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 7 and 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. $35-$39.50.*

OPENING SAT./MARCH 4

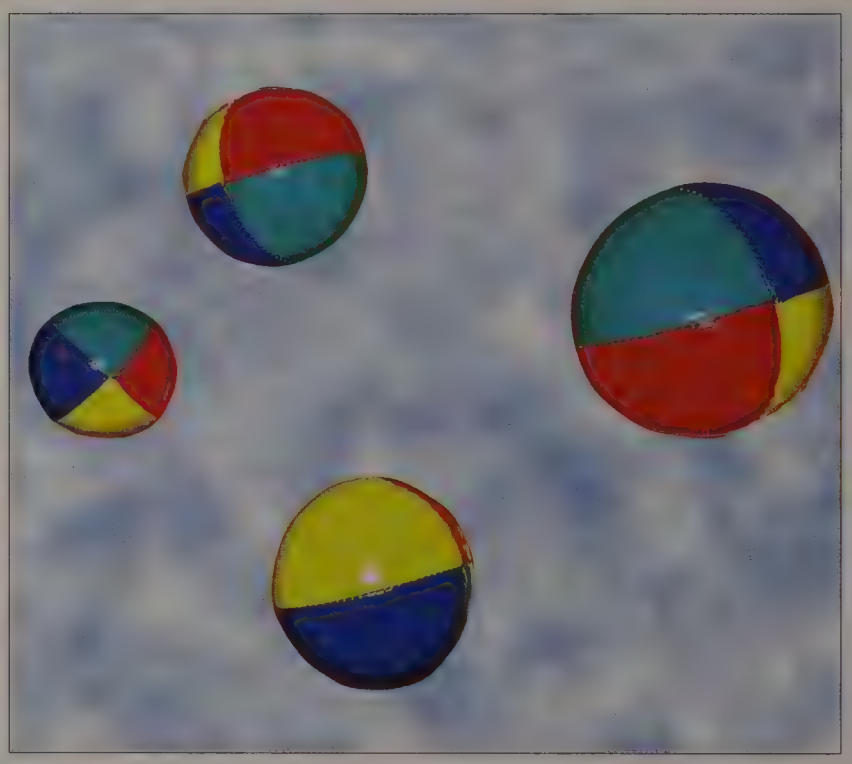
Art: Zeitgeist of Comics

Comics, in their varied forms, have undergone several change the past century. There were the family-oriented Sunday funn the '20s and '30s, the pre-teen punch-em-up heroes of the '3 and '40s, the titillating novelty booklet *Tijuana Bibles* of the '5 and '60s, and the underrated underground "comix" of the '60 '70s—all of which have contributed to the most popular form "graphic fiction" that exists today: the comic book. Now enjoy resurgence in popularity, comics have moved out of the dime store and into boutique markets and movie theaters. Here's y chance to explore ***Comics as Art***—works that have elevated form from kids' picture books to genuine pieces of art. The Zeitgeist Gallery presents an exhibition of original comic art throughout March, featuring the works of visionaries like R Cr Dan Clowes, Rick Altergott, Ariel Bordeux, Jack Davis, Greg C and Art Spiegelman, to name a few. Some will be for sale. *13 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*

FRI./FEB. 21

CityScope: Pool Party

For the past month, local pool sharks have been sinking solids and stripes across the city for a chance to compete in the **2003 Canadian Club Vegas Challenge** in Las Vegas April 12. The winning two-player team gets $20,000 and then has an opportunity to win an additional $500,000 for sinking the eight ball from the break (heck, we do that all the time by accident). Bostonians can watch the regional finals at Jillian's Feb. 21 and cheer on the teams, plus meet the "Black Widow," billiards player Jeanette Lee. She'll sign autographs, perform a trick-shot exhibition and take on challengers to raise money for the National Scoliosis Association. *Jillian's, 145 Ipswich St., Boston (617-437-0300). 6pm.*



SAT./FEB. 23

CityScope: It's Up in the Air

And you wonder why you never meet anyo when you always park yourself in the corn a party with a drink in hand, avoiding ming or initiating conversation? It's time you bro out of your shell and learned a stupid part trick. How about something truly challenging—like juggling knives or torche (We recommend the latter only if your hos good homeowner's insurance.) Convenien those crazy kids over at Boston University Juggling Association are hosting the **TerrierFest Juggling Convention** Feb. 2 They'll teach you everything about tossing balls and clubs, plus you can play games, participate in a competition and watch performances by Jim from *The Jim Show*, Peter Panic, Twistin' Todd and Brian from t Bravo Brothers. If you still find it difficult to meet people after your juggling tutorial, maybe you should invest in some mouthwa *Boston University Grand Ballroom, 775 C Ave., Boston (617-353-5257).* http://people.bu.edu/buja. *11am-7pm. Fr*

FRI./FEB. 21

Movies: Out of Africa

You can do it. Tear yourself away from the highly addictive, mind-numbing substance known as TV's Sweeps, get out there and watch something worthwhile. Make it *100 Days*, a feature at the Museum of Fine Arts' **African Film Festival**. The film tackles the tragic subject of the genocide of 800,000 Tutsis by order of Rwanda's Hutu government in 1994. English writer and director Nick Hughes witnessed the ethnic cleansing that lasted 100 days. After making a few documentaries about the massacre, he wrote this feature film, which follows a Tutsi family's struggle to survive the attacks and also includes a love story. Hughes and Rwandan producer Eric Kabera (who lost 32 members of his family during the violence) filmed the movie where the massacre took place, hiring locals—many of whom had never seen a camera or a movie before—as actors. The resulting full-length film, set in the breathtaking Rwandan countryside, is a high-production quality, English language movie that isn't as graphic as you might expect. Although it unblinkingly focuses on the genocide, it also explores the political side of the situation, the U.N.'s role in the massacre. *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300).* www.mfa.org. *6pm.*

FRI./FEB. 28

CityScope: Celebrating Black History Month

More and more national groups seem to be claiming nomenclatural rights over each month of the year. February, for example, is dubbed National Children's Dental Health Month, Bird Feeding Month, Grapefruit Month and Snack Food Month by various national organizers. But **Black History Month** (recognized by Americans since 1926, first as Negro History Week) is an exception to all of the silliness, and there are lots of ways to take part in this worthy tribute throughout February. On Feb. 28, the *U.S.S. Constitution* at Charlestown Navy Yard hosts an afternoon of Black History Month events. Of course, you can tour the historic *U.S.S. Constitution*, and, if you can stay warm enough, take part in the festivities, which include several performances by the Black Nativity Choir and candle lightings in honor of naval heroes. There'll also be a slew of speeches, including two from state reps Gloria Fox and Marti Wilson. Better still, it's all free. *Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (617-242-7511). 1pm.*

WED./FEB. 26–SUN./MARCH 30

Performing Arts: Banned in Boston

The New Repertory Theatre's latest production, ***No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs***, caused a minor controversy last month when *Metro* daily newspaper's publisher, Russel Pergament, decided not to spell out the full title of the play—instead usin blanks and asterisks in place of "niggers" and "Jews"—in a listing for upcoming shows. According to a Jan. 25 *Boston Globe* article, Pergament thought the full title would be "troublesome to many readers." In fact, says playwright John Henry Redwood, the title was "inspired by a road sign I actua saw in the South [and] reflects the racism which the play's characters must face in their daily conflicts." Set in North Carolina in 1949, the show focuses on a black woman who must raise her family while her husband is away earning mon Meanwhile, a Jewish sociologist who's been observing the family becomes a part of their lives..."even though he is not colored," reads the theater's Web site as of Feb. 13. Cause f more controversy? *New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646).* www.newrep.org. *MBTA Green Line to Newton Highlands. Feb. 26-March 30. $27-$3*

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Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

American Heart Association Raffle
American Heart Association, (800-662-1701, ext. 3103). www.heart.org. *$100.* The American Heart Association's annual Heart Ball isn't until April, but tickets for the associated raffle are on sale now through March 28. This year's grand prize is a 2003 Mercedes-Benz E320 sedan, and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. How d'ya like them odds?

Stitch and Bitch
Redline, 59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). Wed. nights, 6-8pm. Free. Revive the tradition of the stitch-and-bitch by drinking cocktails while knitting. Niki Bronstein, owner of Woolcott & Co. knit shop, gives a brief demonstration each week.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

Single Executives Club Singles Dance
Woburn Radisson Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 15 Middlesex Canal Park Rd., Route. 38 South, Woburn (781-446-0234). 8:30pm-12:30am. $10 before 9pm, $15 thereafter. Proper business dress required. Single professionals ages 35-55 are invited to cut the rug with music from DJ Brian Milligan. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres are served from 9-10pm.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

TerrierFest Juggling Convention
Boston University Grand Ballroom, 775 Comm Ave., Boston (617-353-5257). http://people.bu.edu/buja. *11am-7pm. Free.* Learn to juggle with Boston University Juggling Association instructors. The event includes games, competitions, a raffle, workshops and a show.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Cha-Cha Dance Lessons for Singles
Knights of Columbus Hall, corner of Winslow and Prescott Streets, Arlington (781-721-5844). 7-8:30pm. Three lessons (also March 5 and 12), $55. You don't need a partner to register for these partners dancing lessons. The class is aimed at beginners and is taught by Karen Leeds, an experienced cha-cha dancer.

Hampshire House Engagement Celebration
Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston (617-227-9600). 6-8pm. Free and open to the public. Soon-to-be-marrried couples are invited to get advice on planning their wedding from experts in a variety of fields. Complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

Young at Heart Party
Plaza Ballroom, Seaport Hotel, Northern Ave., Boston (800-662-1701, ext. 3145). 7-10pm. $50 in advance; $65 at the door. WCVB's Heather Unruh hosts this benefit party for the American Heart Association. The evening includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, live music from Search Party, a silent auction and a raffle.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

Black History Month Celebration
USS Constitution, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charl... (617-242-7511). 1pm. Free. The USS Constitu... Black History Month celebration includes ... mances by the Black Nativity Choir, candle ligh... in honor of naval heroes and speeches from state ... sentatives Gloria Fox and Marti Wilson.

Celebrating Education: An Evening to Benefit UNICEF
Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Boston (617-277-3334, ext... 7pm-12am. $250. This black-tie gala includes ... ner, music, dancing and an auction. Proceeds ... fit UNICEF's education programs abroad.

Microsoft Hockey Challenge 2003
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-... 6pm-2am. $25 general admission, $100 VIP, ... includes access to the VIP section, cocktails, light ... and the chance to play pool with celebrities and ... Bruins alumni. The Franciscan Hospital for ... dren is just one of the charities to benefit from ... star-studded event. Expected celebs include ... Leary, Keifer Sutherland and Alan Thicke, ... music is provided by Dropkick Murphys ... Kicked in the Head.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Bal de l'Alliance
The Ritz-Carlton, Boston (617-912-... www.frenchlib.org. *6:30pm. $375, $500 for ... which includes a pre-Ball caviar and champagne ... tion at a committee member's home.* The French Li... and Cultural Center and Alliance Français ... Boston and Cambridge's 27th annual ball celeb... the Age of Enlightenment and the French influ... on Imperial Russia. Cocktails, dinner and dan... to the Winiker Orchestra are included. Live ... silent auctions offer items such as a trip to ... Cayman Islands and jewelry from Cartier. Pa... the proceeds fund French language scholarshi... Boston public schools.

Maud Morgan Centennial Art Show
Sacramento Street Gallery, 20 Sacramento ... Cambridge, (617-349-6287). 4-6pm. Free. A sho... some of Morgan's work celebrates the late ar... birthday. Fans and friends are invited to share ... memories of Morgan and eat birthday cake.

Pals Children's Chorus Benefit
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 290 Hunti... Ave., Boston (617-264-7257). www.palschild... chorus.org. *2pm. $100.* This benefit concert fo... Treehouse Foundation is the world premier... Howard Frazin's *The Voice of Isaac.* The perform... features Robert Honeysucker as Abraham and ... PALS Children's Chorus as Isaac.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Catholic Schools Foundation Inner-C... Scholarship Fund Celebration Dinne...
World Trade Center, Northern Ave., Boston, (617-... 5981, x209). www.csfboston.org. *6pm. $...* WCVB-TV's Mary Richardson hosts this be... dinner for the Catholic Schools Foundation's ... city scholarships. NBC News' Tim Russert ... featured guest.

Elaine Uzan Leary and Miguel de Bragança at the 2002 Bal de l'Alliance. This year's ball, which has an Age of Enlightenment theme, will be held at the Ritz-Carlton March 1.

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Answer the Door
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (617-909-1015). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sun., 3pm. March 2-30. Donation. John O'Brien's play focuses on a relationship between a father and son who are trapped within their own minds.

Chain
Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.zeitgeiststage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. and Thu., 8pm; Sat. and Sun., 5pm. Feb. 22-March 15. $20.* A crack-addicted teenager's parents have chained her to a radiator in a last-ditch attempt to help her break her habit in this one-woman show.

Circle
Black Box Theatre , Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.zeitgeiststage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Fri.-Sun., 8pm. Feb. 21-March 15. $20.* Zeitgeist Stage Company presents this comedic adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, which follows 10 sexual escapades linked together by the participants.

Clouds of Suspicion
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 22, 8pm. $10. Actors give readings of three original short plays that explore curfew, internment and the experience of living in a hostile land. The readings will be followed by a panel discussion.

Contact
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. March 4-9. $28-$73. This 2000 Tony Award–winning performance consists of three stories of love, all combining music and dance styles that span the ages.

Disney on Ice: Princess Classics
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Feb. 19, 1 and 4:30pm; Feb. 20, 10:30am and 2:30pm; Feb. 21 and 22, 11am, 3 and 7pm; Feb. 23, 1 and 4:30pm. $12-$60. Cinderella, Jasmine, Ariel, Sleeping Beauty, Belle, Mulan and Snow White join together in Disney's new on-ice adventure.

Highway Ulysses
Loeb Drama Center, American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. March 1-22. $34-$68. See the preview box at right for more information.

Late-Nite Catechism
Robinson Theater at Waltham High School, 617 Lexington St., Waltham (781-893-8461). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Waltham. March 1, 7pm. $35. Receive a talking-to from a nun during this interactive catechism class.

Rinde Eckert's production of *Highway Ulysses* shows at the American Repertory Theatre.

Preview

Embarking on a Brand New Odyssey

The American Repertory Theatre recasts Homer's classic in jazz, rock and blues

In the American Repertory Theatre's latest production, a reclusive war veteran named Ulysses receives an urgent call in the middle of the night and embarks on a journey to find his son. On his way, however, he gets waylaid by a motley cast of characters—including a waitress at a truck stop, a trio of sirens in a jail cell, a one-eyed librarian and a woman in a tattoo parlor—who force him to confront his violent past and propel him toward the fateful meeting with his estranged son.

If the plot line to *Highway Ulysses* sounds familiar, give yourself a gold star. It's a recasting of Homer's *The Odyssey*. The aforementioned one-eyed librarian, for example, is a stand-in for the cyclops. He imprisons Ulysses in the library, and Ulysses ends up threatening to poke his eye out with a sharpened pencil.

"Some of the references are more obvious than others," says Rinde Eckert, who wrote the text and music for *Highway Ulysses* in a matter of months at ART director Robert Woodruff's request. The resulting production is a musical of sorts, with the Cambridge-based band Empty House Cooperative playing jazz, rock and blues in the orchestra pit. Although modernized and radical in its presentation, the show's language is elevated, says Eckert. "It's not pop vocabulary."

The story strays further from the original at the end. In Homer's tale, Ulysses returns from war to find his wife surrounded by suitors. He slaughters all of them and then, not surprisingly, finds himself under attack from their vengeful family members. Zeus dispatches Athena to restore the peace.

Eckert decided to do away with deus ex machina, the plot device in which the gods extricate the protagonist from a difficult situation. "That's not the way things happen in the real world," he says. "God doesn't come down and tell the Palestinians and Israelis to be nice to each other. A situation like that should be treated with a degree of gravity."

He won't reveal how he resolves Ulysses' predicament, but says, "It [doesn't] end on a hopeful note." *American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 1-22. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. $34-$68. —Julie Short*

A Midsummer Night's Dream
The Strand, 543 Columbia Road, Dorchester (61[illegible] 8000). www.strandtheatre.org. *MBTA: Red [illegible] Andrews, transfer to bus #16 or #17 to Upham's C[illegible] Orange Line to Ruggles, transfer to bus #15 to Upham[illegible] ner. Feb. 25 and 26. $10.* Shakespeare & Compa[illegible] sents the comedic fairy tale of forbidden love an[illegible] taken identities.

Movement: Works in Progress
Mobius, 354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7[illegible] www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Statio[illegible] 28 and March 1, 8pm. $6.* Interactive performan[illegible] local movement artists and choreographers.

No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Hig[illegible] (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D[illegible] Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7pm; Thu[illegible] 8pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm[illegible] 26-March 30. $27-$35.* In this play set in Nort[illegible] olina in 1949, a black woman must raise her f[illegible] while her husband is away earning money. M[illegible] while, a Jewish sociologist who's been observi[illegible] family becomes a part of their lives.

Present Laughter
Beatrice Herford's Vokes Theatre, Route 20, Wa[illegible] (508-358-4034). www.vokesplayers.org. *Thu[illegible] 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm. Feb. 27-March 15. $13-$[illegible]* this tale about London's glamorous stage life, an[illegible] actor whom everyone adores realizes he needs[illegible] away from the chaotic theater lifestyle.

Puppetry of the Penis
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-[illegible] 1199). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Opens Feb. 26[illegible] ing. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 7 and 9:30pm[illegible] 7pm. $35-$39.50. The international comedy [illegible] tures the ancient Australian art of genital ori[illegible] Creators Simon Morley and Dan Lewry perform[illegible] while shaping and stretching their own penise[illegible] more than 40 figures, including the Eiffel Tow[illegible] the Loch Ness Monster.

PuppetSLAM 2003
Puppet Showplace Theater, 32 Station St., Brookli[illegible] lage (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace[illegible] *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Feb. 22[illegible] 9:30pm. $12.* This puppetry performance in[illegible] several mini-plays of varying content for adult[illegible] features musicians, poets and dancers.

The Seagull
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St.[illegible] (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: [illegible] Line to Hynes/ICA. Sat. and Sun., 8pm; Mon. and [illegible] and 8pm. Feb. 27-March 2. $17.* Liberation Film[illegible] sents this play by Anton Chekhov using minim[illegible] staging with atmospheric lighting and sound.

Stones in His Pocket
Trinity Repertory Theatre, 201 Washington St., Pro[illegible] (401-351-4242). www.trinityrep.com. *MBTA: [illegible] muter Rail to Providence. Tue., 7pm; Wed., 2 and [illegible] Thu., 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat., 8pm (2pm matinee perfor[illegible] March 1, 22 and 29); Sun., 2 and 7pm. Feb. 21-A[illegible] $33-$48.* In this Tony Award–nominated come[illegible] American movie crew invades an Irish village, b[illegible] ing unexpected drama to the small community bo[illegible] and off the stage.

NOW RUNNING

As Bees in Honey Drown
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-[illegible] 2200). Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat, 4 and 8pm; S[illegible] and 7:30pm. Through March 2. $25-$35. This [illegible] Award–winning comedy follows a rookie novelis[illegible] is swept into New York's A-list scene after being[illegible] to write the memoirs of a chic and glamorous cel[illegible] who is not all that she seems.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-[illegible] 6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; T[illegible] and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun.[illegible] 6pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue somehow this multimedia production manages t[illegible] its point across with tribal rock music, humorous a[illegible] props and three men painted blue.

Golda's Balcony
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont Ave., Boston (866-[illegible] 3353). MBTA: Orange Line to New England M[illegible] Center. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Wed., 2 and 8pm; S[illegible] and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 22. $27-$38. I[illegible] play set around the time of the bloody 1973 Yom[illegible] pur War, Golda Meir, Israel's prime minister[illegible] 1969-1974, faces a desperate situation in whi[illegible] rael's fate is at stake.

Greetings from Planet Girl
Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hi[illegible] Charlestown (781-648-5963). MBTA: Orang[illegible] to Sullivan Square. Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun[illegible] Through Feb. 23. $12-$15. Planet Girl foun[illegible] member Cyndi Freeman returns with five c[illegible] comedic vixens for an intergalactic journ[illegible] music and comedy.

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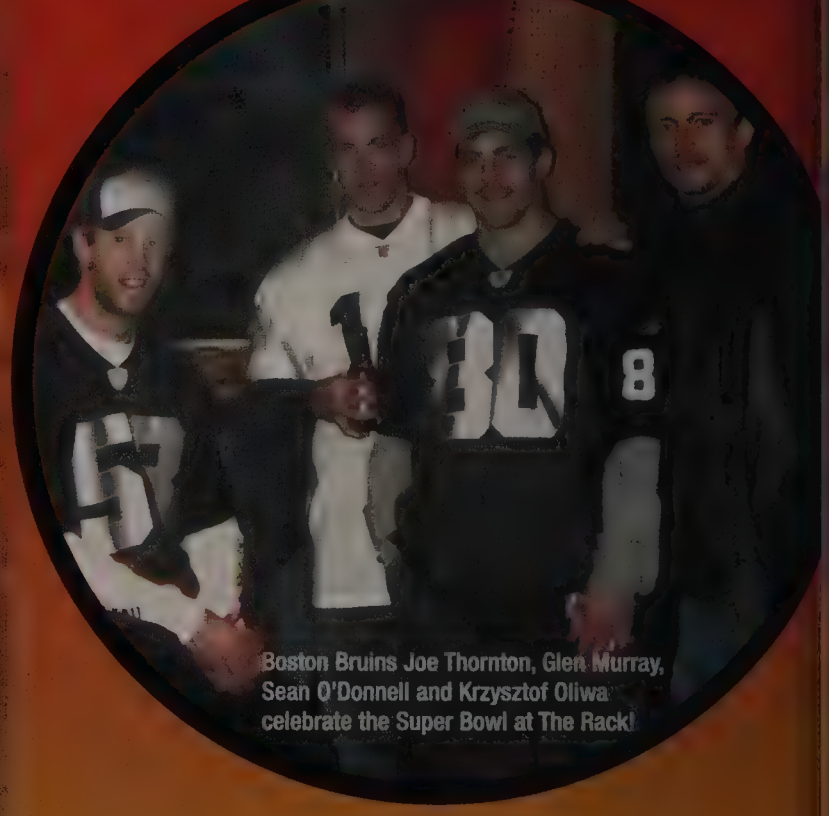

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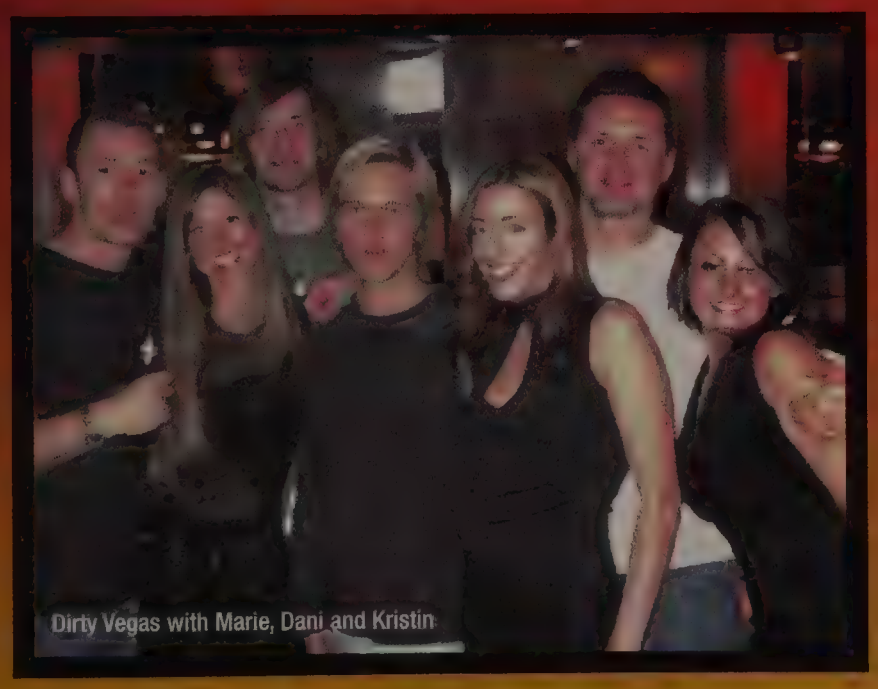
HOWARD STERN'S BABA BOOEY GARY DELL'ABATE
GORD KLUZAK
LA LAKERS JOHN SALLEY
LYNDON BYERS
FINAL DESTINATIONS II MICHAEL LANDES
MICHAEL ERUZIONE
PAT LAFONTAINE
PHIL ESPOSITO
CHAD LOWE
ALAN THICKE

ille Predators Greg Classen, Adam Hall, Vitali chmenev, Bill Houlder, ndy Delmore with Missy Costra and Nicole Baxter.



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Prometheus Dance performs Feb. 20-23.

It's All True
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 2 and 7:30pm; Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through March 8. $22-$38.* This show is Canadian playwright Jason Sherman's vision of Orson Welles' struggle to mount his 1937 pro-union play *The Cradle Will Rock* after the Works Progress Administration yanked its funding.

La Dispute
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through Feb. 22. $17-$57. In this comedy written by 18th-century French dramatist Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux, an experiment tests the fidelity of couples, resulting in passion, desire and, inevitably, betrayal.

Mamma Mia!
The Colonial Theater, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through March 2. $27-$87. The story of 40-something mom Donna and her daughter, Sophie, is told through ABBA's pop music hits.

Rags
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through March 16. $15-$21. This musical depicts the journeys of six Jewish immigrants searching for the American dream in New York City's garment district at the turn of the century.

The Shape of Things
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.speakeasystage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Through Feb. 22. $28-$31.* The SpeakEasy Stage Company presents Neil LaBute's play about the nature of love and art.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

The Will Rogers Follies
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). MBTA: Green Line to Longwood or Fenway. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 23. $12-$18. The Tony Award–winning theater production recounts the colorful life and times of the "cowboy-philosopher and self-styled 'poet lariat.'"

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Escape from Happiness
Merrick Theater at Springold Theater Center, 415 South St., Brandeis University, Waltham (781-736-3400). www.brandeis.edu/theater. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Feb. 25-March 2. $8-$12.* A tale of family dysfunction showcases the talents of 10 first-year graduate actors in the professional theater program at Brandeis University.

Forbidden Broadway
Rogers Center for the Arts, 315 Turnpike St., Merrimack College, North Andover (978-837-5355). www.merrimack.edu/rogers. *Feb. 22, 8pm. $18-$20 ($22 at the door).* If you couldn't get to New York this year to see *The Lion King*, *Chicago*, *Les Miserables*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Producers* or *Oklahoma!*, here's an alternative. See all these shows and more—reduced to an hour and a half of non-stop musical hilarity.

The Hothouse
Boston University Theatre, Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm. Feb. 19-22. $10. This satire takes place in a British institution where odd and mysterious techniques are used to control the inmates.

It's a Wonderful Afterlife
Hasty Pudding Theatricals, Harvard University, Cambridge (617-495-5205). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm; Sun., 3pm. Through March 16. $25-$27. This written by two members of the 2004 class puts ative spin on life after death. When harsh ecor times result in the clouds' silver lining being he gether by duct tape, the (land) Lord threatens t all from heaven and hell if the rent is not paid.

On the Verge
Fireplace Theatre, Emerson College, 69 Brimmi Boston (617-824-8369). MBTA: Green Line to www.emerson.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Boy March 1-4, 8pm. $5.* Emerson's Second Stag sents the comical journey of three lively Vict women who travel through time, space an known lands.

The Tempest
Rogers Center for the Arts, 315 Turnpike St., Merr College, North Andover (978-837-5355). www.n mack.edu/rogers. *Feb. 26, 8pm. $12-$15.* Shenandoah Shakespeare Express brings to lif classic tale of spirits, sorcery, monsters, maiden shipwrecked scheming noblemen.

The Vagina Monologues
Blackman Auditorium, Ell Hall, Northeastern U sity, 346 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-2 MBTA: E Green Line E to Northeastern. Feb. 24 a 7pm. $12. Eve Ensler's Obie Award–winning features women who are proud of their sexualit their vaginas.

PERFORMANCE ART

Touchable Stories: Fort Point
27 Melcher St., South Boston (617.423.3 www.touchablestories.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Station. March 1, 8pm. $12. Reservations required.* multimedia installation features the history artists' community at Fort Point. Residents pas present tell their stories.

Dance

Apokalypsis
Black Box Theatre , Boston Center for the Arts, Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: O Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Feb. 20-22, Feb. 23, 6pm. $25. Created and choreographe Prometheus Dance artistic directors Diane Arvat Noya and Tommy Neblett, this show examine forced exodus of a people from their homeland an will of the human spirit to survive.

Aurora Borealis: A Festival of Light Dance
Boston University Theatre, Mainstage, 264 Hunti Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). MBTA: Green Lin Symphony, Green Line to Hynes Convention Center/I Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Feb. 21 and 22, 8pm. Boston University students and faculty collab with guest artists from Boston's Dance Collec this special project to showcase their talents in c music, choreography and lighting design.

E...motion
Studio Theatre, Emerson College, 69 Brimmer St., B (617-824-8369). www.emerson.edu. *MBTA: Line to Park St.. Feb. 22 and 23, 2pm. $10.* An e ration of movement, music and space perform Emerson students, faculty and guest artists.

La Fille Mal Gardee (The Wayward Daughter)
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-9393). www.wangcenter.org. *MBTA: Orange L New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boy Feb. 20-March 2. Tue., 8pm; Wed. and Thu., 7pm; 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. $12.50-$82.* Boston Ballet presents its premiere of Sir Fred Ashton's romantic and humorous ballet about a y girl in love whose mother gets in the way—along chickens, clog dancing and Maypoles.

Mga Munting Tinig
Watertown High School, 50 Columbia Street, Wate (781-449-2257). March 1. 6:15pm. $15, $10 stu The Phillippine Dance Company of Boston perf modern Phillippine folk dances to benefit Ba Bata, an organization that helps abused and negl Filipino children.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green L Boylston. Through March 23. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 9pm; Sun. 3 and 7pm. $45-$55.* In its return to Bo this percussion hit continues its tradition of no p dialogue. Performers use everyday objects su brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to c music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
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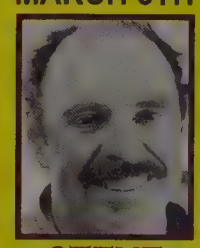
FEB. 28-MARCH 2

JOHN WITHERSPOON

MARCH 7TH

JOHN VALBY

MARCH 8TH

STEVE SWEENEY

MARCH 14-15

BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT

MARCH 21-23

DANE COOK

MARCH 29

BRIAN REGAN

APRIL 4-5

RICHARD JENI

APRIL 25-26

KEVIN POLLAK

MAY 9-10

ROBERT SCHIMMEL

MAY 16-17

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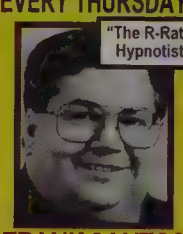

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STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $12 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Feb. 19, 8pm, $12: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •Feb. 20, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Feb. 21, 8 and 10:15pm, $25: David Brenner, who's been on the *Tonight Show* a record 158 times •Feb. 22, 8 and 10:15pm, $27: David Brenner •Feb.24, 8pm, $12: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Feb. 25, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz•Feb.26, 8:00pm, $12: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •Feb. 27, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Feb. 28, 8 and 10:15pm, $22: John Witherspoon from *Boomerang* •March 1, 10:30pm, $25: John Witherspoon •March 2, 7pm,$21: John Witherspoon •March 3, 8pm, $12: Amateur Show hosted by Kevin Knox.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Feb. 19: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Steve Calechman, Emily Singer, Peter Dutton, Eric Riley Moore, Carol Carpenter, Greg Rodrigues and Jeremy Turoff •Feb. 20:Tim McIntire's *Real Politik* with Tim Kaelin, Mindi Fay, Steve Calechman, Jen Ruelas, Ben Boime, Craig Zeltar and Brett Jordan •Feb. 21: Piston Honda with Mina Hartong, Larry Murphy, Bob Hagearty, Tony Moschetto and Ira Proctor• Feb. 22: Walter Driscoll, Steve Calechman, Carolyn Plummer, Deb Farrar-Parkman and Andy Wasif •Feb. 23: Sam Walters with Mandy Dobovan, Myq Kaplan, Brian Gordon, Janet Cormier, Steve Calechman, Baratunde, Tom Morello and Joe List • Feb. 26: Tony V with Tony Moschetoo, Chris Foltz, Kevin Carson, Michelle Pierce, Lois McCormack, Hubbard & Sage and Sandy Asai •Feb. 27: The Tim McIntire Mix with his favorite comedians •Feb. 28: Piston Honda with Dov Fox, Bob Hagearty, Tony Moschetto, Ben Boime, Jan Davidson and Julie Perkins •March 1: Dave Greenburg, Myq Kaplan, Kyria Abrahams, Erin Judge and Jennifer Griffith •March 2: Sacrificing Virgins. Ten first-time comedians take the stage.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •Feb. 20, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •Feb. 21, 8:45pm: Robbie Printz, Sam Walters and Al Klemmick •Feb. 22, 8:45pm: Robbie Printz, Sam Walters and Al Klemmick•Feb. 27, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •Feb. 28, 8:45pm: Paul Nardizzi, Mark Scalia and Johnny K. •March 1, 8:45pm: Paul Nardizzi, Mark Scalia and Johnny K.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-[illegible] 0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. C[illegible] mike for creative talent.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-[illegible] 4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA:Red Line to [illegible] tral. Thu., 8pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fu[illegible] everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). ww[illegible] improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Li[illegible] Haymarket. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 and 10pm; Sat., and 10pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch com[illegible] in the North End. Dinner packages available.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (6[illegible] 576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Line to Central. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running [illegible] provisational comedy troupe celebrates its 20th [illegible] niversary. •Wed. 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fring[illegible] ries in February features David Mogolov, Jer[illegible] Brothers and Harry Gordon. •Thu. 8pm, $12: Mic[illegible] 10pm, $5: The Great and Secret Comedy Show. Br[illegible] ers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up [illegible] music, play short films and do character sketche[illegible] display of sibling rivalry •Fri.8pm, $12: Con[illegible] trucker's adventure across the American heartl[illegible] 10pm, $12: TheatreSports. Two teams of improv[illegible] face off. •Sat. 6pm, $12: Quest, an improvised medi[illegible] fantasy show; 8 and 10pm, $12: ImprovBoston M[illegible] stage. Blending storytelling, music, audience par[illegible] pation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers crea[illegible] show that changes with every performance. •Sun. 7 [illegible] $5:Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jambo[illegible] Three shows in one with an open jam.

COMEDY SHOWS

Jimmy Tingle in the Promised Land

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somer[illegible] (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed., [illegible] Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Thr[illegible] March 2. $20. Jimmy Tingle sounds off on politi[illegible] the post–September 11 world.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., B[illegible] (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New En[illegible] Medical. Feb. 22, 7:30pm. $49 for dinner, show an[illegible] trance into Matrix dance club. As a spoof on the tr[illegible] tional Italian wedding, this play incorporates [illegible] promptu dialogue and audience participation.

Night of Comedy

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotu[illegible] Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green Line to Gi[illegible] ment Center. March 4, 6-9pm. $60-$100. This nig[illegible] comedy benefits Families First Parenting Program[illegible]

The Sopranos' Last Supper

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont[illegible] Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to [illegible] England Medical. Feb. 21, 7pm. $49 for dinner, show[illegible] entrance into Matrix dance club. Indulge in this inte[illegible] tive dinner theater show that combines Italian-A[illegible] ican food, music and the culture of a Mob family.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-[illegible] 1544). www.stashcomedyjam.com. *March 2,* [illegible] Stand-up comedy, open mike, improvisati[illegible] comedy and blues music hosted by Stan Dziet[illegible]

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Movies

REDEMPTION SONG

Strange Fruit chronicles the classic protest song

BY PAUL SHERMAN

"Sometimes a short song taking just a few minutes can have as much impression on a listener as reading a whole novel," says folk music legend Pete Seeger in Joel Katz's documentary, *Strange Fruit*. If ever that notion were true, it is for the song "Strange Fruit." Made famous by Billie Holiday—and covered by dozens of others, including Seeger—it features perhaps the most haunting, moving set of lyrics ever written in the English language.

The lyrics begin, "Southern trees bear a strange fruit/Blood on the leaves and blood at the root/Black body swinging in the Southern breeze/Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees." The lyrics continue in the same vein, juxtaposing the serene flow of words with the vivid, brutal images of a lynching. As someone else says in the movie, "This was the sort of thing that, when you first heard [it], you couldn't applaud at first, it was too gripping."

Although Holiday often claimed late in life that she commissioned the song, and says as much in the stunning clip of her performing it on BBC-TV in 1958, that's not the truth. The song was written by Abel Meeropol (1903-1986), the son of Jewish Russian immigrants and an English teacher at the Bronx's DeWitt Clinton High School when he wrote it in the late 1930s, under his pen name of Lewis Allan.

The hour-long *Strange Fruit*, which plays at the Coolidge Corner Theatre Feb. 21-March 6 (accompanied by a selection of Holiday performance clips), covers a lot of ground. It opens with background on Holiday's recording of the song in April 1939 for Commodore Records after Columbia Records passed on the tune; gives us Holiday's life and career story up until that point; details the vigilantism Southern blacks often suffered; and charts the song's impact (its lyrics were even read into the Congressional Record as part of a 1940s effort to have lynching made a federal offense).

You'd expect any movie about the song to cover these topics, and though *Strange Fruit*—very heavy on "talking head" interviews—has a rather bland style reminiscent of Ken Burns, it does well enough. But what makes the movie really interesting are its sequences on Meeropol.

Although the movie has no film footage of him, it gets across the fact that Meeropol was a fascinating man. Three of his colleagues from the American Federation of Teachers Local #5 recall vivid anecdotes about Meeropol that illustrate the creativity of 1930s Jewish-Leftist activism—not only political activism, but community activism in the broadest sense. The teachers' union regularly put out newsletters and put on shows, and these outlets provided the genesis of "Strange Fruit." Meeropol first wrote it as a poem in the union's newsletter, and after he wrote music for it, his wife Anne first sang it at a union talent show.

The publicist for Cafe Society, the Greenwich Square club where Holiday regularly performed, saw that performance of the song and arranged a meeting between Meeropol and the jazz singer. After Holiday recorded the song, singing it with a blend of defiance and hurt, it became a surprise hit, despite subject matter that caused many radio stations to ban the record.

But Meeropol's story doesn't stop there. He later cowrote the song "The House I Live In," which was sung by Frank Sinatra in the Oscar-winning 1945 short of the same name and revealed about as liberal a sentiment as the showbiz establishment ever allowed to pass through its system. And after Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed for allegedly passing atomic secrets to the Soviets, Abel and Anne Meeropol adopted the couple's sons, Michael and Robby, who are both interviewed in the movie. Considering that Meeropol wrote "Strange Fruit," this level of commitment is not surprising, but it sure is refreshing and touching. **iB**

Billie Holiday, accompanied by guitarist Jimmy McLin, made "Strange Fruit" famous in a 1939 recording.

Strange Fruit ★★★

Directed by Joel Katz. Narrated by Dorothy Thigpen. Not Rated.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

***About Schmidt* ★★★**
Jack Nicholson, an RV—and buck naked Kathy B in a hot tub. Who says they don't make them like used to? (At Boston Common, Fenway, Har Square and suburbs.)

***Adaptation* ★★★½**
If everyone just yearned for a banana-walnut mu like Nicolas Cage, think of how much better the w would be. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harv Square and suburbs.)

***Antwone Fisher* ★★★**
Did you know that "Antwone" is an anagram for " now"? It is. Neat, I mean, and now playing. (At Co Place and suburbs.)

***Biker Boyz* ★½**
Never underestimate the ability of Hollywoo take a real-life story and turn it into the most cli ball of tripe. This stale *Fast and the Furious* wann (talk about misguided ambition) is based on a m azine article about African-American motore clubs, but the movie has no interest in making a o vincing drama about that community. It just us as a backdrop to a generic soap opera about a yo bike racer (Derek Luke of *Antwone Fisher*) and aging champ (Laurence Fishburne) he's tryin dethrone. But there's little genuine drama, a lo goofy sequences trying to be music videos a sappy big-race climax. (At Boston Common, way and suburbs.)

***Catch Me If You Can* ★★★**
Christopher Walken dancing... and dipping, too that, Gere! (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harv Square and suburbs.)

***Chicago* ★★★**
Funny stuff—even beyond the sight of Richard G in spats. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harv Square and suburbs.)

***City of God* ★★★½**
Remember the lifesaving jolt of adrenaline Stoltz shoots into Uma Thurman in *Pulp Fiction* moviegoers numbed by the blah forgettablene most movies, this Brazilian dynamo is that jolt. title refers to the Rio de Janeiro slum, as God-saken a place as you'll ever find, where the ac takes place. But the movie is as rich as its settin impoverished. Bold and brutal from start to fin its dog-eat-dog world and stylistic energy re *Mean Streets* and *Amores Perros*, as its stories criss-c and bubble into each other, and as 18-year-old Rocket (Alexandre Rodrigues) tries to get out o crime-rocked neighborhood alive. Full of humar ambiguity and belligerence, it's a wonderfully chestrated car crash that you just can't take your off of. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

***Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* ★★**
Based on Chuck Barris' "unauthorized autobio phy," George Clooney's directorial debut is an ab trip inside the fried mind of the *Dating Game* and *lywed Game* creator, *Gong Show* host and part-time assassin. What's that, you didn't know Chuckie knocked off 30-odd undesirables in 15 years of destine service to Uncle Sam? Well, maybe he did maybe he didn't. That's what's fun about the mo which captures the patchwork structure and stre of-consciousness tussle with reality of Barris' b Clooney has *Adaptation* screenwriter Charlie K man handling script chores here, and a fittingly zled Sam Rockwell as Barris. (At Boston Comm Fenway and suburbs.)

***Dark Blue* ★★**
Ron Shelton's crime thriller oddly marries ficti police abuse of power and real police abuse of po Set during the 1992 trial of the Los Angeles cops beat Rodney King and the subsequent riot after acquittal, its L.A. cops are members of an elite de tive squad that's more concerned with political e diency and consolidation of power than justice. D tailing this fiction with the brutality and racism o real LAPD of the time is a cheat that taints the ot wise decent plot, though that plot can make the po corruption in *Training Day* seem subtle by compar (James Ellroy, who gets a story credit here, did better in *L.A. Confidential*.) At least Kurt Russel ally sinks his teeth into his role as the squad's sta tective, who's both despicable yet somehow worth respect for his screw-the-world bravado. (At Bos Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

***Deliver Us from Eva* ★★**
Writer-director Gary Hardwick, who made 20 *The Brothers*, offers another romantic comedy brings little more than cliché to the battle of the se Gabrielle Union injects some spark as the title cha ter, a headstrong meddler in her sister's affairs there's not much romance or comedy going on. Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

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Far from Heaven ★★
An amazing simulation of the 1950s suburban melodramas of director Douglas Sirk (*All That Heaven Allows*, *Written on the Wind*)—which still exist, happily, in many video stores. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Final Destination 2 ★★★
The first was the umpteenth bad *Scream* knock off. But the sequel—which continues the premise of the original, in which those who've escaped death start dying one-by-one—is an intentionally comic succession of weird, wild death scenes. It's like a twisted cross of *Jackass* and *Faces of Death*. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Gangs of New York ★★
Watch Martin Scorsese obsess on detail and ignore "the big picture" for 160 minutes. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Gerry ★½
Gus Van Sant's semi-improvised, minimalist movie about two guys (Matt Damon, Casey Affleck) who get lost in the desert is too sparse for its own good. Though certain sequences are pleasingly absurd or hauntingly hypnotic, most of the time it's numbingly dull. You don't know anything about these guys or where they were trying to hike to, which is intentional, but nothing emerges to pick up the slack left by the lack of information (or give you a reason to care). Harris Savides' cinematography is alternately breathtaking and probing, but the movie still leaves you with little. (Opens Feb. 28 at Coolidge Corner and Kendall Square.)

The Life of David Gale ★★
This Texas-set thriller might have been a lot more thrilling with a little less of director Alan Parker's over-the-top treatment. The setup is strong enough to keep the first half involving, with Kate Winslet as an investigative print journalist who's given access to the title character (Kevin Spacey), a former professor and anti-death-penalty activist now on death row for a murder he claims he did not commit. Winslet does well playing an American here, and Spacey does his usual smart-and-smug stuff, but as the movie builds toward its climax it becomes more and more an excuse for Parker's overwrought theatrics. The reactions of Winslet's character become too overemotional for a woman whose hardened objectivity is her main trait (that's the point, but Parker can't pull off her transition). And Parker's maneuvering of the story so that he can stage an opera scene is self-indulgent and just plain silly. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers ★½
Come to the dark side, Frodo. It's got to be more fun than hanging around with your pasty friend and that computer-generated nuisance. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lost in La Mancha ★★★
Director Terry (*12 Monkeys*) Gilliam finally got to start filming his dream project, a Don Quixote movie, in the fall of 2000. But the dream—which was being made as a cut-to-the-bone European production after Hollywood studios passed on the movie—turned into a nightmare. And this documentary (which presumably set out to be a making-of film to put on the eventual DVD of Gilliam's movie) captures it all: the frazzled preproduction, the week of shooting in Spain (where a nearby NATO air base, a storm that turns the desert location into a literal river and star Jean Rochefort's illness all wreak havoc) and the implosion of the production. Seeing all the bad luck this movie suffered from makes you wonder how any film turns out decently. Call this one Project Redlight. (At Kendall Square.)

The Navigators ★★★
It's subtitled "Stories from the Trackside," and the tale of a group of five English railway workers trying to survive the mid-1990s privatization of British Rail has an intimate, casual feel. That human touch is necessary. Otherwise it would be just too depressing to see the loss of community, camaraderie and common sense in one Midlands depot after the private-sector suits start sacrificing everything for the bottom line. Instead, it's veteran English director Ken Loach's best movie in a decade. (At the Brattle Theater, Feb. 21-27).

The Pianist ★★★
It's the little moments in Roman Polanski's Holocaust drama that make it work, like when a hungry family of six on their way to a concentration camp matter-of-factly carves up and shares a small piece of candy. Based on the memoirs of late Polish musician and Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, played here by Adrien Brody, the movie powerfully shows the gradual whittling away of Polish Jews' human rights (and humanity) once the Nazis invaded in 1939, and how the title character managed to stay alive. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner, Kendall Square and West Newton.)

In *The Recruit*, Al Pacino plays CIA recruiter Walter Burke who taps James Clayton (Colin Farrell) to join the organization as a potential spy.

The Quiet American ★★★
The tragic legacy of U.S. "nation-building" abroad comes home powerfully in Philip Noyce's adaptation of Graham Greene's 1950s Vietnam-set thriller. Michael Caine plays the British journalist stationed in Saigon whose relationship to his second home and his young mistress (Do Thi Hai Yen) has a paternalistic sense-of-entitlement. Along comes Brendan Fraser as the title character, an idealistic U.S. medical aid worker who befriends the journalist and wins away his lover. The American also happens always to be in the right place at the right time, and it's soon clear he's up to more than he says and is at the heart of American meddling in the battle between the French and Vietnamese. Although the movie works better on a historical level than a personal level—it expects us to sympathize with the "impartial" Englishman much more than seems possible—it's a shrewd, outspoken drama. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

The Recruit ★★
Who knew one man called all the shots at the CIA? That's right. He's dark, a little screwy and looks a whole lot like Al Pacino. But that notion is essential to the premise of this slick, semi-efficient and rather preposterous thriller. Pacino's character recruits MIT software wiz Colin Farrell (whose dead dad may or may not have been a spy). He trains him, plays mind games on Farrell's head like he's knocking on a xylophone, and gives the rookie his first big assignment. Al's even handing out the guns, too, as when he gives Farrell one and tells him to keep an eye on fellow rookie Bridget Moynahan. Pacino keeps telling Farrell that "nothing is as it seems," so maybe there's a more convincing script lying somewhere behind the one onscreen. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Rivers and Tides ★★★
Creatively filmed documentary about Scottish artist Andy Goldsworthy, who makes cool outdoor sculptures that usually get swept away by wind and water, taking the sand castle concept to beautifully bizarre extremes. (At Kendall Square.)

Shanghai Knights ★★★
Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson's latest in the *Shanghai Noon* series is another successor to the Bob Hope and Bing Crosby Road movies. The comedy material is old-school schtick, yet the chemistry between the stars is the real show. This time, the 1880s buddies travel to London to find the sneering aristocrat (Aidan Gillen) who killed Chan's father. They're aided by his high-kicking sister (Fann Wong) as they fight malice in the palace. The movie starts slowly and self-consciously uses 1960s British Invasion songs for the 1880s London action, but the combination of Chan and Wilson's camaraderie and the frenetic martial arts scenes make it almost as much fun as its predecessor. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library

•Feb. 24, 6pm. **Amistad** *1997.* African slaves aboard the Amistad revolt, are recaptured and are taken to America where they stand trial for murdering the ship's crew. A feud between the ship's owner and the law ensues. Steven Spielberg directs.

Brattle Theatre

Boston Faith & Film Festival 2003: Cinematic Saints
•Feb. 21-27, 6, 8 and 10pm. **The Navigators** *2001.* This politically inspired film by director Ken Loach reflects on the effects of English rail privatization and the changes that took place when the Bri government gave up control of the rail system

Bugs Bunny Film Festival
•Feb. 19 and 22, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 9:30pm. Program 2. The Brattle shows the mous *Rabbit of Seville* and the Tasmanian Devil *deviled Rabbit*. Viewers will be able to catch othe vorite characters such as Pepe Le Pew, Wil Coyote and Foghorn Leghorn.
•Feb. 21, 5:30pm; Feb. 20 and 23, 1:30, 3:30, 7:30 and 9:30pm. Program 1: In honor of its 50t niversary, the Brattle Theater shows a series of cla that are also 50 years old, including *Duck Dodgers 24 ½ Century*, *Bully for Bugs* and *Duck Amuck*.
•Feb. 21-23, 12, 2 and 4pm. Matinee program New Revue. The final matinee features a collec of cartoons not shown in the rest of the festival

New Parents Film Series
•Feb. 26, 2:30pm. **My Big Fat Greek Wedding** Joel Zwick directs this comedic hit about a G woman who goes against her parents' wishes and in love with a non-Greek man. She must help learn to accept her culture and her zany family.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Chlotrudis Short Film Festival
•Feb. 26, 7pm. The 12 finalists for the Chlot Best Short Film of 2002 Awards are screened, an audience votes on the winner to be unveiled Marc Films include **Earthquake** by Jim Brett, **Faithf** Marzena Grzegorczyk, **Girl 24** by Meredith R **Hannah Can't Swim** by Randall Good, **Just Like Go** E. S. Wochensky, **Nine** by Jennifer Campbell, **The fering** by Paul Lee, **Saving Human Lives** by Joe Pic **Survival of the Fittest** by Tricia Ward, **Target Audi** by David Kittredge, **A Touch of Tutelage** by The Omer and **Tunanooda** by David Zackin.

Coolidge Selects
•Opens Feb. 21. **Strange Fruit** 2002. In this docu tary, director Joel Katz puts a historical perspect a poem written in response to a photo depictin

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Biker Boyz **explores the competitive world of African-American motorcycle clubs.**

lynching of an African-American man. The poem's performance as a song by Billie Holiday is included. (See film review for more information).

•Opens Feb. 28. **Gerry** 2002. Matt Damon and Casey Affleck star as two friends who recognize their helplessness against nature when they find themselves lost on a desert hike. Gus Van Sant directs.

Midnight Movies–Modern Cult Classics

•Feb. 21 and 22, 12am. **Julien Donkey Boy** *1999*. Harmony Korine directs Chloë Sevigny and Werner Herzog in this film about a schizophrenic with a sadistic father.

•Feb. 28 and March 1, 12am **Bully** *2001*. A group of teenagers plot to kill the bully who's been harassing them in Larry Clark's (director of *Kids*) latest film.

•Also showing, **Carnival Magic** *1981*. A magician's successful carnival act with a talking ape is threatened by a jealous carny in Al Adams' seldom-seen film.

Queer-o-Rama

Through Feb. 20. The Coolidge Corner Theatre celebrates its annual tribute to gay cinema with a series of shorts, features and documentaries by or about the GLBT community.

•Feb. 19, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Burnt Money** *2001*. Based on a true story of bank-robbing gay lovers, this Argentinean hit tells the story of a bank heist gone horribly awry. Directed by Marcelo Pineryo. •Also showing , 8pm. **American Mullet** *2002*. This film about the most versatile, yet least respected hairdo in recent history highlights the mullet and the lesbians, country-western stars, and others who love it. •Immediately following, **Lesbian Fashion?** Ellen Degeneres, Lily Tomlin and Kate Clinton ruminate over the idea of lesbian fashion in Mary Jo Godges and Renee Sotile's mini-documentary.

•Feb. 20, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Second Skin** *2001*. Gerardo Vera's intense drama about the complexities of sexual desire follows the struggle of a publicly heterosexual man to keep his affair with a gay surgeon (Javier Bardem) a secret from his wife.

•Also showing, 7:30 pm. **Southern Comfort** *2001*. This documentary tells the story of Robert Eads, a transsexual cowboy who first married and raised two sons before living as a man coping with ovarian cancer.

•Feb. 21-22, 12am. **Can't Stop the Music** *1980*. In Nancy Walker's camp classic about the formation of the Village People, a young musician (Steve Guttenberg) is looking for a group to perform his next hit song and enlists the help of six flamboyant characters. Admission is free for those who come dressed as a member of the Village People.

Fenway 13 Theatre

Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema

•March 2, 10am. Veteran film critic Harlan Jacobson picks films from major festivals such as Cannes, Toronto, Sundance and New York. Attendees don't know which film is screening or who the guest speaker is until they arrive. *$120 for a season pass; $20 for one class. 800-551-9221.* www.talkcinema.com.

Midnight Showings

•Feb. 21 and 22, 12am. **Ghostbusters II** *1989*. Five years after their first round of spectral success, the Ghostbusters have been sidelined by court orders and lawsuits. But when Dana Barrett's baby becomes the target of an ancient demon, the boys come retirement. Ivan Reitman directs.

Harvard Film Archive

Les Années Noires: French Film Du the Occupation, Part 1

•Feb. 21, 7pm. **Les Visiteurs du Soir** *(The Dev voys) 1942*. Deceased lovers are sent back to ea the Devil to intervene in a courtship. Problem when one of the lovers falls in love with the betr Marcel Carne directs.

•Also showing, 9pm. **Le Corbeau** *(The Raven)* Based on a true story, the film follows citize small French town who speculate on rumors of tion and drug use. Henri-Georges Clouzot dire

•Feb. 22, 9pm. **Les Enfants du Paradis** *(Chil Paradise) 1945*. A mime falls for a beautiful a who is simultaneously being courted by thre cessful men in the Parisian theater district. M Carne directs.

•Feb. 23, 9pm. **Lumière d'été** *(The Summer of L 1943*. In Jean Grémillon's film, a young wo disillusioned with marriage and love due to h periences with her drunken, dissolute fianc comes attracted to a young engineer and ins to believe in love again. •Also showing, 9p **Ciel est à Vous** *(The Sky Is Yours) 1943*. A F woman breaks the world flying record with th of her husband in Nazi-occupied France. Grémillon directs.

Breaking the Mirror: The Films of Maya Deren

•Feb. 19, 7pm. **In the Mirror of Maya Deren** *2002* tina Kudlácek directs an introduction to the wo avant garde filmmaker Deren.

•Feb. 19, 9pm. **The Private Life of a Cat** *1944* ated by Deren's second husband, Alexander mid, this film tells the story of a male and fema who decide to live together. •Immediately fol ing, **Witch's Cradle** *1944*. Deren's unfinished pr was inspired by the surrealist art and architect Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century G and stars famed Dada artist Marcel Duchamp mediately following, **Divine Horsemen: The L Gods of Haiti** *1947/1977*. This film is a stu Deren's immersion in Haitian voodoo practices ligion she referred to as the "White Darkness."

Close Encounters

•Feb. 26, 7pm. **No Man's Land** 2001. A Serb Bosnian soldier befriend each other while trap a trench and become an international news spec Director Danis Tanovic is present for the screen

People We Like: John Malkovich

•Feb. 24, 7pm. **The Sheltering Sky** *1990*. An A ican couple's marriage suffers as they trav North African desert in the late 1940s. Ber Bertolucci directs. •Also showing, 9:30pm **West** *1984*. A screenwriter's sanity is threate his wayward brother's suffocating presence. Goldstein directs.

•Feb. 25, 7pm. **Dangerous Liaisons** *1988*. Set in century France, Stephen Frears' film features an cratic widow and her lover who schemes to cor young married couple. •Also showing, 9:15p **Mice and Men** *1992*. Gary Sinise directs the film

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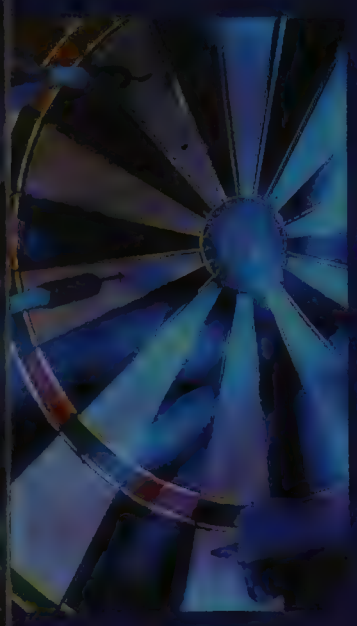

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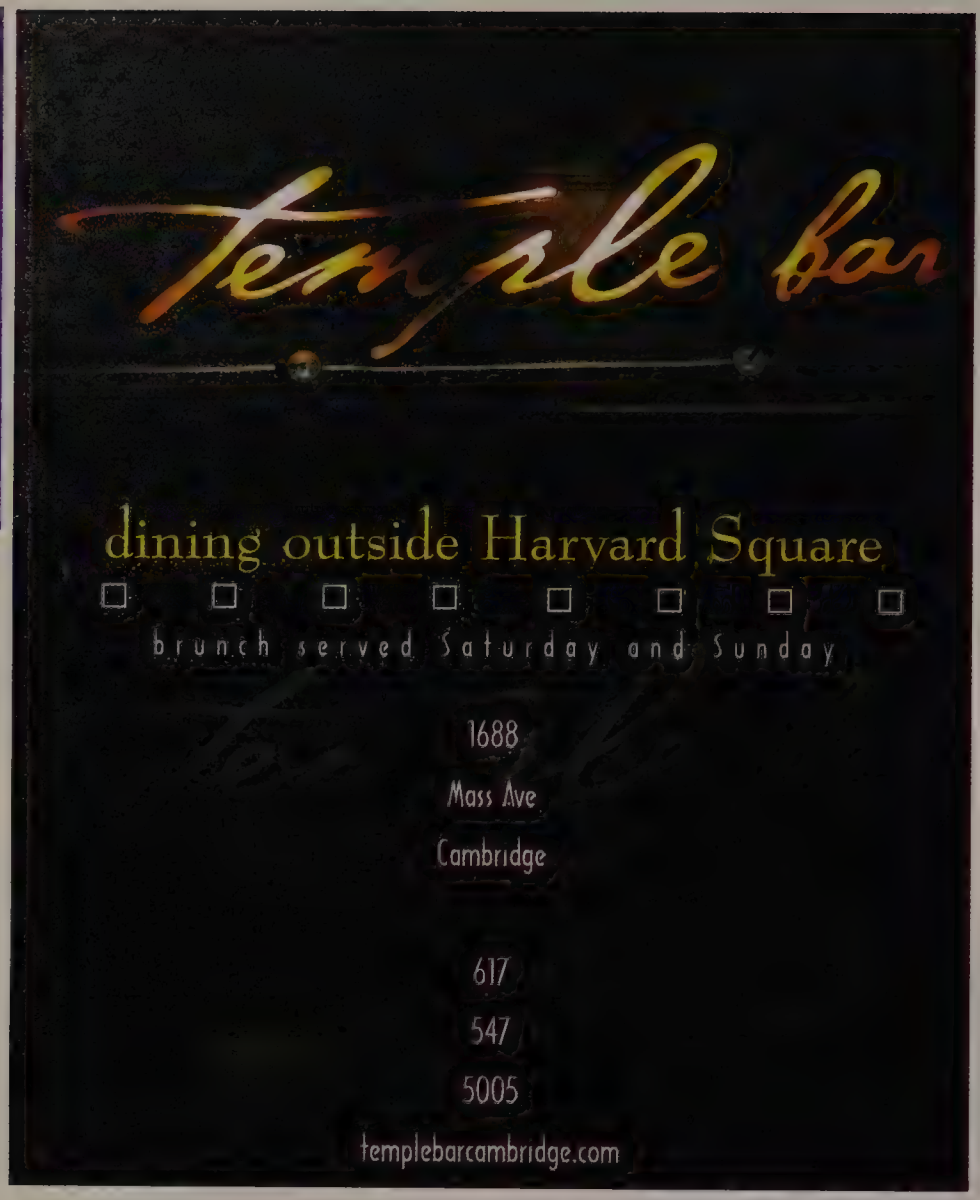

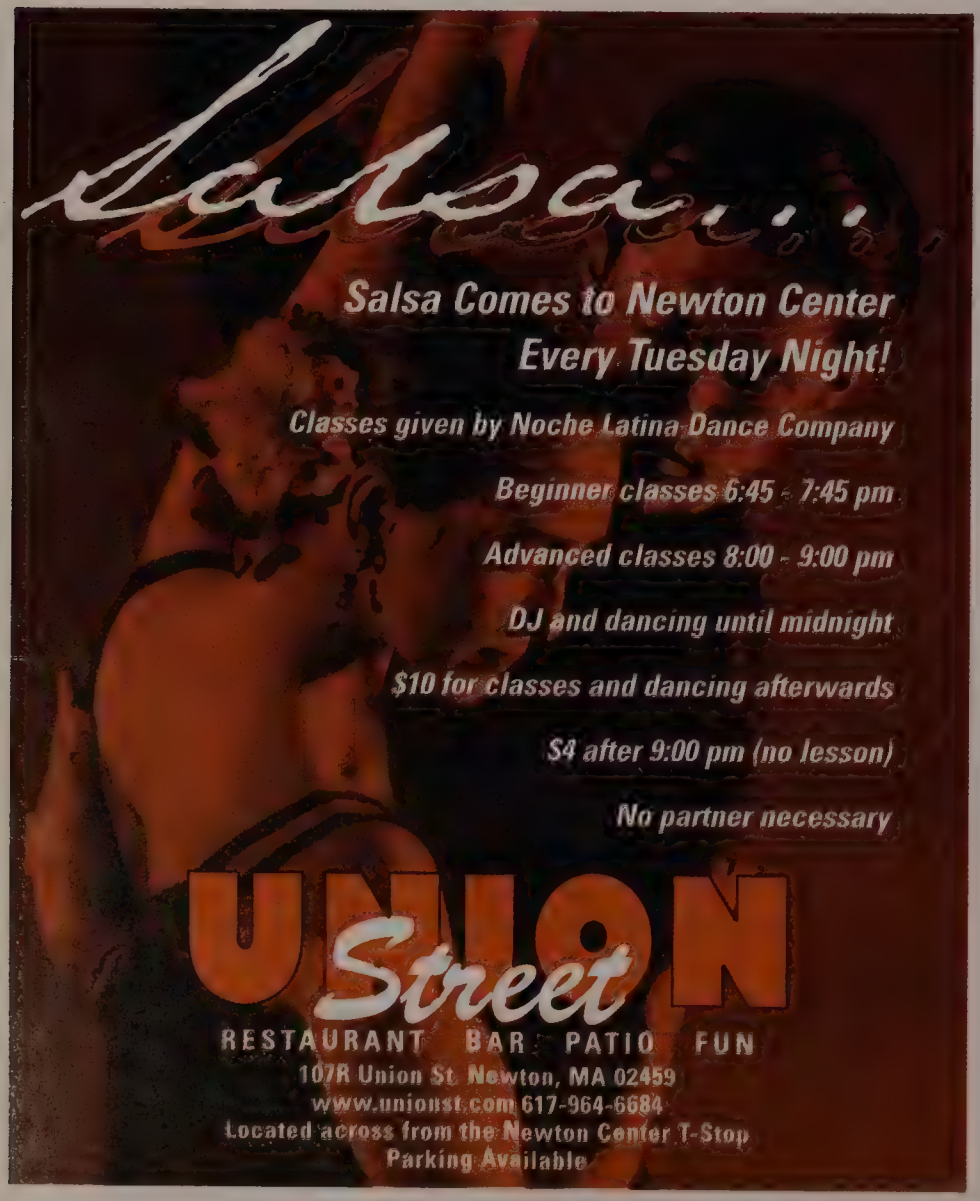

tation of John Steinbeck's novel, in which a drifter and his mentally challenged friend wander the country during the Depression in search of work.

•Feb. 28, 7pm. **The Dancer Upstairs** *2002*. Malkovich is present at the screening of his directorial debut, in which a Latin American nation faces destruction from a guerrilla-led terrorist movement.

***Special Events: An Evening With* Robb Moss**

•Feb. 20, 7pm. **The Same River Twice** *2003*. Robb Moss (who appears in person for the screening) directs this film about a group of former white water guides who have abandoned their 20-something lifestyle to become grown-ups.

Museum of Fine Arts

The African Film Festival

•Feb. 19, 8:15pm; Feb. 20, 6pm; Feb. 22, 11am. **Karmen Geï** *2001*. Loosely based on the opera *Carmen*, Joseph Geï Ramaka's modern-day film is about a woman who escapes from prison by seducing the warden.

•Feb. 21, 6pm. **100 Days** *2001*. A young girl and her family struggle for survival during the 100 day Rwandan genocide in 1994. •Also showing, 8pm. **L'Afrance** *2001*. Alain Gomis' film focuses on the social and identity problems facing African immigrants in Europe.

•Feb. 22. 1pm; Feb. 26, 6pm; Mar. 1, 11am. **Mama Africa** *2000*. This four-film compilation is unified by a theme of strong women in urban Africa. Bridget Pickering's *Uno's World* follows a woman in love with a commitment-phobic man. Ngozi Onwhura's *Hang Time* is the tragic story of an impoverished basketball player determined to wear the right shoes. A young woman and her daughter try to leave behind their criminal past and start anew in Zulfah Otto-Sallies's *Raya*. Fanta Regina Nacro's *A Close Up on Bintou* is the story of a married woman who starts her own business.

Engagements

•Feb. 20, 8pm. **Touched** *2002*. Director Laurel Chiten is present for the screening of her film, which tracks four people and their experiences with extra-terrestrials.

•Feb. 26, 8:15pm; Feb. 27 and 28, 5:15pm; March 1, 1:30pm. **The Last Letter** *2002*. A Jewish mother writes a last letter to her son after learning she will be killed by the Germans occupying the Ukranian city where she lives. Director Frederick Wiseman will be present for the screening.

The Films of Andrei Tarkovsky

•Feb. 27 and 28, 7:10pm; March 1, 3pm. **Solaris** *1972*. A psychologist is sent to the space station orbiting planet Solaris and is haunted by the phantoms from his own past.

Tom Tykwer Retrospective

•Feb. 19, 6:30pm. **Derrida** *2002*. This documentary explores the life of philosopher Jacques Derrida, the founder of deconstruction. Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering Kofman (a former student of Derrida) direct.

•Feb. 22, 3:30pm. **Die Tödliche Maria** *(The Deadly Maria) 1993*. In Tykwer's psychodrama an unassuming, mousy woman's life changes once she begins exchanging glances with her neighbor.

Wang Center

Classic Film Series

•Feb. 24, 7pm. **West Side Story** *1961*. Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise direct the film version of the Broadway musical, in which two street gangs duke it out over their territory.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through March 30. **Mysteries of Egypt**. Travel back to the times of pharaohs and pyramids to experience the customs and culture of ancient Egyptian civilization. Call for show times.

•Through June 23. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and across rugged mountains to commemorate the bicentennial of a remarkable exploration, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

•**Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Dive down to Caribbean coral and the Great Barrier Reef and discover the creatures that thrive in this ecosystem and how global warming threatens it. Call for showtimes.

•**Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man**. Follow the stages of human development from birth to maturity. Each stage of life is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. Call for show times.

•**Into the Deep**. Venture to the kelp forest shores of California, a fascinating world w garibaldi protects its nest and a giant starfi everything in its path. Call for showtimes.

•**Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Fo rates this exploration of earth's different clima a journey from the Arctic to the equator. C show times.

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ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-536-1540). MBTA: Gree to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Gre Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green L to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Li Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MB Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New Engl Medical Center.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gr Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MB Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line t Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Re Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line t Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Gre Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red L to Davis.

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Music

HIGHER GROUND

The Blind Boys of Alabama and Robert Randolph span the generations to bring gospel to new plateaus

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Clarence Fountain was a 10-year-old student at Alabama's Talladega Institute for the Blind when he found his calling in the school chorus. In contrast to the vocational training and routine beatings that students encountered, singing was a way out for Fountain and a few of his mates, who even slipped off school grounds to perform at a nearby military base.

"I'm not saying it was a smart thing to sneak off the campus and go sing, but that's what I really wanted to do," says Fountain, now 72. "As far as I was concerned, the school didn't have nothing important for me to learn."

The important learning came from the radio, through weekly broadcasts by the Golden Gate Quartet, a gospel group that the young men emulated. Leaving school to turn professional in 1944, and shifting toward the raw sound of "hard gospel," they adopted their name when a promoter booked a concert with rivals the Jackson Harmonies, billing the show as the Blind Boys of Alabama and the Blind Boys of Mississippi.

"Now they're gone, and we're still here, so that gives us more room to work," says Fountain, whose group plays a sold-out Somerville Theatre Feb. 28.

The Blind Boys of Alabama (From left: George Scott, Clarence Fountain and Jimmy Carter) have been spreading the Word for 63 years. Inset: Robert Randolph

The Blind Boys of Alabama are making the best of that room. The globetrotting group, last seen in town with Peter Gabriel at the FleetCenter, earned a Grammy for its 2001 disc, *Spirit of the Century*, and heads into this year's Feb. 23 ceremony with another nomination for the follow-up album, *Higher Ground*. On that CD, the Blind Boys were backed by young gospel sensation Robert Randolph and the Family Band.

"Everybody's heard of the Blind Boys of Alabama, especially from the church," says pedal-steel whiz Randolph, 24, whose group is also in town Feb. 28 (making a live collaboration possible, if unlikely) and March 1 at the Paradise. "You've got older guys in the church who say, 'You need to play like [the Blind Boys].' No matter what's going on, the older folks are always going to say 'This is real gospel.'"

Randolph, however, has brought gospel a long way from his Pentacostal church in New Jersey, attracting a new generation of converts with his jammin' blues-boogie attack. Church elders may not agree with his path, but Randolph is confident about it as he records his band's debut for Warner Brothers, promising "positive songs that uplift people and tell them to lean more towards good things in life."

"What you are singing about is the gospel. The gospel is the Word," he says by phone from a California tour stop. "That's what Clarence was talking about [at the sessions for *Higher Ground*]. We got into that a lot. He said, 'With the gospel, you sound like this.' And I'm like, 'Back in your day, you didn't have all these different sounds. The thing is to keep all the music in line with the Word, which is the gospel.'"

The Blind Boys have remained close to their musical roots, even while performing songs by Tom Waits, Ben Harper, Prince, the Rolling Stones and Stevie Wonder on their last two CDs.

"We listen to the lyrics and make sure that [people] aren't talking about their baby and their woman and this, that and the other," says Fountain. He still shares the stage with co-founders Jimmy Carter (whose aisle-roaming flights of testimony are legendary) and George Scott. "You make sure you stay on your path and do what the Lord wants you to do."

"If there's a line in there we don't like, we can take it out and rewrite a gospel line," Fountain says from his Louisiana home. "There was the song 'Higher Ground,' where the 'Lovers keep on lovin.' We knew that line didn't belong in the gospel song. So we took it out and put in 'Prayers keep on prayin.'"

In their early days, the Blind Boys resisted making reverse changes in gospel lyrics to ease their way into pop success the way Sam Cooke and Ray Charles did. This was before gospel became a profitable industry, and, according to Fountain, "the old contracts were based in the record company's favor, not in your favor."

But 63 years after the group's formation, the Blind Boys are spreading the Word farther than ever, selling CDs on Gabriel's Real World label and earning Grammy validation.

"I've always wanted to sing to the masses," Fountain says. "Now we're enjoying the fruits of the work we've done. It didn't jump off right then, but you have to wait on the Lord." iB

The Blind Boys of Alabama

play the Somerville Theatre Feb. 28. Robert Randolph and the Family Band play the Paradise Feb. 28 and March 1.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. f (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from dif sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurat and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the sectio

Top Billings

American Hi-Fi
Feb. 25, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Audioslave
March 3 and 4, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
BonJovi and the Goo Goo Dolls
March 4, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Nick Carter (of the Backstreet Boys)
Feb. 19, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Kasey Chambers
March 1, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Daryl Hall and John Oates
March 3, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Ladytron
Feb. 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Marsalis, Jason Marsalis and Reginald V
March 3, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Phish
Feb. 26, Worcester Centrum Centre (508-755-6
Sixpence None the Richer
Feb. 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Bruce Springsteen
Feb. 19 and 20, Somerville Theatre (sold out).
Take 6
Feb. 27, Berklee College of Music (617-931-200
Toad the Wet Sprocket
March 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Paul Weller
Feb. 22, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

Abbey Lounge Scamper, Nimmer and K Highland, 21+.
Avalon Nick Carter (of the Backstreet Boys Justincase, 7:30pm, $18, all ages.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9pm.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7-10pm.
The Burren Teada, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Beth Amsel and Jeffery Fou 8pm, $12.
Common Ground What a Way to Go-G Vin, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:2 no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily De 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Mickey Bon deco, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Peter Prince and the Tr Unit, Dexter Grove, 9:30pm, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Charlie Hunter Quintet, $15, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, Lemonpeeler and Trash, 8:30pm, $2.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Kendall Café Fluffy Puppy, 9pm; Joint Cus 10pm, $5.
Kinsale Paul Duffy, 9pm.
Limbo Jacques Chanier Trio.
Lizard Lounge Beth Boucher CD-release Shake, 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Julie Johnson, 9pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Nada Surf, Sondre L and the People, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Kevin So, no 21+.
Midway Café Pilot Light and Haymakers.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10pm.
Regattabar Marta Gomez, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club FourMinusOne, 8:30pm.
Sky Bar Kamikaze, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Bruce Springsteen, $1,000 (sold out).
Tir na Nog The Black Eggs.

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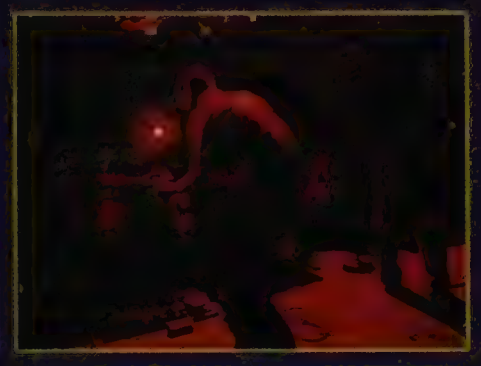

Street Performers

Live Music

Confetti

Hurricanes

DJ Matt Phipps
&
Beads, Beads, Beads

Friday, February 28th

boston.com Personals party
Hosted by Mix 98.5's
Kelly Malone
Fun starts at 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 1st

Mardi Gras Madness continues!
Live music by Syndicate
Doors open at 9:00 pm

Fat Tuesday, March 4th

WBCN hosts Fat Tuesday
with special guest performance
Doors open at 10:00 pm

Friday, March 7th

Boston Event Guide's
Mardi Gras Party
Doors open at 9:00 pm

1 Boylston Place, Boston (617) 351-7000 www.bigeasyboston.com

T.T. the Bear's Place Steve von Till, 27, Bee and Flower and Robert Fisher of Willard Grant Conspiracy, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Gill Aharon, 12-3am, no cover.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Abbey Lounge Unbusted, 21+.
Asgard Brogue, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's No Way Jose, 7:30pm, $3-5.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10pm.
The Burren Swingin Johnsons, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Flynn and Robbie Baier, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground DJ Brian, 10pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Felonious Funk, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown The Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry The Crowding Out Effect, the Green Scene and the Flux, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.
House of Blues Kinky, 10pm, $12, 18+.
The Independent Stretch, 10pm, no cover.
Jacob Wirth The Clay Brown Jazz Trio, 6-10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Dave Douglas Septet with David Gilmore, DJ Olive, Brad Jones, Seamus Blake, Derrek Phillips and Jamie Saft, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Rhythm Nights, 8-11pm; DJ Josh Hall, 11pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Kendall Café Frances Kim, 9pm; Carla Patullo Band, 10pm, $5.
Kinsale Symbolics, 9pm.
Kirkland Café Somerville Jazz Festival featuring Tyler Wood Organ Snack and Com'on Man, $5.
Limbo Kubota Power Jazz Unit.
Lizard Lounge Gingersol CD-release party and the Silos, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Lowell Memorial Auditorium Julio Iglesias, 8pm, $46-$66.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Damon and Naomi and Chris Brokaw, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Mr. Lif, Akrobatik, O.V.M, MC Exposition and WPP, $12, 18+. Corner: Board of Education.
Milky Way Flats Fixed, 9pm, $5.
Paradise Jeffrey Gaines and Blake Hazard, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Plough and Stars Ross Phasor.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan.
The Rack Live music with Sugarfoot Horns, 6:30-10:30pm; DJ Ricky, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Ron Carter Quartet, 8:30pm, $16.
Sky Bar Moontide and Charlie Freak, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Bruce Springsteen, $100-$1,000 (sold out).
Sophia's DJ JR Vega, Latin Party Boys, 9pm.
Tir na Nog Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
T.T. the Bear's Place CD-release party for Tim Easton, Jay Benne, Edward Burch and Dolly Varden, 9:10pm, $8, 18+.
Zeitgeist Gallery David Johnston and the Lenny Solomon Band, 8pm, $6.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

Abbey Lounge Lenny and the PissPoor Boys, 21+.
Asgard Nate Watkins, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm-12am.
The Attic Marie's Children Pajama Party, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Axis Big D and the Kids Table, Five Bucks, Dow Jones and the Industrials and Stray Bullets, 6pm, $10.
The Big Easy Joe Rockstar, $8.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm; U: Shoot the Moon, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm, $5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm-12am, no cover.
The Burren David Roche Band, 10pm, $3, 21+.
Club Passim Jeanne Ciampa, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground Stymie, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Polyquin, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Syndicate.
The Green Briar Stout, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scooby Snax.
The Good Life Downtown The Hakim Group, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Harp The Interns.

Austin-based rockers Sixpence None the Richer play a show at the Paradise Rock Club Feb. 23.

Harper's Ferry Mr. Brownstone's Tribute to Guns 'n' Roses, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Random Axis.
House of Blues Johnny A. and Rebecca Hart, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent Jake Brennan, 10pm, no cover.
Intrigue Café Johnny Souza and the Ray Santisi Trio, 7:30-11:30pm.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Milo Z, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Tom Connors.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm
Kendall Café Lloyd Thayer, 9:30pm; Shiner Jones, 10:30pm; PJ O'Loughran, 11:30pm, $7.
Kennedy's Midtown Paul Duffy.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment, 9pm.
Kirkland Café Ballast, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo and Tween 20, $5.
Limbo Jim Bridges Band.
The Linwood T House of the Almighty, Angry Hill CD-release, Blind by Noon and Dogfight, $8.
Lizard Lounge The Shelley Winters Project and Leo Blais, Mittens, the Choir and the Electronics, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10pm.
Middle East Upstairs: III Kings and the Tourist, $10, 18+. Downstairs: J. Mascis and the Fog, Dead Meadow and the Prettiest Gurls, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Electrolux.
Midway Café Tin Can Flu and Broken Madison.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm-12:15am, no cover.
Paradise Ladytron and Simian, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Last Man Standing.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider.
The Rack Central Basement, 6:15-10:45pm.
Regattabar The Ron Carter Quartet, 7:30 and 10pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Big Band Jazz with Frank Vardaros, 9pm, $10.
Sky Bar Jade Monkey, the Modeles, Math and Douglas Leader, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, Zino and DJ Mike C, 9pm.
Tir na Nog Jabe,
TK's Jazz Cafe Millennium featuring Thaddeus Hogarth and Carrie Turner, 9pm-1am, $10.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rocketscience, the Irresponsibles, 22-20s and Eden Row, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Dreamtime 9 and Mark Dwinell, 8-10pm, $7.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

Abbey Lounge Downbeat 5 CD-release party, Mr. Airplane Man and Muck and the Mires, 21+.
Asgard The Drift, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Hatebreed, Biohazard and Most Precious Blood, 5:30pm, $16, all ages.
The Attic Slipknot, 9pm, $7, 21+.
The Avenue DJ Marc Farrell.
The Big Easy Joe Rockstar, $8.
The Black Rose D: Sunday's Well, 9pm; U: Shoot the Moon, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Pat Loomis, 7:30pm, $5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Tarbox Ramblers, 10pm, $3, 21+.
Club Passim Stephen Fearing CD-release party, 7pm, $12; Subject to Change, 10pm, $7.
Common Ground DJ's Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Velvet Jones, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The No Way Jose Band, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Block Head.
The Green Briar Darik and the Funbags, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syptifo, cover varies.
The Good Life Downtown Amanda Baisinger, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Harp The Interns.
Harper's Ferry Sugar Ray and the Bluetones feat. Monster Mike Welch, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Howard Tate, 10pm, $20, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent Porch Rockers, 10pm, no cover.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7-11pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Cha's, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Kendall Café Cyndie Breazeale-Davis, 7pm; Lemonpeeler, 9pm; Dirty Truckers, 10pm; Shawn Byrene CD-release, 11:30pm, $7.
Kennedy's Midtown Paul Duffy.
Kinsale Christy O'Donnell, 9pm.
Limbo George W. Russell Jr.
The Linwood Ghost 24, Sumo, Roma and Supachik, $7.
Lizard Lounge Skypaint and Jennifer Matthews, 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Soledad Brothers, the Witnesses, Read Yellow and the Damian Pratt, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Jiggle, Psychedelic Breakfast and Mamacita, $12, 18+.
Midway Café The Down Pour and Secret Jackson.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm-12:15am.
Orpheum Paul Weller, 7pm, $26, 18+.
Paradise The Music and the Ambulance, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Last Man Standing.
Plough and Stars The Bag Boys, 5-7pm; Ray Corvair Trio, 9pm.
Purple Shamrock Syndicate, 9pm, $5.
The Rack Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host a dance party, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Ron Carter Quartet, 7:30 and 10pm, $16.
Sky Bar Spacecake, Lorntell and Even So, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre The Ribbon of Highway-Tribute to Woody Guthrie, 8pm, $21.
Sophia's DJ Edwin Matos and Zino, 9pm.
Tir na Nog Mayone Thing.
TK's Jazz Cafe Unity Band, 9pm-1am, $10.
T.T. the Bear's Place Hey Mercedes, Armor For Sleep, Panic In Detroit, Skating Club, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Zeitgeist Gallery That Band, 6:30-8pm, no cover; Fishlung Piano Series, 8:45pm, $10.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

Bill's Bar Paul Wayne and Friends, 10pm,
The Black Rose Jim Coyle, 5-7pm; D: Sund Well, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Shimon Ben-Shir, 10:30am no cover.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10pm.
The Burren Singer songwriter night Danielle, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Tony Trischka, 7:30pm, $15.
Common Ground Allston Steady Rock-R Sound System with DJ Selector Travis, 10pm, co varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining for the Gos Brunch, 10am-3pm, no cover; The Shauntrel 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaugnessy, 9:30pm cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Sp 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords and Fin Doyle, 3pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syptifo.
Harper's Ferry Hot Like Fire, 9:30pm, $4, 21
House of Blues Josh Dodes and SYD, 8pm 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no cove
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30-8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6:30-9:30pm.
Kendall Café David Berkeley, 8pm; Jess Ta 9pm; Noam Weinstein, 10pm, $5.
Kinsale Martin Kellaher, 9pm.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam featuring the J Robinson Band and J. Meleni Mhaba, 7 and 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Mark Mahar and Alex M Dougall, 8pm.
The Middle East Upstairs: Trocadero, the Jup Project, Volcano, I'm Still Excited and Fooled April, $9, 18+. Downstairs: CCTV's Kaleidosc Cabaret with Alexander Prokhorovh, the Chand Travis Philharmonic, Brother Blue, Ama and Sam Tremeterra with Deraldo Riviera, $15, 18+.
Midway Café Monika Heideman Quartet.
Milky Way Marinate.
Paradise Sixpence None the Richer, 8pm, $15,
Plough and Stars Tin Town Trio.
The Point Live Reggae with Danny Tucker and Vibe Tribe, 9pm-12am.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack Lincoln Conspiracy, 9pm.
Regattabar David Zoffer and Adam Larrabee 3pm, $12.
Tir na Nog Robert and Damon.
T.T. The Bear's Club The Franks, the Bell J and Sugar Hill Diaries, 9:15pm, $5, 18+.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

Abbey Lounge Live Blues Jam, 7pm, no cover, 2
The Black Rose D: Tony O'Riordan, 9pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7-10pm.
Common Ground Worst Evening Ever, 7p cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30p no cover.
Harper's Ferry Best Bands Showcase, 9:30pm cover.
House of Blues Ari Hest, Stephen Kellogg Starch Margins, 7pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night, Open mike, 8pm
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Kendall Café Rob Siegel, 8pm; Carl Cacho, 9p Oen Kennedy, 10pm, $5.
Limbo John Kordalewski Trio.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, $9, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Irepress, Sunset is a Batt Disarm and Transparent, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Bi Jenowitz and Chris Toppin, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe.
Plough and Stars Los Diablos.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack Karmen, 6-9:30pm. Dance Party w DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Tir na Nog John Cate.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the B with AdFrank, 9:30pm, $3, 18+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Dave Bryant Trio, 8-10pm Pitch Count, Timo Shanko, 10:30pm, $7.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Abbey Lounge Emily Grogan, Derek Trenfiel Leigh, William and Chris Perry, 8pm, $3, 21+.
Axis American Hi-Fi, Count the Stars, Early N vember and Trouble, 7:30pm, $12, 18+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10pm.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGow 7pm, no cover, 21+.

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Club Passim Open mike, 7pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry The Jinx Motive, 9:30pm, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Corporate Whore, 9:30pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's Stephanie Corby and Diane Zeigler, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Kendall Café Tom Brosseau, 9:30pm; Jesse Malin, 10:30pm, $8.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 9pm.
Limbo Bill Duffy Trio.
Lizard Lounge All the Queen's Men, Spottiswoode and Valerie Forgione, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Tim Gearan, 9pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Ruby Lashes, Mercy Beat, Shumai and Lonehawk, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Halo and Temple.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox.
The Rack After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Michael Musillami/Mario Pavone Quintet and George Schuller and the Schulldogs, 8pm, $14.
Tir na Nog David Johnson.
T.T. the Bear's Place J-Walkers, Blend Engine and Die Electric, 9pm, $5, 18+.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Abbey Lounge Scamper, Slot Machine, Emily Grogan and Rosie Huntress, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern D: Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7-10pm.
The Burren Jeff Isen Band, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Anti-Freeze Show, 8pm, $10.
Common Ground What a Way to Go-Go, DJ Vin, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Rocky and the Giants, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Druid Lemonpeeler and Todd Thibaud, 9:30pm.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Kriminsky's Renegades, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Peter Prince and the Trauma Unit, 9:30pm, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Charlie Hunter Quintet, 8pm, $15, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos with Red Chord and John Magee, 8:30pm, $2.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Kendall Café Adrianne, 8pm, Fluffy Puppy, 9pm, and Brandon Patton CD-release, 10pm, $5.
Limbo Chris Zarlengo and Under the Wire.
Lizard Lounge Bourbon Princess, Ken Field, and Ed Dolan, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Violent Nine and Those Who Wait, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Coheed And Cambria, One Line Drawing, Hopesfall and Rocking Horse Winner, 8pm, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Kevin So, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Gallery.
Paradise Blonde Redhead, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack Zack Martin, 6-10pm; DJ Steve Anderson, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Eric T. Johnson Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Tir na Nog The Black Eggs.
T.T. the Bear's Place Subtropic, Orbiting Riley, Smorgasbord and Vintage Radio, 9pm, $5, 18+.
Worcester Centrum Centre Phish, 7:30pm, $37.50.
Zeitgeist Gallery Unacceptable, 7:45-9pm, $7; Flush #3, 10pm, $7.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

Abbey Lounge Ultravixen, 21+.
Arlington Center Matt Jenson, 7:30pm, $10.
Asgard The Symbolics, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Berklee Performance Center Take 6, 8:15pm, $10.
The Black Rose D: Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30pm, $5.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10pm.
The Burren Swingin Johnsons, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim James O'Brien and Michael McDermott, 8pm, $12.

Preview

Anti-Hero of Anti-Folk

Adam Green basks in boyish irreverence

Several years ago, if you happened to tune in to MTV's *Say What? Karaoke*, you might have seen a goofy teenage contestant take liberties with Len's "Steal My Sunshine." He broke off his off-key rendering mid-verse and began hollering the same puzzling-yet-intriguing statement: "These burgers...are crazy! These burgers...are crazy!" Shocked silent at first, members of the studio audience slowly rose to their feet and then exploded with applause. No doubt more than a few MTV viewers pondered the same question: Is this the last we'll hear from Adam Green? Not likely.

I met Green nearly five years before his MTV debut while I was working at a small record store in Westchester County, N.Y. Green haunted the aisles nearly every day after school, rummaging the racks for rare vinyl and haranguing the clerk with obscure questions. ("Skip Spence played guitar in Moby Grape, right?") One day he arrived toting a box of cassette tapes he'd recorded in his basement with a backup band recruited from the local elementary school. "The Moldy Peaches?" I said glancing at the band name. "Come on."

Fast-forward eight years. Open mouth, insert foot. I find myself in the grips of an existential moment while contacting Green's PR guy to arrange a time for us to chat. After the release of the Moldy Peaches' debut album in 2001, their spoof-pop single "Who's Got the Crack?" made a strong showing on the U.K. charts. An extensive U.S. and European tour followed with the band supporting their friends and fellow New Yorkers, the Strokes. With song titles like "Downloading Porn With Davo" and a flamboyant live act featuring Green in a homemade Evel Knievel suit and his songwriting partner/childhood babysitter (seriously) Kimya Dawson in a bunny costume, the Peaches' oddball juggernaut took form. At 20, still looking like he was 12, Green found himself the ambivalent torchbearer of an unlikely movement: anti-folk—a term quickly co-opted by the media to describe songwriters who favor the acoustic medium but don't pen the flowery, stone-serious compositions associated with traditional folksters. Green believes it's a label that only leads to confusion.

"It's a real mess. A lot of people think that anti-folk is a style of music. It's not at all. It's a community of songwriters who have met each other through open mikes. The word 'anti-folk' really comes from the '80s. There was this cheesy folk scene in the West Village, and it was a reaction to that scene," he says. The anti-folk scene that Green refers to has its roots in punk rock. Songwriters inspired by punk played a type of fast, rhythmic, politically driven acoustic rock that, predictably, did not go over well at conventional folk showcases. Without a scene to call their own, they created one. "Everybody does their own thing," Green says. "I think it's been distorted by the media, like it's 'folk with an attitude.' That's retarded."

Currently the Moldy Peaches are on hiatus. Green is busy touring in support of his new solo album, *Garfield*, and laying down tracks for his follow-up record, which he hopes to complete this spring. A student of Beck, Elliot Smith and the late Skip Spence, Green has created a beautifully simple, boyishly playful and hysterically irreverent debut. As for his next album, he is trying to be more "melodically adventurous" by collaborating with a string quartet. And those who caught Green's disharmonious MTV appearance will be comforted to know that these days he's making it a point to "croon a bit more." *Green plays Feb. 28 at T.T. the Bear's Place, 10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). 9pm. $8. —Daniel Schulman*

Common Ground DJ Brian, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Rock Hoppers, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The Evan Goodrow Band, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown The Matt Gordy, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Umphreys McGee and Ray's Music Exchange, 9:30pm, $12, 18+.
House of Blues Cardoza and Naked Vinyl, 10pm, $10, 18+.
The Independent Ray Green, 10pm, no cover.
Jacob Wirth The Clay Brown Jazz Trio, 6-10pm, no cover.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Rhythm Nights, 8-11pm; DJ Josh Hall, 11pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm
Kendall Café Chapter in Verse, 9pm; Abi Tapia, 10pm; Walker Roamer, 11pm, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 9pm.
Kirkland Café Buddahs and Rollo Tomasi Quartet, $5.
Limbo Jonathan Singleton Trio.
Lizard Lounge Club D'elf, featuring Micro Vard and guests, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Julie Johnson, 10pm.
Middle East Upstairs: The Real Kids, the Kenmores, the Dents and the Meat Depressed, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Max Creek and Uncle Sammy, $12, 18+.
Plough and Stars The Peasants.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan.
The Rack Sugarfoot Horns, 6:30-10:30pm; DJ Ricky, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Mark Shilansky's Other Voices and Luciana Souza, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Avery Sharp Group, 8:30pm, $15.
Sky Bar The Crumb Sullivans, Bender X and Not at All, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Sophia's DJ JR Vega, 9pm.
Tir na Nog Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
T.T. the Bear's Place Crash and Burn, Officer May, Bradshaw and the Model Sons, 9pm, $8, 18+.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

Abbey Lounge Coffin Lids, 21+.
Asgard Christy O'Connell, 7:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm; G Barkan, 9pm-12am.
The Attic Electric Hummus, 8:30pm, $7, 21
The Big Easy Sydicate and DJ Matt Phillips, 9pm
The Black Rose D: Celtic Clan; U: Sund Well.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Provi 7:30pm, $3-$5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 12am.
The Burren Shirley Lewis, 10pm, $3, 21+.
Club Passim Katryna and Nerissa Nields, McTiegue, 7 and 10pm, $15 (advanced ticket chase required).
Common Ground The Popgun Seven, 10 cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm, no co
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown The Hakim Gro 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Thomas Park.
The Green Briar West Entrance, 10pm, $5, 2
Harper's Ferry Johnny Winter Band feat. Ja Montgomery, 8pm, $25, 21+; the Chris Fitz Ba 11pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Spike the Punch.
House of Blues Los Amigos Invisibles and Afro, 10pm, $20, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
Intrigue Cafe Johnny Souza and the Ray San Trio, 7:30-11:30pm.
The Independent Uncle Shaker, 10pm, no co
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Alvin Youngblood Hart, 9:45pm
Jose McIntyre's DJ Tom Connors.
Kendall Café Rosanna Lee, 9:30pm; Bunzey Pa 10:30pm; Atomic Harvesters, 11:30pm, $7.
Kennedy's Midtown Acoustic Junction.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment, 9pm.
Kinvara Undercover
Kirkland Café Calypso Invaders, Confederac Dumpsters and Chicken Slacks Soul Revue, 8pm,
Limbo Wannetta Jackson
The Linwood Hip Tanaka CD-release, $7.
Lizard Lounge Asa Brebner, the Coors and Family Jewels, 9pm, $6, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm.
Middle East Upstairs: King Kong, Rever Glasseye and His Wooden Leg and Choexperim $9, 18+. Downstairs: Sex Mob, Beat Science, Dresden Dolls and Evan O'Television, $10, 18+.
Midway Café King I.
Milky Way The Pill, Mittens, 9pm, $8.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8: 11:15pm.
Paradise Robert Randolph and the Family Ba 9pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Flavor
Plough and Stars Twilight Ranchers.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider.
The Rack Dropkick Murphys and Kicked in Head perform for the Boston Bruins Alumni and crosoft Hockey Challenge 2003 Party, 6: 10:45pm, $25, $100 VIP.
Regattabar The Jose de Santos, 7:30 & 10pm, $
Sky Bar Default Outfit, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, Zino and DJ Mik 9pm.
Somerville Theater Blind Boys of Alaba 8pm, $22-$28.
Tir na Nog Dave Samarco Band.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band & the Real B Horns, 9pm-1am, $10.
T.T. the Bear's Place Aaron Perrino of the Sk Divine, the Reputation, Adam Green of Mo Peaches and the Sea Navy, 9pm, $8, 18+.
Zeitgeist Gallery The Phil Sargent Gro 10pm, $5.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Abbey Lounge Choo Choo La Rouge, 21+.
Asgard Sunset, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm; G Barkan, 9pm-12am.
Avalon Toad the Wet Sprocket, Bleu and Wh 6:30pm, $20.25, 18+.
The Avenue DJ Marc Farrell.
Berklee Performance Center Tony Ken 2pm, $30.
The Big Easy Rick Anthony's Band, $8.
Bob the Chef's Ed Jones, 7:30pm, $5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm
Club Passim Jim Kweskin Band with Samoa Wi CD-release party, Dave Dersham, 7 and 10pm, $15
Common Ground DJ Wymer, 10pm, c varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no co
The Harp The Zone.

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House of Blues Los Amigos Invisibles and DJ Afro, 10pm, $18, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent Uncle Shaker, 10pm, no cover.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Funky White Honkies, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy.
Limbo Valerie Stephens.
Lizard Lounge John Haydon and Ten Worlds CD-release party with the Ray Mason Band, the Weisstronauts and Charlie Westerman and the Legendary Motorbikes, 9pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Shaun and Suzis 10th annual Mardi Gras Ball with Gary Cherone, Jed Parish, Asa Brebner and Ramona Silver, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Lustra and Causeway, $9, 18+.
Midway Café L.A. Drugs, Shark Mountain.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm-12:15am.
Orpheum Kasey Chambers.
Paradise Robert Randolph and the Family Band, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Flavor.
Purple Shamrock DJ Josh Hall.
The Rack Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host a dance party, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Bruce Gertz Quintet, 7:30 & 10pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Megawatt Blues Crushers, 9pm, $10.
Sophia's DJ Edwin Matos and Zino, 9pm.
Tir na Nog Hokum.
T.T. the Bear's Place Apollo Sunshine, 12am, $8, 18+.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

The Attic Coalboilers, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Nat Simpkins Jazz Quartet, 10:30am-3pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10pm.
Club Passim Andrew Kerr and the Kerrplops CD-release party and Greg Bennick, 7:30pm, $12.
Common Ground Allston Steady Rock-Easy Sound System with DJ Selector Travis, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O' Shaugnessy, 9:30pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues Jam.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6:30-9:30pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 9pm.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam featuring Sou MacMillan and the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7:30 and 9pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Converge, 16, $12, 18+.
Paradise Gang Green, the Marbles and the Action, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Parris The Catunes.
The Point Live Reggae with Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe, 9pm-12am.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi
The Rack Unlucky, 9pm; DJ Mike Janedy spins, no cover, 21+.
Stoneham Theatre Leon Redbone, 7:30pm, $30.
Tir na Nog Robert and Damon.
T.T. the Bear's Place Carrigan, Invercaron, Suntan and Ruby Lashes, 9pm, $7, 18+.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Abbey Lounge Live Blues Jam, 7pm, 21+.
Avalon Audioslave, 9pm, $29.75.
Common Ground Worst Evening Ever, 7pm, cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with the Coachmen, 8pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan, 9pm.
Limbo Roderick and Camellia Band.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, $9, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Cold, $10, 18+.
Orpheum Daryl Hall and John Oates, 7:30pm, $31-$46.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack Karmen, 6-9:30pm, no cover.
Symphony Hall Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Ellis Marsalis, Jason Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis and Reginald Veal.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rilo Kiley, the Good Life, the Prom and Mayday, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Les Zygomates Peter Parcek.

American Hi-Fi plays at Axis Feb. 25 with Count the Stars, Early November and Trouble.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Avalon Audioslave, 9pm, $29.75.
Club Passim Open mike, 7pm, $5.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
FleetCenter Bon Jovi and the Goo Goo Dolls, 7:30pm, $38.50-$75.
Johnny D's Dorsa, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm.
Limbo John Kordalewski Trio.
Lizard Lounge Emetrex, 9pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Dubnicks and Roxie, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Supergrass and the Coral, 8pm, $15, 18+.
The Rack After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6pm.
Ryles Jazz Club John Payne Sax Choir, 8:30pm, $7.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sool, Baby Ray, the Weisstronauts, Paula Kelley and Aaron Tap, the Buckners and 23 Skedoo, 9pm, $7, 18+.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100).*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-4[illegible] 9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-7[illegible] 2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston ([illegible] 743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (61[illegible] 338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-[illegible] 6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge ([illegible] 354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (61[illegible] 492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., B[illegible] (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prud[illegible]*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge ([illegible] 497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-[illegible] 7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Boston (617-[illegible] 1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-[illegible] 1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymar[illegible]*

advance seating

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Altan March 8, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
The Bobs
March 29, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2787)
Cher
May 2, Worcester Centrum Centre (508-755-6800)
The Chieftains March 12, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
The Del-Vikings March 30, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Dropkick Murphys March 14-17, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Bela Fleck & the Flecktones April 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Jeffrey Gaines
March 6, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Arlo Guthrie March 7, Blackman Auditorium (617-373-2247)
Huun Huur Tu March 14, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Interpol March 6, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Joe Jackson Band April 4 and 5, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Mason Jennings March 12, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Lunasa March 22, Somerville Theatre (617-[illegible] 4275)
Edwin McCain March 27, Paradise Rock [illegible] (617-423-NEXT)
Tim McGraw April 4, FleetCenter (617-931-20[illegible]
Youssou N'Dour and Angelique Kidjo April 11, [illegible] pheum Theatre (617-876-4275)
Preservation Hall Jazz Band March 28, S[illegible] phony Hall (617-931-2000)
Scorpions and Whitesnake March 9, Orph[illegible] Theatre (617-482-0650)
Shankar with Zakir Hussain & Ginger March [illegible] Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Sigur Ros March 15, Berklee Performance Ce[illegible] (617-931-2000)
Sum 41 March 7, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Susan Tedeschi March 29, Orpheum The[illegible] (617-931-2000)
Chucho Valdes March 30, Berklee Perform[illegible] Center (617-931-2000)
The Waifs and Jess Klein April 12, Somerville [illegible] atre (617-876-4275)
Widespread Panic April 15-16, Orpheum The[illegible] (617-482-0650)
Yanni April 3, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)

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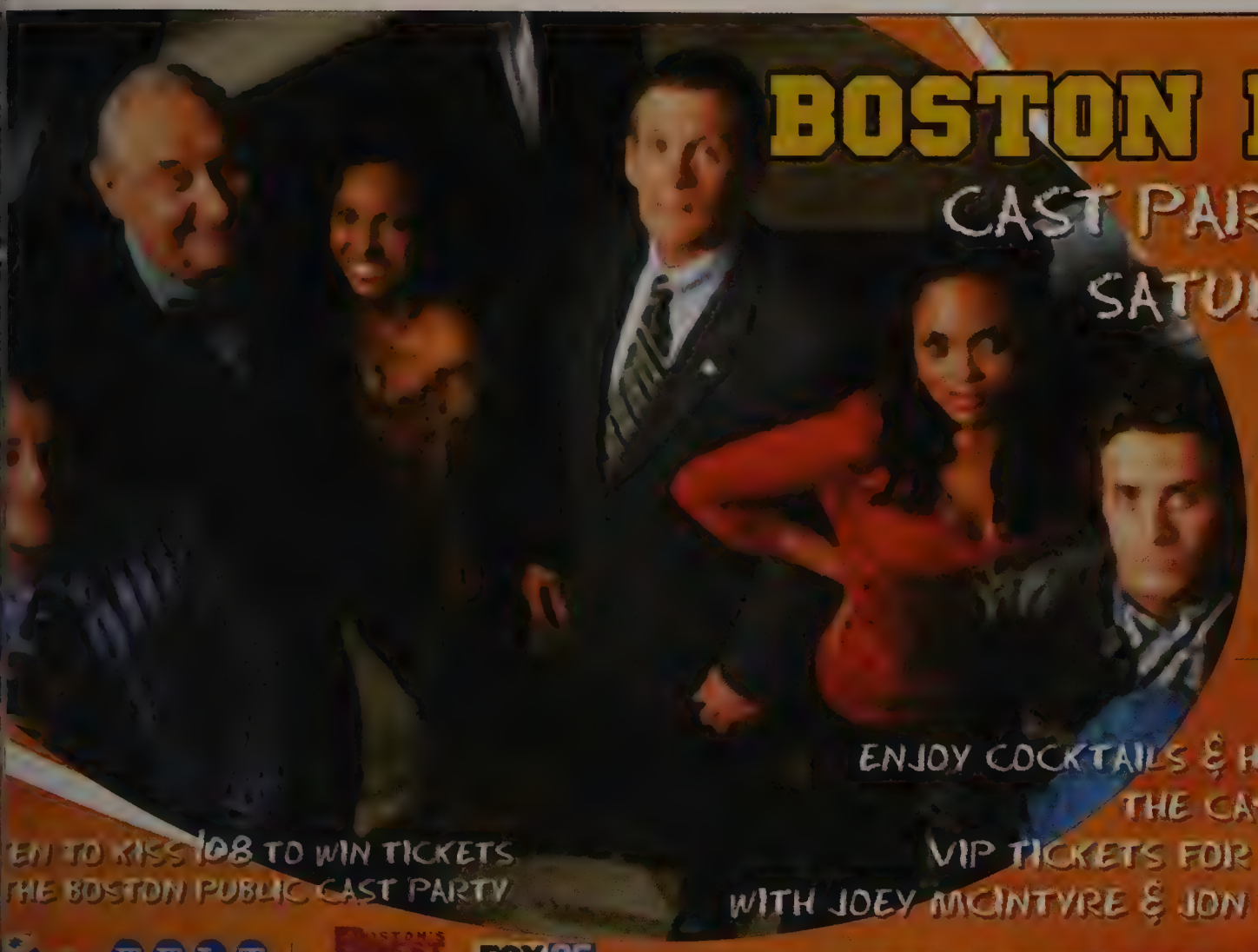

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Jacob Wirth *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111).*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tir na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonderbar *186 Harvard. Ave., Allston (617-351-COOL). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Worcester Centrum Centre *50 Foster St., Worcester (508-755-6800).*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Zuzu *474 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278, ext. 237). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

Music in the Cathedral Series
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park St. 12:15pm. $2. This 30-minute concert features Karl Henning on the clarinet and pianist Mark Engelhardt.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The new Composers' Series premieres performances by Michael McLaughlin, faculty member Robert Ceely and Bill Geha.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 10:30am open rehearsal; concert at 8pm. $25-$84.* Conductor Tan Dun and cellist Yo-Yo Ma present a multimedia production.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* In this performance, a conductorless Conservatory Chamber Orchestra is coached by Donald Palma, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra's founding member.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

Boston Early Music Festival Concerts
Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St., Boston (617-661-1812). 8pm. $20-$48. Edith Ho directs the Church of the Advent Choir in performing the music of Thomas Crecquillon, a 16th-century composer.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84.* Same program as Feb. 20.

Music at the Immaculate
Immaculate Conception Church (the Jesuit Urban Cen… Harrison Ave., Boston (617-536-8440). MBTA: B… 10, 47 or 49. 8pm. $10, $5 students and seniors. This… mance features the Daniel Ian Smith Jazz Trio.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617… 1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line t… phony. 8pm. $25-$84.* Same program as Feb. 20.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

American Classics at the Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 1 Follen St… bridge (617-254-1125). www.longy.edu. *MBT… Line to Harvard. 3pm. $20, $15 students and senio…* American Classics new Songs and Singers seri… sents its inaugural concert, titled Irving Berlin… Films of Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby, Part 1.

Early Music Series
Somerville Museum, Central St. and Westwoo… Somerville (617-666-9810). MBTA: Red L… Porter. 3pm. $14. Carol Lewis and Olav Chris H… sen perform 17th-century German works by B… hude and Schenk.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (61… 3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA:… Line to Arlington. 10am. Free.* Michael Beatti… ducts the Emmanuel orchestra and chorus in… *Cantata* BWV 126.

Emmanuel Music
C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University, 41 Temple St… con Hill (617-536-3356). www.emmanuel… org. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. 4pm… $18, students and seniors.* William Hite, David… man and artistic director Craig Smith perform… chamber and vocal songs by Franz Schubert.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Ga… ough St., Boston (617-266-1200). www.cele… series.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm… $50.* This performance features pianist Ri… Goode, who plays pieces by Brahms, Beeth… Chopin and others.

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Sunday Nights

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Cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs Feb. 20.

Handel and Haydn Society at the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton St., Boston (617-262-1815). MBTA: #43 bus. 3pm. Free. The Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra presents Trio con Piano en Espanol!, which explores Latin American culture through Spanish music and dance.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-0734-1359) www.gard nermuseum.org *1:30pm. $18, $12 seniors, $10 students and members, $5 children.* Baritone Anton Belov and pianist Lydia Brown, respectively, perform songs by Schumann, Tchaikovsky and others in the Young Artists Showcase.

Kora King: Mamadou Diabate at the Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3770). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 3pm. $24; $20 students, seniors. Kora player Mamadou Diabate,who comes from a family of *jelis*, distinguished traditional African musicians, fuses Malian music with elements like Mendenka-style American blues.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall,30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Conservatory's Symphony Orchestra, lead by director Dante Anzolini, presents its premiere performance of Robert Beaser's *Chorale Variations.*

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.8pm. $25-$84.* Same program as Feb. 20.

King's Chapel Concert Series
King's Chapel, Tremont and School St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15pm. $2. This half hour program features the music of Bach and Buxtehude, played by Kristin Naragon on the C.B. Fisk organ.

Longy School of Music
Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* The Yanvar Trio plays selections from Martinu, Bartok and Tchaikovsky.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall ,30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6pm. Free.* The conservatory's quartet-in-residence, The Borromeo String Quartet, performs.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall,30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The opera department performs *Seijo*, a piece adapted from an ancient Chinese spiritual story.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Music in the Cathedral Series
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 12:15pm. $2. This half-hour concert features organist George Sargeant.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Tal Trio performs several works by Beethoven, Dvorak and Shostakovich.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84.* Conductor Bernard Haitink conducts German soprano Dorothea Roschmann and Hungarian pianist Klara Wurtz, who are making their debut with the BSO.

Longy School of Music
Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Music director Donna Roll conducts a series of all-American opera scenes.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

Boston Creative Music Alliance
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-354-6898).MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8pm. $16; $12, students and seniors. Alan Silva and his ensemble, the Celestial Communications Orchestra, come together in this concert.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. $25-$83.* Same program as Feb. 27.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $50-$105.* Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducts the world-renowned Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of the music of Johann Strauss and Beethoven.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$56.* The Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra present a program titled Bach & Haydn: Musical Offerings Fit for a King.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84.* Same program as Feb. 27.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Cambridge Society for Early Music
Adolphus Busch Hall,Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). www.csem.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free.* In memory of the late organist E.Power Biggs, the Harvard Organ Society presents this concert by leading organists.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington .10am. Free.* Craig Smith con the Emmanuel orchestra and chorus in the w Bach Cantata.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gai ough St., Boston (617-266-1200). www.cele series.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $50.* Pianist Max Levinson collaborates wit Tokyo String Quartet in a performance of wor Haydn, Dutilleux and Brahms.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-0734-1359). gardnermuseum.org. *1:30pm. $18, $12 seniors students and members, $5 children.* The Piffaro R sance Band re-creates sounds of Renaissance bands in their performance titled Stadtpfeiffer: from 16th-Century Germany.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall,30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *M E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Faculty me David Hagan performs piano pieces, including by Mozart, Lizst and Schumann.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall ,30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *M E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The NEC's s concert series features Masahiro Ishijima.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to phony. 8pm. $25-$84.* Same program as Feb. 27.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *M E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Tuesday Music concert series presents new works by stud

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall,30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-3605). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *M E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Cellist Dani performs Dong Jin Kim's *Jin Da Lae Kko*, as w works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Brahms.

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Thurs, February 20
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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Avenue Bar
Service Industry Night Featuring house and techno music, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge Attain transcendence in the exotic world of Buddha Bar with DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
•Feb. 24, Karmin performs, 6-9:30pm. Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
Hip-hop night, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ B-spin, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music in this swank billiards lounge, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip hop and R&B, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Peow! DJ Timmy Collins spins New York–style lounge music, $3, 21+; $5 under 21.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Green Briar
DJ Long John spins '80s, '90s and top-40 hits, 10pm.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•Feb. 19, Black Sole performs, 6-10pm. •Feb. 26, Live music with Zack Martin, 6-10pm. DJ Steve Anderson keeps the party going until 2am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band spices things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Anitya Psychedelic trance music and sets by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Preview

Krush Hour

DJ Krush lets his turntables do the talking

Japanese trip-hop sensei-tion DJ Krush spins at the Middle East March 2.

Japanese trip-hop and hip-hop maestro DJ Krush will deliver one of his pyrotechnical turntable performances downstairs at the Middle East March 2. Krush has been behind the mixer for nearly two decades, and his chilled-out sound is known the world over. With seven full-length studio albums to his credit, he has recorded on a number of well-respected labels, including James Lavelle's Mo'Wax imprint. Nowadays, as a Sony recording artist, DJ Krush earned the status of a major-label musical commodity.

Though he speaks no English, he communicates with his American audiences through sound, and the freedom of his live performances provides a contrast to the the laid-back vibe of his recorded work. If there such a genre as hard-core trip-hop, DJ Krush might have invented it. Don't look for any techno or dance music influences in this DJ's music; listeners will find hip-hop squarely the center of his work, although he also borrows an improvisational sensibility from jazz.

A live video presentation will provide a swirling visual backdrop to Krush's musical soundscape. Seishi and Reazon, two of Boston's own trip-hop spinmeisters, will warm it for Krush—you might also recognize the duo from their local drum 'n' bass DJ work. Sei held a residency at the Rinse, a weekly drum 'n' bass party that is due to return from its hiatus at the end of April. Reazon spins drum 'n' bass every Friday night downstairs at th Ecko Lounge.

The Middle East Downstairs, 472-480 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278). March 8pm. 18+. $12 in advance, $15 at the door.—Daniel Spurling

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Lounge Night DJ Jason spins house tunes and the latest techno, 21+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
The Underground The latest underground music from DJ Chris Rucker with performances by new live acts, 9pm, $10, 18+; $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogans
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; live music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top-40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Kiss 108 presents commercial dance h proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spin jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and ing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, D and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty c the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights host karaoke downstair 11pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party st upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tune old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Franklin cranks the noise, 11pm- 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins global lounge rhythms. D open at 10pm. No cover before 11pm, $15 11pm, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando pr drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 2

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive te downtempo and soul classics in the front loun night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Thursday nights it's live music with Sugarfoot H 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Ricky spins all night 10:30pm, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lover roots reggae, and R&B, 10pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9p cover, 21+.

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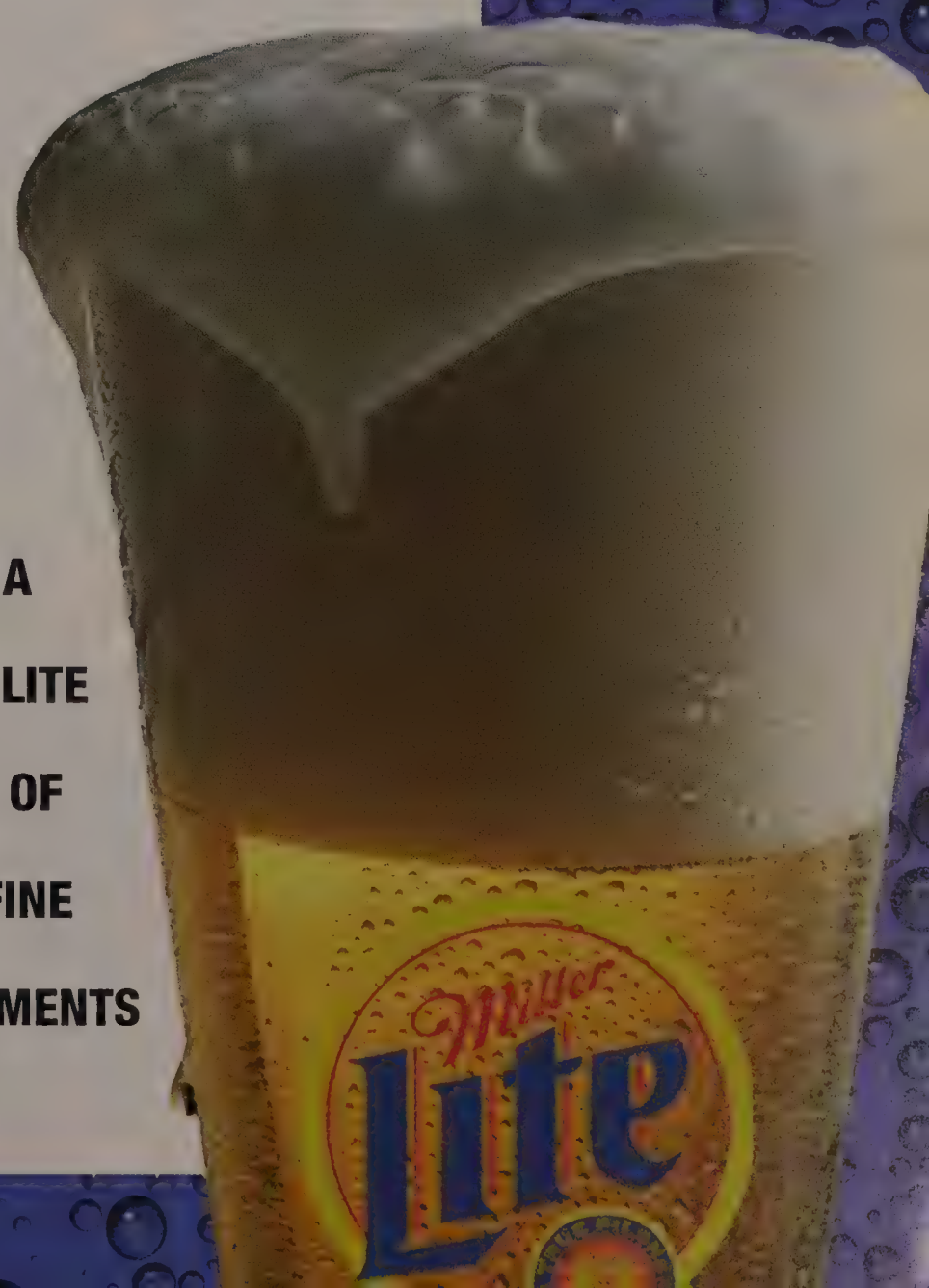
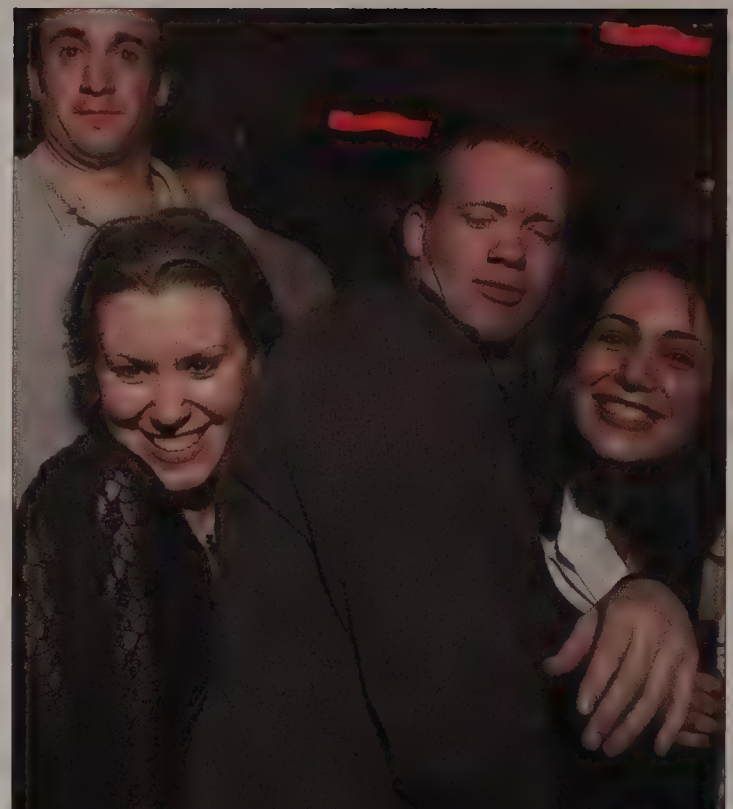


Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, 21+.
Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9pm, $10, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.
Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.
SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Venu
Nu-Lite Guest DJs spin hip-hop and house music, 11pm, $15, 19+.
Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.
Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music with no attitude, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.
The Avenue Bar
Buck BC hosts TGIF nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
Boston rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Coogans
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.
Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Harp
•Feb. 21, Live music by the Zoo, 10pm, $10, 21+.
•Feb. 28, the Zone performs, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Dan McCarthy spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
There's a party on all floors with DJ Tom Connors downstairs, and DJ Massi upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Doc goes all-out with top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.


Parris

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Roland Lopez, 10pm-2am, 21+.
Level
Velvet Lounge DJ Santangelo spins house and hip-hop, $10.
Matrix Fridays
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.
The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $20, 18+; $15, 21+. •**The Officers Club** DJ Statik Selektah and Chubby Chub spin hip-hop and R&B, and JR Swoosh spins reggae, proper dress, 8pm, ladies free, men $5, before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+, after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress required, $10, 21+, $15, after 10pm; $20, 18+. •**3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs pump the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.
Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm.
The Rack
•Feb. 21, It's live music with Central Basement 6:15-10:45pm. •Feb. 28, Dropkick Murphys and Kicked in the Head perform for the Boston Bruins Alumni and Microsoft Hockey Challenge 2003 Party, 6:15-10:45pm, $25, $100 VIP. DJ Johnny C and Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Dance Party spin the night away, 10:45pm-2am, 21+, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10pm, no cover. •Feb. 21, Rezarection plays live reggae, R&B, soca and lovers' rock, 11pm, $8, 21+; $10, 19+. •Feb. 28, Caribbean Cruize Band performs, 11pm, $8, 21+; $10, 19+.
RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fishel pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night full of hot Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Sharpen up your salsa and merengue moves with lessons from 7-10pm, then shake it to live music by the Latin Party Boys or hit the dance floor with DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 tunes and acoustic shows entertain on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.
SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop and top-40 remix with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.
Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Sexy Saturdays Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with progressive house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The Avenue Bar
T Night fills the place with house and techno beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis
Start! Hear DJ Gibby spin alternative rock and get nostalgic to '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
DJs host a night of dancing to top-40 and rock music, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Common Ground
The Let Down Losers and has-beens are welcome to boogie down with DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.
Coogans
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5
Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-S spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dres
Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in th liards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 2
The Harp
•Feb. 22, the Interns perform, 10pm, $10
•March 1, Live music with the Zone, 10pm 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins the latest top-40, R&B and hip- 9pm, $10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Hall cues up top-40, R&B and hip 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40 DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs with to 10pm, 21+.
La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.
Level
In the Russian Lounge, DJ Alert spins Russian ternational music. In Elite, DJ Pace spins h techno and international music on two levels, $1
Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house whil back room features dance favorites from the '80 '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.
Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata 10pm, $7.
The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15
The Palace
•**El Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance mus hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15 $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. •**The Male Encounter** England's longest-running all-male dance review at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $25, 18+; $20, 21 fore 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $20, 18+ 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Rio** DJ D Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian sphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Fre mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm.
Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3
The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, p dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. •Feb. 22 music with Syndicate, 10pm, $5, 21+. •Mar the Marcels perform live, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack
Join the dance party hosted by Star 93.7's Vinn ruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, 21+, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice
•Feb. 22, Tropical Fire plays soca and dance hall 11pm, $8, 21+; $10, 19+.
RiverGods
Easy Does It Shake your groove thang with DJ and Goodwood spinning soft '70s, 9pm, no 21+.
The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and te 10pm, $15, 21+.
711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and interna music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover b 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and mer while a Latin band plays on the first floor a Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favor the white room, 10pm, 21+.

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***The* Sugar Shack**
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk with DJ Bruno, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC makes the night global with Latin house, and DJs Tarek Anabi and Gamble spin international house and hip-hop, 11pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house in the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-hop in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.

***The* West Street Grille**
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

***The* Kells**
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a night of electric dance, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Sundays DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes while resident DJs Osheen and Rob D. and weekly guests spin house, hip-hop and techno, $10.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm–2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•Feb. 23, Live music with Lincoln Conspiracy, 9pm. •March 2, Unlucky performs, 9pm. DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30–9:30pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavaliet spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge Kick back and experience this trend-setting night, 10pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-18*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-03*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-24*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-7080).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0086).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allst (617-783-2071).*
Coogans *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-728-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-4*
0186).
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (61*
536-2100).
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-36*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookli (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Bo (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-24*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (6 451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (61 783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Pla (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston 351-2581).*
The Palace *(Club Copa, Officers Club, Oxy Tilt, Uptown and Underground) 1500 Broadw Saugus (781-321-1660).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Bos (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambr (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-76*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (6 437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-7001).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-72*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T-stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* showcases precious jewelry, icons, religious amulets, textiles, coins and household items dating from the 4th through 15th centuries. Through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* presents artwork fueled by Europe's fascination with India from the 17th to 20th centuries. Through May 25. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* features Chinese, Korean, and Japanese art from the eighth through 20th centuries. Through Sept. 7.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm.* •*Celebrating Boston: Design Visions for the Rose Kennedy Greenway* features proposed designs for the Surface Artery corridor. Through Feb. 28.•*A Tribute to John Barbour.* The Boston Afro-American Artists' Association celebrates Black History Month with Barbour's work. Through Feb. 28. •*Quiet Helpers: Quaker Humanitarian Service in Postwar Germany* recognizes the contributions made by Quaker humanitarian aid workers in postwar Germany. Through Feb. 28. •*Women in Design* celebrates women's contributions to architecture and design. Through Feb. 28.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows range from Italian to African art. •*Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon* and *The Victor Weeps,* a show of three moving photographic installations, captures life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan. Through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*This Is Not a Cloud,* photographs by Cindy Sedlmeyer, is ongoing. •*Painting in Boston: 1950-2000* displays through Feb. 23. •*Looking at Ground Zero: Photographs by Kevin Bubriski* shows through Feb. 23. •*The Ambient Electron: Abstract Video Art* displays through Feb. 23. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams and dynamic spectrum shifts. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree form. Through August 31.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10am-6pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*Fire Upon the Hearth: A Celebration of Irish American Women* highlights the lives and work of several New Englanders, including Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •Award-winning photographer Wolfgang Tillman presents 30 color prints. Through Feb. 23. •*Prints from the Serenissima: Connoisseurship and the Graphic Arts in 18th-Century Venice* showcases 62 examples. Through March 9. •*The Modern Quotidian: Furniture by Prouvé, Perriand, Le Corbusier and Reitveld* displays modern design objects and furniture. Through March 30. •*Isolation + Integration: Works from the Permanent Collections, 1963-1973* shows through March 30.•*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* displays through May 4.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*The Glass Flowers,* featuring the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, is ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young,* also ongoing, displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline,* ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. •*Dodos, Trilobites and Meteorites* showcases never-before-seen treasures from historic expeditions to remote environments. Through March 31.

Richard De Veau's paintings, including *Fade to Black*, show at the Kingston Gallery through March 1.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Carsten Höller: Half Fiction,* the first stateside solo exhibition by Belgian-born artist Carsten Höller, includes one of his "slide sculptures," which museum visitors ride down two floors to reach the gallery. Through April 27. •*Building a Vision: Diller + Scofidio in Boston* is a preview of the models for the ICA's new waterfront location, which is set to begin construction in September. Through April 27.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture pieces, manuscripts, rare books and decorative arts including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •The work of conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth kicks off the museum's Centennial celebration. Through April 6.

McMullen Museum of Art
Boston College, 140 Comm. Ave., Devlin Hall 108, Chestnut Hill (617-552-8100). Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat. & Sun., 12-5pm. • *Eire/Land* features 100 works in various media depicting the Irish landscape from the medieval to the contemporary period. Through May 19.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the last 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing. •*The Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through March 4.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*18th Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* exhibits the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Art Carnival: Celebrating the Art of Many Lands* is an interactive exhibition featuring Brazilian musician Ricardo Frota and African storyteller J'miah Nabawi. Through Feb. 21.•*Lens Landscape* shows photographers' visions of landscapes. Through Feb. 23. •*Threads on the Edge: The Daphne Farago Fiber Art Collection* features 65 works by more than 40 artists from Farago's private collection. Through March 30. •*Traveling Scholars 2002* shows the work of nine School of the Museum of Fine Arts graduates. Through April 6. •*Impressions of Light* surveys French landscape art from Corot to Monet. Through April 13. •*RSVP: Sarah Sze,* a contemporary installation, incorporates the architectural structures of the MFA's West Wing. Through May 3. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative art collection from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*Med Tech: Beyond the Cutting Edge* explores the latest innovations in medical technology. Through February. •*The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt* is the largest selection of artifacts ever loaned by Egypt for an exhibition in North America. Through March 30. •*Invention at Play* is a temporary exhibit that explores the skills children develop in playtime activities. Through April 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •Dana Chandler shows her work in *Denial: Reparations, Installations and Assemblages.* Through March 16.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibit featuring original scu[lptures] and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*[Pacific] Islands Hall,* another ongoing exhibit, displa[ys] facts from the Pacific Islands. •*Hall of the [First] American Indian: Change and Continuity* explo[res] native response to the Europeans' arrival. On[going] •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Por[traits] 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alu[mni] blueprint collection. Through August. •*Thes[e] Were Made for... Walking?* is a collection of sho[es] variety of styles from cultures around the w[orld] Through Feb. 29, 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: C[elebrat]ing Lost Monuments at the Peabody Museum* displa[ys] world's largest Mesoamerican cast colle[ction] Through Feb. 29, 2004.

Galleries
FINE ART

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www[.]zagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon[.]-10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The work of gallery [artists] is featured through Feb. 20.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www[.]gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. [Mon.-]Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Large-Scale Works on Pa[per]* exhibition by Katherine Porter, is on display thr[ough] March 5.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). ww[w.]dengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. [Mon.-]Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •*New Works,* [a] of acrylic paintings by Anthony James, shows thr[ough] Feb. 28. •Anne Packard's oil-on-canvas paintin[gs] displayed in *New Landscapes,* March 3-29.

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (61[7-]6676). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-9am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Photographs by Migu[el] Branco* features the work of the Brazilian multi[-]artist. Through March 3.

Bakalar Gallery
Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., [Boston] (617-879-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Longwood. [Mon.-]Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. •*Mystic* features m[ixed] media work by contemporary international artists [deal]ing with issues of death, transcendence, clairvoy[ance] and spiritualism. Through March 29.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-[2] www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Gree[n Line] to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Donald [Sultan] shows *Editions: Prints and Sculptures.* Through [March] 19.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: [Orange] ange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Six [self-] taught artists show their work in *Go Figure.* Thr[ough] March 1.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). [www.] brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm and [by] pointment.* •*Under the Influence,* a members' exhibi[tion] shows through March 8.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-[5] www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-*[5pm] •Wendy Hoo displays her new watercolors in *[Color] Light.* Through Feb. 27. •*New Paintings* by [Gail] Phillips shows March 4-28.

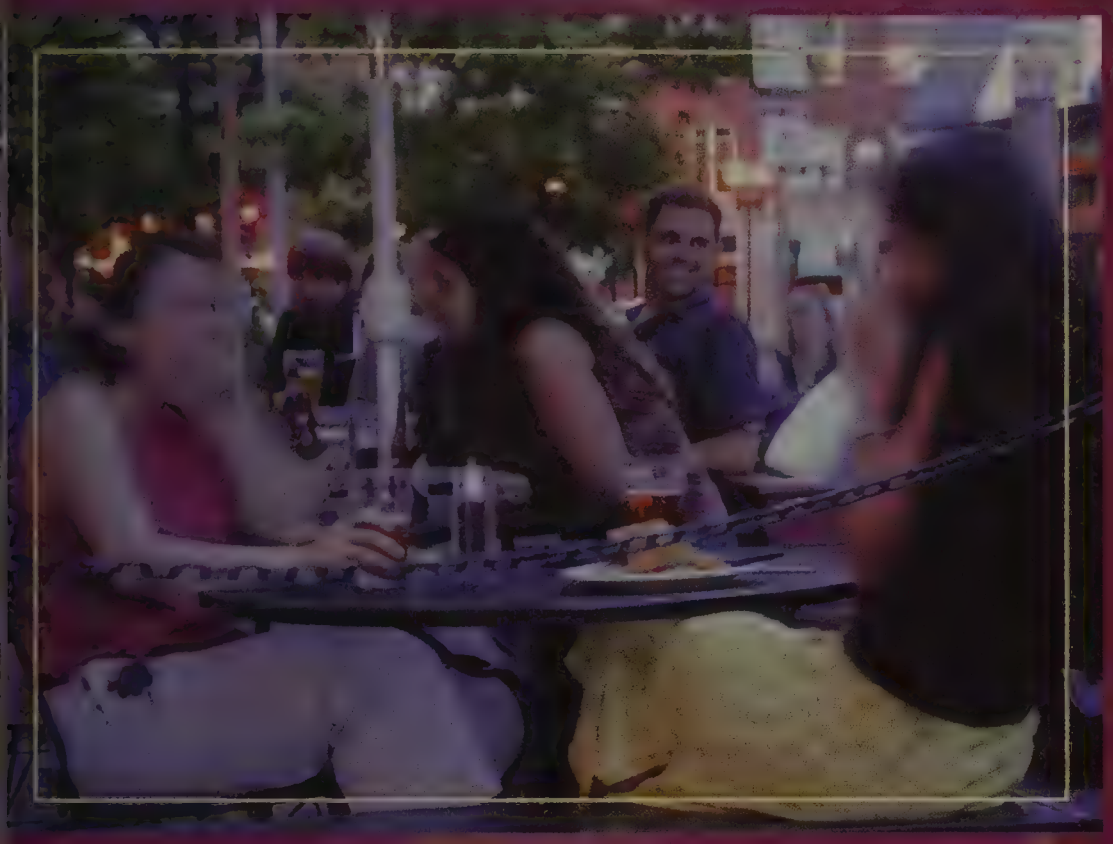
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400 [ext.] www.cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lech[mere] Mon.-Fri., 9:30am-5:30pm.* •*Today's Landscape* [dis]plays paintings by Janet Culbertson. Through [March] 27.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: [Red] Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Sun. [noon-] 11:30pm. •Abstract expressionist Beauford Del[aney] displays his art in *The Color Yellow.* Through May [4]

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.[chap-]pellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlin[gton] Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* •*Ou[r] ken Glass from Japan,* a group show, shows Feb. [14-] April 5.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). [www.] chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. [Mon.-]Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Whitney R[ay] shows her oil paintings in a self-titled s[how.] Through March 2.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). [www.] childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*



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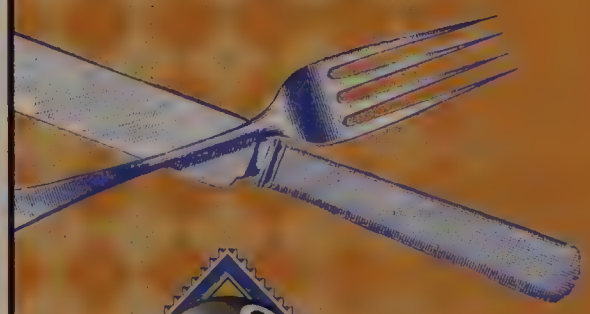

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Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm. •*Southwestern Works on Paper. Artwork by Jack Kramer* and *Face to Face*, a show of portraits, display through March 1.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •The *14th Annual Student Show* displays through Feb. 22. •*Patrons' Choice II*, an exhibition of contemporary realist paintings, shows Feb. 27-March 29.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, South Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •A show of works by Jeff Eldrege, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free. •Don Gurewitz presents his color photography in *Other Places, Other Faces*. Through March 1. •Darlene Devita shows *More New Works from Recent Travels*. March 4-29.

808 Gallery
Boston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-457-8700). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 12-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. •*The North American Print Biennial* presents contemporary artist Apo Torosyan, Feb. 23-April 6. •The work of French printmaker Henri Goetz and his followers is featured in *Carborundum Printmaking: Henri Goetz and His Legacy*. Through April 6.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sun., 12-5pm, and by appointment. •Sharon Engelstein shows her inflatable and digital sculpture in *Cold Air*. Through March 1.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, from paintings to textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Between Evolution and Aberration* features works of imaginary anatomy by Lana Caplan, Danielle Krcmar, Lisa Osborn and Charles Stigliano. Through March 7.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •*Still Life: Studies in Composition and Light* shows works by Campanile, Quaini, Chagall and more. Through Feb. 28.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Tue.,6-9pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5pm.* •Isabel Riley shows her sculptures and Laurel Sparks presents her paintings. Through March 15.

The Gallery at Newbury College
Academic Center Library, 150 Fisher Ave., Brookline (617-730-7071). www.newbury.edu. *Mon.-Thu., 8am-9pm; Fri., 8am-5pm; Sat., 11am-7pm; Sun., 12-8pm.* •*In Out On* displays works by Laurel Sparks, Jeanne Griffin and Arthur Birkland. Through Feb. 28.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Masako Kamiya displays *Paintings* and Jaclyn Salvaggio displays her work in a show titled *Photographs*. Through March 1.

Gallery One
537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm. •Keith Johnson shows a collection of his photographs. Through March 14.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-1577). www.gatewayarts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. Mon.-Fri., 9am-4:30pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Imaginary Constructions*, a group show of architecturally influenced drawings, paintings and sculpture, displays through March 22.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •*Earthly Relations: Ceramics by Malcolm Wright and Photographs by Shaun Wright*, a father-and-son exhibition of earthly art, shows through March 4.

***Today's Landscape* by Janet Culbertson is on display at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center.**

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •*Day Job* explores the lives of artists through their experiences in making a living using two- and three-dimensional media. Through Feb. 21.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hallspace.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Jeff Hull presents *New Paintings*. Through March 1.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Denise Marika shows three video installations in *Bisected: Body Projections*. Through March 18

Huntington Gallery
Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-879-7333). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. Mon.-Fri., 10am - 6pm; Sat., 11am- 5pm. •*Print, Power and Persuasion: Graphic Design in Germany, 1890-1945* features the work of Peter Behrens, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and others. Through March 22.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases vintage posters.

John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse
One Courthouse Way, Boston (617-261-2440). Mon.-Fri., 8am-6pm. •The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities presents *Painting the Geometry of SPNEA: Shadow and Light*, an exhibition of watercolors by Dianne S.P. Cermak. March 3-May 29.

Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 8:30-1pm. •Four artists present their work in *There, Not There*, a mixed-media exhibition. Through Feb. 24.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-6pm. •Eight new artists show their works in *Introductions 2003*. Through March 1. •Guest curator Denise Marika shows works by emerging video artists in *Videospace 2*. Through March 9.

Judy Ann Goldman Fine Art
14 New bury St., Boston (617-424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. David Armstrong presents *New Color Photography*. Through March 1.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •The gallery presents *Icy Sky*, a group exhibition of work by painters, poets and musicians. Through Feb. 20. •*Visions of Greece*, a group show, displays Feb. 22-March 20.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard . Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm.* •*Influence*, a group show of paintings, photography and multimedia, shows through March 20.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Mr. Bad Example* shows the work of American contemporary artist Kevin T. Kelly. Through March 2.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Richard De Veau showcases his paintings in *Fade to Black*. Through March 1.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Form and Function* features furniture, mirrors, rugs and other functional art. Through March 14.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). http://web.mit.edu/lvac. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12pm-6pm; Fri., 12pm-8pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Paul Pfeiffer: Morning After the Deluge and Other Works* uses digital media to explore the universal themes of race, culture and identity. Through April 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markartgallery.com. *Wed. and Fri.,4pm-7pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Doug Adams and Stephen Springer Davis show their prints and pastels in a joint exhibition, *Places Near and Far*. Through Feb. 21. •Rob Brooks and Carol Lynne Gove show their oil paintings in *I See / You See*. Feb. 22-April 4.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Joseph Solman and the Ten* shows March 1-28.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed., 12-5pm; Thu.-Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Boom Box: The Art of Sound* shows through March 9.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm.* •Sam Van Aken presents his multimedia installation *Filler*. Through March 1.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm, Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •Merle Poulton and Milan Klic show their abstract painting and sculpture. Through March 2.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany Street, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11am-4pm. •Andy Zimmerman presents *City Fields*, an exhibition of sculpture. Through Feb. 22.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Tue.-Sun., 11am-6pm. •*New Art for '03*, a group show featuring the horses of Eduardo Marquez, shows through March 3.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •John Lees shows his work with gallery artists. Feb. 22-March 22.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Suzan Batu displays her abstract work in *Paintings*. Through March 1.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Sixth Annual Figurative Show* displays the work of 50 local artists. Through March 31.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Ar-*

lington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Eileen Gill[e] presents *New Drawings*. Through Feb. 22. •*Fr[om] bles*, a group exhibition of assemblage work. [sh] Feb. 27-March 29.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). [w] puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to C[o] Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Shi[g] Matsuzaki shows drawings in *Art and Alch[e]* Through March 6.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MB[TA:] Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing [se]lection of 19th- and 20th-century American and [Eu]ropean paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.rob[er]tleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. [Tue.-] Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm.* •Artists [dis]play portraits in *Face to Face*. Through March 14.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). [Tue.-] Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. •Lithograp[hs,] etchings and linocuts by artists including Bra[que,] Chagall and Picasso display through Feb. [28.] •Works by Picasso and Sonia Delaunay show in *[Im]ages*. March 1-May 3.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). [ww] societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., [12-]5pm.* •*Jewelry Hard and Soft*, a group show of inter[na]tional artists and craftsman, shows through April [27.]

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (617-423-97[76] www.space12gallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-9pm; Wed., 12-9pm.* A group of artists show their interpretations of a gallery's sofa in *The Sofa Show*. Through March [1.]

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MB[TA:] Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., [12-]6pm. •Paintings of New England, Italy, Mexico [and] Provence show in *Odyssey*. Through March 22.

Tufts University Gallery
Aidekman Arts Center, 40 Talbot Ave., Medford (6[17-]627-3518). www.tufts.edu/as/gallery. *MBTA: [Green] Line to Davis Square. Tue.-Sat., 12-8pm; Sun., 12-[5pm]* •*Abayudaya: The Jews of Uganda*, an exhibition [of] color photography, shows through March 23.

University Place Gallery
124 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (617-876-02[55] www.cambridgeart.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harv[ard] Square. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 9am-3pm.* •*A[rt] Love* shows the work of special-needs childr[en.] Through March 20.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). [ww] vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co[py] Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •A se[lec]tion of works from *Vose Art Notes Vol. 11*, the galle[ry] collection, shows through March 31.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-[536-]4030). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am- 5:30pm, and by appo[int]ment. •*John Dowd: Boston Series* shows realist pa[in]tings reflecting on urban landscapes. Throu[gh] March 1.

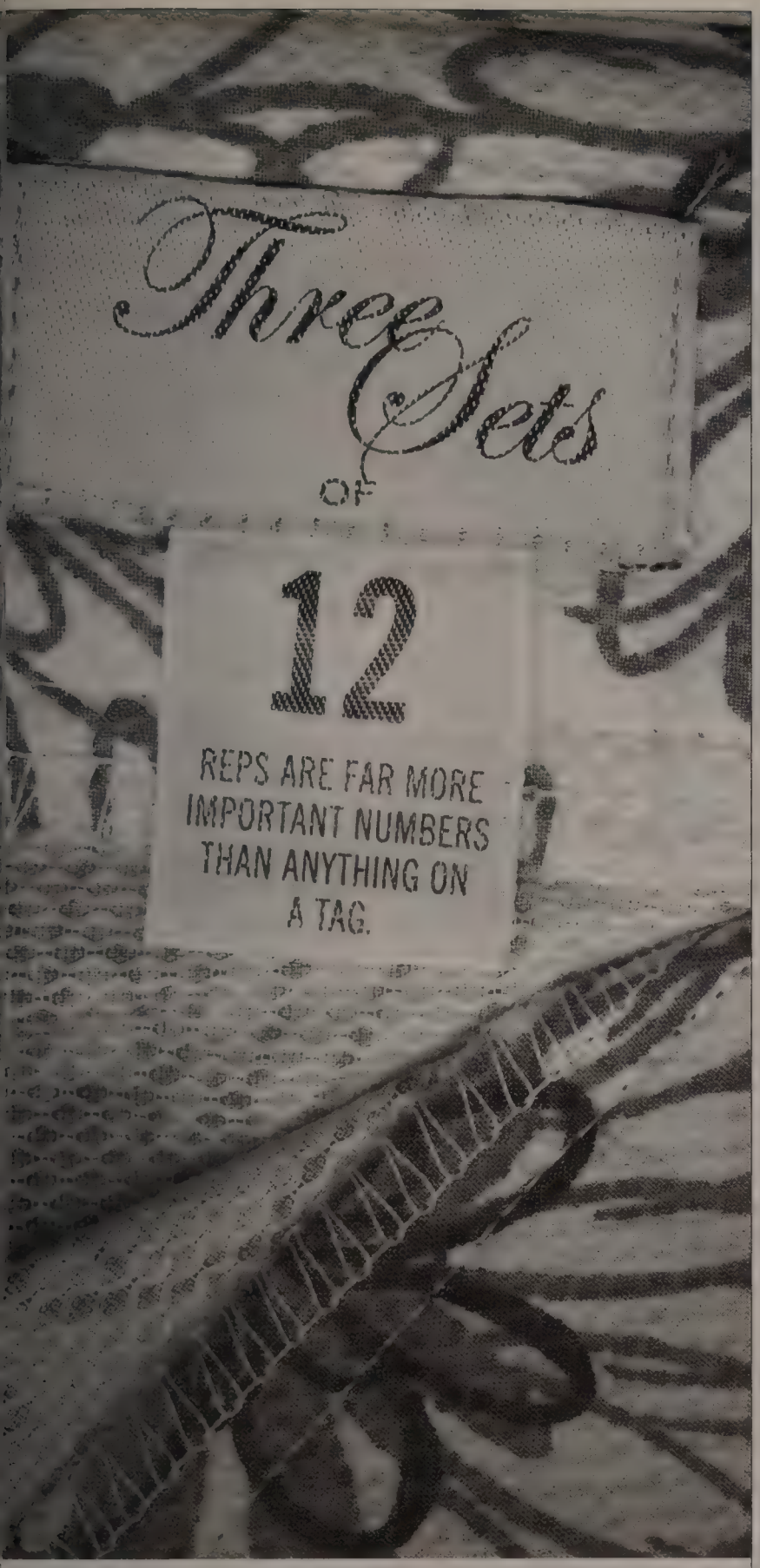
Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-60[00] www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-[6pm]* •*Unacceptable* showcases the music of Doctor El[ec]tro, performance pieces by David Kalinowski, David Gross, and a film by Doctor Selenium. [Feb.] 26, 8:30pm, $5. •*Between Rock and an Art Place* show[s] cases the artwork of rock musicians, including Pe[te] Wolf and Roger Miller. Through March 1. •*Comi[c] Art: Original Comic Art and Ephemera* shows the work such notable comic artists as R. Crumb and [the] Clowes. March 4-23.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Jackson Homestead Museum
527 Washington St., Newton (617-796-1450). [Tue.-] Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun., 2pm-5pm. $1-$5. •*Gla[ss] New England Churches: Photography by Steve Ros[en]thal* showcases the beauty of churches through the historical New England landscape. Throu[gh] April 30.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-186[8] www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. [Mon.-] Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Keith Johnson's *Photographs* sho[w] through March 14.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). [ww] panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm and by appo[int]ment.* •Charles Gauthier exhibits his photograp[hs] Through March 29.



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READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

Harvard Book Store
Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Harvard Law graduate **Helen E. Lee** reads from *Water Marked*, the story of two estranged sisters who reunite in order to better understand their family. Also, **Randall Kenan** reads from *A Visitation of Spirits*, a novel that traces an African-American family through six generations.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

Barnes and Noble
Boston University, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Boston University professor **Shahla Haeri** discusses her new book, *No Shame for the Sun: Lives of Professional Pakistani Women*, which examines the experiences of six middle- and upper-class women to explore the roles of identity, marriage and religion in their lives.

Boston Center For Adult Education
5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30pm. $16. Cambridge funny guy **Dan Zevin** discusses his book *The Day I Turned Uncool: Confessions of a Reluctant Grown-up*, a lighthearted look at the compromises of turning 30.

Brookline Booksmith
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2. **Susie Bright**, a sex writer and editor of the *Best American Erotica* series, reads from the 2003 edition.

Harvard Book Store
Harvard Information Center, 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free (tickets required). **Nathaniel Bellows**, poet and contributor to *Ploughshares*, reads from his first novel, *On This Day*, the story of two siblings who are orphaned when their parents die in the same year.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Deirdre Chetham**, director of the Harvard University Asia Center, reads from her book *Before the Deluge: The Vanishing World of the Yangtze's Three Gorges*, which documents the communities soon to be demolished by the construction of a hydroelectric dam on China's upper Yangtze River.

New Words Bookstore
77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 7pm. Free. Lesbian writer and scholar **Lillian Faderman** reads from her memoir *Naked in the Promised Land*, which traces her life from her impoverished youth to her time spent as a burlesque stripper to her career as an author and outspoken lesbian.

New Words Bookstore
Simmons College, Third Floor Conference Center, Boston (617-876-5310). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. **Aida Hurtado**, professor of psychology at the University of California Santa Cruz, discusses *Voicing Chicana Feminisms*, in which she relates Chicana feminist theories to the everyday lives of Mexican-American women in their 20s and 30s.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. MIT professor of management and urban studies **Paul Osterman** discusses his latest book, *Gathering Power: The Future of Progressive Politics in America*, a platform for reviving the American progressive movement.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7pm. Free. Danuta Gleed Literary Award-winner **Ivan E. Coyote** reads from her latest work, *One Man's Trash*, a collection of stories about gay experiences and life on the road.

T. Coraghessan Boyle reads from *Drop City* Feb. 27 at WordsWorth.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 4pm. Free. Veteran mystery writer **Timothy Sheard** reads from *This Won't Hurt a Bit*, a story of murder in a hospital surgical ward.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

Blacksmith House
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. Pulitzer Prize finalist **Willis Barnstone** reads from *The New Covenant: The Four Gospels and Apocalypse*, a literary translation of the books of the New Testament. Also, Pushcart Prize winner **Jeffrey Harrison** reads from his third poetry collection, *Feeding the Fire.*

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6pm. Free. **George Harrar**, a contributor to *The Best American Short Stories 1999*, reads from his psychological thriller *The Spinning Man*, in which a mild-mannered philosophy professor is suspected in a local kidnapping.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Psychotherapist, writer and speaker **Miriam Greenspan** reads from *Healing Through the Dark Emotions: The Other Side of Grief, Fear and Despair*, in which she explains how to use so-called bad emotions to help the healing process.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660) MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Oxford graduate and Gold Dagger Award winner **Robert Wilson** reads from his murder mystery *The Blind Man of Seville*, in which a detective looks into his own past to track down a serial killer.

Harvard Book Store
Askwith Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Neuroscientist and award-winning author **Antonio Damasio** reads from *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow and the Feeling Brain*, a look at the 17th-century philosopher's ideas on the connection between body and mind.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Fiction and non-fiction writer **Will Self** reads from his latest novel, *Dorian: An Imitation*, a modern retelling of Oscar Wilde's classic *The Picture of Dorian Gray.*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Barnes and Noble
Boston University, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Massachusetts native **Paul Martin** reads from his memoir *One Man's Leg*, the story of his recovery from the loss of his left leg and his rise to glory as a Paralympic competitor.

Cambridge Forum at First Parish Church
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Daniel Taylor-Ide**, co-author of *Just and Lasting Change: When Communities Own Their Futures*, discusses the book, which provides a model for community development in the age of globalization.

Harvard Book Store
The Barker Center, 12 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Haitian-American **Edwidge Danticat** reads from her second novel, *The Farming of Bones*, a love story set during the 1937 ethnic cleansing of Haitians by Dominicans. Also, former *Village Voice* critic **Colson Whitehead** reads from *John Henry Days*, which parallels the story of a man stifled by the Industrial Revolution with the contemporary story of a man shut down by the Digital Age.

Harvard Book Store
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. **Jonathan Shay**, a psychiatrist in Boston's department of Veteran Affairs, discusses *Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming*, which relates Homer's *Odyssey* to the experiences of soldiers returning from combat.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **George Harrar** does a second round of discussion and book signing when he reads from *The Spinning Man*. See Feb. 24 listing for details.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660) MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Nuala O'Faolain** reads from her memoir *Almost There: The Onward Journey of a Dublin Woman*, an exploration of the changes in her life since the success of her earlier memoir, *Are You Somebody?*

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **T. Coraghessan Boyle**, author of *The Tortilla Curtain*, reads from his ninth novel, *Drop City*, in which a hippie commune run amok migrates to Alaska and comedically clashes with the locals.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Nuala O'Faolain** reads from *Almost There: The Onward Journey of a Dublin Woman*, her new memoir. See Feb. 27 listing for details.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Harvard Law School professor **Martha Minow** reads from her book *Breaking the Cycles of Hatred: Memory, Law and Repair*, which combines political and legal theory in an attempt to find alternatives to conventional criminal proceedings.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Forest Hills Educational Trust
Forsyth Chapel, Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2pm. $4. In an event titled Poets Shaped by History, local poets **Susan Donnelly**, **Rhina P. Espaillat**, **Len Krisak** and **Fred Merchant** read from their work, which focuses on how history affects ordinary people.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Blacksmith House Poetry
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. Poet **Paul Violi** reads from his first prose work, *Selected Accidents, Pointless An* collection of humorous stories. Also, **Kate Gadb** from her Mary McCarthy Prize–winning novel *Shore*, about a creative-writing professor and V namese-refugee students.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Andy Bellin**, jo and semi-professional poker player, reads f debut book *Poker Nation: A High-Stakes, Lou venture into the Heart of a Gambling Country*, a loo basics of the game and underground poker club the country.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Barnes and Noble
Boston University School of Management Auditori Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA Line to Kenmore or B Green Line to Blandford. 7p York Times–bestselling author **Suze Ormon** rea *The Laws of Money, the Lessons of Life: Keep W Have and Create What You Deserve*, her third g personal finance.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660) C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Form *Street Journal* columnist **Erik Larson** reads fr *Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Ma the Fair That Changed America*, a true story in the master architect who designed the 1893 C World's Fair and a serial killer who took adva the crowds drawn by the fair.

Harvard Museum of Natural Histo
24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-496-8204). MB Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. **Edward O. Wilson**, P Prize–winning author and honorary curator mology at the Harvard Museum of Natural H discusses his latest book, *Pheidole in the New W Dominant, Hyperdiverse Ant Genus*, which exam largest and most successful ant genus.

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear wha Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday th vard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sunda
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm, poetry slam. 9pm, poe $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background t the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MB Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock a ken word is performed one Monday a month. T formers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridg 354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3 Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titl *Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Monday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Can (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets hav weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617 4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown ing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each offers a selection of featured poets and an oppor at the open mike.

Andy Bellin reads from his debut book, *Po Nation*, at WordsWorth Books March 3.

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m press releases by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Cal-'a Education or e-mail to education@improper.com. *ene is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

IDNESDAY, FEB. 19

N ion Reformed?
rd Graduate School of Education, Longfellow l Appian Way, Cambridge (617-495-0740). gse.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Har-5pm. Free.* **David Gordon**, editor of *A Nation oved?*, moderates a panel discussion with the s contributors on the educational changes l last 20 years.

esign of Contested Urban Spaces
b Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 y on St., Boston (617-536-5400). www. g. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free.* n ridge architect **Richard Sommer** explores nflicting aims of the various constituen-seeking to shape major urban spaces—in-ng Boston's new downtown corridor over ntral Artery—and the need for clear visual ohation to resolve such conflicts.

HURSDAY, FEB. 20

n ica Online/
pr ASW Cyberstudy Breakfast
rl Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., (617-227-2822, ext. 203). www.mimc.org. A: Green Line to Copley. 8:30-10:30am. Free. **n l Taub**, director of market research at nlica Online, presents the fifth installment s yearly in-depth study of cyberspace and ipact on our daily lives.

son's Topographical History: aing Land in Boston
l uth Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston 482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse. *.1BTA: Green Line to Park. 12:15-1pm. $5.* s n University research fellow **Nancy Sea-** explains the "making of land" in areas like Bay and Beacon Hill from the 1630s to today.

ry: Telling Boston's Story
th Greenway
l Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 ton St., Boston (617-536-5400). www. g. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free.* **l Garver** of the Boston Redevelopment Au-ly moderates this discussion about the fu-lose Kennedy Greenway.

FURDAY, FEB. 22

Exchange: A Conference on al Enterprise
rd Business School, Soldiers Field Road, Boston 495-6000). http://sa.hbs.edu/social/ex-e. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8am-5pm. 50.* Harvard Business School, in conjunc-ith the John F. Kennedy School of Govern-hosts its fourth annual conference on social rise. Business leaders from the public and e sectors discuss today's global challenges gh panel sessions and group lunches.

AIDS and Famine in Ethiopia
Room 10-250, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (857-276). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 10am. This features a group of professionals who have d and written papers on the issues of famine HIV/AIDS in the African continent.

NDAY, FEB. 24

Image, Culture and Media
n Conference Center, Harvard Graduate School cation, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-724-). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7-9pm. Free. orum moderated by **Liz Brunner** of WCVB nel 5 includes **Jamie-Lynn Sigler** from the os, who talks about her struggle with an eat-sorder; **Abby Gardner**, beauty director of Magazine; and **Rachel Simmons**, author of *irl Out*, who discusses the hidden culture of ssion in girls.

Scientifique
ine Bar, 59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. heastern physics professor **Steve Reucroft** sses the Higgs particle and the history of n the universe.

timental Vice of the 18th Century
ffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Cronkhite Gradu-nter, 6 Ash St., Cambridge (617-495-8601). www.radcliffe.edu. 4pm. Free. Reception follows. **Lynn Festa**, assistant professor of English at Harvard University, presents her work on the relationship between the sentimental novel and European global expansion.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

Constructing America: The Use and Abuse of New Deal Photography
Brickbottom Gallery, 1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). **Dr. Marja Roholl** shows selected images from a collection of 270,000 photos made between 1935-1945 for the Farm Security Administration. Some images recall the hard times of the Depression era, others document the United We Stand spirit of the American homefront during World War II, which resonates uncannily with the post Sept. 11 rally around the flag.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

Criminal Justice, Cultural Justice
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Cronkhite Graduate Center, 6 Ash St., Cambridge (617-495-8601). www.radcliffe.edu. 4pm. Free. Reception follows. Professor of anthropology at the University of Chicago **John Comaroff** presents his studies on the "metaphysics of disorder" that challenge the fledgling democracy in post-apartheid South Africa.

Sins of Passion
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6:30pm. Free with regular admission ($10).* In the second of a continuing series on Dante at the Gardner, Wellesley College professor **Rachel Jacoff** will discuss *Inferno*'s *Canto V* and the poem's exploration of the power of love.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

Vegetarianism: Is It Right for You?
Brookline Adult & Community Education, Brookline High School, Room 101, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-730-2700). www.brooklineadulted.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-8:30pm. $5.* Nutritionists **Lilah Al-Masri** and **Katherine Almy** explore the different categories of vegetarianism and discuss ways of making it a healthy and nutritional lifestyle.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

Another World is Possible
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Longfellow Hall, Appian Way, Cambridge (617-495-5903). www.gse.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* MIT professor **Noam Chomsky** and others offer constructive pathways to economic globalization.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Dinosaur Social Behavior
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm.* World-renowned dinosaur collector and researcher **Jack Horner**, who was the paleontological consultant on the movies *Jurassic Park* and *The Lost World*, speaks about the behavior of dinosaurs.

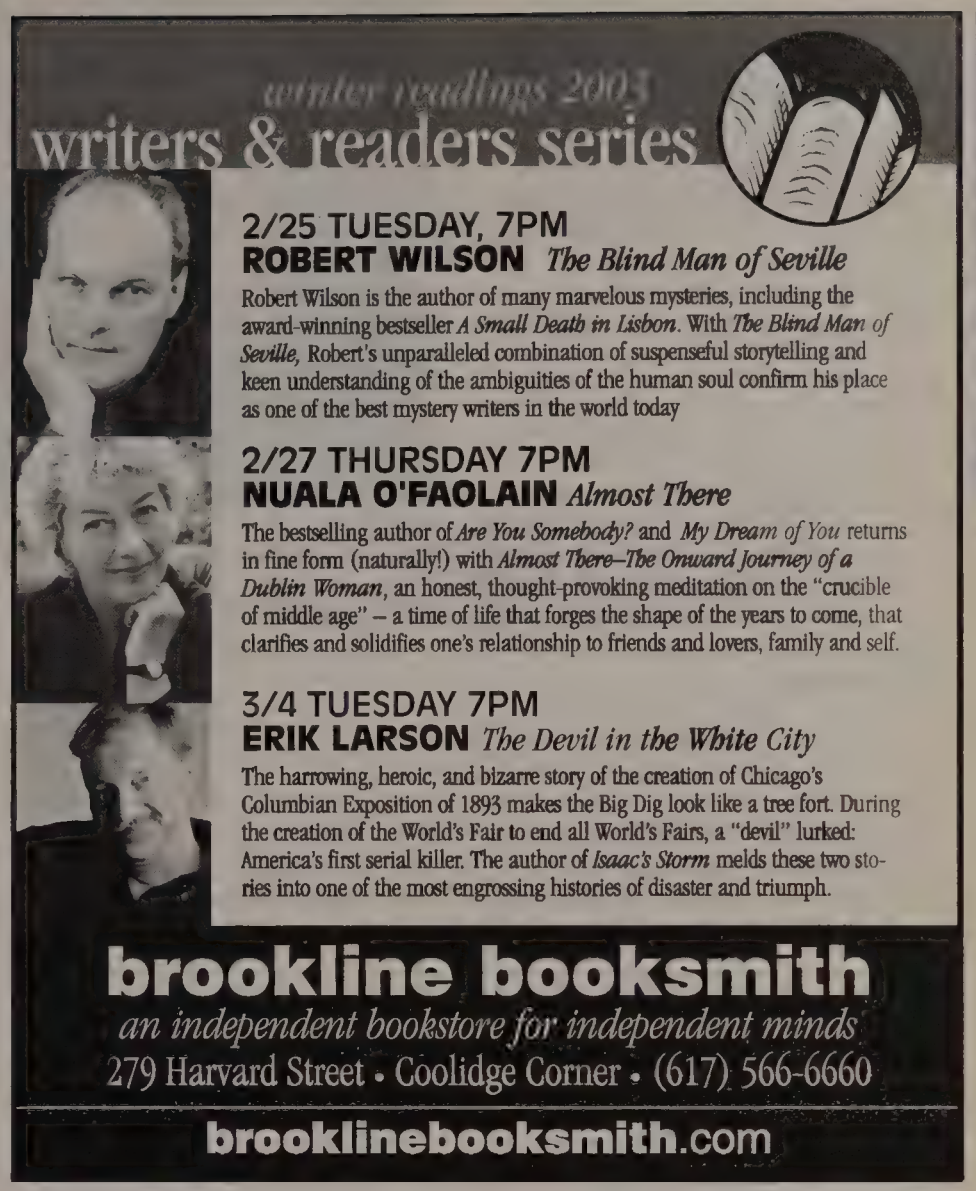
The Monster of Troy: Fossil Discoveries in Classical Antiquity
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Museum. 3pm.* The giants and monsters of classical myth may have a basis in fact—in the enormous fossilized bones of long extinct species that were collected, measured and displayed by the ancient Greeks and Romans. Combining the skills of a classical scholar with those of a dinosaur hunter, folklorist and author **Adrienne Mayor** will discuss the little-known literary and archaeological evidence that documents the discovery and interpretation of fossil remains in the ancient world.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Human Rights and the Legacy of Robert F. Kennedy
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. 5:30-7pm. Free (reservations required).* **Kerry Kennedy Cuomo**, the daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, joins **Poune Viand** and **Peter Edelman** for this discussion. Former *New York Times* columnist **Anthony Lewis** moderates.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Charles Francis Adams Lecture Series
ASEAN Auditorium, Tufts University, Medford (617-627-3700). www.tufts.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 5pm. Free.* **Marsha Johnson Evans**, president and CEO of the American Red Cross and former head of the Girl Scouts of America, speaks.



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CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show is held the last Monday of every month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Fridays, Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Fridays, Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, presents "Anything Goes." DJ Thom Delahunt spins house at this evening for women. *www.circuitgirl.com.* 10pm, $10, 21+. •On Saturdays Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—a pool room and a lounge keep the men busy until at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am- 9pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Tuesdays, catch the Retro Rewind, 8:30pm. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music videos as well as classic movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jacques. No cover, 21+.

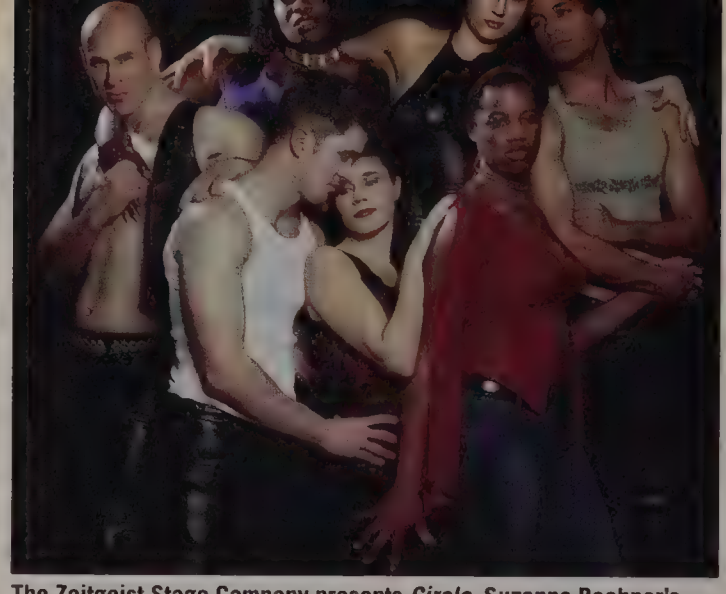
Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. The folks here are really friendly—and really into sports. DIRECTV is set up with screens scattered about and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Sun.-Fri., 12pm; Sat., 11am. No cover, 21+.

Geoffrey's Café-Bar (Daily)
160 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-11pm daily; bar open until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers 52 varieties of wine and mid-priced bistro fare. Breakfast is served daily until 3pm.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Cabaret drag show. Mon.-Sat., 10:30pm; Sun., 10pm. $5 weekdays; $7 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu. and Sat.: Avalon bartender "Miss Chris" performs. 10:30pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10pm, $5-$8.



The Zeitgeist Stage Company presents *Circle*, Suzanne Bachner's adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's sexual comedy, *La Ronde*.

Machine (Wednesdays-Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Curve Wed.: DJ Joe Bermudez spins house and techno music. 10pm-2am, $9, 19+; $7, 21+. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Manhunt Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Sun.: Trix lesbian night features DJ Mix Mistress spinning house, hip-hop and Latin. 10pm-2am, $5, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays and Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thursdays is Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $10, 19+; $8, 21+. •Liquid Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $10, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. Queer men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland with live entertainment, including Drag Bingo, spoken word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top-40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Groove, 10pm-2am, $3, 19+. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop, $5, 21+. •Fri.: Vibe with DJ Susan Esthera spinning tribal, $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* •Feb. 20, 7pm. Free. *MIT, 77 Mass. Ave. Cambridge Building 6, Rm. 120.* **Lillian Faderman** reads from her memoir *Naked in the Promised Land.* •Feb. 20, 7pm. Free. *Simmons College, 3rd Floor Conference Center. 300 The Fenway.* **Aido Hurtado** reads from *Voicing Chicana Feminisms.* •Feb. 21, 7pm. Free. *New Words Bookstore.* **Ivan E. Coyote** reads from her Danuta Gleed Literary Award–winning novel *One Man's Trash.* •Feb. 28, 7:30pm. $5. Female writers of all genres are invited to participate in the New Words open mike with writer **Chaelon I.O. Myme**.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Boys/Bois Night Out
Milky Way Lounge, 401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.boisclub.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. Feb. 23, 6:30 pm.* This social group for anyone on the queer masculine/boy/boi spectrum offers pizza and drag bingo in a relaxed social setting. 21+ after 7pm.

Circle
Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.zeitgeiststage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay; Green Line to Copley. Feb. 21-March 15. Fri.-Sun., 8pm. $20.* The Zeitgeist Stage Company presents the Off-Off Broadway Review Award–winning adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's sexual comedy *La Ronde.* The play follows 10 sexual encounters of gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual couples.

Queer-o-Rama
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-9393). www.coolidge.org. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Through Feb. 20.* The Coolidge Corner Theatre celebrates its annual tribute to gay cinema with a series of shorts, features and documentaries by or about the GLBT community.
•Feb. 19, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Burnt Money** *2001.* Based on a true story of bank-robbing gay lovers, this Argentinean film tells the story of a bank heist gone horribly awry. Directed by Marcelo Pineryo.
•Also showing, 8pm. **American Mullet** *2002.* This film about the most versatile, yet least respected hairdo in recent history highlights the mullet and the lesbians, country-western stars, and others who love it. •Immediately following. **Lesbian Fashion?** Ellen Degeneres, Lily Tomlin and Kate Clinton ruminate over the idea of lesbian fashion in Mary Jo Godges and Renee Sotile's mini-documentary.
•Feb. 20, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Second Skin** *2001.* Gerardo Vera's intense drama about the complexities of sexual desire follows the struggle of a publicly heterosexual man to keep his affair with a gay surgeon (Javier Bardem) a secret from his wife. •Also showing, 7:30 pm. **Southern Comfort** *2001.* This documentary tells the story of Robert Eads, a cowboy who first married and raised two sons as a woman before living as a man coping with ovarian cancer.
•Feb. 21 and 22, 12am. **Can't Stop the Music** *1980.* When a young musician (Steve Guttenberg) is looking for a group to perform his next hit song, he enlists the help of six flamboyant characters in Nancy Walker's camp classic about the formation of the Village People. Admission is free for those who come dressed as a member of the Village People.

Queer Speed Dating
Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-0219) www.butchdykeboy.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. Feb. 27, 6:30pm.* Meet others in the gay community (all genders welcome) through a series of mini dates while enjoying music and refreshments.

Rainbow Chaser
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay; Green Line to Copley. Through March 1. Thu., Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 7 and 9pm. $20; $15 students and seniors. The T&A Theatre Company presents Todd Michael Hall's poetry-based play about the ups and downs of gay male life, addressing everything from bitch fights to phone sex.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual and

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join competitive, recreational group of rowers and sculle

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: G Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon-Thurs, 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green L to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct action politi group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This dr in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-mem gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (61 424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal su port group meets on the first Wednesday and th Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (61 927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for m and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of ea month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Ca bridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensi guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create per mances representing women's perspectives. E-m *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Bo (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri. 11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, natio hotline is confidential and provides information support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (61 742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. A group gay/bisexual fathers and their partners conve every first and third Tuesday of the month.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in develop healthy gay relationships features alternatives for ma ing and dating, communication games, singles mix and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for g men and lesbians who want to get together and en board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bo (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Mond evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

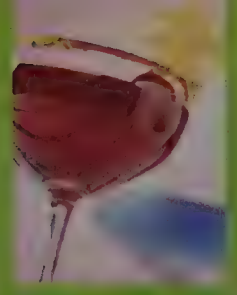
LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Ass New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim tea

Meow_Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston/. This cial group caters to feminine bisexual women and l bians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swin Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers pro information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLB) GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to orga projects, which include making communities sa



It's time again for you to choose

Boston's
BELOVED BARTENDERS

Who's your favorite bartender? _____

Where does he/she work? _____

Which night(s) does he/she work? _____

What's his/her signature drink? _____

What makes him/her the best? _____

_____

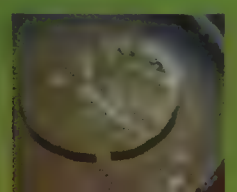
Your name/phone number/e-mail: _____

[Deadline: February 27, 2003]

Send to:
BELOVED BARTENDERS
The Improper Bostonian Magazine
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Fax: 617-859-1446

WHAT MAKES A GREAT BARTENDER?

Is it sheer *Cocktail*-esque flair with the bottles, an encyclopedic knowledge of potent potions, a simple willingness to go through the credit-card routine for someone with a two-drink tab? We want to know. Pick up a pen and tell us who makes the mixes, pours the pints and sets up the shots that shake and stir your unflagging adoration. Show your appreciation by voting to immortalize your favorite mixologist in our next Beloved Bartender issue.



body&mind

Advice to Contributors *Submit updated information by mail, by fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to* bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Dances of Universal Peace

Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 21, 7:30-9:30pm. Requested donation: $6-$10. Join hands in simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. All dances are taught and are accompanied by live music.

Meditation and Inner Intensive

Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (978-281-6566). www.onenessproductions.org *or* www.ishafoundation.org. *Feb. 22, 9am-6pm. $145. Lunch will be provided.* Yogi and mystic Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is the founder of the Isha Foundation, an international public service organization dedicated to helping people better understand themselves. His workshop features guided meditations, discussions and yoga that allows a deep experience that transcends the limitations of the five senses.

Mystical Movie Night

Open Doors, 395A Washington St., Braintree (781-843-8224). www.inspiredevents.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Braintree. Feb. 20, 6:30-9:30pm.* See and discuss inspirational and mystical movies prized for their themes of afterlife, creativity, healing, incarnations, myth, religion and spirit. This evening's feature is *Ghost*, starring Demi Moore.

Susie Bright Reads from *The Best American Erotica 2003*

Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). Feb. 20, 6pm. $2. Author, editor and sexpert Susie Bright reads from this year's selections.

Ta Ke Ti Na: The Synergy of Flow & Pulse

Cambridge Masonic Hall, 1950 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (978-371-2502). www.taketina.com or www.earthdrum.com. *Feb. 21-23 (20.5 hours over three days). $345.* Master percussionist/composer Reinhard Flatischler and musician Cornelia Flatischler from Austria host this workshop. Learn how to express yourself through your voice and gain a better understanding of your body using rhythmic moves. Produced in collaboration with the Earth Drum Council and the Institute for Body, Mind, and Spirituality at Lesley University.

LECTURES

Mysticism and Mourning in Margaret Ebner's Revelations

Boston University, Boston University School of Management, 595 Comm. Ave., Room 416, Boston (617-358-1754). Feb. 27, 5pm. Free. Religion professor Amy Hollywood explores the writings of the 14th-century Dominican nun, focusing specifically on the relationship between Ebner's literary style and the devotional and spiritual experience she sought to recreate in her text.

WORKSHOPS

Beginners Meditation Workshop

Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Feb. 22, 10am-4pm.* This daylong workshop includes meditation instruction, formal sitting, walking practice and group discussion. It's designed for people who have no meditation experience or who are relatively new to Vipassana.

Change How You're Feeling...Breathe!

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Feb. 26, 7-9:30pm. $39.* Reiki master and qi gong instructor Judith Poole discusses how your state of mind can be profoundly influenced by the way you breathe. Whether you wish to lose weight, calm an anxious mind, relieve pain, promote healing, wake yourself up without caffeine, think more clearly or learn to meditate, there is a breathing method for accomplishing your goal.

Discover Interrelationships Between Mind, Body and Emotions

Wellspace, 1 New St., Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (617-876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *Feb. 28, 7pm-9pm. Free.* This workshop introduces you to the experience of the mind, body and emotions working together. While focusing on a personal issue, you will learn how movement can be used to discover your emotional barriers to resolving that issue and how your mental attitudes impact the issue.

Emotional Roots of Disease

Theosophical Society, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *Feb. 21, 7:30pm. $10.* Join Carolyn Romano for a discussion of different diseases and conditions and how they may be linked to our emotions. Psychocellular communication therapy and past-life, or "back-door," hypnosis will be explored as two ways to clear or reverse disease.

Face Reading for Health

Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). March 1, 10am-3pm. $100. Susan Krieger is a teacher, counselor and practitioner of Asian and Chinese medicine and holistic and macrobiotic health and nutrition. In this workshop, look at the color and shape of your face, plus the pattern of wrinkles, to see what they say about your emotional and physical well-being.

The Joy of Stretching

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Feb. 22, 12:30-5:00pm. $70.* Loosen up tight muscles and stiff joints without pain or strain. You'll learn to inhibit the natural tendency of muscles to tighten or spasm under stress. Practice breathing and self-awareness to help you stretch and move freely.

Restorative Yoga Workshops

Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Feb. 28, 6-8:30pm. $25. These restorative yoga workshops may help those experiencing stress, fatigue, sickness or sleep problems and seeking a quiet, centering respite.

Soul-Hunting Ritual

Brazilian Cultural Center, 310 Webster Ave., Cambridge (617-547-5343). www.trancedance.com. *Feb. 21. $30.* The Soul Hunting Ritual uses breathing techniques, movement, sounds and music as catalysts to transport participants into a mental state where it may be possible to reconnect to lost pieces of their souls. These rituals aim to heal physical, mental or emotional traumas a person may have experienced during his or her lifetime.

RETREAT

Minding the Body, Mending the Mind and Spirit

Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. *Feb. 21-23. $347 and up.* Research in psychoneuroimmunology and behavioral medicine suggests that peace, forgiveness and love can cure physical illness. Join author and scientist Dr. Joan Borysenko and explore your vital energy while learning calming and healing techniques.

ONGOING

Introduction to Ashtanga Yoga

Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sundays, 4pm. Take it slow and learn the basics of this ancient form of yoga.

Meditation

The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles or Green Line to Government Center. March 2, 11am-1pm. $15 suggested donation will be given to charity.* These mindfulness classes focus on breathing and finding your own personal path to peace of mind. Meditation helps you get in touch with yourself and complements Hatha yoga by developing concentration.

Dr. Joan Borysenko discusses healing techniques at the Kripalu Center in Lenox, Mass.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

Charlotte's Web

C. Walsh Theatre, 55 Temple St., Boston (617-424-6634). www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. Through Feb. 22, 2pm. $10-$20.* Boston Children's Theatre presents an adaptation of E.B. White's book. Farm girl Fern and a friendly spider help save a pig from becoming bacon while learning the meaning of true friendship.

Disney on Ice Presents Princess Classics

FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Feb. 19, 1 and 4:30pm; Feb. 20, 10:30am and 2:30pm; Feb. 21 and 22, 11am, 3 and 7pm; Feb. 23, 1 and 4:30pm. $12-$60. Cinderella, Jasmine, Ariel, Sleeping Beauty, Belle, Mulan and Snow White join together in Disney's new on-ice adventure.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Saturdays, 6pm.* ImprovBoston's Family Showcase presents a medieval fantasy show combining improvisation and role-playing to create a serial adventure subject to the whims of the audience.

Kids Variety Show

290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 10:30am. $8.50, $6 children. Each show opens with a mix of music, dance, stories, games and prizes, and is followed by a feature performer. • Feb. 22: Alex the Jester's *Feast of Fools* is a day of jesting, juggling, music and clowning. • March 1, $1 (and $1 popcorn): *The Wind in the Willows* shows on the big screen.

Magic for Muggles Who Love to Read

Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400, ext. 2328). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Feb. 19, 10 and 11:30am. Throckmorton the Wizard performs in a magic show that includes storytelling and a puppet show.

The Princess and the Pea

Arlington Street Church, Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (617-842-7927). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 1, 11am. A handsome young prince travels the world to find a real princess in this children's production by the Pocket Full of Tales theater company.

Puppet Showplace Theatre

32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. • Feb. 19, 1 and 3 pm, ages 4-8: Puppet artist Paul Vincent Davis presents *Androcles and the Lion* and *The Golden Touch of Midas*. • Feb. 20-23, 1 and 3pm, ages 4-8: Randall McGee and the friendly dragon Groark perform in *Dragon Tales*. • Feb. 26 and 27, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Sarah Lamstein tells the tale of three magical journeys in *Funny Bone Tales*.

The Will Rogers Follies

The Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). MBTA: Green Line to Longwood or Fenway. Fri., 7:30pm; Sat.-Sun., 3pm. Through Feb. 23. $12-$18. The Tony Award–winning production recounts the colorful life and times of the "cowboy-philosopher and self-styled 'poet lariat.'"

Wizard's Crystal

The Leland Center at Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). Sat., 2pm. Through Feb. 22. The chase is on in this children's performance by the Pocket Full of Tales theater company. The good wizard Paraffin and the evil sorceress Balderdash race to find the lost magic crystal.

THINGS TO DO

The Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* • KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15pm. • Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* • Feb. 19, 11am-2pm: Black Performance Series presents *Carnival!* Son Del Caribe performs music from Cuba and Puerto Rico and beats of the Caribbean. • Feb. 20: Justin Petty speaks about the history of the Steel Band. • Feb. 21: Sunsteel fuses jazz and calypso.

Children's Publishing Workshop

National Heritage Museum, 33 Marret Road/Rt. Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. 20, *10am. $9.* Learn printing as it was done in Colonial times.

The Discovery Museums

177 Main St., Acton (978-264-4200). www.discovermuseums.org. *Feb. 15-23, 9am-4:30pm. Children's Discovery Museum: Wed, Thu., Sat., Sun., 9am-4:30pm and Fri., 1-4:30pm. Science Discovery Museum: Tue. and Fri., 1-4:30pm; Wed., 1-6pm; Sat. and Sun., 9-4:30 $8 one museum; $12 two museums.* • Feb. 20, 9-11am: build a Geodesic Dome in celebration of engineer week. • Feb. 20, 10am-12pm: The Children's Mus brings out its *Duplo Extravaganza* exhibit. • Feb. 4pm: Cut and color pictures for each letter of the al bet in Art in the Afternoon. • Feb. 27, 9:30am: Ta waltz or salsa your way to the Children's Museum's A tle Song and Dance program. • Feb. 28, 3-4:30pm: out at the Science Discovery's Chilling Discovery seum and make your own snowflakes and learn ab solid forms of water.

A Family Music Fun Fair and Concert

Sorenson Center for the Arts, Babson College, Forest St Wellesley (617-527-9717). Fun Fair: 12:30-2pm. Concert: 2pm. $12, $6 students. New Philharmonic chestra members help children make instruments

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). MBTA: Line to Harvard. • Through Feb. 23, 9am-5pm. $12 children: Winter Scavenger Hunt. Explore the m seum for clues to a secret message while learning h people and animals survive during the snowy sea • March 1, 9-11am, $35, ages 4-5: Explore the jungl meet elephants and lions on this safari to Africa, and amine African artifacts and make African art. • Marc 9am-12pm, $35, grades K-1: Learn about food cha herbivores and carnivores, and meet live animals cluding a moth-eating bird and a snake-eating snak

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum

Columbia Point, Boston (877-626-4599). www.jfk brary. org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Feb. 10:30am. Free.* Caribbean for Kids performs childr songs and Caribbean tunes for family audiences.

Museum of Fine Arts

295 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3
www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Mu Free with museum admission ($13-$15); children (17 under) free.* • Through Feb. 21, 10am-4pm. *Art Car Celebrating the Art of Many Lands.* Participate in s guided activities that explore a variety of the artob in the museum's permanent collection made spec cally for celebrations, including masks, instrume and jewelry. Children and families may also partici in art-making activities including creating their masks, instruments and jewelry. • Through Feb 11am, 12:30 and 2pm. Artist-in-Residence Ric Frota performs live Brazilian music. • Thro Feb. 21, 11:45am, 1:15 and 2:45pm. African st teller J'miah Nabawi brings the African galleries with his tales of life and celebration.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* • Satur and Sundays, 11am-12pm: The museum's Sc Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive*, turing professional storytellers who combine tales and myths with visits with live anim • Through April 30: The *Invention at Play* exhibit lows visitors to follow the creative processes Alexander Graham Bell, James McLurkin, New Darby and other inventors • Feb. 22, 1-5pm, free exhibit admission: Join members of the PBS tel sion show *Zoom* and local engineers for WGBH's *Z into Engineering* show and learn to fly drinking str and construct newspaper towers.

Newton Free Library

Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-7 1370). • Mon., 9:45am: Storytime for 2-year-o 7pm, ages 8 and older: Poetry writing works • Tue., 10:30am: Preschool singalongs • Wed., 11 3- and 4-year-old storytimes • Thursdays, 3:30pm year-old storytime; 7pm, ages 4 and older: Pajama rytime; 7:30pm, ages 8 and older: Play-read • Feb. 20, 2pm, ages 5 and older: Jackson Gillm the Stand Up Chameleon, using movement humor to tell his tales. • Feb. 25, 3:30pm, ages 5 older: Wingmasters Julie and Jim present Birds Prey, a live animal program.

Old South Meeting House

310 Washington St, Boston (617-482-6439). www southmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Dow town Crossing. $1-$5 (children under 6 free).* • Feb 10am-12pm: Explore the childhood games that Co nial children played. • Feb. 20, 10am-12pm. Try Colonial clothing and make tri-corn hats or c caps. • Feb. 21, 11am-3pm. Learn about the lif African slave and renowned poet Phyllis Wheatly try to write a poem using a quill and ink.

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sports

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Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849
Feb. 24, 7pm vs. Houston Rockets
Feb. 26, 7pm vs. Indiana Pacers
Feb. 28, 8pm vs. Toronto Raptors

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 617-931-2222
Feb. 25, 7pm vs. Dallas Stars
March 1, 1pm vs. Philadelphia Flyers
March 3, 7pm vs. Vancouver Canucks

Events

Sugarloaf Ski Weekend
The Boston Ski and Sports Club's Sugarloaf ski weekend includes two nights lodging in mountainside condos, two breakfasts, a Saturday cocktail party, use of the health club's pool, hot tubs andsauna, a two-day lift pass and Level 3+ adult ski lessons. *Transportation leaves from Newton at 5:30pm and Newburyport at 6:45pm (617-789-4070).* www.bssc.com. *Feb. 28-March 2. $319, $349 non-members, $269 non-skiers.*

To Play

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag Football
Games are played in Revere (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem." Brave the cold and then warm up with some ale.

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
(781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. The nonprofit BSSS offers skating classes for children and adults at 15 MDC rinks. Learn some Dorothy Hamill moves, and then head to the Frog Pond to show them off.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

Asgard Volleyball League
University Park, Cambridge (617-577-9100). Wed. nights. The Asgard, Newcastle and Forest City Property Management host a weekly volleyball league for Cambridge businesses.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

Antoine Walker and the Celtics take on Houston Feb. 24.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri., 10am-9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30am-6pm. $7.50.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8. •Feb. 18-21: Receive a free poster of President Kennedy in honor of Presidents' Week.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-426-1812). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, bus 93 to Navy Yard. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Free.

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

The Museum of Afro American History

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big to a little boy.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer op nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization ple between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organi needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and m needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Boston's Volunteer Options
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm Boston (617-267-4430) www.bcae.org. *M Green Line to Arlington. Feb. 26, 5:45- 7: $16.* Panelists from several volunteer org tions discuss work options and benefits.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are nee educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work i bridge public schools as tutors, aides and ment

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a w four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elde

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a ch

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patient

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderl vidual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachuse
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read o with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpli
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phon people affected by alcoholism and substance ab

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors need the Parental Stress Line.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless g

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers need HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslex
(617-577-1111, ext. 17). Record textbooks in tal formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996, ext. 30). Battered women's a seeks volunteers.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the d room, clothing room, groceries program and office

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-ho mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonel ple over the phone.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help leg migrants and refugees become naturalized citiz

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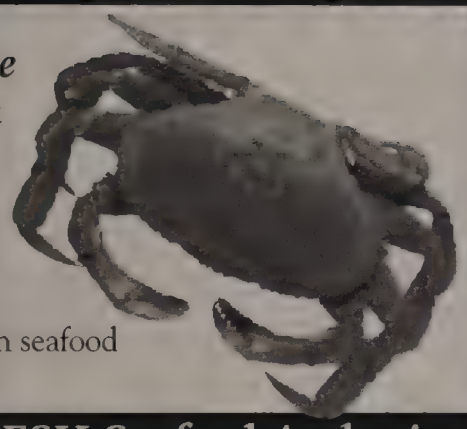

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IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
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Recent correspondence follows.

I Love Paris

Me: brown-haired twenty-something woman sipping a Cosmopolitan at the Blue Cat Café (impressed by your matchbook trick...). You, Parisian male model with sexy French accent who lives on Marlborough Street. You gave me your number; however, when I attempted to call you were on holiday in Viva la France. Then I made one more attempt and your phone was out of service. If you want to "brighten my day," please drop me an e-mail.
—matchbook_trick@yahoo.com.

To A.F.

I am not a moron, I just have no common sense. There's a difference. That still means I am intelligent, mature and a worthy human being. I am not better than you and you certainly are not better than anyone. I have never met such an immature 62-year-old boy. I do not mumble—you are near-deaf! Get a hearing aid! I am certain I am not the only person you have ever bullied and harassed in the workplace, and I fear I will not be the last. Well, the next one to report you to Human Resources may actually have witnesses with backbones and integrity. You are a liar with no integrity. I pray no one destroys your spirit the way you tried to destroy mine. On the positive side, you have taught me many lessons I will never forget. You are a teacher and I pray for you to turn your evil ways to good and turn your negative energy to peace. I have moved on in the workplace to bigger and better things. If luck should have it, I will never meet your eyes again.
Goddess bless you,
—AWS

J.B.

I am crazy about you. I awaken with thoughts of you, go to sleep dreaming of you, of your blue eyes...dark hair... I have been crazy about you for all of these months. A smile from you brightens my whole day! You're so quiet and I barely say anything to you, but inside I am screaming, burning, wanting you so much.
—Puppy Love

Park Street Hopeful

It was 8pm on a Thursday at Park Street station. We were in line to buy tokens. You glanced over your shoulder—at whom? I can only hope that your ethereal gaze was meant for me. Your blue eyes were the color of the Mediterranean and your chestnut hair complemented your alabaster skin. You had a tan plaid scarf and a black coat. I watched helplessly from the line as you disappeared past the turnstiles into the station. Perhaps you noticed me? I had dark short hair, a suede jacket, a briefcase and was unshaven (I had a late night at the office). This is a shot in the dark, but I remain hopeful.
—parksthopeful@yahoo.com

Your coat does not fit me—can I have mine back?

Were you at the Roxy/Matrix on Jan. 25? Are you much taller than I am and currently perplexed because you have a small girl's coat with red gloves in the pockets? Want to trade back? I can't wear your coat—it's taller than I am! If you are missing your warm, wintry wear after an absurd night of unmitigated boozing (like I am), please e-mail me and describe your jacket. Hopefully we can orchestrate a swap meet!
—ihaveyourcoat@hotmail.com

Soulmates? MJLP

It was 10 years ago that you gave me a Tiffany's key chain with the inscription MJLP on the attached tag. Eight years ago you went to see a psychic in Salem after we broke up. He told you that I was still looking back in my heart for you and that we were truly soulmates. Well, he was right about my feelings. I have searched for you for years to no avail. I believed you had left Boston. I still love you and am willing to believe that psychic. On my birthday, Dec. 8, I saw you on Newbury Street. It was like a sign as I had also recently found that key chain as well. When I stopped to park my car and find you, you were gone. I searched for hours and have looked for you since with no luck. If you see this please try to contact me. You can find me through business in Jamaica Plain or online. I know not of your current life and will accept whatever fate falls before me. But I wish so much to just speak to you once more. PLMJ-MJLP? Min-Jeong you will always be my honey ya.
—KobeBoston008@aol.com

She's Running Her Fingers Through My Life

We met on April 21, 2000, through an introduction at the West Street Grille by a mutual friend. You are absolutely gorgeous. After laying eyes on you, I knew it would be the start of an amazing new millennium. Boy was I right. That seems like so long ago. We have built a relationship over the last several years that has brought us closer with each new day and each new adventure. We have had our share of challenges and learned to work together to overcome them. You are the sunshine in my life and I can't wait to see what the future holds for us. I love you more now than ever. Happy (belated) Valentines Day, Sweet Pea!
—Love, Pootie

D-train Specimen

We've exchanged smiles on several occasions on a packe train during commuting hour are tall, dark and handsome usually wear a black Kangol am short, light and I have da hair that's usually in a funky flipped out 'do. You might remember the time I got on a Longwood and you were alrea the train. You were sitting do dressed in work-out gear and was standing next to your sea The train lurched and you put arm out to catch me. I saw yo this morning (Jan. 29) and wa relieved to see your smile aga it's been a while. I'm not usua so shy but something about y smile gives me butterflies. I w kicking myself for not saying anything to you as I watched get off at Fenway (I think you in the Landmark Center). Interested in celebrating the of the work week sometime? mail me.
—Dtrain_butterflies@hotmai

Argyle Socks

I don't have a clear idea of wha hope to gain by writing this Improper Impersonal (trust me, improper), but I keep thinking the guy in the black and orange argyles I saw on the Red Line o Jan. 24, around 8:30pm, on my home from the MFA. I got off at Harvard, you kept going. You w coat J.Crew would describe as "loden," with a hooded sweatsh underneath. And then there we those argyle socks. I wore a coa J.Crew does, in fact, call "camé with a red hat with a pompom. were reading *Harper's*. Shy and wanting to seem cheesy, I was doing the look/look away thing. not often I see someone who attracts me in the way you did, my relationship situation is, as say, "complicated," and it's Bos so the poker face won out...but curiosity is winning now. So if y are or if you know the argyles-wearing, *Harper's*-reading dude with floppy, wavy, dark hair who probably lives in Somerville or thereabouts, drop me a line.
—clydemonster@zensearch.

Congratulations Babbbbbyyyyy!

Just a quick note of love and congratulations to my baby on h promotion to his new fancy digs getting through yet another semester as a full-time MBA student. You are a truly hard and you deserve all the success the world! I love you very much don't forget that I'm your babbbbbbyyyyyyyyy.
—Baby xxoo

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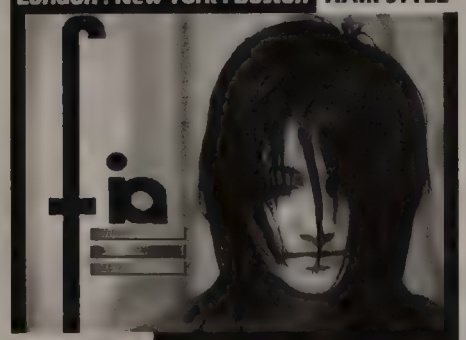

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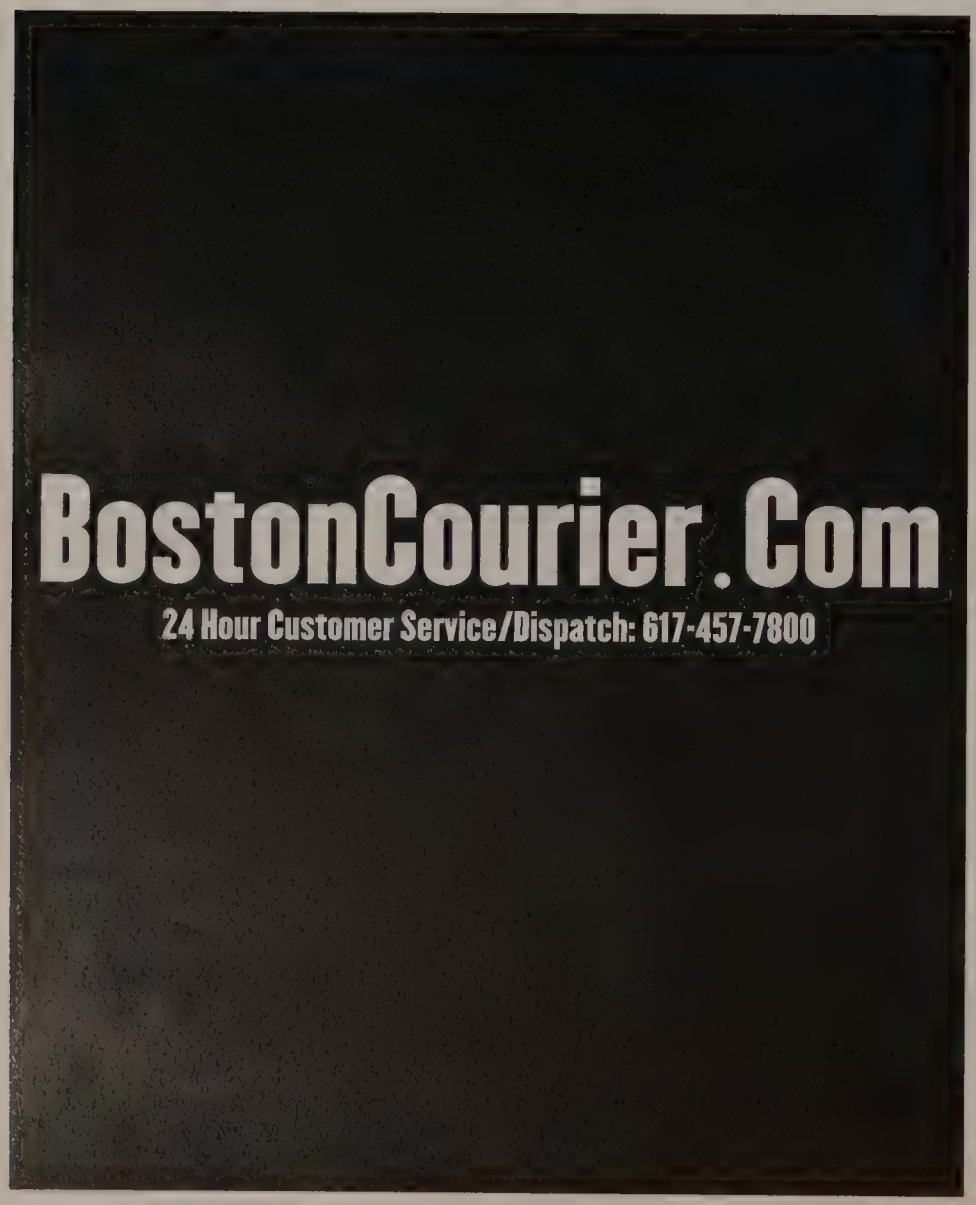

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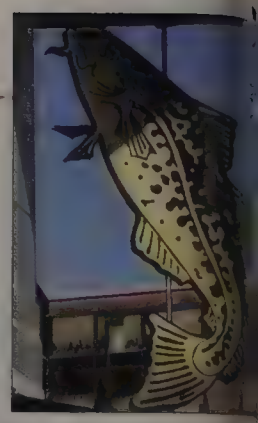
Rockie Horoscope

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 4, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Solar Pisces starts the night of the 18th, and that is a good thing for you fish. For the rest of us, too. Although the more threatening planetary connections haven't finished dumping negativity on mere mortals, at least there are festivities we can look forward to. No sign appreciates the healing power of a common experience like the Fish, or is as willing to provide the thread that ties us together. So before Mardi Gras signals the end of the fun and the beginning of Lent, party on.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Jumping the gun, again? Try to let a situation, as well as the expectations and emotions it is evoking, ripen on its own. Don't push for a dramatic resolution if something else has captured your attention (or because your impetuous Mars ruler is opposed by restrictive Saturn and you're feeling frustrated). Should more rules and regulations stand in your way, so be it. There's usually a reason for slowing down, one you'll discover in due time. Besides, this potent planetary opposition occurs only once every two years.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

A career or family matter could turn into high drama during the Leo full moon this weekend, especially if the situation is related to what was happening at the Taurus full moon eclipse in November. Think back to the week before Thanksgiving. That was also the time when the Scorpio sun formed a challenging square to disruptive Uranus and provoked further dissension and rebellion. Well, this week the sun meets Uranus and initiates an unusual, even a drastic approach to the problem. Brace yourself.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Anticipate some frustration, even an argument, while take-aggressive-action Mars opposes prudent Saturn in your sign midweek. If you're being urged to do something you're not sure of, hold your ground and be patient. Because it's probably taken two years to fully appreciate Saturn's "slow and steady" course, you don't want to race through the final exam. In June, the next time Mars contacts Saturn, the grand master will be teaching Crabs major life lessons and Twins will be free of a long-term obligation and the negativity accompanying it.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

What you currently value so highly may become a major concern as the Leo full moon focuses on your resources and your resourcefulness. Work might not go as smoothly as you expect simply because decisive Mars is opposed by restrictive Saturn in your twelfth house of self-undoing. Sabotaging yourself or harboring a secret enemy probably applies more to the U.S., a Cancer country, than to one lone Crab; nonetheless, that's what's happening. On a cheerier note, loving, artistic Venus is at home in your Capricorn marriage house.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Searching for the next hot item, fomenting a revolution on principle or simply bored with the same-old, same-old? A fresh approach, a wild idea—anything that makes the blood pound, your mind race or your heart sing. While inventive Uranus merges with your sun ruler this week, you're open to practically anything you haven't yet experienced. And that is exactly what you'll attract. However, an emotional full moon in your own sign can make your reaction to strange behavior equally memorable.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

If nothing especially interesting is happening career-wise (Saturn in your midheaven went retrograde four months ago), you can look forward to things picking up, albeit, slowly, after Saturn flips forward on the 21st. Also, having the sun in your Pisces house of partnership means that more people will want to share time and space with you. Despite the "two-ness" of the Fish credo, as long as your Mercury ruler is in independent Aquarius (until March 4), maintaining your own idiosyncratic identity will take precedence.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Fun and games—diverse and somewhat dangerous—could hold your attention for a while longer. Actually, the next two weeks would be a good time for a holiday, to someplace you haven't been and have few pre-conceived notions about. Strangely enough, restrictions on foreign travel (ninth house activities) may be lifted (for Libra-risers) when worry-wart Saturn in gadabout Gemini turns direct on the 21st. But if you're stuck somewhere (in school, in a religious tradition) you'd rather not be, that roadblock might be removed as well.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Money you stand to inherit, an award from an insurance policy, profits from an investment (if that still exists) could start flowing after Saturn switches direction (from retrograde to direct) on the 21st. While the lack (Saturn) of resources you share with others may have thwarted financial matters during the last four months, the situation will change once Saturn in your house of joint finances starts to move forward. Real progress could take a while longer, probably when Saturn enters watery sign friendly Cancer in June.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

A meaningful dialogue, no matter how clumsy, can begin once Saturn in your Gemini house of significant relationships makes a positive move on the 21st. Reluctance, fear or sheer inertia may have conspired to keep you dissatisfied with your business or life partnership. Saturn withholds, denies and generally tries to squelch whatever spontaneity or enthusiasm you have for a person or a project that involves that person. Saturn, aka the Grim Reaper, opposing your Sag sun can suck the life right out of you. And that's why these forecasts have been so depressing.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

You, above all other signs, should notice a change in the general atmosphere when your Saturn ruler switches from reverse to forward motion on the 21st. Even if you're not bodily jostled, insulted, slashed or burned by militant Mars' opposition to resilient Saturn, you'll withstand the attack, no matter whom or where it comes from. Remind yourself that having loving Venus in your sign until March 3 is a blessing, a comfort and a joy to be celebrated for as long as the goddess of beauty and art stays with you.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

It's time for high drama, thanks to the royal presence residing in your Leo house of partners. Norma Desmond of Sunset Boulevard couldn't match the over-the-top effects of your partner's performance during the Leo-Aquarius full moon. An issue that's been buried (or quietly brewing) since the crucial lunar eclipse in November might rise from the depths of someone's smarmy unconscious to haunt you again. But if the pre-Thanksgiving period was a piece of cake, then you'll have nothing unpleasant to re-examine and no family garbage to recycle.

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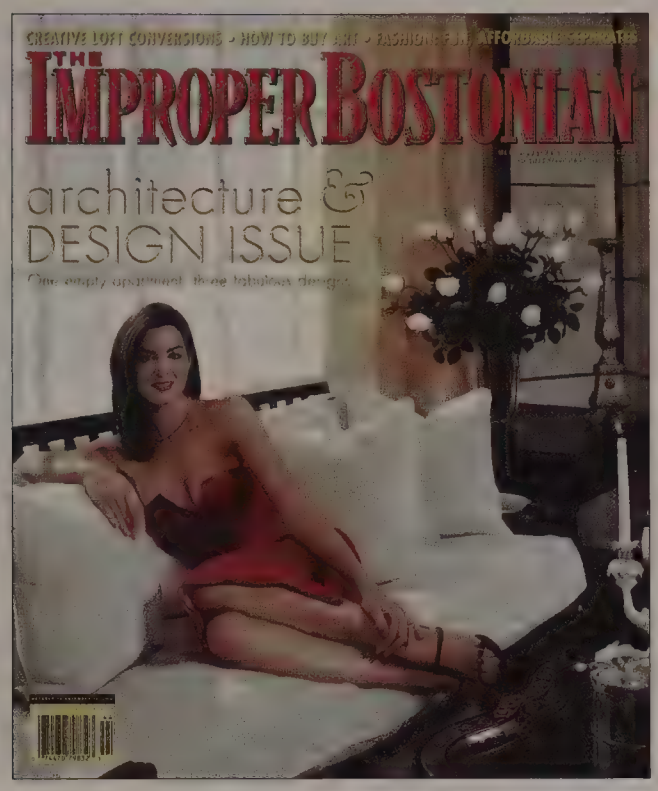
Interiors of Boston



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Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you we
Since we want your feedback on the rest of the magazine, too, submissions that include a letter expressing your opinion will really get our attention

Hattie Silberberg dug up an ancient artifact in Ephesus, an archaeological site on the Mediterranean coast in Turkey. She examined her find over a latté at the Ephesus Starbucks.

Julian Bourne and William Grote, the chaps with the shotguns, hunted down some big game in merry olde England. The other people, we assume, are servants to help make tea and carry the trusty hunting dog, Stubby, over unmowed sections of lawn.

Amy Stein (left) is getting fit for the Boston Marath
She'll run for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
honor of Geraldine Lynn, mother of Christine (righ

Katherine Harris, member of Congress from Florida, and her chief of staff, Ben McKay, liked the Winter Fashion issue, but want to know more about winter.

There's no telling what might happen if a single issue of the IMPROPER fell into the wrong hands, which is why we're glad that specialist Michael O'Hara and a few Boston-native friends protected these two very important documents in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's attempts to acquire IMPROPER capability remain thwarted.

Mike Murphy, Romney-Healey campaign strategist guru, gets his mitts on an IMPROPER.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Fleecing a wooly competitor at the Golden Shears Sheep Shearing Contest, Feb. 27-March 1 in Masterton, New Zealand.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mail high resolution photos to: sightings@improper.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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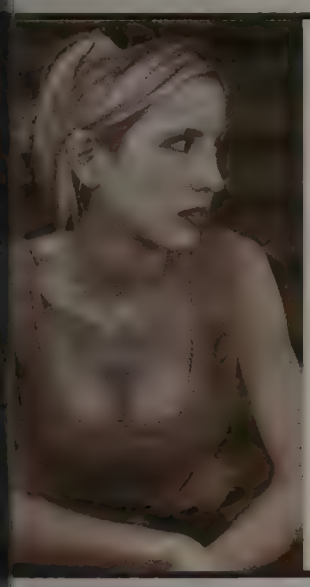

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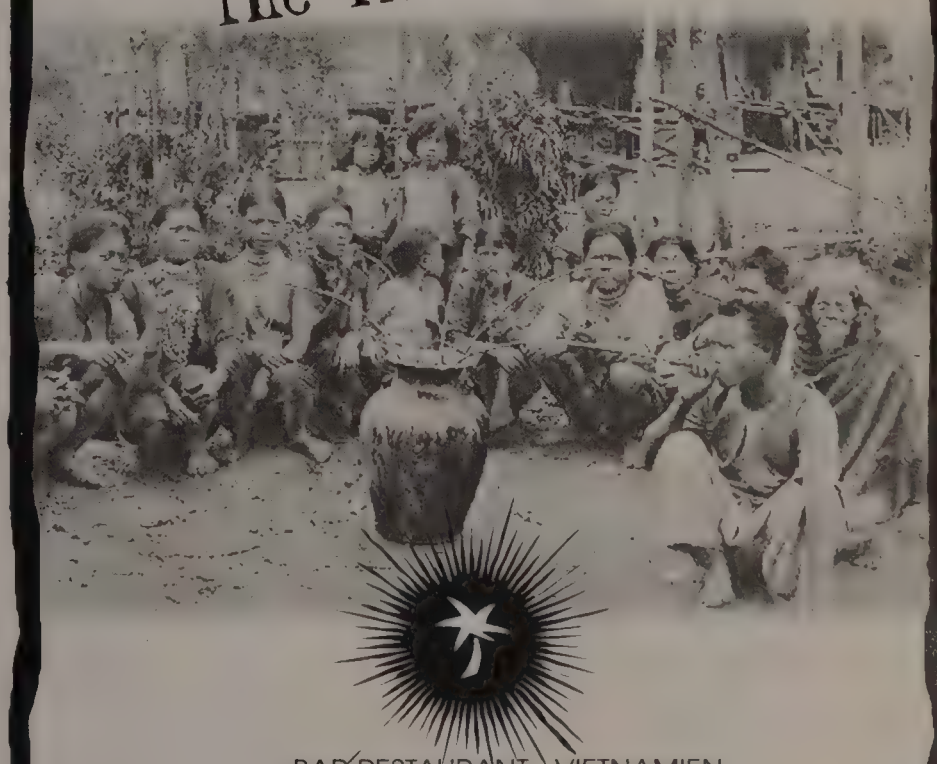

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Thursday, Jan. 30, the new restaurant and lounge **Epiphany** held a grand opening celebration in the Leather District.

1. **Jason Toth**, sales manager, and **Nicole Grady**, senior sales manager, both of the Radisson.
2. **Marge Kunian**, events producer of A Prima Creations; and **Ruth** and **Arthur Erlich** of Medford.
3. **Po Chiu**, director of operations and owner of Epiphany, **Sierra Towers**, owner of Epiphany.

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Saturday, Feb. 1, the **Living Room** restaurant and lounge celebrated its grand opening with Young Professionals of New England.

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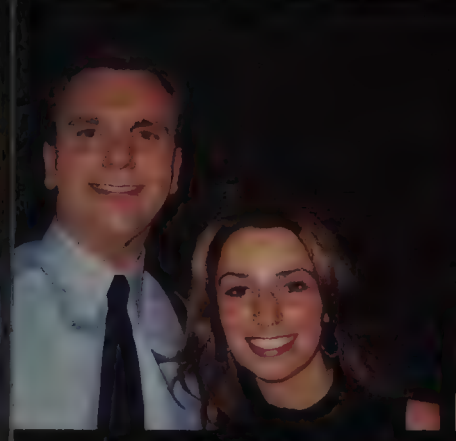
Jon Fabiani, president of Young Professionals of New England; **Gary Zerola**, Boston attorney and co-owner of The Living Room; and **John Hauck**, co- owner of The Living Room.
Phil D'Amore, owner of Massimino's Restaurant; **Marion Kasseler**, marketing manager of special events at Boston Design Center; **Acea Theroux**, trainer at Beacon Hill Athletic Club and an IMPROPER Boston's Best 2002 winner; and **Brian Arndt**, trainer at Beacon Hill Athletic Club.
Brent Crouch, manager of The Living Room; **Greg Clark**, human resource consultant at NCS Pearson; **Katie Schmidt** of Boston; and **Neville Edwards** of Boston.



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Thursday, Feb. 6, the **IMPROPER BOSTONIAN** presented "The '70s Snow Groove" at **Hurricane O'Reilly's**. Guests enjoyed a vintage fashion show by the Improper's fashion editor, Samantha House, and a performance by Feva-Las Vegas. Sponsors included **Jameson Irish Whiskey** and **Maksou** hair salon. Proceeds were donated to the **Pine Street Inn**.

Hosts of the Snow Groove, **Kevin Lemanowicz**, chief meteorologist at Fox 25 News, and **Kelly Malone**, morning-show personality at Mix 98.5.
Jillian Blair of Boston and **Tracy Saradnik**, marketing director at the Glynn Co.
Heather Kenney, president of Signature Marketing; **Ian Lawson**, state manager of Jameson Irish Whiskey; **Shannon Seymour** and **Jennifer Warren**, spokesmodels with Signature Marketing.
Michael Viselli, performer with Feva-Las Vegas.
Improper models **Julie Short** and **Karen Dana**.

5

PHOTOS: EPIPHANY, CARRIE WALLACE; THE LIVING ROOM, JULIE KANE; HURRICANE O'REILLY'S, ZOE PARKER-GERMAN

Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

restaurants

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut Street, Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, 02138.* It's always fresh, honest and simple at Henrietta's Table. Executive Chef Peter Davis, who has been awarded "Best Chef in the Northeast" by the James Beard Foundation, creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations highly recommended except breakfast. Mon-Thurs, 6:30am-10pm; Fri-Sat 6:30am-11pm. Call 617-661-5005 for reservations and information.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel , 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

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Science Street Cafe *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out the newest nightspot--The Museum of Science. Try our one-of-a-kind martinis, gourmet appetizers and desserts, then tour the Museum or catch an Omni movie. $25 package includes one drink, one appetizer, Mugar Omni Theater ticket, Exhibit Hall admission and parking. 6-10pm at the Museum of Science

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 Rear Union St., Newton Centre, 617-964-6684 Off intersect. of Beacon St. & Center St.* Comfortable, casual and fun in a 100+ yr-old building with 3 floors and an outside patio. Focus is on fresh food with a menu that covers everything from classic appetizers to creative pastas and entrees. Locally known for fresh fish and Sat. & Sun. Brunch menu as well as for football and sports bar scene (20 TVs of Direct TV) and the live, original music in the top floor ATTIC Bar.

bars/clubs

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Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Boston Billiard Club *126 Brookline Ave. , Boston, 617-536-POOL* Winner of Boston Magazine's Best of Boston 1999 Award. Newly expanded this year, Boston Billiard Club has more of everything you're looking for.MoreBrunswick Gold Crown tables. A bigger lounge. New plush leather couches. A giant flat screen TV. An unbelievable state of the art sound system. Newly added function rooms. Free lessons Mon, 7:30- 9pm. House leagues on Mon and Tues."In the Biz" Nights on Sunday and Mondays.Ladies' Night on Wed. www.bostonbilliardclub.com

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeck Martin.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketp… Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Impro… Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 20… Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ b… liards club offers much more than a game of pool. Co… enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Cas… indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nigh… week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 a… House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole a… Zeck Martin.

Tilt *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* A club t… in a class of its own. With its outrageous Light Show … Cat Walk spectacle, dance and groove with the spinn… sensations on Saturday nights and to guest DJs spinn… progressive house and trance on Friday. Dress c… strictly enforced. Doors open at 10pm.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-22…* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th y… Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, … menu features American and Irish specialties. Live I… music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-7… 2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Fan… Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish … ditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine … Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy … entertainment five nights a week with pop bands di… from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of F… Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-11…* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of J… Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty mi… brews, an extensive wine list, a full international me… and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Ca… hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's … 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots … Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-3… 0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this … vorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "gl… cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place se… ing lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish break… every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern bo… over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" … imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainm… every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 6… 338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Fin… cial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place … young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with … 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's B… Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2… featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. … great place for a pint and a chat."

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www… leyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon St… to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, speci… drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony … plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetw… Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have someth… for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The A… where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Bost… newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the … nancial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in … of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof dec… watching your hometown favorites on our high defi… tion plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for a… work and late night with our resident and guest DJs sp… ning your favorite mixes through our state of the art so… system all night long.

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury St… Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-… fused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's s… jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from it… such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Sea… Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also ma… it's mark with unique martini selections such as the n… famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Be… Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. … DC, MC, V.

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c from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof
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l r e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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*2*0150, *www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from
l am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Fri-
a nd Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No
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d required.

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*t*orary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress
*F*D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international
*h*ouse spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and
*T*K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Satur-
*d*ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy
*m*e, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at
*1*21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

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*h*features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live
*m*n Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a
*s*ous roofdeck for all those warm days and hot
*n*ts. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open
t 2am.

zz

Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace*
*B*on, 617-725-1051. Winner of The Improper
*B*onian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002
*B*on's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/
billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeck Martin.

Regattabar *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, MA 02138.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Wed-Sat nights. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at the Charles Hotel in Harvard Square. Shows at 8pm Wed-Thurs, 8:30 & 10:30pm Fri-Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617-876-7777 for tickets and information, 800-881-1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston, 617-227-7579, www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

SPORTS BAR-UPSCALE

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

VIDEO CLUB

Uptown-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Progressive dance music on Friday nights: 18+ ladies, 19+ men. Casual dress.

brunch

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge, 02138.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Boston Center for the Arts: (top) Lava, a women's acrobatic troupe from New York; Richard Giglio, Richard D. Olson Jr., Scott Lowell and Joan Parker.

A GAY OLD TIME WITH THE THEATER OFFENSIVE

Decorum and good taste went by the wayside (and nobody seemed to give a damn) when the **Theater Offensive** held its annual fund-raiser, **ClimActs! (The 2nd Coming)** at the **Boston Center for the Arts**.

The evening began with a VIP reception (read: martini chug-a-lug) at which servers dressed in body paint worked the room with trays of hors d'oeuvres and guests got to ogle diminutive beefcake **Scott Lowell**, one of the stars from Showtime's *Queer as Folk*.

Present and accounted for: the organization's outrageous fairy godfather, **Abe Rybeck** (sporting his trademark demi-drag of dangling earrings and rhinestone choker); Cambridge grande dame **Joan Parker** and her other half, hard-boiled detective novelist **Robert B.**; Channel 7 on-air studmuffin **Randy Price**; arts supporter extraordinaire **Anna Faith Jones**; the ubiquitous **Don Sturdy**; Buzz maestro **Harry Collings**; realtor to the stars **David Whitman**; supersuave hair salon owner **William George**; the incomparably sparkly **Stewart Clifford**; pharmaceutical company hottie **Frank Lipsitz**; foodie flack **Chris Haynes**; and numerous equally intriguing others.

Following a performance by the award-winning lesbian acrobatic troupe **Lava**, there was a live auction that included such unconventional items as Drag School for Two and a Fluffer Package whose winner will attend a Hollywood party with legendary porn director Chi Chi LaRue.

Summing the evening up, one guest said, "This is pretty racy by Boston standards. Then again, so are most Disney movies."

LIKE HAVING COCKTAILS WITH THE OP-ED PAGE...

Linguist and intellectual giant Noam Chomsky sent an apologetic note explaining why he couldn't come. So did people's historian Howard Zinn.

Otherwise, there were very few no-shows at the reception held in the Lewis Wharf home of socialite and social activist **Doris Yaffe** to introduce the city's most influential citizens to **Eric Kabera** and **Jean Nhanji**, producers of the movie *100 Days*, which involves the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

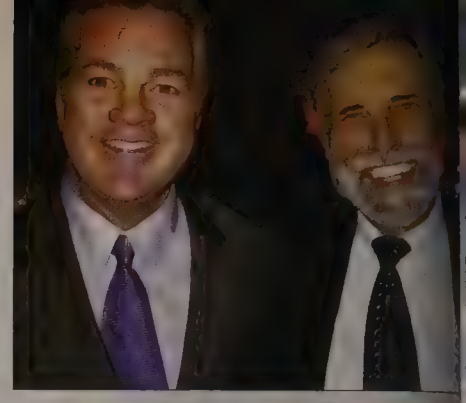
Despite the heavy subject matter, the catered affair remained light and upbeat, attracting such movers and shakers as TV personality and divinity student **Liz Walker**; Harvard School of Public Health dean **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**; Amnesty International honcho **Joshua Rubenstein**; indie film impresarios **Joe Zina** and **David Kleiler**; film producer **Laura Bernieri**; power couples **Geri Denterlein** and **Jack Thomas** and **Kathy** and **Richard Taylor**; landscape designer and noted horticulturalist **Heidi Kost-Gross** and her daughter, **Lexi**, who does research for the Kennedy School at Harvard; and Haitian smoothie **Jean Marc Nelson**, not to mention numerous names that appear prominently on the mastheads of important publications, which prompted one guest to observe, "If you locked the front door and threw away the key, you could effectively put an end to journalism as we know it."

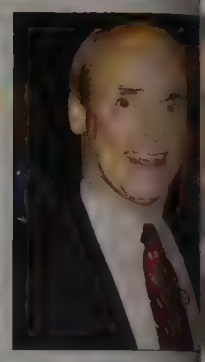
At Doris Yaffe's house, clockwise from upper left: Bunni Roberts, Carol Fulp, Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith and Kathy Taylor; Eric Kabera; Debbie Lewis; Jean Marc Nelson and Bonnie Meltzer; Liz Walker and Joan Jolley.

DEAN MARTIN, EAT YOUR HEART OUT...

If power is an aphrodisiac, then everyone must have gone home feeling turned on by the **King Tom Tonight Show**, the charity roast of House Speaker **Tom Finneran**, held at the **Comedy Connection**, to benefit **Boston College High School's WB56 Scholarship Fund**.

Among the high and mighty seen sipping cocktails and basking in the warm glow of proximity to other extremely well-connected people from the realms of politics and the media: his blow-dried excellency **Mitt Romney**; City Hall grand poobah **Tom Menino**; comedian (and the evening's emcee) **Steve Sweeney**; WB political pundit **Jon Keller**; broadcasting behemoth **David Brudnoy**; newspaper columnist and talk radio chatelaine **Margery Eagan**; state auditor **Joe DeNucci**; WB56 honcho **Vinnie Manzi**; the club's owner, **Bill Blumenreich**; WBZ anchor **Joe Shortsleeve**; political correspondent **Andy Hiller**; majority leader **Salvatore DiMasi**; state senator **John Hart**; and so on and so forth down the line of people whose names appear prominently in print and TV or are stenciled on doors along the corridors of power. In fact, that sucking sound you heard on Beacon Hill was the vacuum created by the high-octane assembly, and it was a feat just to fit so many enormous egos into a single room. Nevertheless, the event was an unqualified success, not only raising major dough for a worthwhile cause but offering (on average) several laughs per minute.





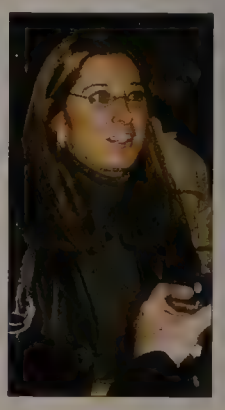
At the Comedy Connection, from top: Joe Shortsleeve and William Kemeza; Mitt Romney; Tom Finneran; Margery Eagan and David Brudnoy.

A sampling of the evening's humor: Didi and Friends, who provided t music, singing, "Whatever Tom Wants, Tommy Gets."

Barney Frank, in a videotaped messa saying that Finneran's Speaker for L tenure would make Queen Elizabet reign seem brief by comparison.

And David Brudnoy spotting Romney the front row and saying, "How're you doi tonight, Governor? How are the wives?"

However, it turned out that Romn had the best gag writer, as the govern poked fun at himself with such lines as had an accident on my way here; tripped and broke my hair," as well getting a few jabs in at Finneran wi quips like "I worship the people he wal on" and "It's like working with t Pope...except with the Pope you onl have to kiss his ring."



When the roast w over, the politicia and their flunkies l in high spirits and turned to the ha work the taxpaye have come to expe from them—name polishing their mat ial for the annual S Patrick's Day brea fast in Southie. IB

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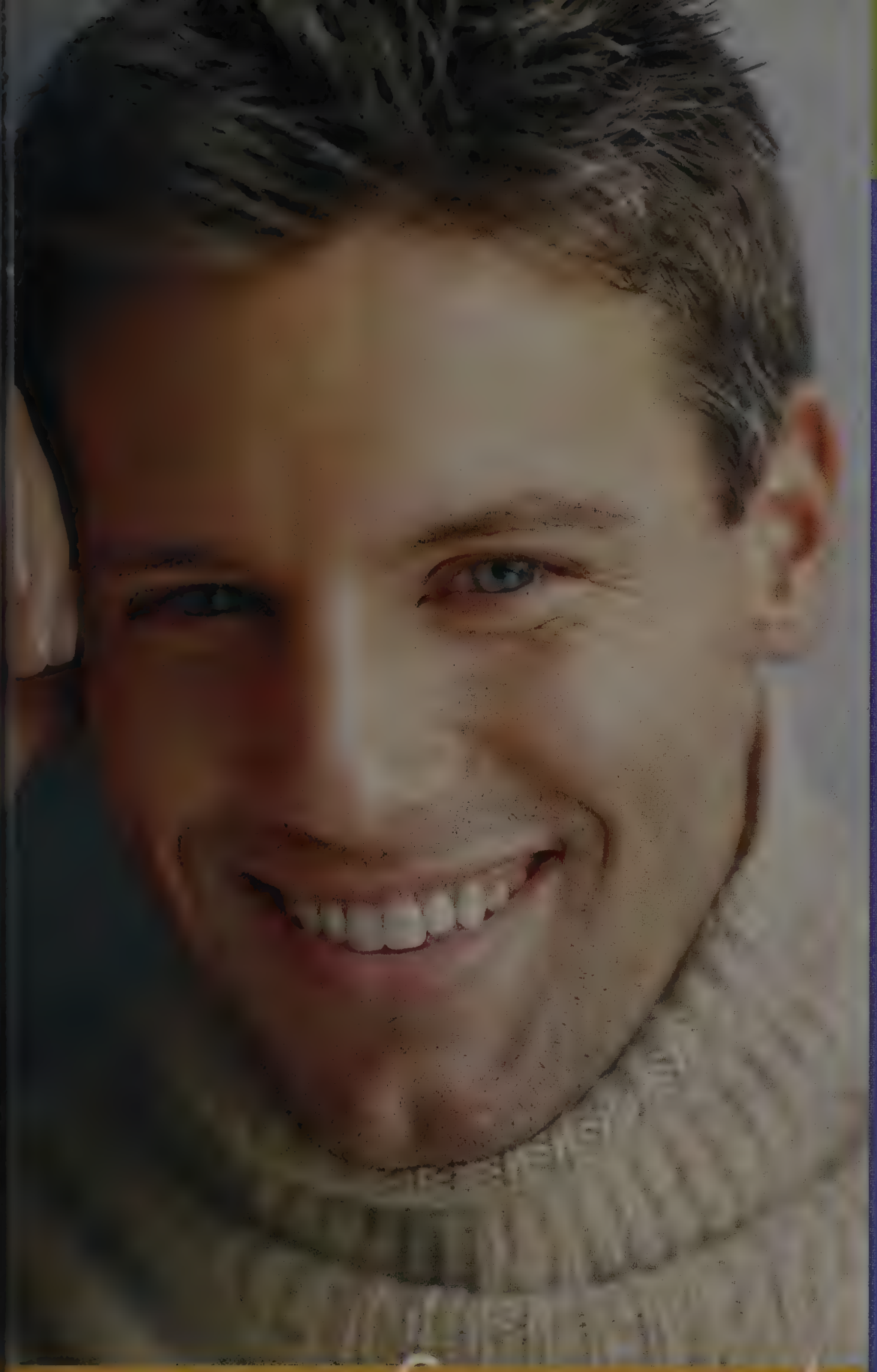

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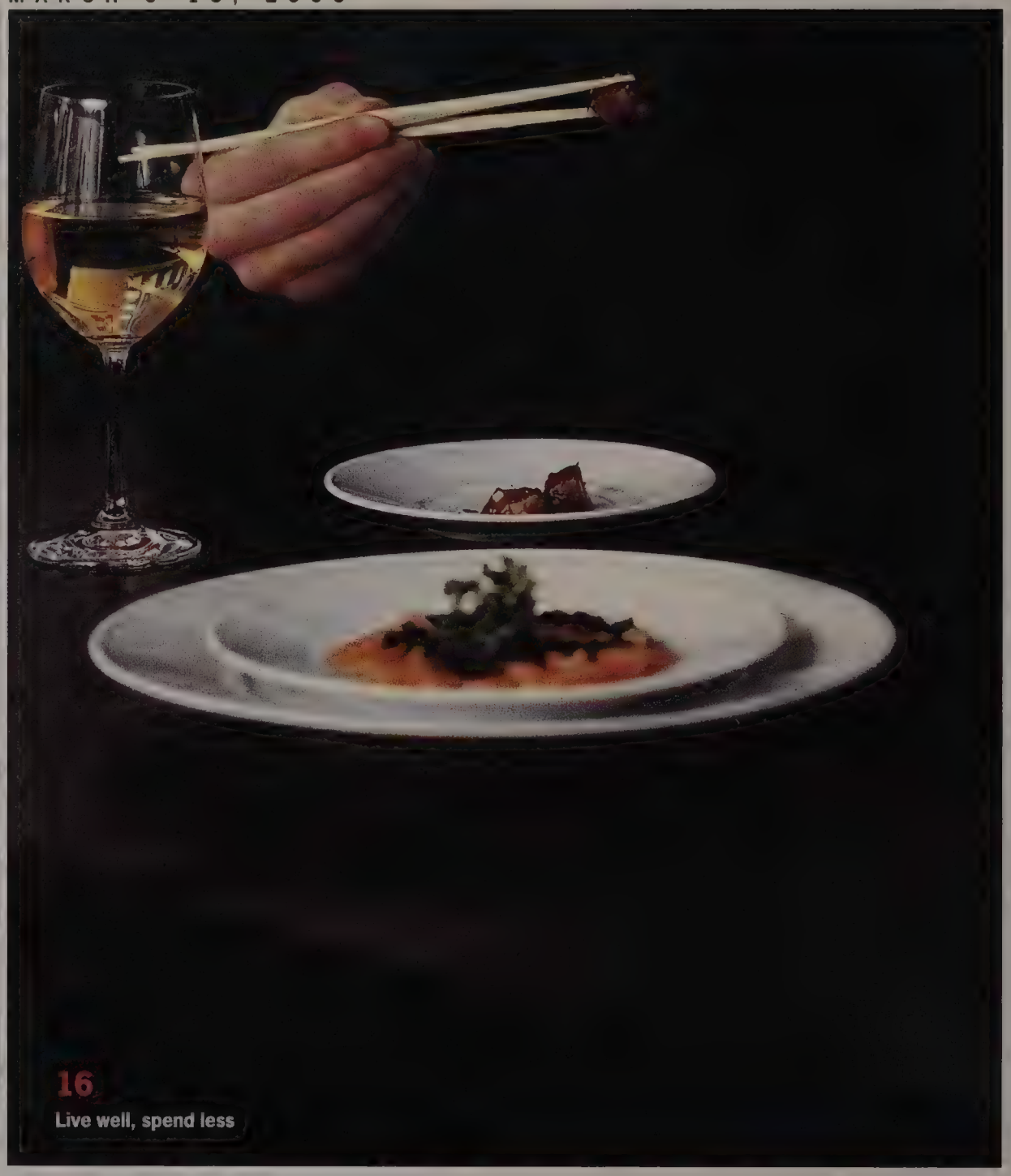

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On the Cover:
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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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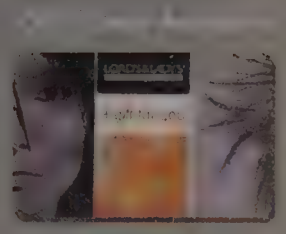

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letters

ON SOROFF

I want you to know how much I enjoy reading Soroff/On. I have so much respect for Soroff's ability to bring someone to life in such a short piece. And with such humor—sometimes outrageous but always respectful!

I have just read about Thalassa Ali (Feb. 19) and, though Soroff hardly mentioned her book, it is a must-read for me now that I know what I know about Thalassa. Thanks, again.

—DAVID SHEPHARD
Needham

SEEING STARS

I have to say that I have never run across a movie critic who is more ridiculous and off the mark than the IMPROPER's Paul Sherman. My boyfriend and I moved here from San Francisco thinking Boston was going to be a new and exciting place to live. I learned right away that THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN was the place to read about hip places to go, see and be. Right now, we are laughing at the reviews that have been written by a so called "movie expert."

According to Sherman's ratings, *Chicago* and *Shanghai Knights* are the same quality of movie, but *Shanghai Knights* is leaps and bounds better than *Lord of the Rings*. *Just Married* and *A Guy Thing* are just as good, if not better than *Gangs of New York* and again, far better than *Lord of the Rings*. Obviously this frat-boy critic is not into "Dungeons & Dragons"-type amazing special effects and exciting plot, but he is a fan of cookie-cutter romantic comedy. To say that *A Guy Thing* is way, way above *Lord of the Rings* is absolutely laughable. I have asked around and I am not alone in thinking that the star assignments of your movie reviews are a little off. I hope that Bostonians don't use this as their only guide when choosing a movie. They will be disappointed.

—CARA WOLFENDALE
Boston

TWO SIDES OF EVERY PELT

Who else but Mopsy Strange Kennedy could have found a store that "can even meet fur needs for princely children" ("Think Mink," Mopsy, Feb. 5)?

My 4-year-old niece has a birthday coming up, and I didn't want to fall back on another Hummer or a gift certificate for more Botox injections. Thanks, Mopsy, for the inspired suggestion.

—ANDY LEVINSKY
Newton

I am so tired of the anti-fur bandwagon. Does the writer of "Fur Pas" (Letters, Feb. 19) own anything leather or suede? There's nothing glamorous about where that came from, either. I love my fur. Nothing is warmer. I wish I could afford the minks I'm sure Mopsy was referring to. I think wearing a natural fiber coat that will last 25 to 30 years is much better for our world than buying and wearing man-made materials that will eventually end up in a landfill.

If Mopsy wants to wear fur, she can. If you don't like fur, my God, then don't buy and wear one. But don't tell me I can't buy, wear and enjoy one because you or some celebrity is refusing to!

—WITTMANN HILL
Cambridge

OMISSION

The photos of the Theater Offensive event on page 108 of the Feb. 19 issue were taken by Joey Libby.

CONTRIBUTORS

MARTHA E. MANGELSDORF

Martha E. Mangelsdorf is a Boston-based business writer and editor whose work has appeared in national publications as diverse as *Inc*—one of the nation's leading small-business magazines—and *Family Circle*, one of the country's largest women's magazines. Locally, Mangelsdorf writes regularly for *The Boston Globe*. She lives in Jamaica Plain and is a former *Inc* senior editor and senior writer. Mangelsdorf loves writing about the human side of the economy, providing readers with useful information that can help them better manage their businesses, navigate their careers or handle their money. Her story, "Living the Good Life for Less," appears on page 16.

ALEXANDRA GREENAWALT

Alexandra Greenawalt is a freelance fashion stylist based in New York City. Known for mixing new fashion with retro settings, her work has graced such publications as *The New York Times*, *Elle en Espanol*, *Vibe* and *Urban Prophecy*. A frequent contributor to the IMPROPER's fashion shoots, she styled the "Celebrate Spring" feature (page 29) in this issue. To see more of her work, go to *www.asg-portfolio.com*.

EDITOR'S NOTE

ON THE MONEY

We live in one of the most expensive cities in the U.S. In its cost of living ranking of 354 U.S. metro areas, the *Places Rated Almanac* puts Boston at No. 350, with only Orange County, Calif.; Honolulu; San Francisco; and New York ranking higher.

Even if you'd never think of leaving this town, it's fun to look up where cities rank in the almanac and imagine the monstrous homes you could buy in Topeka, Kans., or Rapid City, S.Dak., for the same price as a one-bedroom condo in the Back Bay. (Though you might be hard-pressed to find a job in those towns to meet the mortgage payments.)

For one feature (page 22) in this, our first Money Issue, editorial assistant Jessica Iredale tackled the task of comparing costs for some everyday necessities (cab fare, the daily newspaper, a bagel, etc.) in Boston with those of four other cities. Think that too much of your spending money goes to cab fare? Note that Boston hacks command higher per-mile rates than those in New York.

Because smart money management and belt-tightening strategies have become a priority for many of us in the current economic climate, this issue also holds stories on those topics. Writer Kate O'Sullivan files pithy advice from 10 financial gurus (page 20), and Martha Mangelsdorf offers simple tricks for spending less (page 16).

If the statement in Mangelsdorf's story that millionaires tend to have a frugal mindset is true, then even this issue's successful cover-boys, Antoine Walker and Paul Pierce, may be among those reading her article. In his interviews with the Celtics co-captains (page 14), Jonathan Soroff gets them laughing with questions they never expected.

Veronica A. Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

Tell Us What You Think

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:
The Improper Bostonian Magazine
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Victoria Cook, Bridget Behl, Michelle Grabicki, Joy Peterson, Elizabeth Reh**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Gloria Dawson, Zoe Parker Geisman**

FASHION & BEAUTY EDITOR **Samantha House**

FASHION ASSISTANT **Samantha Williams**

FASHION INTERN **Hilary Costa**

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER **Alison Morant**

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES **Julie Kane, Carrie Wallace**

ADVERTISING ART DIRECTOR **Julie Betters**

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MARKETING MANAGER **Martha Brown**

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING INTERNS **Lindsay Gacad, Krisana Jaritsat, Kyle-Marie Landry**

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE **Bill Marks**

OPERATIONS MANAGER **Robyn Sarkisian**

RECEPTIONIST/SALES ASSISTANT **Gretchen Bostr**

FOUNDER **Mark Semonian**

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 859-1400 Fax: (617) 859-1446
E-mail: info@improper.com
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the Word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

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NEW IN TOWN by erin hagedorn & julie short

Blue Sky at Night

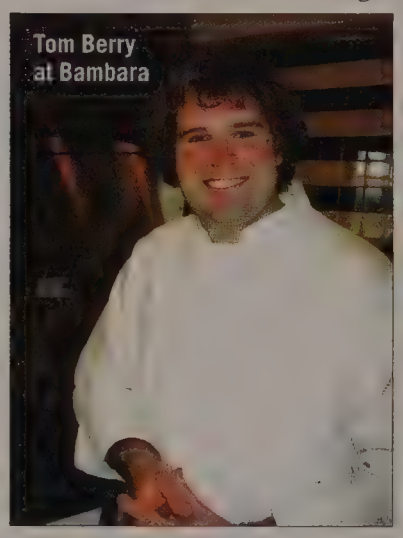
Blue Sky Grille

Last month, Blue Sky Grille filled the Somerville spot that restaurant/club 608 (previously Lilli's nightclub) vacated six months ago. The newest venture combines some aspects from the establishments that have gone before it, but Blue Sky Grille is geared for a slightly more mature, more mainstream crowd. Like 608, **Blue Sky Grille** offers casual dining (steaks, burgers and pasta) at reasonable prices. And like Lilli's, the Grille offers live music—only this time instead of raucous rock bands, it's blues and classic rock.

"We want to be a destination for people to see great blues acts and have a great meal," says chef Bill Morella. "Neighborhood folks come in regularly, and they're not just here to drink." Owners Ed and Marianne Robbins have freshened up the club's appearance, painting the chairs black with stars and the bar sky-blue, and adding an array of posters from blues and classic rock bands. At 9 on Friday and Saturday nights, the Grille goes clubby, with local blues and classic rock acts taking the stage before an audience of up to 300 people. The other days of the week, you'll hear recorded blues and classic tunes from the likes of John Lee Hooker, Bob Seager and the Allman Brothers. *608 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-718-0737). Weekends: $6-$10 cover.*

Coming Soon...

A slew of restaurants are slated to open in mid- to late-March. Here's a sneak peek:


Tom Berry at Bambara

•Bambara 25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-4444)
Projected opening: March 21
Why should people take notice? "Bambara's striking interior design by Robert Puccini Design is as integral to the restaurant as the food," says executive chef Tom Berry, who worked with Ming Tsai at Blue Ginger for the past five years. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to return to my culinary roots with an emphasis on American cuisine, while using the best ingredients available [and] to have fun with flavor, taste and texture."

•Kings 10 Scotia St., Boston (617-266-2695)
Projected opening: The second week in March
Why should people take notice? Kings is the first bowling alley to be built in central Boston in 40 years, says operations manager Stephen Coyle. "It's just pure fun. It's a cool place for people to play pool, go bowling and have classic American fare prepared by former Sonsie sous chef Art Welch. Plus, we have a great cocktail list."

•George 384 Boylston St., Boston (phone not yet listed)
Projected opening: Around April 1
Why should people take notice? We're going to have all the defrocked priests from the archdiocese bartend here," jokes owner Gordon Wilcox. "No, seriously, it's going to be American tavern cuisine made with old-time recipes—everything from finn and haddy to cod stock and our own baked beans. Upstairs there's going to be a comfortable lounge called Georgia."

•Great Bay 500 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-933-5300)
Projected opening: "Every opening is a moving target," says co-owner Christopher Myers. "Great Bay is opening soon."
Why should people take notice? "Our chef, Jeremy Sewall, is a major talent. He's been working with Bradley Ogden in San Francisco for the last five years, which means he's been cooking with the best seafood and produce that this country has to offer," says Myers. "The design...is a screaming success. It's a magnificent new direction for a seafood restaurant in Boston. No plastic for starters! How's that for a welcome relief. No paper place mats! Whoopee! Our plan is to give the city best known for great seafood a venue for serving that great seafood with sophistication, casual elegance and good humor."

•Peking Tom's 25 Kingston St., Boston (617-482-6282)
Projected opening: Late March
Why should people take notice? "Remember those neighborhood Chinese places from your childhood, where you'd get mai tais and pu-pu platters? They were good, but a lot of the foods were fried. That sort of fell out of favor in past years," says owner Mike Conlon. "Peking Tom's is an Asian restaurant that's steps above the normal, with Marc Orfaly from Pigalle overseeing the menu and his sous chef, Rob Johnson, in the kitchen. We're like a Shanghai lounge that takes mai tais, zombies and scorpion bowls to a new level."—*E.H. and J.S.*

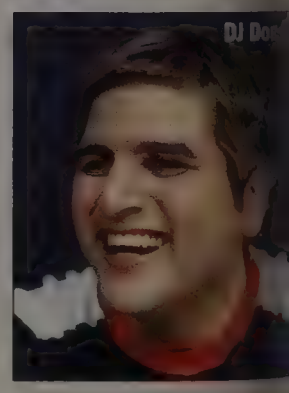
SPORTS

Spring Training

Pull on Your Warm Sox... While Theo Epstein was busy in Fort Meyers pondering who might play first base for the Red Sox's home opener against the Orioles April 11, Mother Nature was working her influence back home. The Presidents' Day storm's 27.5 inches of snow slowed the furious construction of new seats atop the Green Monster, and it's looking like the April 29 game against the Royals might be the first time fans can get a bird's-eye view of Manny's 'fro. (Speaking of Manny, we'd ask him what he thinks about major league baseball's crackdown on excessively long pants this year, as he is a leading proponent of the baseball-pants-as-footie-PJs look, but...well, you know, there's that media silence thing.) Tickets for the 275 new seats atop the Monster went on sale March 1 and cost $50.—*Ezra Dyer*

CLUB SCENE

Underground Sound


DJ Doc

•It seems the Trancesetters were right when they declared that "the underground will live forever, baby." To prove it, local underground company Redlight Productions is about to celebrate six years of Wednesday nights at the **Phoenix Landing** March 5 with guest **DJ Doc Martin**. A founding father of the West Coast sound, Doc Martin serves as an ambassador of house music around the world. Redlight founder Shannon Shalako returns from a sabbatical in Munich to be on hand for the event, and they're joined by resident DJ Caseroc and San Francisco's David Skye. Judging by the long waiting line that stretched down Mass. Ave. for last year's anniversary bash, you should plan to arrive plenty early.

•Local progressive-house fans who have been wondering what **Ali Ajami** has been up to lately will be pleased to learn that he's back in town. Although club-goers will be able to catch him on Lansdowne Street sometime soon, Ajami is also slated to make his first after-hours appearance March 9 at Sunrise at Tantra for an all-night journey. DJ Taner K. kicks things off at 3am.

•Futurebeat, an aptly named new Sunday night party at **LaBoom**, is well under way after getting started in January. Futurebeat resident DJ Addambombb describes the musical concept as "alien disco," promising an innovative experience where patrons might hear anything from trip-hop to trance, or even electro. —*Daniel Spurling*

BLUE SKY GRILL: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; BAMBARA: ZOE PARKER GEISMAN

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TIDBITS AND MORSELS

The New Malt Alternative

From Ice Cream to Thin Ice... Needham native and Boston College grad Mike Herbert has had a flavorful past—he opened J.P. Licks at age 24 and four years later sold his share to start Island Oasis, one of the nation's best-selling frozen-beverage companies. In 2000, he started Long Beach Brewing Company in Norwood, Mass., selling the super-popular Sublime brand drinks. Now he's hoping to have similar success with Thin Ice, a 90-calorie, one-carb beer alternative. Bostonians have the first opportunity to taste this Atkins-friendly malt beverage this month before it's distributed nationally in April. Based on Herbert's record alone, we're predicting another winner.

Here's the Beef... Earlier this year, the media was all abuzz about the $41 hamburger at New York's Old Homestead restaurant. The sandwich consisted of beer-fed Kobe beef with lobster mushrooms and microgreens on a Parmesan twist roll. We found a much better deal. Local Deluxe Town Diner in Watertown recently announced its new Kobe beef burger—from cattle raised in Texas, not Japan—for only $10.95. And no, there's no caviar or foie gras on this one, but it does come with a bun, fries and salad.

Hot Heads... The folks at Cambridge's East Coast Grill served up three nights' worth of five-alarm dishes at the biannual Hell Night Feb. 24-26. This year's event, themed Beware in the Square: The Devil Is My Sous Chef, attracted challenge-seeking spice-a-holics in droves to sample the special menu's fiery delights rated from two to 10 bombs. As of Feb. 25, owner Chris Schlesinger reported that out of the 40 patrons who ordered the ultimate atomic dish, Pasta from Hell, only two finished their meal (past Pasta From Hell tasters have fainted, been hospitalized and filed suit against the grill). The only person ever to clean his pasta plate is a teenage Hell Night devotee known to staff members as "the Kid." Your next chance to singe you tastebuds is summertime, but you'll need to be on your toes: Space fills up more than a month in advance.—*Jessica Iredale, E.H. and J.S.*

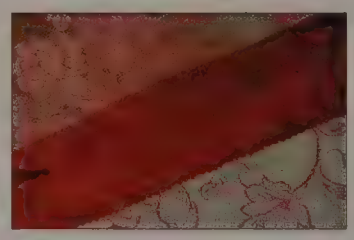
AROUND TOWN

One-Track Media

Wonder why everyone's on edge? One look at the newsstands will make you...what's the word again? Anxious.

SAM SAYS

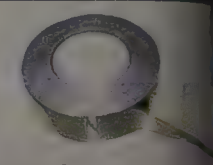
Fabric Find



When I walked into **Zimman's** furniture store in Lynn, I was overwhelmed, to say the least. There was fabric as far as the eye could see in every design imaginable. Even the least decorative-minded person would be inspired to create some sort of domestic masterpiece when faced with the first floor of this 100-year-old store. There's nothing like it in Boston. The folks at Zimman's have always catered to designers and individuals by helping them select fabrics, but they recently added another service—the custom bedding program. You pick the fabric you want, and they create personalized duvet covers, comforters, bedspreads, bedskirts, pillows, pillow shams and headboards for your bedroom. That means it's time to discard that comforter you've had since college. Design the perfect creation that nobody else will have. *80 Market St., Lynn (781-598-9432). Newburyport Commuter Rail to Lynn. Prices range from $10-$130 per yard.—Samantha House*

IMPROPER REPORTS

Duct Tape, Anyone?



Terrorism anxiety for Americans and embarrassment for some government officials translated into short-lived profits for some Boston-area hardware stores last month. Announcements from the Department of Homeland Security Feb. 10 advised Americans to protect themselves from a possible terrorist attack by purchasing duct tape and plastic sheeting for their windows and doors. The frenzy that ensued caused sales of both products to jump nationwide. Weeks later, though, representatives from the department retracted the statement (hello, *suffocation*, anyone?). So what happened at local hardware stores?

•**Connelly Hardware Co.**, *Brookline (617-277-7349).* "People called in and said, 'Do you have the plastic sheets that protect you from the terrorists?' " says owner Kathleen Connelly. "It was kind of a frenzy. We ordered five times the amount we normally would in the course of a week."

•**Beacon True Value Home Center**, *Beacon Hill (617-523-1148).* "It wasn't full-fledged panic or anything like that—we just had unusually higher sales for both items," says owner Mike Haley.

•**Economy Hardware Co.**, *Back Bay (617-536-4280).* Manager Aaron Rogers says, "Sales of both duct tape and plastic sheeting went up considerably. We sold out on plastic a couple of times and had to reorder."

•**Parks Paint & Hardware**, *Back Bay (617-536-0913).* "We sold out completely of both items after the initial scare," manager Lex Stevens says. "But there was just that one surge. It has dropped back to normal."

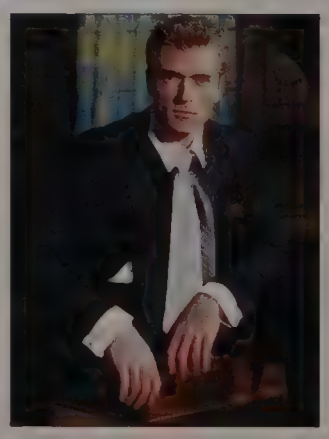
•**Seaport Hardware**, *South Boston (617-426-8848).* Owner Eric Joseph recalls, "Two weeks ago, people came in every half hour in a panic. I think they were afraid we would run out."—*Bridget Behling and E.H.*

improper speaking

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

A hole big mess... As if icy roads and 10-foot mounds of snow weren't enough, Old Man Winter has set a few more obstacles in our path—potholes. One of our staffers recently dipped into a doozie while driving down Soldiers Field Road on a rainy Saturday night. When he got out to inspect the damage (a blown-out tire), he noticed about 20 hubcaps littering the road and a handful of stranded cars who'd been similarly incapacitated by the hole (one was a mutilated Porsche). To add insult to injury, the unlucky staffer wasn't allowed to call AAA for a free tow—instead, the state police forced him, and numerous others who were sidelined, to use a $90 towing service. So why didn't the state police immediately shut down the road to prevent others from driving into the gaping hole? It's a good question, one that may eventually be settled in a court of law ("Why should I pay for the city's negligence?" fumed the staffer). But the good news in all of this is that the city of Boston recently opened a pothole hotline so drivers can report the problem, and the city can dispatch a crew to repair it right away. Plus, it turns out, if you come out of the incident with more than a bumpy ride, the city might be responsible for footing the bill. A spokesperson for Mayor Menino's office reports that there have been more than 228 claims filed with the City Clerk's office since Jan. 3. Call 617-635-3050 for hotline information.

Get Real... Lots of locals have entered the limelight via reality TV shows—among them, Lori from MTV's *The Real World 10: Back to New York* and Ethan from *Survivor Africa*. Now another one of our homeboys has made the leap to "reality." Brawny Robert Redford–look-alike and Click model Xavier (right) joined the cast of Fox's *Married by America*. There aren't millions of dollars at stake on this one, but Xave gets to be a potential spouse for one of five singles whose marriage is arranged through the national audience. Tune in to Fox Mondays at 9pm starting March 3 to see if you can vote Xavier down the aisle.



Email Ire... Members of Boston's A-List—an e-mail list of more than 7,000 local party-goers—hardly acted like VIPs recently when one member trying to contact the list's owner erroneously e-mailed several thousand members, spurring respondents to shoot off "reply to all" e-mails requesting removal from the list. As more and more of those requests mounted in members' mailboxes, the messages became more irate, like this one: "I'm really getting tired of whatever b.s. is going on with this mailing list!!! Remove me now!!!!" Several hours later, the list's owner, who goes only by Steve, sent members an apology and explained how he had corrected the problem. "Once I became aware of the issue, I left work and cancelled my hosting and service provider." Whether recipients of the barrage of e-mails will be able to get over their apoplexy remains to be seen. But, Steve says, "this cannot and will never happen again!" If it does, Boston's A-List may become Boston's P.O.'d List.

Home Run... Word on the street is that fellow Red Sox players Trot Nixon and newcomer Kevin Millar will be rounding home together on and off the job. Both ballplayers have just staked claims in Boston's latest luxury residences at the Colonnade, slated to open April 1. The neighbors-to-be will live just about a mile away from the Green Monster, so they better have a good excuse for running late to practice.
—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The WGBH Wine & Food Vintner Dinner was held Feb. 20 at the Seaport Hotel. More than 200 people attended the event, which kicked off the 14th Annual WGBH Wine and Food Weekend. Proceeds from the dinner benefit WGBH's Educational Foundation.

1. **Michael Horwitz**, partner at BDO Seidman LLP, and his wife, **Kasey Kaufman**, news reporter for Channel 4.
2. From left: **Eileen Ewing**, partner at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, **Dr. Richard Edelson**, deputy dean for clinical affairs at Yale Medical School, and his wife, **Ruth**.
3. From left: **Tom May**, CEO and chairman of NStar, his wife, **Donna**, and **Monroe Mosely**, vice president of Isaacson, Miller.
4. **Dotty** and **John Remondi**, vice president of Fidelity Investments.
5. **Tom Holt**, partner at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, and his wife, **Jane**, president of the National Pancreas Foundation.
6. **Karen** and **Vin Capozzi**, senior vice president of sales and marketing at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

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Love Is in the Air, a Valentine Gala Benefit Dinner Dance, was held Feb. 15 at the Park Plaza Hotel. Nearly 500 people attended the event, which includes a silent auction. The event benefits the Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachusetts, a nonprofit organization that promotes equal civil marriage rights for same-sex couples.

7. **Hector Malave** (left), administrator at the Boston Architectural Center, and **David Seabolt**, grad student at the MGH Institute of Health Professionals.
8. **Dr. Jonathan Friedes** and his wife, **Ippolita**, scientist at Mass General.
9. **George Cheung** (left), demographic analyst for Streetcar Consulting in Brighton, and **Jeffrey Littenberg**, graduate student at Boston College.
10. **Dan Newton** (left), of KPMG and **Christopher Flynn**, of Rational Software in Lexington.
11. From left: **Josh Friedes**, volunteer political director for the Freedom to Marry Coalition, **Jacqueline Fein-Zachary**, co-chair of the event, and former Massachusetts Senate President **Thomas Birmingham**.
12. **Chuck Colbert**, correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter*, and **Jennifer Hess**, technical writer for TIBCO Software in Cambridge.

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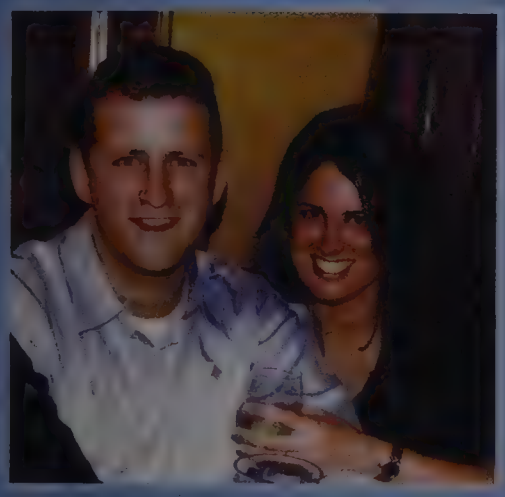

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Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Tax Attack

Tax tip No. 1: 1040-EZ isn't always for people named Ez

Besides working here at the IMPROPER, I earned a little extra money last year, and that's making my taxes a royal pain. If you have just one W-2 form, your taxes are relatively simple and could probably be done by any intelligent person in only 15 or 16 hours. But this year I got hit with a 1099-MISC form, which covers an independent business (swimsuit modeling, if you must know), so I had to contend with the scary world of itemized deductions.

The explanation for box 7 on the form reads, "If you are in the trade or business of catching fish, box 7 may show cash you received for the sale of fish." For a second I thought that the local Yakuza to whom I sell blackmarket eel bellies had reported my under-the-table fish trafficking to the IRS, and I was about to call my ninja death squad to exact 1099 forms of punishment when I remembered that I'd also done some freelance writing. Box 7 covers freelance writing as well as fishmongering. Who knew?

Since I'm too stingy to take my taxes to an accountant but too ignorant to do them by myself, I decided to compromise and try one of those online tax-filing services that translates IRS-ese into English and then plugs your answer into the appropriate form. These sites also do the math for you, which is nice if, like me, you own a graphing calculator that will solve quantum equations, but you only know how to use it to play Pong.

The questions on my super-duper online tax calculator started out easy: Did filer (me) die last year? I whipped out a mirror, fogged that sucker up, and confidently clicked "no."

Another easy question concerned the electric-vehicle tax deduction. Did I purchase a "new, four-wheel, electric-powered vehicle for use on U.S. public roads and highways?" Why, yes, I did. I drive it to my flying castle when I'm not riding my unicorn.

The business-expense deductions section was harder, but still good fun, because as I added up my deductions a refund tracker in the corner of the screen kept posting an ever-higher number. Trying to make the refund-o-meter go higher was a dangerously tempting game. However, one nice aspect of being a writer is that as long as you've got receipts, you can make deductions for things you wrote about. That's why you might want to skip to the next paragraph while I pay some taxes. Ahem... one half gallon of Happy's Rotgut gin, a case of Enzyte male enhancement pills, a massage in Chinatown, a one-year membership *www.truckstopharlots.com*, one tattoo readi "Lucy," one laser tattoo removal, a pizza visit from a bail bondsman, and a cab rid (Providence to Boston). See, writers. Jus keeping track of your receipts for 24 hou can save you some real money!

When you're all done, the IRS lets yo "sign" electronically by typing in your ad justed gross income from last year, which a piece of information that "only you an the IRS know." Or, in my case, a piece of in formation that only the IRS know Couldn't I call the IRS and give them som other type of confidential password, one which I might actually have access Couldn't I just tell them which brand deodorant gave me a rash in my righ armpit? I'm pretty sure I didn't tell anyon about that, because I couldn't wear *any* de odorant for a couple weeks afterwards and didn't want any of my friends or coworker to be able to pinpoint where the B.O. wa

THESE ONLINE TA RETURN SITES DO TH MATH FOR YOU, WHIC IS NICE IF, LIKE ME YOU OWN A GRAPHIN CALCULATOR BU ONLY KNOW HOW TO USE IT TO PLAY PONG

coming from. So that could be our little se cret, me 'n' the IRS. We're buds, righ And buds don't audit buds, right?

I have one other tax reform proposa When I donate generously to my alm mater, they ask if I'd like to designa where I'd like my contribution to go, suc as toward a bagel in the dining hall o brick in a new building. I think the gov ernment would do well to adopt a simila system. It would take a lot of the sting o of paying taxes, for instance, if you coul check a box at the end of your return sayin "invade France," or "for satellites tha shoot lasers at France" or "for installatio of fascist dictatorship in Germany to r mind France who her daddy is."

In the meantime, I'll be working o maximizing my deductions again for nex year. Who wants to have my baby? iB

You think that's funny?

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ANTOINE WALKER AND PAUL PIERCE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB PERACHIO

Antoine Walker and Paul Pierce are co-captains of the Boston Celtics.

Antoine Walker is from Chicago and played for the University of Kentucky, where, as a sophomore, he made the All-SEC First Team and in the NCAA title game (a 76-67 victory over Syracuse) contributed 11 points, a team-high nine rebounds and four assists. He ranks No. 1 in the NBA in minutes per game and three-point field goals made and attempted. His brilliant rookie year with the Celtics got him named to the 1996-97 NBA All-Rookie First Team, and he led the Celtics in field goals made and attempted and blocked shots. As the workhorse on a team whose roster was thinned by injuries, he was the only Celtic to appear in all 82 games, making 68 starts. The next year, he recorded four points, three rebounds and three assists in his All-Star debut. In 2000-01, he played in 81 games, starting in all of them, and set the team record for three-pointers made and attempted in a season, leading the NBA in both categories. He was also the only player in the NBA to finish in the top 20 in points, rebounds, assists and steals per game. During the 2001-02 season, he scored eight points and grabbed two boards in 16 minutes during his second All-Star appearance, and he became one of only four players in the NBA to average 20-plus points, seven-plus rebounds and five-plus assists, as well as leading the NBA in three-pointers made and attempted.

Paul Pierce was born and raised in California and played at the University Kansas, where he earned MVP honors in the Big 12 Conference Tournament in bo 1997 and 1998 and was a First Team All-America selection in his junior season. Th past January, Kansas retired his number, 34. In the NBA, he ranks No. 1 in fr throws, free-throw attempts and free throws per 48 minutes. In his first season wi the Celtics (1998-99), he was a unanimous selection to the Schick All-Rookie Fir Team and ranked second among rookies in scoring, three-pointers made and a tempted, three-point percentage, rebounds and steals. In the 2000-01 season, was the only Celtic to start in all 82 games and became the first Celtic to score 2,0 points since Larry Bird. The same season, Pierce led the team and finished eighth the league in points per game and was named NBA Player of the Month for Ma 2001. During the 2001-02 season, he made his first appearance in the NBA All-S Game, was twice named NBA Eastern Conference Player of the Week, was the on Celtic to start and appear in all 82 games, and became the first Celtic in team histo to finish as the league leader in total points scored.

Jonathan Soroff: *I went to Duke, so I kinda hate Kentucky. Tell me one good thing about that school.*

Antoine Walker: The tradition.

JS: *So who has more style, you or Paul Pierce?*

AW: More style? Me. Just look at us.

JS: *OK, your trademark wiggle—is that natural, or can you teach someone else to do it?*

AW: Part natural, like 50-50. I've done that since college.

JS: *Where are winters worse, here or Chicago?*

AW: Chicago. It's colder, windier. More brutally cold.

JS: *Ever bet Michael Jordan in anything?*

AW: [Laughs.] Oh, yeah, everything you can bet on, except basketball.

JS: *So who wins?*

AW: He's up right now.

JS: *One person you'd most like to play one-on-one?*

AW: Magic Johnson.

JS: *How about someone who's not necessarily a basketball player?*

AW: George W. Bush.

JS: *Best perk of being an NBA star?*

AW: Notoriety, I think. Getting noticed no matter where you go.

JS: *Worst fan encounter?*

AW: I think Philly has the worst fans. There's this one guy who sits there and looks at your bio and takes something off that. It's brutal.

JS: *Is Michael Jordan mortal?*

AW: Yes.

JS: *Is Shaq a cocky bastard for having that Superman tattoo on his arm?*

AW: [Laughs.] Nah. He deserves it.

JS: *Favorite Larry Bird encounter?*

AW: Back in '96, coming out of school, I had an opportunity when I came to work out with the team, before they drafted me, to have some one-on-one time with him. That was the best.

JS: *Rate the FleetCenter as an arena, on a scale from 1 to 10—1 being poor, 10 being perfection.*

AW: Probably a 7.

JS: *Best and worst things about it?*

AW: The worst thing is it's always cold. The best thing is that the fans are right on you, all around.

JS: *Favorite FleetCenter snack?*

AW: The soup.

JS: *Sport you're best at, after basketball?*

AW: Baseball.

JS: *Best-dressed player in the NBA?*

AW: Me.

JS: *One word that describes what it means to you to be a Celtic?*

AW: I'd have to say "pride." Definitely.

JS: *Last question: Is it OK to wear white after Labor Day?*

AW: No, it's not OK.

JS: *But you do it all the time!*

AW: No I don't.

JS: *Your uniforms!*

AW: [Laughs.] Awww, that doesn't count.

JS: *OK, Kansas retired your number, 34. Give me a prediction when the Celtics will retire it.*

Paul Pierce: Wow, OK. This is 2003. I figure I'll probably play another six or seven years. Let's say 10 years from today.

JS: *What in Christ's name does "Rock Chalk Jayhawk!" {the Kansas cheer} mean?*

PP: [Laughs.] I have absolutely no idea, but I say it too.

JS: *So who has more style, you or Antoine?*

PP: I think I've got a little more style. I think I take a little more chances.

JS: *California to Kansas. That must've been a jolt.*

PP: Oh, man, it was definitely a culture shock. I was used to bright lights, big city, and in Kansas, I had to get used to wheat fields and cows.

JS: *OK, doesn't Coach O'Brien look a little bit like the leprechaun on the Celtics logo?*

PP: [Laughs.] If he smoked a pipe and had a hat...

JS: *One person you'd most like to play one-on-one?*

PP: Jennifer Lopez. Ben Affleck's gonna get mad at me.

JS: *Finish this thought: Big feet, big...*

PP: Big hands.

JS: *Worst line from a civilian about your height?*

PP: Probably just, "Gosh, you're tall."

JS: *Michael Jordan. Is he mortal?*

PP: No. He's immortal.

JS: *Is Shaq a cocky SOB for having that Superman tattoo?*

PP: No, I think it fits him. He could act ally play that role in the movie.

JS: *Strangest fan encounter?*

PP: Probably in Toronto, where there wa guy dressed in a Spiderman outfit with jersey on top of it, running around eve where and crawling all over the place.

JS: *Rate the FleetCenter as an arena on a sca of 1 to 10—1 being poor, 10 being perfection.*

PP: It's about a 9.

JS: *Best and worst things about it?*

PP: Worst is probably the soup....

JS: *That's so funny. Antoine said the soup w his favorite FleetCenter snack.*

PP: The soup's bad. But the best thi about it is the crowd, and the noise.

JS: *Favorite FleetCenter snack?*

PP: I don't know if it's a snack, but I like grilled chicken.

JS: *Favorite video basketball game?*

PP: Inside Drive 2003.

JS: *Best-dressed player in the NBA?*

PP: Probably Michael Jordan.

JS: *One word that sums up how you feel abou being a Celtic?*

PP: "Honored." It's a great honor.

JS: *Best perk of being an NBA star?*

PP: We can get in free to the best nigh clubs.

JS: *Sport you're best at, after basketball?*

PP: Tennis.

JS: *OK, last question: You're not supposed to wear white after Labor Day. Is it ever OK?*

PP: I don't know. I've never heard that.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT: EDSON DIAS; STYLING: JENNIFER DUNLEA; GROOMING: MARG

CELTICS
8
CELTICS
34
"I THINK I'VE GOT A LITTLE MORE STYLE. I THINK I TAKE A LITTLE MORE CHANCES."
—PAUL PIERCE
"MORE STYLE? ME. JUST LOOK AT US."
—ANTOINE WALKER
CELTICS
8

LIVING THE *good life* FOR LESS

A BARGAIN-HUNTER'S GUIDE TO BOSTON

If there's one thing certain in the economy now, it's uncertainty. It's hard to know what's coming next—in the stock market, the job market or the economy as a whole.

Whatever the economic future holds, it can't hurt to have a little more cash. Whether you plan to increase your rainy-day savings fund, boost your retirement savings, save for a dream vacation or pay credit-card debt, a little more money can come in handy. There's just one problem: It's not always easy to get your employer to give you a substantial raise or bonus, especially in an uncertain economy.

But there's some good news: You can give yourself a raise—by finding ways to spend less. Find a way to spend a dollar less, and it's as good as earning an extra dollar in salary— even better in fact, since you don't have to pay taxes on it.

BY MARTHA E. MANGELSDORF

PHOTOGRAPH: TRACY POWELL; ASSISTANT: GLORIA DAWSON; MODELS: HELEN/DYNASTY MODELS AND MARK/DYNASTY MODELS AND TALENT; LOCATION: THE SASHIMI BAR AT CLIO; HAIR: SALLY DRINKWATER/LORD'S & LADY'S; MAKEUP: DENISE KITTY-ROUSELL/LORD'S & LADY'S; CLOTHING: PROVIDED BY NEIMAN-

f your budget's tight,
n still enjoy the
ures of dining out with
s. Head to a restaurant
less busy times and
appetizers or dessert
d of a full meal.

ON THE CHEAP

Here are some of our favorite places to get more for less

BY ERIN HAGEDORN

ENTERTAINMENT

The Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). The central branch of the BPL offers an ongoing free film series most Monday nights at 6pm. The next film, on March 10, is *Giant*, George Stevens' epic set in Texas and starring James Dean, Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson.

The Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave. (617-547-1228). On Monday nights, novice gagsters converge on the Lizard Lounge for Comedy Hour, an open-mike event where newcomers have the opportunity to showcase their comedic talents. Aspiring hecklers start mouthing off at 8pm, and there's no cover charge.

EDUCATION

Museum of Science, Science Park (617-589-0419). On the first Friday of every month (October through May), the museum hosts a free lecture open to the public. Tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. A bonus: Lectures begin at 7pm, and tickets include free admission to the museum for the remainder of the evening until it closes at 9pm. Next up, on March 7, is a lecture titled "Global Death and Construction: Earthquakes on an Urban Planet," presented by Roger Bilham, Ph.D., a professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado.

FOOD

Abbey Lounge, 3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631). Who says there's no such thing as a free meal? Every week, the Abbey Lounge presents Blue Mondays, featuring live blues bands and free barbecue (homemade pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, pork and beans) from 7 until 11pm.

Bukowski Tavern, 50 Dalton St., Boston (617-437-9999). Bukowski's serves up $1.69 hot dogs and hamburgers, three different kinds of alterna-burgers (turkey, salmon and veggie) for $2 and a variety of side dishes for 90 cents every weekday, 11:30am-8pm.

Corner Cafe, 87 Prince St., Boston (617-523-8997). The Cafe's free offerings include tacos on Monday and Wednesday nights, pasta on Tuesdays and buffalo wings every Thursday night. It's all gratis from 7 until 9pm—or when they run out of food.

McCormick & Schmick's, 34 Columbus Ave. (617-482-3999) and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-720-5522). Both McCormick & Schmick locations offer a wide array of cheap eats for $1.95, including half-pound burgers, bruschetta, wings and sometimes steamed mussels or oysters on the half shell. (This bargain is available only at the bar.) 34 Columbus Ave.: Mon.-Fri., 3:30-6pm, 10pm-12am; Sat.-Sun., 10pm-12am; Faneuil Hall: Mon.-Thurs., 3:30-6:30pm, 10pm-12am; Fri., [illegible]

[illegible] Grill, 909 [illegible] Boston (617-236-1767). The Pour House offers three chances for inexpensive dining from 6-10pm. On Wednesdays' Buck-Buck and a Half nights, chicken sandwiches cost $2.50. Thursdays, on Mexican Madness nights, you can order order any of the grill's Mexican dishes for half-price. Saturday evening's theme is Burger Mania—you pay half-price.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

King's Chapel, corner of School and Tremont streets, Boston (617-227-2155). The historic King's Chapel hosts weekly recitals on Tuesdays beginning at 12:15pm. Performances last 30 to 40 minutes, and musicians range from local students to touring professionals who play classical, folk, jazz and world music. The suggested donation is $2.

BOOKS/POETRY

A number of Boston bookstores offer free author and poet readings on weekday and Saturday evenings. Pick up a calendar at individual stores or check their Web sites. Tickets are sometimes required, so consult the venue for specifics. Bookstores that regularly host free readings include the following:

Barnes and Noble at Boston University, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). www.bu.bkstore.com.

Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). www.bordersstores.com.

Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com.

Harvard Book Store, 1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com.

Harvard Coop, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard.

Newtonville Books, 296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619), www.newtonvillebooks.com.

WordsWorth Books, 30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com.

The Museum of Science

I learned about the joy of spending less from personal experience. For most of my career I worked at a magazine that, at the time, was based in Boston. Two years ago, during a round of cutbacks, I was laid off from the Internet division of that company, and I faced a key career dilemma. Would I have to move to New York, where most of the magazine industry is based—and leave Boston, a city I love? Would I have to find something else to do? Or could I create my own job as a freelance journalist?

I decided to try self-employment. And while I drummed up business, I also focused on the side of the money equation I could control: costs. I knew cutting my overhead upped my chances of success. I started tracking every dollar I spent and looking for ways to spend less. I even kept track of every way I found to save.

Two years later, I'm happy to say that I have indeed succeeded as a freelance writer and editor. True, I don't earn as much as I used to, but I also don't spend as much. I love my work—and self-employment has its perks (for example, my work life almost never resembles a Dilbert cartoon). Along the way I've discovered that there are all kinds of painless ways to save money. Here are some strategies you can try to live the good life for less, even in an expensive city like Boston:

THINK ZIPCAR. I don't often express affection for commercial enterprises, but I have to tell the truth: I love Zipcar. When I became self-employed, I was afraid I'd have to buy a car for the first time in years so I could get to meetings and appointments. Instead, I joined Zipcar, the Cambridge-based company that allows members to rent cars by the hour, over the Internet.

Everyone's lifestyle is different, of course. But if you use a car only occasionally—primarily for short, several-hour trips—consider looking into Zipcar. The cost of owning a car in Boston can be high. In a recent article in the *Boston Globe*, one reporter estimated his car costs (lease, insurance and so on) to be nearly $700 per month, which works out to more than $8,000 per year. Ouch.

Zipcars are parked in set locations around Boston, Brookline, Cambridge and Somerville: You reserve a specific car, pick it up at its parking spot, and return it to that spot. You generally pay both by the hour and the mile for cars, and gas and insurance are included in the fee. For example, one car I use costs $6/hour, plus 40 cents a mile, up to a maximum daily rate.

Here's how my numbers compare. I end up supplementing Zipcar with the T and some car rentals (for longer periods, rentals often make more sense), some bus tickets to the Cape and some cab rides when I get rushed. Including those expenses, I estimate that my total 2002 local and regional transportation costs were about $2,800 or less, with about $1,125 in Zipcar usage. That's a far cry from $8,000 a year—and, in my case, the number includes everything from subway tokens to highway tolls and parking meters. That's why I love Zipcar. (I should note that my transportation costs may not be typical. I don't have a daily commute, and I love to walk just for the exercise.)

GET FREE DRUGSTORE PRODUCTS. I'm no fan of most consumer-products rebate programs; all too often they're too much work for too little payoff. But the Walgreens EasySaver rebate program lives up to its name. Generally, there are several toiletry items every month that you can try for free after the rebate, and a number of others that have a smaller rebate. Just save the receipts and send in one form at the end of the month to receive one combined refund. Look for the little EasySaver catalog in Walgreens; if you don't see it, the catalog is also available at www.walgreens.com.

STOCK UP DURING SALES. This strategy is really easy, but it's surprisingly effective at yielding savings, and many people don't do it. Simply flip through the ad circulars in your Sunday paper and those from local grocery stores. Then buy things when they're on sale—and, for non-perishable items, buy a little bit more than you normally would, to last you until the next sale. (Don't go overboard, particularly if, like me, you live in a compact urban space. You do not want to spend your life navigating around six dozen rolls of paper towels just to save a few dollars.) Things go on sale all the time. You just need to stock up a little, especially if you don't have strong brand loyalties.

Sound simple? It is. And it adds up. I estimate that, with a one-person household, I saved more than $400 in 2002, just by buying more groceries and household items on sale rather than on impulse.

DISCOVER COUPONS. I know, I know. Clipping coupons sounds like something for Ozzie and Harriet, not a sophisticated urbanite like you. Right? Maybe not. For one thing, today's coupons aren't just for gelatin and sugary cereals; in recent months, I've used coupons for items like fairly-traded coffee, organic soy milk and several soy-based meat substitutes. Try looking through the coupon supplements that typically come with a Sunday paper to see if any are for products you use.

As it turns out, many millionaires clip food coupons. That was a surprising finding made by Dr. Thomas J. Stanley, author of *The Millionaire Mind*, who researched the lifestyles and characteristics of American millionaires. According to Stanley, millionaires tend to have a frugal mind-set that emphasizes the future—and if you calculate the savings from coupons over time and invest them, they add up.

millionaires tend to have a frugal mind-set that emphasizes the future.

I am no millionaire, but I do know that even in my one-person household, coupons add up. In 2002 my net savings from coupons on food and household items was about $23 per month, plus an additional $16 per month in coupon savings on other items, from books to ice cream cones. That works out to yearly savings of more than $465. And I'm not a coupon fanatic; I do some of my shopping at Trader Joe's and the Harvest Co-op, where mass-market coupons apply to fewer products.

Can't figure out how to keep track of coupons effectively? Consider some type of coupon organizer, available at supermarkets and some office-supply stores. If you shop spontaneously, at unpredictable times—as some urban professionals do—you may want to carry the coupon organizer in a bag, knapsack, briefcase or purse. Also, keep your eye out for "triple coupons" in supermarket circulars; while Stop & Shop and Shaw's double most coupons that are less than $1, tripled coupons can yield even more significant savings. Another way to maximize savings: Use a coupon when the product is on sale.

COURTESY OF ZIPCAR

ENJOY A MUSEUM—at little or no cost. Here's a great deal. Libraries in a number of area communities, including Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, Somerville and Watertown, loan museum passes that offer free or discounted admission to residents of the city or town. Programs vary, so ask your local librarian for details. For example, if you have a valid Boston Public Library card, almost every branch of the Boston Public Library has free passes that you can reserve for the Museum of Science, the Museum of Fine Arts and, during the school year, the New England Aquarium. BPL branches also have passes for very discounted admission to the Children's Museum, and some local branches may have passes for other attractions, such as the Franklin Park Zoo. What's more, some of the passes are good for up to four people.

In addition, some museums offer free admission at certain times. The Institute of Contemporary Art has free admission on Thursday evenings after 5; the museum closes at 9 that evening. The Harvard University Art Museums—the Fogg, the Busch-Reisinger and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum—offer free admission on Saturday mornings from 10 to noon; also, admission to those museums is free to holders of Cambridge Public Library cards. The Museum of Fine Arts asks for a voluntary contribution on Wednesdays from 4 to 9:45pm. And the Museum of Afro American History has no admission charge at all.

USHER—and see the show for free. High cost of theater tickets got you down? Both the Huntington Theatre Company and Blue Man Group at the Charles Playhouse use volunteer ushers. For more information, visit the Huntington Web site, at www.bu.edu/huntington (volunteer opportunities are listed under "About the Huntington") or call about Blue Man Group at the Charles Playhouse, 617-426-6912.

ATTEND A FREE CONCERT. The New England Conservatory of Music offers about 600 free concerts a year, from jazz to chamber music to symphonic music to large chorale pieces. Learn more about it at www.newengland conservatory. edu ; click on "Concert Calendar." You can also call 617-585-1122. One big event coming up is a festival from March 9 through 12 called "Charlie Parker and the Teachers of His Dreams."

The Boston Symphony Orchestra also offers free concerts through its Community Chamber Concert series, in which BSO members perform in locations in and around Boston. An upcoming BSO Community Chamber Concert is scheduled at St. Catherine's Cathedral in Somerville on March 23. Reservations are required for Community Chamber Concerts. For more information, call 617-638-9300.

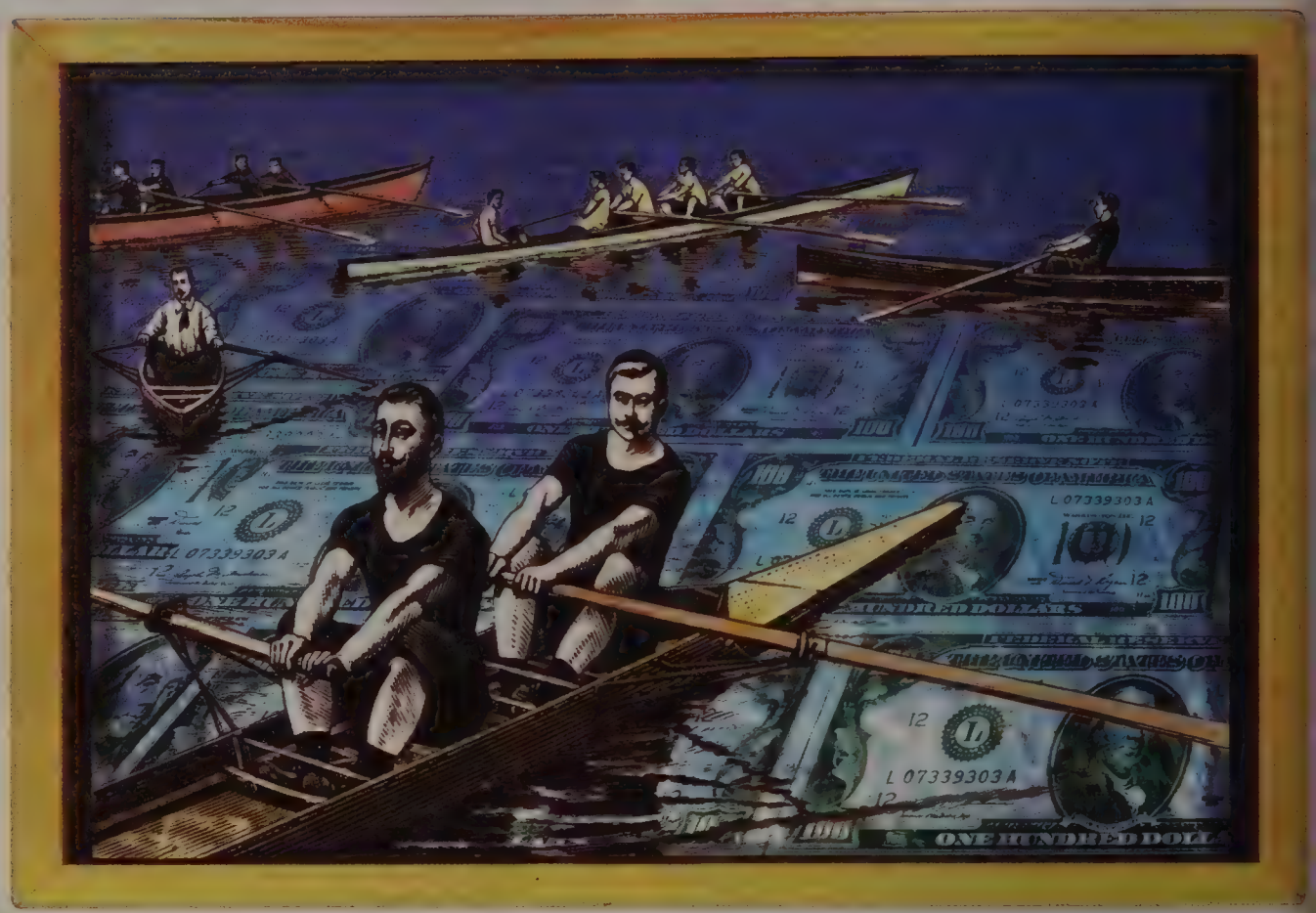
STRETCH YOUR DINING-OUT DOLLARS. Love to eat out but want to do it more often than your budget allows? Here's a thrifty strategy I learned recently from my friend Amy. She calls it "pre-eating." Amy realized that much of the fun of eating out is being with people you care about, trying interesting food and just being out. So she's adopted a money-saving strategy that works like this: Eat a sandwich (or some other light meal) around dinner time. Then go out later with a friend or loved one for an appetizer and a drink, or dessert and coffee. It's most of the fun, at significantly less cost than a full meal. Key to this approach is waiting until a restaurant is no longer full or at its peak dinner hour; otherwise, you risk bad karma by annoying waiters and waitresses.

TRY A WINE TASTING. Here's a fun way to educate yourself about wine. A number of local stores offer regular free wine tastings, among them the following: Allston/ Brighton: Brookline Liquor Mart, 1354 Commonwealth Ave., Sat. 1-5pm, 617-734-7700; Marty's, 193 Harvard Ave., 2-5pm almost every Sat., 617-782-3250. Boston and Brookline: Best Cellars, 1327 Beacon St. in Coolidge Corner in Brookline, 617-232-4100, and 745 Boylston St. in Boston, 617-266-2900. In both locations, tastings featuring one wine per night, Mon. through Fri., 5-8 pm, and larger tasting events Sat., 2-4pm. Cambridge: Mall Discount Liquors, 202 Alewife Brook Pkwy., Sat., 2-6pm, 617-864-7171. Newton: Lower Falls Wine Co., 2366 Washington St., Newton Lower Falls, Sat., 12-4pm, 617-332-3000; Marty's, 675 Washington St., Newtonville, Sat., 3-5pm, 617-332-1230. iB

ten tips
FOR A HEALTHIER FINANCIAL FUTURE

HOW SHOULD YOU MANAGE YOUR MONEY IN AN UNCERTAIN ECONOMY? FINANCIAL GURUS OFFER ADVICE.

BY KATE O'SULLIVAN



So it's not 1999 anymore, and your chances of becoming an instant millionaire on the stock market are slim. But that's OK, say Boston's financial planners and market-watchers. The experts say you shouldn't be counting on one big win anyway. Even with short-term worries about the economy and the possibility of war with Iraq, you should have a financial plan and stick to it. Think about retirement—even though it may be many years away—and plan for that instead of hoping for a big score. We got some practical advice from some of Boston's top personal finance professionals.

"You really want to think big picture and long term. Think about what your goals and dreams are and think about creating a plan to get there. People in their 30s and 40s have a long time horizon. They don't need to take unnecessary risks, like looking for the next hot fund or rotating around in different sectors or having a portfolio that's not diversified. They really ought to be deciding what their goals are, and building a portfolio around that."
—Susan Burns, a certified financial planner, president of the Financial Planning Association of Massachusetts, and president and founder of Snug Harbor Financial Planning Inc. in Marshfield

"We've been advising people to stay short—look for bonds that are three or four or five years in terms of maturity. There's no point in locking in a 15-year bond because interest rates will have moved up by that time. You're better off having a shorter bond. If you're a young person, you have all the time in the world to ride out the market. But I'd always have a little piece of my portfolio in bonds. It's kind of your ballast to windward."
—David Pendergast, senior vice president in the private clients group at Corby Capital Markets, a Boston-based fixed-income investment firm

"We've done some international investing, but we really believe that the U.S. economy is the best, the strongest, and you get more information here than anywhere else. There are people who will say you should have some international, some bonds, some emerging markets stocks, some real estate, some of [illegible] but the success stories of this world are of [illegible] have concentrated. Of course, the danger [illegible] wrong, you suffer more."
[illegible], vice chairman of North American Management Corporation, a global investment advisory firm based in Boston

"Buy-and-hold is dead. There was a time when you could find a good company, buy the stock, and sleep well at night knowing that you would make money someday. It's much harder to do that today because the markets are so violent…an astute investor needs to pay more attention than he used to because things are happening faster. You may have to cut and run when you're wrong."
—Shawn Kravetz, president of Esplanade Capital LLC, a Boston-based hedge fund

"Communicate with your manager. Most people talk to their hairdresser or their mechanic more often than they talk to the person who can affect their financial future. I hear from people, 'I haven't opened my statement in four months.' Even if you manage your money independently, communicate with someone. Watch your stuff. And open your statements!"
—Christopher P. Lorenz, president and chief investment officer of Pine Capital LLC, an investment management services firm in Boston

"I've talked to some people who don't have any money saved and want to get right into the stock market. First you should have an emergency fund, usually about three to six months' worth of monthly expenses. Once you have that you can start looking at investing."
—Rick Fingerman, a certified financial planner with Financial Planning Solutions in Medford and chairman of the board of the Financial Planning Association of Massachusetts

"I've definitely seen people moving either to money market funds or to bonds. You have to be careful not to go completely overboard, though, because you need to have some cash available to invest. There will be investment opportunities as the economy picks up. Financial stocks, consumer discretionary stocks, software companies, publishing and media, and property and casualty companies are some of the groups that our research department thinks will be most likely to benefit."
—Bruce R. Balter, senior vice president, Salomon Smith Barney

"Look at your portfolio every 90 days and decide whether you're over-concentrated in a stock. It's hard to sell a stock if it's been good to you, but sometimes you have to do it. You should re-evaluate your portfolio every quarter and you should do it with help, whether it's with a financial advisor, a tax person, or a friend. Because if it's your money, you can get too close to it. It's just like your health—you really want an outside opinion."
—Daniel Joyce, president of Moors and Cabot Inc., a hundred-year-old Boston-based investment services firm

"Do financial planning. All that means is review your goals regularly and write them down. Goals can be things like, 'I want to pay off my credit card in a year,' or 'I want to have a cash reserve, so I need to start saving $200 a month.' You need to very specifically write down what you need to do every month to reach that goal. Being patient is the key to financial success, both in planning and in investing."
—Maureen Igoe, an Arlington-based financial advisor with American Express Financial Advisors Inc. and personal finance instructor for the Boston Center for Adult Education and Brookline Adult and Community Education

"The worst financial decision I think people make is to go out and run up a credit card balance, just pay off the minimum each month, and then go get another card and do it all over again. Before they know it, they've got twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars worth of credit card debt. The interest costs on it in many cases are higher than they'd pay if they had an equity line."
—Robert Murphy, professor of economics at Boston College ■

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HOW EXPENSIVE IS BOSTON, *REALLY*? CHECK OUR CHART.

BY JESSICA IREDALE

By now you know that living in Boston ain't cheap. According to the *Places Rated Almanac*, our glorious city's the fifth most expensive in the U.S. But could another city tempt you away? And just how do Boston's daily expenses compare with those of other U.S. cities? We researched costs in Boston and four other cities representing varied rungs on the cost-of-living ladder, to find out. If Boston's housing costs have got you down, remember that no U.S. city's more expensive than New York. A move to the Big Apple will cost you, but that's the price you pay to live in the center of the Western world. You could halve your rent, however, by decamping to Austin, Texas. It boasts a kinder climate, a hot music scene and cozy-yet-urban feel. But if you can't imagine leaving New England and love the outdoors, Portland, Maine, has a respectable cultural scene and the landscape to satisfy your rugged side (plus you can still root for the Pats). On the other hand, this year's brutal winter may make Tampa's average year-round 72 degrees (and lower cost of living) look tempting. Our chart shows the average prices that we computed for everyday commodities in each city.

	BOSTON, MA	NEW YORK, NY	AUSTIN, TX	PORTLAND, ME	TAMPA, FL
Rent for a one-bedroom apartment in a trendy part of the city for young, single professionals	Back Bay, Beacon Hill: $1,600	Greenwich Village, Tribeca: $2,150	Downtown: $767	Old Port: $833	Harbor Island, Hyde Park: $800
Property tax	$11.29 per $1,000 residential value assessed	$21 per $1,000 residential value assessed	$25.72 per $1,000 residential value assessed	$25.72 per $1,000 residential value assessed	$25.07 per $1,000 residential value assessed
Car insurance (single 30-year-old female, Volkswagen Passat, clean driving record) MetLife Insurance is the source of the Boston quote. All others are courtesy of Geico Direct.	$500 deductible, $1,435 annually, $358.75 down payment	$500 deductible, $1,727.60 annually, $221 down payment	$500 deductible, $1,745.80 annually, $221.50 down payment	$500 deductible, $932 annually, $121 down payment	$500 deductible, $1,383 annually, $230 down payment
Public transportation	Bus adult fare: 75 cents; T adult fare: $1	Bus and subway adult fare: $1.50; $3 express	Bus adult fare: 50 cents; $1 express	Greater Portland Transit District: $1	Hillsborough Area Regional Transit: $1.25 local; $2 express
Cab fare	$1.75 initial charge, plus 30 cents per 1/8 mile	$2 initial charge, plus 30 cents per 1/5 mile	$1.50 initial charge, plus $1.75 per mile	$1.30 initial charge, plus 23 cents per 1/9 mile	$1.25 initial charge, plus $1.75 per mile
Sales tax	5% on all retail items (except food and clothes)	8.25% on retail items (except shoes and clothes under $110)	8.25% on all retail items	5% for retail sales, 7% for liquor and meals served on premises, 7% for lodging, 10% for short-term auto rentals	7% sales tax on all retail items
Basic cable per month (excluding premium channels)	$38.50	$40.50	$43.83	$41.10	$42.95
Daily newspaper (newsstand price)	50 cents daily; $1.88 Sunday	63 cents daily; $1.75 Sunday	50 cents daily; $1.50 Sunday	60 cents daily; $1.75 Sunday	25 cents daily; $1 Sunday
Movie (full-price ticket)	$9	$10	$8	$8	$7
One-year gym membership	$960	$881	$463	$507	$326
Dry cleaning, men's suit	$8.43	$7	$6.60	$9.38	$7.31
Manicure	$11	$7	$11	$13	$10
Quart of milk, nonorganic, 2%, least expensive brand	$1.08	$1.12	$1.52	$1.08	$1.54
Medium Starbucks latte	$3.20	$3.55	$3.05	$3.10	$3.10
Plain bagel	85 cents	73 cents	63 cents	73 cents	63 cents
20 oz. Coke (at convenience store)	$1.23	$1.16	$1.09	$1.19	$1.06
Bud Light bottle (bar price)	$3.42	$5.50	$2.96	$2.75	$2.25
Pack of Marlboro Reds with tax (at convenience store)	$4.98	$6.63	$3.62	$4.23	$3.33

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GLORIA DAWSON AND ZOE PARKER GEISMAN

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IRISH O'Breakfast

BEGIN THE DAY THE IRISH WAY, WITH BANGERS, RASHERS AND BLACK PUDDING

BY JULIE SHORT PHOTOGRAPH BY BERTA DANIELS

At

8am on a Sunday morning, business at the Green Briar is bustling. Much of the city's Irish population has converged upon this Brighton pub to catch the live telecast of Irish football (or soccer, as we Americans call it). Despite the fact that there's no beer to be had until noon (as local liquor laws dictate), the crowd is rambunctious. Waiters scurry back and forth balancing platters of food as footie fans cheer on their favorite team. Given the hour, coffee is the drink of choice, and the fare on almost every table is the same: traditional Irish breakfast.

It must be said that the Irish—never known for their haute cuisine—do breakfast right. It wouldn't be Sunday morning in Ireland without a home-cooked meal of Irish bangers (sausage), rashers (bacon), black and white pudding (meat patties), fried tomatoes, eggs, homefries (french fries), baked beans and toast. "Yeah, it's heavy in cholesterol and a bit on the greasy side," says Joe Fenton, manager of the Green Briar, which serves as many as 200 Irish breakfast platters on a game day during football season (March to September). "But once you've tasted Irish meat, you'll never want American again." Fenton imports his sausage "from the island" and serves Bachelors baked beans, another Irish import. "It has to be authentic," he says, "or else all the Irish would go someplace else."

There's truth to that. More than 30 pubs around the city offer Irish breakfast of some sort, but it's attention to detail that makes certain pubs stand out. The french fries, for example, should be thick-cut, says Fenton. "And some places don't offer baked beans or only serve one sausage, not two."

If that sounds awfully nitpicky, it is. Irish transplants want the breakfast they grew up with. "Every Sunday morning, my mum would prepare a big breakfast," says Dublin native Orlaith Carson, a waitress at the Green Briar. "She made it for my five brothers, who'd all wake up with hangovers." Ah, yes, did we mention the medicinal benefits of an Irish breakfast? "It's all the kinds of foods you crave," adds Carson.

Fenton, meanwhile, has brought a heaping plate of Irish breakfast to the wooden booth where I am seated. It's a work of art. A small crock of baked beans with brown sugar and molasses forms the centerpiece. I make my way around clockwise, beginning with the sausage. It tastes smoky, and the texture reminds me more of a hot dog than a link of Jimmy Dean. Next is a thick slice of fried tomato, soft and succulent. Two slices of toasted brown bread rest on the plate's rim. Traditionally, the Irish slather their bread with sweet butter and preserves, but here a plastic packet of State Brand butter will have to suffice. My eggs come scrambled, but most kitchens, including the Green Briar's, will fry them for you if that's your preference. The fries, thick-cut as promised, are crispy on the outside and fluffy inside. The rashers, fried in a dollop of butter, are tender and taste more like Canadian bacon, or fried ham, than the crispy bacon Americans are used to.

The wild card, which I've been avoiding until last, is the two varieties of "pudding." Forget any notion you have of a creamy dessert. White pudding consists of processed meat mixed with oats, onion and seasoning. Black pudding is similar but gets its name from the addition of lamb's or pig's blood to the mixture. The patties are fried with a crispy exterior and a chewy, more gristly interior. My companions compare Irish pudding to Philadelphia scrapple. Once you get beyond the idea of blood as an ingredient, it's not half bad. "It kind of helps if you grew up with it," says Fenton, whose parents used to make their own pudding on their farm in rural Connemara, Ireland. I wash it down with a mug of milky Irish tea.

It's a meal and a half. In Ireland, they wouldn't eat another meal until dinnertime at 4pm, Carson says. Myself, I probably won't eat for days. But there's no reason I couldn't have a pint or two of Guinness come noon. **iB**

A SLICE OF IRELAND...ON A PLATTER

Not everyone who indulges in Irish breakfast hails from the Emerald Isle—at the Green Briar, nine out of 10 patrons are Irish, but "Americans love it too," says manager Joe Fenton. If you'd like to indulge, here's a list of some pubs around the city that offer the meal.

ANAM CARA, 1648 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2880). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Sat. and Sun., 11am-3pm. $8.

THE ASGARD, 350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat. and Sun., 11am-3pm. $7.99.

THE BLACK ROSE, 160 State St., Boston (617-742-2286). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sat. and Sun., 10am-12pm. $4.99-$6.99.

THE BURREN, 247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sat. and Sun., 11am-3pm. $7.95.

CLERYS BISTRO AND BAR, 113 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-262-9874). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Sun., 10am-3pm. $9.

DEVLIN'S, 332 Washington St., Brighton (617-779-8822). MBTA: B Green Line to Washington Street, transfer to bus #65. Sat. and Sun., 10am-3pm. $10.

THE DRUID, 1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat. and Sun., 11am-4pm. $7.95.

THE FIELD, 20 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-7345). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat., 12-4pm. $7.

FLANN O'BRIEN'S, 1619 Tremont St., Roxbury (617-566-7744). MBTA: E Green Line to Brigham Circle. Sun., 11am-9pm. $7.95.

GRAFTON STREET, 1230 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sun., 11am-5pm. $9.95.

THE GRAND CANAL, 57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or North Station. Sun., 11am-3pm. $8.

THE GREEN BRIAR, 304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore, transfer to bus # 57. Mon.-Sun., 11am-10pm. $8.95.

THE GREEN DRAGON TAVERN, 11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center or Haymarket. Sat. and Sun., 11am-3pm. $7.99.

HENNESSEY'S, 21 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center or Haymarket. Sat. and Sun., 11am-9pm. $9.

THE IRISH EMBASSY PUB, 234 Friend St., Boston (617-742-6618). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Sat. and Sun., times depend on soccer games. $8.

JAMES'S GATE, 5 McBride St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-2000). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Sun., 12-3pm. $8.

JOSHUA TREE BAR & GRILL, 256 Elm St., Somerville (617-623-9910). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sun., 10:30am-3pm. $8.95.

THE JUNCTION, 110 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-268-4323). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Sat. and Sun., 10am-3pm. $7.95.

THE KELLS RESTAURANT, 161 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-782-9082). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Sat. and Sun., 10am-2:30pm. $7.95.

THE KINSALE IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT, 2 Center Plaza, Cambridge St., Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Fri., 8-11am; Sat., 11am-3pm; Sun., 10am-3pm. $8.50.

KINVARA PUB, 34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Mon.-Sat., 11am-11pm; Sun. 11am-10pm. $7.95.

KITTY O'SHEA'S, 131 State St., Boston (617-725-0100). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State; Green Line to Government Center. Sat. and Sun., 11am-4pm. $8.95.

MATT MURPHY'S, 14 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-0188). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner or D Green Line to Brookline Village. Sun., 11am-3:30pm. $8.95.

MCGANN'S OF BOSTON, 197 Portland St., Boston (617-227-4059). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. Days and times depend upon rugby, Gaelic football or soccer matches. $7.95.

M.J. O'CONNOR'S, 27 Columbus Ave., Park Plaza Hotel, Boston (617-482-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 11am-3pm; Sun., 11am-4pm. $9.

MR. DOOLEY'S BOSTON TAVERN, 77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sat. and Sun., 11am-4pm. $7.99.

THE PURPLE SHAMROCK, One Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center or Haymarket. Sat. and Sun., 9am-9pm. $6.99.

THIRSTY SCHOLAR, 70 Beacon St., Somerville (617-497-2294). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central, transfer to bus #83. Sun., 11am-2pm. $7.95 full breakfast, $5.95 half breakfast.

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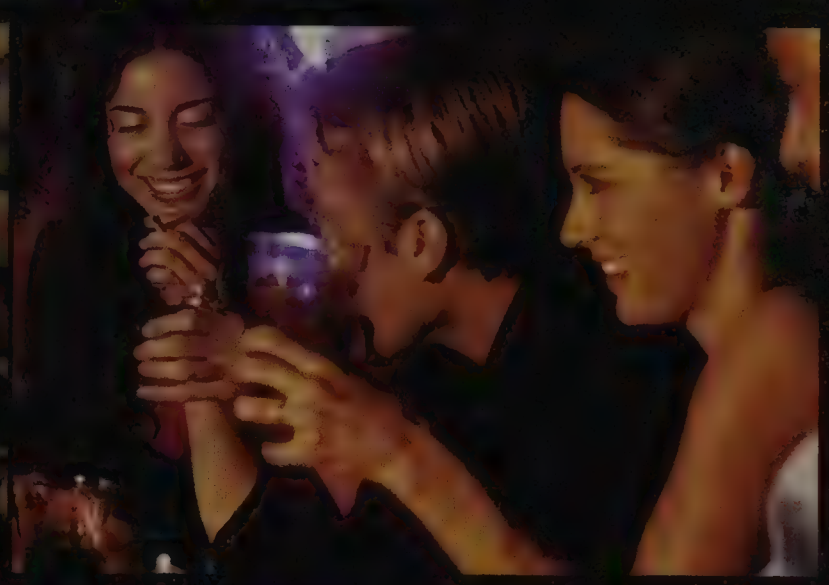

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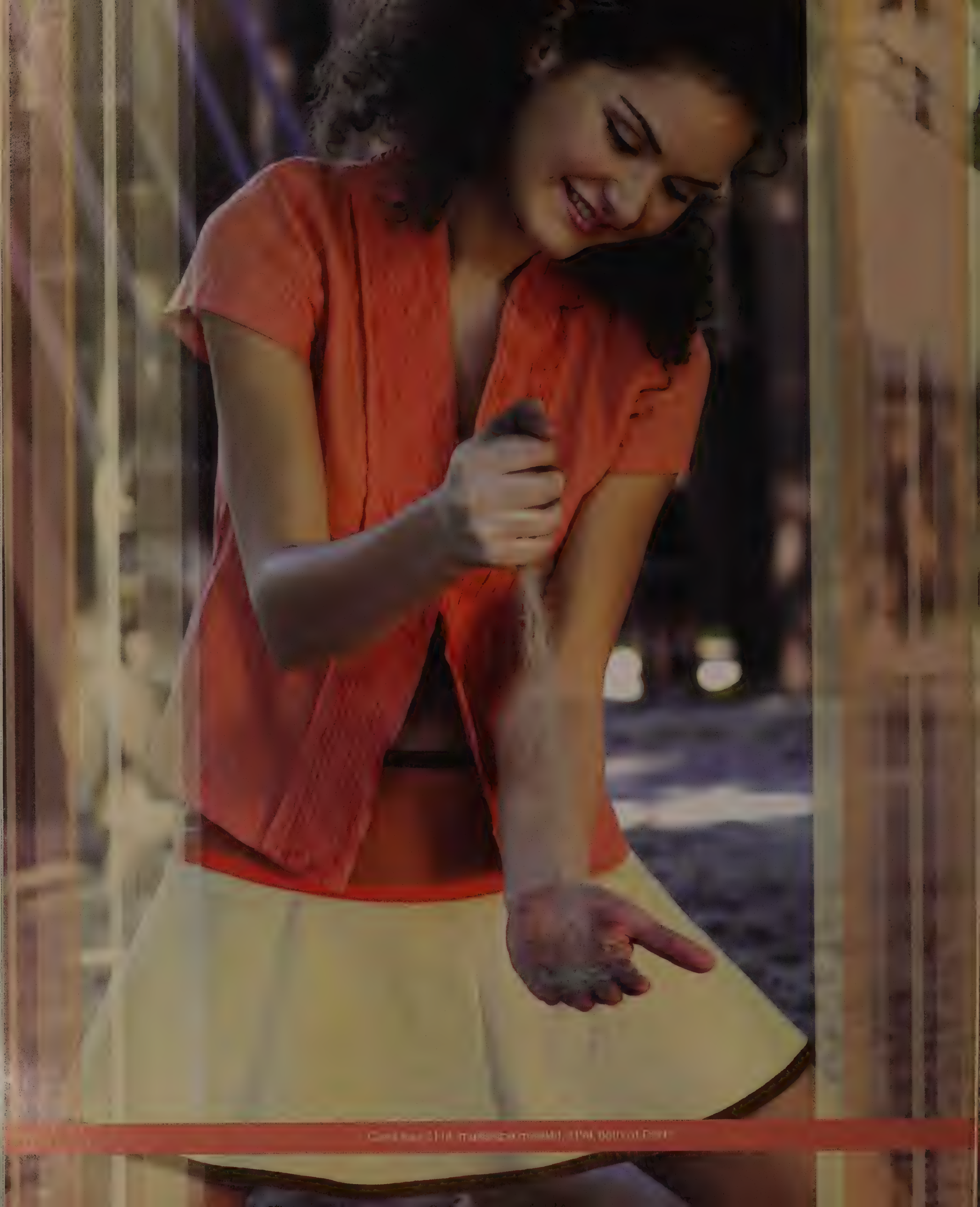
Spring is a time to celebrate being able to frolic in the great outdoors. Light, feminine fabrics will make you feel as free as the wind at your back while you while away the hours on the Cape or the Common. Sundresses as thin as tissue paper and colorful bead-ed embellishments are the season's must-haves. Shirts that tie at each shoulder or around the waist to reveal a more relaxed cut with a retro '70s feel are also a big hit. Smile and rejoice in white cotton dresses, skirts and tops that say "spring is here." Get comfortable in a short skirt paired with a tank top with barely there straps. These looks will take you from a backyard bar-becue to a casual week-end on the Vineyard. Choose anything you like just be sure you can really move in it. These are clothes you can live in.

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STREICHER

Flao pants, $274; white button-apart dress top, $297. Both by Rebecca Taylor at Jasmine Solo.



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H&M
350 Washington St
617-482-7001

Jasmine Solo
344 Newbury St
617-437-8465

Styling, Alexandra Greenawalt

White linen dress, $278 at DKNY Cherry bikini top, $9 at H&M

Mopsy

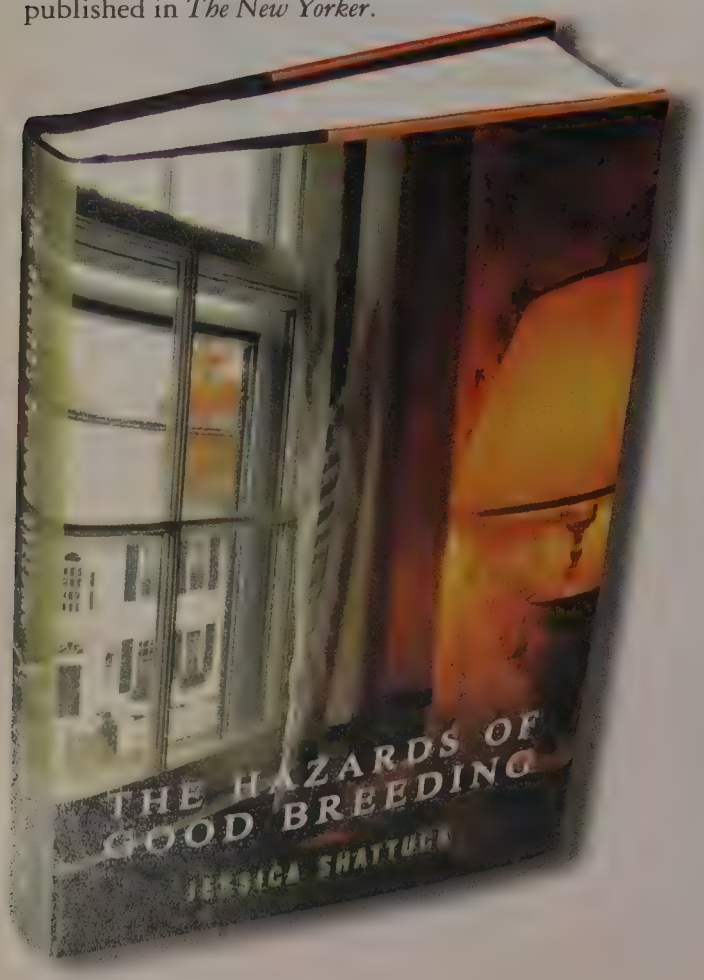
Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

MANY-FLAVORED BRAHMINS

Jessica Shattuck's first novel, *The Hazards of Good Breeding*, follows an upper-middle-class family's loneliness and its surprising connections.

"What if you're in the middle of your subject and you can see it in more ways than one?" 21-year-old Caroline asks the filmmaker who is working on a documentary about her seemingly privileged family. Seeing her characters in various, textured ways is exactly the skill Jessica Shattuck brings to this absorbing novel. Jack Dunlap's wife, Faith, has had a breakdown and become distant from her family. Caroline, their daughter, is herself drifting a bit after returning home from college, and her brother, 10-year-old Eliot, has lived in a lonely fantasy world since his babysitter, Rosita, left. Decent but uptight Jack is still living in the family's stiffly uncomfortable house west of Boston. The wonderfully named Rock, a bumbling, post-hippie friend of Caroline, hangs around the scene, opening things up with his oafish naivete. The plot slow-boils to a surprising conclusion, but it's Shattuck's ongoing rich depiction of each character's very different inner world, combined with her ability to take a sharp, amused, detached view of their attitudes and foibles that makes *Hazards* so pleasing. Shattuck has also published in *The New Yorker*.



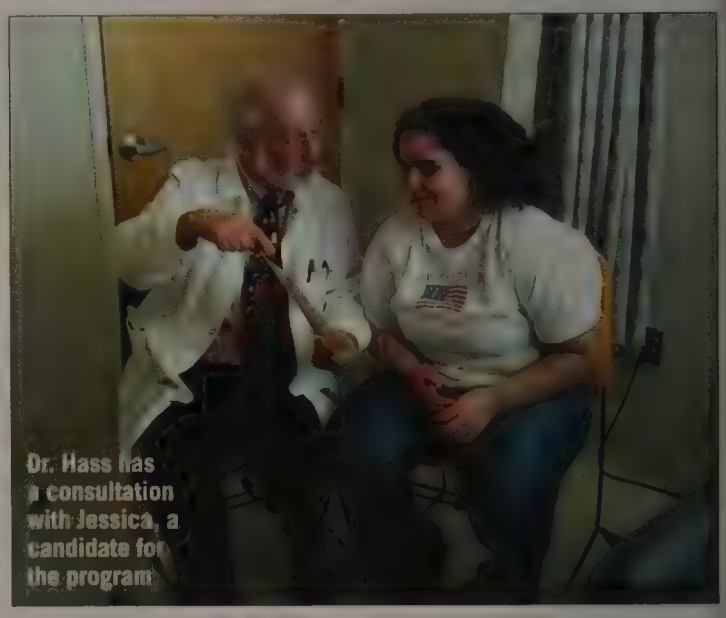
IN YOUR WINDOW'S FACE

Innuwindow, at 595 Worcester Road, Route 9, Natick (888-881-9922 and 508-650-9922) sells ready-made and custom shades, curtains, colorful valences, shutters and some furniture.

If you think shades and blinds are sort of utilitarian, yank your attitude-adjustment cord. Innuwindow carries the ever more airy, sophisticated and versatile Hunter Douglas collection, which includes sheer shades with blinds inside that let in poetic light till shut-eye time. Shades slice vertically or horizontally; the latter can include a feature that divides the top and bottom to create a café-curtain effect. Demand technological ease? There's even a remote-controlled model. Thermalite shades diffuse the light attractively. Or try shutters—always high-class, now more durable. Roman shades beautifully display their fabric pattern. And Innuwindow is a gold mine for fabrics, including those from Stroheim & Romann and Kravet. Curtains, ready-made or custom, are dreamy and silky like slender ballgowns, with some delicately embroidered. Duvet covers of similar aristocratic snazz, with sheets to match, are princess-class, of silk-like cotton. Innuwindow's walls are bedecked with merry valances—those little, allusive almost-curtains that dance above an otherwise-naked window, bringing color and appeal. Beyond window treatments, big iron beds (some canopy-ready) and cozy but substantial sofas topped with embroidered pillows fill this pleasant store. And customer service is excellent.

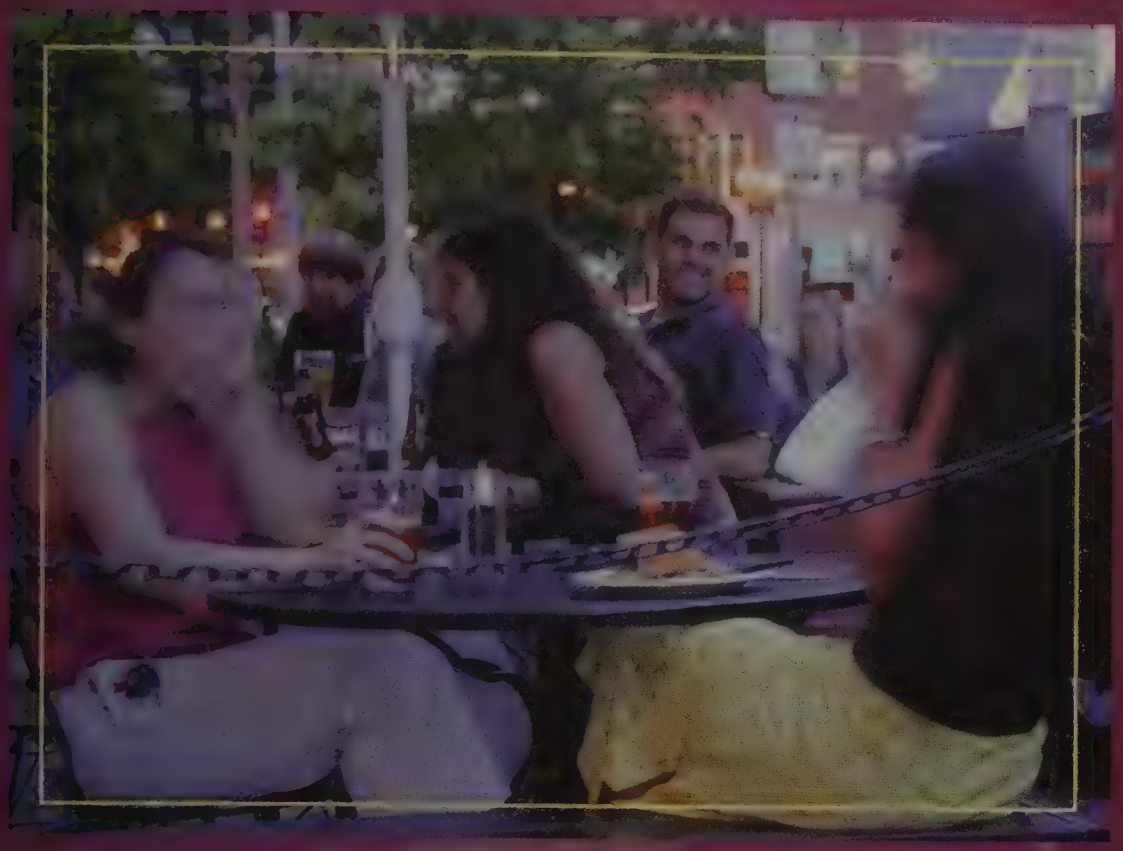
WAIT WEIGHT! IT'S NOT TOO LATE

With obesity on the rise among children and teenagers, a multi-pronged pilot program called WIN (Weight Initiative Now) begins at the South End Community Health Center in March. WIN accommodates 40 children ages 8-13. Call 617-425-2000.


Dr. Hass has a consultation with Jessica, a candidate for the program

The setting is salubrious, airy and cheery, and the patients chat among themselves and with the staff. However, here at the South End Community Health Center, the rising epidemic of obesity among children and teenagers is a serious concern. Twenty-five percent of Massachusetts students in grades 9-12 are overweight or obese, and type-II diabetes, formerly a problem of the middle-aged, is on the rise in this group. It's hard for these kids, bombarded with Britney-bellied role models, to feel good about themselves, especially if they're teased and ostracized. Many cultural demons contribute: waning school sports programs, poverty, fractured family time, monster-sized servings of fast foods, and the sedentary habit of TV watching. Hoping to counteract those influences, WIN will bring 40 kids into nutritional counseling with Lela Silverstein, who will teach about healthy eating. Activities include food-shopping field trips and cooking demos along with a fun, gender-specific hip-hop exercise class. Counseling will be available as well for the inevitable corollary emotional burdens. Spearheading WIN is pediatrician Gerald Hass, who has treated generations of the clinic's patients and will bring his signature spritely idealism and comforting warmth to the venture.

TOP: JACOB SILBERB



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in this section:
Review: UpStairs on the Square
Dish: Speaking (Todd) English
Wine: California's Central Coast
Tasty Tidbit: A taste of Nantucket

REVIEW

Upscale Squared

Mary-Catherine Deibel and Deborah Hughes have done it again with UpStairs on the Square

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

This place is magical. Two restaurants in one, UpStairs on the Square consists of an upscale, pink fantasyland on the third floor, and a slightly less flamboyant, more reasonably priced comfort food haven on the second. In a remarkable accomplishment, owners Mary-Catherine Deibel and Deborah Hughes have managed to transport intact the joie de vivre of their old UpStairs at the Pudding following its unceremonious eviction from its former home by a space-hungry university. The new digs, on Winthrop Street across from the House of Blues, are in a Harvardian brick building dating from 1906. Even though it lacks the Hasty Pudding Club cachet, the new home is even more engaging than the old.

The upstairs dining room, the Soirée Room, stands out with its over-the-top décor designed, like the rest of the restaurant, by Hughes herself. Handpainted pink and gold walls—someone said the art is not on the walls; it *is* the walls—conduct a genteel rivalry with tables dressed in pink linens. Deibel says the pink color scheme, reflected in the mirrored ceiling, bathes the room in a mellow light that makes everyone look better. A white wood-paneled wall divides the room into two parts, with a gas-fired fireplace and dark marble mantel at each end. Snake-necked art deco sconces, gilt-framed mirrors, Victorian gray-blue banquettes with extravagant curves and rococo gold-trimmed chairs with red upholstered seats create an eclectically festive ambiance. Elegant tableware, including bone-handled steak knives and beautiful yet serviceable Spiegel stemware, adorns the tables. The second-floor dining venue, the Monday Club Bar, is also attractive, dominated by a long bar backed by a huge Belle Epoque framed mirror. The bar adjoins a skylighted porch with zebra-patterned carpet, red and pink Chinese screens and bright red walls.

Deibel and Hughes have assembled a cast of headliners at the new UpStairs: chef Amanda Lydon, formerly of Truc and Metro; general manager Lorenzo Savona, former co-owner and sommelier at Les Zygomates; and Monday Bar chef Susan Regis, who trained and worked alongside Lydia Shire at Biba.

No sooner did we sit down in the Soirée Room than a parade of incredible treats commenced. First, a tiny tureen of Jerusalem artichoke soup with chopped chives and buttery brioche croutons teased and tantalized—a subtle, light but intensely flavorful brew with a hint of sweetness. A second amuse gueule—chicken mousse on brioche toast—transported us with its creamy, ethereal lightness and sweet, tangy kumquat marmalade. Bread from Cambridge's Hi-Rise Bread Company—crisp-crusted Polka loaves—was served with soft butter (though after my visit, UpStairs on the Square began baking its bread in-house).

UpStairs on the Square

91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-864-1933)

HOURS Lunch: Mon.-Sat., 11:30am-2:30pm. Brunch: Sun., 11am-2pm. Dinner: Monday Club Bar, 5pm-12:30am; Soiree Room, Mon.-Thu. 5:30-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 5:30-11pm

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING valet

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

The wine list is pricey (with all but one red priced at more than $30 a bottle), but delivers value. We chose a well-structured Calabrian red, the 1990 Ippolito Ciro Rosso Riserva Colli del Mancuso, to accompany meat dishes and found it first-rate. Savona explained that its good structure and high acid level were a product of the cool breezes off the Ionian Sea, making it less ponderous than many southern Italian reds.

Among the first courses, the Duxbury oyster stew ($13) was splendid. Served in a small, almost diminutive bowl with a cute white china cloche to keep in the heat, the stew's remarkably full, intense oyster flavor stood out. When I remarked on that flavor to chef Lydon in a brief phone call, she disclosed that it resulted from plopping fresh oysters into shallots, butter, cream, minced parsley and chives only moments after they were shucked, a trick taught by food legend M.F.K. Fisher. A lighter appetizer, haricots verts with hazelnut vinaigrette and field mache ($10), brought bright green beans, perfectly al dente, served with refreshing lambs lettuce and a tangy vinaigrette, with a garnish of shallots and cashews.

The Soirée Room's main courses included a meaty, well-marbled veal chop ($32) accompanied by fried baby artichokes. The chop was thick, rare and juicy, with just enough fat to give it richness. The artichokes provided a delightful counterpoint, lightly breaded and fried to a crisp but delicate turn. With polenta promised as the starch, I re quested that it be served on the side t avoid the abominable layering trend en demic in Boston chefdom—and I wa glad I did. Our polenta arrived in a smal casserole—a luscious, soft but formed sweet-starchy treat, the best polenta I'v ever tasted. Filet of beef tenderloin ($29 yielded an oversized piece of fork-tende beef, with an aromatic but not fiery dust ing of fresh ground pepper. Slightl caramelized roast potato wedges and ragout of woodsy wild mushrooms pro vided excellent accompaniments, bu they were overshadowed by a succulen

Co-owners Deborah Hughes (left) and Mary-Catherine Deibel have managed to transport intact the joie de vivre of UpStairs at the Pudding to their new digs on Winthrop Street.

golubka of broad spinach leaves stuffed with black truffle panna cotta.

As exquisite as the Soirée Room's offerings were, the aggressive prices dictate that this is a spot to save for special occasions. Fortunately the down-to-earth cuisine in the Monday Bar offers a less pricey alternative. Incredibly, a bowl of superb clam chowder with firm potato cubes, chopped celery, carrots, onions, small morsels of meaty pancetta, and tender morsels of clams in a light cream broth flecked with freshly chopped parsley, is only $5. Only the soggy oyster crackers—I wondered why were they not served separately—detracted from the dish. For a main course I could not pass up the chicken fricassee ($13), a dish I'd not encountered since I left home, where it was one of my Dad's comfort food specialties. Here it arrived steaming hot from the kitchen, essentially a chicken pot pie, with white and dark chicken, carrots, potatoes, mushrooms, muted garlic and chopped chives, served in a white ramekin. Two buttery biscuits crowned this humble yet exalted preparation.

Filet of beef tenderloin with ragout of wild mushrooms and black truffle panna cotta.

Desserts in both dining rooms were pricey, starting at $8. The chocolate soufflé cake ($10), served with an intriguingly delicious Earl Grey prune ice cream—made on premises like all of UpStairs' ice creams—was at once light and moist, enhanced with streaks of dark chocolate sauce. Equally rich was the pain perdu with caramelized apples ($9). This bread pudding (in our house, pain perdu, or lost bread, describes French toast) was moist, not dry like too many bread puddings, and made with juicy apples. A huge portion, it could have served as a dessert for two.

Service was first-rate. Our cover was blown one evening when Savona, whose roots are in Connecticut like my own, recognized me. On my subsequent visit, to the Monday Bar, I believe I went unrecognized but received the same excellent service.

UpStairs on the Square is an estimable eating establishment. When I called around Valentine's Day to try to make a reservation for a follow-up visit, I was told that the restaurant was "fully committed." Deibel and Hughes have themselves another winner in this spot. Indeed, fully committed is a state in which UpStairs on the Square will find itself more often than not. iB

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DISH

Still a Hot Todd-y?

English spoken everywhere...Greens for guys...Prix-fixe pondered...

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Todd English may be one of the founding fathers—or uncles, or cousins—of the Boston celebrity chef family, but his glitzy big-city image would hardly seem to be *Yankee Magazine*'s cup of tea. Nonetheless, he's highlighted in the March issue of the magazine better known for featuring practical gardening advice or the comparative merits of seaside lobster rolls. Will *Yankee*'s readers be kicking up their sensibly shod heels when they read that English is opening yet another **Olives** in Tokyo, that he's developing two more television shows, would like to open a culinary school, etc.? Will anybody?

Here's the logical next step: Todd English as a featured model in the L.L. Bean catalog, decked out in khakis and flannel, cooking up vittles in a trusty enamel skillet for his camouflage-clad camping buddies and their rambunctious Labrador retrievers. Then again, maybe not.

And maybe it's not important, but we think you should know about the most manly salad we've ever seen on a menu. If you're a swaggering stud with a craving for curry, cruise over to the new **Curry Leaf** in Natick and order the Curry Leaf salad, described as chicken tandoori, lemon, peppers, tomatoes and chickpeas "served on a bed of *masculine* lettuce." No frilly frisee here, thank you very much. Seriously, though, even though this new Indian restaurant is sited in a strip mall on Route 9 near a Christmas Tree Shop, it marks a bright spot in the sparse Metrowest dining scene. That's because Curry Leaf is the latest project from Shikha and Vinod Kapoor, owners of the **Bombay Club** and other Indian restaurants. They serve up terrific vegetarian samosas, several goat meat options and an intriguing dish that features "a fully resplendent chicken," whatever that is.

SECOND COURSE

The dinner is in the details: The prix fixe, an increasingly popular offering in area restaurants, is, of course, a complete dinner served at a set price. Now, it may not be *your* idea of complete—sometimes it's three courses that don't include dessert, and usually wine and/or coffee aren't included—but you should also pay attention to other possible conditions of the deal. For example, **Craigie Street Bistrot**, which first offered a $29 "neighborhood menu" on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, to encourage the locals to dine out on slower nights, has extended the menu to Fridays and Saturdays...but *only* after nine o'clock, to increase business later into the most popular evenings.

Todd English plans to open yet another Olives in Tokyo and is developing two more television shows. What's next for this talented chef?

In the North End, **Monica's** is wrapping up a two-month promotional prix fixe menu whose restrictions required a full paragraph of explanation in a press release: Sunday through Thursday only. The price is per person, and the dinner may not be split "amongst multiple diners." No substitutions are allowed, and don't even *think* about combining prix fixe items with regular menu items. Monica's logo depicts a benevolently smiling nun, but that's only if you eat by the rules.

Out in Newton, **Lumiere** introduced its prix fixe menu on the very same day the restaurant expanded its schedule to include Monday nights, resulting in some mistaken conclusions that the menu was only available on Mondays. Not so—the three-course, regularly changing menu is offered (in addition to the regular a la carte menu) Sunday through Thursday for $35, considerably reducing the splurge factor of chef/owner **Michael Leviton**'s cuisine. Caution: If you opt for a glass of each wine suggested to accompany each course, you may bring the splurge factor back into play. But at the end of the evening, you'll be reminded that a beautifully prepared meal, completed by exquisitely chosen wines, can be a great comfort in uncomfortable times. And who can put a price on that? IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Toast of the Coast

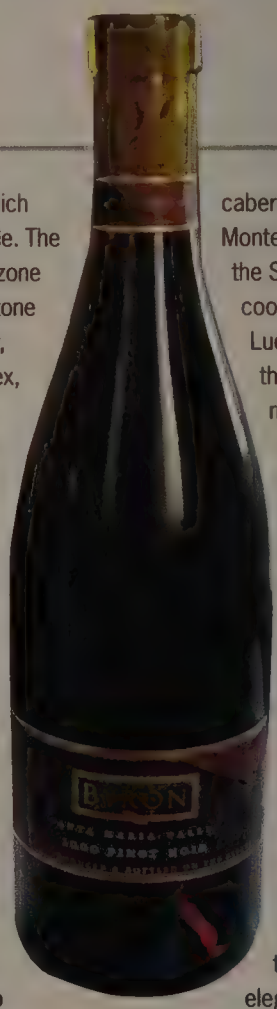
BY SANDY BLOCK MW

Long overshadowed by the prestigious vineyards of Napa and Sonoma Counties, California's vast Central Coast, the region between Los Angeles and San Francisco, is generating tremendous excitement in the wine world. People who follow the money note that virtually every sizable California wine company, and more than a few heavyweights from Australia, have invested massively in the region over the past decade, impressed by the diverse climatic and soil conditions and attracted by the lower costs of vineyard ownership compared with regions further north. A recent trip tasting through the Central Coast convinced me that some of its vineyards are among the finest in the United States. In particular, many of the chardonnays, pinot noirs and syrahs are distinctive enough in style and flavor profile as to inspire a special search.

The labels are not easy to understand. Some will read "Central Coast," which is the largest geographic designation and, as such, permits wineries to blend grapes grown anywhere in the area to make their wine. More specific designations refer to county names, with Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara accounting for the great majority of the region's production. There are also wines originating in particular viticultural areas (called AVAs), which are districts certified as having conditions similar enough within their boundaries to impart unique characteristics. Among the most prominent districts are Santa Cruz Mountains, Arroyo Seco, Paso Robles, Santa Maria Valley and Santa Ynez Valley. Confusingly, some wines that qualify for this more specific designation instead use the county name on the label because it's more familiar to consumers. Finally there are vineyard-designated wines, all the grapes for which are grown on a single contiguous property.

Based on my observations, three factors set the Central Coast apart: the strong value the better wines represent; the climate, which in some zones is significantly more temperate in spring and summer than most of Napa and Sonoma, making it ideal for cool-climate grapes; and the fact that most vines have been planted relatively recently and therefore benefit from current thinking on how to evoke the ripest, most delicious grape flavors. Following is a rundown on some of the most important geographic designations to look for in a store or on a wine list.

Santa Barbara County begins only a hundred miles north of Los Angeles but it is one of California's coolest climatic zones because many of the vineyards are directly exposed to the Pacific Ocean. Acreage has doubled in the last six years with a particular focus on pinot noir, which benefits from a long, slow ripening cycle. The Santa Maria Valley, a windy, fog-swept zone with California's only appreciable limestone soils, is especially prized for its lemony, tropical chardonnays as well as complex, velvety, cherry-scented pinots. The Santa Rita Hills is a new, slightly cooler zone, more exposed to sea influence than Santa Maria, and planted with the highest-quality clones of chardonnay and pinot noir, producing wines that are understated and crisp in style. The county's other major district, the Santa Ynez Valley, is warmer, although summer temperatures rarely exceed 75 degrees. It's a great zone for ample, Burgundian-style chardonnay and, in the higher, mountainous elevations, home to some of the best Rhone-style grapes in all of California, including luscious but firm, raspberry-like syrah.



A bit further north, San Luis Obispo County is considerably warmer, except in the small Edna Valley, which is also a top chardonnay producer. Paso Robles, the largest zone, is sunny, hot, and ideal for peppery jammy zinfandels, Rhone varietals, and lush, flavorful cabernets. Traveling up the coast, Monterey County, which encompasses the Salinas Valley, is predominantly cool and windy. Monterey's Santa Lucia Highlands has become one of the state's most sought-after pinot noir and chardonnay districts, with harvests often extending into November, producing wines with firm acidity and subtle but intense fruit flavors. On the district's higher hillside elevations, the Bordeaux varieties also thrive. The County's Arroyo Seco zone is best known for elegant, supple white wines, particularly chardonnays, which typically incorporate tropical, honeyed elements with the predominant bright green apple fruitiness. Directly south of San Francisco, the Santa Cruz Mountains produce elegant, mostly red wines, including cabernet, merlot and zinfandel, with bright berry flavors, outstanding balance, and often bracing acidity. Its rocky vineyards frequently yield extremely concentrated wines noted for their flavor impact and ageability.

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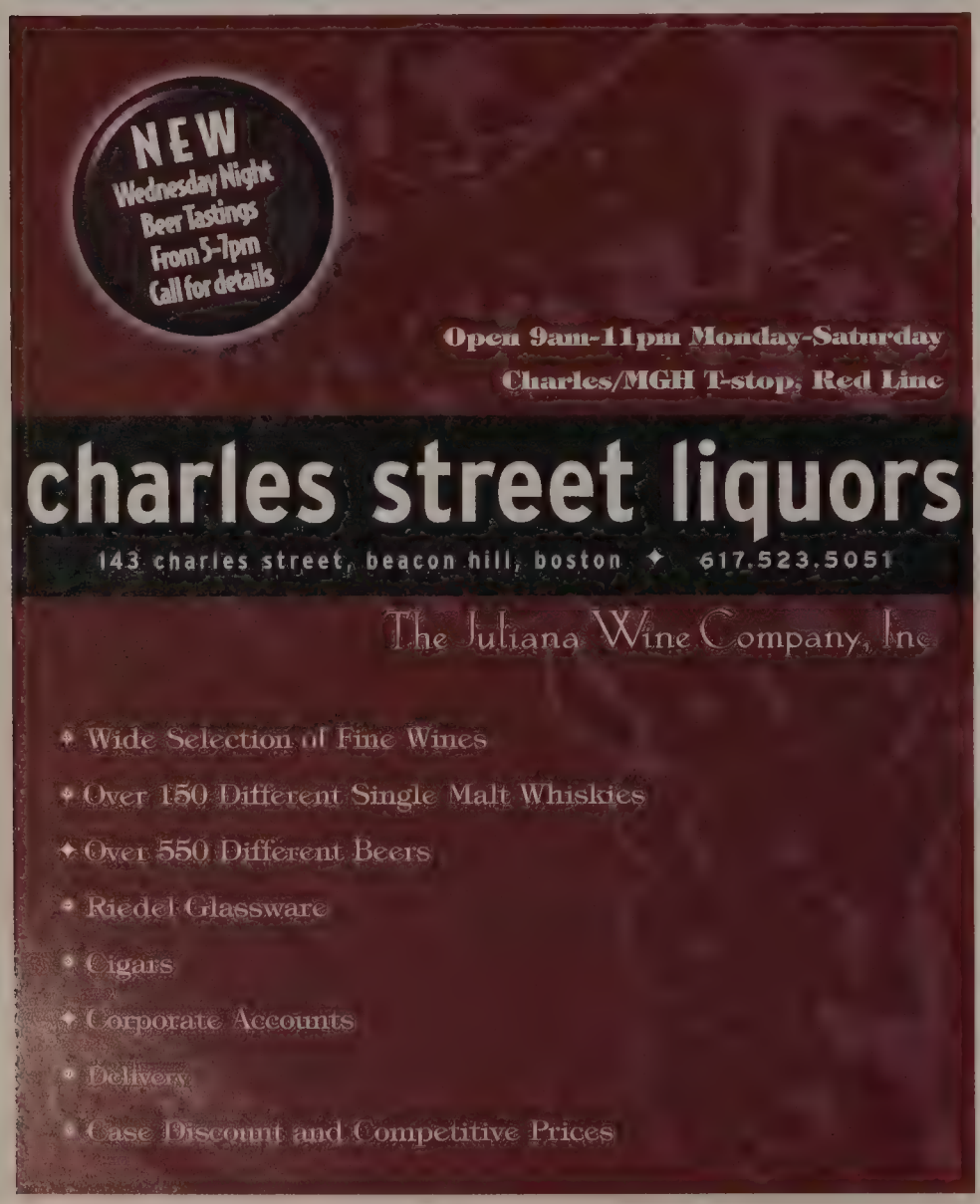


Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

EVENTS

Boston Wine Festival
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). www.bostonwinefestival.net. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Through April 11.* More than 50 events, including seminars, vertical tastings, dinner dances and celebrity guest speakers, are scheduled at this annual event. •March 5, 6:30pm (seminar), 8pm (dinner), $175 (dinner only) and $225 (seminar and dinner): Wines of Burgundy with **Bill Nesto** •March 6, 7pm, $125: Matanzas Creek •March 10, 6:30pm (seminar), 8pm (dinner), $175 (dinner only) and $225 (seminar and dinner): Wines of Bordeaux with Bill Nesto •March 11, 7pm, $125: Seghesio •March 12, 7pm, $125: Chateau Ste. Michelle •March 13, 7pm, $125: Panther Creek Cellars •March 17, 7pm, $125: Groth •March 18, 7pm, $125: Rodney Strong.

Chefs Program
Boston Learning Center, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham Center (781-453-9800). Local chefs hosts these cooking workshops. •March 11, 7-9pm, $39: **Carmen Quagliata** of the Vault •March 18, 7-9pm, $39: Chef **Geoff Gardner** of Sel de la Terre.

Chocolate Fools Day
Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-233-5722). www.cambridgeperformanceproject.org. *March 9, 12:30-3pm. $25, $30 in advance.* Sample chocolate creations from more than 25 restaurants, hotels and caterers at this IMPROPER-sponsored event. Proceeds benefit the Cambridge Performance Project.

How to Buy, Butcher and Cook Fish
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March 29. Learn the secret of perfect fish cookery from chef **Michael Schlow**.

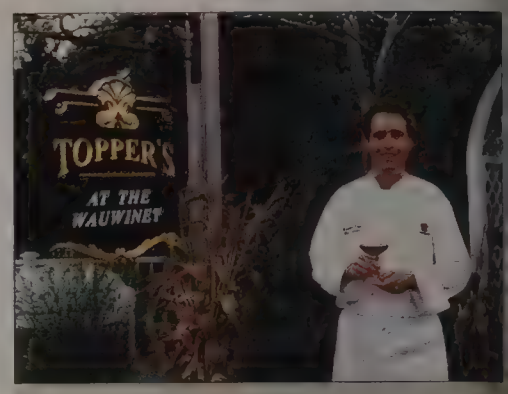
Planning Your Vegetable Garden
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). www.verrillfarm.com. March 15, 10am-12pm. $10. **Steve Verrill** demonstrates how to plan a vegetable garden, including soil preparation, seed selection and planting dos and don'ts.

Port and Cheese Tasting
Finale, One Columbus Ave., Boston (617-423-3184). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 10, 6pm. $30. IMPROPER wine columnist **Sandy Block** hosts this tasting of five ports paired with five cheeses.

St. Patrick's Festival
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HARPOON). MBTA: Red Line to South Station, shuttle to the brewery. March 7, 5:30-11pm; March 8, 2-11pm. $10. Toast the patron saint of Ireland with a selection of Harpoon's Boston-brewed beer. Dance a jig and enjoy live traditional Irish music and rock 'n' roll. South Boston's Farragut House Restaurant provides traditional Irish fare.

Saturday Lunch Wine Seminar
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). March 9, 11am. $25. Learn what experts mean by "balance" in wine while mapping your palate to understand why some wines appeal more than others.

Scotch Tasting
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 6, 8pm. $53. Learn to distinguish between blended and single malt.



A TASTE OF NANTUCKET ON THE MAINLAND
Chef **Chris Freeman** (pictured above) of Topper's on Nantucket plays guest chef with **Mark Allen** at Le Soir Bistro March 10 and with **David Daniels** at the Federalist March 11. *Le Soir Bistro, 51 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-965-3100). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 6:30pm. $95. The Federalist, 15 Beacon St., Boston (617-670-2515). MBTA: Green Line to Park. $80, $120 with wine.*

Tosca Turns 10
St. Augustine's Parish Center, 225 Dorchester St., South Boston (781-740-0080). March 17, 7pm. $100. This 10th anniversary party/fund-raiser for the Esther R. Sanger Center for Compassion features hors d'oeuvres by Tosca's chef **Kevin Long**, live entertainment and a silent auction.

Tour de France
Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-720-1300). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. March 12. $35. This four-course menu paired with wines from Provence includes a discussion with wine director **Erik Johnson**.

Tuesday Night Wine Tastings
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tuesdays, 6 and 8pm. $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey Fallon** educates guests about wine. Chef **Ian Just** pairs hors d'oeuvres with the wines and offers a brief cooking demonstration. •March 11: German Riesling •March 18: Alsace.

Two Classes with Sandy Block
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). www.bu.edu/lifelong. *MBTA: B Green Line to BU West.* •March 5, 6-8pm, $50: Pairing Wine and Desserts. Chef **Nicole Coady** pairs desserts with wines selected by the IMPROPER's wine columnist, **Sandy Block**. •March 18, 6-9pm, $85, at Maison Robert: A Comparison of French and American Wines. Sandy Block offers a comparison of French and American wines presented with each course of a French meal.

Williams-Sonoma Guest Chef Series
Williams-Sonoma, Copley Place, Boston (617-262-3080). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Saturdays, 12-2pm. Local chefs offer instruction and tastings. •March 16, 10:30am-12pm, $30: Chef **Philip Wang** of Truc shows you how to prepare Jerusalem artichoke soup, roasted rack of pork and apple cobbler crostata. •March 9, 12-2pm, free: **Phil Aviles** of Masa cooks Southwestern cuisine. •March 15: **Andrew Wilkinson** of Skipjack's prepares seafood.

Wine Tastings with Lorenzo
UpStairs on the Square, 91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed., 6 and 8pm. $35. Wine director **Lorenzo Savona** offers a themed tasting paired with small bites prepared by **Susan Regis**. •March 5: Friuli •March 12: Veneto.

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Join us on Sunday, March 9, 2003
12:30-3:30pm
Hyatt Regency Cambridge
for a chocolate tasting
extravaganza to benefit
Cambridge Performance Project

Participating Chocolatiers:

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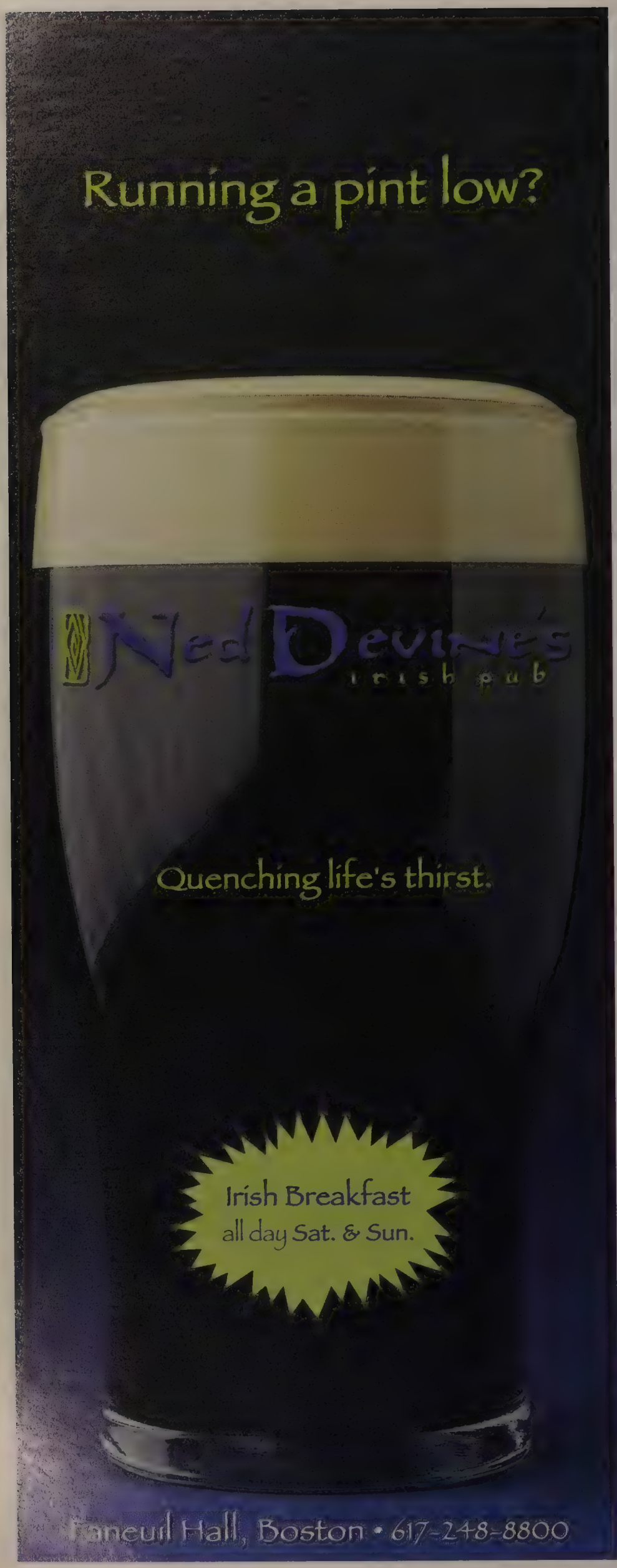

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agenda

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

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Dance Clubs, Dance,

Film, Gay & Lesbian,

Museums, Music

JULIE SHORT

Around Town, Children,

Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

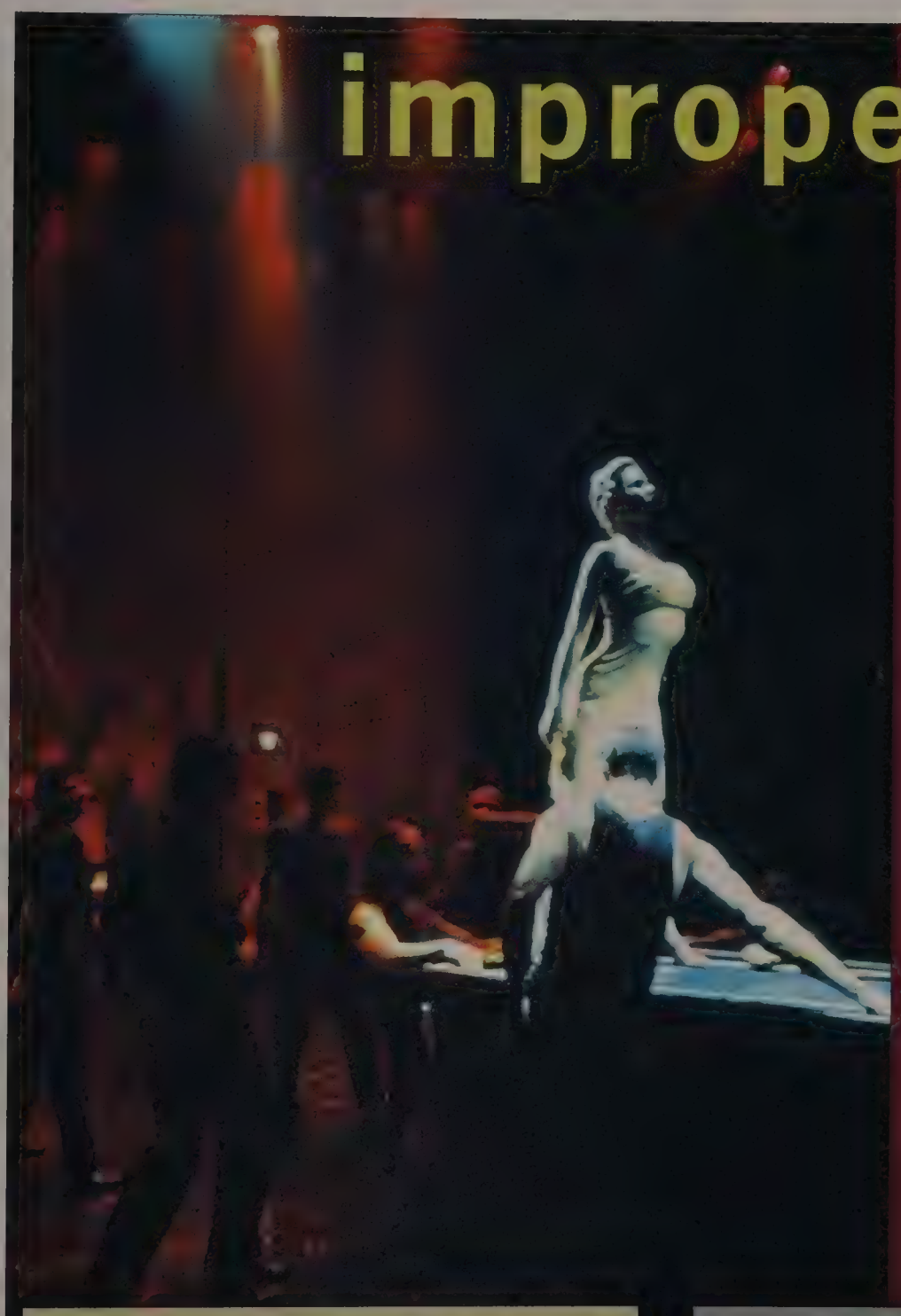
Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope

and Sports

improper picks



THROUGH SUN./MARCH 9

Performing Arts: Making Contact

If you're tired of the endlessly recycled musical (think *Showboat* or *South Pacific*), here's a fun alternative. ***Contact***, last year's fresh block buster hit, returns to the Colonial March 4 through 9. Although this show doesn't provide the typical elements of a classic musical (singing librarians, dancing nurses and such), there is a woman in a yellow dress who gives a depressed advertising executive a reason to live. The musical is actually three separate stories lumped together under one title, and critics loved it. The *New York Times* wrote that director Susan Stroman "created the unthinkable: a new musical throbbing with wit, sex appeal and a perfectionist's polish. *Contact* restores the pleasure principle to the American musical." On the other hand, we thought the three pieces which take place in three distinct eras, a bit oddly strung together. Apparently they're all about the ability to connect, but each is so wildly different in plot and setting that the connection between the three pieces is faint. But the music is fun—everything from ballet to swing, from Tchaikovsky to Robert Palmer—and the dancing is terrific, which makes *Contact* worth checking out. *The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Through March 9. $28-$73.*

SAT./MARCH 8

Art: Everything but the Cow

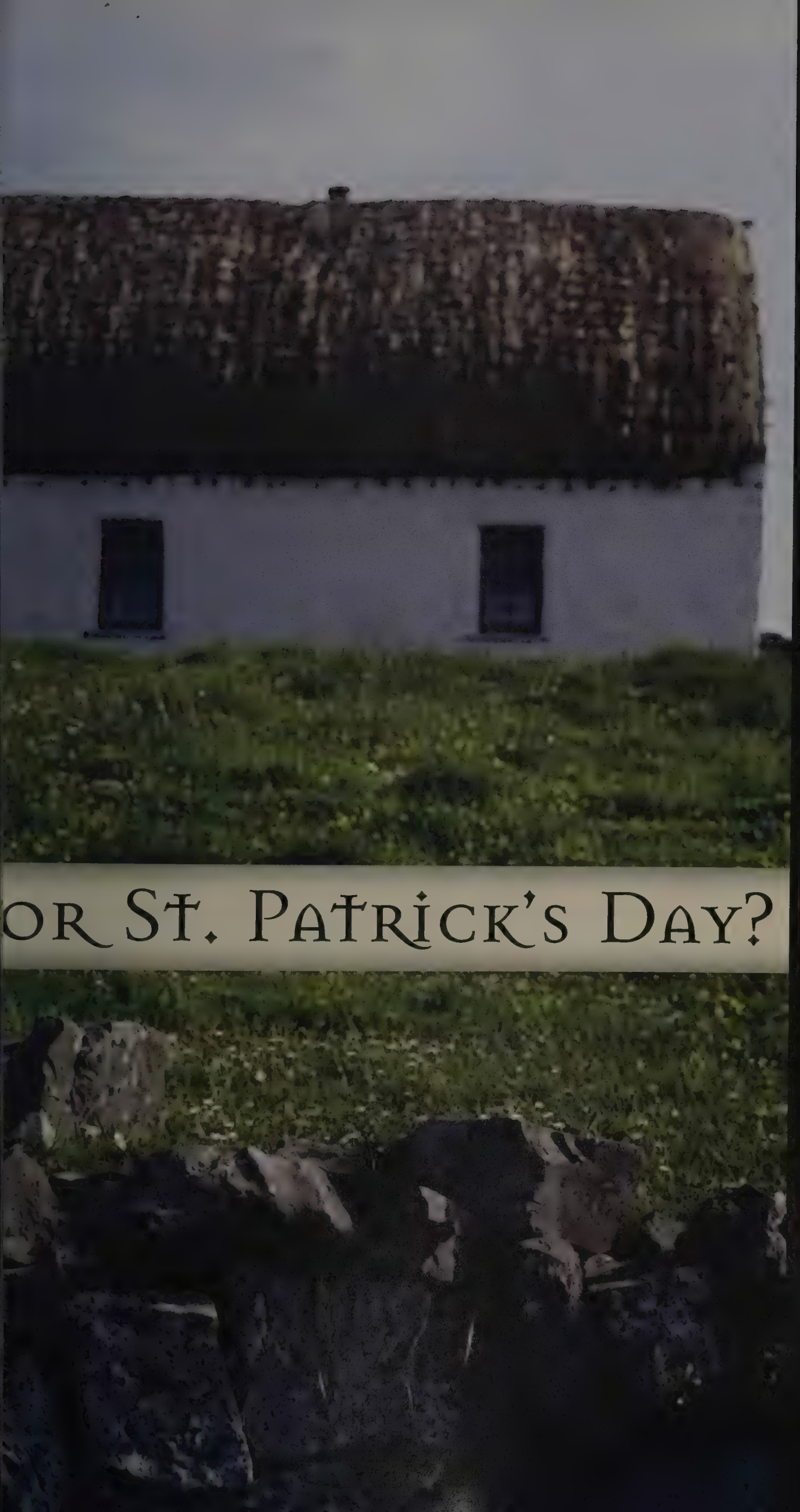
Mobius, the Fort Point artist-run space for all things artistically bizarre, is gearing up for its fifth annual **Cattle-Free Art Auction**. The event is known for offering up great deals on art auction items—everything from paintings, sculpture, prints and photographs by local artists. But it's also known for its selection of more unusual auction items. This year, you can bid on a faux fight (to be staged at the venue of your choice); membership to a poem of the month club; a vacation at a summer home in the Czech Republic; a private calligraphy tutorial; a Shiatsu massage; and a "damn good pie." If bidding isn't entertaining enough, there's also live music by Two Guys on a Stump and Swamp Gas, performances by members of the Mobius Artists Group and a poetry reading by Charles Coe. A light buffet, cash bar and door prizes all come with it. *354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). 7-10pm. $15, $10 students and seniors.*

FRI./MARCH 14

CityScope: ISO Singles

Unattached men and women of Boston, take heart. We're about to increase your chances of meeting an attractive, available single man or woman tenfold: On March 14, the IMPROPER fills both floors of the Big Easy with hundreds of sexy singles in celebration of our recent **Bachelor/Bachelorette** issue. We expect a flirting frenzy as this year's winners mingle with all you unattached guys and gals. The issue's cover girl, Kelly Malone of Mix 98.5, hosts the party with the IMPROPER's Jonathan Soroff, and Hurry Dates will offer speed-dating tables for those looking to snag their own bachelor or bachelorette...in a hurry. *The Big Easy, One Boylston Place, Boston (617-859-1400, ext. 322). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 6-9pm.*

Can't get your Ass to Ireland



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THU./MARCH 13

Music: Book It Tour

The story of **Kid Koala**'s rise to the spotlight is legendary in the turntablist underground. When the renowned DJ duo Coldcut (who also happen to be owners of the now famous Ninja Tune record label) came to play in his hometown, Eric San (aka Kid Koala) arranged to be the guy who picked them up at the airport and gave them a ride to the show. He also happened to have a tape in the car called *Scratchhappyland*, which just happened to be his own demo. Kid Koala's inventiveness extends beyond his tactics for scheming his way onto a cool record label—you can hear it in Koala's creative take on turntablism as well. Rather than making dance-floor-filling bangers, he relies on rare vinyl gems, like vocal samples and movie soundtracks, setting up scratchy hooks while dropping dialogue snippets over them. His latest venture is a tour that combines two electric pianos, four turntables, a slide projector and his recently released book, *Nufonia Must Fall* (a graphic novel with accompanying CD soundtrack). With DJs P-Love and Jester in tow, Koala performs songs from the book's "soundtrack" at the Brattle Theatre. *40 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-931-2000). 7 and 10pm, $15.*

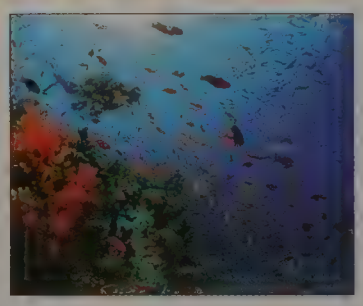
SUN./MARCH 9

Tastings: Choco-holics Anonymous

One would expect chocolate-chip cookies or brownies at an event called **Chocolate Fools Day**—but how about chocolate tacos, chocolate bagels or chocolate soup? The 25 chefs and caterers involved in this IMPROPER-sponsored fund-raiser for the Cambridge Performance Project get truly creative, serving up everything from white-chocolate macadamia-nut brownies and chocolate-meringue mushrooms to frozen fudge cake and chocolate espresso tarte, among dozens of other tempting creations. They're competing in categories like "From Soup to Nuts and Chocolate Too," "Baked by Popular Demand" and "The Chocolate, the Whole Chocolate and Nothing but the Chocolate." For us, it all falls under one big category of pure heaven. *Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-233-5722). www.cambridgeperformanceproject.org. 12:30-3pm. $25, $30 in advance.*

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Movies: Ships Ahoy!



First the sad news: 10 percent of the world's coral reefs, which were built over thousands of years by tiny animals, have died in the past four years, and nearly half of the remaining reefs are threatened. Now the good news: These stunning coral creations, home to 25 percent of marine life, are the subject of the new Imax film at the Museum of Science. The film, ***Coral Reef Adventure***, explores both the disturbing and inspiring aspects of the underwater landscapes and focuses on the reefs off Fiji, Tahiti and Rangiroa, as well as Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Viewers get to swim with ichthyologist Richard Pyle and marine conservationist Jean-Michel Cousteau (son of Jacques). It's all set to songs by Crosby, Stills and Nash and narrated by Liam Neeson. *$8, $7 seniors, $6 children. Science Park, Boston (617-589-0454).*

WED./MARCH 12

Comedy: Laughing for a Cause

Zany stand-up comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is the headline act for the first annual **Canned Laughter** comedy night, a benefit show to raise money for the Greater Boston Food Bank. Best known for his offbeat portrayal of Zed in the *Police Academy* series and as the mastermind behind the 1992 movie *Shakes the Clown*, Goldthwait is also the one who pulled the infamous stunt on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*—he doused a chair with lighter fluid and lit it on fire. (He was charged with a misdemeanor and had to pay a $3,888 fine.) Although Canned Laughter won't have burning furniture, it promises to be an entertaining evening nonetheless. Hosted by WZLX 100.7 FM, the Rustic Kitchen and Boston Rocks nightclub, the night also features veteran comics Tony V., *Newsradio*'s Lauren Verge and Paul Gilligan. Don't forget to bring a canned food item. *The Comedy Connection, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-427-5200, ext. 5050). VIP pre-show reception, 6:30pm; show, 8:30pm; post-party, 10pm. VIP, $100; show and post-party, $25-$30.*

SAT./MARCH 15-SUN./23

CityScope: Gray Skies and Green Thumbs

Roses are red; violets are blue; we're desperate for spring; we bet you are too. The solution? Shake off the winter doldrums by immersing yourself in a mass of flowers at the Mass Horticultural Society's 132nd **New England Spring Flower Show**. This year's theme, the Garden Journey, is conveyed in more than 50 fully landscaped gardens assembled by local gardeners, designers and horticulturists. Spanning almost six acres, this is the third largest flower show in the world. If you simply can't wait until March 15 to get your spring fix, you can go to the Gala Preview Party March 14, from 7 to 9:30pm, where you can get a sneak peak of the floral displays, attend a cocktail reception and witness a celebrity challenge in which VIPs attempt to design their own flower arrangements. *Bayside Expo Center (617-933-4980). Mon.-Sat. 10am-9:30pm; Sun., 10am-5:30pm. $16 weekdays, $18 weekends.* www.masshort.org.

FRI./MARCH 7 & SAT./MARCH 8

CityScope: Toast of the Irish

There are few things we look forward to more than heading to one of Harpoon Brewery's seasonal tent parties after work on a Friday night. We have a few beers, mingle with the bubbly crowd of young professionals, get pleasantly buzzed and then walk over to Jimbo's to sober up over a plate of fish and chips. It's a full night out, and we can still be in bed by 10pm. Well, it's that time again. **Harpoon's St. Patrick's Day party**—held March 7 and 8—allows you to start toasting the patron saint of Ireland 10 days early. Grab a pint of Harpoon's seasonal Hibernian Ale, belt out Irish pub songs with singer Dennis Sullivan and dance a jig to the live tunes of Colum Cille Pipes & Drums. When you're ready to take a break, the Farragut House Restaurant has corned beef and cabbage to help you refuel. *306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-HAR-POON). March 7, 5:30-11pm; March 8, 2-11pm. $10.*

SAT./MARCH 15 & SUN./MARCH 16

CityScope: Ode to the Green Isle

St. Patty's day falls on a Monday this year, but don't fret. There are plenty of ways to get started a wee bit early and make your celebration last a whole weekend. There's the **St. Patrick's Day Singles Pub Crawl,** sponsored by Seven Minutes.com, which begins with an hour of seven-minute dating at the Burren in Davis Square March 15. Singles can get to know each other better during the pub crawl afterward. The next day, work off your hangover (literally) by putting on your greenest running attire and heading to the Asgard for **An Ras Mor**, or the Great Race. It's a whopping five-kilometer road race, but there's a party afterward at the Asgard (with free Guinness!) to replenish your fluids. At noon, head to Southie for the annual **St. Patrick's Day Parade** with 250,000 of your nearest and dearest. See CityScope on page 48 for more information.

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Ongoing: American Heart Association Raffle

American Heart Association, (800-662-1701, ext. 3103). www.heart.org. *$100.* The American Heart Association's annual Heart Ball isn't until April, but tickets for the associated raffle are on sale now through March 28. This year's grand prize is a 2003 Mercedes-Benz E320 sedan, and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. How d'ya like them odds?

Ongoing: Winchester Firefighters Harley-Davidson Raffle

Winchester Fire Dept., Mt. Vernon St., Winchester (781-775-4134 or 781-526-7885). Drawing held April 11. $100. The Winchester Firefighters are raffling a 2003 100th-Anniversary Harley-Davidson Fat Boy motorcycle to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Only 350 tickets will be sold, so carpe diem.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Bourbon Street Blowout

The Big Easy, One Boylston Place, Boston (781-444-7771). www.bostoneventguide.com. *9pm. $20 in advance, $25 at the door.* Earn some beads and win trips and other prizes at this Mardi Gras party. The bash features an open Hurricane bar from 9-10:30pm, live music from Dick 'n' Jane and a DJ.

Friends Ball

Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-254-3800, ext. 1414). 7pm-12am. $125. This Mardi Gras–themed, creative black-tie dinner dance benefits the Franciscan Hospital for Children. The evening includes a Creole dinner buffet, open bar, live and silent auctions and music from the Winiker Orchestra.

Harpoon St. Patrick's Festival

Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666, ext. 3). www.harpoonbrewery.com. *March 7, 5:30-11pm; March 8, 2-11pm. $10.* Harpoon's annual St. Patty's Day bash features live music from bands including the Big Bad Bollocks and the Colum Cille Pipes and Drum Band. Farragut House Restaurant of Southie provides authentic Irish fare and there will be Irish-style beer on hand.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Boston Marathon Run for Research Fund-Raiser

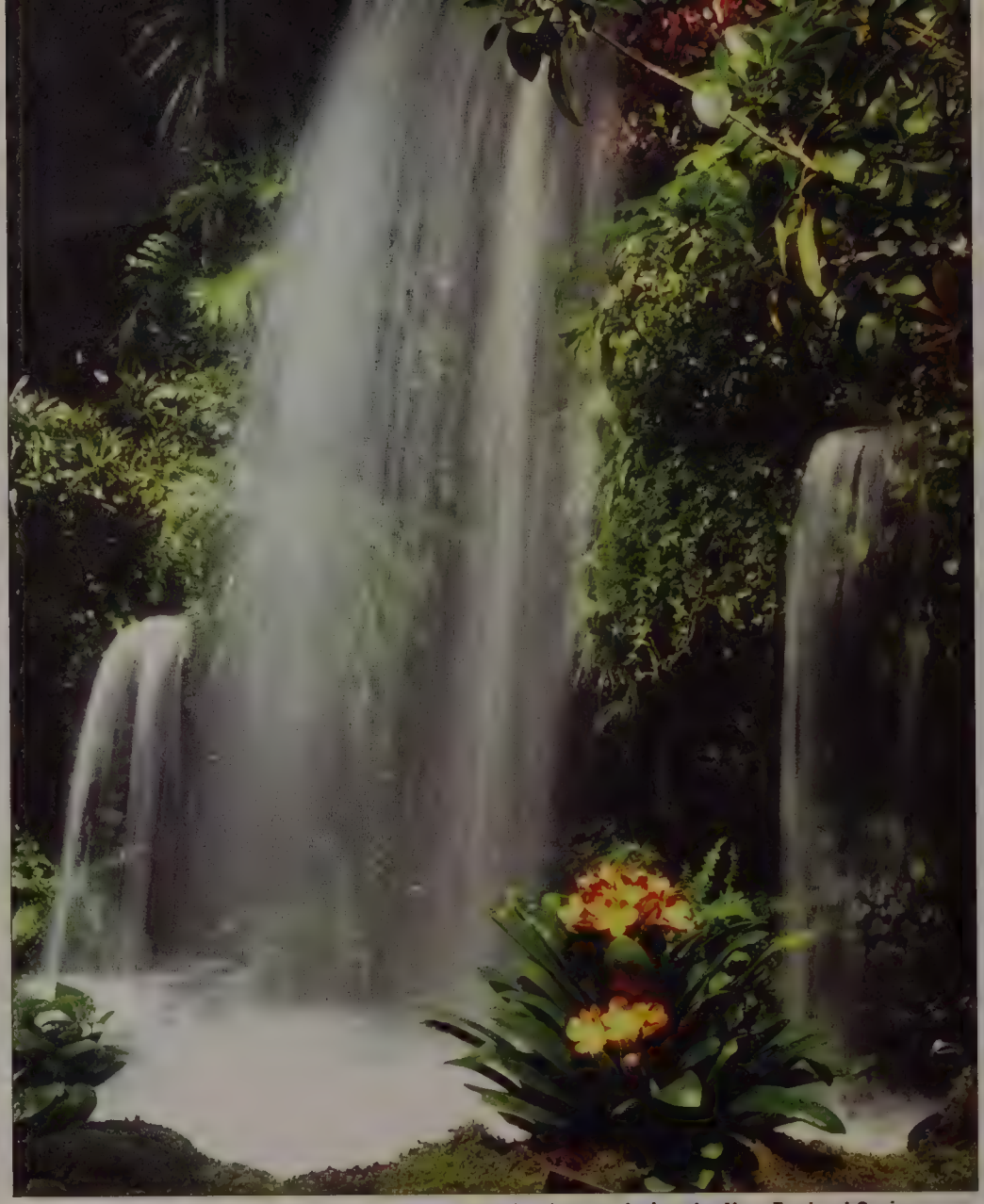
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-543-2228). www.liverteam.org. *4-8pm. $10.* You don't actually have to run anywhere to help raise money for the American Liver Foundation. The event also includes free food and pool.

Carnival Fund-Raiser

Dover Rug Company, 549 Worcester Road, Natick (617-527-9717). 6:30pm. VIP table seating, $150; theater seating, $75; seating on stacked rugs, $50. The 70-piece New Philharmonia Orchestra performs Camille Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* at this black tie–optional fund-raiser. A cocktail party kicks off the evening and jazz vocalist Rebecca Parris also performs. WCVB-TV's Liz Brunner hosts the benefit, and all proceeds go to the New Philharmonia Orchestra.

Gamble at the Mansion: A Vegas Night Fund-Raiser

The Gamble Mansion, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-[illegible]67-4430) www.bcae.org. *7-11pm. $45.* Blackjack, roulette and other games of chance offer gamblers a shot at loads of raffle prizes. Live music is provided by Sultans of Swing and a buffet dinner is included. Proceeds benefit Boston Center for Adult Education programs.



The Bayside Expo Center is transformed into a lush landscape during the New England Spring Flower Show. The show opens with a VIP preview party March 14 and continues through March 23.

Mobius 5th Annual Cattle-Free Art Auction

Mobius, 354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *7-10pm. $15.* Paintings, photographs, sculptures and other works of art are on the auction block at this benefit for Mobius, an artist-run center for experimental work. Besides these relatively traditional pieces, more bizarre auction items include a faux fight to be staged at the private event of your choice, a vacation at a summer house in the Czech Republic and "a damn good pie."

Mothers' Forum Spring Fling

Hyde Community Center, 90 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-527-9717). www.newtonmoms.com. *10am-12pm. $10 per family.* Activities at this family festival include music, dancing, a spring planting table, a photo booth, cookie decorating and a raffle. Proceeds benefit the Second Step women's shelter.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Chocolate Fools Day

Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-233-5722). www.chocolatefools.org. *12:30-3:30pm. $30 in advance, $35 at the door.* More than 25 area chefs and restaurants duke it out for chocolate supremacy in categories like "Scrumptious Wonders from the Cookie Jar." Besides sweet samples, the event includes live music, a Starbucks coffee bar and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the youth arts programs of the Cambridge Performance Project. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

Gibson House Museum Benefit Tea

Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (617-267-6338). www.thegibsonhouse.org. *3-5pm.* An afternoon tea, a silent auction and a "promenade of hats" fashion show raise money for the Gibson House Museum.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Canned Laughter: A Benefit for the Greater Boston Food Bank

The Comedy Connection, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-427-5200, ext. 5050). VIP pre-show reception, 6:30pm; comedy show, 8:30pm; post-party, 10pm. VIP, $100; comedy show and post-party, $25-30. Bobcat Goldthwait headlines this benefit, which also includes Tony V., Lauren Verge and Paul Gilligan. Patrons are asked to bring nonperishable food items to donate to the Food Bank.

Overserved Fund-Raiser

The House of Blues, 96 Winthrop St., Cambridge, (617-497-2229). www.hob.com. *7pm-12am. $13 in advance, $15 at the door.* Five comedians do stand-up and Three Percent provides live music at this fund-raiser for local independent film *Overserved*. The Joe Gatto comedy about the bar business will be filmed in Boston and use a Boston-based cast.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Community Servings Benefit Concert

Virgin Café, Virgin Megastore, 360 Newbury St., Boston. (617-445-7777). 7:30-9pm. $40. The Triptych String Trio plays works by Schubert, Mozart, Beethoven, Boccherini and Purcell to raise money for Community Servings, an organization that provides hot meals for people ill with AIDS. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

J Date Spy Party

Pravda 116, 116 Boylston St., Boston. www.jdate.com. *6-11pm. $18 online, $28 at the door.* J Date hosts a "spy party," where participants try to find their special double agent. Proper spy attire required. The first 100 winners of the sexy spy game are treated to a free cocktail.

Muscle Dream Team Bash

Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-715-1155). 5:30pm. Former NFL players join Paul Frase to raise money for the Children's Hospital Boston. The evening includes dinner, open bar, live and silent auctions and music from the Catunes. At 10:30pm a VIP midnight cruise departs aboard the Odyssey.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Candlelight Vigil at the Irish Famine Memorial

Irish Famine Memorial, corner of School and Washington Streets, Boston (781-849-4444). www.irishmassachusetts.com. *5:30pm-6:30pm.* This annual vigil commemorates the 19th-century Irish famine with singing, prayer and reflection.

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN Bachelor/Bachelorette Party

The Big Easy, One Boylston Place, Boston (617-859-1400, ext. 322). 6-9pm. Join the IMPROPER in celebrating our annual Bachelor/Bachelorette issue at the Big Easy. Cover girl Kelly Malone of Mix 98.5 hosts the party with the IMPROPER's Jonathan Soroff. Hurry Dates offers speed dating tables for those looking for their own bachelor or bachelorette.

New England Spring Flower Show Preview Party

Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., Boston (617-933-4983). 5:30pm-9:30pm. $150 supporter; $250 benefactor (includes admission to the VIP party at 5:30pm). Black tie optional. The Mass Horticultural Society kicks off the new England Spring Flower Show with a cocktail buffet, entertainment and the annual Celebrity Challenge, where local celebs try their hand at the art of floral choreography. The flower show runs March 15-23.

Single Executives Club Dance

Best Western Hotel Terrace Room, 477 Totten Pond Road, Waltham (781-446-0234). 8:30pm-12:30am. $10 before 9pm, $15 thereafter. Proper business dress required. Singles ages 35-55 are invited to dance to live music from Brian Milligan. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres are served from 9-10pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

St. Patrick's Day Singles Pub Crawl

Start at the Burren, 247 Elm St., Cambridge. www.sevenminutes.com. *Check-in at 1pm, dating at 2pm. $30.* The afternoon starts with an hour of seven-minute dating at the Burren. Singles then have a chance to get to know each other better over the course of the ensuing pub crawl. There's pizza at the second stop to help lay the foundation.

Swellegance: A Swank Affair

Royal Sonesta Hotel, Five Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge (617-523-1355). 7:30pm. $75. This benefit for Boston Youth Moves (a nonprofit dance training program for teens) includes performances by the students, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, live music from the Peter Hostage Band and a silent auction that features items such as an African safari.

YLD 15th Annual Gala Benefit

Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-457-8793). www.yldgala.org. *Newcomers reception, 8pm; gala, 9pm. $58 in advance, $68 at the door.* The Young Leadership Division of Combined Jewish Philanthropies' annual gala features wine-tasting, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and an appearance by band Eye2Eye. Black tie optional.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

An Ras Mor (The Great Race)

Asgard Irish Pub and Restaurant, 350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-247-3446). www.srr.org. *10am. $20.* Put on your greenest running attire and join the fray for this annual 5K road race. A post-race party follows at the Asgard (with free Guinness and light beer) and the first 1,500 runners score a snazzy commemorative T-shirt.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Broadway, South Boston, (617-635-3911). 12pm. Join thousands of green-bedecked Irish folk to celebrate St. Patty's Day Southie-style.

Swellegance, a benefit for the Boston Youth Moves teen dance training program, twirls into the Sonesta in Cambridge March 15.

7 DAYS TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Coors LIGHT

GEORGE KILLIAN'S IRISH RED

Get Lucky with an Ice Cold Coors Light at

the ASGARD
Irish Pub & Restaurant
350 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 617-577-9100
Tuesday, March 11, 7-9pm
Wednesday, March 12, 7-9pm

the KINSALE
Irish Pub & Restaurant
2 Center Plaza, Boston 617-742-5577

DESMOND O'MALLEY'S
Irish Pub & Restaurant
30 Worcester Road, Framingham 508-875-9400
Tuesday, March 11, 10pm-12am
Wednesday, March 12, 10pm-12am

inside RACK

Every Monday Night, 6-9:30pm

NOT **just your average Monday Night! Featuring The Rack's All-Star jazz jam! Complimentary buffet and pool! DJ Mike Janedy 9:30pm-2am.**

Every Tuesday and Wednesday Night, 6pm

After work Jazz with Boston's Best Jazz bands, Black Sole & Zeck Martin.

Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

Get a JUMP START on your weekend! In fact, blow off work on Friday with R&B, Jazz and Soul bands! DJ Ricky spins 10pm-2am!

Every Friday Night, 6pm

Join us right after work with the best band in Boston, Central Basement! Hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party! DJ Johnny C will keep you dancing 'til 2am!

Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way! DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

It's Fat Tuesday, March 4th

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THE RACK

performing arts

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Bell, Book and Candle
Black Box Theatre, North Quincy High School, 316 Hancock St., Quincy (617-769-0232). MBTA: Red Line to North Quincy. March 6-8 and 13-15, 8pm. $12. In this classic romantic comedy, Gillian Holroyd, a Manhattanite and practicing witch, casts a love spell over an unattached and unsuspecting publisher.

Ramona Alexander stars in the Huntington Theatre Co.'s ***Breath, Boom.***

Betrayal
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-491-2026). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Wed. and Thu., 7:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm;. March 7-30. $17-$25. There is nothing straightforward or sentimental about this tale of adultery involving Robert, a publisher, his wife, Emma, who manages an art gallery, and his best friend and business colleague, Jerry, a literary agent who was Emma's lover. The Nora Theatre Company presents this story with an unusual structure: nine chronologically reversed scenes.

Bits and Pieces
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.rough-and-tumble.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. March 14-April 5. $10.* An evening of short, joyously theatrical bits, scenes and plays by the Rough & Tumble Theatre. The company brings its flair for physical comedy and its keen eye for the absurdities of day-to-day life to this original production.

Breath, Boom
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *Tue. and Thu., 7:30pm; Wed., 2pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. March 7-April 6. $14-$64.* Directed by Michael John Garcés, this new work traces 14 years in the life of a female gang leader who at 16 is at the top of her game as the leader of a gang of African-American teenage girls.

Cinderella
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. March 18-23. $28-$68. In Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, friendly mice and birds and a fairy godmother help an oppressed girl escape the wrath of her horrible stepsisters and meet an eligible prince.

Cinderella
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-2299). www.lowellauditorium.com. *March 13, 7pm. $24.50-$43.50.* A new stage production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical version of the classic fairy tale.

A Class Act
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.speakeasystage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3 and 7pm. Through March 22. $25-$31.* A musical for people who love musicals, this show is based on the life of Edward Kleban, the Tony Award–winning lyricist of *A Chorus Line*. Though he never had another show produced before his death in 1987, Kleban did write several more musicals and hundreds of songs, the best of which are featured in this musical biography.

Coyote on a Fence
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-728-4321). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through March 23. $25. Bruce Graham's play, which earned the 1998 Rosenthal Award for Best New Play, focuses on the unusual friendship between two death row inmates, a liberal political activist and a young white supremacist.

Double Plays
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). http://shadowboxing.home.attbi.com. *March 18-19.* Shadow Boxing presents four short plays, each of which will be performed twice by completely different casts and directors, in an attempt to answer the question: Was it the play or was it the production?

Letters to a Student Revolutionary
The Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun, 2pm. March 7-29. $20.* This play written by Elizabeth Wong follows two girls, an American tourist in China and a young Chinese woman, through their decade-long correspondence, culminating in the revolution in Tianamen Square.

Molly's Dream
Boston Theatre Works, Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-939-9939). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. and Sat., 10:15pm (after the performance of Coyote on a Fence). March 7-15. $10. This reworking of the 1968 Maria Irene Fornes comedy/musical is full of sexual angst, shifty bartenders, mysterious strangers, cowboy vampires and Shirley Temple wannabes. It's one woman's fantastical journey into dreamland

Sunrise, Sunset: The Songs of Sheldon Harnick
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). March 7-8. $25-$35. Lyricist Sheldon Harnick is the subject of this musical revue that includes songs like "Tradition," "Sunrise, Sunset," "Now I Have Everything," "Do You Love Me?" and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Taming of the Shrew
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). March 14, 7:30pm. $14-$24. In Shakespeare's chaotic love story, sharp-tongued Katharina resists Petruchio's pleas for marriage, while her sister Bianca waits and waits—forbidden to marry her love until Katharina is wed.

A Tribute to Judy Garland
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (617-361-7024). Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. March 7-15. $21. This musical tribute to Garland's film and stage accomplishments features songs from the beginning of her career to the end, interspersed with narration about her life.

Twelfth Night
Abbott Theater, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. March 14-29. $11-$13. Waltham's Hovey Players present Shakespeare's gender-bending comedy.

NOW RUNNING

Answer the Door
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (617-909-1015). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sun., 3pm. Through March 30. Donation. John O'Brien's play focuses on a relationship between a father and son who are trapped within their own minds.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu., 5 and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Chain
Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.zeitgeiststage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed. and Thu., 8pm; Sat. and Sun., 5pm. Through March 15. $20.* A crack-addicted teenager's parents have chained her to a radiator in a last-ditch attempt to help her break her drug habit in this one-woman show.

Circle
Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.zeitgeiststage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Fri.-Sun., 8pm. Through March 15. $20.* Zeitgeist Stage Company presents this comedic adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, which follows 10 sexual escapades linked together by the participants.

Contact
The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Through March 9. $28-$73. This 2000 Tony Award–winning play consists of three stories of love, all combining music and dance styles that span the ages.

Highway Ulysses
Loeb Drama Center, American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. Through March 22. $34-$68. In this recasting of Homer's *Odyssey*, a reclusive war veteran named Ulysses receives an urgent call in the middle of the night and embarks on a journey to find his son. On his way, he gets waylaid by a motley cast of characters—including a waitress at a truck stop, a trio of sirens in a jail cell, a one-eyed librarian and a woman in a tattoo parlor—who force him to confront his violent past and propel him toward the fateful meeting with his estranged son.

It's All True
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 2 and 7:30pm ; Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through March 8. $22-$38.* This show is Canadian playwright Jason Sherman's vision of Orson Welles' struggle to mount his 1937 pro union play *The Cradle Will Rock* after the Work Progress Administration yanked its funding.

No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlan (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Gre Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7pm; Thu.-Fr 8pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30p Through March 30. $27-$35.* In this play set in Nor Carolina in 1949, a black woman must raise her fami while her husband is away earning money. Mea while, a Jewish sociologist who's been observing t family becomes a part of their lives.

Present Laughter
Beatrice Herford's Vokes Theatre, Route 20, Wayla (508-358-4034). www.vokesplayers.org. *Thu.-Fr 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm. Through March 15. $13-$15.* this tale about London's glamorous stage life, an agi actor whom everyone adores realizes he needs tir away from the chaotic theater lifestyle.

Puppetry of the Penis
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-23 1199). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; F and Sat., 7 and 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. Ongoing. $3 $39.50. The international comedy hit features the a cient Australian art of genital origami. Creators Sim Morley and Dan Lewry perform naked while shapi and stretching their penises into more than 40 figur including the Eiffel Tower and the Loch Ness Monst

Rags
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (61 244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through Ma 16. $15-$21. This musical depicts the journeys of Jewish immigrants searching for the Americ dream in New York City's garment district at the tu of the century.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (61 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-F 8pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. going. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a u sex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longe running play.

Stones in His Pocket
Trinity Repertory Theatre, 201 Washington St., Provid (401-351-4242). www.trinityrep.com. *MBTA: C muter Rail to Providence. Tue., 7pm; Wed., 2 and 8 Thu., 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat., 8pm (2pm matinee performa March 1, 22 and 29); Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through Apri $33-$48.* In this Tony Award–nominated comedy, American movie crew invades an Irish village, brit ing unexpected drama to the small community both and off the stage.

Swords and Ploughshares
The Hall of Ideas at the Mary Baker Eddy Library, 2 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). MBTA: Green L to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 12, 1 and 2pm. Through April Free. As part of the Living Ideas Series, this 20-min performance begins with a prince's hesitation to t up arms when called to war. He journeys through ages, meeting such figures as Henry V, Gandhi, M colm X and Martin Luther King Jr., and discovers meanings of patriotism, honor and peace.

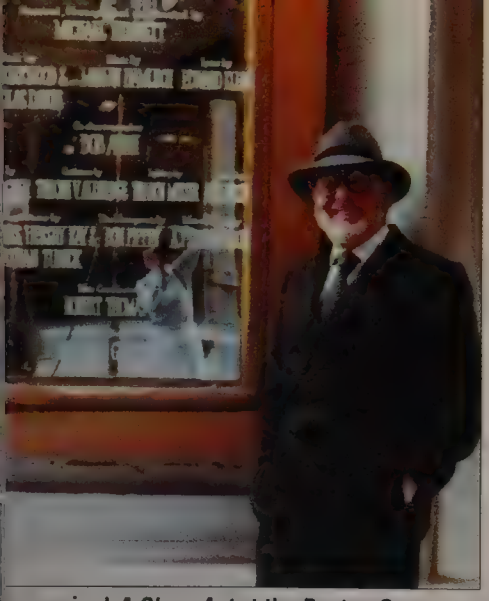
2 Lives
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-4 7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Li Boylston. Wed., 2 and 7:30pm ; Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8 Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. March 14-April 12. $ $38.* The Huntington Theatre Company's Nich Martin directs this show about 72-year-old pl wright Matt and his lover of 35 years, Howard. A a five-year drought, Matt's work is once again go to be produced on Broadway, but his newfound in ration is quickly diminished by Howard's sud death.

UNIVERSITY THEATE

Alice in Wonderland
Spingold Theater Center, Mainstage, Brandeis Uni sity, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-340 www.brandeis.edu/theater. *March 9, 1 and 3 $7.50-$10.* The National Marionette The brings the characters of this fairy tale to life with use of marionettes.

It's a Wonderful Afterlife
Hasty Pudding Theatricals, Harvard University, C bridge (617-495-5205). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 Sun., 3pm. Through March 16. $25-$27. This written by two members of Harvard's 2004 class a creative spin on life after death. When harsh nomic times result in the clouds' silver lining b held together by duct tape, the (land) Lord threa to evict all from heaven and hell if the rent is not p

Rock, Scissors, Paper
Spingold Theater Center, Laurie Theater, Brandeis U versity, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-34 Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. March 18-23. $ $16. Michael Murray directs three one-act play Brandeis students.



ıe musical *A Class Act* at the Boston Center r the Arts focuses on the life of Edward Kleban bove), the lyricist for *A Chorus Line*.

CABARET

ɔston Sings Boston Redux

'ub Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (800-595-'IX). Mon.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. March 9-25. $23-?5. March is Cabaret Month. Joe Antoun of Cen-stage presents Sean Roper and Melinda Stanford rforming new works by local songwriters with Tim ans on piano.

Dance

ark Morris Dance Group

ubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-93). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7:30pm; Fri. d Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. March 13-16. $25-$60. Mark orris returns to Boston with his modern dance troupe perform inventive pieces, including a few Boston emieres, as part of FleetBoston's Celebrity Series.

omp

tuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-00). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to ylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5 and 9pm; Sun. 3 and 7pm. rough March 23. $45-$55.* In its return to Boston, s percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or alogue. Performers use everyday objects such as ooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create sic for their dance numbers.

hen Earth Sings

wer Auditorium of Mass Art, 621 Huntington Ave., ston (617-776-7939). Fri. and Sat., 8pm. March 14-. $10-$15. Choreographer Aparna Sindhoor and varasa Dance Theater blend Indian classical dance, ga, Indian folk dance and world music to represent h diverse subjects as immigration, war and the uggle for self-determination.

no's Who

e Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-00). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu. and ., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. March 18-. $28-$68. Russia's contemporary dance com-ny, the Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg, sets its ry in the 1920s and addresses immigration and search for a better life.

Comedy

lvice to Contributors

mit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calen-: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *adline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

antown Comedy Vault

mington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). BTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-2. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's fea-es local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third ade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Satur-rs: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

medy Connection

5 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, ston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to vernment Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. n.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 15pm; Sun., 7pm. $12 (weekend prices vary). The old-comedy club in Boston draws nationally known nedians on weekends and showcases up-and-com-local talent during the week. •March 5: Mike and rrison Stebbins •March 6, 8:30pm, $12: Frank ntos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •March 7, 8 and 30pm, $20: John Valby, a.k.a. Dr. Dirty •March 5pm, $20 and $25; 8 and 10:30pm, $29: Steve Sweeney •March 10: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •March 11: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •March 12: Canned Laughter benefit for the Greater Boston Food Bank featuring Bobcat Goldthwait and local blues legend James Montgomery •March 13, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •March 14, 8 and 10:15pm, $20: Bobcat Goldthwait •March 15, 8 and 10:15pm, $22: Bobcat Goldthwait •March 17: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •March 18: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •March 5: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Rich Gustus, Walter Driscoll, Corey Manning, Andy Wasif, Mandy Donovan, Dave Thompson and Dot Dwyer •March 6: The Steve Calechman Show •March 7: Piston Honda with guest Alexander "King of Fools" Fulsky, Jay Montepare, Jan Davidson, Peter Dutton, Erik Charles Neilsen and Julie Perkins •March 8: Baratunde, Mary Beth Cowan, Peter Dutton, Jan Davidson, Dan Sulman and John Curtin •March 9: The Sam Walters Show with Robbie Rieske, Rob Reuter, Rich Gustus, Dan Sally, John Bussey, Jessica Casiano, Alana Devich and Carol Carpenter •March 12: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Artie Januario, Tim Kaelin, Tom Dustin, Davey Walsh, Dave Thompson and Stacey Yanetti •March 13: Tim McIntire's Geex Council with stand-up from TJ Griffin, Artie Januario, Jennifer Griffith, Andy O'Fish, Ben Boime, Hubbard & Sage and Nina Tamburello •March 14: Piston Honda with Ben Murray, Kelly MacFarland, Abe Smith, Max Silvestri, Larry Murphy and Tony Moschetto •March 15: Patrice Vinci, Jen Ruelas, Brian Gordon, Abe Smith and Will McNeill •March 16: Sam Walters with Denise Robichau, Tony Moscheto, Andy O'Fish, Eric Riley Moore, Cyndi Taranakaus, Joe List and Mikey G.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •March 6, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •March 7, 8:45pm: Frank Santorelli, Charlie K and Benny Karl •March 8, 8:45pm: Joe Yannetty, Charlie K and Benny Karl •March 13, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •March 14 and 15, 8:45pm: Mike Moto, Ira Proctor, Danny Kelly.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. Open mike for creative talent.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

ImprovAsylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 and 10pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available.

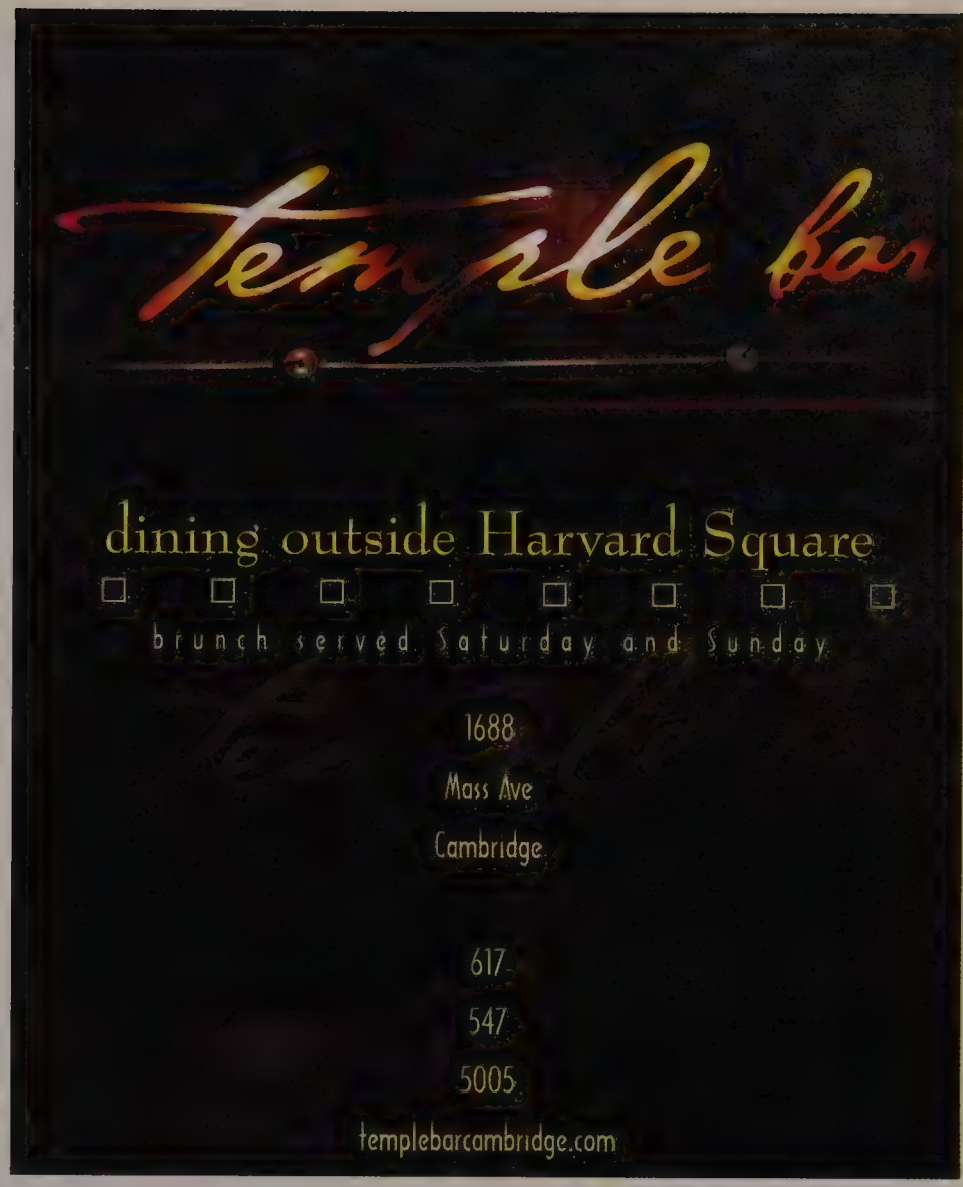
ImprovBoston

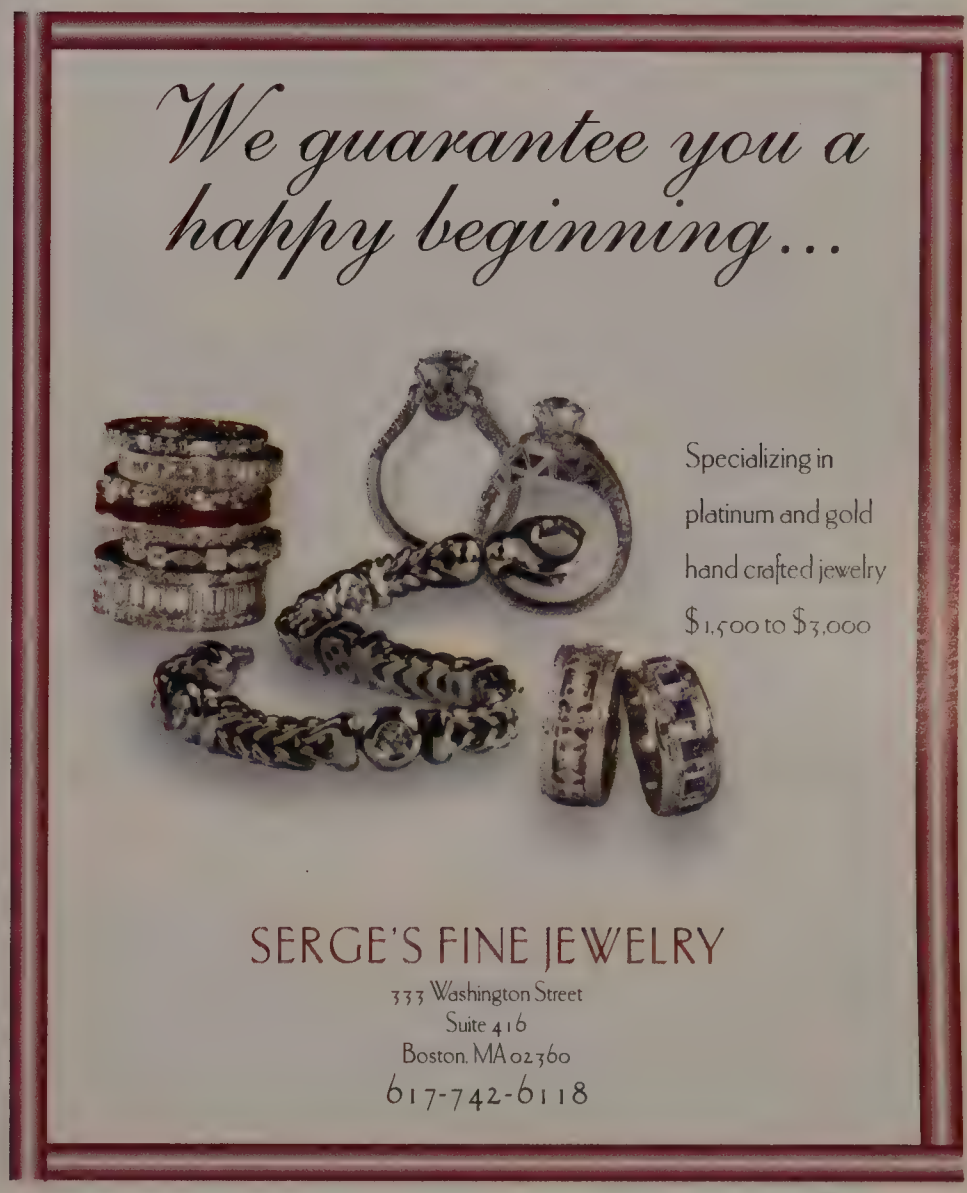
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., 8pm, $12: Micetro; 10pm, $5: The Great and Secret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri., 8pm, $12: The Mysteries of the Universe, Explained; 10pm, $12: TheatreSports. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat. 6pm, $12: ImprovBoston Family Show; 8 and 10pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun. 7pm, $5: Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree. Three shows in one with an open jam.

COMEDY SHOWS

Canned Laughter Benefit

The Comedy Connection, Quincy Market, Boston (617-427-5200, ext. 5050). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket or Government Center. March 12, 6:30pm. $100 for the reception at Rustic Kitchen and after-party at BostonRocks; $25-$30 for the show (please bring non-perishable food items). Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait headlines this comedy show with Tony V., Lauren Verge and Paul Gilligan, benefiting the Greater Boston Food Bank.





Movies

LOVE BITES

All the Real Girls avoids romantic cliches

BY PAUL SHERMAN

A third of the movies made are bad ideas that never should have gone before a camera. Another third have intriguing premises but are too lazy to be more than formula films that rehash and regurgitate. The final third are the movies that have an actual shot at being interesting. Lately, it seems that romance is the genre that rarely shows up in that last category. Just ask anyone who sat through *Maid in Manhattan*, *Two Weeks Notice* or *Just Married*. The romantic movie has become the most cliche-ridden genre in Hollywood's arsenal, and that makes David Gordon Green's *All the Real Girls* all the more refreshing.

This romantic drama set in rural North Carolina is hardly perfect. Its pace is slow, its peripheral action is often unnecessary and its first steps are awkward, since it foists us into the relationship between Paul (Paul Schneider) and Noel (Zooey Deschanel) after they've already begun dating, and before we get any sense of who they are.

This made me initially think *All the Real Girls* was going to be like Green's first movie, 2000's *George Washington*, which had an intriguing setting and poetic visual style but was naggingly slow. *All the Real Girls* shares a small-town industrial setting and an occasional sluggishness with its predecessor. But my déjà vu was wrong. This time the central plot is strong enough to drive the movie.

We never do find out exactly what brought Paul and Noel together (Green apparently filmed scenes that started the story earlier, but decided against using them). Paul's in his early twenties and works as an auto mechanic. Noel's a virginal 18 and has just come home from boarding school. His best friend Tip (Shea Wingham) is her big brother and doesn't like that his buddy, who has a history of seducing women and dumping them, is seeing his sister.

Without the "meet cute" circumstances of most love stories—as when Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner kicked off the romantic subplot in *Daredevil* with impromptu martial-arts sparring—the burden of conveying romantic sparks falls to the scenes between the two leads, after their mutual infatuation is at full strength. Typically, *All the Real Girls* generates its romantic energy by keeping the couple's scenes down-to-earth. They hang out by the local mill or at a motel and talk intimately. Paul's so stuck on Noel he doesn't want to have sex with her yet, saying "I just want to make sure in a million years... we'll still have amazing things to say to each other." Emblematic of the movie's low-key style, the indiscretion that most tests their relationship occurs offscreen.

With its dreamy blend of pastoral beauty and harsh industry, the North Carolina mill town in *All the Real Girls*—where Paul and Noel fall for each other, hit snags and, in fits and starts, try to pick up the pieces—feels unusually spontaneous for a movie. It feels part of a world where people fall in love and unwittingly hurt each other and nurse broken hearts and try to figure out what to do next.

Noel (Zooey Deschanel) and Paul (Paul Schneider) have a romance in a North Carolina mill town.

Adding to the natural feel is Deschanel, who gives the first breakthrough performance since Maggie Gyllenhaal's in *Secretary*. It's the biggest compliment to say that in a cast of relatively inexperienced performers, who never seem to be acting and who just seem like plain folks rushed in front of the camera, she fits right in. Noel is just an everyday teen dreamer in Deschanel's hands—impulsive, emotional and often confused. That Deschanel is able to fit in is no surprise, considering the wide range of characters she's played over the past two years or so: the testy big sister in *Almost Famous*, the friend to nerds in *The New Guy*, the surly rich girl in *Big Trouble* and the practical joker coworker of Jennifer Aniston in *The Good Girl*. If you sat through those movies in a row, you might enjoy her characters and not even realize it was the same actress playing them. Deschanel, Schneider and Green give *All the Real Girls* a raw emotion that easily outweighs the movie's flaws. **iB**

All the Real Girls ★★★

Written and directed by David Gordon Green. With Paul Schneider, Zooey Deschanel and Patricia Clarkson. Rated R. Sony Pictures Classics.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

About Schmidt ★★★
Alexander Payne's latest doesn't have the satiric stin of his previous *Citizen Ruth* and *Election*, but it neve tries to. Instead, it's a quietly disarming story of a 66 year-old Omaha insurance executive (Jack Nicholson who's put out to pasture by his company and who wife suddenly dies, and who discovers something h would have never admitted to himself before: h doesn't like how his life turned out. (At Boston Com mon, Fenway, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Adaptation ★★★½
Another inspired mindbender from the guys wh made *Being John Malkovich*. This time, director Spik Jonze and writer Charlie Kaufman have made a movi loosely based on a book, but it's also a movie about try ing to film that book. It follows Kaufman (a terrifi Nicolas Cage) in his desperate struggle to turn Susa Orlean's *The Orchid Thief* into a screenplay, and come up with the funniest, shrewdest peek into the creativ process in years. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Har vard Square and suburbs.)

Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary ★★½
When she was in her early 20s, Traudl Junge was one Hitler's secretaries, and she was in his secret bunke until the end. She broke 50 years of silence for these ir terviews and, not surprisingly, she has some fascina ing stories to tell, about what went on and about th guilt she's nursed over her youthful naiveté. But th moviemaking here is so crude, this almost feels lik raw footage rather than something that was shaped structured. The movie is sometimes dull because of i (At Coolidge Corner Theatre.)

Catch Me If You Can ★★★
Run, Leo, run. DiCaprio plays a 1960s teen con man i a Steven Spielberg movie that, refreshingly, tries to b nothing more than brisk entertainment. DiCaprio character turns to cons—bank fraud, impersonatin an airline pilot and a doctor—after suffering the dow ward mobility of his family and the break-up of his pa ents (Christopher Walken, Nathalie Baye). It can see like a shallow version of *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, but it an intoxicating ride. (At Boston Common, Fenwa and suburbs.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a later Kan der-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of th lusty, laugh-filled spoof of the Roaring Twenties, which a singing star (and murderess), a star wannal (and murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender murderesses) all fight for the spotlight and the hea lines. Renée Zellweger is the wannabe who discove murder was a great career move, Catherine Zeta Jon is the singer trying to keep her name alive while in ja and a surprisingly amusing Richard Gere is the u scale shyster with all the answers. All three know ju how to manipulate truth, justice and the Americ way through performance. (At Boston Common, Fe way and suburbs.)

City of God ★★★½
The title refers to the Rio de Janeiro slum where the a tion takes place, as God-forsaken a place as you'll ev find. But the movie is as rich as its setting is impove ished. Bold and brutal from start to finish, its dog-e dog world and stylistic energy recall *Mean Streets* a *Amores Perros*, as its stories stories criss-cross and bu ble into each other, and as 18-year-old hero Rock (Alexandre Rodrigues) tries to somehow get out of l crime-rocked neighborhood alive. Full of humani ambiguity and belligerence, it's a wonderfully orch trated car crash that you just can't stop watching. (Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Daredevil ★★
Riddle me this, comic-book moviewatchers. What's t point of meticulously establishing the hows and why a person being blinded by chemicals, gaining superh man powers and becoming a crimefighter, if then all other main characters practically have superpowe too—but without the trial and tribulation? Kinda k most of the drama, doesn't it? That's part of the probl with this Marvel adaptation cut from the same trouble hero cloth as *Batman* and *Spider-Man*. That and the sp personality that has the story concentrating on char ter drama one minute, then shoving a generic, vid like sports training montage at us the next. In trying be everything to everybody, the movie ends up bei practically nothing. As the love interest with a f moves of her own, Jennifer Garner steals the sh though. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.

Far from Heaven ★★
Todd Haynes' drama lovingly recreates the glo world of Douglas Sirk, whose brilliant 1950s Tech color melodramas, such as *All That Heaven Allo* meticulously presented post-war suburbia as a supe cially rich yet emotionally stifled community. Hay attempts to up the ante by surrounding housewife

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lianne Moore with a husband (Dennis Quaid) no longer able to deny his homosexuality and a potential interracial and class-crossing romance with a sensitive black gardener (Dennis Haysbert). But, save for the overt mention of homosexuality, Sirk's critiques of narrow-mindedness covered all of this ground before. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Gangs of New York ★★
Daniel Day Lewis is the epitome of a charismatic villain in Martin Scorsese's 19th-century story. So why is this epic still just a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing but production design and more production design? Maybe it's the familiar this-time-it's-personal plot with Leonardo DiCaprio as an Irish-American returning to the Lower East Side to wreak vengeance on Lewis, who killed his dad (Liam Neeson). Maybe it's the wasting of Cameron Diaz as the woman each man covets. Maybe it's Scorsese's obsession with minute historical detail, at the expense of conveying what it's all about. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

The Last Letter ★★★½
In veteran Cambridge documentary director Frederick Wiseman's first fiction film, French actress Catherine Samie delivers a powerful monologue as a Ukrainian Jewish woman writing to her son and telling him of life under the Nazi occupation. Raw and haunting. (At the Museum of Fine Arts March 6, 7, 9, 13, 15 and 16.)

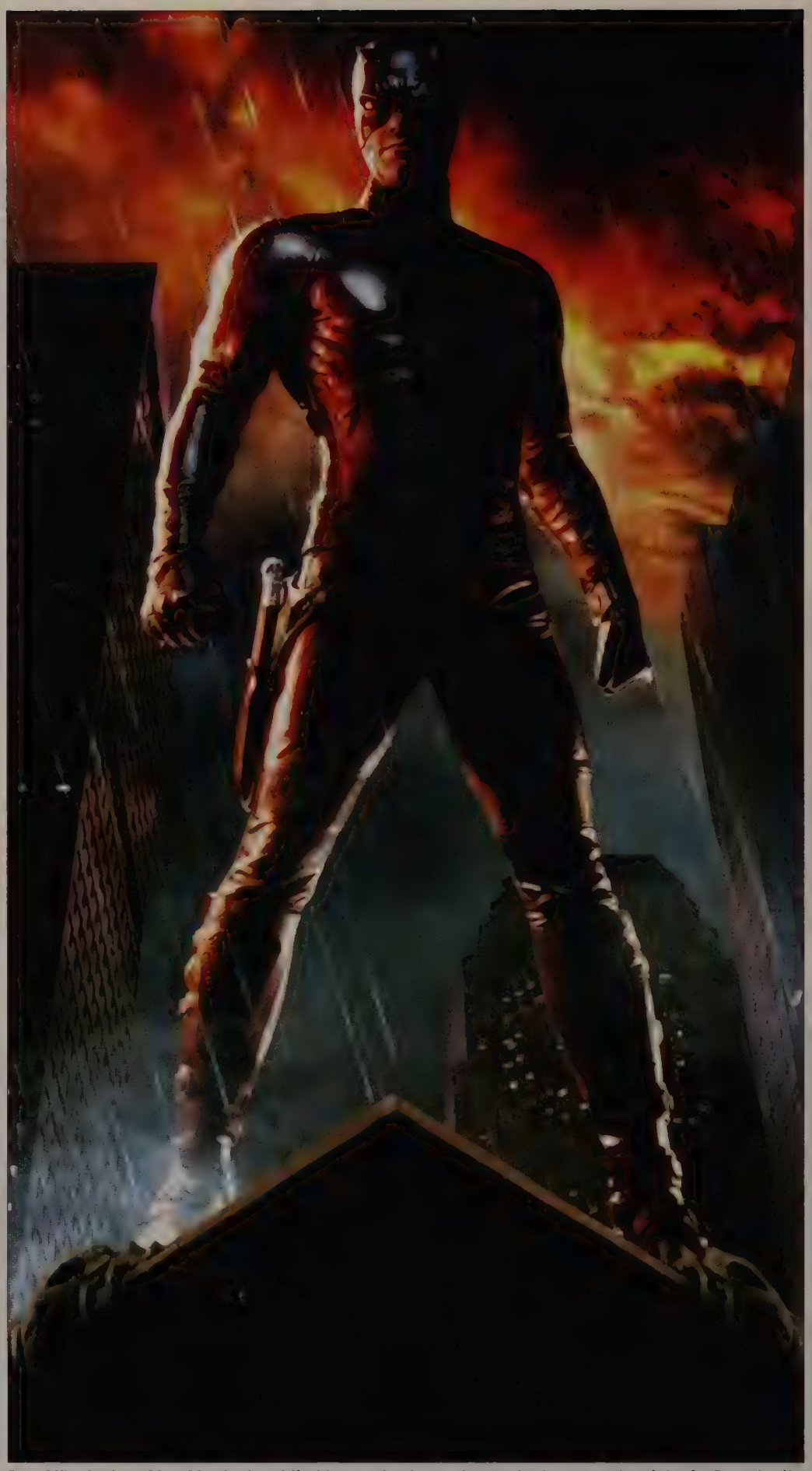
The Life of David Gale ★★
This Texas-set thriller might have been a lot more thrilling with a little less of director Alan Parker's over-the-top treatment. The setup is strong enough to keep the first half involving, with Kate Winslet as an investigative print journalist who's given access to the title character (Kevin Spacey), a former professor and anti-death-penalty activist now on death row for a murder he claims he did not commit. Winslet does well playing an American here, and Spacey does his usual smart-and-smug stuff, but as the movie builds toward its climax it becomes more and more an excuse for Parker's overwrought theatrics. The reactions of Winslet's character become too overemotional for a woman whose hardened objectivity is her main trait (that's the point, but Parker can't pull off her transition), and Parker's maneuvering of the story so that he can stage an opera scene is self-indulgent and just plain silly. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers ★½
A whole lot of Dungeons & Dragons mumbo jumbo writ bombastically large. This series has had close to six hours to make me care about anything happening in it, and I still don't care a lick. Frodo can go bury the damn ring in the ground and go for a swim, for all I care. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Max ★★★
Writer-director Menno Meyjes offers bracing speculative drama in his story set in Munich following World War I. The title character is Max Rothman (John Cusack), a fictional Jewish art dealer who's embraced the period's modern art. He befriends another war veteran, an aspiring artist—and, it turns out, emerging fascist—named Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor). Terrifically acted by the two leads and full of crisp dialogue, the movie engagingly addresses the relationship between creative expression, happiness and politics. It also offers the intriguing theory that Hitler might not have turned to extreme politics had he succeeded at art. (At Kendall Square and Copley Place.)

The Pianist ★★★
It's the little moments in Roman Polanski's Holocaust drama that make it work. Based on the memoirs of late Polish musician and Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, played here by Adrien Brody, the movie powerfully shows the gradual whittling away of Polish Jews' human rights (and humanity) once the Nazis invaded in 1939. It also details how the title character managed to survive while being stripped of rights and crammed into the Warsaw ghetto, seeing his family "deported" to concentration camps, and hiding out for months in apartments the Nazis think are empty. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

The Quiet American ★★★
The tragic legacy of U.S. "nation-building" abroad comes home powerfully in Philip Noyce's adaptation of Graham Greene's 1950s Vietnam-set thriller. Michael Caine plays the British journalist stationed in Saigon whose relationship to his second home and his young mistress (Do Thi Hai Yen) has a paternalistic sense of entitlement. Along comes Brendan Fraser as the title character, an idealistic U.S. medical aid worker who befriends the journalist and wins away his lover. The American also happens to always be in the right place at the right time, and it's soon clear he's up to more than he says and is at the heart of American meddling in the battle between the French and Vietnamese. Although the movie works better on a historical level than a personal level—it expects us to sympathize with the "impartial" Englishman much more than seems possible—it's a shrewd, outspoken drama. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square, Coolidge Corner and suburbs.)



Ben Affleck plays Matt Murdock, a blind lawyer by day and a masked avenger by night, in *Daredevil*.

The Recruit ★★
Who knew one man called all the shots at the CIA? That's right. He's dark, a little screwy and looks a whole lot like Al Pacino. But that notion is essential to the premise of this slick, semi-efficient and rather preposterous thriller. Pacino's character recruits MIT software wiz Colin Farrell (whose dead dad may or may not have been a spy). He trains him, plays mind games on Farrell's head like he's knocking on a xylophone and he, and he alone, gives the rookie his first big assignment. Al's even handing out the guns, too, when he tells Farrell to go after fellow rookie Bridget Moynahan. Pacino keeps telling Farrell that "nothing is as it seems," so maybe there's a more convincing script lying somewhere behind the one on-screen. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Safety of Objects ★★
Rose (*Go Fish*) Troche's latest starts like a whiny, Lifetime cable knockoff of *American Beauty*. Somehow, by the time it's over it's given us a child abduction, a shooting and a mercy killing. But unfortunately, its trip from Point A to Point Z isn't all that thrilling, thanks to its haphazard comedy-drama and its boatload of standard-issue discontented suburbanites. Among them are a lawyer (Dermot Mulroney) who suddenly feels empty when passed over for a partnership, a middle-aged wife and mom (Mary Kay Place) who feels sexually estranged from her husband and a matriarch (Glenn Close) grieving over her long-comatose son (Joshua Jackson). The film wants to show how we let little things like egos and resentments distract our attention from the big things in life, but it's so overwhelmed by the "big things" in its story that it fails to flesh out its relationships. (At Copley Place and Harvard Square.)

Shanghai Knights ★★★
Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson's latest in the *Shanghai Noon* series is another successor to the Bob Hope and Bing Crosby Road movies. The comedy material i old-school schtick, yet the chemistry between th stars is the real show. This time, the 1880s buddie travel to London to find the sneering aristocrat (Aida Gillen) who killed Chan's father. They're aided by hi high-kicking sister (Fann Wong) as they fight malic in the palace. The movie starts slowly and self-con sciously uses 1960s British Invasion songs for th 1880s London action, but Chan and Wilson's cama raderie and the frenetic martial arts scenes make it a most as much fun as its predecessor. (At Boston Com mon, Fenway and suburbs.)

Spider ★★½
David Cronenberg has made plenty of weird and won derful movies, from *Scanners* to *Naked Lunch*. But his la est is only weird and so-so. He dives into the human psy che again in this London-set story of a mental patien (Ralph Fiennes) who reflects on his childhood throug flashbacks in which he's an unseen observer of his dotin mother (Miranda Richardson), pub-crawling fathe (Gabriel Byrne) and his Oedipal 10-year-old se (Bradley Hall). Patrick McGrath's script, based on hi novel, visually likens our memories to jigsaw puzzles o spider webs comprised of countless, joined pieces—bu after getting increasingly involving, the film disap pointingly culminates in a resolution that merely say "crazy is as crazy does." (At Coolidge Corner Theatre)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail t Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library

•March 10, 6pm. **Giant** *1956*. George Stevens' epi drama follows á Texas rancher and his family's feu with a cowboy. Starring James Dean, Elizabeth Taylo and Rock Hudson.

Brattle Theatre

The Adventures of Terry Gilliam
•March 11, 5:30 and 10pm. **Monty Python and th Holy Grail** *1975*. Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones co direct this comedic classic about King Arthur and th Knights of the Round Table, who set off in a hilariou search of the Holy Grail. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Jab berwocky** *1977*. Gilliam directs this comic fantasy i which a medieval farmer is forced to square off agains the Jabberwocky, a beast that is terrorizing the land.

Not Nominated (by the Academy)
•March 12, 5:30, 7:45 and 10pm. **Secretary** *2002*. A woman recently released from a mental institution i nearly fired from her secretarial job after encouragin her boss to engage in sadomasochism with her. Steve Shainberg directs.

Now Showing
•Through March 6, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45pm. **Russia Ark** *2002*. Director Aleksandr Sokurov's cinemati feat was rehearsed for seven months and shot in one un interrupted take. In 96 minutes, the film travel through 33 rooms in a museum and uses 2,000 actor Cinematographer Tillman Buttner covered a mil during the shooting.

Oscar's Oversights
•March 10, 5, 7:30 and 10pm. **Citizen Kane** *194* Orson Welles directs this classic about the death of newspaper tycoon and the subsequent making of documentary of his life, which leads to many clue about his mysterious past.
•March 17, 4:30, 7:15 and 10pm. **Raging Bull** *198* Challenges both in and out of the ring lead to the fa of a middleweight boxing champ's career. Marti Scorsese directs.

Special Engagements
•March 7, 3, 5:15 and 7:30pm. March 8-9, 12:30, 3 5:15 and 7:30pm. **Singin' in the Rain** *1952*. Stanle Donen and Gene Kelly co-direct this musical about silent-film romantic duo who face challenges of creat ing a "talkie" film. •Also showing, 10pm. **Dog So diers** *2002*. A squad of British soldiers must surviv their encounter with a pack of werewolves in the Sot tish wilderness. Neil Marshall directs.
•March 14, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45pm, March 15, 12:4 and 3pm, March 16, 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30 an 9:45pm. **Alias Betty** *2001*. The difficulties present i a mother-daughter relationship are magnified whe the daughter loses her own son to a tragic accident Claude Miller directs.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

The Boston Film and Video Foundation' Meet the Director Series
•March 18, 7:30pm. **The Harriman Alaska Expedi tion Retraced** *1999*. Director Lawrence Hott is pre

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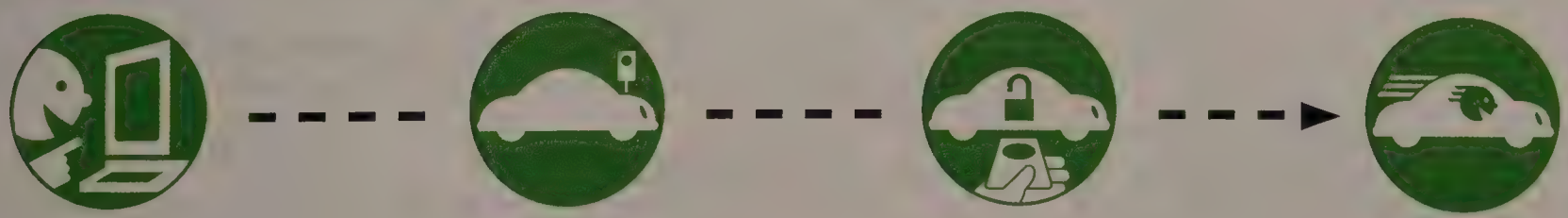

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Constance Harraway (Laura Linney) talks with her colleague David Gale (Kevin Spacey), an anti-death-penalty activist who lands on death row for a crime he claims he did not commit, in *The Life of David Gale*.

sent for the screening of his film about railroad tycoon Edward Harriman and his ambitious scientific expedition in Alaska.

Coolidge Selects

•Opening March 7. **Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary** *2002*. The subject of Andre Heller and Othmmar Schmiderer's chilling documentary is Traudl Junge, the woman who became Hitler's private secretary in 1942. (See capsule for description.)

•Opening March 14. **Spider** *2003*. David Cronenberg's latest film features a mental patient reflecting on his childhood. (See capsule for description.)

•Now playing. **Gerry** *2002*. Matt Damon and Casey Affleck star as two friends who recognize their helplessness against nature when they find themselves lost on a desert hike. Gus Van Sant directs.

•Now playing. **Strange Fruit** *2002*. In this documentary, director Joel Katz puts a historical perspective on a poem written in response to a photo depicting the lynching of an African-American man. The poem's performance as a song by Billie Holiday is included.

Midnight Movies–Modern Cult Classics

•March 7 and 8, 12am. **Carnival Magic** *1981*. Markhov the Magician's successful carnival act with Alex, a talking ape with a penchant for auto theft and female undergarments, is threatened when an alcoholic lion-tamer becomes jealous. Al Adams directs.

Fenway 13 Theatre

Harlan Jacobson's Talk Cinema

•March 16, 10am. Veteran film critic Harlan Jacobson picks films from major festivals such as Cannes, Toronto, Sundance and New York. Attendees don't know which film is screening or who the guest speaker is until they arrive. *$120 for a season pass; $20 for one class. 800-551-9221.* www.talkcinema.com.

Midnight Showings

•March 7 and 8, 12am. **The Goonies** *1985*. Richard Donner directs Sean Astin and Corey Feldman as the leaders of a group of kids searching for long-lost pirate booty in an attempt to save their homes.

•March 14 and 15, 12am. **The Matrix** *1999*. Keanu Reeves stars as a computer hacker who joins a rebel force after he discovers that he is living in a simulated reality created by malevolent computers. Andy and Larry Wachowski direct.

Harvard Film Archive

After the War/Before the Wall: German Film 1945-1960

•March 7, 7pm. **Der Verlorene** *(The Lost Man) 1951*. A doctor's guilt over his actions with the Third Reich intensify as he adapts to postwar Germany. Peter Lorre directs this adaptation of his own novel. •Also showing, 9pm. **Film ohne Titel** *(Film Without a Title) 1948*. Rudolph Jugert directs this film about filmmaking in which a director, a scriptwriter and an actor in postwar Germany experience the making of a film.

•March 9, 7pm. **Kirmes** *1960*. A young soldier returns home from war and finds that no one wants to take him in. Fifteen years later, the soldier's skeleton is found and no one will assume responsibility. Wolfgang Staudte directs. •Also showing, 9pm. **Die Bucke** *(The Bridge) 1959*. Bernhard Wicki directs this film about seven adolescent German boys who are thrown into the war with no training and are expected to defend a bridge against the invading Americans.

•March 12, 7pm. **Die Sunderin** *(The Sinner) 1950*. A young woman survives as a prostitute in the postwar era and falls in love with a dying artist. Willi Forst directs.

•Also showing, 9pm. **Das Madchen Rosemarie** *(A Call Girl Named Rosemarie) 1959*. Director Rolf Thiele outlines the story of a young call girl murdered in 1957. Though the case was never solved, the film alleges that the girl's career may have been promoted by some of the leading figures in Germany's "economic miracle."

•March 14, 7pm. **Fanfaren der Liebe** *(Fanfares of Love) 1951*. Two jobless young musicians dress up as women to join a ladies band. Kurt Hoffmann directs. •Also showing, 9pm. **Ich denke oft an Piroschka** *(I Often Think of Piroschka) 1955*. A German student falls in love with the railway stationmaster's daughter while spending his summer holiday with a Hungarian family. Cultural differences between the student and his host family causes comedic circumstances. Kurt Hoffmann directs.

•March 15, 7pm. **Die Halbstarken** *(The Hooligans) 1956*. A group of rebellious German youths encounter trouble in the streets when they reject their authoritarian fathers. Georg Tressler directs. •Also showing, 9pm and March 18, 7pm. **Dos Totenschiff** *(The Death Trap) 1959*. An American sailor signs on to a ship belonging to smugglers after his papers are stolen in Belgium. Georg Tressler directs.

•March 16, 7 and 9pm. **Nachts, wenn der Teufel kam** *(The Devil Strikes at Midnight) 1957*. News of the hunt for a serial killer during the Third Reich is suppressed under Hitler's order and an honest police officer is assigned to the case. Robert Siodmak directs. •Also showing, **Mein Schulfreund** *(My Schoolmate) 1960*. Near the end of World War II, a postman writes a letter to Hitler's minister, his own former schoolmate, asking him to end the war. Robert Siodmak directs the film, which is based on a true story.

•March 17, 7pm. **Toxi** *1952*. When a German family finds an abandoned five-year-old girl who is the product of an interracial marriage, discussion about multiracial children and racial stereotypes of the era ensues. Robert A. Stemmle directs. •Also showing, 9pm. **Sissi** *1955*. In this idyllic love story, a Bavarian princess marries an Austrian emperor. Ernst Marischka directs.

•March 18, 9pm. **Rosen bluhen auf dem Heidegrab** *(Roses Bloom on the Grave in the Meadow) 1952*. Hans H. Konig directs this film about a farmer who becomes obsessed with marrying a young girl.

An Evening with Steven Subotnick

•March 10, 7pm. Director and animator Steven Subotnick is present to discuss his work and show **Devil's Book**, **Hairyman** and **Calling Cards**. He also shows clips from his latest works in progress. Free.

Les Annees Noires: French Film During the Occupation, Part 2

•March 8, 8pm. **Laissez-Passer** *(Safe Conduct) 2002*. Bertrand Tavernier directs this film about two filmmakers who aspire to keep the film industry in France alive during German occupation.

World Melodrama

•March 5, 7pm. **Broken Blossoms** *1919*. D. W. Griffith directs this silent film about a young working-class woman in London who is abused by her father and who wins the attention of a Chinese merchant. •Also showing, 9pm. **Camille** *1936*. A father calls off his son's marriage to an ailing courtesan out of fear that it will ruin his future. George Cukor directs this film set in 19th-century Paris.

•March 11, 7pm. **All That Heaven Allows** *1955*. A melodramatic widow falls for the young man who tends her landscaping, leaving the rest of the town to judge her actions. Douglas Sirk directs. •Also showing, 9pm. **Summer Storm** *1944*. A judge, a nobleman and a farmer are all seduced by a beautiful peasant woman in prerevolutionary Russia. Douglas Sirk directs.

Museum of Fine Arts

Engagements

•March 7, 6pm; March 9, 11am; March 13, 6pm; March 15, 1pm and March 16, 11:30am. **The Last Letter** *2002*. Frederick Wiseman tells the story of a Jewish mother who writes a last letter to her son after learning she will be killed by the Germans occupying the Ukranian city where she lives. A selection at last year's Cannes Film Festival.

The Friends of Film Sneak Preview

•March 9, 6:15pm. **Bend It Like Beckham** *2002*. In Gurinder Chadha's London-based comedy, an Indian girl rebels against her deeply religious parents who want a traditional life for her. She wants to pursue her dream of playing soccer.

The Films of Andrei Tarkovsky

•March 6, 6pm; and March 15, 11am. **The Steamroller and the Violin** *1960*. A friendship develops between a steamroller driver and a frail young violinist. This is a rare screening of Tarkovsky's film.

•March 7, 7:20 pm. **Nostalghia** *1983*. A Russian poet researching the life of an 18th-century composer in Italy is torn between the temptations of his guide, a pious lunatic, and his longing to return home to his wife. Presented by John Gianvito.

•March 8, 10:30 am; March 9, 2pm. **Andrei Roublev** *1966*. This film documents the life of iconic painter and monk Andrei Roublev and the turbulent period of 15th-century Russian history he lived in.

•March 8, 2:15pm. **The Sacrifice** *1986*. Tarkovsky's final cinematic effort explores the universal themes of apocalypse, innocence and madness in this story of a man who makes a pact with God in order to save the world.

•March 13, 7:15pm; March 15, 2:20pm. **Stalker** *1979*. A writer and a scientist are guided by the Stalker through a mysterious world called the Zone in search of the Room, a place where man's deepest wishes are realized.

•March 14, 6pm; March 16, 1 pm. **Ivan's Childhood** *1962*. Tarkovsky's feature film debut follows the story of a 12-year-old spy on the Russian front during World War II who dreams of his mother, his only memory of a world before war.

•March 14, 8pm; March 16, 3pm. **The Mirror** *1974*. A dying man reminisces about growing up in Russia during World War II, his adolescence and his painful divorce. Historical footage and poetry are used to illustrate his final memories.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through March 30. **Mysteries of Egypt**. Travel back to the times of pharaohs and pyramids to experience the customs and culture of ancient Egyptian civilization. Call for show times.

•Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of their remarkable journey, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through April 10. **Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man**. Filmed on location at several natural and historical landmarks around the world, each stage of life from birth to maturity is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. Call for show times.

•Through June 30. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast that unique mammals and other sea life call home. Call for showtimes.

•Through June 30. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into the earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to the Equator, with a special focus on education and environmental awareness. Call for show times.

•Through June 30. **Space Station 3D**. Blast off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome, and rendezvous with the International Space Station in orbit 220 miles above Earth. Call for show times.

Cinema Venues

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Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation

1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre

201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common

175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science

Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center

270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas

399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond

168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema

One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony

10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library

330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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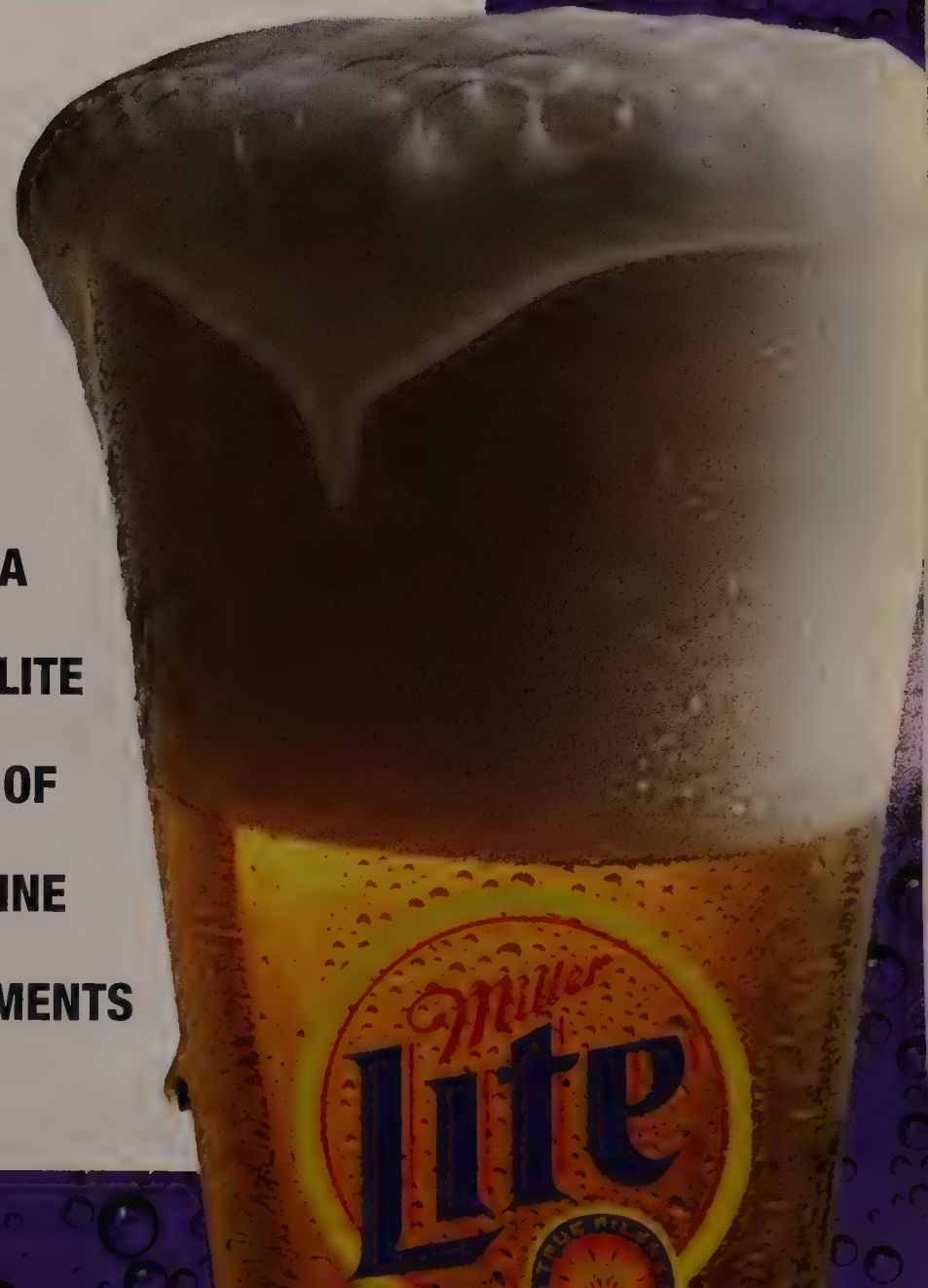

CUT OF THE GREEN

The Saw Doctors appease American fans with a set of old favorites and a St. Patrick's Day swing

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

In Ireland, a saw doctor is someone who makes, sharpens and repairs saws. But the Galway-based band the Saw Doctors had a different cut in mind when it came to choosing a name.

"One of our friends worked in the sawmill, sweeping up the sawdust, but he used to tell everybody he was a saw doctor to dignify his position," says singer-guitarist Davy Carton. "For our first gig, we were asked to come up with a name 'cause they were putting an ad in the paper. And as a bit of fun on our friend, we said, 'We're the Saw Doctors,' never realizing that 16 years later, we'd have to explain a local joke."

Local jokes abound on the Saw Doctors' new CD, *Play It Again Sham!* Digging back to their early Irish records, it's a compilation of songs—including the live favorites "Bless Me Father," "World of Good" and "Me Heart is Livin' in the Sixties Still"—that were never released in this country.

"This disc is a response to requests from people in America to hear certain songs," Carton says in reference to the Saw Doctors' fervent Stateside following, which is sure to turn out for a 14-stop tour that hits the Roxy March 16 and concludes at Northampton's Calvin Theatre on St. Patrick's Day.

"We thought we were just putting out something to fill a bit of a vacuum," says Carton, whose group is between new studio releases. "But in some ways, we've gotten a better response to this [CD] than to *Villains?*, which we thought was a more serious album and something we spent a lot of time on."

The Saw Doctors, from left: Derek Murray, Leo Moran, Anthony Thistlethwaite, Jim Higgins Jr. and Davy Carton.

A polished experiment with programming and horns, the 2001 disc *Villains?* may have confused fans, especially coming on the heels of the folk-rooted 1998 CD *Songs from Sun Street*. But Carton sees *Play It Again Sham!* as a good introduction to the group.

"It's got the lively side of the Saw Doctors, the fun side, and you can't go wrong with it," he says by phone from his Galway home. "There are 20 tracks on it. You'll definitely like 10 of them!"

Carton's devil-may-care openness reflects the 1987 birth of the Saw Doctors in the small Galway County town of Tuam. He hooked up with guitarist Leo Moran, who played with an Irish reggae band called Too Much for the White Man and had retained a fondness for Blaze X, a short-lived late-'70s punk band that Carton had fronted. The two found common ground as songwriters.

"Tuam is that kind of place," says Carton, 42. "It's got a history of being a great musical town. There were always brass bands and showbands in the '50s and '60s. Mike Scott of the Waterboys saw us in a bar in Galway and out of the blue said, 'Why don't you support us in Ireland?'" After six weeks, Scott extended the invitation to England. Carton quit his job as a welder and jumped in the van.

The group's Scott-produced 1989 debut single, "N17," paved the way for the anthemic "I Useta Lover," which became Ireland's biggest-selling single of all time, even topping U2.

"We're very rooted," Carton says. "We write from our own experiences and draw from local characters and experiences here in Galway. Hopefully we write well enough that what we're trying to say will translate. So far, so good."

Indeed, the Saw Doctors have struck a crowd-pleasing balance between non-trendy rock, punk, country and Irish traditional music. "We're an old-fashioned rock band in that melody is in the forefront," Carton says. "Leo summed it up very well, that we stole bits of every kind and put it in a stew. At its core, we're singer-songwriters."

"It's a feature of Saw Doctors concerts that people like to sing the words," says Carton, whose band will be joined this tour by co-founding Waterboys member Anthony Thistlethwaite in place of bassist Pearse Doherty, who retired in December. "We're high-energy. We like to rustle up the crowd, and we like to engage. The showbands used to have a phrase, 'Send 'em home sweating,' and we fully subscribe to that view."

There should be plenty of sweating around St. Patrick's Day, a time when the Saw Doctors regularly appear in these parts.

"It's not something the band set out to do," says Carton, who expects to return for a June package tour with Billy Bragg, Black 47 and Great Big Sea. "We could play Boston in May, but we get twice as much money in March. Our agent gets offers for the 10 days leading up to St. Patrick's Day in various markets along the East Coast and as far as Chicago. And to be honest, it's very hard to turn down." iB

The Saw Doctors
play the Roxy March 16.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

The Album Leaf and Sigur Ros
March 15 and 16, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
All Stripped Down, Reid Genauer and the Assembly of Dust, and Fuzz and Stephen Kellogg
March 14, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Altan
March 8, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Atreyu and CKY
March 13, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
The Chieftains and Allison Moorer
March 12, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Catie Curtis
March 7, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Dropkick Murphys
March 14-17, Avalon (sold out)
The Exies and Trapt
March 5, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
The Frames and Josh Ritter
March 7, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Jeffrey Gaines and Blake Hazard
March 6, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Franc Graham Band
March 8, Regent Theater (781-646-4849)
Arlo Guthrie
March 7, Blackman Auditorium (800-480-SHOW)
Huun-Huur-Tu
March 14, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Hybrasil
March 15, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Idlewild and the French Kicks
March 5, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Interpol and Raveonettes
March 6, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Jaegermeister Music Tour with Breaking Benjamin, HED, Saliva, Stereomud and Systematic
March 9, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Mason Jennings
March 12, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Kid Koala
March 15, Brattle Theatre (617-931-2000)
King Crimson
March 8, Orpheum Theatre (617-428-0650)
Kodo
March 11, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Lyricist Lounge, featuring Big Daddy Kane, Killah Priest and Bazaar Royale
March 7, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
The Movielife, Onelinedrawing, Senses Fail and A Static Lullaby
March 18, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
John Parish and the Twinemen
March 9, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Royksopp
March 16, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Rubyhorse
March 16, Parris, (617-248-8800)
The Saw Doctors
March 16, the Roxy (617-931-2000)
Scorpions and Whitesnake
March 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-428-0650)
The Sheila Divine
March 8, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Sum 41, No Use for a Name, the Starting Line and Authority Zero
March 7, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Axis Trapt, the Exies and Stage, 8pm, $10.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues, 9pm.
Coogan's Acoustical Fun with Chad, 10pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort Ricky and the Giants, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm, no cover.

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The Good Life Cambridge Inspector Gadget, 9:30pm, no cover.
House of Blues Charlie Hunter $12, 9pm, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm, $2.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Ryan Montbleau, 8:30pm; Winterboy, 9:30pm; Jon Gorey, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Paul Duffey, 7pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Marianne Solivan Quartet, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Chandler Travis Philharmonic, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Greg Luttrel, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Plain White T's and the Broken Word, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Timo Shanko Project, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Red Zone Cuba.
Mr. Dooley's Irish Session, 9pm, no cover.
Paradise Idlewild and the French Kicks, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole and Zeck Martin, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Igor Butman Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Dead Cat Bounce, 8:30pm, $8, all ages.
Scullers Sai Ghose Quartet, featuring Sean Berry, 8pm and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar The Deal, Stream and On the Drop.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm
Top of the Hub John Hazzilla Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Tegan And Sara, AM Stereo and Mike Clark, $8.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 8pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Asgard Dave Tecce.
Avalon Interpol and Raveonettes, 7pm, $15, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30pm, $3-$5.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Hugh Prestwood, Angela Kaset and Stephen Allen Davis, 8pm, $10-$12.
Coogans DJ Steve, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort The Rockhoppers, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Peters, 9:30pm, no cover.
Gallery Diablo Music for the Muse with Licia Sky and Moonaum James.
The Good Life Cambridge The Boston Horns, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Groove Authority, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Garaj Mahal, 10pm, $10, 18+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's Thunder Thursdays with DJ Massi, Damon M., Josh Carl and DJ Push, 9:30pm, $5-$10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Clay Brown Jazz Trio, 6pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm, $5.
Johnny D's 11th Hour Band, 9pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Josh Hall, 11pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Pat Burtis, 8:30pm; Tom Glynn, 9:30pm; Phil Aiken, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Joe Carson, 8pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café The Complaints, Lusting Kay and Catapult, $5.
Limbo Judith Murray, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Angie Aparo and the Tim Gearan Band, $12, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Ray Greene, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Kadane Brothers, the Binary System, Clint Conley and Milo Jones, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Redshift 6, Dr. Awkward, Zox and Megalodon, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Bourbon Princess, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Grupo Fantasma and the Cha Cha Cha All-Stars.
Paradise Jeffrey Gaines and Blake Hazard, 7pm, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett & Mike Flanagan, 10pm, $3, 21+.

King Crimson performs at the Orpheum March 8.

Regattabar The Tony Perez Quartet, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Leo Blanco Group, 8:30pm, $8, all ages.
Scullers Nicole Nelson Band, 8 and 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar The Curtain Society, Thea Wolfe, Lunar Girl and Lime Green, 9pm.
Sophia's DJ JR Vega, Latin Party Boys, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Top of the Hub John Hazzilla Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Animal Rescue League benefit with Three Day Threshold, the Charms, Roma, Caged Heat and Rocketscience, $10.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Asgard Nate Watkins.
Avalon Sum 41, No Use for a Name, the Starting Line and Authority Zero, 6pm, $18.
Axis Lyricist Lounge with Big Daddy Kane, Killah Priest and Bazaar Royale, 7pm, $12, 18+.
The Big Easy Bar Dick 'n' Jane, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Blackman Auditorium Arlo Guthrie, 8pm, $25.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Shoot the Moon, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Pat Loomis, 7:30pm, $3-$5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Jabe and Tim Gearan, 8pm, $10-$12.
Common Ground The Allstonians.
Coogan's DJ Tom, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Magnus, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Amanda Baisinger, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Waldron Ricks, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal 2nd Nature.
The Green Briar The Return, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Green Dragon Scooby Snax.
The Harp The Zoo, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Slipknot, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30pm; Pig Pen.
House of Blues Entrain, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi, 9:30pm, $5-$10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Pianist Mel Stiller, 8pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm, $8.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Mare Wakefield and Ksenia Mack, 9pm; Pure Fiction, 10:30pm; Typhoon Ferri, 11:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Matt Fulton, 5-8pm.
Kinvara Pub Swinging Johnsons, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Kirkland Café Those Dirty Swedes, Polyethylene, Brother Mosley and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Kubota Power Jazz Unit, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Adam Carroll and Amy Fairchild, 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Baby Strange, the Halogens, Soviet and Mona, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Underground-HipHop.com fifth anniversary party with Edan & Insight, Pacewon (of Outsidaz), Wordsworth, Porn Theater Ushers, D-Tension, $14, 18+. Zuzu: Theremin Karaoke with Jon Bernhardt, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café The Ninja and Seana Carmody Band.
Milky Way Pressure Cooker.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise The Frames and Josh Ritter, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Catunes, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Pa's Lounge Sometimes She Burns, Pete Kilpatrick, Counterpart and The Day Jacob Smiled.
Purple Shamrock Moo Tycoon and Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Charles Mingus Big Band with Earl Gardner, Doug Purviance, Frank Lacy, Vincent Herring, Craig Handy, John Stubblefield and Ronnie Kuber, 7:30 and 10pm, $24.
Ryles Jazz Club Louie Bellson, 9pm, $25.
Scullers Joshua Redman, 8pm &10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar All Mod Cons, Tracy Husky and Spike Emerson Society.
Somerville Theatre Catie Curtis, 8pm, $22 and $26.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, Zino and DJ Mike C, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Stoneham Theatre Maureen Brennan sings, with songs by Sheldon Harnick, 8pm, $30.
TK's Jazz Cafe Bruce Katz, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub The John Hazilla Group, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Black 47, Todd Thibaud and the Gobshites, $13.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Valerie Stephens, 8pm.
Zeitgeist Gallery Gunter Hampel NY Trio, 10pm, $12.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

All Asia Cafe Henry, 4pm.
Asgard Blues Bashers.
The Attic Antigone Rising, 8:30pm, $7, 21+.
The Big Easy Bar Kick, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Shoot the Moon, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+. After work party with Tom O'Carroll, 5-7pm.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30pm, $3-$5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Mark Erelli and Bob Hillman, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's DJ Craid, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The No Way Jose Band, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Waldon Rocks, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Ransom.
The Green Dragon Bald Walter.
Harper's Ferry Hazie Maze and Sam "the Breadman" Bigelow, 8pm, $7, 21+.
House of Blues Nocentelli, featuring the Meters' guitarist Leo Nocentelli, 10pm, $16, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi, 9:30pm, $5-$10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm, $8.
Johnny D's Superhoney, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Sara Brenner, 9:30pm; Blue Tree, 10:30pm; John Powers Band, 11:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Random Axis, 9pm.
Limbo Jim Bridges Band, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Godboxer, Endochine and Jen Keaney, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Far From Blue, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Mung, Lenny and the Piss Poor Boys, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Elevation 74 CD-release show, Odds & Ends and Hot Action Cop, $10, 18+. Corner: The Franks, no cover.
Midway Café American Car and the Bow Downs.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Orpheum King Crimson, 7:30pm, $31-$50.
Paradise The Sheila Divine and Calla, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Chad LaMarsh Band, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Pa's Lounge Breedinground, Tung, Sweatpant Boners and 48 Rooms.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 5pm. Brick Park, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar The Charles Mingus Big Band with Earl Gardner, Doug Purviance, Frank Lacy, Vincent Herring, Craig Handy, John Stubblefield and Ronnie Kuber, 7:30 and 10pm, $26.
The Regent Theatre Franc Graham Band, 8pm, $20 and $25.
Ryles Jazz Club Louie Bellson, 9pm, $25, all ages.
Sanders Theatre Altan, 8pm.
Scullers Joshua Redman, 8pm and 10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar Buzzstar, Stereo Soul Future, Lake Boone and the Predicates.
Sophia's DJ Edwin Matos, Zino, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Stoneham Theatre Maureen Brennan sings, with songs by Sheldon Harnick, 8pm, $30.
TK's Jazz Cafe Unity, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub The John Hazilla Group, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place John Doe Trio, Virgil Shaw and Dave Aaronoff and the Details, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Bill Lowe, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Avalon Saliva, Breaking Benjamin, Systematic and Stereomud, $18.50.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, 21+. Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, 21+. After work party with Jim Coyle, 5-7pm.
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Jazz Quartet, 10:30am.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim Bill Staines, Mason Daring and Jeanie Stahl, Guy Van Duser and Billy Novick and Stuart Schulman, 8pm, $13-$15.
Dick's Last Resort Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 10am-3pm; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords and Finbar Doyle, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Green Dragon The Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry Gaffney, $4, 21+.
House of Blues The Fenians, 8pm, $10, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30pm; salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 6:30pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Stripdown Sundays with Pat Lynch, Todd Noodleman, Fat Day, Brendan Haley, Clue Display, Jim Siegel and Matt Smith, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poet Thelma Bryant, 7pm, $5, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Mekanizm, 12:06 and Motokops 2000, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Ted Tadesse with Admas and Sound Masinko, $25, 18+. Zuzu: Propaganda, $5, 21+.
Midway Café The Coachmen.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8pm, Irish Session, 9pm, no cover.
Orpheum Scorpions and Whitesnake, 7pm, $36-$46.
Paradise John Parish, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Milton Academy Jazz Band, 3pm, $12.
Sky Bar The Thungs, Great Northern and Redlo.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am. Marty Ballou Trio with Paul Schmelling, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Space'n, $5.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Dana Robinson, 10pm.
Club Passim Alia, Mark Simos and the Hungry Mountain Boys, 7pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Hair Club for Mensa, 7:20pm, no cover.

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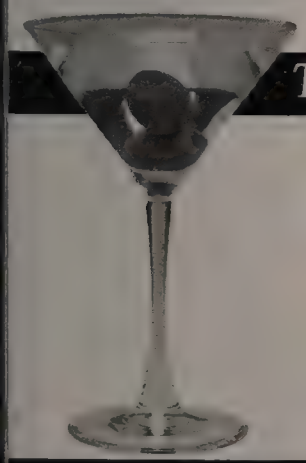

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Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry The Kickbacks, 8pm, $3, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with Late Night Radio, 8pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Kelly Buchanan, 8:30pm; Dean Fields, 9:30pm; Michael Holt, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Limbo Mark Donovan Group, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Smacking Isaiah, Big Wig, Closer Than Kin and Greyfield, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Voodoo Glow Skulls, Count the Stars and River City Rebels, $10, 18+. Zuzu: The Unhappy Hour with the Fly Seville 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio with Paul Schmelling, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Demolition Doll Rods and the Downbeat Five, $8.
Wonder Bar The Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, solo jazz piano, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 10pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry The Jinx Motive, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Casey Niell and Johnny Cunningham, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Leo Blais, 8pm; the New Regulars, 9pm; Sam Bigelow, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Limbo Tyler Wood Trio, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Residency, 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Bobby B. Keyes, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Munk, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café The Shakes.
The Rack Black Sole and Zeck Martin, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Garrison Farewell Trio and Khan Jamal and Cameron Brown, 8:30pm, $12.
Sky Bar Sometimes She Burns, Life of Boys, Minus a Map, Fuzbuni, 8:45pm.
Symphony Hall Kodo, 8pm, $35-$55.
Top of the Hub John Hazzilla Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Words for Snow CD-release show, Score One for the Fat Kid CD-release show, Tristan da Cunha CD-release show and Vaguely Starshaped, $6.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Huun-Huur-Tu, a vocal group from Tuva, performs at the Somerville Theatre March 14.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues, 9pm.
Club Passim Jason Harrod and Miranda Stone, 8pm, $10-$12.
Coogan's Chad, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Kriminsky, Aos Renegades, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Clumsy Lovers, 8pm, $7, 21+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, $2, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Dr. Awkward, 8:30pm; Christie Leigh, 9:30pm; Nate Christy and the Monks, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Paul Duffey, 7pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Limbo Jacques Chanier Trio, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Scara's Night Out, with Amanda Palmer, Enuma Elish, Mick Mondo, Tim Mungenast, Radio Pu All-Stars and Matt Samlois, 9pm, $7. 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Joint Custody, Bubingah and Mistaken Stars, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Oddfellows and Bunk 9, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Timo Shanko Project, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Irish Session, 9pm, no cover.
Paradise Mason Jennings, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole and Zeck Martin, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Paul Im and Remember Rockefeller, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Patricia Vlieg, 8:30pm, $9.
Scullers La Timba Loca, 8pm & 10pm, $12.
Sky Bar Twisted Rico presents the Unbusted, Ruby Lashes, Derek Trenholm.
Symphony Hall The Chieftains and Allison Moorer.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Top of the Hub John Hazzilla Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lucky Jeremy and the Jack McCoys, $6.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 8pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Asgard J.D. Ingalls.
Axis CKY and Atreyu, 7pm, $15.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's No Way Jose, 7:30pm, $3-$5.
Brattle Theater Kid Koala's book tour with DJ P-Love and DJ Jester, 7 and 10pm, $15.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Wishing Chair and Brock Mumford, 8pm, $8-$10.
Coogan's DJ Steve, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Dead Cat Bounce, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Rich Greenblatt, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues The Coalboilers, $9, 10pm, 18+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's Thunder Thursdays with DJ Massi, Damon M., Josh Carl and DJ Push, 9:30, $5-$10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Clay Brown Jazz Trio, 6pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm, $5.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Josh Hall, 11pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Will Hawkins, 8:30pm; Tom Glynn, 9:30pm; the Animators, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Joe Carson, 8pm.
Kinsale Symbolics
Limbo Marc Rossi Quartet, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Eyeliners, Dynamite Boy, Plan B and Don't Look Down, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Bourbon Princess, no cover, 21+.
Paradise No December and All Parallels, 8pm, 18+.
Parris Chad LaMarsh Band, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan, 10pm, $3, 21+.
Regattabar The Christian McBride Band with Ron Blake, Geoff Keezer and Terreon Gully, 8:30pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Marta Gomez CD-release, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Abbey Lincoln, 8pm & 10pm, $26.
Sky Bar The Ninja, Emergency Music, Cthulu Ragtime Band.
Sophia's DJ JR Vega, Latin Party Boys, 9pm, $10.
Toad Betty Dylan
Top of the Hub John Hazzilla Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Photoflash, Lucie Lie CD-release, Bishop Allen and Fortunato, $7.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

The Regent Theatre hosts the Franc Graham Band March 8.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Avalon Dropkick Murphys, Tommy and the Terrors and the Explosion, 6pm, $16.
The Big Easy Bar Bob's Day Off, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Nick Goomis, 7:30pm, $3-$5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Common Ground Heather Hates You and the Spoilers, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's DJ Tom, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Borderland, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown El Eco Brazilian Jazz, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Dick 'n' Jane.
The Green Briar Ego System, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Green Dragon Fenian Sons.
The Harp Burnt Sienna, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Seeking Homer, 8pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30pm; Random Axis.
House of Blues Les Nubians, 10pm, $20, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi, 9:30pm, $5-$10, 21+
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm, $8.
Johnny D's Ulu, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café The Make a Living Tour, with Andy Friedman and Paul Curreri, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Matt Fulton, 5-8pm; Swinging Johnsons, 9pm.
Kirkland Café Dave Roche Band, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Athene Wilson, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
The Linwood Amnesty International 14 for 14 Benefit with Tootsie, Ultravixen and Emily Grogan, $7.
Lizard Lounge The Devil Gods and Antler, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: 20 Miles, Mr. Airplane Man, Turpentine Brothers and Hotel, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Quintaine Americana, Scissorfight, Lamont and Cash Monies & the Jetsetters, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Theremin Karaoke with Jon Bernhardt, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Reid Genauer and the Assembly of Dust, Fuzz, Stephen Kellogg and All Stripped Down, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Parris, 10pm, cover varies, 21+
Pa's Lounge Deadpan and Nunya
Purple Shamrock Syndicate, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Christian McBride Band with Ron Blake, Geoff Keezer and Terreon Gully, 7:30 and 10pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Steve Rochinkski Group, featuring Chuck Redd, 9pm, $12, all ages.
Sanders Theatre Club Passim's 45 Years of Folk Music Culture: A Benefit Concert with Odetta, Greg Brown, Garnet Rogers, Rachael Davis and the Resophonics, 8pm, $25-$45 ($100 VIP seating).
Scullers Abbey Lincoln, 8 and 10:30pm, $28.
Sky Bar Thickly Settled, Earthworm Justice.
Somerville Theatre Huun-Huur-Tu, 8pm, $20-$25.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, Zino and DJ Mike C, 9pm, $10, 21+.
TK's Jazz Cafe JV Band, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub The John Hazilla Group, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Benefit for Horizons Initiative with Ad Frank, Read Yellow, the Kickovers, Aaron Perrino, Tony Goddess and Ray Neades, Blake Hazard and Auto Interiors, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler, 8pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Arlington Center for the Arts Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 7:30pm, $5-$10.
Asgard The Symbolics.
The Attic Diana Karthas Band and Katrin Doors, 8pm, $6, 21+.
Avalon Dropkick Murphys, Discipline and Roger Miret & the Disasters, 6pm, $16.
Berklee Performance Center The Album Leaf and Sigur Ros, 8pm, $27-$30.
The Big Easy Bar Misfit Toys, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Zeke Martin's Jazz, 7:30pm, $3-$5.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm.
Club Passim Greg Greenway, 8pm, $12-$14.
Coogan's DJ Craig, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The No Way Jose Band, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Amanda Baisinger, 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Spike the Punch.
The Green Briar Brick Park, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Green Dragon Random Axis.
Harper's Ferry Culture, featuring Joseph Hill, $18, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi, 9:30pm, $5-$10, 21+.
The Independent John Cate Band, 10pm, no cover.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm, $8.
Johnny D's Sleepy LaBeef, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Jim Rader's Best Friends, 9:30pm; Danielle Miraglia Band, 10:30pm; Naked Poets, 11:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-town Dick 'n' Jane, 9pm.pm.
Limbo Candida Rose Quartet, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
The Linwood Seks Bomba and Paula Kelley, $7.
Lizard Lounge American Girls Club, Sand Machine, Betty Finn and Valeze, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Consonant, the Count Me Outs, Black Helicopter and Read Yellow, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Cheredovanie, Zheka Koshmar and Kuku, $15, 18+. Corner: Chris Elliot and Lisa Austin, no cover.
Midway Café The Drags, Welk, Amigazo and the Exchange Students.

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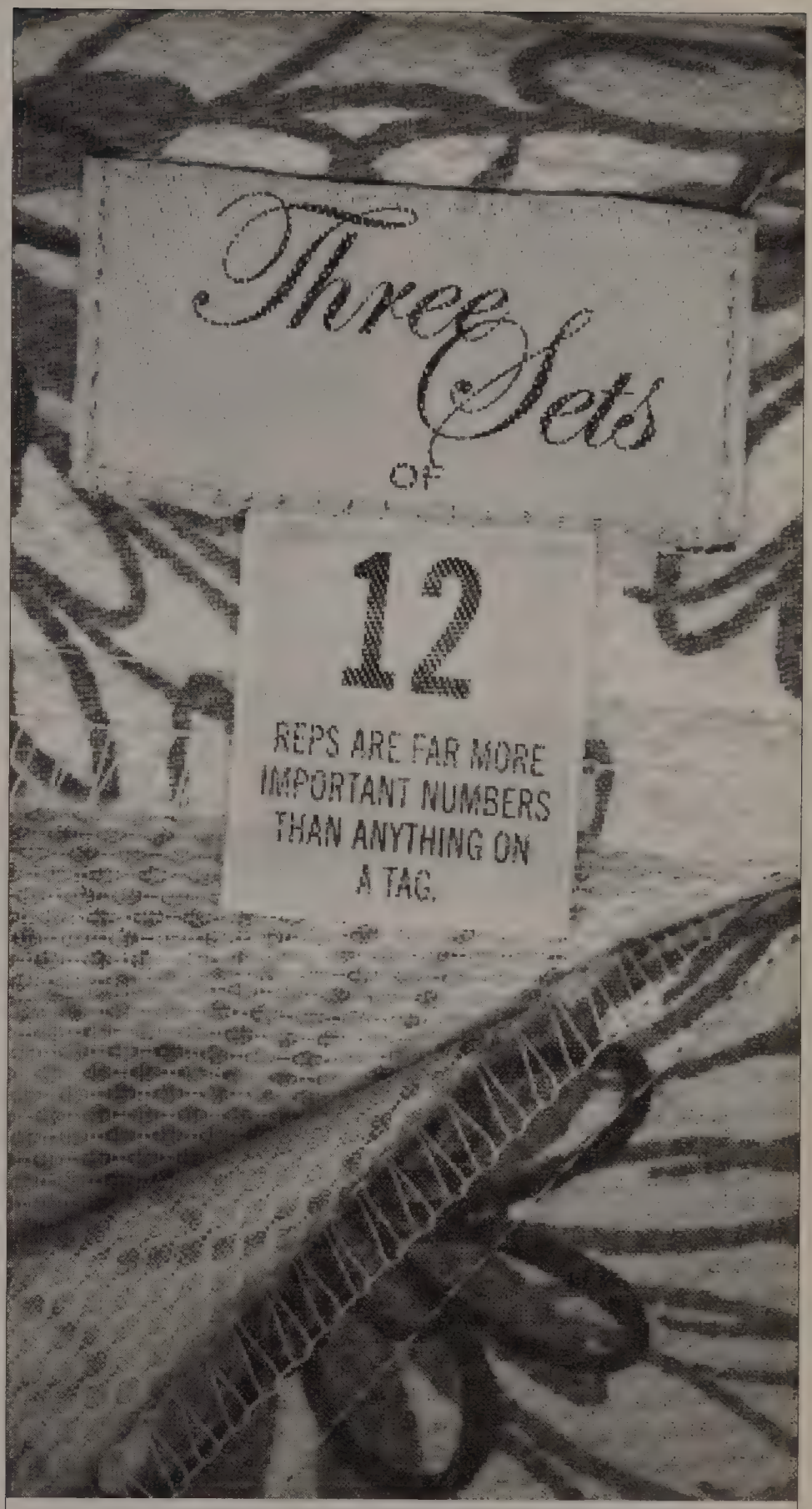

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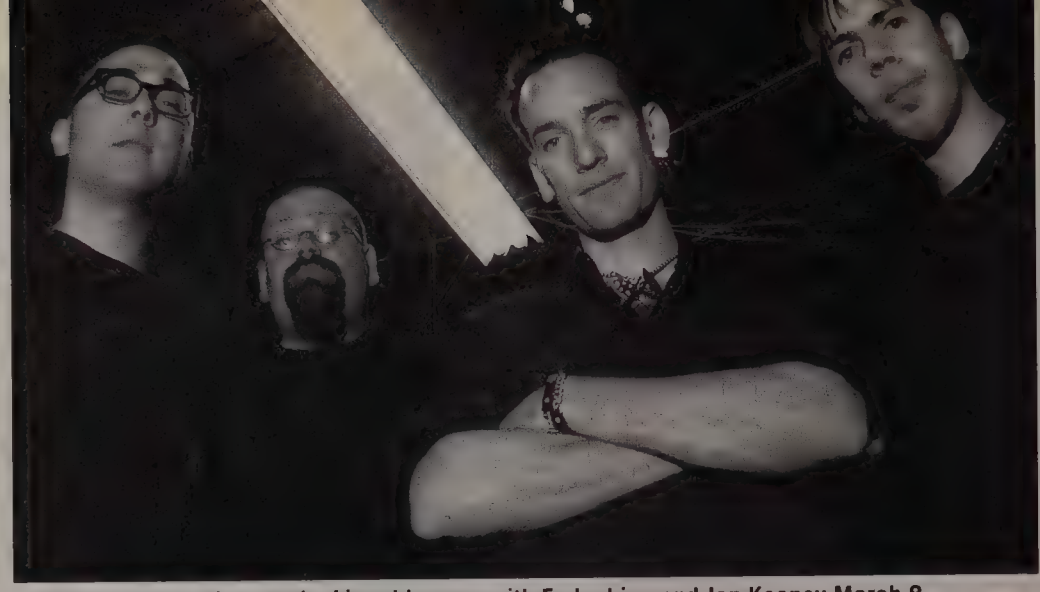
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Hybrasil, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Pa's Lounge Invercaron, Lines and Kandakandero.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 5pm, 21+.
Regattabar The Christian McBride Band with Ron Blake, Geoff Keezer and Terreon Gully, 7:30 and 10pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Herman Johnson, 9pm, $10.
Sanders Theatre Dave Brubeck.
Scullers Abbey Lincoln, 8pm and 10:30pm, $28.
Sky Bar Negative Ghost Writer, Satellite 7, Plastic Pilot.
Sophia's DJ Edwin Matos, Zino, 9pm, $10, 21+.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub The John Hazilla Group, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Reverse, the Collisions, Shelley Winters Project and the Kitty Kill, $8.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Skip Smith, 8pm.
Zeitgeist Gallery Lars Vegas.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Asgard Tom Courtney, 1-5pm; Owen O'Brien, 4pm.
The Attic The Coalboilers, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Avalon Dropkick Murphys, Suspect Device and the Unseen, 6pm, $16.
Berklee Performance Center The Album Leaf and Sigur Ros, 8pm, $27-$30.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, 21+. Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+. After work party with Jim Coyle, 5pm, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 10:30am.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, solo jazz piano, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm.
Club Passim What I Like About Jew, Sean Altman, Rob Tannenbaum, Cynthia Kaplan, Scott Harris and Joe Kowan, 7:30pm, $8-$10.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelations, 10am-3pm; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Sunday's Well and Finbar Doyle, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Gaffney, $4, 21+.
Hennessy's Keltor.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30pm; salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 6:30pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Stripdown Sundays, with Eric Barlow, Sarah Borges and the Confidence Men, Paul Janovitz, the Sin Crowd, Les Betes, Jay Walsh, Tom Jean, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.



Godboxer plays a show at the Lizard Lounge with Endochine and Jen Keaney March 8.

Lizard Lounge Poetry slam featuring Valerie Lawson, 7pm, $9, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Five Helena, 4pm; Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Rocken Espanol, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Berry Sakharov, $30, 18+. Zuzu: Russian chill-out night Propaganda, $5, 21+.
Midway Café Thoze Guyz.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan..
Paradise Royksopp, 8pm, $13, 18+.
Parris Rubyhorse, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Roxy Saw Doctors, 8pm, $28.50.
Sanders Theatre Dave Brubeck.
Somerville Theatre Robert Hunter, 7:30pm, $28.
Sky Bar Good Question, the Franks and Four Piping Englishmen.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders 11am; Marty Ballou Trio with Duke Robillard, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Asgard Dicey Riley, 11am-3pm; Owen O'Brien, 4pm.
Avalon Dropkick Murphys, Bouncing Souls and Kicked in the Head, 6pm, $16.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, 21+. Downstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, 21+. After work party with Jim Coyle, 5pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, solo jazz piano, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Andy Pratt, 10pm.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8pm, $8-$10.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Inchicore, 12-6pm, Finbar Doyle, 6-9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Harp Flavor, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Another Planet reunion, 21+.
Hennessy's The Byrne Family Players.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 8pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Indiegrrl St. Patrick's Day with Ari Charbonneau, 8pm; Beth Boucher, 8:30pm; Liz DeBiase, 9pm; Danielle Miraglia, 9:45pm; Katie Barbato, 10:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Symbolics.
Kinvara Pub Finbar Doyle, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Limbo Jesse Ciarmataro and Polyquin, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: St. Patricks Day with A.C., Damien Storm, You're Fired and Lee Marshall, $10, 18+. Zuzu: The Unhappy Hour with the Men From County Killed a Man, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
The Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio with Duke Robillard, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Punk Rock Aerobics, 6:30pm; Punk Rock Karaoke $7.
Wonder Bar The Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Axis The Movielife, Onelinedrawing, A Static Lullaby and Senses Fall, 7pm, $12.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge McGann Badigian Power Trio, 10pm.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry The Jinx Motive, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Tonic, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's Old Time Music Night, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, solo piano, 5pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Christina Schull, 8pm, Josh Baumer, 9pm and Sam Bigelow, 10pm. $5, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtney
Limbo Paulo Danay Trio, 9pm, $15 table minimum, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Residency, 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Bobby B. Keyes, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Folk Implosion, Mia Doi Todd and Alaska!, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Abolition and Alex McGregor.
The Rack Black Sole and Zeck Martin, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Zig Zag.
Symphony Hall Lina Eder, 8pm, $30-$45.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Gallery, Two Steps to Infinity and the Breakouts, $5.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

advance seating

THESE SHOWS ARE SURE TO SELL OUT, SO CALL FOR YOUR TICKETS SOON

Antigone Rising April 5, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
The Bobs March 29, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2787)
Sam Bush and Railroad Earth March 30, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Cher May 2, Worcester Centrum Centre (508-755-6800)
Concrete Blonde and Twinemen April 2, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
The Del-Vikings March 30, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Bela Fleck & the Flecktones April 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Hot Rod Circuit and Lost City Angels March 21, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Joe Jackson Band April 4 and 5, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Leo Kottke March 28, Sanders Theatre (617-496-2222)
Ben Kweller and Kings of Leon April 19, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Lunasa March 22, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Edwin McCain March 27, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Tim McGraw April 4, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
The Music and The Vines April 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Youssou N'Dour and Angelique Kidjo April 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-876-4275)
Kelly Osbourne and Har Mar Superstar March 29, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Particle March 29, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Preservation Hall Jazz Band March.28, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)
Sonny Rollins April 12, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Shankar with Zakir Hussain & Ginger March 21, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Susan Tedeschi March 29, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
They Might Be Giants April 5, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Chucho Valdes March 30, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
The Waifs and Jess Klein April 12, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Widespread Panic April 15-16, Orpheum Theatre (617-482-0650)
Dar Williams April 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Yanni April 3, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Zwan March 27, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631.*
Arlington Center for the Arts *41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220).*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
The Big Easy *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line or Green Line to Government Center.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line Park Street.*
Good Times *30 Assembly Square Drive, Somerville (617-628-5559). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Station.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymark*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somervi (617-440-6021).*
Jake Ivory's *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-24 1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-77 2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-45 9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Par Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577) MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-028 MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617 864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Gr Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave*
O'Leary's Pub & Restaurant *1010 Beacon Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Lit St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Par Street.*

The Place

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Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford Street, Arlington (781-646-4849).*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Symphony Hall *301 Massachusetts Ave.,Boston (617-266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Tir na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617497-4950).*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Massachusetts Ave.,Boston (617-424-1408) MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave.,Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Ken Schaphorst, chair of the NEC's jazz and improvisation department, leads works by NEC student composers.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall. 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. March 6, 8pm. $28-$90.* Bernard Haitink conducts Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4* and Pulitzer Prize–winning composer John Harbison's *Requiem.*

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall. New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* NEC musical director William Drury and Eric Hewitt, assistant conductor of NEC's Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble, lead this performance.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Artists Diploma Program at Old South Meeting House
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). 12:15pm. Free. Join the New England Conservatory's rising cello star Daniel Lee for this Friday noontime concert.

Boston Modern Orchestra Project's Who's Afraid of Modern Music? Series
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-363-0396). www.bmop.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $15-$30; $10 students and seniors.* Gil Rose conducts an evening of world premieres commissioned by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall. 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$90.* Same program as March 6.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall. 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$90.* Same program as March 6.

Longwood Symphony Orchestra
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-332-7011). www.long woodsymphony.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $20; $15 students and seniors.* Mezzo-soprano Alexandra Montano joins musical director Francisco Noya in this French program.

The Boston Camerata concludes its season March 14.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Emmanuel Music
The C. Walsh Theatre at Suffolk University, 41 Temple St., Boston (617-536-3356). 4pm. $22. Bach's Quartet in D major is performed by the Lydian String Quartet, featuring pianist Robert Merfeld, mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal and baritone David Kravitz.

Handel and Haydn Society
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, Boston (617-262-1815). www.handelandhaydn.org. *3pm. Free.* Members of the Handel and Haydn Society perform *Sonando con el Tango.*

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The opening night of NEC's annual festival pays homage to jazz legend Charlie Parker and leading composers Edgard Varese and Stefan Wolpe. Works of these musicians are performed by NEC faculty and students.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Members of the NEC Wind Ensemble and NEC Jordan Winds perform Varese's 1923 *Octandre.* Also, the newest member of NEC's jazz faculty, Steve Lacy, performs his original composition *Chagrin.*

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recital
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). www.kingschapel.org. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. 12:15pm. Free.* Joshua Millard performs work by Bach and Albeniz on the guitar.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* NEC jazz chair Ken Schaphorst premieres *Charlie Parker's Tie*, which he wrote specifically for the NEC's Charlie Parker Festival.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Dante Anzolini leads the NEC Philharmonia in the symphonic version of Claude Debussy's *The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Artist Diploma Program at Old South Meeting House
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *12:15pm. Free.* The NEC's rising star Ning An performs on piano.

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall. New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-349-0086). www.boston chambermusic.org. *7:30pm. $16-$42.* Join BCMS for a performance of pieces by Loeffler, Shostakovich and Dvorák.

Memorial Church's Boston Camerata
The Memorial Church, Harvard Yard, Cambridge (617-262-2092). www.bostoncamerata.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $20-$40.* The Boston Camerata concludes its season with a performance of music from 15th- and 16th-century Ferrara, Italy. Music Director Joel Cohen and the Camerata musicians are joined by the Harvard University Choral Fellows.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall. 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-63[illegible] 9280). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Sym[illegible] phony. 7:30pm. $10-$50; $100 VIP.* Steinway artist[illegible] perform works from Bach, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Gershwin, culminating in several works for mul[illegible] tiple pianos. Historic Steinway pianos are on displa[illegible] prior to the concert.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsbo[illegible] ough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrit[illegible] series.org. *MBTA: E Greenline to Symphony. 8pm. $2[illegible] $35.* Mezzo-soprano Margaret Lattimore perform[illegible] with Brian Zeger and Ricky Ian Gordan. Included i[illegible] the evening's performance are works by Purcell[illegible] Rossini and Strauss, as well as the premiere of Gor[illegible] don's *Late Afternoon.*

Jazz Composers Alliance Orchestra
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Bosto[illegible] (617-354-6898). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Gree[illegible] Line to Hynes. 8pm. $12-$16.* The JCAO accompanie[illegible] soprano saxophonist Steve Lacy in a rare performanc[illegible] of his big band compositions and arrangements, with[illegible] cellist/vocalist Irene Aebi.

Musica Sacra
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridg[illegible] (617-349-3400). www.musicasacra.org. *8pm. $15[illegible]* The Musica Sacra choral group presents Bach's *Motet[illegible]* which comprises all aspects of his choral career, fro[illegible] his youthful style to his later years.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

The Boston Cecilia & Coro Allegro
Jordan Hall. New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsbo[illegible] ough St., Boston (617-232-4540). www.bosto[illegible] cecilia.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $1[illegible] $60.* One of Boston's oldest musical organizations an[illegible] Boston's chorus for members and friends of the gay, le[illegible] bian, bisexual and transgendered communities ha[illegible] collaborated on an all-Brahms concert program.

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-34[illegible] 0086). www.bostonchambermusic.org. *7:30p[illegible] $16-$42.* Join BCMS for a performance of works [illegible] Loeffler, Shostakovich and Dvorák.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-53[illegible] 3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Gre[illegible] Line to Arlington. 10am. Free.* The orchestra and choi[illegible] of Emmanuel Music perform Bach's *Cantata BWV[illegible]*

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Ca[illegible] bridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *3pm. Fr[illegible]* Pianist Shizue Sano performs.

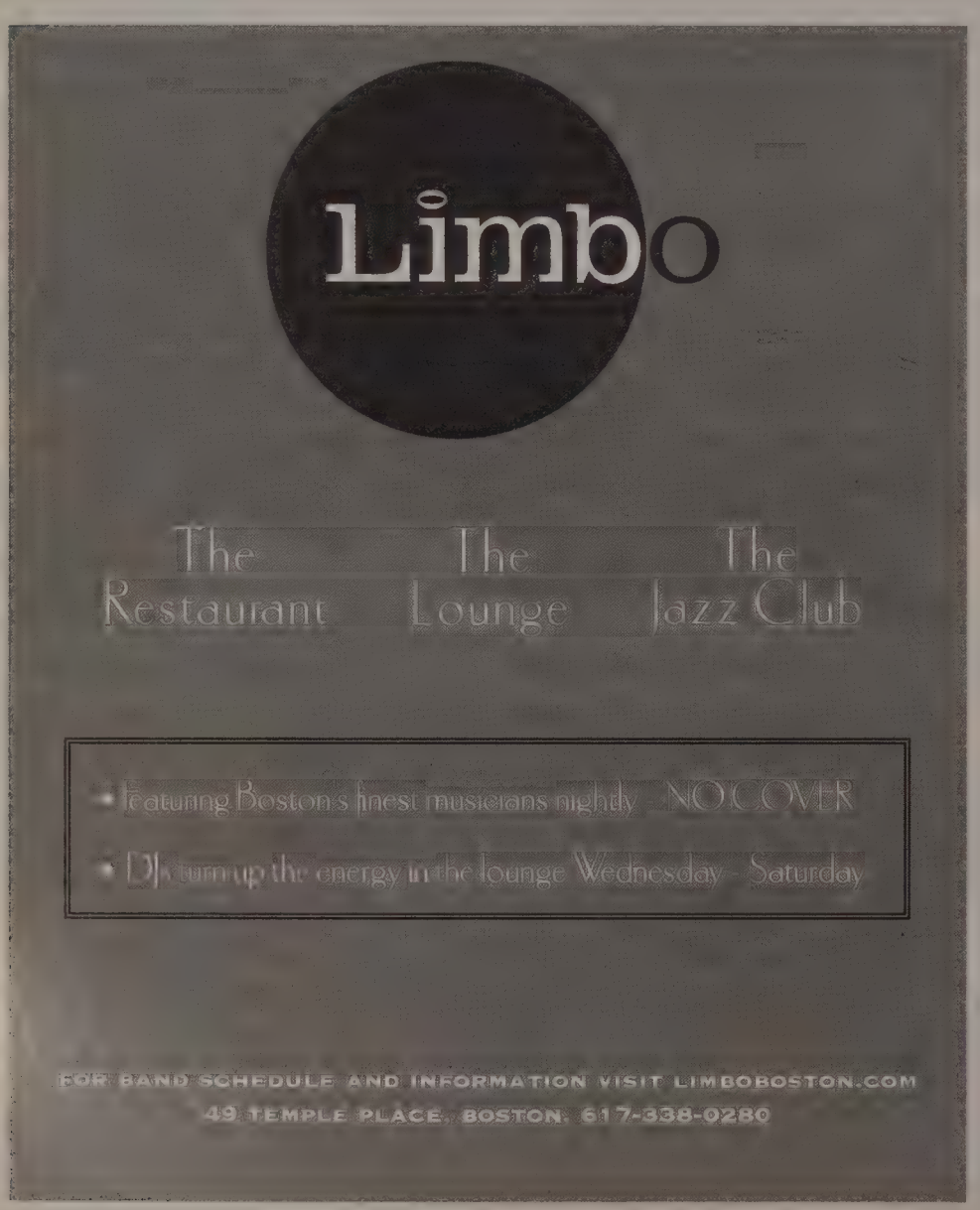
Orion String Quartet
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. 280 The Fenwa[illegible] Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.or[illegible] *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm. $10-$[illegible]* The Quartet-in-Residence at the Chamber Music S[illegible] ciety of Lincoln Center performs works by Harbis[illegible] and Sibelius.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Ca[illegible] bridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *8pm. Fr[illegible]* Pianists Ben Schwendener and Marc Rossi perform[illegible]

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recital
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., Boston (617-22[illegible] 2155). www.kingschapel.org. *MBTA: Red [illegible] Green Line to Park St. 12:15pm.* The U.S. A[illegible] Force Band of Liberty Clarinet Quintet perfor[illegible] works by Handel, Mozart, Poulenc and Ives.



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Date

Sunday, March 23, 2003

Time

12:30 - 4:30 pm

Place

The Hotel at MIT
20 Sidney Street, Cambridge
(conveniently located just off Mass Ave, near Central Square)

Cost

$15 in advance
$20 at the door

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

The Avenue Bar
Service Industry Night Featuring house and techno music, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge Attain transcendence in the exotic world of Buddha Bar with DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
Hip-hop night, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole and Zeck Martin, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip hop and R&B, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

Preview

Nordic Chill-Out

Röyksopp puts a new twist on a newly hip genre

If you've seen any of the well-known progressive house DJs who've played in Boston over the past year, you've probably encountered a remixed Röyksopp song or two. Perhaps you heard James Zabiela's "Ingenborg" remix of "Remind Me," with its delicately repeated vocal snippet "what I was missing all that time in England," or maybe it was Silicone Soul's dark and haunting "Hypno House Dub" of "Poor Leno" that you couldn't get out of your head. Despite all the attention that the recent Röyksopp remixes have earned in the dance music world, every song on their debut album, *Melody A.M.*, stands perfectly well on its own without any remix embellishment.

Röyksopp, hailing from Tromso, Norway, makes a stop at the Paradise March 16.

Röyksopp's Torbjorn Brundtland and Svein Berge grew up together in Tromso in northern Norway and launched the band a few years ago when they reunited in the coastal, university city of Bergen. Though their music has already been lumped into the newly hip "chill-out" genre, the overall catchiness of *Melody A.M.* far surpasses most other recent albums in that category. Combining the mellow, melodic pop sensibility of Air with the hook-laden danceability of Underworld—while sidestepping the emotional intensity of Sigur Rós—Brundtland and Berge have forged a wholly new chill-out sound.

Röyksopp's U.S. tour rolls into the Paradise Rock Club March 16. Promising "front-and-center guitars, vocals, off-the-hook drums, smashed keyboards, blessed-out melodies, plus a bedazzling light and video show," the Röyksopp live show should attract clubgoers and indie-rockers alike.

The Paradise Rock Club, 969 Commonwealth Ave., (617-562-8800). March 16, 7pm. $13. 18+ —Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Green Briar
DJ Long John spins '80s, '90s and top-40 hits, 10pm.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole and Zeck Martin, 6-10pm. DJ Steve Anderson keeps the party going until 2am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band spices things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Anitya Psychedelic trance music and sets by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw, 10pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Lounge Night DJ Jason spins house tunes and the latest techno, 21+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans-themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
The Underground The latest underground musi from DJ Chris Rucker with performances by new live acts, 9pm, $10, 18+; $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, n cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Nights 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix feature retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+ women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; live music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top-40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted by Kis 108, proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights host karaoke downstairs, 8-11pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes and old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Franklin cranks the noise, 11pm-2am 21+.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover before 11pm, $15 after 11pm, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21+

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge al night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

Q
It's hip-hop night with DJ Proper.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10pm, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lover's rock roots reggae and R&B, 10pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9pm, n cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house an other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance an R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by th Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshal 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, n cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.

MTV DJ SKRIBBLE THURSDAY MARCH 6TH 9PM

for guest list info
jtnproductions@clubvibes.com

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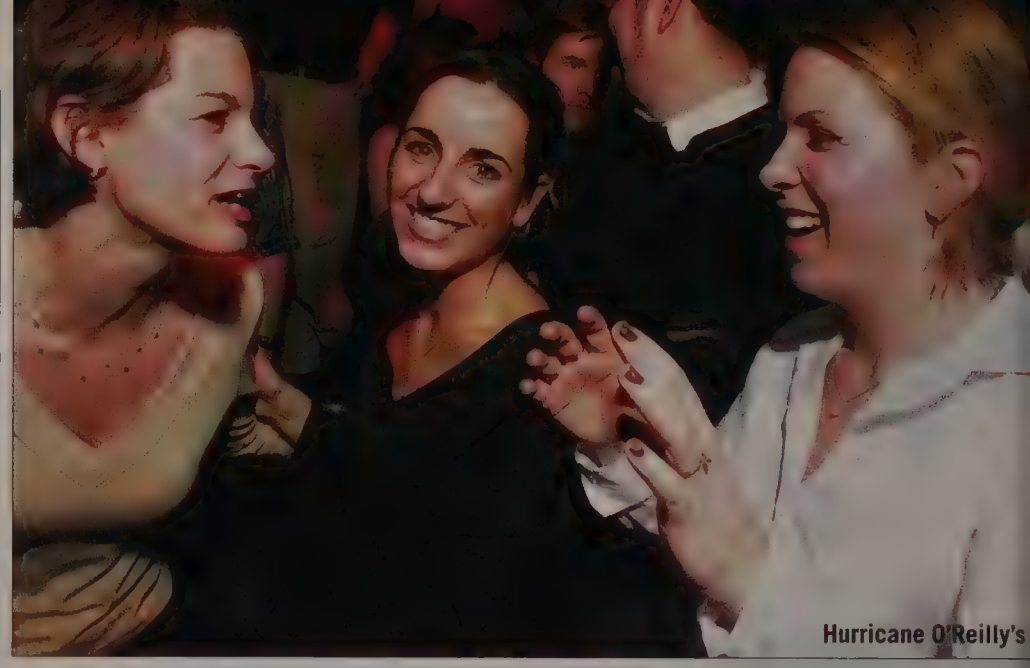

Hurricane O'Reilly's

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Guest DJs spin hip-hop and house music, 11pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music with no attitude, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue Bar
Buck BC hosts TGIF nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Boston rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins a mix of house, lounge and dance in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Dan McCarthy spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
There's a party on all floors with DJ Tom Connors downstairs, and DJ Massi upstairs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Doc goes all-out with top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Roland Lopez, 10pm-2am, 21+.

Level
Velvet Lounge DJ Santangelo spins house and hip-hop, $10.

Matrix Fridays
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $20, 18+; $15, 21+. •**The Officers Club** DJ Statik Selektah and Chubby Chub spin hip-hop and R&B, and JR Swoosh spins reggae, proper dress, 8pm, ladies free, men $5, before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+, after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy G spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress required, $10, 21+, $15, after 10pm; $20, 18+. •**3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs pump the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm. •March 7, Spike the Punch performs live, 9pm, $5, 21+. •March 14, Live music by Syndicate, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9pm.

The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement, 6-10:45pm; DJ Johnny C and Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Dance Party, 10:45pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10pm, no cover, 19+.

RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fisher pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night full of hot Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Sharpen up your salsa and merengue moves with lessons from 7-10pm, then shake it to live music by the Latin Party Boys or hit the dance floor with DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

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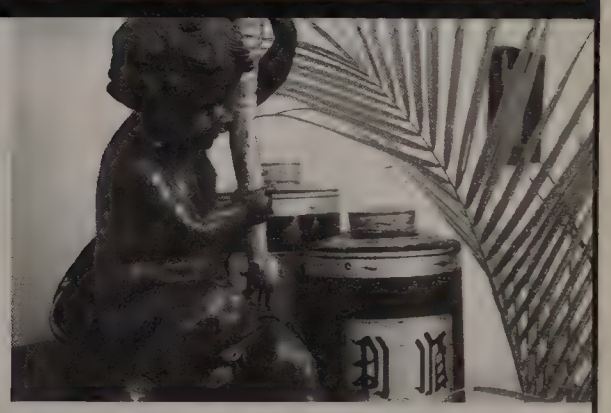

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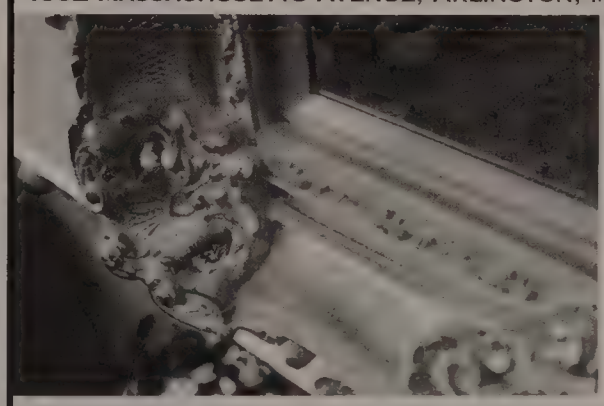
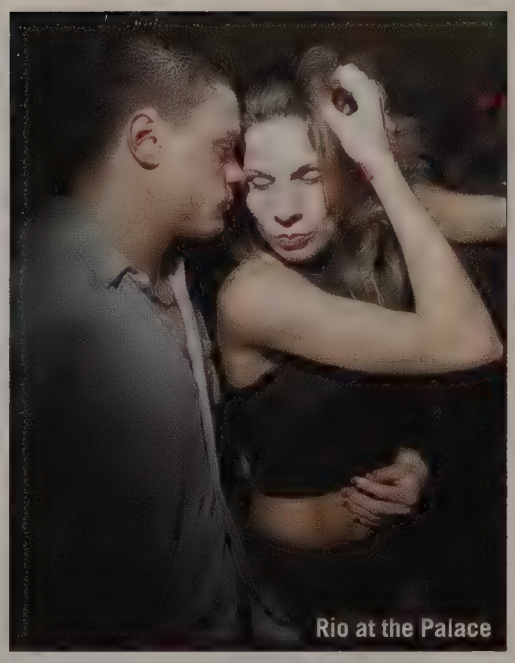


PASTRY BANQUET
SERVED WEEKDAYS
RESERVATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 tunes and acoustic shows entertain on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.
SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop and top-40 remix with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.
Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Sexy Saturdays Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with progressive house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The Avenue Bar
T Night fills the place with house and techno beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis
Start! Hear DJ Gibby spin alternative rock and get nostalgic to '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
DJs host a night of dancing to top-40 and rock music, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Common Ground
The Let Down Losers and has-beens are welcome to boogie down with DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.
Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.
Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins the latest top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Josh Hall cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs with top-40, 10pm, 21+.


Rio at the Palace

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.
Level
In the Russian Lounge, DJ Alert spins Russian and international music. In Elite, DJ Pace spins house, techno and international music on two levels, $10.
Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.
Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz moves the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10pm, $7.
The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.
The Palace
•**El Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $25, 18+; $20, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm.
Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. •March 8, Live music with Brick Park, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Q
DJ Josh Carl spins a mix of house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.
The Rack
Join the dance party hosted by Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, 21+, no cover.
RiverGods
Easy Does It Shake your groove thang with DJs Easy and Goodwood spinning soft '70s, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.
711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover before 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+.
SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk with DJ Bruno, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Venu
Nula DJ JC makes the night global with Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin international house and hip-hop, 11pm, 19+.
Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house in the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-hop in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.
The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.
Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.
La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a night of electric dance, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Level
VuDu Sundays DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes while resident DJs Osheen and Rob D. and weekly guests spin house, hip-hop and techno, $10.
Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.
The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.
The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, no cover, 21+.
RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.
Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.
Trio
Vibe Lounge Kick back and experience this trend-setting night, 10pm, 21+.
Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.
Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogans *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officer's Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-35-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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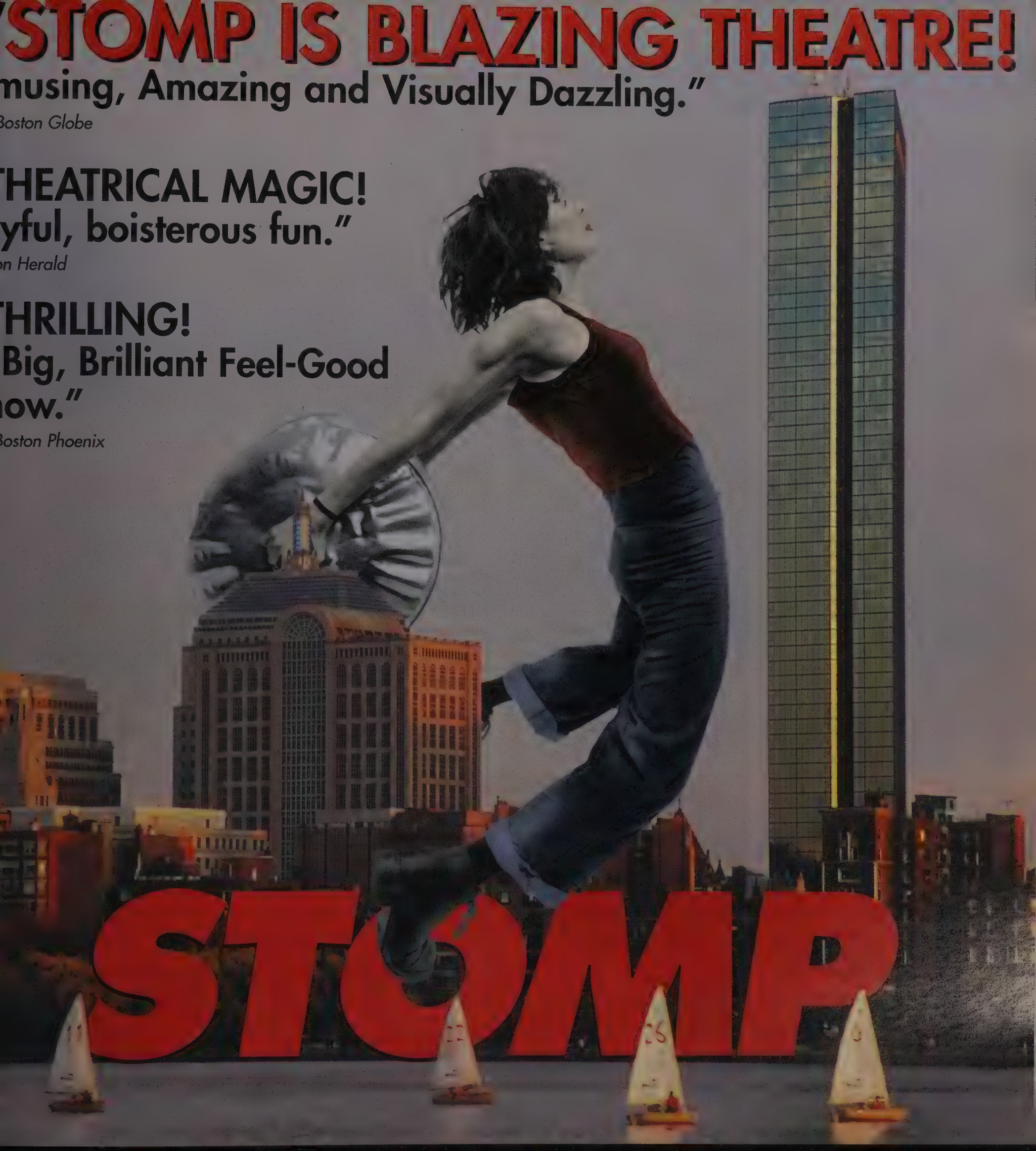

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Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* displays collected objects and images from the Byzantine era. Shows through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* shows India as the British saw it through documentary photographs, paintings and other period artwork. Through May 25.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm.* •Words on Fire, an eight-week, multi-site festival celebrating freedom of expression, presents three exhibits from March 12-May16. *Writer's Block*, an installation by artist Sheryl Oring, displays more than 500 pre-World War II typewriters, locked in 16 metal cages. *Black Books: The First African American Authors* looks at influential black authors. Susan Erony and Erika Marquardt collaborate on *A Meeting of Minds*, an installation exploring Jewish and German cultures in pre-war Germany. •Artists and architects imagine what Boston will look like when the Big Dig is finished in *After the Dig*. Through March 31.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows range from Italian to African art. •*Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon* and *The Victor Weeps*, a show of three moving photographic installations, captures life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan. Through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*Tools as Art*, a collection of artists' works incorporating everyday tools. March 8-May 25. •*Street Portraits, 1946-1976: The Photographs of Jules Aarons* shows March 8-25. •*The Pig Wings Project* is on display March 8-25. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II*, the DeCordova's sequel to last year's collection of landscapes, shows March 15-summer of 2004. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree. Through August 31.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10am-6pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*Fire Upon the Hearth: A Celebration of Irish American Women* highlights the lives and work of several New Englanders, including Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Prints from the Serenissima: Connoisseurship and the Graphic Arts in 18th-Century Venice* showcases 62 examples. Through March 9. •*The Modern Quotidian: Furniture by Prouvé, Perriand, Le Corbusier and Reitveld* displays modern design objects and furniture. Through March 30. •*Isolation + Integration: Works from the Permanent Collections, 1963-1973* shows through March 30. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* displays through May 4.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young*, also ongoing, displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. •*Dodos, Trilobites and Meteorites* showcases never-before-seen treasures from historic expeditions to remote environments. Through March 31.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Carsten Höller: Half Fiction*, the first stateside solo exhibition by Belgian-born artist Carsten Höller, includes one of his slide sculptures, which museum visitors ride down two floors to reach the gallery. Through April 27. •*Building a Vision: Diller + Scofidio in Boston* is a preview of the models for the ICA's new waterfront location, which is set to begin construction in September. Through April 27.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •The work of conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth kicks off the museum's Centennial celebration. Through April 6. •Mixed-media artist Henrick Hakansson displays his work throughout March.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the last 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*18th Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* exhibits the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Threads on the Edge: The Daphne Farago Fiber Art Collection* features 65 works by more than 40 artists from Farago's private collection. Through March 30. •*Traveling Scholars 2002* shows the work of nine school of the Museum of Fine Arts graduates. Through April 6. •*Impressions of Light* surveys French landscape art from Corot to Monet. Through April 13. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative art collection from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt* is the largest selection of artifacts ever loaned by Egypt for an exhibition in North America. Through March 30. •*Invention at Play* is a temporary exhibit that explores the skills children develop in playtime activities. Through April 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •Dana Chandler shows her work in *Denial: Reparations, Installations and Assemblages.* Through March 16.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibit featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibit, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* explores the native response to the Europeans' arrival. Ongoing. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through August.

Galleries
FINE ART

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Large-Scale Works on Paper*, an exhibition by Katherine Porter, is on display through March 5. •Katharina Chapuis presents *New Abstract Paintings* March 8-April 2.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Anne Packard's oil on canvas paintings are displayed in *New Landscape* through March 29.

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (617-585-6676). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •The gallery features contemporary Chinese prints March 17-April 21.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Donald Judd shows *Editions: Prints and Sculptures*. Through March 19.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Self-taught artist Freddie Brice presents large-scale images of ships, interiors, animals and clocks. March 11-April 26.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10:30am-4:30pm; Sat. 10:30am-5:30pm. •*The Luscious Landscape* includes paintings by Neil Welliver and a selection of established and emerging artists. March 8-29.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment.* •*Under the Influence*, a members' exhibition, shows through March 8. •The Blackston Press Printmakers present *proGLYPHic* March 13-April 5.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm.* •*New Paintings* by Gema Phillips shows through March 28.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400x10). www.cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Mon.-Fri., 9:30am-5:30pm.* •*Today's Landscape* displays paintings by Janet Culbertson. Through March 27. *Common Ground* explores paintings, sculptures and ceramics by Portuguese-American artists. Through March 28.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Sun. 12-11:30pm. •Sue Williams presents her solo exhibition March 6-April 10. •Abstract expressionist Beauford Delaney displays his art in *The Color Yellow*. Through May 4.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* •*Outspoken Glass from Japan*, a group show, displays through April 5.

***Goldfish* by Fadi Shawish is on display in the *In My View: Works of Prosaic Beauty* exhibition at the Arlington Center for the Arts.**

)enise Marika's *Bisected III*, a video projection on steel, shows at the Howard Yezerski Gallery.

Chase Gallery
29 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.
hasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-
at., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Cynthia Packard's
ew work displays March 5-29.

Childs Gallery
69 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.
hildsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-
ri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •*The Age of
Napoleon* features period pieces by various artists.
March 10-May 3.

Copley Society
58 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.cop
eysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat.,
0:30am-5:30pm.* •*Patrons' Choice II*, an exhibition of
ontemporary realist paintings, shows through
March 29.

Crump Gallery
*22 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA:
ed Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm.* •A show
f works by Jeff Eldrege, Dan McCole and Norman
rump is ongoing.

)yansen Gallery
32A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.
yansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.
Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri.
nd Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing
alian Murano glass sculpture exhibition and works
y Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
*64 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA:
reen Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free.*
Darlene Devita shows *More New Works From Recent
ravels* through March 29.

808 Gallery
*oston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-457-
700). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. Mon.-Fri., 9am-
0m; Sat., 12-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm.* •*The North Ameri-
n Print Biennial* presents work by contemporary
tist Apo Torosyan. Through April 6. •The works
French printmaker Henri Goetz and his students
e featured in *Carborundum Printmaking: Henri
oetz and His Legacy.* Through April 6.

Elias Fine Art
*20 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: B
reen Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm, and by
ppointment.* •*Impressions of a Revolution: New Prints*
splays works by Willie Cole, Ann Hamilton,
kashi Murakami, Sigmar Polke, Kara Walker and
hers. March 6-April 26.

Equator Gallery
*18 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA:
reen Line to Copley.* www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-
t., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery spe-
alizes in Latin American fine art, from paintings to
xtiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
00 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fort
intarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-
ri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Between Evolution and
berration* features works of imaginary anatomy by
ana Caplan, Danielle Krcmar, Lisa Osborn and
harles Stigliano. Through March 7. •*Hidden Lan-
age* features metal point drawings by Claudia
avaschiere and pinhole photographs by Jessica Fer-
ison. March 14-April 18.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.ga
lerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.
Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing ex-
hibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from
the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt,
Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000).
www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green
St. Tue.,6-9pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9pm, Fri. and Sat.,
12-5pm.* •Isabel Riley shows her sculptures and
Laurel Sparks presents her paintings. Through
March 15.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www. gallery
naga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat.,
10am-5:30pm.* •David Moore presents *Vibes* and Stu-
art Ober displays *Paintings.* March 7-29.

Gallery One
*New England School of Photography, 537 Comm. Ave.,
Boston* www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Ken-
more Square. Mon.-Fri.; 9-5pm.* •Keith Johnson
shows his photographs. Through March 14.

Gateway Gallery
62 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-1577).
www.gatewayarts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Brook-
line Village. Mon.-Fri., 9am-4:30pm; Sat., 12-5pm.*
•*Imaginary Constructions*, a group show of architec-
turally influenced drawings, paintings and sculp-
ture, displays through March 22.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
*23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-
Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •Regina Granne presents
New Paintings and Drawings. March 6-April 1.

Gibbs Gallery
*Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington
(781-648-6220).* www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-
5pm.* •*In My View: Works of Prosaic Beauty*, a group pho-
tography show, is on view through April 11.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haley
steele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri.,
10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The
gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique
prints. Ongoing.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hall
space.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-
5pm.* •Curator Ethan Berry presents *Seeing is Believing:
Skeptical Print Activity*, a collection of x-ray, MRI, and
cat scan images. March 8-April 5.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.
howardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.*
•Denise Marika shows three video installations in *Bi-
sected: Body Projections.* Through March 18.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.inter
nationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.
Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery's per-
manent collection showcases vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
*130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA:
Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-
6pm.* •Guest curator Denise Marika shows works by
emerging video artists in *Videospace 2*. Through
March 9. •David Kupferman and Dorothy Simpson
Krause present their work in *Peace Prayers and Sacred
Spaces* March 6-29.

Kaji Aso Studio
*40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E
Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm;
Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment.* •*Visions of Greece*, a
group show, displays through March 20.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cam
bridgeart.com *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat.,
11am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm.* •*Influence*, a group show of
paintings, photography and multimedia work,
shows through March 20.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900).
www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line
to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Monika Lin
uses written, visual and oral works in *Red Shoes.*
March 4-30.

Kingston Gallery
*450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113).
MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm.*
•Rose Olson's *New Paintings, New Drawings* examines
color qualities and fragmenting patterns through
paintings on wooden panels, boxes and vellum.
Through March 29.

L'Attitude Gallery
*218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA:
Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.*
•*Form and Function* features furniture, mirrors, rugs
and other functional art. Through March 14. •*Sculpt-
ing the Wall* is an exhibition of artful wall decoration
by artists Roger Thomas, Susan Hersey and Steve
Lohman. March 15-April 30.

List Visual Arts Center
*20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red
Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12pm-6pm; Fri.,
12pm-8pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Paul Pfeiffer:
Morning After the Deluge and Other Works* uses digital
media to explore themes of race, culture and identity.
Through April 6.

Mark Gallery
*141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK).
MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.* www.markartgallery.
com. *Wed. and Fri.,4pm-7pm ; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm;
and by appointment.* •Rob Brooks and Carol Lynne
Gove show their oil paintings in *I See/You See.*
Through April 4.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercury
gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat.,
10am-5:30pm.* •*Joseph Solman and the Ten* shows
through March 28.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.
millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Ar-
lington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30pm.* •Boston artist
Henry Samelson presents *Cartoon Physics*, a collec-
tion of paintings inspired by animation. Through
March 11. •

Mills Gallery
*Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston
(617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New Eng-
land Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5pm; Fri. and
Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Boom Box: The Art of
Sound* shows through March 9.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mo
bius.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat.
12-5pm.* •The *5th Annual Cattle-Free Art Auction*
fundraiser features dozens of pieces of artwork and un-
usual items. *March 8, 7-10pm. $15.* •*Student Works* in-
cludes new short performances and multimedia work
by local students. *March 15, 8pm. $5.*

MPG
*228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA:
Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm;
Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm.* •Ruth Mordecai and Brigitte
Klic present their abstract painting and sculpture.
March 6-30.

New Art Center
61 Washington Park, Newtonville (617-964-3424).
www.newartcenter.org. *MBTA: Green Line D to New-
ton Highlands and bus #59. Mon.-Fri., 9-5pm; Sun., 1-
5pm.* •*Points of View: New England Artists in Ireland*
showcases the talents of nine New England artists
and Ballinglen Fellows who base their artwork on
the landscapes of rural Ireland.

New Art on Newbury
*285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Tue.-Sun.,
11am-6pm.* •More than 10 artists display their
works. March 8-April 7.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.
nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.
Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •John Lees shows his work
with other gallery artists. Through March 22.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677).
www.ohtgallery. com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back
Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •*Handwriting on the
Wall* features works by Maggie Brown, Judith Page
and John O'Connor. March 7-29.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287).
www.outofthebluearts gallery.com. *MBTA: Red
Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Sixth Annual
Figurative Show* displays the work of 50 local artists.
Through March 31.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.pep
pergalleryboston. com. *MBTA: Green Line to Ar-
lington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Ensembles*, a group
exhibition, shows through March 29.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.
puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.
Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Shigeru
Matsuzaki's drawings show in *Art and Alchemy.*
Through March 6. •Fance Franck presents *Art Alive*
March 8-April 9.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
*38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA:
Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.,
11am-5pm.* •The gallery showcases an ongoing col-
lection of 19th- and 20th-century American and Eu-
ropean paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.
robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arling-
ton. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm. Sat., 11am-5pm.* •*Face
to Face* is a collection of portraits. Through March 14.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
*290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-
Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* MBTA: Green
Line to Copley. •Works by Picasso and Sonia Delau-
nay show in *Images.* Through May 3.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.
societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun.,
12-5pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •*Jewelry Hard
and Soft*, a group show of international artists and
craftsmen, shows through April 27.

Soprafina Gallery
*99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). Wed.-
Sat., 12-6; Sun., 1-5; Tue., by appointment. MBTA:
Red Line to Davis.* •David Wells presents abstract
paintings and Lauri Fielding shows representa-
tional oil paintings through March 9.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (617-423-9760).
www.space12gallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to
Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-9pm; Wed., 12-9pm.*
•Kenny Mac displays drawings and sculptures
made from wood and clay March 7-April 6.

St. George Gallery
*245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA:
Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 12-
6pm.* •Paintings of New England, Italy, Mexico and
Provence show in *Odyssey.* Through March 22.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
*355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA:
Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat.,
8:30-1pm.* •*Inner Path Perceptions* features paintings
and drawings by Jeffrey Barnum, Jose Diaz, Andreas
Gmur and Rosemary Wessel. March 5-27.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.
vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.
Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •A selec-
tion of works from *Vose ArtNotes Vol. 11*, the gallery's
collection, shows through March 31.

William-Scott Gallery
*450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-4030).
Tue.-Sat., 10:30am- 5:30pm, and by appointment.*
•Jeff Soderbergh's *Furniture and Sculpture* features
works of art created out of salvaged architectural
structures. March 7-29.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).
www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7pm.*
•*Comics as Art: Original Comic Art and Ephemera* shows
the work of such notable comic artists as R. Crumb and
Dan Clowes. Through March 23.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868).
www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-
Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Keith Johnson's *Photographs* shows
through March 14.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.
panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm and by appoint-
ment.* •Charles Gauthier exhibits his photography.
Through March 29.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free.* **Karl Haglund** discusses his book *Inventing the Charles River*, which looks at the creation of the esplanades along the Charles.

Cambridge Forum at First Parish Church
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Robert Reich**, Brandeis University professor and former Secretary of Labor, discusses his most recent book, *I'll Be Short: Essentials for a Decent Working Society*, as well as some key issues facing Americans today, including the impending war in Iraq and the economy.

Dante at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6:30pm. Free.* **Dennis Costa**, a Dante scholar and Boston University professor of Italian, discusses passages from Dante's *Inferno*.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660) MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Northeast regional director of Amnesty International **Joshua Rubenstein** reads from his book *Stalin's Secret Pogrom*, which examines the secret trials and executions of 15 Jews involved with the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow in 1952.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. New York Times science writer **George Johnson** reads from his book *A Shortcut Through Time: The Path to a Quantum Computer*, which traces the history of the computer from its beginning phases up to its most complex forms.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6pm. Free. Mystery writer **Jon Merz** signs copies of his latest Lawson vampire mystery, *The Destructor*. Also, **Toni Kelner** signs copies of her eighth Laura Fleming mystery, *Wed and Buried*.

Newtonville Books and Brews
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Deborah Schupack** reads from her first novel, *The Boy on the Bus*, a story of a mother who suddenly can no longer identify her son.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State Street. 12:15pm. $5. Author and curator at Harvard University's Schlesinger Library **Barbara Haber** reads from her book *From Hardtack to Home Fries: An Uncommon History of American Cooks and Meals*. The discussion focuses on the role that food played in the lives of 19th-century immigrants in New England.

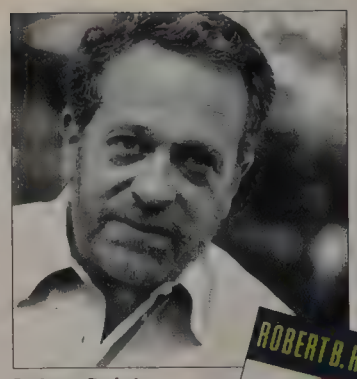
FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Borders Downtown Crossing
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Bird expert **Hugh Wiberg** reads from his book *Hand-Feeding Backyard Birds*, a step-by-step guide to the foods, weather conditions and times of year that are best for feeding wild birds.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660) MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Local Irish poet **Mary O'Donoghue** reads selections of her work.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Lechemere. 7:30pm. $7. Poets **Letta Neely**, **Talia Kingsbury** and **Ann Kilough** read their poems in an event titled Tangled Up in You: Women Cross the Line.

Dire Reader Series at Out of the Blue Art Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5237). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Free. **Kate Wheeler** reads from her debut novel, *When the Mountains Walked*, a story of two parallel romances that take place decades apart. Also, poet **Reginald Harris** reads from his latest collection of poetry, *Ten Tongues*.


Robert Reich

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 4pm. Free. Suffolk professor **Heather Dune Macadam** reads from her novel *The Weeping Buddha*, a Zen-inspired murder mystery.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free. Boston University alum **Darlene Gold** and Dorchester resident **Mike County** read their poetry.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free. **Mickey Z.** reads from the book he edited, *The Murdering of My Years: Artists and Activists Making Ends Meet*, a compilation of stories by activists and authors balancing their struggle to do the work they love with the need to earn a living.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. Pulitzer Prize nominee and Wellesley College professor **Frank Bidart** reads selections from his poetry.

Borders Downtown Crossing
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. Best American Essays contributor **Frank Gannon** reads from his memoir *Midlife Irish*, the story of his travels to Ireland in search of information about his ancestry.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Brookline Booksmith Writers and Readers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **David Liss** reads from his novel *The Coffee Trader*, the story of a 17th-century merchant living in Amsterdam who risks his standing in the community to introduce a new commodity—coffee.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7pm. Free. **Harris Gardner**, poet-in-residence at Endicott College, **Mark Goldfinger**, former editor of *Spare Change News*, and **Rachel Goldstein**, contributor to *Antigonish Review*, read a selection of their poems.

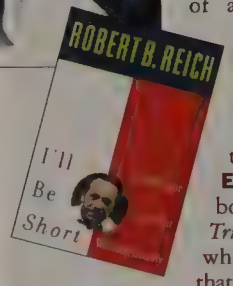
WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Journalist **David Brock** reads from his memoir, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*, an account of the transformation of his political views and his own experiences as a gay conservative.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Cambridge Forum at First Parish Church
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. Researcher and epidemiologist **Devra Davis** discusses her book *When Smoke Ran Like Water: Tales of Environmental Deception and the Battle Against Pollution*, which chronicles her lifelong battle against environmental pollution.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. Former *Salon.com* editor **Kate Moses** reads from her book *Wintering*, a novel based on the final works of poet Sylvia Plath and the last months of Plath's life.

Newtonville Books & Brew Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Julianna Baggott** reads from her novel *The Miss America Family*, which explores the shortcomings of a seemingly perfect all-American family.



WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Cultural and political columnist **Eric Alterman** reads from his book *What Liberal Media? The Truth About Bias and the News*, in which he refutes the accusation that the media have a left-wing bias.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Harvard Book Store
Bell Hall, 79 JFK St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3:30pm. Free. **Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf** reads from her book *Wanderings: Sudanese Migrants and Exiles in North America*, which examines the increasing historical and political significance of Sudanese immigrants in the United States.

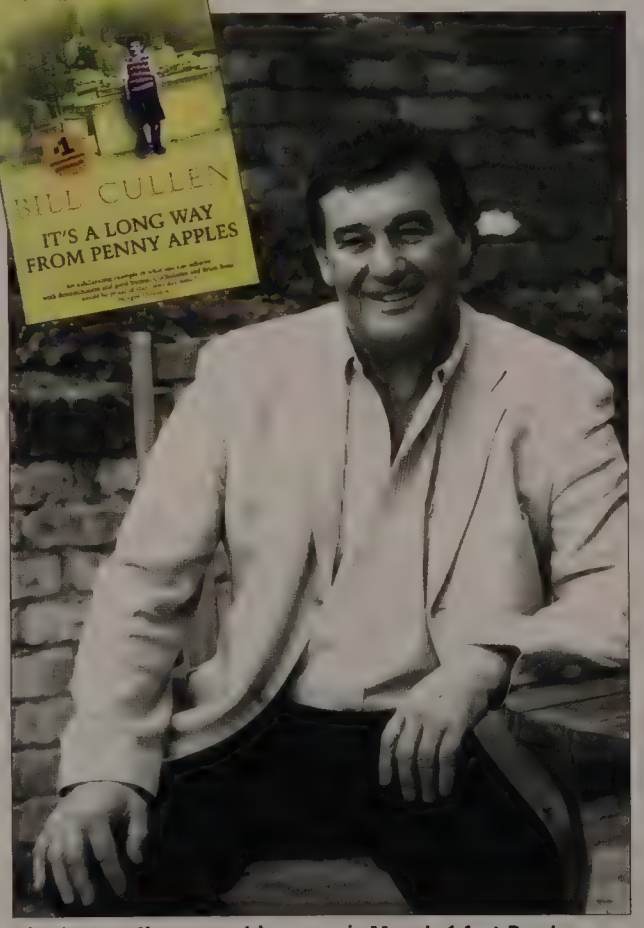
Harvard Book Store
Harvard Information Center (617-661-1515). 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Tickets required. Harvard University professor and Biblical historian **James Kugel** reads from his book *The God of Old: Inside the Lost World of the Bible*, which presents evidence that early Israelites saw God as a human figure rather than the omnipotent being proposed in later theologies.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State Street. 12:15pm. $5. Culinary writer **Linda Bassett** reads from her book *From Apple Pie to Pad Thai*, in which she discusses how immigrants have shaped dining practices on Massachusetts' North Shore.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Bill Cullen** discusses his memoir *It's a Long Way From Penny Apples*, which traces his life from his childhood in the slums of Dublin through his success as one of the wealthiest men in Ireland.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. **Dean Grodzins** discusses his book *American Heretic: Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism*, a biography of the 19th-century preacher and scholar who led the Transcendentalist movement.


Bill Cullen discusses his memoir March 14 at Borders.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Harvard professor and poet **Forrest Gander** gives a reading with poet **Kent Fielding**.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Blacksmith House Poetry
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3. **Melanie Braverman**, poet and visiting writer at Dartmouth College, and **Hettie Jones**, fiction writer and poet, read from their work.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Borders Downtown Crossing
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Robert B. Parker** reads from *Back Story*, the latest installment in his Spenser mystery series. This time, the detective tries to solve a 30-year-old murder.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Alexandra Fuller** reads from her memoir *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*, which examines her experience as a white English girl growing up in Africa.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. **John Spalding** reads from his new book *A Pilgrim's Digress: My Perilous, Fumbling Quest for the Celestial City*, a satirical look at his unconventional journey to find his spiritual side.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6pm. Free. **John Connolly** reads and signs copies of his latest Charlie Parker mystery, *The White Road*, in which the private investigator looks into the case of a black man accused of murdering his white girlfriend.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Chris Bohjalian** reads from his eighth novel, *The Buffalo Soldier*, a story about an African-American foster child living with a white couple whose twin daughters have drowned.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Princeton philosopher and ethicist **Peter Singer** discusses his book *Pushing Time Away: My Grandfather and the Tragedy of Jewish Vienna*, a biography of his grandfather, David Oppenheim, a classical scholar in Vienna.

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm, poetry slam. 9pm, poetry jam. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-554-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity at the open mike.

ROBERT REICH: PERIAN FLAI

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Education or e-mail to education@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Can War Ever Be Justified?
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. Free. Reverend Peter Wells speaks about "just peacemaking" and "just war" theories and how traditional arguments for pacifism, holy war, justified war and a just peace help us consider the contemporary situation with Iraq.

Passion and Politics
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6:30pm. Free with regular admission ($10).* Boston University professor **Denis Costa** will highlight sections of *The Inferno* in relation to Dante's involvement in Italian politics and his eventual exile from Florence.

Why Was Impressionism So Controversial in the 1870s?
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 7pm. $13.* **John House**, author of *Monet: Nature into Art*, explores the reasons why impressionists like Monet and Matisse were so controversial by examining French history and the artists' works.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Disruptive Consciousness
Harvard University, Carpenter Center. 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). www.ves.fas.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* **Carolee Schneemann**, a controversial, multi-disciplinary artist who has helped redefine concepts of body, gender, and sexuality, will speak about her work and experiences.

Human Rights and the International Court of Justice
Goethe Institut, 170 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-3050). www.goethe.de/boston. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free.* **Jutta Limbach**, former president of the German Constitutional Court, talks with **Henry Steiner**, director of the Human Rights Program at Harvard University Law School, about differing German and American views on how to successfully combat terrorism. They will discuss recent political events concerning the two countries and reflect on their future political relationship.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Abolitionism and Human Rights Agendas in the United States
Kennedy School of Government, 79 JFK St., Cambridge (617-495-8601). www.radcliffe.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free.* Radical black rights activist and University of California at Santa Cruz professor **Angela Davis** will give her perspective on America's abolition and human rights agenda.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Byzantine Women: New Perspectives
Arthur M. Sackler Lecture Hall, Harvard University, 485 Broadway St., Cambridge (617-495-4400). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/sackler/ *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 9:30am. Free.* The Sackler Museum hosts a day-long symposium on its new exhibition, *Byzantine Women and their World.* Speakers including **Sharon Gerstel** of the University of Maryland; **Alice-Mary Talbot**, director of Byzantine studies for Dumbarton Oaks; and **Brigitte Pitarakis** of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique will discuss new research in history, art, religion and literature that documents women's lives in Byzantine culture.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Herstory Walk
Boston Common, Visitor's Information Center, Tremont Street, Boston (617-635-7383). MBTA: Green Line to Park or Boylston. 1-2:30pm. Free. Walk around the Boston Common and learn the stories of Anne Hutchinson, Phillis Wheatley and Julia Ward Howe and the steps they took toward women's rights.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Housing the Worker: The Anatomy of the New Bedford Three-Decker
Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-227-3956). www.spnea.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 6pm. $10.* Professor of architecture **Kingston Heath** documents the emergence and regional adaptation of the three-decker flat. He investigates this ubiquitous style of architecture as an index to social change and cultural identity.

The Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. 4-5:30pm. Free.* **Susan Eisenhower**, granddaughter of President Dwight Eisenhower, and **Fred Greenstein**, a presidential historian, discuss Eisenhower's presidency in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his inauguration.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Los Trabajadores
Northeastern University, Raytheon Ampitheatre, Egan Center, 120 Forsyth St., Boston (617-373-5800). www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Museum. 6:30pm. Free.* Filmmaker **Joseph Tovares** presents his new documentary, *Los Trabajadores/The Workers* and discusses America's history of dependence on and abuse of immigrant labor.

Rogue States and Weapons of Mass Destruction
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. 5:30-7pm. Free.* **Sandy Berger**, former national security advisor, and **Ashton Carter**, former assistant secretary of defense, discuss how the United States should respond to the growing threat of weapons of mass destruction.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

The Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Museum. 7pm. $13.* Harvard professor of design technology, **Spiro Pollalis**, will discuss how the bridge was designed and built, its interesting architectural features, and why it has become the newest Boston landmark.

Reflections on the Crisis in the Priesthood
Boston College, Cushing Hall, Chestnut Hill (617-552-8440). www.bc.edu. *MBTA: B Green Line to Boston College. 7pm. Free.* Friar **Donald Cozzens**, author of *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*, reflects on the current scandal in the Catholic priesthood by paying special attention to the church's Decree of Priestly Formation and its implications for present events.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Free Therapy for Brides to Be
Bliss Home, 121 Newbury St., Boston (617-713-4440). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30pm. Free. The Bridal Survival Club hosts this informative session on how to pick a wedding date, find a location, choose a photographer, handle the family, watch the budget and other helpful hints for your upcoming wedding.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Ladies of the House
Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-227-3956). www.spnea.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 11am-1pm. $10.* The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities presents a special program on the everyday life of women in the late 18th century, looking into the lives of Sally Otis and her children.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

The Art and Industry of Fashion
School of Fashion Design, 136 Newbury Street, Boston (617-267-4430). Mondays, 6-8pm. Through April 14. $108. Make an informed decision about embarking on a fashion career with this introduction to both the creative and business sides of style. This five-week series with Fashion Week founder and executive director **Jay Calderin** covers the many facets of the fashion industry.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Redemption in the Middle Ages
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-496-3076). www.radcliffe.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free.* Medievalist **Caroline Walker Bynum**, University Professor Emerita at Columbia University, will give a lecture on conceptions of redemption in the Middle Ages, focusing on medieval Christianity and concepts of suffering and sacrifice.

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CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show is held the last Monday of every month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Fridays, Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Fridays, Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, presents "Anything Goes." DJ Thom Delahunt spins house at this evening for women. *www.circuitgirl.com.* 10pm, $10, 21+. •On Saturdays Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—a pool room and a lounge keep the men busy until at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am-9pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Tuesdays, catch the Retro Rewind, 8:30pm. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music videos as well as classic movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jacques. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. The folks here are really friendly—and really into sports. DirecTV is set up with screens scattered about and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Sun.-Fri., 12pm; Sat., 11am. No cover, 21+.

Geoffrey's Café-Bar (Daily)
160 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-11pm daily; bar open until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers 52 varieties of wine and mid-priced bistro fare. Breakfast is served daily until 3pm.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Cabaret drag show. Mon.-Sat., 10:30pm; Sun., 10pm. $5 weekdays; $7 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu. and Sat.: Avalon bartender "Miss Chris" performs. 10:30pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10pm, $5-$8.

Calamus Bookstore has literary offerings for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Machine (Wednesdays-Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Curve Wed.: DJ Joe Bermudez spins house and techno music. 10pm-2am, $9, 19+; $7, 21+. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Manhunt Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Sun.: Trix lesbian night features DJ Mix Mistress spinning house, hip-hop and Latin. 10pm-2am, $5, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays and Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thursdays is Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $10, 19+; $8, 21+. •Liquid Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $10, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. Queer men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland with live entertainment, including Drag Bingo, spoken word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top-40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Groove, 10pm-2am, $3, 19+. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop, $5, 21+. •Fri.: Vibe with DJ Susan Esthera spinning tribal, $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

SHOWS & EVENTS

The Boston Cecilia and Coro Allegro
Jordan Hall. New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-232-4540). www.bostoncecilia.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. March 16, 3 pm. $15-$60.* One of Boston's oldest musical organizations collaborates with Boston's chorus for members and friends of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities on an all-Brahms concert program.

Breath, Boom
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes or Orange Line to Mass Ave. March 7-April 6. 7:30pm. $38-$67.* Mingle with the cast, chat with theatergoers, or tour backstage with the Out & About Club during the free post-show reception. *Breath, Boom* chronicles the life of Prix, who becomes the leader of a girl gang at 16, as she attempts to overcome a dark history of abuse and neglect.

Circle
Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.zeitgeiststage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Through March 15. Fri.-Sun., 8pm. $20.* The Zeitgeist Stage Company presents the Off-Off Broadway Review Award–winning adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's sexual comedy *La Ronde.* The play follows 10 sexual encounters involving gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual couples.

Gender Crash
Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-0219). www.butchdykeboy.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. March 13, 7:30pm.* People of all sexual orientations are welcome to express themselves through poetry, prose or performance pieces at this open-mike night.

Ins and Outs of Lesbian Sex
Grand Opening!, 318 Harvard Street, suite 32, Brookline (617-731-2626). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. March 12, 7:30-9:30pm. $34. Women only. 18+. Amie M. Evans, erotic writer and founder of lesbian burlesque troupe Princesses of Porn and Dukes of Dykedom, gives a class on the how-to's of lesbian sex. A reference guide is given to each attendee.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss heritage, culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon-Thurs, 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create performances representing women's perspectives. E-mail *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, national hotline is confidential and provides information and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. A group for gay/bisexual fathers and their partners convenes the first and third Tuesday of each month.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians who want to get together and enjoy board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
A mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month 6-8pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia at 617-482-1077 ext.277 or jbattaglia@ptgirlscouts.org.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing, and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Assets New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim team

Meow_Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston/. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swirl Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops held in a gay-friendly environment.

body&mind

vice to Contributors *Submit updated information by il, by fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or tronically to* bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief thorough description of the event, time, date, location, direcns, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

ances of Universal Peace
mbridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambdge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: d Line to Harvard. March 21, 7:30-9:30pm. Reested donation: $6-$10. Join in simple, joyous and editative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditns of the world. All dances are taught and accomnied by live music.

y of Harmony Holistic Health Expo
listic Health Concepts, Johnson & Wales Conference nter, 213 Taunton Ave., Seekonk (401-943-3308). arch 15 and 16, 10am-4pm. Free admission and park-. Experience a healing session of reiki, massage, rexology, crystal healing or electromagnetic field lancing. Find out more about astrology, aroatherapy, psychic powers, crystals, tarot cards, wer essences and medical intuitive readings.

etting the Love You Want
lington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston 88-259-9191 ext.223). www.onenessproducns.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington March 15, m-4pm. $129.* Dr. Harville Hendrix, author of ee bestselling books, and his wife, Helen Hunt, founders of the Institute for Relationship Ther, host this couples seminar. In lectures and exeres, you can learn to enrich a good relationship, reve standing conflicts and acquire better ationship skills.

uun Huur Tu: Throat Singers of Tuva
nerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-6-4275). www.worldmusic.org. *MBTA: Red e to Davis. March 14, 8pm. $25.* Hailing from va, on the border of Mongolia, Huun Huur Tu forms a vocal technique described as "overtone ging," in which a single vocalist produces two or ee notes simultaneously. This type of singing often been used as a meditation practice. The emble demonstrates its technique while ging rhythmic songs accompanied by tradinal instruments.

ychic Medium Suzane Northrop
disson Hotel Cambridge, 777 Memorial Dr., Camdge (617-787-2637). www.suzanenorthrop.com. *rch 13, 6:30-9:30pm. $55.* Suzane Northrop, nally recognized medium and author of *Everything ppens for a Reason*, shows how a person can commuate with loved ones who have passed on in order to p the healing process.

hool of Shiatsu Open House
arles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass. Avenue, Arton (781-643-1545). March 14, 6-8pm. Free. Preistration is requested. Learn about chi fitness and tch demonstrations. Meet Shiatsu practitioners, puncturists, Chinese herbalists and qi gong praconers, and experience a mini-session.

LECTURES

Bride's Psychological Journey
Saint's Parish, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline (617-0-5353). www.yoursoulswork.com/Brides.htm. *BTA: C Green Line to Dean Road. March 5, 7:30-n. $10. Reservations required.* Bridal counselor Alon Moir-Smith discusses the emotional roller ster of the bride-to-be. Topics range from family ubles, cold feet, grief about leaving behind one's glehood, perfectionism and how to thrive during ir engagement.

WORKSHOPS

e Awakened Heart:
t and Meditation for Inner Peace
dless Possibilities Yoga & Dance, 65 Eastern Ave., #3B, ex (978-546-8018). www.yogaom.com or w.awakearts.com. *March 9, 10:30am-5:30pm. 00 (includes all art materials).* Get an introduction to spiritual path of art as meditation. This practice is ed on Anthroposophia, the teachings and spiritual earch of Rudolf Steiner.

e Body Electric Evening
and Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., te 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-26). www.grandopening.com or www.bodyelec-c.org. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. rch 18, 7:30-9:30pm. Free and open to all.* Grand

Psychic medium Suzane Northrop communicates with the dead at the Radisson Hotel March 13.

Opening hosts an informational meeting for the Body Electric's upcoming spring program, Celebrating the Body Erotic for Women. This workshop honors and acknowledges erotic energy as a source of creativity and deep connection to self.

The Healing Art and Science of Ayurveda
Wellspace, 1 New St., Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (617-876-2660). www.wellspace.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Alewife. March 14, 7-9pm. Free.* Learn about the ancient healing art of Ayurveda and its connection to yoga. Ayurveda focuses on an individual's psycho-physiological make-up. Dietary and nutritional recommendations based on the needs of different constitutions will be discussed.

Leg and Hip Self-Care Maintenance for Runners and Other Athletes
Bailey Therapeutic Massage, 14 Nason St., Suite 201, Maynard (978-897-0110). http://web.maynard.ma.us/biz/bmassage. *March 9, 2-5pm. $45.* Planning on running the Boston Marathon? Learn self-care maintenance techniques designed for active runners and individuals who engage in demanding leg work. Learn how to increase your flexibility and strength, reduce pain, heal quickly from injury, and how food plays into your muscles' health.

The Light at the End of the Carpal Tunnel
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 8, 1:30-4:30pm. $45.* Learn about the way you move in this Awareness Through Movement workshop. You'll learn how to improve faulty posture, avoid superfluous muscle effort and alter your eyes-head-neck relationship.

More than Meets the Eye
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. March 8, 10am-4pm. $55.* It may be another's energy that's getting you down. Explore the energetics of sensitivity, and learn some tools to manage absorption of other people's energy. Learn about energy anatomy, including chakras, meridians, biofield/aura, energetic boundaries and space-clearing.

Muscle Testing Basics
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *March 18, 6-9:30pm. $40. Please preregister.* This class will cover muscle testing, stress release techniques, goal setting and energy-clearing with visualizations, eye rotations and more.

Prenatal Yoga Workshop
Center of Light Yoga Studio, 663 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-4411). www.centeroflightyoga.com. *MBTA: Bus line #39. March 8, 1-2:45pm. $50/couple. Preregistration required.* Learn techniques to help you through the process of labor and birth. Participants will use breath, movement and sound to prepare for delivery. Partners will learn how to best aid women through labor by using assists, massage and communication.

Psychic Development Workshop
Ross Miller, 1075 Washington St., Newton (617-527-3583). www.themysticway.com. *March 15, 10am-5pm. Call to register.* Join psychic and healer Ross Miller for an experimental workshop. You'll learn how to identify your guardian angels/spirit guides and receive their guidance, rediscover your past lives, give psychic readings to others and more.

Psychic/Intuitive Development Intensive
Open Doors, 360 Washington St., Brighton (617-202-6333 or 617-489-7717). www.opendoors7.com *or* www.gaylekirk.com. *March 15, 9:30am-4:30pm. $90. Please pre-register.* At this workshop, psychic medium and spiritual teacher Gayle Kirk educates you about your six psychic senses.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

Family Matinee Featuring Jim Jackson
Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover (978-837-5355). www.merrimack.edu/rogers. *March 5, 10am and 1pm. $5.* Jim Jackson, world-class clown, introduces Art Guffaw, a house painter afraid of color. Enjoy a circus of art using magic, puppetry, giant soap bubbles and plenty of jokes.

Kids Variety Show
290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 10:30am. $8.50, $6 children. Each show opens with a mix of music, dance, stories, games and prizes, and is followed by a feature performer. • March 8: Eric Bornstein directs an eight-person ensemble from Behind the Mask Theatre. The Japanese tale *Cat Mountain* features dance, puppets, storytelling and masks. • March 15: David Oliver's magic show includes mystical balls and flying doves, rings and ropes.

The Princess and the Pea
Pocket Full of Tales, Arlington Street Church, Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (617-842-7927). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 8, 11am. A handsome young prince travels the world to find a real princess.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. • March 5 and 6, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Puppet artist Paul Vincent Davis presents *Bingo the Circus Dog*, the tale of a quest to find the dognapped Bingo. • March 8 and 9, 1 and 3pm, ages 4-8: Magpie Puppets presents *The Emperor's New Clothes*, a tale of two brave women who sew the conceited emperor an outfit that ends his royal reign. • March 12 and 13, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Sparky Davis presents *The Kingdom of Riddles*, the story of a knight's quest to find a unicorn. • March 15 and 16, 1 and 3pm, ages 3-8: Join the journey of an adventurous princess to Mystery Mountain to visit the Green Dragon in the Pumpernickel Puppets' performance of *Sir George and the Dragon*.

THINGS TO DO

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* • KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15pm. • Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts. • March 8, 12-2pm: Experiment with cooking supplies such as cooking oil, baking soda and Coca-Cola with the Kitchen Science program. • March 15, 12-2pm: The Audubon Ark program helps you become more knowledgable about the creatures in your own backyard. • March 16: Solve math brain-teasers in *Alice's Numberland*.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. • March 15, 9am-12pm, $35, grades 2 and 3: Explore the world of mammals: Which are the fastest and biggest? Which have the smallest horns or the most hair? And meet a few in person.

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum
Stephen Smith Hall, Columbia Point, Boston (877-626-4599). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. March 15, 10:30am. Free.* The Enchanted Circle Theatre presents Russian folktales *Ivan Bearmanovich* and *Bavsi and the Tsar's Feast*.

Multicultural Fair
Congregational Church of Needham, 1154 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-134-7148) March 8, 12-4pm. $10 per family. Alliance for Children sponsors this fair of activities, food and demonstrations of customs and traditions of Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Newton Free Library
Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1370). • Wed., 7pm, ages 10 and older: Write stories and book reviews. • Thu., 7pm, ages 4 and older: Pajama Storytime • Fri., 10:30am: Preschool films • March 11, 3:30pm: World Cultures Program introduces children to the Japanese Doll Festival.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849
March 5, 7pm vs. New York Knicks
March 7, 8pm vs. Los Angeles Clippers
March 9, 6pm vs. San Antonio Spurs
March 12, 7pm vs. New Orleans Hornets
March 18, 7pm vs. New Jersey Nets

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 617-931-2222
March 6, 8pm vs. New York Islanders
March 8, 1pm vs. Washington Capitals
March 13, 7pm vs. New Jersey Devils
March 15, 12pm vs. Florida Panthers

Events

An Ras Mor (The Great Race)
Put on your greenest running attire and join the fray for this annual 5K road race. A post-race party follows at the Asgard (with free Guinness and light beer) and the first 1,500 runners score a snazzy commemorative T-shirt. *Asgard Irish Pub and Restaurant, 350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-247-3446).* www.srr.org. *March 16, 10am. $20.*

IMG National Golf Expo
Hockey great and golf enthusiast Ray Bourque makes an appearance Saturday afternoon at this three-day golf show. Instructor Jim Flick offers seminars, and more than 250 displays and interactive features should help satisfy that winter golf jones. *Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., Boston.* www.imggolfexpo.com. *March 7, 1-8pm; March 8, 10am-7pm; March 9, 10am-5pm. $10.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag Football
Games are played in Revere (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

LACROSSE

MetroLacrosse
(617-242-9898, ext. 205) www.metrolacrosse.com. MetroLacrosse, a non-profit organization that

teaches lacrosse to children in underserved Boston communities, is looking for coaches for the spring 2003 season.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirish-wolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Homefield at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Khoury's 4-Mile Free Fun Run
118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs Thursday nights, 7pm.*

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
(781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. The nonprofit BSSS offers skating classes for children and adults at 15 MDC rinks. Learn some Dorothy Hamill moves, and then head to the Frog Pond to show them off.

An Ras Mor (The Great Race) starts at the Asgard March 16.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

Asgard Volleyball League
University Park, Cambridge (617-577-9100). Wed. nights. The Asgard, Newcastle and Forest City Property Management host a weekly volleyball league for Cambridge businesses.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

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PSYCHOLOGIST PRACTICING

Psychologist, Bob Azrak, Ed.D., launches program in Quincy!

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Sincerely, Bob Azrak, Ed.D.

www.Quinex.info

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). www.oldironsides.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum open daily, 10am-5pm. Ship hours: winter: Thu.-Sun., 10am-4pm; summer: daily, 10am-4pm. Free.*

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big brother to a little boy.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a gi
Info. sessions: March 10, 6-7pm; March 20, 12-1p

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportu
nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of pe
ple between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organizatio
needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special even

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and mento
needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed
educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work in Ca
bridge public schools as tutors, aides and mentors.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week f
four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elderly.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly ind
vidual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Learning Circles
(617-482-1078). Female mentors needed for you
girls ages 8-19.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or sh
with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone wi
people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elde

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed f
the Parental Stress Line.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed f
HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111, ext. 17). Record textbooks in dig
tal formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996, ext. 30). Battered women's agen
seeks volunteers.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dini
room, clothing room, groceries program and office wor

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour d
mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely pe
ple over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. SVB provides single professiona
with volunteer opportunities. •March 8, 1-4p
Greater Boston Food Bank •March 13, 6-9p
AIDS Action •March 16, 8am-1pm: Wome
Lunch Place; 3-7:30pm: WGBH Telethon.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal i
migrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity). Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

To Luke
You're the punk from South Boston who had a fling with my wife last year. You were nothing more than a mere distraction. You happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. I found the e-mails you sent, and I think you're a worthless scumbag. I can understand why you can't find your own woman. My only solace is knowing that when it happens to you (and it will), the other guy will be a better offer and you won't stand a chance, unlike me. Your 15 seconds of fame is up, and the only part of you that's funny is your looks, Fire Marshall Bill. The joke's on you.
—The Better Man

Joanne on the Valentine Pub Crawl
I was hoping to talk some more and get your number when we reached the Place, but it seems you never made it. I was having a great time and was looking forward to seeing you there. I'd like to talk some more and see about redeeming your lottery ticket. Write me back and let me know what you won so I know it's you, and we can take it from there.
—robonthepubcrawl@hotmail.com

Soccer Fan
We made eye contact a couple of times at the Canton Sportsplex Feb. 4 (the 9pm game). You: A goalie on the yellow team who just got back from a trip to Africa. Me: brown curly-haired friend of the blue team playing on the opposite field. If you're reading this, I'd love to hear about your trip over coffee.
—indoorsoccerfan@yahoo.com

Sledding at Jamaica Pond
I met you sledding with your "little sister" at Jamaica Pond Feb. 8. You asked to have your picture taken and then to borrow my sled, and we talked for a couple minutes, but we both had to leave before I had the guts to ask for your phone number. I'm kicking myself and hoping to hear back.
—sleddingjp@yahoo.com

Alzheimer's Benefit
Feb. 1 at the International: You were very smartly dressed in black pants and top, had long blond hair, a strong spirit and a delightful smile. I was wearing a reddish-orange silk shirt, black pants, cowboy boots, black jacket (for awhile) and am about 5'5". For most of the evening, we circled each other, you spending time with your lady friends and me hanging with my buddy. I spent a good part of the night looking for an opportunity to talk with you and I believe you smiled my way a few times. Then we were both downstairs, with the music pounding and me thinking of asking you to dance, but you were chatting with two guys. I'd very much like to talk and go dancing!
—redshirtblackpants@earthlink.net

Syrah Sluggin' Maryland Girl
You were at Johnny D's Feb. 4. Obviously you weren't comfortable with what you were doing at dinner, yet you were still stunningly attractive. You are from Maryland, born July 17, 1978, and you waited in line for three hours for that ID—obviously, I was your waiter. I tried to calm the seriousness of your conversation with Montana Man (so did you, with three glasses of syrah), but to no avail. You breathed a sigh of relief as you were leaving and flashed a brief smile my way. Maybe someone cute was standing behind me? I didn't care to look, as I liked the idea that you directed it at me. Since seeing that gorgeous smile, I've wanted nothing more than the chance to make you smile again. If I am wrong and you weren't breaking up with him, I am truly sorry. If my hunch was right and you feel like smiling, I hope you take a chance and e-mail me.
—syrahserver@hotmail.com

Rich from Belmont
That was dumb of me not to take your number on Saturday night at Emily's, when there was this terrible shortage of people who were both good looking and had anything interesting to say. Please do send your number, because who knows?
—wrong_time@hotmail.com

Third Time's a Charm
I was browsing the aisles of the Hollywood Video Boylston Street around 4pm on Feb. 2 when I noticed you doing the same. I avoided making direct eye contact, even though I thought you glanced my way a few times. I lingered for a while, but you soon left, and I figured so too did my chance. To my surprise and delight, a few minutes later I stumbled upon you in the milk aisle of the Trader Joe's next door. This time we met up in the check-out line, but I was too shy to say anything. You let me go ahead of you, your deep voice ever so polite. You: about 5'10", looking dapper in a tan top-coat and plaid scarf, and resembling Freddie Prinze Jr. with your short black hair and glasses. Me: 5'4", with long brown hair in a braided ponytail, wearing an Irish cap and glasses. If you don't want to watch your next rental alone, drop me a line.
—hartka4@hotmail.com

Mr. Congeniality
You: guy in dark L.L. Bean jacket, taking the T from Arlington to Copley with your friend Caroline and one big chip on your shoulder. I was the lady standing by the door, and contrary to your comment as you got off the T, I can and do think. In fact, here's a thought for you: If you find the idea of a packed T car at rush hour so "unbelievable," why not walk the one measly stop? The cool air might calm you down, and it would spare the rest of us your atrocious T etiquette.
—T'd Off

Guitar Man
It was Feb. 7, a snowy Friday afternoon. We were on the Green Line. You were carrying a guitar case; I was wearing the Red Sox hat. I was eyeing you and thought I saw you glance my way as well. If you did and are single, send me a message. I would love to hear from you.
—sox_fan26@hotmail.com

Happy Valentine's Day!
You self-righteous bitch! Thanks for dumping me right before Valentine's Day and my birthday. Don't give me that "You are absolutely the nicest guy I have eve met" crap! What the hell else does a guy have to do to keep your heart? "Oh, it just isn't there for me anymore." What, would you like me to cheat on you like your ex-boyfriend did and have you come back to me too? Sorry, I don't operate that way. Then you have th nerve laugh at me on the telephone when we try to talk things over. Bullshit you weren't laughing at me. You know who you are!
—Vday_massacre@yahoo.com

Please Don't Leave
What do I need to do to keep you in my life? You are such a special person to me. From the moment we first met on our blind date I felt tha connection. Six months have now passed and I still get that that initial sensation when I hear your voice or see your face. Sure, at times it hasn't been the most romantic relationship, but you hav continuously said that you don't lil that "kind of crap." I know times are stressful and tough for you rigl now, but I want to be there for you and help you through it. Please don't walk away from a constant i your life. I know the good times ca continue and evolve into somethin more. I love you.
—pleasecomebacktome@yahoo.com

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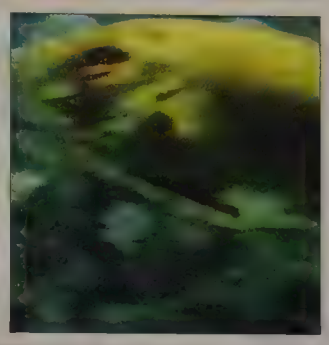
Rockie Horoscope

MARCH 5 – 18, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Fish born near the Aquarius cusp may sense the tension building as disruptive Uranus prepares to enter Pisces next week. Expect at least one radical change in your personal life as you develop a greater appreciation of independent action and spontaneity. Happy birthday; this could be the best present you'll get in years. And then again, if you're enjoying a fairly placid scene, drifting along on predictable tides of change, making art and love, then the sudden shock of the new could really throw you for a loop.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

No matter if it's sudden or gradual, even a small change in your priorities can produce dramatic results. As your Mars ruler settles into Capricorn—the practical earth sign in which it works amazingly well—you become convinced that you're capable of accomplishing much more. You may even morph into the epitome of efficiency, dedicated to seeing things through to completion before taking on another project. Who is this creature and how long will it be around? Until Easter for sure, maybe the entire Year of the Ram.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

An assortment of acquaintances may already be egging you on, making suggestions about the direction your career should be taking, if only you heed their advice. Advice is what you usually get when so many planets, and your Venus ruler, are in Aquarius, an idea-driven air sign that would rather not get involved. If you want emotional or artistic support, look to a water sign; for practical, bankable assistance, an earth sign. Right now, Capricorn is your best bet, especially for money problems. Romance? Ask an Aries.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

It's that time of year again, the problematic Pisces period, when people who are in a position to pressure you tend to lay it on thicker than ever. By now you should know how to field their questions, ignore the subtle hints and divert the boss's or your family's gaze to something that really needs fixing. All this can be accomplished artfully, without resentment or recrimination until the grateful Ides of March. Then stern Saturn in your sign steps in to test your definition of stability and responsible behavior.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

The Pisces new moon this week marks the beginning of the end of the zodiacal cycle that started with the Aries new moon last April. Congratulations, you're almost finished with the major issues your latest trip around the cosmic circle has brought to a head. Try to make time during the next four weeks to bring whatever is still outstanding to something that resembles closure. Although adorable Venus is leaving your Capricorn marriage house, passionate Mars is checking in for the first time in two years.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Isn't it about time your social life picked up, at least while Venus is in Aquarius, the sign of your cosmic soul mate? An office romance is always a possibility when magnetic Venus is hanging around the water cooler. But the goddess can also fan a desire to check out new places and do things with people you're not particularly close to. Curiosity, when it belongs to a Lion, won't kill the cat. You shouldn't encounter a problem until the middle of the month, and then only if you let an obsession get out of hand.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

During Pisces even a confirmed bachelor can be drawn into the divisive "me/we" dichotomy. It can't be helped; while the sun travels through your marriage house, the creative energy of the cosmos points to what you can do, who you become when you interact with a partner. Like Gemini (end of the school year) and Sagittarius (the holidays), Pisces often turns into a period of adjustment. For mutable signs like yours—who tend to react to events, rather than plan for change—the next three weeks can be memorable.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Taking care of business, one itty-bitty detail after another, could turn out to be your latest major accomplishment. Wrapping up loose ends before the astrological year ends may not seem such a big deal. Yet somehow you are inspired (when your sociable Venus ruler meets visionary Neptune) to come up with a novel method of fulfilling an obligation. How this turns into street theater or entertainment is beyond me, but think along those lines and you might have a hit on your hands.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

A preponderance of planets at the bottom of your chart locks you into matters dealing with your past and present home life and the extended family. Domestic bliss remains an ideal worth aiming for, especially if aesthetic standards are maintained and you're enjoying a social life. Plus, there has to be a spiritual or psychic influence at work or you won't feel connected. A choice between love and money may be a problem when the sun squares your Pluto co-ruler next week. Not particularly pleasant, but quite revealing.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

During a mutable sun sign, such as Sagittarius or Pisces, opportunities for significant change seem to pop up with frequency, alacrity and no apparent reason. Fate's fickle finger likes to mess with Archers when you're poised on the edge, ready to jump off one bandwagon, on to the next cause. As the Pisces sun tweaks your natal planets and the tension builds, know that even if you flail around a bit, you'll land on your feet and make whatever adjustments are necessary. So what if you spend big bucks in the process.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Impulse buying is usually not your thing—you tend to research a purchase until you're sure you'll get the best deal. However, while a slew of planets pass through your Aquarius money house, the temptation to reach for the latest electronic marvel can be irresistible, just so you know. You're also in executive suite space, willing to take on more responsibility, issue orders and have them executed without hesitation. While militant Mars in your sign may make you slightly scary, it can also make you much sexier.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Bending the rules, breaking the mold, twisting your ankle—all possibilities as impulsive Mars and interactive Mercury zero in on your Uranus ruler. These are the last days (for a while) to relish the independence that freedom-loving Uranus has bestowed on you while it transited Aquarius. On March 10, your ruling planet crosses over to Pisces and sticks a toe in deep emotional waters until September. Then it returns to remind you how good you've had it. Why are you already spending like a drunken sailor?

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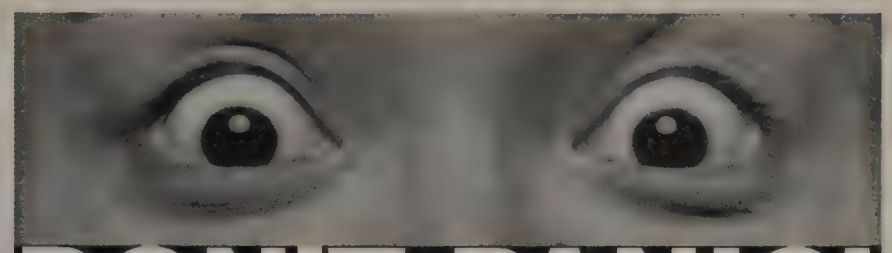

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Improper Sightings

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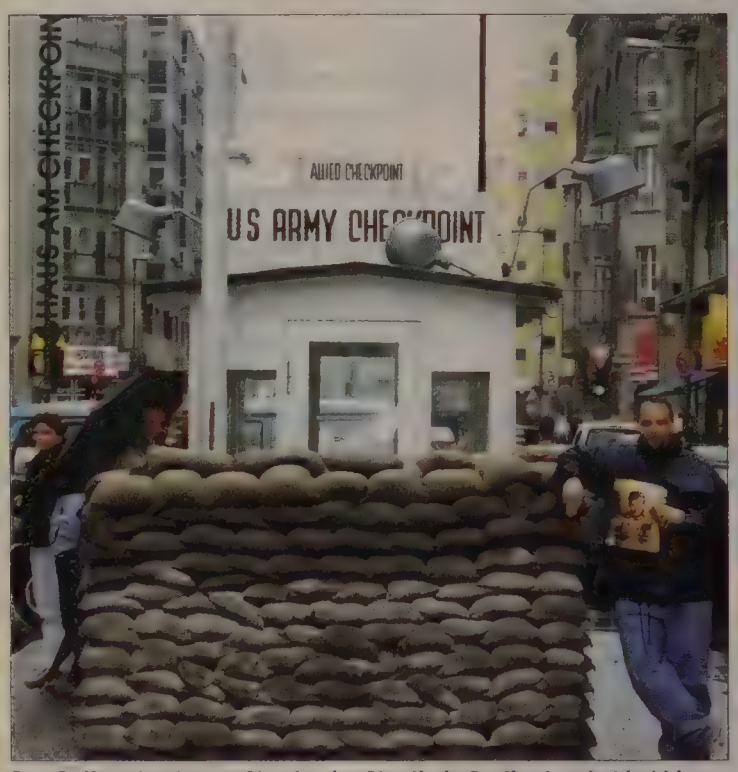
Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. Since we want your feedback on the rest of the magazine, too, submissions that include a letter expressing your opinion will really get our attention.

Newly elected members of Congress from Georgia Denise Majette, Jim Marshall and David Scott are waiting for us to launch THE IMPROPER HOT-LANTAN.

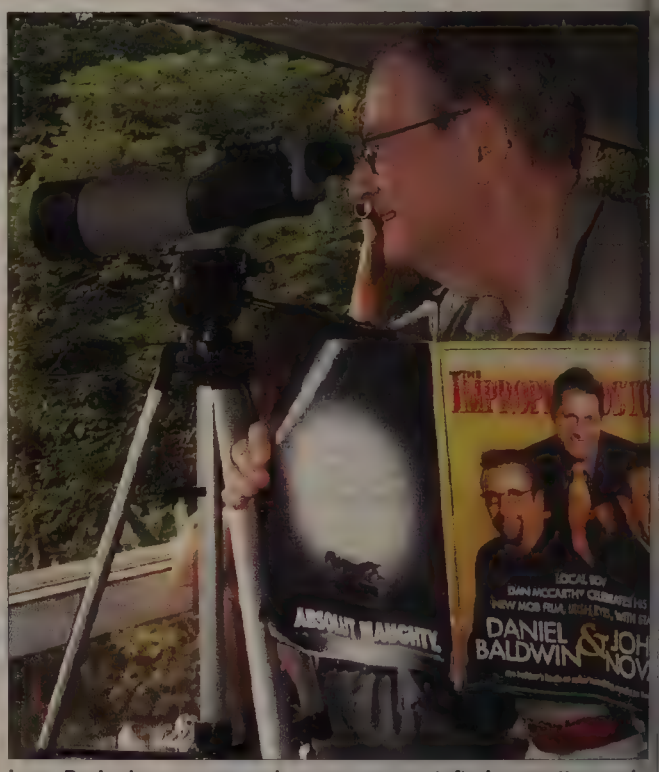
Aimee Sebastian and Robin Watlington are poised to spot celebrities at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. Eventually they saw Corey Feldman valet someone.

Alison Guilmette and Linda McKenna represent for Boston at Hollywood's Walk of Fame with Joe Thornton and THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN. We don't understand what that guy from *Becker* has to do with Boston, though.



Dan Coffey checks out Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin. Just behind him, in the former Communist East Berlin, are a McDonald's, a J. Crew, a Ford dealership, and a guy selling Soviet weapons-grade uranium.

Jessica Stitt and Don Dalton prepare to parasail in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. Parasailing gets boring after five minutes, so it's good they took some reading material.



Larry Berk observes green honeycreepers, tufted coquettes and violaceous euphonias in Trinidad, British West Indies. We're pretty sure them's fancy names fer trees or rocks or sumpin'.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Taking top prize in the Ugly Truck and Dog Contest, held in late March at the Caribou Carnival and Canadian Championship Dog Derby in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mail high-resolution photos to: sightings@improper.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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On Friday, Feb. 14, Felt hosted a lingerie fashion show with Belle Du Jour and Moet & Chandon.

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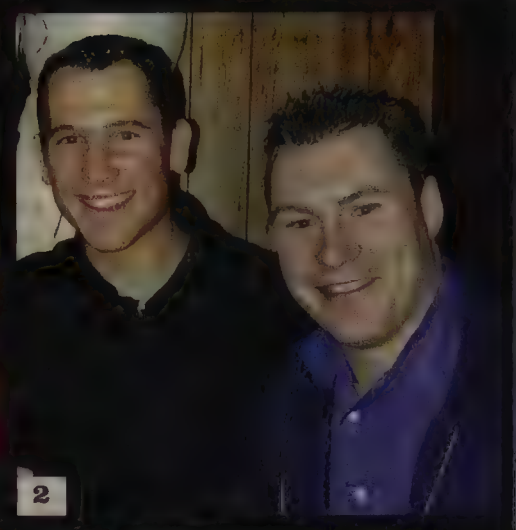
2

3

1. **Matthew Capobianco**, sales executive of Pfizer, and **Karen Mayer**, in-house promotions for Roxy nightclub.
2. **Amanda Drehle**, case manager of LifeLinks INC.; **Rick Scourtas**, general manager of IRA Porsche; **Kim Kong**, student at the University of Massachusetts; **Harry Khidhir**, director of network operations at Brigham and Women's Hospital; and **Peter Leonard**, owner of Le Club.
3. **Jane Izard**, model, **Amy Garbo**, director, and **Caitlin Manley**, model, all from Click Modeling Agency

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Lucky's celebrated their 2nd anniversary party.

1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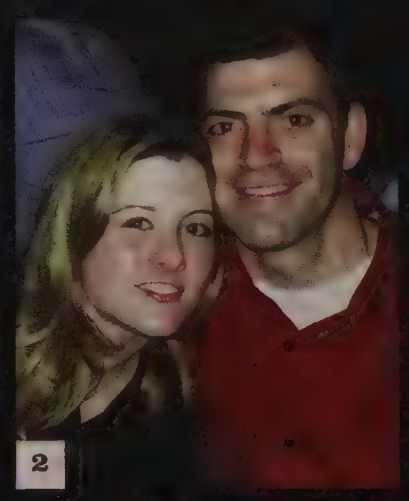
3

1. **Kristen Canazon**, waitress at Lucky's; **Roseann Sdoia** of Corcoran Management.
2. **Dan Hyams**, manager of the Sugar Shack; **Geoff Chase**, manager of the Big Easy.
3. **Billy Costa**, general manager of Lucky's; **Ed Sparks**, CEO of the Lyons Group; **Patrick Lyons**, president of the Lyons Group; **Heather Burke**, bartender at Lucky's; **David Joaquin**, CFO of the Lyons Group; **Mindy D'Arbeloff**, VP of marketing for the Lyons Group; **Eric Aulenback**, managing partner with the Lyons Group.

On Friday, Feb. 14, Jacob Wirth Restaurant gave its customers a sweet treat. Each dining couple received a box from Barmakian Jewelers with one box containing the grand prize, a pair of diamond earrings.

1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1. **Jonny Blass**, general manager of Jacob Wirth; **Adreena Barmakian**, of Barmakian Jewelers; **Ara Barmakian**, owner of Barmakian Jewelers; **Anne McKluskey** and **Artour Yatchenko** of Boston.
2. **Wendy Hamel**, marketing for Tensor Corp., and **Bryan La Bua**, sales for Northland Industrial.
3. **John Shack**, teacher, and **Kevin Minghella**, manager of the Rainforest Café.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, The Place played host to the semifinals of the *Boston Herald* and Star 93.7's search for Boston's Hottest Singles.

1

2

3

1. **Heather Gemas**, student at Catherine Hinds, and **Robin Beard**, esthetician for Bella Sante.
2. **Fast Freddy** of Star 93.7's Morning Show; **Shanda Foster** of Star 93.7's Street Team; **Frankie V**, Star 93.7's Late Night DJ and **Ken Ledwak** of Star 93.7's Street Team.
3. **Steve Dombek** of Boston; **Risa Goldman**, public relations representative for Schwartz Communications; **Jessica Cohen**, law student at New England School of Law and **Ken Goodreau** of Leerink Swan.

PHOTOS: FELT, JULIE KANE; LUCKY'S, WENDY SEMONIAN; JACOB WIRTH, REGAN COMMUNICATIONS; THE PLACE, KAREN

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restaurants

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut Street, Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 Rear Union St., Newton Centre, 617-964-6684 Off intersect. of Beacon St. & Center St.* Comfortable, casual and fun in a 100+ yr-old building with 3 floors and an outside patio. Focus is on fresh food with a menu that covers everything from classic appetizers to creative pastas and entrees. Locally known for fresh fish and Sat. & Sun. Brunch menu as well as for football and sports bar scene (20 TVs of Direct TV) and the live, original music in the top floor ATTIC Bar.

bars/clubs

BEER SPECIALTY

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Boston Billiard Club *126 Brookline Ave., Boston, 617-536-POOL* Winner of Boston Magazine's Best of Boston 1999 Award. Newly expanded this year, Boston Billiard Club has more of everything you're looking for.MoreBrunswick Gold Crown tables. A bigger lounge. New plush leather couches. A giant flat screen TV. An unbelievable state of the art sound system. Newly added function rooms. Free lessons Mon, 7:30- 9pm. House leagues on Mon and Tues."In the Biz" Nights on Sunday and Mondays.Ladies' Night on Wed. www.bostonbilliardclub.com

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeck Martin.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeck Martin.

Tilt *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* A club truly in a class of its own. With its outrageous Light Show and Cat Walk spectacle, dance and groove with the spinning sensations on Saturday nights and to guest DJs spinning progressive house and trance on Friday. Dress code strictly enforced. Doors open at 10pm.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

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details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers, Faneuil Hall Marketplace *Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers, Beacon Hill *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

Hurricane O'Reilly's, *150 Canal St., Boston, MA 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich Street, Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Oxygen-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Enjoy the best of 70's, 80's & 90's music on Tuesday nights and a buffet from 8pm-9pm with DJ Chris Fiore. Doors open at 8pm; 21+, $3 before 9pm and $5 after 9pm. Friday 18+ ladies, 19+ men, casual dress. Saturday 18+ ladies, 21+ men, proper dress required.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

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JAZZ

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Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

SPORTS BAR-UPSCALE

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

VIDEO CLUB

Uptown-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Progressive dance music on Friday nights: 18+ ladies, 19+ men. Casual dress.

brunch

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science *Skyline Room, Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114.* Enjoy Sunday brunch beginning at noon in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River, then join the adventure with Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West at the Omni Theater at 2pm. Tickets are $30 for adults, $28 for seniors/children. Brunch only is $22. On-site parking included. Reservations recommended, call 617-723-2500.

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Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the We Take Your Health to Heart party, clockwise from upper left: Chaka Khan performing; Byron Thomas and Brian Lighty; Sidney Punter, Aisha Saunders and Kirk Jackson; Bernie and Carol Fulp; Bmaynard Scarborough; Wayne Budd; Karen Holmes Ward; Karen and Ron Walker.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RUFUS?

When it comes to singing divas, we'd gladly trade a lifetime of Madonna, Mariah and Whitney for one night with **Chaka Khan**, which is why her performance at the 17th annual **We Take Your Health to Heart** gala for the **RoxComp Neighborhood Health Center** made for such a superlative evening.

Held amid the rococo splendor of the **Copley Plaza Hotel**, the party began with a VIP dinner and reception and continued with more cocktails and a killer one-hour concert in the ballroom, and it attracted the crème de la crème of Boston's black society, as well as some white folks who know how to have a good time when they're invited to one. Guests included philanthropic fun couples **Wayne** and **Jacqui Budd**, **Kathy** and **Richard Taylor**, and **Carol** and **Bernie Fulp**; the dapper **Bud (Monroe) Moseley**; the equally dapper **Ron Walker** and his gorgeous other half, **Karen**; RoxComp's stunning CEO, **Anita Crawford**; Putnam Investments adonis **Brian Lighty**; his understudy for the evening, **Byron Thomas**; white-hot interior designer **Eric Roseff**; blue-blooded do-gooder **Rhys Gardiner**; Museum of Fine Arts diversity guru **Sidney Punter**; statuesque broadcasting babe **Karen Holmes Ward**; the *Boston Globe*'s **Aisha Saunders** and her man, attorney **Kirk P. Jackson**, plus Saunders' incorrigible colleague, **Bmaynard Scarborough**.

Chaka rocked, as she's wont to do, and anyone who didn't thoroughly enjoy the whole evening doesn't know sheep-dip from apple-butter.

THANK HEAVEN FOR ELASTIC WAISTBANDS...

When faced with adversity, some people resign themselves to it, while others do something about it, which is what restaurateur **Carla Gomes**, owner of the popular North End eatery **Terramia**, did.

Her son, David, has suffered from diabetes since he was an infant, so Gomes decided to organize and host **City Feast—Dining for a Cure**, a five-course wine dinner to raise money for the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**. In addition to her own restaurant, the indefatigable Gomes persuaded such competitors as **Artu**, **Bricco**, **Lucca**, **Prezza** and **Sage** to host tables, and then wrangled a special guest star from the Bruins: defenseman **Nick Boynton** (who was diagnosed with diabetes his rookie year in the NHL).

Carla Gomes, Nick Boynton and Joe Tinnirello at City Feast—Dining for a Cure.

Guests—among them such bon vivants as British playboy **Mark Slater** and his stunning fiancée, **Julie**; Caffe Vittoria owner **David Riccio**; and **the John Cookes of Wellesley**—were treated to a feast worthy of Henry VIII, while Gomes and Boynton table-hopped at all the restaurants, greeting and thanking everyone without ever getting to sit down and eat (which was a damn shame, since everything we were served was outstanding).

The first of what's bound to become a hugely popular annual event, the evening raised over $21,000 and left everyone feeling fat and happy. As one attendee put it, "I'm just glad I wore my eating pants."

LOVE STINKS...

So this, then, is the state of romance in Boston:

Saucy-young-things-about-town **Diane Danielson** and **Rachel Power** sent out an e-mail inviting friends and acquaintances to a Bridget Jones–inspired **Just Say No to Valentine's Day/Singletons' Party** on February 12 at the **Federalist**. Smug marrieds (as long as they had the proper attitude) were welcome, and the evening was expected to be a low-key, wine-and-a-few-nibblies affair that started at 7:30 and ended in time for everyone to make it into the office bright eyed and bushy tailed the next morning.

Instead, the place was mobbed by 6pm and by last call, the party was still going gangbusters.

To protect the not-so-innocent, we won't name names, but the crowd was a 60-40 mix of women and men, and it ran the gamut from a couple who met at the party and began furiously making out at the end of the bar, to a squadron of women gorging themselves at the buffet while comparing breast size and bitching about the dearth of desirable men, to a group of investment banker types pretending they had no idea what was going on. Business cards flew fast and furious, phone numbers were exchanged, and choice comments overheard during the course of the evening included:

"Valentine's Day is strictly a couples' event. What's a single person supposed to do—go out for dinner alone and then rent a porno movie?"

And, "I've got to get married. Then maybe I could find a date."

The following exchange took place between two men at the bar:

"I have to give him her business card. She hasn't dated in five years."

"Is she good-looking?"

"Well...she hasn't dated in five years."

Meanwhile, here's how the evening progressed for one group of five young lovelies: By midnight, the two single girls were still cracking wise at the bar, while their engaged friend went home to phone her fiancé, another went off to find her boy friend, and the married one left to have sex with someone other than her husband. iB

At Just Say No to Valentine's Day, right: Diane Danielson. Below: Melissa Crocker and Nikos Tsonis.

Avez-vous dish?

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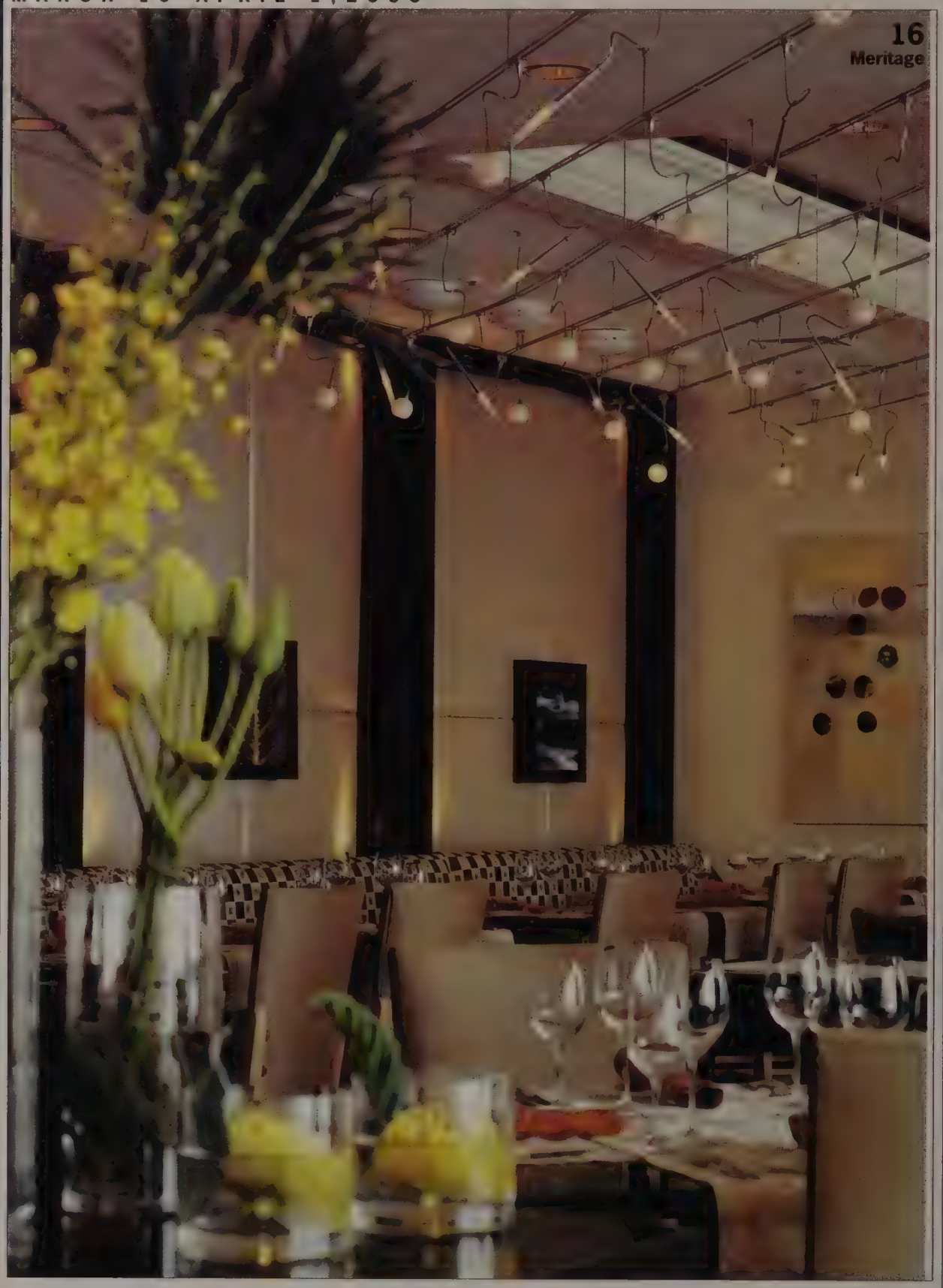
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Meritage

On the Cover:
Photograph for
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Jonas Kahn

Produced by: **Samantha House**
Guy side:
Model: **Kevin Fauteux/Maggie Inc.**
Props: **Coat rack provided by Kartell, alum bistrot table and small ponte nesting table provided by Zoé, oil painting "Woodie" by Royal Hadfield provided by New Art on Newbury. Martini set and napkins available at Crate & Barrel, vase and candy dish available at Marshalls.**
Clothing: **Sweater and linen pants provided by DKNY.**
Girl side:
Model: **Kathy Kuo/Maggie, Inc.**
Props: **Candles available at Yankee Candle Co., beaded sconces and vase available at Urban Outfitters, curtain available at Anthropologie.**
Clothing: **Halter top and skirt provided by H&M. Watch available at Puma.**

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

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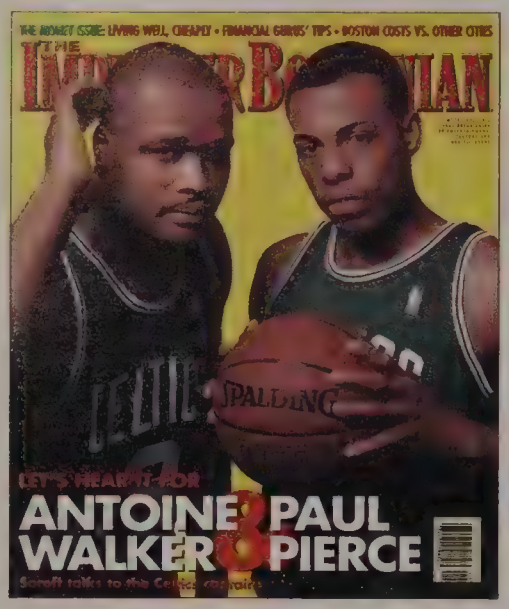

SHAME ON PAUL PIERCE FOR NOT KNOWING THE MEANING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS' "ROCK CHALK" CHANT.

—EMILY VENANZI
BROOKLINE (FORMERLY OF OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS)

CHALK OF THE TOWN

Shame on Paul Pierce for not knowing the meaning of the University of Kansas' "Rock Chalk" chant (Soroff/On, March 5)! As a proud native Kansan and lifelong Jayhawk fan, I am compelled to explain its origin. "Ray, rah, Jayhawk, KU" was the original yell, conceived by chemistry professor E.S. Bailey in 1886 as a cheer for the Science Club. An English professor soon suggested replacing "ray, rah" with "rock, chalk," which refers to the chalky limestone found on the hill on which the university is built. This version of the chant gained popularity, and has been the official school yell since 1887.

—EMILY VENANZI
Brookline (Formerly of Overland Park, Kansas)

YANKEE FOOTWEAR

In the March 5 issue Carolyn Faye Fox questioned whether *Yankee Magazine* readers would "kick up their sensibly shod heels" in reaction to news of Todd English, who was profiled in the March issue of *Yankee*.

While some *Yankee* readers steer clear of spike heels, don't let that fool you into thinking they lack sophisticated tastes. Our 2 million readers are serious about good food, know the work of fine chefs, enjoy signature recipes shared on *YankeeMagazine.com* and have a keen interest in the people shaping Boston's culinary scene.

Yankee's May issue will feature a walking tour with Oleana's Ana Sortun of her favorite places to find authentic ingredients and enjoy fine dining in Boston. We encourage comfortable footwear. Ana covers a lot of ground.

—JAMIE TROWBRIDGE
President, Yankee Magazine

THE MACK HADDIE

In reference to the new George restaurant (The Word, March 5), I don't know about you, but I prefer my finns without haddy.

—JOEL WECHSLER
Boston

Editor's Note: *Oops. The haddock dish to which we were referring is finnan haddie, not finn and haddy.*

EDITOR'S NOTE

SUPERIOR INTERIORS

"The easiest way to change a room is by changing the color of it." So says interior designer Michael Valvo, who had a hand in redesigning the apartment featured on page 26 of this, our annual Interiors issue. As I gaze out my office door at the freshly painted (and I mean fresh—the crew left an hour ago) Tricycle red wall meeting a Marlboro blue one, where this morning there was nothing but white, I've a new appreciation for that statement.

The Interiors issue and the coming of spring (will saying it every issue make it reality?) were dual inspirations for the IMPROPER's office redecoration, and just as in our apartment makeover story, a little paint has helped create a whole new look.

If aesthetic improvements to your living space have been on your to-do list, but you've been reluctant to outlay the cash, take a look at what two design teams accomplished on a limited budget in a tiny North End apartment. Before and after photos of the space, practical advice from the designers on small changes that can make a big impact and product information will help motivate you to get the redesign ball rolling.

In another take on the design theme, our feature "Delicious Designs" (page 16) provides inspiration to get out of your apartment and into some of Boston's most visually exciting new public spaces. We took talented interiors photographer Greg Premru inside five of the city's most interesting new restaurants (one of them not even open yet) and interviewed owners and their designers to show you how these establishments have married food and atmosphere in happy harmony.

Finally, in honor of the last day of this issue's life—and in keeping with IMPROPER tradition—we've planted a few April Fools' jokes in these pages. See if you can spot the three false calendar entries and one entire column of make-believe.

Veronica A. Chao
VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

CONTRIBUTOR

GREG PREMRU

Haling from New England and educated here in Boston at the Art Institute, photographer Greg Premru specializes in shooting interiors and architecture for architects and designers, as well as advertising agencies and publications. His images can be seen in publications such as *Architecture*, *Metropolitan Home* and *This Old House*. The beautifully lit color images that make up his commercial work evoke the spaces from which they are created. In contrast, his latest personal project is a study of architectural details in black-and-white that draws its power from the graphic and monumental nature of the subject.

While his self-portrait technique (see above) might need a little tweaking, you can see his interiors work in "Delicious Designs" on page 16, or online at *www.gregpremru.com*.

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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Victoria Cook, Bridget Behling, Michelle Grabicki, Joy Peterson, Elizabeth Reh**

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NEW IN TOWN

Berry Fine

If we told you that chef Ming Tsai's right-hand man—his executive sous chef responsible for Blue Ginger's kitchen plus recipe testing for Tsai's books and his Food Network show—had ventured out on his own and was cooking at a new restaurant in Cambridge, how fast would you make a reservation? Faster than you can say "Bam."

Said chef Tom Berry's new haunt, **Bambara**, serves up a contemporary take on American brasserie cuisine. Located adjacent to the new Hotel Marlowe and down the block from the CambridgeSide Galleria, Bambara (not to be confused with Bomboa) offers Berry a chance "to return to my culinary roots, where the emphasis was on American cuisine," he says. Look forward to such delicacies as clam rolls on grilled brioche and Maine crabcake salad when Bambara opens March 21. *25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-4444). —Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short*

INTERVIEW

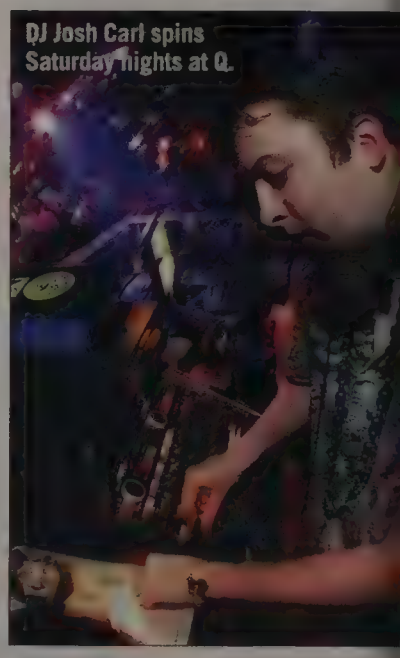
Kelly %$#@-ing Osbourne

Say the words "pop princess" to Kelly Osbourne and she'll cringe. It should come as no big surprise. She is, after all, the daughter of the Prince of Darkness. The 18-year-old star of MTV's *The Osbournes* has captured America's attention, if not its heart, with her brash style, censor-inducing mouth and don't-give-a-f--- attitude. Her debut album, *Shut Up*, for which she wrote all the songs but one, was released in November. The British spitfire took a few minutes to chat with us before she set out on her first national tour, which lands at Axis March 29.

IB: *Who are the biggest influences on your music?*
KO: I would say Joan Jett, Pat Benatar, Debbie Harry. And T. Rex. For newer music, I love Jimmy Eat World.
IB: *What would your dream tour be?*
KO: I don't know. It's a hard question because the music I like isn't necessarily the music my fans like. If I had to say someone I'd say Justin Timberlake because he's a rad guy and a friend of mine.
IB: *How about your nightmare tour?*
KO: Britney Spears. I couldn't handle that. I've hung out with her. She's very nice, but I just don't like her music. It's just not my thing, you know. But she's really cool.
IB: *Have you performed with Ozzy?*
KO: No, but I'm going to. I'm opening for him, which is so weird.
IB: *Are you still dating Bert?*
KO: No, I'm not dating him anymore (giggle). No, not anyone else, either.
IB: *What was your most embarrassing on-camera moment?*
KO: Oh, when I was drunk.
IB: *When your friend fell off the table in Las Vegas?*
KO: Oh, no. I wasn't drunk then. It was at my house.
IB: *You're known for having the mouth of a truck driver. How old do you think you were when you dropped your first f-bomb?*
KO: Oh my God, I don't even remember. It must have been when I was really, really little.
IB: *Do you plan to go to college?*
KO: No. I didn't even f---ing graduate high school.
IB: *Who is your ideal* Celebrity Deathmatch *opponent?*
KO: I don't know. That's a really good question. I guess Christina Aguilera. She's obnoxious and just fun to hate, you know?
IB: *What's the craziest rumor you've heard about yourself?*
KO: There's a big rumor going around right now that I've had a boob job. I don't know why. It's like in this business everyone wants to know everything and so many people have asked my stylist if I've had a boob job, and I'm like, "No!"
IB: *Where do you see for yourself five or 10 years from now?*
KO: I don't live for tomorrow, I live for today. It's like now everyone's obsessed with making money and everyone's obsessed with saving money. I just try to live by this philosophy. Just live for today. But I don't want to be richest person in the graveyard, you know? It can all slip through my fingers tomorrow, and I just don't care.—*Jessica Iredale*

CLUB SCENE

Superstar Thursdays


DJ Josh Carl spins Saturday nights at Q.

•In response to the recent Rhode Island tragedy, nightclubs all around the city have spent the past month carefully double checking their fire safety procedures. Lansdowne Street mega-club Avalon responded to the incident within days, adding a pop-up window to its Web site that illustrates the location of the club's 14 exits and 20 fire extinguishers. The club has also chosen to pare back the famously decadent Avaland decor on Friday nights as a fire safety precaution.

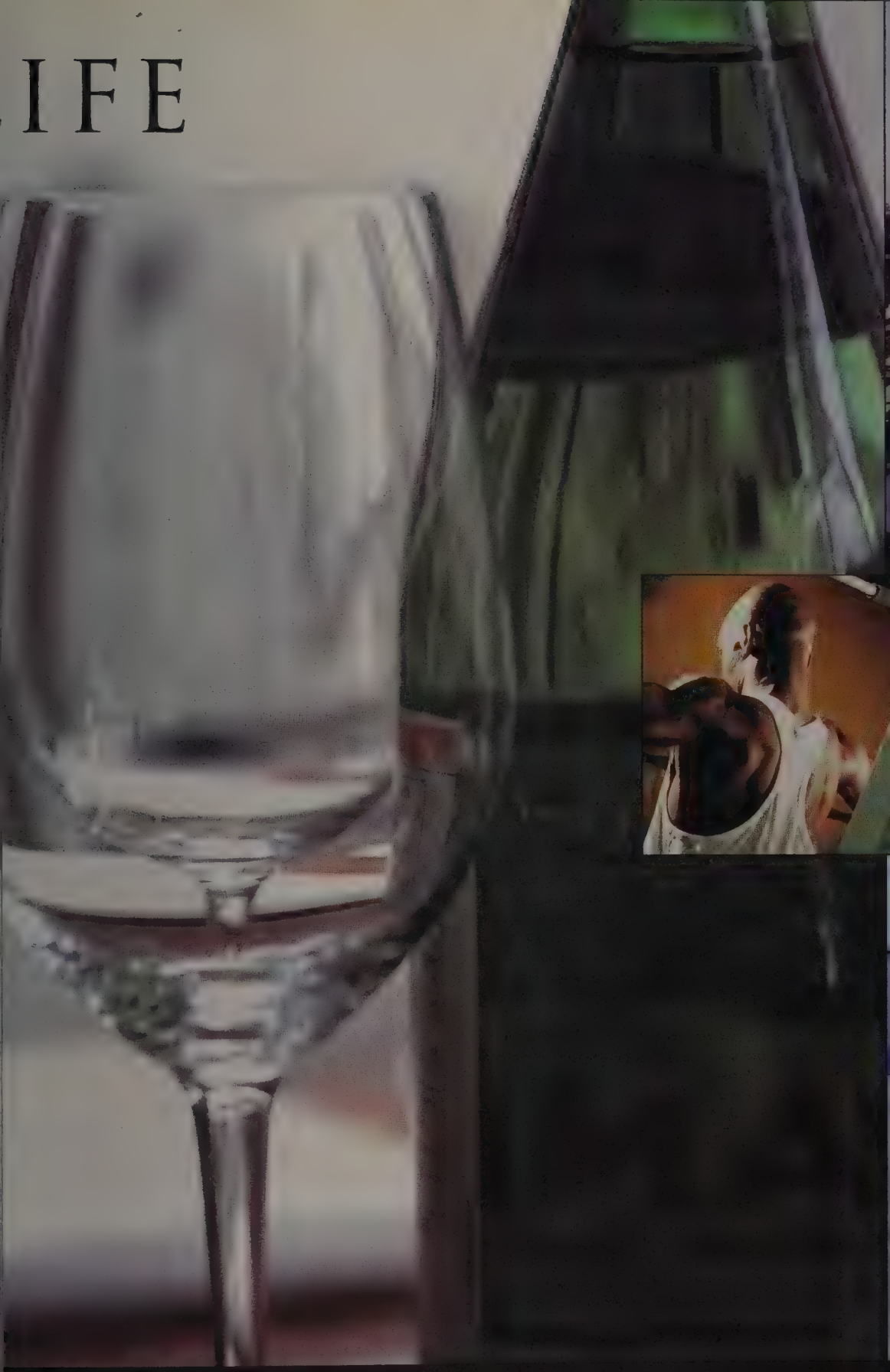
•While the Faneuil Hall area is probably better known for a fun and funky bar scene than for trendy dance clubs, the arrival of Q on nearby Union Street may herald a change. The New York–themed nightspot already boasts DJs spinning everything from hip-hop to house three nights a week: Fridays with Josh Spitaleri, Saturdays with Josh Carl and Sundays with Johnny C. Starting on March 27, Superstar Thursdays at Q will feature one of four well-known Boston jocks—Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl—in a weekly rotating residency. For the opening night party, all four superstar DJs will play together.—*Daniel Spurling*

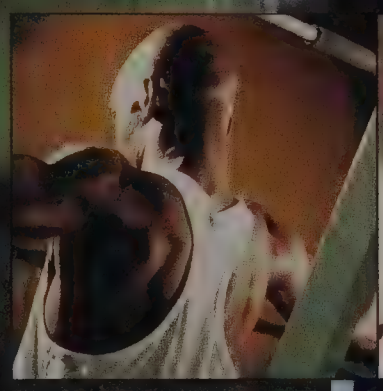
SAM SAYS

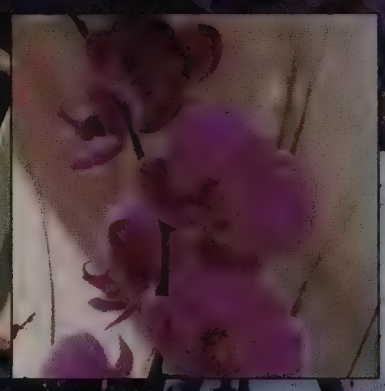
Dress in a Bag

I've always said that everything a woman needs should fit neatly in her purse. Imagine my delight, then, when I discovered Dress in a Bag. These cute, wrinkle-resistant dresses come rolled in a six-inch matching bag, perfect to tuck in your suitcase or even a large handbag. Dress in a Bag comes in more than 30 styles—from vibrant prints to pastel florals to basic black. A busy mom who had no time to shop for her next business trip created this innovative line of fashion. "I needed something stylish, compact and versatile to wear," says Maria Erickson, president of Fantasi International, manufacturers of Bette & Court golf fashions and resort wear. They're great for traveling, so you can save room in your suitcase for important things...like every shoe in your closet. Prices range from $50 to $74. *www.dressinabag.com.* —*Samantha House*

KELLY OSBOURNE: MARK WEISS; DJ: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; BAMBARA: RITA GREELI







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TIDBITS AND MORSELS

Critics in the Kitchen

Festivus for the Restivus...With a nod to the much-loved episode of *Seinfeld*, the Boston version of Festivus, a celebration of nothing in particular, kicked off March 6 and continues every Thursday night at Fire + Ice. Groups of four or more are invited to perform in front of the other diners—anything from singing and dancing to improv and miming. Participants get free dessert and prizes from Harpoon, and the winners receive a $100 gift certificate to Fire + Ice (and qualify for the Festivus Finale April 24, where the victors' spoils include dinner for 50 at Fire + Ice). *50 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-547-9007) and 205 Berkeley St., Boston (617-482-FIRE).*

It's Show Time...Teatro, the latest addition to Tremont Street's bevy of bistros, was a bit of a pressure cooker on a recent Wednesday night. A veritable who's-who of the food critics' circle converged on the restaurant in one coincidental swoop, as five food critics/writers happened to dine on the same evening. Annie Copps and Corby Kummer of *Boston Magazine*, Sheryl Julian of the *Boston Globe*, Mat Schaffer of the *Boston Herald* and an unidentified *New York Times* critic were all present. Teatro's incredulous management reports that while it was certainly a stressful situation, it was fun to see some of the city's top foodies present at the same time.

Shackin' Up...Spring is almost here, which means summer's right around the corner. The timing couldn't be better for the opening of Jasper White's latest Summer Shack. The third installation of White's elbows-on-the-table seafood haven is set to open April 7 above Kings bowling alley in the Back Bay. High-maintenance diners be forewarned, the latest Summer Shack is even more do-it-yourself than its predecessors. The interior resembles the Cape's dime-a-dozen clam shacks, and patrons are responsible for placing their order at the window and waiting for their number to come up. With 180 seats, the dining space is much smaller than the Cambridge location but holds bragging rights to the largest raw bar in the city. A giant tank displays up to 4,000 shellfish at a time, so you can pick out your dinner and get your bib ready.

A Matter of Good Taste...Come late spring, the Museum of Fine Arts plans not only to celebrate palettes of color, but also to satisfy the palates of hungry visitors with the opening of its new restaurant, Bravo. Some details have yet to be finalized, but diners can expect the result to be as pleasing to the eye as it is to the tastebuds. The eatery will exhibit a rotating selection of the museum's modern masterpieces, beginning with works by Claudio Bravo, and serve the delicacies of Wolfgang Puck–trained executive chef Benjamin Cevelo.—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

IMPROPER REPORTS

Parlez-Vous Freedom?

Who knew that a small fast food joint in North Carolina could spark a small-scale, national movement? When Cubbie's of Beaufort, N.C., took the "French" out of their fries and replaced it with "freedom"—a protest against French lack of support for action against Iraq—many American restaurants listened. The menu change has gained momentum and is moving northward—last week Capitol Hill embraced the trend by 86-ing the word "French" from all House menus. We asked a few local restaurateurs if they too will be serving up sides of freedom fries.

•**Bartley's Burger Cottage**, Cambridge: Is it something you would consider doing? "Absolutely. It's a riot—right up our alley," says owner Bill Bartley. "We poke fun at everything and everybody—both sides equally."

•**Charlie's Kitchen**, Cambridge: Will it catch on? "I hope not, it's kind of silly. I don't think there's any real direct connection with the French and with deep-fried potatoes. I think that's a little gratuitous myself," says manager Dana Sibley.

•**Big City**, Allston: "I think it's pretty ridiculous…calling them freedom fries or French fries is the least of our worries," says owner Marc Kadish. "It's really not going to make much of a difference either way if we do or don't. I'd tell those people calling them freedom fries to get a life."

•**Blue Cat Café**, Boston: "I don't think it'll catch on here because I don't think this area takes well to gimmicks," says assistant manager Tim Bonehill, adding, "A good portion of the population here is liberal, and I think they thrive on being politically correct."

•**Firefly**, Boston: "I would never ever do it myself—mainly because I feel like our country is a democracy with freedom of choice, and the French also have the choice to not get involved in [the war]," says a manager who wished to be anonymous. "More than half our country is opposed to this war, but we shouldn't direct our anger towards the French."

•**T's Pub**, Boston: "It's something new, something different, I think it's a good idea. Boston is known for the freedom trail," says a manager.

Call for Submissions

We want to hear about interesting local engagement stories. If you just got engaged in a unique way (or know of a couple who did), send us the story: *theword@improper.com.*

improper speaking

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

High-Steppin' Henley...Don Henley (right) is getting outfitted for an Eagles reunion tour this summer. The musician/Walden Pond preservationist was so taken with his New Balance 991's that he took strides to have several additional pairs custom made in his hard-to-find size of 11 AA. The New England–based athletic shoe company happily complied. You can catch Henley achieving New Balance on stage at the FleetCenter July 15, 16 and 18.

Monkeying Around...For the past 14 years, Back Bay's Hard Rock Café has supported rock 'n' roll's standouts. Now it's ready to show off some stand-ups. Emerson College's student improv and sketch comedy troupe, the Swollen Monkey Showcase, kicked off the Hard Rock's Cavern Club comedy series March 12. The series is on a trial run Wednesday nights through March 26, so if you like the idea of a new comedy night, you'd better show up and support the Monkeys while you can. *131 Clarendon St., Boston (617-424-7625). 8pm. $5.*

Jingle All the Way...If you're dying to achieve your requisite 15 minutes of fame, here are two not-so-conventional potential star-making opportunities. Crunch Fitness is searching for the next home exercise video star. Get your creative juices flowing, because they're not looking for just any old workout—the five-minute video entries should be more inventive. Think Pedicure Yoga or California Surf-A-Robics. Finalists will demonstrate their routine May 8 in front of a panel of celebrity judges. The winning video will be shot professionally and sold in all Crunch locations. If physical fitness isn't your forte, try this one: Aspiring singers can audition to be the next Chock full o' Nuts ("…is that heavenly coffee") jingler March 27 at Faneuil Hall. Whoever gives the best interpretation of the classic jingle moves on to the final round—and the chance to win $10,000. *Crunch:* www.crunch.com; *coffee:* jingleinfo@mobilemarketing.com

Salubrious Suds...Slugging back a few brewskis usually lands us on the couch, remote in hand, Al Bundy style. But the folks at Harpoon are inspiring a philanthropic movement amongst hopheads. Apparently the brewmeisters have been do-gooders all along—donating thousands of dollars to New England charities and beer to charitable events. Their altruism continues with Harpoon Helps, a community endeavor to lend a hand to the less fortunate. All are welcome to join the Harpoon team March 22 to prep the Greater Boston Food Bank's stock room for deliveries to local shelters. Contact *lmelby@harpoonbrewery.com* for more information.

Let Your Inner Bling Ring...At a time when Gucci-wearing, iced-out, Cristal-popping music and movie stars promote conspicuous consumption as the ultimate status symbol, many regular folk are left shaking their heads. One of them is Michelle Stewart, a local yoga instructor who recently launched an anti-consumerism campaign with her new Web site, *www.innerbling.com*. Tired of images promoting material things (bling-bling) and socially created status symbols, she urges folks to look inward (hence the term "inner bling") instead. Of course that doesn't stop her from selling $20 Inner-Bling T-shirts (above) on her Web site…but then again, she does promise to donate a portion of the proceeds to peace education programs.—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The Franciscan Hospital for Children hosted the Second Annual Friends Ball March 7 at the Boston Harbor Hotel.

1. From left: **Peter Shields**, managing director of Equity Office Properties; **Paul Jacques**, general manager of the Boston Harbor Hotel; **Paul Della Rocco**, CEO of Franciscan Hospital for Children; and **Randy Price**, news anchor of Channel 7 WHDH-TV.
2. From left: **Wendy Jacques**, **Margo Shields** and **Marianne Sullivan**, event co-chairs.
3. **Susan Goldstein**, organizational development manager for Benchmark Assisted Living in Wellesley Hills, and **David Vroman**, superintendent for Turner Construction.
4. From left: **Mary Bures**, director of community relations for Franciscan Hospital for Children; state senator **Steven Tolman**, and **Selena Della Rocco**, director of development for Franciscan Hospital for Children.
5. **Tom Keane,** assistant superintendent for Turner Construction, and **Kelley Davitt**, director of development at Alaska Conservation Foundation.
6. **Greg Lally**, financial analyst for Appleton Partners, and his wife, **Katie**, pharmaceutical sales representative for Bristol Myers Squibb.
7. From left: **Russell Robbat**, owner of the Palace in Saugus; **Elaine Driscoll**, senior vice president of Regan Communications; and **George Regan**, president of Regan Communications.

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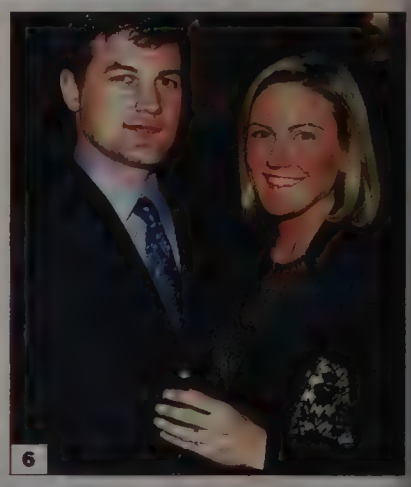
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The Boston Partners in Education Fourth Honoree Gala, Celebrating Great Partnerships in Education, was held March 6 at the Copley Plaza Hotel.

8. From left: **Carol Fulp**, vice president of community relations at John Hancock; **Kevin McCluskey**, Boston Partners in Education chairman of the board and director of community relations at Harvard University; and **Hazel Lee**, senior manager at John Hancock.
9. **Gary Smith**, board member of Boston Partners, and his wife, **Lynne**.
10. From left: **Lou Casagrande**, president and CEO of the Children's Museum; **Ginny Zanger**, vice president of the Children's Museum; and **Thomas Moloney**, CFO of John Hancock.
11. **Martin McDonough**, president of Wall USA Inc., and **Ann Noble-Kiley**, executive director of Boston Partners in Education.

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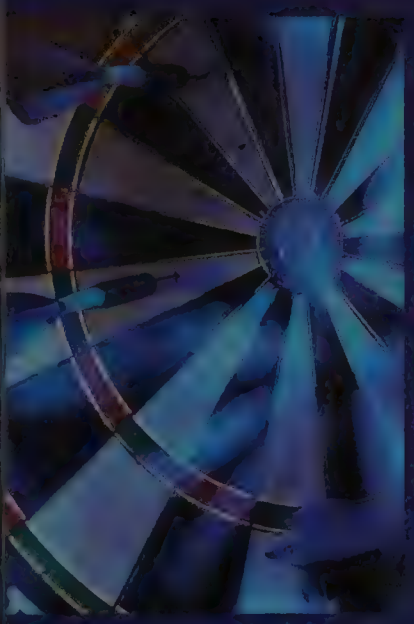

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Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Pretty Fly

Those Wright Brothers really might have been onto something

Small planes tend to get a bad rep from the media. The last time a small plane made the news for something other than crashing, Charles Lindbergh was the pilot. Celebrities don't help matters. Some people no doubt shun small planes ever since JFK Jr. flew his to the great Camelot in the sky, an accident as tragic as that metaphor. But come on, people. Did you stop riding in chauffered Mercedes limos after Lady Di's crash? I certainly didn't. My bodyguard, my lover and I are fleeing the paparazzi in one right now. Life must go on.

If you're intrigued by the idea of flying, fold your umbrella, climb down off that barn roof and head to your local airport, where the Be a Pilot program (*www.beapilot.com*) will hook you up with a lesson for $49.

I took a lesson at Hanscom Field, where stunt planes and $40 million Gulfstream private jets litter the runway. However, the most exotic, potentially lethal piece of machinery at Hanscom sits in the hallway outside the Executive Flyers flight school. It is—get ready—a hot-sandwich vending machine. Its technology raises all sorts of questions: How does it make the sandwiches? Is there a little robotic sandwich artist in there who will ask which vegetables I want? How often are new sandwich components loaded into this thing? And how long will it be before some unfortunate contestants are eating the Sandwich-O-Matic hot pastrami on *Fear Factor*?

Even if he doesn't eat those sandwiches, my flight instructor, Sean Ehret, is a brave man. Ehret's job is to regularly climb into planes piloted by people who have no idea how to fly planes. There's no triangular yellow sign on the roof of our trainer plane, although perhaps there ought to be.

The Be a Pilot literature implies that if you can walk and chew gum at the same time, you can fly a plane, but I'd argue it's a skill more like chewing crackers and whistling; instrument flying and multi-engine planes are more like eating cotton candy and skipping rope. Your basic controls are a knob for engine power, a knob to adjust the fuel mixture, the trim wheel, the flaps lever, the yoke (pull to go up, push to go down, etc.), the pedals, (which control the direction you bank) and the right and left brakes, which also help steer on the ground. Only once you've mastered all those should you even think about using the cupholders.

We taxi out of our parking space and Ehret attempts to familiarize me with the controls, but I'm no better at following a straight line than an America West pilot. Still, I make it to the runway, we get clearance, and after a brief amble down the strip we're airborne. It's actually pretty easy.

Ehret shows me how to plot a course on the GPS, we practice turns, and then I try a couple of extremely wobbly landings. It's hard to tell how much Ehret is helping me with his own controls because I'm preoccupied with the pedals and yoke, trying to ensure that we land wheels-side-down. But for all I know he's disconnected my controls in the interest of his safety, my own, and that of all homeowners in the Hanscom Field area.

When we land there's a commotion in the hangar area. While I was lurching around the local airspace in our Cessna, another pilot had critically damaged an aerobatic training plane without leaving his parking space. Have you ever got into your car and attempted to drive away with the parking brake on? When you do that in a

THE BE A PILOT LITERATURE IMPLIES THAT IF YOU CAN WALK AND CHEW GUM AT THE SAME TIME, YOU CAN FLY A PLANE.

plane, you can make the propeller slam into the pavement. Since the propeller is directly connected to the motor, that guy just bought a $25,000 plane engine.

After my flight I spoke with Drew Steketee, CEO of Be a Pilot, about flying in general. Since prop-driven planes aren't that fast (our groundspeed on my flight was about 100mph), I saw no huge practical advantage over driving. Steketee replied that when you're flying to any New England vacation spot on a weekend and you're looking down on miles of traffic jams, 100mph seems speedy indeed. And you can rent a plane quite cheaply. And if you're going to an island, you don't have to get on a ferry. And chicks think pilots are yummier than Godiva chocolate truffle ice cream.

OK, I said that last one. Clearly, the media needs to get busy perpetuating some positive stereotypes right away, because I think I'm going to flight school. Did you know that pilots have big propellers? iB

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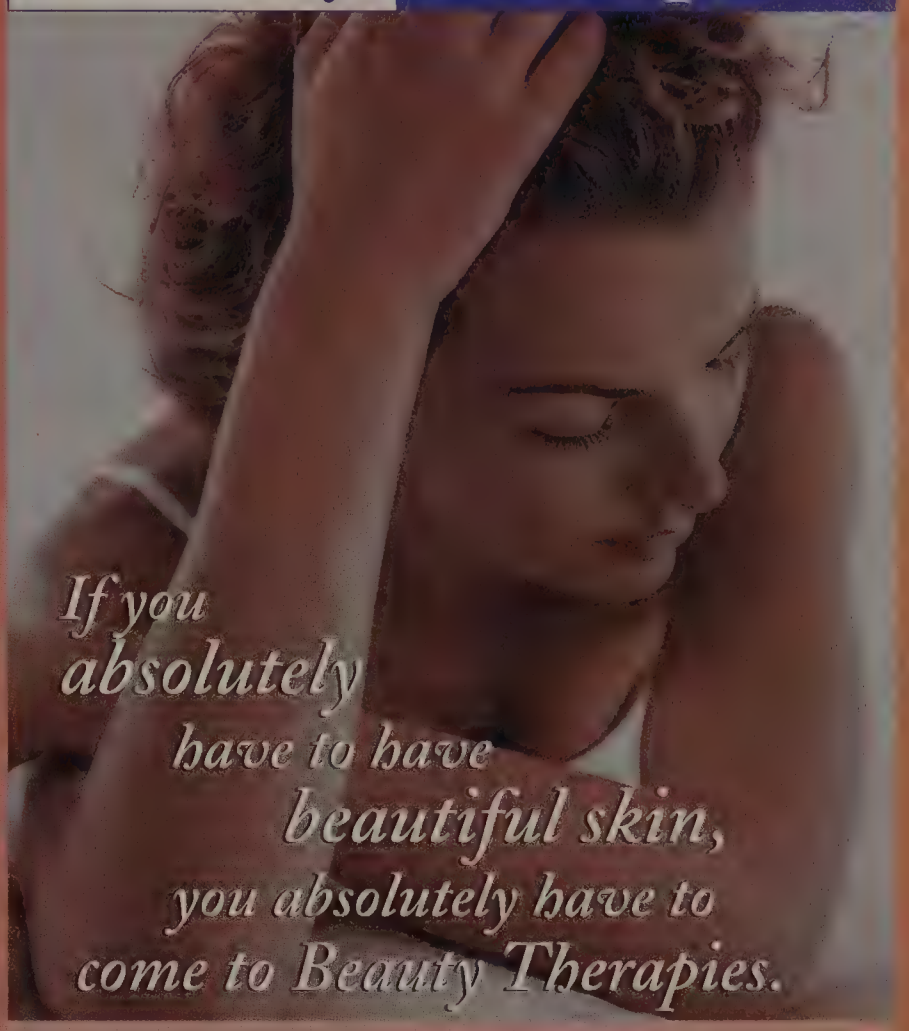

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Frederick Wiseman

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman was born and raised in Boston and went to Williams before earning his law degree at Yale in 1954. In 1967, he made his debut film, *Titicut Follies*, which offered an uncompromising view of life at the state prison for the criminally insane in Bridgewater. The film was banned in Massachusetts for more than 20 years but immediately established his reputation as one of the world's foremost documentarians. Since then, he has gone on to make almost a film per year, each focusing on a different American institution. Among them are *High School*, *Hospital*, *Basic Training*, *Model*, *Aspen*, *Near Death* and *Ballet*. His two latest films, *Domestic Violence* and *Domestic Violence 2*, air nationally on PBS on March 18 and 19, respectively. In addition to directing theater and publishing articles in scholarly journals and mainstream magazines, Wiseman has received numerous awards and honorary degrees, including three Emmys, a MacArthur and a Guggenheim fellowship and membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His production company, Zipporah Films, is located in Cambridge.

Jonathan Soroff: *Your work has a common theme of exploring institutions. Is there one that you could identify as the most in need of fixing in our society?*

Frederick Wiseman: No. I try to avoid generalizations like that, because I hope I've learned something about the subjects of the films but I think it would be a mistake to represent myself as an expert on them.

JS: *What's your political affiliation, or do you even have one?*

FW: I'm a Groucho-ist.

JS: *As in not being a member of any club that would have you?*

FW: Right.

JS: *Well, have your political views ever informed your choice of a subject for a film?*

FW: It depends on what you mean by political opinion. The choice of subjects for my documentaries reflects my interests. It's very important to me to have the final film represent what I learned as a consequence of being at the place for anywhere from four to 11 weeks, and then studying the material in the course of editing for over a year. There wouldn't be any point in making the film if I knew how it was going to come out, or if I was only making it to prove a thesis. So I try to have the film reflect what I learn, not my preexisting views.

JS: *Which would you say is closer to being objective—documentary filmmaking or journalism?*

FW: The whole business of objectivity I never really understood. Everything about filmmaking represents a choice, and the way I respond to that question is by saying that my films are a condensed, compressed, biased, prejudiced affair.

JS: *So would you guess that journalism, similarly, is a form of fiction?*

FW: Obviously, there are terrific journalists and lousy journalists, or indifferent journalists, but there are a lot of similar issues: compression, what you highlight, the choices made. I like to think that the way I edit the films is related more to novel writing than to journalism. Not that I value novel writing more. It's just different. A journalist has to lead, in the first paragraph, with the classic Who, What, When, Where and Why. I don't, because I'm not creating a fact-based structure. I'm trying to create a dramatic structure.

"EACH FILM IS ITS OWN ADVENTURE... FOR ME, GOING TO THE SOUTH POLE IS NO MORE OF AN ADVENTURE THAN SPENDING A MONTH IN A SHELTER."

JS: *Favorite film of all time?*

FW: I'm very partial to *A Day at the Races*.

JS: *Any guilty pleasures—James Bond, or Jerry Lewis, maybe?*

FW: No, not really.

JS: *Ever been tempted to go Hollywood?*

FW: I once wrote a screenplay on commission, and a couple of times I turned down things that I just wasn't interested in, but it's not as if Hollywood has ever been after me in a major way. A couple of times, they've beckoned slightly. It's just not my scene. I hope I don't ever have to make a movie other than one I really want to make, and I've tried very hard to stick to that.

JS: *Is that an advantage of working in Cambridge instead of L.A.?*

FW: For me it is, because I'm not part of the scene. The moment I arrive in Los Angeles, my bullshit meter goes right off the board.

JS: *Best thing about working with PBS?*

FW: Well, PBS has been extremely generous with me, particularly in running all my films and programming them in prime time.

JS: *Worst thing?*

FW: It's unfortunate that public television doesn't have more funds available. In France, for example, one or two percent of the national budget goes to the arts. Here, the total budget for the National Endowment for the Arts is something like $90 million a year. In France, that might be the budget for Lyon.

JS: *Most depressing thing you ever filmed?*

FW: I think the movie about domestic violence.

JS: *One event in history you would have liked to make a documentary about?*

FW: That's a fun question. Probably the crucifixion.

JS: *Why?*

FW: Because when I was young I was accused of killing Christ.

JS: *How do you feel about the fact that Massachusetts banned* Titicut Follies *for over 20 years?*

FW: How do I feel? Is there any way I could have liked it? I feel completely vindicated now, and I thought the ban was an act of vast hypocrisy.

JS: *Do you view your own life or your own experience through the lens of a filmmaker?*

FW: No. I try not to apply my professional eye to my own experience.

JS: *Ever get involved emotionally with a subject, and if so, how do you deal with it?*

FW: It's impossible not to, in the sense that I experience feelings about what I see in front of me, whether it's domestic violence, or when I did *Near Death*, or when I made the movie about Army basic training and knew that the young soldiers would be shipped off to Vietnam soon. So it varies, but I'm almost always involved in trying to understand what the experience is like for the people in the film.

JS: *Doesn't that take a tremendous toll?*

FW: No. It's necessary, both in the shooting and the editing, to try and figure out how the people feel and what's going on, but it's never made me depressed or anything.

JS: *Is there a point at which a documentarian has a moral obligation to get involved in the action they're witnessing?*

FW: Again, I'm not very good with generalizations, but if some cruelty is going on which your intervention can thwart, absolutely.

JS: *Has that ever happened to you?*

FW: Not really. In *Law and Order*, there's a scene where the police are looking for a woman accused of being a prostitute, who knocked a vice squad policeman down the stairs of some seedy hotel in Kansas City. She fled and hid in the basement. I was with the cops when they found her, and one of the cops started to strangle her in front of the camera, and then he let her go. He had his arm around her neck for 20 or 30 seconds, and while I was thinking about intervening, he stopped, so I didn't have to. But it certainly occurred to me. It also occurred to me that if I'd intervened it might have been the end of the movie.

JS: *Is there an adventure documentary you would have liked to have made, like* Everest, *or the Shackleton story?*

FW: No. All my documentaries are an adventure for me, because I'm usually entering, intensely and for a period of time, into a world that I know nothing about. That's part of the fun. Each film is its own adventure. It's a different sort, but for me, going to the South Pole is no more of an adventure than spending a month in a shelter.

JS: *What one person would you trust to make a documentary about you?*

FW: My late mother. Actually, I retract that. The answer is I wouldn't.

JS: *Last question: You've done almost one film per year for 30 years now...*

FW: 36.

JS: *Ever think about slowing down?*

FW: No, I don't. I like working. It's not a particular strain for me. I enjoy it. There may come a time when I have to slow down, but I'm busier now than I ever have been. iB

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY GREG PREMRU
ASSISTED BY RICH BAKER

Although there is a certain comfort to slipping into your favorite booth and ordering "the usual" at your trusty neighborhood haunt, sometimes you hunger for just the opposite: an exciting new restaurant whose food and decor combine to make a complete, sensory experience. The good news is, we've tracked down five such cutting-edge Boston establishments. Four have just opened their doors, and one is poised to do so, but they all share a common trait: close collaboration between the owners and designers to nurture a distinct, out-of-the-ordinary vision. In the following interviews, find out how these new restaurants have put food and atmosphere into perfect synergy.

Meritage

BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL
70 Rowes Wharf, Boston
(617-439-3995)
Opening date: October 2002
Cuisine: Wine-compatible contemporary food
Square footage: 2,800
Seats: 88

Jinnie Kim, Daniel Bruce and Julianna Bruce

In October, chef Daniel Bruce of the Boston Harbor Hotel realized his longtime dream of opening his own restaurant. Meritage's novel approach to food—its menu offers both small and large plates and suggests complementary wines for each dish—is not surprising given Bruce's 14-year stint as executive chef of the Boston Wine Festival, which he founded. To create the right setting for his unique dining concept, the hotel's owners connected Bruce with Boston-based designer Jinnie Kim whose company, Jinnie Kim Designs, has completed hundreds of projects in the U.S. and abroad. For the finishing touches, Bruce's wife, Julianna, an artist, created wine-themed paintings that hang on each side of the impressive wine storage cases. The result is a warm, elegant space with a gorgeous harbor view and an obvious reverence for wine.

Daniel Bruce, chef

Which did you finish first, the menu or the interior design?
Before we began to design, I had concepted the menu. We've developed a wine-and-food focus at the hotel, so our menu is written like a wine list and features the small plate/large plate concept. For each wine, we offer food suggestions that will pair well with that style of wine.
Is there a story behind the restaurant's name?
California winemakers coined the term Meritage for the Bordeaux blending style of wine that they produced. It's actually a combination of the words heritage and merit. I liked it because the word is symbolic of a blending—in the restaurant's case, the blending of wine and food together.
How is the wine focus reflected in the design?
We have the largest installation of Sub-Zeros [wine storage systems] ever put together for a restaurant—1,360 bottles are showcased in two Sub-Zero banks. So, the sommelier can go right to the Sub-Zeros and bring the wine to the table—it adds to the homey feeling.
How does Meritage's design differ from other restaurants in Boston?
The menu concept and the restaurant's design are both new to Boston, the menu being derivative of a wine list more than a food menu and the room being a new concept, the way it looks and feels—I don't know of another room like it in this town. Because they're both "out of the box," the food and the room go together well. They're both contemporary but easily approached. Also, unlike a lot of places in Boston, we actually have a good outside view!

Jinnie Kim, designer

Can you describe your concept for the space?
The theme they gave me was wine, so having wine storage as a focal point of the design was key—that was the No. 1 direction.
Before Meritage opened, how did the hotel use the space?
It was a function room.
What was the biggest challenge in designing this space?
Making it look attractive when you have a low ceiling and a long room. The only thing going for this room was the view. We decided to put everything at a 45-degree angle, using an angled pattern in the wood floor. Then, since wood's not practical for a bar floor, we came up with a silver slate floor in the bar area that would match up.
The light fixtures are unusual; what's the story behind them?
Because it's such a long room, we wanted something that would keep the eye from following a straight line. So after they hung the lights, my team and I bent each light at a certain angle. We call it the Milky Way.
What other spaces have you designed?
Meritage was such a fun project for me because I usually design very classical hotels. In New York, I designed the St. Regis, and I'm now doing the Plaza Hotel. I also did the Excelsior Hotel in Florence and recently completed the Grand Hyatt in Dubai.

UpStairs on the Square

91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-864-1933)
Opening date: November 2002
Cuisine: New American
Square footage: 6,000
Seats: 100 in the Monday Club Bar; 80 in the Soirée Room

Most restaurant-goers will agree that Harvard Square was missing a certain *je ne sais quoi* after the crimson giant usurped UpStairs at the Pudding's 20-year Holyoke Street throne in 2001. Luckily, Pudding proprietors Mary-Catherine Deibel and Deborah Hughes found a space, just blocks away, that rivals their former digs in both location and charm. The building's quaint brick facade masks an interior design that's been described as *Alice in Wonderland* meets *Moulin Rouge*. Downstairs, the casual Monday Club Bar hosts a color scheme that rivals a box of Crayola crayons, with pink ceilings; magenta, purple and gold floors; and chartreuse walls embellished with 23-karat gold leaf. Upstairs, in the upscale yet equally bold Soirée Room, a mirrored ceiling reflects the leopard-print floor, bubble-gum-color walls and roaring fireplace. Hughes, in the triple role of co-owner, chef and designer, is the mastermind behind UpStairs on the Square's punchy, tradition-bucking decor.

Mary-Catherine Deibel and Deborah Hughes

Deborah Hughes, chef, co-owner and designer

What was your concept for the space and what feeling were you trying to evoke?
The Monday Club is what we call artisanal and sexy. When you enter, it's a progression of sensations. The sound, smell and color are evocative of something pleasant and comfortable. We introduce concepts on the first floor and develop them on the second. Everything is a plaid or a grid with ovoids on top. It's the same with the food. On the first floor you can order anything from grilled cheese to caviar, and in the Soirée room it's more developed. A good design is like good food: You don't necessarily understand how all the pieces got there. It should be more than the sum of its parts.

What did you spend the most money on?
It's really hard to say because I got great prices and deals on everything in the place. I'm a chef, and chefs know how to make a dollar go a long way. Being in the position of chef/owner/designer really gave me the sense of where the dollars need to be. I guess the Monday Club bar stools were really expensive. Some are from Paris, and some are from Milan.

What was the biggest design challenge?
Working with other people. I always know in my mind how I want something to be, and I came in here with a design already in my head. When I said pink ceiling, people said absolutely not. I said plaid walls, they said "How could you?" A pink, purple and gold floor? "Don't go there." So it was a challenge getting through the preconceptions.

What's your favorite element/design aspect of the space—what's most striking or unusual about the space?
The sliding doors, painted by Claire Eder, that open from the Monday Club into the Zebra Room. When you look through the paint, you can see out onto the Square. And we're about to write on all the mirrors [flanking the bar]. I can't wait. We haven't decided what we're writing yet, but it's going to be something kitschy. Also, we just put up this lighting fixture. I call it "love letters." I originally wanted to have it on a pulley so that it could come down and our guests could write on it. But we decided to just keep it stationary. So, some of the letters are ours, some are the designers and some are our customers'.

What was the space before?
It was the Market Theatre, which is coming back, and we hope it will return to Cambridge.

What elements stayed the same?
The windows in the Soirée Room. They're historical and protected, so I would never change them.

What other spaces have you designed?
What was able to be designed at the other restaurant, I designed. Especially the garden; that was mine. And I've done my condo. It's been in magazines, and my house is going to be in magazines. I do it by the seat of my pants. I'm a chef and if you like to cook, it's like an extension of that. It's normal to want to create the atmosphere that your food is presented in.

Have you brought anything from UpStairs at the Pudding to this location?
The chairs I love, so they stayed the same.

Teatro

177 Tremont St., Boston (617-778-6841)
Opening date: January 2003
Cuisine: Rustic Italian
Square footage: 2,000 (total)
Seats: 98

Teatro opened earlier this year in an extensively renovated space, formerly Galleria Italiana, on Tremont Street. The restaurant's name reflects the establishment's proximity to both the Theater District and the Loews cinema next door. Chef/owner Jamie Mammano's goal was to create a restaurant where patrons can have a casual yet delicious Italian meal before catching a nearby show. Helping him achieve this goal were New York-based designer Celeste Cooper of Repertoire and general manager Jeffrey Iovino.

Jeffrey Iovino, general manager

This space has seen several renovations. Can you describe its past lives?

Before it was Teatro, it was another restaurant. But before that, it was a synagogue, and now it looks more like the synagogue than it does the previous restaurant, particularly with the ceiling. We even matched the original gold leaf on the ceiling with gold-leaf paint.

What did you spend the most money on?

Restoring the ceiling. A drop ceiling had been installed below the original, and when we took it down, we discovered all the utilities were there between the drop ceiling and the original. So to expose the original, we had to move all the utilities back behind the walls.

Were there any improvised solutions that came up during the restoration?

We extended the floor about three feet at the front of the room, where we installed the big arched window. But since we kept the original floor tiles, we couldn't go and buy more tiles for the new area. So we hired an artist to hand-paint the floor in that three-foot area to match the pattern of the stones in the tiles. You don't notice unless you look carefully, and it's holding up pretty well.

Jamie Mammano, chef/owner

Why did you select Celeste Cooper as your designer?

I've been working with Celeste for years. She did XV Beacon and Mistral, so it was natural that she'd do this.

How did you work out the design concept with her?

We brought her in early on and told her about our concept—this is a place to eat that's casual, comfortable and cool. She made suggestions, and we either went with them or didn't, but I'd say we went with 95 percent of them. You don't question the queen.

How does the design work with your concept for the restaurant?

The basic idea was to take the antiquity of the place and combine it with the new and exciting. The black granite tabletops and bar, for instance, are very modern, but the ceiling, walls and floor were kept original. It's a nice contrast.

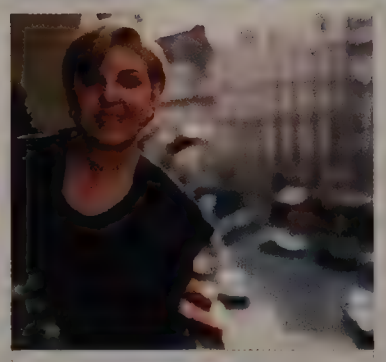
What do you like most about the design?

The whole thing. It must've been gorgeous when they first built it. But I like the whole look. It's very unique in Boston.

Whose idea was it to have the staff's uniforms match the blue neon ceiling lighting?

That was actually a coincidence. The uniforms were designed by Nicole Romano of Rhode Island, and the first time we turned on the neon, it happened to match the shirts.

Jamie Mammano



Celeste Cooper

Celeste Cooper, designer

Can you describe your concept for the space and the feeling you are trying to evoke?

The concept was a casual restaurant but very much in the European manner—not straining to be hip—and inspired by the existing architecture we discovered upon "excavating" the space: the terrazzo floor, the limestone walls and that incredible ceiling. The concept is also related to the cinemas, theaters and clubs that surround it and whose patrons would be our patrons...sort of a combination of Renaissance painting and commedia dell'arte!

What was the biggest design challenge?

The long, narrow axis with nowhere else to go.

What's your favorite design aspect of the space, and what makes it different from other restaurants in Boston?

The juxtaposition of old and new—the architecture and what's within it. It doesn't look like any other restaurant in Boston.

What other restaurants have you designed, and how did those experiences influence your work here?

L'Espalier, Mistral, the Federalist. Each project is its own "thing" with its own story to tell, and I am always looking for new ways to explore what I'm feeling at the moment.

The colors you've chosen are atypical for restaurants. What drew you to them?

The blue ceiling came from the color of the sky in a Botticelli painting, the green [upholstery] because I love the fabric and that was the best color with the blue. Wish I had a swankier answer for you!

The walls are stark, with no art. What made you go with that decision, and how does it affect the feel of the space?

I am a big believer in the necessity of art in the context of a space—XV Beacon, for example. But here we were on a strict budget, and if you can't do it right, leave it out. Having been there recently, the hustle and bustle of the restaurant leads me to think that it was a good decision after all. With so much going on, the art could not have been fully appreciated.

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Patrick Lyons, managing director Steve Coyle and Annie Wood

Kings

10 Scotia St., Boston (617-266-2695)
Opening date: March 13, 2003
Cuisine: American
Square footage: 34,000
Seats: 300 (total capacity, includes 80 in the deVille lounge/restaurant)

Kings, located in the old Cheri Cinema, was originally conceived as yet another incarnation of the Summer Shack, but the restaurateurs soon found that the space was too cavernous for a restaurant alone. As co-owner/designer Patrick Lyons says, necessity is the mother of invention, so the bowling alley/restaurant/lounge/billiards hall idea was born. The colorful, late '60s/early '70s–themed space includes the deVille lounge/restaurant, 16 lanes of tenpin bowling (including four private lanes), a lounge with eight billiards tables, and the Kingpin room decorated with memorabilia from the Farrelly brothers' movie *Kingpin*. Kings' classic American fare is prepared by Art Welch, who was sous chef at Sonsie for seven years. Lyons created Kings with the help of decorative artist Annie Wood, who has also put her creative touches on Bonfire, the Paradise Lounge and Lucky's.

Patrick Lyons, co-owner/designer

What is unique about the design?

It's styled the way they would have styled it in the '60s if they had today's technology. We're true to '60s design and feeling—it's classic retro—yet state-of-the-art computers are integrated. It's a warm feeling, but electric at the same time.

What feeling does the design concept evoke?

Comfort. We're trying to bring people back to another time, transport people to another era, and give them everything that comes with it. The Americana theme harkens back to a simpler time and place in our collective consciousness. This is about something that a lot of people haven't gotten lately. Bowling, lounging and billiards are old activities, and we've tied them together. We're not trying to be trendy at all. It's for people who are looking for something down-home. It's comfortable and stylish but not trendy. It's anti-trendy. I'm bored with trendy.

What was the most difficult aspect of designing a bowling alley/lounge/restaurant?

We came into a hulk of an ugly structure. Trying to make sense of a defunct movie theater with pitched floors and making it work for bowling was very complicated. It's been a brutal 12 months, but the greatest part is seeing it complete. It will qualify itself as a good remake of a space. The thousands of former Cheri movie-goers won't even recognize it.

Did you enjoy the dual responsibilities of co-owner and designer?

It's the most fun project I've ever done in my career—and I've done 36 different places.

Annie Wood, decorative artist

Kings' design is described as "retro-fied." What does that mean?

The word "retro" scares me a bit; it's not diner-ish '50s style. We're late '60s/early '70s, so we borrowed elements from that time, with key decorative tributes to modern art as well. We've got a '60s-style painting like [Robert] Indiana's *Love*, but it says "Bowl." And we've got a painting in the style of [Charles] Demuth's painting of the number five, but we modified it to be a strike symbol to fit the bowling motif.

Which room is your favorite, design-wise?

The lobby. We kept the marble from the old Cheri lobby. There's a bar where the candy counter used to be. We bought interiors of the old Walex bowling alley in Waltham. We salvaged as much as we could. We restored their benches and made counters and a bar top from the actual bowling alley.

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Great Bay

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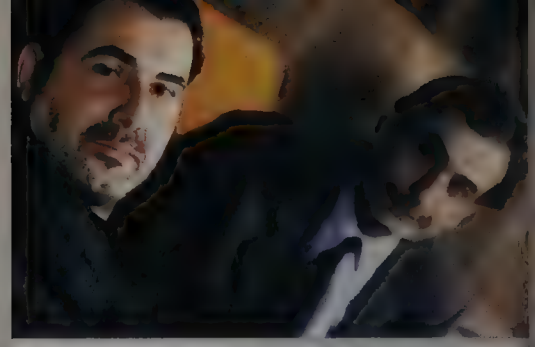
Square footage: 4,500 (dining area)
Seats: 156



Christopher Myers and David Manfredi

On the heels of their latest successful endeavor, Via Matta, co-owners Christopher Myers and Michael Schlow will soon open Great Bay—which Myers calls "a magnificent new direction for a seafood restaurant in Boston"—in the Hotel Commonwealth. Together, the pair worked with architect David Manfredi of Elkus/Manfredi in Boston to harmonize Great Bay's design with chef Jeremy Sewall's menu of contemporary American cuisine with an emphasis on fresh-off-the-boat New England seafood.

Christopher Myers, co-owner

Why did you select David Manfredi as your designer?
He loves to eat, first of all. He travels a great deal, and he knows restaurant design all over the world. He loves hospitality, and he knows that ultimately that is the business that we're in. The first priority of a designer and owner is to make an environment that piques interest, sure, but creates comfort first and foremost.

How did you work out the design concept with him?
As soon as Michael Schlow and I saw the space, we said "Wow! This is it." Tall, masculine, dying for a restaurant! In fact, it sounded hungry—the space, that is. We knew that the job was to make it comfortable without creating false intimacy. It's a big damn space, so we decided not to be afraid of it. Boston does not need another quaint little restaurant. It needs a space with some adventure and some chutzpah. Small and cozy is one thing the ocean is not.

How does the design work with your concept for the restaurant?
Everything we did, every conversation, we just kept asking ourselves, "What does this have to do with the ocean, the sea, fish, fishermen, sand, clams, and on and on?" You might not go into the place and see that, but we hope you might feel it. The ceiling is arched, like the back of a fish or the hull of a boat. The curtains are mixed and cut into pieces, representing fish scales. The floor was left somewhat rough, like the wood of docks. The bar-back material looks like it's made of seashells or some other element of the sea. We wanted everything to coordinate with Jeremy Sewall's menu concept but without making a place that was "theme-y" or ridiculous.

What makes this design different from other Boston restaurants?
Let's start with no plastic. All of our materials are made of sand, stone, shell, natural materials. Even the synthetic elements we used were chosen because they might shimmer like organic materials. The place is not afraid to be big, to be awesome.

David Manfredi, designer

Can you describe your concept for the space and the feeling you are trying to evoke?
The space and the food are inextricably bound together. The theme is an abstract allusion to the water and the sea—all things wet. Every finish, color and material was selected with the sense of the menu and the notion that this was going to be Boston's great seafood restaurant. The chairs, for example, are casual, like beach chairs; there's an abstract reference to water. The tabletops are made of resin acrylic—another reference to the water. We love the fact that the sheer curtains shimmer—we adjusted the air flow so that they'd move and shine like the scales of a fish. The bar is backlit and looks like light filtering through water. And guests will come in from the street into a glass vestibule—a half-circle of glass that goes from floor to ceiling, like a big bubble in the water.

What did you spend the most money on?
We spent money on providing great acoustics despite the high ceilings. Also, providing comfortable furniture in the bar and the dining room was of utmost importance. Finally, we spent a lot on the construction of the bar to make it appear warm and rich.

What other restaurants have you designed?
Via Matta, Harvest and the Rock Center Café in Rockefeller Center.

What was your biggest design challenge with this restaurant?
We inherited a very large space with a very high ceiling. That's a wonderful asset, but at the same time, we didn't want the space to be too grand or too formal. We wanted to give the sense of a great room, but one with some whimsy. The lighting fixtures, for example, are not terribly serious. They're an abstract allusion to effervescent things in the water. The space is regular and axial, but the light fixtures are quite random and irregular. We want you to smile. **iB**

Interviews were conducted by the following IMPROPER *staffers: Veronica Chao (Meritage), Jessica Iredale (UpStairs on the Square), Ezra Dyer (Teatro), Erin Hagedorn (Kings) and Julie Short (Great Bay)*

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We asked local designers for inexpensive ways to turn an uninspired, tiny apartment into a charming, welcoming oasis

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE AND SUSAN ABBATTISTA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONAS KAHN

Though it may be true that everyone wants a room of one's own, making that room a beautiful, comfortable haven is not so easy. Where do you put the furniture? What should you hang on the walls? How do you introduce new flourishes that mix well with the items you already own? If you live in the city, you may face an even bigger challenge: making the most of tight space while staying within a limited budget.

With those concerns in mind, we sought the professional advice of some Boston-based design specialists: Debra and Natalia Szidon of Cocoon home goods store, and interior designer Michael Valvo of Red M Studio. Their challenge: to revamp a 450-square-foot, one-bedroom dwelling in Boston's North End. The space was functional but uninspired. Its occupant, a 20-something professional woman with an active social life, sought to breathe new life into rooms she found boring. But naturally, she didn't want to go broke doing it.

We asked the designers to focus their attention on one room: the Szidons took on the living room, while Valvo concentrated on the bedroom. Their ideas are a starting point; those on a more limited budget can do a little searching and come up with interesting alternatives that are even less costly.

Living Room
AFTER

THE DESIGNERS:

Mother-in-law and daughter-in-law team Debra and Natalia Szidon opened Cocoon in the Ladder District two years ago. Debra has a background in high-end furniture retail, and Natalia previously owned a botanicals business. In the past two years, the Szidons have had many requests to design customers' homes. "It was a natural transition," says Natalia. "It began when we opened Cocoon; then we started doing botanical consulting, which means bringing nature (barks, plants and flowers) indoors. We then moved on to creating a complete interior vision." In their designs, they use products from their own store—which stocks furniture and accessories made both abroad and in the United States—and from other sources.

FIRST IMPRESSION:

According to Debra and Natalia, getting to know the client is the first priority when creating a livable masterpiece. "We want them to be happy with the outcome. They hired us for our aesthetic, but we realize that they're the ones who'll be living in the space, " says Debra. "The final product ends up being a little bit of all of us."

In this case, Debra and Natalia both felt that the living room needed to better reflect the outgoing personality and aesthetic sensibility of its occupant. A tabletop vase filled with tulips and a wonderful modern oil painting were working well, but the furniture needed to be rearranged to maximize the limited space and make the room more inviting.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Because the budget for the project was limited, Debra and Natalia focused on relatively inexpensive changes that would have a big impact: making a slipcover for the existing sofa, painting the walls and installing new window treatments. "If you have limited funds, the best things you can do to completely change the look and feel of a space are to add color to the walls, add bold fabric to the windows and put some life into it with botanicals," Natalia says. Taking their color cues from the black and gold painting hanging in the living room, they painted the living room walls gold and recovered the sofa in a warm-toned chenille fabric; its geometric print has a slightly retro feel that reflects the occupant's sophisticated side.

"Since our client is known for her frequent parties, we selected a soft golden hue for the walls, one that would radiate warmth and welcome," says Natalia. "She also loves fresh flowers, so dramatic vases with leafy botanicals adorn the walls without taking up limited floor space."

To form a partition between the living room and bedroom areas, the Szidons designed a curtain from a large-print fabric in cotton sateen (for more on the fabrics, see box on page 26) and suspended the treatment from copper rods and rings bought at Home Depot. It can be difficult to make two such strong patterns work together, but a unifying color scheme removes the guesswork. "There is a nice contrast between the two items," says Natalia. "It adds a certain yin-and-yang element."

The final touches included some items from their own store, such as three hanging glass lamps over the couch, a South American jute area rug bordered in genuine cowhide, a bamboo coffee table and three orange suede throw pillows. The end result is a beautiful living space with a 1940s feel, perfect for entertaining or just relaxing.

EBRA AND NATALIA SZIDON: RITA GREELEY

THE DESIGNER:

Michael Valvo developed an interest in interior design when he was in college studying accounting and visited his friend's parents' home. Struck by the blend of design and architecture, he became instantly inspired. A few years later, he enrolled in the New England School of Art & Design in Boston. He went on to launch a successful career in residential design and teach at NESAD.

After 20 years in the business, Valvo was looking for a new challenge, so he recently moved into a larger studio and is now creating fabric and custom lighting in his new venture, Red M Studio in the North End.

Valvo is known for his romantic designs that are functional and striking. Some of his favorite stores include Koo de Kir, Montage and Cocoon. But, he says, "you don't always have to spend a fortune to do it right. I also love Urban Outfitters and Anthropologie. A talented designer can make anything work well."

FIRST IMPRESSION:

"The first thing I thought when I walked in the door was that the room needed some life. The person who lives here is so fun and alive, and that was not at all reflected in her surrounding," says Valvo. A bedroom, he says, should reflect every bit of the occupant's personality. It should be sexy, romantic and fun.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Looking to add life to the bedroom without making it look silly or crowded, he started with the walls, opting to incorporate three beautiful colors. A sea-blue was brought a third of the way up the wall, meeting a purplish horizontal stripe. A warm yellow filled the top section. This technique created the illusion that the room was larger. "The easiest way to change a room is by changing the color of it," says Valvo. "I didn't want to have to add a lot of artwork to the walls, so I improvised with the design of the paint application."

Valvo then created some new lines in the room. He angled the bed and hung a parasol above it to draw the eyes up toward the ceiling. "The bedding was ruled by what was already there. I wanted to play up the height of it. The low bed gives the ceiling the illusion of height," he says.

The bed was covered with a handmade bedspread in a woven blend fabric, along with white cotton sateen sheets. A large square pillow trimmed with fringe acts as a headboard, and a bolster in the same striped fabric as the bedspread retains continuity. "The look and feel of the bed make you just want to jump right into it," says Valvo. A simple bedside table houses all of the immediate necessities. And a small computer cart table and a green Lucite chair from Kartell help create a functional work space. For the window treatment, Valvo chose the white silk burn out sheer fabric because "it allows light to come in and casts a shadow in the form of the design all over the room."

"Design is not about reproducing the past. It's about creating something new by taking elements from all around you," says Valvo. The result? A youthful room that is both functional and fun. iB

The seamstress:

Creating custom slipcovers and drapery is truly an art, and with 10 years' experience and clients all over the world, seamstress Laurel Benner of Boston-based By Design is an artist. For this project, she sewed everything from the custom sofa slipcover to the drapes to the bedspread and pillowcases in both the living room and bedroom. Benner brings her sewing machine and fabric into the client's home and works there. A custom slipcover usually takes about 20 hours, with drapery and bedding taking significantly less time.

The fabrics:

All the fabric used in both the bedroom and living room is from Zimman's in Lynn. The store also carries an excellent selection of embellishments, such as tassels and trim, and even has an expert in the field. Her name is Inge Hartley and her specialty is passementerie, which means fancy edging and trimming. She made tie-backs for the living room drapery, which include feathers and beads, as well as the bedroom pillows.

MICHAEL VALVO: RITA GREELEY; LAUREL BENNER: GLORIA DAWSON

The painter:
Eight years ago, Sean Fittz, owner of SunFish Paint and Design, started a one-man painting business in Boston. Today it has expanded to four of the friendliest, most prompt men you will ever meet—no small feat considering that contractors are considered about as reliable as the cable man. SunFish's professionalism has led to a Boston's Best win, accounts with the likes of Mistral and No. 9 Park, and a wealth of jobs in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill and the South End. Fittz also does color consultations, and not just for the homes that he paints. "Realtors often call upon us to revamp a space," he says. "We have been fortunate enough to work with some of the best designers."

For our model apartment, the key was to smooth out the walls. With time and patience, SunFish achieved an even look using joint compound and plaster. "Every painter's success is based on preparation," Fittz says.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Living room:
Paint: $85; drapery hardware from **Home Depot:** $69.13 (includes tie-backs); glass lamps from **Cocoon:** $135 each ; large test tube vases from **Cocoon:** $88 each; custom slipcover (service only): $390; rug from **Cocoon:** $495 ; bamboo coffee table from **Cocoon:** $995 ; orange suede pillows from **Cocoon:** $95; dishes from **Cocoon:** $22-$36; black beaded placemat from Cocoon: $18. **Fabric from Zimman's:** Slipcover for sofa: chenille with rayon cross dye "Moderne": $24.95 / yard at 20 yards = $499; Living room windows, partition, closet cover: cotton sateen "Poetry": $18.95 / yard at 22 yards = $416.90; feather fringe: $14.95 / yard at 2 yards = $44.85; etched silver metal ball fringe: $12.95/yard.

Bedroom:
Green Lucite chair from **Kartell:** $372 ; metal computer desk from **Kartell:** $546; sheepskin rugs from **Koo de Kir:** $95-$185; antique Japanese parasol from **Red M Studio**, $300; paint (Sprig, Labyrinth and Lemon Grass)/C2 Paints: $30/gallon. **Fabric from Zimman's:** Bedroom window: silk burn out sheer "Mosaic": $18.95/yard; bed top sheet: woven blend "Picket Fences": $16.95/yard; pillow fabric: embroidered cotton, double-woven "Lavender Sweet Pea": $69.95/yard; 36" square pillow, down feather form: $54.49 ; 9" x 39" bolster, down feather form: $36; sheet set: 100% fine cotton sateen, queen, $195; ball & tassel fringe: $28.95/yard.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Laurel Benner, seamstress
By Design, Boston, 617-247-2481

Cocoon
170 Tremont St., Boston , 617-728-9898

Home Depot
One Mystic View Road, Everett, 617-389-2323

Kartell
10 St. James St., Boston, 617-728-4442

Koo de Kir
34 Charles St., Boston, 617-723-8111

Red M Studio
164 Prince St., Boston, 617-523-2073

SunFish Paint and Design
617-733-6686 or email safittz@aol.com

Zimman's
80 Market St., Lynn, 781-598-9432

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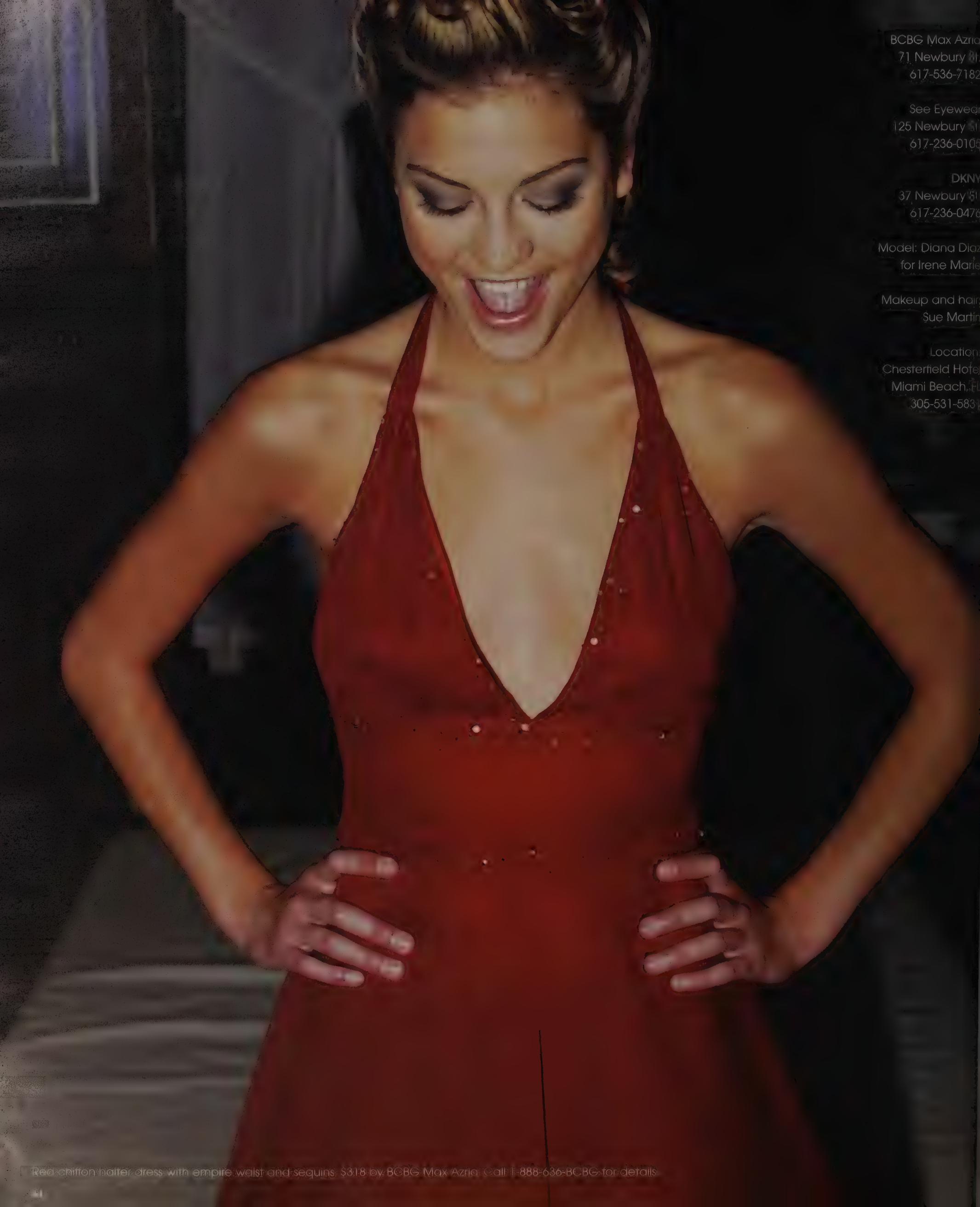

BCBG Max Azria
71 Newbury St
617-536-7182

See Eyewear
125 Newbury St
617-236-0105

DKNY
37 Newbury St
617-236-0476

Model: Diana Diaz
for Irene Marie

Makeup and hair
Sue Martin

Location
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Miami Beach, FL
305-531-5831

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Mopsy

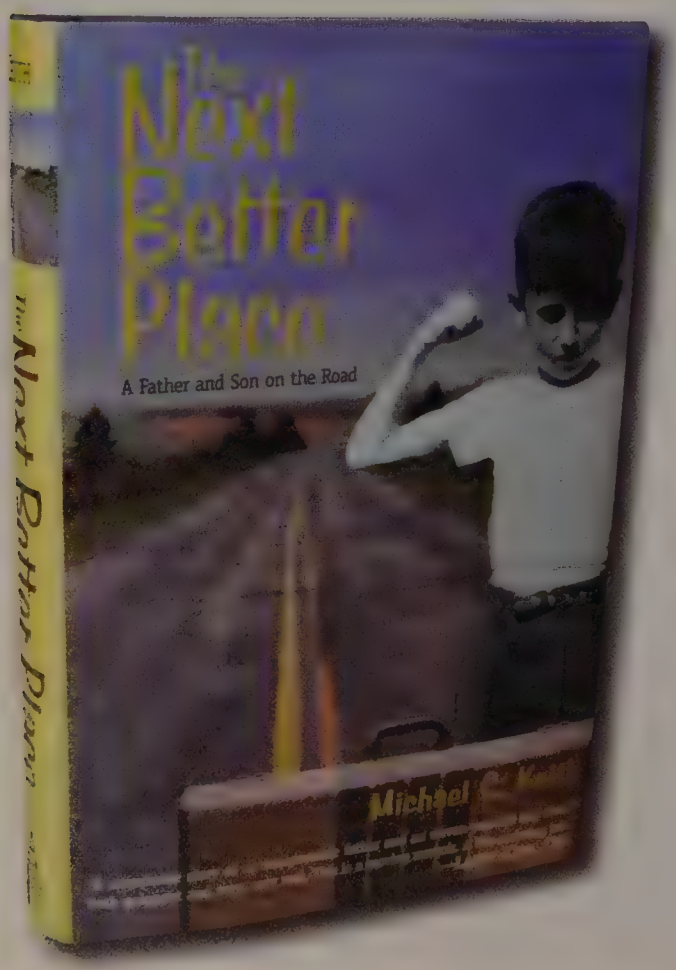
Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

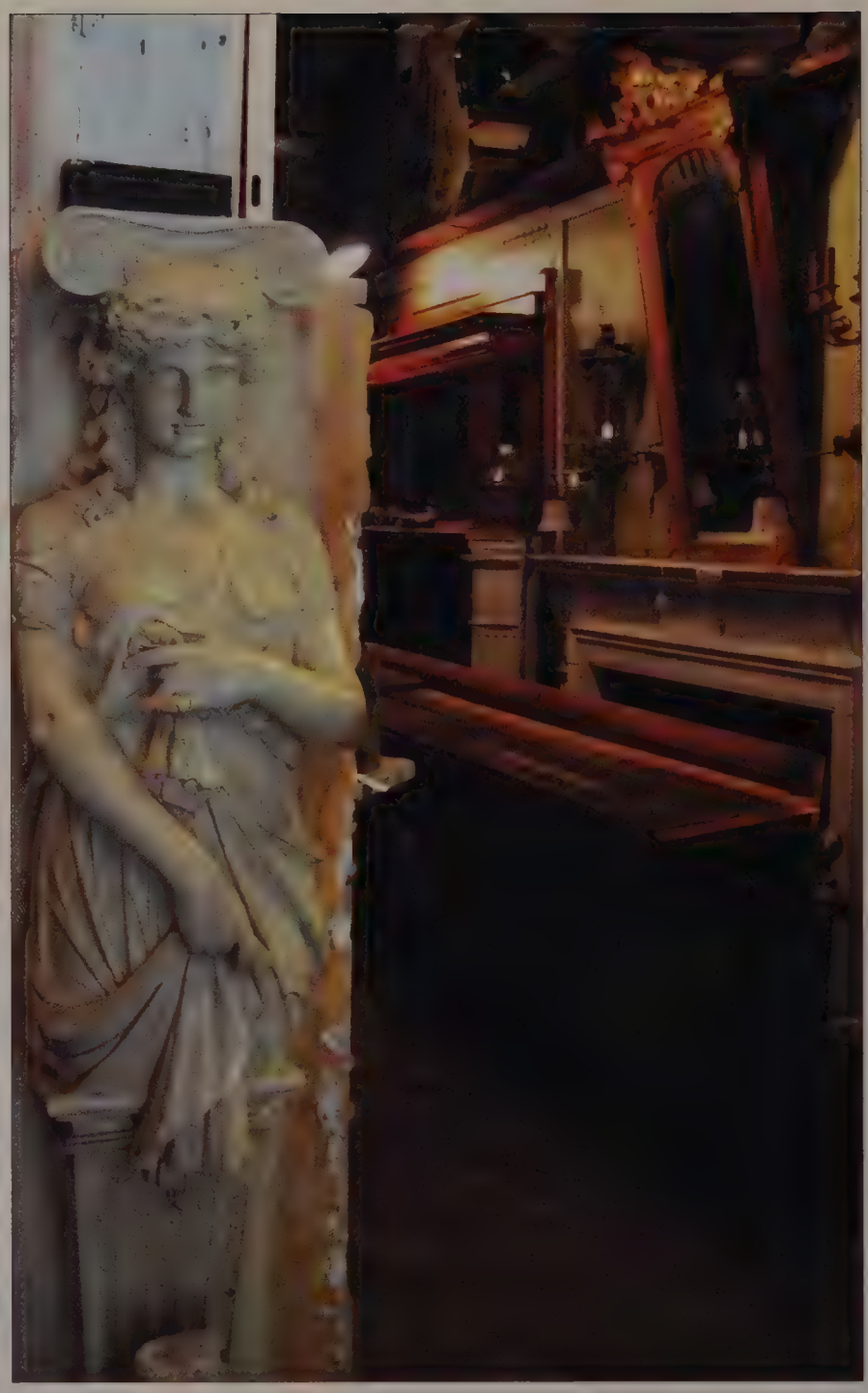
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

NO SCHOOL, ALL DAY

As a child Michael C. Keith spent two years getting "educated" in a skid-row adventure, hitchhiking cross-country with his dissolute father. Now a Boston College professor of communications, Keith describes that experience in *The Next Better Place... a Father and Son on the Road.*

In 1959, when he was 11 years old, Michael Keith set off with his father on the open road for two years. He's immature and irresponsible—the Dad, that is—a regular poster father for the department of social services. The son is the more sensitive and competent of the two—and the sober half in a co-dependent relationship with sousing Pop. With California as the Grail, the two hitchhike cross-country, staying at seedy flophouses and church missions, and experiencing adventures of deprivation that young Keith takes in stride. They scrounge work in a Las Vegas casino, a carnival and hotels. Each venue offers a cast of colorful characters who almost seem to seethe up from the Depression, and sexual mischief and abuse of all types find Keith a hapless object or onlooker. The most fascinating person they meet is Ryan, at a Texas boarding house. A dandyish employee at a mortuary, Ryan is full of smart, weird chatter, and he lives in a kind of fairyland of private illusion—a lonely guy on the creepy make. This school of hard knocks, however, had a happy ending for the Ph.D. and Boston College professor.





THE FRUIT OF MANSIONS PAST

Restoration Resources, at 31 Thayer Street, Boston (617-542-3033) sells large construction-related items, salvaged from demolished houses and buildings.

Magnificent outdoor structures—as well as some gigantic indoor pieces—fill this fascinating place. An imposing plaster statue of a lady holding up her skirt folds, (it's reproducible in cement for $800) greets you. Beyond, enormously tall pieces of paneling and pilasters from a library, along with giant doors, eight and a half feet tall, await a new house to absorb their old splendor. Mantels of both wood and marble, which may be merely decorative or put to fiery use, are everywhere here. A silvery copper Art Deco piece, big and haunting, lived its past life adorning the New England Power Building. Enormous curly corbels that gave grace and beauty to big old buildings—Boston City Hospital for one—could bring the same splendor to your garden. Possibilities for recycling ancient magnificence abound here: A thick glass over-the-window arch could be converted into a headboard; a cornerstone could become a substantial bench. Other specialties are beautiful, generous-sized marble sinks and antique lighting fixtures, municipal and mansion-style. Restoration's Walter is known for his work restoring old doorknobs and their workings, including beautiful glass and scalloped bronze pieces.

DECORATIONAL POLTERGEISTS

A Fresh Eye decorates by rearrangement, not addition. It also "restages" houses for sale, making them more attractive. Gift certificates available. Call 617-964-9922. Prices range from $395–$595.

For people who can't afford to hire an interior decorator, or don't want to, here's an alternative: Lift up your existing furniture and discover a whole new room. The refreshingly simple m.o. of A Fresh Eye is to take free rein over a room or two, using and rearranging what you already have. They can borrow from any other room in your house, and they often find forgotten or overlooked treasures in attics—maybe a piece of fabric waits to be draped on an indifferent table, rendering it glamorous. The decorators ask what you can't do without, and inquire into the room's purpose: What's it for and who uses it? De-cluttering is the first step, revealing the "bones," the purity of the room's potential. Then they "float" the furniture into new and interesting conglomerations, creating angles, focal points and cozy chat areas, moving clunky in-the-way items elsewhere. Lamps find their proper level and other adornments that may have become cramped are freshly displayed. All pictures are taken down and repositioned, often at a more intimate height. The "new house" that homeowners find sometimes brings delighted shrieks and even tears of joy.

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in this section:
Review: Ten Tables
Dish: A new face at The Fireplace
Tasty Tidbit: Coffee Cantata's Tuesday Night Tastings in Jamaica Plain

REVIEW

Table Talk

In Perdix's stead, Ten Tables owner Krista Kranyak has created a fetching eatery with a French accent

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Almost two years ago, a small restaurant by the name of Perdix made its appearance in Jamaica Plain. It served remarkably good food at very reasonable prices in a basic but homey atmosphere. Since then, original owner and chef Tim Partridge has departed, and his former general manager, Krista Kranyak, has brought in a new chef, Tim Wiechmann, and renamed the restaurant Ten Tables. Wiechmann has experience that belies his youth, having spent time at a Michelin-starred restaurant in France and then assisting Michael Leviton at Newton's Lumiere, before moving on to captain the kitchen here.

Wiechmann launches his meals with an amuse gueule, as if to declare that authentic French gastronomy is the new order of the day at this tiny boîte. One recent evening this gratis treat took the form of a small slice of gravalax (salmon cured in salt) wrapped around pear purée, caper and onion. Served on a tiny rectangular white plate, it made a splendid appetite perker. The French ambiance continued with crusty baguettes crafted by Michael Rhodes, baker for Frank McClelland's L'Espalier and Sel de la Terre. Fruity, aromatic extra virgin olive oil rendered the baguettes sublime, but the highest and best use of this superb bread was to mop up the chef's toothsome sauces.

Among Ten Tables' appetizers, Tuscan black kale and rainbow chard with baked Fourme d'Ambert cheese ($10) was a savory treat. Served in a shallow soup bowl, this felicitous combination of tastes and textures delighted the senses, with the creamy saltiness of its mild blue cheese (from Auvergne in central France) merging with the pleasantly bitter chard and kale. Halved green grapes supplied a contrasting touch of fruity sweetness.

The abbreviated—just five items—but varied list of main course offerings included petite Alsace ($20), which captured our imagination as much with its engaging presentation—brought to the table and served in a cast iron pan—as with the full flavor of its ingredients. A selection of pork cuts, including homemade bratwurst, smoked shoulder and pork belly (fresh bacon), shared the pan with roasted apple and cabbage. The bratwurst and bacon tantalized and satisfied, but the pork shoulder could have used longer simmering to make it more tender and achieve greater flavor exchange with the roast cabbage accompaniment. Still, this preparation, Ten Tables' version of choucroute, represented the kind of homey, peasant food that can make a small neighborhood bistro so alluring.

Moving from barnyard to ocean, Wiechmann's seared scallops with roasted fennel and blood orange ($21) constituted a tour de force. Again, the presentation startled in its visual artistry, with the large white scallops arranged in an arc across the plate alternating with slices of blood orange. The crunchy, mildly licorice-flavored roasted fennel added a welcome texture dimension to the dish.

Ten Tables' desserts ($7-$8) included a crème brûlée, rich in flavor and creamy in texture. The method by which the crisp caramelized top was created, however, alarmed us, as we nervously watched the chef's assistant wielding a blowtorch in the open kitchen. The mousse au chocolat pistache, two scoops of thick, luscious, intensely chocolate mousse studded with crunchy pistachios and a garnish of dark chocolate shavings, satisfied our chocolate craving.

While the restaurant's interior appears much the same as when it was Perdix, the owners have added small touches that make it more upscale. For example, framed black-and-white photos of European cities—Bilbao, Florence, Milan and others—have replaced the one lonely picture on the walls of Perdix. Spiegelau wine glasses and substantial cooking and serving vessels represent additional enhancements. White tablecloths covered with the obligatory white butcher paper reinforce the French bistro atmosphere. Square, off-white fabric lampshades on hanging lamps, and a plethora of candles of all sizes complete the décor.

Ten Tables' wine list, our waitress explained, was in flux. I certainly hope so, since it was quite expensive for a small neighborhood eatery, with one of the lowest-priced red wines, Chateau Montus, going for $8 a glass and $30 a bottle. Fortunately, this serviceable 1997 Madiran proved a good exemplar from France's Midi region, with a full body and good acidity making it a fine accompaniment to the food. Less enjoyable was the Macon Chardonnay, which I found heavy, almost in the California style, at the same pricey tariff.

Ten Tables' success will turn on the operation of a basic economic phenomenon elasticity of demand, or the relationship be

Petite Alsace: House-made bratwurst and smoked pork shoulder with roasted apple and cabbage

Ten Tables

597 Centre St., Jamaica Plain
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Exposed brick walls and black-and-white photographs of European cities add to the French ambiance at this tiny boîte.

ween demand for a product and
nanges in its price. The prices at
'en Tables are 15 percent to 30
ercent higher than for compa-
able courses at its predecessor,
erdix. Wine prices took a more
ronounced jump, with the low-
st-priced red wine costing 50
ercent more than its counter-
art at Perdix.

Will the cachet of the more
renchified menu support these
igher prices? If its Jamaica
lain and citywide constituen-
es balk at the elevated prices,
en Tables will have to reposi-
on itself. A good place to start
ould be by offering more rea-
nably priced wine—perhaps a
ood, honest house wine in a
rafe. That tactic would be con-
stent with chef Wiechmann's
fforts to create an authentic
rench bistro, where wine is an
sential part of a meal, not just
occasional splurge.

Jamaica Plain is enriched by
ne personality and warmth
at Ten Tables provides. Con-
dering its well-conceived
nd professionally executed
uisine, I earnestly hope this
tching eatery succeeds in
hieving a workable balance
etween its humble ambiance
nd its price structure. iB

Chef Tim Wiechmann and owner Krista Kranyak proudly display Ten Tables' cheeseboard.

Tuscan black kale and rainbow chard with baked Fourme D'Ambert and green grapes

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DISH

New Match for the Fireplace

Chef Jesse Perrin sparks interest; Bill Bradley goes Rustic

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Chef Jesse Perrin is a recent addition to The Fireplace's kitchen.

Every fireplace needs new fuel at some point to stay hot, and so **The Fireplace** in Brookline has added chef **Jesse Perrin** to run the kitchen under the direction of chef/owner **Jim Solomon**. Perrin, whose resume includes opening stints at **No. 9 Park** and **Caffe Umbra**, says he'd been "helping out part-time" at **Coriander** in Sharon when he was tapped by Solomon to fill the position vacated by chef **Ben Nathan**.

After less than two months of seven-days-a-week work, Perrin seems confident the new job is a good fit. Solomon, he says, "is a hands-off guy, a good guy who lets me do my job." So far, Perrin has been focusing on "building relationships with local farmers, spending time with different purveyors," and preparing to buy his own fish at the Boston fish pier. That way, he'll not only save money but can experiment with "the lesser-known fish," he says. "My favorite is mackerel, but I think people are wary of mackerel, because it's oily." Perhaps he can overcome diners' resistance by offering the lowly mackerel as a special. "I'll marinate it just short of a ceviche with vinegar, to counteract the oiliness, then grill it with hardwood," he says. After all, "grilling is familiar, even if mackerel isn't."

And if diners still won't bite?

"There's room for flexibility," says Perrin, who's also looking into buying whole lambs from a Vermont farm.

SECOND COURSE

When builder **Jim Cafarelli** took over what was formerly **Todd English's Rustic Kitchen**, the fate of the Quincy Market eatery was an open question. Would it still be chef-driven, or—horrors!—become a tourists-only destination? Not to worry—the new chef in the Kitchen is **Bill Bradley**, who first impressed local diners when he opened **Bricco** in the North End. More recently, Bradley developed an enormously appealing menu during a brief stint at **Carmen**, the epitome of "cozy, charming North End Italian."

At the new Rustic Kitchen, Bradley's first menu includes homemade pastas and breads, wood-oven pizzas, and oven-roasted entrées such as pancetta-roasted salmon with onions, carrots, braised cabbage and red wine jus. Of special note, the apps and salads section evokes memories of his "tapas-style" offerings at Bricco, with dishes such as baccala fritters with rock shrimp and salsa verde; tuna tartare with pistachio crackers, black radish, roasted beet carpaccio and spicy parsley crème fraiche; and a wild mushroom soup with prosciutto-ricotta fritters and truffle oil. Still to come: a new menu any day now, and a new outdoor coffee bar if the weather ever warms up.

Personnel & Places: **Chefs Collaborative**, the Boston-based national culinary organization dedicated to sustainable agriculture and environmentally sensible culinary policies, has a new executive director. **Betsy Johnson** (not the fashion designer, but the former vice president for community gardening and development at the Boston Natural Areas Network) will focus on fundraising, publishing new chefs' guides to serve as culinary industry references, and implementing regional seminars.

Paul Delios, executive chef/owner of **Paolo's Trattoria** in Charlestown, will bring his Greek-influenced Italian fare to the Italian Culinary Institute in New York City on April 9. To celebrate Theme Night: Rustic Flavors of Italy, Delios will prepare wood-roasted red pepper stuffed with goat cheese, farfalle pasta, pork tenderloin with juniper, and a traditional Greek pastry for dessert.

We Are All Waiters department: **Excelsior**, the forthcoming **Lydia Shire/Tim Lynch** extravaganza in the former **Biba** space, is now set for a May opening. **Flux** is *still* under construction at the site of the former **Appetito** in the South End—at this rate, will there ever be a second restaurant called Re-flux? iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Beer and Seafood Dinner
Union Street Restaurant, 107R, Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. March 27, 6:30pm. $35. Chef **John Tarnuzzer** creates a five-course meal paired with five of the Shipyard's brews.

Beer vs. Wine Tasting
142 Berkeley St., Boston (617-859-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 1, 12am. This blind taste test will challenge participants to distinguish between stout and zinfandel, hefeweisen and merlot, and lager and chardonnay.

Brewer's Banquet
Redbones. 55 Chester St., Somerville (617-628-2200). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. March 24, 7pm. $35. **Bob Johnson**, cofounder and master brewer at Magic Hat in Burlington, leads this brewers' dinner featuring stouts and porters.

Caribbean Night
Lucy's, 242 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-LUCY). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. March 20. A la carte. Chef **Owen Tilley** warms up the night with island cuisine and tropical drinks.

Chef Demonstration
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 31, 6:30-9:30pm. $60. Chef **Jason Santos** of Tremont 647 and Sister Sorrel cooks up an appetizer, entrée and dessert.

It's a Piece of Cake
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. March 29. Discover simple techniques and tricks to make display case–worthy cakes at home.

Jordan Winery Dinner
Grill 23 & Bar, 161 Berkeley St., Boston (617-542-2255). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 25, 6:30pm. $150. **Rob Davis**, winemaker at Jordan Winery, is the featured guest at this wine dinner.

Lunch Wine Seminar/ Cooking Demonstration
Nashoba Valley Winery, 100 Wattaquadoc Hill Road, Bolton (978-779-5521). •March 22, 11am. $25. Learn what experts mean by "balance" in wine while mapping your palate to understand why some wines appeal more than others. •March 23, 10am, $25. Join chefs at J's for a private cooking demonstration followed by brunch and a tour of the winery.

Night of Swing and Dinner
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowe's Wharf Boston (617-439-7000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. March 22, 7-10pm. $95. Boogie to the swanky tunes of the Love Dogs at this three-course wine dinner prepared by chef **Daniel Bruce.**

Six Years at South Street
178 Kneeland St., Boston (617-350-0028). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Through the end of March. To celebrate six years of running their 24-hour diner, co-owners Robin and Sol Sidell knock prices back to $3.33 for breakfast and $10 for dinner (includes prime rib, New York sirloin or boiled lobster).

Sterling Vineyards Dinner
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3935). Chef **Benjamin Cevelo** pairs Sterling wine with a multicourse dinner.

Turn the Tables
Saint, 90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134) MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. March 24, 7pm. $75. This evening will showcase seven mini-courses prepared by guest chefs **Drew Nieporent** of Tribeca Grill, Nobu and Montrachet in New York, **Mark Allen** of Le Soir, **Ana Sortun** of Oleana, **Seth** and **Angela Raynor** of The Pearl on Nantucket and **Amanda Lydon** of UpStairs on the Square.

Viva la Vino
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). www.winebrats.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. March 30, 2-6pm. $75.* Join the Boston Wine Brats for an afternoon of wine tasting (more than 50 different wines), food sampling and entertainment.

Wine Tasting Dinner Benefit
St. Ignatius Church, 28 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill (617-964-2438). March 29, 7-9:30pm, $35. The Young Adult Community hosts the next in its wine tasting series, Wines of California. Proceeds benefit the Franciscan Sisters.

Wine Tasting for Scholarship
Mahoney's Rocky Ledge Farm, 242 Cambridge St., Route 3, Winchester (781-729-8655). March 26, 6:30-8:30pm. $15, $20 at the door. Six domestic and international wines will be tasted at this scholarship fund-raiser for Wheaton College.

TASTY TIDBIT

LOCAL FLAVOR

Coffee Cantata in Jamaica Plain has long been the place to go for a great cup of joe. But lately, the über popular coffee shop has expanded its offerings under the ownership of Edith Murnane—serving up such comfort food delicacies as mac 'n' cheese and spicy chili alongside sweeter treats. Now Murnane is hosting a Tuesday Tasting Night one night per month, where local gourmands can submit samples of that night's selected dish—salsa, for example, on March 25—and neighborhood folks will judge the best. The winner of the blind taste test lands a spot on the regular menu. Murnane—a killer cook—prepares her own entry, so let the competition beware. *Coffee Cantata, 605 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-2223). March 25, 7pm. Future tastings include relish on April 22 and cheesecake on May 20. —J.S.*

JESSE PERRIN: RITA GR

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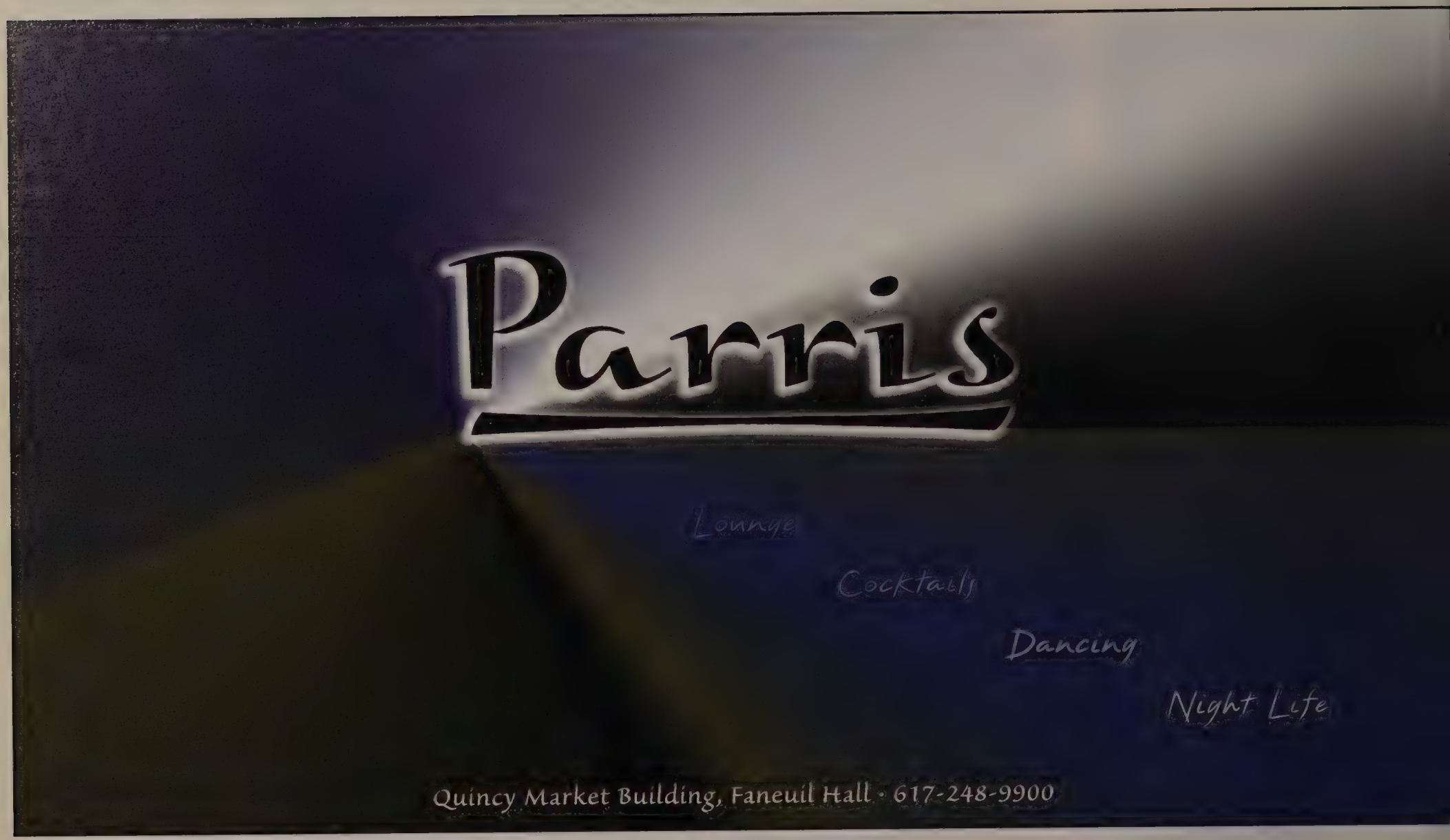

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Around Town, Children,

Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope

and Sports

improper picks

VARIOUS DATES

Puccini, Puccini, Puccini

Spring's the season to set your emotions free and what better catalyst than a little Puccini? Sensuality, erotic passion, pathos, despair—the Italian composer's operas have got all that and more, and conveniently, some will be staged in Boston in March and April. Set in Rome at the time of Napoleon's advance on the city, *Tosca* is sung in Italian (with English subtitles) and plays at the Blackman Auditorium March 21-25. It's about overwhelming passion amid the perils of war. On March 22, actress Karyn Levitt, accompanied by pianist Eve Budnick, performs songs by Puccini, Tosti, Respighi and Eric Satie in *Puccini and His Contemporaries* at the Central Square Branch Library. Finally, *La Rondine*, at the Shubert Theatre March 26-April 8, tells the story (again, sung in Italian) of a kept woman in search of love. *See Performing Arts on page 48 for more information.*

MARCH 24-29

Movies: Celluloid Celebration

Since its inception in 1976, the **New England Film and Video Festival** has expanded into a weeklong program and has become one of the most well-known film and video festivals in the country. This year's festivities, which take place at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, the Brattle Theatre, the Harvard Film Archive and the Museum of Fine Arts, kick off with a party at Soho, the hip new restaurant in Brighton. The fete is followed by screenings at the Coolidge Corner Theater, including the world premiere of Fran Solomita's *When Stand Up Stood Out*, a film that examines the early days of stand-up comedy in Boston. Several other shorts are also on the bill, including a 25-minute work by local filmmakers Josh Mitchell and Patrick Ryan intriguingly titled *Cell Phones & Action Figures*. (We hear that a number of bigwig comedians will attend both events: Jonathan Katz, Barry Crimmins, Mike McDonald, Tony V, Jimmy Tingle and Don Gavin.) Tickets are $20 for the reception (which includes a buffet and open bar from 5-6pm) and $10 for the screening. *Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). $60 for a pass to all of the film screenings; $100 includes film screenings and opening- and closing-night receptions.* www.bfvf.org.

FRI./MARCH 28–SUN./MARCH 30

Performing Arts: Life Is a Cabaret

Those of you who can recite the words to 1930 German film *The Blue Angel* (with Marlene Dietrich as the sultry, throaty cabaret singer Lola) are probably already planning to take part in national Cabaret Month. For those who don't know the first thing about cabaret, the **Boston Cabaret Festival** has enough shows to make you an expert: three nights' worth of satiric sketches, torch songs, transvestitism and more. Opening night, Friday, March 28 (8pm, $12), focuses on established Boston traditions in cabaret, presented by Will & Company in the intimate Blacksmith House at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. On Saturday, March 29, the festival moves to Lexington's Maxwell Auditorium at the National Heritage Museum for its gala concert, Great American Lyricists (7pm, $35), in which 10 Boston cabaret singers present master lyricists of the great American songbook in a three-hour extravaganza hosted by the festival's producer, Sophia Bilides. The closing night on Sunday (7pm, $35), also held at the Maxwell Auditorium, features performer Amanda McBroom in a solo concert of classic and contemporary cabaret. *www.bostoncabaretfestival.com.*

WED./MARCH 19–FRI./MARCH 21

Comedy: On the Fringe

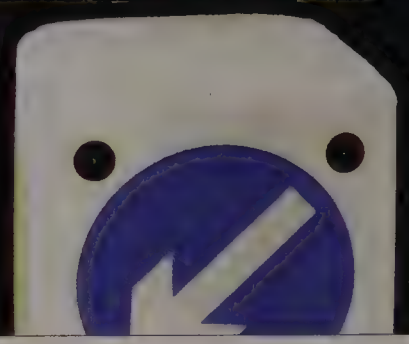
Comedian Kim Davis

Legions of would-be wags and card-carrying cutups are well-versed in the humor of Cambridge-based comic Kim Davis, the host and co-founder of the Lizard Lounge's weekly Comedy Hour. Now Davis offers another opportunity for us to yuk it up when he hosts the first **Cambridge Fringe Festival**, a showcase of artists involved in Cambridge's comedy scene. For the fest, Davis hosts and performs, joining more than 100 local guys and gals who will entertain audiences with stand-up, sketch and improv comedy. Others will screen their funny movies at venues across Cambridge. On March 19 (8pm), head to Cambridge's Comedy Studio for the Tony V Show; on March 20 (8pm), Central Square's Cantab Lounge presents a stand-up show followed by the improv troupe Faces4Radio. Then at 10pm, ImprovBoston Theater hosts the Great & Secret Show—sketch comedy with a Sasquatch theme. March 21 (8pm) is the festival's closing night, at the ImprovBoston Theater. *$10 for most events; $15 for a pass to all the shows.* www.cambridgefringefest.com.

THU./MARCH 20

Music: Streets on Fire

More than the three decades since its inception, hip-hop has truly become a worldwide phenomenon, reaching all corners of the globe and becoming the current lingua franca of international style, sound and image. For evidence of hip-hop's significance, we need look no further than *Original Pirate Material*, the brilliant debut album by Mike Skinner, better known as the Streets. The pasty-white lad from Birmingham, England, is living proof that it's possible to make one of the best hip-hop records of the year without being from New York, the Left Coast or the Dirty South. Not another rap revisionist out to reinvent hip-hop's wheel, Skinner simply steers hip-hop in a new direction. With a sound more akin to the UK Garage scene (they pronounce it "garridge") than the rap world, the Streets' beats are atypical—sparse, lopsided and off-kilter, often accented by lush, movie score–style string arrangements. But the Streets' brilliance lies in the way his deceptively laconic vocals lie over the tracks, his monotone delivery making one wonder what Gang Starr might have sounded like if Boston's native guru had grown up on the other side of the Atlantic. Skinner's loping, sincere stanzas about the everyday life of an everyday bloke become more and more appealing with every listen. *March 20, 9pm. $15. Paradise Rock Club, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800).*

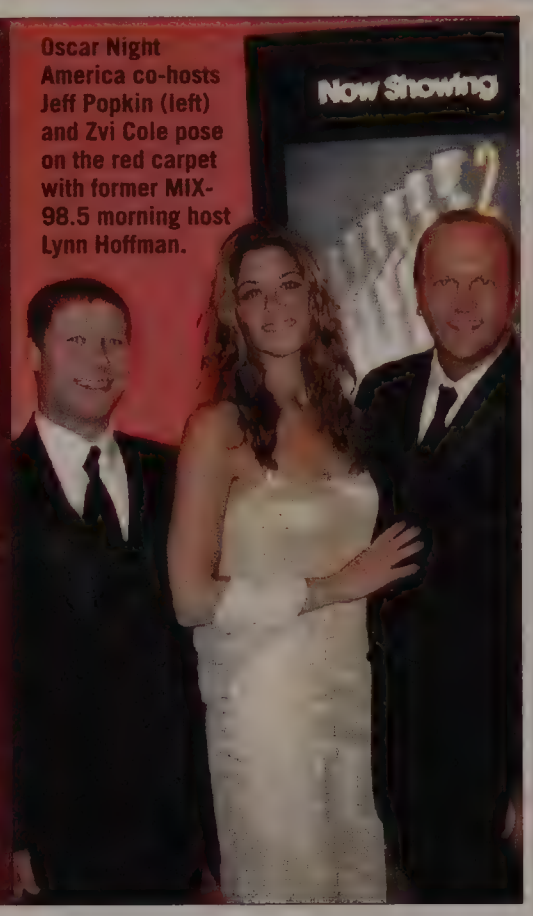

The Streets performs at Paradise Rock Club March 20.

STREETS: EUAN SPEN

SUN./MARCH 23

CityScope: Oscar Wild

On Oscar night, what fun is it to ogle all the glitterati tottering down the red carpet in four-inch heels—to rank on Björk's outfit or JLo's hairstyle—all by your lonesome? Not much, so here are a few places where you can get a big bag of buttered popcorn and a giant Coke and settle in with a hundred other armchair critics for a night of catcalls and squeals of delight. A low-key option is at the Brattle Theatre (leave the glam gown home). They'll show the Oscars on the big screen and offer light refreshments and a cash bar. If you're in the mood to dress up, the Ellie Fund hosts Oscar Night America, a festive gathering in 1920s style, with martinis, hors d'oeuvres and live music at the Rack. Also, the Massachusetts Film Bureau hosts the Big Fat Awards Gala at the Four Seasons Hotel. Neal McDonough, star of NBC's *Boomtown*, will serve as auctioneer (bid on a walk-on role on *Crossing Jordan*), and film critic Richard Roeper (of Ebert & Roeper) will provide live commentary from the red carpet in Los Angeles. *See CityScope on page 46 for more information.*



Oscar Night America co-hosts Jeff Popkin (left) and Zvi Cole pose on the red carpet with former MIX-98.5 morning host Lynn Hoffman.

MON./MARCH 24

Tastings: Turning the Tables

As if you need an excuse to go to Saint other than to enjoy its swank setting in the former Cafe Budapest or to feast on Rene Michelena's extra-ordinary cuisine—this new nitery, as its promoters have dubbed it, hosts the first in a series of celebrity-chef events March 24. **Turn the Tables** will showcase seven signature mini-courses inspired by Michelena's guest chefs—an impressive sextet that includes Drew Nieporent of New York's Tribeca Grill, Nobu and Montrachet; Mark Allen of Le Soir; Ana Sortun of Oleana; Seth and Angela Raynor of the Pearl on Nantucket; and Amanda Lydon of UpStairs on the Square. All this for a mere $75. *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134). March 24, 7pm. $75.*

Rene Michelena, executive chef at Saint

FRI./MARCH 21 AND FRI./MARCH 28

Music: Looney Tunes

ZuZu's interpretation of March madness is to dub the club **Theremin Madness** month. Friday nights are turned over to Jonnie Spaceman (nee Jon Bernhardt), theremin master, host of WMBR's *Breakfast of Champions* radio show, and member of local rock groups the Lothars and the Pee Wee Fist. Spaceman gets to show off his theremin tremolo while playing host to a rotating roster of accompanying musicians. March 21 features an unlikely combination of theremin and punk/new wave hits of the '70s and '80s with guests Clint Conley (Mission of Burma, Consonant), Winston Braman (Fuzzy, Consonant, Count-Me-Outs), Hilken Mancini (Fuzzy, Count-Me-Outs) and Jef Czekaj (Tardy, Anchormen, Sinkcharmer). March 28 is a theremin-infused improvisational evening with Jake Trussell (DJ C, Electro Organic Sound System, Tiger Saw and Cul De Sac) on turntables. *474 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278). 11:30pm, no cover.*

SAT./MARCH 22

CityScope: A Springboard

Why stroll, saunter or even jog into spring when you can swing into the season (literally)? The second annual **Night of Swing Dancing and Wine Dinner** at the Boston Harbor Hotel invites you to put on your zoot suit, learn the lindy and boogie to the swanky tunes of the Love Dogs. Chef Daniel Bruce prepares a three-course gourmet meal paired with wine; in between courses, you can learn some swing moves and watch dance demonstrations. Swing-dancing neophytes are encouraged to attend. *Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000).* www.bhh.com. *March 22, 7-10pm. $125.*

MON./MARCH 31–TUE./APRIL 1

Music: A Little R&R

We first heard of the band **Rusted Root** when a Penn State pal played their CD 24/7 during a car-camping trip in the mountains of West Virginia. From the first song—"Send Me on My Way"—we were hooked. Few songs inspire such unbridled passion for life. Rusted Root's energetic, largely acoustic jams have been compared to Phish, the Grateful Dead and Santana—or, in the words of one reviewer, "imagine the Gypsy Kings as hippies from Pittsburgh." The six-member band fuses African and Caribbean rhythms with Indian vocals and inspired lyrics, resulting in an upbeat, happy-go-lucky, earthy, trippy sound. Makes you just want to throw off your shoes, close your eyes and frolic barefoot in the grass. But the dance floor at Avalon, where Rusted Root plays March 31 and April 1, will have to do in the meantime. *Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-423-NEXT).*

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Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

HurryDate Party
Saint, 90 Exeter St., Boston (212-871-6707). www.hurrydate.com. *7pm. $35.* If you find seven-minute dates to be simply too long, the HurryDate format ought to appeal: The evening includes 25 three-minute dates. A personal score-card determines matches by the night's end.

Ongoing: American Heart Association Raffle
American Heart Association, (800-662-1701, ext. 3103). www.americanheart.org. *$100.* The American Heart Association's annual Heart Ball isn't until April 5, but tickets for the associated raffle are on sale now through March 28. This year's grand prize is a 2003 Mercedes-Benz E320 sedan, and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. How d'ya like them odds?

Ongoing: Winchester Firefighters Harley-Davidson Raffle
Winchester Fire Dept., Mt. Vernon St., Winchester (781-775-4134 or 781-526-7885). Drawing held April 11. $100. The Winchester Firefighters are raffling a 2003 100th-Anniversary Harley-Davidson Fat Boy motorcycle to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Only 350 tickets will be sold, so carpe diem.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

***Dunes at Overveen* Benefit Reading**
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-9669). www.glsenboston.org. *8pm. $100 includes reception at 6:30pm; $40 reading only.* The *Dunes at Overveen* screenplay tells the story of real gay and lesbian resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland in World War II. Writer David Mixner will narrate a staged reading of the screenplay featuring nationally known performers to benefit the Boston Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Jimmy Fund Gala
Gillette Stadium, Foxborough (617-632-5008). www.jimmyfund.org. *$115, $225 per couple.* The Patriots' home turf will be lit up while a cocktail party to benefit the Jimmy Fund takes place in one of the stadium's clubhouses. The event includes wine sampling, casino games, live music and a silent auction.

Seeing Is Believing Ball
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-739-5300). www.blindness.org. Boston Celtics general manager Chris Wallace is the honorary chair of this black-tie benefit for the Foundation for Fighting Blindness.

Swing into Spring
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). www.bhh.com. *7-10pm. $95.* Learn to swing dance with live demonstrations and music from the Love Dogs. A three-course wine-pairing dinner is included in the evening.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Big Fat Awards Gala
Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (617-523-8388). www.massfilmbureau.com. *$150.* Neal McDonough and other stars light up the Four Seasons to benefit the nonprofit Mass. Film Bureau. The event includes a viewing of the Academy Awards on a big screen, dinner and an auction.

Bridal Fashion Show and Registry
Bloomingdale's, 55 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-630-6044). www.bloomingdales.com. *9:30am. $15.* Vendors covering everything from limousines to flowers are on hand at this bridal fashion show, which highlights dresses from Yolanda and Helen Morley. Lunch provided by Brasserie Jo.

***Don Quixote*, by Varteni, is one of the works that will be auctioned at the Boston Virtuosi fund-raiser March 30 at Churchill's Lounge.**

Oscar Gala at the Brattle
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-6837). www.brattlefilm.org. *7:30pm. Free for Brattle members; sign up online.* The Brattle shows the Oscars on its big screen, with light refreshments and a cash bar available.

Oscar Night America Party
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-312-5410). www.elliefund.org. *6pm. $20 in advance, $30 at the door.* This annual Academy Awards party benefits the Ellie Fund, which fights breast cancer. The evening's theme is "Escape Prohibition" and dress is festive 1920s style. The party includes martini and wine sampling, hors d'oeuvres, live music and a silent auction that offers items such as a year-long pass to AMC theaters.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

The Business of Bliss
Boston Design Center, One Design Center Place, Boston (617-338-5062, ext. 116). 11am. Female entepreneurs reveal how they have applied their passion for design and beauty in the business world, turning their inspiration into working business models.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Wine Tasting for Scholarship
Mahoney's Rocky Ledge Farm, 242 Cambridge St., Route 3, Winchester (781-729-8655). 6:30-8:30pm. $15 or $20 at the door. Six domestic and international wines will be tasted at this fund-raiser for the scholarship fund at Wheaton College.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Hubbub
Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston. (617-267-2524). 6pm. $250. This evening of cuisine, art and performance benefits the BCA. An auction offers artwork and "artful acts" (like music lessons), and the Boston Ballet, Ramon de los Reyes Spanish Dance Theater and others perform. Mayor Menino is the recipient of the first annual Arts Champion Award.

The Harlem Globetrotters hit the FleetCenter March 29-30.

The Boston College Alumni Association raises money for the Greater Boston Food Bank's Second Helpings program at the Second Helping Gala at Fenway's .406 Club March 29.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Harlem Globetrotters
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000) www.fleetcenter.com. *7:30pm. Also March 30, 3pm. $15-$35.* The reigning kings of basketball clowning return to Boston for two shows.

The Men's Event
Westin Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston (617-927-6350) www.fenwayhealth.org. *$125.* Fenway Community Health's 10th annual benefit party includes a reception, dinner, dancing, a silent auction and the presentation of the Gerry E. Studds Visibility Award.

Second Helping Gala
.406 Club, Fenway Park, Yawkey Way, Boston (617-552-4700) www.gbfb.org. *$100.* The Boston College Alumni Association presents this benefit for the Greater Boston Food Bank's Second Helping program, which "rescues" surplus perishable food to be distributed to the hungry. The evening includes an open bar, food, live and silent auctions, entertainment and a great view of Fenway.

Single Executives Club Singles Dance
Woburn Radisson Hotel, 15 Middlesex Canal Park Road, Route 38 South, Woburn (781-446-0234) www.se4you.com. *8:30-12:30pm. $10 before 9pm, $15 thereafter.* Single professionals ages 35-55 are invited to this dance featuring music by DJ Brian Milligan, hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. Proper business dress required.

Wine Tasting Dinner Benefit
St. Ignatius, 28 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill (617-964-2438). 7-9:30pm. $35. The Young Adult Community hosts a tasting of the wines of California. Proceeds benefit the Franciscan Sisters.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Boston Virtuosi Fund-Raiser
Churchill's Lounge, next to the Millennium Bostonian Hotel, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-547-8860) www.bostonvirtuosi.org. *6-9pm. $40.* This benefit for the Boston Virtuosi includes food from New Asia restaurant, a wine tasting, champagne, music from Boston Virtuosi musicians and a silent auction.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Singles Fund-Raiser Benefit Gala Ball
The Dirty Shillelagh Irish Pub & Car Wash, 21 Jump St., Brookline Heights (617-859-1400, ext. 237) www.chickenshaverightstoo.org. *12pm-12pm. $1*
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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater
JUST OPENED

Beauty for Ashes
Millennium Music Center, 73 Pine St., Woburn (800-829-2631). Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 4pm. March 21-30. $15-$20. This show contains three playlets about love, truth and faith, set in three different parts of the world.

Chicago
Norwood Theater, 109 Central St., Norwood (781-762-4060). Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through March 23. $21. The Fiddlehead Theatre presents this Broadway smash hit, winner of six Tony Awards.

Comedy from the Irish Countryside and Tragedy from Lawrence, Massachusetts
Charlestown Working Theater, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (617-242-3285). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Station. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through March 23. $15. Grammy-nominated storyteller Sharon Kennedy brings together comical stories collected in Ireland plus the tragic account of the Pemberton Mill disaster, which occurred in Lawrence, Mass., in 1860.

Fragile and The Exhibition
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-876-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 27 and 28, 8pm; March 30, 2:30pm. $10. Theater Freak 5000 premieres *Fragile*, an original one-act farce by John Flanagan; also *The Exhibition*, a one-act play on the life of John Merrick, the Elephant Man.

La Rondine
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Wed. and Fri., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. March 26-April 8. $32-$152. Sung in Italian with projected English text, Puccini's opera *La Rondine* tells the story of Magda, a kept woman. A palm reading reveals that she is meant to search for love, and her fortune becomes a reality when a young man walks through her door.

The Last Adventure of Lance Adventure
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Fri. and Sat., 10:30pm; Sun. 8pm. March 21-April 5. $10. Globetrotting world adventurer Lance Adventure has given up his exciting lifestyle and gone into advertising—much to the chagrin of his perennial damsel-in-distress Cordelia. Enter Lance's arch nemesis Reginald Stitch, and advertising has never been this adventurous.

Of Mice and Men
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun. 2 and 7:30pm. March 21-April 6. $25-$35. This American tale from Pulitzer and Nobel Prize–winning author John Steinbeck focuses on two doomed drifters dreaming of better days.

Boston rap artist Luv wrote and produced a song to promote the Huntington Theatre's *Breath, Boom.*

Preview

Hope, Hardship

The Huntington Theatre Co. delves into the underworld of gang violence and abuse

Making gang violence, abuse and imprisonment the ingredients of an uplifting story is no small task. But playwright Kia Corthron manages to incorporate both hardship and hope into *Breath, Boom*, playing at the Huntington Theatre this month.

The work follows an African-American girl named Prix from her role as the leader of a gang of girls at age 16, to her life beyond the realms of violence at age 30. Gang involvement is just part of the story—Prix's roller coaster life includes abuse by her father and neglect by her mother, as well as time in prison. But director Michael John Garcés says that as Prix begins to understand the effects of the violence she has both experienced and inflicted upon others, her evolution from self-destruction toward survival will be felt by all. The audience, he says, will leave the production "with the sense that in the long run, everybody finds some sense of worth in their life, and something to aspire to. At the end of the play, this woman is going to try to go on."

Garcés doesn't expect the play to appeal to every audience. Reactions, he predicts, will "be really mixed, and some people are not going to want to deal with this world at all." But Garcés is nonetheless optimistic that many theater-goers will embrace the journey. "It's hard on the audience, but also exciting," he says. *Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. Tue. and Thu., 7:30pm; Wed., 2pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through April 6. $14-$64. —Bridget Behling*

On Raftery's Hill
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. March 28-April 19. $24 and $29. The Sugan Theatre Company presents this play by Irish playwright Marina Carr. Three generations of the Rafterys live together in the rural midland of Ireland. It's a closely knit farming community where hatred and rumors of incest, stillborn children and abused families seem more common than love and affection.

Puccini and His Contemporaries
Central Square Branch Library, 45 Pearl St., Cambridge (617 349-4010). March 22, 2pm. Free. Singer/actress Karyn Levitt, accompanied by pianist Eve Budnick, performs songs by Puccini, Tosti, Respighi and Eric Satie, and reads letters from Puccini to his librettists, reviews of Puccini operas and Chekhovian monologues.

Spooks-a-Poppin'
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). March 21, 12am. $10. The Coolidge presents a classic 20th-century spookshow, a nefarious night of burlesque.

Step Into My Love
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (781-257-5128). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 22, 8pm; March 23, 7:30pm. $12. Diversity Theatre's serio-comedy depicts today's Adam and Eve in a theme park being filmed by a reality TV crew. They enter several pavilions where they are challenged to look into the quality of their relationships with themselves and each other.

Swords and Ploughshares
The Hall of Ideas at the Mary Baker Eddy Library, 200 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA or E Green Line to Symphony. March 23 and 30, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm; April 6 and 13, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. Free. This 20-minute performance begins with a prince's hesitation to take up arms when called to war. Wondering when it is truly one's duty to fight, kill or defend, the prince is led by an elder on a journey through the ages. He meets Henry V, Gandhi, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Woodrow Wilson and General Patton, who help the prince understand the meaning of valor, patriotism, honor, courage, peace and love.

Tosca
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-2247). March 21, 7:30pm; March 23, 2pm; March 25, 7:30pm. $20-$83. Set in Rome at the time of Napoleon's advance on the city, Giacomo Puccini's opera is the story of overwhelming passion amid the perils of war.

Truth & Beauty
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. March 20-April 12. $20. Company One presents this new experimental piece by two-time Obie Award winner Ping Chong. It's an adrenaline-driven critique of American standards.

Try Not to Step on the Naked Man
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Fri. and Sat., 10:30pm; Sun. 8pm. March 21-April 5. $10. It is the night of the big dinner party you're hosting for your boss and there's a naked man on your living room floor who won't leave. Guests must follow a whole new type of etiquette in this exposé of indecent entertaining.

Twelfth Night
Abbott Theater, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171) Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through March 29. $11-$13. Waltham's Hovey Players present Shakespeare's gender-bending comedy.

The Wild Party
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (617-361-7024). www.riversidetheatreworks.org *Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. March 21-April 7. $21.* Adapted from a book-length poem written in the Roaring Twenties, this play tells the story of one wild evening in the Manhattan apartment shared by party gal Queenie and her pal, Burrs, a vaudeville clown.

NOW RUNNING

Answer the Door
Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (617-909-1015). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sun. 3pm. Through March 30. Donation. John O'Brien's play focuses on a relationship between a father and son who are trapped within their own minds.

Betrayal
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-491-2026). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Wed. and Thu., 7:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through March 30. $17-$25. There is nothing straightforward or sentimental about this tale of adultery involving Robert, a publisher, his wife Emma, who manages an art gallery, and his best friend and business colleague, Jerry, a literary agent who was Emma's lover. The Nora Theatre Company presents this story with an unusual structure: nine chronologically reversed scenes.

Bits and Pieces
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.rough-and-tumble.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through April 5. $10.* An evening of short, theatrical bits, scenes and plays by the Rough and Tumble Theatre. The company brings its flair for physical comedy and its eye for the absurdities of day-to-day life to this original production.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu. and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Breath, Boom
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *Tue. and Thu., 7:30pm; Wed., 2pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through April 6. $14-$64.* Directed by Michael John Garcés, this new work traces 14 years in the life of a female gang leader who at 16 is the leader of a gang of African-American teenage girls.

Cinderella
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu., Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Through March 23. $28-$68. In Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, friendly mice and birds and a fairy godmother help an oppressed girl escape the wrath of her horrible stepsisters and meet an eligible prince.

A Class Act
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.speakeasystage.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3 and 7pm. Through March 22. $25-$31.* A musical for people who love music, this show is based on the life of Edward Kleban, Tony Award–winning lyricist of *A Chorus Line*. Though he never had another show produced before his death in 1987, Kleban did write several more

usicals and hundreds of songs, the best of which are atured in this musical biography.

oyote on a Fence

remont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-728-321). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through March 23. 25. Bruce Graham's play, which earned the 1998 osenthal Award for Best New Play, focuses on the un-ual friendship between two death row inmates, a lib-al political activist and a young white supremacist.

ighway Ulysses

eb Drama Center, American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brat-St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to arvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; n., 2 and 7:30pm. Through March 22. $34-$68. In is recasting of Homer's *Odyssey,* a reclusive war vet-an named Ulysses receives an urgent call in the mid-e of the night and embarks on a journey to find his n. On his way, he gets waylaid by a motley cast of haracters—including a waitress at a truck stop, a trio sirens in a jail cell, a one-eyed librarian and a woman a tattoo parlor—who force him to confront his vio-nt past and propel him toward the fateful meeting ith his estranged son.

etters to a Student Revolutionary

he Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville 17-625-1300). www. theatrecoop.org. *MBTA: d Line to Davis. Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun, 2pm. hrough March 29. $20.* This play written by Eliza-th Wong follows two girls, an American tourist in nina and a young Chinese woman, through their cade-long correspondence, culminating in the volution in Tianamen Square.

o Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs

ew Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands 17-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Green ne to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7pm; Thu.-Fri., m; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. rough March 30. $27-$35.* In this play set in North rolina in 1949, a black woman must raise her family ile her husband is away earning money. Mean-ile, a Jewish sociologist who's been observing the mily becomes a part of their lives.

ippetry of the Penis

pley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-236-99). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri. d Sat., 7 and 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. Through March 21. 5-$39.50. The international comedy hit features e ancient Australian art of genital origami. Creators non Morley and Dan Lewry perform naked while aping and stretching their penises into more than figures, including the Eiffel Tower and the Loch ess Monster.

ear Madness

arles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-6-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., m; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. On-ng. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a uni-hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-nning play.

ones in His Pocket

inity Repertory Theatre, 201 Washington St., Provi-ce (401-351-4242). www.trinityrep.com. *BTA: Commuter Rail to Providence. Tue., 7pm; Wed., 2 d 8pm; Thu., 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat., 8pm (2pm matinee formances March 1, 22 and 29); Sun., 2 and 7pm. rough April 7. $33-$48.* In this Tony Award–nom-ated comedy, an American movie crew invades an sh village, bringing unexpected drama to the all community both on and off the stage.

Lives

ric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-72). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to ylston. Wed., 2 and 7:30pm ; Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., m; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through April 12. 2-$38.* The Huntington Theatre Company's cholas Martin directs this show about 72-year-old ywright Matt and his lover of 35 years, Howard. ter a five-year drought, Matt's work is once again ing to be produced on Broadway, but his new-und inspiration is quickly diminished by ward's sudden death.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

gamemnon and His Daughters

ingold Theater Center, Mainstage, Brandeis Univer-y, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). ww.brandeis.edu/theater. *Tue.-Sat., 8pm (Thu., am); Sun. 2 and 7pm. April 1-13. $16-$20.* In nneth Cavander's new adaptation of three Greek ys, Agamemnon realizes that in order to pursue war against Troy, he must sacrifice his daughter. is sets in motion a sequence of events that has gic consequences.

ck, Scissors, Paper

ingold Theater Center, Laurie Theater, Brandeis Univer-y, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). Tue.-t., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through March 23. $12-6. Michael Murray directs three one-act plays by andeis students.

CABARET

Boston Sings Boston Redux

Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (800-595-4TIX). March 23, 7pm; March 24-25, 8pm. $23-$25. March is Cabaret Month. Joe Antoun of Centastage presents Sean Roper and Melinda Stanford performing new works by local songwriters, with Tim Evans on piano.

Will & Company

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 28, 8pm. $12. Singer/cabaret impresario Will McMillan hosts this showcase of songs by contemporary songwriters, with B. Irish Tanner and pianist Doug Hammer.

Dance

All Balanchine

Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-695-6955). www.bostonballet.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. March 27-April 6.* Boston Ballet artistic director Mikko Nissinen presents Russian-American choreographer George Balanchine's work in four unique pieces: *Ballo della Regina* with music by Giuseppe Verdi, *Prodigal Son* with music by Sergei Prokofiev, and *Movements for Piano and Orchestra* and *Monumentum pro Gesualdo* with music by Igor Stravinsky.

Hombres Flamencos

Boston Center for the Arts' Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 29 and 30, 3 and 8pm. $35. Brothers Isaac and Nino de los Reyes bring together the intricate footwork, passionate expression and classic tradition of flamenco dancing in a showcase of new material. The brothers celebrate their cultural roots through dance and song with guest artist Alfonso Losa and musicians from Madrid.

New Dances, Ballet Like Never Before

Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cambridge (617-354-7467). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 4pm. Through April 13. $28. Artistic director and choreographer Jose Mateo presents a show of new material in four separate ballets. The classical ballets were choreographed especially for the Sanctuary Theatre, which offers guests intimate table seating so they can closely witness the dancers' movements.

Stomp

Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5 and 9pm; Sun. 3 and 7pm. Through April 20. $45-$55.* In its return to Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Who's Who

Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Through March 23. $28-$68. Russia's contemporary dance company, the Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg, sets its story in the 1920s and addresses immigration and the search for a better life.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

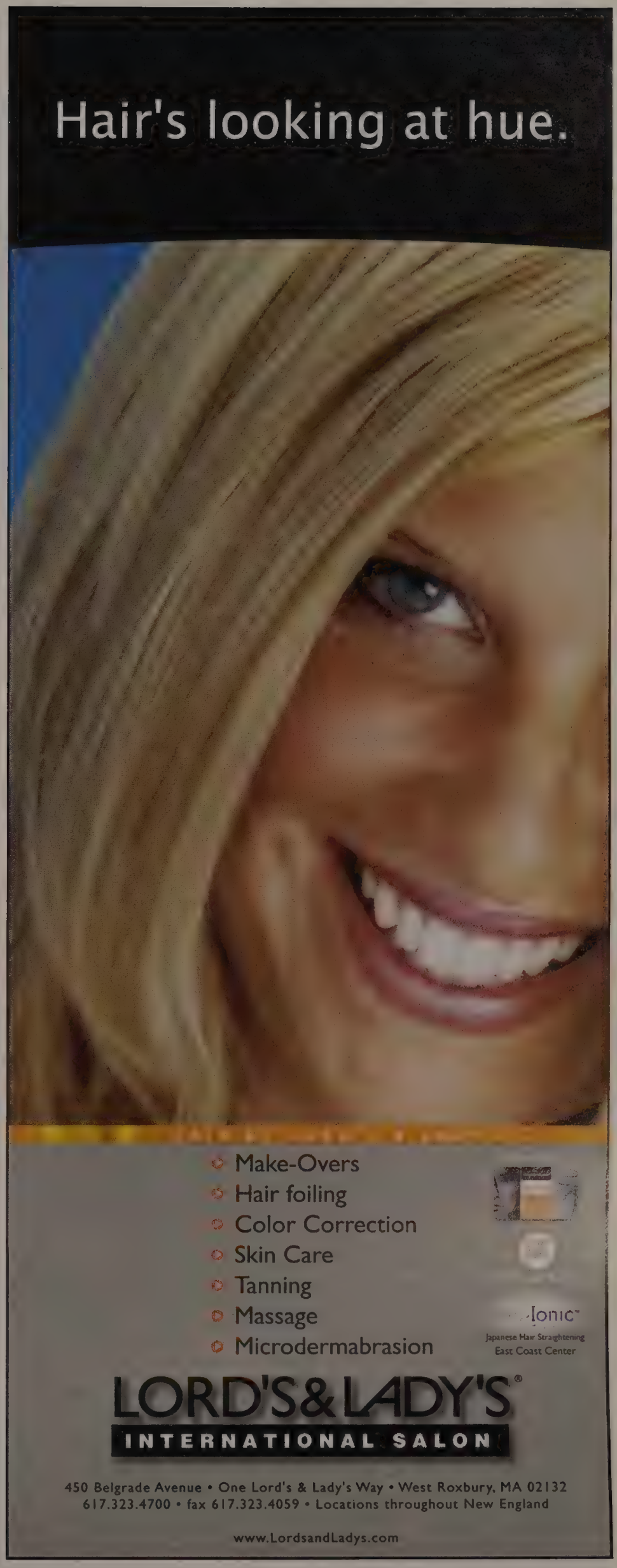
STAND-UP CLUBS

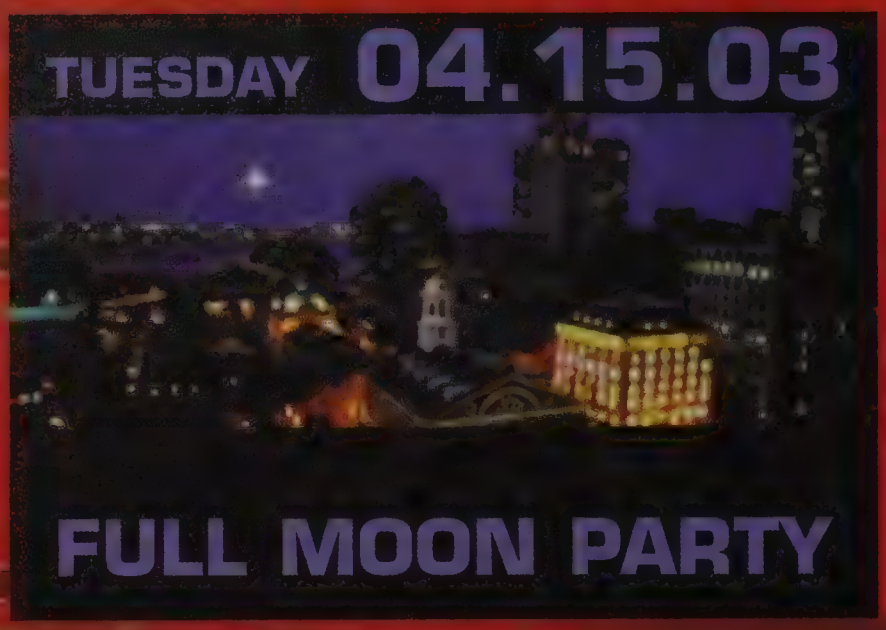
Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $12 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •March 19: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •March 20: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •March 21, 8 and 10:15pm, $30: Dane Cook of Comedy Central •March 22, 8, 10:15pm and 12am, $30: Dane Cook •March 23, 7pm, $28: Dane Cook •March 24: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •March 25: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •March26: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •March 27: Frank Santos, the R-Rated





inside RACK

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Sunday, March [illegible], 6pm

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IN BOSTON: BACK BAY, BEACON HILL, POST OFFICE SQUARE, OUTSIDE BOSTON
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Hypnotist •March 28, 8 and 10:15pm, $26: Steve Sweeney, host of the WZLX-FM morning show •March 29, 6pm, $20; 8 and 10pm, $27: Brian Regan from Showtime •March 30, 7pm, $23.50: Brian Regan •March 31: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •March 19: Tony V., Kelly MacFarland, Mindi Fay, Steve Calechman, Larry Starr, Jen Ruelas, Mandy Donovan, Tom Morello and Stefan Frey •March 20: Evan O'Television, Rev. Tim McIntire, Eric Reuben, Dan Sally, John Bussey, Carolyn Plummer, Tony Moschetto and Deb Farrar-Parkman •March 21: Evan O'Television, sketch comedy troupe Piston Honda with Emily Singer, Eric Riley Moore, Nicole Luparelli, John Bussey and Ira Proctor •March 22: Rich Gustus, Walter Driscoll, Jessica Casiano, Eric Riley Moore and Tissa Hami •March 23: Sam Walters, The Circus Pigs, TJ Grifin, Mindi Fay, Mary Beth Cowan, Peter Dutton, Ben Boime, Erin Judge and Greg Rodrigues •March 26: Tony V., Kelly MacFarland, Mary Beth Cowan, Janet Cormier, Brian Gordon, Eric Riley Moore, Baratunde, Dot Dwyer and Paul Sarkis •March 27: Tim's Mix: Tim McIntire books his favorite comedians •March 28: the Piston Honda Show with Joe Huang, Tissa Hami, Larry Murphy, Dan Sally, Eliane Cohen and Tony Moschetto •March 29: Kelly MacFarland, Deb Farrar-Parkman, Denise Robichau, Alana Devich, Jan Davidson, Carolyn Plummer and Malissa Hunt •March 30: Sam Walters, Steve Calechman, Emily Singer, Dan Sally, Carolyn Plummer, Michelle Peirce, Amanda White and Davey Walsh •April 1: Mystery Lounge featuring Boston's top magicians ($10).

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •March 20, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •March 21, 8:45pm: Brad Mastrangelo, George Hamm and Paul Keenan •March 22, 8:45pm: Chris Zito, George Hamm and Paul Keenan •March 27, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show •March 28, 8:45pm: Ken Rogerson, Tim McIntire and Johnny K •March 29, 8:45pm: Ken Rogerson, Tim McIntire and Johnny K.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. Open mike for creative talent.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

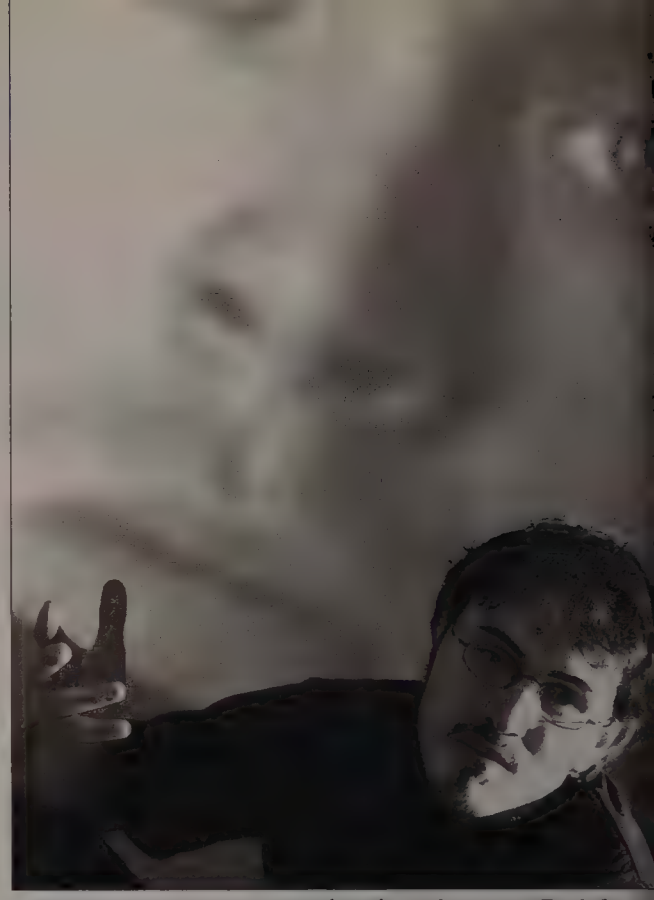
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 and 10pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., 8pm, $12: Micetro; 10pm, $5: The Great and Secret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri., 8pm, $12: The Mysteries of the Universe, Explained; 10pm, $12: TheatreSports. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat. 6pm, $12: ImprovBoston Family Show; 8 and 10pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun. 7pm, $5: Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree. Three shows in one with an open jam.



Company One presents the multimedia performance *Truth & Beauty*, an adrenaline-driven critique of American standards.

COMEDY SHOWS

First Annual Cambridge Fringe Fest

More than 100 men and women from throughout the region will perform standup, sketch and improv comedy at venues across Cambridge. •*March 19, 10pm. The Comedy Studio, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.* The Tony V Show: Enjoy an evening of standup comedy featuring Boston comedians •*March 20, 8-10pm, $10: Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685).* Performances of stand-up comedy followed by the renowned improv troupe Faces4Radio. •*March 20, 10:30pm-12am, $10: ImprovBoston, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge.* The Great & Secret Show features stand-up and sketch comedy about Sasquatch. •*March 21, 10pm: ImprovBoston, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge.* The ImprovBoston improv group will perform a special show for the Cambridge Fringe Fest. •*March 22, 10-11pm: ImprovBoston, 1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge.* Closing ceremonies.

Cavern Club Comedy Series

Hard Rock Cafe, 131 Clarendon St., Boston (617-353-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wednesdays. Cover varies. •March 19 and 26: The Swollen Monkey Showcase, a live improv and sketch comedy act, performs.

International Comedy All-Stars

Boston University, George Sherman Union Conference Auditorium, 775 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-352-9562). MBTA: B Green Line to BU/Central. March 29, 8pm. Free. Experience a modern take on vaudeville with four comedians who have mesmerized audiences in 17 countries.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical or Green Line to Boylston. March 22 and 29, 7:30pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance into Matrix dance club. A spoof on the traditional Italian wedding, this play incorporates impromptu dialogue and audience participation.

Kate Clinton: You Look Like You Could Use a Laugh

Sanders Theater, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 22, 8pm. $22-$26. Twenty-year showbiz veteran Kate Clinton delivers the sharp political and social satire that made her famous and proved that lesbian feminists do have a sense of humor.

Tina Kim's Logic

All Asia, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1543). Thu-Sat, 8pm. March 27-29. $16. Stand up comedienne Tina Kim debuts her solo show on making reasonable decisions. Topics include her karaoke-obsessed parents, being single, losing all sense of morals while on vacation and allowing good-looking people to take advantage of you.

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Movies

BASIC BLAH

There's no pulp in Travolta and Jackson's new fiction

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Rock 'n' roll legend David St. Hubbins truly gave us words to live by when he said in *This Is Spinal Tap* "It's a fine line between stupid and clever." The line isn't all that fine in *Basic*, but rarely has a movie acted so clever while being as stupid as this one is, particularly during its totally unconvincing, annoyingly smug and utterly mystifying twist ending. (I also have never seen a group of reviewers walk out of a screening as confused over a movie's resolution as after *Basic*'s muddled ending.)

The best thing you can say about this thriller, in which John Travolta plays a detective investigating a crime at a military base, is that it's better than the last movie with that premise, the truly sleazy *The General's Daughter*. In this flashback-filled tale, Travolta plays New Orleans DEA agent Tom Hardy, who's asked by an old Army ranger buddy (Timothy Daly) to come to a nearby base and investigate the murder of a hard-nosed drill sergeant (Samuel L. Jackson) during a training exercise gone wrong.

John Travolta, Connie Nielsen and Brian Van Holt star in the new military thriller *Basic*.

Because the training exercise resulted in the deaths of most of the unit, Hardy's old buddy wants to clear up what happened before outside investigators arrive. Hardy has one day to unravel the mystery. He has one survivor who won't talk (Brian Van Holt), another who's in the hospital (Giovanni Ribisi) and the help of the base's inexperienced military investigator (Connie Nielsen).

Not surprisingly, the two survivors offer vastly different accounts of what took place on the training exercise, which, like just about everything here, happens in the rain or in the din of falling raindrops. As they open up to Hardy, who always seems to know what buttons to push in these soldiers, we see flashbacks of Jackson's stern taskmaster tormenting his trainees, and of what happened during the exercise in which members of his unit ended up firing on each other, and at their hated sarge.

The varying accounts initially make *Basic* seem like an updated *Rashomon*. If only. The movie doesn't have the patience or internal logic for that (and it certainly can't touch *Auto Focus*, *Adaptation* or *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* as an entertaining exploration of subjective truth). Instead, *Basic* just becomes more annoying. The flashbacks that replay the same scene in a rain forest hut—each time a different way—become more cartoonish and less interesting, and the "revelations" less credible (even the ones you can see coming). Meanwhile, John "I remade *Rollerball*" McTiernan's direction is downright cheesy, with some of the hospital scenes shot out of focus and the sound effects mixed so high during the flashbacks that you literally cannot understand much of the dialogue.

Which leaves the bone-headed twist ending. I can only guess at what it means, but apparently it's supposed to make most everyone who was involved in the training brouhaha—and then tried to manipulate their way out of it—into a good guy. It works about as well as the *Saturday Night Fever* sequel.

But that's no surprise, considering James Vanderbilt's screenplay piles one twist upon another with machine-like regularity, but without much genuine impact. Nearly everything is a red herring that means zilch, so it's no wonder you end up caring about nothing. The idea behind a twist, especially one of these last-minute megatwists, should be to make an audience say "aha" with realization that the pieces have all come together. This worked in *The Sixth Sense*, *Memento* and *The Others*, but there's no such shared joy in *Basic*.

The ironic thing about *Basic* is that its most important phrase of dialogue is "Tell the story right," something the film itself is unable to do. Worse movies than *Basic* come out just about every week. But it will be some time before another one so misguided hits our screens. **iB**

Basic ★½

Directed by John McTiernan. Written by James Vanderbilt. With John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Connie Nielsen, Brian Van Holt, Giovanni Ribisi, Taye Diggs and Timothy Daly. Rated R. Columbia Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

All the Real Girls ★★★
If you thought movie romance had nothing to do with real life anymore, think again. David Gordon Green's tale of the fits-and-starts relationship of two small-town lovers (Zooey Deschanel, Paul Schneider) is down-to-earth and free of formula. With its dreamy blend of pastoral beauty and harsh industry, the North Carolina mill town where they come together and apart feels part of a world where people fall in love and unwittingly hurt each other and nurse broken hearts and try to figure out what to do next. The natural performance of Deschanel (*Almost Famous*, *The New Guy*) in her first leading role is terrific. (At Kendall Square.)

Amandla!: A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony ★★★
After all those weak 1990s Hollywood dramas set in South Africa (like *Bopha!* and *Cry Freedom*), this documentary about the role of song in South Africa's blacks' civil rights struggle finally gets it right. Lee Hirsch's film is a mix of music, anecdote and political history that's full of insight as well as human joy and suffering. It bogs down a bit in its second half, but this is down-to-earth, living history. (At Harvard Square.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a late Kander-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of this lusty, laugh-filled spoof of the Roaring Twenties, in which a singing star (and murderess), a star wannabe (and murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender of murderesses) all fight for the spotlight and the headlines. Renée Zellweger is the wannabe who discovers murder was a great career move, Catherine Zeta Jones is the singer trying to keep her name alive while in jail and a surprisingly amusing Richard Gere is the up-scale shyster with all the answers. All three know just how to manipulate truth, justice and the American way through performance. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

City of God ★★★½
The title refers to the Rio de Janeiro slum where the action takes place, as God-forsaken a place as you'll ever find. But the movie is as rich as its setting is impoverished. Bold and brutal from start to finish, its dog-eat-dog world and stylistic energy recall *Mean Streets* and *Amores Perros*, as its stories stories criss-cross and bubble into each other, and as 18-year-old hero Rocket (Alexandre Rodrigues) tries to somehow get out of his crime-rocked neighborhood alive. Full of humanity, ambiguity and belligerence, it's a wonderfully orchestrated car crash that you just can't stop watching. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Cradle 2 the Grave ★★
There's 2 many characters, 2 little character development and 2 much rehash in *Romeo Must Die* director Andrzej Bartkowiak's action thriller, which teams one star (Jet Li) and one co-star (DMX) of his earlier movie. Defining moment: Li's big martial arts showdown with the villain takes place within a circle of flames, just like the climax of *Romeo*. 2 bad. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Daredevil ★★
Riddle me this, comic-book moviewatchers. What's the point of meticulously establishing the hows and whys of a person being blinded by chemicals, gaining superhuman powers and becoming a crimefighter, if then practically all the other main characters have superpowers too—but without the trial and tribulation? Kinda kills most of the drama. That's part of the problem with this Marvel adaptation cut from the same troubled-hero cloth as *Batman* and *Spider-Man*. That and the split personality that has the story concentrating on character drama one minute, then shoving a generic, video-like sports training montage at us the next. In trying to be everything to everybody, the movie ends up being practically nothing. As the love interest with a few moves of her own, Jennifer Garner steals the show, though. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Guys ★★★
The first movie to directly deal with the Sept. 11 attacks has an appealing simplicity. It's based on the experiences of writer Anne Nelson, who helped a New York fire captain write the eulogies of several men who died in the World Trade Center. Sigourney Weaver plays the writer here, and Anthony LaPaglia the fire fighter. Most of the movie is just the two of them, with the first asking the second about the dead men he worked with. These scenes are somber yet moving, and never over-the-top. If the movie overreaches emotionally, it's in the scenes of Weaver's character writing at her laptop later on, which seem overwrought, compared with the more effective scenes with LaPaglia. (Opens March 28.)

Laurel Canyon ★★
If I were a director and had the chance to trade up Ally Sheedy for Frances McDormand, I'd do it in a flash. But I don't know if I'd practically remake my Sheedy movie

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with McDormand in it. Here, Lisa Cholodenko rehashes much of the plot of her indie hit *High Art*, in which a naive young woman enters the bohemian circle of an older woman (Sheedy's character). In the writer-director's first film since, the young woman is Kate Beckinsale's post-grad med student, who finds more appeal in her fiancé's free-spirited record-producer mom (McDormand) than in finishing her dissertation after she and the fiancé (Christian Bale) move out west and temporarily bunk with the mother. The retread factor mingles with movie cliches like the doctor who's great at sorting out everyone's life but his own and the parent-child relationship in which the child is the responsible one. McDormand's typically rich performance is the lone bright spot. (At Kendall Square.)

The Life of David Gale ★★

This Texas-set thriller might have been a lot more thrilling with a little less of director Alan Parker's over-the-top treatment. The setup is strong enough to keep the first half involving, with Kate Winslet as an investigative print journalist who's given access to the title character (Kevin Spacey), a former professor and anti-death-penalty activist now on death row for a murder he claims he did not commit. Winslet does well playing an American here, and Spacey does his usual smart-and-smug stuff, but as the movie builds toward its climax it becomes more and more an excuse for Parker's overwrought theatrics. The reactions of Winslet's character become too overemotional for a woman whose hardened objectivity is her main trait (that's the point, but Parker can't pull off her transition), and Parker's maneuvering of the story so that he can stage an opera scene is self-indulgent and just plain silly. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Max ★★★

Writer-director Menno Meyjes offers bracing speculative drama in his story set in Munich following World War I. The title character is Max Rothman (John Cusack), a fictional Jewish art dealer who's embraced the period's modern art. He befriends another war veteran, an aspiring artist—and, it turns out, emerging fascist—named Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor). Terrifically acted by the two leads and full of crisp dialogue, the movie engagingly addresses the relationship between creative expression, happiness and politics. It also offers the intriguing theory that Hitler might not have turned to extreme politics had he succeeded at art. (At Kendall Square and Copley Place.)

Old School ★★½

The laughs are a little spotty, but it's refreshing to see a "rowdy comedy" that's full of genuine characters, and not just male and female caricatures. Luke Wilson, Vince Vaughn and Will Ferrell are the three buddies in a personal and professional downward spiral who end up becoming big *old* men on campus when one moves back into their old college's neighborhood and they end up starting a new fraternity. The three stars all get their laughs, the supporting cast is colorful (from Andy Dick to Craig Kilborn) and the movie never pretends to be more than dumb fun. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Safety of Objects ★★

Rose (*Go Fish*) Troche's latest starts like a whiny, Lifetime cable knockoff of *American Beauty*. Somehow, by the time it's over it's given us a child abduction, a shooting and a mercy killing. But unfortunately, its trip from Point A to Point Z isn't all that thrilling, thanks to its haphazard comedy-drama and its boatload of standard-issue discontented suburbanites. Among them are a lawyer (Dermot Mulroney) who suddenly feels empty when passed over for a partnership, a middle-aged wife and mom (Mary Kay Place) who feels sexually estranged from her husband, and a matriarch (Glenn Close) grieving over her long-comatose son (Joshua Jackson). The film wants to show how we let little things like egos and resentments distract our attention from the big things in life, but it's so overwhelmed by the "big things" in its story that it fails to flesh out its relationships. (At Copley Place and Harvard Square.)

Shanghai Knights ★★★

Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson's latest in the *Shanghai Noon* series is another successor to the Bob Hope and Bing Crosby Road movies. The comedy material is old-school schtick, yet the chemistry between the stars is the real show. This time, the 1880s buddies travel to London to find the sneering aristocrat (Aidan Gillen) who killed Chan's father. They're aided by his high-kicking sister (Fann Wong) as they fight malice in the palace. The movie starts slowly and self-consciously uses 1960s British Invasion songs for the 1880s London action, but Chan and Wilson's camaraderie and the frenetic martial arts scenes make it almost as much fun as its predecessor. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Spider ★★½

David Cronenberg has made plenty of weird and wonderful movies, from *Scanners* to *Naked Lunch*. But his latest is only weird and so-so. He dives into the human psyche again in this London-set story of a mental patient (Ralph Fiennes) who reflects on his childhood through flashbacks in which he's an unseen observer of his doting mother (Miranda Richardson), pub-crawling father (Gabriel Byrne) and his Oedipal 10-year-old self (Bradley Hall). Patrick McGrath's script, based on his novel, visually likens our memories to jigsaw puzzles or spider webs composed of countless, joined pieces—but after getting increasingly involving, the film disappointingly culminates in a resolution that merely says "crazy is as crazy does." (At Coolidge Corner Theatre.)

Spun ★

Phony "edginess," over-the-top performances, indulgent style—in other words, this story of L.A. speed freaks is indie hell. (Opens March 28.)

Mitch (Luke Wilson) and Frank (Will Ferrell) have an encounter with Dean Pritchard (Jeremy Piven), who is scheming to close their fraternity in *Old School*.

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library

Words on Fire: Films Curated by the Boston Jewish Film Festival

•March 24, 6pm. **A Bridge of Books** *2001.* Sam Ball's short film follows a New York University student who begins the movement to preserve Yiddish books in the United States. •Immediately following. **Uncle Chatzkel** *1999.* Director Rod Freedman documents the life of Lithuanian scholar Chatzkel Lemchen, who lived through the Russian Revolution, two world wars, the Holocaust and a Communist regime.

•March 31, 6pm. **The Front** *1976.* Martin Ritt's film is a story of three McCarthy-era blacklisted writers who spend time at a NYC eatery under the noses of the FBI.

Brattle Theatre

Boston Film and Video Foundation's 20th Annual New England Film Festival

•March 27, 7:30pm. **Best of Local Shorts II** *2002.* The Boston Film and Video Foundation presents a program that includes the short features **a.z.** by Tom Szetela, **Go Back to Sleep** by Joseph Douillette, **Observation of Emulsion** by Timothy Kennedy, **What Now?** by Nicholas Weiss, **Vis a Vis** by Dennis H. Miller, **Carpool** by Thomas Bacon, and Lee Isaac Chung's **Love's Philosophy**. •Also showing, 9:30pm. **Funny Ha Ha** *2002.* Andrew Bujalski's film follows a 23-year-old Bostonian through challenges in love and work.

Mondays—Oscar's Oversights

•March 24, 4:15, 7 and 9:45pm. **A Clockwork Orange** *1971.* Stanley Kubrick's graphic exploration of violence follows a group of out-of-control youths who find satisfaction in terrorizing ordinary people. When one of the group members is jailed, he experiences violence in a new light.

•March 31, 5 and 9:45pm. **Psycho** *1960.* In Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller, a woman spends the night in a hotel. Her only companion is the strange innkeeper. •Also showing, 7:15pm. **Vertigo** *1958.* Hitchcock directs this film about a man whose fear of heights creates problems for him, both on the job and in love.

Tuesdays—Fear and Loathing in Hollywood: The Adventures of Terry Gilliam

•March 25, 4:30 and 9:30pm. **The Adventures of Baron Munchausen** *1988.* Monty Python veterans Eric Idle and Gilliam team up again for an epic comedy about the eccentric Baron Munchausen. •Also showing, 7pm. **Time Bandits** *1981.* A young boy encounters various historical figures while accompanying a group of dwarves on their journey. Terry Gilliam directs.

•April 1, 4:15, 7 and 9:45pm. **The Fisher King** *1991.* Jeff Bridges plays a radio DJ who befriends a highly disturbed homeless man (Robin Williams).

Wednesdays—Not Nominated (By the Academy)

•March 19, 5 and 9:45pm. **Sur mes lèvres** *(Read My Lips) 2001.* Director Jacques Audiard's French crime thriller follows Carla, who is almost deaf, and Paul, an ex-convict, as they join forces in an attempt to improve their humdrum lives. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **8 Femmes** *(8 Women) 2002.* In Francois Ozon's musical, Catherine Deneuve portrays one of eight women anxious to discover the truth behind one man's murder.

•March 26, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45pm. **Intacto** *2001.* Juan Carlos Fresnadillo's Spanish thriller follows a Holocaust survivor who has the power to give, take and sell good luck, and the four people who attempt to cheat fate through him.

Thursdays—Special Events

•March 20, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Never Give a Sucker an Even Break** *1940.* This film was W.C. Fields' attempt to voice his own frustrations while trying to make *The Bank Dick*. He portrays a man attempting to pitch a film to Esoteric Studios. Edward F. Cline directs. •Also showing, 7pm. **The Bank Dick** *1940.* W.C. Fields plays a conniver who accidentally catches a bank robber, is hired as a security guard and attempts a money embezzling scheme with one of the bank tellers. W.C. Fields biographer James Curtis introduces the film and is available between screenings to sign copies of his new book on Fields.

Special Engagement

•March 21 and 22, 5, 7:15 and 9:30pm. **King Kong** *1933.* In Merian Cooper and Ernest Schoedstack's classic monster film, an expedition team on a tropical island discovers a giant gorilla with a thing for their attractive blonde friend.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Boston Film•Video Foundation's 20th Annual New England Film Festival

•March 24, 7:30pm. **When Stand Up Stood Out** *2003.* Fran Solomita documents the generation of provocative comedians who emerged during the 1980s through interviews, original news reports and unseen footage. •Also showing, 9:30pm. **Best of Local Shorts I** *2002.* This program includes the short features **Tunanooda** by David Zackin, **Fanfare for Higher Education** by Ryan Bilsborrow-Koo **Birdbeat** by Geoff Adams, **Happy Peppy Spark Doggy** by Robert Todd, **Current Events** by Davi Ehrlich, **Cell Phones & Action Figures** by Jos Mitchell and **By Any Other** by Patrick Ryan an Derek Frank.

•March 25, 7:30pm. **Untitled (Rick Frank, Nola Hart, John Allen)** *2001.* Ethan Mayer Smith direct a film about three men in their early 20s struggli with their individual descents into dissatisfaction

•Immediately following, **Our Former Glory** *2002* Director Robert Todd suggests a parallelism be tween mass production and the impersonal archi tecture that defines America's culture through im ages of objects left to rot along the Brookly Promenade, which overlooks the former site of th World Trade Center. •Immediately following **Imagining Robert: My Brother, Madness and Sur vival** *2002.* Lawrence R. Hott tells the story of tw brothers, one who has suffered from mental illnes for the past 38 years, and the other a prize-winnin novelist. •Also showing, 9:30pm. **In the Gam** *2002.* Leigh Dana Jackson's film follows the journe of Jeff Jackson, a middle-class black teenager an high school basketball player from Boston who ha been recruited to play Division I ball in the NCAA

•Immediately following. **Papous** *2002.* A grandfa ther reminisces to his granddaughter during a vaca tion to Northern Greece. Directed by Fani Behrak

•Immediately following. **From Russia, My Lov** *2002.* Director Tatyana Yablonovskaya examine the search for happiness and companionshi through the modern Russian and Ukrainian mai order bride industry.

•March 28, 12am. **Little Erin Merryweather** *200* A college student whose father was killed by a wo while he read *Little Red Riding Hood* to her as a chil seeks revenge by killing her fellow coeds. Micha Civille directs.

Coolidge Selects

•Opens March 28. **Nowhere in Africa** *2002.* Direct Caroline Link's film follows a Jewish German family escape to Kenya before the commencement of Worl War II and their struggles to adjust in a new continen

•Now playing. **Spider** *2003.* David Cronenberg's la est film features a mental patient reflecting on h childhood. (See New Releases for description.)

The Found Footage Film Festival 3

•March 28, 7:30pm. **Magic Star Travelers** is a tribu to disturbing children's programming, includin frightening puppets and creepy cartoons. •Also sho ing, 9:30pm. **Whoops, Apocalypse!** includes prophet visions of the end of the Christian world. •Also sho ing, 12am. **Best of A/V Geeks** is a sampling of t Coolidge's unique film library. •Immediately follo ing, **Moments with Dora** features unexplainable ar unnecessary musical moments in television and mov history. •Immediately following. **Best of A/V Geeks** features more obscure footage from the archives. •Ir mediately following. **Kiddie Mindwarp** is a collection shorts designed to warp little minds.

•March 28, 7:30pm. **Moments with Dora 2**, a sequel the popular first edition. •Also showing, 9:30p **Hell's Highway: The True Story of Highway Safety Filr**

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2002. Bret Wood's documentary includes gruesome clips from classic highway safety classroom films and interviews with the original filmmakers.

Midnight Movies–Modern Cult Classics

•March 21, 22, 28 and 29, 12am. **Donnie Darko** *2001.* Jake Gyllenhaal plays high schooler Donnie, whose visions of a giant evil rabbit lead him to commit random acts of violence. Directed by Richard Kelly II.

•March 22, 12am. **Let Me Die a Woman** *1978.* Director Doris Wishman documents the work of sex-change specialist Dr. Leo Wollman, including interviews with the doctor and his patients.

Fenway 13 Theatre

Midnights

•March 21 and 22, 12am. **Die Hard** *1988.* In the first of John McTiernan's *Die Hard* series, Bruce Willis plays a tough New York cop who fends off terrorists.

•March 28 and 29, 12am. **Tommy Boy** *1995.* Chris Farley stars as a dimwitted heir to an auto parts factory who must save the company from his evil stepmother. Peter Segal directs.

Harvard Film Archive

Boston Film•Video Foundation 20th Annual New England Film Festival

•March 26, 7pm. **Being Human** *2002.* A group of English human rights activists campaigns for the right to be naked in public in this documentary by Lisa Seidenberg. •Immediately following. **Orphans of Mathare** *2002.* Documentary filmmakers Randy Bell and Pacho Velez follow several children who are either runaways from abusive homes or orphaned by AIDS and who now reside at Nairobi's Good Samaritan Children's Home. •Also showing, 9pm. **Loaded Fun: Life and Death and Dickinson** *2002.* Jim Wolpaw's documentary follows a filmmaker's semi-serious quest for an actress to portray poet Emily Dickinson. Wolpaw and fellow filmmaker Steve Gentile speak following the screening.

Close Encounters

•April 1, 7pm. **At Long Last Love** *1975.* Burt Reynolds and Cybill Shepherd star as a couple in love in director Peter Bogdanovich's elaborate tribute to 1930s Hollywood musicals.

Directors in Focus: The Films of Sarunas Bartas

•March 21, 7pm and March 23, 9:15pm. **Laisve** (*Freedom*) *2001.* The Coast Guard open fire on a passenger boat when they are unable to distinguish the drug couriers from the refugees.

•March 21, 9:15pm and March 25, 7pm. **Trys Dienos** (*Three Days*) *1991.* In Bartas' first feature film, two men travel from their native village to Kaliningrad, the remains of Prussian Konigsberg, where they meet a young woman. •Immediately following, **Praejusius Dienos Atminimui** (*In Memory of a Day Gone By*) *1990.* Bartas' documentary companion piece to *Three Days* examines the idea of the city, its creation by nature, and its role as home to the loneliest and the most joyous people.

•March 22, 7pm and March 24, 9pm. **The House** *1997.* Bartas' nearly wordless film is a surreal look into the lives of the residents of an imposing European country manor.

•March 22, 9:15pm and March 24, 7pm. **Koridorius** (*The Corridor*) *1994.* The director's second feature looks at the melancholy dwellers of a dilapidated Lithuanian apartment building through their memory fragments, experiences and chance events.

•March 23, 7pm and March 25, 9:15pm. **Few of Us** *1996.* A young woman arrives in a Siberian village and spends wordless days with the stoic and silent villagers before having a dangerous encounter.

Directors in Focus: Gregory J. Markopoulos: Toward the Temenos

•March 28, 7pm. **Psyche** *1947.* Made while the director was a student at the University of Southern California, the film was inspired by an unfinished novella by French poet and novelist Pierre Louys. •Immediately following, **Twice a Man** *1963.* This short feature is a contemporary interpretation of the myth of Hippolytus, in which a chaste boy rejects the sexual advances of his mother. •Immediately following, **Ming Green** *1966.* This seven-minute film featuring Markopoulos' apartment is dedicated to fellow filmmaker Stan Brakhage.

•March 29, 7pm. **Himself as Herself** *1967.* Loosely based on Balzac's *Séraphita*, this film is a plotless interior study of gender identity. •Immediately following, **Through a Lens Brightly: Mark Turbyfill** *1967.* Markopoulos uses paintings and photographs to create a film portrait of dancer and poet Mark Turbyfill.

•March 30, 7pm. **Bliss** *1967.* This six-minute feature about Hydra's Church of St. John was shot in two days. •Immediately following, **The Illiac Passion** *1964-67.* Andy Warhol, Taylor Mead and many of the director's other artist friends appear in this film, which is based on Percy Bysshe Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*.

•March 31, 7pm. **Galaxie** *1966.* Markopoulos used portraits of 33 1960s artists, including W.H. Auden, Jasper Johns, Erick Hawkins and Susan Sontag in this film. •Immediately following, **Political Portraits** *1969.* This film features portraits of people the director encountered in Europe in the late 1960s, including dancer Rudolf Nureyev. •Immediately following, **Sorrows** *1969.* This six-minute feature set to the music of Beethoven portrays the Swiss chateau that King Ludwig II built for Wagner.

DMX and Gabrielle Union star in Andrzej Bartkowiak's action thriller *Cradle 2 the Grave.*

Museum of Fine Arts

Black Maria Film and Video Festival

•March 27, 5:30pm. This nationally-touring annual festival has been exhibiting films by inspired independent directors since 1981. This year's short features include **Pink Socks** by Leighton Pierce, **Golden Gums** by Matt Wolf, **Burn** by Reynold Reynolds and Patrick Jolley, **Seasons...** by Stan Brakhage with Phil Solomon, **Afterlife** by Karen Aqua, **Kinetic Sandwich** by Eric Dyer, **State of the Union** by Bryan Boyce, **Dreamscapes** by Sean McBride, **The Penguins and the Mice** by Tim Szetela, **1:1**, by Richard Reeves, **Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness** by Tiffany Shalin, and **A Conservation with Harris** by Sheila Sofian.

Boston Film•Video Foundation 20th Annual New England Film Festival

•March 28, 6pm. **Bootfly** *2002.* In Lisa Haber-Thomson's short feature, a girl wants to read her book and her cat wants to get outside. •Immediately following, **Ocean Waves** *2002.* Cristina A. Kotz Cornejo's dark comedy features two corporate employees discussing race, class, gender, and sex. •Immediately following, **Playing House** *2003.* Jane Gray documents five girls during their first year away from home at boarding school. •Also showing, 8pm. **The Perfect Gooseys** *2002.* Andrew Mudge directs this look at the relationship between an elite private school and the janitor's family. •Immediately following, **Little Hearts** *2002.* Three children becomes friends over the course of a summer in Stephen Maing's short feature. •Immediately following, **Black Flowers** *2002.* Bettina Broglia's film studies the history of the tango.

•March 29, 5:30pm. **Viva La Magnetic North** *2002.* Documentary filmmaker Matt Faherty contrasts the Zoozobra Burning Man Festival in New Mexico with an extremist Christian organization that protests the pagan-like festival and its celebration of the burning of Old Man Gloom. •Immediately following, **Den of Tigers** *2002.* Jonathan Schwartz documents his experiences traveling in West Bengal, India, while on location to record sound for a friend's film. •Also showing, March 29, 7:30pm. **The Same River Twice** *2003.* Director and former river guide Robb Moss explores the passage of time and the making of personal life choices by cutting images of a month-long river-rafting trip shot 25 years ago with the current lives of five of the river guides.

Engagements

•March 20, 7:30pm; March 21 and 27, 7:45pm; March 26, 4pm; March 29, 12:15pm; March 30, 2:30, 5 and 7:30pm. **Amen** *2002.* Costa-Gavras' film is the story of a real-life chemist and SS officer in Germany who tried to notify the world of the Holocaust during World War II.

•March 26, 8pm; March 29, 3pm. **The Burning Wall** *2002.* Director Hava Kohav Beller's documentary explores the lives of resisters in totalitarian nations through interviews with former East German dissenters and secret police.

A Kalahari Family: 50 Years on Film

•March 20, 5:30pm; March 22, 10:30am; March 29, 10:30am. **Part One: A Far Country** *2002.* In 1951, ethnographic filmmaker John Marshall and his family went to the Kalahari Desert to study the Ju/'hoansi, the last independent hunter-gatherers in southern Africa. The film follows the early part of what became a 50-year relationship between the Marshalls and the Ju/'hoansi.

•March 21, 5:40pm; March 22, 12:15pm; March 30, 10:30am. **Part Two: End of the Road** *2002.* In 1978 John Marshall is reunited with members of the Ju/'hoansi who have settled at an impoverished administrative post •Immediately following. **Part Three: Real Water** *2002.* Fledgling farming communities are threatened by a government agency's attempts to start a tourist game reservation on their lands.

•March 22, 2:15pm. **Part Four: Standing Tall** *2002.* The Ju/'hoansi people's legal claim to their traditional lands is questioned when South West Africa moves toward becoming the independent nation of Namibia in 1989.

•March 22, 3:30pm; March 30, 12:45pm. **Part Five: Death by Myth** *2002.* Lured in by promises of great wealth, the Ju/'hoansi allow the gaming reservation to be developed on their lands only for it to turn to financial disaster.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through March 30. **Mysteries of Egypt**. Travel back to the times of pharaohs and pyramids to experience the customs and culture of ancient Egyptian civilization. Call for show times.

•Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of their remarkable journey, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through April 10. **Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man**. Filmed on location at several natural and historical landmarks around the world, each stage of life from birth to maturity is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. Call for show times.

•Through April 10. **Ocean Wonderland 3D.** Explore the beautiful diversity of the marine life on the world's reefs and the many varieties of coral that call the "rainforests of the oceans" their home. The dangers threatening to destroy the world's coral reefs, which act as an important food source for hundreds of millions of people, are also illustrated. Though they occupy less than one tenth of one percent of the world's oceans, the reefs are necessary for fisheries, coastal protection, tourism and wildlife.

•Through June 30. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast that unique mammals and other sea life call home. Call for showtimes.

•Through June 30. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into the earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to the Equator, with a special focus on education and environmental awareness. Call for show times.

•Through June 30. **Space Station 3D**. Blast off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome, and rendezvous with the International Space Station in orbit 220 miles above Earth. Call for show times.

Wang Center

Classic Film Series

•March 31, 7pm. **The Bridge on the River Kwai** *1957.* In David Lean's Academy Award–winning epic, a group of British soldiers is forced by their Japanese captors to build a railway bridge during World War II.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

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214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film and Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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Advice by George:

"Why does the Air Force need expensive new bombers? Have the people we've been bombing over the years been complaining."

— George Wallace

Coming March 2003

KENTUCKY-GROWN

Sam Bush continues to stretch beyond his bluegrass roots to find his historic place in music

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Sam Bush relates to Forrest Gump, casually finding himself in historic situations, only with a mandolin or fiddle in his hands.

Take Bush's three Grammy Awards. The latest was for playing on the 2002 Record of the Year, the soundtrack to the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* The others were for Best Country Vocal Group Performance with Emmylou Harris' Nash Ramblers, a band he played with for five years, and Best Pop Instrumental for a track off the Bela Fleck & the Flecktones album *Live Art*.

"My wife says, 'He Forrest Gumped his way into that one,'" says Bush, who has also recorded with Lyle Lovett, Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood and Steve Earle during his journey through a country/bluegrass world that sometimes crosses into the mainstream, as the *O Brother* soundtrack did.

"It just upped the awareness for a lot of people who played acoustic music," he says of that Grammy-winning soundtrack.

But of course Bush would never have been on that *O Brother* CD or worked with Fleck (who joined Bush's New Grass Revival for nine years through the '80s) or Harris if it wasn't for his reputation as a virtuoso instrumentalist.

Sam Bush puts his own spin on bluegrass—his band includes a drummer but no banjo player.

Now he's exploring his own voice with the Sam Bush Band, which is bound to touch on jazz, rock, gospel, reggae, pop and country when it hits the Somerville Theatre March 30.

"This is not a bluegrass band per se—right off the bat, we have a drummer and we don't have a banjo player," Bush says of his group, which includes upright/electric bassist Byron House, drummer Chris Brown and guitarist Brad Davis. "It goes back to the days when I was starting up New Grass Revival. Old-timers would come up to us and say, 'That's not bluegrass,' and we'd go, 'Yeah, we know.' Even when we had bluegrass instrumentation [in that quartet], I never felt we were a strict bluegrass band. But certainly the influence was there."

"If anyone wants to call me a bluegrass musician, I feel flattered," says Bush, 50. "Bluegrass is as technically challenging as any other kind of music I've ever played, although it comes natural to me."

Maybe it helps to grow up in rural Kentucky, just 55 miles north of Nashville, with a father who played mandolin and fiddle. "My parents were farm people," Bush says, "but my dad, once he saw that I had musical abilities, he very much encouraged me to get off the farm and play music."

"I had the advantage of watching Nashville television," he adds by phone from a studio in that Tennessee capital, where his band is working on a new CD. "I had no idea of the education I was getting at the time. It was as if I had my own homespun videos to watch the musicians' fingers work. I used to get to see [mandolin icon] Bill Monroe on TV, never realizing that people on the West Coast never saw him."

Bush began playing mandolin at age 11, then took up the fiddle at age 13, and won national championships on the latter instrument at ages 15, 16 and 17. He encountered listeners who didn't believe he was only 17 when he made his recording debut with a band called Poor Richard's Almanac. "When we started sending [the record] around, they didn't believe the kid from Kentucky had played on it," he says.

In addition to mandolin and fiddle, Bush also plays guitar, going back to his years fronting high-school rock bands through the late '60s. "If I wanted to play with people my own age, it was in rock bands," he says, "and then, when I played bluegrass with people, I was always way younger than everybody else. Now I'm always older than everybody else!"

The age of Bush's audiences still varies from venue to venue, though he sees a lot of the college-age jam-band crowd that follows his buddy Fleck, whose Flecktones hit the Orpheum April 9. "It really helps to have a young audience," Bush says. "Some people, when they get to be a certain age, they just don't want to go out."

Some older fans catch up with Bush at gatherings like Colorado's Telluride Bluegrass Festival, where he will play his 29th consecutive year in June, and where he recorded his recent live disc *Ice Caps: Peaks of Telluride*.

"The first time we went there, it was like we found a bunch of people just like us," says Bush, who remains a discovery for some. "There are still people out there who are going to hear us for the first time, and I love a first impression." iB

The Sam Bush Band

plays the Somerville Theatre March 30.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers

Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

The Bobs
March 29, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)

The Sam Bush Band and Railroad Earth
March 30, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)

Calexico
March 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Guy Clark, Joe Ely, John Hiatt and Lyle Lovett
March 28, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

The Damn Personals and Waltham
March 28, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Dick Fox's All Star Doo Wop with the Del-Vikings
March 30, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)

Macy Gray
March 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Leo Kottke
March 28, Sanders Theatre (617-496-2222)

Lunasa
March 22, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)

Edwin McCain
March 27, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).

Kelly Osbourne and Har Mar Superstar
March 29, Axis (617-423-NEXT)

Particle
March 29, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Preservation Hall Jazz Band
March 28, Symphony Hall, (617-582-6661)

Rusted Root
March 31 and April 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Shankar with Zakir Hussain and Ginger
March 21, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)

The Soundtrack of Our Lives
March 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Strangefolk and Three Percent
March 22, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

The Streets
March 20, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Susan Tedeschi and Aubrey Ghent
March 29, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Chucho Valdés
March 30, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)

Zwan
March 27, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Abbey Lounge The Goodbyes, Anushka Pop and Bender X.

The Black Rose Eugene Byrne, 9pm.

Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.

The Burren Dan Isaacson and Dave Corey CD release show, 9pm.

Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.

Club Passim Jez Lowe and Freddie White, 8pm, $12.

Coogan's Chad, 10pm, 21+.

Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.

Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm.

The French Library and Cultural Center Ecole Bilingue, 8pm.

The Good Life Cambridge The Inbetweens, 9:30pm, no cover.

The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm, no cover.

Johnny D's Los Diablos and the Johnson Boys, 8:30pm, $2.

Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.

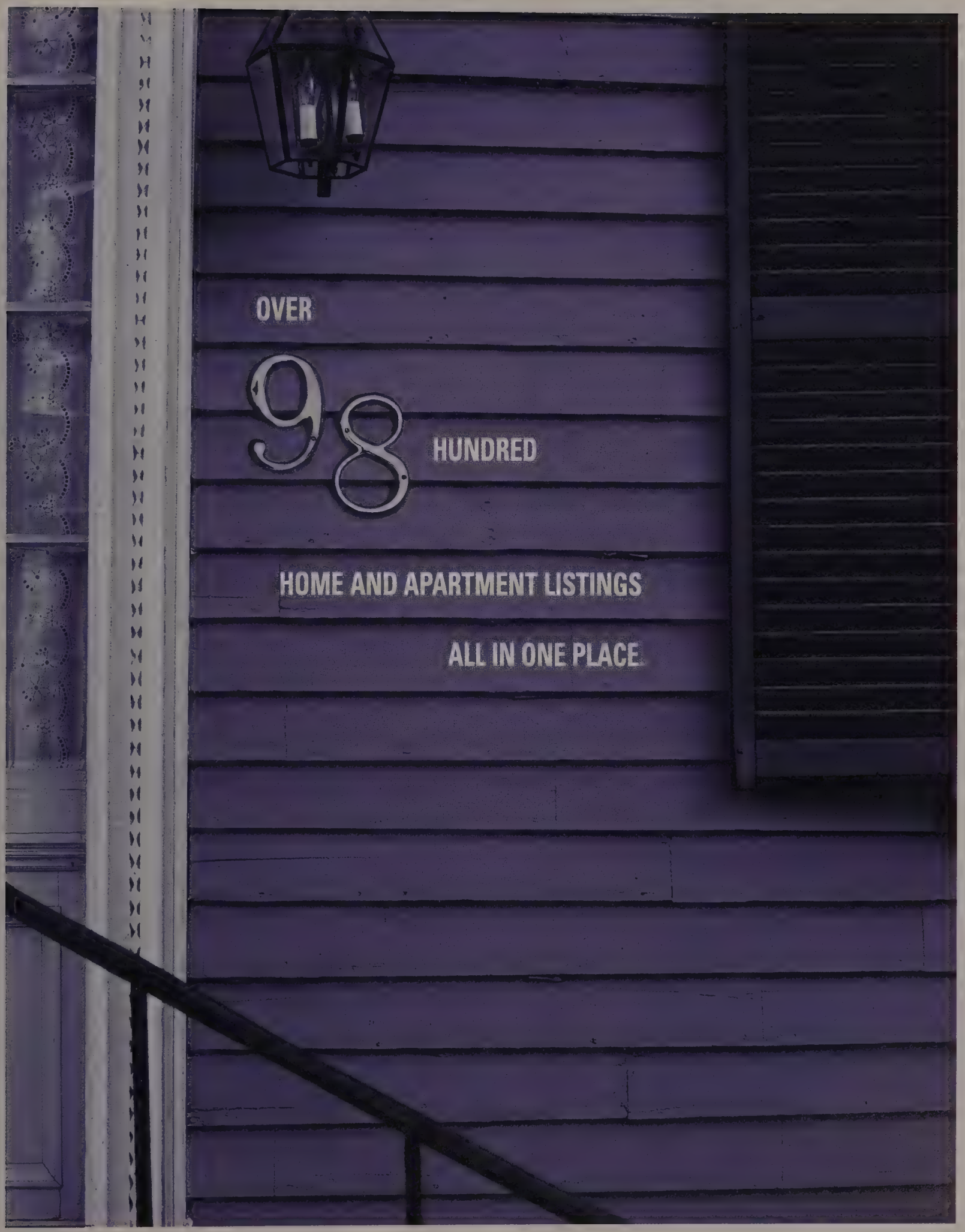
Kendall Café Casey Adams, Brian Claflin and Sam Bigelow, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.

Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffey, 7pm.

Limbo Marlene Jazz Trio.

Lizard Lounge Chandler Travis Philharmonic, 8:30pm, no cover.

Lucky's Lounge Greg Luttrel, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.



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Middle East Upstairs: Hip Tanaka, 8pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: MassConcerts presents Elliott, Matt Pond PA, Car Crash Show and Breaking Pangaea, 8pm, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café The Matt Chase Band.
Paradise Macy Gray, 7pm, $25, 18+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10pm.
Regattabar Panorama Calypso & Soca Ensemble 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Shimon Ben-Shir Group, 8:30pm, $9.
Scullers Melissa Walker, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar The Spoilers, the Nebulas and the Phantom Creeps, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Dave Foley.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Bellrays, Runner & the Thermodynamics and the Secret Channel, $8.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Fred Woodard, 8pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Abbey Lounge Henry, 11:30pm, $5, 21+.
Asgard Brogue.
Bill's Bar Mappari.
Black Horse Tavern Bruce Marshall, 7pm.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren The Swinging Johnsons, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Groovelily, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Traxx, 7:20pm no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callanan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Issi Rosen, 9:30pm no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Inspector Gadget 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Suspect, Tar Beach and Rich Price, 8pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Aaron Katz, Amun-Ra, 10pm, $10, 18+.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm, $5.
Johnny D's Zemog, 9pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café McGowan, Tom Glynn and Incidental Bliss, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 8pm.
Kinsale Celtic Clan
Kirkland Café 3 Toad Sloth, Natural Toy and Tiger Method, $5.
Limbo Jonathan Singleton Trio.
Lizard Lounge Sam Shaber with Pamela Means and Trina Hamlin, 9pm, $12, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Ray Greene, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Burning Paris, Kimone, Alienist Outfit and Arrifaux, 8pm, $9, 21+. Downstairs: Trauma Concept, Clutch Grabwell, 16 Years of Grace, Sweatpant Boners and Stranglehold, 8pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Board of Education, 10pm, no cover. Zuzu: Bourbon Princess, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Cancer to the Stars, Clones Don't Have Belly Buttons, Pagoda Red and My Own Worst Enemy, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Paradise The Streets, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Dick 'n' Jane, 10pm, cover varies.
Plough and Stars Typhoon Ferri, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack Sugarfoot Horns, 6:30-10:30pm; DJ Ricky, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Boston Latin Band CD release show, 8:30pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Temporada Latina, 8:30pm.
Scullers Stanley Jordan, 8 and 10pm, $18.
Sky Bar Aura Phase, Flors Fina, Kevin MacDonald Band, 9pm, $, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sugarman Three, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Abbey Lounge The Konks, the Curses and Ghetto Thunder.
Asgard Jack Shanahan.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30- 9pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm, no cover.
The Attic Jiggle the Handle, 8pm, $7, 21+.
Axis Hot Rod Circuit.
Big Easy Bar Joe Rockstar, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Favorite Atomic Hero and Elgin James and the Suicide Gang.
Black Horse Tavern Professor Harp, 9pm.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Inchicore, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's In the House, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren The Well, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: The Reaganomics, 9pm, 21+, cover varies.
Club Passim Teddy Goldstein and the Goldsteins, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Felonious Funk, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Borderland, 9:30pm, no cover
Grand Canal Maxi, 5pm; Syndicate, 7pm.
The Green Briar Infractions.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scooby Snax.
The Harp Peatmoss & the Fertilizers.
Harper's Ferry Luther Wright and the Wrongs and Hard Raisin, 8pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5pm; Six Shot Brody.
House of Blues Jeff Pitchell, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Jake Ivory's Dueling Pianos, 7:30pm, $8.
Johnny D's Lovewhip, 9:45pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Rory Merritt Stitt and Jody Blackwell, Buddahead, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.

The boys of Elcodrive bring their catchy pop anthems to the Paradise Rock Club March 28.

Preview

Tale of an Accidental Pop Band

Chance and kismet conspire to form Elcodrive

When Elcodrive became a band, it was news to Mike Golarz. Now the band's lead singer and guitarist, the former Something Ira frontman had made some home recordings for fun with guitarist Mike Courcy of the popular Boston-area band Bob's Day Off. Neither was looking to join, let alone start, a new outfit. But one day Golarz got a call from Scott Riebling, Letters to Cleo bassist and a touted local producer. As Golarz recalls it, "Scott said, 'I like the new band.' I said, 'What new band?' There's a lot of Scott involved with Elcodrive. He got involved and said, 'This band is going to be a band.'" The lineup is filled out by drummer Bill Bassett and bassist Tom Smith, both former members of Bob's Day Off.

Riebling, who had worked separately with Something Ira and Bob's Day Off, brought Elcodrive to the attention of Boston-based label XOFF Records. XOFF signed the band shortly after hearing their self-produced demo. With only a handful of bands on the label, XOFF acts as a finishing school of sorts for local acts that have what it takes to break on a national scale. The band, rife with infectious pop potential but still in its infancy, and the label, which has the time and resources to properly develop a fledgling act, seemed a perfect pairing.

Nearly a year and a half has passed since Riebling coaxed the members of Elcodrive together. Now the band is amassing a following in New England and packing clubs in Southern Massachusetts, where the band members currently live. Recently their single "Tonight" placed second out of more than 7,000 entries in the Pop/Top 40 category of the International Songwriting Competition, earning Elcodrive a slot on a forthcoming compilation. Elcodrive's debut album, *Somewhere Between Now and Then*, arrived in local record stores at the end of February. Produced and engineered by Riebling, it's a solid collection of no-frills pop tunes strewn with careening hooks and memorable choruses—the type of radio-friendly anthems that will likely inspire many a shower crooner.

After a whirlwind year of writing, recording, rehearsing, and performing, the band members only recently had the opportunity to take a step back and view their creation in its entirety. Golarz recalls the moment when it truly sank in that the band was, well, a band. "We were in the van on our way up to Boston and listened to the album for the first time, front to back. We looked at each other and said, 'Hey, that's pretty good.' The hard work paid off. Even if it doesn't do anything, I'm proud of it." *March 28, Paradise Rock Club, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). 9pm, $10.—Dan Schulman*

Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 5pm; Frida Episode, 9pm.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment
The Kinvara Undercover.
Kirkland Café Reckless Daughter, Kieran Ridge Rollo Romasi Quartet and the Mickey Bliss Orga Combo, $5.
Limbo Eula Lawrence.
Lizard Lounge Fooled by April, Baby Strange an Scamper, 9pm, $7, 21+
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, n cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Joan of Arc, Love of Every thing and Certainly Sir, 8pm, $9, 18+. Downstair Brian Jonestown Massacre, Mistle Thrush and Quic Fix, 8pm, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Johnnie Spaceman Theremin Madness, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Neptune, the Saux, Nora Keye Theme, Darcy and So No Sin.
Milky Way Carla Ryder, Amy Fairchild and Now Now, 9pm, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quarte 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Calexico, 8pm, $13.50, 18+.
Parris The Catunes, 10pm, cover varies.
Pa's 23 Skeedoo, Crash Alchemist and Travel fo Days, $5-$7, 21+.
Plough and Stars Three Day Threshold and Fa ther Grundy CD-release party, 9pm, cover varies 21+.
Purple Shamrock Felix Brown, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6:15-10:45pm, n cover, 21+.
Regattabar Los Hombres Calientes with Irvi Mayfield and Bill Summers, 7:30 and 10pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Eguie Castrillo Group, 9pm $10.
Sanders Theatre Shankar with Zakir Hussai and Ginger, 8pm, $20-$40.
Scullers Stanley Jordan, 8 and 10:30pm, $18.
Sky Bar Memphis Raines, Riverside Train, Cata pult and Coby Carlucci and Tractor Trailer, 9pm, $5 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
TK's Jazz Cafe Michael Shea Quartet, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group, 9pm, n cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Wesley Willis, Angr Atom, the Beatings and Lost Pilot, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Abbey Lounge USM, the Dents and Bamboo Kid
Asgard Sunset.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm, Gila Barken, 9pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Joe Rockstar, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Groove Authority, 9pm.
The Black Rose After work party with Kevi Byrne, 5pm. Upstairs: Inchicore, 9pm, $5, 21+ Downstairs: Eugene Byrne, 9pm, $5, 21.
Bob the Chef's Tall Richards, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Shirley Lewis, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Brian Templeton an the Templetones, 9pm, 21+. Downstairs: Th Reaganomics, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Grey Eye Glances, 7pm, $18.
Dick's Last Resort Velvet Jones, 8:30pm.
The Druid Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The No Way Jos Band, 9:30pm no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Amanda Baisinge 9:30pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Pig Pen.
The Green Briar Unlucky.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swingin Johnsons.
The Harp Peat Moss & the Fertilizers.
Harper's Ferry Rock Bottom, No Bozos, 8pm $8, 21+.
House of Blues The Prodigal, 10pm $12, 21+.
The Independent Tim Gearan, 10pm, no cover
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Johnny D's Nicole Nelson, 9:45pm, $7.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Ethan Bassey, Jeff Harris Band an Two Cow Garage, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Velvet Jones, 9pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café The Deal and Molly Black Rumble, $5.
Limbo King James Bigelow.
Lizard Lounge The Ray Corvair Trio, 9pm, $ 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Deathray Davies and Tig Mountain, 8pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Rocket Fro

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the Crypt, Sonny Vincent and the Spits, 8pm, $13, 18+. Corner: The Sam Cooper Group, 10pm.
Midway Café Tricky Betty and the Dave Roache Band.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Strangefolk and Three Percent, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Parris The Catunes, 10pm, cover varies.
Pa's Straitjacket, Motokops 2000, Mekanizm, $5-$7, 21+.
Plough and Stars The Bag Boys, 5-7pm, cover varies, 21+; One Thin Dime, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Los Hombres Calientes with Irvin Mayfield and Bill Summers, 7:30 and 10pm, $20.
Regent Theatre Evolution Concert with Henry Morgan and the High Grass Boys, Suicidal Poets, R&R, Dow Jones and the Industrials, Trailer Trash, Ripe and JDA, 7pm, $15.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12. Downstairs: Teresa Ines Group, 9pm, $12.
Scullers Stanley Jordan, 8 and 10:30pm, $18.
Sky Bar IIJ, Slycee Jenkins, The Bell Jars and Acquiesce, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Lunasa, 8pm, $20-$25.
Tír na nÓg Jefferson Davis.
TK's Jazz Cafe Mark Greel, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub The Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Datsuns, the Sights, the Casanovas and the Spaceshots, $12.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Wanetta Jackson, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8pm, $5, 21+.
The Black Rose After work party with Kevin Byrne, 5pm; Eugene Byrne, 9pm.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Shimon Ben-Shir Group, 10:30-3pm. $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Singer/songwriter series with Danielle, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge Jazz Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Rose Polenzani and Karaugh Brown, 7:30pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining, 10am-3pm; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm.
Forsyth Chapel A Cappella: The Variasians and the Golden Overtones, 4:pm, $10
The Good Life Cambridge The Hot Spot, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords and Finbar. Doyle.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry Gaffney, 8pm $4, 21+.
House of Blues The Prodigals, 7pm, $10, all ages.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30pm; salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6:30pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Stripdown Sundays with Eric Barlow, Jake Brennan, Sarah Borges, John Powhida, Paul Natale, Brett Rosenberg, Brian McElroy, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Bob Log III, Bebe and Serge and Drunkhorse, 8pm, $9, 18+.
Midway Café Almost Speech Less.
M. J. O'Connor's Mike Barrett, 8pm.
Museum of Fine Arts Emeline Michel, 3pm, $24.
Paradise The Soundtrack of Our Lives, 7pm, $16.
Plough and Stars Twilight Ranchers and the Young Ones, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Lincoln Conspiracy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch, 10am-3pm.
Sky Bar Product, Broken Madison and Gran Fury, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm; Marshall Wood Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Bonfire Madigan, Thalia Zedek and Tiger Saw $8.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday with King Bazo blues jam, 7pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Auditory Disfunction, Spyndakit, Bewkenheimer and Superkollider.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Singer/songwriter open mike, 8pm; Seth Horan, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzalez, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Sessuin.
Harper's Ferry Alicia Champion CD-release show, 8pm, $4, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Hillbilly night with the Alan Kaufman Family Band, 8pm, $5.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Mary Prankster, $7, 21+.
Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Limbo Jeremy Udene Trio.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, $9.
Middle East Upstairs: Mic Stylz, D-Tension, Josh Martinez, Awol 1 and Invasion, 8pm, $8, 18+. Zuzu: The Family Jewels, 8pm.
Midway Café Erin Harpe.
Plough and Stars Los Diablos, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack Karmen, 6-9:30pm; DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Middle East presents Cursive, No Knife and Minus the Bear, 8pm, $13, all ages.
Tír na nÓg David Johnson.
Top of the Hub Marshall Wood Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Phil Aiken CD-release show, $3.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Abbey Lounge Jeremy O'Neill, 8pm; Cat Puckett, 8;30pm; Eric Nassau, 9pm; Winterboy, 9:30pm; Paddy Saul, 10pm; Eric Saulnier, 10:30pm, $3.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8pm; McGann-Badigian Power Trio, 10pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass Jam.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry The Jinx Motive, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Pete Francis, 8:30pm, $10, all ages.
Johnny D's Noam Weinstein and Jessica Tardy, 8:30pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Alexi Murdock, Sam Bigelow, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Limbo Brian Kelly Trio.
Lizard Lounge The Residency with Clayton Scoble and Steve Scully, Pure Fiction and Radial Bliss, 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Lucky Stereo, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Engine Down, the Sea Navy and Eyes Like Knives, 8pm, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Red Shift and Clown Down.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10pm; DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The David Azarian Electric Band, 8:30pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Yoko Miwa Trio, 8:30pm; Sara Leib Jazz Quarter, 10:30pm, $7.
Sky Bar Dr. Professor, Hulla Blue and Lamont Smooth, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Seana Carmody, Second Story Man, the Operators and Teradactyl, $7.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Macy Gray performs her neo-soul tunes at the Paradise March 19.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Bill's Bar Eight Deep and Guilty.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Katie McDonald CD-release party, 9pm.
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's Chad, 10pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Treeonick, 9:30pm no cover.
Harper's Ferry The Flux with Black Roads, 8pm, $6, 21+.
House of Blues Buck 65 and Odd Jobs, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Los Diablos and Willard Grant Conspiracy, 8:30pm, $2.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Lisa Bastoni, Eric Nassau and Jenny Choi, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffey, 7pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law
Limbo Ken Cook Trio.
Lizard Lounge Scara's Night Out, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Stereo, Belles and Chesterwhite, 8pm, $9. 21+. Downstairs: Pinback and Threnody Ensemble, 8pm, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Porcelain and Four More White Guys.
Plough and Stars Bad Art, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Zeck Martin, 6-10pm; DJ Steve Anderson, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Richie Hart Trio CD-release show, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Bobby Hutcherson, 8:30pm, $20.
Scullers Brian Bromberg Quintet, 8 and 10pm, $16.
Sky Bar Cannonade, Roma and Voodoo Screw Machine, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Dave Foley.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Making It Right, Clones Don't Have Belly Buttons and Mr. North, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Bill Duffy, 8pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Abbey Lounge The Great Northern and Lette Rick.
Asgard J.D. Ingalls.
Bill's Bar Changing Skin, Breathe, Throe and th Smash Up.
Black Horse Tavern Bird Mancini, 7pm.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30pm, $3 $7.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren The Swinging Johnsons, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Tracy Grammer, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Traxx, 7:20pm, n cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callanan and Brian Patton 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The Boston Horns 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown The Michael She Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnie
Harper's Ferry Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Vinyl 8pm, $15, 21+
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Topaz and Moonraker, 10pm $15, 18+.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm-2am, $5.
Johnny D's Robin and Linda Williams, 9pm, $12
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Vienna Teng, Tom Glynn and Pau Brubaker, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 8pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café BJ Snowden, Connor McLaughli and Immunity Project, $5.
Limbo Ed Harlow Trio.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, n cover, 21+.
Mary Baker Eddy Library Harry Fix, 6pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Ann Berretta, Sinners an Saints, the Action and Dough, 8pm, $9, 18+. Down stairs: A Family Affair, the Twinemen and Jimm Ryan, 8pm, $10, 18+. Corner: Board of Education 10pm. Zuzu: Bourbon Princess, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way King of France, 21+.
Orpheum Theatre Zwan, 7:30pm, $26, all ages
Paradise Edwin McCain, 8pm, $20, 18+.
Plough and Stars The RPMs, 9pm, cover varies 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 9pm, $3, 21+
The Rack Sugarfoot Horns, 6:30-10:30pm; D Ricky, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Matt Wilson Quartet CD releas 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Temporada Latin 8:30pm. Downstairs: Bobby Hutcherson, 8:30pm $22.
Scullers Poncho Sanchez, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar We're All Gonna Die, the Bismarck an Cops on Crutches, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sole and Grand Buffet, $
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Abbey Lounge Anne's Room, the Reactions ar the Dives.

Kimone performs at the Middle East March 20

MACY GRAY: DAVID LACHA

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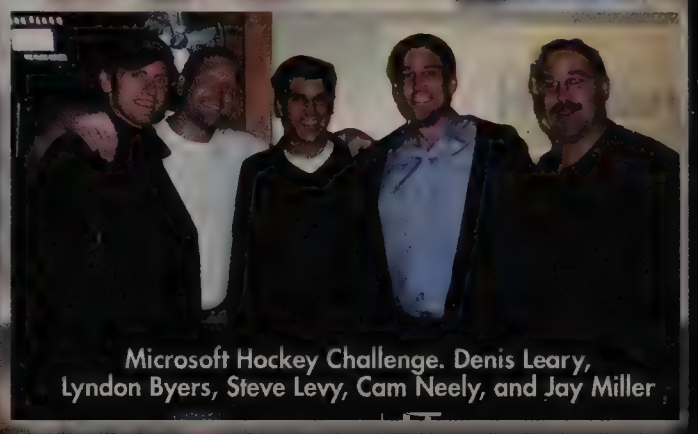

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Asgard Symbolics.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm, no cover.
The Attic Three Kings and Jah and I, 8pm, $6, 21+.
Big Easy Bar Syndicate, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Crumble, Dogfight and Loose Monkey.
Black Horse Tavern Sweet Willie D., 9pm.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's No Way Jose, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren The Well, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: DJ Turn-ta-Bill, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Rockwell Church and Richard Julian, 7 and 10pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge Booty Juice, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown El Eco Brazilian Jazz, 9:30pm, no cover
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7pm; Brick Park.
The Green Briar Velvet Jones.
The Green Dragon Tavern Freeze Pop.
The Harp Drop Dead Sexy.
Harper's Ferry Babaloo, 8pm, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30pm; Spike the Punch.
House of Blues Moonraker, Topaz, 10pm, $15, 18+.
The Independent Jake Brennan, 10pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover
Kendall Café Rod Picott, Chris Canty Band and the Brilliant Mistakes, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 5pm; Syptico, 9pm.
Kinsale Groove Entertainment
Kirkland Café Twisted Rico Variety Show with Derek Trenholm, Jena Keney, Leigh and Rosie. Huntress and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Wannetta Jackson
Lizard Lounge The Ken Clark Organ Trio, 9pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Atom and His Package, Brazil and Zambonis, 8pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, Aereogramme and 33 Slade, 8pm, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Jonnie Spaceman's Theremin Madness, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Twilight Ranchers, Cash Monies and the Jetsetter.
Milky Way The Pill, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Orpheum Theatre Guy Clark, Joe Ely, John Hiatt and Lyle Lovett, 7:30pm, $39.50-$66.
Paradise Waltham, Elcodrive and the Damn Personals, 8pm, $16, 18+.
Parris Love Seed Mama Jump, 10pm, cover varies.
Pa's Lime Green, $5-$7, 21+.
Plough and Stars Caged Heat, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Purple Shamrock The Marcels, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6:15-10:45pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar David Maxwell's Maximum Blues, 7:30 and 10pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra with Slide Hampton, 9pm, $17.
Sanders Theatre Leo Kottke, 8pm, $27-$29.
Scullers Poncho Sanchez, 8 and 10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar Sorry Orange, Redletter and Goldman, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Shiner Jones.
TK's Jazz Cafe Brian Walkley Band, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Slobberbone, Jabe and the Kickbacks, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler, 8pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Abbey Lounge Battle of the Bands with Sumo, Roma, Baby Reds, Unbusted, Scamper, Musclecah, the Balls, Numbskulls, Deep Six, Snakes and Ladders and Bottlefight.
Asgard Drilling 3's.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm; Gilad Barkan, 9pm, no cover.
Axis Kelly Osbourne and Har Mar Superstar, 7pm, $15, all ages.
Big Easy Bar The Mix, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Alan and the Alligators, 9pm.
The Black Rose After work party with Frank Ryan, 5pm. Upstairs: Sunday's Well, 9pm, $5, 21+. Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Soul of Boston, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: DJ Turn-ta-Bill, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.

advance seating

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Addison Groove Project April 11 and 12, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Adult and Magas April 24, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Aereogramme, the Delgados and the Essex Green April 25, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Antigone Rising April 5, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Cheap Trick April 21, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Cher May 2, Worcester Centrum Centre (508-755-6800)
Concrete Blonde and Twinemen April 2, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Cousteau and Seks Bomba May 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Disco Biscuits April 13, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Jen Durkin and Donna the Buffalo April 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Everclear, the Exies and Authority Zero April 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Fischerspooner April 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The Flaming Lips April 23, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Bela Fleck & the Flecktones April 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Grand Drive and Josh Bennett May 3, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Groove Armada April 16, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Habrera Hativeet May 10, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Percy Hill April 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Joe Jackson Band April 4 and 5, Paradise Rock Club (sold out)
Karl Denson's Tiny Universe April 8 and 9, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Ben Kweller and Kings of Leon April 19, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Maroon5, Matchbox Twenty and Sugar Ray May 12, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Tim McGraw April 4, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
The Music and the Vines April 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
My Chemical Romance, Thrice and the Used April 20, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
R. Carlos Nakai with Will Clipman May 17, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275).
Youssou N'Dour and Angelique Kidjo April 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-876-4275)
Sonny Rollins April 12, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Hussain May 17, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Spookie Daly Pride April 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
They Might Be Giants April 5, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Suzanne Vega May 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Waifs and Jess Klein April 12, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Widespread Panic April 15-16, Orpheum Theatre (617-482-0650)
The White Stripes April 20, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Dar Williams April 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Yanni April 3, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)

Lunasa plays the Somerville Theatre March 22.

Club Passim Peter Case and Rod Picott, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The No Way Jose Band, 9:30pm no cover
The Good Life Downtown Amanda Baisinger, 9:30pm no cover.
Grand Canal Thomas Park.
The Green Briar Pi Alley.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis.
The Harp Drop Dead Sexy.
Harper's Ferry The Dreaming Tree, 8pm, $7, 21+.
House of Blues The High Ceilings and Mappari; Tony Levin Band with Jerry Marotta, Larry Fast, Jesse Gress, 10pm, $20, 21+.
The Independent Stymie, 10pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Merrie Amsterburg and Dennis Brennan, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Didn't Plan It, 9pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
The Kinvara Me & Julio.
Kirkland Café Ballast CD-release party and Tween 20, $5.
Limbo Lance Martin Band.
Lizard Lounge Lucky 57 and the Coming Grass, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Holly Golightly, KO and the Knockouts, Spitzz and Knee Hi's, 8pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Trauma Unit, Sam Kininger, Hi8us and Cardoza, 8pm, $10, 18+. Corner: The Daniel Barrett Group, 10pm.
Midway Café Officer May and Paperlions.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar The Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Orpheum Theatre Susan Tedeschi and Aubrey Ghent, 7:30pm, $28.50-$36, all ages.
Paradise Particle, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Love Seed Mama Jump, 10pm, cover varies.
Pa's King Dubious and Alruda, $5-$7, 21+.
Plough and Stars The Bag Boys, 5-7pm; The Peasants, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard; Syndicate, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Sergio Brandão Octet: Manga Rosa with Fernando Brandão and Daniel Ian Smith, 7:30 and 10pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12. Downstairs: Nicole Nelson Band, 9pm, $10.
Scullers Poncho Sanchez, 8 and 10:30pm, $22.
Sky Bar Obstockl, Bionic, Thirdshift and Without, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre The Bobs, 8pm, $22-$28.
Tír na nÓg Benders.
TK's Jazz Cafe Unity, 8pm, $5.
Top of the Hub The Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Bettie Serveert, the Fly Seville and Blake Hazard, $12.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Beat Science and Tronzo.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Berklee Performance Center The Chucho Valdés Quartet, 7pm, $22.50-$27.50.
The Black Rose After work party with Frank Ryan, 5pm. Downstairs: Celtic Clan, 9pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Singer/songwriter series with Danielle, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge Jazz Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Teddy Thompson, 7:30pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 10am-3pm; the Shauntrelles, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm.
The Green Briar Christy O'Connell and Finbar Doyle.
Harper's Ferry Gaffney, 8pm, $4, 21+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues jam, 4:30pm; salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6:30-9:30pm, no cover.
Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Limbo Ron Murphy Quintet.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday with Mark Mahar and Alex MacDougall, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Lovelight Shine, the Model Sons, Miracle of 86 and Lost Pilot, 8pm, $9, 18+.
Midway Café Chicken McHead and the Country Doctors.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8pm.
Plough and Stars Nate Gibson & the Gashouse Gang, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Unlucky, 9pm, DJ Mike Janedy spins, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Louise Grasmere, 3pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch, 10am-3pm.
Sky Bar Moonshot, Where's Holden? and the Fallout, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Sam Bush and Railroad Earth, 8pm, $25.
Symphony Hall Dick Fox's All Star Doo Wop with the Del-Vikings, $110.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Aberdeen, the Thermals and Circle & Square, $7.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday with King Bazo blues jam, 7pm, no cover.
Avalon Rusted Root, 8pm, $22.50, 18+.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8pm; James O'Brien, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Session.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Moe Jones Revue, featuring Jodi Grind, Smilin' Jack, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with High Range, 8pm, $5.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Thompson Kneeland.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, $9.
Middle East Upstairs: Nancy Mrocek PhD, Roosevelt Roosevelt, A-Set and California Stadium, 8pm, $9, 18+. Zuzu: The Scissormen, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Plough and Stars Los Diablos, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack Karmen, 6-9:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg David Johnson.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Aislers Set, Hella and the Quails, $8.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, Steve Kimock, 8pm
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Ensemble Tartit, 8:30pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11pm, no cover.
Limbo Rusty Scott Trio.
Lizard Lounge Ad Frank and the Fast Eat Women, the Alps and Soltero, 8:30pm, $8.
Middle East Upstairs: Pele, El Guapo and the National Blue, 8pm, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6pm, no cover, 21+.

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WELLBRIDGE ATHLETIC CLUB

Emiline Michel plays the MFA March 23.

Regattabar The Lello Molinari Project, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Bruce Bartlett Trio, 9pm, $7.
Scullers Christy Baron, 8 and 10pm, $14.
Sky Bar Medina Sod and Matt Tobin, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631.*
Arlington Center for the Arts *41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220).*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
The Big Easy *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line or Green Line to Government Center.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The French Library and Cultural Center *53 Marlborough St, Boston (617-912-0400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Good Times *30 Assembly Square Drive, Somerville (617-628-5559). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Station.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6021).*
Jake Ivory's *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-247-1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
O'Leary's Pub & Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9653). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford Street, Arlington (781-646-4849).*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Symphony Hall *301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617497-4950).*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (617-424-1408) MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. $16.* An open rehearsal of Luciano Berio's Sinfonia and two Russian ballet scores, featuring the Synergy Vocals and conducted by David Robertson.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Tom Noren performs his own work on the guitar.

Old South Church Music and Meditation Series
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:15pm. Free. Trebles Margaret Hunter, Robert Sussma and Allison Mondel perform Meditations of the Virgin Mary in this program of Medieval English music.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84.* David Robertson conducts a performance of Luciano Berio's Sinfonia and two Russian ballet scores, featuring the Synergy Vocals.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free .* Works by Beethoven, Schubert, Prokofiev and Brahms are performed.

Music at the Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). www.marybakereddylibrary.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony Hall. 6pm. Free.* Courtney and Ethan Rowe perform on the piano and classical flute.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Boston Academy of Music
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, Boston (617-373-2247). MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern. 7:30pm. $20-$83. Boston Academy of Music presents Giacomo Puccini's opera *Tosca,* about the passions and drama excited by the perils of war during Napoleon's occupation of Rome.

Boston Early Music Festival
First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-661-1812). www.bemf.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $20-$48.* Join the Flanders Recorder Quartet in the BEMF 15th Anniversary Jubilee concert of Medieval music, improvisation, fiori musicali and consort music.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. $25-$84.* Same program as March 20.

The Cantata Singers at New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-267-6502). www.cantatasingers.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $16-$44.* Music director David Hoose explores the devout, meditative and mystical sides of Verdi, Liszt and Messiaen.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $35-$58.* Join Brandenburg Ensemble conductor and violinist Jaime Laredo and pianist Peter Serkin for a presentation of Bach's keyboard concertos.

Fromm Players at Harvard
Paine Hall, Music Building, Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free, passes required. The Boston Modern Orchestra Project presents music by Mario Davidovsky and the Charles Eliot Norton Professors.

Janus 21's Chamber Concert Series
Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-734-5174). www.janus21.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $21; $15, students and seniors.* Tenor Michael Calmes joins violinst Kohji Taylor and pianist Max Levinson in a performance of The Heart of Schumann, an all-Schumann program.

Music at the Immaculate
The Jesuit Urban Center, 775 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-536-8440). 8pm. $10; $5, students and seniors. The Bach Collegium of Japan presents the St. Matthew Passion.

Music at the Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). www.marybakereddylibrary.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony Hall. 6pm. Free.* Brian Wright performs on the piano.

Music at the Meeting House
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). 12:15pm. Free. Minsoo Sohn plays the piano as part of the NEC's Artist Diploma program.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$56.* Same program as March 20.

Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston
First and Second Street Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-427-8200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.chameleonarts.org. *8pm. $15-$30.* Pianist Ning An joins the Chameleon's string and wind players in a program of duets.

The New School of Music
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-492-8105). www.cambridgemusic.org. *7:30pm. Free.* Faculty members and violinist Yuan Me Xing and pianist Hye-Ju Chu perform Bach, Beethoven and Brahms.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Boston Academy of Music
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, Boston (617-373-2247). 2pm. $20-$83. Same program as March 21.

The Cantata Singers at New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-267-6502). www.cantatasingers.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $16-$44.* Same program as March 21.

Emmanuel Music
15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free. Craig Smith directs the chorus in its weekly cantata.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $35-$55.* The Boys Choir of Harlem performs a variety of music, from Bach to Broadway tunes. .

King's Chapel Sunday Concert Series
Tremont and School streets, Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 5pm. $10; $5, students and seniors. Heinrich Christenson directs King's Chapel Choir and Soloists and members of the Handel & Haydn Society Orchestra in a performance of works by Bach and Handel.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2 and 4pm. $5.* This concert features the Young Performers Chamber Orchestra.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. Free.* NEC and young Armenian students combine their talents in a Khachaturian Festival Concert.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). 2pm. Vocalist Bobbi Carrey and pianist Tomi Hayashhi perform a concert of music from their CD, *Between the Wars Music from 1918-1941.*

Newton Symphony Orchestra
Rashi School Auditorium, 15 Walnut Park, Newton (617-965-2555). www.newtonsymphony.org. *7:30pm. $20-$25.* Guest pianist Maurizio Barboro performs works by Rachmaninoff with the symphony.

Young Artists Showcase at the Gardner
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.com. *1:30pm. $10-$18.* The Belcea String Quartet performs works by Mozart, Schubert and Komarova.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Pianist Mark Goodman performs works by Bach.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 4pm. Free.* Lebanese flutist Bassam Saba joins NEC faculty member and percussionist Karim Nagi Mohammed in a performance of Arabic classical music

ıe Boys Choir of Harlem performs March 23 as part of the eetBoston Celebrity Series.

ew England Conservatory
rdan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsbor-gh St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandcon-vatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. ee. Flutist Renée Krimsier and harpsichordist John bbons perform works by Bach.

UESDAY, MARCH 25

ɔston Academy of Music
ackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, Boston 17-373-2247). MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern. 30pm. $20-$83. Same program as March 21.

ɔston Symphony Orchestra
mphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-00). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 30pm. $25-84.* Same program as March 20.

ng's Chapel Noon our Recital Series
ng's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-55). www.kingschapel.org. *MBTA: Red or Green ne to Park St. 12:15pm. Free.* Yeeyeon Soh per-rms works by Bach and Mendelssohn on the C.B. sk organ.

ew England Conservatory
rdan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsbor-gh St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland nservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Robert Labaree directs Turkish Time, a concert of folk and classical songs, ceremonial music and dances from Turkey.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). 7:30pm. $33-$152. Boston Lyric Opera presents *La Rondine*, Giacomo Puccini's ill-fated romance about a Parisian courtier, masquerading as a shop girl, who flees to the sea with her lover. English text is projected and the opera is sung in Italian.

Old South Church Music and Meditation Series
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). 12:15pm. Free. Longy School of Music students present a program of hidden treasures by composers Valentini, Draghi, Caldara and Priuli.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm.* German violinist Christian Tetzlaff joins Italian conductor Fabio Luisi, who is making his BSO debut, in a performance of works by Wagner, Strauss and Szymanowski.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Wendy Chen performs works by Chopin and others on the piano.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Radnofsky Saxophone Quartet makes its debut in a performance of works by Elliot Schwartz, Charles Wuorinen, Elliot Carter and works written expressly for faculty member Ken Radnofsky.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). 7:30pm. $33-$152. See March 26.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm.* Same performance as March 27.

Music at the Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6pm. Free. Stephen Lapointe, John Capello and Randy Hoover perform on the acoustic guitar, saxophone and acoustic bass.

Music at the Meeting House
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *12:15pm. Free.* Sonia Chan plays the piano as part of the NEC's Artist Diploma program .

The Spectrum Singers
The Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-492-8902). www.spectrum singers.org. *8pm. $30-$40.* The Indian Hill Symphony Orchestra and its musical director Bruce Hangen, soprano Janet Brown and baritone Robert Honeysuckle join the Spectrum Singers in a performance of works by Brahms.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm.* Same program as March 27.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $35-$55.* Pianist Adam Nieman and the Miro Quartet join conductor Robert Kapilow.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). 7:30pm. $33-$152. See March 26.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2pm. Free.* Deborah Yardley Beers and Shaylor Lindsay perform works by Chopin and Brahms.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* BSO trombonist and NEC faculty member Norman Bolter performs in a concert of his own works with the Frequency Band, flutist Marianne Gedigian and pianist John Ferguson.

Young Artists Showcase at the Gardner
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.com. *1:30pm. $10-$18.* Cecile Licad presents works by Chopin and Liszt.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.neweng land conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Callithumpian Consort celebrates Lukas Foss' 80th birthday as he joins the group in performing two of his masterworks.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). 7:30pm. $33-$152. See March 26.

New Orleans' Preservation Hall Jazz Band brings Southern charm to Symphony Hall March 28.

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge Attain transcendence in the exotic world of Buddha Bar with DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
Karmen performs, 6-9:30pm, no cover, 21+. Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole and Zeck Martin, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ritchie Fingers, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip-hop and R&B, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJs Bobby and Chris D. spin a mix of top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
Live music with Michigan Blacksnake, 6-10pm. DJ Steve Anderson keeps the party going until 2am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band spices things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Anitya Psychedelic trance music and sets by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw, 10pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
The Underground The latest underground music from DJ Chris Rucker with performances by new live acts, 9pm, $10, 18+; $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+ women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; live music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top 40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted by Kis 108, proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights host karaoke downstairs, 8-11pm, 21+. DJ Josh Hall gets the dance party started upstairs, 11pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes and old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11pm-2am, 21+.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover before 11pm, $15 after 11pm, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

Q
It's hip-hop night with DJ Proper.

The Rack
Thursday nights it's live music with Dick'n'Jane 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10pm, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lover's rock, roots reggae and R&B, 10pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Guest DJs spin hip-hop and house music, 11pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.

Preview

Slow Mo

DJ Brynmore chills out

DJ Brynmore presides over the new Slow Mo night, Wednesdays at Orleans.

In recent years, Somerville's Davis Square has quietly blossomed into a hip Red Line hangout, home to a number of funky eateries, earthy coffee shops and crowded Irish bars featuring live music. With the addition of Slow Mo at Orleans, an upscale restaurant and bar offering a just-trendy-enough late-night lounge atmosphere, Davis now offers a weekly downtempo music night. Starting at 9pm every Wednesday, Slow Mo will showcase the pioneering, laid-back sound of DJ Brynmore.

As resident DJ at the Central Square hotspot the Enormous Room, Brynmore has earned a reputation as one of Boston's premier downtempo musical selectors. He's spent more than six years behind the decks, developing a delicate and talented touch. From dub, jungle and trip-hop, to eclectic ethnic beats, Brynmore mixes a wide range of styles into a lazy and chic lounge vibe.

Growing numbers of dance music enthusiasts have rushed to embrace the burgeoning downtempo and chill-out genre over the past year, even as many large dance clubs have struggled to fill their dancefloors. Slow Mo organizer (and occasional guest DJ) Craig Kapilow explains: "I think that the shift toward downtempo and chill-out indicates that the superclub idea might have lost a bit of its cool. A lot of people who have been supporting the underground dance scene for years have gotten older, and they probably are not as inclined to go out to a large nightclub." Whatever reasons lie behind the shifting tide away from strictly dancefloor rhythms, downtempo artists like Brynmore have found themselves in the right place at the right time.

Orleans provides a perfect Slow Mo setting, offering plush couches for relaxing and conversing, a good selection of libations, and appetizers that are a notch above the French fries and buffalo wings found in many other Davis Square nightspots. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by for a cool drink and some chilled-out music—you just may hear the future sound of Somerville. *—Daniel Spurling*

Orleans, 65 Holland Street, Somerville (617-591-2100). Wednesday nights, 9pm-1am. 21+. No cover.

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The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music with no attitude, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old school and dance hall, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Boston rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins a mix of house, lounge and dance in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Harp
•March 21, Peat Moss & the Fertilizers perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+. •March 28, Live music with Drop Dead Sexy, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
There's a party on all floors with DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Doc goes all-out with top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10pm-2am, 21+.

Level
Velvet Lounge DJ Santangelo and DJ Anthony spin house and hip-hop, $10.

Matrix Fridays
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $20, 18+; $15, 21+. •**The Officers Club** DJ Statik Selektah and Chubby Chub spin hip-hop and R&B, and JR Swoosh spins reggae, proper dress, 8pm, ladies free, men $5, before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+, after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress required, $10, 21+, $15, after 10pm; $20, 18+. •**3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs pump the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm. •March 21, Felix Brown performs live, 9pm, $5, 21+. •March 28, Live music with the Marcels, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9pm.

The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement, 6-10:45pm. DJ Johnny C and Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Dance Party, 10:45pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10pm, no cover, 19+.

RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fishel pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night full of hot Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Sharpen up your salsa and merengue moves with lessons from 7-10pm, then shake it to live music by the Latin Party Boys or hit the dance floor with DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 tunes and acoustic shows entertain on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop and top-40 remix with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with progressive house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Start! Hear DJ Gibby spin alternative rock and get nostalgic to '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs host a night of dancing to top-40 and rock music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down Losers and has-beens are welcome to boogie down with DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
•March 22, Peat Moss & the Fertilizers perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+. •March 29, Live music with Drop Dead Sexy, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins the latest top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs with top-40, 10pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.

Level
In the Russian Lounge, DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music. In Elite, DJ Pace spins house, techno and international music on two levels, $10.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz moves the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**El Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $25, 18+; $20, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. •March 29 Live music with Syndicate, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins a mix of house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.

The Rack
Join the dance party hosted by Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Easy Does It Shake your groove thang with DJs Easy and Goodwood spinning soft '70s, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm. Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk with DJ Bruno, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC makes the night global with Latin house and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin international house and hip-hop, 11pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house in the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-hop in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

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SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a night of electric dance, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Sundays DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes while resident DJs Osheen and Rob D. and weekly guests spin house, hip-hop and techno, $10.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•Lumen Eclipse Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30pm, 21+. **•Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R&B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge Kick back and experience this trend-setting night, 10pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7413).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-72[illegible] 7601).*
Felt *333 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officer's Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 150 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1053).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

DEREK KOUYOUM

3rd Annual Leslie's Links Event

in memory of Leslie Semonian to benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Pre Marathon Celebration
Sunday, April 20th
7:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Back Bay
617/424-8300

- DJ and Dancing
- There will be a raffle with lots of great prizes
- Hors D'oeuvres

Tickets are $40 at the door (if available) Please call 617-859-1400 ext. 323 for more information and to purchase tickets in advance for $35

100% of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Leslie's Links Ewings Sarcoma Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For more info e-mail wendy@lesliеslinks.com.

LESLIE'S LINKS was founded in 1999 by Leslie Semonian who battled cancer and passed away in December of 1999 at the age of 32. During the eight and a half year period of her illness, until her death, Leslie never allowed cancer to stand in the way of her goal of helping others. She knew how precious life was and energetically embraced each day. She helped others to appreciate their own lives more. She wanted to be remembered as a participant in life, not an observer. Her passion was boundless, and will continue in the hearts of the many friends and people whom she inspired.

Leslie's Links is a fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute which raises money for Ewings Sarcoma Cancer Research in various ways. One of which is through the Leslie's Links bike team associated with the 192-mile Pan-Mass Challenge bike-a-thon from Sturbridge to Provincetown. Leslie's Links has raised over half a million dollars since its inception in 1999.

Leslie's Links has raised over a half of a million dollars since it inception in 1999

www.lesliеslinks.com

art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* displays collected objects and images from the Byzantine era. Shows through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* shows India as the British saw it through documentary photographs, paintings and other period artwork. Through May 25.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm.* •Artists and architects imagine what Boston will look like when the Big Dig is finished in *After the Dig.* Through March 31. •Words on Fire, an eight-week, multi-site festival celebrating freedom of expression, presents three exhibits at the BPL through May 11: *Writer's Block,* an installation by Sheryl Oring, features more than 500 pre–World War II typewriters, locked in 16 metal cages; *Black Books: The First African American Authors* looks at influential black authors; Susan Erony and Erika Marquardt collaborate on *A Meeting of Minds,* an installation exploring Jewish and German cultures in pre-war Germany.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows includes Italian and African art. •*Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon and The Victor Weeps,* a show of three moving photographic installations, captures life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan. Through June 8. •*The Space Between: Artists Engaging Race and Syncretism* explores the African diaspora through the work of several artists. Through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*Tools as Art,* a collection of artists' works incorporating everyday tools. Through May 25. •*Street Portraits, 1946-1976: The Photographs of Jules Aarons* shows through March 25. •*The Pig Wings Project* is on display through March 25. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II,* the DeCordova's sequel to last year's collection of landscapes, shows through summer 2004. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree. Through August 31.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA:Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10am-6pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*Fire Upon the Hearth: A Celebration of Irish American Women* highlights the lives and work of several New Englanders, including Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*The Modern Quotidian: Furniture by Prouvé, Perriand, Le Corbusier and Rietveld* displays modern design objects and furniture. Through March 30. •*Isolation + Integration: Works from the Permanent Collections, 1963-1973* shows through March 30. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* displays through May 4. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows March 22-July 6.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young,* also ongoing, displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline,* ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. •*Dodos, Trilobites and Meteorites* showcases never-before-seen treasures from historic expeditions to remote environments. Through March 31.

Anne Packard's new landscapes, including *Alone*, are featured at the Arden Gallery on Newbury Street through March 29.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Carsten Höller: Half Fiction,* the first stateside solo exhibition by Belgian-born artist Carsten Höller, includes one of his interactive, two-floor slide sculptures, which visitors can slide down to reach the gallery. Through April 27. •*Building a Vision: Diller + Scofidio in Boston* is a preview of the models for the ICA's new waterfront location, which is set to begin construction in September. Through April 27.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •The work of conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth kicks off the museum's Centennial celebration. Through April 6. •Mixed-media artist Henrick Hakansson displays his work throughout March.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the last 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*18th Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* exhibits the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Threads on the Edge: The Daphne Farago Fiber Art Collection* features 65 works by more than 40 artists from Farago's private collection. Through March 30. •*Traveling Scholars 2002* shows the work of nine School of the Museum of Fine Arts graduates. Through April 6. •*Impressions of Light* surveys French landscape art from Corot to Monet. Through April 13. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative art collection from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt* is the largest selection of artifacts ever loaned by Egypt for an exhibition in North America. Through March 30. •*Invention at Play* explores the skills children develop during playtime activities. Through April 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •*Final Exposure: Death Row Portraits,* photographs by Lou Jones, shows with Keith Washington's *At Our Gates: American Landscapes.* March 31-July 6.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Pacific Islands Hall,* another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* explores the native response to the Europeans' arrival. Ongoing. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through August.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-5pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theatres, only one of which functions today. March 29-March 28, 2004.

Galleries
FINE ART

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Katharina Chapuis presents *New Abstract Paintings* through April 2.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Anne Packard's oil on canvas paintings are displayed in *New Landsca*
through March 29. •Joanne Mattera shows her wo
in *New Paintings in Encaustic* April 1-29.

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (617-58
6676). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sa
9am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •The gallery features co
temporary Chinese prints through April 21.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-449
www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Gr*
Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm. •Dona
Judd shows *Editions: Prints and Sculptures.* Throu
March 19. •Scott Hadfield shows his new work i
self-titled show March 22-April 23.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA:
ange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Fred
Brice presents his large-scale images of ships, inte
ors, animals and clocks. Through April 26.

Beth Urdang Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-8468). MBT
Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10:30am-4:30pm; Sa
10:30am-5:30pm. •*The Luscious Landscape* includ
paintings by Neil Welliver and a selection of esta
lished and emerging artists. Through March 29.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). ww
brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm and*
appointment. •The Blackstone Press Printmak
present the exhibit *proGLYPHic* through April 5.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). ww
brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-4p*
•*New Paintings* by Gema Phillips shows throu
March 30.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400x10). ww
cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Mo*
Fri., 9:30am-5:30pm. •*Today's Landscape* displa
paintings by Janet Culbertson. Through March
•*Common Ground* explores paintings, sculptures a
ceramics by Portuguese-American artists. Throu
March 28.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBT
Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Su
12-11:30pm. •Sue Williams presents a solo exhi
tion through April 10. •Abstract expressionist Be
ford Delaney displays his art in *The Color Yell*
Through May 4.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.ch
pellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlingt*
Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment. •*Outs*
ken Glass from Japan, a group show, displays throu
April 5.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). ww
chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mo*
Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Cynthia Packa
new work displays through March 29.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •*The Age of Napoleon* features period pieces by various artists. Through May 3.

Clifford Smith Gallery
150 Harrison Ave., Third Floor, Boston (617-695-0255). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm. •Chris Teasley shows his paintings in a self-titled show. Through March 29.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •*Patrons' Choice II*, an exhibition of contemporary realist paintings, shows through March 29.

Crump Gallery
122 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •A show of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing Italian Murano glass sculpture exhibition and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free. Darlene Devita shows *More New Works From Recent Travels* through March 29. •David Thompson's color photographs display in *The Prodigal Summer* April 1-May 3.

808 Gallery
Boston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-457-4700). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat., 12-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. •*The North American Print Biennial* presents work by contemporary artist Apo Torosyan. Through April 6. •The works of French printmaker Henri Goetz and his students are featured in *Carborundum Printmaking: Henri Goetz and His Legacy.* Through April 6.

Elias Fine Art
720 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm, and by appointment. •*Impressions of a Revolution: New Prints* features works by Willie Cole, Ann Hamilton, Takashi Murakami, Sigmar Polke, Kara Walker and others. Through April 26.

Equator Gallery
48 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, from paintings to textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Hidden Language* features metal point drawings by Claudia Ravaschiere and pinhole photographs by Jessica Ferguson. Through April 18.

Galerie d'Orsay
79 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery @ Green Street
41 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Tue.,6-9pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5pm.* •Danielle Dwyer, L. Michael Ledbetter and Hannah Sinclair show their work in *Works on Paper* March 21-April 26.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •David Moore presents *Vibes* and Stu-Ober displays *Paintings.* Through March 29.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
11 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Regina Granne presents *New Paintings and Drawings.* Through April 1.

Gobs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •*In My View: Works of Prosaic Beauty*, a group photography show, is on view through April 11.

Haley & Steele
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleyandsteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

The Central City **by Stanza shows at the Boston Center for the Arts' Mills Gallery March 20-May 11.**

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hallspace.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Curator Ethan Berry presents *Seeing is Believing: Skeptical Print Activity*, a collection of X-ray, MRI and CAT scan images. Through April 5.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Paul Shakespear shows his new paintings in a self-titled show March 21-April 22.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-6pm. •David Kupferman and Dorothy Simpson Krause present their work in *Peace Prayers and Sacred Spaces* through March 29. •*Videospace 3: Soft Science*, a new installation by Kathy High and Sarah Smiley, shows March 20-April 13.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •*Visions of Greece*, a group show, displays through March 20. •*Drawing*, a group show, displays March 22-April 10.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cam bridgeart.com *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm.* •*Influence*, a group show of paintings, photography and multimedia work, shows through March 20. •*Interiors/Exteriors*, a juried show of abstract work, displays March 27-April 29.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Monika Lin combines written, visual and oral works in *Red Shoes.* Through March 30. •Ann Strassman shows her acrylic painting on cardboard April 1-27.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Rose Olson's *New Paintings, New Drawings* examines color qualities and fragmenting patterns through paintings on wooden panels, boxes and vellum. Through March 29. •Mike Kolster shows his photography and Hillary Tolan displays mixed media April 1-26.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Sculpting the Wall* is an exhibition of artful wall decoration by artists Roger Thomas, Susan Hersey and Steve Lohman. Through April 30.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12pm-6pm; Fri., 12pm-8pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm. •*Paul Pfeiffer: Morning After the Deluge and Other Works* uses digital media to explore themes of race, culture and identity. Through April 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markartgallery.com. *Wed. and Fri.,4pm-7pm ; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Rob Brooks and Carol Lynne Gove show their oil paintings in *I See/You See.* Through April 4.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Joseph Solman and the Ten* shows through March 28.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30pm.* •*Unlikely Portraits*, a group show, is on display with Philip Guston's lithographs through April 8.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5pm; Fri.and Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Info@blah: Organization and Overload*, a group show, displays March 20-May 11.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm.* •*I Tell Lies, Honestly*, a performance by Peter Pold, takes place March 21 and 22, 8pm. •*Madness Over Tea*, a show that combines dance and video, runs March 29 and 30, 5:50pm. •*The Banished Body*, puppeteering by Julia Szabo, shows March 31-April 19.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •Ruth Mordecai and Brigitte Klic present their abstract painting and sculpture. Through March 30.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617- 4512977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11am-4pm and by appointment. •Tyson Schroeder displays his paintings and drawings in *Expressions of Fear and Human Consciousness.* Through May 3.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Tue.-Sun., 11am-6pm. •Royal Hadfield, Richard Swiatlowski, Tracy Levesque and Petersen Thomas show their work in *Run Away with the Next Renoir.* Through April 8.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •John Lees shows his work in *Wisps* and gallery artists display their art in *March Winds, April Flowers.* Through March 22. •Christopher Wilmarth showcases his work in *Gift of the Bridge: Related Drawings and Sculpture* March 29-May 3.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery. com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •*Handwriting on the Wall* features works by Maggie Brown, Judith Page and John O'Connor. Through March 29.

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., Boston (617-542-6983). www.onigallery.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. Wed.-Sun., 2-8pm and by appointment.* •Jason Dean and Matthew Nash show their work in *One Squared*, an interactive show. Through March 31.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Sixth Annual Figurative Show* displays the work of 50 local artists. Through March 31.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston. com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Ensembles*, a group exhibition, shows through March 29.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Fance Franck presents *Art Alive* through April 9.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm.* •Bruce Davidson shows his work through May 10.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Works by Picasso and Sonia Delaunay show in *Images.* Through May 3.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •*Jewelry Hard and Soft*, a group show of international artists and craftsmen, shows through April 27.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). Wed.-Sat., 12-6; Sun., 1-5: Tue., by appointment. MBTA: Red Line to Davis. •Five local printmakers show their work in *Take Five.* Through April 6.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (617-423-9760). www.space12gallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-9pm; Wed., 12-9pm.* •Kenny Mac displays drawings and sculptures made from wood and clay through April 6.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •Paintings of New England, Italy, Mexico and Provence show in *Odyssey.* Through March 30. •*Omnibus*, a group show of urban and rural landscapes, displays April 1-May 15.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 8:30-1pm. •*Inner Path Perceptions* features paintings and drawings by Jeffrey Barnum, Jose Diaz, Andreas Gmur and Rosemary Wessel. Through March 27.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •A selection of works from *Vose ArtNotes Vol. 11*, the gallery's collection, shows through March 31.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-4030). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am- 5:30pm, and by appointment •Jeff Soderbergh's *Furniture and Sculpture* features works of art created out of salvaged architectural structures. Through March 29.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7pm.* •*Comics as Art: Original Comic Art and Ephemera* shows the work of such notable comic artists as R. Crumb and Dan Clowes. Through March 23. •Howard Dinin and Steve Lipsey show their work in *The Renewed Burden of Photography: Telling the Truth.* March 25-April 13.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Ronald Cowie shows his new work in *To the West: Dreams.* Through April 18.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm.* •Charles Gauthier exhibits his photography through March 29.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6pm. Free. Dorchester native and psychic medium **John Holland** reads from his first book, *Born Knowing: A Medium's Journey—Accepting and Embracing My Spiritual Gifts,* in which he discusses how he came to terms with his psychic abilities.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Irish stand-up comedian **Brendan O'Carroll** reads from *The Young Wan*, the fifth installment in his Agnes Browne series. The book follows Agnes through her childhood in 1940s Dublin.

Harvard Book Store
The Barker Center, 12 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Caribbean author **Maryse Conde** and **Daryl Pinckney**, author of *Out There: Mavericks of Black Literature*, read from their work.

Harvard Square Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **James Fraser**, a professor of history and education at Northeastern University, reads from his book *A History of Hope: When Americans Have Dared to Dream of a Better Future*, which documents how Americans have been inspired to seek a better life.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. Tom Paine resident **Tom Paine** reads from his first novel, *The Pearl of Kuwait*, in which two Marines go AWOL and cross enemy lines to rescue an Iraqi princess.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. Free.* Poet, playwright and activist **Sonia Sanchez** reads some of her poems as part of Words on Fire, an eight-week, multi-site festival celebrating freedom of expression.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free (tickets available at Harvard Book Store). Literary critic and Shakespearean scholar **Harold Bloom** reads from his new book, *Hamlet: Poem Unlimited,* a step-by-step analysis of the character of Hamlet and the structure of Shakespeare's play.

Harvard Square Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Boston University professor of international relations **Andrew Bacevich** reads from *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy*, an analysis of American foreign policy in the post–Cold War era.

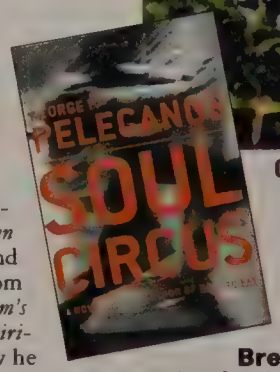
WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Economist editors **John Micklethwait** and **Adrian Wooldridge** read from their book *The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea,* which chronicles the evolution of the joint-stock company.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Harvard mathematics professor **Barry Mazur** reads from his book *Imagining Numbers (particularly the square root of minus fifteen)*, which looks at the role imaginary numbers play in mathematics.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
6 Plympton St., Cambridge (617-547-4648). www.grolierpoetrybookshop.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. Free.* **Pam Bernard**, Emerson and Northeastern creative writing teacher, reads from her collection of poetry, *Across the Dark*.



George Pelecanos reads from *Soul Circus* at Newtonville Books March 22.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 5pm. Screenwriter and film producer **George Pelecanos** reads from his 12th novel, *Soul Circus,* in which a private investigator tries to protect the key witness in a crime lord's trial.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free. Poets **Brandon Downing**, author of *The Shirt Weapon*, and **Sara Veglahn**, contributor to *Silo*, read from their latest work.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Harvard Square Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Georgetown University professor **Alexander Aleinikoff** reads from his book *Semblances of Sovereignty: The Constitution, the State and American Citizenship*, which addresses constitutional issues of citizenship and statehood in American society.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 3pm. Free. **Anika Nailah** reads from her debut collection of short stories, *Free: and Other Stories*, which explores injustices experienced by African-Americans.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

The Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccea.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $3.* Dartmouth professor **Tom Sleigh** reads from his collection of poetry, *Far Side of the Earth.* Also, **Dan Chiasson**, contributor to *The New Yorker* and *Ploughshares*, reads poems from his collection *The Afterlife of Objects.*

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6:30pm. Free. Neurologist **Majid Fotuhi** discusses *The Memory Cure: How to Protect Your Brain Against Memory Loss and Alzheimer's Disease*, which offers readers specific ways to reduce risk of memory loss and increase mental agility.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Jackie Sheeler** reads from the book she edited, *Off the Cuffs: Poetry by and About the Police.* Contributing poets range from police officers and convicts to established poets including Charles Simic, Martin Espada, Kevin Young and Colette Inez.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Boston University law professor **Gerald Leonard** discusses *The Invention of Party Politics: Federalism, Popular Sovereignty and Constitutional Development in Jacksonian Illinois*, a history of Illinois politics from the 1820s to the 1830s.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Boston author **Sue Miller** reads from her first nonfiction book, *The Story of My Father: A Memoir*, an account of the time she spent as her father's caretaker while he battled Alzheimer's disease.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Screenwriter and film producer **Jon Boorstin** reads from his historical novel *The Newsboys' Lodging House: Or the Confessions of William James,* which imagines the events of James' path to recovery after a mental breakdown.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. Red Sox expert **Bill Nowlin** reads from the book he co-authored, *Ted Williams: The Pursuit of Perfection,* a chronicle of the baseball legend's life.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. Harvard graduate **Charmaine Craig** reads and signs copies of her debut novel, *The Good Men: A Novel of Heresy*, a story about a lustful priest set during the 14th-century Catholic Inquisition.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Boston native **C.W. Tooke** reads from his novel *Ballpark Blues*, in which a lonely 30-something baseball reporter befriends a promising minor league player.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free.* Sportswriters **Glenn Stout**, **Richard Johnson**, **Dan Shaughnessy** and **Charlie Pierce** talk about their books.

McIntyre & Moore Booksellers
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-4840). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7pm. Free. **Adam Pachter**, 2001 winner of *The Improper Bostonian*'s annual fiction contest, hosts a reading by the finalists of the 2002 contest.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Virginia Holman** reads from her memoir, *Rescuing Patty Hearst: Memories of a Decade Gone Mad*, an account of the four years she spent living with her schizophrenic mother in a rural Virginia cottage.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7pm. Free. Editors Rabbi **Sharon Cohen Anisfeld**, **Tara Mohr** and **Catherine Spector** read from their book *The Women's Passover Companion*, a collection of Jewish women's perspectives on the growing trend of all-women Seders.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Harvard graduate and Montana resident **Alston Chase** reads from his book, *Harvard and the Unabomber: The Education of an American Terrorist*, which looks at Ted Kaczynski's life from childhood to his self-imposed exile in Montana.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Trinity College history professor **Robert Palter** reads from his book *The Duchess of Malfi's Apricots, and Other Literary Fruits*, which examines the role of fruit in literary works.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. Free.* Words on Fire, an eight-week, multi-site festival celebrating freedom of expression, presents Women Writers, Women's Voices: Cross-Cultural Perspectives. **Helen Epstein**, **Joe Pap**, **Indira Ganesan**, **Monique Truong** and **Joyce Antler** read selections from their writing.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660) MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. Best American Short Stories 2000 contributor **Z.Z. Packer** reads from her debut book, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*, a collection of short stories that focus on the situations of black teenage girls.

Harvard Book Store
Phillips Auditorium, 60 Garden St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. Harvard-Smithsonian astrophysicist **Leon Golub** reads from the book he co-authored, *Nearest Star: The Surprising Science of Our Sun*, a discussion of the sun's history, structure, and energy and its effects on Earth.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Borders Cambridgeside Galleria
100 Cambridgeside Place, Cambridge (617-6679-0887). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 2pm. Free. Playwright and novelist **J.B. Miller** signs copies of his literary satire *The Satanic Nurses*, which pokes fun at nearly every major popular, contemporary writer.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
6 Plympton St., Cambridge (617-547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm. Free. Smith College professor **Henri Cole** reads selections of his poetry.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free. **Dzvinia Orlowsky**, author of *Except for One Obscene Brushstroke*, and **Jeff Friedman**, author of *Taking Down the Angel*, read their poems.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 3pm. Free.* **Robert Brustein**, founder of the American Repertory Theatre, introduces author **William Styron** who discusses his 1967 Pulitzer Prize–winning novel *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, which fictionalizes the story of a black man who led a slave revolt in 1831.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Poet **John F. Deane**, editor of the Daedelus Press, and **Fred Marchant**, author of *The Tipping Point*, read from their works.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

The Blacksmith House Poetry Series
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789) www.ccea.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8:15pm. $12.* **Robert Pinsky**, **Gail Mazur**, **Lloyd Schwartz**, **Frank Bidart**, **Andrea Cohen** and others read selected poems.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6pm. Free. **Nancy Atherton** reads from her latest Aunt Dimity novel, *Aunt Dimity Takes a Holiday.*

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm, poetry slam. 9pm, poetry jam. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Off the Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-554-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity at the open mike.

education

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EDNESDAY, MARCH 19

athered America:
irds and North American Indians
abody Museum, Harvard University, 11 Divinity ve., Cambridge (617-496-0099). 5:30pm. Free. **epard Krech**, director of the Haffenreffer useum of Anthropology at Brown University, ctures on the significance of feathers in the lture and rituals of North American Indians.

plications for Disease
hners Theater, Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston 17-589-0419). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. m. Free. Learn how scientists are using the genome quences in humans and other organisms to learn out disease and improve the drug development ocess. Part of the Whitehead Lecture series cele-ating the 50th anniversary of DNA's discovery.

atisse Versus Picasso
useum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston 17-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E reen Line to Museum. 7pm. $13.* **Robert Rosen-im**, professor of fine arts at New York Univer-y and curator for the Guggenheim Museum, scusses the sometimes harmonious, some-nes competitive relationship between two of e most important artists of the 20th century.

chools in Society
mbridge Forum, First Parish Church, 3 Church St., mbridge (617-495-2727). www.cambridge um.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. ee.* UMass Boston chancellor **Jo Ann Gora** dis-sses the demands that high school students face en applying to colleges and how to prepare m for this process. She also reveals what schools igher education look for in candidates.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Jules Aarons and Photography
Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Boston University professor and photographer **Jules Aarons** discusses his collection, *Street Portraits: 1947-1976–The Photographs of Jules Aarons.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Dinosaurs' Social Behavior
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-8309). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. $10.* **Jack Horner**, curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies in Montana and the first man to discover dinosaur eggs in the Western Hemisphere, discusses what geological evidence can tell us about the parenting and nesting behaviors of dinosaurs.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Honoring Oscar Romero
Community Church of Boston, Lothrop Auditorium, 565 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10:45am. Free. **Felix Arroyo**, Boston city councillor, lectures about Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of El Salvador, who fought for peace in his war-torn country and was assassinated in 1980.

Planning the Perfect Wedding
Hotel at MIT, 20 Sidney St., Cambridge (617-577-0200). www.bostonweddinggroup.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall Square. 12:30-4:30pm. $15, $20 at the door.* The Boston Wedding Group, an association of wedding vendors, holds an informative seminar to answer all the questions of brides-to-be.

The Spiritual Quest of Jewish Artists in a Digital Age
Temple of Israel, 477 Longwood Ave., Boston(617-566-3960). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 10am. Free. **Menahem Alexenberg**, professor at the College of Judea and Samaria in Israel, speaks on the study of the creative process in art and science, and the use of digital media to create art.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

A Conversation with Bob Kerrey
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA:Red Line to UMass/JFK. 5:30-7pm. Free.* Former U.S. Senator **Bob Kerrey** will hold a discussion on Vietnam, war crimes, terrorism and international justice.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

The Business of Bliss
Boston Design Center, Stark Carpet, Suite 101, Boston (617-338-5062). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 11am. This panel with female entrepreneurs will focus on the trends and the evolution of style in home design, fashion and beauty. Hear how these women transformed their inspiration into successful business models.

Nigeria: A Conflicted Nation
Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-542-8995). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line Copley Square.6-7:30pm Free.* **Wande Abimbola**, professor of African studies at Boston University and former senate majority leader of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, leads a discussion on the current issues facing Nigeria.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

A Conversation with Howard Dean
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA:Red Line to UMass/JFK. 4-5:30pm. Free.* **Howard Dean**, former governor of Vermont and a 2004 Democratic presidential candidate, will discuss his position on foreign policy concerns and domestic issues facing the United States today.

Varieties of Violence
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6:30pm. Free with regular admission ($10). **Peter Hawkins**, professor at Boston University, discusses Dante's Canto VX, in which the poet travels into Lower Hell and deals with the sins of violence and fraud.

Schools in Society
Cambridge Forum, First Parish Church, Three Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). www.cambridgeforum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 7:30pm. Free.* Lesley University president **Margaret McKenna** discusses how schools are preparing future teachers for the field of education.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

An Archive of One's Own
Mary Baker Eddy Library, 200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). www.marybakereddylibrary.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA or E Green Line to Symphony. 6:30pm. Free.* Curator **Barbara Haber**, author **Sylvia Jukes Morris** and Princeton professor **Neil Irvin Painter** discuss how the simplest documents from life, such as photographs, letters and even cookbooks, can reveal surprising things about both our past and present.

From Courtroom to Boardroom: Increase Your Social Savvy
Nixon Peabody LLP, 101 Federal St., Boston (617-973-6666). 5:30pm. $25. **Jodi Smith** of Mannersmith teaches you the skills to persuade clients, win over your co-workers and increase your social savvy in the working world.

Portuguese Homestyle Cooking
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Green Line to Park. 12:15-1pm. $5. **Ana Patuleia Ortins**, author of *Portuguese Homestyle Cooking*, discusses New England's cultural influence on Portuguese cuisine and how Portuguese cooks have also influenced New England cooking.

Socrates in Boston
Suffolk University Law School, Moot Courtroom, Fourth Floor, 120 Tremont St., Boston (617-573-8543). MBTA: Green Line to Park or Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 5pm. Free. **Ronald Gross**, author of *Socrates' Way*, portrays Socrates, the famous gadfly of ancient Athens. He describes the philosopher's life, ideas and the famous trial for his life.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Non-Violence and the Quest for Human Rights
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1644). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA:Red Line to UMass/JFK. 4-5:30pm. Free.* Journalist **Juan Williams**, civil rights leaders **Diane Nash** and Reverend **James Lawson**, and former Kennedy administration official **John Seigenthaler** discuss the current state of civil rights in America.

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CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show is held the last Monday of every month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Fridays, Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Fridays, Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, presents "Anything Goes." DJ Thom Delahunt spins house at this evening for women. *www.circuitgirl.com.* 10pm, $10, 21+. •On Saturdays Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—a pool room and a lounge keep the men busy until at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am- 9pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Tuesdays, catch the Retro Rewind, 8:30pm. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from the latest music videos as well as classic movies—compiled by the bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jacques. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3pm-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

Fritz (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. The folks here are really friendly—and really into sports. DirecTV is set up with screens scattered about and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Sun.-Fri., 12pm; Sat., 11am. No cover, 21+.

Geoffrey's Café-Bar (Daily)
160 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-11pm daily; bar open until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers 52 varieties of wine and mid-priced bistro fare. Breakfast is served daily until 3pm.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Cabaret drag show. Mon.-Sat., 10:30pm; Sun., 10pm. $5 weekdays; $7 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu. and Sat.: Avalon bartender "Miss Chris" performs. 10:30pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Wednesdays-Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Curve Wed.: DJ Joe Bermudez spins house and techno music. 10pm-2am, $9, 19+; $7, 21+. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Manhunt Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Sun.: Trix lesbian night features DJ Mix Mistress spinning house, hip-hop and Latin. 10pm-2am, $5, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays and Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thursdays is Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $10, 19+; $8, 21+. •Liquid Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $10, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland with live entertainment, including Drag Bingo, spoken word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top-40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Groove, 10pm-2am, $3, 19+. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop, $5, 21+. •Fri.: Vibe with DJ Susan Esthera spinning tribal, $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

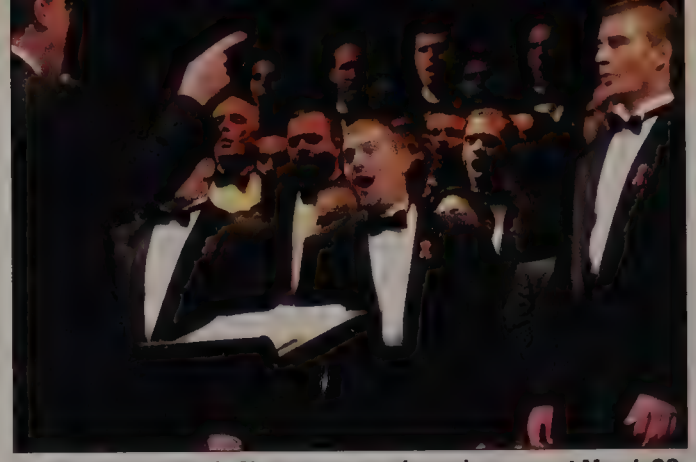
Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events. •March 23, 3pm. Free. **Anika Nailah** reads from her debut collection of short stories, *Free: and Other Stories*, which explores injustices experienced by African-Americans. •March 26, 7pm. Free. Editors Rabbi **Sharon Cohen Anisfeld**, **Tara Mohr** and **Catherine Spector** read from their book *The Women's Passover Companion*, a collection of Jewish women's perspectives on the growing trend of all-women Seders.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Daffodils, Drinks & Drag Benefit
Dedo Lounge & Bistro, 69 Church St., Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 20, 6pm, $40. Speak Out Boston celebrates 30 years of service to the GLBT community with its first annual benefit. Famed Boston drag queens Diamond Dunhill, Kris Knievil and Rainbow Frite perform live while attendees dine on Dedo's cuisine.



The Boston Gay Men's Chorus presents its spring concert March 29.

Dunes at Overveen
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-9669). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.glsenboston.org. *March 22, 8pm. $20-$100.* The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Boston presents a benefit reception and staged reading of a screenplay *Dunes at Overveen*, the true story of gay and lesbian resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland. The screenplay's co-author, gay political activist David Mixner, is present, and celebrity performers include Chad Allen and Letta Neely.

Heart and Soul
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). MBTA: Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass Ave. March 29, 2pm, $12-$42. The Boston Gay Men's Chorus' annual spring concert, *Heart and Soul*, features a mix of gospel and spiritual music, as well as a guest performance by Tony Award–winning songstress Lillias White.

Lesbian 8minuteDating
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 31, 7pm. $33.88. Lesbian singles looking to meet other single women are randomly paired up for eight eight-minute dates. After the event, log on to *www.8minuteDating.com* to enter your preferences and see if a match is made. Cash bar and appetizers are available during intermission.

The Men's Event
American Ballroom, The Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-927-6350). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. March 29, 6pm. $125. Fenway Community Health's 10th annual fundraising event includes a reception, dinner, dancing and a silent auction for the community's men and their supporters

Out & About Club
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. March 19. 6pm. $38-$67.* Mingle with the cast, chat with theatergoers, or tour backstage with the Out & About Club during the free post-show reception for *Breath, Boom*, a play that chronicles the leader of a girl gang's attempts to overcome a history of abuse and neglect.

Pride and Passion Party
Club Cafe's Moonshine Room Boston (781-891-5966). March 30, 6-9pm. $40. Greater Boston's Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays hosts its Safe Schools Fundraising Event. The evening includes Mary Callahan's live cabaret music, hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions and a cash bar.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon-Thurs, 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create performances representing women's perspectives. E-mail *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, national hotline is confidential and provides information and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. A group for gay/bisexual fathers and their partners convenes the first and third Tuesday of each month.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians who want to get together and enjoy board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
A mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia at 617-482-1078.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing, and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Ass, New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim team.

Meow_Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston/. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to organize projects, which include making communities safe

body&mind

dvice to Contributors *Submit updated information by ail, by fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, electronically to* bodymind@improper.com. *Include a ief but thorough description of the event, time, date, loca- n, directions, cost and contact information. Listings can- t be accepted by phone and must be received at least four eeks in advance.*

EVENTS

ystical Movie Night

ben Doors, 395A Washington St., Braintree (781-843- 224 or 888-815-3353). www.inspiredevents.com. *BTA: Red Line to Braintree. March 20, 6:30-9:30pm. alling ahead.* Come view and discuss inspirational and ystical movies with themes such as the afterlife, cre- ivity, healing, incarnations, myth, religion and spirit. onight's showing is the 1980 film *Altered States*, star- ng William Hurt as a man investigating the nature of mself and living.

aked Dancing in the Streets

eet at 142 Berkeley St., Boston (617-859-1400). BTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 1, 12am. Is there ything more liberating than leaping, pirouetting shimmying naked through the Public Garden or own Newbury Street? Join the Boston Nudist Soci- y for a tour of the city...sans clothing.

he Practical Art of Creativity ith Julia Cameron

rlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (888- 59-9191 ext.223). www.onenessproductions.org. *BTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 22, 9am-4pm. 29.* Julia Cameron, author of *The Artist's Way*, in- tes artists, writers, dancers and those interested in ving more creatively to explore their creativity. arn ways to remove cultural and personal blocks and press your passions.

ock Sacred: ulti-Media Ecstatic Dance

rst Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge 78-509-6834). www.ecstaticspirit.com. *MBTA: d Line to Harvard. March 22, 8-10:30pm. $15.* In2iT roductions presents world-beat music, videos, ocative art installations and participatory ritual eater, inviting you to journey into your deeper self, just to dance and have a great time.

hat Is Your Life Path?

rlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston 88-259-9191, ext.223). www.onenessproduc- ons.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. March 29, m-4pm. $129.* Oneness Productions presents lynis McCants, numerologist and stand-up come- an. She introduces the meaning of numbers and e practical applications of numerology and dis- sses how this knowledge can help you navigate ur unique life path.

LECTURES

at Smart with Nutrition Basics

arvest Co-op Market, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 17-661-1580). www.harvestcoop.org. MBTA: d Line to Central. *March 26, 6-8pm.* This class of- rs commonsense nutrition tips and covers the basic ements of a healthy diet, including fats, carbohy- ates, protein and vitamins, and a little about read- g labels and exercising.

scover Your Dreams, Passions nd Creativity

ellspace, 1 New St., Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (617- 76-2660 or 617-640-3813). www.wellspace.com. *BTA: Red Line to Alewife. March 21, 7-9pm. Free.* Do u feel there are dreams and cre- ive projects you'd like to pur- e, but haven't? Join holistic alth practitioner **Kim Childs** for introductory lecture based on lia Cameron's book *The Artist's ay*. The book's exercises are de- gned to help you be yourself and eate your life.

WORKSHOPS

frican Dancing

amilton Recreation Department, amilton (978-768-3832 ext. 3). ww.yogaom.com. *March 23, 1- m. $45.* Marilyn Middleton of e Bamidele Dancers and Drum- ers hosts this dance workshop aturing live drumming.

eing in the Present

be Arlington Center, 369 Mass. ve. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *March 30, 12-4 pm, $65.* The Alexander Technique teaches you how to move in order to reduce tension and fatigue. Through guidance, practice and discussion, this workshop shows how you can change patterns of your movement and your perceptions.

Breathing Techniques for Dealing with Chaos

Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1580). www.harvestcoop.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. March 25, 6-8pm.* The Art of Living Foundation invites you to learn about a powerful, easy, breathing technique, perfected by ancient masters 5,000 years ago, that is said to eliminate stress, increase energy and build your power of concentration to help you deal with whatever you encounter.

The Buddha of Compassion: How You Can Make a Difference

New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St. Cambridge (617-591-9959). www.newacropolis.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. March 28, 7:30pm. $5.* Learn about Buddha's teachings concerning the true cause of suffering in the world. Learn how to walk down Buddha's path toward self-perfection while working to make the world a better place.

How to Be Wise Without Trying

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. March 27, 7pm-9pm. $29.* Findings from neuroscience research indicate there are few connections between the rational and emotional parts of the brain. This helps to explain why it's difficult to think straight in stressful situations. In this workshop, learn what influences your emotional center, plus techniques for managing frustration and tension.

Spring Cleansing Yoga

Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. March 23, 2-4:30pm. $25. Many varieties of yoga twists are thought to help clean and purify the body and muscles, which can in turn help cleanse the mind.

Tuina Chinese Bodywork for Organ Tonification

Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). March 29-30. $225. Tonification refers to therapeutic methods designed to nourish and invigorate the entire body. This workshop will cover Qi Gong, meditation, Chinese medicine theory, acupressure points and bodywork that balances the organs.

Using Self-Hypnosis for Balance and Success

New England School of Acupuncture, 40 Belmont St., Watertown (617-926-1788 ex.5). www.nesa.edu. *March 30, 1:30-5pm. $55.* Self-hypnosis can be a safe and natural way of changing your behavior patterns. Learn how to refocus your mind and unblock yourself for increased relaxation and vitality.

ONGOING

Beginner's Yoga/Allston

Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave. Allston (617-739-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or #57, 64, 66 and 501 bus lines. Wed., 6:30-8pm. Sat., 10-11:30am. $14-$20.* Try the beginner's class in this attractive and peaceful environment. First-time visitors should call in advance. Parking available.

Introduction to Ashtanga Yoga

Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., Third Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 4pm. Take it slow and learn the basics of this ancient form of yoga.

Let the spirit of dance move you at the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers' workshop in Hamilton, Mass., March 23.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

Harlem Globetrotters

FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station. March 29, 7:30pm; March 30, 3pm. $15-$35. The Harlem Globetrotters are back in Boston to demonstrate their hoop skills and their comedic talents.

Kids Variety Show

290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. March 29, 10:30am; March 30, 3pm. $8.50, $6 children. Each show opens with a mix of music, dance, stories, games and prizes, and is followed by a featured performer. •March 22: Marcus Gale presents *Music for Everyone*, an interactive family event complete with funny stories and puppets. A special guest of the day is the Flaming Cat Juggling Company and their tiny circus act. •March 29: Michael Lane Trauman performs his vaudeville-style act, *My Misspent Youth*.

North Shore Music Theatre

North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. •March 19-21, 10am, $14-$24: Shakespeare's comedy *The Taming of the Shrew* •March 25-28, 9:45am and 11:45am, $8: Theatreworks USA presents the Seuss-like world of *Just So Stories*. •April 1-4, 9:45am and 11:45am, $8: Story Salad Productions' musical chefs present a medley of children's tales in *Good Driving, Amelia Bedelia and Other Story Books*.

Puppet Showplace Theatre

32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •March 20, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Blue Moon Puppets presents *Singing Bird and Bear and Other Tales*. •March 22 and 23, 1 and 3pm, ages 4-9: Spring Valley Puppets presents *Jack and the Beanstalk*. •March 26 and 27, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Tucker's Tales Puppet Theatre presents *Bear Tales*. •March 29 and 30, 1 and 3pm, ages 3-8: Tucker's Tales presents *Peter Rabbit Tales*.

THINGS TO DO

The Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8. $7 children.* •KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15pm. •March 21-22, ages 6 and up, $24: The annual Spring Family Overnight includes craft activities, live performances, a bedtime snack, and the opportunity to spend the night in your favorite Children's Museum exhibit. •March 30, 11am-4pm, all ages: The annual American Indian Day Pow Wow features native people from North and South America who will sing, dance and display handmade crafts.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •March 29, 9am-5pm, $6:50/adults, $4/children: At the Mineral Madness Family Festival, see displays of New England minerals and have your own "mystery minerals" from home identified.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* •Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-12pm: The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers. •Through April 30: Follow the creative processes of Alexander Graham Bell, James McLurkin, Newman Darby and other inventors in *Invention at Play*.

Newton Free Library

Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1370). •Wed., 7pm, ages 10 and older: Become a Book Investigator and write stories and book reviews. •Thu., 7pm, ages 4 and older: Pajama Storytime •Fri., 10:30am: Preschool Films •March 25, 4pm, ages 7 and up: Mad Science gives a slippery science workshop on polymers. •March 27, 4pm, ages 5 and up: World Cultures Program introduces children to the stories, crafts and delicious treats of the Persian New Year.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849
March 26, 7pm vs. Golden State Warriors
March 28, 7:30pm vs. Cleveland Cavaliers

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter. Tickets: 617-931-2222
March 24, 7pm vs. Toronto Maple Leafs
March 29, 1:30pm vs. New York Rangers
March 31, 7pm vs. Tampa Bay Lightning

Events

Centennial of Golf Gala
Local golf legend Paul Harney and WCVB-TV sports reporter Mike Dowling host a night commemorating Massachusetts' golf heritage. The event features a montage of dramatic golf moments, and individuals who have contributed to the game will be honored. *Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (774-430-9100).* www.mgalinks.org. *March 29, 4pm. $50.*

Harlem Globetrotters
The reigning kings of basketball clowning return to Boston for two nights. *FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000)* www.fleetcenter.com. *March 29, 7:30pm. Also March 30, 3pm. $15-$35.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now for spring league.

LACROSSE

MetroLacrosse
(617-242-9898, ext. 205) www.metrolacrosse.com. MetroLacrosse, a non-profit organization that teaches lacrosse to children in underserved Boston communities, is looking for coaches for the spring 2003 season.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Khoury's 4-Mile Free Fun Run
118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs Thursday nights, 7pm.*

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
(781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. The nonprofit BSSS offers skating classes for children and adults at 15 MDC rinks. Learn some Dorothy Hamill moves, and then head to the Frog Pond to show them off.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

Asgard Volleyball League
University Park, Cambridge (617-577-9100). Wed. nights. The Asgard, Newcastle and Forest City Property Management host a weekly volleyball league for Cambridge businesses.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

Teams are forming now for the BSSC's kickball league.

around town

The U.S.S. Constitution Museum

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm. Free.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). www.oldironsides.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum open daily, 10am-5pm. Ship hours: winter: Thu.-Sun., 10am-4pm; summer: daily, 10am-4pm. Free.*

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big brother to a little boy.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl. Information sessions: March 20 and 27, 12-1pm.

Boston by Foot
(617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. Train as a volunteer guide. The series begins April 19.

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and mentors needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work in Cambridge public schools as tutors, aides and mentors.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elderly.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-306-0910). Volunteers in Everett and eastern Massachusetts needed for small rabbit shelter.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed for the Parental Stress Line.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111, ext. 17). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996, ext. 30). Battered women's agency seeks volunteers.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, groceries program and office work

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. SVB provides single professionals with volunteer opportunities. •March 22, 10am-2pm: Franklin Park Zoo cleanup •March 29, 11am-3pm: Charles River Conservancy.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4KID). Volunteers needed for this organization committed to rescuing homeless and street children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal immigrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

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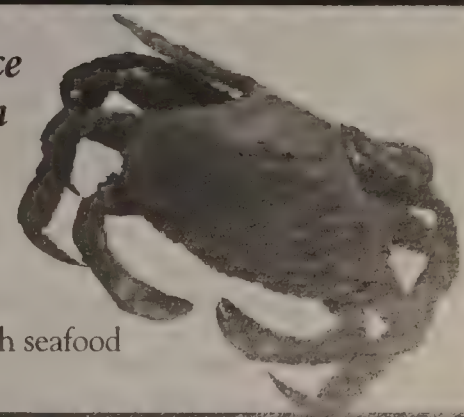

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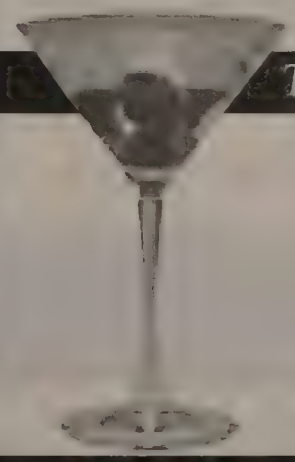

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Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity). Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Fairy Princess

You: the fairy princess who rolled in to buy a lock. Me: the bike mechanic who was entranced the moment he saw you. I asked you to lunch, then dinner. You know the rest. You are my everything. Can't wait to do breakfast again. I love you, Poopaloopa.
—CBJ

Looking for Lo

It was a snowy night, Feb. 17, the Harvard Square T-Stop. Before I even set eyes upon you, your voice was upon me like a siren's call. I quickened my step and there you were, singing your heart out and playing your guitar, your dark tresses obscuring your joyful, mysterious eyes. Your smile was every bit as sultry as your voice. Transfixed as I was, I let countless trains go by as I tried to work up the nerve to approach you. At one point you stopped to tie back your hair, and I thought, now is my chance. But then you got up for a cigarette, leaving your guitar case and my nervous, brooding romanticism behind. I took one of the cassettes, *Lo Hardcastle Unplugged*, from your for-sale pile (don't worry, I paid for it), and rejoiced at at least knowing your name. I considered climbing into your guitar case in the hopes that you would take me home. I resolved to wait for you and declare my affection, but as the hour grew later and you didn't return, I despairingly got on the train and have been listening to your music and thinking of you ever since. I wanted to call you, but apparently your number is unlisted or you're not from Boston. Won't you write me and give us a chance to make sweet music together?
—sweetmusic217@hotmail.com

Hobart Lacrosse

Nov. 15 at Whiskey Park: I caught you glancing in my direction a few times. Later, as I was leaving the ladies' room, there you were waiting for me at the bottom of the stairs. What a nice surprise! We chatted for a bit before I had to excuse myself to rejoin my friends. Ever since that night I've been hoping to run into you but I've had no luck. Here are the clues I'm left with: You are a tall, blond, 30-ish, former Hobart lacrosse player from Greenwich, Conn., now living in Brookline. I'd really love to see you again!
—whiskeyparknov15@yahoo.com

Checking You Out

For some strange reason, I had the urge to write in to Improper Impersonals after I saw you at the Johnny Foodmaster's in Somerville (on Broadway) on Feb. 25 around 7pm. We passed each other a few times in the aisles, making eye contact. The first time I saw you, I had a puzzled/confused look on my face because I had just seen a man shoplift a bottle of salad dressing. You are cute, with great blue eyes and curly brown hair. You wore a faded baseball hat and a thin green windbreaker jacket. I was in the same checkout line as you, a few people behind you, and you saw me again. I was wearing a gray wool hat, a fuzzy green jacket, and I have blue eyes and long reddish-brown hair. You looked very familiar to me and I was hoping that you'd wait outside for me. If this sounds like you (and you're single and not psycho), drop me an e-mail sometime.
—checkoutline@hotmail.com

Calling Dr. Ring

Dr. Ring, I can't stop thinking about you. You don't wear a ring so I am taking this chance to find out if you're single. I was one of your patients (petite blonde who slipped on the ice in January). Don't worry, I'm not stalking you, just hoping that now that I am all better we could go beyond the doctor/patient relationship to something more fun. I hope you e-mail me!
— yourfavpatient@hotmail.com

Joe the Hockey Player

At 7am, on a Friday in February you cut me in line at the check-in at Logan Airport. I was pissed. You were with your buddies. Then I recognized you from the picture published in THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN as one of the 20 hottest singles in Boston. You were the professional hockey player. I was still pissed. Then I thought you were cute and figured "OK, he can cut me." You glanced at me a couple of times but seemed busy with your friends. Perhaps you noticed me? Me: petite blonde, with a green flower bag, wearing jeans, peacoat, and Burberry scarf. I was headed to Miami, just like you, but I was not going to the All-Star game. I am back in Boston now, and if you did indeed notice me and are interested in meeting me, I'd be up for that—even if you are a hockey player.
—bruinsorbust@yahoo.com

No Game

I just got off of work and made my way down to the Broadway stairs, into the dank tunnel that smelled like a musty boxing gym. Two seconds later, a gorgeous girl walked by, white puffy coat with a hood, off-white pants, carrying a small red leather purse. You had the most beautiful brown hair and face. You looked like an angel amidst the snow. I was wearing a black jacket, jeans, soaked white sneakers and a Patriots hat. We went all the way from Broadway to Northeastern and got off at the same stop. We made eye contact several times, but due to the fact that I have no "game" to speak of, I dared not open my mouth and blurt out something stupid. I walked toward Our House, you walked toward west campus. I wish I took a chance. Do you live in the area? I'd love to warm up together over coffee sometime. Drop me a line.
—snowcoveredguyintheblack jacket@yahoo.com

Waiting for a Cab on Valentine's Day

I was standing with a friend in fron of Burger King on Huntington Ave., trying to catch a cab in the bitter cold on the night of Valentine's Day You walked up, holding what looked like your supper. You tried to get in cab that was there, until my friend informed you that there was an "Eskimo" in the backseat. I asked i you were going downtown, thinking that we could all share a cab. You said that you were going home to Jl and that you had to let your dog m as soon as you got home. You gave me a cigarette while we were waiting. I feel bad because I only smoked half of it before a cab came. If it wasn't absolutely freezing out, I would have liked to talk to you more. If you'd like to resume our conversation, maybe this time indoors, e-mail me.
—vdaycab@hotmail.com

T-Schizzy, My Traveling Companion...

It was Feb. 7, one of many blizzard-like days here in Boston. We met at Logan, and we shared in the frustration and disappointment tha all flights had been cancelled. Stranded and both desperate to get to New York, we were soon devising plan to get there. Your warm eyes and friendly smile made me feel th I could trust you as my traveling companion. Before long, we were ir a cab together bound for South Station. The journey to New York wa long, and I may have missed my chance for musical stardom, but it was quite memorable. During our seven-hour train ride, we shared a few beers and laughs, and talked about music, our fellow passenger cheese plates, low-cut shirts and t unique and entertaining quality of the Impersonals. I hope that you'll take me up on my offer to have a "Lucky" night in Boston sometime.
—luckylogangirl@yahoo.com

Found

Men's wedding band, first block of Newbury St., around Valentine's D. Tell me the inscription to get it ba
—jonathan@improper.com

Rockie Horoscope

MARCH 19 – APRIL 1, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

ARIES MARCH 20-APRIL 19

The full moon on the 18th signals the beginning of the end of whatever tried out for your attention when the month began. Its conclusion may not be signed, sealed and delivered, but the mental and physical energy you've exerted has already had a significant effect. You don't have to push any harder. You also won't have to tackle a new problem until the ries new moon on April 1, so take a break at the equinox. Celebrate being a Ram in the year of the Ram. Incidentally, you're especially lucky s March ends.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

ake advantage. While your sociable Venus ruler avels through your Aquarius midheaven, you're in an xcellent position to attract the people and situation iat'll advance your career. The reputation of someone your family may also benefit from this annual ansit, which, unfortunately, will be over on the 27th. ay special attention to traditional values and the ell-established person proposing them on the 20th. e or she could be your reward for making an ntelligent financial decision.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

he Virgo full moon may be tricky, particularly for Twins orn close to the Cancer cusp. Pressure from two eparate sources, for example, your boss and a family ember, can squeeze whatever high spirits you've anaged to maintain right out of you. But this, too, hall pass, probably shortly after spring arrives and you ear the words you've been waiting for. For some, the essage will inspire a spiritual calling; for others, it's ermission to let their artistic imagination loose. By onth's end, everyone feels re-energized and rewarded.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

uring this full moon-spring equinox week, sensitive loon Children know it's time they do something about e direction their life has taken. Do you want to ontinue in the same vein? If not, what goal do you spire to next? You can be quite critical yet somewhat nrealistic about the possibilities—travel for some, raduate school for others, more art and music for all. st be aware that your imagination may take you laces you won't be able to get to after responsibility-den Saturn enters your sign in June.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

nce spring arrives, Leos can't wait to shed their intery woes and heavy clothes. While you'll welcome at extra hour of light, you'll really appreciate the dvantages you'll have when your sun ruler is favored by cky Jupiter as March ends and the lion goes out like a mb. Make plans now to enjoy the benefits about to be estowed on you, also to maximize the inside formation (strictly legal) you get about other people's oney. Not only is the immediate future brightening up r you, but for partners and friends too.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

he Virgo-Pisces full moon can bring to a head your elings about a significant other, as well as what ost concerns you about yourself. It's time to stop eighing the alternatives or waiting for something to appen that'll take the decision out of your hands. But efore you beat yourself up for not acting sooner, be ure you wait a few days and factor in what you'll arn when your Mercury ruler and the Aries sun merge n the 21st. That piece of the puzzle could have a ajor impact.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

he equinox would be an appropriate time to reset your riorities and get your life back in balance. Too much of ne thing, too little of another can throw a Libra for a loop. But once self-directed Aries energy takes hold and folks rouse themselves out of hibernation, it'll be easier to establish yourself. You'll also get support from productive Saturn while it favors your artistic Venus ruler. Even though Aries lights up your marriage house, your independence need not be compromised.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Whether it suits your purpose or not, this week gears shift of their own accord. Make the most of each idealized, romanticized moment you can experience during this full-moon period. Be sure to include your friends, even the whiny, judgmental Virgos, in the fun. Changes in your domestic life will go down more smoothly now that Uranus is in Pisces, a compatible water sign. However, you may feel slightly disoriented when your Pluto co-ruler turns retrograde on the 22nd.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Better hope it is all talk and no action while Mercury challenges Pluto in your sign just before St. Patrick's Day. Your partner is also due for a tongue-lashing then, so don't expect any help from that quarter. This full moon puts additional pressure on all the mutable folks—the Sags, Geminis, Pisces and Virgos—you hang with. Commiserate with them, but for heartfelt emotional relief and a few chuckles, go to Leo or Aries. They'll also come through when your Jupiter ruler and the Aries sun trine on the 28th.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Equinox and solstice points strike a chord in the Goat that resonates beyond our (in other words, non-cardinal signs) hearing. So at the moment that spring arrives (8 pm EST) on the 20th, listen up. There's a message being sent only you (maybe, Aries, Libra and Cancer too) can decipher. One of your better days follows: On Friday, your Saturn ruler is graced by all the affection and pleasure Venus can bestow. Usually, their rewarding trine occurs only twice a year, so make the most of the occasion. Buy a big-ticket item, enjoy the arts, fall in love.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

A money matter might dampen your St. Patty's Day spirit simply because the full moon is casting a shadow across your financial axis. It'll probably be resolved before the new moon on April 1; still, don't neglect to pay attention, or whatever else is called for. There's a good chance your partner will be enormously helpful, especially when the sun favors generous Jupiter in your Leo marriage house on the 28th. Same goes for folks involved in legal matters. That's a red-letter day for Aquarius. Dress up.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

"Conclusion" is hardly the word for what is happening to you guys. What comes after "the end" yet before "the beginning?" So, if you feel you're in between, waiting for the pain and/or relief of letting go to fade, yet uncertain (as if you are ever sure of anything) what's coming up next, relax. The times, especially for Fish, are changin.' The full moon in your Virgo marriage house, across your "me-we" axis, only adds to the feeling that adaptation and mobility are key to your successful survival.

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Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. Since we want your feedback on the rest of the magazine, too, submissions that include a letter expressing your opinion will really get our attention.

Cheryl and Jim Powers brazenly flout the usage rules for Sandals pool toys (see small print at right) in Negril, Jamaica.

Shirley Hamara toted an IMPROPER all the way to Easter Island. The famous statues were erected some 1,500 years ago by the Easter Island Tourism Council.

Carey and Maria Dunfey discover cover boy Lou Merloni in Fort Myers, Fla.

Jay Cormier sends greetings from Red Hook Harbor in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. We're certainly glad that *we're* not in St. Thomas. It looks stressful and unpleasant there.

Richard Stephens and Matt Petersen sip brews after assaulting Wachusett's North Face. OK, that's actually the Eiger North Face, in Switzerland.

Kevin Scannell prays to the ancient Japanese god Pow Pow at the Kenmeiji Shinto shrine at the base of the Nozawa Onsen ski area in Japan. He says that glades skiing there is very safe, as the all trees are bonsais.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Tying a nice stretchy vine around their ankles and jumping off a tower at the land diving ceremonies on Pentecost Island, Vanuatu, in April and May.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mail high-resolution photos to: sightings@improper.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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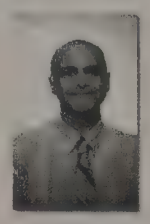
Psychologist, Bob Azrak, Ed.D., launches program in Quincy!

Experiences in Personal Development[SM]



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On Sunday, Mar. 9, **The Hyatt Regency** hotel played host to "Chocolate Fools Day." This chocolate-tasting extravaganza to benefit **Cambridge Performance Center** was sponsored by **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN**, **S.Pellegrino**, and **Starbucks Coffee**.

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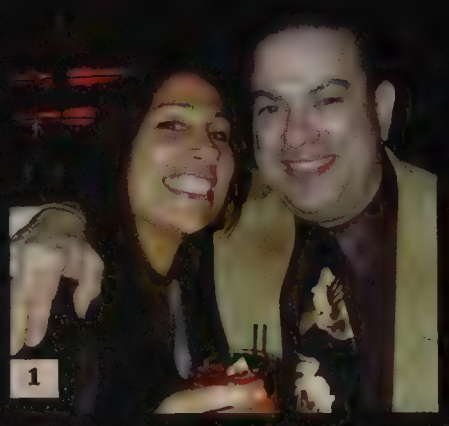
1. **David Perrier**, chef, and **Lynica Emanuello**, manager, both of Trio.
2. **Marty Connor**, web master, and **Chris Connaire**, event committee member, both of Cambridge Performance Center.
3. **Jenn Cuoco**, kindergarten teacher, Boston; **Sheila Lehane** of Boston, and **Dara Dephoure** of Needham.

On Tuesday, Mar. 4, **Pravda 116** hosted a launch party for **Turi**, a new Estonian vodka.



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1. **Louanne Murad**, regional manager on-premise of Bacardi USA, and **Gary Baptiste**, sales rep, for United Liquors.
2. **Kimberly Mellow**, promoter; **Rick Milliken**, district manager; **Maria Michel**, promoter; and **Nick Stefiok**, premium brand specialist; all of Bacardi USA.
3. **Mike Basile** and **Joe Harvey Jr.**, marketing executives for United Liquors; **Kelli-Rae Hoyt** and **Amie Spiridigliozui**, promoters for Bacardi USA; and **Bobby Burgholzer**, under writer for Sunlife Financial.

On Tuesday, Feb.25, **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN** Spring Fashion Event was held at **Parris**. Partygoers enjoyed martinis provided by **Turi Vodka** and a **DKNY** spring fashion show. The runway was illuminated by silk fabrics from **Zimman's**. Click models were glamorized by **Maksou Salon**.

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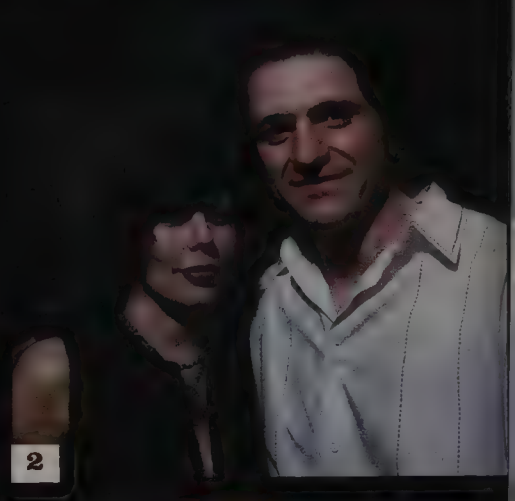

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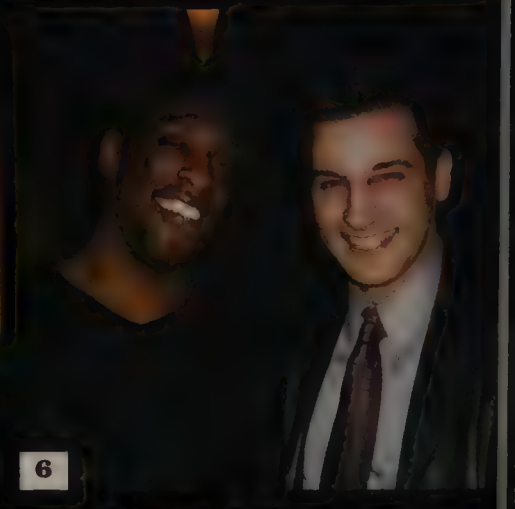

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1. **Zvi Cole**, CEO & founder of Zvi Cole Marketing and **Janet Wu**, healthcast reporter of Channel
2. **Deborah Graziano**, manager, and **Peter Zucco**, design director, both of Zimman's.
3. **Julia B.**, model from click.
4. **Caitlin Manley**, model from click.
5. **Mike Carlisle**, general manager of Parris and Ned Devine's.
6. **Devaughn Venable**, graphic designer for Empire Graphics, **Lou Morello**, sales representative of Sprint PCS.

PHOTO CREDITS: PRAVDA 116, JULIE KANE; HYATT REGENCY, KYLE-MARIE LANDRY; PARRIS, ZOE PARKER GEISMAN, DEREK KOUYOU

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restaurants

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut Street, Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) - 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and handshaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

Science Street Cafe *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out the newest nightspot--The Museum of Science. Try our one-of-a-kind martinis, gourmet appetizers and desserts, then tour the Museum or catch an Omni movie. $25 package includes one drink, one appetizer, Mugar Omni Theater ticket, Exhibit Hall admission and parking. 6-10pm at the Museum of Science.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 Rear Union St., Newton Centre, 617-964-6684 Off intersect. of Beacon St. & Center St.* Comfortable, casual and fun in a 100+ yr-old building with 3 floors and an outside patio. Focus is on fresh food with a menu that covers everything from classic appetizers to creative pastas and entrees. Locally known for fresh fish and Sat. & Sun. Brunch menu as well as for football and sports bar scene (20 TVs of Direct TV) and the live, original music in the top floor ATTIC Bar.

bars/clubs

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Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

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COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Tilt *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* A club truly in a class of its own. With its outrageous Light Show and Cat Walk spectacle, dance and groove with the spinning sensations on Saturday nights and to guest DJs spinning progressive house and trance on Friday. Dress code strictly enforced. Doors open at 10pm.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place fo young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 1 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great plac for a pint and a chat."

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Stree to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialt drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony fo plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwate Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have somethin for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alle where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the F nancial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck watching your hometown favorites on our high definitio plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after wo and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinnir your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound sy tem all night long.

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury Stree Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-i fused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's co jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from iten such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tu with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's ma with unique martini selections such as the now-famo Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Bost Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, D MC, V.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-01* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located the heart of the Financial District just one block from F neuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is

ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@theblackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St.,617- 236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers, Faneuil Hall Marketplace *Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers, Beacon Hill *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

Hurricane O'Reilly's, *150 Canal St., Boston, MA 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich Street, Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Oxygen-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Enjoy the best of 70's, 80's & 90's music on Tuesday nights and a buffet from 8pm-9pm with DJ Chris Fiore. Doors open at 8pm; 21+, $3 before 9pm and $5 after 9pm. Friday 18+ ladies, 19+ men, casual dress. Saturday 18+ ladies, 21+ men, proper dress required.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

JAZZ

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

SPORTS BAR-UPSCALE

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

VIDEO CLUB

Uptown-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Progressive dance music on Friday nights: 18+ ladies, 19+ men. Casual dress.

brunch

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science *Skyline Room, Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500.* Enjoy Sunday brunch beginning at noon in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 11am or 1pm, then check out the latest Omni film or the new Egyptian exhibit. Combination tickets start at $30 and include parking. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call or visit mos.org.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

Last Scene Here BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Adopt-A-Pet dinner, clockwise from upper left: Deborah Prothrow-Stith, President Kenneth Kaunde of Zambia and Ambassador Charles Stith; David McCullough and Keith Lockhart; Be and Alan Bilzerian.

THE ONLY THING MISSING WAS MARLON PERKINS...

Desperate times call for desperate measures, which explains the gala **Adopt-A-Pet Dinner and Auction** held at the **Copley Plaza** to benefit the **Franklin Park Zoo**.

Models in bodypaint depicting endangered species greeted guests as they arrived in the grand ballroom, where a four-course African game dinner of gazelle, impala, eland and dik-dik was served.

"If the food's this good in Africa," wondered one guest, "why is everybody over there starving?"

Among the attendees who didn't allow the little PETA protest out front to ruin an otherwise perfectly civilized evening: guest of honor and former president of Zambia, **Kenneth Kaunde**; food conglomerate **Todd English**; globetrotting adventurer **Linda Schwabe**; bestselling author and stockbroker-to-the-stars **John Spooner** and his stunning wife, **Susan**; über-philanthropists **Hod** and **Cassandra Irvine**; Newbury Street fashion avatars **Alan** and **Be Bilzerian**; Pops maestro **Keith Lockhart**; Pulitzer Prize–winning historian **David McCullough** and kabuki socialite **Marilyn Riseman**, who won the raffle prize of a full-length mink.

After dinner, **Karen Keane** of Skinner Auctioneers started the bidding for rare and exotic animals from the zoo's own collection.

Movie mogul **Peter Farrelly** went home with a seven-foot Burmese python named Oz, while Channel 7 anchor **Randy Price** now has to think about building an addition onto his house in Maine to accommodate the two ostriches and herd of zebra that he won.

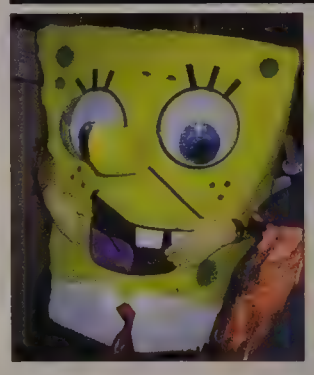
The evening's biggest spender, however, was car dealer **Ernie Boch**, who bought a pair of lions and a bull elephant that he said, "will go great with the llamas on the lawn of my house in Edgartown."

DIAL 9-1-1 FOR THE FASHION POLICE...

To raise money for construction of its super-futuristic building planned for the South Boston waterfront, the **Institute of Contemporary Art** held an old-fashioned charity fair, complete with snow cones and sick-making carnival rides, in the lobby of the **Boston Design Center**.

Board member and celebrity hairstylist **Mario Russo** manned the weight-guessing booth, while **Mayor Menino** worked the crowd in a Spongebob Squarepants costume and food writers **Corby Kummer** and **Alison Arnett** hosted the pie-eating contest.

Summing the evening up, one guest sniffed, "I haven't seen this much gingham since the road show of *Oklahoma*," to which someone else replied, "If I'd only known, I would've worn a tablecloth."



At the ICA benefit at the Design Center: Mario Russo, Michael Schlow and Bryan Rafanelli; Mayor Menino as Spongebob Squarepants.

BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

Anyone whose 401(k) shrank in the past year—i.e., anyone with a 401(k)— can relate to feeling poorer than everyone they know, which explains the premise behind the **Have-and-Have-Not Ball**, held in the newly refurbished ballroom of the old **Ritz**.

A benefit for the **Back Bay–Beacon Hill Nanny Relief Fund**, it attracted such philanthropic young couples as **Karen** and **Kevin Lamb**; **Rachael** and **Andy Goldfarb**; **Pascal** and **Irina Aguirre de Navarre**; **Wendy** and **Chip Pierce**; **John** and **Trevania Henderson**; **Tom** and **Jennifer Donaldson-Janes**; **Molly** and **Stephens Dunne**; **Emily** and **Peter Webster**; **Jim** and **Meg Gordon**; **Joel** and **Randi Cutler**; and **David** and **Nina Fialkow**.

At the Have-and-Have-Not Ball, clockwise from upper left: Andy and Rachael Goldfarb; Jane Dudley and Trevania Henderson; Frank and Malachy McCourt; Meg and Jim Gordon.

During the cocktail hour, guests were asked to anonymously jot down the small economies they've been forced to make since the economy tanked. Following a four-course all–foie gras dinner (accompanied by copious quantities of Krug), the winning entries were chosen by celebrity judge and *Angela's Ashes* author **Frank McCourt** and his tale-telling brother, **Malachy**.

Third place went to the couple who pretended to be out of town during the Louis sale but scoured Filene's Basement every day for the next month looking for leftovers.

Second place went to the woman who covered up for cutting back on trips to her colorist by telling friends that the look she was going for was Colombian pop sensation Shakira meets Cruella de Ville.

And the grand prize—a week's stay with someone else's in-laws in Palm Beach—went to the couple who admitted that they actually contemplated not using a decorator to re-do their house on Nantucket.

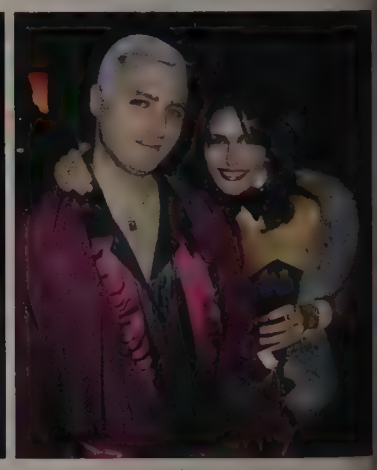
WE'VE SEEN THE FUTURE AND WE'RE STAYING PUT...

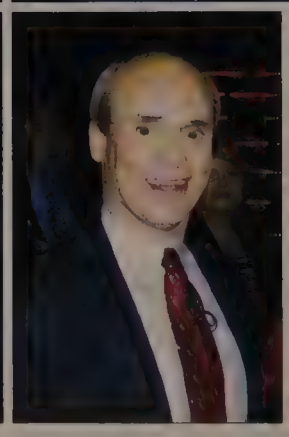
It was a strictly hush-hush, exclusive affair when reclusive New Hampshire billionaire **Dean Kamen** threw a **Sinners Party** at **Saint** to unveil his latest invention.

Billed as "a device guaranteed to transform human life," it looked like nothing more than a motorized skateboard, but guests "oohed" and "aahed" appreciatively as a scantily clad model demonstrated it by riding around the dance floor of the beyond-chic subterranean night spot. Although the invitation specified "costumes optional," such prominent worthies as Governor **Mitt Romney**, House Speaker **Tom Finneran** and U.S. Sen. **Teddy Kennedy** came dressed as Pol Pot, Stalin and George W. Bush, respectively. There were also several Cardinal Bernard Laws, a few Hugh Hefners, and a Marquis de Sade or two, but the pièce de résistance was the drag queen impersonating Linda Lovelace, who handed out party favors in the form of marital aids like vibrators, Viagra tablets and ben wa balls.

"This is one slammin' party," said yogi **Baron Baptiste**, ordering a round of tequila shots from a waitress whom, he noted, "must have a magnificent downward dog."

Oh, and by the way: April Fools. IB





At Dean Kamen's Sinners Party, clockwise from upper left: Chris Myers dressed as Satan; Mitt Romney; Hugh Hefner wannabe and a bunny; Tom Finneran; Ted Kennedy.

Avez-vous dish?

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ET CETERA

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZI

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letters

CONFUSING ISSUE NO. 1

I enjoyed your take on how a number of local Irish establishments offer their version of breakfast ("Irish O'Breakfast," March 5), whether the bangers, pudding and fried eggs are served up at The Green Briar, Kinvara, or my favorite, The Irish Embassy. But one small correction: Irish Football is not soccer, "as we Americans call it," at least not the variety touched on in your article that states the season runs from "March to September." That game is in fact Gaelic Football; the rules, as such, are explained here: *www.gaa.ie.*

That being said, the Republic of Ireland does retain its own football (i.e., "soccer") league that runs from midsummer through the winter. Just something to make note of.

—Evan Whitney
Brighton

CONFUSING ISSUE NO. 2

Thank you for providing such a wonderful resource and reference tool to the city and its visitors every two weeks. I reach for my copy of the Improper at least 100 times a week. As a concierge I often receive requests for something a little different than what may be offered in regular visitor guides. I find your listings very accurate and informative. The purpose of this message is to praise you and point out that in your listing under "Sights to See" it reads Old Faneuil Hall, which it is (old)—however, the name is simply Faneuil Hall.

—David J. Sargent
Chef Concierge
Millennium Bostonian Hotel at Faneuil Hall Marketplace

Editors' Note: Technically you're right about Faneuil Hall. When we say Old Faneuil Hall, we're referring to the historic 1762 building with the grasshopper weather vane on top, and we're attempting to distinguish that historic building from the whole area—bordered by Haymarket, Government Center, the waterfront and the Financial District—which is also commonly referred to as Faneuil Hall.

If your friends say "We're going to Faneuil Hall to drink scorpion bowls," you know they don't intend to sip giant bowls of liquor in the building that John Adams dubbed "the Cradle of Liberty." They're going to the Hong Kong and they'll probably know it in the morning.

To avoid confusion, let's all call the historic building that deserves our respect Old Faneuil Hall from now on. Who's with us?

CONTRIBUTOR

FURNALD GRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Boston-based photography duo Kim Furnald and Tim Gray shoot fashion and portraits for clients around the country. Currently working out of their sunny loft in the heart of the Seaport District, Kim and Tim's photographs have appeared in a variety of publications, including *Darwin*, *CIO*, *New Age* and *The Advocate*. In this photo, taken in Germany last summer, they're enjoying the day off from shooting for a cosmetics company. Their work can be seen in "Beauty Booty" on page 30, "Beauty Editor's Picks" on page 32 or online at *www.furnaldgray.com*.

FROM THE EDITOR

VANITY FAIR

Though I sometimes wish it were otherwise, I'm not one of those impeccably groomed women who arrives at work each day with makeup perfectly applied, hair styled and nails painted. That's mostly because I like to sleep, and time spent blow-drying or applying products is time I'd rather spend snoozing. So, generally, I rush off to work damp-haired and barefaced, hoping I don't run into anyone I know en route.

At some point during the workday, however, I pull out a mirror and my cosmetic bag. And I do make an effort for evenings out. In fact, despite my less than vigilant approach to beauty, I'm as fascinated by beauty products as the next woman, ever questing for the perfect shade of lipstick or the magic lotion that will defrizz my unruly hair.

Working for a magazine that covers fashion and beauty means there are always new products around the office to ogle or try. The desk of our fashion and beauty editor, Samantha House, is like a mini salon, filled with eye shadows, nail polish, potions for hair and skin, soaps of every kind, etc. To attract a crowd of female staff members, all she has to do is pull open a tantalizingly product-crammed drawer—sort of the siren song of the office.

Think of Samantha's desk as a metaphor for this, our annual beauty issue. These pages are filled with her expert advice and information on beauty products—both new and tried-and-true—the latest hair and makeup styles for spring, and beauty and spa services from facials to body wraps.

For all you men whose medicine cabinets contain little more than a family-sized pack of Irish Spring, a can of shaving cream and some rust rings, there's info in here for you too—shaving tips, advice on haircuts and skin care and more.

Happy grooming!

Veronica A. Chao

Veronica Chao, Editor
veronica@improper.com

WILL THE REAL SPONGE-BOB PLEASE STAND UP?

Several of our readers pointed out that it was not Mayor Menino, but Peter Nelson of the Wine Bottega in the North End wearing the SpongeBob costume in a photo that ran in the March 19 Last Scene Here column. "I am baffled at the obvious failure to fact-check this story," and "SpongeBob was not *Mayor Menino," were two such sentiments that we received in e-mails from indignant readers. It's interesting that while many sharp readers picked up on the SpongeBob issue, they failed to note columnist Jonathan Soroff's final words ("April Fools"), and nobody wrote to say that car dealer Ernie Boch did not buy a pair of lions and an elephant at an auction to raise money for the Franklin Park Zoo, one of the column's other spurious assertions.—The Editors*

Tell Us What You Think

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FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

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the Word

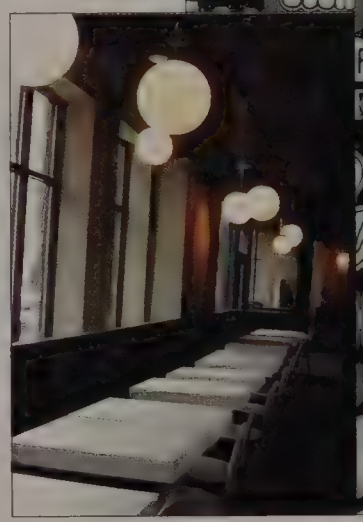
EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

■ trends ■ tittle tattle ■ people ■ panache ■

NEW IN TOWN

The Joy of Flux

To hear Stephen Labuda describe his new restaurant **Flux** (which opened at the end of March) is to imagine Henry David Thoreau as a regular customer. "The basic thrust of Flux is that we wanted to open the simplest, most inexpensive restaurant that we could," says Labuda, who is himself simplifying the staffing by serving as both chef and general manager.



All appetizers cost $5 and the most expensive entrée tops out at $12 at this restaurant located in the site of the former Appetito in the South End. In keeping with Labuda's philosophy of "celebrating simplicity," the food is classic American and the décor is based on utilitarian laminate and chunky formica tabletops. Both the menu, which will change regularly, and the seasonal color schemes (paper menus, cocktail straws, napkins and the like, shifting from spring fuschia to summer green) support the restaurant's name and concept. Flux will, however, keep regular hours: dinner seven days a week and brunch on Sunday. *One Appleton St., Boston (617-695-3589).—Carolyn Faye Fox*

CLUB SCENE

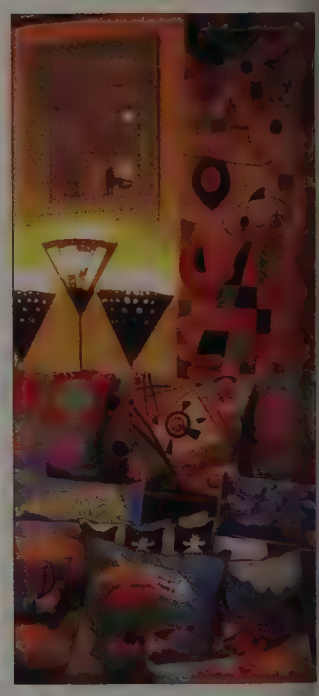
Return of Red Square

•Local mega-club Avalon recently began distributing a limited number of VIP membership cards to a select Saturday night crowd. The VIP membership offer has been extended initially to subscribers of the Avalon electronic mailing list. Cardholders are entitled to monthly members-only engagements, including special events, open bar receptions and celebrity meet-and-greet parties.

•If you've been wondering what songs are ruling the airwaves in Moscow these days, you might want to check out the Red Square Russian Lounge on Saturday nights at Level. After a month-long hiatus, Red Square is back, with DJ Albertik spinning the latest in Russian pop and dance. *—Daniel Spurling*

NEW IN TOWN

Glazing Over



Finally, a store where you and your mom can shop together. **Monroe Salt Works**, a new home goods store slated to open in the Westin Copley Place April 1, is an unlikely cross between a quaint (but upscale) country store you'd find on a Maine back road and the ultra-trendy Urban Outfitters. Can't quite picture it? There's the aroma of pine when you first step foot into Monroe's cozy, cabin-like surroundings. Then there's row upon row of salt glaze stonewear with images of roosters, ducks, moose, frogs and crows painted on the plates, bowls and platters—not to mention linen tablecloths ornamented with black bears. The Urban Outfitters flair shines through in the funky candles; stylish bags; prismatic, embroidered pillows; kitschy toys and beauty products from companies like Burt's Bees and Dirty Girl. Yes, there are even flamingos for your lawn. Most of the goods come from the original Monroe Salt Works, which started as a one-man operation in an old chicken barn in central Maine. Now there are six stores—four in Maine, one in Arlington, Mass., and this one in Boston. *Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-236-0045).—E.H. and J.S.*

TIDBITS AND MORSELS

A New Passport

Merci pour le *chocolate*... They say eating chocolate has the same effect on the brain as falling in love. So if you've been looking for love in all the wrong places, Sandrine's is offering a substitute. The Holyoke Street bistro now offers a chocolate and pastry bar (watch out Le Meridien) to accompany its Sunday brunch. Pastry chef Lee Napoli's chocolate confections include fondue, choux puff chocolate *religieuse* and chocolate Grand Marnier *gateau*, to name a few. The brunch and sweet bar begin April 13 and the $30 price tag includes a brunch entrée and dessert. *11:30am-2:30pm. 8 Holyoke St., Cambridge (617-497-5300).*

New Deli... Kenmore Square's Heritage Café opened in early March with a mission: to bring the authentic taste of the Big Apple's renowned delis to Boston. Co-owners Damian Tysdal and Scott Thatcher set up shop in the space formerly occupied by J-Square Restaurant. They serve soups, salads and sandwiches made with the brand of cold cut ubiquitous in New York: Boar's Head. Thatcher says he hopes to be "*the* place to get sandwiches in the same way that Kelly's is the icon of roast beef." We'll see if a couple of guys from Maine and Indiana can live up to the NYC hype. *636 Beacon St., Boston (617-369-9400).*

City Slickers... Diners willing to go the extra mile for quality grub can put their cars in drive for two new suburban draws. Ambrosia on Huntington's Tony Ambrose threw open the doors of his latest endeavor, Blackfin Chop House and Raw Bar, in Hingham March 27. Executive chef Steven Cassevoy's hearty menu boasts a beefy selection plus sashimi and the raw bar. Also on the outskirts of Boston is Lexington's Copacafe Grand Cafe & Bar, which opened in February under the ownership of George Howell, mastermind of Boston's much-missed beanery, Coffee Connection; his wife Laurie; Henry Patterson of Bel Canto; and baker extraordinaire Vicki Lee Boyajian. The concept is small plates—many served dim sum style on carts—plus coffee and wine. General manager John Mascia, co-owner of Bomboa, says, "It's amazing how it's taken off here. Every night there's a line out the door." *Blackfin, 1217, Main St., Hingham (781-740-4000). Copacafe, 1727 Mass. Ave., Lexington Center (781-862-6622).*

Europe to Go... If you've read *Fast Food Nation*, you most likely now have second thoughts about grabbing a Super Value Meal. Cambridge's Passport: A Taste of Europe opened early this year as a quick and fresh alternative to junky fast food. Creator Roland Czekelius, a former executive chef at the Park Plaza Hotel, incorporates top-shelf European ingredients into a menu that includes rotisserie chicken, lamb and pork dishes, paninis, pastas and Nicoise salads, all costing about $7. Think a combination of Au Bon Pain and Marché. Two more Passport locations are slated to open in Plymouth and Chelsea in the spring. *70 Pacific St., Cambridge (617-577-0000). —E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

FLUX: ZOE PARKER-GEISMAN

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INTERVIEW

Personal Business

Local matchmaking guru Susan Fox has been playing cupid since 1992 at her local personal ad agency, Personals Work. Using flowery language and celebrity comparisons (while staying within the realm of honesty), she and her staffers create personal ads for those in need. Then they help clients find a suitable publication for their ad—for $125 an hour (not including the price of the ad). Fox answered a few questions about her unusual career.

IB: *How did you get started in the business?*

SF: I met my husband through a personal ad, which I wrote, and I was helping place personals for other people. We figured out that we were on to something.

IB: *How many clients do you have?*

SF: Hundreds. We get referrals from people's friends, hairdressers, personal trainers.

IB: *What's your success rate?*

SF: More than 50 percent of our clients meet with success, which is defined as meeting their goals: marriage or a serious long-term relationship.

IB: *What's the typical Boston client?*

SF: Most of our clients are women—about 70 percent. They range in age from pretty young to up into their 70s. We think it's fun to work with the older ones because when we started, women over 40 were being told that there was no chance for them.

IB: *How does the process work?*

SF: If they're out of state, we require a photograph. If it's someone we meet with face-to-face, we give them homework. We poll their friends, children and mothers to really get a consensus about them. They give us phrases that people who know them would use to describe them. We also ask them to tell us what their real strengths are that they bring to a relationship.

IB: *What is the most common celebrity that people try to describe themselves as?*

SF: For one woman we said "Winona Ryder without the kleptomania." I've had people who say they think they look like Gwyneth Paltrow, and I'm like, "In your dreams, honey!" Maybe she has the long blond hair, but that's about it.

IB: *How much do you have to exaggerate?*

SF: It's really about putting the best foot forward. It is advertising—that's why they're called personal ads. You gotta sell the sizzle, not just the steak. We try to be really evocative. We have a client who looks like Edie Falco. Now, maybe not everyone wants to look like her but it brings an image to people's minds, so we'd say "Edie Falco on a good day." *Personals Work (617-547-6862). Sfox@latoile.com.—Jessica Iredale*

SPORTS

Farewell Lou

Orange You on Alert?... The forces seem to be conspiring against the FleetCenter lately. The Bruins and Celtics are hitting the skids with scant time left in their seasons. The latest Big Dig development, the opening of the northbound Liberty/Tip O'Neill Tunnel of Contention, has eliminated the arena's direct Causeway Street exit. And the war with Iraq has jacked up the national security level to orange, prompting FleetCenter CEO Richard Krezwick to advise fans to arrive an hour before game time. What can be done to entice the masses to overcome these hurdles and come root for the boys? A 25-cent draft night might be a good start.

EXIT 26
THE NEW WAY TO THE
FleetCenter

Cinderella Story... Do you like golf? Do you like the North Shore? Well then, you're sure to love *North Shore Golf* magazine. The new mag will be published four times a year during golf season, and offers interviews, course reviews and other North Shore golf news. It's free wherever you tee off, thus allowing you to put your money toward other North Shore golf expenses, like a house by the Ipswich Country Club.

A Good One Gets Taken... Maybe it's like the *Sports Illustrated* jinx for bachelors, but as soon as we go and put Red Sox jack-of-all-trades and single guy Lou Merloni on the cover of our Bachelor/Bachelorette issue, they release him and he ends up with the Padres. Judging by the number of special requests we got for the issue from Boston-area women who had been unable to get a copy on the streets, there's plenty of heartbreak among the city's bachelorettes at Lou's parting. We wish him luck with his new team, and we hear San Diego's not a bad place to be single, either...—*Ezra Dyer*

SAM SAYS

Shoe Biz

Camper manager Chris Barakat

Camper, a 28-year-old Spanish shoe company, has finally made its way to Boston, and it's worth checking out. The reason: Camper shoes are specifically designed for walking, with the soles specially curved to properly channel the energy and movement of the feet while you stroll down, say, the Plaza España—or even Newbury Street. They're among the most comfortable shoes you'll ever put on your feet. But Camper's designs are wonderfully unique as well, with campy images of sushi or fields of flowers printed on the sandal straps or the top of the shoe. One of the company's more unique concepts is its "Twins" line: shoes in a pair feature complementary designs rather than match exactly. Try these on for size. *139B Newbury St., Boston (617-267-4554).—Samantha House*

improper speaking

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Men's Club No More... After 207 years in business, Shreve, Crump & Low inaugurated its first woman president and CEO in March. Merritt Mayher is the material girl of the moment. She left her 11-year association with the imperial Tiffany & Co. to hold court as the 10th president of Shreve's. Luxury retail is in her genes—her mother was a vice president of Saks Fifth Avenue Boston. We'll see if Mayher rules the house with an iron, or maybe a platinum, fist.

Tuning In... Boston talk radio may be slanted toward sports and politics, but there's now a forum for women to sound off on issues pertaining to the fairer sex. ChickChat, a nationally syndicated show out of Washington, D.C., was picked up by WBPS-AM 890 last month and airs weekdays from 2-3pm. The show's hosts, Lara Dyan, Heidi Hanzel and Jacy Cowgill, talk about work, men, marriage and sex—and not necessarily in that order. On April 3, the show hosts Boston College sophomore Anna Schleelein, who discuss the sex column she writes for *The Heights* student newspaper. Another Bostonian makes a guest appearance April 11, when Diane Darling, president of Effective Networking, shares networking tips.

Step on the Gas... Speed Dating, HurryDate, 8minuteDating—clearly singles are eager to pair up—and fast. Allow us to introduce Accel-o-Date, the latest addition to the time-crunch dating phenom. The New England–based dating service launched March 11, and much like its counterparts, it offers singles between the ages of 21 and 60 the opportunity to meet a mate. Participants talk for five minutes before moving on to the next date—up to 25 times. If two people make a match, they're alerted the next day via e-mail. It's $25 (or $30 on the day of). Upcoming events are April 22 at 711 Boylston, and a free session April 29 at The Modern. *www.accelodate.com.*

Fade into Spring... Though our urban landscape is a far cry from the bucolic pastures of the farm, spring shearing season is upon us nonetheless. One local salon is offering a discount to style winter locks into suitable spring fashion—Marcel of Newbury's Ecocentrix salon will give IMPROPER readers a 20 percent discount on all hair treatments in April. Just let him know you read about the deal in this issue. *Ecocentrix, 30 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2222).*

Boston Story?... We all know how the typical drive through Boston can be...the melodic sound of honking, gazing at birds (not the kind that fly), dodging pedestrians and maneuvering through the Big Dig. But an unforeseen element surprised an IMPROPER staffer this past St. Patty's Day as she was driving up Mass. Ave. toward the Harvard Bridge. A construction sign that usually flashes a simple traffic advisory blinked that phrase followed by the words "Wank It." Further exploration found a similar construction sign on the Cambridge side blinking another traffic advisory followed by the words "Nerd Crossing" and surrounded by shutterbugs capturing the phenomenon on film. By the next day, the irreverent messages had disappeared. Puzzled and highly amused, we asked the City of Boston Transportation Department and MassHighway, but neither could shed light on the subject. So who's the highway prankster? Maybe an MIT hacker tampered with the system. But we like to think along the lines of *L.A. Story* and believe that the signs have taken on a mind of their own. —*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

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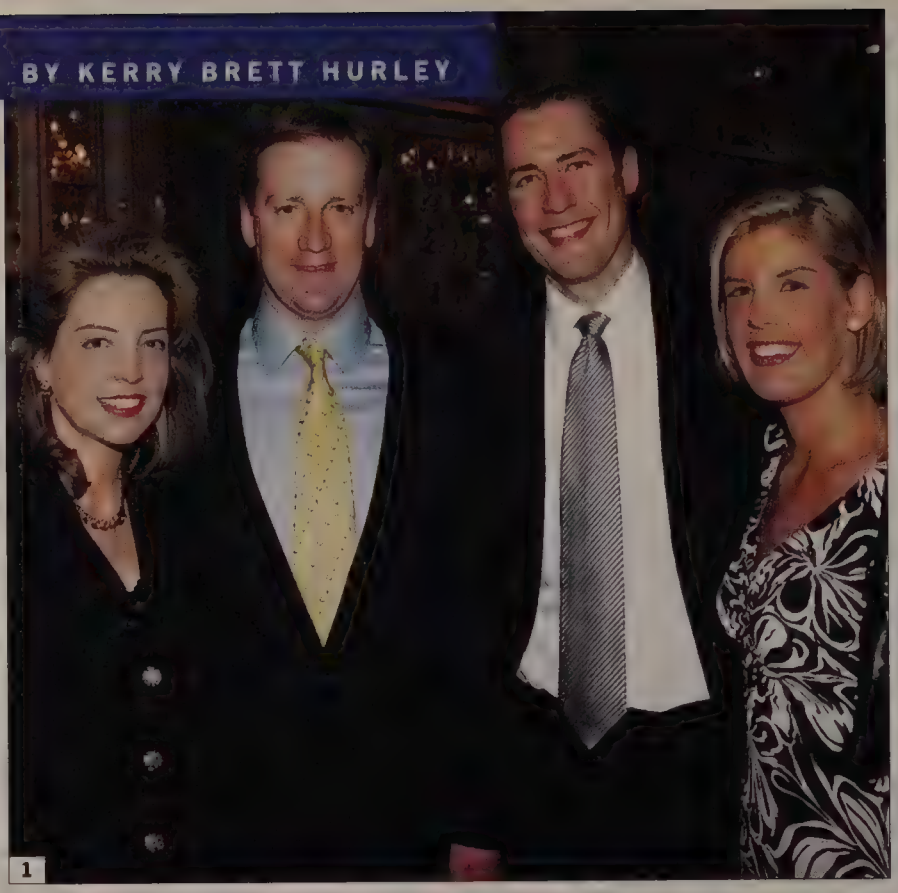
Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The American Ireland Fund's St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held March 14 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. More than 500 guests attended the event, raising $85,000. As the American branch of the Ireland Funds, a network of people of Irish ancestry (and friends of Ireland) worldwide, the AIF is dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout Ireland.

1. From left: **Martha Casey**, partner at Taylor, Ganson & Perrin; her husband, **Tom**, vice president of Standish Mellon Inc.; **Bruce Emken**, regional director for Goldman Sachs; and **Andrea Carroll**, student at Suffolk Law School.
2. **Melissa Tuthill**, annual fund manager for the Walker Home & School in Needham, and **Glenn Forger**, real estate broker for Old Forge Realty in Beacon Hill.
3. From left: **Julie Zox**, attorney for the Retail Association of Mass.; **Harold Naughton**, state representative; and **Nancy Donahue**, policy analyst for the inspector general's office.
4. **Kingsley Aikins**, president & CEO of the American Ireland Fund, and **Elizabeth Shannon**, wife of the former U.S. ambassador to Ireland.
5. **Lauren Janes**, congressional aide for Senator Edward Kennedy and **Mark Mathers**, committee member for the American Ireland Fund.
6. From left: **Rick Morrison**, analyst for Harvard Management; his wife, **Jennifer**, a nanny; and **Fred McCarthy** of Triumph Capital.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The Massachusetts Horticultural Society kicked off its 132nd Annual New England Spring Flower Show with a gala preview party, marking the unofficial beginning of spring on March 14 at the Bayside Expo Center. The party's 1,100 guests were among the first of more than 150,000 visitors to enjoy more than 50 fully landscaped gardens that covered nearly six acres within the Bayside Expo Center.

7. **Kris Joltki**, luxury manager for *Garden Design* magazine, and **Richard Falletti**, project manager and area supervisor for Valley Crest Land Development.
8. From left: **Yolanda Cellucci**, owner of Yolanda Enterprises Inc. in Waltham; **Troy Sutler**, logistical manager for the New England Spring Flower Show; and **Sondra Celli**, Yolanda's daughter, a children's fashion designer in Waltham.
9. **Dr. Ramsey Alsarraf**, plastic surgeon at the Newbury Center, and his wife, **Nicole**, co-chair of the New England Spring Flower Show.
10. **Michael Forrester**, former executive vice president of Fidelity Investments, and his wife, **Courtney**, director of special events for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.
11. **Mary O'Connor**, president of Louisburg Gardens, and her husband, **Lawrence**, owner of the Beacon Hill Fine Wine Company.

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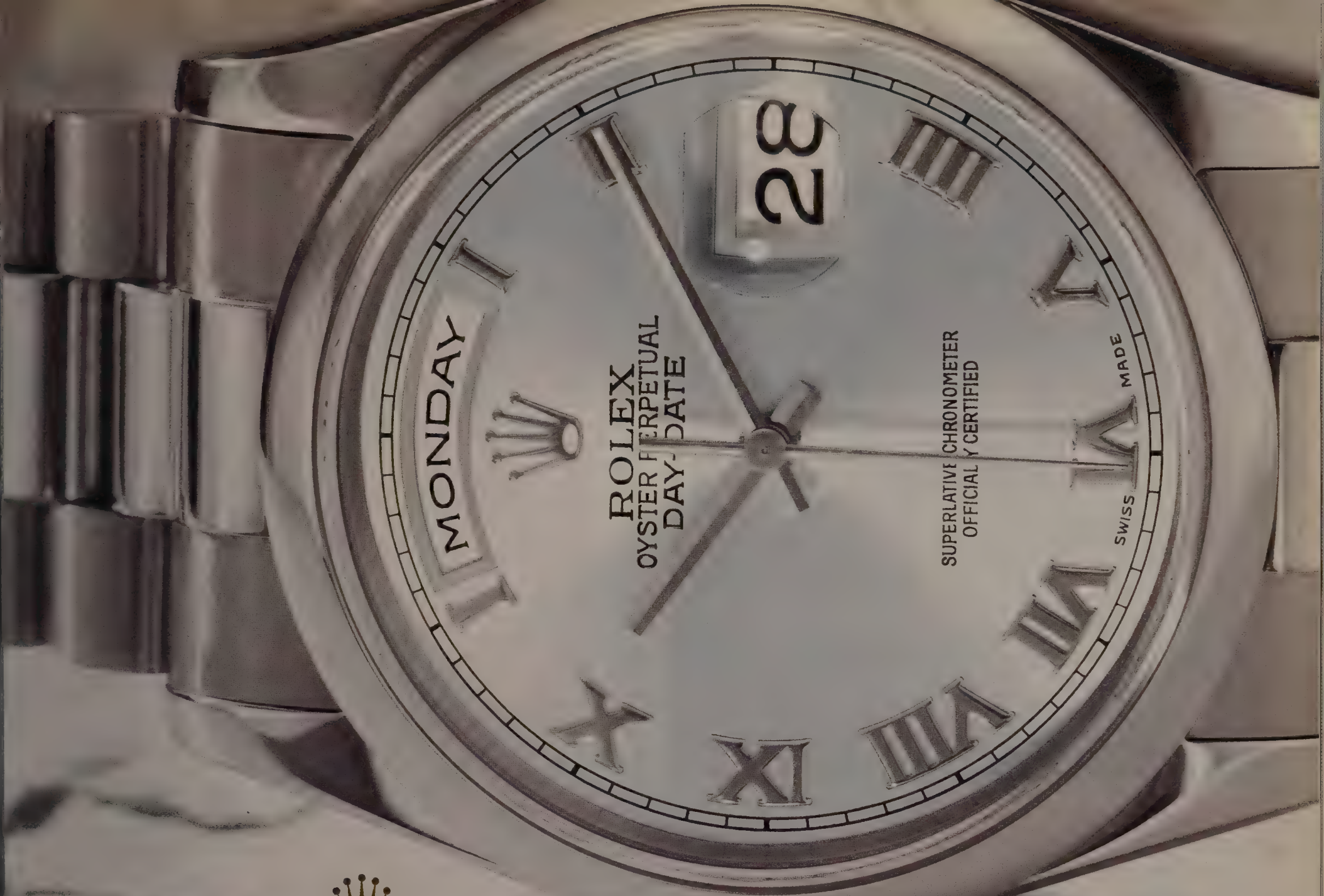

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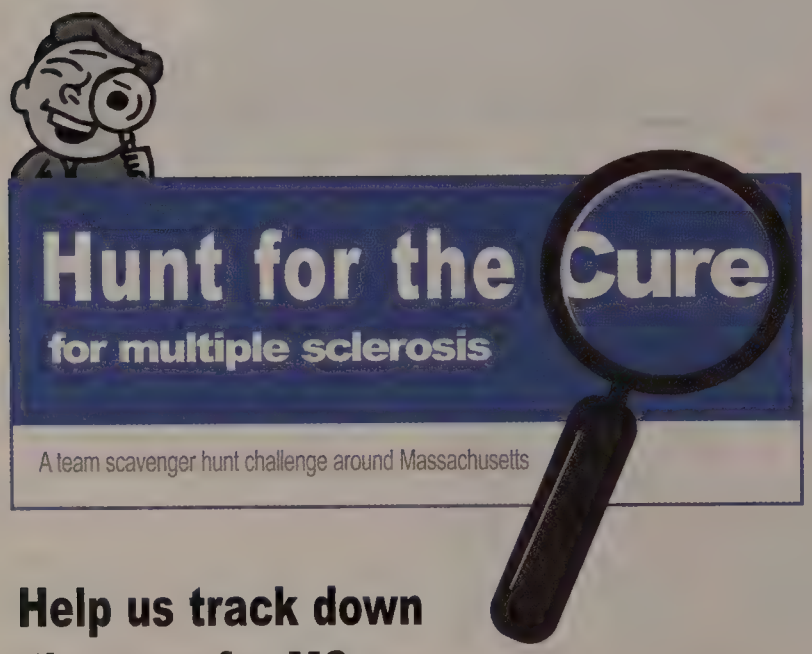

Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Drinking Diet Coke with Tara Reid during the party years

Behind the Words

How one writer made it to the top—and then fell

In today's episode of VH1's *Behind the Words*, we chronicle the career of writer Ezra Dyer, from the early days of struggle to the height of prominence, the eventual tragic flame-out and subsequent return to an even keel. It is a story like no other.

Ezra Dyer grew up in Maine on the wrong side of the tracks. And they weren't even train tracks. They were raccoon tracks. There was no cable TV in Jefferson, and Dyer was forced to read "books." The other children made fun of his name, calling him Azrael—Gargamel's cat on *The Smurfs*—and Lezra. He vowed that one day they would no longer taunt him. One day, he would legally change his name to Mike.

CORY DOOGAN, CLASSMATE: "Azreal was a wicked friggin losah. His parents' truck weren't even jacked up or nothin'... Cory Jr., you get away from that!" *(Doogan throws empty can of Schlitz at a barefoot child attempting to start a rusty chainsaw in front of the family's pop-up camper.)*

Dyer was in high-school when he discovered a sure-fire way to avoid falling into an endless cycle of poverty, desperation and alcoholism: He would become a writer. *(Cut to a five-minute commercial for the Swiffer.)*

In college, Dyer grew disillusioned with the North American way of life and became an expatriate, living in London for an entire semester. This period obviously informs many of his later works, particularly *Bloody Hell Old Chap, There's Custard on My Trousers.*

After graduation Dyer moved to Boston. The next few years proved tumultuous: First his cable company was Cablevision, then it turned into AT&T, then it became ComCast. All of them would make devastating, empty promises about upgrading to digital. Still, he persevered, constantly chasing his dream of becoming a write star. *(Commercial break for the Bowflex machine.)*

EZRA'S MOTHER: "Lord knows why, but I was a source of writing material in those early years. Sure, I once constructed ear splints out of tampons in an attempt to get a puppy's ears to stand up straight, but what's funny about a puppy running around with tampons strapped to his head?"

After writing a column for several years, Dyer moved to L.A. and became syndicated in more than 500 RMV scrolling electronic text displays. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, when a Korean translation of his column caused Kim Jong Il to laugh so hard that he renounced Communism. Dyer was easily the most famous and important nonfiction writer in human history, coming within a Tom Bergeron cancellation of appearing on the third season of *I'm a Celebrity: Get Me out of Here!*

BARRY CUDGEL, ACCOUNTANT: "By the time he came out with the 30-volume *Encyclopedia Buttanica*, in which he made fun of everything in the whole world, he was pulling down more money than I could keep track of. I don't know what the precise number was, but suffice it to say he was making thousands of dollars every year."

But success would have a high price. *(Cut to commercial for local home furniture store where a man with a mustache touts "wicked pissah deals on these friggin' dinette sets.")*

In 2009, Dyer's drug habit became public when he lit himself on fire freebasing Pixy Stix in a Bellagio restroom. The media subsequently uncovered his gambling addiction, tax evasion, illegitimate children and hatred of the media. Fans who had a sense that he'd been "mailing it in" turned out to be absolutely right: His column was mailed in from Cambodia, where it was produced in one of that country's many uncomfortably warmshops. Which are a little nicer than sweatshops, but still.

BURT EMDASH, EDITOR: "I wondered why he'd been submitting his column scrawled on defective Nike insoles. His stuff had been so good lately, though, that I didn't bother him about it."

After losing his job and getting beat up by Pauly Shore in a nightclub brawl, it seemed that Dyer was down and out for good. Coming up: The part where we see what he's up to now. *(Commercial that was witty and novel at its Super Bowl debut but that you're now really sick of.)*

EZRA DYER: "For a while there, things were so bad that I contemplated moving to Detroit. I owe a lot to the people who staff the Don't Move to Detroit Hotline, I'll tell you that. But eventually I came to terms with the fact that no matter how successful I became as a writer, I would never be as rich and famous as Anna Nicole Smith. And that's OK."

ANNA NICOLE SMITH-DYER: "C'mere, honey, and give mama a kiss." iB

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Art Buchwald

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Syndicated humor columnist Art Buchwald's work appears in newspapers in nearly every major city in the world. Born in Queens, N.Y., he and his sisters were raised in a series of foster homes after their mother became unable to care for them, and he began working at the age of nine. As a teenager, he joined the Marine Corps and served with distinction in World War II. After attending the University of Southern California, he moved to Paris, where he lived for 14 years and began his career in journalism as a feature columnist for the *Paris Herald Tribune*. In 1962, he returned to the United States and settled in Washington, D.C. A recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Commentary and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, he has written 30 books—including his latest, the collection *We'll Laugh Again*—and his popular political satire column appears in more than 500 newspapers worldwide. He spends his summers on Martha's Vineyard, and on April 6 he will serve as the keynote speaker at the 15th annual Literary Lights gala to benefit the Boston Public Library.

Jonathan Soroff: *How do you stay funny week after week for 50 years?*
Art Buchwald: It's just the way I think. I've always thought funny.
JS: *Does everyone expect you to be witty all the time?*
AB. Yes, and I say to hell with 'em.
JS: *Do you crack yourself up writing your column?*
AB: Yes, I do.
JS: *So you sit there all day laughing and get paid for it?*
AB: Well, not all day, but I laugh when I write a good line.
JS: *And then you get paid for it.*
AB: It's pretty good.
JS: *Your take on the running joke in the White House?*
AB: Well, they make for very good copy and they make me money. I can't get too mad at them. They feed me.
JS: *How about Dubya?*
AB: He's pretty funny.
JS: *Any sacred cows, anything you won't make fun of?*
AB: I'd certainly be very leery of taking on the military when they're over there fighting. I was a Marine, and I'm very sympathetic to those guys. But I still have to write about Ashcroft and other people who are screwing up our lives.
JS: *Funniest person you've ever known?*
AB: de Gaulle.
JS: *{Laughing.} Charles de Gaulle was a real card?*
AB: No. But he amused me. Lyndon Johnson was funny, too.
JS: *Funniest president you ever knew?*
AB: Oh, for me, Nixon.
JS: *Because he was such good material?*
AB: Yeah. I only think about myself.
JS: *You had a pretty tough childhood. Do you think humor is a coping mechanism?*
AB: Yeah. It's a defense. And I've used it all my life because of the way I grew up, but I got lucky and made it into a living.
JS: *Most ridiculous aspect of American society today?*
AB: The war.

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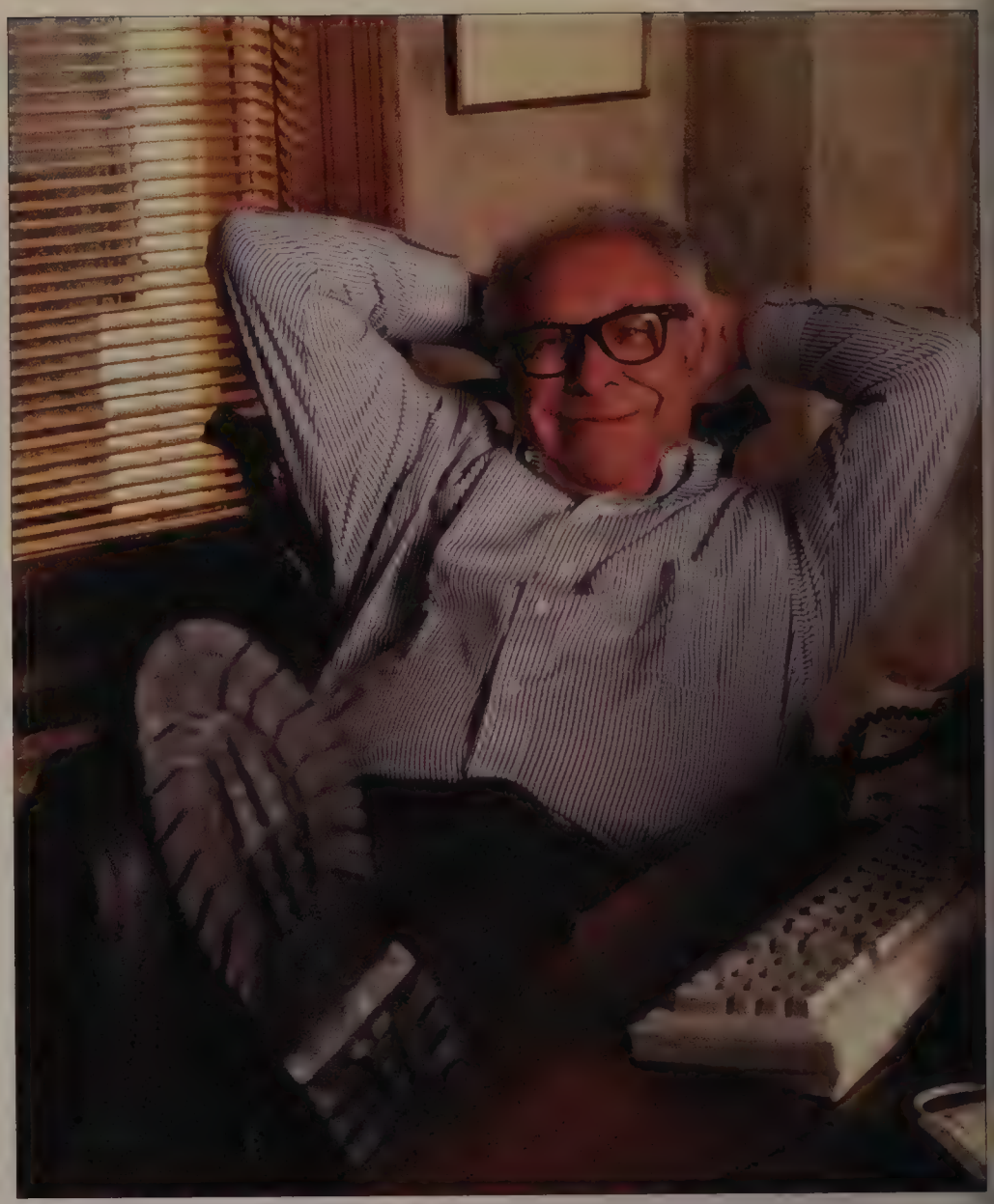
JS: *Current pet peeve?*
AB: The war.
JS: *Where is it easier to get good Chinese food, Boston or Washington?*
AB: I don't think either place is that good.
JS: *Strangest letter your column ever provoked?*
AB: I'd written an article suggesting that we put all our nuclear waste in Cleveland, because they wouldn't notice anyway. I get a letter. All it says is, "F--- you—The citizens of Cleveland."
JS: *Ever get too close to the high and mighty to skewer them properly?*
AB: No. I don't get that close. And I have a certain advantage. A senator once said to me, "You have a license to say what you want, because you do it with humor, so you're not going to be a target."
JS: *OK, the Pulitzer Prize, the Academy of Arts and Sciences, what are you most proud of?*



THEO WESTENBERGER/LIA

AB: Being alive.
JS: *Favorite encounter with a political target?*
AB: One time with Nixon, when he was running against Kennedy, he was in Ohio, and I was supposed to speak at Sigma Delta Chi that evening. So I peeled off from Nixon's campaign and went to do my speech. Turned out that Nixon was also there, giving a speech on nuclear energy or something else no one wanted to hear about. He spoke before me and acknowledged me, and when I came on stage, I said, "I'm so glad he preceded me, because I've always wondered what he looks like."
JS: *What's your take on Andy Rooney and his* 60 Minutes *gig?*
AB: He's great. All he has to do is hold up a carton of milk and he gets a great salary for that.
JS: *Are you as much of a curmudgeon as him?*
AB: I'm not a curmudgeon.
JS: *How about Dave Barry. Do you read his column?*
AB: Yeah, I love it. He's a good guy.
JS: *One piece of advice you'd give someone who wanted to do what you do?*
AB: I wouldn't. How can you tell someone how to be funny? When somebody asks me, I say, "Go into advertising."
JS: *Do you have a writing routine?*
AB: I write when I want to.
JS: *What happens when you don't feel like being funny?*
AB: There's no such thing as writer's block at a newspaper. They won't let you have it. You say to your editor, "I have writer's block," he says, "Get the hell outta my office."
JS: *Would you like to be remembered as the Mark Twain of the 20th century?*
AB: Well, I can't put myself in the same class as Mark Twain, but if somebody says I am, I won't deny it.
JS: *If you hadn't become a newspaper columnist, what would you be doing?*
AB: I'd be retired from the Marine Corps on a $200-a-month pension, probably living in South Carolina near Parris Island. I'm not a golf player, so I'd probably be bored.
JS: *Ever regretted a column?*
AB: Yes. On Martha's Vineyard at one time there was a shortage of meat. I wrote a column about having dinner with this family every night and another child was missing each night. That got such a terrible reaction.
JS: *Would you have used profanity in your columns if you'd been able to?*
AB: No. I don't use dirty words. I don't use swears. I've always assumed I was writing for every type of person, so I censored myself, in terms of not doing what people like Mort Sahl or George Carlin and those guys do. Because that's not me.
JS: *Favorite quote of yours?*
AB: It was part of a commencement speech and it keeps getting repeated. I said to the graduating class, "We gave you a perfect world. Now don't screw it up."
JS: *One thing you wish you'd said?*
AB: Oh, there are so many of those. But probably, "My tennis serve was in, and you can't tell me it's out." IB

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ABOUT

makeup pros team up with Boston salons to create signature summer styles

ATHLETIC ANGEL

makeup by Trish McEvoy
hair by the Salon at Giuliano Day Spa

FACE

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PHILIIP FRIEDMAN
ALL CLOTHING PROVIDED BY H&M

BLUSHING BEAUTY

makeup by Bobbi Brown
hair by James Joseph Salon

ROMANTIC RINGLETS

makeup by Stila
hair by Vidal Sassoon

THE CAT'S MEOW

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TEAL TEMPTRESS

Makeup by MAC
Hair by Salon Fontana

BRONZE BEAUTY

makeup by Chanel
hair by The Salon at Giuliano Day Spa

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annette

ROMANTIC RINGLETS

MAKEUP

Bottom line: Pinks and bronzes often look like a day at the beach, but when paired with a pastel dress, they add up to romance.

Artist: Dara Klein for Stila, available at Filene's

Products (all by Stila):

• Illuminating Liquid Foundation smoothed all over the face gives a dewy, airbrushed look. Bronzer Skin Shade 2 brushed over the top adds warmth.

• Twig and Jezebel eyeshadows applied with a damp brush all over the lids enhance shine.

• Lots of Lash Visor Mascara coats the upper lashes.

• Camellia Convertible Color for Cheeks and Lips is brushed over the narrow part of the cheeks.

• Lip Polish brings sheer shine to lips.

• All Over Shimmer #8 is dabbed on the bridge of the nose and the cheeks for sheen.

HAIR

Bottom line: Don't fight your hair's natural wave. Enhance it and let it go free. Your natural texture can be the best look for you.

Stylist: Elaine Mitchell for Vidal Sassoon, 617-536-5496

Products (available at Vidal Sassoon): Mitchell applies Vidal Frizz Control Crème to the hair to define each curl, after which the hair is dried softly with a diffuser for maximum volume.

nadia

ATHLETIC ANGEL

MAKEUP

Bottom line: This look is a natural mix of pinks and golden browns that create a simple, glowing complexion. Defined eyes that aren't overdone and a girly pink hue on the lips convey an ethereal, angelic look.

Artist: Mark Payne for Trish McEvoy, available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Products (all by Trish McEvoy):

• Ivory Concealer is smoothed over skin discolorations.

• Shell Eyeshadow extends from the lash line to the brow; 18 Karat Eyeshadow is layered over the Shell to give lids a golden glow; Bronze Shaper Eyeshadow runs along the lower lashes to create depth.

• Black Lash Curling Mascara coats lashes; Auburn Mascara crowns the tips of the upper lashes.

• Plush Pink Blush colors the apples of the cheeks; a light dusting of Dual Resort Blush gives a bronzed cast.

• Rosebud Lipliner lines and fills in the lips; pink gloss goes on top.

HAIR

Bottom line: Casual updos should be creative and sexy. Don't just put your hair in a ponytail; pull up pieces here and there and create your own work of art.

Stylist: Darren Le for Giuliano, 617-262-2220

Products (available at Giuliano): Le pulls half of the hair into a ponytail in the back with W8less Plus Molding Spray, leaving the front loose. He then twists the back hair into a large knot and pins it. The ends are sprayed with Shaper Plus hairspray.

eva

BLUSHING BEAUTY

MAKEUP

Bottom line: Flushed cheeks on a soft face give a look of pureness and approachability.

Artist: Soul Lee for Bobbi Brown, available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Products (all by Bobbi Brown):

• Concealer # 2 in Sand conceals darkness under the eyes; Foundation Stick #2 evens out skin tone all over the face.

• Clear Brow Shaper keeps eyebrows in place.

• Iced Pink Crème Shadow Stick covers the whole lid. White shadow creates shine along the brow bone. The eyes are lined with Steel Shadow on the upper lash line.

• Smoked Lash Glimmer Mascara coats the lashes.

• Cheeks are colored with Soft Pink Blush.

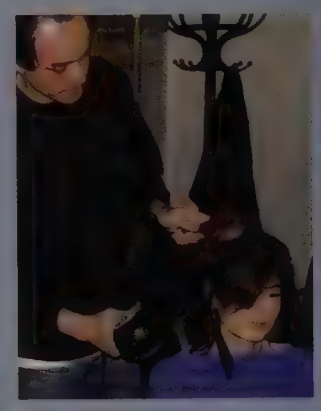
• Pale Pink lipstick and Petal Pink Lipliner are used together on the lips.

HAIR

Bottom line: Try something different with your hair. Create a masterpiece with found items.

Stylist: William George for James Joseph Salon, 617-266-7222

Products (available at James Joseph Salon): George uses White Sands firm holding hair spray to control the hairline so it can be sewn. He then flat-irons the hair on top to create a sleek look. Styling lotion from Bumble and Bumble adds final definition. "The sewing look was inspired by a headband I saw a client wearing," says George, "but you can make any shape in the hair with needle and thread."



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THE CAT'S MEOW
MAKEUP

Bottom line: Healthy skin and sexy eyes are this season's best looks. Cat eyes are everywhere. Just extend dark eyeliner to the farthest edge of your brows or use colored eyeliner to spice things up.

Artist: Eddie Funkhouser for Tony and Tina, available at Filene's

Products (all by Tony and Tina):

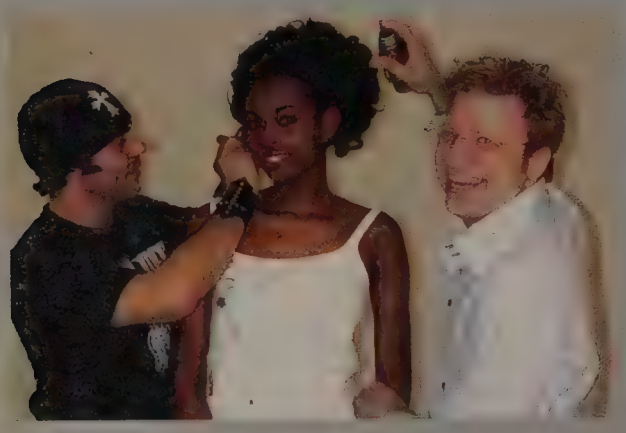
- Funkhouser applies Skin Refiner as a moisturizing base for the foundation and then uses a sponge to apply Kali Environmental Rescue foundation all over the face. Moon Ray pressed mineral powder is brushed on top.
- Brows are defined with Brown Eyeliner.
- Liquid Liner in Change circles the entire eye. The top liner extends all the way to the outer edge of the brow, and the bottom liner goes only about half the distance of the top liner.
- Progress/Perspective duo eyeshadows are swept over the entire lid; Silent/Unspoken duo eyeshadows are applied to the browbone.
- Herbal Black mascara is applied to the lashes.
- Self Assurance Herbal Blush colors the apples of the cheeks.
- Self-Healing Lips lip gloss palette in Mother Earth is used on the lips.

HAIR

Bottom line: To do something different with long hair, pin it up and pay tribute to divas past. Big hair is back, as long as it's soft and relatively understated.

Stylists: Michael Rossi and Alex Iacobacci for Avanti Salon, 617-267-4027

Products (all available at Avanti): Rossi and Iacobacci pin a temporary hair extension into the hair, then pull it piece by piece and define each curl with Kerastase Nutritive Lumi-Extract by L'Oreal. The curls get stacked on top of one another. Phyto Pro # 20 Hard Spray finishes off the look with a firm hold that's touchably soft.



dianne

TEAL TEMPTRESS
MAKEUP

Bottom line: Let skin show through and rejoice in your skin's accessories—freckles! Don't be afraid to use some well-placed color on your face.

Artist: Bianca Alexander for MAC, available at Filene's

Products (all by MAC):

- Moisture Feed Eye hydrates the eye area and face.
- Spot Cover Foundation with Studio Tech NW15 is smoothed all over the face.
- Aquadisiac eyeshadow is applied all around the eye, extending it to the outer edges.
- Improper Copper Highlights Natural blush colors the cheeks for a glowing complexion,
- Clear Lipglass used with Improper Copper emphasizes Dianne's own natural lip color.

HAIR

Bottom line: Have fun with your hair. Don't stick to the basics every day. Try something wild and creative.

Stylist: Scott Fontana, assisted by Jopino, for Salon Fontana, 617-375-8510

Products (all available at Salon Fontana): Fontana blow-dries Dianne's roots to give volume, using Alterna's spray wax to create texture. After drying, he teases the roots to support the ends of the hair. Bangs are kept flat and Fontana flat-irons the ends using Alterna's Sheer Pomade to hold them together. Hair is finished with Alterna's Maximum Finishing Spray.

flavia

BRONZE BEAUTY
MAKEUP

Bottom line: Bronzer and gold-hued lips and eyes add glamour while keeping a natural look.

Artist: Landy Dean for Chanel, available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Products (all by Chanel):

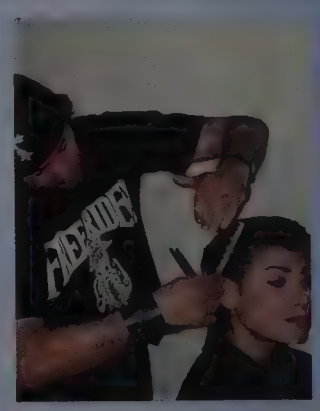
- Delay Moisturizer Bronze Universal is used as a base.
- Powder blush in Reflex Eye colors the cheeks.
- Lumieres Facette eyeliner sweeps across the top lid near the lash line; Intense Eye Pencil in Amber travels across the lower lash line.
- Sculpting Mascara, Extreme Length in brown coats lashes.
- Glossimer in Sirop brings shine to lips.

HAIR

Bottom line: Sometimes looking your best is about being natural.

Stylist: Darren Le for Giuliano, 617-262-2220

Products: For this natural wave look, Le blow-dries the hair with a round brush that creates soft waves at the bottom. No products are needed.



amber

POWERFUL POUT
MAKEUP

Bottom line: Light washes in vibrant berries give you a perfect springtime look. A powerful lip color is the uniform for a night on the town.

Artist: Jennifer Doctorovich for Clinique, available at Filene's

Products (all by Clinique):

- Doctorovich smooths sunglow foundation all over and brushes Glow 3 Neutral Powder over the top to reduce shine. All Over Color Rubs, in Sheer Radiance and Bronze Glow, color the cheeks and the bridge of the nose.
- Lilac Frost, Sugar Sugar, and Sugarberry Smashing eyeshadows are blended together and applied to the eyelids; Violet Quickliner for Eyes rims the eyes.
- Long Pretty Lashes Mascara in black coats the lashes.
- Honeyed Red Gel gives an added flush to the cheeks.
- Bamboo lip liner and Mystic Sheer Shimmer Gloss are used together on the lips.

HAIR

Bottom line: Go for tough-girl chic with a '50s throwback that's both sexy and edgy.

Stylist: Alex Iacobacci and Michael Rossi for Avanti Salon, 617-267-4027

Products (available at Avanti): Iacobacci and Rossi apply PhytoPro Gel #8 all over a wet head to give some hold. Then, they blow-dry the hair straight up and back while smoothing down the sides. Hair is finished with PhytoPro #20 Hard Spray for a strong hold. IB

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TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

How to perk up your appearance in no time flat

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

When you look in the mirror, are you bored with what you see? Is there a diva hiding inside you who's bursting to get out? If so, you're not alone. Many of us crave a new look, especially around the change of seasons. To show you the kind of metamorphosis you can achieve in just a short period of time, we scheduled a head-to-toe makeover for one of our editorial colleagues. Throug her experience, you can learn how to change your physical a pearance so drastically and quickly that even your ow mother won't recognize you. (This kind of self-transform tion is ideal for high school reunions, job interviews or getti revenge on the last guy who dumped you.)

11am—Natural Body Polish at Giuliano Day Spa, 338 Newbury St., 617-262-2220

Since out-with-the-old is the goal, we started with a full-body scrub. This procedure sloughs away city grit to reveal healthy skin underneath. Body scrubs also increase circulation and incorporate a relaxing massage. Massage therapist Karen Bowen scrubbed Laurel's body from neck to feet with a loofah sponge and cornmeal mixture in Giuliano's Vichy Room. Laurel then steamed under a tent of moist, warm air and afterward was moisturized from head to toe with Giuliano Avocado Body Lotion. Cost:$55.

12:30 pm—Cut and color at Leon and Co., 84 Leonard St. (Belmont), 617-484-4777

Hairstylist Jay Dee Ferrara consulted with Laurel and decided that her hair was too dry and brittle; some length had to come off to reveal a healthy head of hair. "The length of her hair elongates her already thin, long face, so a shorter cut will look better on her," he adds. Cutting Laurel's hair to just above the shoulders, Ferrara layered it to give some movement and add volume. To amp up the color, Ferrara dyed it auburn with red highlights. Cost: $70 cut, $200 color.

2pm—Tanning at Tanning Etc., 485 Comm. Ave., 617-267-7744

Well, this one actually took a couple of days. We sent Laurel to the tanning bed three times to perk up her coloring. It gave her a warmer, healthier glow, without going overboard. Cost: $30.

2:30pm—Whitening at Brite Smile, 75 Newbury St., 617-867-9500

Laurel's teeth were slightly stained and we wanted to brighten her up a bit. Brite Smile bleached her teeth to a sparkling white using a light-activated bleaching gel. The result was dramatic. Cost: $600.

4pm—Manicure/mini-pedicure and eyebrow shaping at Beaucage, 71 Newbury St., 617-437-7171

Laurel has pretty, healthy nails, so a little cleanup and a couple of coats of red did the trick. "Red is a sexy, glamorous color and can transform anyone's hands and feet," says manicurist Jana Toussaint. Emma Belitsky thinned out Laurel's brows and defined them with waxing and plucking. Her perfect new arches frame her eyes wonderfully. Cost: $20 manicure, $35 mini-pedicure, $20 brow grooming.

5:45pm—New glasses at See, 125 Ne bury St., 617-236-0105

Tim Parks, manager of See, selecte new frames for Laurel. "Her o glasses were outdated; they didn flatter her face," says Parks. He chos pair with some color. They're a litt more playful and inviting, and t shape flatters Laurel's long, narro face. Cost: $249.

6:30pm—Makeup at Beauty Mark, 9 Pinckney St., 617-720-1555

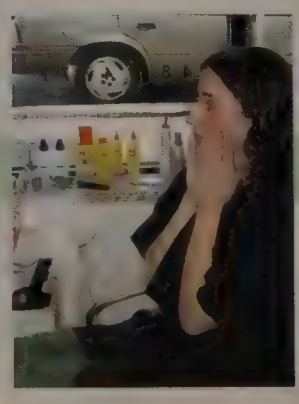
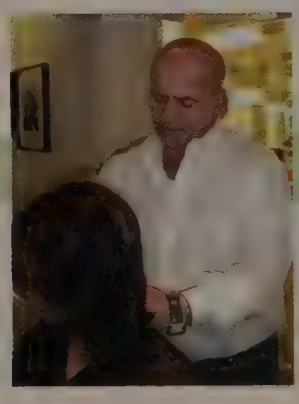
To give Laurel a more glamorous loo Rebecca Pimentel added some found tion to even out her skin tone. Piment also added a bit more color than Lau usually wears to give a little more defi ition to her face. High-shine lip glo was the final step. All makeup by Lo Cost: $45.

7:30pm—Wardrobe selection at H& 350 Washington St., 617-482-7001

We chose an elegant but casual dre for Laurel. A black linen dress mak her look flirty and glamorous but al lets her move freely. The eye-catchi accessories are perfect for dressing u Cost: $49.

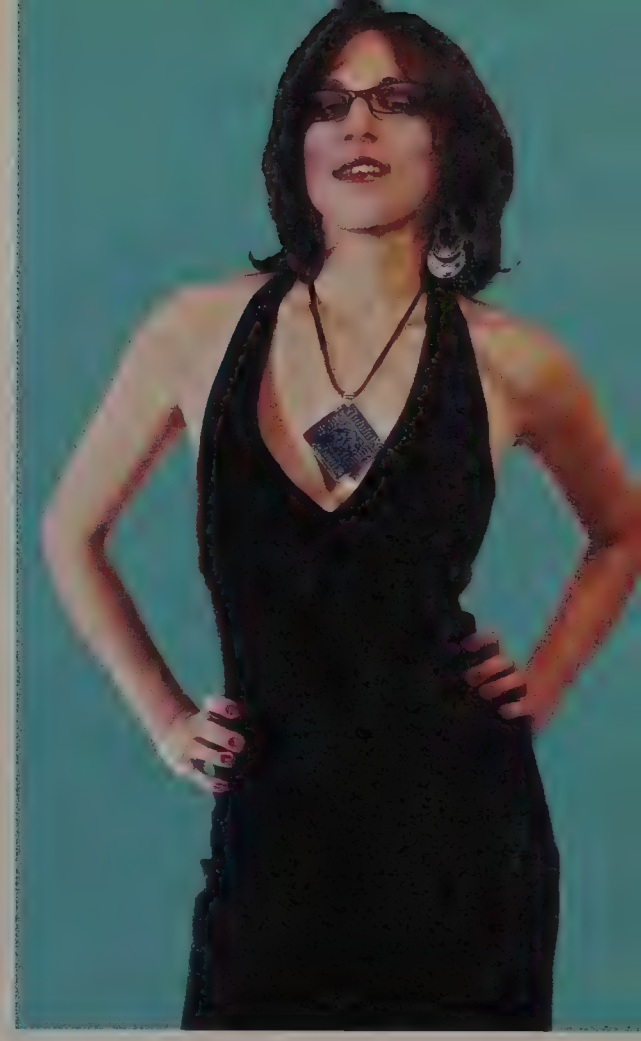
TOTAL COST: $1,373

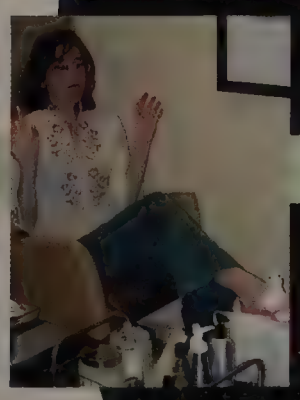
Laurel Kirtz, a regular contributor to our Body & Mind section, is a self-described "natural woman." Her beauty regimen is about as minimalist as they come—she cleanses daily with soap and water and wears a little eye makeup every so often. She's had this low-maintenance look for a long time but feels it's time for a change. Her main goal: "I want to look more feminine."

BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEREK KOUYOUN
INSET SHOTS BY HILARY C

I'm a supermodel!





After Laurel's look is polished and pretty. Best of all, she feels like a whole new person. You can do it too!

A TREASURE TROVE OF THE HOTTEST PRODUCTS SPRING HAS TO OFFER

beauty

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY FURNALD/GRAY

1. **Creamy Concealer Kit in Sand by Bobbi Brown, $35.** This convenient package of concealer, powder and puff is a must-have for weekend getaways.

2. **The Little Black Book Palette for Eyes and Cheeks by Philosophy, $37.** Each of the colors in this palette is two-toned, with jewel-colored accents.

3. **Lola Loves Lashes Mascara by Lola, $25.** Old-fashioned cake mascara is back for glam girls. Just swipe the brush over lashes to reveal your inner diva.

4. **Pressed Powder in Gold Shimmer by Laura Mercier, $32.** Not too sparkly and not too orange, this dust is a flawless bronzer for light skin and a brightening pick-me-up for darker complexions.

5. ***Down with Love* Gift Set, $45.** The movie starring Renée Zellweger comes out in May, but you can score her '50s glam look with this brown-hued set.

6. **Lip Lacquer in Eros by Nars, $20.** Nars' famous lip glosses are thick, rich and long-lasting, with the best colors around.

7. **Prada Hydrating Gel Cream SPF 15/Tint, $40 for five tubes.** The first tinted moisturizer with inner and external luminizers, reviving skin in two different ways.

8. **False Eyelashes Plush Mascara in Plush Black by Prescriptives, $17.50.** The packaging is cool, but what's inside is even better: the formula for long, natural-looking lashes.

9. **Eye Shadow in Grind by Urban Decay, $15.** This iridescent pink shadow offers a little bit of pretty sparkle to brighten up your eyes.

10. **Eye Shadow in Vert by Urban Decay, $15.** This jade hue adds a touch of color without overwhelming your face.

11. **Bronzing Gel by Laura Mercier, $30.** Smooth this on lightly for a natural glow or apply it more lavishly to transform yourself into a bronzed goddess.

12. **Double Contrast Cheeks and Lips Compact in Palm Beach by Chanel, $60.** This wonderful compact features delicious shades of chocolate and mocha and includes a tiny lip pencil.

13. **Creamy Cheekcolor in Exposure by Prescriptives, $25.** Cream is the perfect kind of summer blush for sitting by the pool. It leaves cheeks smooth and dewy, and it's waterproof.

14. **Pro Lash Mascara in Black by MAC, $9.50.** This mascara goes on thickest at the fat part of your lashes, then thins it out toward the tips, so you end up with full lashes—with no cake.

"ALEGRIA" TOTE BY TAMARA BOSTON, $72, AT THE FLAT OF THE

booty

5. Six Kitten Portable Lip and Eye Color Palette by Cat Cosmetics, $60. All-in-one palettes are always practical, but this one packs an extra color surge and comes with a huge mirror.

6. Foundation in Studio Tech by MAC, $26. You want coverage? This foundation is guaranteed to conceal anything that ails you.

7. Blot Film by MAC, $4.50. These baby-blue sheets soak up oil and caked-on makeup in a jiffy. Carry them in your purse for on-the-spot freshness.

8. Tinted Moisturizer in Tan by Laura Mercier, $38. Here's the perfect blend for warm days: a little bit of color, a lot of moisture.

19. Tony and Tina Lipgloss in Cosmic Valkyrei, $14. This is a great gloss for a night at the club. It's a girly pink with an intoxicating shot of sparkle.

20. Lip Color in Pink Lacquer, Red Lacquer and Cranberry Lacquer by Calvin Klein, $16 each. Each of these glosses covers like lipstick and packs a wallop of shine.

21. Lipstick in First Impression and Regent's Park by Fresh, $21 each. Fresh's lipsticks bring out the best of your own natural lip color.

22. Fluid Sheer Fluide Embellisseur by Giorgio Armani, $42. This liquid adds some color all over your face and stays put until you decide to wash it off.

23. Kate Spade Beauty Travel Vanity with body moisturizer, body wash, travel candle and sleeping mask, $60. This essential travel kit comes in a perfect Kate bag.

24. Blush in Terra by Calvin Klein, $24. A very natural brown-plum mix is surprisingly sheer, while adding just the right level of definition.

25. Creamy Lip Liner in Nude Pink by Bobbi Brown, $20. This is one of the most natural-looking liners out there. Put a coat under your favorite lipstick to make it last for hours.

26. Lip Shimmer in Champagne and Sand Sugar by Bobbi Brown, $18 each. These light, shimmery glosses give your lips a luminescent luster that may remind you of the inside of a seashell.

27. Venus Between Us Alien Eyes Shadow Trio in shades of blue by Rocket City, $16. For the daring, these dramatic shades of blue will make summer arrive that much faster.

BEAUTY EDITOR'S PICKS

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY FURNALD/GRAY

I receive so much makeup from companies that want me to try their products that I should never have to set foot in a cosmetics department again. But there are some beauty products I just can't do without. The following are the items I actually buy—the best of the best.

CLOCKWISE ON SINK:

Lip Lacquer in Vagabond by Nars, $20. This lip gloss is perfect for that nude look, but it also has a hint of sparkle.

Frost Lipstick in "O" by MAC, $14. Here's the one lipstick that looks great on everyone; it shimmers with pink and gold undertones.

Lip Care Stick by Dr. Hauschka, $9.50. This moisturizing stick really works—and it lasts.

Ultra Facial Moisturizer SPF 15 by Kiehl's, $15.50. Every makeup artist I know uses this product to make skin soft, not greasy.

Super Flight Cream by Prescriptives, $35. Enjoy a surge of moisture for dehydrated skin.

Lumieres Facettes Iridescent Effects Eyes in Spotlight by Chanel, $28.50. Banish boring brown with the 3-D color in this compact.

Lip Polish in Tease and Tender by Lorac, $17.50 each. These glosses fit in my smallest handbag, and their opaque shine really lasts.

Lip Tint by Prada, $38 for box of 10. A lot of color is packed into a small package that fits anywhere.

Secret Camouflage two-shade concealer by Laura Mercier, $27. The dry concealer covers everything and doesn't look cakey. Perfect for touchups.

Lipglass lip gloss by MAC, $11.50. Swipe this over any lipstick to give lips a slick, patent-leather shine.

ON COUNTER FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Magic Liquid Powder by Prescriptives, $32.50. This powder is 70 percent water. It goes on wet and disguises little bumps in your complexion.

Lip gloss in Petal Shine and Taupe by Stila, $17 each. Super shiny glosses add dimension and fullness to your lips.

Eye Definer in Coffee by Calvin Klein, $14. This liner is not quite brown and not quite black—it's just dark enough for pretty, smoky eyes.

ON SHELF FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Eye Glitter in Starburst by Tony and Tina, $10. A bottle of glitter goes anywhere. Make it stay with Hope lipstick, $15, which works like a glue stick.

Brow liner in Strut, Flatter and Lingering by I $12 each. These skinny brow pencils are fine er to draw individual hairs for well-defined brows

Completely Buff exfoliant by Completely I $34. This exfoliant is dry; add it to your cu cleanser to slough off dead skin.

Blush in Orgasm and Sin by Nars, $20 each. skinned gals should opt for Orgasm, which gives slight flush like…um, well, you know. For darker plexions, Sin is the ticket. It's dramatic but still natu

Clinique Almost Lipstick in Black H $13.50. This barely-there color looks black bu ally goes on in a sheer, deep berry hue.

Matte Silk Lipstick in #4 by Giorgio Arman OK, this color is really dramatic, but pink is the h hue right now—and on a bare face, it really roc

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TREAT YOURSELF

With new beauty services popping up every day, it's hard to see through the hype. Here are a few royal treatments that reign.

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

MICHAUD COSMETICS

Bambooing

World-renowned makeup artist and brow specialist Julie Michaud has expanded her brow-grooming prowess to include the ancient Parisian technique of bambooing. Not to be confused with tattooing, which can result in thick, unnatural looking brows, bambooing uses semi-permanent color to create a soft, diffused brow. A bamboo shoot with a needle attached is dipped in custom-mixed pigment and inserted just beneath the skin's surface. The technique gives the appearance of freshly powdered brows and lasts about two years—even longer with annual maintenance. An initial brow-shaping/bambooing session plus a touch-up within six to eight weeks costs $350. Additional touch-ups are $175. The price tag might seem a bit hefty, but this exotic treatment is pretty hard to come by—Michaud is one of only two bambooing specialists in the world.

297 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-1607)

THE NEWBURY CENTER FOR COSMETIC FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY

Mini-Eyelift

Some plastic surgery procedures are now nearly as simple and painless as your regular manicure/pedicure. Dr. Ramsey Alsaraff, cosmetic surgeon at the Newbury Center, performs mini-blepharoplasty, or mini eyelifts, a procedure that erases or minimizes under-eye bags and dark circles without visible incisions. A small opening is made inside the eyelid, and the excess fat—which causes under-eye bags and circles—is removed and the skin smoothed. The natural-looking results last indefinitely. The procedure is said to be virtually painless, and the average patient experiences minimal swelling or bruising, which can be concealed with makeup in the following days. Alsaraff says that even people as young as 30 are requesting the procedure to combat hereditary fatty pockets. $4,000.

69 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0500)

CANYON RANCH

Car Service

Canyon Ranch is probably one of the Berkshires' more tempting attractions. The luxury health and beauty oasis has provided many a city slicker with the perfect hedonistic escape. The only downfall: it's not exactly a T ride away. Now the spa's relaxation gurus have come up with a solution for carless urbanites and those who simply don't feel like navigating I-90 West. Door-to-door car service is available for $300 so you can begin your journey to inner zen from your doorstep.

www.canyonranch.com.

SPLASH SPA

Epicuren Facial

Any of the facials available at Splash Spa in the Sports Club/LA is like a sip from the fountain of youth, but one in particular recently got my attention. The Epicuren Facial claims to rejuvenate skin cells by stimulating natural chemical reactions. Of course, these days almost every product on the market claims to turn back time by an equally ambiguous process. However, with a little more digging I learned that the Epicuren method was developed by doctors to treat burn victims. The active ingredients catalyze cell turnover and encourage significantly healthier skin. After receiving the 80-minute facial from one of Splash's estheticians, you can maintain it yourself at home with products available for purchase. $125 for Sports Club/LA members; $130 for non-members.

The Sports Club/LA, 4 Avery St., Boston (617-375-8580)

GIULIANO DAY SPA FOR BEAUTY AND WELLNESS

Soft Pack Treatment

When I gaze at Giuliano's body wrap menu, I feel like a kid in a candy shop. There's the nourishing Swiss Goat Butter Crème Wrap; the Evening Primrose Crème Wrap for hydration and balance; the Almond Oil Crème Wrap defending against free radicals; the Vitamin E Oil Wrap for smooth, supple skin; the slenderizing Seaweed Body Wrap; and last, but not least, the Austrian Moor Mud Wrap for a girl's mortal enemies: water retention and cellulite. Giuliano's expert staff executes each wrap using their unique Soft Pack Treatment. Once you're wrapped up, you lie in the weightless Soft Pack bed, encapsulated by a temperature-controlled, pressure-free cushion of water. From there, it's 50 minutes of floating while the Pack allows 10 times the product absorption rate of any other method. $105.

338 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2220)

AT-HOME SPA

To keep the ravages of the daily grind at bay, get your hands on these at-home remedies:

1. Pedicure in a can. Philosophy's pedicure kit comes complete with everything you need (minus the nail polish) to pamper your tootsies and keep your southern digits looking great. $12.50 at Sephora.

2. Brown Sugar Body Polish. This sweet, lemon-scented concoction blends essential oils and chunks of brown sugar for the best body polish I've ever tried. $58 at Fresh.

3. Forget Calgon; soak your body in Bath Tea by Deep Steep. It's available in Honeydew Spearmint, Lavender Chamomile, Grapefruit Bergamot and Rosemary Mint (shown). The fragrance is absolutely intoxicating. $5 at www.deepsteep.com.

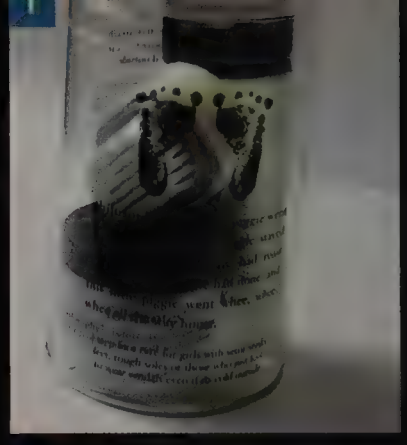
4. Kiehl's Blue Astringent cleans your face to a shine—the good kind. It grabs cleanser or makeup residue and is gentle enough for everyday use. $9.50 at Kiehl's.

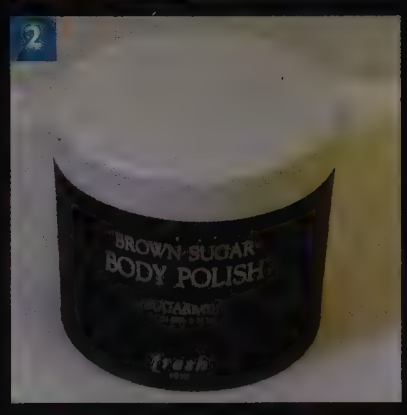
5. Supersmile teeth-whitening system really delivers. The toothpaste alone (shown with accelerator kit) gives you teeth that would make any dentist proud, and even after the first use, your pearly whites are a shade lighter. $32 at The Beauty Mark.

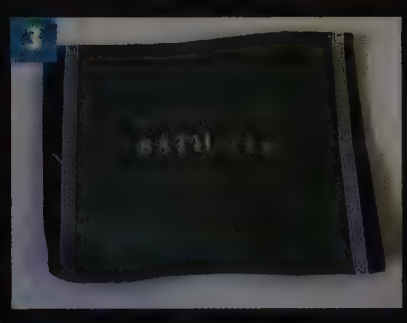
6. Bobbi Brown recently unveiled her new skin care line and the Vitamin Enriched Cream steals the show. It hydrates without making you feel oily. Perfect for after a pore-cleansing masque. $42.

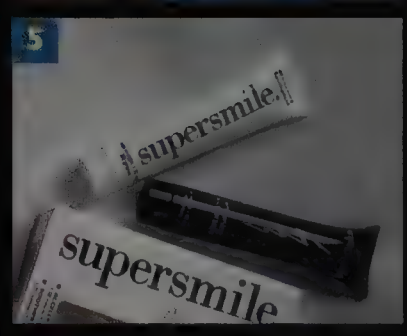
7. Origins has cornered the market on over-the-counter masques. My favorites are the Clear Improvement charcoal masque, which sucks all the grungy stuff out of pores and leaves your face bright and polished, and the Drink Up moisturizing masque. It delivers a shot of moisture perfect for curing battered winter skin. Both $18.50.

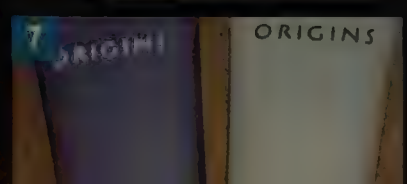
Jessica Iredale contributed to this report.











PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA GREELEY

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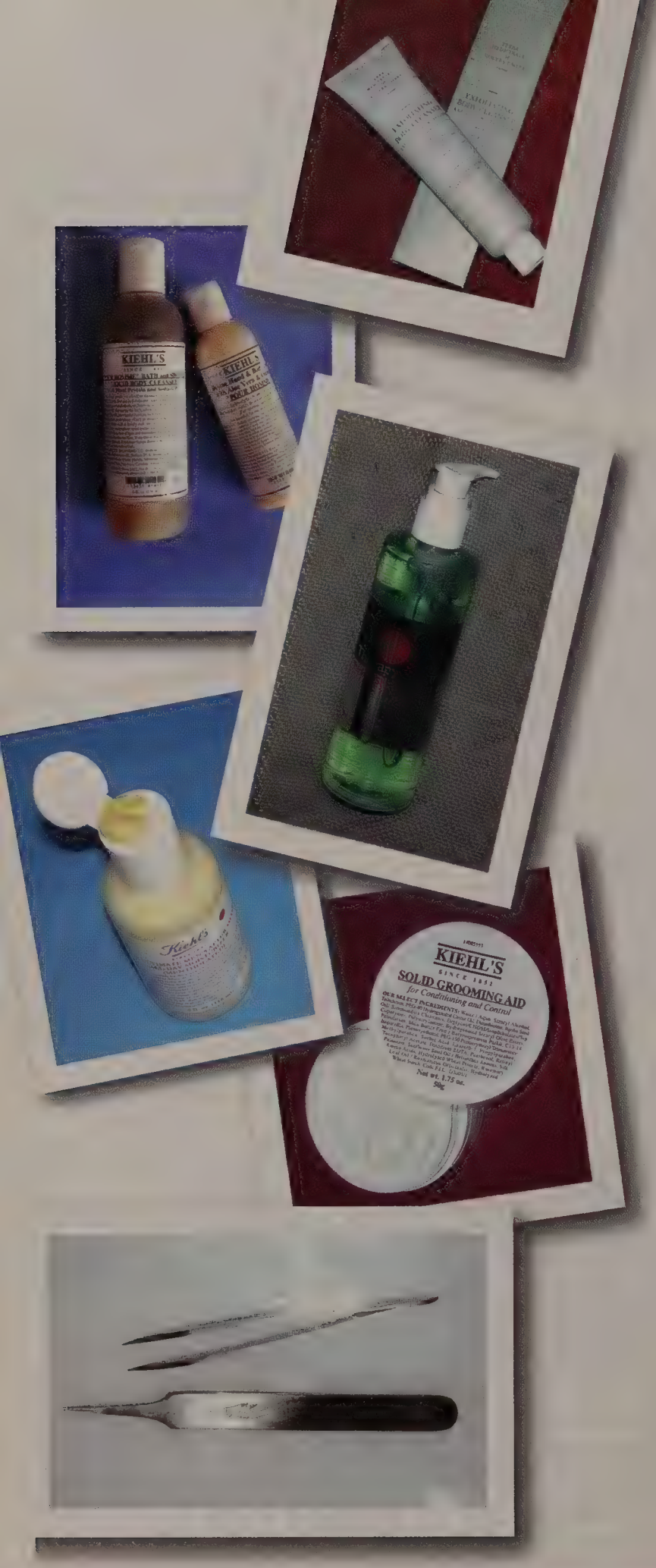

WELL-GROOMED

Answers to FAQs for the stylish male

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

They may be reluctant to ask the questions, but men do want advice on caring for their hair, skin, nails, etc. Mostly in the uninhibited atmosphere of local bars, IMPROPER staffers quizzed their male friends to find out want they want to know about looking good. Here are their top questions and our answers:

What haircuts are currently in style?

Sally Drinkwater, creative director of Lord's and Lady's Hair Salon in West Roxbury, describes today's top three hair trends for men:

1. Adding a bit of color to your hair is an easy way to update your look. Go for a lighter color on the top; choose a shade that looks like you've been in the Caribbean all winter. If you have the messy look, scatter chunks of color to create some contrast.

2. Shorter haircuts should be tighter on the sides and back with a smooth transition to a longer top. If you work in a conservative environment, you can comb your hair down during the day and spike it up or make it messy in the evening. Try Bumble and Bumble Styling Wax, $15, for both controlled and chaotic styles.

3. If you opt for a longer mane (a current trend), hair that hangs down toward your face a bit is the style. It shouldn't be overly groomed, but it shouldn't be out of control, either. Use Bumble and Bumble Sumo Wax, $19, or Bumble and Bumble Sumo Tech, $19, to tame long locks. (Bumble and Bumble products are available at Lord's and Lady's. Men's haircut at Lord's and Lady's, $25; color, $45.)

Should I pluck my eyebrows?

If you have a unibrow (a single, uninterrupted brow), run (do not walk!) to the store, purchase a plucking device and clear out a hairless space in the middle. Some men may feel compelled to go to a salon for a waxing, but it takes a real expert to shape a man's brows properly without overdoing it. If you're going to pluck, use a sharp tweezer. Tweezerman tweezers (available at Saks for around $20) are the sharpest, and you can grab the tiniest hair with them. Pluck judiciously along the inside edge of your brow and remove any unruly hairs that stand out in wiry rebellion.

What should I do about my dry face?

If there's one thing guys can't stand, it's having to use a lot of products. Try Kiehl's menthol ated After-Shave All-Day Moisturizer $14. Rub a nickel-sized dab onto your face after shaving, and it'll do the trick.

How do I get the closest shave?

Exfoliating your face with a washcloth will eliminate ingrown hairs and little red bumps. Another trick is to let the shaving cream sit on your face (try Kiehl's Ultimate Brushless Shave Cream, $11) for a minute before shaving to soften the hair. Always use a new razor blade and a good razor (we like the Gillette Mach 3, $7.29 at drugstores) and moisturize afterward.

What are good soaps to use in the shower?

Milky-looking soaps leave a residue and dry out your skin. Try a liquid body cleanser for men like Kiehl's Pour Homme Bath and Shower Liquid Body Cleanser, $13. If you have dry skin, try Fresh's Umbrian Clay Exfoliating Body Cleanser, $48. It sloughs off dead skin and draws out impurities while moisturizing.

Should I get a manicure and pedicure?

Most guys bristle at the notion of indulging in this kind of pampering, thinking it's strictly for women. But more and more men are treating themselves to pristine hands and feet. (Don't worry; we won't tell anyone.) If you do decide to take the plunge, try Maksou Day Spa on Newbury Street, $23 for a manicure; $45 for a pedicure.

What do I do about back hair?

Deciding whether to keep your back hair is up to you, but if you want to go the clean route, here are some options: You can go to a spa and have it waxed. This is pretty painful but very effective—it lasts between three and four weeks. You can talk a (very good) friend into doing the job with sugar wax (try Sally Hansen Sugar Wax Hair Remover Kit, $7.99 at drugstores), which doesn't require melting. But whatever you do, don't shave. Nobody likes back stubble.

Should I trim my nose and ear hair?

If you can see nose or ear hair, it's too long. There are a few cures to these dilemmas. You can buy nose and ear hair trimmers, which are scissors with a safe, rounded tip, or you can go to the Sharper Image and pick up a Turbogroomer for $59.95. The Turbogroomer has spinning blades that do the job so quickly you won't even have to think about what you're doing. IB

FRESH
121 Newbury St., Boston (617-421-1212)

KIEHL'S
112 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-1777)

LORD'S AND LADY'S HAIR SALONS
450 Belgrade Ave., West Roxbury (617-323-4700)

MAKSOU DAY SPA
125 Newbury St., Boston (617-443-8633)

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE
Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-8500)

SHARPER IMAGE
Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-7010)

Game Time is Miller Time

MAR/APR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31 @TB	1 @TB	2 @TB	3 @TB	4 @BAL	5 @BAL
6 @BAL	7	8 @TOR	9 @TOR	10 @TOR	11 BAL	12 BAL
13 BAL	14	15 TB	16 TB	17 TB	18 TOR	19 TOR
20 TOR	21 TOR	22 @TB	23 @TB	24 @TEX	25 @ANA	26 @ANA
27 @ANA	28	29 KC	30 KC			

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 KC	2 MIN	3 MIN
4 MIN	5 @KC	6 @KC	7 @KC	8	9 @MIN	10 @MIN
11 @MIN	12	13 TEX	14 TEX	15 TEX	16 ANA	17 ANA
18 ANA	19 NYY	20 NYY	21 NYY	22	23 CLE	24 CLE
25 CLE	26 @NYY	27 @NYY	28 @NYY	29	30 @TOR	31 @TOR

JUN

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 @TOR	2	3 @PHI	4 @PHI	5 @PHI	6 @MIL	7 @MIL
8 @MIL	9	10 STL	11 STL	12 STL	13 HOU	14 HOU
15 HOU	16 @CWS	17 @CWS	18 @CWS	19 @CWS	20 @PHI	21 @PHI
22 @PHI	23 DET	24 DET	25 DET	26 DET	27 FLA	28 FLA
29 FLA	30					

JUL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 @TB	2 @TB	3 @TB	4 @NYY	5 @NYY
6 @NYY	7 @NYY	8 @TOR	9 @TOR	10 @TOR	11 @DET	12 @DET
13 @DET	14 ALL STAR BREAK	15 ALL STAR BREAK	16 ALL STAR BREAK	17 TOR	18 TOR	19 TOR
20 TOR	21 DET	22 DET	23 TB	24 TB	25 NYY	26 NYY
27 NYY	28	29 @TEX	30 @TEX	31 @TEX		

AUG

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 @BAL	2 @BAL
3 @BAL	4	5 ANA	6 NYY	7 ANA	8 ANA	9 BAL
10 BAL	11 BAL	12 @SEA	13 @SEA	14 @SEA	15 @OAK	16 @OAK
17 @SEA	18	19	20 OAK	21 OAK	22 OAK	23 SEA
24 SEA / 31 NYY	25 SEA	26 SEA	27 TOR	28	29	30 NYY

SEP

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 @CWS	3 @CWS	4	5 @NYY	6 @NYY
7 @NYY	8 @BAL	9 @BAL	10 @BAL	11	12 CWS	13 CWS
14 CWS	15 TB	16 TB	17 TB	18 TB	19 @CLE	20 @CLE
21 @BAL	22 BAL	23 BAL	24 BAL	25 BAL	26 @TB	27 @TB
28 @TB	29	30				

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B.B. Wolf's New World BBQ & Bar

Who's on First

Mopsy

Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

YIKIES! NATION OF NIKES

Branded, by Alissa Quart, describes the alarming ways that teenagers are roped into the culture of commercialism.

Salesmanship directed at teenagers—everything from clothes and makeup to colleges—is the disturbing topic of *Branded*. The book's title is an apt play on words, as if these highly packaged items were sizzled right into the consumer's skin. Alissa Quart cruises the hyper-name-branded world in which teenagers, as trend-spotters, act as sleuths among their own kind, helping to complete the loop that runs between consumer longings and the machinery that grinds out ever more stuff. And it's not only T-shirts and lipsticks; plastic surgery and breast implants are increasingly popular among some teens. Moreover, as Quart horrifyingly details, unhealthy ideas can be promoted as trends. For example, pro-anorexia websites promote shivering thinness. Even colleges ("Logo U") have become increasingly product-like, with packaging and promotion campaigns involving tutors and coaches (Quart names a local private school) helping pitch and spin a student toward a particular college. Watch out, Quart suggests: You are wholly owned.

SLEEK CHIC IN SOMERVILLE

Cibeline, at 85 Holland Street, Somerville (617-625-2229) sells the owner's own fashion designs. She will customize a garment to your size specifications if necessary.

Cibeline Sariano, speaking of her shop's silvered tin ceilings and walls, shakes her head in an Egyptian wiggle: "It's a little slice of Soho, or L.A." Cibeline, who has worked for designers Richard Tyler and Liz Claiborne, has created a clothing line focusing on beautifully made career clothes—pants, skirts and jackets to be bought singly or matched. Each piece highlights the refinement of the "high-end designer fabrics" Cibeline is drawn to. Audrey Hepburn's picture gazing down soulfully on a pale, powdery-blue wool dress and jacket only reinforces the outfit's elegance. The shop sells snazzy black pants made of stretch acetate, a wonderfully resilient material, with the lining "peached" for leg-caressing comfort. Given the power-suit dignity of her clothes—pinstripes, or a marvelously subtle glen plaid, for example—it's bracing to see jackets lined in red or blue that splash their secret inner life when the wind flips them open. Some pants here have a boot cut, others taper tightly. Accessories, like simple necklaces, bright little bags (one made of a cigar box with wood-beaded handle) add that mischievous ping to the high-class feeling of her designs.

BABY BONUS

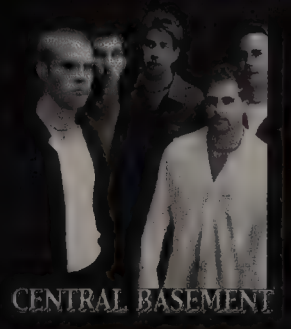
Viacord (866-835-0968) preserves umbilical cord blood for the baby's potential future medical needs (or possibly those of relatives). The cost is $1,275, plus $95 annually for storage.

When a woman gives birth, a valuable resource that is usually discarded emerges along with the inestimable treasure of a baby. That would be the umbilical cord, the conduit that has fed that baby in utero. It's been known since the 1980s that the umbilical cord, with its richness of stem cells—the building blocks of blood and the immune system—can be stored for use in the future, should medical needs arise. The baby's blood is a 100 percent match for the child, in case of need, and has a 25 percent chance of matching a sibling, parents or grandparents. How touching for a baby to unwittingly become a junior lifesaver! Among the nearly 5 diseases these stem cells can help treat are stroke, neurological disorders, certain types of diabetes, lupus and 12 kinds of cancer. Easier and cheaper than transplanting stem cells from bone marrow, this method takes just a few minutes during the joyful event that is childbirth. Collection and transport are available 24 hours a day. This fleeting opportunity could yield amazing long-term benefits.

TOP: SEAN O'KEEF

the Harp
irish pub

Friday 4/4



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Friday 4/18 & Saturday 4/19

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in this section:

Review: Teatro
Dish: Patio preview
Wine: Wine and cheese
Tasty Tidbit: Table for Ten

REVIEW

Encore!

Mistral chef/owner Jamie Mammano does it again with his exquisite Italian eatery, Teatro

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

When I walked into Teatro, I could not believe my eyes. The low, drop ceiling that had been in place when this space housed Galleria Italiana was gone, revealing a magnificent, high vaulted ceiling. Decorated with gold-painted swirls, wreaths and urns above a similarly decorated frieze, the ceiling now has a classical look. In this stately setting, one would not be surprised to see toga-clad senators seated at the bar.

Blue light emanates from just below the vaulting to bathe the ceiling and frieze in a cool glow. Textured marble walls, glossy black granite tables, modern chairs with contoured seats and upholstered banquettes suggest style, if not elegance. An imposing, high-arched window frames a view across Tremont Street to the southeastern corner of Boston Common. The room has an aura of refinement, even majesty, as befits its history as a former synagogue.

Particularly eye-catching are the stainless-steel spiral chandeliers over the bar, from which hang crystal pendants of varying sizes and shapes. I was charmed and delighted by many small touches, like the substantial pewter salt shaker and pepper mill; a small rectangular dish with two wells, one for butter and another for extra-virgin olive oil; thick, absorbent white cotton napkins; and sleek white dinnerware, including an elongated oval platter—pointed rather like a surfboard—that is used for serving an elaborate antipasto for two. Although the noise level is high, a function of the unrelentingly hard surfaces of bare tables, marble walls and tile floor, it does not grate but rather evokes the vitality of the place.

Teatro's prices are surprisingly reasonable, particularly for a chic downtown eatery. Appetizers were priced from $7 to $12, while pastas and main courses ranged from the mid-teens to $21. An incomparable starter was a classic Caesar salad ($7). Tender, impeccably crisp inner leaves of fresh romaine lettuce were dressed in a creamy mustard-laced vinaigrette, enlivened with a combination of garlic, anchovies, thin shavings of Parmesan and crunchy house-made croutons. White cheese pizza with hot peppers and coarse sea salt ($12) consisted of an ultra-thin, crispy crust with even thinner slices of green chiles and tomatoes, a coating of Bel Paese, Romano, mascarpone and Parmesan cheeses and a harvest of fresh arugula leaves. The combination of tastes and textures of the cheeses alone—salty, sweet, mellow, sharp, creamy, grainy—made the offering particularly memorable.

One evening, we ordered the grilled Atlantic salmon with cracked-mustard glaze and broccoli rabe ($20) to share as a fish course. The thick fillet of boneless salmon had been divided and put on plates in the kitchen, a gracious gesture that distinguishes the patron-friendly from the run-of-the-mill restaurant. It was grilled to a perfect texture, with the moist, flavorful flesh just slightly red, and the sweet, savory mustard glaze offsetting the fish's fatty richness. An accompaniment of small, slightly flattened baked potatoes, redolent of rosemary, along with garlicky broccoli rabe, made those half portions meals in themselves. Among an all-star cast of pasta offerings, the spaghetti *alla chitarra carbonara* ($16) deserved marquee billing. This variety of fresh linguini, named for the guitar strings it resembles, was exquisitely dressed in a cream sauce with hefty, smoky chunks of pancetta, fresh basil leaves and shavings of Reggiano Parmigiano. Bravo.

Moving on to true *secondi*, or Italian main courses, I found the char-grilled game hen with garlic, lemon and herb baste ($17) terrific. This small bird had been marinated with herb-infused olive oil, grilled to a golden-brown turn, and then split and splayed across a mashed-potato base that shared the olive oil and

Teatro

177 Tremont St., Boston
(778-6841)

HOURS Mon.-Sat., 5pm-12am; Sun., 4-11pm

RESERVATIONS parties of five or more

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING on-street

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

Teatro's antipasto for two includes bruschetta with roasted peppers and white anchovies, prosciutto di Parma, capocolla ham, white bean puree, sweet eggplant *caponata* and Pecorino Podda.

Chef/owner Jamie Mammano (left) and sous chef Joe Cassinelli preside over Teatro's kitchen.

garlic flavors of the marinade, with broad-leafed Italian parsley scattered on top. Roasted or grilled poultry is a good test of a kitchen's ability to turn out simple things well and to make the ordinary taste special. Teatro's game hen was indeed an audience pleaser.

Finally, veal *saltimbocca*, a combination of a tender veal cutlet sautéed and layered with prosciutto, sage, wild mushrooms and Parmesan cheese, may not have jumped off the plate toward our mouths—despite the literal meaning of its name—but the combination of tastes and textures made it a sensory delight. It was a shame that an exquisite portion of creamed spinach lay hiding beneath the veal. It deserved star billing, or at least a bit more recognition than it got.

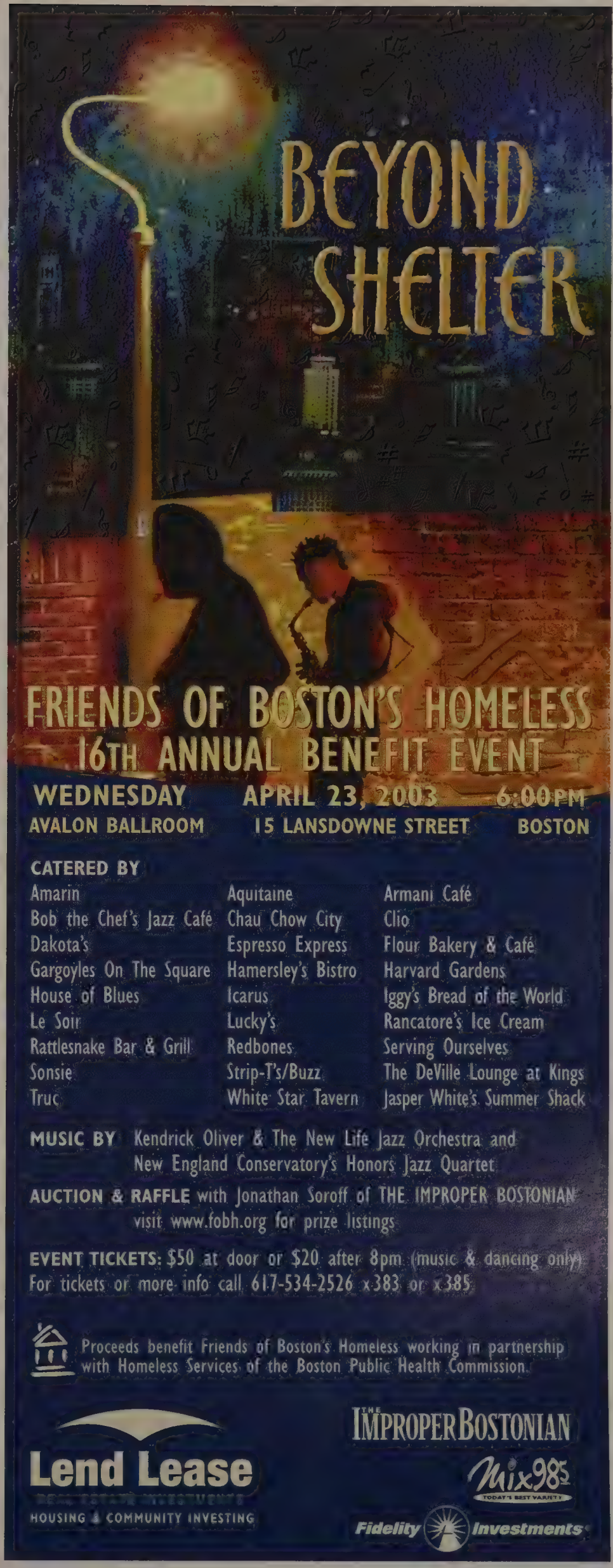
Slow-cooked pork shank with sweet-potato mash.

High vaulted ceilings are evidence of Teatro's past life as a synagogue.

Teatro's wine list was a delight. Predominantly Italian, with a few California selections thrown in as understudies, the wines are well chosen and reasonably priced. No fewer than 18 wines are offered by the glass and 13-ounce carafe. Few upscale restaurants in Boston offer wine for $6 a glass, but Teatro has seven of them. We enjoyed the Montepulciano Travanto from Abruzzi one evening, a fruity yet well-structured red that went particularly well with the pasta ($6 glass; $12 carafe). Another offering at the same price, the Sangiovese DiMajo Norante from Italy's midboot Molise province (next door to Abruzzi), was bigger and fuller, with good acid to balance its forward fruit.

Service at Teatro was inexperienced but earnest. I did see waitpersons clearing the plate of a neighboring diner while her companion was in midbite—a service shortcoming that seems almost universal in American restaurants, where there seems to be a compulsion to whisk empty plates away the moment a fork is laid to rest. In other respects, service enhancements nearly compensated for this lack of finesse. Tableware was replaced frequently, water glasses filled, and olive oil replenished along with incomparably crusty Tuscan loaves from Cambridge's Hi-Rise Bread Co.

Teatro, a spectacular addition to the Theater District, is already playing to rave reviews as it nourishes pre-theater and post-theater throngs. Its high style and star-quality cuisine belie its low-budget production. It's clearly destined for a long and successful run. **iB**



DISH

Springing Ahead?

Patio preview…to brie or not to brie…

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Spring is "mud season" in more ways than one this year. While we're plodding through the literal mud, and our military is slogging through a mess overseas, restaurants are getting bogged down in the swamp of an economy that's stagnant at best. Rumors abound of restaurants that are struggling to stay afloat or up for sale. In Arlington, the charming **Tea Tray in the Sky** is packing its tea bags and closing its doors after less than a year.

At a time when they are focusing on the bottom line for their survival, restaurants are less able to lend support to fund-raisers and special events. This year, the eagerly anticipated **Architectural Masters of Pastry** competition, brought to us under the auspices of the New England Pastry Guild and originally slated for late March, is a non-starter. Guild founder and president **Lee Napoli** says a lack of corporate sponsorship, as well as the reluctance of many low-profile pastry chefs to invest the required time, resulted in the event's cancellation.

Napoli expects the disappointment to be temporary, however. "We'll be back," she promises. We'll keep you posted. Napoli, by the way, has signed on full-time with **Sandrine's Bistro** after consulting on the pastry menu for a few months. Expect Sandrine's to start serving brunch, starring Napoli's homemade croissants, very soon.

On the brighter side, a new spot—which may or may not be named Solstice—will open in late spring in the Tea Tray's location. Apparently, after choosing the name and beginning the process of designing a logo, the Solstice folks learned of a Mission Hill eatery called the **Solstice Café**. Whatever the name, the new place will optimistically feature cozier, more luxurious décor, a more upscale menu, a cocktail lounge and a revamped menu from **Bill Flumerfelt**, Tea Tray's former chef.

Speaking of sun, when the weather finally warms up, we'll have new alternatives for outdoor drinking and dining. **Finale** in Harvard Square has enclosed its outdoor patio, where it will provide evening table service, with a sculpted railing commissioned from Somerville artist **David Tonnesen**. The newly opened **Bambara**, near MIT and adjacent to the **Hotel Marlowe**, offers American brasserie-style fare both inside its sleek, jewel-toned dining room and outdoors on the patio. Spring breezes will be just the thing to accompany grilled Maine scallops with baby spinach salad, red bliss brandade and tomato confit purée. And it's not really a dining space, but chef **David Daniels**' newly minted (sorry) rooftop greenhouse garden at **XV Beacon** will provide herbs, spices, heirloom tomatoes and more for the kitchen at **The Federalist**. On the rooftop deck, we're told, strawberry bushes will be planted to provide "hand-picked" berries for the pastry menu. So what do other restaurants use to harvest strawberries, cherry pickers?

Come warmer weather, the newly opened Bambara in Cambridge plans to offer patio dining.

It won't be long before **Sonsie** opens its French doors (or is it "freedom doors" now?) onto the Newbury Street sidewalk. And if you're on the freedom-fries bandwagon, feel free to divest yourself of any French truffles, pâté or wine you may have on hand by sending the offending item(s) to me or J. Charles Mokriski, c/o THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN. Seriously, whatever your politics, this is a fine time for all of us to increase our support of locally grown produce (asparagus—it won't be long now!), neighborhood restaurants and, of course, local vineyards. Westport Rivers' sparkling wines are delicious, and worth buying whether you're French-bashing or simply throwing a bash. For the sake of hope and unity, let's all raise a glass and drink to better times ahead. IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Cheese Pairings

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

One of my all-time favorite combinations is port and Stilton, but at a recent seminar/tasting I conducted at Finale, I decided to depart from that time-honored combination and present five different styles of the great Portuguese fortified wine with cheeses of several different styles and origins. It was interesting to see how the diverse flavor and texture combinations worked together. In general the aged tawny ports, with their softer, nuttier, dried-fruit flavors, were just delicious with smoky, earthy cheeses, such as an alpine Swiss Tête de Moine or Spanish Zamorano, while the darker, more intensely concentrated and tannic-red ports, with their spicy, chocolaty berry flavors, blended beautifully with harder, dry-aged cheeses, like Artavaggio from Lombardy. It got me thinking about other memorable wine and cheese pairings I've enjoyed over the years, most of which I stumbled upon purely by accident, because I happened to have had some cheese at home and had not finished my dinner wine.

One of my favorite cheeses, l'Explorateur, is so rich and creamy that it seemed to defy matching. Whatever wine I tried, the cheese completely stripped its flavor. The greatest wines, those with the most delicate and complex mix of flavors resulting from long aging, were the greatest disappointments. Their balance would be thrown off entirely. But a young grand cru red Burgundy from a very ripe vintage proved the cheese's equal. Its lush, velvety, red fruit flavor, deeply saturated with ripe cherries and sweet spices, harmonized incredibly well with the buttery cheese. The only problem is, these kinds of wines are very expensive and it's a shame to deliberately drink them too young. Somehow even really good Oregon or central pinot noir has never quite reached the same heights. The lesser Burgundies I've tried have been completely obliterated.

Along the same lines, a lightly tangy double crème such as brie de Meaux has often worked well for me with top-quality Pomerol, the succulent plummy chocolate-like spice of a wine such as Château Gazin or Château Nenin in a ripe vintage standing up nicely to the cheese's rich textures. Comparable-quality higher-tannin wines from the Medoc, on the other hand, inevitably seem to fall flat. This is perhaps not that surprising, but the fact that moderately priced herb-accented Chilean Carmeneres should go nicely with such an aristocratic cheese constituted a great discovery. Their density and exuberant berry-like fruitiness has proven remarkably compatible with this creamy French favorite.

Rioja reserva and Morbier are a combination I try a lot since I discovered it. The soft textures and the flavors—smooth, understated, well-aged, nutty, caramel-like, fruity—in both the wine and the cheese echo one another nicely. Highly recommended.

Some of my favorite wine and cheese discoveries have involved Alsatian Riesling and gewurztraminer, the latter of which I have found to be among the most versatile of wines for complementing a wide variety of serious cheeses. The key with these white wines is unusually high levels of fruit extraction, as is the case with the rioja reserva and Pomerol. But even lighter, steelier Alsatian whites seem to have a natural affinity for many different types of cheese, adapting well to even the most assertive. Gorgonzola and vendange tardive gewurztraminer? Try it, it's delicious.

Normally I tend to think of tangy goat cheeses as partners for white wine, and specifically sauvignon blanc, but a boldly fruity Chianti Classico from the very ripe 1997 vintage once did admirably with one of these notoriously fickle cheeses. The cheese was covered in peppercorns, and perhaps this helped to set up the affinity, but other, more logical red wines that I later tried it with, such as Rhone syrahs and big, strapping California cabernets, were nowhere near as complementary as the Chianti.

In addition to port, there are other sweet wines that have struck me as delicious with cheeses. Probably the most enjoyable combination I've tried is a highly salty, tangy bleu d'Auvergne with a moelleux Vouvray or Quarts de Chaume, chenin blanc–based wines whose syrupy, apricot-like tang and high acidity strike me as appropriately assertive to mellow the cheese a bit. Another exciting combination I've tried in this mode is a young muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise (a white fortified wine from France) with Maytag blue.

What are some of the wine categories I've never had much success with, despite the most careful planning? Delicate white Burgundies, very mild and understated whites like pinot blanc or, for that matter pinot grigio, zinfandels (although logically they should work), southern Rhone reds, California sauvignon blancs, Australian chardonnay—the list could go on. On the other hand, there is one cheese that seems to work with everything: authentic mozzarella di bufala.

One of only 18 Americans with a Master of Wine certification, Sandy Block has been the IMPROPER's wine editor since 1993. He is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.

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Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for Tastings by mail or fax (859-1446) to Calendar: Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Arnaldo Caprai Wine Dinner
Monica's, 143 Richmond St., Boston (617-227-0311). April 8. $98 (for two). Enjoy a four-course dinner with food and wine from Umbria, Italy.

Art and Wine
Aura, Seaport Hotel, 164 Northern St., Boston (617-385-4200). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. April 11, 7:30pm. $125. This event features five local artists who will exhibit and sell their work while guests feast on a four-course menu paired with wine.

Boston Beer Summit
The Castle at Park Plaza, 130 Columbus Ave., Boston. www.beersummit.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 5, 1-5pm and 6-10pm. $25, $30 at the door.* More than 50 breweries offer four-ounce samples of 200 beers.

Boston Wine Festival
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). www.bostonwinefestival.net. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Through April 11.* •April 2, 7pm, $125: Signal Hill •April 3, 7pm, $125: Wildekrans •April 4, 7pm, $125: Tour of South Africa •April 7, 7pm, $145: Intriguing Whites •April 9, 6:30pm $175 (seminar and dinner), $125 (dinner only): Wines of Chile with Sandy Block •April 10, 7pm, $350: '82 Bordeaux •April 11, 7pm, $75: Closing party featuring food and wine.

Chimney Rock Wine Dinner
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 7, 6:30pm. $65. This dinner features four courses by chef **Felino Samson** paired with wines from Chimney Rock.

Cookbook Author Series
Bloomingdale's, Chestnut Hill Mall, 175 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-630-6086). 12-2pm. Local chefs and authors offer cooking demonstrations. •April 4: **Corby Kummer**, author of *The Pleasures of Slow Food*, with Oleana chef/owner **Ana Sortun**.

Cooking with Coffee
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 14, 6:30-8:30pm. $15. Local chefs create sauces, desserts and appetizers featuring coffee as the key ingredient.

Gourmet Cooking 101
Maggiano's, 4 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-542-3456). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 10. $10. Chef **James Drake** teaches you how to make a professional-style brunch.

Great Chefs Cooking for a Cure
Two International Place, Boston (617-632-3021). April 2, 6:30-10pm. $75. This benefit for the Gillette Center for Women's Cancers features a silent auction and samples by more than 40 Boston chefs.

Life Savor
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-445-7777). April 3, 5:30pm. $150 for the cocktail reception; $250 for the dinner. Enjoy a cocktail party at Le Meridien and then at 7:30, take a trolley to one of 80 restaurants. The fun continues with dancing at Le Meridien's after-party.

Martini Tasting
Oak Room, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). www.bostonypa.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. April 15, 7:30pm. $90.* The Boston Young Professionals Association hosts this tasting of 10 martinis with a bartender offering recipes and instructions.

Red Wine from the Golden State
Rialto, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (617-661-5050). April 12, 11am. $45. California produces the country's finest pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon, merlot and zinfandel. Wine director **Patrick Dubsky** explains why.

Table for Ten
Various restaurants (781-272-9936). April 8, 6:30pm. $100. At this benefit for Neurofibromatosis Inc., local chefs donate and prepare a three-course dinner for tables of 10 at their restaurants. Afterward, guests can gather at the Rack for dessert, billiards and an auction.

Taste of Beacon Hill
The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Arlington and Newbury streets, Boston (617-536-5700). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 9, 6:30-9:30pm. $55, $75 at the door. Beacon Hill chefs showcase their unique menus at this IMPROPER-sponsored event benefiting Shriner's Hospital.

Taste of the Back Bay
Wang Center, Grand Lobby, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-859-7787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. April 11, 6:30-9:30pm. $65, $75 at the door. This event to benefit the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay features tastes from more than 40 local restaurants and vintners.

Tax Day Lunch
Cafe Fleuri, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-956-8751). MBTA: Blue Line to State. April 15. In honor of Tax Day, Cafe Fleuri offers a three-course lunch for $20.02.

Tour de France Dinner
Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-720-1300). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. April 5. $35. Wine director **Erik Johnson** offers a lecture on French wines, and chef **Geoff Gardner** cooks up a four-course menu.

Wine and Food 101/Baking Class
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. •April 2, 6-8pm, $50: Chef **Stefano Zimei** of Gallia and the IMPROPER's wine columnist, **Sandy Block**, offer Wine and Food 101. •April 4, 6-9pm, $150: Pastry chef **Joanne Chang** of Flour Bakery offers baking tips.

From left, Dan Enos and Richard Brackett, chef and managing partner, respectively, of the Capital Grille, with Ross MacKinnon, Table for Ten event chairman.

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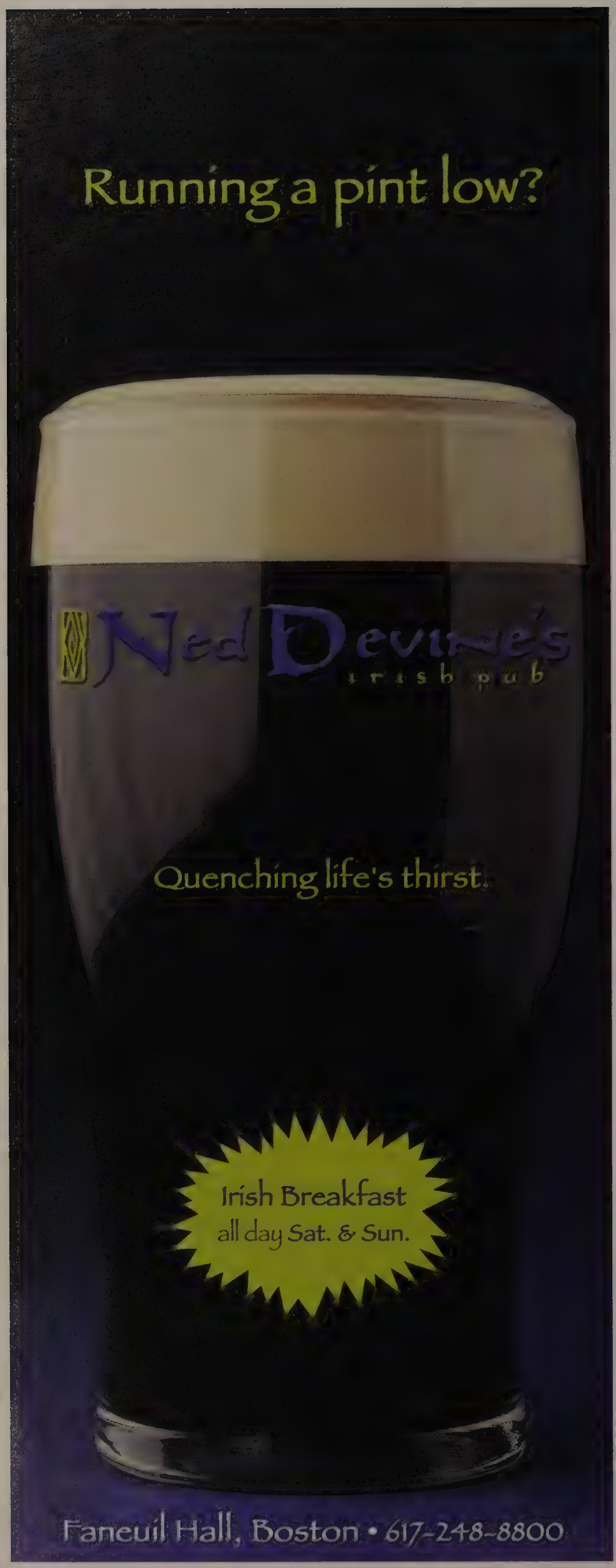

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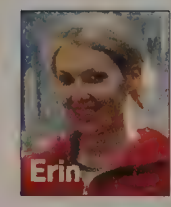

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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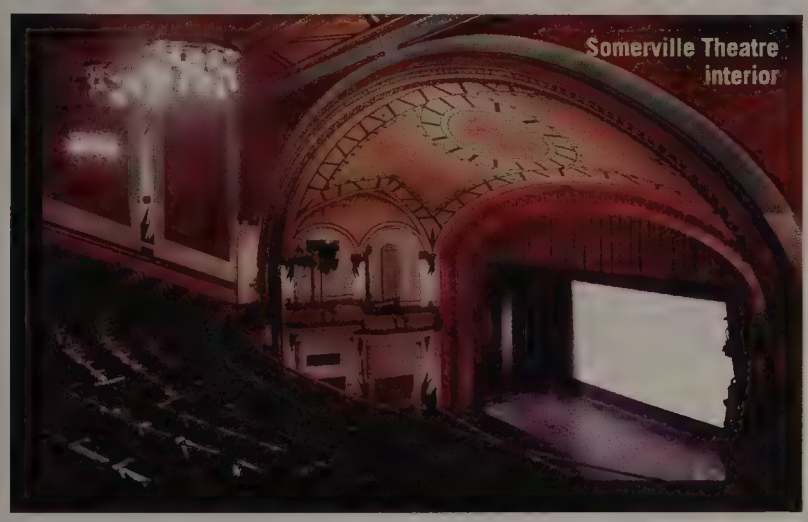


THROUGH MARCH 28, 2004

Art: Majestic Theaters

These days it's tempting to wish you could miraculously have a *Pleasantville* experience—you're watching TV, and suddenly you get beamed back to a black-and-white, *Leave It to Beaver* world where everything is...well, pleasant. A new exhibit at the Somerville Museum called ***The Lost Theatres of Somerville*** won't exactly transport you through time, but it will briefly immerse you in a simpler, quieter, more familial era. The exhibit explores the history of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which is still operating today. *Lost Theatres of Somerville*, curated by David Guss, a professor of anthropology at Tufts University, looks at the moviegoing experience before the advent of television, when theaters were gathering places for families and entire neighborhoods. Photographs and memorabilia including posters, ads and seats show how public entertainment changed from 1904, when movies first came to Somerville, to the era of modern multiplexes. It's unlikely that you could, but don't miss the 10-foot neon marquee from the old Paramount. *Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). Thu., 2-7pm, Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-5pm.*

THU./APRIL 3

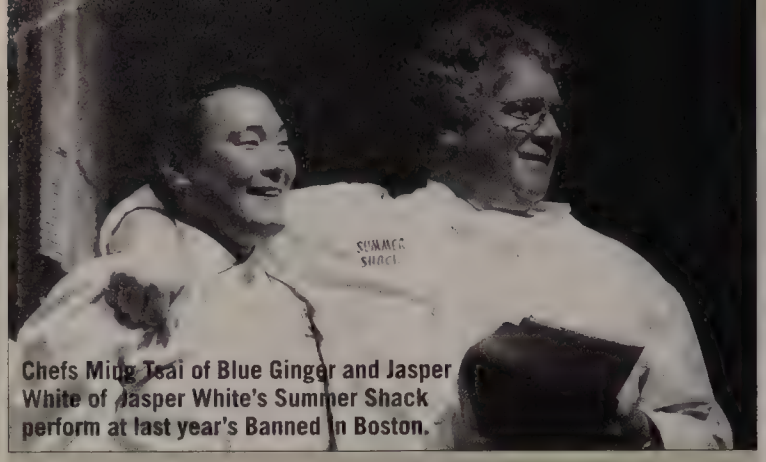
Music: That Old Black Magic

What better reason to jump, jive and wail than a tribute to the '50s duo who practically own the phrase? At the Regattabar on April 3, vocalists Jim Porcella and Ida Zecco pay tribute to **Louis Prima and Keely Smith**, the swinging, jazz-singing married couple who made those lyrics famous. Porcella and Zecco (who are, appropriately enough, also a husband-and-wife team) bring along a full backup band for a nightlong celebration of the swing/Dixieland/pop songs of Prima and Smith. We recommend ordering a mint julep while you watch—maybe it will encourage the duo to play the song by that name. *Regattabar, Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-661-5000). 8:30pm. $20.*

SAT./APRIL 5

Tastings: 200 Bottles of Beer on the Wall

According to Sandy Block, the IMPROPER's wine columnist, mere 12 percent of Americans account for 90 percent of the wine consumed in this country. So what's everyone else drinking? Our favorite beverage, of course: beer! That's why you'll find us as giddy as kids in a candy shop at the annual **Boston Beer Summit**, sampling some of the 200 beers offered. Within the confines of the Castle at Park Plaza, more than 50 breweries from Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Belgium, Germany, Italy, France and the United States will be on hand to quench your thirst, as well as educate you on the differences between bock, brown ale, bitter and barley wine. *The Castle at Park Plaza, 130 Columbus Ave., Boston.* www.beersummit.com. *1-5pm and 6-10pm. $25, $30 at the door.*

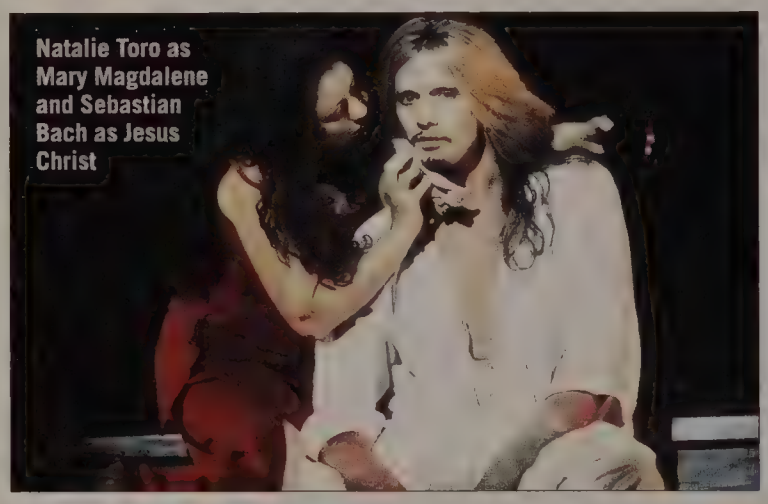


Chefs Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger and Jasper White of Jasper White's Summer Shack perform at last year's Banned in Boston.

FRI./APRIL 4

CityScope: Saucy Satire

Once a year, local pols, media personalities and CEOs let down their hair—and, in some cases, their pants—at the **Banned in Boston** benefit at Avalon. In years past, this night of saucy satire has found nightclub impresario Patrick Lyons onstage playing Whitey Bulger at a nudist camp, and Aerosmith's Tom Hamilton posing as Dick Cheney delivering "The Angina Monologues." What's the point? To entertain, of course (where else could you see Robert Reich playing former governor Jane Swift?), as well as raise money for Urban Improv, a youth violence prevention program. Among this year's performers are Mayor Tom Menino and National Public Radio's "Click and Clack" (Tom and Ray Magliozzi), plus a bevy of chefs who'll cook up a feast for guests before the show. *Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-524-7045). April 4, 6pm. $75-$150.*



Natalie Toro as Mary Magdalene and Sebastian Bach as Jesus Christ

TUE./APRIL 15–SUN./APRIL 20

Performing Arts: Bless You

While perusing the press release for the Wang Theatre's latest production, ***Jesus Christ Superstar***, a cast member's name caught our eye: Sebastian Bach as Jesus Christ. Wait a minute—Sebastian Bach? As in the one-time frontman for hair-metal band Skid Row? As in the wildman who, after being hit in the head by a bottle thrown onstage, hurled the bottle back into the crowd, hitting a young girl, and then physically assaulted an audience member? Yeah, *that* Sebastian Bach, a publicist confirmed. "Excellent," we said. "We're there." Not that we'd miss Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical about the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, but the addition of Bach—who, by the way, earned favorable notice with his performance in *Jekyll & Hyde* on Broadway—makes this one a can't-miss event. *Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Wed., 7pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. April 15-20. $28-$70.*

THU./APRIL 10

CityScope: A Night to Score

Let it be known that the **Boston Breakers** know how to make the best shots—both on and off the field. The entire team of 18 will tend bar and serve food at the Kells in Allston April 10, donating all their tips to Special Olympics Massachusetts. We hear that the Kells' owner Jerry Quinn will match the tips dollar for dollar—so lay down those greenbacks liberally. The Breakers, who make their home debut this season on April 26 at Nickerson Field, will also mix with the crowd, sign autographs and pose for photos. Rest assured that all the Breakers' raving 10-year-old fans won't be in attendance—it's a 21+ event. *The Kells, 161 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-782-9082).* www.bostonbreakers.com. *9-11pm. No cover.*

From left, Boston Breakers midfielder Jena Kluegel, draft pick Devvyn Hawkins and Kells bartender Dave Collins

SAT./APRIL 12

Movies: United Artists

His first film came out almost 90 years ago, but Charlie Chaplin's reputation lives on. The small, strangely mannered "tramp" with the toothbrush mustache, undersize bowler hat and bamboo cane was as funny and eccentric as they come. Chaplin's continuing popularity recently led to the restoration of his politically charged 1940 film ***The Great Dictator***, and the new reissue is set to make the cinematic rounds. (The screening this week at the MFA is the restored film's second showing in the U.S.) Chaplin began filming *The Great Dictator* at the beginning of World War II and it's believed to be the only movie of its time to criticize fascism in Europe and Hitler's treatment of the Jews. For this screening, presented by the Boston Jewish Film Festival, **Kiera Chaplin** (Charlie's granddaughter and Eugene O'Neill's great-granddaughter) will introduce the film. Kiera is an actor in her own right, having appeared most recent in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and she will speak about *The Great Dictator* and her grandfather. *7:30pm. $9. Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300).*

SAT./APRIL 12 AND SUN./APRIL 13

Books & Poetry: Ode Oasis

As the April 21 Boston Marathon inspires athletes everywhere to train hard, a different kind of marathon has caught our attention—and it involves no panting, sweating or physical exertion whatsoever, which means we like it already. The two-day **Boston Poetry Marathon** is exercise for the brain, with participation by 56 novice and veteran poets. Among the more prominent poets featured in the third annual fest are Pam Bernard, Frank Bidart, Erica Funkhouser, X.J. Kennedy and Lloyd Schwartz. Many of the bards' books will be available for purchase, and a portion of book sale proceeds will be donated to the Boston Public Library. Don't forget to wear black. *BPL, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400).* www.bpl.org. *April 12, 10am-5pm; April 13, 1-5pm. Free.*

THU./APRIL 10

Movies: Indie Queen

"Hi Joe. How are you? I love you. You invade my soul." No matter how many films **Lili Taylor** has appeared in (somewhere around 50), these immortal words will forever be associated with her role as the guitar-strumming, emotionally unstable Corey in the 1989 movie *Say Anything*. Since that film, Taylor has made a name for herself as an indie queen, taking on nontraditional, quirky roles in low-budget independent films like *Dogfight*, *Arizona Dream*, *The Haunting* and *I Shot Andy Warhol*. In recent years, Taylor has made forays into more mainstream fare with movies like *Pecker* and *High Fidelity*, as well as a stint on HBO's *Six Feet Under*. The recent announcement that Taylor will take to the Brattle stage for a discussion about her career had fans clamoring for tickets, but surprisingly, there are still some left. Independent film producer Amy Geller moderates the discussion, and a screening of the 1996 film *Girls Town*, which Taylor co-wrote and starred in, follows. *Tickets are $12 and are available through www.ticketweb.com. Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-6837). 7pm.*

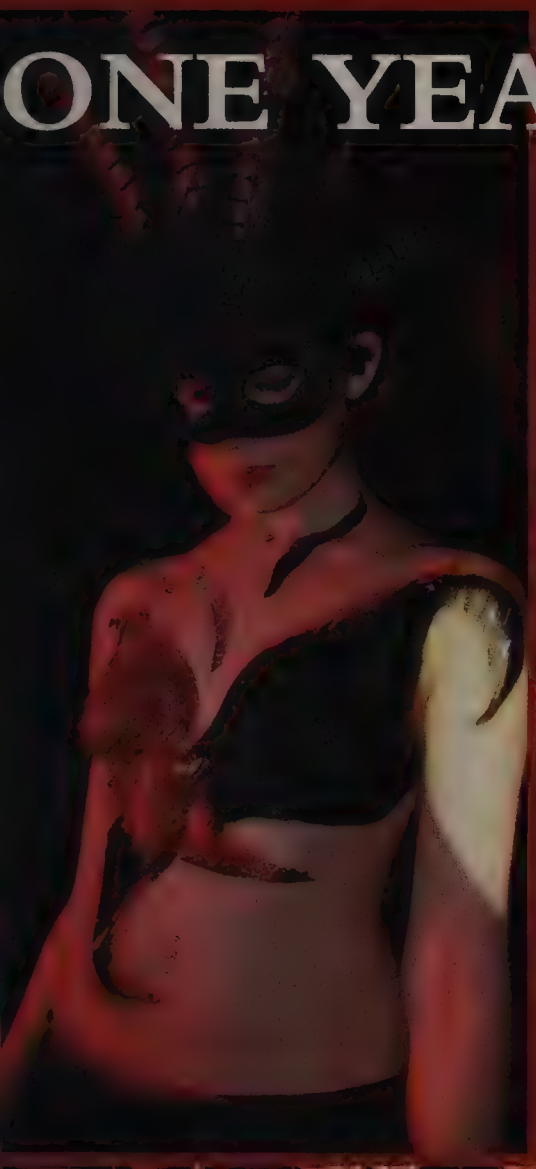
WED./APRIL 9 AND FRI./APRIL 11

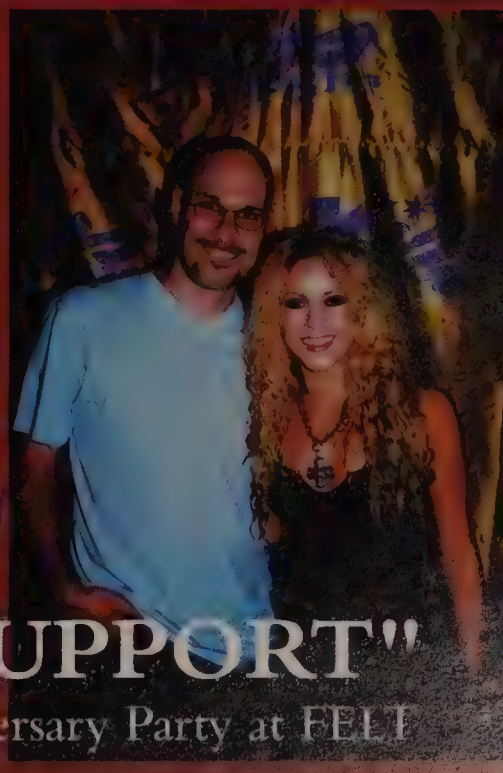
Tastings: Tasty Delight

After attending roughly a zillion "Taste of" events over the yea (it seems like every town or neighborhood has one), we consider ourselves experts in the art of making a hearty mea out of tiny portions. And although we're loath to give away ou tricks—for fear that you'll beat us to the punch, literally—we feel compelled to prepare you for two such events this month the IMPROPER-sponsored **Taste of Beacon Hill** at the Ritz-Carl Boston April 9, and **Taste of the Back Bay** at the Wang Cen Grand Lobby April 11. Both feature samples prepared by loca chefs, plus beer and wine, and both benefit local charities. Bu before you go, take note: Get there when the doors open; immediately set your things down at a table so you're unencumbered; make several trips back and forth between th booths and the table (without eating) before the lines get long and seek out the booths of the most desirable chefs first. Th sit back, relax and take in the scene—and your dinner. *See Tastings on page 44 for more information.*

SUPERSTAR: CRAIG S

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY





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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

An exhibit of antique motorcycles is part of BikeXpo, April 4-6 at the World Trade Center.

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

BARCC Benefit
Asgard Pub and Restaurant, 350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. www.barcc.org. *5-10pm. $5.* Zagnutt provides live music at this benefit for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. All proceeds, including bar gratuities, go to the BARCC.

Doctors Without Borders Access Expo
Harvard Medical School Quadrangle, between 200 and 260 Longwood Ave., Boston. www.doctorswithoutborders.org. *9:30am-6pm, through April 4.* The Doctors Without Borders interactive exhibition highlights the need for more research toward treatments for diseases that affect the world's poor.

Great Chefs Cooking for a Cure
Two International Place, Boston. (617-632-3021). 6:30-10pm. $75. More than 40 Boston restaurants provide all-you-can-eat samples to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Several New England wine and beer companies offer libations and the Jeremy Berlin Quartet provides a live soundtrack to the evening.

Shakespeare Sonnet-a-Thon
Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston (781-326-3643). www.shakespeare now.org. *6pm.* All 154 of the Bard's sonnets will be read at this event, which also includes a celebration of W.S.'s 439th birthday.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Center for Blood Research Benefit
Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-278-3334). 6:30pm. $30. A raffle and silent auction of items like a trip to Miami and a day at a spa raise money for the Center for Blood Research.

LifeSavor
Le Meridien Hotel, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-445-7777). 5:30pm. After party at One Post Office Square. LifeSavor, a benefit for Community Servings' program to deliver meals to individuals and families struggling with AIDS, begins with a cocktail reception and silent auction at Le Meridien. Auction items include exotic trips, jewelry and artwork. Guests then take trolleys to 80 different restaurants for dinner. A Café and Chocolat after-party with music and dancing concludes the evening.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Banned in Boston
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-524-7045). 6pm. $150, $75 Junior Citizen's discount for those under age 40. Banned in Boston raises money for Urban Improv with a night of food, drinks and comedy. More than 10 restaurants provide the munchies before a performance that will include Aerosmith's Tom Hamilton as Martha Stewart trying to improve military rations in the Persian Gulf, Click and Clack as Colin Powell and President Bush (reprising Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First?" routine) and, appropriately enough, an Ode to Anxiety.

BikeXpo
World Trade Center, Boston (877-245-3976). www.nemotorcycleexpo.com. *Fri., 4-10pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. $15.* The BikeXpo motorcycle show features new bikes, a custom-bike contest, the Balls of Steel stunt show, music by R.B. Gunn and an exhibit of antique motorcycles.

Party with the Cause
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). 6:30-9:30pm. $10. Enjoy pool, appetizers, and music to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Southern Graphics Printmaking Conference
Publishers Fair at Mass College of Art Gymnasium, Evans Way, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. See www.bu.edu/cfa/events/printconferenceSGC *for location of other events. Through April 6.* This international printmaking gathering includes panel discussions, workshops, demonstrations and exhibits.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Big Apple Circus
623 Summer St., Boston (617-931-2787) www.bigapplecircus.org. *Show times vary. $13 $51.* The Big Apple Circus stops in Boston wit musical clown Francesco, Grandma clown Russian trapeze artists the Aniskin Troupe Chinese slack-wire balancer Cong Tian, the pe forming dogs and cats of Irina Markova and th rest of the Big Apple's wide variety of performer

Boston Beer Summit
The Castle at Park Plaza, 130 Columbus Ave., Boston www.beersummit.com. 1-5pm and 6-10pm. $25, $3 at the door. More than 50 breweries offer four-ounc samples of 200 beers.

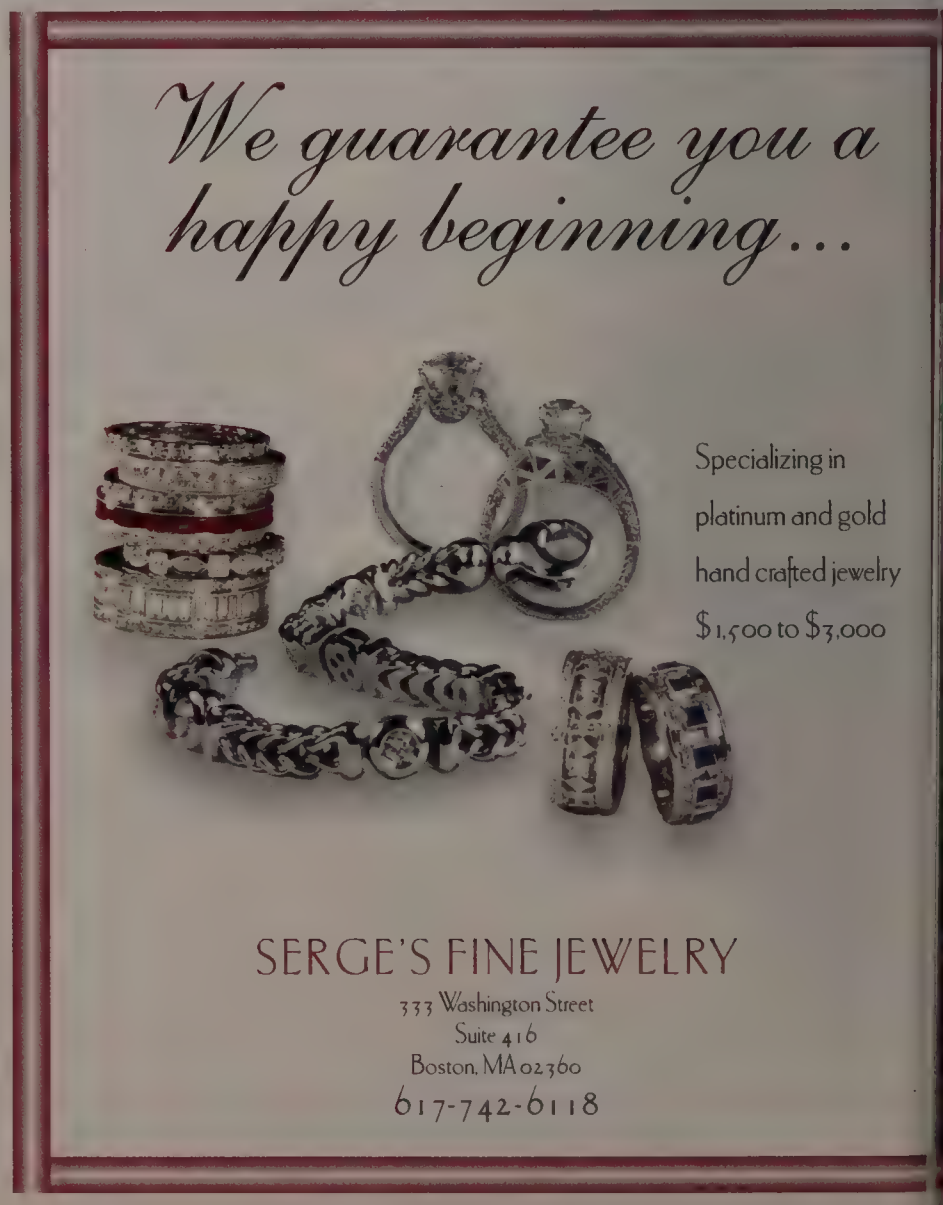
Boston Heart Ball
Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston (800-662-1701 www.heart.org. *6pm-1am. $300.* WCVB-TV Natalie Jacobson emcees this black-tie benefit fo the Amercian Heart Association. The evenin includes dinner and dancing, live and silent auc tions, and a raffle for a 2003 Mercedes-Benz E320

Celebrity Basketball Challenge
Clark Athletic Center, UMass Boston (617-427 2222). 12-4pm. $15. Celebrities including Pau Pierce, Antoine Walker, Kevin Faulk and Irula and Alton from MTV's *Real World Las Vegas* pla basketball to benefit local charities. Radio One Boston, WILD-AM 1090 and Hot 97.7 host.

Community Farms Outreach Spring Fling
UMass Field Station, Waltham Fields Communi Farm, 240 Beaver St., Waltham (781-899-2403 www.communityfarms.org. *6:30pm, dancing begi at 7:30pm. $20.* This alcohol-free contra danc includes a silent auction, live music, hors d'oeuvr and activities for children. Proceeds benef Community Farms Outreach.

Crossing the Court Fund-Raiser
Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, 1350 Tremo St., Boston (617-562-0900). 6-11pm. $12 NECN's Chris Collins emcees this benefit f Tenacity, a youth tennis and academic progra The evening includes a cocktail hour, dinner, dan ing and a live auction of several tennis-related trip

Lives in Bloom Gala
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston (781-29 2110). www.walkerschool.org. *6:30pm-12a*



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— *George Bernard Shaw*

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$150, $75 for young friends. This dinner, dance, silent auction and raffle raises money for the Walker Home and School, which provides services to troubled children.

Revels' Fish Ball
Sheraton Commander Hotel, 16 Garden St., Cambridge (617-972-8300, ext. 31). www.revels.org. *6-11pm. $150. Advance reservations required.* The Latin-themed Fiesta del Pescado features dinner, wine, live music from Manguito and a silent auction. Guests can also reel in raffle prizes from a fish pond, and dress is "fancy, fishy, fanciful or fiestaful." Proceeds benefit Revels' Community Outreach Program.

Rhythms of Renewal
First and Second Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-542-6233). www.uuum.org. *6pm. $30.* New York comedian Ritch Duncan emcees an evening of music and comedy to benefit Renewal House, a program for the disadvantaged in inner-city Boston. The Boston Community Choir, jazz pianist Michael Shea and vocalist Karen Tobin perform.

Silver Ball
Machine, 1254 Boylston St., Boston. www.imperial-courtofma.org. *8pm. $10.* Imperial Crown Prince Randolph "Gucci" Spendzalot and Imperial Crown Princess Wilma von Shwink host this benefit for Haley House, a South End soup kitchen and outreach organization.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Bright Lights of Brookline Benefit
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-713-5211). 3-5:30pm. $15 in advance, $20 at the door. Illustrious BHS alumni, including Patriots vice chairman Jonathan Kraft and WBZ-TV's Liz Walker, host seminars to raise money for the school's 21st Century Fund.

Gamble Mansion Bridal Brunch
Gamble Mansion, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *11am-12:30pm and 12:30-2pm. $15.* The Boston Center for Adult Education hosts its annual Bridal Brunch, with food from Creative Gourmet and La Fete Catering and live music from the Sultans of Swing. The Altered Bride displays bridal fashions and Mr. Tux shows the latest in groomwear. Florists, bakers and other wedding-related businesses will also be on hand.

MS Benefit Walk
Artesani Park, Brighton (800-493-9255). www.msnewengland.org. *12pm. Minimum $200 fund-raising pledge.* This annual 6-mile walk along the Charles River raises money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Table for Ten
Various restaurants (781-272-9936). April 8, 6:30pm. $100. At this benefit for Neurofibromatosis Inc., local chefs donate and prepare a three-course dinner for tables of 10 at their restaurants. Afterward, guests can gather at the Rack for dessert, billiards and an auction.

Women for Hire Career Expo
Swissotel, One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston. www.womenforhire.com *10am-4pm. Job fair is free, networking session, $25.* Nearly 50 companies in a wide range of industries offer meetings and interviews for job candidates. Arrive at 8am to attend a networking session led by Tory Johnson, author of *Women for Hire: The Ultimate Guide to Getting a Job.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

HurryDate Event
Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (212-871-6707, ext. 307). www.hurrydate.com *6:30pm. $35.* Go on 25 three-minute dates and find out at the end of the night if you made any matches.

Taste of Beacon Hill
The Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton, corner of Arlington and Newbury Streets, Boston (617-720-7888). 6:30-9:30pm. $55 in advance, $75 at the door if available. More than 20 Beacon Hill restaurants showcase their menus with samples of their fare. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Boston Shriner's Hospital. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Boston Breakers Bartending Benefit
The Kells, 161 Brighton Ave., Allston. www.bostonbreakers.com. *9-11pm. No cover, 21+.* The entire Breakers team tends bar to benefit Special Olympics Massachusetts. All tips go to the charity, and the Kells matches the money donated up to $1,000.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston Decorative Arts and Antiques Show Opening Party
The Castle at Park Plaza Hotel, 130 Columbus Ave., Boston. (617-994-4703). www.bgcb.org. *Sponsor's reception, 5-6pm; preview party, 6-9pm. $200 in advance, $225 at the door.* This benefit for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston features a VIP reception, silent auction and preview of the annual Decorative Arts and Antiques Show, which runs April 11-13 and also benefits the BGCB.

A Tango and Salsa Match-Up
Hyatt Harborside Hotel, 101 Harborside Drive, Boston. (617-536-3557). www.matchelder.org. *7-11pm. $75.* Argentine musicians Jorge Anders and Tito Castro provide the rhythms, and dancers perform and teach guests how to tango and salsa dance at this benefit for MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers. A buffet dinner, complimentary drink, silent auction and raffle are included.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Black Massachusetts Conference
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston (617-722-1673). www.21blackma.org. *Through April 12. Free.* "21st Century Black Massachusetts: Honoring the Legacy, Building the Future: A Call to Action" confronts issues facing blacks in the state. The conference includes a career fair, workshops, and a Friday night "Up to the Parr" party hosted by syndicated radio host Russ Parr.

Jazz it Up!
Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-695-0700). 6pm. $150. Jazz saxophonist André Ward performs at this benefit for Associated Early Care and Education. The fund-raiser includes cocktails, gourmet food and a silent auction.

Puttin' on the Glitz Gala
Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton St., Boston (617-542-3900, ext. 210). 6pm cocktails; 7pm dinner and dancing. $150. Black tie optional. An evening of dining and dancing raises money for ACCESS, a nonprofit organization that offers financial aid to college-bound Boston high-school seniors.

Taste of the Back Bay
Wang Center, Grand Lobby, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-859-7787). 6:30-9:30pm. $65, $75 at the door. This event to benefit the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay features tastes from more than 40 local restaurants, vintners and microbrewers.

Winchester Firefighters Harley-Davidson Raffle
Winchester Fire Dept., Mt. Vernon St., Winchester (781-775-4134 or 781-526-7885). Drawing held April 11. $100. The Winchester Firefighters are raffling a 2003 100th-Anniversary Harley-Davidson Fat Boy motorcycle to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Peabody Terrace Children's Center Concert Fund-Raiser
John M. Tobin School, 197 Vassal Lane., Cambridge (617-868-5573). 10:30am-12:30pm. $8.50. Wayne and the Music Fun Band rock your childrens' socks off to benefit the Peabody Terrace Children's Center, a nonprofit child-care organization.

Project STEP Benefit
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-5777). 7:30pm. Works by Bach, Mozart, Villa-Lobos, Popper and Tchaikovsky are performed to raise money for Project STEP, a musical training program for students of color.

Punks vs. Lymphoma 2
The Linwood Grill, 69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-269-2640). www.lymphoma.org. *8pm. $10.* In memory of Joey Ramone, 10 punk bands perform to raise money for the Lymphoma Research Foundation. Bands include Mung, Gang Green and the Marvels.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Best Buddies Jazz Brunch
Hotel Marlowe, 25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-597-0029) www.bestbuddiesmassachusetts.org. *11am-2pm. $35 in advance, $40 at the door.* The Siman Entertainment Jazz Trio plays live music at this benefit for Best Buddies, an organization that helps enhance the lives of Massachusetts residents with intellectual disabilities.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Accel-o-Date Event
Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston. www.accelodate.com. *7pm. $25 in advance, $30 at the door.* Singles ages 21-3 go on 25 five-minute dates.

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Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

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Every Friday Night, 6pm

Join us right after work with the best band in Boston, Central Basement! Hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party! DJ Johnny C will keep you dancing 'til 2am!

Every Saturday Night, 8pm

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Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

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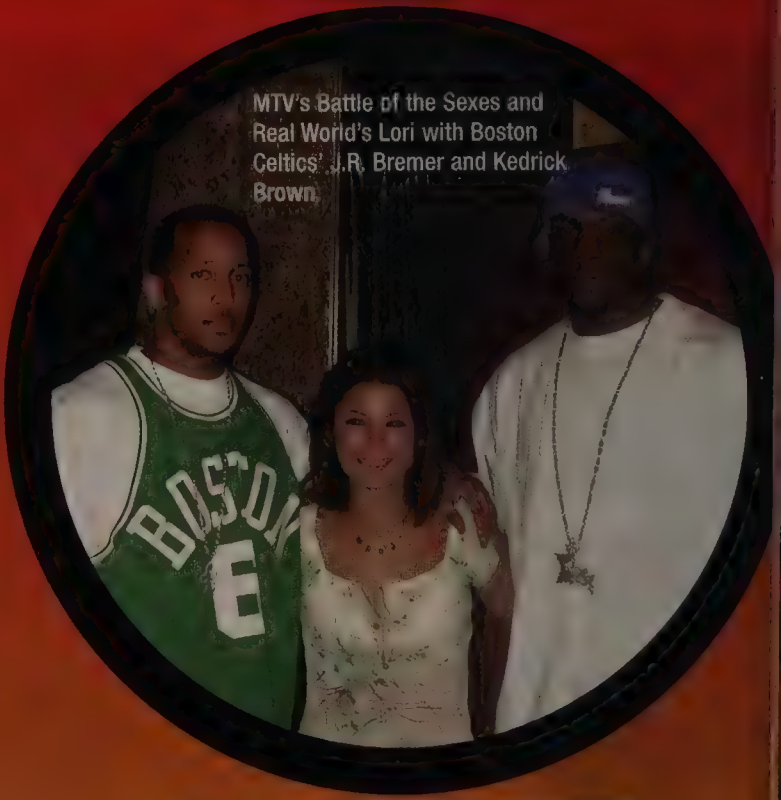
Join us Thursday with the Sugarfoot Horns!



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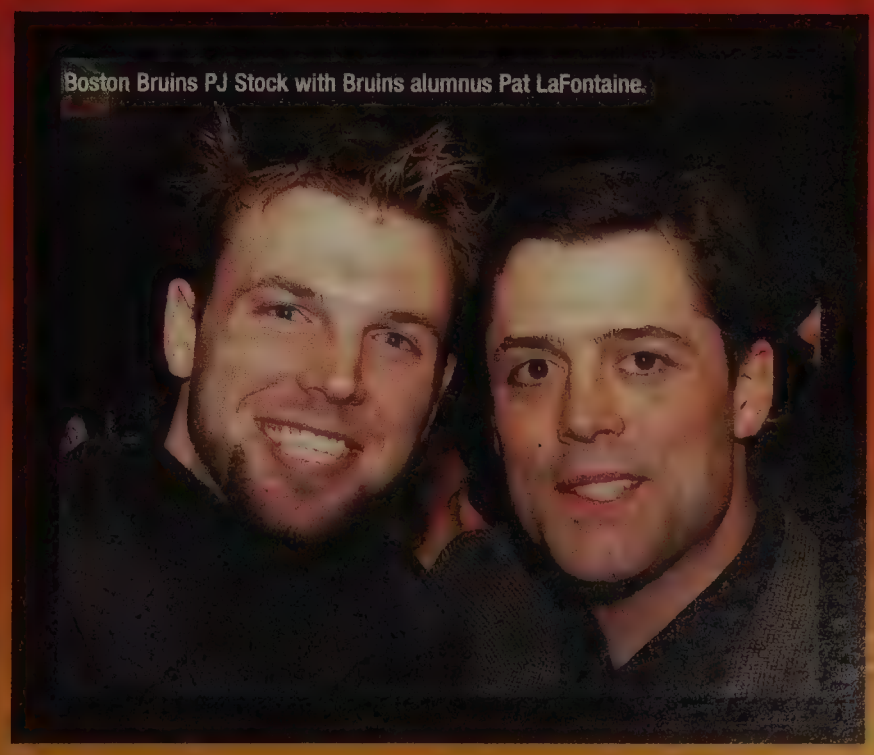
Boston Bruins Alumni Gord Kluzak, Ray Bourque and Bob Sweeney.


Boston Bruins PJ Stock with Bruins alumnus Pat LaFontaine.

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

***Out* of Town Tickets**
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater
JUST OPENED

Adios Ayacucho
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton St., Boston (617-927-1730). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. April 3, 8pm. $10. Teatro Yu-yachkani presents this work based on the novel by Julio Ortega about the ghost of a murdered campesino, a victim of the violence and turbulence of 1980s Peru. The ghost decides to travel to Lima in search of his missing bone so he can finally rest in peace.

The Barber of Seville
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (617-542-6772). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 13, 12:30and 2:30pm. $15, $10 children. This one-hour performance of Rossini's romantic comedy is geared for both children and adults.

Big Apple Circus: Dreams of a City
Fan Pier, 28-70 Old Northern Ave., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. April 5-May 11. $13-$51. All seats are no more than 50 feet from this one-ring circus. Set in New York City at the turn of the 19th century, the circus celebrates cultural diversity and New York's storied melting pot.

Blast II: Shockwave
Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell (978-937-8688). April 3, 8pm. $24.50-$43.50. This show of military and outdoor pageantry continues the legacy of *Blast!*, winner of the 2001 Tony Award for Special Theatrical Event, offering more light, more color and more special effects.

Boston Theater Marathon
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-PLAY). April 13, 12-10pm. $25, $30 at the door. Watch 10 hours of 10-minute plays by 45 of Boston's best playwrights.

Cat Mountain
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. April 4-5, 8pm; April 6, 2pm. $8.50, $6 children. This adaptation of a Japanese folktale tells the story of Sho, a young servant girl who journeys to a strange, far-off mountain where she hopes to find her freedom and her lost cat. The tale is told through storytelling, masks, puppetry, dance and original music.

Cosmic Spelunkers Give and Take
Artists-at-Large, 37 Everett St., Hyde Park (617-276-3223). April 5, 8pm. $7. Mime and poetry performance troupe Cosmic Spelunker Theater offers a meditation on exchange, be it buying or selling, bartering, thieving, gift-giving or grifting.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri.-Mon., 7pm, beginning April 14. Ongoing. $27. This black comedy about a magician who loses his mind during a performance incorporates 40 magic tricks, as well as many references to Italian opera.

Hello Muddah! Hello Fadduh!
Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (617-558-6486). Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. April 5-13. $26. Song parodies are woven into a musical about the life of Barry Brockman and his beloved, Sarah Jackman—from birth to marriage, suburbia and retirement in Florida.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. April 15-20. $28-$70. Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical retelling of the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth stars Carl Anderson as Judas and Sebastian Bach as Jesus.

Lend Me a Tenor
St. John's Episcopal Church, Central and Prospect streets, Saugus (781-231-5204). Fri., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 5-12. $12. This farce presented by the Theatre Company of Saugus mixes celebrity worship, backstage maneuverings and mistaken identities to tell the story of a simple guy who rises to the top when a great Italian tenor hired as a guest artist falls unconscious.

Life Works
The Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. April 11-12, 8pm. $10. Why do four bicycle messengers collect packages each month and carry them to random locations? Why have two men kidnapped Mark Giminski before he can deliver his package? Robert Mattson's play is a story about reasons, conditions, lies and truths.

Marathon
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-728-4321). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 10-20. $25. Israel Horovitz's adaptation of Italian playwright Edoardo Erba's one-act play tells the story of two men in training for the New York Marathon. Join their testosterone-injected conversation about pain, competition, endurance, friendship, women...and car keys.

Pippi Longstocking
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 3pm (April 22-April 25, 1pm). April 4-May 4. $12-$18. Pippi Longstocking's superhuman strength, her unbounded imagination and her absolute disregard for the rules of society make for good fun in this musical adaptation.

Romeo and Juliet
The Footlight Club, Eliot Hall, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3200). April 4-5 and 11-12, 8pm. $12-$15. The Footlight Club presents Shakespeare's classic love story.

Spring Festival of Shakespeare
Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Boston (413-637-1199, ext. 123). MBTA: Orange Line to Community College. April 12, 1 (The Tempest) and 4pm (The Winter's Tale). $7. Chelsea High School presents Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and North Andover High School presents *The Winter's Tale*. The festival concludes with an Elizabethan dance.

Touchable Stories
27 Melcher St., South Boston (617-423-3651). April 5, 8pm. $12. More than 60 visual artists contribute to this multimedia oral history of the Fort Point neighborhood.

NOW RUNNING

Bits and Pieces
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). www.rough-and-tumble.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Thu., Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through April 5. $10.* An evening of short, theatrical bits, scenes and plays by the Rough & Tumble Theatre.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu., and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Breath, Boom
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *Tue. and Thu., 7:30pm; Wed., 2pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through April 6. $14-$6* Directed by Michael John Garcés, this new work traces 14 years in the life of a female gang leader who at 16 is the leader of a gang of African-American teenage girls.

La Rondine
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Wed. and Fri., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. Through April 8. $3 $152. Sung in Italian with projected English text, Puccini's opera *La Rondine* tells the story of Magda, a kept woman. A palm reading reveals that she is meant to search for love, and her fortune becomes a reality when a young man walks through her door.

The Last Adventure of Lance Adventure
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Fri. and Sat., 10:30pm; Sun. 8p Through April 5. $10. Globetrotting world adventurer Lance Adventure has given up his exciting lifestyle and gone into advertising—much to the chagrin of his perennial damsel-in-distress Cordelia. Enter Lance's arch nemesis Reginald Stitch, and advertising has never been this adventurous.

Of Mice and Men
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun. and 7:30pm. Through April 6. $25-$35. This American tale from Pulitzer and Nobel Prize–winning author John Steinbeck focuses on two doomed drifters dreaming of better days.

***On* Raftery's Hill**
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Bos (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Ba Green Line to Copley. Through April 19. $24 and $ The Sugan Theatre Company presents this play by Irish playwright Marina Carr. Three generations of the Rafterys live together in the rural midlands of Ireland. It's a closely knit farming commun where hatred and rumors of incest, stillborn ch dren and abused families seem more common t love and affection.

Puppetry of the Penis
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-2 1199). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; and Sat., 7 and 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. Ongoing. $ $39.50. The international comedy hit features the cient Australian art of genital origami. Creators Sim Morley and Dan Lewry perform naked while shap and stretching their penises into more than 40 figu including the Eiffel Tower and the Loch Ness Mons

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (6 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. T

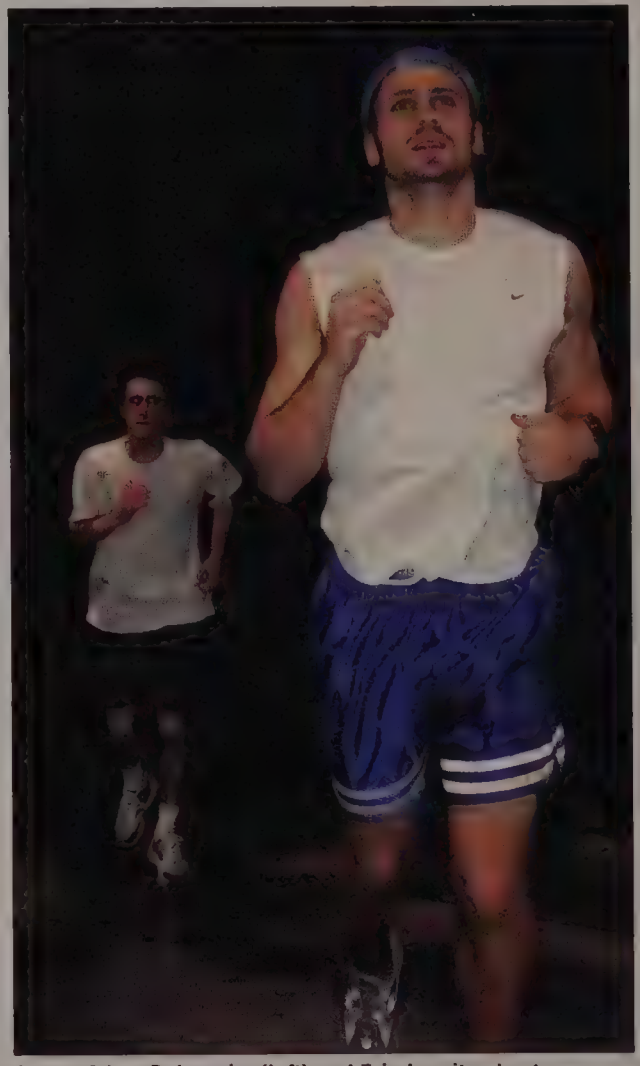
Preview

Keeping the Pace

Israel Horovitz's new adaptation of the Italian one-act play *Marathon* goes the distance

While most stage actors need to be in decent physical shape to withstand a rigorous rehearsal and performance schedule, Adam Paltrowitz and Eric Laurits, lead actors in Israel Horovitz's upcoming production, *Marathon*, took training to another level. The pair ran up to seven miles a day to prepare for their roles as two athletes training for the New York Marathon. "The actors are not pretending—they can't fake it," says Paltrowitz. "[We] run for the entire 70 minutes of the show, and the audience is right there with [us], sharing our triumphs and our struggles."

In January, Paltrowitz and Laurits starred in a British adaptation of the one-act play by Italian playwright Edoardo Erba at the Stoneham Theatre. The show received good reviews, but "there were a few difficulties with the British colloquialisms that we had to deal with," says director Weylin Symes. Enter Israel Horovitz, playwright and part-time Gloucester resident, who took on the project at Erba's insistence. (Erba knew that Horovitz was a runner and had written about sports in the past.) Horovitz's adaptation opens at the Tremont Theatre April 10—11 days before the Boston Marathon.



Actors Adam Paltrowitz (left) and Eric Laurits play two Italians training for the New York Marathon.

The conversation between two Italian men training for the marathon is the "typical testosterone-injected conversation," says Horovitz, who drew upon his own six-time experience running the New York Marathon to make the dialogue more realistic. "Runners speak in such an inbred way—it was easier for me to write because I'm a runner myself."

The show is currently playing in New York at the People's Theater to rave reviews, and interestingly enough, "more than half the audience is wearing running shoes," says Horovitz. As for the actors themselves, "by the time they open in Boston, they'll either be extremely fit...or dead," he jokes. *Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-728-4321). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 10-20. $25. —Julie Short*

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Fri., 8pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. A world-famous pianist who lives above the Shear Madness hair salon meets her doom with each performance of *Shear Madness.* And everyone on stage has a reason to do her in. The audience must figure out who did it. This comedic whodunit holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Stones in His Pocket
Trinity Repertory Theatre, 201 Washington St., Providence (401-351-4242). www.trinityrep.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Providence. Tue., 7pm; Wed., 2 and 8pm; Thu., 8pm; Fri. 8pm; Sat., 8pm (2pm matinee performances March 1, 22 and 29); Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through April 7. $33-$48.* In this Tony Award–nominated comedy, an American movie crew invades an Irish village, bringing unexpected drama to the small community both on and off the stage.

Swords and Ploughshares
The Hall of Ideas at the Mary Baker Eddy Library, 200 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA or E Green Line to Symphony. April 6 and 13, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. Free. This 20-minute performance begins with a prince's hesitation to take up arms when called to war. Wondering when it is truly one's duty to fight, kill or defend, the prince is led by an elder on a journey through the ages. He meets Henry V, Gandhi, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Woodrow Wilson and General Patton, who help him understand the meaning of valor, patriotism, honor, courage, peace and love.

Truth & Beauty
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Through April 12. $20. Company One presents this new experimental piece by two-time Obie Award winner Ping Chong. It's an adrenaline-driven critique of American standards.

Try Not to Step on the Naked Man
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Fri. and Sat., 10:30pm; Sun. 8pm. Through April 5. $10. It's the night of the big dinner party you're hosting for your boss and there's a naked man on your living room floor who won't leave. Guests must follow a whole new type of etiquette in this exposé of indecent entertaining.

2 Lives
Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed., 2 and 7:30pm ; Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through April 12. $22-$38.* The Huntington Theatre Company's Nicholas Martin directs this show about 72-year-old playwright Matt and his lover of 35 years, Howard. After a five-year drought, Matt's work is once again going to be produced on Broadway, but his newfound inspiration is quickly diminished by Howard's sudden death.

The Wild Party
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (617-361-7024). www.riversidetheatreworks.org. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Fairmount. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through April 7. $21.* Adapted from a book-length poem written in the Roaring Twenties, this play tells the story of one wild evening in the Manhattan apartment shared by party gal Queenie and her pal, Burrs, a vaudeville clown.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Agamemnon and His Daughters
Spingold Theater Center, Mainstage, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). www.brandeis.edu/theater. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8pm (Thu., 10am); Sun. 2 and 7pm. Through April 13. $16-$20.* In Kenneth Cavander's new adaptation of three Greek plays, Agamemnon realizes that in order to pursue his war against Troy, he must sacrifice his daughter. This sets in motion a sequence of events that has tragic consequences.

Pippin
Carling-Sorenson Theater, Babson Park (781-239-4605). MBTA: D Green Line to Woodland. April 3-5, 8pm. $5, $7 at the door. The Babson Players present this musical comedy about a young royal who disagrees with his father's stance on war.

CABARET

Will & Company
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 12, 8pm. $12. Singer/cabaret impresario Will McMillan hosts this showcase of songs by contemporary songwriters, with B. Irish Tanner and pianist Doug Hammer.

The Sugan Theatre Company presents *On Raftery's Hill*, Irish playwright Marina Carr's story about a closely knit farming community in rural Ireland, at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Dance

All Balanchine
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-695-6955). www.bostonballet.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through April 6.* Boston Ballet artistic director Mikko Nissinen presents Russian-American choreographer George Balanchine's work in four unique pieces: *Ballo della Regina* with music by Giuseppe Verdi, *Prodigal Son* with music by Sergei Prokofiev, and *Movements for Piano and Orchestra* and *Monumentum pro Gesualdo* with music by Igor Stravinsky.

Eiko & Koma
Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-876-4275). www.crash arts.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern. April 4, 7:30pm. $30.* Japanese-born dancers and choreographers Eiko and Koma use their bodies to create a theater of formal movement from stillness, sound, light and shape in their Boston premieres of *Snow* and *Offering*.

Lady of the Camellias
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-695-6955). www.bostonballet.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through April 4.* Inspired by Verdi's opera *La Traviata*, Boston Ballet choreographer Val Caniproli adapted this ballet from Alexander Dumas' 19th-century tale of a tragic romance between a courtesan and a gentleman who is doomed to heartbreak.

New Dances, Ballet Like Never Before
Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cambridge (617-354-7467). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 4pm. Through April 13. $28. Artistic director and choreographer Jose Mateo presents a show of new material in four separate ballets. The classical ballets were choreographed especially for the Sanctuary Theatre, which offers guests intimate table seating so they can see the dancers' movements up close.

Prometheus Dance's 15th Anniversary Gala Performance
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-236-1199). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. April 12, 8pm. $15-$30. Artistic directors Diane Arvantes-Noya and Tommy Neblett and Prometheus Dance celebrate the company's anniversary at this one-night production by the New England Financial Performing Arts Series. The event includes the premiere of a new work for the entire company, recent collaborations and excerpts from early repertory.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5 and 9pm; Sun. 3 and 7pm. Through April 20. $45-$55.* In its return to Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Visions Spring Dance Concert
Sargent Dance Studio, Boston University, 1 University Road, Boston (617-353-1597). MBTA: B Green Line to B.U. April 11, 8pm; April 12, 6 and 8:30pm. $7. Boston University's Dance Theatre presents a diverse performance of dance genres, including ethnic, ballet, modern and jazz, and varying from the traditional to the abstract.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle
Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. •April 8 and 15, 8:30pm, free: Open mike night. •April 19, 8:30pm, $5, $10 at the door: Robbie Printz (2002 Boston Comedy Festival winner).

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. $12 (weekend prices vary). The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •April 3, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-rated hypnotist •April 4, 8 and 10:15pm, $21: Richard Jeni from HBO's *A Good Catholic Boy* •April 5, 8 and 10:15pm, $26: Richard Jeni from Showtime's *Crazy from the Heat* •April 6, 4pm, $25: Jimmy Keys, comedian, impressionist and piano player •April 7, 8pm, $12: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •April 8, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •April 9, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins •April 10, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-rated Hypnotist •April 13: Mike McDonald •April 14, 8pm, $12: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •April 15, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •April 16, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •April 2: Tony V., Kelly MacFarland, Chris Foltz, Greg Howell, Tom Morello, Nina Tamburello, Eric Cheung, Christine Herman and Chris Hamman. •April 3: Evan O'Television presents *Idiot Box: An Evening with Friends*, featuring Katie Grady, Peter Dutton, Erik Charles Neilson and Erin Judge and music and dance by Zhivutinka, Ben Blanchard, Eric Rubbe and d'Movement. •April 4: Piston Honda with special guest D.J. Hazard. •April 5: D.J. Hazard, John Curtin, Brett Jordan, Chris Foltz and Dan Sulman. •April 6: Comic of the Year Roast: Boston comics honor Tony V. •April 8, $10: Mystery Lounge features Boston's top magicians. •April 9: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Art Januario, Eric Reuben, Joe List, Amanda White, Malissa Hunt and E.J. Murphy. •April 10: Tim McIntire's Geex Council with Art Januario, Greg Rodrigues, Thomas Mitchell, Michael Herman, Ben Murray and Michael Della Penna. •April 11: Piston Honda with guest T.J. Griffin. •April 12: Rick Jenkins, T.J. Griffin, Nicole Luparelli and Joe Huang. •April 13: Sam Walters, Greg Rodrigues, Sandy Asai, Tom Morello, Debbie Evans, Amanda White, Jesse Gersten, Alison Block and Brian Cavanaugh. •April 15, $10: Mystery Lounge featuring Boston's top magicians.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Theatre District, Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •April 3, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show. •April 4 and 5, 8:45pm: Larry Miles, Larry Norton, Kelly MacFarland. •April 10, 8:30pm: Joe Yannetty headlines an all-star comedy show •April 11 and 12, 8:45pm: Teddy Bergeron, Joe Carroll, Ted Barrett

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

ImprovAsylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 and 10pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., 8pm, $12: Micetro; 10pm, $5: The Great and Secret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri., 8pm, $12: The Mysteries of the Universe, Explained; 10pm, $12: TheatreSports. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat. 6pm, $12: ImprovBoston Family Show; 8 and 10pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun. 7pm, $5: Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree. Three shows in one with an open jam.

Improv Foundry
Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 361 Newbury St., Boston (617-308-6421 or 617-320-6503). www.improvfoundry.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. April 5, 8pm. $10.* This group performs short-form improvisational comedy.

COMEDY SHOWS

Dave Chappelle Is Blackzilla
Orpheum Theatre, Hamilton Place, Boston (617-679-0810). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. April 13, 8 and 11pm. $26-$39.50. Stomping to Boston at the end of his national tour, Dave Chappelle, star of *Chappelle's Show* on Comedy Central, performs two shows.

Eighth Annual Banned in Boston
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-626-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. April 4, 6pm. $75-$150. Boston's biggest luminaries in politics, media, art and industry take to the stage in this carefree musical revue to benefit Urban Improv, a violence prevention program for youth. Join Aerosmith bassist Tom Hamilton, Mayor Tom Menino, National Public Radio's Click and Clack and many more for a night of sauce satire. A cocktail hour and feast presented by 10 of the city's best chefs precedes the show.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. *April 6 and 20, May 4 and 18.* Standup comedy with host Stash and 12 New England comics. Live music rounds out the night's festivities.

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Movies

SCIENTIFIC AMERICANS

The Core gets mired in over-the-top absurdity

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Why couldn't *The Core* have been content to be a lean, mean B movie? It certainly had the makings of something more than a Hollywood white elephant. Director Jon Amiel has offbeat fare like *The Singing Detective* and *Sommersby* to his credit, and the cast is full of people like Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank, Stanley Tucci and Bruce Greenwood, who've ascended into a big studio movie like this after many smaller films. But instead of these folks putting a distinctive stamp on a standard sci-fi/action story, the opposite ultimately happens. They get squashed into mush.

With its save-the-world plot, scientific mumbo-jumbo, contrived big moments, special-effects overload and ribbon-tied happy ending, *The Core* is really just a big, stiff summer movie that's arrived early. But it does offer an equally big movie lesson: Saving the world is apparently a lot easier than making an action-adventure with a little cleverness and style.

Josh (Aaron Eckhart) and Beck (Hilary Swank) fight to save the Earth in *The Core*.

Most of the good things about *The Core* happen in its first hour. For one, it's a relief to find there's no square-jawed alpha male at its center, no ego-flexing Tom Cruise or Mel Gibson "heroes" around. The film starts with a series of mysterious events—people with pacemakers dying, birds crashing into buildings, the space shuttle's navigational system nearly sending it toward a downtown Los Angeles landing—the last two delivered with an appealing, in-your-face sense of mayhem.

The incidents can be traced to changes in Earth's electromagnetic field, and the government starts to assemble a team of troubleshooters around the geophysics professor (Eckhart) it pulls out of a college classroom. The team includes a patronizing "celebrity scientist" (Tucci), an atomic weapons expert (Tchéky Karyo), a reclusive genius (Delroy Lindo) and, once the scientists pinpoint the problem to Earth's molten core, two of the space shuttle astronauts (Swank, Greenwood).

In time-honored sci-fi tradition, the movie's science comes off like a fairy tale. It just so happens that Lindo's character—screwed over by the scientific establishment in general, and by the celebrity scientist in particular—has been holed up in the desert for the past 20 years, developing all the equipment needed to save the world from this unpredicted disaster, including a Gatling-type laser gun that cuts through the hardest rock as quickly as Cuba Gooding Jr. laps up bad scripts.

The crew's mission is to drive a spaceship-like vehicle through the earth's crust, continue through its thick mantle and eventually reach the outer and then inner core. Once there, they will detonate nukes that will get the core spinning again and re-establish the electromagnetic field that protects us from the sun's rays and other potentially dangerous intrusions. The movie's most extreme (and morbidly fun) sequence gives us a taste of what will happen if they fail, when the sun's unprotected rays break through a hole in the electromagnetic field and melt the traffic-filled Golden Gate Bridge. They don't call it "sunny California" for nothing.

Such ludicrousness in a film like *The Core* is no big deal. The problem is that there's so much ludicrousness, so many life-threatening incidents on the mission, so many death scenes and so many impossible situations that the crew miraculously escapes (phew!). As the little obstacles get bigger and bigger—oh no, the core is less dense than we thought!—*The Core* comes off like an *Apollo 13* that doesn't earn its suspense. It's the sort of movie where, whenever there's a problem, someone clacks a few keys on a computer keyboard and comes up with an answer. As in *Apollo 13*, we cut between the crew and their handlers back home, but the movie never offers any nuts-and-bolts teamwork, and it certainly doesn't make you feel you're right in there with the crew.

Despite the left-field pedigrees of many involved, *The Core* loses its way and reverts to Hollywood defaults. Instead of being refreshing, it's just disappointing, and it drags on for more than two hours—making it excessive too. **iB**

The Core ★★

Directed by Jon Amiel. Written by Cooper Layne and John Rogers. With Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank, Delroy Lindo, Stanley Tucci, Alfre Woodard, Tchéky Karyo, Richard Jenkins and D.J. Qualls. Rated PG-13. Paramount Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Agent Cody Banks ★★
With Frankie Muniz as a junior spy, this works up a big sweat but can't muster a fraction of the cleverness or charm of the *Spy Kids* movies. This poor knockoff is just a run-of-the-mill spy story, with smaller stuntmen. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

All the Real Girls ★★★
If you thought movie romance had nothing to do with real life anymore, think again. David Gordon Green's tale of the fits-and-starts relationship of two small-town lovers (Zooey Deschanel, Paul Schneider) is down-to-earth and free of formula. With its dreamy blend of pastoral beauty and harsh industry, the North Carolina mill town where they come together and apart feels part of a world where people fall in love and unwittingly hurt each other and nurse broken hearts and try to figure out what to do next. The natural performance of Deschanel (*Almost Famous*, *The New Guy*) in her first leading role is terrific. (At Kendall Square.)

Amandla!: A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony ★★★
After all those weak 1990s Hollywood dramas set in South Africa (like *Bopha!* and *Cry Freedom*), this documentary about the role of song in South African blacks' civil rights struggle finally gets it right. Lee Hirsch's film is a mix of music, anecdote and political history that's full of insight as well as human joy and suffering. It bogs down a bit in its second half, but this is down-to-earth, living history. (At Harvard Square.)

Basic ★½
When a movie offers an unreliable narrator—as in *Auto Focus*, *Adaptation* or *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*—the results can be adventurous and exciting. But when a movie itself is shifty and manipulative, it can be annoying. Like *Basic*. About the best thing you can say for this thriller, in which John Travolta investigates a crime on a military base, is that it's a tad better than *The General's Daughter*, the groaner that also gave us that premise. This one is cheesily directed by John "I remade *Rollerball*" McTiernan and culminates in the most unconvincing twist ending since Liza's wedding. Meanwhile, Travolta (who's good here) and *Pulp Fiction* co-star Sam Jackson (who's not) are onscreen together for all of a minute. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between two cultures—think *Double Happiness*, *Mississippi Masala* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—gets trotted out yet again in director Gurinder Chadha's latest, which can't compare to her *Bhaji on the Beach*, but which is still involving. Parminder Nagra gives a winning performance as Jess, the Indian-English teen with soccer skill and two Sikh parents who won't allow her to pursue such a nontraditional female endeavor. When she's recruited to play for a local women's team, with the possibility of discovery by an American pro team, the scene is set for lots of running around behind her parents' back and comic mishaps—in fact, an awful lot of repetitive running around and mishaps. It's all pretty predictable, but Nagra, Anupam Kher (as the heroine's father) and Keira Knightley (as her teammate and sometime rival), as well as Chadra's sense of compassion, help dignity fight caricature to a standoff. (At Kendall Square.)

Boat Trip ★½
There's a bumper sticker that says "Don't assume I share your prejudices." This depressing comedy—about two horny guys (Cuba Gooding Jr., Horatio Sanz) who end up on a gay cruise ship by mistake—assumes its audience would think these characters would feel physically repulsed, and not just uncomfortable, by the thought of a boat full of gay men. There are a few laughs in the second half, mostly from Gooding, but that doesn't remove the foul stench of this comedy's cynical assumptions. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a late Kander-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of this lusty, laugh-filled spoof of the Roaring Twenties, in which a singing star (and murderess), a star wannabe (and murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender of murderesses) all fight for the spotlight and the headlines. Renée Zellweger is the wannabe who discovers murder was a great career move, Catherine Zeta Jones is the singer trying to keep her name alive while in jail and a surprisingly amusing Richard Gere is the up-scale shyster with all the answers. All three know just how to manipulate truth, justice and the American way through performance. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

City of God ★★★½
The title refers to the Rio de Janeiro slum where the action takes place, as God-forsaken a place as you'll ever

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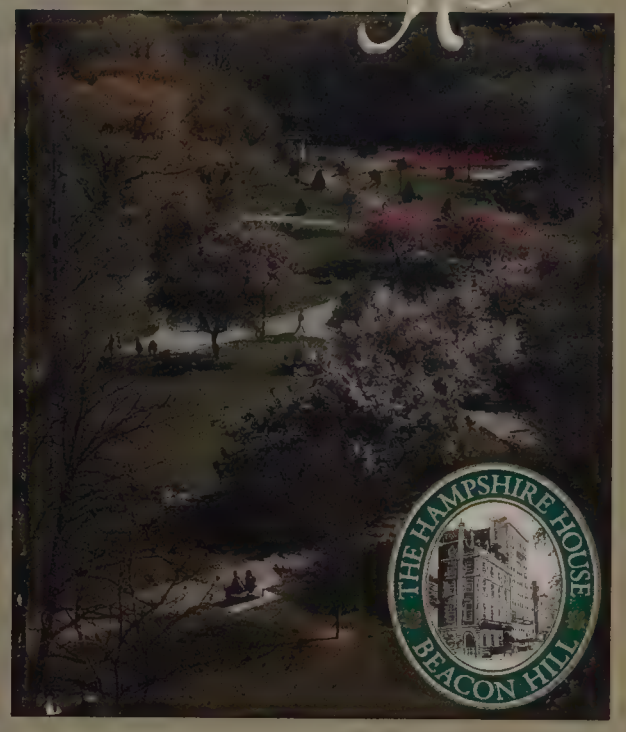

View of the Boston Public Garden from the Hampshire House Dining Room

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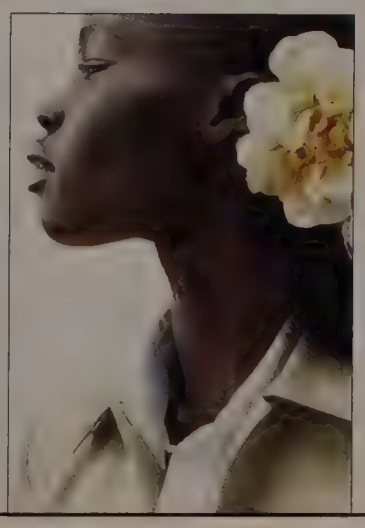

find. But the movie is as rich as its setting is impoverished. Bold and brutal from start to finish, its dog-eat-dog world and stylistic energy recall *Mean Streets* and *Amores Perros*, as its stories stories crisscross and bubble into each other, and as 18-year-old hero Rocket (Alexandre Rodrigues) tries to somehow get out of his crime-rocked neighborhood alive. Full of humanity, ambiguity and belligerence, it's a wonderfully orchestrated car crash that you just can't stop watching. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Dreamcatcher ★★
There are familiar elements in the latest Stephen King adaptation: childhood friends, beasts, snow, pine trees and Maine (though this was filmed in Canada). But the combination is awfully tedious this time around. The friends (Thomas Jane, Jason Lee, Timothy Olyphant and Damian Lewis) are grown now, but their thoughts often trigger flashbacks to when they were boys, and when the retarded boy (Andrew Robb) they befriended gave them telepathic powers. It seems the boy gave the others the powers because he knew they would need them to save the world during an alien invasion. If that sounds farfetched, it comes off a lot better than the clunky dialogue between Morgan Freeman and Tom Sizemore, who play the military men trying to contain the aliens. This one plods along and never gets very interesting. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Dysfunktional Family ★★
Like Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence, Eddie Griffin dons leather and goes onstage for the black stand-up comic's rite of passage: the concert movie inspired by Richard Pryor. While this might have been edited down into an amusing half-hour cable special, Griffin's material is too stereotype-dependent to be consistently funny. His emphasis on material about his colorful relatives yields some laughs, but not enough to make sitting through this worthwhile. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Good Thief ★★★
You didn't need last year's infamous mug shot to know that Nick Nolte had tumbled off the wagon. You just had to check out this movie, which like the Nolte films of the late 1980s, gauges his lack of sobriety by the unintelligibility of his words. He hasn't made you say "Huh?" this much since *Teachers*. But at least it fits the role. Neil Jordan's remake of the 1955 French film *Bob Le Flambeur*—one of the coolest movies ever made—casts Nolte as the down-and-out crook who goes cold turkey in order to pull one last score while dodging an eager cop (Tcheky Karyo) and flirting with a sweet young thing (Nutsa Kukhiani) he's rescued from the streets. It's hardly a one-of-a-kind movie like the original, but it's sleek, fast-moving and always entertaining. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

The Guys ★★★
The first movie to directly deal with the Sept. 11 attacks has an appealing simplicity. It's based on the experiences of writer Anne Nelson, who helped a New York fire captain write the eulogies of several men who died in the World Trade Center. Sigourney Weaver plays the writer here, and Anthony LaPaglia the fire fighter. Most of the movie is just the two of them, with the first asking the second about the dead men he worked with. These scenes are somber yet moving, and never over-the-top. If the movie overreaches emotionally, it's in the scenes of Weaver's character writing at her laptop later on, which seem overwrought compared with the more effective scenes with LaPaglia. (Opens March 28.)

Laurel Canyon ★★
If I were a director and had the chance to trade up Ally Sheedy for Frances McDormand, I'd do it in a flash. But I don't know if I'd practically remake my Sheedy movie with McDormand in it. Here, Lisa Cholodenko rehashes much of the plot of her indie hit *High Art*, in which a naive young woman enters the bohemian circle of an older woman (Sheedy's character). In the writer-director's first film since, the young woman is Kate Beckinsale's post-grad med student, who finds more appeal in her fiancé's free-spirited record-producer mom (McDormand) than in finishing her dissertation after she and the fiancé (Christian Bale) move out west and temporarily bunk with the mother. The retread factor mingles with movie cliches like the doctor who's great at sorting out everyone's life but his own and the parent-child relationship in which the child is the responsible one. McDormand's typically rich performance is the lone bright spot. (At Kendall Square.)

Max ★★★
Writer-director Menno Meyjes offers bracing speculative drama in his story set in Munich following World War I. The title character is Max Rothman (John Cusack), a fictional Jewish art dealer who's embraced the period's modern art. He befriends another war veteran, an aspiring artist—and, it turns out, emerging fascist—named Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor). Terrifically acted by the two leads and full of crisp dialogue, the movie engagingly addresses the relationship between creative expression, happiness and politics. It also offers the intriguing theory that Hitler might not have turned to extreme politics had he succeeded at art. (At Kendall Square and Copley Place.)

In *Agent Cody Banks*, junior spy Cody Banks (Frankie Muniz) is sent on a mission to get close to Natalie Connors (Hilary Duff), the daughter of a wayward scientist.

Old School ★★½
The laughs are a little spotty, but it's refreshing to see a "rowdy comedy" that's full of genuine characters, and not just male and female caricatures. Luke Wilson, Vince Vaughn and Will Ferrell are the three buddies in a personal and professional downward spiral who end up becoming big *old* men on campus when one moves back into their old college's neighborhood and they end up starting a new fraternity. The three stars all get their laughs, the supporting cast is colorful (from Andy Dick to Craig Kilborn) and the movie never pretends to be more than dumb fun. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Spider ★★½
David Cronenberg has made plenty of weird and wonderful movies, from *Scanners* to *Naked Lunch*. But his latest is only weird and so-so. He dives into the human psyche again in this London-set story of a mental patient (Ralph Fiennes) who reflects on his childhood through flashbacks in which he's an unseen observer of his doting mother (Miranda Richardson), pub-crawling father (Gabriel Byrne) and his Oedipal 10-year-old self (Bradley Hall). Patrick McGrath's script, based on his novel, visually likens our memories to jigsaw puzzles or spider webs composed of countless, joined pieces—but after getting increasingly involving, the film disappointingly culminates in a resolution that merely says "crazy is as crazy does." (At Coolidge Corner Theatre.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library

Words on Fire: Films Curated by the Boston Jewish Film Festival

•April 7, 6pm. **Scandalize My Name: Stories from the Blacklist** *1998*. Morgan Freeman narrates Alexandra Isles' documentary, which examines the effect of the McCarthy-era Hollywood blacklist on African-American artists.

•April 14, 6pm. **The Celluloid Closet** *1995*. Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's documentary combines actor and director interviews with clips from more than 100 films to explore Hollywood's role in defining homosexual identities.

Brattle Theatre

Mondays—Oscar's Oversights

•April 7, 7:15pm. **Do the Right Thing** *1989*. Spike Lee's story of racial tensions boiling under the summer sun in the Bed-Stuy district of Brooklyn was overlooked by the Academy for Best Original Screenplay. •Also showing, 5 and 9:45pm. **In the Heat of the Night** *1967*. Sidney Poitier is a young black homicide detective from Philadelphia arrested for the murder of a white man in the rural south. His boss arrives to assist the town's racist sheriff with the investigation. Norman Jewison directs.

•April 14, 4:15, 7, 9:45pm. **Rosemary's Baby** *1968*. In Roman Polanski's first American feature, Mia Farrow stars as a pregnant newlywed whose bizarre dreams and creepy neighbors lead her to suspect something is very wrong with her unborn child.

Tuesdays—Fear and Loathing in Hollywood: The Adventures of Terry Gilliam

•April 8, 4:15, 7, 9:45pm. **12 Monkeys** *1995*. Gilliam's film features Bruce Willis as a convict sent back in time to prevent a lethal virus that has destroyed 99 percent of Earth's population.

•April 15, 5, 7:30, 10pm. **Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas** *1998*. The film adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's novel stars Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro in the roles of the author and his psychotic lawyer, who take a drug-saturated tour of the country in search of the American Dream.

Wednesdays—Not Nominated (by the Academy)

•April 2, 5:15, 7:30, and 10pm. **Tully** *2000*. The relationship between a father and his two sons is forever changed after a fateful summer. Director Hilary Birmingham is present for an introduction and a Q & A session.

•April 9, 7:30pm. **Ararat** *2002*. In this film-within-a-film, director Atom Egoyan explores the repercussions of the Armenian holocaust in Turkey in the early 20th century. •Also showing, 5:30 and 10pm. **Rabbit-Proof Fence** *2002*. Philip Noyce's thriller is based on a true story of three young Australian "half-castes" on a 1,500-mile journey home after escaping from an Aboriginal servant-training camp in the 1930s.

Thursdays—Special Events

•April 3, 7:15pm. **The Trials of Henry Kissinger** *2002*. Filmmaker Eugene Jarecki's political documentary questions whether Nobel laureate and diplomat Henry Kissinger was also a war criminal. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Power & Terror: Noam Chomsky in Our Times** *2002*. John Junkerman's film features the straight-talking Chomsky as he discusses the relationship between the September 11th attacks and American foreign policy.

An Evening with Lili Taylor

•April 10, 7pm. **Girls Town** *1996*. Jim McKay directs this coming-of-age story about a group of teenage girls whose lives are touched by suicide, rape and pregnancy. Co-writer Lili Taylor, who has acted in *Dogfight*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *High Fidelity* and numerous other indie films, is present for a conversation moderated by independent film producer Amy Geller.

11th Annual Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema

•April 4, 3:15pm; April 6, 5:50pm. **Marion Bridge** *2002*. Wiebke von Carolsfeld's film follows three sisters who are reunited as they care for their ailing mother.

•April 4, 5:15pm; April 5, 7:30pm. **Morvern Callar** *2002*. Morvern Callar wakes up on Christmas morning to discover that her writer boyfriend has committed suicide. She publishes the writings saved on his computer under her own name. Lynne Ramsay directs.

•April 4, 7:30pm; April 5, 10pm. **Ripley's Game** *2002*. Ripley, played by John Malkovich, is an art connoisseur, harpsichord prodigy, soufflé chef and homicidal maniac who masterminds a plan of revenge after being insulted at a party. Liliana Cavani directs. •Also showing, 10pm. **Friday Night** *2002*. Fed-up with her live-in lover, a woman wanders the Parisian streets and sparks a new romance while caught in a traffic jam. Claire Denis directs.

•April 5, 3:15pm. **Long Life, Happiness & Prosperity** *2002*. Filmmaker Mina Shum paints a picture of a close-knit, working-class Chinese community. •Also showing, 5:15pm. **Chaos** *2001*. A prostitute and a bourgeois couple's lives are forever changed after they cross paths. Coline Serreau directs.

•April 6, 1:45pm. **What I Want My Words to Do for You** *2002*. In Madelein Gavin's documentary, playwright Eve Ensler (*The Vagina Monologues*) leads a writing workshop at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women. •Also showing, 3:15pm. **The Night Porter** *1973*. Director Liliana Cavani's cult classic follows the accidental reunion between a former SS concentration camp officer and his past victim/lover. •Also showing, 7:55pm. **Whalerider** *2002*. Director Niki Caro's film is a coming-of-age story of a young girl in a town struggling to rise above its own shortcomings. Screens with Emily Hubley's **Set Set Spike**. •Also showing, 10pm. **Rub and Tug** *2002*. The owner of a "full body" massage parlor hires an unlikely manager to spy on three of his female workers. Havoc ensues as the three girls and the manager fight for control of the parlor.

Special Engagement

•April 11, 3:30 and 8pm; April 12 and 13, 11am, 3:30 and 8pm. **Lawrence of Arabia** *1962*. Director David Lean's classic multimillion-dollar epic tells the story of real-life British soldier T.E. Lawrence as he boldly leads the Arab army against the Turks in World War I.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Coolidge Selects

•Now playing. **Nowhere in Africa** *2002*. Director Caroline Link's film follows a Jewish German family's escape to Kenya before World War II, and their struggles to adjust in a new country.

•Now playing. **Spider** *2003*. In David Cronenberg's latest film, a mental patient reflects on his childhood. (See New Releases for more information.)

•Opening April 4. **Bend It Like Beckham** *2002*. In Gurinder Chadha's London-based comedy, an Indian girl rebels against her deeply religious parents to pursue her dream of playing professional soccer.

11th Annual Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema

•April 3, 7:30pm. **Normal** *2003*. Roy, the male half of a wholesome Midwestern couple, is plagued by the belief that he should have been born a woman. He decides to reveal his secret and begins a physical and social metamorphosis. Jane Anderson directs. •Also showing, 10pm. **Devil Talk** *2002*. The devil hires himself a publicist to deal with his mother in this five-minute short directed by actress Illeana Douglas. The screening is followed by the festival's Opening Night Gala, featuring appearances by Douglas and other filmmakers.

•April 4, 5pm. **Hand on the Pulse** *2002*. Joyce Warshow's documentary tells the story of Joan Nestle, the co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City. The film is followed by Margaret Broucek's short film **Beauty Parlor Census**.

•April 4, 7pm; April 6, 1pm. **Love and Diane** *2002*. Filmmaker Jennifer Dworkin spent five years following a recovering crack addict as she struggled to get off welfare and reclaim her children from foster care.

•April 4, 10pm; April 6, 9:45pm. **Reno: Rebel Without A Pause** *2002*. Filmmaker Nancy Savoca follows radical feminist Reno as she delivers stream-of-consciousness monologues about her experience witnessing the Sept. 11 attacks.

•April 5, 1pm; April 7, 5:30pm. **TV Dreams: 4 New Shorts**. Four documentaries humorously criticize different aspects of television and pop culture. Liz Miller's **Novela Novela** analyzes Nicaragua's soap opera version of *Friends*. Brigit Rathsmann comments on female action stars in Hong Kong in **Spit and Polish: Heroines from Hong Kong**. Pamela Ezell's short, **TV Dream Houses**, features Mark Bennett's architectural drawings of homes from the TV shows like *I Love Lucy* and *Leave it to Beaver*. Angela Robinson directs **D.E.B.S.**, a takeoff on *Charlie's Angels* featuring lesbian debutantes. •Also showing, 3:15pm. **Sisters in Cinema** *2003*. Director Yvonne Welbon follows the films and careers of influential African-American female filmmakers such as Maya Angelou, Julie Dash and Tressie Souders. •Also showing, 5:30pm. **Flag Wars** *2003*. Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Portias' film looks at relations between the black community and the gay and lesbian community in a Columbus, Ohio, neighborhood. •April 5, 7:40pm; April 7, 9:15pm. **Georgie Girl** *2002*. Annie Goldson and Peter Wells' film documents the life of Georgina Beyer, an ex-prostitute who became the first transgendered person to be elected to national office, as a member of New Zealand's parliament. •Also showing, 9:30pm. **Underground Voices** *2002*. Rebecca M. Alvin curated this collection of features by female filmmakers, ranging from non-narrative abstract videos to campy comedic films.

•April 6, 4:15pm. **Reconstruction** *2001*. Harvard graduate Irene Lusztig tells the unusual story of the 1959 Ioanid Gang bank heist in communist Romania. •Also showing, 6:15pm. **Cinemania** *2002*. Angela Christlieb directs this comedic look at six oddball movie junkies. •Also showing, 8pm. **Dance by Design** *2003*. A young woman's dreams of being a professional dancer are repeatedly snuffed out by her lack of self-confidence. Valerie Weiss, founder and filmmaker-in-residence of Harvard's Dudley Film Program, directs

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ELEPHANT & CASTLE
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• April 7, 7:30pm. **What I Want My Words to Do for You** *2002*. See listing section for the Brattle Theatre.

Meet the Director

• April 15, 7:30pm. **Metal** *2001*. Texas native Jane struggles to make it as a musician in Allston, Mass., while immersing herself into the culture and history of the local music scene. Director Alice Cox is present at the screening.

Midnight Movies—Modern Cult Classics

• April 4 and 5, 12am. **Scanners** *1981*. The telepathic Scanners seek world domination by using the strength of their minds to explode the heads' of their victims. David Cronenberg directs.

• April 11 and 12, 12am. **Videodrome** *1983*. David Cronenberg's film stars James Woods and Debbie Harry in the story of a television station operator who discovers a TV show called *Videodrome*. The show's transmissions alter viewers' perceptions and send them into a nightmarish world.

Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation

• April 4-10, 10pm; April 4, 5, 11, 12, 12am. Spike and Mike are back for this collection of 27 crass animated short films. **Nougat** is a revenge tale in which the title candy ingredient exacts justice. **Pickle's Day Out** explores a pickle and tomato's opposing views on religion. **The Three Pigs** is a new take on the classic fairy tale. 18+.

Fenway 13 Cinema

• April 4 and 5, 12am. **The Terminator** *1984*. James Cameron's classic film features an unstoppable cyborg sent back in time to kill the mother of a rebel leader of the future.

• April 11 and 12, 12am. **There's Something About Mary** *1998*. Cameron Diaz and Ben Stiller star in Peter and Bobby Farrelly's comedy about a man who decides to track down his high school crush. He has to compete with a slew of losers who have fallen for her along the way.

Harvard Film Archive

Directors in Focus: Being Michael Snow

• April 6, 7pm. **Wavelength** *1967*. Though this film is often reduced to "one room and one zoom," Snow is able to incorporate both his own life story and the aesthetic zeitgeist of the era through an experiment with space and time. • Immediately following. **So Is This** *1982*. Snow's silent comedy, which consists entirely of printed titles, literalizes the concept of film as text. • Immediately following. **See You Later/Au revoir** *1990*. The simple act of a man leaving his office is extended from 30 seconds to 18 minutes.

Directors in Focus: Yilmaz Guney

• April 4, 7pm. **Yol** *(Road) 1982*. A hit at Cannes, *Yol* follows five Turkish inmates who are granted a week-long opportunity to visit their homes. • Also showing, 9:30pm. **Arkadas** *(Friend) 1974*. This story follows the lives of two Turkish childhood friends, one a community activist, the other a corrupt businessman.

• April 5, 7pm. **Umut** *(Hope) 1970*. Guney plays an unlucky horse cab driver who travels to the desert in search of a mythical treasure. • Also showing, 9:30pm. **Sürü** *(The Herd) 1978*. A nomadic herdsman deals with a death in the family after he attempts to travel to Ankara to sell his flock of sheep and many of his family's assets.

The RAF's Germany: Terrorism, Politics and Protest

• April 11, 7pm. **Stammheim** *1986*. Director Reinhard Hauff based this courtroom drama almost entirely on the actual transcripts of the Baader-Meinhof trials. • Also showing, 9pm. **Messer im Kopf** *(Knife in the Head) 1978*. Hauff's film follows a scientist who is accidentally shot in the head at a political rally and must relearn to walk, talk, speak and eat.

• April 12, 7pm; April 14, 9pm. **Black Box BRD** *2001*. Andres Veiel's documentary examines the Federal Republic of Germany of the 1970s and 1980s using interviews, archival news footage and home movies.

• April 12, 9:30pm. **Starbuck Holger Meins** *2002*. Filmmaker Gerd Conradt created this docudrama about his friend Holger Meins, the first arrested member of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist organization.

• April 13, 7pm. **Die innere Sicherheit** *(The State I Am In) 2000*. Christian Petzoid's film explores one generation's effects on the next through a story of former terrorists on the run with their teenage daughter. • Also showing, 9pm. **The Legend of Rita** *1999*. In Volker Schlondorff's film, a woman joins a terrorist group because of her lover's influence. After the movement falls apart, her past catches up with her as the Berlin Wall crumbles.

• April 14, 7pm. **Die Terroristen!** *(The Terrorists!) 1992*. Philip Gröning's film follows bourgeois terrorists who are motivated by a prospective vacation rather than political conviction.

• April 15, 7pm. **Germany in Autumn** *1978*. Eleven filmmakers and 13 writers created this docudrama that chronicles the 44 days in 1977 between the kidnapping of industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer and the suicides of Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe. • Also showing, 9:30pm. **Marianne and Julianne** *1981*. Director Margarethe von Trotta's film explores the relationship of two sisters, one the editor of a progressive feminist journal and the other a jailed revolutionary. It is based on the story of Gudrun Ensslin, a member of the terrorist organization Baader-Meinhof, and her sister Christine.

Jason Lee (left) and Damian Lewis star in the thriller, *Dreamcatcher*.

World Melodrama

• April 2, 7pm. **All About My Mother** *1999*. After a single mother loses her son in an accident, she seeks solace by exploring her past. Director Pedro Almodóvar explores gender and role-playing as the grieving mother reunites with her son's transvestite father. • Also showing, 9pm. **Matador** *1985*. Almodóvar's black comedy links the lives of an injured female matador, a conniving lawyer and a young religious fanatic. The story examines issues of obsession, death, religion and the darker sides of human nature.

• April 9, 7pm. **Spring River Flows East** *1947*. Considered the Chinese equivalent to *Gone with the Wind*, directors Zheng Junli and Cai Chusheng tell the story of a schoolteacher in 1930s Shanghai who leaves his wife and family to join the Red Cross in the fight against the Japanese invasion.

Museum of Fine Arts

New Korean Cinema

• April 4, 6pm; April 5, 5:30pm. **The Isle** *1999*. In Ki-Duk Kim's disturbing, sexually charged film, a fugitive on the run falls for a mysterious mute beauty along a remote lake in South Korea.

• April 4, 7:45pm. **Chi-hwa-seon** *(Painted Fire) 2002*. South Korean director Im Kwon-taek follows the story of a rebellious 19th-century painter who becomes an outcast in moralistic Korean society. The story explores the artist's attempts to fight censorship and constraints on personal freedom.

• April 5, 3:15pm; April 11, 5:45pm. **Take Care of My Cat** *2001*. Jeong Jae-eun's film about class conflicts follows five post–high school aged women in the run-down city of Incheon. Their friendship is tested as they enter into new stages of their lives.

Words on Fire: Films Curated by the Boston Jewish Film Festival

• April 5, 7:30pm. **The Tramp and the Dictator** *2001*. Film historian Kevin Brownlow and German television writer Michael Kloft explore the commonalities between Charlie Chaplin and Adolf Hitler, including their mustaches, birthdays, difficult childhoods and artistic aspirations.

• April 12, 7:30pm. **The Great Dictator** *1940*. Charlie Chaplin began filming this feature at the beginning of World War II. The humorous film was the only one of its time to criticize fascism in Europe and the treatment of the Jews by Hitler.

Engagements

• April 5, 1:30 pm. **Queen of the Gypsies, a Portrait of Carmen Amaya** *2002*. Documentary filmmaker Jocelyn Ajami chronicles the life of legendary Spanish flamenco dancer Carmen Amaya.

• April 8, 12:30pm; 10, 5:30pm. **Werckmeister Harmonies** *2000*. An outsider helps a remote Hungarian village whose residents battle alcoholism, loneliness and a bleak landscape. Director Béla Tarr is present for both screenings.

• April 10, 8:30pm; April 12, 5:30pm. **Touching Lives: Portraits of Deaf-Blind People** *2002*. Narrator Susan Hajjar, a woman with three deaf-blind siblings, takes the viewer into the worlds of five deaf-blind individuals and explores their families, communities, jobs, hopes and frustrations. Myles Gordon directs.

• April 11, 8 pm. **Touched** *2003*. Laurel Chiten's film features people who claim to be alien abductees. The director and John Mack, Harvard psychiatrist and researcher of this phenomenon, are present for the screening.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

• Opens April 4-Sept. 30. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*.

• Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of the explorers' remarkable journey, brought to life by *National Geographic*. Call for show times.

• Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

• Through April 10. **Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man**. Filmed on location at several natural and historical landmarks around the world, each stage of life from birth to maturity is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. Call for show times.

• Through April 10. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Explore the diversity of marine life on the world's coral reefs and the elements that threaten to destroy them.

• Through June 30. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast that unique mammals and other sea life call home. Call for show times.

• Through June 30. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into the earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to the Equator, with a special focus on education and environmental awareness. Call for show times.

• Through June 30. **Space Station 3D**. Blast off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome, and rendezvous with the International Space Station in orbit 220 miles above Earth. Call for show times.

Special Engagement

Filmmakers Open Studios 2003

Filmmakers Open Studios is a free, annual citywide event April 12 and 13 that invites visitors behind-the-scenes of the film and video community. For more information and a complete listing of events, visit *www.filmmakerscollab.org*. Some of this year's highlights include:

• April 12, 10am-5pm at the New England Institute of Art and Communication. Teja Arboleda and Tim Jackson screen parts of their new works and discuss the process of collaborative filmmaking. • Also showing, 10am at Video Transfer Inc. **2nd Annual VTI Short Film Festival**. A number of short films are screened throughout the day. The audience selects one film as the "Best of Show." VTI then works with the winning filmmaker to produce a DVD of the filmmaker's reel. • Also showing, 1pm at Coolidge Corner Theatre. **Balagan Experimental Film and Video Series**. • Also showing, 1pm at Boston University. B.U. students screen their short films; a Q & A with the directors follows.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film• Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Boston University
640 Comm. Ave. Room B05. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore Square.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Video Transfer, Inc.
580 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-247-0100). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

The New England Institute of Art and Communication
10 Brookline Place West . MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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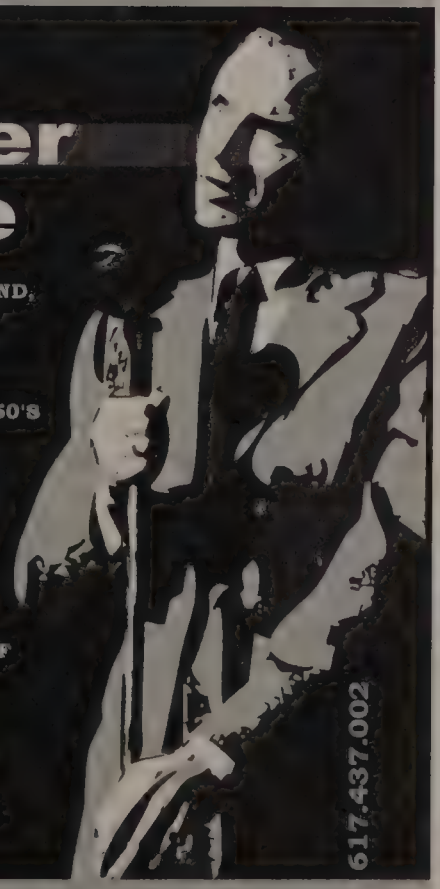

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SENIOR STATESMAN

Tenor titan Sonny Rollins combines meditation and improvisation at the highest level

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

On the eve of the current war with Iraq, tenor sax giant Sonny Rollins couldn't help but broach that subject.

"People resent rich countries," says Rollins, who watched the destruction of the World Trade Center from his apartment only six blocks from Ground Zero. "If you're rich like we are, walk softly and carry a big stick, OK, but walk softly. [President Bush] is turning people off with his style, and the guys around him, they've had this plan for a long time which has to do with taking over the Middle East, and has nothing to do with 9/11. So that doesn't bode well."

Rollins, who waded into sociopolitical waters with his 1958 work *Freedom Suite*'s call for African-American human rights, is himself best known for walking softly and carrying a big tenor. He retains a soft-spoken modesty for someone widely called the greatest living improviser, or as a 1995 *Village Voice* cover story put it, "The Last Jazz Immortal."

"I have to face my maker one of these days too," Rollins, 72, says from his upstate New York home. "I've tried my best. That's all we can do."

For Rollins, who performs at Berklee April 12, his "best" continues to impress those who witness his spiraling, thematic solos onstage. As critic Gary Giddins once noted, "Rollins has been seriously challenged by only two saxophonists. John Coltrane briefly, and himself eternally."

Sonny Rollins displays his legendary improvisational style at Berklee Performance Center April 12.

"Regardless of what my audience thinks, I still have my standards," Rollins says. "I consider myself like a work in progress, whereas people might look at me and say, 'Oh, this guy is a jazz legend.' I'm just a guy who's still trying to get to the music that I hear, that I haven't gotten out."

His latest CD, 2000's *This Is What I Do*, earned Rollins his first Grammy Award, and suggested he may have turned a corner in recapturing his magic in the studio. "I'm getting back to being able to think about the music and block out all of the other things, and it took a while to get back to that point," says Rollins, who made a rare studio foray into the rock world in 1981 with his robust solo on the Rolling Stones' "Waiting on a Friend."

The truest example of his brilliance, however, remains his live improvising, which he still prepares for through daily practice of rudiments. "It's like learning the alphabet," Rollins says. "I'll have all of these letters in place, and I put them together when I'm improvising to form words."

"It's ahead of the mind," he adds. "You've got to think about what you're doing up to a point, then the music takes over. The greatest aspect of playing is when the music plays itself. When I'm really playing, my mind is gone. The music is just coming into me rather than me trying to get proactive about it."

One thing that Rollins has been proactive about through the years is setting the conditions for his art, regardless of the music industry. Following late-'50s classics like *Tenor Madness* (with Coltrane) and *Saxophone Colossus*, Rollins took two years off, often practicing on the Williamsburg Bridge in New York, before returning to recording in 1962. Seven years later, he took another sabbatical, exploring yoga and Buddhism, and not playing for two years.

"I still have my ways of communicating with the spiritual element," he says. "When I'm practicing my horn, that's really meditation for me, because I was never able to block out thoughts. I still do certain [relaxation] postures and deep-breathing exercises, which dovetails into playing."

Rollins came into the world in the right place, growing up on Harlem's bebop scene in the '40s, digging Charlie Parker and playing with Bud Powell and Miles Davis as a teenager. His parents had Caribbean roots, which might also explain Rollins' affinity for calypso rhythms in tunes like "St. Thomas," "Don't Stop the Carnival" and his newer "Salvador."

"I heard a lot of other stuff when I was young too, but I was exposed [to those rhythms]," he says. "It's something relatively easy and natural for me."

It also plays to his recent preference for steady rhythmic support beneath his rich, melodic flights. "I like to have a set piece of music and then play against it," Rollins says. "I like it to be there, so the contrast can be established."

At Berklee, drummer Jack DeJohnette will provide the rhythms alongside regular Rollins sidemen Clifton Anderson on trombone, Bob Cranshaw on bass and Kimati Dinizulu on percussion, though pianist Stephen Scott will miss the date.

"I have a lot of stuff I want to do," says the saxophonist, who is honing material for another CD. "I don't feel by any means that I've gotten the whole Sonny Rollins story." iB

Sonny Rollins

Plays Berklee Performance Center April 12.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by email to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Addison Groove Project
April 11 and 12, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Antigone Rising
April 5, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)

Buskin & Batteau
April 4, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)

Cat Power
April 10, 8pm, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)

Concrete Blonde and Twineman
April 2, the Roxy (617-423-NEXT)

Karl Denson's Tiny Universe
April 8 and 9, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

The Disco Biscuits
April 13, the Roxy (617-423-NEXT)

Everclear, Authority Zero and the Exies
April 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Fischerspooner
April 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Bela Fleck & the Flecktones
April 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

The Funk Brothers with Joan Osborne, Maxi Priest and Mavis Staples
April 9, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Percy Hill and Keith Lewis
April 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Hot Hot Heat
April 10, Axis (617-423-NEXT)

Joe Jackson Band (sold out)
April 4 and 5, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Annie Lennox
April 9, Wilbur Theatre (617-931-2000)

Youssou N'Dour and Angelique Kidjo
April 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Sonny Rollins
April 12, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)

They Might Be Giants
April 5, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

The Vines and the Music
April 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

The Waifs and Jess Klein
April 12, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)

Widespread Panic
April 15, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Dar Williams and the Ben Taylor Band
April 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Yanni
April 3, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Abbey Lounge Jon Nolan and Hokum, 21+.
Berklee Performance Center Ian Froma and Kim Plainfield, 8:15pm, all ages.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Peter Malloy, 10pm, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joe Cook's Blues Jam 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Alex de Grassi, 8pm, $17.
Coogan's Acoustical Fun with Chad, 10pm, $ 21+.
Elephant and Castle Pete Masa, 6-9pm, n cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeGraf 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry The Gourds with the Tarbo Ramblers, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Guitarmageddon 2003 Region Finals with Fluffy Puppy and Back Bay Trio, 9pm, $ all ages.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm, $2.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D., 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kendall Café Araby, 10:30pm; the Jupiter Pro ject, 9:30pm; Jonathan Donaldson, 8:30pm.

PAUL ROBIC

DINNER & A MOVIE

Dine at Felt Restaurant from 5pm-10pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and receive a complimentary movie ticket to the Loews Cineplex.

One movie ticket for every person with a tab of $25 or more for dinner at Felt in the dining room.

Boston's Best 2002 The Improper Bostonian

{First Course}

Pan Seared Scallops – Sea Scallops with Corn Puree, Sal Rose, Crispy Potato & Truffle Oil 8

White Wine Steamed Mussels – Pearled Barley, Garlic, Oven Roasted Tomatoes & Grilled Bread 8

Coriander Seared Tuna – Sushi Grade Tuna with Pickled Fruit & Ponzu 10

Spring Vegetable Terrine – Terrine of Spring Vegetables with Baby Greens 7

Smoked Fish – Three Ways Salmon, Trout & Mackerel with Three Garnishes 10

Lobster Sandwich – Brioche, Boston Lettuce & Japanese Mayonnaise 11

{Salads}

Cubana – Fried Plantains, Sunflower Sprouts, Black Bean Vinaigrette 7

Smoked Duck – Cilantro Pesto, Spicy Shoot Salad & Pomegranate Vinaigrette 8

{Main Course}

Pan Seared Chicken – New Potatoes, Spring Onions, Green Beans, Carrots & Lavender Jus Lie 14

New York Strip – Marinated Strip Steak with Potato Puree, Asparagus & Steak Butter 17

Roasted Lamb – Fava Beans, Corn, Yukon Gold Potato & Lamb Sauce 19

Vegetable Lasagna – Chefs Changing Lasagna 11

Quinoa Salmon – Organic Miso, Rice Beans, Mizuna & Asian Pear 15

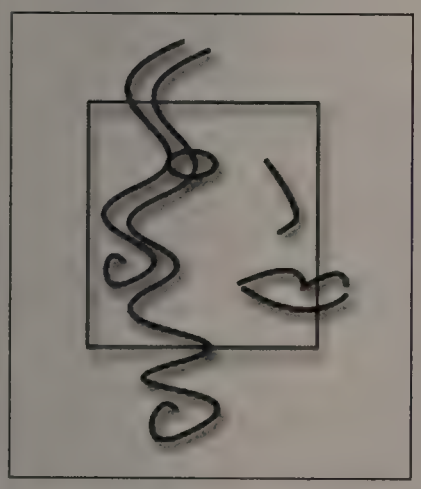
Oven Roasted Squab – Wilted Spinach, Cheese Grits, Squab Sauce 17

Marinated Duck Breast – Israeli Couscous, Blood Orange & Thai Basil 18

Panko Prawns – Mashed Sweet Potato, Crispy Wontons, Chive Oil & Thai Butter Sauce 16

Yellow Fin Tuna – Baby Bok Choy, Grilled Rice Paper, Togarashi and Dashi Soy Broth 17

Please notify your server of any food allergies, some foods cooked w/ nuts or nut oils. Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase risk of food borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.



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Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Christy Blum, 8pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Linus CD-release party and Señor Happy, $7.
Lizard Lounge Either Orchestra, 8:30pm, $10-$12, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Groovie Ghoulies, the Epoxsies and the Apers, 18+, $10. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Mercury with Nomadik.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack Zeke Martin, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Fred Hersch and Norma Winstone CD-release party, 8:30pm, $14.
The Roxy Concrete Blonde, 8pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Laszlo Gardony Trio, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Will McMillan, Brian Patton Michael Ricca and Nina Van Such, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Tiger Saw, the Pilot Light and the Sewer Doves, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mickey Steele and the Alloys, 9pm; the Patrick McAloon Band, 9:50pm; Flash In Blue, 10:40pm; James Cleare, 11:30pm, $5, 18+.
The Western Front Daniel Bennett and Mike Dale and Brian Scherman Ensemble, 9pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates John Kordalewski, 8pm.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Abbey Lounge Baby Strange, Peasants and Haymakers, 21+.
All Asia Cafe Matt Jenson's Acid Reggae Xperience, 9:30pm, $6, 21+.
Asgard Brogue.
The Avenue The Acoustic Mafia, 7-9pm, no cover, all ages.
Axis Swingin' Utters and One Man Army, 7pm, $12, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Jamey Haddad and Joe Galeota, 8:15pm.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Boston Horns, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren The Swingin' Johnsons, 10pm, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Anne Heaton and the Mighty Purple, 8pm, $12.
Coogan's DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Moo Tycoon, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover.
FleetCenter Yanni, 7:30pm, $49.50-$79.50.
Green Street Grill Dwight Richter Band, 11:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2am, $5.
Johnny D's Sun Ra Arkestra, 9pm, $15.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Josh Hall, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kendall Café Barry Andrews, 10pm.
Kirkland Café Dis 'n' Dat, Julien Kasper and Matt Jenson's Acid Reggae Xperience, $5.
Limbo Groove Authority, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Electric Frankenstein, Les Baton Rouge and the Spitzz, 10pm, $8.
Lizard Lounge Amun Ra CD-release party, $8, 21+.
Lucy Parsons Center Music Now! Trio, 7pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Scene Creamers (ex Make Up), $9, 18+. Downstairs: Jump Little Children and Carbon Leaf, $14, 18+. Corner: Board of Education. Zuzu: Zemog el Gallo Malo, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Percy Hill, 9pm, $14, 18+.
Parris Ego System.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack Unique Approach, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10pm, no cover, 21+
Regattabar Jim Porcella and Ida Zecco and friends: A Tribute to Louis Prima and Keely Smith, 8:30pm, $20.
Scullers Peter Cincotti, 8 and 10pm, $15 .
Sky Bar Asian Babe Alert, Ellison, Tizzy and Blacksonny, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Charms, 9:15pm; Electric Six, 10:15pm; the D4, 11:15pm, $10, 18+.
The Western Front The Bridge, 9pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone, 8pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Abbey Lounge Downbeat 5, 21+.
Asgard Jack Shanahan.

The Vines perform their post-grunge tunes with the band the Music at Avalon April 11.

The Avenue Nickelsen/Kristoffersson Jazz Group, 7-9pm, no cover.
Berklee Performance Center Vibraphonist tribute concert, 8:15pm.
The Big Easy Bob's Day Off.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Bobby Folkes.
Bob the Chef's The Mike MacAllister Group, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs.
Coogan's DJ Tom, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Hard Rock Cafe The Cavern Club Music Series presents Cornerband 2K3 Series New England Tour featuring the Naked Sams, 9pm, 21+.
The Harp Last Man Standing, 10pm, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Fighting Gravity, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Mappari, NYC Smoke, the Modeles and Fiction Plane, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Independent Heygoods, 10pm.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Johnny D's Michigan Blacksnake, 9:45pm, $6.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5 after 10pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Sam Hooper, 9:30pm; Chesterwhite, 10:30pm; Barefoot Landing, 11:30pm, $7.
Kirkland Café Brother Mosley, Mr. Sparkle and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Barbara and Al Boudreau, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Chubby, Linus CD-release, Senor Happy and Trust Us, 10pm, $7.
Lizard Lounge Jabe CD release party and Todd Thibaud, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Kills, Immortal Lee County Killers and Antler, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Project/Object with Ike Willis and Napoleon Murphy Brock and Don Preston performing the music of Frank Zappa, $15, 18+. Zuzu: Milo Jones, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Bill Janovitz, Chris Toppin, Hilken Mancini, Chris Colbourn, Jason Hatfield, Sara Borges and the Confidence Men, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Paradise Joe Jackson Band and Mary Lee's Corvette, 9pm, $28.50, 18+.
Parris Darik and the Funbags.
Porters Bar and Grill Nate Watkins.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 7-10pm; DJ Johnny C, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Chris Potter Quartet with Kevin Hays, Scott Colley and Bill Stewart, 7:30 and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm & Spice Hot Like Fire, 11pm, 19+.
Roggie's Bar and Grill Ali, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar The Crush Things, Topheavy, the Big Payback and Gutta, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Buskin & Batteau with Mary Gauthier, 8pm, $19-$22.
Tír na nÓg Nolan McKelvey.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, featuring Herb Pomeroy, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Groovehounds, 9:15pm; Taylor Street, 10:15pm; the Red Elvises, 11:15pm, $10, 18+.
The Western Front Joe Cut, 9pm, cover varies.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8pm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Abbey Lounge Dave Aaranoff, 21+.
Asgard Sunset.
Avalon They Might Be Giants, 7pm, $18.25-$20.25, 18+.
The Avenue Ali, 7-9pm, no cover, all ages.
Axis All American Rejects and Motion City Soundtrack, 7pm, $10-$12, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Mike Mangini and Hypercane, 8:15pm, all ages.
The Big Easy Bob's Day Off.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Bobby Folkes. Downstairs: Jim Coyle. Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Black Sole Ensemble, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Brian Webb and Jim Boggia, 7 and 10pm, $12.
Coogan's DJ Craig, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Central Basement, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Harper's Ferry All Mighty Senators, $8, 21+.
House of Blues WBCN High School Battle of the Bands, 1-5pm, $13-$15, all ages.
The Independent Tim Gearan, 10pm.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Johnny D's Swinging Johnsons, 9:45pm, $6.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy, 10pm, $5 after 10pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Hellcountry, 8pm, $8.
Kinsale Stained Glass Eye and the Keiran Ridge Band.
Kirkland Café Northern Town, Mike Diplomat & the Misprints, $5.
Limbo Wendy Glick, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Deek presents Absolve, Rubikon, Ichabod and Aural Sect, 10pm, $8.
Lizard Lounge Jabe CD-release party and Dennis Brennan, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Helicopter, Francine, Shelly Winters Project and Fooled by April, 9pm, $9, 18+; the Blue Bloods, Stray Bullets, Flower City Knuckleheads and Pug Uglies, 12am, $7, 18+. Downstairs: Karate and Need New Body, $10.
The Nameless Coffeehouse Arnold and Gretz, Lisa Bastoni, the Dennis Pearne Band and Lloyd Thayer, 8pm, $8.
Paradise Joe Jackson Band and Mary Lee's Corvette, 9pm, $28.50, 18+.
Parris Last Man Standing.
Pa's Jiya and Afterglow, $5-$7, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Josh Hall and the Marcels, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Star 93.7 dance party with Vinnie Pe ruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Basie and Beyond: Kendrick Olive and the New Life Jazz Orchestra with Monica Lyn and Kevin Mahogany, 7:30 and 10pm, $20.
Rhythm & Spice Caribbean Cruize Band, 11pm 19+.
Sky Bar Marie's Children, the Swiss Bomb and Son NYL, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Antigone Rising, 7pm $16-$18.
Tír na nÓg The John Cate Band.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet with Arn Krakowski, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sugabomb, 9pm; Wash down, 10pm; Ikara Colt, 11pm; Sahara Hotnight 12am, $10, 18+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty, 8:30pm.
Zeitigeist psi with Chris Forsyth, Know Trio an Robert Rivera.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Abbey Lounge The Mittens, Finlay, the In Out an the Stairs, 21+.
Berklee Performance Center The Wayn Shorter Quartet with Danilo Perez, John Patituc and Brian Blade, 7pm, $27.50-$32.50.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Jim Coyle. Sun day's Well.
Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with Nat Simpkin Jazz Quartet, 10am-3pm. $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Andy Stewart, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Jazz jam, 9pm, cov varies, 21+.
Club Passim Asylum Street Spankers, 7:30pm $15.
Dick's Last Resort Gospel brunch, 10am-3pm
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Balla Tounkara and Group Spirit, 11:30pm, no cover, 21+.
House of Blues Marta Gomez CD-release sho 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 10pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30-8:30pm; salsa dan ing and lessons with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Kendall Café Stripdown Sunday #5, $5.
Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam and jam, featuring t Jeff Robinson Trio, 7pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: All Parallels, .45 to Pay t Rent and Apolline, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Mik Dread and Black Rebels, $14, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Rhythm & Spice Green Island, 10pm, 18+.
The Roxy Godspeed You Black Emperor, 7pm $12, 18+.
Scullers Semenya McCord's Ram Jam, 5pm, $15
Sky Bar Whistle Jacket, Doug Fell Down, YGSa the 52 Mad Prophets, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11a 3pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Mayflowers, 9pm Styrofoam, 10pm; the Notwist, 11pm, $12, 18+.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner, Joe McMah Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Abbey Lounge King Bazo, 7-11pm, no cover, 21
Axis The Dillinger Escape Plan, Every Time I D and End of the Universe, 7pm, $12, all ages.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bill Morris, 10pm cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim John Herald and Mark Simos, 8pm $12.
Dick's Last Resort Guitarioke with Lea 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Hot Tamale Brass Ban 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Daniel Barret Group with Yo Gordon & the Goods, $5, 21+.
House of Blues Chris Whitley, Johnny Socio and Rich Price, 8:30pm, $10-$12, 18+.
Johnny D's The Coachmen, 8pm, $5.
Kendall Café The Springhill Rounders, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Foam and Mesh, Shot De Lock and Key and Ponyboy Curtis. $9, 18+. Zuz Unhappy Hour with Pee Wee Fist, no cover, 21+.

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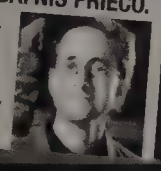

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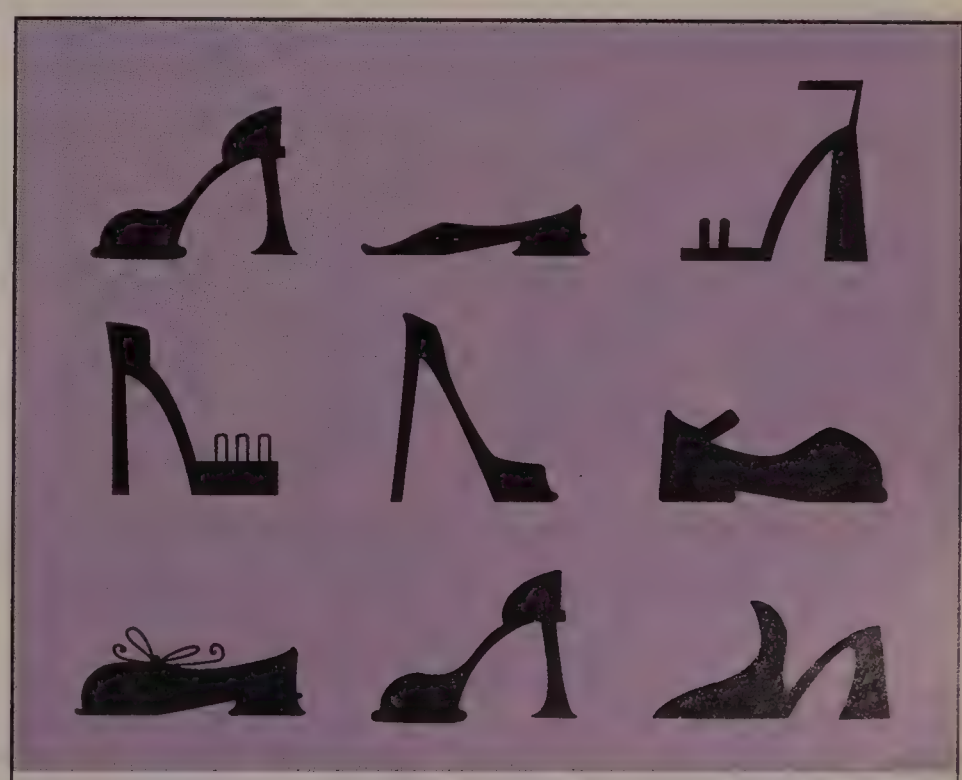

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Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6-10pm; DJ Mike Janedy, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Sanders Theatre Braddigan, Newcomers Home and Matt Wertz, 7:30pm, $5.
Tír na nÓg The Black Eggs.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear with Henley, 8:30pm, $3, 18+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and the Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Abbey Lounge Hollow, 8:30pm, $3, 21+; Derek Trenholm, 9pm, $3, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Peter Malloy, 10pm, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: King Wilkie, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill High Plains Drifters, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey with Skeri, $10, 18+.
House of Blues Paranoid Social Club with Dave Gutter and Tripside, 10pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Rob Gonzalez, 8:30pm, $6.
Kendall Café Angela Correa, 8:30pm; Cameron Dezen, 9:30pm; James Towlson, 10:30pm, $5.
Kinsale Tom Courtney
Limbo Claire McCleod, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Ad Frank and the Fast Easy Women and Scott and Quinn from Dragstrip Courage, 8:30pm, $8-$10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Human Shield, Slick Pig and Willis and the Tall Kitchen Boys, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Spoon, Crooked Fingers and the Fiery Furnaces, $14, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, 9pm, $20, 18+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Mili Bermejo, Dan Greenspan Duo with Bruce Barth, 8:30pm, $14.
Roggie's Bar and Grill Jazz night, no cover, all ages.
Scullers Julia & Zerounian Ensemble, 8 and 10pm, $18.
Sky Bar Fuser, Oma, Backwoods, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Brenda Vee Review, 9:30pm; Jake Brennan, 10:30pm; Jed Parish and the Mother Tongues, 11:30pm, $7, 18+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Abbey Lounge Jon Nolan and Hokum, 21+.
Avalon The Funk Brothers with Joan Osborne, Philip Bailey and Mavis Staples, 8pm, $37.75, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Clare Burson and LJ Booth, 8pm, $10.
Coogan's Acoustical Fun with Chad, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Elephant and Castle Pete Masa, 6-9pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Global Funk Council, $7, 21+.
House of Blues Emm Gryner, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10pm.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm, $2.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Chris D., 10pm, $5, 21+.
Kendall Café Flora Reed, 8:30pm; Colleen Sexton, 9:30pm; the Timbre Project, 10:30pm, $7.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Russ Gershon Trio, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Scara's Night Out, 9pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Unbusted, Caged Heat, Scamper and Roma, $9, 18+. Downstairs: The Dirty Three, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
The Orpheum Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, 8pm, $24.50-$34.50.
Paradise Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, 9pm, $20, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack Zeke Martin, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Scullers Sol Y Canto with Katie Viqueira, 8 and 10pm, $18.

Jess Klein plays with the Waifs at the Somerville Theatre April 12.

Sky Bar Aloud, Cho Experiment, the Mockingbirds and Kamikazi, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Furvis, 9pm; Morning Theft, 9:50pm; Hero Pattern, 10:40pm; the Dead Stars, 11:35pm, $5, 18+.
The Western Front Ayn Inserto Jazz Orchestra, 9pm, $5.
Wilbur Theatre Annie Lennox, 8pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates John Alamo, 8pm.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Abbey Lounge Victory at Sea, Little Axe and Red & Rescue, 21+.
Asgard Christy O'Connell.
Avalon Fischerspooner, 7pm, $20.25-$22.25, 18+.
The Avenue The Acoustic Mafia, 7-9pm, no cover, all ages.
Axis Hot Hot Heat, 7pm, $10, all ages.
Black Horse Tavern Upstairs: live music, 7-10pm.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, solo jazz piano, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren The Swingin' Johnsons, 10pm, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Chris Trapper and Tom Brosseau, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Hair Club for Mensa, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Dwight Richter Band, 11:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Pseudopod and Cardinal Direction, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Andy Stochansky and Reed Foehl, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Independent Bangalore, 10pm.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2am, $5.
Johnny D's Unfulfilled Desires and Dead Cat Bounce, 9pm, $6.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Josh Hall, 10pm, $5 after 10pm, 21+.
The Kells Boston Breakers bartend for Special Olympics, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Café Jen O.Connor, 9pm; Eric Saulnier, 9:40pm; International Pen Pal, 10:15pm; Choo Choo La Rouge, 11pm, $5.
Kirkland Café Com'on Man, the Jody Grind and Nathan Duprey, $5.
Limbo Kaoruko, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Eyes Like Knives, 10pm, $6.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf featuring Micro Vard, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Kinski, Liquor Tricks and Mono, $9, 18+. Downstairs: KRS-1, Shuman, Insight, Electric Company and Des Mantero, $23, 18+. Zuzu: Zemog el Gallo Malo, no cover, 21+.
Orpheum Theatre George Dalaras and Marinella, 8pm, $60-$100.
Parris Brick Park.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett and Mike Flanagan, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack Unique Approach, 6-10pm, DJ Ricky, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Mike Stern Quartet with Bob Franceschini, Lincoln Goines and Terri Lyne Carrington, 8 and 10pm, $16.
Roggie's Bar and Grill Upstairs: Live music, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: McCoy Tyner, 8:30pm, $30
Scullers Caribbean Jazz Project with Dave Samuels, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Mr. Sparkle, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Cat Power, 8pm, $16.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Meat Depressed, 9:15pm; Gein and the Graverobbers, 10:15pm; the Independents, 11:15pm, $7, 18+.
The Western Front The Bridge, 9pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Abbey Lounge Rock Bottom, 21+.
Asgard Nate Watkins.
Avalon The Vines and the Music, 7pm, $17.75, 18+.
The Avenue Nickelsen/Kristoffersson Jazz Group, 7-9pm, no cover, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Eddie from Ohio and Stephen Kellogg, 8pm, $23-$28, all ages.
The Big Easy Dick 'n' Jane.
Black Horse Tavern Downstairs: live music, 9-12am.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan. Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's The Mike MacAllister Group, 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim The Mammals, 7pm, $12.
Coogan's DJ Tom, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Hard Rock Cafe Leroy Justice, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Harp Steamroller Picnic, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Flynn, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Dan Bern, IJBC and Stew, 10pm, $15-$18, 21+.
The Independent Coots, 10pm.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Johnny D's Junior Brown, 9:45pm, $20.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5 after 10pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Winterboy, 9:30pm; Martly, 10:30pm; the Suggestions, 11:30pm, $7.
Kirkland Café North Street, Betsy Nichols Band, Honey Deluxe and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Zeke Martin, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood Reverse, the High Ceilings, and the Irresponsibles, 10pm, $7.
Lizard Lounge Franc Graham Band, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Apollo Sunshine, Bar Rot and the Love Scene, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Daniel Johnston, Kimya Dawson and Mishima USA, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Milo Jones, no cover, 21+.
Orpheum Theater Youssou N'Dour and Angelique Kidjo, 7:30pm, $25-$37, all ages.
Paradise Addison Groove Project, 9pm, $14, 18+.
Parris The Interns.
Pa's 23 Skeedoo, $5-$7, 21+.
Porters Bar and Grill Adam Ezra.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 7-10pm; DJ Johnny C, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Mike Stern Quartet with Bob Franceschini, Lincoln Goines and Terri Lyne Carrington, 7:30 and 10pm, $18.
Roggie's Bar and Grill Upstairs: Ali, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: McCoy Tyn... 9pm, $30
Scullers Cyrus Chestnut, 8 and 10:30pm, $22
Sky Bar Hypersolid, Moontide, New Son Risi... and Great Day for Up, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet featuring J... Repa, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Heavy Stud, 9:30pm; t... Konks, 10:30pm; Detroit Cobras, 11:45 pm, $1... 18+.
The Western Front Owen Plant, 9pm, $8.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner, Joe McMah... Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Valerie Stephens, 8pm.

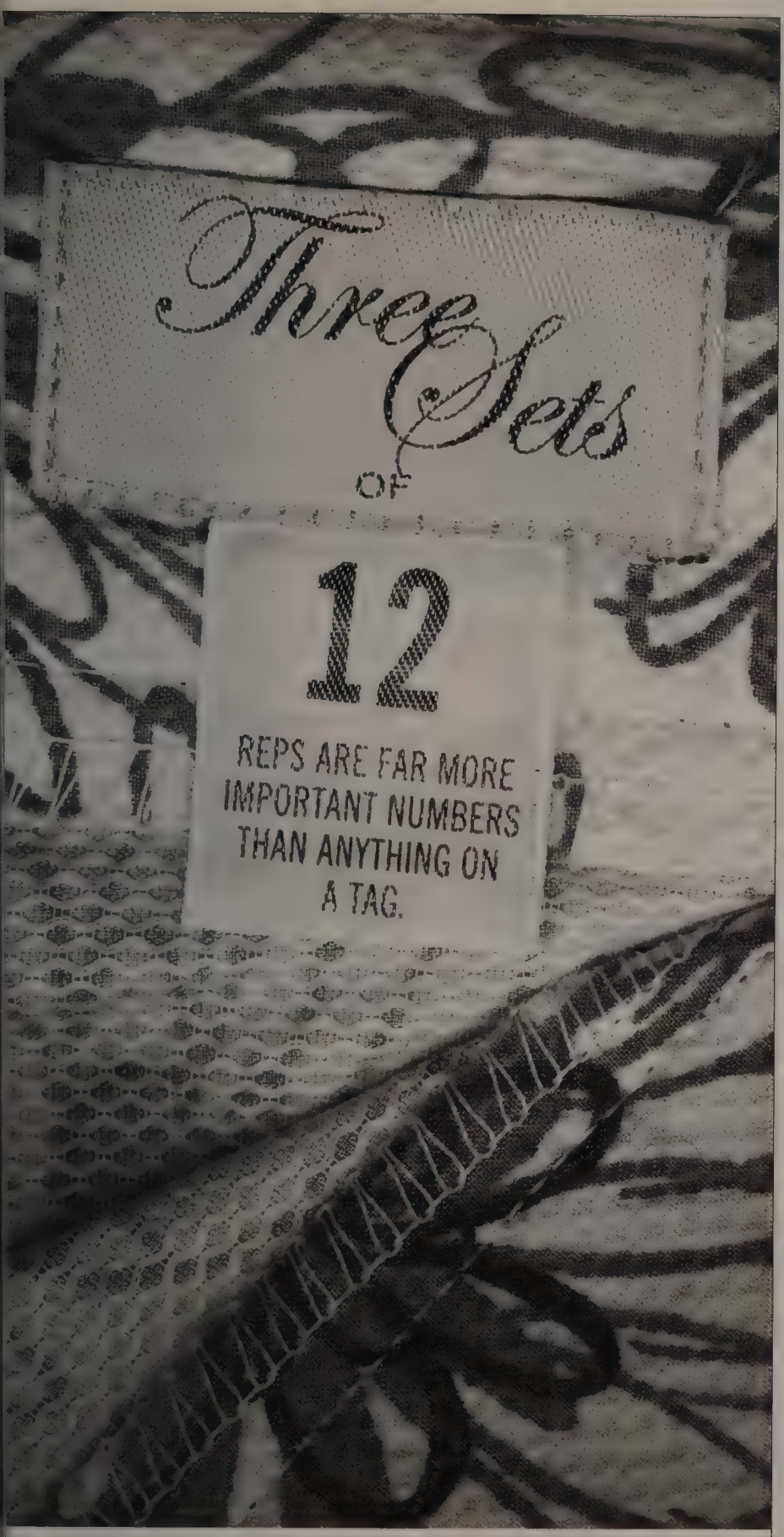
SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Abbey Lounge The Collisions, 21+.
Asgard Joe Merrick and Stu Lee.
The Avenue Ali, 7-9pm, no cover, all ages.
Axis Slightly Stoopid, Flag of Shiners and Pepp... 7pm, $12, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Son... Rollins, 8pm, $29.50-$35.50, all ages.
The Big Easy Misfit Toys.
Black Horse Tavern Downstairs: live music, 12am.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan. Dow... stairs: Frank Ryan. Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quart... 7:30pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7pm, ... cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & t... Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Susan Werner and Jonathan Poin... 7 and 10pm, $20.
Common Ground Heather Hates You and t... Spoilers.
Coogan's DJ Craig, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Christ the King Presbyterian Chur... Buddy Greene and Ashley Cleveland, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Brick Park, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no co... all ages.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30p... no cover, 21+.
The Harp Steamroller Picnic, 10pm, cover var... 21+.
Harper's Ferry Superhoney, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Vic Chesnutt with M. Wa... 10pm, $14, 18+.
The Independent Jake Brennan, 10pm.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2a... $8.
Johnny D's Levon Helm & the Last Hombr... 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy, 10pm, ... after 10pm, 21+.
Kendall Café Kerri Powers, 9:30pm; John C... Band, 10:30pm; the Kickbacks, 11:30pm, $7.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Eighteen Abbey, Just Anot... Victim and Plexico Mesa, $5.
Limbo Herman Johnson, 9pm, $15, 21+.
The Linwood 2nd Annual Punks vs. Lympho... benefit, 10pm, $10.
Lizard Lounge CD-release party featuring J... Tiger Saw and Seana Carmody, 9pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Anodyne, Defcon 4 and ... out of Balance, 2pm, $7, 18+; Give, Garrison, Ha... and Radar Eyes, 9pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Susp... Device, Kings of Nuthin', Hudson Falcons and Str... Dogs, $10, 21+.
The Orpheum Dar Williams and the Ben T... lor Band, 8pm, $25-$30.
Paradise Addison Groove Project and OM T... 9pm, $14, 18+.
Parris The Interns
Pa's Ruby Lashes, $5-$7, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Josh Hall and Brick P... 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Star 93.7 dance party with Vinnie ... ruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Scullers Cyrus Chestnut, 8 and 10:30pm, $2...
Sky Bar The Huda, Living Inward, Yellow Brick... and Vacationland, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theater The Waifs and Jess Kl... 8pm, $20-$25, all ages.
Tír na nÓg Kevin Connelly.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet with I... Person, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Suntan, 9pm; Charl... 10pm; the Bloodthirsty Lovers, 11pm; Lockgro... 12am, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21
Les Zygomates Eula Lawrence, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Abbey Lounge The Guts, 6:30pm, 21+...

ADRIANA



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Dents, 7:30pm, 21+; Malibu Lou, 8:30pm, 21+; Kowalskis, 9:30pm, 21+; Drag the River featuring members of All, Nobodys and Armchair Martians, 10:30pm, 21+.
The Black Rose Frank Ryan and Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Nat Simpkins Jazz Quartet, 10am - 3pm, $3-$7.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Jazz Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Susan Werner, Jonathan Pointer, 8pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort Gospel Brunch, 10am-3pm.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Forsyth Chapel Curtis Henderson and Athene Wilson & Friends, 4pm, $10, all ages.
Green Street Grill Balla Tounkara & Groupe Spirit, 11:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Mofro, $6, 21+.
House of Blues Motet and Dead Cat Bounce, 9:30, $10, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 10pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30-8:30pm; Salsa dancing and lessons with Rumba NaMa, 9pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam and jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Kimone, the Trouble With Sweeny, Emergency Music and Jeffrey Simmons, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Local H, Jucifer and the Humanoids, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The New Black Eagle Jazz Band 3pm, $16.
The Roxy Disco Biscuits, 8pm, $20, 18+.
Sky Bar Pug Uglies, USM and the Difference Engine, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place TW Walsh, 9pm; Adam Voith, 940pm; Dave Fischoff, 10:15 pm; Damien Jurado, 11pm, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon Trio,, 9:30pm, 21+.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday blues jam with King Bazo, 7-11pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Mark Brine, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike poetry night, featuring Jasaga, 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Guitarioke with Leah, 7:20pm, no cover.

Widespread Panic's tour lands them at the Orpheum April 15.

Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Hot Tamale Brass Band, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
House of Blues Todd Lieberman, 9pm, $7, all ages.
Johnny D's Pine Hill Ramblers, $5.
Kendall Café The Springhill Rounders, $5.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan
Lizard Lounge Comedy open mike, 7-9pm, no cover, 21+; the Fringe, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Soltero, Autumn Rhythm and the Eye Sores, $8, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 10pm, 21+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6-10pm; DJ Mike Janedy, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg The Black Eggs
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Roxie, 9pm; the Kickovers, 9:50pm; Nerf Herder, 10:45pm, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Abbey Lounge Susan Murotake, 8:30pm, $3, 21+; Jim Foster, 9pm, $3, 21+; Pete Fitzpatrick, 9:30pm, $3, 21+.
Avalon Everclear, the Exies and Authority Zero, 8pm, $17.75, all ages.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blue Light Special, 10m, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill High Plains Drifters, 10:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, $10, 18+.
House of Blues Jonah Smith and the Dwight Richter Band, 9pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Iguanas, 8:30pm, $15.
Kendall Café Shamsi Ruhe, 8pm; Tommy Dempsey, 9pm; Daniel Burke Band, 10pm, $6.
Kinsale Paul Duffy.
Limbo Kevin Harris Trio, 8pm, $15, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Ad Frank and the Fast Easy Women with special guests Kristen Barry and Reverend Glasseye, 8:30pm, $8-$10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Battles, Helms, Masarati and Polaris Mine, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Mark Gardener, the Junior Panthers and the Good North, $12, 18+.
Orpheum Theater Widespread Panic, 7pm, $28.50, all ages.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Scullers Andy Narell and Sakesho, 8 and 10pm, $20.
Sky Bar Rebecca Nurse, Specimen 37 and Private Circus, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Vas Deferens, 9pm; Thirdshift, 9:50pm; Brilliant Mistake, 11:30pm, $5, 18+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

advance seating

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Adult and Magas April 24, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Aereogramme, the Delgados and the Essex Green April 25, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Afro-Cuban All Stars April 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Cheap Trick April 21, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Cher May 2, Worcester Centrum Centre (508-755-6800)
Cousteau and Seks Bomba May 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Jen Durkin and Donna the Buffalo April 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Flaming Lips April 23, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Grand Drive and Josh Bennett May 3, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Adam Green, Ben Kweller and Kings of Leon April 19, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Groove Armada April 16, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Habrera Hativeet May 10, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Etta James & the Roots Band May 30, FleetBoston Pavilion 617-931-2000)
Ute Lemper April 26, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Lifehouse April 28, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Mariza May 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Maroon5, Matchbox Twenty and Sugar Ray May 12, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
My Chemical Romance, Thrice and the Used April 20, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
R. Carlos Nakai with Will Clipman May 17, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
92.9 WBOS EarthFest with Sheryl Crow April 26, Hatch Shell (617-727-9547)
The Roots May 2, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Hussain May 17, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Songbird Foundation Benefit with Bonnie Raitt and John Mayer April 26, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Spookie Daly Pride April 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Super Diamond May 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Suzanne Vega May 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Wallflowers April 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The White Stripes April 20, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Widespread Panic April 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
The Yeah Yeah Yeahs and the Greenhornes May 6, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631.*
All Asia Cafe *334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Arlington Center for the Arts *41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220).*
The Asgard *350 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
The Big Easy *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *340 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Christ the King Presbyterian Church *99 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-864-5464). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line or Green Line to Government Center.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Boston (617-350-9977). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Bright (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Bos (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymark*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St, Cambridge (617-87 1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Hard Rock Cafe *131 Clarendon St., Bos (617-353-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-74 1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (61 254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Av*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambrid (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harva*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somervi (617-440-6021).*
Jake Ivory's *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-24 1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-77 2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-45 9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-45 1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-78 9082). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros W Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Lin Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Bos (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Par*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-557 MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somervi (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-028 MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-26 8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (6 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Lucy Parsons Center *549 Columbus Av Boston (617-267-6272). MBTA: Orange Lin Mass. Ave.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (6 524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
The Nameless Coffeehouse *First Par Unitarian Universalist Church, 3 Church St., Cambr (617-864-1630). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (6 482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Stre*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Bost (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-880 MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somervilie (6 776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Porters Bar and Grill *173 Portland St., Bos (617-742-7678).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-2 2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Cen*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-105 MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-6 5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Roggie's Bar and Grill *356 Chestnut H Ave., Brighton (617-566-1880). MBTA: B Green L to Chestnut Hill Ave.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambri (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (6 496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field R Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Cenh*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-6 5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerv (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tir na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (6 628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building North Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or E Line to Government Center.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (6 536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambr (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wilbur Theatre *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-4 4008). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-3 2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., C bridge (617-876-6060).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-5 5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Music in the Cathedral Series
Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, 138 Tremont Street (617-482-4826). MBTA: Green Line or Red Line to Park. 12:15pm. $2. This 30-minute concert features Brian Felty, tenor, playing organ and lute.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Top NEC student pianists compete in the Bluthner Piano Competition.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Ken Schaphorst directs first-and second-year students from the NEC Jazz Ensembles.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$34.* Ingo Metzmacher conducts a performance of works by Ives, Mahler, Carter and Bartok, featuring baritone Matthias Goerne.

Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Boston and Berklee College of Music
Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Boston, 170 Beacon St. (617-262-6050). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH or Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. A piano recital by David Gross features works by Schulhoff, Haas and Klein.

Music at the Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). www.marybakereddylibrary.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony Hall. 6pm. Free.* Courtney and Brian Rowe perform classical selections on the flute and piano.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Benjamin Zander and Kaori Yamagami of the NEC Symphony Orchestra present an all-Shostakovich program.

Wellesley College Concert Series
106 Central Street, Wellesley (781-283-2028). 7pm. Free. Kris Adams and Paula Zeilin direct the Body and Soul and Synergy Jazz String Ensemble.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

All Newton Music School
321 Chestnut St., West Newton (617-527-4553). 11am. $15. The So Many Influences, So Many Songs program features Katie Finn on vocals and guitar and Steve Katz on bass and dulcimer.

Boston Early Music Festival
First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-661-1812). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.bemf.org. *8pm. $20-$48.* Jordi Savall directs the Spanish ensemble Hesperion XXI in performing 15th- and 16th-century instrumental dance music from the Spanish peninsula. Savall conducts a pre-concert discussion at 6:30pm.

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). 7:30pm. $33-$152. BLO presents Giacomo Puccini's *La Rondine*, a romantic tale of a woman who gets a second chance with her first true love. The opera is sung in Italian with projected English text.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. $25-$84.* Same program as April 3.

Chorus pro Musica
The Great Faneuil Hall, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-734-4175). MBTA: Green Line to Govt. Center. 8pm. $18-$25. A *Pan American Journey* is a concert of choral works from Central and South America.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $35-$58.* Pianist Max Levinson joins the Brentano String Quartet in a performance of Bach's *Art of the Fugue.* In addition, the quartet plays 10 companion pieces by contemporary composers.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$56.* Same program as April 3.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1-3pm. Free.* Longy hosts its Annual Concerto Competition for students.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $20; $15, students and seniors.* Pro Musicis presents guitarist Luiz Mantovari playing works by Paladino, Moreno-Torroba, Bach, Coste, and Ginastera.

The Shanghai Quartet at Jordan Hall
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $15-$25; seniors and students $2 off. This string quartet performs classical selections from Beethoven and Schubert as well as a collection of Chinese folk songs.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). 3pm. $33-$152. Same program as April 4.

Boston Recorder Society
Historic Loring Greenhouse, 12 South St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-2002). 3pm. $15; $12, students and seniors. Trio Saltarello presents *La Stravaganza*, a concert of Italian Baroque music.

Emmanuel Music
15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free. Craig Smith directs the chorus in its weekly cantata.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $35-$55.* Slovenian pianist Dubravka Tomsic performs.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $15; $10, students and seniors.* The Cantata Singers explore alternative sides of Bizet, Verdi and Wagner.

Music at the Newton Free Library
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street, Newton (617-796-1360). 3pm. Free. Soprano Carla Chrisfield and pianist William Merril perform works of Haydn, Debussy, Satie and Brahms.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3770). www.tickets.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 3pm. $24, $20, members, students and seniors.* John Gibbons performs Beethoven on the MFA's historical grand piano.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland-conser vatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* NEC faculty member Douglas Buys plays the piano.

Sunday Music Series at the Gardner
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.com. *1:30pm. $10-$18.* Musicians from Marlboro perform works by Haydn, Bartok and Mozart in this James Lawrence Memorial Concert.

The Weilerstein Trio performs at Jordan Hall April 10.

Wellesley College Concert Series
106 Central Street, Wellesley (781-283-2028). 7pm. Free. Lois Shapiro on the piano, Bayla Keyes on the violin and Rhonda Rider on the cello in Triple Helix Piano Trio. Guest artist Kim Kashkashian performs on the viola.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Boston University Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $10-$35. David Hoose and Ann Howard Jones conduct the Boston University Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Chorus.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6:30pm. Free.* Saxophonist Allen Chase's Duo Ensemble and bassist Cecil McBee's Tuesday Ensemble perform in the Keller Jazz series.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Three members of NEC's BSO faculty join oboist Laura Ahlbeck, flautist Marianne Gedigan and artistic director Laurence Lessler in a First Monday performance.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). 7:30pm. $33-$152. Same program as April 4.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6:30pm. Free.* Saxophonist Steve Lacy coaches NEC's Wednesday and Thursday ensembles as part of the Keller Jazz series.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Music Director Donald Palma coaches a conductorless NEC Chamber Orchestra in performing works of Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Britten.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm.* The Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the American Boychoir join conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky, tenor Vinson Cole and narrator Marhe Keller in a complete performance of Prokofiev's ballet *Chout* and Stravinsky's melodrama, *Persephone*.

Midday Organ Recital
Adolphus Busch Hall, Harvard Art Museums (617-495-4544). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 12:15pm. Free. This recital features Sung Hee Lee from the Boston Conservatory.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* NEC's trio in residence, the Weilerstein Trio, makes its Jordan Hall debut.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm.* Same program as April 10.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrity series.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $35-$55.* Violinist Gil Shaham joins Swedish guitarist Goran Sollscher in performing works by Paganini, Schubert and Piazzolla.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3605). 8pm. $27-$72. Music director Grant Llewellyn conducts the society in a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

Janus 21 Chamber Music Series
One Potter St., Cambridge (617-734-5174). www. janus21.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $21.* The Sante Fe Music Festival Ensemble performs works by Haydn, Schubert and Mahler.

Music at the Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). www.mary bakereddylibrary.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6pm. Free.* Brian Wright performs jazz and classical piano.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm.* Same program as April 10.

Boston Early Music Festival
Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jesuit Urban Center, 775 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-661-1812). www.bemf.org. *7:30pm. $20-$48.* Masaaki Suzuki directs his Bach Collegium Japan, in their North American debut tour, performing Bach's masterpieces on the eve of Palm Sunday. Suzuki joins Harvard professor Christoph Wolff for a pre-concert discussion at 6pm.

Composers in Red Sneakers
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-9101). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $12, $8 students, seniors. Composers in Red Sneakers presents Party Lines, a collection of 21st-century chamber music by composers Howard Frazin, Margaret McAllister, Lansing McLoskey, Eric Sawyer, Kurt Stallmann and Francine Trester.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $35-$55.* Pianist Emanuel Ax joins clarinetist Richard Stoltzman in performing Schumann's *Phantasiestucke* and Brahms' Clarinet Sonatas.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3605). 3pm. $27-$72. Same program as April 11. April 12 is Family Day, and a parent may bring up to four children ages 8 to 18 for half price with the purchase of a full-price ticket. A preconcert talk by music director Grant Llewellyn begins at 1:45.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

All Newton Music School
321 Chestnut Street, West Newton (617-527-4553). 4pm. $15-$25. Pianist Janice Weber performs a recital of 1930s music.

Emmanuel Music
15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10am. Free. Craig Smith directs the chorus in its weekly cantata.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $35-$55.* Harvard University music professor and pianist Robert Levin performs works by Beethoven and Brahms in his Boston Marquee concert, which also features the world premiere of John Harbison's Second Piano Sonata.

Forest Hills Educational Trust
Forsyth Chapel, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *4pm.* Curtis Henderson and Athene Wilson sing in *A Concert of Spirituals*, featuring songs of promise and hope.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3605). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $27-$72. Same program as April 11.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Free.* BSO percussionist and musical director Frank Epstein leads the NEC Percussion Ensemble in a performance of the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize–winning composer Joan Tower's *Percussion Quintet*.

Sunday Music Series at the Gardner
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.com. *1:30pm. $10-$18.* The Gardner Chamber Ensemble, featuring cellist Alisa Weilerstein, performs works by Schumann and Schubert, conducted by Douglas Boyd.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Free.* Saxophonist George Garzone coaches the Monday Ensemble at 6:30pm and the Ascension Ensemble at 7:30pm. Cecil McBee coaches the Monday Ensemble at 8:30pm.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm.* Same program as April 10.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2pm. Free.* Lucy Stoltzman leads a group of chamber music coaches in this concerto.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Free.* Bassist John Lockwood and pianist Danilo Perez coach their respective ensembles at 6:30 and 7:30pm.

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge Attain transcendence in the exotic world of Buddha Bar with DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
ZMQ performs, 6-9:30pm, no cover, 21+. Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ricky, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip-hop and R&B, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJs Bobby and Chris D. spin a mix of top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
Live music with Zeke Martin, 6-10pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band spices things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake. 10pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
The Underground The latest underground music from DJ Chris Rucker with performances by new live acts, 9pm, $10, 18+; $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; live music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top-40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted by Kiss 108, proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights host karaoke downstairs, 8-11pm, 21+. DJ Josh Hall gets the dance party started upstairs, 11pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes and old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11pm-2am, 21+.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover before 11pm, $15 after 11pm, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays: DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rich Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
Thursday nights it's live music with Unique Approach, 6-10pm. DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10pm, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lover's rock, roots reggae and R&B, 10pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.

Preview

Three Petes

Vertigo's new not-quite-dance night

Peter Ellis spins at Analog Lounge at Vertigo with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete and one non-Pete, Greg Blake.

Behind the DJ, a crowd hurries past the enormous plate glass windows of the Vertigo Lounge—State Street is surprisingly busy at midnight on a Wednesday. A well-dressed throng heads into the Exchange for a hip-hop night, a few businessmen spill out of nearby bars and psy-trancers and lounge-goers alike slowly stream into Vertigo. Downstairs, awash in Day Glo colors and blacklight, the Vertigo dance floor is packed with psychedelic trance fans gyrating to the insistent beats of an old-school desert rave soundtrack. Upstairs, the Vertigo Lounge offers a completely different world, having undergone its weekly transformation to become Analog Lounge.

Analog Lounge bills itself as an "oasis," a laid-back, Wednesday-night happening where all sorts of folks gather to hear some of Boston's best underground DJs in a plush and relaxing atmosphere. Resident DJs Greg Blake, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Pete Yagmin (that's right, three of the four resident DJs are named Pete) spin alongside local guests every week. "I think that what sets Analog Lounge apart is the vibe," says Peter Ellis. "We have a great scene where people come to just sit back for a few hours, chat with friends and enjoy the music."

The music may be mellow, but it always packs a four-on-the-floor beat. Listeners might hear anything from deep trance to progressive house. "There's no dance floor, so no one is waiting for some dramatic breakdown where the air completely explodes in deafening music and flashing lights," says Ellis. "What makes me happy, as a DJ, is to see one, two, five, or however many people getting down to the music. I know that not everyone is going to love every record, but it absolutely makes my week when I can look down the bar and see some guy or some girl that I haven't seen around before, sitting there sipping a martini and moving their body to the beat."—*Daniel Spurling*

Analog Lounge, upstairs at Vertigo, 126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277). Wed., 10pm-2am. $5. No dress code. 21+.

The Place

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Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music with no attitude, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old school and dance hall, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Boston rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins a mix of house, lounge and dance in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Harp
•April 4, Last Man Standing performs live, 10pm, $10, 21+. •April 11, Live music with Steamroller Picnic, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
There's a party on all floors with DJ Tom Connors, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Doc goes all-out with top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10pm-2am, 21+.

Matrix

Level
Velvet Lounge DJ Santangelo and DJ Anthony spin house and hip-hop, $10.

Matrix Fridays
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $20, 18+; $15, 21+. •**The Officers Club** DJ Statik Selektah and Chubby Chub spin hip-hop and R&B, and JR Swoosh spins reggae, proper dress, 8pm, ladies free, men $5, before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+, after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress required, $10, 21+, $15, after 10pm; $20, 18+. •**3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs pump the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9pm.

The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement, 7-10pm. DJ Johnny C, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10pm, no cover, 19+.

RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fishel pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night full of hot Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Sharpen up your salsa and merengue moves with lessons from 7-10pm, then shake it to live music by the Latin Party Boys or hit the dance floor with DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 tunes and acoustic shows entertain on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop and top-40 remix with DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with progressive house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Axis
Start! Hear DJ Gibby spin alternative rock and get nostalgic to '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs host a night of dancing to top-40 and rock music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down Losers and has-beens are welcome to boogie down with DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
•April 5, Central Basement performs live, 10pm, $10, 21+. •April 12, Live music with Steamroller Picnic, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins the latest top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs with top-40, 10pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.

Level
In the Russian Lounge, DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music. In Elite, DJ Pace spins house, techno and international music on two levels, $10.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz moves the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**El Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $25, 18+; $20, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $20, 18+; $10, 21+ before 10pm, $15 after 10pm.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. •April 5, Live music with the Marcels, 10pm, $5, 21+. •April 12, Brick Park Performs, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins a mix of house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.

The Rack
Join the dance party hosted by Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles, 8pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Easy Does It Shake your groove thang with DJs Easy and Goodwood spinning soft '70s, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm. Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover before 10pm, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
Dance to house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk with DJ Bruno, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC makes the night global with Latin house and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin international house and hip-hop, 11pm, 19+.

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Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house in the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-hop in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a night of electric dance, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Sundays DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes while resident DJs Osheen and Rob D. and weekly guests spin house, hip-hop and techno, $10.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•Lumen Eclipse Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30pm, 21+. **•Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge Kick back and experience this trend-setting night, 10pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officer's Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
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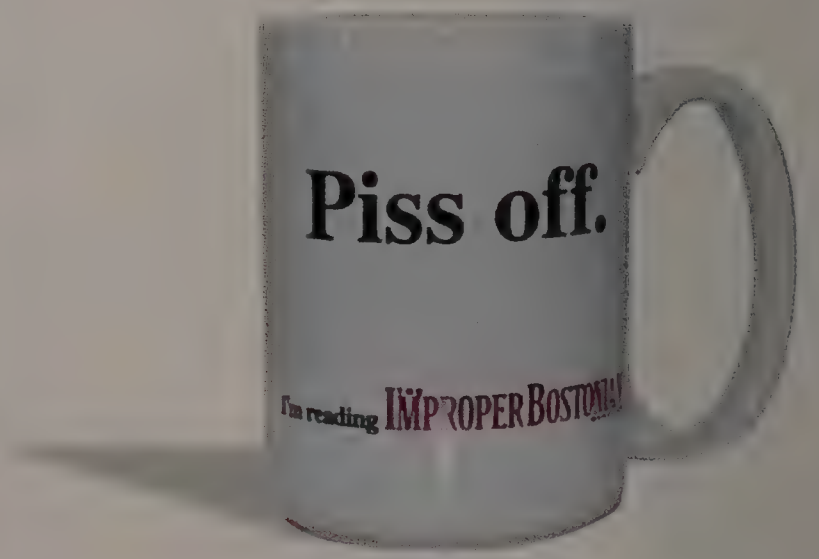

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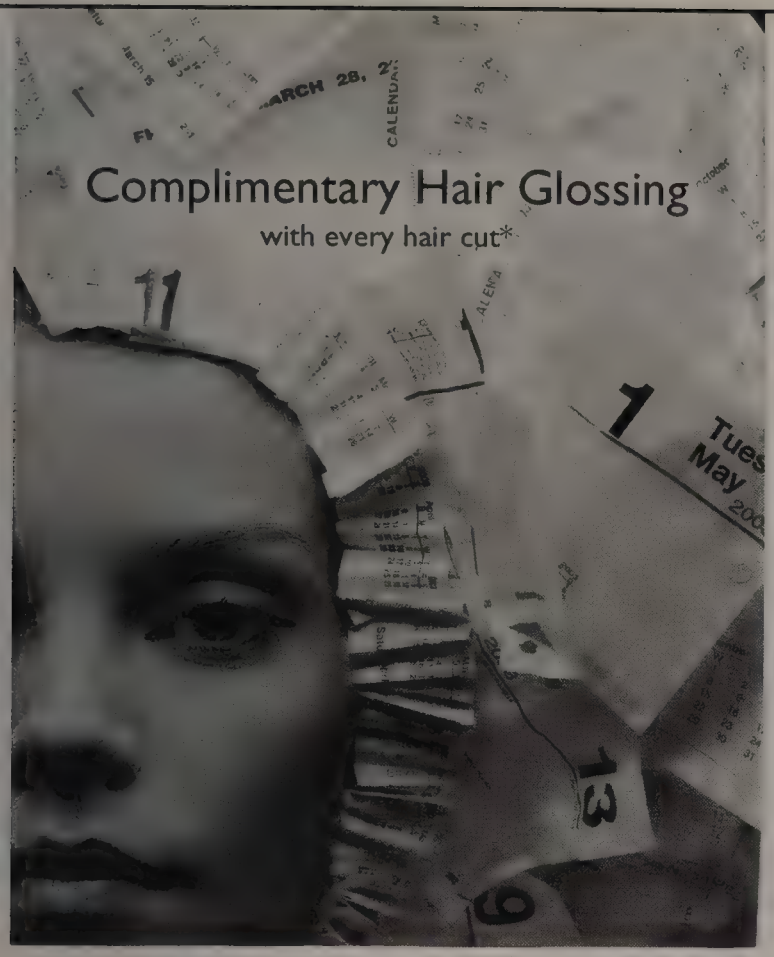

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Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* displays collected objects and images from the Byzantine era. Shows through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* shows India as the British saw it through documentary photographs, paintings and other period artwork. Through May 25.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm.* •Words on Fire, an eight-week, multi-site festival celebrating freedom of expression, presents three exhibits at the BPL through May 11: *Writer's Block*, an installation by Sheryl Oring, features more than 500 pre–World War II typewriters in 16 metal cages; *Black Books: The First African American Authors* looks at influential black authors; and Susan Erony and Erika Marquardt collaborate on *A Meeting of Minds*, an installation exploring Jewish and German cultures in pre-war Germany. •*An Education in Craftsmanship: New Work from the North Bennet Street School* displays students' furniture and crafts. April 12-May 11

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows include Italian and African art. •*Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon and the Victor Weeps*, a show of three photographic installations, captures life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan. Through June 8. •*The Space Between: Artists Engaging Race and Syncretism* explores the African diaspora through the work of several artists. Through June 8. •*Bridging the Border: Shared Themes in Mexican and U.S. Art 1900-1950* shows through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*Tools as Art* is a collection of artists' works incorporating everyday tools. Through May 25. •*The Pig Wings Project* displays sculpture made from actual pig tissue through May 25. •*Street Portraits, 1946-1976: The Photographs of Jules Aarons* displays through May 25. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through August 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree. Through August 31. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II*, the DeCordova's sequel to last-year's collection of landscapes, shows through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10am-6pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*Fire Upon the Hearth: A Celebration of Irish American Women* highlights the lives and work of several New Englanders, including Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* displays through May 4. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows through July 6. •*Christopher Wilmarth: Drawing into Sculpture* looks at how drawings inspired the artist's glass and steel sculptures. April 5-June 29.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young*, also ongoing, displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines.

Deborah Davidson's *Control Me* shows as part of her exhibition *Glyphs*, on display at the William-Scott Gallery April 4-May 10.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Carsten Höller: Half Fiction*, the first stateside solo exhibition by Belgian-born artist Carsten Höller, includes one of his interactive, two-floor slide sculptures, which visitors can slide down to reach the gallery. Through April 27. •*Building a Vision: Diller + Scofidio in Boston* is a preview of the models for the ICA's new waterfront location, which is set to begin construction in September. Through April 27.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •The work of conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth kicks off the museum's Centennial celebration. Through April 6.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through November 2. •*Steven Holl: Light, Material and Detail* surveys the work of one of the most acclaimed contemporary architects. Through April 16. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the last 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •The exhibit *18th Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* is the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Traveling Scholars 2002* shows the work of nine School of the Museum of Fine Arts graduates. Through April 6. •*Impressions of Light* surveys French landscape art from Corot to Monet. Through April 13. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative art collection from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. April 2-September 21.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant *T. rex*. Ongoing. •*Invention at Play* explores the skills children develop during playtime activities. Through April 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •*Final Exposure: Death Row Portraits*, photographs by Lou Jones, shows with Keith Washington's *At Our Gates: American Landscapes.* Through July 6.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through August.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-5pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theatres, only one of which functions today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries
FINE ART

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Katharina Chapuis presents *New Abstract Paintings* through April 2. •Gideon Bok's work shows in *Studio Paintings.* April 5-30.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Joanne Mattera shows her work in *New Paintings in Encaustic.* Through April 29.

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (617-585-6676). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •The gallery features contemporary Chinese prints. Through April 21.

Artists' Group of Charlestown
523 Medford St., Charlestown (617-241-7641). Fri.-Sun., 11am-6pm. •The *Sixth Annual Members' Show* features the work of 24 artists. April 4-6.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Scott Hadfield shows his new work in a self-titled show. Through April 23.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Freddie Brice presents his large-scale images of ships, interiors, animals and clocks. Through April 26.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm and by appointment.* •The Blackstone Press Printmakers present the exhibit *proGLYPHic.* Through April 5.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm.* •Stephen Black shows his sculptures in *Coastal Connections* and Isabella Frost displays her fabric collages in *Italian Memories.* April 6-May 2.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmcusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-5:30pm.* •Stephanie Maria shows her mixed media paintings in *American Patterns: Methods of Dominion.* April 3-May 16. •Gerald Rhodes shows paintings, drawings and collages in *Further Along.* April 8-May 15.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Sun. 12-11:30pm. •Sue Williams presents a solo exhibition through April 10. •Abstract expressionist Beauford Delaney displays his art in *The Color Yellow.* Through May 4.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* •*Outspoken Glass from Japan*, a group show, displays through April 5. •*New Perspectives*, a group show of glass artists from New Zealand, displays April 12-May 10.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon*

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After many a night listening to the details of their patrons' lives, Boston's favorite drink slingers will tell you a little about themselves and share their professionally perfected recipes. This issue is a city fave! Throughout these pages, Boston's hippest restaurants, bars, clubs and beverage companies also get a shot at the limelight. Belly on up to book you advertising space now.

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MAGAZINE

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Issue Date: April 16 Advertising Deadline: April 2

Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm. •Babs Kletter shows her landscapes in *Images of Older Work.* April 2-26.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •*The Age of Napoleon* features period pieces by various artists. Through May 3.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Third Floor, Boston (617-695-0255). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm. •Jeff Konigsberg shows his prints and Dread Scott displays black-and-white portraits and written text focusing on prison inmates in *Lockdown* April 4-26.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •New England artists display their work in *Manifest 2003: A Juried Exhibition of Visual Art in Digital Media.* April 10-May 10.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing Italian Murano glass sculpture exhibition and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free. •David Thompson's color photographs display in *The Prodigal Summer.* Through May 3.

808 Gallery
Boston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-3329). MBTA: Green Line to BU West. Mon.-Fri., 9am-6pm; Sat., 12-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. •*The North American Print Biennial* presents work by contemporary artist Apo Torosyan. Through April 6. •The works of French printmaker Henri Goetz and his students are featured in *Carborundum Printmaking: Henri Goetz and His Legacy.* Through April 6. •The School of the MFA student *Graphic Design Exhibition* displays April 11-May 4.

Elias Fine Art
120 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm, and by appointment. •*Impressions of a Revolution: New Prints* features works by Willie Cole, Ann Hamilton, Takashi Murakami, Sigmar Polke, Kara Walker and others. Through April 26.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Hidden Language* features metal point drawings by Claudia Ravaschiere and pinhole photographs by Jessica Ferguson. Through April 18.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10am-5pm. •Paula Rendino Zaentz's photographs show in *Mudras: The Language of the Hand.* Through May 30.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Tue., 6-9pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5pm.* •Danielle Dwyer, L. Michael Ledbetter and Suzannah Sinclair show their work in *Works on Paper.* Through April 26.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Yizhak Elyashiv shows his recent prints. April 3-26.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Matt Aharle displays his sculpture in *New Works.* April 4-30.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •*In My View: Works of Prosaic Beauty*, a group photography show, is on view through April 11. •Jonathan Singer shows his work in *Digital Prints.* April 15-June 6.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hallspace.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Curator Ethan Berry presents *Seeing Is Believing: Skeptical Print Activity*, a collection of X-ray, MRI and CAT scan images. Through April 5. •Barry Hazard shows his paintings April 12-May 10.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Paul Shakespear shows his new paintings in a self-titled show. Through April 22.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-6pm. •*Videospace 3: Soft Science*, a new installation by Kathy High and Sarah Smiley, shows through April 13. •Brazilian artist Jose Goncalves shows his recent work in *Fragmentos.* April 3-13.

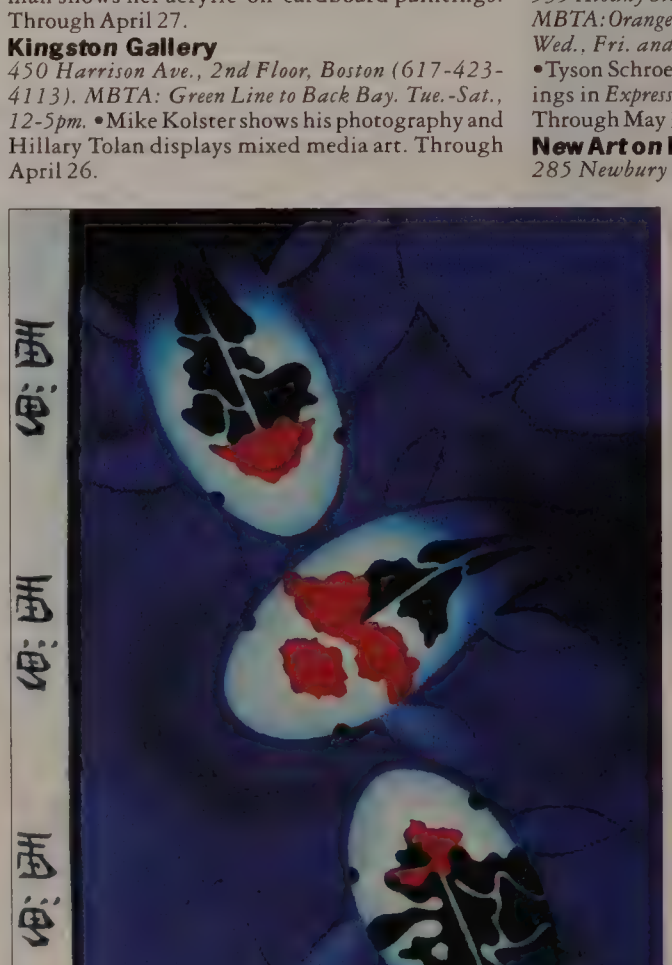
Judy Ann Goldman Fine Art
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Doug Bosch displays his sculpture and Kunie Sugiura shows photograms. Through April 26.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •*Drawing*, a group show, displays through April 10. •*Dot Exhibition: Study of Elements*, a collection of watercolors, shows April 12-May 1.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm. Interiors/Exteriors*, a juried show of abstract work, displays through April 29.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Ann Strassman shows her acrylic-on-cardboard paintings. Through April 27.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Mike Kolster shows his photography and Hillary Tolan displays mixed media art. Through April 26.


Crist Filer's watercolors show at Sacramento Street Gallery.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Sculpting the Wall* is an exhibition of artful wall decoration by artists Roger Thomas, Susan Hersey and Steve Lohman. Through April 30.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12pm-6pm; Fri., 12pm-8pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm. •*Paul Pfeiffer: Morning After the Deluge and Other Works* uses digital media to explore themes of race, culture and identity. Through April 6. •Five artists display media work in *Just Stand There*, and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's short video, *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex*, shows. April 8-July 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markartgallery.com. *Wed. and Fri., 4pm-7pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Rob Brooks and Carol Lynne Gove show their oil paintings in *I See/You See.* Through April 4. •Shaun MacDavid and Peter Arvidson display oil and mixed media work. April 5-May 9.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercury gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Alchemy: Collage and Mixed Media Paintings*, a group show, displays April 5-30.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30pm.* •*Unlikely Portraits*, a group show, is on display with Philip Guston's lithographs through April 8.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Info@blah: Organization and Overload*, a group show, displays through May 11.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm.* •*The Banished Body*, puppeteering by Julia Szabo, shows through April 19.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •Gail Bessette shows her new work. April 3-May 4.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11am-4pm and by appointment. •Tyson Schroeder displays his paintings and drawings in *Expressions of Fear and Human Consciousness.* Through May 3.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Tue.-Sun., 11am-6pm. •Royal Hadfield, Richard Swiatlowski, Tracy Levesque and Petersen Thomas show their work in *Run Away with the Next Renoir.* Through April 8. •*Take Home the Next Homer*, a group show of oils, watercolors, photography, digital work and sculpture, displays April 10-May 11.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www. nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Christopher Wilmarth showcases his work in *Gift of the Bridge: Related Drawings and Sculpture*. Through May 3.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Elizabeth Marran shows her digital prints in *Blue Rapunzel Series.* April 4-26.

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., Boston (617-542-6983). www.onigallery.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. Wed.-Sun., 2-8pm and by appointment.* •Daniel Dueck, Sam Lewit and Michelle Weinberg show their work in *Kut Paper.* April 11-May 11.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueart gallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun. 12-6pm.* •*Out of the Blue Sixth Anniversary Art Show* features more than 50 local artists showcasing their work April 12 and 13.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Fance Franc presents *Art Alive* through April 9. •Werner Tübk shows his work in *Mysteries of the Real* and Friedensreich Hundertwasser displays his work in *Paradis* April 12-May 13.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat. 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm.* •Bruce Davidson shows his work through May 10.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue. Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Works by Picasso and Sonia Delaunay show in *Images.* Through May 3.

Sacramento Street Gallery
20 Sacramento St., Cambridge (617-349-6287) MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm •Crist Filer shows his paintings in *Watercolors* Through April 11.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun. 12-5pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •*Jewelry Hard and Soft*, a group show of international artists and craftsmen, shows through April 27.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). Wed. Sat., 12-6; Sun., 1-5; Tue., by appointment. MBTA: Red Line to Davis. •Five local printmakers display their work in *Take Five.* Through April 6. •A memorial exhibition of local artist Hannah Kerstein's work displays April 11-27.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (617-423-9760) www.space12gallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-9pm; Wed., 12-9pm* •Kenny Mac displays drawings and sculpture made from wood and clay through April 26.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •*Omnibus*, a group show of urban and rural landscapes, displays through May 15.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 8:30-1pm. •Robert Castagna, Arthur Freedman, Peter Kilbridge and Michael Larson display their work in *Street Shots.* April 3-25.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •A selection of works from *Vose Art Notes Vol. 11* shows through April 30.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-4030) Tue.-Sat., 10:30am- 5:30pm, and by appointment. •Deborah Davidson displays acrylic-on-vellum images in *Glyphs.* April 4-May 10.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060) www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7pm* •Howard Dinin and Steve Lipsey show their photographs in *The Renewed Burden of Photography: Telling the Truth.* Through April 13.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868) www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Ronald Cowie shows his new work in *To the West: Dreams.* Through April 18.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm.* •Jane Tuckerman displays her photographs. April 3-May 17.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.pboston.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford.* •The PRC inaugarates its new location with a show titled *Your Work Here.* The entire community is invited to bring one photograph to be displayed on the PRC walls. Through April 13.

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books & poetry

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Cambridge Forum
First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-222-3200). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. **Michael B. McElroy**, director of Harvard's Center for the Environment, discusses his work, *The Atmospheric Environment: Effects of Human Activity*, which addresses issues relating to atmosphere, climate and global warming.

Harvard Book Store
The Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* **William Taubman** discusses the book he edited, *Khrushchev on Khrushchev: An Inside Account of the Man and His Era, by His Son,* Sergei Khrushchev's account of his father's last years in power.

Harvard Graduate School of Education
Longfellow Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-496-1835). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Sociologist **Lory Janelle Dance** speaks about her book, *Tough Fronts: The Impact of Street Culture on Schooling*. The book explores the effect of school and street culture on the urban classroom.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. What I Loved: A Novel is **Siri Hustvedt**'s tale of a friendship between two families and the love and hardships that they share over 25 years.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free. Historian **Dr. Joseph Andrews Jr.** reads from *Revolutionary Boston, Lexington and Concord: The Shots Heard 'Round the World!*, a historic guide to local Revolutionary War sites.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 7pm. Free. **Linda Abrams** discusses her book *Vanity: The Art of Looking Good*, which looks at beauty customs through the ages.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Nancy Clark** reads from her novel *The Hills at Home*, in which three generations of the Hill family wear out their welcome at a relative's home. Also, **Jennifer Haigh** reads from *Mrs. Kimble*, a novel in which three women who marry the same man learn that irresistible charm doesn't always make for the perfect husband.

Gallery Diablo
1514 Tremont St., Boston (617-445-6553). MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing or Green Line to Brigham Circle. 7pm. $4. **Ann Killough** and **Michael Mack** read selections of their latest poetry.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Travel expert **Vivek Wagle** discusses her Lonely Planet guide *Europe on a Shoestring*, a 1,200-page reference on 40 European countries.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. In his book *My Life in Heavy Metal,* local author **Steve Almond** explores the relationships between young men and women in 12 short stories. After the reading and signing, the audience can join Almond at the Ariadne restaurant for a drink and appetizers.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7pm. Free. **Carole Maso** discusses *Beauty Is Convulsive,* a series of prose poems about the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Robert and Ellen Kaplan** read from their book *The Art of the Infinite: The Pleasures of Mathematics.* The husband-and-wife team explain how the concept of infinity relates to the understanding of mathematics.

Novelist Siri Hustvedt reads April 2.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* **Helen Vendler** speaks about her book *Coming of Age as a Poet: Milton, Keats, Eliot, Plath*, in which she looks at the early works of the four famous poets.

Newton Free Library Book and Author Luncheon
Newton Marriott, 2345 Comm. Ave., Newton (617-969-4443). 12pm. $30. The 19th annual luncheon brings authors **Justin Kaplan** and **Anne Bernays** to speak about their book, *Back Then: Two Lives in 1950s New York*. The double memoir is the story of two children, one from New York's East Side and one from the West Side, who grew up at a time when the city and the country experienced great transformations. Also, **Dr. Atul Gawande** speaks about his book *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*, in which he uses real-life examples to illustrate the virtues and the limits of modern medicine. Admission includes lunch with the authors, and readings and signings follow.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
6 Plympton St., Cambridge (617-547-4648). www.grolierpoetrybookshop.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6:30pm. Free.* **Martin Espada** reads from *Alabanza,* his collection of poetry.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free. Poets **Bill Knott** and **Franz Wright** read from their work.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *4:30pm. $5.* **Tanuja Desai Hidier** reads from her novel *Born Confused*, a story about a young Indian-American girl grappling with her identity. Manisha Shahane opens with a performance of original music.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

The Boston Public Library's Literary Lights
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (617-536-3886). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6pm. $250-$1,000. The Boston Public Library's 15th annual Literary Lights celebration features Pulitzer Prize–winning columnist **Art Buchwald** as the keynote speaker. Eleven other authors, including **Anita Diamant, Andre Dubus III, Atul Gawande, Peter Guralnick, Ha Jin, Chris Kimball, William Martin, Thomas Moore, David Allen Sibley, John R. Stilgoe** and **Rosanna Warren** are also honored as new "literary lights." The night begins with a reception and dinner, followed by the awards ceremony. The $1,000 ticketholders are listed in the program as grand benefactors and get priority seating. Proceeds benefit the David McCullough Conservation Fund.

Forest Hills Educational Trust—Four Disarmingly Honest Poets
Forsyth Chapel, Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Avenue, Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2pm. $4. Poets **Pam Bernard, Elizabeth McKim, Joyce Peseroff** and **Don Share** read their poetry.

Jamaicaway Books and Gifts Read-O-Rama
676 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-3204). 3pm. Free. Poets from Jamaica Plain and Roslindale, including **Lisa Beatman, Susan Eisenberg, Kurt Leland, Christine Vaughn** and **Marc Widershien**, read from their work.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 3pm. Free. **Julia Spencer-Fleming** signs copies of her book *A Fountain Filled with Blood.* The story follows a priest and an investigator who are brought together to solve a murder.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www. bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free.* Author **Howard Jones** discusses his new book, *Death of a Generation: How the Assassinations of Diem and JFK Prolonged the Vietnam War.*

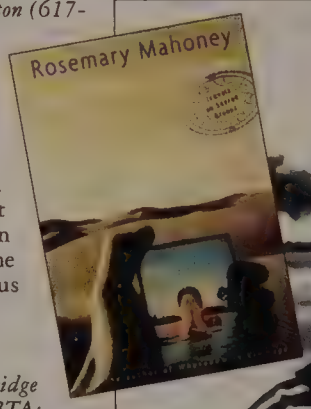
TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. In her book *The Singular Pilgrim: Travels on Sacred Ground*, author **Rosemary Mahoney** tells of her own pilgrimages to holy sites in the United States, Israel, France, Spain and India, and examines the feelings that pilgrims have for holy places.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7pm. Free. Poets **Charles Coe, Wendy Mnookin** and **Afaa Michael Weaver** read their latest work.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Adam Braver** reads from his new book, *Mr. Lincoln's Wars*, a collection of 13 short historical fiction stories that explore the life of the famous president.



WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Laurell K. Hamilton** reads from *Cerulean Sins: An Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter Novel*, part of her New York Times–best-seller suspense series.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Tom Adelman** reads from his book *The Long Ball: The Summer of '75—Spaceman, Catfish, Charlie Hustle and the Greatest World Series Ever Played*, which tells the story of the dramatic 1975 baseball season and its culminating event: the World Series between the Boston Red Sox and the Cincinnati Reds.

Harvard Book Store
The Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free, tickets required in advance.* **Eleanor DeLorme** speaks about her new book, *Josephine: Napoleon's Incomparable Empress*, which examines the life of Joséphine de Beauharnais and her relationship with Napoleon Bonaparte.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Siddharth Deb**, a native of India, reads from his debut novel *The Point of Return*, a look at how a father-son relationship is aggravated by rapid changes in India's cultural and political climate.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. In *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, a young street musician travels the country in search of a home and finds one in an unlikely place. Author **Lisa Borders** reads from her book and then joins patrons at a nearby restaurant, Ariadne, for a free drink, appetizers and discussion.

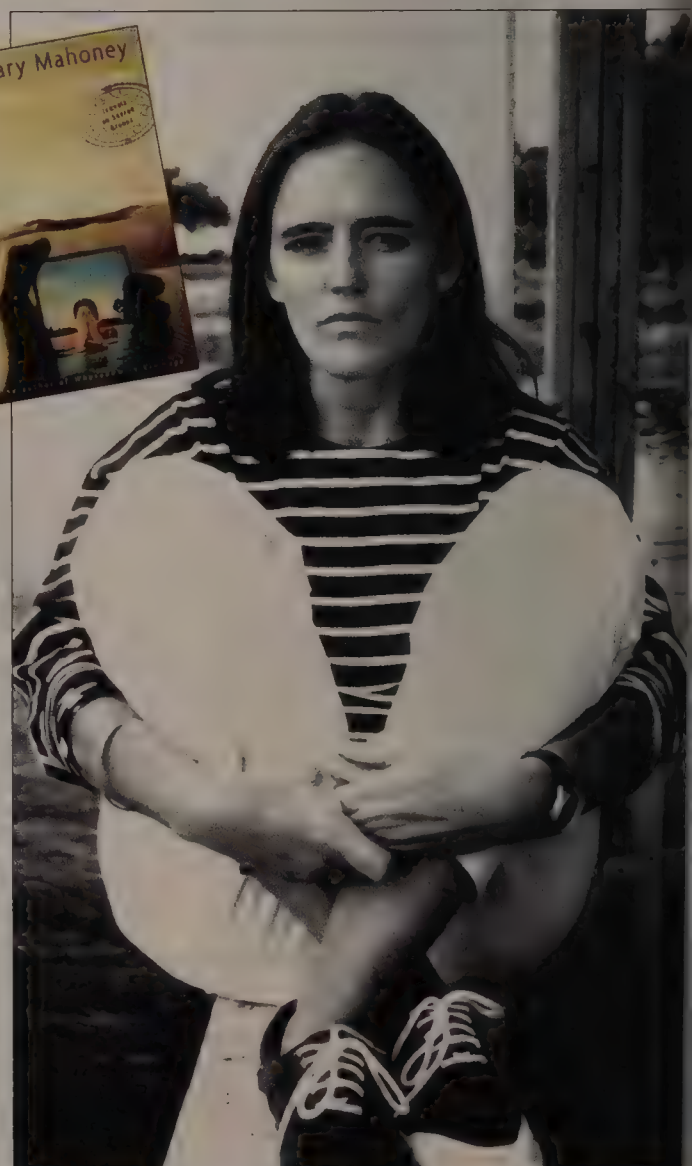
New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7pm. Free. **Robin Morgan** discusses *Sisterhood Is Forever: The Women's Anthology for a New Millennium*, which she edited. The book is a compilation of more than 60 essays describing female experiences in America. They are written by a diverse group of women ranging from CEOs to activists.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
26 Plympton St., Cambridge (617-547-4648). www.grolierpoetrybookshop.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6:30pm. $3.50.* London-based poet **Mark Ford** reads from his collection, *Soft Sift.*

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* **Bonnie Costello** reads from her book *Shifting Ground: Reinventing Landscape in Modern American Poetry*, which explores how six 20th-century American poets used landscape as a metaphor in their works.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. British historian **Niall Ferguson** reads from his book *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power*, in which he traces the empire from its beginnings in the 16th century through the 19th century.


Rosemary Mahoney gives a reading at Brookline Booksmith April 1

ROSEMARY MAHONEY: NINA BRA

3rd Annual Leslie's Links Event

in memory of Leslie Semonian to benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Pre Marathon Celebration
Sunday, April 20th
7:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Back Bay
617/424-8300

- DJ and Dancing
- There will be a raffle with lots of great prizes
- Hors D'oeuvres

Tickets are $40 at the door (if available) Please call 617-859-1400 ext. 323 for more information and to purchase tickets in advance for $35

100% of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Leslie's Links Ewings Sarcoma Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For more info e-mail wendy@leslieslinks.com.

LESLIE'S LINKS was founded in 1999 by Leslie Semonian who battled cancer and passed away in December of 1999 at the age of 32. During the eight and a half year period of her illness, until her death, Leslie never allowed cancer to stand in the way of her goal of helping others. She knew how precious life was and energetically embraced each day. She helped others to appreciate their own lives more. She wanted to be remembered as a participant in life, not an observer. Her passion was boundless, and will continue in the hearts of the many friends and people
whom she inspired.

Leslie's Links is a fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute which raises money for Ewings Sarcoma Cancer Research in various ways. One of which is through the Leslie's Links bike team associated with the 192-mile Pan-Mass Challenge bike-a-thon from Sturbridge to Provincetown. Leslie's Links has raised over half a million dollars since its inception in 1999.

Leslie's Links has raised over a half of a million dollars since it inception in 1999

www.leslieslinks.com

education

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am-5pm. Free.* The Third Annual Boston Poetry Marathon features 56 well-known and emerging poets each presenting a 20-minute reading during the two-day poetry marathon in honor of National Poetry Month. Poets include **Pam Bernard**, **Frank Bidart**, **Erica Funkhouser**, **X.J. Kennedy** and **Lloyd Schwartz**, along with students from Marshall Elementary School, the New England Scores Program and Boston High School.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Chef **Tyler Florence**, host of the Food Network's *Tyler's Ultimate*, discusses and signs his first cookbook, *Tyler Florence's Real Kitchen.*

Poetry at Radcliffe: Celebrating Four Decades of Fellowship
First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8600). www.radcliffe.edu/conference/poetry. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 10am-5pm. Free.* Pulitzer Prize–winning poets **Jorie Graham** and **Maxine Kumin**, along with **Robin Becker**, **Sophie Cabot Black**, **Lorna Goodison**, **Fanny Howe**, **Gail Mazur**, **Brenda Shaughnessy**, **Natasha Trethewey**, **C.D. Wright** and **Florence Ladd**, read from their work and present a panel discussion. A reception at the Radcliffe Institute's Fay House follows.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, 5pm, Free. New York-based poets **Sam Truitt**, **Aaron Kiely** and **Maggie Nelson** read their own work.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 1-5pm. Free.* See listing for April 12.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 3pm. Free. **Denise Hamilton** signs her mystery novel, *Sugar Skull*, in which a journalist investigates the murder of a 15-year-old girl by speaking to the homeless youths she spent time with.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5pm. Free. Psychologist **Dan Kindlon** reads from his book, *Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children of Character in an Indulgent Age*, which looks at how overindulgent parenting can result in children who suffer from eating disorders, self-centeredness, anger problems and more.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

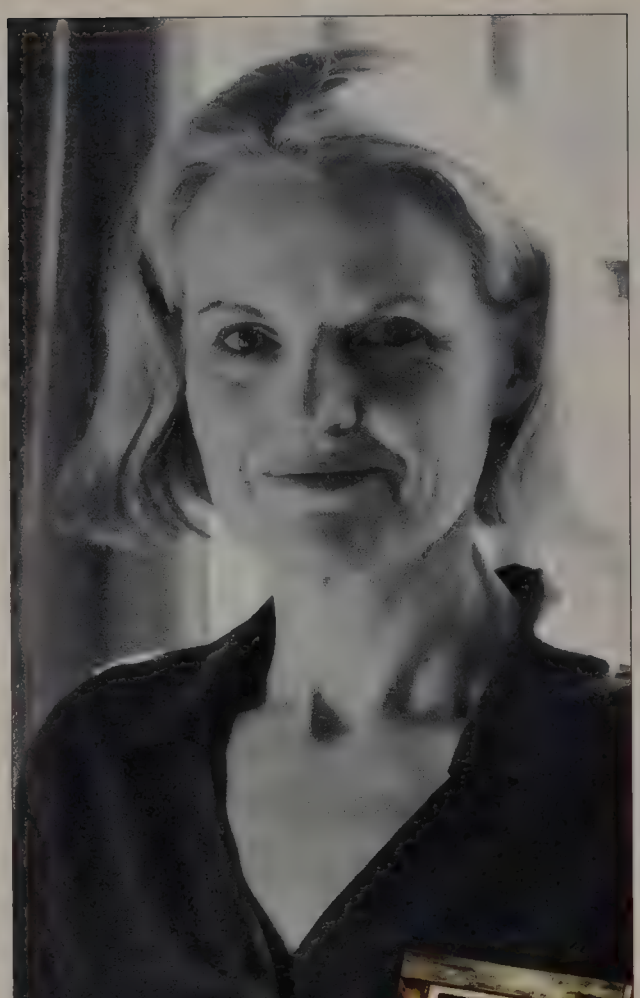
WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Percival Everett** reads from *God's Country*. A series of adventures follow a woman's abduction in this politically incorrect satire of the Old West.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **Jonathan Safran Foer** reads from his book, *Everything Is Illuminated*, which he wrote six years ago at the age of 20. The story follows a young man who searches for the woman who may have saved his grandfather from the Nazis.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-547-4648). www.grolierpoetrybookshop.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $4.* Houghton Mifflin poets **Erica Funkhouse**, **Miranda Field**, **Grace Schulman**, **Linda Gregerson**, **Galway Kinnell**, **Glynn Maxwell**, **Donald Hall**, **Tom Sleigh** and **Michael Collier** read selections of their work.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Harvard archaeologist **Stephen LeBlanc** reads from his book *Constant Battles: The Myth of the Noble Savage and the Peaceful Past*, in which he theorizes that the concept of "the noble savage" is a myth.



Nancy Clark reads April 3.

Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 6pm. Free. In **Dennis Lehane**'s newest crime thriller, *Shutter Island*, two U.S. marshals experience the dark side of an institution for the insane when they investigate the 1954 case of an escaped patient.

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7:30pm; poetry jam, 9pm. $5. Following the poetry slam, the Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place every Saturday.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston , 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity at the open mike.

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Education or e-mail to education@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

A Chat with Inventor Ray Kurzweil
The Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-227-2822, ext. 205). $90. Called the "restless genius" by the *Wall Street Journal* and the "ultimate thinking machine" by *Forbes*, inventor **Ray Kurzweil** discusses his current projects.

Doctors Without Borders Access Expo
Harvard Medical School Quadrangle, between 200 and 260 Longwood Ave., Boston. www.doctorswithoutborders.org. *9:30am-6pm, through April 4.* The Doctors Without Borders interactive exhibit highlights the need for more research and development for treatments for diseases that affect the world's poor.

The Global Warming Reality
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-222-3200). www.cambridgeforum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free.* **Michael McElroy**, director of Harvard's Center for the Environment, speaks about the impact of global warming.

Human Rights and the International Court of Justice
Goethe Institut Boston, 170 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-6050). 6pm. Free. Harvard Law professor **Henry Steiner** and Swiss legal scholar **Dr. Gret Haller** discuss current issues between the United States and Germany.

Inventing the Charles River
Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-1713). www.bostonhistory.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to State. 6:30pm. Free.* **Karl Haglund**, project manager for the New Charles River Basin, which links the Charles River Reservation with Boston Harbor, discusses how the basin reshapes the river and its banks in the "lost half mile" between the Esplanade and Boston's Harbor Park.

Saving the Siberian Tiger
Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-8309). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* Senior conservationist of the Wildlife Conservation Society **Dr. Maurice Hornocker** describes his research and the program he initiated to curb the extinction of the world's largest cat, the Siberian tiger.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Freedom of Information
Snell Library, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston. 12pm. Free. A media critic, a professor of journalism and an American Civil Liberties Union board member share their professional experiences and speak about censorship abroad and at home and the notion of freedom of information.

Jewish Culture and The Book: An Intimate Relationship
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. Free.* As part of the Words on Fire festival, a panel will discuss the importance of the written word and literacy in the Jewish culture.

Teaching About Manliness and Masculinity
Cronkhite Graduate Center, 6 Ash St., Cambridge (617-495-8601). 4pm. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Free. Harvard professors **Harvey Mansfield** and **Nancy Cott** reflect on men, manhood and masculinity.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

An Evening with Bruce Davidson
Law Auditorium, Boston University, 765 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-7997). MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. 6pm. $15. One of the 20th century's most influential photographers, **Bruce Davidson**, discusses events and works from his career.

Home Garden Workshop
MHS Horticultural Center, 900 Washington St., Wellesley. www.masshort.org. *April 4 and 12, 9am-3pm. $299.* Landscape developers **Mary Dewart** and **Maria Von Bricken** offer advice and hands-on training to help you design, create and shape your garden.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

America vs. Americans
Blackman Auditorium, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-5800). 4:30pm. Free. Objectivist **Dr. Leonard Peikoff** discusses American ideals, the dominant trends that contradict them and U.S. moral cowardice.

Bright Lights of Brookline
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-713-5201). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. April 6, 3-5:30pm. $15, $20 at the door. Nine Brookline residents—including **Jonathan Kraft**, vice chairman of the New England Patriots; **Liz Walker**, WBZ-TV journalist; **Lydia Shire**, chef/owner of Locke Ober; and **Mark Starr**, senior editor at *Newsweek*—speak at the benefit for Brookline High School's 21st Century Fund.

Tony Kushner and Craig Lucas Talk with Robert Brustein
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall. 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 3pm. Free.* Playwrights **Tony Kushner** and **Craig Lucas**, and the founder of the American Repertory Theater, **Robert Brustein**, discuss social, political and sexual issues in contemporary playwriting.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

A Look at Cambridge Street
60 State St., Boston (617-426-1885). 5:30pm. $20. Reservations required. Six well-known Bostonians debate how new developments—residential, commercial and transportation—will affect Cambridge Street.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

The Origin of Knowledge
Sheerr Room, Fay House, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8606). www.radcliffe.edu. *4pm. Free.* Harvard professor **Susan Carey** discusses how cognitive science explains the origin and development of human conceptual knowledge and how humans transcend innate knowledge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

The First African American Authors
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall. 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm, Free.* Scholars discuss influential works written by African Americans.

French-Caribbean Women Writing: Between Memory and Hope
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Building 4, Room 170, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-8844). 6pm. Free. Haitian-born author **Marie-Celie Agnant** speaks about her exile from Haiti and how she used the opportunity to immigrate to the United States.

Global Solutions to Global Problems
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm, Free. **Shahruz Mohtadi**, professor of economics at Suffolk University, will speak about globalization, the widening gap between the rich and poor, and our ability to implement solutions to global problems.

New Ways of War?
Goethe-Institut Boston, 170 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-6050). www.goethe.de/boston. *6pm. Free.* Humboldt University in Berlin professor **Herfried Munkler** and Tufts professor **Michael J. Glennon** discuss how new ways of warfare have changed definitions of politics and blurred boundaries of war and peace.

The Theme of Nature in the Thought of Emerson and Olmsted
Hunneman Hall, Brookline Public Library, 99 Walnut St., Brookline (617-730-2700). 7pm. Free. A panel discussion commemorates the anniversary of the birth of Emerson, the transcendentalist and the death of Olmsted, the architect. Panelists will discuss how the two men addressed nature in their work.

The Work of Diller + Scofidio
Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3521). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Boston architect **Elizabeth Diller**, known for her avant-garde design in urban, commercial and institutional projects, discusses her firm's work, including the Institute of Contemporary Art project at Fan Pier.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Picturing Boston
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington, Boston (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 7 $13. **Erica Hirshler** takes you on a historical tour of Boston's neighborhoods, parks and walkways through paintings in the MFA collections.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

The March on Washington
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Pt., Boston (617-514-1652). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass/JFK. 5:30-7pm. Free (reservations required).* U.S. Representative **John Lewis** (D-GA) leads a discussion on the 1963 civil rights march on Washington and the effect it had on the nation.

The Morality of the Novel
Agassiz Theatre, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8600). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Author **Zadie Smith** explores the novel not only as an anomaly of morals, but also as a case for morals.

NANCY CLARK:ROB

f you want to be listed
ubmit information, including telephone numbers and near-t T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446), mail or e-mail gaylesbian@improper.com).

CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

ria (Wednesdays)
46 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and sbian dance party. 10pm, $10, 21+.

valon (Sundays)
5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: reen Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have anked out Sunday night parties for the boys of oston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate ance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin iedman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

xis (Mondays)
3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: reen Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a ag show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. n amateur drag show is held the last Monday of ery month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

uzz (Fridays, Saturdays)
7 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green ine to Boylston. •Fridays, Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava ar, presents "Anything Goes." DJ Thom Delahunt ins house at this evening for women. *www.circuitrl.com.* 10pm, $10, 21+. •On Saturdays Buzz's two nce floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular nce and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and ance—a pool room and a lounge keep the men busy ntil at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

ityGirl Caffé (Daily)
04 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). BTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am-9pm; Sat., am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) d-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and op-ated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging d sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

lub Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
9 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.bcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., :30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This uth End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and un-trusive music in the front room or video entertain-ent in the back at Moonshine. •On Tuesdays, catch the tro Rewind, 8:30pm. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ m Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic sic videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

edo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). BTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay wd frequents this bar to check out clips from the lat-music videos as well as classic movies—compiled by bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jacques. No cover, 21+.

igle (Daily)
0 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., n-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Orge Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighbor-od bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

litz (Daily)
Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orge Line to Back Bay. The folks here are really friendly—l really into sports. DirecTV is set up with screens ttered about and Fritz is home base to a softball gue. Sun.-Fri., 12pm; Sat., 11am. No cover, 21+.

offrey's Café-Bar (Daily)
0 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: een Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-11pm daily; open until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers 52 ieties of wine and mid-priced bistro fare. Breakfast erved daily until 3pm.

llywood at the Ekco Lounge (aturdays)
Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange e to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has two rs with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

cques Cabaret (Daily)
Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green e to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd l mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and . feature live music. •Cabaret drag show. Mon.-., 10:30pm; Sun., 10pm. $5 weekdays; $7 week-ls, 21+. •Tue., Thu. and Sat.: Avalon bartender iss Chris" performs. 10:30pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: rag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by Diamond nhill. 10pm, $5-$8.

The documentary *Georgie Girl* screens April 5 at the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

Machine (Wednesdays-Sundays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Curve Wed.: DJ Joe Bermudez spins house and techno music. 10pm-2am, $9, 19+; $7, 21+. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Manhunt Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+. •Sun.: Trix lesbian night features DJ Mix Mistress spinning house, hip-hop and Latin. 10pm-2am, $5, 21+.

Man Ray (Thursdays and Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 9pm; Sat., 10pm. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thursdays is Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $10, 19+; $8, 21+. •Liquid Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $10, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland with live entertainment, including Drag Bingo, spoken word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top-40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Groove, 10pm-2am, $3, 19+. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson Caesar. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop, $5, 21+. •Fri.: Vibe with DJ Susan Esthera spinning tribal, $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events. •*April 6, 12pm. Free.* **Carole Maso** reads from her poetry collection *Beauty Is Convulsive*, a reflection on the life of artist Frida Kahlo. •*April 6, 12pm. Free.* Local poets celebrate National Poetry Month with an all-day celebration including an open mike. •*April 10, 7pm. Free.* **Robin Morgan**, editor of *Sisterhood Is Forever*, reads from the anthology, which contains the perspectives of American women from teenagers to CEOs.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Free to Be...
Landmark Education, 1545 Hancock St., Quincy (617-522-2737). April 5, 3-6pm. Free. Free to Be... is a gathering to introduce people to the Landmark Forum for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community. Landmark addresses issues like finding the love of one's life, belonging in all communities, accepting oneself and discovering one's own life's work.

11th Annual Boston International Festival of Women's Cinema
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. April 3, 7:30pm. **Normal** *2003.* Roy, the male half of a wholesome Midwestern couple, is plagued by the belief that he should have been born a woman. He begins a physical and social metamorphosis. Director Jane Anderson's film stars Jessica Lange as Roy's wife.
•April 4, 5pm. **Hand on the Pulse** *2002.* Director Joyce Warshow tells the story of Joan Nestle, the co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York City, and her contributions to our understanding of women's sexuality and issues of gender. The film will be followed by Margaret Broucek's short **Beauty Parlor Census**.
•April 5, 1pm, April 7, 5:30pm. **TV Dreams: 4 New Shorts**. A screening of four documentaries that humorously critique different aspects of television and popular culture. Featured shorts are: **Novela Novela**, in which director Liz Miller analyzes Nicaragua's soap opera version of "Friends;" **Spit and Polish: Heroines from Hong Kong**, in which director Birgit Rathsmann comments on female action stars in Hong Kong; **TV Dream Houses**, a short film by Pamela Ezell showcasing architectural drawings by Mark Bennett of TV homes from *I Love Lucy* to *Leave It to Beaver*; and **D.E.B.S.**, a pseudo pilot of *Charlie's Angels* featuring lesbian debutantes, directed by Angela Robinson. Also showing, 5:30pm. **Flag Wars** *2003.* Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Portias' film looks at how a black neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio, responds to the arrival of gays and lesbians. Yvonne Welbon's short **The Taste of Dirt** screens immediately after.
•April 5, 7:40pm; April 7, 9:15pm. **Georgie Girl** *2002.* Annie Goldson's film documents the life of Georgina Beyer, an ex-prostitute who became the first transgendered person to be elected to national office, winning election to New Zealand's parliament.

LAFFAN Spring Dance
Best Western Hotel, 477 Totten Pond Road, Waltham. (617-666-1922). $20. This year's Lesbians Available for Fun and Networking Spring Dance benefits the Waltham House, a housing program for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth run by the Home for Little Wanderers.

Words on Fire: Films Curated by the Boston Jewish Film Festival
Boston Public Library, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. April 14, 6pm. **The Celluloid Closet** *1995.* Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's documentary combines actor/director interviews with clips from more than 100 films to explore Hollywood's role in defining homosexual identities.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon-Thurs, 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8pm.* This bi-and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create performances representing women's perspectives. E-mail *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, national hotline is confidential and provides information and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning callers.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians who want to get together and enjoy board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
A mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia at 617-482-1078.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing, and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Assets New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim team.

Meow_Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston/. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington St. 1st Saturday of each month. 8-9pm, lesson; 9-11:30pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

body&mind

Advice to Contributors *Submit updated information by mail, by fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to* bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

EVENTS

Creating the Work You Love

Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (888-259-9191, ext.223). www.onenessproductions.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 26, 9am-4pm. $129.* Spend a day with Rick Jarow, Ph.D., founder of the Anti-Career Workshops and author of *Creating the Work You Love*. Learn how to find inspiration, transform desires into action, create and receive support for your visions, and get the motivation and discipline to develop your authentic vocation.

Dances of Universal Peace

Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 4, 7:30-9:30pm. Requested donation: $6-$10. Join in simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. All dances are taught and accompanied by live music.

Dharma Film: Baghdad Café

The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *April 11, 7pm. $10.* Co-sponsored with the Institute for Meditation & Psychotherapy, this film, about a woman who stumbles into a roadside restaurant and become friends with the owner, portrays Buddhist themes. Discussion follows.

Inner Landscapes Art Opening

The Healing & Arts Gallery, 731 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-859-9561). www.healingandarts.org. *Opening: April 4, 5:30-7:30pm. Free. Inner Landscapes,* an exhibition of oil and mixed media paintings by Elaine Alibrandi, celebrates color and texture. Through April 30.

LECTURES

Plato's Road Map for the Soul

New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St. Cambridge (617-591-9959). www.newacropolis.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 11, 7:30pm. $5.* In Plato's Myth of the Cave, he depicts the inner journey of the hero. Learn how this story can teach the meaning of risk, adventure, freedom and responsibility and help us face our limitations and live up to our fullest potential.

WORKSHOPS

Beginners Meditation Workshop

Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 12, 10am-4pm. $40.* These daylong workshops are designed for people with no meditation experience or those who are relatively new to Vipassana (insight meditation). Sessions include meditation instruction, sitting and walking, along with group discussion.

Ecstatic Body Jazz

Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). www.dancecomplex.org or www.dancingoutloud.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 5, 1-4pm. $43-$55, sliding scale. Preregistration is required.* Try out this movement form that takes you to the center of your being with the stillness, stretching and strengthening aspects of yoga, the creativity and spirited soul awakening of ecstatic dance, and the joy and exhilaration of jazz dance.

Healing and Preventing Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Arlington Community Education, Arlington High School, 869 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-3568). www.arlingtonreiki.com. *April 3, 7-9pm. $25.* In this workshop led by certified massage therapist Denis Dettling Kalthofer, learn exercises, self-help techniques, work-station set-up strategies, and how to find practitioners.

Healing Through Prayer

Jenks Senior Center, 109 Skillings Road, Winchester (781-729-5856). www.healing-prayer.org. *MBTA: Lowell Commuter Line to Winchester. April 5, 3-5pm. $25.* Christine Driessen has 30 years of experience in helping people look at life's challenges from a spiritual point of view. She explores how prayer can be effective in treating physical conditions or other challenges in life.

An Introduction to Integrated Awareness

Harvest Co-op Market, Community Room, 581 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-3414). www.harvestcoop.com *or* www.mfourman.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 8, 7-9pm. $5 suggested donation. Advance registration is required.* Experience the relationship between your mind, body and emotions. Bring any issue you're contemplating to the workshop, and then use the body's "map of consciousness" to discover what location in your body is central to sustaining and releasing the issue you're concerned with.

Psychic Skills for a Psychic Life

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 5, 10am-4pm. $83.* Explore how to make decisions psychically by discovering how intuitive images, words, movements, automatic writing and ESP reveal what we really want.

Reflexology

Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 12, 10am-2pm. $39.* Did you know that foot massages can make you a healthier person? Learn the basics of this holistic science. There are areas of the foot that correspond to all the major glands, organs and bodily functions, and working these areas may ease emotional, mental and physical stress.

Watering the Roots: Contact Improvisation Fundamentals

Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). www.dancecomplex.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 6, 2:30-5:30pm. $45-$75, sliding scale.* In this movement workshop, try out weight exchange with a partner using the physical forces of mass, gravity and momentum.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit

YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (617-491-6050 or 781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 8, 7:30-8:45pm. $10.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches how the breath can be a vehicle linking the mind and body. Enjoy a challenging yet gentle approach to hatha yoga, including basic physical fitness, mental focus and opening to the deep connection with spirit. Beginners welcome.

ONGOING

Yoga/Brookline

Maggie Sky, 1485 Beacon St., Brookline (617-738-1648). MBTA: C Green Line or bus #66 to Coolidge Corner. Sun., 9-10:30am, 5-6:30pm and 6:45-8:15pm. $15-$20 per class. Improve your health while bringing relaxation and peace of mind into your life. Classes are held in a beautiful studio.

Yoga/Harvard Square

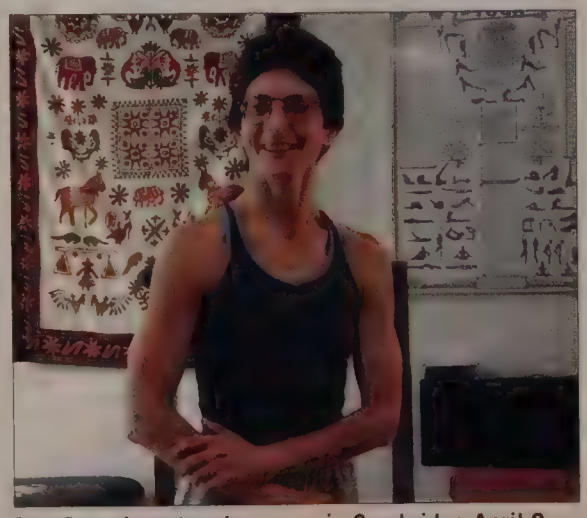
Portia Brockway in Cambridge (617-864-YOGA). www.yogainharvardsquare.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $17. Drop-in.* Eight weekly classes in a moderate, flowing yoga style are offered for the following groups: general, prenatal women and postnatal women with their baby. Call for address and schedule.

Yoga/South End

Yoga at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-522-7199). www.angelfire.com/ma/patrice. *MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Mon. and Tue., 7pm. $17/session. Call ahead.* Increase flexibility, relieve stress and build strength at this ongoing class taught by certified Kripalu yoga teacher Patrice Flesch.

Zen Insight

Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (617-576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. *Mon., 6:45pm. Free.* This drop-in meditation session is designed to help you get back to the center of your being.



Dee Greenberg teaches yoga in Cambridge April 8.

children

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

The Barber of Seville and Annual Opera New England Benefit Luncheon

John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (617-542-6772). April 13, 12:30 and 2:30pm. $15, $10 children. Luncheon at 12pm precedes 2:30pm show and includes admission. $75, $50. Opera New England presents a one-hour family performance of Rossini's musical comedy, sung in English, about a legendary barber who will stop at nothing to free the lovely Rosina from the clutches of her old father and unite her with her love, the Count of Almaviva. The luncheon features hands-on activities and a carnival of games for children.

Cat Mountain

Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. April 4-5, 8pm; April 6, 2pm. $8.50, $6 children. This adaptation of a Japanese folktale tells the story of a young servant girl who journeys to a far-off mountain where she hopes to find her freedom and her lost cat. The tale is told through storytelling, masks, puppetry, dance and original music.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. April 12, 1 and 3pm. $20-$25, $15-$20 children.* Robert Kapilow presents Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (*A Little Night Music*), and conducts his original opera, *Green Eggs and Hamedeus*, based on the Dr.Seuss classic, during this family music show.

North Shore Music Theatre

North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *April 8, 10am ($8), and 7pm ($10-$12).* NSMT's Youth Performance Academy presents *Into the Woods Jr.*, part of the national Broadway Junior program of shows adapted especially for young performers.

The Paper Bag Princess

Arlington Street Church, Arlington and Boylston streets, Boston (617-842-7927). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 12, 11am. In this Pocket Full of Tales production, a princess is left to don a paper bag after a dragon burns her clothes and kidnaps her prince. Her mission is to rescue the prince.

Pippi Longstocking

Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 3pm (April 22-April 25, 1pm). April 4-May 4. $12-$18. Pippi Longstocking's superhuman strength, unbounded imagination and absolute disregard for the rules of society make for good fun in this musical adaptation.

Puppet Showplace Theatre

32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. • April 2 and 3, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Paul Vincent Davis presents *Raccoon Tales*, three tales inspired by stories from the Seneca Native American tribe about animals who always get themselves into trouble. • April 5 and 6, 1 and 3pm, ages 5-10: The Tanglewood Marionettes perform *An Arabian Adventure*. • April 9 and 10, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Deborah Costine uses shadow puppetry to perform *Three Pigs and Other Tales*. • April 12 and 13, 1 and 3pm, ages 5-8: Paul Vincent Davis tells the story of *Rumplestiltskin*, the story of a young girl, Hilda, who is ordered by the king to spin straw into gold.

A Soldier's Tale

Brockton High School Auditorium, Rte. 123, Brockton (508-230-3789). www.brocktonsymphony.org. *April 6, 3:30pm. $10.* The Children's Museum in Easton and the Brockton Symphony Orchestra present Stravinsky's timeless tale of a young man who trades his soul for a violin in this production, which also features the Dan Butterworth Marionette Troupe. Pre-concert festivities begin at 2:45pm and the concert will be followed by a reception.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

UMass-Boston Harbor Campus, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (617-424-6634). www.childrenstheatre.org. *April 5 and 6, 12 and 13, 2pm. $10-$20.* Join Peppermint Patty, Lucy, Linus, Snoopy and Charlie Brown in this Boston Children's Theatre musical adaptation based on Charles Schulz's lovable youngsters.

THINGS TO DO

Big Apple Circus: Dreams of a City

Fan Pier, 28-70 Old Northern Ave., Boston (617-931-2787). April 5-May 11. $13-$51. All seats are no more than 50 feet from this one-ring circus. Set in New York City at the turn of the 19th century, the circus celebrates cultural diversity and New York's storied melting pot.

The Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* • KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30, 6:1 and 7:15pm. • Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts • April 5, 11am-3pm: Express your musical creativity at the Toy Symphony by trying out musical instruments like "shapers" and "beatbugs." • April 5-6, 12, 13 and 20: Create mixed-media masterpieces in the art studio's Paint, Draw, Cut & Glue program. • April 12, 12-2pm: Experiment with cooking supplies such as cooking oil, baking soda and Coca-Cola with the Kitchen Science program. • April 12 and 13, 11am-4pm: Celebrate spring's arrival in traditional Japanese style and make your own paper flowers at the Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival. • April 13, 10am-3pm: Solve math brain-teasers in *Alice's Numberland*.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. • April 5, 9-11am, ages 4 and 5: Explore the world undersea. Who and what dwells there? What is the most colorful and what is the strangest creature? Meet a few in person, and make your own to take home. • April 4, 9am-12pm, grades K-1: What in that egg—a dinosaur, a bird, a tadpole? Explore how life begins for many animals.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Free with museum admission ($13-$15; children under 17 free).* • April 2-4, 3:30pm: High Above. A look at the skies in art. • April 2, 3:30pm; April 6, 11:30pm; April 8, 1:30pm: Books Bring Art Alive • April 5 and 6, 12 and 13, 11am-4pm: Family Place and Drop-In Drawing. • April 7-11, 3:30pm: Children's Room. Stories from Nubia: Sketching and Storyboards. • April 12, 11:30am: Art InterACTions. • April 14 and 15, 3:30pm: Children's Room Shapes of Nature, with an open pottery studio.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* • Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-12pm: The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits with live animals. • Through April 30: The *Invention at Play* exhibit allows visitors to follow the creative process of Alexander Graham Bell, James McLurkin, Newman Darby and other inventors. • Mugar Omni Theater: $8, $7 seniors, $6 children. April 4- Sept. 30. Explore percussion groups across the world—from flamenco dancers to taiko drummers to marching bands—with seven-year *Stomp* member Keir Middleton in the film *Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey*. Through June 19: Celebrate the bicentennial of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's discovery expedition through the West in *Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West*. Through Sept.1: MacGillivray Freeman's *Coral Reef Adventure* takes viewers under the sea off Tahiti, Fiji, Rangiroa and the Great Barrier Reef.

Newton Free Library

Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-79 1370). • Wed., 7pm, ages 10 and older: Become Book Investigator and write stories and book reviews. • Thu., 7pm, ages 4 and older: Pajama Story time • Fri., 10:30am: Preschool Films.

Polaroid Hosts the World's Largest One-Year-Old Birthday Party

Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (800-700-2107). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. April 11, 10am-12pm. Free admission for first 100 one-year-olds and their parents. Registration required by April 4. Polaroid celebrates the launch of its new Polaroid One instant camera by hosting a giant birthday party. The bash features plenty of cake and picture-taking, and a chance to win a $1,000 educational scholarship or one of six Polaroid One cameras with film.

Sing for Your Supper!

25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-492-8105). www.cambridgemusic.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 11, 6:30-7:30pm. Free. RSVP for pizza.* The New School of Music hosts a family sing-along of old favorites and a pizza party.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
April 11, 2:05pm vs. Baltimore Orioles
April 12, 7:05pm vs. Baltimore Orioles
April 13, 2:05pm vs. Baltimore Orioles
April 15, 6:05pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays

Boston Celtics
FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849
April 2, 7pm vs. Miami Heat
April 4, 8pm vs. Sacramento Kings
April 6, 1pm vs. Washington Wizards
April 10, 7:30pm vs. Philadelphia 76ers

Boston Bruins
FleetCenter. Tickets: 617-931-2222
April 5, 1pm vs. Buffalo Sabres

Events

Chevy Champions on Ice
A slew of skating stars hit the FleetCenter for a one-night show. Donning the blades will be Sarah Hughes, Michelle Kwan, Tim Goebel, Irina Slutskaya and many others. *FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000).* www.championsonice.com. *April 12, 7:30pm. $Tickets start at $35.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
25 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
10-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencing club.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag & Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now for spring league.

LACROSSE

MetroLacrosse
(617-242-9898, ext. 205) www.metrolacrosse.com. MetroLacrosse, a non-profit organization that teaches lacrosse to children in underserved Boston communities, is looking for coaches for the spring 2003 season.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Khoury's 4-Mile Free Fun Run
118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs Thursday nights, 7pm.*

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
(781-890-8480). www.iceskatingclasses.com. The nonprofit BSSS offers skating classes for children and adults at 15 MDC rinks. Learn some Dorothy Hamill moves, and then head to the Frog Pond to show them off.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

Asgard Volleyball League
University Park, Cambridge (617-577-9100). Wed. nights. The Asgard, Newcastle and Forest City Property Management host a weekly volleyball league for Cambridge businesses.

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

The Red Sox play the Orioles on Opening Day at Fenway April 11.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-September, 8:30-9:30pm; October-March, 7:30-8:30pm. Free.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Guided tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). www.oldironsides.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum open daily, 10am-5pm. Ship hours: winter: Thu.-Sun., 10am-4pm; summer: daily, 10am-4pm. Free.*

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big brother.

The Prudential Center

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston by Foot
(617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. Train as a volunteer guide. The series begins April 19.

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and mentors needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work in Cambridge public schools as tutors, aides and mentors.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Earth Day Cleanup
(617-879-7735). April 12, 9am-12pm. Join an Earth Day Charles River cleanup from Milford to Boston.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elderly.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-306-0910). Volunteers in Everett and eastern Massachusetts needed for small rabbit shelter.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Parental Stress Line
(800-632-8188). Telephone counselors needed for the Parental Stress Line.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111, ext. 17). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996, ext. 20). Battered women's agency seeks volunteers.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, groceries program and office work.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4KID). Volunteers need for this organization committed to rescuing homeless and street children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal immigrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

RENTIAL CENTER: ZOE PARKER GEISMAN

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity). Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Coffee at Panificio

A few months ago, I was walking past Panificio on Charles Street, when I noticed you (6', mid-20s, light brown hair, navy jacket) sitting by the window drinking your coffee. I couldn't resist the urge to leave the cold behind and sit next you. My heart began to race, but before I could gather my nerves and introduce myself, you were out the door and disappeared around the corner at CVS. I have returned several times, but only to find disappointment. Fast-forward to a recent Saturday on Charles Street. Imagine my surprise as you walked right by me. You were engrossed in a conversation or else I would have taken advantage of the opportunity. Is she your girlfriend? Please e-mail me.
—fellinluvatpanificio@hotmail.com

To Bobby from WEEI

I met you at the Big Easy Mardi Gras party on March 7. You were with your brother. We danced most of the night. I was having a great time and my friends and I were following you to the after-hours party. I lost you by accident somewhere on Route 93. I never got the chance to give you my contact information. I tried calling the radio station but had no luck. I hope you see this and e-mail me. I would love to see you again.
—leatherpants77@yahoo.com

Looking for Mr. Bubbles

We met at Ned Devines on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day. You were wearing a Mr. Bubbles T-shirt and were at a fantasy baseball meeting with your friends. I showed you my shamrock socks. You shared your chicken fingers with me. You talked to me when my friend was in the bathroom. After a great start like that, how could you leave without asking for my number? If you are friends with someone who you think could be Mr. Bubbles, please show him this. If you are Mr. Bubbles (Dan), please write.
—rumrbubbles@yahoo.com

To the Lunch-Line Idiot

Hi, jerk! I was the guy behind you in line at Sebastian's in the Financial District on Feb. 18. I watched you give a confusing order to the poor Guatemalan girl making your lunch, then berate her for not somehow divining that what you told her you wanted wasn't really what you wanted. While she tried to make it right, you spent the next five minutes snarling that people like her were the reason that America was in decline, to the incredulity of the rest of us. You made such a pathetic display that the manager sent her in back and probably fired her. You were a little bald guy wearing a suit, utterly convinced that you were a higher life form than everybody else. I just wanted to let you know that at least four of us in line behind you agreed that you were an insensitive ass. We swore a lunch-line oath that we would go back to our workplaces, describe what you look like, and initiate a verbal chain letter to tell everybody what a completely reprehensible guy you are. I hope your lack of empathy is a terminal condition.
—utterlyaghast@yahoo.com

Caroline

Your name is Caroline and I met you while traveling in New Zealand a little over a year ago. I caught a ride with you and a friend on the North Island, but I had to get to Christchurch so we parted ways. I was hoping to meet up with you in Fiji, but I didn't hear from you. I remember you said that you were from the Boston area. Now I'm living out here, so if you remember me and you read this, e-mail me, I'd like to talk to you again.
—RiverSkid@hotmail.com

Hatless and Hating It

To the frickhead who stole my blue Columbia hat after *Lord of the Rings* at Loews Boston Common in February: If I ever see you wearing that hat—my most favorite and sole hat of the past four years, the hat which has accompanied me on many ski trips and sheltered my head from rain, snow, cold, wind and a concussion—I will rip it off your head. May your unctuous deed bring you years of unhappiness and may the heavens smite you with an incurable case of scabies and premature balding. Go to hell. Love, Sabs.
—valkyriana@hotmail.com

To Pete ("The Better Man")

I read your rather scathing outcry in last month's IMPROPER. Quite frankly it made me a bit angry at first, but then it made me truly think about the situation, so allow me to retort. While you are busy yelling about how you are the "better man" and how my "15 minutes of fame are up," you are forgetting one thing: Your wife is not a trophy prize and it was never a competition. She was, or should have been, already yours. Why was she looking for a better prize? Admittedly I am no Tom Cruise (I had to laugh at your Fire Marshall Bill comment—good one). I am not rich, nor lucky, nor beautiful, nor witty—OK, maybe a bit. So why was I there? A mere distraction I may have admittedly been, but I was there nonetheless. Contrary to what you may think, this small encounter was not an endeavor solely my own. I feel bad about what I did and you have every right to be pissed off. I misunderstood the situation and was a bit misled myself. One e-mail does not a story tell and you may wish to think a bit more about your own trophy. I'm glad you still "stand a chance," unlike myself. But then again, should I stand a chance? I never said "till death do we part" to anyone. So it makes me wonder, what did you win again ... "better man"?
—A punk from Southie

Dearest Lanette

I saw you on the volleyball court and could not help but notice your smile, your laugh, or the sparkle in your eyes. Though I cannot forget you, you may not remember me. I'm active, fun and entertaining. I am a bit smug... confident but humble. I love to laugh, especially at myself. I believe that the simple things in life are precious and should be enjoyed. Hopefully you are looking for fun and a possible future. A relationship should be fun, exciting, and comfortable. Every day, I want to feel a spark and leave you wishing for more time together. Anxiously awaiting,
—Matthew,
Sweet_anticipation@hotmail.com

Calling on a Good Samaritan

Lost in the North End: a silver and gold Movado watch with black face on March 17, sometime between 7 and 8pm between Hanover Street and Haymarket T station. Or it may have fallen off on the D train on the Green Line. It's very sentimental in value. Please contact me if you find it. Thank you!
—lost_mov@yahoo.com.

John Visiting Killington

We met on Feb. 22 during happy hour at the Pickle Barrel in Killington, Vt. You are John, the commercial real estate broker who works in Boston and lives near the intersection of the Mass Pike and Route 495. I work for or of your clients in Wayland in the same building as Moldflow and had an instant camera that night. We have pictures of each other. I was disappointed that w didn't have the chance to finish our conversation later that evening. I'd love to hear from yo
—killingtonconnection@yahoo.com

Rockie Horoscope

APRIL 2 – 15, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

ARIES MARCH 20-APRIL 19

The annual new moon in Aries can be motivation to start a brand new project or set off on an adventure that'll take you someplace you've never been before. Words of love don't necessarily fit into this plan, unless they echo your Mars ruler's time-honored mantra: Make love, not war! However, since the strong-willed sun is at odds with strong-armed Mars, sweet romance probably isn't in the cards. Better to use decisive Mars' trip through your ambitious Capricorn midheaven to advance your career while you can.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Both the fired-up and the frisky, wallow-in-the-mud-bath variety of Bulls can experience a sudden change of heart this week. Don't be surprised if the thunderbolt strikes while your magnetic Venus ruler and unpredictable Uranus meet, thereby thrilling you to the core of your being. These magical moments may have occurred before, but not in romantic, poetic Pisces and not in your lifetime. Other changes will follow: for example, a run of good luck when Jupiter turns direct on the 3rd.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

The high-spirited Aries new moon might introduce you to a whole new social scene, made up primarily of movers and shakers instead of the dreamers and drifters you tend to gravitate to. However, visionaries could still have a major, albeit unexpected, impact on your career. Lots of "It came out of the blue, I had no idea!" declarations, even as you figure out just how the times are changing. Is that so you can rewrite the small print? Jupiter's forward flip on the 3rd should bring more luxuries and greater mobility.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

The first new moon of the new astrological year in your Aries midheaven is always significant. For June birthdays, the moon-sun merger supports lucky Jupiter in your Leo money house. Rewards for a job well done? For Moon Children born in July, this new moon may extend your presence on the world scene or, if you're not careful—and impulsive Aries energy rarely is—expand your waistline. Either way, you'll become more passionate about something that reaches a climax about the time taxes are due.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

If you've been waiting for confirmation or a favor you're due when the fiery Aries new moon rewards lucky Jupiter in your sign, relax. Good fortune takes many forms, and what seems like a crappy situation now could turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Once enthusiastic Jupiter goes direct on the 3rd and its four-month sabbatical in retrograde ends, there'll be many more opportunities for personal and professional growth. You won't feel overwhelmed or stuck in a rut any longer.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

The Finger of God moves in mysterious ways. It may take a while for the fog to lift before you find out what the Aries new moon has planned. Making an adjustment, for sure; probably in a joint financial matter or, if you were born after Labor Day, in a significant relationship. For a change, your talents are recognized and encouraged, rather than taken for granted. But, because the benefits are not immediately apparent, you might not give the opportunity that does pop up your best shot. Mistake.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

The spring equinox may have blown away the winter blahs, but it's the red-hot Aries new moon that'll fuel a new/renewed romance. Or, if love isn't in the cards, another passion, a different partnership you can sink your teeth into, will develop. Aries energy can also provide the courage to drop out of "martyr" mode, a role you tend to take on while your Venus ruler is in sacrificial Pisces. That transit ends on Easter Monday, but you could toss the latest cross you're carrying by the Libra full moon on the 16th.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

This lunar cycle activates either your house of recreation, romance and risk or the dues you owe the universe for the life you've been leading. In other words, the health, work and service sector of your chart. Because it's Aries energy, you're apt to be more physical, more enthusiastic about ordinary daily activities. A chance to expand your horizons, to validate a learning experience appears once protective Jupiter turns direct on the 3rd. It's had your career on hold since early December.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The Aries new moon beefs up the flames of a dying fire; it's the tonic you sip to spring into action. So what happened on April 1, other than dumb tricks and bad jokes, can determine how you fare for the rest of the month. As an extra added attraction, this week your Jupiter ruler faces forward after four months of not paying much attention. It'll take some time to get back on track, but prosperity could well be around the corner, once Jupiter turns it. Nonetheless, you'll soon feel like your optimistic self again.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Once again, a matter involving the entire family moves to center stage as the Aries new moon in your domestic domain kicks off another cycle of action and reaction. Hope that it's about something other than the problem that's been dominating family discussions since spring began and chatty Mercury entered Aries. But this week, it's your personal courage that urges the matter be resolved, once and for all. The same "blood and guts" attitude—Mars in your sign—can also lead to a surgical nip here, a tuck there.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

A fresh start is what you should be aiming for; if it concerns a money matter, taking a class or a trip, so much the better. While you have the energy of an adventurous Aries new moon spurring you on, why not use it? If you're in a relationship that's been stagnant since December, you'll be pleased when retrograde Jupiter in your house of partners comes out of its stupor and turns direct on the 3rd. Happy days may not be here again for the nation, but for you personally, whoopee!

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

At a certain point the transition you're currently in will end, but who knows when? Once you're convinced that your obligation to home and family has been discharged (Saturn in Gemini) and that the reinvention of your reputation is taking place (Pluto in your Sagittarius midheaven), you'll be free to color as far outside the lines as you like. But until that totally liberating day, absorb the Aries new moon energy and be glad that you'll get lucky again when Jupiter goes direct on the 3rd.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

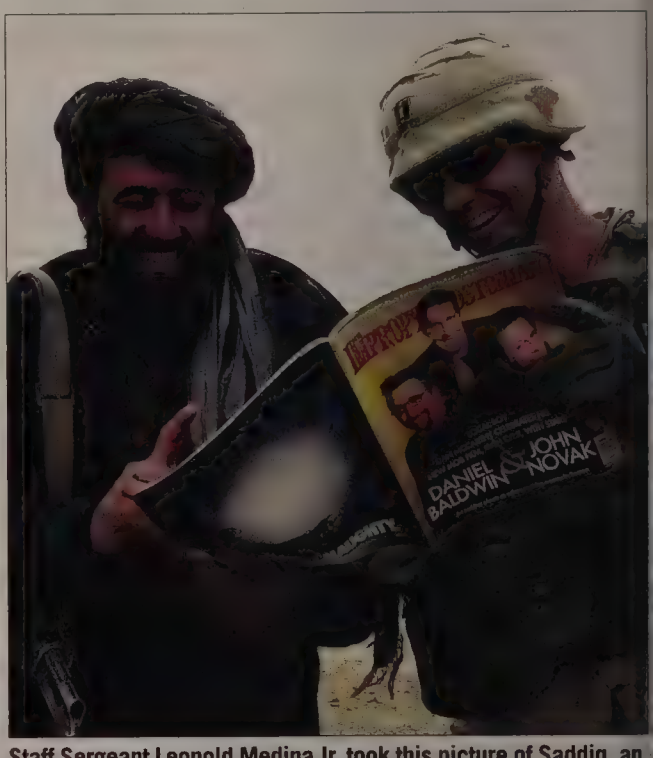
Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading The Improper Bostonian and tell us where you were. Since we want your feedback on the rest of the magazine, too, submissions that include a letter expressing your opinion will really get our attention.

UK members of Parliament David Cairns, M.P. Scotland, and Kevin Brennan, M.P. Wales, discuss spring fashion. Looks like someone's been shopping at Thomas Pink.

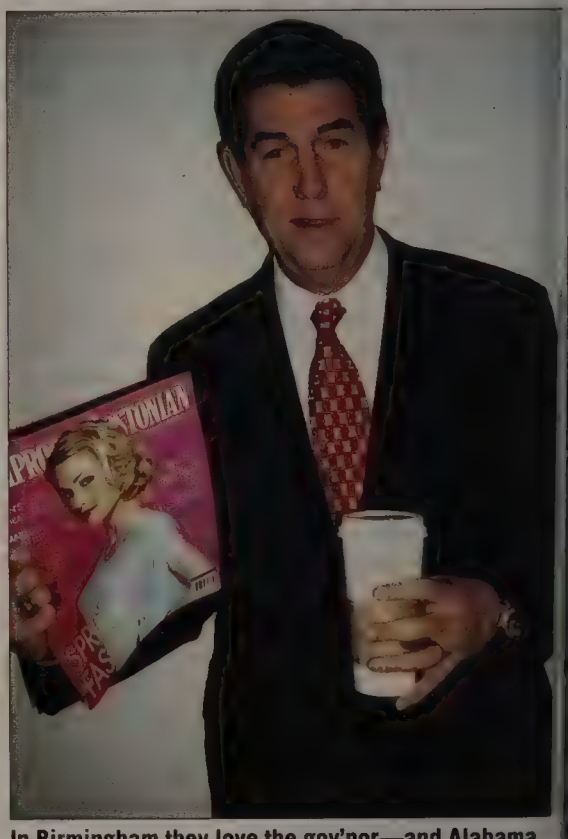
Megan Jalbert and Josh Kivela check into the Ice Hotel in Quebec City. In the1990s Warren Buffett added Ice Hotel Inc. to his holdings, but he sold it at a loss after a disastrous attempt to expand the franchise to Miami.



Staff Sergeant Leopold Medina Jr. took this picture of Saddiq, an Afghan guide, with a U.S. soldier. They're looking in the Impersonals for a note from that cutie on the Afghan Line of the T.

Kevin Noval does a little charitable work in Cozumel, Mexico, teaching fish to read. He's already taught photography to a dolphin.

Alberto Cobos takes a break from the war on terrorism to discuss the Bridal Issue with two groomsmen somewhere in Afghanistan.



In Birmingham they love the gov'nor—and Alabama governor Bob Riley loves his Venti-sized coffee.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Participating in a wet-robe contest during the Water-Splashing Festival, held in mid-April in the Xishuangbanna region of China.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mail high resolution photos to: sightings@improper.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of The Improper Bostonian Magazine and will not be returned.

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Advertising

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN'S client-related promotions and events

On Friday, Mar. 14, THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN threw a party at The Big Easy to celebrate the annual Bachelor & Bachelorette Issue. Guests enjoyed a HurryDate and Zipcar was on hand with fun giveaways.

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1. **Shawn Crossman**, financial advisor for Smith Barney; **Larry Layton**, vice president-investments for Smith Barney.
2. **Karen Mayer**, in-house promotion for the Roxy Night Club; **Darren Smith**, marketing manager and **Victoria Stratton** public relations director both of the The Big Easy Bar.
3. **Tom Mosel**, investment director for Citigroup Asset Management; **Nicole Duggan**, assistant manager at Stuart Weitzman.
4. Top Row Left To Right: **Joseph Kiely**, creative director of Viewpoint Studios; **Erin Macrae** clinician of Boston; **Terri Fuentes**, entertainment reporter and producer for Univision New England; **Abby Hoover** and **John Gidding** both architecture students at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Front Row Left to Right: **Adrienne Gum**, producer for Viewpoint Studios and **Kate Juica** sales assistant for Univision New England.

On Thursday, Mar. 13, Wish hosted a private Trunk Show for designer Trina Turk at the Hampshire House.

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1. **Jane Monahan**, and **Kelly Frey**, co-owners of Wish.
2. **Trina Turk**, clothing designer, **Lauren Estigarnibia**, VP of sales and marketing for JSI Worldwide.
3. **Cara Ronca**, equity sales for Merrill Lynch.

On Sunday, Mar. 23, The Rack hosted Boston's Official Oscar Night America Party to benefit the Ellie Fund.

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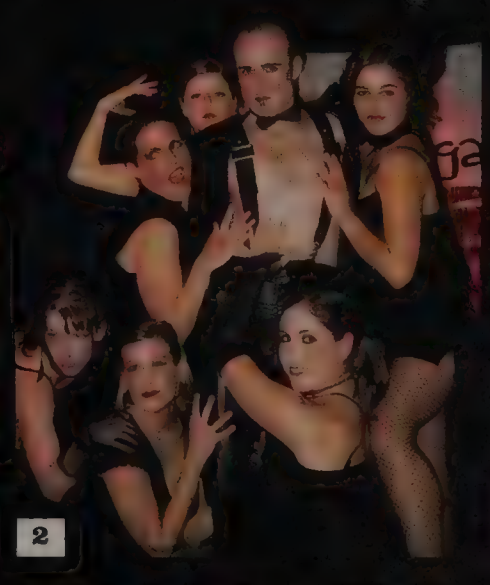
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1. **Christopher Gray Ellisworth**, graphic designer for CGE Graphic Design; **Kenn Gray**, director of exhibitions at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery; **Erika Dyer**, singer for the Masquerade Performance Troupe and **Dan Karp**, director of marketing and development for the Ellie Fund.
2. The cast from the Longwood Players Cabaret.
3. **Evan Marriott**, of *Joe Millionaire*; **Rina Peselman**, fashion stylist in Boston, and **Carol Lindenmuth**, event planner for Peselman Entertainment.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, Mistral hosted the Dinnerfest 2003 Kick-Off Party. A silent auction for dinner parties provided by a number of Boston restaurants helped raise money for the Boston Living Center. The event was sponsored by American Express Financial Advisors and THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

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1. **Steven Lumb**, graphic designer at The Boston Globe; **Greg Tyo**, owner of 224 Boston Street, and **Alvaro Ortiz** of Coldwell Banker.
2. **Cathy Morales**, executive director; **David Hough**, senior development officer; and **Kelly Gaule**, director of development, all of the Boston Living Center.
3. **Larry Post**, VP New England; **Tristin Hotaling** and **Kyle Woodward**, Financial Advisors, all of American Express Financial Advisors.

THE BIG EASY, KRISANA JARITSAT; THE RACK, JULIE KANE; HAMPSHIRE HOUSE, CARRIE WALLACE; MISTRAL, RIC MORANT

Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

restaurants

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut Street, Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Commedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and handshaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, *384 Boylston St, Boston, 617-859-8555.* Voted Boston's Best After Work Meeting Place, the Rattlesnake offers a fun-filled, casual environment in which to sit back, relax and hang with your friends. This Back Bay wateringhole features a tasty Caribbean-themed menu, live Jazz on Monday nights, and the Urban Canyon – a spacious roofdeck for all those warm days and hot nights. Food is served until 1am and the bar is open until 2am.

Science Street Cafe *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out the newest nightspot--The Museum of Science. Try our one-of-a-kind martinis, gourmet appetizers and desserts, then tour the Museum or catch an Omni movie. $25 package includes one drink, one appetizer, Mugar Omni Theater ticket, Exhibit Hall admission and parking. 6-10pm at the Museum of Science.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 Rear Union St., Newton Centre, 617-964-6684 Off intersect. of Beacon St. & Center St.* Comfortable, casual and fun in a 100+ yr-old building with 3 floors and an outside patio. Focus is on fresh food with a menu that covers everything from classic appetizers to creative pastas and entrees. Locally known for fresh fish and Sat. & Sun. Brunch menu as well as for football and sports bar scene (20 TVs of Direct TV) and the live, original music in the top floor ATTIC Bar.

bars/clubs

BEER SPECIALTY

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Boston Billiard Club *126 Brookline Ave., Boston, 617-536-POOL* Winner of Boston Magazine's Best of Boston 1999 Award. Newly expanded this year, Boston Billiard Club has more of everything you're looking for. More-Brunswick Gold Crown tables. A bigger lounge. New plush leather couches. A giant flat screen TV. An unbelievable state of the art sound system. Newly added function rooms. Free lessons Mon, 7:30- 9pm. House leagues on Mon and Tues. "In the Biz" Nights on Sunday and Mondays. Ladies' Night on Wed. www.bostonbilliardclub.com

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Tilt *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* A club truly in a class of its own. With its outrageous Light Show and Cat Walk spectacle, dance and groove with the spinning sensations on Saturday nights and to guest DJs spinning progressive house and trance on Friday. Dress code strictly enforced. Doors open at 10pm.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

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Cheers, Faneuil Hall Marketplace *Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers, Beacon Hill *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

Hurricane O'Reilly's, *150 Canal St., Boston, MA 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich Street, Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jillinsboston.com.

Oxygen-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Enjoy the best of 70's, 80's & 90's music on Tuesday nights and a buffet from 8pm-9pm with DJ Chris Fiore. Doors open at 8pm; 21+, $3 before 9pm and $5 after 9pm. Friday 18+ ladies, 19+ men, casual dress. Saturday 18+ ladies, 21+ men, proper dress required.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

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JAZZ

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Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

SPORTS BAR-UPSCALE

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of-the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

VIDEO CLUB

Uptown-The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus, 781-321-1660.* Progressive dance music on Friday nights: 18+ ladies, 19+ men. Casual dress.

brunch

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Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At Celebrate Education!, clockwise from upper left: Krystian von Speidel and Nathan Frank; Tracy Gallagher and Olivia English; Michele and Nancy Kolligian.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR PASSPORTS READY...

It's a small world, after all. In fact, you can fit the whole thing into the ballroom of the **Ritz-Carlton**, judging by **Celebrate Education!**—the black-tie dinner dance for **Unicef** where guests were assigned to tables corresponding to different countries around the globe.

The geography was a bit fuzzy, with Egypt located right near Bhutan and Botswana next door to Bosnia and Herzegovina, but it didn't prove to be too much of a problem for such clever folks as charitable stalwarts **Lynne** and **Gary Smith**; Brookline yummy mummy **Olivia English** and her oh-so-suave date, **Tracy Gallagher**; Back Bay party pair **Krystian von Speidel** and **Nathan Frank**; delightful and delicious southern belle **Winston Jenkins**; gazillionaire fish-monger **Roger Berkowitz** of Legal Sea Foods; Pulitzer Prize–winning photographer **Stan Grossfeld**; HVAC moguls **Michele** and **Nancy Kolligian**; blue-blooded do-gooder **Kimberlea Tracey**, and so on and so forth.

Among the more amusing exchanges overheard during the course of the evening:

"Where are you sitting?"

"Cameroon. How about you?"

"Bangladesh."

"Well, I'll come visit...Or maybe not."

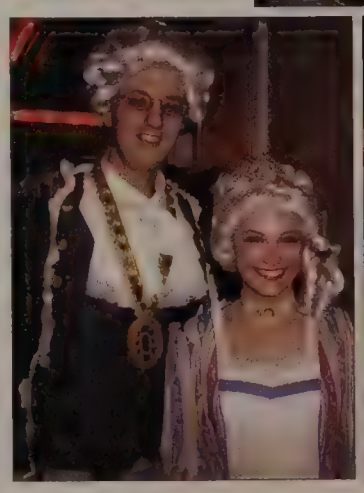
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, STOP *MOTO ONDOSO*...

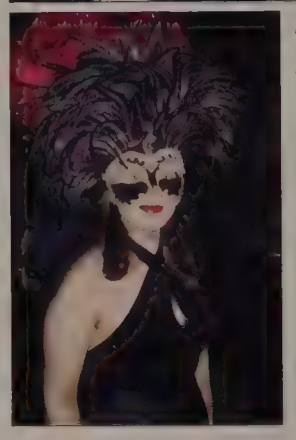
It may not be the most pressing cause in the world, but conserving the art treasures of Europe's most romantic city is certainly a worthwhile goal, and the **Young Friends of Save Venice** certainly know how to throw a black-tie hoo-ha.

The **1771 Carnevale** party, held at the **Algonquin Club**, attracted such soigné sophisticates as **Meredith** and **Jeremy Roy**; the ever-delightful **Mary English**; mojito bandito **Juan Prieto**; super-suave psychiatrist **John Sharp** and his stunning wife, **Elline**; statuesque fashion model **Hollis Colby**; alternative energy magnate **Jim Gordon** and his gorgeous other half, **Meg**; Gallic funboy **Pascal Aguirre de Navarre**; fashion plate and party chair **Allison Drescher**; lifelong Beacon Hillion **Cristina Coletta Blau**; City Hall scamp **Tony Nunziante**; uber-flack **Jan Saragoni**; Venezuelan playboy **Ricardo Jaimes-Branger**; the **Arnold Hunnewell Jr.**'s; MFA curator **Frederick Ilchman**, and others of their rarefied ilk.

Cocktails accompanied a live and silent auction with all manner of nifty stuff, after which there was a delicious dinner and dancing to Motown's greatest hits, and then everyone went home, secure in the knowledge that the next time the Grand Canal overflows its banks, there'll be someone there to mop it up.

At Le Bal Francais à St. Petersbourg, clockwise from top: Tanya Contos, Alexander Henry and Elizabeth Newman; Elaine Uzan Leary and Suki de Braganca; Aubin Dupree and Samantha Livingston.





At the Young Friends of Save Venice party, clockwise from upper left: Jeremy and Meredith Roy; Karyn Lamb, Trevania Henderson and Molly Dunne; Cynthia Frederick.

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS...

Meanwhile, just up the avenue, diehard Francophiles and those who love them were gathered at the **Ritz** for **Le Bal Francais à St. Petersbourg**—a gala benefit for the **French Library and Cultural Center**.

Tout le monde, or some percentage thereof, were decked out in their finest for the way-elegant evening, among them: the oh-so-social **Suki** and **Miguel de Braganca**; uber-arts-patrons **Hod** and **Cassandra Irvine**; legal eagle **David Kozol** and his gorgeous blonde French other half, **Anna**; the statuesque **Tanya Contos** (wearing family jewels and a medal given to her grandfather by the czar of Russia); her son, **Alexander Henry**, squiring the scrumptious **Elizabeth Newman**; naturally carbonated grande dame **Marigold Randall**; party stalwarts **Wat** and **Jane Tyler**; literacy crusader and socialite **Vivian Spiro** and her art supplies mogul husband, **Lionel**; the perfectly charming **Kargmans**, **Marjie** and **Bob**; and any number of people who took the invitation at its word and donned Franco-Russian period costumes, powdered wigs and all.

Not surprisingly, several conversations revolved around the absurdity of the recent anti-French backlash in this country.

"How can you hate a culture that gave us champagne and Brigitte Bardot?" marveled one guest.

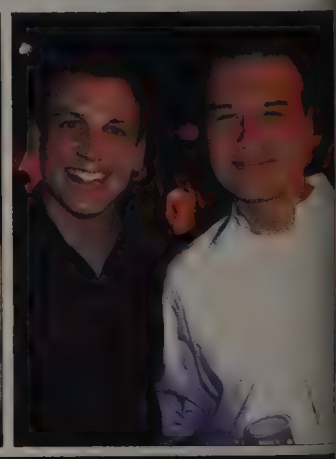
"And let's not forget," a friend added, "They were willing to take Jerry Lewis off our hands."

THE STINKY CHEESE DEPARTMENT...

If the **AIDS Action Committee**'s fund-raiser had offered a true **Taste of the South End**, there would've been nowhere to park and guests would've paid north of a million dollars for a coat closet. Nevertheless, the event at the **Cyclorama** did offer a chance to sample delicacies from various neighborhood restaurants while sipping wine and rubbing elbows with the likes of Harvard Museum of Natural History honcho **Philip Lovejoy** and his other half, **Jim Moses**; art dealer **Bernie Toale**; Channel 5 weather hunk **David Brown**; musclebound greeting card model **Edwin Bradley** and studly lawyer **Jim Tucker**; avuncular broadcasting legend **Frank Avruch** and the fabulous **Bette**; theatrical publicist **Joanne Barrett**; and restaurateurs like **Gordon Hamersley**, **Antoine Delgado** of 33, **Jack Bardy** of Pho Republique and **Jeff Gates** of Aquitaine.

Overheard near the door: "When you tell someone, 'I just ate the most delicious Stilton,' and they say, 'I know,' it's definitely time to go home." IB

At Taste of the South End, clockwise from upper left: Edwin Bradley and Jim Tucker; Joel Benjamin and Paul Niski; Kevin Joyce and David Brown; Seth Woods.



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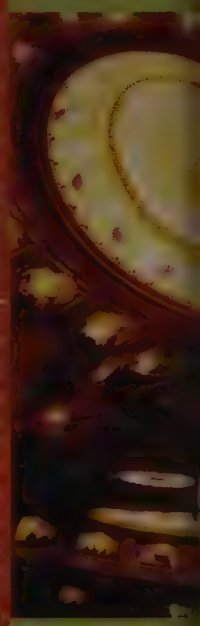

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Saint's
Katy Jordan

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Hair: **Sally Drinkwater and Melissa Clark for Lord's and Lady's**
Clothing: **Black and white print dress by Sally Smith, pink dress by Robin Jordan and black bow belt by Prairie New York, all available at Holiday**
Stylist: **Samantha Williams**
Jewelry: **Green beaded necklace by Jojowear, available at The Beauty Mark**
Martini glass: **Available at Crate and Barrel**

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

TRACY POWE

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letters

ON THE WARPATH

It looks like the Firefly won't be on my prospective list for patronage ("Parlez-Vous Freedom," the Word, March 19). Is the help behind the counter ("anonymous") qualified to serve fries in the first place? I quote, "More than half our country is opposed to this war, but we shouldn't direct our anger towards the French." The last time I checked the polls, the U.S. was [at least 70 percent] in favor of military action. In what world does that make half in opposition? Just because 25,000 flunkies can flock to the Boston Common does not mean that's the majority of Massachussets. I'm fed up with liberal non-facts and nonsense. Besides, it's the French that hate us—a British war cemetery was vandalized over there earlier this month. Another reason to detest the unwashed weaklings.

—Ronald Groves
Medford

POSITIVE ALTITUDES

Regarding Ezra's column on the Be a Pilot program (March 19): If you want real magic, sometime in the summer fly from Hanscom down to Katama Airpark in Edgartown. It's a little grass strip right on the beach and the ride from Hanscom to the Vineyard at 2,500 feet is wonderful. In a little over an hour you trade the city skyline for the beach (literally across the street from the airport) and an old airstrip dating back to 1928 or so that hasn't changed much since. It's truly amazing how far 100 miles can take you. If a prospective pilot is on the fence, my advice is to jump in with both feet. Taking lessons two to three times a week, you can solo in a few months (20-40 hours is average) and about as many hours again for the license. I don't care who you talk to, be it a Sunday afternoon pilot or a top gun flying F-14s off the *Abraham Lincoln*, every pilot remembers his first solo like it was yesterday. Truly an awesome experience, and a rite of passage that ties you together with all the great airmen of the past, straight back to Orville and Wilbur. America invented the airplane and remains the most open civil aviation system in the world by far. It is a shame more people do not enjoy it.

—Colin Kingsbury
Via e-mail

Ezra's article on flying was right on! Growing up with my dad, a pilot, I can't imagine myself doing anything other than flying for a career. I got my license as soon as I could (17), but 9/11 has changed everything, and now everybody thinks anyone who flies a little airplane is going to declare jihad. I'm glad that Ezra portrayed general aviation in a positive light, because it rarely is. I'm only 18 and a senior in high school, but I've got about 500 hours and an instrument rating as well as a float plane rating. Ezra should continue taking lessons. It's a blast, and yes, ladies like the pilots.

—Jamie Anderson
Seattle

CONTRIBUTOR

MELISSA MAHONEY

Melissa Mahoney first developed a passion for photography at the age of 16, and by the time she was 19, she'd shot her first fashion spread. Trips to New York and Paris helped shape Mahoney's style, which makes dramatic use of contrasting light and shadows. She still regularly crosses the pond to France and considers travel integral to her evolution as a photographer. "I love shadows, skin and emotion," she says. "It would be difficult to describe the type of people I like to shoot because it's what I see inside each subject that inspires me." Mahoney's photographs have appeared in the Improper Bostonian and national publications, including *Platinum* and *YM*. To see her latest Improper work, turn to this issue's fashion section, "Minis Go Modern," on page 40.

FROM THE EDITOR

STARS IN BARS

Nine years ago the Improper's Jonathan Soroff had an idea for a feature story that would single out the city's best bartenders. Readers loved it, the issue immediately became one of our most popular, and the story became an annual tradition. Nearly a decade later, the fervor hasn't waned. The 2003 ballots—more than 1,000 of them—stacked in a teetering pile on the corner of editorial assistant Jessica Iredale's desk are proof of Bostonians' enduring appreciation for the bartenders who serve them so well.

What drives that appreciation—and what makes for a good bartender, anyway? I took those questions to the experts—the Professional Bartenders School of New England, which, coincidentally, has offices in our building. "Personality is very important," says education director Lou Herbourg. "They must have an ingrained spirit of wanting to help people have a good time, as opposed to just trying to get tips." Herbourg's instructors teach students how to mix popular drinks. But they also teach them about eye contact, about constantly sweeping the bar with their eyes and watching the door to see who's coming in—as well as how to recognize when customers have reached their limit and how to shut them off politely.

Judging by the nomination forms we received and by this year's crop of 34 winners, a bartender's warm smile, attentive and efficient service, and of course, unique personality are what bargoers notice and remember. The men and women behind the bar are not just the hands that feed us but part of the entertainment—and sometimes even the reason we hang out where we do.

For fun, we've thrown a few bar-related sidebars into this issue. To truly show your appreciation for your own beloved bartenders, check our code of bar etiquette (page 28) and follow its commandments religiously.

If you're moved to toast this year's winners as well as the hundreds of other deserving professionals not on our list this year, please join us at the Rack on May 13 for our annual bartenders bash. Watch these pages for details. Cheers!

Veronica Chao

Veronica Chao, Editor
veronica@improper.com

CORRECTION

In the April 2 Teatro dining review, the picture of pappardelle with braised veal, sautéed mushrooms and root vegetables on page 40 was incorrectly captioned. Also, while Jamie Mammano is Teatro's chef/owner, Robert Jean is executive chef.

Tell Us What You Think

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FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

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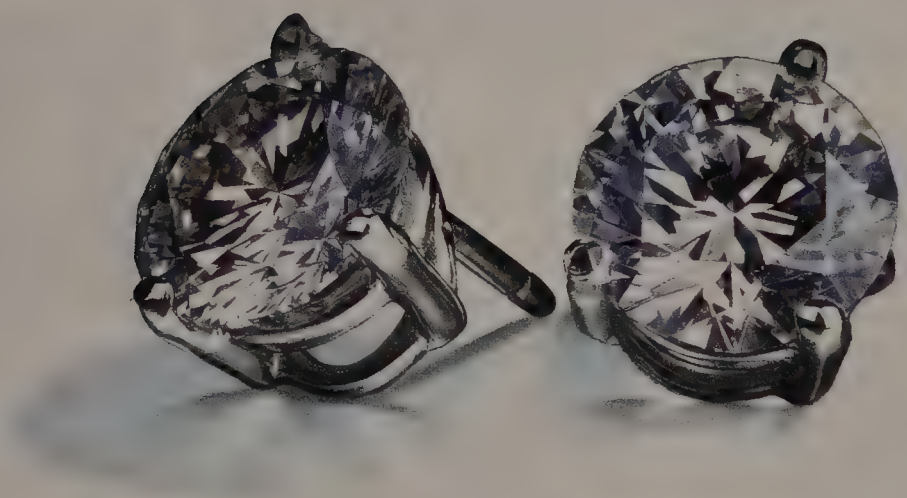

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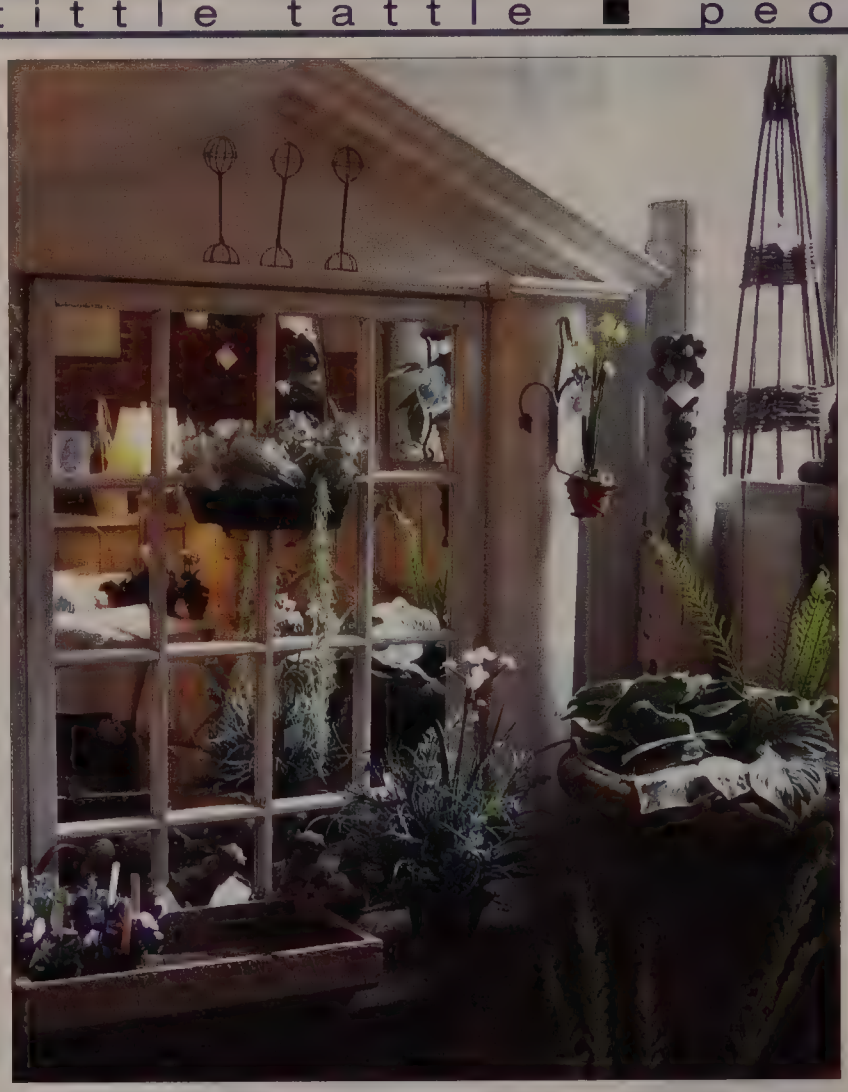
NEW IN TOWN

Garden Gods



When **Bosc** opened on Charles Street on Beacon Hill in mid-March, neighbors flocked to the cheery, garden-level home-and-garden furnishings store. It could be because spring fever has seized Bostonians for some time now—we're aching to escape winter's grasp, to walk barefoot in the grass, to pull a weed or two or pluck a tomato off the vine. Or it could be that the name Bosc is familiar to Cape vacationers. (Owners Karen Morrissey, Ralph McLean and John Young own the original boutique of the same name in Kingston Center, on the way to the Cape.)

Whatever the reason, your imagination will run wild as you peruse the patio furniture, stone statues, trellises and bird feeders that fill every nook and cranny of the shop. Picture your grandparents' basement—full of antique furniture (repainted by Young), old lithographs and prints, mirrors and chalkboards—only sunlit, spacious, cleaner and much better organized. Don't miss Young's paintings of Bosc pears hanging on every wall—they look good enough to eat. *82 Charles St., Boston (617-778-6942).—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short*

NEW IN TOWN

Back to the Future

It's a bit eerie sitting at the counter at **Spa-Rific Soda Fountain** on Huntington Avenue watching the men behind the counter in their white, short-sleeve button-downs and paper hats as they grill burgers and whip up old-fashioned ice cream sodas. On the wall, a photo of John F. Kennedy hangs next to a row of old 7-Up bottles and vintage board games. If it weren't for the guy next to us gabbing on his cell phone, we'd swear we were transported back to the 1950s.

Spa-Rific owner Richard Fredericks (who jokingly calls himself the official bottle washer and pot cleaner) recently turned the pharmacy he's owned for 14 years into a '50s-era soda fountain with red leather bar stools, mismatched upholstered seats and tables, a jukebox and an odd assortment of decorations—from an old stand-up hair dryer-cum-lamp to a bicycle covered in neon green fur. One of the only places in town where you can get a vanilla egg cream or a raspberry lime rickey—two of 50 flavored sodas—Spa-Rific also has traditional favorites like steak tips, burgers and home fries, as well as a few updated offerings like grilled cheese on seven-grain bread and a salad bar. Just don't leave without indulging in a thick chocolate frappe. *635 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-566-9088).—E.H. and J.S.*

SPORTS

Hot Shots

When the New England Revolution play their first home game of the season April 19 against the Columbus Crew, there will be a major new force on the field: the ball. Made by Puma, the new ball adopted by Major League Soccer this season is dimpled like a golf ball, which Puma says helps create "positive turbulence" and faster shots. While offensive players ought to be overjoyed at this development, there's at least one guy on every team who's not so excited: the goalkeeper.

"The new ball is a lot lighter and has a lot more action on it," says Revolution goalkeeper Adin Brown. "Instead of coming in a straight line, it knuckles and moves at you. And it comes a lot quicker. Where last year's shots were in the 65-80 mph range, I'd say now they're anywhere from 80-95 mph. The guys love lighting me up in practice." Some purists are sure to dislike the dimpled balls, but Brown thinks they'll improve the game for most fans. "With any change in a game, some people like it and some people don't. But this will definitely make the game more exciting. There's going to be a lot more scoring this year."—*Ezra Dye*

IMPROPER REPORTS

Running on Empty

As the director of nutrition services at SportsMedicine Associates, Nancy Clark's more famous clients include members of the Boston Red Sox and the Celtics. She's published two books, including *Nancy Clark's Sports Nutrition Guidebook* and most recently *Nancy Clark's Food Guide for Marathoners*. We asked her what she recommends Boston marathoners should eat after the grueling 26.2-mile run April 21:

"Some people are feeling pretty nauseated after a run and can only handle a glass of ginger ale, while others can eat an entire box of cookies. The body usually wants water and carbs, but sometimes the mind wants champagne—and that's OK. Runners should just make sure they get a lot of fluids. Later on it's important to get a protein/carb combination like potatoes and steak, or spaghetti and meat sauce."

Then we asked a few marathoners what *they* plan to eat post-run:

- **Beth Coughlin**: "A sour cream-and-onion bagel with veggie cream cheese immediately after I finish. Some candy would be nice too, and chips. A meal at the Cheesecake Factory would be perfect. Chicken fingers, French fries..."
- **Domenick D'Amico**: "A frappe from J.P. Licks."
- **Dave DeBruin**: "I usually have a good steak with mashed potatoes and plenty of gravy."
- **Lauren Kisver**: "Home-baked treats, a turkey club sandwich from Baker's Best...or lobster, cold Coronas or red wine. Maybe both!"
- **Seth Lieberman**: "I plan to eat sausage pizza somewhere in a soft chair."
- **John Passier**: "Pizza and a few beers."

BOSC: GLORIA DAWSON; MARATHON: SETH LIEBERMAN; SPA-RIFIC: GLORIA DAWSON

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TASTY TIDBITS

•Alfresco Dining... The calendar says yes, but Mother Nature is voicing a chilly no. So why are cafés and restaurants throughout the city prepping their outdoor patios for use? According to commissioner of Public Works Joseph Casazza, the city normally approves May 1 as opening day for outdoor dining but this year moved it up to April 1 to help the restaurant community, which was hard hit by the long winter and slow economy. "Phil Aviles of Masa and Bob Lionette of Garden of Eden bumped into Mayor Menino and he mentioned that he'd like to start earlier, and we cooperated. There's nothing more to it," Casazza reports. Restaurateur extraordinaire Todd English also shared thoughts, "We're a city that's indoors nine months a year, and I think outdoor dining brings life to the street, enhances city the culturally and adds to the charm. Especially after a long, ridiculous winter." Now, just pray for warmth.

•Geoff, Drew, Frog and Toad... Geoff & Drew's Incredible Cookies, an 18-month-old addition to the Boston delivery scene, is making a name for itself on Broadway. Their chocolate-chunk special is the official cookie of the new Broadway production *Frog and Toad*, which opened at New York's Cort Theater April 13. The cookies are available at all theater concession stands. So how did a Boston cookie-delivery service get connected to Broadway? Drew Koven of Geoff & Drew's says, "In *Frog and Toad*, there's a song about cookies, and the producers saw our write-up in *Gourmet* and now we're in business."

•Dining at the Days... Given its neighboring surroundings (IHOP, Martignetti's, Mr. Tux) a Bickford's Family Restaurant might seem the perfect dining addition to the Days Hotel on Soldiers Field Road. Well, Bickford Corp. is in charge, but don't be fooled; the newly opened Tavern on the Charles is nothing like the burgundy clapboard diners that punctuate New England highways. General manager Mark McMahon says, "It's the un-Bickford's," with a more upscale menu offering homemade stuffed quahog, filet mignon and lobster. The average entrée is $16, and the only similarities between the sibling restaurants is the traditional Bickford's breakfast, offered daily from 7-11:30am at its regular low price. *1234 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-782-4391).—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

CLUB SCENE
Back to Basics

•Just a few years ago, Lansdowne Street played host to one of the top underground club nights in North America—Thursdays at Axis. Starting this month, the underground goes back to where it belongs, at Axis, with Square One Thursdays. Square One marks a return to the bare basics of Boston clubbing—no dress code, only a $5 cover charge, no guest lists or radio ads. Resident DJs Ali Ajami, John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen will deliver progressive dance music to the masses. On April 24, Square One presents a Deported evening, uniting Bedrock labelmates John Debo and Steve Porter behind the decks for the first time in nearly two years. *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*

•On Friday, April 18, DJ Matt Fonstein, also known by his DJ name, Tasty, returns to Pravda 116 hot on the heels of a sold-out appearance in early March. Clubgoers can expect Fonstein to take the packed dance floor on a journey out to the tribal edges of progressive house and back again. *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*

•The former Cellar dwelling techno party i Cambridge, the Appli ance of Science, re emerges this month o Saturday nights at Rive Gods. Meanwhile, Fri day nights at RiverGod are smooth and easy, a Eavesdrop founder Davi Day takes over the deck to spin laid-back gems o "white soul" from th '70s through today. *12 River St., Cambridg (617-576-1881).*

•The eagerly antici pated reopening o Boston's members-only after-hours club Rise ma still be a ways off. In the wake of the deadly Statio fire in Rhode Island, Rise's owners have decided t re-evaluate their renovation plans for the Stuar Street club (which closed after a fire) to ensure tha safety is the top priority. Owners say Rise will in deed return, though the club may be relocated to new downtown location.—*Daniel Spurling*

INTERVIEW
On the Rise—Rachel Loy

After Rachel Loy penned her single, *The Same Man*, the ink barely had time to dry before radio stations in her hometown of Austin, Texas, gave it air time. The 19-year-old Berklee student's song is a tribute to a friend currently stationed in the Middle East, and its catchy melody and moving lyrics caught the attention of some recording industry bigwigs. Within a matter of days, Loy was in Los Angeles recording the single with Epic Records. She took a few minutes to chat with us about her newfound glory before her single hits record stores nationally April 22.

IB: *Who is "the same man who sleeps with his gun"? Have you spoken to or corresponded with him since you wrote the song?*

RL: His name is Matthew Brake. I saw him in early January, and then a week later he shipped off to Kuwait. I assume he's in Iraq now. I haven't actually talked to him, but I've talke to his family about it, and it's so cool because the son has been such an encouragement for them.

IB: *Any negotiations on the table with Epic or anyone else?*

RL: There's a development deal with my five-piec all-girl outfit, Mass. Ave., that went on the table th same time as my single deal. If the single goes wel then chances are they'll probably want to do a sol album with me.

IB: *Where do you think this exposure is going to lead?*

RL: Eventually I want to produce my solo album and b a well-known producer and songwriter and in strumentalist. I get stressed out when I thin of financial goals. I just do the music.

IB: *So are you ready to embrace fame, or is it back t the books?*

RL: The past couple of weeks I've been frie with schoolwork. Berklee has the kind of poli cies that cater to this kind of situation, so I ca take a two-year break and come back with m scholarship. I don't want to ask for a bunch o exceptions to be made.—*Jessica Iredale*

improper speaking SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTIO

•Ah, Bach... Although we highlighted the Wang Theatre's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* as an IMPROPER Pick in the last issue, we wondered about the decision to cast Sebastian Bach, the former front man for hair-metal band Skid Row who has a history of, um, impulsive behavior, in the title role. Call us prescient, but due to what was allegedly unholy behavior, Bach was unceremoniously dropped from the production. Eric Kunze replaces the headbanger in time for opening night April 16.

•Idolize This... Do today's "How did they get a contract?" performers make you feel like you too deserve a shot at stardom? New England's (nontelevised) answer to *American Idol*, called NEXT, could be your ticket. Anyone (18-30) who thinks he or she has what it takes can attend auditions at the Improv Asylum on April 24, Virgin Megastore on the 25th or the Place on the 26th. A panel of five judges (including the Celtics' Walter McCarty) will pick 30 finalists, and KISS 108's Billy Costa hosts more competitions to whittle them down. The lucky NEXT New England superstar gets a recording contract with the Musicians Development Institute. *www.nextnewengland.com.*

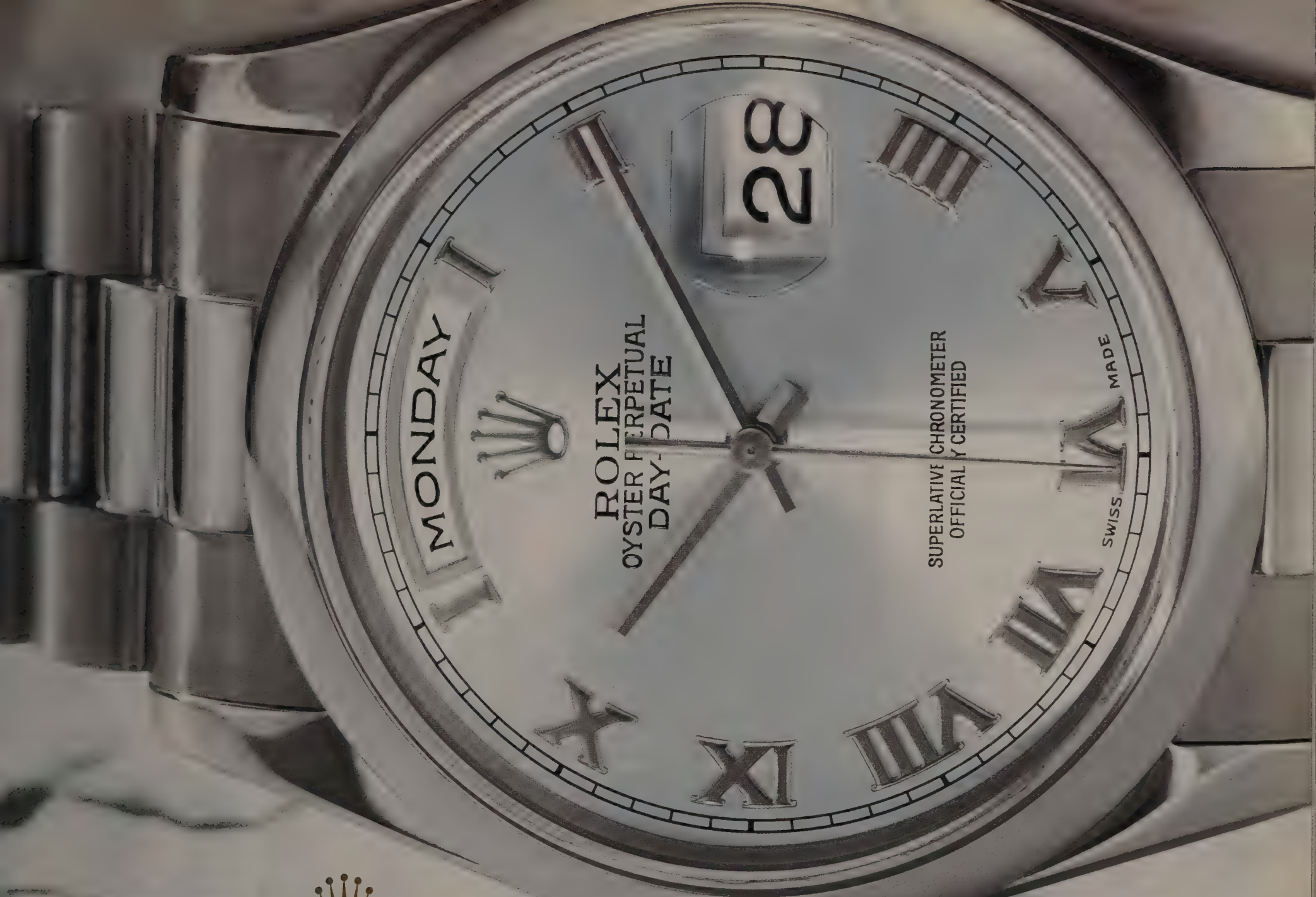
•Spacing Out... After six years in Boston, the South End's avant garde art hall, Space 12 Gallery, is bidding farewell to the bustling art community. Gallery owner Greg Shea is closing the space at the end of April. Sad but true. In the spirit of lightening the load, Shea is currently having what he calls an SMS sale—he doesn't want to "store it, move it or ship it," so almost everything in the gallery is 20 to 25 percent off.

•No Way, Jose... 'Tis the season of W-2s and 1040s. Accountants are winding down their busiest time of year and probably feeling a little overworked and underpaid.... Um, scratch that last part. Jose McIntyre's is going beyond the call of duty to make number-crunchers feel appreciated during Accountant Appreciation Week. All accountants and finance workers are invited to present their business cards at Jose Mac's through April 22 and receive a free appetizer. Extra love will no doubt go to those who've secured handsome returns for their clients.

•Match-Up Markdown... It's unanimous: Cheap rent is good; cheap roommates are bad. So we're excited to hear that the oldest roommate referral se vice in the country, Matching Roo mates, is offering a special promotion celebration of its 37th birthday. Owne Al Norton is offering a discount throug out the rental season: Sign up throug September 15 and receive $20 off th regular fee of $85. *(617-232-2600* www.matchingroommates.com. *—E.H., J.S. and J.I.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.



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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

LifeSavor, the annual benefit for Community Servings, was held April 3 at Le Meridien Hotel. The gala included a citywide dinner party involving more than 80 local restaurants and close to 900 guests who came together to support the home-delivered meals program for individuals and families with AIDS.

1. From left: **Paul Carchidi**, attorney in Brockton; **Fred Schneider**, front man for the B-52's; **David Waters**, executive director of Community Servings.
2. **David Poole**, of RBC Dain Rauscher in Wellesley and his wife, **Leigh**.
3. From left: **Fritz Morsches**, marketing director for Foley Hoag; **Ditas Mauricio**, director of PAN Communications in Andover; and **Phil Nardone**, board member of Community Servings.
4. From left: **Stan Leven** and **Mary Richardson**, senior producer and co-anchor, respectively, for WCVB-TV's *Chronicle*, and **Jonathan Scott**, CEO of Victory Programs.
5. **Joan Parker**, co-chair of the event, and **Richard Olson**, executive vice president at Fleet.
6. **Robert Parker**, author, and **Joan Moynagh**, major gifts director for the American Repertory Theater.
7. **Matt Siegel**, morning personality for KISS 108, and his wife, **Maryann**.
8. **Glenn Velez**, manager of Mac Cosmetics in Downtown Crossing, and **Carrie Skinner**, manager of Saks in the Prudential.

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In Celebration of Women, the Pine Street Inn's 10th annual benefit dinner for homeless women, was held April 3 at the Westin Copley Place Hotel. More than 600 committed supporters joined together to recognize the challenges facing homeless women and to celebrate their strength and hope. The benefit provided funds to help the Pine Street Inn offer counseling, street outreach, shelter, health care, job training and permanent housing for homeless women.

9. **Bob Walsh**, chairman of RF Walsh Construction Co., and his wife, **Karylann**, chair of the event.
10. From left: **Maryellen Horgan-Currier**, **Eric Schramm** and **Xiamara Richards**, director of development, development associate and communications officer, respectively, for the Pine Street Inn.
11. From left: **Susan Siebert**, partner at Edwards & Angell and a Pine Street Inn board member; **Lyndia Downie**, president of the Pine Street Inn; and **Corinne Ferguson**, board member.
12. **Victoria Florea**, president of Maghi Florea Imports in Brookline, and **Terry Hamilton**, wife of Aerosmith's Tom Hamilton.

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Ezra BY EZRA DYER

Clothes Encounters

Anybody want to buy a pair of Dutch clogs?

You know you're not the snappiest dresser when you wear black pants to work and everyone asks "Going out tonight?" Or when you buy a new shirt and everyone says "Heeeyyy...new shirt!" as if you show up at work wearing a new item of clothing only once or twice a year. OK, so maybe I do show up at work wearing a new item of clothing only once or twice a year. You don't have to call me on it.

A few months ago I took a stab at addressing my clothing situation, buying clothes at three different stores on the same day. When I got home, Roommate Scott informed me that while I was out Fleet called and asked if my debit card had been stolen. I would wager that most people could visit three different clothing stores in a day and not receive a call from the Slob Police, so obviously there was further work to be done.

More recently, I was in western Mass. with Girlfriend Liz, who wanted to stop at the J. Crew outlet in the town of Lee. I decided to kill some time looking around the store while she searched for a pair of trouser chinos in harbor (or, to the non-J. Crew-speaking world, "blue pants"). The next thing I knew, I'd bought a pair of pants for myself. Then I remembered that I was wearing mismatched socks with holes in them, but I could stave off doing laundry for a few more days if I bought a couple of new pairs. Soon I'd recklessly splurged on five pairs of socks and three pairs of boxers, with an additional three pairs purchased by Liz. I told her that my three new pairs were sufficient, but for some reason she insisted on buying me more, with her own money—I think I heard her mutter something about most of my underwear being "disgusting" and "needing to be destroyed." I guess women just love to shop!

Now I was on a roll. Since I started golfing seven years ago I've never had golf spikes. I felt that buying golf spikes would be a poseur move for a guy whose tee shots have been known to land behind him. But if I waited until I was actually good at golf to buy the proper shoes, I'd be wearing my Docs on the course 'til RuPaul gains membership at Augusta. So I marched into the first shoe store I spotted to see if they had any spikes. This happened to be Johnston & Murphy, which had no golf shoes. But they did have a pair of black oxfords in my size for $70, and my current pair is about a year overdue for replacement. I bought them, but now I was even more determined to find golf spikes. I headed for the Reebok store. "I'll go kill some time in Nine West," said Liz. In less than an hour, the male-female shopping dichotomy had been reversed. I'd become the girl.

At the Reebok store I found a $130 pair of spikes on clearance for $40. When I brought them to the register, the clerk informed me that I could get a second pair of shoes for half price, including those in the adjoining Rockport outlet. At first I balked, because I hadn't intended to buy any shoes, let alone three pairs, but then the lure of the deal sucked me in, and I eventually walked out with both my golf

IF I WAITED UNTIL I WAS ACTUALLY GOOD AT GOLF TO BUY THE PROPER SHOES, I'D BE WEARING MY DOCS ON THE COURSE 'TIL RUPAUL GAINS MEMBERSHIP AT AUGUSTA.

spikes and a pair of Rockports that look somewhat like leather versions of those wooden shoes worn by the Dutch. That's right; I bought shoes on a whim. Better watch your back, Imelda Marcos.

To review: I need shirts and pants and I ended up with golf cleats and Ugly Dutchlings. Not only that, the sock purchase might have actually been counterproductive, because I don't do laundry until I run out of clean socks, which takes about a month. Then, after a laundry trip I quickly exhaust what passes for dapper clothes in my closet and wear whatever's available until the next wash day. If I continue to stockpile a sock pile, that means I'll have to go deeper and deeper into my shirt-and-pants roster, until I'm wearing clean socks, acid-wash Jordache jeans and a Hartford Whalers Starter jacket to work. I hope that outfit looks good with my new shoes. iB

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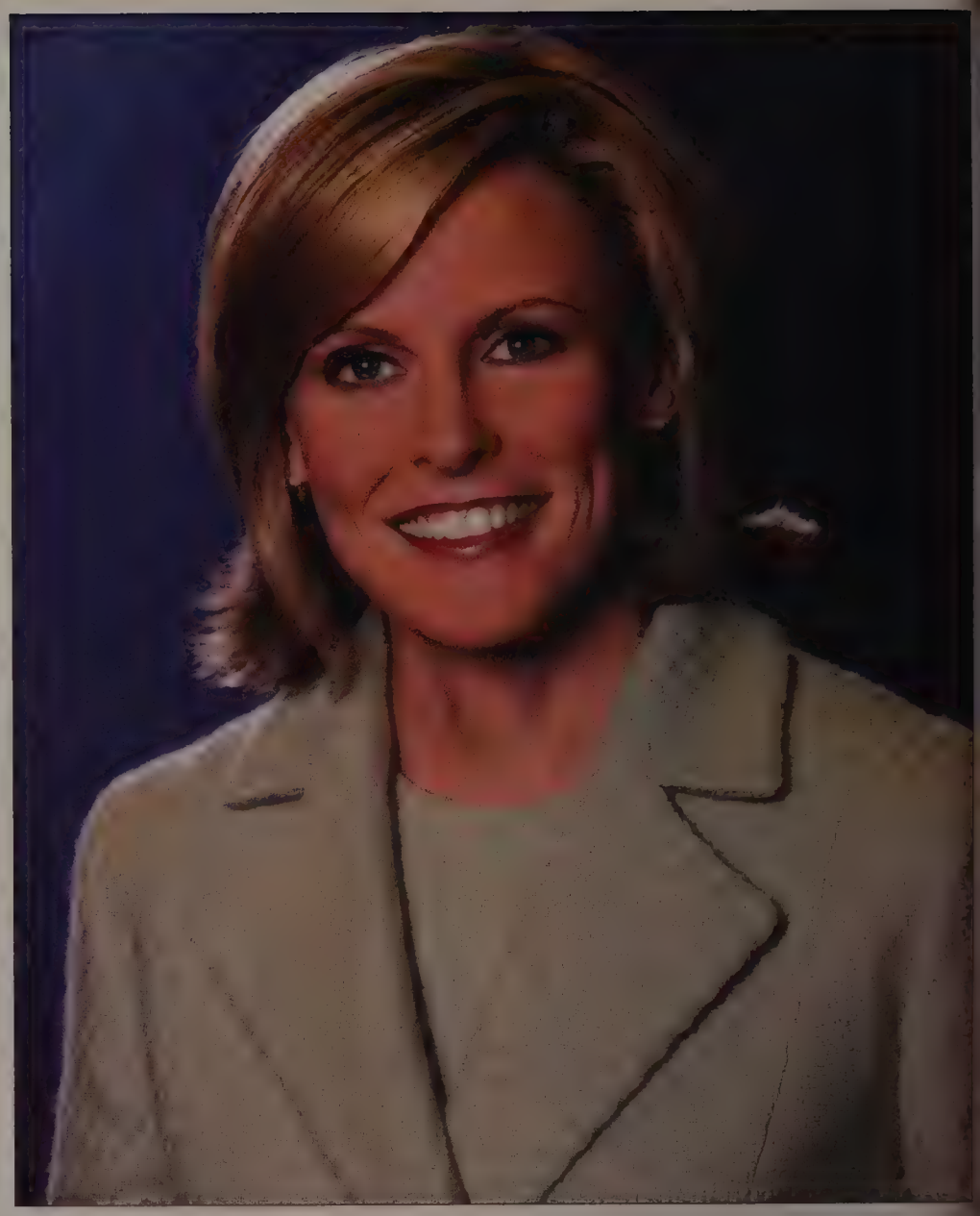
Lisa Hughes

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



WBZ-TV 4 news anchor Lisa Hughes, who helms the weekday 6 and 11pm broadcasts, was born and raised in Moscow, Idaho. She received her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Washington in Seattle, and from 1991 to 1992 worked as an anchor and reporter for KCBY-TV in Oregon. For the next two years, she worked for KBCI-TV in Boise, Idaho, and then joined KIRO-TV in Seattle as a weekend anchor, before joining CBS Newspath, the CBS-TV group's satellite news service. As a correspondent, she reported from Washington, D.C., and overseas, her assignments including the Pope's visit to Israel in 2000. In June of that year, she joined WBZ. The recipient of a 1996 Emmy award for hard news story, she is actively involved with several charities, including the American Liver Foundation, the Boston Adult Literacy Fund and the Boston Public Library Foundation. She lives in the Back Bay.

Jonathan Soroff: *OK, Moscow, Idaho. Are you some kind of pinko commie lefty?*

Lisa Hughes: First of all, there's no "cow" in Moscow. It's pronounced "Moss-ko." It's a college town. Very earthy.

JS: *When you were a little kid, who was your role model?*

LH: A little kid? Maybe Wonder Woman.

JS: *Because she kicked ass?*

LH: She could deflect bullets, and she knew where they were coming from.

JS: *What's the worst thing you ever had to cover?*

LH: I went to do a story about a group of people whose sewage and garbage had been cut off in the trailer park where they lived because their landlord hadn't paid his bills. Turned out that he hadn't paid the bills because he was in jail for hiring a hit man to torture and kill his ex-wife for running away with another woman. The hit man he hired was an undercover cop. Strangely enough, I remember eating at a Boston Market that night. [Laughs.]

JS: *One piece of news you'd most like to deliver?*

LH: Scientists have found a cure for AIDS.

JS: *One story in history you'd like to have covered?*

LH: Maybe the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. I think I would have been bawling my head off, but what an amazing moment. It's hard to imagine.

JS: *Biggest on-air faux pas?*

LH: I can't even say it.

JS: *Yes, you can.*

LH: OK. One time I was tossing to the weather anchor by saying it was a shame that we all had to get up that morning to scrape the ice off the windows of our cars. Apparently, the hand gesture that I made looked a bit like masturbation, and it was just suggestive enough that the sports anchor couldn't keep his composure. When I left the station, on my going-away tape they proceeded to take that clip and just loop it over and over. But at the time it seemed perfectly innocent, and I couldn't figure out why these two guys couldn't stop laughing.

JS: *Speaking of which, how do you balance the sunny, smiling on-air personality with telling people about terrible tragedies?*

LH: Most of the time, you become immersed enough that you imagine what it would be like to be the person in the story. Then it becomes really sad. There's no temptation to smile at all. Sometimes, on rare occasions, you even have to turn the volume down because it's just too much.

> "IF YOU DIDN'T FEEL SAD ABOUT MANY OF THESE STORIES, YOU'D COMPLETELY LOSE YOUR HUMANITY... I LIKE TO GET CLOSER TO WHAT'S REAL."

JS: *So does it get depressing, and if so, what do you do?*

LH: I get depressed about it, a little bit. I feel blue when it's over, particularly. But I think if you didn't feel sad about many of these stories, you'd completely lose your humanity. You make a choice: Either you think about them as things that will bring people together, because these are common emotions—sadness, fear and loss—or you choose to ignore them, and I just don't think I could do that. I like to get closer to what's real.

JS: *A lot of people think that news anchors just show up, read from the teleprompter and then go home. What's your day really like?*

LH: I try to read as many newspapers as possible and know what's going on. I watch the news, especially the noon show. Typically, there might be some kind of public appearance or charity function before, during or after work. I go in at three. We do promotional spots for the six o'clock and the eleven o'clock news. Then we start rewriting and working on scripts, reading them out loud at our desks. After all that, you have to roll with the punches when Plan A goes out the window and there's breaking news, and you just have to deal with it.

JS: *Worst words for you to read on the teleprompter?*

LH: "Buttocks" and "tuberculosis" are my downfall. For some reason, I can't say them. There was this terrible story about a woman trying to smuggle drugs in her buttocks, and I couldn't pronounce it. With tuberculosis, I just have to say TB.

JS: *Who would you rather kiss: Tom Brokaw, Ted Koppel, Sam Donaldson, Peter Jennings or Dan Rather?*

LH: Oh, that's easy. Peter Jennings. He's smart and well spoken. I just wish he were a little...

JS: *...less Canadian?*

LH: No. A little softer in his delivery. But I've always had a huge crush on him, although it's waned a bit in the past couple of years.

JS: *Thing you like least about being on TV?*

LH: It's just the nature of the beast, but to some people, you're no longer a person. You're the TV head. And they make assumptions about you, like that you wake up fully made up. They fill in all kinds of blanks, and then when you meet them, you realize you have a lot of work to do to dispel those things.

JS: *How about strange encounters with viewers, like someone blaming you for a story you covered?*

LH: One man writes me regularly asking me please not to say that we don't want more snow because we should be happy with whatever nature gives us, and by the way, some people do like snow, and he'd appreciate it if I didn't speak for others.

JS: *What's your impression of Al-Jazeera?*

LH: I think they've given us some idea of how things are reported in the Middle East, so as Americans it's interesting for us to see it. I worry that it's a mouthpiece, and it has such an amazing influence on people, which can be dangerous. But by the same token, what we believe in is freedom of speech, and what we're ostensibly fighting for is to give people a voice. I don't think you can silence a voice, even if you don't like it.

JS: *Are you a natural blonde?*

LH: I have no idea.

JS: *What are the restrictions on your appearance?*

LH: There aren't any, really. Consistency is the key.

JS: *That's not true. You can't go out and get a tattoo on your neck or have your eyebrow pierced.*

LH: OK. But I've never really been tempted to do either of those things. I do have an olive suit that my boss hates, and he made no bones about mentioning it.

JS: *Fantasy job after WBZ?*

LH: For the first time in my career, I'm not thinking about what's next. IB

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BOSTON'S BELOVED BARTENDERS

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

The minute you walk in the joint,
You can tell that he or she's a pro of distinction,
A real bartender.
Attentive. Technique refined.
Inexplicably knows what's going on in your mind.
So let us get right to the point:
We don't pop our corks for every one we see.
Hey, bartender!
Here's some hard-earned props for thee.

– To the tune of "Big Spender," with apologies to Dorothy Fields and Cy Coleman

Every year, we publish a ballot that readers use to name their favorites. We canvass the city and network with barflies. We go out night after night, purely for research, and wake up every morning feeling a bit worse for the wear. All to bring you our lineup of Boston's bottle-slinging all-stars.

Anyone with an opposable thumb can open a beer or put ice into a glass and pour booze over it. Even the world's biggest klutz, in the privacy of his own home, can coax a martini out of a cocktail shaker. But try doing that several hundred times a night, for people who expect you to interact with them no matter how objectionable they are. It's not an easy job, and it's that much harder to do with style and finesse.

Some of our picks work at high-end restaurants or ultra-hip nightclubs. Some work at neighborhood haunts or out-and-out dives. All of them are worth visiting, if only because their genius for tending bar makes them a significant draw for the places where they do that voodoo that they do so well.

As always, you will see the faces of repeat winners, the proverbial cream of the crop whose consistency should be applauded. We've also included a signature drink recipe from all the winners, so that even if you never get a chance to belly up to their bars, you can still experience a little bit of their magic. Should you happen to seek out these bartenders in person, though, we ask that you remember three things:

1. Reading about them here doesn't make you their new best friend.

2. If, while standing at the bar, you find yourself thinking you're the funniest person who ever lived, it's time to go home.

3. Tipping is not a city in China.

DANIELLE HARDER

The Place, Wed.-Sun. nights

Petite, pretty and perpetually pleasant, she's a pint-sized pistol who's faster than Speedy Gonzales and more fun than a hula hoop. By day, she studies business at Northeastern University, and she plans to go into advertising or PR upon graduation. For now, though, she pays the rent by ministering to the thirsty hordes at this state-of-the-art sports bar. The crowd is predominantly male, and they generally treat her like a kid sister, joking around and testing out the shots she invents for them to try. Of course, there are a few with amorous intentions, but she never gives out her number. A budding sports fan since she began working there, she's a blur of upbeat energy behind the bar, wearing her trademark shit-kickers to make her 4-foot-11 frame a bit taller. But as Nancy Sinatra might have said, "These boots were made for bartending."

Signature Drink:
Danielle's Remedy

Equal parts Stoli Raspberry, Stoli Strawberry, Stoli Orange and Chambord, with a splash of Sour Mix and Sprite. Shake on ice and serve as a shot, or on the rocks garnished with a slice of lime.

TEODORA BAKARDZHIEVA

Felt, Tue., Fri. and Sat. nights

Like a Bond girl, she has two modes: all business or totally wild. Born and raised in Bulgaria, Bakardzhieva grew up behind the bar of her parents' restaurant in "a town no one's ever heard of," and came to Boston two years ago, at which point she decided to put off her using her finance degree, at least for the time being. Her bartending style reflects Eastern European efficiency and service, done at warp speed and with a seductive accent. Midweek, when things get mellower, she plays psychiatrist to her regulars. On weekends, she's been known to shout, "It's time for a shot!" Unfortunately, we couldn't pry the secret recipe for a Bulgarian Martini out of her, so you'll have to check that one out for yourself.

Signature Drink:
Chocamocha

1 oz. Stoli Vanil, 1/2 oz. white Crème de Cocoa, 1 shot of espresso with a splash each of Godiva Dark and Godiva White liqueur. Shake on ice and serve straight up in a martini glass.

TOGRAPHER: FURNALD/GRAY; HAIR: SALLY DRINKWATER AND MELISSA CLARK FOR LORD'S AND LADY'S; CLOTHING: PATTERNED DRESS BY TOCCA LABLE AT SAKS, BLACK DRESS WITH GATHERS AVAILABLE AT DKNY; MARTINI GLASSES: AVAILABLE AT CRATE AND BARREL

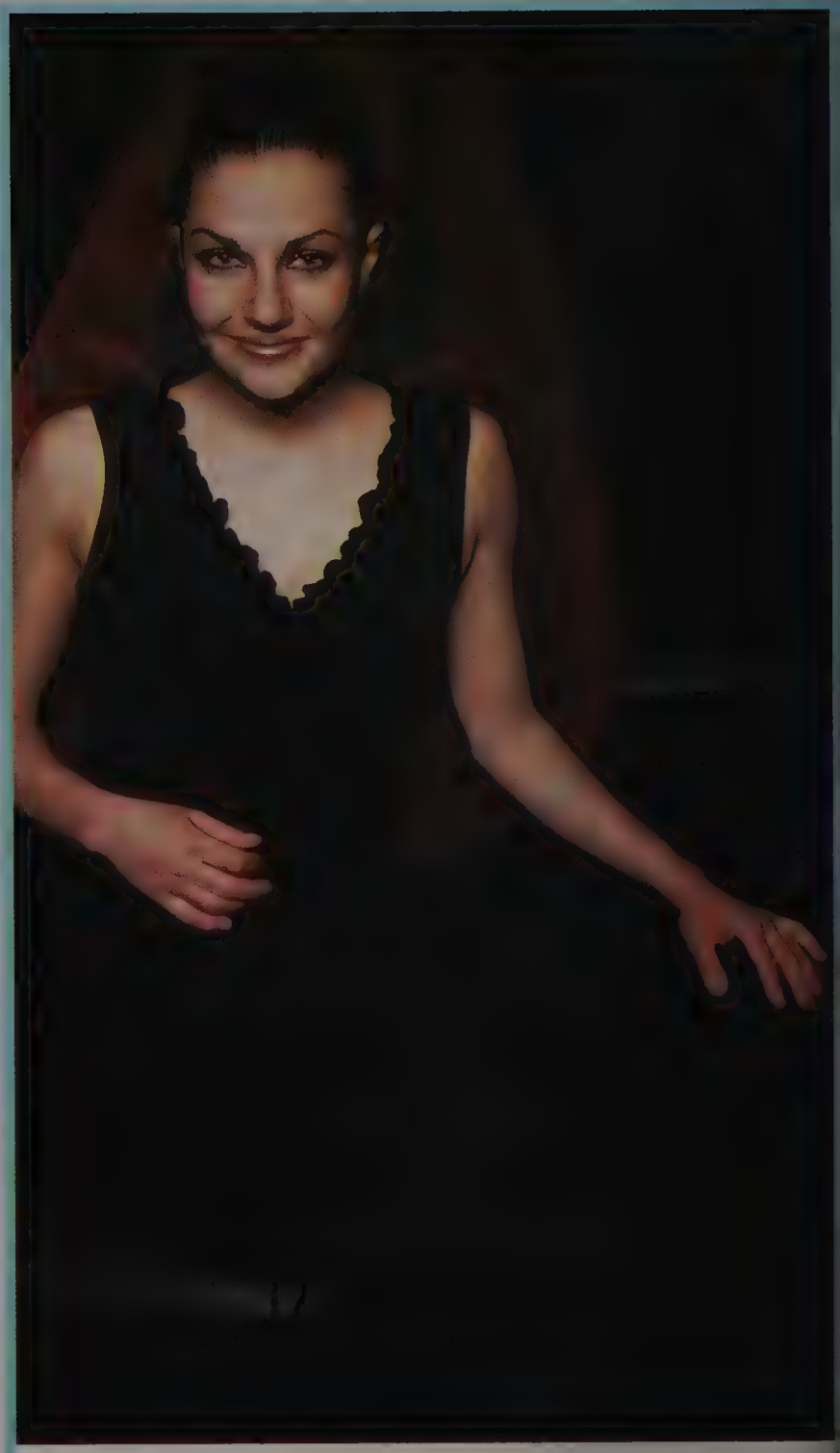
ROB MANNKE

29 Newbury St., Mon. and Sat. nights; Avalon, Sun. night

Anyone who's never experienced his rapier wit or seen the blindingly brilliant smile on his improbably handsome face ought to get out more often. Imagine the model from the cover of a romance novel crossed with the wry butler from a Preston Sturges comedy, and you begin to get the picture. Bartending since he was 16 (his career is old enough to drink legally), Mannke regularly holds court at Back Bay's notorious hangout for the freaky and chic and at Lansdowne Street's eternally sizzling disco inferno for the gay crowd. As quick with a quip as he is with a cocktail shaker, he never fails to light a customer's smoke and has legions of fans who count him among their closest friends. Consequently, they treat his bar as if it were an extension of their own home, and he's not shy about telling them to keep their feet off the furniture. A superfriendly smart-ass, Mannke's attentive without being obsequious, mixes a mean drink and can hold up his end of a conversation, no matter what the subject.

Signature Drink:
Grapefruit Gimlet

3 parts Citron, 1 part Triple Sec and a splash each of Simple Syrup, lemon, lime and grapefruit juice. Shake over ice and serve straight up. Garnish with a slice of lime.



KATY JORDAN

Saint, Wed. and Fri.-Sun. nights

This slickest of new nightspots boasts more than its fair share of outstanding cocktail jockeys, but our readers chose this 22-year-old powerhouse as their favorite. The reasons are obvious. Having attended a high school for the performing arts, she's finishing her undergraduate degree in theater and English, and every night at her bar is a performance worthy of a standing ovation. Although she can hold her own in terms of speed and efficiency, she's really all about personality, wisecracking and telling jokes to make her customers laugh, and growing sarcastic when they start to act up. On a slow night, Jordan's liable to find herself in a deep conversation about philosophy or theology, while on busy nights, she sails through the craziness with a serene smile. Saint's upscale, exacting customers treat her with respect, despite her tender age, because she knows how to handle any situation. If, for example, someone's had too much to drink, she'll quietly suggest switching to water. A three-ring circus in human form, Jordan could sell tickets and there still wouldn't be an empty seat at her bar.

Signature Drink:
Lychee Nut Martini

4 oz. Grey Goose Vodka, 2 1/2 oz. Lychee Nut Syrup and a splash of lime juice. Shake on ice and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with a lychee nut.

CASSANDRA ALSGAARD,

Green Street Grill, Thu.-Sat. nights

Currently working toward a master's degree in psychology, Alsgaard has a deep understanding of human nature that comes in handy at this quirky Central Square hole-in-the-wall. Her recipe for success is simple: She treats everyone in the eclectic crowd the way she'd like to be treated. According to one faithful patron, "What Judy Garland did for song, Cassie does for liquor." According to another: "I'm basically a loser, but she makes me feel like I'm not." Approachable and genuine, Alsgaard's mission is to make everyone want to come back (which they do, in droves) to sit at her bar and bask in her warmth. Always ready to lend an ear, she's nonjudgmental and unflappable, even when customers confide in her about hanky-panky like extramarital affairs. What's more, she deflects the constant barrage of come-ons—like the guy who recently said, "You have a red thong. I have a red car. Wanna go for a ride?"—with wit and diplomacy. A consummate pro with charm to spare, Alsgaard is 100 proof and completely straight up.

Signature Drink:
The Guava Explosion

3 parts Grey Goose Citron, 2 parts guava nectar, 1 part Peachtree Schnapps and a splash of pineapple juice. Shake on ice and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with a slice of star fruit.

MANNKE, ALSGAARD: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; JORDAN:TRACY POWE

In any bar in Boston, you know someone by name.

friends don't let friends drink irresponsibly.

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JESSAMYN GANGI

Sonsie, Thu.-Sun. nights

With a fittingly exotic name, she's a classically trained lyric soprano who studied at the New England Conservatory and is pursuing a career in opera while putting on her own nightly show at this perennial Newbury Street hot spot. "The whole bar is a stage," she says, "and whenever I'm at work, I'm performing." She makes it a point to get to know everyone who comes in and views her primary responsibility as creating a feel-good atmosphere, like being the hostess of an ongoing party. Gangi's co-workers can't find enough superlatives to describe her, and upscale, out-and-about patrons have adopted her as one of their own. Unfortunately, though, with someone this gifted, the opera world's gain is bound to be bartending's loss.

Signature Drink:
The Star Fruit Martini

Equal parts Stoli Orange and Stoli Strawberry, with a splash of Lillet and white cranberry juice. Shake on ice and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with a slice of star fruit.

MATT "SPANKY" CALDEIRA

Dick's Last Resort, Fri.-Sun. nights

Like a postpubescent Dennis the Menace, Caldeira presides over the shenanigans at this Prudential Center theme bar where anything goes and getting tooled on by the staff is part of the fun. Patrons tend to fall into one of three categories: Saturday night bachelorette parties, fans of the bands that play there and people who stumble in clueless. All of them are in for a dose of PG-bordering-on-R-rated fun from this shaved-headed wisenheimer who throws napkins at people, gives them unsolicited nicknames and incites general mayhem. He even has a Hunchback of Notre Dame puppet with an anatomical addition through which customers can do shots. Typical misbehavior: One recent night, he kept holding up a "Caution: Snow Falling" sign that he had altered to say "Caution: White People Dancing." Definitive proof of Caldeira's bartending skills: His manager once handed him a bottle of wasabi-flavored liqueur, predicting it would sit there forever. By the end of the night, Caldeira had served the whole bottle.

Signature Drink:
Citron My Face

1 oz. Absolut Citron, 1/2 oz. Grand Marnier and a splash of Sour Mix. Shake on ice and top with Sprite. Serve as a shot.

CHRISTINA VOROS

Mamma Maria, Mon. and Wed.-Sat. nights

When patrons of this cozy North End restaurant find out that she's a Harvard graduate, they often ask, "So what are you doing here?" The answer: supporting a career in writing and acting. Given the sitcomlike atmosphere created by a multiethnic staff (from at least eight different countries), the neighborhood regulars and out-of-towners who are referred by the concierges at their hotels, her job provides her with endless material. It's also second nature to her, since her parents ran a restaurant on Cape Cod. Here, her style is a combination of joker and psychiatrist. Her bar has only five seats, but she somehow has to accommodate all the people who are waiting for tables. "The challenge is to make them enjoy their time at my bar when that's not where they want to be," she says. She does so with flying colors. In fact, she's ample reason to forget about the table and eat right at the bar.

Signature Drink:
Martini di Mele

2 parts Van Gogh Raspberry Vodka, 1 part Sour Apple Schnapps, and a squeeze of lemon and lime juice. Shake on ice and pour into a martini glass. Sink a splash of Chambord to the bottom.

GANGI: TRACY POWELL; CALDEIRA, VOROS: DEREK KOUYOUMJ

SUMMER BRANCOCCIO

Vox Populi, Tue. and Fri.-Sun. nights; La Boom, Thu. night

She's six feet tall, half Chinese and half Italian, beautiful, and not afraid to put on a purple metallic wig when things threaten to get dull. In other words, she's hard to miss and impossible to forget. Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas (the probable source of her spunkiness), Brancoccio came to Boston to study psychology at Boston University and will start working toward her Ph.D. next year. In the meantime, her bar provides field research, attracting the full range of Back Bay residents, worker bees, wannabes and even 8-minute dating attendees. Whether it's a wallflower or a wild-and-crazy guy, she has a joke and a smile for everyone who comes to her bar. "I'm the one dancing and trying to taunt anyone in a bad mood into having a good time." And it works.

Signature Drink:
Summer Breeze

1 1/2 oz. watermelon-infused vodka, 1 oz. champagne, a dash of Tropical Island Pucker and a splash of Simple Syrup. Shake on ice and pour as a shot.

COCCIO: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

THE COORS TWINS

A double dose of bubbly

BY EZRA DYER

Diane and Elaine Klimaszewski, a.k.a. the Coors Twins, grew up in Worcester, the daughters of Polish immigrants. They began performing at age 13, and have appeared in everything from *Star Trek: Enterprise* (as latex-clad twin aliens) to *Maxim* magazine. Besides acting and modeling, the entrepreneurial Diane and Elaine have their own clothing line, Zipper Girl, and a band, Klone. They live in Los Angeles.

So how did you land the Coors gig?
Diane: We're entertainers and commercial actresses, and Coors had a nationwide search for twins. They put us on tape, interviewed us, and it went from there.
Elaine: We're self-taught, self-made. We built ourselves from the ground up. The Coors campaign put us on the map and gave us the visibility that we needed. We're not fluff, and we're building on that publicity.

Where do you like to go when you're back in Boston?
Elaine: We don't really know Boston that well, because when we lived in Worcester we weren't old enough to go out to bars. We like Cheers [the Bull & Finch], though.
Diane: [Assuming a thick Massachusetts accent] And every time we land in Boston, we've gotta get the Dunkin' Donuts coffee.

How come nobody cares about male twins?
Elaine: Because it's not a girl fantasy.
Diane: That's not true. Girls love male twins. I saw a commercial last night with male triplets, and I went nuts.

Who are the more rabid groupies, Trekkies or football fans?
Both: Woowwww.
Elaine: I'd say the *Star Trek* fans. They're weird, but we love them.
Diane: They're two different breeds, but the football fans are more well-rounded human beings.

That's not something you hear every day. You've appeared in Muscle & Fitness *and* Flex. *Who benches more?*
Diane: Elaine does.
Elaine: I only do about 80 pounds, but I do lots of reps. Our brother, Mark, is the most effective, efficient trainer. He gets results.

Have either of you done any gigs without the other?
Elaine: Sometimes at auditions they don't want twins and they'll pick one of us, but we market ourselves together.

You two write your own music. What do you think of all the instant pop stars whose songs are actually written by a troll locked in a dungeon at BMG headquarters?
Elaine: I wouldn't mind a troll locked in a dungeon writing me a song!

Diane (right) and Elaine Klimaszewski

Diane: It's not easy. But we're mostly lyricists—somebody else puts together the music.

Where does the phrase "Zipper Girl" come from? I spent several hours scrutinizing your clothing line's Web site, www.zippergirl.tv, *and I couldn't find a single zipper.*
Elaine: It came from an idea that Diane and I had after doing a promo for *The Andy Dick Show.* We had zippers on our heads and it was humiliating, but we turned that experience into a positive by using it for our clothing line—and a song.

Has Playboy *come knocking yet?*
Diane: We're not ready for that yet. They have come knocking, but we're going to make them sweat a bit.

On behalf of all men in the country, do you have boyfriends?
Elaine: We're not lonely, that's for sure.

What type of guys do you like?
Diane: I like the skinny, rock-star type.

Like Chris Robinson?
Diane: No, not that skinny. Like Bon Jovi or Johnny Reznick.

Current Bon Jovi or '80s Bon Jovi?
Diane: Bon Jovi with a haircut.
Elaine: I like the clean-cut, *Wall Street Journal*–reading type. We're opposites.

What's Worcester got that Los Angeles doesn't?
Elaine: Less traffic.
Diane: Good God, you can say that again.

MICHAEL RAY

Abe & Louie's, Tue.-Fri. nights, occasional days

"It takes a different kind of person to tend bar," says this 13-year veteran who got bitten by the restaurant bug in college and chose to stay in the business rather than putting his degree in architectural engineering to use. "You have to be open-minded, tolerant. But the payoff is that there's always something new, every day." Balancing the impeccable formal service guests expect from this upscale steakhouse with a sense of mischief that makes sitting at his bar more fun than the proverbial barrel of monkeys, this garrulous gentle giant with a disarming British accent always seems to enjoy himself as much as his patrons do. He considers it his crowning glory that many of his regulars come in specifically to see him, and we concur wholeheartedly. Like the host of a perpetual cocktail party, he keeps the mood light and the drinks flowing, which keeps 'em coming back again and again.

Signature Drink:
Lemondrop Martini

2 oz. Ketel One Citron, 1/2 oz. Limoncello, a dash of sugar, and a splash of lemon juice and Cointreau. Chill and serve straight up, in a sugar-rimmed martini glass. Garnish with a lemon twist.

LISA HOLZIMER

Clarke's at South Station, Tue.-Fri. nights

Bars in train stations tend to be either too scary for words or strangely fabulous. This turn-of-the-century saloon inside South Station falls firmly into the latter category, with surprisingly tasty food and an after-work crowd of construction workers, suits and commuters. All of them are instantly acknowledged and almost as quickly taken care of by this wickedly funny human tornado. Whip-snapping quick with the cocktails, she's just as fast with the one-liners, and having grown up in a theatrical family, performing is in her blood. Dressed in black from head to toe, she jokes, "I'm like a mental patient. People say they put me behind the bar to protect the customers." That said, she's never had a martini returned and she never keeps a customer waiting.

Signature Drink:
Dirty Girl Martini

4 oz. gin or vodka of choice and a splash of olive brine, chopped in a glass of ice until extremely cold and cloudy with ice crystals. Serve straight up. Garnish with three fat olives to represent the past, present and future.

DEREK BRADY

The Last Drop (Brighton), Wed.-Sat. nights

A dead-ringer for Clark Kent, Brady turns into Superman behind the bar, cranking out cocktails for the thirsty crowd of regulars (ranging from college students to young professionals) who habitually make a visit to his bar their last stop of the night. It's easy to see why, given his gregarious and outgoing nature. Quick to jump in on conversations, he greets everyone as if they're his long-lost friend, and people invariably think they know him whether or not they've ever met. As a result, this neighborhood bar where everyone knows each other is still warm and welcoming to strangers. By day, he works as the operations manager for an equipment company, which he says is the secret of his bartending success. "I don't really need the extra money or the job," he says. "It's recreation. It's like a hobby, and I enjoy it." So do his regulars.

Signature Drink:
Sexual Alligator

For this layered shot, use equal parts Midori, Apple Pucker and Absolut Citron, with a splash of Sour Mix. Shake on ice and strain into a shot glass. Layer Chambord into bottom and float Jägermeister on top.

RAY: TRACY POWELL; HOLZIMER, BRADY: DEREK KOUYOUMJ

Ophelia arrives at 33 to meet her blind date for drinks.

Clothing by Wish Boutique
Hair and make-up by Grettacole
Mercedes by Herb Chambers Motorcars, Boston
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You decide who is waiting for her.

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33
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

to be continued...

BAR ETIQUETTE

Top tips on minding your manners from an industry veteran

BY JONATHAN SOROFF, WITH PETER CIPRIANI

One of my closest friends, Peter Cipriani of Pho Republique and Silvertone, is a world-class bartender. Perhaps this is inevitable, since he shares the same last name as the proprietor of Europe's most legendary watering hole: Harry's Bar in Venice. Cipriani, who has appeared in this issue numerous times in the past, is a consummate pro and an unimpeachable authority on all things bar-related.

While he's a charming, even-tempered man, I can be a bit of a pain in the ass, but he has only ever lost his patience with me once. I was visiting him at the bar where he worked when I decided I wanted a pizza. He was appalled when I ordered a large pepperoni to be delivered.

"But I want to hang out with you, and I want to eat something," I protested.

"I appreciate that," he said, "but first of all, we have pizza on the menu here, and second of all, that's like bringing your own food to a dinner party. You just don't do it."

In retrospect (and with fewer martinis in me), it was obvious that I was rude, and Cipriani was right. He usually is. So we prevailed upon him to help us compile a guide to bar etiquette. Some of these rules might seem obvious, and others are more subtle. Obeying all of them will guarantee that you look as smooth as James Bond to both the bartender and everyone around you.

DO's

- Say, "Hello, how are you?" Bartenders are human too, and they appreciate consideration as much as the next guy—maybe even more so, since so many people treat them like nothing more than liquor vending machines.
- Know what you and your party want before getting the bartender's attention, especially if the bar is busy. Nothing is more annoying than being told to "wait one sec" while your date chooses between a Mai Tai and a Suffering Bastard and a hundred other people are biding their time.
- Understand that tipping will affect your service. If you leave the bartender a decent gratuity, he or she is bound to pay you some extra attention.
- Know what goes into the drink you're ordering, especially if it's exotic. Every bartender wants to accommodate you, but no bartender knows everything, so if you're asking for a Mongolian Motherf***er, be able to list the ingredients.
- Understand that bartending isn't charity work. It's a job, and as much as he or she might like to, it's not possible for the bartender to talk to you all evening.
- Flirt with the bartender, if you're so inclined. If he didn't welcome the attention, why would he subject himself to being trapped in a small space with everyone looking at him?
- Know how you intend to pay and be prepared to do so when your drinks arrive. In the time that the bartender mixes a drink, you have ample opportunity to extract a credit card or $20 from your wallet.
- Be the first to offer money if you want to be the one to pay the tab, and don't involve the bartender in any quibbling about it. Arguing over who will foot the bill is a waste of everyone's time.
- Feel free to tell the bartender to decide what you'll drink, but don't send it back if you don't like it.
- Resist the urge to help if you spill or break something. If you cut yourself, it's a problem. If the bartender cuts himself, it's workers' compensation.
- Send a drink back if it's not what you ordered or not made the way you like it. The bartender wants you to enjoy your drink and shouldn't be offended if you ask for more soda or less Vermouth.
- Leave when they ask you to leave. They have jobs, lives and licenses to protect, so if you're not sleeping with someone on the staff, get out when they tell you to.

DON'Ts

- Sit in a seat with a drink in front of it. Someone's already sitting there. (Duh.)
- Snap, wag your finger, whistle, wave $100 bills or otherwise try to get the bartender's attention by any means other than making eye contact and smiling or perhaps politely saying "Excuse me."
- Treat the bartender like a servant. He or she is a skilled professional deserving of your respect; besides, he or she holds the keys to your buzz, so mind your manners.
- Be in a tremendous hurry to order and/or receive your drinks. Not only is it impolite, but it makes you look like a drunk.
- Ask for the bartender's name and then not tell him or her yours. That's a basic rule of general etiquette, but you'd be amazed how many people forget it when dealing with bartenders.
- Stalk the bartender. Just because she's a captive audience doesn't mean she wants you calling her, sending her notes or waiting for her outside when she gets off work.
- Reach between two people sitting at the bar. Most bartenders will put your drinks in a place where you don't have to interrupt a conversation or come between others to get at them.
- Take stuff out of the fruit tray or reach over the bar for a straw, napkin or whatever. There's an invisible line between you and the inside of the bar, and you should never cross it.
- Ask a bartender to settle a personal argument, especially between you and your significant other. It puts him or her in an impossible position.
- Try to barter, bargain or angle for free drinks. It puts everyone in an awkward position.
- Be afraid to ask for a wine list rather than ordering a glass of wine by varietal. If you just say "chardonnay," you may get a sublime French white or an over-oaked glass of cat's piss.

ARI BIALIKAMIEN

33 Restaurant and Lounge, Wed.-Sun. nights

Be still our beating hearts. Like a cross between Ricky Ricardo and Ricky Martin, he's a Latin smoothie with a seductive Colombian accent who greets his regulars by saying, "Hola!" In true South American style, he takes the time to make a drink to perfection, cares deeply about presentation, and would never consider using anything but fresh fruit juices and top-shelf liquors. His mojitos and caipirinhas are outstanding, and his knowledge of the classics is exhaustive, having learned from "a very old-school guy" who served as his mentor. Bialikamien developed 33's martini list, but unlike the disguise-the-taste-of-liquor selections at a lot of trendy bars, his are both sophisticated and not overly fruity.

Signature Drink:
33-tini

Muddle fresh strawberries and a splash of Sour Apple liqueur in a shaker. Add 2 oz. of Hypnotiq (a blend of cognac, vodka and citrus juices) and chill. Serve straight up, garnished with a strawberry.

BIALIKAMIEN: TRACY POWE

KRIS KNIEVIL

Avalon, Sun. nights

Better known as Ms. Kris, this saucy little minx manages the Copley Place movie theater by day and performs and hosts at the beloved Bay Village drag bar Jacques on Thursday through Saturday and Tuesday nights. A coquette in the Mae West tradition, he makes all his own outfits, which oscillate between parochial-school vixen and slinky femme fatale. At Lansdowne Street's long-running Sunday-night gathering of same-sex heat-seeking missiles, his bar is ground zero. Frequently cast in the role of cupid, he's forever fixing the hotties up, whatever their persuasion. For instance, he recently introduced one of the straight security guys to a girl he went to high school with, reasoning, "If I'm going to be bitter and single, I might as well make everyone else happy."

Signature Drink:
Strawberry Margarita

1 1/2 oz. Stoli Strawberry, 1/2 oz. Triple Sec, a splash of cranberry juice and Sour Mix. Serve on the rocks or straight up, as a shot or a drink.

NATALIE SEGUIN

The Living Room, Sat. and Sun. nights; Upstairs on the Square, Wed.-Fri. nights

A native of Montreal (where bar-hopping is an art), Seguin came to Boston four years ago and began bartending because of her natural affinity for mixing things together. "I'd classify myself as a mad chemist," she says, referring to the inventive martini list she developed for the waterfront's newest hangout. "I make a really damned good drink." By day, she's a makeup artist; her plan is to leave for Los Angeles as soon as possible to earn a master's degree in theatrical makeup (with a special emphasis in science fiction). In the meantime, you can find her altering people's outlooks with her carefully crafted cocktails, impeccable service and infectious joie de vivre.

Signature Drink:
The Whippersnapper

2 1/2 oz. Methusalem Rum, muddled with fresh raspberry, blackberry and lime juice and a splash of Apricot Passion Fruit Simple Syrup. Chill on ice and strain into a martini glass. Top with Brachetto or another Italian sweet sparkling red wine.

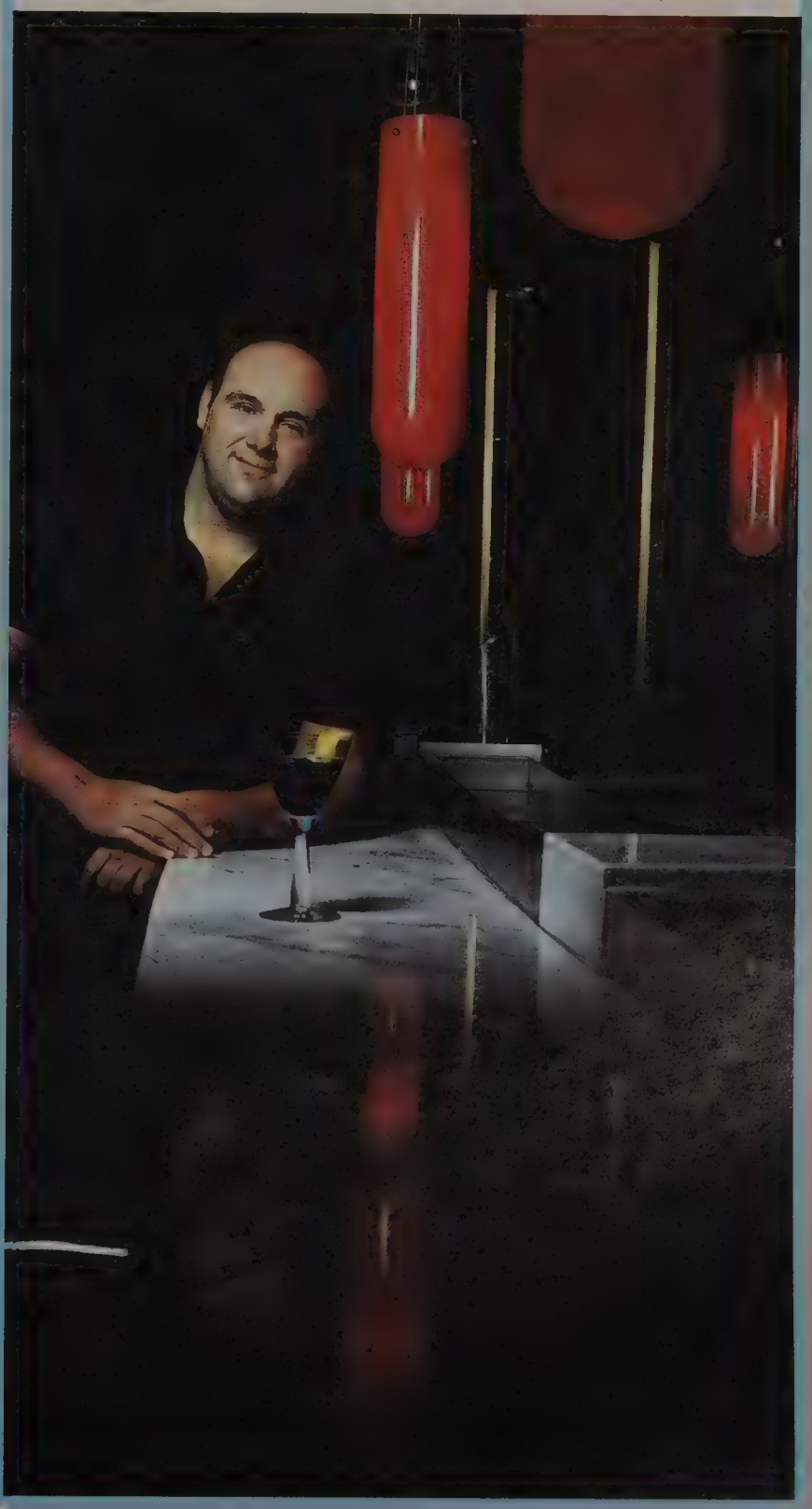
GARY MERTEN

Noir, Sun., Mon. and Wed.-Fri. nights

He's so impressive that a woman from Florida actually bothered to contact us and suggest we include him in this issue. A Garden State native, Merten began working as a bouncer as a teenager on the Jersey shore and took up slinging cocktails when one of the bartenders failed to show up for his shift. His uncanny resemblance to Tony Soprano is constantly noted, and he has a selection of wise-ass comebacks for that and other occasions. In fact, in his spare time, he hones his stand-up routine on the local comedy circuit. At this low-key, loungy nook in the lobby of the Charles Hotel, he typically serves everyone from Harvard professors, JFK School policy wonks and literati to visiting dignitaries and celebrities like Glenn Close and Dan Aykroyd. All of them agree with us: This ball-busting clown who makes great drinks is aces.

Signature Drink:
Old Fashioned

In a glass, muddle into a paste an orange slice, two cherries, four splashes of Angostura Bitters and a splash of Brandy. Add 2 oz. Maker's Mark bourbon, chill and serve on the rocks. Garnish with a cherry and an orange slice.



VIL, SEGUIN: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; MERTEN: TRACY POWELL

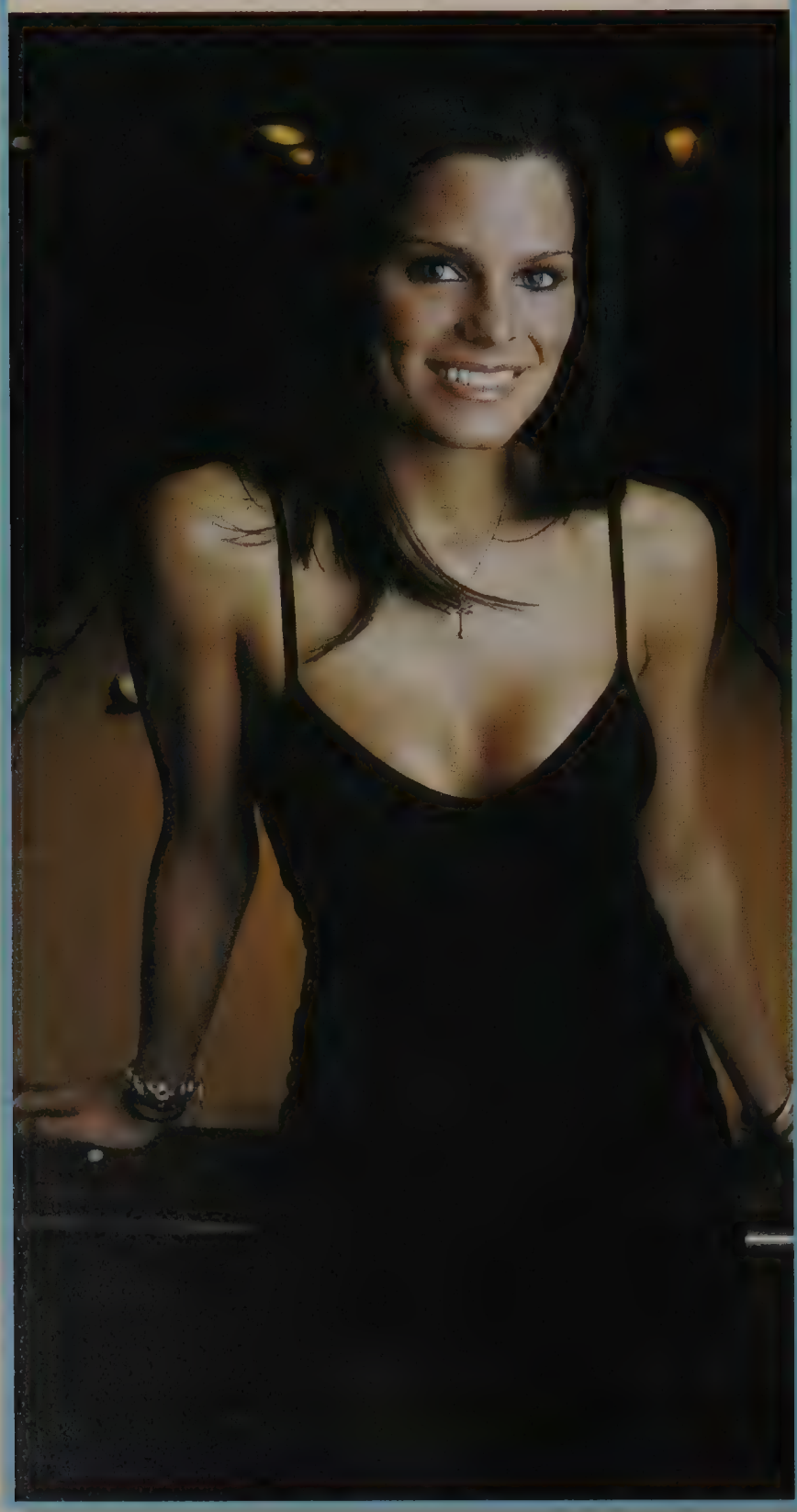
KIM KELLY

The Rack, Wed.-Fri. nights

For the past four and a half years, this dark-haired, blue-eyed beauty has been slinging drinks at Faneuil Hall's most happening pool hall. Although she studied physical therapy, performing cocktail therapy has become a career, and her regulars are so attached to her that they always remember her birthday or the holidays with flowers or gift certificates. Sassy and smart-ass when necessary, she doesn't take grief from anyone, has a comment for almost every occasion and can put an impatient customer in his or her place with a humorous remark. "The thing I love most about my job is the people I work with," she says. "It's an amazing staff, and even if I was offered my dream job, I'd stay at the Rack at least one night a week because I've become so close to everyone there."

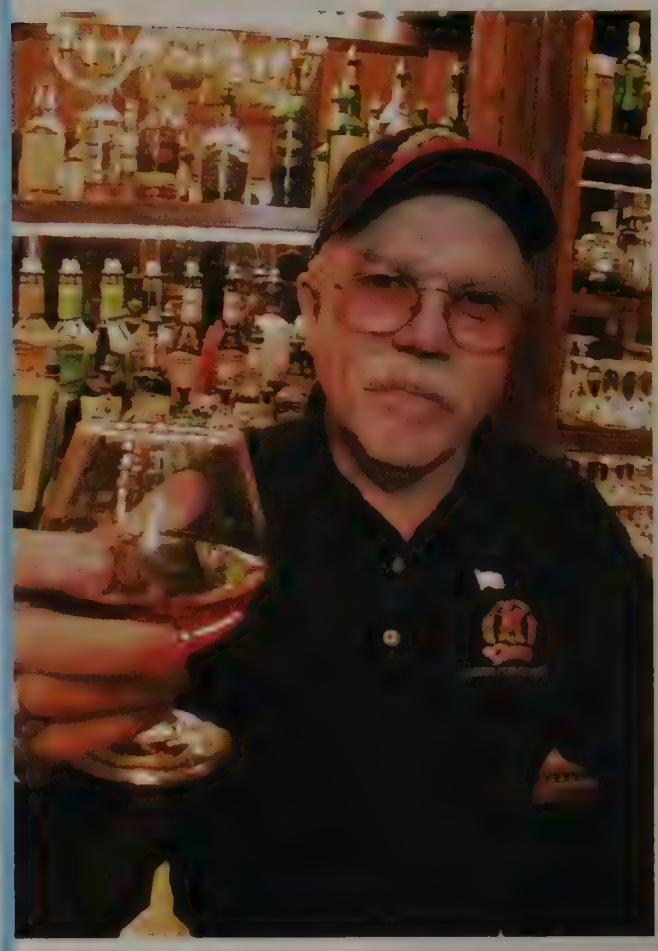
Signature Drink:
The Dirty Sanchez

1 shot each Stoli Vanil, Frangelico and Kahlua; shaken on ice and poured into a chilled martini glass rimmed with chocolate shavings. Top it off with a drop of Baileys Irish Cream.



EDDIE DOYLE

Bull & Finch Pub, Tue. and Thu. days



It may be a stretch to say that the creators of *Cheers* modeled the character of Sam Malone after Eddie Doyle, but not by much, since it was Doyle whom they met while scoping Boston for a bar at which to set their TV show. What's more, Doyle personifies the ethos "you wanna go where everybody knows your name." For more than 25 years, this legendary barman has presided over this Beacon Hill landmark, dispensing quips and witticisms to accompany his deftly poured drafts and impeccably crafted cocktails. An avid Boston sports fan and committed community activist, Doyle has raised millions of dollars for charity, including Cheers for Children, which he founded. With a heart as big as most bartenders' mouths, he's a genuine Boston character and a local treasure we're lucky to have. No wonder the mayor has declared Sept. 12 "Eddie Doyle Day."

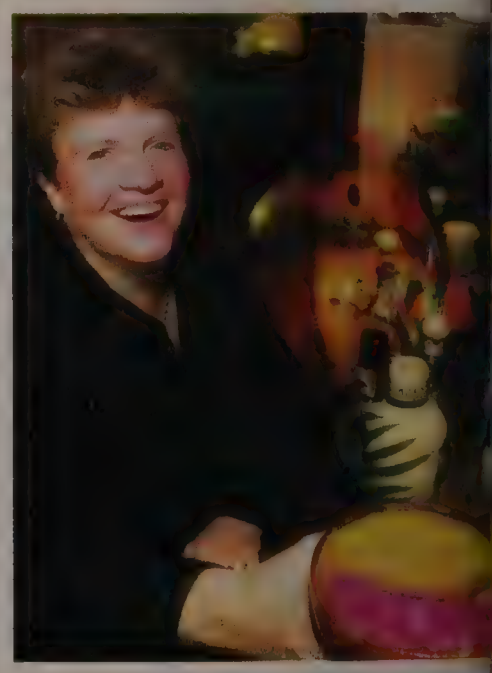
Signature Drink:
The Dublin Martini

Fill a pint glass with ice. Pour 1/2 oz. Dry Vermouth and 2 oz. Jameson Irish Whiskey. Chill and strain into a martini glass. Add a splash of Irish Mist for good luck and garnish with a lime rind.

ROBYN PITCHFORD

Cottonwood Café, Mon. night, Tue.-Fri. days

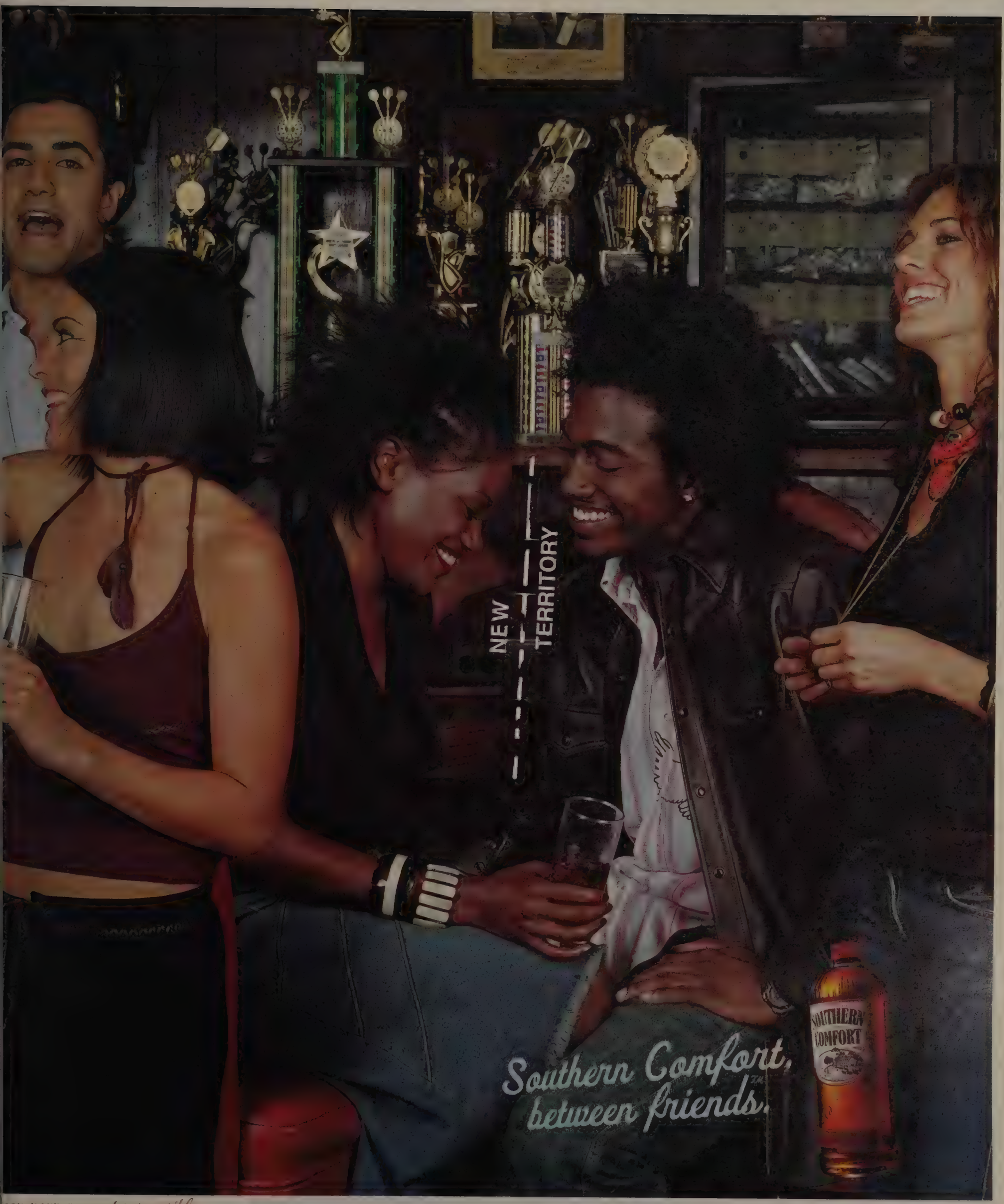
Her lunchtime regulars—corporate types who work in Copley Square—are among the most spoiled bar patrons anywhere. She knows their names, what they drink, what they want for lunch, how their kids did on their last report card and how the second date went with the hottie in the marketing department. In fact, she's gotten so close to some of her regulars that she gets invited to weddings, birthdays and the odd bat mitzvah. With more than 26 years of experience under her belt, there's nothing Pitchford hasn't seen or heard. In fact, she could do the whole thing with her eyes closed, but she's a stickler for detail who pampers her patrons to a fare-thee-well. Her great memory for names and faces makes even first-timers feel comfortable at her bar, and everyone's guaranteed to leave having heard at least one memorable joke. What more could you want?



Signature Drink:
The Ultimate Margarita

2 parts Cazadores Reposado Tequila, 1 part Cointreau. Fill with freshly squeezed lemon and lime juice, Gold Tequila and Sour Mix. Serve straight up, on the rocks or frozen, with or without salt.

DOYLE, PITCHFORD: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; KELLY: TRACY POWE



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TOTAL INFUSION

Steeping isn't just for tea anymore

BY JESSICA IREDALE

Just yesterday it seemed that everyone wanted a fancy-pants martini—sour apple, chocolate-truffle or even pomegranate. Today another concoction, the infusion, is catching the attention of Boston's thirsty crowds. According to Reggie St. Paul of the Blue Room, "Someone sees one go across the bar and says, 'What was that?' And then you're making 12 of them. It's the color that reels them in." A draft beer pales, quite literally, in comparison with a jewel-toned infusion—vodka, tequila, rum or gin steeped with fresh fruit (or other ingredients) and strained to eliminate any pulpy chunks. The end result is a beverage with a light fruit flavor, sweet but not syrupy as liqueurs are. At the East Coast Grill, Kris Venegas says one of his regulars refers to its popular drink, the Tranquillo, as dessert. Over at the Capital Grille, bartender Ross McLellan reports that during baseball season he serves upwards of 300 Stoli Dolis on game nights.

The origin of the art of infusion is unknown. Some say it started with 16th-century monks spicing up their liquor cabinets with fruits and herbs, while others point to the American picnic classic, the vodka-spiked watermelon. No matter the source, giant jugs brimming with anything from pineapple to coconut to raspberries and a liquor of choice are popping up behind bars everywhere. On average, the cost of "infusing yourself" runs between $6 and $10 a drink, the going rate for a martini.

A night on the infusion trail reveals the following findings:

* Most local mixologists consider the **Capital Grille** Boston's original infusion slingers—the Capital introduced its signature drink, the Stoli Doli, in 1991. The recipe is a simple mix of Stolichnaya vodka and Dole Hawaiian Gold pineapples. After infusing for five to seven days, the concoction is ready to pour. Bartenders serve the frothy, almost creamy pineapple vodka in a chilled martini glass, and it goes down like water. "People think two things when they think of the Capital Grille: steak and Stoli Dolis," says managing partner Christopher Scott, who cites company founder Ned Grace as the originator of the classic drink. *359 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8900)*

* In Kendall Square, the **Blue Room**'s selections include blood-orange vodka, raspberry vodka, citron (vodka infused with lemon peel), dry-roasted ginger vodka and a mixture called Escondido, tequila infused with pineapple, coconut and vanilla beans. All are steeped for about two weeks before serving (except the Escondido, which requires a month to perfect) and are poured from bottles reminiscent of an old apothecary's workshop. They're typically served chilled, straight up or with a splash of soda. The Escondido is especially surprising, with a flavor more like smooth lemon butterscotch than your typical throat-burning tequila. *1 Kendall Square, Cambridge (617-494-9034)*

At Saint, fruits commingle with spirits in decorative jars.

* **Fire + Ice**'s entire specialty drink menu is modeled around infusions and, depending on the season, includes pineapple vodka, pineapple-strawberry vodka, Granny Smith vodka, coconut-pineapple-vanilla bean rum, strawberry rum, lemon-blueberry tequila, three-melon tequila and prickly pear tequila. Best sellers include the Lava Flow—a piña colada and strawberry daiquiri mixture—and the lemon-blueberry margarita, a traditional margarita made with the lemon-blueberry tequila. Both offer a temporary mental retreat to a warmer place where Jimmy Buffett plays all day. *50 Church St., Cambridge (617-547-9007); 205 Berkeley St., Boston (617-482-3473)*

* The chic **Saint** is the last stop on the tour d'infusion. Handblown glass jars containing neatly stacked fruits soaked in Pearl vodka are instant eye-catchers in the placid Threshold Room. The selection rotates on a weekly basis, and each batch soaks for about three days. Libations du jour include melon, raspberry, peach and pineapple vodkas. After a taste of each, the melon and raspberry emerge the victors. *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134)*

A number of other local watering holes also offer tasty infused concoctions:

* **City Bar:** Bourbon infused with caramelized Turkish figs, Chinese cinnamon and vanilla bean; rum infused with cardamom, ginger and lemon peel; tequila infused with mint, mango, pineapple or white peppercorn. *710 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5300)*

* **East Coast Grill and Raw Bar.** Tranquillo: Bacardi, Bacardi 151 and Meyers's rum infused with pineapple and vanilla beans. *1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-491-6568)*

* **Golden Temple.** Stoli Doli. *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722)*

* **The Place.** Stoli Doli; strawberry-infused vodka; pineapple-infused blue-raspberry vodka. *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081)*

* **The Rack.** Blueberry-infused tequila; Stoli Doli. *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051)*

* **Rouge.** Blackberry-infused vodka. *480 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600)*

* **Sonsie.** Pineapple-infused vodka. *327 Newbury St., Boston (617-351-2500)*

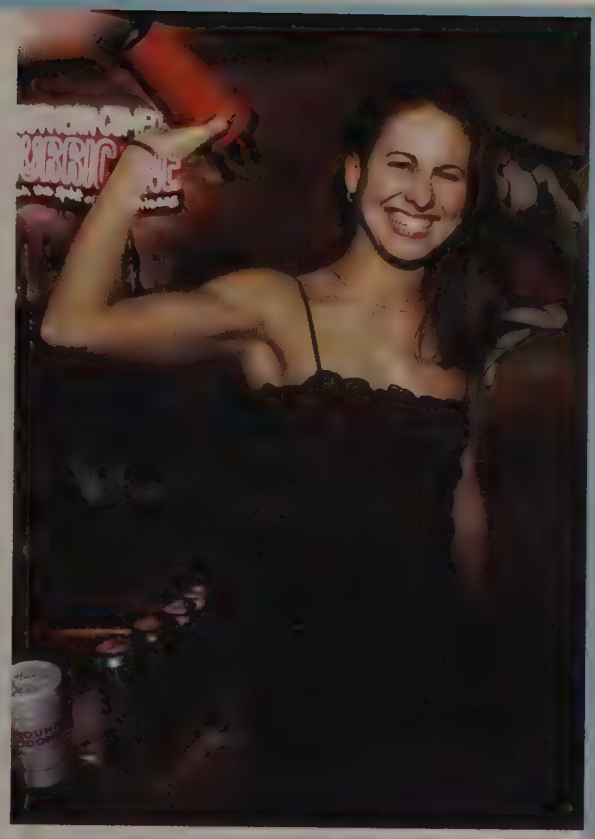
* **Stephanie's on Newbury.** Stoli Doli; seasonal: vodka infused with blueberries, blood oranges, cranberries, pomegranates or strawberries. *190 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-0990)*

* **Teatro.** Stoli Doli. *177 Tremont St., Boston (617-778-6841)*

* **Tremont 647.** Vodka infused with pineapples, raspberries, papayas or vegetables; gin infused with blueberries; Tranquillo: Bacardi 151, Captain Morgan, Gosling's Black Rum, Meyers's Dark and Mount Gay infused with pineapple and vanilla beans. *647 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-4600)*

INFUSION DRINKS: ZOE PARKER-GEISMAN

JENNIFER ZILIOLI
The Big Easy, Thu.-Sat. nights



What's not to love? First of all, there's the uncanny resemblance to Natalie Portman. Then there's the fact that by day, she's a personal trainer at a Boston Sports Club, while at night, she's like a one-woman Mardi Gras behind the bar, using her cocktail shaker as a percussion instrument and her bottle opener as a microphone. If there's music playing, she's constitutionally incapable of standing still. Having studied ballet with the Boston Ballet and the Kirov Academy, she's got the moves. All that, and an incandescent personality. No wonder that despite having worked at the Big Easy for only a few months, there's always a line several guys deep at her bar. Pouring potent potions, she's poetry in motion.

Signature Drink:
Green Apple Martini

2 parts Smirnoff Twist Apple Vodka to 1 part Green Apple Pucker and a splash each of Stoli Raspberry Vodka and Sour Mix. Shake on ice and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with a cherry.

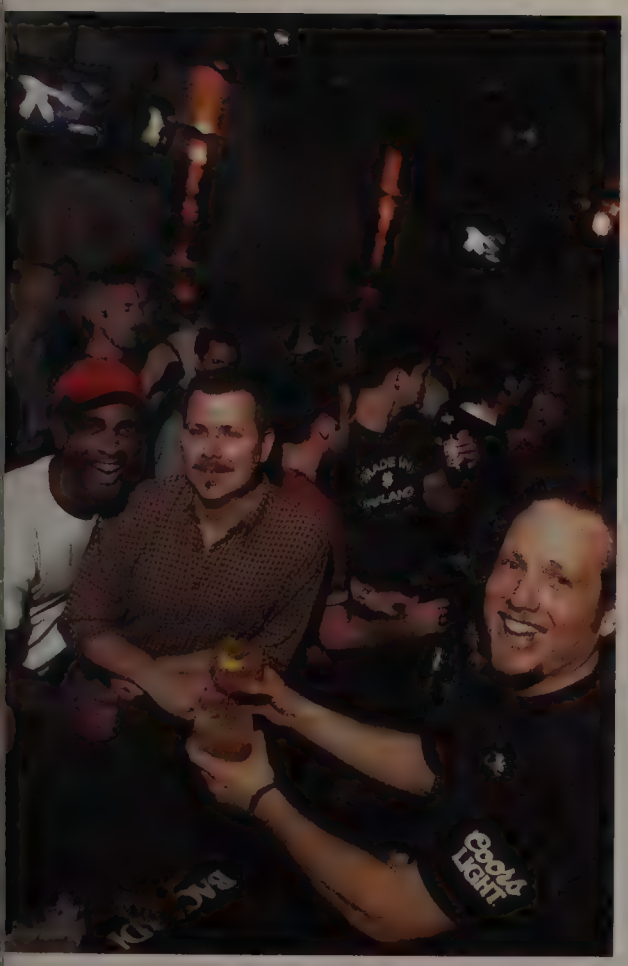
RACHAEL DIBONA
Hurricane O'Reilly's, Fri. and Sat. nights

Like all great bartenders, DiBona knows that every night is a new performance, and she changes costume accordingly for the appreciative, largely male audience at this downtown de-stressing oasis. "It's nothing I'd ever normally wear," she says. "It's a fantasy—tiny shirt, short skirt." Like the Energizer bunny on Prozac, she's as happy-go-lucky and outgoing as they come, constantly dancing behind her bar and upbeat even when she's in a bad mood. Perfectly suited to be the successful real estate broker she's planning to become, she's a heartbreaker with a heart of gold who lets 'em down easy. We only feel sorry for the person who has to wipe up the drool around her bar at the end of the night.

Signature Drink:
Raindrop

Equal parts Blue Curacao, Malibu Rum and pineapple juice. Shake on ice and serve as a shot.

TODD ASKEW
Club Café, Thu.-Sat. nights



For "10 glorious years," this corn-fed cutie from the Midwest has tended bar at one of the South End's most enduringly popular gay clubs; by day, he applies his master's degree in elementary education at a suburban public school. Amusingly for someone with his last name and sexual orientation, Askew once lived in Normal, Ill.—a wry observation indicative of the sharp wit with which he regales his customers. Though he's a smart aleck prone to sticking out his tongue and making faces at his regulars, he also makes a concerted effort to make shy wallflowers feel welcome. It's been a few years since he cut his hair, and the resulting unruly mop is one of his distinguishing characteristics, as is an uncanny ability to remember what people drink. Serving up a heaping helping of sarcasm along with the cocktails, he's one of the major reasons why this bar is where the boys are.

Signature Drink:
Jolly Rancher

2 parts Southern Comfort, 1 part Midori and Sour Mix. Shake on ice and serve on the rocks. Garnish with a cherry and an orange slice.

Y, ZILIOLI, DIBONA: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

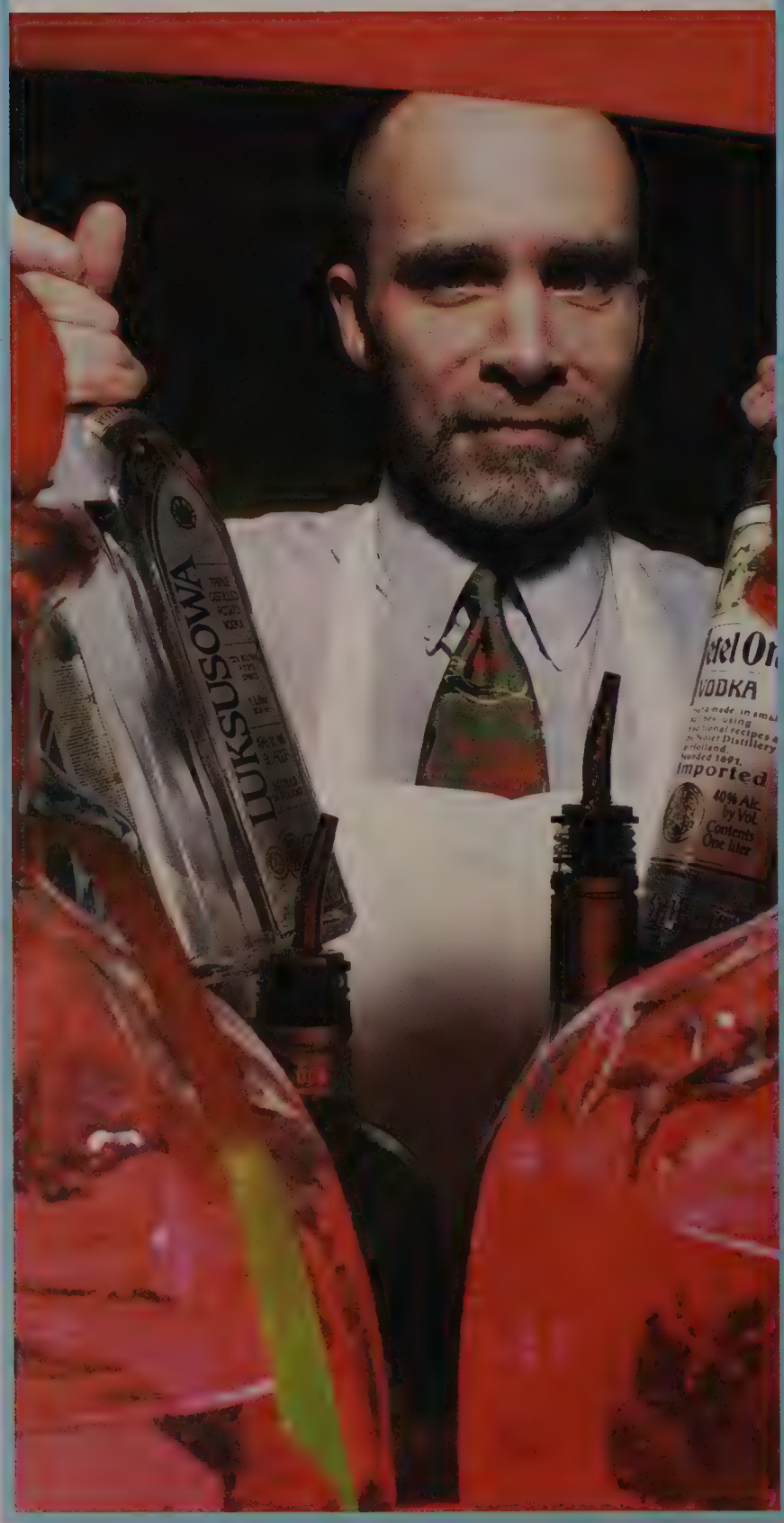
PAUL MCGOWAN

B-Side Lounge, Sun.-Tue., and Fri.; Plough and Stars, Wed.; People's Republic, Sat.

By day, he's a full-time Mr. Mom to his 3-year-old son, but by night he reigns supreme at three of the quirkiest hangouts in Cambridge. A former engineer, he worked normal daytime hours until 10 years ago, when he found himself spending 40 hours a week at bars bitching about his job. Realizing that he could get paid for hanging out in bars, he quit his job and became a bartender. The rest is history. Known for telling jokes, he's the bald, grouchy guy making snarky remarks. An example: When a customer asks, "What's the cheapest thing you've got?" his answer is likely to be "Customers like you, pal." So devoted are his regulars that they follow him from place to place, and one recently came to see him every single night for two weeks straight. Now that's what we call loyal.

Signature Drink:
The Haitian Divorce

Barbancourt Rum with muddled lime on the rocks. Garnish with a lime wedge.



CAROLINE FISKE

Red Fez, Wed.-Fri. nights

"Half of bartending is being a good listener," Fiske says, which explains her enormous popularity at this South End hipster hangout, as well as at previous gigs like West Street, Mantra, Masa and the South End Grill. Superfriendly and endlessly patient, her permanent smile is genuine, and she has a genius for acknowledging customers the moment they arrive. Before they can even start to get antsy, she disarms them with a charming, "I'll be right with you," and then ministers to them with the kind of service one would associate with a five-star hotel. In the drinks department, she's aces, comfortable with the classics but not afraid to experiment. "It's supposed to be fun, right?" she asks rhetorically. "I just make sure that it is."

Signature Drink:
The Madagascar

3 parts Stoli Vanil and 1 part fresh lime juice. Shake on ice and serve in a martini glass, topped with champagne and garnished with a lime wedge. The drink can also be served as a shot, in which case it's called a Squealin' New Zealand

PAUL FLYNN

Harvard Gardens, Tue., Thu., and Fri. nights

The consummate pro, Flynn's been bartending for nine years; in his past life, he held a 9-to-5 job in the telecomm industry. Old-school to the core, he's a stickler for details and prides himself on making drinks not just correctly but consistently. He's harder on himself than any customer could ever be and is the embodiment of attentiveness. "Service is paramount," he says. His regulars—a motley crew ranging from little old ladies who live on Beacon Hill to overworked young residents at Mass. General Hospital—have remained pretty much static over the years, so he's come to know all their idiosyncrasies. A sports nut, Flynn often stumps patrons with his vast reservoir of baseball trivia, but when the bar gets busy, he can sling drinks with the best of 'em.

Signature Drink:
Godiva Mint Martini

2 parts Absolut, 1 part White Crème de Menthe and 1 part Godiva White Chocolate Liqueur. Shake on ice and strain into a chocolate-drizzled martini glass.

MCGOWAN, FISKE, FLYNN: DEREK KOUYOUMJ

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TARA ROSE MACUCH

Via Matta, Mon.-Fri. and alternate Sat. nights

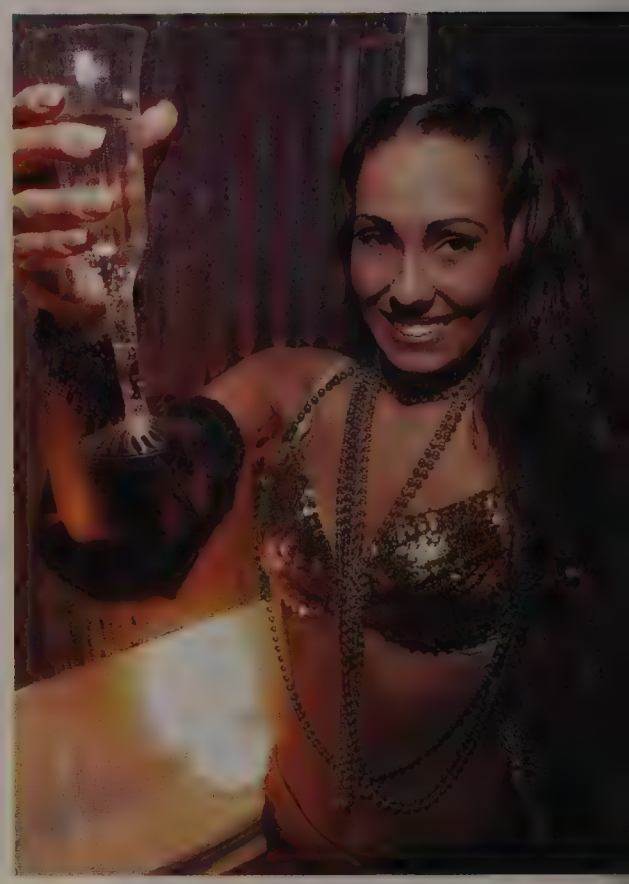
With a perpetual smile (imagine a sexy version of the Cheshire cat), Macuch welcomes guests to the bar at this super-trendy restaurant. Capable of putting the most uptight CEO at ease or extracting conversation from the most aloof celebrity, Macuch effortlessly ministers to the fashionable crowd of regulars and keeps everyone happy, whether they're there to partake in the buzz-worthy bar scene or waiting to be seated in the dining room. "It's like having people in my home," she says. "I want them to feel comfortable and make sure they have everything they want." Clearly, she succeeds famously, as her bar is consistently packed with a chic and attractive crowd who compete for her attention and treat her like the star that she is.

Signature Drink:
Basil Gimlet

A small handful of vigorously muddled fresh basil leaves, Simple Syrup and freshly squeezed lime juice in a glass. Add 3oz. Ketel One. Shake on ice and pour into a martini glass. Garnish with a basil leaf.

BARBARA ANN NOE

The Palace, Fri. and Sat. nights



Even at this busy Saugus nightclub multiplex, where more than 50 bartenders work on any given night, she still stands out. A Patriots cheerleader who cheered the team on during their Super Bowl victory, she's a lifelong dancer who teaches ballet, tap, jazz and gymnastics by day. Not surprisingly, she's a whirling dervish behind the bar, amping up the energy at Rio, the Brazilian room. Twice a night, she and another bartender perform a choreographed routine on the bar, tossing out Mardi Gras beads and shaking their money makers. If she has time, she'll sit down and chat with the regulars who come to see her. But when things get crazy, she can produce drinks faster than you can say, "Make mine a double," and she does it all with a sparkling esprit de corps and an unflagging sense of humor.

Signature Drink:
Barbie's Drink

Equal parts Smirnoff Vodka and Peach Schnapps, with a splash each of Chambord, cranberry, orange and pineapple juice. Shake vigorously on ice and serve on the rocks. Garnish with a cherry.

CY CLARK

21st Amendment, Mon.-Fri. days, Mon. and Sat. nights

If Clark's life were a sitcom, the blurb in *TV Guide* would go something like this: "Less than a block away from the State House, in the shadow of the gold dome, there's a hole-in-the-wall where the guy behind the bar cracks wise with the politicians, lobbyists and other characters who come in for lunch." In fact, Mitt Romney is just about the only big shot on Beacon Hill for whom our 22-year veteran hasn't poured a libation—which is understandable, given the governor's faith-based teetotaling. So Clark can be said to have one of the most important jobs in state government: the unofficial publican to the Democrats and the Republicans. So plugged in is he that last year he knew Jane Swift was bowing out of the governor's race before she made the announcement. He gets bonus points for remembering the names of the countless Beacon Hillers who crowd his bar on the weekends.

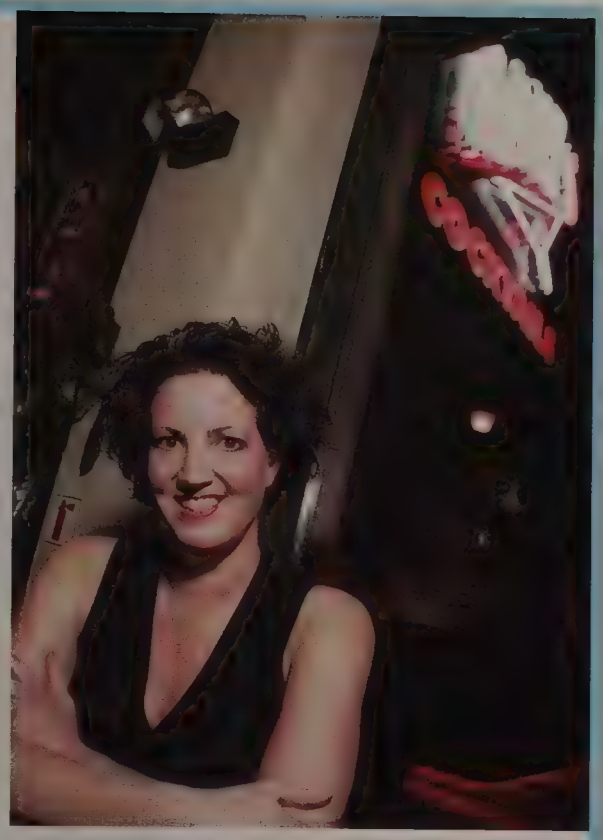
Signature Drink:
A Little U.N. Passion

1 part each Stoli Vodka, Cointreau, Cherry Schnapps and Simple Syrup, with 2 parts Goya passion fruit juice. Shake on ice and serve straight up in a martini glass. Garnish with a slice of star fruit.

MACUCH: TRACY POWELL; NOE, CLARK: DEREK KOUYOUMJ

ELAINE HARRINGTON

Flash's, Tue. day, Thu. night



A true Dorchester girl, smart and funny, Harrington is a co-owner of this Back Bay bar with excellent cheap eats and the feel of a secret clubhouse where anyone's welcome. She may be management, but she loves tending bar too much to give it up entirely. The bar's U shape lends itself to introductions, and she's a master at starting a conversation between groups or individuals and then sitting back to watch what happens. Her regulars range from after-work nine-to-fivers and neighborhood residents to the after-theater crowd and everyone who works at any of the upscale restaurants nearby, especially late-night. If she can't remember your name, she'll remember your drink. What's more important than that?

Signature Drink:
The OFD (Originally from Dorchester)

Equal parts Absolut, Baileys and White Crème de Menthe. Shake on ice and serve straight up, covered with chocolate shavings.

BOB ROSE

Tavern on the Water, Wed. nights; the Warren Tavern, alternate Sat. days

Most of the time, he's a manager at these two Charlestown landmarks, but when he does get behind the bar, this shy guy puts on his game face and plays like a pro. In the winter, his regulars are mostly Navy Yard residents and assorted other townies, but in warm weather (when Tavern on the Water becomes one of the Western Hemisphere's greatest places to drink outdoors), his bar attracts a mix of tourists, day-trippers and sailors whose boats are docked at the marina. The view of Boston is unparalleled, and he handles the craziness with perfect aplomb, making drinks as fast as humanly possible and smiling through everything he does.

Signature Drink:
Dark and Stormy

1 part Gosling's Black Rum to 3 parts ginger beer. Serve over ice, garnished with a lime wedge.

MARIO MENDUNI

The Place, Thu.-Sun. nights

A black belt in tae kwon do and a former competitor in karate and kick-boxing, he brings his martial arts mojo to bartending, specializing in the fine art of what's known as "flair." The crowd at this high-tech, upscale sports bar includes a lot of professional athletes and stockbrokers. To get them going, he performs à la Tom Cruise in *Cocktail*. In addition to a lot of flipping bottles and flying glassware, there's the occasional sound of breaking glass, accompanied by laughter and applause. An appealing combination of stunningly coordinated and extremely klutzy, he's mesmerizing to watch, and when things get busy, he can crank 'em out in lean-and-mean style.

Signature Drink:
Stoli Doli

Soak pineapple chunks and strawberries in Stoli Vodka for a week. Chill and serve straight up, garnished with a strawberry.

NGTON, ROSE: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; MENDUNI: TRACY POWELL

STACEY HUGGINS

Pho République, Thu. and Sat.; Capital Grille, Wed. and Fri.

Picture Goldie Hawn (at the height of the *Laugh-In* era) ministering to thirsty hipsters from behind the bar and you'll have an accurate image of this Long Island native who brings delightful energy to the super-cool Vietnamese restaurant and lounge in the South End and Newbury Street's swankiest steakhouse. Constantly clowning around, she has an infectious laugh and a trillion-watt smile topped off with a kooky fashion sense. Her hair changes with head-spinning frequency, from a brunette shag to a blond Farrah Fawcett flip to a reddish pixie cut within the space of a week. In short, there's nothing boring or predictable about her. She earns bonus points for her ability to handle freaks and prima donnas with the skill of a board-certified psychiatrist.

Signature Drink:
Lemongrass Martini

2 oz. Absolut Courant, 1 oz. each of Cointreau and freshly squeezed lemon juice. Shake on ice and strain into a martini glass. Garnish with lemongrass.

JON CHASE

Parris, Thu.-Sat. nights; Zuma, Wed.-Fri. days

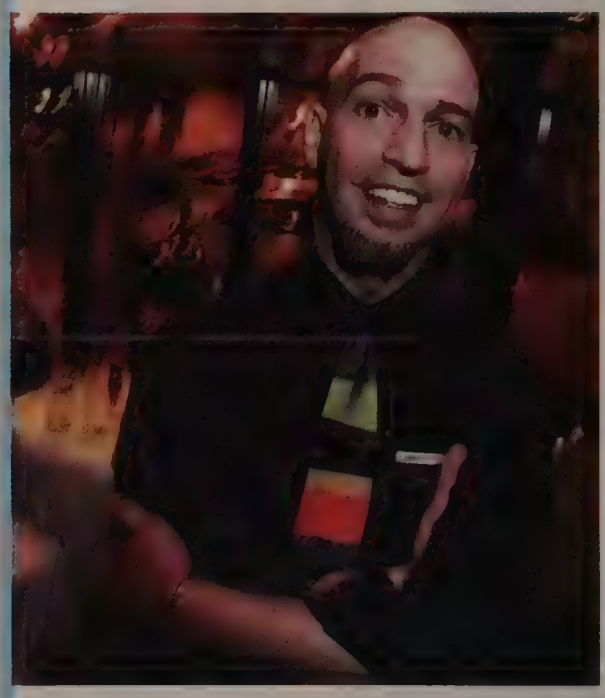
While waiting to join a fire department, he puts out the fire in his customers' throats with potables made precisely and pronto. Having worked in the restaurant business since he was 18, Chase has been tending bar for the past three years, and on a busy night, he's one big blur. With his arms moving at mach speed, he tries to ring in orders at the same time he's pouring drinks. Although he's capable of mixing up to 600 cocktails in a night, speed is not his only strong suit. The ladies who frequent the two Faneuil Hall hot spots where he works are susceptible to his considerable charms. When one offers him her phone number, he smiles, accepts it and leaves it at that. In other words, he's a perfect gentleman.

Signature Drink:
Calari's Kool Aid

2 parts Absolut Citron, 1 part Cointreau, freshly squeezed juice from a couple of lime wedges and a splash of cranberry juice. Shake on ice and pour as a shot.

PAUL CHRISTIE

Gargoyle's on the Square, Wed.-Sun. nights



A besotted father, Christie says his son, Jackson, "thankfully takes after his mother." When not with his family, he observes the world spinning around from behind the bar of this Somerville haunt, where his regulars reflect the newly minted hipness of Davis Square. In addition to impeccable service and potent potables, he offers an interesting perspective on the daily grind. A reformed stand-up comic, Christie has swapped the microphone for a cocktail shaker, and his bar is a stage where the audience is usually in stitches. As if all the yucks weren't enough, he's also known for creating something called the Tower of Sambuca, a pyramid of shot glasses filled with anisette liqueur with which the choicest idiocy of the day is toasted.

Signature Drink:
The Dedo

2 oz. each of Stoli Orange, Absolut Citron and Finlandia Cranberry, a splash each of sweetened lemon and cranberry juice. Shake and pour over a shot of 7-Up into a 10 oz. martini glass. Garnish with a lemon twist.

HUGGINS, CHASE: TRACY POWELL; CHRISTIE: DEREK KOUYOUMJ

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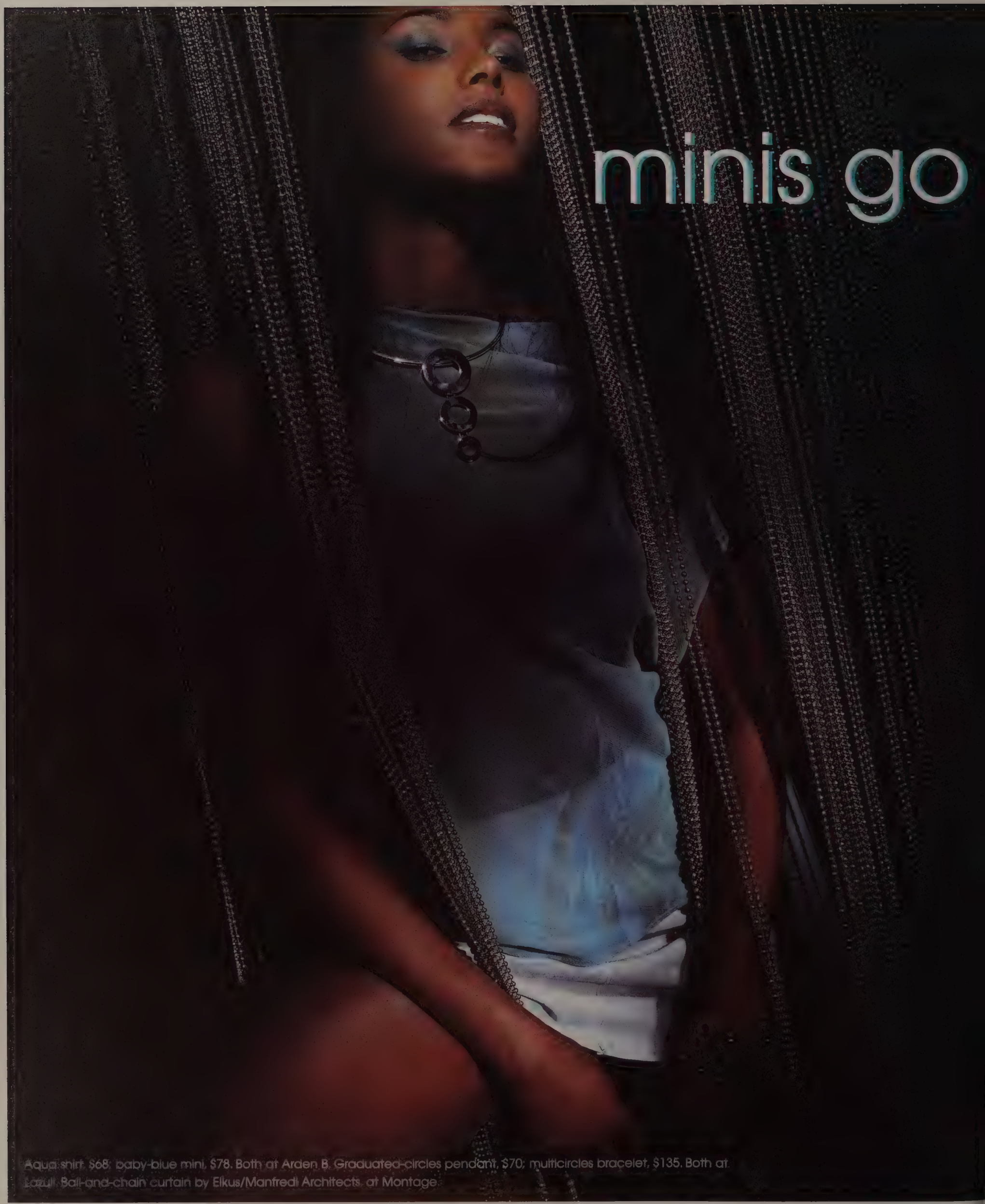


Aqua shirt, $68; baby-blue mini, $78. Both at Arden B. Graduated-circles pendant, $70; multicircles bracelet, $135. Both at Lazuli. Ball-and-chain curtain by Elkus/Manfredi Architects, at Montage.

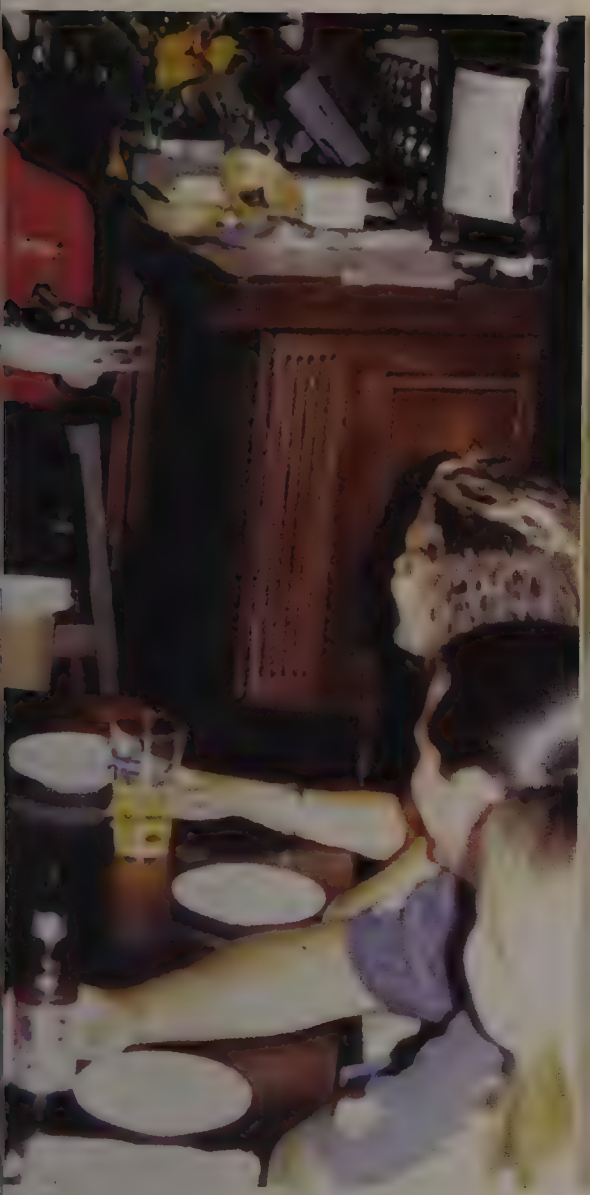
MODERN

Create a stir in barely-there skirts

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELISSA MAHONEY

a-dot top by Marc Jacobs, $168; denim mini by Allen B., $196. Both at Saks Fifth Avenue. Black-and-white shoes with ties, $495, at Chanel Boutique. Black-and-white clutch from Allison Townsend Designs, $158. Irregular oval pendant with pink cord, $70; square bangles, $135 each. Both at Lazuli. Lavender sofa by B&B Italia, at Montage.

Military jacket, $148; camel suede skirt, $78. Both at Arden B. Tan slingbacks by Isaac, $188, at Saks Fifth Avenue. Hammered disk ring, $50, at Lazuli. Table by Antoine Proulx; Light Opera Chandelier by Jim Misner; artwork by Hilal Sami Hilal. All at Montage



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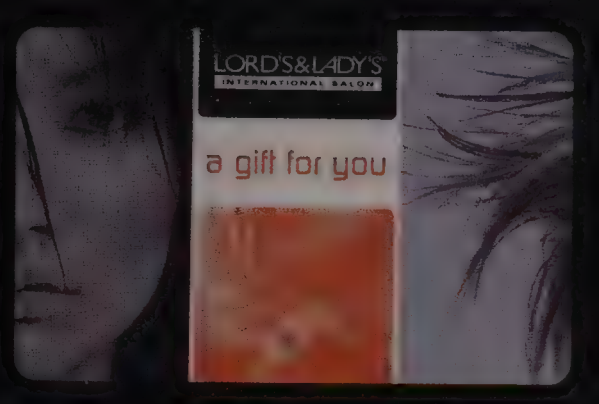

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Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

SINGING CELEBRATIONS

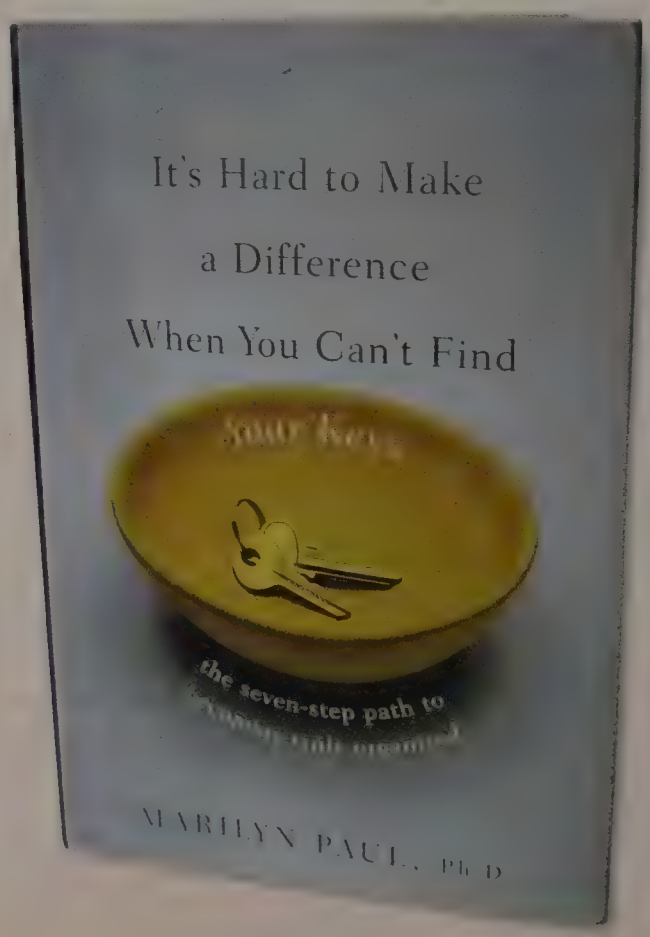
Need a song written for some big event? Call Toasts of the Town at 781-329-4345 or go to *www.toastsofthetown.com*. The service typically costs $125 to $150.

Nothing marks the moment of some life milestone, making it pungent and memorable, like a poem or song written to commemorate the occasion. And yet many people are born without the Gershwin, Ogden Nash, or Lerner and Lowe chip installed in their cerebral CPU. So, along comes Toasts of the Town to create a song or poem for you, written as if from a cozy insider position and packed with private jokes and mischievous allusions. Sally Curran, whose sparkling eyes and ready laugh just wanna help you have fun, quizzes you and gets the scoop on the occasion along with her song-smithing cohort, Patty Jenkins. The result is usually set to the music of some well-known song, which can then be performed by the subject's whole gang of friends. Toasts' numbers hoist high the joy of birthdays—especially those ending in some significant "0"—weddings, family reunions, farewell parties, graduations and business occasions like retirements or award ceremonies. These lyrics, to the tune of "My Favorite Things," celebrate one lady's affinity for wild garb: "Animal print: leopard, zebra and cheetah/Throw on the shades, she's a slick señorita...Our Tigress Woods is a happening broad." The songs celebrate work and play, family and passions. For that merry, champagne-coughing punchline, Sally says, "bizarre and identifying quirks work best."

GROCERY STORE OF YORE

McKinnon's is an old-fashioned grocery store at 239 Elm Street, Somerville. 617-666-0888.

McKinnon's, which opened in 1966, harkens back to the pre-supermarket days when grocery stores were part of an urban neighborhood. Holding its flavorful, marvelously old-fashioned ground amid the Starbuckery of booming Davis Square, this little, feverishly populated mecca offers high quality at prices that seem to have eluded inflation. Energized butchers in white coats slice meats—they sell only prime and choice—that range from London broil beef shoulder (What? Only $2.47?) to Perdue Oven Stuffers for $5.90. You can also find marinated teriyaki tips, spiced-up pork loin or beef stuffed lusciously with spinach and provolone, and more down-home fare like ham hocks, chicken livers and giblets. A hot deli serves comfort food—McKinnon's is famous for fish and chips made from classy haddock and served with a smile. Amazing, too, are packs of lemons, sometimes five for a dollar, and spices that are often half the price of those at other stores. But the biggest draw is the scene, a glorious ethnic jumble of neighbors chatting and laughing, the checkout staff joking good-naturedly with customers, who swap gossip and colorful blarney at the counter. It's the homey neighborhood grocery preserved.



MR. CLEAN'S SPIRITUAL SIDE

It's Hard to Make A Difference When You Can't Find Your Keys, by management consultant Marilyn Paul, is a holistic guide to getting organized.

Albert Einstein said, "No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it. We must learn to see the world anew." In the same spirit, Marilyn Paul approaches the mess, the piles, the slobitude of daily life from something of a spiritual position. She recommends that we look inward, on the path to creating that gorgeous spaciousness, both outer and inner, that appears when things are peacefully ordered. She invites you to envision your surroundings and your relationship to them in "pure curiosity" and contemplate the sacredness, beauty and value that come when you have created an untangled environment. Paul's book is interwoven with gentle inquiries into the nature of your (and her own) disorganization. It asks questions about the reader's habits that, when answered, will help speed the way to successful scrubbing and pile-demolishing. Though receptive to the idea that messiness may equal comfort for some, Paul proposes that an orderly environment helps with maintaining healthy boundaries, keeping promises and cultivating more pleasing rhythms in your life.

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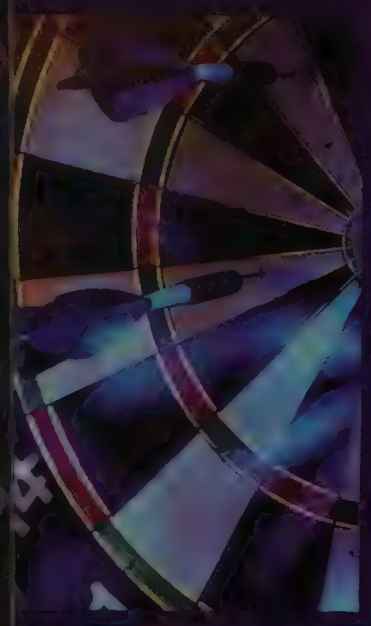

THE LAST DROP
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in this section:
Review: Washington Square Tavern
Dish: James Beard Award nominees
Tasty Tidbit: Seventy California wineries pour zinfandel in the South End

REVIEW

Square Meals

Amid Brookline's plentiful offerings, Washington Square Tavern stands out from the crowd

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Few arteries in the region boast the number and variety of restaurants that Beacon Street in Brookline possesses. Cuisines of every ethnicity are offered in storefront after storefront. A few are quite good—Fugakyu near Coolidge Corner stands out, with its full range of Japanese offerings, while Taberna de Haro delights on a smaller scale with authentic Spanish cuisine. Thanks to a tip from a colleague, I can now add the Washington Square Tavern to the distinguished company of those eateries.

Located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Washington and Beacon, the Tavern is easy to miss. The only signage is discreet frosted-glass lettering on the storefront window, noticeable only if you are looking for it. Inside, the inviting dining room is appointed in dark wood all the way up to its high, charcoal gray ceiling. A long bar seats about 10, and a high community table in the center of the dining room, nicknamed the "surfboard" for its shape, seats another 10 at high-backed stools. Otherwise, an array of tables and banquettes are sprinkled around the room. A tall bookcase filled with books forms the wall across from the entrance, and a window in the middle of the bookcase provides a view into the kitchen.

Saturday night at the Tavern, at least in the early hours, appears to be family night, with multigenerational parties filling the large tables. The informality of paper napkins is balanced by the fresh flowers on the tables, and the atmosphere is warm and inviting, save for the heavy beat of obtrusive recorded music. Brookline restaurants and bars may be smoke-free, but noise pollution is not so easily banished.

The ethnicity of the Tavern is not in doubt. Chef Paul Hathaway, a veteran who has worked with a who's who of the Boston restaurant scene from Todd English to Jody Adams to Paul O'Connell, produces an essentially American cuisine. Most of the offerings fall into the general category of "comfort food," but Hathaway renders them with a flair and finesse that belies the connotation of ordinariness that the phrase often conveys. Certainly, comfort food is not often accompanied by baguettes as fine as those the Tavern procures from Iggy's Bakery—impeccably fresh and soft on the inside, with excellent, chewy crust outside.

The Tavern's patron-friendly prices are remarkable. Its half-dozen appetizers range from $6 to $10, while main courses top out at $17. A bowl of potato leek soup ($6) with red beet puree and horseradish cream boasted a flavorful broth whose mellow earthiness was enhanced by the mild infusion of horseradish. The red swirl of the beet puree added a visual dimension that delighted the eye. A half-dozen baked oysters ($8) delivered their briny freshness enhanced by a slightly tart dose of hard cider butter and a sprinkling of brioche breadcrumbs.

A special one evening, crisp rock shrimp, arrived as a mountain of golden-brown, deep-fried treats, resembling flash-fried calamari in their light, delicate breading, but with a texture and flavor that delighted the shrimp lovers in our group. They shared a plate with a salad of tiny, piquant slices of green chili and cucumber in a roasted-tomato vinaigrette. Small shards of crunchy shaved fennel added a slightly licorice note, but I could have done without the stemmy watercress that completed the presentation. Last, but certainly not least among the first courses, was a hefty hindquarter of duck confit ($9), whose crisp skin encased rich, moist flesh. The accompaniment of sour cherry compote and sprightly, fresh arugula dressed in a light vinaigrette added the perfect flavor and texture counterpoints to the duck.

From a comfort-food point of view, the offering that leaps from the menu is the Tavern pot roast ($17), a healthy slab of moist, coarse-textured beef, permeated with the warm, sweet flavor of carrots, and garnished with al dente broccoli florets and creamy whipped potatoes. The size of the portion necessitated a doggy bag, and the leftovers yielded more than one sandwich for lunches the following days. A grilled pork chop ($17) was glazed with spiced apple cider and seared over a hot flame to seal in its juicy goodness. Creamy polenta tantalized and haunted with its almost exotic flavor, and a mound of succulent sautéed greens, redolent of garlic, formed the third dimension of this well-balanced meal. A seared-tuna platter ($12) yielded three generous slabs of rare, tender tuna, moistened with a sprightly ginger wine sauce and resting on a generous thicket of sesame-dressed fresh spinach. A crunchy, somewhat dense rice cake provided an interesting although not altogether successful texture contrast. Finally, ricotta ravioli ($15) demonstrated the Tavern's versatility. Obvi-

Washington Square Tavern

714 Washington St., Brookline
(617-232-8989)
HOURS Sun., 11:30am-2:30pm; 5:30-10pm; Mon.-Thu., 5:30-10pm; Fri. and Sat., 5:30-11pm
RESERVATIONS no
CREDIT CARDS Visa, MasterCard
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes
PARKING on-street
LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

Seared sliced tuna with sesame spinach, crispy rice cake and a ginger–port wine sauce.

Chef Paul Hathaway has worked with a who's who of the Boston restaurant scene—from Todd English to Jody Adams to Paul O'Connell.

sly, pasta has become a rt of mainstream Ameri- n cuisine that good chefs all ethnic persuasions can ndle. The Tavern's ten- r pillows of tasty, ricotta- uffed pasta, dressed with roasted-tomato ragout dded with bright green as and earthy mush- oms, would have been a ntender in the best of ston's Italian kitchens.

The Tavern offers a mber of good red wines the glass, including a 99 Les Petites Tourettes 6) from Côte du Lu- ron, a southern Rhone gion known for its rea- nably priced, well-structured wines. ually they exhibit peppery overtones, t this one had a pleasant, clean finish, king it a fine accompaniment for the od. Bigger and brassier was the 2000 ios de Susan Balbo, a full-bodied Ar- ntinean cabernet sauvignon with a rvelous bouquet ($8). The Tavern does t serve dessert, but knowledgeable pa- ns simply cross Washington Street to han's Bakery, purveyors of splendid nch and Greek pastries and delicious creams.

Service at the Tavern started out on brusque side. When our waiter asked ether we would like drinks, I told n, "No, we plan to make do with the ne." His gruff response, "Wine is a nk," caught me off guard. But as the ning progressed, he proved to be an nest person who plied his trade effi- ntly and professionally—a welcome ntrast to the tiresome, chummy tick of too many young waitpersons ("Hi, I'm Lloyd, and I'll be your waiter tonight"). More to the point, our waiter's straightforward, businesslike style was well matched to this serious, no-nonsense restaurant, with its delicious, well-prepared dishes and value-packed prices. iB

Diners order from the Tavern's menu of upscale comfort food.

Grilled pork chop with white corn grits, sautéed greens and an orange–star anise glaze.

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DISH

Springing Surprises

Beard, Blackfin, Expecting the unexpected

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Will Ana Sortun of Oleana win the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Northeast? Stay tuned.

It happens every spring. When the James Beard Award nominations are announced, the short list for Best Chef: Northeast includes the familiar names you'd expect and an occasional, no less deserving, surprise candidate.

This year, local nominees once again include **Barbara Lynch** of **No. 9 Park** and **Frank McClelland** of **L'Espalier**. **Ana Sortun** of **Oleana**, the new name on the list, says she was surprised and delighted by the news.

"I'm really happy," she says, adding that she's celebrating already with "a little champagne here, a little champagne there." As a first-timer, she's limiting her expectations to "having a good time" at the awards event on May 5, and keeping her focus on getting ready to open Oleana's patio.

SECOND COURSE

Expected: **Tony Ambrose** opening **Blackfin Chop House and Raw Bar** in Hingham. Unexpected: The chef who made Asian/French/Italian fusion cuisine irresistible at **Ambrosia on Huntington** with the likes of lobster sashimi martinis and kelp risotto is serving up a combination seafood/classic steakhouse menu at his new venue. Yes, the expansive raw bar will offer oysters from the East and West coasts and sashimi, and Ambrose promises to buy most of the restaurant's fish straight from local fishermen at the docks. But the rest of the menu is traditional, as befits the restaurant's setting—an 18th-century sea captain's house. Entrees include baked stuffed lobster, rack of lamb and Delmonico steak with blue cheese butter. Among the dessert choices are crème brûlée, apple cobbler and—surprise!—cheesecake.

Unexpected venue for fusion: If you crave dim sum in elegant surroundings during the week, drop into **The Lounge** at **The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common**, for "contempo-Asian" tea, dim sum and pastries on Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Chef **Kuan Kwong Shing** handles the Asian angle, while pastry chef **Christine D'Angeli** prepares more traditional tea sandwiches and pastry cart selections. Teas include China Rose Petal and Cherry Sencha.

At **Radius**, former sous chef **Brian Reimer** has been promoted to the position of chef de cuisine after the departure of **Gabriel Frasca**, who had joined chef/owner **Michael Schlow** in the kitchen about 18 months ago. "It's hard to leave any job you love so much," says Frasca, but "it's time to try something else." For now, he's enjoying a respite from major kitchen responsibilities and working on the line at **Pigalle** a few nights a week while he figures out what's next. Any ideas what that might be? As a matter of fact, Frasca says, when his sweetie—chef **Amanda Lydon**—opened the kitchen at **Metro** awhile back, the two had discussed establishing a professional partnership and opening their own restaurant at some point. Lydon has since left Metro, now closed, and landed a plum position at **UpStairs on the Square**.

"It's a wrinkle we didn't quite expect," says Frasca of Lydon's unexpected opportunity, though his tone makes it clear that this wrinkle, unlike most, is more than welcome. "Meanwhile, I'm incredibly grateful for the dream job at Radius. I had a wonderful time doing it."

Adaptations and adjustments: In Somerville, **Eat** is "streamlining" both its Monday night guest chef program and its dinner schedule. Guest chefs will now appear on an occasional basis, and dinner will be served Wednesday and Thursday, 6 to 10pm, Friday and Saturday from 6 to 10:30pm, and Sunday from 5:30 to 9:30pm.

Less than two months after opening its stylish doors in the former **Oskar's** location, **Epiphany** apparently experienced an economy-related revelation and introduced a more affordably priced menu. The new lunch menu ($7-$11) offers simple fare such as farfalle with chicken tenderloins and grilled vegetables with goat cheese on a baguette. Dinner is now served in the form of "small plates," such as a mixed grill satay with caramelized pineapple, and "larger plates," such as tea-smoked duck with chili plum sauce. The most expensive item is $22. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to dish@improper.com

Tastings BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

EVENTS

Belgian Beer Dinner
Big City, 138 Brighton Ave., Boston (617-782-2020). April 17, 7pm. **Johnny Fincioen**, president of Global Beer Network, and **Andre Van de Velde**, director of Brewery Van Steenberge in Flanders, Belgium, host this dinner.

Beyond Shelter
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-534-2526). www.fobh.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. April 23, 6pm. $50, $20 after 8pm.* More than 25 restaurants, including Armani Cafe, Bob the Chef's, Clio, Aquitaine and Hamersley's Bistro, offer samples at this IMPROPER-sponsored benefit for the Friends of Boston's Homeless.

Byron Wines Dinner
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). $125. Chef **Michael Schlow** and **Ken Brown** of Byron Vineyard & Winery offer a five-course meal.

Capone Foods Dinner
The Independent, 75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6021). April 17, 6, 8 and 10pm. $45. Chef **Mark Usewicz** prepares a five-course prix-fixe meal using fare from Capone Foods.

Cookbook Author Series
Bloomingdale's, Chestnut Hill Mall, 175 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-630-6086). 12-2pm. Local chefs and authors offer cooking demonstrations. • April 25: Chef **Didi Emmons** of Veggie Planet cooks recipes from her cookbook, *Vegetarian Planet*. • April 26: *Boston Globe* food editor **Sheryl Julian** and food writer **Julie Riven** prepare recipes from *The Way We Cook*.

Cooking with Jacques Pépin
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. April 23, 6-10pm. $350. Prepare a meal under the supervision of master chef **Jacques Pépin**.

Cruisin' with Cruzan
Gallia, 1525 Washington St., Boston (617-247-4455). April 16, 7-9pm. $25. Chef **Stefano Zimei** throws an island party with Cruzan rums.

Edible Art
Shreve, Crump & Low, 330 Boylston St., Boston (617-349-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 24, 6pm. $100. Twenty Boston chefs pay tribute to their favorite artists and works of art. Enjoy an evening of food, fine wines, a silent auction of original artwork and live music. Proceeds benefit scholarship programs at the Art Institute of Boston.

New England Real Ale Exhibition
George Dilboy Post, 371 Summer St., Somerville (617-625-5224). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed.-Fri., 6-10:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-3pm. April 30-May 4. $6 (Thu. and Sat.), free (Wed. and Sun.). This annual beer festival features 30 cask-conditioned beers from the Northeast and 30 from Great Britain. Enjoy live music and Redbone's barbecue with bitters, pale ales, porters, stouts and more.

Rosenblum Cellars Wine Dinner
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. April 28, 7pm. **Kent Rosenblum** of Rosenblum Cellars leads a five-course meal prepared by chef **Ian Just**.

Rustic Cooking
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (800-432-5520). April 17, 7-9pm. $49. **Bill Bradley** of Rustic Kitchen provides a cooking demonstration and tasting.

A Taste of Allston Village
DoubleTree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Road, Allston (617-254-7564). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 29, 6-8pm. $25. Sample cuisine from Carlo's Cucina Italiana, Grasshopper, Pho Que Huong, Rangoli, Seoul Bakery, Sunset Grill & Tap and Spike's Junkyard Dogs, among others, at this IMPROPER-sponsored event benefiting the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Wine Dinner
Union Street, 107R Union St., Newton Centre (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. April 17, 6:30pm. $40. This four-course dinner features California wines from the Central Coast and Sonoma County.

Wine Tasting
Malden Public Library, 36 Salem St., Malden (781-324-0218). April 25, 7pm. $25. Sample wines from Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United States, as well as a small collection of select beers from Jamaica and Ireland. Proceeds benefit the Malden Public Library.

TASTY TIDBIT

ZIN IN THE CITY

Members of the Zinfandel Advocates & Producers organization were recently asked to describe the aroma of zinfandel, and they came up with: "Briary, jammy, explosive fruit, berry pie, California monster berry fruit, pureness of fruit, explosive fruit, yummy..." Enough already—uncork a bottle!

This month, representatives from more than 50 California wineries will try to make zinfandel converts out of Bostonians during the Zinfandel Tasting at the Boston Center for the Arts on April 29. From the mouth-watering descriptions of this wine, made from the only grape varietal considered unique to the U.S., it won't be difficult.

As part of their East Coast tour, the Zinfandel Advocates & Producers will bookend the BCA event with free tastings and hors d'oeuvres aboard the Acela train from D.C. to Boston on April 25 and 28 and from Boston to New York on April 30. *539 Tremont St., Boston (530-274-4900). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. April 29, 6-8pm. $59. —J.S.*

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agenda

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SAT./APRIL 26

Music: Party for the Planet

With Old Man Winter having stolen so much of our so-called spring, we're doubly determined to make the most of what's left. What finer way to enjoy the season than to sprawl out on a blanket by the Charles River (on what had better be a beautiful, warm, dry day) listening to free music? Summer will be filled with opportunities to do just that, but few concerts have a line-up like this spring's EarthFest, organized by 92.9 WBOS: Sheryl Crow (left), Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Nickel Creek, Alice Peacock, Sister Hazel, Dan Zanes—and the man we're most excited about, Peter Wolf. Of course, you get to learn all about environmental causes too, but be warned: Leaving your spot on the grass is a high-risk maneuver—there are usually so many EarthFesters that it's "finders keepers" when it comes to sitting room. That's 11:30am-6pm, no cover, all ages. If you're up for more, there's an EarthFest Post Party with Nickel Creek at the House of Blues at 8:30pm, 21+. *Hatch Shell on the Esplanade; House of Blues, 96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE).*

TUE./APRIL 29

Tastings: A Model UN

How many neighborhoods can boast restaurants serving Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Brazilian, Italian, Irish, Taiwanese, Pakistani, Colombian, Indian and American cuisine within a half-mile radius? Just one in Boston: Allston Village. You can sample all those cuisines and more at the IMPROPER-sponsored **Taste of Allston Village** at the DoubleTree Guest Suites April 29. Restaurants like Carlo's Cucina Italiana, Grasshopper, Pho Que Huong, Rangoli, Seoul Bakery, Sunset Grill & Tap and Spike's Junkyard Dogs, among others, will serve up delicacies to benefit the community group Allston Village Main Streets. All food that's not consumed will be donated to the Greater Boston Food Bank's Second Helping Program. *DoubleTree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Road, Allston (617-254-7564). 6-8pm. $25.*

MON./APRIL 21

CityScope: Marathon Monday

In 1994, Kenyan runner Cosmas Ndeti set the record for the fastest finish in the **Boston Marathon** at two hours, seven minutes and 15 seconds. That got us thinking about all the things we could accomplish in that time span, including struggling to read 10 pages of David McCullough's *John Adams*; watching episodes of *A Makeover Story*, *A Dating Story* and *A Wedding Story* back-to-back on TLC; or surfing the Internet for summer vacation deals. Yeah, it just seems like we've got better things to do than run 26.2 miles, but we'll be sure to catch the final turn at the Cactus Club April 21. We won't be alone: About 500,000 spectators line the course annually. But only a lucky few know the feeling of floating over the finish line—many frozen margaritas later—as the street cleaners sweep up the mess. *www.bostonmarathon.org.*

Comedian Rickey Smiley

THROUGHOUT APRIL

Comedy: A Laugh a Day

With war on every channel, we're in desperate need of some cheering up. A handful of comedians have come to the rescue. First up are **Darrell Hammond**, best known for his impersonations of Bill Clinton on *Saturday Night Live*, and **Rickey Smiley**, former host of BET's *Comic View* and co-star of *Friday After Next*, who appear on consecutive nights at the Comedy Connection April 18-19. Also on the 19th, **Ellen Degeneres**, who played the first openly gay lead character on a television show, performs stand-up at the Orpheum. Then you have a choice of seeing **Kevin Pollack** from *The Usual Suspects* and *A Few Good Men* at the Comedy Connection or **Margaret Cho** at Symphony Hall April 25. Round out the month with **Dean Edwards** (a.k.a. Ed Bradley, Grace Jones and Sidney Poitier from *Saturday Night Live)* at the Comedy Connection April 26. *See Comedy on page 66 for more information.*

Chef Raymond Ost of Sandrine's pays homage to the work of surrealist Jean Cocteau.

THU./APRIL 24

Tastings: Good Enough to Eat

The analogy that likens chefs to artists has been made a thousand times—the plate is their canvas, the ingredients their medium, blah, blah, blah—so we won't bother. Instead, we'll just tell you straight out that 20 local chefs will be creating works of art using food at the 10th annual Edible Art event at Shreve, Crump & Low. In the past, chefs have paid tribute to Matisse, Michelangelo's *David*, William Wegman's dogs and Dr. Seuss' *Cat in the Hat*. This year's chefs include Thomas John of Mantra, Shane Gray of Mistral, Jesse Perrin of the Fireplace, Todd English of Bonfire, Andy Husbands of Rouge and Ed Gannon of Aujourd'hui. Judging their creations: Dana Cowin, editor-in-chief of *Food & Wine*; Jacques Pepin of *Today's Gourmet*; and Burt Wolf, host of five syndicated television series focusing on food, travel and cultural history. Enjoy an evening of food, fine wine, a silent auction of original artwork and live music. Proceeds benefit scholarship programs at the Art Institute of Boston. *Shreve, Crump & Low, 330 Boylston St., Boston (617-349-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6pm. $100*

Luminous Garden
by Beth Galston
at the Groton School

STARTING FRI./APRIL 25

Art: When Worlds Collide

In recent years, the art and tech worlds have become so intertwined that cyber arts is now its own genre. As proof of the expansiveness of the genre, the **Boston Cyber Arts Festival**, now in its third year, has become one of the biggest art events in the city—and, we might add, one of the most entertaining. (Where else do people from such disparate backgrounds—think super-nerdy techies, flamboyant artists and hip electronic musicians—mingle?) This year, the fest includes about 100 events and exhibitions over two weeks. It all starts with the Opening Night Party April 25 at the Hotel@MIT, featuring music by electronic-music laptop maestro DJ Flack and work by dozens of artists and techies. In the following weeks, dozens of museums and galleries participate with displays of visual art and Web art, conferences, symposia, performance art, demonstrations and lectures. Among the many musical events are the American premiere of the Toy Symphony, a collaboration between the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and the MIT Media Lab (April 26), and an Electronic Music Marathon. *Through May 11. www.bostoncyberarts.org.*

WED./APRIL 23

Tastings: Sampling (Food, That Is) at Avalon

Anyone who's ever been to the **Beyond Shelter** event at Avalon knows that no matter how much you pig out on samples from Le Soir, Jasper White's Summer Shack, Truc or Sonsie, you simply *must* save room for ice cream from Rancatore's in Belmont. It's hidden in the back of the club on the landing, and if there were a map to all the treasures found at this yearly event sponsored by the IMPROPER, this one would be marked with a giant X. As for the rest of the 28 booths, it's a gourmet feast, with restaurants like Armani Café, Bob the Chef's, Clio, Aquitaine and Hamersley's Bistro offering tasty samples to benefit the Friends of Boston's Homeless. After indulging in a cup of Grapenut raisin ice cream, dance to the big band sounds of Kendrick Oliver & the New Life Jazz Orchestra. *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-534-2526).* www.fobh.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 6pm. $50, $20 after 8pm.*

Beyond Shelter at Avalon

SAT./APRIL 19

Classical Music: Classics Meet Classical

If you imagine the Symphony Hall crowd as a bunch of serious, refined folks talking in hushed murmurs, you're in for a surprise. The fifth annual **WCRB Classical Cartoon Festival**, an all-day pairing of classical music and classic Warner Bros. cartoons at Symphony Hall, goes like this: Thousands of kids and adults run about amid classical performances, costumed cartoon characters, performers, storytellers, magicians, clowns and continuous showings of classic cartoons—not to mention a caricaturist, a scavenger hunt and face-painters. Here's one touch that only the adults will fully appreciate: a showing of *What's Opera Doc?*, the Bugs Bunny/Elmer Fudd spoof of Wagner's *Die Walkyrie*. *Tickets are $6 and proceeds benefit the Mass. Brain Injury Association. 10am-4pm. Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org.*

APRIL 27-29

Art: Spring Has Sprung

We find nothing more relaxing than strolling through the Museum of Fine Arts browsing its galleries. But combine the relaxation with the sensory overload and we often end up with a case of "museum legs"—becoming so drained that we can barely drag ourselves to the café. (We'd feel like dolts admitting this if we didn't know so many others who share the affliction.) The museum's annual **Art in Bloom**, however, which pairs floral arrangements with artwork, is sure to invigorate the senses with its vivid colors and heady fragrances. More than 80 displays made by New England florists interpret nearby works, from Asian paintings to European masterpieces. For a more interactive pick-me-up, try one of the MFA's Art in Bloom–related events, which include guided tours, floral demonstrations and lectures. There's also a preview party ($125), Jazz It Up, April 26, 7-11pm, with a swing band, cabaret, food and entertainment. *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). Admission to the exhibition is $15.*

SUN./APRIL 27

Music: What's in a Name?

What do Gang Starr, Run-D.M.C, Dilated Peoples and Grandmaster Flash have in common? They're all lastingly popular hip-hop acts whose names initially had fans scratching their heads, going, "Say what?" Now, here to add their name to that list, comes **Blackalicious**. Since the ear 1990s, the duo of producer Chief Xcel and rapper Gift of Ga have been banging out tracks that shake the mind as well a the behind. Their last album, *Blazing Arrow*, was a hit with critics as well as over- and underground hip-hop fans. More bounce to the ounce than you can pack in a sack, and choruses so catchy you'll find yourself singing them all the way home after the show and all the way to the record stor the next day. *Axis, 13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). 8pm, $17, 18+.*

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Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Ongoing: Big Apple Circus
623 Summer St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.bigapplecircus.org. *Show times vary. $13-$51. Through May 11.* The Big Apple Circus stops in Boston with musical clown Francesco, Grandma clown, the Aniskin Troupe Russian trapeze artists, Chinese slack-wire balancer Cong Tian, the performing dogs and cats of Irina Markova, and the rest of the Big Apple's variety of performers.

Ongoing: Registration for the MS Scavenger Hunt
Hideaway Pub, 20 Concord Lane, Cambridge (508-879-2994). www.bostoncure.org/hunt. *10:30am-5pm on May 10. Registration deadline is April 30. Teams of between three and five people must raise a minimum of $500.* Register now for this May 10 fund-raiser for the Boston Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis. Teams have six hours to locate as many items as possible on their list, and the hunt is followed by a party and silent auction of sports memorabilia.

Single Asian Professionals Event
Pizzeria Uno, 22 Clinton St., Boston. www.jjproductions.net. *6:30pm. $46.* Three age groups participate in seven-minute dating in two 42-minute sessions. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres; everyone welcome.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

Paul Revere Row Re-enactment
Charlestown Navy Yard Visitor Center, 55 Constitution Road, Charlestown (617-242-5601). www.nps.gov/bost. *7-10pm. Free.* Paul Revere's famous ride started when he sneaked past British ships in a rowboat with muffled oars and got on his horse in Charlestown. Costumed actors re-create Revere's boat ride, and the evening also includes music and a skit by the Charlestown Working Theater.

USS Constitution Sunrise Service
USS Constitution, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (617-242-7511). Arrive between 7:30-8am for security screening. Free. Attend Easter mass on the deck of the Constitution. The cannon fires at 8am; mass starts at 8:05 sharp. Refreshments served.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Boston Marathon
Finish in front of the Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston. www.bostonmarathon.com. *Start at 12pm.* Thousands of runners and wheelers take to the streets for one of the biggest and oldest marathons in the world.

Hawaiian Tropic Post-Marathon Gala Dinner
Teatro Restaurant, 177 Tremont St., Boston (617-230-2310). 6:30pm. $100. Attire: Evening/semi-formal wear. The girls of Hawaiian Tropic host a dinner and silent auction to benefit the Cam Neely Cancer Fund.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

MSPCA Singles Night
MSPCA Boston Animal Shelter, 350 South Huntington Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-541-5083). www.mspca.org. *6pm. $10.* Meet and mingle with other singles who love animals while learning how you can help homeless critters.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Eamonn Coghlan-Neil Cusack Marathon Golf Classic
South Shore Country Club, Hingham (781-773-1097). 12pm. Former Red Sox pitchers Bill "Spaceman" Lee and Luis Tiant team up wi other sports celebrities to raise money for C Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Dublin. awards dinner follows the tournament.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Benefit
Anam Cara, Washington Square, Brookli www.redlettermusic.com. *9pm. $20 suggested do tion.* Red Letter plays a show with the goal of ra ing $7,500 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Socie The concert also includes a raffle.

MSPCC 125th Anniversary Gala
Westin Copley Place, Copley Square, Boston (617-58 1523). www.mspcc.org *6pm.* The Mass. Society the Prevention of Cruelty to Children celebrates 125th anniversary with this fund-raiser. The eve also marks the launch of the MSPCC's n Connecting Families program.

Operation Comedy Benefit
American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 Califor St., Newton (617-371-1784). www.neshv.org. *8 $20.* The New England Shelter for Homel Veterans' inaugural benefit comedy performa includes Rebecca Walker, Jay Rodriguez, Stepha Peters (winner of the 2002 Marshalls Women Comedy Festival) and Jim McCue, who has ent tained U.S. troops in Bosnia.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Boston College Arts Festival
Boston College campus, 140 Comm. Ave., Chestnut H (617-552-2787). www.bc.edu/arts. *Through Ap 26. Admission fee for some events.* Boston College's fi annual Arts Festival includes exhibits of stude artwork, a poetry slam theater, music performan and more.

Edible Art
Shreve, Crump & Low, 330 Boylston St., Boston (61 349-8586). 6pm. $100. Twenty Boston chefs p tribute to their favorite artists and works of through food. Enjoy an evening of food, fine wine silent auction of original artwork and live mus Proceeds benefit scholarship programs at the Institute of Boston.

Fashion Show Fund-Raiser
Sabur Restaurant, 212 Holland St., Somerville (61 388-0677). www.transmoda.org. *8pm. $100.* T fashion show, which includes wine and hors d'oe vres, benefits the Refugee Women's Network.

Junior League of Boston Decorator's Show House
The Noah Brooks Tavern, Minute Man National Pa Lincoln (617-536-9640). www.jlboston.org. *Tu Fri., 9:30am-2pm and 6-9pm; Sat., 9:30am-6:30 Sun., 11am-6pm. Closed Mondays. $20 in advance, $ at the door.* More than 25 decorated spaces created national designers and landscapers are on display

Maria's Bachelorette Party ALA Benefit
Comedy Connection, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Bos (800-733-5639). 6:30pm. $25. Suffolk County p bation officer and one of the *Boston Herald*'s "Hott Singles" Steven Siciliano joins the cast of "Mari Bachelorette Party" for a performance to ra money for the American Lung Association.

Party for a Plate
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-427-520 ext. 5050). 7-10pm. $25. Young alumni from lo colleges organize this benefit for the Greater Bost Food Bank, featuring food and refreshments fr local establishments and live music.

***What's Up* Benefit Concert**
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes, 403-405 Centre St., Jama Plain (617-267-1575). www.whatsupmagazine.c *8:30pm. $8.* James O'Brien, Kristen Cifelli, Jas Spooner and Seth Gooby play to raise money *What's Up* magazine.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

King Arthur Festival
Hammond Castle, 80 Hesperus Ave., Gloucester (9 283-2080). www.hammondcastle.org. *10am-5 through April 27. $10.* The Knights of the Rou Table get medieval with swordplay, magic, juggli music, food and a knighting ceremony.

New Art Center Contemporary Craft Show and Sale
MacKenzie Center, 1337 Centre St., Newton Ce (617-964-3424). www.newartcenter.org. *Pre Fri., 6-8pm. Show: Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 12-5 $7 general admission, $30 for the preview night.* benefit preview party for this annual art show sale features hors d'oeuvres, live music from m bers of the Newton Symphony Orchestra and a crack at the goods. The show continues over weekend, with artwork in all media priced f $15-$4,000.

Wine Tasting
Malden Public Library, 36 Salem St., Malden (7 324-0218). April 25, 7pm. $25. Sample wines Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United States, as w

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Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way! DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

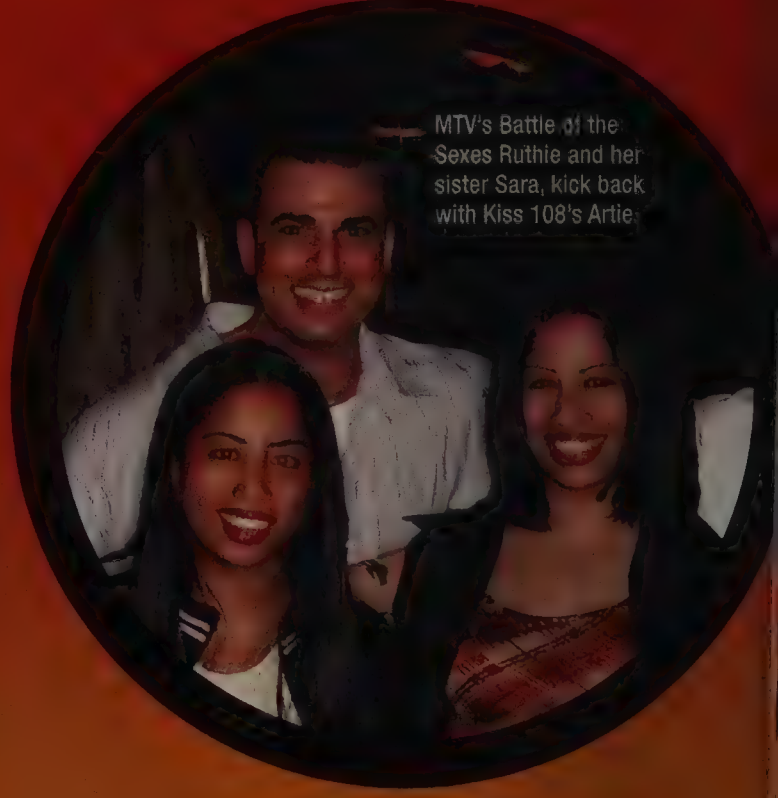
Join Nate Watkin from 8 - 11pm then dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

Monday, April 21st, 4pm

POST MARATHON PARTY! Join us after the marathon for a complimentary appetizer buffet and pool! Dance the night away with DJ Mike Janedy!

Wednesday, April 30th

People Scavenger Hunt! Grab your friends and fill your pockets with buttons, Q-Tips, half dollars and other crazy things we may be looking for. Boston's Best scavenger hunt makes you search for your clues from other attendees all inside .Meet tons of people, enjoy food and pool. Hurry before it fills up! Please RSVP at http://www.bostoneventguide.com/psh.htm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Robert Parker and his dog, Pearl, lead Dogswalk Against Cancer April 26 at the Boston Common.

a small collection of select beers from Jamaica and Ireland. Proceeds benefit the Malden Public Library.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Boston Sailing Center Free Sailing Weekend

Boston Sailing Center, the Riverboat at Lewis Wharf, Boston (617-227-4198). www.bostonsailingcenter.com. *1-6pm, through April 27.* Experienced sailors take newbies on harbor rides aboard boats from 23 to 40 feet in length. A portion of proceeds from those who sign up for a BSC program this weekend will go to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

Dogswalk Against Cancer

Boston Common, corner of Charles and Beacon streets, Boston (617-556-7432). www.cancer.org. *11am.* Boston author Robert B. Parker and his dog, Pearl, lead the way in this dog walkathon to raise money to fight both human and animal cancers.

Night of Wonder 2003— Under the Big Top

Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (978-535-2594). www.progeriaresearch.org. *VIP reception, 6pm, main event at 7pm. $150, VIP $400.* Actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen co-chair this gala to raise money for the Progeria Research Foundation, which fights that children's aging disorder. The circus-themed night includes food, cocktails, entertainment and live and silent auctions.

Romeo and Juliet Ball

Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (617-456-6223). 6pm. $500. Boston Ballet's spring gala features a Renaissance theme, and the auction and bar area are transformed into a 16th-century Italian marketplace. After dinner and a performance from Boston Ballet dancers, items like a trip for four to the Cannes Film Festival are auctioned.

Sheep Shearing Festival

Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-2798). www.goreplace.org. *10am-4pm. $8.* This annual event includes sheep-shearing demonstrations, a crafts fair, live music and food vendors on the 45-acre Gore Estate.

Spring Fling Charity Harbor Cruise

Boston Harbor Cruises at Long Wharf, Boston (877-733-9425). www.brfc.org. *Boarding at 9:15pm. $40 in advance, $50 at the dock.* The Boston Rugby Club hosts a night of cocktails and dancing on this harbor cruise. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Open bar.

Used CD/LP Sale

McCormack Cafeteria, McCormack Building, UMass. Boston (617-287-6911). www.bostonfolkfestival.org. *Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 9am-3pm.* More than 20,000 used records, tapes and CDs of many musical genres are f sale, priced from 25 cents to $10 (collectibles are price higher). Proceeds benefit the Boston Folk Festival.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Art in Bloom at the MFA

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (61 369-3395). www.mfa.org. *Through April 29. Previ party 7-11pm Sun., $125.* The MFA's Art in Bloom fe tival features more than 80 floral interpretations the museum's works. The three-day event also i cludes an opening gala, lectures, demonstratio and a jazz brunch.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

Spotlight Spectacular!

Westin Copley Place, Copley Square, Boston (617-27 1522). 6pm. $500. This annual benefit for the Hun ington Theatre Co. includes a cocktail receptio dinner, a live auction and performances by *Alias* sta Ron Rifkin and Victor Garber.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

Boston Harbor Association Harbor Auction

Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-48 1722). 5-9pm. $100. The Boston Harbor Associ tion raises money for its programs to bring inn city youths to the islands. The evening features l and silent auctions and dinner by Legal Sea Foo The auctions offer unusual items like a dive in t giant New England Aquarium tank and the cha to escort a foreign tanker into Boston Harbor.

Chocolate Madness

Veronique Ballroom, 20 Chapel St., Brookline (617-55 8800, ext. 16). www.massnaral.org. *6pm. $45 in a vance, $60 at the door if available.* A champagne ception with hors d'oeuvres and wine precedes evening's main event: tons of chocolate desse Proceeds benefit prochoice group Mass. NARAL

Single Jewish Professionals Event

Pizzeria Uno, 22 Clinton St., Boston. www.jjf ductions.net. *6:30pm. $35, $46 after April 23.* Th age groups participate in seven-minute dating two 42-minute sessions. Complimentary h d'oeuvres; everyone welcome.

Taste of Allston Village

Doubletree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Road, All (617-254-7564). www.allstonvillage.com/events *8pm. $25.* Allston's restaurants provide samplin with proceeds benefiting Allston Village Main Str community group. Entertainment provided by the Lannon Band. Sponsored by the IMPROPER BOSTONI

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Tickets

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Bostix
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Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater
JUST OPENED

Fool for Love
Leverett Old Library Theatre, Mill and Plympton Streets, Cambridge (617-257-7480). www.industrialtheatre.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 25-May 10. $15.* The Industrial Theatre presents this tale of desire from playwright Sam Shepard. Two individuals are bound by a strong attraction and a murky past

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7pm. Opens April 28 (ongoing). $27. The Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent assistant. He loses his mind during a performance, and only authentic supernatural powers and his dark past can save his show. With beginnings in a 10-seat basement theater in Allston, this black comedy is now being presented by the Underground Magic Theatre.

Mame
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 29-May 18. $26-$63.* Free-thinking and irreverent Mame Dennis takes on the job of raising her orphaned 10-year-old nephew, teaching him to soak up the few life pleasures available in the Depression-era 1930s. Based on the novel by Patrick Dennis, this musical celebrates unconventional family values and individuality.

Man of La Mancha
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 25-May 18. $25-$35. The chivalrous dreamer Don Quixote sets out to defend the honor of a lady and battle the evil he confronts in a cynical world. This musical follows the story of the self-christened Champion of the Oppressed and Righter of Wrongs as he journeys toward an impossible dream while fighting off real and imagined foes.

The Meeting
Mass Bay Community College, 50 Oakland St., Wellesley (781-235-0488). Wed., Thu., Fri., 8pm. Sun., 2pm. Discussion follows the play. April 16-27. $20. The Lyric West Theatre presents Jeff Stetson's play depicting an alleged meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., whose opposing approaches reflect a conflict still alive today.

The MOMologues
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater, 955 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-2928). www.momologues.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3 and 8pm. April 23-May 17. $26.* Three Boston-based moms present this original comedy about the good, bad and ugly realities of motherhood and the neuroses that arise from it...just in time for Mother's Day.

Once Upon a Mattress
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. April 25-June 1. $15-$21. This take on *The Princess and the Pea* follows poor Prince Dauntless, who's still a bachelor thanks to his overbearing mother, a shrew who insists that each of his potential brides-to-be pass an impossible gauntlet of tests.

Pavilion
Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-3926). www.merrimackrep.org. *Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Wed., 7:30pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. April 18-May 11. $31.* Pine City, Minnesota's class of 1980 is the last group to hold an event in the old dance hall scheduled to be torn down. On the nostalgic evening of the class's 20th reunion, one couple gets another shot at romance.

Show You a Thing or Two: The Songs of Laurence O'Keefe
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-266-7660). Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3 and 7pm. April 25-26. $35. This musical comedy revue features songs from composer Laurence O'Keefe's past and upcoming shows, including *Sarah: Plain and Tall*, *3HREE* and *Bat Boy: The Musical*. Joining the former member of Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club on stage are cast members from the New York and Boston productions of *Bat Boy*.

Side Show
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed., 2 and 7:30pm; Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. April 25-May 31. $22-$40. Based on the true story of Siamese twins who became stars during the Depression, this four-time Tony-nominated musical is a portrait of two women joined at the hip whose bond brings them fame but denies them love.

Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7pm; Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. April 23-May25. $27-$35.* In Stephen Sondheim's musical comedy, an unhinged barber begins a grisly, comical scheme of revenge and murder after his wife and child are taken away from h by an evil judge.

What's UR Fantasy?
The Footlight Club, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (61 983-2321). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. April and 26, 8pm; April 27, 7pm. $15, $18 at the door. T new cabaret act from Mia Anderson's Drag Kin Sluts & Goddesses troupe, *What's UR Fantasy?*, tack the taboo subject of women's sexual fantasies. No ero stone is left unturned in this 14-act production, wh runs the gamut from voyeurism to polygamous re tionships to office romance and phone sex.

Preview

Far from Ailing

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns

At Alvin Ailey's funeral in 1989, the poet Maya Angelou compared the dancer/choreographer's death to the fall of a great tree. Ailey's company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, has thrived, however, and under the artistic direction of Ailey's former muse, Judith Jamison, it continues to perform a repertoire of ambitious and challenging pieces choreographed by established veterans as well as fresh talent.

"Dance is a universal language," says Ailey dancer Bahiyah Sayyed-Gaines. "It does not matter what language you speak, it's something that everyone gets. Through the movement of dance, we let you know that everyone has a variation of spirituality, of baptism, of going to church. It's universal."

Since 1968, the company has returned to Boston 33 times, and its upcoming weeklong run will feature the Boston premiere of *Black Milk*, a quintet piece that features drama and symbolism along with physically demanding dancing. Choreographed by Ohad Naharin, *Black Milk* reveals what Ailey dancer Glenn Sims calls "the true athleticism of the Alvin Ailey men." The Boston engagement will also feature a new interpretation of Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon*, a lively ballet set to the music of jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie. Witnessing a performance of Wilson's energetic piece in the early 1990s inspired Sims to pursue a career in dancing. "I just remember seeing it and thinking I wanted to do that. It's amazing that 10 years later I'm performing [the piece]."

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Boston this year as part of FleetBoston's Celebrity Series. *Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue, 7:30pm; Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. April 22-27. $30-$65.*

—Michelle Grabicki

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Glenn Sims (left) and Matthew Rushing perform a quintet piece called *Black Milk*.

NOW RUNNING

Big Apple Circus: Dreams of a City
Fan Pier, 28-70 Old Northern Ave., Boston (617-93 2787). Through May 11. $13-$51. All seats are no m than 50 feet from this one-ring circus. Set in New Yo City at the turn of the 19th century, the show celebra cultural diversity and New York's storied melting po

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-42 6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun and 6pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialog but somehow this multimedia production manages make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous tics, props and three men painted blue.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-740 MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 8pm; Sun., 1 and 7pm. Through April 20. $28-$70. T Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical retelling the last seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth st Carl Anderson as Judas .

Marathon
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-7 4321). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through April $25. Israel Horovitz's adaptation of Italian playwri Edoardo Erba's one-act play tells the story of two me training for the New York Marathon. Join their tes terone-injected conversation about pain, competiti endurance, friendship, women... and car keys.

On Raftery's Hill
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (6 426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or G Line to Copley. Through April 19. $24 and $29. T Sugan Theatre Company presents this play by I playwright Marina Carr. Three generations of Rafterys live together in the rural midland of Irel Hatred and rumors of incest, stillborn children abused families seem more common in this s farming community than love and affection.

A Piece of My Heart
Delvena Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremon Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Bay or Green Line to Copley. Through April 26. Thu. 8pm; Sun., 3pm. $15-$18. Delvena Theatre pres Shirley Lauro's award-winning play, based on K Walker's book, about six women who journey from t homes in innocent Kennedy-era America to the jun of Vietnam to serve as entertainers, nurses, intelli officers and Red Cross workers.

Pippi Longstocking
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (734-4760). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 3pm (April April 25, 1pm). Through May 4. $12-$18. Pippi L stocking's superhuman strength, unbounded im nation and disregard for the rules of society mak good fun in this musical adaptation.

Puppetry of the Penis
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617- 1199). MBTA: Green line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; and Sat., 7 and 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. Ongoing. $39.50. The international comedy hit features th cient Australian art of genital origami. Creators Si Morley and Dan Lewry perform naked while sha and stretching their penises into more than 40 fig including the Eiffel Tower and the Loch Ness Mo

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617- 5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

The Sweepers
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781- 2200). Wed., 7:30pm; Thu. and Fri. 8pm. $25 Through April 18. In this New England premi John C. Picardi's play, three Italian immigrant fan in Boston's North End at the end of World War II to terms with the effects of the war.

COMING SOON

Defending the Caveman
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-4 MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; S 7:15 and 10:30pm; Sun., 2pm. April 30-May 18. $52.50. The longest-running solo play in Broadw

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tory, this humorous look at relationships explores that wide and yet comical space known as the gender gap.

The Music Man
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. April 30-May 11. $25-$72. Con artist Harold Hill arrives in River City, Iowa, with a plan to organize a marching band for the town's children. Marian, the town librarian, sees beyond Harold's musical aspirations and discovers a secret that nobody was supposed to discover. Songs include "'Til There Was You," "Gary, Indiana," and "Seventy-Six Trombones."

UNIVERSITY THEATER

...And Then You Go On. An Anthology of Works by Samuel Beckett
Brandeis University, Spingold Theater Center, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. April 27, 3pm. $20. Brandeis alum Bob Jaffe presents this one-man show inspired by 13 of Samuel Beckett's works.

Candide
Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-2412). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. April 24-27. $14. The sophomoric Candide embarks on a series of adventures and mishaps across Europe during the Spanish Inquisition. The New England Conservatory Opera Theater presents Leonard Bernstein's adaptation of Voltaire's 1758 satire featuring an all-student cast and orchestra.

Idomeneo
Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). April 18, 19, 21, 7:30pm. April 20, 5pm. $10-$15. Traveling home after the end of the Trojan War during a treacherous storm, the King of Crete strikes a bargain with the gods. Boston University's Opera Institute and Chamber Orchestra perform Mozart's epic drama.

New Works Festival
Emerson College, Brimmer Studio Theatre, 69 Brimmer St., Boston (617-824-8369). April 23-26. $7. Emerson Stage presents this annual festival in celebration of new theater works by Emerson College students and faculty. •**Shoot the Bull** (Wed.-Sat., 8pm): Jeffrey VanDreason, winner of the 2003 Rod Parker Playwrights Fellowship, penned this comedy about relationships, coincidence and fate. •**Cubicles** (Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm): This black comedy explores the inhumanity of the contemporary work environment.

CABARET

Bing & Rosie
The Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-254-1125). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 26, 7:30pm; April 27, 4pm. Mary Callanan, Brian Patton, Benjamin Sears and Bradford Conner offer a musical tribute to Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney.

Open Mike
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 25, 8-11pm. $7. The Boston Association of Cabaret Artists hosts an open mike night with CCAE faculty member Della Penna accompanying on the piano.

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., 7:30pm; Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. April 22-27. $30-$65. See the Preview box on page 64 for more information.

The Legacy Lives On
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-864-3191). www.rainbowtribe.org. *MBTA: MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 25 and 26, 8pm; April 27, 7pm. $15, $12 for children.* Contemporary jazz dance company Rainbow Tribe celebrates its 10th anniversary with a tribute performance for its late founder and choreographer Carleton T. Jones, a Boston native and Broadway star.

Molt
Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave., Boston (800-965-4827). MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. April 24-26. $12-$50. Digby Dance presents an evening of five feature dance pieces, three of which are world premieres. Special guest artists will perform live music and present poetry between the pieces.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5 and 9pm; Sun. 3 and 7pm. Ongoing. $45-$55.* In its return to Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for choreographed numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle
Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. •April 22 and 29, 8:30pm, free: Open mike night. •April 19, 8:30pm, $5, $10 at the door: Robbie Printz (2002 Boston Comedy Festival winner).

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •April 17, 8:30pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •April 18, 8 and 10:15pm, $25: Darrell Hammond of NBC's *Saturday Night Live* •April 19, 8 and 10:15pm, $25: Darrell Hammond; 12am, $20: Rickey Smiley, former host of BET's *Comic View* and co-star of *Friday After Next* •April 20, 7 and 9:30pm, $20: Rickey Smiley •April 21, 8pm, $12: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •April 22, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Prinz •April 23, 8pm, $12: Harrison Stebbins •April 24, 7pm, $12: Maria's Bachelorette Party; 9pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •April 25, 8 and 10:15pm, $25: Kevin Pollack from *The Usual Suspects*, *End of Days* and *A Few Good Men* •April 26, 8 and 10:15pm, $25: Kevin Pollack; 12am, $20: Dean Edwards from *Saturday Night Live* •April 28, 8pm, $12: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •April 29, 8pm, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •April 17: Tim McIntire's RealPolitik with Janet Cormier, Nicole Luparelli, Nina Tamburello and Tim Kaelin •April 18: Piston Honda •April 19: Rick Jenkins, Margie Chebotariov and Meredith Apfelbaum •April 22: Mystery Lounge with local magicians •April 23: Tony V, Kelly McFarland, Dov Fox, Jesse Gersten and Joe Huang •April 24: Mike Bent's sketch comedy, Greg Howell, Stefan Frey and Alison Block •April 25: Piston Honda •April 26: Ira Proctor and Rick Jenkins •April 27: Sacrificing Virgins: 10 first-time comics •April 29, $10: Mystery Lounge: Boston's best magicians.

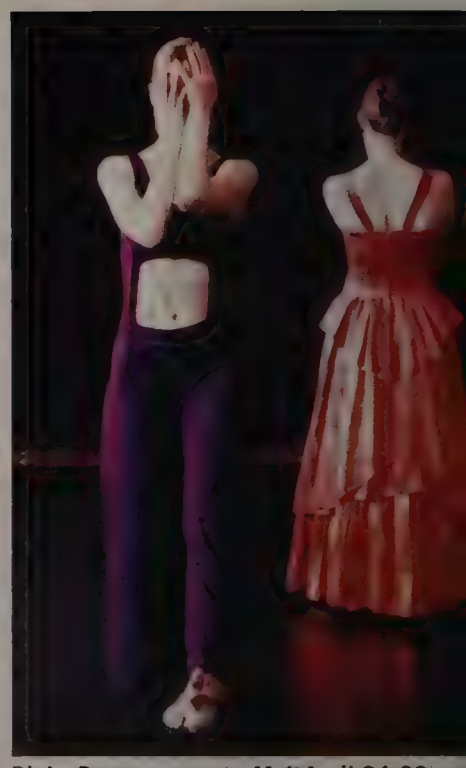
Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $10-$22. •April 17, 8:30pm: Kevin Knox headlines an all-star comedy show. •April 18 and 19, 8:45pm: Tom Cotter, Kerri Louise and Dave Russo.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 and 10pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., 8pm, $12: Micetro; 10pm, $5: The Great and
cret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and D
Walsh perform stand-up and music, screen s
films and do character sketches in a display of
ling rivalry •Fri., 8pm, $12: The Mysteries o
Universe, Explained; 10pm, $12: TheatreSp
Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat. 6pm,
ImprovBoston Family Show; 8 and 10pm, $12
provBoston Mainstage. Blending storytell
music, audience participation and joyful cha
cast of improvisers creates a show that changes
every performance. •Sun. 7pm, $5: Serg
Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree. T
shows in one with an open jam.



Digby Dance presents *Molt* April 24-26.

Improv Foundry
*Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 361 Newbury St., Fo
Floor, Boston (617-308-6421). April 19 and
8pm. $10.* Improv Foundry performs short-f
improvisational comedy.

COMEDY SHOWS

American Lung Association Benefit
*Comedy Connection, 245 Quincy Market Place, B
(617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Li
Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Hay
ket. April 24, 6:30pm. $25.* Suffolk County pr
tion officer Steven Siciliano, voted one o
Boston Herald's hottest singles in Boston this
will take the stage in *Maria's Bachelorette Par*
this benefit for the American Lung Associat
Fast Freddie and Frankie Foxx from Star 93.7
will emcee

Margaret Cho
*Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-9
2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Apri
7:30 and 10:30pm. $29.50-$45.* Margaret Cho tac
issues of race, gender, sexuality, size and belongi
this stop on her Revolution tour.

Comedy Nite
*Midway Cafe, 3496 Washington St., Jamaica P
(617-524-9038). April 18, 8:30pm. $10.* Je
Casciano hosts this night of comedy featu
headliner DJ Hazard with Mike Whitman an
mont Price.

Ellen Degeneres
*Orpheum Theatre, Hamilton Place, Boston (617-
0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Apri
8pm. $32.50-$45.* Comedian Ellen Deger
starred in *Ellen*, the first network television s
to feature an openly gay lead character.

The Gizmo Guys
*Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College,
Turnpike St., North Andover (978-837-53
www.merrimack.edu/rogers. April 16, 10am.*
These nationally known lighthearted jugglers
a flair for witty repartee and original routines.

Open Mike Night
*Lizard Lounge, 1667 Massachusetts Ave., Caml
(617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or
Square. Mon., 8pm.* The Lizard Lounge offers a w
open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam
*All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617
1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.* www.stash
dyjam.com. *April 20, May 4 and 18.* Standup co
with host Stash and 12 New England comics
music rounds out the night's festivities.

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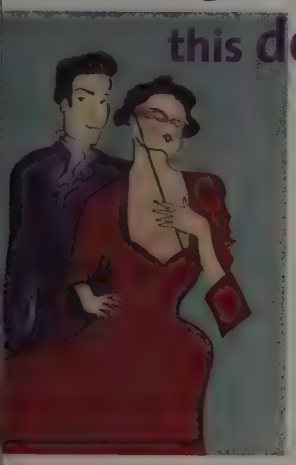

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Movies

DEAD MAN WALKING

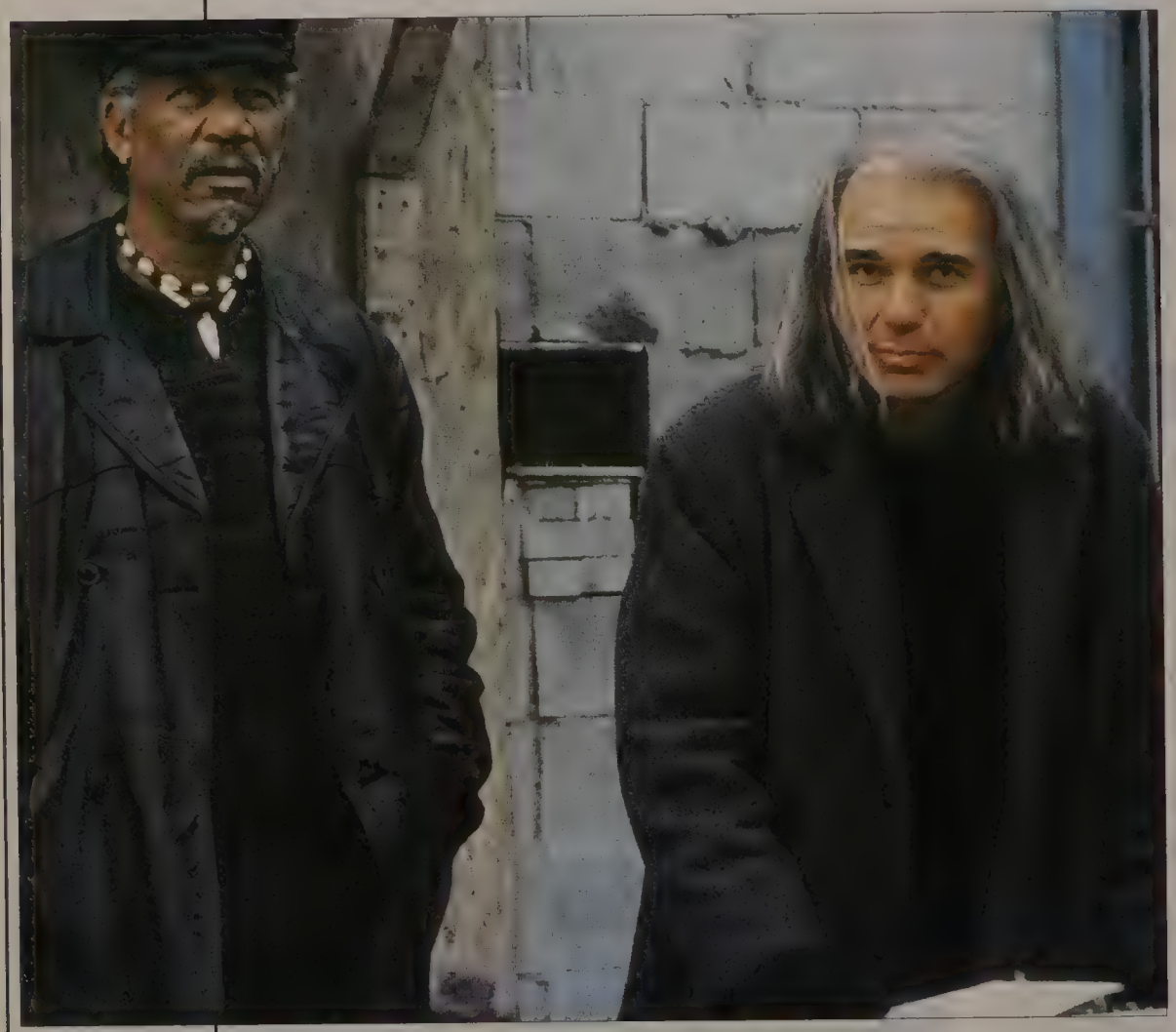
Billy Bob headlines the involving *Levity*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

To say that Billy Bob Thornton plays Manual Jordan, his beaten-down character in *Levity*, is slightly misleading. He doesn't so much play the guy as wear him, like the old overcoat the ex-con almost always has draped over himself. Manual is all body language; there's death in his eyes, and it seems to have spread throughout his body. But that's not surprising, given that death weighs so heavily on his mind.

When we first meet Manual, he's in prison. As a teenager, he took part in a convenience store robbery and impulsively shot and killed a young clerk. He keeps a newspaper picture of his victim on the wall of his cell as a reminder, and we see the incident in flashback when he's haunted by ghostlike visions of his victim (Luke Robertson).

"I know what I did, and I don't want forgiveness from you, or anyone else," Manual says in voice-over as we see him in his cell. But then he's faced with the very thing he wasn't asking for. The parole board tells him they're setting him free after 23 years; in so many words, *they* forgive him. That does little to brighten Manual's world, though.



Billy Bob Thornton (right) and Morgan Freeman play characters seeking redemption in the drama *Levity*.

Not content to have paid his debt to society, Manual tries to insinuate himself into the life of Adele (Holly Hunter), the sister of his victim. As he's trying to get involved in her life, another person is trying to get involved in his. That's Miles (Morgan Freeman), a sinner-turned-preacher who happens to be on the other end of a ringing pay phone that Manual answers. Miles is looking for someone else, but he ends up hiring Manual to watch the parking lot in a seedy part of town where Miles lets club kids park, so long as they come into his community center and listen to him preach for 15 minutes before heading to the club across the street. Miles—who, with his pinkie rings and puka shell necklace, resembles an Iceberg Slim–style, pimpin' preacher—not only hires Manual but also gives him a place to stay and watches over him like a guidance counselor.

The relationships in *Levity* put Manual in a dramatic position. First, he's on the receiving end of Miles' sermonizing. Yet, with the preacher's example right in front of him, Manual can't work up the nerve to spill his guts to unsuspecting Adele, once he gets to know her. Manual's other major relationship in *Levity* is with Sofia (Kirsten Dunst), a self-destructive club kid he regularly has to carry to her car or drive home, and whom he starts hounding about getting straight.

It's this complexity in character—people not behaving the same way in all of their relationships—that gives *Levity* an unusual emotional realism. That realism lets the movie develop a remarkably organic sense of spirituality, not just in Miles' surly sermons but in Manual's realization that life is made up of a series of choices that have consequences, both to others and to those who make them. *Levity* is the most convincingly spiritual American movie since 1997's haunting (and little-seen) *Eye of God*, another film with an intimate focus and a humanistic sensibility.

This involving drama comes from an unexpected source, first-time writer-director Ed Solomon, previously the writer of *Men in Black* and the *Bill & Ted* movies (not that Bill and Ted weren't spiritually righteous dudes). Despite his past credits, the title of *Levity* refers not to humor but to Manual's quest to unburden himself of his emotional baggage. Although the movie's ending is overly tidy in some ways, it finds a way to give Manual some relief without letting him off the moral hook—all while keeping us dramatically hooked. *Levity* is no one's idea of a popcorn movie, but it has the lean drama of existential TV series like *The Fugitive* or *Kung Fu*. I'd like to see more of Manual, walking the earth and exploring the morality of daily life. **iB**

Levity ★★★½

Written and directed by Ed Solomon. With Billy Bob Thornton, Holly Hunter, Morgan Freeman and Kirsten Dunst. Rated R. Sony Pictures Classics.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Basic ★½
When a movie offers an unreliable narrator—as *Auto Focus*, *Adaptation* or *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*—the results can be adventurous and exciting. But when a movie itself is shifty and manipulative, it can be annoying. Like *Basic*. About the best thing you can say for this thriller, in which John Travolta investigates a crime on a military base, is that it's a tad better than *The General's Daughter*, the groaner that also gave us that premise. This one is cheesily directed by John "I remade *Rollerball*" McTiernan and culminates in the most unconvincing twist ending since Liza's wedding. Meanwhile, Travolta (who's good here) and *Pulp Fiction* co-star Sam Jackson (who's not) are onscreen together for all of a minute. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between two cultures—think *Double Happiness*, *Mississippi Masala* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—gets trotted out yet again in director Gurinder Chadha's latest, which can't compare to her *Bhaji on the Beach*, but which is still involving. Parminder Nagra gives a winning performance as Jess, the Indian-English teen with soccer skill and two Sikh parents who won't allow her to pursue such a nontraditional female endeavor. When she's recruited to play for a local women's team, with the possibility of discovery by an American pro team, the scene is set for lots of running around behind her parents' back and comic mishaps—in fact, an awful lot of repetitive running around and mishaps. It's all pretty predictable, but Nagra, Anupam Kher (as the heroine's father) and Keira Knightley (as her teammate and sometime rival), as well as Chadra's sense of compassion, help dignity fight caricature to a standoff. (At Boston Common, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a late Kander-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of the lusty, laugh-filled spoof of the Roaring Twenties in which a singing star (and murderess), a star wannabe (and murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender of murderesses) all fight for the spotlight and the headlines. Renée Zellweger is the wannabe who discovers murder was a great career move, Catherine Zeta Jones is the singer trying to keep her name alive while in jail, and a surprisingly amusing Richard Gere is the slick-scale shyster with all the answers. All three know how to manipulate truth, justice and the American way through performance. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

City of God ★★★½
The title refers to the Rio de Janeiro slum where the action takes place, as God-forsaken a place as you'll ever find. But the movie is as rich as its setting is impoverished. Bold and brutal from start to finish, a dog-eat-dog world and stylistic energy recall *New York Streets* and *Amores Perros*, as its stories stories criss-cross and bubble into each other, and as 18-year-old hero Rocket (Alexandre Rodrigues) tries to get out of his crime-rocked neighborhood alive. Full of humanity, ambiguity and belligerence, it's a wonderfully orchestrated car crash that you just can't stop watching. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

The Core ★★
This oafish save-the-world movie might have you checking the calendar. It feels exactly like a mediocre summer movie. Although the cast—including Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank and Delroy Lindo, is more interesting than that of most science fiction movies, after a while even their charms can't carry this generic story of averted scientific doom. And there's a lot of "while" here, as the movie drags on for more than two hours. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Dreamcatcher ★★
There are familiar elements in the latest Stephen King adaptation: childhood friends, beasts, snowy pine trees and Maine (though this was filmed in Canada). But the combination is awfully tedious this time around. The friends (Thomas Jane, Jason Lee, Timothy Olyphant and Damian Lewis) are grown now, but their thoughts often trigger flashbacks to when they were boys, and when the retarded boy (Andrew Robb) they befriended gave them telepathic powers. It seems the boy gave the others the powers because he knew they would use them to save the world during an alien invasion. But that sounds farfetched, it comes off a lot better than the clunky dialogue between Morgan Freeman and Tom Sizemore, who play the military men trying to contain the aliens. This one plods along and never gets very interesting. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

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Dysfunktional Family ★★
Like Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence, Eddie Griffin dons leather and goes onstage for the black stand-up comic's rite of passage: the concert movie inspired by Richard Pryor. While this might have been edited down into an amusing half-hour cable special, Griffin's material is too stereotype-dependent to be consistently funny. His emphasis on material about his colorful relatives yields some laughs, but not enough to make sitting through this worthwhile. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Good Thief ★★★
You didn't need last year's infamous mug shot to know that Nick Nolte had tumbled off the wagon. You just had to check out this movie, which like the Nolte films of the late 1980s, gauges his lack of sobriety by the unintelligibility of his words. He hasn't made you say "Huh?" this much since *Teachers*. But at least his mumbling fits the role. Neil Jordan's remake of the 1955 French film *Bob Le Flambeur*—one of the coolest movies ever made—casts Nolte as the down-and-out crook who goes cold turkey in order to pull one last score while dodging an eager cop (Tcheky Karyo) and flirting with a sweet young thing (Nutsa Kukhiani) he's rescued from the streets. It's hardly a one-of-a-kind movie like the original, but it's sleek, fast-moving and always entertaining. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

The Guys ★★★
The first movie to directly deal with the Sept. 11 attacks has an appealing simplicity. It's based on the experiences of writer Anne Nelson, who helped a New York fire captain write the eulogies of several men who died in the World Trade Center. Sigourney Weaver plays the writer here, and Anthony LaPaglia the firefighter. Most of the movie is just the two of them, with the first asking the second about the dead men he worked with. These scenes are somber yet moving, and never over-the-top. If the movie overreaches emotionally, it's in the scenes of Weaver's character writing at her laptop later on, which seem overwrought compared with the more effective scenes with LaPaglia. (At Boston Common.)

Laurel Canyon ★★
If I were a director and had the chance to trade up Ally Sheedy for Frances McDormand, I'd do it in a flash. But I don't know if I'd practically remake my Sheedy movie with McDormand in it. Here, Lisa Cholodenko rehashes much of the plot of her indie hit *High Art*, in which a naive young woman enters the bohemian circle of an older woman (Sheedy's character). In the writer-director's first film since, the young woman is Kate Beckinsale's post-grad med student, who finds more appeal in her fiancé's free-spirited record-producer mom (McDormand) than in finishing her dissertation after she and the fiancé (Christian Bale) move out west and temporarily bunk with the mother. The retread factor mingles with movie cliches like the doctor who's great at sorting out everyone's life but his own and the parent-child relationship in which the child is the responsible one. McDormand's typically rich performance is the lone bright spot. (At Kendall Square.)

Malibu's Most Wanted ★★½
Everybody's strapped to a nine iron in the hometown of B-Rad, Jamie Kennedy's amusing white rapper wannabe. But when his Malibu dad (Ryan O'Neal) runs for governor of California, B-Rad (Bradley is his "slave name," he protests) is deemed too much of an embarrassment. So dad's campaign staff hires two black actors (Anthony Anderson and Taye Diggs) to pose as gangstas, kidnap B-Rad, take him to the hood and "scare the black out of him." The laughs are spotty at times, but they're more plentiful and more clever than anything in *Bringing Down the House*, that other recent race relations comedy. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Marion Bridge ★★★
The terrific Molly Parker (*Kissed*, TV's *Twitch City* and *Six Feet Under*) headlines this drama, as the bad seed who returns to Nova Scotia to be with her two grown sisters (Rebecca Jenkins and Stacy Smith) and help care for their dying mother (Marguerite McNeil). She also tries to come to terms with her own tragic and wild past. Like most of the best Canadian movies, this keeps the drama down-to-earth and steers clear of fist-pumping emotional victories. Maybe that's why it's so convincing. (At the Coolidge Corner.)

Morvern Callar ★★
Samantha Morton has already made an involving drama in which she played a young woman struggling to grieve for the loss of a loved one, *Under the Skin*. Now the *Sweet and Lowdown* and *Minority Report* actress has made a dull drama in which she plays a young woman struggling to grieve for the loss of a loved one. This time, she's an English woman living in Scotland whose writer-boyfriend commits suicide on Christmas Eve. This sends Morton's title character on an emotional journey that involves selling her boyfriend's unpublished novel (after she's claimed authorship), taking a trip to Spain and yielding to the desire to escape everyday drudgery. The movie is mainly about what's going on inside Morvern's head, and, not surprisingly, Morton knows how to portray fragility—that's her thing. But, as in her earlier *Ratcatcher*, writer-director Lynne Ramsay offers many moments that would seem super in a different context, but the movie is so sluggish that it's a chore to get through them. (At Kendall Square.)

The Pianist ★★★
It's the little moments in Roman Polanski's Holocaust drama that make it work. Based on the memoir of late Polish musician and Holocaust survivor Wladyslaw Szpilman, played by Oscar winner Adrien Brody, the movie powerfully shows the gradual whittling away of Polish Jews' human rights (and humanity) once the Nazis invaded in 1939. It also details how the title character managed to stay alive through being stripped of rights and crammed into the Warsaw ghetto, seeing his family "deported" to concentration camps, and hiding out for months at a time while locked into apartments the Nazis thought are empty. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Stevie ★★★
If Steve (*Hoop Dreams*) James' latest documentary weren't so well made, it could have come off like an episode of *Jerry Springer*. Nothing against Jerry, but James gets a more intimate, complex look at family feuding here. The movie is about James' attempt to reconnect with the title "character," the once-troubled child to whom he was a Big Brother. James finds Stevie in his twenties and as troubled as ever, living with his stepgrandmom and down the street from the mother he blames for all his problems. But James' attempt to be a positive influence on Stevie doesn't last very long. After Stevie is charged with sexually abusing a child, the movie becomes a fascinating and heartbreaking look at the attempt to salvage the good in someone capable of being so bad. (At Kendall Square.)

Tupperware! ★★★
Local filmmaker Laurie Kahn-Leavitt zips us back to the 1950s, when Massachusetts inventor Earl Tupper and go-getter Brownie Wise rallied a legion of housewives to sell the plastic containers that ruled the world. Before women's lib, Tupperware sales parties were a gateway to earnings and empowerment for women, and Wise was the most powerful female executive in the country. Through interviews with Tupperware ladies, amazing clips from company films and a heavy dose of vintage song (thanks to WMBR's John Funke), Kahn-Leavitt evokes the country's post-war materialism and the opportunities Tupperware presented to thousands of working-class women. (At the Museum of Fine Arts, April 24 and 26.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library
Words on Fire: Films Curated by the Boston Jewish Film Festival
• April 28, 6pm. **Fahrenheit 451** *1966.* Francois Truffaut's adaptation of the classic Ray Bradbury sci-fi novel stars Oskar Werner as two rebellious citizens in a futuristic world where books are forbidden.

Brattle Theatre
Wednesdays—Not Nominated (By the Academy)
• April 16, 2 and 7:45pm. **Punch Drunk Love** 2002. Adam Sandler stars in Paul Thomas Anderson's bizarre romantic comedy about a disturbed small business owner who finally finds love. • Also showing 5:30 and 9:45pm. **Roger Dodger** *2002.* A woman teaches his teenage nephew the ways of bachelorhood during a one-night tour of New York's nightlife. Dylan Kidd directs.

Thursdays—Special Events
• April 17, 5pm. **Klute** *1971.* Donald Sutherland is a small-town detective in search of a missing friend. His only lead is a New York City call girl. Alan J. Pakula directs.

Boston Irish Film Festival
• April 24, 7:30pm. **Puckoon** *2002.* Terence Ryan's film adaptation of Spike Milligan's book is a comedic look at the division between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

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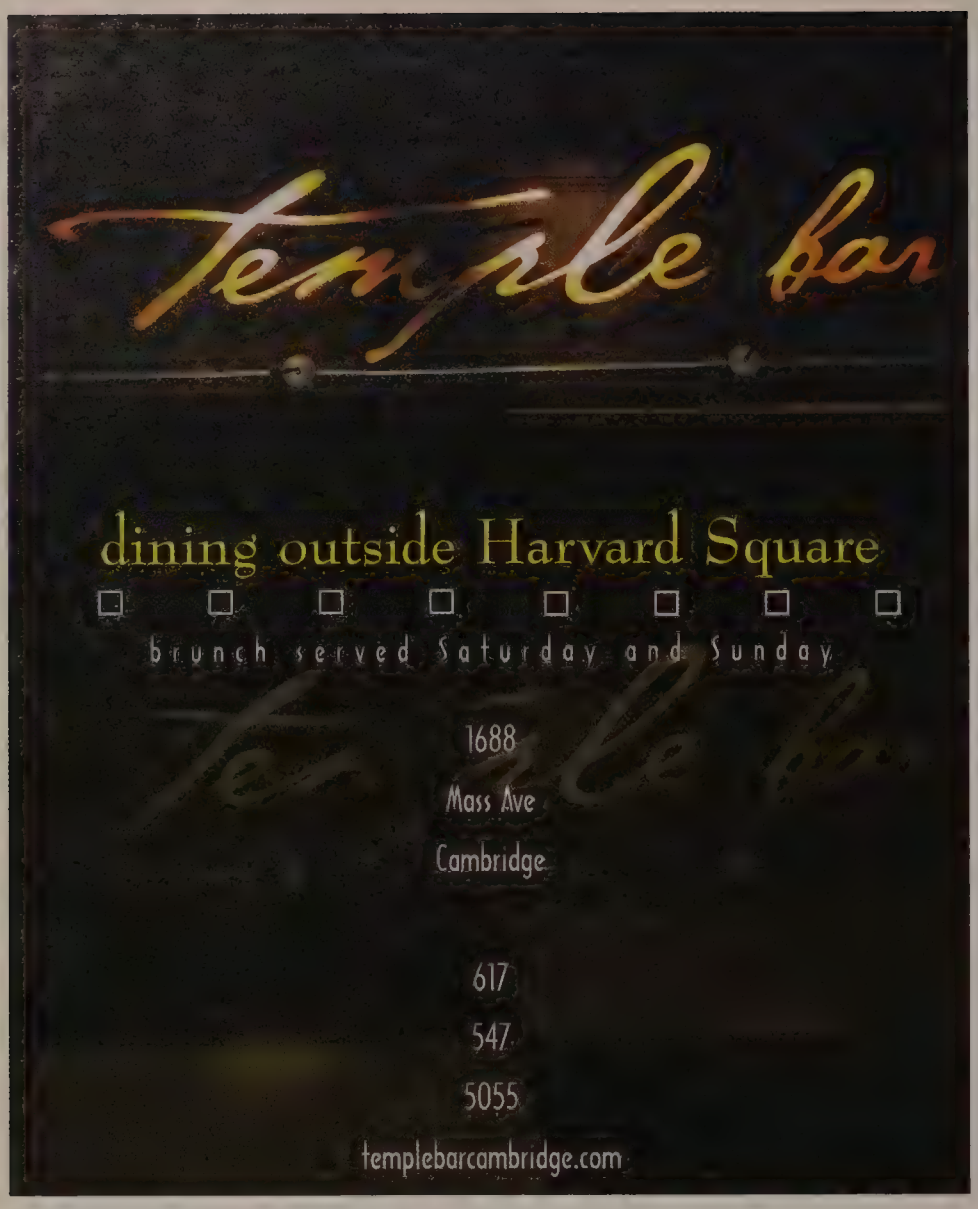

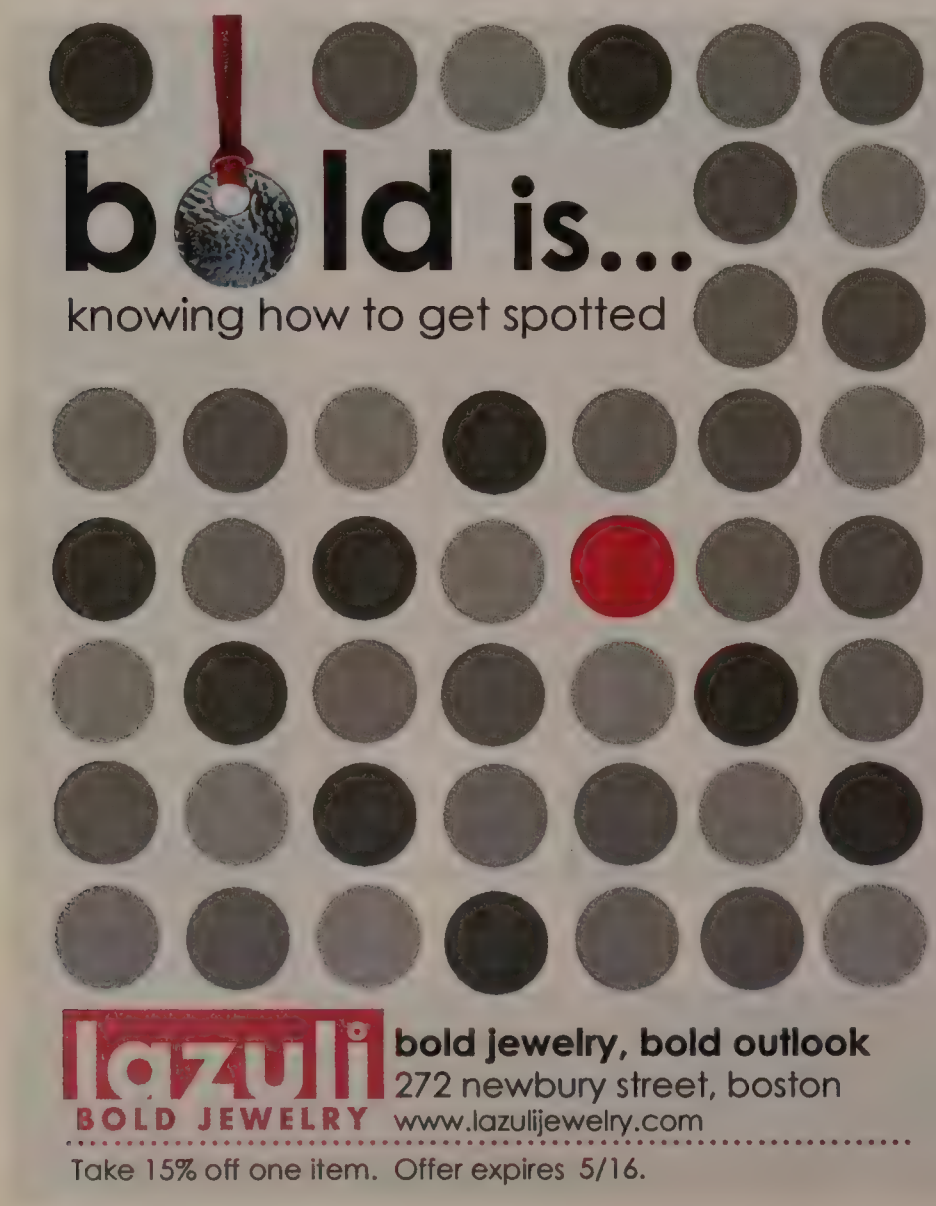

An Evening with Gordon Willis

•April 17, 7:30pm. Cinematographer Gordon Willis was behind the lens on such films as *The Godfather* trilogy, *Annie Hall*, *Klute* and *Manhattan*. Willis comes to the Brattle for a discussion led by MIT literature and film professor David Thorburn. A screening of **Klute** is included (see description under Thursdays).

Special Engagement

•April 18-23, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45pm; Sat. and Sun. matinee, 12:45 and 3pm; April 24, 5:15 and 9:45pm. **Quai des Orfèvres** (a.k.a. *Jenny Lamour) 1947*. When an aspiring musician befriends an older man to further her career, her jealous husband starts slinging death threats. Henri-Georges Clouzot directs.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

Boston Irish Film Festival

•April 29, 7:30pm. **In America** *2002*. Jim Sheridan's semi-autobiographical film follows an Irish family that moves to Harlem after the death of one of their children.

Channel Zero Presents

•April 17, 7:30pm. **Hercules in the Haunted World** *1961*. Mario Bava's adventure flick follows Hercules through the Underworld as he attempts to uncover a magic talisman that will save his wife from a curse.

Coolidge Selects

•Opening April 18. **Marion Bridge** *2002*. See New Releases for a description.

•Now playing. **Bend It Like Beckham** *2002*. See New Releases for a description.

Experimental Films by Arab Women

•April 24, 7:30pm. MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies artist-in-residence Hisham Bizri curates a selection of shorts from Arab female filmmakers that explore Arab tradition in different parts of the world.

Midnight Movies—Creepy Cronenberg

•April 18 and 19, 12am. **Dead Ringers** *1989*. David Cronenberg's film is based on the true story of twin gynecologists (played by Jeremy Irons) who share everything, including women.

•April 26, 12am. **Crash** *1996*. James Spader, Holly Hunter and Rosanna Arquette star in Cronenberg's film based on the J.G. Ballard novel, in which a group of car crash victims develop automobile collision fetishes.

VideoSpace: A Wild Ride

•April 22, 7:30pm. VideoSpace's annual curated event features art and experimental films and videos from emerging filmmakers and students.

Fenway 13 Cinema

•April 18 and 19, 12am. **The Matrix** *1999*. A computer hacker joins a team of rebels to fight a malevolent cyber intelligence that simulates reality for humans while it feeds off their bodies. Andy and Larry Wachowski direct.

•April 25 and 26, 12am. **Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory** *1971*. Mel Stuart's classic, based on Roald Dahl's novel *Charlie and Chocolate Factory*, follows five golden ticket holders inside Wonka's fantastical candy factory.

Harvard Film Archive

Boston Irish Film Festival

•April 25, 7:30pm. **Irish Eyes** *2002*. Local director Dan McCarthy's crime drama is the story of two Irish-American brothers, one a mobster and the other a district attorney, reunited in Boston. McCarthy is present at a post-screening reception.

•April 26, 2pm. **Moving Day** *2002*. In Rob Burke and Yousef Eldin's short feature, a young boy must say goodbye to his friends when he is uprooted by his parents' decision to move. •Immediately following, **Give Up Yer Aul Sins: The Animated Series** *2002*. Darragh O'Connell's short film features seven animated Bible stories innocently retold from children's point of view. •Also showing, 2pm. **Living the Revolution** *2002*. Documentary filmmaker Adrian McCarthy profiles Irish parliamentary candidate Martin Ferris during the 2002 general election. Though the politician's platform is peace, his past involvement with the IRA is revealed during the course of the campaign. •Immediately following, **The Green Fields of Vietnam** *2002*. Anne Roper's documentary chronicles the loyalty of 2,000 Irishmen who emigrated to the United States in the 1960s and were sent to fight in Vietnam. •Also showing, 4pm. **Darkroom** *2002*. Ian Thuillier's documentary profiles his late brother, fine arts photographer Harry Thuillier, from his days as an art student to his fatal heroin overdose. The director is present for the screening. •Also showing, 5:30pm. **Photos to Send** *2002*. Director Dierdre Lynch is present for the screening of her film, which retraces the work of *Life* photographer Dorothea Lang, who documented the now-vanished rural life of Country Clare, Ireland, in 1954. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Magdalen** *2002*. Director David Elio Malocco is present for the screening of his film, which follows Dublin prostitutes who seek refuge at a night c

Steven Fielding poses with director Steve James in the new documentary *Stevie*.

•Also showing, 8pm. **The Ghost of Roger Casem** *2001*. Alan Gilsenan's documentary chronicles life of Roger Casement, a major player in Irela 1916 Easter Rising who was condemned as a ho sexual and executed by the British. •Also show 9:30pm. **Boxed** *2002*. An Irish priest is called to the last confession of a man awaiting executio the IRA. When he refuses to comply, the ties tween the Catholic Church and terrorism ar vealed. Director Marion Comer and producer W nie Li are present for the screening.

•April 27, 2pm. **Harry Clarke—Darkness in L** *2002*. Director John J. Doherty documents the and controversial work of Irish stained-glass a and illustrator Harry Clarke. •Immediately foll ing, **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight** *2002*. Fernee's animated short recounts the medieval of a supernatural knight. •Also showing, 3:30 **Who's Not Irish?** *2002*. Lyell Davies' documen chronicles the Irish Lesbian & Gay Organizati alternative parade in Queens, created in respons the ban on gay and lesbian participants in Man tan's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Davies is presen the screening. •Immediately following, **Rem bering Robert** *2001*. Mark Corcoran, Lyell Da and Brendan Fay's documentary follows two pa who alter their homophobic views after they their gay son to AIDS. Davies and Fay are prese the screening. •Also showing, 4pm. **20 Feet Belfast: The War of Art in Northern Ireland** *20* Documentary filmmakers Paul Goudreau Christine Hurson examine the meanings behin murals and graffiti on the walls of Derry and Be since the separation of Ireland in 1924. •Imm ately following, **An Deichniur Dearmadta** *(The gotten Ten) 2002*. Documentary filmmaker R Nic Cionnaith tells the story of the 10 forgo prisoners who perished in Dublin's Mount Prison during Ireland's War of Independence. • showing, 5pm. **2003 Shorts Program**. The wo Ireland's most promising new filmmakers scree a collection of films from this year's Best Short mation awards. Films include Stephen Bened *The Last*, John O'Donnell's *The First Television* Dowling's *Cathy*, Kevin Jakubowski's *Round* Diarmuid Goggin's *Nell* and Nora Twomey's ning film, *From Darkness*. Twomey is present a screening. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Disco** *2001*. Pig and Runt struggle to maintain their long relationship when the uncertainties of pub set in. Kirsten Sheridan directs.

Directors in Focus: Marcel Ophüls

•April 19, 7pm. **The Sorrow and the Pity** *1971*. O cuts wartime news footage with contemporary views to examine occupied France during World W

•April 20, 7pm. **Hôtel Terminus: The Life and Tim Klaus Barbie** *1988*. Ophüls profiles Nazi war crin Klaus Barbie, known as "The Butcher of Lyons" documentary is the result of four years of researc 120 hours of interviews with colleagues, vict lawyers and resistance members.

•April 22, 7pm. **A Sense of Loss** *1972*. Poli leaders, average citizens and children are the su of Ophüls' documentary on war-ridden Nort Ireland.

Directors in Focus: Sandra Kogut in Person

•April 29, 7pm. **Um Passaporte Hungaro** *(A Hung*

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Passport) 2001. Kogut uses the process of obtaining a passport to connect her family's painful history of emigration, her travels through Brazil, Hungary and France, and the concept of national identity.

World Melodrama

•April 16, 7pm. **Mother India** *1957*. Mehboob Khan's classic Indian epic follows a peasant woman and her two sons as they grow into different social roles in the newly independent nation-state.

•April 23, 7pm. **Stella** *1955*. Stella is an aspiring singer who refuses to follow the traditions of Greek patriarchal society. She is forced to re-evaluate her liberal lifestyle when she falls in love with a young football player. Michael Cacoyannis directs.

Museum of Fine Arts

Engagements

•April 18, 5:45pm; April 19, 3pm; April 25, 6pm; April 26, 11am. **Queen of the Gypsies, a Portrait of Carmen Amaya** *2002*. Documentary filmmaker Jocelyn Ajami chronicles the life of legendary Spanish flamenco dancer Carmen Amaya.

•April 19, 11am. **Dance by Design** *2002*. A young girl moves to New York to pursue her dreams of dancing and becoming an architect in Valerie Weiss's film.

•April 24, 8:15pm; April 26, 1pm. **Tupperware!** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

2nd Boston Turkish Film Festival

•April 16, 8pm; April 26, 3pm. **Summer Love** *2001*. A 13-year-old girl falls for a rebellious older boy during her summer in the country in Baris Pirhasan's coming-of-age film.

•April 17, 8pm. **My Mother** *2001*. Inspired by his own mother, director Buket Alakus' feature debut follows a Turkish cleaning woman forced to leave behind her traditional ways to save her son from his drug addiction.

•April 18, 7:30pm. **Fate** *2001*. The first installment in Zeki Demirkubuz's planned trilogy follows an absent-minded customs clerk accused of murdering his boss's family.

•April 19, 1pm. **Confession** *2001*. When a businessman confronts his adulterous wife, the truth is far from what's expected. Zeki Demirkubuz directs.

•April 25, 8pm. **9** *2002*. Turkey's official entry to the 2003 Oscars follows the investigation of six men suspected of the rape and murder of a young woman in Istanbul. Umit Unal directs.

Museum of Science

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of the explorers' remarkable journey, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 30. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*.

New England Aquarium

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through June 30. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast and see the unique mammals and other sea life that live there. Call for showtimes.

•Through June 30. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into the earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to the Equator, with a special focus on education and environmental awareness. Call for show times.

•Through June 30. **Space Station 3D**. Blast off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome, and rendezvous with the International Space Station in orbit 220 miles above Earth. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to the wreckage of the ill-fated Titanic.

In *Tupperware*, local filmmaker Laurie Kahn-Leavitt explores the 1950s Tupperware party phenomenon.

Newton Free Library

Armenian Genocide Commemoration

•April 22, 7pm. **Memories of Marash: The Legacy of a Lost Armenian Community**. Videographer Roger Hagopian outlines the history of Marash from Roman times to the Turkish eviction of the Armenian community through interviews with genocide survivors and experts, family and historical photographs, and silent movies from the post–World War I era. Mass. State Representative Peter Koutoujian introduces the program.

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Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Boston University
640 Comm. Ave. Room B05. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore Square.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MB Blue Line to Aquarium.

Video Transfer, Inc.
580 Harrison Ave. MBTA: Red Line to Broadway.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBT Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gr Line to Coolidge Corner.

The New England Institute of Art and Communications
10 Brookline Place West (617-582-4466). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MB Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-495-4700). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Re Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line t Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Gre Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Or Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red to Davis.

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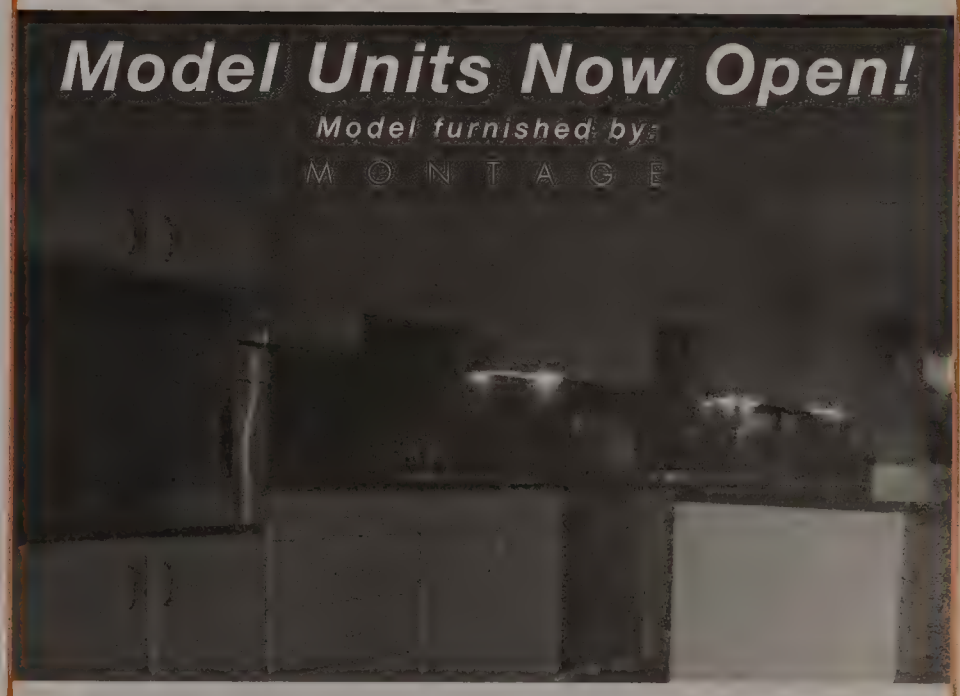

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Music

BEYOND THAT JAZZ

Ute Lemper builds on the Berlin cabaret tradition with contemporary personality

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Ute Lemper sang in the musical *Chicago* in both London and on Broadway, inhabiting the character of the murderous vamp Velma Kelly, recently an Oscar-winning film role for Catherine Zeta-Jones. But Lemper hasn't seen Oscar's new Best Picture.

"Everybody's expecting me to have seen it, but I had an overdose of *Chicago*," the German-born chanteuse admits by phone after a London concert. "And I truly enjoyed the show. It's a great vehicle, a great satire on something which is still contemporary, the corruptive justice system and the lies in the court, that money is power and power is money. I will see [the film] eventually, probably on an airplane."

As for the Velma Kelly role, for which Lemper received the 1998 Olivier Award for Best Actress in a London musical, she adds, "The villain is always the interesting part."

Lemper surely knows how to flaunt her dark and outrageous side onstage, prompting critics to use such descriptions as "hints of the tigress" and "the edge of stylized madness."

But the New York–based Lemper, who plays the Berklee Performance Center April 26, adds, "There are elements of everything in me—quiet, transparent, puristic and humble, straightforward elements. In a concert, you can play all the keys on your piano.

"That's what I really like to do the most, as opposed to musicals and stuff," says Lemper, 39, who cut her teeth in European productions of *Cabaret*, *Peter Pan* and *Cats*. "In an evening, I travel through a whole array of dramatic songs from different cultures, with completely different passions and emotion, from comic to provocative to satirical to rebellious, and it has socio-political background."

Ute Lemper's new album, *But One Day...*, includes four of her own songs in addition to cabaret classics.

In other words, while she is known as a "cabaret" star, Lemper associates herself with the European tradition behind that term, not its American connotations.

"The term cabaret, like the music of *Cabaret*, is political satire out of the European territory, starting in the Weimar Republic [of Germany]. So if you choose that [meaning], then yes, cabaret would be the right word for me," she says. "Cabaret, if you use the term in America, is a very special genre, and I've chosen never really to sing [like that] in piano bars and hotels. That has never been my territory. It always was theaters."

Indeed, Lemper is a renowned interpreter of Berlin cabaret songs, the French chanson and the works of Kurt Weill.

"There's always a piece of Berlin in everything I do," says Lemper, who lived in Berlin through the mid-1980s. "Berlin is a scarred city which was destroyed in the war, and had this very exotic life, and it was a very ugly city, reconstructed so fast after the war, with no architectural charm at all. I still think that Berlin was the most cruel and realistic and passionate city in all of Germany."

Lemper's latest CD, *But One Day...*, includes Weill's "September Song" and "Speak Low," though she says, "It's imposed on me somehow, the tradition that I follow, that you have to put Weill on it. I just tried to sing them very weird and almost a little crazy and out of my mind, to give them a different aspect."

Recorded in New York and London, the disc is a mix of the old and new, each informed by the other. In addition to singing classics by Weill, Jacques Brel and Hanns Eisler, she updates two songs by the modern tango pioneer Astor Piazzolla with lyrics in English. And for the first time, she also recorded four self-penned songs.

"I never had thought about writing music before," she says. "I didn't have the permission somehow. I was this singer of this historical, authentic music for so many years."

The turning point came when she recorded songs by Tom Waits, Nick Cave and Elvis Costello on her previous CD, *Punishing Kiss*. "I became more contemporary, and then I said, 'Well, now I've got to go all the way. I must do my own songs.' I play piano anyway, and improvisations. I have strong visions about music, and it was just the most natural thing to do."

But One Day... wraps Lemper's bold, malleable voice in rich, exquisite strings, arranged by keyboardist Peter Scherer in New York. "Sometimes you think it's an art song," she says. "[The music] has elements of Debussy and Ravel, then suddenly it's this contemporary groove underneath." The New York sessions, in turn, inspired producer Robert Ziegler's treatment of the CD's theater standards in a London studio.

Lemper's talent also extends to painting—an exhibition of her work is about to open in Washington, D.C. "Most of the paintings are expressionist, and quite wild in colors and angles," she says. "Each of the paintings could be a song, and each song could be a painting. It's very connected." iB

Ute Lemper

plays the Berklee Performance Center April 26.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by e to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, pr phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four w prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the ph*

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from diffe sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate d and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check d and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section)

Top Billings

Adult and Magas
April 24, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Aereogramme, the Delgados and the Essex Green
April 25, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Afro-Cuban All Stars
April 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Chauncy and Missing Joe
April 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Cheap Trick (sold out)
April 21, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).

Jen Durkin and Donna the Buffalo
April 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).

Finch and Snap Case
April 25, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

The Flaming Lips (sold out)
April 23, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)

Groove Armada
April 16, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Sean Kelly and the Samples
April 20, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Ben Kweller and Kings of Leon
April 19, Axis (617-423-NEXT)

Ute Lemper
April 26, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-20

Lifehouse
April 28, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

My Chemical Romance, Thrice and I Used
April 20, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)

Matt Nathanson
April 26, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

92.9 WBOS EarthFest with Sheryl Crow, Peter Wolf, Sister Hazel and Alice Peacock
April 26, Hatch Shell (617-727-9547)

The Planets
April 27, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

The Sea and Cake
April 22, Somerville Theater (617-931-2000)

The Slip
April 19, Somerville Theater (617-931-2000)

Songbird Foundation Benefit with Bonnie Raitt and John Mayer
April 26, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Spookie Daly Pride
April 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Wallflowers
April 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

White Stripes (sold out)
April 20, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

Widespread Panic
April 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-482-0650)

Yo La Tengo
April 16, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Abbey Lounge Jon Nolan and Hokum.
Bill's Bar Will Bernard and Motherbug, 18+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Jenny Reynolds, 9pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joe Cook's blues 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Boston p slam, 8pm, 21+.
Club Passim Oen Kennedy, Tara Greenblat Susan Levine, 8pm, $12.
The Druid Ronan Leonard and Patrick McH 9:30pm, $5, 21+.
Elephant & Castle Pete Masa, 6-9pm, no cover
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker, 9:30pm, no
The Green Briar Olde Time Music Session.
Harper's Ferry Luke Patchen (from Strang with Bathtub Mary, $7.
House of Blues Dickey Betts, 7:30 and 10:3 $25, 21+; 18+ for 10:30pm show.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 1 no cover.

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92.9 WBOS

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For Perks, Parties, & Guest List Privileges

Johnny D's Los Diablos.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Bobby B.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café The Real Music Project with Leo Blais, Patrick McCormack and Fleshpetal and Redletter, 8:30pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Ken Clark Organ Trio, 8pm.
Lizard Lounge The Danny Godinez Band, 8:30pm, $6.
Lucky's Lounge Greg Luttrel, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: U Mae, Plain White T's, the Secret Channel, the Warren Commission and Disband, $9, 18+. Downstairs: LTJ Bukem, MC Conrad, $20, 18+. Corner: Garo Papazian and Band, $2. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café The Feast and Alex McGregor.
Milky Way Mercury Lounge with Timmy Allen.
New England Conservatory Keller Jazz Series, 6:30pm, no cover.
Orpheum Theatre Widespread Panic, 7pm, $28.50, all ages.
Paradise Groove Armada, 7pm, $17.50. 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack Zeke Martin, 6-10pm; DJ Rickey, 10pm-2am.
Regattabar The Pierre Hurel Trio and April in Paris, 8:30pm, $12.
The Roxy Yo La Tengo, 8pm, $15.
Ryles Jazz Club Dino Govoni Quartet, 8:30pm, $10, 21+.
Scullers Stanley Clarke, $26.
Sky Bar James Towlson and How! and John Powers, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Tír na nÓg The Swinging Steaks.
Toad Deb Pasternak with Billy Beard, Richard Gates and Chris Rival, 7-9pm. Philharmonette, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Tracy & the Plastics, the King Cobra and Plunge into Death, $8.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alexi Tsigonov, 8pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Abbey Lounge The F---unicorns and the Action
Asgard Brogue, 8:30pm.
The Avenue The Acoustic Mafia, 7pm, no cover.
Axis 2 Skinnee J'S, 7pm, $12, 18+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Boston Horns, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Faces for Radio Improv, 8pm, 21+.
Club Passim Michael Hurley and Michael Tarbox, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20pm, no cover.
The Druid Lo Fine, 9:30, $3, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callanan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry RAQ and Tea Leaf Green, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Jazz Mandolin Project CD-release show, 10pm, $15, 18+.
The Independent Ray Greene Duo, 10pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2am, $5.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's Karaoke with Rhythm Nights and DJ Massi.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Curtis Eller, John Gillette Group and Ethan Daniel Davidson, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 8pm-12am.
Kirkland Café B-Sides, Johnny Most and Once Over, $5.
Limbo Marc Rossi, 9pm. 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Alienist Outfit, Burning Paris, Carrigan and Invercaron, 9pm, $7.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Flaming Lips' sold out show is at the Roxy April 23

Middle East Upstairs: Stereo Soul Future, And Bird and Grandpa's Ghost, $9, 18+. Downsta Akrobatik, OVM, Mic Head and Colony Un ground, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Zemog el Gallo Malo cover, 21+.
Milky Way Atomic Harvesters, Scott Ray and Unlikely Cowboys.
Paradise Chauncy and Missing Joe, 7pm, 18+.
Parris Dick 'n' Jane.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Unique Approach, 6-10pm; DJ R 10pm-2am.
Regattabar Kenny Barron's Canta Brazil Romero Lubambo, Nilson Matta, Duduka da Fon and Anne Drummond, 8:30pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Temporada La 8:30pm. Downstairs: McGill, Manring and Stev 8:30pm.
Scullers Gato Barbieri, $22.
Sky Bar Crash Alchemist, Tootsie and Supac 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan Fluffy Quinn.
Toad Boris McKutcheon, 7-9pm; Tod Thib 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Benefit for Multiple rosis with the Goodbyes, BenderX, Muck and Mires, the Faithfull and Bubingah, $10.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm cover.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Abbey Lounge The Brett Rosenberg Prob CD release, the Mary Reillys and Runner and Thermodynamics, 9pm, $6, 21+.
Asgard The Drift. 8:30pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm, Barken, 9pm, no cover.
The Avenue Nickelsen and Kristoffersson Group, 7pm; DJ Steve Austin, 9pm, 21+.
Axis Subhumans, the Enemies and the centrics, 6pm, $10.
The Big Easy Joe Rockstar, 9:30pm, $8,
Bill's Bar Deck Eleven, 6 Gig and Rubikon, 1
The Black Rose Celtic Clan. Upstairs: Soul
Bob the Chef's Wanetta Jackson, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7p cover.
The Burren The Well, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Coo the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. D stairs: the Reaganomics, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Diane Zeigler and Dave Cros 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Mr. Slate, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cov

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Soir	Lucky's	Rancatore's Ice Cream
ttlesnake Bar & Grill	Redbones	Serving Ourselves
nsie	Strip-T's/Buzz	The DeVille Lounge at Kings
ic	White Star Tavern	Jasper White's Summer Shack

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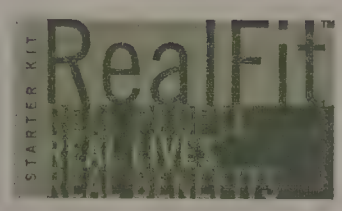

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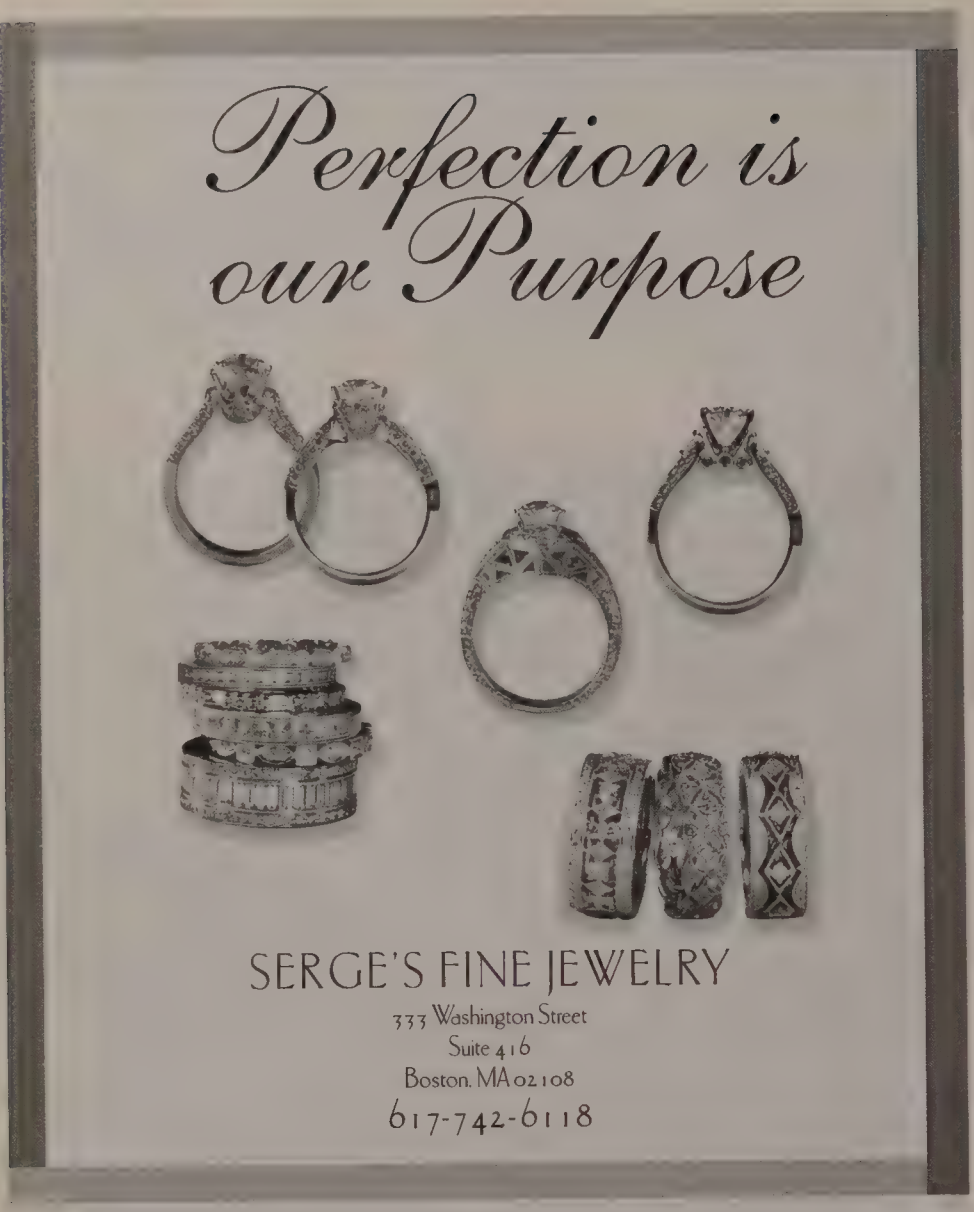
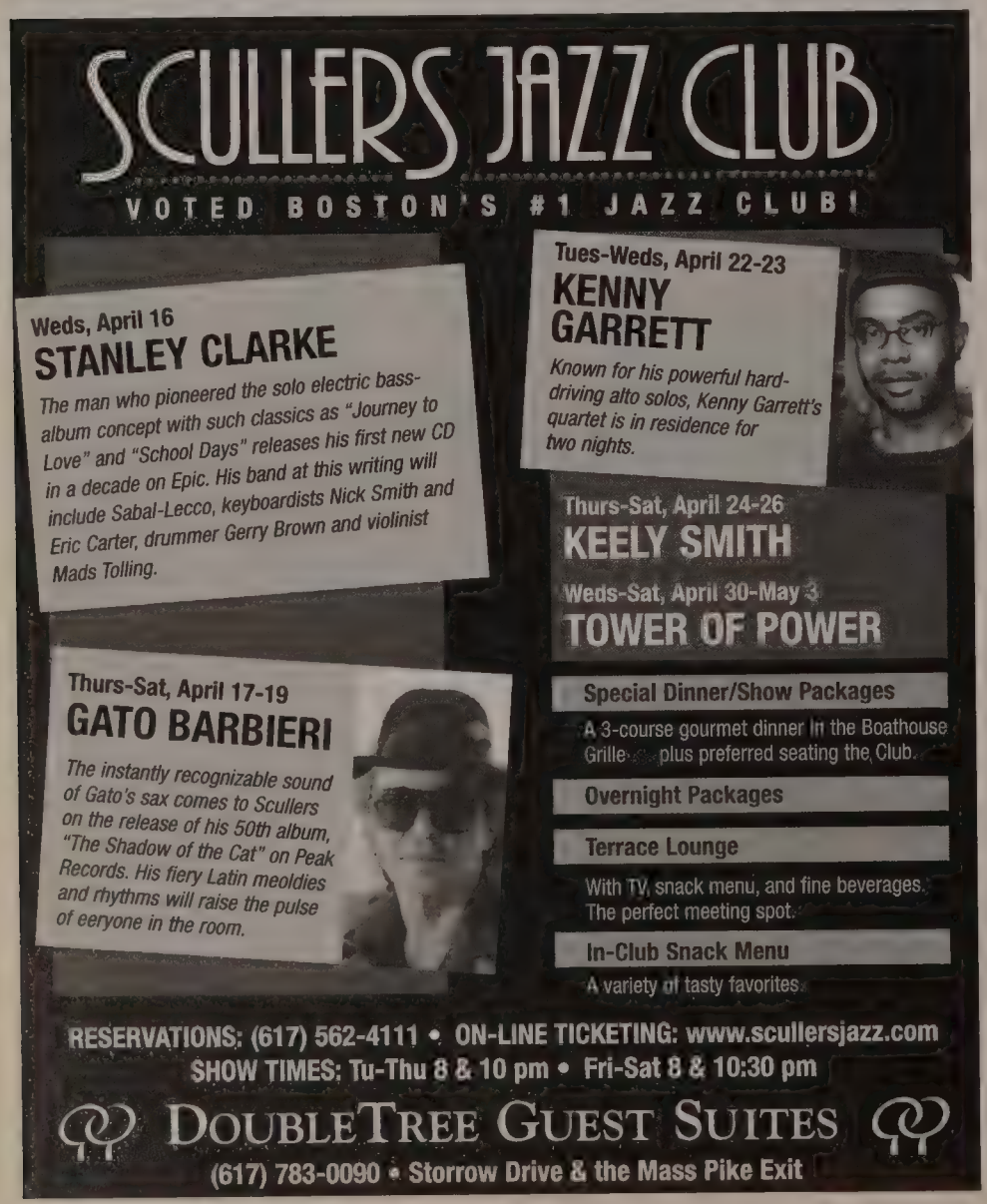




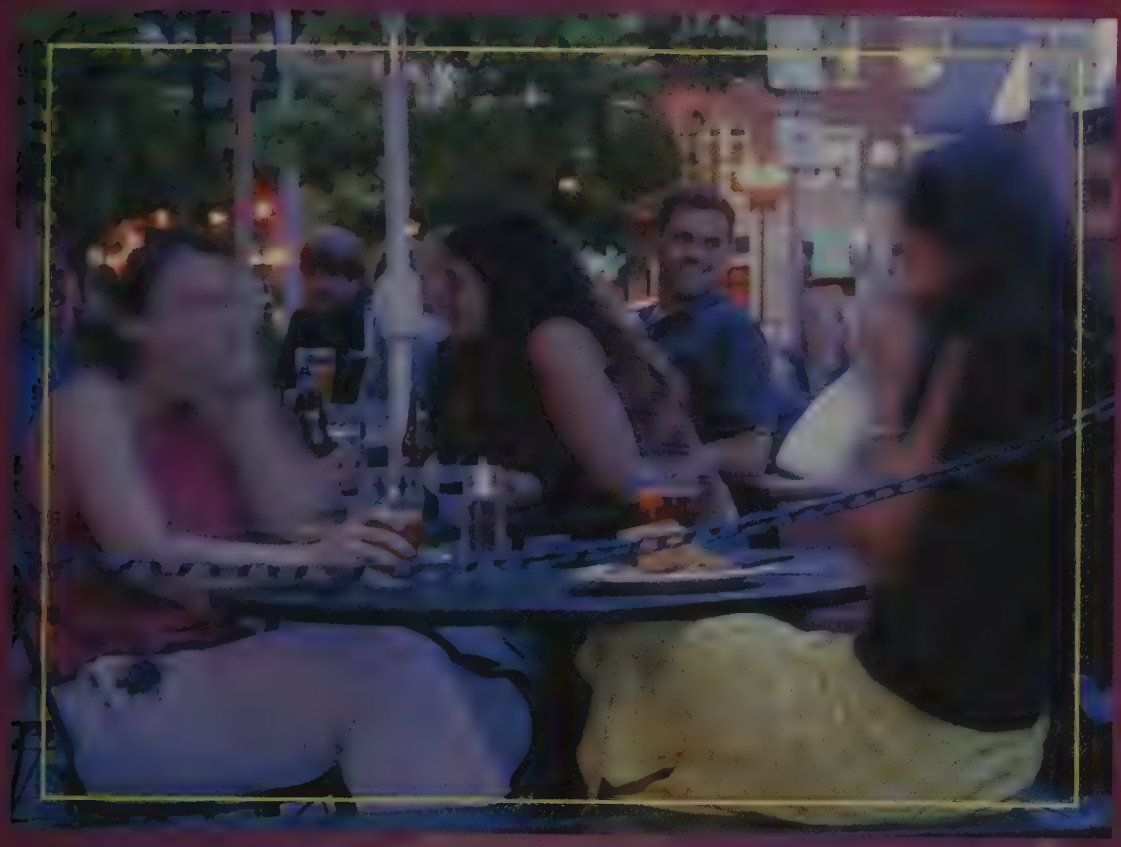
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30pm; Dick 'n' Jane.
The Green Briar Infractions.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scooby Snax.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Entrain and Danny Godinez Band, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30pm; Random Axis.
House of Blues Jazz Mandolin Project CD-release show, 10:30pm, $15, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent John Cate Band, 10pm, no cover.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Johnny D's Deke Dickerson and Blue Ribbon Boys.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Big Daddy.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Matt York and Friends, the Garage Drunks and Jes Perry, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6-11pm.
Kirkland Café Twisted Rico Garage Rock Revue: Cry Babies, Baby Red, the Fad, Supachik and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Philippe Le Jeune, 9pm. 21+.
Linwood King Dubious, Yellow Brick Ed and Sparkola, $7.
Lizard Lounge Maybe Baby CD-release show, 8:30pm.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Leukemia Benefit for Nicky Kulund: the Gentleman, Cracktorch, Ray Corvair Trio and Kate Diamond, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Eden Row, Default Outfit, Chris Canty Band and New Blood. $10, 18+. Corner: DJ Benny Blanco. Zuzu: Milo Jones, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Reaching for Buddha and Angelic Slugs, 11pm.
Milky Way Thaddeus Hogarth Band.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Wheelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm-12:15am.
Paradise Jen Durkin and Donna the Buffalo, 8pm, $13, 18+.
Parris The Catunes.
Porters Bar and Grill Jim Devlin Trio.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider.
The Rack Central Basement, 7-10pm. DJ Johnny C, 10pm-2am.
Regattabar Kenny Barron's Canta Brazil with Romero Lubambo, Nilson Matta, Duduka da Fonseca and Anne Drummond, 7:30 and 10:30pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Fernando Huergo Group, 9pm, $10.
Scullers Gato Barbieri, $26.
Sky Bar The Rollie Fingers, Joint Custody, Alicia Champion and Gallery, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Blandingos, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet with saxophonist Greg Abate, 9pm-1am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Drexel, Quick Fix, Mind Like Water and Lock and Key, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30pm.
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8pm, no cover.
Zeitgeist Gallery Angelica Sanchez Quartet and the Russ Gershon Trio, 8pm, $10.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Abbey Lounge The Brett Rosenberg Problem, Heavy Stud and Anushka Pop, 9pm, $6, 21+.
Asgard Drilling 3's, 9pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm, Gilad Barken, 9pm, no cover.
The Avenue Ali, 7pm; Kevin Munroe, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis Ben Kweller, Adam Green and Kings of Leon, 7pm, $14.
The Big Easy Joe RockStar, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Tom O'Carroll. Upstairs: Soul Poets.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Tarbox Ramblers.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: the Reaganomics, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Tom Bianchi, 7pm; Vance Gilbert, 10pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 8:30pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Grand Canal Spike the Punch.
The Green Briar Unlucky.
The Green Dragon Tavern Bald Walter.
The Harp The Zoo.
House of Blues Wolfman and Tink, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
Jake Ivory's Dueling piano show, 7:30pm-2a $8.
Johnny D's La Timba Loca, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Preston Clarke, John Taglieri a Frank Critelli and Chris Scally, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Max, 8pm-12am.
Kinsale Black Thorn Band.
Kirkland Café The Deal, $5.
Limbo Philippe Le Jeune, 9pm. 21+.
Linwood Amun Ra, Cheredovanie and GLA-Z, $
Lizard Lounge CD-release party for Maybe Ba 8:30pm.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Benefit for Nicky Kulu with the Gentleman, Cracktorch, Ray Corvair T and Kate Diamond, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Gigi w Admas and Addis Black Widow, $20, 18+. Zu Soul-le-lu-iah: Go-go dancing; '60s soul and Brit Invasion, no cover. 21+.
Midway Café Jody Grind Band and Mo Jo Blues Band.
Milky Way Mango's Latin Dance Club with An nio Ortiz, 8:30pm, $7.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy Wheelan and Tony O'Riord
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15p 12:15am.
Paradise Spookie Daly Pride with Cabaret Di 8pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Catunes.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
The Rack Star 93.7 Dance Party with Vinnie ruzzi featuring DJ Littles, 8pm-2am.
Regattabar Kenny Barron's Canta Brazil w Romero Lubambo, Nilson Matta, Duduka da Fons and Anne Drummond, 7:30 and 10:30pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Ryles Dance H 9pm, $12. Downstairs: Bebop Guitars, 9pm, $10.
Scullers Gato Barbieri, $26.
Sky Bar Hymen Maneuver, Grand Evolution, Wreck and Polyethylene, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre The Slip.
Tír na nÓg Shiner Jones.
Toad The Freelance Bishops, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet with T Lada, 9pm-1am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ricky Valente CD-rele show with Huck, Paid to Fake It and Lemon Peeler
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21
Les Zygomates Ron "Big Daddy" Murp 8:30pm, no cover.
Zeitgeist Gallery Phillip Greenlief and No 8pm, $10.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

Axis Madball, Unearth, Mental and Death fore Dishonor, 3pm, $15.
Berklee Performance Center The De 7pm, $35.50.
Bill's Bar Dub Station, 21+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Tom O'Carr
Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with Sonny Wa Jazz Quartet, 10am-3pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cov
The Burren Singer/songwriter series Danielle, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge Jazz Jam, 9pm, cover varies,
Club Passim Speechwriters LLC and Loughran, 7:30pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelations, 10 3pm.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Inchicore and Finbar Doyle
The Green Dragon Tavern Swinging J sons.
Harper's Ferry Gaffney, $4, 21+.
House of Blues The Big Wu and Perp Groove, 8:15pm, $14, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no co
Johnny D's Blues Jam and then salsa dancing Rumba Numba.
Julien Bar Jazz brunch piano trio, 11am-3pm
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet, 8pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7pm; poetry jam turing the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured po Boucher, 9pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday, 8pm, no 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Postal Service an $9, 18+. Corner: Sahar belly dance show, 8p cover.
Midway Café Solid Bunny, Tom Bianchi, S Rock and Jamie McLoughlin.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8pm.



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Museum of Fine Arts Ten Dukes and Highlights from the Beat Suite with Steve Lacy and Irene Aebi, 3pm, $24.
Orpheum Theatre White Stripes with Whirlwind Heat and the Dexter Romweber Duo, 8pm (sold out).
Paradise Sean Kelly and the Samples, 8pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Entrain.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm-2am.
The Roxy The Used with Thrice and My Chemical Romance Story of the Year, 7pm, $15, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10am-3pm.
Sky Bar Stylus, the Model Sons and Illation, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad Paul Ahlstrand and his all-star band, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8:30pm-12am.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday, 7pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar The Dubnicks, the Sweatpant Boners and Sometimes She Burns, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Singer/songwriter open mike, 8pm; Cindy Kalmenson, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Marathon Madness with Classic Trax, 2-6pm; Booty, 7pm.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Session.
Harper's Ferry Towanda, Dell Smart and Exit In, $3, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Keb' Mo' with Larry Johnson, 8pm, $30, 18+.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night open mike, 8pm, $5.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Headphone, Same Bigelow and Jo Horsley, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Martin Kelleher.
Lizard Lounge Kim Davis hosts open mike, 7-9pm, no cover; the Fringe, 10pm, $9.
Middle East Upstairs: Blend Engine, Meghan McLaughlin and Pilot Light, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Califone, Brokeback and Chris Brokaw, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Unhappy Hour with Thalia Zedek, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe Delta Blues.
Milky Way Ideoplastic and the Usual Unusuals.
New England Conservatory Keller Jazz Series, 6:30pm, no cover.
Paradise The Wallflowers with Ron Sexsmith, 7pm, $25, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack All Star Jazz Jam with ZMQ, 6-10pm; DJ Mike Janedy, 10pm-2am.
Somerville Theatre Cheap Trick, 7:30pm, all ages.
Tír na nÓg The Black Egg.
Toad Shwang, featuring Anita Suhanin, 8pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm-12am.
T.T. the Bear's Place From Scotland, Mull Historical Society and Fooled by April, $8.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday Acoustic Show, 8pm; Derek Renholm, 9pm, $3.
Asgard Pub Trivia.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Boston Creative Music Alliance The Evan Parker Trio, 8pm, $16.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8pm. Late Night Radio, 10pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, $10, 18+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Pete Francis, 8:30pm, $10.
Johnny D's Cindy Kalmenson, 8:30pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Patrick McAloon and Cat Puckett 8:30, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Limbo Rick Costa Trio, 8pm. 21+.

Preview

Takes Three to Tengo

Yo La Tengo brings *Summer Sun* to Boston

Three-piece space-pop outfit Yo La Tengo is at the Roxy April 16.

Guitarist Ira Kaplan and drummer Georgia Hubley of the legendary space-pop trio Yo La Tengo have been making sweet music onstage and off for more than 18 years. Married for more than a decade, the pair's harmonious interplay manifests in transporting melodies, articulate beats and endearing narratives, at times serene, at times tumultuous, that seemingly draw on the nuances of married life. Whether or not the couple's private life plays out on their records is something Kaplan prefers to leave to the listener's interpretation. He simply notes that the lyrics, like the band's sound, are a product of the close-knit relationship all the members share.

Yo La Tengo (Spanish for "I've got it") went through several incarnations early on, but the current three-piece lineup, with bassist James McNew, has been in place since 1991. The band initially drew comparisons to the Velvet Underground for the fuzz-driven sound of its 1986 debut LP *Ride the Tiger* and Kaplan's sing-speak delivery. The parallels persisted strongly enough that the trio was hired to portray members of Lou Reed's influential art rock outfit in the 1996 film *I Shot Andy Warhol*. By now, though, Yo La Tengo has dabbled in so many genres—from twang-laden alt-country, to no-frills indie pop and electronica—that it has become the measuring stick by which other like-minded acts are gauged, playing muse to a new generation of songwriters as the Velvet Underground did before them.

Countless singles, EPs, collaborations and guest appearances aside, Yo La Tengo has released 11 full-length albums to date; the latest, *Summer Sun*, is just out on Matador Records. "Thematically, we noticed a lot of seasonal references in the lyrics," says Kaplan explaining the album's motif. "I liked the idea of declaring this a summer record when in a lot of ways it's not what most people would expect. I don't think anyone's going to mistake this for *California Girls*." Diverging from the lush sonic excursions found on 2000's *And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside-Out*, *Summer Sun*'s breezy melodies and lighthearted song titles at first obscure the stormy sentiments brewing beneath the surface. Hubley summons swells of nostalgia on "Today Is the Day," lilting, "Remember how you used to say/'Can't stay up late'/A minute later and I'm older now/Can't stay awake."

One aspect of Yo La Tengo's music that continues to enthrall fans is the band's ever-evolving sound, each album drawing on a varying set of styles. "There is no plan," Kaplan says of the band's songwriting process. "We do a lot of, I guess, jamming in our practice room. One thing that shaped this record was that we obtained a piano. That worked into our new material in a way that it never had before. It wasn't like we said 'let's get a piano' because we wanted it to be all over our next record. We got the piano and then it was." *April 16, Roxy, 279 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2000). 9pm, $15.—Daniel Schulman*

Lizard Lounge Ad Frank and the Fast Ea... Women, with Gordon Merrick and Freezepo... 8:30pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Lucky Stereo, 9pm, no cov... 21+.
Middle East Corner: Noche Mexicana with Gu... tavo and Andres, 9pm. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cov... 21+.
Midway Café Bakers Pink and Almost Speec... less.
Milky Way Mary Mary's All-Star Karaoke, 9pm, $...
Purple Shamrock Karaoke with Dana Z.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10pm; DJ Rickey, 10p... 2am.
Regattabar The Aquiles Baez Quartet, 8:30p... $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Brian Auger's Oblivion Expre... 9pm, $20.
Scullers Kenny Garrett, $18.
Sky Bar The Spark, Hollow and Anna Riley, 9p... $5, 21+.
Somerville Theater The Sea and Cake with ... Circulatory System, 8pm, $15.
Toad Amy Fairchild, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30p... 12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Broken Word, Oran... Park, A Wish for Fire and Busker, $5.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21...
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, ... cover.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Abbey Lounge Jon Nolan and Hokum.
Asgard Tom Courtney, 8:30pm.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Kevin Burke, 9pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joe Cook's blues ja... 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: poetry sla... 8pm, 21+.
Club Passim Boston Modern Orchestra Proje... 7pm, $10.
The Druid Josh Cole and Brian Larson, 9:30, $5, 2...
Elephant & Castle Pete Masa, 6-9pm, no cov... 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGr... 9:30pm, no cover. all ages.
The Green Briar Old Time Music Session.
Harper's Ferry The Green Scene, $6, 21+.
House of Blues Jill Sobule, 9:30, $12, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band.
Johnny D's Los Diablos with special gues... 8:30pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Bobby B.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café The Real Music Project with... Splendid Nobodies, Jen Johnson Band, a... Rosanna Lee, 8:30, $7, 21+.
Kinsale Paul Duffy.
Limbo Alexi Tsiganov, 8pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Radio PU Cabaret, 9pm, $...
Middle East Corner: Garo Papazian and Band be... dancing, $2, Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra... cover, 21+.
Midway Café Roof Top Suicide Club.
Milky Way Mercury Lounge with Timmy Allen...
New England Conservatory Keller Jazz S... ries, 6:30pm, no cover.
Paradise Afro-Cuban All Stars, 7pm, $25, 18+...
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack Zeke Martin, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10p... 2am.
Regattabar Gargonz with George Garzone, Je... Bergonzi, Bruce Gertz, John Lockwood, Bob Gull... and Bob Kaufman, 8 and 10pm, $12.
The Roxy The Flaming Lips, 7:30pm, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Pete Robbins, Dan Blake... Kalifactors, 8:30pm, $7.
Scullers Kenny Garrett, $18.
Sky Bar Hawley Sawyer Rifle Company, Ra... Bliss and Chris Peters Band, 9pm, $5, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Tír na nÓg The Swinging Steaks.
Toad Deb Pasternak with Billy Beard, Rich... Gates and Chris Rival, 7pm; David Johnson ... Matthew Zapruder, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30... 12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mclusky, Tunnel of ... and the Modifiers, $8.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 8pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Abbey Lounge Stir the Stew and Catapult.
Arlington Center for the Arts Alan Ta... and the Drum Connection, 7:30pm, $10.
Asgard Brogue, 8:30pm.

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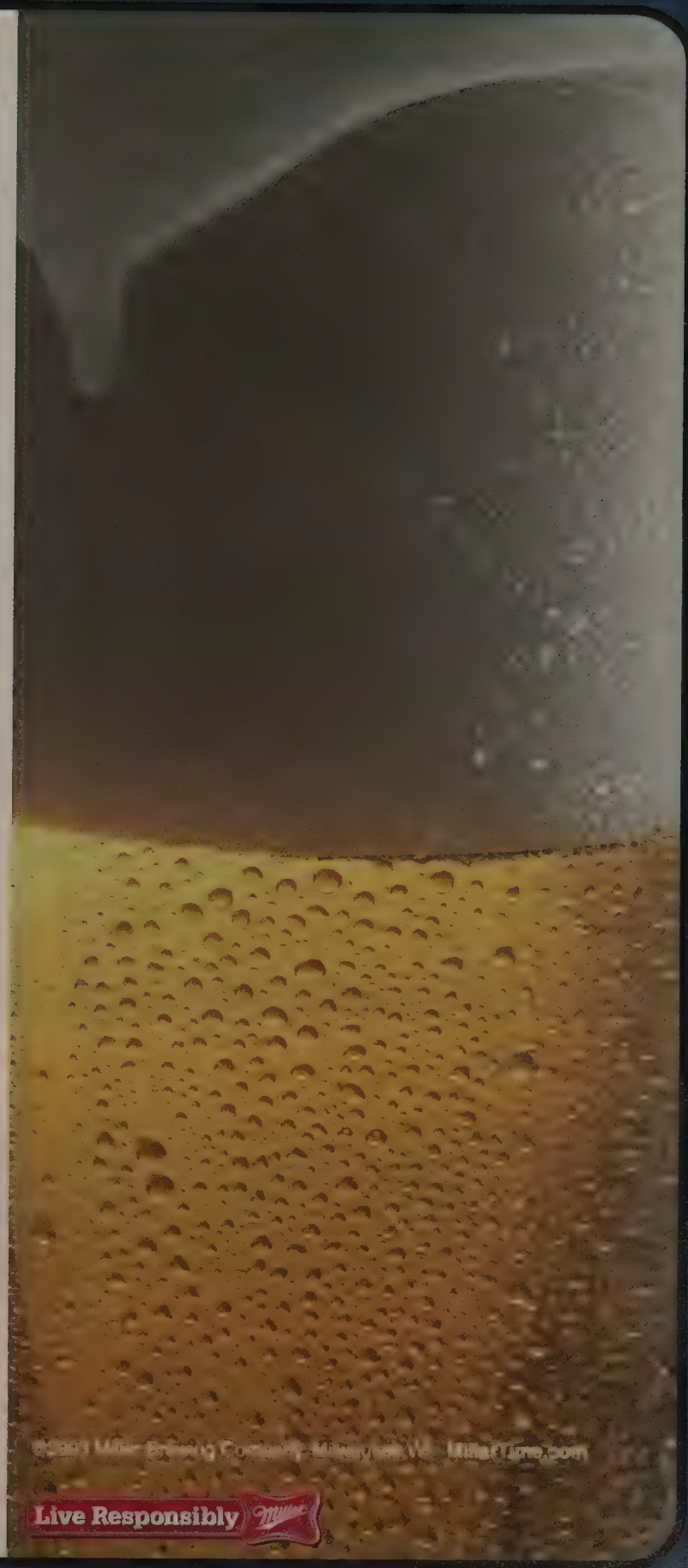


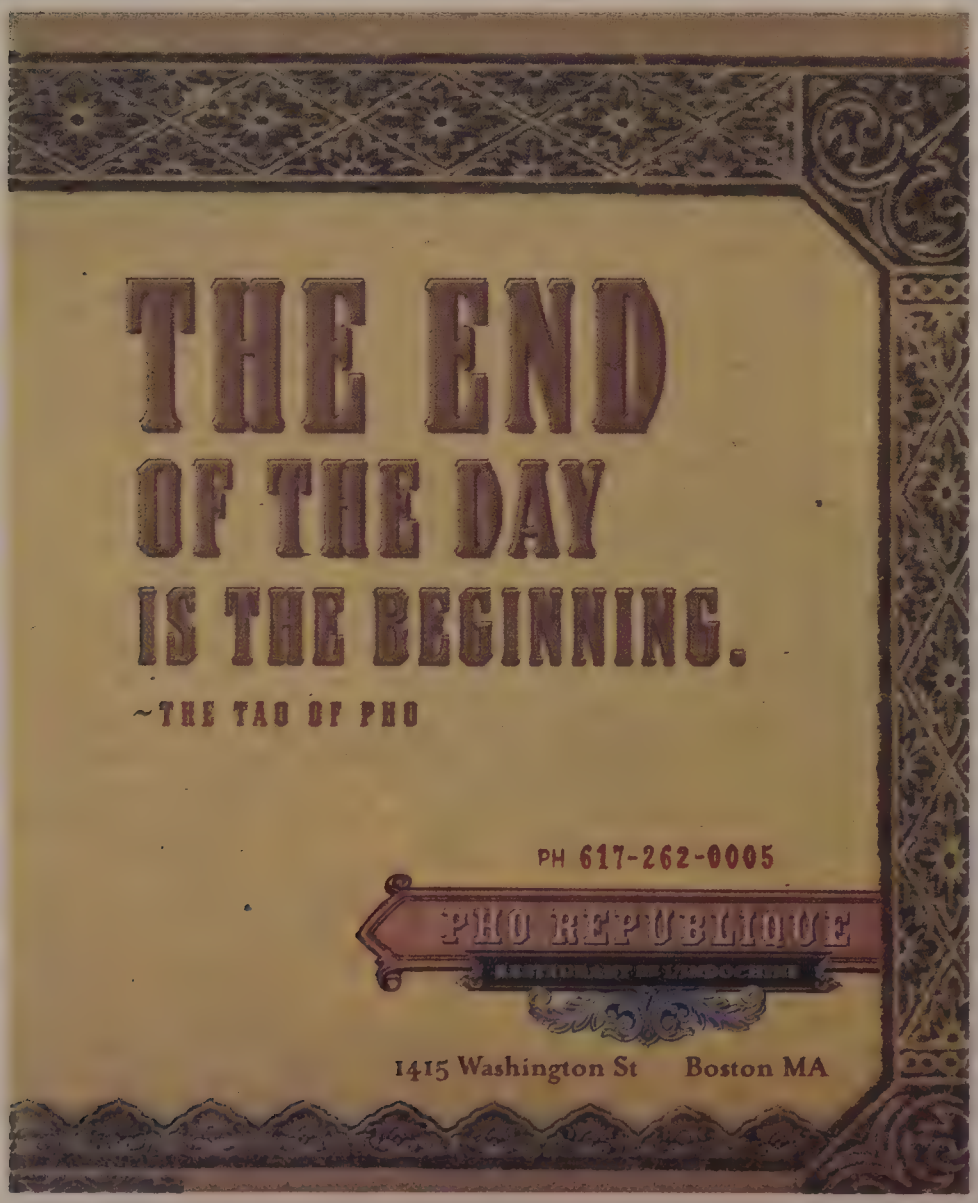
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Black Sole Ensemble, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Swinging Johnsons, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Faces for Radio Improv, 8pm, 21+.
Club Passim Respond II CD release, with Deb Talen, Jennifer Kimball, Merrie Armstrong and Bourbon Princess, 8pm, $15.
Coogan's DJ Steve.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20pm.
The Druid Lo Fine, 9:30, $3, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callanan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Hookah Brown featuring Rich Robinson and Asect, $17, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Seven Nations and the Adam Ezra Group, 9:30pm, $10, 18+.
The Independent Spoonbread, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Jeanne Ciampa, 8:30pm, $10.
Jose McIntyre's Karaoke with Rhythm Nights and DJ Massi.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Peter Montgomery, the Drakes and Max Heinegg, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 8pm-12am.
Kirkland Café Eddy Dyer and the Walking Shoe Revival, Mr. Sparkle and Walk Don't Run, $5.
Limbo Shimon Benshir, 9pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf featuring Micro Vard, 9pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Random Road Mother, the Model Sons, Medea Connection and the Stoves, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Zemog el Gallo Malo, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way O'Brien, Kristin Cifelli and Jason Spooner and Boris McKutchien, 9pm.
Paradise Adult with Magas, 8pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Chad LaMarsh Band.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Unique Approach, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10pm-2am.
Regattabar The Dominique Eade Quartet with Bill Pierce, Mick Goodrick and John Lockwood, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Temporada Latina, 8:30pm. Downstairs: Los Changos CD-release party, 8:30pm, $7.
Scullers Keely Smith, $35.
Sky Bar The Curtain Society, Thea Wolfe CD release, Lunar Girl and Sarah Rabdau, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan Fluffy Quinn.
Toad Boris McKutcheon, 7pm. Todd Thibaud, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mendoza Line, Knife in the Water and Mobius Band, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm, no cover.

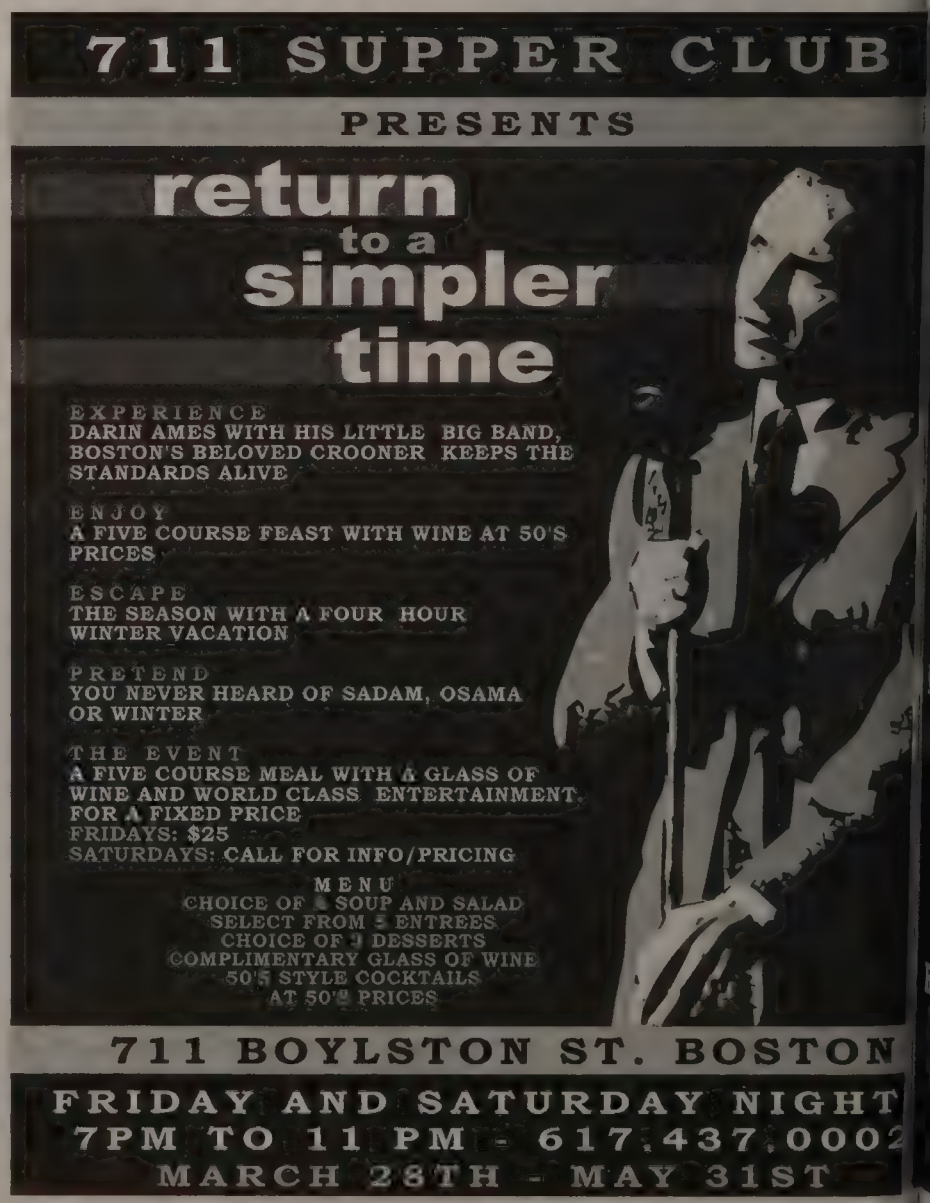
FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Abbey Lounge Count Me Outs.
Asgard The Drift, 8:30pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm, Gilad Barken, 9pm, no cover.
Big Easy Bar Syndicate, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar The Good North, the Halogens and Moki, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Tony O'Riordan.
Bob the Chef's Wanetta Jackson, 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Shirley Lewis, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem, 8pm, $14.
Coogan's DJ Tom.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30pm; Thomas Park.
The Green Briar Ecco System.
The Green Dragon Tavern Friday Episode.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Harper's Ferry Mr. Brownstone Guns 'N Roses Tribute and Satanicide, $12, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30pm. Spike the Punch.
House of Blues Babaloo, 10pm, $12, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent Porch Rockers, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Stymie, 9:45pm, $6.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Big Daddy.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café LP, Diane Ward Band and Laura Brereton, 8:30pm, $8, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6-11pm.
Kirkland Café Rollo Tomasi Quartet, Uprise, Jody Grind and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Wannetta Jackson, 9pm. 21+.
Linwood Benefit for the American Civil Liberties Union with Hip Tanaka, the Beatings, Welcome Home, Trust Us and Welk, $8.
Lizard Lounge CD release party for Deb Pasternak, featuring Billy Beard, Chris Rival and Richard Gates, 9pm.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Kabir, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Throwing Muses, $20, 18+. Corner: DJ Benny Blanco. Zuzu: Milo Jones, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Four on the Floor and Fade Outs.
Milky Way The Pill.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm-12:15am.
Paradise The Delgados with Aereogramme and the Essex Green, 8pm, $13, 18+.
Parris Flavor.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider.
The Rack Central Basement, 7-10pm; DJ Johnny C, 10pm-2am.
Regattabar The Michel Camilo Trio with Charles Flores, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, 7:30 and 10pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Tribute to Tito Puente with Eguie Castrillo, 9pm, $12.
Scullers Keely Smith, $40.
Sky Bar Romero, Chambers, Corkscrew, Rude Toys, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Jefferson Davis.
Toad May One Thing, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9p 1am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Aaron Perrino, Sam B bee, the Pills and Verona Downs, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30p 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Asgard Joe Merrick and Stu Lee, 9pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9pm, Gi Barken, 9pm, no cover.
Berklee Performance Center Ute Lemp 8pm, $37.
Big Easy Bar Syndicate, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Tony O'Riord
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quar 7:30pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren The Well, 10pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and Thrillers, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Coogan's DJ Craig.
Copperfield's Freightrain and the J-Walke 9pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no co all ages.
Grand Canal Brick Park.
The Green Dragon Tavern 5 to the Face.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Hatch Shell 92.9 WBOS EarthFest with She Crow, Peter Wolf, Sister Hazel and Alice Peaco 11:30am-6pm, no cover, all ages.
House of Blues Earthfest Post-Party with Nic Creek, 8:30pm, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi.
The Independent Stretch, 10pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Milo Z, 9:45pm, $8.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Bluegrazer CD-release with Pa Kelley and Alice Mack, 9:30pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Max, 8pm-12am.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Lyres and the Downbeat 5, $7.
Limbo Valerie Stephens, 9pm, 21+.





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UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Boston June 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Boston Globe Jazz Festival featuring Buddy Guy, Los Lobos and Indigenous June 16, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jonatha Brooke June 12, Sanders Theatre, (617-876-4275)
Kasey Chambers May 13, Berklee Performance Theatre (617-931-2000)
Cher May 2, Worcester Centrum Centre (508-755-6800)
Chicago June 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Elvis Costello and the Imposters July 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000).
Cousteau and Seks Bomba May 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Dead and Steve Winwood June 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Dixie Chicks and Michelle Branch June 19, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)
Earth, Wind and Fire June 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
50 Cent May 6, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Aretha Franklin June 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Peter Gabriel June 18, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Godsmack May 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Grand Drive and Josh Bennett May 3, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Roy Hargrove June 19, Copley Square Park (617-254-9267)
Ben Harper and Jack Johnson June 19 and 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Habrera Hativeet May 10, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Etta James & the Roots Band May 30, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Norah Jones June 28, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Ashley MacIsaac May 16, Sanders Theater (617-876-4275)
Mariza May 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Matchbox Twenty, Sugar Ray and Maroon5 May 12, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Van Morrison, Solomon Burke and the Soul Alive Orchestra June 14 and 15, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
R. Carlos Nakai with Will Clipman May 17, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Poison, Skid Row and Vince Neil June 16, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
The Roots May 2, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Santana and Angelique Kidjo June 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Hussain May 17, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Solas June 13, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Super Diamond May 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
James Taylor June 28 and 29, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Suzanne Vega May 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Cheryl Wheeler May 3, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
The Yeah Yeah Yeahs and the Greenhornes May 6, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
ZZ Top, Ted Nugent and Kenny Wayne Shepherd May 20, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)

Linwood White Trash Deluxe, the Kenmores, the Thorns and Pilot Around the Sun, $7.
Lizard Lounge Electronic music showcase featuring Aaron Spectre, DJ Dream, Open, Keep Alive and Local Fields and Audiopad, 9pm.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Damn Personals, Koufax and Stellastar, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Plan B, Mappari, Jabe and the Irresponsibles 18+. Zuzu: Soul-le-lu-iah Go-go dancing and 60's soul, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Knuckleheads, Stray Bullets and Mercury Boys.
Milky Way Mango's Latin Dance Club with Antonio Ortiz, 8:30pm, $7.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm-12:15am, no cover.
Orpheum Theatre Songbird Foundation Benefit concert featuring Bonnie Raitt, Danny O'Keefe, John Mayer and Marta Gomez, 8pm, $95-$505.
Paradise Matt Nathanson with Stephen Kellogg, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Flavor.
Purple Shamrock Syndicate.
The Rack Star 93.7 Dance Party with Vinnie Peruzzi featuring DJ Littles, 8pm-2am.
Regattabar The Michel Camilo Trio with Charles Flores, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, 7:30 and 10pm, $20.
Regent Theatre Sixth MusicFest Benefit Concert with James Gordon and Sandy Horne, Bill Bourne, Annie Gallup, Louise Taylor, and Scott Alarik, 7:30pm, $17.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12. Downstairs: Frankie V, 9pm, $12.
Scullers Keely Smith, $45 .
Sky Bar Playing for Audrey, the Kickbacks, Kieran Ridge Band and Great American, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Nolan McKelvey.
Toad Verona Downs, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9pm-1am
T.T. the Bear's Place Rock City Crimewave Cd-release with Crash and Burn and the Marvels, $8.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Jim Bridges, 8:30pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Axis Blackalicious, 8pm, $17, 18+.
Bill's Bar Dub Station, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Jim Coyle.
Bob the Chef's Brunch with Bombay Jim and the Swingin' Sapphires.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
The Burren Singer/songwriter series with Danielle, 8pm.
Cantab Lounge Jazz Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Two Fiddles with Dudley and Jaqueline Laufman, 3:30pm, $5; Canterbury County Orchestra with Dudley Laufman, 8pm, $10.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords and Finbar Doyle.
The Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry Gaffney, $4, 21+.
House of Blues Alice Peacock, 8:30pm, $8, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Julien Bar Jazz Brunch Piano Trio, 11am-3pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet, 8pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7pm; Poetry jam, with the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Michael Culp, 9pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Kamikaze, the Information, Low Beam and Dead Jazz Heroes, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Parker House and Theory, 8pm, $9, 18+.
Midway Café The Coachmen.
Milky Way Candyland: Fire Balls Drag Bingo with host Toni Lawrence.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8pm.
Paradise The Planets, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi.
The Rack DJ Mike Janedy, 9pm-2am.
Regattabar Orquesta Aragon, 6:30 and 9pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10am-3pm.
St. James Cultural and Youth Center Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble and Ayriyan Armenian Folk Ensemble, 5pm.
Sky Bar Guy Malone, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad Paul Ahlstrand, 7pm; Dave Foley Band, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8pm-12am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mush Records Spring Tour with Busdriver & Radioinactive as the Weather, AWOL One and Andre Afram Asmar, $7.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday with King Bazo blues jam, 7pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8pm; Michael Troy, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Paul Simon Tribute, 7pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Guitarioke with Leah.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Session.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Moe Jones Revue with Cha Cha All Stars, Sunny Side Band and Fighting Idols, 9pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with the New Acoustic Music Ensemble.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Sinkcharmer, Gay Tastee and So and So, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10pm.
Middle East Zuzu: Unhappy Hour with the Twinemen, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe Delta Blues.
New England Conservatory Keller Jazz Series, 6:30pm, no cover.
Paradise Lifehouse, 7pm, $17, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack ZMQ, 6-10pm; DJ Mike Janedy, 10pm-2am.
Regattabar Orquesta Aragon, 6:30 and 9pm, $20.
Tír na nÓg Black Eggs.
Toad Shwang featuring Anita Suhanin, 8pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8:30pm-12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place Damien Rice, $7.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday with Unbusted and Bamboo Kids.
Asgard Pub Trivia, 8pm.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass Jam, 9pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, cover, all ages.
Harper's Ferry Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey and t Slip, $12, 18+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Alison Records Tour with Malo Skywave, Resplandor and Stellarscope, 9pm, $7, 18
Johnny D's The Strawbs, 8:30pm, $15.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10pm.
Kendall Café Damien Rice and Kevin O'Rour 8pm, $8, 21+.
Kinsale Sean Cunningham.
Limbo Evan Goodrow Trio, 8pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Ad Frank and the Fast Ea Women with Shelley Winters Project and the I Seville, 8:30pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Lucky Stereo, 9pm, no cover, 21
Middle East Upstairs: Studebaker and EJ, $ 21+. Downstairs: Ozma, Earli Mart and Slow Read $10, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café X-Issue, the Day Jacob Smiled a Something Against You.
Purple Shamrock Karaoke with Dana Z.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky, 10pm-2a
Regattabar Tre Corda with Tim Ray, Greg Ho kins and Eugene Friesen, 8:30pm, $12.
The Roxy Bright Eyes with Arab Strap and Jess Harris, 7pm, $15, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club The Miller Group, 8:30pm, $
Sky Bar Visceral and Brian Sweet Project, 9pm, $ 21+.
Toad Amy Fairchild, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Neiske Trio, 8:30p 12:30am.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Lincoln Conspira CD-release, $6.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm, cover.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-44 9631.*
Arlington Center for the Arts *41 Foster St., A lington (781-648-6220).*

The Nashville-based Kings of Leon perform at Axis April 19 with Ben Kweller and Adam Gre

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— *George Jean Nathan*

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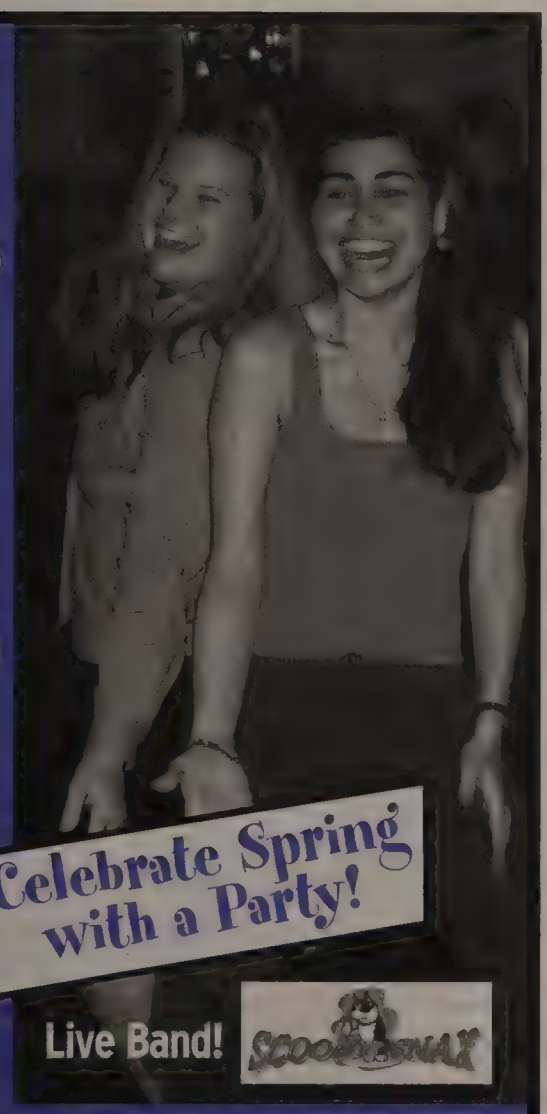

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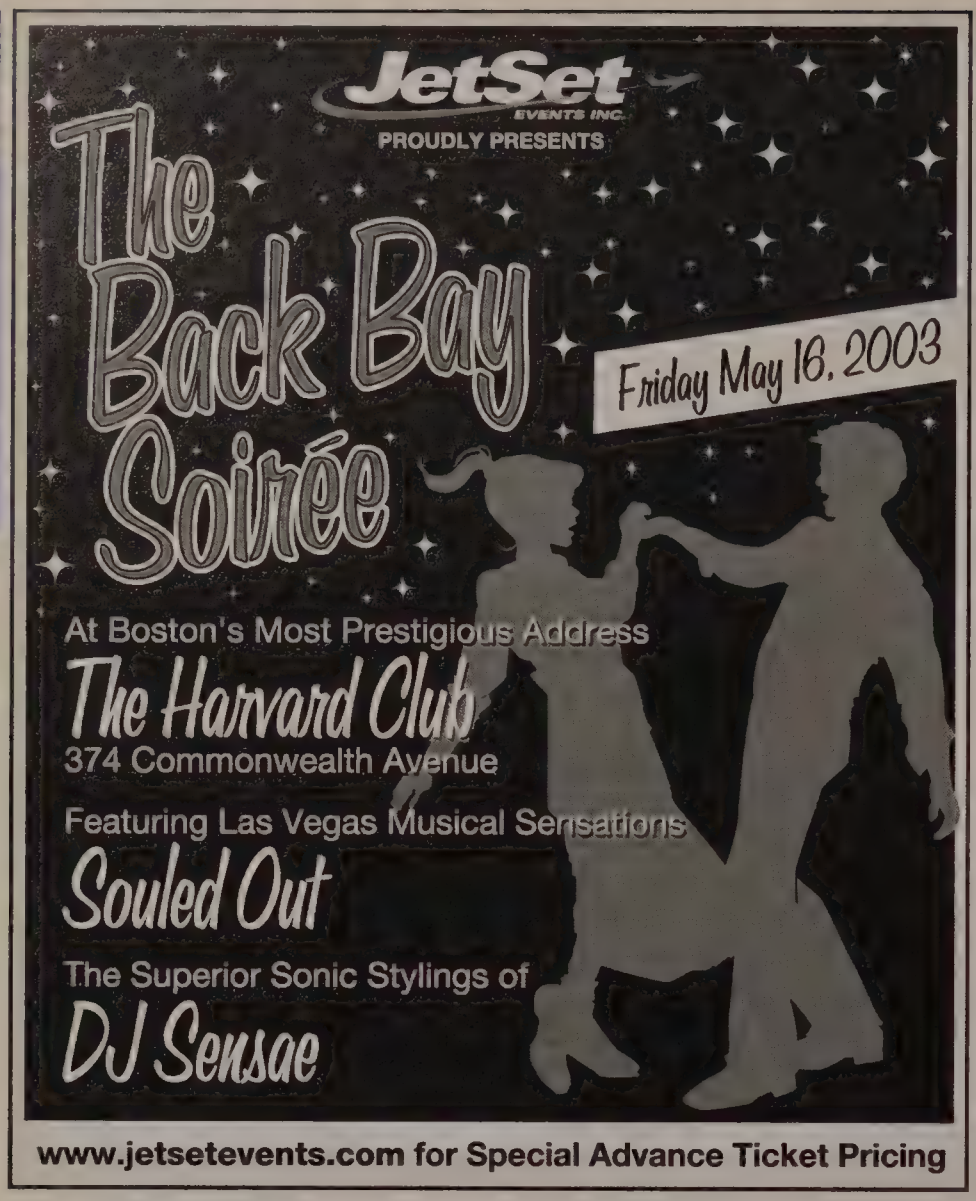

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The Brett Rosenberg Problem holds a CD-release party at the Abbey Lounge April 18.

Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
The Big Easy *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Boston Creative Music Alliance *Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-628-4342). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coogan's *173 Milk St.,Boston (617-451-7415). MBTA: Blue Line or Green Line to Government Center.*
Copperfield's *98 Brookline Ave., Boston (617-247-8605). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Elephant & Castle *161 Devonshire St., Boston (617-350-9977). MBTA: Red Line or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Good Times *30 Assembly Square Drive, Somerville (617-628-5559). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Station.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6021).*
Jake Ivory's *9 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-247-1222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-Town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (617 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
MDC Memorial Hatch Shell *Charles River Esplanade, Boston (617-727-9547). MBTA: R Line to Charles/MGH.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617 524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Museum of Fine Arts *465 Huntington Avenue, Boston.(617-369-3300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.*
New England Conservatory *Keller Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). MBTA: E Green line to Symphony.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue,Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: G Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Av*
O'Leary's Pub & Restaurant *1010 Beaco St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (61 482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Stre*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-880 MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Pa's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617 776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-2 2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Cen*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-105 MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661 5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford Street, Arlington (781-646-4849).*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambrid (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
St. James Cultural and Youth Center *4 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-923-8860).*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-6 5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somer (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Symphony Hall *301 Mass. Ave., Boston (6 266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Tir na nOg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (6 628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building North Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617 4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617 536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
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Wally's Cafe *427 Massachusetts Ave., Boston (424-1408) MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., In Square, Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA Line to Harvard Square, 69 Bus.*

DINNER & A MOVIE

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(First Course)

Pan Seared Scallops – Sea Scallops with Corn Purée, Sal Rose, Crispy Potato & Truffle Oil 8

White Wine Steamed Mussels – Pearled Barley, Garlic, Oven Roasted Tomatoes & Grilled Bread 8

Coriander Seared Tuna – Sushi Grade Tuna with Pickled Fruit & Ponzu 10

Spring Vegetable Terrine – Terrine of Spring Vegetables with Baby Greens 7

Smoked Fish – Three Ways Salmon, Trout & Mackerel with Three Garnishes 10

Lobster Sandwich – Brioche, Boston Lettuce & Japanese Mayonnaise 11

(Salads)

Cubana – Fried Plantains, Sunflower Sprouts, Black Bean Vinaigrette 7

Smoked Duck – Cilantro Pesto, Spicy Shoot Salad & Pomegranate Vinaigrette 8

(Main Course)

Pan Seared Chicken – New Potatoes, Spring Onions, Green Beans, Carrots & Lavender Jus Lie 14

New York Strip – Marinated Strip Steak with Potato Purée, Asparagus & Steak Butter 17

Roasted Lamb – Fava Beans, Corn, Yukon Gold Potato & Lamb Sauce 19

Vegetable Lasagna – Chefs Changing Lasagna 11

Quinoa Salmon – Organic Miso, Rice Beans, Mizuna & Asian Pear 15

Oven Roasted Squab – Wilted Spinach, Cheese Grits, Squab Sauce 17

Marinated Duck Breast – Israeli Couscous, Blood Orange & Thai Basil 18

Panko Prawns – Mashed Sweet Potato, Crispy Wontons, Chive Oil & Thai Butter Sauce 16

Yellow Fin Tuna – Baby Bok Choy, Grilled Rice Paper, Togarashi and Dashi Soy Broth 17

Please notify your server of any food allergies, some foods cooked w/ nuts or nut oils. Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase risk of food borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.

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ANCY SINATRA
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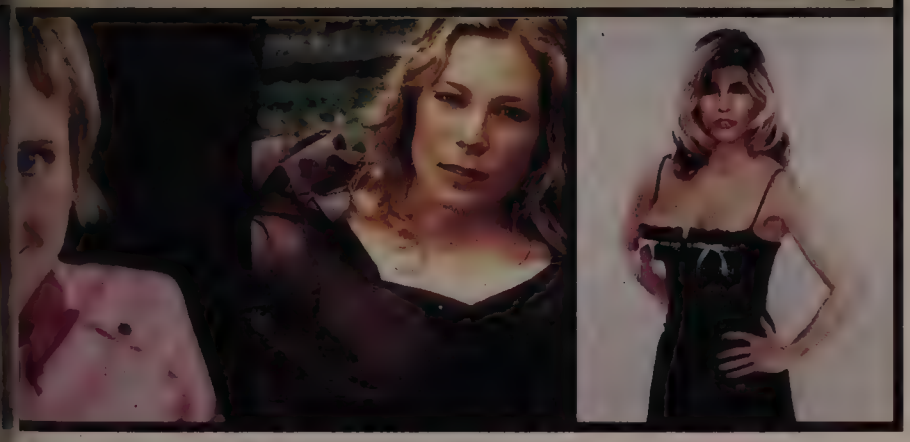

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Artist Diploma candidate Ning An performs his final student piano recital in a program including works by Koji Nagano, Arnold Schoenberg, Claude Debussy and Franz Liszt.

New England Conservatory
Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 8pm. $5-$15.* Naoko Imai performs Bach's *ClavierUbung.*

Old South Church Music and Meditation Recital Series
645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). www.oldsouth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15pm. Free. Donations accepted.* The Old South Chamber Singers perform arias from J.S. Bach's *Passions According to St. John* and *St. Matthew* in celebration of Holy Week.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Open rehearsal, 10:30am, $16; evening concert, 8pm, $25-$84.* Conductor Kurt Masur and the BSO perform Prokofiev's *Classical* Symphony, the world premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's *The Light of the End* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique.*

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2 and 6pm. Free.* NEC students perform chamber music.

Wellesley Chamber Music Society
Jewett Auditorium, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2028). 7pm. Free. Nancy Cirello and Isabelle Plaster direct the Chamber Music Society.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84.* Same program as April 17.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* The Yanvar Trio performs Chausson's *Trio in G Minor* and Tchaikovsky's *Trio in A Minor.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$90.* Same program as April 17.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 12pm. Free.* Same program as April 17.

Sunday Music Series at the Gardner
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.com. *1:30pm. $10-$18.* The program includes works by Bach, Debussy, Schwantner, and Ewazen and the world premiere of a piece by Hayato Hirose. Marimbist Naoko Takada performs.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Fünf Woodwind Quartet performs works by Samuel Barber, August Klughardt, Francis Poulenc and a new piece by doctoral student Curtis Hughes.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* NEC hosts "Monday Night New Music," a concert showcasing new student works.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2pm. Free.* Same program as April 17.

Kurt Masur leads the BSO at Symphony Hall April 17, 18 and 19.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chapel
King's Chapel, 58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15pm. Suggested donation, $2. Korea's Dong-Ill Shin performs works by Byrd and Bach on the C.B. Fisk organ.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Open rehearsal. 7:30pm. $16.* Conductor Ivan Fischer leads the BSO in Bartók's *Dance Suite* and Dvorák's *Symphony No. 7*, and pianist Emanuel Ax joins them for Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor, K. 466.*

Longy School of Music
Rey-Waldenstein Building, Recital Room N1, 32 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* The Longy School hosts a performance of vocal chamber music for voices, winds and piano.

Music in the Cathedral Series
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). www.stpaulboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line or Red Line to Park. 12:15pm. Suggested donation, $2.* Organist Sister Carolyn Darr accompanies Sister Kristina Nordhaus, a soprano.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Jordan Winds join the NEC Wind Ensemble in a concert featuring the East Coast premiere of Richard Toensing's *Night Songs.*

Old South Church Music and Meditation Recital Series
645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). www.oldsouth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15pm. Free.* Pianist Samira Tabraue celebrates Easter with Schumann's *Davidsbündlertänze.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Boston Philharmonic
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.bostonphil.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $17-$60.* The Boston Philharmonic presents its final concert of the season, highlighting three of its principal players: Joanna Kurkowicz, Peggy Pearson and Rafael Popper-Keizer. The program features works by Debussy, Chausson, Harbison, Saint-Saëns and Ravel.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $25-$84.* Same program as April 23.

Harvard Organ Society
Adolphus Busch Hall, Harvard University, 29 Kirkland St., Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12:15pm. Members of the Harvard Organ Society perform as part of the midday organ recital.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2 and 6pm. Free.* Same program as April 17.

New England Conservatory
St. Paul's Cathedral, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 8pm. Free.* Simon Carrington leads the NEC Chorus and Chamber Singers in an evening of vocal performances of works by Byrd, Guerrero, Mendelssohn and Durufle.

New England Conservatory
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Northeastern University or Orange Line to Ruggles. 8pm. $12-$14.* An all-student cast and orchestra perform Leonard Bernstein's adaptation of Voltaire's satire *Candide.* Director Marc Astafan and conductor Timothy Myers lead Candide through adventures in Europe and the mythical Eldorado.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.bostonchambermusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line E to Symphony. 7:30pm. $16-$42.* BCMS closes its season with a festive collaborative performance of Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* and a poem crafted by BCMS members. Performances of Brahms' *Piano Quintet in F minor, Opus 34* and Bartók's *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* begin the evening.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30pm. $25-$84.* Same program as April 23.

Handel and Haydn Society's Bridges to Latin America
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-262-1815). www.handelandhaydn.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. Free.* Musicians from the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra perform *Sonando con el Tango*, which explores Latin American culture, specifically the South American tango.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Jeffrey Rink leads the Longy Chamber Orchestra and Diploma students in three one-act operas by Samuel Barber, Gian Carlo Menotti and Beethoven.

Music for Viols and Friends Presents Courtly Pastorales
Lindsay Chapel, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-776-0696). 8pm. $11-$16. Travel back to the courts of Louis XIV and XV with *Courtly Pastorales*, a French-themed program exploring royal songs and instrumental music. Soprano Anne Azéma sings with Ensemble Chaconne.

New England Conservatory
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Northeastern University or Orange Line to Ruggles. 8pm. $12-$14. Candide.* See April 24 listing.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Boston Modern Orchestra Project
Kresge Auditorium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 48 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7679). www.bmop.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall Square. 7pm. Free.* As part of the 2003 Boston Cyberarts Festival and Who's Afraid of Modern Music Series, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project presents *Toy Symphony*, a concert of technologically enhanced live music. Gil Rose conducts.

Boston Philharmonic
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412) www.bostonphil.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $17-$60.* Same program as April 24; a pre-concert lecture begins at 6:45pm.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $28-$90.* Same program as April 23.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Same program as April 25.

New England Conservatory
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Northeastern University or Orange Line to Ruggles. 8pm. $12-$14. Candide.* See April 24.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Boston Chamber Music Society
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-4596). www.bostonchambermusic.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. $16-$42.* Same program as April 25.

Boston Philharmonic
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.bostonphil.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $17-$60.* Same program as April 24; a preconcert lecture begins at 1:45pm.

Boston Symphony Chamber Players
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: Green Line E to Symphony. 3pm. $17-$30.* The Chamber Players perform Harbison's *Wind Quintet* and are joined by pianist Emanuel Ax for Mozart's *Trio in E-flat K.498* for clarinet, viola and piano, and Dvorak's *Piano Quintet in A, Op. 81.*

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Bo (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.com. *1:30 $10-$18.* The Gardner's Sunday Music Series presents Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center perform Rossini's *Sonata for Two Violins, Cello and Bass in G Mi* Glinka's *Sextet for Strings and Piano* and Mendelssohn's *S tet for Strings and Piano in D Minor, Op. 110.*

Classical Music at MIT
Killian Hall, Room 14W-111, Massachusetts Institut Technology, 160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-2 2906). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall Square. 3pm. F Faculty and guests celebrate music and literature s member Peter Child's 50th birthday. Conductor F Harris honors him with a recital of Child's own co positions.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-48 2595). www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: E Green L to Symphony. 3pm. $35-$60.* Pianist Murray Pera performs Bach's *Partita No. 4 in D Major, BWV 8* Beethoven's *Sonata No. 28 in A Major, Opus 101* Schubert's *Sonata in A Major, D. 959*

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Ca bridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Line to Harvard. 2pm. Free.* Students perform in the p gram *Piano Music Since 1975.*

New England Conservatory
Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University, 3 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-585-1122). www.n englandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Nor eastern University or Orange Line to Ruggles. 3pm. $1 $14. Candide.* See April 24 listing.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsb ough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengla conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Sympho 3pm. Free.* The Borromeo String Quartet deliver marathon performance of Bartok's *Quartets Nos. 1-4*

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsb ough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengla conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Sympho 8pm. Free.* The Magnolia Piano Quartet perfor Gabriel Faure's *Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Op.* Alfred Schnittke's *Klavierquartett* and Brahms' *Pia Quartet in C Minor, Op. 60.*

Somerville Museum Early Music Serie presents Courtly Pastorales
One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-98 www.theartofcompassion.com/museum.html. MB Red Line to Davis Square. 3pm. $9-$14. Same progr as April 25.

Wellesley College Concert Series
Houghton Memorial Chapel, 106 Central Street, Welle (781-283-2028). 2pm. Free. Lisa Graham condu the Wellesley College Choir and Dr. John Barry Tal conducts the U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club a performance of Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem.*

MONDAY, APRIL 28

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsb ough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengla conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Sympho 8pm. Free.* Juried student ensembles perform toni in this chamber music gala.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recitals
King's Chapel, Tremont St., Boston (617-227-215 MBTA: Red Line to Park St. 12:15pm. Free. And Meisner plays works by Bach, Peeters and Dubois the C.B. Fisk organ.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., G bridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Degree and diploma stud composers perform their original works.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, New England Conservatory, 30 Gains ough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengl conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symph 7:30pm. Free.* Two piano quartets and two piano q tets perform Brahms' chamber music.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gain ough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengl conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symph 8pm. Free.* NEC faculty member John Gibbons di the Bach ensemble in a series of the composer's wo

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gain ough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengl conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symph 8pm. Free.* NEC hosts "Tuesday Night New Mu concerts, which showcase new student works.

Limbo

APRIL

TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH - KEVIN HARRIS TRIO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH - KEN CLARK ORGAN TRIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH - MARC ROSSI

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH - PHILIPPE LE JEUNE

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH - PHILIPPE LE JEUNE

SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH - RON MURPHY SEXTET

MONDAY, APRIL 21ST - CLOSED

TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND - RICK COSTA TRIO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD - ALEXI TSIGANOV

THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH - SHIMON BENSHIR

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH - WANNETTA JACKSON

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH - VALERIE STEPHENS

SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH - RON MURPHY SEXTET

MONDAY, APRIL 28TH - CLOSED

TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH - EVAN GOODROW TRIO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH - JACQUES CHANIER TRIO

MAY

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST - HILLARY NOBLE

FRIDAY, MAY 2ND - ATHENE WILSON

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD - ALVIN TERRY

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH - RON MURPHY SEXTET

MONDAY, MAY 5TH - CLOSED

TUESDAY, MAY 6TH - BROOKE SOFFERMAN TRIO

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH - RUSTY SCOTT TRIO

THURSDAY, MAY 8TH - RUSS GERSHON

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH - HERMAN JOHNSON

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49 TEMPLE PLACE, BOSTON, 617-338-0280

ARIA

ONE NATION TUESDAYS
97.7's DJ Chubby Chubb
Spins Hip Hop and R&B

LUST WEDNESDAYS
DJ John Morris
Spins Alternative House
Boston's Greatest Alternative Evening

FASHION HOUSE THURSDAYS
DJ Roger M.
Spin Latin & Euro Haus

FLOSS FRIDAYS
DJ Thanos
Spins Hip Hop and R&B

CLASSIC SATURDAYS
94.5's DJ GeeSpin
Spins your favorite 70's, 80's, and early 90's
Music in a format sure to keep you dancing

246 Tremont St. Below the Wilbur Theater
Reservations & Private Party Information
617.338.7080 www.ariaboston.com

dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard warms up the week with live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
ZMQ performs, 6-9:30pm, no cover, 21+. Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech, 9pm, no cover, $21+.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Blue Cat Café
DJ "Easy on the Eyes" Carrie spins deep soul house, 9pm, no cover.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ricky, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip-hop and R&B, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
Check out the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJs Bobby and Chris D. spin a mix of top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
Live music with Zeke Martin, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky spins dance music, 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band spices things up on the first floor, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake. 10pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Spend DJs host a night of hip-hop, 10pm, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans-themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill's and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tunes 9pm, $8, 18+, $5, 21+ with college ID.

Blue Cat Café
Resident DJ KC spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, n cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mingle and dance to loungy music, dress chic.

Clerys
Dance the night away with DJ Rhythm Nights 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix feature retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-ho and R&B courtesy of Jam'n 94.5, 10pm, 19+ women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance an house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; liv music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top 40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted by Kis 108, proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins aci jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and danc ing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damo and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue u the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstairs. 11pm, 21+. DJ Josh Hall gets the dance part started upstairs, 11pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes an old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11pm-2am, 21+

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover befo 11pm, $15 after 11pm, 19+.

Parris
• April 17, Dick 'n' Jane perform live, 10pm, cove varies, 21+. • April 24, Live music by the Cha LaMarsh Band, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando prese drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techn downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays: DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Ri Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residen

The Rack
Live music with Unique Approach, 6-10pm; Ricky spins all night long, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cove

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lover's roc roots reggae and R&B, 10pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9pm; cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house a other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance a R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, 21+.

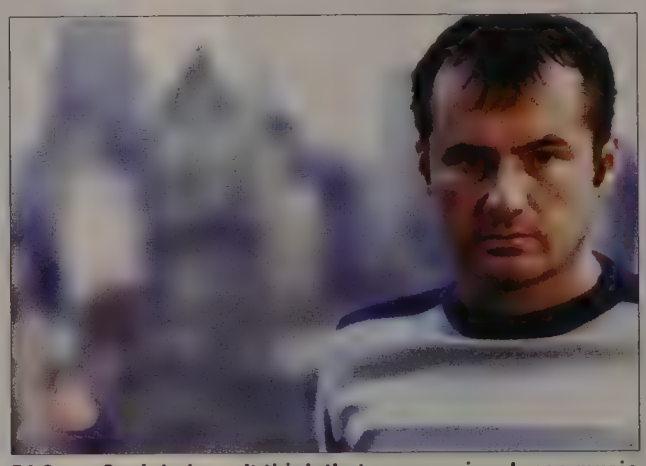
Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marsh 9pm, $10, 21+.

Preview

Outspoken Insider

Sean Cusick pushes the progressive dance music envelope

New York's Sean Cusick, who occasionally goes by the moniker Q6, is a curious figure in the realm of dance music. Cusick was introduced to the genre over a decade ago in Orlando, Fla., an early hotbed of progressive dance music in the United States. In fact, much of today's commercialized "underground" club culture can trace its roots back to the Florida scene of the early '90s.



DJ Sean Cusick doesn't think that progressive dance music has been all that progressive lately.

Cusick's subsequent work as both a DJ and a studio artist has earned him worldwide recognition. In the DJ booth, he has held sway over dance floors in the U.S., Europe and South America. In the recording studio, his original production credits include releases on Hallucination, John Digweed's Bedrock imprint and Satoshi Tomiie's SAW Recordings. Despite these measures of success, however, Cusick is an outspoken critic of what he sees as a growing lack of focus on forward-thinking music. Cusick routinely extends a figurative middle finger to the progressive club scene in interviews and in his monthly column on the dance music Web site *www.Xpander.nl*.

As Cusick pushes the fringes of popular progressive music, a growing buzz has come from like-minded fans. He creates angular dance music—throbbing, dark and twisted trips that lend renewed meaning to the term "progressive." Nevertheless, he says he tries not to associate himself with the dreaded P word. "I love house and techno, but I try to sneak in other things here and there if the crowd seems receptive to it," says Cusick. "Pretty much, the best records that I can find are in my DJ bag, and I put them together in any way that will work. I've never been the best mixer technically, so I try to rely more on programming and putting the records in an order that works, blending moods. Most of all, I try to have fun with what I'm doing."

Sean Cusick makes a guest appearance on Tuesday, April 22nd, taking over the decks for Orange at The Kells, 161 Brighton Ave, Brighton (617-782-9082). Orange residents John Davis and Tym Ryan will warm things up, starting around 10 pm.—Daniel Spurling

ANNO 1366.

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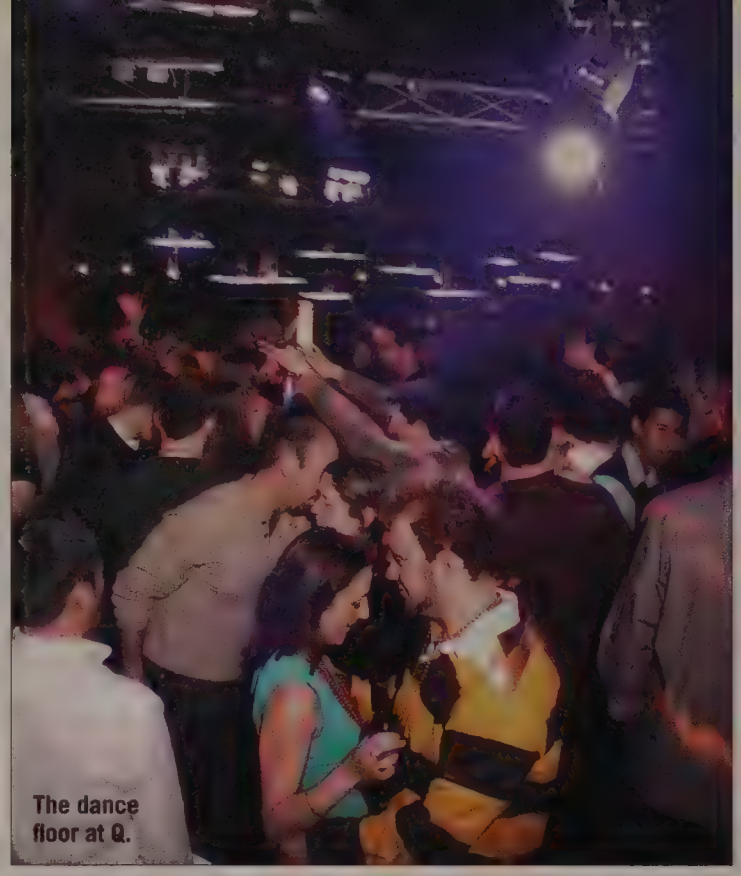
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.
Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.
SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.
Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11pm, $15, 19+.
Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.
Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.
The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old school and dance hall, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ Peter Winfrey spins old-school and acid jazz, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
Boston rock station WAAF hosts a night of dancing and rock with DJ Jay Ferrera, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new-wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam2 present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.
Felt
DJ Bells spins a mix of house, lounge and dance in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Harp
• April 18, The Zoo performs live, 10pm, $10, 21+.
• April 25, Live music with Peatmoss, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Tom Connors spins, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.
La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10pm-2am, 21+.
Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+.
Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.


The dance floor at Q.

The Palace
•The Male Encounter New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. **•Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. **•Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. **•Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live. •April 18, Stratejacket, Spyndakit, Purg D.I., Drinkfist, Red Mercury and Sweatpant Boners perform, 9pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •April 25, T House of the Almighty, Project 86, Savin Grey, Tunnel Drill, Changing Skin and Sweatpant Boners perform, 9pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. **•Uptown** DJ Freddy C spins favorites from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. **•3am: The Ultimate After Party** DJ Chaos and Osheen spin in the hip-hop room, and guest DJs man the main floor, 3am-9am, $20, 18+.
Parris
• April 18, The Catunes perform live, 10pm, cover varies, 21+. • April 25, Live music by Flavor, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm.
Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9pm.
The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement, 7-10pm. DJ Johnny C, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.
Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10pm, no cover, 19+.
RiverGods
Up Beat, Down Tempo DJs Al Haney and Tony Fishel pump it up, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night full of hot Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.
SW1
DJ Littles, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9pm, 21+.
Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Blue Cat Café
DJ KC spins a combo of acid jazz and lounge house, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Boston Rocks
DJs host a night of dancing to top-40 and rock music, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.
Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.
Felt
DJ Roland spins the latest dance and house in this billiards and lounge spot, proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.
The Harp
• April 19, The Zoo performs live, 10pm, $10, 21+.
• April 26, Live music with Peatmoss, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while DJ O'Toole brings the music downstairs with top-40, 10pm, 21+.
La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 hos a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.
Level
•Red Square DJ Albertik spins Russian and interna tional music on the third floor, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+ **•Suspended Saturdays** DJ P Diddy spins main stream international music on the fourth and fift floors, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+.
Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while th back room features dance favorites from the '80s an '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.
Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz move the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats 10pm, $7.
The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15 19+.
The Palace
•Club Copa Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance musi and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D proper dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. **•The Male Encounte** New England's longest-running all-male dance re view, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $15, 19+ no cover 21+. **•Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 an hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+ **•Rio** DJs spin hip hop, top 40, dance, techno and reg gae for the under 21 crowd, 7-11pm, $14; DJ Donni Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian at mosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. **•Sober Satur days** Boston's only alcohol-free nightclub pump '70s, '80s, '90s and top-40, $15, 18+. **•Uptown** D Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90 proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.
Parris
• April 19, The Catunes perform live, 10pm, cove varies, 21+. • April 26, Live music by Flavor, 10pm cover varies, 21+.
Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, prope dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Josh Hall spins the groove, 10pm. • April 5, Liv music with the Marcels, 10pm, $5, 21+. • April 12 Brick Park Performs, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.
The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host th dance party, 8pm, 21+, no cover.
RiverGods
Easy Does It DJs Easy and Goodwood spin soft '70 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno 10pm, $15, 21+.
711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and internation music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover befor 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengu while a Latin band plays on the first floor and D Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floo 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the fron room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites i the white room, 10pm, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+
SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70 funk, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antab and Gamble spin international house and hip-hop 11pm, 19+.
Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house i the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-ho in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk an top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

The Place

WHERE PEOPLE MEET

Boston Chamber of Commerce enjoys Customer Appreciation party

AFTER WORK

CYPCO enjoys a fundraiser

AT NIGHT,

WBZ Anchor Shelli Lockhart Marathon Fundraiser for American Liver Foundation

We Celebrated Our 2nd Birthday on April 8th!

THE BEST ATTRACTION IS OUR CUSTOMERS...

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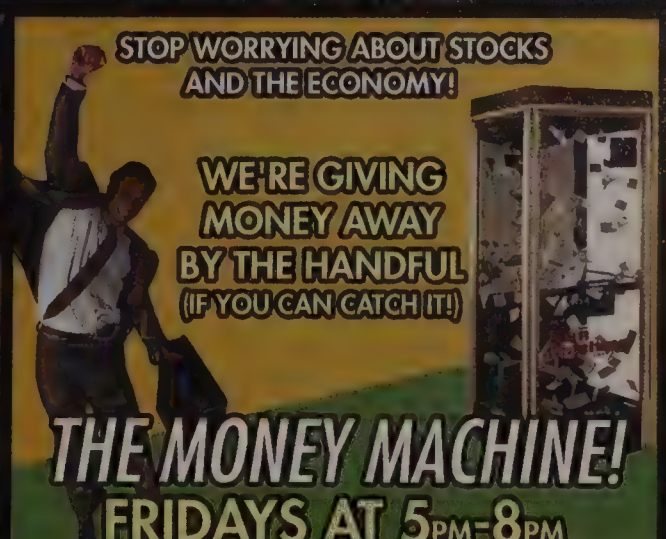
FRIDAY AFTER WORK



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SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Blue Cat Café
DJ Armen spins acid-jazz lounge, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a Sunday night of electric dance, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes on the third floor while DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Parris
• April 20, Entrain performs live, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 9pm-2am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•Lumen Eclipse Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30pm, 21+. **•Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge Feel the vibe, 10pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City Imagine yourself in the Caribbean, dancing to world beats spun by DJ Derrick—proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Blue Cat Café *94 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-247-9922).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officer's Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-2448-9900).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699)*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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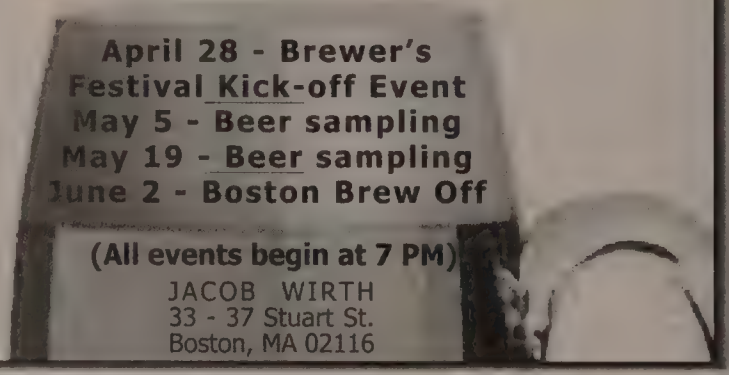

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APRIL 25-26 — KEVIN POLLAK
APRIL 26TH — DEAN EDWARDS

MAY 2-3 — BBY COLLINS
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art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Byzantine Women and Their World* displays collected objects and images from the Byzantine era. Through April 27. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* depicts India as the British saw it through documentary photographs, paintings and other period artwork. Through May 25.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm.* •Words on Fire, an eight-week, multi-site festival celebrating freedom of expression, presents three exhibits at the BPL through May 11: *Writer's Block*, an installation by Sheryl Oring, features more than 500 pre–World War II typewriters in 16 metal cages; *Black Books: The First African American Authors* looks at influential black authors; and Susan Erony and Erika Marquardt collaborate on *A Meeting of Minds*, an installation exploring Jewish and German cultures in pre-war Germany. •*An Education in Craftsmanship: New Work from the North Bennet Street School* displays students' furniture and crafts. Through May 11.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows include Italian and African art. •*Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon and the Victor Weeps*, a show of three photographic installations, captures life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan. Through June 8. •*The Space Between: Artists Engaging Race and Syncretism* explores the African diaspora through the work of several artists. Through June 8. •*Bridging the Border: Shared Themes in Mexican and U.S. Art 1900-1950* shows through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*Tools as Art* is a collection of artists' works incorporating everyday tools. Through May 25. •*The Pig Wings Project* displays sculpture made from actual pig tissue through May 25. •*Street Portraits, 1946-1976: The Photographs of Jules Aarons* displays through May 25. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through August 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down*, a 40-foot relief of a tree, shows through August 31. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II*, the DeCordova's sequel to last-year's collection of landscapes, shows through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10am-6pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*Fire Upon the Hearth: A Celebration of Irish American Women* celebrates the lives and work of several New Englanders, including Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Through April 30.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* displays through May 4. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows through July 6. •*Christopher Wilmarth: Drawing into Sculpture* looks at how drawings inspired the artist's glass and steel sculptures. Through June 29. •*Kandinsky in 1914* shows April 19-July 13. •*Jean Fautrier 1898-1964* displays April 26-July 20.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, including more than 830 plant species, by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through September 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines.

Jose Goncalves' *Marlene* displays in *Fragmentos* at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery through April 27.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Carsten Höller: Half Fiction,* the first stateside solo exhibition by Belgian-born artist Carsten Höller, includes one of his interactive, two-floor slide sculptures, which visitors can slide down to reach the gallery. Through April 27. •*Building a Vision: Diller + Scofidio in Boston* is a preview of the models for the ICA's new waterfront location, which is set to begin construction in September. Through April 27.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, manuscripts, rare books and furniture and decorative pieces and includes works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. April 23-Aug. 21. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in *Madam I'm Adam*, the Gardner's first Web exhibition. April 26-May 11.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •*Steven Holl: Light, Material and Detail* surveys the work of one of the most acclaimed contemporary architects. Through April 16. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •The exhibit *18th-Century French Art Featuring the Swan Collection* is the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Art in Bloom 2003* features more than 60 New England garden clubs and floral experts showcasing flower arrangements. April 27-29. Tickets required. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative art collection from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through September 21.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant *T. rex*. Ongoing. •*Invention at Play* explores the skills children develop during playtime activities. Through April 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •*Final Exposure: Death Row Portraits*, photographs by Lou Jones, shows with Keith Washington's *At Our Gates: American Landscapes*. Through July 6.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through August 30.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm and Sat., 12-5pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries
FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acfineart.com. *Tue.-Fri., 10:30-5:30; Sat., 11am-5,* •Robert Preusser's watercolors and casein paintii show through May 10.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). ww alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Cop Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •Jill Solomc ceramic sculptures show in *Saggar Fired Cl* Through April 27.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alp gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. T Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Gideon Bok's work show *Studio Paintings.* Through April 30.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ar gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-S 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Joanne Mattera shows work in *New Paintings in Encaustic.* Through April 2

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (617-5 6676). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9 6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •The gallery features contem rary Chinese prints. Through April 21.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth Floor, Boston (617-262-44 www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: G Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Sc Hadfield's work shows in a self-titled exhibiti Through April 23. •Bill Thompson displays w in *Roundabout*. April 26-May 28.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: ange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •Frec Brice presents his large-scale images of ships, int ors, animals and clocks. Through April 26.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-247 www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Li Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •*Pierogi Prese The Best of Brooklyn Comes to Boston* features the w of 12 artists from Brooklyn's Pierogi gall Through May 10.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). w brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm an appointment.* •*Collaborations*, an exhibition of col orative artwork by New England artists, featu printmaking, painting and drawing installati Through May 10.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). w brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-4* •Stephen Black's sculptures show in *Coastal Con tions* and Isabella Frost's fabric collages displa *Italian Memories.* Through May 2.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www. cusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Mon.-I 9:30am-5:30pm.* •Gerald Rhodes shows painti drawings and collages in *Further Along*. Through 15. •Stephanie Maria shows her mixed-media pa ings in *American Patterns: Methods of Dominion.* Thro May 16.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MB Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; S 12-11:30pm. •Abstract expressionist Beauford laney displays his art in *The Color Yellow.* Thro May 4.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.c pellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arling Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* • *Perspectives*, a group show of glass artists from N Zealand, displays through May 10.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). w chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. M Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Babs Kletter's la scapes and Michael Zigmond's new paintings play through April 26.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.cl gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •*The Age of Napoleon* tures period pieces by various artists. Also, French l century landscapes and the works of Sally Michel a display. Through May 3.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Third Floor, Boston (617-(0255). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Me Center. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm. •Jeff Konigsb

-ints show in *Sample Hold* and Dread Scott's black-nd- white portraits of prison inmates show in *Lock-wn.* Through April 26. •Diana Shpungin and icole Engelmann's digital video installation dis-ays April 29-May24.

opley Society
58 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.cop lysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 0:30am-5:30pm.* •New England artists display their ork in *Manifest 2003: A Juried Exhibition of Visual rt in Digital Media.* Through May 10.

rump Gallery
22 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: d Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •An exhi-tion of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and orman Crump is ongoing.

yansen Gallery
32A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www. ansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. on.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. d Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing hibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture plus rks by Alexandra Nechita.

clipse Gallery
54 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: reen Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free. David Thompson's color photographs display in *he Prodigal Summer.* Through May 3.

08 Gallery
ston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-29). MBTA: Green Line to B.U. West. Mon.-Fri., m-6pm; Sat., 12-6pm; Sun., 10am-5pm. •The School the Museum of Fine Arts presents a *Graphic Design hibition*, a student show. Through May 4.

las Fine Art
0 Braintree St., Allston (617-783-1888). MBTA: B reen Line to Harvard Ave. Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm, and by bointment. •*Impressions of a Revolution: New Prints* atures works by Willie Cole, Ann Hamilton, kashi Murakami, Sigmar Polke, Kara Walker and hers. Through April 26.

quator Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: reen Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-t., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery spe-lizes in Latin American fine art, including paint-gs, textiles and ceramics.

alerie d'Orsay
Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www. lerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. on.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing ex-bition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from e 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, sarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

e Gallery at Black and White
5 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). BTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to ss. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10am-5pm. •Paula Rendino entz's photographs show in *Mudras: The Language he Hand.* Through May 30.

llery @ Green Street
1 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). w.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Tue., 6-9pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9pm, Fri. and Sat., -5pm.* •*Works on Paper* features the work of nielle Dwyer, L. Michael Ledbetter and Suzannah clair. Through April 26. •Bikes Not Bombs pre-its *Artbike*, an exhibition of antique and contem-rary bikes. April 29-May 3.

llery NAGA
Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www. gallery ga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., m-5:30pm.* •Yizhak Elyashiv's recent prints show ough April 26.

novese/Sullivan Gallery
Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-, 10:30am-5:30pm. •Matt Aharle's sculpture ws in *New Works.* Through April 30.

bb Gallery
lington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington 1-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-n.* •Jonathan Singer shows his work in *Digital nts.* Through June 6.

ley & Steele
Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haley ele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., m-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The lery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique nts. Ongoing.

llSpace
Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hall ce.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-n.* •Barry Hazard's paintings display through y 10.

ward Yezerski Gallery
Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www. wardyezerskigallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-0pm.* •Paul Shakespear shows his new paintings in lf-titled show. Through April 22. •Frank Nolker shows his portraits of chimpanzees in *Portraits* and Kelly Heaton's *Dead Pelt* is a furry pelt installation. April 25-May 27.

Gerald Rhodes' works, including *Lady in Red*, show at the Cambridge Multicultural Art Center through May 15.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www. internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-6pm. •Brazilian artist Jose Goncalves' *Fragmentos* shows through April 27. •David Small shows his electronic book installations in *Videospace 4*. April 19-May 4.

Judy Ann Goldman Fine Art
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-8468). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm. •Sculpture by Doug Bosch and photograms by Kunie Sugiura show through April 26.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •*Dot Exhibition: Study of Elements*, a collection of watercolors, shows through May 1.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm.* •*Interiors/Exteriors*, a juried show of abstract work, displays through April 29.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* • Acrylic-on-cardboard paintings by Ann Strassman show through April 27. •Cheryl Simeone displays her abstract paintings April 29-May 25.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Photography by Mike Kolster and mixed-media art by Hillary Tolan show through April 26. •New paintings by Barbara Moody display with Tammy Medros' new work, April 29-May 24.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Sculpting the Wall* is an exhibition of artful wall decoration by artists Roger Thomas, Susan Hersey and Steve Lohman. Through April 30.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12pm-6pm; Fri., 12pm-8pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm. •Five artists display media work in *Just Stand There*, and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's short video, *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex*, screens. Through July 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markart-gallery. com. *Wed. and Fri., 4-7pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Shaun MacDavid and Peter Arvidson's oil and mixed-media work display through May 9.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercury gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Alchemy: Collage and Mixed Media Paintings*, a group show, displays through April 30.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblock-gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30pm.* •Mimi Moncier's *Recent Paintings* shows through May 6.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5pm; Fri.and Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Info@blah: Organization and Overload*, a group show, displays through May 11.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www. mobius.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm.* •*The Banished Body*, puppeteering by Julia Szabo, takes place through April 19. •*My Sister in Kazakhstan*, an installation by Margaret B. Tittemore, shows April 23-May 24. •*The Book Reconsidered* shows in conjunction with the Boston Cyber Arts Festival, April 26-May 17.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •Gail Bessette displays her new work through May 4.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11am-4pm and by appointment. •*Expressions of Fear and Human Consciousness* features the paintings and drawings of Tyson Schroeder. Through May 3.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). Tue.-Sun., 11am-6pm. •*Take Home the Next Homer*, a group show of oils, watercolors, photography, digital work and sculpture, displays through May 11.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www. nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Christopher Wilmarth showcases his work in *Gift of the Bridge: Related Drawings and Sculpture*. Through May 3.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Elizabeth Marran's digital prints show in *Blue Rapunzel Series*. Through April 26.

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., Boston (617-542-6983). www.onigallery.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. Wed.-Sun., 2-8pm and by appointment.* •*Kut Paper* includes works by Daniel Dueck, Sam Lewit and Michelle Weinberg. Through May 11.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6pm.* •*Out of the Blue Sixth Anniversary Art Show* features work from more than 50 local artists. Through April 30.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www. puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Werner Tübke shows his work in *Mysteries of the Real* and Friedensreich Hundertwasser displays his work in *Paradise*. Through May 13.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www. robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm.* •Bruce Davidson shows his work. Through May 10.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Works by Picasso and Sonia Delaunay show in *Images*. Through May 3.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www. societyofcrafts.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •*Jewelry Hard and Soft*, a group show of international artists and craftsmen, shows through April 27.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). Wed.-Sat., 12-6; Sun., 1-5; Tue., by appointment. MBTA: Red Line to Davis. •A memorial exhibition of local artist Hannah Kerstein's work displays through April 27.

Space 12 Gallery
12 Union Park St., Boston (617-423-9760). www.space12gallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-9pm; Wed., 12-9pm.* •Kenny Mac displays drawings and sculptures made from wood and clay through April 26.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •*Omnibus*, a group show of urban and rural landscapes, displays through May 15.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 8:30-1pm. •Robert Castagna, Arthur Freedman, Peter Kilbridge and Michael Larson display their work in *Street Shots*. Through April 25.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www. vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •*Vose Art Notes Vol. 11*, a selection of works by several artists, shows through April 30.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-4030). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am- 5:30pm, and by appointment. •Deborah Davidson's acrylic-on-vellum images display in *Glyphs* through May 10.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7pm.* •*The Renewed Burden of Photography: Telling the Truth* features the work of Howard Dinin and Steve Lipsey. Through April 18.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Ronald Cowie's *To the West: Dreams* shows through April 18. •Janet Koenig Picinich's *Landscapes of My Mind* shows April 21-May 23.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www. panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm.* •Jane Tuckerman displays her photographs. Through May 17.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.prc boston.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford.* •*Robert Arnold: New Media Work*, a video art installation, shows April 25-May 4.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Brookline Booksmith
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6pm. $2.* Local author **Dennis Lehane** discusses his new novel, *Shutter Island,* in which two U.S. marshals investigate the escape of a criminally insane patient.

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *6:30pm. Free.* Local writers and personalities read from **Michael Bronski**'s book *Pulp Friction: Uncovering the Golden Age of Gay Male Pulps.* Gay pulp novels are chronicled, from the angst-ridden style of the 1940s to the more outrageous content of recent years.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* Former U.S. poet laureate **Robert Pinsky** discusses his book *Democracy, Culture and the Voice of Poetry*, in which he makes a case for poetry's role in a democratic society.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Adam Mansbach** reads from *Shackling Water,* his novel about a young saxophone prodigy living alone in Manhattan who is forced to confront his past.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Pam Lassiter** leads a discussion about her book *The New Job Security: Five Strategies to Take Control of Your Career*, which contains advice from executive career management consultants.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* Physicist **Chet Raymo** discusses his book *The Path: A One-Mile Walk Through the Universe,* a look at ecology, geology, nature and DNA inspired by the author's daily one-mile walk to and from work.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Gioia Diliberto** speaks about her novel *I Am Madame X*, inspired by the life of Virginie Gatreau, the subject of John Singer Sargent's portrait Madame X. After the reading attendees can join the author for a free pint at Ariadne Restaurant.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* **Kate Phillips** discusses *Helen Hunt Jackson: A Literary Life,* a biography of the novelist, travel writer and essayist.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., Boston (617-542-6983). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 8pm. $5. The Perpetual Motion Road Show, a North American tour of independent writers and spoken word artists, comes to Boston with cartoonist **Marc Ngui**, author of the Bumblenut series; **Corey Frost**, author of *My Own Devices*; *Other Magazine* publisher **Charlie Anders**; and **Toni Amato**, contributor to *Genderqueer.*

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Steve Almond** reads from *My Life in Heavy Metal: Stories*, a collection of 12 short stories that focus on relationships between young men and women.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Barnes and Noble Prudential Center
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-247-1914). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 2-5pm. Free. Local authors sign their books in a celebration of Patriots Day. In her book, *From Apple Pie to Pad Thai: Four Centuries of Neighborhood Cooking North of Boston,* **Linda Bassett** details the history of the immigrant populations in North Boston and reveals recipes from each culture. In his book *Revolutionary Boston, Lexington and Concord: The Shots Heard 'Round the World*, physician and historian **Dr. Joseph L. Andrews** writes about the early days of the American Revolution and historical sites to see in Boston today. In *Mountain Bike America: Boston*, **Jeff Cutler** describes mountain bike paths in the Greater Boston area.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free.* **Leslie Epstein** reads from his new book, *San Remo Drive: A Novel from Memory*, a coming-of-age story based on the author's life.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
Adams House, Entry C, Lower Common Room, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (617-547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $3.50. **Stuart Dischell** reads from his new poetry collection, *Dig Safe.*

Harvard Book Store
Harvard Holyoke Center, 1350 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* Author and social activist **Todd Gitlin** speaks about his book *Letters to a Young Activist*, in which he looks back at his life and encourages young activists to ponder the dilemmas facing those who want to initiate change.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Daniel Levitas** discusses *The Terrorist Next Door: The Militia Movement and the Radical Right*, a history of domestic right-wing hate groups in America.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Barry Gifford** reads from *The Rooster Trapped in the Reptile Room: The Barry Gifford Reader*. The anthology is a sampling of Gifford's work, including short fiction, poetry, memoir, novel and screenplay excerpts and an interview.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Borders Cambridgeside Galleria
CambridgeSide Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.borders.com. *7pm. Free.* **Debbie Macomber** signs copies of her novel *Changing Habits*, the story of three women who join, and then leave, an order of nuns.

Boston Playwright's Theatre
949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-7135). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. 7:30pm. Free. AGNI Magazine celebrates the publication of *AGNI 57*, editor **Sven Birkerts**' inaugural issue. Contributing writers **Harvey Blume**, **David Ferry**, **Rosanna Warren** and **Lisa Haines** read selections from their work.

Cantab Lounge: Boston Poetry Slam
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 9:30pm, $3. Poet **Michael Brown** reads and signs copies of his two new books: *Susquehanna* and *The Man Who Makes Amusement Rides.*

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* **William Dalrymple** discusses his new book, *White Mughals: Love and Betrayal in Eighteenth-Century India*, a true story of an 18th-century British officer who had an affair with an Indian woman and converted to Islam.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Nathan Gebhard** and **Michael Marriner**, the authors of *Roadtrip Nation: A Guide to Discovering Your Path in Life,* discuss their book, which describes their travels across the country interviewing people who have successfully defined their unique paths in life.

Newtonville Books Reading Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Sue Miller** reads from *The Story of My Father: A Memoir,* in which the author recalls her father's battle with Alzheimer's disease.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Mark Costello** reads from his novel, *Big If*, a story of Secret Service agents guarding the vice president as he enters the Democratic primary elections.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Boston *Globe* sports cartoonist **Larry Johnson** shows his book *Honey I'm Home,* a collection of cartoons, geared toward suffering Red Sox fans, marking negative moments in team history.

Dani Shapiro

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free.* In *Family History*, **Dani Shapiro** writes about a woman who has the perfect marriage and family life but then faces tragedy when her infant son is injured.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* **Douglass Shand-Tucci** discusses his new book, *The Crimson Letter: Harvard, Homosexuality, and the Shaping of American Culture*, a collection of history, criticism and gossip focusing on famed gay Harvard students from Ralph Waldo Emerson to Henry James.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us *7:30pm, Free.* **Elisabeth Gitter** speaks about *The Imprisoned Guest: Samuel Howe and Laura Bridgman, the Original Deaf-Blind Girl.* The biography tells the story of a girl who gained fame for triumphing over her disabilities, but whose story was overshadowed by that of Helen Keller and largely forgotten.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Jennifer Haigh** reads from her novel *Mrs. Kimble*, in which three different women who successively marry the same man discover the truth about him. After the reading attendees can join the author for a free pint at Ariadne Restaurant.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. **Matthew Delaney** reads from *JINN: A Novel*, in which two police detectives investigate a series of murders in Boston. At 7pm, **Madhulika S. Khandelwal** discusses *Becoming American, Being Indian: An Immigrant Community in New York City*, which looks at the surge of Indian immigrants in the United States since the 1960s and the metamorphosis of this ethnic community in Manhattan and Queens.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
Adams House, Entry C, Lower Common Room, 26 Plympton St., Cambridge (617-547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $3.50. **Peter Jay Shippy** reads from his debut poetry collection, *Thieves' Latin.*

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* Author **Michael Albert** discusses *Parecon: Life After Capitalism*, in which he suggests a potential solution to the various problems of capitalism: "Participatory Economics."

Pandemonium Books
36 JFK Street, Cambridge (617-547-3721). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. New York Times–bestselling author **Elaine Cunningham** signs copies of her new novel, *Windwalker*, the third in the *Starlight and Shadows* trilogy.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Barnes and Noble Prudential Center
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-247-1914). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 2-4pm. Free. **John E. Mitchell** and **Jana Christy Mitchell** sign copies of their book, *Four Go Mad in Massachusetts: Adventures with the Mitchell Family from Boston to the Berkshires*, which details the authors' travels around Massachusetts with their twin sons.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop
6 Plympton St., Cambridge (617-547-4648). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30pm, Free. Wheaton College professor **Sue Standing** reads from her new collection of poetry, *False Horizon.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Cambridge Center for Adult Education Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.ccae.org. *8:15pm, $3.* **Cynthia Huntington** reads from her new book of poems, *The Radiant.* She is joined by **Mary Ruefle**, author of *Am the Musk Ox People*, a collection of poe

MONDAY, APRIL 28

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambri (617-491-2660). MBT Red Line to Porter. 6pm. **Stephen Booth** signs copie *Blood on the Tongue*, in whic series of murders forces two lice detectives to work toget despite personal differenc Also, **Cara Black** reads fr *Murder in the Bastille*, in whic woman attempts to discover her attacker's iden after his assault leaves her blind.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Bos (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green L to Copley. 6pm. Free.* **Michael C. Keith** reads from memoir *The Next Better Place: A Father and Son on Road*, which recounts his adventures as a boy tra ing cross-country with his alcoholic father.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-66 www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Li Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free.* **Alan Chong** speaks about book he co-edited, *Eye of the Beholder: Masterpieces from Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum*, the official book of museum's 100th anniversary celebration.

Harvard Graduate School of Educati
Longfellow Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambr (617-496-1835). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 Free. Former UCLA professor of European hist **Lauro Martines** speaks about his latest book, *A Blood: Florence and the Plot Against the Medici*, a st of the assassination of Lorenzo de Medici in century Florence and the surrounding events.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **G Shteyngart** reads from *The Russian Debuta Handbook*, his novel about a Russian-Ameri immigrant who seeks to fulfill his dreams, and e up learning what it means to be an outside America. Patrons can join the author for a pin Ariadne Restaurant following the reading.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **David Rivard**, poetry ed at *The Harvard Review*, and *Ploughshares* contribu **Peter Richards** read their poems.

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-3 2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Ev Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a po slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-20 MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear w other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level tw

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MB Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7:30pm; poetry 9pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays backgro tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBT Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and ken word is performed one Monday a month. The formers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. E Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place or fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambr (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Cen 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston , 10-24 School St., Boston (617- 4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown C ing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each m offers a selection of featured poets and an opportu at the open mike.

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*Opening Night at Pops**

MAY 7 Wednesday 8pm
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Join Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops for a Boston Spring tradition as they celebrate the opening of the 118th Spring Pops season featuring vocalist **Patti Austin** and trumpet virtuoso **Byron Stripling** recreating famous duets of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. The evening kicks off with *The Star-Spangled Banner*, followed by a Pops tribute to Harry Ellis Dickson, and more.

*Opening Night ticket prices: $150, $130, $95, $75 (*includes pre-concert reception*)

MAY 8 Thursday 8pm
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Enjoy music of legendary songwriter Carole King, plus "All That Jazz" from the movie *Chicago*, "The Boston Pops March," and Christopher Rouse's *The Nevill Feast*, a new Pops commission recalling the great celebratory feasts of the Middle Ages with a rock-and-roll twist.

MAY 11 Sunday 3pm▲
MAY 18 Sunday 3pm
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Bruce Hangen, conductor
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MAY 25 Sunday 3pm
An American Salute
Keith Lockhart, conductor
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

The Biggest Boston Project in Over a Century

Museum of Fine Arts, 295 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306. www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to MFA. 7pm. $13.* **E. Fred Yalouris**, director of architecture and urban design for the Central Artery Project, will discuss behind-the-scenes architecture and design issues related to the Big Dig.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Behind Your Cup of Coffee

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 10:30am. $2. **Rodney North** of the local coffee and tea company Equal Exchange will take listeners inside the world of one of the largest international commodities.

The Life and Artistry of Edward Hopper

West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St., Boston (617-523-3957). www.bpl.org. *6:30 p.m.* During this lecture/slide presentation, art historian **Gershon Weisenberg** will discuss the paintings and technique of Edward Hopper.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Some Verdi Heroines

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Cronkhite Graduate Center, 6 Ash St., Cambridge (617-495-8608). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4pm. Free. Musicologist, critic and professor emeritus of music at the University of California at Berkeley **Joseph Kerman** explores a selection of Giuseppe Verdi's operas that were composed after Verdi began living with singer Giuseppina Strepponi, his future wife.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

China: A Future Democracy?

Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6pm. Free. **Thomas Christensen**, professor of political science at MIT, and **Dwight Perkins**, professor of political economy and director of the Asia Center at Harvard University, will lead a discussion on China's development and international relations.

An Evening with Steve McCurry

Boston University, Law Auditorium, 765 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. 6pm. $10. Renowned photographer **Steve McCurry** shares experiences from his career that resulted in numerous photo credits in *National Geographic* and a Magazine Photographer of the Year award from the National Press Photographers Association.

The Search for Dinosaur Origins of Birds in Asia

Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. $10.* **Mark Norell**, chair of paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History, has made some of science's most important fossil discoveries, including the first embryo of a theropod dinosaur, the first brooding dinosaur and the first description of dinosaurs with feathers. He'll speak in conjunction with the exhibition *Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests and Young.*

A Seminar with Jacques Pépin

Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). www.bu.edu/lifelong. *MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. 6-9pm. $45.* Chef **Jacques Pépin** describes how he became a world-famous chef, beginning with an apprenticeship at age 13. **Stephen Meuse**, wine columnist for the *Boston Globe*, will discuss Pépin's career and the role he has played in redefining American food.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Schools and Society: Reinventing Public Education

Cambridge Forum, First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. Massachusetts State Representative **Jay Kaufman** argues that we need to change our thinking about the mission, governance, structure and funding of a transformed public school system, and raises questions about how to effect meaningful change.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Business Leaders Forum

Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-670-1196). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:15-10am. $85. This year's discussion focuses on globalization in the world marketplace and its impact on business today. Speakers include **Brian Collins**, creative director for the Brand Integration Group of Ogilvy & Mather New York; **Fiona Wilson**, international marketing professor at Simmons College School of Management; and **Stephen Miles**, business analyst at Heidrick & Struggles and co-editor of the book *Leaders Talk Leadership.*

Why a National ID Is Bad for the U.S.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789x1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 10:30am. $2. **Richard Sobel** explores the concept of a national ID and discusses the relationship between citizens and government.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Dante Fest

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 11:30am-4pm.* Dante Fest concludes with a day of dramatic readings and performances in the galleries. **John Freccero**, professor of Italian and comparative literature at New York University, leads a discussion of *Inferno*'s last chapter, "the Ninth (and Final) Circle of Hell."

Dare to Dream

World Trade Center, Northern Ave., Boston (617-521-3858). www.simmons.edu/leadership. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 8am-6:45pm. $445.* This leadership conference for women will feature Enron whistleblower **Sherron Watkins**; **Anita Hill**, the lawyer who nearly derailed Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court nomination and brought workplace sexual harassment to the forefront of national discussion; actress-photojournalist **Candice Bergen**; broadcast journalist **Barbara Walters**; and scientist **Jane Goodall**, who laid the groundwork for primate studies when she became one of the first female scientists to venture into the wilds of Africa. All proceeds from the conference will support scholarships to the Simmons School of Management.

Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation—A Symposium

Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-5152). 9:30am-1pm. panel of thinkers in the fields of art and health spe about the arts as an agent for healing and an essential e ment of public health. Speakers include playwright a actress **Anna Deavere Smith**; **Herbert Benson**, founde the Mind/Body Medical Institute; **Deborah Prothro Stith**, professor and dean at the Harvard School of Pub Health; and **Ernesto Neto**, a Brazilian artist.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

The B Minor Mass: A Living Document

Bethel AME Church, 215 Forest Hills St., Jama Plain (617-267-6502). www.cantatasingers.o *3:30pm. Free.* As prelude to the Cantata Singers' M 9 and 11 performances of Bach's masterpiece at t New England Conservatory, music director **Da Hoose** discusses the piece and its power to move p formers and audience alike.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

Climate Change and the History of Water on Mars

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Askwith Lect Hall, Longfellow Hall, Appian Way, Cambridge (6 495-8600). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. 4 Free. Join a lecture on the mysteries of the red pla led by Radcliffe Institute fellow and MIT professo geophysics and planetary sciences **Maria T. Zuber**.

Effective Environmental Choices for Consumers

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-7 1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *7pm. Free.* **Wart Leon**, executive director of the Northeast Sustaina Energy Association, discusses how people can most fectively help improve the environment based on th everyday choices.

Race and Presidential Politics

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Po Boston (617-514-1643). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBT Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30pm. Free. Reservations quired.* Former Democratic presidential nomi **Michael Dukakis**, Harvard sociologist **Michael Daw** and author **Jeremy Meyer** discuss the role of race in p and future presidential elections.

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CLUBS, BARS & HANGOUTS

ria (Wednesdays)
46 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: ed or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins rogressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night ay and lesbian dance party. 10pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 r 21+.

valon (Sundays)
5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: reen Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have anked out Sunday night parties for the boys of oston, featuring three separate dance floors and ale dancers. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 0pm, $15, 21+.

xis (Mondays)
3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: reen Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a rag show and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. n amateur drag show is held the last Monday of very month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

uzz (Saturdays)
7 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). MBTA: Green ine to Boylston. •On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance oors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance nd DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—a ool room and a lounge keep the men busy until at least m. 10pm, $10, 21+.

ityGirl Caffé (Daily)
04 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). BTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am-9pm; Sat., 0am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) id-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and op-ated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging d sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

lub Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
09 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.ubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 1:30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* This uth End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and un-trusive music in the front room or video entertain-ent in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join J Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays, VJ m Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic usic videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with J Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

edo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
0 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). BTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay owd frequents this bar to check out clips from the lat-t music videos as well as classic movies—compiled by e bar's own VJ. Downstairs is Jacques. No cover, 21+.

agle (Daily)
20 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., m-2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Or-ge Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighbor-od bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

itz Lounge (Daily)
Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Or-ge Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12pm-2am; Sat. and n., 10:30am-2am. The folks here are really endly—and really into sports. DirecTV is set up th screens scattered about and Fritz is home base to a ftball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 30pm on weekends.

eoffrey's Café-Bar (Daily)
0 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). MBTA: reen Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-1am daily; bar n until 1am. This full-service restaurant offers a full r and mid-priced bistro fare. Breakfast is served ily until 3pm.

ollywood at the Ekco Lounge aturdays)
Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). MBTA: Orange ne to Chinatown. 10pm-2am. This lesbian bar has o floors with go-go girls and live music all night. ,21+.

cques Cabaret (Daily)
Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green ne to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd d mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and . feature live music. •Sun. and Mon.: Cabaret drag w. 10pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. •Tue., u.: Avalon bartender "Miss Kris" performs. 10pm, -$8. •Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" pro-ced by Diamond Dunhill. 10pm, $5.

The cabaret show *What's UR Fantasy?* is at the Footlight Club April 25-27.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Tues.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite. •Thu.: Catch karaoke and live music at the ongoing Machine concert series. 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+. •Fri.: Best Night Out. NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine. DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9pm-2am; Thu. and Fri., 9pm-2am; Sat., 10pm-2am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt, featuring DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Mothra spinning goth, synthpop and electro-industrial. 18+. •Thu.: Campus, a predominantly male night when DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen take over. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Five different rotating events and themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: DJ Chris Ewen and DJ Gary Conzo spin new wave and disco trash. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. 9pm, $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland with live entertainment, including Drag Bingo, spoken word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Circuit Girl presents a night of dance and house music by resident DJ Kris Kono. Andara and Chris man the first- and second-floor bars, and partygoers can play pool and video games. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor is open Thu.-Sat. featuring top-40 tunes. 7pm, no cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue.: Spice 4 Life with DJ Afrodite. •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Daily)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge, with DJ Michael. No cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adielson. 19+. •Thu.: Mocca Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B and hip-hop. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: Dance party with DJ Jay Ine.

BOOKS

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people. •April 16, 6:30pm. Free. Local writers and personalities read from **Michael Bronski**'s book *Pulp Friction: Uncovering the Golden Age of Gay Male Pulps*, which chronicles gay pulp novels from the 1940s through the post-Stonewall era.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events. •April 18, 7:30 pm. $5. **New Voices Open Mike** is a literary open mike for women.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

SHOWS & EVENTS

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus Children's Concert
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. April 26, 11am and 1pm. $15, $6 children. The BGMC celebrates diversity with a musical rendition of Tomie dePaola's book *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*, which confronts gender stereotypes and celebrates diversity.

Chiltern Mountain Club Sixth Annual Spring Activities Day
Borderland State Park, Easton (888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. *April 26, 9:30am-5pm. $3.* The Boston-based gay and lesbian outdoor recreation club celebrates its 25th anniversary with a day of hiking, biking and other activities. Games and an ice cream social close out the afternoon.

Fever! Spring Dance for Women
Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St. Winchester (781-648-0722). www.djdee.com. *April 19, 8pm, $10.* Ladies can dance all night to a mix of blues, disco, Latin and rock music courtesy of DJ Dee. Cash bar and light refreshments are available and guests are entertained by Boston's drag kings outfit, All the Kings Men.

12th Annual B&D Ball
ManRay, 21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 25, 9pm. $25. Playboy* cover girl and fetish model Dita Von Teese is mistress of ceremonies for ManRay's celebration of debauchery, rubber and whips. Revelers must look the part, too: Fetish attire is required.

What's UR Fantasy?
The Footlight Club, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-2321). MBTA: #39 Bus to Forest Hills. April 25 and 26, 8pm; April 27, 7pm. $15, $18 at the door. The new cabaret act from Mia Anderson's Drag Kings, Sluts & Goddesses troupe, *What's UR Fantasy?*, tackles the taboo subject of women's sexual fantasies. No erotic stone is left unturned in this 14-act production, which runs the gamut from voyeurism to polygamous relationships to office romance and phone sex.

ONGOING

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon-Thurs, 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create performances representing women's perspectives. E-mail *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, national hotline is confidential and provides information and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. A group for gay/bisexual fathers and their partners convenes the first and third Tuesday of each month.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians who want to get together and enjoy board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
A mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia at 617-482-1078.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Assets New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim team.

Meow_Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston/ This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: B or C Green Line to Washington St. 1st Saturday of each month. 8-9pm, lesson; 9-11:30pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

body&mind

Advice to Contributors Submit updated information by mail, by fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

EVENTS

Creating the Work You Love

Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (888-259-9191, ext.223). www.onenessproductions.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. April 26, 9am-4pm. $129.* Spend a day with Rick Jarow, Ph.D., founder of the Anti-Career workshops and author of *Creating the Work You Love*. Learn how to find inspiration, transform desires into action, create and receive support for your visions and get the motivation and discipline to develop your authentic vocation. He will also deal with the notion that you can support yourself financially as well as spiritually.

Earth Day Dance Vision Festival

Dance Vision Festival, 50 Glenwood Ave., Falmouth (508-495-3311). http://pages.prodigy.net/stevenmalkus1/earth.htm. *April 18-20. Festival is free. Performances are $12. Workshops are $30-60. Visit Web site for details.* All ages and abilities are invited to attend workshops and performances related to the ideas of dance as a form of spiritual expression and as a means to celebrate the planet. Experience Native American visioning, chanting, drumming and more. Festival events will be held at nearby dance studios, outdoor locations and at the Falmouth Unitarian Universalist Church.

LECTURES

Intro to Pranic Healing

Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101 or 877-787-3792). www.tsboston.org. *April 25, 6-8pm. $15.* This workshop introduces you to meditation and explains how Prana, or "life force," can heal physical, emotional and psychological conditions. The workshop will also teach you simple breathing exercises that increase and balance energy.

WORKSHOPS

Athlete Self-Care/Partner Care

Bailey Therapeutic Massage, 14 Nason St., Suite 201, Maynard (978-897-0110). http://web.maynard.ma.us/biz/bmassage. *April 27, 2-4:30pm. $40.* Learn easy and gentle techniques for maintaining healthy, flexible, pain-free joints and muscles while engaging in athletic activities. These techniques can be used alone or with a training partner. Suitable for all ages and levels.

Developing Body Awareness Workshop

Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. April 26, 10am-4pm. $55.* This workshop aims to deepen your understanding of the body through lecture, sitting meditation, movement exercises and discussion.

Freedom to Eat

All That Matters, 315 Main St., Wakefield, R.I. (401-782-2126). www.foodandhealing.com *or* www.allthatmatters.com. *April 25, 7:30-9:30pm, and April 26, 10am-4pm. $35 (Fri.), $125 (both days).* Author, scholar and holistic nutritionist Annemarie Colbin teaches about macronutrients, protein, carbohydrates and fat, the energy contained in food, what cravings tell you about nutritional needs and why it's useless to feel guilty about eating.

Get Free from Stress Through Yoga and Movement

Fitcorp, 1 Beacon St., Boston (617-970-5320). www.yogame.com. *April 29, 6:30-8:30pm. $45.* Stress is difficult to avoid and even harder to manage. In this workshop, you'll learn how to transform your reaction to stress. Learn how to identify the causes of stress, how to create relaxing environments, how to use journal writing as a tool and how to enjoy relaxing chakra meditation and gentle yoga.

Getting over Sugar Addiction

The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *April 26, 2-5pm. $35.* Do you skip meals and keep yourself going on sugar and carbohydrates instead? Sugar can be an addiction like coffee or cigarettes. Find out what could be triggering your cravings and how you can overcome the addiction. Sample some snacks that serve as healthy replacements.

Meditation for Real Life

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. April 24, 6:30-9:30pm. $39.* They say just five minutes a day of meditation can reduce stress and increase focus. This workshop offers easy meditation methods that use simple breathing and visualization techniques.

Mind, Body & Emotions: An Introduction to Integrated Awareness

Insight New England, 5 Chrysler Road, Natick (617-661-3414). www.mfourman.com. *April 29, 7-9pm. $5. Advance registration is required.* Explore the relationship between your mind, body and emotions. Bring any issue you are contemplating to the workshop and use the Map of Consciousness to discover what part of your body is central to sustaining and releasing the issue with which you are concerned.

Open Your Heart to Invite Miracles

Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *April 25, 7-8:45pm. $25.* Linda Baker is an author and registered psychiatric nurse who practices and teaches metaphysics and firewalking. At her workshop, learn to recognize old beliefs and habits and how these may be keeping you from living unencumbered. Baker will use a technique called hypnotherapy, which incorporates sound and energy to guide you into meditation and is designed to release old energy.

Paint Your Essence

Mary Kostman, 125 Eliot St., Brookline (617-731-9785). April 26 and May 3, 11am-1pm. $75 for one class, $130 for both. Preregistration required. Open to all levels. Tap into your creative sources through painting, meditation, movement and music. As your body relaxes, internal images may emerge that will help you create and learn more about yourself.

Personal Protection with Robert Bussey

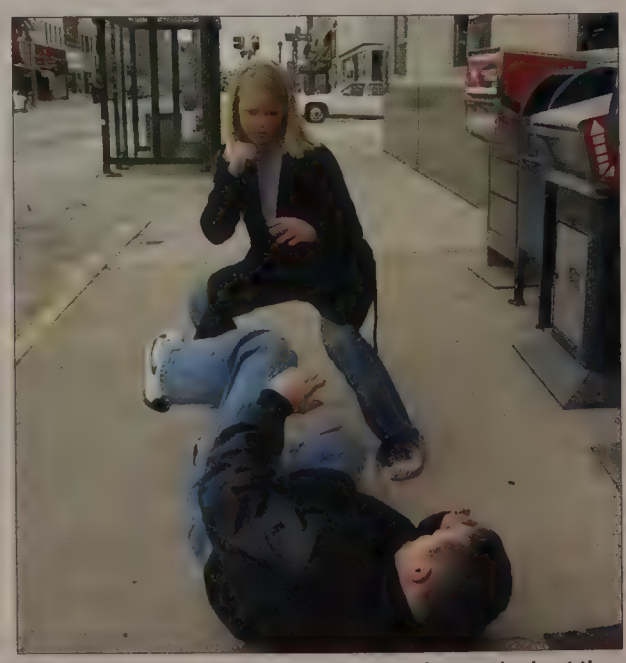
Brookline Community Center for the Arts, 14 Green St., Brookline (781-405-1248). www.busseystyle.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. April 19, 1:30-4:30pm. $60. For any level.* Robert Bussey is a personal protection expert who has developed methods that are taught to men and women in self-defense schools around the country. Learn methods for protecting yourself against armed, unseen or multiple attackers.

Reiki Energy Healing Clinic

Arlington Reiki Associates, 366 Mass Ave #304, Arlington (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. *April 25, 6:30-9:30pm. $10.* Experience a relaxing, holistic, reiki treatment at a reduced cost.

Self-Hypnosis for Mind/Body Relaxation

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. April 27, 10am-4:30pm. $86. No prior experience necessary.* Reportedly, while in hypnotic trance, you can learn to counteract anxiety, create deep relaxation and develop inner imagery to effect personal change. In this workshop, discover the nature of hypnosis, its myths, various self-hypnotic techniques and ways of using self-hypnosis.



Robert Bussey teaches personal protection methods at the Brookline Community Center for the Arts April 19.

children

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus Children's Concert

Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2501). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. April 26, 11am and 1pm. $15, $6 children. The BGMC presents a musical rendition of Tomie dePaola's book *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*, which celebrates diversity.

The Paper Bag Princess

Center for the Arts, Main and Summer streets, Natick (617-842-7927). April 19 and 26, 11am. Wearing only a paper bag after a dragon burns her clothes, a princess must rescue her kidnapped prince in this Pocket Full of Tales production.

Pippi Longstocking

Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 3pm (April 22-April 25, 1pm). Through May 4. $12-$18. Pippi Longstocking's superhuman strength, her unbounded imagination and her absolute disregard for the rules of society make for good fun in this musical adaptation.

Puppet Showplace Theatre

32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •April 16 and 17, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Nikki Tilroe and Palm of the Hand Theatre present *Clowns*, the story of Claude the Custodian and the unexpected friends he meets while cleaning up after a show. •April 19, 1 and 3pm, ages 4 and older: The Perry Alley Theatre performs *The Frog Prince and Other Tales* with live music. •April 21-25, 1pm and 3pm, ages 3 and older: Paul Vincent Davis performs *Beauty and the Beast*. •April 26 and 27, 1 and 3pm, ages 3 and older: The Barefoot Puppets present *Galapagos George*, the life story of a giant tortoise.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

UMass-Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (617-424-6634). www.childrenstheatre.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. April 23-27, 2pm. $10-$20.* Join Peppermint Patty, Lucy, Linus, Snoopy and Charlie Brown himself in this Boston Children's Theatre musical adaptation based on Charles Schulz's lovable youngsters.

THINGS TO DO

Arts Festival

Boston College, 140 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-522-ARTS). MBTA: B Line to Boston College. April 24-26. This three-day festival offers family activities from 12-4pm on Saturday. Children's theater, arts and crafts, story hour and face-painting are among the activities.

The Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15pm. •Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts. •April 16 and 18, 11am-12pm: Come shake, wiggle and giggle for *Music and Movement!* •April 19, 11:30am-12:30pm: Critter Day presents Wingmasters, a chance to see hawks and owls up close. •April 20: Create mixed-media masterpieces in the art studio's Paint, Draw, Cut & Glue program. •April 21-25, 11:30am-12:30pm: Come to the museum's *Alice's Wonderland* exhibit and see a special Alice-themed play, meet Alice and the Mad Hatter, and test your mind with fun and games. •April 25-29, $140: April Vacation Day Camp lets kids join the circus for fun and learning. •April 26, 11am-4pm: It's National Sense of Smell Day, so come create your own scratch-and-sniff paintings, meet a police dog that sniffs for a living and try a smell-matching game.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. •April 19, 9-12pm, grades 2 and 3: Peer into the past to the world of the ancient Mayans and see how these people lived more than 15,000 years ago.

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum

Colonial Point., Boston (1-877-616-4599). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK Library. Free.* April 23, 10:30am: Performers Gould & Stearns re-create the classic tale of Jack and the Beanstalk through dialogue, mime, slapstick, and song.

The Arts Festival at Boston College features a family day with children's activities April 25.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448 www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Free with museum admission ($13-$15; children under 17 free.).* •April 19 and 20, 11am-4pm: Family Place and Drop-In Drawing •April 16, 3:30pm, and April 19, 11:30am: Books Bring Art Alive program •April 16-18, 3:30pm: The Shapes of Nature Open Studio Day focuses on pottery.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* •Saturdays and Sundays, 11am-12pm: The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits with live animals. •Through April 30: The *Invention at Play* exhibit allows visitors to follow the creative processes of Alexander Graham Bell, James McLurkin, Newman Darby and other inventors. •Mugar Omni Theater: $8, $7 seniors, children. Through Sept. 30: Explore percussion groups across the world—from flamenco dancers to taiko drummers to marching bands with seven-year *Stomp* performer Keith Middleton in the film *Pulse! Stomp Odyssey*. Through June 19: Celebrate the bicentennial of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's expedition through the West in *Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West*. Through Sept. 1: MacGillivray Freeman's *Coral Reef Adventure* takes viewers under the sea to Tahiti, Fiji, Rangiroa and the Great Barrier Reef.

Newton Free Library

Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-79 1370). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands •Wed., 7pm, ages 10 and older: Become a Book Investigator and write stories and book reviews. •Th 7pm, ages 4 and older: Pajama Storytime •F 10:30am: Preschool Films.

North Shore Music Theatre

62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-720 www.nsmt.org. •April 29-May 18, 8pm. $20.2 $59.25: NSMT presents the award-winning Broadway musical *Mame*, the story of a 10-year-old orph named Patrick and his irrepressible, unconventio Aunt Mame. •April 22-25, 9am-12pm, ages 6- $150: A four-day workshop gives students the cha to explore the world of theater. •April 23, 2-4pm, a 10-17, $80: The Musical Scene Study workshop lows students to learn about script analysis, charact and working with a partner. •April 24, 9am-4p ages 11-17, $100: Learn jazz and swing dance for stage. •April 25, 9am-4pm, ages 10-17, $80: T workshop focuses on the skills needed to become a s cessful musical theater performer. •April 26, 9a 12pm, ages 4-6, $35: Join Imagination Celebratio and take a creative trip under the sea with songs, s ries, and arts and crafts.

Old South Meeting House

310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-643 www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Green L to Government Center. $5-$1.* •April 22, 11am-1p Play dress-up in Colonial styles. •April 23, 11a 3pm: Learn about Colonial children and how t lived. Write with a quill pen, play popular Colo games and join in a scavenger hunt. •April 24: L cover the art of making silhouettes and take home y own portrait. •April 25, 11am-3pm: Colonial K Fair with Colonial-era games.

Sheepshearing Festival at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-2798). www.g place.org. *April 26, 10-4pm. $8, children are* Enjoy demonstrations of sheep-shearing, herd dogs, spinning, weaving, lace-making, wool-dy and more at this all-day outdoor event.

WCRB Classical Cartoon Festival

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-2 1200). www.wcrb.com. *April 19, 10am-4pm. $6.* fifth annual cartoon festival features classic Wa Bros. cartoons like "What's Opera, Doc?" and o Bugs Bunny shorts. The New England Conserva Youth Philharmonic Orchestra will also appe perform *Hansel and Gretel* and *Peter and the Wolf*.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
April 16, 6:05pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
April 17, 6:05pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
April 18, 7:05pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
April 19, 1:20pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
April 20, 2:05pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
April 21, 11:05am vs. Toronto Blue Jays
April 29, 6:05am vs. Kansas City Royals

Boston Celtics
FleetCenter. Tickets: 800-462-2849
April 16, 7pm vs. Detroit Pistons

New England Revolution
Gillette Stadium. Tickets: 877-438-7387
April 19, 4pm vs. Columbus Crew

Boston Breakers
Nickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
April 26, 7pm vs. Philadelphia Charge

Events

John Hancock Sports and Fitness Expo
Runners won't be the only athletes interested in this Marathon Weekend event. More than 100 exhibits and interactive displays cover sports like weight training and cycling in addition to running. *Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston. April 19-20, 9am-6pm. Free.*

MMRF Race for Research
This 5K walk/run around the Charles raises money for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. *Lederman Field, Charles River Esplanade, Boston. (203-972-1250). April 27, 9am. $25 preregistration, $30 race day.*

107th Boston Marathon
Thousands of runners and wheelers take to the streets for one of the biggest and oldest marathons in the world. *Finish in front of the Boston Public Library, Copley Square.* www.bostonmarathon.com. *April 21, start at 12pm.*

Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Race
Watch more than 1,800 paddlers from ages 12-80 race down the Charles. *Charles River. Finish line festival at Artesani Park on Soldier's Field Road, Allston. (800-969-RACE).* www.active.com *and* www.charlesriver.org. *April 27.*

To Play

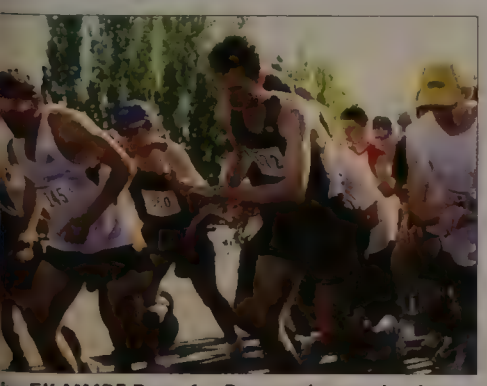
BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.



The 5K MMRF Race for Research speeds along the Esplanade April 27.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now for spring league.

LACROSSE

MetroLacrosse
(617-242-9898, ext. 205) www.metrolacrosse.com. MetroLacrosse, a non-profit organization that teaches lacrosse to children in underserved Boston communities, is looking for coaches for the spring 2003 season.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs Friday nights, 6pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night 4-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs Thursday nights, 7pm.*

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to come set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri., 10am-9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30am-6pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

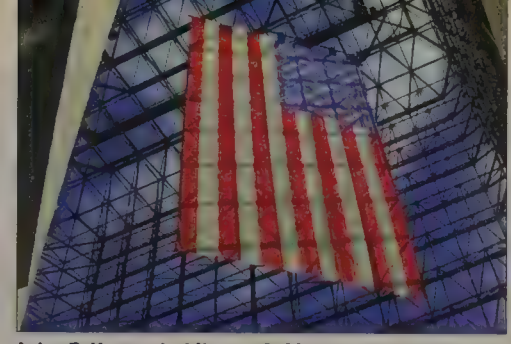
USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). www.oldironsides.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum open daily, 10am-5pm. Ship hours: winter: Thu.-Sun., 10am-4pm; summer: Tue.-Sun., 10am-4pm. Free.*

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AfriHope
(617-957-1613). Seeking computers for technology education in developing countries.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.



John F. Kennedy Library & Museum

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Boston Partners in Education
(617-451-6145). Volunteers, tutors and mentors needed for work in Boston Public Schools.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteers needed to work in Cambridge public schools as tutors, aides and mentors.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Ethos
(617-522-6700, ext. 323). Work with the elderly.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

One with One
(617-254-1691). Tutor newcomers to the United States to improve business-related English fluency.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital format.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered women's shelter.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, groceries program and office work.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. *April 17, 6-9pm.* Volunteer with single professionals at the AIDS Action Committee.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4KID). Volunteers need for this organization committed to rescuing homeless and street children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal immigrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity). Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

Very Cute Abercrombie Girl

It was the morning of March 7 at the Faneuil Hall Abercrombie & Fitch store. You had red hair and a great smile. I was the blonde in uniform. We were talking about the smashed front door of the store while somebody was looking for a pair of jeans for me. I was too shy to ask for your number. If you would like to get together for coffee or something, drop me a line.
—bship_@hotmail.com

Lucky on the Red Line

It was St. Patrick's Day morning around 8:30. I entered the T at Davis Square. I had been wearing a black coat but got hot and took it off, exposing my green shirt and a green beaded necklace with a plastic shamrock. I was standing; you were sitting across from me. You were wearing a purple button-down shirt and a black jacket. I thought I noticed you looking my way and found you very attractive. I wrote my name and number down to give you but chickened out when I got to my stop (Charles/MGH). I have been thinking of you since and wondering if I'd run into you again. If this sounds like you, and you are interested in meeting, please e-mail.
—greengirlontheredline@yahoo.com

Hamersley's on a Friday

I was the ash blonde wearing a pink diaphanous dress and red spike heels standing in the bar at Hamersley's on the evening of March 28, just having a glass of wine and a conversation with a few of my friends before we went to a house party in the South End. You were the fat middle-aged guy with the loud tie and donkey laugh who kept looking over at me and half-winking with your business buddies. You slid past me four times in 45 minutes, to go to the bathroom or whatever excuse you were using to get close to me. Each time you passed me, you purposely grazed your pathetic pelvis against my behind and breathed on the back of my neck. I'm sure you thought you were getting me all hot at the thought of spending the night with you before you went home to your wife and kids in Kansas City or Buffalo or wherever you were in the Big City from. Well, I just wanted to let you in on a little secret, sport. I'm a guy named Hank who just likes to feel pretty once in a while. See, you never know.
—sorrytodisappointyou@yahoo.com

The Lost Keeper

At Fajitas 'n' Ritas after work, we shared a pitcher of margaritas and an incredible conversation. It was electric and magical. I was stunned by how we clicked on so many levels. You are one of the most beautiful women I have ever met. I left saying to myself, "That one is a keeper." But I lost your number in the craziness that is my life. I want to reconnect to see if the magic can keep on going.
—boyfrmnyc@hotmail.com

Saint's Silver Room

We met Feb. 8 at Saint. You are blond, tall and recently moved to Boston from North Carolina. You were with friends from a basketball league for lawyers that you play in, even though you're not a lawyer. You saved me from having to talk to a 40-year-old man about his kids all night. We sneaked away from our friends and got to know each other in the Silver Room. I've thought of you often and decided to give fate a little push. E-mail me.
—silverroomgirl@yahoo.com

Rainy Night in Boston

We met March 29 at Emily's on the dance floor. You: tall, dark, handsome with a great smile and a very common name. Me: cute, petite, thirsty, brunette with a unique name. Our conversation was brief but I enjoyed meeting you. I heard guys from Rochester aren't all that bad. The end of the night came, and we went our separate ways without exchanging numbers. Drop me a line and maybe we can connect sometime.
—rainy_night_rendezvous@hotmail.com

Fratboy from Afar...

I first saw you in February at the Rack and was instantly drawn to your irresistibly preppy good looks (although you do uncannily resemble a frat boy from the '80s...). You left your brown leather jacket on all night despite the heat and the crowd of attractive young singles who flocked to your side on the dance floor. A friend told me you went to Yale. I asked her in what era...then I found out you're only 27! As far as your education goes, I wouldn't have cared if you were a garbageman or a millionaire; I like you: period. I "heart" your dorky yet magnetic style and just wanted to let you know that seeing you walk down the street is my secret cure for a bad day.
—"Geek" Girl, fratboyfromafar@yahoo.com

To the Major League Lacrosse Player

This message is for Ryan, who's a player for the Boston Cannons. I met you at An Tua Nua on March 29. Once you introduced yourself, we hit it off. We danced and talked for a while, but as the bar closed my ride was leaving so we never got the chance to exchange our info. Hopefully if you're still interested in this little hottie, you'll e-mail me.
—msharon_00@yahoo.com

In search of Jess from Wellesley....

We met briefly at the bar at the Last Drop in Brighton on March 30. You were the raven-haired beauty, and I was the guy in the Red Sox hat, gray shirt and khakis. We talked briefly and then we each had to go: You to return to your friend at the end of the bar (whom you were driving home) and me to entertain my friend's wife (no, not nearly like it sounds). We agreed that I would find you and we would chat some more later in the evening. Well, I looked for you at the end of the bar, but I could not find you. Needless to say, I was quite taken by you and I would very much like to see you again and continue our conversation.
—James, backbayman1@yahoo.com

Mexican Prince

It's been one year, eleven months and eighteen days, and ever since you placed those luscious lips on mine, I knew you were the one. No one knew we could make it this far, but look at us now. We are more in love than ever. I want you to know that I will be with you no matter where you are. Although the Navy is taking you from me, I will wait for you and keep you in my heart and mind always. I can't wait to see you in your uniform, handsome. And I will marry my high-school sweetheart. I want to grow old with you. I love you.
—Your Colombian princess

Admirals Club Admirer

Seattle to Boston April 3: We were in the American Airlines Admirals Club in Seattle. You were tall, with brown hair and a tan, wearing a dark suit and a pastel blue tie. I was blond, tall, wearing a black suit. I nearly ran you over in the doorway. How excited I was when I noticed you were leaving the club with me and getting on the very same flight to Boston! And then... First class separated us. And I wasn't the one that got the first-class seat! If it hadn't been for th "imaginary curtain" I would have certainly approached you. I can only imagine that you are engage or otherwise tied down. But there was no ring, so I had to take this chance. I thought you were amazing. E-mail me.
—Sleeplessinboston@lycos.cor

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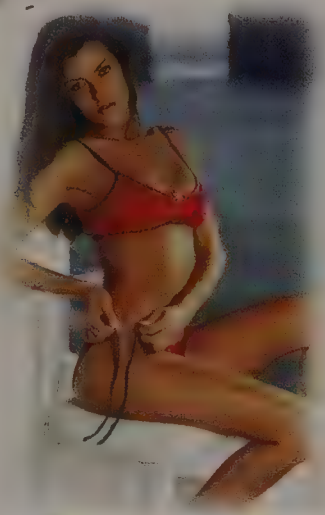

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Tickets are available online, from any Junior League of Boston member, and at the door of the Decorators' Show House.

Tickets are also available at your favorite stores.

In Massachusetts:
- select Talbot's stores
- select Roche Bros. stores
- select Sudbury Farms locations
- Women's Educational and Industrial Union
- The Seagull, Marblehead
- Valentine's Gift Shop, Lexington, Newburyport

In New Hampshire:
- Feather Your Nest, Hampton Falls

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April 24 - May 23, 2003

Monday Closed
Tuesday - Friday 9am - 2pm; 6pm - 9pm
Saturday 9am - 6pm
Sunday 11am - 6pm

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JL : www.jlboston.org/showhouse

Tickets are non-refundable. Insurance regulations prohibit admission of infants and children under eight years of age. No cameras, pets, food, or smoking allowed. Due to the nature of this house we are unable to make it fully accessible for persons with disabilities.

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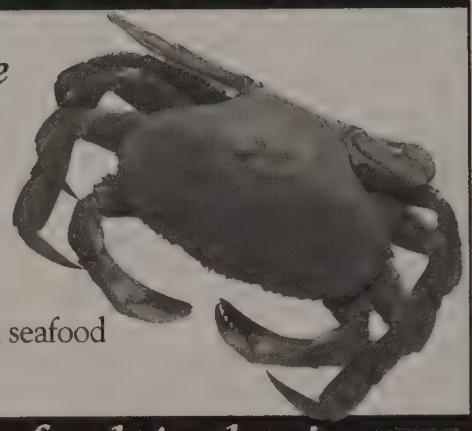

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Rockie Horoscope

APRIL 16 – 29, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20

A crisis concerning a friendship or your place in an organization could reach a pivotal point during this full moon period. You'll tend to be more practical than usual, perhaps a bit paranoid, simply because restrictive, responsible Saturn is shoving its weight around, leaning heavily on your easy-going Venus ruler. After Easter, as Venus moves from "pity poor me" Pisces to adventurous Aries, your mood will brighten considerably. Soon you'll be looking for romance in all the fun places.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20

Fair warning: Your Mercury ruler goes retrograde on April 26 and slowly creeps back to where it was last weekend before finally turning direct. Since what is happening now will become a big deal again when Mercury flips forward in mid-May, better pay extra attention to whatever you're presently dealing with. Also, try to get the usual pre-Mercury retrograde chores done as soon as possible, before the holidays disrupt the normal scheduling of events, gigs and due dates. How about inviting an old friend to come hang?

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22

Now is the time for all good Crabs to come to the aid of their partner. The Aries-Libra full moon on the 16th focuses, as did the April Fools' new moon, on feisty Mars in your marriage house. In the past two weeks you've no doubt seen one or more aspects of your relationship build to a climax. Job, family, room to breathe—any or all of them could be issues that need to be resolved before the next new moon on May Day. And while your input may have been treated like a joke on April 1, it's absolutely crucial now. Help!

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Call it aggravation or stimulation. When your sun ruler and militant Mars form a challenging square on the 17th, you're bound to get mad, although you might not be so sure about getting even. Whether your anger is directed at a co-worker, the dry cleaner or the medical profession is incidental. What is important is how motivated you'll become, how determined to get your licks in. FYI: Mercury goes retrograde in your career midheaven on the 26th. Since there won't be any progress regarding work, maybe you should take a spring break?

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Read for Gemini. Therein lies the tale of your Mercury ruler's progress and reversal in Taurus, and what you can do now to avoid the pitfalls of a confused mindset later. While the Messenger is in start-stop-start mode, matters dealing with travel and education should be handled with care, if not kid gloves. However, if you need to revise a proposal or a grant application, retrograde is an excellent time to make the necessary changes. But for the moment, look for a gift from the Libra full moon.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

The full moon in your own sign heightens your receptivity to everyone else's emotional extravaganzas. And dump on you they will! Add your own case of mild hysteria to the mix and it's obvious that the 2003 Easter holiday week will be memorable. Because Mars in your home base is making folks there mad, be extra careful around the house. Cuts and burns, digs and barbs are par for the course; their intensity and the serious damage they can do now are not. Coming soon, a resolution that'll suit the entire family.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

If it weren't for the fact that both your ruling planets are "lit" by the Aries-Libra full moon on the 16th, you could get through Easter week without any hassle. Although your Pluto co-ruler is attracting money and nice, probably recycled, stuff, your Mars co-ruler is under undue stress. Commuting, communicating and dealing with relatives and neighbors can result in painful, destructive experiences. You're bound to get ticked off, and while the battle might be enjoyable on one level, who needs the aggravation?

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Later, that is. The love fest that takes place during the annual opposition of the ardent Aries sun and the affectionate Libra moon brings all sorts of attractive people and fiery emotions to the fore. This is as sociable and accepting as you're going to get—well, maybe when the Libra sun opposes the Aries moon in October you'll happily embrace as many people. While you can, ride the good vibe to the max, pay the piper if you have to, and exert the effort to make everyone comfortable at home.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

This full moon can impact your personal life in more ways than one. The polarity between the Libra moon in your career midheaven and the Aries sun at home plate puts you in a tight squeeze. Domestic affairs may get in the way of your ambition. What makes this annual opposition different from previous ones is the addition of heroic Mars in your sign. This year, you're itching to fight for your right to, what? A solution to the problem, relief from the tension, comes from your partner. Inquire within.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Full moons do not pass unnoticed. They bring situations to a head, break discreet silences and, when properly aligned, send nutters to the ER. Not that you're in any danger, but the first full moon since your Uranus ruler went into hyper-emotional Pisces gives one cause to wonder… what's up? You'll know more once courageous Mars enters your unpredictable sign on the 21st. Also knowing that you'll be wearing the Martian chip on your shoulder for the next eight weeks can work to your advantage. It's quite sexy.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

What you value, beyond monetary worth, becomes a big deal during this full moon period. It's a seasonal phenomenon, so you probably shouldn't glorify how you feel, but if you do, then go for the ultimate experience. Now that individualistic Uranus is in Pisces, you can do more outrageous things, be more creative and more admired by your peers than you've been in years. You may have a problem with a pal or an established organization, but don't dwell on it. By May Day, it'll pass.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19

As the moon approaches total fullness, you can feel the excitement building. But Rams who are not yet in "do or die" mode will be by the afternoon of the 16th. The tension doesn't stem solely from having the sun-moon opposition in your sign—that happens every year. But this April, your Mars ruler plays a major role in the cosm scheme of things. While the Warrior dominates your Capricorn midheaven, you'll be more conscientious, wel organized and patient than you ever imagined. Imagine

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

3rd Annual Leslie's Links Event

in memory of Leslie Semonian to benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Please join our hosts for the evening to support a great cause:

Lauren Abeles
Aram Aslanian
Vasken Babigian
Mark Barnes
Jen Bennett
Kerry Brett-Hurley
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Elisabeth Carroll
Zvi Cole
Dana D'Alfonso
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Nancy Semonian Day
& John Day
Amy Finsilver
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Vicky Grigoryan-Sohigian
Lynn Hoffman
Kristine Irving
Todd Kurland
Judy Levine
Diane Mantouvalos
Kristina McKay
Katherine Morse
Amy Burg O'Toole
Joe Quattrocchi
Kristin Regis
Robyn Sarkisian
Paul & Selena Semonian
Wendy Semonian
Anthony Sgro
Jonathan Soroff
Dominic Visocchi

A special thanks to: Joe Quattrocchi and Vox for hosting this event, Kristine Irving of Koo de Kir for donating her site for on-line ticket purchasing, Ski Market, our committee members, old friends and new for your continuous support of Leslie's Links and this wonderful cause.

Leslie's Links has raised over a half of a million dollars since it inception in 1999

Pre Marathon Celebration
Sunday, April 20th
7:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Vox Populi
755 Boylston Street, Back Bay
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- DJ and Dancing
- Lynn Hoffman, host of VH-1 Classic and Jonathan Soroff of Improper Bostonian will host a raffle with a bike from Ski Market and more
- Hors D'oeuvres

Tickets are $35 in advance or $40 at the door (if available) – see a party host or log on to www.leslieslinks.com to purchase tickets.

Please make checks payable to: Leslie's Links/Dana-Farber. 100% of the proceeds from this event will be donated to The Leslie's Links Ewings Sarcoma Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For more info e-mail wendy@leslieslinks.com, or call 617-859-1400 ext. 323.

LESLIE'S LINKS was founded in 1999 by Leslie Semonian who battled cancer and passed away in December of 1999 at the age of 32. During the eight and a half year period of her illness, until her death, Leslie never allowed cancer to stand in the way of her goal of helping others. She knew how precious life was and energetically embraced each day. She helped others to appreciate their own lives more. She wanted to be remembered as a participant in life not an observer. Her passion was boundless, and will continue in the hearts of the many friends and people whom she inspired.

Leslie's Links is a fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute which raises money for Ewings Sarcoma Cancer Research in various ways. One of which is through the Leslie's Links bike team associated with the 192-mile Pan-Mass Challenge bike-a-thon from Sturbridge to Provincetown. Leslie's Links has raised over half a million dollars since its inception in 1999.

www.leslieslinks.com

Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. Since we want your feedback on the rest of the magazine, too, submissions that include a letter expressing your opinion will really get our attention.

Amy Nicholson finds alcohol-related confusion in England. Beer's taverns, she says, serve several types of london.

Red Sox manager Grady Little informs Andrew Bender, Chris Porter, Adam Ferrin and Kevin Pojasek that they did not make the 25-man roster in Clearwater, Fla.

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm neatly coordinates with the Spring Fashion issue.

The Kef G Entertainment girls establish a beachhead on Catalina Island, Dominican Republic. They met no resistance.

Kevin O'Donnell and Andrea Dittman do a little hemisphere-hopping in Nakuru, Kenya.

Rasmus Figenschou and Jorgen Von Tangen pose with an example of local ingenuity in Cuba: The car behind them is made entirely of seashells.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Roaming the streets of Rochester, England, dressed up as Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby or even Little Dorrit at the Dickens Festival, held in late May.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mail high resolution photos to: sightings@improper.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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Pre-Marathon Pasta Dinner
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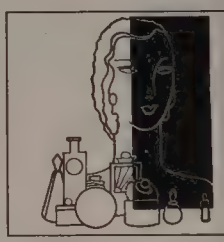

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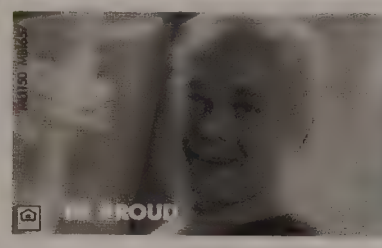

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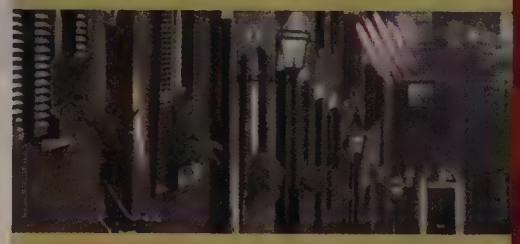

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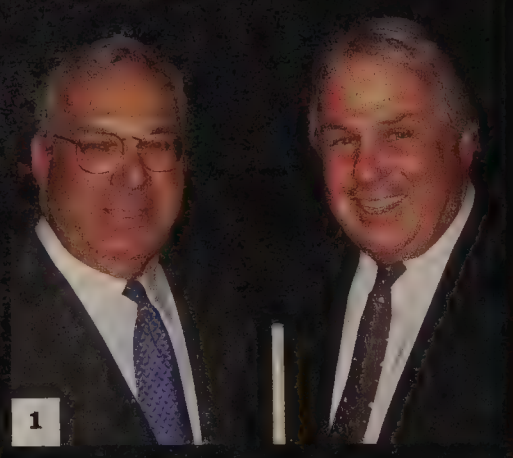
On Tuesday, March 25, King's held its Grand Opening Celebration. The new bowling alley/restaurant/lounge/billiards hall is located at 10 Scotia St. in Boston.



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1. Mayor **Tom Menino** and **Joe O'Donnell**, owner of Boston Concessions.
2. **Lawyer Milloy**, New England Patriots and **Doug Flutie**, San Diego Chargers.
3. **Kerri Kennedy**, marketing manager for K Sports Entertainment, and **Kristen Kuliga**, Doug Flutie's representative with K Sports Entertainment.

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and event

On Wednesday, April 9, The Ritz Carlton played host to the third annual "Taste of Beacon Hill," sponsored by The Improper Bostonian. Many were on hand to enjoy the offerings of Beacon Hill's finest restaurants.

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1. **Beatrice A. Flammia**, area national sales manager for the Ritz-Carlton Hotels of Boston; **Keith Lockhart**, conductor of the Boston Pops; **Lucia Lin**, violinist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra; and **Aghdas Bina**, of Lala Rokh.
2. **Bruno Marini**, general manager; **Alan Lam**, chef; and **Jennifer Tapper**, restaurant manager, all of The Federalist.
3. **David Caswell**, co-owner of the Caswell Gallery; **Rebecca Pimentel**, co-owner of Beauty Mark; **Joe Pimentel**, co-owner of the Caswell Gallery; and **Sarah Laine**, co-owner of Beauty Mark.

Upcoming Issues

April 30, 2003	Summer Getaways
May 14, 2003	Concierge
May 28, 2003	Summer Fun
June 11, 2003	Summer Dining

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The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Monday, March 31, **Plymouth Gin** presented "England Swings" and brought three famous London mixologists to shake their signature Plymouth Gin cocktails at **Silvertone**.

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1. **Keith Fillmore**, **John O'Reilly** of Future Brands LLC, **Jim Buonopane Sr.** of United Liquors Ltd. and **Alex Steppacher** of Future Brands LLC.
2. All from London: **Jamie Terrell**, bartender at the Atlantic Bar & Grill; **Danny Smith**, bartender at Tantra; **Simon Ford** of Plymouth Gin and **Colin Appiah**, bartender at Fifteen.

On Saturday, April 5, **The Weber Foundation of Helping Hands, Inc.** held its Second Annual Helping Hands Spring Ball at the **Fairmont Copley Plaza**. More than $153,000 was raised to benefit the Foundation.

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2

1. **Alan** and **Christina Gibley**, owners of Giblee's Fine Men's Clothing Store; **Bruce Weber** from Melrose; and **Billy Costa**, morning personality for KISS 108.
2. **Eric Hadsell**, Esq., legal counsel; **Lisa Tedeschi Gray**, treasurer; **Elizabeth Weber**, founder and president; **Deborah Jones**, clerk; and **Kelly Cannone**, all members of the Board of Directors of The Weber Foundation.

On Wednesday, April 9, **Trio** hosted a party to celebrate the first-year anniversary of **Lazuli Jewelry**.

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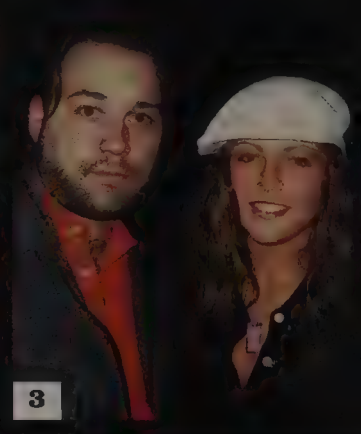
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1. **Sean Griffing**, manager of Trio; **Lana Barakat**, owner of Lazuli Jewelry; and **Jeremy Pringle**, sales manager of Lazuli Jewelry.
2. **Catherine Brown**, marketing director for Lazuli Jewelry; **Marissa Hart**, **Stephanie Roberts**, and **Nancy Ko**, all representatives from Firefly promotions.
3. **David Perrier**, executive chef of Trio, and **Lindsey Strokes**, sales associate for Lazuli Jewelry.

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Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

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Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000 www.alleyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella

Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@theblackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617- 236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers, Faneuil Hall Marketplace *Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers, Beacon Hill *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

Hurricane O'Reilly's, *150 Canal St., Boston, MA 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich Street, Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

JAZZ

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

SPORTS BAR-UPSCALE

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

brunch

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Avenue, Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslastresort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

Last Scene Here

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Neal McDonough at the Big Fat Awards Gala.

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD...

Like the Super Bowl and the Miss America pageant, the Academy Awards have a hype-to-spectacle ratio that makes them enjoyable to watch only with a lot of food, drinks and other people around to distract you. In other words, they're the perfect excuse to have a party, and philanthropically inclined Bostonians had two big ones to choose from.

At the **Four Seasons**, the **Massachusetts Film Bureau** held its **Big Fat Awards Gala**, which was co-hosted by Channel 5 anchor-vixen **Liz Bruner** and Kiss 108 morning mouth **Matt Siegel**. The party's special guest star, who auctioned off an array of enticing big-ticket items, was icy-blue-eyed Dorchester homey-gone-Hollywood **Neal McDonough** of NBC's *Boomtown*, and other guests included his stockbroker brother, **Kieran**, with his drop-dead gorgeous wife, **Anja**; financial mack daddy **Richard DeAgazio** and retired restaurant mogul **Marty Bloom**.

Meanwhile, over at **the Rack**, **the Official Oscar Night America Party**, a fundraiser for the breast cancer charity the **Ellie Fund**, was in full swing. Its diversions included the option of playing pool, an elaborate movie-themed silent auction, and a surreal and inexplicable surprise appearance by the almost lifelike **Evan Marriott**. For anyone whose mind doesn't collect trivia like a lint trap: He was the guy on *Joe Millionaire*.

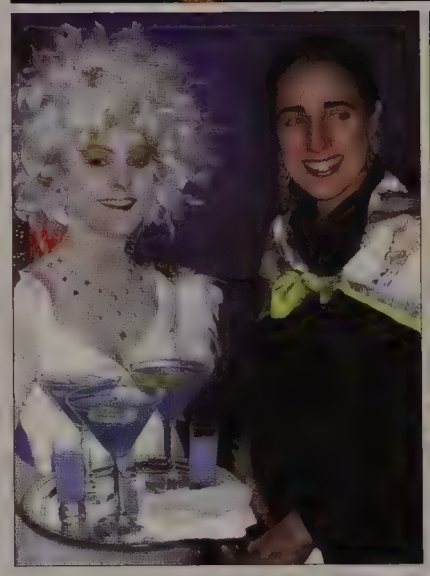
Present and accounted for: peripatetic party planner **Zvi Cole**, the impossible-to-dislike **Jeff Popkin**, glamazon extraordinaire **Carol Lindenmuth**, the eternally smiley **Gene Goldman**, the improbably tall **Christopher Ellsworth**, Tunisian funboy **Taher Bouzayen**, nightclub proprietor **Harry Harding** and so on and so forth.

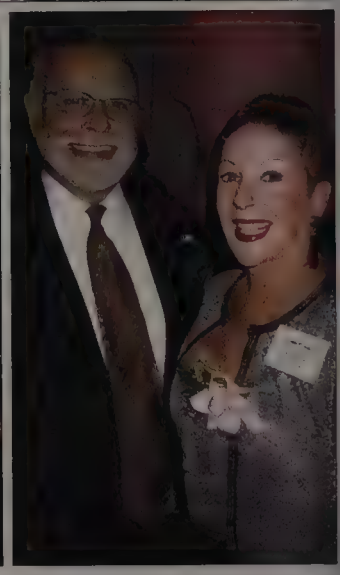
Needless to say, both parties offered an excellent distraction from the stupendously boring awards ceremony, and no sooner was Best Picture announced than everybody heaved a collective sigh of relief and headed for home.

PARTYING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW...

Approaching maximum fabulosity is probably the best way to describe the **Boston Center for the Arts** fundraiser, **Hubbub**, which featured a lavish spread of food and drinks and a showcase of visual and performing arts, including aerial dancers and a soloist from Boston Ballet, in a gasp-inducing setting.

Held at the **Cyclorama**, the cavernous circular space was divided into four separate areas: an icy heaven where sushi and blue martinis were served, a bright red hell with fiery Asian food and lava lamps, a garden of Eden with tons of flowers and plants and a face-painted bartender mixing Mojitos, and an area that resembled a first-class departure lounge in a James Bond movie. In the middle were café tables and bleachers, and milling around it all were such various and sundry social stalwarts as the party's diamond bedecked co-chair, **Sharyn Fireman** and her other half, photographer **Murton Sudalter**; white-hot architect **David Hacin** and his other half, the very fabulous **Tim Grafft**; über arts supporter **Bill Nigreen**; the delightful **Thaleia Tsongas Schlesinger**; Cowan cutie **Sarah Koerner**; dance visionary **Jeremy Alliger**, and one woman who said, "I had to bribe my husband to get him to come here this evening, and now he's telling me to go home without him."





At Hubbub, clockwise from upper left: Michelle Baxter and Scott Lima; David Hacin, Thaleia Tsongas Schlesinger and Tim Grafft; Murton Sudalter and Sharyn Fireman; aerial dancers; an ice princess and Molly Dunne.

THINGS WE'D RATHER NOT THINK ABOUT...

Overheard at **Heart & Soul**, the superb concert by the **Boston Gay Men's Chorus** that featured an appearance by Tony award winner **Lilias White** and provoked one (well-deserved) standing ovation after another:

"This must be the only Symphony Hall program in history with an ad for K-Y personal lubricant."

WHERE THE BOYS ARE...

What happens when 1,400 gay men don tuxedos and congregate in a hotel ballroom?

The answer could be found at a fundraiser held at the **Westin** for the **Fenway Community Health Center**. One could variously describe **The Men's Event** as a prom where everyone's queen, a circuit party on its best behavior or a black-tie preview party for summer in Provincetown.

The high-profile homos and their hombres on hand included co-chairs **Jeff Coakley** and **Philip Finch**; Providence mayor **David Cicilline**; super-cute Club Café co-owner **Paul Spyrka**; Channel 5 heartthrob **David Brown**; interior design avatar **Dennis Duffy**; the best-dressed restaurateur in the western hemisphere, **Gary Sullivan**; preppy playboy **Skip Hughes**; former Congressman **Gerry Studds** and his partner, **Dean Hara**; hairstylist and hipster **William George**; Harvard factotum **Bob Mitchell**; Channel 7 studmuffin **Randy Price**, and one woman who looked around at the crowd and sighed, "Water, water, everywhere..." iB

At the Men's Event, from left: Philip Finch and Jeff Coakley; Tim Dudley and David Brown; Jim Morgrage and Paul Spyrka; Dennis Duffy.

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letters

WHILE YOUR CHOICES FOR BOSTON'S BELOVED BARTENDERS WERE VERY ON-TARGET THIS YEAR, I FEEL THAT ONE RELATIVELY NEW BARTENDER WAS LEFT OUT: MATT FROM BAMBARA.

—LAUREN DEMORE
CHARLESTOWN

CONTRIBUTOR

JESSICA PURSLEY

Photographer Jessica Pursley has been shooting fashion for publications, as well as advertising campaigns for designers, boutiques and record companies, for more than 15 years. "I love the glitz and glamour of the industry," she says, "but the most fulfilling part about my job is the emotional connection you make with your subject for the brief moment they are in front of your camera." Her latest work can be seen in this issue's fashion spread, "The Elements of Style," on page 32.

ONE MORE BARTENDER TO BELOVE

While your choices for Boston's Beloved Bartenders were very on-target this year, I feel that one relatively new bartender was left out of your pool: Matt from Bambara. Not only is Matt incredibly charming, personable and very good looking, but he made me the best damned drink I have ever had, which he called a Berries and Cream martini. And he makes the best bellini this side of Harry's. If Matt missed out this year, he should certainly be in contention for next year.

—LAUREN DEMORE
Charlestown

THE DRESS ADDRESS

I'm wondering where I can get the pink dress on the Beloved Bartenders cover. How much is it?

—CHERYL
Via e-mail

Editor's Note: *That Robin Jordan dress ($159) and black bow belt by Prairie New York ($60) are available at Holiday, 127 Charles Street, 617-973-9730.*

I KNOW KURT MASUR, AND YOU SIR ARE NO KURT MASUR

On page 90 of the April 16 issue of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN, the caption below a photograph states "Kurt Masur leads the BSO." I don't know who the individual in the photograph is, but he is *definitely not* Kurt Masur.

I imagine that your staff is a) mostly under 30 years old, and b) unfamiliar with world-renowned conductors of classical music, but if all those grey-haired guys look the same, having a fact checker would definitely help!

—UTA RENZ
Boston

Editor's Note: *Did we say Kurt Masur? We totally meant to say Emanuel Ax, who is not a conductor but a dude who plays one of those big old-fashioned wooden keyboard things that we like to skateboard on while fact-checking and listening to our Kelly Osbourne MP3s.*

CORRECTION

Beloved Bartender Lisa Holzemer's name was misspelled last issue.

FROM THE EDITOR

If you're planning to take a vacation this summer but haven't made reservations yet, join the crowd. According to the Travel Industry Association of America, nearly half of Americans who plan to travel this spring and summer still had not booked their trips as of late April.

Tourism officials in some of this area's most popular vacation spots—the Cape and Islands—say they're noticing the trend but remain optimistic that bookings, while delayed, will be strong. "The benefits for Massachusetts are that a huge percentage of the visitors stay the same from year to year and are within driving distance," says Robin Rushnell of the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce. "While people may be waiting longer to book, they will book."

The reason for the delayed bookings, TIA surveys indicate, is the sluggish economy more than the recent war. TIA also finds that interest in travel by car and in shorter trips (three or fewer nights) is up, continuing the post–Sept. 11 trend.

Even if you intend to take a longer trip this summer, chances are you'll want to squeeze in a weekend getaway or two (after such a brutal winter, enjoying summer seems all the more urgent) and that's where this issue can help you. For our "R&R" feature (page 16) IMPROPER staffers Erin Hagedorn and Ezra Dyer explored four New England destinations; they offer complete weekend itineraries for each that can save you precious planning time.

If outstanding food tops the list of your vacation must-haves, take a look at certified foodie Carolyn Faye Fox's "Driven to Dine" feature (page 26). She describes four New England restaurants worthy of a trip, and her descriptions of their fare will have you dialing for reservations before you can say pan-seared foie gras.

Even your summer outlet-shopping trip to Freeport or Kittery can become a weekend adventure, with stops at lesser-known spots—from country stores to roadside diners—along Maine's Route 1. Susan Abbattista shows you the way in "Creative Outlets," (page 22). Happy travels!

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

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The Improper Bostonian Magazine
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
E-mail: letters@improper.com
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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

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PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

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ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Gloria Dawson, Zoe Parker Geisman**

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3RD Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: (617) 859-1400 Fax: (617) 859-1446
E-mail: info@improper.com
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the Word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SHORT

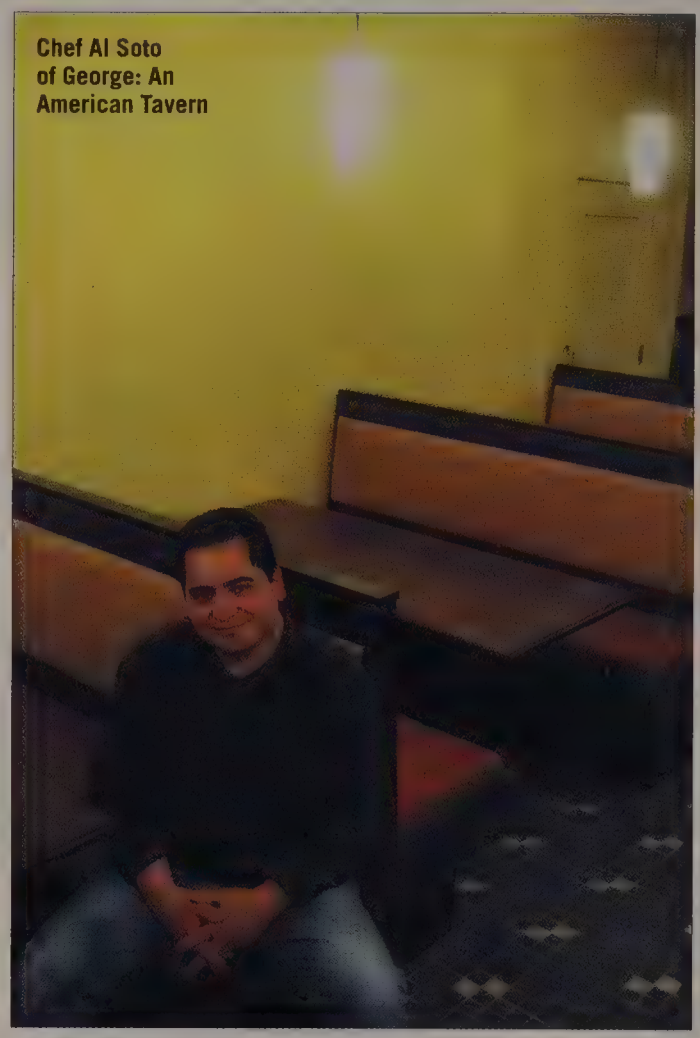
■ trends ■ tittle tattle ■ people ■ panache ■

NEW IN TOWN

By George

Contrary to what you might assume from the patriotic-looking sign outside the former Rattlesnake, **George: An American Tavern** was not named after the first president. "We just figured it was a good, solid name for a restaurant," says chef Al Soto.

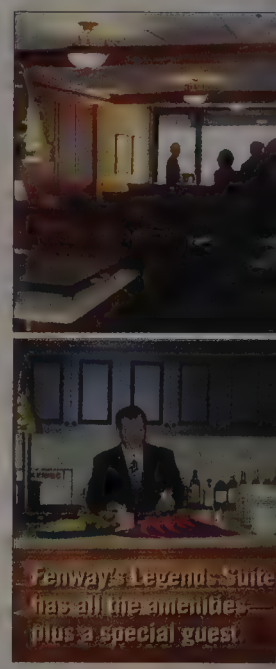
And that's the kind of cuisine you'll find at this reincarnation of the popular Boylston Street bar: "Simple and straightforward," says Soto, who had a devoted following at Uva and, more recently, at Beacon Hill Bistro. At George, he's serving up dishes that are decidedly American: pork roast with marinated apples and an oatmeal stout glaze; a clam roast with quahogs, steamers, littlenecks, smoked bacon, potatoes and corn bread; and beer-braised pot roast with spring vegetables, creamed potatoes and whipped horseradish. You can almost picture Washington himself riding up to the tavern, tying his horse to the hitching post, and stopping in for some ale. The space has been gutted and given a more upscale look with dark wood paneling, lots of booths and funky drop lights. Upstairs, you'll find Georgia, "a cool, loungey type place" that's more casual and relaxed, says Soto. "It's just the kind of place where we'd like to hang out." And don't worry—the roof deck is still the crowning jewel. *384 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-8555).*
—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short



Chef Al Soto of George: An American Tavern

SPORTS

A Suite Deal



Fenway's Legend Suite has all the amenities—plus a special guest.

If you're tired of cramming into the bleachers at Red Sox games, talk your company or your rich uncle into doing it up right next time by booking the **Legends Suite**. For a cool $10,000, 20 lucky fans get to watch the game in style—and in fine company. The Legends Suite earns its moniker by giving visitors some quality time with a Red Sox legend during the game. So far, the roster includes the likes of Carl Yastrzemski, Fred Lynn, Dwight Evans, Rico Petrocelli and Joe Morgan. Your 10 grand also gets you four premium-level first-base seats, should anyone want a closer view of the game; a tour of Fenway Park with a group photo in front of the Green Monster and the chance to watch batting practice from the new Monster seats. ("So far, everyone's caught a ball," says premium seating sales manager Sean Curtin.) So has this opulent offering found any takers? At press time, the season is sold out except for June 29, July 20 and the last two home stands. *—Ezra Dyer*

CLUB SCENE

Spring Heats Up

•Local DJ collective **Groovefire** has spent much of the past year bringing its funky, sexy house sound to dance floors around the country. The trio is currently making a splash in the Thursday-night scene with a unique concept, Play Thursdays at 711 Boylston. The party kicks off at 6pm sharp, and stretches until 2am. On May 1, you can catch Groovefire's Todd Hanna, Phil Jakob and Mike Hoska with special guests Beat Khemistry, featuring Andrew Raynor and Buddharma. House music DJ Randy Deshaies makes a guest appearance May 8. There's no cover charge.

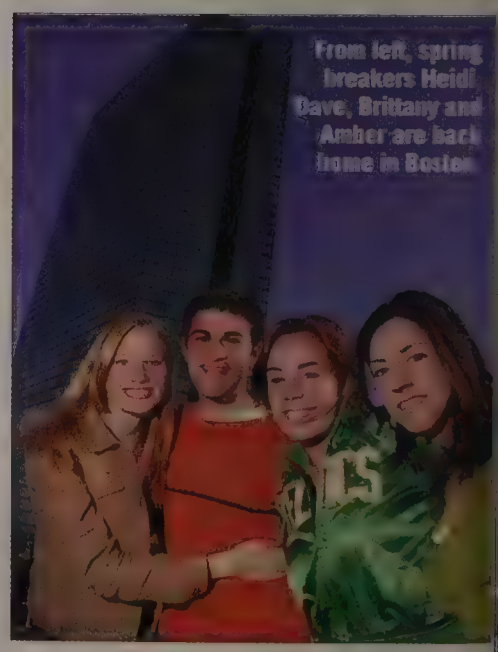
Martinis are the drink of choice at Whiskey Park's new Sunday-night event, Cherry, featuring Ricky Fatts behind the decks.

•Sundays at **Whiskey Park** are changing tunes with Cherry, a new weekly event featuring Ricky Fatts behind the decks. Club-goers can expect a well-dressed and sophisticated crowd as usual, with Fatts spinning rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B. Be sure to look your best, or you may not get in.

•Starting May 1, Thursday nights at **Matrix** are going Latin. Club Candela, featuring DJ Michael Mercado, welcomes ladies ages 18 and older and gentlemen 21 and older to the Roxy complex. This "noche Latina" gets started at 10pm, and ladies are admitted free before 11pm. Proper dress required. *—Daniel Spurling*

AROUND TOWN

Bostonians Gone Wild



From left, spring breakers Heidi, Dave, Brittany and Amber are back home in Boston.

Take a group of bikini-clad coeds and muscle-bound hunks, get them drunk, roll the cameras, and you've got yourself a goldmine. Just ask MTV, which has been capitalizing on spring break hedonism for nearly two decades. It's a wonder it's taken so long for Mary-Ellis Bunim and Jonathan Murray, the production team behind such reality mainstays as MTV's *The Real World*, to make a feature-length, reality-based spring break movie (unaffiliated with MTV). **The Real Cancun** is set in the Mexican spring break mecca and premiered nationally April 25. It's based on a simple concept: throw 16 college-aged kids and lots of booze in a hotel and hope the results are rowdy. Four of the group were selected at a casting call in Boston: Amber, a safe sex–promoting Tufts sophomore; Brittany, a firecracker of a BU freshman; and Dave and Heidi, two clean-cut high school seniors from the South Shore. The local quartet is keeping tight-lipped about the specifics of their trip, but none seems embarrassed by any of his or her on-camera behavior. According to Brittany, "We were angels compared to some of the other cast members." The young exhibitionists were most talkative about the perks. Amber appreciates the complimentary *Real Cancun* thongs, "When you're in college, you sometimes run out of underwear and you have to, like, rinse it out in the sink and then take out the hair dryer. But it's all good." Good? We'll see.*—Jessica Iredale*

WHISKEY PARK, REAL WORLD: DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; GEORGE: RITA GREEI

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TASTY TIDBITS

Cookies & Caviar

Going Postal... All it took was a few disgruntled employees and a *Seinfeld* episode or two to cement the post office's reputation as an anger-filled work environment. Last-minute tax filers might have done their part to contribute to the stress during the night of April 15. But luckily, Boston-based Dancing Deer Baking Co. sweetened the scene by distributing more than 800 cookies to taxpayers at the Fort Point post office from 10:30pm to midnight. Dancing Deer spokesperson Duane Lefevre recalls tax night at the post office as "a total zoo with four or five Boston cops directing traffic and postal workers in the street conducting a kind of drive-up system." Why did Dancing Deer leap into the fray? According to Lefevre, the company's philosophy is, "Cookies bring joy." *www.dancingdeer.com.*

Not Your Grandma's Game... Think you have to go to the VFW to play a little bingo? Think again. The retirees' favorite has emerged at the swanky Italian eatery Via Matta, of all places. A launch party on April 14 featured the IMPROPER's own Jonathan Soroff as caller, and the weekly games continue with local celebrity emcees Mondays from 9pm until midnight in the wine bar. Proceeds from the $3 bingo cards benefit the Italian Home for Children, and bingo seating is limited to 40. Winners take home prizes like Puma bags and $100 gift certificates to local restaurants.

On Top of Old Smokey... Why keep a good thing to yourself? Especially when there's free food and glory to be won. Maggiano's third annual Mom's Famous Meatball Contest lets meatball-makers submit their recipe—whether it's a family heirloom or an accidental success. Just fill out the application (available at Maggiano's) by May 3 and provide the details of your recipe. Then wait to see if you're one of five finalists invited to serve their meatballs to a panel of judges May 6.

Novel Tea... In true luxury hotel style, the folks at the Four Seasons' Bristol Lounge recently introduced Power Tea from 5-11pm daily. Ironically, you won't find Earl Grey or watercress sandwiches at this "tea." Power Tea is actually an assortment of tony hors d'oeuvres served on a wrought iron tea tray. Parties of two to four can munch on Osetra caviar, foie gras, steak tartar and tempura for $95. And to accompany this upscale snack, the Four Seasons suggests something a little more potent than lapsang souchong: a martini, for example, which can be had for an additional cost.

Boston Bakes for Breast Cancer May 5-11

Sweet Relief... Put your diet on hold this month and indulge in one (or many!) of the tasty confections created specifically for the fourth annual Boston Bakes for Breast Cancer event May 5-11. More than 60 local pastry chefs add a specialty dessert to their menu, and 100 percent of the proceeds benefit the Eva Brownman Breast Cancer Fund. Visit *www.bostonbakesforbreastcancer.org* for a list of participating restaurants.

—E.H., J.I. and J.S.

SAM SAYS

Spring Cuts

I recently spoke with Vidal Sassoon's director of color and technical research, Annie Humphreys, and international creative director, Tim Hartley, about this season's hair trends.

Samantha House: What's the latest fashion in hair color?

Annie Humphreys: A splash or panel of color that runs across your hair is the newest thing. It sits under the other hair so it peeks out. It's a fun new look without having to commit to all-over color.

SH: What colors are the most popular?

AH: Vibrant reds and caramelized blondes.

SH: What are the hottest trends in haircuts?

Tim Hartley: Geometric cuts are hot, but it doesn't have to be extreme. Think '80s revival with a '60s influence.

SH: How do you feel about the bob, or blunt cuts in general?

TH: The bob is making a comeback, but I think it's very much for the individual. Dramatic lengths make it interesting.

SH: Would you recommend long or short hair this season?

TH: Shorter hair probably looks better with the current trends. Hair usually mimics hemlines, and mini skirts are so in style this year. If you have long hair, and you are scared to change, try a fringe bang to update it.

—Samantha House

IMPROPER REPORTS

Patio Dining

Every season brings with it a new crop of restaurants offering patio dining for the first time. Here's what's sprung up this season:

Bambara, *25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge*: View of the Museum of Science, the Lechmere Canal and the Charles River

The Black Sheep Cafe, *350 Main St., Cambridge*: Naturally shaded and fenced in with lots of flowers and plants; view of a firehouse's 109-year-old brick hose-drying tower

Blu, *4 Avery St., Boston*: Fourth-floor view of downtown tucked away from the hustle and bustle

Legal Sea Foods, *One Bennett St., Cambridge*: Eavesdrop on conversations between policy wonks from the Kennedy School of Government; secluded patio

Masa, *439 Tremont St., Boston*: Upbeat music, Italian wooden furniture and "Megaritas"—64-ounce margaritas for two

Noir, *Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge*: Cozy Harvard Square patio set below street level; live music in the summer

Pigalle, *75 Charles St., Boston*: Urban, Parisian-style dining with white linens and fresh flowers

Rouge, *480 Columbus Ave., Boston*: Mint juleps and a view of Union Church, the Belvedere and the Prudential

TK's Jazz Cafe, *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston*: Live jazz

improper speaking

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

The Ban is On... Cinco de Mayo means more than Coronas and guacamole this year. Beginning May 5, the city of Boston is officially smoke free, and the Public Health Commission will be on the beat. Its staff of enforcers will fine establishments $100 for the first offense, $500 for the second and $1,000 for every violation thereafter. The crackdown begins during business hours on the 5th (not at the stroke of midnight on May 4). JoAnn Landers, a spokesperson for the Public Health Commission, says, "We will enforce the law, but if we see establishments *trying* to enforce the ban, we'll use our discretion."

Luau on Lansdowne... Lansdowne Street's club scene is about to get a dose of the South Seas. Hot on the trail of its retro hangout Kings, the nightlife moguls at the Lyons Group are adding a Polynesian twist to their repertoire with the Tiki Room. The restaurant/bar is slated to open in late May in the space that formerly housed Jake Ivory's. Highlights include an expansive tropical drink list and a create-your-own pu pu platter menu. Grass skirts are optional.

Something Old, Something New...

Some people's home improvement projects land them in the hospital counting their remaining fingers, while other's land them in the limelight. The latter happened to *This Old House*'s new host-in-training. Boston resident Kevin O'Connor (above) turned to the experts at *Ask This Old House* when he and his wife hit a snag in their home renovations. Next thing he knew, the crew showed up to tackle the problem and were so impressed with his charisma that he was screen-tested for the role of host. When the offer came in, O'Connor did what any red-blooded American would do: He left his job as a VP in Fleet's sports finance group and signed on the dotted line. Come fall, the banker-turned-handyman replaces Steve Thomas as host of *This Old House* and its sister production, *Ask This Old House*, on WGBH Boston.

All Aboard... When we received an e-mail promoting a bus service to and from New York City for just $10 each way, we did a double take. You can't even drive to the Big Apple for $10—with tolls, gas and pit stops—let alone be driven. After a little investigating, the deal proved legit. Lucky Star Bus launched its Boston-to-New York service on April 19, and for a limited time, one-way tickets are just $10. The 24- to 59-seat, gay-friendly shuttle, complete with television and bathroom, loads at Club Hollywood in Chinatown and delivers passengers to NYC via Maria's Bakery on Lafayette Street. Schedules are available at *www.luckystarbus.com. (888-881-0887).*

For Name's Sake... What's in a name? If it happens to be Isabella, it means a lifetime of free access to a world-class art collection. As of April 14, in celebration of its centennial year, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum is implementing an Isabellas Free Forever policy, which means anyone named Isabella gets free admission to the Gardner. Thinking of passing yourself off as an Isabella to save a couple of bucks? Think again. Museum attendants will be carefully checking IDs.

Mrs. Gardner in Venice, 1894, by Anders Zorn

Stell-aaah... Lexington is known as the home of the shot heard 'round the world. While you probably won't hear any shots fired nowadays, some shouting will be heard in the town's Depot Square May 3. In celebration of its production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the Lexington Players host a Stella Yelling Contest—based on a New Orleans tradition and Marlon Brando's famous onscreen bellow. Men and woman are invited to give their most passionate yell (women can yell "Stanley"). Three judges whittle down the competition based on raw emotion and volume. *www.thelexingtonplayers.org.*

—E.H., J.I. and J.S.

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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Proper Bostonians

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

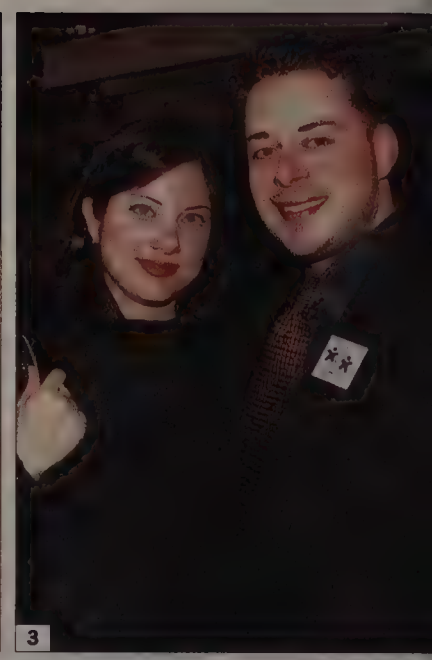
The 4th Annual Evening to Benefit AileyCamp Boston was held April 14 at the Regattabar in the Charles Hotel. More than 225 friends of AileyCamp attended the soirée, which raised over $50,000. All proceeds will benefit AileyCamp, a free, six-week summer day camp for middle-school students from Boston-area schools.

1

1. From left: **Lisa Hughes**, news anchor for WBZ-TV; **Mike Casey**, vice president of new business for Hill Holliday; and **Marty Jones**, president and executive director of the FleetBoston Celebrity Series.

2

2. **Kay Hanley**, singer, and her husband, **Michael Eisenstein**, guitarist for Our Lady Peace.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3. **Irene Antonellis** and **Eric Dawson**, program specialist and executive director, respectively, for Peace Games.

4

4. From left: **Jo Frances Kaplan**, director of institutional giving for the Boston Symphony Orchestra; **Robin Powell Mandjes**, leadership committee member for AileyCamp Boston; and **Michele Courton Brown**, senior vice president of FleetBoston Financial.

5

5. **Tina Patsiokostas**, design consultant for Italian Design in Brookline, and **Kenn Gray**, director of exhibitions for the Judi Rotenberg Gallery.

6

6. **Don Lowery**, executive director of communications for Viacom, and **Kathy Taylor**, managing director of WGBH-TV and radio.

The 3rd Annual Leslie's Links pre–Boston Marathon party was held April 20 at Vox Populi. More than 300 people attended the event to benefit the Leslie's Links/Ewing's Sarcoma Fund at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Emceed by the IMPROPER's Jonathan Soroff and VH-1's Lynn Hoffman, the event raised $15,000 for Leslie's Links, established in memory of Leslie Semonian.

7

7. From left: **Kristin Regis**, senior research analyst for Delahaye Media Link in Portsmouth, N.H.; **Shelley Saunders**, sales associate for Barefoot Wines in Portsmouth; and **Sonia Mattson**, recruiter for Reid & Co.

8

8. **Lynn Hoffman** (left), host of VH-1 Classics, and **Heather Michalowski**, director of marketing for the Rack.

9

9. From left: **Stephen Griffin**, partner at Donovan Hatem; **Katherine Morse**, owner of the Flat of the Hill in Beacon Hill, and **Bill Power**, director of institutional sales for Citigroup Global Markets.

10

10. **Elizabeth Carroll** (left), senior director of human resources for Reed Business Information in Newton, and **Susan Frigoletto**, freelance marketing and communications consultant.

11

11. From left: **Emily Bickel** of Liberty Mutual HR; **Jennifer Campanella**, product manager for Fidelity Investments; **Leslie Sturtevent**, consultant relations for State Street Global Advisors; and **Kristen Morse**, independent consultant.

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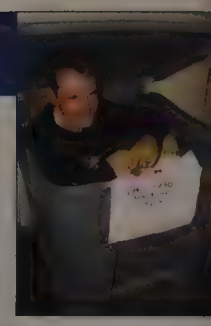

Spring Cleaning

Let's stop the cleaning Cold War

I've written before about my need for some type of cleaning service in my apartment. That was when I was living with Scott and Dave, a.k.a. Neskey. Little did I know that things were relatively spotless under the Neskey regime, and that once he left, order, such as it was, would crumble. It's not that Neskey's replacement, Lance, is messy—quite the opposite—it's just that the overall roommate dynamic has changed for the messier.

Neskey used to provide the motivation to get things done. If we hadn't gone grocery shopping in a month and were subsisting on pickles and Snow's clam chowder, Neskey would rally us for a trip to Stop & Shop. If the apartment suffered some type of infrastructure problem, like when the dishwasher began washing the floor, Neskey would fix it. And when the general uncleanliness got out of hand, Neskey would reach his disgust threshold and break out the mop, thus guilting Scott and me into helping clean up the common areas. He even liked to cook. In retrospect, Neskey was our own Martha Stewart—a younger, male version who was liable to get drunk and go swimming in Boston Harbor in the middle of the winter, but decidedly Marthalike nonetheless.

When Neskey moved on to better himself and play with cadavers at Albany Medical College, he was replaced by Lance. I don't know if Lance attended military school, but his bedroom usually looks like it would pass inspection by even the most ill-tempered drill sergeant. Lance is so neat that he even has an electric air purifier for his room so that his air molecules will be neat. I could probably sublet Lance's room to Mass General to use for minor surgical procedures.

Unfortunately, Lance doesn't use his awesome powers for the general good of the apartment. I don't blame him, really—I wouldn't clean the bathroom, for instance, if I thought I'd be the only one to ever do it (in fact, that's exactly why I don't clean the bathroom). The mutual mistrust between Scott, Lance and me means that the kitchen, bathroom and living room are perpetually not-so-fresh, the victims of an intra-apartment Cold War of cleaning. Without Neskey's dictatorial personality in the mix, a stalemate has arisen.

I've tried to do my part. A few months ago my friend Kara hounded me into standing out on Charles Street with her to sign people up to get those blue recycling bins. Everyone thought we were trying to sell something, and the majority of people did what I do when I see somebody on the sidewalk with a clipboard: They either crossed the street or hurried by and avoided making eye contact. Kara would then yell after them extolling the virtues of free recycling bins while I stood there holding a recycling poster like Silent Bob. But I was able to procure a sorely needed recycling bin for our apartment. (Based on the size of the newspaper stack we had accumulated, the papers at the bottom were probably hand-written by monks.) Having witnessed firsthand the public's disdain for recycling bins, then, I was quite surprised when someone stole ours the second week I put it out.

In addition to our recycling difficulties, the aforementioned occasional infrastructure problems are now festering unattended. For example: One corner support for the top shelf of our kitchen cabinets is broken. For the past two weeks, that shelf has been supported by two plastic Harpoon glasses wedged on the shelf below to shore up the tipsy corner. This would be a permanent fix but for the fact that the middle shelf is now sagging precariously

LANCE IS SO NEAT THAT HE EVEN HAS AN ELECTRIC AIR PURIFIER FOR HIS ROOM SO THAT HIS AIR MOLECULES WILL BE NEAT.

which makes sense since it is supporting its own load, and, via the Harpoon pillars, that of the top shelf. It's only a matter of time before a structural failure wipes out our entire supply of dishes, but still none of us has taken the initiative to fix the top shelf with a new screw. I did it last time this happened and I refuse to be the enabler.

It may be time to have a summit meeting between the roommates to work out an official cleaning/fix-it schedule. I'm worried about Lance, though. He seemed like a nice capitalist jock when he first moved in, but lately he's revealed a dark, hidden hippie side. He and Scott have been trading Phish bootlegs, and the other night I heard him in his room listening to a 25-minute guitar jam. They could form an Axis of Patchouli and the next thing you know I'm scrubbing the toilet while they're burning incense and doing easy stuff like vacuuming. On the positive side, maybe Lance will sign us up for another recycling bin. iB

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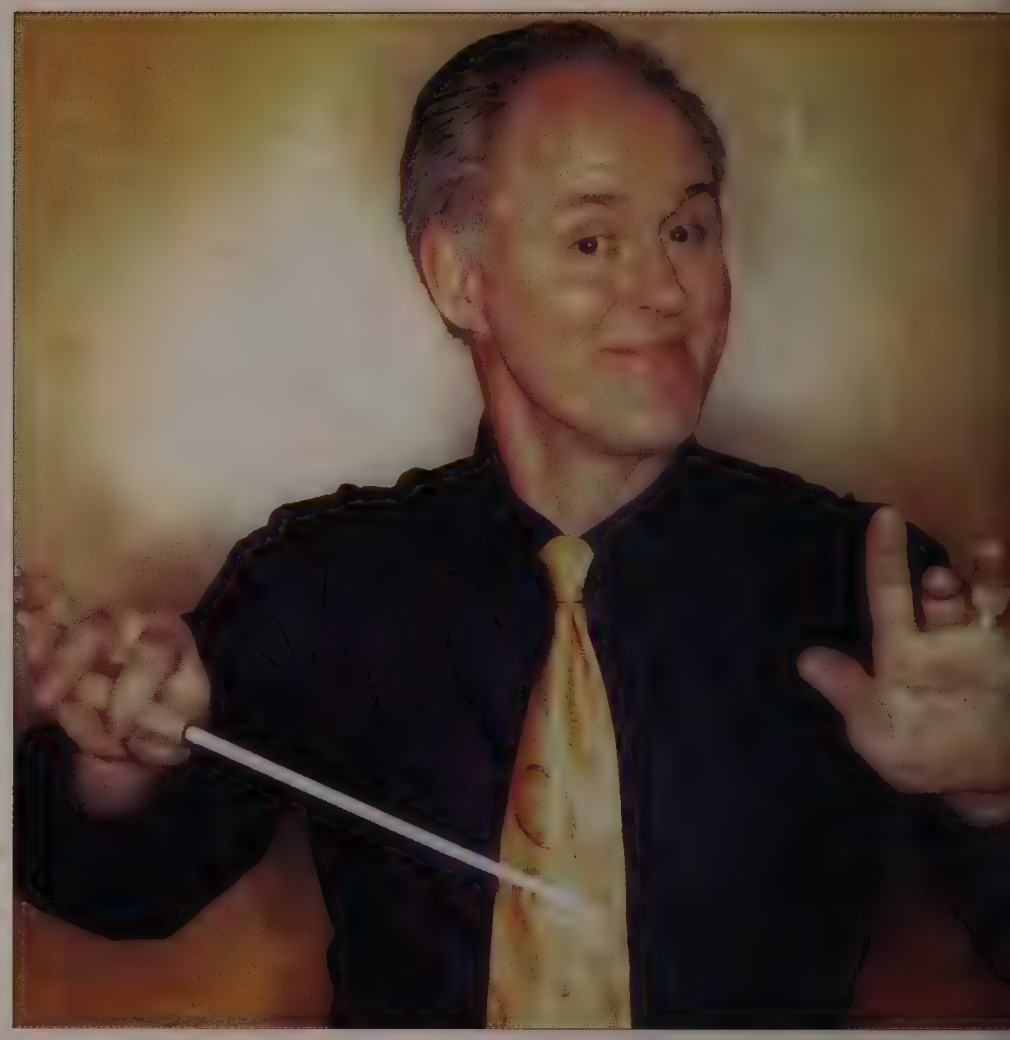
John Lithgow

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



Award-winning actor John Lithgow was born in Rochester, N.Y., and raised in Ohio, where his father produced Shakespeare festivals. After graduating from Harvard, Lithgow won a Fulbright scholarship and used it to study at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He settled in New York to pursue a stage career and earned a Tony award for his Broadway debut in *The Changing Room*. Over the next 10 years, he appeared in a different Broadway play each season. His first major film role, for which he received an Oscar nomination, was in 1982's *The World According to Garp*. The next year, he earned a second Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor in *Terms of Endearment*. His other film credits include *The Twilight Zone*, *A Civil Action*, *Raising Cain*, *Harry and the Hendersons* and the animated hit *Shrek*. On TV, he's best known as the commander of a group of aliens on the sitcom *3rd Rock from the Sun*, for which he won three Emmys and a Golden Globe. Last year, he received his second Tony award for *Sweet Smell of Success*. In recent years much of Lithgow's work has focused on children's entertainment. He has recorded two albums of kids' songs and written four children's books, including the bestseller *The Remarkable Farkle McBride*, on which he based "Farkle and Friends," a series of children's concerts. He'll be in Boston to participate in Harvard's Arts First festival, May 1–4, an event he founded 11 years ago to celebrate Harvard students and faculty in the arts. Later in the month, he'll narrate and perform in the New York City Ballet's *The Carnival of the Animals*, which he wrote the libretto for. Lithgow lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Mary, a UCLA history professor, and their two children, and he has a son from a previous marriage.

Jonathan Soroff: *Actor, singer, dancer, director, author, theater and ballet impresario…Is there anything you can't do?*

John Lithgow: Well, I'm not so great at opera. And I can't play anything short.

JS: *False. You played Lord Farquaad in* Shrek*! He was a shrimp.*

JL: True, but that was animated. I only had to speak it short.

JS: *As* 3rd Rock *so definitively proved, aliens live among us, and French Stewart is clearly one of them. Name three other people in the public eye who you think are from another planet.*

JL: George Bush.

JS: *Senior or Dubya?*

JL: Well, naturally it would be both. And, let's see, there's any number of other aliens out there. At one time, I would've said Dennis Rodman, but he's kind of slipped from public view. Then again, that's what aliens do, isn't it?

JS: *Yup. Have you worn falsies since* The World According to Garp*?*

JL: Oh, sure. I've probably been in drag more than any actor you could name. This spring, I'm performing in drag with the New York City Ballet, playing Mabel Bunson, the school nurse.

"DOGGEDNESS IS MY STRONG SUIT. I HURL MYSELF INTO ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING. IT'S AMAZING I'VE SURVIVED THIS LONG."

JS: *So do you think you make a fine-lookin' woman?*

JL: No. That's the whole point. I'm a horrendous-looking woman. It's the ultimate sight gag.

JS: *Least comfortable item of women's attire?*

JL: Well, it's what a man has to do in order to dress as a woman. You have to cinch in your waist and wear padding on your hips. In *Garp*, I had so many foundation garments and lace-up corsets underneath my costume that I wasn't allowed to drink fluids until midday, because it took so long for me to pee.

JS: *Rate your dancing ability on a scale of one to 10.*

JL: Can I use negative numbers? [Laughs.] I've taken on ballet, which is particularly difficult, but I've been taking classes every morning for about two months now, so I'm terrible, but slightly less terrible than when I started. When I finally rehearse in New York, I think they'll be pleasantly surprised.

JS: *Any strange skills on your resume, like the ability to carve scrimshaw, or fluency in Esperanto?*

JL: I can do lots of things, but none of them very well. As an actor, you flit from one curious thing to another, acquiring different skills for different roles, but you only sort of half learn any of them.

JS: *So, for example, when you appeared on horseback in* Don Quixote*, you weren't as accomplished as you looked?*

JL: The horse literally ran away with me, not once, but twice. I was in a sheer white-knuckle panic, and everybody thought I was just showing off. It sort of begs the question, "Why did you get back on the second time?" But doggedness is my strong suit. I hurl myself into absolutely everything. It's amazing I've survived this long.

JS: *What other near-death experiences have you had while acting?*

JL: I did a cable movie in Kenya with Isabella Rossellini about ivory poaching. I was supposed to heroically save the elephants, so I ran forward, shrieking and yelling and gesticulating, and then I hear the producer saying, "John, John, get back here!" The elephants were threatening to charge, but I thought they were bluffing, and somebody had told me, "Just stare them down," so that's what I did. Apparently, I'm lucky I didn't get killed.

JS: *Was working with Robin Williams as disconcerting as watching him?*

JL: Well, he was wonderful to work with, but if a crowd gathered, he suddenly had an audience, and he magically became the dazzling Robin Williams, which did get a little exhausting.

JS: *Greatest actor you've ever worked with?*

JL: Oh, there are so many. And there's a very short list of people I didn't enjoy working with.

JS: *Like?*

JL: I think we'll skip that. Diana Rigg once asked me, "Darling, who's on your wild horses list?" I said, "What do you mean?" She said, "The people wild horses couldn't drag you to work with again."

JS: *Was* Shrek *the easiest payday ever?*

JL: Well, it was amazing. I went to a sound studio three or four times for a few hours each time over the course of three or four years, so it didn't really feel much like acting. You just do the same lines over and over again.

JS: *Two Oscar nominations but no statuette. Ever feel like "always a bridesmaid, never a bride"?*

JL: Not really. I haven't really done Oscar-worthy work in films for a long time. I know great roles will come along again, but all the best movies I was in were between 1982 and 1986. That was a long time ago. I haven't really done anything great since then.

JS: *You made your stage debut at age 6 in* Henry VI*…*

JL: It wasn't really my debut…

JS: *Do you remember your lines?*

JL: I didn't have any. I was the dead boy in the battle scene. My actual debut was as one of Nora's children in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. I was 2½. I'm told I was very good.

JS: *It seems like every celebrity alive is writing a children's book. Name one celebrity-written kids' book you'd never want to see.*

JL: [Laughing.] Dr. Kevorkian's Bedtime Stories.

JS: *You've recorded several children's albums. Favorite animal sound in "Old MacDonald"?*

JL: Probably the horse. I do this stunning horse whinny.

JS: *Aren't most kids' performers just cloying?*

JL: I'm astounded at how many misread children and don't know how to entertain them. They don't put themselves into a kid's mindset. I pride myself on doing it right and I can't stand when people do it wrong.

JS: *Do your own children ever tell you you're embarrassing them?*

JL: Oh, yes, but not in so many words. They just pretend they don't know me. iB

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R&R

Your summer calendar is starting to book up—an out-of-town wedding or two, a weeklong trip to the beach with friends, the annual family get-together. But at some point while the weather is kind, you'll want to sneak in a weekend escape to a spot where the pace is slower, the traffic is lighter and the air a whole lot sweeter. Lucky for you, you live in New England, where pretty vacation spots are plentiful and relatively near at hand. The question is: Where to go? We've scoured the New England countryside for unique destinations along four themes—restorative, ritzy, rustic and romantic—and even created itineraries that you can easily duplicate. All you have to do is book a room and get in your car.

Clockwise from upper left: playing golf among the Berkshire woods at Cranwell; the lulur ritual at Canyon Ranch; the Gateways Inn in Lenox.

RESTORATIVE: The Berkshires BY EZRA DYER

As a weekend destination to recharge your mental and physical batteries, the Berkshires makes a lot of sense. It's only two hours from Boston, and if you leave a little early, I-90 is generally less traffic-clogged (and thus less frustrating) than the major north-south routes. The Berkshires region is also home to more spas than you can shake an exfoliating mud mask at, and the combination of peaceful countryside, good restaurants and a massage or two ought to lower the pulse of even the most stressed-out Type A.

Before we begin, it bears mentioning that if you want an all-inclusive restorative trip to the Berkshires, Canyon Ranch in Lenox is an obvious choice. The renowned spa offers a slew of services (including outdoor massages in the summer), healthy food, guided hikes—you could build your own weekend itinerary without leaving the grounds. Unfortunately, however, Canyon Ranch's activities cannot be sampled a la carte. That's where our Berkshires itinerary comes in, with the Gateways Inn in Lenox as home base.

FRIDAY

Leave Boston in the early afternoon. Check in at the Gateways Inn on the main drag in Lenox, about 130 miles from Boston. The 11-room bed-and-breakfast occupies a mansion built in 1912 by Harley Proctor of Proctor & Gamble and is now owned by innkeepers Fabrizio and Rosemary Chiariello. Fabrizio hails from Naples, Italy, and the Gateways combines Proctor's New England old-money elegance with Fabrizio's European flair—he's responsible for the inn's impressive collection of Italian gouache paintings, which date from the late 1700s and adorn the hallways and the dining room.

Once you've stashed your stuff, hop in your car for a half-hour drive to the Old Inn on the Green in New Marlborough for dinner. Recently named one of *Food and Wine*'s top 50 hotel restaurants in the country, the Old Inn on the Green's dining rooms are entirely candlelit. (Go tonight if you prefer an a la carte menu; on Saturdays the only option is a $62 prix-fixe menu. The weekday a la carte menu is also less pricey.)

After dining, return to the Gateways and relax at the bar, La Terrazza, with one of Fabrizio's 78 varieties of single-malt Scotch. If you'd like to try a few new liquors without ending up broke and drunk, the Gateways also offers flights of grappa and single-malt starting at $16.

SATURDAY

Eat breakfast at the Gateways, then drive to Cranwell Resort, Spa and Golf Club, five minutes away. Cranwell's golf course plays in front of the resort's main mansion. (You can reserve a tee time up to five days in advance.) Cranwell also offers a *Golf Digest* golf school—hey, learning a few tricks to avoid losing all your balls in the woods can't hurt your stress level.

Afterward, you can mosey over to the 35,000–square foot spa, which opened last year, for a postgame deep-tissue massage. The spa includes a pool, steam rooms, saunas and whirlpools, and offers more than 30 services ranging from the "Seaweed Experience" body wrap to the "Wildflower Gommage" exfoliation treatment. If you and your significant other can't be apart for even an hour, Cranwell offers the "duet" massage in a special room with side-by-side tables.

At night, head back to the Gateways for dinner in the dining room. Most tables are near the room's large windows, which reach almost to the floor and look out over the lawn. The menu includes items like salad of pear and Berkshire blue cheese and roasted cod with cockles, and the Gateways' wine list has won *Wine Spectator*'s Award of Excellence.

After dinner, drive down Clifton Street, home to grand mansions from the era when monopoly was a business practice, not a board game. Clifton Street ends at Tanglewood, where you can listen to a classical music performance as the stars come out. Or you can head back to the inn and go to bed. Sleep has been proven to be very relaxing.

SUNDAY

Before you head home, you have time to take a leisurely hike up Monument Mountain, off Route 7 between Stockbridge and Great Barrington. Pick up sandwiches at one of Lenox' lunch shops and eat them at the summit, where Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Oliver Wendell Holmes gathered in 1850. When you're done, you should still make it back to Boston in time to get a relaxing, restorative, rejuvenating parking spot.

Canyon Ranch, 165 Kemble Street, Lenox (800-326-7080). www.canyonranch.com

Cranwell Resort, 55 Lee Road, Lenox (413-637-1364). www.cranwell.com

Gateways Inn, 51 Walker St., Lenox (413-637-2532). www.gatewaysinn.com

The Old Inn on the Green, Route 57, New Marlborough (800-286-3139). www.oldinn.com

Tanglewood, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600). www.tanglewood.org

CANYON RANCH: COURTESY OF CANYON RAN

Guests at the Provencal-style Home Hill Inn can enjoy afternoon tea in the sitting room or a dip in the pool

RITZY: Plainfield, N.H. BY ERIN HAGEDORN

Plainfield, N.H., a picturesque rural town complete with a covered wooden bridge, might be the last place you'd expect to find a posh French hotel. But Plainfield's French-inspired Home Hill Inn, which combines joie de vivre with simple New England charm, is just the place to enjoy a weekend of pure indulgence.

FRIDAY

You're embarking on a hedonist-for-a-weekend getaway, so why not stop and smell the roses on the two-hour drive to Plainfield? Concord, N.H., is about halfway, and we recommend that you exit off I-93 there to splurge for dinner at Brianas' Bistro, a cozy, candlelit restaurant just across from the state capitol. It serves up exquisite entrées like Atlantic swordfish with duck prosciutto. Whatever you do, don't pass up the crème brûlée.

After just over an hour's drive from Concord on I-89, you'll arrive at Home Hill Inn. The staff—all of whom have impeccable posture and even better diction—will most likely greet you by name. And if they're not too busy in the dining room, you'll meet one of the proprietors, Stephane and Victoria du Roure. Victoria (who trained in France) also serves as executive chef of the inn's AAA Four-Diamond restaurant.

Home Hill Inn recently became a member of the prestigious international Relais & Châteaux association, and the touches of elegance in its guest rooms make you feel truly pampered. You'll find L'Occitane bath products, fluffy bathrobes, plush down comforters, slippers, gourmet chocolates, bottled water and a plate of fruit, plus a printout of the local weather report. Of the 12 rooms, the most extravagant is the two-room Parrish Suite, named after the artist Maxfield Parrish, who lived in Plainfield. It includes a sitting room with a writing desk, oriental rugs and heaps of 18th-century French antiques.

SATURDAY

Saturday morning at Home Hill will remind you that you're here to indulge. The country continental breakfast (included in the price of your room) features hot, homemade pastries along with other tasty offerings like fresh fruit, yogurt and quiche. If you're feeling compelled to work off the calories afterward, you can try out the clay tennis court, swim in the small pool or borrow a bike from the inn to ride the nearby trails.

But if you're dedicated to an all-out splurge of a weekend, you'll need to shop, and nearby Hanover, home to Dartmouth College, is just the place. Hanover's Main Street is loaded with distinctive shops, including a Simon Pearce store. For a dose of culture, you can also visit the college's renowned Hood Museum of Art. On the way back to Plainfield on Route 12A, stop at West Lebanon's Anichini Outlet Store, which sells the famous brand's luxury linens at a discount. Mind you, a duvet cover still pushes $1,000.

You'll want to make it back to the inn in time for afternoon tea, which is served in the plush sitting room. Settle into a comfortable chair to snack on homemade cookies and biscotti served with a variety of tea. If you linger long enough, you can enjoy predinner gourmet treats as well, served to you at your chair. But be sure to dress up before heading to the dining room, where you sit at tables set with the European silverware and crystal. (No jeans or sneakers after 6pm.) The seasonal menu is a bon vivant's dream. The gourmet tasting menu (with dishes like braised osso bucco with baby fennel) and a la carte menu are inspired by the flavors of Provence, and many ingredients are flown in daily from France. After dinner, stuffed and happy, you can choose from a wine and cigar menu while relaxing outside on the petanque court. (Petanque is a traditional game similar to bocci.)

SUNDAY

On Sunday, drive down the road to Cornish, where a group of artists who gathered at the turn of the last century to escape city life founded the Cornish Art Colony. The Cornish Colony Gallery and Museum features numerous works by Maxfield Parrish. Also worth a visit in Cornish is the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, the former home and museum of 19th-century sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The grounds, now a national park, offer sweeping views of the Upper Connecticut River, making it an ideal picnic spot. (Home Hill Inn prepares gourmet picnics for guests—arrange one in advance.) In July and August, the Saint-Gaudens site holds a weekly Sunday outdoor concert series.

On the way home, keep the indulgent theme going with a quick side trip off Route 12A to L.A. Burdick Chocolate in Walpole, N.H. The dark chocolates are imported from France, Switzerland and Venezuela and are well worth the side trip.

Home Hill Inn, 703 River Road, Plainfield (603-675-6165). www.homehillinn.com. $175-$325 a night (no children under 14); dinner for two about $140.

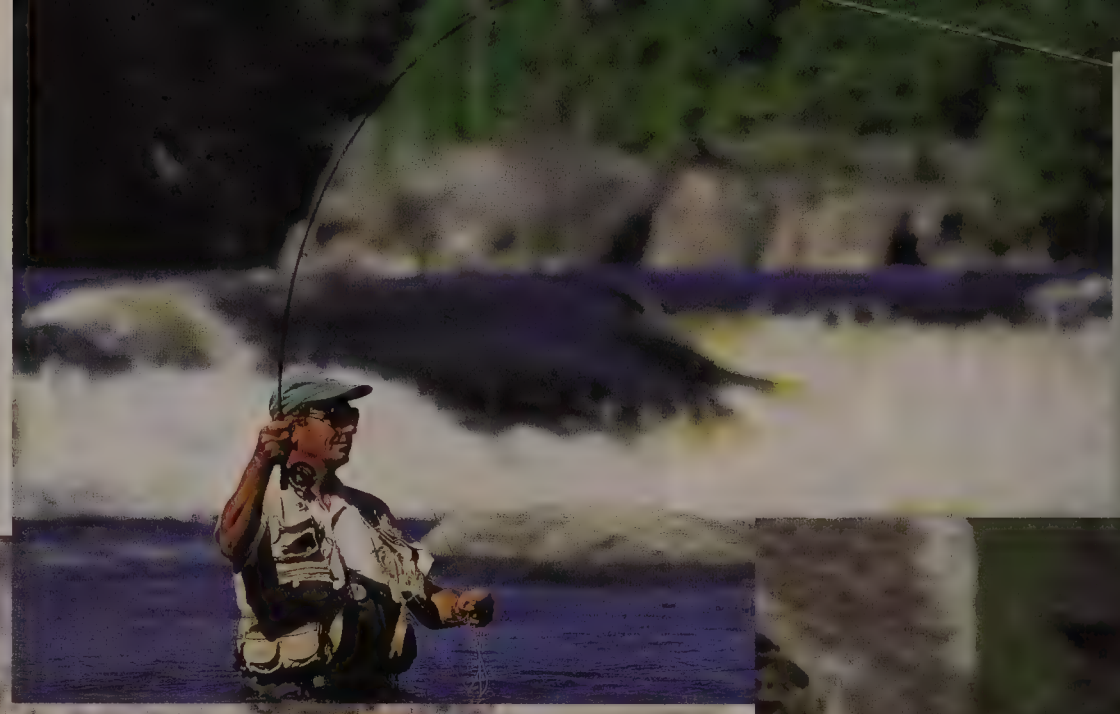
Brianas' Bistro, 90 Low Ave., Concord (603-224-6940)

Cornish Colony Gallery and Museum, 292 Route 12A, Cornish (603-675-6000)

L.A. Burdick Chocolate, 47 Main Street, Walpole (800-229-2419)

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, 139 Saint-Gaudens Road, Cornish (603-675-2175)

COURTESY OF HOME HILL FRENCH INN & RESTAURANT



The Penobscot River is one of the main attractions in Millinocket, Maine. Clockwise from upper left: a cabin at New England Outdoor Center's Twin Pine Camps on Millinocket Lake; fly fishing in the Penobscot; taking on the Penobscot rapids in a raft; going solo in a kayak.

RUSTIC: Millinocket, Maine BY EZRA DYER

Sure, you don't *have* to drive five and a half hours to feel like you're in the boonies, but for a real rustic weekend nothing beats good old Maine. And sorry, Ogunquit doesn't count. Millinocket offers whitewater rafting, hiking and Baxter State Park. Don't bother charging up your cell phone; it won't work where you're going.

FRIDAY

It's roughly 300 miles from Boston to Millinocket, about eight miles off I-95. Taking a half-day off on Friday ensures that you'll be well into Maine by the time traffic hits. Rush hour north of Bangor isn't much of a problem.

Once you hit Millinocket, dinner's your first priority so head straight to River Drivers restaurant. Set on the Penobscot River deep in the woods outside of town, River Drivers seems an unlikely place to find a top-shelf meal, but chef Herman Ammerman's creations—haddock stuffed with lobster and crabmeat and topped with lobster Newburg, for example—would hold their own at any high-end city restaurant. The prices, however, are quite rustic.

After dinner, drive to New England Outdoor Center's Twin Pine Camps, about 20 minutes away. The cabins at this sprawling facility on Millinocket Lake range from small, modest and decidedly old-school, with walls made of hewn logs and an open floor plan—hope everyone knows each other—to a brand-new, two-story house. But if you're really going for the Maine cabin experience, you'll pick one of the older places. There you'll find a gas fireplace, coffeemaker, a couch, a large dinner table and a gas grill and fire pit outside. You'll also find mismatched silverware and an assortment of pots and pans from the time before Teflon. Deal with it.

Once you're settled, start a fire, kick back and enjoy a beverage next to the lake. If you want to relax with a beer at night, be sure to stop at the Irving gas station on the way back to the cabins to stock up. (They have wine too, but there's a reason sommeliers don't frequent Irving stations.)

SATURDAY

There are two main options for your day.

Option 1: New England Outdoor Center. Stick around the camp to join one of NEOC's many wilderness-related activities, which range from wild to quiet and contemplative. Adventurous types can go whitewater rafting on the the Penobscot River, with its Class 5 rapids, or take kayak lessons. More laid-back folk might opt for a moose tour, which departs early in the morning and at dusk, when moose come out to frolic in the verdant woodlands. The moose tour is similar to a whale-watching trip in that if you see the animal you've come to spot, great, but if not, you've still had a day outdoors. So do people often get to see the elusive beasts? "I don't know yet," says NEOC's Gene Fourney. "This is the first year we've offered it."

Option 2: Baxter State Park. Millinocket is right next to one of the country's more unique state parks. Between 1939 and 1962 Percival P. Baxter, former governor of Maine, donated 200,000 acres of land and established a trust fund that pays for the park's operation. (There is a $10 entrance fee per vehicle.) Baxter takes no tax money, and as such it doesn't cater to the RV-driving public—its primary goal is to preserve the wilderness. There are strict limits on parking and trail capacity, so to hike mile-high Mount Katahdin, the park's star attraction, you need to arrive early. If you're in good shape, you can hike Katahdin in a single day, but overnight camping is allowed, provided you've made reservations for a campsite.

When you return to your cabin, you can cook hot dogs on the grill and make s'mores over your fire just like the pioneer settlers did hundreds of years ago. Then go sit by the lake and play your banjo. Or, if you are missing that gritty urban culture, head 20 minutes down Route 157 to Club LaCasa, the Millinocket area's finest exotic-dancing establishment, and watch ladies get rustic, just like the pioneer settlers did hundreds of years ago.

SUNDAY

Check out and begin your drive back to Boston. Two and a half hours south of Millinocket, stop at Big G's on Benton Avenue in Winslow for sandwiches. It's about five minutes off the highway. Trust us on this. One Big G's sandwich will feed your whole family. Or order one for yourself and savor the second half once you're back in the land of gridlock and mega-malls.

Baxter State Park, 64 Balsam Drive, Millinocket (207-723-5140). www.baxterstateparkauthority.com

Big G's, Benton Ave., Winslow (207-873-7808)

Club LaCasa, Route 157, Millinocket (207-746-9442). www.clublacasa.com

New England Outdoor Center, Old Medway Road, Millinocket (800-766-7238). www.neoc.com. NEOC's base lodge also includes River Drivers restaurant.

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ROMANTIC: Newfane, Vt.

BY ERIN HAGEDORN

It happens to every couple: You and your sweetheart get so caught up juggling jobs, friends, social schedules and appointments that romantic time together falls by the wayside. You're in dire need of some quality (ahem) one-on-one time. An amatory weekend for two is just what the doctor ordered: a trip to a picture-perfect small town where you can hole up in a cozy country inn and leisurely explore the surroundings. Throw in a stroll through gardens, a Jacuzzi soak and a smooch under a covered bridge and you've got the makings of an idyllic romantic weekend. Which brings us to the Four Columns Inn in Newfane, Vt.

FRIDAY

Shortly before you reach Newfane (a pleasant two-and-a-half hour drive from Boston), you'll pass through Brattleboro, a town off I-91 at the junction of the Connecticut River and the West River. If you left Boston early enough, you have time to explore the town's many shops (including at least five bookstores). Afterward, have a relaxing dinner at The Marina, a restaurant with an outdoor deck that overlooks the two rivers. Here, you can sip piña coladas and feast on entrées like Cajun chicken or shrimp scampi.

When you get to Newfane, you'll discover an intimate 160-year-old country inn across from a picturesque town green. Four Columns' rooms set the stage for romance—there are no televisions to distract you, and the luxury suites include an extraordinary spa bathroom, a giant bed and a Jacuzzi for two. Before holing up in your room, though, you'll want to stroll through the inn's gardens, around the pool, and around the deck that stretches behind the inn, where you can cross a charming rustic bridge over a stream. (The bridge leads to 150 acres of hiking trails that you might want to check out during the weekend.)

SATURDAY

Head to the inn's elegant but cozy dining room for breakfast. Don't fill up on the French toast and scrambled eggs—you'll want to save room for the homemade pastries. Then it's time to hit the road. Adventurous couples take note: Several small, secluded nude beaches are located along Rock River, within a few miles of the inn. (There are also some public swimming spots.)

Although a walk through one of the many small towns close to Newfane (like the quintessential Vermont villages of Grafton and Putney) makes for a romantic stroll, we recommend an agricultural adventure at Adams Farm in Wilmington, about 18 miles away. This working farm, run by husband and wife Jill and Carl Mancivalano, features rolling green pastures and animals galore. But the real attraction is the afternoon tea, served outside in an open-sided shelter, away from but in view of the animals. It's a full-blown high tea—three courses of farm-made specialties like Vermont cheese, finger sandwiches, scones with maple butter, and fudge made by Jill's mother—all served on real china with fresh flowers on the table. To keep you entertained, Carl gives Scottish-style sheepherding demos while you sit and sip, and Jill hands out vintage hats from her vast collection for everyone to wear.

After tea, take an evening hayride through Adams Farm's 200-plus acres and then cuddle up at the bonfire party, where you can toast marshmallows on a pitchfork. (You can also bring your own wine.) You'll have all the more reason to snuggle when the ghost stories begin. Before you leave, pick up a jar of locally made Tom & Sally's Chocolate Body Paint (it ain't for your car, honey) from the gift shop.

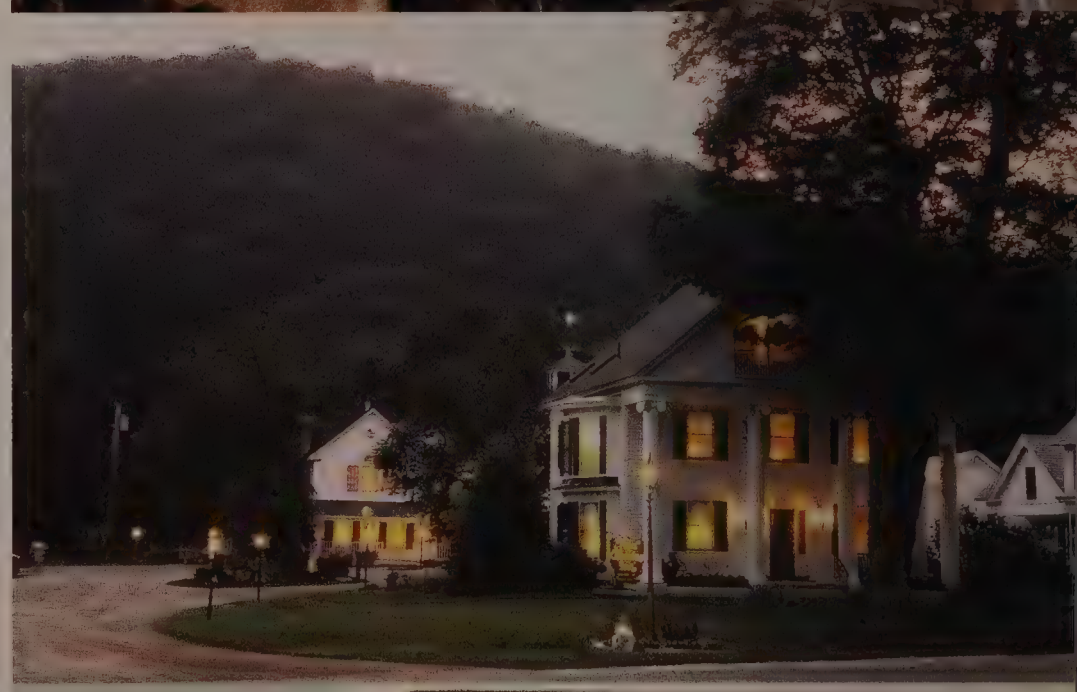
Back in Newfane, have a late dinner at Four Columns' AAA Four-Diamond restaurant where you can feast on Asian and French fusion cuisine prepared by Greg Parks, who has been cooking gourmet dishes at the inn for more than 25 years.

SUNDAY

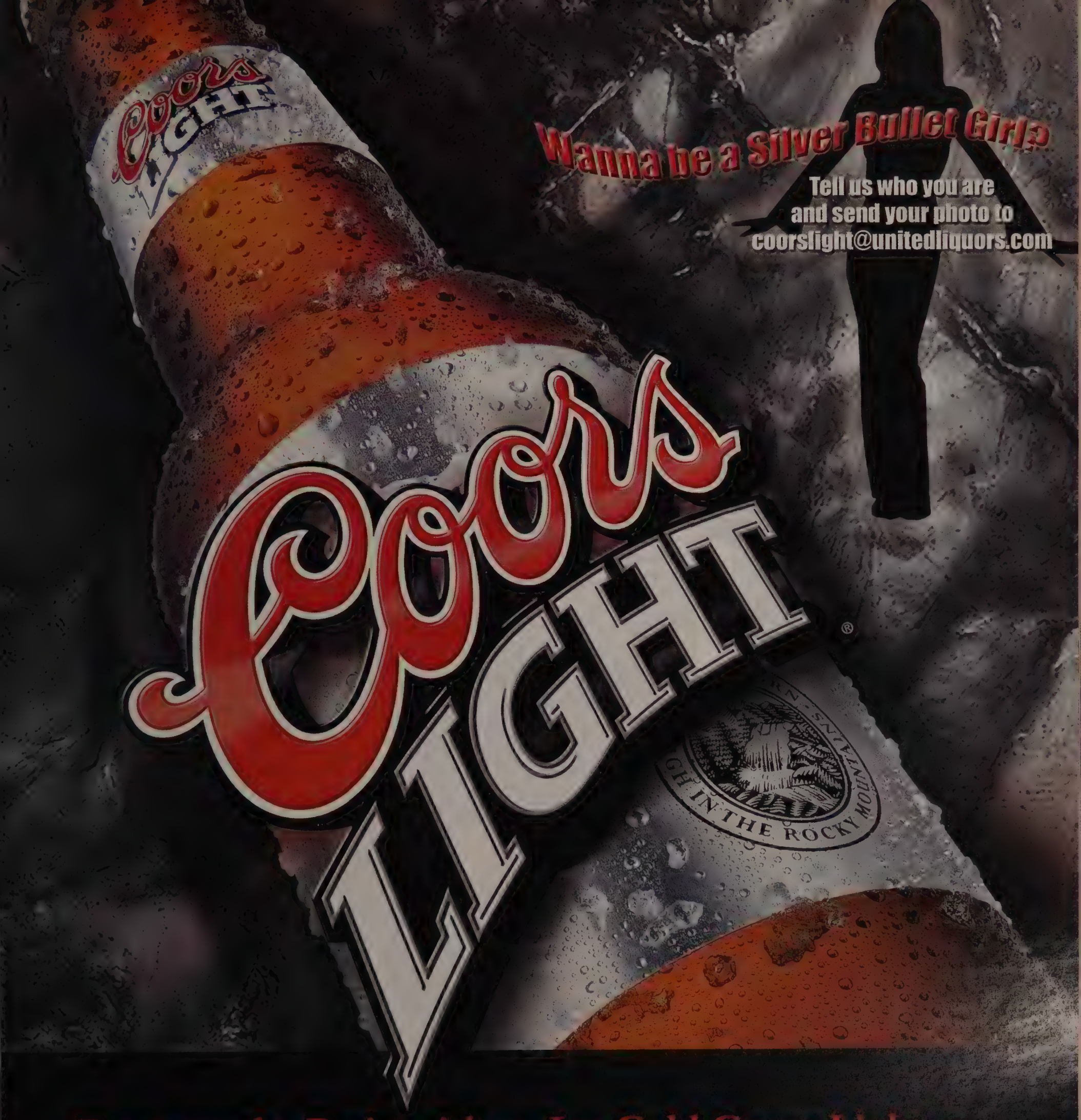
Check out time is 11am. But if you're not ready to head home just yet, drive to the nearby town of Jamaica. On the way, pause for a walk through one of the area's dozens of covered bridges (see *www.vermont.com* for a list) and steal a smooch. (It's good luck!) Hamilton Falls, one of southern Vermont's most spectacular waterfalls, is located at the edge of Jamaica's Green Mountain National Forest. There's also the Butterfly Heaven at D&K's Garden Center in Jamaica, where you can walk through the quaintly landscaped, butterfly-filled pavilion. When you're ready to say goodbye to the butterflies, it's time to flutter back to Boston.

Four Columns Inn, On the Green, Newfane, (800-787-6633). www.fourcolumnsinn.com.

Adams Farm 15 Higley Hill Rd, Wilmington (802-464-3762). www.adamsfamilyfarm.com.



From top: Four Columns Inn's luxury suites set the stage for romance; a view of the inn at dusk; tartare of North Atlantic salmon is served in the dining room; suites come complete with a Jacuzzi for two.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Clockwise from top left: Stonewall Kitchen, York—Williams-Sonoma meets the country store; Eartha and child at the DeLorme Map Store, Yarmouth; maps at DeLorme's; wood sculpture outside the Kittery Trading Post, Kittery; entering Maine on I-9

creative OUTLETS

Kittery and Freeport offer a shopper's smorgasbord, but don't forget to leave room for surprises

BY SUSAN ABBATTISTA **PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB PERACHIO**

The last time I went outlet shopping in Maine, I came home with two pairs of Gap shorts, four Maidenform bras, a windbreaker from L.L. Bean, a moose-shaped candy bar from Cool as a Moose, two pairs of winter boots from Nine West and a sander from Black & Decker. I don't know how to use a sander—hell, I don't even own a house—but I just had to have it.

For Bostonians like me, the seasonal pilgrimage to Kittery and Freeport is something akin to experiencing nirvana at an all-you-can-eat buffet. "Look at those sandals! Cute top! Mmmm, vanilla candles! New sheets!" But as you drive back to Boston with your trunk full of goodies, the hangover from your highball of American consumerism sets in: "I just drove to Maine (a.k.a. Vacationland) and spent the entire time looking at the back of a cash register." That's probably not the intended spirit behind the state's motto, "Maine: The way life should be."

The next time you travel north for bargains, be sure to set aside some time for exploration. With some forethought, it's easy to set up the perfect little trip, one that combines a giddy shopping experience with the pleasant surprises of a minivacation. This itinerary is a just sample of what's possible; it's based on an easy weekend drive that I did with a travel companion, a reformed outlet shopper who once bought three pairs of identical brown shoes at Bass. The trip lasts two days and spans an approximate 125-mile stretch of Maine that begins in Kittery, makes its way through Freeport and ends in the midcoast town of Rockland.

To leave ample time for shopping and exploring coastal towns, we chose not to stray far from Route 1. When you travel up the coast this way, you get a dramatic view of the effects of commercial development on small-town communities. After you leave Freeport and pass through Woolwich, Newcastle and Damariscotta, notice how congested clusters of businesses give way to farms dotted on sprawling acres. Along the way, keep your eyes open for small shops, flea markets, diners and roadside family businesses. As a general rule, you can take Route 1A extensions whenever you want a more scenic byway. (For additional itinerary suggestions, see sidebar on page 24.)

Before heading up to Kittery and Freeport, though, you should come up with an itinerary. What do you really need? What stores do you want to visit? Two Web sites provide basic directions from Boston, as well as maps of store locations: thekitteryoutlets.com and freeportusa.com. These can help you solidify a game plan. Keep in mind that there is some overlap between the two shopping meccas located roughly 60 miles apart. For example, you'll find big names like Banana Republic, Bass, Coach, Cole Haan, the Gap, J. Crew, Nine West, Reebok and Samsonite in both places. L.L. Bean and its factory store, meanwhile, are only in Freeport.

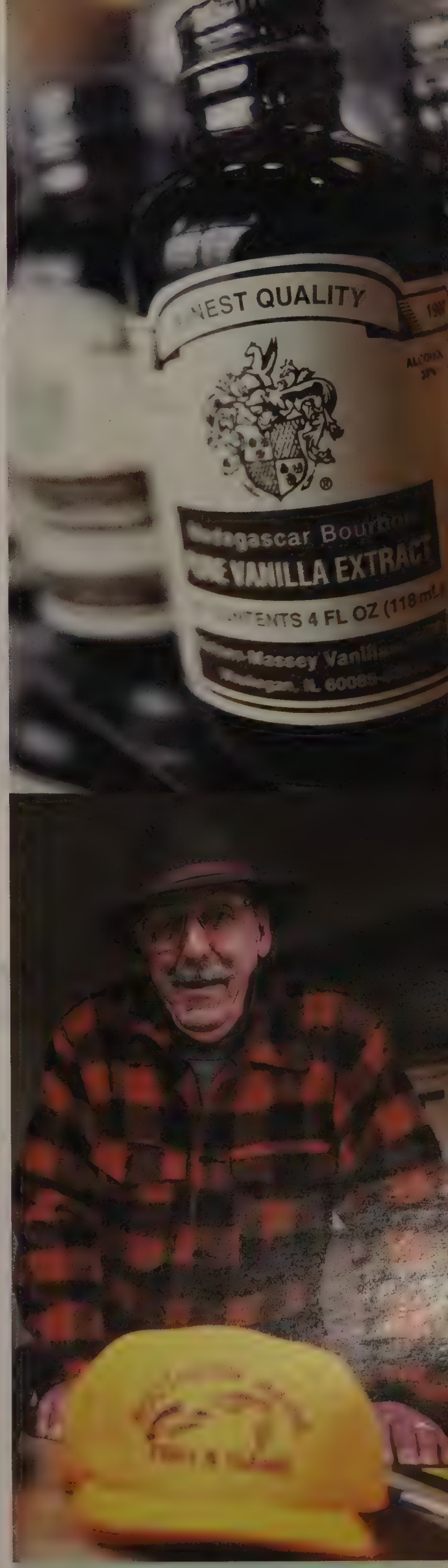
Once you hit the southern-Maine town of Kittery on Route 1, be sure to stop at the Kittery Trading Post (look for the large bull's eye right after the Liz Claiborne outlet). The parking lot alone will make you feel as if you've traveled to someplace in middle America where folks drive pickups and eat lots of charred meat. Just don't be put off by bumper stickers like "Keep Honking, I'm Reloading." Large wood carvings of Native Americans wearing traditional hunting garb (including a man peeking out from inside a bear's head) flank the store's outer doors. Inside, KTP sells everything for enjoying (or conquering) the great outdoors. You'll also find stuffed beasts—owls, ducks, coyotes, moose and caribou. On the store's lowest level, watch hunters test equipment and lock their gaze on imaginary prey. Bambi lovers can focus their attention on the maple candy.

About five miles down the road from Kittery, in York, the Stonewall Kitchen makes for another fun stop. Like a cross between Williams-Sonoma and grandma's country kitchen, this specialty foods store is filled with things you'd expect to see at a country bed-and-breakfast—syrups, pancake mix, cookware and nostalgic kitchen items. From 9 to 5 during the week, stop in at the viewing gallery and watch jams and jellies being made. The real treat, though, is tasting the delicacies that the store stocks, from peach-Amaretto jam to Bourbon-molasses mustard. You can even try farmhouse waffles made while you wait.

The next stop is the DeLorme Map Store in Yarmouth, about 53 miles north of York. (Stay on Route 1 or, to save time, take the faster I-95 and then cut back over to Route 1 in Yarmouth.) As you approach, you can see Eartha, the world's largest rotating globe, looming inside a glass atrium. With a circumference of 130 feet, Eartha is remarkably detailed—its surface image of Earth was created using satellite photography. You can view this breathtaking sight from three different levels inside the building. The Map Store is also a great place to pick up maps (of course), travel guides, inflatable globes, globe marbles and globe chocolates.

From Yarmouth, it's a mere five miles to Freeport, home of the flagship L.L. Bean store, which is open 24 hours a day. In your zeal to pick up thermal underwear at 3 in the morning, you may not notice the large tower clock just beyond the L.L. Bean lobby, to the right of Discovery Pond. This clock, with a two-meter pendulum, was built for the town of Freeport by the Balzer family, local residents known nationwide for their skillful clock restorations. On the hour, the clock plays a song from a hollow steel cylinder that works like an oversize music box.

The novelty of being able to shop well past bedtime may entice you, as it did us, to spend the night in Freeport. Inns, B&Bs and motels are plentiful, and we chose the



Top: Stonewall Kitchen products; Bottom: Prepare to take on the wild at the Kittery Trading Post.

Harraseeket, two blocks north of L.L. Bean. The historic inn (circa 1798, with modern additions built in matching style) sits on five acres of lush grounds. We especially enjoyed afternoon tea in the mahogany drawing room and the tableside preparation of Caesar salad in the formal dining room. Service and amenities here are top-notch, but the staff and proprietors are down-to-earth.

The next morning, continue northeast on Route 1, about 30 miles, until you reach Wiscasset, which bills itself as "the prettiest village in Maine." The town center, with its many antique shops, is a wonderful place to putter around on a summer day. Stop in at Red's Eats, a Route 1 landmark that for 60 years has drawn vacationers who come to try the famous lobster rolls.

Lush green landscapes provide a soothing backdrop as you continue northward for about 25 miles to the town of Thomaston. On the main drag, you'll find an amazing selection of woodwork (cutting boards, bureaus, coffee tables and birdhouses) at the Maine State Prison Showroom. The prices are reasonable, and all goods are finely crafted and inconspicuously stamped with the phrase "Made by Inmate." There's something eerie about buying an item made by someone who obviously has a lot of time on his hands, but look on the bright side: Proceeds support the prison's job-skills program. Afterward, enjoy a tall glass of fresh-squeezed lemonade and a slice of homemade pie at the Thomaston Café, a homey spot that has received praise from *Gourmet* and the *New York Times* for its "Yankee cuisine," especially its fishcakes and chowders.

Less than five miles from Thomaston, enjoy the view of Rockland, a large commercial fishing port on Penobscot Bay. Many travelers come here to visit the Farnsworth Art Museum, which has an expansive collection of 18th- and 19th-century American art. Rockland is also home to the Maine Lobster Festival, which takes place this year from July 30 to August 3. **iB**

For more information, log on to the following Web sites:

www.kitterytradingpost.com
www.stonewallkitchen.com
www.delorme.com
www.llbean.com
www.balzerclockworks.com
www.harraseeketinn.com
www.freeportusa.com
www.maineantiques.org
www.state.me.us/corrections/industries
http://farnsworthmuseum.org
www.mainelobsterfestival.com.

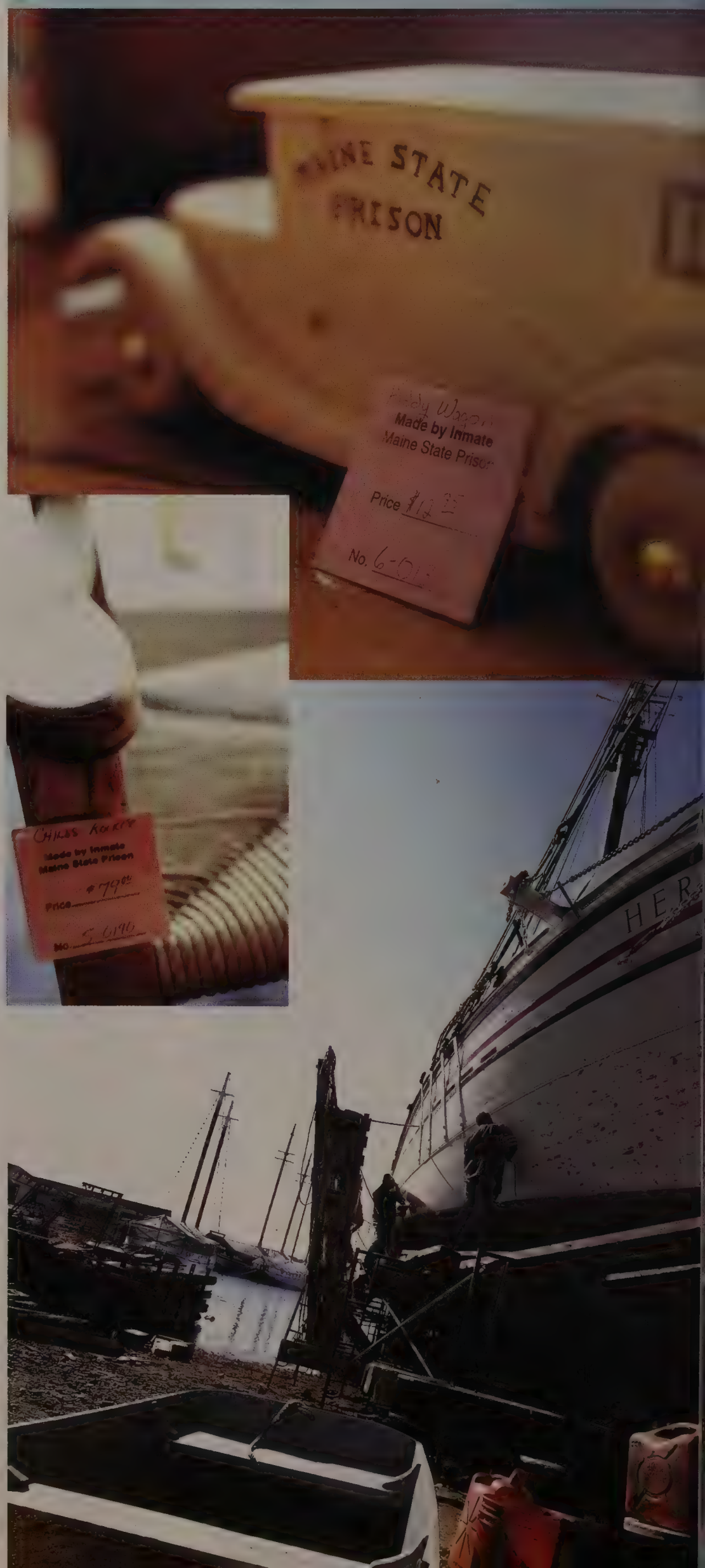
10 MORE WAYS TO SPICE UP YOUR TRIP

Here are other Maine activities easily accessible from your drive up Route 1, listed from south to north.

1. Walk along the Long Sands or Short Sands beaches of York, which are open to the public.
2. Gaze at the postcard-perfect Nubble Light, a lighthouse overlooking the mouth of York Harbor.
3. View the rocky coast and the 100-foot Bald Head Cliff in Ogunquit.
4. Hike the seven-mile trail through Wells National Reserve and see its diverse habitats: woodlands, fields, wetlands, beach and dunes.
5. Indulge in some fried dough and ride the Ferris wheel at the Coney Island–like amusement park at Old Orchard Beach.
6. Spend an afternoon visiting shops, bookstores, restaurants and pubs along the cobblestone streets of Portland's Old Port Exchange.
7. Have a picnic or barbecue at Wolf's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport.
8. Observe ospreys, blue herons and wild shorebirds at the Hamilton Sanctuary in West Bath.
9. Tour the outdoor shipyard at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath.
10. See an air show (call for times) at the Owls Head Transportation Museum, two miles south of Rockland.

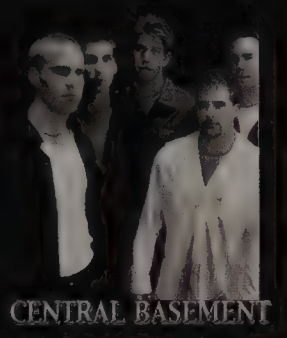
For help planning your trip, or to request a free Maine guide, log on to *www.visitmaine.com*.

Top and middle: The Maine State Prison Showroom in Thomaston sells handicrafts made by inmates; Bottom: Visit Rockland Harbor and see a commercial fishing port in action.



the Harp
irish pub

FRIDAY 5-2,16 & SATURDAY 5-17



SATURDAY 5-3

SATURDAY 5-10

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DRIVEN TO DINE

You don't have to travel far to find culinary and sensory enchantment

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB PERACHIO

Fill your wallet and your gas tank and hit the road! Summer is the best time to explore spectacular dining destinations farther afield. And because you probably won't want to drive an hour or more after enjoying a six-course dinner with wine, it's also a perfect opportunity to plan a mini-vacation that lasts at least until breakfast. Be sure to take the time to plan a getaway that best fits your personal definition of ultimate luxury, whether that means a restaurant with official world-class standing—as a member of the highly exclusive Relais & Châteaux association, for example—or one that simply strikes you as the most romantic spot imaginable. Here's a quality quartet of suggestions, three of which offer on-site, luxury lodging.

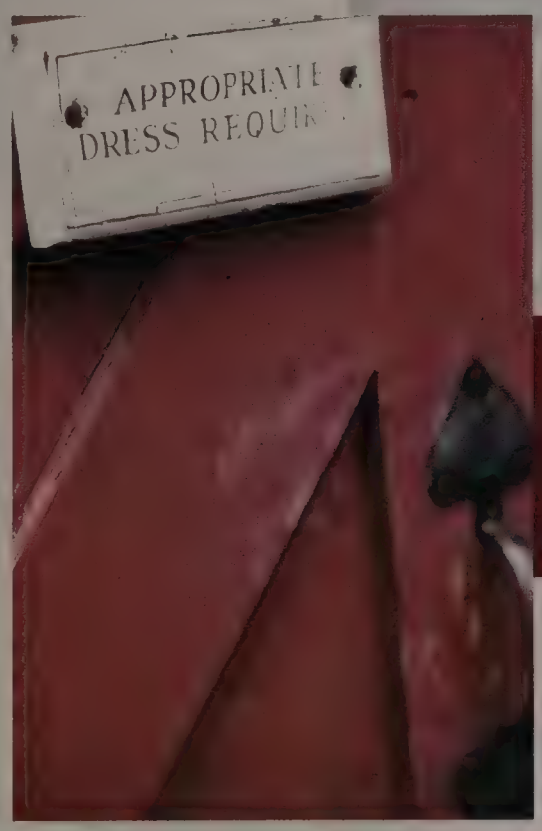
WHEATLEIGH

Hawthorne Road, Lenox, Mass.
(413) 637-0610

Many fine restaurants and inns pursue perfection, but Wheatleigh is one of the few to actually capture it. On the outside, it's a faux Florentine palazzo built in the late 19th century, in a grandly landscaped setting. On the inside, it's a breathtaking blend of recently restored architectural detail—elaborate mantels and huge Tiffany windows—and modern makeover by New York architects Calvin Tsao and Zack McKown expressed in neutral tones, streamlined minimalism and naturally luxurious materials from raw silk to dark wood. The utter tranquility of the surroundings will absorb any residual stress you may feel after the two-hour drive from Boston.

Once you walk through the Tiffany entryway and into the Great Hall, you'll be quietly and richly pampered by an amazingly solicitous staff. Gathered from Scotland, Austria, Switzerland and elsewhere by general manager Francois Thomas, they follow his lead in being prepared to handle any guest's whim or challenging situation with grace and efficiency.

If you've checked in for the night, everything you need to indulge yourself will be found in your room or suite: a welcoming tray of luscious Muscat grapes and walnuts, a plate piled high with cookies and sweets, a TV, a CD player and CDs, and a bathroom with a fabulous soaking tub and carefully arrayed Bulgari shampoos and lotions.



Opposite page: The dining room at the White Barn Inn. Above: Miniature metal casts adorn the White Barn Inn's tables. Left: Don't wear your cut offs to the White Barn's dining room

However, the restaurant beckons you to dine in the glass-enclosed portico that frames panoramic views of mountains and sky. Executive chef J. Bryce Whittlesey, who long ago worked at Boston's L'Espalier under chef/owner Frank McClelland before studying intensively in France, creates a remarkable "Grand Menu Degustation" showcasing fish and seafood, including rouget barbet (red mullet) that's been sent by FedEx from Madagascar.

Now, this "mullet by mail" is not a gratuitous gesture to prove the lengths to which the chef will go to use exotic ingredients. In fact, it's hard to imagine eating anything more delicious than the crispy-skinned rouget, served in a spring-garlic broth tinged with saffron and topped with delicate wild asparagus from California. It's followed by a creamy-fleshed, thick fillet of wild Columbia River sturgeon, accented by assertively herbal stinging nettles and applewood-smoked bacon, and accompanied, as is each course, by a thrillingly complementary wine selected by sommelier Pascal Fiancette.

By the time you get to dessert—a Meyer lemon soufflé into which dining room manager Eric Doerr plunges a spoonful of lemon-thyme sorbet—it's easy to doubt the existence of a world outside Wheatleigh.

The Wheatleigh gestalt is so exquisitely refined, so correct and so, well, perfect, as to be almost unsettling. Nerve-wracking enough, in fact, to provoke a retroactive fault-finding mission. Conclusion: Maybe, just maybe, the spoonful of fennel gelee that accompanied dinner's second course—a trio of finely chopped, tiny lemony mounds of periwinkle, razor clam and geoduck atop a little rectangle of toasted brioche—could have been more thoroughly chilled. Yeah, right.

THE WHITE BARN INN

37 Beach Avenue, Kennebunkport, Maine
(207) 967-2321

Because the White Barn Inn is a Relais & Châteaux property, you will be greeted with sincere warmth, pampered with exquisite politeness and provided with ultracivilized creature comforts. Once you've checked into your gorgeously decorated room, suite or cottage, you'll find it difficult to tear yourself away from the Jacuzzi, the soft terry-lined silk bathrobe, the seductive four-poster bed and the fireplace and move on to dinner in the antique-filled candlelit dining room.

Because the White Barn Inn is in Maine, and caters year-round to a local clientele, you will find white zinfandel on the wine list, salt-and-pepper shakers on the tables and lobster spring rolls as a signature appetizer. Hot, crisp, packed with tasty lobster and served with a spicy-sweet Thai-style sauce, it's a crowd pleaser, not a palate challenger. In fact, if you're in a "mixed" relationship (foodie and non), you will both find happiness here. Lobster diehards can continue dinner with a steamed lobster on homemade fettuccine with carrot, ginger, snow peas and cognac coral butter sauce. For carnivores, there's shiitake mushroom-and-wasabi-crusted grilled beef tenderloin on a sesame pancake with pinot noir sauce. There's always at least one vegetarian appetizer, second course and main course, such as the portobello mushroom lasagna. And the chef's seasonal tasting menu offers the likes of New England venison blanketed by a celeriac charlotte on a bed of Savoy cabbage, with an elegant and lively Madeira sauce.

Speaking of the chef, executive chef Jonathan Cartwright—whose work has earned the White Barn Inn Relais & Châteaux's prestigious Relais Gourmand status the past two years—runs the kitchen so well that you probably won't notice whether he's present or not. On this particular night of luxury, chef Sebastian Pfeiffer was a worthy stunt double, preparing an impromptu version of a main-course pot-au-feu (a French boiled dinner of meat and vegetables) in a sampler size. Instead of the grilled Maine pheasant breast listed on the menu, he prepared a tiny quail nestled against a slice of Quebec foie gras and a ravioli stuffed with butternut squash and Parma ham, all swimming in a rich broth brightened with red peppers.

The sommelier was also apparently elsewhere on our Tuesday night visit. But he was ably replaced by a waitress named Michelle, whose experience at Ogunquit's Arrows and the French Laundry in California's Napa Valley shone through in her ease and professionalism. Riesling with the lobster and Sauterne with foie gras were expected pairings, but the standout was a spontaneous pouring of a glass of Alexander Valley Meritage with the venison (the menu listed the paired wine as a Chilean cabernet/merlot blend). It's a rare treat to find Meritage by the glass, but the White Barn's wine list offers many ways to treat yourself: half-bottles of Amarone, St. Julien and St. Estephe, and more than 30 champagnes, including a Veuve Clicquot Vintage Reserve Brut 1996 that's available by the glass.

As you peruse the dessert menu, remember that you'll be presented, in addition, with a lovely plate of friandises. Imagine dark-chocolate truffles flavored with rosewater; sugar-dusted cassis gelees; tiny tastes of raspberry cheesecake; and (my favorite) diamonds of peanut butter fudge topped with chocolate ganache. Another word of advice: When you return to your room, next to the freshly turned-down sheets on your bed you'll find a plate of white-chocolate-dipped strawberries on the night table. Sweet dreams indeed.

ARROWS RESTAURANT

Berwick Road, Ogunquit, Maine
(207) 361-1100

Last year, it seemed the big news about Arrows was the anticipated publication of *The Arrows Cookbook*, accurately subtitled *Cooking and Gardening from Maine's Most Beautiful Farmhouse Restaurant*. Slated to be published in June by Scribner, it combines practical gardening advice with recipes from the restaurant.

Top: Dinner at Silks at Stonehedge Inn is a rare indulgence. Bottom: Stonehedge's "wine cave" houses some 60,000 bottles

Now, there's even bigger news, especially for Arrows devotees whose pilgrimages to this gastronomic garden of bliss were limited by the expense. Co-owners/co-chefs Mark Gaier and Clark Frasier have introduced a prix-fixe menu on Friday nights through late spring. At $38.95, the three-course dinners are about the same price as a typical Arrows main course, such as its grilled bluefin tuna with garden radicchio, artichokes and red French lentils; or tuna tartare with roasted bell pepper, garlic chives, lemon and shaved-fennel salad.

Billed as "trattoria night" or "bistro night," the Friday-night theme alternates "at the whim of the chef," according to Frasier, "either country French or country Italian. Each week we'll write a different menu of simple but robust, family-style food." Although the menu will focus on braised meats rather than foie gras, you can expect the Arrows' customary level of quality. You can also expect flexibility: While one diner orders the prix fixe, others at the same table can choose from the regular menu. You'll want to allow for flexibility in your wallet too, because once you're tempted by Arrows' house-cured prosciutto or its irresistible presentation of foie gras—with lemon-balm aspic, nasturtium salad and violet mustard, for example—you'll fold like a napkin.

Frasier hopes the new menu will entice local diners to develop a weekly habit. Another idea: After wrapping up an afternoon of outlet shopping in nearby Kittery, total the money you've saved on discounts, drive a little farther north and then spend it all on an early dinner!

Also new this year is master gardener Paige Higgins, who, Frasier says, brings new energy to Arrows' famous organic garden, which provides most of the restaurant's fresh produce. The gardening adventure continues this summer with an attempt to grow Belgian endive, which Frasier describes as a demanding vegetable. It has to be grown initially in the dark, then kept dormant in the cellar, then started up again. Good luck, guys.

SILKS AT STONEHEDGE INN

160 Pawtucket Boulevard, Tyngsboro, Mass.
(978) 649-4400

Timeless in appearance, this quietly elegant country inn, with its European-style hospitality and white-fenced green pastures grazed by retired thoroughbred horses, may seem unaffected by the vicissitudes of the local economy.

Not so. Just as the finest service staff responds nimbly to the subtlest indications of guests' needs, Stonehedge Inn is adapting to the realities of challenging times. Dawn Bozkurt, who, with her husband, Levent, owns and runs the inn and restaurant, says feedback from guests has resulted in changes to Silks' latest menu.

"We felt it important to do our part by readjusting our menu prices," Bozkurt says. "Overall, prices have decreased from our last menu."

Some guests, she adds, were intimidated by elaborate menu descriptions in French, so the French has been eliminated. It's a practical decision—not a political one—that streamlines the new menu. Dinner here is still an indulgence, though; pan-seared foie gras with spiced mango and Grand Marnier reduction is just a starting point.

Also indulgent is the on-site spa, extensively renovated and expanded last year. Consider it your opportunity for mix-and-match personal pleasure. How about Sunday brunch, followed by a blue-spruce soak with an herbal massage? Or a light lunch in the glassed-in café to fortify you before a eucalyptus and sea-salt scrub? On a bleak rainy day, consider a hot-rocks massage and afternoon tea (served daily, from 2:30 to 5pm) complete with scones, sandwiches and pastries. Not to mention the usual assortment of full-body massages, manicures, pedicures and facials, provided in skylit treatment rooms accented with European marble. If you're staying overnight at the inn, you'll enjoy full access to the spa's four-season pool, tennis court, sunbathing deck, sauna, steam room and more.

Stonehedge's other attractions include a wine cave custom-built into the side of a hill, currently home to 60,000 bottles of wine, and an herb garden designed by David Gilson of the Herb Lyceum in nearby Groton. From basic spearmint and lavender to unusual varieties like pineapple sage, licorice basil and anise hyssop, the herbs grown in the garden are used in Silks' kitchen. **iB**

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summer fests

20 REASONS TO GET OUT OF TOWN

It's a warm summer day, the sun is shining and you've got a full tank of gas. Now all you need is an excuse to hit the road, a destination toward which you can hurl your joyful self. Summer events—jazz and film festivals, art fests, food frenzies—take place all around New England (and across the Canadian border) and offer the perfect reason to get out of town. Here are a few highlights.

MAY

Lobsterfest

Mystic Seaport, Conn. (860-572-5315). www.mystic.org. *May 24-26. 11:30am-4pm. $17.* Devour tasty tails and crack some claws on the banks of the Mystic River under an open-air boat shed.

JUNE

Old Port Festival

Portland, Maine (207-772-6828). www.portlandmaine.com. *June 1, 11am-5pm. Free.* Enjoy live comedy, entertainment and music including jazz, blues, rock, country, hip-hop, acoustic and world beat from more than 10 stages.

Strolling of the Heifers Parade and Festival

Brattleboro, Vt. (877-VTS BEST). www.strollingoftheheifers.com. *June 5-8. Free for most events.* This parade and festival includes a celebrity cow-milking contest, concerts, theatrical performances and the Heifer Ball.

Schweppes Great Chowder Cookoff

Yachting Center, Newport, R.I. (401-846-1600). www.newportfestivals.com. *June 7, 11am-6pm. $12.* Thirty chefs from around the nation compete for coveted awards, including Best Clam, Best Seafood and Most Creative. Chow down tasty 1 oz. samples.

Art in the Park

DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Mass. (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *June 8, 10am-5pm. $8.* View the work of more than 100 New England artists. Buy artwork, create your own sculpture or print, and clap along to bluegrass, Caribbean and West African music and dance acts.

Market Square Day

Portsmouth, N.H. (603-436-3988). www.proportsmouth.org. *June 14, 9am-5pm; fireworks, 9:15pm. Free.* Heaps of New Englanders come together for a cornucopia of international foods, four stages of music, an arts and crafts fair, and a live concert set to fireworks.

Nantucket Film Festival

Nantucket, Mass. (212-708-1278). www.nantucketfilmfestival.org. *June 19-22. $10 for individual films; $35 for a day pass.* Rub elbows with screenwriters, producers, actors and film buffs for a week of screenings, readings, forums and workshops. The festival, renowned for its eschewing of Hollywood glamour, focuses on the art of screenwriting.

The Green Mountain Chew Chew Food Festival

Waterfront Park, Burlington, Vt. (802-864-6674). www.vtliving.com/events/chewchew. *June 20-22. Fri.-Sat., 11am-11pm; Sun., 11am-6pm. Free.* Nosh your way through more than 40 exhibits hosted along Lake Champlain by Vermont food producers and restaurants.

Montreal International Jazz Festival

Montreal, Quebec, Canada (888-515-0515). www.montrealjazzfest.com. *June 26-July 6. 12pm-12am.* Music lovers worldwide migrate to Montreal for this popular annual jazz festival. The lineup of this year's week-long celebration includes Ray Charles, Ben Harper and Norah Jones.

From the top: Art in the Park; The Strolling of the Heifers Parade and Festival; and the Festival of Fireworks

JULY

Summerfest

New Bedford, Mass. (508-999-5231). www.newbedfordsummerfest.com. *July 5-6, Sat. and Sun., 11am-9pm. $5-$7.* This international folk music and arts festival offers six stages of entertainment showcasing top names in acoustic, folk and world music.

Basin Bluegrass Festival.

Brandon, Vt. (802-247-3275). www.brandon.org/bluegrass.htm. *July 11-13. Fri., 1-10:45pm; Sat., 9:30am-10:30pm; Sun., 9am-6pm. $10-$30.* The Green Mountains provide the perfect setting for this festival celebrating traditional bluegrass music. Listen to music by 13 different bands and partake in food and arts and crafts.

Newport Music Festival

Newport, R.I. (401-846-1133). www.newportmusic.org. *July 11-27. $10-$175.* Enjoy 64 neoclassical and baroque performances featuring elite American musicians and 80 international artists.

Vermont Mozart Festival

Various locations (802-862-7352). www.vtmozart.com. *July 13-Aug. 3. $23-$30.* This event brings chamber music to hundreds of listeners in 14 Vermont locations.

Lowell Folk Festival

Lowell, Mass. (978-970-5000). www.lowellfolkfestival.org. *July 25-27. Free.* The largest free folk festival in the U.S. returns with six outdoor stages displaying three days' worth of traditional art, dance, music and crafts.

AUGUST

JVC Jazz Festival

Fort Adams State Park, Newport, R.I. (401-847-3700). www.festivalproductions.net. *Aug. 8-10. Call for ticket prices.* Enjoy three full days of jazz by acclaimed international and American musicians, plus food and fun along the water's edge.

Taste of Northampton

Northampton, Mass. (413-584-1900). www.northamptonuncommon.com. *Aug. 8-10. Fri. and Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-8pm. $1.50-$4 per tasting.* More than 30 Northampton restaurants serve up samples of their specialties.

Apple and Eve Newport Folk Festival

Fort Adams State Park and the Hotel Viking, Newport, R.I. (401-847-3700). www.newportfolk.com. *Aug. 15-17. Call for ticket prices.* Attracting thousands of attendees each year, this festival includes both big-name and trend-setting performers.

Berkshire Mountain Music Festival

Ski Butternut, Great Barrington, Mass. (877-42FESTS). www.berkfest.com. *Aug. 15-17. $115-$175 for three-day pass.* The mountains provide an inspirational backdrop for five stages of music with bands like the Greyboy Allstars, Medeski, Martin & Wood, the Roots, Percy Hill, Steve Kimock Band and the Blind Boys of Alabama.

Festival of Fireworks

Jaffrey, N.H. (603-532-4549). Aug. 16, 9pm. $35-$200 per car. If Fourth of July on the Esplanade revved up your pyro appetite, head up to Jaffrey's Festival of Fireworks for a redux, a spectacular 30-minute display timed to music. This ain't no small-town sparkler show—Atlas Fireworks, the company behind Boston's July Fourth display, is headquartered in Jaffrey and lights up the sky as a special treat for its hometown.

Latino Festival

Veteran's Park, Manchester, N.H. (603-497-2215). www.intownmanchester.com. *Aug. 16, 11am-8pm. Free.* Join several thousand revelers in celebrating la cultura Latina. People from 30 Latin American countries invite festival-goers to enjoy authentic comidas (foods), musica (music) and bailando (dancing). **iB**

FIREWORKS: STEVE DUNWELL

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY JESSICA PURSLEY

Brown and white silk microfiber bustier with gather, $950; beige textured silk trousers with asymmetric torchon fastening, $1 025; black embroidered silk clutch, $495. All at Giorgio Armani.

Brown leather jacket with back slit and torchon ribbon, $2,795; brown sleeveless blouse with gathered neckline, $950; brown trousers with gather, $725. All at Giorgio Armani.

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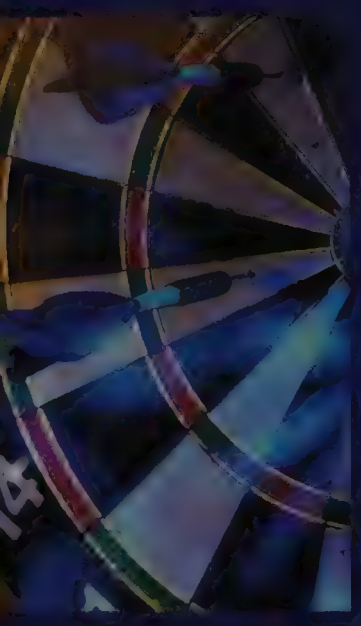

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Mopsy

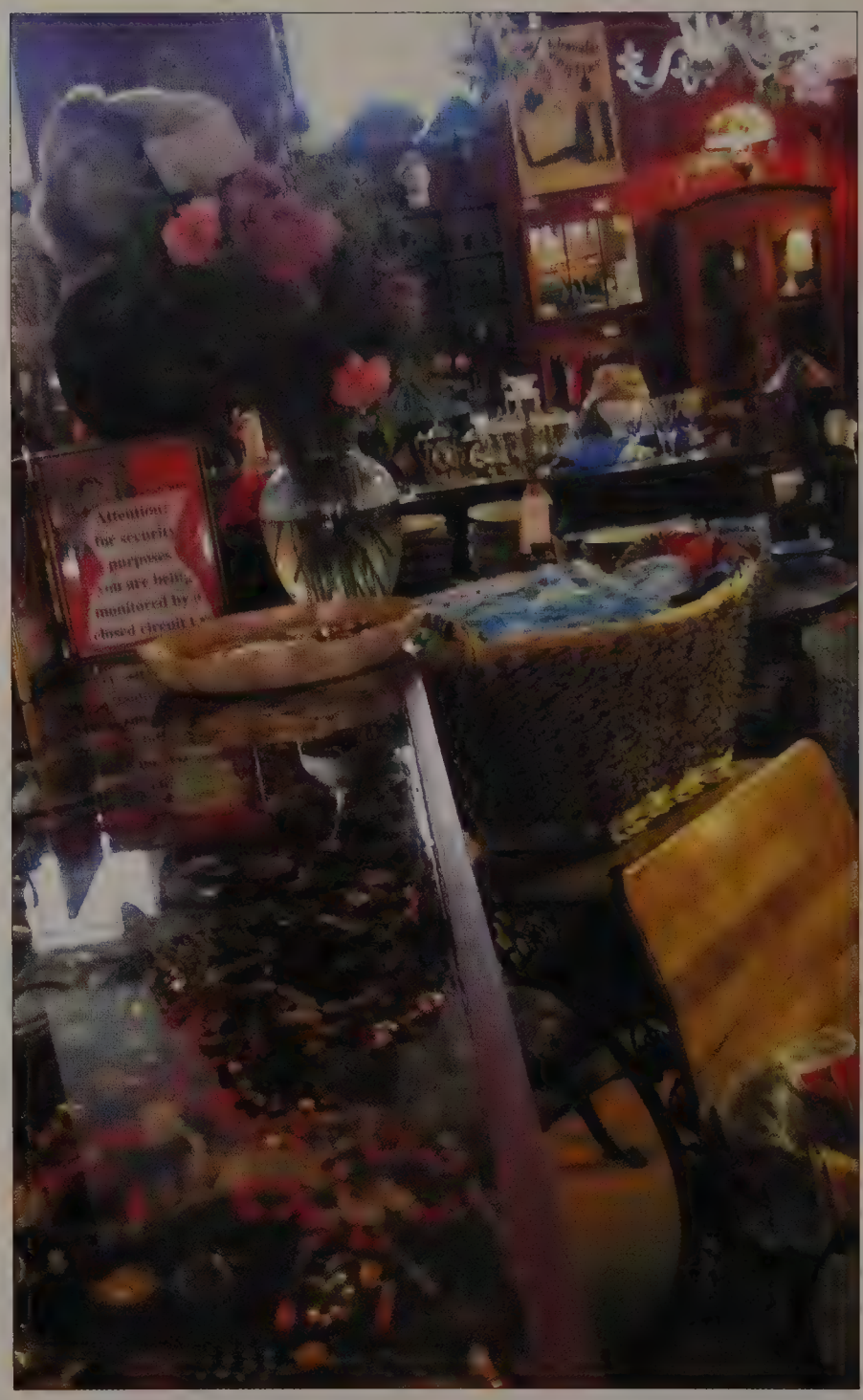
Serendipitous shopping: Our unfettered correspondent seeks out the salubrious and the cerebral.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

THE GIFT THAT QUACKS AND MOOS

Thinking of giving a gift? Heifer International donates animals or seedlings, around the world. You can give the whole animal or pay for a share, from yourself or in the name of a friend. Call 800-422-0755

Here's a gift that truly keeps on giving: Heifer International is a charitable organization that donates animals to rural people in need in 45 countries around the world. A farmer or family receives training and then takes in the sheep, goat, pig, cow, rabbit, chicken, llama, honeybees or, alternatively, seedlings. Once an animal has produced an heir, so to speak, the offspring is passed on to another family in need and the ball of fur keeps rolling. There's something wonderful about knowing that a donation becomes a tangible, productive—yea, reproductive—source of income, protein and fertilizer for a family. The pictures in the catalog of children hugging their adorable, fruitful baby animals will bring your heart and your checkbook closer to this charity. Hey, sentimentality works.



STILL FABULOUS, BUT NOW IN INMAN SQUARE

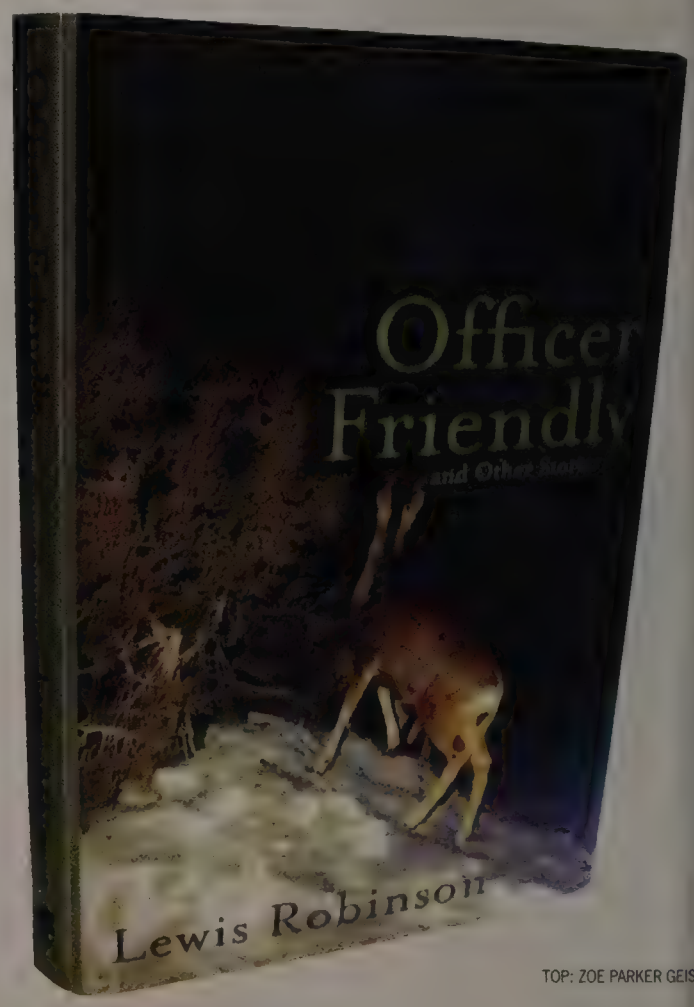
Absolutely Fabulous, selling vintage clothing, furniture, jewelry and more, has moved from the outskirts to the heart of Inman Square. 1309 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-864-0656).

Absolutely Fabulous has moved from its former funkland into Inman Square. Sister in spirit to nearby Buckaroo Mercantile, Ab/Fab has taken over the site of a former used bookstore, a space that complements the store felicitously. A suit of armor and a shiny, Valentine-red plastic chair greet you. Throughout, mood and groove preside, with antiques alongside frisky, campy items. Lots of classic, Tiffany-style lamps—including one in a sinuous, mysterious butterfly shape—shed somber light, while French posters produced on canvas through a process called "giclee" almost glow. A display case in what must be called the gentlemen's section recalls a more dapper, romantic age of silver cigarette cases, cigar holders, flasks and fedoras. Crocodile appears (albeit artificially) in the form of a purse, and a cowhide rug, which could be used as a blanket, exudes a real Western feel. Some dramatically large vases, in orange or green, would almost upstage flowers. Some "shabby chic" new white cabinets sit congenially beside AbFab oldies. A clever touch of cookery has bent vinyl records into curvy black bowls that still display Lawrence Welk's or Andy Gibb's name inside. Fabulous decorative touch, dahlink!

THE MAINE EVENT

Officer Friendly and Other Stories is Lewis Robinson's debut collection of short stories.

Lewis Robinson, originally from Natick, Mass., writes short stories about Maine. The same towns tend to recur, giving his stories a sense of community, sometimes friendly and sometimes intrusive. Those links let you see the many ways—sad, touching and ironic—that the adult characters are simultaneously living out the hangovers and hangups of their high school selves. There's a recurring theme of two boys-unto-men who are friends becoming painfully involved with the same woman. In the story "Puckheads," two competitive hockey-playing friends try their hand at drama and are cast in the musical *Oliver*, competing again for the attention of the contemptuously sexy and bewitching Christina. The romantic element highlights each man's agonies of identity. Throughout *Officer Friendly and Other Stories*, Robinson specializes in the tensions of characters who totter uncomfortably on the outer lip of belonging, or not.



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REVIEW

Beyond Rustic

Chef Bill Bradley brings his formidable talents to the Rustic Kitchen table

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

About a year and a half ago, Todd English opened Todd English Rustic Kitchen in Quincy Market. The eponymous restaurant featured the Toddmeister's name on the marquee and its telephone listing, but eventually it came to be called Rustic Kitchen, without the name of its famous founder.

Recently English divested himself of Rustic Kitchen, and the new owners have brought in Bill Bradley—no, not the former New York Knick–U.S. Senator–presidential candidate, but the culinary virtuoso originally from upstate New York—as their chef de cuisine. Bradley came to notice among city foodies when he burst upon the North End dining scene at Bricco on Hanover Street, and more recently at Carmen on North Street. His arrival at Rustic Kitchen has brought the well-regarded restaurant to a new level. A working chef who does not merely spin concepts and create menus, Bradley practices his trade in a hands-on fashion.

Rustic Kitchen

200 Quincy Market, Boston

(617-523-6334)

HOURS Mon.-Thu., 11:30am-10pm; Fri., 11:30am-11pm; Sat., brunch: 11am-3pm, and dinner: 3-11pm; Sun., brunch: 11am-3pm and dinner: 4-10pm

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING validated at 75 State St.

LIQUOR LICENSE beer and wine (liquor license pending)

A signature Bradley dish, the salt cod fritters ($11) arrived in a wooden box with a sliding top, the kind in which salt cod is customarily packaged. This creatively engaging offering contained deep fried rock shrimp, pristinely fresh leaves of romaine lettuce, light and lively tempura-fried green beans and a salsa verde that combined capers, extra virgin olive oil, parsley and mashed sardines. The cod fritters themselves, lightly breaded, deep-fried spheres the size of ping pong balls, were wonderfully moist and flavorful. A second appetizer, crispy fried calamari ($10), proved an exceptional rendition of this staple of Italian menus. The tiny, tender rings of baby squid, at once crisp, even crunchy, yet delicate and light, were extraordinarily tender. Thin slices of tiny red and green jalapeño peppers, toasted pine nuts, ringlets of green onions, chopped olives and sautéed greens transformed this standard offering into a Sicilian extravaganza.

Moving on to the pastas, Bradley's chestnut "caramels" ($17) transported us with their velvety texture and their contrasting but complementary flavors of salty, smoky pancetta, earthy mushrooms, mildly sweet chestnut purée, and creamy Taleggio cheese. Responsive to our request to share one order as a pasta course, the kitchen served these 10, oblong pasta pillows on two plates.

Bradley's palate-pleasing performance continued through the main courses. Slow roasted rack of pork ($18) brought two thick chops, rare and juicy—cooking pork until it is like shoe leather is finally a thing of the past in most good restaurants—accompanied by garlicky broccoli rabe, mashed potatoes garnished with crisp bacon, and a Marsala mushroom jus. The broccoli rabe, flavored with an intriguing combination of roast tomatoes, cinnamon and allspice, gave the dish a new and different dimension. "Risi Bisi" ($22) may have captured the highest honors among the array of high-quality offerings. Five giant sea scallops arrived surrounded by a pool of creamy, al dente sweet pea risotto that could well have stood on its own as the main attraction. This melding of lively fresh vegetables—green peas, tomatoes, artichokes, carrots and leeks—included another Sicilian enhancement in the form of slices of juicy tangerine. The satiny yet resilient texture of the scallops together with their wholesome, nutty flavor made them a standout.

Even desserts, often an afterthought at Italian restaurants, achieved distinction at Rustic Kitchen. The chocolate cake ($7), an exemplar of what other venues would call chocolate decadence, had about as much in common with what one usually thinks of as chocolate cake as a Homerian epic has with an Aesop fable. It consisted of a dense but moist flourless chocolate cake surrounded by powerfully flavored chocolate espresso zabaglione and topped with chocolate chip meringue, swirls of warm bittersweet chocolate sauce, a scoop of vanilla bean ice cream, whipped cream and a thick slab of dark chocolate. Less elaborate but equally remarkable and creative, the Italian bread pudding ($7) was moist and full-flavored, with a garnish of grappa-soaked cherries and a scoop of remarkably rich lemon ice cream.

The physical environment in which Bradley demonstrates his culinary virtuosity has remained pretty much the way it was before he arrived. It has a cluttered look, and a long narrow dining room that can expand through retractable front glass walls for alfresco dining. Heavy, ab

An appetizer of tuna tartare includes pistachio crackers, black radish and parsley crème fraiche.

Chef Bill Bradley comes to Rustic Kitchen by way of Bricco and Carmen in the North End.

sorbent cotton napkins and hefty steak knives contrast with the flimsy tableware and clunky wineglasses. Undersized tables for two frustrate waiters and diners when the oversized plates and platters compete for space with water glasses and the bread basket.

However, one does not come to Bradley's Rustic Kitchen for the décor or the table settings. One could come, however, for the bread alone, notwithstanding the Biblical admonition. Rustic Kitchen's breads, baked in a formidable and imposing fieldstone oven visible from the dining room, rival the best in the city, with spectacularly crisp and deftly seasoned breadsticks, thin, herb-encrusted stracci (wheat flatbread named for the Italian slang for rag or handkerchief) and moist cranberry focaccia. Though it needed no enhancement, the bread came with a Peruvian bean puree redolent of garlic and olive oil.

The dining room at Rustic Kitchen overlooks Faneuil Hall.

Basil Pecorino pasta with Wellfleet clams, spicy house-cured bacon and garlic

Rustic Kitchen's wine list, predominantly Italian and Californian, features some of the more customer friendly prices in Boston. The 2001 Zaccagnini Sangiovese ($26) from the Marche—Italy's province due east of Tuscany—was a fruity but robust red with a great bouquet and good acidity, a splendid accompaniment to food. Another, even lower-priced Italian red, the Calabrian Ciro Librandi ($21), was a definite cut above most house wines.

I was dismayed on recent midweek visits to Rustic Kitchen at the paucity of patrons, and I wondered if the withdrawal of celebrity chef English from the endeavor had adversely affected business. When a consumer product sheds a famous trademark, it is likely that business will suffer an immediate and pronounced hit. When the product is as good as the cuisine created by Bill Bradley, however, the hope is that it will both recover and achieve even higher and more universal recognition and patronage. Based upon my recent experiences at Rustic Kitchen, I am confident that as soon as the word gets around about the creatively delicious food Bradley is turning out at Rustic Kitchen, it will become the place to dine not only at Quincy Market but in the Financial District and adjoining neighborhoods as well. iB

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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

DISH

Savor the Favor

More spring "green" for Community Servings

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Even during these times of economic stress and widespread uncertainty, a well-respected event benefiting a cause that's close to people's hearts can still elicit admirable generosity from local restaurateurs.

Case in point: Community Servings' 11th annual **Lifesavor**, the fund-raiser that draws close to a thousand people to a lavish cocktail reception at **Le Meridien**, then sends them off in trolleys to local restaurants for elegant, celebrity-hosted dinner parties. It's remarkable not only for its cost-effectiveness—this year, a mere $19,000 was spent to raise $430,000 to help provide home-delivered meals to people affected by HIV/AIDS—but also for the way it inspires chefs to bring their hospitality to new heights. In Copley Square, the **White Star Tavern** served a five-course dinner to Community Servings' clients. In Newton, at **Ariadne**, chef/owner **Christos Tsardounis** decided—at 4:30 in the afternoon—to add a couple more courses to the dinner he planned to serve at 8 o'clock. His wife and wine director, **Kathleen Malloy**, rolled her eyes, then rolled up her sleeves and went to work. Like every other restaurant, in the spirit of celebrating kindness, generosity and the good company of interesting dinner guests, they also provided a welcome as memorable as the seven-course menu. Congratulations to all!

SECOND COURSE

Although he hasn't yet closed on the deal, chef **Scott Herritt** is eager to get the word out about the new restaurant he plans to open after having spent seven years at the North End's **Florentine Café**. "I'm in the process of writing the menu right now," he says. Not surprisingly, Herritt describes the menu at the forthcoming **Grotto**, which will be tucked into a lower-level space on Beacon Hill, as "Italian-inspired cuisine, with a few of my favorites from the Florentine thrown in." Miserable weather and the miseries of the Big Dig have made for tough times in the old neighborhood, according to Herritt. "A lot of restaurants are for sale in the North End right now," he says. If all goes according to plan, expect an early June opening for the 47-seat Grotto.

Un-hasty pastry: What took **Le Meridien** so long to hire a new pastry chef after **Christophe Heyt** landed at the **Four Seasons** several months ago? Apparently, it's better to be slow and stellar than fast and flawed.

John Quinn takes over from Christophe Heyt as the new pastry chef at Le Meridien Hotel.

John Quinn, the new pastry chef at Le Meridien, comes to Boston from the five-star **Jefferson Hotel** in Richmond, Va., where he was executive pastry chef. If his name sounds familiar, that's because he's had experience in Boston, both at the **Ritz-Carlton** and the **Four Seasons**, and as assistant pastry chef at **Café Vanille** on Beacon Hill. Also at **Julien**, which recently received the AAA Four Diamond Award for the 13th consecutive year, **Dan Kenney** was promoted from executive sous chef to chef de cuisine.

Patio alerts: On Newbury Street, **Armani Café** has renovated and updated its furniture and relandscaped the outdoors; **Piattini Wine Café** has completed renovations on its terrace, which opened for the first time late last summer…**Bomboa**'s patio now features an Asian-Latino fusion tapas menu, dubbed "Chino-Latino" by executive chef/co-owner **Felino Samson**, in addition to a selection of novelty martinis such as the Trixitini, which comes with its own Pixie Stix.

Newsflash: **East Coast Grill** in Cambridge now offers valet parking! And now that the weather is warming up, does the Grill's chef/owner **Chris Schlesinger** miss running the **Back Eddy** in Westport, which he sold last year? Not particularly: "The thing I like most about restaurants is starting them," he says.

Finally, happy first anniversary to **Caffe Umbra**! iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant?
Send it to *dish@improper.com*

WINE

Wine and Food Pairing 101

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

The moment of truth: You've ordered dinner, and now you're staring at the wine list. The longer you take, the greater the pressure to choose something good. So you take a deep breath, pick something and hope it works out. Sound familiar?

It's not the worst thing you can do to choose a wine you think you'll like based only on past experience and without even considering what everyone's eating. But if we're looking for that extra special effect, where the wine and food actually come together to make each other taste more delicious, clearly we need more information. We need to understand a little bit about the chemistry of what happens when we combine flavors.

That's exactly what we did at Boston University in a seminar entitled Wine and Food Pairing 101 that I recently hosted with chef Steve Zimei of the South End's Gallia restaurant. The design followed many tastings I've conducted in the past, but somehow the energy of the participants, the skills of the chef and the simplicity of the presentation combined to raise the experience to a new level. And though it would require some preparation, you could re-create our tasting seminar at home.

Here's how it went: Since most of the wine you're likely to encounter in restaurants is identified by grape variety (this leaves out classic European selections, but we're talking about 101 here rather than an intermediate-level class), I picked textbook examples of the nine most prevalent ones for us to taste and briefly discuss. Then the chef prepared halibut, grilled chicken and braised beef and put each on a separate plate with three radically different sauces. We went back and tasted three wines with the halibut and its three sauces, the chicken and its three, and so on with the beef. This gave us 27 different combinations of wine with food over the course of two hours.

Although no two people in the group of 70 agreed on everything, significant patterns did emerge. Our light, mild pinot grigio actually complemented all of the sauces served with the fish and, in fact, tasted better with two of them than it did on its own, paling only in combination with a strongly flavored piquant blood-orange sauce. A vibrantly acidic sauvignon blanc we served next proved an outstanding match with this same fruity acidic sauce, the citric elements in each reacting strongly together to bring out more nuance, depth and texture. It was one of the most successful matches, although the same wine tasted thin and sour with our other sauces: a delicate celery-apple sauce that it overwhelmed, and a subtle white wine cream sauce that made the wine taste sour. Our crisp unoaked chardonnay went especially well with the celery and apple combination.

The fourth wine, an oak-aged chardonnay (we actually served eight varieties, including the ubiquitous chardonnay twice in different incarnations) was surprisingly adaptable with grilled chicken in both a sweet and spicy mustard Sauternes sauce, and a creamy shiitake mushroom sauce. Its sunny ripeness matched the flavors of the first while its lush texture worked beautifully to complement the mushrooms. Our fruity, expansively savory pinot noir also was quite adaptable, echoing some of the shiitake flavors but tasting best with a buttery charred tomato sauce, the acidity in both bringing out latent subtleties of flavor. A syrah proved controversial; I thought it too strongly tannic for any of the sauces, although the consensus was that its somewhat aggressive red berry pepperiness complemented the mushrooms.

The most celebrated combination of all was a richly tannic cabernet sauvignon with the beef in a truffle sauce. In fact, this highly earthy, sharply flavored dish went extremely well with a tart-flavored savory Sangiovese as well as a mellow, fruit-driven merlot. On the other hand, a sweet and sour blueberry Gastrique robbed flavor from the cabernet and thinned out the Sangiovese, whereas it allowed the merlot to shine. The final sauce, a slightly salty, piquant black-olive and red-wine sauce, was also highly reactive: outstanding with the Sangiovese, echoing some of the wine's flavors, but combustible and unpleasantly bitter with the cabernet.

How to summarize? Acidity in wine and acidity in food work together for most people. So do earthy flavors in both. We're generally looking for a similarity in texture, preferring heavier, richer buttery sauces with wines that have some weight and fullness. If we can find some flavor echoes (apple and unoaked chardonnay, pinot noir and tomato), this is often appealing. And sweetness in food is tricky: It doesn't work too well with subtle, understated wines, or red wines with tannin. iB

One of only 18 Americans with a Master of Wine certification, Sandy Block has been the Improper's *wine editor since 1993. He is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.*

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Submit press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Wine columnist Jonathan Alsop (left) and poet/jazz musician Charles Coe take part in *The Spatula Monologues* May 8.

EVENTS

Banned in Boston
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). May 4. To acknowledge the smoking ban in Boston beginning May 5, chef **Ian Just** prepares smoked chevre salad, smoked salmon and grilled smoked shrimp. An old-fashioned cigarette girl will be on hand selling cigars. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

A Conference on 19th-Century French Gastronomy
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). May 3-4. $150. This conference includes scholars and writers presenting papers on various aspects of French gastronomy, along with professional chefs demonstrating 19th-century French cuisine.

Enchanted Tulip Wine Dinner
MHS Horticulture Center, 900 Washington St., Wellesley (617-933-4987). www.masshort.org. *May 3, 7pm. $85.* The evening begins with a champagne reception surrounded by 11,000 tulips, followed by a five-course menu with Tuscan wines. Proceeds benefit the education programs of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Free Scoop Night
Baskin-Robbins locations. www.baskinrobbins.com. *April 30, 6-10pm.* For every scoop served, Baskin-Robbins will make a donation to First Book, a nonprofit organization that provides books to low-income families.

Martini Madness
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 1, 6:30pm. Sample from Bomboa's martini menu and learn how bartenders prepare grapefruit gimlets, blackberry cosmos and Sour Patch martinis, among others.

Nantucket Wine Festival
Nantucket, Mass. (508-228-1128). www.nantucketwinefestival.com. *May 13-18.* This wine festival features tastings, symposia, dinners, a gala and an auction throughout the week, culminating in the Grand Tasting, at which 150 international wineries pour their wines.

New England Real Ale Exhibition
George Dilboy Post, 371 Summer St., Somerville (617-625-5224). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed.-Fri., 6-10:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-3pm. April 30-May 4. $6 (Thu. and Sat.), free (Wed. and Sun.). This annual beer festival features 30 cask-conditioned beers from the Northeast and 30 from Great Britain. Enjoy live music and Redbones barbecue with bitters, pale ales, porters, stouts and more.

New World Cuisine
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3935). May 7, 12pm. $75. Chef **Norman Van Aken** prepares recipes from his newest cookbook, *New World Cuisine: Latin America and the Caribbean.*

The Spatula Monologues
West Newton Cinema, 1296 Washington St., West Newton (617-552-7461). May 8, 7:30pm. $14. Six local food writers with other full-time professions—among them, a police officer, a pathologist and a cooking show producer—read their works at this night of words, wine and cheese.

The StarChefs Rising Stars Revue
The Hotel Marlowe, 25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge. www.StarChefs.com/tickets.php. *May 8, 7-9pm. $60.* StarChefs presents this walk-around tasting, sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN, featuring dishes from **Ana Sortun** of Oleana, **Thomas John** of Mantra, **Mark Allen** of Le Soir, **Dante deMagistris** of Blu and **Tom Berry** of Bambara, among others.

The Taste of the Nation
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston www.strength.org/taste/boston. *May 1, 6:30-9pm. $75.* Some of Boston's top chefs, including **Andy Husbands** of Tremont 647 and Rouge, **Laura Brennan** of Caffe Umbra, **Jeffrey Everts** of Spire and **Ken Oringer** of Clio, will offer samples at this food-and-wine tasting that benefits Share Our Strength. Babaloo will provide musical entertainment.

The Taste of the North End
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (617-742-4336). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. May 2, 7:30-11:30pm. $75. More than 30 North End restaurants and 12 wine distributors will be on hand at this benefit for the Casa Monte Cassino, which offers free hospitality to international families with children in local hospitals.

A Taste of the Towns
Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Ave., Watertown (617-926-1017). May 7, 5:30-8:30pm. $20. Nearly two dozen Belmont and Watertown restaurants, including Aegean Restaurant, Flora, Giordano's Bottega Italiana and Not Your Average Joe's, will offer samples of their cuisine.

The Uncommon Pleasure of Port
Hotel Commonwealth, 500 Comm. Ave., Boston. www.bmc.org/development. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. May 6, 6-8pm. $25.* The Instituto Do Vinho Do Porto introduces consumers to one of Portugal's finest wines at this tasting and auction to benefit the Boston Medical Center.

A Wine Tour of the Loire Valley
Top of the Hub, 800 Boylston St., Boston. www.loirevalleywine.com/events.html. *May 7, 5-7pm. $35.* Twenty producers offer tastings of red, rosé, white and sparkling wines of the Loire Valley. A portion of the proceeds benefits Share Our Strength.

Wines of the Southern Hemisphere
Rialto, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Charles. May 3, 11am. $45 (includes hors d'oeuvres). Wine director **Patrick Dubsky** offers samples of South African pinotage, Argentinean malbec, Australian shiraz and New Zealand sauvignon blanc.

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agenda

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

Art, Music, Books & Poetry, Movies, Gay & Lesbian

JULIE SHORT

Around Town, Children, Performing Arts, Education

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs and Sports

improper picks

Comedian Gallagher performs May 10.

THU./MAY 1–SAT./MAY 10

Performing Arts: Laugh Track

More than 150 comedians will converge upon our fair city for the Boston Comedy and Movie Festival May 1–10, which must make us—at least temporarily—America's funniest city. (Somebody check the *Guinness Book of World Records*!) George Carlin kicks off the festivities at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium May 2. Throughout the following week, comedians from around the world will perform at venues across Greater Boston, including the Milky Way, Dick's Beantown Comedy Vault, Nick's Comedy Stop, the Comedy Connection and the Improv Asylum, plus funny movies and television shows will be shown at the Coolidge Corner Theatre and the Hatch Shell. Jonathan Katz and Tom Snyder host An Evening With the Creators of *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist* May 8, and the festival closes with a performance by Gallagher (left), the comedian who made the "Sledge-o-Matic" famous, May 10. Bring your raincoats, goggles and umbrellas and prepare to be "Gallagherized." *See Comedy on page 56 for more information.* www.bostoncomedyfestival.com

TUE./MAY 13

CityScope: Boozing with the Best

We offer a salute to our favorite drinkslingers—nominated by you, our enthusiastic readers—during the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN'S **Beloved Bartenders Party**, hosted by Jonathan Soroff at the Rack. This is your chance to toast that guy or gal who knows just how you like your martini (stirred, not shaken), what beer to pour before you even sit down, or that you like an ice cube in your chardonnay. These folks will come out from behind the bar for once and carouse with the hoi polloi. But be warned: Boston's Beloved Bartenders know how to let loose. Be prepared to party into the wee hours. You can cheer on your favorites during the Bartenders Competition, where bartenders are judged for their drink-making speed, agility and overall "flair." Afterward, dance to the tunes of Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns. *The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). 6pm.*

THU./MAY 1–SUN./MAY 11

Performing Arts: Trouble in River City

We hate to boast, but one of the Calendar girls (who shall remain nameless) was the star of the junior high musical, ***The Music Man***. All was going swimmingly during rehearsals until she realized that Marian the Librarian actually had to kiss con man Harold Hill. Whoa! Her first kiss (ever!) was going to be with seventh-grader Kitt Martin? Long story short, the passionate kiss became a peck on the cheek and her reputation as a prude was cemented. Forever haunted by this episode, we're not likely to be in the audience of this new production, which features choreography by five-time Tony Award winner Susan Stroman (of *Contact* fame), but we wholeheartedly recommend you head to the Colonial Theatre to catch this lively tale about a con man who comes to a Midwestern town with a scam involving a boys' marching band. *Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). May 1, 7pm; Mon.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. $23-$70.*

Indie film *Melvin Goes to Dinner* shows May 2 and 4

THU./MAY 1–SUN./MAY 4

Movies: Independent Spirit

Let's face it, lots of independent films leave even the most devout cinemaniac shaking his or her head, saying "Nope. Didn't get it." But the producers of Boston's inaugural **Independent Film Festival**—which has all of the fixings of a bona fide event, with four days of films, panel discussions, seminars, Q&A sessions with filmmakers, celebrity events, awards and parties—promise that these films stack up. Unlike some indie film fests, the BIFF targets a mainstream audience rather than niche audiences. The fest is held at various venues around the city, and more than 50 films are scheduled. *Thu., 7-9pm (opening night film at the Somerville Theatre); Fri., 12pm-2am and Sat. and Sun., 11:30-2am.* www.iffboston.org.

SUN./MAY 4–THU./MAY 22

Music: Get Ready to Rumble

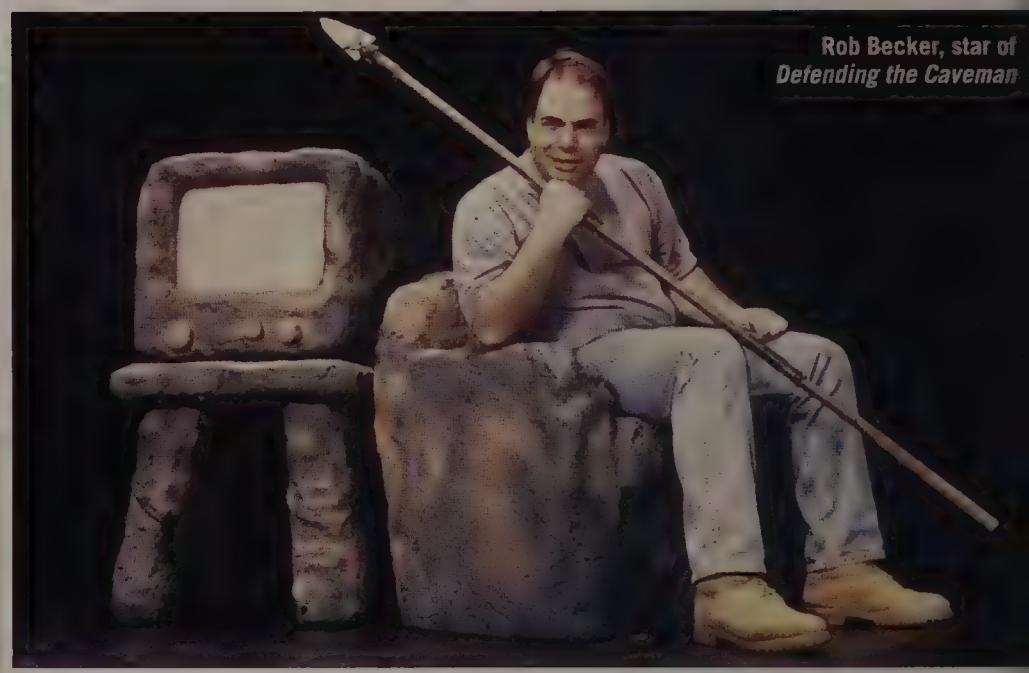
Everyone knows that the music industry is cut-throat competitive, but if you haven't been to the annual **WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble**, you ain't seen nothing yet. This year the rumble, held at the Middle East, pits 24 local bands against each other for a chance to win a spot at the upcoming WBCN River Rave, $3,000, recording time at a studio and other prizes. And they give it all they've got. It starts out with sudden death preliminary rounds May 4–6, when bands get only a half-hour to show their stuff. After the official day of rest on May 7, bands continue to duke it out May 8–10. Some of the acts that will go head-to-head are Godboxer, Roctopus, Reverse, Baby Strange, Blake Hazard and Favorite Atomic Hero. Industry bigwigs judge the contest and pick one winner from each night to advance to the semifinals, which take place May 16 and 17. The finals, which end in the crowning of the rumble winner, are May 22. *Preliminaries, $9; semifinals, $10. 472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278).*

Blake Hazard

WED./APRIL 30–SUN./MAY 18

Performing Arts: From Caveman to Cavedad

After 12 years and almost 3,000 shows, Rob Becker, star of ***Defending the Caveman***, the longest-running solo play in Broadway history, is ready for a breather. He'll retire briefly after his current 30-city tour to hang out with his wife and three children and write a new show tentatively called *Cavedad*. This month Bostonians have their last chance to see Becker perform his hysterically insightful show on the gaping hole called the gender gap. We caught up with Becker recently and asked whether dating, and relationships in general, have changed since he first started performing: "Yeah, this idea that men and women were different was a lot more controversial when I was starting," Becker says. "In the beginning, none of those [self-help] books had come out yet, and people were like, 'You don't have a Ph.D.' There were some places where the concept of men and women being different was more challenging. In big cities, that whole idea was less accepted. Of course, in the South, they've always thought that!" As for his new, as yet unwritten show, he says, "It'll be about how we parent differently, and how boys and girls turn out differently." We can't wait. *Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-4008). Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5, 7:45 and 10:30pm; Sun., 2pm. $23-$52.50.*


Rob Becker, star of *Defending the Caveman*

THU./MAY 1 AND SUN./MAY 4

CityScope: Light Up

Smoking scenes like this one are soon to be snuffed out in Boston.

As you probably know, beginning May 5, Bostonians can no longer light up in indoor public spaces. If you're one of the sad lot who has to stop puffing in public, you have three chances to bid your social-smoking habit adieu. On May 1, the **Oak Bar** is throwing a **Big Smoke** party, offering guests six CAO cigars, two cocktails, a buffet dinner and live entertainment. Also on May 1, **The Place** is smokin' one last time with an IMPROPER sponsored Roaring Twenties–style party (think gangsters and flappers). And we can only imagine the haze that will cover **Les Zygomates** May 4. It Smoking Ban Party lets you commiserate over the imminent ban with fellow smokers while feasting on such appropriate specialties as smoked chevre salad, smoked salmon, smoked Antipasto plate, cherry-smoked pork chop and blow-torched crème brûlée. Guests receive complimentary cigarettes, rolling papers and tobacco. *Oak Bar, Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300), 6pm, $125. The Place, 2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081), 8pm, $10. Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108), no cover.*

THU./MAY 1

Books and Poetry: It's Their Party

Those of you who have been to the South End's Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center have already discovered its wealth of unusual, artsy offerings. The venue hosts everything from Burlesque revival shows, vaudeville acts and salsa dancing to rock concerts, African dance and performance art shows. If you haven't visited the center yet, here's a good opportunity: **Sixoneseven**, an event whose promoters gleefully admit is really a party masquerading as a fund-raiser. It brings in artists from a number of creative communities for an evening of mingling and partying, all to raise money to fund a film by local filmmaker Shandi Garrison. Architect Beth Whittaker and photographer Chris Gaines show their work, writer Karl Iagnemma reads from his new novel, *On the Nature of Human Interaction*, and Garrison shows one of his short films. The emcee for the evening is local author Steve Almond, and DJ Brynmore (who is also a photographer and filmmaker) supplies the tunes. *8pm-1am. 85 West Newton St., Boston (617-927-0061). $10 in advance; $15 at the door. Cash bar. Silent auction.* www.sixoneseven.org.

SAT./MAY 3

CityScope: King for a Night

When we noticed that all of our friends were out scouring the city for blue suede shoes, we didn't give it a second thought (our friends are always out shoe shopping). But when those same friends began cancelling plans with us to stay home practicing their sexiest sneers and getting their hips into swiveling mode, we knew it could only mean one thing: an **Elvis** party. The event, it turns out, is a fund-raiser for the locally produced film *The Faithful*, and it brings in one of the world's top Elvis impersonators, Robert Washington, who gets so worked up during his act that he does flips and somersaults off the stage. During the show, you get to sample the King's favorite foods (including his inexplicable fave, the fried peanut butter and banana sandwich). The night of all things Elvis also includes a raffle, an auction of Elvis memorabilia and a **King's Karaoke Contest**, where contestants who belt out Elvis songs can win prizes including a cameo in *The Faithful*. *7:30pm, dinner and performance; 9pm, karaoke. Greek American Club, 288 Green St., Cambridge (617-320-3219).* www.fishinhand.com. *$10 (just karaoke) or $30-$45 (dinner, performance and karaoke). Cash bar.*

VARIOUS DATES IN MAY

Tastings: Eat This!

It's a good thing that Arden B has declared that belts are out and sashes are in because we'll all need a bit of growing room after this month's plethora of foodie events. The fun begins May 1 with **Taste of the Nation**. Only a building as big as the Hynes Convention Center could house the more than 70 chefs who'll be cooking to benefit the anti-hunger program Share Our Strength. Then there's **Taste of the North End** at the New England Aquarium May 2. There's nothing better than nibbling on maguro sushi and shrimp cocktail as the sharks look on enviously. On May 7, there's **Taste of the Towns**—specifically Belmont and Watertown—which features samples from nearly two dozen restaurants. Finally, on May 8, there's the IMPROPER-sponsored **StarChefs Rising Stars Revue** at the Hotel Marlowe. This walk-around tasting features dishes from Ana Sortun of Oleana, Thomas John of Mantra, Mark Allen of Le Soir, Dante deMagistris of Blu, and Tom Berry of Bambara, among others. Get ready to chow! *See Tastings on page 44 for more information.*

BLAKE HAZARD: KELLY DAVIDSON; LIGHT MY FIRE: DEREK KOUYOUM

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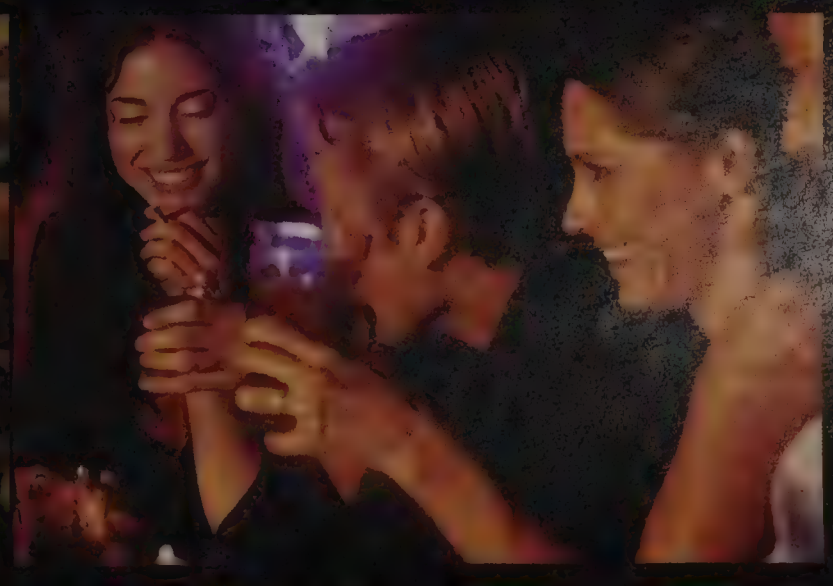

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Ongoing: Junior League of Boston Decorators' Show House
The Noah Brooks Tavern, Minute Man National Park, Lincoln (617-536-9640). www.jlboston.org. *Tue.-Fri, 9:30am-2pm and 6-9pm; Sat., 9:30am-6:30pm; Sun., 11am-6pm. Closed Mondays. Through May 23. $20 in advance, $25 at the door.* More than 25 decorated spaces created by nationally recognized designers and landscapers are on display.

Ongoing: Women's Lunch Place Mother's Day Cards
Order through the Women's Lunch Place (617-267-1722). www.womenslunchplace.org. Make a donation to the Women's Lunch Place, which provides resources for homeless and low-income women, and they will send a handmade Mother's Day card telling that special lady in your life about your gift.

Baskin-Robbins Free Scoop Night
Participating Baskin-Robbins locations. www.baskinrobbins.com. *6-10pm.* Baskin-Robbins stores worldwide give away a free scoop of ice cream to kick off summer early. For each scoop served, Baskin-Robbins will make a donation to First Book, which provides books to children from low-income families.

HurryDate Event
Felt, 533 Washington St, Boston. (212-871-6707) www.hurrydate.com. *6:30pm. $35.* Go on 25 three-minute dates and try to meet your match.

A Night at Jazz Fest Benefit
The Big Easy Bar, One Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000). www.bigeasyboston.com. *6pm. $20 in advance, $25 at the door.* This benefit for the Station Nightclub Fire Relief Fund includes New Orleans–style food, live music by Alex MacDougall and Justin Beech, a silent auction, street performers and a palm reader.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Arts First Festival at Harvard
Various Cambridge locations (617-495-8676). www.harvard.edu/arts. *Through May 4.* This four-day arts festival includes concerts, a parade, and stage productions. On May 3, Arts First founder John Lithgow hosts a welcoming event in Harvard Yard.

Ducks Unlimited Conservation Event
The Harvard Club, 374 Comm. Ave., Boston (781-329-6715). www.ducksunlimited.org. *5:30pm. $125.* Wetlands conservation and waterfowl enthusiasts are invited to help save wetlands by attending this benefit for Ducks Unlimited. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, a gourmet dinner, complimentary beer and wine, and an auction of various outdoors-themed items.

A Night to Aspire
Pravda 116, 116 Boylston St., Boston. www.girlsaspire.org. *7pm. $20.* This fund-raiser for ASPIRE (Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence) features live entertainment from the VariAsians a cappella group, African drumming, a performance from the all-female Lion Dance Troupe, a DJ and a silent auction.

Sixoneseven—An Evening of Art and Drunk Dancing
Jorge Hernandez Community Center, 85 W. Newton St., Boston. www.sixoneseven.org. *8pm-1am. $10 in advance, $15 at the door.* Several of Boston's emerging artists present their work. Then, DJ Brynmar presides over dancing. Proceeds help fund *Free Box*, a film by Shandi Garrison.

Smokin' One Last Time at the Place
The Place, 2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081). www.theplaceboston.com. *8pm. $10 donation at the door.* The Place goes Roaring 20's–style to commemorate the pending prohibition of smoking in Boston bars and restaurants. A portion of proceeds benefits the American Lung Association. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

A Mini Cooper will be raffled off at the American Liver Foundation's Bid for Life fund-raiser May 3.

The Taste of the Nation
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston. www.strength.org/taste/boston. *6:30-9pm. $75.* Some of Boston's top chefs, including Andy Husbands of Tremont 647 and Rouge, Laura Brennan of Caffe Umbra, Jeffrey Everts of Spire and Ken Oringer of Clio, will offer samples at this food and wine tasting benefiting Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation. Babaloo will provide musical entertainment.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Providing Hope Gala
John Joseph Moakley United States Federal Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Way, Boston (617-451-7964). www.ccab.org. *6:30-10:30pm. $75 in advance, $85 at the door.* Catholic Charities' Young Professionals Committee hosts this event to raise money for programs and services for children and young families. The evening includes food, dancing and a silent auction.

The Taste of the North End
New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston (617-742-4336). May 2, 7:30-11:30pm. $75. More than 30 North End restaurants and 12 wine distributors will be on hand at this benefit for the Casa Monte Cassino, which offers free hospitality to international families with children in local hospitals.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer
(617-576-3113). www.avonwalk.org. *Minimum fund-raising goal of $1,750. Through May 4.* Walk a marathon (26.2 miles) or a marathon-and-a-half over two days to raise money to fight breast cancer.

Bid for Life Fund-Raiser
Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton St., Boston (617-527-5600). www.liverfoundation-ne.org. *$175; auction tickets $95.* A Mini Cooper from Herb Chambers will be raffled off to benefit the American Liver Foundation at this annual fund-raiser. WBZ-TV's Lisa Hughes hosts the evening, which also includes dinner and a performance from Shirley Reeves of the Shirelles.

Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center Gala
Park Plaza Hotel, Park Plaza, Boston (617-789-2327). 6pm. $250. This dinner, which includes musical entertainment from the Artie Shaw Orchestra, raises money for the construction of St. Elizabeth's new William F. Connell Emergency Department.

Come Fly With Me Benefit
Boston Copley Place Marriott, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-451-9474). www.wish.org/boston. *8pm-12am. $65 in advance (before May 1), $75 at the door.* The Dick 'n' Jane band provides live entertainment at this benefit for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. A complimentary Grey Goose martini bar is open from 8-9pm, and a trip for two will be given away at 10:30pm (ticket includes entry for drawing). Black-tie optional.

Elvis and Karaoke Fund-Raiser
Greek American Club, 288 Green St., Cambridge (617-230-3219). www.fishinhand.com. *Reservations required.* Elvis impersonator Robert Washington stars at this benefit dinner for the documentary film *The Faithful*, which looks at cultural icons Elvis Presley, Pope John Paul II and Princess Diana. The evening includes a sampling of the King's favorite foods, an Elvis memorabilia raffle and silent auction and an Elvis karaoke contest.

Enchanted Tulip Wine Dinner
MHS Horticulture Center, 900 Washington St., Wellesley (617-933-4987). www.masshort.org. *7pm. $85.* The evening begins with a champagne reception among 11,000 tulips, followed by a five-course meal served with Tuscan wines. Proceeds benefit the education programs of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The Horizons Initiative's Spring Gala
Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston (617-385-4500). www.horizonsinitiative.org. *6:30pm-12am. $300. Black-tie.* Dinner, a raffle, a silent auction, music and dancing are included in this benefit for the Horizon Initiative's programs for homeless children.

Viva Lax Vegas
Dakota's Restaurant, 101 Arch St., Boston. www.metrolacrosse.com. *Dinner and live auction, 6pm; desserts, music and dancing 9pm-1am. $250 with dinner and cocktails, $75 dessert and dancing only.* Dance to the White Heat Swing Orchestra and gamble for donated prizes at this Vegas-themed benefit for MetroLacrosse, which provides free urban lacrosse programs.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Banned in Boston
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). To acknowledge the smoking ban in Boston beginning May 5, chef Ian Just prepares smoked chevre salad, smoked salmon and grilled smoked shrimp, and a cigarette girl will be selling cigars. A donation will be made to the American Cancer Society.

MayFair in Harvard Square
Harvard Square, Cambridge (617-491-3434) www.harvardsquare.com. *12-6pm.* Harvard Square's annual MayFair festival attracts more than 100,000 people and includes street performers, merchants, international food vendors and more.

Walk for Hunger
Boston Common, Boston (617-723-5000). www.projectbread.org. *Registration 7-9am.* More than 40,000 people are expected to join in this 20-mile pledge walk to raise money for food pantries, soup kitchens and other anti-hunger programs throughout Massachusetts.

MONDAY, MAY 5

American Liver Foundation Spring Golf Classic
Sterling Country Club, 33 Albright Road, Sterling (617-425-0008). 11:30am. $110 per person. This scramble-format event includes warm-up range balls, greens fees, cart rental, a box lunch and a post-game awards ceremony. Proceeds benefit the American Liver Foundation.

Boston Bakes for Breast Cancer
Participating restaurants around the city. www.bostonbakesforbreastcancer.org. *Through May 11.* Whenever you order one of the unique desserts created for this event, the proceeds go to the Eva Brownman Breast Cancer Fund. Check the Web site for participating restaurants.

Songs from Silence Benefit
Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston. (617-521-0127). 6pm. $250. Actress Phylicia Rashad performs a new work by Boston playwright Lois Roach at this benefit for Casa Myrna Vazquez, an organization for domestic abuse victims. The evening includes cocktails and dinner.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

HurryDate Event
Parris, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston. www.hurrydate.com. *7pm. $35.* Go on 25 three-minute dates and try to meet your match.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

ABCD Work Pathways Job Fair
ABCD Parker Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Service Center, 714 Parker St., Roxbury (617-657-6000, ext. 7579). 10am-2pm. Representatives from companies in fields including child care, finance, health care and more will be on hand to accept job applications and resumes. Professional dress recommended.

Bridal Survival Club Event
Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-227-2127). 6:30-8pm. Brides-to-be get advice from experts on how to handle food, pick a date and organize the logistics of a wedding.

Filene's Glam Jam Benefit
Filene's, Downtown Crossing location, Boston. www.eliefund.org. *9am-9pm. $5.* Proceeds from admission to this all-day shopping event go to women's charities, including the Ellie Fund. Shoppers get a 20 percent discount on most merchandise, plus hors d'oeuvres, wine and Godiva chocolate samples, fashion presentations and prizes.

Jammin' for the Jimmy Fund
The Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Boston (617-332-0872). www.jimmyfund.org. *6:30-10:30pm. $45 in advance, $50 at the door.* The Chris Fitz band plays live blues at this benefit party for the Jimmy Fund. The event also includes beer, wine and food.

Ocho de Mayo Party
Jose McIntyre's, 160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). 6-9pm. $5 cover to benefit the Special Olympics. Mix 98.5's Kelly Malone hosts this belated Cinco de Mayo spring party with the Boston Breakers. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

Spring and Swing
Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-354-2275). 7-11pm. $75. This benefit for the Guidance Center, a community agency that assists children, features live music, dancing, a cash bar, food and a silent auction.

Spring into Action Benefit Concert
Le Meridien Hotel, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-423-0408). www.generationsinc.org. *6:30-9pm. $60 $100 VIP, add $10 if purchased the day of the event.* Renowned blues and folk singer Odetta performs to benefit the Generations Inc. literacy program. The performance follows a reception and silent auction.

The StarChefs Rising Stars Revue
Hotel Marlowe, 25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge. www.starchefs.com/tickets.php. *7-9pm. $60* StarChefs presents this walk-around tasting featuring dishes from Ana Sortun of Oleana, Thomas Joh of Mantra, Mark Allen of Le Soir, Dante deMagistri of Blu, and Tom Berry of Bambara, among others. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

AAJA/NAAAP Spring Fever Gala
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge. www.naaaboston.org *6:30pm. $60.* This gala hosted by the Asian American Journalists Association and the National Association of Asian American Professionals includes dinner, dancing and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit the organizations' scholarship funds

Joslin Diabetes Center's Evening at the Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-732-2412). Reception 6pm, performance 8pm. Floor tickets $175 (includes reception); balcony, $75 (does not include reception). Take in a performance by the Boston Symphony Orchestra to raise money for Joslin's High Hopes Fund for Kids with Diabetes. The reception includes the High Hopes Mystery Auction, where attendees bid on wrapped gifts.

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School Bazaar
Armenian Cultural & Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown (617-926-6979). 10am-9:30pm. Enjoy laser tag, a moon bounce, a ball pit, a mini-carousel and international cuisine at this mini-carnival.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Mother's Day Makeovers
Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 15 Arlington St., Boston (617-574419). 10:30am. $25. The Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary hosts this benefit for the ROSE (Regaining One's Self-Esteem) Fund for victims of domestic violence. Makeup artist David Nicholas demonstrates makeup application, and surgeons from the Facial and Cosmetic Surgery Center give presentations on skin care and cosmetic surgery.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Words on Fire Read-a-Thon
Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston. www.wordsonfireboston.com. *2pm.* This read-a-thon to support freedom of expression will feature works by authors whose books were burned by the Nazis in Berlin in 1933.

MONDAY, MAY 12

Spring Bike Party and Benefit
Redbones, 55 Chester St., Somerville (617-628-2200). www.nemba.org. *5-10pm. $10.* Kick off Ride to Work Week by riding your bike to Redbones, where it will be valet parked. Ticket price includes a Redbones sandwich and a glass of lemonade or Harpoon beer. Proceeds benefit the New England Mountain Bike Association and MassBike.

10th Annual Gilda Radner Award Dinner
Westin Copley Place Hotel, Boston (617-332-1915). www.wellnesscommunity.org. *7pm. $250.* The Wellness Community honors Red Sox CEO Larry Lucchino for his accomplishments and activism as a cancer survivor. Proceeds benefit TWC's programs for people with cancer and their loved ones.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's Boston's Beloved Bartenders Party
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston. (617-725-1051). 6p Salute your favorite drinkslingers and watch them compete in the 2nd Annual Bartenders Competition. Live music is provided by Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns. Hosted by the IMPROPER Jonathan Soroff.

Lucky's lounge

SINATRA SUNDAYS

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Show at 8

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a special tribute
celebrating the life of
'Ol Blue Eyes

Wednesday, May 14th
8PM

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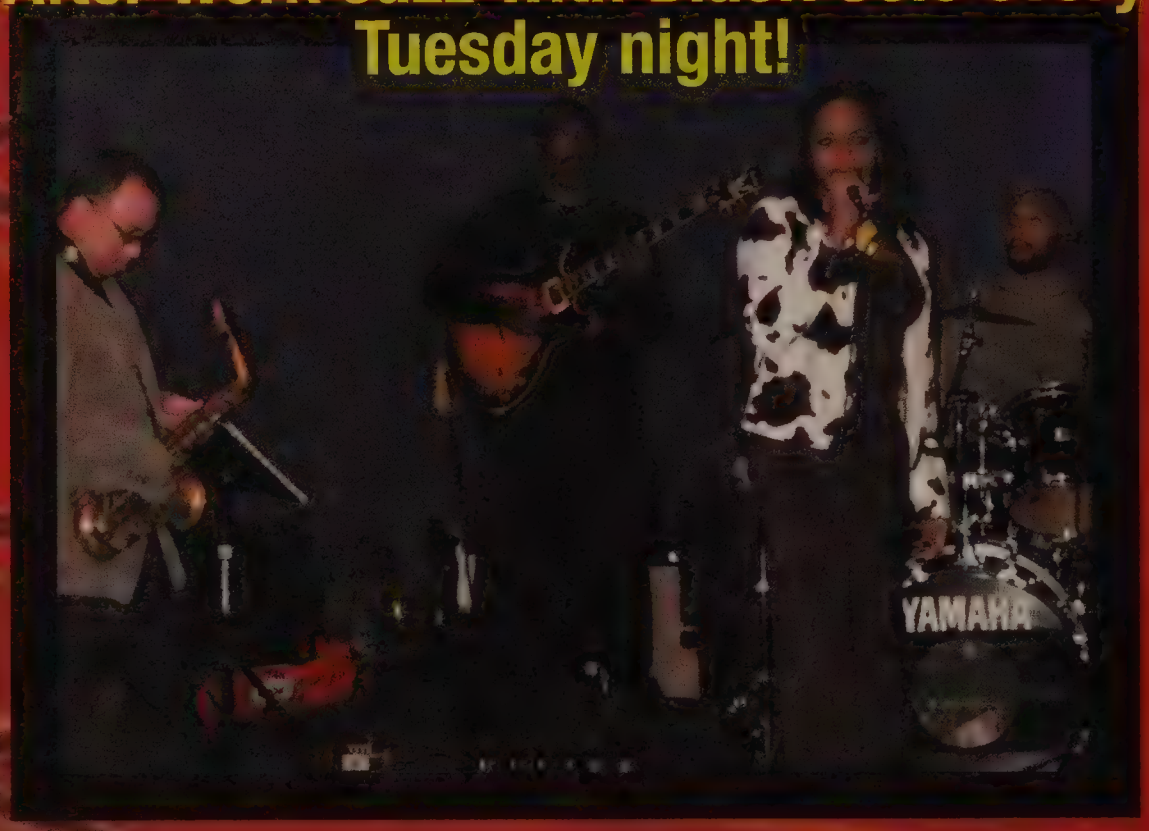


Boston Bruins alumni Ray Bourque with Gold medalist of the 1980 US Olympic Hockey team, Mike Eruzione.

inside RACK

NOT just your average Monday Night! Featuring The Rack's All-Star jazz jam! Complimentary buffet and pool! DJ Mike Janedy 9:30pm-2am.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday Night, 6pm

After work Jazz with Boston's Best Jazz bands, Black Sole & Zeke Martin.

Every Thursday Night, 4-10pm

Get a JUMP START on your weekend! In fact, blow off work on Friday with R&B, Jazz and Soul bands! DJ Ricky spins 10pm-2am!

Every Friday Night, 4pm

Join us right after work with the best band in Boston, Central Basement! Hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party! DJ Johnny C will keep you dancing 'til 2am!

Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way! DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

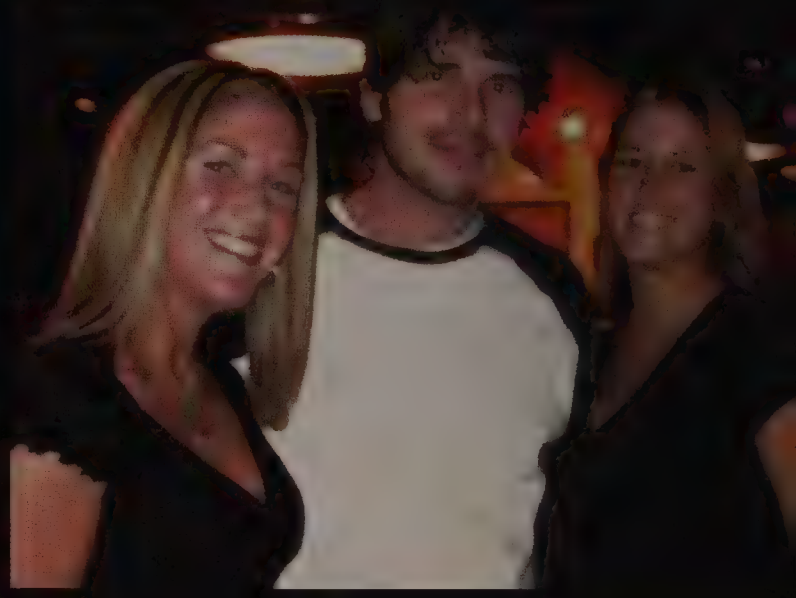
Join Nate Watkin from 8 - 11pm then dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

Monday, May 5th, 6pm

The Rack is kickin' butts tonight!!Join us for lots of margaritas at our CINCO DE MAYO party sponsored by Jose Cuervo featuring the smoking jazz of ZMQ and DJ Mike Janedy!

Tuesday, May 13th, 6pm

Improper Bostonian's 9th annual Boston's Beloved Bartender's celebration! Come party with Boston's most beloved drink-slingers as the Improper honors those who shake, stir and pour their hearts out. Hosted by the Improper's Jonathan Soroff with WROR's Tai and Julie D..



Boston Bruins Steve Shields with Missy Martel and Deb Norton.

Boston's Best 1997 Improper Bostonian
Boston's Best 1998 Improper Bostonian
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Boston's Best 2001 Improper Bostonian
Boston's Best 2002 Improper Bostonian

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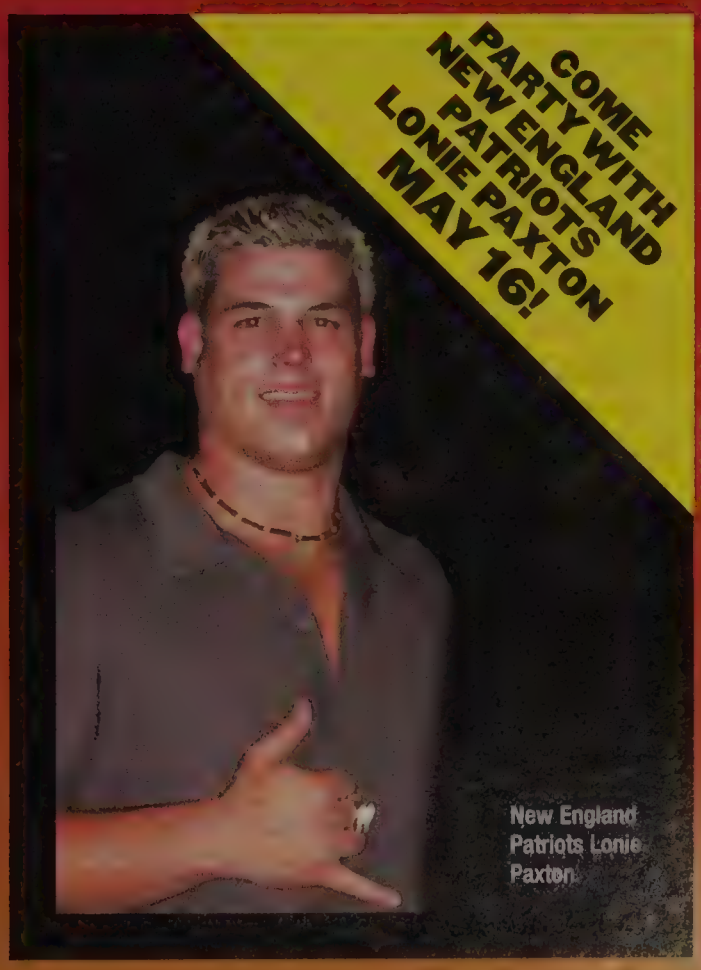
Jeff Popkin, Channel 7's news reporter Janet Wu and Zvi Cole.

Vision Sports Partners Joe Ghory and Ian Keiller with Nanda, Los Angeles Kings Jason Allison and VSP's Marc Zwerdling.



New England Patriots Lonie Paxton.

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THE RACK

performing arts

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.
Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.
Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.
Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.
Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.
Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Bat Boy: The Musical
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3 and 7pm. April 30-May 25. $30-$38. Based on a tabloid article about a half-human, half-bat boy found in a West Virginia cave, this award-winning musical documents the child's quest for acceptance.
Body & Sold
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. May 7-8, 8pm. $12 and $15. This new play by Deborah Lake Fortson tells the stories of two girls who are tricked and sold into the brothels of Bombay. Based on interviews with real-life survivors, the play is a window into the world of sex trafficking from the point of view of the victims.
Bon Appetit!
Cambridge Opera, 106 Harvey St., Cambridge (617-547-7819). www.cambridgeopera.org. *May 2-3, 8pm. $25.* Guest chefs offer appetizers and sweets at this one-act opera that pays tribute to Julia Child.
Cabaret
Durrell Theatre, Cambridge YMCA, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-566-3513). www.longwoodplayers.com. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm. May 9-17. $14-$16.* The Longwood Players present this provocative and darkly humorous musical set at the Kit Kat club.
Defending the Caveman
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-4008). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5, 7:15 and 10:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Through May 18. $23-$52.50. The longest-running solo play in Broadway history, this humorous look at relationships explores that wide yet comical space known as the gender gap.
Die Fledermaus
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.blo.org. *Tue. and Fri., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. April 30, May 2, 6, 9 and 13, 7:30pm; May 4 and 11, 3pm. $32-$152.* Hours before he is to begin a jail sentence, a man attends an elaborate masquerade ball in this comedic musical presented by Boston Lyric Opera.
Fever! A Tribute to Miss Peggy Lee
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. April 30-May 11. $25-$72. This musical revue pays tribute to 12-time Grammy nominated singer/composer Peggy Lee and takes a look at her life.
Hearing Voices
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. May 1-17. $15-$18. Poet and performer Michael Mack's one-man play draws on his life as a child raised by a mother with paranoid schizophrenia.

Preview

Julia Child: An Opera

Cambridge Opera sets *The French Chef* to music

Mezzo-soprano Laurie Lemley stars as Julia Child in Cambridge Opera's production of *Bon Appetit!*

In episodes of *The French Chef*, Julia Child blustered her way through the kitchen and always turned out gorgeous, mouthwatering concoctions. Television viewers tuned in to learn how to make souffle, but the lesson always included a little kitchen drama.

American composer Lee Hoiby picked up on that drama when he set out to write a one-act opera based on an episode of the popular cooking show. *Bon Appetit!* premiered at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in 1989, and later played to sold-out houses off Broadway. This month, Cambridge Opera presents *Bon Appetit!* as a tribute to Child, a former Cambridge resident. "This is the rich buttery brown batter for *le gateau au chocolat l'eminence brune*," begins the chamber opera, which takes its lines almost verbatim from one of Child's shows. "Hoiby picked an episode that was really typical of Julia and all the things we love about her," says Susan Cooke, who sings songs about food and cuisine with other members of Cambridge Opera after the 20-minute performance.

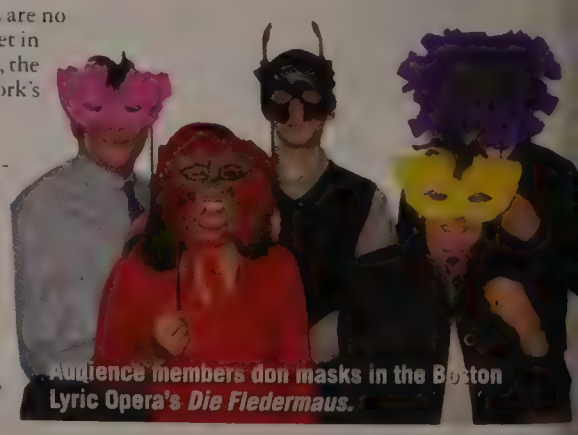
Laurie Lemley stars as Julia Child, and instead of miming the cooking segment, as actress Jean Stapleton did in the original production, Lemley literally gets her hands dirty. "Lemley's been practicing in her kitchen, breaking eggs, measuring a cup and a quarter of corn starch while she sings," says Cooke. She's also been watching old episodes to study Child's movements and the tone of her voice. And you know that when Lemley bangs a pan on the counter and chocolate gets in her eye, she's going to recover—just as Child did nearly every episode for almost 40 years on television.

For those who feel a bit hungry after the opera, local chefs like Jack Fulton of Casablanca, Lynette Mosher of Emerson Inn by the Sea, and Oxford Spa's Heather Dill and Elizabeth Hogan will be on hand to serve up delicacies after the show. Bon appetit!
Cambridge Opera, 106 Harvey St., Cambridge (617-547-7819). www.cambridgeopera.org. May 2-3, 8pm. $25.—Julie Short

June Bride
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 33 Nahanton St., Newton (617-558-6522). May 3, 8pm; May 4, 2pm. $26. Sara Felder takes audiences from an awkward first date to the culmination of the wedding ceremony in this tale of reluctant parents, blissful brides and the ageless spirit of the Jewish tradition in this one-woman show.
Lizzie Borden
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Wed., 7:30pm; Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. May 7-30. $25-$35. This dramatic yet comedic musical set in Fall River, Mass., follows the story of the most infamous ax murderer of all time.
The Music Man
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 4pm. May 7-11. $41-$46. Con artist Harold Hill arrives in River City, Iowa, with a plan to organize a marching band for the town's children. Marian, the town librarian, sees beyond Harold's musical aspirations and discovers a secret that nobody was supposed to know. Songs include "'Til There Was You," "Gary, Indiana" and "Seventy-Six Trombones."
Pericles
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30pm. May 10-June 27. $34-$68.* One of the last plays Shakespeare wrote, this epic romance—complete with magicians, pirates, shipwrecks and divine revelation—opens in a world broken by famine, incest and corruption, and closes in a sublime image of love, redemption and hope.
Romulus
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri. and Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. May 9-31. $15-$20.* Gore Vidal's play takes a dryly comedic look at the Roman Empire and the court of emperor Romulus just before the once-invincible empire falls to the Goths.
Veronika Vavoom, Volcanologist
Boston Theatre Works, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-939-9939). Mon., 7pm; Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. May 2-18. $25. Volcanologist Veronika Vavimetsu descends into Colombia's Galeras Volcano to retrieve the body of 16-year-old George, an American teen who has committed suicide. When Veronika finds him, he is alive, having survived the jump. The two forge a special relationship that extends to the outside world, as Veronika tries to save the teen in more ways than one.

NOW RUNNING

Big Apple Circus: Dreams of a City
Fan Pier, 28-70 Old Northern Ave., Boston (617-931-2787). Through May 11. $13-$51. All seats are no more than 50 feet from this one-ring circus. Set in New York City at the turn of the 19th century, the show celebrates cultural diversity and New York's storied melting pot.
Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8pm; Thu., 5 and 8pm; Fri., 7 and 10pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10pm; Sun., 3 and 6pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.
Fool for Love
Leverett Old Library Theatre, Mill and Plympton streets, Cambridge (617-257-7480). www.industrialtheatre.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through May 10. $15.* Industrial Theatre presents this tale of desire by playwright Sam Shepard. Two individuals are bound by charged attraction and a murky past.


Audience members don masks in the Boston Lyric Opera's *Die Fledermaus.*

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7pm. Ongoing. $27. The Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent assistant. He loses his mind during a performance, and only authentic supernatural powers and his dark past can save his show. With beginnings in a 10-seat basement theater in Allston, this black comedy is now being presented by the Underground Magic Theatre.
Mame
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., 8pm; Wed. 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Through May 18. $26-$63.* Free-thinking and irreverent Mame Dennis takes on the job of raising her orphaned 10-year-old nephew, teaching him to soak up the few life pleasures available in the Depression-era 1930s. Based on the novel by Patrick Dennis, this musical celebrates unconventional family values and individuality.
Man of La Mancha
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through May 18. $25-$35. The chivalrous dreamer Don Quixote sets out to defend the honor of a lady and battle the evil he confronts in a cynical world. This musical follows the story of the self-christened Champion of the Oppressed and Righter of Wrongs as he journeys toward an impossible dream while fighting off real and fictional foes.
The MOMologues
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater, 955 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-2928). www.momologues.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 3 and 8pm. Through May 17. $26.* Three Boston-based moms present this original comedy about the good, bad and ugly realities of motherhood and the neuroses that arise from it...just in time for Mother's Day.
Once Upon a Mattress
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through June 1. $15-$21. This clever take on *The Princess and the Pea* follows poor Prince Dauntless, who's still a bachelor thanks to his overbearing mother, who insists that each of his potential brides-to-be pass an impossible gauntlet of tests.
Pavilion
Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-3926). www.merrimackrep.org. *Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Wed., 7:30pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through May 11. $31.* Pine City, Minnesota's class of 1980 is the last group to hold an event in the old dance hall scheduled to be torn down. On the nostalgic evening of the class's 20th reunion, one couple gets another shot at romance.
Pippi Longstocking
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 3pm (April 22-April 25, 1pm). Through May 4. $12-$18. Pippi Longstocking's superhuman strength, unbounded imagination and disregard for the rules of society make for good fun in this musical adaptation.
Puppetry of the Penis
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-236-1199). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 7 and 9:30pm; Sun., 7pm. Ongoing. $35-$39.50. The international comedy hit features the ancient Australian art of genital origami. Creators Simon Morley and Dan Lewry perform naked while shaping and stretching their penises into more than 40 figures, including the Eiffel Tower and the Loch Ness Monster.
Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm;

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Die Fledermaus

By Johann Strauss, Jr.

April 30, May 2, 6, 9, 13
7:30 pm

May 4 & 11
3pm

Sung in English with projected text
Audience members will receive a free party mask,
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Opera Previews: Free half-hour talks one hour before each performance, next door at the Tremont Hotel.

Tickets start at $32!

Evening performances at 7:30pm; Sunday matinées at 3pm at The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets on sale at www.telecharge.com, (800) 447-7400, or at The Shubert Theatre Box Office (Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm).
The Shubert Theatre TTY: (617) 482-5757

www.blo.org

Boston Lyric
OPERA
New England

Janice Mancini Del Sesto, General Director • Stephen Lord, Music Director • Leon Major, Artistic Director

Sat., 6:30 and 9:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest running play.

Side Show

Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Wed., 2 and 7:30pm; Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through May 31. $22-$40. Based on the true story of Siamese twins who became stars during the Depression, this four-time Tony-nominated musical is a portrait of two women, joined at the hip, whose bond brings them fame but denies them love.

Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7pm; Thu. and Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30pm. Through May 25. $27-$35.* In Steven Sondheim's musical comedy, an unhinged barber begins a grisly, comical scheme of revenge and murder after his wife and child are taken away from him by an evil judge.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

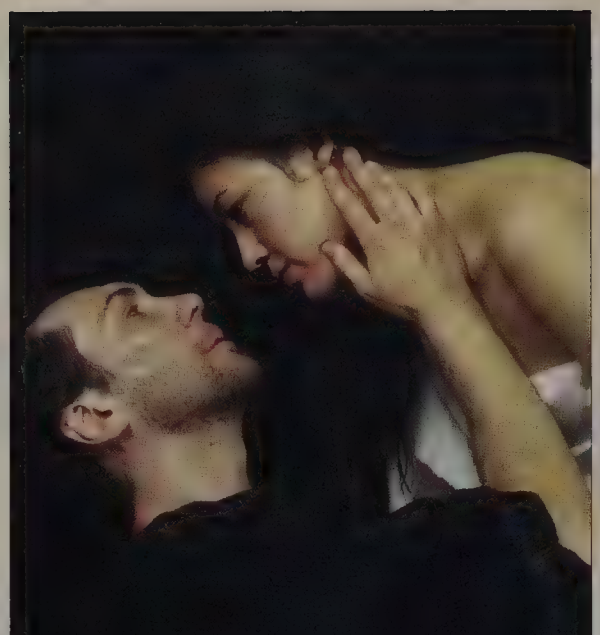
Hay Fever

Boston University College of Fine Arts, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). April 30-May 1, 7:30pm; May 2-3, 8pm; May 4, 2pm. $15. Paula Plum and Richard Snee star in this play by Noel Coward about a long weekend at the home of the theatrical Bliss family. Each member of the family invites a guest for the weekend. The guests are alternately amused, ignored and humiliated.

Dance

Dance Month

The Dance Complex, 536 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. May 3, 8pm. Free. Join Mayor Michael Sullivan and dancer Rozann Kraus as they host the official kick-off party for Dance Month, Cambridge's annual month-long celebration of the movement arts. Partake in international food from Central Square restaurants, participate in a raffle for Red Sox tickets and dance the night away to live music.



Robert Sella and Mia Yoo star in *Pericles* at the American Repertory Theatre May 10-June 27.

Romeo and Juliet

Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. and Fri., 8pm; Wed. and Thu., 7pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm.. May 8-18. $12.50-$82. The Boston Ballet presents Shakespeare's famous love tragedy in three passionate acts, with stylistic influences from Martha Graham and George Balanchine.

Stomp

Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat. 5 and 9pm; Sun. 3 and 7pm. Ongoing. $45-$55.* In its return to Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Ten's the Limit

Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-876-4275). www.Crasharts.org. *May 2, 7pm and 9pm; May 3, 8pm. $10.* Experience new works of contemporary dance and works in progress at this annual showcase of Boston-based choreographers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle

Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. •May 6 and 13, 8:30pm, free: Open mike night. •May 8, 8:30pm, $5: Boston Comedy Festival's On the Road Show with Ross Bennett, Simon B. Cotter, Patrice O'Neal and Will Durst.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8pm; Thu., 8:30pm; Fri. and Sat., 8pm, 10:15pm; Sun., 7pm. The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •April 30, $12: Harrison Stebbins •May 1, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •May 2, 8 and 10:15pm, $21: Bobby Collins from VH1's *Stand-up Spotlight.* •May 3, $25: Bobby Collins. •May 5: Boston's Founding Fathers show, part of the Boston International Comedy and Movie Festival. •May 6: The Woman's Show, part of the Boston International Comedy and Movie Festival. •May 7: Adopt a Comic show, part of the Boston International Comedy and Movie Festival. •May 8, 7pm: Friar's Show, part of the Boston International Comedy and Movie Festival; 9pm, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist. •May 9, $22.50: Robert Schimmel of *Scary Movie 2* and NBC's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien.* •May 10, 6, 8 and 10:15pm, $22.50-$27.50: Robert Schimmel •May 12 and 13, $12: Comcast Comedy Spotlight.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •April 30: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Will McNeil, Tissa Hami, Max Silvestri, Charlie Daly, Kevin Carson, Val Kappa and Gary Sohmers. •May 1: Steve Calechman's show for singles, Luv2Laff. •May 2: Kyria Abrahams and Chris Walsh •May 3: Abe Smith, Joe List, Larry Star and Rick Jenkins •May 4: Sam Walters, Rob Reuter, Joe List, Stefan Frey, Michael Della Penna, Mike O'Neill, Erick Charles Neilson, Corey Manning, Mark Brennan and Cyndi Tarnakaus. •May 6, $10: Mystery Lounge with local magicians. •May 7: Kelly MacFarland, Michael Herman, Nicole Luparelli, Lois McCormack, Erin Judge, Steve Hubbard and Anthony Spencer. •May 8: Tim McIntire, Joe Randazzo, Greg Thibideau, Dan McCaul, Peter Gray and Steve Hubbard. •May 9: Eugene Mirman with Chris Walsh and Kyria Abrahams. •May 10: Eugene Mirman and Rick Jenkins •May 11: Sam Walters, Christine Herman, Michael Herman, Mike and Chris, Bethany Van Delft, Craig Zeltsar and Eric Riley Moore. •May 13, $10: Mystery Lounge with local magicians.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •May 1-4, Thu. and Sun., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8:30pm: Various acts perform as part of the Boston Comedy Festival. •May 8-11, Thu. and Sun., 8pm; Fri. and Sat., 8:30pm: Boston Comedy Festival.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., and 10pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu. 8pm, $12: Micetro; 10pm, $5: The Great and Secret Comedy Show. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri., 8pm, $12: The Mysteries of the Universe, Explained; 10pm, $12: TheatreSports. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat. 6pm, $12: ImprovBoston Family Show; 8 and 10pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun. 7pm, $5: Sergeant Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree. Three shows in one with an open jam.

Improv Foundry

Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 361 Newbury St., Fourth Floor, Boston (617-308-6421). May 3 and 10, 8pm. $10. Improv Foundry performs short-form improvisational comedy.

COMEDY SHOWS

Dave Foley

Black Rose, 160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 3. Former *Kids in the Hall* writer and actor Dave Foley, also known as Dave on *NewsRadio*, performs.

Gallagher

Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, Boston (617-931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Park. May 10, 7:30pm. $33. Bring your raincoats, goggles and umbrellas and prepare to be "Gallagherized" at this performance by the comedian who made the "Sledge-o-Matic" famous.

Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boylston. May 2, 3 and 10, 7:30pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance into Matrix dance club. A spoof on the traditional Italian wedding, this play incorporates impromptu dialogue and audience participation.

Stephen Lynch

Paradise Rock Club, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. May 2, 9pm. $15. Comedian and musician Stephen Lynch performs love songs about priests, fat girls and gerbils from his new album, *Superhero.*

Maria's Bachelorette Party

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boylston. May 9, 7:00pm. $42 for dinner and show. Join the blushing bride-to-be, Maria, as her bridesmaids throw her a wild "Italian-style" bash, featuring dozens of professional exotic male dancers.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8pm. Open mike for creative talent.

The Sopranos' Last Supper

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boylston. May 2, 7pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance into the Matrix night club. "Get made" in this interactive dinner-theater comedy show—based on HBO's *The Sopranos*—about an Italian-American mob family struggling to remain close.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. *May 4.* Enjoy standup comedy with host Stash and 12 New England comedians plus live music.

ERIC ANTOI

Chloe with parents

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Movies

THE SCHEME TEAM

Confidence scams its way to a good time

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Edward Burns' character starts out *Confidence* flat on his back and soaked in blood, narrating his story like William Holden's famously floating corpse in *Sunset Boulevard*. "So I'm dead," he begins. But if you really think he's dead, you aren't watching closely. The bastard child of the twisted pulp novels of Jim Thompson and the colorful crime movies of David Mamet, *Confidence* is all about scams. In no way is it in the same league as *The Grifters* (the best movie made from a Thompson book), Mamet's con-filled *House of Games* or Elmore Leonard adaptations like *Out of Sight* or *Get Shorty*, but it fires up enough sordid sparks to earn its place in a crook-cinema line-up.

The dead regularly rise in *Confidence*, the tale of a team of Los Angeles con men whose specialty is scamming small men out of large sums of money. As the crew's second in command, Paul Giamatti plays another character who comes back from the dead, after a scam in which the team scares an accountant into abandoning a briefcase containing $150,000 by convincing him that an accessory-to-murder charge might be in his future.

Edward Burns plays a grifter who enlists a pickpocket (Rachel Weisz) to help pull off a con.

But what the crew didn't realize is that their victim was an accountant for a local crime kingpin—a scuzzy, messy, horny club owner played by Dustin Hoffman with lip-smacking glee. After the kingpin has one of the team knocked off, Burns sets up a meeting with him and the crew's penance is made clear. They have to pull a scam on a victim of the kingpin's choosing, and he's got one picked out, the banker Morgan Price (Robert Forster), who's been able to couch his dirty dealings in legitimate business in ways Hoffman's character never has.

The con men concoct a scheme to get a phony corporate loan from Price's bank. They find their mark in a drab VP (John Carroll Lynch) and enlist Rachel Weisz, a pickpocket well versed in using her curves to pull swerves on men, for the job. With the pickpocket as the lure, the crew poses as a start-up company that's failed with other banks but has a "secret" surefire way to pay back the loan (info they tell the VP on the q.t.). They get the VP to push through the loan and wire funds to an offshore account. It's money the crew will simply never repay.

Of course, it's not that simple. Also looking out for number one are two crooked cops (Luis Guzman, Donal Logue), an eccentric customs agent (Andy Garcia) and one of the banker's security men (Morris Chestnut). *Confidence* has plenty of twists and swerves of its own, but thankfully, those aren't the only things it has to offer. There's juicy fun in Burns' smart, sardonic performance (though it's distracting that, in short hair, he looks so much like Ben Affleck). Burns' scenes with Hoffman bristle with amusing dialogue and venomous undercurrent, with Burns' casual style and Hoffman's hyper character a potent contrast. Meanwhile, Weisz drips with bad-girl insolence without drifting into femme fatale cliche, and Guzman, Logue and especially Giamatti add spicy detail the way that only the best character actors can.

Director James Foley—who has both a Thompson adaptation (*After Dark, My Sweet*) and a Mamet adaptation (*Glengarry Glen Ross*) in his past—keeps *Confidence* lean and fast-moving. Doug Jung's script sometimes makes odd choices, like having Burns narrate to the camera at times while he's also telling Chestnut's character about the events we see in flashback. But *Confidence* never gets too slick or smug, which is more than you can say for many crime movies. And when the plot twists come—some convincing, some not—*Confidence* isn't fully dependent on them to succeed. Fortunately, it has other aces up its sleeve. **iB**

Confidence ★★★

Directed by James Foley. Written by Doug Jung. With Edward Burns, Rachel Weisz, Paul Giamatti, Andy Garcia, Brian Van Holt, Robert Forster and Dustin Hoffman. Rated R. Lions Gate Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Anger Management ★★
I doubt that Jack Nicholson and Queen Latifah hav ever competed for the same role. But this Nicholson Adam Sandler comedy is cut from the same limp high-concept formula as *Bringing Down the House*. It got the same sort of hapless hero, the same sort of an noying intruder to his life and the same pre-fab happ ending. This time, Sandler is the guy who gets put o the right path by the unorthodox outsider. He's a gu who needs assertiveness training but who, due to sev eral mix-ups, ends up sentenced to the anger manage ment seminars Nicholson's character runs. About th only sparks here are the outbursts by John Turturro who plays the most angry member of the Nicholson run support group. You'll feel like him if you pay to se this. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between two cul tures—think *Double Happiness*, *Mississippi Masala* an *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—gets trotted out yet agai in director Gurinder Chadha's latest, which can't com pare to her *Bhaji on the Beach* but is still involving. Par minder Nagra gives a winning performance as Jess, th Indian-English teen with soccer skill and two Sikh par ents who won't allow her to pursue such a nontradi tional female endeavor. When she's recruited to pla for a local women's team, with the possibility of disco very by an American pro team, the scene is set for lots o running around behind her parents' back and comi mishaps—in fact, an awful lot of repetitive runnin around and mishaps. It's all pretty predictable, bu Nagra, Anupam Kher (as the heroine's father) an Keira Knightley (as her teammate and sometim rival), as well as Chadra's sense of compassion, help dig nity fight caricature to a standoff. (At Boston Com mon, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Better Luck Tomorrow ★★★
Writer-director Justin Lin takes the Asian-America movie beyond the immigrant experience in this free wheeling story of high school honor students wh start dabbling in crime. The title is apparently a nod t John Woo's *A Better Tomorrow*, and this too is the stor of friends whose relationships get ripped apart b their life of crime. Quick, funny, violent, and smar the movie marinates its irreverent take on high schoo life in the stew of hormones and power that drives it teen characters. We've not heard the last from Lin. (A Copley Place and Harvard Square.)

Bulletproof Monk ★½
Chow Yun-Fat deserves better than this cartoonish ac tion drama in which he's a butt-kicking Tibetan mon protecting a sacred scroll, who finds his unlikely, an unconvincing, successor in the pickpocket played b Seann William Scott. The audience deserves bette too. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Chicago ★★★
Life is still a cabaret in this movie based on a late Kander-Ebb musical. That's the whole premise of th lusty, laugh-filled spoof of the Roaring Twenties, i which a singing star (and murderess), a star wannabe (an murderess) and a flashy lawyer (and defender of murde esses) all fight for the spotlight and the headlines. Rene Zellweger is the wannabe who discovers murder was great career move, Catherine Zeta Jones is the singer tr ing to keep her name alive while in jail, and a surprising amusing Richard Gere is the upscale shyster with all th answers. All three know just how to manipulate truth justice and the American way through performance. (A Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Core ★★
This oafish save-the-world movie might have yo checking the calendar. It feels exactly like a mediocr summer movie. Although the cast, including Aaro Eckhart, Hilary Swank and Delroy Lindo, is more in teresting than those in most sci-fi action movies, aft a while even their charms can't carry this generic sto of averted scientific doom. And there's a lot of "while here, as the movie drags on for over two hours. (A Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Dreamcatcher ★★
There are familiar elements in the latest Stephen Kin adaptation: childhood friends, beasts, snow, pine tre and Maine (though this was filmed in Canada). Bu the combination is awfully tedious this time aroun The friends (Thomas Jane, Jason Lee, Timoth Olyphant and Damian Lewis) are grown now, bu their thoughts often trigger flashbacks to when th were boys, and when the retarded boy (Andrew Rob they befriended gave them telepathic powers. It seem the boy gave the others the powers because he kne they would need them to save the world during a alien invasion. If that sounds far-fetched, it comes of lot better than the clunky dialogue between Morg Freeman and Tom Sizemore, who play the milita men trying to contain the aliens. This one plods alon

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and never gets very interesting. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Good Thief ★★★
You didn't need last year's infamous mug shot to know that Nick Nolte had tumbled off the wagon. You just had to check out this movie, which like the Nolte films of the late 1980s, gauges his lack of sobriety by the unintelligibility of his words. He hasn't made you say "Huh?" this much since *Teachers*. But at least it fits the role. Neil Jordan's remake of the 1955 French film *Bob Le Flambeur*—one of the coolest movies ever made—casts Nolte as the down-and-out crook who goes cold turkey in order to pull one last score while dodging an eager cop (Tcheky Karyo) and flirting with a sweet young thing (Nutsa Kukhiani) he's rescued from the streets. It's hardly a one-of-a-kind movie like the original, but it's sleek, fast-moving and always entertaining. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Head of State ★★
Chris Rock, outspoken comic, makes conventional political comedy. So conventional and mild-mannered that even to call it political is to be generous. You'd think for his directorial debut (which he also cowrote) that Rock would come up with something more special and passionate. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Identity ★★
The strong cast including John Cusack, Ray Liotta, Amanda Peet and John Hawkes helps, but the plot in this thriller by writer-director James Mangold becomes more and more arbitrary as it progresses. That means that the twists in this tale of a bunch of travelers stranded at a Nevada motel, who start dying one by one, keep having less and less impact, right down to the obligatory, empty twist ending. It's good to see the who-dies-next plot done with adults instead of teens for a change, but the suspense bleeds out of this like the air seeping from a slow leak in a balloon. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Malibu's Most Wanted ★★½
Everybody's strapped to a nine iron in the hometown of B-Rad, Jamie Kennedy's amusing white rapper-wannabe. But when his Malibu dad (Ryan O'Neal) runs for governor of California, B-Rad (Bradley is his "slave name," he protests) is deemed too much of an embarrassment. So dad's campaign staff hires two black actors (Anthony Anderson and Taye Diggs) to pose as gangstas, kidnap B-Rad, take him to the hood and "scare the black out of him." The laughs are spotty at times, but they're more plentiful and more clever than anything in *Bringing Down the House*, that other recent race-relations comedy. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Owning Mahowny ★★★
Director Richard Kwietniowski, who previously made *Love and Death on Long Island* (about a stuffy author's sudden infatuation with a heartthrob actor), takes us on another intriguing journey through the obsession raging within one man's mind. This time, it's a fastidious assistant bank manager (Philip Seymour Hoffman) with a gambling jones. He starts embezzling money from the bank so he can gamble to pay off his debts—and then, because he loses more, he embezzles some more, and so on. His quiet desperation has a fascinating car crash quality, all the more fascinating because the movie is based on a true story. (At Copley Place.)

Phone Booth ★★★
In this oddball thriller, Colin Farrell plays a slick publicist who is made to stay in a phone booth by a sniper who's appalled by the slick flack's lying and opportunism. Sounds reasonable to me. The story works because of its distinctively confined setting (one block of Manhattan), because Farrell gives his meatiest performance since *Tigerland* and because the movie gets the job done in 80 minutes, then rolls the credits. Tense and terse. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Shape of Things ★★
Neil LaBute's latest raises interesting questions about the compromises that go into a romantic relationship, but he gives his play a clumsy transition to the screen. The mannered performances, unnatural dialogue and casting of actors in their early 30s to play college students all make it hard to get involved in his story of the relationship between an art student (Rachel Weisz) who works hard to make her nebbish boyfriend (Paul Rudd) physically and emotionally "better," and of the effect that relationship has on two of his friends (Gretchen Mol, Frederick Weller). LaBute doesn't treat his characters with the same contempt he sometimes has, but they still feel like abstractions rather than anything the least bit real. (At Copley Place.)

Stevie ★★★
If Steve (*Hoop Dreams*) James' latest documentary weren't so well made, it could have come off like an episode of *Jerry Springer*. Nothing against Jerry, but James gets a more intimate, complex look at family feuding here. The movie is about James' attempt to reconnect with the title "character," the once-troubled child to whom he was a Big Brother. James finds Stevie now in his 20s, and as troubled as ever, living with his stepgrandmom and down the street from the mother he blames for all his problems. James' attempt to be a positive influence to Stevie doesn't last very long, though, once Stevie is charged with sexually abusing a child. Then the movie becomes a fascinating and heartbreaking study about trying to salvage the good in someone capable of being so bad. (At Kendall Square.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Boston Public Library
Clint Eastwood Film Series
•May 5, 6pm. **Coogan's Bluff** *1968*. Don Siegel directs Eastwood as an arrogant Arizona sheriff sent to extradite a prisoner in New York. Things run amok when the prisoner escapes.
•May 12, 6pm. **Play Misty for Me** *1971*. Eastwood directs and stars in this predecessor to *Fatal Attraction*, in which a popular radio DJ has an affair with an unstable fan.

Boston University Tsai Performance Center
Film, Videos and Live Music
•May 9, 8pm. This multimedia concert, part of the 2003 Boston Cyberarts Festival, features film and video accompanied by the music of four composers. Performances include: **Tracer** by Richard Cornell with video by Deborah Cornell; **Often** by Jessie Shefrin (video) and Andy Vores (music); **The New Math**, by Louis Andriessen with film by Hal Hartley; and **Fourteen Ways to Describe the Rain** by Hanns Eisler accompanied by Joris Ivens silent film *Regen*.

Brattle Theatre
Features
•April 30-May1, 5, 7:15 and 9:30pm. **Chaos** *2001*. After complacently witnessing a brutal assault, a guilt-ridden woman becomes involved in the victim's life. Coline Serreau directs.

Independent Film Festival of Boston
•May 2, 12pm; May 4, 2:30pm. **The Killing Zone** *2002*. In Joe Brewster's film, a New York psychiatrist's life is turned upside down after he witnesses a murder. •Also showing May 2, 2:30pm. **Melvin Goes to Dinner** *2003*. During a bizarre dinner engagement, four virtual strangers discuss marital infidelity, religion, cigarettes, ghosts and stewardesses. Director Bob Odenkirk is present at the screening. •Also showing, 5pm. **Power Trip** *2003*. Paul Devlin documents the expansion and the sometimes unethical practices of an American global power company. The director is present at the screening. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **West of Here** *2002*. Director Peter Masterson is present for the screening of his film about a man who moves west after the death of his idolized brother. •Also showing, 10pm. **Reconstruction** *2001*. Irene Lusztig documents the story of six bank robbers in Soviet-era Romania who were forced to recreate their crime for a filmed docudrama.
•May 3, 12pm. **Real Time** *2003*. A group of juvenile felons experience the healing powers of the arts when they create two short films while serving time. Director and Emerson graduate Lee Miller is present at the screening. •Also showing, 2:30pm. **Con Man** *2003*. Documentarian Jesse Moss is present for the screening of his film, which looks at serial impostor James Hogue. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Mr. Barrington** *2003*. Dana Packard used a crew made up almost entirely of Boston and Maine locals to shoot this dramatic thriller about an agoraphobic writer in Maine. •Also showing, 10:30pm. **Cry Funny Happy** *2003*. Three very different couples are reunited at a friend's 30th birthday party in Sam Neave's film.
•May 3, 5pm; May 4, 7:30pm. **The King of Sixth Street** *2003*. Charles Burmeister documents the story of Austin street musician Gerry Van King as he earns a contract and attempts to record his first album. The director is present for this world premiere screening.
•May 4, 12pm. **Happy Hour** *2002*. Eric Stoltz and Anthony LaPaglia star in Mike Bencivenga's film about a destructive alcoholic writer, his drinking buddy, and the one woman who tries to save him. •Also showing, 5pm. **Speedo** *2003*. Ed "Speedo" Jager is a top demolition derby driver with a failing marriage. He gets a chance at a new beginning when he falls for someone new. Jesse Moss directs.
A short film screens with most festival features.

Mondays–Ian Fleming's James Bond
•May 5, 7pm. **Casino Royale** *1967*. Val Guest, Ken Hughes, John Huston, Joseph McGrath and Robert Parrish all have a hand in directing an aging 007 (David Niven) who returns to service to save humanity from evil. •Also showing, 4:30 and 9:45pm. **Live and Let Die** *1973*. In Roger Moore's 007 debut, Bond is pitted against Mr. Big's drug trafficking scheme. Guy Hamilton directs.
•May 12, 7:15pm. **Moonraker** *1979*. Bond investigates a space shuttle hijacking. Lewis Gilbert directs. •Also showing, 4:45 and 9:45pm. **Diamonds Are Forever** *1971*. Sean Connery stars as Bond, who this time impersonates a diamond smuggler in order to infiltrate the trade between Africa and the United States. Guy Hamilton directs.

Tuesdays–Real to Reel
•May 6, 6pm. **An Evening with Albert Maysles**. Founding member of the Brattle Theatre and famed documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles appears for an interview and audience Q&A.
•May 13, 7:30pm. **Salesman** *1969*. Charlotte Zwerin and Albert and David Maysles' first feature follows four Boston Bible salesman through their door-to-door travels. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9:30pm. **Grey Gardens** *1975*. The Maysles brothers' film captures the bond of two formerly wealthy women who reside in a decaying East Hampton mansion.

Wednesdays–Recent Raves
•May 7, 4:45 and 7:45pm. **Talk to Her** *2002*. Two men care for a comatose woman and develop an obsession with her. Pedro Almodovar directs. •Also showing, 9;45pm. **Zero Day** *2003*. Ken Coccio's film is inspired by the massacre at Columbine.

Thursdays–50 Years of French Cinema
•May 8, 7:30pm. **The Earrings of Madame De...** *1955*. Max Ophüls' film traces a pair of earrings from wife to husband to mistress to suitor, all the while revealing the empty lives they touch. •Also showing, 5 and 9:45pm. **Les Diaboliques** *1955*. A wife and a mistress conspire to murder the man they share in Henri-Georges Clouzot's thriller.

Weekends and Special Engagements
•May 9-11, 5 and 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun. matinee, 2:30pm. **Japón** *2002*. A man travels to a remote village to do some soul searching. The characters he encounters move him toward a life-or-death decision. Carlos Reygadas directs.
•May 9-11, 10pm; Sat. and Sun. matinee, 12pm. **Raiders of the Lost Ark** *1981*. Steven Spielberg's first Indiana Jones film follows the archeologist on a quest for the Biblical Ark of the Covenant.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
Coolidge Selects
•Opening May 2. **Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping** *2002*. Actor/performance artist Reverend Billy, a.k.a. Bill Talen, uses guerrilla street theater to lead an anti-globalization movement. Dietmar Post directs this documentary.
•Opening May 9. **The Other Network**. Network execs couldn't quite stomach this collection of never-aired television pilots created by comedians who include Ben Stiller, Conan O'Brien and Jack Black.
•Now playing. **Marion Bridge** *2002*. Agnes, a middle sibling and wild child, returns from Toronto to her rural Nova Scotia hometown to rid herself of her substance-abusing habits and care for her ill mother. Wiebke von Carolsfeld directs.
•Now playing. **Bend It Like Beckham** *2002*. See description in New Releases.

Independent Film Festival of Boston
•May 2, 12am. **Soft for Digging** *2001*. JT Petty directs this near-silent horror film that chronicles an elderly loner's mission to expose the perpetrator of an appalling act.
•May 3, 12am. **Nothing So Strange** *2002*. Brian Flemming's film is a what-if mystery about the fictional assassination of Microsoft chairman Bill Gates.
•May 4, 7pm. **Ivans Xtc** *2000*. Bernard Rose's cynical film portrays the decline and death of a talented Hollywood agent.

Colin Farrell stars in the thriller *Phone Booth*.

Midnight Movies
•May 2 and 9, 12am. **Transformers: The Movie** *1986*. The Autobots set out to save earth from the Decepticons' plot to steal the world's energy resources. Directors Jay Bacal, John Gibbs II and John Walker XVII bring the animated series to the big screen.
•May 3 and 10, 12am. **Donnie Darko** *2001*. Jake Gyllenhaal plays a high schooler whose visions of a giant evil rabbit lead him to commit random acts of violence. Richard Kelly II directs.

Harvard Film Archive
Mira Nair in Retrospect
•May 2, 8pm. **Jama Masjid Street Journal** *1979*. Nair is on hand for this screening of her thesis project, which captures activity surrounding Delhi's Great Mosque. •Also showing, **The Laughing Club of India** *1999*. Nair's short documentary follows Bombay residents through their laughing exercises thought to cure bodily disease and other ailments. •Also showing, **Monsoon Wedding** *2001*. A young woman agrees to an arranged marriage to escape an affair with a married man.
•May 4, 7pm. **Salaam Bombay** *1988*. In her feature debut, Nair captures the daily lives of Bombay's homeless children. •Also showing, 9pm. **Mississippi Masala** *1992*. Denzel Washington stars as a Mississippi businessman who begins a controversial relationship with an Indian expatriate.

An Evening With Mira Nair
•May 3, 7pm. Join film, stage and TV actor John Lithgow at the Sanders Theatre as he moderates a conversation with director Mira Nair. The evening includes film clips and discussion of the internationally acclaimed director's career. Her career highlights include an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film, the Camera D'Or from the Cannes Film Festival for *Salaam Bombay!*, and an NAACP award for best fiction feature for *My Own Country*.

Arts First
•May 3, 7pm. **Funny Ha Ha** *2002*. Director Andrew Bujalski is present for the screening of his film, which is set in Allston-Brighton and tells the story of a 20-something woman struggling through the daily grind.
•May 5, 7pm. **Playing House** *2003*. Five seventh- and eighth-grade girls make their way through their first year at boarding school in Jane Gray's film. The director is present at the screening.
•May 6, 7pm. **Nish Saran: A Tribute**. The HFA celebrates the work of Harvard graduate Nish Saran after his untimely death in 2002 with screenings of Saran films *Summer in My Veins* and *Fifty Fifty*.

Global Visions: Once Upon a Time in India: Images of the Colonial Era
•May 11, 7pm. **1942, A Love Story** *1994*. Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra weaves a love story into Britain's violent response to the 1942 Quit India Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi.
•May 12, 7pm. **Shaheed** *1965*. Keval P. Kashyap's film explores the life of Indian patriot Sardar Bhagat Singh.

Directors in Focus: Maziar Bahari
•May 13, 7pm. **And Along Came a Spider** *2002*. Bahari's film explores the murders of 16 Iranian women by a religious zealot through interviews with the killer, his family and the victims' families. •Immediately following, **Football, Iranian Style** *2001*. Bahari captures the events surrounding the 1997 Iranian National Football team's surprise qualification to the World Cup.

Museum of Fine Arts
The Boston Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival
•May 1, 8pm. **9 Dead Gay Guys** *2002*. Two Irish men move to London to make it big, but instead find themselves working as prostitutes. As their clientele begin to mysteriously die off, they search for the killer. Ky Mc Lab directs.
•May 2, 8pm. **Radical Harmonies** *2002*. Dee Mo bacher's epic documentary kicks off Women's Opening Night. The director is present for the screening her film on women's music, which includes performance footage and interviews with Ani DiFranco, Fe ron and Cris Williamson.
•May 3, 2pm. **Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering Sense of Place** *2001*. Kathryn Xian and Brent Anbe documentary examines life in Hawaii for transgendered individuals. •Immediately following. **Madam Sata** *2002*. Karim Ainouz's film follows a 1930s-e drag performer through his life in Rio de Janier •Also showing, 4pm. **A Swiss Rebel: Annemar Schwarzenbach 1908-1942** *2000*. Carole Bonstei film is a portrait of a lesbian journalist who traveled t world fighting against fascism. •Also showin 5:45pm. **Fine Dead Girls** *2002*. Two young lesbia move into a private apartment building and find ther selves surrounded by strange and threatening neig bors. Dalibor Matanic directs. •Also showin 7:30pm. **AKA** *2002*. Duncan Roy's film is based on t

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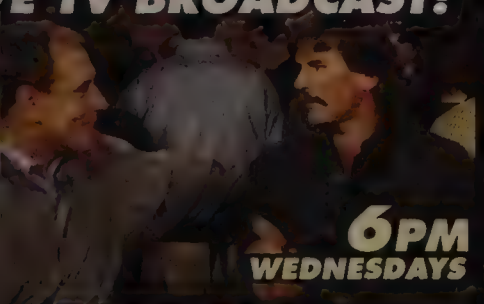

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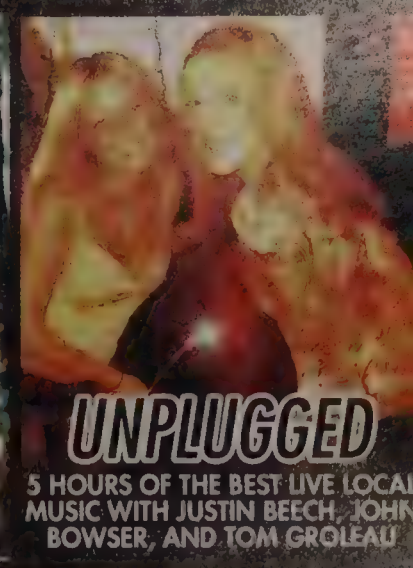

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true story of a working class boy who lands a job in a high-end art gallery and takes on the identity of the gallery owners' son.
•May 4, 5:30pm. **The Nature of Nicholas** *2002*. In Jeff Erbach's film, a young Canadian boy finds himself attracted to his best friend, who disappointingly begins to takes an interest in girls.
•Also showing, 7:30pm. **Gasoline** *2002*. While trying to dispose of her mother's body, a young lesbian and her lover become the target of some inconvenient homophobic aggression in Monica Stambrini's Italian film.
•May 7, 8pm. **Tan de Repente** *(Suddenly) 2002*. In Diego Lerman's feature debut, a conservative saleswoman is propositioned by two punky lesbians. The three set off on a journey of self-discovery and unexpected events.
•May 8, 8pm. **Bulgarian Lovers** *2003*. A gay lawyer jeopardizes his comfortable lifestyle when he falls for a shifty young Bulgarian. Eloy de la Iglesia directs.
•May 9, 8pm. **The Politics of Fur** *2002*. In Laura Nix's film a powerful music exec finds her world unraveling when she turns her young lover into a star.
•May 10, 12:30pm. **The Devil in the Holy Water** *2001*. Joe Balass' film captures the World Gay Pride event staged at the height of the 2000 Catholic Jubilee celebration in Rome. •Also showing, 1:45pm. A series of transgender shorts: **Transanimals** *2001* by Rachel Antel, Amy Hill and Rebecca Weiner; **Thorn Grass** *2001* by Jasc; **Gender Line** *2001* by W.G. Burnham; **Intersex Exposition: Full Monty** *2002* by Shorona se Mbessakwini; **Myth of Father** *2003* by Paul Hill; **No Dumb Questions** *2001* by Melissa Reagan. •Also showing, 3:40pm. **Girl King** *2002*. Ileana Pietrobruno's film, set on a pirate ship full of drag-king sailors, is a tongue-in-cheek look at dykedom. Screens with Vu T. Thu Ha's short **Shut Up White Boy** *2002*.
•May 11, 5:30pm. **Karmen Geï** *2001*. Joseph Gaï Ramaka's adaptation of Prosper Merimée's novella *Carmen* is set in Senegal and features a bisexual Karmen.
•Also showing, 7:15pm. **Walking on Water** *2002*. Two friends embark on an emotional roller coaster when they agree to euthanize their terminally ill best friend. Tony Ayres directs.

In the new thriller *Identity*, John Cusack and Amanda Peet play travelers trapped in a Nevada motel where the guests start dying one by one.

Films by Nicolas Philibert

•May 1,2 and 9, 6pm; May 3, 1:45pm; May 4 and 11, 10:30am. **Etre et avoir** *(To Be and to Have) 2002*. Philibert's latest effort tells the goings-on at a one-room schoolhouse in northern France over the course of one year.
•May 3 and 10, 10:30am. **Un animal, des animaux** *(Animals) 1994*. Philibert documents the renovation of the Zoology Gallery of France's National Natural History Museum after it was closed for a quarter of a century.
•May 3, 12pm; May 7, 6pm. **La Ville Louvre** *(Louvre City) 1990*. For the first time ever Paris' famed museum allowed cameras to go behind the scenes. The film reveals miles of underground passages, secrets of the museum and unseen reserves and stacks.
•May 8, 6pm. **La Moindre des choses** *(Every Little Thing) 1996*. Philibert captures the work leading up to the LaBorde psychiatric clinic's annual summer play.
•May 10, 11:45am. **Le Pays des sourds** *(In the Land of the Deaf) 1992*. Philibert probes into the world of those who have been deaf since birth or the early months of life.

Museum of Science
Mugar Omni Theater

•Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of their remarkable journey, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 30. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*.

New England Aquarium
Simons IMAX Theater

•Through June 30. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast that unique mammals and other sea life call home. Call for showtimes.
•Through June 30. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into the earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to the Equator, with a special focus on education and environmental awareness. Call for show times.
•Through June 30. **Space Station 3D**. Blast off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome, and rendezvous with the International Space Station in orbit 220 miles above Earth. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 1. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to the wreckage of the ill-fated Titanic.

Somerville Theatre
Independent Film Festival of Boston

•May 1, 7pm; May 2, 2pm. **Dummy** *2002*. Oscar winner Adrien Brody, Milla Jovovich and Illeana Douglas star in Greg Pritikin's film about an out-of-work ventriloquist who finds comfort in communicating through his dummy in suburban America.
•May 2, 1:30pm; May 3, 4pm. **Rockets Redglare!** *2000*. With interviews from former colleagues Steve Buscemi, Willem Dafoe and Matt Dillon, this film documents the inner-psyche of the self-destructive character actor Rockets Redglare. Filmmaker Luis Fernandez de la Reguera is present at the screening.
•Also showing May 2, 2:30pm. **Con Man** *2003*. See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 4:30pm. **Happy Hour** *2002*. See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 5pm. **Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House** *2002*. Deborah Dickson documents the story of two women unable to find true happiness until they decide to leave their husbands for one another. •Also showing, 6:30pm; May 3, 2pm. **Rhythm of the Saints** *2003*. A tomboy and her friends practice black magic to ward off bullies. Director Sarah Rogacki attends the screening. •Also showing, 7pm; May 3, 8pm. **13 Moons** *2002*. Steve Buscemi and Jennifer Beals star in Alexandre Rockwell's film about a clown, a stripper, three priests and an aspiring singer who come together to save a young boy's life. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Speedo** *2003*. See Brattle listings. • Also showing, 9pm; May 4, 5pm. **Three and a Half** *2002*. Director Boris Mojsovki is present for the screening of his film about a writer, a painter and a director inspired by the same story. •Also showing, 10pm. **Standard Time** *2002*. An aspiring pianist is torn between her poor teacher and her wealthy high school sweetheart. Director Robert Cary is present at the screening.
•Also showing, 10:30pm; May 3, 10pm. **Decasia** *2002*. Bill Morrison's experimental feature explores man's impossible fight to beat his own mortality.
•May 3, 11:30am. **West of Here** *2002*. See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 5pm. **Reconstruction** *2001*. See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 6pm. **7th Street** *2003*. Josh Pais documents the ten-year evolution of his old neighborhood from a hippie and drug dealer community to a trendy upscale area. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Ivans Xtc** *2000*. See Coolidge Corner listings. •Also showing, 9:30pm. **Soft for Digging** *2001*. See Coolidge Corner listings. •Also showing, 10:30pm. **The Gray in Between** *2002*. Joshua Rofe's film follows a teenager through a night of partying that ends in life-changing violence.
•May 4, 12pm. **Power Trip** *2003*. See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 2:30pm. **Cry Funny Happy** *2003*. See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 5pm. **Real Time** See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Melvin Goes to Dinner** *2003*. See Brattle listings. •Also showing, 7:30pm. **Mr. Barrington** *2003*. See Brattle listings. *A short film screens with most festival features.*

Wang Center
Classic Film Series

•May 12, 7pm. **Citizen Kane** *1941. Free.* Orson Welles examines the empire of newspaper tycoon Charles Foster Kane through the investigative work of one curious reporter.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.
Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Boston University
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore Square.
Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.
Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.
Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.
Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.
Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

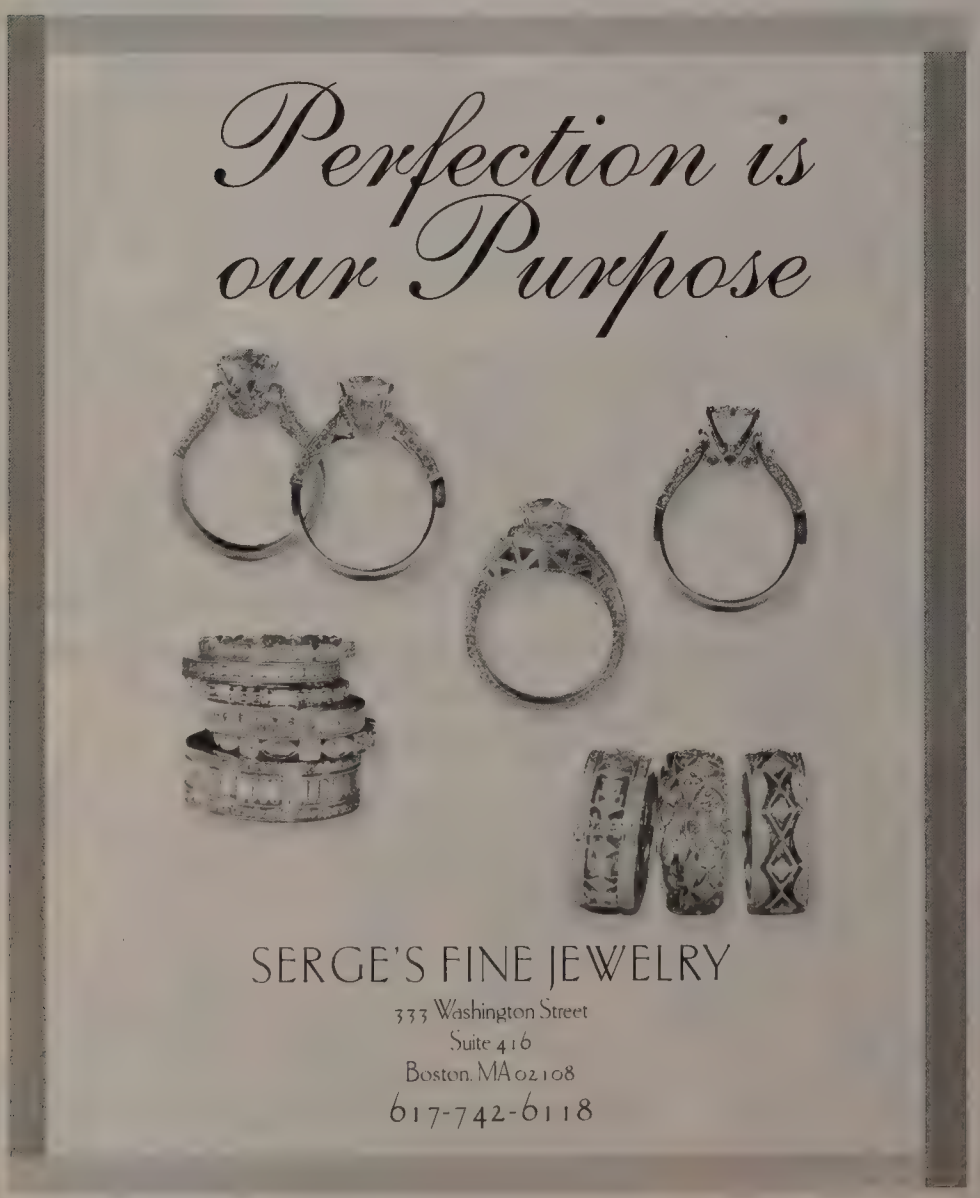
Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.
Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.
Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.
Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).
West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.



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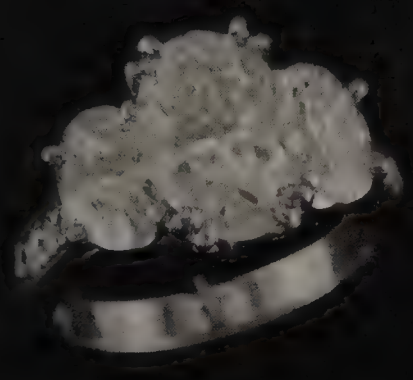

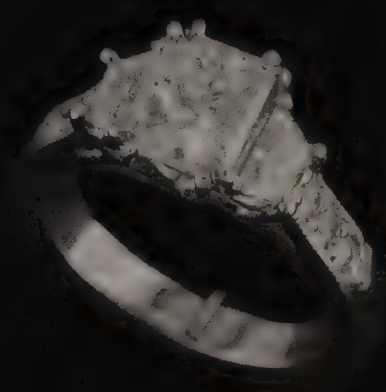

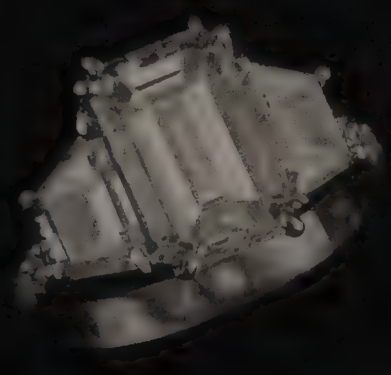

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Music

BEYOND THE PALE

Hardcore graduates AFI broaden their musical spectrum to sing the sorrow

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

AFI singer Davey Havok and drummer Adam Carson didn't fit in at their high school in the Northern California town of Ukiah. So with their punk band, they got even with classmates through songs like "High School Football Hero" and "I Wanna Get a Mohawk (But Mom Won't Let Me Get One)."

"We grew up in a very small town where people weren't extremely open-minded," Carson says. "When every single day, you're looked down on simply because you like things other people don't like, that sort of frustration and defiance grows. And that's the same, I think, for all teenagers."

Twelve years and six albums later, AFI—short for A Fire Inside—is stretching a new set of perceptions with its ambitious major-label debut *Sing the Sorrow*. Goth-punk is the tag usually given to AFI, though the new CD—honed by a production dream team of Butch Vig (Nirvana) and Jerry Finn (Green Day)—also blends metal, pop and industrial music into its moody, melodic dynamics.

"We draw influences from a ton of different musical styles, and to distill the entire band down to punk and goth doesn't seem appropriate," Carson says from Minneapolis, on the road to AFI dates at Avalon May 9 and the WBCN River Rave at the Tweeter Center May 25. "I won't say that our roots aren't punk rock, or that we aren't influenced by early '80s dark English rock, 'cause we are very much so. But when you put those two words together, all I can think of is a mall punk, or Avril Lavigne wearing fishnets. It takes the seriousness out of it, and we do take the band very seriously."

AFI from left: drummer Adam Carson, guitarist Jade Puget, bassist Hunter and lead singer Davey Havok.

Tattooed frontman Havok reinforces the goth image with his long black hair, mascara and nail polish, which recall the Cure or Marilyn Manson more than the Bay Area punk scene where AFI recorded with Offspring leader Dexter Holland's Nitro label. The band, rounded out by guitarist Jade Puget and singularly named bassist Hunter, distances itself from the goth associations by frequently performing in all-white outfits.

"Davey hasn't always looked the way he looks today, yet he's always looked a lot different than everybody else," says Carson, 28. "There's a sense of individualism that's just inherent within him. That's who he is. I have a graduation photo of he and I in our caps and gowns, and he has purple hair and piercings in his face. And that was in '93."

Havok has since struck a chord with crowds who shout along to his dark, oblique lyrics (the AFI fan club is called the Despair Faction). "Davey is singing about this disappointment and despondency, but with a glimmer of light," Carson says. "Being sad and depressed and despondent is a very real emotion, and it's a more common emotion than being happy."

"I've known him for 15 years, so in a way we're very like-minded, and he writes things that I've felt and couldn't always articulate," the drummer adds. "But he likes to keep the direct meanings of the songs guarded a little bit, and people can have different takes on it."

On *Sing the Sorrow*, AFI also finds a complement to Havok's arcing vocals with a broader sonic palette. In addition to fierce riffing, Puget dips into some ambient passages, even using keyboards on CD for the first time.

"In the last couple years, Jade and Davey have really gotten into electronic music, and Jade has been writing music on his laptop," Carson says. "It was a matter of going into the studio and seeing what was appropriate. For the industrial breakdown part of "Death of Seasons," we did a demo of the song, then he [Jade] did a remix on his computer, just for fun. But we all really liked the way it sounded. It gave the song a new dimension."

Live, Carson is now triggering some samples from his drum kit, but Puget is sticking to guitar. "When we do the tour with the three female backup singers, we'll probably bring a keyboard," the drummer jokes. "We don't want to turn into an electronic band where we're playing laptops. We're a rock band."

In any case, AFI is not worried about alienating older fans. "Our fan base is really comfortable with the fact that we evolve drastically between records," Carson says. "We're always striving to do better, always learning more about each other, and learning more musically."

"It's like when you were a kid, and every day you check your height, and you're the same," he says. "But when you see the notch on the wall where you were a year ago, you see that you've actually grown a lot. For us, it's a slow, consistent progression." iB

AFI

plays Avalon May 9 and the WBCN River Rave at the Tweeter Center May 25.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fa (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or by ema to music@improper.com. *Include dates, times, price phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline is four wee prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phon*

Advice to Readers
Information for the music section is compiled from differe sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate da and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double check da and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

AFI and the Explosion
May 9, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Avoid One Thing, Lagwagon, the Disasters and the Transplants
May 4, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Kasey Chambers
May 13, Berklee Performance Theatre (617-93 2000)

Cousteau and Seks Bomb
May 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

50 Cent
May 6, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Grand Drive and Josh Bennett
May 3, Axis (617-423-NEXT)

Habrera Hativeet
May 10, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)

B.B. King
May 10 and 12, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000)

Mariza
May 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-93 2000)

Matchbox Twenty, Sugar Ray and Maroon 5
May 12, Fleet Center (617-231-2000)

The Roots
May 2, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Soulfly
May 10, Avalon (617-432-NEXT)

Tower of Power
May 1, 2 and 3, Scullers Jazz Club (617-562-4111)

Cheryl Wheeler
May 3, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs and the Greenhornes
May 6, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Pete Yorn
May 12, Avalon (617-432-NEXT)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Abbey Lounge Jon Nolan and Hookum, 21+.
Bill's Bar Mike Amell Benefit show, $10, 18+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
The Burren Traditional Irish Music Concert, 9p
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cov varies, 21+.
Club Passim Chris and Meredith Thompson wi Ruthie Foster, 8pm, $10.
Elephant & Castle Pete Masa, 6-9pm, no cov 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGra 9:30 pm, no cover. All ages.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Grou 10:30pm, no cover. 21+.
Harper's Ferry Kotter, $5. 21+.
House of Blues Coco Montoya, 9pm, $15. 21+
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band.
Johnny D's Los Diablos, 8:30pm, $2.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Bobby B.
Kendall Café The Real Music Project: John Ha don, 8:30pm; the Weisstronauts, 9:30pm; Three D Threshold, 10:30pm.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8-11pm.
The Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Jacques Chanier Trio.
Lizard Lounge Beat Science, Dead Cat Bour and Eric Hofbauer, $8.
Middle East Upstairs: Chewy, Susan Said, Sinaj and Fixer, $9. 18+. Downstairs: Supersuckers, t Forty Fives and Throw Rag, $12. 18+.
Midway Café Jay Pun, Annie Clark and Elizabe Zimao.
Paradise Dixie Dregs and Pseudopod, 8p $20, 18+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble, 9pm, co varies, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10p 21+.
The Rack Zeke Martin, 6pm, 21+.

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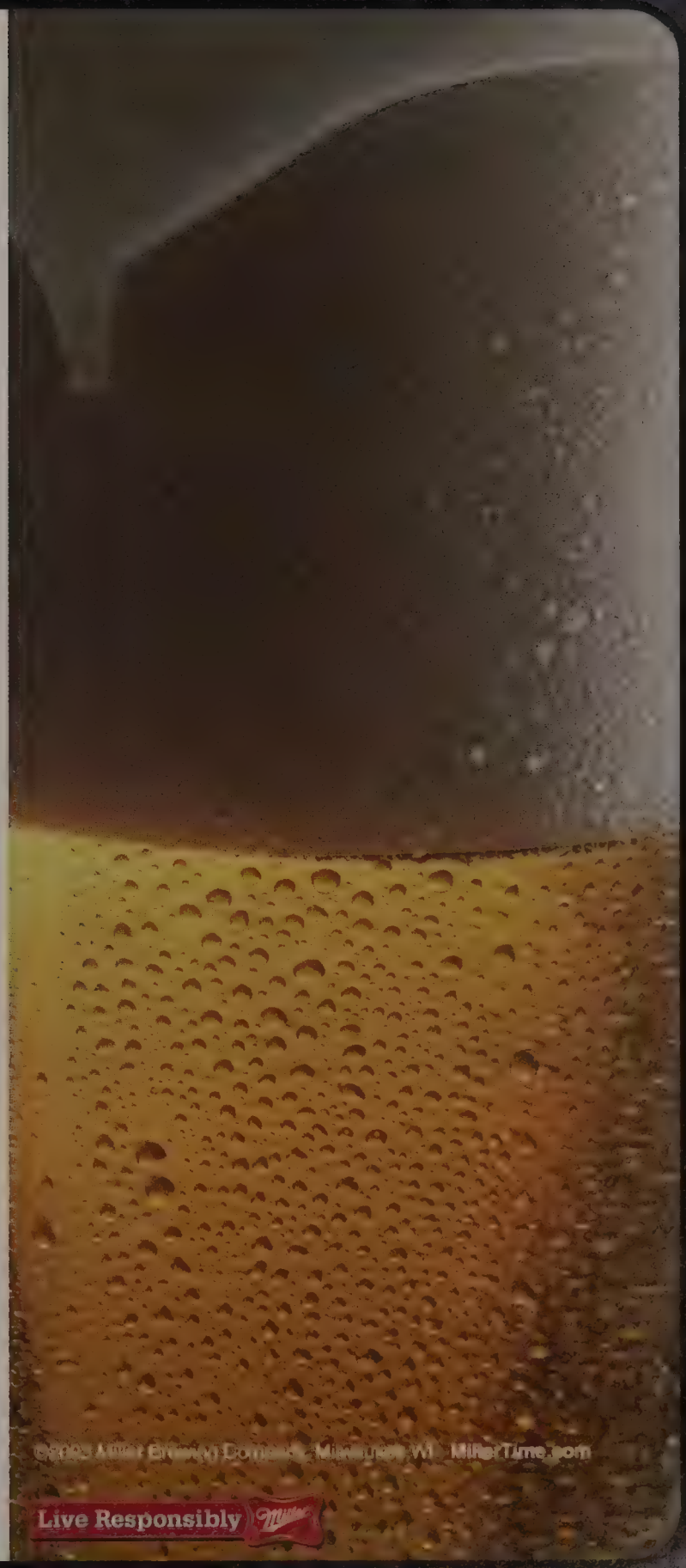
Hugh O'Neill's

Irish Pub & Restaurant

45 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 781-338-9977

Shamrock Inn

118 Ferry Street, Malden, MA 781-324-9333



Mariza performs a concert of Portuguese *fado* music at the Berklee Performance Center May 10.

Regattabar The Bruce Katz Band, 8:30pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Tom Garling Group, 10pm, $10, all ages.
Scullers Tower of Power, $35.
Sky Bar Quarter Mile Hero, Shoot 4 Noon, Blatt Is the New Black, 8pm, $5, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Tír na nÓg The Swinging Steaks.
Toad Deb Pasternak with Billy Beard, Richard Gates and Chris Rival, 7pm; the Unexceptionals, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio with Nat Mucgavero, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Mercury Program, Chin Up Chin Up and Those Who Wait, $8.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 8pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

The Asgard Christy O'Connell, 8:30pm.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim James O'Brien, Ari, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Martini Brothers, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
The Green Dragon The Spitting Vinnies.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30pm, no cover. 21+.
Harper's Ferry Mountain of Venus with Brothers Past, $7. 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Pressure Cooker CD-release party with Westbound Train, 8pm. 18+.
Johnny D's Brass Orgy! with Revolutionary Snake Ensemble, Hot Tamale Brass Band and Brass Roots, 9pm, $6.
Jose McIntyre's Karaoke with DJ Rhythm Nights and DJ Massi.
Kendall Café Rose Polenzani, 8:30pm; Eastmountainsouth, 9:30pm; Andy Germak, 10:30pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7-11pm.
Kirkland Café Webber Keeth, the Fall Out and Complaints, $5.
Limbo Hillary Noble.
Middle East Upstairs: Jason Lowenstein. Downstairs: Hypersolid, Breedinground, Impress, New Son Rising and SED, $9. 18+.
Milky Way Live music.
Paradise Rock Club New Dawn, 9pm, $15. 21+.
Parris Nightshift.
Plough and Stars Al Peterson, 9pm.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 10pm. 21+.
The Rack U-Neck Approach, 6:30-10:30pm, 21+.
Regattabar Teresa Inês Quintet: Dreaming of Rio, 8:30pm, $12.
The Roxy DJ Skribble.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Ryles Jazz Orchestra featuring trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, 8:30pm, $30. Upstairs: Temporada Latina, 8:30pm.
Scullers Tower of Power, $38.
Sky Bar The Curbys, Bucky Spins and Honest Bob, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan Fluffy Quinn.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio showcasing pianist Joe Mulholland, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Satan's Teardrops CD Release party, Photon Torpedos, the Monkey Butlers and the Guts, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Abbey Lounge Ross Phasor, 21+.
The Asgard Brogue, 8:30pm.
Avalon The Roots, 7pm, $25, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Chops Turner, 7:30pm.
Club Passim Dave Alvin, Bob Hillman, 7 and 10pm, $18.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30pm; Block Head.
The Green Briar Brick Park.
The Green Dragon The Swinging Johnsons.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30pm, no cover. 21+.
Green Street Studios Tens the Limit, 7 and 9pm.
Harper's Ferry Peter Prince & the Trauma Unit with Hobex, $8. 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Pressure Cooker CD Release Party with special guest Ganja Plant, 8pm. 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi
Johnny D's Hazie Maze.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Big Daddy.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6-11pm.
Kirkland Café Slumberfunk, Holstein, J-Walkers, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Athene Wilson.
The Linwood The Matt Chase Group, Memphis Raines and Jena Keaney, $7.
Middle East Upstairs: Officer May, Hello: Attack, Eyes Like Knives and Polaris Mine, $9. 18+. Downstairs: Violet Nine, Sand Machine, the American Girls Club and Cancer to the Stars, $9. 18+.
Milky Way Live Flamenco with Val Ramos, Jose Ramos and Jose de Santos, 9pm, $11.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy Courtney and Alan Loughnane.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm.
Paradise Stephen Lynch, 9pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Entrain.
Plough and Stars Kevin Connolly, 9pm.
Porters Bar and Grill Nate Watkins.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider, 10pm. 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6pm, 21+.
Regattabar The Steve Lacy/Danilo Perez Duo, 7:30 and 10pm, $16.
Rhythm & Spice I-Land Rokkerz, 11pm, $8, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Ryles Jazz Orchestra featuring trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, 9pm, $30.
Scullers Tower of Power, $38.
Sky Bar The Grift and Boatyard Resin, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group with trumpeter Phil Grenadier, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Levellers, Jimmy Ryan and Todd Thibaud, $10.
Western Front The True Monks of Funk, 9pm.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner/ Joe McMahon Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Valerie Stephens, 8:30pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Abbey Lounge Tarbox Ramblers, 21+.
Axis Grand Drive and Josh Bennett, 7pm, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Dave Foley.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Club Passim Carol Noonan, Julie Rosenthal, 8pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
Grand Canal Six Shot Brody.
The Green Briar Absolute Zero.
The Green Dragon Scooby Snax.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30pm, no cover. 21+.
Green Street Studios Tens the Limit, 8pm.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Rock Bottom with the Navigators, $8. 21+.
House of Blues Averi and Motor Skills, 9pm, $12, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's DJ Massi
The Independent Tim Gearan.
Johnny D's Jim's Big Ego, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy.
The Kinsale Sunday's Well.
Kirkland Café Fikus and Fabrizi-Kern Project, $5.
Limbo Alvin Terry.
The Linwood The Lyres, the Charms, the Probain and the Crybabies, $7.
Middle East Upstairs: Of Montreal, Car Cras Show, James William Hindle and Carrrigan, $9. 18+ Downstairs: My Morning Jacket, the Detachment K and Burning Brides, 8pm, $12. 18+.
Milky Way Candyland: Queer Soup.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy Courtney and Alan Loughnane.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm.
Paradise Cousteau and Seks Bomba, 9pm, $1 18+.
Parris The Zone.
Plough and Stars Coming Grass, 9pm.
Purple Shamrock DJ Tom Hogan, 10pm, $ 21+.
The Rack Vinnie Peruzzi Dance Party, 8pm 21+.
Regattabar The Steve Lacy/Danilo Perez Du 7:30 and 10pm, $18.
Rhythm & Spice Hot Like Fire, 11pm, $8, 21+
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Maynard Ferg son's 75th Birthday Bash featuring an Alumni a Friends Big Band, 9pm, $40. Upstairs: Ryles Dan Hall, 9pm, $12.
Somerville Theatre Cheryl Wheeler.
Scullers Tower of Power, $38.
Sky Bar Papermoon, the Get-Down Syndrome a Moso, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9pm
T.T. the Bear's Place Aberdeen City, Zyko Western Keys and the Mary Reillys, $8.
Western Front Cinco de Mayo, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm 21+.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Avalon Lagwagon, Transplants, Roger Miret a the Disasters, and Avoid One Thing, 6pm, $17, ages.
Berklee College of Music Cyberjazz Colle tive, 8pm, free.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Paulo Dan Jazz Quartet, 10am-3pm.
Cantab Lounge Group Authority, 9pm, cov varies, 21+.
Club Passim Harvard student music night wi Shawn Snyder and Sara Zelle, 8pm, $7.
Dick's Last Resort True Believers, 10am.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30p no cover. All ages.
The Green Briar Sunday's Well and Finb Doyle.
The Green Dragon The Swinging Johnsons
Green Street Grill Balla Townkara a Groupe Spirit, 11:30pm, no cover. 21+.
The Harp Central Basement.

Natalie Flanagan rocks out with her band at T.T. the Bear's Place May 6.

The Improper Bostonian
MAGAZINE

and

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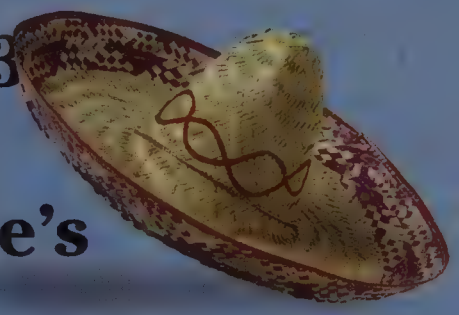

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Pressure Cooker play ska music at their CD-release parties May 1 and 2 at the House of Blues.

House of Blues Averi and Owen Plant, 7:30pm, $12, all ages.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm.
Institute of Contemporary Art Ellen Band and David Lee Myers, 7pm, $12. ROVA Saxophone Quartet, 9pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam; Salsa with Rumba NaMa.
Kendall Café 4 Way Street, $7.
The Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet.
Middle East Upstairs: WBCN 25th Annual Rock and Roll Rumble Preliminaries: Rocktopus, Godboxer, Suspect Device and the Good North, $9. 18+. **Plough and Stars** 13 Ghosts, 9pm.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm. 21+.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8pm, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10am-3pm, no cover; Downstairs: Maynard Ferguson and the Big Bop Nouveau, 7:30pm, $40.
Sky Bar The Dead Stars and Plexico Mesa, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders perform at the Mardi Gras brunch, 11am-3pm. Marshall Wood Trio, 8pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Juha, Nomy Lamm, Ninja Death Squad, Myles of Destruction and Crush Bastard.Syndrome, $8.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner/Joe McMahon Trio featuring Barry Ries, 9:30pm, 21+.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday featuring live blues jam with King Bazo, 7-11pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis Yellowcard, Rufio and Don't Look Down, 6:30pm, $10, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Singer/songwriter open mike, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish session.
Green Street Grill Hot Tamale Brass Band, 10:30pm, no cover. 21+.
Harper's Ferry The Deal with the Breakouts, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Procol Harum, 9pm, $20, 21+.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with the Coachmen, 8pm, $5.
The Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Middle East Upstairs: WBCN 25th Annual Rock and Roll Rumble Preliminaries: Baby Strange, Absolve, Heavy Stud and Reverse, $9. 18+. Downstairs: Pedro the Lion, the Stratford 4 and Ester Drang, $12. 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, 10pm. 21+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6pm-10pm, 21+.
Tir na nÓg Tom Bianchi.
Top of the Hub Tim Ray Trio, 8:30pm.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner/Joe McMahon Trio featuring Barry Ries, 9:30pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday featuring Paddy Saul, Lloyd Thayer, Eric Saulnier, Cat Puckett and Nobody Buddy, 8pm, 21+.
Avalon 50 Cent, 9pm, $40.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party and Late Night Radio, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
Green Street Grill High Plain Drifters, 10:30pm, no cover. 21+.
Harper's Ferry Jiggle, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Ryan Montbleau Band, Just Jinger and Bree Sharp, 9:15pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, 8:30pm, $8.
The Kinsale Paul Duffy.
Limbo Brooke Sofferman Trio.
Middle East Upstairs: WBCN 25th Annual Rock and Roll Rumble Preliminaries: Kimone, Favorite Atomic Hero, Black Hazard and Labb, $9. 18+.
Paradise Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Ex-Models and Young People, 8pm, $12, 18+.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9pm.
The Rack Black Sole, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Steven Kirby Quintet, 8:30pm, $12.
Scullers Brian De Lorenzo, $16.
Sky Bar Becky Make Believe, the Riff Raffs and Nostalgic Distortion, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio featuring Jason Hunter on sax, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Natalie Flanagan Band, 11:15pm.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

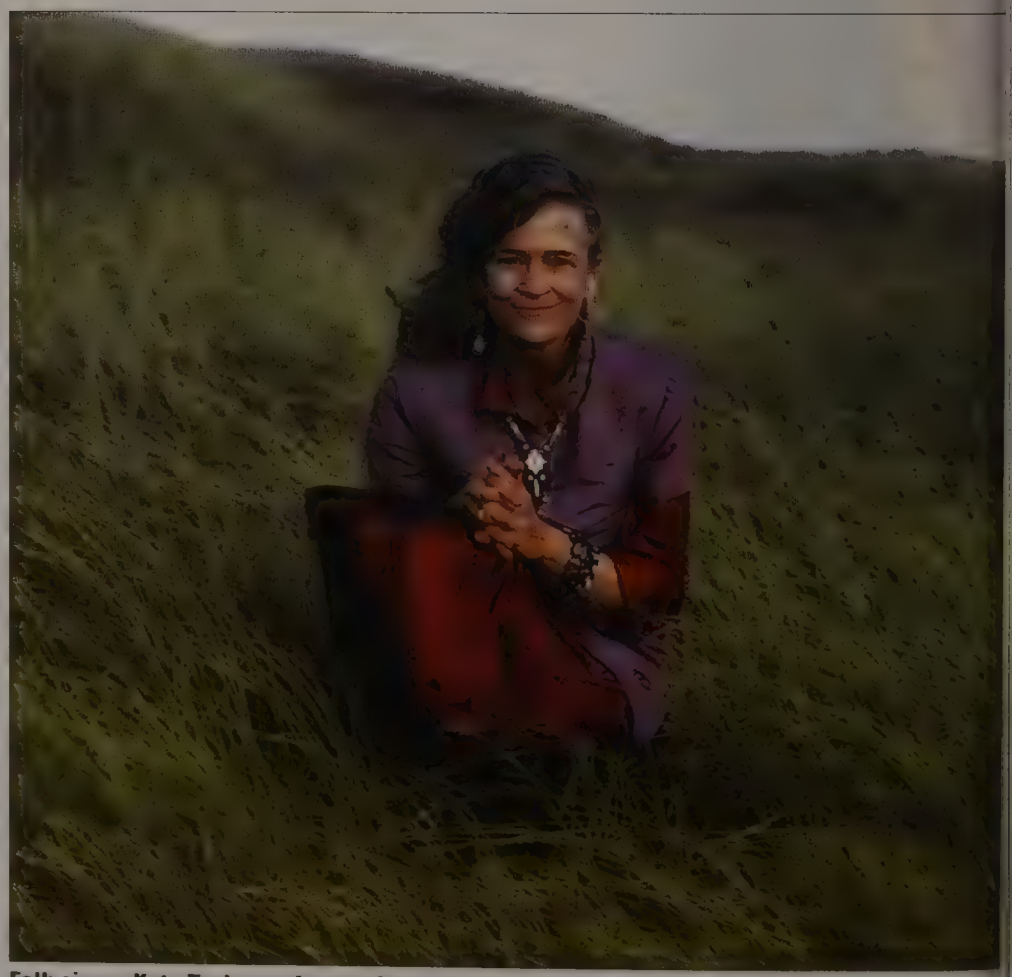
Cantab Lounge Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Judith Owen and Mieka Pauley, 8pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20pm.
Elephant & Castle Pete Masa, 6-9pm, no cover. 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
The Green Dragon Say When.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10:30pm, no cover. 21+.
House of Blues Invisible Downtown, Typhoon Ferri and Greytone, 9:30pm, $8, 18+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band.
Johnny D's Tiger Method, 8:30pm, $6.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Bobby B.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8-11pm.
The Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Rusty Scott Trio.
Middle East Upstairs: The Apes, Party of Helicopters, the Watchers and Elefant, $9. 18+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble, 9pm.
The Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, 10pm. 21+.
The Rack Herman Johnson, 6pm, 21+.
Regattabar The Dave Holland Quintet with Robin Eubanks, Chris Potter, Steve Nelson and Billy Kilson, 8:30pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Cervenka, Tomassi, Odgren and Santoro, 8:30pm, $10.
Scullers Hiromi, $15.
Sky Bar Thru the Hollow, Exit 27 and Saje, 8pm, $5, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio with Joe Mulholland, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Warren Commission, the Great Northern, Sons of Mothers and Hawley Sawyer Rifle Co, $7.
Western Front Camille Jentgen Popjazz Project Quintet and Green Vent featuring the Dan Anderson Quintet, 9pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Fred Woodard, 8pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

The Asgard Brouge, 8:30pm.
Axis Melissa Ferrick, 7pm, $18, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Tracey Rose, 7:30pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Claudia Schmidt, Carl Cacho, 8pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Hair Club for Mensa, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
The Green Dragon The Spitting Vinnies.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30pm, no cover. 21+.
Harper's Ferry Sam the Breadman Bigelow Trio with Stubborn Monkey and the New Regulars, $8. 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Ulu with Schleigho, 10pm, $12. 18+.
The Independent Marjorie Thompson and Rick Reddington.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm-2am, $5.
Johnny D's Kate Taylor and Joel Zoss, 9pm, $15.
Jose McIntyre's Karaoke with Rhythm Nights and DJ Massi.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7-11pm.
Kirkland Café Spoonbread, Alex Tobin and Dea Fields, $5.
Limbo Russ Gershon.
Middle East Upstairs: WBCN 25th Annual Roc and Roll Rumble Preliminaries: Blackstone Valle Crew, the Halogens, Kingsize and Three Day Thresh old, $9. 18+.
Milky Way Nate Gibson and Gashouse Gang.
Paradise The Coral and Kings of Leon, 9pm $10, 18+.
Parris Unlucky.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, 10pm, $ 21+.
The Rack U-Nek Approach, 6:30-10:30pm, 21+
Regattabar The Dave Holland Quintet wi Robin Eubanks, Chris Potter, Steve Nelson and Bill Kilson, 8:30pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Megalodo 8:30pm, $7. Upstairs: Temporada Latina, 8:30pm.
Scullers Four Freshman, $22.
Sky Bar After Hours Blues Band, David Wolfe an Bubingah, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan Fluffy Quinn.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio with Joe Mulho land, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mike Watt, the Gree hornes, Runner and the Thermodynamics, $10.
Western Front Mista Don with special guest 9pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30pm 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

The Asgard The Drift, 8:30pm.
Avalon AFI, the Explosion and Recover, 6:30pm $15, all ages.
Bob the Chef's Diamond Life, 7:30pm.
Club Passim Kevin So CD-release party, 8pm $15.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs
Dick's Last Resort Magnus, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30pm, no cove All ages.
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30pm; Second Na ture.
The Green Briar The Infractions.
The Green Dragon Random Axis.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mamb 11:30pm, no cover. 21+.
The Harp Cosmic Box.
Harper's Ferry Cyro Baptista's Beat the Donk with special guests Mr. Rourke and Amun Ra, $1 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Butch Walker and Brian Vand Ark, 9:30pm, $12, 18+.



Folk singer Kate Taylor performs with Joel Zoss at Johnny D's May 8.

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UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Boston June 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Boston Globe Jazz Festival featuring Aretha Franklin, Buddy Guy, Los Lobos and Indigenous June 16, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jonatha Brooke June 12, Sanders Theatre, (617-876-4275)
Chicago June 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Elvis Costello and the Imposters July 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000).
The Dead and Steve Winwood June 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Dixie Chicks and Michelle Branch June 19, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)
Earth, Wind and Fire June 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Aretha Franklin June 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Peter Gabriel June 18, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Godsmack May 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Roy Hargrove June 19, Copley Square Park (617-254-9267)
Ben Harper and Jack Johnson June 19 and 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Etta James & the Roots Band May 30, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Norah Jones June 28, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Chaka Khan June 20, Wang Center (617-931-2000)
Ashley MacIsaac May 16, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Ziggy Marley June 3, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Van Morrison, Solomon Burke and the Soul Alive Orchestra June 14 and 15, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
R. Carlos Nakai with Will Clipman May 17, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Poison, Skid Row and Vince Neil June 16, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Santana and Angelique Kidjo June 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Hussain May 17, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Solas June 13, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Super Diamond May 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
James Taylor June 28 and 29, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Suzanne Vega May 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Wilco and Sonic Youth June 23, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
ZZ Top, Ted Nugent and Kenny Wayne Shepherd May 20, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)

Hurricane O'Reillys DJ Massi.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Johnny D's Debbie Davies, 9:45pm.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Big Daddy.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6-11pm.
Kirkland Café Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Herman Johnson.
Middle East Upstairs: WBCN 25th Annual Rock and Roll Rumble Preliminaries: Downbeat 5, Apollo Sunshine, Elcodrive and Boxingwater, $9. 18+.
Milky Way Either/ Orchestra plays swing.
Mr. Dooley's The McTagerts.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm
Parris Flavor.
Plough and Stars Paved Country, 9pm.
Porters Bar and Grill Adam Ezra.
Purple Shamrock DJ Greg Schneider, 10pm, $5. 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, 6:30-10:30pm, no cover, 21+..
Regattabar The Dave Holland Quintet with Robin Eubanks, Chris Potter,Steve Nelson and Billy Kilson, 7:30 and 10pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Herman Johnson, 10pm, $10.
Scullers Steve Tyrell, $22.
Sky Bar 23 Skeedoo, Stout, Flash in Blue and Jack's Smirking Revenge, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group with Phil Grenadier on trumpet, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Glenn Branca, I Am Spoonbender and the Burning Paris, $10.
Western Front Blackout Boston, 9pm.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner/Joe McMahon Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Abbey Lounge White Trash Fest 2003, 21+.
The Asgard The Blues Bashers, 9pm.
Axis Soulfly, E-Town Concrete and Sworn Enemy, 7pm, $16, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Mariza, 8pm, $28, all ages.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30pm.
Club Passim Lori McKenna, Jame Armerding, 7 and 10pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
Grand Canal Incandence.
The Green Briar Inchicore.
The Green Dragon The Spitting Vinnies.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30pm, no cover. 21+.
The Harp Darik & the Funbags.
Harper's Ferry Slipknot, $7. 21+.
House of Blues Popa Chubby, 9:30pm, $12. 21+.
Hurricane O'Reillys DJ Massi.
Jake Ivory's Dueling pianos, 7:30pm-2am, $8.
Johnny D's Superhoney, 9:45pm, $8.
Jose McIntyre's DJ Dennis McCarthy.
The Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Double Shotz, $5.
Limbo Nadine Chase.
Lizard Lounge David Gould's *Adionai and I*, 9pm, $10.
Manray Covenant and Melotran.
Middle East Upstairs: WBCN 25th Annual Rock and Roll Rumble Preliminaries: Doneybrook, Placer, Read Yellow and Dresden Dolls, $9. 18+. Downstairs: Peter Wolf, $25. 18+.
Midway Café Either/Orchestra plays swing.
Mr. Dooley's The McTagerts.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15pm.
Orpheum Theatre Gallagher, 7:30pm.
Paradise The Dictators, 9pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Flavor.
Plough and Stars Caged Heat, 9pm.
Purple Shamrock DJ Tom Hogan, 10pm, $5. 21+.
The Rack Vinnie Peruzzi Dance Party, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Dave Holland Quintet with Robin Eubanks, Chris Potter,Steve Nelson and Billy Kilson, 7:30 and 10pm,$20.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Herman Johnson, 9pm, $10. Upstairs: Ryles Dance Hall, 9pm, $12.
Scullers Steve Tyrell, $22.
Sky Bar Soulfege and Mieka Pauley, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Habrera Hativeet, 9pm, $28.
Symphony Hall B.B. King and the Boston Pops Orchestra.
Tir na nÓg Dave Samarcco.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Helicopter Helicopter CD release, the So & So's the Douglas Fir and Raymond, $9.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Axis Everytime I Die, Give up the Ghost and the Suicide File.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 10am-3pm.
Cantab Lounge Group Authority, 9pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Lori McKenna, Brian Webb, 8pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort True Believers, 10am.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
The Green Briar Inchicore and Finbar Doyle.
The Green Dragon The Swining Johnsons.
House of Blues The Groove Explores and Bunzi Park, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam; Salsa with Rumba NaMa.
The Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet.
Middle East Downstairs: Isis, Pelican and Gregor Samsa, $10. 18+.
Plough and Stars 13 Ghosts, 9pm.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8-11pm. 21+.
The Roxy The Faint, Les Savy Fav and Schneider, 7pm, $12. All ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10am-3pm, no cover.
Sky Bar Clones Don't Have Bellybuttons, Cancer to the Stars and Two Thumbs Up and a Smile, 8pm, $5, 21+.
Tir na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders perform during Mardi Gras brunch, 11am-3pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Jesse Malin and Jed Parish, $10.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner/Joe McMahon Trio featuring Barry Ries, 9:30pm, 21+..

MONDAY, MAY 12

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday featuring a live blues jam with King Bazo, 7-11pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Pete Yorn, Grandaddy and Year of the Rabbit, 8pm, $25, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Open mike, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Old-time music-ALIA with Mark Simos and friends, 7pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzalez, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
Fleet Center Matchbox Twenty and Sugar Ray, 7:30pm, $29-$49.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Ari Hest and the Whatnot, 9pm, $12, all ages.
Johnny D's Hillbilly night with Flynn Cohen, 8pm, $5.
The Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Middle East Upstairs: The Decemberists, the Information and Jeff Hanson, $10. 18+.
Milky Way NON_POD Experiments in Sound and Visual.
Plough and Stars Jim & Jake Brennen, 9pm.
The Rack PTM 30-Latin Jazz, 6-10pm. 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Vital Information featuring Steve Smith, Frank Gambale, Baron Browne, Bill Evans and Tom Coster, 8:30pm, $22.
Tir na nÓg Tom Bianchi.
Top of the Hub Marshall Wood Trio, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Fruit Bats, Holopaw and Joy, $8.
Wonder Bar The Johnny Horner/ Joe McMahon Trio featuring Barry Ries, 9:30pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Rose Jamieson, 7pm, no cover.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party and Late Night Radio, 8pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30pm, no cover. All ages.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Nancy Sinatra, 10pm, $25, 21+
Johnny D's Old Time Night with Kitchen Syn Cloggers, 8:30pm, $8.
The Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Limbo Daniella Schacter.
Middle East Downstairs: Fishbone, Kings X an Offby One, $20. 18+.
Midway Café NON_POD Experiments in Sour and Visual.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9pm.
The Rack Best Bartenders Party with The Im proper Bostonian Magazine.
Regattabar The Ben Schwendener Grou 8:30pm,$12.
Ryles Jazz Club Downstairs: Mark Snyder Qua tet, 8:30pm, $7; George Levas, 10:30pm, $7.
Scullers Bombay Jim & the Swinging Sapphir $15.
Sky Bar Tiger Saw, Cannibelle and Colin Decke 8pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 8:30pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place California Stadium, Hot and Hot Bird Seven, $5.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30pm, 21+
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8pm.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-44 9631.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Bost (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Gover ment Center.*
The Attic *107R Union St., Newton (617-964-661 MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424 MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437 MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line t Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421- 9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Black Horse Tavern *340 Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743- 2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617 536-6204). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617- 338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776- 6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambrid (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617- 492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (61 783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*

Israel's six-piece outfit Habrera Hativeet performs at the Somerville Theatre May 10.

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MAY 9-10

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MAY 16-17

DAVE ATTELL

MAY 23-25

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Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Good Life Downtown *58 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave. Allston (617-783-9400).*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Boston (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Porters Bar and Grill *173 Portland St., Boston (617-742-PORT). MBTA: Green Line to Fleet Center or North Station.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard .*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
The Times *112 Broad St., Boston (617-357-8463). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing.*
Tir na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300) MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $32-$152. Conductor Beatrice Jona Affron leads the BLO in Johann Strauss Jr's *Die Fledermaus*, which is performed in English and features soprano Barbara Shirvis.

Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). www.stpaulboston.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 12:15pm. $2.* Iain Quinn leads Hartford's Trinity Choristers in this Music at the Cathedral Series half-hour concert.

Classical Music at MIT
Killian Hall Room 14W-111, 160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-253-2826). www.web.mit.edu/arts. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 5pm. Free.* Arts at MIT presents a student recital featuring pianist Mahni Gorashi.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Longy School of Music
Rey-Waldenstein Building, 33 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Longy School degree and diploma students perform songs by Johannes Brahms.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Boston Symphony Orchestra trombonist Norman Bolter joins in a performance by the Philharmonia Brass Quintet.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

All Newton Music School
321 Chestnut St., West Newton (617-527-4553). 8pm. Free. Diane Heffner and the Goodman Ensemble perform works by Beethoven and Zemlinsky.

Longy School of Music
Edward M Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Longy students and the Harvard Baroque Orchestra perform Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre's 17th-century work, *Cephale et Procris*, as part of the Longy Early Opera series.

New England Conservatory
Community Church of Boston, 526 Boylston St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. Free.* The NEC Light Opera Club presents Handel's opera *Xerxes*.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 10am and 12pm. $28-$90.* Conductor Andre Raphael Smith leads the BSO in a family concert, which includes selections by Mozart, Bernstein, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky.

Longy School of Music
Edward M Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Same program as May 2.

New England Conservatory
Community Church of Boston, 526 Boylston Street, Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30pm. Free.* Same program as May 1.

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble
Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-492-4758). www.sarasamusic.org. *8pm. $16.* Dominique Labelle joins the Sarasa Chamber Ensemble in a performance of Italian baroque cantatas and instrumentals by Handel, Scarlatti and Steffani.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $32-$152. Same program as April 30.

Emmanuel Music Schubert Series
C. Walsh Theatre at Suffolk University, 41 Temple St., Boston. ww.emmanuelmusic.org. *4pm. $18-$22.* The Emmanuel Ensemble performs selections from Ludwig Christoph Heinrich Holty, Alois Schreiber and Karoline Pichler.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.com. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30pm. $10-$18.* This performance, titled *Musicians from Marlboro*, features pieces by Shostakovich, Dutilleux and Mendelssohn.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The Violetta String Quartet performs works by Mozart and Beethoven.

Newton Symphony Orchestra
Rashi Auditorium, 15 Walnut Park, Newton (617-965-2555). www.newtonsymphony.org. *7:30pm. $5-$25.* Violinist Peter Zazofsky is the guest soloist in the season finale performance.

Beatrice Jona Affron leads the Boston Lyric Opera in multiple performances at the Shubert Theatre

MONDAY, MAY 5

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The life of cellist Gregor Piatigorsky is celebrated with an evening of performance, films and recordings.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $32-$152. Same program as April 30.

King's Chapel
Corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15pm. $2. The midday recital features clarinetist Leslie Walker and organist Richard Bunbury performing works by Pinkham, Krebs and Mayer.

Longy School of Music
Edward M Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free.* Paul Brust leads Longy's new music ensemble in *Longitude*, a show including selections by Karel Husa, Giancinto Schelsi and Anton Webern.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

The Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $75-$150.* Opening night at the Pops welcomes Keith Lockhart back for his ninth season as conductor.

Music on Marlborough
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-435-4015). www.halebarnard.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12:15pm. $8.* Cellist Emmanuel Feldman and bassist Pascale Delache-Feldman perform with the Axiom Duo.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* To celebrate the 170th anniversary of Brahms' birth, pianist Victor Rosenbaum performs Brahms' *G Major Sonata*, *Clarinet Trio*, a solo piano intermezzi and other songs.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

The Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $15-$67.* Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in American classics.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Flutist Renée Krimsier and NEC harpsichordist John Gibbons perform Bach's *Sonata in B Minor* and other pieces.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Boston Boy Choir
St. Paul Catholic Church, Bow and Arrow streets, Cambridge (617-868-8658). www.bostonboychoir.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $25.* John Dunn conducts 60 fifth- through eighth-grade boys singing Verdi's *Te Deum* and Mozart's *Requiem K.626*.

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $32-$152. Same program as April 30.

The Cantata Singers
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-267-6502). www.cantatasingers.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $16-$44.* David Hoose leads the Cantata singers in *Mass in B Minor* by J.S. Bach.

Church of the Immaculate Conception
The Jesuit Urban Center, 77 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-536-8440). www.immaculateboston.org. *8pm. $10.* Join Jeremy Bruns in the historic South End church for an evening of organ music.

Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Boston
170 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-6050). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 7:30pm. Free. Soprano Carla Chrisfield and pianist William Merrill perform works by Brahms, Mozart and Shubert in tonight's Lieder Recital.

Handel and Haydn Society's Bridges to Latin America
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-262-1815). www.handelandhaydn.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8pm. Free.* Musicians from the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra perform *Sonando con el Tango*.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

The Masterworks Chorale
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.masterworkschorale.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. $16-$36.* The Masterworks Chorale and Orchestra presents Arthur Honegger's *King David*.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3pm. $32-$152. Same program as April 30.

The Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $15-$67.* The Pops' Broadway-themed night welcomes the Boston Conservatory Musical Theatre Division with guest conductor Bruce Hangen.

The Cantata Singers
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St, Boston (617-267-6502). www.cantatasingers.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3pm. $16-$44.* Same program as May 9.

Emmanuel Music Schubert Series
C. Walsh Theater, Suffolk University, 41 Temple St, Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *4pm.* The Emmanuel Ensemble performs selections by Seidl: *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* and *Sonata in B flat Major*.

Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra
Boston University Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-3359). www.gbyso.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boston University Central. 7pm. $10.* Joe Bard leads the GYBSO Repertory Orchestra in an all-Mozart and Gershwin concert.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-734-1359). www.gardnermuseum.org. *1:30pm. $10-$18.* Harpsichordist Kenneth Cooper performs in a Sunday Music Series concert titled *Encores, Favorites, Requests and Oddities*.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2pm. Free.* Lorna Cooke deVaron leads the Longy Chamber Singers in a performance.

Longy School of Music
Longy School of Music, 1 Follen St., Cambridge (617-254-1125). www.benandbrad.com/tip/html. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. $15-$20.* The American Classics series presents Irving Berlin songs from motion pictures in *Films for Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby, Part 2*.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Boston Lyric Opera
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30pm. $32-$152. Same program as April 30.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* NEC faculty member Gredericka King presents an evening of piano music.

King's Chapel
Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15pm. $2. The midday recital features Jeffrey Wood playing workings by Boehm, Scheidt and Bach on the C.B. Fisk organ.

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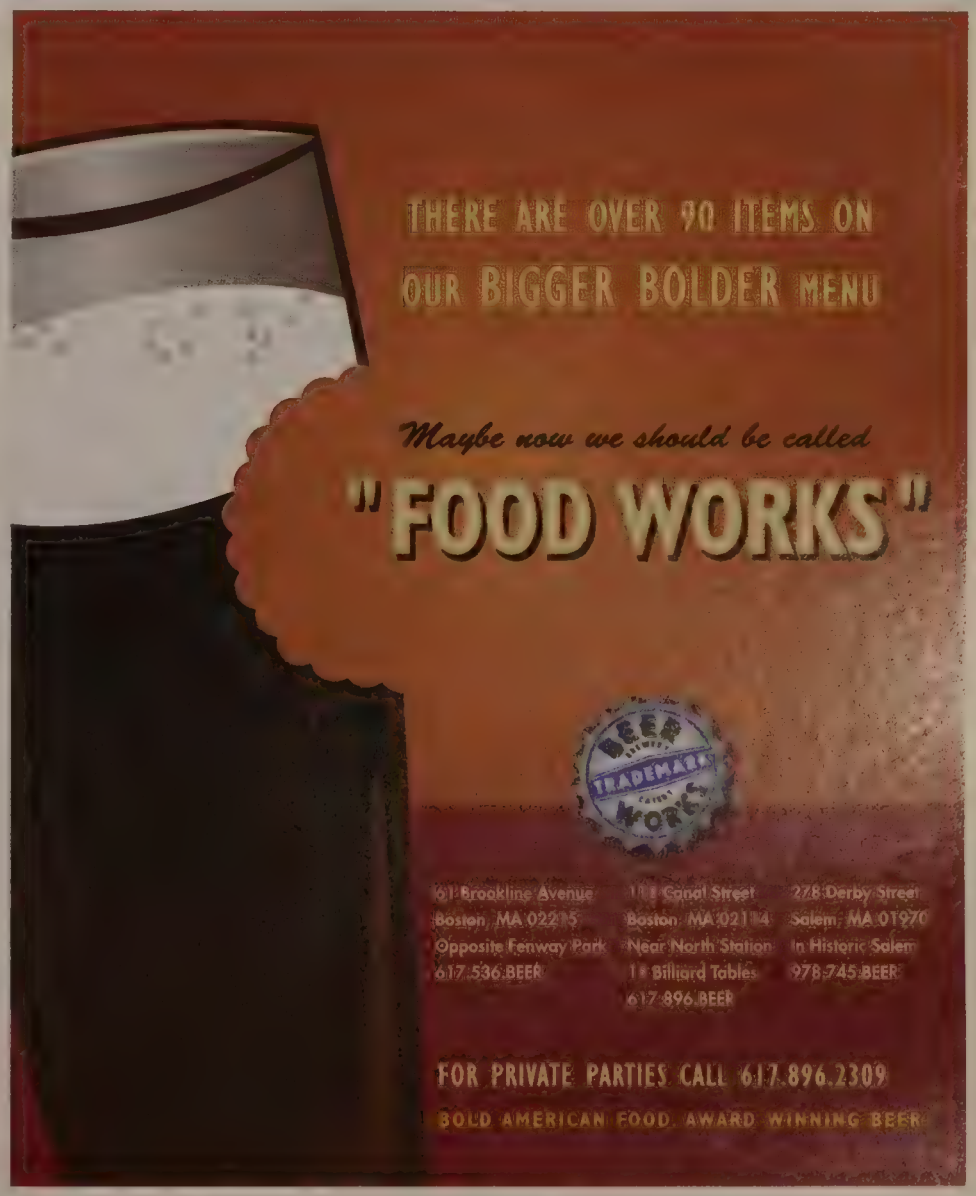

dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9pm, 21+.

The Rack
ZMQ performs, 6-10pm, no cover, 21+. Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+. •May 12, PTM 30 performs Latin jazz, 6-10pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ricky, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover. •May 13, Sugarfoot performs live at THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's Beloved Bartenders party, 6:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9pm-1am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip-hop and R&B, dress jackets required, 11pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJs Bobby B spins a mix of top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 9pm.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
Live music with Herman Johnson, 6-10pm; DJ Ricky spins dance music, 10pm-2am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9pm-1am, no cover, 21+.

Sophia's
A salsa band spices things up on the first floor.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake. 10pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami, John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen host a night of progressive dance music, 10pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill's and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tunes, 9pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop 7pm-2am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJs spin loungey music.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour 5-8pm; live music by local bands goes all night, 8pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top-40, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted by Kiss 108, proper dress, 9pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Five DJs and one night of non-stop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstairs, 8-11pm, 21+. DJ Josh Hall gets the dance party started upstairs, 11pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes and old school, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11pm-2am, 21+.

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins Latin dance. 10pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover before 11pm, $15 after 11pm, 19+.

Parris
• May 1, Nightshift performs live, 10pm, cover varies, 21+. •May 8, Live music with Unlucky, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays: DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
Live music with Unique Approach, 6:30-10:30pm; DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lover's rock, roots reggae and R&B, 10pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10pm, $11.50.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spin house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6pm-2am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9pm-1am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old school and dance hall, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover band play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin Top 40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Runnin' DJs Londonboy, Mateo and Reazon spin new wave drum 'n' bass upstairs; Elyte, G-Notorius and Jam present two-step garage downstairs, 10pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10pm, $5, 21+.

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Preview

Drifting from View

Morgan Page says farewell to Boston

"Boston feels like a transient city by nature," says DJ/recording artist Morgan Page (right). "There are always so many students passing through, moving in and out." Unfortunately for fans of the local electronic music scene, Page is a part of the nomadic student population, and next month he decamps for warmer pastures in California. But during his years here, the Emerson College senior has created some major waves in the house music world.

His work as a recording artist, including his 2001 full-length debut album *Drifting Into View* and a recent remix of the album's first single, "All I Need," by esteemed house music producer Halo, has earned accolades around the world. After a North American tour last summer, Page began to devote more attention to DJ-ing. On May 11, he makes a farewell DJ appearance at the Phoenix Landing in Cambridge's Central Square.

Page has found an innovative, sophisticated sound that always seems to throb with a unique pulse, from laid-back, deep tech house to straight-ahead dance-floor corkers and even some downtempo grooves. His original productions frequently include live instrumentation, delicately combining thoughtful and distinct percussion with sensual bass lines, and his Phoenix Landing set will be a taste of things to come. "I'll be playing some of my new stuff," Page says, "but most of the records I'll play are funkier than what I produce—although my new tracks are headed more in that direction."

Although Page has put a Boston stamp on his music, even using the sound of the Red Line stop at Kendall Square in the outro of *Drifting*, he's ready to move on. He still plans to keep an eye on Boston from his new home on the West Coast, however. "There's a whole new wave of very talented producers and DJs coming up here," he says. "I really look forward to seeing what happens with the Boston scene."

May 11, The Phoenix Landing, 512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260). 10 pm-1am. $5. 19+ —Daniel Spurling

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.
Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
The Harp
•May 2, The Zoo performs live, 10pm, $10, 21+. •May 9, Live music with Cosmic Box, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins Top 40 R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9pm, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJs Mike Gioscia or Edgar spin house and old favorites, $5, 21+.
La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10pm-2am, 21+.
Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+.
Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9pm, $10, 18+.
The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10pm, $15, 19+.
The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live and rotating bands perform, 9pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.
Parris
• May 2, Entrain performs, 10pm, cover varies, 21+. •May 9, Live music by Flavor, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.
Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10pm, $3, 21+.
The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10pm.
Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9pm.
The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement, 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Johnny C, 10pm-2am, 21+, no cover. •May 2, Start the weekend at the Curtis Vance Fundraiser, 5:30pm, no cover, 21+.
Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10pm, no cover, 19+.
RiverGods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7pm, no cover, 21+.
The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night of Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9pm-1am, no cover before 10pm, 21+.
Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10pm, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5pm, $5, 21+.
SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.
Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with house, techno and trance, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9pm, 21+.
Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10pm, $10, 19+.
Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Boston Rocks
Boston's Hottest cover bands perform, 9-11pm. VJ Johnnie Walker spins the top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 9pm, $5, 21+.
Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10pm, no cover, 21+.
Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10pm, 21+.
Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10pm, $8, 21+.
Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10pm, $15, 19+.
Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.
Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.
Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.
The Harp
•May 3, Central Basement performs live, 10pm, $10, 21+. •May 10, Live music with Darik & the Funbags, 10pm, $10, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 21+.
Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10pm, $5, 21+.
The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10pm, 21+.
La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10pm, 21+.
Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ P Diddy spins mainstream international music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+.
Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9pm, $10, $21+.
Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz moves the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10pm, $7.
The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.
The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review, doors at 8pm, show runs 9pm-1am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Rio** DJs

spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for th under-21 crowd, 7-11pm, $14; DJ Donnie Bennet spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmospher $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Sober Saturdays** Boston only alcohol-free nightclub pumps '70s, '80s, '90s an top-40, $15, 18+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hi from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; n cover, 21+.
Parris
•May 3, The Zone performs live, 10pm, cover varies 21+. •May 10, Live music by Flavor, 10pm, cove varies, 21+.
Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10pm, $3, 21+
The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, prope dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10pm. $5, 21+.
Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.
The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host th dance party, 8pm, 21+, no cover.
RiverGods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ Ut lockedgroove spins, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techn 10pm, $15, 21+.
711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and internation music, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.
Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8pm; Down stairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9pm, no cover before 10pm, 21+
Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengu while a Latin band plays on the first floor and D Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floo 9pm, $10, 21+.
Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the fro room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites i the white room, 10pm, 21+.
The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9pm, $8, 21+
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8pm, $5, 21+
SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70 funk, 10pm, $5, 21+.
Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi an Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11pm, 19+.
Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house i the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-ho in the lounge, 10pm, $15, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk an top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric loung 11pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance an techno, 10pm, $15, 21+.

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Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9pm, $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service-industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Bottoms Up The weekend ends with DJ Edgar spinning top-40, 11pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a Sunday night of electric dance, 9pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes on the third floor while DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10pm-2am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10pm-2am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
Nate Watkins performs live, 8-11pm, no cover, 21+. DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 9pm-2am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10pm, 21+.

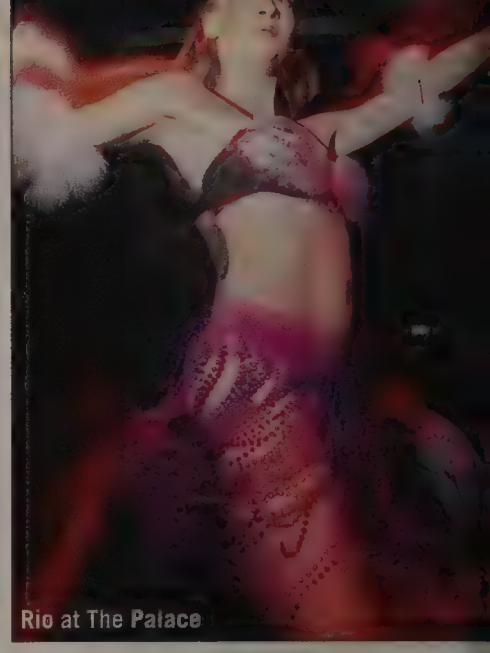
Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City DJ Derrick spins world beats. Proper dress, 10pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*


Rio at The Palace

Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 150 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-35-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699)*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* depicts India as the British saw it through documentary photographs, paintings and other period artwork. Through May 25.

Boston Public Library
Wiggin Gallery, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. and Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm.* •Words on Fire, an eight-week, multi-site festival celebrating freedom of expression, presents three exhibits at the BPL through May 11: *Writer's Block*, an installation by Sheryl Oring, features more than 500 pre–World War II typewriters in 16 metal cages; *Black Books: The First African American Authors* looks at influential black authors; and Susan Erony and Erika Marquardt collaborate on *A Meeting of Minds*, an installation exploring Jewish and German cultures in pre-war Germany. •*An Education in Craftsmanship: New Work from the North Bennet Street School* displays students' furniture and crafts. Through May 11.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm; Sun. 1-5pm. •The museum's ongoing shows include Italian and African art. •South African artist Bernadette Serle addresses themes of identity in her work, and Paul Vanouse explores ethical issues in science through electronic media. Through June 8. •Three photographic installations, *Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon and the Victor Weeps*, capture life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan. Through June 8. •*The Space Between: Artists Engaging Race and Syncretism* explores the African diaspora through the work of several artists. Through June 8. •*Bridging the Border: Shared Themes in Mexican and U.S. Art 1900-1950* displays through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm.* •*Furniture: Future Tense* showcases furniture and highlights wearable art, jewelry and decorative functional objects. Through May 4. •*Tools as Art* is a collection of artists' works incorporating everyday tools. Through May 25. •*The Pig Wings Project* displays sculpture made from actual pig tissue. Through May 25. •*Street Portraits, 1946-1976: The Photographs of Jules Aarons* displays through May 25. •*Rona Pondick: New Work* shows in the sculpture terrace through May 11. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree. Through Aug. 31. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* shows through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10am-6pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*Fire Upon the Hearth: A Celebration of Irish American Women* focuses on the lives and work of several New Englanders, including Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. Through April 30. •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained glass panels, displays May 1-31.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10am-12pm. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* displays through May 4. •*Christopher Wilmarth: Drawing into Sculpture* looks at how drawings inspired the artist's glass and steel sculptures. Through June 29. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows through July 6. •*Kandinsky in 1914* shows through July 13. •*Jean Fautrier 1898-1964* displays through July 20.

Ernesto Neto's *The Ovalolas* is at the Institute of Contemporary Art through Aug. 31.

Preview

Art as Therapy

At the ICA, Feeling Promotes Healing

You won't find many "Do not touch" signs or hushing guards at the Institute of Contemporary Art this summer. Its newest exhibition, *Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation* encourages touching, playing or even manipulating artwork as a therapeutic experience.

"This exhibit has power beyond the visually striking," says curator Emily Moore of the 15 international artists in the show whose works—ranging from painting and photography to video and performance art—are intended to promote health and healing. Followers of the artist-as-shaman philosophy of German artist Joseph Beuys and the spectator-as-creator approach of Brazilian Lygia Clark, the artists focus on the process of creating art—as well as the experience of the viewer—as a cathartic experience. "These works have the potential to have a positive, real, life-changing effect on both the viewer and the artist," says Moore.

Walk along a pebbled path created by Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang, who drew inspiration from principles of acupuncture and reflexology. You can embrace minimalist art, literally, by poking your arms through styrofoam pellet–filled orifices in ovaloid sculptures made by Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto. Or you can participate in the creative process by embroidering a personal message onto Philippino artist David Medalla's project, *A Stitch in Time*.

Two of the more poignant exhibitions deal with disease. In her series *Intra-Venus*, photographer Hannah Wilke chronicles her battle with cancer and her own understanding of the relationship between art and healing. Gretchen Bender's documentary *Still/Here* explores the curative effects of the artistic process on those who have faced life-threatening disease.

"The artists look at the exhibit from a very hopeful point of view," says Moore. "They believe that the viewer, or groups of people, through personal interaction with a piece, might have a transformative experience." —*Elizabeth Reh*

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Through Aug. 31. $7; $5, students and seniors.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9am-12pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of Glass Models of Plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed. and Fri., 12-5pm; Thu., 12-9pm; Sat. and Sun., 11am-5pm. Free admission Thu. after 5pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation* shows May 14-August. 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11am-5pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*The Palazzo Barbaro: Isabella Gardner and Her Circle in Venice* explores the interaction of a few individuals who enlivened and inspired the museum. Through July 18, 2004. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through August 21. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in *Madam I'm Adam*, the Gardner's first Web exhibition. Through May 11.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10am-5pm; weekends 12-5pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10am-4:45pm; Wed.-Fri., 10am-9:45pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45pm admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional co*
•The exhibit *18th Century French Art Featuring the Sun Collection* is the only complete set of 18th-centur French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical Amer can masterpieces. Ongoing. •*The Most Expressive Ar Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-191* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melv Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative a collection from the late 20th century. Through Au 24. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* i cludes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrate books from the late 20th and early 21st centurie Through September 21.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.or *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9a 5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 chi dren.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history the computer from the electronic giants of the 194 to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's Wor* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wil Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcas the museum's collection of dinosaur models, inclu ing the giant *T. rex*. Ongoing. •*Invention at Play* e plores the skills children develop during playtime a tivities. Through April 30.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Su 1-5pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members fr
•*Final Exposure: Death Row Portraits*, photographs Lou Jones, shows with Keith Washington's *With Our Gates: Human Sacrifice in the American Landsca* Through July 6.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-102 www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harva Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and studen $4 children.* •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoi exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster ca of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, anoth ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Paci Islands. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portra 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blu print collection. Through August 30.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-981 www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7pm; Fri., 2-5pm a Sat., 12-5pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* co bines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia a interactive media to explore the rise and fall Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries
FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.ac fineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tu Fri., 10:30-5:30; Sat., 11am-5pm.* •Rob Preusser's watercolors and casein paintings sh through May 10.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alp gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tu Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Gideon Bok's work shows in *S dio Paintings.* Through April 30. •Graham Nick shows his watercolors in *Recent Works.* May 3-June

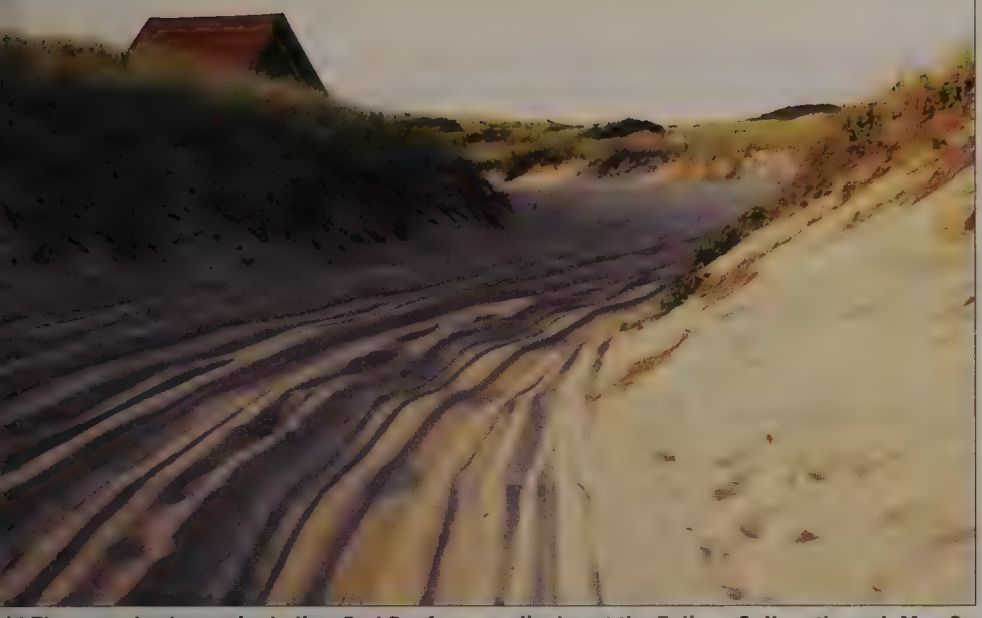
Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ar gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-S 11am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •*Pools, Reflections and Ra Days* displays the landscapes of Lynne Windsor. Ma 30.

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (617-5 6676). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9 6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •The gallery features senior gr uate work through May 31.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., fifth floor, Boston (617-262-449 www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Li Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Bill Thomp displays work in *Roundabout*. Through May 28.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: ange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm. •*Settle* features paintings and mixed media works by Toronto-area artists. Through June 21.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). w bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co Tue.-Sat., 10:30am-5:30pm.* •*Pierogi Presents! The Be Brooklyn Comes to Boston* features the work of 12 art from Brooklyn's Pierogi gallery. Through May 10.



vid Thompson's photos, including *Red Roof*, are on display at the Eclipse Gallery through May 3.

ickbottom Gallery
itchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.ckbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5pm and by ointment.* •*Collaborations* features printmaking, nting, drawing and installations from New Engd artists. Through May 10.

ookline Arts Center
Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.ooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm.* ephen Black's sculptures show in *Coastal Connecs* and Isabella Frost's fabric collages display in *lian Memories.* Through May 2. •Ruth Kates and dents show their work in *Oil Paintings.* May 5-29.

mbridge Multicultural Arts Center
Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cma a.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Mon.-Fri., 0am-5:30pm.* •Gerald Rhodes' paintings, drawings l collages show in *Further Along.* Through May 15. ephanie Maria's paintings show in *American Pats: Methods of Dominion.* Through May 16.

rpenter Center for Visual Arts
Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red e to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9am-11:30pm; Sun., 12-30pm. •Abstract expressionist Beauford Delaney ws his art in *The Color Yellow.* Through May 4. •*VES and Film Thesis Exhibition* shows through June 5.

appell Gallery
Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chapllgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. .-Sat., 11am-5:30pm and by appointment.* •*New spectives*, a group show of glass artists from New land, displays through May 10.

ase Gallery
9 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.segallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Paintings by Franco Benitez and pastels by Marilyn Reseckas dis- y April 30-May 24.

ilds Gallery
9 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childslery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., n-6pm; Mon. and Sat., 10am-5pm.* •*The Age of poleon,* an exhibition of period pieces, including the rks of Sally Michel and French 19th-century landpes, displays through May 3. •Herbert Barnett's ntings are on display May 12-July 3.

ifford Smith Gallery
0 Harrison Ave., Third Floor, Boston (617-695-0255). BTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-. 11am-5:30pm. •Diana Shpungin and Nicole Enmann's digital video displays through May 24.

pley Society
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copsociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 30am-5:30pm.* •New England artists display their rk in *Manifest 2003: A Juried Exhibition of Visual t in Digital Media.* Through May 11. •*Fresh Paint ek* showcases Copley Society artists' paintings of ston landmarks. May 12-16.

ump Gallery
2 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: d Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm. •An exhiion of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and rman Crump is ongoing.

ansen Gallery
2A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.ansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. n.-Wed. and Sat., 10am-6pm; Thu., 10am-8pm; Fri. d Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing lian Murano glass sculpture exhibition and works Alexandra Nechita.

clipse Gallery
4 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: een Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9am-6pm. Free. •David Thompson's color photographs display in *The Prodigal Summer.* Through May 3. •Paul Kerepka shows his recent oil paintings. May 6-31.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-3pm; Sat., 12-5pm.* •*Analog to Digital Digital to Analog (A2DD2A)* challenges assumptions about how technology is used as or in art. Through May 21.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •Bruno Zupan shows his paintings in a solo exhibition. Through May 25.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10am-5pm. •Paula Rendino Zaentz's photographs show in *Mudras: The Language of the Hand.* Through May 30.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Tue., 6-9pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5pm.* •Bikes Not Bombs presents *Artbike*, an exhibition of antique and contemporary bikes. Through May 3. •Cyber Lounge presents a 72-hour screening of regional artists' films on giant video projections. May 6-9.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Harriet Casdin-Silver's large-scale, multiple-figure holograms show in *Holograms and Cyborgs.* May 2-24.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Jonathan Singer shows his work in *Digital Prints.* Through June 6.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

HallSpace
31 Norfolk Ave., Boston (617-989-9985). www.hallspace.org. *Mon.-Thu., by appointment; Fri.-Sat., 12-5pm.* •Barry Hazard's paintings display through May 10.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Frank Nolker shows his portraits of chimpanzees in *Portraits,* and Kelly Heaton's *Dead Pelt* is a furry pelt installation. Through May 27.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

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Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 1-6pm. •David Small shows his electronic book installations in *Videospace 4* in collaboration with Videospace, the New Center for Arts and Culture, and the Boston Cyberarts Festival. Through May 4. •*Quotations*, new work by Anne Beresford, shows May 2-19.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30pm; Sat., 3-5pm; and by appointment. •*Dot Exhibition: Study of Elements*, a collection of watercolors, shows through May 1. •An exhibition of calligraphy and Sumi painting shows May 4-June 4. •The studio's festival features Kaji Aso demonstrating calligraphy and Sumi paintings May 4, 2-7pm.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Sun., 1-5pm.* •The Cambridge Art Association presents *National Prize Show 2003* May 5-June 25.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Cheryl Simeone displays her abstract paintings through May 25.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5pm. •Barbara Moody's new paintings display with Tammy Medros' new work. Through May 24.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue..-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Sculpting the Wall* is an exhibition of artful wall decoration by artists Roger Thomas, Susan Hersey and Steve Lohman. Through April 30. •*Conceived in Stone* displays work by four stone artists. May 2-June 14.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12pm-6pm; Fri., 12pm-8pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6pm. •*The Book Reconsidered* shows the work of 13 artists. Through May 18. •*Just Stand There*, a group show, and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's short video, *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex* show through July 6. •*Influence, Anxiety and Gratitude (Toward an Understanding of Trans-generational Dialogue as a Gift Economy)* features the work of more than 20 international artists. May 8-July 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.markartgallery.com. *Wed. and Fri.,4pm-7pm ; Thu. and Sat., 12-6pm; and by appointment.* •Shaun MacDavid and Peter Arvidson's oil and mixed media-work display through May 9. •Dorothea Van Camp and Prilla Smith Brackett show their work May 10-June 20.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •*Alchemy: Collage and Mixed Media Paintings*, a group show, displays through April 30.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30pm.* •Mimi Moncier's *Recent Paintings* shows through May 6. •Greg Parker's recent paintings display May 9-June 10.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5pm; Fri.and Sat., 12-10pm; Sun., 12-5pm. •*Info@blah: Organization and Overload*, a group show, displays through May 11.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm.* •*My Sister in Kazakhstan*, an installation by Margaret B. Tittemore, shows through May 24. •*The Book Reconsidered* shows in conjunction with the Boston Cyber Arts Festival through May 18.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11am-5:30pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5pm. •Gail Bessette displays her new work through May 4. •Ann Christensen presents her new oil paintings May 8-June 8.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11am-4pm and by appointment. •*Expressions of Fear and Human Consciousness* features the paintings and drawings of Tyson Schroeder. Through May 3. •Heidi Whitman shows new drawings and paintings in *Brain Terrain.* May 9-June 28.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11am-6pm. •*Take Home the Next Homer*, a group show of oils, watercolors, photography, digital work and sculpture, displays through May 11.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Christopher Wilmarth showcases his work in *Gift of the Bridge: Related Drawings and Sculpture.* Through May 3. •Jane Smaldone and Jon Imber display their work through June 7.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm.* •Ray Rapp's modular video installation, *Strobe,* shows May 2-24.

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., Boston (617-542-6983). www.onigallery.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. Wed.-Sun., 2-8pm and by appointment.* •*Kut Paper* includes works by Daniel Dueck, Sam Lewit and Michelle Weinberg. Through May 11.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6pm.* •Local artists show their work in a group show. Through May 30.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm.* •Pamela Ellis Hawkes' photographs display in *People, Places and Things.* Through May 29.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-5:30pm; Sun., 1-5pm.* •Werner Tübke shows his work in *Mysteries of the Real* and Friedensreich Hundertwasser displays his work in *Paradise.* Through May 13.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm, Sat., 11am-5pm.* •Bruce Davidson shows his work. Through May 10.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11am-4pm; Sat., 11am-5pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Works by Picasso and Sonia Delaunay are on display in *Images.* Through May 3.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 12-5pm.* •*Botanicals*, a group show of mixed-media work, shows May 3-July 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm; Sun., 12-6pm. •*Omnibus*, a group show of urban and rural landscapes, displays through May 15.

Studio SOTO
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-461-7686). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat., 2-5pm. •John Craig Freeman and Karina Aguilera Skvirsky show their work in *Escapes: Rendering the Landscape.* Through May 11.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat. 8:30-1pm. •*Boston Calling*, a show of painting, photography and sculpture, displays May 5-27.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-4pm.* •*Vose Art Notes Vol. 11*, a selection of works by several artists, shows through April 30.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm, Sun., 12-6pm. •Peter Max displays his pop art in *Pop to Patriotism.* Through May 19.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-4030). Tue.-Sat., 10:30am- 5:30pm, and by appointment. •Deborah Davidson's acrylic-on-vellum images display in *Glyphs.* Through May 10.

PHOTOGRAPHY

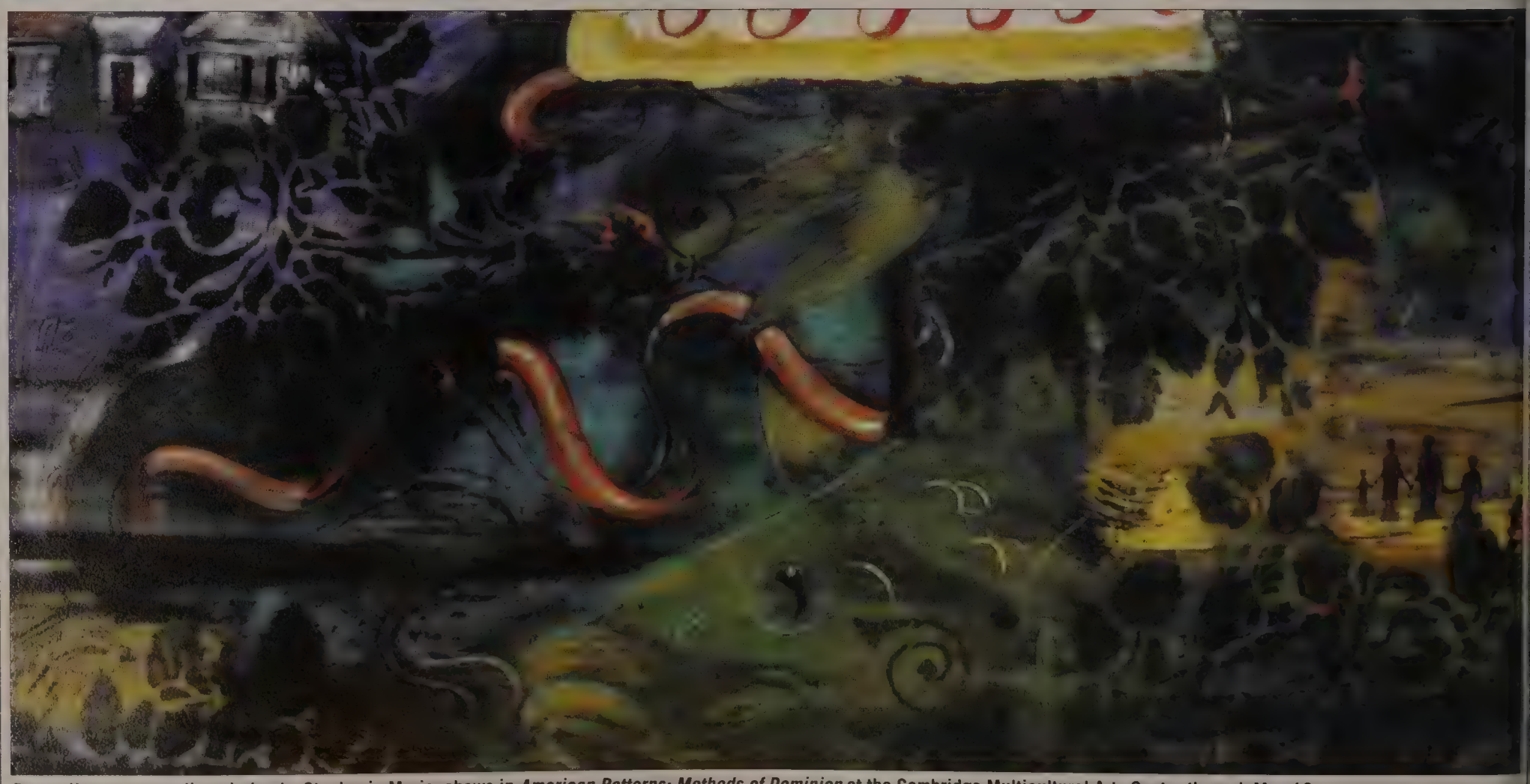
New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm.* •Dorothy Simpson Krause shows her digital mixed media in *Sacred Spaces.* Through May 12. •Janet Koenig Picinich's *Landscapes of My Mind* shows through May 23.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm.* •Jane Tuckerman displays her photographs. Through May 17.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.pboston.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Blanford.* •*Robert Arnold: New Media Work*, a video art installation shows through May 4. •Boston University professor Robert Arnold presents *New Media Works* in his first solo show through May 4.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Somerville Open Studios
(888-460-0722). www.somervilleopenstudios.org. *Sat. and Sun., 12-5pm. May 3 and 4.* The citywide studio arts event features more than 200 artists opening their studios to the public.



***Dream House*, an acrylic painting by Stephanie Maria, shows in *American Patterns: Methods of Dominion* at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center through May 16.**

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READINGS & SIGNINGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Barnes and Noble Prudential Center
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-247-1914). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30pm. Free. **Tom Adelman**'s book *The Long Ball: The Summer of '75—Spaceman, Catfish, Charlie Hustle and the Greatest World Series Ever Played* takes a look at the baseball stars of 1975.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Harvard archaeologist **Steven LeBlanc** discusses his book *Constant Battles: The Myth of the Peaceful Noble Savage,* in which he explores the connections between prehistoric warfare and modern conflicts.

Brookline Booksmith Writers and Readers Series
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm.* The Eighth Annual Brookline High School Poetry Festival showcases the talents of young poets.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Backstory Book Club Series
Grub Street Office, 561 Windsor St., Somerville (617-623-8100). 7pm. $12. Local author **Jill McCorkle** reads from her third short story collection, *Creatures of Habit*, 12 tales that explore stages of human existence with emphasis on people's kinship with animals.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Former mobster **Edward MacKenzie Jr.** discusses his book *Street Soldier: My Life as an Enforcer for Whitey Bulger and the Irish Mob.*

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free.* **Julia Glass** reads from her debut novel, *Three Junes*, a story about love and loss among the members of a Scottish family.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30pm. Free. Granta* magazine editor **Ian Jack** introduces speakers **Andrew O'Hagan**, **Zadie Smith** and **Alan Warner**, who are included in *Granta 81: Best of Young British Novelists, 2003.*

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. Former monk **Thomas Moore** discusses his book *The Soul's Religion: Cultivating a Profoundly Spiritual Way of Life*, in which he encourages readers to find the spirituality in everyday life.

Harvard Graduate School of Education
Longfellow Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-496-1835). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. New York Times bestselling author **Iris Chang** discusses her latest book, *The Chinese in America: A Narrative History*, about one of the United States' fastest growing ethnic groups.

Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center
85 West. Newton St., Boston (617-927-0061). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Mass. Ave. 8pm. $15. **Karl Iagnemma**, contributor to *The Best American Short Stories 2002*, reads from his new book, *On the Nature of Human Romantic Interaction*, as part of Sixoneseven, a fundraiser for a new film project by local filmmaker Shandi Garrison. Photographer Chris Gaines and architect Beth Whitaker join Garrison to show their work, and a night of drinking and dancing fueled by DJ Brynmore follows. It's all hosted by local author Steve Almond.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6pm. Free. **Nina Revoyr** signs copies of her second thriller, *Southland*, a story of a mysterious murder in Los Angeles.

Eric Schlosser reads from *Reefer Madness*, May 7 at Harvard Book Store.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Brian Shawver** reads from his debut novel, *The Cuban Prospect*, a story of a minor league baseball scout who smuggles a Cuban catcher into the U.S.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* Harvard professor and Ralph Waldo Emerson expert **Lawrence Buell** celebrates the bicentennial of the birth of the famous transcendentalist in his book *Emerson.*

Lizard Lounge Spoken Word Series
1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard. $5. **Allen Kurzweil**, author of *The Grand Complication*, reads from his work in this Writers with Drinks event. Poet **Linda Haviland Conte**, fantasy author **Ellen Kushner**, essayist **Kim Ficera**, mystery author **Gary Braver** and comedian **Kelsey Flynn** also take part.

Northeastern University
Blackman Auditorium, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-2247). MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern. 8pm. $15, $8 students. U.S. poet laureate **Billy Collins** reads from his poems and answers questions from the audience.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Quincy Market Rotunda
Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-720-1713). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 2pm. Free. **John Quincy Jr.**, a descendant of Josiah Quincy (who was the mayor of Boston and president of Harvard College in the early 1800s), reads from his new book *Quincy's Market*, which describes the history and significance of the Boston landmark.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Center for New Words
First Unitarian Church of Jamaica Plain, 6 Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (617-876-5310). www.newwords books.com. *3pm. Free.* **Toni Lester**, editor of the book *Gender, Nonconformity, Race and Sexuality*, joins **Geeta Patel** and **Mary Gentile** in a discussion of how social, cultural and political forces influence gender roles and behavior.

Poetry in the Chapel
Forsyth Chapel, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2pm. $4. Local poets **Kathleen Aguero**, **Daniel Bosh**, **John Canady** and **Elizabeth Lund** read from their work.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Cambridge Center for Adult Education Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.ccae.org. *8:15pm, $3.* Emerging poets **Todd Hearon**, **Nancy Kuhl** and **Christopher Millis** read their poems.

New England Poetry Club
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge (781-643-0029). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **F.D. Reeve**, prolific poet and father of actor Christopher Reeve, reads his poems accompanied by musicians.

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Bill McKibben** discusses his new book *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineering Age*, which examines how advancing genetic engineering and computer science potentially threaten our environment and health.

Harvard Graduate School of Education
Longfellow Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-496-1835). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. New York University professor **Diane Ravitch** discusses her latest book, *The Language Police: How Pressure Groups Restrict What Students Learn*, which argues against the censorship that some schools impose on classic works of literature.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30pm. Free. **Mark Costello** reads from his second book, *Big If*, a novel about a presidential candidate's Secret Service guard. Enjoy a free Park Pale Ale on the Newtonville Times afterward.

Old State House
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-1713 ext/ 21). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State Street. 5pm. Free. **Alexander von Hoffman**, senior research fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, signs copies of his new book *House by House, Block by Block: The Rebirth of America's Urban Neighborhoods*, which examines the redevelopment of declining urban areas across the country.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Fenway Park groundskeeper **David Mellor** discusses his book *The Lawn Bible*, which offers tips and anecdotes on lawn care.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* **Eric Schlosser**, author of *Fast Food Nation*, discusses his latest book, *Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market*, a look at how the nation's three largest black markets continue to thrive.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *7pm. Free.* University of Vermont professor **Joni Seager** discusses *The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World*, which explores women's issues throughout different cultures around the globe.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free.* Harvard researcher **Ross Terrill** reads from his latest book, *The New Chinese Empire: Beijing's Political Dilemma and What It Means for the United States*, an examination of the prospects for global order if China adopts more liberal policies.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6pm. Free. **Nancy Tesler** reads from her latest mystery, *Slippery Slopes and Other Deadly Things*. The fifth installment in the Carrie Carlin series follows the heroine to a Vermont ski resort, where her relaxing getaway turns into a murder mystery.

Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
Union Street Restaurant and the Attic, 107 R. Union St., Newton Centre (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. 7:30pm. Free. **Christopher Castellani** reads from his debut novel *A Kiss from Maddalena*, in which a young Italian man who narrowly escapes his country's draft in World War II tries to woo the town beauty.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30pm. Free. Pop artist **Peter Max** discusses *The Art of Peter Max*, a book that collects more than 350 images of his work, including some of the artist's psychedelic '60s posters.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* Director of Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies **Tom Simons Jr.** discusses his new book, *Islam in a Globalizing World.*

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free. Tickets required.* **Jane Smiley** reads from her 12th novel, *Good Faith*, a cautionary tale about the American dream turning into ostentatious fantasy during the 1980s.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 2pm. Free. **Anne Bernays** and **Justin Kaplan**, authors of *Back Then: Two Lives in 1950s New York*, join 14 other noted authors for Reclaiming the Voices, Reclaiming the Square, a three-hour read-a-thon of excerpts from some of the books burned during the bonfires of Berlin's Bebelplatz in 1933.

Quincy Market
Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-720-1713). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 2pm. Free. **Bob Ryan**, sports columnist for the *Globe*, chronicles the first World Series and the creation of the American League in his new book, *When Boston Won the World Series.*

MONDAY, MAY 12

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7pm. Free. **Caroline Kennedy** reads from the book she edited, *A Patriot's Handbook: Songs, Poems and Speeches Every American Should Know*, a selection of prose and poetry that celebrates the land, people, spirit and history of America.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* Historian **Douglass Shand-Tucci** discusses his latest book *The Crimson Letter: Harvard, Homosexuality and the Shaping of American Culture*, a look at prominent gay Harvard alumni, including Henry James and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

ONGOING

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7:30pm; poetry jam, 9pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston , 10-24 School St., Boston (617-554-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity at the open mike.

spring2003

writers & readers series

5/6 Tuesday 7PM

Robert Stone *Bay of Souls*

With "Faulknerian intensity and a narrative economy reminiscent of Hemingway," (Kirkus) Robert Stone, acclaimed author of Damascus Gate, takes us through the feverish space between love and obsession, between possessing and being possessed. Bay of Souls is a powerful psychological thriller, a "novel of bold prose and subtle perceptions, a small hard gem from a master writer." (Publishers Weekly)

5/10 Saturday 11AM

Bill Bryson

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Coolidge Corner Theatre Tickets $2

The man who nearly conquered the Appalachian Trail nearly answers the oldest, biggest questions we have posed about the universe and ourselves. Taking as territory everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization, beloved humorist Bill Bryson's A Short History of Nearly Everything seeks to understand how we got from there being nothing at all to there being us. A guaranteed side splitter!

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Kyoto as Seen Through Great Rakuchu-Rakugai Screens
Museum of Fine Arts, 495 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306. www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 7pm. $13.* New York University assistant professor of Japanese art **Matthew McKelway** discusses this 16th-century genre of Japanese painting.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Freedom of Expression in a Digital Age: Reading, Writing and Cyberspace
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-558-6593). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7pm. Free. Harvard Law School professors **John Palfrey** and **Jonathan Zittrain**, the Massachusetts Library Association's **Marnie Warner**, and the Anti-Defamation League's **Andrew Tarsy** are part of a panel discussion exploring potential and existing threats to the cyber-liberties of citizens living in authoritarian and democratic societies.

Life in Town and Country
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.* www.mfa.org. *7pm. Free.* Assistant curator of decorative arts and sculpture **Bet McLeod** offers a glimpse into the life of artist Thomas Gainsborough and his hometown of Bath in 18th-century England.

Life on a Young Planet: The First Three Billion Years of Evolution on Earth
Harvard Museum of Natural History, Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.org. *6pm. Free.* Author and Harvard professor of natural history **Andrew Knoll** explores the history of life and discusses humans' roles as stewards responsible for a four billion year old world.

Scandal on Stage: Banned Theater in Boston
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Red Line to State. www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *7pm. Free.* From the banning of Thomas Morton's May Pole in puritanical Boston to the 1929 banning of Eugene O'Neill's Freudian play *Strange Interlude*, censorship has long been associated with Beantown. Scenes from censored plays will be presented along with a panel discussion.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

New Windows on the Brain: Discoveries from Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Wright Theatre, Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Museum of Science. 7pm. **Dr. Bruce M. Cohen**, president and psychiatrist-in-chief at McLean Hospital and professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, discusses the latest developments in magnetic resonance imaging.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

How to Make Your Books Last (Almost) Forever
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston Ave., Boston (617-558-6593). www.nbss.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Free.* North Bennet Street School bookbinding instructor **Mark Andersson** discusses the secret of preserving books, how a book is made and why some books last longer than others.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

A Conversation with John Edwards
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1643). www.jfklibrary.org. *2pm. Free. Reservations required.* North Carolina senator **John Edwards**, a 2004 presidential candidate, discusses his positions on domestic and foreign policy issues facing our nation.

Reclaiming Sacred Spaces
Vilna Shul, 18 Phillips St., Boston (617-720-1713). 2pm. Free. A panel will discuss the preservation and restoration of religious structures—the purposes the structures serve and the different ways that preservation and restoration can happen. Panelists include **Jean Caroon**, principal for preservation at Good, Clancy & Associates; **Bob Smith**, chair of the board of trustees at Union United Methodist Church; **Lynn Spencer**, historic preservationist; and **Claude Emanuel Menders** of Architects Inc.

Riverway Bird Walk
Meet at the Longwood MBTA stop, D Green Line, Cha Street, Brookline (617-556-1689, ext. 216). 7am. Fr During the peak time for spring songbird migratio the National Park Service and the Brookline Bird Cl offer a 90-minute guided bird walk along the Mud River, the habitat of many songbirds and waterfowl.

Self-Distribution for Independent Filmmakers
National Boston, 115 Dummer St., Brookline (617-61 0091). www.wifvne.org. *10am-2pm. $25.* **Mich Goldman**, president of Filmmakers Collaborativ moderates a panel discussion of Boston-based fil makers who have self-distributed. They'll offer adv on planning, sequencing and marketing films a share tips and lessons learned in the industry.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Children's Book Illustration Lecture
Puppet Showplace Theatre, 32 Station St., Brookline (61 731-6400). 7-9pm. $20. Some of the area's top arti discuss current trends and show samples of their wo in children's book illustration.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Native Americans and the Harbor Islan 1675 to the Present: A Panel Discussio
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (61 482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *6:30 $5.* Cultural anthropologist for the National Park S vice **Chuck Smythe** describes Deer Island's history a Native American internment camp in the late 1600s

THURSDAY, MAY 8

The Book of Ruth: A Scripture and Its Afterlife
Boston University, George Sherman Union, 775 Com Ave., Boston (617-358-1754). MBTA: B Green Lin B.U. 9am-4:30pm. Free. Boston University's Luce P gram in Scripture and Literary Arts hosts a confere examining this biblical text as an inspiration for art a springboard for poetry.

An Evening with the Words on Fire Artis
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boyls St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to C ley. www.bpl.org. *7pm. Free.* Artists and curators of BPL's *Words on Fire* exhibition will explore its under ing themes in relation to their art, and discuss th commonalities and differences in approaching subject matter.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Dancing in the Dark: How Life Thrive at Deep-Sea Hot Springs
Harvard Museum of Natural History, Geological Lec Hall, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge . www.bpl.org. 6 *Free.* Microbiologist-aquanaut **Colleen Cavanau** offers insight into how sea animals survive in the s less extreme deep sea, which until 25 years ago was lieved to be devoid of life.

eNarrative 5
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boyl St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Lin Copley. www.bpl.org. *3 p.m. Free.* Harvard fellow weblog pioneer **Dave Winer**, Tinderbox software ator **Mark Bernstein** and Hypertext 2.0k aut **George P. Landow** are part of a panel that will dis the latest developments in the electronic arts their personal, cultural and business applications

TUESDAY, MAY 13

The Artistry and Etiquette of Dress
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (6 267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to seum.* www.mfa.org. *10:30am. Free.* **Pamela Parmal** sociate curator of textile and fashion arts, gives a su of elaborate 18th-century fashions as exemplifie British artist Thomas Gainsborough's portraits

The History and Memories of Jo Singer Sargent's Life and Work
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boy St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to ley. 7pm. Free. Director of the National Maritime seum in Greenwich, England, **Richard Ormond** cusses landscape artist and portrait painter J Singer Sargent's art and life.

Innocence Lost: Child Abuse, Pornog phy, and the Internet
Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan Center, 120 Forsyth Northeastern University, Boston (617-373-58 www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. *6:30pm.* Do dophiles intentionally infiltrate respected c munity professions to abuse young boys and g Has the Internet given even more power to dophiles to exploit children? Fullbright fel **Darren G. Brookes** discusses how educational grams and community awareness can reduce even prevent assaults on the most vulnerable m bers of our society.

you want to be listed

mit information, including telephone numbers and near-T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446), mail or e-mail ylesbian@improper.com).

LUBS, BARS & IANGOUTS

ia (Wednesdays)
5 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins pro-ssive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and ian dance party. 10pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

alon (Sundays)
Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: een Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have nked out Sunday night parties for the boys of ston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate hce floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin edman spins house. 10pm, $15, 21+.

is (Mondays)
Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: een Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a g show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. amateur drag show is held the last Monday of ry month. 10pm, $7, 19+.

zz (Saturdays)
Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzz-ton.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* •On Satur-s Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice nning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's p house and trance—a pool room and a lounge keep men busy until at least 2am. 10pm, $10, 21+.

tyGirl Café (Daily)
4 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). BTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11am-9pm; Sat., am-9pm; Sun., 11am-7pm. This small (five tables) d-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and op-ted, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging d sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

ub Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
0 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.bcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-., 11:30am-2am; Sat., 2pm-2am; Sun., 11am-2am.* is South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining d unobtrusive music in the front room or video en-tainment in the back at Moonshine. •On ednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On ursdays and Fridays, VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop w featuring new and classic music videos. •On urdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cun-gham. No cover, 21+.

do's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). BTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay wd frequents this bar to check out clips from the lat-music videos as well as classic movies—compiled by bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

gle (Daily)
0 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., -2am; Sat., 1pm-2am; Sun., 12pm-2am. MBTA: Or-e Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighbor-d bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2am.

tz Lounge (Daily)
Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Or-e Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12pm-2am; Sat. and ., 10:30am-2am. The folks here are really friendly—l really into sports. DirecTV is set up with screens ttered about, and Fritz is home base to a softball gue. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30pm weekends.

offrey's Café-Bar (Daily)
0 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (617-266-1122). BTA: Green Line to Arlington. Restaurant, 9am-1am dy; bar open until 1am. This full-service restaurant rs a full bar and midpriced bistro fare. Breakfast is ved daily until 3pm.

llywood at the Ekco Lounge aturdays)
Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.n. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10pm-2am.* This bian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live sic all night. $8, 21+.

cques Cabaret (Daily)
Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green e to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd l mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and . feature live music. •Sun.-Mon.: Cabaret drag w. 10pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. •Tue., u.: Avalon bartender "Miss Kris" performs. 10pm, -$8. •Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" pro-ed by Diamond Dunhill. 10pm, $5.

The film *9 Dead Gay Guys* is presented as part of the Boston Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival at the Museum of Fine Arts May 1 at 8pm.

Machine (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12pm-2am. •Tue.: Service Industry Night Spice 4 Life with DJ Afrodite. •Best Night Out Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10pm-2am, $6, 21+. •Machine Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10pm-2am, $7, 21+.

Man Ray (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9pm; Thurs. and Fri., 9pm-2am; Sat., 10pm-2am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, Man Ray features two dance floors. •Thu.: Campus, a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Five different rotating events and themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.midwaycafe.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street.* On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2am. *www.dykenight.com.* 9pm, $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Circuit Girl presents a night of dance and house music by resident DJ Kris Kono. Andara and Chris man the first- and second-floor bars, and partygoers can play pool and video games. 10pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7pm-1am; Thu.-Sat., 7pm-2am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12pm-2am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge, with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

BOOKS

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun., 12-6pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Free. May 13, 3pm.* Historian **Douglass Shand-Tucci** discusses *The Crimson Letter: Harvard, Homosexuality and the Shaping of American Culture*, a look at several prominent gay Harvard alumni, including Henry James and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

New Words Bookstore
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8pm; Sat., 10am-6pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events. •May 4, 12pm, free. **Toni Lester** and others discuss race, ethnicity and sexuality at the First Unitarian Church of Jamaica Plain, 6 Eliot St., Jamaica Plain.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-6:30pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

SHOWS & EVENTS

Claiming the Blessing
Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge (617-868-3450). May 3, 9am-4pm. $20. Spend Saturday talking about the inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the Episcopal church. The event features speaker Reverend Susan Russell, and includes breakfast and lunch.

500 Lesbians and Friends: Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders Women's Dance
Brookline Holiday Inn, 1200 Beacon St., Brookline (617-327-2752). C Green Line to St. Paul Street. May 3, 8:30pm-12:30am. $30. The third annual Women's Dance features music by DJ Shelly Cullen, light food and a cash bar. All proceeds benefit GLAD, a legal rights organization.

The 19th Annual Boston Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival
The Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.* The MFA Film program presents international comedies, documentaries and shorts all dealing with sexuality in culture and politics. See the film section for listings.

Winchester Music Concert and Dance
Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester (781-648-0722). www.djdee.com. *May 10, 7pm. $10.* As part of her CD release party, Denise Doucette performs songs from the CD, *Heart to Heart*.

ONGOING

Beantown South Gay/Lesbian Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9pm; Sat. 10am-12pm, 9-10am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8pm, Fri, 3-5pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
BostonGLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball Association
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group (10-12 week) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30pm, to create performances representing women's perspectives. E-mail *Dagger@thetheateroffensive.org.*

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10pm. This toll-free, national hotline is confidential and provides information and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians who want to get together and enjoy board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). A mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). Anonymous HIV testing, and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30am. Liquid Assets New England Swim team, LANES, is a gay swim team...

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston/. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to Washington St. First Saturday of each month. 8-9pm, lesson; 9-11:30pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

body&mind

Advice to Contributors Submit updated information by mail, by fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

EVENTS

Dances of Universal Peace in Boston
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-776-5767). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 10, 7:30-9:30pm. $6-$10. Learn meditative circle dances that honor the spiritual traditions of the world. All dances are accompanied by live music.

Dharma Film: Samurai Trilogy, Part III–Duel at Ganryu Island
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *May 9, 7pm. $10.* Co-sponsored by the Institute for Meditation & Psychotherapy, this film series delves into the mind and spirit of movies. *Duel at Ganryu Island* is based on the life of Musashi Miyamoto, a samurai and Zen ink artist. This film portrays the character development and inner struggle of the samurai warrior.

Sweat Your Prayers Dance Jam
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). www.dancecomplex.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. May 5, 8-9:30pm. $7-$10.* This gathering of freestyle dancers is an opportunity for participants to get grounded or fly high through energetic dancing.

WORKSHOPS

Chen-Style Silk Reeling Exercises and Taiji Form
Brookline Tai Chi, Brookline (617-277-2975 or 617-529-3013). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *Please register for information on location of workshop. Introductory workshop: May 9. Classes: May 10-11, 9am-4:30pm. $195 for both days, $125 for one. $50 for introductory workshop.* Master Wang Hai Jun of Chen Village, Henan, China, visits Boston to teach the principles of *taiji* (tai chi). The term "silk reeling" refers to an exercise used to develop one of the basic skills of Chen-style tai chi. All levels are welcome.

Let's Talk About Sex, Baby!
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. May 12, 7:30-9:30pm. $25.* Through role-playing, discussion and exercises, this workshop teaches you how to communicate clearly about sexual desires while staying true to yourself and connected to your partner. Lynn Rosenbaum, a certified sexuality educator and writer, teaches you how better communication can lead to better sex.

Mind, Body & Emotions: An Introduction to Integrated Awareness
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-661-3414). www.mfourman.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 7, 7-9pm. $5. Pre-registration required.* Learn about the relationship between your mind, body and emotions. Bring any issue you're concerned about, and then use the Map of Consciousness to discover how that issue is affecting your body.

Paint Your Essence
Mary Kostman, 125 Eliot St., Brookline (617-731-9785). May 3, 11am-1pm. $75. Pre-registration required. At this workshop, release your creativity through painting, meditation, movement and music. As your body relaxes, internal images may emerge that can be expressed through art. Experiment with paints and oil pastels in a comfortable environment.

Partner Yoga Workshop
Living Yoga, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *May 9, 6:45-8:45pm. $25.* Come alone or with a partner to learn how to deepen your practice and understanding of yoga postures.

Positional Therapy
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-739-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or bus lines #57, 64, 66 or 501. May 2-4. $200.* Do you suffer from chronic pain? Lee Albert, a Kripalu healing arts therapist, teaches a technique that's easy to learn and effective in treating pain from injury, stress, repetitive motion, postural distortion or chronic neuromuscular conditions.

The Sacred Passage: Reclaiming Yourself After Breast Cancer
The Healing Garden, 145 Bolton Road, Harvard (617-522-5337). www.sacred-passage.com *or* www.healing garden.net. *May 9-10 and Aug. 1-2 (attendance at both weekends required). $300.* Led by life coach Vivienne Simon and holistic healer Devorah Steinberg, this spiritual and educational retreat will help improve mind, body and spiritual health. Enter into a sacred community to explore your illness and gain awareness and tools for deepening personal growth.

The Spirit of Getting Organized
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. May 8, 6:45-8:45pm. $35.* They say that clutter can keep you mentally weighed down and unable to focus. At this workshop, learn to sync your physical world with your inner vision of life. Learn about the creative mid-point between order and chaos and develop organizational skills such as sorting and shedding.

Surviving Cancer
Mount Auburn Hospital, Hurwitz Auditorium, 330 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-492-3500). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 7, 6pm. Free. Margie Levine, author of *Surviving Cancer*, leads a discussion on both conventional and self-healing treatments, as well as tips for recovery.

RETREAT

Moving's View
Earthdance, 252 Prospect St., Plainfield (413-634-5678). www.earthdance.net. *May 11-18. Tuition with room and board: $595.* This retreat focuses on the art of movement improvisation. Each day will include three classes and free time for personal activities and spontaneous group events.

ONGOING

Beginner's Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-739-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or bus lines #57, 64, 66 and 501. Wed., 6:30-8pm; Sat., 10-11:30am. $14-$20.* Try the beginner's class in this attractive and peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time.

Dzogchen Center Meditation Practice
Cambridge Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (781-665-6325). www.cambridge dzogchen.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 7:30pm. Free.* Teachings, meditation and discussion periods are led by Lama Surya Das, Lama John Makransky or guest teachers. All sessions are open to and appropriate for anyone seeking a personal spiritual path.

Morning Yoga for Beginners
Roni Brissette, 57 Waverley St., Brookline (617-738-9561). Thu. and Fri., 9:30-11am. Call to register. All levels are welcome.

Personal Protection, Bussey Style
BodyEvolver, 364 Boylston St., Boston (617-247-2639). www.bodyevolver.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Drop in times: Tue., 1pm; Thu., 6:30pm; Sat., 4pm. No membership required.* Try the beginner's class of this practical and fun form of personal protection and movement. First-time visitors should call in advance.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Drop-in Tue., 7:30-8:45pm. Suggested donation: $10.* Kripalu certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches you to view your breath as the vehicle linking the mind with the body. Practice a gentle approach to hatha yoga in a supportive environment. All levels welcome.

Master Wang Hai Jun teaches silk reeling May 9-11.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

THINGS TO SEE

Big Apple Circus
Fan Pier, 28-70 Northern Ave., Boston (617-931-2787). www.bigapplecircus.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed. and Thu., 11am and 7pm; Fri. and Sat., 12:30 and 4:30pm. Through May 11. $13-$51.* The Big Apple Circus returns to Boston with its 25th anniversary show, *Dreams of a City*. Set in turn-of-the-century New York, this show celebrates the cultural diversity that immigrants brought to the United States and how they influenced the circus. Performances include clowns from France, high-speed jugglers from Switzerland, flying trapeze artists from Russia, a horseback ballerina from Sweden and more.

Mame
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., 8pm; Wed., 2pm and 8pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Through May 18. $26-$63.* Free-thinking and irreverent Mame Dennis takes on the job of raising her orphaned 10-year-old nephew, teaching him to soak up the few life pleasures available in the Depression-era 1930s. Based on the acclaimed novel by Patrick Dennis, this musical celebrates unconventional family values and individuality.

Marmalade Gumdrops
Arlington Street Church, Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 3 and 10, 11am. Walter's mom won't let him go to the baseball game until he cleans his room, but this task turns out to be better than Walter thought—especially when his furniture and toys begin to talk.

The Music Man
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 4pm. May 7-11. $41-$46. Con-artist-turned-conductor Harold Hill is back in town and making trouble posing as the leader of a big brass band.

Pippi Longstocking
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). Fri., 7:30pm; Sat. and Sun., 3pm (April 22-April 25, 1pm). Through May 4. $12-$18. Pippi Longstocking's superhuman strength, her unbounded imagination and her disregard for the rules of society make for good fun in this musical adaptation.

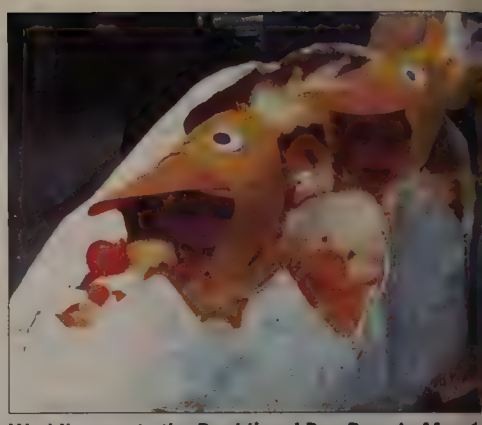
Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •April 30 and May 1,10am, ages 3-6: You and Me Puppets present *Sleeping Beauty and Other Tales.* •May 3 and 4, 1 and 3pm, ages 3-6: The Magpie Puppets perform *Eeyore's Birthday*, based on A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh stories. •May 7, 10:30am, ages 3-6: Pat's Puppets present the interactive show *Peter Rabbit Tales.* •May 8; 10:30am, and May 10, 1 and 3pm, ages 3-8: Paul Vincent Davis performs *Bingo the Circus Dog*, the story of how circus performers rescued their kidnapped dog.

THINGS TO DO

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free.* •May 2, 10:15am, Rabb Lecture Hall, ages 3-7: An hour-long program of short films. •Saturdays, 11am, ages 5 and older: Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30am and 12:30pm; Thu., 11:30am; Fri., 11:30am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15pm. •Through June: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts. •May 10, 11am-3pm: Explore It Family Day. Enjoy fun science activities all day long; 12-2pm: Kitchen Science. Experiment with things in the kitchen.

The Discovery Museum
177 Main St., Acton (978-264-4200). www.discovery museums.org. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to South Acton. $8-$12.* •April 30, 3pm: Wednesday's Art in the Afternoon celebrates Mother's Day with creative charms



Waddle over to the Ducklings' Day Parade May 1

to take home. •April 30, 4-5:30pm, $15: Scien Class Wednesdays presents When Things Go Po which introduces pressure experiments and safe e plosions, like soda bottle rockets or cotton ball ca nons, that you can try at home.

The 23rd Annual Ducklings' Day Parad
Boston Common, Boston (617-426-1885). MBTA: Gr Line to Park. May 11, 12pm. $15, $20 on day of para Registration required. This Boston tradition celebra Robert McCloskey's classic children's book, *Make W For Ducklings*. Retrace Mrs. Mallard's trek throu Boston to find the perfect place to make a home wh enjoying a scenic and historic walk of Boston. Vinta cars and the Harvard University Band will lead the ch dren and families through Beacon Hill and into t Boston Public Garden to receive duck toys and refre ments and watch live entertainment.

Family Campfire
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 1). MBTA: Red Line to H vard. May 4, 12-5pm. $10, $5 children. Adults and ch dren can enjoy an afternoon of storytelling, dance a song from around the world.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). MBT Red Line to Harvard. •May 3, 9-11am, ages 4-5: I plore the world of birds and meet some of them fa to-face. Learn how birds fly, eat, live, avoid predat and talk to each other. Then make a feathery cr •May 3, 9am-12pm, grades K-1: Learn games t are hundreds of years old and games inspired by mals (then meet those creatures), and create a gam take home.

ImprovBoston Family Show
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-125 www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Cen Square. Sat., 6pm. $12/general and $10/students.* P formers create scenes, songs and stories based on s gestions from the audience.

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum
Colonial Point, Boston (1-877-616-4599). www.jfk library.org. *MBTA: Red Line to UMass./JFK. F May 3, 10:30am. Ages 5 and older.* Sol y Canto (Sun Song) perform a Latin concert extravaganza tha multicultural, bilingual and interactive for all me bers of the family.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-344 www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Lin Museum. Free with museum admission ($13-$15; c dren under 17 free.).* •April 30, May 1-2; 3:30 The Children's Room presents *Ancient Gol* drawing and metal workshop. •April 30, 3:30 Books Bring Art Alive program; 4pm: Teen-Teen art talks.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* •Saturd and Sundays, 11am-12pm: The museum's Scie Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* turing professional storytellers who combine folk t and myths with visits with live animals.

Newton Free Library
Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-7 1370). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highla •Wed., 7pm, ages 10 and older: Become a Book vestigator and write stories and book reviews. •T 7pm, ages 4 and older: Pajama Storytime •I 10:30am: Preschool Films.

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementa School Bazaar
Armenian Cultural & Educational Center, 47 Nic Ave., Watertown (617-926-6979). May 9, 10 9:30pm. Enjoy laser tag, a moon bounce, ball- mini-carousel and international cuisine at mini-carnival.

Yoga Workshop for Girls
In the Moment Wellness Center, 106 Access Road, Nor (781-762-9281). May 4, 2-4pm. $20. Girls ages 5 can enjoy an afternoon of stretching, breathw moving, relaxing and meditating.

sports

dvice to Contributors
bmit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to lendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@proper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway p, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or nt. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings not be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

oston Red Sox
enway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
pril 30, 6:05pm vs. Kansas City Royals
ay 1, 6:05pm vs. Kansas City Royals
ay 2, 7:05pm vs. Minnesota Twins
ay 3, 1:20pm vs. Minnesota Twins
ay 4, 2:05pm vs. Minnesota Twins
ay 13, 7:05pm vs. Texas Rangers
ew England Revolution
illette Stadium. Tickets: 877-438-7387
ay 3, 4pm vs. San Jose Earthquakes
ay 10, 4pm vs. Los Angeles Galaxy
oston Breakers
ickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
ay 3, 6:30pm vs. San Diego Spirit (**Note**: Game at llette Stadium.)

Events

nerican Liver Foundation
pring Golf Classic
is scramble-format event includes warm-up ge balls, greens fees, cart rental, a box lunch d a post-game awards ceremony. Proceeds bene- the American Liver Foundation. *Sterling untry Club, 33 Albright Road, Sterling (617-425-08). May 5, 11:30am. $110 per person.*

ke Your Mom to Class at Healthworks
on-Healthworks members and their moms are vited to try a BalleCore class, a 50-minute work- that combines pilates, yoga and ballet. *althworks Fitness Centers for Women Back Bay loca-n, 441 Stuart St., Boston (617-859-7700). May , 1-2pm. Free.*

To Play

BASEBALL

enry's Baseball
81-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for e 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

SSC Basketball
17-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round bas-tball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, ookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals lcome.

ever Too Late Basketball
81-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of ages practice and work out in locations through-t Boston. Year-round.

aren Meinert and the Breakers take on the San ego Spirit at Gillette Stadium May 3.

TY CHURCH: ZOE PARKER-GEISMAN

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 Bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencing club.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as foot-work, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individu-als and teams welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
(617-789-4070). Teams are now forming for the spring league.

LACROSSE

MetroLacrosse
(617-242-9898, ext. 205) www.metrolacrosse. com. MetroLacrosse, a nonprofit organization that teaches lacrosse to children in underserved Boston communities, is looking for coaches for the spring 2003 season.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mystic rugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club wel-comes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and ex-perienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump into the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.boston hash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs Friday nights, 6pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night 4-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs Thursday nights, 7pm.*

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Indi-viduals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all lev-els) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5pm, Fri., 10am-9pm; June-Aug., daily, 10am-5pm, Fri. until 9pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30am-6pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9am-5pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9am-12pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9am-5pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10am-4:30pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10am-2pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8am-8pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Week-days, 10am-4pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9am-5pm; Fri., 9am-9pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10am-5pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-6pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thu., 9am-8pm; Sat.-Sun., 9am-7pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Or-ange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9am-5pm. Tours start at 9am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10am-4pm; weekends, 10am-5pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9am-5pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10am-10pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8am-6pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). www.oldironsides.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum open daily, 10am-5pm. Ship hours: winter: Thu.-Sun., 10am-4pm; summer: Tue.-Sun., 10am-4pm. Free.*

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Requests tutors in reading, math, science, writing and social studies.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Trinity Church in Copley Square

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportu-nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of peo-ple between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly indi-vidual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Help needed to serve lunch and dinner and to work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital format.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room, groceries program and office work.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour do-mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely peo-ple over the phone.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4KID). Volunteers need for this organization committed to rescuing homeless and street children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal im-migrants and refugees become naturalized citizens

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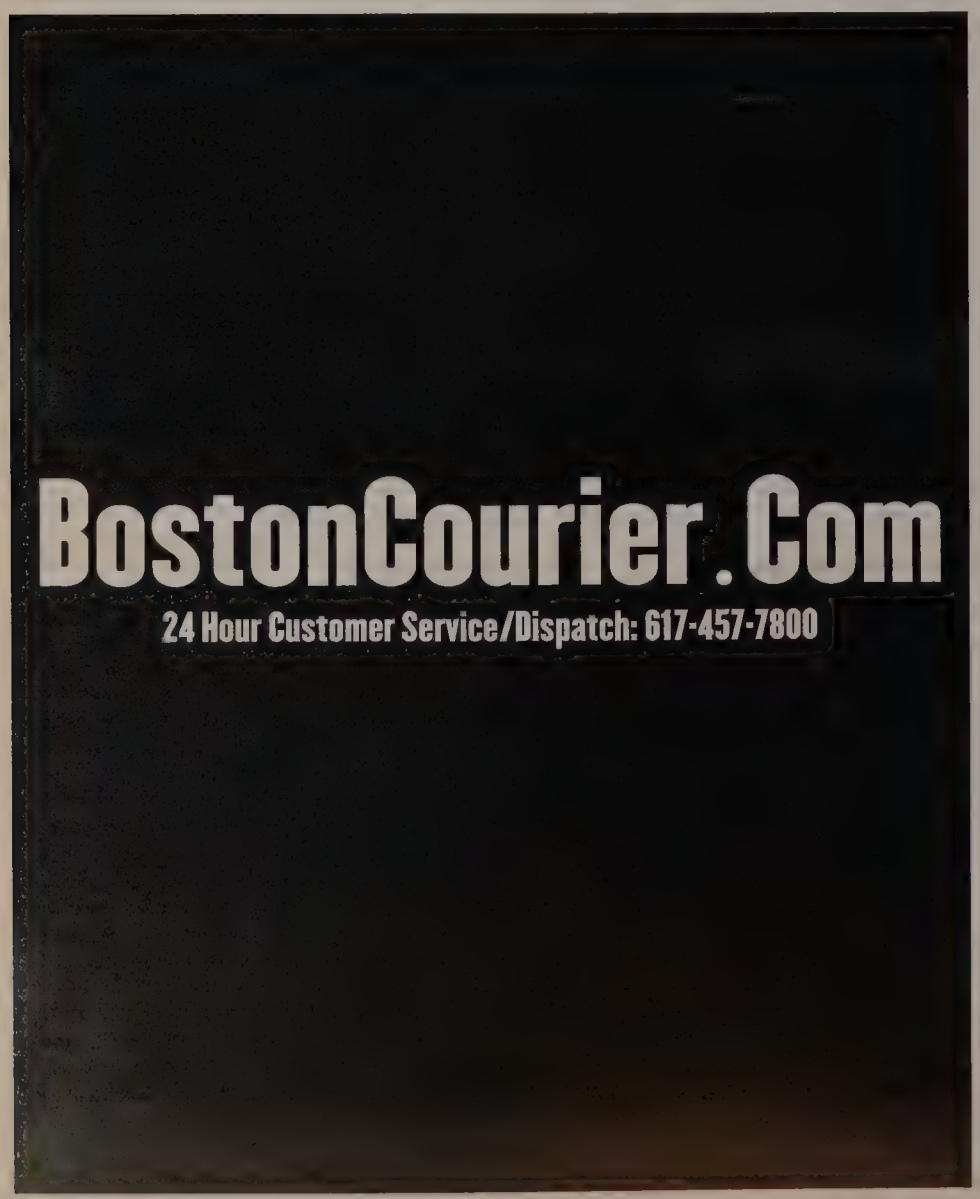

Improper Impersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity.) Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
Recent correspondence follows.

21st Amendment
Your name is Kerrie (unusually spelled); my name is Jamie. We met at the 21st Amendment April 3. You're blond with great blue eyes and your friend's name is Jean from South Carolina. I asked for your number and then somehow lost it in my phone! When I realized, I went back to the bar but you were already gone from my life forever ... unless this works. Write me!
—w_jamieson@hotmail.com

Nice Arms
Where did you go?! I hope you still remember, but a while back one sunny morning, I got on the T at St. Mary's to go to work. I stopped you before you got off at Park Street and said you have really nice arms (because you do). I mentioned how you must work out a lot. You said that you used to be a gymnast. You're petite with long brown hair, and I was so flustered that I never got your name. I've been looking for you everywhere, and would love to find you and take you out to a nice dinner to learn more about you. So, this is my last resort. Will you e-mail me if you see this?
—boston99999@yahoo.com

John Roxy
I met you at the Roxy March 8. You bought my drinks and we hung out/made out all night. I gave you my number before taking off, but you haven't called. I'm hoping you lost it or have been super-busy. If that's the case, I'd still love to hear from you—from what I remember, you're the most hilarious and attractive guy I've met in a while, and it's pretty rare that I can't get someone off my mind. I've been to the Roxy once since, hoping to run into you, but I didn't see you there. If you happen to read this, you should write me.
—VoxGrrr@aol.com

MJ O'Connor's
March 26 I was having dinner at MJ O'Connor's at Park Plaza. Separated by a partition, you were in the booth next to us having drinks with a man (boyfriend?) and another woman. You have stylish short blond hair and you wore an attractive light-blue sleeveless top, but it was your amazing cheekbones that first caught my attention. An embarrassingly early night, circumstances and most of all my timidity prevented any introduction. I wore dark-rimmed glasses and several times we "exchanged" eye contact, a euphemism for "caught looking." I felt a spark and have been profoundly distracted ever since. I'm hoping the feeling was mutual and wishing for the opportunity to properly introduce myself.
—mjo326@yahoo.com

To All the Boys Not in My Life
For all the immature, stupid little boys who have crossed my path in the past two years: Grow up! Learn to be men. Stop whining about life. Get a goal, get a dream and then get back to me because I don't date little boys. Little boys who have no goals, who think they are the greatest thing since sliced bread, who attempt to degrade me because I am a smart, beautiful woman—you are just not my style. You may appear normal at first glance but deep down inside, you're truly a tripping head case. What was that, little boys? You're intimidated by me? Not my problem. I've always been nothing but nice to you. I'm too honest? Well, golly gee, should I kiss the ground you walk on instead? For all the little boys who are not in my life—I'm glad! Stay away from me!
—Single & lovin' it

Looking for Raguel
We met April 4 at the MFA. I was sorry that our time together was cut short by the arrival of your date. Later in the night I gave you information on how to reach me, but I'm not sure you got it all. I haven't stopped thinking of you. I daydream about what spending time with you would be like.
—kat6661@msn.com

Nellie at Good Life
You were at the Good Life April 12 with a group of friends. I was there with friends feeling like the fifth wheel as the only single in the group. You: tall with dark brown hair, smoking body and outgoing personality. You have a fantastic smile, and your laughter is contagious. Your friends called you Nellie. We made eye contact a couple times before we finally chatted briefly, but when I turned to check in with my table, you were gone before I could get your number. I'd like to get to take you out sometime soon. Please e-mail if you're interested.
—nellieatgoodlife@yahoo.com.

We Shared Books, but Not Addresses
April 4: You got on the Red Line at Central or Kendall, sat down next to me, had a killer smile, and were reading *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole. I was wearing a green jacket, got off at Park Street and was reading *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde. I commented on how I'd read your book and liked it. We exchanged a few words and thoughts, but I was too chicken to give you my number or e-mail. You were slightly less chicken than me—as I got up to go at Park Street, you handed me a yellow sticky note, but alas, it was just the e-mail address of the book club server you belonged to. One more stop and I may have broken down and scribbled my e-mail down for you on half of the sticky note, but there wasn't time! I'm hoping that this esteemed publication makes it to your reading list occasionally, and if so, would you perhaps like another chance to chat about our favorite books and whatever else?
— smf2271@hotmail.com

Putnam Play
We've worked together for about tw years now. I don't see you every day but I certainly think about you every day. There was a time when I felt we had made a connection, but differences, and who knows what else, conspired to keep us apart. I've spent a great deal of time trying to convince myself that it's time to move on, but it just doesn't seem to happen. Just wondering if you think about me too.
—Your co-worker

Oskars 2000
My love, thank you for giving me th most memorable, magical night of my life. I will never forget you kneeling in the rain and the look in your eyes. I am so lucky to have you as my best friend and future husband, and can't wait to spend the rest of my life making you happ
—Your sweetpea

Good Charlotte
April 14 at 9pm on a Green Line train outbound toward Riverside: You were wearing a tight Good Charlotte T-shirt and tight sexy beige pants and have an attractiv body. You had your belly exposed and have a great Scottish accent. You were with a redhead girlfriend in jeans and a jean coat. I was wearing a red (go figure!) Red Sox hat, black coat with yellow and silver stripes and jeans. I was drinking coffee. As I continued to look your way, checking you out, yc seemed engrossed in your conversation with your friend. And got off at the Fenway stop as you continued on. If you'd like to go ou for coffee or perhaps hit the Macallan, please contact me.
—onthegreenline@mail.com

Red Hot to Green
I saw you salsa dancing on April 1 at Green St. Grill. I didn't see a diamond holding you in reserve. Yo are a tall beauty with the face of a angel and the hips of a goddess. Why don't you take a chance on me Meet me at Isabella Stewart Gardn at noon, exactly one month from th first encounter. You'll remember m I promise.
—A Gentleman

Rockie Horoscope

APRIL 30 – MAY 13, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Both the strivers and the slackers among you are about to experience another of those joyous, "I-can-do-no-wrong," kind of days. Those who relish rising to a challenge and revel in the sense of accomplishment that follows, will be thrilled when the Taurus sun squares expansive Jupiter midweek. Indulgent Bulls who prefer to have their cake and eat it, too, may see their latest dream come true while their Venus ruler and lucky Jupiter share a rewarding trine. Still to come: easy access to other people's money.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Entrepreneurs, editors and entertainers may soon have a rare opportunity to pitch a product or project with strong international appeal. However, the fact that your Mercury ruler will be retrograde could influence the outcome of this meeting. Before you confirm or cancel, ask yourself or your higher power: What do I do now? In times like these, your intuition is the best guide. Trust it also to point the way to a successful romantic encounter, to tell you when to press on and when to back off.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

The new moon on May Day can raise the level of the playing field, as well as your participation in the game, when it presents a pleasurable but not particularly challenging career opportunity. The Moon Child may also see a profit sooner rather than much later, for a change. Your partner could benefit from the enthusiasm and optimism generated by Jupiter's connection to courageous Mars in your house of joint money matters. Since this planetary arrangement won't occur again for many years, why not take the chance if you can?

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

One good thing can lead to another, as you're about to discover. Every now and again the Lion is rewarded for kindnesses shown in the past to people you hardly remember anymore. Such could be the case this week because 1) lucky Jupiter in your sign is attracting favors from artistic, affectionate Venus as well as from the adventurous Aries sun, and 2) since Mercury is retrograde in your Taurus midheaven, where your reputation is made, much of what happens this month will feel like a "blast from the past."

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Support this week comes from unexpected places and somewhat strange people, if not complete strangers. Now that unpredictable Uranus is in your Pisces house of allies and antagonists, you can't be sure that "same-old, same-old" will continue to feel comfortable. Although Virgo knows from experience that earth signs are easy, you may be surprised, even shocked by the nature of the joint venture the Taurus new moon introduces. Sensible and sensual, innovative and inspirational, and irresistibly romantic.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Not everyone can win the lottery, but Librans have a better chance this week than most. Actually, Lions, Rams and Centaurs are also in the running. This is one of those fun-filled times when your relatively fortunate Venus ruler is favored by immensely fortunate Jupiter. Under the circumstances, there's not much to do except not be too extravagant, overly friendly or excessively affectionate, at least until you know for certain that Lady Luck has chosen you, above all others, to receive her blessings.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Lucky in love and lucky at cards! What magical landscape did you fall into? While magnetic Venus is in your house of romance and risk, you'll pull in plenty of the goodies that jolly, generous Jupiter usually bestows. You'll also thrill to the depth of feeling your passionate Pluto co-ruler evokes when it aligns with the goddess next week. You're not going to have this sweet a setup again in this lifetime, so make the most of the advantages you're given. P.S. The Taurus new moon on May Day favors all things matrimonial.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The Archer has a tendency to go way over the top and assume that your lucky streak will never end whenever Venus forms a mutually beneficial arrangement with your Jupiter ruler. Their periodic connections usually result in too much of a good thing: too many sweets, too many promises, too much exuberance bordering on bravado. So knowing that you're bound to crash, that your luck will eventually turn, try to keep a sense of perspective about the good stuff you attract this week and the sexy situation you fall into next week.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Enjoy yourself; it's not later than you think. Since Mercury is retrograde until May 20, things will be moving very slowly, if at all. This would be a good time to visit old friends, fix up the house, replant the garden and spend time and money making your partner happier. Take advantage of the earthy, placid Taurus vibe while it's here; soon enough we'll be in jittery Gemini and you'll have places to go and lots of people to talk to. May Day is special; it marks the beginning of a significant lunar cycle.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Spring fever this year can make you dizzy. Because rip-roaring, red-hot Mars is in Aquarius, you've got more physical and sexual energy than usual. Unless you know where to direct it, you could constantly be on the verge of blowing your cool. Because you also have spiritual Neptune in your sign, some will sublimate those powerful surges of energy by acting "holier than thou." Some may become more musical or artistic; others will focus on their partner and how they can make the relationship as good as it gets.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Qualities you value in people, as well as your valuables, may become a much bigger deal for Fish who are figuring out what they're worth. The May Day new moon ushers in a period of questions regarding finances: "Which side is my bread buttered on? Am I toast?" Plus, the urge to spend like a drunken sailor or a media mogul could become overpowering, simply because extravagant, enthusiastic Jupiter in your house of romance and recreation is "lit." How much do you have to spend to make your loved ones happy?

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

While Mercury is retrograde in your house of earnings, assets and values (until May 20), take a hard look at all that you treasure, what you can get rid of and what you hope to attain or acquire next. This is a good time to examine your emotional ties to your "stuff" and also to change ingrained spending habits. Meanwhile, an acquaintance may present you with a novel proposal, something entertaining, entrepreneurial and quite extravagant. Thoroughly check it out but don't sign anything until Memorial Day is a memory.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

On behalf of the Board, staff and our 1,700 HIV positive members, the Boston Living Center would like to thank the restaurants and organizations who participated in our *dinnerfest 2003* fundraiser and made it such a success. Their generosity helped support the many programs and services we provide our HIV positive members.

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We would also like to thank this year's Co-Chairs Rachel Kelso, Craig Robbins and Greg Tyo and all of our supporters who hosted a dinnerfest ev...

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Improper Sightings

Unlike the rest of your friends, we want to see the photos from your next trip.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading The Improper Bostonian and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

Alan Freidman, Bob Berlin, Gregg D'Andrea, Paul Gershkowitz and Richard Snyder left their one-piece neon-green ski suits at the lodge after reading the Spring Fashion issue in Aspen, Colo.

David Spooner solicits an opinion on the Spring Fashion cover from an iguana in the Washington-Slagbaai National Park in Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. "Why does she not wear pink? She would blend in much better," was the reptile's critique.

Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski is up on spring fashion. "I need to know what to wear those two weeks in July," he says

Arlene Donenfeld met a furry little Australian fella and a koala bear at Bonorong Wildlife Park in Tasmania, Australia. She liked it there so much she bought a souvenir Bonorong boomerang.

Jennifer Walsh and Tara McGrath ward off the Norwalk virus on their cruise to Puerto Rico.

"You're going to learn how to use dramatic vases with leafy botanicals to adorn walls while maximizing floor space, maggot!" say Interiors Issue–reading drill sergeants Mike Cawley, Ron Mercier and Joe Deady at basic interior design training at Fort Knox, Ky.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Singing Ini Kamoze's "Here Comes the Hotstepper" while walking on hot coals barefoot at the Anastenaria Firewalking Festival, May 21 in Langada, Greece.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mail high resolution photos to: sightings@improper.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of The Improper Bostonian Magazine and will not be returned.

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For contest enrollment forms and contest rules see www.improper.com. or www.DrinkMasterBartending.com

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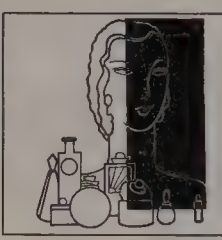

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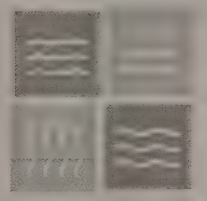

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The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

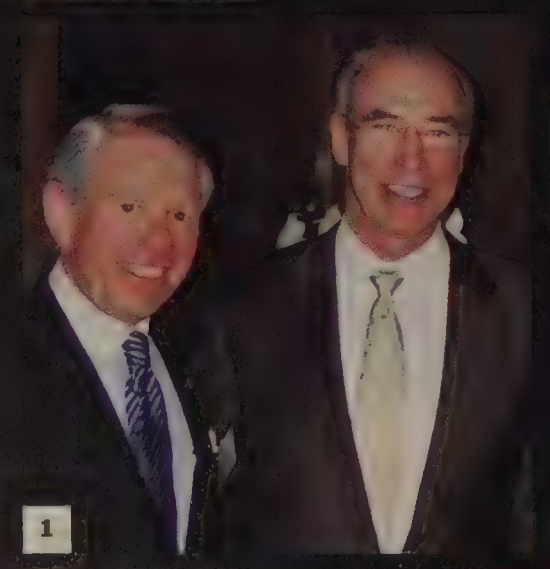
On Tuesday, April 8, **The Place** celebrated its second anniversary. A private bash was held to thank those that helped make their second year a great success.

1. The Place bartenders **Andrew Harvey**, **Mia Scalisi**, **Mario Menduni**, **Danielle Harder**, **Heather Dalton** and **Dan Bacigalupo**.
2. **Sans Milbury** of Casella with **Shelley Mohr** and **Rich Selvitella**, both of Key 3 Media.
3. **Patrick McCracken** of Putnam Investments; **Kelly O'Leary** of Wallace Printing Co.; **Larabeth Porter** of Reebok; **Erin Tracy** of Teak Marketing Co.; **Kim Nguyen** of Yahoo; **Michael Kalil**, marketing and event manager of The Place; **Julia DeWolf** of Ernst and Young.

On Monday, April 21, 1800 Tequila hosted a Marathon Party at **The Cactus Club**.

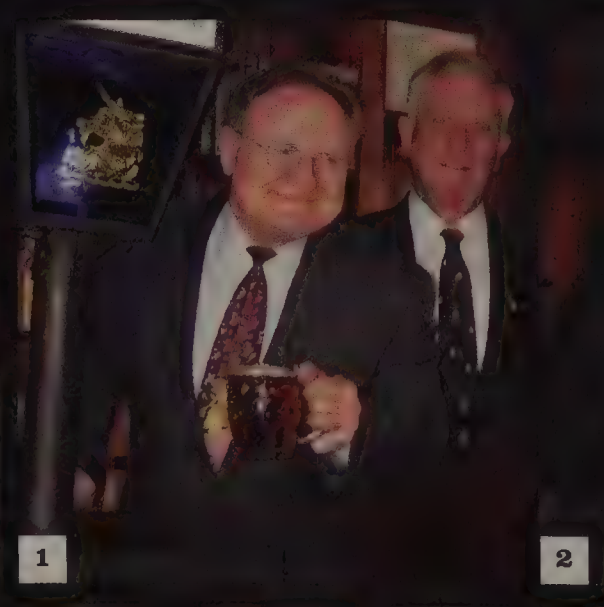
1. **Lisa Conti**, on premise manager, New England, Skyy Spirits; **Craig Goldschmidt**, **Lisa Friedman**, **Courtney Grinfeld**, **Valerie Seiden**, all street team, 92.9 WBOS-FM, and **David Ginsburg**, promotions manager, 92.9 WBOS-FM.
2. **Stefanie Tate**, street team, 92.9 WBOS-FM and **Neal Robert**, afternoon drive DJ, 92.9 WBOS-FM.
3. **Jim Lifton**, president, **Erin Conley**, marketing manager and **Jennifer McGivern**, manger, all of Cactus Club.

On Wednesday, April 16, **Michael Mondavi** hosted a comparative tasting at **The Wang Center** of newly released Robert Mondavi Wines, Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2000, 2000 Chateau Lafiti and 2000 Chateau Margaux.



1. **Bob Epstein**, president of Horizon Beverage Company and **R. Michael Mondavi**, chairman of Robert Mondavi.
2. **Ben Rubenstein**, associate vice president-wine for Horizon Beverage Company and **Sandy Block**, wine columnist for The Improper Bostonian.
3. **Carmine Martignetti**, president of the Martignetti Company; **R. Michael Mondavi**, **Todd O'Connell**, vice president of sales for Carolina Wine & Spirits.

On Thursday, April 17, **The Hampshire House** kicked off the Marathon festivities with its 3rd annual "Cheers to the Boston Marathon" event.



1. **Tom Kershaw**, owner of Cheers, The Hampshire House, and 75 Chestnut, an **Dr. John Coyle**, president of the Boston Athletic Association.
2. **Guy Morse**, executive direct of the Boston Athletic Association.
3. **Johnny Kelly**, two-time Boston Marathon winner; **Tom Kershaw**, owner of Cheers, The Hampshire House, and 75 Chestnut; **Joan Benoit Samuelson**, **Gr Meyer**, and **Jack Fultz**, all Boston Marathon champion

PHOTOS: THE PLACE, KAREN DANA; CACTUS CLUB, JULIE KANE; MICHAEL MONDAVI, CARRIE WALLACE; THE HAMPSHIRE HOUSE, MARTHA BR

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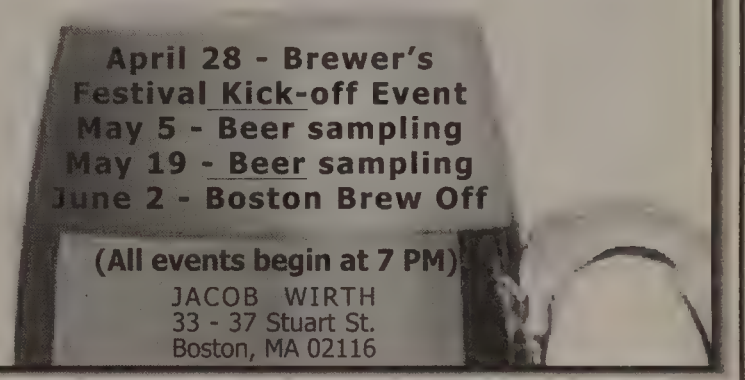

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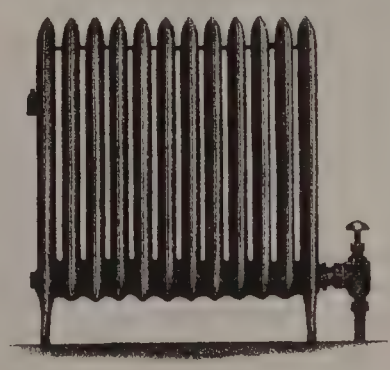

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

restaurants

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut Street, Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Now booking Holiday parties, call for details. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover Street, Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055.* Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm. Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

bars/clubs

BEER SPECIALTY

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal Street, Near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Avenue, Across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby Street, In Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

BILLIARDS

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

CLUBS

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

COMEDY

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

DANCE

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

IRISH

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

GENERAL

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck

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Cheers, Faneuil Hall Marketplace *Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers, Beacon Hill *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

Hurricane O'Reilly's, *150 Canal St., Boston, MA 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich Street, Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

JAZZ

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe Faneuil Hall, *Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

LATIN

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

SPORTS BAR-UPSCALE

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

brunch

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Avenue, Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslastresort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room *Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114.* Enjoy Sunday brunch beginning at noon in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 11am or 1pm, then check out the latest Omni film or the new Egyptian exhibit. Combination tickets start at $30 and include parking. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call 617-723-2500 or visit mos.org.

Sunset *Grill & Tap, 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

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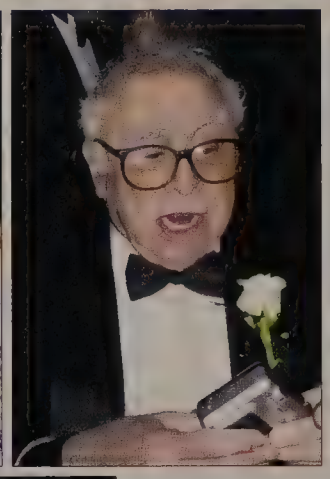

At Literary Lights, clockwise from upper left: Karen Rotenberg and Lois Kunian; Art Buchwald; John Spooner and Andre Dubus III.

OF BOOKWORMS AND BOTOX...

In the late 1800s, Boston was the center of the American literary world. Of course, that lofty distinction has since moved on to other locations, most embarrassingly Oprah Winfrey's TV studio, but we've still got plenty to brag about, which was obvious at **Literary Lights**. A black-tie gala held at the **Park Plaza** by the **Associates of the Boston Public Library**, the swanky event attracts a well-read, well-dressed and well-heeled crowd who come to honor an annual crop of local authors. Among this year's were prolific Pulitzer prize–winner **Art Buchwald**; best-selling chick-book author **Anita Diamant**; second-generation literary genius **Andre Dubus III**; baby-faced medical writer **Atul Gawande**; Elvis expert **Peter Guralnick**; and Chinese literary phenomenon **Ha Jin**. On hand to fete them were such card-carrying members of the literati as *New York Times* columnist **Anthony Lewis**; best-selling financial scribe and stockbroker-to-the-stars **John Spooner**; eminent AIDS researcher and author **Dr. Jerome Groopman**; journalist and author **Ben Bradlee Jr.**; and such big-hearted types as Back Bay uber-philanthropists **Bert** and **Rosalie Cohen**; radio personality **Upton Bell**; Chestnut Hill gay divorcée **Gale Minot**; and Cambridge socialites **Bill** and **Sally Fay Cottingham**.

Following hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, guests moved into the gorgeously bedecked, candle-lit ballroom, where the dinner tables were strewn with ivy and books by the evening's authors. Each of the authors was acknowledged with applause and a pen from Cartier, and Buchwald delivered the keynote speech, but lest it sound like a totally high-brow evening, the following exchange was overheard between two female guests.

"You look great."

"Thanks. It's all pharmaceutical. Diet, exercise and plastic surgery."

DANCE HALL DAYS...

If you're going to ask people to show up in formalwear at six o'clock on a Tuesday evening, the event had better be as spectacular as the **Wang Center's Annual Gala** honoring mega-benefactors **Susan** and **Bill Poduska**.

The drinks-and-cheek-kissing portion of the evening was held in the marble splendor of the theater's lobby, with socialites circulating and **Cirque du Soleil** performers contorting themselves into interesting positions. Everyone then filed onto the stage for a four-course feast punctuated by entertainment like the Poduska's daughter-in-law, the acclaimed soprano **Heather**, singing; actors from the **Commonwealth Shakespeare Company** reciting love poetry and aerial acrobats performing jaw-dropping feats overhead during dessert.

Present and accounted for: Mellon Bank bigwig **Barbara Casey**; the delightful **Grossman** sisters, **Amy** and **Mary Ellen**; Boys and Girls Clubs head honcha **Linda Whitlock**; Boston Ballet panjandrum **Mikko Nissinen**; grande dame **Dorothy Arnold**; noir novelist **Robert B. Parker** and the irresistible **Joan**; and one guest who said, "This is the first party I've been to in ages where I don't feel like using the baby-sitter excuse to leave early."

At the Wang Center Gala, clockwise from top: Lily, Susan and Bill Poduska; the view from the table below; Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith and ambassador Charles Stith.

At the Crystal Ball, from top: Carolyn and Tom Loucas and Christine Savage; Mike and Betsy Danziger.

THE ONLY THING MISSING WAS HEF...

Black-tie fund-raisers at the **Ritz** are generally sedate affairs where everyone waits politely for the first possible opportunity to bolt for the door, but the **Steppingstone Foundation's Crystal Ball** was more like New Year's Eve at the Playboy Mansion, complete with sweaty dancing bodies, uninhibited behavior and one unfortunate soul vomiting in the bathroom.

Participating in all this revelry were sundry and assorted so-and-so's, such as perennial hipster **Swing Robertson**; the hale and hearty **Tom** and **Carolyn Loucas**; the super-suave **Peter Creighton**; Ricky Ricardo doppelganger **Carlos Ruisanchez** with the stunning **Mary Arnett** and **Caitrin Moran**; Sports Club L.A. trainer **Paul Travers** and his gorgeous squeeze, **Lisa LeBlanc**; and stunning blonde **Betsy Danziger**, with her husband, **Mike**, who was the high bidder in the silent auction for the dubious distinction of being mentioned in this column.

Proof that it was a slamming party: Even after someone from the hotel shut the bars down, the funk band **Eye to Eye** and psychics from the Tremont Tea Room kept everyone entertained and happy.

BETTER HOMES AND HANGOUTS...

Between the tented cocktail party full of shiny happy people drinking wine and eating sushi and the voyeuristic thrill of wandering around a newly redecorated house, the preview gala for the **Junior League's 2003 Decorators' Show House** was worth the schlep all the way out to Lincoln.

Before and after admiring the tastefully appointed rooms and artfully placed tchotchkes that transformed the circa-1798 Noah Brooks Tavern into something straight out of MTV's *Cribs*, guests could rub elbows with an interesting assortment of nicely dressed do-gooders and giants of the design world. Among them: the dashing decorating duo of **Chris Drake** and **Lee Bierly**; Show House featured portrait artist and IMPROPER staff shutterbug **Kerry Brett Hurley**; bright young things **Emily** and **Peter Webster**; superhero lookalike **Tom Zaccagnino**; Newbury Street gallery owner **Robert Klein**; swanlike designers **Suzanne Logan** and **Jane Mary Harrington**; painter-turned-decorator **Eric Roseff**; several women wearing hairbands, numerous people who can discuss window treatments with gravity, and assorted others who know a good time when they see it.

Overheard in an upstairs bedroom: "This was supposed to be a playroom."

"Well," that woman's date observed, "there is a bed."

Not that the evening was without serious discussions, though, like the guy who asked a woman whether or not she wore fur.

"No, but I wear diamonds," she said. "Nothing died to make a diamond." To which he replied, "Except maybe the guy who dug it out of the mine." IB

At the Junior League's Decorators' Show House, clockwise from top: Eric Roseff; Suzanne Logan and Tom Zaccagnino; Kerry Brett Hurley and Marc Bordet.

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Bob Perachio

Concierges (clockwise from rear): **Jerry Good, Robert Morrissette, Chuck Huller, Jennifer George**; Hair: **Mitch Derosa for Mitchell John Salon**; Makeup: **Paige Dalton for Sephora**; Ties: **Hermés**; Silver tray: **Shreve, Crump & Low**; Cake: **Cakes to Remember, Brookline**; Location: **Exposure Place**; Glove and baseball: **CitySports**

PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB PERACHIO; LOBSTER PROVIDED BY MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S; FANEUIL HALL; SILVER TRAY: SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW; LOCATION: EXPOSURE PLACE

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

A NEW LOOK

With this issue, art director Carolyn Bowes realizes a goal we set a year ago when she joined the IMPROPER: to update the magazine's look. If you're a regular reader with an eye for detail, you may spot changes in everything from the typefaces to the color palette and layouts of the columns and calendar section. And if you find the results clean, modern and visually refreshing and the magazine (especially all those calendar pages) easier to read, then, happily, we've achieved our goals.

Our talented art director's work on this issue represents the magazine's first significant redesign since May 1999. It's the latest in a series of continual improvements—in print quality, color use, paper and binding—that reflect the magazine's growth since its founding in 1991. Today, as a full-color, glossy magazine, the IMPROPER has a higher page count than ever before, and media audits show an ever-growing readership (currently 313,500 people).

The improvements don't end with the redesign launched in this issue. Following our "better and better" mantra, content changes are in store for the magazine this year as well. Look for the first of those very soon in the form of a new column that we hope will become a must-read—and grist for party talk around the city.

We haven't fixed what we felt wasn't broken, though. So, while they may look a little different, the regular columns and departments you know and love are still where you expect them to be. And we're glad to launch our new look with an annual favorite—a cover story on Boston's hotel concierges. This year, focusing on taking the angst out of entertaining guests from out of town, four of these hospitality pros offer itineraries you can follow when friends and family come calling this summer. A feature exploring why karaoke has proven more than just a passing fad and another on the proliferation of women-owned businesses on the South End's Washington Street round out the issue.

As always, I'd be glad to hear your feedback on our stories, and I welcome your comments on our redesign.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

HOMETOWN HEIFERS

I'd like to thank Mopsy for her story about Heifer International (April 30). As a volunteer and supporter of theirs for seven years, I know of the great help such a simple gift as a farm animal can make in the lives of the recipients. But I'd also like to point out that of the 45 countries in which Heifer works, one of those is our own USA, with projects going on right now in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire. Interested people can even visit one of their learning centers at Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass. Call 508-886-2221 or check them out at *www.heifer.org*.

—STEVE HANSEN
Via e-mail

GOOD CLEAN THOUGHTS

Good luck to Ezra on battling the "Axis of Patchouli" (April 30). I lived with a Phish-head for a semester in college and discovered they possess other fishy powers of resistance. Your futile attempts to overcome their general lack of cleaning abilities will be short-lived, and you'll soon find yourself wondering why the Y.E.M. from the 1999 New Year's show was so sick. And if you don't know what Y.E.M. stands for yet, there's still hope.

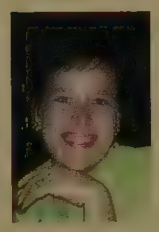
—JEREMY SINK
Brighton

GOOD LUCK TO EZRA ON BATTLING THE "AXIS OF PATCHOULI."

—JEREMY SINK
Brighton

CONTRIBUTOR

NINI DIANA



After a four-year hiatus, Nini Diana is happy to contribute once again to the IMPROPER. Diana currently works as a senior copywriter at Houghton Mifflin and a teacher of creative writing. She and her husband, Tim Partridge, own the restaurant Perdix—formerly in Jamaica Plain, opening soon in a location to be determined. Her story on the female-driven revitalization of Washington Street in the South End, "The Women of Washington Street," begins on page 26.

Tell Us What You Think

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO: The Improper Bostonian, 142 Berkeley St., Third Floor, Boston, MA 02116. E-mail: letters@improper.com. Fax: 617-859-1446. Letters must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Bridget Behling, Victoria Cook, Michelle Grabicki, Kate Marshall, Robyn O'Reilly, Brad Perriello, Joy Peterson, Elizabeth Reh, Melanie Ryan**

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PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Gloria Dawson, Zoe Parker Geisman**

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FOUNDER **Mark Semonian**

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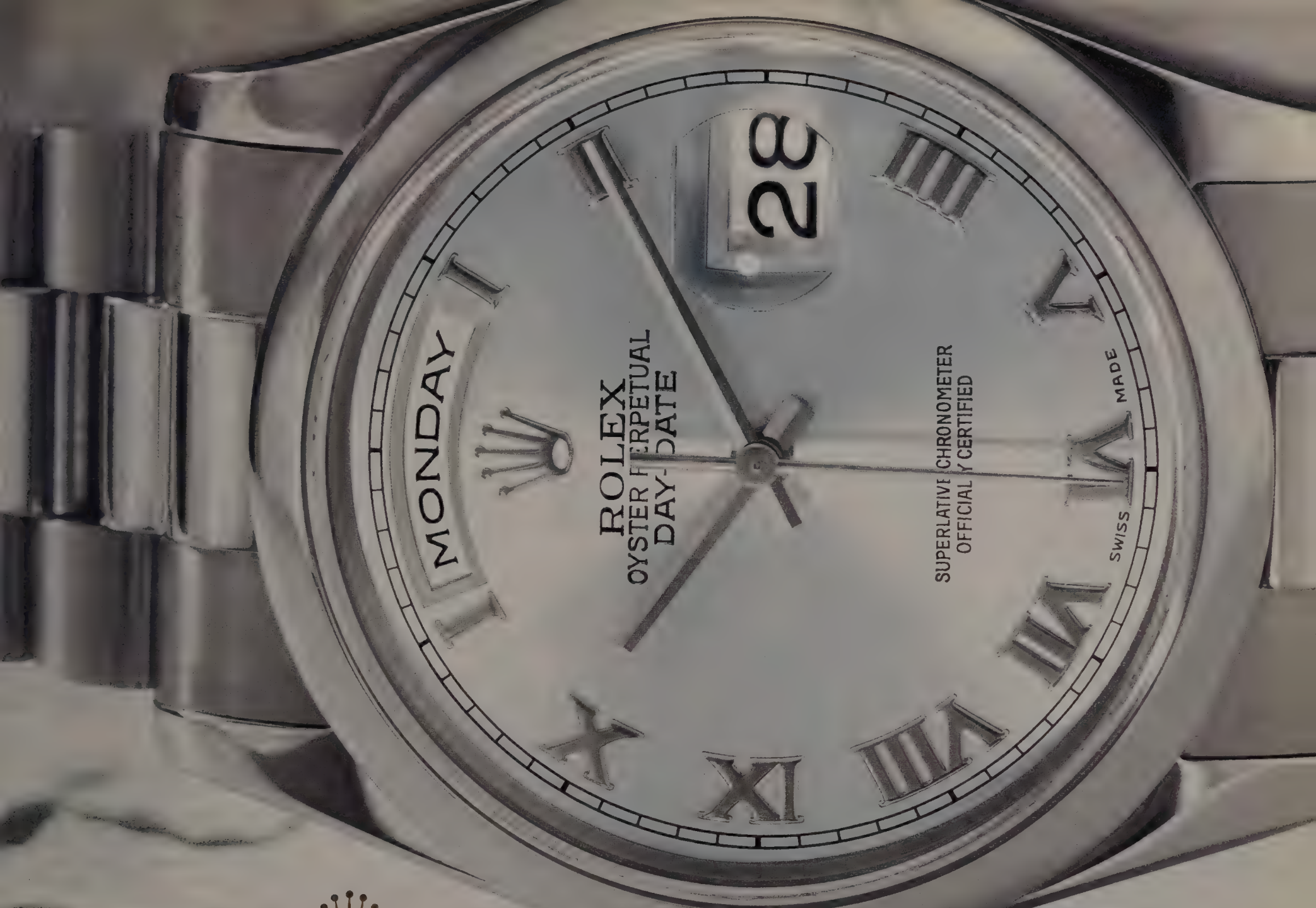

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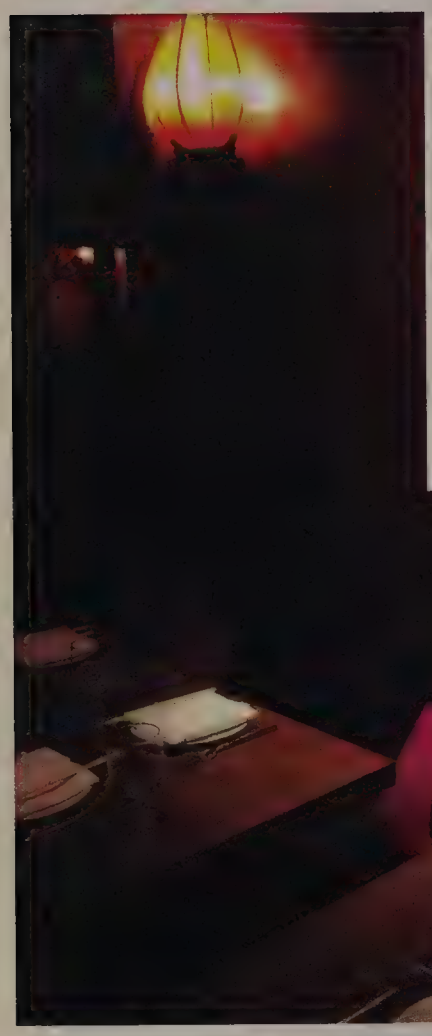
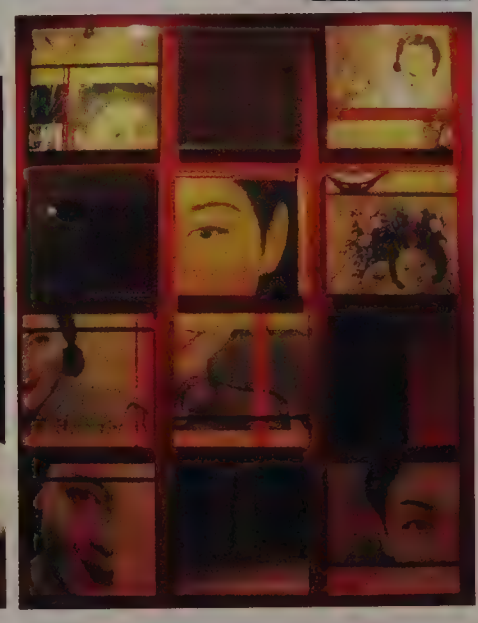


Peking Tom's owner Michael Conlon, consulting chef Marc Orfaly and designer Kristine Irving



new in town

EAST MEETS WEST

"Hip" and "chic" may not be the first words that come to mind when describing the decor of many local Chinese restaurants. So when the folks at **Peking Tom's** invited us down for a sneak preview of their new digs in the former Hibernia, we weren't sure what to expect. But it certainly wasn't antique Tibetan bar stools, raw silk droplights and bamboo floors—not to mention kumquat mojitos and a mouthwatering menu of Asian favorites by Marc Orfaly, chef/owner of Pigalle.

Along with Orfaly and designer Kristine Irving, owner Michael Conlon, of 21st Amendment, Paramount and Blarney Stone fame, has created an ultra swank lounge with gourmet Asian food and décor to die for.

Let's start with the menu. "[Orfaly] has always had a passion for Asian food," says Conlon. The portions are meant for sharing (from $5 for dim sum–sized small plates to $19 for entrées), with hot plates like crab rangoon (made with real crab), orange and tamarind pork spare ribs, and curried mussels with cilantro. At the long, handmade teak bar, patrons can sip mai tais, zombies and sake ritas while nibbling on wasabi peas.

Meanwhile, the decor by Irving, who owns Koo de Kir on Beacon Hill, is all custom-made—from the Balinese mahogany-and-banana-leaf chairs to the giant Buddha over the back bar to the bathroom wallpaper made from Chinese newspapers.

The restaurant is a total departure from Conlon's Irish leanings, but he' excited to make Peking Tom's a place to "eat, drink and laugh," he says. "We could've done another place like the 21st or the Paramount and don really well, but this was a challenge. It's all about fun." *25 Kingston St., Boston (617-482-6282).—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short*

inner view

HOMEGROWN—JOEY MCINTYRE

From New Kid to solo artist to television and Broadway star, Joey McIntyre is living proof that there is life after boy bands. When we spoke with the 29-year-old Jamaica Plain native last fall, he was adjusting to life in L.A., beginning his fourth solo album and gearing up to join the cast of Fox's *Boston Public*. Nine months later, McIntyre is back on the block to reprise his leading role in Jonathan Larson's musical *tick, tick...Boom!* at the Wilbur Theatre May 27–June 8. The blue-eyed hometown boy sat down with us to chat about West Coast life, his career and getting lucky in love.

IB: *What are the main differences between Boston and L.A.?*

JM: The differences are pretty big. The palm trees, the beautiful weather and the ocean really have an effect on you—it's just a beautiful, magical place. And I just got engaged. I came out here and fell in love, and it's life-changing. I sold out. But when you're from Boston, you never leave.

IB: *So who's the lucky lady?*

JM: Her name is Barrett Williams. She's a realtor and she found me my first rental home.

IB: *What are some of must do/see things on your list when in Boston?*

JM: Gotta go to Golden Temple for the mai tais. Gotta catch a Sox game. And you gotta walk Jamaica Pond—it's beautiful. And besides that, just being home.

IB: *How different are the real Boston public schools from the television version?*

JM: You know, you don't see Jeri Ryan in one of her short skirts walking into the classroom in Boston. But Boston Public tries to deal with the issues that come up.

IB: *Tell me about your upcoming album.*

JM: We don't have a name yet, but hopefully it'll be out by the end of summer. It describes meeting my girlfriend and falling in love, putting my heart on the line. It was great, because when I got out there I was like, 'What am I going to write about?'

IB: *Are you going to promote your album or stick with* Boston Public *if it's renewed?*

JM: Hopefully we can incorporate everything. David Kelley loves music, so who knows; maybe Colin Flynn is this closet musician and maybe he'll give it a whirl. Not that David needs any help with plot ideas. When you're in this business, you gotta do whatever's in front of you, and I'm lucky enough to do all of it.—*Jessica Iredale*

improper reports

FIRE UP THE BARBIE

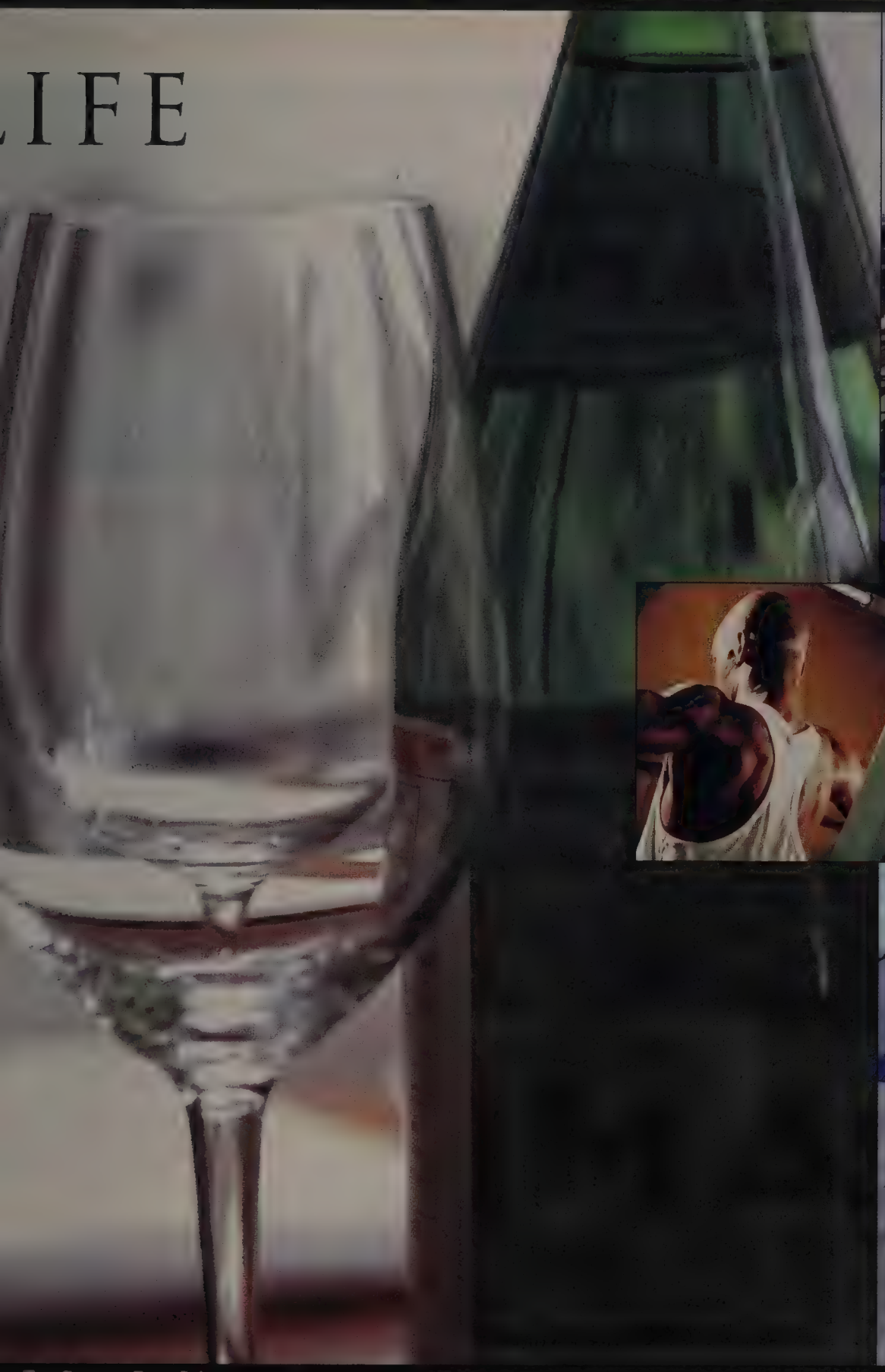
Grab the charcoal and prep the grill—barbecue season has arrived. This year, just say no to freezer-burned patties and Oscar Meyers and up the ante with some gourmet fare. Below are some of the upscale fixings available at local gourmet markets.

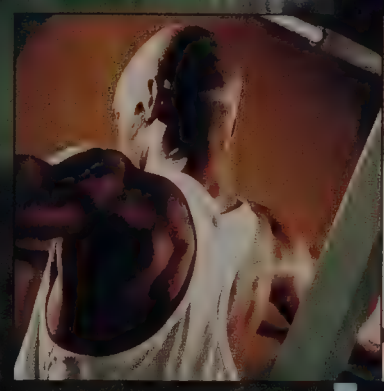
- Sweet 100 cherry tomatoes with fresh mozzarella: $8 per pound. South End Formaggio, *268 Shawmut Ave., Boston (617-350-6996).*
- Pearl all-beef, 3/4-lb hot dogs: $4.15 for four dogs. Epicurean Meat Market, *1704 Washington St., Boston (617-247-2117).*
- Roasted red bliss potato salad with grainy mustard vinaigrette: $5 per pound. Deluca's Market, *11 Charles St., Boston (617-523-4343).*
- Andouille sausage: $7.99 for four. Savenor's Market, *160 Charles St., Boston (617-723-6328).*
- Brioche long rolls: $.75 per roll. Iggy's, *205 Arlington St., Watertown (617-924-0949).*

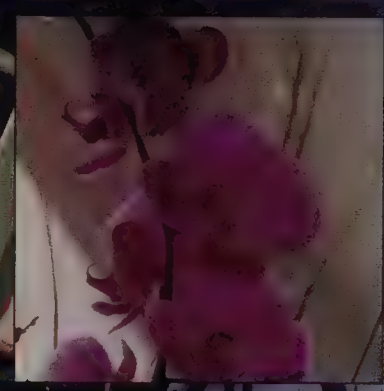
An addendum: If all else fails, Joe's American Bar & Grill offers take-out barbecue. Your only responsibility is clean-up. *279 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-4200).*

Barbeque at Joe's Bar & Grill

LIFE







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tidbits and morsels

SUPER MARKETS

Garden of Plenty...Mary Lionnette and her sons James and Robert are expanding their shabby-chic South End café, Garden of Eden, to include a gourmet market by the same name in the café's original space. Mary tells us that the shop will open in late May as an Italian delicatessen with fresh breads, prepared foods, artisinal cheeses, meats and local produce. *577 Tremont. St., Boston (617-247-8377).*

Malt Madness...In celebration of Starbucks' new Frappuccino flavors (mocha malt and chocolate malt blended creme), the first 65 customers to set foot in any of the java giant's bazillion locations between 2 and 4 pm on May 20 will receive a free malt tumbler. An even bigger shock to the system is that the whole deal requires no purchase—not even of one of the lowly drip coffees.

Ciao, Thailand...The North End has always been synonymous with Italian food. But Mai Thai, a new Thai restaurant on North Washington Street, has bucked the trend. Business partners Ahmed Berkane and Pat Thavornkasem opened the restaurant a few months back, offering authentic Thai cuisine at reasonable prices and a full bar. Looks like North Enders now have the option of peanut sauce with their noodles. *90 North Washington St., Boston (617-723-2022).*

Tea Time's Up...Arlington's upscale little boîte Tea Tray in the Sky fell off the radar a few weeks ago and has reemerged as Elements, under the same ownership. Former Icarus chef Bill Flumerfelt, who had joined Tea Tray shortly before its transformation, revamped the menu to include seasonal American offerings like sautéed skate wing, and asparagus and goat cheese terrine, priced between $16 and $26. The eatery still features an extensive list of more than 100 teas, and the renovations include a new lounge area. *689 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-643-7203).*

Supermarket Sweep...Slowly but surely the local Star Markets are being replaced by Shaw's, and the latest notch on the grocer's belt is perhaps the most impressive yet. Holding court at the intersection of Huntington Avenue and Exeter Street, in the Prudential Center, the new übermarket, baptized Shaw's in the City, opened April 25. It's jaw-droppingly big, with 40,000 square feet of market space. The multilevel flagship store replaces the Boylston Street Star Market and features specialty departments such as LaCarte prepared foods, Wild Harvest organic foods, a sushi station and even a wine shop. *65 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-262-4688).*

—EH., J.S. and Jessica Iredale

sam says

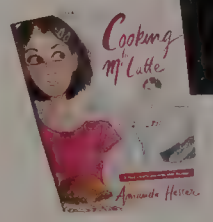
CHOCOLATE COUTURE

Finally, my two favorite things come together...high fashion and chocolate. No, it's not edible clothing, but close. Aliya Wali, a daughter of the family behind Dali, Cuchi Cuchi and Tapeo, has created **Choco Choco House**, which makes mini chocolate handbags. The chocolates are inspired by high-fashion handbags such as Gucci and Chanel, as well as original designs, and they are sold in boxes of six ($17.95), nine ($26.95) or 12 ($35.95) pieces. Celebrities have been gobbling them up—they were included in the gift bags when Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne hosted a benefit for Elton John's AIDS Foundation—and Vogue has been ordering them by the hundreds to give out as gifts. And these treats taste as good as they look, with flavors like cappuccino and blue flower Earl Grey tea—that is, if you can bring yourself to eat something so beautiful. *www.chocochocohouse.com —Samantha House*

around town

LOVE OVER LATTES

Part cookbook, part memoir, *Cooking for Mr. Latte*, a new book by *New York Times* food writer **Amanda Hesser**, traces this Bentley College grad's relationship with her now husband, Tad Friend—from the initial blind date (where she dubs him "Mr. Latte" after he has the gall to order a latte after dinner) to an anxious meeting with his parents to the couple's eventual nuptials. At the end of each chapter, Hesser includes a recipe—a dish that either she or a friend prepared or something off a restaurant menu—introduced with personal commentaries like this one on her aunt's meatloaf recipe: "Aunt Nora never follows [the recipe], and she can never bring herself to shape it into a loaf. My mother follows it to a T. You can decide: Should you be the rebellious sister, or the disciplinarian?"



Recently in town for a book-launching party at Rialto, 32-year-old Hesser described how she got into the world of food writing during her days at Bentley: "I wrote a letter to chef Jody Adams when she was at Michaela's and said, 'I know nothing about cooking, but is there any room in your kitchen? I'm willing to do whatever.'" Adams put her to work, plating desserts, running butter, straining stock. "I didn't realize it at the time, but Michaela's was the rare, extremely pleasant kitchen with an even-keeled, great boss," she says.

Later, Hesser took a seminar on French culinary history at Radcliffe and ended up meeting Sheryl Julian and Stephen Meuse of the *Boston Globe*—she's a food writer and he covers wine. The two introduced Hesser to the world of food writing. Fast-forward about a decade: Now, she's dining at New York's hottest restaurants as the *Times*' food columnist and schmoozing with the likes of *Vogue*'s Jeffrey Steingarten and *The Atlantic Monthly*'s Corby Kummer. "I figured out that I didn't have what it takes to be a chef—the physical stamina and the talent," she says. "But I knew that I could write about food."—*Julie Short*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Bad Boys, Bad Boys...The media afford us many outlets to indulge our inner law enforcer—*Cops, Law and Order, Judge Judy, Police Academy (1–6)*—and if TV and movies' romanticized representation of criminal justice leaves you longing to try it out for yourself, here's your chance. The Boston Police Department's Citizen Police Academy provides free sessions every Wednesday from 6-8:30 pm at Police Headquarters. According to Sergeant Michael Chapman, the academy does not resemble actual recruit training (sorry, no honorary badges are awarded), but is designed to educate the community about police operations and teach citizens how they can help their local police. Topics range from homicide to weapons of mass destruction to homeland security. *Through June 18. 1 Schroeder Plaza, Boston (617-343-4410).*

Still Smokin'... Buddy Greco, a jazz musician and close friend of the late Frank Sinatra, swung by Lucky's Lounge last week along with his wife, Lezlie, to check out Sinatra Sundays and have one last cigar before the smoking ban went into effect. In town for their show *Fever* at the Copley Theater, they performed a few songs themselves, with Greco on piano and Anders on vocals. The duo also swapped Sinatra stories with the band, including this one: Buddy Greco was the guy who jumped out of the cake at Sinatra's 50th birthday bash.

One Man's Trash...Boston recently became home to a 1-800-GOT-JUNK franchise. Cousins Bob Valeri and Don Valerio tossed their tech jobs to open a local branch of the full-service junk removal service in late March. For a minimum charge of $95, the company hauls away anything and everything the trash men leave behind, from construction and renovation debris to old furniture. (They draw the line at hazardous waste, though.) Up to 60 percent of the junk is recycled or donated to local charities. Valeri stresses 1-800's emphasis on professional service. He says, "You won't have to worry about a guy with a broken-down pick-up truck showing up." *www.1800gotjunk.com.*

Snappy Turtle...Finding unique additions to one's wardrobe is easier said than done in this day of Banana Republic, J. Crew and Gap market saturation. But relief is in sight: Turtle, a women's clothing, jewelry and accessories boutique, opened March 1 in the South End. The shop is operated by jewelry designer Storey Hieronymus Houck and her husband, David, and stocks pieces by emerging designers from around the globe. David describes the merchandise as "very wearable, with an artistic flair, but nothing avant garde or really out there." Take a look. After all, it's not junior high anymore—you don't need to wear the same outfit as your best friend. *619 Tremont. St., Boston (617-266-2610).*

Murder, He Wrote...Just in case any murderous Scottish nobles with visions of witches and bloody daggers make their way into a U.S. court, the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and lawyers from the Federalist Society have a handle on proceedings. The third annual Shakespeare and the Law series presents *MacBeth and the Insanity Defense* at the Shubert Theatre May 22, as a prelude to the CSC's Shakespeare on the Common summer production of *MacBeth*. Company artistic director Steven Maler directs notable public officials, including House Speaker Thomas Finneran and Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey, in a reading of Shakespeare's play, followed by a panel discussion on the legal implications of MacBeth's mental state. *4 pm. Free. 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393).*

Super Sonik...Drivers scouring the streets of Boston in search of that elusive parking spot may have noticed that in addition to bearing "Tow Zone", "Street Cleaning" and "Resident Parking Only" restrictions, Boston's signposts have also been adorned with colorful images of castles, teapots and birds. It's the work of globetrotting urban "street artist" Sonik, whose unsanctioned Signs of Life project includes more than 600 whimsical installations in and around Boston. He says, "Our streets and surroundings contain many spaces for us all to creatively beautify and communicate visually. Advertising is a cancer in our world, and public art is the chemotherapy." The mystery sign artist also has a large street sculpture on view at Lowell's Revolving Museum. You can see more of Sonik's work at *www.theartwheredreamscometrue.com.*

—EH., J.I and J.S.

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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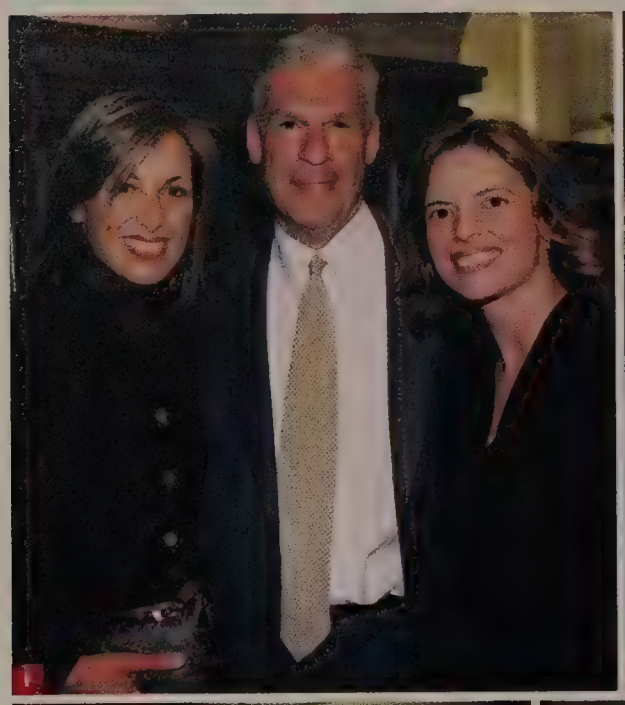
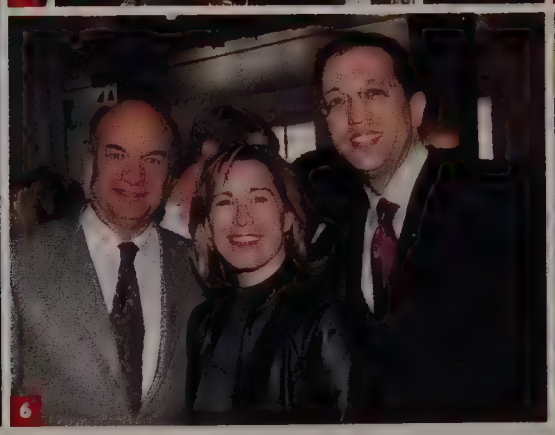
PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY





Edible Art was held April 24 at Shreve, Crump & Low. Some 500 party-goers gathered with Boston's top chefs, who presented culinary masterpieces inspired by renowned works of art. Celebrity judges evaluated the chef's creations, and awards were given for both taste and design. The evening's proceeds support scholarships for minority and disadvantaged students at the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University.

1. From left: **Sara Underwood**, **Ed Gold man** and **Maria Nocito**, news ancho general manager and marketing projec director, respectively, for WBZ-TV Chan nel 4.
2. **Jennifer Gawer**, manager at Mistra and **Ming Tsai**, chef/owner of Blue Gi ger in Wellesley.
3. **Amy Glynn** (left), New York Life instit tional financial services, and **Lea Bishop**, director of catering for Babso College.
4. **Dean Romano** (left), general manag of Meritage, and **Ed Costa**, director food and beverage for the Boston Harbo Hotel.
5. From left: **Ralph Rozell**, New Englan representative for LaVazza Coffees; **So phie Daniels**, sales representative f Ruby Wines, and **Jim Petroulias**, sal representative for Accardi Foods.
6. From left: **Christopher Bates** and **L Bates**, co-owners of Montage Furnitu Gallery, and **Saverio Mancina**, accou director for Kortenhaus Communication
7. **J. Eric Bornhofft**, managing director f MedTech Capital, and **Lynne Polan** "The Cigar Lady."
8. From left: **Bobby Giarratani**, **Joan Lerner** and **Peter Dickason**, sales re resentatives for Ruby Wines.

The Laboure Center's Spring Reception was held April 24 at Anthony's Pier 4 in South Boston. More than 500 people attended the 21st annual reception benefiting the programs of Catholic Charities' Laboure Center, which serve South Boston children and elders. Mayor Thomas Menino received the Laboure Service Award for his advocacy of the center's new building, located in the West Broadway Housing Development. More than $125,000 was raised.

9. From left: **William Higgins**, president of William Higgins Insurance in South Boston, **Elaine Connolly** and her husband, **Joseph**, treasurer of Norfolk County.
10. From left: **Anthony Gilardi**, project manager for the Boston Redevelopment Authority; **Caroline Fish** of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and **Joe Rull**, South Boston coordinator for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.
11. **Ed Dervan** (left), CFO of Catholic Charities, and **Albert Sherman**, vice chancellor of UMass Medical, Worcester.
12. Boston City Council president **Michael Flaherty** (left) and **Tom Butler**, director of government affairs for Massport..

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VALERIE WILDER
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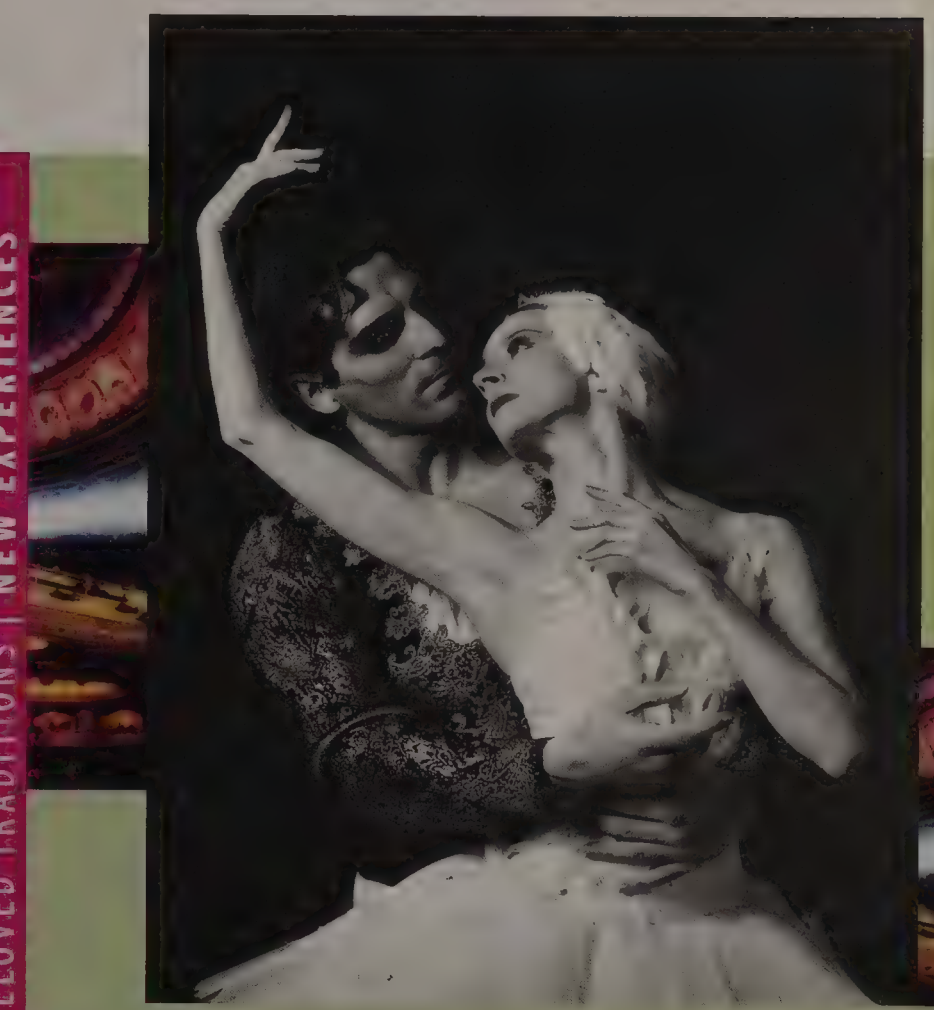

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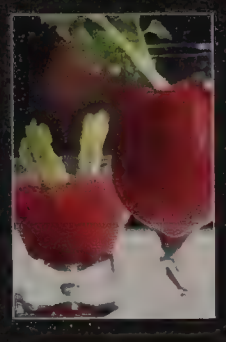
The Nutcracker is not part of a regular subscription. Photos of Larissa Ponomarenko and Yury Yanowsky, Sabi Varga

tonic

THE MET LOUNGE



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TIPPING OVER

Let's extend the list of tip-worthy services to include everything. I take all major credit cards.

I have a problem with this country's cherished custom of tipping. The idea is that you are receiving a type of service that varies in degree of quality, and you are to base your tip upon the level of service you have received. But in practice, I always leave at least a 15 percent tip, even if the waiter set my hair, instead of the banana flambé, on fire. I'm just too much of a wimp to leave a bad tip—or, the horror—no tip. I'm a pathological tipper. Call me Jack the Tipper.

Case in point: Upon a recent return to Logan, I got in a cab and asked to be taken to Brookline. The cabbie asked, "Which tunnel do you want to use?" This was such a stupid question that I didn't understand what he meant. Why would you take any tunnel other than the Sumner? "Just take Storrow Drive," I told him, which he interpreted as, "Please take the most illogical, circuitous route you can think of at the moment. Get on the Pike and drive back and forth through the tollbooths a couple times while you're at it. I am a moron and won't know the difference."

He took the Ted Williams Tunnel. Apparently, since the new extension opened in January, this has become a favorite tactic among cabbies to ring up a few extra bucks on the meter. He took the Southie exit while I sat in back cursing him under my breath. Logan to Brookline via Southie? By the time we climbed onto Route 93 and, roughly $10 into our trip, passed the Sumner Tunnel, I was ready to assault him through the coin slot. "Why didn't we take the Sumner Tunnel?" I demanded. "Because there's too much traffic that way," he said. "We'd be stuck at the tolls." It was 11 o'clock Sunday night, although I suppose it may have been rush hour in whichever country he was from.

Well, you can bet that when we got to Brookline, this seedy character got a tip commensurate with his tunnel-switching shenanigans. I said "Here's your tip: Don't rip people off, pud-face," and I gave him three cents more than the fare. OK, that's what I should have done. I actually wussed out and gave him a 20 percent tip because I started wondering if maybe he thought he really *had* taken the best route. It was theoretically possible. And then I'd be some kind of scumbag if I took food out of his children's mouths by not tipping.

The last time I failed to pay up an expected tip was when I went to Florida last winter, and that was due to sheer tip burnout. On vacation there were the obvious tips, like the servers for every meal and the bartenders for every drink, but there were also tips for the cleaning lady at the hotel, assorted cab drivers and the crew on a sailboat we took on a snuba-diving reef cruise. (Snuba is like diving except that your tank stays on the surface in a little raft. Breathing underwater is utterly terrifying, but that's a story for another time.) By the last day, I had tip overload. There was a tip jar in an ice-cream shop, and I made a conscious decision to ignore it. "I'm sorry, Mr. Ice-Cream Scooper," I thought, "I'm just not feeling like tipping anyone right now. You did a fine job; this is just an issue I'm having, and I'm sorry you're the victim." A little while later we took a tour of Hemingway's house, where we didn't tip the tour guide. Again, he did a fine job tour-guiding, but in a few hours I was going to be on a plane to Boston where it was roughly 15 degrees, and I

I ALWAYS LEAVE AT LEAST A 15 PERCENT TIP, EVEN IF THE WAITER SET MY HAIR, INSTEAD OF THE BANANA FLAMBÉ, ON FIRE.

would still be in a lush subtropical paradise, wandering around Hemingway's mansion in his Hawaiian shirt, feeding six-toed cats. That I should give him extra money to endure this hardship seemed laughable.

Maybe my underlying problem is that I'm jealous. Hey, I provide a service. It would make me feel very well-appreciated if everyone who reads the IMPROPER tipped me, say, four cents per column (or, to put it another way, $1 per year). With 313,000 readers at last count, that would really provide me with incentive to take care of you and not spit in your paragraphs. On second thought, maybe that's a bad idea, because $313,000 might be enough for me to live in Mexico for a few years, eating burritos and taking an afternoon siesta every day like I know I'm meant to do. You'd like to read about that, right? iB

YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?

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Soroff ON

ISRAEL HOROVITZ

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

One of theater's most prolific and gifted playwrights, Israel Horovitz was born and raised in Wakefield and studied acting at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts from 1961 to 1963. In 1975, he received a master's degree in English literature from the City University of New York. His plays have been translated into more than 20 languages and include such works as *The Indian Wants the Bronx*, which launched the career of Al Pacino; *Line*, which is now in its 29th year and ranks as the longest-running play in New York; *Rats; Today I Am a Fountain Pen; Hopscotch; Park Your Car in Harvard Yard;* and *Lebensraum*. In 1979, he founded the Gloucester Stage Company, and he has served as its artistic director since then. His screenplays include *Author! Author!*, *A Man in Love*, and *Sunshine*, and he has acted in several films, including HBO's *Subway Stories* and PBS' *The First Seven Years*. A two-time winner of the Obie award, he has also received the Drama Desk Award, the Prix du Jury at the Cannes Film Festival and many other honors. His adult children include Matthew, a television personality; Rachel, a feature film producer; and Adam, a member of the Beastie Boys. He lives in New York and in Gloucester with his wife, Gillian, a world-class marathon runner, and their twins. This summer in Gloucester he will present the 35th anniversary production of *The Indian Wants the Bronx*, as well as three world premieres.

"[MUSICALS] DEPRESS ME, MOSTLY BECAUSE I WATCH THE AUDIENCE AND THINK, 'IF THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT, THERE'S REALLY NO PLACE FOR ME IN THIS WORLD.'"

Jonathan Soroff: *First of all, your name. Does it get you a discount on El Al?*

Israel Horovitz: Well, it's not my real name, which was very Waspy. I changed it because I'd always wanted to pass as Jewish.

JS: *Why Gloucester?*

IH: I grew up in Wakefield, and Gloucester was the place we went on special days. After I came to New York to be a playwright, I became terrified to leave. I thought they'd forget me instantly. I was so scared the logo "playwright" would fall off my forehead that it was years before I could go back to Massachusetts, but when I finally did, it was a fluke. A friend had been touring in a play, and I saw him on the street in New York. He said the play had closed early, and the house where the cast had been staying, which was paid for through the next two weeks, was sitting empty in Gloucester. We went up, and that was it. After I bought the house I'm still in, I thought, "What the hell am I gonna do in a town without a theater?" So we started Gloucester Stage Company.

JS: *You started performing in the back room of a tavern. Was that an auspicious place to stage plays?*

IH: Well, it was free. But the significant thing was that literally our first night, there was a line of people outside on the sidewalk and it was packed.

JS: *So it was an instant success?*

IH: Well, yes, in the sense that for years I could make up any deficit we had by writing a check for a few hundred bucks. I've always known that you can make a small fortune in the theater. You only need to start out with a large fortune.

JS: Line *is the longest-running play in New York. To what does it owe its longevity?*

IH: It's been going 30 years next year, and it's survived because it's cheap. It's five actors on an empty stage with a piece of tape, and it's funny. You'd think I would've learned something from that.

JS: *Which musical would you rather sit through:* Phantom of the Opera *or* Cats?

IH: I don't go to musicals, and I haven't seen one in years. They depress me, mostly because I watch the audience and think, "If this is what they want, there's really no place for me in this world." I can't bear it.

JS: *Most theater people are superstitious. Do you have any superstitions?*

IH: I need strolling violins near me at all times.

JS: *Is Al Pacino a playwright's dream to work with?*

IH: I don't know if any movie star can be a playwright's dream to work with, but Al has a particularly good story sense, and he's like a dog with a bone when he sinks his teeth into something. He is an astonishing personality.

JS: *Is there an actor you'd never work with again?*

IH: There's a whole list, but I don't intend to publish it. [Laughs.] What I can say is that they're essentially people who remind me of myself at my worst.

JS: *Is it harder to write drama or comedy?*

IH: That's sort of what Terrence McNally and I are talking about now. I'm in awe of his comic talent, and I think it works in reverse with him. There's something I do, a sadness I dragged from my childhood, that comes out as very strong drama.

JS: *How about the biggest difference between writing for the screen and for the stage?*

IH: When you're writing movies, you're so involved with so many goddamn people, and it just goes on and on. But I enjoy it. I've written a film that I'm going to direct next year when my youngest kids go off to college. Next year will be the first year in 41 years that I haven't had a child living at home. I have a team of psychiatrists standing by.

JS: *Does Neil Simon get the respect he deserves?*

IH: Who?

JS: *Neil Simon. The playwright.*

IH: I don't know who you mean.

JS: *Enough said. So who would you rather go out on a three-day bender with: Sam Shepard, Tom Stoppard, David Mamet or Christopher Durang?*

IH: I've been out on benders with all o those people, so I guess you need to find somebody new.

JS: *You've returned to acting. Are you good?*

IH: Yeah, I have a range of maybe A to B. Or B-minus. If I'm cast right, though there's nobody better.

JS: *You're a bit of a health nut. Are you neurotic about it?*

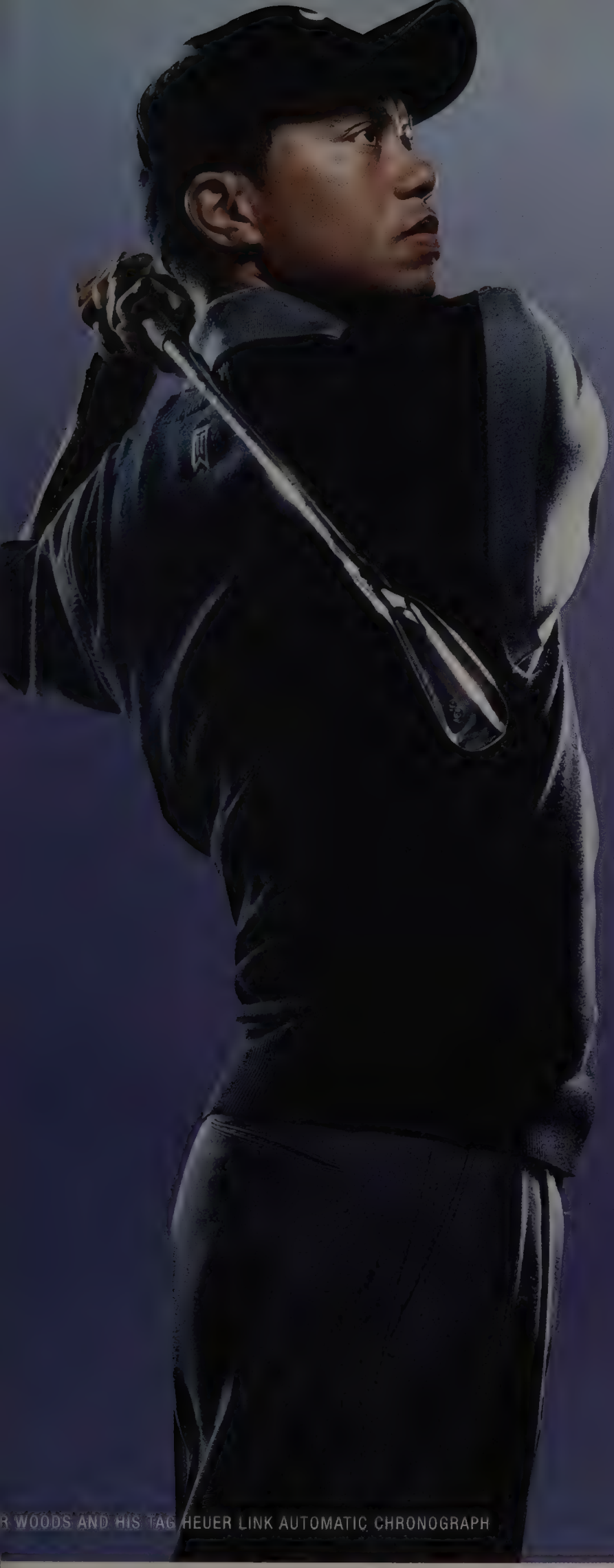
IH: I think it tells you how dissolute I was at one time. When I was at drama school in London, I was smoking and drinking and drugging with the best of 'em, but Gielgud came to the school to talk, and a week later Olivier did too. Gielgud said that every morning he memorized an article from the newspaper, verbatim, because the brain was a muscle that needed to be exercised. And Olivier talked about his exercise regimen. At around the same time, I started to meet a bunch of playwrights, and I thought, "My God, I don't want to look like that." I realized my body wasn't something that existed just to carry my head from room to room. I also got so drunk one night that I fell down a flight of stairs and through a plate glass window. That was a good piece of punctuation.

JS: *If Ibsen or Chekhov had lived and written in Gloucester, what one thing would theater-goers know about it?*

IH: That's a brilliant question. I don't really feel Chekhov the way I feel Ibsen. My new play, the duet I'm working on with Terrence McNally, is very Ibsen-like. It has the same goal, to kind of redefine classical tragedy in modern terms. I just don't feel Chekhov's work. I know I'm supposed to.

JS: *Favorite form of real-life theater?*

IH: Living in New York, the subway or the streets, equally. I can easily go from morning to night doing nothing but watching those two things. IB



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WELCOME TO *beantown*

Wondering how to entertain your visitors this summer? Four Boston concierges have the answers.

COMPILED BY JESSICA IREDALE **PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN**

With its blustery winds and piles of snow, Boston doesn't exactly offer a warm welcome to those who visit during the long cold season. But once the warm weather arrives, Bostonians' friends and family members flock from all over, lured by the charms of a city in full bloom. There are the Swan Boats, Red Sox games, concerts, walks along the waterfront, festivals and picnics on the Charles....In the summer, there is simply too much to do, and the pressures of being a good host can mount as you try to plan the best activities for your visitors.

With so many options to choose from, we asked four of the city's most knowledgeable concierges to design weekend itineraries tailored for guests that range from your sister and her elementary school kids to a hard-to-impress urban sophisticate. Nine Zero's Chuck Huller adopts the jet-set mentality for that worldly friend from New York, while Robert Morrissette of the Boston Harbor Hotel offers a family-oriented tour-de-fun that will delight anyone who has children—and goes to bed early. Jennifer George of the Ritz-Carlton Boston gets creative for your arts aficionado uncle, and Jerry Good of the Colonnade keeps the atmosphere light and the drinks steady for your party-hearty college buddy. By Sunday night, your only worry will be getting your guests to pack up their things and say goodbye.

saturday, 2 p
CIAO BEL

SEE *and be seen*

CHUCK HULLER

Nine Zero
90 Tremont St., Boston (617-772-5800)

GUEST: NEW YORK SOPHISTICATE

Friday

9 pm: The weekend begins with an upscale dinner at Mantra. The French and Indian cuisine, restored bank vault and minimalist décor will impress even the most worldly-wise guest. *52 Temple Place, Boston (617-542-8111).*

11 pm: After dinner, walk across the street to Limbo, a cool club where you can relax and have a few drinks while listening to live jazz. *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280).*

12:30 am: A 10-minute walk brings you to the three-story dance club called Level. Mingle and dance to pulsating music spun by some of the city's best DJs. You can also reserve a table, but that requires a minimum purchase of one bottle of wine or champagne. *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*

2 am: Call it a night. You have a big day ahead of you tomorrow.

Saturday

9:30 am: Have brunch at Sel de la Terre or at Nine Zero's restaurant, Spire, two of the few spots where you can get a full brunch on Saturday. *Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-720-1300); Spire, 90 Tremont St., Boston (617-772-0202).*

11:30 am: Give yourselves the royal treatment at Etant Spa, a few blocks down the street. After the experts remove your knots and kinks, enjoy an espresso in the spa's private garden. 524 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-5040).

2 pm: All that relaxation may have stirred your appetite for lunch, and Newbury Street's Ciao Bella has the best veal chop in town. Be on your best behavior—general manager Brent Kaufman is a noted authority on dining etiquette who has appeared on The Food Network. *240A Newbury St., Boston (617-536-2626).*

4 pm: New York's shopping scene can't be beat, but you can impress your friend with a look at Giorgio Armani's spring collection and a trip to the famous Louis Boston. *Boutique Giorgio Armani, 22 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-3200); Louis Boston, 234 Berkeley St., Boston (617-262-6100).*

6 pm: Enjoy a dinner at Bomboa, where the menu combines Brazilian and French flair. Try the *cozido*, a Latin pot-au-feu with braised brisket, oxtail, green beans, malanga, lotus root and bamboo rice. *35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363).*

10:30 pm: Walk over to Saint, a new playground for a hip, discerning crowd. Try one of the many infusion drinks (the raspberry-infused vodka is delicious) and enjoy the heavenly atmosphere. *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134).*

12:30 am: It's time to dance at Russian-themed Pravda 116. Hole up in one of the comfortable booths up front for a cocktail or two, then head to the back for thumping club beats. *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*

2:15 am: Admittedly, round-the-clock dining options are a little more scarce in Boston than in New York, but News serves upscale diner cuisine until 5 am. It even has a full-time sushi chef. *150 Kneeland St., Boston (617-426-6397).*

Sunday

10 am: Time for brunch at Aquitaine, the South End French bistro where you can savor delicious food (try the pressed sandwiches made with duck, ham and Gruyére cheese) as well as people-watching opportunities. *569 Tremont St., Boston (617-424-8577).*

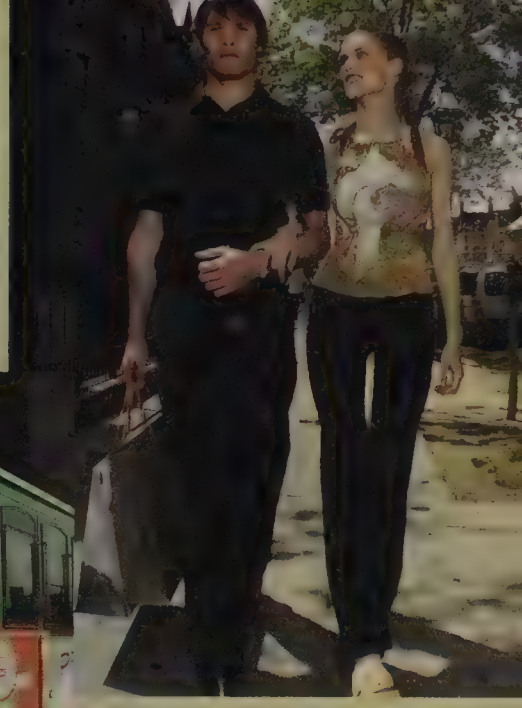
12:15 pm: Pick up Old Town Trolley, between Boston Common and the Public Garden, just a 15-minute walk from the restaurant. It sounds touristy, but the hour-long ride is a good way to take in the sights. Don't worry—fanny packs and cameras are optional. *(617-269-7010).*

2:30 pm: Hop off the trolley at the North End stop and walk over to Napoli Pastry, one of the newest Italian pastry shops in Boston. Owner Vincenzo Grimaldi is a veritable encyclopedia of knowledge on traditional pastries and gelati. *120 Salem St., Boston (617-742-0809).*

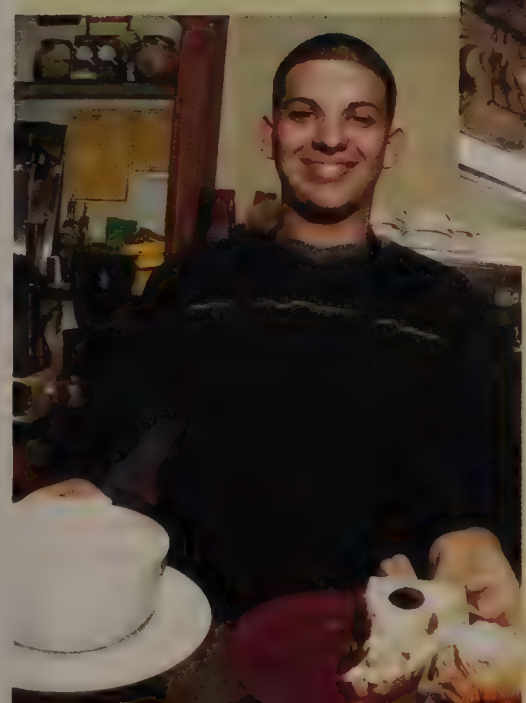
4 pm: End the weekend with a little Revolutionary War history. The waterfront is a 10-minute walk from the North End, and a scenic 90-minute Boston Harbor Cruise is both informative and refreshing. *1 Long Wharf, Boston (617-227-4321).*

5:30 pm: It's time to head home.

saturday, 4 pm
SHOPPING ON
NEWBURY STREET

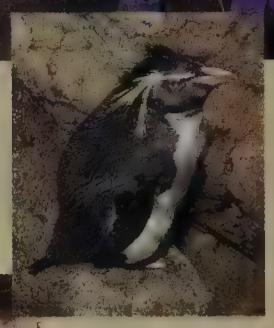


sunday, 12:15 pm
OLD TOWN TROLLEY



sunday, 2:30 pm
NAPOLI PASTRY

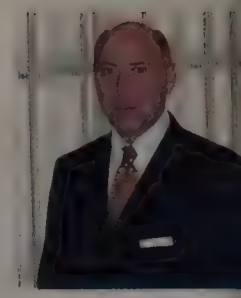
saturday, 9 am
NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM



saturday, 3:30 pm
OMNI PARKER HOUSE

sunday, 3:30 pm
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

A *child's-eye* VIEW



ROBERT MORRISSETTE
Boston Harbor Hotel
70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000)

GUESTS: YOUR SISTER, WITH HER SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Saturday

8 am: After a restful night's sleep, start your day in the North End with a classic breakfast of eggs or pancakes at neighborhood favorite Anthony's Cafe on the Waterfront. *252 Commercial St., Boston (617-742-2987).*

9 am: Next, take a short, scenic walk along the waterfront to the New England Aquarium. The kids can get their hands wet in the interactive exhibits like the tide pool, with sea stars, sea urchins and hermit crabs, and watch divers get up close and personal with the sharks in the 200,000-gallon Giant Ocean Tank. Feedings take place five times a day. *Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200).*

11 am: Head to the Aquarium's IMAX theater for a 3-D tour of the Titanic in *Ghosts of the Abyss*. In this 60-minute film, director James Cameron and his team take audiences two miles below sea level to tour the ship's wreckage. *Abyss* often sells out early, so either pick up your tickets when you arrive at the aquarium or call to reserve them in advance. *(866-815-IMAX).*

12 pm: Walk over to nearby Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market for lunch. The Central Market building offers dining options from around the world, or you can stop at one of the many restaurants that line the surrounding cobblestone walkways. Todd English's Kingfish Hall is a favorite for outdoor dining and seafood. Save time to browse the shops, especially Zoinks! Toys, where the kids can check out unique playthings.

1:45 pm: To find out more information on historic Faneuil Hall and some of the other sites on the Freedom Trail, stop by the National Park Service Visitor Center at 15 State Street, a short walk from Faneuil Hall and just across from the Old State House. To walk the 2.5-mile Freedom Trail, follow the red stripe in the pavement down Washington Street to the Old South Meeting House. There, the kids can learn about the Boston Tea Party through artifacts and interactive exhibits. The Freedom Trail also takes you past the Granary Burying Ground, the resting place of historic figures like Paul Revere, Sam Adams, John Hancock and Elizabeth Foster Vergoose (better known as Mother Goose). *Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-1713); Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439); Granary Burying Ground, Tremont St., Boston (617-635-7389).*

3:30 pm: The Omni Parker House Hotel is a great place to stop and rest your feet. It's just a few blocks away from the historic burial ground, on the corner of School and Tremont streets. Don't miss out on a slice of the famous Boston cream pie from Parker's Restaurant—this is where the recipe originated. And although it might look like just another fancy hotel, the Parker House is rich with history. Pick up a booklet from the concierge to find the spot in Parker's where JFK proposed to Jackie. If you're a literary buff, you can check out the room where Charles Dickens worked on *A Christmas Carol*. *60 School St., Boston (617-227-8600).*

5 pm: Take a rest before dinner. Find a bench on the Boston Common, just a short walk from the Parker House, and watch your nieces and nephews feed the squirrels. If your guests are staying at the Boston Harbor Hotel, this is a great time for everyone to take a dip in the indoor pool.

6 pm: Boston's North End offers a real taste of the ol country, and what kid doesn't love spaghetti or pizza? Mar Italian spots cater to kids, and Saraceno's is a good bet fo adults too, with its osso buco and lobster and shrimp fra d avolo. *286 Hanover St., Boston (617-227-5888).*

7:15 pm: Walk off a big pasta dinner with a stro through the North End. In North Square, located just few blocks from the cluster of restaurants on Hanov Street, you can walk past Paul Revere's house. (Tourin hours for the Revere House are 9:30 am-5:15 pm, so ma it on your agenda for the next visit.) Over on Sale Street, there's the Old North Church and the lantern that signaled Revere's famous ride. *Paul Revere House, North Square, Boston (617-523-2338); Old North Churc 193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676).*

7:30 pm: Take the clan back to Hanover Street for canno and Italian cookies at one of the many bakeries and cafés.

8:30 pm: Walk back through Faneuil Hall Marketplace see the street performers before heading home for the nigh

Sunday

8 am: Once everyone is dressed and ready for the da head to Margo Bistro at the Harborside Inn, a gre breakfast spot located on State Street. Try the Gran Marnier French toast or, for smaller appetites, th short stack of pancakes. *185 State St., Boston (61 670-2033).*

9 am: If you're not too tired from yesterday's walkin head to the Boston Public Garden on foot. Otherwis take the Green Line to the Arlington stop or have taxi drop you off on the corner of Charles and Beaco Streets, and then stroll through the garden. Snap couple of pictures of the kids by the bronze Make Wa for Ducklings sculptures, created by artist Nan Schön as a tribute to Robert McCloskey's popular chi dren's book. Then, everyone can take a leisurely 1 minute ride on the Swan Boats. Walk up Newbu Street for window shopping and stop for lunch at o of the many outdoor cafés. For the best views of Bea town, walk over to the nearby Prudential Tower a take the elevator up to the Skywalk Observatory. A terwards, stroll down Boylston to FAO Schwarz, whe the kids will enjoy climbing on the lap of the gia teddy bear at the corner of Boylston and Berkel Streets. *Swan Boats (617-522-1966); Prudential Sk walk (617-859-0648).*

1 pm: Either cruise the harbor with characters from t city's past with Boston History Collaborative's Boston Sea tour, or return to the Prudential for a Duck Tour. T Duck Tour begins on wheels, but then the amphibious v hicle takes you for a ride on the Charles River. Ticke sell out quickly, so order in advance. *Boston by Sea, Rowes Wharf (617-542-8000); Boston Duck Tours (61 723-3825).*

3:30 pm: Grab a taxi and head over to the Children Museum for some fun and educational hands-on activ ties for the kids. Highlights include the Arthur's Wor exhibit, based on the books by Marc Brown and the P television series, and Alice's Wonderland, another inte active exhibit based on Lewis Carroll's classic. *300 Co gress St., Boston (617-426-8855).*

6:30 pm: Time to help everyone get packed for the t home.

ARTS *appreciation*

JENNIFER GEORGE

Ritz-Carlton Boston
15 Arlington St., Boston (617-536-5700)

GUEST: YOUR UNCLE, AN ARTS AFICIONADO

Friday

7:30 pm: Put on something fancy for a night out at the Boston Pops. Whether by T or by taxi, make your way to Symphony Hall, where you'll tap your feet as Keith Lockhart leads the venerable New England orchestra in a program of American classics. *301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200).*

9:45 pm: The Top of the Hub is perfect for a postconcert cocktail. The restaurant on the 52nd story of the Prudential Tower provides a 360-degree view of Boston. *800 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1775).*

Saturday

9:30 am: From the hotel, take a leisurely stroll up the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and stop for a quick breakfast at Geoffrey's for delicious stuffed challah-bread French toast. *Geoffrey's, 160 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-266-1122).*

10:45 am: After breakfast, make your way back downtown via the Green Line to Park Street. A few steps away, on the corner of Park and Beacon streets, is the Library of the Boston Athenaeum. Modeled after a Venetian palazzo, it's the oldest independent library in the country. Visit the art gallery (home to delicate porcelains, stately marble busts and luminous oil paintings) and the library, which houses first editions of works by Lord Byron, T.S. Eliot and John Fowles, as well as many early publications in Native American languages. *10 1/2 Beacon St., Boston (617-227-0270).*

12 pm: Just a few blocks up Beacon Street, take a tour of the perfectly preserved Gibson House, with its opulent, Victorian-era décor. Originally built for Catherine Hammond Gibson in 1859, the house was donated to the Gibson Society when the owner's grandson died. *137 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-6338).*

1 pm: The Ritz-Carlton, nicknamed the Grand Dame of Arlington, is close by, so stop in for a quick lunch in the dining room, or venture further up Newbury and lunch at one of the many cafés. *Ritz-Carlton Boston, 15 Arlington St., Boston (617-536-5700).*

2 pm: After lunch, take a taxi to the Mary Baker Eddy Library to see the newly restored Mapparium. Walk through the center of this three-story stained-glass globe and glimpse our planet from the inside out. *200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000).*

3:30 pm: The Green Line's E train takes you to the Museum of Fine Arts. Peruse priceless masterpieces by Renoir, Monet and Picasso, and stop in at the museum shop for a souvenir. *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300).*

6 pm: After your museum tour, head to Boston culinary institution Locke-Ober. Chef Lydia Shire's revamped continental menu offers old favorites like lobster Savannah and beef stroganoff in a historic Brahmin setting with elaborate carved walls, dark wood and chandeliers. *3 Winter Place, Boston (617-542-1340).*

8 pm: The night's not over yet. Hail a cab and make your way to the Leather District for a nightcap and live jazz at Les Zygomates wine bar and French bistro. *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108).*

10:45 pm: Rest up for tomorrow.

Sunday

10:30 am: Start off the day with breakfast in the South End at Andy Husbands' trendy eatery Tremont 647. Don't be surprised to find your waiter clad in a bathrobe and bedroom slippers—it's pajama brunch on Sundays. *647 Tremont St., South End (617-266-4600).*

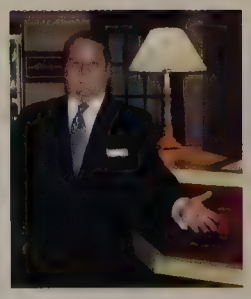
12 pm: If you have a car, take a short (20-minute) drive to the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park. Located on 35 acres of woodland, the Sculpture Park features large-scale, outdoor contemporary sculpture. *51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355).*

3 pm: On the drive back, make your way to Brookline for a stop at the Larz Anderson Auto Museum, appreciated by men of all ages. The museum houses the vehicle collection of Anderson, a U.S. diplomat in the early 20th century. Items on exhibit include a 1901 Rochet-Schneider plus other early automotive artifacts, such as brick heaters and goggles. *15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547, ext. 15).*

5:30 pm: It's not exactly around the corner, but the trip over the river for dinner at Cambridge's UpStairs on the Square is a must. The magenta, chartreuse and gold-leaf walls, animal-print floors, and the contemporary American menu of chefs Amanda Lydon and Susan Regis make this a treat for the eyes and the palate. *91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-864-1933).*

7:30 pm: Give your uncle a hug and send him on his way.

LET THE *good times roll*



JERRY GOOD

Colonnade Hotel
120 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-424-7000)

GUEST: PARTY-ANIMAL COLLEGE FRIEND

Friday

8 pm: Kick off the weekend with drinks and dinner at one of the many great restaurants and bistros in the Back Bay and South End that draw a young, hip crowd. Try Rouge, Pho Republique or Brasserie Jo, the Colonnade's Parisian-style brasserie with al fresco seating, swanky zinc bar, and famous steak frites. Note: You'll have to ask the waiter if you want ketchup. *Rouge, 480 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600); Pho Republique, 1415 Washington St., Boston (617-262-0005); Brasserie Jo, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-425-3240).*

9:45 pm: Take a short walk down Boylston to Kings, the new retro entertainment complex complete with pool tables, bowling and cocktails. As you wait for your lane, hang out in the de Ville lounge or shoot a game of pool. Note: There is a two-string limit for bowling. *10 Scotia St., Boston (617-266-2695).*

11:45 pm: Take a short cab ride or the Green Line to the Alley, where you'll find several hoppin' clubs—such as Big Easy, Sugar Shack and Bishop's Pub—for some great drinks, music and dancing. *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*

Saturday

11 am: Roll out of bed on Saturday morning and head to the Pour House, a casual spot that serves killer breakfasts seven days a week. Huge portions, hot coffee and reasonable prices make this the perfect place to recover from a late night on the town. *909 Boylston St., Boston (617-236-1767).*

1 pm: Once the caffeine works its magic, you're off to Fenway Park to catch the Red Sox in an afternoon thriller. For lunch, order a sausage sandwich (smothered in onions and peppers, of course) and a tap beer. If you're lucky, you've managed to secure two of the highly prized new seats atop the Green Monster in left field. No matter where you sit, bring a glove just in case. *Yawkey Way, Boston (617-267-1700).*

5 pm: Postgame, stroll across the street to Boston Beer Works, where you can sample more than 50 microbrews and enjoy some of the best chicken wings in town. *61 Brookline Ave., Boston (617-536-2337).*

7 pm: For dinner, a good fortune is in store. It's off to Chinatown's Grand Chau Chow, a casual, affordable Chinese restaurant offering heaping portions of delicious seafood. Try the fried salted squid and peapod greens in garlic sauce. *41 Beach St., Boston (617- 292-5166).*

9:30 pm: It's time to hit the clubs. Start at the Roxy in the Theater District. Its gilded balconies and private booths allow for both prime people watching and audible conversation. *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*

11:45 pm: With newfound acquaintances in tow, head off to Aria, located just across the street, downstairs from the Wilbur Theater. Richly textured, dark and mysterious, Aria is the perfect setting for catching up with an old friend or getting to know someone new. *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*

1:45 am: As Aria announces last call, take a short walk over to South Street Diner, a 1950s-era establishment that's open round the clock to satisfy your late-night cravings. The chocolate-chip pancakes are a must. *178 Kneeland St., Boston (617-350-0028).*

Sunday

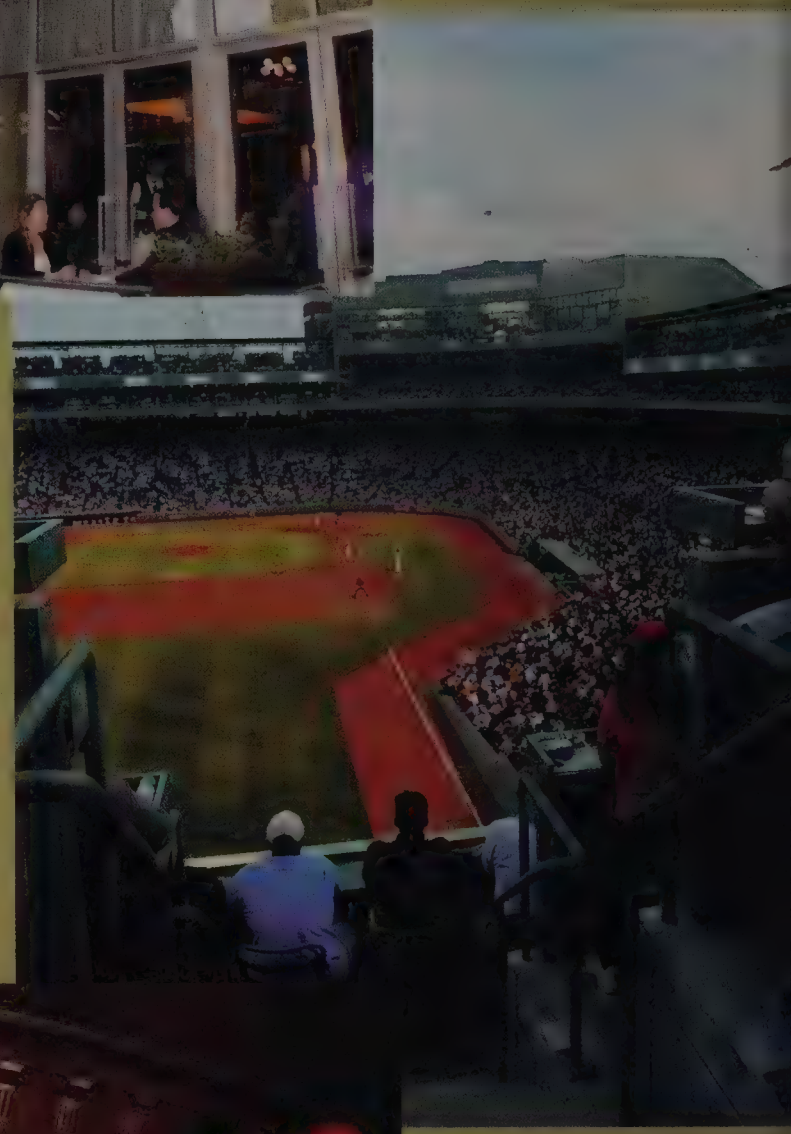
12 pm: Cleanse your soul Sunday morning at the House of Blues' renowned Gospel Brunch. For a wake-me-up, try the zesty Bloody Marys. 96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-2583).

2:30 pm: While in Cambridge, wander over to the handsome campus of Harvard University. If you're feeling lazy, relax and take in a film at the nearby Brattle Theatre, which screens a mix of classics, art house favorites and funky, offbeat newer films. A schedule is posted outside the theater. *40 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-6837).*

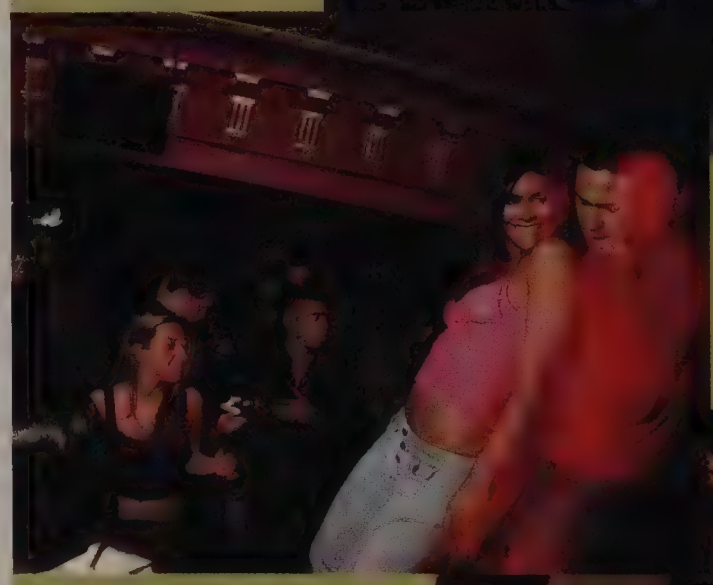
5 pm: After the film ends, take a taxi or the T over to Faneuil Hall for a couple of beers and a snack at Ames Plow or the Salty Dog, and watch the street performers entertain the crowd. *Ames Plow, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-523-8928); Salty Dog, 206 Faneuil Hall Marketplace (617-742-2094).*

6 pm: Buy your buddy a large cup of strong coffee before he makes his way home. iB

friday, 8 pm
BRASSERIE JO



saturday, 1 pm
RED SOX GAME



saturday, 11:45 pm
ARIA

sunday, 5 pm
THE SALTY DOG

ANNO 1366.

Rob Moore sings "Safety Dance" during Tuesday night karaoke at the Milky Way.

belting it out

Why is karaoke still so popular? Seeking the answer, a singalong-phobe hits the circuit.

BY DANIEL SCHULMAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA DANIELS

When the IMPROPER asked me to explore our fine city's karaoke underbelly I felt a mixture of dread and fascination. My misgivings stemmed from the fact that karaoke appears to combine two of the things I dislike most: cover songs and public humiliation (my own or others'). On the other hand, the karaoke phenomenon has always fascinated me. What compels people to show off their talent (or lack of it) in front of a crowd of strangers? How much booze does it take for the average person to shed his or her inhibitions and belt out "Stayin' Alive"? And why has this trend not gone the way of tight-rolled jeans?

You might be surprised to learn that the Japanese word "karaoke" translates as "empty orchestra"—not "amateur singer, totally snockered." Most people trace karaoke's roots back to a snack shop in Kobe, Japan, during the early 1970s. When a scheduled performer failed to show up for his gig, the quick-thinking owner piped in taped music and encouraged his restless patrons to sing along. Karaoke eventually caught on throughout Japan and moved west.

"Karaoke's had its ups and downs," says DJ Dan McCarthy, who oversees one of Boston's longest-running karaoke nights at T's Pub. "During the mid-'90s, it was ridiculous; every place you looked, you saw signs for karaoke. Karaoke's definitely had its heyday, and its heyday is certainly not today." With the market saturated, many establishments dropped karaoke from their weekly schedules. But as the competition dwindled, a niche market thrived, and karaoke remains a part of Boston's nightlife today.

According to McCarthy, who also serves as the FleetCenter's house DJ during Bruins and Celtics games, karaoke draws a diverse audience, from intoxicated undergrads and traveling businesspeople to *American Idol* wannabes who sip tea with lemon before taking the stage and sharpen their chops on their own karaoke rigs at home. He recognizes that it's not for everyone, however. "It's a funny threshold. You may sing in the shower or sing along in the car, but actually belting something out in front of strangers is a hard step to take."

Any tips for the uninitiated? "For starters, go to a place that's slow," McCarthy says. "The audience tends to be more forgiving."

night 1

Destination: Hennessy's

Located in Faneuil Hall, Hennessy's is a just a few blocks away from the Purple Shamrock and the Bell in Hand, both of which host weekly karaoke nights. Palms sweaty, knees a-wobble, I approach the pub gingerly, half-expecting to be yanked onstage and forced to sing "I Will Survive" the moment I pass through the doorway. My entrance is anticlimactic. The pub is nearly deserted, except for a few scattered groups. There's no sign of the KJ (karaoke jockey) or his equipment.

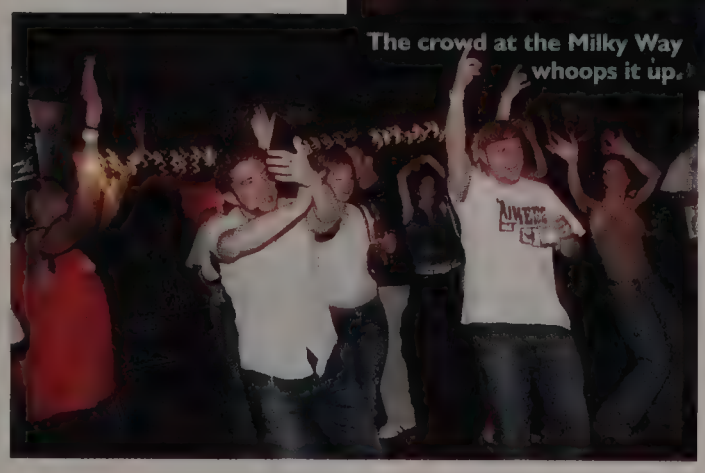
By 9:45, most of the few patrons have trickled out. I'm well into my second pint when DJ Dana Z (his professional name) arrives lugging his equipment and several big songbooks. He sets up quickly at the front of the bar, unfurling cables, angling speakers and tweaking dials on the mixing board.

DJ Dan McCarthy calls Dana Zagoreos one of Boston's hardest-working KJs. It's easy to see why. In addition to Hennessy's, 42-year-old Zagoreos hosts karaoke at the Purple Shamrock and several other Boston-area pubs, typically putting in a six-day week. Somehow he also finds time to book dinner-theater engagements as an Elvis impersonator.

Zagoreos is quick to tell me how much he loves his job ("Who wouldn't?") and equally quick to admit that KJing can be nerve-racking, even dangerous, work. On busy nights would-be performers can wait for an hour and a half to get onstage. "It's gotten to the point where some people want to fight me," he says, recounting stories of disgruntled singers who become confrontational when they think he's playing favorites. "Sometimes audience members get wild and crazy. You almost need policemen for them. That ends up being me."

A rowdy chant of "Where's the DJ?" interrupts our conversation. A small crowd—largely 20-something men—has assembled around the stage. Zagoreos hurries to the mike and, without delay, calls a man named Murph to the stage. Swarthy, pot-bellied and apparently cockeyed drunk, Murph's appearance belies his cherubic tenor. His rendition of "Baby, I Need Your Lovin'" draws hearty applause from the crowd. As the night progresses, song selections run the gamut from Billy Joel's "River of Dreams" to the Black Crowes' version of "Hard to Handle." Singers range in skill from tolerable to highly talented. Noel Gentelles, Hennessy's general manager, takes it all in from behind the bar. "With the recession, the war, this has been a tough year for the hospitality industry. But this has been one of our steadiest nights," he tells me.

Michi Trote isn't shy about taking the mike at the Milky Way.


The crowd at the Milky Way whoops it up.

night 2

Destination: The Milky Way Lounge and Lanes

A mural painted on the wall outside the Milky Way features a large portrait of Mary Beth Cahill, host of the club's Mary Mary's All-Star Karaoke, surrounded by a slew of notables including Bob Marley and the Virgin Mary. When I meet Cahill, I find the likeness does her justice: long raven hair, toothy grin and an unmistakable glow. A former waitress at the Milky Way, Cahill became interested in karaoke five years ago, in Las Vegas. "I saw this couple with matching mullets sing [Sergio Mendes'] 'Never Gonna Let You Go,' and it really changed my life," she says. "I saw that and said, 'Man, there's limitless potential for fun and goofiness and accessibility to a range of people.'"

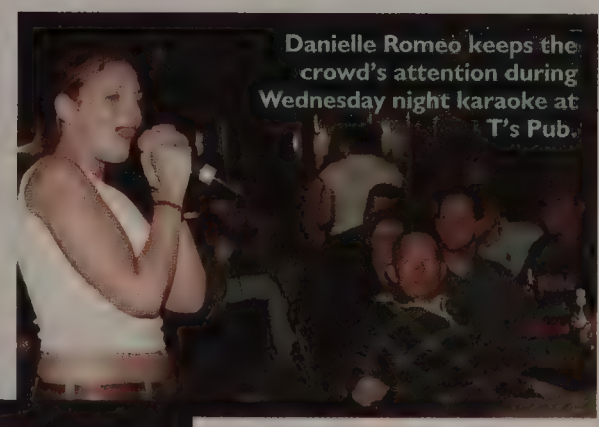
Four years ago, the Milky Way was a new addition to Jamaica Plain's bar scene. In search of weekly programming, the owner offered Cahill an opportunity to transform her passion for cheesy '80s rock and her penchant for onstage wackiness into a weekly Tuesday night event. "I try to create an atmosphere of acceptance and support," she tells me. "I go up first and try to make an ass of myself. I think that makes people feel more comfortable doing the same." No booing is allowed.

"Maryoke" attracts a diverse cross section. You'll find people of all ages and races. What they have in common is not how they dress, the type of music they like or the subcultures they identify with, but humor. They revel in karaoke kitsch and seem to find community in an environment where eccentricity is valued. Perhaps the best characterization of the clientele comes from a 28-year-old patron who preferred to remain anonymous: "When I first came here, it reminded me of that bar in *Star Wars*. You've got people here from every corner of the universe."

When Cahill kicks off the night with an animated version of "Jesse's Girl," a crowd of well over 100 packs the main room containing the bar, stage and the club's state-of-the-art sound system. Before the song is through, the dance floor is pulsing with gyrating bodies; the song queue extends to three pages.

One after another, sometimes in twos or threes, audience members sing classics, from Bruce Springsteen's "Thunder Road" to "Making Our Dreams Come True," the theme from *Laverne and Shirley*. Singers take the stage to boisterous cheers and conclude to deafening applause. Audience members occasionally jump onstage midsong to sing backup. The love is palpable.

As the evening draws on, I sense a pleasant, warm feeling taking root in my belly. That last cocktail perhaps? No. To my horror I realize I'm starting to enjoy karaoke.


Danielle Romeo keeps the crowd's attention during Wednesday night karaoke at T's Pub.

The same night, Jamey Rootes and Jeff Brantleik sing "Friends in Low Places" by Garth Brooks...

...Corey Rateau raps...

...and Tracy Freeman hits a high note.

night 3

Destination: T's Pub

Sandwiched between BU and BC, this unassuming sports bar draws a largely collegiate crowd. The Smirnoff Ice flows freely, and the bar is ground zero for new, cheesy pick-up lines. (Overheard: "You guys are sitting in my prime flirting section. You better be careful.")

T's has hosted karaoke for 13 years. "I'm surprised it's been going so long," says Lisa Burgoyne, who's tended bar here for the past 18 years. When I ask her what she thinks of the karaoke scene, she looks befuddled. "At first, I didn't know what to make of it. I thought it was a passing fad. But then it just took off and kept going." She attributes the success of karaoke at T's to McCarthy. "He gets everybody into it," she says. McCarthy has parceled out most of T's KJ duties to his employees, but he shows up on occasion to "throw a spark back into the crowd," he says. Tonight is one of those nights.

"The more you drink, the better you'll sound," McCarthy calls out to the audience, demonstrating with a long gulp of beer before getting the night started with Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville," a song he recommends for beginners. With the bar bustling and the night under way, the crowd's youth is reflected by the music they choose: Eminem, Pearl Jam, Stone Temple Pilots. Though the singers are warmly received, I'm told that some are tricked into performing. Their names and song selections are entered by prankster friends, and they're shoved onstage and forced to face the music, literally, when their turn is called.

Hijinks aside, there are some at T's who take karaoke pretty seriously. Jeff King, a 34-year-old child-care provider, speaks of key, modulation and measures with the reverence of a trained musician. He delights in executing particularly hard numbers and puts in hours each week perfecting his repertoire at home on his own karaoke machine.

To get up in front of this fun-loving, if somewhat raucous crowd—and quite a crowd it is—first-timers at T's karaoke will likely require a dose or two of "liquid courage" to combat performance anxiety. A word of advice: Try not to take the stage after Jeff King. He's good.

night 4

Destination: The Courtside

The Courtside is housed in a low-slung green building, its exterior plastered with no fewer than three banners advertising karaoke. Once inside, I feel as if I've stepped onto the set of a David Lynch film. The lights cast a reddish glow on the bar's patrons as a woman, hair masking her face, warbles along to a psychedelic dirge onstage, swaying haphazardly to the music.

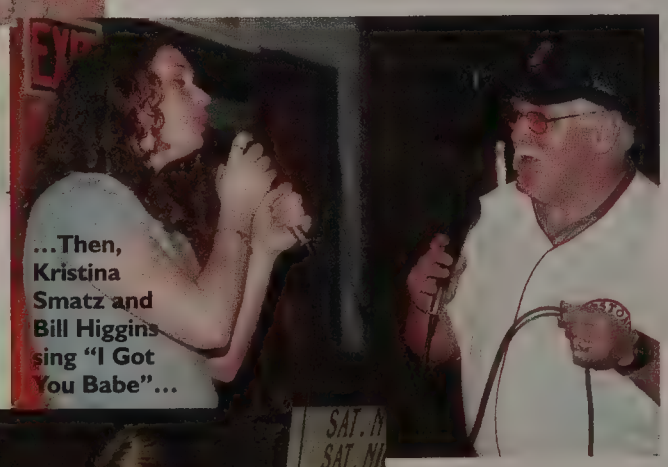
Tonight's audience is unlike the others I've encountered thus far. Subdued, older, they respond with polite applause once a singer concludes and fall silent as another takes the stage. Many singers perform mellow classics—Lionel Richie, Peter Gabriel, James Taylor. Their songs, it seems, are not meant to rouse the crowd but to satisfy an inner desire. "I pick songs that I want to sing," Mark Hoffman, 35, tells me. "It gets rid of all that negative energy you build up during the week. It's therapeutic." Each week Hoffman, a hospice worker, travels from Chelsea to attend two, and sometimes all three, of the Courtside's weekly karaoke nights. Here, Hoffman goes by his stage name: the King of Courtside Karaoke, the World Famous Mark the Shark. When I ask how he received his nickname, he points to the burly KJ, Moose, also known as Mike Hannon.

The crowd is sparse. If I'm going to commit social suicide ("hari-karaoke," as I've termed it), this is the place to do it. Hands trembling, I flip through a songbook, remembering one of DJ Dana Z's karaoke adages: "Everybody has a voice. You just have to pick the right song." I choose a song that seems to fit the moment, write it shakily on a slip of paper and deliver it to Moose. An agonizing wait ensues. Each second is murder. My mind conjures nightmare scenarios. Noticing that I look out of sorts, Mark the Shark attempts to bolster my spirits. "Even Barry White gets nervous."

For a brief moment, I consider rushing the stage and tearing my song slip to shreds. But it's too late. My name echoes over the speakers. I make my way to the stage, trying to maintain a confident gait, and grasp the mike. The first bars of my song fill the room. The words flash on the screen before me, each word highlighted to indicate how it should be sung. I croon timidly through the first verse growing bolder as I lurch into the chorus: "I fell in to a burning ring of fire; I went down, down, down…"

My assault on Johnny Cash's legacy draws scattered applause. I stroll from the stage feeling exhilarated, even a bit cocky. As I return to my seat, I catch sight of a songbook sitting unattended at a nearby table. A strange thought occurs to me. Can it be? I think I want to do it again. iB

Carol Ann Robbins gives "Barracuda" a go Friday night at the Courtside....


...Then, Kristina Smatz and Bill Higgins sing "I Got You Babe"...

...while Meaghan Brown and Erica Van Dusen peruse the song list.

for a song

An Tua Nua, 835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121). Wed., 9 pm to 1 am. Free. The name of this popular BU haunt is Gaelic for "new beginning," which is something many an intoxicated karaoke crooner may long for the morning after.

Bell in Hand, 45 Union St., Boston (617-227-2098). Tue., 9 pm to 2 am. Free. The Bell in Hand fills to capacity on karaoke nights with an equal mix of regulars and revelers. Wear your drinking shoes.

Clerys, 113 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-262-9874). Wed., 8:30 to 11 pm. Free. A crowd of tipsy South Enders and "repeat offenders" assaults popular favorites in this bustling neighborhood bar.

Club 58, 58 Ross Way, Quincy (617-471-7788). Sun., 9 pm to 1 am. Free. Karaoke night overlaps with "Service Industry Night" at this club south of the city.

Courtside Restaurant, 291 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-547-4374). Thu., Fri. and Sat., 9 pm to 1 am. Free. Your voice can sound like sandpaper on a gravel road, and the Courtside's supportive patrons will still give you a healthy round of applause.

Do Re Mi Music Studio, 442 Cambridge St., Allston (617-783-8900). Mon. through Thu., 4 pm to 1 am, and Fri. through Sun., 2 pm to 1 am. $30/hour per room for up to five people; $5 for each additional person. Sharpen your chops before hitting the karaoke circuit in one of Do Re Mi's 19 private singing lounges. No booze is served here, so be prepared; you might not sound as good as you think you do.

Ecko Lounge, 41 Essex St., Chinatown (617-338-8283). Sun. through Thu., 7 pm to 2 am. Two-drink minimum. This plush two-floor nightclub attracts a mix of Asian hipsters and collegiate clubgoers. Ecko's extensive songbooks hold thousands of top-40 favorites, as well as contemporary Chinese, Korean and Japanese titles.

Hannah's, 499 Broadway, Somerville (617-629-5302). Thu., 8:30 pm to 1 am. Free. Frequented by an odd mix of college coeds, locals and karaoke diehards, Hannah's occasionally hosts competitions for cash prizes.

Hennessy's, 25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2122). Wed. and Sun., 9 pm to 1 am. Free. You can sing Meat Loaf's "Paradise by the Dashboard Light," but DJ Dana Z would really prefer that you didn't.

Highland Café, 156 Highland Ave., Malden (781-324-2266). Sat., 8:30 pm to 12:30 am. Free. Here you can belt 'em out with the locals, and it's a safe bet that your friends will never find out.

Hub Pub, 18 Province St., Boston (617-227-8952). Every other Thu., 8:30 to 11 pm. Free. A new addition to the Hub Pub's entertainment roster, karaoke night is pulling in a substantial crowd, employees say.

Jose McIntyre's, 160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). Thu., 9 pm to midnight. Free. This Irish pub draws a talented younger set—a bit more advanced than your average karaoke crooner. But since when is Jose an Irish name?

Maluken, 645 Beacon St., Boston (617-859-8828). Daily, 9 pm to 1 am. Minimum charge of $10 per person for food and/or drinks. Sake it to 'em in this authentic-style karaoke bar and restaurant.

The Milky Way Lounge and Lanes (Mary Mary's All-Star Karaoke), 403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). Tue., 9 pm to 2 am. $3 cover. Mary Beth Cahill holds court in this retro rec room. Find out why they call her the "Queen of Karaoke."

The Purple Shamrock, 1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). Tue., 10 pm to 2 am. Free. In a perfect world, renditions of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" would be limited to once per evening. This is not a perfect world.

Seapoint, 367 East 8th St., South Boston (617-268-1476). Sun., 8 pm to midnight. Free. Popular with the locals; it's "wicked pissah."

The Seaport Bar & Grille, 150 Northern Ave., Boston (617-357-8121), Fri. and Sun., 9:30 pm to 1 am. Free. A middle-aged crowd of South Boston locals and Financial District stragglers relives its glory days.

Slades Bar & Grill, 958 Tremont St., Roxbury (617-442-4600). Wed., 8 pm to 2 am. Free. Slades' soul and R&B karaoke night frequently draws crowds of up to 200. Each week, audience members choose a winner who will go on to compete for a $1,000 cash prize. *American Idol* wannabes should come on down for this competitive karaoke.

Sullivan's Pub, 85 Main St., Charlestown (617-242-9515). Thu., 8 pm to 1 am. Free. The pub's bartenders and servers vie for the mike along with a die-hard crowd of regulars.

T's Pub, 973 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-254-0807). Tue. and Wed., 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Free. T's expert KJs can make anyone sound like a pro. Well, maybe not anyone.

Triple D's, 435 South Huntington Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-522-4966). Sat., 9 pm to 1 am. Free. Named like a strip club, themed like a sports bar, this low-rent pub is part owned by ex-boxer Joe Devlin. Perform poorly, and you'll have to answer to Joe. —*D.S.*

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THE WOMEN OF

Washington Street

BY NINI DIANA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRACY POWELL

Alex Pinck
South End Video
and Code 10

Launching new restaurants, boutiques, bakeries and even butcher shops, women are transforming a once-dicey neighborhood one business at a time

For much of the 1980s and '90s, parts of Washington Street in the South End were in serious disrepair. After the old elevated Orange Line was closed down, much of the formerly bustling area gave way to vacant lots where prostitutes and drug dealers conducted their business. The neighborhood wasn't considered a safe place for a woman to walk alone at night, never mind operate a business.

Over the past five years, however, Washington Street, along with the adjacent "SoWa" neighborhood, has staged a remarkable comeback. Nearly 50 new businesses have opened there. And women have played a big part in bringing business back to the area; nearly all of the businesses that have opened in the past two years are owned by women.

To Sheila Grove, a former real estate attorney who is now program director of Washington Gateway Main Street, that fact is mostly a happy coincidence, but perhaps not a surprising one given the sharp rise in women-owned businesses in the city, state and the country. According to the Center for Women's Business Research, the number of women-owned firms in Boston grew by 38 percent from 1997 to 2002, four times the overall growth rate for that period. Today, nearly 30 percent of businesses in the city are owned by women.

One of many Main Street projects devoted to transforming or restoring waning areas around the city, the Washington Gateway extends roughly from Melnea Cass Boulevard (near South Bay) to Herald Street (close to Bay Village). The women of Washington Street have defied the odds, survived seemingly endless construction that threatened their businesses, and shown they possess the pluck and determination to succeed.

One of the first women to open a business on the revitalized Washington Street was Alex Pinck, owner of South End Video and Code 10, a small restaurant next door. Feeling burnt out in her career in health care management, Pinck put her M.B.A. to use, writing a business plan that convinced the Small Business Administration to loan her the money she needed to open the video store. That was in 1999, when the neighborhood was still somewhat sketchy. Code 10 came in July 2001; the name, which means "lunch break" in police-speak, is an homage to the members of the force who looked after her during the late nights when she worked alone at the video store. Code 10 serves mostly hot dogs, sandwiches and soup.

Tenacious and resourceful, Pinck has been an active and vocal participant in the Washington Street restoration project. When paving of the street went almost a year past the projected completion date, she urged the city to finish the job, citing the loss of business she and others were suffering. She's endured criticism from some residents over the decidedly non-haute cuisine she serves at Code 10 and even battled South End neighbors over the placement of her sign. She has taken only one vacation in the past four years.

But there have been rewards too. Business has improved since the roadwork was completed, and Pinck says she feels good about her willingness to try anything once, to take more risks. "Graduate school gave me the tools and the confidence to discover that in myself," the entrepreneur says. Her decision to open her own businesses has also helped her form lasting relationships within her community. Code 10's informal American fare has even attracted some high profile customers—Pinck says that former Red Sox pitcher Luis Tiant and New York senator Hillary Clinton made separate stops there last November. Through it all, she's watched the neighborhood come back to life due, in no small part, to her own efforts. New business owners turn to Pinck for advice, and many of her customers are her friends. When asked how a social life is possible with so much to do, she looks around, arms outstretched, and says, "This is it."

When Joanne Chang looked at a potential site for a bakery on Washington Street three years ago, she immediately said no. "The street looked dank," she says. "The community garden was dried up." The building Chang looked at was one of many under construction as part of the Washington Gateway project. But after a friend took her on a walking tour of the neighborhood, pointing out all the things that would be coming to life in the next year, Chang decided to risk it. She pooled money that she'd been saving for years, borrowed the rest from a few relatives and opened Flour, the bakery of her dreams. "I had in my head exactly what I wanted it to be. I wanted it to be perfect," she says. But, she readily admits, "the first year was awful."

Far from her native Texas, her years as a Harvard undergraduate and her stint at the famed Payard Patisserie in New York, Chang found the transition from pastry chef to employer a difficult one. Although she had guidance from friends in the industry, there were things they couldn't help with. For the first six months, she says, she didn't see anyone who didn't work in the bakery. Determined to make the bakery a warm and welcoming place for employees and customers, she faced decisions and issues that were not part of her original dream, from managing employee vacations to coping with the rising price of dairy products. She found that every day something at the bakery wasn't exactly as she felt it should be. "It was frustrating," she says.

These days, Flour has a regular clientele that stops in for daily coffee or lunch or to pick up baked goods. Chang works 55 to 60 hours a week but says she doesn't feel overworked, although she does feel overstressed because she thinks about her business even when she is not there. But she finds reward in knowing she's created the environment she envisioned. "I feel as though I'm contributing to the growth of my employees," she says. And at the end of the day, she goes home feeling like she's done a good job.

For Michele Jacaruso and Nikki Christo, their shop, the Epicurean Meat Market, was more windfall than dream. In July 2001, Jacaruso walked out of her job as a restaurant manager with no immediate backup plan. "I was done with it," she says. "I'd had enough of the politics." For about a month, the two mulled over what to do; then a friend showed

them the space at 1704 Washington. They had no business plan and no investors lined up. But Jacaruso took an advance on her credit card for a down payment on the lease, and the two combined their savings to buy inventory and secondhand equipment.

Although meat markets typically conjure up images of friendly, middle-aged men in stained aprons, the business seemed a natural choice to the two women. Jacaruso's grandparents owned a butcher shop in Waterbury, Conn., and her father was a meat cutter. With help from well-known meat purveyor John Dewar, the market was up and running in a matter of weeks. Dewar, they say, has been a mentor. Besides donating a butcher block and cutting board, he gave them a crash course in cutting. Almost everything else, they say, they've learned on the job.

It's just the two of them working, six days a week, dividing the duties in the shop. Christo makes marinades and sends recipes home with customers. "I've eaten this meat every day for a year; I know how to cook it," she jokes. Jacaruso does the bookkeeping and meat cutting. "Nikki is not allowed to cut," she says. "Her steak comes out like a doorstop."

Despite having little money (they still haven't paid themselves a salary) and enduring an uncertain first year that included opening shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, the two have no regrets. While they have no experience to measure their success against, Jacaruso says they are paying the bills and have built a base of regular customers. Compared with the stress she was under as a restaurant manager, she calls running her own business a "utopia." Christo adds that it puts a smile on her face to know that they're doing a good thing for themselves and the neighborhood. "It's good to please someone," she says.

Five years ago, when chef Laura Brennan was looking for a space to open her rustic French-style restaurant, she refused a location on Washington Street. Three and a half years later, she was still looking when a friend who lives in the neighborhood told her about a location at 1395, right next to the space she originally rejected. In July 2001 she came back for a second look, then began pulling together her plan for Caffe Umbra almost immediately. Unlike some of the other female business owners in the neighborhood, Brennan chose to take on a silent partner who took care of raising funds.

Although she's been in the business for 25 years, most recently in the catering business and before that at the Mercury Bar, Brennan has never owned a restaurant, and she found that every decision, from choosing the kitchen equipment to buying glassware, was a challenge. Plus, the space has a narrow dining room, presenting further challenges. Brennan says she ran around for months with a tape measure, evaluating table sizes in every restaurant she visited. "I did a lot of extra work myself to keep costs down," she says. And she asked friends and the Washington Gateway for help doing things like designing the logo and raising money for signage.

Although Brennan oversaw everything with manager Jim Becker, she relied on her friend, architect Al McDonald, to help design the kitchen. The two met when McDonald was designing the kitchen at No. 9 Park, and he's helped Brennan through a difficult first year at Caffe Umbra. Every season brings new menu challenges, and the work, she says, is relentless.

Since opening in May 2002, Brennan hasn't even thought about taking a vacation. "I'm tired, but I'm not anxious," she says. "I couldn't have done this 20 years ago." She feels her experience has given her the clarity to handle restaurant operations, including cooking and menu planning, and the responsibilities of ownership. Although Brennan says she doesn't have the energy for a titillating social life, that sacrifice is well worth the rewards. "I'm my own boss. I have my own restaurant, not everybody gets to do that and that's pretty amazing. Live, die, fail, succeed—I've had my own business." IB

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Halter bikini top, $9; boy shorts, $9. Both at H&M. "Street Chic" evening clutch: Dior by John Galliano, $1,025, at Christian Dior Boutique.

Bikini: Dior by John Galliano $360 at Christian Dior Boutique Sunglasses: $5.50 at H&M

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BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

ROUNDING UP SQUARE MEALS

Helen Kohane of Weight Solutions works one-on-one with people who want to lose weight without going on a traditional diet. Weight Solutions provides support and makes suggestions for smarter shopping and wiser eating choices. Call 617-492-8222.

Helen Kohane is a social worker, and her weight-loss services are tinged with a therapeutic approach. Even though she does help clients delve into their motivations and feelings, Kohane describes her approach as more practical than therapeutic. Weight Solutions is not a diet program per se, though Kohane discusses some diet strategies and talks about food traps (like the insidious role of salt). Health risks alone sometimes aren't motivation enough to stick with a weight-loss program, and bad eating habits may be something an overweight person clings to when other life challenges seem out of his or her control. Softly, sympathetically, Kohane explores with clients such things as the counterproductive rebelliousness that causes them to sabotage healthier intentions, and the lonely self-destructiveness that leads to unhealthful eating. Always validating the positive-comfort element, she helps people pick the dishes, tableware and the nurturing setting that will symbolically "feed" the person, in addition to nourishing the body. "It's as if you were struck by lightning, rewiring your brain so you can think in creative ways nobody else can," says one satisfied client. "She's generous and serious, both."

THE FAMILY THAT EXPLORES TOGETHER...

The Mitchell family—John, Jana and their twin boys, Hugo and Harry—give you a child-and-family–oriented tour of the Commonwealth in their book, *4 Go Mad in Massachusetts*. Find it at www.fourgomad.com.

According to the Mitchell family, the way to get kids to go on outings, including museums and other potentially too-grown-up places, is to let them become partial tour guides—going with the fun flow and possibly bypassing "important" sites. The Mitchells roamed across our state when twins Hugo and Harry were between the ages of 4 and 6 years old. Along with leisurely descriptions of various sites and some irreverent winks (one place has all too many hummingbirds and beetles), as well as personal information (Jana Mitchell's grandmother camped on Boston Common around 1910), they show you how the kids find their own enjoyment. Boy joy bursts forth at the Charles River Museum of Industry, where gigantic machines once made tiny things like tacks, and where Harry, tinkering with the gadgets screams, "I'm making electricity!" Alternatively, one lad finds the dank, exciting tunnels on Georges Island, land of soldiers and ghosts, an adventure in conquering fear. And the marvelous yuckiness of skulls and other preserved parts at the Warren Anatomical Museum, teeny memorabilia of the kids' fellow-shorty Tom Thumb at his Middleborough museum and the artifacts of daily life in Old Greenfield Village all have their various allure.

A CASE OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Coffman & Co. Antiques, at 548 Tremont Street in Boston, has many antiques vendors selling silver, prints, collectibl furniture, pottery and jewelry. Open Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm. Call 617-695-2848.

Coffman & Co., a strollwor shop in the South End, off the wares of 20 antiques v dors, with items from the 19 and earlier. One case shows rious Victorian gold jewe that calls for lamplight a somber elegance. Others play subtly matte Rosedale p tery, including Little Du Boy statues, and classic Yell Ware. Some cases are co chockablock—you can stare ages at such things as li pharmaceutical pitchers cups citing maladies like a (fever and chills) and rheu tism; tiny toy birds; beautif faded Quimper cups; intrica lacy silver tea strainers; or a little mirrored ashtray with the merest circlet to cradle that cigarette. city-mouse version of Coffman's store in the Berkshires, this one has real country furniture, Swedish boards in beautifully aged colors, English farm tables of deeply textured real oak and chairs with intri herringbone-style cane patterns. Coal scuttles and garden forks with excruciatingly twisted tines spea old-time New England. A round cheese cage with black mesh cries out for summer Brie.

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REVIEW

HOLY AZURE, FATHMAN

Chef Robert Fathman strikes again with an eclectic menu of cosmopolitan cuisine at the Lenox Hotel's swanky new eatery, Azure

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

The Roger Clemens of the kitchen, Robert Fathman has reappeared as an all-star in yet another Boston restaurant. This veteran of Grill 23, the Federalist and Trio is now starring at Azure, the swanky, urbane eatery of the Lenox Hotel in the Back Bay.

Pursuing the Clemens comparison, Fathman may be in line for his World Series ring based on his performance at Azure. He certainly has the magnificent venue in which to perform. Azure's large, rectangular dining room makes a striking statement, with cream-colored floor-to-ceiling draperies dressing the handsome, white woodwork–ribbed windows. Blue-green upholstered banquettes follow the periphery of the room, curving around corners. Blue velvet–tufted chairs supply the remainder of the seating. A divider of dark wood and frosted glass screens the kitchen from the dining room.

White tablecloths and white cotton napkins dress the tables, which are set with fine, substantial tableware. Shortly after we were seated, a server presented us with a basket of first-rate breads of different shapes, tastes and textures, all from the area's premier boulangerie, Iggy's. Soft butter and a spinach-and-farmer's-cheese spread accompanied a selection of traditional French baguettes; rustic, coarse-textured sourdough; large, round, hard-crusted dinner rolls; and rich raisin nut bread. Just after the bread came an amuse gueule, a tiny treat of tuna tartare with mint-ginger relish on a crisp potato gaufrette. On a subsequent evening, this treat was a slice of potato with fennel, carrot and chopped chives, a simple yet creative palate pleaser.

Azure's menu contains 11 first-course choices and nine main courses. Fathman's cuisine can be described as eclectic cosmopolitan, although I have seen it described as "French technique fused with Asian and New World influences." Based on the first appetizer we tried, I would acknowledge an Italian influence as well. Caramelized potato gnocchi with braised veal breast and porcini mushroom ragu ($11) charmed with its conception and captivated with its execution. These ultra-soft, luscious pillows of potato pasta were bathed in a cream sauce that, while rich and substantial, was not heavy. Nuggets of braised veal breast and firm-textured porcini mushrooms created an ensemble of delightful taste and texture contrasts.

Goat cheese flan with baby red and golden beets

AZURE

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While the self-laudatory title of another appetizer, "really good lobster soup" ($12), sounded presumptuous, we could not take issue with its accuracy. Intensely flavorful lobster broth, turned into the most delicate of stews by the skillful and restrained addition of butter and cream, contained flavorful, nutty morsels of lobster and an ethereal island of corn-and-parsley mousse floating at the surface. A heady dose of amontillado sherry complemented the richness of the broth without obscuring the flavor of the lobster. Finally among the appetizers was the white asparagus salad ($12), served with chopped marinated tomatoes, a slice of serrano ham, pieces of fresh mango and chopped cashews. The ultra-thin spears of asparagus were slightly more al dente than suits my taste, but the combined result, with textures ranging from the satiny ham to the crunchy cashews and the soft, luscious mango made it a successful dish nonetheless.

Among main courses, our favorite was a special one evening, a hangar steak ($26) garnished with puréed cauliflower and ga
lic greens. Served on a large rectangul
white platter with rounded corners, th
dish boasted a presentation worthy of
three-star Michelin restaurant, with th
red and brown beef, white cauliflower, ar
greens evoking a painter's palate. The i
tense flavor and perfectly smooth textu
of the cauliflower made it an exquisite a
companiment to the steak, which w
coarse textured but reasonably tender ar
robust in flavor. Dark sauce redolent of t
meat's cooking juices and garlic finish
the dish with aplomb.

Of Fathman's four seafood offerings, w
chose the Casco sea dabs ($28) served wi
organic muscat grapes ver jus and pure
potatoes. I did not have the presence
mind to ask the kitchen to refrain from t
standard Boston affectation of layering t
fish on top of the potatoes, but the resu
here was more than satisfactory. The thr
large filets of this variety of sole had be
lightly breaded and sautéed to a firm te
ture, so sitting on the potatoes did n
make them soggy, as often happens wi
this mode of presentation. In what seem
a harbinger of spring, four or five slend
young carrots, with the stub of their tend
green tops intact, were arrayed betwe
and around the filets. The muscat gra
sauce, served in dollops at either end of t
long rectangular plate, provided the rig
note of sweetness and fruitiness. The s
of the dish, however, was the generc
mound of sweet, nutty crabmeat gratin
top of the fish. I can live with layeri
when one of the layers is this good.

Least successful among the main cour
I tried was the pan-roasted venison ch
($28). These two thick chops, rare as
dered, had been cured with maple su
and were accompanied by roasted
yams, garlicky, pine nut–studded broc
rabe and a sauce of huckleberries a
cranberry beans. Unfortunately, the fla
of the venison was so gamy—this p
critter was obviously not a corn-
poacher—that the fruity sauce was insu
ciently assertive to counteract it. In ter
of presentation, the venison chop was
in the same league as the other m
courses. While the yams were delici
and well prepared, they looked awkwa
sitting as two massive boulders on

plate, flanked by the venison chops propped up against the greens.

Azure offered eight desserts, ranging in price from $5 to $9. An assortment of four crème brûlées ($8) was served in a molded-glass plate with four wells included hazelnut, vanilla bean, cappuccino and orange blossom. All were delicious. A tiny, dark chocolate–wrapped cannoli filled with chocolate mousse accompanied the brûlées as a superb bonus. Despite their kaleidoscope of flavors and clever presentation, the crème brûlées paled next to the German chocolate cake ($9). We ordered this dessert on the insistence of our waiter, and we were glad we heeded his advice. Far from the refrigerator-cold, banal confection that often parades under the name, this German chocolate was a rich, moist indulgence, encased in a robe of dark chocolate with a layer of soft, coconut-laced praline and adorned with a scoop of fresh, homemade coconut ice cream. Large shards of toasted coconut were scattered on and around this extravaganza.

Service at Azure one Saturday evening was impeccable. Smiles were everywhere—on the bread server, the clearers, the hosts and hostesses, and especially our waiter, who was among the more knowledgeable, helpful, and courtly waiters we have encountered in some time. Even our doggy bag—made inevitable by the substantial size of Azure's portions—was held at the door rather than placed obtrusively on the table. For some reason, my second visit, on a weekday night, found the service less precise. The bread server confused a sourdough ficelle with the regular French baguette, the doggy bag was back on the table, and the pacing and attentiveness of the waitstaff were not on a par with our earlier experience. It was as if we had stumbled onto the second team.

A final word, about Azure's wine list. While I did enjoy the forward fruit, fine structure and full bouquet of the Coppola 1999 Diamond Series merlot (fairly priced at $24 a half bottle), I was disappointed that Azure offered no full bottle of red wine for less than $30, and that wine by the glass was not listed (athough on request the waiter disclosed that it does offer wines by the glass starting at $9). Still, in the greater scheme of things, compared with other hotel restaurants in the city whose wine lists start in the upper $40s for a bottle and $12 for a glass, Azure's wine prices were downright reasonable. And I think it's only a matter of time before Azure, in showcasing cuisine as superb as that created by Robert Fathman, follows the lead of other fine Boston restaurants that have started to offer credible wines in the mid and low $20 range for bottles and $6 or $7 a glass. **iB**

Oyster shooters arrive on ice.

Chef Robert Fathman

Fathman's menu offers 11 first-course choices.

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by mail or fax (859-1446) to Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Art of Beer Festival
Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. http://beeradvocate.com/aobf. *May 24, 12-6 pm and 7-11 pm. $25 (includes meal), $30 at the door.* Taste four-ounce samples of national brews at this event, which benefits the Pine Street Inn.

Asparagus Field Trip
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). May 24, 11 am. $14.95 (includes lunch with asparagus dishes). **Steve Verrill** leads a trip around the farm, where participants will learn about the crop and have an opportunity to cut a bunch of asparagus to take home.

Brewing Education Classes
Jacob Wirth Restaurant, 31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. May 19, 7 pm. Free. Sam Adams brewers teach participants how to use home-brewing kits and create their own microbrews.

Cooking for Singles
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 16, 6:30 pm. $71. Meet new friends, sip wine and learn new recipes at this cooking class for singles.

Cooking with Kouzina
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). May 19, 7 pm. $49. Chef **Nelson Cognac** of Kouzina teaches participants how to make dishes that meld the tastes of Greece and France.

Fireside Chats: New England Bounty, Land & Sea
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 3 pm. $25. Experts share knowledge on everything from fine American wines to microbrews to seasonal New England food •May 24: Learn about mushroom foraging, cla raking and lobster trapping.

Nantucket Wine Festival
Nantucket (508-228-1128). www.nantucketwi festival.com. *May 13-18.* This festival culminat with the Grand Tasting (May 17-18), at whic 150 international wineries pour their wines.

Olive Oil Tasting
Accardi & Sons, 85 Commercial St., Medford (78 662-0484). May 14, 6:30 pm. $25 (includes tap and wine). Learn the distinctions between Spa ish, Italian and California olive oils, cold pre versus first press, and how to cook with olive oil

The Ritz-Carlton Cookbook
Jer-ne, 12 Avery St., Boston (617-912-3355 MBTA: Green Line to Park. May 27, 6:30 pr $135. Chef **Jorg Behrend** prepares a thre course dinner with wine using the recently pu lished *The Ritz-Carlton Cookbook.*

Sangria and Salsa Harbor Cruise
World Trade Center, Boston (617-864-8140 MBTA: Red Line to South Station. May 26, 7 pr $49. Tasca restaurant sponsors this cruise of t Boston Harbor on a luxury motor yacht, offeri sangria and an eight-course tapas dinner.

Tailgate Party
World Trade Center, Boston (617-864-8140 MBTA: Red Line to South Station. May 22, 6 pr $250. Tom and Ray Magliozzi , Click and Cla from Car Talk, hosts this benefit for Shelter In featuring a performance by Ossie Davis, an exhib tion of classic cars and new models, a live auctio and cuisine by some of Boston's best restaurants.

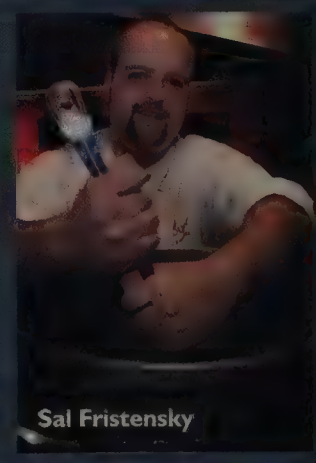
Tuesday Night Wine Tasting
129 South St., Boston (617-864-8140). MBT Red Line to South Station. Tuesdays, 5 and 8 p $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey Fallon** educates part ipants on various aspects of wine. Chef **Ian Ju** pairs four to five hors d'oeuvres with the win •May 20: French rosé •May 27: Paso Robles.

The Way We Cook
Elizabeth Bishop Wine Resource Center, 8 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). May 15, 9 pm. $65 (includes book). Food writers **Sher Julian** and **Julie Riven** of the *Boston Globe*, a thors of the new cookbook, *The Way We Coo Recipes from the New American Kitchen*, provi home cooks with dependable recipes. Particip in a demonstration seminar and tasting.

TASTY TIDBIT

BOIL BASH

If life were like a movie, with a soundtrack playing in the background, then the director would cue "Suck the Head," the Radiators' 1987 paean to the joys of eating crawfish, for the scene at Rouge's Crawfish Boil on May 19. "It's the height of crawfish season in New Orleans right now, and ours will be a down-and-dirty boil," says Rouge's chef Sal Fristensky, who hosts this traditional Southern gathering. He elaborates on the proper crawfish-eating technique: "Pinch the tail, give it a twist and then suck the meat out of the head."


Sal Fristensky

The evening begins with Budweiser tall boys and hushpuppies on the patio as Fristensky tends to a pot of boiling water with potatoes and corn-on-the-cob spiced with lemon, cayenn pepper and celery salt. At the last minute, he'll throw in the crawfish (which he says taste lik boiled shrimp). When they're fully cooked, he'll dump them on the newspaper-covered table and guests will feast on the bounty, along with an iceberg lettuce salad and, for dessert, banana pudding.

Rouge, 480 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600). May 19, 6:30 pm. $35. —J.S.

DISH

Heard It Through the Apevine…

Primatologist's prefs...BLT's at the BPL?... Uncanned openings…

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

When renowned primatologist **Dr. Jane Goodall** was honored at a benefit dinner at **Hamersley's Bistro**, her preference for vegetarian fare certainly did not throw a monkey wrench into the works. **Gordon Hamersley** and the other five top Boston chefs on hand—**Ana Sortun** of **Oleana**, **Jody Adams** of **Rialto**, **Steve Johnson** of **The Blue Room**, **Rich Vallente** of **Legal Sea Foods**, and **Chris Douglass** of **Icarus**—simply adapted their dishes on the spot to suit Goodall. Hamersley and Douglas grilled wild mushrooms, instead of lamb, to serve over a risotto of spring peas and golden beets. "She seemed to love it," said a participant. So civilized.

Local chefs recently honored Dr. Jane Goodall (center) at Hamersley's Bistro.

Keep your voice down. Look it up in the card catalog. And never, ever, eat or drink in the library. In our age of rampantly ringing cellphones and Internet-based research, those traditional guidelines for library behavior seem almost quaint. As for the food and drink, soon there'll be no need for scofflaws to smuggle juice boxes and energy bars into the Boston Public Library, because the newly renovated McKim Building in Copley Square will house both a sit-down restaurant and a café. The restaurant, cleverly named **Novel**, will feature a luncheon buffet. But don't get the idea that a buffet means cafeteria-style food.

"I see us as a purveyor of fine foods," says chef in charge, **Emil Grosso.** Grosso, who was vice president of retail operations at **Dean & Deluca** in New York until he joined **Sebastian's Catering** as executive vice president six months ago, promises "authentic, creative food" at Novel (expect beef Wellington, crabcakes, monkfish and pork loin) and fine-quality, light breakfast and lunch fare at Sebastian's Map Room Café. Look for baked goods from New York and Boston bakers; specialty yogurts, including buffalo yogurt from Vermont and imported Greek yogurt; panini sandwiches and the like. Novel will also offer high tea from 2-4 pm. Opening is set for late May; no (book) jackets required. Watch out, Borders!

SECOND COURSE

Speaking of overdue, the planned spring opening of **Bravo,** the "exciting new dining destination" announced by the **Museum of Fine Arts** last February, is rather behind schedule. Design work is now under way on the space across from the Museum's Gund Gallery, and spokesperson Kieran Heffernan says she's not sure if it will open in June or not. Great art cannot be rushed, however, and when Bravo debuts, Heffernan asserts, "it's going to be fantastic."

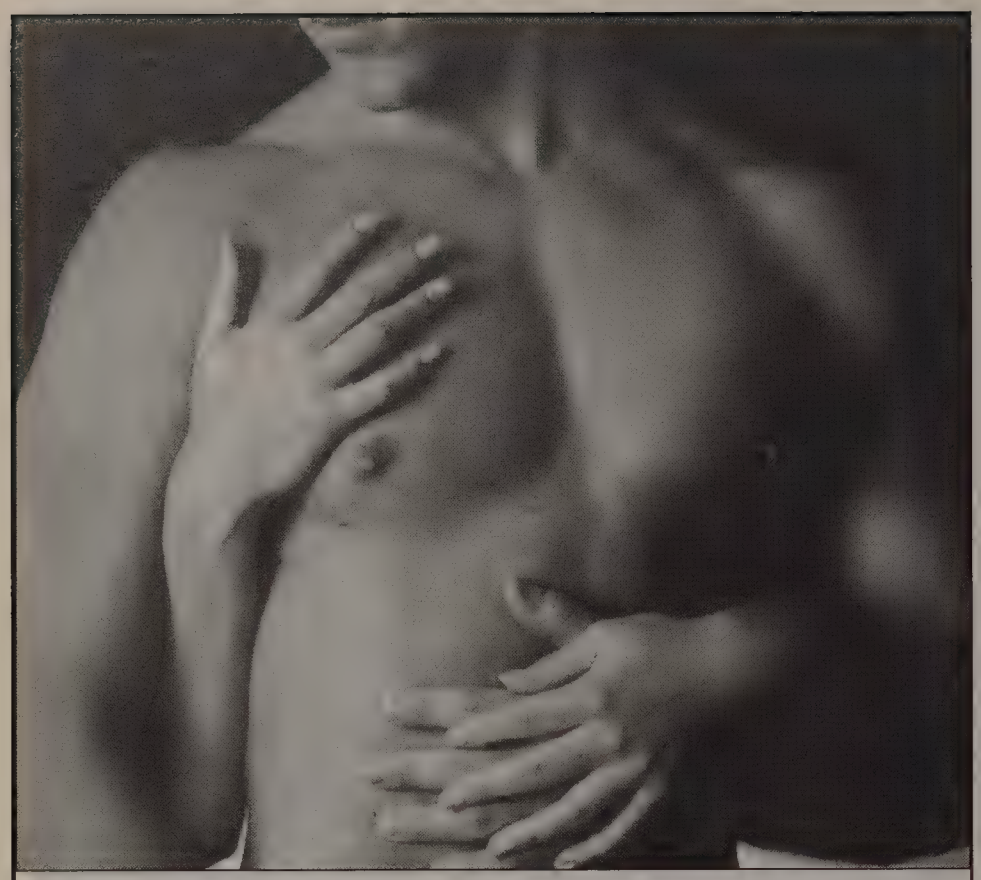
Also fashionably late, but opening any minute now, is the much anticipated **Excelsior**, occupying the totally redesigned space of the former Biba. Chef/owner **Lydia Shire** and owner/manager Tim Lynch have brought in **Alec Riveros** as general manager, and **Eric Buxton** is wine manager and caretaker of the 400-plus bottle list. Lunch, dinner, and a bar menu, plus "lavish cocktails," will be served.

A mere three and a half months after a disastrous fire destroyed its dining room and bar, **The Elephant Walk** in Boston has been rebuilt and repaired. It will most likely be reopened by the time you read this. But call first, just to be sure.

Coalition of the Grilling: Mark your calendars for the sixth annual **Chefs in Shorts** event outside the **Seaport Hotel** on June 27....Whether you want to flick your Bic or light yourself up with a couple of basil lime gimlets, know that the patio is open and smokin' at **Via Matta**. And know that, since Via Matta was just named one of "75 Hot Tables in the World" by Conde Nast Traveler, you should stake out a table early. IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com



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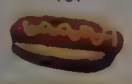
MPROPER PICKS

may 14 - 27

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			The **Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** continues at the Museum of Fine Arts with a program of short films made by women. See page 60.	T.T. the Bear's Place has a terrific bill: the **Majesticons**, featuring Mike Ladd, Hrvatski and EJ, $10. See page 64.		Pack a lunch and go fly a kite at the **Boston Kite and Flight Festival** at Franklin Park. See page 46.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Eddie Andelman's **Hot Dog Safari** at Suffolk Downs is an all-you-can-eat hot dog fiesta to benefit the Joey Fund. See page 48. 				**Heading Home Tailgate Party** features classic cars, classic cuisine and "Click and Clack" at the World Trade Center. See page 48.	The Charlestown Working Theater hosts a benefit fund-raiser with **Bobcat Goldthwait** and Tony V. See page 48.	
25	26	27	28			
	The Brattle's **James Bond series** continues with a double feature of *Goldfinger* and *For Your Eyes Only*. See page 58.					

WED./MAY 21

Music: Eight Spicy Acts

Local label Kimchee Records is throwing an eight-band bash at Johnny D's in Somerville, showing off some of its top talent in one night. WMBR *Pipeline* host Bob Dubrow and engineer Andy Hong launched Kimchee in 1996 to get more exposure for bands whose music wasn't getting heard. The May 21 show is a testament to their accomplishments over the past eight years. It kicks off with Heidi Saperstein, followed by Rosa Chance Well (their first live appearance in more than a year), Tiger Saw, Torrez, the Pee Wee Fist, Seana Carmody and Blake Hazard. Finally, 27, recently returned from a European tour, headlines. It's a $10 cover, and if you do the math, that means it's only a buck and a quarter per band. Better still, it's all for a good cause—proceeds benefit the Somerville Arts Council. *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). 8pm. $10.*

The band 27 headlines Kimchee Records' bash at Johnny D's May 21.

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

Art, Books & Poetry, Film, Music, Gay & Lesbian

JULIE SHORT

Around Town, Children, Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs and Sports

agenda

SAT./MAY 24

Tastings: A Big Brew-haha

Back in the mid-'90s, when microbrews were all the rage and it seemed as if every other restaurant was a brew house, beer became something of an art form. Now only a few stalwarts (among them, Boston Beer Works, Cambridge Brewing Co. and Commonwealth Brewing Co.) remain, but the good news for lager lovers is that beer seems to be back in vogue. Nearly every other week, the IMPROPER's calendar features a beer tasting at some upscale establishment or another. The trend continues with the **Art of Beer Festival** at the Cyclorama May 24. Nearly 100 brewers will offer four-ounce samples, and participants can take seminars taught by the likes of Al Marzi of Harpoon Brewery, Chris Lohring of Tremont Brewery and Tod Mott of Haverhill Brewery. The ticket price includes a meal prepared by Redbones in Davis Square. Beer and barbecue... what more could you ask for? *Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-8942).* http://beeradvocate.com/aobf. *May 24, 12-6 pm and 7-11 pm. $25, $30 at the door.*

Will Meyers, head brewer at the Cambridge Brewing Co., poses in front of Benevolence beer, a combination of raisins, dark Belgian candy sugar and Belgian yeast brewed in Jack Daniel's bourbon barrels.

WED./MAY 14

Music: A Swingin' Affair

Time to brush up on your Rat Pack history. Lucky's Lounge is throwing its third annual Sinatra-thon. The tribute, which marks the five-year anniversary of Frank Sinatra's death, features veteran crooners Alex MacDougall, Mark Mahar and the Al Vega Trio, all of whom have mastered the art of Sinatra covers. WPLM's *Strictly Sinatra* host Ron Della Chiesa will emcee the event. If you think you know your Old Blue Eyes trivia, you have a shot at taking home some fab prizes—one lucky winner gets an expenses-paid trip to Mohegan Sun. If you don't win, maybe you'll still luck out romantically and meet a stranger in the night anyway. Or you could just say "Hey—that's life." *355 Congress St., Boston (617-357-LUCK).* www.luckyslounge.com. *8pm. No cover. 21+.*

TUE./MAY 27-SUN./JUNE 8

Performing Arts: Hangin' Tough

A mere three weeks before the premiere of his blockbuster hit musical, *Rent*, 35-year-old composer and lyricist Jonathan Larson died of an aortic aneurysm. He left behind two unproduced plays, one of which was a semi-autobiographical one-man show called **Tick, Tick...Boom!** It's the story of a young composer on the brink of turning 30, torn between his creative passions and his need for stability. Playwright David Auburn *(Proof)* pieced together the show using six different drafts found among Larson's belongings and created a three-character musical—now starring Joey McIntyre, formerly of New Kids on the Block and a current cast member of TV's *Boston Public*. The storyline is compelling, but let's be honest: Joey Mac's baby blues are the draw for more than a few former NKOTB fans. Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. May 27-June 8. $25-$60.

The Mods play at the Regent Theatre in Arlington May 17.

SAT./MAY 17

CityScope: Legends of the '60s

You may never have heard of the Boston Rock 'n' Roll Museum—a compilation of thousands of posters, photos, magazines, newspapers, recordings and memorabilia. That's because it's still a virtual museum in search of a home. To raise money for a brick-and-mortar location, the organizers are hosting a rock legends concert, called **Live at the Surf**, starring Barry and the Remains at the Regent Theatre in Arlington. This will be the first of more than a dozen shows to honor more than five decades of New England music history. Also on the bill are the Mods and the Surf All-Stars, featuring Lenny Collins and Lenny Petze of the original Rhondells, Lenny Baker (lat with ShaNaNa), Bobby Matulina and Nicky Ladio of the original Pilgrims. The even includes a slide show, rare film and video clips, and an exhibit area with posters and other memorabilia. *Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington Center (781-646-4849).* www.regenttheatre.com. *7:30 pm. Tickets are $25 and $35.*

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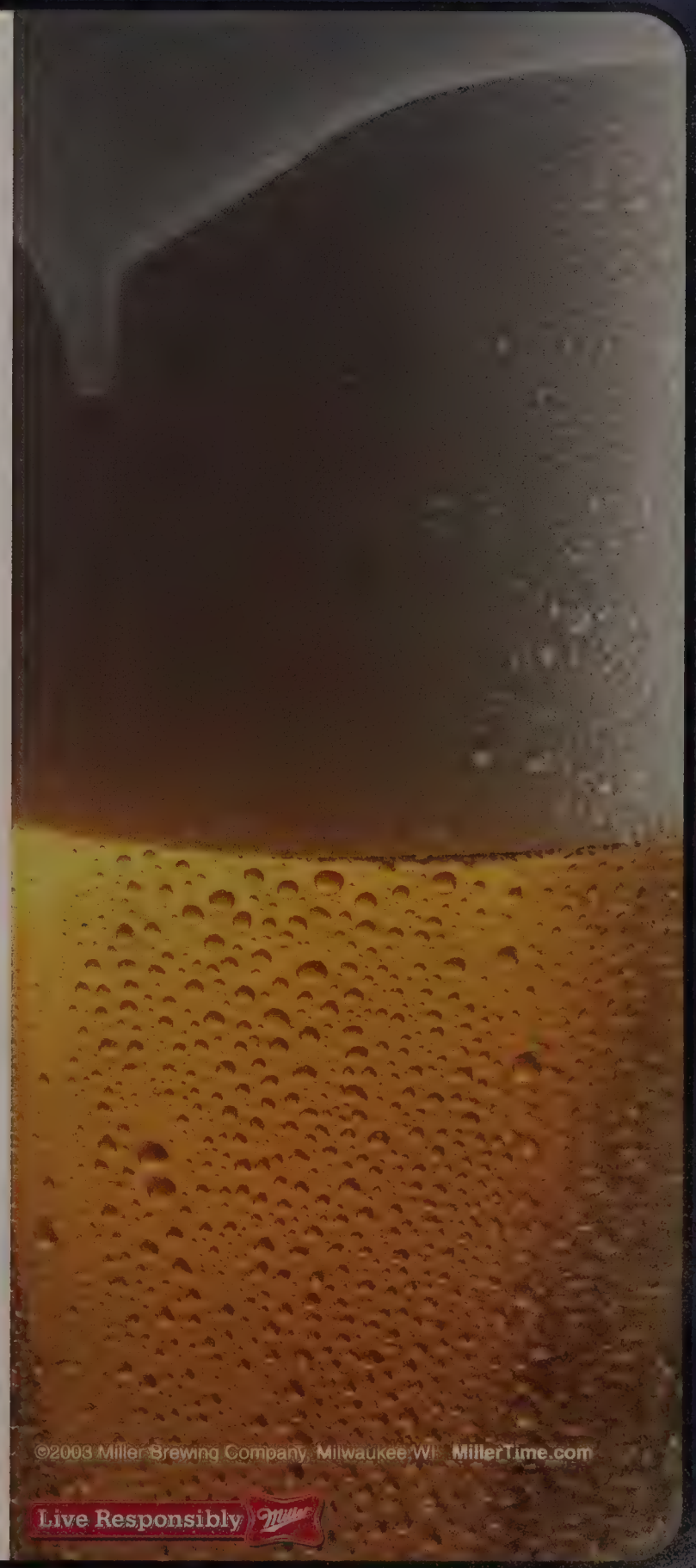

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Ongoing: Junior League of Boston Decorators Show House
The Noah Brooks Tavern, Minute Man National Park, Lincoln (617-536-9640). www.jlboston.org. Tue.-Fri, 9:30 am-2 pm and 6-9 pm; Sat., 9:30 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11 am-6 pm. Closed Mondays. Through May 23. $20 in advance, $25 at the door. More than 25 decorated spaces created by nationally recognized designers and landscapers are on display.

Island of Hope Fund-Raiser
Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston (508-650-4301). 5:30-8 pm. $25. Kitty Dukakis hosts this benefit for Island of Hope, an organization that supports teens with cancer and their families. The event includes a silent auction, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Le Festival de Cannes: The Glitz and Beyond
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). 6:30 pm. $20. Brown University lecturer Shoggy Waryn and Cannes Film Festival experts/aficionados Barbara Bouquegneau and Aline Combe lead a multimedia presentation on the stories behind the glitzy annual French movie powwow.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

CraftBoston
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston (617-232-7000). www.craftboston.org. Preview gala May 15, 6-9 pm. Show Fri., 10 am-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $12. This arts and crafts expo features more than 160 artists showing and selling their work, which includes baskets, ceramics, furniture, jewelry and more. Proceeds benefit the Society of Arts and Crafts.

Dawn Upshaw/Gilbert Kalish Recital
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.fas.harvard.edu/~tickets. 8 pm. $100 priority seating and artists' reception; other tickets begin at $32. Soprano Upshaw and pianist Kalish perform works by Golijov, Bolcom, Mahler and others to benefit the Yellow Barn Music School and Festival.

Exceptional Women Awards
Marriott Copley Place, Boston (617-822-6534). 12-2 pm. $100. Six women, including Ally McBeal's Vonda Shepherd and ABC *World News Tonight* correspondent Carole Simpson, are honored at this annual event. A portion of the proceeds benefits Magic Family Connections, which provides free counseling to women fighting cancer.

The Charles Street Spring Sidewalk Sale is May 17

Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill Tour
Tour begins on the corners of Charles and Mt. Vernon Streets and Charles and Beacon Street, Boston (617-227-4392). www.beaconhillgardenclub.org. 9 am-3 pm. $30. The Beacon Hill Garden Club offers a rare chance to visit the secret paths and private landscapes behind the brick façades of 12 Beacon Hill townhouses.

Next Competition Grand Finale
The Roxy, 279 Tremont St., Boston (617-469-6407) www.nextnewengland.com. 6 pm. $15. New England's version of *American Idol* pits 10 vocalists against one another, with the winner determined by the audience.

North Bennet Street School Benefit
Gore Place Estate, Waltham (617-227-0155, ext. 111). www.nbss.org. 6-8 pm. $150. Bookbinders, jewelry makers and other artisans show their work at this cocktail reception fund-raiser for Boston's North Bennet School, which provides an education in craftsmanship.

Tango by Moonlight
Weeks Pedestrian Bridge over the Charles River, near Harvard Square (617-699-6246). www.tangoboston.org. 8-11 pm. Free. Dance the Argentine Tango on the Weeks Bridge by moonlight with the Tango Society of Boston.

United Way Tag Sale and Auction
Copley Square, in front of Trinity Church (617-624-8267). www.uwmb.org. 10 am-2 pm. The United Way of Mass Bay's annual hotel tag sale offers bargain-hunters everything from artwork and furniture to china from Boston's premier hotels. The afternoon also features a live auction of weekend getaways and other packages from participating hotels.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

Back Bay Soiree
The Harvard Club, 374 Comm. Ave., Boston www.jetsetevents.com. 8 pm-2 am. $65 by May 15, $85 at the door if available. Black tie optional, jacket required for men. This party includes music by Souled Out and DJ Sensae, martini and champagne bars, hors d'oeuvres, raffles and a chance to win a Porsche Boxster or Audi TT for a weekend.

True Blue Ocean Fund-Raiser
Sophia's, 1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-424-7017) www.trueblueocean.org. 6-10 pm. $15. This cocktail party raises money for True Blue Ocean, an organization that fights deterioration of ocean habitats.

Vivid Lounge Opening Benefit Party
The Vivid Lounge, 148 State St., Boston (617-263-3214). www.elliefund.org. 8 pm. $25 by May 15, $30 at the door. 21+. Celebrate the grand opening of the Vivid Lounge with complimentary martinis, wine and beer from 8-10 pm, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and door prizes. Proceeds benefit the Ellie Fund.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Appraisal Fund-Raiser
King Hooper Mansion, 8 Hooper St., Marblehead (781-631-2608). 10 am-2 pm. $5 per item. Antiques Roadshow appraiser Paul Royka assesses your treasures to benefit the Marblehead Arts Association. No weapons, coins, stamps, rugs, or looted Iraqi antiquities, please.

Boston Kite and Flight Festival
The Playstead, Franklin Park (between Franklin Park Zoo and White Stadium), Boston (617-635-4505, ext. 7236). 11 am-3 pm. Go fly a kite at the 35th Annual Kite and Flight Festival, which includes the Dino-man in Space giant-balloon show, the Museum of Science Crafts Workshop and lots of kites.

Boston Rock & Roll Museum Benefit
Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington Center (781-646-4849) www.regenttheatre.com. 7:30 pm. Tickets $25 and $35. The Remains headline a gathering of Boston rock legends to benefit the online Boston Rock & Roll Museum. Also on the bill are the Mods and the Surf All-Stars, and the event includes a slide show, rare film and video clips and a exhibit area with posters and other memorabilia.

***Carmen* Gala**
Four Seasons Hotel, 200 Boylston St., Boston (617-542-4912, ext. 251). www.blo.org. $500. Mezzo-soprano Jossie Pérez, who played Carmen in the Boston Lyric Opera's *Carmen on the Common*, performs at this benefit for the Fund for Emerging Artists.

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XII

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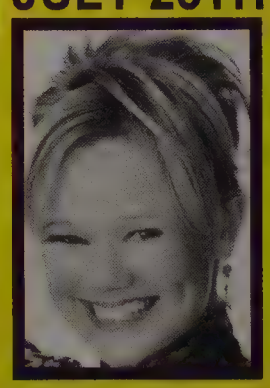

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(Next to The Comedy Connection in the Quincy Market Bldg.)

The Next Grand Finale is at the Roxy May 15.

Charles Street Spring Sidewalk Sale
Various Charles Street businesses, Boston (617-723-8111). 10 am-6 pm. More than 25 Charles Street merchants set up shop on the sidewalk. Charles Street restaurants also offer specials for shoppers with receipts from participating stores.

Keep the Door Open Benefit
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-787-3820). 7 pm-12 am. $75. This fund-raiser for Granada House, an addiction treatment center, features live music from Firda and James Montgomery & Friends. The evening includes dinner, dancing and an auction. Alcohol-free.

The Kidney Walk
Start at the beginning of the Freedom Trail, Boston Common (800-542-4001). www.kidneyhealth.org. *Registration 8am, walk begins at 10 am.* Join Congressman Stephen Lynch and costumed characters like Paul Revere in this 2.5-mile walk along the Freedom Trail to benefit the National Kidney Foundation.

Trips for Kids Rock Your Soul Concert
Sons of Italy, 120 Quarry St., Boston. www.tripsforkidsboston.org. *7 pm-12 am. $28 in advance, $35 at the door.* Cindy Bullens performs a benefit concert for Trips for Kids, an organization that takes underprivileged children on mountain-biking trips.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Eddie Andelman's Hot Dog Safari
Suffolk Downs, East Boston. www.hotdogsafari.com. *9 am-5 pm. $15.* Ray Bourque and Barry and Eliot of Jordan's Furniture host this annual all-you-can-eat hot dog fiesta to benefit the Joey Fund, which fights cystic fibrosis.

MDA Great Walk
MDC Hatch Shell, the Esplanade, Boston (617-368-9155). Registration 9 am, walk begins at 10:30 am. Almost 2,000 people will take part in this 3.5-mile walk to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Newton Spring House Tour
Homes throughout Newton (617-796-1450). www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson. *11:30 am-5 pm. $20 by May 16, $25 thereafter.* This unguided driving tour of 11 Newton cribs includes homes of many different styles and ages. Proceeds benefit the Newton Museum at the Jackson Homestead

MONDAY, MAY 19

Elliot Norton Awards
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-9155). 7 pm. $35. Tony Award–winning actor Brian Dennehy is the guest of honor at this annual theater awards ceremony. A buffet reception with dessert follows the awards.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Circle of Friends Gala and Silent Auction
Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge (617-876-4210). www.helpfamilies.org. *6:30 pm. $50.* The Cambridge Family and Children's Service's annual fundraiser includes food and a silent auction offering more than 500 items.

Fenway CDC 30th Anniversary Gala
Prudential Skywalk, Prudential Building, Boston. (617-267-4637, ext. 11). www.fenwaycdc.org. *6-8:30 pm. $100.* The Fenway Community Development Corporation celebrates the big 3-0 with cocktails, light supper and music on the Skywalk.

HurryDate Event
Felt, 533 Washington St, Boston. (212-871-6707). www.hurrydate.com. *7 pm. $35.* Go on 25 three-minute dates and see if you make a match.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Franciscan Hospital for Children's Community Leadership Awards Dinner
Westin Hotel Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-254-3800 ext. 1414). VIP reception, 5:30-6 pm; general reception, 6 pm; dinner, 7 pm. $500 VIP, $250 general ticket. Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield is honored at this dinner and silent auction to benefit the Franciscan Hospital for Children.

Heading Home 2003 Tailgate Party
World Trade Center, Boston (617-864-8140). 6 pm. $250. Tom and Ray Magliozzi, also known as Click and Clack from NPR's *Car Talk*, host this benefit for Shelter Inc. featuring a performance by Ossie Davis, an exhibition of classic cars and new models, a live auction, and cuisine by such restaurants as Casablanca, Azure, Chez Henri, Elephant Walk, Evoo, Masa, Olives and UpStairs on the Square.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Charlestown Working Theater Comedy Fund-Raiser
442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (617-242-3285). 7 pm. $100. Tony V and Bobcat Goldthwait headline this comedy benefit for the Charlestown Working Theatre. The show also includes a performance by comedian Greg Rodrigues. The evening begins with a cocktail reception, and food from Charlestown restaurants will be served.

Single Executives Club Dance
Radisson Hotel Grand Ballroom, 929 Hingham St., Route 228, Rockland (781-446-0234). 8:30 pm-1 am. $10 before 9 pm, $15 thereafter. Proper dress required. Single professionals ages 35 and up are invited to this social and dance with music by Brian Milligan, hors d'oeuvres and door prizes.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Art of Beer Festival
Boston Center for the Arts, Tremont St., Boston (617-426-8942). www.beeradvocate.com. *2-6 pm and 7-11 pm. $25.* This beer festival includes seminars by brewers, 10 beer-tasting tickets and food. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Pine Street Inn.

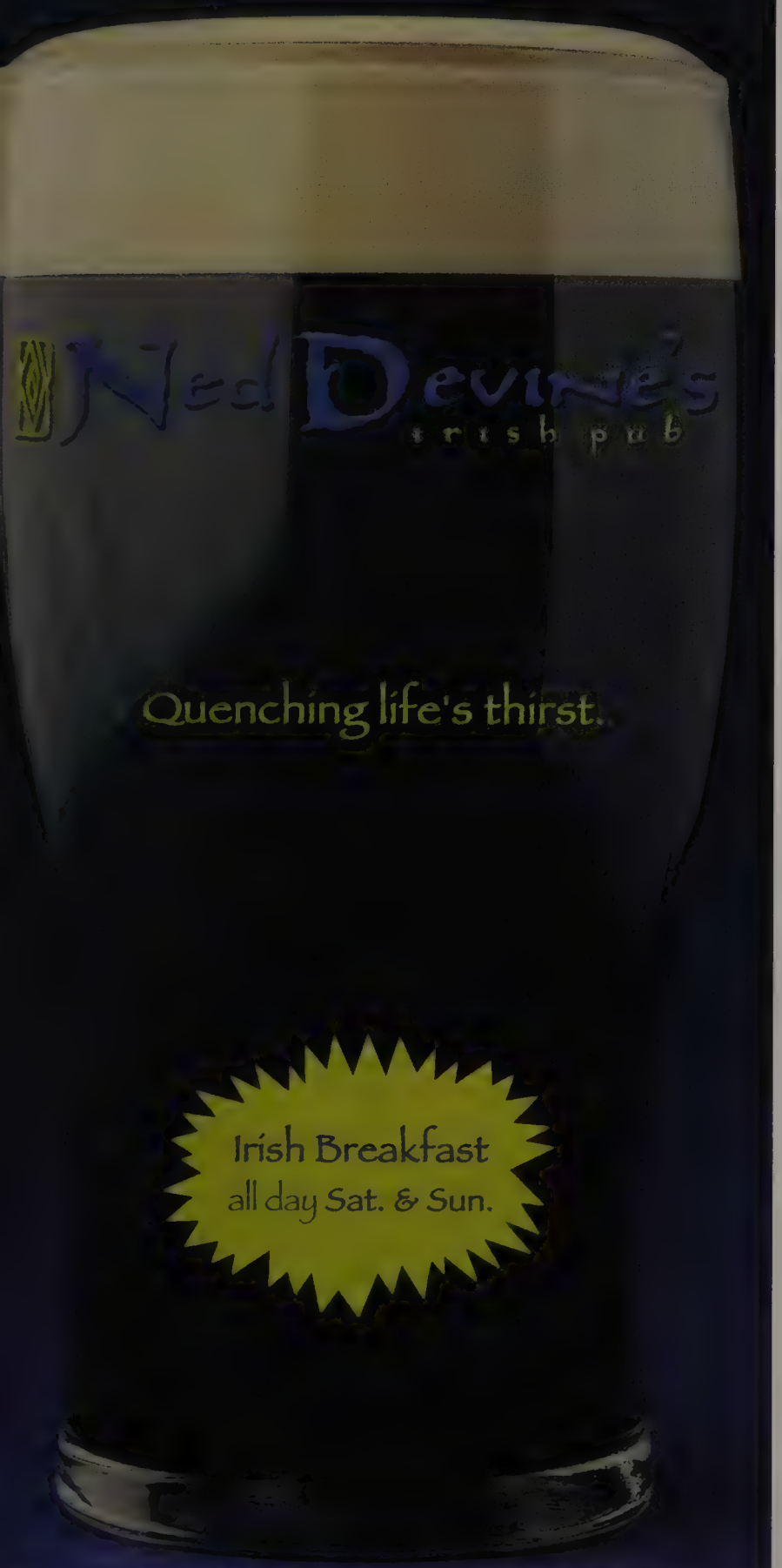
Singles Pizza and Bowling Night
Milky Way Lounge and Lanes, Jamaica Plain (781-721-5844). www.funfunfun.org. *7 pm dinner, 11 pm bowling.* The Funfunfun.org. singles club invites singles in their 20s and 30s to come out for a night of knockin' back pizza, knocking down pins and meeting people

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Jeff Koons SMFA Medal Awards Dinner
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3605). 6 pm. $250. Artist Jeff Koons is honored at this benefit dinner for the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. The evening also includes a juried silent auction of work by current Museum School students.

The United Way's Tag Sale offers furniture, vases and other items from Boston hotels May 15.

Running a pint low?



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Submit updated press releases by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Theater. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets. com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Fly-Bottle
Spring Lawn Theater, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). May 24-Aug. 24. $27-$42. David Egan's play examines the famed "poker incident" between renowned philosophers Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popper at the Moral Science Club in England in October 1946. The two are said to have engaged in a heated exchange that culminated in Wittgenstein gesturing with (some say brandishing) a poker that hung by the fireplace.

The Sound of a Voice
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. May 24-June 28. $34-$68.* In this play by David Henry Hwang, a Japanese warrior takes on the challenge of achieving intimacy after years of seclusion. He finds himself entangled in a battle of love with an enchanting yet reclusive woman.

Springtime for Henry
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntington theatre.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. May 21-June 15. $14-$64.* Tony Award winner Robert Sean Leonard stars in Benn Levy's play as Henry Dewlip, a playboy who becomes entangled in a slew of lies and infidelities. He's forced to choose between his selfish tendencies and doing what's right.

Tick, Tick...Boom!
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. *Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. May 27-June 8. $25-$60.* Joey McIntyre, formerly of New Kids on the Block and a cast member of TV's *Boston Public*, stars in this story of a young composer on the brink of turning 30 and falling into oblivion. His girlfriend wants to get married and move out of the city, his best friend is making big bucks on Madison Avenue, and he's still waiting tables and trying to write the great American musical. The show is adapted from an autobiographical one-man show by Jonathan Larson, who created the Broadway blockbuster *Rent*.

NOW RUNNING

Bat Boy: The Musical
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Through May 25. $30-$38. With lyrics and music by Laurence O'Keefe, this award-winning musical is based on a tabloid article about a half-human, half-bat boy found in a West Virginia cave. It documents the child's quest for acceptance.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Cabaret
Durrell Theatre, Cambridge YMCA, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-566-3513). www.longwoodplayers.com. *Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. Through May 17. $14-$16.* The Longwood Players present Joe Masteroff's provocative and darkly humorous musical set at the Kit Kat club.

Defending the Caveman
Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-4008). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5, 7:15 and 10:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through May 18. $23-$52.50. Rob Becker's humorous look at relationships explores that wide yet comical space known as the gender gap.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7 pm. Ongoing. $27. The Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent [illegible] sistant. He loses his mind during a performan[illegible] and only authentic supernatural powers and [illegible] dark past can save his show. With beginnings i[illegible] 10-seat basement theater in Allston, this bla[illegible] comedy written and performed by Donato Colu[illegible] is now being presented by the Undergrou[illegible] Magic Theatre.

Hearing Voices (Speaking in Tongues)
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Bos[illegible] (617-426-ARTS). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sun., 3 p[illegible] Through May 17. $15-$18. Poet and perfor[illegible] Michael Mack's one-man play draws on his life a[illegible] child raised by a mother with paranoid schizophren[illegible]

Mame
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Bev[illegible] (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., 8 pm; We[illegible] 2 pm and 8 pm; Thu.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 p[illegible] Sun., 2 pm. Through May 18. $26-$63.* Free-thi[illegible] ing and irreverent Mame Dennis takes on the jo[illegible] raising her orphaned 10-year-old nephew, teach[illegible] him to soak up the few life pleasures available in [illegible] Depression-era 1930s. Based on the novel by Patr[illegible] Dennis, this musical celebrates unconventio[illegible] family values and individuality.

Man of La Mancha
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (7[illegible] 279-2200). Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 p[illegible] Through May 18. $25-$35. The chivalrous drea[illegible] Don Quixote sets out to defend the honor of a l[illegible] and battle the evil he confronts in a cynical wo[illegible] This musical follows the self-christened Champ[illegible] of the Oppressed and Righter of Wrongs as he jo[illegible] neys toward an impossible dream while fighting [illegible] and fictional foes.

The MOMologues
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater, 955 Boyls[illegible] St., Boston (617-262-2928). www.momologues.co[illegible] MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed.-Fri., 8 p[illegible] Sat., 3 and 8 pm. Through May 17. $26. Th[illegible] Boston-based moms present this original com[illegible] about the good, bad and ugly realities of moth[illegible] hood and the neuroses that arise from it...just[illegible] time for Mothers' Day.

Once upon a Mattress
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (6[illegible] 244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Thro[illegible] June 1. $15-$21. This clever take on *The Princ[illegible] and the Pea* follows poor Prince Dauntless, who's [illegible] a bachelor thanks to his overbearing mother who [illegible] sists that each of his potential brides-to-be pass[illegible] impossible gauntlet of tests.

Pericles
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambr[illegible] (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red L[illegible] to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat.[illegible] and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through June 27. $[illegible] $68.* One of the last plays Shakespeare wrote, [illegible] epic romance—complete with magicians, pira[illegible] shipwrecks and divine revelation—opens in a wo[illegible] broken by famine, incest and corruption, and clo[illegible] in a scene of sublime love, redemption and hope.

Puppetry of the Penis
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-2[illegible] 1199). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Thu. pm; Fri. and Sat., 7 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 7 pm. On[illegible] ing. $35-$39.50. The international comedy hit [illegible] tures the "ancient Australian art of genital origa[illegible] Creators Simon Morley and Dan Lewry perfo[illegible] naked while shaping and stretching their peni[illegible] into more than 40 figures, including the Eiffel To[illegible] and the Loch Ness Monster.

Romulus
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (6[illegible] 625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri. and Sat. pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through May 31. $15-$20.* G[illegible] Vidal's play takes a dryly comedic look at the Ro[illegible] Empire and the court of emperor Romulus just [illegible] fore the once-invincible empire falls to the Goth[illegible]

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (6[illegible] 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. T[illegible] Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit [illegible] in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Bost[illegible] longest running play.

Side Show
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Bos[illegible] (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Arling[illegible] Wed., 2 and 7:30 pm; Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 [illegible] Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through May [illegible] $22-$40. Based on the true story of Siam[illegible] twins who became stars during the Depressi[illegible] this four-time Tony-nominated musical by [illegible] Russell is a portrait of two women, joined at [illegible] hip, whose bond brings them fame but de[illegible] them love.

Magicians delight and amaze at the Comedy Studio's Tuesday night Mystery Lounge.

Preview

Abracadabra!

On Tuesday nights, the Comedy Studio opens the floor to some of Boston's magicians

Magician Steven Kradolfer begins his act with the seemingly basic trick of tying a five-foot-long balloon into an animal. But then he does something unexpected: He swallows the balloon whole. That's when audiences realize they're in for more than the average rabbit-in-a-hat routine.

Kradolfer performs this month at the Comedy Studio's Mystery Lounge, a Tuesday-night series that challenges audiences' expectations of a magic show. Combining special effects and mind-reading techniques with comedy, the magicians present a professional magic show that's as amusing as it is mesmerizing. "This isn't your father's magic show," says magician Mike Bent, who partnered with Comedy Studio manager Rick Jenkins to pull the night together. "It's interactive with the audience, and it's right in your face."

Bent, Kradolfer and two other Boston-based magicians, Jon Stetson and David Oliver, have spent their careers performing magic and comedy shows around the country for corporations and colleges. But the men wanted a hometown venue where they could have fun on their night off. So they created the Mystery Lounge, an intimate gathering at the Comedy Studio that allows them to stray from their usually scripted show and interact informally with the audience. The night starts out with some pre-show entertainment—the magicians meet and mystify audience members at the Hong Kong bar before they head upstairs to the Comedy Studio to present their feature acts. Stetson wows with magic of the mind, revealing the serial number on the dollar bill in the pocket of an audience member, for example. Oliver makes doves vanish into thin air two feet from where the audience is sitting, and Bent mixes stand-up and special-effects comedy.

"It's great because I get to do things I can't do other places," says Bent, whose stunts sometimes include pretending to scoop out his eye with a melon baller. The group welcomes a different guest magician every week. "It's unlike anything you can find in Boston," says Jenkins. ***The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tuesdays, 10 pm. $10. —Victoria Cook and Julie Short***

The Place

WHERE PEOPLE MEET

The Place owner Bill Fairweather with Red Sox legend and El Tiante Cigars owner, Luis Tiante

On Thursday, May 1st, The Place was 'smokin' for one last time. Employees and customers enjoyed a night, straight out of the Roarin 20's.

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SUNDAY NIGHTS

UNPLUGGED

5 HOURS OF THE BEST LIVE LOCAL MUSIC WITH JUSTIN BEECH, JOHN BOWSER, AND TOM GROLEAU

Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street

New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7 pm; Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Through May 25. $27-$35. In Steven Sondheim's musical comedy, an unhinged barber begins a grisly, comical scheme of revenge and murder after his wife and child are taken away from him by an evil judge.

Veronika Vavoom, Volcanologist

Boston Theatre Works, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-939-9939). Mon., 7 pm; Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through May 18. $25. Volcanologist Veronika Vavimetsu descends into Colombia's Galeras Volcano to retrieve the body of 16-year-old George, an American teen who has committed suicide. But when Veronika finds him, he is alive, having survived the jump. In this play by Olga Humphrey, the two forge a special relationship that extends to the outside world, as Veronika tries to save the teen in more ways than one.

Bill Campbell tells *A Parenting Story* May 18 and 25.

Dance

Dancing Irene: Capturing My Grandmother in Dance

Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-864-3191) Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. May 16 and 17. $10. Cara Alaimo attempts to portray her grandmother through dance pieces intertwined with short video clips from an interview with her grandmother.

Open Floor Showcase

Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-864-3191). May 18, 8 pm. $10-$12. Green Street Studios' annual fund-raising event showcases the work of 11 different choreographers, all of whom are past participants in Open Floor, Green Street Studios' monthly event.

Pilobolus

Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. May 16-18. $35-$50. Since its first performance three decades ago at Dartmouth College, this innovative dance troupe has used techniques of close body contact and weight-sharing to create unique sculptural and gymnastic effects.

Romeo and Juliet

Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. and Fri., 8 pm; Wed. and Thu., 7 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through May 18. $12.50-$82. Boston Ballet presents Shakespeare's famous romantic tragedy in three passionate acts, with stylistic influences from Martha Graham and George Balanchine.

Stomp

Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55. In its return to Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Zoe Dance

The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Central Square, Cambridge (781-599-5196). www.zoedance.org. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. May 16-17. $12-$15. This new modern-dance company performs favorite repertory pieces and debuts new works.

CABARET

It's Spring Again

Scullers Jazz Club, DoubleTree Guest Suites Hotel, 400 Soldiers Field Road, Boston (617-562-4111). May 20, 8 pm. $18. Kent French performs standards, pop songs and songs from new musicals with Ron Roy on piano, Chris Rathbun on bass and Tom O'Malley on percussion.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle

Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. •May 24, 8:30 pm, $5: Tom Gilmore from A&E's *Comedy on the Road* performs with Mark Scalia.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm. The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •May 14, $12: Comcast Comedy Spotlight. Hosted by *Tonight Show* regular Bob Zany, the laughfest series is taped live on location at leading comedy clubs around the country. •May 15, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •May 16 and 17, $21: Dave Attell from Comedy Central's *Insomniac* •May 19, $12: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •May 20, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •May 21, $12: Harrison Stebbins • May 22, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •May 23, $30: Dane Cook from Comedy Central's *Crank Yankers* and *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno •May 24, $30: Dane Cook •May 25, $28: Dane Cook •May 26, $12: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •May 27, $12: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •May 14: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Thomas Mitchell, Rob Gagnon, Art Januario, Ben Murray, Michael Della Penna, Jen Ruelas, Joel Frenzer and Paul Day •May 15: Tim McIntire, TJ Griffin. EJ Murphy, Art Januario, Mandy Donovan, Chrissy Lavoie, Jim Flaherty, Larry Starr, Josh Steinberg and Peter Dutton •May 16: Baratunde, Peter Dutton, TJ Grifin, Mike Anthony and Malissa Hunt •May 17: TJ Grifin, Brian Gordon, Will McNeill, Amanda White and Michael Capozzola •May 18: Sam Walters, Faces4Radio, Abe Smith, TJ Griffin, Greg Howell, Jesse Gersten, Nicole Luparelli, Jeremy Turoff, Max Silverestri and Peter Dutton •May 20, $10: Mystery Lounge with local magicians •May 21: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Tim Kaelin, Cyndi Tarnakaus, Steve Calechman, David Makar, Tom Morello, Brian Gordon, Matthew McConnell and Joe Cronin •May 22: Tim McIntire, Janet Cormier, Kevin Carson, Eric Riley Moore, Joe Huang, Deb Farrar-Parkman and Josh Grisetti •May 23: Baratunde, Dave Greenburg and Mike Romponi •May 24: Julie Barr, Tissa Hami, Steve Calechman, Dave Greenberg, Tim Fenn and Abe Smith •May 25: Sam Walters, Late Night Players, Hugh Chatfield, Jason Roberts, Charlie Daly, Tissa Hami and Tammy Two-Tone •May 27, $10: Mystery Lounge with local magicians.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBT Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New Engl Medical Center. $10-$22. •May 15, 8:30 pm: Ke Knox, All Star Comedy. •May 16 and 17, 8:45 Paul De Angelo, Steve Bjork and Al Klemick •M 22, 8:30 pm: Joe Yannetty, All Star Comedy. •M 23, 8:45 pm: Joe Yannetty, Stacey Pema, and St Scarfo. •May 24, 8:45 pm: Mike Petit, Ted Barr Steve Scarfo.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red L to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8. Improv comedians p fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www provasylum.com. MBTA: Green or Orange Lin Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. provisation and sketch comedy in the North E Dinner packages available. •Wed. and Thu., 8 $15, and Fri. and Sat., 8 pm and 10 pm, $20: Imp comedians present their newest main stage sh *Jihad to Be There.* •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv featuring main stage performers and special guest

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambri (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MB Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12. Bost longest-running improvisational comedy tro creates everything on the spot: the characters, stories, the settings—even the songs and dan •Wed., 8 pm, $5: The Hump. This fringe se features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •T 8 pm, $12: Micetro; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and cret Comedy Show.* Brothers Chris and Da Walsh perform stand-up and music, play sh films and do character sketches in a display of ling rivalry •Fri., 8 pm, $12: Radio Hour. Go hind the scenes of a live radio production wit variety of acts; 10 pm, $12: TheatreSports. teams of improvisers face off. •Sat. 6 pm, $12: provBoston Family Show; 8 and 10 pm, $12: provBoston Mainstage. Blending storytelli music, audience participation and joyful chao cast of improvisers creates a show that chan with every performance. •Sun. 7 pm, $5: *Serg Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree.* Three sh in one with an open jam.

Improv Foundry

Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 361 Newbury St., Fo Floor, Boston (617-308-6421). May 17 and 24, 8 $10. Improv Foundry performs short-form impr sational comedy.

COMEDY SHOWS

Jackie Mason: Prune Danish

Berklee Performance Center, 1140 Boylston St., Bo (617-931-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/I May 15-18, 8 pm. $45-$53. Comedian Jackie Ma takes a look at politics and current events.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to England Medical Center or Green Line to Boyls May 16, 17, 23, and 24, 7:00 pm. $49 for dinner show. The interactive comedy spoofs a traditi Italian wedding.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon pm. Open mike for creative talent.

A Parenting Story

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somer (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Ma and 25; June 1, 8 and 15, 3 pm. $10. This one- show with Bill Campbell is set in a living ro Campbell's "everyman" character, who is abou celebrate his 25th Father's Day, takes audiences comedic journey from babies to grandparenting.

The Sopranos' Last Supper

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to England Medical Center or Green Line to Boyls May 23, 7 pm. $49 for dinner, show and entrance the Matrix night club. "Get made" in this interac dinner-theater comedy show—based on HBO's *Sopranos*—about an Italian-American mob fa struggling to remain close.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617 1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcon jam.com. First and third Sunday of the month. E standup comedy with host Stash and 12 New land comedians plus live music.

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The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way! DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Join Nate Watkin from 8 - 11pm then dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

Friday, May 16, 9:30-2am

New England Patriot Lonie Paxton and ACTION SPORT Athlete Brook Duquesnel are throwing a bash and you're invited! To benefit their new charity, the Active Force Foundation. Join us and many special celebrity guests for a night of food, fun, dancing and silent auction. Hosted by Kiss 108's Artie-the-one-man-Party and featuring Central Basement and DJ Johnny C.

Tuesday, May 27, 10am - 5pm

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THE RACK

Blow, wind, blow

Folk music is in the air in *A Mighty Wind*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

I recently rewatched *Waiting for Guffman*, one of the priceless, semi-improvised comedies Christopher Guest directed and co-wrote before *A Mighty Wind*. On the second viewing, what struck me about *Guffman*'s hilarious story of townspeople struggling to stage a pageant was how clever the movie's songs were, and how much you rooted for these untalented amateurs to succeed on some level.

As in Rob Reiner's *This Is Spinal Tap*, in which Guest played the inimitably dim Nigel Tufnel, and in Guest's more recent *Best in Show*, the actors in *A Mighty Wind* make up their own dialogue. While it isn't funnier than *Guffman*, Guest's latest mockumentary, about three 1960s folk-music groups that reunite for a concert honoring their late manager, doesn't need a second viewing for similar qualities to emerge. One reason is that the cast wrote most of the songs they sing, so there's an unusually strong connection between the characters and the music. Guest and *Spinal Tap* bandmates Michael McKean and Harry Shearer wrote the songs of the earnest trio the Folksmen, characters they've been playing at least as far back as a mid-1980s *Saturday Night Live* appearance. They also penned many of those sung by the cheesy, Up with People–inspired New Main Street Singers, while SCTV and Guest-movie vets Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara wrote, together or singly, most of the songs of the one-time lovebirds they play, Mitch & Mickey.

Mitch & Mickey dominate *A Mighty Wind*. Reportedly inspired by Canadian duo Ian & Sylvia, in their heyday Mitch (Levy) was the cool guy strumming a guitar and Mickey (O'Hara) a raven-haired beauty playing an autoharp. *A Mighty Wind* shows us how, after the pair split musically and romantically, Mitch went into a downward spiral of drugs and depression, as illustrated by the morbid covers of his 1970s solo albums (with titles like *Cry for Help*).

John Michael Higgins, Jane Lynch, Parker Posey and Chris Moynihan play folk group the New Main Street Singers in Christopher Guest's new "mockumentary."

Once the memorial concert and accompanying TV broadcast begin to take shape, Mitch is the wild card. The movie teases us with the possibility that Mitch won't show up, or that if he does, he won't even be a shell of his former self. Levy, with scraggly hair that looks borrowed from Jerry Garcia's corpse, a wavering voice that struggles to articulate and the puzzled eyes of a housecat that's been asked to bake a cake, gives a brave performance that's both bizarre and touching. In the interviews and rehearsals with Mitch & Mickey—she's now settled down in suburbia with a catheter salesman—you can see the affection she still has for him, but you can also see her uneasiness with the person Mitch is now. These scenes achingly embody the film's irony of doughy 50-somethings uncomfortably revisiting the idealism of their younger days.

What makes the underlying tension between Mitch and Mickey so convincing is that Levy and O'Hara sing beautifully together. Musically, at least, they fit. "When You're Next to Me," "One More Time," "The Ballad of Bobby and June" and especially "A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow," the song that made them stars and that's most repeated, all have catchy harmonies. The last song adds the choicest story detail to *A Mighty Wind*: the suspense over whether Mickey and Mitch will kiss at the end of the song's performance, as they did on a legendary 1960s TV appearance.

The movie's one letdown is that Guest, McKean and Shearer's characters are barely developed as individuals (beyond each's bad hair). The New Main Street Singers' perky schtick is similarly one-dimensional. But the Mitch & Mickey scenes have a strong enough blend of daffiness, drama and sweetness that those qualities bleed through to the whole movie.

While Mitch & Mickey provide the richest blend of comedy and story in *A Mighty Wind*, there are also plenty of just plain absurd moments to enjoy: the bickering of the Folksmen over song selections, Ed Begley Jr. as a Swedish-born TV executive who peppers his speech with Yiddish, John Michael Higgins and Jane Lynch as the off-kilter husband-and-wife leaders of the New Main Street Singers and just about anything uttered by the great Fred Willard, again playing a twistedly obnoxious blowhard. **iB**

A Mighty Wind ★★★½

Directed by Christopher Guest. Written by Guest and Eugene Levy. With Guest, Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Michael McKean, Harry Shearer, John Michael Higgins, Jane Lynch, Parker Posey and Fred Willard. Rated PG-13. Sony Pictures Classics.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Anger Management ★★
I doubt that Jack Nicholson and Queen Latifa have ever competed for the same role. But th Nicholson-Adam Sandler comedy is cut from th same limp, high-concept formula as *Bringing Dow the House*. It's got the same sort of hapless hero, th same sort of annoying intruder to his life and th same pre-fab happy ending. This time, Sandler is th guy who gets put on the right path by the unorth dox outsider. He's a guy who needs assertivene training but who, due to several mix-ups, ends sentenced to the anger management semina Nicholson's character runs. About the only spar here are the outbursts by John Turturro, who pla the most angry member of the Nicholson-run su port group. You'll feel like him if you pay to see th (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between tw cultures—think *Double Happiness*, *Mississippi Masa* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—gets trotted out y again in director Gurinder Chadha's latest, whi can't compare to her *Bhaji on the Beach* but is st involving. Parminder Nagra gives a winni performance as Jess, the Indian-English teen wi soccer skills and two Sikh parents who won't allo her to pursue such a nontraditional fema endeavor. When Jess is recruited to play for a lo women's team, with the possibility of discovery an American pro team, the scene is set for lots running around behind her parents' back and com mishaps—in fact, an awful lot of repetitive runni around and mishaps. It's all pretty predictable, b Nagra, Anupam Kher (as the heroine's father) a Keira Knightley (as her teammate and sometim rival), as well as Chadha's sense of compassion, he dignity fight caricature to a standoff. (At Bost Common, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Better Luck Tomorrow ★★★
Writer-director Justin Lin takes the Asian-Ame can movie beyond the immigrant experience in th free-wheeling story of high school honor studen who start dabbling in crime. The title is apparentl nod to John Woo's *A Better Tomorrow*, and this t is the story of friends whose relationships get ripp apart by their life of crime. Quick, funny, violen and smart, the movie marinates its irreverent ta on high school life in the stew of hormones a power that drives its teen characters. We've n heard the last from Lin. (At Copley Place and Ha vard Square.)

Blue Car ★★
Newcomer Agnes Bruckner gives a stunning perf mance as a confused high school senior, but writ director Karen Moncrieff's movie is a standard-iss indie debut. It never rises above its indie cliches: t troubled teen, divorced parents, self-destructive su porting characters who threaten to pull down th heroine, the sexual tension of 18-year-old Meg's r lationship with her supportive English teach (David Strathairn). Not bad, but not very speci either. (At Harvard Square.)

Bulletproof Monk ★½
Chow Yun-Fat deserves better than this cartooni action drama in which he plays a butt-kicking betan monk protecting a sacred scroll who finds unlikely, and unconvincing, successor in the pic pocket played by Seann William Scott. The aud ence deserves better, too. (At Boston Commo Fenway and suburbs.)

City of Ghosts ★★
Matt Dillon has come up with an interesting subj for his directorial debut. He plays a con man wh after a scam, has fled the States to meet up with partner and mentor (James Caan) in Cambod Dillon's character gets involved in the mentor's n scheme, but considering the inconvenience he ge through in Cambodia—getting beaten, robbed a thoroughly disheartened—it's hard to see why does. The script, cowritten by Dillon and Barry G ford (*Wild at Heart*), never makes the Dillon-Ca bond feel strong enough to outweigh these obs cles. And the movie is longwinded as well, makin that much harder to care. (At Kendall Square.)

Identity ★★
The strong cast including John Cusack, Ray Liot Amanda Peet and John Hawkes helps, but the p in this thriller by writer-director James Mangold comes more and more arbitrary as it progress That means that the twists in this tale of a bunch travelers stranded at a Nevada motel, who st dying one by one, keep having less and less impa right down to the obligatory, empty twist endi It's good to see the who-dies-next plot done w adults instead of teens for a change, but the s

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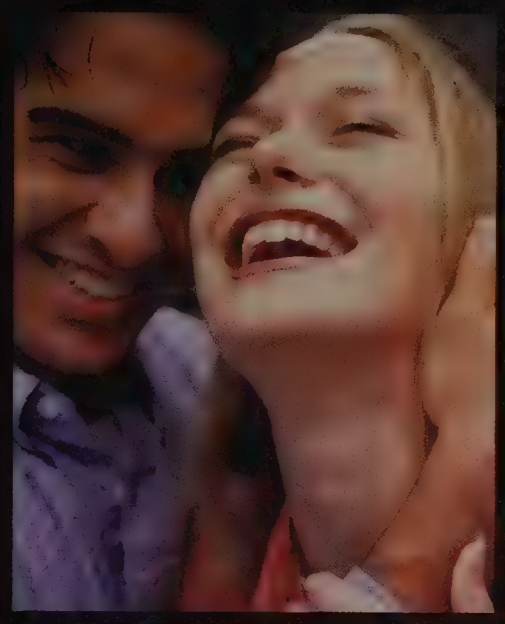

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THE LAST DROP

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pense bleeds out of this movie like the air seeping from a slow leak in a balloon. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Malibu's Most Wanted ★★½

Everybody's strapped to a nine iron in the hometown of B-Rad, Jamie Kennedy's amusing white rapper-wannabe. But when his Malibu dad (Ryan O'Neal) runs for governor of California, B-Rad (Bradley is his "slave name," he protests) is deemed an embarrassment. So dad's campaign staff hires two black actors (Anthony Anderson and Taye Diggs) to pose as gangstas, kidnap B-Rad, take him to the hood and "scare the black out of him." The laughs are spotty at times, but they're more plentiful and more clever than anything in *Bringing Down the House*, that other recent race-relations comedy. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Only the Strong Survive ★★½

It's not the style of documentary filmmakers D.A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus to do formal interviews or enhance their footage with much background information. But some shaping might have given focus to this meandering series of visits with 1960s soul stars such as Sam Moore, Jerry Butler and the irrepressible Rufus Thomas, who has since died. Some of the footage of recent performances is fine—Moore singing "When Something Is Wrong With My Baby," Mary Wilson doing "Some Day We'll Be Together," Butler on the title song—and the banter between Thomas and his radio partner, Jay Michael Davis, is a hilarious Greek chorus. But literally and musically the movie is all over the map. If you're not already a fan, you probably won't get much out of this; if you are a fan, you'll enjoy much of what's here, but be disappointed by a missed opportunity. (At Kendall Square.)

The Other Network ★★★½

TV executives didn't know what to do with the very funny pilots that make up this great compilation. Most are better than 95 percent of the movie and TV comedy we get shoved down our throats: *Heat Vision and Jack*, directed by Ben Stiller and starring Jack Black and the voice of Owen Wilson, is a classic sci-fi and action-hero spoof about an ex-astronaut and his talking motorcycle; *Lookwell*, cowritten by pre–*Late Night* Conan O'Brien, has a priceless performance by Adam West as an actor who once played a TV detective and now keeps butting in on the police's work; *Next!* is Bob Odenkirk's hilarious, post-*Mr. Show* sketch comedy program; and *North Hollywood* is another appealing square-peg comedy from Judd Apatow (*Freaks and Geeks*, *Undeclared*). (At the Coolidge Corner.)

Owning Mahowny ★★★

Director Richard Kwietnowski, who previously made *Love and Death on Long Island* (about a stuffy author's sudden infatuation with a heartthrob actor), takes us on another intriguing journey through the obsession raging within one man's mind. This time, it's a fastidious assistant bank manager (Philip Seymour Hoffman) with a gambling jones. He starts embezzling money from the bank, so he can gamble to pay off his debts—and then, because he loses more, he embezzles some more, and so on. His quiet desperation has a fascinating car-crash quality, and is all the more compelling because the movie is based on a true story. (At Kendall Square.)

The Real Cancun ★½

This reality-based movie from the folks behind *The Real World* is based on reality about as much as *Chicago* was based on the Windy City. The makers selected a group of hormonal 18- to-22-year-olds, sent them on spring break together and let the alcohol flow. You do the math. Of course, they selected mostly jerks for their cast—because that's "interesting"—but the result is a group of people you generally don't care about. So the film ends up being bland—providing neither the tawdry trash promised by the marketing, nor any real emotional drama. And it's about the 19th movie in the last four months to use Nelly's "Hot in Herre" in the soundtrack. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Shape of Things ★★

Neil LaBute's latest play raises interesting questions about the compromises that go into a romantic relationship, but he gives it a clumsy transition to the screen. The mannered performances, unnatural dialogue and casting of actors in their early 30s to play college students all make it hard to get involved in his story of the relationship between an art student (Rachel Weisz) who works hard to make her nebbish boyfriend (Paul Rudd) physically and emotionally "better," and the effect that relationship has on two of his friends (Gretchen Mol, Frederick Weller). LaBute doesn't treat his characters with quite as much contempt as he sometimes has, but they still feel like abstractions rather than anything the least bit real. (At Copley Place.)

Gerard Depardieu (left) plays one of the locals that Matt Dillon's con-man character encounters while in Cambodia in the new mystery-drama *City of Ghosts*

X2: X-Men United ★★★

The first one did nothing for me, but the *X-Men* sequel is a looser and more entertaining experience than its stiff predecessor. Perhaps it's the plot about a government higher-up (Brian Cox) who's determined to start a war that gives the sequel an extra timeliness. Cox, Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen all give sly performances, Hugh Jackman gets tough-guy laughs as the Eastwood-esque Wolverine, Halle Berry and Famke Janssen kick sci-fi butt, and Alan Cumming has joined the cast as a creepy little mutant. The plot is much more focused and under control than the first time around, and the only real problem here is that the climax drags on, and on. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Clint Eastwood: Monterey Cop Film Series

•May 19, 6 pm. **Dirty Harry** *1971*. Don Siegel directs Eastwood as a San Francisco cop who bends the rules to make sure justice is served.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Mondays—Ian Fleming's James Bond

•May 19, 7:15 pm. **From Russia With Love** *1963*. In director Terence Young's film, a woman lures the British superspy to Turkey as part of a plan to assassinate him. •Also showing, 4:45 and 9:45 pm. **Dr. No.** *1962*. This time, 007 takes a break from saving the world and heads to Jamaica. But Dr. No meddles with America's space program, and Bond has to lend a hand. This film features the first Bond Girl, Honey Rider (Ursula Andress).

•May 26, 2:15 and 7:15 pm. **Goldfinger** *1964*. Sean Connery plays Bond in this gadget-filled thriller, which also features the one and only Pussy Galore (Honor Blackman). •Also showing, 4:45 and 9:45 pm. **For Your Eyes Only** *1981*. Director John Glen's Bond film has stunts galore—car chases, underwater adventures, mountain climbing and chases down icy slopes.

Tuesdays—Real To Reel

•May 20, 7:30 pm. **Gimme Shelter** *1970*. This unsettling film follows the Rolling Stones' 1969 tour of America, which ended tragically at Altamont Speedway when a fan was killed by Hells Angels. Directed by Albert and David Maysles. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9:30 pm. **Monterey Pop** *1968*. Documentary maker D.A. Pennebaker captures the sounds and sights of the Monterey Pop Festival, a pre-Woodstock music festival held over three days in June 1967. With Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, the Who and others.

•May 27, 4:30, 7 and 9:30 pm. **Running Fence** *1978*. Directors Albert and David Maysles depict the successful effort by Bulgarian-born artist Christo's to create a transient natural artwork—an 18-foot-high, fabric fence running across more than 24 miles of California to the Pacific Ocean. The film screens with the short film **Christo in Paris** *1978*. The Maysles brothers shed light on Christo's first large urban project (the wrapping of the Pont Neuf, Paris' oldest bridge) and his relationship with life partner Jeanne-Claude.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•May 14, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 pm. **Gerry** *2002*. Gus Van Sant directs Casey Affleck and Matt Damon in this artsy project in which two men named Gerry wander in a desert.

•May 21, 7:15 pm. **Safety of Objects** *2001*. Director Rose (*Go Fish*, *Bedroom and Hallways*) Troche's latest focuses on the dark side of suburbia and stars Patricia Clarkson, Glenn Close and Mary Kay Place. •Also showing, 5 and 9:45 pm. **All the Real Girls** *2003*. David Gordon Green's film, set in a small North Carolina town, follows the relationship that develops between a promiscuous young man and his best friend's younger sister.

Thursdays—Fifty Years of French Cinema

•May 15, 7:30 pm. **Jules et Jim** (*Jules and Jim*) *1962*. Francois Truffaut's film tells of two friends who love the same woman—who, in turn, loves them both. •Also showing, 5:15 and 9:45 pm. **Bande á part** (*Band of Outsiders*) *1964*. Jean-Luc Godard's highly regarded film about a trio of star-crossed lovers features the gorgeous Anna Karina.

•May 22, 7:30 pm. **Les Choses de la vie** (*The Things of Life*) *1969*. This rarely screened film, a dramatic exploration of life and death, focuses on a man who has had a serious car accident. As he drifts in and out of consciousness, he contemplates the choices he has made in his life. Directed by Claude Sautet. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9:30 pm. **L'Amour l'après-midi** (*Chloe in the Afternoon*) *1972*. Director Eric Rohmer's film depicts a happily married man who becomes involved with the former mistress of an old friend.

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays—Special Engagements

•May 16-18, 4:30 and 7 pm. (Sat. and Sun. matinee at 2 pm) **Chihwaseon** *2002*. Korean director Im Kwon-taek's 95th film tells the story of 19th-century Korean painter Jang Seung-up, a revolutionary artist, notorious womanizer and drunk, who became a national cultural hero. •Also sho
ing, 9:30 pm. **The Matrix** *1999*. Keanu Reeves a
Laurence Fishburne star in this sci-fi film that e
plores the question, "What if reality isn't at
what it seems?"

•May 23, at 5 and 8:30 pm and May 25, at 1 a
8:30 pm. **The Godfather** *1972*. Francis Ford Co
pola directs this immortal, epic gangster saga featu
ing Don Vito Corleone (Marlon Brando) who ru
his Mafia family with an iron fist.

•May 24, at 12, 4 and 8 pm and May 25, 4:30 p
The Godfather, Part II *1974*. Francis Ford Coppol
sequel continues the story of the Corleone fami
Al Pacino reprises his role as Michael Corleo
who, having proved his ability to lead the family, e
pands his control over New York City's underwor

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Through May 16. **The Other Network**. See d
scription in New Releases.

•Now playing. **Marion Bridge** *2002*. Agnes, a mi
dle sibling and wild child, returns from Toronto
her rural Nova Scotia hometown to rid herself of h
substance-abusing habits and care for her ill moth
Wiebke von Carolsfeld directs.

•Now playing. **Bend It Like Beckham** *2002*. S
description in New Releases.

•Opens May 16 **Winged Migration** *2001*. Direct
Jacques Perrin's documentary follows several spec
of birds on their arduous seasonal journeys.

•Opens May 16 **Love & Diane** *2002*. This docume
tary by Jennifer Dworkin depicts several years in t
life of Diane, a former crack addict who reassemb
her family after losing her children to foster care a
then attempts to help her daughter Love avoid t
same trials she has faced.

Midnight Movies

•May 16 and 23, 12am. **Transformers: The Mov**
1986. The Autobots set out to save earth from t
Decepticons' plot to steal the world's energy
sources. Director Nelson Shin brings the anima
series to the big screen.

•May 17 and 24, 12am. **Donnie Darko** *2001*. Ja
Gyllenhaal plays a high schooler whose visions o
giant evil rabbit lead him to commit random acts
violence. Richard Kelly directs.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Directors in Focus: Stan Brakhage: In Memoriam

•May 16, 7 pm; May 17, 9 pm. **Brakhage** *1998*.
Shedden combines extensive clips of Brakhag
films and candid interviews with his family, frie
and critics to create a portrait of the experimen
filmmaker's life and work. The film screens with T
Jesus Trilogy and Coda *2001*. In one of Brakha
final films he fuses four stories, all drawn from
Passion, to examine the concept of death. •May
9 pm; May 18, 7 pm. **Cat's Cradle** *1959*. Two co
ples cross paths via a cat in Brakhage's early film.
series of Brakhage's short films follows: **Nightmu**
1986, **Rage Net** *1988*, **Window Water Baby Mo**
ing *1959*, **The Garden of Earthly Delights** *198*
Creation *1979*, **Short Film #1** *1975*, **Hymn to H**
1974, **Riddle of Lumen** *1972*, **Blue Moses** *19*
Fireloop *1986*, **Loud Visual Noises** *1986*, and
Dreaming *1986*.

•May 17, 7 pm. **Dog Star Man** *1961-64*. Brakha
five-part series is an abstract expression of mo
ment, light, texture and form.

Directors in Focus: Fosse!

•May 24, 7 pm. **Cabaret** *1972*. Fosse's Oscar-w
ning musical stars Liza Minelli as an aspiring sta
a seedy Berlin cabaret in Nazi Germany. •A
showing, 9:15 pm and May 27, 7 pm. **Lenny** *19*
Fosse's film about infamous stand-up Lenny Bruc
shot in flashback format and stars Dustin Hoffma

•May 25, 7 pm. **All That Jazz** *1979*. This semi-au
biographical film is the story of an ailing direc
choreographer coming to grips with his mortali

•Also showing, 9:15 pm; May 27, 9 pm. **Star**
1983. Mariel Hemingway stars as *Playboy* Playm
Dorothy Stratten in Fosse's semi-factual film ab
the model's murder. •May 26, 7 pm. **Sweet Cha**
1969. Shirley MacLaine stars as an unlucky-in-l
dance hall hostess in Fosse's film adaptation of N
Simon's musical.

Global Visions: Once Upon a Time i India: Images of the Colonial Era

•May 14, 7 pm. **Junoon** (*Possessed*) *1978*. Shy
Benegal's film is a combination love and war st
set in India's Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

•May 19 and 23, 7 pm. **Lagaan** *2001*.
Ashutosh Gowariker's Oscar-nominated fil
the citizens of an Indian village attempt to
peal an unfair land tax and are challenged
game of English cricket by the racist lo
British commander.

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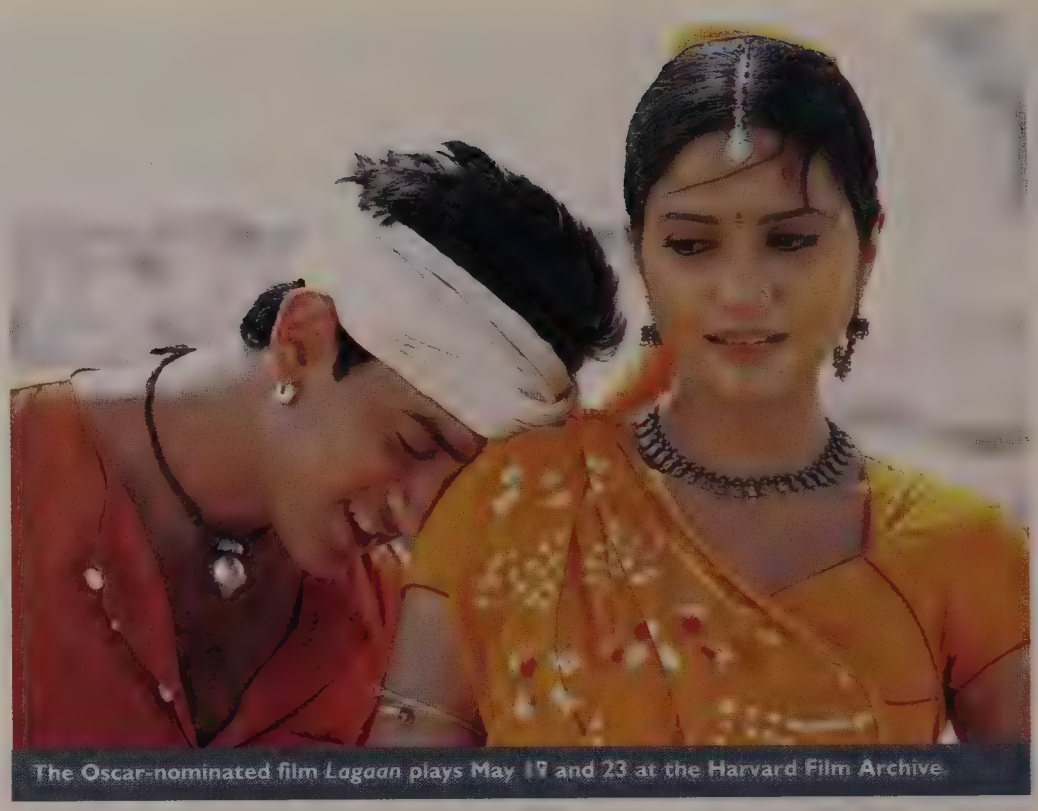
•May 20, 7 pm. **Devdas** *1955*. Bimal Roy's film adaptation of Saratchandra Chatterjee's novel of the same name is the story of a wealthy Indian boy who falls for the poor girl next door only to discover she is already betrothed.
•May 21, 7 pm. **Shaheed** *1965*. Keval P. Kashyap's film explores the life of Indian patriot Sardar Bhagat Singh.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The Boston Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival

•May 14, 8 pm. *Women's Short Films:* **Nicky** *2002* by Robert Kennedy, **Dress Code** *2001* by Martha Newbigging, **Blue Tuesday** *2001* by Lisa G., **Play, She Said** *2002* by Lex Vaughn, **Ladies Tea** *2001* by Paula Durette, **D.E.B.S** *2002* by Angela Robinson, **The Ten Rules (A Lesbian Survival Guide)** *2002* by Lee Friedlander, **You2 2002** by Pascale Simmons.
•May 15, 6 pm. **Mango Souffle** *2002*. Four friends devise a plan to prevent their friend from leaving India. Mahesh Dattani directs. It screens with Warren Santiago's short film **Scotch on the Rocks** *2003*.
•Also showing, 8 pm. *Men's Short Films:* **Clay Pride** *2001* by David Karlsberg and Jonathan Watts, **Jan Michael Vincent Is My Muse** *2002* by Jim Tushinski, **The Boyfriend** *2002* by Chiedu Egbuniwe, **Stag** *2001* by Ian Iqbal Rashid, **Pedro + Tony** *2001* by Don Thomas, **The Visitor** *2002* by Dan Castle, **Looking for Mr. Right** *2003* by David Young.
•May 16, 6 pm. **Gasoline** *2002*. While trying to dispose of her mother's body, a young lesbian and her lover become the target of some inconvenient homophobic aggression in Monica Stambrini's Italian film. •Also showing, 8 pm; May 18, 12:30 pm. **Gypsy 83** *2001*. Two teenage Goth misfits leave their small town in Ohio for New York City to compete in a Stevie Nicks talent contest. Todd Stephens directs.
•May 17, 12:30 pm. **I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian & Gay Middle Eastern Community** *2002*. Directors Peter Barbosa and Garrett Lenoir reveal the common ground that transcends cultural and religious divides among the Middle Eastern gay community. It screens with Jasc's short film, *Thorn Grass 2001*. •Also showing, 12 pm. **Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin** *2003*. Nancy D. Kates and Bennett Singer chronicle the life of Bayard Rustin, a gay political advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. •Also showing, 4:15 pm. **Walking on Water** *2002*. A terminally ill man commissions his two best friends to help him die. Directed by Tony Ayres.
•Also showing, May 18, 2:30 pm. **Yossi & Jagger** *2002*. The title characters have a homosexual affair while stationed in a co-ed army platoon on the Israeli-Lebanese border. Eytan Fox directs. •Also showing, 3:50 pm. **Die Reise nach Kafiristan** *(The Journey to Kafiristan) 2001*. Donatello Dubini's film follows two women trying to escape their pasts on the road to Kabul.


The Oscar-nominated film *Lagaan* plays May 17 and 23 at the Harvard Film Archive

Films by Véra Chytilová

•May 21, 7:45 pm; May 25, 11am. **Strop** *(Ceiling) 1961*. A young woman quits medical school to become a model in Chytilová's film. Screens with **Sedmikrasky** *(Daisies) 1966*. Two bored teenage girls entertain themselves by pulling pranks that eventually lead to their downfall.
•May 23, 6 pm; May 26, 2:10 pm. **Ovoce stromu rajskuch jime** *(Fruit of Paradise) 1969*. Chytilová references the Biblical story of Adam and Eve in the tale of a girl's attraction to a serial killer.
•May 24, 3:50 pm. **Panelstory aneb Jak se rodi sidlidte** *(Prefab Story) 1979*. Chytilová uses the diverse inhabitants of a high-rise housing project to address issues of materialism, sex, ageism, violence and corruption.

Films by Nicolas Philibert

•May 14, 6 pm; May 17, 18 and 24, 10:30am; May 25, 1:30 pm. **Etre et avoir** *(To Be and To Have) 2002*. Philibert's latest effort tells the story of a French one-room schoolhouse over the course of one year.

New England Film Artists Present

•May 22, 6 pm. **The Flute Player** *2003*. A Cambodian immigrant returns to his homeland to face his war-torn past and explore his interests in traditional music. Jocelyn Glatzer directs.

Teenage Filmmaking

•May 21, 6 pm; May 22 and 23, 8 pm, May 24, 12:25 pm; May 25, 3:45 pm. **Chain Camera** *2001*. Kirby Dick's film is a compilation of footage shot by students over the course of a year at Los Angeles' racially and economically diverse John Marshall High School.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of their remarkable journey, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 30. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from Stomp. Call for show times.
•Opens May 23. **Top Speed**. Explore the human race's insatiable appetite for speed. Tim Allen narrates this cinematic look at all things fast from Olympic Gold Medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion racecar driver Lucas Luhr to car designer Steve Murkett. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through June 30. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast that unique mammals and other sea life call home. Call for showtimes.
•Through June 30. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into the earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to the Equator, with a special focus on education and environmental awareness. Call for show times.
•Through June 30. **Space Station 3D**. Blast off into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome, and rendezvous with the International Space Station in orbit 220 miles above Earth. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 1. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to the wreckage of the ill-fated Titanic. Call for show times.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Boston University
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore Square.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Video Transfer Inc.
580 Harrison Ave. MBTA: Red Line to Broadway.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

The New England Institute of Art and Communications
10 Brookline Place West. MBTA: D Green Line Brookline Village.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line Davis.

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Snake-speak

English guitar hero Johnny Marr finds his voice and echoes his Manchester past with his new groove-based band, the Healers

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

A British television show once placed Johnny Marr among the "Top Ten Guitar Heroes," alongside such names as Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page. That might be a stretch for American rock fans, especially those who judge a guitar player on his soloing. But a perusal of Marr's résumé leads to surprises when it comes to the range and weight of his contributions.

As a co-founder of the Smiths in the '80s, Marr wrote all of that band's music. He later played with The The and formed Electronic with ex–New Order frontman Bernard Sumner, a fellow veteran of Manchester, England's influential music scene. He has recorded with Bryan Ferry, Talking Heads, the Pet Shop Boys, Beck and Oasis, performed live with the Charlatans and Neil Finn, and written with Kirsty MacColl and Beth Orton, co-penning their respective singles "Walking Down Madison" and "Concrete Sky."

Johnny Marr combines guitar and vocals with the Healers.

Now, Marr has finally emerged as a solo artist with the Healers, a trio with drummer Zak Starkey (the Who) and bassist Alonza Bevan (ex-Kula Shaker). The group's music is thick, trippy, groove-based rock that variously brings to mind the Smiths, The The, Oasis and the Charlatans—in other words, a good chunk of the Manchester sound that Marr helped shape.

"I'm at this point in my career, or my journey, where I'm fine about doing something that may have a ring or an echo or memory of something that I've done in the past," says Marr, 39, whose band plays the WXRV Riverfest at the MDC Hatch Shell May 24. "After all, it is my sound."

Not that the Healers began that way. The initial plan was for a "very big band with a lot of percussion and very loud synthesizers," he says. "It was a great idea, but I felt it was taking it too far away from being identifiably me."

Marr, in turn, dispensed with another blueprint for the Healers' debut CD, *Boomslang*. "That was to have a nonlayered and very direct guitar," he says. "I'm glad that the record took a while to make, because as time went on, I dropped that agenda." In the interim, Marr had played with the Charlatans and Finn, and says audience expectations for his signature sound convinced him to orchestrate the new CD with guitar overdubs.

"Some of those Smiths records that I did with [producer] John Porter had 14 guitars on it—and we made it sound like eight!" says Marr, who played several parts on "Caught Up" and other tracks, juxtaposing clean strums, thick riffs, raw slide, wah-wah accents and, on the pulsing, more electronic "You Are the Magic," a rare and slippery guitar solo.

"The best sound in the world is two guitars playing against each other," says Marr, whose group is touring with second guitarist James Doviak, who also helps cover the keyboard parts from the disc. "Three or four guitars all doing the right thing together, for me, is heaven on earth."

The biggest change for Marr with the Healers, however, is his sudden evolution into a lead singer, something he only took on when his bandmates preferred his laconic style to frontmen they were considering. "It's important for me to have the vibe of the vocal in the same place as the music," he says. "I purposely make the lyrics fairly ambiguous, taking the peaks out of the words and melodies, so that it would just flow with the music and have the same kind of feeling. I don't like for vocals to be too action-packed.

"I made a definite decision when I was in my early teens to just stay on the left side of the stage," says Marr, reached at a San Francisco tour stop. "I had strict notions of what made a frontman do what they did. As I got older, I've sort of mutated into one of those horrors. After working with so many people, I just realized if you can sing and write a tune and make a connection with an audience, ripping your shirt off or moonwalking isn't necessarily a requirement."

> "IF YOU CAN SING AND WRITE A TUNE ... RIPPING YOUR SHIRT OFF ISN'T NECESSARILY A REQUIREMENT."

His even-toned vocal style also lends itself to *Boomslang*'s sense of ominous mystique, which extends to its CD title.

"I had a dream about a snake," Marr explains. "The snake was hissing 'I am Boomslang,' and I looked on the Internet, and there is actually a snake called a boomslang, and that really blew my mind. But unfortunately, the story kinda fizzled out, because a friend of mine who's a writer said that he'd been telling me about the boomslang snake a couple years before. So it must have stuck there in the subconscious."

Much like the influences that inform the Healers. iB

Johnny Marr and the Healers play the WXRV Riverfest at the MDC Hatch Shell May 24.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc., b fax (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or b email to music@improper.com. Include dates, time prices, phone numbers and nearest T stops. Deadline four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not a cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from di ferent sources. Although we make every effort to provi accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahe to double-check dates and times. (See complete list venues at the end of the section.)

Top Billings

Ash
May 15, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Beck
May 24, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
The Cramps and the Von Bondies
May 19, the Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
The Datsuns, the Paybacks and the Star Spangl
May 15, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Godsmack and Cold
May 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul with Ashley MacIsa
May 16, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Avril Lavigne with Simple Plan and GOB
May 15 and 16, Tsongas Arena (sold out)
Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks
May 16, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
R. Carlos Nakai
May 17, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275)
Rising Low
May 20, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Shivkumar Sharma & Zakir Hussain
May 17, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
WBCN River Rave featuring AFI, Beck, the Do nas, Dropkick Murphys, Good Charlotte, Interp
Jack Johnson and the Used
May 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
WXRV Riverfest featuring Ben Folds and John Marr and the Healers
May 24, MDC Hatch Shell on the Charles Riv (617-374-4733)
ZZ Top with Ted Nugent and Kenny Wayne Shephe
May 20, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Abbey Lounge Roger Knight and the Round Tabl Unbusted, Mittens and Roma, 21+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7-10 pm, no cover.
The Burren Jesse Smith and Xex Danu.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+
Club Passim Rachael Davis, Girlyman and We' About 9, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Mr. Slate, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGra 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Elephant and Castle Pete Masa, 6:30 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
House of Blues George Thorogood and the Destro ers, 9:30 pm, $35-$37.50, 21+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10 pm.
Johnny D's Psychedelic Breakfast, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Pete Schmidt, 8:30 pm; San Brindell, 9:30 pm; Boranda, 10:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Paul Duffy.
Limbo Johnny Souza Jazz Quartet, 8 pm, 21+.
The Linwood Amnesty International 14 for 14 Be efit with Verona Downs, $7.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmon Open House, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Jessy Moss, Warr Zanes (ex Del Fuegos), $10, 18+. Downsta Slaughter and the Dogs, Tommy and the Terrors, Riffs and the Bluebloods, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Fully C ebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café BJ Snowden and the Annie Frei Band, 21+.
Milky Way Open mike with Momentum, 8 pm, $5
Plough and Stars Bad Art, 9 pm.
The Rack ZMQ, 6-10 pm.
Regattabar Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, 8:30 and pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Black Sole, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, $15.
Sky Bar Patrick McAloon Band, Kate Schrock a Dean Fields, 8:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Enjoy your moment responsibly.

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Sophia's Live salsa music, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm.
Toad The Heygoods and Stupid Girl, 7pm; Weed, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Franks, Year Zero, Gallery and Cannibal Kings, $5.
The Western Front Rick Stone Ensemble, Dan Blake and Richie Barshay, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Issi Rosen, 8 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Abbey Lounge Fire in the Boathouse, Soltero and Ninja, 21+.
Asgard Brogue, 8:30 pm.
Avalon Staind, 8pm, no cover.
Axis Ash, 7 pm, $12.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7-10 pm, no cover.
The Burren Swinging Johnsons.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Sam Shaber, 8 pm, $12.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Mario Perrett Co., 21+.
The Green Briar DJ Stelah.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry The Boston Horns and Goodfoot, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues The Lost Songs of Lennon and McCartney, by Kate Pierson of the B-52s, Graham Parker and Bill Janovitz of Buffalo Tom, 10 pm, $20, 18+.
The Independent Dean Fields, 10 pm.
Johnny D's Nikulydin and Amun Ra, 9 pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Josh Fuson and Marc Whittaker, 8:30 pm; Carol Lester, 9:30 pm; Jess Tardy, 10:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Kirkland Café Tiger Method, Cool Fool and Nicki Glasser Band, $5.
Limbo Kaoruko, 9 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Brass Roots, 9 pm, $7.
Matt Murphy's Pub Jazz session.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Zeke, Camarosmith, Crash 'n' Burn, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Badfish (Sublime tribute), Zox, 4th Floor and Antic, $10, 18+. Corner: Midnight Snack, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: the Family Jewels, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Twilight Ranchers, Slim Jim and Mad Cows and Gloria Deluxe, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
Paradise The Datsuns, the Paybacks and the Star Spangles, 9 pm, $13, 18+.
Parris Chad LaMarsh Band.
PA's Mindflayer, Ninja Death Squad, Fiesel and the Hidden.
Plough and Stars Flats Fixed and the New You, 9 pm.
The Rack Black Sole, 6:30-10:30 pm.
Roggies Brew and Grille Liam Maloney, 8-10:30 pm.
Regattabar Annie Royer: Cabaret de Paris, 8:30 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Temporada Latina; Downstairs: Steve Songs, 8:30 pm, $8.
Sanders Theatre Dawn Upshaw and Gil Kalish concert, 8 pm, $32-$100.
Scullers Flora Purim & Airto Moreira, $22.
Sky Bar Awakening Stick, Sugabomb and Doom Buggies, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad Shaun "Wolf" Wortis, 7 pm; the Jennifer Matthews Band, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 8:30 pm.
Tsongas Arena Avril Lavigne, Simple Plan and G.O.B. (sold out).
T.T. the Bear's Place The Majesticons, featuring Mike Ladd, Hrvatski and EJ, $10.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

Abbey Lounge Red Chord, Rollover Baby, the Shakes and Tom Seinquist, 21+.
Asgard The Symbolics, 8:30 pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm, no cover; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
Avalon Anybody Killa, Kottonmouth Kings, Zebrahead and Riddlin' Kids, 6:30 pm, $17.25.
The Big Easy Joe Rockstar.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan. Upstairs: Tony O'Riordan.
Bob the Chef's Phil Argyris Jazz Quartet, with Stan Strickland, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm-12 am, no cover.

Beck headlines May 24 at the FleetBoston Pavilion and plays WBCN's River Rave at the Tweeter Center May 25.

The Burren Swinging Johnsons.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Jimmy LaFave and Michael Troy, 8 pm, $15.
Common Ground Stymie, 10 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Herman Johnson Band, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown ZMQ, 21+.
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30 pm; Syndicate.
The Green Briar 5 to the Face.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scooby Snax.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Lovewhip and Beat Soup, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise and Josh Joplin, 10 pm, $18, 21+.
The Independent Jake Brennan, 10 pm.
Johnny D's Dwight Ritcher, 9:45 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Winterboy, 9:30 pm; Blue Horizon, 10:30 pm, LP, 11:30 pm, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Kirkland Café Scamper, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo and Erin Hawkes, $5.
Limbo Wannetta Jackson, 9 pm, 21+.
The Linwood Ultravixen, Rocketscience, New Blood and Sarah Rabdau, $7.
Lizard Lounge Hybrasil and the Honorary Title, 9 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's Pub Jeff Galindo.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Mayday, Bright, Cynthia Dall, $9, 18+. Downstairs: WBCN Rock and Roll Rumble semi-finals, $10, 18+. Corner: DJ Benny Blanco. Zuzu: the Golden Throat Series with Chris Cote and Charles Hanson, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Jet by Day, Murder in the Red Barn and A .45 to Pay the Rent, 21+.
Milky Way Anchormen CD-release party with the Operators, Asian Babe Alert and the Reaganauts, 9 pm, $8.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connel.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Steven Malkmus & the Jicks, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Drop Dead Sexy.
PA's Illustrious Day, Patron Saints and Frank Morey.
Plough and Stars The Stumbleweeds, 9 pm.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park.
Regattabar The Rebecca Parris Quintet with Mike Monaghan, George Mesterhazy, Peter Kontriams and Matt Gordy, 7:30 and 10 pm, $16.
Rhythm and Spice Caribbean Cruise Band, 11 pm, $8, 21+.
Roggie's Brew and Grille Ali, 9 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Thaddeus Hogarth, 9 pm, $9.
Sanders Theatre Infinite Fraternity, 8 pm, $15-$35.
Scullers Flora Purim & Airto Moreira, $22.
Sky Bar The Bell Jars, Blake and the Family Dog, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul with Ashley MacIsaac, 8 pm, $25.50-$28.50.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad Fooled by April, no cover.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 9 pm.
Tsongas Arena Avril Lavigne, Simple Plan and G.O.B. (sold out).
T.T. the Bear's Place The Black Keys, the Legendary Shack Shakers and the Konks, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Chicago Bob, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Abbey Lounge Tarbox Ramblers and Triple Thick, 21+.
Asgard Jack Shanahan, 9 pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm, no cover; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
The Big Easy Joe Rockstar.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan. Upstairs: Tony O'Riordan.
Bob the Chef's Phil Srgyris Jazz Quartet with Stan Strickland, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm-12 am, no cover.
The Burren Pondering Judd.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Jennifer Kimball, 8 pm, $15.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Downtown Wannetta Jackson, 21+.
Grand Canal Spike the Punch.
The Green Briar Pi Alley.
The Green Dragon Tavern Big Delicious.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry The Hackensaw Boys, Cash Monies and the Jetsetter, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
The Independent Porch Rockers, 10 pm.
Johnny D's Wildest Dreams, 9:45 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Foundry, 9:30 pm; Shiner Jones, 10:30 pm; the Gladstones, 11:30 pm, $7.
Kinsale Keiran Ridge Band.
Kirkland Café East Coast Rage Machine, $5.
Limbo Valerie Stephens, 9 pm, 21+.
The Linwood Eden Row, the Irresponsibles, Thea Wolfe and Moonshot, $7.
Lizard Lounge Hybrasil and Marwood, 9 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's Pub Andy Voelker.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Broadcast and Electrelane, $12, 18+. Downstairs: WBCN Rock and Roll Rumble semi-finals, $10, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper Group, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Soul-le-lu-iah go-go dancing and '60s soul, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café 23-Skidoo and Satellite 7, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Super Diamond, 9 pm, $20, 18+.
Parris Drop Dead Sexy.
PA's Alphatide, Pennywheel, Deck Eleven and Top-Heavy.
Plough and Stars The Bag Boys, 5-7 pm; One Thin Dime, 9 pm.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
The Rack Vinny Peruzzi Dance Party, 8 pm.
Regattabar Roomful of Blues, 7:30 and 10 pm, $18.
Rhythm and Spice Dis 'n' Dat CD-release party, 11 pm, $8, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Samuel Torres Group, featuring Ernesto Simpson, 9 pm, $10.
Sanders Theatre Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Hussain, 8 pm, $20-$30, all ages.
Sky Bar The Crumb Sullivans, Heather Hates You, the Acro-brats and Steadfast, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre R. Carlos Nakai with Will Clipman, 8 pm, $22-$28, all ages.
Sophia's Live Latin music, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Dave Foley.
Toad Greg's Saturday Showcase, 7pm; Sara Borges and the Confidence Men, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kay Hanley, Francine, the Love Scene and Mishima USA, $12.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Wanetta Jackson, 8:30 pm, [illegible] cover.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Avalon Juanes, 8 pm, $35.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Sonny Watson Ja[illegible] Quartet, 10 am.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cove[illegible]
Cantab Lounge Groove Authority, 9 pm, cov[illegible] varies, 21+.
Club Passim David Goldfinger and Michael Tr[illegible] 7:30 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort True Believers, 10 am-3 pm.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, [illegible] cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords, Christy O'Conn[illegible] and Finbar Doyle.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnso[illegible]
Harper's Ferry Chris Emerson Band, 8 pm, $4, 2[illegible]
House of Blues Pat McGee with Kyle Davis, 9 p[illegible] $20, all ages.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8 pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam; salsa with Rumba NaMa.
Julien Bar Jazz Brunch Piano Trio, 11 am-3 pm.
Kendall Café Buddahead, 9 pm; 4 Way Street, [illegible] pm, $7.
Kinsale Martin Kelleher.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet, 8 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 and 9 p[illegible] $5.
Matt Murphy's Pub Live and Direct.
Middle East Club Upstairs: The Fleshtones, [illegible] Cherry Valence and the Dents, $10, 18+. Corn[illegible] Belly dance show with DJ Ali and Sahar.
Milky Way CandyLand presents Motor City a[illegible] others, 8 pm, $5.
MIT Tang Center Malladi Brothers with P[illegible] Sreeramamutrhi and Poovalur Srinivasan, 4 p[illegible] $10-$18, all ages.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
Plough and Stars 13 Ghosts, 9 pm.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8-11 pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch, 10 am-3 pm, no cov[illegible] Israeli Music Singalong, 8 pm, $10.
Sky Bar The Mercy Beat, Lowstar and Greystree[illegible] pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Paul Ahlstrand Band, 7pm; Sean Stap[illegible] and Jabe Beyer, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Mardi Gras brunch featuring Bo[illegible] bon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Consuelo Can[illegible] laria Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Hey Mercedes, Vic Fi[illegible] cracker, the Town War and the Secret Chann[illegible] $10.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30 pm, [illegible] cover.

MONDAY, MAY 19

Abbey Lounge Live blues jam with King Bazo, 8-[illegible] pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cov[illegible]
Cantab Lounge Too Human, 10 pm, cover vari[illegible] 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8 pm, $10.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, [illegible] cover, all ages.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Switchfoot, 7 and 9:30 pm, $12[illegible] ages.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night with Jim Cohen, 8 p[illegible] $5.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Mike Diplomat, 8 pm; Dana Labb[illegible] pm; Rosie Huntress, 10 pm, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Ransom, $9, 18+. Zu[illegible] Unhappy Hour with the Willard Grant Conspir[illegible] no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe (from Lovewhip), 21+.
Plough and Stars Jim & Jake Brennen, 9 pm.
The Rack ZMQ, 6-10 pm.
The Roxy The Cramps and the Von Bondies.
Tír na nÓg Tom Bianchi.
Toad Shwang, featuring Anita Suhanin, 8 pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Consuelo Candelaria Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the B[illegible] with Katie Barbato, Winterboy and Danielle [illegible] raglia, $3.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Abbey Lounge Malibu Lou, Jimmy Fox and oth[illegible] 8 pm, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.

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ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Boston June 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Boston Globe Jazz Festival featuring Aretha Franklin, Buddy Guy, Los Lobos and Indigenous June 16, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jonatha Brooke June 12, Sanders Theatre, (617-876-4275)
Chicago June 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Elvis Costello and the Imposters July 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000).
The Dead and Steve Winwood June 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Dixie Chicks and Michelle Branch June 19, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)
Earth, Wind and Fire June 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Aretha Franklin June 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Peter Gabriel June 18, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Roy Hargrove June 19, Copley Square Park (617-254-9267)
Etta James & the Roots Band May 30, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Norah Jones June 28, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Chaka Khan June 20, Wang Center (617-931-2000)
Ziggy Marley June 3, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Van Morrison, Solomon Burke and the Soul Alive Orchestra June 14 and 15, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Poison, Skid Row and Vince Neil June 16, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Lou Reed June 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Santana and Angelique Kidjo June 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Solas June 13, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
James Taylor June 28 and 29, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Suzanne Vega May 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Wilco and Sonic Youth June 23, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)

Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Granite Grass, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Harper's Ferry Jiggle, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Pete Francis of Dispatch and David Garza, 8:30 pm, $10, all ages.
Johnny D's Tom Salber, Brad Leftwich and Alice Gerrard, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Ray Lemieux, $5.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Limbo John Kordalewski, 8 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Godboxer, Aaron Perrino and Linus, 8:30 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's Pub Altitude music with Geoff Scott.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Sweatpant Boners, $9, 18+. Corner: Noche Mexicana and Gustavo & Andres, 9 pm. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café The Napkins, the Put Kings and John Holmes, 21+.
North Shore Music Theater Creedence Clearwater Revisited, 8 pm, $25-$85, all ages.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9 pm.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10 pm.
Regattabar The John Payne Saxophone Choir, 8:30 pm, $12.
Roggie's Brew and Grille Nickelson and Kristoffersson, jazz.
The Roxy Tomahawk, Melvins and Dalek, 7 pm, $20, 18+.
Scullers Kent French-"It's Spring Again," $15.
Somerville Theatre Rising Low, 8 pm, $14.50.
Toad Jimmy Ryan, no cover.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Jwalkers, Hulla Blue, Bunk 9 and Rebecca Nurse, $5.
Tweeter Center ZZ Top, Ted Nugent and Kenny Wayne Shepherd, 7 pm, $10-$45.
Wonder Bar Mike McKennaTrio, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Abbey Lounge Unbusted, NRG and others, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7-10 pm, no cover.
The Burren Karen Casey and Valleley Brothers.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+..
Club Passim Cary Pierce, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm.
Elephant and Castle Pete Masa, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
Harper's Ferry Brotherhood of Groove and Shotgun Bandits, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
House of Blues T-Model Ford and Robert Belfour, 10 pm, $15, 21+.
The Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10 pm.
Johnny D's Benefit for Somerville Arts Council with Kimchee Records, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Ari, 8:30 pm; Sarah Brindell, 9:30 pm; The Matt Chase Group, 10:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Judith Murray 8 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Chandler Travis, Sukie Tawdry, John Surette, Paul Angelosanto and the Melting Poetry Collective and Mascara, 9 pm, $7.
Middle East Club Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Jason Liebman and Fooled by April, 21+.
Paradise Brian Blade and Daniel Lanois, 8 pm, $22.50, 18+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art, 9 pm.
The Rack Ray Brown's Quartet, 6-10 pm.
Regattabar Natraj with special guest Steve Gorn, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Robin Kenyatta, 8:30 pm, $15.
Scullers The Rippingtons featuring Russ Freeman and Eric Marienthal, $28.
Sophia's Live salsa music, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm.
Toad The Heygoods and Stupid Girl, 7pm; the Dwight Ritcher Band, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Cobra Verde, featuring J Mascis on guitar, Radar Eyes, $8.
The Western Front Haruka Horii and the Cosmos.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Issi Rosen, 8 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Abbey Lounge The Napkins and Secret Clock, 21+.
Axis Ian McCulloch and Thisway, 7 pm, $21, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Diamond Life, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7-10 pm, no cover.
The Burren Swinging Johnsons.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Eduatto's Funky Allstars, 21+.
The Green Briar DJ Stelah.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Seth Yacavone Band and Freight Train, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Donnie, 9:30 pm, $15, 18+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café David Berkeley, 8:30 pm; Noam Weinstein, 9:30 pm; Jess Tardy, 10:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Kirkland Café Com'on Man, Rollow Tomasi Quartet and Local Jack, $5.
Limbo Tyler Wood, 9 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's Pub Jazz session.
Middle East Club Upstairs: WBCN 25th Annual Rock and Roll Rumble finals $10, 18+. Corner: Stretch, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: the Family Jewels, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way The Coachmen and Duclie Younger, 10 pm, $5.
North Shore Music Theater The Best of Beatlemania, 8 pm, $25-$85, all ages.
Paradise Israel Vibration and III Kings, 9 pm, $20, 18+.
Parris Brian Maes Band.
PA's Fish's Eddy, Betty Finn, Local Radio and Damian David.
Plough and Stars The Peasants, 9 pm.
The Rack The Boston Horns, 6-10 pm.
Regattabar Eddie Palmieri y su Orquesta, 8:30 pm, $18.
Roggie's Brew and Grille Liam Maloney, 8-10:30 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Upstairs: Temporada Latina; Downstairs: Evan Goodrow Band, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers The Rippingtons featuring Russ Freeman and Eric Marienthal, $32.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad The Big Ben Hillman Trio, 10pm.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Victory at Sea, the Common Cold and Soltero, $8.
Wonder Bar The Grant Langford Review, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Abbey Lounge The Collisions, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm, no cover; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
The Attic Frankie J Band and King Dubious, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
The Big Easy Syndicate.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne. Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Tall Richards, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm-12 am, no cover.
The Burren The Well.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Cutting Edge of the Campfire featuring Sam Shaber, 3 pm, $18.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Peter Bell Band, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Chris Sabarese Band, 21+.
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30 pm; Brick Park.
The Green Briar The Return.
The Green Dragon Tavern Muttly.
The Harp Flavor.
Harper's Ferry Reuben and Yellow Brick Ed, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Hazie Maze, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Babaloo, 9:45 pm, $8.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Lanky, 9:30 pm; Chad Perrone, 10:30 pm; Missing Joe, 11:30 pm, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Kirkland Café Maladeego, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, Tokyo Tramps and Amigazo, $5.
Limbo Eula Lawrence, 9 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Tommy Dempsey, the Sales, Sam Bisbee and Sarah Borges, 9 pm.
Matt Murphy's Pub Mike Rivard and friends.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Araby, Laguardia (Boston), Cry the Thrillseeker, $9, 18+. Downstairs: MetroConcepts Presents: Akrobatik (Rec Rel) plus special guests! 18+. $12. Corner: DJ Benny Blanco. Zuzu:The Golden Throat Series with Chris Cote & Charles Hanson, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Place Holder and guests, 21+.
Milky Way Inferior Designs: A Hip Hop Benef (Gentrify This!) featuring III Kings and the Found tion, 9 pm, $10.
Mr. Dooley's Patsey Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
North Shore Music Theater Pat Boone, 8 pm, $2 $85, all ages.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, n cover.
Paradise Apollo Sunshine with the Cignal, 8 pm $8-$10, 18+.
Parris Cosmic Box.
PA's Lines and Meet the Day.
Plough and Stars Twilight Ranchers, 9 pm.
Regattabar Eddie Palmieri y su Orquesta, 7:30 a 10 pm, $18.
Roggie's Brew and Grille Ali, 9 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Patricia Adams, 9 pm, $12.
Scullers The Rippingtons featuring Russ Freema and Eric Marienthal, $32.
Sophia's Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Kevin Connelly.
Toad Sticky, no cover.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Gentlemen, Quick F CD-release party and the Spaceshots, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles, 9:30 p no cover.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Abbey Lounge Baby Strange, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm, no cove Gilad Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
The Big Easy Aphrodisiac.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Tom O'Carroll
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm- am, no cover.
The Burren Shirley Lewis.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Cutting Edge of the Campfire, 12 p $18.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover, ages.
FleetBoston Pavilion Beck, 8 pm, $35-$40.
The Good Life Downtown Weepin' Willie, 21+.
Grand Canal Ransom.
The Green Briar Velvet Jones.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnson
The Harp Flavor.
Harper's Ferry Naked Vinyl and Fluffy Puppy pm, 21+.
House of Blues Ember Swift, 9:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Nicole Nelson, 9:45 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Don and Alyssa, 9:30 pm; Ram Winslow, 10:30 pm; The Heygoods, 11:30 pm, $7.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Eddy Dyer and the Walking Shoe R vival, the Jody Grind and Jason and the Jagernau $5.
Limbo Kim Trusty, 9 pm, 21+.

Godsmack (pictured) performs heavy metal with Cold at the Tweeter Center May 22.

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Lizard Lounge Suntan, Charlene and the Helms.
Matt Murphy's Pub Jay Pun.
MDC Hatch Shell on the Charles River WXRV Riverfest 2003 featuring Ben Folds, Johnny Marr and the Healers, Rhett Miller, Fiction Plane and Paloalto, 4 pm, free.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Pilot to Gunner, Model Songs, Read Yellow and Lost Pilot, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Dick Dale and the Charms, $15, 18+. Corner: The Sawtelles, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Ready, Steady, Go-Go, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsey Whelan and Tony O'Riordan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Rock 4 Relief/Hair Care Fest: A Benefit for The Station Fire Victims featuring 80s hair band covers by Crash Alchemist, Tootsie, C60, Rubikon, Angry Hill, Chemical Savior, the Peasants, the Rudds, the Baby Reds, the Brett Rosenberg Problem and Supachik, 8 pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Cosmic Box.
Plough and Stars The Bag Boys, 5-7 pm; John Lincoln Wright, 9 pm.
The Rack Vinne Peruzzi Dance Party, 8 pm.
Regattabar Eddie Palmieri y su Orquesta, 7:30 and 10 pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Rumbafrica, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers Mose Allison, $20.
Sophia's Live Latin music, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Toad Greg's Saturday Showcase, 7 pm; David Johnston, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Raging Teens, Cave Catt Sammy, Lenny & the Piss Poor Boys and the Young Ones, $8.
Tweeter Center Godsmack and Cold, 7 pm, $28.75 -$35.25.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Candida Rose, 8:30 pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

The Attic The Coalboilers, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Axis Big D and the Kids Table, 4 pm, $12.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Tom O'Carroll.
Bob the Chef's Jazz Brunch with Zeke Martin's Jazz, 10 am.

Staind performs a free concert at Avalon May 15

Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Groove Authority, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Cutting Edge of the Campfire, 12 pm, $18.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining, 10 am-3 pm.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Inchicore and Finbar Doyle.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry Chris Emerson Band, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
House of Blues The Lost Trailers and Brown Couch, 9 pm, $10, all ages.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8 pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam; salsa with Rumba NaMa.
Julien Bar Jazz Brunch Piano Trio, 11 am-3 pm.
Kendall Café Pete Cassini, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet, 8 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 and 9 pm.
Matt Murphy's Pub Live and Direct with Mang Dub.
Midway Café Whistle Jacket, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
North Shore Music Theater Anne Murray, 7 pm, $25-$85, all ages.
Parris Flavor.
Plough and Stars Dulcie and the Teardrops, 9 pm.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8-11 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch, 10 am-3 pm, no cover.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Sunday Night Band, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Mardi Gras brunch featuring the Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Tim Ray Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mappari and the Audiants, $7.
Tweeter Center WBCN River Rave featuring Beck, Good Charlotte and Jack Johnson, 1 pm, $25-$65.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30 pm, no cover.

MONDAY, MAY 26

Abbey Lounge Live blues jam with King Bazo, 8-11 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Lissa Schneckenburger, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Cutting Edge of the Campfire, 12 pm, $18.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Harper's Ferry OSB, 8 pm, $3, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Stone Blue, 9:30 pm, $6, 18+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Sarah Woolf, 8 pm; Ari, 8:45 pm; Kyr Tuvim, 9:30 pm; Danielle Miraglia, 10:15 pm, $5.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Club Upstairs: Terrorfakt, Inertia Pneumatic Detach, C2 and Prurient, $10, 18+ Zuzu: The Unhappy Hour with Milo Jones, n cover, 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe (from Lovewhip), 21+.
Plough and Stars Jim and Jake Brennen, 9 pm.
Tír na nÓg Tom Bianchi.
Toad Shwang, featuring Anita Suhanin, 8 pm; th Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Tim Ray Trio, 8:30 pm.
Wonder Bar Joe McMahon Experience, 9:30 pm, n cover.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Abbey Lounge Jimmy Fox, Tim Marten, Ma Heinegg, Medea Connection, Krissy Lundgren an others, 8 pm, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cover
Cantab Lounge New England Bluegrass, 10 pm cover varies, 21+.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cove all ages.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Pat Burtis, Dean Fields, and Vaness Trien, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Limbo Vadim Neselavsky, 8 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Godboxer with the Damnwells an Bullets of Orange, 8:30 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's Pub Altitude music with Geoff Scot
Middle East Club Upstairs: Keepsake, Matchboo Romance and Junction, $9, 18+. Corner: Noch Mexicana with Gustavo & Andres, 9 pm. Zuz Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Quick Release, 21+.
Pa's Floor, Converge and Defcon 4.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9 pm.
The Rack Black Sole, 6-10 pm.
Roggie's Brew and Grille Nickelson and Kristoffer son, instrumental Jazz.

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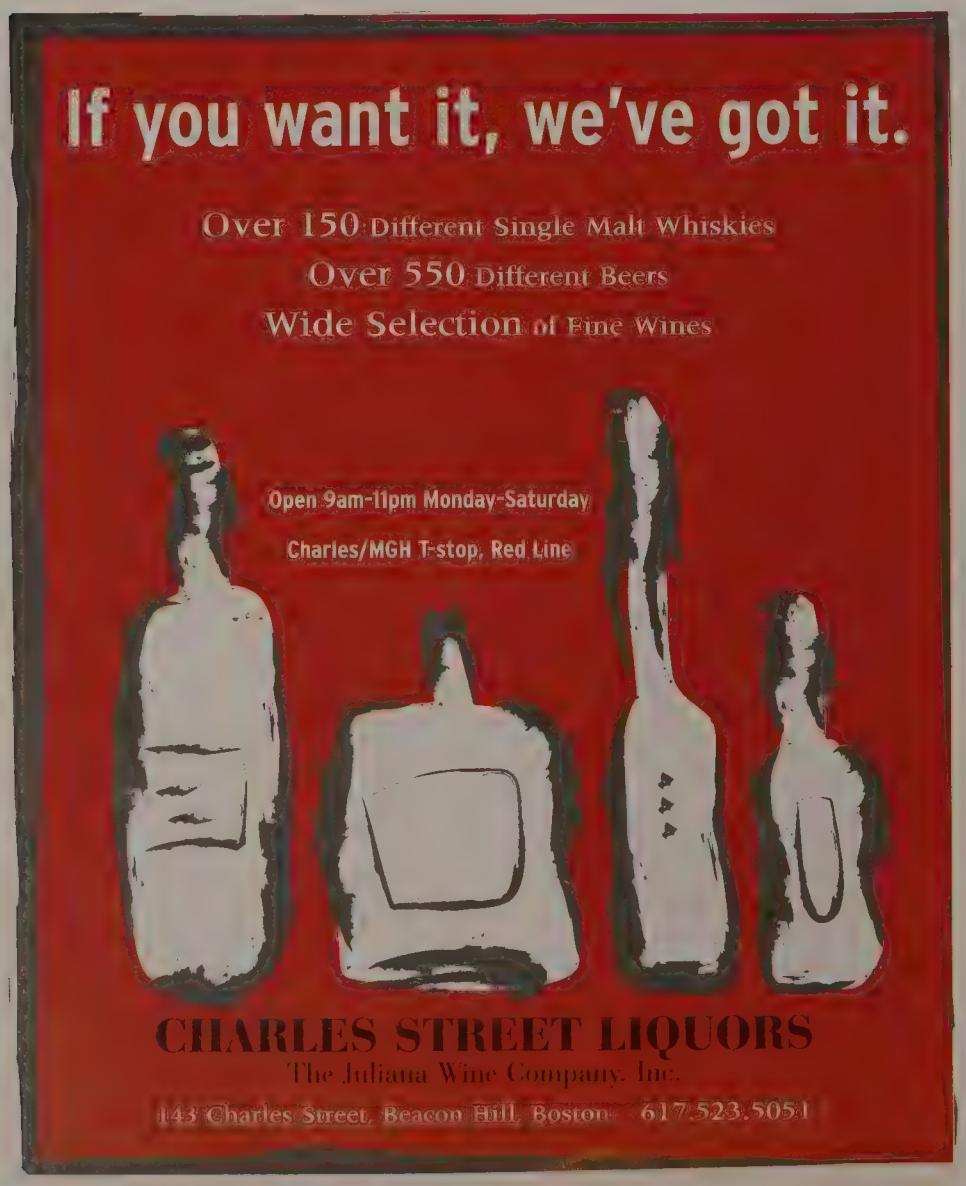
Ryles Jazz Club Peter Cicco, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers Steve Turre Quintet, $18.
Toad Jimmy Ryan with Duke Levine, Kevin Barry, Billy Beard, Stephen D. and Natalie Flanagan, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio featuring Jazon Hunter, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lost on Main St., Stereo Soul Future, Buxton and Welk, $5.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631.*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100).*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave..*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: E Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-931-2000).*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life *Cambridge 720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Irish Embassy Pub *234 Friend St., Boston (617-742-6618).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jordan Hall *30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood 69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-287-8644).
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-0188). MBTA: Green Line D to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
North Shore Music Theater *62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (978-232-7203).*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue,Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
PA's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*

The Cash Monies & the Jetsetter play Harper's Ferry May 17.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051) MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Cent*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617 496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambr (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-62 5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwes Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Line to Government Center.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-5 1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridg (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center *885 S. Main St., Mansfield (617-931-2000).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*



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classical music

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Aire Lines: A Choralfest

St. Paul's Catholic Church, corner of Bow and Arrow Streets, Cambridge (617-876-9101). 8pm. $12; $8, students and seniors. Six local choirs perform new compositions based on Old Testament texts. Members of Cambridge's Composers in Red Sneakers, Inc. developed the pieces specifically for the performing groups.

Music in the Cathedral Series

Cathedral Church of St.Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-5800). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15pm. Organist Daniel Ryan performs.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* Pianist Sergey Schepkin performs works by Bach, Beethoven, Debussy and Mussorgsky.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Longy School of Music

Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). 8pm. Free. Chamber degree and diploma students perform in the annual Honors Concert.

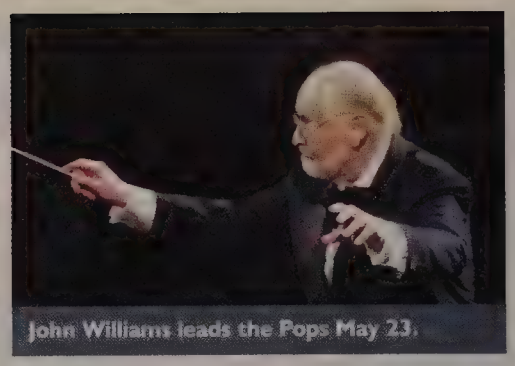
SATURDAY, MAY 17

Boston Virtuosi

Great Hall, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-547-8860). www.bostonvirtuosi.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 8pm. $10-$30.* The Boston Virtuosi concludes its season with the program Ancient Inspirations.

Longy School of Music

Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). 8pm. Free. Conductor Jeffrey Rink leads the Longy Chamber Orchestra in a performance featuring winners of the Longy Concerto Competition.



John Williams leads the Pops May 23.

New England Conservatory Commencement Concert

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Free.* Sergio Monterisi conducts the NEC Orchestra, featuring student soloists.

Vivaldi in the Courtyard

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Road, Boston (617-278-5156). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 7:30pm. Free.* Paula Robinson conducts the Gardner Chamber Orchestra.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $16-$67.* Conductor Bruce Hangen leads the Pops in On Broadway, a performance of works from American musical theater.

Emmanuel Music

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10am. Free.* Craig Smith conducts the chorus and orchestra of Emmanuel Music in a performance of Shubert's *Mass in G Major.*

MONDAY, MAY 19

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. $16-$67.* Keith Lockhart conducts a concert of American classic songs. This performance will be taped for PBS-TV's *Evening at Pops.*

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Free.* Michael Mucci conducts the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble in a performance of works by Whitacre, Shostakovich and Mahoney.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $16-$67.* Keith Lockhart conducts Pops Light Classics, a performance of American classics.

King's Chapel Noon Hour Recitals

King's Chapel, School and Tremont streets, Boston (617-227-2155). 12:15pm. $2. Dennis Marzolf directs Minnesota's Bethany Lutheran College Chorale's presentation of works by Pachelbel, Walther, Hassler and Brahms

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $16-$67.* Same program as May 20.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. $16-$67.* Same program as May 19.

Longy School of Music

Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). MBTA:Red Line to Harvard. 8pm. Free. Longy's Faculty Artist Recital features violinist Susanna Cortesio and includes performances of Brahms, Beethoven and Stravinsky.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. Free.* The NEC faculty performs works by faculty member Rodney Lister.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to S[illegible] phony. 8pm. $16-$67.* John Williams condu[illegible] Pops Light Classics, an evening of Ameri[illegible] standards.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to S[illegible] phony. 8pm. $16-$67.* Same performance as May

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5[illegible] 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.e[illegible] *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8pm. $10.* E[illegible] jamin Zander conducts the NEC Youth Phill[illegible] monic Orchestra.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to S[illegible] phony. 3pm. $16-$67.* Guest conductor B[illegible] Hangen presents the program American Salut[illegible] selection of patriotic favorites.

New England Conservatory

Brown, St.Botolph and Williams Hall and K[illegible] Room, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-11[illegible] www. newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA *Green Line to Symphony. 9am-6pm, $10.* The N[illegible] Preparatory School presents a daylong Cham[illegible] Music Festival.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to S[illegible] phony. 8pm. $16-$67.* Same performance as May

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-[illegible] 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MB[illegible] *E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30pm. Free.* M[illegible] Beaulieu conducts the NEC Preparatory Sch[illegible] String Chamber Orchestra when it joins with N[illegible] Youth Chorale.

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The Independent - The Hard Rock Cafe

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •May 19, PTM 30 performs Latin jazz, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •May 26, Live jazz with Hakim Law Trio, 6:30-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10 pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10 pm; dance tunes spun by DJ Ricky, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip-hop and R&B, dress jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Preview

Rick's Tricks

Rick Naples fires up the crowd at Pravda and beyond

From his vantage point in the DJ booth, Rick Naples has witnessed plenty of dramatic changes in Boston nightlife over the past 13 years. Naples has seen different eras of dance music come and go, not to mention venues, DJs and promoters.

Nowadays, Naples presides over one of Boston's best-known dance floors every Saturday night at Pravda 116. "The crowd at Pravda is great," says Naples, "and I think that between the club itself and the music format, it attracts a very diverse group of folks every week. It's a really friendly atmosphere, and the vibe is just amazing! You'll definitely find people dancing on the couches and in the aisles."

Through the years, Naples has mastered a broad range of sounds and styles to suit nearly any crowd or any room. At Pravda 116, clubgoers will find him spinning a pulsing blend of filtered disco and vocal house, occasionally even touching down in tribal house territory. Boston clubbers can also find Naples holding down a weekly residency on Fridays at LaBoom, or making a monthly guest appearance at Sunrise After Hours in Saugus. On Saturday, May 24, join him at Pravda 116 for a special Memorial Day Weekend event. DJ Todd Reeves spins in the lounge.

Pravda 116, 116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799). 10pm-2am. Proper dress, $10. 21+.

—Daniel Spurling

DJ Rick Naples mixes it up.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJs Bobby B spins a mix of top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
Live music with ZMQ, 6-10 pm; DJ Ricky spins dance music, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami, John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill's and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tunes, 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJs spin loungey music.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm; live music by local bands goes all night, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top-40, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted Kiss 108, proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe sp acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christi Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies f guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cu the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downsta 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party sta upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 21

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 21+.

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins La dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover be 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
•May 15, The Chad LaMarsh Band performs l 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •May 22, Live music Brian Maes Band, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando pre drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive tech downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays: DJs Manolo, Paul Da Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rota residency.

The Rack
Live music with Black Soul, 6:30-10:30 pm. DJ R spins all night long, 10 pm-2 am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lovers' r roots reggae and R&B, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9 pm, cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, ho and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10 $11.50.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins ho music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan M shall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15,

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance club anthems, 10 pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play f and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and fu house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, pro dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

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FELT
BOSTON

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old school and dance hall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin Top 40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
•May 16, The Zoo performs live, 10 pm, $10, 21+. •May 23, Live music with Flavor, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40 R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or a girls' night out, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Parris
•May 16, Drop Dead Sexy performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •May 23, Live music by Cosmic Box, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out at this hot spot with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10 pm. •May 16, Brick Park performs live, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
It's live music with Central Basement, 6:30-10:30 pm. DJ Johnny C with Kiss 108's Artie, 10 pm-2 am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10 pm, no cover, 19+.

RiverGods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night of Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30 pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz keeps the party going with house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Boston's hottest cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker spins the top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
•May 17, The Zoo performs live, 10 pm, $10, 21+. •May 24, Live music with Flavor, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream international music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night DJ Antonio Ortíz moves the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male En-**

counter New England's longest-running all-m
dance review, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1
$15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos sp
top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 1
$10, 21+. •**Rio** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dan
techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11
$14; DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-ho
a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 2
•**Sober Saturdays** Boston's only alcohol-free nig
club pumps '70s, '80s, '90s and top-40, $15, 18+.•
town DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s,
and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•May 17, Drop Dead Sexy performs live, 10
cover varies, 21+. •May 24, Live music by Cos
Box, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10 pm,
21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, pro
dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm. $5, 2
•May 17, Pig Pen performs live, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40
R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host
dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ
lockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and tech
10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and inter
tional music, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8
Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before
pm, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa
merengue while a Latin band plays on the first fl
and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the
ond floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in
front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro
vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 2

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8 pm,
21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s fu
10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek An
and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light hous
the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-
in the lounge, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play f
and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 2

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lou
11 pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance
techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features
Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best
behind the turntables, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10
21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40
hip-hop, 9 pm , $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest
vice industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe s
acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

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Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It The weekend ends with DJs John Davis and B-Coy spinning top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a Sunday night of electric dance, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes on the third floor while DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
Nate Watkins performs live, 8-11 pm, no cover, 21+. DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30 pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop with R7B and Soul, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnival comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10 pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City DJ Derrick spins world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-78 4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617 524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 150 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-4 7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (6 227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-5 1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-4 0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-3 7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (6 351-2515).*
SWI *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-TRIO).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (6 792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Bos (617-423-0300).*

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/ Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Image and Empire: Picturing India During the Colonial Era* depicts India as the British saw it through documentary photographs, paintings and other period artwork. Through May 25. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through September 7.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Black Books: The First African American Authors*, a collection of early books and manuscripts by African Americans, shows through June 27.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center
Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm. •The museum's ongoing shows include Italian and African art. •South African artist Bernadette Serle addresses themes of identity, and Paul Vanouse explores ethical issues in science through electronic media in *The Space Between:Artists Engaging Race and Syncretism*. Through June 8. •Three photographic installations capture life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan in *Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son, Ramadan Moon and the Victor Weeps*. Through June 8. •*Bridging the Border: Shared Themes in Mexican and U.S. Art 1900-1950* displays through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Tools as Art* is a collection of artists' works incorporating everyday tools. Through May 25. •*The Pig Wings Project* displays sculpture made from actual pig tissue. Through May 25. •*Street Portraits, 1946-1976: The Photographs of Jules Aarons* displays through May 25. •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree. Through Aug. 31. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* shows through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum
1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained glass panels, displays through May 31.

Fogg Art Museum (including Busch-Reisinger Museum)
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Christopher Wilmarth: Drawing into Sculpture* looks at how drawings inspired the artist's glass and steel sculptures. Through June 29. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows through July 6. •*Kandinsky in 1914* shows through July 13. •*Jean Fautrier 1898-1964* displays through July 20. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* shows through October 26.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines.

Minnie Skirt, a paper collage by Bruce Helander, shows at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition, shows May 14-Aug. 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*The Palazzo Barbaro: Isabella Gardner and Her Circle in Venice* explores the interaction of a few individuals who enlivened and inspired the museum. Through July 18, 2004. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through Aug. 21.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*French Royal Furniture* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a figurative art collection from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 19 to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's W* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the w Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* sh cases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, cluding the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Digital Studio* tures the work of more than 30 young artists fr Boston's inner city neighborhoods. Through J 30. •*Speed* explores the physical laws that gov velocity. May 24-Sept. 3. •*Microbes: Invisible vaders...Amazing Allies* examines the harmful beneficial effects of the microscopic wonders. M 24-Fall 2003.

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). T Sun., 1-5 pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCA members free. •*Final Exposure: Death Row Portr* photographs by Lou Jones, shows with Keith W ington's *Within Our Gates: Human Sacrifice in American Landscape*. Through July 6.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-102 www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to H vard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am - 5 pm. $6.50 adults, $5 niors and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring orig sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican tures. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exh tion, displays artifacts from the Pacific Isla •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portr 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alum blueprint collection. Through Aug. 30.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-98 www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somer* combines oral histories, photographs, memora and interactive media to explore the rise and fa Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only on which operates today. Through March 28, 2004

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.a fineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. T Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 11 am-5* •Lawrence Kupferman's *Images of Boston: Ex sionist Watercolors and Oil Paintings from the 1* shows May 15-June 21.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-23 www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to ley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*metrics in Glass* features blown-glass sculpt Through June 29.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.a gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Watercolors by Gra Nickson show in *Recent Works*. Through June 4

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). ww dengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •L Windsor shows her landscapes in *Pools, Reflec and Rainy Days*. Through May 30.

Art Institute of Boston
Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (617-6676). www.aiboston.edu. *MBTA: Green Li Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5* •The gallery features senior graduate v Through May 31.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth floor, Boston (617-262-4 www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green L Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Roundabou* tures Bill Thompson's new work. Through May 2

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA ange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm. •*S ment* is a collection of paintings and mixed-n works by four Toronto-area artists. Through Jun

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Li Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Two tography exhibitions, Abelardo Morell's *Su 1987-2003* and Jocelyn Lee's *Portraits*, through July 3.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm o appointment.* •*Unbuilt Visions* features models, i and proposals for public projects. Through June

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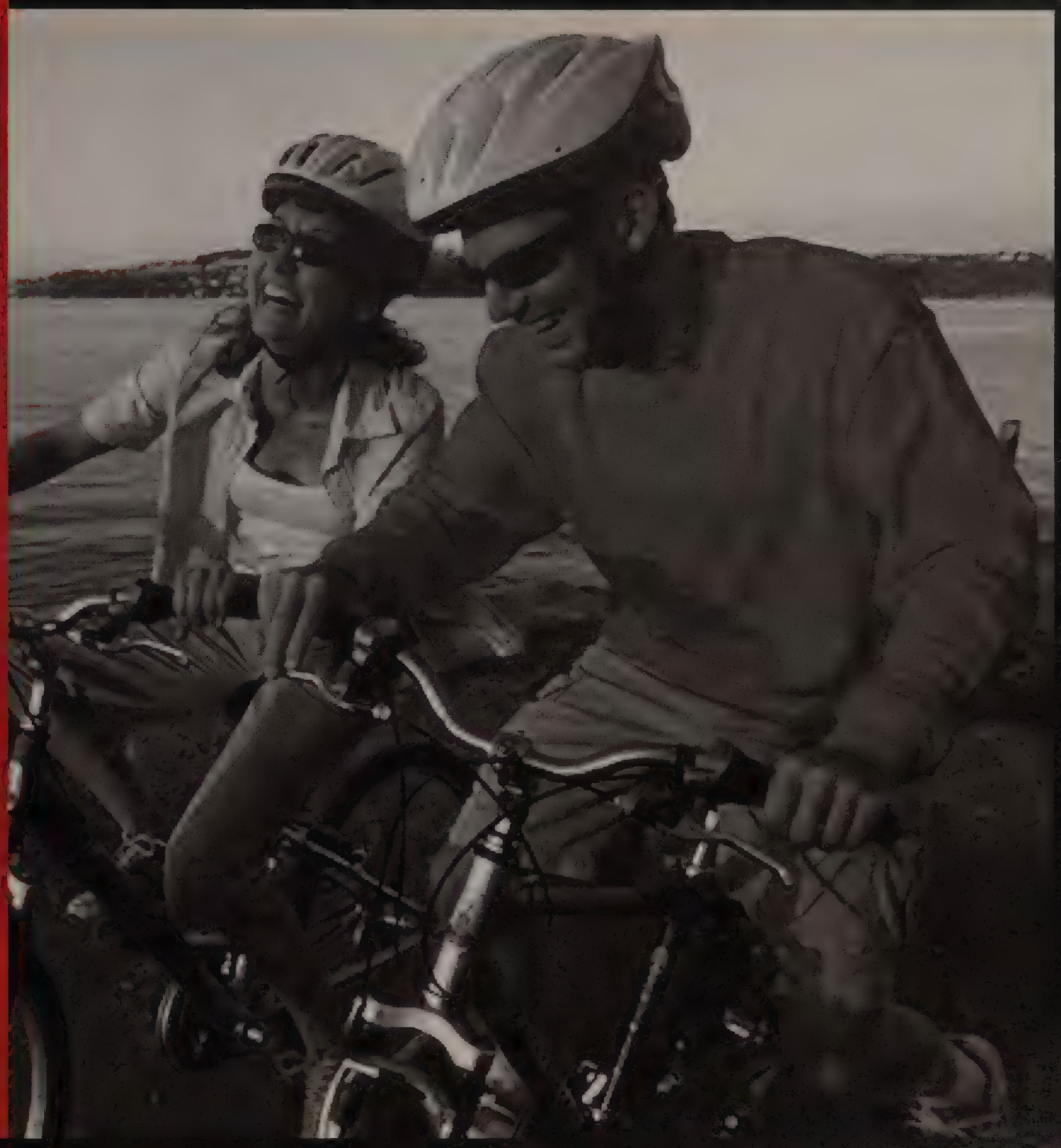

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Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •Ruth Kates and students show their work in *Oil Paintings*. Through May 29.

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Mon.-Fri., 9:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Gerald Rhodes' paintings, drawings and collages show in *Further Along*. Through May 15. •Stephanie Maria's paintings show in *American Patterns: Methods of Dominion*. Through May 16.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-11:30 pm; Sun., 12-11:30 pm. •*VES Art and Film Thesis Exhibition* shows through June 5.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Mass Art Continuum: Glass Art by Teaching Artists, Select Alumni and Students* is a juried exhibition displaying various glassmaking techniques. Through June 14.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Paintings by Francisco Benitez and pastels by Marilyn Reseckas display through May 24.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Herbert Barnett's paintings display through July 3.

Clifford Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Third Floor, Boston (617-695-0255). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Tue.-Sat. 11 am-5:30 pm. •Diana Shpungin and Nicole Engelmann's digital video art shows through May 24.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Fresh Paint Week* showcases Copley Society artists' paintings of Boston landmarks. Through May 16. •*Spring Members Show: A Juried Exhibition* displays through June 21.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing exhibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. Free. •Paul Kerepka shows his recent oil paintings. Through May 31.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Analog to Digital/Digital to Analog (A2D/D2A)*, an exhibition on technology in art, shows through May 30.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •Bruno Zupan shows his paintings in a solo exhibition. Through May 25.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •Paula Rendino Zaentz's photographs show in *Mudras: The Language of the Hand*. Through May 30.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Tue., 6-9 pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9 pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Superpower* features paintings by recent MFA graduates. Through June 21.

Frank Noelker's *Pepper* shows at the Howard Yezerski Gallery.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*The First Annual Furniture Design Exhibition* shows through May 31.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallery naga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Harriet Casdin-Silver's large-scale, multiple-figure holograms show in *Holograms and Cyborgs* through May 24.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Bert Antonio's *New Paintings from Photo Collages* displays through May 31.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •Jonathan Singer shows his work in *Digital Prints*. Through June 6.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Frank Noelker shows his portraits of chimpanzees in *Portraits*, and Kelly Heaton's *Dead Pelt* is a Furby pelt installation. Through May 27.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm.* •*Vitrum Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath and Board* shows through June 28.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-6 pm.* •*Quotations*, new work by Anne Beresford, shows through May 19. •Bruce Helander shows his work in *Vintage* May 22-June 8.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment. •An exhibition of calligraphy and Sumi paintings shows through June 4.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •The Cambridge Art Association presents *National Prize Show 2003*. Through June 25.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Cheryl Simeone displays her abstract paintings through May 25.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Green Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. •Barbara Moody's new paintings display with Tammy Medros' new work. Through May 24.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*Conceived in Stone* displays work by four artists. Through June 14.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12 pm-6 pm; Fri., 12 pm-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm. •*The Book Reconsidered* shows the work of 13 artists. Through May 18. •*Just Stand There*, a group show, and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's short video, *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex* display through July 6. •*Influence, Anxiety and Gratitude (Toward an Understanding of Trans-generational Dialogue as a Gift Economy)* features the work of more than 20 international artists. Through July 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). www.markartgallery. com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4 pm-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •Dorothea Van Camp and Prilla Smith Brackett's work shows through June 20.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •Greg Parker's recent paintings display through June 10.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri.and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*Info@Blah: Organization and Overload*, a group show, displays through July 6.

Mobius
354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Wed.-Sat. 12-5 pm.* •*The Book Reconsidered* shows in conjunction with the Boston CyberArts Festival. Through May 18. •*My Sister in Kazakhstan*, an installation by Margaret B. Tittemore, shows through May 24.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5 pm. •Ann Christensen presents her new oil paintings through June 8.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 am-4 pm and by appointment. •Heidi Whitman shows new drawings and paintings in *Brain Terrain*. Through June 28.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm. •*Pick Up the Next Whistler for a Song* features paintings, prints, photography and sculptures by local artists. May 15-June15.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Jane Smaldone and Jon Imber display their work through June 7.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Ray Rapp's video installation, *Strobe*, shows through May 24.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •Local artists show their work in a group show. Through May 30.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Pamela Ellis Hawkes' photographs display in *People, Places and Things*. Through May 29.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •N work by Noriyasu Tsuchiya shows May 17-June 2

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBT Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; S 11 am-5 pm. •The gallery showcases an ongo collection of 19th- and 20th-century American European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). w robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to lington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11* 5 pm. •Work by Bruce Davidson displays thro May 24th. •*The Art of the Game* features p tographs celebrating athletes. Through August

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). T Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: G Line to Copley. •Robert Sweeney shows paint and pastels in *Italian Campaign*. Through June 28

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). w societyofcrafts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Co Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Botani* a group show of mixed-media work, shows thro July 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MB Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; S 12-6 pm. •*Eclectic* features paintings of Bos Italy, Mexico, Cape Cod and the Islands. Thro June 1.

Studio SOTO
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-461-7686). MBTA: Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat., 2-5 pm. •*Hold* an exhibition by W. Perry Barton, Linda S White and Judith Brassard Brown, shows thro June 15.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MB Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 Sat., 8:30-1 pm. •*Boston Calling*, a collectio paintings, photography and sculpture, disp through May 27.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). w munroefineart.com. *MBTA: Green or Red Li Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by app ment.* •*French Garden Drawings 17th-20th Centu Plans, Views and Architecture* shows through Jun

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). w vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-4 pm.* • Enser's *Scenes of New England: Landscape Pain* shows through June 14.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). ME Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm, S 12-6 pm. •Peter Max's pop art shows in *Pop to P otism*. Through May 19.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-40 Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am- 5:30 pm, and by appointm •A salon show of gallery artists displays thr June 15.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-60 www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7 pm.* *Cambridge Comix Festival* features artwork by cartoonists. Through May 25.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photograp
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617- 1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to more. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •Janet Ko Picinich's *Landscapes of My Mind* shows thr May 23.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •Jane Tu man displays her photographs. Through Ma •Work by Alex MacLean shows through Septem

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). ww boston.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Blandford. Wed. and Frid., 10 am-6 pm;Thu., 10 am-8 pm and Sun., 12-5 pm.* •A members exhibition s through July 27.

SPECIAL EVENTS

CraftBoston
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., E (617-232-7000). www.societyofcrafts.org. M *Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Fri., 1 7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 10 am-5 pm.* •The Society of Arts and Crafts presents an e tion and sale of work from 160 craft artists.

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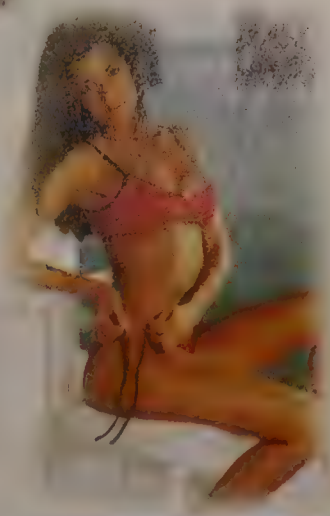

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Barnes and Noble BU
660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). www.bkstore.com/bu/. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7pm. Free.* **Nathaniel Bellows** reads from his debut novel, *On This Day*, about a brother and sister coping with the death of their parents.

Cambridge Public Library
449 Broadway, Cambridge (617-349-4040). www.library.cambridge.on.ca/main.cfm. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm.* **April Smith** reads from her third crime novel, *Good Morning, Killer*, the story of an FBI agent investigating the disappearance of a young girl.

Cantab Lounge: Boston Poetry Slam
738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 9:30 pm. $3. Poet **Douglass Bishop** hosts an Odysseus extravaganza. Bishop and poets **Jack McCarthy**, **Nancy Hewitt**, **Laureen Evans** and **Michael Brown** read from works that have a similar theme: a man who takes a long time to get home.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. Free.* **Erica Jong** reads from her historical novel, *Sappho's Leap*, based on the life of the Greek poet.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Samantha Power**, a journalist who spent several years covering the ethnic cleansing crisis in Bosnia, leads a discussion of her book *Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide.*

McIntyre & Moore Booksellers
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-4840). www.mcintyreandmoore.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7:30 pm. Free. Fresh!* literary magazine celebrates its ninth issue with a discussion by **Shirley Gerald Ware**, the publisher of the quarterly, as well as readings by poets **Juliana Bures** and **Frances LeMoine**.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Barnes and Noble BU
660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). www.bkstore.com/bu/. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free.* **Frank Schaeffer** reads from the memoir he and his son wrote, *Keeping the Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love and the United States Marine Corps.* The book tells the story of John Schaeffer's entry into the USMC and his family's reaction.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Local author **Jill McCorkle** reads from her collection of short stories, *Creatures of Habit.* She is joined by PEN Discovery Award winner **Risa Miller**, who reads from her debut novel, *Welcome to Heavenly Heights*, a story of American Jews living on the West Bank.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. Free.* A tribute to **Caroline Knapp** features several Boston-area writers reading from Knapp's posthumously published book, *Appetites: Why Women Want.* Speakers include *Boston Globe* book reviewer Gail Caldwell; the author's twin sister, Rebecca Knapp; and former *Globe* editor Beth Wolfensberger Singer.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5 pm. Free.* **Bruce Ross** leads a discussion about the art of Haiku and reads from his book *How to Haiku: A Writer's Guide to Haiku and Related Forms.*

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **James D. Watson**, one of the two men who discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, reads from his book, *DNA: The Secret of Life*, a layman's guide to understanding genetics.

Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-450-7000). www.marybakereddylibrary.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA or Symphony. 7:30 pm. Free.* Internal medicine physician **Dr. Larry Dossey** speaks about his most recent book, *Healing Beyond the Body: Medicine and the Infinite Reach of the Mind*, a collection of his essays that explore methods of alternative healing like prayer, laughter and hypnosis.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Michael Clurman**, **Gail Falk** and **Robert Garofalo** read their contributions to the anthology *Letters from Mississippi*, a collection of correspondence by student civil rights activists to their friends and family.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Alan Furst**, editor of *The Book of Spies: An Anthology of Literary Espionage*, reads from the collection of novel excerpts.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez**, a former *Boston Globe* writer, reads from her novel, *The Dirty Girls Social Club*, which explores the friendships between six young women.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Rikki Klieman**, a Boston trial attorney and Court TV anchor, reads from her memoir, *Fairy Tales Can Come True: How a Driven Woman Changed Her Destiny.*

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Mickey McDermott**, a former Red Sox pitcher, is joined by Sox legend **Johnny Pesky** in a discussion of McDermott's memoir, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Cooperstown.*

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Borders Cambridgeside
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.borders.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 2 pm. Free.* Writer and film director **William Patrick Patterson** speaks about his book, *Voices in the Dark: Esoteric, Occult and Secular Voices in Nazi-Occupied Paris 1940-44*, a look at the French Resistance, the Nazi army and life in Paris during World War II.

MONDAY, MAY 19

Borders Cambridgeside
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.borders.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 7 pm. Free.* **Anne Ford**, chairwoman of the National Center for Learning Disabilities, reads from her book *Laughing Allegra: The Inspiring Story of a Mother's Struggle and Triumph Raising a Daughter with Learning Disabilities.*

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez reads May 16.

Paradise Lounge
969 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8819). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. 6 pm. $5.* At Cover 2 Cover: A Writers and Musicians Series, musicians play song covers and authors read from others' work. **Dennis Lehane** reads work by Cormac McCarthy, **Elizabeth Searle** reads from David Foster Wallace's work and **Thisbe Nissen** reads Peter Orner. Musicians **Michael Tarbox** and **Todd Thibaud** play music by Charlie Patton and Lucinda Williams, respectively.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Ruth Stone** reads from her poetry collection *In The Next Galaxy*, winner of a 2002 National Book Award.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Cultural critic **Douglas Rushkoff** reads from his book about his views on modern Judaism, *Nothing Sacred: The Truth About Judaism.*

Center for New Words
New Words Reading Room, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Marjane Satrapi**, great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor, reads from her novel, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, about her childhood as a member of Iran's royal family.

Harvard Book Store
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Alan Chong** presents *The Eye of the Beholder: Masterpieces from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.* Chong edited this new companion book to the museum's collection.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Al Blanchard** shares his latest mystery novel, *The Disappearance of Jenna Drago*, about a Boston police officer investigating the abduction of a teenage girl.

Peabody Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027) MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30 pm. Free. Cambridge author **Mabel H. Cabot** discusses her new book, *Vanished Kingdoms: A Woman Explorer in Tibet, China and Mongolia 1921-1925*, which chronicles her mother's journey through China's western frontier.

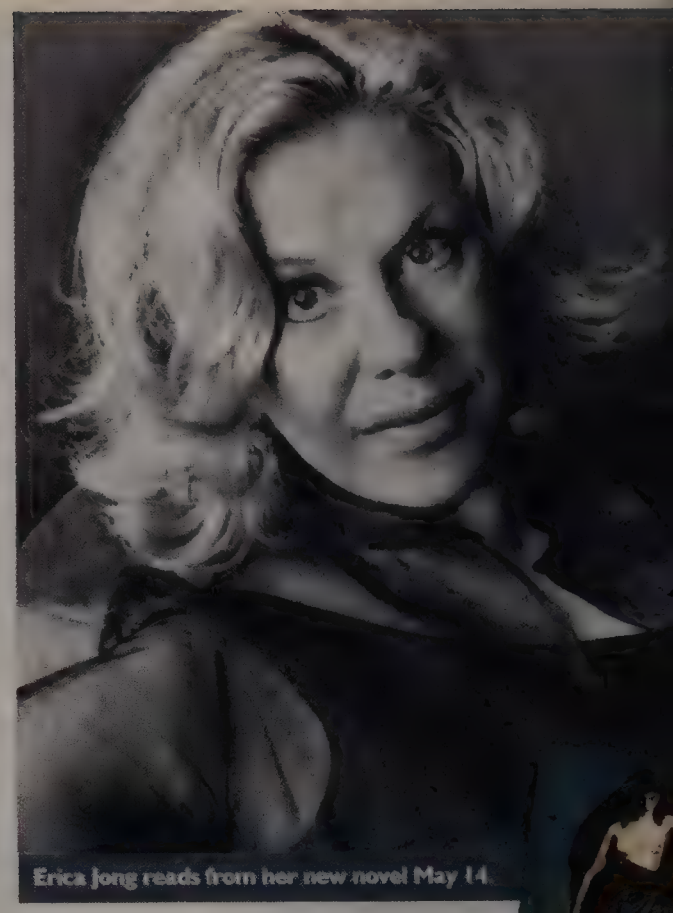
WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, One Bennet St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Poet laureate of New Hampshire **Donald Hall** reads from his book *New England Primer: New and Selected Stories*, a collection of personal reflections on the region.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Suffolk University professor **Robert J. Allison** reads from the book he co-wrote, *Massachusetts from Colony to Commonwealth: An Illustrated History*, a historical account of the events that have shaped the state.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm.* **Alexander McCall Smith** reads from *The Kalahari Typing School for Men: More From the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, the fourth novel in his comedic mystery series about a female private detective in Botswana.

Harvard Book Store at the BPL
Boston Public Library, Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Joseph O'Connor** reads from his historical novel, *Star of the Sea*, which details an Irish family's immigration to America in 1847.


Erica Jong reads from her new novel May 14.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Sharon Seive** business consultant, reads from her new spir guide to self-improvement, *Balancing Act: Ma ing the Five Elements of Success in Life, Relation and Work.*

Newtonville Books and Brews Ser
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MB D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. **Victoria Abbott Riccardi** presents *Untanglin Chopsticks: A Culinary Sojourn in Kyoto*, her r oir detailing her experience studying Japanese nary culture.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MB Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Essayist **Me Daum** shares her first novel, *The Quality of Lif port*, the story of a woman who leaves New Yor moves to the Midwest.

Les Zygomates: Wines and Lines
129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA Line to South Station. 7 pm. Free. Enjoy wine hors d'oeuvres while Boston-area writer **R Solar-Tuttle** reads from her book *Number 6 Fur* Then **Alix Strauss** reads from her first novel, *T of Funerals: A Novel in Stories.*

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). M Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:3 Free. **Alex Hahn** reads from *Possessed: The Ris Fall of Prince*, his comprehensive biography popular musician.

The Bostonian Society
Quincy Market, Boston (617-720-1713). M Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 5:3 Free. Boston Globe columnist **Dan Shaugh** talks about his new book, *Spring Training: Bas Early Season.*

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1 www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harva pm. Free. Activist **Jonathan Schell** reads fro book *The Unconquerable World: Power, Nonvi and the Will of the People*, in which he argues th tradition of nonviolent political action offers for a peaceful future.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harv pm. Free. **H.H. Fuller** discusses his book Boston-area filmmakers, *It's a Wrap.* He is join **Al Gowan**, who reads from his new thriller, *Za Tattoo*, in which an atomic bomb is discover the black market.

Limbo

MAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH JOHNNY SOUZA JAZZ QUARTET
THURSDAY, MAY 15TH KAORUKO
FRIDAY, MAY 16TH WANNETTA JACKSON
SATURDAY, MAY 17TH VALERIE STEPHENS
SUNDAY, MAY 18TH RON MURPHY SEXTET
MONDAY, MAY 19TH CLOSED
TUESDAY, MAY 20TH JOHN KORDALEWSKI
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST JUDITH MURRAY
THURSDAY, MAY 22ND TYLER WOOD
FRIDAY, MAY 23RD EULA LAWRENCE
SATURDAY, MAY 24TH KIM TRUSTY
SUNDAY, MAY 25TH RON MURPHY SEXTET
MONDAY, MAY 26TH CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY
TUESDAY, MAY 27TH VADIM NESELAVSKY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH MATT GORDY
THURSDAY, MAY 29TH THE EVAN GOODROW BAND
FRIDAY, MAY 30TH BARBARA & AL BOUDREAU
SATURDAY, MAY 31ST JOHN BABOIAN

JUNE

SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST RON MURPHY SEXTET
MONDAY, JUNE 2ND CLOSED
TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD RICH GREENBLATT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH DAVID BOND
THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH JOHNNY SOUZA JAZZ QUARTET
FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH EULA LAWRENCE
SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH NADINE CHASE
SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH RON MURPHY SEXTET
MONDAY, JUNE 9TH CLOSED
TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH JESSE CIAMATARO
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11TH RUSTY SCOTT TRIO
THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH HILLARY NOBLE
FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH HERMAN JOHNSON
SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH EULA LAWRENCE
SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH RON MURPHY SEXTET

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WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Robert Caro** reads from *Master of the Senate: The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, the third installment in his four-book series on the life of the former president.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Borders Cambridgeside
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.borders.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 7 pm. Free. Local culinary writer **Linda Bassett** reads from her collection of local ethnic cooking traditions, *From Apple Pie to Pad Thai: Neighborhood Cooking North of Boston.*

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. **Anna Maxted**, author of the bestselling *Running in Heels*, reads from her latest novel, *Behaving Like Adults*, about a woman who isn't ready to get married. Maxted is joined by her husband, **Phil Robinson**, who reads from his debut novel, *Charlie Big Potatoes*, about a man who shouldn't be getting married.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7 pm. Free. Alice James Books, a nonprofit press founded in Cambridge, celebrates its 30th anniversary. Three of the publisher's poets, Newton resident and poet **Suzanne Matson**, PEN Award winner **Marilyn Zuckerman**, and T.S. Eliot Award finalist **Kathleen Aguero**, read their poems.

Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
Union Street Restaurant and the Attic, 107 R. Union St., Newton Centre (617-244-6619). www.atticbar.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. 7:30 pm. Free. At this fiction reading, **Matthew Pearle** reads from *The Dante Club: A Novel*; **Karl Iagnemma** reads from *On the Nature of Human Romantic Interaction*; **Christopher Castellani** reads from *A Kiss from Maddalena*; **Michael Lowenthal** reads from *Avoidance: A Novel* and **Benjamin Cavell** reads from *Rumble, Young Man, Rumble.*

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, One Bennet St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Journalist and baseball aficionado **David Halberstam** is joined by Red Sox legends **Dom DiMaggio** and **Johnny Pesky** to discuss *The Teammates*, Halberstam's book about the Red Sox in the 1940s.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7:30 pm; poetry jam, 9 pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30 pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston , 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity at the open mike.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Education or e-mail to education@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Copyrights and Copywrongs: The Role of Copyright in the New Digital World
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.man.us. 7:15 pm. Free. Attorney and Northeastern professor **David Herlihy** addresses copyright law and the concerns of creators, consumers and content owners in the digital realm.

Driving While Black
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Harvard Square, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (317-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $5. Boston City Councilor **Chuck Turner** moderates a discussion between community activists and police officers on the topic of racial prejudice.

Rainsford Re-emerging: A Boston Harbor Island
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State. www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. 7 pm. $5. **Ellen Burklund** and **Elizabeth Carella** present a slide lecture on Rainsford Island and other archaeological projects on the Boston Harbor Islands.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

MTC Investors Conference
Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston. www.masstel.org. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. $350. This conference showcases 40 regional telecommunications companies and features presentations by CEOs and CFOs.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

The Future of Title IX
Agassiz House, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8600). www.radcliffe.edu/conferences/titleix. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1 pm. Free. Call for reservations. Legislative advocates, critics and scholars discuss the legacy, purpose, and current and future efforts to change the standards of Title IX, which is designed to protect people from sex discrimination in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Preservation in Action: A Tour of East Boston's Eagle Hill
Meet at Central Square Park, East Boston (617-227-3956). www.spnea.org. 1:30 pm. Registration required. $10. East Boston Eagle Hill Association founder **Carl Paleologos** leads a walking tour of the historic 19th-century neighborhood.

Tradin' 4s with Eric Jackson: A History of Boston Jazz
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-558-6593). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. May 17 and 24, 2:30 pm. Free. WGBH radio's **Eric Jackson** leads a panel discussion of several of Boston's jazz pioneers as part of the Equinox Music Festival.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Imaging the Brain: Tracking Thought, Memory and Feeling
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 2:30 pm. Free with museum admission ($12). **Eric Halgren** of Mass. General Hospital explores the mechanics behind thought, memory and feelings in the brain.

MONDAY, MAY 19

Farmaceuticals at the Dinner Table: Crossing Agricultural Boundaries
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.man.us. 7 pm. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Free. Tufts University professor **Sheldon Krimsky** and campaign director at Farm Aid **Mark Smith** speak out on "biopharming," biotechnology and future developments.

Pandemic: Facing AIDS
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617- 514-1600). www.jfklibrary.org. MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30 pm. Free. **Rory Kennedy** premieres her newest documentary film depicting the challenges and triumphs of f people struggling with AIDS.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Dallek on Kennedy
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Colum Point, Boston (617- 514-1600). www.jfklibrary.o MBTA: Red Line to JFK/Umass. 5:30 pm. Free. A thor **Robert Dallek** discusses the life of Preside John F. Kennedy.

Resiliency in the Face of Life Chang
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (6 796-1360). www.ci.newton.man.us. MBTA: Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7 pm. Free. Hea psychologist **Ann Webster** and Harvard Medi School professor **Eva Selhub** explore stress: its phy ological basis, effects on health, and techniques stay resilient in the face of change.

Vanished Kingdoms: A Woman Explorer in Tibet, China & Mongoli
Harvard University, Geological Lecture Hall, 24 C ford St., Cambridge (617-495-2246). www.hm harvard.edu. 5:30 pm. Free. Author **Mabel Cab** tells of her mother's travels across China's west frontier in the 1920s to study the region's peop flora and fauna. Cabot's photographic travelog *Vanished Kingdoms*, documents those experiences.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Exploring Design: Art, Architecture and Public Spaces
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (6 558-6593). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 2:30 Free. This slide presentation from sculptor **Mich Singer** looks at the ways art, architecture and p lic spaces intersect.

The History of Lifesaving in Boston Harbor
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Bos (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. www. southmeetinghouse.org. 7 pm. $5. The Hull Lifes ing Museum's maritime program director, **Ed McCa** and executive director, **Lory Newmyer**, present a s lecture on current and past efforts to prevent sh wrecks in the harbor and rescue survivors.

Telecommunications: Keys to Recovery
MIT, 77 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-253-8240). w mitforumcambridge.org. $25. 6 pm. Walk-in regis tion only. 5:30 pm. President and CEO of Luc Technologies **Patricia Russo** discusses the forces hind the explosive growth and decline of telecommunications industry in the past decade.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

The Birth of La Nouvelle Vague: No Papa's Cinema
53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). w frenchlib.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6 pm. $15. Boston College professor and filmma **John Michalczyk** discusses how a group of film cri in Paris evolved into fresh new directors in the 1950s.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Conservation of the Great Apes: The Bushmeat Crisis
Franklin Park Zoo, 1 Franklin Park Road, Dor ester (617-541-5466). 12 pm. Free. Conser tionist **Dale Peterson** exposes the complexit the looming extinction of chimpanzees, gori and bonobos.

Jean Fautrier 1898-1964
Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (6 496-8576). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. MB Red Line to Harvard. 11:30 am. $6.50. Curatorial sistant **Sara Jablon** discusses the life and work artist Jean Fautrier.

Springtime Tree Observations
New England Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Ro Framingham (508-877-3658). www.newfs.org. 10 2:30 pm. Free. Naturalist **Carol Govan** helps par pants sharpen their observation skills by identify and examining 40 trees on the property.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

The High Road to Mission Hill
Meet tour guides at Orange Line entrance of Roxb Crossing T-Stop on Columbus Ave. and Tremont St Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.co pm. $10. Discover Roxbury's heritage on this minute guided tour.

Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes
Busch-Reisinger Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambr (617-496-8576). MBTA: Red Lie to Harvard. www. museums.harvard.edu. 2 pm. $6.50. Curatorial in **Joachim Homann** discusses the Russian Cu painter's designs for Russian ballets.

gay& esbian

vou want to be listed
mit information, including telephone numbers and rest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or e- gaylesbian@improper.com.

lubs, Bars & langouts

ia (Wednesdays)
Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris ns progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday nt gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19- $5 for 21+.

alon (Sundays)
Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: en Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have nked out Sunday night parties for the boys of ton. It's worth a visit—if not for the three sepa- dance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Dar- Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

tis (Mondays)
Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: en Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts rag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. amateur drag show takes place the last Monday very month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

zz (Saturdays)
Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzz ton.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* •On Sat- ays Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice nning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's p house and trance—pool room and lounge keep men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

tyGirl Caffé (Daily)
Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). TA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five les) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian ned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero wd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is ed every weekend.

ub Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www. ocafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. n.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy ch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front m or video entertainment in the back at Moon- ne. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunning- n.•On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nstop show featuring new and classic music eos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ ff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

edo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). TA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from latest music videos as well as classic movies— npiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

gle (Daily)
Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., m-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. TA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly ghborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2

itz Lounge (Daily)
Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: nge Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. The folks here are re- friendly—and really into sports. TV sets show llite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a ball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served il 3:30 pm on weekends.

ollywood at the Ekco Lounge aturdays)
Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shut ac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 -2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go s and live music all night. $8, 21+.

cques Cabaret (Daily)
Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green e to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd l mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. l Sat. feature live music. •Sun.-Mon.: Cabaret g show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. ue., Thu.: Avalon bartender "Miss Kris" performs. pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: "Drag-on Showgirl Showcase" produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5.

Machine (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Tue.: Service Industry Night Spice 4 Life with DJ Afrodite. •Best Night Out Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Machine Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat., 10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm, 18+. •Thu.: Campus, a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Five rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.midwaycafe.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street.* On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing until 2 am. *www.dykenight.com.* 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Circuit Girl presents a night of dance and house music by resident DJ Kris Kono. Andara and Chris man the first- and second-floor bars, and party goers can play pool and video games. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top- 40 tunes on Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: Spice 4 Life. •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Primal Dance, karaoke downstairs •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover.•Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+.•Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun., 12-6 pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events. •*May 20, 7 pm. Free.* Marjane Satrapi explores her heritage as a descendent of Iran's last emperor in her novel *Persepolis.*

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm. Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

BAGLY Queer Youth Prom
City Hall, Boston (617-227-4313). www.bagly.org *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. May 17, 7-11 pm. $10. Age 22 and under.* It's Stars over Hollywood at BAGLY's Prom 2003. Come single, come with a date, but be sure to don creative attire. Promgoers can cheer on drag king and queen shows and hang out with Randy Price of Channel 7 News.

Boston Gay/Straight Annual Youth Pride March
Begins at Copley Square. www.gbpflag.org. *May 17, 12 pm. Free.* GLBT youth and their allies participate in the ninth annual Pride March through Boston, sponsored by Greater Boston PFLAG.

8 Minute Dating for Lesbians
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.8minuteDating.com. *May 19, 7 pm. $22. (Register before May 14.)* Women ages 30-50 can participate in a series of eight, one-on-one dates that last eight minutes each. If two people are interested in meeting again, they receive contact information to set up another date.

Infinite Fraternity
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-236-4011). www.coroallegro.com. *May 16, 8 pm. $15-$35.* Local composer Charles Fussell teams up with Coro Allegro for Infinite Fraternity, an exploration of the relationship between Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville.

Mount Holyoke Range Hike
Amherst, e-mail Hugh Mackay at hwmack@ yahoo.com for directions and times. May 17. Hike the beautiful and rugged eight-mile terrain of Mount Holyoke's ridge with GayOutdoors.com.

Mountain Biking
Middlesex Fells Reservation, Stoneham. E-Mail Ernie McLaughlin at reachernie@hotmail.com for directions and times. May 20. Join GayOutdoors.com on the loop trails of Middlesex Fells Reservation.

The 19th Annual Boston Gay and Lesbian Film/Video Festival
The Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.* The MFA Film Program presents international comedies, documentaries and shorts dealing with sexuality in culture and politics. See the Movies section for listings. Through May 18.

Ongoing

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). 7 pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). 6-8 pm. This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 3-5 pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45 pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

East Coast Wrestling Club
*(401-467-6737) or (617-937-5858, ext. 6).*www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). A mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

HIV Counseling and Testing
(617-267-0159). Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. Anonymous HIV testing, and pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30 am. Liquid A[illegible] New England Swim team is a gay swim team.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston Th[illegible] group caters to feminine bisexual women an[illegible] bians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to Washington St. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

body& mind

Advice to Contributors Submit updated information by mail, by fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Contact Improvisation Dance Jam
Rieman Center, Harvard University, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-320-9792). May 24-25. $45. This annual event is a weekend of food, indulgences and dance performances.

Journey to the Heart with Krishna Das
Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (617-267-9642). www.bostonyoga.com *or* www.krishnadas.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 17, 8:30 pm. $20, $25 at the door.* Krishna Das' music is an expression of the spiritual traditions of India. Join him for an evening of devotional chanting, meditation, spiritual readings and storytelling.

The Mystical Art and Talent Show
Cambridge Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-864-4552). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.soulstirring.org. *May 17, 7-9:30 pm. $5-$10 sliding scale.* This show includes original paintings, readings, stories and songs inspired by dreams, meditations, religion and nature.

Lectures

Introduction to Transformational Kinesiology
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *May 23, 7:30 pm. $5.* Attend this lecture on and demonstration of transformational kinesiology (TK). TK is a holistic, energy-balancing technique that uses subtle energies to access the mind. TK incorporates principles from psychology, holistic counseling, esoteric healing, acupressure, visualization and meditation to inspire personal growth.

Life Is Short–Wear Your Party Pants
Institute for Body, Mind and Spirituality, Lesley College, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (617-349-8129). www.lesley.edu/gsass/bodymind *or* www.lorettalaroche.com. *May 17, 9:30 am-4 pm.* Come learn a new concept of positive psychology with stress-management consultant and lecturer Loretta LaRoche. She can help you learn to be happier, healthier and more successful.

Sexual Revolutions from the Ice Age to the New Millennium
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. May 19, 6:30-8:30 pm. $25.* The sexual revolution of the '60s is known as "the big one," but there have been other eras in which sexuality changed enormously. This class explores various social, cultural and sexual revolutions. It is taught by Rebecca Chalker, author of *The Clitoral Truth.*

Spiritual Solutions
Danvers Art Association, 105 Elliot St., Danvers (978-921-4449). May 15, 7:30-9 pm. $20. Pre-register. Lecturer Reed Harris presents this workshop on the practicality of spiritual solutions in resolving life's challenges. He discusses the relationship between spirituality and health, and how spirituality can resolve problems, dissolve fears and bring relief from pain.

Universal Symbols of Transformation
New Acropolis Organization, First Parish Unitarian Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-591-9959). www.newacropolis.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 16, 7:30 pm. $5.* Cultures around the world use natural symbols to express their perception of the universe. Examine symbols from ancient Egypt, Greece and pre-Columbian America.

Workshops

Anxiety & Relaxation: An Introduction to Integrated Awareness
Cambridge Health Associates, 335 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-3414). www.mfourman.com.

Loretta LaRoche speaks May 17

MBTA: Red Line to Central. May 22, 7-9:30 pm. $5. Learn more about the relationship between your mind, body and emotions. Use the Body Map of Consciousness to discover where your body holds certain emotions, including anxiety. This workshop is designed to help you explore your anxiety through movement and enjoy the present moment.

Parent and Child Yoga Workshop
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *May 17, 3-5 pm. $45/pair.* Parents are invited to experience movement, creativity and connection with their children, ages 6-11, in this workshop hosted by certified Kripalu yoga teacher Kim Childs. Single and partner yoga positions and easy massage make for healthy fun. No experience necessary.

Psychic Development Workshop
Ross Miller, 1075 Washington St., Newton (617-527-3583). www.themysticway.com. *May 17, 10 am-5 pm. Call to register.* Join psychic and healer Ross Miller for this experimental workshop. He explains how to identify your guardian angel or spirit guide, receive his or her guidance, feel your aura, rediscover your past lives and give psychic readings to others.

Ongoing

Beginners' Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-739-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or bus lines #57, 64, 66 and 501. Wed., 6:30-8 pm; Sat., 10-11:30am. $14-$20.* Try the beginners' class in this attractive and peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time.

Dzogchen Center Meditation Practice
Cambridge Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (781-665-6325). www.cambridgedzogchen.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 7:30 pm. Free.* Meditation and discussion periods are led by Lama Surya Das, Lama John Makransky or guest teachers. All sessions are open to anyone seeking a personal spiritual path.

Morning Yoga for Beginners
Roni Brissette, 57 Waverley St., Brookline (617-738-9561). Thu. and Fri., 9:30-11am. Call to register. Start your day refreshed and relaxed. All levels are welcome.

Personal Protection, Bussey Style
BodyEvolver, 364 Boylston St., Boston (617-247-2639). www.bodyevolver.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Drop-in times: Tue., 1 pm; Thu., 6:30 pm; Sat., 4 pm.* Try the beginners' class of this practical and fun form of personal protection and movement. First-time visitors should call in advance.

Yoga/Brookline
Maggie Sky, 1485 Beacon St., Brookline (617-738-1648). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sun., 9-10:30am, 5-6:30 pm and 6:45-8:15 pm. $15-$20 per class. Improve your health while bringing relaxation and peace of mind into your life.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Drop-in Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10.* Kripalu certified yoga instructor **Dee Greenberg** teaches you to concentrate on your breath, the link between the mind and the body. Practice a gentle approach to hatha yoga in a supportive environment.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Things to See

Mame
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., 8 pm; Wed., 2 and 8 pm; Thu.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through May 18. $26-$63.* Free-thinking and irreverent Mame Dennis takes on the job of raising her orphaned 10-year-old nephew, teaching him to soak up the few life pleasures available in the Depression-era 1930s. Based on the acclaimed novel by Patrick Dennis, this musical celebrates unconventional family values and individuality.

Marmalade Gumdrops
Center for the Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). May 17 and 24, 11 am. Walter's mom won't let him go to the baseball game until he cleans his room, but this task turns out to more fun than Walter thought—especially when his furniture and toys begin to talk.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •May 14 and 15, 10:30 am, ages 3-6: Sparky's Puppets presents rabbits, monkeys, lions, crocodiles and more in *Animal Tales.* •May 17 and 18, 1 and 3 pm, ages 5-12: *Everybody Loves Pirates* by Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers is the story of a boy who discovers a treasure map and sets out to find his fortune. •May 21 and 22, 10:30 am, ages 3-6: Sarah's Puppets brings children on a journey into three magical worlds with *Funny Bones Tales.* •May 24 and 25, 1 and 3 pm, ages 3-7: The Pumpernickel Puppets present *The Frog Prince,* the story of a naughty prince who is turned into a frog so he can learn a valuable lesson about kindness.

Things to Do

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Through October. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun., 2 pm. $6. Ages 6-12.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free.* •May 2, 10:15 am, ages 3-7: An hour-long program of short films. •Saturdays, 11 am, ages 5 and older: Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •*KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm:* Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage. •In the Art Studio: Sat. and Sun., 2 pm-4 pm: Children can create their own paintings. •Music and Movement: Mon., Wed. and Fri., 11 am: Learn to shake, wiggle and giggle along to music. •Through May: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure.* Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts. •May 16, 10 am-12 pm. Free. Reservations required. Polaroid hosts the largest birthday party for 1-year-olds with free admission to the Children's Museum, free birthday cake and prizes including a chance to win one $1,000 cash prize. •May 16, 5 pm-9 pm; May 17 and 18, 11 am-4 pm: Celebrate Arthur's birthday.

The Children's Museum hosts a birthday party for 1-year-olds May 16.

The famous anteater will meet children as th make birthday cards and drawings, play games a watch a play. •May 17; 11 am, 1 and 2 pm: Rainf est Reptile Shows introduce kids to lizards, snal and more. •May 25, 10 am-3 pm: Alice's Numb land presents a special day of math adventures a puzzles along with a goodie bag.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Bos (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. *MBT Green Line to Kenmore. Through Sept. 30. Ev hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled ga days. $9.* Tour the press box, field, dugout a more at Fenway Park.

Harvard Museum of Natural Histor
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). www hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harva* •Saturday Scholars: Sat., 9-11 am for preschoo am-12 pm for grades K-3, $35: May 17, 9-12 grades 2 and 3: Desert Dwellers. Learn how pla animals and people survive in the hottest places Earth. Meet members of the 200,000-year-old Bu men tribe of the Kalahari Desert, the Hopi Indi of the American Southwest, the Aborigines of Australian deserts, as well as all the creatures t call these places home.

ImprovBoston Family Show
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-125 www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Cer Square. Sat., 6 pm. $12/general and $10/students.* formers create scenes, songs and stories based suggestions from the audience.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-34 www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to seum. Free with museum admission ($13-$15; chil under 17 free).* •May 14-16, 3:30 pm: The Childr Room presents *Crowns and Headdresses from Arc the World: Wearable Art* •May 14 and 21, 4 Teen-to-Teen art talks •May 17, 11:30 am: Bo Bring Art Alive program •May 17, 18, 24 and 25 am-4 pm: Family Place and Drop-In Drawing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* • urdays and Sundays, 11 am-12 pm: The muse Science Theater Program offers *Animals and St Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who c bine folk tales and myths with visits from live mals. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-T 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 a pm. Through the end of May. Free. Learn to id tify the stars, planets, constellations and cele events in this presentation. •Gilliland Obse tory: Fridays, 8:30-10 pm (weather permitti Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to the moon, stars, constellations and planets.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brook (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. *MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle/Reservoir. T Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5.* The Museum of Tr portation includes a large collection of rare antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile tory. •Through May: The exhibit Evolutio Speed explores the history of American auto ing with racecars and displays. •Through M Racing of Our Youth lets kids explore the wor slot cars, hot wheels and soap-box racing with carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to •Daily: Join in the Family Scavenger Hunt a museum and receive a free prize.

Newton Free Library
Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (796-1370). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton H lands. Free. •May 16 and 23, 10:30 am: Presc Films •May 22, 7 pm, ages 4 and older: Pa Storytime •May 17, 2 pm, ages 3 and older: Story Magic Book Drive celebrates stories, rea and friendship with a puppet show, craft pr and sing-along. •May 21, 4:30 ages 4 and older: The Once Up Time Players perform *Who's M ing the Castle?,* a play abo quick-thinking maid who smarts an evil baron. •May pm, ages 6 and older: Wildlife cator Michelle Lunceford i duces kids to the wonders o desert and some of the animal live there.

Swan Boats
Public Garden, Boston (617 1966). MBTA: Green Line to A ton. Through September 21. Dai am-4 pm. $2, $1 for children. aboard the historic Swan Bo their 126th season and take through the Boston Public Gar

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sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
May 14, 7:05 pm vs. Texas Rangers
May 15, 7:05 pm vs. Texas Rangers
May 16, 7:05 pm vs. Anaheim Angels
May 17, 1:20 pm vs. Anaheim Angels
May 18, 2:05 pm vs. Anaheim Angels
May 19, 7:05 pm vs. New York Yankees
May 20, 7:05 pm vs. New York Yankees
May 21, 7:05 pm vs. New York Yankees
May 23, 7:05 pm vs. Cleveland Indians
May 24, 1:20 pm vs. Cleveland Indians
May 25, 2:05 pm vs. Cleveland Indians

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium. Tickets: 877-438-7387
May 17, 6 pm vs. Chicago Fire

Boston Breakers
•Nickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
May 25, 7 pm vs. Atlanta Beat

Events

Arterial Challenge Road Race and Walk
Participate in this 4.5-mile road race or 1.5-mile walk to benefit the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. *The Fieldston Restaurant, Ocean Street, Marshfield (781-834-0387). www.bafound.org. May 25. Race 10 am, walk 9:45 am. $20.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-2 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now for spring league.

LACROSSE

MetroLacrosse
(617-242-9898, ext. 205) www.metrolacrosse.com. MetroLacrosse, a nonprofit organization that teaches lacrosse to children in underserved Boston communities, is looking for coaches for the spring 2003 season.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

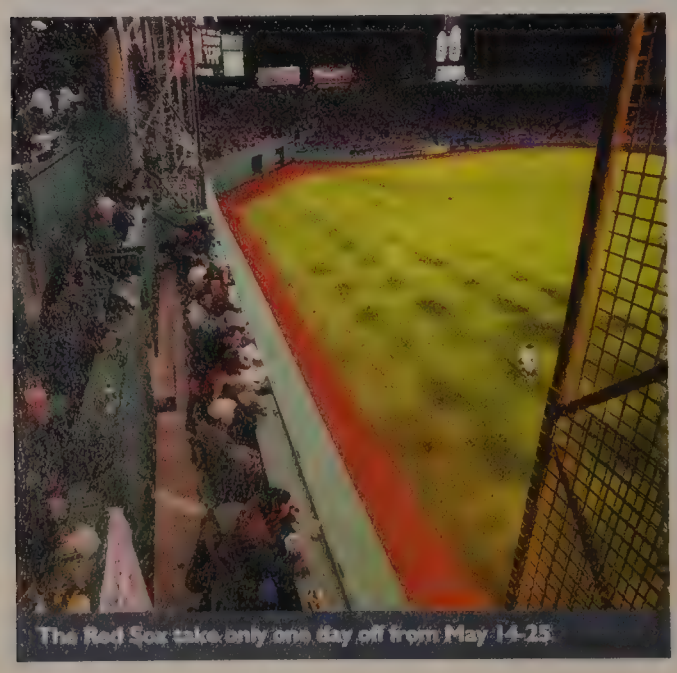
Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night 4-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*


The Red Sox take only one day off from May 14-25

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm. $2.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamamuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Wed.-Thu., 9 am-8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). www.oldironsides.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Ship hours: winter: Thu.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm; summer: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.*

Volunteer

ABCD Inc.
(617-357-6000). Reading, math tutors needed.

T-Rex Sue at the Museum of Science

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Become a brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a Info. sessions: May 27, 11 am-12 pm; May 29, 6-7

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer oppo nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of pe between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS service organiza needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, event

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are need educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide suppo children and adults with developmental disabili

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a c

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elder dividual, mentor children or teach an adult to r

Literacy Volunteers of Massachuse
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpl
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone people affected by alcoholism and substance ab

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist e

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Help needed to serve lunch dinner and to work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless g

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers need HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dysle
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered women's a

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the c room, clothing room, the groceries program a fice work.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-ho mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonel ple over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with single youn fessionals. •May 15, 6-9 pm: AIDS Action 17, 1-4 pm: Greater Boston Food Bank •May am-1 pm: Women's Lunch Place.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4KID). Volunteers needed to help homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patien

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help le migrants and refugees become naturalized citiz

YMCA Computer Volunteer
(617-542-1800, ext. 32). Volunteers nee teach classes, work with children and fix com

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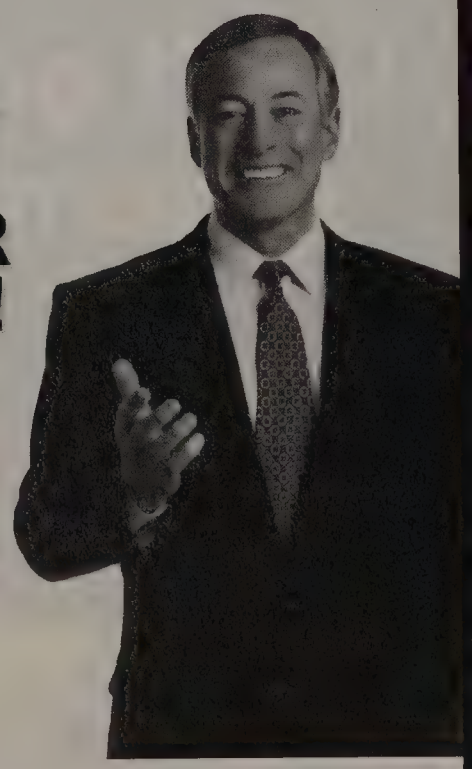

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Good Friday...Great Friday! "The Wave"

You: Packed in on the E line at 5:30 pm on April 18. The train was on the outbound side of Copley station. You were wearing a brown leather jacket and have dark hair and a handsome face. You caught my eyes and didn't let go! Me: Sitting on a bench in the station waiting for my train. I was dressed in my play clothes (jeans) and my hair was in a long ponytail. I tried to look away but kept coming back to your gaze. As the train left the station, you waved goodbye. I smiled, blushed and waved too! If you'd like to wave "hello," and I hope that you will, e-mail me.

—scunning@bu.edu

April Fools Day at Quincy Market

You reminded us of Neal McDonough. You wished Kris a happy birthday (she asked you to) and then invited us to celebrate your birthday the following Thursday. I gave you my card, but never heard from you. Maybe you found what you were looking for at the Rack? If not, maybe you'll give me a call?

—B

Liberals Suck

Is everyone in this town a freaking bleeding-heart liberal Democrat? I guess I should have known, but for crying out loud, I can't walk two feet without being chastised for my conservative beliefs or being looked at like an idiot because I support Bush. All you stuck-up, pretentious, ivory-tower, pipe-smoking, self-righteous, Clinton-loving fascists can kiss my ass! If you left the Commonwealth once in a while you'd find out that a little reason, and a big tax cut, can go a long way.

—PO'd Republican

Laughter Filled Our T

It was April 24, a crowded and entertaining night. You were a Caucasian gal about 5'1" wearing a winterish overcoat and scarf. I was an Asian guy about 5'6" with a black pea coat and light blue beanie cap. You stepped onto a crammed B Line train after a big Celtics playoff win against the Indiana Pacers around the Boylston or Arlington train stop. During the ride, the T conductor gave us humor and gave us laughter throughout the whole ride, culminating with a patronizing wave at those who could not get onto the train around Boston University. While you and I took quick glances and exchanged friendly smiles, I was left sitting there trying to find the best way to start a conversation with you, but could not get anything to sound right in thought. It wasn't until you were about to get off at the corner of Commonwealth and Warren Avenue around 10pm that I was able to stand up to try and greet you with more than a smile, perhaps with a light conversation. If you are interested in meeting for a cup of coffee, or just to hang, I would like to hear from you via e-mail.

—funnytguy@yahoo.com

Second Floor, Fifth Window

You work in 1 Lewis Wharf on the second floor, fifth window. I work in Lewis Wharf. I've tried to get your attention but my window is angled away from yours, so I haven't had any luck. I would love to hear from you. This might sound crazy to you, but what if we were meant for each other? Take this chance and respond.

—jbtopshelf@hotmail.com

The Other Side Cafe and Gorgeous

Second Floor, Other Side Cafe on April 18 at about 6pm. You were there with a note/sketchbook and eating dinner. I was with two friends across the way (who were loudly telling me to go talk to you).Was that a wry smile I saw? You are ephemeral. Drop by the Other Side some other Friday night. I'll try to be there!

—phattmarsh@yahoo.com

Bridal Shower Bingo Author

It was April 27 and you were the maid of honor running your friend's shower...however, you forgot to print out your Shower Bingo cards. You were a very attractive brunette with short hair and a great smile! You were so busy at the time, the few hours you were there, a chance never came about for me to have a few words with you. I just wanted to tell you I've regretted not chatting with you ever since. You were wearing a light green short sleeve sweater and grey pants and if you don't mind my saying...you looked great! I did gather you're quite busy in two weddings coming up, but if you find this message and want to respond, there will one happy face on this end! Here's hoping!

—L_L_Lee@yahoo.com

Fell on My Bum

As I was walking to work on the morning of April 30 I experienced an incident that could have only been the result of accumulated bad karma from the entirety of my life. At the intersection of Dartmouth Street and Comm. Ave. I crossed the inbound lane of traffic while there was a pause in the usually steady stream of traffic. Before I could even think about getting to the other side of the street my not-steady-worth-a-damn ankle gave out and I landed in the middle Comm. Ave. without a trace of lucidi In the midst of my dazed and bruise (more ego than bodily injury) state, gentleman's hand reached out to he me while simultaneously fending off oncoming traffic. Unfortunately, due to my confusion, (and typical latene for work), I did not properly thank you for your beyond-kind action. I hope that you, or someone you may have told this war story to, read this and know that I am truly thankful that you were there. I believe that your karma-o-meter must now be topped out and hope that the good fortune is returned to you many tim over! Thanks again!

—felloncommave@yahoo.com

India on the C Line

If you ride the C Line inbound aroun 6:45 am during the week and then hop on the Red line at Park Street, keep reading. If you are a beautiful young lady with probably an ethnic background tied to India or that ar then you must keep reading becaus it's probably you I'm looking for! M guess is that you are in your mid-2 and working professionally. I have seen you a few times in the morning now, whether you have noticed or n You are not half-asleep or cranky about the commute like the other passengers. Instead you seem so graceful and beautiful while readin book. For all I know you could be in happily committed relationship. Nonetheless, realize that someone finds you very beautiful and would love to talk to you sometime. A gentleman you won't be disappoint with is patiently waiting.

—clineinthemorning@yahoo.c

Sexy in South Station

You were dressed to impress, with barettes in your long hair and a nervous look in your changing-col eyes. I was dressed to seduce, with spiky hair, dress shirt, vest and tie Well, that was over two years ago and I'm still impressed, and you're still seduced. I love every part of from the tiny scar at your widow' peak to your cold feets, and everything in between, especially your radiator. In this season whe fell in love (holding on by our teeth!), I sing "Rescue Me" by Madonna to myself and remembe how we said, "Yeah, everything a this applies to us...except the 'res me' part. That's dumb." It still d I love you, Beans!

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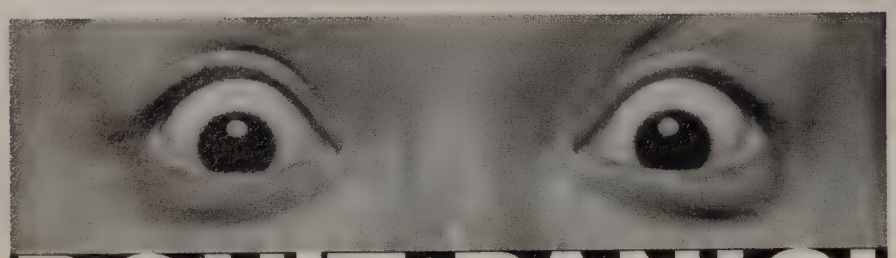

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rockie horoscope

MAY 14 – 27, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Home may be where the heart is, but right now it's also a pit consuming all the money you can throw that way. "Never enough!" could likewise be the motto of a rambunctious family member. As amusing (to some, not you) as this situation may seem, during the total eclipse on the 15th, your tolerance for the people involved can disappear as quickly and dramatically as the moon. Relax, the very next day your Venus ruler moves into Taurus bearing customary gifts of affection, artistry, pleasure and profit.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Knowing that your retrograde Mercury ruler is going direct on the 20th could shift your focus to the future instead of concentrating on what's happening now. Whether or not that's a mistake, only time will tell. However, since Mercury is tied into the powerful polarity between trailblazing Mars and magnanimous Jupiter in your financial houses, you could get quite excited by the tremendous potential for progress and prosperity generated by their alliance. Where do the Twins fit in?

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

A total lunar eclipse can have a long-range influence on world events and the people involved, but it's the personal life of the ordinary Moon Child that is immediately affected by this phenomenon. Check out where 25 degrees of Scorpio falls on your natal chart, because that's the area in which you'll experience a revelation, a possible struggle and finally, a transformation. If you have Cancer rising, the eclipse occurs in your fifth house of romance, risk, recreation and creations such as your offspring, artwork and performance.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

You're bewitched, bothered or bewildered, but not for much longer. Once impressionable Neptune in your Aquarius house of partners turns retrograde the night of the full moon eclipse, you won't be as receptive to fantasies, fibs and fables. But until then, the fog you've been drifting through might get thicker, the boundaries between you and a loved one blurrier and your ego even more bloated. While Jupiter magnifies the mystical aspects of a close relationship, impulsive Mars can send it over the top.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Tread gingerly this week. What happens in the days before your retrograde Mercury ruler flips on the 20th is repeated, with some variations, in the days that follow. Since the current connections to Mercury are sharpening your perceptions and giving you more physical energy, now would be a good time to investigate a new athletic activity. Read up on the sport, e.g., skydiving, find an instructor, but don't jump out of the plane until Mercury goes direct. Or you could do research for an article instead.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Because the lunar eclipse on the 15th casts its shadow across your Scorpio money house, take time to inspect all financial transactions. Maybe the bank won't lose your deposit, maybe the sales clerk will waken from her stupor before the final tally and maybe you'll remember where you stashed your emergency fund. A lot of action at home, family stuff that could be resolved now that Mars is cutting through layer upon layer of duplicity, the "if only" hypothetical bull being expounded by delusional Neptune.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

The annual Scorpio full moon is weird enough—you usually come across a juicy tidbit you can sink your teeth into—but when it's a total lunar eclipse, a truly mysterious matter can emerge from the darkness. Since Mercury is still retrograde in the sign of your significant others, a buried memory may also surface. Meanwhile, your militant Mars co-ruler is steering you deeper into the fantasy realm of Neptune. This works for despots, dancers and dream analysts; animators and game designers, too. But not you; be careful.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Some Archers might feel the impact in their wallets, others get hit while online or on the road. No matter which aspect of your life is affected by crusading Mars' merger with visionary Neptune, it'll make quite an impression. God, is this the moment you get religion, or will you turn into a garden-variety fanatic? High hopes accompany most everything you do during this odd timeslot. Know that the Scorpio full moon eclipse emphasizes services rendered by and for you, the details of your job description and the co-workers who count.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Your friends and lovers, their allegiances and antipathies, could be creating a mini-crisis that should reach its peak and erupt during the full moon eclipse on the 15th. How involved in their drama do you have to be? If you prefer, n at all. Not that you won't catch some flak, but unless you' done something truly awful—no aspects to your Saturn ruler show anything like that—you can rise above the lunacy. Let the people concerned settle their differences without your input or your money. Sound too idyllic?

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Every now and then you get to enjoy a Don Quixote moment, chance to dream the impossible dream. That may happen on the 14th when visionary Neptune in your sign and Mars, the brave warrior, conspire to transport you beyond the customa bounds of reality. No doubt other people will be drawn to yo aura and your trip, but since there's a total lunar eclipse in t works, try to separate the true seeker from the certifiable crazy. It won't be easy. The Scorpio full moon can have a dramatic impact on your career and family plans.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

If you thought you were hot last week, wait until you see how easily you can cloud men's minds this week. When adventurous Mars meshes with your imaginative Neptune ruler, there are precious few situations you can't envision and endorse. You might also convince an influential group follow your lead. Whatever you do come up with should b very entertaining and, because protective Jupiter is waitin in the wings, quite profitable. The Scorpio full moon eclips may slam a door that was recently opened, a chance to travel someplace mysterious.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

One of those astonishing moments spent in the public eye may be coming up on the 14th. During the once-every-tw years meeting of your crusading Mars ruler and photogen Neptune, you could be surrounded by fans, photographer and a few foes. The Scorpio full moon eclipse the next day intensifies the significance—and for Rams, the financial implications—of whatever happens this week. Don't blo off a chance to cash in on your 15 minutes of fame; just make sure your version of the event is both educational a entertaining.

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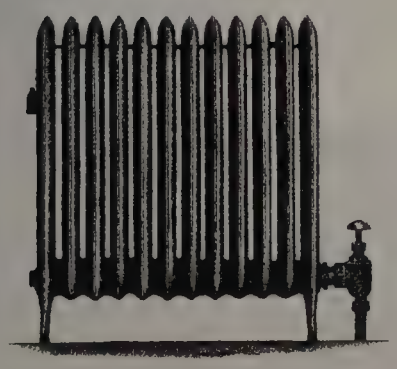

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IMPROPER sightings

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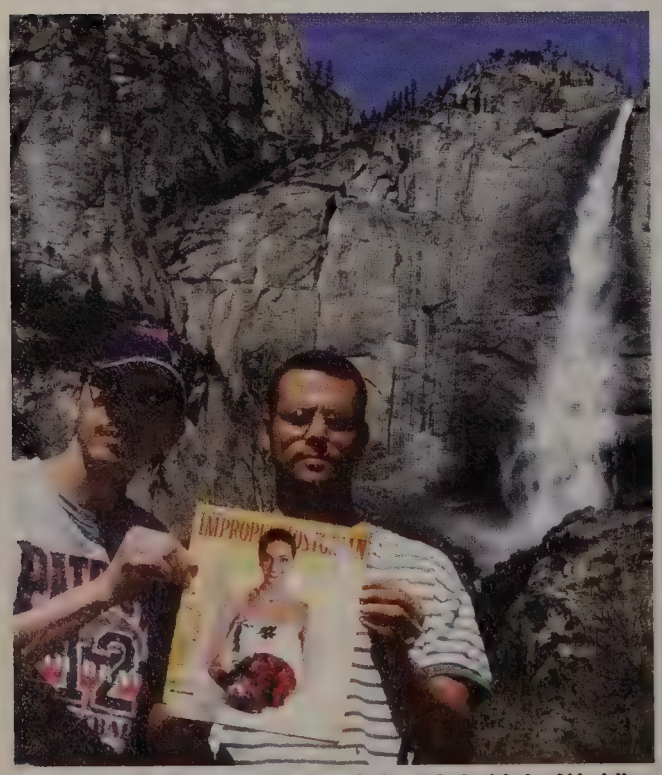
Tom Bucknam visited his son, Brent, in New Zealand, where he's spending his junior year abroad. Brent is enjoying the rigorous academic challenge of the New Zealand program... ba ha ha ah aha!

Lolly Strudwick and Barbara Manning flash their IMPROPERS in the Krewe of Muses all-women Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans.

Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen can't wait for the roll-out of the ne IMPROPER MEMPHISIAN magazine.



J.C. and Andre Vancampenhoud gingerly hold the Wedding Issue in Yosemite Park in California. Their caution is warranted, as that issue attracts bears for some reason.

John Kelly and Dan Bacigalupo check out the Royal Castle of Neuschwanstein in Germany. We'd like to buy the lot right next door, build a bigger castle, and name it Castle ÜberSchwanstein. *That'd* really cheese off the Schwansteins.

Josh Thaden, Ariel Nason and Makara Cay hit the Grand Canyon on spring break. Wa the steamy story in *The Real Grand Canyon*

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Doing the moonwalk (or better yet, the "Jump Around" dance) with the dancing stilt-walkers of Anguiano during the harvest festival, held in June in Anguiano, Spain.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and will not be returned.

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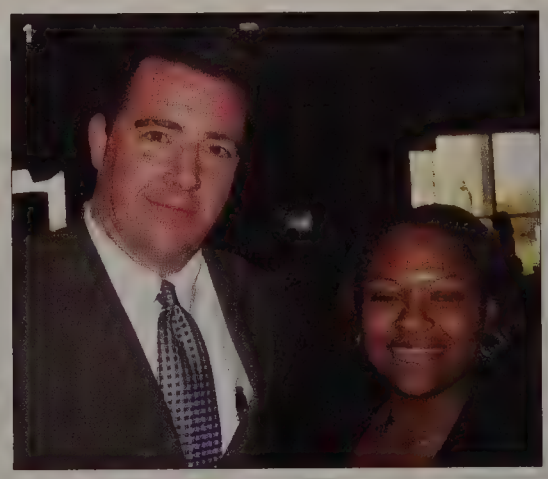
IMPROPERAZZI

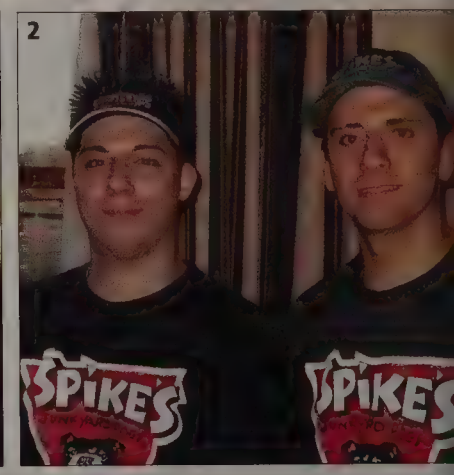
The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Wednesday, April 23, **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN** was a sponsor of **Beyond Shelter**, the 16th annual event to benefit the homeless, held at the **Avalon Ballroom**.

1. **Kathryn King**, special events coordinator, **Mariann Bucina**, executive director, both of Beyond Shelter; **Mindy D'arbeloff**, vice president of marketing for the Lyons Group, and **Jerry Belair**, master of ceremonies for Beyond Shelter.
2. **Helena Ryan**, retail manager, **Colleen Ginley**, customer service representative, and **Lexy Gendron**, accountant, all of Iggy's Bread of the World.
3. **Honeira Carroll**, owner of Gipore; **Scott Fontana**, owner of Salon Fontana; **Tina Patsiokostas**, design consultant for Italian Design; **Robert Palmer**, principal of R.L. Palmer Design; **Zhanna Drogobetsky**, design consultant for Italian Design and **Leslie Naggy**, director of group sales for Old Town Trolley Tours.

On Tuesday, April 29, **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN** sponsored **A Taste of Allston** at the **Doubletree Guest Suites** in Boston. Allston's culinary stars served their signature dishes, and proceeds benefited Allston Village Main Streets.





1. **Danny Ryan** and **Candace Sealey**, distr representatives for Congressman Capuano
2. **Rob Blasi**, supervisor, **Dave Gettlemen**, ow both of Spike's Junkyard Dogs.
3. **Eileen Curran**, weeke morning news anchor f WBZ-4; **Jennifer Rose** executive director of All Village Main Streets, an **Sonyung Oh**, owner o Mandarin Restaurant.

On Thursday, May 1, **The Place** hosted a prohibition party sponsored by **THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN**, complete with zoot suits, cigarette girls and **Tanqueray Gin**. Part of the proceeds from the event went to benefit the **American Lung Association**.

1. **Dan Bacigalupo**, **Rob Mariano**, **Danielle Harder**, **Mia Scalisi**, **Mario Menduni**, **Heather Dalton**, all bartenders at The Place.
2. **Suzanne Musco** and **Jennifer Howard**, both promotional representatives for Tanqueray.
3. **Michael Kalil**, marketing manager at The Place, **Luis Tiant**, **Bill Fairweather** owner of The Place, **Luis Tiant**, Red Sox Legend and owner of El Tiante Cigars, and **Daniel Tiant**.

On Saturday, May 3, **Lord's and Lady's Hair Salon** had an International Day Celebration.

1. **Michaela Schiano** an **Lisa-Marie Pascuccio** models with Rick Russo Models.
2. **Toby Mikki** and **Manc Van Dam**, of Lord's & L Hair Salon.
3. **Karen Blake**, host of S 93.7's morning show; **Michael Barsamian**, president & founder of & Lady's Hair Salons; ar **Ami Heart**, fashion dir for Star 93.7.

PHOTOS: BEYOND SHELTER, JULIE KANE; TASTE OF ALLSTON, MARTHA BROWN; THE PLACE, KAREN DANA & RENEE MILSTEIN; LORD'S & LADY'S SALON, REGAN COMMUNI

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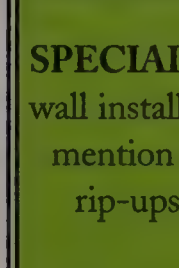

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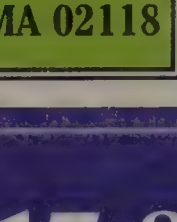

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McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel , 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

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Science Street Cafe *Science Park, Boston, MA, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out the newest nightspot--The Museum of Science. Try our one-of-a-kind martinis, gourmet appetizers and desserts, then tour the Museum or catch an Omni movie. $25 package includes one drink, one appetizer, Mugar Omni Theater ticket, Exhibit Hall admission and parking. 6-10pm at the Museum of Science.

Sunset *Grill & Tap:130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

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Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

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Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston,617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list. Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full internation menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "gia cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place servi lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfa every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boas over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskie and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainme every Thursday through Sunday night.

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Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-49* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the he of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martin one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our r deck or watching your hometown favorites on our h definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking after work and late night with our resident and guest spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the sound system all night long.

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HEERS *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11- am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Satrday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

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K'S JAZZ CAFE *Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, Northest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* oston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. pen daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. or reservations call 617-227-7579.

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OPHIA'S *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

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THE PLACE *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of-the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

Brunch

DICK'S LAST RESORT *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Avenue, Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslastresort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

HAMPSHIRE HOUSE *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com.* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11 am - 2:30pm

HARVARD GARDENS *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens-.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

HENRIETTA'S TABLE *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

SUNSET GRILL & TAP *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Romeo and Juliet Ball, top, from left: Eve Rounds; Jane Dudley and Juan Prieto. Middle: Trevania Henderson and Mikko Nissinen; Pam and John Humphrey and Susan Poduska. Bottom: Michael Tilley and date; Bryan Rafanelli.

BUT SOFT, WHAT PARTY IN YONDER BALLROOM RAGES...

A fatal stabbing followed by a double suicide doesn't sound like the most promising material for a love story, but then Shakespeare whipped that scenario into *Romeo and Juliet*, and a few centuries later, Prokofiev wrote an achingly beautiful ballet score. So when **Boston Ballet** decided to present it as the finale of its current season, the theme for the annual spring fundraiser was a no-brainer. The result: an enchanted evening.

The **Romeo and Juliet Ball**—a masked, black-tie hoo-ha held at the **Park Plaza**—began with cocktails in a re-creation of the Verona street scene where the story opens, except that the vendors were hawking $100 Tiffany charm bracelets (in lieu of raffle tickets for a chance to win a $10,000 watch); other items for sale included box seats at Fenway and a trip to Aspen. Dinner in the Imperial ballroom followed, punctuated by brief performances by members of the company and their students, which presented one guest with the opportunity to remark, "You've gotta admire anyone with a butt that could crack a walnut."

Present and accounted for: ethereal co-chair **Trevania Henderson**; her adoring other half, **John**, and her mother, mega-Nashville society glamazon **Jane Dudley**; the ballet's big kahuna **Mikko Nissinen** (who was leaving the next day on a four-day trip to Moscow, so it must've been something important); black-sheathed and diamond-bedecked auction chair **Eve Rounds**; the freakishly attractive **Michael Tilley**; staunch ballet supporter **Cathryn Keith** (looking exactly like Lady Capulet); mondo-balletomanes **Bill** and **Susan Poduska**; **Kay** and **Peter Lyons**; **Bob** and **Marjie Kargman**; Channel 5 anchor **Kasey Kaufman** (who said, "I'll bet I'm the only woman here who raided her daughter's dress-up closet for her outfit"); and one woman who suspected her close friend was wearing blue contact lenses to match her sapphire necklace.

All in all, it was a flawless evening, except that it was board chair **Susan Friedman** (and not yours truly) who won the raffle prize, but at least everyone went home with a pair of crystal votive holders from Tiffany that are suitable for regifting.

OUT OF AFRICA...

The age-old riddle of how many former heads of state can fit into the **Four Seasons** ballroom at any given time was finally solved by the black-tie gala capping off the **African Presidential Roundtable** held by **Boston University's African Presidential Archives**. The answer, it seems, is seven.

While a chamber music trio offered a sonorous backdrop for the cocktail hour, prominent socialites like Cambridge real estate gazillionaire **Marvin Gilmore**; New England Home for Little Wanderers honcha **Joan Wallace Benjamin** and her devastatingly handsome husband, **Milton**; Beacon Hill dowager empress **Smoki Bacon** and her royal consort, **Dick Concannon**; broadcasting babe **Karen Holmes Ward**; the library's founder and former ambassador to Tanzania, **Rev. Charles Stith**; his wife, **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**; and banking beauty **Carol Fulp** watched the stately (and fashionably late) arrival of their excellencies **Kenneth Kaunda** of Zambia; **Antonio Manuel Mascarenhas Gomes Monteiro** of Cape Verde; **Sir Q. Ketumile Masire** of Botswana; and **Ali Hassan Mwinyi** of Tanzania, to name only four.

A sumptuous dinner followed, accompanied by light opera from a lyric soprano. Meanwhile, here's how the big guys fared in three crucial social categories:

Most charming: **Jerry Rawlings**, the lovably roguish, controversy-courting, half-Scottish former president of Ghana, who invited prominent socialite and social activist **Doris Yaffe** to visit him in Africa.

Most congenial: **Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam** of Mauritius, who smiled graciously as one guest fumbled over his name like it was a tongue-twister.

Best dressed: **Nicephore Soglo** of Benin, whose magnificent metallic ceremonial garb could have interrupted flight patterns at Logan.

THE INVITATION DIDN'T MENTION AN ENGAGEMENT RING...

The **Westin Hotel** ballroom was brimming with goodwill for the **Huntington** (**Theater Company**, that is) at **Spotlight Spectacular**—an elegant drinks-and-dinner affair that attracted the likes of board chairman **David Wimberley** (the evening's honoree); artistic director and incorrigible scamp **Nicholas Martin**; arts boosters **Ron** and **Ronni Casty**; Clear Channel poobah **Tony McLean**; white-hot Cambridge architect **David Hacin** and his de facto husband type person, **Tim Grafft**; retired art supplies mogul **Lionel Spiro** and the va-voomalicious **Vivian**; soul food magnate **Darryl Settles**; nth-generation portrait photographer **Louis Bachrach**; hot patootie **Jill Goldweitz**; philanthropic fun couples **Cokie** and **Lee Perry** and **Wendy Shattuck** and **Samuel Plimpton**; Back Bay doyenne **Rosalie Cohen** (sans her collector husband, Bert, who was attending the toy fair in Amsterdam); and others of the sort of people you'd be happy to be seated next to at dinner.

At Spotlight Spectacular, clockwise from upper left: Darryl Settles; Victor Garber and Ron Rifkin; Tony McLean; Nicholas Martin and Andrea Martin.

At the African Presidential Roundtable, from top: Maïta Vert and Marvin Gilmore; Doris Yaffe, Charles Stith and Smoki Bacon.

The evening's entertainment, meanwhile, included musical appearances by Tony winner **Ron Rifkin** (who has appeared on every TV show known to man), comedic genius **Andrea Martin** (the SCTV alum who played the aunt in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*) and always-cast-as-the-sexy-Dad actor **Victor Garber** (star of the ABC spy series *Alias*), who dazzled and delighted the audience until it was time to go home.

"I didn't meet my future ex-husband tonight," said one guest, "but I still had a nice time." IB

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Joel Benjamin

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LETTERS

MODEL CITIZENS

In the April 30 IMPROPER, you guys have a couple photos of this really tall skinny girl with cornrows and a Gucci'd out guy carrying shopping bags on Newbury Street. A friend and I passed them on the street and made fun of them for about three blocks. Granted, this was just to make ourselves feel slightly less dowdy and was followed by about four more blocks of self-degradation. But when the magazine came out, it did make me feel better to see that they were on a photo shoot and not just "that" cool naturally.

It is the same feeling I get when I walk past the Armani Café in a pair of Old Navy capris: just not cool enough.

—SARAH WEBB
Boston

THAT'S THE TICKET

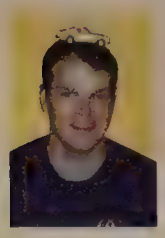
I found it rather amusing that on the cover of your April 30 issue, one of the concierges had a pair of World Series tickets in his breast pocket. Which team are you implying will be going to the World Series this year? What do you know that the rest of us, and the Red Sox bullpen, don't know?

—SAM DOUGLAS
Brighton

Editor's note: *The tickets in the pocket of the concierge are for the World of Wheels car show. Don't worry, we're not jinxing the Sox's World Series ambitions. But if you'd like tickets to the World Series of custom-car shows, maybe we can hook you up.*

CONTRIBUTOR

EZRA DYER



You may know Ezra Dyer as a staff writer and humor columnist here at the IMPROPER. But he's also a huge car nut who drives a '91 Saab that's rollin' on Kumhos. Lately Dyer has been capitalizing on his car-craziness by contributing to *Automobile* magazine. Last February he penned a feature story on buying a $350 Cadillac Eldorado and "donating" it to a historical society in Maine for use as a target at its annual machine gun expo, and his car reviews can be found on *Automobile*'s Web site (www.automobilemag.com). We had to twist his arm, but we got him to drive a few high-powered convertibles for this issue's totally topless feature story, "Dashing Droptops." Turn to page 18 to read about eight great reasons to have a driver's license.

FROM THE EDITOR

SUMMER IN THE CITY

Even though my school days are now a distant memory and summers no longer mean three months of freedom from schedules and responsibility, I feel a sense of joy as that first sweet month of summer approaches. Like many of you, I've got plans for getting out of town a few times this season to soak up warmth and scenery and recapture that school's-out feeling.

But the working world's realities mean that many of us will be spending most of summer's too short hours in the city. Lucky for us, there's plenty going on in the Greater Boston area, and summer fun close to home provides the theme for this issue.

The editorial staff has compiled quick guides to summer festivals and to beaches close enough for a day trip, and music columnist Paul Robicheau outlines outdoor concert highlights throughout the summer. Meanwhile, staff writer Ezra Dyer fulfills his longstanding yen to write a car feature for the IMPROPER with a four-pager on hot new convertibles, just in time for top-down season. If ten-speeds are more your style (and/or your price range), check out Susan Abbattista's story on urban biking—with a sidebar on off-road paths for more leisurely riding. Finally, tourism experts from the Cape and Islands discuss the newest attractions at these favorite weekend spots. All told, there's enough in these pages to keep your summer calendar solidly booked.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

I was disappointed in the mistake that appeared in the April 30 edition of the IMPROPER. The article entitled "Belting it Out" by Daniel Schulman stated that the Ecko Lounge has karaoke songs in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. That fact is wrong. I went to Ecko Lounge with friends. We planned to sing in Japanese and Korean, specifically because the IMPROPER stated that the bar had songs in those two languages. The Ecko Lounge has songs in only English and Chinese. We were extremely disappointed and unable to sing. In the past I've found your magazine to be enjoyable and accurate. Unfortunately, my friends and I will no longer trust the words you print. I suggest better research and fact-checking.

—JAMIE SOOHOO

Editor's note: *Ecko Lounge owner Jeff Tam confirms that our facts were correct: In addition to about 2,000 Chinese titles, the Ecko Lounge offers about 400 songs in Korean and 50 in Japanese, and they even have a separate machine for the Korean songs. However, says Tam, "Unless someone asks for a Korean book, they might not see it." So go back, ask for the Korean or Japanese song books, and belt it out.*

IT MADE ME FEEL BETTER TO SEE THAT THE PEOPLE ON NEWBURY STREET WERE ON A PHOTO SHOOT AND NOT JUST "THAT" COOL NATURALLY.

—SARAH WEBB
BOSTON

Tell Us What You Think

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Bridget Behling, Jamie Bellavance, Victoria Cook, Kate Marshall, Robyn O'Reilly, Brad Perriello, Elizabeth Reh, Melanie Ryan**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERN **Joanie Tobin**

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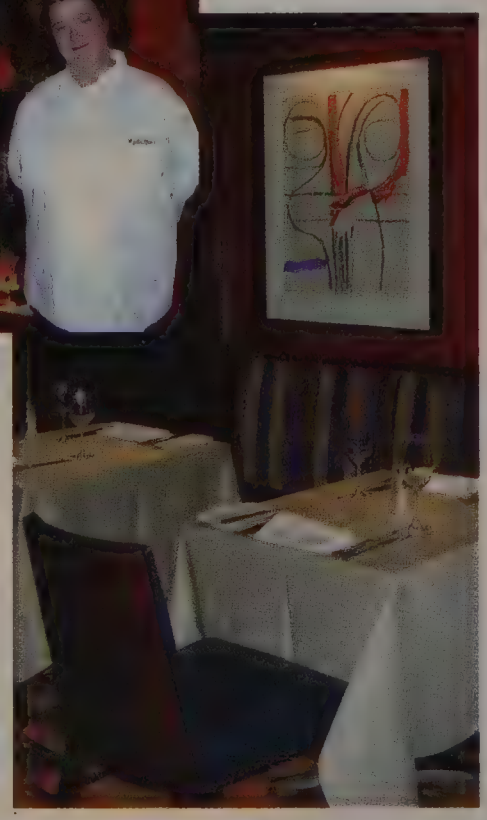
New in Town

SIMPLY HEAVENLY

Pair Lydia Shire of Biba, Pignoli and Locke Ober fame with Tim Lynch, the über successful entrepreneur behind Grill 23 and Harvest, and what do you get? A culinary version of *gloria in excelsis Deo*—Latin for "glory to God in the highest." Shire and Lynch's lavish new restaurant, **Excelsior**, opened May 22, taking over Biba's much-coveted space overlooking the Public Garden—and once you get a look at what they've created, you'll want to break into song ("Angels We Have Heard on High" might be appropriate).

Lydia Shire

While you're dining, you can watch the wine steward climb up ladders to fetch bottles of wine (from a collection of 7,000) through the glass walls of the restaurant's centerpiece: a three-level wine cellar by renowned restaurant designer Adam Tihany. The menu features one mouthwatering dish after another, with appetizer offerings of foie gras steak with extra-bitter chocolate and fresh cherries, and one-minute spaghetti with one ounce of Osetra caviar. (Perhaps the price tag of the latter—$85—might sway the decision.) Indeed, the prices aren't understated, but anyone who's dined with chef Shire knows she's not one to show restraint.



The kitchen is fully equipped with a wood-burning oven for housemade breads and gourmet pizzas, along with a vertical oven for dishes like jasmine-spiced duck and rack of lamb. Shire's two favorites, however, are the "man's steak," which comes with Roquefort butter petticoat and beet lace, and the "lady's steak" made with crisped marrow, wild leeks and hot green garlic. But Shire adds that patrons should feel free to gender swap. *272 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-7878).*
—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short

Sports

LOOK OUT, REMY

Have you ever listened to announcers call a baseball game and said to yourself, "I am witty, knowledgeable and capable of contributing to several hours of spirited banter. Why am I not doing that?" Well, June 4 at the Place, five finalists in the Sam Adams/NESN Announcer for an Inning Contest will vie for a chance to become a Red Sox announcer. Seven sports-savvy judges, including Bob Lobel of WBZ and Butch Stearns of WFXT, will rate the would-be Sean McDonoughs on their game as they each call an inning of that night's match-up against the Pittsburgh Pirates. The winner will broadcast the seventh inning of the June 10 Sox-Cardinals game on NESN for 300,000 viewers. Take notes, Ben Affleck.—*Ezra Dyer*

Inner View

DATING FOR DOLLARS

Melissa Wehrman

Yet another Bostonian has fallen into the irresistible abyss of reality TV. Brookline resident Melissa Wehrman makes her television debut on NBC's *For Love or Money* as one of 15 women competing for the affections of a studly Dallas lawyer. The premise: The woman who's picked wins the guy...and $1 million. The twist: The guy doesn't know about the money. Wehrman, a 25-year-old graphic designer for the Museum of Fine Arts, answered a few of our questions about the show before the series premiere June 2.

IB: *What prompted you to try out?*
MW: I had just stopped seeing this guy. He was totally wrong for me, so my friend said, "Why don't we try to let NBC find a guy for you?" I figured I needed a vacation anyway.
IB: *What do you think about the reality TV phenomenon?*
MW: I think it's pretty funny. It's all the same thing with a twist here, a twist there.
IB: *Did you know going into it that there was $1 million at stake?*
MW: Before we knew that there was a million-dollar prize, it was supposed to be like *The Bachelor*. The first day of taping, they told us the winner would also get $1 million. So then it was a whole fight for the man and the money. There were a few people who started playing a game right then and there.
IB: *Was it hard to get along with the other women?*
MW: It really wasn't. Obviously there was the token flaky girl and the token bitch and the token naive one. But it was really a good group.
IB: *Why in your opinion, should people watch this show?*
MW: There's definitely a lot of drama. It wasn't all lovey dovey and "I'm trying to fall in love with this man." There were definitely other issues, like greed.
IB: *Where will you be when it airs?*
MW: I will actually be at Tonic in Allston. They agreed to play it for me and my friends, and I want everyone to watch it with me so I can say, "Now this is what I really said."
IB: *What do you think about the Boston singles scene?*
MW: The kind of guy who approaches me is the kind that approaches every woman. And I work at the Museum of Fine Arts—we say it's all women and gay men.
IB: *Has the experience changed your romantic outlook?*
MW: No, I'm the same jaded person I'll always be, but there could be surprises around the corner.
—Jessica Iredale

Sam Says

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

While walking down Newbury Street last Saturday, I spotted a street sale of cheap jewelry, sunglasses and small paintings—all things I'll never need. But then I saw something that really spoke to me: a woman selling handmade soap. The soaps were intricately shaped and smelled like nature at its purest. The woman turned out to be Liann Graf, founder of Scentsible Soaps, a company that she started two years ago in Newburyport. The soaps are made with extra-virgin olive oil, and Graf grows many of the ingredients—namely fruits and veggies—in her own backyard. My favorites are Rose Garden, Goat's Milk & Calendula, and the Gardener's Friend, which has pumice in it to scrub away dirt and grass stains. The soaps are $3.95 each and come in all kinds of shapes like bumble bees, hearts and ladybugs. *www.ScentsibleSoapCo.com.*
—Samantha House

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Tasty Tidbits

TRENDY TEA

Krispy Kreme Mondays...To celebrate the much anticipated opening of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts in Medford June 24, the Oak Bar is offering an espresso martini, served with a glazed Krispy Kreme doughnut, Monday evenings June 2-30. The cost is $14 (and no, you can't skip the martini and purchase the doughnut separately). Our question is, Will the Fairmont Copley Hotel post a neon red sign that says "Hot"? *138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300).*

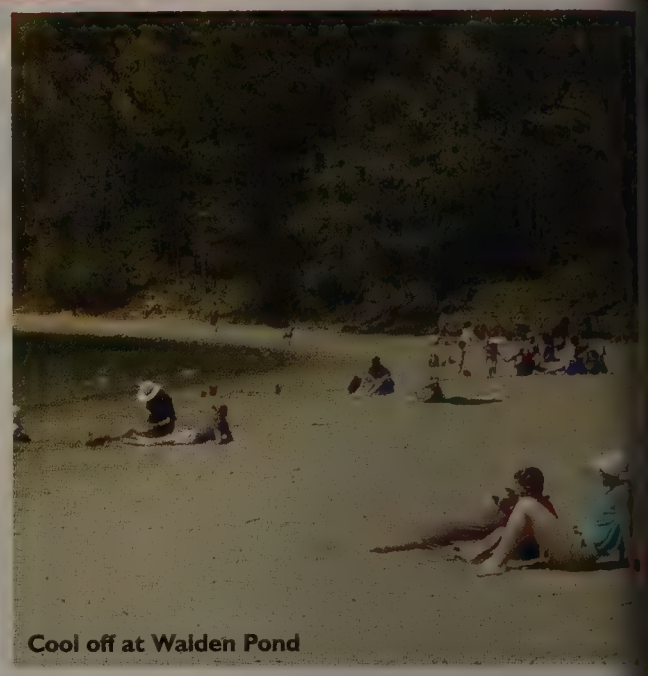
Not Your Average Joe...Speaking of doughnuts, everyone has their favorite Dunkin' Donuts, where the line moves fast and service pros wouldn't dare pass off hazelnut as French vanilla. Now the best of the best have been identified. Nine teams from local branches competed in Dunkin's Speed of Service Championship in West Roxbury May 14. Each team had 10 minutes to complete 18 orders and were judged on speed, accuracy and courtesy. And, as urban law dictates, the grass is always greener in the suburbs—not one of the competing teams was Boston-based. The first place bounty of $15,000 went to the team from Westwood's 915 High St. location, while a Burlington shop took home $6,000 for second place.

Trendy Tea...Somehow, somewhere, tea cut its ties with the prim, proper and weak of stomach, reinventing itself as the "it" drink of global trendsetters. Boba (cold black, jasmine or green tea with cream, sugar and marble-sized tapioca balls at the bottom) is already all the rage in Los Angeles and New York, and now Boston's first all-Boba tea house, Cassava Lounge, is slated to open the second week of June on Boylston Street near Mass. Avenue. Co-owners and MIT grads Ann Hsing and David Park became addicted to the sweet libations after a summer spent in L.A. and decided to test the market in Boston. Boba is already a hit in Chinatown, but Hsing intends to make it mainstream. The menu includes milk and fruit-flavored teas, slushees and Asian shaved ice, all with tapioca balls, which you suck up through thick straws. *1076 Boylston St., Boston*. www.cassavalounge.com.

Cheap eats at Coogan's

Arrr, Matey...If you're a fan of the Sports Depot in Allston you'd better make a visit soon, because the venerable sports bar and restaurant is in double-overtime. The Depot closes in early June and when the restaurant reopens in August its motto will have changed from "America's Favorite Sports Grill" to "Bring the Whole Family Down...Just for the Halibut!" That's right, Captain Fishbones is adding an Allston location to its Marina Bay establishment, and Sports Depot will be added to our list of sad farewells. *353 Cambridge St., Allston*. www.captainfishbones.com.

Cheap Eats...In the name of keeping up with the Dow Joneses, Coogan's is offering an appetizer special that fluctuates with the market. It's simple really: If the market's up, apps are half-price; if it's down, free appetizer buffet for all. *171 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415). Daily, 5-7 pm, through May 30. —Ezra Dyer, Erin Hagedorn, Jessica Iredale and Julie Short*


Cool off at Walden Pond

Improper Reports

GO JUMP IN A LAKE

When Boston's hustle and bustle gets you hot under the collar, one of the many local watering holes (literally) can help you cool off.

•**Ashland State Park.** Dog-paddle around the Ashland Reservoir or go fishing, canoeing, swimming or biking in this 1,100-acre park. *71 Cedar St., off Route 135, Ashland (508-435-4303).*

•**Cochituate State Park.** Go swimming, canoeing, boating, fishing or windsurfing on one of three large lakes. *Union St., Route 30, Natick (508-653-9641).*

•**Crystal Lake.** A mere T ride away from the city, Crystal Lake has a bathhouse, docks and a raft for swimming. *Rogers Street, Newton Highlands (617-552-7124).*

•**Hopkinton State Park.** Swim, hike the trails, paddle a canoe, bicycle or ride horseback through the 1,450 acres of parkland. *Route 85, Hopkinton (508-435-4303).*

•**Walden Pond State Reservation.** See Henry David Thoreau's inspiration for his book *Walden* by swimming in the glacial kettle hole pond, hiking the trails or stopping by a replica of Thoreau's home in the woods. *915 Walden St. (off Route 2), Concord (508-369-3254).*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Bright Lights, Big City...A new nightclub recently turned up on our radar. The Financial District's Vivid Lounge set up shop mid-May upstairs from, and under the same ownership as, the Exchange. The front room is a mellow lounge with tables, bar seating and a full menu, while the back encourages a more animated crowd to hit the dance floor. Looks like two is better than one: Manager Brent Crouch says the brightly colored lounge atmosphere has "two rooms, two DJs, two different kinds of feel." *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*

Geese Be Gone..."No Fowl!" Is the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's new war cry aimed at the flocks of Canadian geese that chow down (and, shall we say, "let loose"?) on the Common and the Public Garden.

As of May 12, a professional dog handler and his trained Border collies have been on call to drive the unwanted geese away. The birds are charged with overt aggression (chasing park patrons) and damaging park lawns with their droppings. Acting parks commissioner Antonia Pollack claims the geese have overstayed their welcome, and the dog solution has been deemed humane and effective by the MSPCA, PETA, GeesePeace and the Mass Audubon Society.

Headliners...The world of hairstyling has carved out its own curious niche in American culture—even sparking a cult following for cinematic spoofs like *Blow Dry*, *The Big Tease* and *Shampoo*. Now local stylist John William of South Boston's Mitchell John Salonere is hoping to add another film to the list. In early March, he teamed up with Rockydog Productions to begin work on a hairstyling documentary, *The Mane Project*, which chronicles aspects of hairstyling from the biggest hair shows in the country to alternative treatments for baldness. The crew is currently filming around the country and hopes to wrap it up soon.

Aw, Snap!...According to Polaroid, only 14 percent of pictures taken with digital cameras are ever printed. Polaroid plans to change that (and hopefully earn some much-needed money) with new digital printing kiosks, which are making their national debut in Boston-area Targets and Noble's Camera stores right about now. The kiosks can turn your camera's binary code into snazzy pictures in less than two minutes, and the prints are water-resistant, tear-proof and fingerprint-resistant. In fact, this sounds like the quickest, easiest way to get a snapshot since the Polaroid.

Dubious Distinction...One drive through the Big Dig and you'd bet that Boston has the worst drivers around. You're right, according to the new Nerves of Steel aggressive driver survey sponsored by the Steel Alliance. Drivers across the country were polled to find out how they ranked in terms of safety, rudeness and aggressiveness. Out of 19 cities, Boston came in second to last overall (Chicago was dead last). Some of the more interesting findings: 64 percent of Boston drivers admit to driving at least 10 miles above the speed limit; 36 percent double park; and 45 percent admit to committing at least four aggressive driving acts in one month. Surprised? Probably not. But at least it's nice to know that we beat New York in something.—*E.D., E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

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PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The Boston Public Library Foundation hosted its annual **Spring Gala** May 9 in the McKim Building in Copley Square. More than 850 guests of the foundation joined the organization's Young Professionals Committee at the black-tie gala, which raised funds to support the BPL.

1. From left: **Jeff Bellows**, vice president of marketing of the United Way; his wife, **Nicole**, director of events and communications at Northeastern University; and **John Judge**, executive director of Habitat for Humanity.
2. **Mike Rodeno**, investment banker for JNK Securities, and his wife, **Carolyn**. Both are co-chairs of the BPL Foundation Young Professionals Committee.
3. **Sal DiMasi**, state representative for the North End, and his wife, **Debbie**.
4. From left: **John Cullinane**, president of the Cullinane Group and founding chair of the BPL Foundation; his wife, **Diddy**; and **Nader Darehshori**, chairman and president of the BPL Foundation.
5. **Jennifer Silver** and **Michael Carson**, general manager of Channel 7 WHDH-TV.
6. From left: **Susan Clarke**, director of development for the BPL Foundation; **Chris McMeen**, division director of High Output Inc., and his fiancée, **Lyn Retherford**.

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April showers

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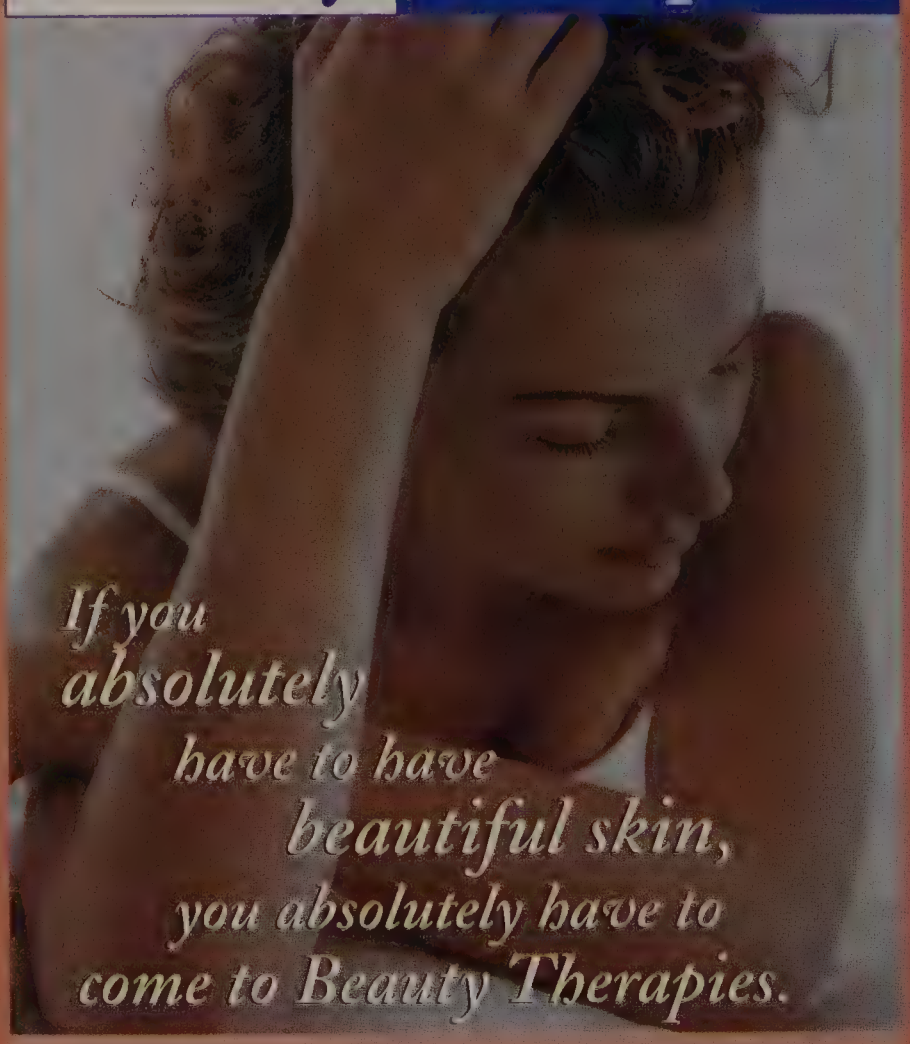

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BY EZRA DYER

TAKE IT EASY

Looking forward to a vacation is the best part. It's all downhill once you're there.

Vacations depress me. I'm still not over the spring break trip I took four years ago during my senior year in college. I had so much fun that I was catatonic for several weeks after returning from Nassau. That was an especially bad case of vacation depression, because not only was my vacation over, but I was acutely aware that I would never again be a college student on spring break. If I ever went back, I would be the spring break equivalent of Matthew McConaughey's character, Wooderson, in *Dazed and Confused*, a scuzzy old guy cruising the metaphorical high-school parking lot: "That's what I like about college girls on spring break. I keep getting older, they stay the same age."

If you can't watch a *Girls Gone Wild* video without crying, you've obviously got problems, so I recently decided to confront my demons by going to Key West with Lady Liz.

Key West confirmed a theory I've developed over my past several trips: You can truly enjoy only the first day of your vacation. That's when the aggravating travel is behind you and the happy promise of several days of carefree bliss stretch before you. You turn on the Weather Channel that first morning not to get your own forecast but to mock the sorry, pathetic souls slogging through dirty puddles to their bleak miserable jobs instead of sipping margaritas at the edge of the ocean. Life is good. But the clock is ticking, even then.

On the second day of your vacation the end still seems distant, but you've already burned 24 precious hours. You review the first day and decide how you might maximize your enjoyment of the remaining days. Should you sleep in, or is that a waste of your limited time? What's your goal, to relax or to experience a new place to the fullest extent possible? And did that girl at the kayak-rental place really laugh when you put down your Celtics-logo credit card? What's so funny about having a Celtics card? They give you a free T-shirt when you sign up.

By the penultimate day of your trip, you're drinking heavily (OK, maybe you were drinking heavily all along) in a vain attempt to push the impending end of your vacation from your consciousness. I sat there on the beach, gazing out at the ocean and thinking about how the next day I'd be back in Siberia. Liz put to words another thought that had been running through my head, namely "That girl on the towel next to us has a really good body to be wearing that thong." As an aside, it's the best thing ever when your girlfriend pronounces physical judgment on another girl, because then you have carte blanche to take a gander yourself. Just remember to agree with whatever she said. If you can't remember what she said because your brain heard "That thong on the thong is really thongy thong thong thong," then, "What a ho" is typically an acceptable response.

On the way back, Liz and I spent a good portion of our three-hour layover in Miami sitting outside. After eating at Chili's—I had fajitas with a side order of grim resignation—we wandered out to the employee bus stop to soak up our remaining precious moments of 90-degree weather. We sat there for about an hour with flight attendants and baggage-handling guys while buses pulled up and belched carcinogenic diesel exhaust in our sunburned faces. But we were still on vacation and it was beautiful, warm Florida bus exhaust.

Not surprisingly, vacation depression becomes most acute upon your return. The

YOU CAN TRULY ENJOY ONLY THE FIRST DAY OF YOUR VACATION. BUT THE CLOCK IS TICKING EVEN THEN

tendency to make comparisons to what you were doing the previous week is a common symptom of this stage of the affliction. As in, "At this time last week, I was driving a convertible through the Keys on my way to get lunch under palm trees at an outdoor restaurant on the Gulf of Mexico. Now I'm eating a burrito at Souper Salad." The terrible thing is, you usually love eating burritos at Souper Salad. But your vacation has corrupted you. Nothing is fun anymore, not compared with your vacation.

The solution is to realize that vacations are ultimately depressing, expensive and unfairly color your everyday existence. The next time someone tells you about the great vacation they're about to take, act like you really envy them. Say, "Oh, I hate you," and "I hope you get cavity-searched" and other nice things that will make the person feel like they're really making you jealous. Then go to Souper Salad and enjoy your burrito.

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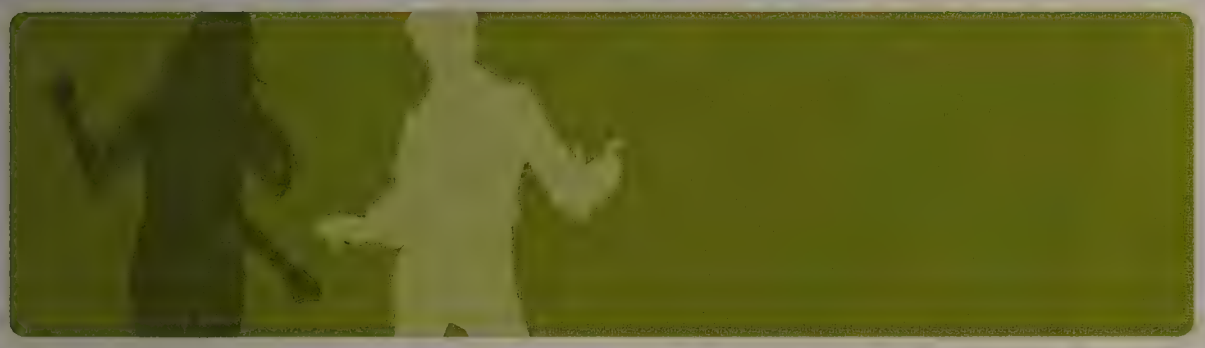

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Etta James Friday, May 30 8pm

Earth, Wind & Fire Friday, June 6 8pm

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Van Morrison with Solomon Burke & The Soul Alive Orchestra
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June 16 7:30pm

Aretha Franklin June 17 8pm

Medeski Martin & Wood
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Ben Harper and Jack Johnson
with DJ Kid Koala June 19 & Fri,
June 20 7pm **SOLD OUT**

American Fleadh Saw Doctors,
HotHouse Flowers, Black 47, Flogging Molly
Sat, June 21 7:00 PM

Wilco & Sonic Youth June 23 8pm

Norah Jones June 28 8pm **SOLD OUT**

Jackson Browne with Steve Earle
& The Dukes and Keb Mo July 6 7:30pm

The Chieftains
with The Del McCoury Band July 8 8pm

Dream Theatre & Queensryche
with Fates Warning July 9 8pm

Heart July 10 8pm

Chris Isaak with Lisa Marie Presley
Friday, July 11 8pm

Elvis Costello & The Imposters
Sat, July 12 8pm

Tom Jones July 13 8pm

Pat Benatar July 17 8pm

Tracy Chapman Friday, July 18 8pm

Hootie & The Blowfish /
Big Head Todd & The Monsters
Sat, July 19 8pm

Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme
One More for the Road - Our Last Tour
Sat, July 26 8pm

Ringo Starr & His AllStar Band
John Waite, Paul Carrack, Colin Hay,
Sheila E, and Mark Rivera Fri, July 27 8pm

Irish Tenors Fri, August 1 8pm

Crosby, Stills & Nash Sat, August 23 8pm

Tori Amos and Ben Folds
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The Gipsy Kings Sat, Sept 6 8pm

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TAYLOR TWELLMAN

BY JONATHAN SOROFF PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEL BENJAMIN

The New England Revolution's star forward, Taylor Twellman (No. 20), was born and raised in St. Louis, the son of a professional soccer player and grandson of a pro baseball player. After graduating from St. Louis University High School, he attended the University of Maryland for two years, where he was *Soccer America*'s Freshman of the Year and a two-time All-ACC selection. After two seasons, he moved to Germany to play for TSV 1860 Munich of the German Bundesliga. At age 20, he was the team's youngest player, appearing in more than 40 games. Selected second in Major League Soccer's 2002 draft, he returned to the U.S. to play for the Revolution.

Jonathan Soroff: *Your name's a bit soap opera–ish, isn't it?*

Taylor Twellman: I got a lot of "That's a girl's name" when I was a kid, but my parents showed me the baby book they got my name from and it was under the boys' names.

JS: *Would you ever marry a woman named Tyler?*

TT: [Laughs.] No. Never.

JS: *OK, most important question: Your grandfather played for the Yankees....*

TT: And the Detroit Tigers and the St. Louis Browns...

JS: *But you're a Red Sox fan, right?*

TT: Oh, yeah. My Little League team was named the Red Sox.

JS: *It seems everyone in your family is a professional-level athlete: Your grandfather played baseball, your father was a pro soccer player, your uncle's on the PGA tour. What if you had a kid who was a bookworm and hated sports?*

TT: Wouldn't bother me one bit.

JS: *Is 20 your lucky number?*

TT: It was my father's first professional number.

JS: *Very cool. Now, you play forward. Would you describe yourself as a forward person?*

TT: Yes, definitely. I'm outgoing. I like to stir stuff up. Everyone knows where I stand.

JS: *When you played in Europe, were you a big star over there?*

TT: No. I was just one of the guys. I wasn't the best player on the team. I was playing with 29 other guys who were just as good if not better.

JS: *But don't soccer players get more recognition over there?*

TT: Well, I wasn't a star personally, but just the mystique of being a professional soccer player in Europe, yeah, definitely, they're more recognized there than here.

JS: *Favorite thing about Munich?*

TT: The clubs. The nightlife.

JS: *Favorite thing about Boston?*

TT: The Red Sox. Fenway Park.

JS: *Favorite snack at Gillette Stadium?*

TT: Oh, I don't even have to eat it, it's just the smell of McDonald's right in the end zone. That smell of a Big Mac as you're getting ready to warm up is just such a tease.

JS: *How about a pet peeve with the fans?*

TT: They're not loud enough. Sometimes, they're just too quiet.

JS: *One perk that professional basketball, baseball or football players get that you wish pro soccer players got in this country?*

TT: I don't know if I'm necessarily jealous of their celebrity, but I guess the perk of knowing that this job is going to take care of you for the rest of your life.

JS: *So you've got to think about a career after soccer?*

TT: Most definitely. Unless you're playing in Europe.

JS: *In the 1999 World Youth Championship, you won something called the Bronze Ball?*

TT: [Laughs.] Actually, it's the Bronze Boot, which you get for the third most goals in the tournament. They do have a Bronze Ball, but that's a completely different award.

JS: *I don't think I want to know about that.*

TT: [Laughs.] Well, they don't have a Blue Ball, so we're OK.

JS: *Finish this bumper sticker: Soccer players do it...*

TT: Soccer players do it with excitement.

JS: *OK, finish this sentence: Soccer players have great...*

TT: Legs.

JS: *Do you get regular pedicures?*

TT: No. But I have had one, and they said for a professional athlete I have decent feet.

JS: *Worst injury you've ever sustained playing soccer?*

TT: Breaking my nose in two spots.

JS: *What were you doing, heading a ball?*

TT: No, a goalie punched me. [Laughs.]

JS: *Speaking of which, don't we need some soccer hooligans in this country?*

TT: Definitely.

JS: *Yeah, a bunch of rowdy yahoos who drink too much and start brawling...*

TT: Well, I don't necessarily advocate the drinking and brawling, but the rowdy part, definitely!

JS: *How do you recover after a game?*

TT: Sleep and massage. The night after a game, it's hard to sleep, but the night after that, I'll sleep anywhere from 10 to 12 hours.

JS: *Secret vice?*

TT: I can't reveal that.

JS: *What other sports do you play?*

TT: Golf. That's my relaxation. I'm embarrassed to tell you my handicap right now is a 6 or a 7.

JS: *That's nothing to be ashamed of.*

TT: It used to be a 2 or 3. I don't get to play a lot.

JS: *Are you a player with the ladies?*

TT: No. Actually, I'm engaged to my high school sweetheart from St. Louis.

JS: *One player from the Boston Breakers you'd never want to go up against?*

TT: Jena Kluegel.

JS: *Favorite video soccer game?*

TT: *FIFA 2003* for Playstation 2.

JS: *Are you a natural blond?*

TT: Yes. It's funny. Only in Boston do people ask me if I bleach my hair. If you saw my mother, you'd understand.

JS: *Turn-ons?*

TT: Dancing. Perfume. Brunettes.

JS: *Turn-offs?*

TT: Bad teeth. Bad breath. B.O. Loudness, obnoxiousness. 'Cuz I'm loud.

JS: *Boxers or briefs?*

TT: Briefs.

JS: *One thing that would surprise me about the Revolution's locker room?*

TT: [Laughs.] How easygoing we are. Unlike other professional athletes, anyone could come in that locker room and feel comfortable.

JS: *If* Playgirl *asked you to pose naked, would you?*

TT: Nope.

JS: *Most embarrassing thing in your life?*

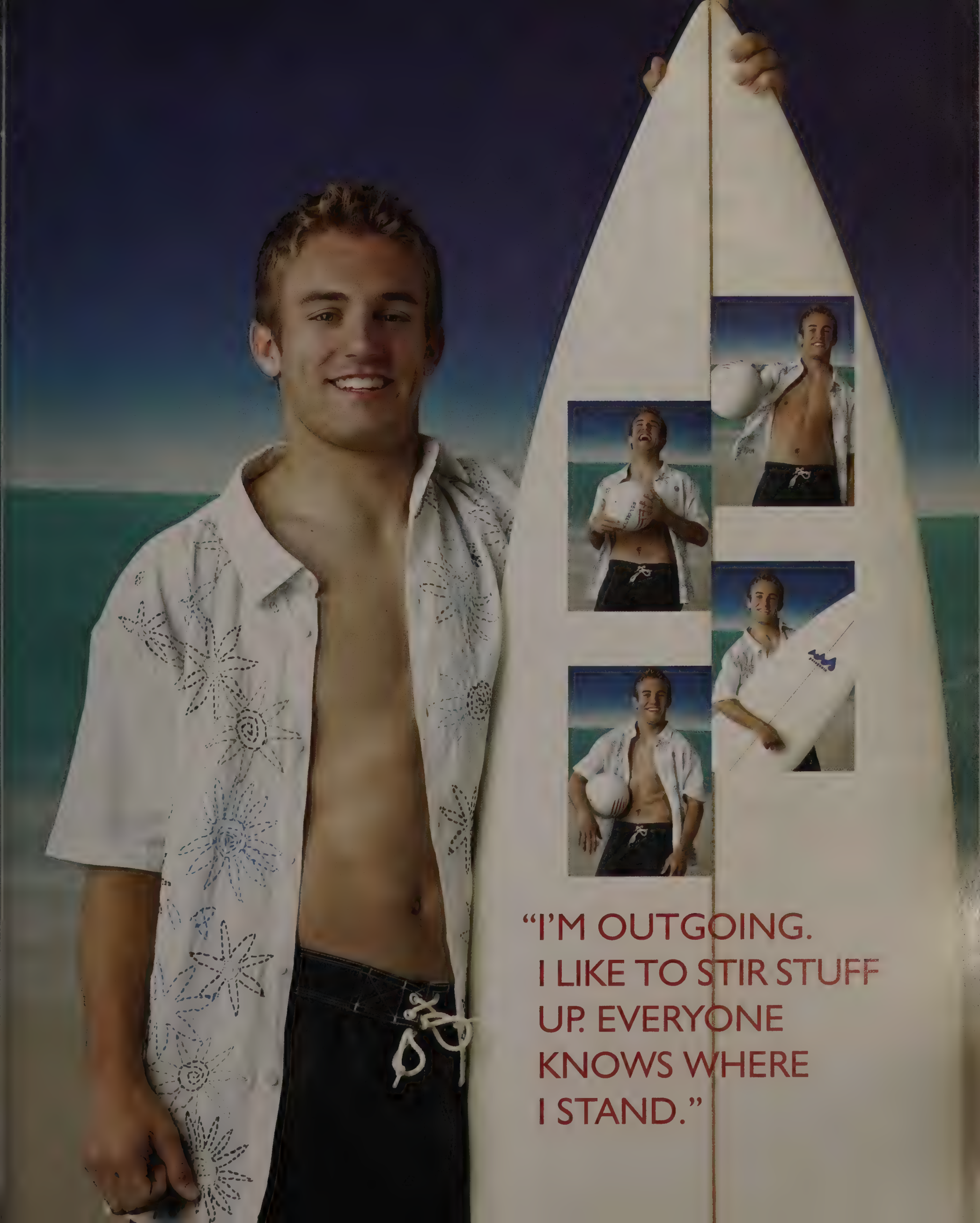
TT: Probably the size of my head. It's a size 8 1/2, and people are always telling me I have a large head.

JS: *I don't think that's what they mean. So why doesn't soccer have scantily clad cheerleaders?*

TT: I don't think there's enough time in the game. I guess at halftime you could, but it's not like other sports, where there are time-outs and other stuff. In soccer, it's a continuous game, so there really isn't much opportunity for that, although it would probably bring in some more fans.

JS: *Last question: If you had to kiss one of your teammates, who would it be and why?*

TT: [Laughs.] I think Adin Brown, because I think we've done it before, at a bar or something. IB



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PUT THE TOP DOWN AND HIT THE ROAD WITH FOUR CONVERTIBLES THAT WILL HELP MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER

BY EZRA DYER

Given the Arctic blasts and extreme heatwaves that characterize New England weather, you see a surprising number of convertibles tooling around our city. That's partly due to the fact that convertibles are generally no longer the leaky, drafty, summer-only toys they once were. Many modern droptops are designed to be driven year-round—the Audi A4 Cabriolet even comes with a ski pass-through to the trunk. Four-season practicality aside, however, this is the time of year when convertible drivers remember why they paid a premium for a car with a retractable roof. On a day when the sun is shining and the temperature is right, driving with the top down provides a 360-degree rush that a mere sunroof just can't match.

With those days in mind, we give you four distinct options for maximizing summertime driving fun: the Audi A4 Cabriolet, Chevrolet Corvette 50th Anniversary Edition, Jaguar XKR and Ford Thunderbird are all either new or significantly improved for 2003, and all offer their own unique approach to getting a tan while driving. So pick your destination, put on your favorite CD and choose your weapon.

2003 FORD THUNDERBIRD

As a 20-something male, I'm not supposed to want this car. According to marketers, guys my age should be salivating over a Honda Element or a Subaru WRX STi or a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo. I should want something that's either fast and furious or SUV-ish and versatile. The Ford Thunderbird is none of those things. There's no C-130-sized wing on the back, no interior AC outlets to power my portable tattoo needle, no space for extreme-sports gear. The styling evokes an era before my time. But I still want one.

Price: $41,690

Competitors: In this case, there are no direct competitors. The T-Bird has a nice niche to itself. So... a small boat, down payment on a second home?

Year-round pros and cons: Traction control, heated seats, heated wiper park, available hardtop. But it is a powerful rear-driver, not the best setup in snow. B-

Destination: Newport, R.I.—beach or golf by day, profiling by night

Driving music: Billy Joel's *Greatest Hits*

The T-Bird's cool transcends demographics, which became clear one day as I engaged in the game of meter-hopping every two hours and ended up talking about the car with passersby each time I got in. The Thunderbird has been back for more than a year (it was reintroduced as a 2002), but it still draws attention from onlookers of all ages. At one point I paused in the middle of putting the top up to answer questions from a guy who wanted to know what kind of car it was. When I replied "Ford Thunderbird," he said, "I remember those from the early '60s. They were pretty sporty." I told him that they still are. Another time, I found a group of younger construction workers standing around the car as they ate their lunch. They wanted to know how it drives. Note to the ladies: If you want to meet guys, it appears that a Thunderbird is the second-best thing to a puppy.

For 2003, Ford wisely left the styling alone but made meaningful upgrades to the engine and interior. The two well-bolstered seats are now available in saddle leather (with saddle accents on the steering wheel and shift knob), and underhood the 3.9 liter V-8 gets a 23-horsepower boost, bringing the total to 280. Ford promotes the T-Bird as a relaxed boulevard cruiser, but with 280 horsepower it's capable of showing its '50s-style round taillights to many a stoplight challenger.

At $41,690 with the swanky saddle interior and manumatic transmission, the Thunderbird also qualifies as a bargain. But don't expect used prices to drop too dramatically, as Ford has already decided to cancel production in either 2005 or 2006. I'm sure that's a purely profit-related decision, but it's a nice perk for Thunderbird owners because their car will remain exclusive. Unlike the new Beetle, Mini and other reborn blasts from the past, this will always be a rare 'Bird.

2003 AUDI A4 CABRIOLET

Normally, stringing together the words "front-wheel drive," "automatic" and "six-cylinder" causes me to start pondering more interesting topics, such as why my belly-button lint sometimes doesn't match the color of my shirt. But in this case, the A4 Cabriolet's three-liter six-cylinder cranks out a respectable 220 horsepower, and Audi's continuously variable transmission (CVT) is a technological breakthrough that mimics both the performance and gas mileage of a manual.

Basically, a CVT is like having an automatic transmission with infinitely variable ratios between first and top gears. So however hard you hit the throttle, the transmission always picks the best ratio to send you on your way.

The CVT exposes an ingrained driving habit that you might not know you have: applying the gas until you hear the revs drop, indicating that you have hit high gear. Particularly if you're used to driving an automatic, your brain is tuned to interpret that drop of revs as a signal—it's time to step off the gas; you've merged. With the A4's CVT, that signal never comes. The engine just winds up and stays there until you let up on the gas or the speed limiter kicks in at 130 mph. That quirk means that you'll learn to devote more attention to the speedometer, because lacking an aural reference point, you'll find yourself accelerating to illegal speeds in a hurry.

Novel transmission aside, the rest of the A4 Cabriolet is pretty sweet as well. Its interior, as in all Audis, is gorgeous and high-quality. The exterior looks sharp, too. It's understated and classy, yet chiseled, a bit like the Old Man of the Mountain once was.

With front-wheel drive and automatic transmission as the only drivetrain, the A4 Cabriolet isn't designed to be a screaming sports car. It will, however, cart four people around in style (but only two in comfort—those back seats are pretty small). And if you insist on having your convertible with a gutsy, six-speed turbocharged engine and all-wheel drive, Audi would be happy to show you something in a TT.

Price: $45,550

Competitors: BMW 3-Series convertibles, Saab 9-3 convertible, Volvo C70

Year-round pros and cons: Heated seats, mirrors and windshield-washer nozzles; headlight washers; front-wheel drive; traction control and a ski pass-through to the trunk. A

Destination: Chatham—preppy and posh, but not excessively posh

Driving music: Paul Oakenfold

2003 CHEVROLET CORVETTE 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Confession: I drove the 50th Anniversary Corvette convertible for only about 50 feet. That was last fall, at the International Motor Press Association Test Days, where a slew of manufacturers line up their cars and let egghead journalists flog them around Pocono Raceway in Pennsylvania. I was idling through the pits to take a lap when a red-faced gentleman jumped in front of me and began plastering the windshield with froth and spittle. Eventually I gathered that there was a line for the Vette and I'd usurped this man's spot. I climbed out and let him take the car, fearing that otherwise, he would chase me down, climb onto the trunk and try to kill me like the evil Terminator in *Terminator 2*. The amazing thing to me about that confrontation was that the Corvette would provoke such apoplexy even when parked beside the latest toys from Mercedes, BMW, Jaguar and Bentley. When, later on, I got to drive a 50th Anniversary coupe (which shares the convertible's key features) for more than 50 feet, I realized why I'd been carjacked at Pocono. This thing is hella fun.

The 50th Anniversary Edition differentiates itself cosmetically from the standard Corvette with a special dark-red color, unique wheels and a shale-colored interior. But the most important component of the 50th Anniversary is its magnetic selective ride control suspension, a system that uses magneto-rheological fluid in the shock absorbers to constantly adjust the car's ride and handling response as you drive. This setup also features a switch on the console that varies the ride between comfort and performance settings. Most of the time I didn't notice much difference between the two modes, but a ride over the donkey trail that is the Tobin Bridge convinced me of its effectiveness. Flipping the switch to the comfort setting over those rapid-fire bumps was like sending an invisible steamroller out ahead to flatten the road. Leave the sport mode for the track.

Other than its innovative suspension, which will also appear on the next-generation Vette and the Cadillac XLR, the 50th Anniversary is similar to any other Corvette. It offers world-class performance, great value and an interior that could be better. The Vette is like an incorrigible college buddy: It may get more sophisticated as time goes by, but at heart it's still a party animal. Even after 50 years.

Price: $56,335

Competitors: BMW M3, Ford Mustang Cobra

Year-round pros and cons: Traction control and heated seats, but also 350 horsepower, rear-wheel drive and high-performance summer tires. C

Destination: Route 100 in Vermont—a driver's road for a driver's car

Driving music: Golden Earring's "Radar Love"

continued on p.22

In Estonia we say:

Pole vaja uhket kuube, kui hing on puhas.

In America you say:

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2003 JAGUAR XKR CONVERTIBLE

So you're in the market for a sporting motorcar. The $86,000 Mercedes SL500 offers only 302 horsepower and, let's face it, sometimes gets bumped from the prime parking spaces in front of the Four Seasons. The 493-horsepower, $113,000 AMG version of the SL is just a bit over the top. Thankfully there's some middle ground, in the form of the 390-horsepower, $95,000 Jaguar XKR.

The Jag doesn't pack the technological might of the Benz, but it does acquit itself well for a six-year-old model. Gadget-lovers will appreciate the adaptive cruise control, rain-sensing wipers and GPS navigation system (you half-expect Austin Powers' boss, Basil Exposition, to pop up on the nav system's in-dash screen and interrupt your trip route with a mission to apprehend Dr. Evil). The supercharged V-8 was enlarged to 4.2 liters for 2003, and the automatic transmission gained an extra gear, for a total of six. The styling has left well enough alone, which is a good thing. Even six years into its run, the XK's curvaceous lines look great and will be a tough act to follow when the next version arrives in 2006.

The XKR's interior is a comfy cocoon of burl walnut and leather, but the rear seats won't be of much use unless you find Lara Flynn Boyle and Calista Flockhart hitchhiking.

The XKR isn't offered with a manual transmission, which speaks to its overall demeanor. It's fast (0-60 in 5.3 seconds, according to Jaguar), handles great with its optional and awesomely expensive 20-inch wheels ($6,000) and stops with the assurance that comes with having gigantic Brembo brakes at each corner. But while it's capable of putting up sports-car numbers, it's not really about using that capability, old chap. It's about knowing you have it. And knowing that when you pull up to the valet at Mistral, that SL500 out front is getting bumped around the corner. iB

Price: $94,775

Competitors: Maserati Spyder, Mercedes SL500, Porsche 911 Cabriolet

Year-round pros and cons: C'mon, if you've got 90 grand to spend on a convertible, surely you can afford a winter beater, like an Audi A8 or all-wheel-drive Mercedes S500.

Destination: Martha's Vineyard via Newbury Street

Driving music: Mozart

TOPLESS PEEP SHOW

Four more convertibles coming soon to a beach parking lot near you

2004 Chevy SSR

Is it a car? Is it a truck? Who cares? The SSR arrives this summer with a retractable hardtop and the 290 horsepower 5.3-liter V-8 from Chevy's truck line. Hmmm, a retro-styled, V-8–powered, rear-wheel-drive, automatic-only convertible priced around $40,000. It seems the Thunderbird might have its first direct competitor.

On-sale date: Summer 2003

Price: $41,995

2004 Nissan 350Z Roadster

Nissan's 350Z has been a hit, so kudos to Nissan for not waiting several years to come out with the convertible, a la the Volkswagen Beetle. The droptop's interior has been spiced up with optional burnt-orange seats (Nissan points out that a convertible's interior becomes a part of its exterior when the top is down), and the power top raises and lowers in about 20 seconds. Like its coupe kin, the Roadster should be a lot of car for the money, with the same 287-horsepower V-6 and standard or automatic transmission. Now if they'd just take the roof off the 350Z's even better-looking corporate sibling, the Infiniti G35 Coupe.

On-sale date: Summer 2003

Price: $33,289 or $38,219, depending on trim level

2004 Mercedes CLK Cabriolet

The successor to the popular first-generation CLK is another classy four-seat cruiser. The upmarket V-8 model replaces the previous car's 4.3-liter with the 302-horsepower 5.0-liter engine that appears in every Mercedes vehicle with the number "500" in its moniker, such as the SL500. The CLK500 will be nearly $30,000 cheaper than an SL, and it has nifty features like Keyless Go (leave the key in your pocket and push a button on the dash to start the car) and seating for four. Potential SL500 buyers might want to consider buying a CLK500 and spending the difference on the upcoming Mini Cooper convertible, due next year.

On-sale date: Late summer 2003

Price (estimated): $50,000 for the CLK320; $58,000 for CLK500 (pictured)

2004 Saab 9-3 Convertible

Saab convertibles have always been popular in this region for their all-weather capabilities and strong performance. The new-generation 9-3's wheels-at-the-corners look gives the convertible an aggressive mien, and Saab's usual cornucopia of safety features includes pop-up rollover bars behind the rear seats and anti-whiplash headrests. With either a 175- or 210-horsepower turbocharged engine and a price that should slightly undercut the A4 Cabriolet's, hopefully the roofless 9-3 can do its part to restore Saab's position as a unique—yet profitable—car company.

On-sale date: Fall 2003

Price (estimated): $40,000

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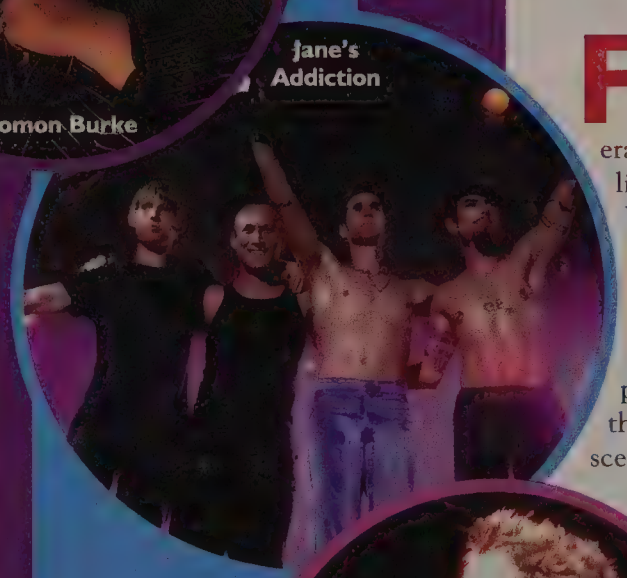
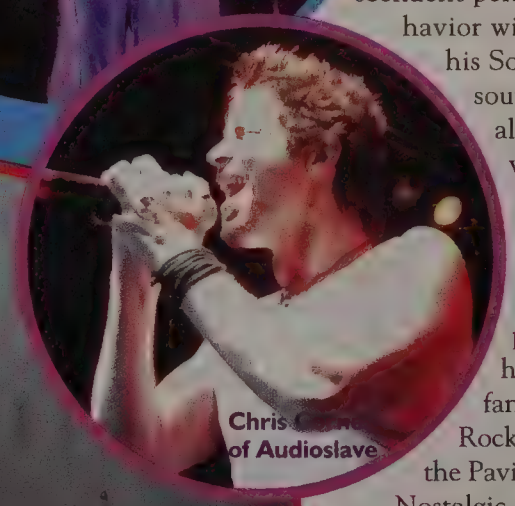




concerts ALFRESCO

TUNE IN TO THE SUMMER'S BIGGEST OUTDOOR MUSIC EVENTS

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

From an eclectic festival slate that includes the return of alt-rock circus Lollapalooza and a remote Maine campout with Phish—both for the first time in several years—to nights with new and old heavyweights like Norah Jones, Bruce Springsteen, Björk and Neil Young & Crazy Horse, 2003 should be a summer to remember for music.

The first half of the season boasts some can't-miss double bills at the FleetBoston Pavilion and the Tweeter Center. First up is the pairing of the soul powerhouses **Van Morrison** and **Solomon Burke** at the Pavilion. Morrison is a mercurial but often transcendent performer, and he should be on his best behavior with gospel-bred idol Burke opening with his Soul Alive Orchestra June 14-15. Superior sounds will continue at the Pavilion when alt-country mavericks **Wilco** and New York veterans **Sonic Youth** find their common ground with artful mixes of noise and melody June 23. Grammy-winning darling **Norah Jones** contrasts her quietly hypnotic jazz-pop vocals with the Appalachian stylings of **Gillian Welch** at the harborside tent June 28. And **Elvis Costello** fans can pump it up when the new wave–era Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee returns to the Pavilion with his Imposters July 12.

Nostalgic jams invade the Tweeter when **the Dead** (formerly the Other Ones) rise again with all the main players from the Grateful fold except for the late Jerry Garcia, on a June 22 bill with ex-Traffic leader **Steve Winwood**. Even better is the July 13 pairing of the **Allman Brothers Band** (with Warren Haynes in Dickey Betts' old chair) and Norwell-bred blueswoman **Susan Tedeschi**. And expect Tedeschi to sit in with the Allmans; the band's other guitarist, Derek Trucks, is her husband.

The season's most essential double bill remains the July 1 Tweeter combination of **Neil Young & Crazy Horse** with **Lucinda Williams**. Young hasn't let Crazy Horse out of the stall for several years, and it's his best vehicle to unleash enough of an electric squall to fuel a thousand garage bands while also allowing him space to take an acoustic soliloquy. And ever-winning country renegade Williams provides the perfect complement.

Another sure Tweeter pick is a band that has collaborated with Young, the ever-resilient rockers **Pearl Jam**, who play July 2, 3 and 11. And there's no arguing with the explosive two-for-one punch of **Aerosmith** and **Kiss** at the Tweeter shed Aug. 25 and 27. Both bands rocked this region silly in the '70s and survived rock 'n' roll excesses to greet a new generation. If this is still Kiss' "Farewell Tour," Gene Simmons must have a bet with ex-flame Cher on who can stretch their swan song out the longest (he's in the lead by a tongue).

Meanwhile, highlights at the South Shore Music Circus in Cohasset include the classy bluesman **Robert Cray** and **John Hiatt** Aug. 3 and bluegrass darling **Alison Krauss & Union Station** Aug. 17.

The Charles River Esplanade should also feel good vibrations when **Brian Wilson** plays his Beach Boys hits at the MDC Hatch Shell June 14.

In terms of blockbuster package tours, the Tweeter Center leads the way with Rock the Mic, Lollapalooza and Ozzfest, which looks ready for retirement after this spin with **Korn** and **Marilyn Manson** joining wack-daddy **Ozzy Osbourne** (at the shed Aug. 14-15). Rock the Mic is a June 27 hip-hop summit headed by ever-smooth wordsmith **Jay-Z** and **50 Cent**, an Eminem protégé who sports a bulletproof vest (he boasts that he's been shot nine times) and delivers blunt, streetwise rhymes on his chart-topping debut album *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*. The tour also includes two hip-hop eccentrics, **Missy Elliott** (whose *Under Construction* was one of 2002's best CDs) and **Busta Rhymes**.

Speaking of eccentrics, **Jane's Addiction** frontman Perry Farrell co-founded Lollapalooza in 1991, changing the face of mainstream rock by introducing alt-rockers like Jane's, Nine Inch Nails, Pearl Jam, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers to large audiences before calling it a day in 1997. Lollapalooza is back, hitting the Tweeter July 25, and Jane's Addiction has reunited to lead the pack. But Farrell and company won't be the only Lollapalooza vets aboard. Ex-Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell will bust his lungs in **Audioslave** with former Rage Against the Machine members Tom Morello, Tim Commerford and Brad Wilk. Audioslave may be a step down from the substance of those guys' old bands, but it introduces kids to the spirit of the classic '70s rock quartet (think Led Zeppelin or Bad Company) with modern icing from guitar alchemist Morello. And Lollapalooza is neatly rounded out with smart rockers **Queens of the Stone Age**, the pop-slanted **Incubus,** the heady hip-hop crew **Jurassic 5** and bratty all-female foursome **the Donnas**.

August kicks off with **Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band** at Foxboro's Gillette Stadium Aug. 1 and 2. Springsteen's arena dates in Boston and Providence were the past year's premiere shows, with the Boss at his evangelical peak and the E Street gang honed into a prime rock orchestra on such oldies as

Candy's Room" and "Night" as well as new jewels om *The Rising*. The Providence show also indicated ıe Springsteen machine was tuning up for the sta- iums with more sweeping gestures to fans and a ong list that leaned back to crowd favorites from is *Born in the U.S.A.* heyday.

Just as big, in another dimension, is avant-pop rincess **Björk**, at Suffolk Downs Aug. 31. A truly riginal vocal gymnast, she'll be backed by electronic uo Matmos, harpist Zeena Parkins and the Icelandic tring Octet, plus new video projections.

Other Tweeter shows for your radar include art-rocker **eter Gabriel** (adjusting his in-the-round arena extrava- anza) June 18 and now-Grammy-decorated class act **Steely an** Aug. 16. The Tweeter shed will eventually round out its season ı top form with the **Dave Matthews Band** Sept. 8-9 and **R.E.M.** Oct. 5.

Then there's the festival season, which includes the Northeast inva- on of mega-multiband fests, just a ferry ride across Long Island Sound ı Calverton, N.Y. First up, on June 7-8, is the alt-rock Field Day, oasting **Radiohead**'s only summer U.S. date, plus the **Beastie Boys, eck, Sigur Rós** and many others. Then Bonnaroo NE, an offshoot of ıe Tennessee jam-band blowout, rolls in Aug. 8-10 with **the Dead, ob Dylan, Tom Petty, String Cheese Incident, Yo La Tengo, Disco iscuits** and so on.

Jazz dominates the festival scene, however, beginning with the Boston lobe Jazz & Blues Festival. In addition to Pavilion shows with bluesmen uddy Guy and **Los Lobos** June 16, soul queen **Aretha Franklin** June 17 and ım brothers **Medeski Martin & Wood** and the **John Scofield Band** June 18, ıere are free after-work gems in Copley Square with saxman **Joe Lovano** June 7, pedal-steel wizard **Robert Randolph** June 18, trumpeter **Roy Hargrove** June 9 and vocal chanteuse **Jane Monheit** June 20, before the **Herbie Hancock Quartet** heads an MDC Hatch Shell bill June 22.

The JVC Newport Jazz Festival at Rhode Island's Fort Adams State Park Aug. -10 also looks promising, with singers **India Arie** and her dusky-voiced idol **Cassandra Wilson**, piano icon **Dave Brubeck** and hip piano trio **the Bad Plus**. The Apple & Eve Newport Folk Festival follows at the same waterfront park Aug 15-17 with the song-swapping quartet of **Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt, Joe Ely** nd **Guy Clark**, plus the ever-spunky **Ani Difranco**, pop songstress **Aimee Mann** nd Afro-pop firebrand **Angelique Kidjo**.

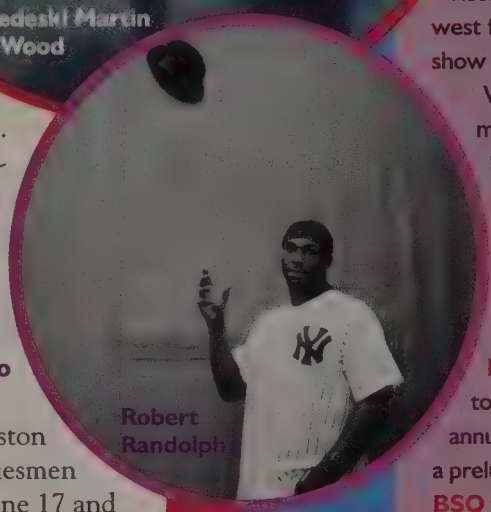
The weekend of Aug. 15-17 also brings the intimate jam-band gathering of Berk- est in Great Barrington's Butternut Ski Basin, featuring **Medeski Martin & Wood**, **he New Deal**, hip-hop inclusionists **the Roots** and gospel legends **the Blind Boys of Alabama**. But for a way-out-of-the-way experience, you can't beat "It," the return of **Phish** to the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine, where the Vermont am-masters have been known to indulge in such concepts as mock villages, interac- ive art, fireworks and six sets of music. "It" will happen Aug. 2-3.

Roots music enthusiasts should gravitate to the free Lowell Folk Festival, which eatures an eclectic menu of largely undiscovered national artists around the city uly 25-27. And the Rhythm & Roots Festival returns to Ninigret Park in Charlestown, R.I., Aug. 29-31 with Cajun host **Steve Riley**, zydeco up- tarts **Chris Ardoin** and **Geno Delafose**, the rocking **Little Feat** and **Sonny Landreth**, and Irish specialists **Solas**.

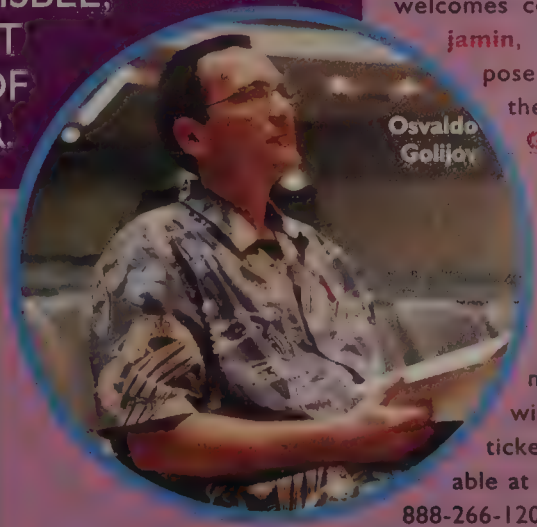
Also on Labor Day weekend, the Tanglewood Jazz Festival will showcase vocalists **Natalie Cole** and **Shirley Horn**, trumpeter **Wynton Marsalis**, and pianists **Donal Fox, Michel Camilo, Marian McPartland** and **Hiromi,** the ast a Berklee-bred fusion phenomenon. McPartland, 84, will be taping her adio show *Piano Jazz* with special guest Norah Jones in an area encore ap- pearance. (For more on Tanglewood's schedule, see related story at right.) All in all, the summer's outdoor music selections offer something for every- one. Mark your datebooks now, so you'll be sure to catch all your favorites. iB

Gillette Stadium, Tweeter Center, FleetBoston Pavilion, Tanglewood Jazz and Phish's It: www.ticketmaster.com or 617-931-2000.
Berkshire Mountain Music Festival: www.berkfest.com.
Bonnaroo NE: www.bonnaroo.com.
Field Day: www.ticketmaster.com, www.fielddayfest.com or 212-307-7171.
Lowell Folk Festival: www.lowellfolkfestival.org.
Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals: www.festivalproductions.net.
Rhythm & Roots Festival: www.rhythmandroots.com.
South Shore Music Circus: www.ticketmaster.com, www.musiccircus.com or 617-931-2787.
Suffolk Downs: www.tickets.com or 800-477-6849.

Medeski Martin & Wood


Robert Randolph

SIT ON TANGLEWOOD'S LAWN FOR $15, AND LET THE MUSIC AND ATMOSPHERE MINGLE WITH SOME FRISBEE, CHESS OR THAT HUGE STACK OF SUNDAY PAPER.


Osvaldo Golijov

MAESTROS AND MERLOT

For city dwellers, a day trip to Tanglewood is all you need for a breath of fresh air in summer

BY KEITH POWERS

Where can you can take your shoes off, sit in the plush green grass with a glass of wine and listen to one of the world's greatest orchestras? Tanglewood, of course. Here's the deal. On Saturday you stock up with guilty picnic pleasures at Savenor's, Marché, Golden Goose or Formaggio's. Perhaps you take a swing through Rosie's Bakery for some sweets. Sunday morning, fire up the car and head west for the idyllic Berkshires, two hours from downtown Boston. There's a show at 2:30 pm, so you don't even have to get up early.

While you're there, you can relax on the lawn for a mere $15 and let the music and atmosphere mingle with some Frisbee, chess or that huge stack of Sunday paper. Concerts last a couple of hours, so you'll be back in plenty of time to go out for drinks, putting the nightcap on a perfect summer Sunday.

Tanglewood, of course, is the off-season home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. But Tanglewood also presents dozens of jazz, dance and pop concerts each summer: This year **James Taylor** kicks off the proceedings June 24. **Wynton Marsalis** (June 27), the **Mark Morris Dance Group** (June 29 and 30) and **Jethro Tull** (Aug. 12) make the trip to the Berkshires as well. Public radio heads will enjoy **Garrison Keillor**'s annual visit June 28. The first annual **Wine and Food Classic** debuts Aug. 23, a prelude to **Itzhak Perlman**'s appearance with **Sir Neville Marriner** and the **BSO** that evening.

But despite all the popular stuff, classical music still rules in Lenox. Tanglewood is a teaching institution, the destination of choice for nearly every conservatory student in America. Orchestra members give lessons and master classes, supported by dozens of special guest artists. Part of the magic of Tanglewood derives from the sound of rehearsal rooms coming to life with students learning new pieces and exploring musical partnerships.

New works are commissioned every summer, and this year two long-awaited operas will debut: **Osvaldo Golijov**'s *Ainadamar* and **Robert Zuidam**'s *Rage d'amours* will be performed Aug. 10 and 11. Golijov, who has roots in South America and Israel, writes music that appeals even to those who "don't do classical." His *La Pasion segun san Marcos*, commissioned and premiered in Nov. 2001, is best described as a symphony orchestra surrounding a kick-ass salsa band with dancers. The *Pasion* was splendidly received and has seen a number of repeat performances. *Ainadamar*, Golijov's first opera, is based on the final days of the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca, and stars lustrous soprano **Dawn Upshaw**.

Tanglewood's official classical opener, on July 5, features the radiant mezzo **Denyce Graves** singing Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* cantata under the directorship of maestro **Kurt Masur**. Familiar faces include **Peter Serkin**, performing with mezzo soprano **Lorraine Hunt Lieberson** July 10, **Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos** conducting Verdi's *Requiem* Aug.1, **Yo-Yo Ma** and **Emanuel Ax** Aug. 19, and the traditional season closer, a performance of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Aug. 24 under the baton of **James Conlon**.

The Festival of Contemporary Music (July 17-21) usually includes some of the most spirited playing of the summer, as students and pros tackle new works. FCM conductor **Robert Spano** welcomes conductor **George Benjamin**, young American composer **Jennifer Higdon**, and the legendary composer **Gyorgy Ligeti**, celebrating his 80th birthday, to the festival for residencies this year.

Those are just a few highlights—you can hear music morning, noon and night at Tanglewood if you wish. Program details and ticket information are available at *www.bso.org* or by calling 888-266-1200.

MEAN streets

BIKING IN BOSTON MAY BE DANGEROUS, BUT IT'S A WAY TO SAVOR THE NITTY-GRITTY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

BY SUSAN ABBATTISTA

When I was a kid, I spent whole summer days riding my blue three-speed bike around our suburban neighborhood. When I wasn't riding, I liked to play bike doctor. I'd flip my heavy Schwinn upside down, spin the pedals and watch the chain glide over the sprockets' spiny teeth. My mother had long given up on the idea of having a daughter who'd be content to spend her summers doing something clean and civilized. Every evening I came home covered with grime and grease. "Look at you!" she'd say. "Are you sure you're not a boy?" I was solemn but never apologetic. Riding bikes was serious, messy business.

It still is.

Today I ride a blue 24-speed Gary Fisher. On the back I've rigged up a cool wire basket. Once the warm weather arrives, I ride it every chance I get—to the supermarket, the bank, my yoga class, my friends' houses and the office.

I love my bike as much as young girls love ponies. But, it's true, you have to be a little crazy to ride in Boston. Pedestrians, cars, buses, construction sites and road hazards are everywhere. One false move, one tiny lapse of concentration, one twist of fate involving the confluence of countless factors beyond your control, and you could end up sprawled across the pavement—badly scraped, seriously injured…or, indeed, dead.

Until a few years ago, I rode only on designated paths and trails. Riding next to cars invoked the same feeling I'd experience when getting knocked down by large waves at the beach: intense fear of death. But even though I'd had many happy adventures on my favorite public bikeways, I remained perplexed by friends who rode in the city every day. Although they cycled for different reasons—protecting the earth, getting more exercise, blah-blah—they all enjoyed it enough to stick with it through thick and thin. Fear be damned, I was determined to find out what that was all about.

Days before my first morning bike commute, I envisioned the route from my house in Somerville to the *Improper*'s Boston office: Ride down Beacon Street, through Inman Square, down to Kendall Square. Cross the Longfellow Bridge, turn onto Charles Street and then take Arlington Street to Columbus Avenue to Berkeley Street. Simple. Right.

The night before, I visited my friend Leslie, a year-round cyclist. "I'm riding my bike to work tomorrow," I said gravely. "Am I going to die?"

"Um," she said, munching on a carrot. "Probably not."

Leslie enumerated her rules of the road: Stay alert; don't weave; make sure you can see and be seen; wear lots of reflective gear (day or night); make eye contact with drivers, pedestrians and fellow cyclists; follow the rules of traffic; and don't assume others will follow the rules of traffic. "Most of all," she said, "remember to look for heads"—the silhouettes of people sitting in parked cars. "Biking in Boston is a learning experience," she told me. "After a while, you'll develop a sixth sense of knowing what people will do before they do it."

The next morning I strapped on my helmet, hopped on my bike and took off. Coasting down a long hill on Beacon Street in Somerville, I thought, *Whoo, I am flying!* Birds were chirping. *Hello birdies!* Cars whipped past on my left. In just 10 minutes, I was coasting through Kendall Square. Outside Au Bon Pain, people sat in the sun drinking coffee. A few cars sat double-parked outside. In one, I spotted a head and congratulated myself for being so savvy. I caught the driver's eyes looking at me in her side-view mirror. *Yes, I see you too.* Then, there was an unmistakable double click. *That's a door latch.* Bam! *That's my tire slamming into the inside of a car door.*

I flew sideways. I landed in the middle of the road. I heard the sound of my helmet hitting the pavement. I gave myself one full second to lie there. Then I thought *Get up, you idiot* and instantly popped up, dragging my bike with me. On the sidewalk, the driver who had just "doored me" watched as I took inventory of my bike and body. Deep scrapes, instant bruises. She shook her head. "I really didn't see you," she said.

"But you were looking right at me," I said. Hands shaking, I locked my bike up next to the Au Bon Pain and rode the train the rest of the way to work.

OK, so it took me a few days to get back on my bike. I kept hearing the *click-click* of the car door and knew that if it weren't for that lucky pause in traffic, I might have been squashed. Was I cut out for this type of danger? Would I let fear paralyze me?

After a few days, I tried the same route again. I skipped a day and then did it again. Each time, as I rode along, I drafted my own mental notes of how to ride: *Keep a door's width of clearance beside parked cars; never assume drivers see you, even when they're looking directly at you. No matter what you do, though, things can get scary.*

I still don't know what keeps other cyclists on the road, but I can say now what it is for me. During the winter months, when I take the train everywhere, I find myself traveling through life in a trance, surrounded by commuting zombies. In the hyper-alert state of riding a bike—sailing through the flickering landscape of air, sights, smells and sounds—there is never room for boredom or complacency. I am fully vulnerable, yes, but also fully exposed to the exquisite details of ordinary life.

I ride down Charles Street. Scrappy trees cast webs of shade upon car hoods; sprigs of grass poke up from unlikely homes in cement cracks; somewhere someone is making pizza. An old woman in a pale pink sweater takes small steps on the sidewalk. I see the soft gray curls at the nape of her neck, the way her hand shakes as she drops an envelope into the mailbox. She pulls the handle once more to make sure the letter has dropped. As I pass her, I smile. She looks at me pedaling by on my bike and her face registers something, maybe a memory. She smiles back. iB

If you are new to biking, consider inviting an experienced cyclist to ride with you. To learn more about bicycle safety and local bike organizations, talk to the friendly gurus at your local bike store or log on to www.massbike.org, www.bicyclinginfo.org *and* www.bicyclesafe.com.

GETTY IMAGES

ON THE TRAIL

Local bike paths let you enjoy a bit of country in the city

Biking is something of an extreme sport in Bosto Whether you're a bike messenger expertly navigatin through traffic or a regular Jane or Joe trying to g around town in a cost-efficient manner, biking through the cit has its fair share of headaches. Here are a handful of trails th offer a peaceful and relatively safe respite from the street Grab your wheels and go.

Arnold Arboretum

Who knew there were 265 acres of woodland in Bosto This 125-year-old Jamaica Plain urban park was designed b Central Park landscaper Frederick Law Olmsted and is pa of the Emerald Necklace park system. Paths are most closed to motorized vehicles and connect to other Bosto bikeways, such as the Stonybrook Reservation. Bikers, bird watchers, in-line skaters and hikers can view the Larz Ande son Bonsai Collection, the Lilac Collection, the Eleano Cabot Bradley Collection of Rosaceous Plants and the Ch nese Path or hike to the summit of Peters Hill (no bikes c the last 200 feet) for a panoramic view of Boston. The park open daily from dawn to dusk. *www.massbike.org/bikeways.*

Blue Hills Skyline Trail

Close enough to Boston to bike but far enough to feel lik you're away from the city, Blue Hills Reservation include 7,000 acres of woodlands, marsh and rocky hills, as well Houghton Pond and Great Blue Hill. Only 20 percent of th trails are open to bikers, but that still leaves about 25 miles explore. Experienced mountain bikers can enjoy the cha lenges of rolling rocky paths, while beginners will find plen of smoother trails. *www.state.ma.us/mdc/blue.htm.*

Minuteman Commuter Bikeway

The Minuteman Commuter Bikeway is a converted railro path that spans a 10-mile route from Cambridge's Alewi MBTA station through Arlington and Lexington to Bedfor Bikers, in-line skaters, pedestrians and, in the winter, cros country skiers can enjoy scenery including historic sites of th Revolutionary War, Minuteman National Historic Park, S Pond and the Great Meadow Wildlife Refuge. Motorized vel cles are prohibited, and the 12-foot-wide asphalt path leav plenty of room for all to share. Bikeway hours are 5 am-9 p year-round, and restrooms and refreshment outposts are l cated along the trail. *www.minutemanbikeway.org.*

Paul Dudley White Charles River Bikepaths

This 18-mile riverside loop traces both banks of the Charl River from the Museum of Science to Watertown, and scene includes the regal structures of Harvard, MIT and Boston U versity. Bikers should have their reflexes at the ready, though the constant battle between joggers, walkers and in-li skaters is especially bad on the weekends, and at some poin the path narrows to a mere four feet, with six-inch drop-offs the edges. *www.state.ma.us/mdc/charlesr.htm.*

Pierre Lallement Southwest Corridor Bikepath

This 4.8-mile bike path was named for the 19th-century Fren expatriate who went unrecognized in his lifetime for the inve tion of the pedal bicycle. The trail runs along the MBTA Oran Line route from the South End through Roxbury towa Franklin Park and cuts through the Southwest Corridor Line Park. Basketball, tennis courts and spray pools, as well as t house where Lallement spent his final days, are along the w And it sure beats riding a cramped, stuffy T from Back Bay Forest Hills. *www.massbike.org/bikeways.*

—Jessica Iredale

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NORTH SHORE

Chock-full O' Charm

ROCKPORT: The two public hot spots, referred to as the front and back beaches, provide lovely coastline views, refreshing sea-spray breezes and surrounding woodlands. This area once inspired the art of Winslow Homer, and the sailboats and schooners that traverse nearby Rockport Harbor are a quaint reminder of the seafaring culture that still thrives today. *Just past Gloucester on Route 127A. Distance from Boston: 35 miles. Admission: free. Parking: Rates vary.* www.rockportusa.com. *978-546-6575.*

Pretty as a Picture

CRANE BEACH: Rolling dunes, whispering reeds and nearly four miles of gorgeous beach greet you at this calm seashore spot. This pristine habitat for rare plants and a variety of wildlife is protected by conservation efforts. Crane's scenery may prompt you to follow the lead of local artists and photographers who have been drawn by the landscapes, estuaries and tidepools. *Argilla Road, Ipswich. Distance from Boston: 25 miles. Admission: $2 (on foot or bike); $15 per car weekdays ($7.50 after 3 pm); $20 per car weekends ($10 after 3 pm).* www.thetrustees.org. *978-356-8540.*

Bird-watchers' Bounty

PLUM ISLAND BEACH: Although there are no palm trees, this remote spot is the closest thing to Key West in the Northeast, minus the celebrities and warm water. This 11-mile long, cottage-lined beach community attracts fishermen, wildlife enthusiasts, sun-seekers and locals by the hundreds. And though there are no parrots, there are birds aplenty at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Bring your binoculars and spot beautiful shorebirds. *Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport. Distance from Boston: 35 miles. Admission (beach): No fee (parking rates vary). Admission (refuge): $5 per car, $2 to walk or bike.* www.newburyportchamber.org/plum_island.htm. *978-462-6680.*

Wonderful Wading

WINGAERSHEEK BEACH: This long, wide sandy beach, on a sheltered inlet, is perfect for long walks in shallow water. Even though it's not deep, the water is still quite cold—great for quick dips to cool you down on the hottest days. Enjoy the picturesque backdrop of the serene Ipswich Bay, the Annisquam River or the lighthouse. *Atlantic Street (off Route 128) on Ipswich Bay, Gloucester. Distance from Boston: 30 miles. Admission: $15 per car, weekdays; $20 per car, weekends. 978-281-9790.*

Treat for the Feet

SINGING BEACH: Soothe your feet in the fine sand of this horseshoe-shaped, half-mile-long beach. The powdery sand, which squeaks when you walk on it, is also ideal for meandering down the beach to look at the mansions towering over the dunes. *Masconomo Street (off Route 127), Manchester-by-the-Sea. Distance from Boston: 35 miles. Admission: $2 walk-on fee on weekends; $20 per car Mon.-Thu. (Parking for Manchester residents only on other days.)* www.manchester.ma.us. *978-526-2000.*

American Bandstand

REVERE BEACH: In its heyday, America's oldest public beach attracted Brahmin city dwellers with its big-band entertainment, majestic ballrooms and amusement rides. Today, the crowd is much more diverse and people come to appreciate the protected bay and the live entertainment at the bandstand. *Revere Beach Blvd., Revere. By public transportation: Take the Blue Line to the Revere or Wonderland stop. Distance from Boston: 5 miles. Admission: Free. Parking: On-street, metered.* www.revere beach.com. *781-289-8009.*

BOSTON

Location, Location, Location

CONSTITUTION BEACH: One of Boston's most accessible shore spots (take the Blue Line to Orient Heights), Constitution Beach's tennis and handball courts, playground, foot showers, concession stand and new bathhouse make it feel more like an activity-packed racquet club than just a public beach. *Orient Heights, East Boston.* www.state.ma.us/mdc. *Admission: Free. 617-727-5114.*

SOUTH SHORE

That Coney Island Feeling

NANTASKET BEACH: Little has changed since the honky-tonk days of this old resort town. The arcade, T-shirt shops, miniature golf and the antique wooden Paragon Carousel give this three-mile beach an old-time Coney Island feel. *Nantasket Avenue, Hull. Distance from Boston: 36 miles. Admission: free. Parking: $2.* www.state.ma.us/mdc. *617-727-8865.*

Almost the Cape

DUXBURY TOWN BEACH: The gorgeous four-mile pebbly shore may satisfy your longing for the Cape when you can't seem to get there. Like the Cape, there's a bay side and ocean side, and the bay side is generally much warmer. There's no better way to explore the coastline than in a four-wheel-drive vehicle—unless you prefer walking along the scenic, 2,200-foot bridge across the bay or out to a lighthouse. Weekends bring heavy traffic though, so watch out. *Gurnet Road, Duxbury. Distance from Boston: 38 miles. Admission: free. Parking: $8 (public parking on the Marshfield side of the beach).* www.duxburyharbormaster.org. *781-837-3112.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Action Packed

HAMPTON BEACH: You'd have to clip coupons to get better deals than this—free nightly entertainment on the outdoor stage, fireworks every Wednesday night, sand sculpture contests and monthly festivals. In the morning you can wander up the road to check out the surfers at North Hampton Beach. *Route 1, Hampton Beach, N.H. Distance from Boston: 45 miles. Admission: free. Parking: Rates vary.* www.hamptonbeach.org. *800-438-2826.*

Castles Along the Sand

NORTH HAMPTON AND RYE: If a picnic lunch on a relatively quiet beach is your idea of a perfect day, North Hampton and Rye are two great beaches for you. With mansions lining one side and the ocean on the other, both beaches provide expansive views of the coast and the Isles of Shoals as well as people-watching opportunities. *Route 1, North Hampton and Rye, N.H. Distance from Boston: 45 miles. Admission: free. Parking: $1.25 per hour (metered). 603-436-1552.* IB

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ALL SUMMER

Boston Seaport Festival
A tugboat muster on the last day of May kicks off this maritime celebration. Wear your boat shoes and enjoy free sailboat rides, the parade of lights and a bit of maritime history. *May 31-June 1. Various locations around Boston Harbor (617-223-8666).*

Italian-American Feasts
Have your fill of Italian food, honor patron saints, listen to music, watch processions and please your palate with homemade red wine while strolling through the North End streets. *•June 1: Santa Maria DiAnzano•June 8: Saint Anthony's Procession•June 22: Saint Calogero•June 29: Saint Jude•July 13: Madonna del Grazie•July 20: Saint Rocco•July 25-27: Saint Joseph•Aug.1-3: Saint Agrippina•Aug. 8-10: Madonna della Cava• Aug. 14-17: Fishermen's Feast• Aug. 29-31: Saint Anthony• Sept.1: Saint Lucy. Various streets, North End, Boston (617-635-3911).*

Movies by Moonlight at the Boston Harbor Hotel
After dusk falls over Boston, wander down to Rowes Wharf for free black-and-white movies under the stars. For a schedule, check out the Web site. *Fridays, June 13-Sept. 5. 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000).* www.bhh.com.

Shakespeare on the Common
Bring your picnic baskets to the Common for this summer's presentation of *Macbeth* by the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. *July 18-Aug. 3. Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, Boston (617-423-7600).* www.commonwealthshakespeare.org.

MAY

Harpoon Brewstock
Knock back a cold one and eat tasty barbecue at this annual spring festival held under a tent beside the Harpoon Brewery. Adding to the fun, 10 local bands will rock and reggae the crowd into a frenzy. There are free shuttles from South Station, and parking is available across the street for designated drivers. *May 30-31. Fri., 5:30-11 pm; Sat., 2-11 pm (no admission after 9:30 pm both days). $10. 21+. 306 Northern Ave., Boston (617-574-9551).*

JUNE

Coolidge Corner Arts Festival
More than 75 artists in an array of media display and sell works along the sidewalks of Beacon Street and in the Centre Street West parking lot. *June 7, 10 am-6 pm (rain date: June 14). Coolidge Corner, Brookline (617-739-9066).*

Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl
Indulge in all the ice cream you can eat at this fun and charitable soirée. Nine New England ice cream makers (including Ben & Jerry's and Brigham's) will encourage you to loosen your belt and help out the Jimmy Fund. *June 10-12, 11 am-6 pm. $7. City Hall Plaza, Boston (617-632-3300).*

Irish Cultural Festival
If you didn't get enough green on St. Patrick's Day this year, bring your leftover Irish cheer to this celebration featuring more than 500 singers, musicians and dancers from all over the world. *June 13-15, Fri., 6 pm-12 am; Sat., 11 am-12 am; Sun., 10 am-9 pm. $12. 425 Washington St., Stonehill College, North Easton (888-464-7474).* www.irishculture.com.

From top: Harpoon Brewstock; the Irish Cultural Festival; the Bastille Day Festival; Cambridge Carnival Internationale.

Cambridge River Festival
For the 25th year, the banks of the Charles overflow with culture and festivities. Try international foods, dance to folk, jazz and world music, get lost in the words of poets and storytellers, and browse arts and crafts along the river. *June 14, 12-6pm. Memorial Drive, between JFK St. and Western Ave., Cambridge (617-349-4380).*

Bunker Hill Parade
March with fellow patriots and history buffs through the streets of Charlestown to reach the site of the Battle of Bunker Hill. *June 15. Charlestown (617-242-5601).*

Boston Globe Jazz Festival
This event is music to your ears, and your wallet: free jazz and blues concerts at the Hatch Shell. The smooth sounds of local artists and well-known performers will satisfy your jones for jazz. *June 15-22. The Hatch Shell, on the Esplanade.* www.bostonglobe.com/jazzfest.

Peabody Essex Museum Grand Reopening and International Arts Festival
The Peabody Essex Museum celebrates its $125 million renovation with presentations of art and culture from around the world. Performers include the Gund Kwok Lion Dance Troupe, Odaiko New England Japanese Drummers and more. Free admission to the museum. *June 21-22. Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876).* www.pem.org.

JULY

Boston Harborfest
Show your red, white and blue at one of the biggest Independence Day bashes in the country. Among the many activities taking place during these festive six days are tours of historic sites, concerts by local musicians and the Chowderfest. Visit the Web site for a full schedule of events. *July 1-6. City Hall Plaza and other locations downtown and on the waterfront, Boston (617-227-1528).* www.bostonharborfest.com.

Jazz in July
Take your lunch outdoors and enjoy the weather this July during free lunchtime jazz concerts. Mondays at South Station Conf course, Wednesdays at Summer Street be tween Filene's and Macy's, and Fridays outside Borders on School Street. *Every Monday Wednesday and Friday in July, 12:30-1:30 pm.*

Boston's Fourth of July 2003
Claim your spot on the Esplanade early if you want a good view of Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra at the Hatch Shell. At 10pm, fireworks will light up the sky to the tune of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture. July 4, 8-10pm. The Esplanade, Boston (617-267-2400).*

Bastille Day Festival
For the first time in 28 years, this celebration will be held on the decks of the Boston Harbor Cruise boat The James Doherty instead of at its traditional venue Marlborough Street. Climb aboard for a sunset cruise hors d'oeuvres, dancing, cabaret music and a prope sing-along to "La Marseillaise." *July 13, 6-9 pm. $65 Marlborough and Clarendon streets, Boston (617-912-0400).* www.frenchlib.org.

Fishtown Music Fest
Take a trip up Route 128 and stroll through the streets of Gloucester, where restaurants, bars and other venues wi be hosting live music performances. *July 15-20. Variou public venues and restaurants, Gloucester (978-283-7873).*

AUGUST

Chinatown Festival
Bring your dancing shoes and your elastic-waistban pants to this summer festival of Chinese food, dancin and more. *Aug. 3, 9:30 am-8 pm. Chinatown, Bosto (617-635-3891).*

August Moon Festival
Celebrate the moon at its fullest with food and entertain ment. *Aug. 17. Chinatown, Boston (617-635-3891).*

Cambridge Carnival Internationale
This annual international block party includes musi food and crafts. Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Hondura Haiti, Puerto Rico and Barbados are among the countri that will be represented in the Caribbean/Mardi Gras p rade at the culmination of the fiesta. *Aug. 24, 12-7 pm Mass. Ave., Central Square, Cambridge (617-661-0457).*

Gloucester Schooner Festival
Daytime events include schooner races, a parade of sailboa and deck tours. A Boatlight Parade illuminates the water c Saturday night. *Aug.30-31. Gloucester Harbor, Gloucest (978-283-1601).* www.capeannvacations.com. IB

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the cape AND ISLANDS

THE FORECAST FOR SUMMER 2003

INTERVIEWS BY JESSICA IREDALE

Left to right: gingerbread houses in Oak Bluffs; a boardwalk on Cape Cod; 902 Main Street in Yarmouth; the Summer House in Siasconset; two views of the Harbor View on the Vineyard

Even if you don't have a regular summer place on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, or Nantucket, there's a good chance you'll join the leagues of vacationers heading to one of these spots at some point this summer. To help you plan ahead and to find out what's new this season, we talked to tourism experts in all three areas. Here, they offer tips on everything from new restaurants, hotels, and shops to perennial favorites that keep 'em coming back year after year to best-kept secrets that you may want to check out on your next visit.

CAPE COD

ELAINE PERRY: Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, *www.capecodchamber.org (888-332-2732)*

Improper Bostonian: *What's new on the restaurant scene?*

Elaine Perry: 902 Main Street in South Yarmouth. And the British Beer Company, which opened last year in Hyannis and the year before in Falmouth.

IB: *Any new hotels, spa services or beauty salons?*

EP: We do have a new spa at the Cape Codder Resort & Spa, on Route 132 in Hyannis. [The resort] has been completely renovated and has a new wave pool.

IB: *Any new developments or special offers in transportation?*

EP: We have the brand new Hyannis Transportation Center on Main Street in Hyannis. It opened last year, but this is the first season in full operation. All the buses that go to Boston, Logan, New York [and] Providence are going to originate there. Also new this year is the Grey Lady II, a fast ferry catamaran to Nantucket operated by Hy-Line.

IB: *What activities do you recommend for singles?*

EP: The Cape Cod Melody Tent—it's run by the same people who run the South Shore Circus. We have Engelbert Humperdinck, Huey Lewis and Tony Bennett coming. Golf is always popular with singles. We have 34 public courses. Art galleries, singles usually like them. And the beach, obviously.

IB: *Which events draw the largest attendance?*

EP: The Barnstable County Fair, which is July 18-26, and Pops by the Sea with the Boston Pops. That's August 3rd on the Hyannis Village Green.

IB: *What are the trendiest night spots?*

EP: The Roo Bar and the Naked Oyster in Hyannis, The Beachcomber in Wellfleet and Commercial Street in Provincetown.

IB: *What are some of the best-kept secrets of the cape—attractions or events that don't draw the masses?*

EP: One is the Cape Cod Stampede, September 5-7. It's a real rodeo at the Barnstable County Fairgrounds.

IB: *Are there any newish festivals or events to watch for?*

EP: The Provincetown Film Festival is in its fifth year, but it's getting more and more prestigious. I would check our events calendar Web site. Everything is on there.

NANTUCKET

LISA REEFE JOHNSON: Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce, *www.nantucketchamber.org (508-228-1700)*

IB: *What are the highlights of the upcoming season?*

Lisa Reefe Johnson: There's the Nantucket Film Festival June 19-22, which is dedicated to screenwriters.

IB: *What events or activities do you recommend for singles?*

LRJ: We've got great bars, great beaches, adventure clubs. There are opportunities to go hiking and biking. There's a good nightlife here in the spring and summer months. The Boarding House is pretty popular, and 21 Federal has a good singles scene.

IB: *What are some of the best-kept secrets of the island?*

LRJ: If you have access out to Siasconset, explore the Summer House. It has a poolside bar overlooking the ocean. People who come here don't necessarily think to go out of town. Chanticleer is eight miles from town and it's quintessential Nantucket. Another secret is Madaket Beach and the Westender. It's a restaurant/bar and you can go for sunsets.

KATE HAMILTON PARDEE: Nantucket Visitor Services, *www.town.nantucket.ma.us (508-228-0925)*

IB: *Are there any new restaurants on the island?*

Kate Hamilton Pardee: Spanking new is Eat Fire Spring (named for a secret area in Nantucket). It will be located on Old South Wharf.

IB: *When are the busiest weeks?*

KHP: Always the Fourth of July. We have pie-eating contests, and if the weather cooperates, we have a [fireworks] display at Jetties Beach. If I wanted to come here in July and August, I would definitely be making phone calls now.

IB: *Are there any newish festivals or events to watch for?*

KHP: The Atheneum Fundraiser is new on July 19. They did a restoration a few years ago and it's beautiful. It's the library fund-raiser, and they're having a Cirque du Soleil type of event.

IB: *Any new developments in travel or lesser-known ways to get to the island?*

KHP: There's Cape Air from Boston, Providence and New Bedford. Boston-Maine Airways flies from Manchester, N.H.

IB: *Which events draw the largest attendance?*

KHP: Fourth of July, definitely, also the Pops Concert, on August 9. That's a big event. It's just amazing. And August 16th is the Nantucket Boys and Girls Club Concert.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

ROBIN RUSHNELL: Martha's Vineyard Chamber o Commerce, *www.mvy.com (508-693-0085)*

IB: *When are the busiest weeks?*

Robin Rushnell: We get most of our summer population between July 4 and Labor Day. Our population goes from 19,000 to over 100,000 during the summer months.

IB: *How far in advance should visitors book?*

RR: It's a good idea to be safe—anywhere from one to three months in advance. For those peak times, I would book now. More so really for the boat than for the accommodations.

IB: *What will the highlights of the season be?*

RR: The Annual Vineyard Artisans Fair takes place every weekend from June to September. Almost 100 artists in every type of craft exhibit their work at the Grange Hall in West Tisbury.

IB: *What's new on the restaurant scene?*

RR: The Harbor View has a new chef from Colorado—he just started within the past couple months. The chef at the Ice House in West Tisbury is new too.

IB: *Hotels—new ones opening or renovations?*

RR: The Tisbury Inn in Vineyard Haven, burned down last year and the Mansion House is going up in its place. It'll have 32 suites, a 75-foot pool, state-of-the-art health club and spa. They're taking reservations for July.

IB: *What are the more popular spots for nightlife?*

RR: Circuit Avenue [in Oak Bluffs] and the Hot Tin Roof in Edgartown would be kind of the hot spots.

IB: *Are there any festivals or concerts to watch for?*

RR: There are a lot of impromptu concerts in the park with Carly and James and their friends, and you never know where they're going to turn up. There's a film festival taking place in Oak Bluffs, put on by Cobblestone Entertainment, the weekend of July 4.

IB: *Which events draw the largest attendance?*

RR: The Ag Fair is August 21-24. That's huge. And Illumination Night, which takes place in August, usually the Wednesday before the fireworks. [Traditionally, the date is a secret until just a few days before the event.] There's a big artisans' craft fair over Labor Day weekend. And the Tisbury Street Fair, July 8, and Tivoli Day September 13.

IB: *What are some of the best-kept secrets of the island?*

RR: Felix Neck, our wildlife sanctuary. Menemsha is one of the 10 best places to watch a sunset in the country, and it's also where *Jaws*, the movie, was shot. People can drive to Menemsha, park their car and get take-out clams and lobster from either the Bite or the Homeport, and watch the sunset on the beach. I would also say the Aquinnah Cliff area, owned by the Wampanoag Indian tribe. IB

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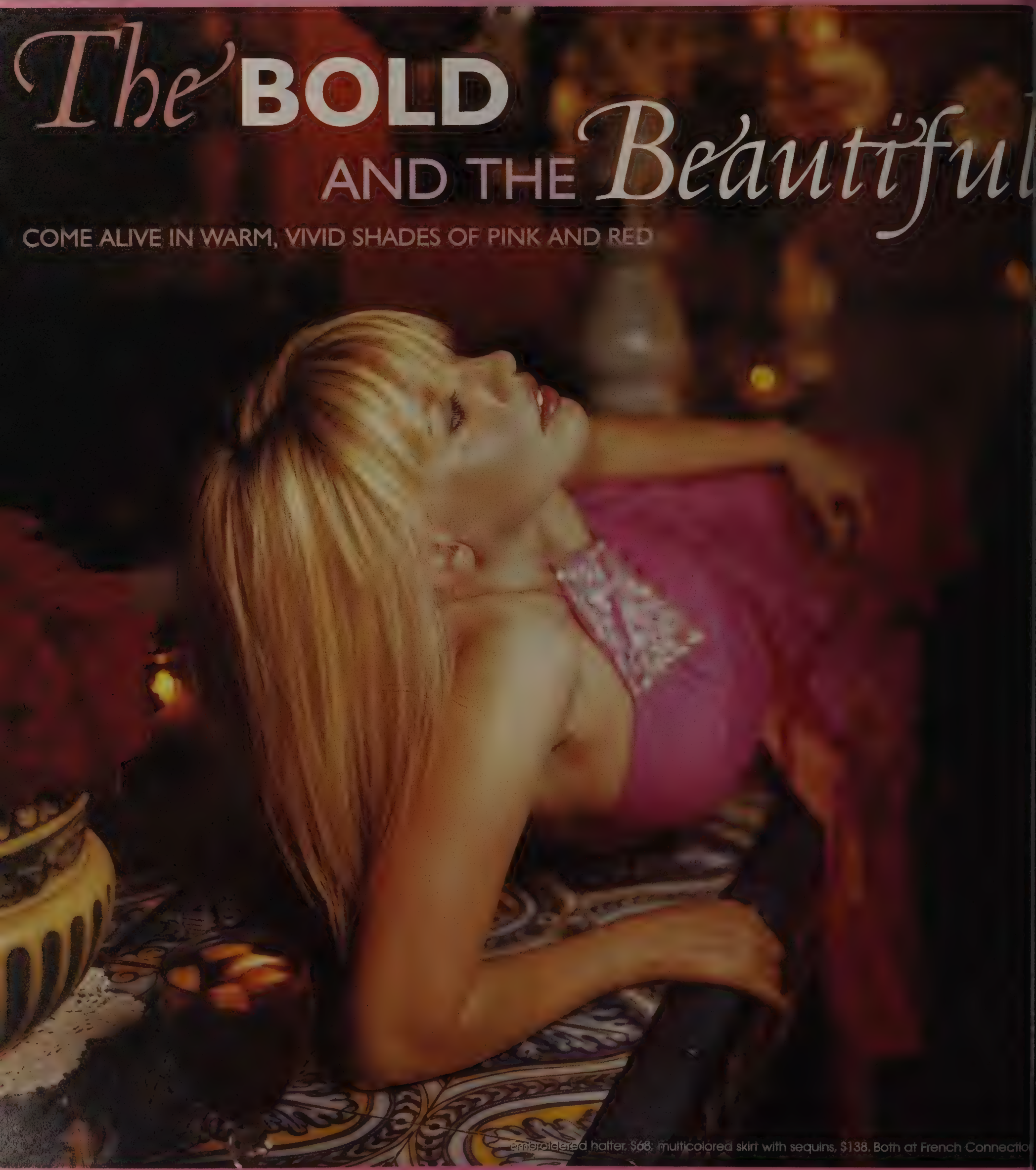

embroidered halter, $68; multicolored skirt with sequins, $138. Both at French Connectio

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otton tank, $24; embroidered skirt, $128. Bath at French Connection.

Jersey Italian 348 at French Connection

Pink bikini with rhinestones, $68; cargo pants, $98. Both, at French Connection.

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Makeup: Samantha
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Floral dress, $98 at French Connection

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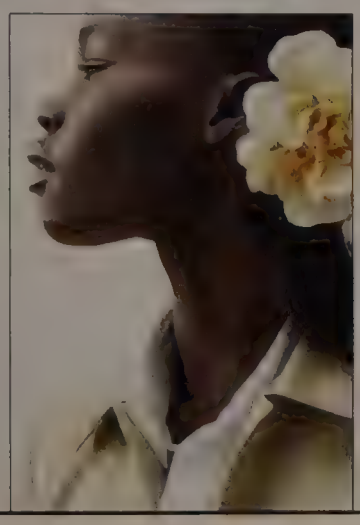

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BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

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All sorts of parties, from kids' birthdays to grownup events, can be livened up by Total Entertainment. This company can make your bar mitzvah, sweet-sixteen, March Madness party or company bash into an ad hoc amusement park with inflatable slides, boxing rings where you can duke it out with oversized padded gloves or a dunk-the-clown booth, among other amusements. The non-dunking clown, Jim, wryly goofy in his giant, yellow-spotted suit, gets kids to do the limbo and the hokeypokey, orchestrates singalongs and shares the joy of the microphone with the laughing juveniles. The company has performers who dress as popular children's characters like Mickey Mouse and Buzz Lightyear, as well as celebrity lookalikes. How about inviting Elvis, Austin Powers or Marilyn Monroe to your bash? ("Michael Jackson" is available too, if you think the kids won't be frightened.) Need some fat guys? Total Entertainment's chubby sumo-wrestler suits will do the trick. The company also offers caricature artists. For animal-loving tykes, it can provide reindeer, ponies and Sicilian donkeys. And at the holidays, the Santas have real beards.

A LADO GOOD STUFF

Otro Lado, a Mexican store, has moved to 5 Brookline St., Cambridge. Call 617-354-1475.

Otro Lado has relocated to a new spot just across from the jazzily bright mural decorating the Middle East nightclub, and the two business' twin symbols of color merry up the whole block. Buzzing with green, yellow, orange and pink, Otro Lado is an "urban marketplace" of things mostly Mexican. You'll find quality silver jewelry from Taxco alongside simpler everyday things, like necklaces dancing with little red doodads. Colorful oilcloths bring sunshine to tabletops or shelves. (The company's slogan is, "A new oilcloth makes the whole family happy." And it's true!) Sweetly sturdy posters for schoolchildren depict upright-looking men in career attire; another one shows beautiful pale birds, another gives hygiene tips ("Drink not from puddles!"). Day of the Dead, a set of skeletal rockers, ambulance drivers and card players, comes in teeny wooden tableaux, joyously macabre. American items, like round Corona Beer trays, some Betty Boopiana and bags made from juice cartons, just look more festive Mexicanized. Put together a delicate, papery, twinkling chandelier of sorts, a string of chili lights, and some eats from the *Viva la Vida* cookbook and you could have the beginnings of one hot party.

O FATHER, WHERE ART THOU?

In the documentary *All Men Are Sons*, John Badalament follows five men through their variously troubled relationships with their fathers. Call 800-343-5540 to order a copy. The video will be shown on WGBH (Channel 2 and 44) on Father's Day, June 15.

"The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the sons' teeth are set on edge," says one presciently psychological passage in the Bible. To explore that often-troubled connection, the father-and-son relationship, filmmaker John Badalament followed five men in a group run by therapist Terry Real. They're sympathetic guys, attractive, articulate, ripe with feeling and pain, bent on repair and worried about repeating the perceived embedded mistakes that their fathers made. One, whose father scooted off to Mexico, gnaws with abandonment pains that demand connection and reparation in meetings with the father. Another wants his perfectionist, driven father to recognize his own alternative lifestyle—as a gay man pursuing nonprofit idealism. He realizes, almost ruefully, that his father's values, not all bad, are alive in him. Two others have a father and stepfather lost to addictions. For them, interacting more responsibly and productively with children and other young people has become a fierce quest. The son of a preacher almost abandons his pregnant girlfriend, but a meditative retreat brings him back to the realm of fatherhood, just in time. Badalament's work beautifully mines a highly resonant theme.

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REVIEW

THAI TREASURE

With its authentic Northern Thailand cooking and reasonable prices, Khao Sarn Cuisine stands out amid Coolidge Corner's abundance of Asian offerings

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

***Pla neung ma-now*: steamed whole striped bass in a spicy and tangy sauce made with lime, garlic and chili**

The seductive cuisine at this exceptional restaurant captivates the senses. Vibrant, variegated colors catch the eye. Fresh, crisp textures delight the mouth. Pleasantly provocative flavors charm the taste buds. Bright, upbeat surroundings and gracious, friendly, efficient service make one feel like an honored guest, not just a customer. It takes a lot for a restaurant to compete at Coolidge Corner, where dozens of contenders for dining dollars—many of them offering Asian cuisine—radiate up and down Beacon and Harvard Streets in all directions. With the qualities recited above, Khao Sarn Cuisine is well armed to win its share of hungry patrons at this hot location.

The first thing I ordered, *miang kum* ($7.25), made clear that this is an eatery to be reckoned with. The dish—several spinach leaves topped with baked coconut, dried shrimp, roasted peanuts, red onions, fresh ginger and small slices of lime—captured the imagination with its flavors and stunning presentation. The sweetness of the coconut, briny savor of the shrimp, pungency of the ginger, tang of the onions, and mild tartness of the lime enhanced the familiar flavor of the peanuts. *Mee grob* ($5.75) rivaled the *miang kum* in its originality and delightful taste and texture contrasts. Crispy rice noodles and al dente shrimp provided a mouth-pleasing crunch alongside firm but tender bean sprouts and soft nuggets of fried tofu. Minced scallions and a tangy tamarind supplied a zesty counterpoint to the muted sweetness of the noodles.

Khao Sarn rolls ($5.75) were a Thai rendition of classic Chinese spring rolls, crisply fried and filled with a toothsome combination of spiced chicken and minced vegetables, enlivened with fresh ginger. Similar, but considerably more interesting in both appearance and content, were the crispy shrimp ($6.50), deep-fried golden brown and full-flavored. The succulence of the shrimp made the sweet chili sauce accompaniment superfluous. Finally, and far from ordinary, were the vegetable dumplings ($5.75), three large, moist cakes of seasoned rice stuffed with chives. Soft in texture, their haunting flavor teased an extra effort out of the taste buds, and their girth made a substantial dent in my appetite.

Khao Sarn uses exotic fruits to good effect in many of its dishes. For example, *goong* lychee ($14.25) combined tiger shrimps with juicy, velvety-textured lychees. The dish also featured strips of orange bell pepper, crunchy asparagus spears and fresh leaves of aromatic basil, whose strong minty flavor gave the dish a sharp, memorable edge but did not overwhelm the sensuously delectable lychees and the lively flavor of the shrimp. Mango fried rice ($8.95) matched diced mango with carrots, shrimp, egg, green peas, onion and cashews—an ensemble that will probably spoil my future enjoyment of ordinary fried rice. Finally among the fruit-accented preparations, the tamarind duck ($13.75) brought boneless roasted duck breast with crispy, pleasantly salty skin and moist, succulent flesh. It was served on a bed of steamed broccoli with mushrooms, baby corn and slices of orange pepper topped with a tangy tamarind sauce. (Made from the mildly citric fruit of the tamarind tree, the sauce is a staple of West Indian, African and South Asian cooking.)

Shrimp *himmapran* ($12.95) married hefty shrimps sautéed in a mildly hot sauce (Khao Sarn's menu awards this dish one chili icon out of a possible three) with roasted cashews, onions, mushrooms, red pepper, crispy snow peas and scallions. Each of these ingredients contributed its own unique aspects to this well-constructed dish.

Moving further along Khao Sarn's lengthy menu—almost a hundred choices are listed overall—we encountered a credible version of the most well-known Thai dish, pad Thai ($8.50), consisting of stir- fried rice noodles with chicken, shrimp, ground peanuts, eggs, bean sprouts and scallions. In the same family was the less common *pad see-ew* ($8.75), Thailand's counterpart to Chinese chow fun, composed of wide, velvety-textured rice noodles, al dente Chinese broccoli and generous strips o juicy beef.

When I ordered th *pla neung ma-no* ($15.95), a steame whole striped bass, th waitress warned tha the dish indeed did con sist of a whole fish, wit "head, eyes, tail...th whole thing," suggest ing that this presenta tion sometimes surprised squeamish pa trons. Once the dish arrived, however, th provocatively garlicked flesh bathed i tangy lime, assertive garlic and fiery chi proved irresistible. But despite her warn ing about the appearance of the whol fish, our waitress omitted to point out tha this offering could have merited thre chili icons on the menu. The bed of shred ded lettuce provided a cooling respit from the spicy fish. Only the difficulty o extracting the succulent flesh from th bones diminished enjoyment of this sub stantial creation.

KHAO SARN CUISINE

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There were no bones in the *moo pa lo* 10.95), a braised pork stew with hard-iled eggs and fried wedges of tofu, rved in a small casserole. The tender eat, with its robust, rich sauce, demon-rated another facet of this versatile cui-ne. Finally, *larb kai* ($10.25) brought nat was in essence a hash of ground icken tossed with shallots, mint leaves, erry tomato halves and cilantro, ac-mpanied by rings of Bermuda onion, eled cucumber slices and a carrot rved into a flower. In fact, most of Khao rn's offerings were garnished with slices orange, sculpted carrots and other visu-y attractive embellishments.

One could dine at Khao Sarn every night r a month without exhausting its cornu-pia of offerings. Encyclopedic menus en make me nervous, suggesting that the staurant's reach exceeds its grasp. Here, cause so many of the menu items stem m permutations of certain core ingredi-ts—shrimp, chicken, peppers, mush-oms, scallions, bean sprouts, broccoli, fu, coconut, peanuts and cashews—and a w well chosen spices and herbs, and be-cause so much of the preparation consists of last-minute, quick stir-frying, concerns about the long menu are not warranted. Remarkably, of the 15 dishes I sampled on two different visits, all met or exceeded the high standard that this kitchen sets for itself.

Khao Sarn's delightful cuisine is all the more enjoyable because of the light, airy environment in which it is served. Huge, partially frosted plate glass windows admit wonderful natural light. The high ceiling, blond wood tables and paneling, beige curtains, and pink-red draperies bask in that light.

From the long bar comes a selection of exotic drinks, including specialty martinis ($6.50) served in large martini glasses straight up. Most notable were a mango martini containing chunks of ripe mango soaked in vodka, and a lychee martini, in which lychees swimming in sake are finished with a splash of Tanqueray gin. While wines are available, the best bet from the bar is Thailand's Singha beer ($3.75). Aromatic and delicious, it's the perfect accompaniment to this eatery's splendid food. **iB**

***Miang kum*, an appetizer, includes baked coconut, dried shrimp, roasted peanuts, ginger, red onions and fresh lime on a spinach leaf.**

hao Sarn Cuisine co-owner Yoshi Hakamoto (left), ith fellow owner/chef Wiroj Aramthip.

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings. Or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Art and Wine
Aura, Seaport Hotel, 164 Northern St., Boston (617-227-0311). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. June 6, 7:30 pm. $125. Five local artists exhibit and sell their work while guests feast on a four-course meal paired with wine.

Big Pig Gig
Henrietta's Table, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-778-5751). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 30, 6-10 pm. $25. This benefit for the Farm School features live music, a live auction and hearty food from Henrietta's Table.

Chef Series
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). Local chefs offer cooking demonstrations. •June 3, 7 pm, $49. **Steve Uliss** from FireFly cooks barbecue and Southern fare. •June 9, 7 pm, $45. **Stefano Zimei** from Gallia demonstrates no-fuss, no-cut finger foods.

Cooking Lean the Italian Way
Formaggio Kitchen, 244 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-354-4750). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 31, 12-2 pm. Chef **G. Franco Romagnoli** will be at Formaggio Kitchen to sign copies of his book *Cooking Lean the Traditional Italian Way*.

Devlin's Wine Dinner
Devlin's, 332 Washington St., Brighton (617-779-8822). MBTA: B Green Line to Allston Street. June 2, 6-10 pm. $39.95. Executive chef **Gary Hanlon** offers an internationally inspired four-course meal with wine pairings.

Great Chefs of Boston
Alpha Omega, 1380 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-1227, ext. 213). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 2, 6-9 pm. At this shopping event to benefit Community Servings, chefs from Via Matta, Finale, Legal Sea Foods, Spire, Maison Robert, Azure, the Oak Room and other restaurants offer samples of their cuisine.

Harpoon Brewstock Festival
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666). MBTA: Red Line to South Station, transfer to shuttle. May 30, 5:30-11 pm; May 31, 2 pm-11 pm. $10. This beer and music festival held under a tent next to the brewery features a selection of Harpoon beers, live music and barbecu prepared by Jake's Dixie Roadhouse.

Italian Wine Dinner
Sage Restaurant, 69 Prince St., Boston (617-248 8814). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. May 28 7 pm. $100. Chef **Anthony Susi** pairs a six-cours meal featuring New American cuisine with Con tratto wines from Italy's Piemonte region.

Legal Sea Foods Cookbook Signing
Harvard Coop, 1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridg (212-782-9798). MBTA: Red Line to Harvar June 2, 7 pm-8:30 pm. Legal Sea Foods president **Roger Berkowitz** signs copies of *The New Leg Sea Foods Cookbook*, which he co-authored wit Jane Doerfer.

Magnolias' Texas Tribute
Magnolias, 1193 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617 576-1971). Through May 31. Magnolias pay tribute to the Lone Star State with a speci menu of Texas cuisine, including a blackene 16-ounce T-bone.

Murder Cacciatore
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambrid (800-697-CLUE). June 6 and 20, 7 pm. $4 Ristorante Marino provides the meal for th murder-mystery dinner theater.

Napa Valley Wine Dinner
Monica's Restaurant, 143 Richmond St., Bosto (617-227-0311). MBTA: Green or Orange Lin to Haymarket. June 10, 7 pm. $55. Chef **Jorg Mendoza** offers a four-course dinner men paired with wines from Napa Valley.

Night at the Chef's Table
Participating restaurants. www.asgcc.org. *June 7 pm. $75.* Restaurants in Boston, Cambrid and Cape Cod will host dinner parties to bene the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod.

Ravenswood Wine Barbecue Dinne
Cafe Louis, 234 Berkeley St., Boston (617-26 4680). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. May 2 6:30 pm. $75. Chef **David Reynoso** fires up th grill for a night of Mexican-inspired cuisi paired with wine from Ravenswood.

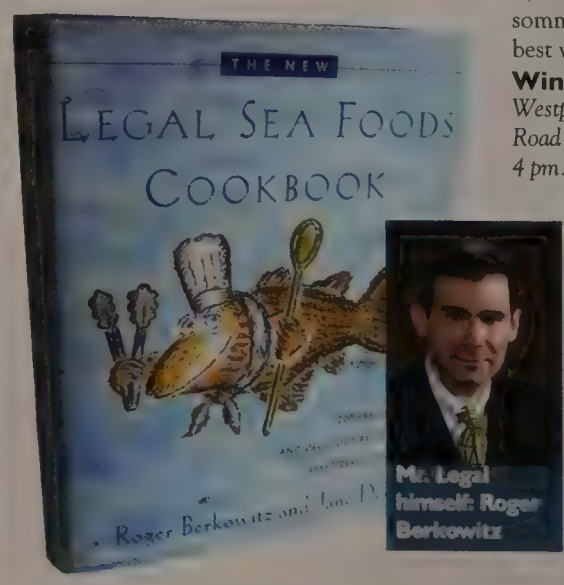
Scooper Bowl
City Hall Plaza, Boston (800-525-4669). ww jimmyfund.org. *June 10-12. $7, $3 children.* Eig ice cream companies serve ice cream to help rai money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Sel de la Terre's Third Anniversary
Sel de La Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-72 1300). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. May 29, pm. $35. Four local chefs who helped open S de la Terre will return to the kitchen and prepa a five-course meal with chef **Geoff Gardner**.

Summer Cooking Series
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). Ju 7, 11 am. $125. Chef **Michael Schlow** a sommelier **Scott Fraley** show you some of th best ways to prepare seafood.

Wine and Game Dinner
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbric Road, Westport, Mass. (508-636-3423). May 3 4 pm. $50. This evening begins with a tour of t vineyard and winery. Then Oak Roo chef **Laurent Poulain** pairs game dish with Westport Rivers wines.

Wine, Food, Art and Fashion
The Gamble Mansion, 5 Comm. Av Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Gre Line to Arlington. June 6, 7-10 pm. $12 Explore a variety of Old World wir paired with a five-course dinner prepar by local chefs. The evening, which be efits the Boston Center for Adult Educ tion, includes a silent auction, an art e hibition and a vintage fashion show.



DISH

t's all good news

Dishwasher cleans up...

Perdix redux...White House toast...

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

When chef **Didi Emmons** hired **Alex Mejio** to wash dishes at her **Veggie Planet** in Harvard Square, he quickly earned enough to take on additional responsibilities as a prep cook. He worked long hours, earning enough to send money home regularly to his family in Colombia. A few weeks ago, Mejio also learned that it's a really bad idea to store a cash-filled knapsack in a public restroom...and that his employer can whip up a fund-raiser that's as appealing and successful as her bestselling *Vegetarian Planet* cookbook.

Alex Mejio displays his holey apron.

Here's the story: Because his waterproof apron was full of holes, Mejio wanted to store his money in a dry place. But despite his checking on the knapsack every 20 minutes or so, somebody stole the cash. Emmons immediately planned a Colombian benefit dinner for Mejio, for which the entire waitstaff and kitchen staff volunteered their time. The result: a sold-out event that generated more money than Mejio lost.

SECOND COURSE

If you're a night owl, you'll be happy to know that the clever **Andy Husbands** has introduced a late-night bar menu and game menu at **Rouge** in the South End. That's not "game" as in venison, but Pictionary, Scrabble, cribbage, etc., to occupy your mind while you occupy your mouth with deviled eggs or shrimp remoulade. Also, the new Back Bay **Summer Shack** is serving a late-night raw-bar menu Thursday through Sunday until 1 am.

Perdix update: **Tim Partridge** will reincarnate his popular eatery, formerly located in Jamaica Plain, in the South End space soon to be vacated by **Truc**. Partridge will still be cooking with sous chef **Bill Truite**, and he plans a basically American menu, with almost all main courses priced at $20 or less.

Exorcism and the city: It's official, **Barbara Lynch**, chef/owner of **No. 9 Park**, is no longer possessed by the spirit of Susan Lucci. After being nominated four or five times (but who's counting?) for the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef/Northeast award, Lynch finally received the coveted honor earlier this month in New York. Congrats!

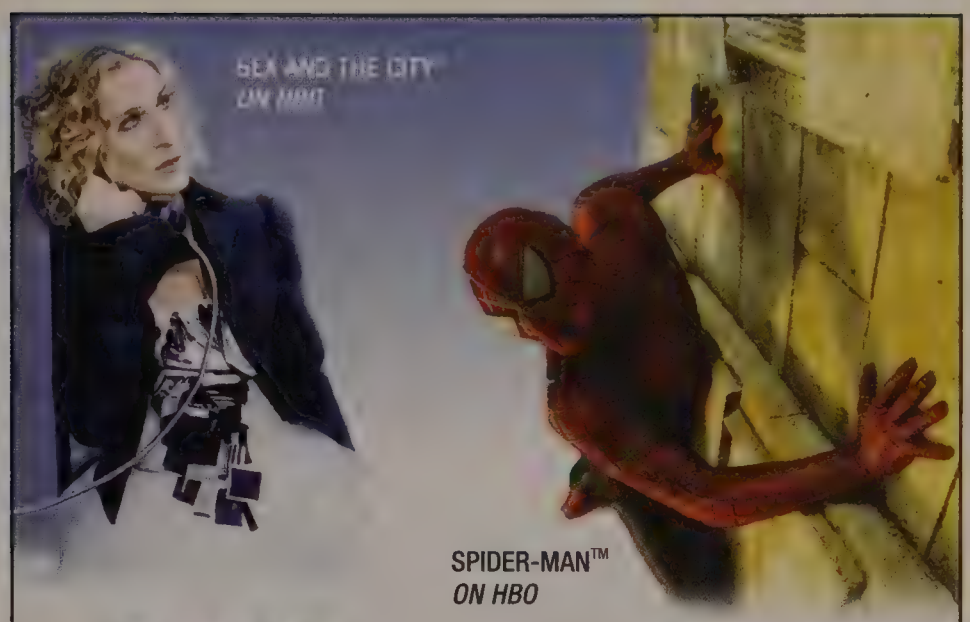
A new kind of "farm team": Although **Peter Davis**, chef at **Henrietta's Table**, is a low-key kind of guy, he's eager to promote the local farmers and fisherfolk who provide the ingredients for his ever-changing menu. Many restaurants detail the provenance of their vegetables, herbs or seafood, but Davis is taking boosterism one step further. Soon diners will be presented with baseball-style cards that feature individual farmers, probably along with some stats. Biggest rutabaga! Most productive goat! Collect 'em all!

Finally, although Boston pastry chef **Ursula Argyropoulos** has been named executive pastry chef at Raphael Bar-Risto in Providence, she's still keeping a (very clean) hand in her local business **Art of the Cake**, producing exquisite, custom-made special-occasion cakes. And she gets around, too. While in Washington, D.C., recently, she snagged an invitation to breakfast at the White House—specifically, the elegant White House Officers' Mess in the West Wing. President Bush was out of town, but Barney, the presidential pooch, greeted Argyropoulos with "a great big smooch," she says. As for the food, she reports that her (American) cheese omelet was "done to perfection." And in case you're wondering, French toast is still on the menu.

Bottoms Out: **Rock Bottom Brewery**, apparently not finding the bottom line in Harvard Square to its liking, is closing its Cambridge location. iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com



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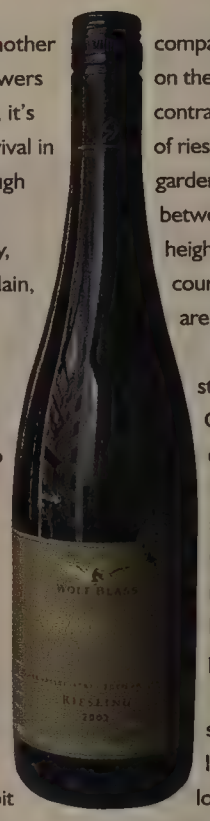
WINE

Riesling Revival

BY SANDY BLOCK MW



It would hardly be spring without another sermon from me on the healing powers of riesling. Except this time around, it's different. There's a definite riesling revival in motion. People no longer stare as though you're visiting from another dimension when you mention the grape. Suddenly, after years of obscurity verging on disdain, riesling is, dare we say it, hot.

It's part of a change in our popular acceptance of white wines with strong flavors. Blandness has reigned supreme for an interminable time, and there's no doubt that minimalist esthetics still dictate the general direction of the market. But along the fringes, among those who actually care about wine as opposed to just drinking it, flavor is suddenly in. Having conducted many tastings over the years in front of this small segment of the populace who are committed enough to plunk down some serious coinage to sniff, gurgle, spit and explore their palates, I can report that the mood has shifted. Even five years ago, maximum-impact white wines like riesling or sauvignon blanc elicited a vastly different reaction. No matter how sophisticated the group, when we got to the white wines with serious flavors, I knew what was coming: sour faces, rolling eyes, audible exclamations of "yicch" and "blecch." A roomful of adults would magically regress into preteens. But now, almost every time I get up to expound, the vast majority seems excited to taste these wines and eager to explore the possibilities they provide for dining ecstasy.

So what happened? Some credit goes to my colleagues on the front lines of the sommelier world for not giving up the faith. Even more deserving are the army of culinary experts who have persisted in elevating our appreciation of flavor to the point where we're ready to accept it in white wine. With all the sweet, albeit balanced, flavors showing up on menus in recent years, did we really think that wines with prominent fruit flavors could remain suppressed forever? Riesling is not only a great antidote to the hot flavor effects that have reached our palate from Asia and Latin America, its intense apple- and peach-like flavor also makes it a suitable partner for fruit-influenced sauces and relishes. What else is there to say about the versatility of a wine that in some form or another complements sushi, kimchee, vindaloo curry, jalapeño peppers, mustards, capers, toned down vinaigrettes, vegetables of all colors and textures, lobster, baked ham, roast duck and even—now the secret is out—grilled hot dogs?

If you haven't yet discovered its virtues, this is the time of year to get into the riesling game. It's generally delicious served very cold, and its comparatively low alcohol content feels good on the palate in warmer weather. In fact, in contrast to most forms of alcohol, an icy glass of riesling—its fragrance reminiscent of a spring garden, its flavors dancing on the border between sweet and sour—can actually heighten your energy level. (Although, of course, too many glasses, icy or otherwise, are bound to have just the opposite effect.)

So where do we look for the best steamy-season rieslings? Not, in general, California. While there are some lovely examples, California rieslings tend to be heavier and more honeyed in style and so are probably best suited for autumn. On the other hand, cooler East Coast regions, in particular upstate New York's Finger Lakes region, are producing some pretty fine examples of the grape.

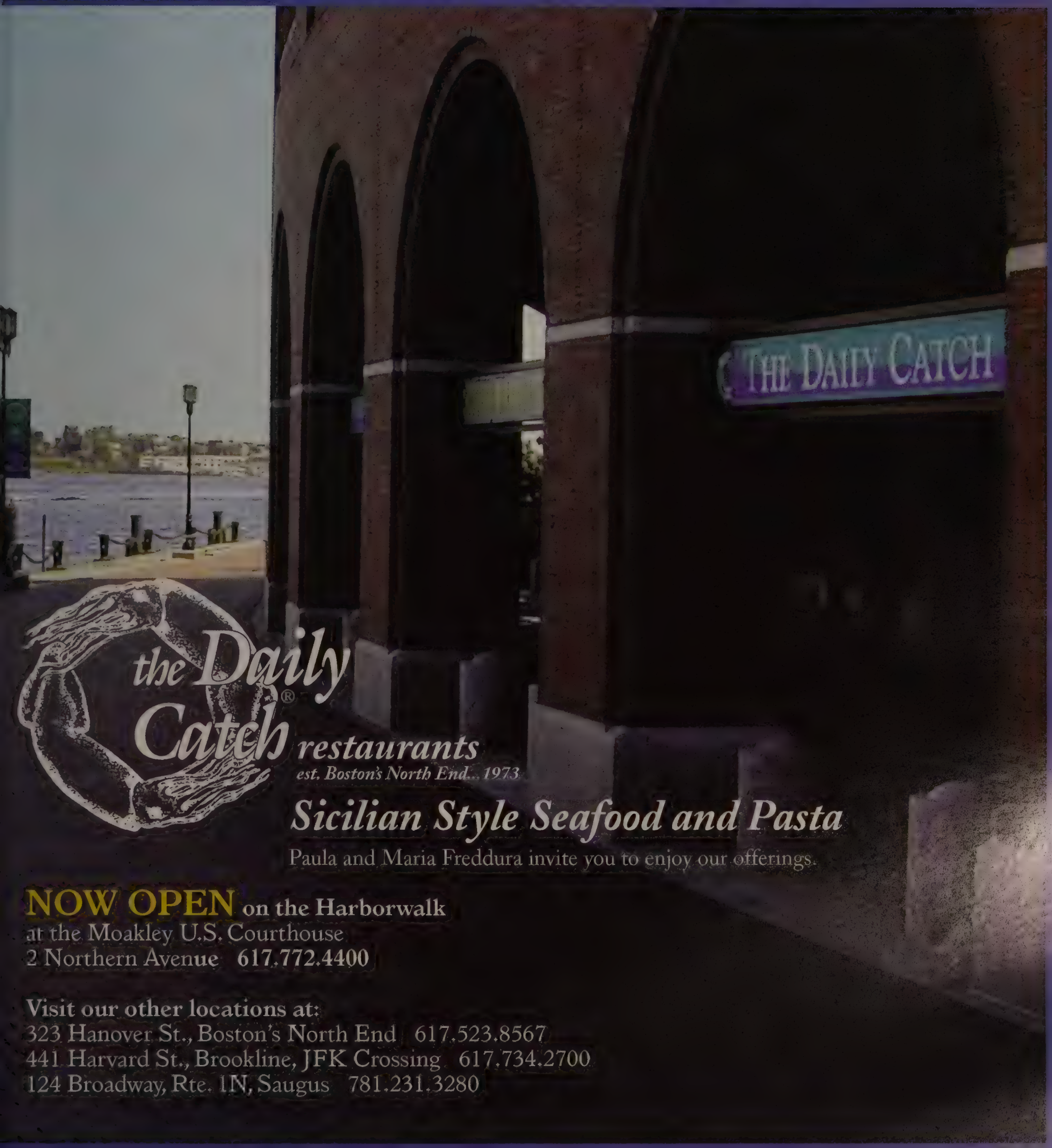
Riesling central, however, is, and for some time will continue to be, Germany. If your palate is open, how can you not love the fine, elegant, aromatically pure and deliciously balanced spätlese originating in the Mosel Saar Ruwer? But buying German riesling remains incredibly complicated—there is so much esoteric language on the label that it's virtually impossible to distinguish the great stuff from the swill. If you want to explore this area,

> BLANDNESS HAS REIGNED SUPREME FOR AN INTERMINABLE TIME...BUT FLAVOR IS SUDDENLY IN.

you need guidance from a good wine merchant who knows his or her stuff. Choosing an Austrian riesling is a little easier, although not much more so. The wines tend to be fuller-bodied. My current favorite places for riesling adventure are, in ascending order of excitement, New Zealand (which doesn't produce very much), Alsace (which is the reigning classic in the drier style, but has been confusing in recent years because many of the wines are over the edge with sweetness), and in first place, Australia (which is reliably dry, clean, and excitingly citric). If you go to a restaurant that offers riesling by the glass, order it; you probably won't go wrong, because whoever put it on the list is most likely a devotee who's chosen carefully. IB

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master of wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.

HERE'S OUR VIEW...
TABLE FOR TWO?



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agenda

MPROPER PICKS

may 28 - june 10

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			28 *Top Speed*, a new Omni film narrated by Tim Allen that looks at all things fast, plays at the Museum of Science. See page 66.	29	30 Suzanne Vega performs at the Paradise Rock Club. See page 70.	31 The Boston Seaport Festival opens with free activities at various locations around Boston Harbor. See page 52.
1	2	3	4	5 Roswell Rudd plays with Beat Science for the first night of Beat Science's residency at the Lizard Lounge. See page 72.	6 Margaret Atwood reads from her futuristic novel, *Oryx and Crake*, at Brookline High School. See page 88.	7 Cal Gal Julie gets married to Jeremy Suratt on Lake Winnepesaukee! Or, check out the Coolidge Corner Arts Festival. See page 54.
8	9	10 The Burlesquefest at the Paradise Rock Club showcases the talents of performers like Miss Kitty Crimson and Catherine D'Lish. See page 54.				

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

Art, Books & Poetry, Music, Movies, Gay & Lesbian

JULIE SHORT

Around Town, Children, Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs and Sports

SAT./ JUNE 7

Music: You Don't Have to Have a Point

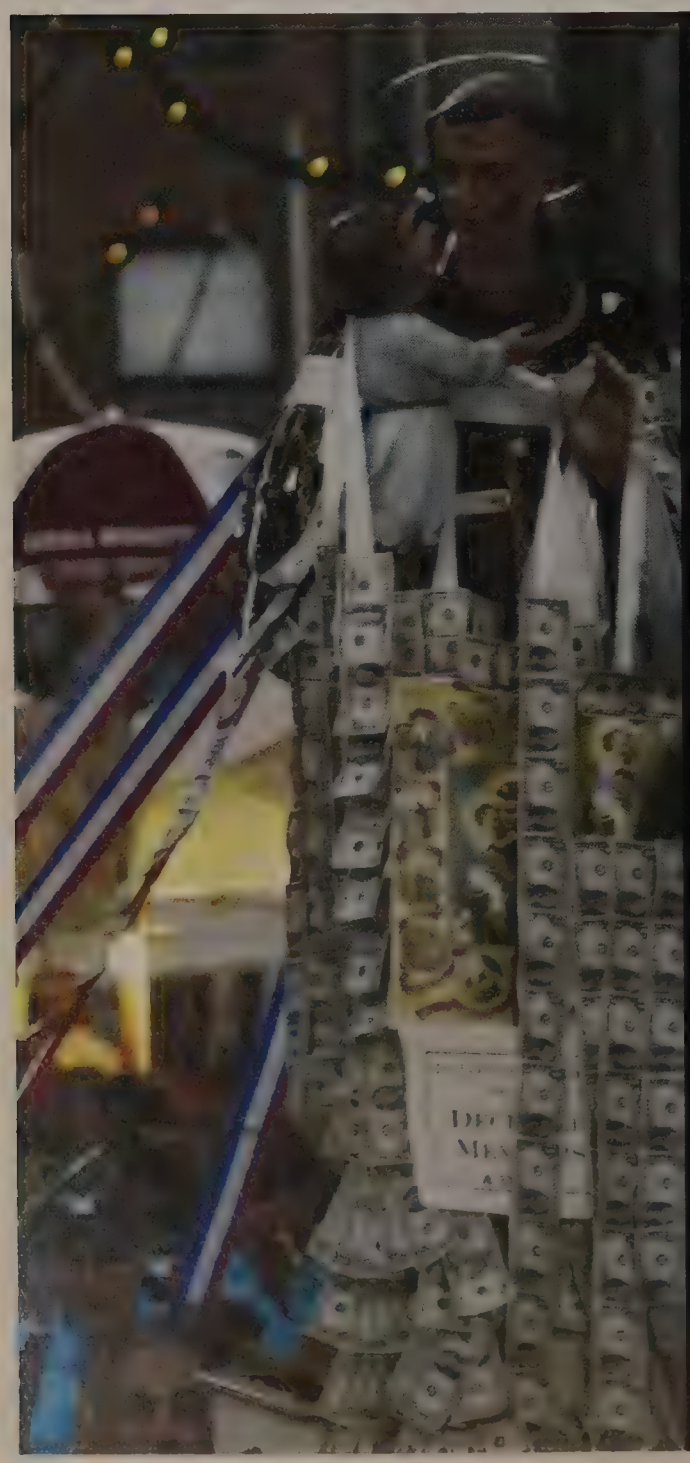
Fans of rock opera (think *Tommy* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*) adore the genre for its quirky way of combining the high-decibel intensity of rock 'n' roll with the dramatic narrative of opera, all presented in a highly theatrical performance. No one captures the unique flavor of rock opera better than local troupe **Boston Rock Opera**, which has been fusing song and theater for the past decade in productions like *The Rocky Horror Show*. To celebrate, it's throwing a party, chock full of performances. The highlight is BRO's interpretation of *The Point!*, Harry Nilsson's 1970s soundtrack for an animated children's fable about the round-headed boy Oblio and his dog, Arrow. There's also a performance of *Skypaint*, an eight-person show that incorporates sci-fi tinged animation. *Middle East Downstairs, 472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-931-2000). 8:30 pm. $10.*

Mick Maldonado of the Boston Rock Opera

MON./JUNE 2 AND 9

Movies: Summer Songs

Jazz in June, an annual summer favorite at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, returns on Monday nights with performances by jazz musicians from the New England Conservatory and screenings of jazz-themed documentaries. This year's five programs focus on the music and lives of legendary performers Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Charles Mingus, John Coltrane and Charlie Parker (right). The shows begin at 7:30 pm with musical performances, followed by the film. The jazz jubilee kicks off June 2 with the Gabe Johnson Trio and the film *Satchmo: Louis Armstrong*, and continues June 9 with one of the most energetic jazz bands around, Dead Cat Bounce, and the film *Celebrating Bird: The Triumph of Charlie Parker*. *290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2500)*. www.coolidge.org. *$10*.



SUN./JUNE 1

CityScope: Food, Fun and Religious Fervor

The aroma of roasted garlic mingles with grilled sausage and onions, and the strains of an accordion lure curious passersby along the narrow streets to the Feast of Santa Maria Di Anzano, one of several Italian-American celebrations held throughout the summer in the North End. A total of 10 neighborhood societies exist to pay homage to saints Maria DiAnzano, Rocco, Jude and Joseph, among others, and every summer they open their doors and invite accidental tourists and devotees alike to listen to live music; munch on crusty rolls stuffed with spiced beef, prosciutto and cheese; sip homemade red wine; play carnival games or join a procession. The festivities begin June 1 and continue on various weekends through the end of August. *www.northendboston.com*.

FRI./MAY 30 AND SAT./MAY 31

Harpoon Brewstock Festival

There's nothing wrong with bundling up in hats and mittens and huddling with 500 of your nearest and dearest under a tent, drinking beer and listening to live music in the middle of winter. But it's a heck of a lot more fun when the weather's balmy and the folks at Harpoon Brewery open the tent doors and let the party spill out onto the enclosed area next to the brewery. That's where you'll find us—parked at a picnic table, raising our glasses to Mother Nature and feasting on barbecued chicken from Jake's Dixie Roadhouse. Throughout the day, local bands will take the stage, performing everything from rock to reggae. It's springtime—let's dance! *Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666). May 30, 5:30-11 pm; May 31, 2-11 pm. $10.*

TUE./JUNE 10-THU./JUNE 12

Tastings: Touchdown!

Do the math with us. If eight ice cream companies scoop three or four flavors each—everything from cookies 'n' cream to pistachio to chocolate fudge chunk—and the **Scooper Bowl** runs from 11:30 am to 6 pm, the question is, Is there enough time for you to try every single flavor before you either A) explode or B) get so jazzed on sugar that you're not able to function? The answer is a definitive yes. How do we know? We did it last year. Yes, this annual event to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute draws ice cream-aholics like ourselves who binge on dozens of flavors for a mere $7 at City Hall Plaza. Just don't plan on heading back to the office afterward: work + ice cream ≠ productivity. *City Hall Plaza, Boston (800-52-525-4669)*. www.jimmyfund.org. *$7, $3 children*.

Brewstock Festival

BEER, BANDS, & BBQ

Friday, May 30th, 5:30 - 11:00 pm
Saturday, May 31st, 2:00 - 11:00 pm

Entrance closes by 9:30 pm each night

At the Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston. Come celebrate the summer season Harpoon-style with fresh Harpoon and UFO beers, live local rock & reggae bands, and Jake's Dixie Roadhouse BBQ. Admission: $10 per person, includes a souvenir cup. Cash bar. Free shuttle from South Station. Parking available. MUST BE 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH PROPER ID. TICKETS NOT SOLD IN ADVANCE. For more information, call 888-HARPOON ext. 3, or visit www.harpoonbrewery.com

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cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

City Year's Starry Starry Night
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Dorchester (617-927-2328). www.cityyear.org/boston/ssn. *6 pm. $1,000.* Bill Clinton and Governor Mitt Romney are the featured guests at City Year's annual fund-raiser bash. The evening includes a cocktail reception, dinner and dancing.

A Gala Evening at Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, Boston (617-632-3021). www.danafarber.org. *5:30 pm. $250 with dinner, $125 concert only.* Academy Award winner John Williams leads the Boston Pops in a performance to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Project: Think Different Celebration
The Paradise, 969 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-320-6433). www.projectthinkdifferent.org. *6-9 pm.* This fund-raiser for Project: Think Different features live entertainment, spoken-word performances, multimedia installations and a silent auction.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Mind/Body Medical Institute Swing Night at the Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.mbmi.org. *$100.* This night of big-band music and dancing benefits MBMI patient programs and research. A reception, light dinner and raffle are included.

Pan-Mass Challenge Benefit Party
The Rack, 21 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). 6 pm. $20. Raise money for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and enjoy food and pool (included). The party also includes a raffle of Red Sox tickets and other prizes.

Young Professionals' Team Spring Fund-Raiser
The Wharf Room, Boston Harbor Hotel, Boston (617-778-5981, ext. 209). 5:30-11:30 pm. $40 in advance, $45 at the door. WCVB-TV's Liz Brunner emcees this benefit for the Catholic Schools Foundation's Inner-City Scholarship Fund. The evening includes dancing, a buffet and an auction.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Backstage Boogie
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2 Forbes Road, Woburn (781-279-2200). 6:30 pm. $50. The Cab Calloway Orchestra, directed by Calloway's grandson, T. Calloway Brooks, performs to benefit the Stoneham Theatre. The evening includes dinner, dancing, cocktails, a live auction and a raffle.

Big Pig Gig
Henrietta's Table, One Bennett St., Cambridge (6
778-5751). 6-10 pm. $25. This benefit for the Fa
School features live music, a live auction and hea
food from Henrietta's Table.

EMBA Tournament
Armenian Cultural Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Waterto
(617-510-8405). 7:30 pm. Also Saturday at 1 and 7
and Sunday at 11 am. $7 per session. Bridge players
all levels are invited to try their hand at the Easte
Massachusetts Bridge Association's tournament. T
tourney includes prizes, trophies and refreshments.

Harpoon Brewstock
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (6
574-9551). www.harpoonbrewery.com. *Fri., 5:*
11 pm; Sat., 2-11 pm. $10. Brewstock is back, w
live music, food from Jake's Dixie Roadhouse a
lots o' beer. Saturday at 10 am, the Harpoon 5-Mi
road race ($25) begins and ends at the brewery a
raises money for the Angel Fund.

Raise the Roof Benefit Concert
Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St., Dorchester (617-28
2510). 7 pm. $40. This event, featuring a din
followed by live music from Joe Pernice, the T
box Ramblers and Blake Hazard, raises money fo
new roof for Interim House, a residential treatm
facility for substance abusers.

Singles Dance
Burlington Four Points/Sheraton, 30 Wheeler R
Burlington (781-721-5844). www.funfunfun.o
9:30 pm-1 am. $15. Register in advance for the D
Search Game that takes place before this "insta
dating" event.

Singles Executives Club Dance
Lafayette House Ballroom, Route 1 South, Foxb
(781-446-0234). www.se-4you.com. *8:30 pm-12*
$10 before 9 pm, $15 thereafter. Single professio
ages 35 and over are invited to this dance w
music by DJ Brian Milligan. Complimentary buf
proper dress required.

Stroke Awareness Awards Luncheo
Newton Marriott Hotel, Newton (800-662-1701,
3127). 12-2 pm. $100. This luncheon supports
American Stroke Association's research and edu
tion programs.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Boston by Sea
Piers Park, East Boston (617-542-8000). www.bos
bysea.org. *A 100-minute cruise departs Rowes Whar*
Piers Park at 11 am. $16. The Boston History Colla
rative's maritime celebration includes tours of the
ing boat Lady Grace (which was used as the An
Gail in *The Perfect Storm*), free sailboat rides
music from the Zumix youth band.

Boston Seaport Festival
Charlestown Navy Yard and sites around Boston Ha
(888-767-7223). www.bostonseaportfestival.com
am-4 pm. Through June 1. The Seaport Festival be
with a tugboat muster at 10 am in Boston Harbor
continues with events throughout the day. Sun
features the inaugural Boston Harbor Schooner R
at 1pm (the best viewing will be at the Moal
Courthouse).

DeCordova Annual Benefit and Aucti
DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, 51 Sandy
Road, Lincoln (781-259-3615). www.decordova.
5:30-11:30 pm. $175; $75 without dinner and recep
The DeCordova's annual benefit party includ
cocktail reception, dinner, live and silent aucti
dessert and dancing to music from Eight to the
Black tie or creative black tie.

Set sail for the Boston Seaport Festival, in and around Boston Harbor May 31-June 1.

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Fern Cunningham unveils her sculpture *The Sentinel* May 31 at Forest Hills Cemetery.

Forest Hills Cemetery Sculpture Unveiling with Live Jazz

Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128, x22). www.foresthillstrust.org. *4-6 pm. Rain date: June 1.* Sculptor Fern Cunningham and her husband, drummer Alvin Terry, celebrate the unveiling of Cunningham's African wise woman, *The Sentinel.* Terry and a 10-piece band play jazz to mark the rededication of Forest Hills' Contemporary Sculpture Path.

Gateway to Summer Celebration

Pier One, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (617-242-5616). 10 am-6 pm. Visit the tall ship Friendship, watch ship-rigging demonstrations, listen to songs of revolt from the Jolly Rogues and more.

Island Jamboree

Thompson Island, Boston (617-223-8666). www.bostonislands.com. *First ferry leaves from Fan Pier at 10:30am.* The Addison Groove Project plays a free funk/jazz concert, and food and refreshments will be served. Check Web site for complete schedule.

Run for Health

Start at the Codman Square Health Center parking lot, Dorchester (617-695-2300, ext. 103). Registration at 7:30 am, run at 8:30 am. $25, $5 for Dorchester residents. This 5K run benefits the Codman Square Health Center. A carnival with entertainment and prizes follows the race.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

AIDS Walk and 5K Run

The Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, Boston. www.aacevents.org. *9:30 am. $20.* This 10K walk and 5K run benefit the AIDS Action Committee.

Big Steps for Little People 5K Walk and Road Race

Manchester Field, Winchester. www.winchesterhospital.org. *8 am. $20.* This 5K walk and run benefits Winchester Hospital's maternal and child health services.

Santa Maria DiAnzano Procession

Hanover and Prince Streets, North End, Boston (617-666-0908). 2 pm. Head to the North End for one of the summer's early processions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Daniel Varoujan Benefit Art Exhibit

Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston (781-449-6268). www.varoujan.net. *5:30-8:30 pm. $35.* Artist Daniel Varoujan presents *Hugs & Kisses,* a series of his paintings. A portion of proceeds benefits Community Servings, which delivers meals to individuals and families dealing with AIDS.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

HomeStart Keys to the House Gala

131 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-876-4210). www.homestart.org. *6-9 pm. $20 in advance, $25 at the door.* This casual cocktail party features live jazz, appetizers and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit HomeStart, which provides housing services for the homeless in Boston.

HurryDate Event

Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (212-871-6707). www.hurrydate.com. *7 pm. $35.* Go on 25 three-minute dates in one night and try to find your match.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Center for Blood Research Benefit

Colonnade Hotel, Huntington Ave., Boston (617-278-3334). 6:30 pm. This raffle and auction raises money for the CBR's research to fight AIDS, cancer and lupus.

Night at the Chef's Table

Lala Rokh, 224 Boston and Vox Populi, Boston; Bambara, Cambridge (508-487-9445, ext. 48). www.pasgonline.org. *Minimum donation of $75.* The AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod's 12th annual fundraiser comes to Boston for the first time. Participating restaurants serve multi-course dinners with wine and dessert to benefit the ASGCC.

Peace Games Benefit

Shreve, Crump & Low, the Mall at Chestnut Hill, 19 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (800-225-7088). www.peacegames.org. *6-9 pm. $35.* Join Tom Hamilton of Aerosmith and his wife, Terry, to raise money for Peace Games, an organization that teaches children peace and justice.

Reflections Fund-Raiser

Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington St., Boston (617-542-0222). www.vpi.org. *$150. Make reservations in advance.* An original Al Hirschfeld lithograph of Aerosmith's 1977 *Draw the Line* album cover will be among the items auctioned at this benefit for Victory Programs, a substance abuse treatment provider. Joe Kramer of Aerosmith and his wife, April, are co-chairs of the event, which also includes dinner and a raffle.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Educating the Senses: An Immersion into Wine, Food, Art and Fashion

The Gamble Mansion, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). 7-10 pm. $125. The Boston Center for Adult Education presents a five-course vintner dinner with a vintage fashion show, art exhibit and silent auction. Proceeds benefit BCAE's programs.

YWCA Boston's 9th Annual Women's Leadership Event

Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers, 39 Dalton St., Boston (617-351-7622). www.ywcaboston.org. *11:30 am-2 pm. $135.* The YWCA celebrates the accomplishments of 12 women who will be honored for leadership and achievement.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Boston Medical Center Gala

World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-638-6910). www.bmc.org/gala. *6:30 pm. $250.* The BMC's 7th annual gala features dinner, live and silent auctions and music. Proceeds benefit patient care, research and educational programs.

City-Wide Friends Book Sale

Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston. www.bpl.org. *10 am-4 pm.* Pick up some reading material at the BPL's quarterly book sale.

Coolidge Corner Arts Festival

Coolidge Corner, Brookline (617-739-9066). 10 am-6 pm. More than 75 fine artists line the sidewalks of Beacon Street and the Centre Street West parking lot, offering works in an array of media.

Festival of Fire

123 Terrace St., Boston (617-427-7399). 2-8 (Rain date: June 21). This annual arts festival features glassblowing demonstrations, fire-spinning, live music, food and art for sale.

New Balance Squirrel Run

Veteran's Memorial Stadium, Hancock St., Quincy (781-383-6008). www.coolrunning.com. *Walk begins at 9 am, run at 10 am. $20.* This 5-mile run and 2.5-mile walk raise money for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis research at Mass. General Hospital.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

St. Anthony's Procession

Hanover and Prince Streets, North End, Boston. (617-523-2110). 2 pm. St. Anthony is honored in this annual North End religious procession.

Wheel-a-Thon

Artisani Park, Brighton. (617-727-0745, ext. 30) www.pyd.org. *Registration 11 pm, begin wheeling noon. Participants who raise at least $35 get a T-shirt.* Grab your bike, skateboard, wheelchair or any other set of wheels to navigate a course through the park and benefit Partners for Youth with Disabilities.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Boston/Strasbourg Sister City Association Benefit Dinner

Brasserie Jo, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston. (617-236-0531). 7 pm. $70. This three-course dinner with wine benefits the high school exchange program between Boston public school students.

Burlesquefest

Paradise Rock Club, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston. (617-562-8800). Doors at 7 pm. $16. 18+. Burlesque performers Catherine D'Lish and Miss Kitty Crimson join the Oracle Dance troupe and Empire Burlesque Follies to tease the Paradise crowd for a night.

Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl

City Hall Plaza, Boston. (800-525-4669). www.jimmyfund.org. *11:30 am-6 pm, through June 12. $7.* Eight of the Northeast's premium ice cream companies serve up frozen treats to raise money for the Jimmy Fund.

J. Lo Swimwear Fashion Show

Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston. 10 pm. Models show off J. Lo swim fashions. To become a model in the show, bring your photos to Felt by June 5.

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth)*. Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Bel Canto
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. June 5-22. $12-$28. The Theater Offensive and the Wheelock Family Theatre present the world premiere of Daniel Alexander Jones' musical about a lost adolescent's journey to sexual and artistic discovery. The lines between black and white, boy and man, rock and opera, and dreams and reality are blurred when a young man's passions are inspired by opera legend Marian Anderson and guitarist Jimi Hendrix in 1978 America.

Burlesque and Batons
Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2500). May 30, 12am. $10. This night of diversions features burlesque, baton twirling, belly dancing and original cabaret ballads with performances by Missy Conundrum, the Oh de Twirlette troupe and Boston's own Through the Keyhole burlesque troupe.

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea
Actors Workshop Theatre, 327 Summer St., Suite 4, Boston (617-320-5917). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm (opening night Wed., June 4, 8 pm). June 4-21. $12. On a lonely night in a dilapidated bar in the Bronx, two social outcasts open up to each other over their warm beers in this play by John Patrick Shanley.

Dirty Mind
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton St., Boston. www.3sevens.net. *May 31, 10 pm-2 am. $20.* This circus of sorts features DJs, singing, a fashion show, dancing and performance art.

The Indian Wants the Bronx
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. June 4-22. $20. This 35th-anniversary production of Israel Horovitz's off-Broadway hit is presented by New York City's Barefoot Theatre Company. It tells the story of an East Indian who gets lost on his first day in New York City and is teased by two punks. As the drama unfolds, the taunting becomes more and more vicious, culminating in acts of violence.

The Labyrinth of Uncle Mark
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Fri., and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. May 30-June 1. $15. Neil Jay O'Callahan's latest play follows Mark, a man who is considered a failure and a disgrace by his family, as the family struggles to welcome him once more into the fold.

Mobius 25
Mobius, 354 Congress St., Boston (617-542-7416). www.mobius.org. *May 28-31 and June 4-7, 8 pm. $15.* Dozens of current and past Mobius artists will present unique performances of sound art, performance art, experimental dance and intermedia works at this celebration of Mobius' 25th anniversary. Each night's performance will feature a different program of artists.

New Playwrights Series
YMCA, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-469-9339). MBTA: Red Line to Central. June 5-7, 8 pm. The Boston Directors' Lab hosts this series of readings by new playwrights.

The Odd Couple
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm. Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. June 6-29. $30-$35. Neil Simon's Broadway play, made famous by the onscreen pairing of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon, comes to Stoneham with Pat Morita of *The Karate Kid* trilogy as Felix and Sherman Helmsley of *The Jeffersons* and *All in the Family* as Oscar.

Opera Unlimited
Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-363-0396). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood Ave. June 5-10. $19-$30. This festival of contemporary chamber opera is co-produced by Opera Boston and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. It features two world premieres, Elena Ruehr's *Toussaint Before the Spirits* and Daniel Pinkham's *The Cask of Amontillado*, plus John Harbison's *A Full Moon in March*, Pinkham's *The Garden Party* and the New England premiere of Thomas Adès' *Powder Her Face*.

Smokey Joe's Café
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., Thu. and Fri., 8 pm (except June 10 at 7 pm); Wed. and Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. June 3-22. $18.25-$51.25.* The longest-running musical revue in Broadway history features 41 of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller's diner music classics, including "Hound Dog," "Stand by Me," and "Love Potion #9."

The Winter's Tale
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. May 29-31, 7 pm; matinees May 31 and June 1, 1:30 pm. $10.* Shakespeare's play fuses comedy and tragedy together as it delves into the issues of jealousy and infidelity. Leontes accuses his wife, Hermione, of bearing the daughter of his childhood friend, Polixenes.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $5. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedi production manages to make an impact with tribe rock music, humorous antics, props and three me painted blue.

Fly-Bottle
Spring Lawn Theater, Shakespeare & Company, 7 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). Through Aug 24. $27-$42. David Egan's play examines th famed "poker incident" between renowne philosophers Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popp at the Moral Science Club in England in Octob 1946. The two are said to have engaged in a heate exchange that culminated in Wittgenstein gestu ing with (some say brandishing) a poker that hur by the fireplace.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Bosto (617-931-2000). Sat. and Mon., 7 pm. Ongoin $27. The Great Gorgonzola is a has-been mag cian, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompe tent assistant. He loses his mind during a perfo mance, and only authentic supernatural powe and his dark past can save his show. With begi nings in a 10-seat basement theater in Allsto this black comedy written and performed by D nato Colucci is now being presented by the U derground Magic Theatre.

Once upon a Mattress
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (61 244-0169). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Throu June 1. $15-$21. This clever take on *The Prince and the Pea* follows poor Prince Dauntless, who's st a bachelor thanks to his overbearing mother who i sists that each of his potential brides-to-be pass a impossible gauntlet of tests.

Pericles
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cam bridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. MBTA: R *Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 p Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Ju 27. $34-$68.* One of the last plays Shakespea wrote, this epic romance—complete with ma cians, pirates, shipwrecks and divine revelation opens in a world damaged by famine, incest and c ruption, and closes in a scene of sublime lo redemption and hope.

Puppetry of the Penis
Copley Theatre, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (617-2 1199). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Thu. pm; Fri. and Sat., 7 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 7 pm. On ing. $35-$39.50. The international comedy hit f tures the "ancient Australian art of genital origam Creators Simon Morley and Dan Lewry perfo naked while shaping and stretching their peni into more than 40 figures, including the Eiffel To and the Loch Ness Monster.

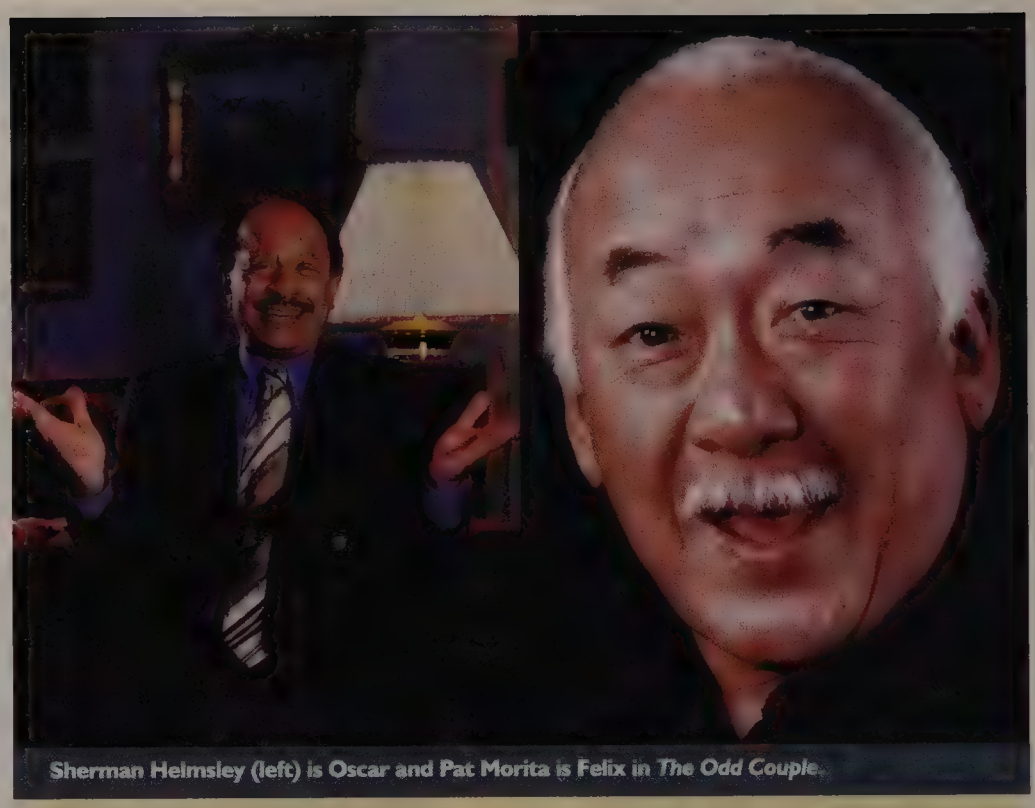
Romulus
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerv (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri. Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through May 31. $15-$* Gore Vidal's play takes a dryly comedic look the Roman Empire and the court of emperor R mulus just before the once-invincible empire f to the Goths.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (6 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tu Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Bosto longest-running play.

Side Show
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Bos (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Arlingt Wed., 2 and 7:30 pm; Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through May 31. $ $40. Based on the true story of Siamese twins v became stars during the Depression, this four-t Tony-nominated musical by Bill Russell is a port of two women, joined at the hip, whose bond br them fame but denies them love.

The Sound of a Voice
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., C bridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MB Red Line to Harvard. May 28 and 29, 7:30pm; J 1, 2 and 7:30pm; June 3, 7:30pm; June 6, 8 June 7, 2 and 8pm. Through June 28. $34-$68* this play by David Henry Hwang, a Japanese v rior takes on the challenge of achieving intim after years of seclusion. He finds himself ent gled in a battle of love with an enchanting reclusive woman.

Springtime for Henry
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington A Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre. *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu.,*


Sherman Helmsley (left) is Oscar and Pat Morita is Felix in *The Odd Couple*.

Preview

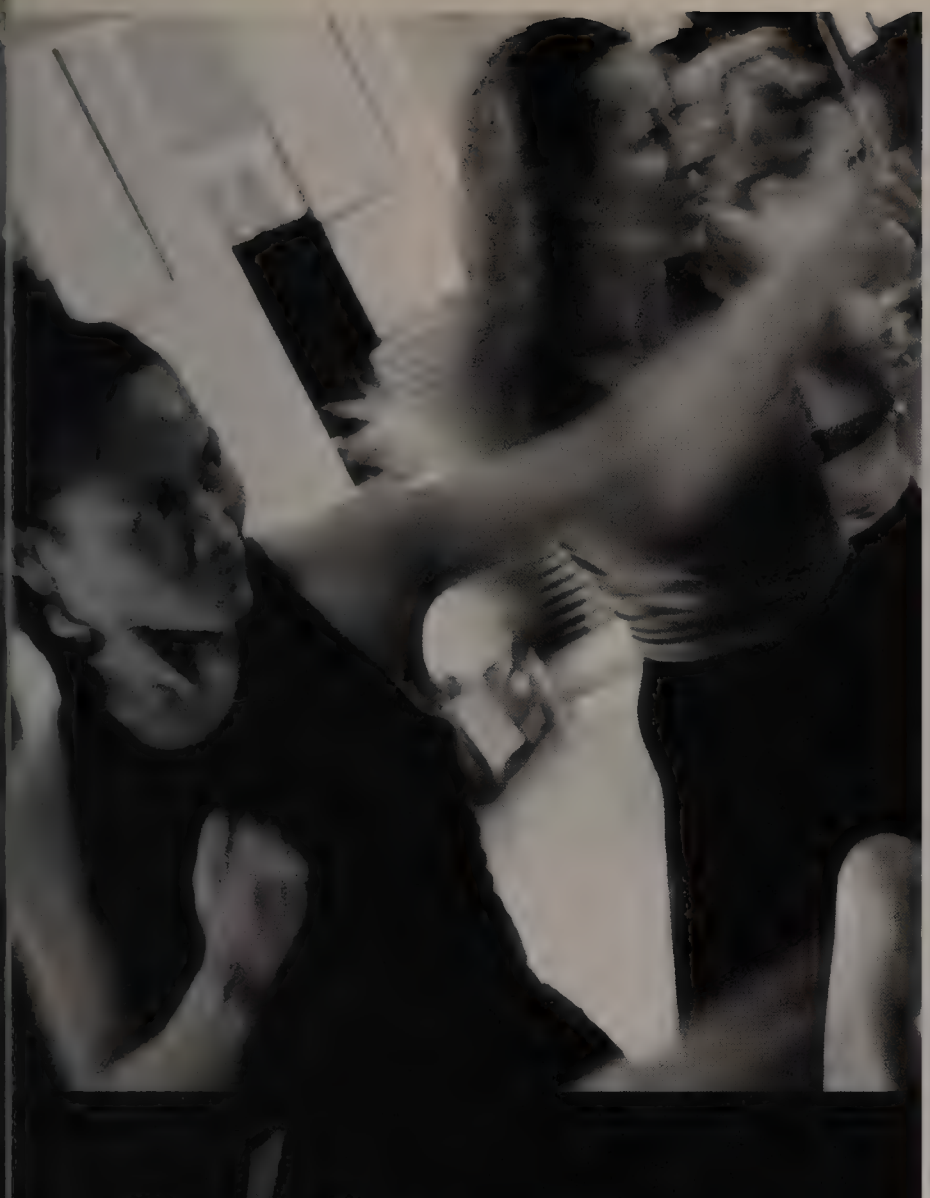
The Oddest Couple

Mr. Miyagi meets Mr. Jefferson in a new take on Neil Simon's classic

The task of developing a fresh interpretation of Neil Simon's 1965 Broadway smash *The Odd Couple* led producers to ponder specifically what elements make for an "odd couple." Turns out, the answer was easy: Pat Morita of *The Karate Kid* fame, and Sherman Helmsley, best known as the patriarch of *The Jeffersons*. "You have a black man and a yellow man and, well, maybe these two really *are* an odd couple," says Morita of director Jay Dysart's new production of the play made famous by the 1968 big-screen pairing of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon as two divorcé roommates struggling to get along.

"The story features two opposites, two extremes," says Helmsley, who will take on the role of Oscar, the slovenly bachelor whose life is undone after his neurotic and recently divorced buddy, Felix, played by Morita, moves in with him. Deciding which veteran actor would play which foil character was easy. "By nature, I am Felix. I'm the nit-picky guy. I prop up pillows and empty ashtrays," explains Morita (though Helmsley has played the role of Felix before, in a 1970s production in Texas).

"We planted this seed three years ago," Morita says. "I said I would like to do *The Odd Couple*, and Sherman's named popped up. Fortunately, he was available." Both men are excited to work together, but Morita expresses a bit of apprehension about performing live on stage—his first time ever. "Night after night, it is kind of scary. To think that I am suddenly going to remake myself into a thespian. With movie or television work, if somebody goofs, you can redo it." *Stoneham Theatre, Stoneham (781-279-2200). Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. June 6-29. $30-$35. —Michelle Grabicki*



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(Next to The Comedy Connection in the Quincy Market Bldg.)

pm (2pm matinee on June 4); Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7pm. Through June 15. $14-$64. In this play by Benn Levy, a playboy becomes entangled in a slew of lies and infidelities and is forced to choose between his selfish tendencies and doing what's right.

Tick, Tick...Boom!

Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. *Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Through June 8. $25-$60.* Joey McIntyre, formerly of New Kids on the Block and a cast member of TV's *Boston Public*, stars in this story of a young composer on the brink of turning 30 and falling into oblivion. His girlfriend wants to get married and move out of the city, his best friend is making big bucks on Madison Avenue, and he's still waiting tables and trying to write the great American musical. The show is adapted from an autobiographical one-man show by Jonathan Larson, who created the Broadway blockbuster *Rent*.

Cabaret

Will & Company

Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789x1). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 1, 4 pm. $12. Singer/cabaret impresario Will McMillan hosts an evening of performances by local singers as part of a series promoting unknown singers and songwriters in Boston.

Dance

The Altis Vignettes

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. May 29-31. $15-$20.* The fluidity of modern dance melds with the elegance of ballet in a production by Rebecca Rice Dance.

Brazz Dance Theatre

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St.,Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. June 20 and 21. $10-$12.* The dance troupe showcases its signature blend of traditional Afro-Brazilian and contemporary dance styles.

Stomp

Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55.* In its return to Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm. The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •May 29, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •June 2: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy. •June 3, $12: Comedy Central's Laugh Riot Competition •June 4: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •June 5, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •June 6, $25: Stuttering John, Artie Lange and friends •June 7, 8 and 10:15 pm and 12 am, $26: Stuttering John, Artie Lange and friends •June 9, 8 pm: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •June 10: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

Jessica Stone and Christopher Fitzgerald star in *Springtime for Henry* through June 15.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •May 28: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Stefan Frey, Nicole Luparelli, Nina Tamburello, Al Klemick and Winston Kidd •May 29: Tim McIntire's Real Politik with Erin Judge, Brian Gordon, Mike Tannian and Malissa Hunt •May 30: Tim McIntire, Chris Walsh, Myq Kaplan and Baaratunde •May 31: Tim McIntire, Rob Reuter, Amanda White, Alana Devich and Myq Kaplan •June 1: The Circus Pigs: Bethany Van Delft, Ben Murray, Corey Manning, Eric Riley Moore, Steve Hubbard and Deb Farrar-Parkman •June 3: Magic Night, professional magicians perform •June 4: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Alana Devich, Peter Dutton, Tim Fenn and Mike Anthony •June 5: Jason Roberts, Tissa Hami, Steve Calechman and Mike Anthony •June 6: Rick Jenkins and EJ Murphy •June 7: DJ Hazard, Malissa Hunt, Chrissy Lavoie and Michael Della Penna •June 8: Sam Walters, Jan & Julie, Pete Gray, Nick Lettic, Peter Dutton, Tom Morello, Jen Ruelas, Mandy Donovan, Nicole Luparelli and Jesse Gersten •June 10: Magic Night, professional magicians perform.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: *Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22.* •May 29, 8:30 pm: Kevin Knox, All Star Comedy. •May 30 and 31, 8:45 pm: Ira Proctor and Mike Kotroubis.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA:*Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available. •Wed. and Thu., 8 pm, $15, and Fri. and Sat., 8 pm and 10 pm, $20: Improv Asylum presents its newest main-stage show, *Jihad to Be There.* •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv Jam featuring main stage performers and special guests. •Wed, May 28, 6:30 pm, free: Renovation Fundraiser: a silent auction will take place before the 8 pm show.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump.* This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $12: Micetro; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show.* Brothers Chris and David Wa perform stand-up and music, play short films a do character sketches in a display of sibling riva •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Radio Hour.* Go behind the scer of a live radio production with a variety of acts; pm, $12: *TheatreSports.* Two teams of improvis face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: ImprovBoston Fam Show; 8 and 10 pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainsta Blending storytelling, music, audience particip tion and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers crea a show that changes with every performan •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisatio Jamboree* features visiting troupes and combi three shows in one.

Improv Foundry

Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 361 Newbury St., Fou Floor, Boston (617-308-6421). May 31, 8 pm. $ Improv Foundry performs short-form improvi tional comedy.

COMEDY SHOWS

The Failure Artist

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerv (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Jun and 8, 7 pm. $10. This one-man show features com dian Tony V in a story of his life's journey.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont S Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to N England Medical Center or Green Line to Boylston. Ju 6 and 7, 7 pm. $49 for dinner and show. The inter tive comedy spoofs a traditional Italian wedding.

My Big Fat Greek Murder

Jimmy's Harborside, 242 Northern Ave., Boston (6 423-1000). June 7, 7pm. $75. Join this murder m tery party—complete with dinner, dessert and a c lectable murder.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon. pm. Open mike for creative talent.

A Parenting Story

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerv (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. June 1 and 15, 3 pm. $10. This one-man show with B Campbell is set in a living room. Campbell's "eve man" character, who is about to celebrate his 25 Father's Day, takes audiences on a comedic journ from babies to grandparenting.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-49 1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcome jam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month.* Enj standup comedy with host Stash and 12 New En land comedians plus live music.

Sully's Comedy Birthday Party

Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., Dor ester (800-595-4849). MBTA: Red Line JFK/UMass. May 30-31, 6:30pm. $45 (includes d ner and a show). The audience gets to participate this play about a not-so-traditional Irish-Americ birthday party.

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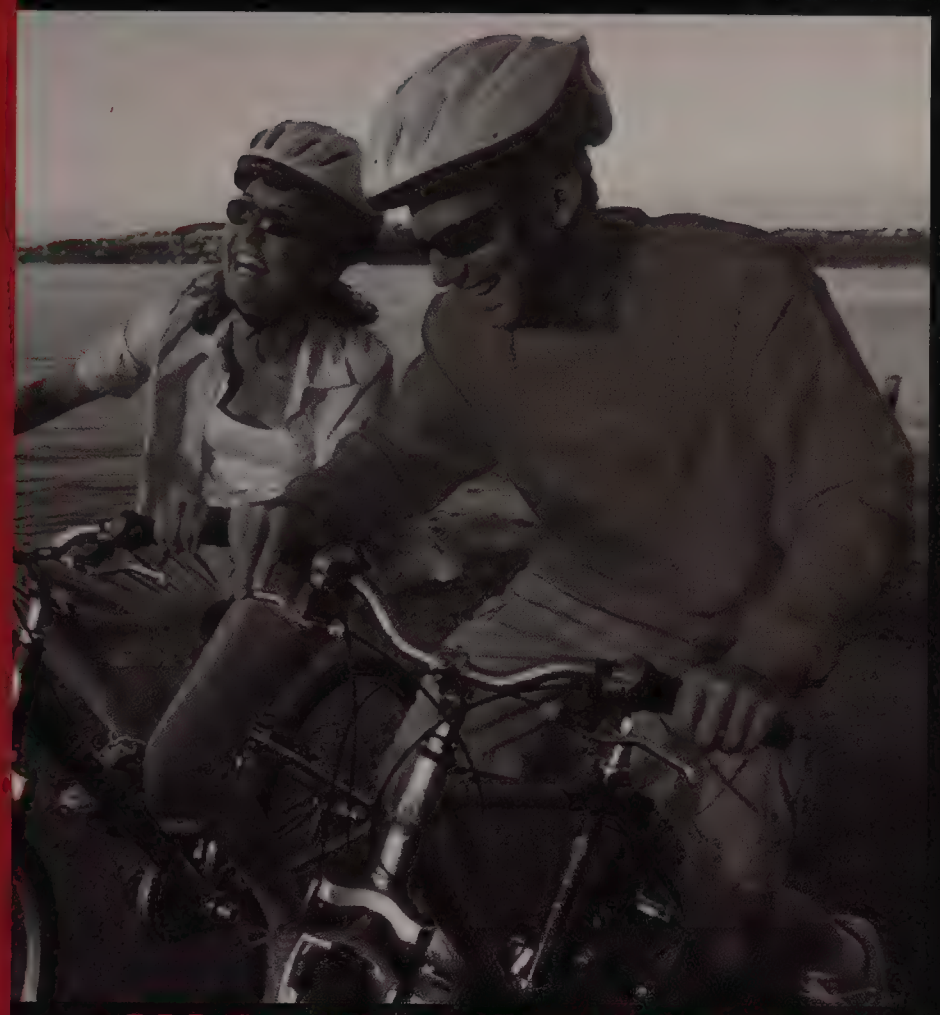

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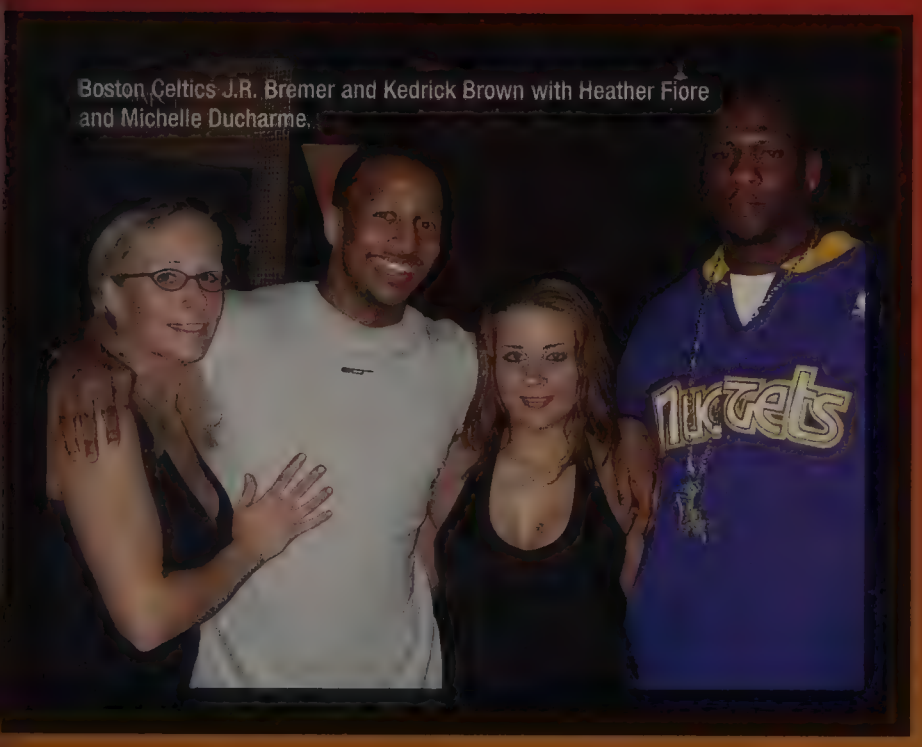

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THE RACK

Con *Job*

The Italian Job can't make a clean getaway

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The build-up is definitely better than the payoff in *The Italian Job*, a slick crime thriller that during its last 45 minutes plummets like a half-ton safe through a hole in a floor.

Making holes in floors for safes to drop through is the technique used by the thieves in this remake of the 1969 English caper film that starred Michael Caine. The remake's crew includes mastermind Charlie (Mark Wahlberg), wizened safecracker John (Donald Sutherland), Steve (Edward Norton), munitions expert Left Ear (Mos Def), getaway driver Handsome Rob (Jason Statham) and computer hacker Lyle (Seth Green). When we first meet them, they're in Venice, heisting a safe by blowing holes in two floors so that the safe plunges into the canal below. They blast with precision, crack open the safe while underwater, elude the *carabinieri* in a boat chase and make off with $35 million in gold bullion.

Mark Wahlberg plays the mastermind behind a heist that involves Stella, played by Charlize Theron.

So far, so good—until the crew meets to divide the spoils. That's when Norton's Steve peppers the old safecracker with bullets, steals the gold and leaves the rest for dead, underwater in their van in icy Alpine waters. But the others resurface, hook up with the dead man's daughter, Stella (Charlize Theron), and plot revenge on the double-crosser.

Charlie discovers that Steve is in Los Angeles, squirreled away in a mansion behind a high-tech security system and a bevy of armed guards. Now, the crew plots to rob the robber, using their assorted skills to figure out how to bypass Steve's security system, get the gold and get it out of the mansion. Stella, like her father, can crack safes, though so far she's used this skill only to be, as she describes it, a "lock and vault technician." Like the Venice section, the preparations for this second job zip along with semiclever fun, as capable second bananas Statham, Mos Def and especially Green provide comic relief. (The running gag with Green's character is that he was Shawn Fanning's roommate at Northeastern, and claims he, not Fanning, really invented Napster.)

But the comforting sense that *The Italian Job* is a capable movie quickly vanishes the night of the robbery. The crew picks this particular night because, for some unexplained reason, they know days before that Steve will be out. But when they arrive at the mansion, a party at Steve's neighbor's has spilled in front of Steve's gates, so the crew can't secretly blow open the gates. (Wait a minute...didn't we learn that Steve lives in a wealthy neighborhood where the houses are hundreds of yards apart?) The crew realizes it must move to plan B, and Stella, who previously snuck into Steve's house posing as a cable technician and got hit on by him, joins Steve at the restaurant where he's dining.

Director F. Gary Gray and writer Neal Purvis don't even bother to mention how that's supposed to help the crew break into the mansion. The restaurant scene is there solely to help the movie, not the crew. It's there so Steve can realize who Stella is, so the men of the crew can confront Steve, so Steve can decide to flee Los Angeles. This allows director Gray to pull off the film's biggest similarity with the 1969 original—an armored-car heist in which the crew uses stripped-down, souped-up Mini Coopers to cause traffic jams that let them control the armored car's route.

The Coopers are the real stars of *The Italian Job*, but if you've seen the movie's trailer, you've seen the chase scenes already. And it's not hard for the nifty Minis to overshadow the underdeveloped characters. Steve is such a vaguely defined character the crew doesn't even have to replace him. Having substantial Norton play him doesn't help much, either. Charlie and Stella are more developed, but not much (the script can't decide if Stella is a thrill-seeker or a control freak). The movie is all plot, and when the plot poops out, it has little else to offer. Finally, the neatly wrapped ending blunders to an out-of-the-blue epilogue that makes you wonder whether a romantic subplot ended up on the cutting-room floor. *The Italian Job* would be a great car commercial, but it's a clumsy movie. IB

The Italian Job ★★

Directed by F. Gary Gray. Written by Neal Purvis. With Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron, Edward Norton, Jason Statham, Mos Def, Seth Green and Donald Sutherland. Rated PG-13. Paramount Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Anger Management ★★
I doubt that Jack Nicholson and Queen Latif have ever competed for the same role. But t Nicholson–Adam Sandler comedy is cut from t same limp, high-concept formula as *Bringing Do the House*. It's got the same sort of hapless he the same sort of annoying intruder to his life a the same pre-fab happy ending. This time, Sand is the guy who gets put on the right path by t unorthodox outsider. He's a guy who needs sertiveness training but who, due to several m ups, ends up sentenced to the anger manageme seminars Nicholson's character runs. About only sparks here are the outbursts by John T turro, who plays the most angry member of t Nicholson-run support group. You'll feel like h if you pay to see this. (At Boston Common, Fe way and suburbs.)

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between t cultures—think *Double Happiness*, *Mississi Masala* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—g trotted out yet again in director Gurin Chadha's latest, which can't compare to her *Bh on the Beach* but is still involving. Parmin Nagra gives a winning performance as Jess, t Indian-English teen with soccer skills and t Sikh parents who won't allow her to pursue suc nontraditional female endeavor. When Jess recruited to play for a local women's team, wi the possibility of discovery by an American team, the scene is set for lots of running arou behind her parents' back and comic mishaps— fact, an awful lot of repetitive running around a mishaps. It's all pretty predictable, but Nag Anupam Kher (as the heroine's father) and Ke Knightley (as her teammate and sometime riva as well as Chadha's sense of compassion, he dignity fight caricature to a standoff. (At Bost Common, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corne

Better Luck Tomorrow ★★★
Writer-director Justin Lin takes the Asian-Ame can movie beyond the immigrant experience in t free-wheeling story of high school honor stude who start dabbling in crime. The title is apparentl nod to John Woo's *A Better Tomorrow*, and this is the story of friends whose relationships get ripp apart by their life of crime. Quick, funny, viole and smart, the movie marinates its irreverent ta on high school life in the stew of hormones a power that drives its teen characters. We've n heard the last from Lin. (At Copley Place and Ha vard Square.)

Blue Car ★★
Newcomer Agnes Bruckner gives a stunning perf mance as a confused high school senior, but writ director Karen Moncrieff's movie is a standard-iss indie debut. It never rises above its indie cliches: t troubled teen, divorced parents, self-destructive su porting characters who threaten to pull down t heroine, the sexual tension of 18-year-old Meg's r lationship with her supportive English teacher (Dav Strathairn). Not bad, but not very special, eith (At Harvard Square.)

Bulletproof Monk ★½
Chow Yun-Fat deserves better than this cartooni action drama in which he plays a butt-kicking betan monk protecting a sacred scroll who finds h unlikely, and unconvincing, successor in the pic pocket played by Seann William Scott. The aud ence deserves better, too. (At Boston Commo Fenway and suburbs.)

City of Ghosts ★★
Matt Dillon has come up with an interesting subje for his directorial debut. He plays a con man wh after a scam, has fled the States to meet up with h partner and mentor (James Caan) in Cambodi Dillon's character gets involved in the mentor's ne scheme, but considering the inconvenience he ge through in Cambodia—getting beaten, robbed a thoroughly disheartened—it's hard to see why h does. The script, cowritten by Dillon and Barry Gi ford (*Wild at Heart*), never makes the Dillon-Ca bond feel strong enough to outweigh these obst cles. And the movie is longwinded as well, making that much harder to care. (At Copley Place a Kendall Square.)

Confidence ★★★
This tale of a team of con men comes off like hodgepodge of the crime stories of David Mami Jim Thompson and Elmore Leonard. But it has zippy pace, an amusing sense of gallows humor a a colorful cast. Edward Burns, Paul Giamatti a Rachel Weisz head up the crew of con men; An Garcia, Luis Guzman and Donal Logue play t

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equally twisted lawmen; and Dustin Hoffman is the scuzzy crime kingpin who forces the crew to pull a con of his choosing after they mistakenly rip off a briefcase of money from his accountant. Director James Foley has a Thompson adaptation (*After Dark, My Sweet*) and a Mamet adaptation (*Glengarry Glen Ross*) in his past, so he knows how to keep it lean and mean. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Identity ★★

The strong cast including John Cusack, Ray Liotta, Amanda Peet and John Hawkes helps, but the plot in this thriller by writer-director James Mangold becomes more and more arbitrary as it progresses. That means that the twists in this tale of a bunch of travelers stranded at a Nevada motel, who start dying one by one, keep having less and less impact, right down to the obligatory, empty twist ending. It's good to see the who-dies-next plot done with adults instead of teens for a change, but the suspense bleeds out of this movie like the air seeping from a slow leak in a balloon. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Man on the Train ★★★

Jean Rochefort and Johnny Hallyday are, respectively, a sedate retired teacher and an brooding thief who each get a taste of how the other half lives when the first lets the second, who's in town to rob the local bank, use a room in his crumbling house. Director Patrice Leconte's relaxed French drama lets the warmth between the two emerge convincingly and the two stars' underplayed performances give it an appealing intimacy. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

The Matrix Reloaded ★★½

This spotty sequel to 1999's pop culture touchstone holds true to the theory that the middle movie is usually the weakest in trilogies (that's assuming next fall's third movie is better). Where the first was intimate and tightly constructed, the new movie is less specific in its internal logic and has a large scale that is sometimes clumsy (including council meetings and war talk reminiscent of, yikes, *The Phantom Menace*). The sequel seems even more like a videogame than the first, in its increasingly elaborate, animation-dependent fight scenes (which come off as self-parody at times) and in the "leveled" structure (fight to see the Oracle, move up to fight to see the Keymaker, move up to fight your way into the Source, etc.). The heavies have all the fun this time, including Hugo Weaving's Agent Smith, who can now replicate himself at will, and the snippy Frenchman played by Lambert Wilson. Not bad, but not as satisfying as hoped. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

A Mighty Wind ★★★½

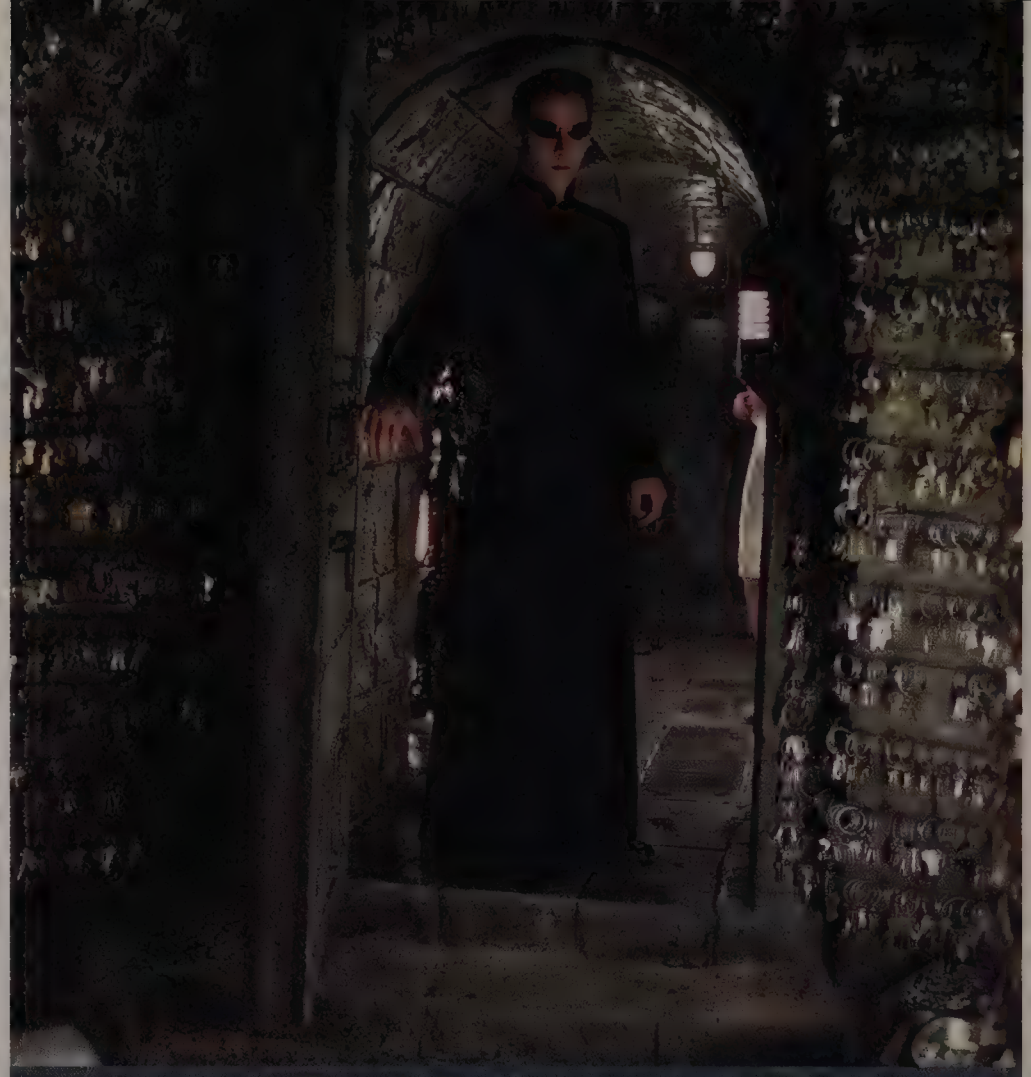
In Christopher Guest's latest improvised mockumentary, following *Waiting for Guffman* and *Best in Show*, Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara dominate as a one-time folk duo and romantic couple that reunites for a memorial concert with other groups. As the fallen idol who's had a rough three decades since, Levy is hilariously zonked out, but he and O'Hara sing so well together that their scenes are also disarmingly sweet and touching. Guest and *This Is Spinal Tap* cohorts Michael McKean and Harry Shearer also score together as their "other" musical project, the Folksmen, though the characters are underdeveloped as individuals. Meanwhile, as always, Fred Willard nearly steals the show. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Only the Strong Survive ★★½

It's not the style of documentary filmmakers D.A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus to do formal interviews or enhance their footage with much background information. But some shaping might have given focus to this meandering series of visits with 1960s soul stars such as Sam Moore, Jerry Butler and the irrepressible Rufus Thomas, who has since died. Some of the footage of recent performances is fine—Moore singing "When Something Is Wrong With My Baby," Mary Wilson doing "Some Day We'll Be Together," Butler on the title song—and the banter between Thomas and his radio partner, Jay Michael Davis, is a hilarious Greek chorus. But literally and musically the movie is all over the map. If you're not already a fan, you probably won't get much out of this; if you are a fan, you'll enjoy much of what's here, but be disappointed by a missed opportunity. (At Kendall Square.)

Owning Mahowny ★★★

Director Richard Kwietnowski, who previously made *Love and Death on Long Island* (about a stuffy author's sudden infatuation with a heartthrob actor), takes us on another intriguing journey through the obsession raging within one man's mind. This time, it's a fastidious assistant bank manager (Philip Seymour Hoffman) with a gambling jones. He starts embezzling money from the bank, so he can gamble to pay off his debts—and then, because he loses more, he embezzles some more, and so on. His quiet desperation has a fascinating car-crash quality, and is all the more compelling because the movie is based on a true story. (At Kendall Square.)



Keanu Reeves, star of 1999's hit *The Matrix*, returns for the sequel, *The Matrix Reloaded*.

The Shape of Things ★★

Neil LaBute's latest play raises interesting questions about the compromises that go into a romantic relationship, but he gives it a clumsy transition to the screen. The mannered performances, unnatural dialogue and casting of actors in their early 30s to play college students all make it hard to get involved in his story of the relationship between an art student (Rachel Weisz) who works hard to make her nebbish boyfriend (Paul Rudd) physically and emotionally "better," and the effect that relationship has on two of his friends (Gretchen Mol, Frederick Weller). LaBute doesn't treat his characters with quite as much contempt as he sometimes has, but they still feel like abstractions rather than anything the least bit real. (At Copley Place and Harvard Square.)

Spellbound ★★★½

Here's a movie that allows you to feel a bit better about our country. Jeffrey Blitz's documentary follows eight junior high schoolers with a magnificent obsession: they're all contestants in the 1999 National Spelling Bee. The movie takes them from their regionals through the Washington, D.C., finals, and it has quirky charm to spare. The kids make up an impressively broad cross-section—boys and girls, city and country, white and of color—and the bee really brings their families together, and lets these smart kids, often misfits in their hometowns, bond with others like themselves. The finals also generate more dramatic tension than any other movie this year, by far. (At Coolidge Corner.)

X2: X-Men United ★★★

The first one did nothing for me, but the *X-Men* sequel is a looser and more entertaining experience than its stiff predecessor. Perhaps it's the plot about a government higher-up (Brian Cox) who's determined to start a war that gives the sequel an extra timeliness. Cox, Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen all give sly performances, Hugh Jackman gets tough-guy laughs as the Eastwood-esque Wolverine, Halle Berry and Famke Janssen kick sci-fi butt, and Alan Cumming has joined the cast as a creepy little mutant. The plot is much more focused and under control than the first time around, and the only real problem here is that the climax drags on, and on. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Clint Eastwood: Monterey Cop Film Series

•June 2, 6 pm. **Magnum Force** *1973*. Baffled by a series of deaths of prominent criminals in the San Francisco Bay area, "Dirty" Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) suspects that the San Francisco Police Department may have a hand in the deaths.

•June 9, 6 pm. **The Enforcer** *1976*. Dirty Harry battles a terrorist ring in San Francisco that is amassing weapons and is holding the mayor hostage on a nearby island.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Monday Series—Ian Fleming's James Bond

•June 2, 2 and 7:15 pm. **Thunderball** *1965*. Agent 007, played by Sean Connery, must save the world from being blown apart by hijacked nuclear weapons. He is assisted by the sultry, rubber-attired Domino. Directed by Terence Young. •Also showing, 4:45 and 10 pm. **The Spy Who Loved Me** *1977*. Bond and Russian Bond girl Agent Triple X work together to recover nuclear missiles from a submarine. Roger Moore plays Bond.

•June 9, 7 pm. **On Her Majesty's Secret Service** *1969*. The world's food supply is threatened by a Swiss villain, so Bond (played by George Lazenby) must save the day. •Also showing, 4:30 and 9:45 pm. **You Only Live Twice** *1967*. Missing space capsules have the United States and Soviets blaming each other. Bond, played by Sean Connery, discovers that Japan may be involved in the disappearance and enlists the help of the Japanese secret service ninja force.

Tuesday Series—Real To Reel

•June 3, 3:15 and 7:30 pm. **In the Mirror of Maya Deren** *2002*. Director Martina Kudlacekhe examines the life of dancer, writer and filmmaker Maya Deren. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9:45 pm. **Derrida** *2002*. Kirby Dick and Amy Kofman co-direct this documentary about Jacques Derrida, the famous deconstructionist philosopher.

•June 10, 3:30 and 7:30 pm. **Showman** *1963*. Directors Albert and David Maysles follow the life of film distributor Joe Levine at the time of his success marketing the 1963 film *Two Women*. •Immediately following, **With Love from Truman** *1966*. In t Maysles brothers' rarely screened work, Trum Capote is captured on film discussing his book *Cold Blood*. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9:30 pm. **Le in La Mancha** *2002*. After spending 10 years tryi to get his film adaptation of *Don Quixote* made, s backs like actor injuries, downpours and a dwindli budget forced Terry Gilliam to abandon his effo Directors Keith Fulton and Louis Pepe look at t director's failed project.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•May 28, 3:30 and 7:30 pm. **The Trials of Her Kissinger** *2002*. Could the famous diplomat a Nobel laureate Henry Kissinger also be a war crin nal? Director Eugene Jarecki explores the questi in this documentary. •Also showing, 5:30 and 9: pm. **Power and Terror: Noam Chomsky in O Times** *2002*. Noam Chomsky explores what he ca the double standards of Western intellectuals a media in this film directed by John Junkerman.

•June 4, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:45 pm. **Frida** *2002*. Ju Taymor examines the political, personal and artis life of Frida Kahlo, played by Salma Hayek.

Thursdays—Fifty Years of French Cinema

•May 29, 7 pm. **Camille Claudel** *1988*. A promisi female sculptor is taken on as a protégeé by Augu Rodin and finds herself unable to break free of hi •Also showing, 4:30 and 10 pm. **La Femme Nik** *1990*. Living life on the edge on Parisian stree Nikita finds herself arrested for murder, kidnapp and forced by the government to train as an assass Directed by Luc Bessons.

•June 5, 3 and 7:30 pm. **Irma Vep** *1996*. Direct Olivier Assayas pays homage to the New Wave his portrait of a declining filmmaker trying to ma a silent crime film. •Also showing, 5:15 and 9: pm. **Delicatessen** *1991*. A butcher is forced to be sourceful in a post-apocalyptic world where meat scarce. His life is further upset when his daugh falls for an out-of-work clown. Directed by Ma Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet.

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays—Special Engagements

•May 30-June 1, 9:30 pm. **King of Hearts** *1966*. caped asylum inmates and an unwitting soldier the only remaining residents of a small French co munity during World War I.

•Also showing, 9:30 pm. **Army of Darkness** *19* Sam Raimi's film follows an unlucky modern-d man who travels back to medieval times to fight army of the dead.

•June 6, 3 and 7:30 pm. June 7 and 8, at 12, 2:30 and 7:30 pm. **Breakfast at Tiffany's** *1961*. Audr Hepburn plays the unforgettable Holly Golightly this romantic comedy with George Peppard.

•Also showing, 10 pm. **Fulltime Killer** *2001*. T Hong Kong action film pits a meticulous assas and an over-the-top killer in a battle to decide w is the top hitman.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Opens May 30. **Horns & Halos** *2002*. A biograp of George W. Bush was recalled by its publisher 1999 after it came out that the author was a co victed felon. The book, which alleged that Bush v arrested for cocaine possession, has since been published. Michael Galinsky's film reviews the co troversy that surrounded the book, including la suits, disagreements and bad press.

•Opens May 30. **Spellbound** *2001*. See descripti in New Releases.

•Through May 28. **Bend It Like Beckham** *200* See description in New Releases.

•Through May 29. **Love & Diane** *2002*. This do mentary by Jennifer Dworkin depicts several years the life of Diane, a former crack addict who reasse bles her family after losing her children to foster c and then attempts to help her daughter Love av the same trials she has faced.

Jazz in June

•June 2, 7:30 pm. **Louis Armstrong: Satchr** *1964*. This documentary of jazz legend Louis Ar strong, who bumped the Beatles from the top of t charts with "Hello Dolly," celebrates his life a music through interviews with Tony Bennett a other contemporaries plus interview and perf mance footage of Armstrong, including his histo African tour in 1964. A performance by the Ga Johnson Trio precedes the film screening.

•June 9, 7:30 pm. **Celebrating the Bird: The T umph of Charlie Parker** *1987*. Following the life virtuoso saxophonist Charlie Parker from his a prenticeship in Kansas City to his days in New Y where he became a bebop king, director Gary G dins depicts the inventive style that made Parke legend. A performance by Dead Cat Bounce p cedes the film screening.

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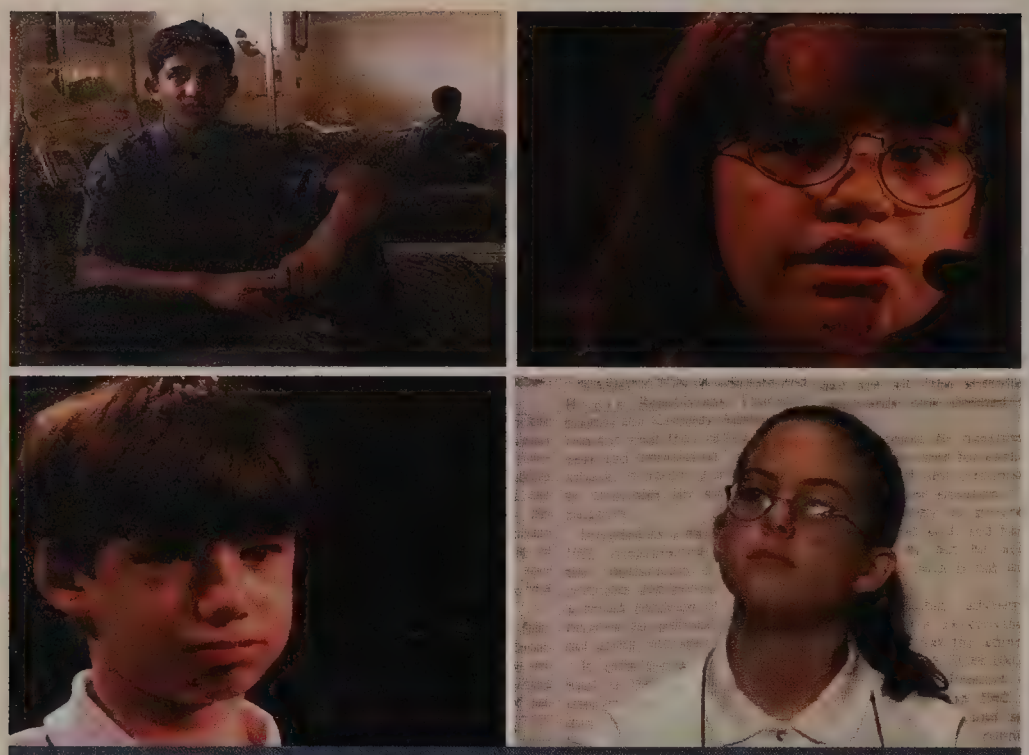


Jeffrey Blitz's new documentary, *Spellbound*, features Neil, April, Emily and Harry (clockwise from top left), junior high school students competing for the 1999 National Spelling Bee title.

Midnight Movies

•May 31, 12 am. **Donnie Darko** *2001*. Jake Gyllenhaal plays a high schooler whose visions of a giant evil rabbit lead him to commit random acts of violence. Richard Kelly directs.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Directors in Focus: Elio Petri

•May 30, 7 pm. June 8, 7 pm. **La decima vittima** (*The Tenth Victim*) *1965*. It's the 21st century and a TV game show has legalized murder, pitting sex goddess Ursula Andress against her 10th victim, Marcello Mastroianni. But romance intervenes in the deadly competition.

•May 30, 9pm. June 9, 7 pm. **Un tranquillo posto in campagna** (*A Quiet Place in the Country*) *1968*. Franco Nero stars in this harrowing account of a painter's descent into madness resulting from his obsession with a murdered woman.

•May 31 and June 3, 7 pm. **L'assassino** (*The Assassin*) *1961*. A dealer of Roman antiques is accused of murdering his mistress in this cat-and-mouse game between the devious police inspector on the case and his inhumane suspect.

•May 31 and June 3, 9 pm. **I giorni contati** (*The Days Are Numbered*) *1962*. After witnessing the death of a stranger on a train, a plumber quits his job to try to enjoy his life to the fullest.

•June 1, 4 and 7, 7 pm. **Marcello Mastroianni: I Remember** *1997*. Petri did not direct this film, but he is praised as one of the great Italian directors by Italian actor Mastroianni who gives a personal account of his career in this documentary directed by his longtime companion, Anna Tato.

•June 2, 7 pm. June 9, 9 pm. **La classe operaia va in paradiso** (*The Working Class Goes to Heaven*) *1971*. This movie about an injured factory worker who is laid off captures the brutality of working conditions in modern industrial Italy.

•June 2, 9:15 pm. **La proprieta non e piu un furto** (*Property Is No Longer a Theft*) *1973*. Literally revolted by the impact of money on humanity, a lowly bank clerk steals from a wealthy butcher in this eccentric film that explores the misery that money can inflict.

•June 6, 7 pm. June 10, 9 pm. **Todo modo** *1976*. A series of mysterious crimes at a monastic retreat of Italy's most successful politicians ultimately divides and conquers them. In this metaphysical mystery, Petri criticizes Christian Democratic political power.

•June 6, 9:30 pm. **Buone notizie** (*Good News*) *1979*. Petri comments on the emptiness and alienation of the media-dominated age as a disaffected media executive manages to find temporary respite from his routine through a delusional old friend and the friend's nymphomaniac wife.

•June 8, 9pm. **A ciascuno il suo** (*We Still Kill the Old Way*) *1967*. One of the earliest works to focus on the Italian Mafia, this film revolves around a lonely professor who investigates crimes in his Sicilian town.

Directors in Focus: Bob Fosse

•May 28, 9:15 pm. **All That Jazz** *1979*. Director/performer Bob Fosse's semi-autobiographical film depicts the mental and physical deterioration of Broadway dancer Joe Gideon (played by Roy Scheider).

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Boston Jewish Film Festival Encores

•May 29 and June 1, 8 pm. **Concorrenza Sleale (Unfair Competition)** *2001*. Ettore Scola tells a story of a relationship between two rival Roman tailors, one Jewish, one Gentile.

•June 5, 8 pm and June 8, 12:15 pm. **A Trumpet in the Wadi** *2001*. Can the love between a Christian Arab woman and a Jewish immigrant from Russia succeed in Haifa? Lina and Slava Chaplin explore the question in this classic Israeli tale.

Films by Vera Chytilova

•May 29, 6 pm. **Wolf Chalet** *1987*. Ten teens participating in a ski workshop must work together when a massive avalanche cuts them off from outside contact.

•May 31, 12:15 pm. **Tainted Horseplay** *1988*. This Czech film about AIDS portrays a group of young partiers who use promiscuity to compensate for their lack of personal fulfillment. When one of their tests comes back positive, the fun is over.

Matthew Barney's Cremaster Cycle

•May 30, 6:30 pm. May 31, 2:40 pm. **Cremaster 3** *2002*. In this experimental film, architect Richard Serra and apprentice Barney struggle for access to their object of spiritual transcendence, the Chrysler Building in New York City.

Teenage Filmmaking

•May 28, 8 pm. May 31, 10:30 am. **Chain Camera** *2001*. Director Kirby Dick compiled this portrait of teenagers at a high school in Los Angeles. Ten students were given video cameras to document their lives for a week; they then passed the cameras on to 10 others, and so on, for a year.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's remarkable journey, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 30. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.

•Now playing. **Top Speed**. Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion racecar driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through June 30. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast that unique mammals and other sea life call home. Call for showtimes.

•Through June 30. **Lost Worlds: Life in the I ance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to Equator, with a special focus on education and e ronmental awareness. Call for show times.

•Through June 30. **Space Station 3D**. Blast off space with the astronauts and cosmonauts f Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Rus Baikonur Cosmodrome, and rendezvous with the ternational Space Station in orbit 220 miles ab Earth. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Ac emy Award-winning director James Cameron t audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore wreckage of the ill-fated Titanic. Call for show ti

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B G Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: G Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: G Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MB Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: G Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Lin Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MB Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MB Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Lin Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C G Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MB Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D G Line to Chestnut Hill.

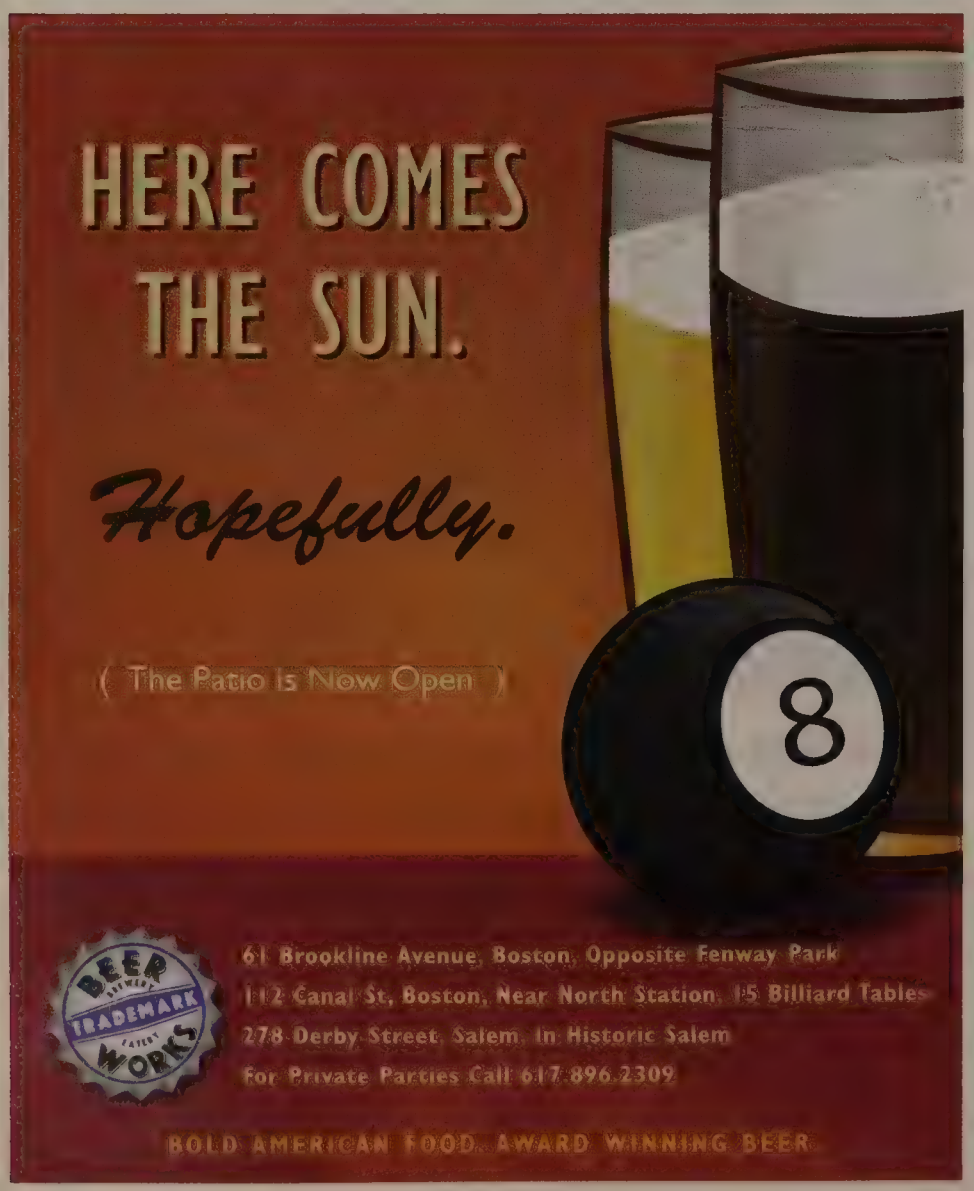
Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Ora Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Lin Davis.



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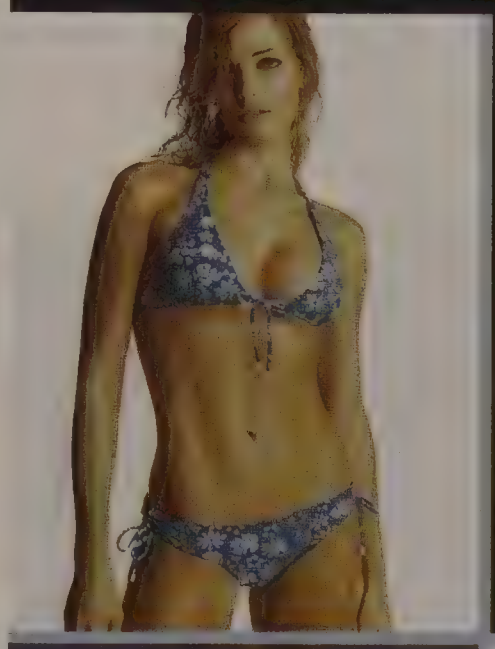

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Spree for All

Former members of Tripping Daisy find a new wardrobe and communal cause for celebration in the Polyphonic Spree

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

When the 20-plus members of the Polyphonic Spree take the stage in their white robes to play uplifting songs of love and celebration, it's an experience that has been likened to everything from the Flaming Lips to the Fifth Dimension, from the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds* to the musical *Godspell*.

It's an unusual event, especially in a rock club like the Paradise, where the choral-symphonic pop band from Texas makes its Boston debut June 6-7.

"The timing is perfect for this band," says Polyphonic Spree bassist Mark Pirro, on the phone from his Dallas home. "The attitude of popular music over the past 10 or 15 years has been on the dark side, and that's a good emotion to be in touch with in music, but it's time for something else."

All 20-plus members of the Polyphonic Spree plan to pack the Paradise stage June 6-7.

The idea for "something else" came from Spree frontman Tim DeLaughter, Pirro's former bandmate in Tripping Daisy, the psychedelic pop group best known for its 1995 hit "I Got a Girl." When Tripping Daisy imploded in the wake of guitarist Wes Berggren's 1999 death from a drug overdose, DeLaughter dropped out of music for a year to spend time with his family, then came up with the concept of a large group to express the sounds in his head.

"Polyphonic would not have been possible if some of those tragedies had not transpired—it was an inspiration for Tim, and just putting the band together was some kind of therapy," Pirro says. "The name was defining in terms of 'polyphonic' meaning many sounds and 'spree' meaning an extravaganza of sorts. Then, after he got the band together, all of a sudden he springs these robes on us, like 'We're all gonna be wearing these.'

"I thought, OK, I trust Tim, and this might be cool," Pirro says. "He didn't want the band appearing in street clothing because he thought that would be distracting to the theme."

Although the white robes could give the impression of a church choir or a cult group, Pirro sees them as a positive element. "It's a way to unify the band and has that sort of church choir feel to it," he says, "but everyone is all over the map as far as subscription to spirituality."

"There is no agenda with this band other than to entertain people," Pirro says. "As individuals, we all have good days and bad days. We don't walk around with smiles on our faces. But when we get together and perform, it's infectious."

Infectious enough to recruit members quite easily, swelling the ranks from an original 13 musicians to as many as 24, including about a dozen people in the chorus alone. Over time, instruments such as timpani and tabla drums, flutes and horns, strings and synthesizer, classical harp and theremin all made their way into the band.

Like many other newcomers, trombonist James Reimer fell in love with the group and just showed up at a rehearsal one day.

"It's the chance to pull from my little treasure chest of creativity, to add to this mix, and everyone's sort of that way," says Reimer, who hails from a day job as a computer technician and joined the band after it finished its first CD. "We kind of have it fine-tuned to a science now. It's not always about the individual."

That CD, *The Beginning Stages of...the Polyphonic Spree*, was released on the group's own Good Records in 2000, although, Reimer says, it was never really meant to be released. "It was made to get gigs, so club owners and managers wouldn't freak out: 'How's this not going to sound like a cacophony of crap?' Now it has sorta become a nice, little endearing record."

The disc became a hit in England, where the group played the Reading Festival and Royal Festival Hall. Now the Spree is spreading the word at home, including a festival sweep of Coachella in California, Bonnaroo in Tennessee and, the day after the Paradise shows, Field Day, a Long Island campout headlined by Radiohead and the Beastie Boys. And both Pirro and Reimer say the band's second CD, which DeLaughter has been busy mixing, is "epic" in sound, and more characteristic of their live shows.

"I'm just amazed at the kind of progress this band has made in such a short amount of time," Pirro says. "I'm sure there are a lot of people out there saying, '24-piece band. I've got to see this,' just for the pure spectacle of it, but we do a good job of delivering. Every show is very energetic."

But how do they get more than 20 people on small stages like the one at the Paradise? "It's like a big game of Tetris," Reimer says. "We sometimes get a little close onstage, but that's all right. It's not as close as we are on the bus." iB

The Polyphonic Spree
Plays the Paradise June 6-7.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or email to music@improper.com. Include dates, tim prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadlin four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from ferent sources. Although we make every effort to prov accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ah to double-check dates and times (see complete lis venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Earth, Wind and Fire
June 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Kathleen Edwards
June 9, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Frames
June 5, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Garage a Trois
May 28, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Etta James and the Roots Band
May 30, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Ziggy Marley
June 3, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The Polyphonic Spree and Corn Mo
June 6 and 7, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEX
The Raveonettes, Vue and the Sounds
June 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Lou Reed
June 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Rooney, Feeder and AM Radio
June 2, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Suzanne Vega and Kay Hanley
May 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Abbey Lounge Unbusted, Caged Heat and Drags.
Asgard Tommy Holmes.
Avalon Stonesour, Powerman 5000, RA and O spoken, 7 pm, $25.
Bill's Bar Maxx Haze, $10, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Jim Coyle.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Story LAB: the Animal Woman sh 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Mr. Slate, 7:20 pm, no co 21+.
Elephant & Castle Pete Masa, 6:30 pm, no co 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeFr 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
Harper's Ferry Antigone Rising, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Stephen Kellogg with Andrew K 9 pm, $12.
Independent Dennis Brennan Band, 10 pm, cover.
Johnny D's Zyrah's Orange, 8:30 pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Greg Luttrell, 8:30 pm; Sarah Brind 9:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Lizard Lounge Jessica Lurie Ensemble, 10 pm, $7
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall.
Middle East Upstairs: Isle of Citadel, Bourne Ruksac, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Sage Francis, Gru Malt, Taylor Mali, $15, 18+. Corner: Belly Danc with Garo Papazian and Band, $2, 18+. Zuzu: F Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Brother Kyte, 21+.
Milky Way Momentum Jazz Band, 8 pm, $5.
Paradise Garage a Trios, 7 pm, $16, 18+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble, 9 pm, 21+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6 pm, 21+.
Regattabar The Mark Kross Five-Piece Trio, 8 pm, $12, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Lola Danza, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers Steve Turre Quintet, 8 and 10 pm, $18.
Sky Bar The Franklins, Hidden Soul, 8:30 pm, 2
Tír na nÓg Mill City Ramblers.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, featuring Ja Hunter, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Movies (ex Vehicle Birth), Sea Navy CD release, Robots and New Bethel, $
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.
Les Zygomates Alexi Tsiganov, 8 pm.

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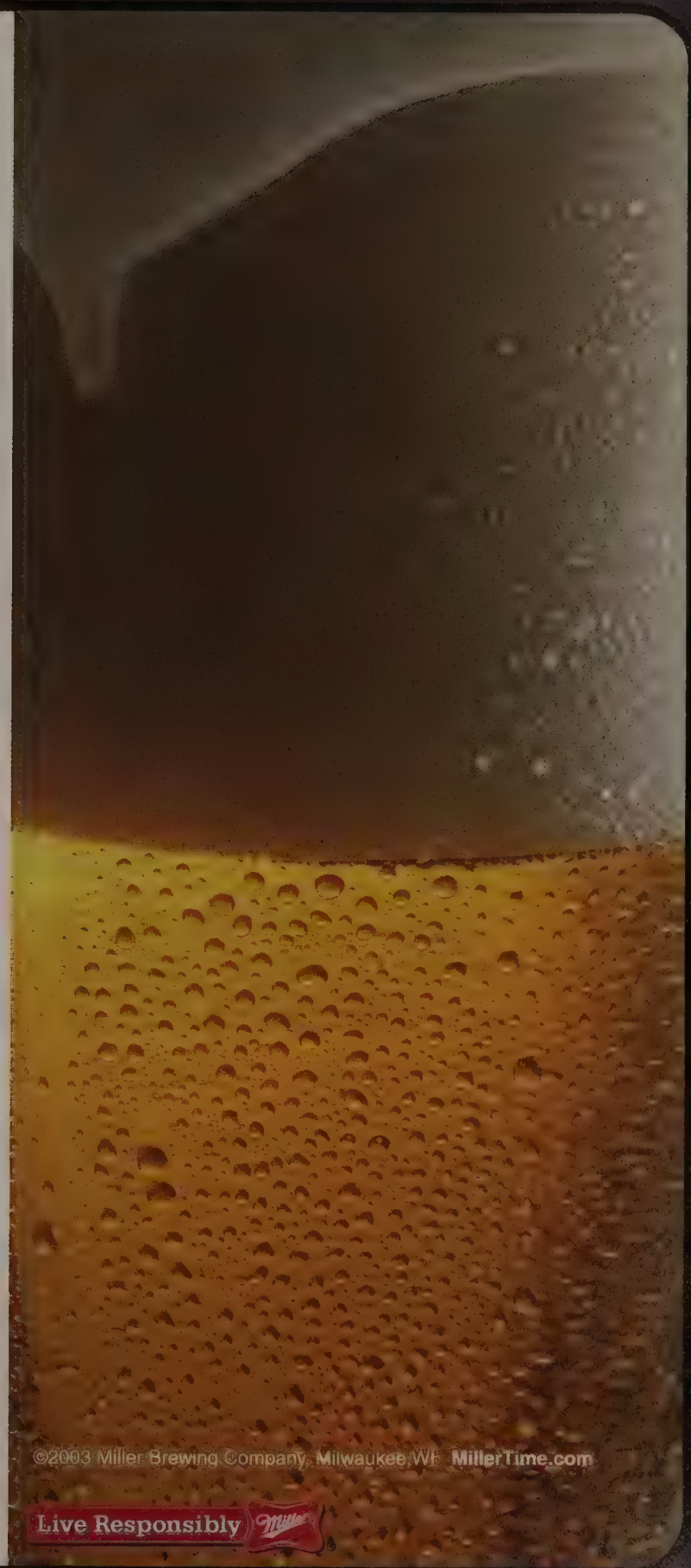

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Abbey Lounge American DeathRay, the Pickups and Spaceshots.
Asgard Nate Watkins.
Bill's Bar Patrick McAloon, Renataa and Dave Cain, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7-10 pm.
The Burren Swingin Johnsons, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Owen Plant CD-release show, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Chris Stovall Brown.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Robert Walters, $15, 18+.
Hennessy's of Boston Me and Julio.
House of Blues Vince Welnick with Gent Treadly, 10 pm, $15, 21+.
Independent Ray Greene Duo, 10 pm, no cover.
Jacob Wirth Restaurant Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's 5 O'Clock Shadow, 9 pm, $8.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Pierce Woodard, 8:30 pm; the Unlikely Cowboys, 9:30 pm; Jess Tardy, 10:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Kirkland Café Curby's, Exit 27 and Lusting Kay, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall.
Middle East Upstairs: the Beatings CD-release show, Officer May, the Mobius Band and Autumn Rhythm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Prick and Ether Net, $10, 18+. Zuzu: Zemog El Gallo Bueno, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way The Pee Wee Fist, Fritter CD-release show and Kill Henry Sugar, 9 pm, $6.
PA's Scuba, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Paradise The Benders, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Plough and Stars The Fearsome Earsome, 9 pm, 21+.
The Rack Sugarfoot, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Regattabar Donal Fox with Stefon Harris, 8:30 pm, $16, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Dave Osoff and Mosaic, Vykki Vox, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers Phil Woods Quintet, 8 and 10 pm, $18.
Sky Bar The Predicates, Leigh and Illustrious Day, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Mill City Ramblers and Los Diablos.
Toad Electrolux, 7 pm; the Stacy Queen Band, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Medea Connection, Black Helicopter, Meaghan McLaughlin and the Losing Hand, $7.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Abbey Lounge The Valkyries, Catapult and Scamper.
Asgard The Drift.
Big Easy Six Shot Brody.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Ashanti and Umoja, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm-12 am.
The Burren Well, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Edie Carey and Holly Figueroa, 7 and 10 pm, $14.
Common Ground Pressure Cooker.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Etta James, 8 pm, $31-$46, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Wannetta Jackson.
The Good Life Downtown The Herman Johnson Band.
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30 pm; the Risk.
The Green Briar Lulu's in Crisis.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
The Harp Last Man Standing.
Harper's Ferry Jerry Garcia Band, $12, 21+.
Hennessy's of Boston Me & Julio, 5-7:30 pm.
House of Blues Mary Fahl, 9:30 pm, $12, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Restaurant Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Lydia Warren and Los Blancos, 9:45 pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Jeff Harris Band, 10:30 pm; Bowman, 11:30 pm, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.

Etta James performs May 30 at the FleetBoston Pavilion.

Kirkland Café Fred's Bowling Ball and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Lizard Lounge The Model Sons, Mercury Charm School, the Spoilers and Gatsby, 9 pm, $7.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall.
Matt Murphy's Pub Mike Rivard and friends, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Cobraman, Lamont, Dixie Witch, Gil Manteras Party Dream and Stinking Lizaveta, $10, 18+. Downstairs: the Jungle Brothers, Black Sheep and Illin' P, $12. Corner: DJ Benny Blanco. Zuzu: the Golden Throat Series with Chris Cote and Charles Hanson, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Dave Roache Band, 21+.
Milky Way The Pills and December Sound, 9 pm, $7.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Paradise Suzanne Vega with Kay Hanley, 8 pm, $25, 18+.
Parris The Catunes.
PA's T-flight Davis, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Plough and Stars Grey Street.
Porters Bar and Grill Chris Tarantino.
The Rack Sugarfoot, 6:30 pm, 21+.
Regattabar Donal Fox with Stefon Harris, 8:30 pm, $16, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Ken Clark Organ Trio, 9 pm, $10.
Saunders Theatre Audra McDonald, 8 pm, $45-$58.
Scullers Phil Woods Quintet, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20.
Sky Bar The Modeles and Din, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Los Diablos.
Toad Mayone Thing, no cover.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway with Phil Grenadier, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Dirty Water CD-release show, the Street Dogs, Roxie and Every Forty Seconds, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles.
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler, 8 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Abbey Lounge Road to Ruin, Sugabomb and Roma.
Asgard Jack Shanahan.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm-12 am.
The Burren Jim Ambrose, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim John Wesley Harding, 7 and 10 pm, $15.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Wannetta Jackson.
Grand Canal Thomas Park.
The Green Briar Second Nature.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis.
Harper's Ferry Railroad Earth, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Restaurant The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's The Spurs and Spring Heel Rounders, 9:45 pm, $7.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Devon Copley, 9:30 pm; Henry, 10:30 pm; Michael Thibodeau and the Bee's Knees, 11:30 pm, $7.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Belljars and Immunity Project, $5.
The Linwood TT House of the Almighty, $7.
Lizard Lounge Seks Bomba and Le Sans Cullottes, 9 pm.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority.
Matt Murphy's Pub The Inbetweens, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Chevy Heston, Certainly S Helms, Seana Carmody, $10, 18+. Downstairs: T Leo/Pharmacists, El Guapo and Jai Alai Savar $10, 18+. Corner: Grubstake, no cover, 18+. Zuz Soul-le-lu-iah (go-go dancing and '60s soul), cover, 21+.
Midway Café Solid Bunny and Reaching for Bu dha, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Paradise Prefuse 73 with Fourtet and Manitoba, pm, $15, 18+.
PA's 5 Speed Blue, Howling Devils and Without pm, $7, 21+.
Plough and Stars The Bag Boys, 5-7 pm; John Li coln Wright, 9 pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Syndicate.
The Rack Vinnie Peruzzi Dance Party, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Melvin Sparks, 9 pm, $10.
Sky Bar The Buckners, the Webbtones, Splend Nobies and Wow, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg John Cate Band.
Toad Cash Monies and the Jetsetter, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Melt Banana and Ho-A $12.
Les Zygomates Wanneta Jackson, 8:30 pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Bill's Bar Fear Nuttin' Band with Prowla, 11:30 p 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Jim Cayle.
Bob the Chef's Nick Goomis, 10 am-3 pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Groove Authority, 9 pm, 21 +.
Club Passim Bill Novick and Guy Van Duser, 7: pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort True Believers, 10 am; t Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnso
Harper's Ferry Chris Emerson Band, $4, 21+.
House of Blues Yardbirds, 9 pm, $20-25, 21+.
Johnny D's Blues jam, 4:30 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7 pm; poetry jam, fe turing the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured po Arthur Collins, 9 pm, $5.
Matt Murphy's Pub Live and Direct, 9 pm, cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Humanoids, Destru tathon, the Stoves and Radar Eyes, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barret, 8 pm; Irish Seissun, 9 p
Plough and Stars Sasquatch and Sick-a-Boys.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10 am.
Sky Bar Douglas Leader, Snmnmnm, 8:30 pm, 21
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.

Alt-bluegrass band the Benders play a free show at the Paradise Rock Club May 29.

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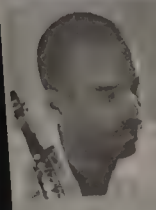

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Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and Friends.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday, 8 pm, no cover.
Axis Rooney, Feeder and AM Radio, 6 pm, $10.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Joe Lamay and Sherri Reese, 10 pm, 21+.
Encore Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Sona Nyl with the Incomparable Peter Barton Project, $3, 21+.
Hennessy's of Boston Joe Carson.
House of Blues Randy McAllister, 9:30 pm, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's The Coachmen, 8 pm, $5.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Lizard Lounge Comedy Hour hosted by Kim Davis, 7-9 pm, no cover; the Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Hungry Wives, Winterbrief, Red Car White Car, I and Synthesist, $9, 18+.
Plough and Stars Oliver Clarke and the Several Pigeons.
The Rack ZMQ.

Fritter plays at the Milky Way May 29.

Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Gemma Hayes, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and Friends.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

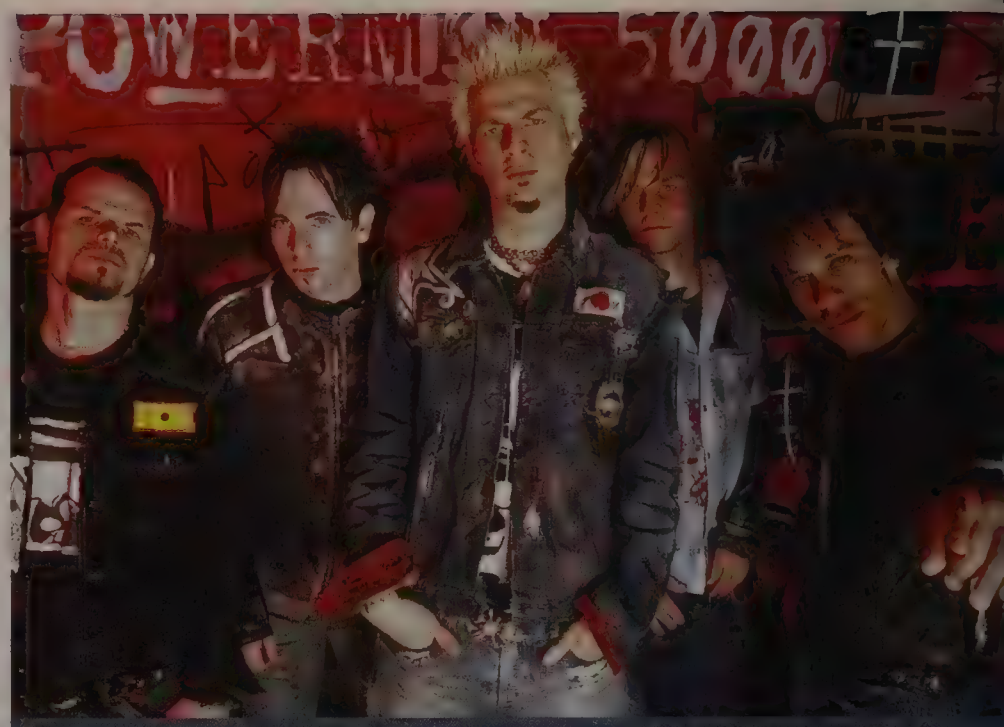
Abbey Lounge Local Jack, 9 pm.
Avalon Ziggy Marley, 7 pm, $25, 18+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Boston City Limits, 10 pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's of Boston Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Laura Cantrell with The Schramms, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Red Stick Ramblers, 8:30 pm, $7.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Fooled by April, 8:30 pm, $8.
Matt Murphy's Pub Altitude music, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Verbena, Elgin James and the Suicide Gang, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Arrested Development, $15, 18+. Corner: Noche Mexicana with Gustavo and Andres, 9 pm.
Paradise Raveonettes with Vue and the Sounds, 7:30 pm, $12, 18+.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox.
The Rack Black Sole.
Tír na nÓg Nolan McKelvey and 33.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Flashlight Brown and Cheater Pint, $5.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Asgard Dave Tecce.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7-10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Stephen Salters, 7 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Elephant & Castle Pete Masa, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
House of Blues John Mayall and the Blues Breakers, 9:30 pm, $24, 18+.
Johnny D's Gary Sextet, 8:30 pm, $10.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Lizard Lounge The Other Network hosted by Kim Davis, 8-9:30 pm; $12; the Chandler Travis Philharmonic, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: A Wish for Fire, Cho Experiment, Arrifaux and Kranksquad, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Elliott, Mae, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Irish Seissun, 9 pm.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble.
The Rack Unek Approach.
Ryles Jazz Club James Merenda's Masked Marvels, 8:30 pm, $8.
Sky Bar Brothers Sur, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Paranoid Social Club and Condition Blue, $7.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco.
Les Zygomates Bill Duffy, 8 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Abbey Lounge Choo Choo La Rouge.
Asgard Sunset.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Down 2 Earth, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis, 7-10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Jake Armerding, Dromedary, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Death by Marriage, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Labb with New Blood and Soulacious, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's of Boston Me and Julio.
House of Blues Steve Delopoulos, 9:30 pm, $10, 18+.
Jacob Wirth Restaurant Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Hip Replacements, 9 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Kirkland Café Dusky Silo, Letterik and Once Over, $5.
Lizard Lounge Beat Science and Roswell Rudd, 8 and 10:30 pm, $12.
Matt Murphy's Pub Jazz Session, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: All Parallels, Seemless, Linus and Sumo, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Brendan Benson, Jesse Malin and the Long Winters, $10, 18+.
Paradise The Frames, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Chad LaMarsh Band.
Plough and Stars Torrez.


Powerman 5000 (above) plays at Avalon with Stonesour, RA and Outspoken May 28.

The Rack Unek Approach.
Regattabar The Patrice Williamson Group with Cecilia Smith, 8:30 pm, $14, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Greg Hopkins, 8:30 pm, $10.
Scullers Fairport Convention, 8 and 10 pm, $18.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kimone, Cardia, Ampline and Cancer to the Stars, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Abbey Lounge Sunburned Hand of the Man, the Time Beings.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm-12 am.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Whose Muddy Shoes, 8 pm, $14.
Common Ground The Allstonians.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Earth, Wind and Fire, 8 pm, $45, all ages.
Grand Canal Maxi, 5-7:30 pm; Six Shot Brody.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scooby Snax.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Harper's Ferry Superhoney with Grandfather Ridiculous, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's of Boston Me and Julio.
House of Blues Roy Rogers and Norton Buffalo, pm, $18-$20, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Restaurant Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cove
Johnny D's Beausoleil, 9:45 pm, $20.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café High Plains Drifter, RPMs, Hon Deluxe and Mickey Bliss, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Limbo Eula Lawrence, 9 pm, $15 a table, 21 +.
Lizard Lounge Robbie Fulks, Amy Rigby and Sar Borges, $15.
Matt Murphy's Pub Timo Shanko, 10:30 pm, cover, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Waltham, Drinkfist C release show, White and Crumble, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
Old South Church Divas, Damsels and Dieties pr sents Adriana Repetto and Jeffrey C. Mead, 7 pm.
Paradise The Polyphonic Spree, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris The Interns.
Plough and Stars Paved Country.
Porters Bar and Grill Nate Watkins.
Purple Shamrock Thomas Park.
The Rack Central Basement.
Regattabar The Duke Robillard Band, 7:30 and pm, $14, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jeff Stout and Debby Larkin, 9 p $9.
Scullers Walter Beasley, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place A.R.E. Weapons, Freezep and Tunnel of Love, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicles.
Les Zygomates Valerie Stephens.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Asgard Stu Lee
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Diamond Life, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm- am.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers pm, 21+.
Club Passim Barbara Kessler, Serena Ryder, 8 p $12.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Cape Fear.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syptifo.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Harper's Ferry Clutch Grabwell, $8, 21+.
House of Blues John Cleary, 10 pm, $14, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Restaurant The Stever Fell Band, pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Swinging Johnsons, 9:45 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café The Deal, $5.
Kinsale The Black Thorn Band.
Lizard Lounge The Darlings CD-release party a Wooden Leg, $6.
Matt Murphy's Pub Andy Voelker, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Confront, the Blue Blood the Wednesday Night Heroes, Jeepers H Cracke and the Flying Bobbs, 1 pm, $7, 18+; Lyres, Mr. A plane Man, Coffin Lids, Bamboo Kids and 9 pm, $ 18+. Downstairs: Boston Rock Opera 10th Anniv sary Show and Sky Paint, $10, 18+.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Joan Armatrading June 14, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Boston June 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Boston Globe Jazz Festival, featuring Buddy Guy, Los Lobos and Indigenous June 16, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Boston Globe Jazz Festival featuring Aretha Franklin June 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Boston Globe Jazz Festival featuring Medeski, Martin & Wood and the John Scofield Band June 18, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jonatha Brooke June 12, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Jackson Browne, Steve Earle & the Dukes and Keb Mo July 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Chicago June 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
The Chieftains July 8, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Elvis Costello and the Imposters July 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000).
The Dead and Steve Winwood June 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Dixie Chicks and Michelle Branch June 19, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)
Dream Theater and Queensryche July 9, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Peter Gabriel June 18, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Roy Hargrove June 19, Copley Square Park (617-254-9267)
Heart July 10, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Norah Jones June 28, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Chaka Khan June 20, Wang Center (617-931-2000)
Van Morrison, Solomon Burke and the Soul Alive Orchestra June 14 and 15, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Poison, Skid Row and Vince Neil June 16, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Santana and Angelique Kidjo June 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Solas June 13, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
James Taylor June 28 and 29, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Wilco and Sonic Youth June 23, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)

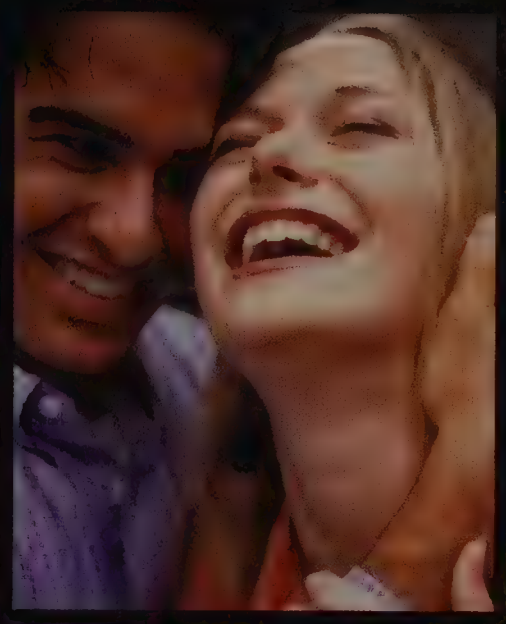
116 Brighton Ave., Allston 617.254.6633

Mon.-Sat. 11:30 -2am

Sun. 10-2am

Food until midnight

WHITE HORSE TAVERN



NEVER A COVER CHARGE

THE LAST DROP

a Neighborhood Bar

596 Washington St., Oak Square, Brighton 617.787.1111

421 Marlborough St., Back Bay, Boston 617.262.5555

Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
Orpheum Theatre Lou Reed, 7:30 pm, $31-$49.
Paradise The Polyphonic Spree, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris The Interns.
Purple Shamrock Moo Tycoon.
Regattabar The Luciana Souza Quartet, featuring Bruce barth, 7:30 and 10 pm, $16, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Sleepin with Creepy, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers Walter Beasley, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22.
Sky Bar Hawley Sawyer Rifle Co., Plastic Pilot, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Cash Monies and the Jetsetter.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Longwave, the Fly Seville and Phaser, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.
Zeitgeist Gallery John Voigt, Jon Damian and Marc Bisson.
Les Zygomates Rollings Ross, 8:30 pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

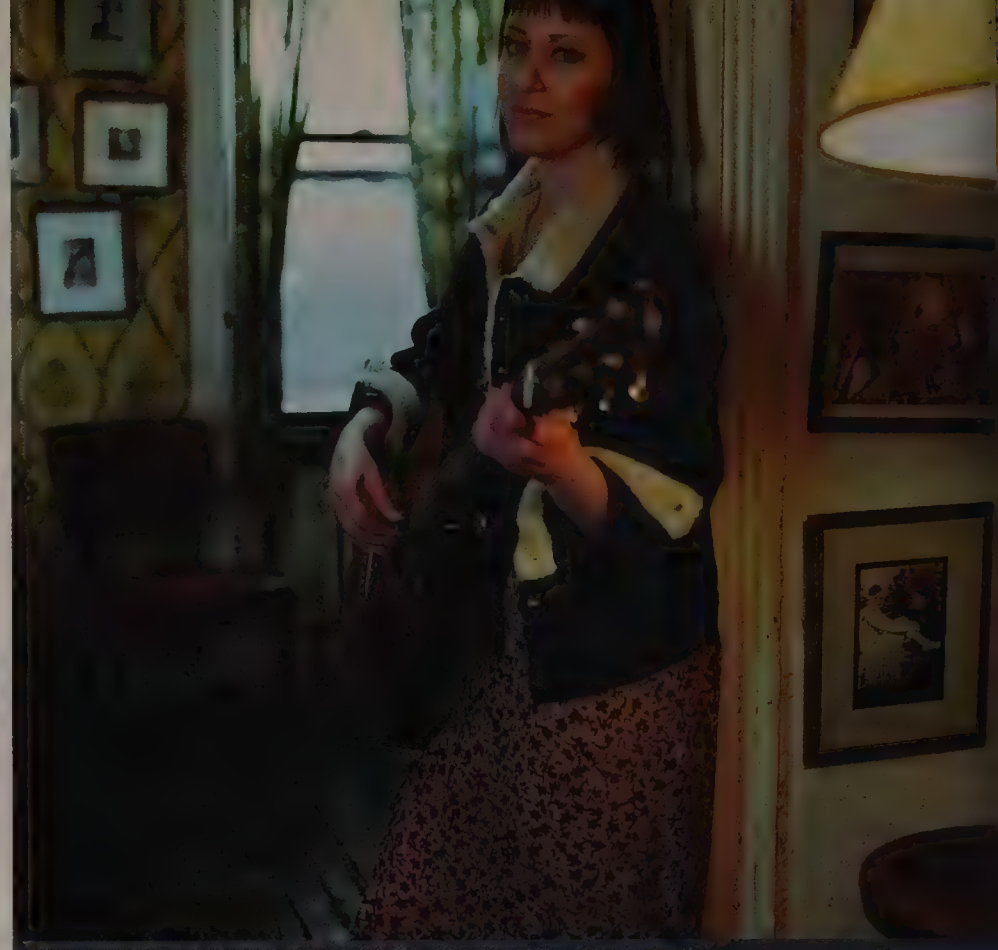
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan, no cover.
Bob the Chef's Nat Simpkins Jazz Quartet, 10 am.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Groove Authority, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Flynn Cohen with John McGann and Aoife O'Donovan with Rushad Eggleston, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort The Bibletones, 10 am; the Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry Chris Emerson Band, $4, 21+.
Johnny D's Blues Jam, 4:30 pm.
Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet, 8 pm, $15 per table, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7 pm; poetry jam, featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Jessie, 9 pm, $5.
Matt Murphy's Pub Live and Direct, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Turbo ACs, Easy Action and High School Hellcats, $9, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barret, 8 pm; Irish Seissun, 9 pm.
Plough and Stars Sasquatch and Sick-a-Billy's.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch 10 am; Tai Shalom Kobi Youth Ensembles, 6:30 pm.
Sky Bar Sonic Bonnet, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Gordon Beadle Trio, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and friends.

MONDAY, JUNE 9

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday, 8 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Rick Yost, 10 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Tribute Night to Woody Guthrie, 7 pm, $12.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Shipyard Wreck with 23 Skeedoo, $3, 21+.
Hennessy's of Boston Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Jubilee Mule, 8 pm, $5.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge The Lizard Lounge Comedy Hour hosted by Kim Davis, 7-9 pm, no cover; the Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Faux Jean, $8, 18+.
Paradise Kathleen Edwards, 7 pm, $15, 18+.
Plough and Stars Oliver Clarke and the Several Pigeons.
Porters Bar and Grill Adam Ezra.
The Rack PTM30 Latin jazz.
Top of the Hub Gordon Beadle Trio, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and friends.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Abbey Lounge Sylvain Sylvain, Caged Heat, BioPop and Malibu Lou.
Asgard Trivia.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge The Bagboys, 10 pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's of Boston Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Blue Rodeo, 10 pm, $15, 18+.
Johnny D's Deb Cowan, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Lizard Lounge Fooled by April, $6.
Matt Murphy's Pub Altitudemusic with Geoff Scott, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Neil Micheal Hagerty, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Terence Trent D'Arby, 8 pm, $17, 18+.
Paradise Burlesquefest, 7 pm, $16, 18+.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox.
The Rack ZMQ.
Tír na nÓg Nolan McKelvey and 33.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Major Stars, Lockgroove, Sub-Arachnoid Space and Bright, $8.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm.



Suzanne Vega (above) plays with Kay Hanley May 30 at the Paradise Rock Club.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
The Druid Pub *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-0965). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Irish Embassy Pub *234 Friend St., Boston(617-742-6618).*
Jacob Wirth *31 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St. (617-267-8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's *14 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Old South Church *645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
PA's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Porters Bar and Grill *173 Portland St., Boston (617-742-7678). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or B Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *189 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Street.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Yuu (above) plays with the Raveonettes and the Sounds June 3 at the Paradise Rock Club.

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classical music

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. John Williams leads the Pops in a night of American classics. This evening's performance features vocalist Nancy Wilson and saxophonist Daniel Higgins,

Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15 pm. $2. Voices Rising—Women's Medieval Vocal Trio performs in the Music at the Cathedral Series half-hour concert.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Bruce Hangen leads the Pops in a performance of big-band favorites from the swing era through contemporary times. Space is cleared for dancing.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. John Williams leads the Pops in a performance of musical selections from films, including *Harry Potter* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. This evening's performance features principal viola Cathy Basrak.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge. (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $45-$58. Audra McDonald sings poems put to music. Selections include Paul Lawrence Dunbar's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$42. John Williams leads the Pops in a performance of American classics.

Boston Recorder Society
First Baptist Church, Beacon and Centre streets, Newton Centre (617-669-4292). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. 3 pm. $15. The Trio Saltarello performs works by Handel, Telemann, Rameau and Purcell in *Saltarello Goes to the Opera*.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $45-$58. Same program as May 30.

Musica Sacra
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-349-3400). www.musicasacra.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $20, $12 students and seniors. Musica Sacra closes its season with a performance of works by Bach, Johann Hermann Schein and others in *The Birth of Baroque: German Motets of the 17th Century*.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $15-$67. Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a salute to America, including *You're a Grand Old Flag* and *America the Beautiful*. This evening's performance features vocalist Renese King and the New York Voices.

Boston Recorder Society
Historic Loring Greenough House, 12 South St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3158). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hill. 3 pm. $15. Same program as May 31.

Chorus Pro Musica
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-267-7442). www.choruspromusic.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $25, $40 and $55. Jeffrey Rink leads the Chorus in its season finale performance of Verdi's opera *La Traviata*.

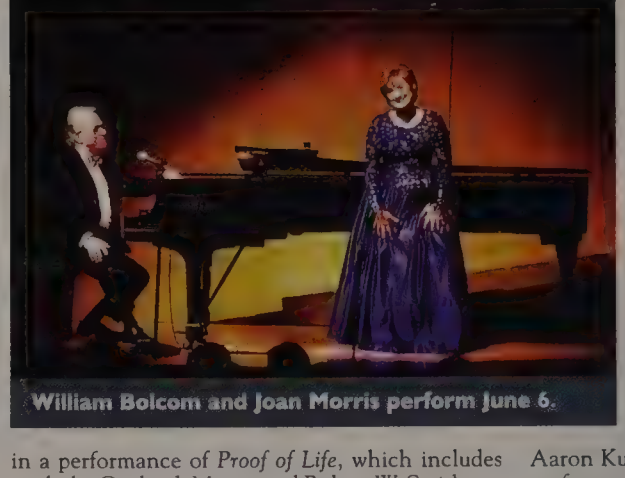
Erevan Choral Society
Waltham High School Auditorium, Waltham (617-364-0632). 3 pm. The Choral Society and Orchestra of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the birth of composer Aram Khachaturian in their gala Spring Concert.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956 ext. 5000). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. In the faculty artist recital, pianist Sally Pinkas performs works by Beethoven, Fauré and Rachmaninoff.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 11 am. Free. Aldo Abreu leads the NEC Preparatory Baroque Chamber Orchestra in a performance of works by Scheidt, Vivaldi, Gluck, Telemann and Tartini.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. Free. Music director David Samour and NEC graduate student Joyce Ogren lead the Junior Youth Wind Ensemble in a performance of *Proof of Life*, which includes works by Copland, Mozart and Robert W. Smith.


William Bolcom and Joan Morris perform June 6.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$42. Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a performance of American classics for Harvard's 50th Reunion night.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Pianist Alla Cohen performs with NEC voice and chamber students.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

First & Second Church Music Series
66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-435-4015). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 12:15 pm. $8, $5 seniors and students. Pianist Lucienne Davidson performs with the Arcadian Winds.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free. Silly Bees, a vocal and chamber ensemble, performs songs from the English Renaissance by Dowland, Danyel and Campion.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a performance of American classics.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free. NEC faculty member pianists Matthew Green and Margaret Denton, and cellist Susanne Friedrich perform works by Bach, Brahms and Lutoslawski.

Opera Unlimited
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-451-3388). MBTA: E Green Line to Heath Street. 8 pm. $19-$30. Members of Opera Boston and Boston Modern Orchestra Project perform Daniel Pinkham's operas *Garden Party* and *The Cask of Amontillado*.

Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in performances of American classics at Symphony Hall in early June.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $36-$67. Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a performance of American classics for Harvard's 25th Reunion night.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $40-$50. Pulitzer Prize–winning pianist and composer William Bolcom and mezzo-soprano Joan Morris perform selections by Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Burton Lane and others.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free. Orlando Cela leads the Willow Flute Ensemble in a performance of original works.

Opera Unlimited
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-451-3388). MBTA: E Green Line to Heath Street. 8 pm. $19-$30. Same program as June 7.

Street. 8 pm. $19-$30. Members Opera Boston and Boston Modern C chestra Project perform Thomas Ad opera *Powder Her Face*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Bost (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBT E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $1 $67. Keith Lockhart leads the Pops ir performance of American classics f MIT night.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Bost (617-585-1122). www.newenglandco servatory.org. MBTA: E Green Line Symphony. 8 pm. $10, $5 studen Aaron Kula leads the NEC Youth Symphony ir performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No.7*, Ri sky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* and Coplan *Four Dances*.

Opera Unlimited
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Hu ington Ave., Boston (617-451-3388). MBTA: Green Line to Heath Street. 8 pm. $19-$30. The semble performs Elena Ruehr's *Toussaint Before Saints* and John Harbison's *A Full Moon in March*.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-26 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Sy phony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Keith Lockhart leads the Po in a performance of music from the'50s, '60s and '7 The performance features the New York Voices.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambri (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line Harvard. 4 pm. Free. Flutist Julia Scolnik and pian Donald Berman premiere Bruce Adolphe's *Red D and Pink Skies* and perform works by Bach, Boeh Franck and Piazzolla.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambri (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Members of the Boston Sy phony Orchestra join pianist Hugh Hinton and obo Keisuke Wakao for a recital of works by Beethoven.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.org. MBT E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $10, $5 studen Benjamin Zander leads the NEC Youth Philh monic Orchestra in Rossini's *William Tell Overtu* and Tchaikovsky's *Overture to Romeo and Juliet*.

Opera Unlimited
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Hu ington Ave., Boston (617-451-3388). MBTA: Green Line to Heath Street. 2 pm. $19-$30. Same p gram as June 5.

Opera Unlimited
Tower Auditorium at Mass. College of Art, 621 Hu ington Ave., Boston (617-451-3388). MBTA: Green Line to Heath Street. 8 pm. $19-$30. Same p gram as June 6.

MONDAY, JUNE 9

Boston Early Music Festival
Cutler Majestic Theater, 219 Tremont St., Bost (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: Green L to Boylston. 7 pm. $35. The BEMF, in collaborati with the Handel and Haydn Society, holds an op dress rehearsal for its production of Johann Geo Conradi's opera *Ariadne*.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambri (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Pianists Alice Wilkinson a John Finney perform works by Chopin, Hayd Poulenc and Rachmaninoff.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Boston Early Music Festival
Cutler Majestic Theater at Emerson College, 2 Tremont St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.o MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7 pm. $40-$1 Join the BEMF, in collaboration with the Hand and Haydn Society, for opening night of its produ tion of Johan Georg Conradi's *Ariadne*.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-26 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Sy phony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Keith Lockhart leads the Po in a tribute to Harry Ellis Dickson.

Opera Unlimited
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Hu ington Ave., Boston (617-451-3388). 8 pm. $19-$ Same program as June 7.

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Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •June 2, ZMQ performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •June 9, Live jazz with PTM30, 6:30-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 19+, ladies; 21+, guys.

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10 pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis keep the dance floor moving with a night of house music and weekly guest DJs, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•June 3, after-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10 pm. •June 10, ZMQ performs, 6-10pm. Dance tunes spun by DJ Ricky, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip-hop and R&B, dress jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJs Bobby B spins a mix of top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
•May 28, Live music with ZMQ, 6-10 pm. •June 4, Unek Aproach performs, 6-10 pm. DJ Ricky spins dance music, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami, John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orlean themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tune 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, r cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJs spin loungey music.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix featur retro tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $ 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance ar house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm; li music by local bands goes all night, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and to 40, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted KISS 108, proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spi acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christia Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fre guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstair 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party start upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Giosc spin dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no cov 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 a 21+.

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins Lat dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover befo 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
•June 5, The Chad LaMarsh Band performs live, pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando prese drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techn downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays: DJs Manolo, Paul Daile Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotati residency.

The Rack
•May 29, live music with Sugarfoot Horns, 6-10 p •June 5, Unek Aproach performs. DJ Ricky spins night long, 10 pm-2 am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lovers' ro roots reggae and R&B, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

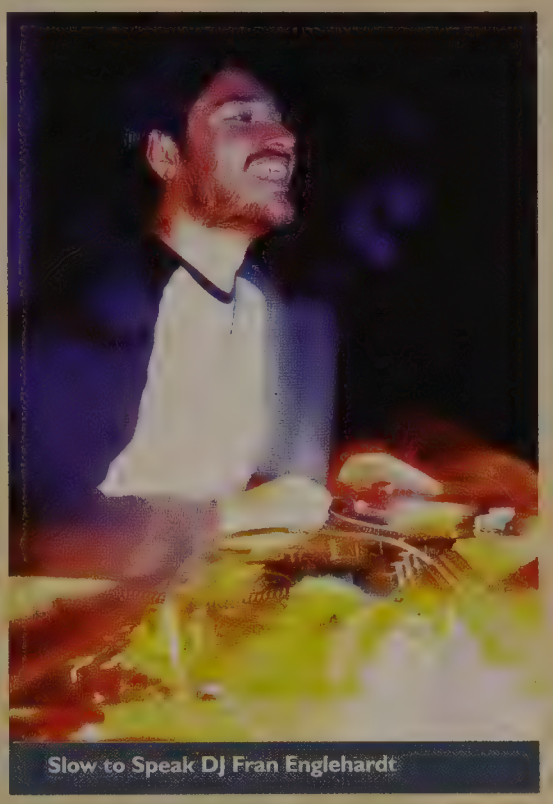
RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9 pm, cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, ho and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10 p $11.50.

Preview

Dirty Talk

The Slow to Speak DJ collaborative plays Dirty Mind, a new kind of party at the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center



Slow to Speak DJ Fran Englehardt

Fran Englehardt, Paul Nickerson and Keith Donaldson, the musical minds behind DJ collaborative Slow to Speak, are devoted to keeping the soul and spirit of dance music alive. Englehardt and Nickerson are probably best known around town as the creators of the deep-house party Life at the former Lava Bar. Though both have since relocated to New York, they still make their sound heard on WMBR-FM every Sunday morning from 2 to 4 am. On May 31, Slow to Speak will join forces with Kevin Figueiredo's 3sevens nightlife promotions project to present Dirty Mind, a special event at the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center in the South End.

Dirty Mind party-goers can expect to find a musical space where anything from Hugh Masekela to Kevin Yost is fair game. The Slow to Speak moniker was inspired by a Biblical verse that reads, "be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger." "It describes our approach to compiling and sequencing music," Donaldson says, "one that begets genuine appreciation for the work, its presentation and the audience."

In addition to music and dance, promoter Figueiredo's plans for the night include "copper, leather and feather" fashions by Conrad Lamour, sexually explorative photography, as well as "inhibited people," who, he says, will be chained to the walls until midnight and then set free onto the dance floor. Figueiredo's hoping to achieve a "sensory overload" reminiscent of New York City's legendary Mudd Club, combining fashion, performance art, sexuality, and photography with dance music. Slow to Speak's Nickerson says the DJs will play whatever music suits the mood: "After all, a dope jam is a dope jam!" —Daniel Spurling

Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton St., Boston. www.3sevens.net. May 31. 10 pm-2 am. $10 with RSVP until 11:30 pm, $20 after or without RSVP.

ANNO 1366.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10 pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas Dance
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old school and dance hall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin Top 40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
•May 30, Last Man Standing performs live. •June 6, Live music with Peatmoss. DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40 R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Embassy

Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or girls' nights out, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Parris
•May 30, The Catunes perform, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •June 6, Live music by the Interns, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10 pm. •June 6, Thomas Park performs live, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
•May 30, live music with Sugarfoot Horns, 6:30-10:30 pm. •June 6, Central Basement performs, 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca, 7-10 pm, no cover, 19+.

RiverGods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night of Latin music and dancing with special guests every week, 9:30 pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Atlas Dance
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker spins the top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Exchange Saturdays
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 2

The Harp
•May 31, Last Man Standing performs live. •June Live music with Peatmoss. DJ Lou is downstairs a DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and t 40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 p $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and h hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, wh downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and Kiss 1 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and int national music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $ 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and Rob D spin mainstream international music on t fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house wh the back room features dance favorites from the '8 and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio O moves the crowd with merengue, salsa and bach beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 1

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dar music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Wi D, proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 p $15, 18+. $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male E counter** New England's longest-running all-m dance review, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 a $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos sp top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 1 $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top- dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins ma stream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 1 no cover, 21+. •**Sober Saturdays** Boston's only al hol-free nightclub pumps '70s, '80s, '90s and top- $15, 18+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits fr the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; cover, 21+.

Parris
•June 7, Live music by the Interns, 10 pm, co varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 2

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, pro dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm. $5, 2 •May 31, Syndicate performs live, 9 pm, $5, 2 •June 7, Live music with Moo Tycoon, 9pm, $5, 2

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host t dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ U lockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techn 10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and inter tional music, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 p Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before pm, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa a merengue while a Latin band plays on the first fl and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the s ond floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in t front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 2

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8 pm, 21+.

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SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house in the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-hop in the lounge, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm , $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at Boston's latest service industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It The weekend ends with DJs John Davis and B-Coy spinning top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop in a Sunday night of electric dance, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes on the third floor while DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30 pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10 pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City DJ Derrick spins world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 15 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-669*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*

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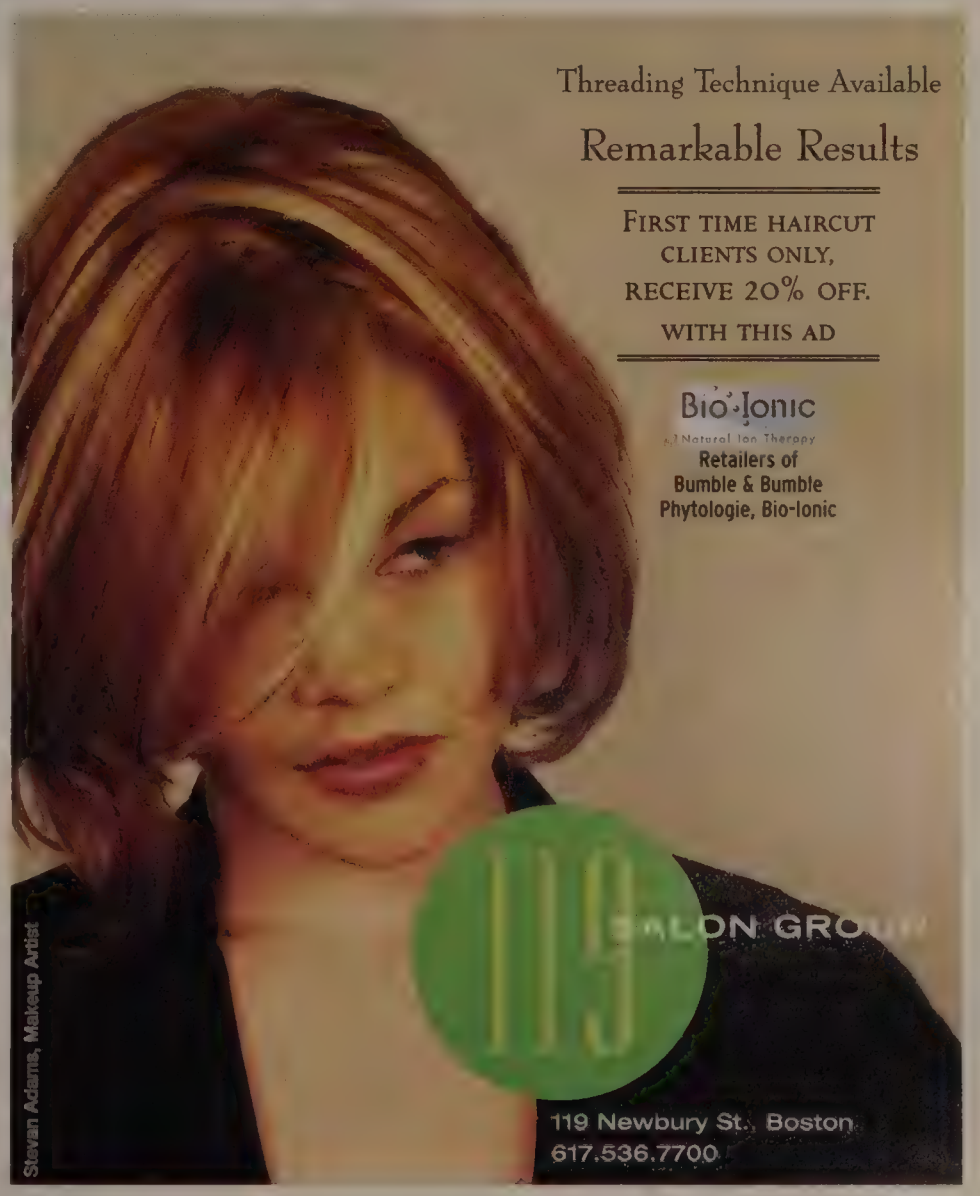

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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Sept. 7. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows June 5-Dec. 7.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Black Books: The First African American Authors*, a collection of early books and manuscripts by African Americans, shows through June 27.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center

Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm. •The museum's ongoing shows include Italian and African art. •South African artist Bernadette Serle addresses themes of identity, and Paul Vanouse explores ethical issues in science through electronic media in *The Space Between: Artists Engaging Race and Syncretism*. Through June 8. •Three series of photographs capture life in the refugee camps of Somalia and Afghanistan in *Fazal Sheikh: A Camel for the Son; Ramadan Moon; The Victor Weeps*. Through June 8. •*Bridging the Border: Shared Themes in Mexican and U.S. Art 1900-1950* displays through June 8.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down* is a 40-foot relief of a tree. Through Aug. 31. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists, selected from the museum's collection. Through summer 2004. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures* sculptural exhibition shows June 7-spring 2004. •*The 2003 DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the work of 11 New England artists June 7-Aug. 31. •*The 18th Annual Art in the Park Festival and Art Sale* features, food, musical performances and interactive arts and crafts. June 8, 10 am-5 pm.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum

1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained glass panels, displays through Aug. 31.

Fogg Art Museum/Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Christopher Wilmarth: Drawing into Sculpture* looks at how drawings inspired the artist's glass and steel sculptures. Through June 29. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows through July 6. •*Kandinsky in 1914* shows through July 13. •*Jean Fautrier 1898-1964* displays through July 20. •*Le Coq d'Or: Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes* shows through Aug. 24. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through October 26.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines.

Vasily Kandinsky's *Panel for Edwin R. Campbell No. II*, at the Busch-Reisinger Museum (see listing for the Fogg Art Museum).

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition, shows through Aug. 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*The Palazzo Barbaro: Isabella Gardner and Her Circle in Venice* explores the interaction of a few individuals who enlivened and inspired the museum. Through July 18, 2004. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through Aug. 21.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Ann Pendleton-Jullian: Facts + Fictions* highlights four of the writer, architect and MIT professor's books. Through Sept. 5. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*French Royal Furniture* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a collection of figurative art from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* showcases the paintings of the American artist. Through Jan. 4.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Digital Studio* features the work of more than 30 young artists from Boston's inner city neighborhoods. Through June 30. •*Speed* explores the physical laws that govern velocity. Through Sept. 3. •*Microbes: Invisible Invaders...Amazing Allies* examines the harmful and beneficial effects of the microscopic wonders. Through Fall 2003. •*Contraptions A-Z* is a hands-on exhibit of gadgets. June 6-Sept. 8.

National Center of Afro-American Artists

300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5 pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •*Final Exposure: Death Row Portraits*, photographs by Lou Jones, shows with Keith W[illegible] ington's *Within Our Gates: Human Sacrifice i[n] American Landscape*. Through July 6.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-10[illegible] www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to [illegible] vard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50 adults, $5 se[illegible] and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with the A[illegible] cas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original s[illegible] ture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cult[illegible] •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibi[illegible] displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Ch[illegible] Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-18[illegible]* a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint[illegible] lection. Through Aug. 30. •*These Shoes Were N[illegible] for ... Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes[illegible] ancient culture to the contemporary sensible s[illegible] shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted by a Di[illegible] Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American South[illegible]* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts R[illegible] Ruin. May 30-Dec. 2004.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-98[illegible] www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-[illegible] and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Some[illegible]* combines oral histories, photographs, memora[illegible] and interactive media to explore the rise and f[illegible] Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only o[illegible] which operates today. Through March 28, 200[illegible]

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art

38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.[illegible] fineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. [illegible] Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 11 am-5* •Lawrence Kupferman's *Images of Boston: Ex[illegible] sionist Watercolors and Oil Paintings from the 1[illegible]* shows through June 21.

Alianza Gallery

154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). w[illegible] alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co[illegible] Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Geom[illegible] in Glass* features blown-glass sculptures. Thr[illegible] June 29.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.[illegible] gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. [illegible] Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Watercolors by Gra[illegible] Nickson show in *Recent Works*. Through Jun[illegible]

Arden Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). w[illegible] ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co[illegible] Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •L[illegible] Windsor shows her landscapes in *Pools, Reflec[illegible] and Rainy Days*. Through May 30. •Jain Tarn[illegible] shows landscapes in *New Work* June 3-30.

Art Institute of Boston

Lesley University, 700 Beacon St., Boston (617-[illegible] 6676). www.aiboston.edu. *MBTA: Green Li[illegible] Kenmore. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5* •The gallery features senior graduate w[illegible] Through May 31.

Barbara Krakow Gallery

10 Newbury St., Fifth floor, Boston (617-262-44[illegible] www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green [illegible] to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Rounda[illegible]* is a collection of Bill Thompson's new w[illegible] Through May 28. •Sol LeWitt shows his wo[illegible] *Models for Proposed Dome Structures and R[illegible] Gouaches* May 31-June 28.

Berenberg Gallery

4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MB[illegible] *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6* •*Settlement* is a collection of paintings and mi[illegible] media works by four Toronto-based artists. Thr[illegible] June 21.

Bernard Toale Gallery

450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). w[illegible] bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Lin[illegible] Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Two [illegible] tography exhibitions, Abelardo Morell's Su[illegible] *1987-2003* and Jocelyn Lee's *Portraits*, s[illegible] through July 3.

Brickbottom Gallery

1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). w[illegible] brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm ar[illegible] appointment.* •*Unbuilt Visions* features models, im[illegible] and proposals for public projects. Through June [illegible]

Brookline Arts Center

86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-57[illegible] www.boklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 [illegible] 4 pm.* •Ruth Kates and students show their w[illegible] in *Oil Paintings*. Through May 29. •Pat[illegible] Gadsby presents the *Children Art Awards* exh[illegible] tion June 2-13.

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e see our **beautiful staff** in their beach best and **Hawaiian Tropic**
els sporting various bikinis – they'll be selling raffle tickets for our
d prize: a **Martha's Vineyard getaway!**

oin us in celebrating the summer and enter to win hot prizes,
ding **Boston's Sunspot Sunglasses (Faneuil Hall)!**
l also have free t-shirts and other cool summertime giveaways!

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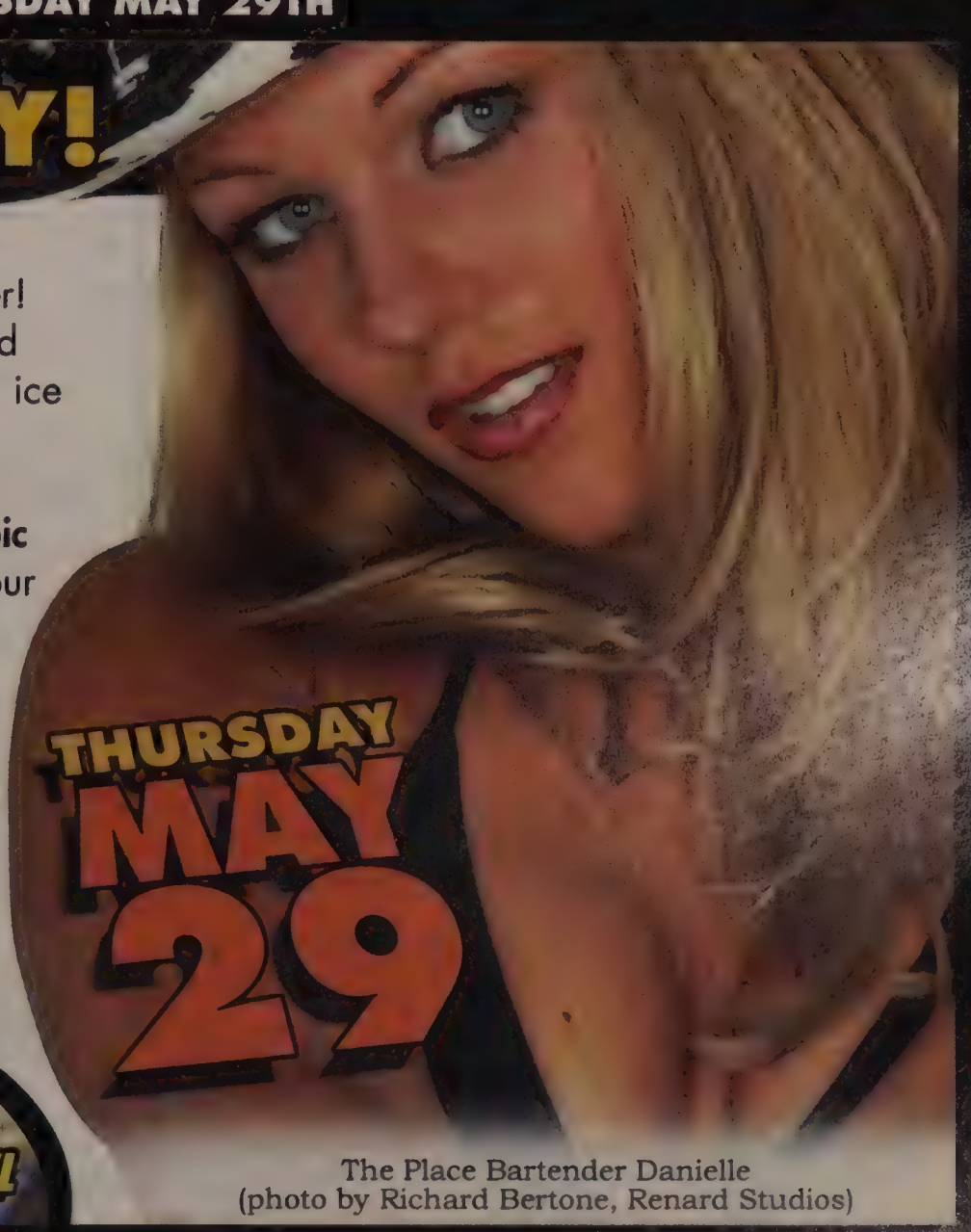

The Place Bartender Danielle
(photo by Richard Bertone, Renard Studios)

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Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Mon.-Fri., 9:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Students show their photography, ceramics and paintings in the *Cambridge Public Schools* exhibition. Through June 6.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-11:30 pm; Sun., 12-11:30 pm. •*VES Art and Film Thesis Exhibition* shows through June 5.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Mass Art Continuum: Glass Art by Teaching Artists, Select Alumni and Students,* a juried exhibition, shows glassmaking techniques. Through June 14.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Benjamin Long shows his mixed-media work, and Carolyn Evans displays her oil paintings May 28-June 21.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Herbert Barnett's paintings display through July 3.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Spring Members Show: A Juried Exhibition* displays through June 21.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing exhibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. Free. •Paul Kerepka's *Colorful Landscapes and Recent Works* shows June 3-July 25.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Analog to Digital/Digital to Analog (A2D/D2A),* an exhibition on technology in art, shows through May 30. •*Unfolding Geometries* features Don Eyles' photography and Anne Lilly's sculpture June 6-July 18.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •Paula Rendino Zaentz's photographs show in *Mudras: The Language of the Hand.* Through May 30. •*Brian McNeil: Environmental Portraits* shows June 6-Aug. 1.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Tue., 6-9 pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9 pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Superpower* features paintings by recent MFA graduates. Through June 21.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*The First Annual Furniture Design Exhibition* shows through June 28.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Lana Z. Caplan shows her photography in *On Closer Inspection* May 30-July 18.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Bert Antonio's *New Paintings from Photo Collages* displays through May 31. •Fran Siegel shows his paintings and drawings in *Pacific Glow* June 6 -July 6.

John Currin's *Gold Chains and Dirty Rags*, at the MFA

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •Jonathan Singer shows his work in *Digital Prints.* Through June 6.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*The Color, Material and Method,* a group show of mixed-media work, displays May 30-July 1.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm.* •*Vitrum Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath and Board* shows through June 28.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-6 pm.* •Bruce Helander shows his work in *Vintage,* through June 8.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment. •An exhibition of calligraphy and Sumi paintings shows through June 4.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •The Cambridge Art Association presents *National Prize Show 2003.* Through June 25.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Greg Miller shows his work in *Los Angeles Paintings.* Through June 21.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. •Mary Lang shows her photography in *Reflections of Emptiness,* June 3-28.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*Conceived in Stone,* a group show, displays through June 14.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12 pm-6 pm; Fri., 12 pm-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm. •*Just Stand There,* a group show, and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's short video *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex,* display through July 6. •*Influence, Anxiety and Gratitude (Toward an Understanding of Trans-generational Dialogue as a Gift Economy)* features the work of more than 20 international artists. Through July 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). www.markartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4 pm-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •Dorothea Van Camp and Prilla Smith Brackett's work shows through June 20.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •Greg Parker's recent paintings display through June 10.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*Info@Blah: Organization and Overload,* a group show, displays through July 6.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5 pm. •Ann Christensen displays her new oil paintings through June 8.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 am-4 pm and by appointment. •Heidi Whitman's new drawings and paintings are on display in *Brain Terrain.* Through June 28.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm. •*Pick Up the Next Whistler for a Song* features paintings, prints, photography and sculptures by local artists. Through June 15.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Jane Smaldone and Jon Imber display their work through June 7.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Katherine Jackson and Henry Mandell show their abstract paintings in *Handwriting on the Wall 2,* June 6-28.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The Gallery presents an ongoing local-artists showcase.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Gallery artists display paintings and drawings. Through July 30.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •N work by Noriyasu Tsuchiya shows through June 2

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBT Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; S 11 am-5 pm. •The gallery showcases an ongo collection of 19th- and 20th-century American a European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). ww robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to lington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 5 pm.* •*The Art of the Game,* a group show, featu photographs celebrating athletics. Through A 23.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). T Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: Gr Line to Copley. •Robert Sweeney shows painti and pastels in *Italian Campaign.* Through June 28

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). ww societyofcrafts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Cop Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Botanic* a group show of mixed-media work, shows throu July 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBT Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Su 12-6 pm. •*Eclectic,* a group show, features pai ings of Boston, Italy, Mexico and Cape Cod. J 1-July15.

Studio SOTO
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-461-7686). MBTA: Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat., 2-5 pm. •*Hold S* an exhibition by W. Perry Barton, Linda Sz White and Judith Brassard Brown, shows throu June 15.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBT Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 Sat., 8:30-1 pm. •*On the Surface,* a group sho paintings, shows June 5-27.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). ww munroefineart.com. *MBTA: Green or Red Lin Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appo ment.* •*French Garden Drawings 17th-20th Centur Plans, Views and Architecture* shows through June

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). ww vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Cop Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-4 pm.* •Jo Enser's *Scenes of New England: Landscape Paint* shows through June 14.

William-Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Avenue #318, Boston (617-542-403 Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am- 5:30 pm, and by appointme
•A salon show of gallery artists displays throu June 15.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-606 www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7 pm.* •K Rainey shows metal work and Diane Sullivan sh ceramics and mosaics. May 28-June 15.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photograph
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-4 1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to K more. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* • NESOP celebrates graduates with the *2003 Graduating Students Exh tion.* Through July.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). ww panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •Work by A MacLean shows through Sept. 6.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www. boston.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Blandford. T Wed. and Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; and Sun., 12-5 pm.* •A members exhibition sh through July 27.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Beacon Hill Art Walk
North Slope, Beacon Hill, Boston (tktktkttk MBTA: Green Line to Park or Red Line Charles/MGH. June 1. 12-5 pm. The 14th ann Art Walk invites artists and craftsmen to display sell their work in historic Beacon Hill.

Coolidge Corner Arts Festival
Beacon St., Brookline (617-739-9066). MBTA Green Line to Coolidge Corner. June 7, 10 am-6 (rain date: June 14). More than 75 local and tionally recognized artists showcase their photog phy, watercolors, oil paintings, jewelry, ceram metal and wood in the 25th Annual Coolidge C ner Arts Festival.

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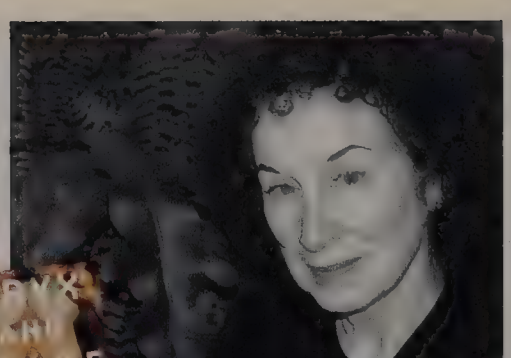

Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

WordsWorth Books
Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Ann Packer** reads from her debut novel, *Dive from Clausen's Pier*, about a young woman who leaves Wisconsin and her quadriplegic boyfriend to pursue her dreams in New York.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: *Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free.* Former restaurateur, cookbook author and television personality **G. Franco Romagnoli** reads from *A Thousand Bells at Noon: A Roman's Guide to the Secrets and Pleasures of His Native City*. Part guidebook, part memoir, the book recounts the author's six-month visit to his birthplace.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Leah Hager Cohen** reads from her second novel, *Heart, You Bully, You Punk*. Also, **Steve Almond** discusses *My Life in Heavy Metal*, his collection of short stories about the relationships of young people.

Grub Street Writers
Grub Street office, 561 Windsor St., Somerville (617-623-8100). www.grubstreet.org. *7 pm. $12.* Local author **Stephen McCauley** reads from his latest novel, *True Enough*, in which a middle-aged woman befriends a gay novelist with writer's block and the two attempt to sort out their personal and professional problems.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Leslie Perlow** discusses her book *When You Say Yes and Mean No: How Silencing Conflict Wrecks Relationships and Companies...and What You Can Do About It*. Perlow's research shows how suppressing differences can lead to an imperfect office environment.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. New Yorker* writer **Roger Angell** reads from his collection of essays *Game Time: A Baseball Reader*.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E *Green Line to Symphony. 6:30 pm. $8-$55.* Newton-based food and travel writer **Victoria Abbott Riccardi** reads from her new book, *Untangling My Chopsticks: A Culinary Sojourn in Kyoto*, which chronicles her study of the Japanese tea ceremony. A light dinner and tea are served before the reading.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Borders CambridgeSide Galleria
100 Cambridgeside Place, Cambridge (617-679-0887). MBTA: *Green Line to Lechmere. 2 pm. Free.* **Michael Kimball**, author of bestselling novel *Undone*, reads from his most recent work, *Green Girls: A Novel of Suspense*, a psychological thriller about a man caught in a murder investigation.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Roger Berkowitz**, president and CEO of Legal Seafoods, signs copies of his new book, **The New Legal Sea Foods Cookbook**.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Michael Lewis**, a *Bloomberg News* columnist, reads from his book *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*, which examines the strategy that produced an unlikely winning record for underdog baseball team the Oakland Athletics.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Katherine Govier** reads from her new book, *Creation*, a fictionalized account of ornithologist John James Audubon's travels on the coast of Labrador.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free.* Dublin native **Marian Keyes** reads from her sixth novel, *Sushi for Beginners*, the story of three women searching for happiness in Dublin's floundering fashion magazine industry.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* Former *New York Times* editor **James Gleick** reads from *Isaac Newton*, his biography based on unpublished letters and notes of the famous scientist.

WordsWorth Books
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Isabel Allende** reads from her memoir, *My Invented Country: A Nostalgic Journey Through Chile*, in which she reflects on her childhood, her family and South America culture.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Harvard Bookstore
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* Travel writer **Paul Theroux** reads from his 38th book, *Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Cape Town*, an account of his journey across Africa.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: *Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free.* **Khaled Hosseini**, a California-based physician, reads from his first novel, *The Kite Runner*, a story of two Afghan boys from opposite ends of the social spectrum.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Nancy Kricorian** reads from her second novel, *Dreams of Bread and Fire*, in which a young American woman explores her American and Jewish heritage.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Jeffrey Lent** reads from *Lost Nation*, his novel about a mid-19th-century drifter who tries to make a new start in a rough New Hampshire town.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Brookline Booksmith
Brookline High School Auditorium, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: D *Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7 pm.* Booker Prize winner **Margaret Atwood** reads from her 11th novel, *Oryx and Crake*, which is set in a futuristic world in the wake of ecological disaster.

Center for New Words
Simmons College, 3rd Floor Conference Center, 300 The Fenway, Boston (617-876-5310). MBTA: E *Green Line to Museum. 7 pm. Free.* Pulitzer Prize winner **Suzan-Lori Parks** reads from her new no *Getting Mother's Body*, in which a downtrodden, gle mother-to-be sets out to retrieve jewels sup edly buried in her mother's grave.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Grub Street Writers
Harvard Club, 247 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-6 8100). www.grubstreet.org. MBTA: *Green Lin Kenmore. June 7. 9:30 am-3:30 pm. $125-$1* Authors **Charles Coe**, **Julia Glass**, **Arthur Gold Dennis Lehane**, **Margot Livesey** and **Tom Perr** are among the participants in a daylong confere of workshops and lectures to benefit Grub Street

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-200 www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: *Red Lin Harvard. 3:30 pm. Free.* **Sergio Troncoso** re from his new novel, *The Nature of Truth*, in whi young Latino scholar becomes obsessed with immoral professor's past.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: G *Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Jane Langton** discu applying historical research to fiction writing reads from her new book, *The Deserter: Murde Gettysburg*.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). w brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C *Green Lin Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Cambridge resic **Mameve Medwed** reads from her new novel, *End of an Error*, in which a happily married wo jeopardizes her stable life to answer the "what if her youth.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-15 www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvar pm. Free.* British science writer **Steve Jones** r from *Y: The Descent of Men*, an unconventional ploration of the male sex.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). w newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Karl nemma** reads from his new book, *On the Natu Human Romantic Interaction*, a collection of sl stories whose protagonists are mainly doctors, m ematicians or scientists.

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (6 354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Donald Kagan** reads from book *The Peloponnesian War*, a new look at anc historian Thucydides' account of the war that er the golden age of the Hellenic world.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 354-2685). MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 8 pm.* Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge ho poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-20 MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free.* Hear v other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sunday
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-07 MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7:30 poetry jam, 9pm. $5.* The Jeff Robinson Trio p background tunes for the featured poet of the we

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBT *Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm.* A mix of rock spoken word is performed one Monday a mo The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambi (617-354-5287). MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 8 $3.* Every Saturday is poetry night—the eveni titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event t place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Monday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambi (617-227-0845). MBTA: *Red Line to Central. pm. $4.* Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston , 10-24 School St., Boston (617-4995). MBTA: *Red or Orange Line to Downt Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free.* The second Thursda each month offers a selection of featured poets an opportunity at the open mike.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit press releases by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Education or e-mail to education@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Defending the City, Defending the Nation: The Military History of the Boston Harbor Islands
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State. www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *6:30 pm. $5.* Historian and author **Jayne Triber** will reflect on her experience working at Fort Independence on Castle Island in South Boston and at the Boston Harbor Islands National Park and discuss this area's military history.

Lights, Cameras, Pencils! Screenwriting and the Creative Process Workshop
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St, Boston (617-536-6400). www.bpl.org. *May 28, June 4 and 11, 7-9 pm.* This series of workshops for aspiring screenwriters and directors is taught by **Andrew Arthur**, founder and president of EarthHart Productions.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Demystifying Search Engine Marketing
Suffolk Law School, 120 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2822). rsvp@mimc.org. *6:30-8:30 pm. $50.* Representatives from Forrester Research, Google and Yahoo will lead a panel discussion of industry experts about online marketing tactics.

MIMC Fireside Chat
The Harvard Faculty Club, 20 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-227-2822). May 29, 6-8:30 pm. $45. Boston Globe columnist Scott Kirsner hosts this discussion with Dean Kamen, president of Deka Research and Development Corp. Kamen's latest invention is the Segway Human Transporter, a self-balancing personal transportation device.

Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery of the American Southwest
Fenching Institute, 2 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-0099). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *6:30-7:30 pm. $6.50.* This lecture explores the art and archaeology of the Mimbres people and their artists, and looks at how contemporary scholars interpret their imagery.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Mystical Movie Messages That Inspire Our Lives
Brandeis University's Shapiro Theatre, 415 South St., Waltham (508-310-0150). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. www.MysticalMovies.com. *May 30, 7:30 pm. $35.* Film producer and author **Stephen Simon** makes a case for recognition of the genre that he calls "spiritual cinema"—films that focus on humanity's search for spirituality, love and a place in the world. He also presents film clips from mystical movies.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Understanding Substance Abuse from the Inside Out
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 2:30 pm. Free with admission ($12).* **Marc Kaufman** speaks out about addiction and the mind.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Corporate Nirvana: Bringing Peace and Productivity to Work
The Insight Center for Conscious Living, 5 Chrysler Road, Natick (508-310-0150). www.insightnewengland.org. *7-10 pm.* **Judith Anderson**, author of *The Path to Corporate Nirvana: An Enlightened Approach to Accelerated Productivity*, provides a holistic view of how to succeed in business.

The United States and the World: A European Perspective
John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Boston (617- 514-1600). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7 pm. Free.* National Public Radio's senior European correspondent **Sylvia Poggioli** and WBUR's **Dick Gordon** discuss how Europeans view President Bush, U.S. Foreign Policy and the crisis in the American Catholic Church.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Harborwalk: Downtown Waterfront, From Sargeant's Wharf to Battery Wharf
Meet at the Pilot House, off Commercial Street, Sargeant's Wharf, Boston (617-482-1722). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium or Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. 12-1 pm. Free. These walks organized by the Boston Harbor Association provide the public with an opportunity to evaluate existing conditions and recommend improvements to HarborWalk.

Through Back Bay Gates and Doors
The College Club, 44 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-292-4504). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Orange Line to Back Bay. 9:30 am-4 pm. $25; $30 at the door. Peek behind walled gardens and tour the interiors of several distinguished historic buildings in the Back Bay.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Influence: The Principles of Persuasion
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-876-4100). www.cambridgechamber.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 11:15 am. Registration required. $50.* The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Committee presents a Speaker Series Luncheon featuring **Janet Macaluso**, president and founder of Learning2Lead. The session teaches participants how use the latest behavioral science research to their advantage in leadership, management, negotiation and sales.

Medical Malpractice and Healthcare in Massachusetts
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. *MBTA: Blue Line to State, or Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free.* Threats of malpractice lawsuits hang over doctors' heads from the day they get their degrees. As a result, some physicians practice costly defensive medicine, curtail or stop services, move out of state, or retire early. Is reform possible? **Madge Kaplan**, senior health desk editor at WGBH radio, moderates a panel discussion with physicians from the Massachusetts Medical Society.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

New England Countryside Photographic Workshops
Bridgewater, Vermont (800-499-3300). www.portfolios.com/vermont. *$249.* This photography session taught by photographer **David M. Siegle** brings you to one of Vermont's most picturesque settings to capture images of covered bridges, farmhouses, streams and barns.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Kandinsky in 1914
Busch-Reisinger Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-8576). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. *2 pm. $6.50.* This gallery talk by **Adrian Sudhalter** focuses on the paintings of Wassily Kandinsky.

New England's Neon
National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). 2 pm. $3. Join the museum staff for a guided tour of New England's neon roadside signs. Learn their colorful history.

Walking Tour of the Back Bay Fens
Meet at the John Boyle O'Reilly statue at the intersection of Boylston Street and the Fenway, Boston (617-566-1689). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 10 am. Free. A National Park Service ranger leads this tour of the Back Bay Fens, which examines the Fens' multifaceted history and focuses on its transformation from marshes and muddy flats into a green urban oasis.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Charles McKim: His Life and Work
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.bpl.org. *7 pm. Free.* Architect Charles McKim understood the value of comprehensive planning, the power of the integrated details and the importance of symbolism. See how this awareness influenced his designs of the Boston Public Library, the American Academy in Rome, Newport Casino, Pennsylvania Station and the Morgan Library.

Walking Tour of the Big Dig
Meet at Barbara's Books, South Station, Atlantic Avenue, Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. 6:30 pm. $46. Take a tour of the Big Dig with author **Dan McNichol** and learn the history of the old elevated highway, the construction of the superhighway tunnels and the impact of the hotly debated proposed open space between South and North Station.

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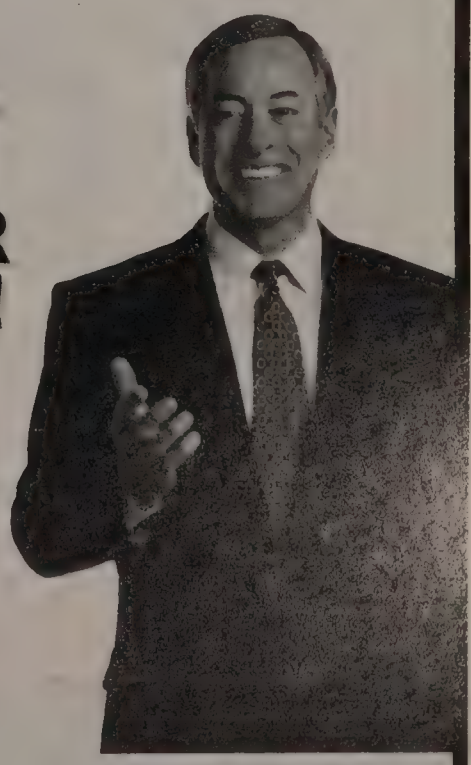

FRIDAY
June 13th, 2003
HYNES CONVENTION CENTER
900 Boylston Street
Boston, MA

Learn How to Dramatically Increase the Results in Your Personal and Business Life

FOCAL POINT
Double Your Productivity & Achieve all Your Goals in Your Business and Personal Life
8:30 am to 11:30 am

COUNTER ATTACK!
Relationship Selling! Advanced Selling Strategies, Sell More, Better & Faster in Tough Markets
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gay& lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information, including telephone numbers and nearest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or e-mail gaylesbian@improper.com.

Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. It's worth a visit—if not for the three separate dance floors, then for the male dancers. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* •On Saturdays Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. The folks here are really friendly—and really into sports. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.-Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. 10 pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5.

Machine (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Best Night Out Fri.: NYC DJ/Producer Darrin Friedman spins deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Machine Sat.: DJ Brad Gwynn plays house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat., 10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, a lesbian night with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700) www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line t Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm- am.* Male strippers perform every night. The danc floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Sat urday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself a the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod en forces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for th back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournamen and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale. •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with D Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Ja covidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sar gent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with D Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night wit DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: Th Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house an DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae an funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance part with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Re Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun. 12-6 pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisex uals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310) www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line t Central. Sun., 12-6 pm; Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat. 10 am-6 pm.* The New Words Live series feature an array of feminist and lesbian author event •June 6, 7pm. Free. Pulitzer Prize winner **Suzan Lori Parks** reads from her new novel, *Gettin Mother's Body*, in which a downtrodden, singl

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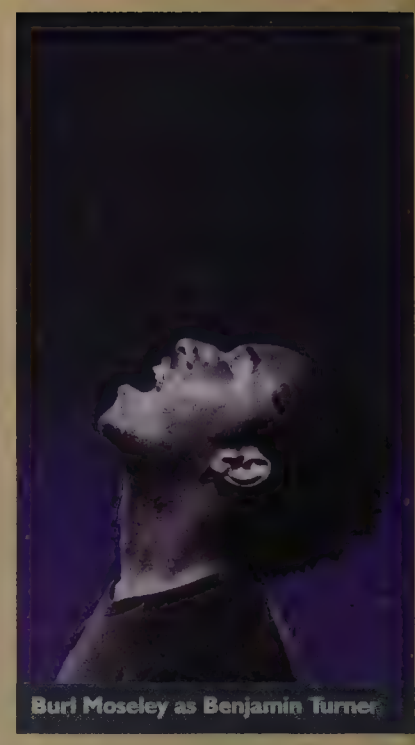
FOXBORO • NEWTON • MARBLEHEAD • QUINCY • WELLESLEY • WESTFORD

Preview

Boston Boasts *Bel Canto*

Wheelock Family Theatre teams up with the Theater Offensive


Burl Moseley as Benjamin Turner

Boston, along with the rest of the country, is used to getting New York's hand-me-downs in terms of theater, but a new work premiering in town boasts a pedigree fit for Broadway. Playwright Daniel Alexander Jones' *Bel Canto* is skipping NYC and will make its world premiere June 5 under the direction of Robbie McCauley at the Wheelock Family Theatre. Set in Jones' hometown of Springfield, Mass., in 1978, *Bel Canto* (Italian for "beautiful song") stars Burl Moseley as Benjamin Turner, a biracial, gay 16-year-old boy from Berkeley, Calif., who has recently moved to town. On his journey to sexual and self-discovery, Benjamin juggles the influences of his struggling mother, opera diva Marian Anderson, Jimi Hendrix and a handsome classmate.

Jones, who was named one of *American Theatre* magazine's artists to watch in the 21st century, penned the play (not to be confused with Ann Patchett's novel of the same name) during a year-long residency at GLBT theater company the Theater Offensive. The script was one of six plays chosen for development at Utah's Sundance Institute Play Lab in 2002. Now it's prepped and ready to go, thanks to the unlikely collaboration between TTO and the Wheelock Family Theatre. TTO artistic director Abe Rybeck says of the play, "It's just so gorgeous—two beautiful guys and a wonderful relationship. It really helps identify what's missing in the image of America. With all patriotic fervor going on, people are narrowing their idea of what America can be." ***180 The Riverway, Boston* (617-734-4760). www.thetheateroffensive.org. *June 5-22. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. $12-$28.—Elizabeth Reh***

other-to-be sets out to retrieve jewels supposedly
ried in her mother's grave.

Ve Think the World of You Bookstore
*40 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: Or-
ge Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10
n-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994,
is community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore
ocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

el Canto
*heelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston
17-734-4760).* www.thetheateroffensive.org.
*BTA: D Green Line to Fenway. June 5-22. Thu.-
t., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. $12-$28.* Robbie McCauley
rects the Theater Offensive's production of Daniel
lexander Jones' new play, in which a 16-year-old
y encounters opera, Jimi Hendrix and homosexu-
ity in Springfield, Mass.

oncert with the Bruises
*idway Cafe, 3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain
17-524-9038).* www.dykenight.com. *May 29,
pm. $5. 21+.* This week's Dyke Night features an
rly acoustic live music show with the Bruises and
eAnna Moore, followed by dancing with DJ Mix
istress until 2 am.

8th Annual AIDS Walk
*DC Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston
17-424-WALK).* www.aacevents.org. *June 1,
am. $20.* The 10K walk and 5K road race raise
oney for the AIDS Action Committee. All are
elcome to volunteer, sponsor or participate.

light of the Dolls
*anray, 21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-
400).* www.latexlilly.com. *June 6, 9 pm. $15.* Join
anRay for a latex-intensive night, complete with
tex-clad dolls, Dolly's dancing and a lubing-and-
tex performance. The mandatory dress code for
e night is fetish, goth, creative, dolly or all black.

Ongoing

eantown South G/L Bowling League
*oston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-
552). 7 pm.* This bowling league for gays and les-
ans in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

i-Curious Men's Group
*nway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston
17-927-6032). 7 pm.* This group meets the sec-
nd Tuesday of every month for a discussion with
sexual men.

OSS
*nway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston
17-927-6235). 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisex-
l men of color meets the last Friday of each month
discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

oston Bay Blades
ww.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join
is competitive, recreational group of rowers and
ullers.

oston Boasts Squash
17-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9
n; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: E
reen Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay
nd lesbian players and their friends.

oston Gay Basketball League
17-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a
ll regular season and playoff schedule each year.

oston GLASS Community Center
*Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA:
reen Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri,
5 pm.* The center provides social activities for gay,
sbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning
ung people, ages 13-25.

oston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
*oakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814).
BTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30
pm.* Rugby players of any level, age, race and orien-
tation are welcome to play.

Calamus Bookstore offers gay-, lesbian- and transgender-oriented material.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
*Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green
Line to Hynes/ICA.* www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-
8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action
political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-
in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-mem-
ber gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
*Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston
(617-424-9595).* www.biresource.org. This informal
support group meets on the first Wednesday and
third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45 pm.

Coming Out Group
*Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston
(617-927-6202).* A short-term group for men and
women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group
for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each
month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
*Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St.,
Cambridge (617-542-4214).* The Theater Offen-
sive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on
Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create perfor-
mances representing women's perspectives.

East Coast Wrestling Club
*(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6).*www.
pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male
wrestlers has more than 160 members.

FLAG Flag Football
South Boston. www.flagflagfootball.com. *Sat. morn-
ings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a
casual spring season, followed by a formal fall sea-
son. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
*Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave.,
Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat.* Get in
shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
*(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-
11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm.* This toll-free hotline
is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian,
bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing
healthy gay relationships features alternatives for
meeting and dating, communication games, singles
mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay
men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular
basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
*Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston
(617-927-6202).* Biological males meet on Monday
evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). A mentoring program for girls
aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual,
transgendered or questioning meets the second and
fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact
Jayms Battaglia.

HIV Counseling and Testing
(617-267-0159). Fenway Community Health, 7
Haviland St., Boston. Anonymous HIV testing, and
pre- and post-test counseling.

LANES
(617-423-6881). Sundays, 9:30 am. Liquid Assets
New England Swim team is a gay swim team.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social
group caters to feminine bisexual women and les-
bians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing,
Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are
held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers pro-
vide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT).
GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly
to organize projects, which include making commu-
nities safe.

Swingtime Boston
*Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brook-
line (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to
Washington St. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm,
lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8.* Swing, Latin and
ballroom dancing are offered for the lesbian, gay, bi-
sexual and transgendered community.

body& mind

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Dharma Film: Doing Time, Doing Vipassana

The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *June 6, 7 pm. $10.* Israeli filmmakers Ayelet Menahemi and Eilona Ariel visited Indian jails in the mid-1990s to document the introduction of vipassana meditation to the penal system. Their film depicts the resulting dramatic changes in behavior and attitude of the inmates and jailers, and it has been used to bring vipassana to prisons throughout the world. A discussion on meditation practice follows the screening. Co-sponsored with the Institute for Meditation & Psychotherapy.

Holistic Health Expo at Gilson's Herb Garden

20 Dale Lane, Groton (800-720-HERB or 978-394-5166). www.myholisticnetwork.com *June 8, 10 am-6 pm. $10.* Spend the day learning about well-being while enjoying the garden, greenhouses and gourmet food. Local holistic health practitioners provide demonstrations. Rain or shine.

New Age Fair

Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *June 1, 12-5 pm. $10.* Check out the programming offered at the Theosophical Society, including yoga and meditation, astrology, tarot, massage and other healing practices.

Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation

ICA, 955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *May 14-Aug. 31. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm. Thu., 12-9 pm. Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $7.* This art exhibit examines the relationship between the creative process and healing, and features 15 artists whose practices promote curative effects. Gallery talks take place on June 5, 19 and 26.

Seven Ways You Sabotage Your Enlightenment

Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston (800-944-1001 or 617-747-2261). www.eomega.org. *June 7, 9 am-5 pm. $165.* Do you ever find yourself repeating the same mistakes, setting goals too high, or being afraid to change? Caroline Myss, a specialist in the field of energy healing and human consciousness, hosts this workshop to help you face this part of yourself.

Spiritual Cinema: A Conversation

The Insight Center, 5 Chrysler Road, Natick (508-310-0150). www.insightnewengland.org or www.MysticalMovies.com. *June 1, 10 am-6 pm. $60.* This all-day event features two movies: *The NeverEnding Story* and *Sliding Doors*. An open forum led by film producer and author Stephen Simon will focus on the state of humanity from a spiritual standpoint and the spiritual messages that appear in the films shown as well as other popular movies.

Workshops

Basics of Pushing Hands Martial Art

Charles River School of Shiatsu,180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.charlesrivershiatsu.com. *May 31 and June 1, 10 am-4 pm. $190.* Learn the esoteric, noncompetitive martial art called Pushing Hands with Master Herman Kauz, a respected practitioner and teacher of karate, judo and tai chi. In this class you'll learn attack and defense body positions and how to super-refine your senses.

A piece from the ICA's Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation

Introduction to Brain Gym

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. June 10, 6:30-9:30 pm. $35.* Developed by Dr. Paul Dennison, Brain Gym is a system of quick and simple physical movements designed to enhance brain function. Come to class with personal goals, and learn what body movements help your brain achieve your goal.

Introduction to Longevity Breathing

Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. May 31, 2-4 pm. $30.* Do you suffer shortness of breath or have breathing difficulties? Longevity breathing might help. It teaches you to breathe gently and deeply with your belly, soothing nerves and quieting the mind.

Meditation

The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH or Green Line to Government Center. June 1, 11 am-1 pm. $15 suggested donation will be given to charity.* These mindfulness classes focus on breathing and finding your own personal path to peace of mind. Meditation helps you get in touch with yourself and complements Hatha yoga by developing concentration.

The Sound of Being

Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. June 8, 1-6 pm. $75. Work with breath, awareness, and the practice of being nonjudgmental to allow yourself full creative expression with singing and find your true voice.

Thai Yoga Massage Workshop

Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., Third Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. May 31, 2-5 pm. $30.* Thai massage is an ancient healing art blending yoga, meditation, acupressure and massage therapy. Learn some basic hands-on techniques.

Lectures

The G-Spot and Female Ejaculation Explained

Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. June 10, 7:30-9:30 pm. $34.* Using books and videos, instructor Kim Airs discusses the myths and realities of G-spot. The class also covers female ejaculation, including techniques for achieving it.

Ongoing

Free Body Tune-Ups

Living Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Fri., 5:30-6:30 pm. Free.* Participants seek to increase their energy while relaxing the mind and body at this drop-in Kundalini yoga and meditation class.

Meditation Practice

Cambridge Dzogchen Center, Cambridge (781-665-6325). www.cambridgedzogchen.org. *Mon., 7:30 pm. Free.* Teachings, meditation and discussion periods are led by Lama Surya Das, Lama John Makransky or guest teachers. All sessions are open to anyone seeking or on a personal spiritual path.

Yoga/South End

Yoga at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-522-7199). www.angelfire.com/ma/patrice. *MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. Mon. and Tue., 7 pm. $17.* This ongoing class taught by certified Kripalu yoga teacher Patrice Flesch aims to increase flexibility, relieve stress and build strength. Call before arrival.

Retreat

Prana Yoga Bike Trip in France

Burgundy, France. www.duvine.com. *June 22-27. $2,795 (discount with early registration).* If you're going on vacation, here's one designed to benefit your health inside and out. You'll bike, but you'll also relax with yoga in luxurious accommodations in France.

children

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

Things to See

Know the Law

Boston Police Headquarters Media Room, 1199 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-0800). June 5, 12:30pm. Free. At this collaboration between the Huntington Theatre Company and Youth and Police in Partnership, an after-school program for youth that uses drama to increase awareness of Massachusetts law, students will perform scenes that depict a conflict involving the law and then discuss the situation afterward.

Puppet Showplace Theatre

32 Station Street, Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •May 28 and 29, 10:30 am, ages 3-6. Paul Vincent Davis performs *Raccoon Tales*, stories about the antics of forest animals inspired by classic Native American tales. •June 4 and 5, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 4-9. Nappy' Puppets presents *Father Goose Tales*. Mother Goose is out for the day and Father Goose has to take over the storytelling.

Story Stew

Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 7, 11 am. $8, $5 children.* Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company performs classic stories with new and comic twists. What if the Big Bad Wolf had a chance to defend himself in court? What if Peter Pan hired a private detective to track down Captain Hook? See these fairy tale characters in a completely different light.

Things to Do

Boston by Little Feet

Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library

Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free.* •Sat., 11 am, ages 5 and older. Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery. •June 6, 10:15 am: Kid's Cinema presents a short film suitable for preschool through age 7.

The Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* • Kidstage. Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage. •Sat. and Sun., 2 pm-4 pm. In the Art Studio. Children can create their own paintings. •Mon., Wed. and Fri., 11 am. Music and Movement. Learn to shake, wiggle and giggle along to music. •Through June 1: *Alice's Wonderland...A Most Curious Adventure*. Interactive exhibits encourage children to delve into educational concepts.

Fenway Park Tours

Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through September 30. Every hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9.* Tour the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Park.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.* •Saturday Scholars: Sat., 9-11 am for preschool, 9 am-12 pm for grades K-3, $35. Discover dinosaurs, minerals, insects, oceans, microscopic worlds, ancient civilizations and more at a special interactive Saturday classroom. •Wild Wednesdays, Wed, 3-5 pm, all ages, free with admission. This after-school program presents hands-on activities, scavenger hunts, and live animal shows to let kids learn more about the world around them.

The Swan Boats are open for business.

ImprovBoston Family Show

1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1253) www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat., 6 pm. $12, $10 students.* Performers create scenes, songs and stories based on suggestions from the audience.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444) www.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall Square. $5/adults and $1/children. •*Holography, the Light Fantastic.* The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyond.* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448) www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Free with museum admission ($13-$15; children under 17 free).* •May 31 and June 1, 7, and 8; 11 am-4 pm. Family Place and Drop-In Drawing.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11.* •Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •Charles Hayden Planetarium. Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 3 pm. Through the end of May. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations, and celestial events in this presentation. •Gilliland Observatory: Fridays, 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets.

Museum of Transportation

Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5.* The Museum of Transportation includes a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •Through May: *The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •Through May: *Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soap-box racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to win. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the museum and receive a free prize.

Newton Free Library

Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1370). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Free. •May 29, 7 pm, ages 4 and older. Pajama Storytime •May 30, 10:30 am. Preschool Film •June 3, 7 pm, ages 9 and 10; June 10, 7 pm, ages 11-12; free, registration required. Parent and Child Book Discussion Group •June 2 and 9, 7 pm, free ages 8 and 9, registration required. Poetry Writing Group lets kids who love words express themselves creatively.

Scooper Bowl

City Hall Plaza, Boston (800-52-JIMMY) www.jimmyfund.org. *June 10-12, 11:30 am-6 pm. $7, $3 children.* Eight ice cream companies serve 1 tons of ice cream to help raise money for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Stories with Alice in Wonderland

FAO Schwarz, 440 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-5900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon. and Wed., 1 and 3 pm. Free. Ages 2-7. Meet Alice and listen to her tell stories.

Story Hour at the JFK Library

Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum Dorchester (617-929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free. The JFK Library holds a story hour for kids and adults.

Swan Boats

Public Garden, Boston (617-522-1966). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Through September 21. Daily 10 am-4 pm. $2, $1 for children. Take a trip through the Public Garden.

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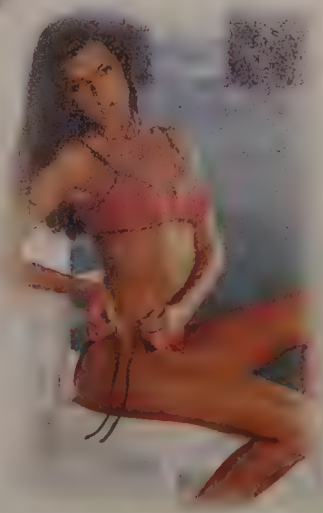
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sports

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
June 10, 7:05pm vs. St. Louis Cardinals

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium. Tickets: 877-438-7387
May 31, 6 pm vs. Kansas City Wizards
June 7, 6 pm vs. Dallas Burn

Boston Breakers
•Nickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
May 31, 4 pm vs. San Jose CyberRays

Events

YWCA Martial Arts Demonstration
Area martial arts schools demonstrate fighting techniques from the Phillipines, Japan, Brazil and Korea. *YWCA, Temple St., Cambridge (617-491-6050). June 7. 12-3 pm. Free.*

Pinnacle Distance Challenge
Top local amateurs take on the world's longest drivers in this contest to see who can whack the little white ball the farthest. A $5,000 prize awaits anyone who dethrones one of the Pinnacle Posse. The event also includes clinics, trick-shot exhibitions and giveaways. *The International Golf Club, 11 Ballville Road, Bolton.* www.pinnaclegolf.com. *June 7. 9 am-5:30 pm. Free.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

Women's and Coed Basketball
(617-407-4554). Teams ($550) or individuals ($80) welcome for a Monday-night league in Cambridge. Ten-week season starts June 1.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now for spring league.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night 4-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

Coed Volleyball League
Cambridge (617-407-4554). Monday nights. Teams ($250) or individuals ($50) welcome. Ten-week season starts June 1.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

Try to out-drive the Pinnacle pros June 7 at the International Golf Club in Bolton.

around town

The New England Aquarium

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: *B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.*

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.*

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: *Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.*

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: *Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.*

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm. $2.*

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: *Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.*

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.*

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: *Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Wed.-Thu., 9 am-8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.*

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: *Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.*

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: *Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Free.*

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: *Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.*

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: *Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. $3.*

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm $6, $4 seniors.*

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA *Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.*

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671) www.oldironsides.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum open daily 10 am-5 pm. Ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free*

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their loca treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a gir Information session: May 29, 6-7 pm.

Boston Cares
(617-263-CARE). More than 70 volunteer opportu nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of peopl between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization need volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed t educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support t children and adults with developmental disabilities

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a wee for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a chil

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly in dividual, mentor children or teach an adult to read

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or sho with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone wit people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elder

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Help needed to serve lunch an dinner and to work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guest

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed fo HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital format

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered women's agency

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dinin room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour do mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely peo ple over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with single young pro fessionals. •May 31, 10 am-2 pm: help landscap and clean up the Franklin Park Zoo.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4KID). Volunteers needed to help rescu homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Provide support for terminall ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal im migrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

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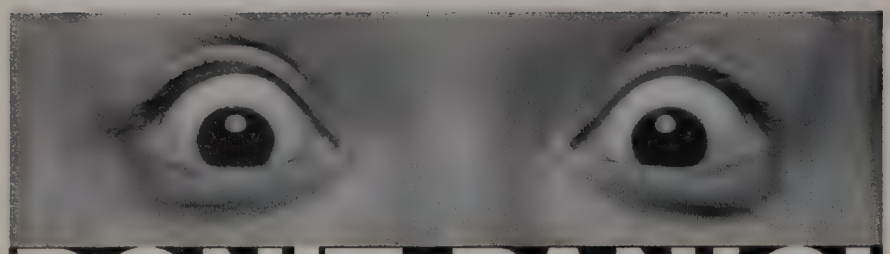

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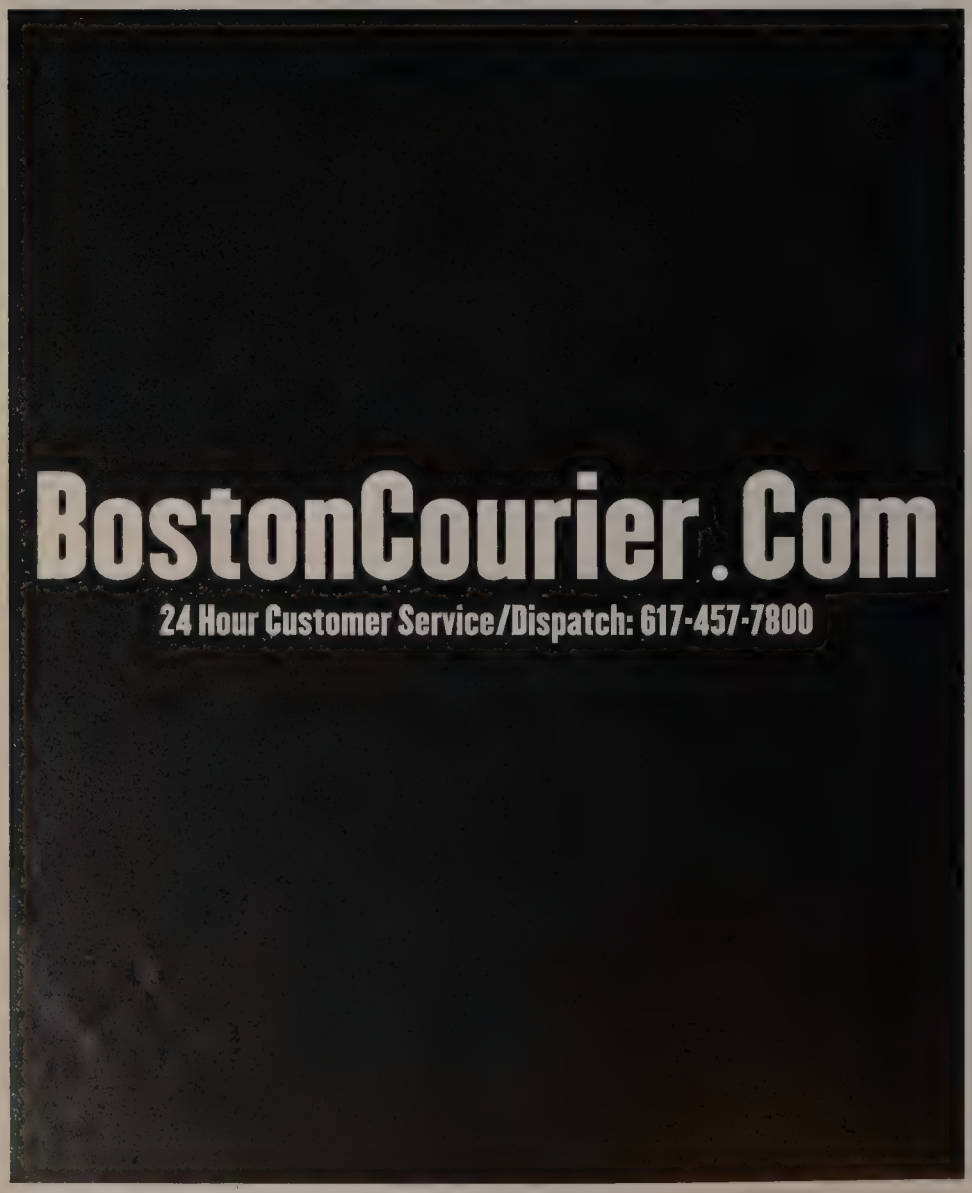

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Red Line Woman

To the woman whose presence chased away the monotony of my morning commute: It was the morning of May 6. We boarded the T around 7:30 am at Porter Square. We sat down and a dialog began through body language, fleeting glances and chemistry. You are tall, about 5' 8" I guesstimate, with shoulder-length, highlighted, wavy brownish hair. What struck me most, though, were your light-brown eyes; they reminded me of amber. You were wearing black pants and a black coat. Your top was red and matched your nails. You were carrying a pink and white "V.S." bag, drinking coffee and reading the *Metro*. Intrigued by it all, I exited the train at Downtown Crossing after asking you if you read the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN. You smiled knowingly and responded that you did. I would enjoy seeing if your internal qualities match your extenal beauty. On my way out I looked back to catch another glimpse of you, and saw a light in your eyes and a smile on your face as you watched me depart. Hopefully, reading this is having the same effect. Contact me. To prove it's you, share your perspective and remembered details.

—redlineexperience@hotmail.com

Red Hair & DLR!

I saw you on the night of May 7 on the Green Line headed toward Park Street. I got on at Kenmore and you were already on the train. You've got red short hair and a bag with Invader Zim patches, various pins (including David Lee Roth & "Emo Sucks"), and awesome black-and-white oxford shoes. I was the guy with the leather jacket and pin-covered bag. We had a great chat. Why on Earth didn't I ask for your name?! You got off at Copley. I hope to hell and DLR himself that you see this and get in touch. I'd really like to see you again.

—Train_In_Vain@newcastleunited.fcmail.co.uk

Won by a Nose

It was a Monday night. You were riding the C line and happened to sit next to me. You mentioned the joy of public transportation. You also noticed the guy in front of us picking his nose. You made me laugh when you said it's humankind at its best, and I said it's more like at its worst. I didn't have a chance to talk more but wanted to thank you for putting a smile on my face!

My Lucky Day

A year ago at this time, I noticed a beautiful blonde walk into my office building. We made brief eye contact, and she went her own way. Hesitant to approach her, I then considered writing an Improper Impersonal, like so many others do, but in the end I changed my mind. I got her number, called her, and the rest, as they say, is history. As I waited at your door the night of our first date, I was excited, yet very nervous. You looked stunning, made me laugh over and over again, and I knew after one date that we had something special. Now that a year has passed, I thank you for a wonderful time of memories and laughter. You have made me a better, more complete man and are my very best friend and the love of my life. I look forward to a lifetime of wonderful memories and a rewarding life together...and I encourage all of you to go talk to that special someone who catches your eye....you never know. Happy anniversary, Aimes.

—Dites

Lovely Philosopher

It was April 27, about 5pm. You wanted to buy Hume's *Moral Philosophy* from me but my store had no more copies. I directed you to Rodney's Used Books in Central Square and somewhere in the process made you laugh. You have a beautiful laugh and a smile to match. You left to bike your way down Mass Ave. and I thought, "this is a person I'd like to see more of." So here is my effort in that regard. Whether I see you again or not, you should know that you made my day.

—moraulf@hotmail.com

Response to "Liberals Suck"

Hey Mr. "Can't walk two feet without being chastised for my political beliefs" (Improper Impersonals, May 14). There is a saying that applies to you: If you can't stand the heat... The reasons you are looked at like an idiot for supporting Bush should be self-evident to you, so move back down South where you can blend in with the rest of the reactionary fake patriots who are proud of their double-digit IQs. Why don't you do the region a favor and leave?

—Liberal with Sharp Teeth

Stay Out of My Bedroom You Psycho Stalker

We met about a year ago at Aria. We hung out and had a great time. You stood me up once and then had the nerve to beg for forgiveness. I was a fool and fell for it. You stood me up again and I wrote you off. After a year of silence, you show up on a Sunday morning in my bedroom and then bolt as soon as I'm conscious! Just because I forgot to lock the door does not give you the right to let yourself into my apartment. If you want to talk to me be a real man and pick up the phone Otherwise, if you're going to stalk m at least bring me coffee! And a bagel. you cheap bastard! I hate you. Call me, please. I'm desperate and horny.

—Object of your obsession

Hot Guy, Cute Dog and the Peace Sign

You were walking your dog on Walnu Street in Natick. I am the girl with r hair who was pushing a stroller with two little girls (I'm their nanny). You have dark hair, friendly eyes and a cute golden retriever, not to mention fabulous smile. You waved goodbye and flashed me the peace sign. I wou love to get together for a drink and get to know you. I keep thinking about you and see you often in the area. If you are interested, e-mail m and we'll see where it goes.

—A fireflyits@yahoo.com

Beautiful

Thanks for joining me on a trip dow memory lane. Our surprise lobster dinner was great. The only thing better than the beach at sunset was being there with you. We'll have a great summer together, if you'll have me. You are the best. Love,

—Yanni

Luiz

Where are you? July 2002, Falmouth Cape Cod, Main Street: It was a beautiful summer day and you were walking. I stopped and offered you a ride to Stop 'n' Shop. You accepted. You are Brazilian and handsome, wit dark hair and eyes and pale skin. Yo birthday is July 4. Now you live in Somerville and are studying at Harvard. I think of you often. Life is short and I'm dedicated to improvin your eternal state. E-mail me again.

—mdbuch@hotmail.com

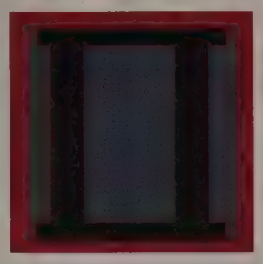
Attention Tall Shopper

It was around 6:30 pm on May 18 (Sunday) at Shaw's by the Pru. We didn't engage in the unbridled starin contest that, unresolved, usually precedes one of these postings, but I think we noticed each other noticing each other. At least, I couldn't miss you, at 6' 4" or more, and in Reef sandals no less! (Thus giving you at least 4 inches on me in mine.) I was one aisle away and would've scaled the candy rack to do a back-to-back comparison, but then that guy tripp the emergency exit alarm. I was the ponytailed blonde in gym shorts and Reefs. E-mail me if you see this and would like to browse the produce section together sometime.

—reefsonaisle21@hotmail.com.

rockie horoscope

MAY 28 – JUNE 10, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 20

ou will not only put some money where your mouth is but also make a considerable onation to an organization you still have faith in. The ACLU? Ozzfest? Idols, ideals, lusions and income are so intertwined right now, it'll be difficult to separate the real eal from the wannabe. Since career concerns are about to change radically, who knows hat your next assignment will be or what skill you'll be adding to your resume? Just be lad that Saturn leaving your sign takes that sense of impending doom with it.

CANCER

UNE 21-JULY 22

wo new moons in one month can make May memorable in nore ways than you realize. Starting two separate gendas—one dealing with your standing at work, nother about friends or your affiliation with a group—ould put more on your plate than a picky Crab needs now nat summer, your season in the sun, is almost here. After tern Saturn moves into your sign June 2, those born near ne Gemini cusp may be given additional responsibilities nd, consequently, a lot more respect. Now is the time to et down to serious business.

LEO

ULY 23-AUGUST 22

re you eccentric, inventive or just way ahead of the curve? ou'll find out which one the first time your sun ruler quares erratic Uranus in Pisces. This new challenge can be uite different than the ones issued over the past seven ears, when Uranus was in your Aquarius complement. From ow on, the test results, while surprising, shouldn't be as isruptive. Some relationships may still be hard to decipher, ut lucky Jupiter in Leo will protect you from whatever ricks nebulous Neptune in your partnership house has up s sleeve.

VIRGO

UGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

ike the Lion, the Virgin could also be waiting for test esults from the sun's first significant challenge to Uranus your Pisces house of partners. Which relationship will be haken up? Who will introduce a new element to the urrent setup, and how weird might that be? Since lovable enus has joined up with your Mercury ruler, the next six eeks should be very social, and you, exceptionally opular. You'll also be able to express yourself with grace, nagination and wit instead of intimidating your audience ith details and data.

LIBRA

EPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

espite having high hopes for a happy and/or a judicious nding, you may have to choose between the lesser of two evil" alternatives. Should you lend your good name to a omestic matter that reeks of duplicity and doubt, or should ou support someone who is willing to buy your approval? lis or her generosity knows no bounds, but because your enus ruler can put you in a compromising position—reedy and gullible—you can't count on the customary troke of Libran luck to get you out of this dilemma. nteresting.

SCORPIO

CTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

o work or not to work, and what exactly for? The final pposition between musical, mystical Neptune in your home ase and enthusiastic, expansive Jupiter in your career nidheaven should end any further vacillating on your part. While Jupiter promises prosperity and protection, Neptune resents a pretty picture of domestic bliss. Reality comes nto play when your mate adds his or her two cents' worth, hich, for another next month, will be invaluable. If you an't make a decision, let your partner do it.

SAGITTARIUS

OVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

hould you hold to your altruistic, artistic principles or try o make a profit? As your protective Jupiter ruler confronts idealistic Neptune for the last time in what'll seem like ages (12 years), you could be forced into a life-altering decision. And while neither option is detrimental, one will make you happier than the other. Don't flip a coin; Venus and Jupiter, your good luck charms, are out of synch this week.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

The little things that mean a lot will come to mean a lot more once your Saturn ruler moves into Cancer for the next 30 months. Your daily routine—feed the dog, pick up the cleaning, go to work, pay the Visa bill—can become a source of satisfaction simply because Saturn will be in an emotional water sign that nurtures your innate earthiness. A stronger, more fulfilling relationship with a partner develops when Saturn crosses into your marriage house. And that depends on whether your birthday is in late December or January.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Some call it spirituality and others, bullshit, but no matter what your opinion is about faith-based issues, this week, there's way too much of it. Nebulous Neptune in your sign is projecting an aura or saintliness and self-sacrifice. An enthusiastic, well-funded partner could urge you to have even greater expectations, and suddenly your folks are making a million demands. Where's that weekend yoga retreat when you need it? Thank God the versatile Gemini new moon introduces alternative ways of handling domestic matters.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Since your Neptune ruler is in Aquarius, and their ruling planet, Uranus, is in Pisces for the next seven years, Fish will be aware of a lot more if you read for both signs. Make it a habit. Same goes for the Water Bearers. Tell them to pay attention to the debut of the sun's square to Uranus; how that challenge plays out can set the stage for scenes along similar lines in the future. Expect to be enlightened because Uranus awakens as well as disturbs. As for Neptune and the vision/scam you're promoting, try to tone it down.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Your friends may think that you're simply being sociable, showing up without much arm-twisting and earning brownie points along the way. Could it be that accommodating others is part of your grand scheme? While your Mars ruler makes its way through inventive Aquarius, you're bound to come up with something uniquely your own. Since money will play an integral part in whatever is begun at the solar eclipse on the 30th, for the next three months, acquiring and distributing the bucks might be the best trip you can take.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Promote yourself. This is the best time in quite a while to get the word out, display your talent and make sure other people know about it. While Mercury, the press agent, merges with your tasteful Venus ruler in your own sign—not that common an occurrence—don't take any opportunity offered for granted or assume there'll be another one around the corner. The air of glamour surrounding you now helps attract someone of importance next week. Won't you be surprised!

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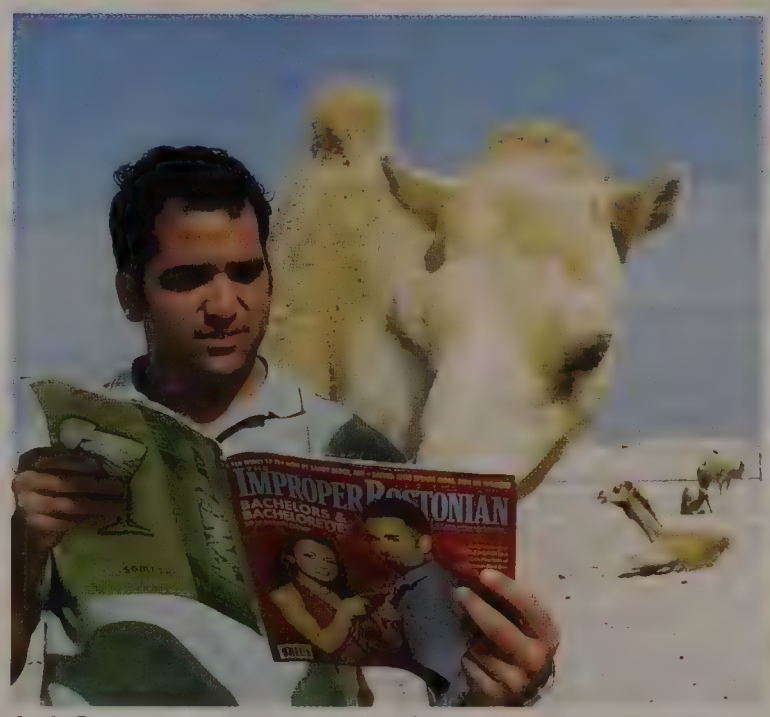
Kathryn Hall finds a newsstand in Berlin surprisingly well-stocked with German-language-edition IMPROPERS.



Andy Burgoa shared the Bachelors & Bachelorettes Issue with a lonely camel in Bahrain. The camel said he'd like to meet that special someone, but he can't seem to get over the hump.

Benjamin Meuller takes a break from filming an extreme ski movie in the Swiss Alps. He skied the first run ever down the treacherous Grübblenôckerhórn, which he renamed "Green Circle."

Jodi Zumbach, Dylan Peters, Hannah Edwards and Jody Tozier (who's pregnant with twins, not full o' doughnuts) get glazed-over at Krispy Kreme in Raleigh, N.C.

Mary Loan and Michael "Sparkle" Richardson have a groovy time at Jazzfest in New Orleans.

Vermont Governor James Douglas finds out what's new in plaid flannels this season.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Holding it down in a freestyle rap battle while yo' dogz jam on mad accordionz at the Sata-Häme Accordion Festival, held late June/early July in Ikaalinen, Finland.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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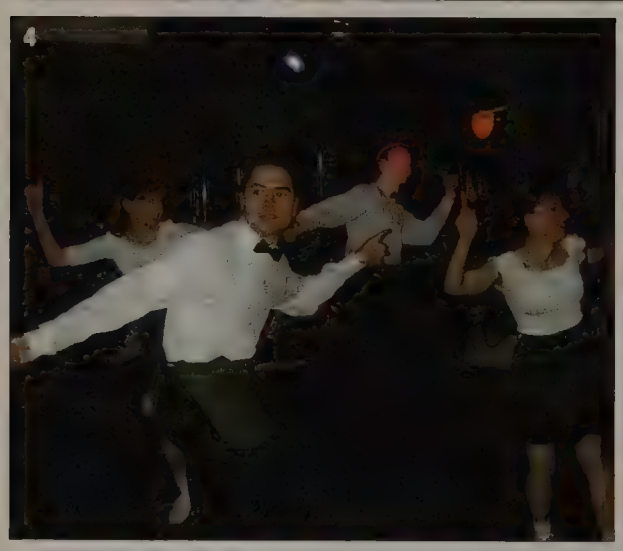
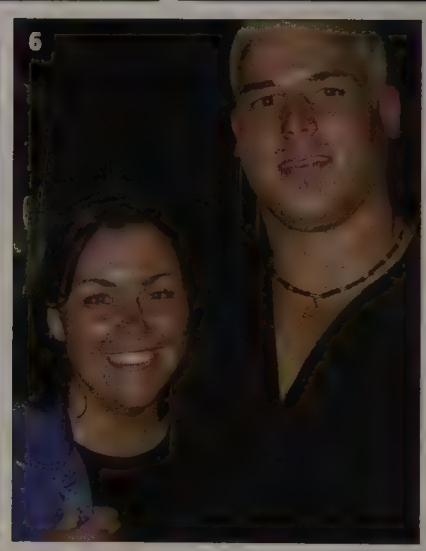
IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Tuesday, May 13, ***The Improper Bostonian*** toasted our 9th Annual Boston's Beloved Bartenders Issue with a celebration and bartending competition at **The Rack**. The event was sponsored by **TÜRI Vodka** and **Stella Artois**. Entertainment was provided by the **Hop to the Beat Dancers** and the music was provided by **Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin Horns**. **DrinkMaster Bartending School** also participated. The evening was hosted by *The Improper Bostonian*'s feature writer Jonathan Soroff, along with radio personalities from **92.9 WBOS**, **WROR Classic Hits**, **Magic 106.7** and **Country 99.5**, the evening's co-hosts included Julie Devereaux, Tai Irving and Amy Brooks.





1. **Louanne Murad**, regional manager on-premise for Bacardi USA, **Carol Francolini**, European development manager, Labatt USA, **Bob Sneider**, sales representative for United Liquors.
2. **Julie Devereaux**, mid-day on-air personality for WROR Classic Hits, **Jonathan Soroff**, feature writer and social columnist for The Improper Bostonian and **Tai Irving**, afternoon on-air personality for WROR Classic Hits.
3. **Neil Chatterjee** of Putnam Investments, **Jessica Moon**, nurse practitioner at Children's Hospital, **Kevin Nelson**, business analyst for Loomis Sayles & Co., and **Ryan Brown** of Mellon Financial.
4. **The Hop to the Beat Dancers**.
5. **Patrick Moriarty** of Smith Barney, **Gary Zerola**, Boston attorney and co-owner of The Living Room, and **Simon Ford**, brand ambassador for Plymouth Gin.
6. **Valerie Mariani** associate financial planner for MetLife Financial Services, and **Lonie Paxton** of the New England Patriots.
7. **Nick Giraldo**, winner of *The Improper Bostonian*'s bartending competition and a bartender at Pravda116, Venu, and Embassy.

On Thursday, May 8,the **Hotel Marlowe** in Cambridge hosted the **StarChefs Rising** event, and ***The Improper Bostonian*** was a sponsor. This gala tasting celebrated the culinary brilliance of Boston's future star chefs.

1. **Thomas John**, executive chef, **Paul Fino**, sous chef **Kevin Szymkowski**, server, and **Kevin Shellgren**, server, all from Mantra.
2. **Ana Sortun**, owner and chef, **Eran Zircher**, pastry assistant, and **Jeremy Farvand-Bogocki**, serve all from Oleana.
3. **Jeff Tenner**, sous chef at Bambara, **Siobhan Flaherty Haber** and **Jan Miller Rennert**, co-owners, Flaherty Miller Events, LLC, and **Thomas Barry**, executive chef, Bambara.

PHOTOS: HOTEL MARLOWE, JULIE KANE; JOSE MCINTYRE'S, MARTHA BROWN; KING'S, JULIE KANE; THE RACK, JULIE KANE, ALISON MORANT AND JOE WALL

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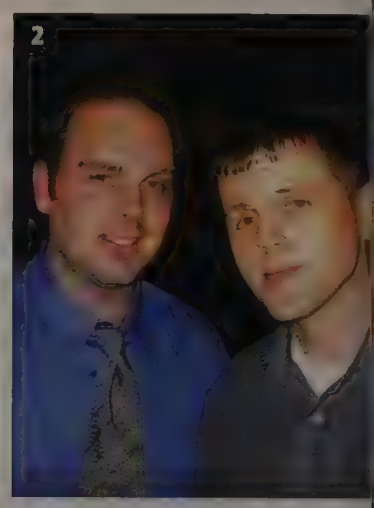
On Monday, May 12, **King's** hosted a launch party for **Absolut Vanilia**.

1. **John Boyle O' Reilly**, state manager Massachusetts for Future Brands LLC, and **Keith Harvey**, Absolut Spirits regional marketing director for the North East of Future Brands LLC.
2. **Phil Hillman**, sales specialist, **James Tye**, executive vice president, **Shayna Ross**, sales representative, **Steve McGarry**, sales manager, all of United Liquors Ltd, and **Ernie Buonaccorsi**, portfolio manager for Absolut, Future Brands LLC.

On Thursday, May 8, ***The Improper Bostonian*** and **Jose McIntyre's** celebrated the Ocho de Mayo Spring Fiesta. **The Boston Breakers** and Kelly Malone of **Mix 98.5** kept the festivities rolling with contests and giveaways. A portion of the proceeds benefited **The Special Olympics**.



1. Boston Breakers **Sarah Popper**, midfielder, **Erin O'Grady**, midfielder, **Monica Gonzale** defender; **Kelly Malone**, morning DJ with Mi 98.5; **Jenna Kluegel**, defender, **Becca Splaine**, forward; **Marcia Wallis**, forward ar **Devvyn Hawkins**, midfielder.
2. **Brian Dunn**, sales representative for Alphagraphics, and **Jim Owens**, client manager for Benchmarking Partners Inc.
3. **Ted Schneider**, staff accountant of Pricewaterhouse Coopers and winner of the taco eating contest, and **Mike Cacioppo**, student at Northeastern.

As seen in *People* magazine, March 17, 2003

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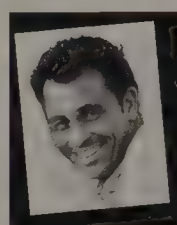

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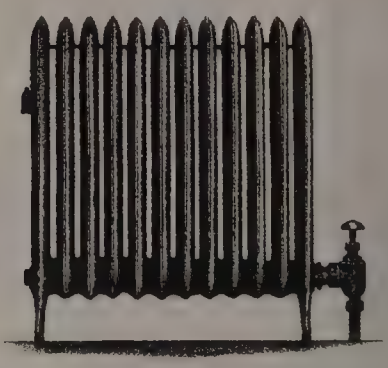

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RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut Street, Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) – 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel , 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover Street, Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal Street, Near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Avenue, Across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby Street, In Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington Street, Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock 1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060. Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water Street, Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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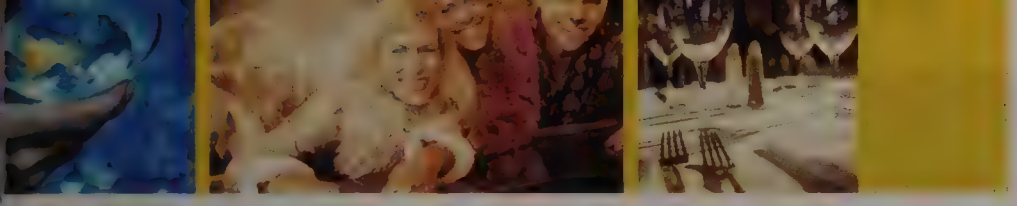
Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am.



Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St.,Boston, MA 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich Street, Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jillianssboston.com.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett Street, Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe *Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

Sports Bar - Upscale

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

Brunch

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Avenue, Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslastresort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com.* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens-.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room *Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114.* Enjoy Sunday brunch beginning at noon in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 11am or 1pm, then check out the latest Omni film or the new Egyptian exhibit. Combination tickets start at $30 and include parking. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call 617-723-2500 or visit mos.org.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

LOTS OF POPS, NO WEASELS...

Keith Lockhart with a Pops-a-tini

It seems like only yesterday that snappy crackling Pops conductor **Keith Lockhart** took up Arthur Fiedler's baton, but in fact, it was nine years ago, as he pointed out at the party preceding **Opening Night at Pops**. While big-ticket donors supped in style in a nearby ballroom at the **Copley Plaza**, younger supporters had drinks and little nibbly things in the **Oak Bar**. To toast the occasion, all were offered a new cocktail unveiled for the occasion: the Pops-a-tini, which is a Cosmo made with white cranberry juice and served in a martini glass rimmed with red sugar. (Two words: sickly sweet.)

Then it was off to **Symphony Hall** for the main event, where the hoi polloi could mix and mingle with the rarefied likes of velvet-voiced broadcaster **Ron Della Chiesa** and the magnificent **Joyce**; journalistic eminence grise **John Henning**; TV entertainmentatrix **Sara Edwards**; real estate titan **Mark Goldweitz**; the stunning **Marilyn Keane** and her husband, **John**; Cambridge doyenne **Ann Gund** and ethereal beauty **Stephanie Warburg**; and former governor **Mike Dukakis** and his wife, **Kitty** (whose conductor father, Harry Ellis Dickson, died recently and was honored by Lockhart & Co. that night).

All in all, a highly civilized evening, and a sure sign that tuxedo season is coming to a close while concerts on the Esplanade are just around the corner.

At the Gardenia Ball, from left: Juan Prieto, Caroline Coco and Lenore and Eric Gustafson.

NAMASTÉ...

It's somewhat ironic that the **Devine Rose Ball**, a benefit for the **Carroll Center for the Blind**, was such a feast for the eyes.

To begin with, there was the setting—cocktails in the little Versailles-like salon of the **Copley Plaza**, followed by dinner in the **Oval Room** (one of the prettiest places in the city to have a party). Then there were the visuals, like a silent auction that rivaled an afternoon at Saks and gigantic, cascading arrangements of roses, lilacs and whatnot in towering silver vases. Of course, the crowning glory was the smiling faces of such gentlefolk as Roy Orbison lookalike and charming raconteur **Brian Charlson**; fashion plate **Paula Jaq'lyn** and her other half, **George Brown**; Jaq'lyn's sister, **Carol Campo**; the diamond bedecked **Natalie Gardiner** and her adoring husband, **John Hambright**; presidential descendant **Sarah Adams**; furniture scion **Larry Rubin** (the offspring of Bernie and Phyl of corny TV-commercial fame) and his wife, **Brenda**; the Sports Club L.A.'s stunning blond yoga goddess **Bethany Cantin**, and one young woman who lamented, "It's parties like this that make me wish I knew how to waltz."

Speaking of stunning blond yoga goddess Bethany Cantin, here's how the rest of her night unfolded: After crashing the **Oliver Ames High School prom**, where she shook her groove thing with some 17-year-olds to Nelly's "Hot in Herre," she swooped into the **Boston Public Library's Spring Gala**, where she watched her date arm-wrestle Channel 5 babe-a-licious glamazon **Liz Brunner**, and then it was off to **Saint** for a nightcap (or two), squired by the admiring trio of hunky news anchor **David Muir**, city councillor **Mike Ross** and model **Jeff Bellows**.

No wonder yoga's becoming so popular.

Photos clockwise from upper left: Bethany Cantin crashes the Oliver Ames prom. At the BPL Spring Gala: David Muir, Bethany Cantin, Liz Brunner and Mike Ross; Liz Brunner arm-wrestling; Diane Mantouvalos. At the Devine Rose Ball: George Brown and Paula Jaq'lyn; Brenda and Larry Rubin; Brian Charlson.

SOME CHANGE IS FOR THE BETTER...

The Brahmin Old Guard was in a bit of a tizzy when the blue-blooded do-gooding women of the **Vincent Club** announced a hiatus in their century-old tradition of putting on an original musical to raise money for women's health at **Vincent Memorial Hospital**. Instead, they mounted the **Gardenia Ball**, a black-tie hootenanny of epic proportions, at the **Park Plaza**.

Present and accounted for: department store heiress and upper-crust party-thrower **Hope Baker**; Wellesley-bred stockbroker **Caroline Coco**; her impossibly charming parents, **Hannalou** and **Sam**; Chestnut Hill sparkler **Vicky Whitney**; bright young Beacon Hill things **Tess** and **Sam Atkinson** and **Betsy** and **Charlie Gifford**; assorted **Cabots**, **Hunnewells** and **Gardners**; and so on and so forth.

On the downside: Unlike in years past, guests didn't get to see the club's members doing "drill," a Rockettes-style kick-line number that was always the highlight of the show. But on the upside, husbands got to dance with their wives, which probably more than made up for it.

THE CUTTING EDGE...

It's hard to imagine a more Manhattanish party than the **ICA's Sapphire Necklace Gala** at the **Cyclorama**.

For starters, the guest list was worthy of Studio 54, including, as it did, assorted members of the Fidelity Investments **Johnson** clan (**Abbie**, **Beth** and **Edward**, along with their respective spouses); arts patrons **Ann** and **Marvin Collier**; venture capitalist **Sheryl Marshall** and her art collector husband, **Howard Selwyn**; board member **Andy Goldfarb** and his bubbly bride, **Rachael**; Mass General ER hottie **Clay Lawrence**; Boston Ballet artistic director **Mikko Nissinen**; modern-day Warhol girls **Glynis Hobika** and **Leigh Weatherly**; PR siren **Lynn Kortenhaus**; board chair **Vin Cipolla**; celebrity hairstylist **Mario Russo**; fashion-forward socialites **Vivien** and **Alan Hassenfeld** (a.k.a. Mr. and Mrs. Hasbro Toys); and others of their eclectic and interesting ilk.

Then there was the entertainment, which included the raffling off of prizes like an important piece of jewelry and a rainbow-painted car, not to mention the performance artist who came onstage and danced around on broken glass before lying down in it, putting a cinderblock on her stomach and having her assistant smash it with a sledgehammer, which prompted one wit to say: "I'll bet she doesn't mind eating crackers in bed." iB

At the ICA gala, from top: Cheryl Richardson and Max Dilley; Glynis Hobika, Janet Wu and Rachael Goldfarb; Donna Montgomery, Mikko Nissinen and Collette Royer.

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

SUMMER FLAVOR

At the cover shoot for this issue on Summer Dining, the design staff found themselves in the uncomfortable position of having to cook something for a woman who had just been named the best chef in the Northeast by the James Beard Foundation. True, all they had to do was boil a pot of spaghetti. What's more, the pasta would not be eaten but would serve as a prop in the photos. Still, they approached the task nervously, aware that Barbara Lynch was just a few feet away, chatting with the photographers.

Of course the pasta came out clumpy and unphotogenic, but Lynch came to the rescue, salvaging the botched batch with a little olive oil as the staff retreated sheepishly. (In the end, we didn't use the chef-with-pasta shots, though, deciding the tomatoes better captured the summer dining season.)

Whether you're a Lynch wannabe or just someone who loves good food, there's something in this issue for you. Lynch's interview with Jonathan Soroff (page 14) offers inspiration for anyone with culinary ambitions. "Hog Heaven" (page 24) takes you inside the world of the New England Barbecue Society, and a guide to farmers' markets (page 26) points the way to some of the season's freshest produce, meats and more. For Italophiles and foodies with a sweet tooth, "A Scoop of Italy" (page 28) highlights authentic gelato spots around the city.

We've even thrown in some recipes from chefs who grow their own herbs in "'Tis the Seasoning " (page 18). If you're kitchen-phobic, note that two recipes don't require that unfamiliar appliance, the stove. Better yet, head to the restaurants where any of these chefs work to sample their summer masterpieces.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

TAYLOR MADE

Thank you, IMPROPER, for finally giving Taylor Twellman "proper" face time with your latest cover (May 28)! Lord knows he's been giving us plenty of enjoyable face time ever since he joined the New England Revolution! Move over David Beckham—Taylor Twellman is the real hottie!

—BILL KRESSER
Boston

PS: Soroff's interview was just as hot as Taylor's pictures—if that's possible!

TAMING THE MEAN STREETS

I've been an avid bike rider for more than 20 years and really enjoyed Susan Abbattista's recent article about urban bike riding (May 28).

I have one other thought to add. When I first started riding a lot, I lived in Sarasota, Fla., and rode my bike everywhere. In particular, I had to ride my bike through a poor section of town to get to work early in the morning. I got to know many of the "characters" that hung out in the neighborhood, and began to frequent some of the retail establishments on my route. I felt safe and part of the community.

I still don't like riding in the city. The car traffic and potholes make it too dangerous. But I'm sure that bike riding

can make one more appreciative of the communities in which we live.

—JOHN MUELLER
Beverly

I was interested to read Susan Abbattista's account of her foray into the world of cycling in Boston. As another pretty new road cyclist, I had a similar experience, getting "doored" on one of my morning commutes. I agree that one has to be a little crazy to bike in Boston, but a number of things keep me on the road. I love the freedom of riding my bike, how fresh the air feels when I pick up speed, as well as the alertness I need to maintain—as opposed to sinking into a stupor as I would commuting on the T or the bus.

—MOLLY L. SCHULMAN
Allston

REV IT UP

Ezra Dyer's droptops article in the last issue (May 28) was a very good read. It wasn't just another fluffy automotive fill-in piece blatantly tied in to magazine sponsors, but, refreshingly, contained clear, in-depth specifications and comparisons. Ezra's depth of knowledge is revealed by his comments about the target audience for Honda's unique Element and Saab's monetary problems, among other insights. Speaking of which, how about something on hybrids—an automotive topic du jour to be sure? They're ideal city vehicles, too.

—BILL BELL
Via e-mail

WE'RE LOOKIN' GOOD

I just got out an old copy of the IMPROPER to check out the changes of your redesign (launched in the May 14 issue). I never realized what some new fonts and colors could do for the overall look. I wanted to let you know that I think it looks great. Kudos to the art director and your staff.

—MARGARET MACKEY
Ashland

TWELLMAN COVER: JOEL BENJAMIN

Tell Us What You Think

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Short**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Bridget Behling, Jamie Bellavance, Julia Hawes, Heather MacNeil, Diana McCarley, Robyn O'Reilly, Brad Perriello, Melanie Ryan**

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PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERN **Joanie Tobin**

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New in Town

URBAN ISLAND

A little while back, a book called *Tiki Road Trip* crossed our desk. The premise was intriguing—author James Teitelbaum lists, describes and reviews nearly every known Tiki bar and Polynesian restaurant in the United States and abroad. But we wondered aloud, "Does anyone go to Tiki bars anymore?" We pushed it aside, and thought nothing more of it until we heard that nightlife impresario Patrick Lyons had opened a new restaurant called [dramatic pause] the Tiki Room.

The Tiki Room offers tasty Polynesian treats.

So we pulled out the book from under a stack of papers and read that Tiki, which had its heyday in the 1950s and '60s, is indeed making a quiet resurgence. Within the last couple of years, a handful of trendy Tiki bars have opened in New York City, among other places.

That Patrick Lyons...he's always ahead of the curve. But did we mention that the Tiki Room is on Lansdowne Street of all places? Kitschy Tiki decor, torch lighting, Polynesian food and low-key music are about the last things you'd expect in Boston's nightclub central. But if anyone can pull it off, it's Lyons, whose laundry list of successes includes Kings, Lucky's and Sonsie.

Located in the former Jake Ivory's, the Tiki Room is a far cry from its night-owl neighbors. First off, it's a restaurant—the only one on Lansdowne. The menu is based on pu pu platters. We suggest the "build-your-own" option (it's the most fun), where you can choose from offerings like barbecued spareribs, cashew chicken spring rolls, crab-stuffed mushroom caps, fried calamari and gingered shrimp wontons. Select three sauces—from curried pineapple and ginger chutney to peanut sauce to banana guava ketchup—and then sit back with a Tiki-tini and survey the surroundings, a motley assortment of Tiki torches, lamps and statues salvaged from Cambridge's Aku Aku when it closed a few years ago.

A word of warning before you go. According to *Tiki Road Trip*, German ethnologist Karl Woerman once said about Tikis: "Once you have seen them, you are haunted as if by a feverish dream." *One Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2580). —Erin Hagedorn and Julie Short*

Improper Reports

WATER WORKS

Ever since bottled water staked a claim at the dinner table, restaurants have begun to import it from sources all over the globe. Some conducted staff taste tests, while others tried out different brands to let the customers have their say. But whether their water's drawn in New York or Norway, all believe they've found the most deliciously tasteless accent to a long and leisurely meal. And the waters come in really cool bottles as well.

- **Ty Nant Natural Mineral Water** from the Bethania hamlet in the mid-Welsh countryside: $10 for 33.8 ounces. *Aujourd'hui, 200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400).*
- **Hildon Natural Mineral Water** from the chalk hills of Hampshire, England: $6 for 25.3 ounces. *The Federalist, 15 Beacon St., Boston (617-670-2515).*
- **Voss Artesian Water** from central Norway's pristine wilderness: $7 for 27.1 oz. *Spire, 90 Tremont St., Boston (617-772-0202).*
- **Sole Natural Spring Water** from Nuvolento, near the Italian Alps: $8.50 for 25.3 ounces. *L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-262-3023).*
- **Saratoga Spring Water** from deep under the Adirondack foothills of upstate New York: $5.95 for 28 ounces. *Harvest, 44 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-868-2255).*

Inner View

WBZ 4 WEATHER WIZARD BARRY BURBANK

Barry Burbank

This year, April showers did little more than bring wet weather and delay balmy spring conditions. Everyone wants to know: Will the sun ever come out and play? As he rounds the corner on 25 years in the biz, WBZ 4 veteran meteorologist Barry Burbank lets us in on his summer forecast.

IB: *When can we expect to pack up our jackets and crank the AC?*

BB: In the past couple of weeks there has been evidence that the pattern will switch to La Niña. If that happens, it will be a hotter and dryer summer. That's my best guess right now.

IB: *Will the summer be as extreme as the winter?*

BB: Mother nature tends to make up for what has happened in the past and make up in reverse. So long snowy weather might lead to hot weather. But there's not enough substantial evidence that will happen.

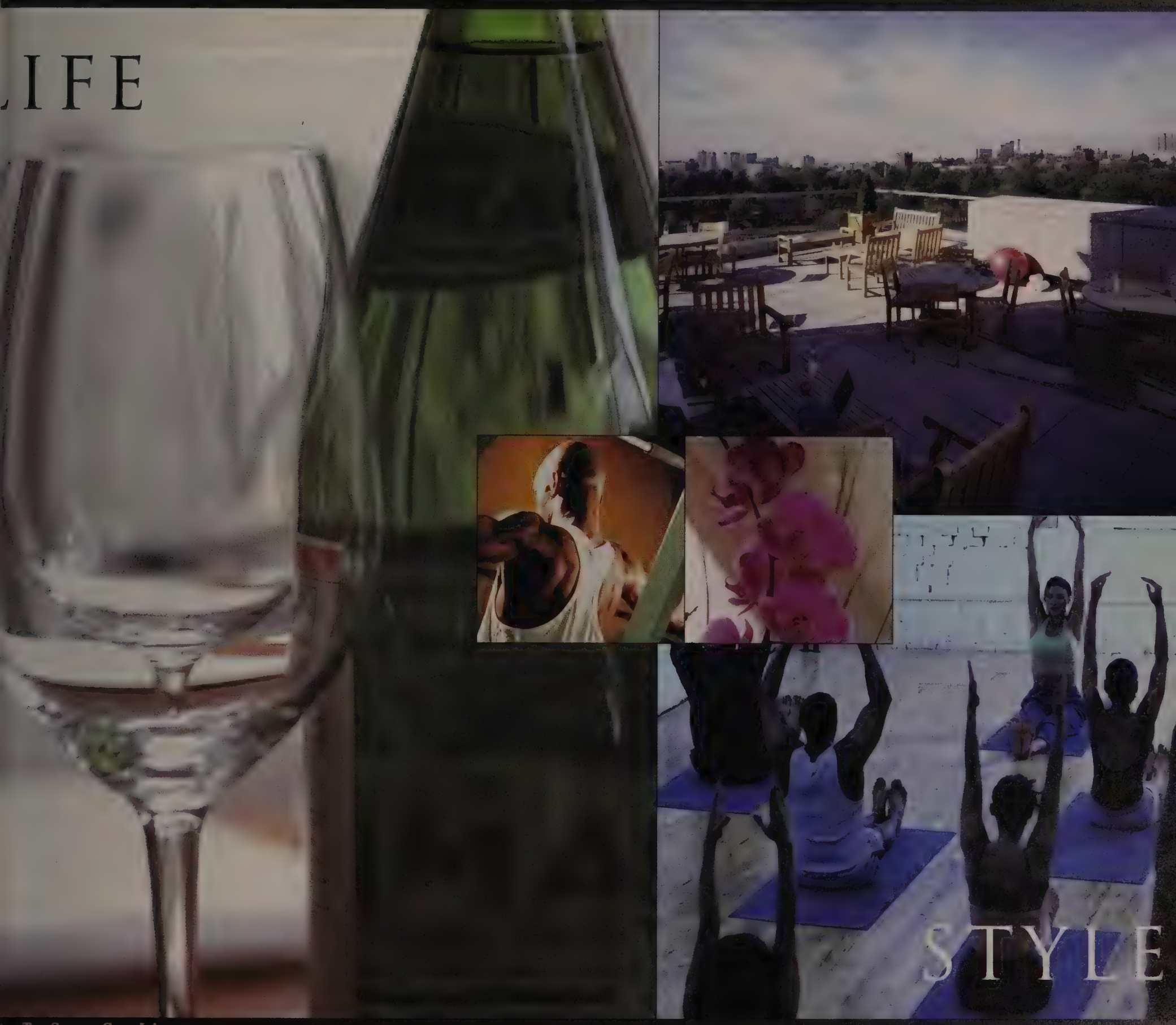
IB: *Can we expect a summer equivalent of the Presidents' Day snowstorm?*

BB: If we go into the La Niña pattern, it's better for hurricane formation, and some people out there think it might be very active hurricane season, which means a hotter summer. *—Jessica Iredale*

Sam Says

BOTTLED BLOND

With 80 percent of all women coloring their hair, you can bet that some of us change colors as often as we change our minds. Blond is the must-have color right now, and you'll see it popping up everywhere. The blond that everyone is clamoring for is a beigey, pale shade like the one seen on Heidi Klum on the cover of last month's *Elle*. It isn't easy to get—I sent four people to local salons and only one came back with the right shade. But Jennifer Lenz from Salon Fontana did the job. "It's so hard to achieve this particular color of blond because when you lighten hair, it tends to become a warm color, like yellow or orange," says Lenz. "You have to do at least a double-process to achieve it, which takes time and someone who really knows color." She does. *Salon Fontana in the Sports Club/LA, 4 Avery St., Boston (617-375-8510).—Samantha House*



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New in Town

TOASTS OF THE TOWN

On the Bayou...Rouge chef Sal Fristensky is headed back to the Big Easy. The Cajun cook recently hung up his apron at Andy Husbands' South End eatery to open his own authentic wood-smoked barbecue restaurant in New Orleans. (Who can blame him after this hellish winter?) Though we'll miss Fristensky's Southern-style cuisine, there's no doubt that chef/owner Husbands will manage just fine without him—a new menu is already in rotation. "I'm really into it," Husbands says of his new lighter-fare selection.

Your Car Awaits...Everyone loves a free ride in a fancy car, and now everyone can have one—if you're hungry. Looking to free its patrons of Big Dig headaches and North End parking problems, Prince Street's G'Vanni's Ristorante is now offering free door-to-door car service for all diners in Boston (including Allston, Charlestown, Roxbury and Dorchester), Brookline and Cambridge. Diners are picked up at their doorstep and can expect to ride in style in a limousine, Mercedes or luxury coach. We can't think of a better reason to gorge, since you get chauffeured home when you're done, too. *(800-326-1768).*

A Little Assimilation...Fans of Harvard Avenue's popular all-Asian eatery Daiwa, fear not. It's not gone, it just revamped its menu and changed its name to Seatopia. The five-year-old restaurant is under the same ownership, but some of its dishes have been Westernized. The once strictly Asian menu now offers Western food prepared Japanese style, like the Tokyo hamburger and the omelette rice, as well as appetizers like avocado egg rolls. Manager Samantha Lee says she had intended to change the restaurant's entire concept, but decided against it when regulars voiced a strong "No." So what's with the name change? The sign was already ordered. *204 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-566-7344).*

Somers Lovin'...Thanks to DeBeers' clever marketing team, grooms-to-be are expected to fork over three months' salary for their lovely lady's engagement ring. Once the hefty check is cut (and the cold feet start to set in), newly engaged couples are invited to head over to Kennedy's Midtown and take the edge off with a free champagne toast while their rings are sized next door at the Jewelers' Building. John J. Somers, owner of the Somers Pubs Group, is offering the complimentary bottle of bubbly as a gesture of goodwill toward Jewelers' Building merchants who regularly send clients to Kennedy's. The special is available "'til death do us part," says Somers. *42 Province St. Boston (617-426-3333).*

City Slingers...If you think you're onto something with your personal mixology skills, now's the time to share them. Caffe Umbra is celebrating its new full-fledged liquor license with a contest to find the best original libation. Patrons are invited to stop in, grab a bite and leave their recipe in the bill fold. The five best concoctions make it to the final round, where some of The IMPROPER's Beloved Bartenders will choose a winner in a blind taste test July 8. The victor gets the drink named in his or her honor and put on the menu for all to enjoy, plus dinner for two on the house. *1395 Washington St., Boston (617-867-0707).—Jessica Iredale, E.H., J.S.*

I Do

PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED

Talk about a romantic setting for an engagement: early morning on the banks of the Charles River, the mist rising off the water, the Harvard crew members rowing by. Now add a sweaty jogger and a well-worn pair of Nikes, and you've got the real-life tale of Terry and Jim Sanders. Their pal Kim Fine recently wrote us to tell the story of the couple's engagement. Every morning, Jim and Terry liked to go running along the Charles with her Walkman (while her lazy beau lounged in bed). One morning, Jim handed her a new tape of songs as she was leaving the apartment. Ten minutes into her run, the song stopped, and Jim's voice came through her headphones. "She slowed down for a few paces, and then stopped dead in her tracks," says Fine. On the tape, Jim told her how much he loved her, and then he asked her to marry him. "She spun around and there he was—his car following her," she says. The happy couple married recently. Terry resplendent in her wedding gown and running shoes.

Got an engagement story to top that? Send it to *theword@improper.com.*

Trendspotting

NICE CURVES

We first became aware of the Curves phenomenon (and we think it's fair to use the word "phenomenon" considering this women's gym chain is the third largest franchise in America) when we recently met up with Aunt Peggy. She'd lost 30 pounds and couldn't stop raving about Curves, a gym she'd joined that offers a full-body workout in a mere 30 minutes. Why hadn't we heard of it?

Turns out, the word on Curves is out—but mainly among women in the suburbs, where most of the gyms are located. "Our target is the woman who is uncomfortable going to a regular gym," says founder Gary Heavin. "We offer a place where women don't feel like they have to lose 10 pounds before they even show up." Women seem to be responding to the concept of a no-frills gym where they spend 30 seconds on each segment of an eight-machine circuit. By working the muscles at a faster pace, participants keep their heart rate up for cardio benefits while they strength-train. "We're the McDonald's of fitness—and luckily there is no Burger King," Heavin says.

Did he speak too soon? Boston Sports Clubs just unveiled what seems to be its version of Curves: XpressLine—a trainer-supervised, total-body strength workout that can be completed in just 22 minutes. It too features an eight-machine circuit.

What we want to know: Is there a Wendy's far behind? *Curves:* www.curvesforwomen.com; *Xpress Line:* www.nysc.com.—*E.H. and J.S.*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

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Bye Bye Bingo...Monday night Bada Bingo at Via Matta is no more, and sadly, THE IMPROPER is partially to blame. It seems we unknowingly blew the whistle on the short-lived bingo night when the Gaming Commission read our write-up in the April 30 issue. Turns out, bingo, even when it's solely for charity, is legally considered gambling. (Via Matta raised $1,000 for the Italian Home for Children.) While it didn't exactly go down *Casino*-style, restaurant co-owner Christopher Myers reports, "They scared me. And they said they would take my liquor license away, so I said, 'Yes, Sir.'"

Orient Express...The South End's trendy home furnishings market expanded yet again with the mid-May addition of Red River Trading Company on Washington Street. Asian-influenced antiques, reclaimed teak furniture, wood-sculpted Buddhas and lacquered trunks grace the showroom floor in the company's debut retail space. Founders Jonathan Golnick and Frank Ormonde, both well versed in Asian art (Golnick collects and Ormonde owns a gallery in Notting Hill, London), deploy buying teams to China and Indonesia. After a glance at the Web site, particularly the Trail Tales link, it looks like the pair aims to do for furniture what J. Peterman did for clothes—whimsical stories and all. *1313 Washington St., South End (617-542-2223).* www. redrivertradingco.com.

Dawson's Box...There wasn't a dry eye in the office the day after the *Dawson's Creek* finale. Not because Jen died or because Joey didn't marry Dawson, but because we could no longer tune in Wednesday nights to look for our blue IMPROPER newsbox that the show had borrowed as a stage prop. But it turns out the folks at the WB are considerate—instead of chucking it, they mailed our box back in tip-top shape. But while we can't count on DC anymore for our bit of free publicity, we still have our box popping up here and there on *Boston Public.* Hey—it's the little things in life, right?

Center Stage... Kudos to the directors and thespians of the American Repertory Theatre. The Cambridge stage company ranked third in *Time* magazine's recent list of the top five U.S. regional theaters. According to *Time*, regional theaters have been one-upping Broadway productions with state-of-the-art facilities, and the cream of the crop is in Harvard Square under the direction of Robert Woodruff. Check out the Rep's highly acclaimed *Pericles* and *The Sound of a Voice*, both currently playing.

Go Euro... Full service is the name of the game at Newbury's newest European boutique. Gipore opened May 30 in the space formerly occupied by Cigar Masters, and shop owner, stylist and designer Homeira is dead set on bringing the true European shopping experience to Boston. In addition to carrying scads of hard-to-find Italian labels, the boutique features a cappuccino, juice and Italian-water bar, a makeup line and personal styling/tailoring service to custom-fit new purchases and update old duds. Homeira and company are ready to re-create looks found in high-fashion magazines from head to toe with stylists, hairdressers and makeup artists on staff. They even offer a personal shopping service to bring exclusively European items stateside. Needless to say, it's not exactly the look for less. *176 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-1500).*

Art Nouveau... Attention art buffs: The curtain lifts and the Peabody Essex Museum's $125 million transformation is revealed June 21. Closed since February for renovations, the 200-year-old museum is back in action with six new galleries, a glass atrium, interactive family center and a fully reconstructed Qing Dynasty house from Southeastern China. A weekend-long celebration begins at 10 am, and events include free concerts, storytelling and art-making activities for all ages. *(866-745-1876).* www.pem.org.
—*E.H., Jl. and J.S.*

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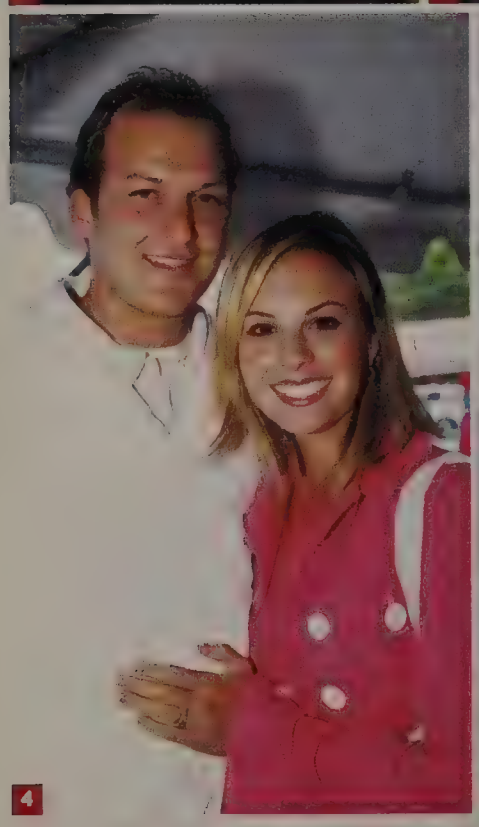
PROPER BOSTONIANS

By Margaret Brett

The fourth annual **Nomar Bowl**, an all-star celebrity-bowling tournament, was held May 22 at Town Line Ten Pin in Malden. The event was hosted by Boston Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra and the Nomar 5 Fund, and the proceeds benefit Boston public schools' Adopt-a-Classroom program.

1. Writer, director and producer **Bobby Farrelly** and his wife, **Nancy**.
2. Red Sox principal owner **John Henry** (left), and **Larry Lucchino**, team president and CEO.
3. Red Sox manager **Grady Little** and wife, **Debi**.
4. Philadelphia Eagles football player **Tim Hasselbeck** and his wife, **Elisabeth**.
5. **Jord Poster** (left), venture capitalist, and **Todd English**, chef/owner of Figs, Olives and other restaurants.
6. **Ron Jackson** (left) and **Dallas Williams**, batting coach and first base coach, respectively, of the Red Sox.
7. Red Sox outfielder **Trot Nixon** and his wife, **Kathryn**.
8. Red Sox catcher **Jason Varitek** and his wife, **Karen**.



The **Franciscan Hospital for Children's Community Leadership Award Dinner** was held on May 22 at the Westin Hotel at Copley Place. More than 550 friends of the hospital attended the annual fund-raiser, which included dinner and a live and silent auction. Tickets were $250, and $600,000 was raised to benefit the hospital.

9. From left: **Steven Tolman**, state senator; **Debbie** and **Steve Palermo**, former American League umpire; and **Kevin Honan**, state representative.
10. From left: **Bob Marr**, chairman and CEO of Marr Companies; **Natalie Jacobson**, news anchor for WCVB-TV Channel 5; and **Lee Kennedy**, chairman and CEO of Lee Kennedy Co.
11. From left: **Margo Shields**, committee member for the Franciscan Hospital for Children; **Janet Wu**, medical reporter for WHDH-TV Channel 7; **Mary Bures**, director of community relations for Franciscan Hospital for Children; and **Peter Shields**, managing director of Equity Office Properties.
12. From left: **Steve Grossman**, president of Mass Envelope Plus in Somerville; **Charles Steinberg**, executive vice president of public affairs for the Boston Red Sox; and **Selena DellaRocco**, director of development for the Franciscan Hospital for Children.

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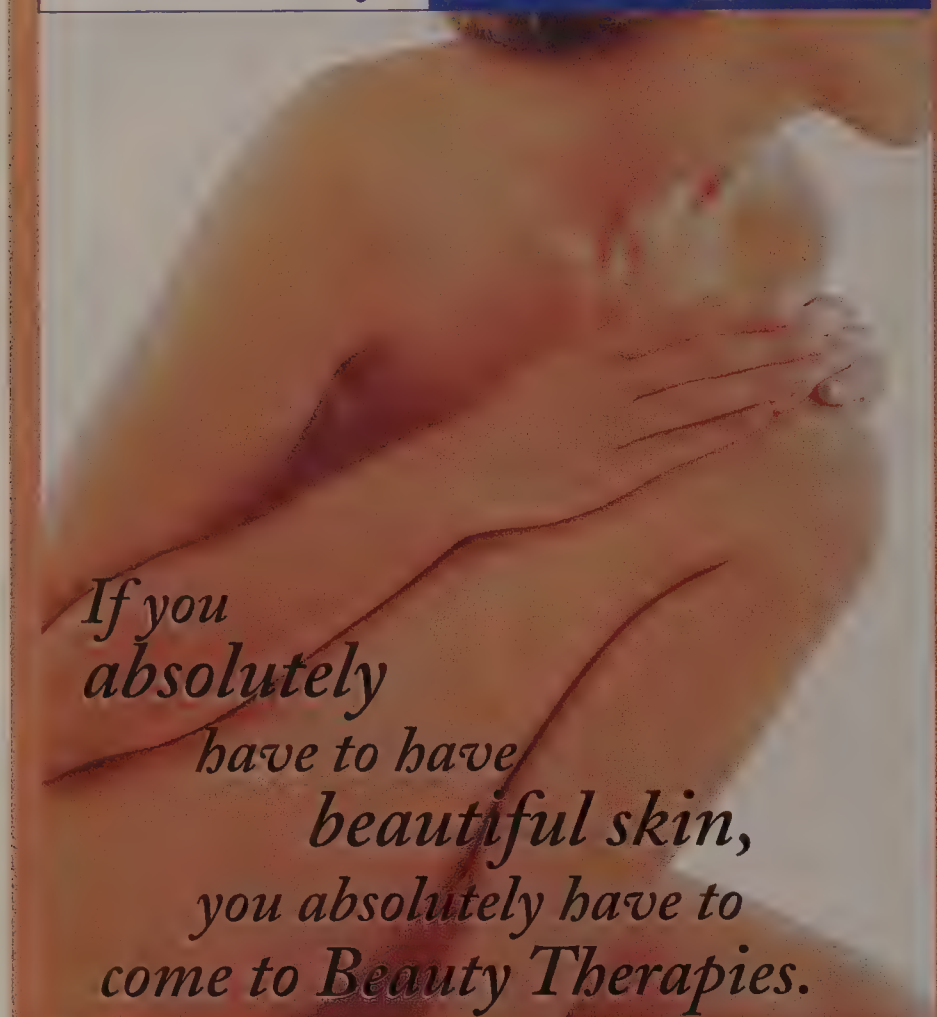

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BY EZRA DYER

BUSTIN' KAPPS

The Phi Beta Kappa Society is Greek to me

My parents still take glee in the fact that when they asked me in fourth grade why I liked a particular girl in my class, I replied, "Because she gets her homework done on time." I'm not sure if I'm more amazed that I was already that much of a dork at age 9 or that I had any interest in girls whatsoever. The one clear memory I have of fourth grade is encouraging a kid named Jeff to stick a pair of scissors in a light socket, which shorted out half the classroom and earned him an audience with the principal. So I'll have to take mom and dad's word that I had a homework fetish.

I mention this because it appears that my attraction to smart, independent, successful broads hasn't changed. Dating a smart girl in college motivated me to drastically adjust my drinking-to-studying ratio, possibly even in favor of studying. Ultimately, though, she still whupped me like Stephen Hawking playing chess against Keanu Reeves. I'm all for women's equality, but women's total dominating superiority is a little hard on my ego.

Needless to say, then, I was extremely curious when I spied a newsletter on my girlfriend, Liz's floor with the words "Phi Beta Kappa" emblazoned across the top of the front page. "What's this?" I asked suspiciously. "I didn't know you were in a sorority." "That's the *Key Reporter*," she said. "It's the Phi Beta Kappa society newsletter. It only gets sent to people who are way smarter than you." OK, she didn't say that last part, but it's the truth. My old competitive fires sprung to life. I wanted to be in Phi Beta Kappa and get a newsletter. Never mind that the *Key Reporter* should be called the *Dorkwad Daily* and my GPA would be a more respectable ERA. I wanted in. So I sent an e-mail to *Key Reporter* editor and PBK director of PR Barbara Ryan, asking for help:

Dear Ms. Ryan,
A copy of the Phi Beta Kappa Society's newsletter, the *Key Reporter*, recently fell into my hands, and I greedily devoured each word until my intellectual belly was veritably distended (were I a bovine, I would have selected John Churchill's account of his newfound affinity for Tolstoy to chew as cud). My only regret is that I'd never heard of your fine organization until this week past. My *petite amie*, who has been a PBK member in good standing for some four years, informs me that members are typically elected in college based on academic merit. In my own case, I can only assume that there was some kind of grave oversight on the part of the election committee, for I was never contacted. As I earned my undergraduate degree in 1999, perhaps this was due to the widespread chaos caused by the Y2K bug.

I'm writing to ask you to correct this travesty by granting me a retroactive PBR membership. My qualifications, in brief:

- I managed a D+ in a calculus-based physics class without knowing a scrap of calculus. If I'd known a derivative from a deuteron I'm sure my grade would've been a full mark higher.
- I wrote a 50-page honors thesis on selected works by Raymond Carver. That's roughly five times longer than any of Carver's actual stories. To put that in perspective, my paper on *War and Peace* would total 7,500 pages, were I to write one.
- I had excellent school spirit. At one hockey game my senior year, I consumed the better part of a bottle of Captain Morgan's Original Spiced Rum and expressed my school spirit by standing shirtless in the bleachers and informing the opposing goalie that he was a sieve (and a strainer, and a colander—being an intellectual, I had many synonyms at hand to vary the metaphor) until I was removed by security.

I'M ALL FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY, BUT WOMEN'S TOTAL DOMINATING SUPERIORITY IS A LITTLE HARD ON MY EGO

For the sake of modesty and brevity I'll stop there, but I would be happy to provide you with a transcript or any other documentation you may require to complete my application. I look forward to making up for lost time in the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and so does my brain.

(secret handshake)
Ezra H. Dyer

She didn't write back, so it seems I never will get a Phi Beta Krappa key. It's probably just as well. I've heard that their hazing rituals involve reading the periodic table until you throw up. And Liz assures me that I'm very erudite and I shouldn't be triste. For all I know, she could be right. iB

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Soroff ON

BARBARA LYNCH

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Barbara Lynch, chef/owner of the acclaimed No. 9 Park, was raised in the projects of South Boston and discovered cooking in a high school home-economics class. After taking jobs at some of the top restaurant kitchens in Boston, she traveled through France and Italy, where she incorporated a European flair in her cooking. Upon her return to Boston, she became executive chef at Galleria Italiana, where she was named one of *Food & Wine*'s "Ten Best New Chefs in America." In 1998, she opened No. 9 Park, which was named one of the "Top 25 New Restaurants in America" by *Bon Appétit*, one of the "Top 50 Restaurants in America" by *Travel & Leisure* and "Best New Restaurant" in Boston by *Food & Wine*. More recently, the James Beard Foundation named Lynch "Best Chef Northeast, 2003," an award determined by restaurateurs across the country. She recently completed a four-part series on pasta for the *New York Times* with author Mark Bittman, and she has appeared on such cooking shows as the Food Network's *Cooking Live with Sara Moulton* and *Cooking Around Town* with Ron Della Chiesa on WGBH. She was one of a handful of Bostonians to be profiled in the ABC-TV documentary series *Boston 24/7*, and she is the subject of a documentary titled *Amuse Bouche: A Chef's Tale*.

Jonathan Soroff: *So what exactly does a James Beard award look like?*

Barbara Lynch: It's a gold medal with the head of James Beard engraved or embossed on it, it's heavy, and it's on a yellow ribbon.

JS: *Sort of like a Nobel Prize?*

BL: [Laughs.] I haven't seen a Nobel Prize. I'm not sure I ever will.

JS: *What does the award mean for you, either personally or for business?*

BL: Personally, it's an amazing feeling. It's so wonderful to feel the recognition of your peers and colleagues. For business, I'm not sure what it does. It may make expectations a little bit higher. We need to raise the bar a little bit more because of the attention we'll get from James Beard followers.

JS: *Worst thing about the restaurant business?*

BL: The hours. I'm usually here 11:30 in the morning until 1 o'clock in the morning, five days a week.

JS: *So it's impossible to have a home life?*

BL: Unless you have a great husband, like mine, who does the laundry and the grocery shopping. It's really tough, especially when the restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, because you want to be here. I like to work with my staff. But, hey, it's the restaurant business. I chose this.

JS: *Do female chefs have a harder time than their male counterparts?*

BL: No. It's funny. I get asked that all the time, and I wish I had a better answer, but no. It's not harder, but it's probably different.

JS: *How so?*

BL: Less ego.

JS: *Don't all chefs have big egos?*

BL: I think you have to have an ego to be in this business, and to deal with both the criticism and the positive aspects. It's a must.

JS: *One tool you can't live without in the kitchen?*

BL: Potato ricer.

JS: *That's what you'd take to a desert island?*

BL: Well, if there were potatoes there, I guess.

JS: *One spice you can't live without?*

BL: Black pepper.

JS: *Hardest thing for you to cook?*

BL: For me, personally, probably a fish terrine. They never come out right. They're always dry and...I don't know...I'm bad at them.

JS: *Easiest thing?*

BL: For me it would be pasta.

JS: *Any guilty pleasures when it comes to food?*

BL: Yeah, fried stuff. Fried clams from Woodman's or the Clam Box. I also like making my own. We share a house in Gloucester and we do fried clams. But I like all fried foods.

JS: *Biggest mistake that novice chefs make?*

BL: Not being ready or organized or knowing how to work efficiently. Like if you're going to juice something, have all your carrots ready, chopped and peeled. Don't set up the juicer that takes up half the counter until you're ready to use it.

JS: *Three people you'd most like to cook for?*

BL: Well, Julia Child is always fun. I'd love to hang out with Katherine Hepburn. That'd be great. And maybe Daniel Boulud [a New York chef] or Waverly Root, the food historian who wrote *The Food of Italy* and *The Food of France*.

JS: *Things that people just don't order when they're on the menu?*

BL: We've had a hard time with sea urchin. It's not a huge seller here. Neither is rabbit.

JS: *Most memorable meal you've ever had?*

BL: Three years ago, at Taillevent in Paris.

JS: *Best cook you know?*

BL: My chef de cuisine, David Bazirgan.

JS: *What would I find in your refrigerator at home?*

BL: [Laughs.] You'd find peach marmalade, baby arugula, baby spinach, pieces of the roast chicken we had last night. Chocolate milk, ummm, Hot Pockets...

JS: *Hot Pockets?!*

BL: My stepson loves them. I don't eat them.

JS: *One thing most people don't understand about the restaurant business but should?*

BL: What it costs to run a restaurant. Not only the food product but labor and glassware, linen, china, menus, paper, bread, water. Those things are reflected in the price, and I wish people were more aware of the bigger picture.

JS: *If the Food Network asked you to do a show, what would it be?*

BL: It would have a theme, like how to entertain. How to do an elegant dinner party at home, how to do a picnic, how to roast a chicken...

JS: *Are you a tyrant in the kitchen?*

BL: Not really.

JS: *What would your staff say if I asked them that?*

BL: [Laughs.] They'd say, "On her good days, she's all right."

JS: *What's your take on the phenomenon of celebrity chefs?*

BL: My God, it's outta control! I don't know if it's a good thing or a bad thing. I suppose it's how you take it. It's definitely good for the restaurant business, which is nice because it's very hard to succeed in this business. The star thing makes me happy on that end. But taking a chef and putting him into rock 'n' roll status, like a superstar?! That's pretty frightening.

JS: *Not to mention silly. Name three great places to buy food supplies in Boston.*

BL: Formaggio's Kitchen, obviously, for cheese. For produce, I go to Wilson's Farm. And I'm a Trader Joe's girl.

JS: *Do foodies take it all too seriously? I mean, after all, it's just food.*

BL: No. Food is not just food. A customer who eats here probably can't go home and prepare a squab that was strangled, the neck taken off, roast the bones, make an incredible jus, cook it perfectly, with fresh porcini, a little brioche toast....I don't think foodies, the real food lovers, can ever get too serious. The more serious, the better. They challenge us to get better, so that you can taste every little thing that's in that dish. I depend on them.

JS: *How about fad diets?*

BL: [Laughs.] Oh, God, every month I'm on a different thing. Now it's the no-alcohol diet. Just kidding. I'm always trying to lose weight.

JS: *Is there a food fad or trend you find annoying?*

BL: I'm over big portions of food.

JS: *Don't your customers expect that, though? Otherwise, they don't feel like they're receiving value.*

BL: I think that's going away, and I hope that within the next five to 10 years we'll be back to the six-ounce piece of protein and three ounces of a carbohydrate, getting back to normal sizes. Right now, it's so over the top.

JS: *What about the foam thing?*

BL: It didn't last very long, did it? Is that still around?

JS: *I think so.*

BL: Yeah, well, that's something I think I dabbled in for a month and then I was over the whole canister thing. It didn't work out for me. But now a lot of people are doing gelatin. I like that.

JS: *Most exotic thing you ever ate?*

BL: I guess that barnacle that Ken Oringer did at Clio last year. I've also had live glass eels with marinated eggplant. I remember having that in Paris. The eels were close to being dead but still moving on the plate a bit, and they're hugely expensive, like $90 a pound or something.

JS: *Microwave—pro or con?*

BL: Here, we only use it to melt chocolate when necessary, for writing on a dessert or something. At home, I use it for tea. That's about it.

JS: *Do you cook a lot at home?*

BL: Only on Sundays, because that's when I'm there.

JS: *Favorite cooking magazine?*

BL: Ooh, who am I gonna piss off with this one? I guess *The Art of Eating*. It's a quarterly.

JS: *How about your favorite cookbook?*

BL: *Le Grand Livre de Cuisine* by Alain Ducasse. It's huge. It's all in French, and it's over 2,000 pages and has everything of his compiled, except the desserts. It's just savories. I don't think I'll ever get through the whole book.

JS: *Last question: the one adjective you'd hope other people would use to describe your cooking?*

BL: Refined. IB

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Using terra-cotta pots and small urban plots, local chefs find creative ways to cultivate their own herbs and bring just-picked freshness to signature dishes

BY BETH FORREST

Growing up on farms in rural Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, Robert Fathman often got his hands dirty—driving a John Deere tractor, milking goats and working in the garden. As the chef of Azure in Copley Square's Lenox Hotel, Fathman continues to get his hands dirty tending his herb garden on the hotel's roof. Azure's American cuisine menu changes frequently to incorporate the verdant herbs, which can be found in savory dishes, extravagant desserts and even La Noche Loca, a tequila-based cocktail infused with tropical fruits, mint, Thai basil and lemon basil, and topped with champagne. Although his rooftop oasis might seem incongruous against the Boston skyline, Fathman isn't the only area chef tilling the soil. He joins a growing number of local chefs that have found space—in outdoor plots, as well as on roofs, decks and patios—to grow herbs as a way to save money, obtain the freshest products possible and get closer to the source of their ingredients.

Strawberry Basil Shortcake

Alice Feldman, Azure pastry chef

Shortcake

- 8 ounces (2 sticks) butter, soft
- 2 cups sugar
- 6 eggs, room temp.
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup lemon zest (about 4 lemons)
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 2 cups cake flour, sifted
- ½ cup yellow cornmeal
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 10 large basil leaves, thinly sliced

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Butter and flour a loaf pan.
2. Sift the dry ingredients together and set aside. Combine sour cream and lemon juice in a separate bowl and set aside.
3. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes.
4. Add eggs to the butter and sugar one at a time, beating well after each.
5. Add the lemon zest and vanilla extract.
6. Add half the dry mixture, and mix just to combine. Then add the sour cream mixture, and then the remaining dry ingredients. Fold the basil leaves into the mixture by hand.
7. Spoon into the prepared loaf pan and bake about 45 minutes, or until a skewer inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean.

Strawberry-Rhubarb Compote

- 2 cups strawberries, trimmed and quartered
- 2 cups rhubarb, cut into ½-inch pieces
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 vanilla bean, scraped
- ⅔ cup port

Combine in a saucepan and simmer over low heat until rhubarb is tender (but still holds shape) and liquid is reduced by about one third.

Whipped Creme Fraiche

- 1 cup creme fraiche
- ¼ cup sugar

Combine both ingredients in an electric mixer and whip to stiff peaks.

When the cake is cool, cut into slices. Place each slice on a plate and top with strawberry-rhubarb mixture, then with whipped creme fraiche.

Serves eight.

Peter Davis

Maple Thyme Glazed Salmon
Peter Davis, Henrietta's Table

Maple Glaze

2 tablespoons maple sugar
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
1 tablespoon maple syrup

Mustard Vinaigrette

½ cup Pommerey mustard
2 tablespoons horseradish
3 tablespoons maple syrup
½ cup water

4 8-ounce salmon filets

Mix together ingredients for the maple glaze. Coat the salmon with the maple glaze and place in a preheated oven (350 degrees) for 12 to 15 minutes. Blend ingredients for mustard vinaigrette. Serve salmon topped with vinaigrette.

Serves four.

A CAMBRIDGE COURTYARD

Peter Davis, chef of Henrietta's Table, has been growing herbs in the courtyard of the Charles Hotel for the past seven years. They are planted in terra-cotta pots and in a large raised bed intermingled with flowers, and Davis and his kitchen brigade harvest the herbs daily. "The herbs are nice to look at and give off a good aroma for people sitting on the patio," he says, "and food that you pick yourself can't get any fresher."

For Davis, herbs should be an understated addition to a dish, and not overwhelm it. Among his favorites to grow and incorporate into his contemporary New England fare are ones with softer and lighter flavors, most notably tarragon and thyme. He also likes chervil, a subtle cross between parsley and anise, because it works well with all fish, or simply tossed in with organic salad greens and lightly dressed. On Henrietta's menu, a combination of curly and flat-leaf parsley, rosemary, thyme, tarragon, sage, chives and marjoram coats the Bell and Evans rotisserie chicken, which is the perfect vehicle for presenting the taste of fresh herbs. A number of herbs also make their way onto the dessert list, in a cooling strawberry-tarragon sorbet, for example, and a fresh-fruit salad dressed with rosemary-infused orange juice.

With the large volume of business at Henrietta's Table, however, Davis can grow only a small percentage of the herbs he needs. To supplement his harvest, he actively supports local organic farms, such as Eva's Garden in South Dartmouth, whose sorrel, green onions and garlic are often the featured produce on the changing lunch menu. The Farm School, in Athol, which gives inner-city youths the opportunity to work on a farm and learn about sustainable agriculture, also supplies Henrietta's with fresh herbs.

In addition to tasting herbs in the restaurant, you can also pick up potted herbs in Henrietta's Market, located in the restaurant's foyer. These organic plants, sold in small terra-cotta containers, fit easily on balconies or in window boxes and are an excellent alternative to buying the expensive and perhaps not-so-fresh bunches at the supermarket (and the herbs will last a lot longer). These plants also get plenty of TLC before you bring them home, as Davis brings them out on the patio on sunny days, "so they can get a suntan."

Fresh Herb Salad with Mesclun Greens

Raymond Ost, Sandrine's

12 ounces fresh mesclun greens
1 bunch each tarragon (leaves only), chives and parsley
6 sprigs fresh mint
½ bunch dill
12 nasturtium flowers (for garnish)

Garlic Vinaigrette

1 cup vegetable oil
½ cup red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
4 cloves garlic, chopped
1 bunch purple basil (keep 4 tops for garnish)
1-2 tablespoons water
sea salt and pepper to taste

Blend all vinaigrette ingredients together. Mix herbs and greens together and toss with vinaigrette. Garnish with basil tops and nasturtium flowers.

Serves four.

TRANSPORTING FLAVORS

Growing up in the Alsace region of France, Raymond Ost, chef and co-owner of Sandrine's in Harvard Square, often helped his father and grandfather tend the family garden. Since then, wherever he lives, he finds a patch of ground to continue the tradition. One day, when business partner Gwen Trost visited his home, she was enchanted by the scent of fresh herbs and decided that she, too, wanted an herb garden.

So four years ago, Trost began to cultivate a large herb garden in Pomfret, Conn., with which to supply the restaurant. When she moved to Winchester two years ago, she took along the herbs. During the growing season, the garden now provides the restaurant with all its fresh herbs—it is so prolific, in fact, that she and Ost often share the extras with the chefs at nearby UpStairs on the Square.

Trost spends 10 to 15 hours a week in the garden, with Ost helping whenever he finds time. A veritable cornucopia, it includes standards like thyme, chives, parsley, "every kind of mint you can think of," jokes Ost, as well as more obscure herbs like salad burnet (the leaves taste like cucumber), lovage and Vietnamese coriander. In fact, some of the plants leave Ost in a quandary. When a Japanese friend of Trost's moved away, she donated her shiso plant (also called perilla) to the herb garden, and its clippings found their way into the restaurant. Ost was baffled by the herb, until one night when Trost's friend happened to stop by Sandrine's for dinner. "I accosted her at the table and asked how it should be used," says Ost. "She replied, 'Like basil,' and now I incorporate it in a sauce for fish."

Ost's favorite herb, however, is tarragon, because of its "nice, distinctive flavor." It is also representative of Alsatian cooking, but, he warns, you need "just a hint" in your sauce. In addition to main courses, fresh herbs play a large role in the rest of the menu. From the salads, into which they also toss rose petals, nasturtiums and violets that they grow in the garden, to the dessert list, which sometimes includes lavender ice cream and plum tarte Tatin with rosemary crust, Sandrine's finds a way to use all of the edible goodness from the garden. A self-confessed frugal chef, Ost even finds use for the stems in "chef's iced tea," which is made from stalks of mint, basil and verbena boiled with a vanilla bean for two minutes, steeped for 30 minutes, strained, and served chilled over ice with lemon.

Raymond Ost

Chilled Melon Soup with Anise Hyssop

Frank McClelland, L'Espalier

- 2 ripe cantaloupes
- 2 cups champagne
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 ounce Anise hyssop leaves, for garnish
- 1 teaspoon salt

Peel and remove the seeds from one of the cantaloupes. Cut into one-inch chunks and place in a blender with the champagne and sugar. Blend for one minute. Strain; chill for 30 minutes.

Cut the second cantaloupe in half and remove the seeds. Use a spoon to shave out the meat of the melon in thin ribbons, and place the ribbons in a chilled bowl. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Ladle the blended chilled soup over the melon ribbons.

Wash anise hyssop leaves, cut into thin slices, and sprinkle on soup for garnish.

Serves six.

A BACK BAY BOUNTY

Amid air compressors, plastic deck chairs and a small outdoor grill, herb-filled boxes have lined the perimeter of the rooftop deck at L'Espalier for the past 15 years. "It's all about having the kitchen team be close to the origin of what they are working with, and a respect for the ingredient," explains chef/owner Frank McClelland. "Only 1 percent of the kitchen staff that comes through the restaurant knows about gardening," he says, and planting, watering and harvesting are an essential part of the training that each cook undergoes. The education extends to the front of the house, with the servers receiving instruction on how to identify each plant and describe its flavor.

"I like picking herbs the day you are going to use them because their oils transfer to dishes and the palate," says McClelland. Combining an acute sense of taste with a flair for flexibility in the kitchen, he constantly changes the composition of each dish to best display the herbs that are in abundance. And though he does not have a favorite, he does admit to enjoying the aromatic anise hyssop. With heart-shaped leaves, the flowering shrub exudes a licorice-and-touch-of-ginger flavor. Easy to grow, the plant is wonderful as an infusion in tea and an ingredient in both sweet and savory dishes.

The herb season in Boston lasts surprisingly long. Harvest begins in mid-May with chives, rosemary and lovage (the leaves look and taste like mild celery), peaks in July and August with basils, thymes and lavender, and often lasts through late November. McClelland, who has decades of experience, offers some helpful hints for the urban gardener. First, plant the herbs in deep boxes or pots (to accommodate their root systems). Give them as much sun as possible, and make sure to water the plants every day. The hardier perennial herbs, including rosemary and lemon verbena, can often survive the long winter season indoors with a humidifier and daily misting.

Once you cultivate your own herbs at home, "their uses are just endless," McClelland says. He recommends topping baked fish with thyme and chives—or, just as easy, crushing a blend of fresh herbs in grapeseed or olive oil and brushing the mixture over meats while grilling. Mint is underused, he says, and works well with sautéed peas and beans or in a marinade for lamb, not to mention all of the possible options for desserts. "It takes only a second to pick, wash and chop, and your dishes will have a multi-dimensional taste."

FROM THE GARDEN, TO THE TABLE, TO THE PLATE

When Ana Sortun opened Oleana in a charming location on Hampshire Street in Cambridge, the back patio provided the perfect space and opportunity to begin growing herbs. Although Sortun hadn't before delved into the world of horticulture, the two-tiered garden patch now supplies the kitchen with most of its herbs throughout the summer. A wonderful combination of scents, textures and colors, the herbs include sage, lovage, absinthe, lavender, chives and basil. "Growing it yourself is a huge savings," says Sortun. "For the home cook, it is better to go to a nursery and buy the herb plant than it is to buy a bunch in the supermarket."

Any dish that Sortun serves this summer will incorporate fresh herbs from the garden. Look for dishes with summer savory or za'atar. Both popular in Middle Eastern cooking, the first is a spicy member of the mint family, while the latter, sometimes called wild thyme, has an earthy flavor and is often paired with sumac and sesame seeds. Sortun also prefers to use multiple herbs in dishes, as, she says, "it is the combination that gives the dish a different flavor." Parsley, mint and dill act like the *herbes de Provence* for Turkish cuisine, and also accent a romaine salad with a fresh, zesty taste.

Another herb that Sortun grows is angelica, which she began harvesting in late May. The plant, whose name probably derives from its reputation as an antidote to poison, resembles a rhubarb plant, with long, thick stalks and a canopy of big leaves. Sortun describes the flavor as having an essence of licorice—herbal and sweet—and suggests that most people would know it best as the "green pieces" in fruitcake. Oleana's pastry chef, Maura Kilpatrick, will update its use this summer, when she pairs it with fresh peaches in a sorbet served alongside a peach and mascarpone tart, garnished with an angelica-leaf syrup and candied angelica.

In addition to infusing Sortun's dishes with flavor, the fresh herbs grown in the patio also serve to connect the al fresco diners with the source of the ingredients. Pretty and fragrant, blossoming chives, basil flowers, lavender and rosemary become bouquet centerpieces. Joined by strawberry plants, jasmine, chamomile, and a fig tree, the herb garden serves as a cosmopolitan Eden, reminding us that to eat good food, one's hands should get a little dirty. IB

Chopped Romaine and Cucumber Salad with Yogurt Dressing

Ana Sortun, Oleana

- ½ cup walnut halves
- 1 large head of romaine, blemished outer leaves removed
- 1 cup chopped, clean arugula leaves
- 1 English cucumber
- 1 tablespoon chopped flat parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint
- ½ teaspoon Aleppo chilies
- salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Yogurt Dressing

- 2 large cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon good white vinegar, like champagne or other French vinegar
- 1½ teaspoons sugar
- salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- ½ cup good plain yogurt (Brown Cow or Old Chatham sheep's milk)
- 5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

In a small skillet on low heat, roast the walnuts carefully until they are lightly browned and you can smell them. Cool and set aside.

In a small mixing bowl, let garlic sit with lemon, vinegar and sugar for at least 10 minutes, until it softens. Meanwhile, wash and dry the romaine and arugula. (The greens should be very dry, or the dressing won't cling to them). Chop the romaine into fine shreds. Chop the arugula. Place both greens in a large salad bowl.

Peel the cucumber and cut in half lengthwise. Spoon out the seeds. Cut in half so there are four pieces and grate the cucumber against the large holes of a grater. Add to salad bowl with the chopped herbs and walnuts.

Finish the dressing by whisking the yogurt and olive oil into the garlic mixture. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground pepper. Add half the dressing and another sprinkle of salt. Toss and taste for seasoning. (If needed, spoon in more dressing.) Sprinkle with chilies and serve immediately.

Serves four.

In Memoriam

The Improper Bostonian mourns the loss of Michael A. Tye, president and CEO of United Liquors, who passed away on June 2 at the age of 49, after a bout with cancer. Michael was not only an energetic, entrepreneurial business leader, but a man deeply devoted to civic life and committed to helping the less fortunate. He tirelessly supported such causes as the Fenway Community Health Center and the Boston-to-New York AIDS Ride. He also helped to found Community Servings and worked with Sky Ranch, a Montana camp serving poor and troubled youth.

His entrepreneurial spirit and generous ways will be missed by all who knew him.

Contributions in Michael Tye's memory may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Multiple Myeloma Research Fund, 44 Binney Street, Room M557, Boston MA 02115, or to the Ray Tye Medical Aid Foundation, PO Box 850376, Braintree MA 02185.

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Gourmet Magazine, 2003

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hog heaven

THE NEW ENGLAND BARBECUE SOCIETY TRANSFORMS BACKYARD GRILLERS INTO DIE-HARD PITMASTERS

It's a raw, rainy Saturday afternoon on the cusp of May, otherwise known as National Barbecue Month. A score of us, bundled up in coats and rain gear, huddle around a propane heater before a makeshift stage inside the "pavilion"—a sprawling open-air shed—on the wooded grounds of the Maynard Rod and Gun Club. Jed LaBonte, our instructor for this barbecue cooking class, prepares us for the work to be done before Sunday's mock cook-off: the trimming and rubbing, the hours of smoking, the basting, the saucing, the hurry-up-and-waiting. LaBonte, burly and baby-faced with a strawberry-blond goatee, has neither coat nor rain gear. In his sweatshirt and jeans, he doesn't seem to notice the rotten weather. Instead he seems lit up from within by enthusiasm for his subject, the art of barbecue. For New England Barbecue Society devotees like LaBonte, where there's smoke, there's fire—inside and out.

Sure, the New England Barbecue Society sounds like an anomaly on the order of, say, the Kansas Clambake Alliance. But in fact the 12-year-old organization boasting more than 200 members is rich in talent and experience as well as passion. Cook-offs are core events for NEBS members—forming two-to-four-person teams, they can compete against each other and against other teams in local, regional and national events.

Naturally, the society has attracted its share of chefs, including Lawrence Parks, most recently of Blu, and Andy Husbands of Tremont 647 and Rouge (whose team, the UFO Social Club, received a nationally recognized Team of the Year award last year from NEBS). But the group's roster also includes librarians and carpenters, paralegals and publicists, graphic designers and at least one model-railroad expert, and all bring their own perspectives and skills to bear. Collectively, they put the "society" in the New England Barbecue Society, forming a community that emphasizes mentorship, sportsmanship, and plain old friendship via the classes and field trips they sponsor, and provides networking opportunities within the larger barbecue community.

BY RUTH TOBIAS

This weekend in Maynard, for instance, the NEBS BBQ Cooking School has drawn a gaggle of techies and engineers whose enthusiasm for the sheer physicality of their new hobby (spending hours wielding knives and massaging ground spices into slabs of raw flesh) is matched by their appreciation of its technological side. Over a late dinner of pasta and roast pork, thankfully served in the warm, dry basement of the gun club, engineer Karim Gabriel—a NEBS newbie whom LaBonte dubs "hard-core" for his eagerness to pull an all-nighter over the smoker—links barbecue to his knack for problem-solving: "Some engineers like to tinker, and this is a form of tinkering. I brew my own beer too, and I don't even like beer; I just like the experiment." Meanwhile, software developer Rich Taft gushes over the gadgetry: "You get to have all these fun tools; I want one of everything now."

An expert in tools himself, carpenter Rich Decker prefers to focus on a more primitive thrill: "I think it's the pyromaniac factor, the joy of lighting something and burning it." LaBonte describes the appeal this way: "It's man versus the flame. It's 'Can you control the fire; can you tame the flame?' And in the end, you've battled the elements, you've battled the fire, you've battled the clock, and your reward is this great piece of food."

Top to bottom: The 2002 New England BBQ Championship in Windsor, Vt.; a judge tastes an entry; checking out the ribs at the Musketaquid event in May; a winner at the 2001 Pig 'n' Pepper event

No matter what, says Jim McGrath, "you gotta think about BBQ pits as boy-toys." McGrath, Andy King, Gerry Bouyea and Dave Frary—each one bearded, baseball-capped and flannel-shirted, with beer in hand—are here as LaBonte's seasoned volunteer assistants, withstanding the chill to act as team leaders for the novices, who will go head-to-head on Sunday, divided into teams with names like Baby Back to the Future and Raked over the Coals. With one exception, the group is indeed all guys. As generalizations go, then, McGrath's is a good one: "The BBQ pit is the paradisiacal place where male bonding meets machismo meets meat, meat, and more meat."

Which isn't to say there aren't hard-core pitmistresses among them. Indeed, the current president of NEBS is one such fair creature, and a librarian, no less. With her husband, Dave, Nancy Peterson started off several years ago as a "backyard hacker" to become the leader of a team called Petey's Crispy Critters. Her story, in fact, reveals the essence of NEBS as a coalition built not on chest beating but on genuine above-and-beyond hospitality. At their very first competition, the legendary but now-defunct Pig 'n' Pepper Festival in Carlisle, the Critters arrived "with nothing but our smoker. My kids were 4 and 10 at the time. It ended up pouring rain. A team of firemen, the Pyro Porkers, came over and asked us to join them in their heated tent—they had a huge tent, music playing—and made sure our kids were comfortable for the rest of the event. They were perfect strangers but just truly wonderful to us. And that was it."

Far more than any concern for culinary prowess, the theme of conviviality comes up again and again among the regulars, who represent a sort of sample population within NEBS: energetic 30- to 40-somethings, both coupled and uncoupled, with white- and blue-collar day jobs. The social element comes partly from the nature of the food itself. As LaBonte reasons, "When you have a 10-pound brisket, you're not going to cook it for yourself." But it's also a matter of sportsmanship, which is why cook-offs are such focal points for the barbecue community: Here are where novices receive tips and encouragement from old hands; where flasks are passed around between teams in the wee hours as their members take turns tending the smoker; where friendships blossom. The point, Lawrence Parks explains, is that "even though the spirit of competition is there, the spirit of camaraderie is there too."

Still, NEBS is committed to putting New England on the map for award-winning barbecue. It's affiliated with the Kansas City Barbecue Society, considered to be the authority on traditional wood- and charcoal-fueled cookery (gas is verboten). The most prestigious KCBS-sanctioned event is the Jack Daniel's World Championship Invitational, held every October in Lynchburg, Tenn.; to qualify, you have to win an official state championship or other major contest (one in which at least 50 teams compete). In our neck of the woods, the best known of these is the New England BBQ Championship in July, sponsored by the Harpoon Brewery on its premises in Windsor, Vt. This is the place for enthusiastic newcomers to cut their teeth—perhaps as participants in the NEBS mentoring program, whereby they can tag along with a competing team to see the drama unfold. As LaBonte, who leads his own team called Uncle Jed's Barbecue Team, says, "We use it as kind of our ideal model."

To that end, NEBS is a multitasking organization. It publishes a monthly newsletter, *Burnt Ends*. It sponsors off-season "road trips" to area BBQ meccas—from down-home standbys like the Linwood Grill to hot spots like Rouge—and posts restaurant reviews on its Web site (www.nebs.org). It offers KCBS-approved contest-judge certification classes—which veterans like Dave Frary recommend for novices not after, but before, they enroll in cooking classes. Learning to judge, he says, "calibrates your palate, so everyone is on the same wavelength." At such classes, you learn about the complicated nine-point scoring system that rates taste, tenderness and appearance, and the precise qualities that judges, as a rule, seek in granting a perfect score.

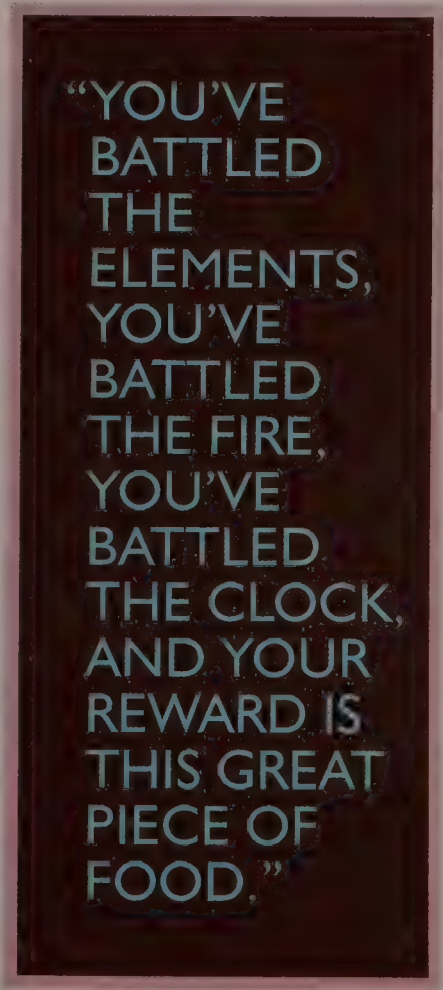
And then, at NEBS cooking classes such as this one, you learn that nothing you learn in any class compares with hands-on, real-world experience. It's a point LaBonte emphasizes again and again: "I can't tell you how to make barbecue," he warns during one of the night's many mini-lectures, this one on rubs. "I use the analogy of driving school. I can put you in the car, teach you what I know—but that first snowstorm when you have to hit the brakes, that's when you really learn how to drive."

Yet there he stands with his coffee grinder, strainer and funnel, discussing the advantages of using whole spices and kosher salt. And throughout the blustery night, as the lesser creatures among us (myself included) crawl into sleeping bags arranged on the floor of the club for a few hours' shut-eye, as the hard-cores baste briskets and butts, prepping the ribs and putting them on the smoker, LaBonte keeps talking, keeps teaching what he knows, on into the morning. Over a breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage and gallons of coffee, for instance, he describes regional barbecue traditions: "In New England there's the clambake; in Hawaii it's the luau; in the Carolinas, barbecue is one thing—pulled pork. There they use vinegar-based sauces; Georgia uses a mustard-based sauce. In Memphis pork is king—ribs, pulled pork, etc. In Texas it's brisket and sausage." He continues on, long after most of the novices have headed back out to begin readying their chickens.

Outside, it's finally sunny and almost warm. The banter and bonding have long since begun in this corner. Andy King, known on the competition circuit as the team leader of the Bastey Boys, opens a beer and says, apropos of nothing, to no one in particular, "I'm a dyslexic agnostic insomniac. I stay up pondering the existence of dog." Everyone is getting a little punch-drunk, wielding meat thermometers as the minutes tick by and the "judges"—me and four regulars, including Nancy Peterson—assemble for the 11 o'-clock kickoff.

And as the first entries come in, these thus-far incredibly welcoming souls begin to frown and use the kind of jargon usually reserved for wines, referring to "tobacco" and "skunk" flavors (not ones to strive for) and perfect smoke rings—the pink borders that appear around a properly smoked slice of meat. There are chicken thighs, ribs, pulled pork, brisket medallions and burnt ends. All I'm thinking is "Yum."

By 1 pm, however, even I've had my fill, and we emerge for a final "bull session" at the pavilion. As LaBonte explains how a team can be named overall champ without placing first in a single category (Raked over the Coals comes in second consistently, thereby earning the highest score), I ask new NEBS member Chris Kennedy, an overgrown teddy bear and union labor mediator, whether he buys into this friendly-competition stuff. Instead of answering directly, he tells me about growing up in an industrial town where "you were either management or you were union. But every Friday there'd be either a fish fry or a barbecue, and everyone would come; even if you were on strike, everyone would get together. And I don't care if you hate each other; if you see some guy slathering sauce on ribs, you'll go over to him and say, 'Hey, you're doing that wrong,' and a conversation starts." Kennedy bought his smoker hoping to revive that tradition in his own work, "to get the two sides together."



Heck, if NEBS offers any indication, even world peace could be just a U.N. barbecue away. iB

LOCALLY *grown*

BY JESSICA IREDALE

Left to right: flowers and fresh bread at City Hall; berries and assorted herbs at Copley; flowers and honey at Davis Square

Farmers' markets offer a cornucopia of nature's bounty right off the wagon

You don't have to till the field or travel to the fruited plain to reap the benefits of farm-fresh produce. From late May through Thanksgiving, growers from all over New England make the weekly trek to sell their blue-ribbon wares at some 20 markets in the Greater Boston area. Locations vary in size and flavor. Some marshal more than 20 vendors and some as few as five; some specialize in traditional fruits and vegetables, while others stock exotic fare. All have a loyal following that returns week after week for their fix of goodies, which run the gamut from perennial produce favorites like field tomatoes and sweet corn to turkey sausage, cut flowers and handmade soaps. And market vets swear that items purchased direct from the grower transcend supermarket stock. Produce couldn't be fresher if you picked it yourself, and the added shelf life means more bang for your buck. Below is a rundown on what you can find at four Boston-area farmers' markets.

BROOKLINE

Centre Street West Parking Lot
(behind the Coolidge Corner Theatre)
Thu., 11 am-dusk. June 19-Oct. 30.
617-566-8005

Specialty vendors are the calling card of this 20-year-old Brookline institution, stationed in a parking lot behind the Coolidge Corner Theatre. The much coveted corn and tomatoes are hands-down best-sellers, but less traditional highlights include Massachusetts-grown beef from River Rock Farm in Brimfield; gouda and cheddar cheese from Smith's Country Cheese in Winchendon; turkey pot pie, turkey sausage, turkey salad and turkey soup from Bob's Turkey Farm in Lancaster and hand-packed ginger and coconut ice cream from the Creamery in Marlboro. You'll also find exotic produce like bok choy and pea tendrils. Market-goers can choose from 30 different types of apples at the height of the season courtesy of Westport's Noquochoke Orchards, and kosher jams and jellies from Marlboro's Echoes of Summer are a hit with Brookline's large Jewish population. The market draws more than 2,500 visitors per day in July, and longtime market manager Arlene Flowers takes pride in the fact that "people can put a whole meal on the table by coming to our market."

BOSTON

City Hall Plaza
Mon. and Wed., 11am-6 pm. Through Nov. 26.
781-893-8222

Expect to feel downtown's hustle and bustle while browsing approximately 12 stalls. The City Hall farmers' market is a favorite among the lunchtime crowd. The price structure, geared toward individual servings, is great for grabbing a quick bite. Fresh chocolate milk from Hi-Rise Bread Company and apple cider, tea breads and cider donuts from Hamilton Orchards in New Salem are favorites for folks on the go, as are the focaccias and other baked goods from Cambridge's Iggy's and Roslindale's Big Dipper Bakery. Other seasonal delights include Freitas Farms' decorated pumpkins and gourds and its fresh cranberries harvested from Middleboro bogs in the fall.

BOSTON

Copley Square (St. James Avenue)
Tue. and Fri., 11 am-6 pm. Through Nov. 25.
781-893-8222

Bigger doesn't always mean better. The Copley Square farmers' market is limited to 11 vendors due to space constraints, but the participating growers are a well-stocked crew. Jeff Cole, executive director of the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets says, "There's not much that can be grown in Mass. that's not represented at Copley." New this season is an olive farmer who imports the Mediterranean fruit from his orchards in Lebanon and processes olive oil in Sudbury. Auburndale's Breadsong Bakery and Cambridge's Iggy's offer country-grade breads, and the organic growers of Athol's Farm School Apprentice program sell whole fruits and vegetables to rival those at Bread & Circus. On the nonedible side, Newburyport's Plum Island Soap Co. sells handmade facial rubs, body scrubs, cucumber spray, and spritzers that look and smell good enough to eat.

SOMERVILLE

Davis Square (Day and Herbert Streets)
Wed., 12-6 pm. Through Nov. 26.
781-893-8222

"Somerville has soul." Those are the words Breadsong Bakery owner Martha Sweet uses to describe the zeitgeist that sets the Davis Square market apart from the rest. For regulars, it's about more than food; there's a sense of community among the 11 or 12 weekly vendors and the customers. Jamaica native Farmer Al has developed a cult following for his calaloo (a leafy green reminiscent of collard greens), which sells out daily. Vermont's Fertile Crescent Farm specializes in potted plants, nosegays and cut and dried flowers. Bolton's Nicewicz Family Farm hauls in drool-worthy white peaches. Sterling's Crystal Brook Farm offers eight types of fresh cheese, including mozzarella and chèvre. Even man's best friend doesn't go unnoticed—Medford's Prancing Pooch makes organic dog biscuits. If your timing is right, you might catch an impromptu performance by bluegrass outfit Quarter Moon or the Somerville High School Orchestra. iB

GOVERNMENT CENTER: MICHAEL BURNS; COPLEY, DAVIS SQUARE: RITA GREELEY

These nearby farmers' markets are also worth a look:

ARLINGTON
Russell Common parking lot, Arlington Center
Wed., 2-6:30 pm
June 25-Oct. 22

CAMBRIDGEPORT
Morse School parking lot, Magazine Street and Memorial Drive
Sat., 10:30 am-3:30 pm
June 14-Oct. 25

CENTRAL SQUARE
Parking lot # 5, Bishop Allen Drive and Norfolk Street
Mon., 12-6 pm
Through Nov. 24

CHARLESTOWN
Thompson Square on Main and Austin Streets
Wed., 2-7 pm
July 16-October

CHELSEA
Chelsea Square
Sat., 10 am-2 pm
July-October

FIELDS CORNER
Capitol Supermarket parking lot, Park Street
Sat., 9 am -12 pm
July 5-October

HARVARD SQUARE
Charles Hotel Courtyard, One Bennett Street
Fri., 1-6 pm; Sun., 10 am-3 pm
June 13-Nov. 21

JAMAICA PLAIN
Fleet Bank parking lot, Centre Street
Tue., 12-5 pm; Sat., 12-3 pm
July-October

NEWTON
Cold Spring Park, 1200 Beacon Street
Tue., 1:30-6 pm
July 9-Oct. 29

SOUTH END
Boston Center for the Arts Plaza, Corner of Tremont and Clarendon Streets
Wed., 3-7 pm
Mid July-October

For more information on the above farmers' markets and others statewide, call the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture at 617-626-1754, or visit www.mass.gov/dfa.

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A SCOOP OF *italy*

While Americans are screaming for ice cream, the Italians know that gelato is where it's at

BY JULIE SHORT

Anyone who's ever tromped through the streets of Rome in midsummer knows the thrill of rounding a corner and stumbling upon a neighborhood gelateria. For the weary, overheated traveler, the re-energizing effect of a dish of gelato is the stuff that inspires poetry ("O for a spoonful of creamy gelato…On this stifling summer eve, it makes me feel kind of mellow…").

In Italian, "gelato" means, simply, ice cream. But to gelato lovers like myself, that translation is far too simple—it's softer, creamier, richer and more flavorful than traditional American ice cream. While living in Italy for several months, I became a gelato devotee. Since then, I've always believed it's nearly impossible to find gelato in the United States that tastes as good as it does in Italy. Perhaps it's the classic setting—nothing compares with sitting in the Piazza della Rotonda and savoring a dish of creamy perfection—or maybe it's the European ingredients.

When a friend tells me about Giordano's Bottega Italiana, a Belmont sandwich shop that recently began serving "incredibly authentic" gelato, I feel hopeful. I learn that the proprietor, Angelo Firenze, imported all the machinery, a display case and most of his ingredients from Italy—a good sign.

So, one Saturday afternoon, I drive out to Giordano's with an empty stomach, eager for a taste. A display case with 24 different flavors lures me in. As I stand before it, Firenze, an Italian-American who spent several years working in Milan, shares his knowledge about the frozen confection of my dreams.

Firenze explains that ice cream differs from its Italian cousin in two ways: First, ice cream is churned more rapidly than gelato, allowing more air to be whipped into the mixture. The volume of a batch of ice cream increases by about 80 to 100 percent during the churning process; gelato, on the other hand, has a volume increase of only 30 percent, making it much more dense than regular ice cream. Second, there's more milk and less cream in gelato—a fact that surprises me, considering that gelato tastes so much richer than ice cream. Firenze's gelato is only about 6 percent fat (typically, gelato ranges between 7 and 10 percent); ice cream, on the other hand, is never less than 10 percent, and premium brands range from 14 percent to 18 percent, he says. "Gelato tastes better because there's less fat to obscure the true flavor," he adds. And apparently, the rumor that gelato recipes call for raw eggs isn't true...anymore, that is. Egg yolks have been replaced by guar gum, a thickening agent—even in Italy, Firenze says.

I feel like dancing in the aisles. Can it be true? Gelato is incredibly delicious *and* lower in fat than a pint of Chunky Monkey. "Due to its higher density, it *has* to be made with less fat—otherwise it would be a rock at typical freezer temperatures," says Firenze. Gelato is chilled at zero degrees Fahrenheit—25 degrees higher than ice cream—to keep the consistency soft.

Giordano's sells milk-based gelati, like the caramel or English toffee, as well as water-based sorbets like banana, raspberry and strawberry. Firenze prides himself on offering traditional Italian gelato flavors like *nocciola* (hazelnut) and *stracciatella* (a milk base with nuggets of dark chocolate), but the locals seem to prefer the most American of flavors: cookies and cream. Nevertheless, the tub of nocciola is half empty on the day that I visit, and Firenze says visitors seem willing to experiment. "People who come in have either had gelato before and are so excited when they see the display case—or they've never seen it before and ask me if it's frosting," says Firenze. "I tell them it's Italian-style ice cream. 'Like Italian ice?' the novices ask. I say no and hand them a spoonful. One taste, and they're sold." Firenze makes one batch at a time using imported ingredients and his own recipe (which he won't divulge). "Everyone in Italy uses these same bases, so it's as authentic as you'd find in Italy," he says.

I opt for the nocciola. Firenze serves it the Italian way, in a colorful cup with a tiny spoon. I take my first small taste. It's a flavor explosion: A strong, initial burst of puréed hazelnut is mellowed by the creamy base that fills my mouth and coats my tongue. It's smooth and cool, but not unpleasantly mouth-numbing like ice cream can be. It slides down my throat, and I'm transported back to Rome. I've found paradise. **iB**

Athan's in Brookline offers traditional Italian gelato flavors.

THE DISH ON GELATO

No, you don't have to travel all the way to Italy, or even Belmont, to find gelato. Obviously, the North End has a few purveyors, but make sure you know what you're getting. It may look authentic, but your first question should be: Is it made on the premises? Truth be told, most places don't make their own—and frequently, they buy from the same distributor in New Jersey. While this gelato is quite tasty, it's not quite authentic since it's made in large batches, like American-style ice cream. It's basically what Angelo Firenze calls "low-overrun ice cream," meaning regular ice cream with a bit less air churned into it than usual.

ATHAN'S

1621 Beacon St., Brookline. 617-734-7028.
Made on premises: yes
Best-selling flavor: *nocciola* (hazelnut)
Interesting flavor: *torrone* (made with homemade honey nougat)
Price of a small: $1.95

CAFÉ PARADISO

255 Hanover St., Boston. 617-742-1768.
Made on premises: yes
Best-selling flavor: tiramisu
Interesting flavor: *gianduia* (chocolate hazelnut)
Price of a small: $6.50 (one size)

CAFÉ PARADISO

One Harvard Square, Cambridge. 617-868-3240.
Made on premises: yes
Best-selling flavor: tiramisu
Interesting flavor: passion guava
Price of a small: $1.85

CAFFE VITTORIA

290/296 Hanover St., Boston. 617-227-7606.
Made on premises: yes
Best-selling flavor: pistachio
Interesting flavors: banana, chocolate almond
Price of a small: $2.50

GIORDANO'S

235 Waverley St., Belmont. 617-484-0025.
Made on premises: yes
Best-selling flavor: cookies and cream
Interesting flavor: nocciola
Price of a small: $2.40

MIKE'S PASTRY

300 Hanover St., Boston. 617-742-3050.
Made on premises: yes
Best-selling flavor: tiramisu
Interesting flavor: torrone
Price of a small: $2

ZATHMARY'S

299 Harvard St., Brookline. 888-474-5903.
Made on premises: no (purchased from Bindi's, an importer of Italian goods)
Best-selling flavor: chocolate
Interesting flavor: pistachio
Price of a small: $1.99 ($1 on Saturdays during the summer)

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Pink-and-gold two-piece by Roberto Cavalli, $137, at Neiman Marcus.

Sizzle

Those of you who enjoyed our first round of stylish swimsuits this spring will certainly appreciate our second installment: shimmery and sexy antidotes to summer's heat. This year, animal prints are "running rampant" in the urban jungle. Prints in vibrant blues and reds are electric against darker complexions, while softer pastels bring a glow to fairer skin tones. When evaluating cuts, choose comfort first. Among the styles you'll find are bandeau tops, triangle tops and itty-bitty bikini bottoms. Also, look for swimwear that laces up in every direction—up the back, the side and the front. But the most provocative style is the cutout one-piece. This bathing suit has strategic "holes" that reveal glimpses of sun-kissed (or self-tanned) skin. Pick something with a low open back if you don't feel comfortable baring half your belly. With great suits like these, how can summer fail to be fun?—*S.H.*

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELISSA MAHONEY

leopard one-piece with side laces by Roberto Cavalli, $314, at Neiman Marcus

Blue halter bikini with fringes by Roberto Cavalli, $199, at Neiman Marcus

Neiman Marcus
Copley Place
617-536-3660

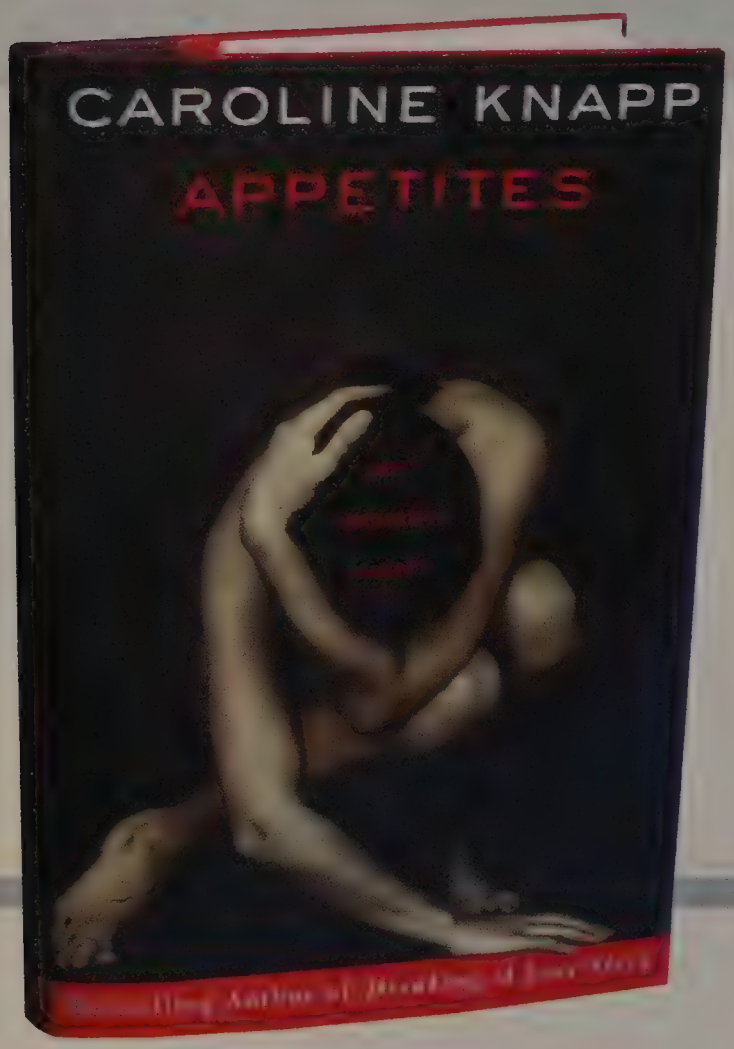
Makeup: Tia Mario
Model: Jihan for Condé
Ford Group

Graphic print string bikini by Roberto Cavalli, $184, at Neiman Marcus

MOPSY

SERENDIPITOUS SHOPPING: OUR UNFETTERED CORRESPONDENT SEEKS OUT THE SALUBRIOUS AND THE CEREBRAL.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



A FILLING READ

***Appetites*, by the late Caroline Knapp, who lived in Cambridge and wrote *Drinking: A Love Story*, explores issues of hunger and satiety in women's lives.**

Of the lush sensuality in a painting by Renoir, Caroline Knapp writes, "Food is love on this landscape, and love is sex, and sex is connection, and connection is food." This voluptuous image stands in stark contrast to Knapp's physical self—weighing only 83 pounds at age 24, she lived in a stoical prison of self-starvation. In *Appetites*, Knapp quests to unearth the complex factors behind this puzzling torment that afflicts so many girls and women, and she ranges from the political (women often learn to declaim loathingly, "I hate my stomach, I hate my thighs") to a lyrical disquisition on the sorrow, hidden "like footprints covered by new snow" that underlies the bizarrely painful acting-out called anorexia. The words "hunger" and "appetite" speckle the book, referring not only to hamburger-hunger, but to sexual desire (Knapp notes the "cool metallic asexuality" that anorexia gave her) and to ambition, which she believes is often thwarted by the disorder. Knapp gracefully and sympathetically reveals her tortured, slowly healing self, and she also laces in other women's stories, exploring their equally irrational self-punishing behavior. Although Knapp died of cancer shortly after completing *Appetites*, the book ends on a fulfilled note: The author's sister gives birth to a baby throbbing with newborn perfection: hungry in the best sense.

COMFORT IN THE SKY

Peek-A-Boo Cove is an imaginary land for children in the sky. Stuffed characters, a CD and a video tell the story of Cloudkin and friends. Peek-A-Boo Cove toys are appropriate for medical and therapeutic settings and for play. Three of the animals cost $25. Available at Brigham's in Belmont (617-484-9882).

Cynthia Vergados and Jackie Garabedian have created a skybound world called Peek-A-Boo Cove, populated by some winsome characters that are featured on a CD and video, and in plush, stuffed, doll form. The world up there is an especially comforting and nurturing one. And although the stories and the characters are fun for any young children, they're particularly suitable for children who have cancer, psychiatric problems or other maladies where the coziness and protection of a safe arms-around-the-heart world is imperative. Inspired by shapes from the windy, starry world of their home in the sky, the creatures include Cloudkin—whose stuffed version is depicted as asleep on one side, awake on the other—the cheerfully yellow Wimbies and Giggly Pig. Softly dense, they're just the right size for hugging by kids undergoing difficult treatments, and even by grownups (one woman who'd just had a mastectomy found them a comfortable squeeze). The accompanying songs describe a world that's gentle as a cloud, peaceful, friendly and blessedly carefree.

DOVETAILING NICELY

Furniture by Dovetail sells high quality hand-crafted wooden furniture. At 216 Clarendon Street, Boston 617-236-1067 or go to www.furniturebydovetail.com.

Stepping into Dovetail, you can almost feel the purity and high quality wafting off the furniture. These painstakingly handcrafted pieces tend toward a Shaker or arts-and-crafts flavor with their clean lines and honest, solid slats. In one incarnation, the slats tend to be more thickly substantial, bent outward prettily, often rather rosy in color. The good woods featured here include cherry, maple (one variety is a nearly white bird's-eye maple), walnut and some rosewood. Chairs may have a big brother of a sofa in the same style. Look inside and under, say, the bachelor's chest, with its bird's-eye drawer fronts, or the bar stool that flips up to become a stepstool. Inspect the corner of the sleigh chair; the refinement of the dovetailing pieces declares the beauty of the workmanship. Drop-leaf tables are ingeniously made to consume minimal space when not in use. As elegant as the furniture is to behold, it is equally so to use; you sit with grandeur and solidity. It's no surprise that some universities have hired Dovetail to decorate the offices of august professors.

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IN THIS SECTION: Review: Casa Romero Dish: Success at Craigie Street Bistrot
Tasty Tidbit: A delicious exhibition at Maison Robert

REVIEW

ENCHANTING HIDEAWAY

Tucked away in the Back Bay, Casa Romero has been offering tasty south-of-the-border cuisine and warm, gracious service for 30 years

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

The Back Bay boasts a large and diverse assortment of restaurants. They range from trendy and not so trendy watering holes to homegrown and national chain steakhouses, and from modest ethnic eateries to European style hotel restaurants with Michelin star aspirations and prices to match.

Among this crowded field is Casa Romero, an enchanting hideaway that has been dispensing hospitality for over 30 years in a tiny alley off Gloucester Street between Newbury and Commonwealth. I stumbled upon this jewel as I was retreating from the posted menu at one of the city's most expensive restaurants a few paces away. I was immediately drawn, as if by a gourmandic equivalent of magnetic flux, through Casa Romero's massive iron-studded, coffered wooden door.

Eye-catching blue and white Iberian tiles appoint the entrance foyer. Two or three steps down, one enters a series of small dining rooms decorated with an eclectic array of paintings, embroidered wall hangings, and sculptures. Exposed brick walls of varying reddish hues, and floors of wide pine board give the place a winsome patina. The inlaid centers of its wooden tables replicate the foyer tiles. Mexican handicrafts and tchotchkes occupy niches and recesses around the room.

Decent salsa, in which the tomato was fresh tasting and well balanced between sweet and tart, and the garlic and cilantro prominent but not overpowering, accompanied a basket of corn chips, which themselves fell somewhere between commercial and homemade in quality and character. Casa Romero's menu offers relatively standard American-Mexican fare—cuisine that is generally pleasing to American palates. An excellent chicken tortilla soup ($4), the *sopa del dia* one evening, profited from a foundation of full-flavored chicken stock, to which had been added chopped celery, carrots, parsley and, most importantly, shards of corn tortilla. This humble yet delicious dish transported me back to Mexico, where the same preparation is called simply "tortilla soup," a name that accords its dominant ingredient the status it deserves.

Mole, a deep, dark sauce that combines several types of chili peppers with the improbable ingredient chocolate, originated in the Mexican city of Puebla. Casa Romero offers three different chicken preparations with mole: marinated chicken wings, chicken enchiladas and boneless breast of chicken. I ordered the wings, an appetizer. While the wings were unexceptional in themselves, the sauce made them interesting. But they might have been even better had not a liberal sprinkling of sesame seeds over the top overwhelmed the subtle nuances of the sauce.

Ceviche is marinated in citrus juice and served with olive oil, spices and a fresh sprig of cilantro.

CASA ROMERO

30 Gloucester St., Boston
(617-536-4341)

HOURS Sun.-Thu., 5-10pm; Fri. and Sat., 5-11pm

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

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A pork tamale ($8) captured first prize among the appetizer selections. Served on a banana leaf, this combination of shredded pork and ground corn in a chipotle (smoked jalapeño pepper) and tomato sauce demonstrated why corn is king in Mexican and much of Latin American cuisine. The sweetness of the corn balanced the kick of the sauce, and both enhanced the flavor of the pork. Another traditional appetizer, chili relleno ($10), was a lightly fried pepper stuffed with mellow cheese, bathed in the same piquant sauce as the tamale.

Of the five appetizers we sampled over two visits, only the grilled shrimp with garlic and lemon ($9) disappointed. Rather than the crunchy shrimp quickly sautéed in hot oil that I had been expecting, these shrimp were drowned in a tomato-based sauce that masked their flavor. More seriously, they had apparently been simmered in that sauce, reducing their texture to somewhere between mealy and rubbery.

Of three main courses ordered, the best was the beef tenderloin fajitas ($18), tender strips of beef with a lively combination of peppers and onions. When you order rare beef in Mexican restaurants, you sometimes get tough and sinewy meat. Casa Romero avoided this outcome by starting with a good cut of beef and grilling it quickly over a sufficiently hot flame. A special one evening, sautéed sea scallops, arrived in the ubiquitous tomato sauce, but unlike the shrimp, the scallops had been handled more skillfully, and their tender yet resilient texture and sweet, nutty flavor survived. Finally, the Tampiquena (Tampico is a Mexican city) plate ($22) featured a strip sirloin steak and an enchilada verde accompanied by

Chef Adrian Mendoza prepares dishes that appeal to both Mexican and American palates.

Breast of chicken in a mole poblano sauce

plendid *frijoles* (refried beans), rice studded with chopped pepper and tomato, and a refreshing lime-accented guacamole. While the steak was not thick, it was well seared to seal in the juices and, like the tenderloin, it arrived rare as ordered.

Casa Romero's desserts included flan ($4), described on the menu as "brandied caramel custard." While the brandy escaped our notice, this standard dessert—flan or crème caramel is as compulsory on French bistro and Mexican menus as crème brûlée seems to be in Boston—proved soothing and satisfying. More unusual was the *pay de coco* ($4.50), light cheesecake made with ricotta cheese and coconut and served with a superb apricot sauce that provided a tart counterpoint to the sweet ricotta and coconut.

Casa Romero's short wine list offered 10 reds, seven whites and four sparklers. That over half of them were priced below $30, including a very credible cabernet sauvignon for only $22, made the list a winner from a price/quality point of view. The cab, Casillero del Diablo from Chile's Central Valley, was a fruity, well-structured wine that stood up well to the tomato-based sauces. In value, it was without peer in my recent dining experiences.

Perhaps the best thing about Casa Romero was the quality of the service. Charming, congenial waiters demonstrated confident, unpretentious knowledge of the menu and unfailing attentiveness and responsiveness—the latter in spite of the difficult geography of multiple dining rooms and obstructed sight lines. They replaced tableware with a frequency that belied the restaurant's customer-friendly prices and relaxed atmosphere, and they patiently fielded questions and multiple requests for doggie bags to export the remainders of Casa Romero's generous portions. On one evening, I learned our waiter hailed from Cancun, and his engaging manner and easy smile prompted me to move that destination up several notches in future travel plans.

The phrase "hospitality industry," when applied to many restaurants, often smacks of irony. My visits to Casa Romero provided a welcome respite from that syndrome. Its pleasant ambiance, which stemmed in great measure from the warmth and grace of its staff, made even its ordinary dishes taste better and its better dishes first-rate. IB

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Cape Cod Table

The Deluxe Town Diner, 62 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-926-8400). June 12, 6 pm and 9:30 pm. $25. The Deluxe Town Diner sets aside the meatloaf and milkshakes for one night as author **Lora Brody** creates a meal based on recipes from her new book, *Cape Cod Table.*

Chef Series

Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). Local chefs offer cooking demonstrations. •June 17, 7-8:30 pm. $47: Chef **Shane Gray** of Mistral makes summer desserts.

Fireside Chats

The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. June 14, 3 pm. $25. Learn how to make creative new drinks and put a new spin on old favorites like margaritas, piña coladas, daiquiris and more.

Harpoon Brewery Tour & Tasting Benefit

Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. June 20, 6-8 pm. $25. Tour the brewing facilities and enjoy samples of Harpoon beer and hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds benefit Hospitality Homes, which offers free lodging to families of patients at local hospitals.

Margaritas and Massages

Cactus Club, 939 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-0200). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. June 11, 6-8 pm. Donations encouraged. Representatives from Giuliano Day Spa will be on hand to provide five-minute massages, up-do hairstyles, makeup consultations and manicures. The Cactus Club will provide margaritas at this benefit for the Silent Spring Institute, a nonprofit organization that researches the link between environmental factors and women's health problems.

Martini Dinner

Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 18, 5:30 pm-12 am. A la carte. This four-course martini-themed dinner will feature classic martinis and dishes from the 1920s to the 1990s.

Merryvale Winery Dinner

The Vault, 105 Water St., Boston (617-734-1317). MBTA: Blue Line to State. June 17, 7 pm. $50. Chef/owner **Carmen Quagliata** hosts a four-course dinner featuring the wines of Napa Valley's Merryvale Vineyards.

Rare and Unusual Wines

Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 20, 6-8 pm. $68. No. 9 Park wine director **Cat Silirie** offers a tasting of rare wines and older vintages from France, Italy and the United States.

Scooper Bowl

City Hall Plaza, Boston (800-525-4669). www.jimmyfund.org. *June 10-12, 11:30 am-6 pm. $7, $3 children.* Eight ice cream companies serve their wares to help raise money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Food photographer Jim Scherer's mouth watering works are on display (and for sale) at The Cafe at Maison Robert June 15–Aug. 30. 45 School St., Boston (617-227-3370).

Simi Wine Dinner

Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-956-8752). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. June 12, 7 pm. $95. **Christine Berry** of Simi Winery in Sonoma County, California, speaks at this four-course wine dinner.

Springtime in the Loire Valley

Gallia, 1525 Washington St., Boston (617-247-4455). June 11, 7 pm. $55. Chef **Stefano Zimei** creates a four-course dinner paired with wines from France's Loire Valley.

Strawberry Festival

Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). www.verrillfarm.com. *June 21, 12-4 pm.* Enjoy food, activities and entertainment under tents overlooking strawberry fields.

Sunset Dinner Harbor Cruises

World Trade Center, 164 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-730-8002, between 3-6 pm). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mondays in June, 7-10 pm. $49. Tasca Restaurant sponsors this sunset cruise with an eight-course tapas dinner and sangria.

A Toast and a Taste

Cambridge Boat Club, 81 Gerry's Landing Road, Cambridge (617-267-6780). June 19, 6:30-10 pm. $35, $60 per couple, $40 at the door. Sample a selection of local and organic wines paired with hors d'oeuvres at this benefit for Share Our Strength's anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. A celebrity auction features unique donations from local chefs.

Wine and Oyster Tasting

McCormick & Schmick's, Faneuil Hall Marketplace (617-720-5230). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. June 17, 6 pm. $30. Chef **Joseph Bartel** offers a shucking demonstration at this pairing of wine and oysters.

Wine Dinner with Lorenzo

UpStairs on the Square, 91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. June 18, 6:30 pm. $85. Sommelier **Lorenzo Savona** guides guests through a five-course dinner paired with German wine.

Wine Mondays

L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-262-3023). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon., 7 pm. $50. Sample wines paired with French–New England cuisine. The evenings include a wine briefing by sommelier **Erik Johnson**. •June 16: Loire Valley •June 23: Germany.

DISH

Fit to a Tee

Conquering space...Jingo Bells ice cream....Suburban spice

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Cambridge is a quirky place, and the basement area of the building that formerly housed **Butterfish, Cafe Celador** and the **Peacock** is a quirky site for a restaurant. Too far from Harvard Square to attract much foot traffic, and too close to the square to provide more than three legit parking spots, it's a "precarious little space," chef/owner **Tony Maws** acknowledges. Yet when he decided to open his own restaurant, Maws focused less on the limitations of the space and more on the clientele he expected to attract: "Well-traveled, well-fed, well-cultured" was his assessment of the neighborhood denizens.

Less than a year after opening **Craigie Street Bistrot**, it's clear that Maws' thoughtful strategy—in addition to his kitchen skills, of course—has paid off.

"Nobody has had food or France issues," he observes. The cosmopolitan crowd, representing a cross section of the local demographic—judges, physicians, tweedy academics and black-clad couples discussing "moral absolutism"—has no qualms about ordering the red-chili-rubbed hangar steak with its accompanying marrow bone just days after the Canada mad-cow scare. Only one table of diners has taken offense to the all-French wine list, drinking water in protest, to the mild amusement of staff.

Strikingly redone in French flea market chic, the room emanates a cozy charm. If there were a word for "feng shui" in French, the Bistrot would be a stellar example. The scuffed wooden table that serves as a bar/waiting area offers reading material ranging from a French dictionary (so you'll know that the *petite epeautre* with the pork is spelt) to an obsessively exhaustive guide to cheeses (so you'll know that the Swiss invented processed cheese, and that Cachaille, a variety of *fromage fort*, will keep for up to 20 years if periodically topped off with new cheese).

After nearly a year without time off, Maws plans to close the restaurant for the first two weeks in July to take a vacation in France. Let's hope he returns well-rested; he's likely to face a very long and successful run behind the stove at Craigie Street.

Craigie Street Bistrot's chef/owner Tony Maws brings a slice of France to Cambridge.

SECOND COURSE

A few blocks away, at **Chez Henri**, chef/owner **Paul O'Connell** has hired a new pastry chef. **Tania Schnapp**, formerly of **Rouge** in the South End, leads a double life as a photographer, with a business called Schnappshots....**Great Bay** has opened quietly in the new Hotel Commonwealth in Kenmore Square....The opening of **Masala Spice** in Needham Center is still in the works. The newest venture from **Vinod** and **Shikha Kapoor**, who started with Bombay Club and Kebab 'n' Kurry, then expanded into the suburbs with Curry Leaf in Natick, promises innovative decor—custom stained glass, fiber-optic light radiating through cobalt-blue tile, a fancy cocktail bar honoring the elephant-headed Hindu deity Ganesh—but more intriguing is the "educational" spice bar. Behind the curved copper bar, a specially trained chef will roast, grind and custom-blend imported spices while describing the origins and flavors of each spice. After dinner, guests will take home their own spice bottle. Could this lead to a "name that spice" competition?

Finally: For French-bashing at its most ridiculous, consider the **Star Spangled Ice Cream Company**. One of its featured flavors is "I Hate the French Vanilla." According to its Web site (*www.starspangledicecream.com*), the company was founded as "a conservative alternative to Ben & Jerry's." The best part is the site's "mail bag," which includes kudos from fans ("As a mom of two soldiers in Iraq, I thank you...") and feedback from ice-cream-eating liberals who suggest adding such flavors as "Cherry Falwell" and "Green Peacetachio." The last word goes to the astute observer who notes: "Just what America needs—fatter conservatives." iB

Serving Dish

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Join us this summer for the First Annual **Tanglewood Wine and Food Classic.** Taste premium wines from over 100 vintners including wines from the leading producing regions of the world. Feast on fabulous artisan breads, smoked meats, foie gras and other specialty foods. Meet renowned chefs who will demonstrate their skills while answering questions and sharing kitchen secrets during hourly demonstrations throughout the day.

Tickets: ***$85, $125*** ($125 includes an exclusive pre-tasting event with winemakers and chefs)

Make it a Tanglewood Weekend!

AUGUST 22 Friday
8:30pm, Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Sir Neville Marriner, conductor
ALL-MENDELSSOHN PROGRAM

AUGUST 23 Saturday
8:30pm, Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Sir Neville Marriner, conductor
Itzhak Perlman, violin
Music of BERLIOZ, BRUCH, and VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

AUGUST 24 Sunday
BSO Season Finale!
2:30pm, Shed
Boston Symphony Orchestra
James Conlon, conductor
Music of J.S. BACH, and BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9
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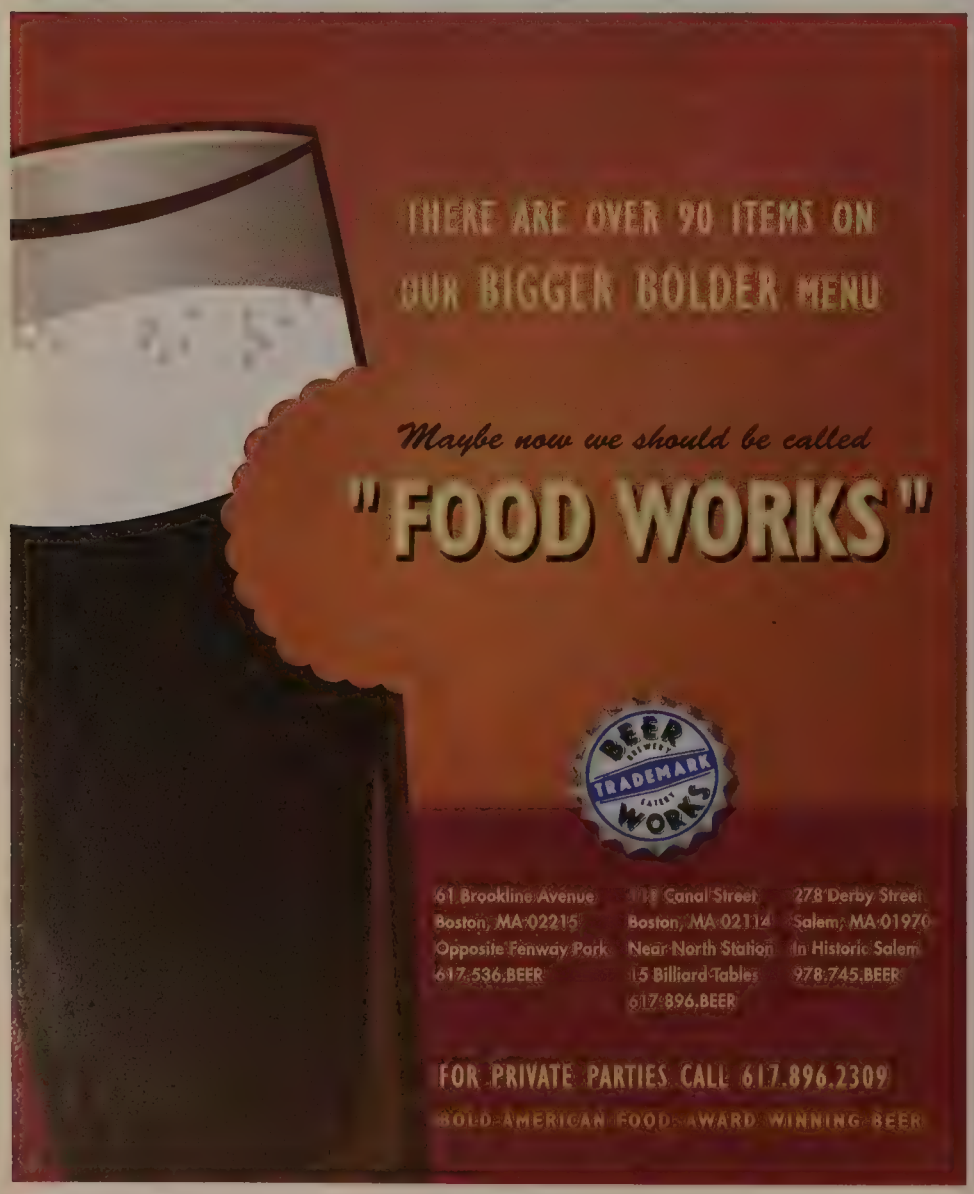

MPROPER PICKS

june 11 - 24

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			11	12	13	14
				It's the last day of the **Scooper Bowl**, an all-you-can-eat ice cream fest on City Hall Plaza. See Tastings on page 40.	Host of Comedy Central's *Tough Crowd* **Colin Quinn** performs at the Comedy Connection June 13 and 14. See Comedy on page 51.	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Author and film-maker **Sherman Alexie** reads from his new collection of short stories at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. See Books on page 86.		It's **Dracula Week** at the Brattle Theatre, and tonight is *The Horror of Dracula*. See Movies on page 54.		Watch outdoor performances at the **Midsummer Revels'** summer solstice celebration. See CityScope on page 46.	
22	23					

TUE./JUNE 17-SAT./SEPT. 13

Performing Arts: Live from New York

What more need we say about a show that's won the most Tony Awards in Broadway history (12)? And the most Drama Desk Awards (11)? And eight Outer Critic Circle Awards? And both the 2001 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and the 2001 Drama League Award for Best Musical? And the Astaire Award for Best Choreography? ***The Producers***, a hysterical musical directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman *(Crazy for You, Contact, The Music Man and Oklahoma)*, was hailed as "a blissful spectacle that will leave you delirious" by the *New York Times*. It's based on Mel Brooks' Academy Award–winning 1968 film about a down-on-his-luck theatrical producer and his accountant who hatch the ultimate scam: Raise more money than they need for a surefire Broadway flop and pocket the difference. *The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun. 2 and 7:30 pm. June 17-Sept. 13. $87-$97.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

Art, Books & Poetry, Dance Clubs, Dance, Film, Gay & Lesbian, Museums, Music

JULIE SHORT

Around Town, Children, Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope and Sports

JUNE 15-22

Music: A Bevy of Blues

This year's Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival brings in some of the biggest names in jazz, jazz/rock, blues, Latin jazz and R&B for an array of mostly free concerts: jazz wizard Herbie Hancock; the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin; jazz chanteuse Jane Monheit; trumpeter Roy Hargrove; Cuban jazzman Arturo Sandoval; saxophonist Joe Lovano; and jazz/rockers Medeski, Martin & Wood, to name a few. It all starts June 15 with a multi-stage extravaganza at Faneuil Hall from 12-6 pm. (You can also get your face painted or get a temporary tattoo). On June 16 the fest moves to the FleetBoston Pavilion with a show by blues master Buddy Guy and Los Lobos at 7:30 pm ($30). June 17 features a free outdoor concert at Copley Square and then an evening show at the Pavilion with Aretha Franklin ($40-$50). June 18 at the Pavilion showcases Medeski, Martin & Wood and the John Scofield Band ($30), and Roy Hargrove plays at Copley Square June 19. The free festival finale, at the Hatch Shell on June 22, features Arturo Sandoval and his Latin band and Herbie Hancock. *Visit* www.ticketmaster.com *for tickets to Pavilion shows.*

MONDAYS IN JUNE

Tastings: Sangria on the Sea

Once in a blue moon, your friendly Calendar Girls make a tiny error, and you better believe we hear about it—tenfold. Case in point: Last issue, we listed the wrong phone number for Tasca Restaurant's **sunset harbor cruise**. Apparently, this event piqued the interest of more than a few readers, judging by the phone calls we received. Intrigued, we looked into the event to find out what the excitement was all about. And yes, it really is a cool shindig. For a mere $49, you get a sunset cruise plus an eight-course tapas dinner with a glass of sangria provided by Tasca. We'll drink to that. *World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-730-8002, from 3-6 pm). Mondays in June. 7-10 pm. $49.*

SAT./JUNE 14

Down by the River

There's no better setting for a festival in Greater Boston than along the banks of the Charles River. Perhaps that's what the Cambridge River Festival owes its 25 years of success to—that, or the amazing lineup of folk, jazz and world music; public art; poetry readings; crafts; dancing; storytelling and international cuisine. Whatever the reason, more than 100,000 people converge upon a mile-long stretch of riverbank every year to partake in the festivities. This year promises to be even more spectacular than last, with a choreographed boat ballet on the river, a display of vintage boats, a street parade and a boat procession down the river. *Memorial Drive, between JFK St. and Western Ave., Cambridge (617-349-4380). 12-6 pm.*

JUNE 12

CityScope: Ready to Ramble

The second Reggae Ramble affords one and all the chance to get together and feel all right. It's a music and food frenzy—all kinds of Jamaican food and music—with, strangely enough, a touch of exercise. Leading up to the reggae party is a 4.4-mile run (and a 2.6-mile walk for the less ambitious) along the Charles River, which will get you nice and hungry for the array of Caribbean specialties like jerk chicken, Jamaican beef patties, curried chicken and Caribbean salad. Harpoon beer and tropical fruit drinks will be available to help you cool down from dancing to the reggae tunes. It all starts and ends at the American Legion Marsh Post, and the exercise part is optional. *5 Greenough Boulevard–Eliot Bridge, Cambridge. 7 pm. $15. Go to* www.clydesdale.org/BAEvents/reggaeramble/index.html *to register online.*

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Margaritas and Massages
Cactus Club, 939 Boylston St., Boston (617-236-0200). www.bestmargaritas.com. *6-8 pm. You choose your donation amount.* Have your margarita with a side of relaxation as Giuilano Day Spa provides Cactus Club customers with five-minute massages, updo hairstyling, manicures and makeup consultations. Donations benefit the Silent Spring Institute, an organization that researches the link between the environment and women's health problems.

Night at the Pops
Symphony Hall, Boston (617-868-6718, ext. 208). 6 pm. $185. The Pops perform to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. A pre-concert reception includes hors d'oeuvres and prizes.

Take Me to the River Benefit
Virgin Megastore, 360 Newbury St., Boston (617-227-0365). 6-9 pm. $35. This fund-and-friend-raiser for the Esplanade Association features open bar, appetizers and a one-year membership to the Esplanade Association, a nonprofit organization devoted to enhancing the Esplanade.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Father's Day Breakfast
Colonnade Hotel, Huntington Ave., Boston (617-868-7687, ext. 22). www.families-first.org. *7:30-9 am. $250.* Celebrate Father's Day with breakfast and a speech by Ned Hallowell, M.D., author of *The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness*. Proceeds benefit low-income families.

Reggae Ramble and Music-Food Festival
American Legion Marsh Post, Eliot Bridge, Cambridge. www.clydesdale.org/BAEvents/reggaeramble.index.html. *7:30 pm. $15. Pre-registration required.* Go on a 4.4-mile run, a 2.6-mile walk or just enjoy the post-race celebration, which includes live reggae music from Rezarection of Barbados, tropical fruit drinks, Harpoon beer and Caribbean-style barbecue from Rhythm and Spice restaurant.

Sunset Soirée
The Hunnewell Gardens, Wellesley (781-235-6690). 6-8 pm. $120, including a year's membership in the Wellesley Historical Society. Reservations required. The Hunnewell family opens its historic gardens at this benefit for the Wellesley Historical Society. Guests can enjoy refreshments, live jazz and the scenery.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Irish Festival at Stonehill
Stonehill College, North Easton. www.irishculture.org. *Fri., 6 pm-12 am; Sat., 11 am-12 am; Sun. 10 am-9 pm. $12.* This annual Irish festival draws more than 40,000 people over the course of the weekend. Three main stages offer music (this year's guests include Ruby Horse and the Prodigals), and more than 100 vendors sell food and Irish products. The festival supports the Irish Cultural Centre of New England.

Midsummer Night's Ball
American Legion Hall, 370 Mass. Ave., Arlington. www.swanstage.com. *8 pm-12 am. $10. Creative/ballroom attire encouraged.* This party raises money for the Swan Stage Co.'s August production of *Othello*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Bay Village Street Fair
Church Street, Bay Village, Boston (617-451-1824). www.bayvillage.net. *11 am-5 pm.* Bay Village's annual Street Fair attracts as many as 10,000 people and 100 vendors of antiques and collectibles to Church Street. The fair also includes music, food and pony rides, and a portion of the proceeds goes to charity.

Cambridge River Festival
The banks of the Charles River along Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-349-4380). www.cambridgearts council.org. *12-6 pm.* The 25th annual Cambridge River Festival includes a parade through town to rally Cantabrigians to come to the river, more than 100 food vendors and craftspeople, four stages of entertainment and more. During the "Chalk on the Walk" event on Memorial Drive, sponsored artists create chalk paintings on the pavement to raise money for Cambridge Rotary charities.

Father's Day Fishing Adventure
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). Sat. through Sun. $250 for two people, $75 per additional person. Spend the night at the Boston Harbor Hotel and then bond with Dad on a morning fishing expedition the next day. Includes breakfast and lunch prepared by chef Daniel Bruce of Meritage.

14 for 14 Amnesty International Benefit
Linwood Café, 69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-230-3832). www.cannibelle.com. *$7.* Cannibelle, Baby Red and Merrie Amsterberg perform to benefit Amnesty International.

Celtic Spring, a family fiddle-and-dance band, performs at the Irish Festival at Stonehill College June 14 at 3 pm.

In Concert for the Regent
Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). www.regenttheatre.com. *8 pm. Tickets start at $20.* Harpist Deborah Henson-Conant and singer-songwriter Vance Gilbert headline this benefit concert for the Regent Theatre. Comedians Tony V. and Dan Foley also perform.

Pink Ribbon Gala
Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (781-756-2158). www.winchesterhospital.org. *7 pm. $200.* This annual fund-raiser to fight breast cancer includes a cocktail reception, dinner, live band, silent auction and a fashion show by designer David Josef.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Father's Day Antique Car Show
Elm Bank Horticultural Center, 900 Washington St., Wellesley (617-933-4973). www.masshort.org. *10:30 am-3 pm. $6.* The Elm Bank Horticultural Center's 36-acre spread will be filled with Rolls-Royces, Bugattis and other antique cars at this inaugural event. Food vendors will be on site, or you can bring a picnic lunch. Proceeds benefit the Mass. Horticultural Society's educational programs.

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Celebrity Sunglasses Fashion Show
Parris/Ned Devine's, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (978-524-9500). www.pbmass.org. *6-10 pm. $20.* Raise money for Prevent Blindness Massachusetts at this party and fashion show, which features live music by the Rockhoppers, comedy by Jimmy Lauletta, a silent auction and complimentary food. Celebrity sunglass models include former Red Sox players Luis Tiant and Dennis Eckersley, among others.

Hot Dancing and Cool Jazz
Johnny D's Restaurant and Nightclub, 17 Holland St., Somerville (617-629-3589). 6-10 pm. $35. This benefit for adults with developmental disabilities features live jazz from Rebecca Parris, salsa dance lessons, a silent auction and refreshments.

Patriots of Color Commemoration
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *7 pm.* New research has shown that between 100 and 150 blacks and Native Americans fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Historian James Oliver Horton speaks and the evening also features Revolutionary War re-enactors.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Island Alliance Cruise
Boarding at Central Wharf, New England Aquarium, Boston (617-223-8326). www.islandalliance.org. *5:30-8:30 pm. $50.* Author Dennis Lehane is the special guest and signs copies of his latest novel, *Shutter Island*, on this sunset cruise. Proceeds benefit Island Alliance, which works to protect Boston Harbor Islands.

Sweet Sixteen Party for Courageous Sailing Center
Courageous Sailing Center, Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown, (617-242-3821). www.courageoussailing.org. *11 am-3 pm. Free.* The Courageous Sailing Center celebrates 16 years of providing free sailing for kids ages 8 to 18 with refreshments, youth activities and, of course, sailing.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Raisin' the Roof
The Living Room, 101 Atlantic St., Boston (617-423-2223). www.habitatboston.org. *6-9 pm. $2*

An artistic pig was one of the contestants on the first season of Animal Planet's *Pet Star*

Preview

Animal Idol

Let your pet challenge the nation's dancing dogs, crooning cockatoos and painting pigs on *Pet Star*

Do you think your cat, Mr. Whiskers, has what it takes to beat out the rest of America's pets in a $25,000 talent contest? Then you'd better help him hone his Sammy Davis Jr. impersonation for *Pet Star*'s Boston auditions, June 15 at Dog Day Afternoons doggie day-care center in the South End.

The debut season of Animal Planet's talent show for pets was a success, and the producers are looking for more amusing animals to compete in the second season. Sure, not all the pets that make the show have a particularly impressive talent (Tater Tot, the "butt-surfing" dog who dragged his bum around the stage comes to mind), but they still seem to get high scores from the three judges, none of whom has a Simon Cowell-esque sadistic streak. However, the audition will actually include frank assessments of your pet's talent or lack thereof, so bring a few Milk Bones to boost Rover's ego if he's having an off day with his unicycle. If your furry, feathered or scaly friend makes the cut, you're off to Hollywood to take a shot at the grand prize—and meet the show's host, Mario Lopez, a.k.a. Mr. A.C. Slater from *Saved by the Bell*. And you know what a crush your ferret had on Slater.—*Ezra Dyer*

Pet Star Auditions, Dog Day Afternoons, 1011 Harrison Ave., Boston (323-463-5040). June 15, 11 am-2 pm.

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HurryDate brings its super-speedy dating format to Sophia's June 18.

by June 16, $30 at the door. Habitat for Humanity is raising money to build 31 new homes (that's an entire block's worth) in Dorchester with a party that brings together more than 200 young professionals. The night includes music, a short presentation and a silent auction.

Rose Garden Party

Kelleher Rose Garden, Back Bay Fens, Boston (617-232-4505, ext. 3039). 5:30-8 pm. $125. This kick-off to Boston's ParkARTS program features live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails among the more than 800 rosebushes.

A Toast and a Taste

Cambridge Boat Club, 81 Gerry's Landing Road, Cambridge (617-267-6780). 6:30-10 pm. $35, $60 per couple, $40 per person at the door. Sample a selection of local and organic wines paired with hors d'oeuvres at this benefit for Share Our Strength's anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. A celebrity auction features unique donations from local chefs, and 4 Guys in Tuxes provide the entertainment.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

The City Sings Benefit

The Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Road, Dorchester (617-282-8000). www.smams.org. 7:30 pm. $30 in advance, $35 at the door. This benefit concert for the St. Mark's Area Main Street program features the Silver Leaf Gospel Singers, the Variasians and three other groups.

Harpoon Brewery Tour and Tasting Benefit

Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (617-482-4338). www.hosp.org. 6-8 pm. $25. Tour Harpoon's brewery and taste a little sudsy to benefit Hospitality Homes, which offers no-cost host homes for families of patients in Boston hospitals.

Midsummer Revels

The Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-972-8300, ext. 21). www.revels.org. 7 pm. Free. The Revels invite families to dress in white and celebrate the summer solstice with a grand procession of oxen-drawn carts and outdoor performances. Entertainment includes Caribbean steel drums, Scottish Highland pipes, Chinese lion dancers and musicians, giant puppets and circus performers.

Networking Bingo at Felt

Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (617-591-1400, ext. 5). www.bostonypa.com. 6:30-10 pm. $20. In this creative approach to networking, game cards are created using descriptions of participants' jobs, then contestants walk around and collect business cards until "bingo" is called. Descriptions may only be supplied by those pre-purchasing tickets. Proper dress, free pool, cash bar.

SINGLED OUT

Upcoming singles events in and around the city

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

J Connection Wine and Cheese Pairing

JCC, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (781-444-7771). www.tjcboston.com. 7-10 pm. $15 in advance, $20 at the door. Jewish professionals ages 35 and over learn about wine and cheese while meeting new friends.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Swing 'n' Salsa Singles Dance

First Unitarian Church, 1326 Washington St., West Newton (508-620-7138). 8 pm. $10. Chic casual attire. Learn a few twists and turns during swing and salsa instruction from 8-9 pm, then put your moves to use with dancing from 9 pm till midnight.

MONDAY, JUNE 16

8-Minute Dating

Vox Populi, 755 Boylston St., Boston (978-424-8300). www.eightminutedating.com. 7 pm. $34. Ages 25-35. Go on eight eight-minute dates and try to find a mate. Sign up with a member of the opposite sex and you'll automatically be confirmed as long as the event isn't sold out.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

HurryDate Event

Sophia's, 1270 Boylston St., Brookline (212-871-6707). www.hurrydate.com. 6:30 pm. $35. Go on 25 three-minute dates and try to meet your match. The next morning, enter the people you'd like to see again into the online scoring system and take things further with someone who also fancied you.

7-Minute Dating Event

Lucy's, 242 Harvard St., Brookline. www.jjproductions.net. Doors open at 6:30 pm, dating begins at 8 pm. $35, $46 after June 11. Seven-minute dating hits Lucy's with three age groups and two 40-minute dating sessions. The event includes hors d'oeuvres and a raffle.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Romance on the Water Harbor Cruise

Rowes Wharf, Boston (781-283-0400). 7-10 pm. $40. Ages 35-55. Casual attire acceptable. This singles harbor cruise kicks off with a bon voyage party at the dock from 5-6:30 pm, then ships off for a spin around the harbor with food and dancing to music by DJ Brian Milligan.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Miles for Miracles Walk

Walk begins and ends at Lederman Field, near the Museum of Science on the Esplanade, Boston (866-303-9255). www.chtrust.org/walk. 7-mile walk at 9 am, 2-mile walk at 11:30 am. $15 entry fee, $100 fund-raising minimum. Take a stroll around the Charles River to raise money for Children's Hospital Boston.

Strawberry Festival

Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). www.verrillfarm.com. 12-4 pm. Enjoy food and entertainment under tents overlooking the strawberry fields.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

POW-MIA Race/ Walk for Freedom

Start/finish at the Boston Teachers Union Hall parkin lot, off Day Blvd., South Boston (781-961-2110). 1 am. $20 in advance, $22 day of race. First 400 er trants receive a T-shirt. This 10K road race and wal raises money for the POW-MIA Awareness Com mittee.

Walk for Research

MDC's Lee Pool, Boston (617-527-5600). www walkforresearch.org. 10:30 am. Take a 3.8-mile wal around the Charles River to raise money for th American Liver Foundation.

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.ace tickets. com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the Hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Albert Names Edward and Zoo Story
Durrell Hall, YMCA, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-469-9339). MBTA: Red Line to Central. June 12-14 and 19-21, 8 pm. $18. The Boston Directors' Lab presents *Albert Names Edward*, the story of an amnesiac holed up in the fantasy world, written by Louis Nowra and directed by Jamie Carter, and *Zoo Story*, a depiction of a young man alienated from the human race, written by Edward Albee and directed by Ian Goldberg.

Antigone
Wellesley Summer Theatre, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2000). Mon.-Wed., 7 pm. June 16-25. $10. Wellesley's professional theater group presents Bertolt Brecht's adaptation of the classic Greek play by Sophocles. This tragedy about a young woman fighting against her powerful uncle was first performed in 440 B.C.

Birth of a Musical Festival
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). June 13-14. $15. Now in its fifth year, this festival features New England playwrights and composers who present their work in staged readings. •June 13, 7 pm: *The Lady from Maxim's* by Timothy Banker and David Reiffel • June 14, 4 pm: *Public Domain* by Rachel Peters •June 14, 7 pm: *A Time to Be Born* by Tajlei Levis and John Mercurio, from the novel by Dawn Powell.

Cookin' at the Cookery
Huntington Theatre Mainstage, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston. (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Fri., 8 pm; Sat. 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm; Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm. June 20-29. $32-$47.* Marion J. Caffey's musical follows the life of late jazz singer and songwriter Alberta Hunter from her childhood in Tennessee to her comeback at the Cookery in Greenwich Village, at age 82.

Ionesco, Not Ionesco
*Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (617-471-5384). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2pm. June 13-*July 5. Three one-act plays by absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco—*Improvisation*, *The Picture* and *Salutations*—feature the playwright's trademark wit and desperate humor.

The Producers
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8 pm. June 17-Sept. 13. $87-$97. Mel Brooks' musical that swept the 2001 Tonys, winning the most awards in Broadway history, comes to Boston, starring Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor.

Rapist James
Huntington Theatre, Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Thu.-Sun., 8 pm. June 12-28. $22.* Free-spirited, self-absorbed Katie and well-grounded, responsible Sam are getting married on Sunday—but how well do they really know each other? The young couple's relationship is tested when Katie appears to have been raped by her ex-boyfriend, and Sam seeks reassurance and solace from Katie's sister. Playwright Christopher Denham, recently featured in *Variety* magazine's "Top Ten To Watch: Bound For Glory in 2003," tackles love, obsession and self-realization.

Step Into My Love
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 333). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. June 20-29. $12.* Diversity Theatre presents this serio-comedy written and directed by Stan Edelson about a modern-day Adam and Eve who examine their life, love and relationships with the help of Cain and Abel and a reality-TV crew.

NOW RUNNING

Bel Canto
Wheelock Family Theater, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-734-4760). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through June 22. $12-$28. The Theater Offensive and the Wheelock Family Theatre present the world premiere of Daniel Alexander Jones' musical about a lost adolescent's journey to sexual and artistic discovery. The lines between black and white, boy and man, rock and opera, and dreams and reality are blurred when a young man's passions are inspired by opera legend Marian Anderson and guitarist Jimi Hendrix in 1978 America.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea
Actors Workshop Theatre, 327 Summer St., Suite 4, Boston (617-320-5917). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. Through June 21. $12. On a lonely night in a dilapidated bar in the Bronx, two social outcasts open up to each other over their warm beers in this play by John Patrick Shanley.

Fly-Bottle
Spring Lawn Theater, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). Through Aug. 24. $27-$42. David Egan's play examines the famed "poker incident" between renowned philosophers Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popper at the Moral Science Club in England in October 1946. The two are said to have engaged in a heated exchange that culminated in Wittgenstein gesturing with (some say brandishing) a poker that hung by the fireplace.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7 pm. Ongoing. $27. The Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent assistant. He loses his mind during a performance, and only authentic supernatural powers and his dark past can save his show. With beginnings in a 10-seat basement theater in Allston, this black comedy written and performed by Donato Colucci is now being presented by the Underground Magic Theatre.

The Indian Wants the Bronx
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Through June 22. $20. This 35th-anniversary production of Israel Horovitz's off-Broadway hit is presented by New York City's Barefoot Theatre Company. It tells the story of an East Indian who gets lost on his first day in New York City and is teased by two punks. As the drama unfolds, the taunting becomes more and more vicious, culminating in acts of violence.

Little Moon of Alban
Wellesley Summer Theatre, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2000). Wed., 5 pm; Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm. Through June 28. $20. Wellesley's professional theater company opens its summer season with this love story by James Costigan about a soldier and a young woman on opposite sides of the front line in World War I.

The Odd Couple
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm.

Ernestine Jackson plays jazz singer Alberta Hunter in *Cookin' at the Cookery* at the Huntington Theatre Mainstage.

Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Ju 29. $30-$35. Neil Simon's Broadway play, made mous by the onscreen pairing of Walter Matth and Jack Lemmon, comes to Stoneham with Morita of *The Karate Kid* trilogy as Felix and Sh man Helmsley of *The Jeffersons* and *All in the Fam* as Oscar.

Pericles
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Ca bridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. MBTA: *Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 p Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Ju 27. $34-$68.* One of the last plays Shakespe wrote, this epic romance—complete with ma cians, pirates, shipwrecks and divine revelation opens in a world damaged by famine, incest and c ruption, and closes in a scene of sublime lo redemption and hope.

Ruthless!
Boston Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 5 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). Wed.-Fri. pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through June $25-31. SpeakEasy Stage Company presents t award-winning off-Broadway musical written by J Paley, with music by Marvin Laird. This come play parodies classic films like *All About Eve* a tells the story of a nine-year-old girl who will stop nothing to get the lead in the school play.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (6 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tu Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Bosto longest running play.

Smokey Joe's Café
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beve (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., Thu. Fri., 8 pm; Wed. and Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 p Through June 22. $18.25-$51.25.* The longest-r ning musical revue in Broadway history features of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller's diner music cl sics, including "Hound Dog," "Stand by Me," a "Love Potion #9."

The Sound of a Voice
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Ca bridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. MBT *Red Line to Harvard. May 28 and 29, 7:30pm; J 1, 2 and 7:30pm; June 3, 7:30pm; June 6, 8p June 7, 2 and 8pm. Through June 28. $34-$68.* this play by David Henry Hwang, a Japanese w rior takes on the challenge of achieving intim after years of seclusion. He finds himself entang in a battle of love with an enchanting yet rec sive woman.

Springtime for Henry
Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Av Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.o *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7p Through June 15. $14-$64.* In this play by Be Levy, a playboy becomes entangled in a slew of and infidelities and is forced to choose between selfish tendencies and doing what's right.

Dance

Brazz Dance Theatre
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second S Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.o *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Fri. and Sat., 8 p*

e 20 and 21. $10-$12. This dance troupe shows its signature blend of traditional Afro-Brazil- and contemporary dance styles.

n Evening of Dances by Jody Weber
een Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-3191). MBTA: Red Line to Central. June 13-14, m. $15. Jody Weber, modern dance instructor d co-executive director at Green Street, is joined several other dancers to perform four new origi- works about human interactions with the envi- ment. For example, *Vox Silencia* is about inner ce, inspired by the silence of the first snowfall.

utcracker
e Manor College, 400 Heath St., Chestnut Hill 7-491-5865). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut . June 14, 4 pm. Fresh Pond Ballet of Cambridge sents a spring *Nutcracker*, with special guests n the Boston Ballet and other companies.

omp
art Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-7-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: Green e to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. -$55. This percussion hit continues its tradi- n of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday ects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own lies to create music for their dance numbers.

omedy

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mit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calen- Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. dline is four weeks prior to publication.

AND-UP CLUBS

antown Comedy Vault
nington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-5). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Reming- 's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: rd Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs turdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

medy at the Isle
erald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester 7-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. •June 21, 8:30 pm, $10: Chance Langton and Julie Plummer.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm. The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •June 11: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •June 12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •June 13-14, $27: Colin Quinn, former *Saturday Night Live* cast member and host of *Tough Crowd* on Comedy Central •June 16: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •June 17: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •June 18: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •June 19: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •June 20-21, $22: Jim Gaffigan from Fox's *That '70s Show* and *The Late Show with David Letterman* •June 23: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •June 24: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •June 11: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Craig Zeltar, Abe Smith, Katie Grady, Myq Kaplan and Amanda White •June 12: no show •June 13: Brendon Small, Katie Grady, Alison Block, Dave Greenberg, Malissa Hunt and Randy Winn •June 14: Brendon Small, Katie Grady, Dave Greenberg, Peter Dutton, Rob Reuter, Joe Randazzo, David Oliveer and Sandy Asai •June 15: Sam Walters, Pain With No Cause, Tissa Hami, Myq Kaplan, Michelle Pierce, Kevin Carson, Dan McCaul, Joe Huang and EJ Murphy •June 17: Magic Lounge, professional magicians perform •June 18: Kelly MacFarland, Paul Day, Larry Starr, Tammy Two-Tone, Erik Charles Neilsen, Jesse Shapiro and Olin Meyers •June 19: Tim McIntire, Guilia Rozzi, Nicole Luparelli, Erin Judge, Jen Ruelas, Tom Morello, TJ Griffin, Denise Robichau and Chris Tabb •June 20: no show •June 21: Sam Walters, Greg Rodrigues, Steve Calechman, Malissa Hunt, Deb Farrar-Parkman, Nina Tamburello, Paul Elwell and Cayley Hyers •June 22: Sam Walters, Late Night Players, Rich Gustus, Janet Cormier, Chrissy Lavoie, Erin Judge, Katie Grady, Tim Fenn and Guilia Rozzi •June 24: Magic Lounge, professional magicians perform.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •June 12: Kevin Knox's All Star Comedy Show •June 13-14: Jim Lauletta •June 19: Kevin Knox's All Star Comedy Show •June 20-21: Paul DeAngelo.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available. •Wed. and Thu., 8 pm, $15, and Fri. and Sat., 8 pm and 10 pm, $20: Improv comedians present their newest main stage show, *Jihad to Be There*. •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv Jam featuring main stage performers and special guests.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump*. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $12: Micetro; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show*. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Radio Hour*. Go behind the scenes of a live radio production with a variety of acts; 10 pm, $12: *TheatreSports*. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: ImprovBoston Family Show; 8 and 10 pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree* features visiting troupes and combines three shows in one.

COMEDY SHOWS

The Failure Artist
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. June 14 and 21, 7 pm. $10. This one-man show features comedian Tony V in a story of his life's journey.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding
Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boylston. June 13 and 14, 7:30 pm. $49 for dinner and show. The interactive comedy spoofs a traditional Italian wedding.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8 pm. Open mike for creative talent.

A Parenting Story
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. June 15, 3 pm. $10. This one-man show with Bill Campbell is set in a living room. Campbell's "everyman" character, who is about to celebrate his 25th Father's Day, takes audiences on a comedic journey from babies to grandparenting.

The Sopranos Last Supper
Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boylston. June 13, 7 pm. $49 for dinner and show. "Get Made" in this interactive dinner-theater comedy show—based on HBO's *The Sopranos*—about an Italian-American mob family trying to remain close.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. First and third Sunday of the month. Enjoy stand-up comedy with host Stash and 12 New England comedians plus live music.

Get real

Capturing the Friedmans and *Wattstax* are documentary delights

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The 1973 documentary *Wattstax* features Jesse Jackson and Isaac Hayes appearing at a one-of-a-kind concert

This has been an incredible year for documentaries. *Rivers and Tides*, *Strange Fruit*, *Amandla!* and *Spellbound* are just some of the standout documentaries that have offered musical, historical, artistic and emotional highs.

Capturing the Friedmans is the best of the bunch. It's hard to think of another movie that plunges you into greater moral ambiguity than Andrew Jarecki's documentary about the Friedman family of well-to-do Great Neck, Long Island, who splintered apart in the late 1980s, when father Arnold and youngest son Jesse were accused of molesting Arnold's preteen computer students.

Arnold Friedman's legal troubles began when postal authorities intercepted child pornography addressed to him. When they searched his house and found more pornography, local authorities wondered whether Friedman might present a danger to the kids to whom he taught computer lessons. When investigators asked kids if their computer teacher had touched them inappropriately, many said yes. Many also said Jesse, the 18-year-old son who helped his dad with the classes, touched them, too.

It's easy to believe the Friedmans are guilty. In the recent interviews, and in the painfully intimate home videos shot in 1988 by David, another son who had just gotten a camcorder at the time, it seems that only wife/mom Elaine is shaken by the revelation that Arnold, who died in 1995, was a pedophile. The sons (there's also a third, Seth) seem so defensive that they are unable, or perhaps unwilling, to digest the revelation.

But there was plenty to be defensive about. Jarecki interviews former computer students—some of them say the Friedmans molested them and some say they did not. Intentionally or not, the interviews make the viewer wonder how much the police's power of suggestion influenced the kids' statements. The Friedman case happened not long after another similar incident, the McMartin case, in which kids' statements of molestation turned out to be false. It would be no surprise to learn that's what happened here, too.

Ultimately, it's impossible to totally believe the Friedmans' denials (Arnold and Jesse both ended up pleading guilty to avoid trials) or to totally believe they're the monsters police made them out to be. You have to believe the truth is somewhere in the middle. So is the movie a cautionary tale about evil lurking beneath an everyday suburban surface? Or is it a cautionary tale about the power of suggestion and abuse of power? It's both. *At the Coolidge Corner Theatre starting June 13.*

Wattstax has long been an elusive movie. Filmed mostly at an August 1972 all-day concert at the Los Angeles Coliseum and released in theaters in 1973, the documentary was never released on video. Now it's back for a 30th-anniversary re-release, and it's a one-of-a-kind movie.

Director Mel Stuart didn't just capture the many Stax Records acts performing at the concert. He also filmed residents of nearby Watts talking about their lives seven years after the famous riots in that neighborhood, and often talking about themes (adultery, the blues, etc.) of the songs we hear. Cut-in sequences of Richard Pryor monologues serve as a funny, rueful Greek chorus about black life in America.

Wattstax is above all a priceless time capsule. It captures the time when black fashion, unity and political optimism were arguably at their peak. Of course, realizing how little racial progress has been made since and how disco would supplant rhythm and blues in the mid-1970s adds a sad undercurrent to the movie. But to watch Jesse Jackson lead the crowd of 100,000 in a call-and-response chant of "I am somebody!", hear the Staples Singers sing "Respect Yourself" or see headliner Isaac Hayes take the stage as the actualization of the new black man is to feel *Wattstax*'s power.

The film's one big disappointment is that the music often takes a backseat. Hayes (whose triumphant performance of "The Theme from Shaft," kept out of the original release by a legality, has been restored), the Staples and Rufus Thomas are highlights, as are Luther Ingram and Johnnie Taylor. But for most acts there's but one song, and for many only a snippet of a song. The Wattstax concert has often been called "the black Woodstock," but most of the film's revolution takes place offstage. *At Copley Place starting June 6.* IB

Capturing the Friedmans ★★★★
Directed by Andrew Jarecki. Not Rated. Magnolia Pictures.

Wattstax ★★★½
Directed by Mel Stuart. Rated R. Columbia Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between two cultures—think *Double Happiness*, *Mississipp Masala* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—get trotted out yet again in director Gurinder Chadha' latest, which can't compare to her *Bhaji on th Beach* but is still involving. Parminder Nagra give a winning performance as Jess, the Indian-Englis teen with soccer skills and two Sikh parents wh won't allow her to pursue such a nontraditiona female endeavor. When Jess is recruited to play fo a local women's team, with the possibility o discovery by an American pro team, the scene set for lots of running around behind her parent back and comic mishaps—in fact, an awful lot repetitive running around and mishaps. It's a pretty predictable, but Nagra, Anupam Kher (a the heroine's father) and Keira Knightley (as he teammate and sometime rival), as well as Chadha' sense of compassion, help dignity fight caricatur to a standoff. (At Boston Common, Kendal Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Blue Car ★★
Newcomer Agnes Bruckner gives a stunning perfo mance as a confused high school senior, but write director Karen Moncrieff's movie is a standard-issu indie debut that never rises above the form's cliche the troubled teen, divorced parents, self-destructiv supporting characters who threaten to pull down th heroine, the sexual tension of 18-year-old Meg's re lationship with her supportive English teache (David Strathairn). Not bad, but not very specia either. (At Harvard Square.)

Bruce Almighty ★★
The Majestic was a terrible movie that deserved t flop, so it's painful to see Jim Carrey retreat bac into physical comedy with this painfully broa movie about a guy who's ticked off about his ac cursed, unlucky life until God (Morgan Freeman lets him take the world's reins for a week to see he can do any better. (It's not as if audiences re jected the idea of Carrey doing drama; they re jected a bad movie.) Despite a few amusing mo ments, Carrey's latest is as unconvincingl feel-good as *The Majestic* was. The premise is just clumsy excuse for his character to discover, a Jimmy Stewart in *It's a Wonderful Life*, that he di n't have it so bad after all. And don't the Holly wood studios have anything better for Jennife Aniston than the girlfriend role she's stuck wit here? (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

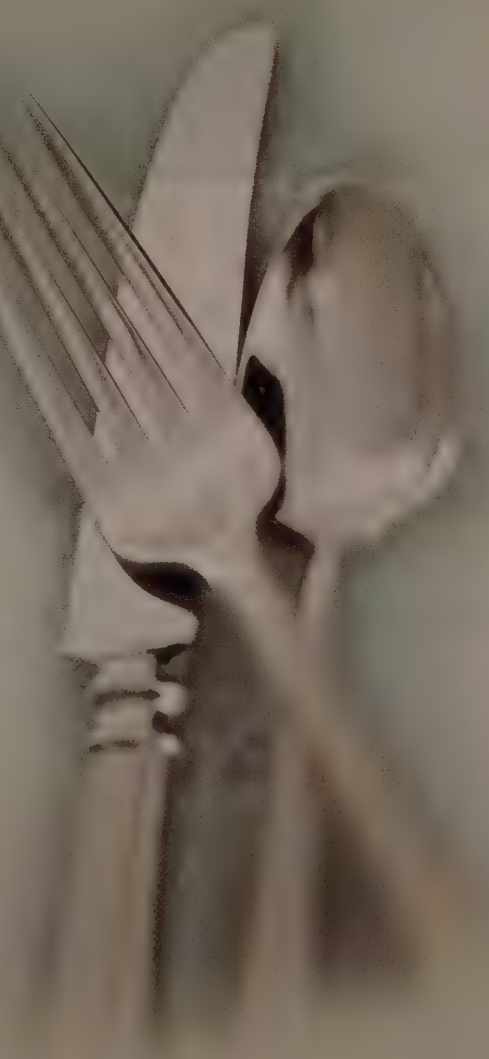
Confidence ★★★
This tale of a team of con men can come off like hodgepodge of the crime stories of David Mame Jim Thompson and Elmore Leonard. But it has zippy pace, an amusing sense of gallows humor and colorful cast. Edward Burns, Paul Giamatti an Rachel Weisz head up the crew of con men; And Garcia, Luis Guzman and Donal Logue play th equally twisted lawmen; and Dustin Hoffman is th scuzzy crime kingpin who forces the crew to pull con of his choosing, after they mistakenly rip off briefcase of money from his accountant. Direct James Foley has a Thompson adaptation (*Aft Dark, My Sweet*) and a Mamet adaptation (*Gle garry Glen Ross*) in his past, so he knows how to kee this lean and mean. (At Boston Common, Fenwa Harvard Square and suburbs.)

A Decade Under the Influence ★★★
Produced by cable's Independent Film Channe this look at American moviemaking from the la 1960s through the late 1970s really should hav been a lengthier series. It tries to cram too muc into too little time, so it can be disappointing spots. That said, even an iffy documentary abo the making and the impact of such movies as *Ea Rider*, *The Last Picture Show*, *M*A*S*H*, *Mea Streets* and *The Last Detail*—from the brief e when Hollywood took a more hands-off approac to directors—has a lot going for it. The cl choices are sometimes odd, but hopefully th movie will guide a lot of people to a lot of unforge table movies. (At Kendall Square.)

Down with Love ★★★
First there was Gus Van Sant's refilming of th script for Hitchcock's *Psycho*. Then came Tod Haynes' *Far from Heaven*, a meticulous re-creatio of the 1950s melodramas of Douglas Sirk. No here's this self-conscious and fizzy pastiche decor, plots and characters from the Rock Huds and Doris Day movies of the early 1960s. Well, least this one has some genuine fun with its appr priating, as Renée Zellweger plays the author of bestseller telling women to stop being distracte by love and Ewan McGregor plays a womania

A GENTLEMAN MAKES DINNER, AS WELL AS

RESERVATIONS.



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reporter intent on exposing her by making her fall for him. It's complete with masquerades, split screens, his sexually ambiguous best friend (the role Tony Randall played in the originals), cheesy back projection, double entendres only slightly more nudge-nudge than Hudson and Day's, a second relationship featuring the leads' confidants—and Randall himself. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The In-Laws ★★

This pointless remake of the hilarious Alan Arkin–Peter Falk comedy steamrolls most of the comic finesse out of the story of two dads who couldn't be more different, but whose kids are about to marry. Douglas plays the Falk part, a spy who drags unwitting Brooks, a worry-prone doctor, into one of his assignments. But, by adding a prologue of spy intrigue, the movie takes all the fun out of wondering whether the man of action is really a spy or just delusional. And Douglas and Brooks don't have a quarter of the chemistry that Falk and Arkin had. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Italian Job ★★

Big car chases are no camouflage for shoddy writing in this underachieving remake of a 1969 heist movie. The characters are all amazingly vague in this story of a gang of thieves (including Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron and Mos Def) that plots revenge after one of them makes off with the spoils of a Venice robbery. The story awkwardly maneuvers itself into the situation of the British original when a cache of gold is heisted from an armored car by using a fleet of stripped-down, souped-up Mini-Coopers. But the cool Minis overshadow the people this time. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Matrix Reloaded ★★½

This spotty sequel to 1999's pop-culture touchstone holds true to the theory that the middle movie is usually the weakest of trilogies (that's assuming this fall's third movie is better). Where the first was intimate and tightly constructed, the new movie is less specific in its internal logic and has a large scale that is sometimes clumsy (including council meetings and war talk reminiscent of, yikes, *The Phantom Menace*). The sequel seems even more like a videogame than the first, in its increasingly elaborate, animation-dependent fight scenes (which come off as self-parody at times) and in the "leveled" structure (fight to see the Oracle, move up to fight to see the Keymaker, move up to fight your way into the Source, etc.). The heavies have all the fun this time, including Hugo Weaving's Agent Smith, who can now replicate himself at will, and the snippy Frenchman played by Lambert Wilson. Not bad, but not as satisfying as hoped. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

May ★★½

Writer-director Lucky McKee's blend of female alienation and gore—think *The Virgin Suicides* meets *Carrie*—makes for intriguing, though sometimes slow horror-drama. Angela Bettis, who actually played the title character in the 2002 TV remake of *Carrie* (filmed after this), plays the lonely and sympathetic young woman whose social troubles make her turn to violence. Jeremy Sisto is the guy that she gets a crush on before she proceeds to totally weird him out, while Anna Faris is her mischievous coworker. The blend is intriguing, though there's an awful lot of set-up to get through before the horror. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

A Mighty Wind ★★★½

In Christopher Guest's latest improvised mockumentary, following *Waiting for Guffman* and *Best in Show*, Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara dominate as a one-time folk duo and romantic couple that, like two other groups, reunites for a memorial concert. As the fallen folk idol who's had a rough three decades since, Levy is hilariously zonked out, but he and O'Hara sing so well together that their scenes are also disarmingly sweet and touching. Guest and his *This Is Spinal Tap* cohorts Michael McKean and Harry Shearer also score together as their "other" musical project, the Folksmen, though the three characters are underdeveloped as individuals. Meanwhile, like always, Fred Willard nearly steals the show. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Owning Mahowny ★★★

Director Richard Kwietnowski, who previously made *Love and Death on Long Island* (about a stuffy author's sudden infatuation with a heartthrob actor), takes us on another intriguing journey through the obsession raging within one man's mind. This time, it's a fastidious assistant bank manager (Philip Seymour Hoffman) with a gambling jones. He starts embezzling money from the bank, so he can gamble to pay off his debts—and then, because he loses more, he embezzles some more, and so on. His quiet desperation has a fascinating car-crash quality, and is all the more compelling because the movie is based on a true story. (At Kendall Square.)

Albert Brooks plays a dad who gets dragged on a wild ride by a spy (Michael Douglas) in *The In-Laws*.

Spellbound ★★★½

Jeffrey Blitz's documentary follows eight junior high schoolers with a magnificent obsession: they're all contestants in the 1999 National Spelling Bee. The movie takes them from their regionals through the Washington, D.C., finals, and it has quirky charm to spare. The kids make up an impressively broad cross section—boys and girls, city and country, white and of color—and the Bee really brings their families together, and lets these smart kids, often misfits back in their hometowns, bond with others like themselves. The finals also generate more dramatic tension than any other movie this year, by far. (At Coolidge Corner.)

X2: X-Men United ★★★

The first one did nothing for me, but the *X-Men* sequel is a looser and more entertaining experience than its stiff predecessor. Perhaps it's the plot about a government higher-up (Brian Cox) who's determined to start a war that gives the sequel an extra timeliness. Cox, Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen all give sly performances, Hugh Jackman gets tough-guy laughs as the Eastwood-esque Wolverine, Halle Berry and Famke Janssen kick sci-fi butt, and Alan Cumming has joined the cast as a creepy little mutant. The plot is much more focused and under control than the first time around, and the only real problem here is that the climax drags on, and on. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Clint Eastwood: Monterey Cop Film Series

•June 16, 6 pm. **Sudden Impact** *1983*. Clint Eastwood directs and stars as detective "Dirty" Harry Callahan, who helps a rape victim seek justice.
•June 23, 6 pm. **The Dead Pool** *1988*. Dirty Harry strives to keep local celebrities alive when a hit list turns up. Harry must also watch his back because he's on the list too. Buddy Van Horn directs.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•June 11, 5:15 and 8:30 pm. **Gangs of New York** *2002*. Martin Scorsese captures the brutality and political corruption of New York City in the 19th century, as Irish immigrants battle other New Yorkers in the streets.

Thursdays—Fifty Years of French Cinema

•June 12, 3:30 and 7:30 pm. **Beau Travail** *1999*. In Claire Denis' film, an ex-foreign legion officer reflects on his experience leading troops in Africa.
•Also showing, 5:30 and 9:30 pm. **Under the Sand** *2000*. Francois Ozon's film explores the mental breakdown of a woman whose husband of 25 years suddenly disappears at the beach.

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

•June 20-26, 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm. **Gigantic: A Tale of Two Johns** *2002*. See description in New Releases.

Special Features—Dracula Week

•June 13-15, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Dracula: Pages from a Virgin's Diary** *2001*. Guy Maddin interprets the gothic story through ballet. The film is in black-and-white, except when blood and money appear.
•June 16, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Nosferatu** *1922*. German director F.W. Murnau was the first to bring Bram Stoker's vampire to film. Murnau's silent classic is a disturbing depiction of the evil blood-sucking monster.
•June 17, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Dracula** *1931*. Director Tod Browning brings the first official Count Dracula to the screen and emphasizes the vampire's violent obsession with an innocent woman.
•June 18, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **The Horror of Dracula** *1958*. Jonathan Harker attacks Dracula at his castle, which provokes the vampire to hunt the family of Harker's fiancée in Terence Fisher's film.
•June 19, 4:30, 7 and 9:30 pm. **Dracula** *1992*. Director Francis Ford Coppola's Hollywood version of Stoker's novel stars Winona Ryder, Keanu Reeves and Anthony Hopkins.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Opens June 13. **Manito** *2001*. Two Latino brothers try to get their act together in a drug-infested Manhattan neighborhood. Eric Eason directs.
•Opens June 20. **Señorita Extraviada** (*Missing Young Woman*) *2001*. Academy Award winner Lourdes Portillo examines the mysterious disappearances of hundreds of women along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Friday Midnights: Cellu-Loud

•June 13, 12 am. **The Adventures of Prince Achmed** *1926*. Lotte Reiniger's film animates Arabian Nights characters using cardboard and metal cut-out silhouettes against illuminated glass. Mary Timony, from the indie-pop band Helium, provides musical accompaniment to the film.
•June 20, 12 am. **The Penalty** *1915*. A patient's legs are amputated by an incompetent surgeon, causing the patient to enact revenge. Reverend Glasseye and His Wooden Legs play live music to accompany director Ray Myers' silent film.

Jazz in June

•June 16, 7:30 pm. **The World According to John Coltrane** *1989*. Robert Palmer and Toby Byron's documentary traces Coltrane's musical development from gospel and R&B to become one of the most innovative and influential jazz saxophonists of the 1960s. Musical guests the Honors Contemporary Improv Quartet play a 30-minute live set before the film.
•June 23, 7:30 pm. **Charles Mingus: Triumph of the Underdog** *1998*. Charles Mingus thrived as a jazz musician, but there were also tragic events in his life; The composer was institutionalized for psychological problems, then contracted Lou Gehrig's disease. The band Fourminusone plays before the movie.

Special Features

•June 11, 7:30 pm. **Adrift** *2002*. Director Tom Curran relives the loss of his father and its effect on his Irish-American family. The night benefits the Children's Room Center for Grieving Children and Teenagers, and includes a reception, silent auction and panel discussion with the filmmaker. Advance tickets are $20. Call (781-641-4741).
•June 19, 7:30 pm. **I Was Stalin's Bodyguard** *1989*. Josef Stalin's last surviving bodyguard provides a chilling, behind-the-scenes glimpse into the life of the deceased dictator.
•Opens June 20. **Whale Rider** *2002*. The Whangara people of New Zealand praise first-born sons as the direct descendants of Paikea, an ancestor saved from drowning by riding to shore on a whale. Niki Caro's film shows the effect of this chauvinist tradition on a first-born daughter.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Directors in Focus: Elio Petri

•June 11, 9 pm; June 18, 7 pm. **L'assassino** (*The Assassin*) *1961*. A dealer of Roman antiques is accused of murdering his mistress. •Also showing, 7 pm; June 18, 9 pm. **Buone notizie** (*Good News*) *1979*. Petri comments on the emptiness of the media-dominated age in the story of a disaffected media executive who manages to find temporary respite through a delusional friend and the friend's nymphomaniac wife.
•June 12, 7 pm; June 13, 9:30 pm. **Un tranquillo posto in campagna** (*A Quiet Place in the Country*) *1968*. Franco Nero stars in this harrowing account of a painter's descent into madness resulting from his obsession with a murdered woman. •Also showing, 9 pm; June 17, 9 pm. **La decima vittima** (*The Tenth Victim*) *1965*. It's the 21st century and a TV game show has legalized murder, pinning sex goddess Ursula Andress against her 10th victim, Marcello Mastroianni. Luckily, romance intervenes in the deadly competition.
•June 13, 7 pm; June 19, 7 pm. **La classe operaia va in paradiso** (*The Working Class Goes to Heaven*) *1971*. The brutality of working conditions in modern industrial Italy is depicted in the story of a factory worker who is laid off because of an injury.
•June 14, 7 pm. **A ciascuno il suo** (*We Still Kill the Old Way*) *1967*. One of the earliest works to focus on the Italian Mafia, this film revolves around a lonely professor who investigates crimes in his Sicilian town. •Also showing, 9 pm; June 15, 7 pm; and June 19, 9:15 pm. **La proprieta non e piu un furto** (*Property Is No Longer a Theft*) *1973*. A lowly bank clerk steals from a wealthy butcher in this eccentric film that explores the misery that can come from an obsession with money.
•June 17, 7 pm. **I giorni contati** (*The Days Are Numbered*) *1962*. After witnessing the death of a stranger on a train, a plumber quits his job to try to enjoy his life to the fullest.

Topics in Film: Cold War Paranoia

•June 20, 7 pm. **Caution, Cleanliness, Consumerism: Selections from the Prelinger Archives**. A selection of films illustrates the postwar mentality of cleanliness and consumerism. Included are clips from **The Sound of a Stone**, **What You Should Know about Biological Warfare**, **Atomic Alert**, **The House in the Middle**, **In Our Hands**, **How to Lose What We Have**, **The Terrible Truth**, **American Look** and **Design for Dreaming**. •Also showing, 9 pm. **The Atomic Café** *1982*. This film explores nuclear wartime propaganda through newsreel clips, educational films and government-sponsored footage about atomic terror.
•June 21, 7 pm. **Kiss Me Deadly** *1955*. When a sexy female hitchhiker flags down detective Mike Hammer, trouble ensues. Robert Aldrich directs.
•June 21, 9 pm. **One, Two, Three** *1961*. Billy Wilder's film stars James Cagney as a West Berlin Coca-Cola businessman who will be held accoun

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able if his American boss's daughter weds an East Berlin communist.

•June 22, 7 pm. **Dr. Strangelove: Or, How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb** *1964*. Stanley Kubrick's famous work satirizes the arms race. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Fail-Safe** *1964*. A computer glitch causes American air troops to launch an attack on Moscow. Sidney Lumet directs.

•June 23, 7 pm. **High Noon** *1952*. Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly and Lloyd Bridges star in Fred Zinnemann's Western about a showdown between a newly-wed marshall and a notorious outlaw. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Pickup on South Street** *1953*. A pickpocket steals from a pretty woman and discovers a top-secret microfilm. Samuel Fuller directs.

•June 24, 7 pm. **The Day the Earth Stood Still** *1951*. In this science fiction masterpiece, a flying saucer lands in Washington, D.C., and threatens Earthlings. Directed by Robert Wise. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Them!** *1954*. Humans and ants reverse roles in Gordon Douglas's sci-fi thriller when an atomic explosion breeds a colony of gigantic radioactive ants that prey on the citizens of Los Angeles.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•June 12, 6 pm; June 14, 10:30 am; June 15, 10:30 am; June 22, 10:20 am. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2001*. Thomas Riedelsheimer's documentary follows artist Andy Goldsworthy as he creates outdoor sculptures from natural materials.

•June 19, 6 pm; June 20, 6 pm; June 21, 10:30 am. **Russkij kovcheg** *(Russian Ark) 2002*. In one fluid, unbroken shot, Alexander Sokurov's new film uses 867 actors and three orchestras to reenact Russian and European history in the streets of St. Petersburg.

Boston Jewish Film Festival: Encores

•June 12, 8 pm. **Monsieur Batignole** *2001*. A Parisian shopkeeper makes a crucial choice during World War II after meeting a young Jewish boy. Jean-Paul Rouve won an Academy Award for his role as the shopkeeper's son-in-law.

•June 19, 8 pm; June 21, 2 pm; June 22, 12 pm. **Dieu est Grand, Je Suis Toute Petite** *(God Is Great, I'm Not) 2000*. In the French romantic comedy, a Jewish man and a directionless model join in holy matrimony after the bride converts to Judaism.

Iranian Cinema

•June 20, 8 pm. **Zir-E Poust-E Shahr** *(Under the Skin of the City) 2000*. An Iranian factory worker and her children take on the underside of life in the city in Rakhshan Bani-Etemad's film.

Matthew Barney's Cremaster Cycle

•June 11, 4 pm; June 12, 12:15 pm. **Cremaster 1** *1995* and **Cremaster 2** *1999*. In the first installment of Matthew Barney's *Cremaster* series, two Goodyear blimps hover above a stadium in Boise, Idaho, while dancers perform on the playing field below. Barney's second installment is an abstract depiction of human sexual development. •Also showing, 6:30 pm; June 13, 6:30 pm; June 14, 2:30 pm; June 15, 12:25 pm. **Cremaster 3** *2002*. In this experimental film, architect Richard Serra and apprentice Barney struggle for access to their object of spiritual transcendence, the Chrysler Building in New York City.

•June 13, 4:30 pm. **Cremaster 4** *1994* and **Cremaster 5** *1997*. Barney's fourth installation is set in the Isle of Man and features two motorcycle sidecar teams and another competitor whose dream of remaining in a symmetrical state is shattered. The fifth film is a tragic love story set in 19th-century Budapest and features a host of sprites and nymphs.

Teenage Filmmaking

•June 21, 12:30 pm. **Ancient Greece: Pots Tell the Story** and **Nine Mile Canyon Under Construction** *2003* and *2001*. Karen Aqua and Ken Field help direct these two short animated film projects. In one, sixth-grade students in Utah create a playful short film about ancient Greece. In the other, a fourth-grade class summarizes the development of Utah's 90-million-year-old Nine Mile Canyon.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through June 20. **Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's remarkable journey, brought to life by National Geographic. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Top Speed**. Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion racecar driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through July 3. **Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man**. Follow the stages of human development from birth to maturity. Each stage of life is introduced by a Cirque du Soleil performance. Call for show times.

•Through July 3. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to the wreckage of the ill-fated Titanic. Call for show times.

•Through July 3. **Into the Deep**. Go to a place you've never imagined, deep in the kelp forests off the California coast that unique mammals and other sea life call home. Call for showtimes.

•Through July 3. **Lost Worlds: Life in the Balance**. Harrison Ford narrates this journey into the earth's diverse climates, from the Arctic to the Equator, with a special focus on education and environmental awareness. Call for show times.

•Through July 3. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Dive into and explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. Call for showtimes.

UNDERGROUND AT THE ALLSTON BOMBAY CINEMA

Black Belt Theater

•June 13, 7:30 and 9:30 pm; June 14, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Fudoh: The New Generation** *1996*. Riki Fudoh appears to be a good schoolboy, but he is really a violent member of the Yakuzas. He organizes an army of young assassins to avenge his brother's murder in director Takashi Mike's film.

•June 20, 7:30 and 9:30 pm; June 21, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Ichi the Killer** *2001*. Graphic and gory, Takashi Mike's barbaric comedy pits a brutal torture artist against kung fu master Ichi.

Extreme Asian Action!

•June 14, 4 pm. **Heart of the Dragon** *1985*. Fung (Jackie Chan) unleashes the swat team when his disabled brother gets in trouble with the Hong Kong Triad. Sammo Hung Kambo directs.

•June 21, 4 pm. **Snake Deadly Act** *1979*. In this film from director Wilson Tong, a kung fu fighter falls under the guidance of a martial arts expert with immoral instincts.

Hong Kong Horror and Exploitation

•June 11, 8 pm. **Mr. Vampire Part 3** *1987*. Vicious vampires seek to kill a Taoist priest in director Ricky Lau's gross-out thriller.

•June 18, 8 pm. **Witch from Nepal** *1985*. An alluring Nepalese woman traces Chow Yun Fat back to his Hong Kong home to bestow magical powers upon him. When the woman is slaughtered, he must fight sinister forces that want to regain the force the witch gave him. Ching Siu Tung directs.

After complaining about his life, TV reporter Bruce Nolan (Jim Carrey) gets a taste of divine power in *Bruce Almighty*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2

214 Harvard Ave. (617-681-5678). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Road (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation

1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre

201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common

175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science

Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center

270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas

399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond

168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema

One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony

10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library

330 Homer St. (617-796-1360). D Green Line to Newton Highlands.

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

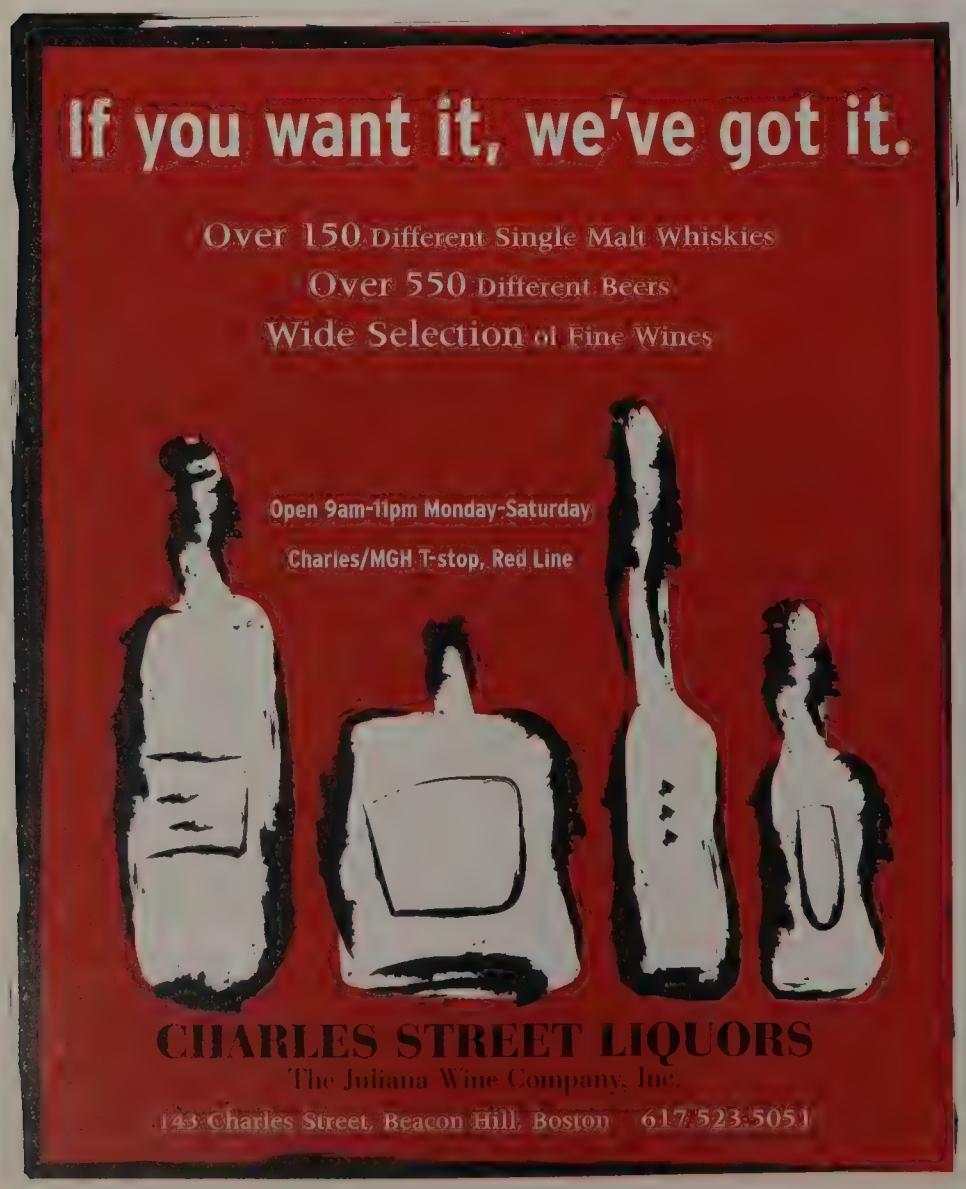
SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.



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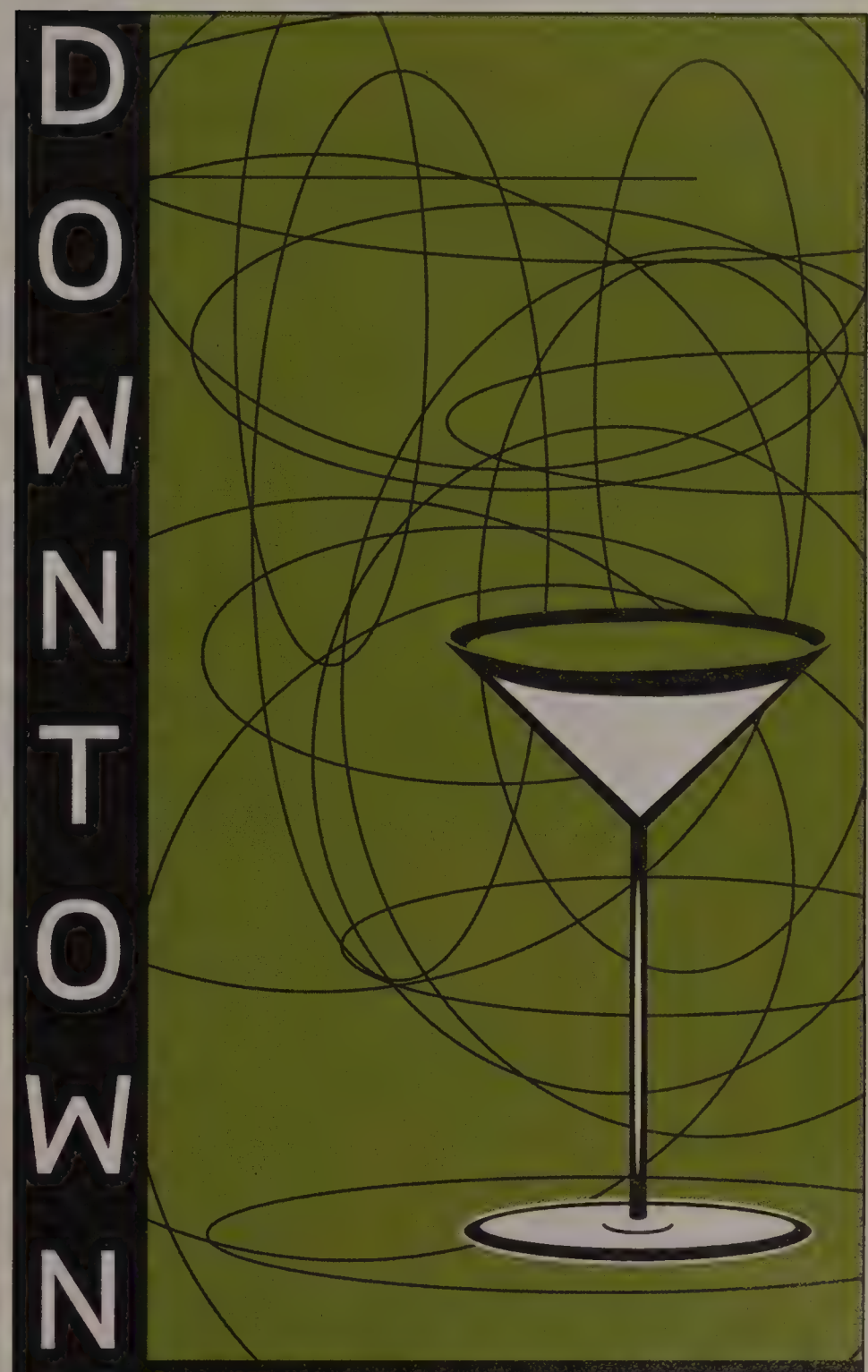

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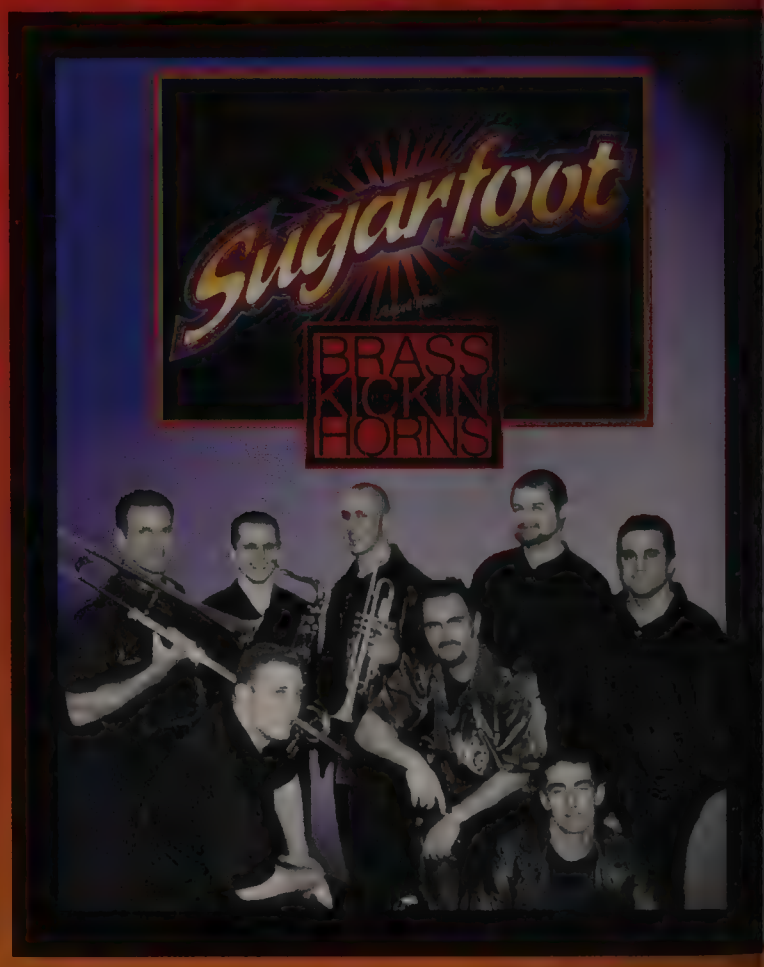

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THE RACK

New Addition

The Bad Plus transforms popular songs as part of its free-wheeling jazz journey

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

The Bad Plus is a self-described "power piano trio" that covers Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit." But if you based your expectations of the band on those facts alone, you'd fall far short of the acoustic jazz combo's true dynamic.

"If you come to the gig hoping to hear some Nirvana-style music, you'll be sorely disappointed," says pianist Ethan Iverson, whose group plays June 17 at Ryles Jazz Club and Aug. 10 at the JVC Jazz Festival in Newport, R.I. "We play Bad Plus–style music."

Not that Bad Plus–style music is easy to nail down. The band also covers new-wave hit-maker Blondie's "Heart of Glass" and electronic act Aphex Twin's "Flim" on its major-label debut, *These Are the Vistas*, and is known to tackle Black Sabbath's "Iron Man" and the Police's "Every Breath You Take" onstage. Yet 70 percent of the band's repertoire is made up of originals just as varied and invested with playful shifts and punctuation.

From left: David King, Reid Anderson and Ethan Iverson make up the Bad Plus

"Blondie's song is the most avant-garde piece on the record in certain ways," Iverson says of "Heart of Glass," whose melody swings in and out of free-jazz deconstruction. "We really believe in a lot of ear candy. If there's one thing that we try to bring to jazz, it's the fact that each piece is its own universe. It's not one idea for the night. It isn't pop music by any means, but it might have some of that. We take you on a little journey to different places.

"There's no sin in being a little entertaining once in a while," adds the pianist, citing the drama evident in videos of John Coltrane (known for his reinvention of the show tune "My Favorite Things") and Thelonious Monk. "Perhaps jazz today is a little less theatrical than it once was, but I would prefer to have some audience outreach, just like it used to have with the most classic of jazz ensembles.

"We are fortunate that while playing exactly the kind of music we want to play, we have gotten some mainstream exposure," says Iverson, whose band has garnered features in the *New York Times* and *Esquire* and will also appear at Long Island's Bonnaroo NE (with the Dead, Bob Dylan and Tom Petty) the same August weekend that they're playing at Newport. "And we're getting a chance to be seen by a lot of different types of people."

Far from the New York spotlight, the Wisconsin-bred Iverson first met up with bassist Reid Anderson and drummer David King, who are both Minnesota natives, in 1989. "We speak the tribal language [of the Midwest], which is really crucial for the sound of the band," Iverson says of the three musicians, who are in their early 30s and formed the Bad Plus in 2000. "We're not really 'New York cool,' but more like 'Midwestern friendly.'

"When we started, we didn't really realize the dimensions that it would take," he says. "We're all individuals, and that's to our benefit, 'cause it's a melting pot of ideas. Basically we speak the language of improvisers together."

Anderson and King grew up together, playing both jazz and rock. Yet Iverson, who is steeped in jazz and 20th-century classical music and served as music director for the Mark Morris Dance Group, hadn't even heard Nirvana before the Bad Plus was searching for popular songs to interpret.

"I've always been a very geeky guy," he says. "I didn't get to go to any of the good parties in high school. Part of that was not listening to a lot of rock music growing up. I think that helps sometimes in that I listen to things that we do without association. I wasn't skating in a roller rink when I first heard 'Heart of Glass,' and I wasn't feeling teen angst when I first heard 'Smells Like Teen Spirit.' [Anderson and King] put it on, and I'm like, 'OK, how does the melody go?'"

"It's really important to have a melody that can be played on the piano," says Iverson, who took harmonic ideas from Stravinsky in his approach to "Smells Like Teen Spirit." "I don't see any difference conceptually from Stravinsky taking a Russian folk song, Keith Jarrett taking a Rodgers and Hart tune or the Bad Plus taking a Nirvana piece [as a source]. You have the raw materials for your own palette."

As for the group's reputation for playing loud (particularly when it comes to King's mischievous drumming), Iverson says, "We play acoustic instruments. We just mike them up. There's a lot of stuff in our shows that's pretty quiet. We play really soft. And sometimes we play pretty darn loud." **iB**

The Bad Plus
plays Ryles June 17 and the JVC Jazz Festival in Newport Aug. 10.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fa (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or b email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not ac cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from di ferent sources. Although we make every effort to provid accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahea to double-check dates and times (see complete list venues at the end of the section).

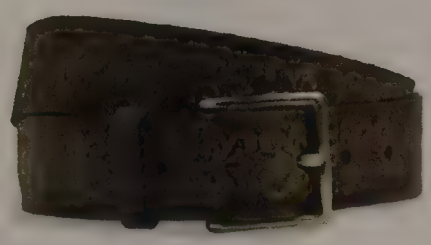
Top Billings

American Fleadh Festival with Saw Doctors, Ho house Flowers, Black 47 and Flogging Molly
June 21, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Joan Armatrading
June 14, Berklee Performance Center (617-93 2000)
Boston
June 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival
June 15-22, Copley Square, Hatch Shell, Faneu Hall, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jonatha Brooke
Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Roseanne Cash and Jeffrey Foucault
June 21, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Chicago
June 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
The Chick Corea Elektric Band
June 24, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
The Dead and Steve Winwood
June 22, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
The Divas Concert with Chaka Kahn
June 20, Wang Center (800-447-7400)
Dixie Chicks and Michelle Branch
June 19, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Aretha Franklin
June 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Peter Gabriel
June 17, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Guster
June 24, City Hall Plaza, 6 pm
Roy Hargrove
June 19, Copley Square (617-254-9267)
Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals and Ja Johnson
June 19 and 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-93 2000)
Erin McKeown
June 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Jo Dee Messina
June 21, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
Van Morrison, Solomon Burke and the Soul Ali Orchestra
June 14 and 15, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-93 2000)
Vince Neil, Poison and Skid Row
June 15, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Willie Nelson & the Family Band
June 22, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
Jonathan Richman
June 19, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Kenny Rogers
June 23, North Shore Music Theatre (978-232-720
Solas
June 13, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275)
Wigfield
June 13 and 14, Somerville Theatre (617-931-200
Wilco and Sonic Youth
June 23, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Brian Wilson
June 14, Hatch Shell (617-727-7676)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Abbey Lounge Some Little Something.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
The Breezeway Hakim Law, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Sean Tyrrell and Fergus Feely, 9 pm.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Louis Taylor and Felix McTeigue, 8 p $12.
Dick's Last Resort Hair Club for Mensa, 7:20 p no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGra 9:30 pm.
House of Blues Jay Clifford of Jump Little Childr and Marc Broussard, 9 pm, $15, 18+.



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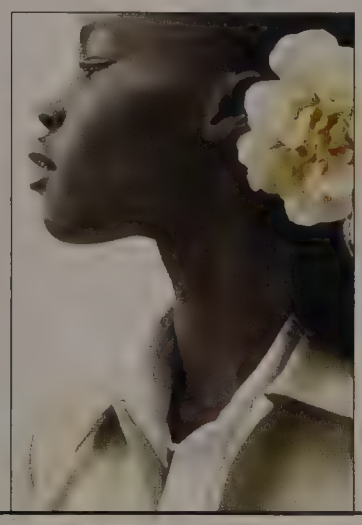

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The Independent Jimmy Ryan, 10 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Dusky Silo, 8:30 pm, $7.
Kendall Café Asa Brebner, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Rusty Scott Trio.
Middle East Upstairs: Jewel in the Mire, the Big Payback, Mad Happy and Kamikaze, $8, 18+ or $6, 21+. Downstairs: Evan Dando, $15, 18+. Corner: Belly dancing with Garo Papazian and band, $2, 18+. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Spiritualized,7 pm, $20, 18+.
The Rack Black Sole.
Regattabar The Nando Michelin Quartet with Jerry Bergonzi, Fernanado Huergo and Jeff Ballard, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Kemp Harris, 8:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club The Ginamark Band, 8 pm, $12.
Sky Bar The Late November Project, Specimen 37 and Everpresent, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Early Show featuring Lucky 57, 7 pm. The Armadillos, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Outrageous Cherry, the Pills, the Love Scene and the Waxwings, $7.
The Western Front Amelia Hollander Group, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery The Autumn Rhythm and Tiger Saw, 8 pm, $7.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 8 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Abbey Lounge The Marvels and Tampoffs.
Asgard Celtic Clan.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Down 2 Earth, 7:30 pm.
The Breezeway Paolo Danay, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm.
Club Passim The Kennedys and Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort The Rockhoppers, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm.
The Good Life Cambridge The Soul Providers.
The Good Life Downtown Tom Furdon.
Hennessy's Me and Julio.
House of Blues Sarah Harmer and Mike O'Neill, 9:30 pm, $26, 18+.
Johnny D's Derek Sherinian, 9 pm.
Kendall Café Lloyd Thayer, Matt the Electrician and Henshaw, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Kirkland Café Baby Blue, the Motives and the New Renditions, $5.
Limbo Hillary Noble.
Lizard Lounge Beat Science, Spanish Fly and the Kleztraphobics, $10.
Matt Murphy's Round Midnight Jazz Session with Grayson Farmer and James Merenda, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: The Pattern, the Natural History and the Secret Channel, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Six Gig, Throne, Throe and Imprint, $10, 18+.
Paradise Lounge: Emily Grogan, Natalie Flannagan, Franc Graham and Katie McD, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Parris Joshua Tree.
The Rack Unek Approach.
Ryles Jazz Club Black Sea Salsa, 8:30 pm, $10.
Scullers Keiko Matsui, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22.
Sky Bar Nikulydin, Double Helix and Raisinhill, 9 pm, 21+, $5.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad Jedediah Perish and the Mother Tongues, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kings of Nuthin', Crash and Burn and the Curses, $10.
The Western Front Mang Dub and the Well, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Abbey Lounge The Brett Rosenberg Problem, Muck and the Mires and the Fad.
The Attic Katie Barbato CD-release party with Liz Debiase, 8:30 pm.
Berklee Performance Center Kasey Chambers.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Tony O'Riordan.
Bob the Chef's Ashanti and Umoja Nine, 7:30 pm.
The Burren The Well, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Club Passim Tony Bird, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion Chicago, 8 pm, $30-$45.
The Good Life Cambridge Paolo Danay.
The Good Life Downtown The Peter Bell Band, 9:30 pm.

Singer/songwriter Joan Armatrading plays at the Berklee Performance Center June 14.

The Harp Corduroy.
Harper's Ferry Missing Joe, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Sarah Harmer and Mike O'Neill, 9:30 pm, $16, 18+.
The Independent Nolan McKelvey and 33, 10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Nat Flanagan, Ray Mason, Jimmy Ryan, Emily Grogan, Eric Martin and Monique Ortiz, $7, 21+.
Kinvara Spike the Punch.
Kirkland Café Ballast, Rollo Tomasi Quartet, Brother Mosley and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Limbo Herman Johnson.
Lizard Lounge Jake Brennan and the Confidence Men, Sarah Borges, Scott Janovitz and Through the Keyhole, 9 pm, $8.
Matt Murphy's Dead Cat Bounce, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: The Deterrents, the Kenmores and Triple Thick, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Leningrad and Cheredovanie, $40, 18+.
Milky Way Shelley Winters Project, 9 pm, $7.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet.
Paradise Lounge Tom Glynn Band, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Parris Cosmic Box.
Porters Bar and Grill Adam Ezra Group, no cover.
The Rack Central Basement.
Regattabar The Chiara Civello Quartet, 7:30 and 10 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra Tribute to Dizzy Gillespie, featuring Jon Faddis, 9 pm, $25.
Sanders Theatre Solas, 8 pm, $22-$30.
Scullers Keiko Matsui, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22.
Sky Bar Drunk in July and Great American, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Wigfield, 8 pm, $29.50.
Tír na nÓg The Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Ben Hillman Trio.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet with Bruce Abbot on guitar, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kings of Nuthin', the Konks, Lenny and the Piss Poor Boys and the Alphabet Bombers , $10.
Tweeter Center Boston, 8 pm, $28-$58.
The Western Front New Youth, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicals, 9:30 pm.
Zeitgeist Gallery Grubstake, 8 pm, $7.
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Abbey Lounge Sugabomb CD-release party with Downbeat Five.
Asgard Jack Shanahan.
Berklee Performance Center Joan Armatrading, 8 pm, $25-$45.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Tony O'Riordan and Tom O'Carroll.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Tarbox Ramblers, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Club Passim Vinx, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Mod Tycoon, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion Van Morrison, Solomon Burke and the Soul Alive Orchestra, 8 pm, $40-$80.
The Good Life Downtown El Eco Brazilian Jazz, 9:30 pm.
The Green Briar Inchicore.
The Harp Central Basement.
Harper's Ferry Entrain, $10, 21+.
Hatch Shell Brian Wilson, 7 pm, free.
House of Blues Gaelic Storm, 8:30 and 10:30 pm, $15, 21+.
The Independent The Coots, 10 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Beat Soup, 9:45 pm, $6.
Kendall Café Carla Ryder and Angeline the Baker, $7, 21+.
Kinsale The 22-40s.
Kirkland Café The Mercy Beat and Four Inch Stud, $5.
Limbo Eula Lawrence.
Lizard Lounge Playing for Audrey, $8.
Matt Murphy's Marta Gomez, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Reverse, Baby Strange, th Halogens and the Information, $9, 18+. Downstair Trans Am, Black Taj and Measles Mumps Rubella $10, 18+. Zuzu: Soul-le-lu-jah, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet.
Paradise Maria McKee, 8 pm, 21+, $15.
Parris Cosmic Box.
Purple Shamrock Syndicate.
Regattabar Titilayo, 7:30 and 10 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club The Bluehemians, 9 pm, $10.
Sky Bar Spyndakit, Angry Hill, Ghost24 and N One's Kind, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Wigfield, 7 and 10 pm, $29.50
Tír na nÓg The Benders.
Toad The Freelance Bishops, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet featuring saxo phonist Mike Moss, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Figgs, the Witnesses an AM Stereo, $10.
The Western Front Technoman, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Fishlung Trio, Haruka Horri an Zen Bastards, 9 pm, $10.
Les Zygomates David Eure, 8:30 pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8 pm, $5.
Axis Rollins Band and Keith Morris, 7 pm, $2 18+.
Bill's Bar Nachilus, Dub Station and Tia an Rochelle, 10 pm, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Tom O'Carroll.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Sonn Watson Jazz Quartet, 10 am.
The Burren Seamus Begley and Jim Murray, 6 pm.
Cantab Lounge Groove Authority, 9 pm.
Club Passim David Rovics and Ethan Miller, 7:3 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Father's Day Gospel Brunch wit New Revelation, 10 am; The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaugnessy, 9:30 pm.
Faneuil Hall Marketplace The Boston Globe Ja and Blues Festival presents Sweet Willy and th Continental Walk, Phil Wilson's Berklee Rainbo Band featuring Syncopation, Barrence Whitfie and the Savages, Craig Ball's White Heat Orchest featuring Steve Marvin, Aardvark Orchestra, Cerc Miller and Friends, James Montgomery Blues Ban and the Stan Strickland Experience, 12-6 pm. Free
FleetBoston Pavilion Van Morrison, Solomo Burke and the Soul Alive Orchestra, 8 pm, $40-$8
The Green Briar Inchicore
House of Blues Tripside and Jessy Moss, 9 pm, $ 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues jam and salsa dancing with Rumb NaMa.
Kendall Café Stargazer Lily and Four Way Stree 8:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet.
Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam featuring the Jeff Robi son Trio, 9 pm, $5.
Middle East Upstairs: Placer, the Feud, Fiesel, Sco

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Pat Benatar July 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jackson Browne, Steve Earle & the Dukes and Keb Mo July 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Tracy Chapman July 18, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
The Chieftains July 8, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Elvis Costello July 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Dream Theater and Queensryche July 9, Fleet-Boston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Eagles July 15, 16 and 18, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)
50 Cent and Jay-Z June 27, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Foo Fighters July 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Heart July 10, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Hootie & the Blowfish and Big Head Todd & the Monsters July 19, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Chris Isaak July 11, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Norah Jones June 28, FleetBoston Pavilion (617 931-2000)
Tom Jones July 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-93 2000)
Ben Lee July 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423 NEXT)
One Line Drawing, the Acceptance, Bleu an Breaking Pangea July 7, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Pearl Jam July 2, 3 and 11, Tweeter Center (617 931-2000)
Placebo July 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423 NEXT)
Santana June 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Rick Springfield July 18, South Shore Musi Circus
Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band July 27, Flee Boston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Summer Sanitarium Tour with Metallica, Lim Bizkit, Lincoln Park, Deftones and Mudvayne Jul 6, Gillette Stadium (617-931-2000)
James Taylor June 28 and 29, Tweeter Cente (617-931-2000)
Train July 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Neil Young and Crazy Horse July 1, Tweeter Cen ter (617-931-2000)

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One for the Fat Kid and Vaguely Star Shaped, $8, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10 am, no cover.
Sky Bar Dr. Frog, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Tír na nÓg The Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Early Show featuring Frank Monkey, 7 pm; the Paul Ahlstrand Band, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am; Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Head of Femur with members of Bright Eyes, Cheater Pint, $7.
Tweeter Center Poison, Vince Neil and Skid Row, 7 pm, $25-$35.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and Friends, 9:30 pm, 21+.

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday live blues jam, $2.
Avalon X, 7 pm, $18, 18+.
Bill's Bar Dragonfly, 9 pm, $10.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Aoife Clancy, 10 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Guitarioke with Leah, 7:20 pm.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival presents Buddy Guy, Los Lobos and Indigenous, 7:30 pm, $30.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Red Karma and Zero 260, 9:30 pm, $7, 18+.
Johnny D's Rebecca Parris, 8 pm.
Kendall Café Jo Henly, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Disengaged, Kevorkian's Angels, Gut and Ravage, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Electric Six, Quintaine Americana and the Cignal, $10, 18+.
The Rack ZMQ.
Toad Shwang featuring Anita Suhanin, 8 pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Mermen, Lipfloater and Silvertide, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and Friends, 9:30 pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday Acoustic shows
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 10 pm..
Copley Square The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival presents Steven Kirby Quintet, 4 pm; Joe Lovano Quartet, 5:30 pm, free.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion The Boston Globe Jazz Festival presents Aretha Franklin, 8 pm, $40-$50.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Luther Wright and the Wrongs, 9:30 pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Beolach, 8:30 pm, $8.
Kendall Café Rosanna Lee, Jeffrey Foucault and Tim Gearan, 8:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Sean Cunningham.
Limbo Jeremy Udene.
Lizard Lounge Fooled by April, 8:30 pm, $8.
Matt Murphy's Altitude Music with Geoff Scott, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Ho-Ag, Clones Don't Have Bellybuttons, Mus-ok and Feeble Weiner, 18+. Corner: Noche Mexicana and Gustavo and Andres, 9 pm. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Lounge: Grand Drive, 7 pm; Alex MacDougal, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole.
Ryles Jazz Club The Bad Plus, 8:30 pm, $20.
Scullers The George Russell Jr. Trio featuring Sandra Dove, 8 and 10:30 pm, $15.
Sky Bar Shattered Existence and Drednok, 9 pm, 21+, $5.
Tír na nÓg Nolan McKelvey and 33.
Toad Yoni Gordan and the Goods.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Damo Sukuki, the Timeout Drawer and the Eaves, $10.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Abbey Lounge Some Little Something.
Asgard Dave Tecce.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
The Breezeway J-Vibes, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Traditional Irish concert hosted by Peter Molloy, 9 pm.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Dave Dersham CD-release party with Carl Cacho, 8 pm, $12.

The Shelley Winters Project performs at the Milky Way Lounge and Lanes June 13.

Copley Square The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival presents Robert Randolph and the Family Band, 5:30 pm. Free.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival presents Medeski, Martin & Wood and the John Scofield Band, 7:30 pm, $30.
House of Blues Porter, Batiste and Stoltz of the Funky Meters, 8:30 and 10:30 pm, $15, 21+.
The Independent Jimmy Ryan, 10 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Swan Dive and Jordan Carp, 8:30 pm, $6.
Kendall Café Asa Brebner, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Limbo Brooke Sofferman.
Middle East Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Museum of Fine Arts Freddy Cole, 7:30 pm, $28.
Paradise Lounge: Sam Roberts and Buchanan, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Herman Johnson.
Ryles Jazz Club Natraj and Agbekor Society, 8:30 pm, $10, 18+.
Scullers Sophia Bilides Witchcraft: The Lyrics of Carolyn Leigh, 8 pm, $15.
Sky Bar The Motive and Will Wilde Band, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Lucky 57, 7 pm; the Coots, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ed Harcourt, Sondre Lerche and Regina Spektor, $12.
Tweeter Center Peter Gabriel, 7:30 pm, $27-$77.
The Western Front The Push-Ups, the Fowl Mouth Trio and the Nuevo Fuzimo Band, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Leo Blanco, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Super Goo with Dave Geller, 10 pm, $7.
Les Zygomates Issi Rozen, 8 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Abbey Lounge Golden West Motorlodge.
Asgard Brogue.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
The Breezeway Hakim Law, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm.
Club Passim Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem CD-release party, 8 pm, $15.
Copley Square The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival presents Roy Hargrove's RH Factor, 5:30 pm. Free.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion Ben Harper and Jack Johnson, 7 pm, $40.
FleetCenter Dixie Chicks and Michelle Branch, 7:30 pm, $35-$75.
The Good Life Cambridge Mario Perrett and Company.
The Good Life Downtown Tom Furdon.
The Green Briar Bagatelle, $10.
Harper's Ferry Twisted Rico Rock 'n' Roll Extravaganza, featuring Rocktopus with the Charms, Scamper and Malibu Lou, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio.
House of Blues Alana Davis and Kevin Kinsella, 9:30 pm, $13, 18+.
The Independent The Euphorians, 10 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Kris Delmhorst and Amelia White, 8:30 pm, $10.
Kendall Café Tony Confalone, Lincoln Conspiracy and Sandbox, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Kirkland Café Valhalla Kittens, Predicates and Tara White, $5.
Limbo John Baboian.
Lizard Lounge Beat Science, the Joe Morris Trio, Fully Celebrated Orchestra and Dave Sewelson, $10.
Matt Murphy's Round Midnight Jazz Session with Grayson Farmer and James Merenda, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Small Brown Bike, Casket Lottery and Rocky Votolato, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Gordon Downie and the Country of Miracles, $20, 18+.
O'Brien's Fred's Bowling Ball, Amun Ra and Enuma Elish, 9 pm, 21+.
Paradise Erin McKeown and Mark Erelli, 9 pm, $12, 18+. Lounge: Elgin James and Laguardia, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Parris The Brian Maes Band.
The Rack Sugarfoot.
Ryles Jazz Club Tony Gallo Group, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers Regina Carter, 8 and 10 pm, $22.
Sky Bar Leah Callahan, XYgoatZ and Jones One, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theater Jonathan Richman, 8 pm, $15.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad Jedediah Parish and the Mother Tongues.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Good North, Grand Mal Auto Interiors and Hero Pattern, $7.
The Western Front Forward Movement and Yard Sound, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford Review, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Emily's Playhouse with Heygoods and Electrolux, 8 pm, $7.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Abbey Lounge The Other Girls and the Last Ones.
Asgard Sunset.
Avalon Musiq, Vivian Green and Aries, 7 pm, $20, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Zeke Martin's Jazz, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Jim Ambrose, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Club Passim The Resophonics CD-Release party, $12.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs, 10 pm.
Copley Square The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival presents Jane Monheit, 5 pm. Free.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion Ben Harper and Jack Johnson, 7 pm, $40.
The Good Life Cambridge Dirty Blonde.
The Good Life Downtown Jerry Valona, 9:30 pm.
The Green Briar Pi Alley.
The Harp The Catunes.
Harper's Ferry Fighting Gravity, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Johnnie Johnson and Walk That Walk, 9:30 pm, $20, 21+.
The Independent Sarah Borges, 10 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Funky White Honkies, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Tony Roberts and Gabe Chalpin an One, $7, 21+.
Kinvara Bagatelle.
Kirkland Café The Club Bohemia Ten Year An niversary Celebration, featuring Confederacy, Dumpsters, Reckless Daughter, East Coast Edge Ma chine, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo and complimen tary buffet, $7.
Limbo Athene Wilson.
Lizard Lounge Reed Foehl, 9 pm.
Matt Murphy's Timo Shanko, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Quick Fix, the Rudds, th Unbusted and the Day Jobs, $9, 18+. Downstair Lilys, Swirlies and Francine, Emergency Music, $1 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet.
Paradise Drive by Truckers, 9 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Darik and the Funbags.
Porters Bar and Grill Jim Devlin Trio, no cover.
The Rack Sugarfoot.
Ryles Jazz Club Tony Lada Quartet featuring Ma gie Scott, 9 pm, $9.
Scullers Regina Carter, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22.
Tír na nÓg Dave Samarco.
Toad Bangalore, no cover.
Top of the Hub Monica Hatch and the Chris Tayl Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Wheat, Broken Social Scen and Nedelle, $10.
Wang Center Chaka Khan, Ashford & Simpso and Stephanie Mills, 7:30 pm, $42-$72.
The Western Front My Show Called Life, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic Chronicals, 9:30 p 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Rockin' with Ingrid presen Shaun Wolf Wortis, Bourbon Princess, Lach a Testosterone Kills, 9:30 pm, $8.
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Abbey Lounge Smorgasborg and Megh McLoughlin.
Axis Adema, 7 pm, $14, all ages.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne, Frank Ryan a Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Diamond Life, 7:30 pm, no cover.
The Burren JoJo Mima, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers pm.
Club Passim Josh Ritter and Blake Hazard, 8 p $12.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion American Fleadh Festiv with Saw Doctors, Hothouse Flowers, Black 47 a Flogging Molly, 7 pm, $30-$35.
The Good Life Cambridge Jose Ramos and the Way Jose Band.
The Good Life Downtown Wannetta Jackson, 9 pm.
The Green Briar Five to the Face.
Harper's Ferry Babaloo and GA Avenue, $ 21+.
House of Blues Peter Prince and the Trauma Ur 9:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson, 9 pm, $9.
Kendall Café Boris McCutcheon and the Eric Lu ing Band, $7, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Twisted Rico Revue, $5.
Limbo Alvin Terry Trio.
Lizard Lounge The Irresponsibles, Mappari, Roc Science and Sparkola, 9 pm, $7.
Matt Murphy's Andy Voelker, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: The Skels, Suspect Devi Dirty Water, Lenny and the Piss Poor Boys and Gobshites, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Seeking Hom $10, 18+. Zuzu: Ready Steady Go Go, no cov 21+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet.
Paradise Lounge: Kristen Barry, 10 pm, no cov 21+.
Parris Darik and the Funbags.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park.
Ryles Jazz Club Megawatt Blues Crushers, 9 $10.
Sky Bar Dr. Akward, 9 pm, 21+, $5.
Somerville Theatre Roseanne Cash and Jeffrey F cault, 8 pm, $24-$34.
South Shore Music Circus Jo Dee Messina, 8 $47.50.
Tír na nÓg The Dave Foley Band.
Toad Greg's Saturday Showcase, 7-9 pm; Sam bee, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet featu Trumpeter Ken Cervenka, 9 pm.

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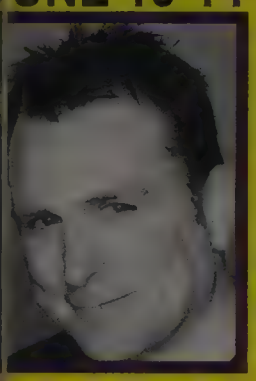

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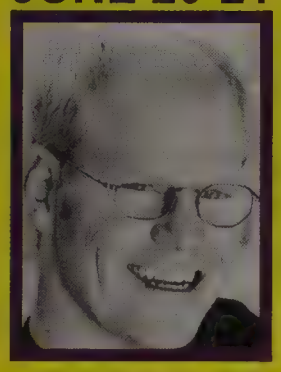

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T.T. the Bear's Place The Shods CD-release show with the Dents and Fever Monument, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Bill Lowe, 8:30 pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Bill's Bar Dub Station, 10 pm, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with the Sonny Watson Jazz Quartet, 10 am.
The Breezeway Smooth Jazz Sunday Brunch with Hakim Law, 11 am.
The Burren Singer-songwriter series with Danielle, 8 pm.
Cantab Lounge Groove Authority, 9 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Gospel Brunch with Silver Lining, 10 am; the Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaugnessy, 9:30 pm.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords.
Hatch Shell The Boston Globe Jazz and Blues Festival presents Me'Shell Ndegeocello, 2 pm; Arturo Sandoval and his Latin Band, 3:30 pm; Herbie Hancock, 5 pm. Free.
House of Blues Concentric, 8:30 pm, $7, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 10 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Blues jam and salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Limbo Ron Murphy Sextet.
Lizard Lounge Poetry jam, featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 pm, $5.
Middle East Upstairs: the Dragons, Downbeat Five and Riverboat Gamblers, $9, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch, 10 am, no cover.
Sky Bar Dedspace, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
South Shore Music Circus Willie Nelson & the Family Band, 7:30 pm, $52.50.
Tír na nÓg The Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Early Show featuring Tom Glynn, 7 pm.; The Paul Ahlstrand Band, 10:30 pm.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am; Duke Robillard Trio, 8 pm.
Tremont Theatre A Celebration of Boston Women in Improvised and Experimental Music, featuring more than 15 musicians, 2 pm and 7 pm, $14.
Tweeter Center The Dead and Steve Winwood, 5 pm, $50.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and Friends, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday live blues jam, $2.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Bailey Jester, 10 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Guitarioke with Leah, 7:20 pm.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion Wilco and Sonic Youth, 8 pm, $25-$35.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night open mike, 8 pm, $5.
Kendall Café Dean Fields, Bill Deasy and Fleshpetal, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Lizard Lounge The Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Bardo Pond, Fursaxa and Poleposition, $10, 18+. Zuzu: The Unhappy Hour with Tanya Donnelly, Bill Janovitz and Chris Toppin, no cover, 21+.
North Shore Music Theatre Kenny Rogers, 8 pm, $25-$85.
The Rack Ray Brown Trio.
Scullers Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, 8 and 10 pm, $26.
Toad Shwang featuring Aniat Suhanin, 8 pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm.
Top of the Hub Duke Robillard Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Canyon and Suntan, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner, Joe McMahon and Friends, 9:30 pm, 21+.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday acoustic show.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; Hide Kawatsure and the Bluegrass Power Quintet, 10 pm.
City Hall Plaza Guster, 6 pm, free.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm.
Harper's Ferry Vienna Teng, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Yerba Buena and Echo, 9:30 pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's Jeremy Kittel and Dearga, 8:30 pm, $7.
Kendall Café Jay and Patrick of the Douglas Fir and James Yorkston $5, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtnay.
Limbo Thompson Kneeland.
Lizard Lounge Fooled by April, 8:30 pm, $8.
Matt Murphy's Altitude Music with Geoff Scott, 10:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Sixer, Stray Bullets and the Pug Uglies, $9, 18+. Corner: Noche Mexicana and Gustavo and Andres, 9 pm. Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Alex MacDougal, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole.
Scullers Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, 8 and 10 pm, $26.
Somerville Theatre The Chick Corea Elektric Band, 8 pm, $34.50.
Sky Bar The Applepickers, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Tír na nÓg Nolan McKelvey and 33.
Toad Yoni Gordan and the Goods.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place American Analog Set, Certainly Sir and the Burning Paris, $10.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Irish folk group Solas plays at the Sanders Theatre June 13.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424) MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*

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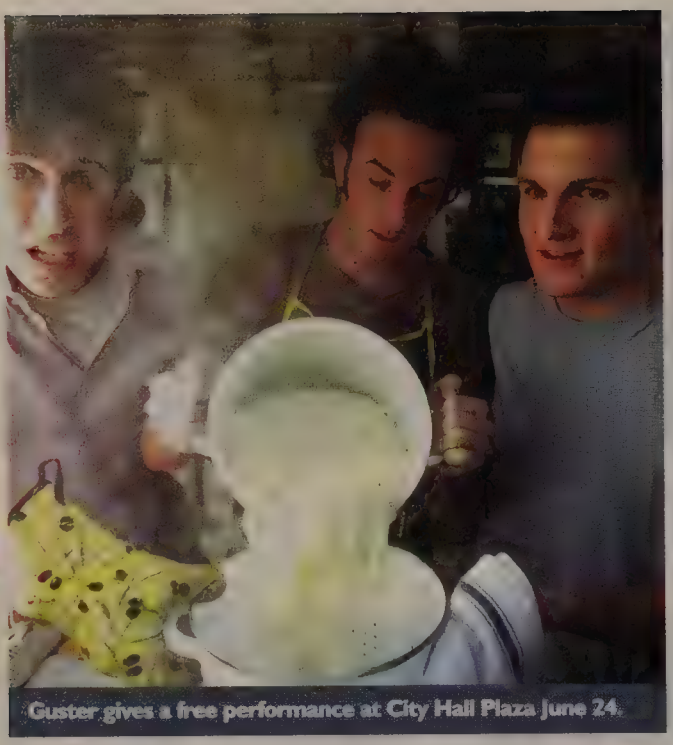
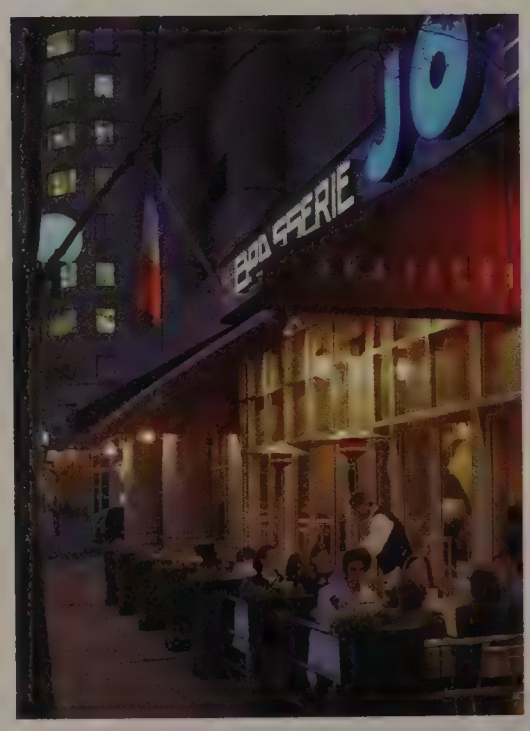


Guster gives a free performance at City Hall Plaza June 24.

Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave., Roxbury (617-541-5400).*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
City Hall Plaza *MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Copley Place *For Boston Jazz and Blues Festival, information call 617-929-2035. MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Faneuil Hall Marketplace *For Boston Jazz and Blues Festival information, call 617-929-2035. MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-2583). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Cafe *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Brighton (617-783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Limbo *49 Temple Place, Boston (617-338-0280). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644).*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
MDC Hatch Shell *Charles River Esplanade, Boston (617-727-9547). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Museum of Fine Arts *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3770). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.*
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200).*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's Pub *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Old South Church *645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Porters Bar and Grill *173 Portland St., Boston (617-742-7678).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Road, Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theater *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
South Shore Music Circus *Sohier St., Cohasset (781-383-9850). www.musiccircus.com.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
TK's Jazz Cafe *Quincy Market Building Northwest Cafe, Boston (617-227-7579). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Tremont Theater *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-354-6899). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center *885 S. Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2333).*
Wang Center *270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Wonder Bar *189 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Street.*
The Western Front *343 Western Avenue, Cambridge (617-492-7772).*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*



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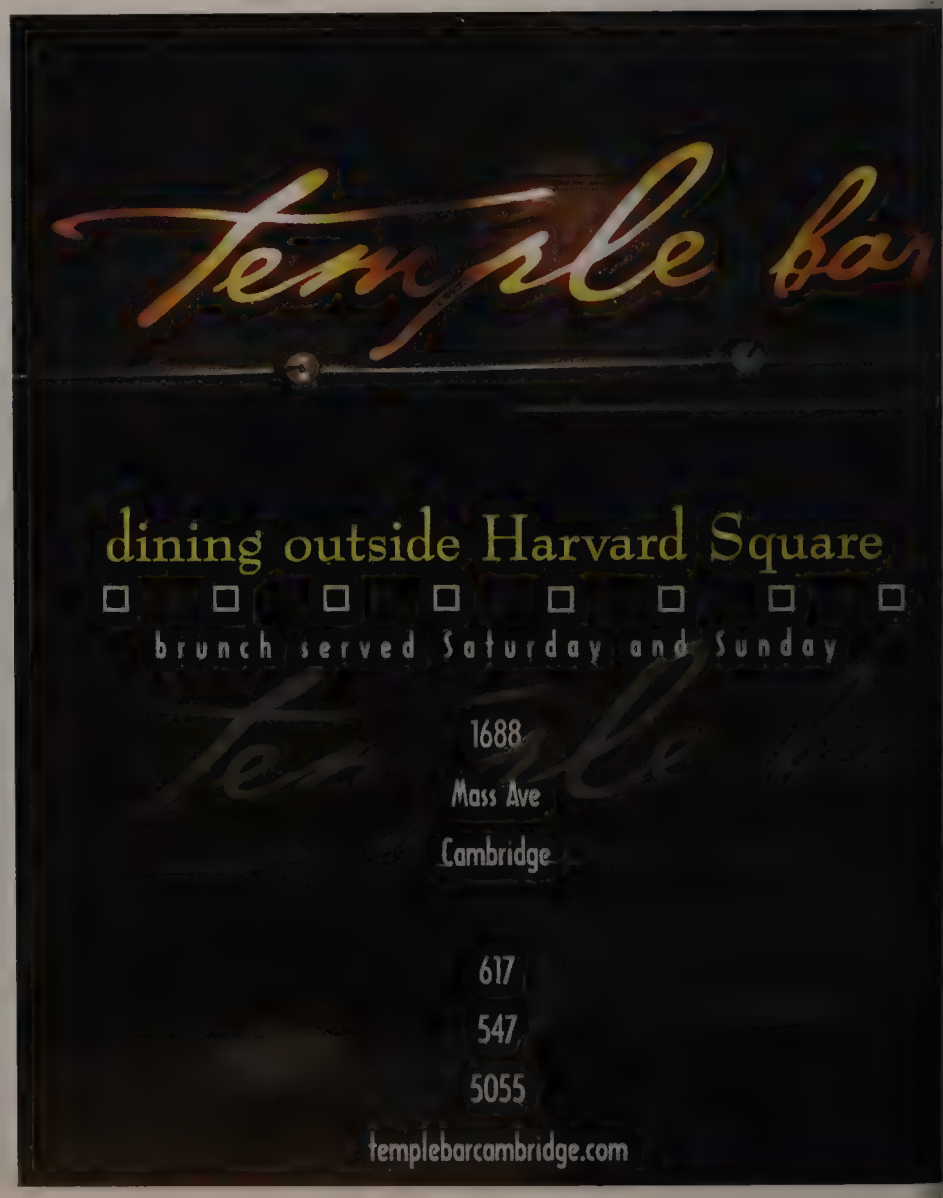

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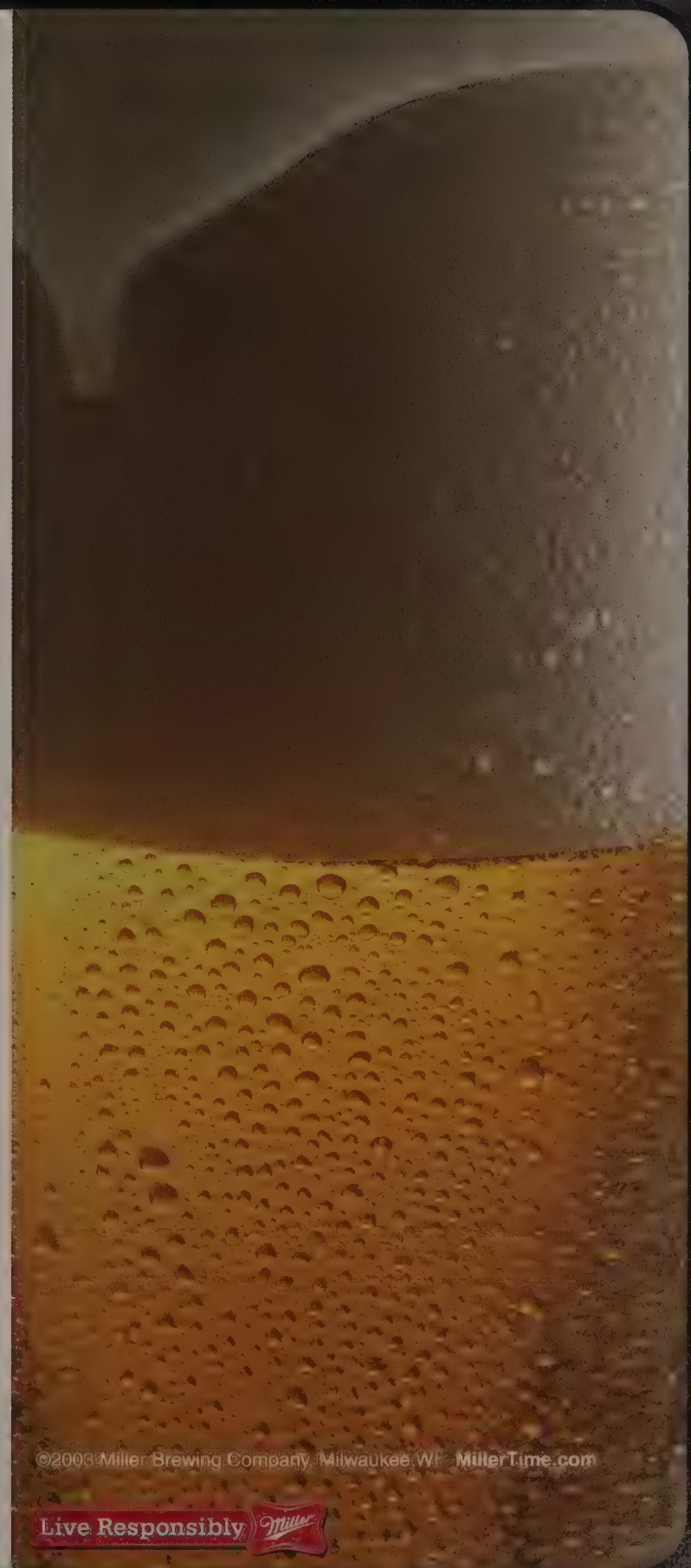

classical music

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Boston Early Music Festival

Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-247-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.bemf.org. 7 pm. $40-$115. Paul O'Dette, Stephen Stubbs and Drew Minter direct this evening's performance of Johann Georg Conradi's *Ariadne*.

Boston Early Music Festival

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $19-$45. Violinist Guiliano Carmignola joins harpsichordist Andrea Marcon in a performance of works by Bach.

Boston Early Music Festival

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 11 pm. $20. Organist Gwendolyn Toth directs soprano Jessica Tranzillo, violinist Robert Mealy, Lisa Terry on viola da gamba, and Daniel Swenberg on theorbo and gallichone in a performance of works by Buxtehude, Krieger, Erlebach and Bach.

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in selections from Offenbach's *Gaite Parisienne*, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Bernstein's *On The Town* and *West Side Story*.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free. NanBei Winds group performs works by Arthur Berger, Nikolai Tcherepnin and more.

Concerto Palatino performs in the Boston Early Music Festival at Jordan Hall June 14.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Boston Early Music Festival

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 5 pm. $19-$45. The Newberry Consort, Piffaro and guest tenor Ian Honeyman combine talents for a German repertoire titled *The City and the Songbook: Germany and the Renaissance*.

Boston Early Music Festival

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $19-$45. The Ariadne Baroque Orchestra performs *Lustiger Mischmasch: Choice Orchestral Jewels of the Baroque*, a program of 18th-century European music.

Boston Early Music Festival

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 11 pm. $20. Tenor Jan Kobow and harpsichordist/fortepianist Kristian Bezuidenhout perform German Lied works from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Conductor Bruce Hangen and soloist Adam Frey deliver a program titled *An American Salute*.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chapel

King's Chapel, corner of School and Tremont streets, Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15 pm. $2. Avi Stein performs works by Byrd, Bach, Krebs and Allan.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Boston Early Music Festival

First Lutheran Church of Boston, 299 Berkeley St., Back Bay (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 9 am-4:30 pm. $20 per session or $50 for the day. Join organists Edoardo Bellotti, Hans Davidsson and William Porter for the North German Organ Mini-Festival.

Boston Early Music Festival

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 5 pm. $19-$45. German viola de gamba virtuoso Hille Perl accompanies harpsichordist Alexander Weimann.

Boston Early Music Festival

Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-247-1408). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. www.bemf.org. 7 pm. $40-115. Same program as June 11.

Boston Early Music Festival

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $19-$45. Gerhard Schmidt-Gaden leads the Tölzer Knabenchor German boys choir in a performance of motets from Heinrich Schütz's *Geistliche Chormusik*.

Boston Early Music Festival

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 11 pm. $20. The Newberry Consort presents *Meadowlark and Nightingale*, a musical tribute to changing seasons and medieval German village life.

Boston Pops

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Same program as June 12.

French Library and Cultural Center

53 Marlborough St., Boston (613-729-6404). www.frenchlib.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 1:3 pm. $10. La Favoritte Ensemble performs *Versailles Québec*, a program of music from New France, as pa of the Boston Early Music Festival's events series.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambrid (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line Harvard. 12 pm. Free. Wilhemina Ulrich and Hsi yi-Chen star in the program *Echoes of Flute a Marimba: Naaima Duo*.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chape

King's Chapel, corner of School and Tremont stree Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.or MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12: pm. $2. Harpsichordist Takae Ohnishi perfor works by Froberger, Buxtehude, Scheidema and Bach.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Boston Early Music Festival
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 2 pm. $19-$45.* Bruce Dickey and Charles Toet direct Concerto Palatino in a program of mid-17th-century music by Michael Wagner and Christoph Strauss.

Boston Early Music Festival
Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-247-1408). MBTA: *Green Line to Boylston.* www.bemf.org. *7 pm. $40-115.* Same program as June 11.

Boston Early Music Festival
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $19-$45.* Peter Phillips directs The Tallis Scholars in a program combining the Mitteleuropa music of Ludwig Senfl, Heinrich Isaac and Josquin Desprez.

Boston Early Music Festival
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 11 pm. $20.* Tragicomedia features trumpets of the Ariadne Baroque Orchestra, fiddlers of Slovakia and others.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Same program as June 12.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Boston Early Music Festival
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-247-1408). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 12:30 pm. $19-$45.* Jorg-Michael Schwarz and Karen Marie Marmer direct the REBEL Baroque ensemble in *Telemann alla Polacca.*

Boston Early Music Festival
Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-247-1408). MBTA: *Green Line to Boylston.* www.bemf.org. *3:30 pm. $40-$115.* Same program as June 11.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $15-$67.* Conductor Keith Lockhart presents *Baby Boomer Bash,* a tribute to Paul Simon, the Beatles and Carole King.

Longwood Opera
First Baptist Church of Cambridge, 5 Magazine St., Cambridge (781-455-0960). home.earthlink.net / ~brumit. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 2:30 pm. $17.* Longwood Opera performs Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah, a* fully costume and staged opera.

Newton Free Library
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 2 pm. Free.* Pianist Kevin McGinty and violinist Loren Pearson perform a concert of French and Spanish music.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Same program as June 15.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chapel
King's Chapel, The corner of School and Tremont streets, Boston (617-227-2155). www.kingschapel.org. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15 pm. $2.* Lino Tanaka and Leanne Rabesa perform works by Mozart and Handel.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Keith Lockhart leads the Pops and soloist Jeffrey Beigel in a performance that includes excerpts from Resphighi's *The Pines of Rome* and film music from *Gone With the Wind* and *Chicago.*

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free.* Pianist Sandra Hebert performs songs by Haydn, Debussy and Ravel.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Keith Lockhart leads the Pops and soloist Elena Urioste in a performance that includes excerpts from Resphigh's *The Pines of Rome,* film music and an intermezzo from Mascagni's *Cavelleria Rusticana.*

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Boston Early Music Festival
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. *7 pm. $40-115.* Paul O'Dette, Stephen Stubbs and Drew Minter direct Johann Georg Conradi's *Ariadne.*

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Keith Lockhart leads the Pops and soloist Dora Serviarian in a performance that includes selections from *West Side Story* and *A Chorus Line.*

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free.* Pianist Yoko Kida performs works by Haydn, Chopin and Schumann.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Boston Early Music Festival
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington (617-247-1408). www.bemf.org. *7 pm. $40-$115.* Same program as June 20.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
The Boston Common, Boston (617-520-2200). www. landmarksorchestra.org. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. 4 and 5:30 pm. Free.* The Orchestra premieres Daniel Pinkham's work based on Robert McCloskey's book, *Make Way for Ducklings.*

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Same program as June 20.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* BSO concerto composer winner Yevgeny Kutic and conductor Keith Lockhart lead a performance of excerpts from Respighi's *The Pines of Rome* and other works.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 2:30 pm. Free.* NEC faculty member Rodney Lister and guest perform a vocal concert entitled *Rocking the Cradle: Music & Radical Politics in NYC in the 1930s.*

Newton Free Library
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer Street, Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 2 pm. Free.* The Breitner-Leonard-Tuttle Trio performs Mozart's *Kegelstatt* Trio, selections from Bruch's *Eight Pieces* and Schumann's *Fairy Tales.*

MONDAY, JUNE 23

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Through June 28 Free.* The Summer Institute for Contemporary Piano performance is a series of six concerts featuring pianist Stephen Drury, international guest artists, SICPP faculty and selected students.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Conductor Bruce Hangen leads the Pops in a performance of big band favorites from the Swing Era to today.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* The Summer Institute for Contemporary Piano's six-concert series continues with performances by guest pianists.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chapel
*King's Chapel, The corner of School and Tremont Streets,Boston(617-227-2155).*www.kings-chapel.org MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15 pm. $2.* Kara Ciezki and Heinrich Christensen perform works by Froberger, Buxtehude, Scheidemann and Bach.

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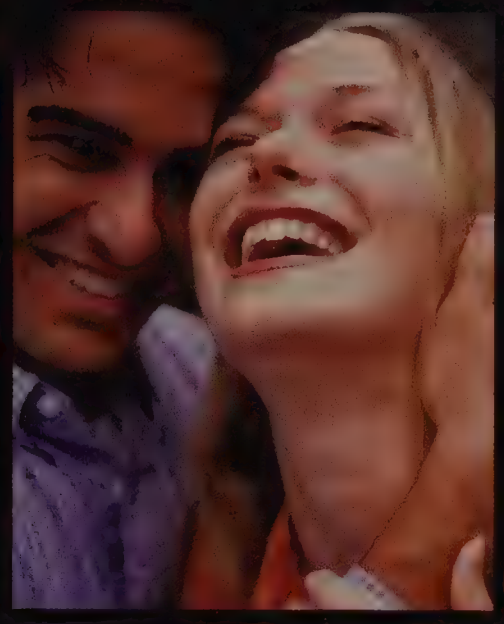

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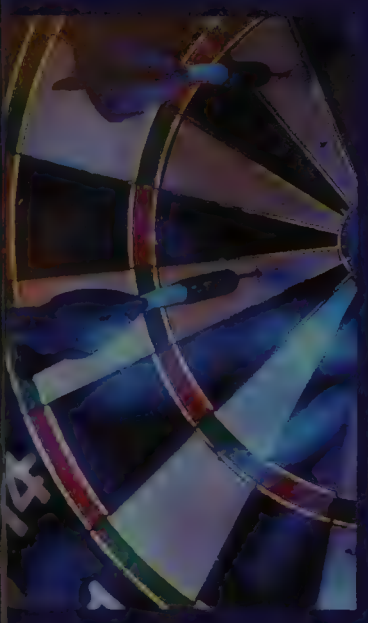

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Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of Gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins old- and new-school rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe, proper dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •June 16, ZMQ performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •June 23, Live jazz with the Ray Brown Trio, 6:30-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJs Steve Austin and G Squared spin hip-hop, reggae and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
Stop in for the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJs Dani and Azure spin house music, proper dress, 10 pm, no cover.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis bring the house music and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
After-work jazz with Black Sole, 6-10 pm. Dance tunes spun by DJ Ricky, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

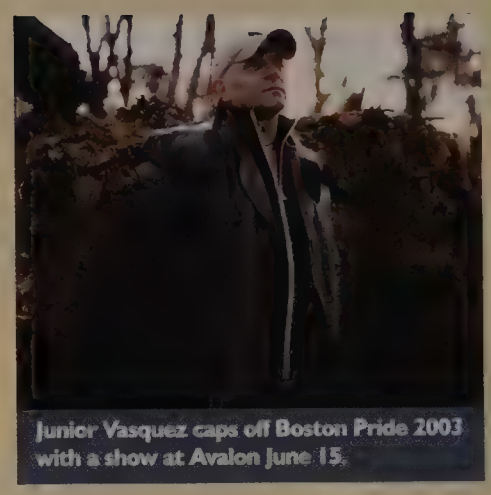
Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Hadi spins hip-hop and R&B, dress jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Preview

Boston Exit

New York's Junior Vasquez brings a big-club vibe north


Junior Vasquez caps off Boston Pride 2003 with a show at Avalon June 15.

Boston's two biggest and longest-running gay celebrations come together on Sunday, June 15, for one very special night, when Boston Pride 2003 culminates in a wild closing party at Avalon. After 33 years, the annual Boston Pride festival of the local gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities has swelled to become a nine-day event. It seems only fitting, then, that one of the best-known names in nightlife presides over the wind-up party at Boston's legendary gay night, Avalon Sundays. Special guest Junior Vasquez rarely performs away from his home in New York, so Pride partygoers are in for a not-to-be-missed experience on the Avalon dance floor.

From the Tunnel to Twilo and Exit, Junior Vasquez has spent a decade and a half providing a sleazy, hard-edged house music soundtrack for the late-night underbelly of the New York City club scene. His influential work in the DJ booth and the recording studio has left a lasting mark on New York clubbing. Today, Vasquez's house music sound spans everything from hard tribal to classic gay anthems—and his hometown audience includes the New Jersey "bridge and tunnel" crowd as well as gay men. His appearance at Avalon will mark one of his only upcoming DJ engagements over the next few months; his weekly residency, "Earth" at Exit in New York ended last month.

As the Boston Pride block party on Stuart Street winds down on Sunday night, the festivities will be just getting started at Avalon. All are welcome, men and women, gay and straight. Just be sure to arrive early, because the club will fill up quickly.

Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). June 15. Cover varies. 21+

—Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Yorgo spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJs Bobby B spins a mix of top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance with ticket giveaways, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Get over the hump with DJ Massi and a mix of the latest hits and top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
•June 11, Live music with Black Sole, 6-10 pm. •June 18, Herman Johnson performs, 6-10 pm. DJ Ricky spins dance music, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami, John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill's and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tunes, 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
DJs spin loungey music.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features retro tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
Catch the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm; live music by local bands goes all night, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop and R&B and top 40, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted by KISS 108, proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christian Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free, guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstairs 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Giosci spin dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am, 21+.

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins Latin dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover before 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
•June 12, Joshua Tree performs live, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •June 19, The Brian Maes Band performs, 10pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge a night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays: DJs Manolo, Paul Daile, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
•June 12, live music with Unek Aproach, 6-10 pm. •June 19, Sugarfoot performs. DJ Ricky spins all night long, 10 pm-2 am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
DJ Quinton warms things up with soca, lovers' rock, roots reggae and R&B, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, hou and other Latin grooves, proper dress, 10 pm, $11.50.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins hou music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm 2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance an R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by th Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Ma shall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SWI
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19

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Vertigo
Special guest DJs spin progressive house, trance and club anthems, 10 pm, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dance-hall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin Top 40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl, formerly of Lava Bar, hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
Live DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Level at Il Panino

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
•June 13, Corduroy performs live. •June 20, Live music with the Catunes. DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review is popular for bachelorette parties or girls' nights out, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Parris
•June 13, Cosmic Box performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •June 20, Live music with Darik & the Funbags, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
The weekend begins with DJ Greg Schneider spinning the latest hits, 10 pm. •June 6, Thomas Par performs live, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
•June 13, live music with Central Basement, 6:30-10:30 pm. •June 20, Sugarfoot performs, 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, 21+, no cover.

Rhythm & Spice
Downtempo DJ Ron Boston spins reggae and soca 7-10 pm, no cover, 19+.

RiverGods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Latin Fridays Latin Concerts presents a night o Latin music and dancing with special guests even week, 9:30 pm, $10, ladies, 18; guys, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-1 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mik C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in th front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro fa vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international hous while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibe jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk an top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+

The Place

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Eddie Andelman on air

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SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 21+. •June 15, Junior Vasquez.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker spins the top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with two dance floors featuring DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10, proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
•June 14, Central Basement performs live. DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream international music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz moves the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+. $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance review, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Sober Saturdays** Dance to '70s, '80s, '90s and top-40 in an alcohol-free atmosphere, $15, 18+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•June 14, Live music by Cosmic Box, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •June 21, Darik & the Funbags perform live, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm. $5, 21+. •June 14, Syndicate performs live, 9 pm, $5, 21+. •June 21, Live music with Brick Park, 9pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host the dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ Zino fuels the Latin vibe with salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house in the club, and DJ Derik cues up old-school hip-hop in the lounge, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

Aria
Living Room DJ Nicholas spins electric lounge, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

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Boston Rocks
Hip-hop tunes fill the house with Boston's best DJs behind the turntables, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm , $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night, proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It DJs John Davis and B-Coy spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house tunes on the third floor while DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge Party in the front bar, which is transformed into a comfortable lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

Matrix

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30 pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Adilson spins some hot Brazilian beats, 10 pm, $10.

Vertigo
Caribbean City DJ Derrick spins world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
Rhythm & Spice *315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4308).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SWI *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated information for gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Sept. 7. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Black Books: The First African American Authors*, a collection of early books and manuscripts by African Americans, shows through June 27.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center

Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2051). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Wellesley Center. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm. •The museum's ongoing shows include Italian and African art.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down*, a 40-foot relief of a tree, shows through Aug. 31. •*The 2003 DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the work of 11 New England artists. Through Aug. 31. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculptural exhibition, shows through spring 2004.•*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists, selected from the museum's collection. Through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum

1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained glass panels, displays through Aug. 31.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Christopher Wilmarth: Drawing into Sculpture* looks at how drawings inspired the artist's glass and steel sculptures. Through June 29. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows through July 6. •*Kandinsky in 1914* shows through July 13. •*Jean Fautrier 1898-1964* displays through July 20. •*Le Coq d'Or: Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes* shows through Aug. 24. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through October 26.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition, shows through Aug. 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in a virtual exhibition in *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through Aug. 24.

The Pursuit of Happiness, a painting by Lawrence Kupferman from 1945, displays in *Images of Boston* at Acme Fine Art through June 21

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Ann Pendleton-Jullian: Facts + Fictions* highlights four of the writer, architect and MIT professor's books. Through Sept. 5. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*French Royal Furniture* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing. •*The Most Expressive Art: Cursive Script in the Ming-Qing Period (1368-1911)* shows through June 22. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a collection of figurative art from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* showcases the paintings of the American artist. Through Jan. 4. •*Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788* features 100 of the British artist's paintings and drawings. June 15-Sept. 14.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Digital Studio* features the work of more than 30 young artists from Boston's inner-city neighborhoods. Through June 30. •*Speed* explores the physical laws that govern velocity. Through Sept. 3. •*Contraptions A-Z* is a hands-on exhibit of gadgets. Through Sept. 8. •*Microbes: Invisible Invaders…Amazing Allies* examines the harmful and beneficial effects of the microscopic wonders. Through fall 2003.

National Center of Afro-American Artists

300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-442-8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5 pm. $4, $3 seniors and students, NCAAA members free. •*Final Exposure: Death Row Portraits*, photographs by Lou Jones, shows with Keith Washington's *Within Our Gates: Human Sacrifice in the American Landscape*. Through July 6.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community*. Ongoing. •*Letters from Presidents: Autographs from the G. Edward Elwell, Jr., Collection* shows through June 22. •*North and South: Berenice Abbott's U.S. Route 1*, a show of 60 of Abbott's photographs, displays through July 13. •*New England Neon* features more than 20 neon signs from the 1920s through the 1970s. Through Sept. 14. •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •The museum's grand reopening celebration features music, theatre and dance performances and is free and open to the public June 21 and 22. •*Worshipping the Ancestors: Chinese Commemorative Portraits* shows June 21-Aug. 10. •*Family Ties*, a contemporary art exhibition, shows June 21-Sept. 21. •*Masterpieces of Asian Nineteenth Century Photography*, an exhibition of photographs from China, Japan, India, and Tibet, displays June 21-Sept. 28. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls June 21-May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing from Chinese artists in various media. June 21-May 30, 200

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027 www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 children.* •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican culture. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through Aug. 30. •*These Shoes Were Made for … Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient culture to the contemporary sensible shoe shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-9810 www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art

38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Lawrence Kupferman's *Images of Boston: Expressionist Watercolors and Oil Paintings from the 194* shows through June 21.

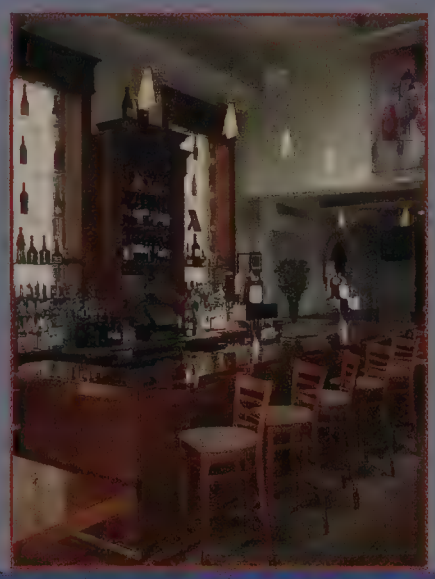
Alianza Gallery

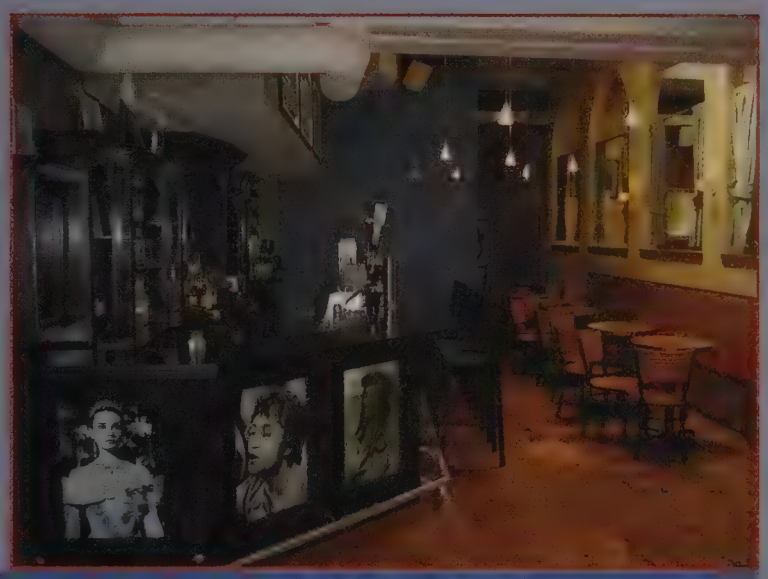
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Geometry in Glass* features blown-glass sculptures. Through June 29.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Luke Cannon, Haley Hast

Devlin's
Bar & Bistro





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and Christopher Saunders show paintings in *New Talent*. Through July 2.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Jain Tarnower shows landscapes in *New Work*. Through June 30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Sol LeWitt shows his work in *Models for Proposed Dome Structures and Recent Gouaches*. Through June 28.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm. •*Settlement* is a collection of paintings and mixed-media works by four Toronto-based artists. Through June 21.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Two photography exhibitions, Abelardo Morell's *Survey: 1987-2003* and Jocelyn Lee's *Portraits*, show through July 3.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Unbuilt Visions* features models, images and proposals for public projects. Through June 28.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •Patricia Gadsby presents the *Children Art Awards* exhibition, through June 13.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Mass Art Continuum: Glass Art by Teaching Artists, Select Alumni and Students*, a juried exhibition, shows glassmaking techniques. Through June 14.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Benjamin Long shows his mixed-media work, and Carolyn Evans displays her oil paintings. Through June 21.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Herbert Barnett's paintings display through July 3.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Spring Members Show: A Juried Exhibition* displays through June 21.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing exhibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. Free. •Paul Kerepka's *Colorful Landscapes and Recent Works* shows through July 25.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Unfolding Geometries* features Don Eyles' photography and Anne Lilly's sculpture through July 18.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •Jamali shows prints and paintings in *Mystical Expressionism*. June 14-July 14.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •*Brian McNeil: Environmental Portraits* shows through Aug. 1.

Portrait of Lady Wanyan, at the Peabody Essex Museum

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Tue., 6-9 pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9 pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Superpower* features paintings by recent MFA graduates. Through June 21.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*The First Annual Furniture Design Exhibition* shows through June 28.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Lana Z. Caplan shows her photography in *On Closer Inspection*. Through July 18.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Fran Siegel shows his paintings and drawings in *Pacific Glow* through July 6.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*The Color, Material and Method*, a group show of mixed-media work, displays through July 1.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm.* •*Vitrum Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath and Board* shows through June 28.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-6 pm.* •Charles Movalli shows his paintings in *My Favorite Things*. June 12-30.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment. •An exhibition of calligraphy and Sumi paintings shows through June 30.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •The Cambridge Art Association presents *National Prize Show 2003*. Through June 25.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Greg Miller shows his work in *Los Angeles Paintings*. Through June 21. •Gil Mares shows his photographs in *Harbor Abstracts*. June 24-July 26.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. •Mary Lang shows her photography in *Reflections of Emptiness* and Petri Flint shows mixed media in *New Landscapes*. Through June 28.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*Conceived in Stone*, a group show, displays through June 14. •Corrine Okada and Whitmore Boogaerts show wire and steel works in *Bending Metal*. June 15-30.

List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12 pm-6 pm; Fri., 12 pm-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm. •*Just Stand There*, a group show, and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's short video *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex*, display through July 6. •*Influence, Anxiety and Gratitude (Toward an Understanding of Trans-generational Dialogue as a Gift Economy)* features the work of more than 20 international artists. Through July 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-MARK). www.markartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4 pm-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •Dorothea Van Camp and Prilla Smith Brackett's work shows through June 20. •Maggi Brown, Roby Fader and Dan Weller show their work in *The Locals*. June 21-Aug. 29.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •*Playland*, a group show of paintings and photography, displays June 20-Aug. 2.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*Info@Blah: Organization and Overload*, a group show, displays through July 6.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5 pm. •Rachel Claflin and Celine McDonald show new paintings. June 12-July 13.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 am-4 pm and by appointment. •Heidi Whitman's new drawings and paintings are on display in *Brain Terrain*. Through June 28.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm. •*Pick Up the Next Whistler for a Song* features paintings, photography and sculptures by local artists. Through June 15. •*Don't Dilly Dally, We Just Might Have the Next Dali*, a group show, displays June 19-July 20.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Summer Surprises* a group show of paintings, drawings and sculpture, displays June 14-Aug. 2.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www.ohtgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Katherine Jackson and Henry Mandell show their abstract paintings *Handwriting on the Wall 2*, through June 28.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The Gallery presents an ongoing local-artists showcase.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Gallery artists display paintings and drawings. Through July 30.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •New work by Noriyasu Tsuchiya shows through June 23.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat. 11 am-5 pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of the Game*, a group show, features photographs celebrating athletics. Through Aug. 23.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •Robert Sweeney shows paintings and pastels in *Italian Campaign*. Through June 28.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Botanical*, a group show of mixed-media work, shows through July 27.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun. 12-6 pm. •*Eclectic*, a group show, features paintings of Boston, Italy, Mexico and Cape Cod. Through July15.

Studio SOTO
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-461-7686). www.studiosoto.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat., 2-5 pm.* •*Hold Still*, an exhibition by Perry Barton, Linda Szabo White and Judith Brassard Brown, shows through June 15.

Upstairs at Johnson Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 8:30-1 pm. •*On the Surface*, a group show of paintings, shows through June 27.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*French Garden Drawings 17th-20th Centuries: Plans, Views and Architecture* shows through June 14.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-4 pm.* •John Enser's *Scenes of New England: Landscape Painting* shows through June 14. •Polly Thayer Starr shows her drawings in *Carved from Darkness Carved from Light* through Aug. 15.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7 pm.* •Kara Rainey shows metal work and Diane Sullivan shows ceramics and mosaics. Through June 15. •John Jagger shows new oil paintings in *Visions & Images*. June 17-July 6.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •NESOP celebrates graduates with the *2003 Graduating Students Exhibition*. Through July.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •Work by Alex MacLean shows through Sept. 6.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.prbboston.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Blandford. Tue.-Wed. and Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-5 pm.* •A members exhibition shows through July 27.

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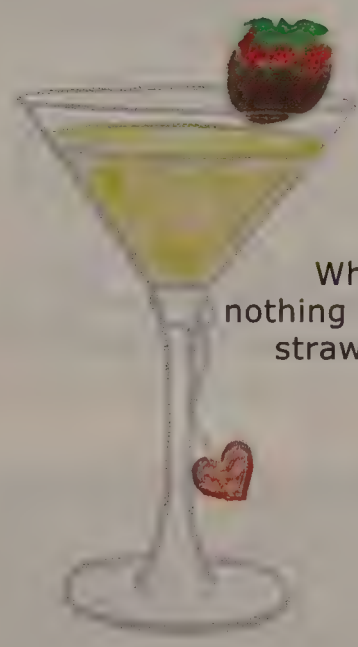

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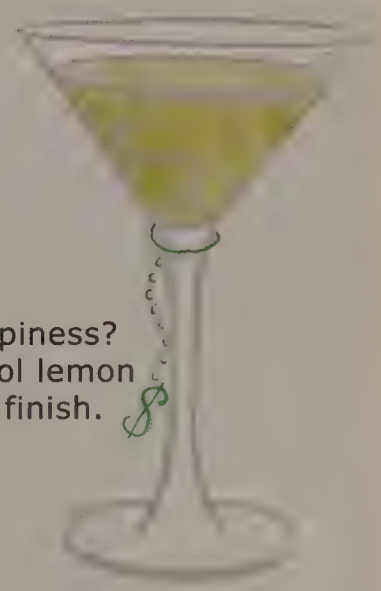

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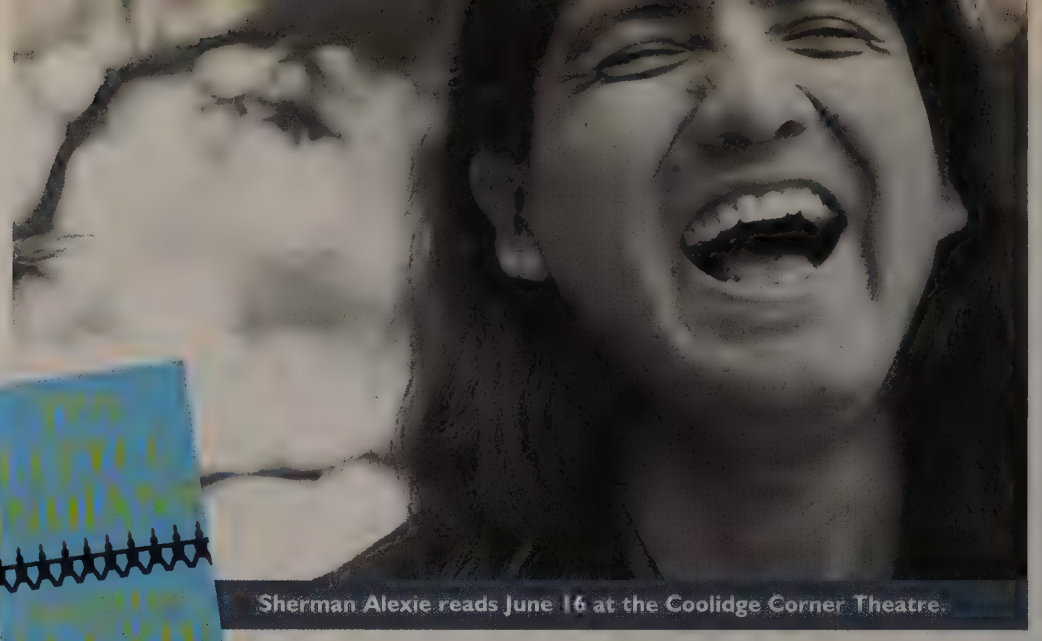
Sherman Alexie reads June 16 at the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Harvard Book Store
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* Food writer **Calvin Trillin** reads from his new collection of essays, *Feeding a Yen: Savoring Local Specialties from Kansas City to Cuzco.*

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* University of Connecticut professors **Irene** and **Richard Brown** read from their book, *The Hanging of Ephraim Wheeler: A Story of Rape, Incest, and Justice in Early America*, which examines how a crime in the early 1800s and the subsequent search for justice tore a Massachusetts family apart.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Jonathan Wilson** reads from *A Palestine Affair*, his novel about love and politics in 1924 Israel. Join the author for a free pint at a local bar after the reading.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Mameve Medwed** addresses the topic of love at first sight in her new romantic novel, *The End of an Error.*

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Former Boston University professor **Michael Walsh** reads from *And All the Saints*, a fictionalized account of the life of Irish mobster Owen Madden during prohibition.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Benjamin Cavell** reads from his debut collection of short stories, *Rumble, Young Man, Rumble.* Also, **Joshua Furst** reads from *Short People*, his debut collection of short stories about childhood in America.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* Former Clinton senior adviser **Sidney Blumenthal** reads from *The Clinton Wars*, his new book about Clinton's tumultuous presidency.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Nathaniel Bellows** reads from his novel *On This Day*, the story of two 20-something siblings who must cope with the death of their parents.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Lauralee Summer** reads from her memoir, *Learning Joy from Dogs Without Collars*, which chronicles her life from homelessness to being a student at Harvard University.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 5:30 pm. Free. Kate's 20th-anniversary party features mystery writers **Peter Abrahams, Linda Barnes, Al Blanchard, Dana Cameron, Susan Conant, Hallie Ephron, Jeremiah Healy, Jane Langton, Kate Mattes, Katharine Hall Page, Robert Parker, Naomi Rand, Cynthia Riggs, Julia Spencer-Fleming, William Tapply** and **Sarah Stewart Taylor.**

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Steve Kemper** reads from his book *Code Name Ginger: The Story Behind the Segway and Dean Kamen's Quest to Invent a New World*, which details the inventor's path to building and marketing the Segway Human Transporter.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* Former journalist and baseball aficionado **Roger Kahn** reads from his book *October Men: Reggie Jackson, George Steinbrenner, Billy Martin and the Yankees' Miraculous Finish in 1978.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 2 pm. Free.* **Elizabeth Berg** reads from her 11th novel, *Say When*, about a disintegrating marriage.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

McIntyre and Moore Books
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 5 pm. Free. The Ibbetson Street Press Issue Release Reading features authors **Linda Conte, Harris Gardner, Doug Holder** and **Robert K. Johnson.**

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Brookline Booksmith
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6 pm. $2.* Author and filmmaker **Sherman Alexie** reads from his new collection of short stories, *Ten Little Indians*, about Native Americans at cultural crossroads.

Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
The Attic at the Union Street Bar, 107R Union St., Newton Centre (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Augusten Burroughs** reads from *Dry: A Memoir*, which describes his experience as a young man in rehab.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Augusten Burroughs** reads from *Dry: A Memoir.* See June 16.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* Harvard professor and Afro-American studies scholar **Henry Louis Gates Jr.** reads from *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley*, a look at the slave who became America's first published black female poet.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Augusten Burroughs** reads from *Dry: A Memoir.* See June 16.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Rosemary Herbert** reads from her book *Whodunit?: Who's Who in Crime and Mystery Writing*, a companion book for the popular crime-solving genre.

WordsWorth Books
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* Humorist **Joe Queenan** examines the phenomenon of fans who root for losing teams in his book *True Believers: The Tragic Inner Life of Sports Fans.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Borders Chestnut Hill
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-630-1120). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center. 7:30 pm. Free. Local author **John Sedgwick** reads from *The Education of Mrs. Bemis*, the fictional story of a 76-year-old Boston woman experiencing a nervous breakdown.

Boston Center for Adult Education
5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30 pm. Free.* Local author **J.G. Hayes** reads from his collection of short stories *This Thing Called Courage: South Boston Stories*, about gay lives in South Boston.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *7:30 pm. Free. Boston Globe* sports columnist **Dan Shaughnessy** reads from his book *Spring Training: Baseball's Early Season.*

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Mameve Medwed** reads from *The End of an Error.* See June 11.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Jonathan Wilson** reads from *A Palestine Affair.* See June 11.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Mameve Medwed** reads from *The End of an Error.* See June 11.

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30 pm. Free.* Holy Cross history professor **Edward T. O'Donnell** reads from his new book, *Ship Ablaze: The Tragedy of the Steamboat General Slocum*, about a 1904 fire on New York's East River that killed more than 1,000 people.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Elinor Lipman** reads from her novel *The Pursuit of Alice Thrift*, the story of a surgical intern learning about life and love.

Grub Street Writers
Harvard Club, 247 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-623-8100). www.grubstreet.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. $12.* Boston attorney **David Schmahmann** discusses his novel *Empire Settings*, about a man haunted by his childhood in South Africa.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* Harvard professor **Elaine Scarry** reads from her new book, *Who Defended the Country? A New Democracy Forum on Authoritarian versus Democratic Approaches to National Defense on 9/11*, a minute-by-minute analysis of the events that occurred that day.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Thomas Heffernan** reads from *Mutiny on the Globe: The Fatal Voyage of Samuel Comstock*, a historical account of the psychopathic seaman who attempted to create an island kingdom in 1824.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* National Book Award winner **Norman Rush** reads from his newest novel, *Mortals*, a story about an ex-CIA agent's unraveling life.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *12:01 am. Free.* WordsWorth throws a midnight release party for **J.K. Rowling**'s *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.* Dress as your favorite character, brush up on Harry Potter trivia and enjoy some chocolate frogs.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Merin Wexler** reads from her debut book *The Porno Girl*, a collection of short stories about women who fear intimacy.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* Harvard alum **Arthur Kempton** reads from *Boogaloo*, his examination of the history of soul and R&B music.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Maritime historian **Joan Druett** reads from her book *In the Wake of Madness: The Murderous Voyage of the Whaleship Sharon*, a historical look at the catastrophic 1841-1845 voyage of the Sharon.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Michael Byers** reads from his new novel, *Long for this World*, in which a Seattle medical researcher copes with the discovery of a scientific version of the Fountain of Youth.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *7:30 pm. Free.* **James O'Connell** reads from *Becoming Cape Cod: Creating a Seaside Resort*, an analysis of the tourist trade on Cape Cod.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Tom Franklin** reads from *Hell at the Breech*, his debut novel about a massacre in rural Alabama in 1897.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Lionel Shriver** reads from *We Need to Talk about Kevin*, a novel about a couple whose son commits a mass murder at school.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7:30 pm; poetry jam, 9pm. $5. The poetry slam features the Jeff Robinson Trio playing background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is performed one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Saturday is the gallery's poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and the spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30 pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity to take the open mike.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

On Kennedy and King

John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1600). www.jfklibrary.org. MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7 pm. Free. Historian **Roger Wilkins**, author of *Jefferson's Pillow: America and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism*, and biographer **Taylor Branch**, author of *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years*, discuss Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy and the civil rights movement during 1963.

Susanna Rowson: A Federal Era Woman

Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Boston (617-227-3956). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.spnea.org. 6:30 pm. $15. Susanna Rowson, an educator and author of *Charlotte Temple, A Tale of Truth*, lived in New England during the early 19th century. The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities presents a dramatic portrayal of her life, featuring actress **Jessa Piaia**.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

HarborWalk: Charlestown, Pier 4 to Tudor Wharf

Call for meeting location. (617-482-1722). 12-1 pm. Free. These walks organized by the Boston Harbor Association provide the public with an opportunity to recommend improvements to HarborWalk, a series of public walkways along Boston Harbor.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Hope in Action Conference

Babson College, Forest Street, Wellesley (703-276-3254). www7.mailordercentral.com/conferences/home.asp. June 13. Free. This gathering offers seminars and lectures for social activists. The event will focus on child advocacy, education reform, violence prevention, environmental awareness, community building, peace and corporate ethics.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Learn to Pack like the Pros

Gentle Giant Moving Co. Headquarters, 29 Harding St., Somerville (617-806-1010). 10am. Free. To help homeowners prepare for the moving season the Gentle Giant Moving Co. offers time- and money-saving tips, demonstrates packing techniques and provides advice for preventing damage during your next move.

Le Coq d'Or

Busch-Reisinger Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-8286). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11:30 am. Free with museum admission. **Laura Muir,** assistant curator for the Busch-Reisinger Museum, leads a gallery talk about Natalia Goncharova's stage and costume designs for the Ballets Russes.

Lower Mystic River Cruise

Call for meeting location. (800-482-1722). www.tbha.org. 11 am-1 pm. Free. This Boston Harbor Association cruise offers a look at maritime industrial uses and the "urban wild" of this waterway.

New England Countryside Photographic Workshops

Bridgewater, Vermont (800-499-3300). www.portfolios.com/vermont. June 14-15. $249. This photography session, taught by photographer **David M. Siegle**, brings you to one of Vermont's most picturesque settings to capture images of covered bridges, farmhouses, streams and barns.

Still Life Painting Demonstration

Fenway Studios, 30 Ipswich St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 9:30 am-4 pm. $135. Local artist **Sam Vokey** gives a one-day demonstration and slide-show presentation on how to set up and paint a still life.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

I Am a Man

Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Road, Dorchester (617-282-8000). 6 pm. $20. Filmmaker **Byron Hurt** presents a screening of *I Am a Man*, a documentary on black masculinity in America. **Greg Mathis**, a Superior Court judge for Michigan's 36th District who grew up in the projects of Detroit, will speak before the film.

Marine Park Walk

Meet at the intersection of Farragut Road and East Broadway Road in South Boston (617-566-1689). 1 pm. Free. Join the National Park Service for a walk through Marine Park. This two-hour walk will explore the harbor-front landscape of South Boston and teach participants about the history of the area and the landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

Victorian Sculpture Walking Tour

Forest Hills Educational Trust, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. 2 pm. $5. **Rebecca Reynolds**, keeper of historic collections for the Forest Hills Educational Trust, discusses the cemetery's sculptural treasures during this educational walking tour.

MONDAY, JUNE 16

European Connection Luncheon

Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-247-1366). 12 pm-2 pm. $55. The French American Chamber of Commerce of New England, in collaboration with Belgian, British, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Polish business groups and the Global Business New England Alliance, holds a luncheon to discuss the current economic outlook. **Cathy E. Minehan**, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, is a featured speaker.

Patriots of Color and the Battle of Bunker Hill

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. MBTA: Blue Line to State, or Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. New historical research has shown that Native and African American soldiers played a greater part in the Revolutionary War than was previously thought. Join state senator **Byron Rushing** and historian **James Oliver Horton** for this discussion.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

HarborWalk: Dorchester, Harbor Point to the Savin Hill Yacht Club

Call for meeting location. Boston (617-482-1722). 12-1 pm. Free. These walks organized by the Boston Harbor Association provide the public with an opportunity to evaluate existing conditions and recommend improvements to HarborWalk.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Global Positioning Systems for Mariners

Charles River Sail and Power Squadron, St. Pa Lutheran Church, 929 Concord Turnpike (Route 2 Arlington (781-729-8388). 6-10 pm. $40 (inclu light dinner). This lecture provides basic training using the Global Positioning System for boaters a those who enjoy the outdoors. Learn how to ent and display data using waypoints and routes.

MIMC Leadership Awards

The Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway, Ca bridge. www.mimc.org/leadership. 6:30-9 pm. $10 **Adrian Slywotzky**, author of *How to Grow Wh Markets Don't*, and **Bob Metcalfe**, inventor of t Ethernet, speak at this awards ceremony for indivi uals and companies who have played a key role the development and advancement of innovati technologies and companies in New England.

Modern Visions of French Impressionists

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Bost (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum Fine Arts. 6 pm. Free. **Heather Cotter** of the MF discusses European art and French impressionism.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Celebrating the Centennial of Frederick Law Olmsted

The Robert Treat Paine Estate, Waltham (781-31 3290). 1-3 pm. $5. **Tom Paine** of the American S ciety of Landscape Architects offers a lecture a slide show on the ways in which Stonehurst and grounds, designed by architect H.H. Richardson a landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, exe plify Olmsted's belief that architecture and the n ural environment can coexist in harmony.

Walk Along the Strand

Meet at the ocean side of Day Boulevard at Farra Road in South Boston (617-566-1689). 1 pm. Fr Join the National Park Service for a walk along t shoreline between South Boston's yacht clubs a Mother's Rest at Carson Beach while learning abo the landscape design by Frederick Law Olmsted.

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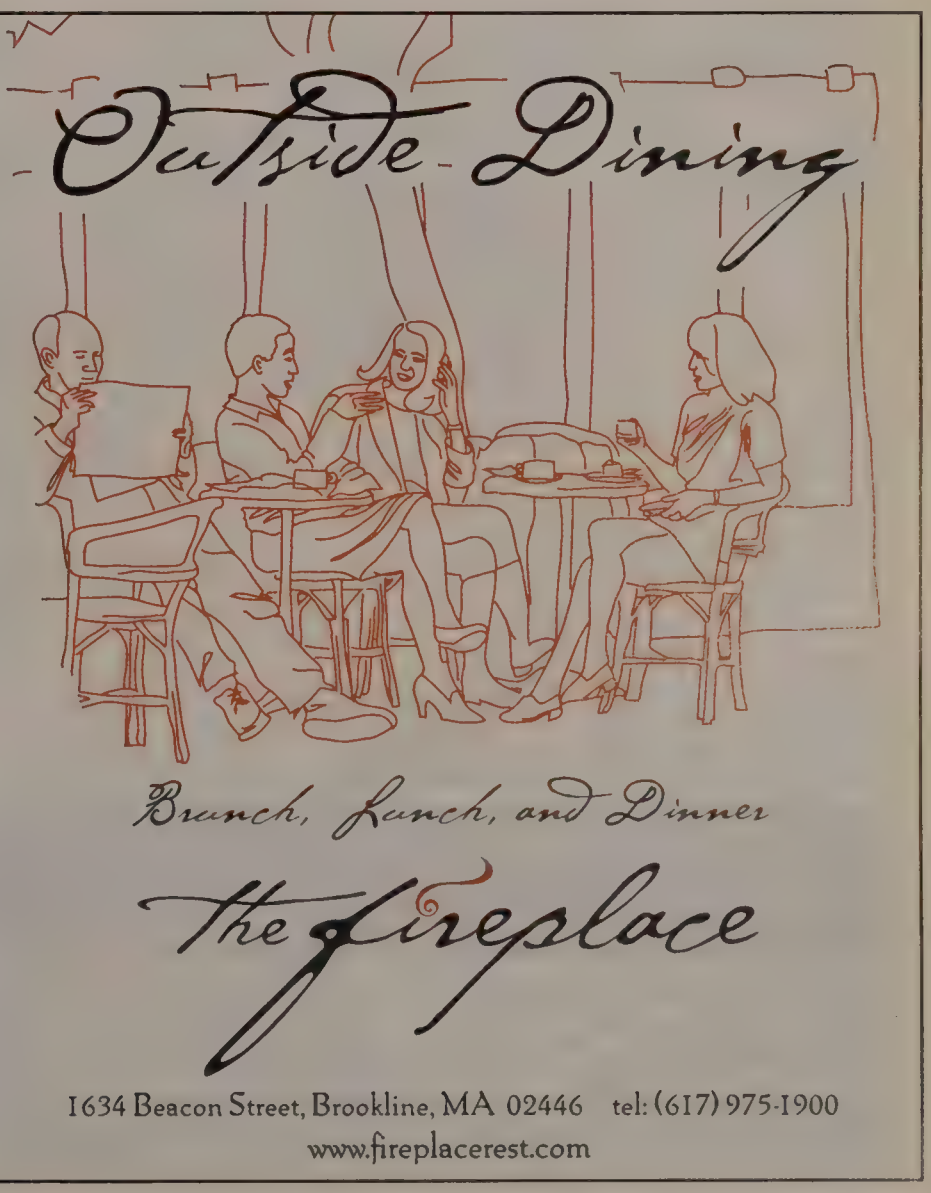

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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+. •June 15: New York City gay and house vet Junior Vasquez makes a rare appearance in Boston for Pride Week.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* •On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. 10 pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5.

The Keyhole Burlesque Troupe is one of many acts performing at the Friction Pride Party June 14

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat., 10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBT Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramr enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tourn ment and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale. •We Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire a Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise w DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with hot music.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBT Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night w DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: T Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house a DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae a funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sa Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance pa with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). MBTA: Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Su 12-6 pm. Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bis uals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-531 www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to C tral. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Su 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features array of feminist and lesbian author events. •*J 20, 7:30 pm. $5.* Women and their supporters are vited to share five- to 10-minute open-mike sl and express themselves in all literary genres.

We Think the World of You Booksto
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). MBTA: ange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat. am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm. Opened in 19 this community-centered gay and lesbian bookst stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Bel Canto
The Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverw Boston (617-734-4760). www.thetheateroffens org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway. Through J 22. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. $12-$28.* Rol McCauley directs the Theatre Offensive's proc tion of Daniel Alexander Jones' *Bel Canto*, in wh a 16-year-old boy encounters opera, Jimi Hen and homosexuality in Springfield, Mass.

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oston Gay Men's Chorus
ackman Auditorium, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-2247). www.bgmc.org. *MBTA: E Green ne to Northeastern. June 13, 15 and 21. 8 pm. $12-42.* The BGMC celebrates the music of Broadway gends Kander and Ebb in *Razzle Dazzle*. Selections clude hits from *Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman* d *New York, New York.*

oston Pride Block Party
uart Street between Arlington and Berkeley Streets, oston (617-262-9405). www.bostonpride.org. *BTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 15. 2-9 pm.* DJs ichie Rich and Michael Sheehan take it to the reets for the 3rd Annual Pride Week Block Party. od, drink and merchandise vendors are abundant.

oston Pride Festival
oston Common, Boston (617-262-9405). www.stonpride.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 1. 12 pm.* Food, beverage, arts and crafts and Pride ndors line the Common, and festival-goers can joy the melodies of local musicians while viewing e Pride Parade broadcast on a Jumbotron screen.

oston's Pride Parade
opley Square, Boston (617-262-9405). www.bostonide.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. June 14. 30 am registration; 12 pm parade.* More than 100 otorcycles and 135 diversity contingents ride and arch through Copley Square in the 33rd Annual ay Pride March. This year GLAD marshalls the rade, themed "Peace through Pride."

EVER! Dance
ns of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester (781-648-22). www.djdee.com/fever. *June 14. 8 pm. $10. 8+.* Singer/songwriter Erica Wheeler performs and J Dee spins until midnight for the Lesbian Pride oncert and Dance.

riction Pride Party
rge Hernandez Cultural Center at the Villa Victoria, W Newton St., Boston (617-927-0061). June 14, pm-2 am. The New Boston Pride Committee, Les-an Avengers of Boston, Butch Dyke Boy and Dyke ight Productions join forces for a night of naughty velry with entertainment by All the Kings Men rag King Troupe; the Keyhole Burlesque Troupe; rag Kings, Sluts and Goddesses; and the Princess of rn and Dukes of Dykedom. DJ Deja rounds out e evening, and proceeds benefit the Network/La d, Pathways to Complementary Medicine and the uncil for Latin Arts.

ingle Wild Pride Party
ssy K's, 6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511) BTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. ne 12, 8 pm-1 am. $8. 21+. DJ Dee spins high-en-gy house at this party for women.

Ongoing

eantown South G/L Bowling League
oston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-52). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and les-ans in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

i-Curious Men's Group
nway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 17-927-6032). 7 pm. This group meets the sec-d Tuesday of every month for a discussion with sexual men.

OSS
nway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 17-927-6235). 6-8 pm. This group for gay and bisex-l men of color meets the last Friday of each month discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

oston Bay Blades
ww.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this mpetitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

oston Boasts Squash
17-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 ; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: E reen Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay d lesbian players and their friends.

oston Gay Basketball League
17-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a ll regular season and playoff schedule each year.

oston GLASS Community Center
Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: reen Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 5 pm. The center provides social activities for gay, sbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning ung people, ages 13-25.

oston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
oakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). BTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 .m. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orien-tion are welcome to play.

oston Lesbian Avengers
ston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green ne to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action litical group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. This informal support group meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month, 7-8:45 pm.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Father of Greater Boston
(617-742-7897) www.gayfathersboston.org. First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2. This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). A mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

HIV Counseling and Testing
(617-267-0159). Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tuesday/Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings. Gay and lesbian swim team for both fitness and competitive swimmers of all ages and abilities.

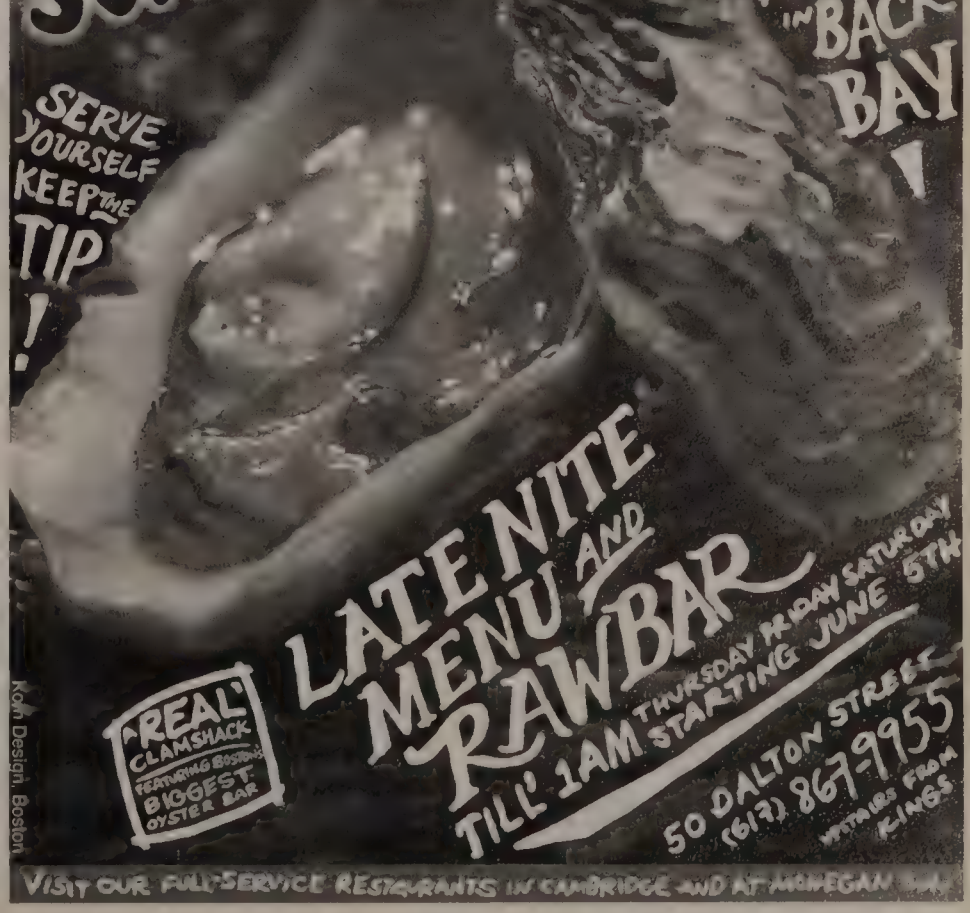
Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to Washington St. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.



body& mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Hope in Action: A Conference to Change the World
Babson College, Wellesley (800-273-7447). www.hopemag.com. *June 13-15. $299.* Living a life that reflects deep values can be overwhelming or exhausting. But at this conference, Frances Moore Lappe, Dr. Patch Adams and 21 other social activists help you to connect with your inner calling and take action.

Open House at Brookline Tai Chi
Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. June 15, 7:30 pm. Free.* Instructors will informally discuss and demonstrate the qi gong and tai chi arts taught at the center.

Workshops

Art, Body and Soul Day
Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. June 14, 10 am-5 pm. $75. At this relaxing, daylong workshop, expressive-arts therapist Kat Mitchell will demonstrate facilitated bodywork, movement and creative expression through sound, imagery and words.

The Art of Injury-Free Yoga
140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-739-8455). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Four Thursdays, June 12-July 10, 6:45 pm. $60 if pre-registered or $20 per class. This class will teach you how to prevent injuries during yoga by respecting your own abilities and limitations.

Bliss Qigong
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. June 14, 9 am-12 pm. $32.* Qigong master John Du Cane teaches the simple movements of tai chi qigong, which are said to promote circulation, cultivate vitality and reduce stress.

Bridal Survival Club
Hotel @ MIT, 20 Sidney St., Cambridge (617-227-2127). MBTA: Red Line to Central. June 12, 6:30-8 pm. Free (please pre-register). After becoming engaged, brides-to-be can feel overwhelmed with both practical and emotional stress. The Bridal Survival Club is a monthly meeting for brides-to be—and their friends, mothers or grooms—who need a support system.

High-Frequency Yoga for Women
Carmela Cattuti, 151 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-970-5320). www.yogame.com. *June 14, 10 am-12 pm. $45.* Explore basic postures, focusing on your abdominal muscles as your power base. Also learn how to increase stamina and transform negative thought patterns. Beginners welcome.

Inner Freedom and Non-Reactivity
Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. June 21, 10 am-4 pm. $55.* This workshop includes lectures, meditation practice and discussion designed to help you explore ways to face inner difficulties and challenging conditions with a sense of peace and wisdom.

Meditation Workshop
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. June 23, 7-9:30 pm. $39.* A daily meditation practice is said to help you relax, improve concentration and experience greater insight and creativity while increasing your energy. This workshop provides an introduction to the basic meditative techniques of breath, concentration, contemplation, chakras and sound.

Movement Workshop with Holistic Therapist Berti Klein
The Insight Center, 5 Chrysler Road, Natick (508-310-0150). www.insightnewengland.org. *June 14, 10 am-5 pm. $75.* In this workshop, you'll use movement

John Du Cane teaches Bliss Qigong June 14

and meditation to connect with your inner self in order to heal and feel more comfortable.

Self-Compassion and Integrated Awareness
Cambridge Health Associates, 335 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-3414). www.mfourman.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. June 12, 7-9 pm. $5.* Experience the relationship between your mind, body and emotions. This workshop will guide you through a movement sequence that is designed to help you explore and increase your self-compassion.

Spring Training: Sex Tips for Guys
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. June 15, 6:30-8:30 pm. $34. Open to men only.* Boutique owner Kim Airs shares tips on pleasuring gathered from hundreds of women. Learn about the female anatomy and toys and tricks that will make you a team player.

Tai Chi Master Mantak Chia Healing Energy Seminar
Sheraton Lexington Hotel, 727 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-369-1936). June 12-15. $80-$320 per workshop. The Boston Healing Tao Center presents Tai Chi master Mantak Chia, who will host five workshops featuring unique qigong and meditation practices. You may learn to balance your energy, calm the mind, connect with universal force and even use your sexual energy to become wiser.

You Go Girl: Sex Tips for Gals
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. June 16, 7:30-9:30 pm. $34. Open to women only.* In this class, boutique owner Kim Airs shares tips on how to increase a man's pleasure.

Lectures

Eckhart Tolle: The Power of Now
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *June 13, 7:30 pm. Suggested donation $5.* Watch a video presentation by Eckhart Tolle, author of the book *The Power of Now*. He'll discuss living in the moment as an effective path to overall happiness.

The Yoga Sutra of Patanjali
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *June 13, 6:30 pm. Free.* Listen to a new translation of and commentary on this classic yoga text that examines the nature of the mind and how to work with it as a path to liberation.

Ongoing

Free Body Tune-Ups
Living Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Fri., 5:30-6:30 pm. Free.* Increase your energy while relaxing both mind and body at this drop-in Kundalini yoga and meditation class.

Introduction to Mysore-Style Ashtanga Yoga
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 4 pm. $12. Drop in.* Take it slow, and learn the basics of this ancient form of yoga. The results are said to give a strong, lean and light body and a calm mind.

Personal Protection, Bussey Style
14 Green St., Brookline (781-405-1248). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. www.busseystyle.com/boston. *Sun., 3 pm. First-time visitors please call in advance.* This beginners class offers instruction in a form of personal protection and movement.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

Things to See

Make Way for Ducklings Concert
Boston Common Parade Ground, Charles and Beacon streets, Boston (617-451-0049). www.landmarksorchestra.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park. June 21, 4 and 5:30 pm.* The Boston Landmarks Orchestra presents the world premiere of composer Daniel Pinkham's *Make Way for Ducklings*, based on the book by Robert McCloskey.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •June 11 and 12, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 4-9. The Tanglewood Marionettes present *The Fairy Circus*, with puppets that dance, play instruments, juggle, contort, transform and fly through the air. •June 18 and 19, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 3-8. Paul Vincent Davis performs *Puss in Boots*.

Story Stew
•June 14, 11 am: Kidstock Theatre, 50 Cross St., Winchester. •June 21 and 28, 11 am: Center for the Arts, 4 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *$8, $5 children.* Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company performs classic stories with new and comic twists. What if the Big Bad Wolf had a chance to defend himself in court? What if Peter Pan hired a private detective to track down Captain Hook? See these fairy tale characters in a completely different light.

Things to Do

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free.* •Sat., 11 am, ages 5 and older. Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •KidStage: Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage. •Sat. and Sun., 2 pm-4 pm. In the Art Studio. Children can create their own paintings. •Mon., Wed. and Fri., 11 am. Music and Movement. Learn to shake, wiggle and giggle along to music.

Dads Make a Difference
Boston Common Parade Ground, Charles and Beacon streets, Boston (617-451-0049). www.dadsmakeadifference.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Park. June 15, 1-5 pm.* Watch performances by magicians, dance troupes and a capella groups, enjoy free ice cream, jump on a moon bounce and get your face painted at this Father's Day celebration.

Father's Day at the Zoo
Stoneham Zoo, 149 Pond St., Stoneham (781-438-5100). www.zoonewengland.org. *June 14.* The Stoneham Zoo celebrates Father's Day by honoring all the animal dads at the zoo. Visitors can join in the celebration by participating in zoo activities and crafts and meeting the zookeeper.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through September 30. Every hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9.* Tour the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Park.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-200
www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.* •June 14, 11 am. Free. Listen to Father's D stories and decorate picture frames. •June 21, 11 a Free. To celebrate the first day of summer, listen summer stories and make a paper fan.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296). ww
hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harva $6.50, $4 children.* •Saturday Scholars: Sat., 9- am for preschool, 9 am-12 pm for grades K-3. $ Discover dinosaurs, minerals, insects, oceans, mic scopic worlds, ancient civilizations and more special interactive class. •Wild Wednesdays: We 3-5 pm, all ages, free with admission. This aft school program offers hands-on activities, scaven hunts and live animal shows to let kids learn m about the world around them.

ImprovBoston Family Show
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-125
www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Ce tral. Sat., 6 pm. $12, $10 students.* Performers cre scenes, songs and stories based on suggestions fr the audience.

Midsummer Revels
The Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Muse Wharf, Boston (617-972-8300, ext. 21). www.re els.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. June 7 pm. Free.* The Revels invite families to celebr the summer solstice with a procession of oxen-dra carts and outdoor performances. Betwe 5 and 7 pm, make a mask for the event, or join mask-making workshops on June 14 and 15, 2-4 p

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-444
www.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kend $5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Light Fantastic:* T MIT Museum displays the largest collection of ho grams in the world and describes the artistic and s entific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyo* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial telligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-344
www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to M seum. $15; children under 17 free.* •June 14, 11 a 4 pm. Family Place and Drop-In Drawing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.
MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. $8-$11. •S and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Scie Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Al* featuring professional storytellers who combine tales and myths with visits from live anim •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. F Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellatio and celestial events in this presentation. •Gillil Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather perm ting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescope find the moon, stars, constellations and planets.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (6 522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 $5.* •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores history of American auto racing with race cars displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soap-box ra with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and r to win. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger H through the museum and receive a free prize.

Newton Free Library
Drucker Auditorium, 330 Homer St., Newton (6 796-1370). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton H lands. Free. •June 11, 4 pm, ages 5 and up. W Cultures Summer Solstice will teach children h different cultures celebrate this time of the y Make a craft and enjoy a summery treat. •June 7 pm, ages 4 and older. A family concert featu Ben Rudnick and Friends, an energetic band t mixes rock, folk and bluegrass music. •June 10:30 am. Join the preschool sing-along w Melissa, Jean and Sandy.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-643
www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *June 14.* Wea flag pin and get free admission in honor of Flag D

Scooper Bowl
City Hall Plaza, Boston (800-52-JIMM
www.jimmyfund.org. *Through June 12, 11:30 6 pm. $7, $3 children.* Eight ice cream compan serve 12 tons of ice cream to help raise money for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Swan Boats
Public Garden, Boston (617-522-1966). MB Green Line to Arlington. Through September 21. D 10 am-4 pm. $2, $1 for children. Take a trip thro the Public Garden.

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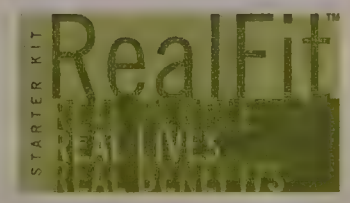

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www.WellbridgeAC.com

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
June 11, 7:05pm vs. St. Louis Cardinals
June 12, 7:05pm vs. St. Louis Cardinals
June 13, 7:05pm vs. Houston Astros
June 14, 7:05pm vs. Houston Astros
June 15, 2:05pm vs. Houston Astros
June 23, 7:05pm vs. Detroit Tigers
June 24, 7:05pm vs. Detroit Tigers

Boston Breakers
•Nickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
June 21, 7 pm vs. Carolina Courage

Boston Cannons
•Cawley Stadium. Tickets: 888-847-9700
June 14, 7 pm vs. Baltimore Bayhawks
June 21, 7 pm vs. Rochester Rattlers

Events

Benefit Golf Tournament
This annual golf tournament benefits UMass Memorial Child Life Services. *Wayland Country Club, Wayland (978-443-4094)* www.bullfinchs.com. *June 19, 1 pm. $100 per player.*

NBA Hoop-It-Up
More than 3,000 players vie for supremacy in this annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The two-day event also includes contests for free throws, three-pointers and other basketball skills. *Bayside Expo Center, Boston (617-899-4008)* www.nbahoopitup.com. *June 14-15, 10 am-3 pm. $125 per team.*

The Tradition
Red Auerbach is honored with the Sports Museum's Lifetime Achievement Award at this bash. Awards will also be given to Phil Esposito, Tom Heinsohn and others. The event includes a reception, dessert and a silent auction of sports memorabilia, and proceeds benefit the Sports Museum. *FleetCenter, Boston (617-624-1236)* www.sportsmuseum.org. *June 12, 5:30 pm. Tickets start at $100.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

Red Auerbach receives the Sports Museum's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Tradition, June 12 at the FleetCenter.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. Club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

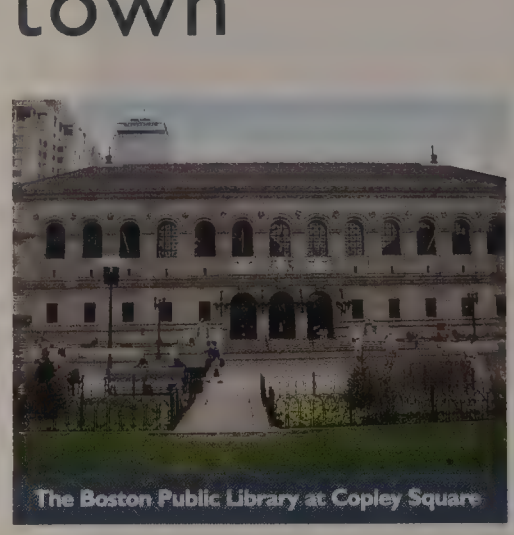
VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

around town


The Boston Public Library at Copley Square

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Wed.-Thu., 9 am-8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 p $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBT Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-567 www.oldironsides.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange L to Haymarket, then bus 93 to Navy Yard. Museum o daily, 10 am-5 pm. Ship hours: winter: Thu.-Sun., am-4 pm; summer: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.*

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

The Alliance for Children
(781-431-7148). June 11, 6:30 pm. Learn how adopt from abroad.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their lo treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a g Information session: May 29, 6-7 pm.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer oppor nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of peo between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization ne volunteers for kitchen, office work, special event

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support children and adults with developmental disabiliti

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a we for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a ch

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly dividual, mentor children or teach an adult to rea

Jimmy Fund Collections Program
www.jimmyfund.org. Pass collection canisters local theaters June 13-July 20.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachuset
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or sh with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helplin
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone w people affected by alcoholism and substance abus

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist eld

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Help needed to serve lunch a dinner and to work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless gue

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslex
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital form

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered women's ager

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the din room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely p ple over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with single young p fessionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Volunteers needed to help res homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

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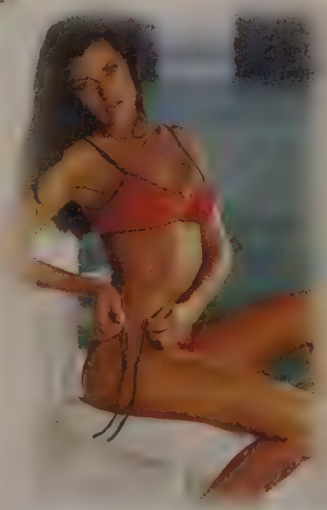

After Two Mystic Tan® Sessions

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suntanning center

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[on the Green line at Kenmore]

617-267-7744

Restaurants w/ Patios or Open Air Dining	Address	Phone #	Bring Your...
33 Restaurant and Lounge	33 Stanhope Street, Boston	617-572-3311	Business/College friends
Abe and Louie's	793 Boylston Street, Boston	617-536-6300	Significant other
Aqua	120 Water Street, Boston	617-720-4900	Dancing shoes
Atlas Bar & Grill	145 Ipswich Street, Boston	617-437-0300	Red Sox jersey
Barcode	955 Boylston Street, Boston	617-421-1818	Drinking buddies
Barking Crab, The	88 Sleeper Street, Boston	617-426-2722	Friends
Bishop's Pub	21 Boylston Place, Boston	617-351-2583	Self
Black Rhino, The	21 Broad Street, Boston	617-263-0101	Appetite
Boston Beer Garden	732-734 East Broadway, South Boston	617-269-0990	Drinking buddy
Boston Beer Works	112 Canal Street, Boston	617-896-2337	Appetite
Cactus Club	939 Boylston Street, Boston	617-236-0200	Friends and appetite, not your day pl
Centro	720 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge	617-868-2405	Date or spouse
Clerys	113 Dartmouth Street, Boston	617-262-9874	Corporate credit card
Coogan's	171 Milk Street, Boston	617-451-7415	Work buddy
Cottonwood Café	222 Berkeley Street, Boston	617-247-2225	Appetite for adventure
Daily Catch, The	2 Northern Avenue, Boston	617-772-4400	"Precious" children
Devlin's	332 Washington Street, Brighton	617-779-8822	Friends and enemies
Dick's Last Resort	55 Huntington Avenue, Boston	617-267-8080	Friends
Elbow Room	1430 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton	617-738-9990	Friends or significant others
Elephant & Castle	161 Devonshire Street, Boston	617-350-9977	Friends
Excelsior	272 Boylston Street, Boston	617-426-7878	Clients
Fifty-Seven	200 Stuart Street, Boston	617-423-5700	Work associates and loosen the tie
Fiore Ristorante	250 Hanover Street, Boston	617-371-1176	Appetito
Fireplace, The	1634 Beacon Street, Brookline	617-975-1900	Friends
Flash's	310 Stuart Street, Boston	617-574-8888	Sense of humor
George An American Tavern	384 Boylston Street, Boston	617-859-8555	Thirst, appetite and conversation
Giusseppe's	1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge	617-354-3727	Appetite and cigarettes
Good Life, The	720 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge	617-868-8800	Old friends, new friends
Green Briar	304 Washington Street, Brighton	617-789-4100	Energy
Harvest	44 Brattle Street, Cambridge	617-868-2255	Friends
Henrietta's Table	1 Bennett Street, Cambridge	617-661-5005	Comfort to a new level
Hungry I	71 1/2 Charles St., Boston	617-227-3524	Hidden lover
Hurricane O'Reilly's	150 Canal Street, Boston	617-722-0161	Game
Jacob Wirth	31-37 Stuart Street, Boston	617-338-8586	Dog, for free water and a doggie bis
Joe's American Bar and Grill/Joe's Waterfront	279 Dartmouth St., Boston/100 Atlantic Ave., Boston	617-536-4200/617-367-8700	Cute boyfriend/girlfriend and summe
Kinvara	34 Harvard Avenue, Allston	617-783-9400	Rowdy spirit
Legal Seafood's Long Wharf	255 State Street, Boston	617-742-5300	Friends
Living Room, The	101 Atlantic Avenue, Boston	617-723-5101	Open mind
M.J. O'Connor's	27 Columbus Avenue, Boston	617-482-2255	Appetite
McCormick & Schmick's	Faneuil Hall Marketplace-N. Market Bldg., Boston	617-720-5522	Friends and family
Ned Devine's	Quincy Market Building, Boston	617-248-8800	Camera and favorite sunglasses
Orleans	65 Holland Street, Somerville	617-591-2100	Friends and foes
Parish Café	361 Boylston Street, Boston	617-247-4777	Appetite
Playwright, The	658 E. Broadway, Boston	617-269-2537	Sense of humor
Purple Shamrock	1 Union Street, Boston	617-227-2060	Dancing shoes
Rack, The	24 Clinton Street, Boston	617-725-1051	Good friends and your laughter too..
Rock Bottom Brewery	115 Stuart Street, Boston	617-742-2739	Friends
Scoozi	237 Newbury Street, Boston	617-247-8847	Friends and co-workers
Sola's	710 Boylston Street, Boston	617-933-4803	Thirst for quenching
Sophia's	1270 Boylston Street, Boston	617 351 7001	Appetite for tapas, sangria and danc
Sonsie	327 Newbury Street, Boston	617-351-2500	Appetite
Tia's	200 Atlantic Avenue, Boston	617-227-0828	Personality and best look
Tiki Room	1 Lansdowne Street, Boston	617-351-2580	Friends sharing Pupu Platters and Scor
Tonic	1316 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton	617-566-6699	Groove on
Vox Populi	755 Boylston Street, Boston	617-424-8300	First or last date
White Horse Tavern	116 Brighton Avenue, Allston	617-254-6633	Roommate and libido
Wrap, The	247 Newbury Street, Boston	617-262-2200	Pets

n Summer Drink	Style File	Celebrity Sightings	The Best Place to...
te Passion	Latest trends on the street	NY Yankees, Boston Red Sox	Be seen and enjoy a well rounded experience
le Martini	Brooks Brothers to Dior	Celtics, Barry and Eliot of Jordan's Furniture	Seal the deal
atini	Trendy	Derek Lowe	Meet someone
g Island Iced Tea	Sports casual	Nomar and Mia	Hang pre/post Red Sox games
of them	Casual Back Bay	Stone Temple Pilots	Drink under the stars
l beer	Casually cool	Ron Wood, Brian Denehy, Mike Dukakis	Relax
Classic Margarita	Relaxed	Ben Affleck, Mark Wahlberg	Start your night in the Alley
sitini	Upscale, but casual	Johnny Knoxville	Sing karaoke on Tuesdays
cold UFO	Casual and cool	Kevin McHale	Chill out and watch the big screen
ermelon Ale	Super chill	P.J. Stock, Joe Thornton	Grab some eats, sip some treats and shoot pool
wcone Margarita	Bare what you dare	John Corbett	Lick, shoot and suck
ini	Casual, cool	Ed Harding, Lisa Hughes	Escape to Italy for next to nothing
Lemonade	Comfortable and casual	Derek Lowe	Go where everyone REALLY knows your name
Colada	Business casual	"Sam Adams"	Relax and unwind
kly Pear Margarita	Casual	Drew Bledsoe, Will Ferrell, John Travolta	Fall in love over some Margaritas
cold Moretti	As you are	Supreme Court Justices	Catch a harbor breeze
garita	Casual, occasional nudity	Colin Farrell	Get down with your bad self
ricane	Casual	Elvis	Hang on the patio and listen to live music
r Apple Martini	The young professional	Nomar Garciaparra	Hang with a great crowd, eat great food
mbay Smash	Casual	Cam Neely, Denis Leary	Play trivia
dy Melon	Anything sleek and black	You have to see it to believe it	Be seen
r Martini	Casual business	Clint Eastwood, Tony Curtis	Eat great food
i Doli	However you're comfortable	Matt Damon, Daniel Baldwin, Joe Thornton	Dine, drink and smoke under the stars
place Fishbowl	Casual to sophisticated	Joe Kramer, Bud Collins, Bob Kraft	Have cocktails and hear live music
y Red Martini	Fun, funky and laid back	Lydia Shire	Hang with the industry types
sic Dark Rum Piña Colada	Casual, but sexy	Counting Crows	Meet people after work
te Grape, Pear Infusion	Casual, chic	Tom Perotta	Share a tiramisu
wberry Sinatra Swing	Casual	Kay Hanley, Joey McIntyre	Meet a blind date
at Irish Brew	Spirited fun	Drop Kick Murphys	Hear live Irish music and watch Irish sports
p Chardonnay	Sandals and sunglasses	Ben Affleck, Lili Taylor, Yo-Yo Ma	Brunch alfresco with friends
h Raspberry Sangria	Smart, young, professional	daily	Eat, drink and relax
h Lime Vodka Gimlet	Cheap sunglasses and Neiman Marcus sales rack	Our lips are sealed	Score
ricane	Casual fun	Richard Jefferson	Let loose and unwind
en Monster	Smart casual	Matchbox 20, Governor Mitt Romney	Take a step back in Boston history
West	Patio shades, sporty Pumas and preppy attire	U2	Enjoy all the summer classics
ld pint of Guinness	Casual	The Bruins	Drink a pitcher w/ friends and catch the latest sports
al Red Sangria	Nautical	From Run DMC to Harrison Ford	Get a fresh catch
on Madness Martini	Casually elegant	Celtics, Chris Collins, Kip Lewis	Be comfortable on the waterfront
lua Cabana	Business casual, relaxed dress	Bill and Hillary	Devour a hearty Irish breakfast
rgarita	Casual	Ann Margaret, Kathleen Turner, David Brenner	Relax on the best patio in Boston
Me Kate	Casual cool	Cam Neely, Mayor Menino	Watch outdoor performers and enjoy live music
jito	Casual or risky	Robert DeNiro	People watch
ger	Cool and casual	NY Yankees	Try the best chefs in Boston without seeing them
rry Cheesecake	Casual neighborhood	Mark Wahlberg	Catch a game
e's Passion	Everyone and everything	Mark McGrath	Enjoy music every day of the week
Lime Martini	Corporate early/sexy later	Cast of Sopranos	Be discovered by a Hollywood casting agent
pler rack	Casual	Theatre cast members	Meet good friends and have great food and great beer
mpagne/Ice cold Coronas	Casual	Val Kilmer	People watch
Dessie	Smart casual	Val Kilmer, Paris Hilton	Propose marriage in the Back Bay
termelon Martini	One versatile outfit for four floors of fun	Red Sox All-Star lineup	Eat, drink, dance and lounge
Melon Margarita	Comfortably stylish	Geroge Clooney	Eat, drink and relax
Lime Pie Martini	Shabby chic	The Bruins	Eat a lobster
tic, tropical, frozen delights	Lei'd back	The Big Kahuna	"Build your own" Pupu Platter
e Martini	Cocktail casual	A good host never tells	Share, share, share
gtini	Cool and chic	Kevin Bacon	People watch
zen Mudslides	Casual and laid back	Brad Delp, Eliza Dushku	Catch a late last call at 2am
cy Smoothie	Semi-clad or more	Stop by and see for yourself	Grab food, surf the web and sit on the patio

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IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 617-859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Erin

You: Brunette hair, a great smile and always pleasant at the desk of the Residence Inn in Framingham. Your tag said Erin. Even though I saw you almost daily for a month, I didn't say what I wanted: "You're very cute and I would like to get to know you better." Me: 6'1" with brown hair (cut high and tight), blue eyes, bored of the chain restaurants. Now that I live here, I thought maybe you might like to get to know me.
—Dennis
Ronnoco1696@aol.com

To the Expert on International Standards

I was going up the Boylston escalator in the Pru May 20 when you rushed past on my left. You were the guy wearing a white shirt and black pants, carrying a Vinny Testa's bag full of clothes. About halfway up you were stopped by a group of men who were so selfishly taking up both sides of the escalator as they were riding up, probably doing it just to piss you off. You rudely said "Excuse me," which they either didn't hear or (rightly so) ignored. Well, you couldn't believe the nerve of them, so you figured that you would educate them: "You stand on the right and walk up on the left!" you snorted. "If ya wanna walk, take the stairs, [expletive]" was the response, to which you answered "Stand to the right, walk to the left—it's an international standard!" and stormed down the mall toward Huntington Ave. "What a loser," I chortled to myself, but the more I thought about it, I felt bad for you. You must be such a miserable person to be so rude to complete strangers. I hope you realize what a ridiculous scene you made. It's people like you who give this city such an unfriendly reputation. Please get help and maybe you'll be a happier person someday. (By the way, for liability reasons, most escalator manufacturers discourage walking up or down the steps while they're moving, since it can be potentially dangerous. Next time, take the stairs.)
—NFG

Shot in the Dark

Every morning I have to make the decision of which coffee shop to pop into on Beacon Street. You see, at one shop I get coffee, at the other, I usually get a look that makes me smile and wonder what I have done to deserve such a smoldering glance. Instead of just ordering a shot in the dark, I thought I would take one. You have muttonchops and dark hair. If you're interested in the girl with brown eyes and short dark hair that always orders a loose-leaf English Breakfast, I'm game. I wouldn't mind seeing that smoldering look somewhere other than from across the counter.
—coffee_tea_orme2003@yahoo.com

Sexy Teacher Pumping Gas

The day was a Thursday or Friday, May 15 or 16. It was a nice spring day in Cambridge, and you were driving a silver Thunderbird(?) with three of your students. You were pumping gas and had on a pretty sweater and a long jean skirt. One of your students yelled, "My teacher likes you!" and I said that "I like her, too." You seemed to be embarrassed and drove away pretty quickly. I was mad at myself all day for not talking to you. Maybe you'll read this? If you do, and would like to talk, please let me know.
—patriotsfan888@yahoo.com

This Goes Out to FY

I know you're not even in Boston, but I had to let this out. You're the one that got away. We were together for only a short time until you left me. When we visited each other, it was hard to hold back all the feelings I still had for you. Today, I regret that I did not seize those opportunities. I don't know if you felt all the same things I felt then, or even now, but you have been occupying my thoughts a lot lately. I keep wondering what might have been had I just said or acted on what I've been carrying in my heart for so long. I even had a dream about you: You cupped my face in your hands and kissed me. It was so real and I wanted it to be. I keep reliving that dream in my head over and over. Right now, you're probably with someone, as I am now. Deep down, I hope fate brings us together again. I guess I'll just have to wait and see if my dream will come true.
—Looking for Closure

Chance It

Boy: It's been three years since I spotted you. We've sort of been friends and sort of not; sort of a fling and sort of not. It's always been on and off, and I've always been patient and tolerant. I think you know that I'm crazy about you, but you choose to ignore it by telling me that you're not worth it. You think I'm attractive and funny and we may eventually go out but you don't know when. I asked you out. You rejected me. Friends think I'm nuts because there are tons of guys out there who would die to go out with me, yet I only have eyes for you. Yes, we are having a good time but it hurts to hear that you dated other women when you could've picked me. Why do you always choose to invest in the wrong ones? I really believe I deserve a chance with you and that I would kick those women's butts as a fun date, if not appearance-wise. You are the only boy who's made my heart beat faster over the years. And I knew that when my eyes fell on you for the first time. Chance it with me. You have nothing to lose but a heart to gain.
—Girl

Bob in Bukowski's

Friday May 30th: You are tall, blond and working on a Ph.D. at BU in engineering. You bought me a Summer Ale, and we chatted for a while before you had to leave suddenly. I kicked myself for not getting your number. E-mail me if you see this and are interested in another drink.
—summerinbukowski@hotmail.com

Charlize Theron

...Well, almost. I told you as much. I just wanted to thank you and your girlfriends for making me a part of the bachelorette party May 31. You gave me beads to make me feel part of the crew, and I loved hanging out with you and your friends. I had to run to catch the last T but it was worth it for the fun I had. I hope the October wedding is as awesome as you ladies were.
—Bill
nicebostonguy44@yahoo.com

Party Pooper

You were so rude to those girls at a Back Bay bar May 31. I couldn't believe that you actually said something to them about keeping the noise level down at a bar on a Saturday night with the music blaring and everyone else laughing and having fun. If you want peace and quiet when you're drinking, stay home.
—Not the buzz kill

Daedalus, Cambridge, May 31

It was upstairs. You were with two of your friends. I was with my friend. I had blond spiky hair. We exchanged smiles, and when you left you said something as you walked down the stairs. I should have followed, but sadly I did not. So now is my second chance. I mean, everyone reads the IMPROPER, right? So if you are the cute girl with the short black hair and the intoxicating gaze, please reply to me, or I will be forced to go to Daedalus all the time.
—spikeyhairdevil@hotmail.com

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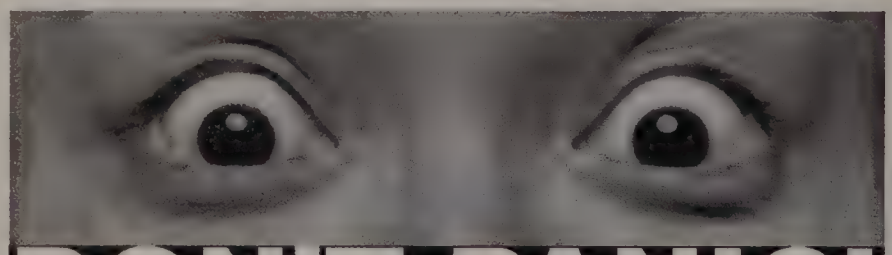

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JUNE 11 – 24, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 20

A memorable birthday for Twins who are celebrating theirs this week. Not only is the Gemini sun, by merging with benevolent Jupiter for the first time in 12 years, dispensing wisdom and wealth in great measure, but passionate Mars in your marriage house is making your heart beat faster and your hormones surge. Rollicking enthusiasm and optimism over a change in attitude or life path you're about to undergo can be infectious. However, should your partner dare think otherwise, a major battle may ensue. Be smart, don't be a smart-aleck.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Your fairy godparent/confessor/shrink might have retreated from plain sight; nonetheless, you are still under his or her protective wing. While expansive Jupiter and the Gemini sun conjunct in your reclusive twelfth house, good opportunities are gestating, waiting to be born when Jupiter enters Cancer next month. However, this week you could run into a snag at work or difficulties if you're working out. Try to keep cool when other people are losing their tempers or coming on too strong. You don't have to play their game.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Big doings—the annual merger of your sun ruler and magnanimous Jupiter—in your Gemini house of hopes, wishes and the friends who help them materialize, e.g., your social and political allies. Their meeting on Flag Day is the luckiest planetary aspect of them all. Because Gemini complements Leo so well, the air fueling the fire, there shouldn't be a problem unless you're competing with a Mars-ruled Scorpio or an Aries who isn't particularly friendly with your friends. Then emotions could reach a feverish pitch.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

This week you just might need a weather vane to know which way the wind blows. From where you sit, it may seem that your best bet is to opt for the goodies promised when the sun and generous Jupiter meet in your airy Gemini midheaven. That would be greater prestige, promotions and an opportunity to spread your influence. Or you could watch your boss or a parent succeed in their professions. However, you might just as easily be seduced by a passionate plea from home in a cause that touches your heart and sets your mind ablaze. Oh, be careful around fire.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You can avoid engaging in the mental gymnastics that your Gemini and Sagittarius friends are going through and still benefit from the results of their competition. As long as you don't travel or hang in cyberspace with either sign for any length of time, you'll be fine. Whatever happens, it's between them. The only danger comes on Flag Day when your Venus ruler lets you succumb to a pretty melody, a wonderful wine and an overactive imagination. Or to the gas fumes escaping from the stove.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

The last thing you want to hear is news of an impending confrontation, and moreover, that there's a part in the upcoming drama for you to play. Rather than "protagonist," how about settling for "line judge"? This way you can temper emotional involvement with a philosophical attitude and foresight, characteristics that come from having both of your ruling planets in Sagittarius, the sign of the Sage. The dispute, and its resolution, comes to a head when the sun and Jupiter oppose your Mars co-ruler on the 12th and 13th.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Archers born in mid-December are simultaneously cursed and blessed as your Jupiter ruler and the sun face off against provocative Mars in your sign—not to mention that they are also opposing your natal sun. Be very careful with sharp implements, machinery and fire; you don't want to hurt yourself or wind up cursing the gods. But if you need a boost of energy, these dynamic oppositions could be the ticket. The upside of this planetary picture is bountiful Jupiter embracing the Gemini sun, a marriage made in corporate/academic/athletic heaven.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Work, co-workers and health professionals like your pet's vet all fall into your sixth house of service. That's where the powerful combination of the Gemini sun and lucky Jupiter lands on your solar chart. "Bigger and better" is this duo's motto, so whether you're shelling out bucks or raking them in, expect to go beyond the usual limits you've set for yourself. Also expect more than what you usually get from others, e.g., genuine enthusiasm and a philosophical discourse.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Mid-February Aquarians are being set up to receive yet more good stuff, but not for another week. So if you're dazzled by all the attention you're getting or the excellence you're exhibiting, especially on the playing field, you ain't seen nothing yet. You will, however, have a clue once the sun and Jupiter meet in your Gemini house of fun and games, risk and romance on the 14th. From that point on, the stakes get bigger, the rewards more impressive. Until then, make a wish or two that dreams really do come true.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Read for Virgo. Your dilemma could be similar, although the specifics may vary. The goodies being promised will probably come from the family or be related to home and real estate, while the flames that ignite a passion may stem from some aspect of your work or be inspired by a client or your boss. However, gossip can be as dangerous to you as fire is to a Virgo. But because your Neptune ruler is the focus of Venus' devotion, you'll have a lots of beauty and romance in your life. Naturally, people are bound to talk.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

This could easily be the week that everything you've been working toward comes to a head. An enormous amount of positive energy is being directed to your Mars ruler from a combination of the creative sun and expansive Jupiter in Gemini. Even if you encounter some opposition in the form of constructive criticism or suggestions for a viable alternative, none of it is meant to thwart you or undermine your cause. In fact, midweek would be an excellent time to promote a project, publish your manifesto and sell your stuff.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Is this really the week you intend to ask for a raise? Because the vocal opposition between aggressive Mars and the "I see both sides of the argument" Gemini planets takes place across your financial axis, you probably should wait until the more bombastic elements of this confrontation blow over. Also, while your Venus ruler is under Neptune's spell next Thursday, your interpretation of reality is colored by faith and fantasy. Unless your relationship with your boss is based on romance or religion, you're kidding yourself. Or scamming somebody?

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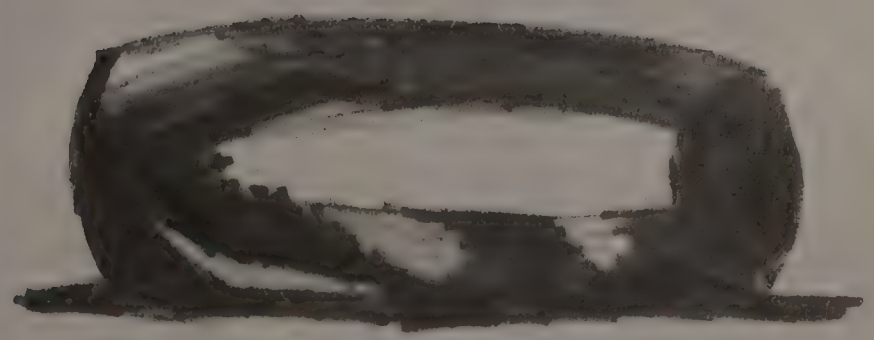

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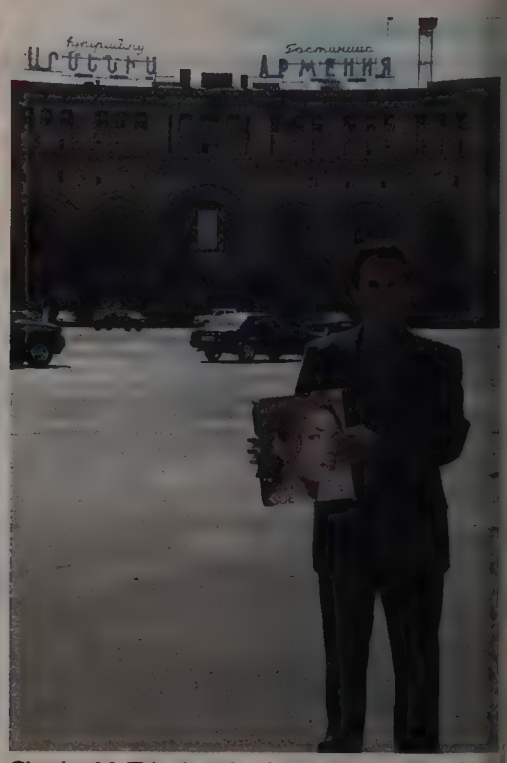
Stay tuned for the heartwarming story about how a little girl named Caroline Shinkle got lost at a concert and was raised by former members of the Eagles, Steppenwolf, the Moody Blues, Foreigner and Toto. Here they are after a reading lesson at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Dave Mastronardi, Tim Doyle, Sean Cooper, Mike Taylor, Julio Fuentes, Joe Lusardi and Joe Taylor may have set a record by bringing eight different IMPROPERS to Mardi Gras in New Orleans. They later traded in all eight issues to get Doyle some bigger beads.

Stephen Patterson indulges a bit at the Hedonism III resort in Runaway Bay, Jamaica. If this doesn't look so hedonistic, note that we cropped out the all-nude open-bar all-you-can-eat buffet.

Former U.S. treasurer Bay Buchanan, John Adams and Pat Buchanan, editor of *The American Conservative* magazine, share an IMPROPER. Wait'll David McCullough finds out about this.



Charles M. Talanian checks out the renovations in progress at his hotel in Yerevan, Armenia. It looks like there will be plenty of parking.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: Carrying a boom-box that's playing a continuous loop of the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive" at the Near-Death Pilgrimage, held in July in Las Nieves, Spain.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Wednesday, May 28, more than 300 people joined Robert Sage, President of **Sage Hotel Corporation**, to celebrate the 30th Birthday of **Bisuteki Japanese Steakhouse** at the **Radisson on the Charles Hotel**. Sage received a surprise Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Hospitality Association.

1. **Heather Aldama** and **Angela Hucles** of the Boston Breakers, and **Vanhdy Vanlathanith**, chef at Bisuteki.
2. **Keith Reed**, reporter for the *Boston Globe*, and his companion, **Tina Wallace**.
3. **Pat Moscaritolo**, president of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, and **Robert Sage**, president of Sage Hotel Corporation.

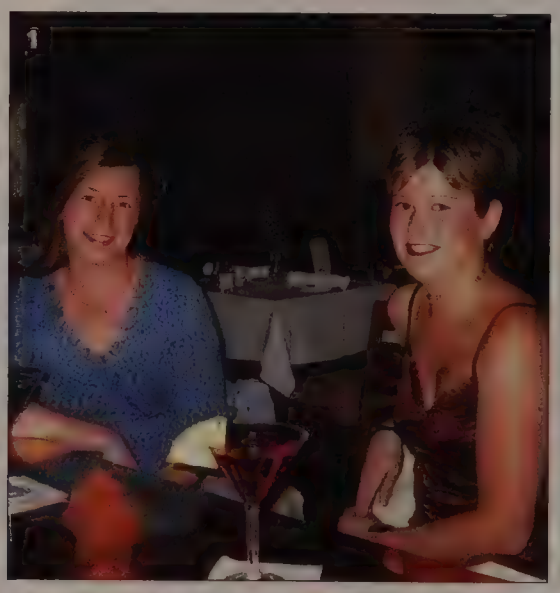
On Wednesday, May 28, **Felt** hosted the opening night party for *tick, tick... BOOM!*

1. **Paul Spyrka**, co-owner of the Club Café; **Ann Sheehan**, director of public relations for Broadway in Boston, and **Virginia Depetris**, publicity director for Felt.
2. **Chris Shine**, on-air personality for Kiss 108; **John Tobin**, Boston City Councillor; **Tony McLean**, president theatrical of Broadway in Boston, and **Susan Irizarry**, customer care specialist for L3 Communications.
3. **Wilson Cruz** and **Joey McIntyre**, actors in *tick, tick...BOOM!*, **Brian O'Donnell**, owner of Felt, and **Nicole Ruth Snelson**, actor in *tick, tick...BOOM!*

On Monday, June 2, **Jacob Wirth** hosted their 1st Annual Brew-Off, a friendly beer-brewing competition among Boston's top chefs. **The Hard Rock Cafe**'s Screamin' Ale won the competition, with the best homebrewed beer.

1. **Colleen Warren** of Fidelity Investments, **Laura Shine** of Wolf, Greenfield & Sacs, and **Sally Ardolino** of Deloitte & Touche.
2. **Phyllis Kaplowitz**, executive chef of Jacob Wirth; **Craig Lagerberg**, Brew-Off winner and executive chef at the Hard Rock Café, and **Jonny Blass**, general manager of Jacob Wirth.
3. **Nick Nigro**, semi-conductor for Oasis, and **Matt Rodrigues**, analyst for P/E Investments.

On Monday, June 2, **Devlin's** hosted a wine dinner. Executive Chef Gary Hanlon offered an internationally inspired four-course meal with wine pairings.



1. **Sheila Scanlon**, bartender at Green Briar, and **Jackie Murray**, personal care assistant.
2. **Devon Douglas**, paralegal, and **Anna Zwahlen-Tronick**, teacher at Weston Middle School.
3. **Paula Phaneuf**, media director for TCAA, Inc.; **Anthony Anastasi**, bartender at Devlin's, and **Joan Donahue**, sales agent for Century 21Citiwide.

PHOTOS: BISUTEKI, ROGER FARRINGTON; FELT, JULIE KANE; JACOB WIRTH, REGAN COMMUNICATIONS; DEVLIN'S, MIKE BURNS

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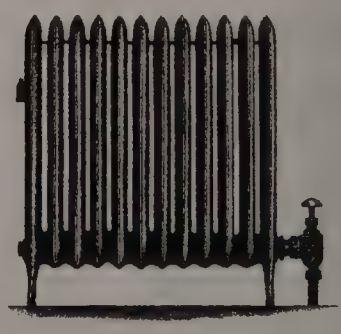

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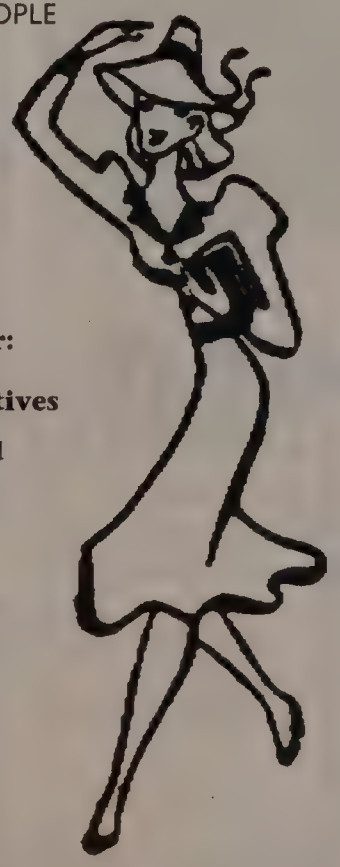

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The Black Rhino *21 Broad Street, Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Avenue, at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Framingham and Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

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Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039; 1656 Worcester Rd., Rt. 9, Framingham, 508-875-1188; and 66 Chestnut St., Needham, 781-444-9976.* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

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Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Located at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel , 34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999 and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover Street, Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

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Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

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The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston Street, Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week. For more information call 617-248-9700.

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Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad Street, Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

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The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston,617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

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The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union Street, Boston,617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

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CHEERS *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

CHEERS *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

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Jazz

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Latin

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DICK'S LAST RESORT *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Avenue, Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslastresort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

HAMPSHIRE HOUSE *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com.* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11am - 2:30pm

HARVARD GARDENS *315 Cambridge Street, Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens-.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

HENRIETTA'S TABLE *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

SUNSET GRILL & TAP *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Carmen Gala, clockwise from top: Mary and Sherif Nada; Arnold and Ellen Zetcher; Sharyn Fireman; Jossie Perez and Roger and Norma Saunders; Cassandra and Hod Irvine; Nicole and Ramsey Alsarraf.

CARMEN GET IT...

If it's Saturday, this must be the **Four Seasons**. For anyone caught up in the social swirl, that's how the month of May can feel, but the **Boston Lyric Opera** avoided the "same-old, same-old" with its annual black-tie gala, giving it a festive operatic theme.

Guests at the **Carmen Ball** came dressed as matadors, flamenco dancers, mantilla-clad widows, shady dames from Seville and even (in a rather loose interpretation) Carmen Miranda, wearing baskets of tropical fruit on their heads.

Present and accounted for: hotelier **Roger Saunders** and his gorgeous wife, **Norma** (the evening's co-chairs); fashion plate **Ellen Zetcher** and her CEO husband, **Arnold** (of Talbot's); opera stalwarts **Sherif** and **Mary Nada** and **Suki** and **Miguel de Braganza**; financial titan **Richard DeAgazio** and the stunning **Tania Zouikin**; bohemian grande dame **Linda Cabot Black**; car czar **Bob Brest**; tall drink of water **John Osbon**; opera fanatic **Leon Bechet** and his bride-to-be, **Jennifer Borum**; the maharani of good times, **Cynthia Frederick**, with the dashing **Ronald Lee Fleming**; absurdly attractive young things **Nicole** and **Ramsey Alsarraf**; and one woman sporting a diamond-encrusted breastplate that her insurance company allows her to wear only on special occasions.

Before dinner, curvaceous diva **Jossie Perez** performed the aria from *Carmen* and some lighter selections for the spellbound crowd. Among the comments overheard during the course of the evening: "There's a fine line between looking like Carmen and looking like you belong in a brothel," and the undeniable truism that "sometimes, life is stranger than opera."

However, the most welcome words came from Roger Saunders, who stepped up to the microphone and said, "My remarks will be like a lady's dress—long enough to cover the subject but short enough to sustain interest." (A bit of wisdom that every gala chair should heed.) After dessert and coffee, a sizzling flamenco band took over, and everyone appeared to have a wonderful time.

Not bad for an evening inspired by a tramp who works in a cigar factory.

A ROSALIE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

According to whoever keeps track of these things, Bostonians are a bunch of tightfisted skinflints when it comes to philanthropy, which only makes the largesse of a generous few all the more noteworthy.

Take tireless do-gooder and patron lady bountiful **Rosalie Cohen**, who gives unstintingly of both her time and energy, as well as money, to countless charities, and who serves on numerous boards of trustees, directors, overseers and whatnot. To acknowledge her contributions to the city, and to celebrate the establishment of a scholarship fund for **Project Discovery** in her name, the **FleetBoston Celebrity Series** threw a black-tie tribute dinner at the **Copley Plaza**.

Among the attendees: Rosalie's adoring husband, retired toy mogul **Bert**; publishing grand poobah **Nader Darehshori**; the soigné **Mary Kakas**; Skinner jewelry expert **Gloria Lieberman** and her handsome other half, **Larry**; the infectiously upbeat and totally lovable **Lynne** and **Gary Smith**; fashion avatar **Sharyn Fireman** and her shutterbug husband, **Murton Sudalter**; Wang CEO **Joe Spaulding** and the delightful **Joyce**; Beacon Hill doyenne **Smoki Bacon** and her inexhaustible other half, **Dick Concannon**; gardening columnist and little ray of sunshine **Hilda Morrill**; interior designer **Benn Theodore**; and Palm Beach socialite **Nancy Katz** (sporting a topaz as big as the Ritz).

At the Rosalie Cohen tribute, from left: Lynne and Gary Smith; Bert and Rosalie Cohen.

In addition to performances by members of **Ailey Camp** and the **Harlem Boys Choir**, guests were entertained by drop-dead gorgeous soprano **Karen Parks**, and then everyone danced the night away to the **Bo Winiker Orchestra**.

Among the evening's most amusing comments: "When you're surrounded by all these rich people and the dessert is even richer, you know you shouldn't eat it."

From top: the new and improved Cutler Majestic Theatre; Ted and Joan Benard-Cutler.

JOAN AND TED'S EXCELLENT NEW THEATER...

Speaking of generous benefactors, **Emerson College** hosted a cocktail party on the stage of the newly renamed and refurbished **Cutler Majestic Theater** to fete über-philanthropists **Ted** and **Joan Benard-Cutler**, who footed the lion's share of the bill for restoring the magnificent building to its original grandeur.

A veritable Who's Who was on hand to congratulate them, including their son, **Joel**, and his wife, **Randy**; real estate magnate **Douglas Krupp** and his stunning wife, **Judy**; retail titan **Stanley Berger** and the delectable **Sandy**; gorgeous new mom **Kelley Verrochi**; Boston Ballet's dashing director **Mikko Nissinen**; brunette glamazon **Susan Poduska**; fashion plate **Rita Goldman**; mega-donors in their own right **Bob** and **Ruth Remis**; and one woman who looked at the portrait of the Cutlers that was unveiled that evening and said, "If everyone was as generous as Ted and Joan, there'd be no such thing as a black-tie fund-raiser." IB

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Why this punk-cabaret duo is Boston's hottest act

the MUSIC ISSUE

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

What's the first album you ever bought? The first concert you attended? Most people who like music can answer those questions without having to think too hard, even if the events occurred decades ago. On the memorability scale, that puts the discovery of music (at least music beyond *Sesame Street* and *Schoolhouse Rock*) right up there with things like your first kiss, your first car and your first heartbreak.

Whether you're a serious scenester or an occasional concert-goer, you live in one of the nation's top cities for live music, especially rock, so opportunities to hear new sounds are all around you. (For proof, just take a look at our hefty music calendar in any given issue.)

But with so many choices, how do you narrow down the options? For four years in a row, we've been helping to build your listening list with a feature story on 10 of the city's top rock bands (see page 18). The IMPROPER's music columnist, Paul Robicheau, spent months scouring the clubs and polling music fans to select the groups from an enormous pool of candidates.

In addition to these local rock favorites, Boston is home to some nationally and internationally known musicians who've recorded with giants like Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney and Elton John and who now live, teach and play here. Get to know them in Robicheau's feature story "Taking Root in Boston" (page 25).

If what you want is simply a dose of blues, rockabilly or even Sinatra, Caitlin O'Neil's story "Variations on a Theme" (page 28) shows you where to go. Meanwhile Erin Hagedorn's "Amateur Night" (page 22) explores the DJ trend, which is quickly becoming live music's toughest competition.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

PIGS FOR PEACE

At the end of her article on the New England Barbecue Society ("Hog Heaven," June 11), Ruth Tobias writes, "Heck, if NEBS offers any indication, even world peace could be just a U.N. barbecue away."

That makes sense. Only the United Nations would attempt to broker peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians with a Carolina pig-pickin' party.

—ROBIN B. SHORE
Everett

A LOT O' GELATO

After reading your article on gelato ("A Scoop of Italy," June 11) I would like to add a South Shore location to your list: TCBY at Queen Ann's Corner in Norwell. Their gelato offerings are new and very good. My co-workers and I often return from lunch with a small treat.

—TERRY BRADY
Hull

Editor's note: *Two other TCBY locations are also serving gelato—Kingston, Mass., and Providence, R.I.*

CONTRIBUTORS

PAUL ROBICHEAU

Now in his 10th year as the IMPROPER's resident music scribe, Paul Robicheau has attended every annual WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble during that time—and several before that. And that doesn't count the nights in between that he has trained his ears and camera lens on thousands of bands, both local and international. Robicheau spent 12 years reviewing rock, jazz and world music for the *Boston Globe* and has also published his work in such outlets as *Rolling Stone, Spin, Boston Rock* and MTV/SonicNet. He plays drums and percussion when he can, and has a dog named Elvis who mostly stays home and listens to the stereo. Robicheau's contributions to this issue include two feature stories, "Taking Root in Boston," (page 25) and "10 Bands That Rock," (page 18).

CAITLIN O'NEIL

Caitlin O'Neil's nonfiction work has appeared in the *Boston Book Review, Poets & Writers* magazine and the *Cambridge Chronicle*. She also writes fiction; her stories have appeared in the *Beloit Fiction Journal, Faultline* and *Bridge Stories and Ideas*, and she has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. O'Neil lives in Cambridge and works at WGBH. Her IMPROPER debut, "Variations on a Theme," begins on page 28.

Tell Us What You Think

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Suratt**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Bridget Behling, Jamie Bellavance, Julia Hawes, Heather MacNeil, Diana McCarley, Robyn O'Reilly, Brad Perriello, Melanie Ryan**

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PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

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ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Vanessa Earl, Joanie Tobin**

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new in town

RED HOT

"Not that I'm wishing for more cold weather," says Brian Kelly, general manager of the new Red House restaurant in Harvard Square, which sports fireplaces in nearly every room, "but we're looking forward to winter. It'll probably be our biggest season." Before you rebuke Kelly for potentially cursing us with a summer as miserable as this past spring was, we should mention that business on the restaurant's patio was hopping on the night we visited—weather be damned. Locals have been flocking to this two-month-old restaurant to check out the newest venture from owner Paul Overgaag, who sold his über-popular Giannino's near the Charles Hotel last year to open the Red House—a project five years in the making.

That's right, you read correctly: *five* years. Red Tape would have been a more appropriate name, considering the arduous process Overgaag went through to get approval from Cambridge officials to convert the early-1800s-era house into a restaurant. At the end of it all, Overgaag has retained the charm of the house by leaving the original structure intact and adding only a dining room and bar in the back. When patrons walk in, they feel like they're entering an old Cambridge home, with its original floorboards, low ceilings and narrow, winding staircase. Small rooms on the first and second floors have been turned into private dining rooms, furnished with antiques that Overgaag procured himself. "It's truly a labor of love," says Kelly.

The cuisine is Mediterranean, with entrees like shellfish risotto ($17.95) and pan-roasted venison medallions ($19.95). As for the name: "People in the square have always referred to the place as the 'red house,' " says Kelly. "It just seemed fitting." *98 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-576-0605). —E.H. and J.S.*

sam says

HAIR TODAY

Hair loss is usually perceived as a male condition, yet millions of women also suffer from thinning hair. While men have been taught to deal with this problem—slowing down hair loss with products and treatments—many women feel embarrassed by the condition and have no idea where to seek help. But the DiStefano Hair Restoration Center offers a solution. Its Women's Hairloss Center is the only clinic in New England that caters specifically to women's needs.

Hair loss can result from bad nutrition, heredity, thyroid abnormalities, reaction to medication or hormonal changes. The folks at the Women's Hairloss Center can help determine the cause of the hair loss and suggest treatment options. "We offer emotional, medical and nutritional support for women who have nowhere else to turn," says Dr. Mary Wendel, a physician at the center. www.hairman.com. (888-609-4247).

—Samantha House

inner view

COMICS KING MIKE DREESE

Newbury Comics is the retail empire built by two MIT techies who started out with a comic book collection. Comics led to vinyl and vinyl led to mainstream music retailing. Twenty-five years later, those techies, Mike Dreese and John Brusger, have parlayed their funnies business into a 25-store, multimillion-dollar New England institution. Dreese recently sat down with us to talk about keeping it real for a quarter century in the record biz.

IB: *How do you keep your prices so low?*

MD: Basically, lots of volume. And most of our stores aren't as big as some of our competitors, but we have a much greater selection in a smaller space. We have one of everything, but if it sells we can replenish it within 48 hours. So it's more dollars per square foot.

IB: *What are some of the pros and cons of selling novelties and knickknacks?*

MD: Music is really easy. It's returnable to the manufacturer. When you're selling *Simpsons* action figures, if you don't sell them, you're stuck with them. Iraqi trading cards are selling right now, and they're really silly, but I guarantee that in a year no one will care. I don't know if people would buy Martha Stewart cards, but it would be neat. We think of ourselves as a cultural editor, and we offer things that we think are important in a timely manner.

IB: *Are you planning to expand?*

MD: We think we need to follow the trends of what's out there. We need a bigger store with richer content. I believe the music market will be half the size in three or four years. It depends on [technology], but we'll figure out a path that does make sense.

IB: *Do you ever consider changing the store's name since it's not really about comics anymore?*

MD: Years ago we thought of changing it to Mike and John's Records, but it allows us to be a bit of a chameleon. We've probably lost a lot of people just walking by over the years and not knowing what we were. But it was counter-culture to begin with, and I think it's good to have a little bit of a funky image.

IB: *Are there people who make Newbury Comics their second home?*

MD: Yeah, we always have more than our fair share of fanatics. They're really the people who keep you honest. They can be really annoying because they know so much more than you do, but they are very informative.

IB: *What are you listening to these days?*

MD: That's a sad tale. I can't even tell you what I'm listening to. Dirty Vegas, the new Annie Lennox record. I'm kind of a fuddy-duddy that way. Coldplay. Just random stuff. New Radiohead. All big bands. I don't have any insights into the budding under-stuff.

IB: *What is your favorite band of all time?*

MD: I would say the Gang of Four and second place is Mission of Burma.

IB: *Best and worst thing about the Boston music scene?*

MD: I think the best thing about it is it seems like it's quite vibrant. All things considered it seems like it's pretty healthy. I think the bad thing about it is it seems like it perpetually has an inferiority complex in comparison to New York or L.A. When the drinking age was 18, this town completely rocked because the club scene was driven by college kids. It's unfortunate today that people are staying at home playing violent video games instead of going to a club. *—Jessica Iredale*

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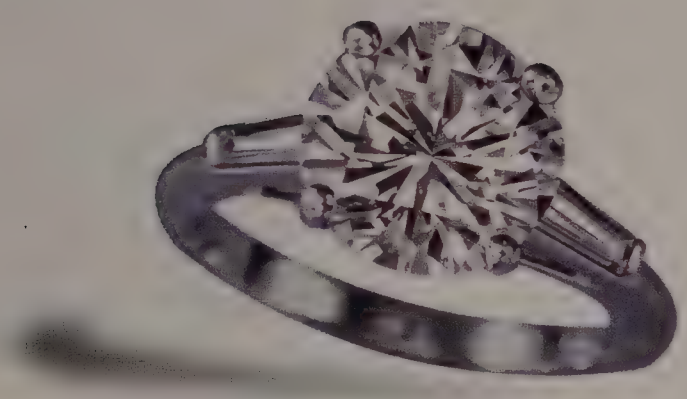

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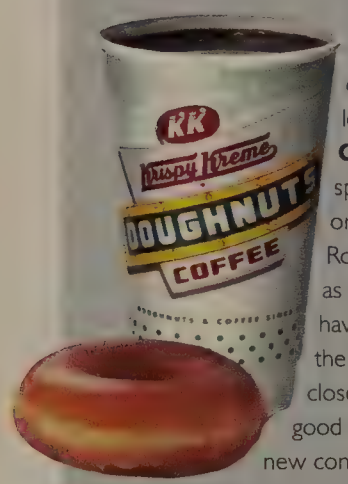
Sugar Heaven

Sweet Dreams...Newbury Street's newest shop, Sugar Heaven, is a sweet departure from its haute couture neighbors. Business partners David Sapers and Debra Novack (operating under the titles Sugar Daddy and Sugar Baby, respectively) opened their candyland dream store June 9 in the space vacated by one of Newbury's many art galleries. Novack had been itching to introduce Boston to the retro candy store concept, similar to the sweets factories of her native Toronto. "There's just nothing like this in Boston," says Novack. "This is a place where you can have 10 cents in your pocket or $10,000 and still have fun." The shop stocks almost 200 bulk items, a make-your-own-PixyStix station with 12 different flavors, 21 varieties of M&Ms (including silver and maroon), Hello Kitty candy and hard-to-find British and Canadian chocolates like Cadbury and Kinder. The shop also has a Pez wall and carries novelties such as Silly Putty and Rubik's Cube. There's even a sugar-free section and a wide variety of toothpaste and toothbrushes available for the sweet tooth with a guilty conscience. The store is open seven days a week until midnight. *218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-6969).*

Hot Stuff...Rumors that Krispy Kreme Doughnuts would be setting up shop locally have been tantalizing Bostonians for what seems like years now. Finally the wait is over. Krispy Kreme's first-ever Massachusetts store opened its doors at the break of dawn June 24 in Medford. KKD junkies can enjoy 14 varieties of doughnuts in addition to the signature hot original glazed. Just look for the sign that reads "Hot Doughnuts Now." *35 Revere Beach Parkway, Medford.*

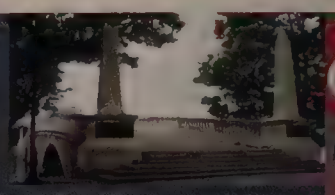


Closing Time...A series of abrupt bar/club closings has swept the city. Prime-time hot spot Limbo—the first in the series of see-and-be-seen niteries to reignite Boston's once-defunct Ladder District—closed its doors for good June 11. Co-owner Neil Robertson reports,"We did the slow wind-down over the last month, so we could do it as gracefully as possible. At some point in time, we'll all end up on a beach with a bar and have a lot better idea of how to run it." On the other side of town, lively Brighton boite the Elbow Room, which took over the legendary El Phoenix Room's digs two years ago, closed June 8. According to co-owner Doug Bacon, "It just didn't do well enough." The good news is that the owners have no intention of selling the space. Stay tuned to see their new concept for fall. And finally, Faneuil Hall's TK's Jazz Cafe went back to its roots June 16, when the owners decided to go with a good thing and make it an extension of Cheers. It reopened as sports-minded Sam's Café June 17.

New for Brew...During baseball season, Boston Beer Works' Canal Street location tends to be overshadowed by its Fenway-friendly counterpart. This year, the downtown brew depot's stock rises with the first official season of its Canal Street patio. Brewery patrons can sip their suds in the sun in the new open-air space. We recommend the watermelon ale. The crisp, cold, pale ale with natural watermelon infusions even comes with a juicy slice of melon. 112 Canal St., Boston (617-896-2337).—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

an engagement story

TV TIME



Sasha Brown received two marriage proposals last year—but only the first was real. In June, Brown's fiance Rob Worsham (a childhood friend with whom she had reconnected on a high school reunion Web site called Classmates.com) set up a scavenger hunt in Cambridge, leaving clues at some of the couple's favorite haunts. It started at Bally's in Porter Square, where Brown was handed a note that led her to Anna's Taqueria. Another note was waiting behind the counter with a T token and directions to Fire & Ice in Harvard Square. From there, she was sent to the Hong Kong. The final note directed her to the Weeks Footbridge, where Rob proposed to her.

The pair later related their story on Classmates.com. That led to a call from a producer at the ABC Family network who asked the pair to re-enact the proposal as part of a special called *Will You Marry Me?* that aired last February. In December, the couple re-created the scavenger hunt for the cameras—in six-degree weather, no less. But they did manage to make some extra cash for their trouble. And after all, how many people get to watch their proposal aired on national television? *Have an engagement story? Send it to the word@improper.com.*

improper reports

ALTERNA-4TH

If you're hoping to avoid the Harborfest crowds this year, here's a handful of alternative events ranging from the patriotic to the musical and hilarious.

*The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology explores America's native cultures and early European influences in **Charles Fletcher Loomis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896**. *11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). 9 am-5 pm.*

* **The Boston Blues Society** presents the Harper's Ferry Blues Challenge with Geezer, Rockin' George Leh, the Steve DiCecco Band and Ryan Hart and the Blue Hearts. *156 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). 9:30 pm.*

*The Boston Young Professional Association hosts a **Fourth of Jul Harbor Cruise** featuring a DJ, danc ing, appetizers and an open bar—plu a harbor view of the fireworks to boo *Mass. Bay Lines, 60 Rowes Wharf Boston (617-591-1400). 8 pm. $95.*

*The **Comedy Connection** bring Jamie Kennedy of *Malibu's Mos Wanted* fame and the WB's *Th Jamie Kennedy Experiment* to Boston *245 Quincy Market, Upper Rotunda Boston (617-248-9700). 8 and 10:1 pm. $25.*

***Top of the Hub** offers an eye level view of the fireworks, plus private dinner with martinis, cham pagne and a four-course meal. *Pru dential Tower, 800 Boylston St. Boston (617-536-1775). $175.*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Travel Made Easy...Despite our seaside locale, air travel is a necessary evil for most Bostonians looking to enjoy the open seas on a recreational cruise—Miami and New York are the normal ports of call for luxury cruise ships. But a large part of the hassle is about to be eliminated: Royal Caribbean is offering two charter cruises that depart from Boston Aug. 14 and 18. The Serenade of the Seas continues on to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Bar Harbor, Maine. Travelers will still have to endure that annoying life preserver drill, but security checkpoints, gate changes and delays can wait for your next vacation. *(888-400-8794).*

Anything but Plain..."We make coming home your greatest luxury" is the motto for the brilliantly colored, fresh-smelling new store the Urban Slipper. Former London resident Lynne McEachern sells all sorts of accouterments of lounge culture. Candles ($8-$24), slippers ($20), Egyptian

cotton towels ($40), thermoses ($12-15) and comfy, chic lounge wear like knit tops and fleece pants ($15-$35) are some of the many products you will find there. *48 South St., Jamaica Plain (617-971-0870).* www.theurbanslipper.com.

Burn with Designer...For most of us simple folk, the only hope for owning the couture creations of House of Dior designer John Galliano is to bid on an "authentic, like new" Dior piece on eBay. Those who are dying to nab a piece of the designer darling's line for a more reasonable price can head to tony Newbury parfumeur Diptyque and pony up $50 for the new Essence of John Galliano candle. What exactly does Dior's chief designer smell like? "Wild and woody, tinted with hints of iris, crowned with a touch of vanilla musk," reads the description. Interesting. The candle launched June 13 and is available exclusively at the Boston store, Barneys and eluxury.com until its nationwide launch Sept. 1. *123 Newbury St., Boston (617-351-2430).*

Style File...Also new on Newbury is Elle Style. The women's clothing boutique opened May 16 in Daniello Shoes' former digs. Co-owner Rachel Li decided to take a break from her career as a software engineer and get in touch with her fashionable side. Tired of the "same old same old from boutique to boutique" in Boston, Li works hard to get exclusives with L.A. designers like Rock & Republic, young Hollywood's flavor of the week. "It's clothes for the young, modern working woman—20-somethings and older, but definitely not teens," says Li. *224 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9922).*

Art for the Masses...Boston's art scene can be a little intimidating for the average Joe. Newbury's bevy of galleries caters to the sophisticate, while the South End borders on avant-garde and Somerville is, well, quirky. Kate Ledogar, veteran curator from the Brookline Arts Center, Out of the Blue Gallery and the Weston Gallery, is determined to bring art to the general public with her new Somerville showroom, the 108 Gallery. "I see a real need for events that take place at Fort Point or in artist-run spaces to get to a bigger audience," she says. Ledogar hopes the gallery's debut show—Elaine Belsito's exhibition *If You Lost Five Pounds You'd Be Perfect*, which features a woman trying to fit into tight clothing and is performed in the front window—will draw a crowd of passersby. *108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833).*

Sound Bytes...Boston-based musicians no longer need to schlep their band members, families and equipment to New York, L.A. or Nashville and camp out in hotel rooms while recording albums and demos. Veteran engineers Pete Peloquin and Todd Harris opened Boston Skyline Studios, the latest in state-of-the-art recording, in late May. The new facility, which boasts a model 4064 G+ 56-channel SSL console and a 96-channel Yamaha DM 2000 console, among many other hi-tech devices, awarded free recording time to WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble winners the Dresden Dolls. (617-451-7717) www.bostonskylinestudios.com. —*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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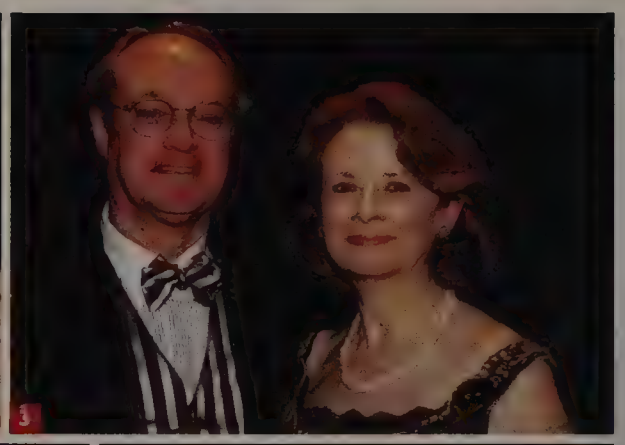
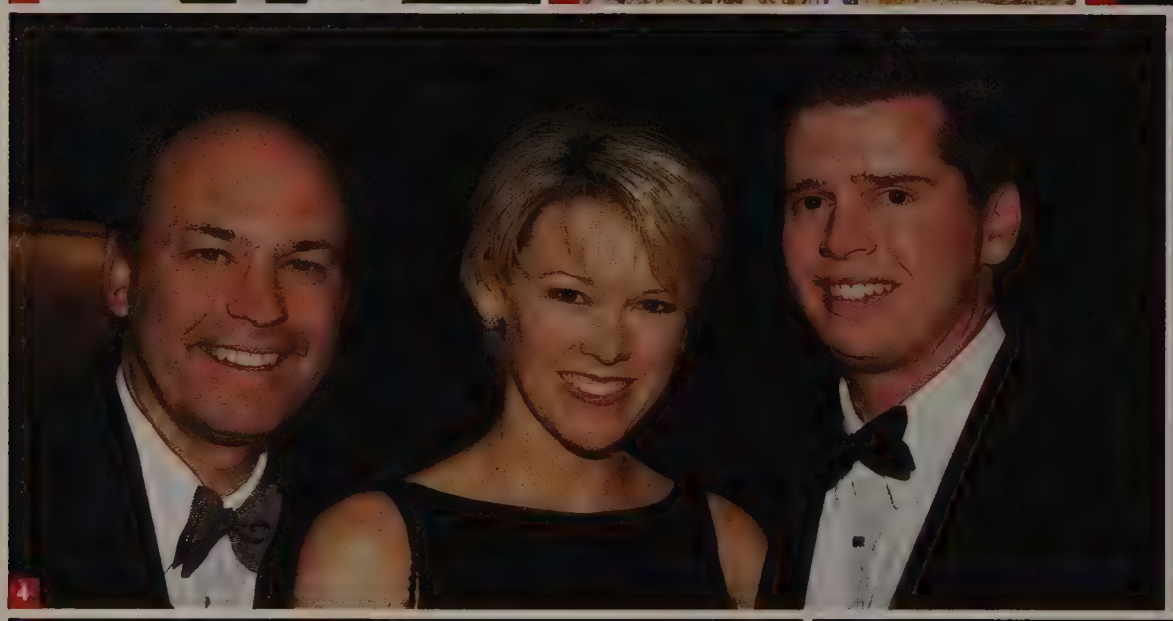
PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY MARGARET BRAFT



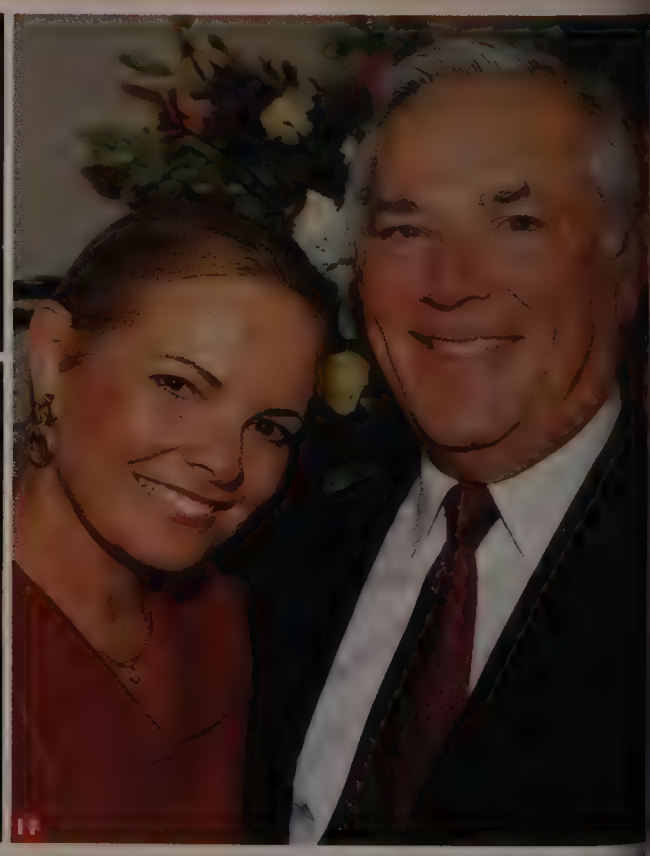
The **Boston Medical Center's Gala 2003** was held June 7 at the World Trade Center. More than 11,000 friends of the BMC gathered for the evening, which included a reception, dinner and live and silent auctions. The event raised over $1.25 million.

1. **Dr. Stephen DuLong**, associate dean for clinical services for Boston University Dental School, and his wife, **Martha**.
2. **Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond**, pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and his wife, **Gloria White-Hammond**.
3. **Marshall Carter**, chairman of the board of trustees of the BMC, and his wife, **Missy**.
4. From left: **Harvey Leonard** and **Heather Unruh**, co-chief meteorologist and news anchor, respectively, for WCVB-TV Channel 5, and **Nick Little**, project manager for Suffolk Construction Inc.
5. **Cynthia Thomas**, freelance writer, and **Caleb Solomon**, assistant managing editor at the *Boston Globe*.
6. From left: **Nick Thermenos** and **Irene Money**, services executive and field marketing manager, respectively, for Microsoft in Waltham, and **John Money**, owner of Siteplug-in in Cambridge.
7. From left: **Valerie Murphy**, **James Canavan** and **Meg Grande**; nurse manager, director of human resources operations and nurse educator, respectively, at the BMC.



Presidents at Pops 2003 was held June 4 at Symphony Hall. More than 2,000 CEOs, presidents and executives from more than 100 New England–based companies gathered with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra. The evening's highlights were performances by Broadway star Linda Eder and pianist Michael Chertock. More than $800,000 was raised to benefit the Boston Symphony Orchestra's youth and community outreach programs.

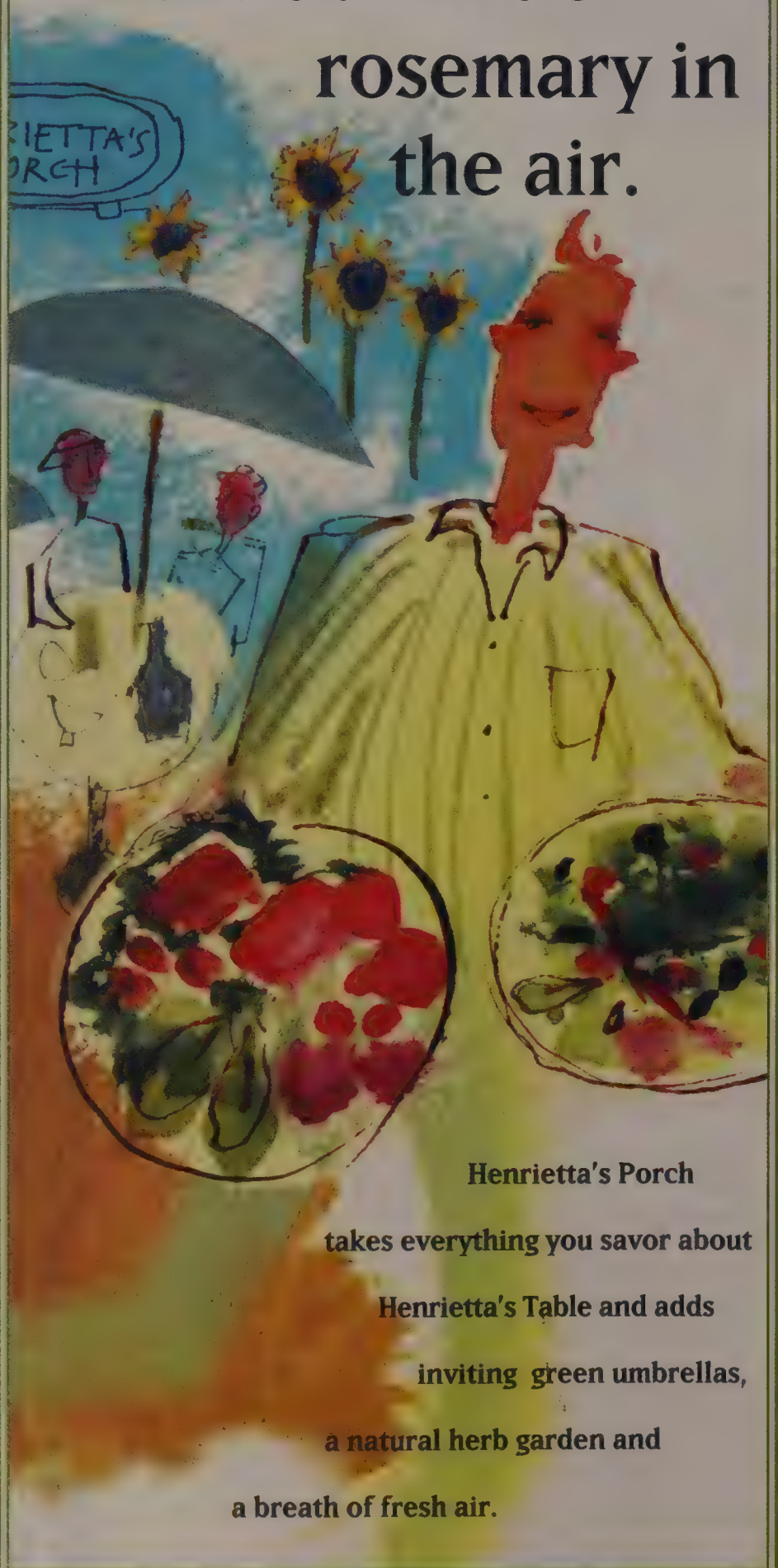
8. From left: **Tom Hynes**, president of Meredith & Grew Inc., **Jane Holt**, president of the National Pancreas Foundation (Boston Chapter), and her husband, **Tom**, senior partner of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLC.
9. **John Fish** (left), president & CEO of Suffolk Construction Inc., and **Bob Popeo**, chairman & president of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo P.C.
10. From left: **Mark Volpe**, BSO managing director, and **Maureen Purcell** and her husband, **Pat**, publisher of the *Boston Herald*.
11. **Dixie Whatley**, former entertainment reporter, and her fiancé, **Brooke Cobb**, investor.



ANNO 1366.

HENRIETTA'S TABLE
FRESH & HONEST

There's a hint of rosemary in the air.



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BY EZRA DYER, MOSTLY

JUST TRUST ME

The newspapers don't lie. Oh, wait. Yes they do.

Many of you may be aware of the recent scandals that have cast a pall on the profession of journalism. Jayson Blair of the *New York Times* was found to have made up facts and plagiarized stories from other reporters. Rick Bragg, also of the *Times*, may not have credited interns and stringers for research. Robin Gregg of the *New York Post* admitted to plagiarizing a story from the *National Enquirer* on Wal-Mart's decision to stop selling Kathie Lee Gifford's line of sportswear. And if you can't trust a journalist to give you an honest story about Kathie Lee Gifford's sportswear at Wal-Mart, how can you trust us when we tell you that Jennifer Lopez may or may not have buttock implants? I can't speak for my colleagues, many of whom are busy this time of year molting, but you will never find any such despicable shenanigans in this column.

As I gaze out across the canopy of the banyan forest that surrounds my treetop geodesic dome in Beacon Hill, I wonder how it came to this. I suppose it's because we, as reporters, are so eager to please our readers that sometimes we take things too far. We want you to find our articles interesting and compelling, and while that's no excuse for falsehoods and plagiarism, you've got to understand that this is a very stressful profession. Producing a timely story on a tight deadline is not an easy, straightforward task, like performing emergency room surgery to reattach someone's arm after a thresher mishap. Even for world-class wordsmiths like me there are gray areas—gray areas that can become fuzzy and foggy, like a piece of lint in some fog.

Because I believe in being completely honest, I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify a few questions that have arisen over the years. After all, I have nothing to hide.

For starters, my June 1997 article entitled "I Fact-Check Copy All Day for This Band of Morons and I Don't Get Paid a Cent for It" should have been credited to an intern. As the *Times*' Bragg has pointed out, journalists often use research from stringers and interns without providing credit. In my case, however, the intern wrote the entire article except for the byline, which I typed in myself. Again, I cite this example only to show that I am on the up-and-up.

It has also been suggested that I plagiarized portions of my serial novel published on these pages from the years 1983 to 1999. Specifically, jealous critics have accused me of stealing that work's main character, plot, setting, text and other minor details from some obscure old novel. To imply that my wondrous tale of an enig matic millionaire named Gatsby is culle from another source is ludicrous. Coinci dentally, my Gatsby does bear some resem blance to a character in a story by one Scott Fitzgerald, but in my novel Gatsb drives a black Duesenberg, whereas Fitzger ald's Gatsby drives a yellow Rolls-Royc This is just one of many important differ ences. If you accept the fact that there ar no completely original ideas and no write can have read everything that has eve been published, how is one supposed t avoid composing a piece that inadver tently shares a few similarities with a previ ously published work? It really makes m wonder whether 'tis nobler in the mind t suffer the slings and arrows of outrageou fortune, or to take arms against a sea o troubles, and by opposing, end them. S please believe me when I say that I wi never plagiarize another writer's work.

I'd also like to add that in the future I wi double-check my sources to make sure the

IT WAS PERHAPS ILL-ADVISED TO WRITE AS I DID IN OUR LAST ISSUE, THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN'S MUSTACHE HAD BEEN FOUND AMONGST SOME RUBBLE IN BAGHDAD

exist. And it was perhaps ill-advised t write, as I did in our last issue, that Saddam Hussein's mustache had been foun amongst some rubble in Baghdad. Like th accompanying sidebar on terrorists plan ning to crop-dust major cities with LSD that item should have been double checked. My wire service, the *Weekly Worl News*, refused to divulge its sources on th above stories, which is understandable give the sensitive nature of the information. know it's easy for readers to harbor skepti cism when even the *New York Times* is unde fire for factual errors, but I place my unwa vering faith in the publication that brok the story when Satan escaped from Hell.

Your faith in the media might be shaken right now. All I can do is pledge that I wil continue to tell the truth, especially if m employers make me take another poly graph test. iB

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Soroff ON

HERSHEY FELDER

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Actor, playwright, composer and concert pianist Hershey Felder, 34, was born and raised in Montreal and received a music degree from McGill University before honing his craft internationally. As a concert performer, he has appeared in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Poland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Israel. His original written compositions include the operatic musicals *Fairytale* and *Noah's Ark*, and *Aliyah*, a concerto for piano and orchestra, and his stage credits include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Schlemiel I*, *Lies My Father Told Me*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The King and I*. Currently a visiting scholar in residence at Harvard, he has staged his one-man show, *George Gershwin Alone*, at the American Repertory Theatre, as well as Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre and Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. The only artist since Gershwin's death to gain permission to play the composer in a major stage production, Felder will reprise the show at the ART from July 5–26. From August 1–17, he appears at the ART (opposite Stephanie Zimbalist and Anthony Crivello) in the world premiere of *Romantique*, a play about the love affair between George Sand and Frederic Chopin. Felder lives in Cambridge with his wife, Kim Campbell, who served as Canada's first female prime minister.

Jonathan Soroff: *I love New York in June, how 'bout you?*

Hershey Felder: I do, but only until the pavement gets sticky.

JS: *State of the American theater?*

HF: Questionable. Considering that I'm Canadian, I'm giving you an outsider's view, but in general, I think the economics of New York means fewer risks are taken. There's too much money involved.

JS: *So the cost of mounting a show makes them less adventurous artistically?*

HF: Well, I think that making new theater, the experiments that went on in the '50s, '60s and '70s aren't happening now in New York, because I don't think people can afford it. With film, it's so easy to get an incredible spectacle for 10 bucks. It's a lot harder to ask someone to spend $100. You gotta serve up a whole lotta new for that.

JS: *Was* George Gershwin Alone *expensive to mount?*

HF: In Florida or Boston, it cost $30,000-$40,000 a week. On Broadway, it cost $120,000 a week. So the difference is enormous, by a factor of three or four, to pay for things like New York advertising.

JS: *Do you perform only on Steinways?*

HF: Yes. It's contractual, as well as being something my heart desires.

JS: *Greatest moment onstage?*

HF: Broadway. 2001. I'm standing onstage at the Helen Hayes Theatre. Basically, the front row is right underneath my nostrils, looking straight up my nose. I look down, and there's this little old lady looking up at me through a pair of binoculars. She's literally a foot-and-a-half away. As much as I think I have stagecraft, I was pissing myself for the next hour and a half.

JS: *Most embarrassing moment performing?*

HF: When I was 15, I had two disasters while doing successive plays. In one, I was supposed to leap off a ramp, and on opening night my shoe got caught in the set and pulled it down behind me. I'm thinking, "I want to die." Two months later, I was playing a shopkeeper, and there was this window blind I was supposed to pull down. I do it once; it snaps back up. I do it twice; it snaps back up. The third time, I yanked it so hard it wouldn't snap back, and at the end of the scene, it was supposed to go back up. Instead, I just ripped the f--king thing off its hinges, looked at the audience and said, "We're open 24 hours."

JS: *Where did the Gershwin fascination come from?*

HF: I didn't start out as a Gershwin fanatic. I started in classical music. I became fascinated with Gershwin when I did some work for Steven Spielberg's Shoah project, interviewing Auschwitz survivors. There was a guy I met who used to whistle "Rhapsody in Blue" for the SS, and it saved his life. It's an amazing, amazing story. He was Mengele's errand boy, and whistling Gershwin kept him alive.

JS: *That was the genesis for the show?*

HF: Not really. I did a performance in L.A. that recounted that particular story, and as soon as the review ran in the *L.A. Times*, I got a cease and desist order from the Gershwin estate. So I tried to get permission from them. Eventually, I met Adam Gershwin, and he and I became friends. In fact, I hosted the *bris* for his son, Noah, in my house, and I played the baby's first "Rhapsody in Blue" for him, with two other generations of the family there. It was so cool.

JS: *And I assume, given [the show's] financial success, that the Gershwin estate is pleased.*

HF: Noah's wearing designer clothes.

JS: *How do you stay interested in a character for 1,200 performances?*

HF: The difficulty and complexity involved in making it look natural every night is so huge that it's a constant challenge.

JS: *In your new show, Stephanie Zimbalist plays George Sand. Were you a* Remington Steele *fan?*

HF: Oh, yeah. I had the hots for her when was a kid. I went to summer camp with cousin of hers, and I was like, "Oh, I'm on step closer to Stephanie Zimbalist!"

JS: *Worst place you ever performed?*

HF: The natural history museum in Ne York, with those f--king elephants and th saber-tooth tiger staring up at me. You play a note and by the time it got to th back of the hall it was two days later. It wa sheer torture.

JS: *What about Ford's Theatre? Was it creepy looking up every night at the box wher Lincoln was assassinated?*

HF: Creepy but remarkable. Of course, th first thing I did in rehearsal was go into th box. There's the sofa, and there's an en graving of Washington that supposedly ha blood on it. All the ghosts are there. Yo

THE DIFFICULTY AND COMPLEXITY INVOLVED IN MAKING [YOUR CHARACTER] LOOK NATURAL EVERY NIGHT IS SO HUGE THAT IT'S A CONSTANT CHALLENGE

just see Booth jumping out, getting his spu caught on the flag. It's just incredible.

JS: *Favorite Yiddish expression or word?*

HF: *Ongepatshket*. It means something ver involved or ornate. Then there are th English words that sound Yiddish—lik far-fetched, far-flung.

JS: *Your wife was prime minister of Canada. Kind of an interesting thing for the ol' resume?*

HF: Especially since she's the only woma ever to have it on hers.

JS: *So does she call the shots around here?*

HF: Oddly enough, no. She's the most ama ing person I know. She plays the cello. Sh knows every note of every opera. We don have a dictionary in the house, because all have to do is ask her. Her mind is incredibl She made law on abortion, on gays in th workplace, gay marriage, gun control. B I'm not one of those political spouses wh goes on and on about the state of the wor just because I'm married to somebody.

JS: *What's the best perk of being married to a former head of state?*

HF: In Los Angeles, we had consular plate Consular license plates are where it's at.

JS: *So in Canada, do you get mobbed?*

HF: Oh, she can't go two inches witho someone whispering, "That's Kim Camp bell," or wanting to come up and talk t her. But I hide from that completely.

JS: *Last question. Finish this rhyme: Roses are red, violets are blue, Hershey Felder's a performer...*

HF: [Chuckles] Who's a very proud Jew

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10 bands that rock

OUR ANNUAL ROUNDUP OF ROCKERS ON A ROLL

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Given the ever-morphing matrix of sounds and characters in the Boston rock community, it's neither possible, nor fair, to rank the scene's "best" bands. Still, after many nights of checking out bands in bars and clubs (including WBCN's recent 25th annual Rock 'n' Roll Rumble), listening to countless CDs and comparing notes with local scenesters, we have determined that these 10 rock outfits are currently among Boston's most distinctive.

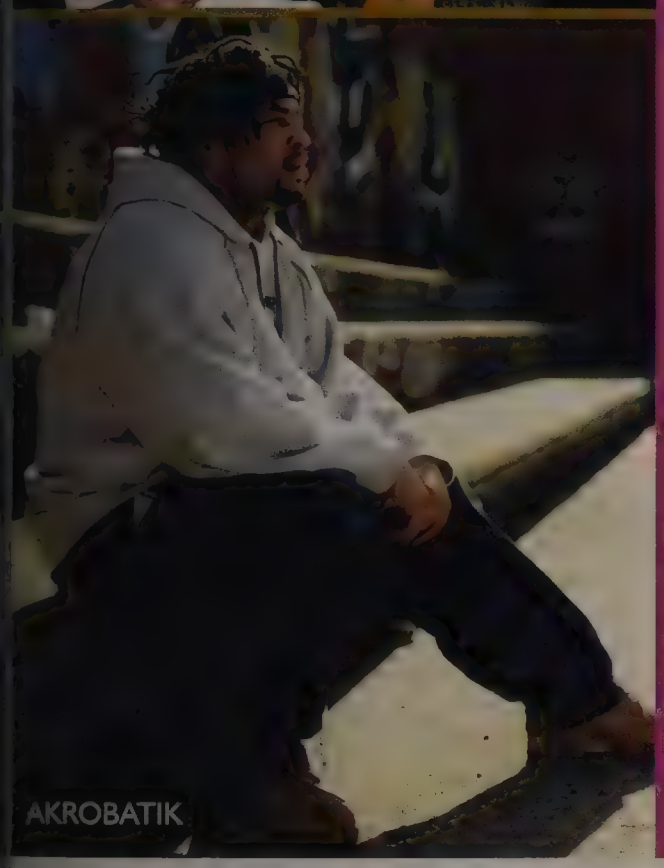
the dresden DOLLS

A punk-cabaret duo in whiteface may have seemed like a long shot to win this year's WBCN Rumble. But anyone who caught the Dresden Dolls' dramatic, sophisticated sets at the Middle East recently witnessed a dynamic blend of concept and talent that suggested a darker Tori Amos on a Kurt Weill bender.

"I've been amazed at the spectrum of people who are into us," says singer-pianist Amanda Palmer, a onetime Cure fan who formed the band in 2000 with drummer Brian Viglione, a sympathetic foil whose tastes ran to free jazz and hardcore. "I come from the performance-art world, so we were doing a lot of gigs in people's lofts and galleries," she says.

Although Palmer used to wear a wedding dress while posing as a "living statue" in Harvard Square, she says she used to be "very anti-costume" when performing music. "When I played solo before I met Brian, I would never wear makeup. I thought it was pretentious and affected," says Palmer. "If people were coming to see my songs, they would get the raw deal." Audiences still get the raw deal, even if the duo is dolled up cabaret-style (she in garters, he in a bowler hat) and occasionally expands to a quartet with guitar and bass, both live and on an upcoming (as yet untitled) CD produced by Martin Bisi (Swans, Sonic Youth). "The beautiful thing about the piano is you can basically do everything with it," Palmer says. "You can play it lower than a bass, play percussive high stuff or mimic an entire orchestra."

The Dresden Dolls play the Middle East Downstairs July 1.



apollo SUNSHINE

Apollo Sunshine tends to radiate confusion. For starters, the mischievous rock trio juxtaposes an unlikely combination of Beatlesque harmonies, pedal-steel tonalities and keyboard thrashings. And during the WBCN Rumble, the wild-card finalists indulged in such gambits over their three nights as handing out gum for fans to chew in rhythm with the music, live video, a baton twirler, Dixieland horns and synchronized, strobe-lit dance moves.

"Bands pigeonhole themselves into some classification or genre where any song they write, they have to make it sound like that, and we went, 'Screw that; let's do anything we want,'" says singer-bassist-keyboardist Jesse Gallagher. "But we still want to make it accessible. "We're pretty normal guys. We really just consciously try to do some fun things."

Gallagher, who sports a '70s-style haircut and mustache, admits to such obvious models as the Beatles and the Flaming Lips. But the trio also digs jazz, metal and, in guitarist Sam Cohen's case, rockabilly. Drummer and John Bonham disciple Jeremy Black's favorite album is the Beach Boys' Pet Sounds. The young trio, who viewed themselves as outcasts when they attended Berklee College of Music, retreated to upstate New York for the summer of 2002 to record their pop symphonies in Black's parents' barn. The band's debut CD, *Katonah*, is out soon on SpinArt.

Apollo Sunshine plays the Paradise Rock Club June 28.

twinemen

Twinemen drummer Billy Conway recalls one night when a club sound engineer asked, "Have you guys ever heard of a band called Morphine?" The irony, of course, was that Conway and Twinemen saxophonist Dana Colley were two-thirds of Morphine, giving moody counterpoint to the voice of the late Mark Sandman.

TWINEMEN

"When Dana and I play music together, that's what we sound like," says Conway from the New Hampshire home he shares with singer Laurie Sargent, the third principal in the sparse, evocative group that adopted its name from an unpublished cartoon Sandman created about a ball of twine with three heads.

"The concept of Twinemen fits beautifully," Sargent says. "'Cause we can't cut the thread of what our past is, nor should we."

The trio wasn't even supposed to be a band when they started recording at High-N-Dry, the Inman Square studio they inherited from Sandman. "There were no expectations," Sargent says of the organically built songs that became the Twinemen's debut CD. Adds Conway: "The only kind of m.o. we had was to try and make music that's hard to describe."

The Twinemen's music is more jazzy, atmospheric and experimental than Morphine's. All three sang and played some guitar on the CD, Colley played piano, and various friends chipped in along the way (bassist Andrew Mazzone also regularly helps out onstage).

"It's a little bit like a piece of clay, where we put our hands on it together and singularly," Conway says. "It's made touring so much fun, because the songs are still growing."

akrobatik

Dorchester-bred rapper Akrobatik made sure he had his bases covered when he made his new full-length debut, *Balance*, a broad, confident effort that bridges social commentary and braggadocio, slick textures and cracking beats.

"I'm getting a lot older and trying to get wiser," says 29-year-old Akrobatik (born Jared Bridgeman), who made his first splash with the single "Internet MCs" in 1999. "I just wanted to give people a full idea of what I'm about."

Akrobatik's rhythm is both blunt and fluid as he rides varied tracks from producers including DJ Fakts and Edan, trades off with Mr. Lif in "Wreck Dem" and honors African-American history in the jazzy "Remind My Soul," citing "the time we were great, before the self-hate."

"I want to make music that doesn't go too far out of the comfort zone of people, but I do want to challenge them," says Akrobatik, whose inspirations include A Tribe Called Quest, KRS-One and LL Cool J. "It's always a point of mine to analyze the actions of people, government, myself."

helicopter HELICOPTER

Many Boston bands say they tour, but few spend as much time in the van as Helicopter Helicopter, which recently put out its fourth CD, *Wild Dogs with X-Ray Eyes*.

"We're on an indie label, so this is the way we promote ourselves," says singer-guitarist Chris Zerby. It helps that the quartet's new label, Kentucky-based Initial Records, gives Helicopter Helicopter a broader launchpad for distribution than the group's previous home, Boston's Lunch label.

Chalk it up to evolution for the five-year-old band fronted by Zerby and Julie Chadwick, whose overlapping vocals and guitar parts give the group its distinctive sound, rounded out by bassist Shawn Setaro and new drummer Dave Foy. And Helicopter Helicopter's shift into darker but more polished pop terrain hasn't negated the occasionally edgy accent.

"We have a lot of weapons in our bag and try to use them sparingly," says Zerby, a former punk rocker who is also a short-story writer with a master's degree in creative writing. "I have stuff in stories where lines pop up in the songs and vice versa. It definitely blends into each other."

the DOWNBEAT 5

Singer-guitarist Jen Rassler calls the Downbeat 5 "just a bunch of hacks playing together and getting in the groove." But that groove has grown more powerful, even landing the saucy garage-punk stompers in the WBCN Rumble semifinals.

With inspirations ranging from '60s girl groups to '70s New York punk, the Downbeat 5 were born when guitarist JJ Rassler urged his wife to pursue music, and they recognized the potential they'd have if they played together. "It clicked immediately," says Jen, and while the couple has since separated, the musical spark remains. "We still obviously have a serious, dynamic relationship."

JJ, who pioneered Boston's rock underground with DMZ, the Odds and the Queers, adds, "I've had a couple of partners in the past who were worthwhile, and this is heads-and-tails above those."

The best evidence is the song "My Way," driven by drummer Dan McCarthy and bassist Mike Yocco in the classic "Boston beat" style of the Modern Lovers and the

Nervous Eaters. One of many raw tunes on the band's debut for the Sympathy for the Record Industry label (former home of the White Stripes), it focuses the attitude in Jen Rassler's edge-of-scream vocals.

"That's how I get into it," she says. Adds JJ: "Some of my solos are a knee-jerk reaction to her screaming in my ear."

The Downbeat 5 play the Abbey Lounge July 11.

consonant

When singer-bassist Clint Conley first picked up a guitar and returned to music with his new group, Consonant, it was overshadowed by the reunion of his legendary post-punk band Mission of Burma after a two-decade hiatus.

Consonant's debut CD also had the tentativeness of conception and execution that one finds in a band that hits the studio before the stage. It'll be a different story in August when Consonant releases its second CD—a more realized effort that gracefully shifts from crunching chords to ethereal space, variously evoking '60s psychedelic rock, shoe-gazer guitar washes and strummed indie rock.

"That we're biting into the music harder is apparent," says Conley, whose bandmates are guitarist Chris Brokaw (Come), drummer Matt Kadane (Bedhead) and bassist Winston Braman, an alumnus of Fuzzy who also plays in the primal upstarts the Count Me Outs. "The first time, we were just feeling each other out. Now we're having more collaboration."

The same went for the lyrics, written by poet Holly Anderson. "The first record, I took poems that I bent and hammered into a template," Conley says. "This time there was more back-and-forth." And the same might be said for Burma, which has developed new songs and still plays sporadically. "The Burma [reunion] shows were a very confidence-inspiring, powerful experience," he says. "We probably play better now than in the old days."

jake brennan & THE CONFIDENCE MEN

Jake Brennan recorded his new single, "Believe Me," plus 40 more songs aimed at a full-length CD due for release in the fall, during a spirited three-night party at producer Paul Kolderie's new Cambridge studio, at the former home of Fort Apache Studios.

"We wanted the chaos factor to keep it energized and hungry, and not get studio-ized," Brennan says of sessions in which local luminaries like the Gentlemen's Mike Gent and members of Either/Orchestra took the stage. "It also keeps you inspired, because you don't want to sit on the sidelines."

Brennan didn't sit too long on the sidelines after quitting the hardcore punk band Cast Iron Hike to write music with a more classic flavor, much like his musician father, Dennis."I wouldn't call it 'roots' because that has a geriatric, old-fogy image," says 25-year-old Brennan, "and there's nothing boring or lame about Chuck Berry, Tom Petty or Bruce Springsteen."

Brennan's new CD includes raving takes of Berry's "I Want to Be Your Driver," and his own "Skinny Legs and All," but it also delivers tender tunes tinged with pedal steel from Steve Malone of his band the Confidence Men. "We didn't leave the studio," adds Brennan. "We locked ourselves in."

Jake Brennan & the Confidence Men play the Beachcomber in Wellfleet July 3.

heavy STUD

Meredith Byam and Melissa Gibbs were into softball and music as childhood friends in Lakeville, Mass. But it was music that had won them over by the time they settled in Boston for college.

"We lived in a basement, and we were down there listening to the Beatles nonstop," says Gibbs, now 29. And when they saw Elastica play Axis in 1995, they decided to start a band. Two years later, while working at Fort Apache Studios, they got to sing on Morphine's *Like Swimming* CD. But starting their own band proved tougher when it came to drafting a rhythm section.

Today, with Star Ghost Dog alumni Owen Burkett on bass and Chris Foley on drums, Byam and Gibbs are finally on track, playing sandblasted pop on vintage guitars in Heavy Stud, which is named after an Ampeg guitar brand.

A favorite at the Abbey Lounge, the quartet is about to release its full-length debut *Connection Rejection* next month and had four of its songs placed on the WB teen soap opera *Dawson's Creek*. "Over the Top" was even aired in two separate episodes. "It was a party scene the first time they used that song," Gibbs says. "The next time, some girl was carted away to rehab."

Heavy Stud plays the Abbey Lounge July 19.

chauncey

When he played keyboards for rising Boston rocker Bleu, John Paul Powell missed opening some big shows for John Mayer so he could play a local club with his own band, Chauncey. "It's my baby, whereas Bleu was a lot of fun," Powell says of his pop-rock quintet, which takes its name from Peter Sellers' character in the film *Being There*. "For anyone who's trying to play music, you have to be totally into it."

Not that Chauncey has missed out on the fun over the past three years. While the band solidified its membership, it played dates with Midnight Oil, and it's currently recording its second CD with producer Steve Albini (Nirvana, Pixies). "It sounds like us at a gig," Powell says of the sessions. "It's like photorealistic. He makes very dynamic records."

Realism also plays to the human dynamics in Chauncey's music. "There's always been a hint of humor in what we do," says Powell, who cites classic models like the Beatles and Pink Floyd. "And it's weird—cause a lot of our songs are melancholy and melodramatic." IB

Chauncey plays the Lizard Lounge July 29.

DOWNBEAT 5 AND HEAVY STUD: STEVEN D'ORIO

INSTANT GRATIFICATION

On-the-spot recordings let fans relive the night's music on the way home from the show

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Ken James bought a live disc of a recent Kay Hanley performance at the Paradise only 15 minutes after Hanley left the club's stage. But as he got the singer to autograph the CD, he explained that he had actually been waiting 15 years for this moment.

"I remember talking about this to friends in high school," James, now 35, says of the idea. "I've been bootlegging concerts forever. Now I don't have to, and I can walk away with a CD."

James' 15-year fantasy has come true for many rock fans at the Paradise recently, and it's a trend slated to spread to other clubs and larger venues—in Boston and beyond. The vehicle: a new Clear Channel service called Instant Live.

The idea came from attorney Steve Simon, an executive vice president for music at Clear Channel who knew that legal seminars and church services were already selling instant CDs of the proceedings. So, he figured, why not concerts?

"I'd much rather see a candid photo than a posed photo, and I'd much rather hear a live recording than something that's contrived in the studio," says Simon. He's overseen the service for several Paradise shows since last fall, with such acts as the Samples and the Boston bands Hybrasil and Spookie Daly Pride.

As Simon laid the groundwork for Instant Live, he became aware of bands, like Pearl Jam and Phish, that were making current recordings of their concerts available to fans on fairly quick turnaround, either in stores or via the Internet.

However, he says, "No one did it contemporaneously. If we could do it sooner, we could do it better. It's 'turnkey,' on-the-spot immediate gratification. It's another thing to have it in your hand and in your car CD player on the way home from the show."

Instant Live records artists from the soundboard on digital equipment, then burns CDs on multiple computer drives. The process usually takes several minutes, enabling fans to buy discs—in simply designed jewel cases—on their way out the door.

Hanley, who played only a 35-minute set supporting Suzanne Vega (who opted not to use Instant Live), charged $10 per CD. But most artists charge $15 for a longer, two-disc set, with profits split 50-50 between the act and Clear Channel. Hanley sold 57 copies of her disc, which is slated to join other Instant Live titles at local Best Buy stores. (Some titles are available through individual bands' Web sites.)

"I want to look for the nefarious side to it, and I'm waiting for people to start bitching," says Hanley, who recorded an acoustic-based set with husband Michael Eisenstein, her former bandmate in Boston favorites Letters to Cleo, on keyboards and second guitar. "But it seems like a good idea."

Hanley's manager, Michael Creamer, adds, "Kay hasn't really been touring because of their kids, so it gives people an idea of what she sounds like live if they're not in New England. If this gets them excited, that's good."

Simon says the actual recordings cost less than $500 to make, and the business model works because Clear Channel is also the promoter that controls the venue, removing potential extra costs.

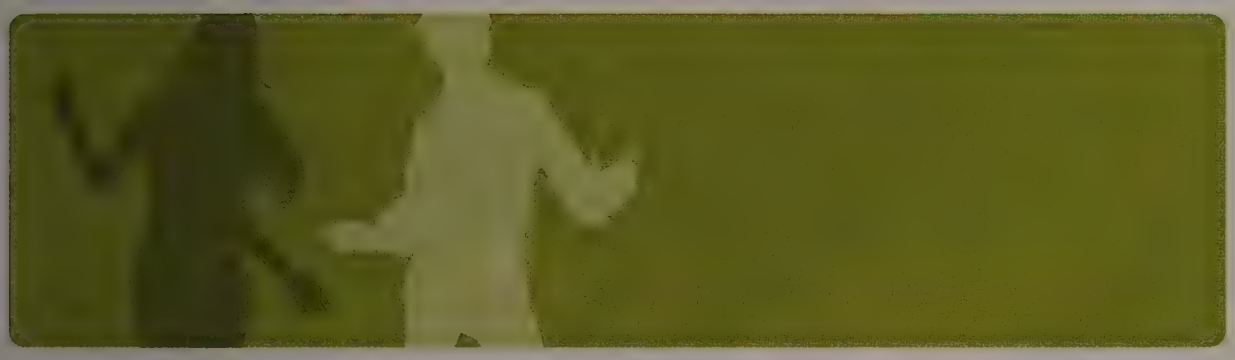
"The technology is actually perhaps the easiest part," he says. "The most difficult part is the execution: dealing with the bands, the songwriters and publishers."

Indeed, bands give Clear Channel their song list at least three days before the show so Simon can arrange licensing, an important step for cover songs.

"I think it's the first time anyone has successfully gotten our band to make a set list," says Dan Millen, manager of Spookie Daly Pride, which sold close to 300 copies of the live CD, even though the band already lets fans tape its shows with their own recording gear.

"Taping is for a specific group of people who want to be into it," says Millen. Most people would rather pay the $15, he says, to get the soundboard-quality discs. IB

Waterfront Music Scene



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Tom Jones July 13 8pm

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Tracy Chapman Fri, July 18 8pm

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Sex Pistols with The Reverend Horton Heat August 20 8pm

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In the old days, the DJ's first and foremost job was to rock the party; to jolt the club with energy and to fill up the dance floor and keep it full till the break of dawn. Since DJs in Europe started giving live music a serious run for its money in the mid-'90s, the DJ trend has made its way to America via artists like Paul Oakenfold and Carl Cox. Nowadays, people line up to see innovative icon DJ Shadow, and simply stand and watch as he plays music that is ostensibly meant for dancing. Kid Koala, another groundbreaking American DJ, just sold out two shows at the Brattle Theatre, playing to a crowd comfortably ensconced in seats for the duration of the show. (There was even a game of bingo in between sets—a far cry from the rump-shaking raves that used to define DJ culture.)

Tyler Hendrie at the Open Turntable Night at the Ekco Lounge

amateur night

ROOKIE DJS SCRATCH THEIR WAY INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

BY ERIN HAGEDOR

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIA

More and more venues such as lounges, bars and restaurants are replacing jukeboxes and live musicians with turntables and DJs. As with any trend, the bigger it gets (top DJs now rake in $30,000 a night at the bigger clubs in Boston and other major cities), the more people become interested in exploring it as a hobby or a career. Instead of strumming their Gibson SGs in their parents' basements, today's kids are fiddling with Technics 1200s, and turntables are outselling guitars at a remarkable rate of two to one. Mix CDs (compilations of songs by a variety of artists) from top DJs like Fatboy Slim and Lo Fidelity Allstars rival the sales of rock albums, and easily downloadable programs enable people to play and mix MP3s, opening up a world of music previously available only on vinyl. If you happen to have a hankering to try out your own turntable skills, well—join the club.

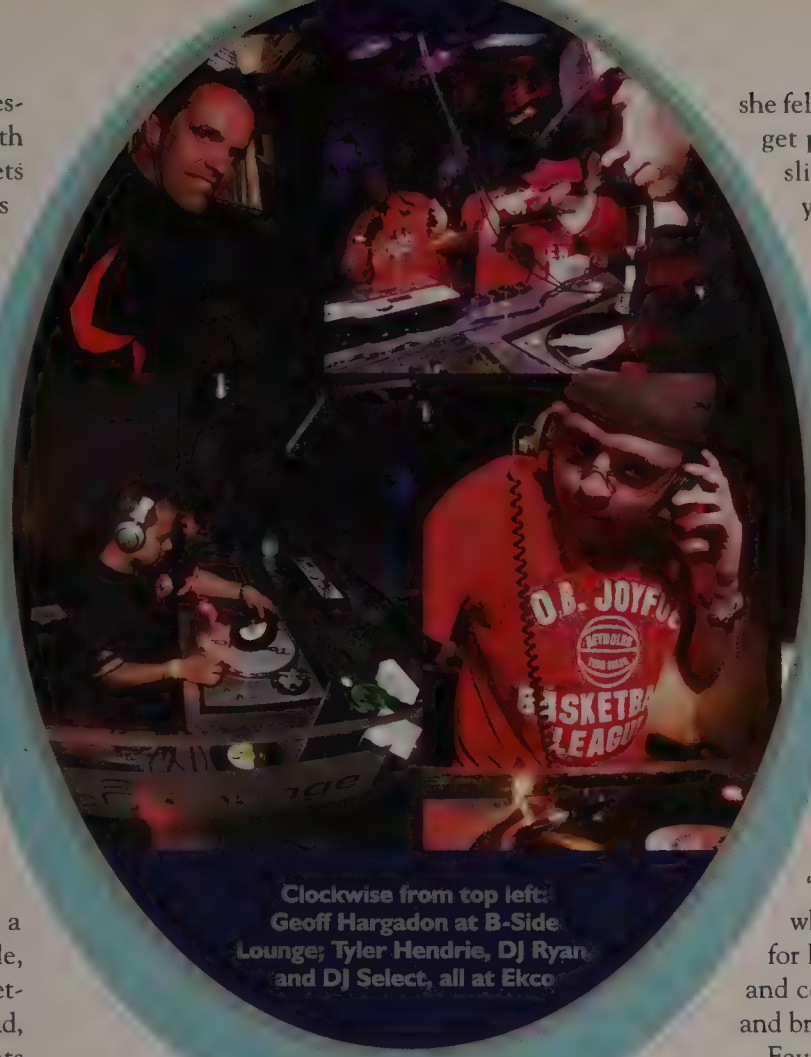
In Boston, professional and amateur opportunities for aspiring mix masters apart from the club scene are growing. Stores like Puma and Louis Boston, for example, bring in local, largely unknown DJs on a weekly basis, and Ozone, DKNY and Niketown regularly host DJs.

It's not surprising, then, that in January, DJ Manolo, a Lansdowne Street luminary for more than a decade, opened up a "school" for wannabe-DJs with fellow DJ veteran Peter Souhleris. The first of its kind in New England, the DJ Mix Academy in Winchester accepts students with different levels of experience—from those who have never been in front of a turntable to those who have spun for years. So far, the Mix Academy has graduated about 100 certified spinners—everyone from college students to the more surprising lot of moonlighting professionals, including middle-aged lawyers and even two doctors from Mass General Hospital. With trained teachers, a strict curriculum and a bona fide classroom setting (students have individual turntable stations that face the instructor, learn about the history of DJ'ing and are assigned homework), the academy offers DJ'ing 101 courses for beginners—a four-week class that costs $325—and more advanced-level classes like DJ'ing 201 for intermediates.

"Back in the day, everyone wanted to be Eddie Van Halen, and now they want to be Paul Oakenfold," Manolo says. "When I DJ'ed at Avalon, I'd be flooded with e-mails and phone calls from people asking 'Can you teach me how to DJ?' every single day." So Manolo put together lesson plans, put up some flyers and opened up shop. "The response has been great," he says. "I knew people wanted this, but I didn't know how much." Although some of his students surely aspire to the fame and fortune of a professional gig, Manolo says he's careful not to mislead them. "We stress that we're not turning them into polished, professional DJs. You're not going to graduate and go straight to spinning at Avalon."

Of course, there are those who opt to skip the Academy and take their lessons at the school of hard knocks. In many major cities, scores of DJ hopefuls work on their own to learn the trade, and Boston is no exception. In May, Stickman Productions put on Open Turntable Night at the Ekco Lounge—a first for Boston, although similar events take place in Montreal, San Francisco and New York. A mass e-mail message invited walk-ins to try their hand at DJ'ing on a "first-come, first-spin" basis (BYO needles and vinyl). The result was a night of music spun by DJs of all skill levels and backgrounds.

Tyler Hendrie, who co-produced the evening and is himself an "amateur" DJ of eight years, was thrilled by the outcome and plans to host more events. "There were people who can mix the Beatles with Tupac and others who have never touched vinyl before."



Clockwise from top left: Geoff Hargadon at B-Side Lounge; Tyler Hendrie, DJ Ryan and DJ Select, all at Ekco

But the ability to mix and scratch records—or even the desire to—is unnecessary for another faction of Boston's amateur DJs. In fact, most people who DJ at amateur nights have no aspirations of becoming a full-fledged club DJ and are proud to be a part of what is becoming the unprofessional DJ movement. And they are finding more opportunities simply to spin their favorite music for a crowd. That is thanks in large part to rock maven Lilli Dennison. During her stint as manager at B-Side Lounge a few years ago, Dennison started up a weekly "celebrity" DJ night, and the trend has since caught on all over town at places like Davis Square's Orleans restaurant and the Kendall Square pool hall Flat Top Johnny's.

Celebrity DJs in a city that is virtually Hollywood celebrity-less, you ask? Well, "celebrity" is defined loosely, and the term is generally a bit tongue-in-cheek. The celebs are really a mix of radio DJs, music critics, band members and average Joes who collect interesting music and want to share it. This can be anyone at all, and just like finding out someone can sing, it can be a pleasant surprise to discover who has a hidden stash of fascinating albums. Paul Hathaway, a chef at Washington Square Tavern, for example, has an enormous collection of garage/post-punk music that he unveiled at B-Side.

On any given amateur/celebrity DJ night, you might find someone dusting off their old 45s and spinning old punk and rockabilly. Or it could be a couple who shares a love of old garage and blues playing their favorite songs for the evening. One night at B-Side, a musician couple, Children's Television Workshop's Ken Field (of the band Board of Education) and his wife, Karen Aqua (who also plays in local bands), brought in *Sesame Street*–themed music. Most junior DJs play a variety of songs from their record and CD collections, sort of like making a live mix tape for the audience—which is, incidentally, often largely populated by their friends. But more and more venues find that there's a devoted crowd who come to see who is playing what each week.

Dennison says she started the night because she knew so many people who had amazing music collections and she felt more people should hear them. "The point was to get people to share their music," she says. "It's not a slick DJ thing. It's more like having people over to your apartment and playing cool records for them. I had so many friends who love music, and you'd go to their house and they'd play their records for you, and it was so much fun. I wanted to bring that kind of fun, party atmosphere and put it in a venue." Immediately, she started getting requests from people wanting to share their favorite songs. This month, Dennison is reprising her celebrity DJ night, called the Celebrity Record Hop, Friday nights at Zuzu in Central Square, where she now works.

Geoff Hargadon, who is a money manager by day, has DJ'ed at B-Side several times. He was there at the beginning when the Monday night series started, waiting for his chance to be part of it and to show off some of his music collection (he has about 1,000 records, including many in his current favorite genre, "electro-clash"). "I like to run the gamut of my collection and play at least a few things where people say, 'God, I haven't heard that in years!' Or 'Wow, what the hell is that?' I look at it this way: It's a party for lots of people, no clean-up, great staff, lots of food and cocktails—and all I have to do is get the word out and bring some records. How can you beat that?"

Eavesdrop, at River Gods, is an amateur night for more serious-minded DJs to develop their craft and show off their collections. "Boston, despite its rock devotion, is a pretty open-minded town," says David Day, former general manager at Other Music and now a weekly DJ at River Gods. "Its most attentive music fans buy a little of everything: soul, hip-hop, rock, techno. There's a phrase in the UK that I think applies here, and that's 'Trust the DJ.' Here's someone with a cultured aesthetic, and if you lean back and relax you'll be into what you hear." One of the reasons Eavesdrop brings in lesser-known DJs is that it makes for a wildly diverse evening. "If I wanted to have a huge, throw-down, twist-em-up party, I'd want a bigger pro. But for bars and clubs where there's no dance floor and no inclination for an all-night party, it's more intriguing to dwell on their aesthetic."

Another reason for the amateur DJ trend is a matter of simple economics. Club owners know that a radio DJ will bring in some of his or her listeners, and a music critic will bring co-workers and friends. But the real point, as Dennison says, is that "...it's just fun. You get to laugh at all the errors. There's always record-skipping, cutting things off, all kinds of mechanical errors that people who aren't professionals make. It's more goofy than seeing a club DJ. And people don't have the same expectations. They just expect to be turned on to some new music." iB

check it out

- Celebrity DJ Invitational nights at B-Side Lounge. Mondays, 10 pm. 92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge (617-354-0766).
- The "Celebrity" Record Hop at Zuzu. Fridays, 11 pm. 474 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-3278).
- Eavesdrop at River Gods. Tuesdays, 9 pm-1 am. 125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).
- The Fez at Flat Top Johnny's. Wednesdays, 10 pm. One Kendall Square, Cambridge (617-494-9565).
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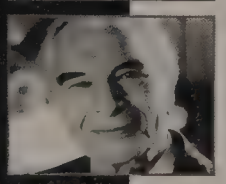

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SLAID CLEAVES & MICHAEL FRACASSO

SATURDAY • AUGUST 16 • 11:30AM-6:30PM

FORT STAGE

LYLE LOVETT, JOHN HIATT, GUY CLARK & JOE ELY

JOHN PRINE • ANGELIQUE KIDJO

NICKEL CREEK • THE WAIFS

MARY GAUTHIER • JIMMY LaFAVE

BORDERS STAGE

TIFT MERRITT • ELIZA GILKYSON

SONG CIRCLE with KEVIN BRIODY, MIEKA PAULEY, MICHAEL FRACASSO & SUSAN GIBSON • ERIN McKEOWN ELLIS PAUL & SLAID CLEAVES • JACKIE GREENE

FAMILY STAGE

GEORGIA SEA ISLAND SINGERS • SOL Y CANTO • TROUPE BADEN'YA

SUNDAY • AUGUST 17 • 11:30AM-6:30PM

FORT STAGE

JOAN ARMATRADING

ANI DiFRANCO

AIMEE MANN • SAM BUSH

DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS

PLUS OTHER ARTISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

BORDERS STAGE

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THE MAMMALS • SARAH LEE GUTHRIE & JOHNNY IRION

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taking root in BOSTON

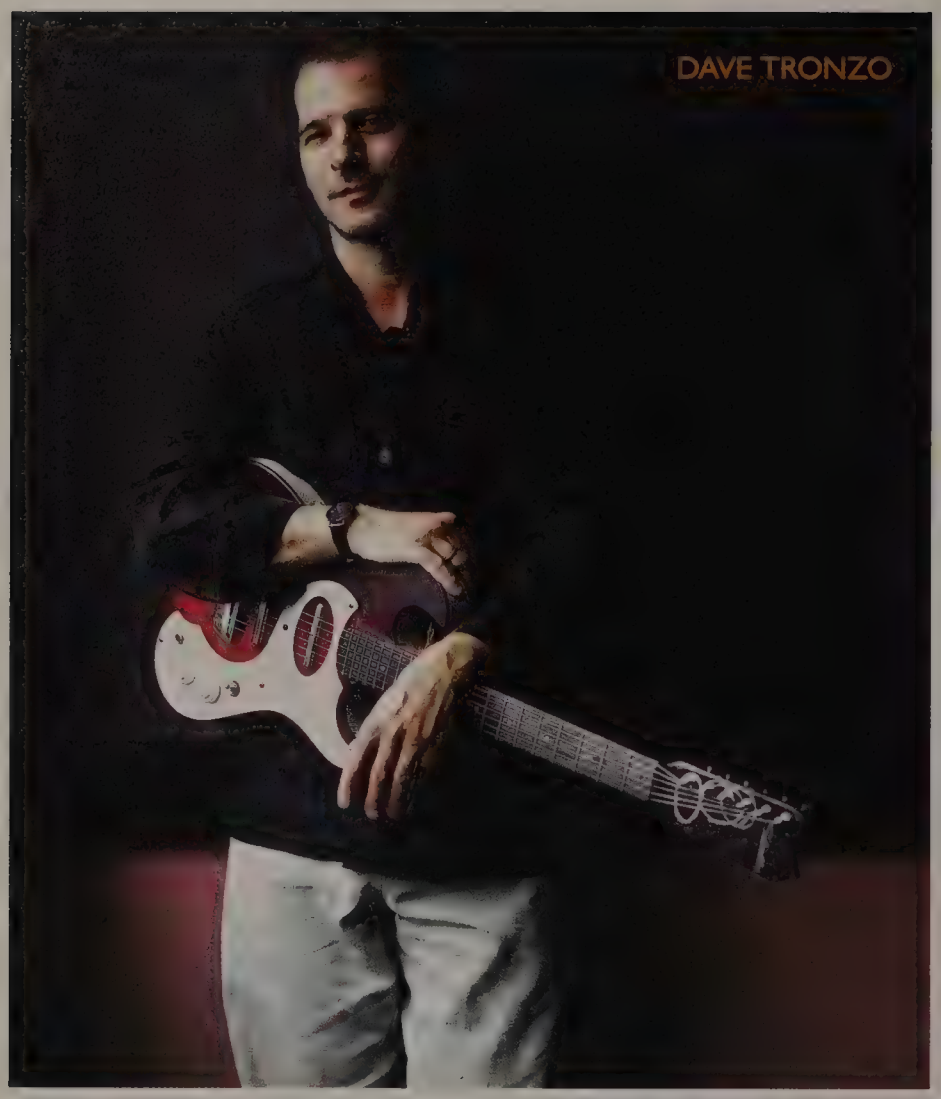
MEET THE WORLD-RENOWNED MUSICIANS WHO NOW CALL THIS CITY HOME

On a recent Wednesday night at the Independent, a restaurant and pub in Union Square, roots-rock journeyman Dennis Brennan was enlightening the crowd. Brennan had brought along his usual cast of topflight local players, including bassist Richard Gates and guitarists Duke Levine and Kevin Barry.

It was a happening little scene, even before former J. Geils Band frontman and man-about-town Peter Wolf showed up to sing Buddy Holly's "Oh, Boy!" But how many of the patrons hoisting pints at the Somerville nightspot realized that the slight man in spectacles behind the drums has recorded with stars like Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Elton John, Nick Drake and Brian Eno?

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRACY POWELL



Meet Dave Mattacks, one of several world-class musicians—including saxophonist Steve Lacy, keyboardist-producer Al Kooper, Manhattan Transfer singer Cheryl Bentyne and slide guitarist Dave Tronzo—who have moved to Boston after attaining fame, and who stay largely under the celebrity radar.

"Even when I was playing with Richard Thompson or Jethro Tull or doing sessions with Paul McCartney, I never thought of myself in rock-star terms," says the English-bred musician. Also a former member of the folk-rock group Fairport Convention, Mattacks says he finds rock stars amusing and sees himself as the antithesis of someone like Tommy Lee. "It's all Spinal Tap for me," he says. "I'm down on the ground with the guys." And the gals; one of Mattacks' steady gigs in recent years has been touring and recording with singer-songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter, which helped propel his relocation from England.

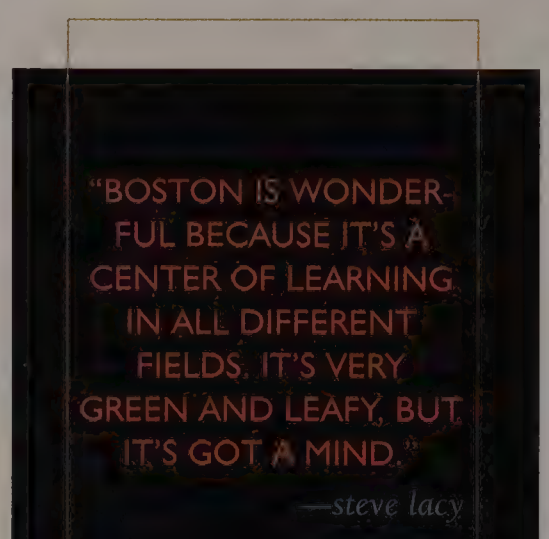
Other reasons for his move, Mattacks says, are his decision to leave Fairport, the predominance of processed rhythm in British pop music and a change in England's social climate. "If you have something going well for you, there tends to be an attitude in England of 'Ohhh, all right for you then,'" he says. "There's an element of the class system, like [you're] rising above your station in life."

Mattacks came to Massachusetts after striking up friendships with people like Levine, producer Tom Dube and composer Mason Daring, who convinced him to move to Marblehead three years ago.

"I've always liked New England," says 55-year-old Mattacks, who has an extensive array of drums and cymbals in his basement, as well as a record collection inherited from the late Gus Dudgeon, a close friend and famed producer (Elton John, David Bowie). "One of the appealing things about Boston was I liked the climate and the feel of the place."

For Steve Lacy, one of the greatest soprano saxophonists in jazz history, moving to Boston last August after more than 30 years of living in Europe was like coming home. A New Yorker by birth, Lacy lived in Boston in the early 1950s and studied music theory at Schillinger House, which later became Berklee College of Music.

"Boston is wonderful because it's a center of learning in all different fields—that's important to me," says 69-year-old Lacy. He now teaches at the New England Conservatory and lives in a Brookline house that overlooks part of the Emerald Necklace. "Boston's a brainy joint. It's very green and leafy, but it's got a mind. If you want to go to



New York, it's quite simple. That's part of the attraction too. But New York is so noisy that it would drive me crazy after a while."

"It was time to leave Paris; that was clear," says Lacy, who made the move with his wife, Irene Aebi, his frequent collaborator as a vocalist. "We were working more and more in America, and work was drying up in France."

The opposite was true in the 1960s. "It was hard in New York because the music we were doing was very underground," Lacy says. "Jazz was 'in' in Paris. At that time, the free-jazz players were all over Paris, and people real appreciated that kind of music. So we were able to fit with all the other players, and there was a scene goi on." By that time, Lacy had already established himself an innovator on soprano sax—the straight horn made f mous by Sidney Bechet—with pianists Cecil Taylor ar Thelonious Monk. "Nobody played soprano in tho days," he says.

In fact, it was Lacy who inspired John Coltrane to pi up the soprano sax. "I had been playing it for 10 years befo Coltrane started playing it," Lacy says. "He asked me wh key it was in, and I told him, and he said, 'Oh wow, E fla That makes it easy to go from the tenor to the soprano. S he did. A few weeks later, he was already playing it."

Since moving to Boston, Lacy has performed in se tings ranging from a program with the Jazz Composers A liance Orchestra to duets with pianist and NEC associa Danilo Perez. He hopes to stage longer, theatrical piec like his opera *The Cry*, but Lacy is also keeping busy wit teaching at the NEC. "The school gives me a base," h says. "We never had that before. We were just out there can try so many different things with my students. Thin that we did 20 or 30 years ago in Europe, the studen latch onto them immediately."

Studio legend Al Kooper also felt the lure of educatio when he moved from Nashville to take a Berklee teach ing position in 1997. "In my childhood, I needed a scho like that," he says, "and there was none."

Kooper has done quite well nonetheless. Not only d he create the signature organ part on Bob Dylan's "Like Rolling Stone," launch the horn-driven Blood, Sweat Tears, and discover Lynyrd Skynyrd (producing th Southern rockers' first three albums), but he also co-wro the '60s hit "This Diamond Ring." "It was an R&B son and it turned into a milkshake," Kooper says of Ga Lewis & the Playboys' syrupy version of the tune.

In 2000, Kooper quit his Berklee job after sufferi from a degenerative condition that deprived him two-thirds of his sight. That setback was followed b

the successful removal of a brain tumor. "I can't drive anymore, but that's a blessing in Boston," says Kooper, who taught classes in record production and songwriting, including the history as well as the mechanics of both crafts.

"It's really important for a record producer to understand the history," he says. "My knowledge of history helped to put Lynyrd Skynyrd across. I was already looking for a rock 'n' roll band like that because of the state of radio."

Kooper has been busy in the studio again in New York. He recently remastered two classic 1968 sets with blues guitarist Mike Bloomfield (including an expanded version of *Super Session* with Stephen Stills) in Surround Sound 5.1, a new audio format that Kooper loves. And he just finished touring Japan for the first time since the 1970s.

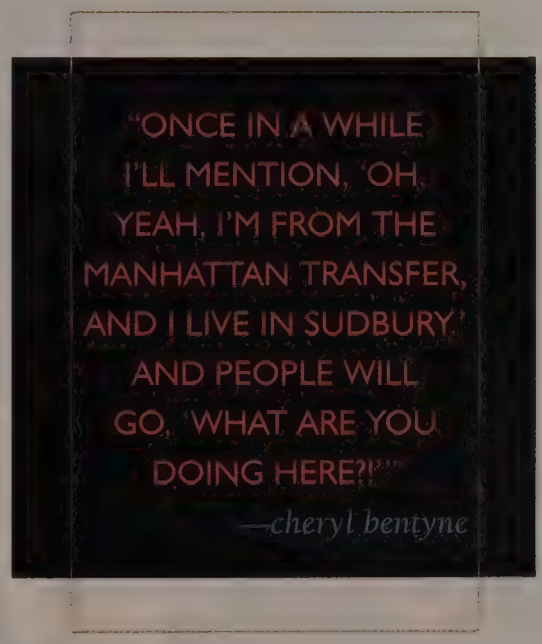
Even without the Berklee job, 59-year-old Kooper is not about to abandon his Somerville digs. "I was sort of seduced by Harvard Square, and when I got here, I didn't go to Harvard Square much," he says. "I'm about as reclusive as one can be. My house is nice, and that's what matters to me."

Finding a nice home was an attraction for Manhattan Transfer transplant Cheryl Bentyne—as was escaping Los Angeles after the 1994 earthquake—when she settled into an old house in Sudbury with her husband, keyboardist Corey Allen, a Maine native who had previously taught at Berklee.

"We were going to have a baby, and we didn't want to raise her in L.A.," says 49-year-old Bentyne. Bandmate Janis Siegel understood. "The minute I left the West Coast, Janis was right behind me and moved back to Manhattan," Bentyne says of her female comrade in the Grammy-winning Transfer, the vocal-jazz quartet that has pioneered the form over the past 30 years. "So the girls are the smart ones, and the guys are still West Coasters."

"I've just been keeping very low-key here," she says. "Once in a while, I'll mention, 'Oh yeah, I'm from the Manhattan Transfer, and I live in Sudbury.' And people will go, 'What are you doing here?!'"

Shortly after arriving in Massachusetts, Bentyne and Allen presented a master class at Berklee, and both were invited back to teach. But while he settled into the groove of teaching again, Bentyne didn't take to it. "I had enough to give for a couple semesters in terms of my experience," she says. "I'm not real teacher material in the basic sense, so I left. I'm trying to work on my solo career now, and can't come and go. It's too hard for the students and too hard for me. But I did enjoy it."



Dave Tronzo, on the other hand, says that teaching at Berklee "has refocused my work life"—even though classes were the last thing on his mind when the slide guitarist and his wife moved to southern New Hampshire in late 2001.

As in Bentyne's case, Tronzo's relocation was partly propelled by a disaster. "September 11 happened, and it was a big deal; it involved a lot of people we knew, and we lost a lot of friends," says the 44-year-old musician. A day after the disaster, Tronzo's mother suffered a massive heart attack, but due to the breakdown in New York's phone service, he didn't find out about her condition for a week.

Thankfully, his mother recovered, and Tronzo followed her to New England, where she resettled in Maine to be near Tronzo's brother. "I lived in New York for 22 years and felt like I didn't have it in me to go through another city crisis," he says. Tronzo got back to playing, and teaching nontraditional slide guitar techniques at Berklee.

"You have to think way outside the box," Tronzo says of the odd style he has brought to artists such as the Lounge Lizards, John Hiatt, Spanish Fly and the Jazz Passengers. "Slide guitar is an undeveloped technique, and that's not to say that the music being made with it in the traditional sense is lacking." In contrast to the traditional style, in which the guitarist presses a metal or glass "slide" against the strings, Tronzo uses objects like plastic cups, cigar holders, a coffee can (which generates its own reverb) and a cheese grater. "If you apply them in a way that suggests another instrument, people go, 'Wow, that sounds like an oud.' And if you apply it in a way that they don't recognize, all of a sudden you've got this new sound."

"I thought at this point, a lot of young players would be familiar with this [technique], but everybody looks at it like they did 20 years ago," says Tronzo, who was once named one of the top 10 guitarists in jazz by *Musician* magazine. He does note, however, that one student has arranged a Debussy flute sonata for bottleneck slide.

Tronzo, who plays with the experimental collective Club d'Elf and will join the group for a July 2 date at the Museum of Fine Arts with organist John Medeski, makes this comparison between Boston and his former home base: "Boston and New York are very similar. They both have an incredible, growing, evolving pool of musicians who have a lot of variety, are highly skilled and tend to be very adventurous." IB

VARIATIONS ON A theme

GOT A HANKERING FOR BLUES, COUNTRY, ROCKABILLY, OR SINATRA? LOCAL BARS HAVE AN IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR YOU.

BY CAITLIN O'NEIL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Hillbilly night at Johnny D's

If you had a theme song, what would it be? Depending on the day, it could be an inspirational anthem like the tune from *Rocky*, or a bluesy little number that skips along with quiet confidence. At local bars you can pick a genre to suit your mood any night of the week. Theme nights are gaining momentum around town, setting the tone for the evening with blues, bluegrass, rockabilly, Sinatra songs or avant-garde jazz. Here are some of the best places to wet your whistle as you listen to the music.

HILLBILLY NIGHT AT JOHNNY D'S

While Johnny D's might not be Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, the famed Nashville dive where country stars are born, it has been the home of Hillbilly Night every Monday for the past year. A mere $5 gets you an earful of local country, Western swing, and bluegrass bands like the Bagboys and Rust Farm, as well as national acts like fiddler James Leva. The first Monday of the month is reserved for Western swing dancing to the strains of the Coachmen.

"A few years ago, my wife and I went to a Ralph Stanley concert attended by thousands of people," says August Watters, who runs Hillbilly Night with his wife, Nancy Harrowitz. "We thought there were not many opportunities to hear this kind of live music in Boston. So we approached Johnny D's."

They named the event after Boston's fabled rockabilly venue, the Hillbilly Ranch in Park Square, and the long-running radio show Hillbilly at Harvard. "A lot of people see the sign and wander in," says Watters. "They're always pleasantly surprised. It's more of a listening scene than a bar scene."

Watters and Harrowitz's band, Almost Gone, kicks off each Hillbilly Night at 8 pm. The featured band follows at 9 pm. The jangling guitar and driving beats are less *Hee-Haw* than "yee-haw!" and soon the eclectic crowd sitting back on its heels is kicking them up instead.

17 Holland St., Somerville, 617-776-9667.

ROCKABILLY NIGHT AT THE JEANIE JOHNSTON PUB

Admit it: When you think "Southern," you think south of the Mason-Dixon Line, not south of the Charles River. But with that train of thought, you're bound to miss out on the rockabilly revival that heats up the Jeanie Johnston Pub in Jamaica Plain on Friday nights.

Rockabilly used to be a JP staple, with groups like Little Memphis playing the Brendan Behan and weekly events at the Midway Café and the Milky Way Lounge. Jason McIsaac, booking manager at the Jeanie Johnston, has revived the tradition with the Crank-Tones and the Coachmen—both side projects of the Western-swing band the Spurs—playing on alternating Fridays at 10 pm.

"The Coachmen play rockabilly," says Johnny Sciascia, the only musician in all three bands, "and the Crank-Tones are more straight-ahead '50s-style rock 'n' roll." Both bands sing honky-tonk songs about "trucking, drinking and women." What could be better after a long workweek? Bottles of Pabst Blue Ribbon are $2.50, and chicken wings are a quarter each while they last.

"It's great to come out and hear local live music," says James Ash of Brighton, who enjoys the music regularly with a large group of friends. "And it's nice that you can still talk too."

e Bluegrass
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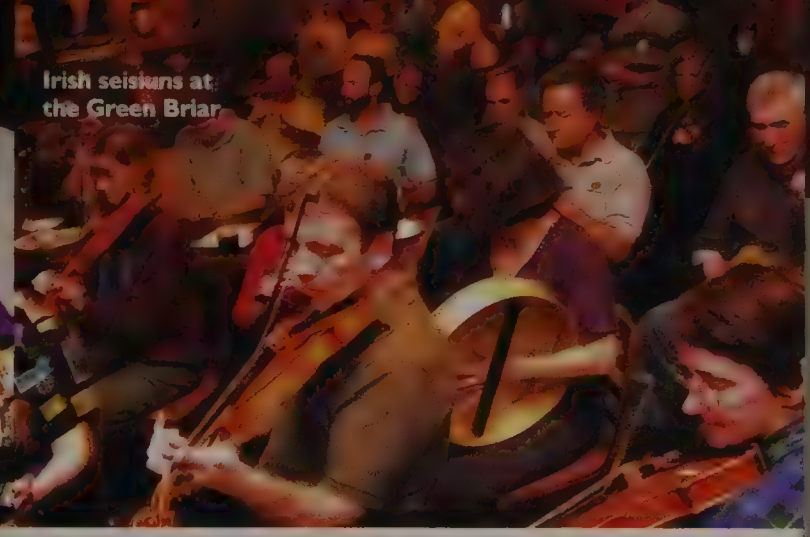
ntab Lounge



Irish seisiuns at the Green Briar

The bar has the feel of an upscale frat house, with a central wrap-ound bar, Irish photos and sports memorabilia on the exposed ick walls, and TVs tuned to sports. The stage is tucked into a cor-r, giving the room a laid-back country vibe while the bands play. "We used to be empty on Fridays," says co-owner Hank Kirch-r. "But now the crowds have found their way."
4 South St., Jamaica Plain, 617-524-4086.

NATRA SUNDAYS AT LUCKY'S LOUNGE

the remake of *Ocean's Eleven* didn't give you a thirst for Rat ack–era entertainment, let Lucky's Lounge take you back with natra Sundays.

With Lady Luck martinis in the shaker, Italian specials from the tchen and crooners belting tunes like "All of You" and "The Way ou Look Tonight" to the live accompaniment of the Al Vega Trio, won't be long before you'll feel the spirit of the Chairman.

The series began as an annual tribute to Frank Sinatra on the niversary of his death. The event proved so popular that last ar it became a weekly series. "The crowd doubled after six onths," says manager Bill Costa. "To get prime seating now, ou need to get here by 7 pm."

Bill and Rene Oranburg of Boston and Alan Stone of Chestnut ill arrive in time to snag a prime table in the lounge and enjoy nner before the music begins. "It's usually five deep in here," ys Rene, who adds that the bar fills up with a mixed crowd of ose who grew up with the Rat Pack and young hipsters who like e club's retro feel.

"I never thought I'd see people of different ages hanging out Lucky's on a Sunday night," says Matt Kojalo of Brookline. t's great."

Located in a warehouse basement, Lucky's has got the atmosphere of a Prohibition speakeasy and seems just right for a Sunday-night outing. Low light, leather booths and plenty of gilt-framed photos of Old Blue Eyes complete the secret-clubhouse effect. Mark Mahar sings weekly, often joined by Alex MacDougall as well as regulars and guests who step up to the mike and live out their Sinatra dreams.

"The music is as smooth as the martinis," says Maryanne Spillane of South Boston. "They both make me dizzy."
355 Congress St., Boston, 617-357-5825.

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THE SUBCONSCIOUS CAFÉ AT ZEITGEIST GALLERY

The Zeitgeist Gallery in Inman Square isn't afraid to take chances. A case in point: the Subconscious Café, the avant-garde music night that takes place on the first and third Saturday of each month. "People come to hear something you can't hear anywhere else," says organizer Rob Chalfen. "We create music that's intellectual and challenging."

Chalfen describes the program as "new chamber music," which can encompass elements ranging from world music to modern jazz to 21st-century classical and electronica. The crowd is as eclectic as the music, drawing musicians, music aficionados and those in search of something different.

"We get some students," says Chalfen. "But mostly it's anyone who's tired of the same old rock 'n' roll. It's pretty accessible stuff that incorporates traditional music and then turns it on its head."

At the storefront on Cambridge Street, the vibe is both earnest and anything-goes. This series appeals to people who care about serious music but aren't afraid to try something new. A recent show featured electronic upright bassist John Voigt in a series of improbable duets with musicians playing "prepared" guitars, which ran the gamut from morphed washing machines and vacuum cleaners to traditional guitars played with kitchen utensils and glass bottles.

"I want to be challenging," says Chalfen. When you visit the Subconscious Café, "you know that's what you're going to get." Doors open at 9 pm and the music starts by 9:30. Shows are $10.
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 617-876-6060.

BLUE MONDAYS AT THE ABBEY LOUNGE

If the beginning of another workweek gives you the blues, then amble over to the Abbey Lounge to drown your sorrows in Pabst Blue Ribbon and soak your spirit in the appropriate music.

When J. Grimaldi, who tends the bar and books bands for the Abbey, was looking for a blues band to play on Monday nights, he called up his cohorts from his band, Schnockered, cousins Eric and Ed Anderson, to fill the bill. Since January, the Double D Blues Band has taken the stage with Eric on guitar; Ed on drums; Eric's dad, Steve, on bass; Ed's dad, Fred, singing; and Fred and Steve's cousin, George Hamilton, on piano.

"It's a family thing," says Eric Anderson. "All of us have played in bands before but never together." The dads pick the songs, a mix of classic blues and modern favorites, including "It's a Mean Old World," "Mustang Sally," and "Shake It Up and Go." Musicians are welcome to join the jam, which runs from 8 to 11 pm.

"We end early for people who have to get up early on Tuesdays," says Anderson. The band is among them; they all work day jobs ranging from mechanical engineer to pilot to Internet executive.

Despite free hot wings, the mismatched tables and chairs sat mostly empty on a recent Monday night. The lonely sound of cars passing in the rain mingled with the brooding blues, creating the perfect place to forget your troubles. If you don't like Mondays, a few trips to the Abbey might change your mind. iB
3 Beacon St., Somerville, 617-441-9631.

MORE TUNES ON THE TOWN

BLUEGRASS & COUNTRY

Cantab Lounge
Every Tuesday night, the Bluegrass Pickin' Party starts upstairs at 8 pm, with a featured band playing at 10. The cover is $5. 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-354-2685.

Kendall Café
Get your twang fix at Hell Country the first Saturday of every month at the Kendall. 233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge, 617-661-0993.

BLUES

Cantab Lounge
In addition to playing his own sets most Friday and Saturday nights, Little Joe Cook leads the free blues jam sessions at the Cantab on Wednesdays at 9 pm. 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, 617-354-2685.

Johnny D's
On Sundays the Brew Dogs preside over a blues jam from 4:30 to 8:30 pm at this Davis Square hangout. Cover is $2. 17 Holland St., Somerville, 617-776-9667.

Wally's
Every Monday night, the Jose Ramos Special Blend Band hosts a blues jam at the oldest jazz club in New England. Music starts at 9:30 pm. 427 Mass. Ave., Boston, 617-424-1408.

IRISH SEISIUNS

The Burren
The Sunday seisiun starts at 3 pm and ends when the musicians get tired. The rest of the week, the seisiun starts at 10 pm and goes until closing. 247 Elm Street, Davis Square, Somerville, 617-776-6896.

The Druid
Every Friday and Sunday night, Inman Square's answer to the Irish pub hosts a seisiun from 6-9 pm. 1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 617-497-0965.

The Green Briar
Boston's Original Slow Seisiun offers beginners a chance to join the jam every Monday, from 7-9 pm with songs played at slower pace. The regular seisiun picks up at 9 and gallops toward closing, as it has for 14 years. 304 Washington St., Brighton, 617-789-4100.

REGGAE

Bill's Bar
On Sunday nights, Dub Station hosts both local and national bands and vocalists playing roots and dancehall reggae. DJ K-DON starts the night with favorite reggae tunes at 10 pm, and the live band starts at 11:30 pm. Bill's Bar, 5.5 Lansdowne St., Boston, 617-421-9678.

track & field

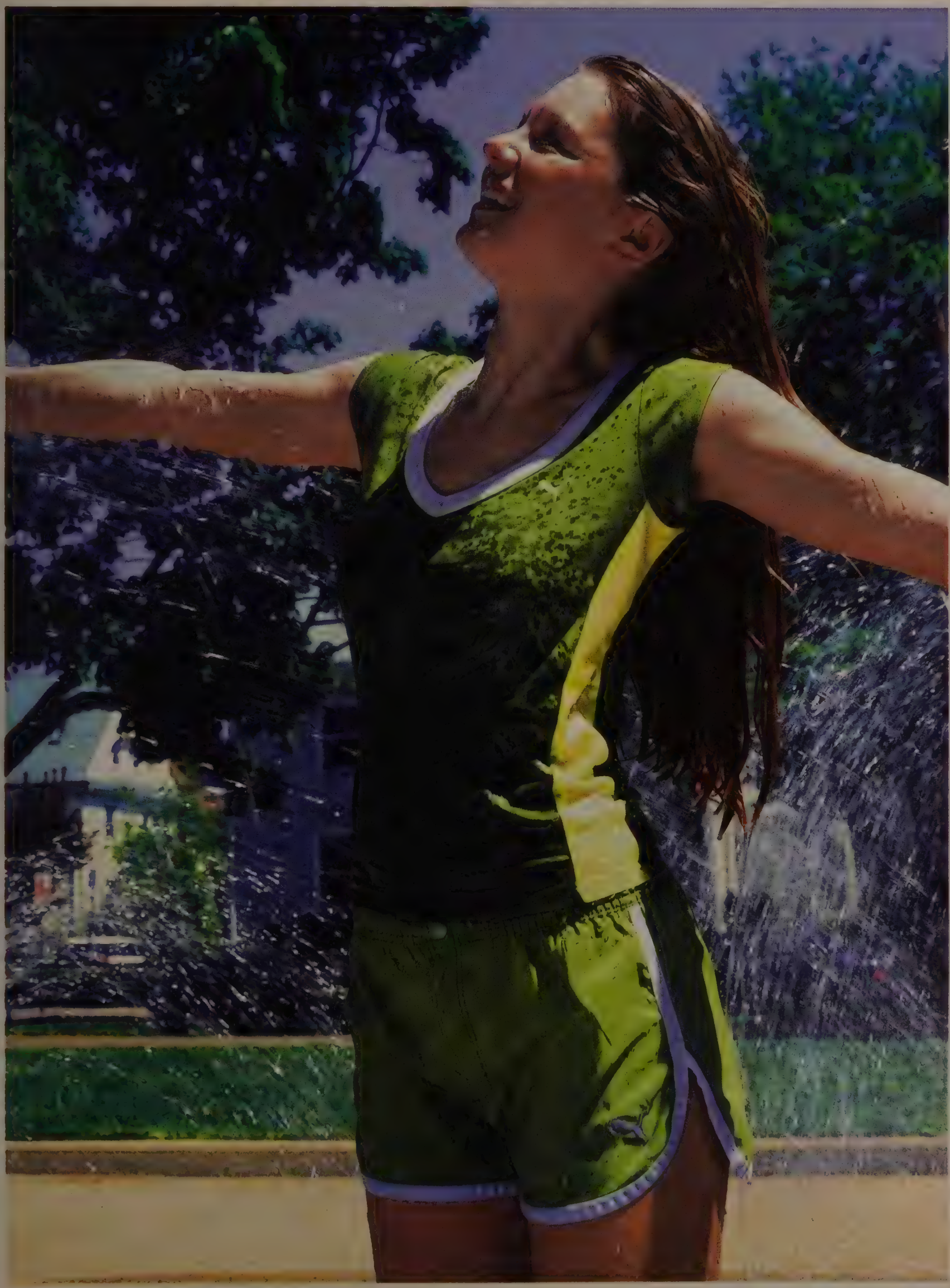
PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELISSA MAHONEY

After a long winter and almost no spring at all, the sun is finally making a comeback, and warming temps are inspiring Bostonians to jump back into summer routines—outdoor sports, patio dining and lounging on the Common, to name a few. So what does one wear to be casually comfortable in warm weather but remain stylish? This summer's laid-back looks are a throwback to the '70s. They incorporate satin bomber jackets, as well as short shorts and skirts with details like piping and lace accents. Mesh tanks and hoodies layer over your skimpiest tops to add texture and edge. The biggest casual trend, however, is the match set. Matching tops and bottoms, like the ones you had when you were a child, are now hip again. Stick to solid colors to keep the look sophisticated and grown-up.

Pleated white skirt, $69; black and white top, $59. Both at B

Pink satin bomber jacket, $98 at Arden B. Lace tank, $65; white and blue shorts with peace sign, $40. Both by Shapely. Pink and white headband, $9 at Bebe. Brown leather mules, $69 at Nine West. Stars-and-stripes socks, $4 at H&M.

Strapped tube top, $44; matching shorts, $46. Both by Arden B.
Newsprint beret by Galvin-ized Headwear, $20.



Green T-shirt, $24; green athletic shorts with white piping, $32. Both at Puma.

Arden B
Cambridgeside Galleria
617-225-7960

Bebe
Copley Place
617-267-2323

Nine West
371 Washington St.
617-338-2750

Puma
333 Newbury St.
617-369-7091

Galvanized Headwear
www.galvinizedhats.com

Shoppers
617-968-7739

Model: Audra for Maggie

Lettered tank top, $19.50; mesh zip-front cardigan, $64; black and red logo shorts, $55. All at Arden B.

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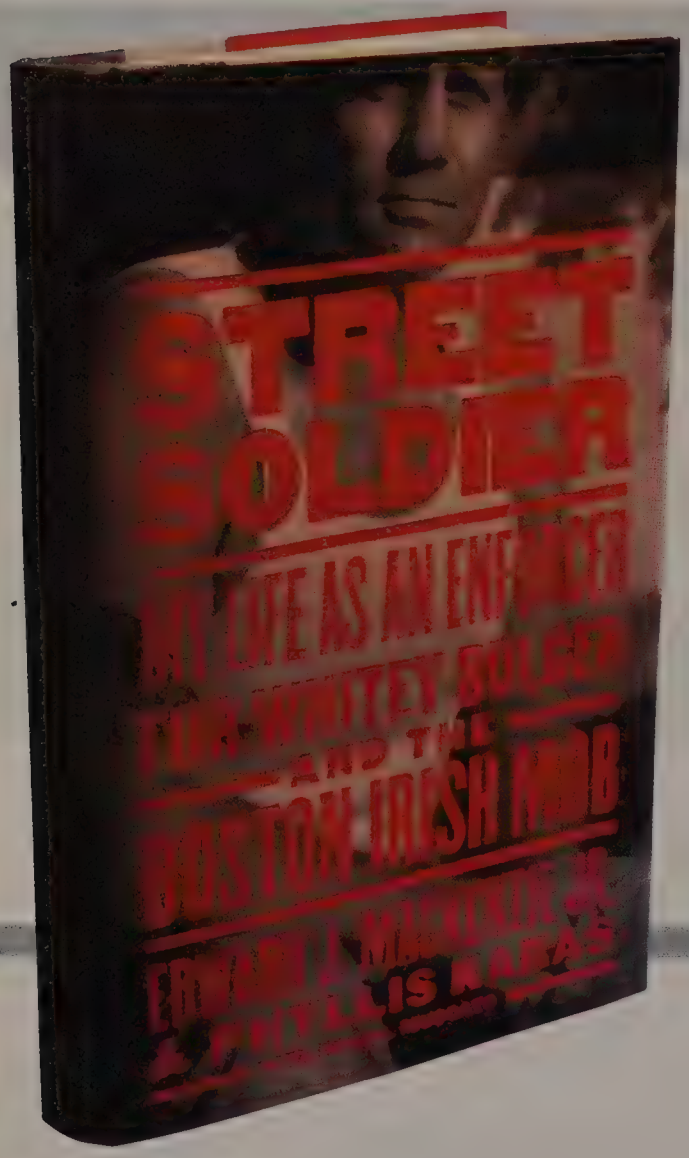
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



IN OUR OWN BULGER BACKYARD

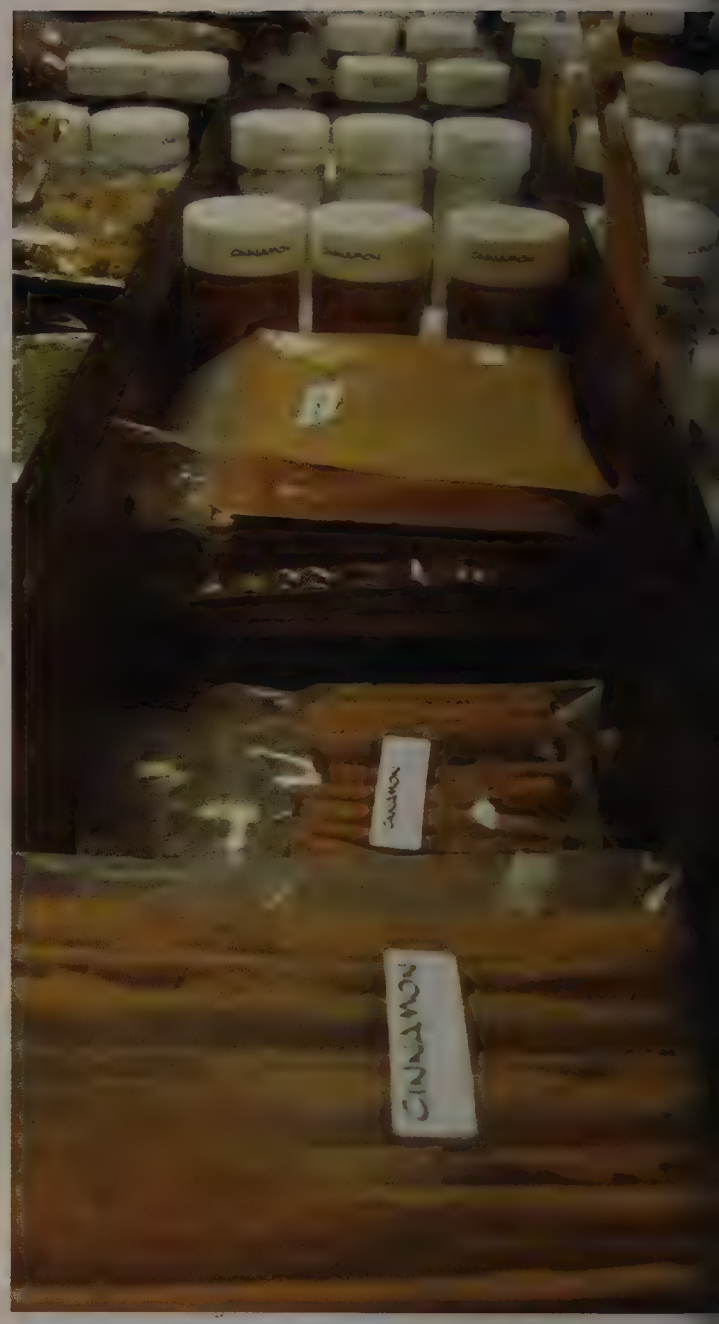
***Street Soldier: My Life as an Enforcer for Whitey Bulger and the Boston Irish Mob*, by Edward J. MacKenzie Jr. and Phyllis Karas, tells of a life of crime in South Boston.**

From the age of 4, when he was placed in foster care, Edward MacKenzie was on the road to becoming the original tough survivor out of Southie. Violently abused as a child, he grew into a life of astonishing violence, and that was even before he met the psychopathic Whitey Bulger, he of the ice-blue eyes, "with that sick grin, half Satan and half big cat." MacKenzie was jailed at a young age but was sprung quickly with help from a lawyer. Soon, Bulger spotted his "talent"—MacKenzie was a Golden Gloves and kickboxing champion—and employed him to deliver drugs and break bones. Scenes of testosterone-laden, action-movie energy involving near-murderous torture and kinky sex abound in the book, which is written in a gritty style that is compelling, despite the disturbing content. But MacKenzie's strutting—as he fathers six children in various messy unions, gets custody and then graduates from the University of Massachusetts—gradually becomes a kind of sweetly bemused penitence and at least a partial desire to shield his daughters from people like himself and the world he helped blacken alongside Whitey.

ENTICING SPICE

Christina's Spice & Specialty Foods, at 1261 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, sells spices and rices that are great for assembling in gift baskets. Call 617-492-7021.

Bring your cookbooks, preferably exotic, so you can move upstream from the spices and other tasty adornments here to the dishes they'll inspire. Herbs and spices fill the central racks, in powders, leaves, or in crunchable whole form, like nutmegs. There's chewy smoked red wolf berry, and sumac, which adds a sour flavor to Middle Eastern dishes. Nigella, a fine black oniony spice, makes you want to sleuth out its interesting uses, and then there's the luscious cardomom-like grains of paradise. Just eyeing that bag of wasabi mustard makes your taste buds sting and sing; the owner recommends mixing it with cream, to dribble atop salmon. The spicidacious provenances include the Caribbean, Ethiopia, Jamaica and Latin locales. There are also lots of American grains—black and white quinoa, buckwheat, bulgur, kasha, and bags of fat corn in white, yellow and lavender blue. Also pretty are the fine, dehydrated vegetable powders—spinach, pumpkin, beet—to add un-gooey flavor to pasta or risotto. Forty-two teas make for a garden of soothing, poetic names: hibiscus, ginger peach, elderflower. And chilis hang abundantly from the ceiling, chandeliers of heat.



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IN THIS SECTION: Review: Café Polonia Dish: New chefs, new menus Wine: The pleasures of pinot gris Tasty Tidbit: A Bermuda celebration

REVIEW

SOUTHIE POLISH

Café Polonia's homestyle Polish cuisine surprises and delights with delicate flavors and nuances

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Dinner at Café Polonia made me think of Christmas trees and snowflakes, even though it was the end of May. It wasn't just because of Boston's wintry weather this spring; instead, Café Polonia evoked fond memories of Christmas Eve dinner at my Aunt Vic's. Aunt Vic and my father were Poles who came to this country in the decade before the first World War. My paternal grandparents brought to New England the rich gastronomic traditions of middle Europe: hearty cuisine, but with flavors and nuances that can surprise and delight. Garlic and dill feature prominently in Polish cooking, but more important than herbs are the flavors provided by principal ingredients like cabbage, pork, mushrooms and onions.

Café Polonia's menu touches all the bases. It begins with a selection of *kanapki*, or sandwiches, all served with potato chips. The grilled kielbasa sub ($5), a thick sandwich on a hard-crusted roll, was stuffed with juicy and flavorful grilled kielbasa, caramelized onions, and sauerkraut. Authentic Polish kielbasa like that served at Café Polonia is a pork product, sometimes combined with veal or beef—a true Pole would shudder at the idea of turkey or all-beef kielbasa—and always infused with garlic, which distinguishes it from the Lithuanian kielbasa, from Poland's Baltic neighbor to the north.

Café Polonia offers an array of traditional dishes, including pierogis ($6), cabbage stew ($7), stuffed cabbage, or *golabki* ($7), and potato pancakes ($7). Each one we tried seemed better than the last. Pierogis, medium-sized, crescent-shaped raviolis filled with meat or cabbage and mushroom or with potatoes and cheese, came seven or eight to the order. While one can order an assortment of all three fillings, my dining companions preferred to stick with their favorite, the cheese and potato. For me, the more adventurous cabbage and mushroom beckoned. Whatever their filling, the pierogis were boiled and then sautéed lightly in butter and bacon fat and garnished with flavorful, pleasantly salty morsels of bacon—this is not a restaurant for the cardiologically challenged.

Golabki (pronounced *go-wump-key*) consisted of whole cabbage leaves wrapped around a moist, savory stuffing of rice and ground pork, dressed with a mild tomato sauce. The tender cabbage and delectable stuffing made a splendid, satisfying ensemble. *Vigos staropolski*, cabbage stew ($7), was Café Polonia's answer to Alsacien choucroute, which in other venues would be known as sauerkraut. The cabbage's mellow sweetness was made robust by a liberal studding with morsels of kielbasa. Cabbage—known to most Americans only in its coleslaw embodiment—may be one of the most underrated of foodstuffs. The golabki and *bigos staropolski* of Café Polonia—like the choucroute of Brasserie Jo—could put this vegetable on the map.

Last among the traditional dishes we sampled were the potato pancakes ($7). Variations of this hearty dish range from *roesti* potatoes in Switzerland to the crisp, almost deep-fried latkes served by Jewish Americans at Hanukkah. Café Polonia's potato pancakes, five to an order, were substantial in size, fried to a dark-brown turn and garnished with a choice of sour cream or mushroom sauce.

The Polish plate ($8) provides a short cut to attacking the café's traditional dishes. Indeed, with its large golabki, three pierogis, substantial cylinder of kielbasa and generous mound of cabbage stew, the Polish plate could serve as an entire dinner, making it one of Boston's premier dining values.

The traditional Polish dishes at Café Polonia provide sufficient reason to journey to this corner of Boston, but its culinary delights do not stop there. Every day of the week, like a French bistro, Café Polonia offers different dinner selections including a choice of soups and main courses. On Wednesday, the cream of mushroom soup ($3) beckoned, with its light-bodied but intensely flavored broth redolent of mushrooms, carrots, onions and herbs, including dill and bay. The Wednesday main course offering of *klopsy*, Polish-style meatballs ($7), yielded one gargantuan meatball, a moist and flavorful combination of pork and veal with the shape—and almost the size—of a dirigible. A special one evening, a thick boneless pork chop ($7), turned out tender and juicy, thanks to its light breading and quick sauté, like a proper schnitzel. The meatball

The Polish plate comes with pierogis, grilled Polish sausage, stuffed cabbage, cabbage stew and bread.

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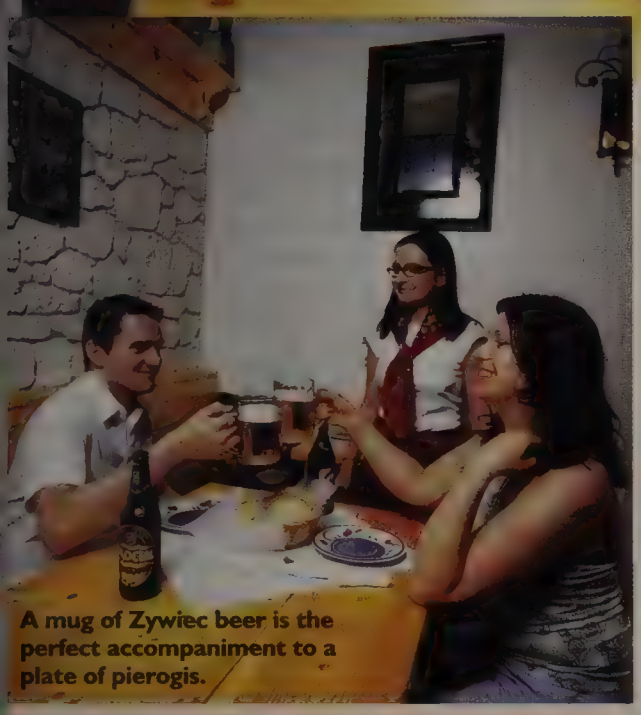

A mug of Zywiec beer is the perfect accompaniment to a plate of pierogis.

Polish crepes are filled with fruit and topped with whipped cream.

While desserts were offered at Café Polonia, they seemed beside the point after the substantial and satisfying courses that preceded them. On the other hand, a 16-ounce bottle of Zywiec, a strong (5.7 percent alcohol) imported Polish beer ($4), hit the spot. Pleasantly bitter, with aromatic hops, it made a fitting accompaniment to the food. Non-beer drinkers can choose from a short wine list.

Café Polonia's satisfying and well-prepared food is served in a marvelous, impeccably neat and clean environment—evoking further memories of my Aunt Vic. Its small dining room, with room for only 30 patrons, occupies the ground floor of a triple-decker and is appointed in blond pine paneling below the wainscoting and white stone above. Massive wooden beams traverse its ceiling, and shelves high on each wall are lined with large wooden figurines. A colorful Polish jacket hangs on one wall and a mirror on another, while purple draperies frame the sparkling plate-glass window in front. Heavy handmade tables and chairs provide the furnishings.

shared its plate with a mountain of cheesy pasta, while the chop was accompanied by mashed potatoes sprinkled with dill. Both of these meat offerings came with a refreshing garnish of grated beets, grated carrots, and a lettuce-and-cucumber salad.

Café Polonia is an engaging addition to the ethnic mosaic that is Boston. While cabbage stew, kielbasa, golabki and pierogi may not displace corned beef and cabbage as the signature dish of South Boston, they are serious contenders.

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Anthony's Pier 4 Trolley
140 Northern Ave., Boston (617-482-6262). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Anthony's Pier 4 offers a special deal for FleetBoston Pavilion concert-goers: Eat dinner at Anthony's, and you can park your car free for the duration of the concert and take a free trolley ride to and from the show.

Bermuda Celebration
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Through June 30. $55. Staff will be dressed in Bermuda shorts, trips to Bermuda will be raffled and a four-course island menu will be served.

Bisuteki Turns 30
Bisuteki Japanese Steakhouse, 777 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-492-7777). Through June 30. Free. In celebration of Bisuteki Japanese Steakhouse's 30th anniversary, diners will be treated to free dessert.

Chefs in Shorts
World Trade Center East, 164 Seaport Lane, Boston. www.seaporthotel.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. June 27, 7-9:30 pm. $55.* Leading chefs fire up the grills for an outdoor barbecue. Participating chefs include **Carmen Quagliata** from the Vault, **Jim Solomon** from the Fireplace, **Chris Douglass** of Icarus, **Luis Morales** of Via Matta, **Brian Reimer** of Radius, **Jeremy Sewall** of Great Bay and **Tom Berry** of Bambara. Proceeds benefit the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation.

Fireside Chats
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. June 28, 3 pm. $25. Learn how to pair dessert wines and sherries with sweet creations.

Icarus Celebrates 25 Years
Icarus, 3 Appleton St., Boston (617-426-1790). To celebrate the restaurant's 25th anniversary, Icarus offers a $25 prix fixe dinner featuring the most popular dishes of the past 25 years.

Krispy Kreme & Martinis
Oak Bar, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). June 30. $14. To celebrate the opening of the Krispy Kreme Doughnut location in Medford, the Oak Bar offers an espresso martini served with a Krispy Kreme glazed doughnut.

75 Chestnut hosts a Bermuda Celebration through June 30.

LobsterFest 2003
Kowloon, 948 Broadway, Saugus (781-233-0077). Through Sept. 1. $18.95. Twin lobsters are prepared in 12 different ways.

Murder Cacciatore
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-697-2583). June 28, 7 pm. $49. Ristorante Marino provides the meal for this murder-mystery dinner theater.

Oyster Bar
The Grand Canal, 57 Canal St., Boston (617-532-1112). Mon.-Fri., 5-7 pm. Free. For an after-work boost, sample oysters from the Grand Canal's free oyster bar.

Radius Summer Cooking Series
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). June 28, 11 am. $125. Chef de cuisine **Brian Reimer** and bartender **Judge DiCesaro** teach you how to makes hors d'oeuvres and mix cocktails for a summer party.

Summer Salads
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). June 25, 6-8 pm. Chef **Ali Jelloul** teaches participants how to make summer salads using vegetables harvested at the farm.

Sunset Dinner Harbor Cruises
World Trade Center, 164 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-730-8002, between 3-6 pm). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mondays in June, 7-10 pm. $49. Tasca Restaurant sponsors this sunset cruise with an eight-course tapas dinner and sangria.

Tour de France
Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-720-1300). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Wednesdays, 7 pm. $35. Beverage director **Erik Johnson** offers an educational tour of the different wine-producing regions of France paired with a four-course dinner.

Tuesday Night Wine Tastings
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tuesdays, 6 and 8 pm. $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey Fallon** discusses wine, and chef **Ian Just** prepares hors d'ouevres. •July 1: Napa Valley ($5 supplement) •July 8: Tuscany.

Turn the Tables
Saint, 90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134) MBTA: Green Line to Copley. June 30, 7 pm. $75. **Shawn McClain**, chef/owner of Spring in Chicago, joins chefs **Rene Michelena** of Saint, **Dante deMagistris** of Blu, **Anthony Caturano** of Prezza and **Nasda de Monteiro** of Elephant Walk to prepare a seven-course dinner of small plates.

Wine Mondays
L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-262-3023). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon., 7 pm. $50. Sample wines paired with French–New England cuisine. The evenings include a wine briefing by sommelier **Erik Johnson**. •June 30: Australia and New Zealand •July 7 Everything's Coming Up Roses.

Wine Wednesdays
UpStairs on the Square, 91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-864-1933). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wednesdays, 6 and 8 pm. $35. Wine director **Lorenzo Savona** offers an intimate and educational tasting of wine paired with small bites prepared by chef **Susan Regis** •June 25: wines from the Lazio region of Italy.

DISH

Summer Shorts

New chefs!...New deals!...New blood!

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

If you're sulking because you'll be stuck in the city this summer instead of soaking up sun and sand at the beach, get over it now. There's plenty to check out at local restaurants, from new chefs and new menus to some special deals spurred both by the economy and by occasion for celebration.

First, new chefs: **Benjamin Knack**, who began the Boston portion of his culinary career three years ago working with **Frank McClelland** at **L'Espalier** and later joined **Beacon Hill Bistro** as pastry chef, has been promoted to executive chef at BHB. His menu, which varies from week to week, includes such dishes as spring osso buco with herb spaetzle and orange gremolata. In Cambridge, **Daniel Pogue** is the new executive chef at **Temple Bar** in Harvard Square. A New Orleans native, Pogue was formerly a Navy chef aboard a submarine during Operation Desert Storm and later served as executive chef at an upscale Chicago steakhouse. So don't expect MREs (meals ready to eat); instead, try giant sea scallops seared in saffron oil with frisee and raspberries.

Daniel Pogue is the new executive chef at Temple Bar in Harvard Square.

SECOND COURSE

Hot deals: **Icarus**, the South End's first fine-dining restaurant, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this summer, but you get the gift. For the first 25 nights in July, Icarus will offer a $25 prix fixe menu, featuring a varying roster of the most popular dishes of the '70s, '80s, '90s and the present. But wait, there's more: several especially popular summer wines will be priced at $25 per bottle during the same period. Another great wine deal is offered at Bomboa, which is slashing its wine list prices by 50 percent every Monday night throughout the summer.

Good news & bad news: After more than nine years as a Caribbean dining and entertainment fixture in Cambridge's Central Square, **Rhythm & Spice** has closed. A recorded message informs callers that the restaurant "hopes to resume catering in a new location" soon. Meanwhile, on the bright-and-early side of the day in that same Cambridge neighborhood, the **Miracle of Science Bar & Grill** is now serving a breakfast menu. Starting at 7 am (it's a miracle if you're up and dressed that early!), and until 11 am, you can wake up to sourdough French toast, steak and eggs, or imported French yogurt, among other moderately priced ($4-$7) breakfast fare.

Calling single red-blooded Americans and blue-blooded Bostonians: What's thicker than water, rarest in summer, and the focus of an event where you can both demonstrate your good citizenship and meet someone who's just your "type"? Find out at the **Hyatt Regency Cambridge** on July 2, when the American Red Cross and The Post Club jointly sponsor a singles blood drive that offers more than the usual juice and cookies. Hold out your arm, then reach for a free non-alcoholic refresher such as a "pale Bloody Mary" or "fainting Cosmo." Yes, it sounds bizarre—can you imagine a less-enticing come-on than "Lie down, relax, it'll be over in a minute"?—but you never know. For an appointment, call 617-441-6450.

If you want a *real* drink, check out the fried martini at **Rustic Kitchen**. Remember when **Bill Bradley** was chef at **Bricco**, and one of his most popular tapas was anchovy-stuffed deep-fried olives? Those same olives now garnish the fried martini, thankfully above gin level to keep their crunch. And if you're thirsty on a sunny Sunday, take a drive to **Buzzards Bay Brewing** in Westport, where you can now buy fresh, locally made beer by the case from 11 am to 5 pm...if you're old enough, of course. IB

Serving Dish

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WINE

Pleasures of Pinot

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

A retailer recently told me his store sells more pinot grigio than chardonnay. It was an astounding assertion and I wasn't sure how to take it, but he was quite serious. The grape is surging in popularity. From virtual anonymity it's leapfrogged past sauvignon blanc to the no. 2 ranking on the white wine hit parade in this country. It's now the top category of imported wine, but more popular than chardonnay? When I asked him whether this sudden fame has translated into higher sales for Oregon or Alsatian pinot gris, two decidedly more upscale versions of the typically light and eminently quaffable Italian pinot grigio, he said he felt certain that it didn't. An informal survey of other stores and restaurants suggests that this is substantially the same story elsewhere as well.

The pinot gris grape is a chameleon, taking on characteristics that depend on where and how it's grown and how the juice is made into wine. Even in Italy there are several different versions. The lightest and easiest-drinking of the wines—the kind found in magnum jugs in stores all over the world nowadays—usually hails from the plains of the Veneto region. It's inexpensive and forms the bulk of the import volume. Serve it cold on the deck or patio. More flavorful pinot grigio is to be found in the adjacent region of Trentino Alto Adige, a hilly zone whose poor soils and higher-elevation vineyards usually impart more texture, body and spice. These are outstanding aperitif wines, but also work nicely with cold seafood salads and simply prepared fish. Generally the finest and the most impressively perfumed wines come from Friuli, on Italy's northeastern border, adjacent to Yugoslavia. Within Friuli two zones, Collio and Colli Orientali del Friuli, are the most prestigious. Their producers are usually artisans who make lavishly textured apple- and peach-scented pinot grigio with lingering mineral flavors that are outstanding foils for rich seafood dishes. Some of these wines are finished in oak barrels, but the predominant practice throughout Italy is to avoid wood treatment.

All of these wines have been selling at a prolific pace in the last few years, even in the midst of a general economic slump and a weakening dollar. The top wines of Friuli are not inexpensive (expect to pay $20 and up in a store), but their brilliance more than justifies an extra premium and they are usually snapped up quickly. Restaurants that once featured one or perhaps two pinot grigios now are becoming more aware of the market for these higher-priced wines and stocking a broader selection. But where are the pinot gris (the original French name of the grape and the version used most commonly outside of Italy) wines other than those produced in Italy? Virtually invisible. But it stands to reason that if the grape is such a crowd pleaser, it can perform well elsewhere as well.

One of the reasons that Oregon pinot gris is not better known is that most of it remains in the Pacific Northwest. It's practically mandatory in Portland, Oregon, to drink one of the local pinot gris–based wines if you're eating grilled salmon. Even though Oregon's climate is cooler than most of the regions of Italy where pinot grigio is produced, the majority of the Northwest pinot gris I've tasted are riper, more floral and spicier, with a rounder mouth feel. It's not unusual to barrel-age the wines, although care must be taken not to over-oak them because the subtly evocative pinot gris flavors can easily be overwhelmed with the toasty scents and tannins of new barrels. Used judiciously, however, wood aging can enhance creaminess and texture. This is Oregon's flagship white, having overtaken Chardonnay some time ago as the state's category leader. To differentiate the wines from the Italian version, it's illegal to put the name "pinot grigio" on the label. At one point I could recommend all of the wines with confidence, but a disturbing trend I've noticed lately is that some Oregon producers are allowing their wines to veer over the edge of perception in terms of residual sugar, with their fruit flavors somewhat buried under the syrupy sweetness.

Alsace is the other region with a long history of quality pinot gris, although here the name on the label is likely to ready "Tokay pinot gris" (after the traditional name for the wine in the region, "Tokay d'Alsace," which is no longer used). The best of these wines take the floral, tropical fruit–scented side of the grape's potential to an extreme. Alsace pinot gris is generally much spicier and more unctuous, with lower acidity and fuller body than other versions. There are examples that are almost Gewurztraminer-like in their aromas and exotically accented flavors. In the hands of many producers there is a smoky, tropical fruit component, dry but honey-like, that fits beautifully with Asian fare and with salty dishes like baked ham. People who have never tried a Tokay pinot gris are often shocked that wines with this much personality are made with the same grape that produces light Italian pinot grigio. Along with the Oregon examples they present an outstanding opportunity to branch out beyond the comfort zone into a whole new world of flavor excitement. ■

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master of wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.

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MPROPER PICKS

june 25 - july 8

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			25 WordsWorth hosts a reading featuring contributors to the short-story collection *The Dictionary of Failed Relationships*. See page 80.	26	27 Blondie performs in a free concert at City Hall Plaza at 7 pm. Come hear "Heart of Glass," "Call Me" and the rest of their oeuvre. See page 63.	28 John McClane a frontman? It's true. Bruce Willis and his band, the Accelerators, are at Avalon tonight. See page 63.
29	30	1 Neil Young rocks the free world at the Tweeter Center with Crazy Horse. See page 66.	2	3	4 The Cape Verdean Festival at City Hall Plaza features martial arts demos, music and food. See page 48.	5
6 The Harvard Film Archive screens Russ Meyer's hilarious cult favorite *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* at 7 pm. See page 58.	7	8				

TUE.–SUN./ JULY 1-6

CityScope: Fest for the Fourth

It's the one time of year when We the People of Boston are inspired to get out there and appreciate all of our city's historic offerings. (You mean there's a Sam Adams *statue*, too?) Boston's annual six-day-long Fourth of July festival showcases the city's colonial and maritime heritage with heaps of reenactments, concerts, historical tours—more than 200 events all together, concentrated in the downtown and waterfront areas. The biggest crowd pleasers are at City Hall Plaza, including a series of free concerts (beginning with reggae/ska kings the Allstonians). There's also Children's Day at the Plaza July 2, and our favorite, Chowderfest, July 6. The Harborfest Web site has a complete listing of events. *(617-227-1528)*. www.bostonharborfest.com.

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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JULIE SURATT

Around Town, Children, Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs and Sports

FRI./JUNE 27

Books & Poetry: Dipsomaniacs' Delight

Writers with Drinks, *Other* magazine's series that pairs—you guessed it—writers and alcohol—is having two sessions this summer at the Lizard Lounge. Luckily, the first one takes place on a Friday night, because you may need the weekend to recover. (These events are something that Charles Bukowski would have liked, filled with equal parts intellectual stimulation and mind-numbing cocktails.) The participants for this round include fantasy author Delia Sherman, who shares her tales about absinthe-drinking lesbian vampire prostitutes; literary maven Charlie Anders (*Other* magazine), who tells tales of urban isolation and leg warmers; comedian Brent Sverdloff of Cambridge's Comedy Studio (right); and poet Shantanette Patrice, who shows off her slam style poetry. Political journalist Dan Kennedy also chimes in with his nonfiction, and steamy performance artist Amatul Hannan takes the stage as Ms. Homeland USA. Anders emcees. *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). 7-9 pm. $3-$5 (pay what you can).*

THROUGH AUG. 31

Performing Arts: Midsummer Madness

Not many theaters allow you to recline in a lawn chair and gulp a beer as you watch a Shakespearean drama unfold. That's why we should all show our support for the Publick Theatre—which has survived hurricane damage, electrical fires and vandalism since its founding in 1959—by heading out to catch its first show of the season, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. (This summer's other production, *Twelfth Night*, opens July 10.) The outdoor theater's setting—right on the Charles River—is magnificent, and at sunset, there's no better place to see this comedy about four lovers, a fairy queen and an ass. *Christian Herter Riverside Park, 1175A Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-782-5425).* www.publicktheatre.org. *Wed., Thu. and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $25-$30.*

FRI./JUNE 27

Tastings: They Wear Short Shorts!

It amazes us that on a nightly basis, local chefs prepare gourmet creations within the sweltering confines of crowded kitchens. Just imagine the masterpieces they could whip up if they tossed off their toques and clogs, strapped on a pair of sandals and cooked under starry skies. Well, you can find out at the Chefs in Shorts event June 27 on the roof of the World Trade Center. More than 25 chefs, including Carmen Quagliata of the Vault, Jim Solomon of the Fireplace, Luis Morales of Via Matta, Brian Reimer of Radius, Jeremy Sewall of Great Bay and Tom Berry of Bambara, will dish out samples of such delicacies as grilled marinated figs with mascarpone cheese or grilled molasses-and-balsamic-vinegar-marinated pork tenderloin. Proceeds benefit the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation, which provides relief for the hungry and homeless through grants to local agencies. *World Trade Center East, 2 Seaport Lane, Boston (617-385-4000).* www.seaporthotel.com. *7-9:30 pm. $55.*

NOW SHOWING

Movies: Reloaded and Revamped

Die-hard fans of the futuristic fantasy *The Matrix* and its sequel, *The Matrix Reloaded*, have a bigger, better experience in store for them: a large-format version of the second film that promises to bowl them over with image and sound. Fans can see *The Matrix Reloaded* on New England's largest movie screen, the IMAX at the New England Aquarium, for evening shows throughout the summer. The new version comes with top-of-the-line technical touches, like digital remastering and enhanced sound. Warner Brothers thought this version was so different that they authorized a new name for the release, *The Matrix Reloaded: The IMAX Experience. New England Aquarium, Boston Central Wharf (866-815-4629).* www.neaq.org. *$12.*

Randall Duk Kim and Carrie-Anne Moss in the IMAX version of *The Matrix Reloaded*.

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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated information for festival, event and benefit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Canstruction Fund-Raiser

Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-451-0200). www.canstruction.org. *6:30-9:30 pm. $25 in advance, $30 at the door.* This benefit for Canstruction (a food drive for the Greater Boston Food Bank) features hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, live music and complimentary cocktails.

Nuit au Cirque Ellie Fund Benefit

Mitchell John Salon, 67 Broad St., Boston (617-515-0580). www.elliefund.org. *8-11 pm. $50.* Mitchell John Salon hosts a circus-themed fund-raiser featuring art installations, live music from a cellist and violinist accompanying a DJ, Thai fire dancing and dancers from the Jeanette Neil Dance Studio. Peking Tom's offers a tasting menu. Pearl Vodka provides four complimentary martini bars. Attire is creative black tie.

Summer Bash at Trio

Trio, 174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-563-9113). 6-9 pm. $25 in advance, $30 at the door. The Young Professionals Group of the Adopt-a-Student Foundation hosts this benefit, featuring hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Mix 98.5 Concert with Blondie

City Hall Plaza, Boston. www.mix985.com. *7:30pm. Free.* Did you know that Blondie lead singer Debbie Harry has her own postage stamp in Mali? Come hear "Heart of Glass," "Call Me" and the rest of her oeuvre.

Parent Empowerment/Children's Holiday Gift Fund Benefit

Anthony's Pier 4, 140 Northern Ave., Boston (617-236-7210, ext. 145). www.pfrr.org. *7 pm. $100.* This fund-raiser helps provide holiday gifts for disabled children and adolescents. The evening includes a silent auction, a three-course dinner and dancing to live music from the Marsels.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Single Executives Club Cocktail Party and Singles Dance

Best Western Hotel Terrace Room, 477 Totten Pond Road, Waltham (781-446-0234). www.se-4u.com. *8:30-12 pm. $10 before 9 pm, $15 thereafter.* Singles and couples ages 35 and over are invited to this dance with music by DJ Brian Milligan. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres are served from 9-10 pm.

Faneuil Hall gets extra security during Harborfest, July 1-6 at locations around Boston.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

New Charles River Run

Daley Field, Nonantum Road, Boston (617-625-2140). www.clydesdale.org/BAEvents/schedule. *9am. $20 for 5K and $22 for 7-mile.* This revival of the old Charles River Run offers either a 7-mile or 5K course for runners, walkers and wheelchairs. The run benefits the American Legion Marsh Post, Somerville Track PAC and the May Institute.

Salute to the Troops Fireworks Show

Boston Harbor (888-484-7677). www.july4th.org. *9:15 pm.* The July 4th fireworks get started early with this show over Boston Harbor.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Boston Harborfest

Locations around Boston (617-227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *Through July 6.* This year's Harborfest includes a series of free concerts at City Hall Plaza (beginning with ska/reggae band the Allstonians today at 12 pm) and Chowderfest July 6. Go to the Harborfest Web site for a complete list of events.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Sunset Parade

Charlestown Navy Yard, Charlestown (617-227-1528). www.bostonharborfest.com. *7:30-8:45 pm.* The Middlesex County Volunteers, a fife and drum corps, provide the musical accompaniment to this sunset military parade held adjacent to the U.S.S. Constitution.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Boston Pops Esplanade Concert

Hatch Shell, the Esplanade, Boston (888-484-7677). www.july4th.org. *8:30 pm.* The Boston Pops get warmed up for the 4th with an open-air concert the night before.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Cape Verdean Festival

North Stage, City Hall Plaza, Boston (617-635-3404). www.bostonharborfest.com. *2-7 pm.* This annual festival features martial arts demonstrations, mus and food.

Fourth of July Harbor Cruise

The New Boston, Mass Bay Lines, 60 Rowes Wha Boston (617-591-1400). www.bostonypa.co *Boarding begins at 7:30 pm. $95. Tickets must be pu chased in advance.* The Boston Young Professiona Association hosts a harbor cruise with a DJ a dancing, three hours of open bar, appetizers and harbor view of the fireworks.

Pops Goes the 4th Fireworks and Concert

The Hatch Shell, the Esplanade, Boston (888-48 7677). www.july4th.org. *Hatch Shell oval opens 9am. Concert begins 8:30pm, fireworks at 10:30p* We'll give you the same advice as always regardi this perennially packed event: Get there early if y want a spot in front of the Hatch Shell. The ga open at 9 am, and if you show up at 7 pm you'll lucky to find a spot standing in Storrow Drive. Th said, this year's 4th includes, as always, the natio ally televised fireworks and accompanying conc by the Boston Pops, as well as a flyover by F-15 E gles from the 102nd Fighter Wing of the Massach setts Air National Guard.

U.S.S. Constitution Turn-Around

Charlestown Navy Yard to Castle Island, Boston Ha bor (617-242-5617). www.bostonharborfest.co *11 am- 1pm.* Watch Old Ironsides make its annu trip out to Castle Island, where the ship fires a 2 gun salute.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

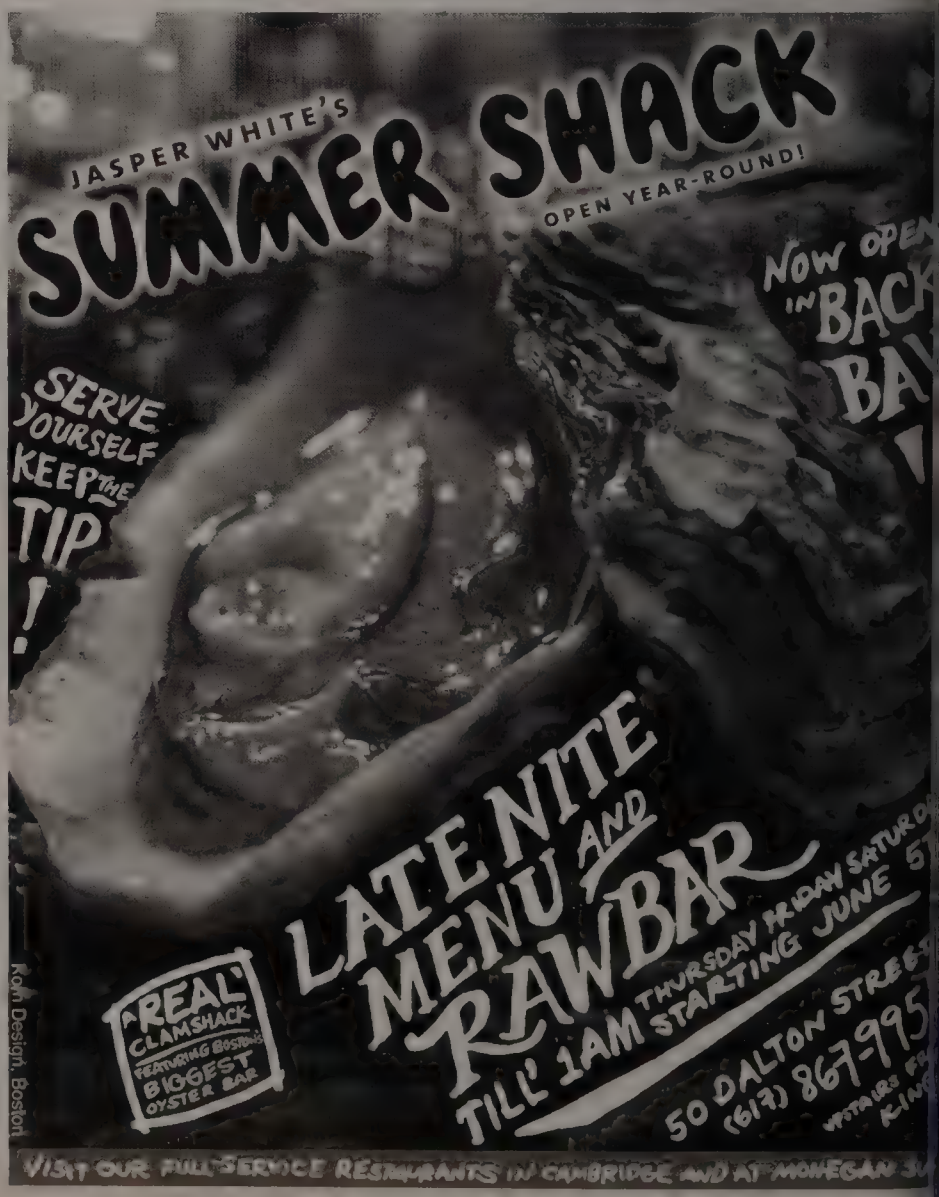
Party on the Plaza

City Hall Plaza, Boston (617-227-1528). www.bost harborfest.com. *6-10 pm. Free.* GetBack!, a Beat tribute band, plays a free concert. You'll swear John, Paul, George and Ringo right there at C Hall. Especially if "Lucy in the Sky with Diamon makes sense to you.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

Chowderfest

City Hall Plaza, Boston (617-227-1528). www.bost harborfest.com. *11 am-6 pm. $7.* Boston's restaura vie for chowder supremacy in this annual cook-off.



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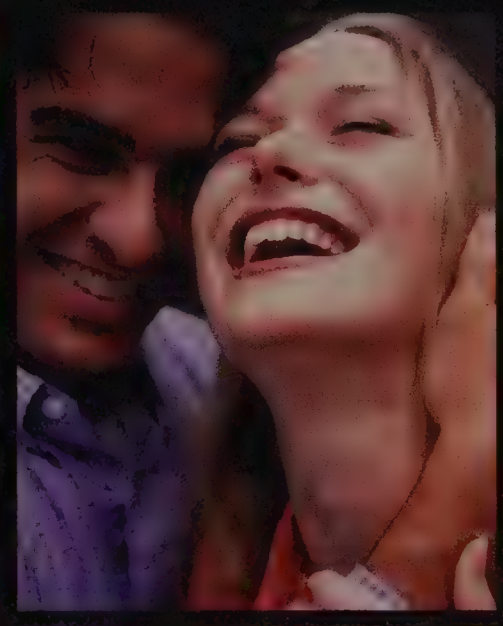

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.boston.com/artsboston. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Cats
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 pm and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. July 8-Aug. 3. $19-$53.* Andrew Lloyd Webber's world of junkyard cats comes to the Boston area. Based on T.S. Eliot's *Book of Practical Cats*, this musical features such numbers as "Mr. Mistoffelees" and "Memory."

The Fantasticks!
Harvard-Radcliffe Summer Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.hcs.harvard.edu/~hrst. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.- Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. June 26-July 5. $10-$14.* This musical by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones tells the story of a pair of young lovers, their feuding families, and the music that brings them together.

The Flames of Louvain
Wellesley Summer Theatre, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2000). 5:30 pm. June 29. Free. A world-premiere staged reading of local playwright Laura Harrington's play.

George Gershwin Alone
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Wed., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. July 5-26. $27-$45.* Hershey Felder's one-man musical is the biographical story of legendary composer George Gershwin. The play is based on interviews with the composer's family and friends, plus correspondence and manuscripts.

Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. June 25–July 13. $30. This evening of song is based on Jacques Brel's lyrics and commentary, accompanied by his music. The performance features classics by the Belgian composer, including *Carousel*, *Marathon* and *If We Only Have Love*.

The Lady From Maxim's
Birth of a Musical Festival, C. Walsh Theatre, 55 Temple St., Boston (617-573-8680). Fri., 7 pm. June 27. $15. This musical is an adaptation of Georges Feydeau's classic French farce by New Englanders Tim Banker and David Reiffel. Act I was showcased at the 2001 Birth of a Musical festival. This year, Act III is presented: It's the morning after the morning after, and earlier deceptions are proving inconvenient.

Public Domain
Birth of a Musical Festival, C. Walsh Theatre, 55 Temple St., Boston (617-573-8680). Sat., 2 pm. June 28. $15. Rachel Peters' musical examines the tangled wires of human communication as it follows the friendship between a suicidal telemarketer and a pregnant schizophrenic in the underworld of the Boston subway system.

A Time to Be Born
Birth of a Musical Festival, C. Walsh Theatre, 55 Temple St., Boston. (617-573-8680). Sun., 2 pm. June 29. $15. This romantic musical-comedy by Tajlei Levis and John Mercurio is set in New York City in 1940. Based on the novel by Dawn Powell, it focuses on America on the verge of its entry into World War II: opportunism is in the air, bargains are made and values are put to the test.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway musical smash *Cats* takes the stage at the North Shore Music Theatre July 8-Aug. 3.

NOW RUNNING

Antigone
Wellesley Summer Theatre, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2000). http://theatre.wellesley.edu/Summertheatre.html. *Mon.-Wed., 7 pm. Through June 25. $10.* Wellesley's professional theater group presents Bertolt Brecht's adaptation of the classic Greek play by Sophocles. This tragedy about a young woman fighting against her powerful uncle was first performed in 440 B.C.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Cookin' at the Cookery
Huntington Theatre Mainstage, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Fri., 8 pm; Sat. 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm; Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm. Through June 29. $32-$47.* Marion J. Caffey's musical follows the life of late jazz singer and songwriter Alberta Hunter from her childhood in Tennessee to her famous days at the Cookery in Greenwich Village at age 82. She is honored here with a mix of cabaret and sultry blues.

Fly-Bottle
Spring Lawn Theater, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). Through Aug. 24. $27-$42. David Egan's play examines the famed "poker incident" between renowned philosophers Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popper at the Moral Science Club in England in October 1946. The two are said to have engaged in a heated exchange that culminated in Wittgenstein gesturing with (some say brandishing) a poker that hung by the fireplace.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7 pm. Ongoing. $27. The Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent assistant. He loses his mind during a performance, and only authentic supernatural powers and his dark past can save his show. With beginnings in a 10-seat basement theater in Allston, this black comedy, written and performed by Donato Colucci, is now being presented by the Underground Magic Theatre.

Ionesco, Not Ionesco
Charlestown Working Theatre, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown (617-471-5384). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2pm. Through July 5. Three one-act plays by absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco—*Improvisation*, *The Picture* and *Salutations*—feature the playwright's trademark wit and desperate humor.

Little Moon of Alban
Wellesley Summer Theatre, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2000). http://theatre.wellesley.edu/Summertheatre.html. *Wed., 5 pm; Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm. Through June 28. $20.* Wellesley's professional theater company presents this love story by James Costigan about a soldier and a young woman on opposite sides of the front line in World War I.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Christian Herter Riverside Park, 1400 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (617-782-5425). www.publick theatre.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed., Thu., and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm.* Enjoy an evening outdoors on the banks of the Charles River as the Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's comedy about four lovers, a fairy queen and an ass.

The Odd Couple
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm. Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through June 29. $30-$35. Neil Simon's Broadway play, made famous by the onscreen pairing of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon, comes to Stoneham with Pat Morita of *The Karate Kid* trilogy as Felix and Sherman Helmsley of *The Jeffersons* and *All in the Family* as Oscar.

Pericles
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through June 27. $34-$68.* One of the last plays Shakespeare wrote, this epic romance—complete with magicians, pirates, shipwrecks and divine revelation—opens in a world damaged by famine, incest and corruption, and closes in a scene of sublime love, redemption and hope.

The Producers
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Extended through September 13th. $87-$97. Mel Brooks' musical that swept the 2001 Tonys, winning the mos awards in Broadway history, comes to Boston, starring Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor.

Rapist James
Huntington Theatre, Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntington theatre. org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphon Thu.-Sun., 8pm. Through June 28. $22.* A youn couple's relationship is tested when it appears tha the woman has been raped by her ex-boyfriend Playwright Christopher Denham tackles love, obses sion and self-realization.

Ruthless!
Boston Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 53 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). Wed.-Fri., pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through June 28 $25-31. SpeakEasy Stage Company presents th award-winning off-Broadway musical written by Joa Paley, with music by Marvin Laird. This comedy play parodies classic films like *All About Eve* as t tells the story of a 9-year-old girl who will stop a nothing to get the lead in the school play.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:3 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit se in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston longest-running play.

The Sound of a Voice
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cam bridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA Red Line to Harvard. Wed. 7:30 pm; Sat. 2 an 8pm. Through June 28. $34-$68.* In this play b David Henry Hwang, a Japanese warrior takes the challenge of achieving intimacy after years seclusion. He finds himself entangled in a battle love with an enchanting yet reclusive woman.

Step into My Love
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 333). www.ccae.or *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun 7:30 pm. Through June 29. $12.* Diversity Theatr presents this serio-comedy written and directed b Stan Edelson about a modern-day Adam and Ev who examine their life, love and relationships wit the help of Cain and Abel and a reality TV crew.

Dance

Configuration: Ballet Ensemble fo the 21st Century
Copley Theater, 225 Clarendon St., Boston (508-945 4096). June 27, 8 pm. $30. Guest musicians from th Boston Symphony Orchestra accompany principa and soloist dancers from across the country, includ ing former Boston Ballet dancer Christina Johnso as they perform works by choreographers includin Harrison McEldowney and Diane Coburn Bruning

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Frente de Danza Independiente

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400). www.cmacusa.org. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 6 pm. June 27-29. Ecuador's foremost contemporary-dance company presents works by four of the country's choreographers.

Stomp

Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55. In its ongoing run in Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays: Third Grade Trick improv comedy troupe performs •Saturdays: Stand-up •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •June 25: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebins •June 26, $12: Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist" •June 27-28, $25: Greg Proops of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* •June 29, 8 pm: Amateur Showcase, hosted by Kevin Knox •July 4, 8 and 10:15 pm, July 5, 11:15 pm, $25: Jamie Kennedy of *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment.*

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •June 25: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Mandy Donovan, Eric Riley Moore, Malissa Hunt, Ira Proctor, Emily Singer, Patrice Vinci and Jon Rineman •June 26: Tim McIntire's *Real Politik* •June 27: Mike Bent, Tony Moschetto, Sandy Asai, Dan Sally and Adam Pearlman •June 29: *Sacrificing Virgins.* Eight first-time comedians, plus Rob Reuter, Sam Walters and Steve Calechman •July 2: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Jeremy Turoff, Greg Thibbideau, Corey Manning, Eric Cheung and Chris Foltz •July 3: *Best of the Comedy Studio* Annual Showcase •July 5: Tim Fenn, Malissa Hunt and Erik Charels Neilsen •July 6: Alana Devic, Jesse Shapiro, Joe Randazzo, Deb Farrar-Parkman and Kevin Carson.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •June 26, 8:30 pm: Kevin Knox, All Star Comedy •June 27 and 28, 8:45 pm: Robbie Printz, Ken Rogerson and Craig Boggis •July 3, 8:30 pm: Dave Russo •July 4 and 5, 8:45 pm: Bob Sibel, Paul Keenan and Artie Januario.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

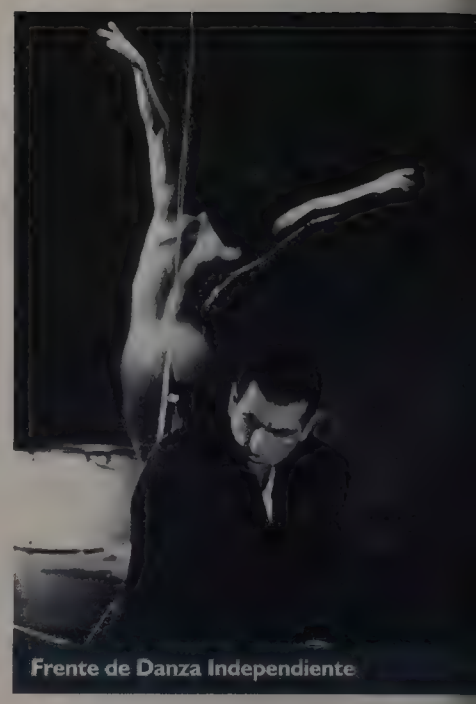
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm.* $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. Dinner packages available. •Wed. and Thu., $15, and Fri. and Sat., $20: Improv Asylum comedians present their summer main-stage show, *The Brand Ambition Tour.* •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv Jam featuring main stage performers and special guests.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dance. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump.* This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $12: Micetro; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show.* Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Agent Spy.* A fast-paced spy thriller that involves the audience and their cell phones, as they assist the secret agency Clandestine and its agents. 10 pm, $12: *TheatreSports.* Two teams of improvisers face off. (No show July 4.) •Sat., 6 pm, $12: ImprovBoston Family Show; 8 and 10 pm, $12: ImprovBoston Mainstage. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree* features visiting troupes and combines three shows in one.


Frente de Danza Independiente

COMEDY SHOWS

2003 Comedy Concert Series

North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7203). www.nsmt.org. June 29, 7 pm. $30. The series continues with Cambridge native and comedian Jimmy Tingle, who has performed on *The Tonight Show, The Late Show with Conan O'Brien* and his own HBO comedy special.

Comedy Night

Jimbo's South, 405 Franklin St., Braintree (781-848-0300). www.jimbossouth.com. June 26, 8:30 pm. $10. The show features the "Comedy Divas" Stephanie Peters of 96.9 FM WTLK, as well as Annette Pollack, Vernon Harrison, Sean Sullivan and Christopher Jackson. Hosted by Scott Carney.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boylston. June 27 and 28, 7:30 pm. $49 for dinner and show. The interactive comedy spoofs a traditional Italian wedding.

Letters to Declan

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-596-1616). www.jimmytingle.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm, Sunday, 3 pm. $20 on Wed., Thurs., and Sun., $25 on Fri. and Sat. Through June 29.* Boston-born comedian Jack Gallagher of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* stars in this one-man show based on letters he wrote to his son, Declan.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon. pm. Open mike for creative talent.

The Sopranos Last Supper

Whites of Westport, 66 State Road, Westport (508-675-7185). June 28, 7:45 pm. $33.50 for dinner and show. "Get Made" in this interactive dinner-theater comedy show—based on HBO's *The Sopranos*—about an Italian-American mob family trying to stay main close.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month.* Enjoy standup comedy with host Stash and 12 New England comedians plus live music.

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THE RACK

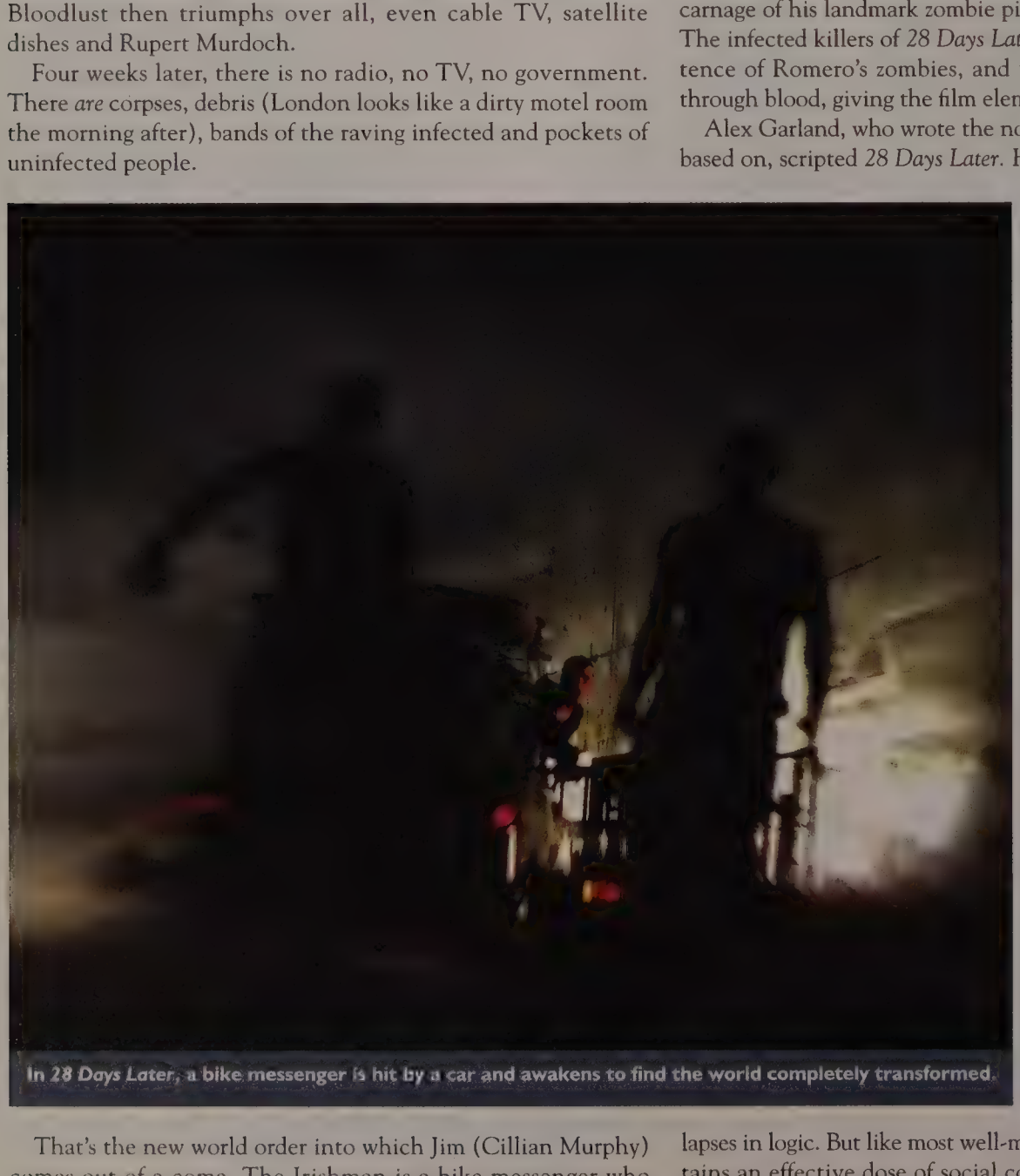
Dawn of the Dread

28 Days Later is a grim reaper of sci-fi thrills

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The apocalypse will not be televised. At least that's how it goes in *28 Days Later*, a tense, creepy and ultimately rather traditional sci-fi/action movie from *Trainspotting* director Danny Boyle. It starts with a group of English animal-rights activists breaking into a research laboratory and liberating a roomful of primates that one lab worker warns have been "infected with rage." That sets off a chain reaction of killing. The ticked-off primates bite the humans, infecting them with the rage virus, and these people go off to maim more humans. Bloodlust then triumphs over all, even cable TV, satellite dishes and Rupert Murdoch.

Four weeks later, there is no radio, no TV, no government. There *are* corpses, debris (London looks like a dirty motel room the morning after), bands of the raving infected and pockets of uninfected people.



In *28 Days Later*, a bike messenger is hit by a car and awakens to find the world completely transformed.

That's the new world order into which Jim (Cillian Murphy) comes out of a coma. The Irishman is a bike messenger who had been hit by a car around the same time the trouble began. He awakens in an empty hospital and staggers through empty London streets like the last man on earth in a *Twilight Zone* episode, in an urban vacuum eerier than the deserted Times Square of *Vanilla Sky*.

When Jim is set upon by an infected vicar, he's rescued by two other "uninfecteds." But Jim soon learns the ways of the new world when one (Noah Huntley) gets infected and the other, Selena (Naomie Harris), promptly plunges her machete-like knife through him. Tough Selena and shell-shocked Jim eventually meet up with a London cabbie (Brendan Gleeson) and his 14-year-old daughter (Megan Burns), and after hearing a radio broadcast from a group of soldiers outside Manchester, the four head north in search of more survivors.

28 Days Later is not about the end of the world as we know it so much as it's about those survivors trying to carry on. Like Jim, we don't even see the collapse of society; after the primates are let loose, the action jumps over those 28 days of mayhem. Instead, the focus is similar to that of *Dawn of the Dead* and *Day of the Dead*, George A. Romero's depictions of the aftermath to the carnage of his landmark zombie picture, *Night of the Living Dead*. The infected killers of *28 Days Later* have the unthinking persistence of Romero's zombies, and their contagious rage spreads through blood, giving the film elements of a vampire movie.

Alex Garland, who wrote the novel that Boyle's *The Beach* was based on, scripted *28 Days Later*. He gives the story a distinctive three-act structure, with an intense opening, a rather idyllic mid-section (when the four uninfecteds get out of London and into the relaxing countryside as they drive north) and a bloody conclusion as the final showdown occurs. The mid-section lets the characters emerge as people the viewer cares about and lets hope seep into the earlier sense of doom, providing emotional dimension that makes the battles that follow all the more dramatic. But Boyle's direction has less in common with *The Beach* than with the two lean BBC movies he made after that, *Strumpet* and *Vacuuming in the Nude*. Like those, *28 Days Later* was shot on digital video by Anthony Dod Mantle, and it shares those films' jarring spontaneity at times.

So *28 Days Later* doesn't break any new ground, and the climax, which skillfully swerves far from the predictable, contains nagging lapses in logic. But like most well-made sci-fi/horror, the story contains an effective dose of social commentary. The movie's most powerful image may be its first, in the research laboratory, where a fast-cut montage of human violence and strife turns out to be what a strapped-down primate is being forced to watch. Nonstop images of human violence are being used to infect "animals" with rage. As *28 Days Later* asks, just who are the animals here? iB

28 Days Later ★★★

Directed by Danny Boyle. Written by Alex Garland. With Cillian Murphy, Naomie Harris, Christopher Eccleston, Brendan Gleeson and Megan Burns. Rated R. Fox Searchlight Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between t cultures—think *Double Happiness*, Mississi *Masala* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—g trotted out yet again in director Gurinder Chadh latest, which can't compare to her *Bhaji on Beach* but is still involving. Parminder Nagra gi a winning performance as Jess, the Indian-Engl teen with soccer skills and two Sikh parents w won't allow her to pursue such a nontraditio female endeavor. When Jess is recruited to play a local women's team, with the possibility discovery by an American pro team, the scen set for lots of running around behind her paren back and comic mishaps—in fact, an awful lo repetitive running around and mishaps. It's pretty predictable, but Nagra, Anupam Kher the heroine's father) and Keira Knightley (as teammate and sometime rival), as well as Chadh sense of compassion, help dignity fight caricat to a standoff. (At Copley Place, Kendall Squ and suburbs.)

Bruce Almighty ★★
The Majestic was a terrible movie that deserved flop, but it hurts to see Jim Carrey retreat back i physical comedy with this painfully broad mo about a guy who's ticked off about his accursed, lucky life until God (Morgan Freeman) lets h take the world's reins for a week to see if he can any better. Despite a few amusing moments, C rey's latest is as unconvincingly feel-good as *Majestic* was. The premise is just a clumsy exc for his character to discover, à la Jimmy Stewart *It's a Wonderful Life*, that he didn't have it so b after all. And don't the Hollywood studios ha anything better for Jennifer Aniston than the g friend role she's stuck with here? (At Boston Co mon, Fenway and suburbs.)

Capturing the Friedmans ★★★★
Has a movie ever plunged you into greater mo ambiguity than Andrew Jarecki's document about the Friedman family of Great Neck, Long land? They splintered apart in the late 198 when father Arnold and youngest son Jesse w accused of molesting Arnold's computer studen On one hand, it's easy to see how the two Fri mans, and Arnold in particular, might be gui He first got into trouble for having child porn, a he confessed to having improper relations w minors at other times in his life. On the ot hand, the police's investigation and the testim that investigators got from the kids are both w suspect. It's impossible to believe the Friedm are totally in the wrong, or totally right in th denials. You have to believe the truth is som where in the middle. So is the movie a caution tale about evil lurking beneath an everyday sub ban surface or about the power of suggestion a the abuse of power? It's both. (At Copley Pla Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Down with Love ★★★
First there was Gus Van Sant's refilming of the sc for Hitchcock's *Psycho*. Then came Todd Hayn *Far from Heaven*, a meticulous re-creation of D glas Sirk's 1950s melodramas. Now here's this s conscious and fizzy pastiche of characters, plots a decor from the Rock Hudson and Doris Day mov of the early 1960s. Well, at least this one has so genuine fun with its appropriating, as Renée Z weger plays the author of a bestseller telling wom to stop being distracted by love and Ewan McGre plays a womanizing reporter intent on exposing by making her fall for him. It's complete with m querades, split screens, the man's sexually ambigu best friend (the role Tony Randall played in originals), cheesy back projection, double entend only slightly more nudge-nudge than Hudson a Day's, a second relationship featuring the leads' c fidants—and Randall himself. (At Boston Co mon, Fenway and suburbs.)

Dumb & Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd ★
Loser! This unfunny prequel to the funny Jim C rey hit really has no reason for being. Carrey Jeff Daniels are not in this story of how their ch acters became friends back in high school (t their hairstyles are), and original writer-direct Peter and Bobby Farrelly had nothing to do w it. Instead, it's just a generic high school com with some bad slapstick. It even wastes Eug Levy as the evil principal. (At Boston Comm Fenway and suburbs.)

Finding Nemo ★★★
The latest computer-animated comedy from Pi doesn't stray very far from the quest plots of

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Toy Story movies and *A Bug's Life*, but it's a return to form after the weak *Monsters, Inc.* The digital animation continues to get more expressive, and human characters are again wisely kept to a minimum. This story of a fish trying to find his son, who was grabbed by a scuba diver, features equally expressive work from the voice cast, especially Albert Brooks as the overprotective father and Ellen DeGeneres as the forgetful fish who helps him on his quest. The amusing, but little-seen, early Pixar short "Knick Knacks" precedes the film. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Hard Word ★★
Aussies Guy Pearce (*The Time Machine*) and Rachel Griffiths (*Six Feet Under*) return Down Under for *this*? A heist movie trying to blend crime, comedy and sex, this only gets more and more preposterous, especially during its endless series of resolutions and its unconvincing happy ending. (At Harvard Square.)

The In-Laws ★★
This pointless remake of the hilarious Alan Arkin–Peter Falk comedy steamrolls most of the comic finesse out of the story of two dads who couldn't be more different, but whose kids are about to marry. Douglas plays the Falk part, a spy who drags unwitting Brooks, a worry-prone doctor, into one of his assignments. But by adding a prologue of spy intrigue, the movie takes all the fun out of wondering whether the man of action is really a spy or just delusional. And Douglas and Brooks don't have a quarter of the chemistry that Falk and Arkin had. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Italian Job ★★
Big car chases are no camouflage for shoddy writing in this underachieving remake of a 1969 heist movie. The characters are all amazingly vague in this story of a gang of thieves (including Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron and Mos Def) that plots revenge after one of them makes off with the spoils of a Venice robbery. The story awkwardly maneuvers itself into the situation of the British original when a cache of gold is heisted from an armored car by using a fleet of stripped-down, souped-up Mini-Coopers. But the cool Minis overshadow the people this time. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Matrix Reloaded ★★½
This spotty sequel to 1999's pop-culture touchstone holds true to the theory that the middle movie is usually the weakest of trilogies (that's assuming this fall's third movie is better). Where the first was intimate and tightly constructed, the new movie is less specific in its internal logic and has a large scale that is sometimes clumsy (including council meetings and war talk reminiscent of, yikes, *The Phantom Menace*). The sequel seems even more like a videogame than the first, in its increasingly elaborate, animation-dependent fight scenes (which come off as self-parody at times) and in the "leveled" structure (fight to see the Oracle, move up to fight to see the Keymaker, move up to fight your way into the Source, etc.). The heavies have all the fun this time, including Hugo Weaving's Agent Smith, who can now replicate himself at will, and the snippy Frenchman played by Lambert Wilson. Not bad, but not as satisfying as hoped. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

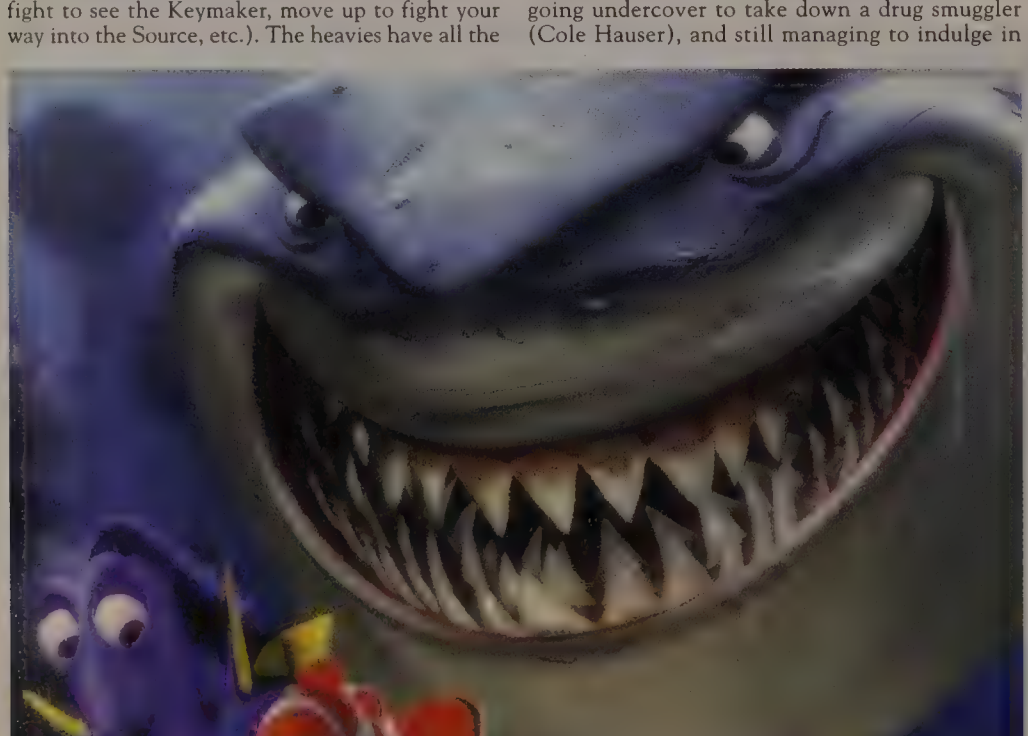
May ★★½
Writer-director Lucky McKee's blend of female alienation and gore—think *The Virgin Suicides* meets *Carrie*—makes for intriguing, though sometimes slow horror-drama. Angela Bettis, who actually played the title character in the 2002 TV remake of *Carrie* (filmed after this), plays the lonely and sympathetic young woman whose social troubles make her turn to violence. Jeremy Sisto is the guy that she gets a crush on before she proceeds to totally weird him out, while Anna Faris is her mischievous coworker. The blend is intriguing, though there's an awful lot of setup to get through before the horror. (At Copley Place and suburbs.)

A Mighty Wind ★★★½
In Christopher Guest's latest improvised mockumentary, following *Waiting for Guffman* and *Best in Show*, Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara dominate as a one-time folk duo and romantic couple that reunites for a memorial concert with two other groups. As the fallen folk idol who's had a rough three decades since, Levy is hilariously zonked out, but he and O'Hara sing so well together that their scenes are also disarmingly sweet and touching. Guest and his *This Is Spinal Tap* cohorts Michael McKean and Harry Shearer also score together as the Folksmen, though the three characters are underdeveloped as individuals. Meanwhile, like always, Fred Willard nearly steals the show. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Spellbound ★★★½
Jeffrey Blitz's documentary follows eight junior high schoolers with a magnificent obsession: they're all contestants in the 1999 National Spelling Bee. The movie takes them from their regionals through the Washington, D.C., finals, and it has quirky charm to spare. The kids make up an impressively broad cross section—boys and girls, city and country, white and of color—and the Bee really brings their families together and lets these smart kids, often misfits back in their hometowns, bond with others like themselves. The finals also generate more dramatic tension than any other movie this year, by far. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

2 Fast 2 Furious ★★
Without the original's Vin Diesel (the Steven Seagal of the new millennium), the sequel isn't quite as obnoxious as the original. But it is almost as dumb. Once again, everyone acts as if they're extras in a music video—which, considering how the street races are edited to music, isn't entirely incorrect. This just might be the world's most expensive pissing contest, and the "Look at me! Look at my car!" desperation of most of the characters is downright silly. The plot involves Paul Walker (whose character is now an *ex*-cop) and Tyrese going undercover to take down a drug smuggler (Cole Hauser), and still managing to indulge in enough male bonding for three movies (gee, who's on whose tail in *this* race?). The movie achieves its goal of throwing in one of those races every 15 minutes, but I'll take a grade-Z hot-rod movie over this one's product-placement, soundtrack-deal, MTV slickness any day. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

X2: X-Men United ★★★
The first one did nothing for me, but the *X-Men* sequel is a looser and more entertaining experience than its stiff predecessor. Perhaps it's the plot about a government higher-up (Brian Cox) who's determined to start a war that gives the sequel an extra timeliness. Cox, Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen all give sly performances, Hugh Jackman gets tough-guy laughs as the Eastwood-esque Wolverine, Halle Berry and Famke Janssen kick sci-fi butt, and Alan Cumming has joined the cast as a creepy little mutant. The plot is much more focused and under control than the first time around, and the only real problem here is that the climax drags on, and on. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)


Marlin and his fish friend Dory meet shark Bruce while on a cross-ocean search in *Finding Nemo*.

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

ALLSTON CINEMA UNDERGROUND

Black Belt Theater
•June 28, 4 pm. **Huang gu shi jie** (*Yes Madam!*) 1996. Michelle Yeoh (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) and Cynthia Rothrock star as inspectors who must track down an evil-doer in director Yuen Kwai's kung fu thriller.

Extreme Asian Action!
•June 27, 7:30 and 9:30 pm; June 28, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Versus** *2001*. Cannibal zombies bounce back to life and go on a killing spree when a pair of escaped convicts shows up in the Forest of Resurrection and starts making trouble.

Hong Kong Horror and Exploitation
•June 25, 8 pm. **Mo tai** (*Devil Fetus*) *1983*. A possessed fetus tears its way out of its dead mother's stomach in Hung Chuen Lau's super-gory flick.

Turn It Up! Music Movies on Screen
•July 5 and 6. **Instrument** *1998*. Jem Cohen's documentary follows underground rock band Fugazi.

BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL

Movies by Moonlight
•June 27, dusk. **West Side Story** *1961*. Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise's musical adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* pairs lovers from two opposing New York City street gangs.
•July 4, dusk. **The Thomas Crown Affair** *1968*. In director Norman Jewison's film, an attractive female investigator tags a wealthy businessman as a bank robbery suspect. To nail him, she starts seeing him socially.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

IberoAmerican Film Festival
•June 25, 6 pm. **Brava gente Brasileira** (*Brave New Land*) *2000*. A peace-loving cartographer accidentally gets involved in a violent incident while in the South American Portuguese colonies. Lucia Murat directs.

Summer Film Festival: Bogey in the Forties
•July 7, 6 pm. **The Roaring Twenties** *1939*. Humphrey Bogart stars in Raoul Walsh's film, in which three men start anew after the World War I armistice.

Summer Film Festival: From Page to Screen
•July 1, 6 pm. **Spider-Man** *2002*. Sam Raimi directs this big-screen adaptation of the comic book about a geek (Tobey Maguire) who develops supernatural powers after being bitten by a spider.
•July 8, 6 pm. **Clueless** *1995*. Alicia Silverstone stars in Amy Heckerling's teen comedy, which reveals the outlandish dating tactics of ritzy, ditsy high school girls. The film is loosely based on Jane Austen's classic 19th-century novel *Emma*.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Special Features
•June 26, 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm. **Gigantic: A Tale of Two Johns** *2002*. A.J. Schnack documents the lives of the two Johns of the band They Might Be Giants. The film won the Chlotrudis Award for best documentary.
•June 27. **Le Cercle rouge** (*The Red Circle*) *197* Trouble ensues in Jean-Pierre Melville's film wh an ex-thief enlists a murderer and an ex-poli sharpshooter for a jewel heist.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects
•Opens June 27. **Cinemania** *2001*. In Ang Christlieb and Stephen Kijak's film, five New Yo cinephiles choose film fantasy over reality.
•Through June 27. **Señorita extraviada** (*Miss Young Woman*) *2001*. Director Lourdes Portillo vestigates the disappearances and murders of hu dreds of Mexican women near the U.S. border.

Features
•Opens July 2. **Whale Rider** *2002*. A New Zeala girl fights to claim her rightful position as tribe ch in Niki Caro's film.

Jazz in June
•June 30, 7:30 pm. **Lady Day: The Many Faces Billie Holiday** *1991*. Director Matthew Seig tra the female jazz vocalist's turbulent history. The Da Devoe Quartet performs before the screening.

Midnights: Cellu-Loud
•June 27, 12 am. **Emak Bakia** *1926*; **Film** *1979*; a **Un chant d'amour** *1950*. Three avant-garde clas pieces, directed by Man Ray, Samuel Beckett a Jean Genet, respectively, screen while Geoff Far of Karate provides live musical accompaniment.

Midnights: Crazy About Swayze
•June 28 and July 4, 12 am. **Donnie Darko** *200* Teenager Donnie Darko embarks on a rebelli spree after a hallucination in which a six-foot bun tells him the world will end in 28 days. Richa Kelly directs.
•July 5, 12 am. **Red Dawn** *1984*. At the dawn World War III, a group of midwestern teenag bands together to protect their town from Soviet vaders. John Milius directs.

Midnights: Kung-Fu Madness
•July 5, 12 am. **Long zai tian ya** (*Dragon Fig 1988*. Jet Li stars in Hin Sing "Billy" Tang's fi about the star of a Chinese martial arts troupe w follows his teammate into San Francisco's Chi town underworld.

Summertime Blues
•July 7, 7:30 pm. **Bluesland: A Portrait of Blues America** *1993*. Ken Mandel's documentary chro cles the history of blues in America and its influe on jazz, rock and R&B.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Cinema A to Z: Treasures from the Harvard Film Archive
•July 1, 7 pm. **The Crowd** *1928*. In King Vid silent film, New Yorker John Sims must learn live with the sins of corporate America despite dreams of leading a charmed life. •Also showi 9 pm. **McCabe and Mrs. Miller** *1971*. War Beatty plays a gambler who builds a popu brothel and saloon in a northwestern town. Rol Altman directs.
•July 2, 7 pm. **Down by Law** *1986*. In Jim musch's film, two innocent men are thrown beh bars alongside an Italian chatterbox with a p chant for American slang. •Also showing, 9 pm **Generale della rovere** (*General Della Rov 1959*. An Italian con artist disguised as a Re tance fighter is inspired to fight the Nazis after posing leaders of the underground. Directed Roberto Rossellini.
•July 3, 7 pm. **Jeux interdits**. (*Forbidden Gam 1952*. In Rene Clement's drama, a young girl is phaned when her parents are killed in a W War II air raid. She befriends a peasant boy, wh family takes her in. •Also showing, 9 pm. **combe Lucien** *1973*. A young man in Nazi C many joins the police when he is rejected from Resistance. When he falls for the daughter persecuted Jew, he reconsiders his position. L Malle directs.
•July 4, 7 pm; July 5, 9 pm. **A Matter of Life Death** *1946*. In Michael Powell and Emeric Pr burger's film, an American pilot avoids a de crash through the guidance of a woman's heav voice. •Also showing, 9 pm; July 5, 7 pm. **hasard, Balthazar** (*Balthazar*) *1966*. Dire Robert Bresson examines cruelty to animals b cusing on the life and death of an abused donke
•July 6, 7 pm. **Beyond the Valley of the Dolls** *1* Russ Meyer's silly film follows three aspiring fe rockers who succumb to celebrity temptati •Also showing, 9 pm. **Possession** *1981*. A ma turns home after a business trip to discover tha wife (Isabelle Adjani) may be unfaithful. An Zulawski directs.
•July 7, 7 pm. **The Wedding March** *1927*. A b aristocrat loves a poor girl, but his family pushes to marry the crippled daughter of a wealthy busi

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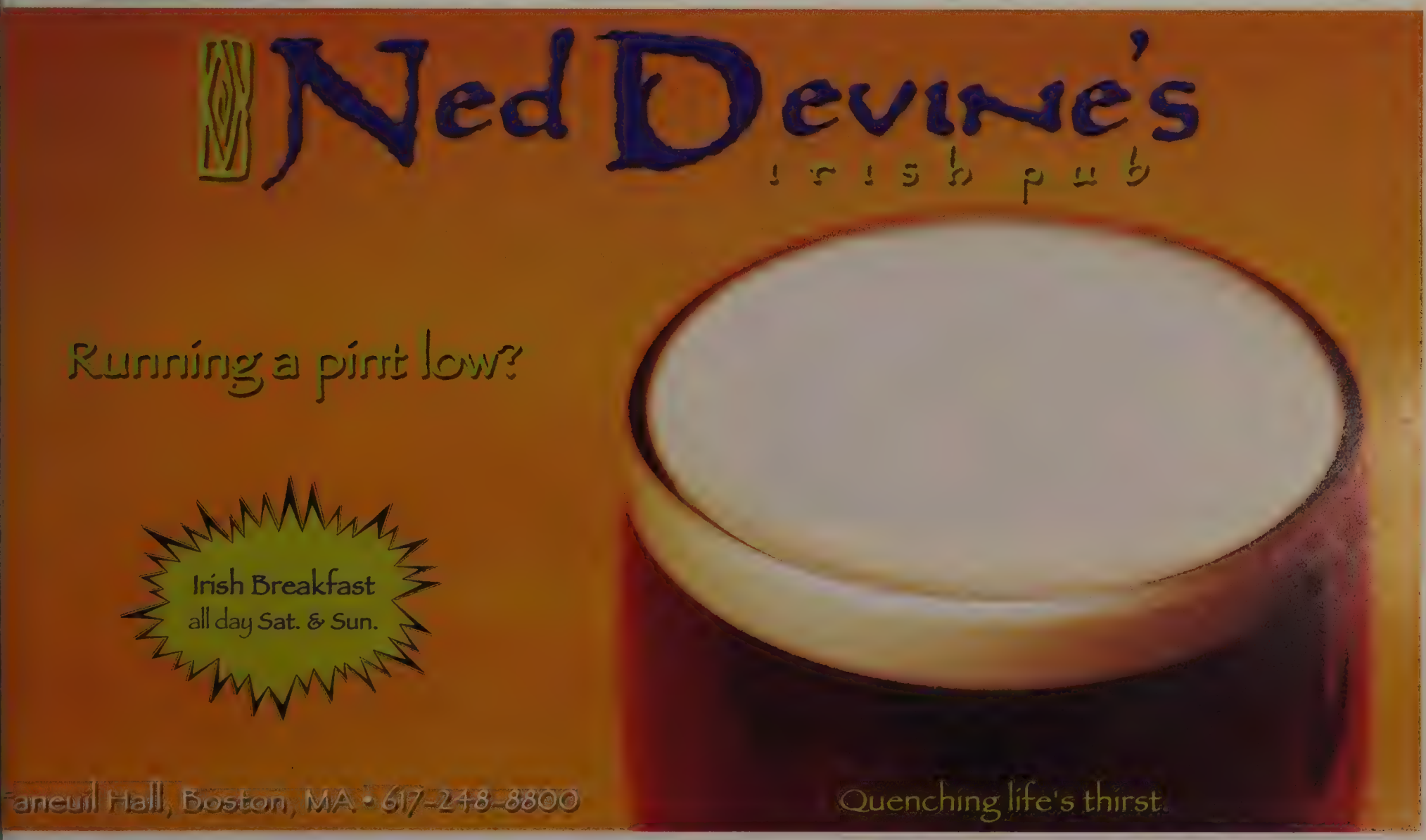
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Eric Christian Olsen (Lloyd) and Derek Richardson (Harry) are doofuses in *Dumb and Dumberer*.

tycoon. Erich von Stroheim directs. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Camila** *1984*. In director Maria Luisa Bemburg's film, a Jesuit priest and a wealthy landowner's daughter fall head-over-heels for each other.
•July 8, 7 pm. **Dead of Night** *1945*. An architect is assigned to work on a haunted Victorian country house. Alberto Cavalcanti, Charles Crichton, Basil Dearden and Robert Hamer direct. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Vargtimmen** *(Hour of the Wolf) 1967*. A panicky insomniac begs his wife to stay awake with him until the hour when his nightly visions attack.

Topics in Film: Cold War Paranoia

•June 25, 7 pm. **One, Two, Three** *1961*. Billy Wilder's film stars James Cagney as a West Berlin businessman who must prevent his American boss' daughter from marrying an East Berlin communist. •Also showing, 9:15 pm. **Dr. Strangelove: Or, How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb** *1964*. Stanley Kubrick's famous work satirizes the arms race.
•June 26, 7 pm. **On the Waterfront** *1954*. In Elia Kazan's Academy Award–winning film, Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) becomes the New Jersey mob's accomplice to murder when he agrees to keep mum in order to keep his job. •Also showing, 9 pm. **High Noon** *1952*. Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly and Lloyd Bridges star in Fred Zinnemann's western about a showdown between a newlywed marshall and a notorious outlaw.
•June 27, 7 pm. **Pickup on South Street** *1953*. A pickpocket steals from a pretty woman and discovers a top-secret microfilm. Samuel Fuller directs. •Also showing, 9 pm. **The Day the Earth Stood Still** *1951*. In this science fiction masterpiece, a flying saucer lands on Washington, D.C., and threatens Earth. Directed by Robert Wise.
•June 28, 7 pm; June 29, 9 pm. **The Incredible Shrinking Man** *1957*. Director Jack Arnold examines traditional gender roles when he shrinks the leading male character to the size of an insect and forces him out of the head-of-household role. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Invasion of the Body Snatchers** *1956*. In Don Siegel's sci-fi classic, a small-town physician discovers that alien forces have turned his neighbors into doppelgangers.
•June 29, 7 pm. **Kiss Me Deadly** *1955*. Trouble ensues when a sexy female hitchhiker flags down detective Mike Hammer. Robert Aldrich directs.
•June 30, 7 pm. **Caution, Cleanliness, Consumerism: Selections from the Prelinger Archives**. A selection of films illustrates the postwar mentality of cleanliness and consumerism. Included are clips from *The Sound of a Stone*, *What You Should Know about Biological Warfare*, *Atomic Alert*, *The House in the Middle*, *In Our Hands*, *How to Lose What We Have*, *The Terrible Truth*, *American Look* and *Design for Dreaming*. •Also showing, 9 pm. **The Atomic Cafe** *1982*. Jane Loader and Kevin Rafferty's film explores nuclear Cold War–era nuclear propaganda through newsreel clips, educational films and government-sponsored footage about atomic terror.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•June 28, 10:30 am; June 29, 12:15 pm; July 3, 5:30 pm; July 5, 10:30 am; July 6, 11 am. **Russkij kovcheg** *(Russian Ark) 2002*. In one fluid, unbroken shot, Alexander Sokurov's film uses 867 actors and three orchestras to tell the history of Russia.
•June 29, 10:30 am. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2001*. Thomas Riedelsheimer's documentary follows artist Andy Goldsworthy as he creates outdoor sculptures from natural materials.

Boston Jewish Film Festival: Encores

•June 26, 7:45 pm; June 29, 2:15 pm **Asphalt zahov** *(Yellow Asphalt) 2000*. Bedouin and Israeli traditions collide in director Danny Verete's three tales. A discussion of the film follows.
•July 3, 2:30 and 7:30 pm. **Nirgendwo in Afrika** *(Nowhere in Africa) 2001*. In director Caroline Link's film, a German Jewish family migrates to Kenya to start a farm. There's no turning back when the family learns of Nazi raids taking place in their homeland.

Iranian Cinema

•June 27, 6 pm; June 28, 4 pm; July 5, 2 pm. **Zir-e poost-e shahr** *(Under the Skin of the City) 2000*. An Iranian factory worker and her children battle the tough aspects of city life in Rakhshan Bani-Etemad's film. •Also showing, 8 pm; June 28, 2:15 pm; June 29, 4 pm; July 5, 12:20 pm; July 6, 1 pm. **10** *2002*. A woman and her young son chauffeur five Iranian women to and from Tehran, and each passenger reveals oppressive aspects of her life. Abbas Kiarostami directs.

Teenage Filmmaking

•June 28, 12:30 pm. **The Do It Your Damn Self! National Youth Video and Film Festival**. This Cambridge-based, youth-organized event showcases short films made by teens from all over the U.S.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 1. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.
•Through Sept. 1. **Top Speed**. Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion race car driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Aug. 31. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. Call for show times.
•Through Aug. 31. **The Matrix Reloaded: T IMAX Experience**. Neo and the rebel leaders face in with Zion in Andy and Larry Wachowski's sequ to their 1999 hit *The Matrix*. Call for show times.
•Through Aug. 31. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Di into and explore the ocean floor of the Baham and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search f sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. C for show times.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (978-671-9212). MBTA: B Gre Line to Harvard Ave.

Allston Cinema Underground
214 Harvard Ave. (617-912-8626). MBTA: B Gre Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Gre Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Harbor Hotel
70 Rowes Wharf. (617-439-7000).

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Gre Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBT Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Gre Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Lin Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBT Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBT Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinemas
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Lin Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gr Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MB Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Gr Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: On Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Li Davis.

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Complex World

Blue Man Group expands beyond the theater to new arena-rock ambitions

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Blue Man Group is known for its long-running theatrical show, which has become an offbeat phenomenon from Boston to Las Vegas. But the ubiquitous trio of mute mutants with cobalt-blue heads has also pounded its way into the mainstream music world.

First the group, with help from additonal musicians, recorded an instrumental CD called *Audio*, which has sold a surprising half-million copies. Then Blue Man Group performed at the 2001 Grammy Awards with Moby and joined him on last summer's Area:Two tour. All of this set up *The Complex*, a more rock-oriented new disc, released this spring, that boasts guest appearances from Dave Matthews and Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale.

Blue Man Group jumps from the theater to the concert stage to support its CD *The Complex*.

Yet Blue Man Group also has a strong connection to Boston beyond its eight-year run at the Charles Playhouse. Drummer Todd Perlmutter, who previously played in the Boston band Orangutang as well as in Blue Man's stage show, produced both albums, while the mixing was handled by local mainstay Andrew Schneider, who has worked with Cave In and Scissorfight, among others.

Then there are Boston-bred singers Peter Moore (ex-Think Tree) and Tracy Bonham, who appear on *The Complex* and are part of an ambitious Blue Man concert tour that invades the FleetBoston Pavilion July 16. But the Boston connection really comes back to ex-Orangutang guitarist Chris Dyas, who worked in a Cambridge music store where Blue Man Group posted flyers to find musicians. Dyas put a flyer in his pocket with Perlmutter in mind for filling a drum position.

"I helped Todd get the job, then he returned the favor by getting me an audition," says Dyas, who had to brush up on his zither-playing technique to join the Blue Man stage show. When Blue Man Group branched into making albums, Byas and Perlmutter were there to make the jump.

"I'd been playing with Ray Corvair for about five years, taking 30-piece orchestrations and adapting them to trio, so I picked up tricks of the trade," says Dyas, who co-wrote songs for *The Complex* with Perlmutter and the founding Blue Man trio of Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink. Dyas also had a hand in getting Matthews and Rossdale on board, even traveling to England to help guide the Bush singer through his vocal tracks for "The Current," a song that's also featured on the soundtrack to the new blockbuster *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*.

"Dave Matthews was actually easy [to get]," Dyas says. Matthews liked the track "Sing Along," which was looped with a hip-hop beat by Dan the Automator, and he is a huge Blue Man fan. "I think he's brought his whole crew to the New York shows about six times."

Dyas and Perlmutter played on both the CD and the first leg of the concert tour. But by the time the tour hits Boston, Dyas' slot will be covered by guitarist Dave Steele, yet another Orangutang alumnus.

"There are a lot of people who came out of Boston," echoes Kalen Allmandinger, one of the Boston-based Blue Men who will be extending his talents to the concert stage at the Pavilion. An actor by trade, the Iowa native learned drumming skills with Blue Man Group. On the tour, he and his comrades will be banging on everything from PVC pipes to a piano body with its strings exposed (the strings are struck with a sledgehammer).

"It's a lot more strenuous because it's nonstop," says Allmandinger of the show, which also features a towering set of lights and video screens designed by Marc Brickman, who has designed sets for Pink Floyd and Nine Inch Nails.

"We're trying to take on this big rock show, but the big element that's missing is the rock star," Allmandinger says. "We're just another piece of the machine. There are cameras involved, and our faces are projected on the big screen. But there are singers who are communicating the lyrics of the songs, so they're as much a part of it, as is the entire band. Everyone is on a little more equal terms."

With as many as 13 musicians involved (including the Blue Men), the show mainly focuses on music from *The Complex*. Among the songs is a cover of the Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit" (sung live by Bonham, who is also one of two opening acts) and "Time to Start," in which a narrator describes the steps of "rock concert movement," such as the head bob, the one-armed fist pump, and jumping up and down.

"I look at the Blue Man in this setting as a bit of a shaman, leading the audience through this set of experiences," Allmandinger says. "We're trying to deconstruct it, and get people to look exactly at what they're doing, and why they're doing it... and hopefully reach some elevated group experience." iB

Blue Man Group
plays the FleetBoston Pavilion July 16.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fa (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or b email to music@improper.com. Include dates, time prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not ac cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from di ferent sources. Although we make every effort to provid accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahea to double-check dates and times (see complete list venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Bleu, Apollo Sunshine and Mappari
June 28, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Blondie
June 27, City Hall Plaza, 7 pm
Jackson Browne, Steve Earle & the Dukes and Keb Mo
July 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
The Chieftains
July 8, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Joe Cocker
June 27, North Shore Music Theatre (978-232-7203)
50 Cent and Jay-Z
June 27, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Foo Fighters, Pete Yorn and My Morning Jacke
July 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
FNX 101.7 Music Poll Concert with Iggy Pop and Fischerspooner
June 27, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Lisa Germano, the Pee Wee Fist and Clem Snide
June 27, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Norah Jones and Gillian Welch
June 28, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Lincoln Center Jazz Ensemble with Wynton Marsa
June 28, North Shore Music Theatre (978-232-7203)
One Line Drawing, the Acceptance, Bleu and Breaking Pangea
July 7, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Pearl Jam
July 2 and 3, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Placebo
July 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Santana
June 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Summer Sanitarium Tour with Metallica, Lin Bizkit, Linkin Park, Deftones and Mudvayne
July 6, Gillette Stadium (617-931-2000)
Deb Talan and Steve Tannen
June, 27, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
James Taylor
June 28 and 29, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Bruce Willis and the Accelerators
June 28, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Neil Young and Crazy Horse
July 1, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Abbey Lounge Some Little Something, Ross Pha and the Information.
Berklee College of Music Jamie Bishop, 4 pm.
Bill's Bar Stoic, All Parallels and Dryft, 18+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9:30 pm.
The Burren Tom Bianci.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues Jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Rachel McCartney, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Hair Club for Mensa, 7:20 p no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeGr 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks, 9 pm.
Harper's Ferry Paranoid Social Club and On Drop, $8, 21+.
House of Blues Guitar Center Spin-Off Regio Finals with Jessy Moss and DJ Sei Shi, 8:30 p $7.
Johnny D's Acid Reggae Xperience, 8:30 pm, 21+
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Asa Brebner, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Kingsize, Midnight Evils Favorite Atomic Hero, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downsta The Exchange Students and Lost Pilot, 8 pm, 18+. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no co 21+.
Midway Café The Old Fellas, Random Acts of V lence and Bugs & Rats, 21+.

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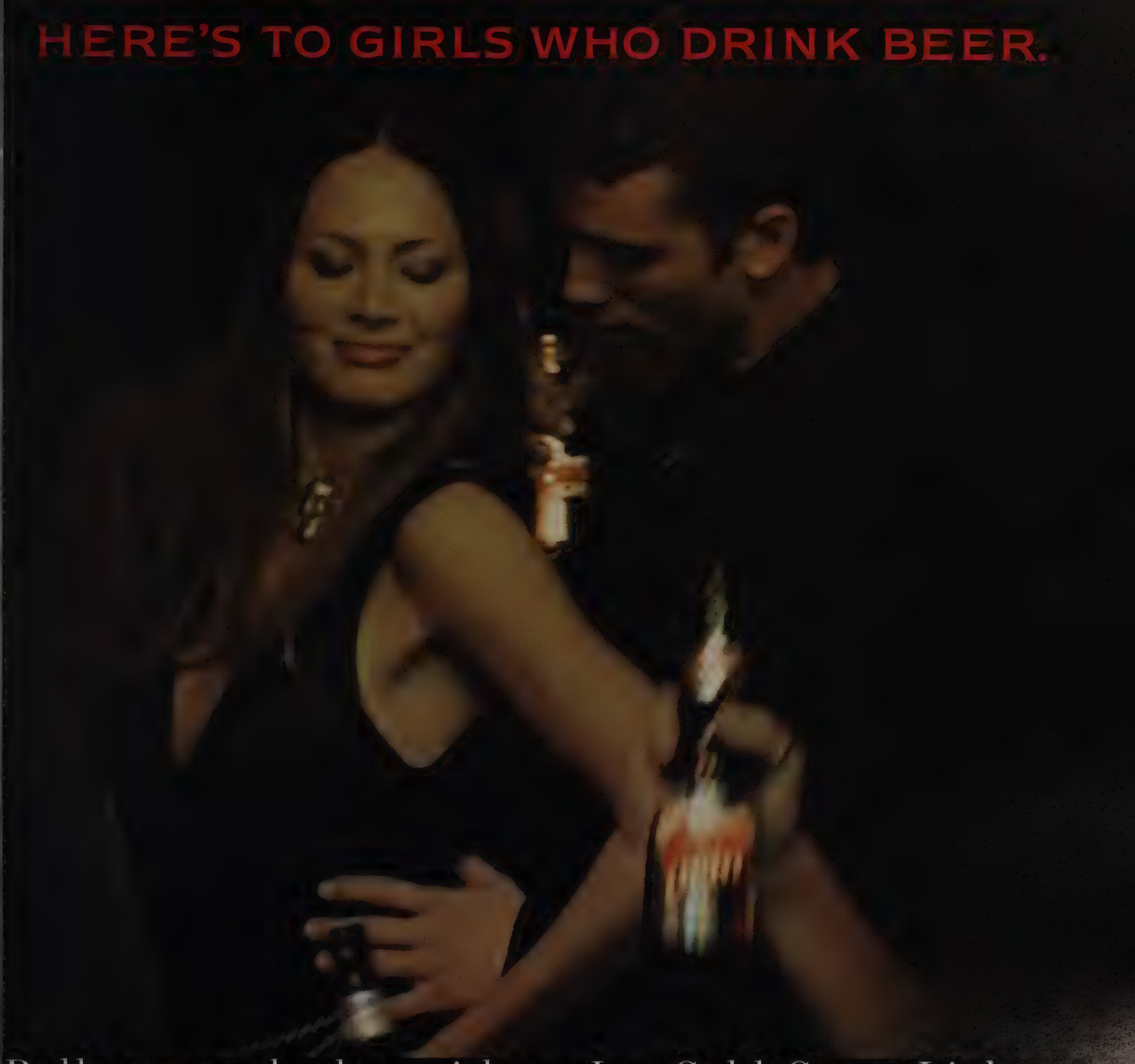

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Paradise Caesars, 8 pm, no cover.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble, 9 pm, $6.
The Rack ZMQ, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Candida Rose, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers Janis Siegal, $20.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Britta Phillips and Dean Wareham of Luna, Blake Hazard and Drew O'Doherty, $14.
Tweeter Center Santana, 7:30 pm, $21-$49.
Les Zygomates Alexi Tsigonov, 8 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Abbey Lounge Bipolarcoaster and Cheater Pint.
Asgard The Symbolics, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Berklee College of Music A. Matos, 4 pm.
Bill's Bar The John Frederick Band and Grey Street, $5, 21+; $8 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Bruce Marshall Group.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9:30 pm.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Stranger than Fiction, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block The Operators, Origami and Choo Choo la Rouge, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Club Passim Tommy Dempsey, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Love Brokers, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Chris Stovall Brown Band.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry The Blue Dogs and Cast Iron Filter, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Roomful of Blues, 10 pm, $20, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Ad Frank, Alex Maws and Say Hey, 9 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Kirkland Café BJ Snowden, Anna Freidas Band and Verge, $5.
Lizard Lounge Marc Ribot and Beat Science, 8 and 10:30 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's James Merenda, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Downstairs: Moonraker, Rana and Hazie Maze, 8 pm, $12, 18+. ZuZu: GianCarlo Buscaglia, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Dyke Night, $5, 21+.
Milky Way Venus Factor, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
North Shore Music Theatre Linda Eder, 8 pm, $25-$85.
Parris Dick 'n' Jane.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack The Boston Horns, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10 pm; Marta Gomez, 8:30 pm.
Scullers Jerry Portnov and the Mood Room Orchestra, Duke Robillard, $16.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Electroclash Festival with Larry Tee, WIT, Freezepop and My Robot Friend, $10.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Abbey Lounge Ray Mason.
Asgard Ryan McHugh, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Attic Dana Glover, 8 pm, $8.
The Avalon La Ley, 7 pm, $20.25, 18+.
Berklee College of Music Shiori Sakashita, 4 pm.
Bill's Bar Rebel Soul Band, Dub Station, Marquis Melody, Baldred, Zema, Jem-i and I-Tal Fire, 10 pm-2 am, $12-$16.
Black Horse Tavern The Ken Clark Organ Trio, 9 pm.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Undercover, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
City Hall Plaza Blondie, 7 pm, no cover.
Club Passim Josh White, Jr., 8 pm, $15.
Common Ground Gaffney, 10 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Magnus, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion FNX 101.7 Music Poll with Iggy Pop and Fischerspooner, 6 pm, $25-$35.
The Good Life Cambridge Groove Authority.
The Good Life Downtown John Aruda.
Grand Canal Block Head.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Rebirth Brass Band, $15, 21+; Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra and Lew Tabackin.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Donnie and Mother's Favorite Child, 9:30 pm, $17.50, 18+.
The Independent Dave Samarco Band, 10 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Milo Z, 9:45 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Beth Boucher and the Ridiculously Good Looking Band with Grey Star, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Kirkland Café Super Low, Rover, Kieran Ridge and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood High on Fire, Chinese Stars and the Medea Connection, $10.
Middle East Upstairs: Cracktorch, Rock City Crimewave, Joker Five Speed and the Erotics, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Eden Row, Sorry Orange, Red Letter and Turning Blue, 8 pm, $9, 18+. ZuZu: "Celebrity" Record Hop and Winston Braman, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café We the Living, Deep Soda and the Edge, 21+.
Milky Way The Pill, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue.
North Shore Music Theatre Joe Cocker, 8 pm, $25-$85.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm.
O'Leary's Tom Dean, 9:30 pm, no cover
Orpheum Lou Reed, 7:30 pm, $31-$48.50.
Paradise Clem Snide and the Pee Wee Fist, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Catunes.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
The Rack Central Basement.
Regattabar Clarence Gatemouth Brown, 7:30 and 10 pm.
Regent Theatre Gongzilla, 7 pm, $19.50.
Ryles Jazz Club Marvin Stamm Quartet, 9 pm, $20.
Scullers Norman Connors and Starship with Jean Carne, 8 and 10:30 pm, $28.
Somerville Theatre Deb Talan and Steve Tannen, 8 pm, $14.50.
Tír na nÓg Kevin Connelly.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Cinerama, Parker & Lily and Paula Kelley, $10.
Tweeter Center 50 Cent and Jay-Z, 6:30 pm, $28.50-$48.50.

Preview

New Music from an Old Soul

Gillian Welch's *Soul Journey* makes a pit stop in Boston

Gillian Welch sings her meditative ballads June 28 and July 2

It takes a certain type of songwriter to make you feel homesick for places you've never been, long for experiences you've never had and yearn for folks you've never met. Gillian Welch is that type of songwriter. Once her songs worm their way into your consciousness, good luck trying to shake them. You'll bear her burden as if it were your own.

Welch, the daughter of television composers, took up the family trade and began her career in Boston in the early '90s while a student at the Berklee College of Music. There she met David Rawlings, a like-minded musician whose passion for old-time country, folk and bluegrass rivaled her own. (He would become her songwriting partner on all her albums to date.) After graduating, the pair split for Nashville where Welch worked peddling her tunes to the publishers on Music Row and eventually struck a deal with the now-defunct label Almo Sounds to record her first album.

Even after her debut, *Revival*, received a Grammy nomination, Welch remained a relative unknown. In 1999, her path to mainstream recognition took a somewhat unlikely turn with an invitation to contribute to the soundtrack of the Coen brothers' mythical depression-era comedy *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, an album that lassoed five Grammys and has sold nearly five million copies since its release. Welch's third album, *Time (The Revelator)*, was released the following year. Strewn with gripping two-part harmonies and stark melodies that are positively haunting in their simplicity, the CD earned widespread acclaim.

After recording and performing mostly in an acoustic duo setting with Rawlings, Welch opted to augment her sound on her fourth record, *Soul Journey*, recruiting bassist Jim Boquist, dobro player Greg Leisz, fiddler Ketcham Secor and guitarist Mark Ambrose to join her in the studio. The just-released CD is being touted as Welch's most upbeat record to date. But for those who are not familiar with her previous work, "upbeat" is a relative term. Some things haven't changed though. Welch retains her knack for crafting contemporary songs that sound as if they've been passed down for generations. Her voice, as usual, is a soulful vortex that carries a wisdom that's well beyond her years. Although Rawlings' vocal contributions are missed, the album's meditative, salt-of-the-earth ballads are the perfect soundtrack for a long destination-less drive on an overcast day. Through June, Welch is on the road in support of *Soul Journey*, opening for Norah Jones. Their tour stops at the FleetBoston Pavilion for a sold-out show on June 28. Tickets are available for Welch's headlining show July 2 at the State Theatre in Portland. *609 Congress St., Portland, Maine (617-931-2000), July 2, 8pm, $22.50—Daniel Schulman*

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Abbey Lounge Speed Devils.
Asgard Stu Lee and Tom Groleau, 9 pm, no cover.
The Attic Buddahead with Kwait Brother, 8 pm, $7.
Avalon Bruce Willis and the Accelerators, pm, $25.25, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Becky Chase, 9 pm.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Celtic Clan an Frank Ryan. Downstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Tall Richards, 7:30 pm.
The Burren Shirley Lewis, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Co & the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Ball in the House, 7 and pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, n cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Norah Jones, 8 pm $27.50-$45.
The Good Life Cambridge Jose Ramos.
The Good Life Downtown The Ed Jon Band.
Grand Canal Second Nature.
The Green Dragon Tavern Big Delicio Vent, 9:30 pm, $5.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Rebirth Brass Band, $15.
House of Blues Third World with Mas Hysteria, 9:30 pm, $22.50, 21+.
The Independent Jake Brennan, 10 pm, cover.
Johnny D's Toni Lynn Washington, 9: pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cov
Kendall Café Christine Baze with Jim L fantino, $7.
Kinsale Symbolics.
Kirkland Café Cowcatchers, Ben Jones a Joel Fisher, $5.
The Linwood Crumble, Rubikon, Sp Shift and Aural Sect, $8.
Matt Murhpy's The Inbetweens, 10 pm, cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Satan's Teardrops, Marvels, White Trash Deluxe, the Blasto and the Guts, 1 pm, $7, 18+; Kabir a Vibewise, 9 pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: K cial Reggae Festival, 12 am, $20, 18 ZuZu: Soul-le-lu-jah, 10 pm, no cover, 21
Midway Café Frank Morey Band and J Shain, 21+.
Milky Way Mango's Latin Night with Antonio Ortíz, 8:30 pm, $7-$10.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue.
North Shore Music Theatre Lincoln Ce ter Jazz Ensemble featuring Wynton Marsa 8 pm, $25-$85.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quart 8:15 pm.
O'Leary's The Swinging Steaks, 9:30 pm.
Paradise Apollo Sunshine, Bleu and Ma pari, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Central Basement.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, $5.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 a 10 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Teresa Ines Group, 7 pm, $12.
Scullers Norman Connors and Starsh with Jean Carne, 8 and 10:30 pm, $28.
Sky Bar Tober, No Heroics and the Cru Sullivans, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg The Black Eggs.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Cash Monies and the Jet S ter, Jon Nolan & Hokum and Slobberbone, $10.
Tweeter Center James Taylor, 7:30 pm, $26. $52.50.
Les Zygomates Leonard Brown, 7 pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8pm, $5.
Bill's Bar Ras Michael and the Sons of Negus, D Station and Dion Knabb, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Ervin Dhimo Trio, 3-6 pm.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Down 2 Earth, 10 am-3 pm.
The Burren Hugh McGowan, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Groove Authority, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Karaugh Brown and Jonathon Poin 7:20 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelation, 10 am-3 the Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnson pm, $5, 21+.

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panel from the Sam Adams/NESN
for an amateur Red Sox announcer

Samuel Adams founder/owner Jim Koch
flanked by The Place owners SJ and Billy

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SPORTSPLUS LIVE W/ BOB LOBEL 6PM

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James Taylor plays June 28 and 29 at the Tweeter Center.

Harper's Ferry Benefit for Leukemia Research with Johnny Trauma, Juniper's Daughter and Hidden Soul.
House of Blues Eek-a-Mouse, 9:30 pm, $22.50, 18+.
The Independent Frank Morey, 8 pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jazz brunch band, 11 am-3 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Matt Murphy's Live and Direct with the Well, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Murder Junkies with Jeff Clayton, the Jabbers and Meat Depressed, 1 pm, $10, 18+; Today Is the Day, 9 pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: the Slackers, Pietasters and Westbound Train, 8 pm, $12, 18+. ZuZu: the Spaghetti Umbrellas, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Sona Nyl and Thunderbird, 21+.
Milky Way CandyLand, 8 pm, $5.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
Paradise The Jayhawks and the Thorns, 7 pm, $22.50, 18+.
Parris The Zoo.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch, 10 am, no cover.
Sky Bar Mao Tse Helens, Life Partners, Gold, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Gold Chains, $8.
Tweeter Center James Taylor, 7:30 pm, $26.50-$52.50.

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Berklee College Music Goncalo Marques, 4 pm.
Bill's Bar Stoic, Oma and Dryft, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Joel Cage, 10 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Scott Alarik's Deep Community, 7 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Crossfire, 9:30 pm, $8, 18+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Matt Murphy's Brahim Fribgane and Mike Rivard, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Teiousekkai, Voodoo Jets and Mutha Ugly, 9 pm, $9, 18+; $7, 21+. Downstairs: Jets to Brazil, Retisonic and the Love Scene, $14, 18+. ZuZu: the Unhappy Hour with Blake Hazard, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Erin Harpe, no cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, $5.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10 pm.
Tír na nÓg Tom Biand.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Canyon and Suntan, $8.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 9 pm.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kinsale Michael Courtney.
Matt Murphy's Altitude music with Geoff Scott, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Jericho, Boxingwater, Lock and Key and Stolen Bike Crusade, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Dresden Dolls, Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, World Inferno Friendship Society and Ho-ag, 8 pm, $9-$10, 18+.
The Rack Herman Johnson 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10:30 pm, $18.
Sky Bar The Fellas, Dirty Crayons and Black Chome, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The National Blue, Brilliant Misstake, Tristan da Cunha and the Stairs, $5.
Tweeter Center Neil Young and Crazy Horse, 7 pm, $37.50-$85.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Asgard Dave Tecce, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Club Passim New Faces, Claire Holley and Burt LaFontaine, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When, 9 pm, $5.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Middle East Upstairs: Reverend Glasseye and His Wooden Leg, Slim Cessna's Auto Club and Singapore Sling, 9 pm, $8, 18+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10:30 pm, $18.
Tír na nÓg Jimmy Ryan and Duke Levine.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Product, Chester White, the Acrobats and Popgun Seven, $6.
Tweeter Center Pearl Jam, 7:30 pm, $34-$38.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel, 8 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Asgard Brogue, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Axis Anti-Flag, Static Lullaby, Darkest Hour, The Vacancy and Tabula Rasa, 5:30 pm, $12.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Mario Perrett and Company.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Boston Blues Society presents the 19th annual Harper's Ferry Blues Challenge, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5 pm.
Johnny D's CJ Chenier, 8:30 pm, $12.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Ian Moore.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Kirkland Café Luke the Band, Curbys and Union Label, $5.
Matt Murphy's "Round Midnight" Jazz Session, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Downstairs: Breathe and Changing Skin, 8 pm, $9, 18+.
Milky Way The Tint, All-Mod Cons and Fever Monument.
Paradise Placebo, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, $3.
The Rack U-Nek Aproach, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10:30 pm, $18.
Sky Bar Temple, 8 pm $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Smokey Hormel, Miho Hatori and Milo Jones, $12.
Tweeter Center Pearl Jam, 7:30 pm, $34-$38.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Asgard Ryan McHugh, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Tom O'Carroll and Tony O'Riordan.
Dick's Last Resort The Hootchies, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Ed Jones Band.
The Good Life Downtown Herman Johnson Band.
The Green Dragon Tavern 5 to the Face, 9 pm, $5.
Harper's Ferry Boston Blues Society presents the 19th annual Harper's Ferry Blues Challenge, 21+.
Hennessy's Six Shot Brody and Me & Julio, 5 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Mr. Dooley's The McTagerts.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
The Rack Central Basement, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10:30 pm, $18.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 7 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Tom O'Carroll. Upstairs: Tony O'Riordan.
Club Passim Ellis Paul and Darryl Purpose, 7 and 10 pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fleet Boston Pavilion Foo Fighters, Pete Yorn and My Morning Jacket, 8 pm, $33.
The Good Life Cambridge Jose Ramos.
The Good Life Downtown Toni Lynn Washington Band.
The Green Dragon Tavern Freeze Pop, 9 pm, $5.
Harper's Ferry Boston Blues Society presents the 19th annual Harper's Ferry Blues Challenge, 21+.
House of Blues An Evening with Jimmy Johnson, 9:30 pm, $12-$15.
Johnny D's 4 Piece Suit, 9:45 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Standard Devation.
Kinsale Black Thorn Band.
Kirkland Café East Coast Edge Machine and Ignition, $5.
Middle East Upstairs: The Crybabies, Mercury Charm Offensive, the Spoilers and the Baby Reds, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Fall, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Milky Way Mango's Latin Night with DJ Antonio Ortíz, 8:30 pm, $7-$10.
Mr. Dooley's The McTagerts.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15, no cover.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, $5.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10:30 pm, $18.
Sky Bar The Fighting Idols, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quintet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lollipop Magazine's 10th anniversary party, $8.
Les Zygomates Lance Martin, 7 pm, no cover.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Tom O'Carroll.
Club Passim Eliza Moore, 7:30 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm.
Fleet Boston Pavilion Jackson Browne, Steve Ear and the Dukes, 7:30 pm, $35-$45.
Gillette Stadium Summer Sanitarium Tour wit Metallica, Limp Bizkit, Linkin Park , Deftones al Mudvayne, 3 pm, $75-$110.
Harper's Ferry Boston Blues Society presents th 19th annual Harper's Ferry Blues Challenge, 21+.
Hennessy's Reggae Nite with Danny Tucker.
Julien Bar Jazz brunch band, 11 am-3 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Matt Murphy's "Live and Direct" Dub and Reggi night, 10 pm, no cover.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10: pm, $18.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 an 3 pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Axis One Line Drawing, Breaking Pangea, Bleu an the Acceptance, 6 pm, $10.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's The Coachmen, 8 pm, $5.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kinsale Martin Kellaher.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack ZMQ Jazz Fusion, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10: pm, $18.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
Tweeter Center Not the Fourth Concert, 7 pm.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion The Chieftains and the D McCoury Band, 8 pm, $35-$45.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
Johnny D's Kevin So, 8:30 pm, $8.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm, no cover.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Matt Murphy's Altitude music with Geoff Scott, 10 p
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm.
Regattabar Michel Camilo Trio, 7:30 and 10: pm, $18.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake with the Black-Eyed Peas Aug. 5 and 6, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Alien Ant Farm, Die Trying and Strata July 27, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Allman Brothers Band and Susan Tedeschi July 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Tori Amos and Ben Folds Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Pat Benatar July 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Bon Jovi, Sheryl Crow and the Goo Goo Dolls July 22, Gillette Stadium (617-931-2000)
Mary Chapin Carpenter July 26, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787)
Tracy Chapman July 18, FleetBoston Pavilion(617-931-2000)
Kenny Chesney, Deana Carter and Keith Urban July 20, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Joe Cocker Aug. 1, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787)
Elvis Costello & the Imposters and Chris Robinson July 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Dream Theater and Queensryche July 9, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Eagles July 15, 16 and 18, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)
50 Cent and Jay-Z June 27, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Foo Fighters July 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Dave Gahan July 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Heart July 26, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Hootie & the Blowfish and Big Head Todd & the Monsters July 19, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
The Irish Tenors Aug. 1, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Chris Isaak July 11, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Norah Jones June 28, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Tom Jones July 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme Jult 26, Fleet-Boston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Ben Lee July 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Lollapalooza '03 with Audioslave, Bellydance Superstar, Cold, the Donnas, Jane's Addiction and more July 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Pearl Jam July 11, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Reel Big Fish, Gob and the Matches July 27, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The Righteous Brothers July 11, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787)
Santana June 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Sister Hazel, Virginia Coalition and Gavin DeGraw Aug. 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Rick Springfield July 18, South Shore Music Circus
Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band Aug. 1 and 2, Gillette Stadium (617-931-2000)
Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band July 27, Fleet-Boston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Supergrass, Palo Alto and Ty Cobb July 27 and 28, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
James Taylor June 28 and 29, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
311, G. Love & Special Sauce and Something Corporate Aug. 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Train July 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The White Stripes and Whirlwind Heat July 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)

CENTRAL BASEMENT
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& THURS JULY 10TH
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SATURDAYS DJ JOSH CARL
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Sky Bar Final Hour, Stone Face, North Five, 8 pm, $5.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee College of Music *1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-8820). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
City Hall Plaza *MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Gillette Stadium *One Patriot Place, Foxborough (800-543-1776).*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*

Linkin Park plays at the Summer Sanitarium Tour July 6

Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washinghton St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7203).*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Leary's Pub and Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, 79 or 350 bus to Arlington Center.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2333).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $36-$67. Marvin Hamlisch conducts the Pops in a program of American classics.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5[illegible] 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. The third of six concerts in the Summer Institute for Contemporary Piano Performance series. Concerts continue through June 28.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Conductor Marvin Hamlisch leads the Pops and vocalist Mark McVey in a performance of Broadway musical classics, including pieces from *Oklahoma, Les Miserables* and *A Chorus Line.*

Chagall String Quartet
The French Library and Cultural Center, 55 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). www.frenchlib.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30 p[illegible] $20 members, $25 non-members. The Chagall String Quartet with pianist Momo Shinohara and soprano Brenna Wells perform Maurice Ravel's *String Quartet in F Major* and Gabriel Faure's *Set by Faure op.*

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5[illegible] 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. See June 2

Society for Historically Informed Performance
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (5[illegible] 212-6038). www.sohip.org. MBTA: Green Line Copley. 8 pm. $10-$14. The Sendebar ensemble performs a program of 13th-century Iberian music.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Bruce Hangen leads the Pops and fiddler Natalie MacMaster in a performance of American classics.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5[illegible] 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. See June 2

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$67. Bruce Hangen leads the Pops and fiddler Natalie MacMaster in Celtic Night.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5[illegible] 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. The Summer Institute for Contemporary Piano Performance concert series concludes with a program featuring selected students of the SICPP.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2[illegible] 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. $15-$67. Charles Floyd conducts the Pops Gospel Choir in a performance of soul selections for Gospel Night.

Corelli Consort
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (6[illegible] 796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 2 pm. Free. The four-piece Corelli Consort performs early Italian trio sonatas

King's Chapel
Corner of School and Tremont streets, Boston (6[illegible] 277-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Red Line to Park Street or Orange Line to State Street. 2:30 pm. $5. Heinrich Christensen performs works by Bach and Shumann on the C.B. Fisk Organ.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (508-393-6740). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Ana-Maria

ıte performs works by Bach, Mozart and George scu.

rk Morris Dance Group and glewood Music Center Fellows
lewood, Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-5165). www. bso.org. *8:30 pm. $15-$65.* The k Morris Dance Group performs while conduc-Craig Smith leads cellist Yo-Yo Ma in a perfor-ce of works by Stravinsky and Bach.

glewood Music Center Fellows
lewood, Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-5165). www. bso.org. *10 am. $10-$25.* TMC ws perform chamber music.

ONDAY, JUNE 30

rk Morris Dance Group and glewood Music Center Fellows
lewood, Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-5165). www. bso.org. *8:30 pm. $15-$65.* Same ram as June 29.

ESDAY, JULY 1

ston Pops
phony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-0). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Sym-y. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Keith Lockhart leads the in a salute to America.

g's Chapel
ner of School St. and Tremont St., Boston (617-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. *MBTA: Red or n Line to Park Street or Orange Line to State Street. 5 pm. $2.* Violinist Alexey Shabalin and organ-lena Kishkovich perform works by Rheinberger.

glewood Music Center Fellows
lewood, Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-5165). www.bso.org. *5 and 8:30 pm. $10-$25.* TMC fellows participate in a string quartet thon.

EDNESDAY, JULY 2

ston Pops
phony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-0). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Sym-y. 8 pm. $15-$67.* Same program as July 1.

g's Chapel
ner of School and Tremont Streets, Boston (617-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street or Orange Line to State Street. 7 pm. $5.* Vocal and instrumental ensemble Columbia's Musik performs patriotic songs for the Fourth of July as part of Boston's Harborfest.

Tanglewood Music Center Fellows
Tanglewood, Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-5165). www.bso.org. *5 pm and 8:30 pm. $10-$25.* Same program as July 1.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Boston Pops
Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 8 pm. Free.* Keith Lockhart conducts a preview of the Pops' Fourth of July performance.

Society for Historically Informed Performance
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (508-212-6038). www.sohip.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8 pm. $10-$14.* The Exsultemus Ensemble performs *Missa Saeculorum Amen* and motets by Francisco Guerrero.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Boston Pops
Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 8 pm. Free.* Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a patriotic performance of American classics.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Tanglewood Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600). www.bso.org. *10:30 am. $16.* James DePriest leads the BSO and the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio in an open rehearsal of works by Svoboda, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Tanglewood Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600). www.bso.org. *8:30 pm. $16-$90.* Kurt Masur leads the BSO and mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves, while John Oliver leads the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in its opening-night performance of selections from Prokofiev and Mussorgsky.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

Boston Pops
Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston (617-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 7:30 pm. Free.* Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a performance of selections from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Respighi's *The Pines of Rome*, plus music from the films *The Magnificent Seven, Gone With the Wind* and *Chicago.*

Marvin Hamlisch conducts the Boston Pops June 25 and 26.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Tanglewood, Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600). www.bso.org. *2:30 pm. $15-$80.* The BSO and the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio perform works by Svoboda, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff.

Tanglewood Music Center Fellows
Tanglewood, Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600). www.bso.org. *2:30 pm. $10-$25.* TMC fellows perform chamber music.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Tanglewood Music Center Fellows
Tanglewood Chamber Music Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600). www.bso.org. *12:30 pm. $10-$25.* TMC fellows perform solo and chamber piano music.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

King's Chapel
Corner of School and Tremont Streets, Boston (617-277-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street or Orange Line to State Street. 12:15 pm. $2.* Join the Boston AGO Young Organists Initiative in its seventh annual Showcase Recital.

New England Conservatory
St. Botolph Room G14, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newengland conservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free.* The Summer Intercultural Institute's first workshop in the series of 12 focuses on time and rhythm in the music of West Africa, North India and South India.

Tanglewood Music Center Fellows
Tanglewood, Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600). www.bso.org. *8:30 pm. $10-$25.* Kurt Masur leads the TMC Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 2* and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5.* in the Phyllis and Lee Coffey Memorial Fund Concert.

dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •June 30, BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •July 7, ZMQ Jazz Fusion, 6:30-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance; Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live-music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
Den'm Tuesdays Resident DJ G2 spins house, international and hip-hop beats. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis bring the house music and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•July 1, Jazz with Herman Johnson, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •July 8, BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21 +.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B; Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJs spin reggae, jungle and dub, 9:30pm, 19+.

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins a mix of top-40, R&B and hip-hop for the college crowd, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
•June 25, Live music with ZMQ, 6-10 pm. DJ Steve Anderson spins dance music, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 2, BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do get the party going reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B; Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Craig Kapilow and three other DJs spin true techno June 28.

Preview

Cellar Dwellers

Techno finds a deep, dark home in Cambridge

The stony confines of the Cellar in Cambridge make a fitting home for Boston's techno underground. More a drinking institution than a dance club, the Cellar draws a mix of techno-minded students and locals. On Saturday, June 28, the bar hosts the second monthly installment of Deep, Dark and Sexy. Listeners can expect to hear everything from Detroit house and techno, to minimal house, old-school acid house, funky techno, as well as some downright sexy electro.

Local DJ and music scribe Craig Kapilow teamed up recently with Eric Gray, a friend and frequent DJ partner, to hatch the idea behind the Deep, Dark and Sexy party series. Deep, Dark and Sexy is a decidedly grassroots affair, with a DIY approach and a simple philosophy. "All we're really aiming to do is to provide a unique Saturday night forum for top-notch dance music, especially for proper techno, a genre that has been long underrepresented in Boston," Kapilow says. While dance music in general is often mistakenly categorized as "techno," Deep, Dark and Sexy focuses on the real thing, where complex but mechanical rhythms and textures weave around a steady 4/4 thump.

Musical definitions aside, the second Deep, Dark and Sexy party promises twice the techno punch, with four DJs facing off in two tag-team sets. Boston legend Tym Ryan will square off against Kapilow for a two-and-a-half-hour headlining set. According to Kapilow, the duo plans to snake its way through "club-rocking tracks from the countless eras and genres of dance music." Eric Gray and Alan Manzi spin the second set.

Deep, Dark and Sexy at the Cellar, 991 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. 617-876-2580. June 28, 9 pm. No cover charge. 21+.—Daniel Spurling

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dir Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Anal Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Pe Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky hou 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins and Artie the One Man Party pl top-40, hip-hop and R&B, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 2 (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressi Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajan John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen h a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orlean themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bi and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tun 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mykonos Lounge DJ Bruno spins Indian and h hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix featu retro tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21-

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hi hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance a house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live music by lo bands goes all night, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop, R&B and top-4 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted KISS 108. Proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spi acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christia Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fr guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downsta 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party start upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia sp dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 21

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am, 2

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins La dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover bef 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
•June 26, Dick and Jane perform live, 10 pm, co varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando prese drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techi

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Join Chef Salvatore Firicano for a contemporary Italian meal,
or just sit at our wine bar with a friend or two.

STREGA
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downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
•June 26, live music with the Boston Horns, 6-10 pm. DJ Lenny C spins all night long, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 3, U-Nek Aproach, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves. Proper dress, 10 pm, $11.50.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SWI
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Superlovers DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40 , 10pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K keeps the lounge vibes alive with international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Level at Il Panino

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Parris
•June 27, Catunes, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Greg Schneider spins the latest hits, 10 pm. •June 27, Pig Pen performs live, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
•June 27, live music with Central Basement, 6:30-10:30 pm. •July 4, live music with Central Basement, 6:30-10:30pm. DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SWI
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker spins the top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge
DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squar spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorit disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop a vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upsta with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 p $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and h hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, wh downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild On @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 1 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and inter tional music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21
•**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob spin mainstream international music on the fou and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house wh the back room features dance favorites from the '8 and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz mo the crowd with merengue, salsa and bachata bea 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dan music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Wil D, proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 p $15, 18+. $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male E counter** New England's longest-running all-m dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $ 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top- and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21
•**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dan techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 p $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream h hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cov 21+. •**Sober Saturdays** Dance to '70s, '80s, '90s a top-40 in an alcohol-free atmosphere, $15, 18+.•**U town** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '8 and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•June 28, Central Basement performs live, 10 p cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, prop dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm. $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host t dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ U lockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techi 10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and inter tional music, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 p Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before pm, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin ba plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos sp Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in t front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

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The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.
Vertigo
DJ Ron Steel plays R&B, hip-hop and light house in the club, and guest DJs from 97.7 spin upstairs, 10 pm, $15, 21+.
The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
Resident DJs K.C. Pete and Adam Gibbons play eclectic deep house, 8 pm-1 am, $5, 21+.
Aria
DJ Roger M. spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.
Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.
Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10 pm, 21+.
The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm , $10, 19+.
Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.
Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Kells
Aving It DJs John Davis and B-Coy spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.
La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house; DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.
Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Parris
•June 29, The Zoo performs live, 10 pm, 21+.
Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, 19+.
The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.
The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.
RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30 pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop, 21+.
Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.
Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.
Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins some hot Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.
Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae and world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-946*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-908*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 150 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
The Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-188*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-000*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-700*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699)*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Sept. 7. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Black Books: The First African American Authors*, a collection of early books and manuscripts by African Americans, shows through June 27. •*Don Quixote and Other Books of Chivalry* features first-edition, rare and illustrated books. Through June 30. •*Works by Women from the Collections of the Boston Public Library*. Through June 30. •*Bread and Wine*, an exhibition on bread and wine as symbols in religious and social rituals. Through June 30. •*Olmsted's Emerald Necklace*, an exhibition on the historic significance of the Emerald Necklace parks, displays July 1-31. •*American Presidents: Life Portraits*, by artist Chas Fagan, displays July 1-Aug. 29.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down*, a 40-foot relief of a tree, shows through Aug. 31. •*The 2003 DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the work of 11 New England artists. Through Aug. 31. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculptural exhibition, shows through spring 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists, selected from the museum's collection. Through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum

1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained-glass panels, displays through Aug. 31.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

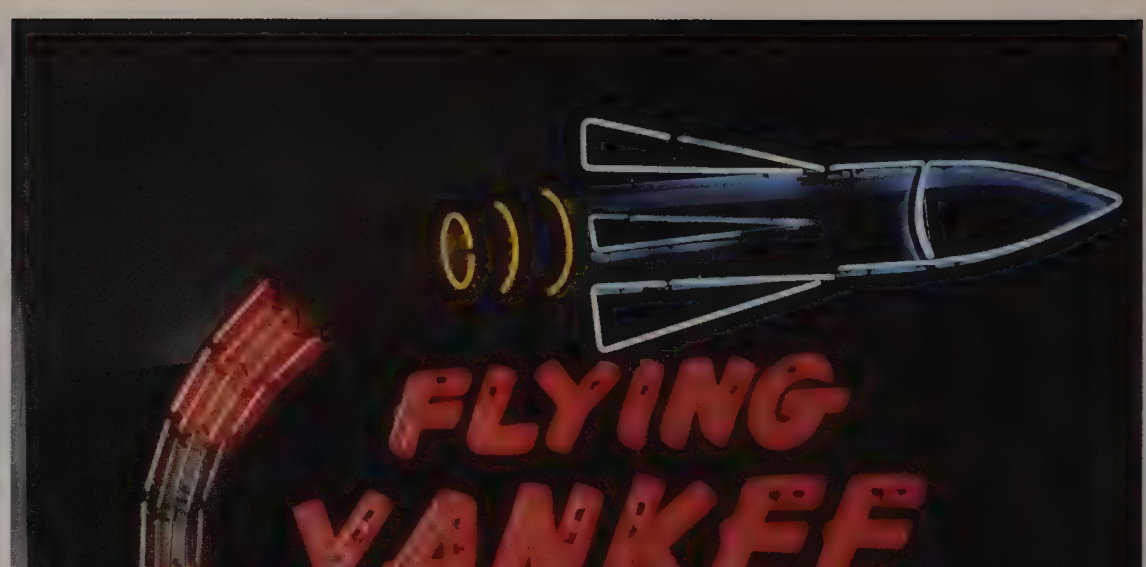
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Christopher Wilmarth: Drawing into Sculpture* looks at how drawings inspired the artist's glass and steel sculptures. Through June 29. •*Bruegel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection* shows through July 6. •*Kandinsky in 1914* shows through July 13. •*Jean Fautrier 1898-1964* displays through July 20. •*Le Coq d'Or: Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes* shows through Aug. 24. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through October 26.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline*, ongoing, showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition featuring 15 artists from around the world, explores the complex relationship between the creative process and healing. On display through Aug. 31.



The Flying Yankee Restaurant neon sign is on display at the National Heritage Museum through Sept. 14

Preview

Electric Avenue

Retro neon signs light up the National Heritage Museum

Aside from the Las Vegas strip, Miami's South Beach and dodgy highway motels flickering "No Vacancy," neon signs have become advertising relics destined for dorm rooms and, most often, dumpsters. But, as the saying goes, one man's trash is another man's treasure. Dave Waller, who lives in the Boston area, has been collecting retired neon signs for more than 30 years. He started at age 9 when he dug up a decrepit sign at a local dump. Since then, Waller, a television special-effects expert by day, has spent considerable time trolling kitsch treasure chests like Route 1 for pieces of Americana. His collection now stands at 60-plus neons, 23 of which are currently on display in the National Heritage Museum's *New England Neon* exhibition.

The flashy museum display is woven with neon history, from its first use in advertising, for a 1910 Paris auto show, to its heyday in the late '40s and '50s. Waller's signs include such Massachusetts classics as the rocket ship from Auburn's Flying Yankee Restaurant and Allston's old Ellis the Rim Man sign. The collector says his favorite is the old Exeter Street Theatre sign. Among neons that are still standing, he admires the "impractical" Citgo landmark and the Union Oyster House. Will neon signs ever make a comeback? Waller expresses doubt: "I can see why it's not practical for businesses. They're so expensive. But signs are also people's identities." ***National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free. Through Sept. 14. —Jessica Iredale***

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through Aug. 24.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Ann Pendleton-Jullian: Facts + Fictions* highlights four of the writer, architect and MIT professor's books. Through Sept. 5. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*French Royal Furniture* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a collection of figurative art from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788* features 100 of the British artist's paintings and drawings. Through Sept. 14. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* is an exhibition of works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-25[illegible] www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to S[illegible]ence Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri. [illegible]am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 ch[illegible]dren.* •*The Computing Revolution* trac[illegible] the history of the computer from the el[illegible]tronic giants of the 1940s to toda[illegible] smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bir[illegible] World* explores the behavior and calls[illegible] birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosau[illegible] Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the m[illegible]seum's collection of dinosaur models i[illegible]cluding the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Di[illegible]tal Studio* features the work of you[illegible] artists from Boston's inner-city neighb[illegible]hoods. Through June 30. •*Speed* explo[illegible] the physical laws that govern veloc[illegible] Through Sept. 3. •*Contraptions A-Z* [illegible] hands-on exhibit of gadgets. Throu[illegible] Sept. 8. •*Microbes: Invisible Invaders[illegible] Amazing Allies* examines the harmful a[illegible] beneficial effects of the microscopic wo[illegible]ders. Through Fall 2003.

National Center of Afro-American Artists

300 Walnut Ave., Boston (617-44[illegible] 8614). Tue.-Sun., 1-5 pm. $4, $3 seni[illegible] and students, NCAAA members fre[illegible] •*Final Exposure: Death Row Portrai[illegible]* photographs by Lou Jones, shows wi[illegible] Keith Washington's *Within Our Gat[illegible] Human Sacrifice in the American Lan[illegible]scape*. Through July 6.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Lexington (781-86[illegible] 6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat. [illegible]am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*T[illegible] Enchanted Clocks of George McFadd[illegible]* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is [illegible] exhibition of 18th-century local h[illegible]tory. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachuse[illegible]* features household objects from t[illegible] past three centuries. Ongoing. •[illegible] *Build and Sustain: Freemasons in Ame[illegible]can Community*. Ongoing. •*North [illegible] South: Berenice Abbott's U.S. Route [illegible]* show of 60 of Abbott's photograph[illegible] displays through July 13. •*New En[illegible]land Neon* features more than 20 ne[illegible] signs from the 1920s through [illegible] 1970s. Through Sept. 14. •*Children[illegible] Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass To[illegible]* shows through Nov. 16.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (866-74[illegible] 1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., [illegible]am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adu[illegible] $12, seniors $10, students $8; children [illegible] and under and residents of Sale[illegible] free.* •*Worshipping the Ancestors: Chin[illegible] Commemorative Portraits* shows throu[illegible] Aug. 10. •*Family Ties* displays conte[illegible]porary art through Sept. 21. •*Maste[illegible] pieces of Asian Nineteenth Century Ph[illegible]tography*, an exhibition of photograp[illegible] from China, Japan, India, and Tibe[illegible] displays through Sept. 28. •*Under[illegible] Imperial Gaze* features two large-sc[illegible] Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 200[illegible]

•*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of wo[illegible]ing and plowing from Chinese artists in vari[illegible] media. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-102[illegible] www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Ha[illegible]vard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 s[illegible]niors and students, $5 children. The museum will [illegible] open July 4 and offer free admission all day.* •*Disti[illegible]guished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features t[illegible] museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. O[illegible] going. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoi[illegible] exhibition featuring original sculpture and plas[illegible] casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the Nor[illegible] American Indian: Change and Continuity* featu[illegible] work considering the native people's response [illegible] the arrival of Europeans across the continent. O[illegible] going. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exh[illegible] bition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islan[illegible] •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portrai[illegible] 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumn[illegible] blueprint collection. Through Aug. 30. •*The[illegible] Shoes Were Made for … Walking?*, a collection of [illegible] pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary tim[illegible] shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted by a Disti[illegible] Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southw[illegible]* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ran[illegible] Ruin. Through Dec. 2004.

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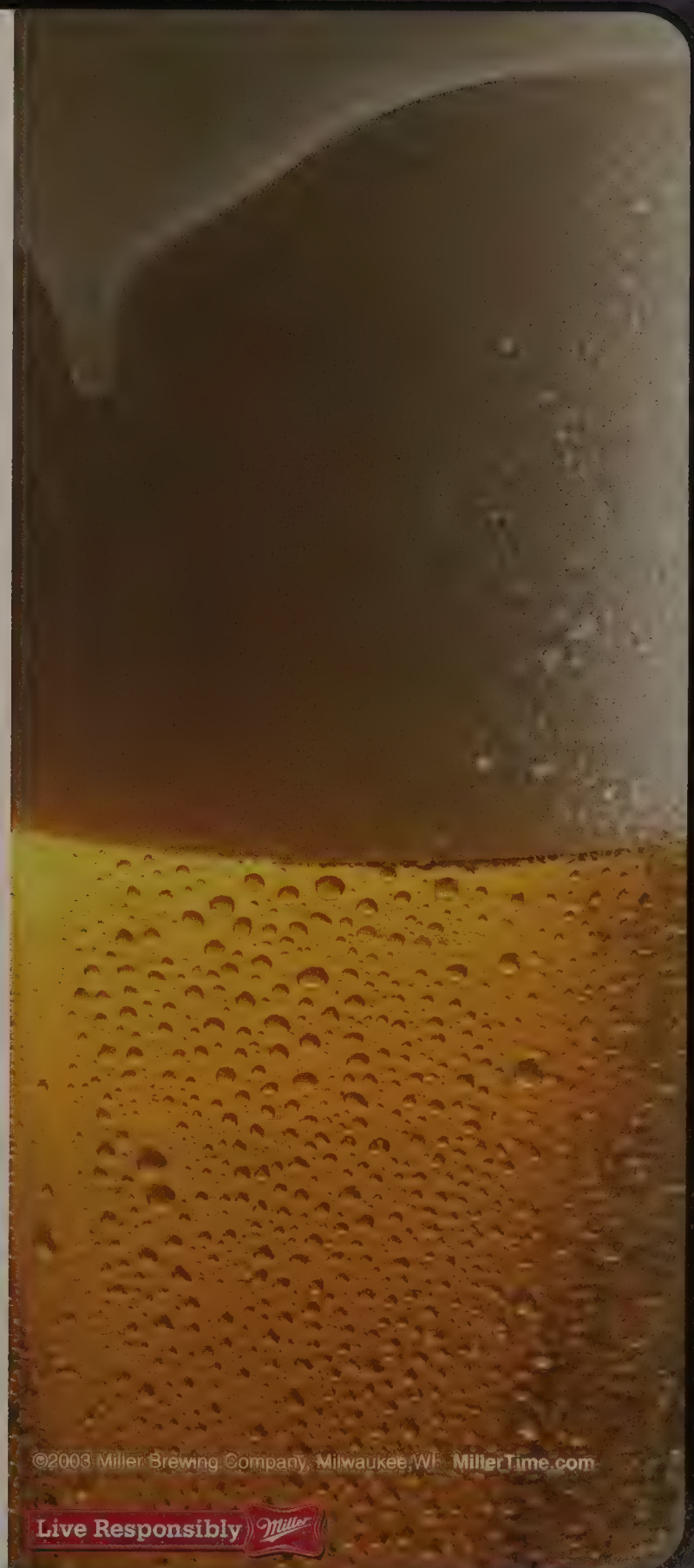


Somerville Museum
One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Summer Salon,* a group show featuring recent acquisitions and works by gallery artists, displays June 26-Aug. 16.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Geometrics in Glass* features blown-glass sculptures. Through June 29. •*Tea and Fantasy,* a show featuring sculptural teapots by 16 artists, displays July 5-Aug. 31.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Luke Cannon, Haley Hasler and Christopher Saunders show paintings in *New Talent.* Through July 2.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Jain Tarnower shows landscapes in *New Work.* Through June 30. •Martin Boyle shows oil on canvas in *New Work.* July 2-30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., Fifth floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Sol LeWitt shows his work in *Models for Proposed Dome Structures and Recent Gouaches.* Through June 28. •*Four to Look At* features the work of Cree Bruins, Sally Moore, Kelly Sherman and Rachel Perry Welty. July 1-Aug. 1.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm. •The gallery celebrates summer with *Tropical Flavors,* a group show. Through July 31.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Abelardo Morell's *Survey: 1987-2003* and Jocelyn Lee's *Portraits,* two photography exhibitions, show through July 3.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Unbuilt Visions* features models, images and proposals for public projects. Through June 28.

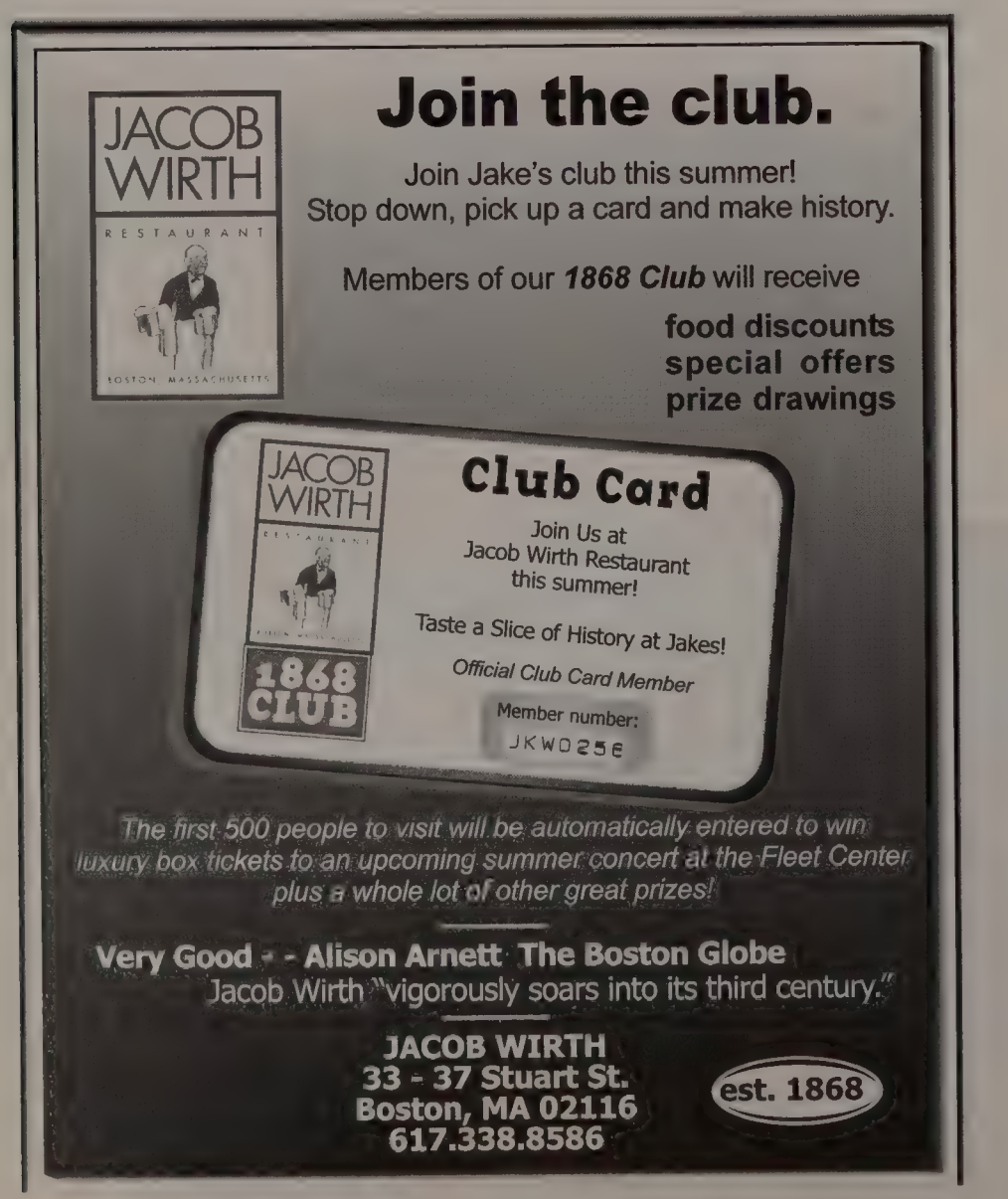
Bromfield Art Gallery
27 Thayer St., Boston (617-451-3605). www.bromfieldartgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Hot Dot: Youth Art from the Dorchester Community Center for the Visual Arts* shows through July 19.

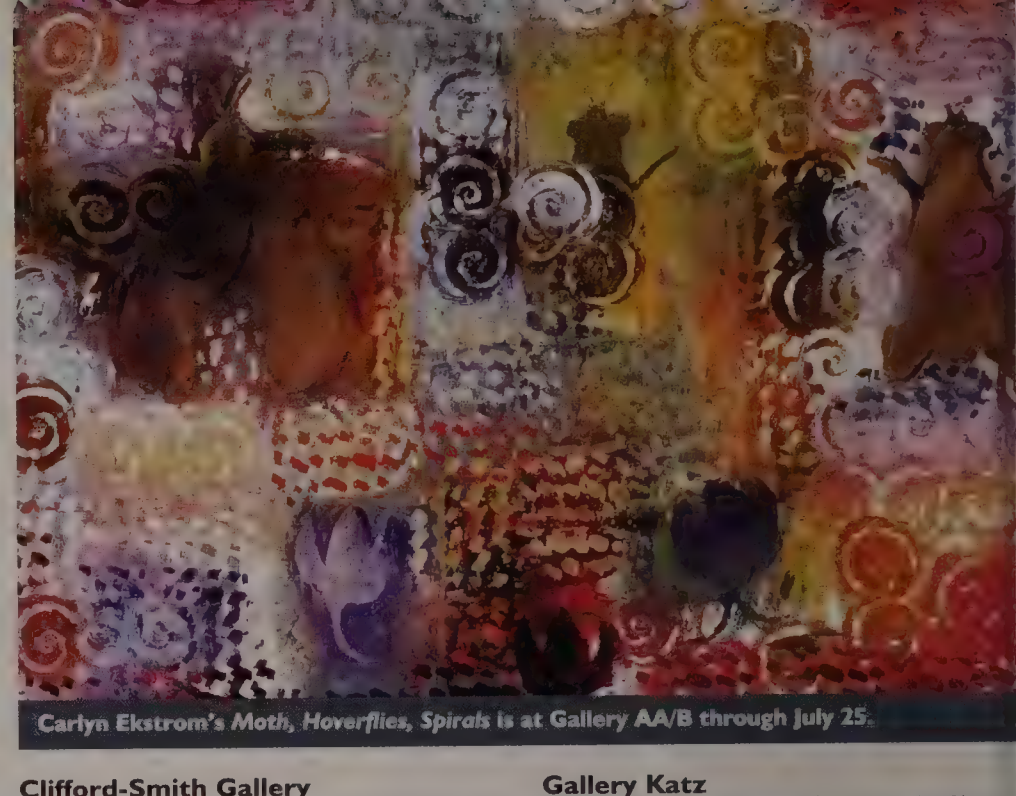
Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •Fay Grajower shows paper and scrolls in *Stone Links.* July 7-31.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •Vladimira Klumpar, Anna Matousova and Pavel Trnka show their work in *Configurations and Transformations: Three Students of Libensky.* Through Aug. 15.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Gifts of Summer,* a group show of paintings, drawings and mixed-media work, shows June 25-July 26.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Herbert Barnett's paintings display through July 3.




Carlyn Ekstrom's *Moth, Hoverflies, Spirals* is at Gallery AA/B through July 25.

Clifford-Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. July and August, by appt. only.* •*Last Look: The Show* features various works from the gallery's storage racks. Through June 28.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Copley Artists Show: A Juried Exhibition* displays June 26-July 19.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing exhibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. Free. •Paul Kerepka's *Colorful Landscapes and Recent Works* shows through July 25.

Elias Fine Art Gallery
120 Braintree St., Rear, Allston (617-783-1888). Wed.-Sat., 12 pm-5 pm. •Christiane Wallace shows her collection in *Patriotic Paintings.* Through July 26.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Unfolding Geometries* features Don Eyles' photography and Anne Lilly's sculpture. Through July 18.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •Jamali shows prints and paintings in *Mystical Expressionism.* Through July 14.

Gallery AA/B
535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617-574-0022). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu., 12-6 pm, Mon-Fri. by appt. •*Summer Prism* features new paintings, monoprints and drawings by Michael Eder and Carlyn Ekstrom. Through July 25.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •*Brian McNeil: Environmental Portraits* shows through Aug. 1.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Tue., 6-9 pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9 pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Straight Faced,* a collection of contemporary self-portraits in photography, painting and sculpture, displays June 27-Aug. 2.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). ww gallerykatz.com. *Wed.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*The Fi Annual Furniture Design Exhibition* focuses on the t bles and chairs of 12 artists. Through June 28.

Gallery Kayafas
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-0411). Tue Fri. 1-5:30 pm; Sat. 12-5:30 pm. •Jo Sandm shows photographs, photograms and drawings *Inside the Image,* and Judith McMillan shows X-r photograms in *Optic Explorations.* Through July 1

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www. galle naga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sa 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Lana Z. Caplan shows her photo raphy in *On Closer Inspection.* Through July 18.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-973 Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Fran Siegel sho his paintings and drawings in *Pacific Glow.* Throu July 6.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.ha steele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fr 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointme* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century tique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). ww howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*The Col Material and Method,* a group show of mixed-me work, displays through July 1.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-688 www.hurstgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm.* •*Vitr Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath Board* features more than 75 pieces spanning th millenia. Through July 30.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). ww internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6* •The gallery's permanent collection showcase variety of vintage posters. •*Mini-Masterpieces,* 10th annual summer poster show, displays July Sept. 3.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). ww judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Cop Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-6 pm.* •Cha Movalli shows his paintings in *My Favorite Thi* Through June 30. •Franklin Ross shows his worl *Introduction/Space.Time.Emotion.* July 3-12.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www. asostudio.com. *MBTA: E Green Line to Sympho Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and appointment.* •An exhibition of calligraphy Sumi paintings shows through June 30.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-024 www.cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to H vard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* • Cambridge Art Association presents *National F Show 2003.* Through June 25. •The CAA pres the *New Members Show.* July 10-30.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.ki smithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Gil Mares shows his tographs in *Harbor Abstracts.* Through July 26.

ingston Gallery
0 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). ww.kingstongallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to ck Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •Mary Lang shows her otography in *Reflections of Emptiness*, and Petri Flint ows mixed-media work in *New Landscapes*. rough June 28. •*New Art 03*, a juried show of local d national artists, features paintings, photography d printmaking. July 1-26.

Attitude Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *een Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., -5 pm.* •Corrine Okada and Whitmore Boogaerts ow wire and steel works in *Bending Metal*. Through y 31. •*Through the Looking: Glass*, a group exhibi- n of glass vessels and sculpture by Marialyce awke, Duncan McClellan, Lucy Bergamini and ephen Main, shows July 1-Aug. 31.

st Visual Arts Center
Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). MBTA: *d Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Thu., 12 pm-6 pm; ., 12-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •*Just Stand ere*, a group show, and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's ort video *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam wards the Complex*, display through July 6. •*Influ- e, Anxiety and Gratitude (Toward an Understand- of Trans-generational Dialogue as a Gift Economy)* tures the work of more than 20 artists. Through y 6.

ark Gallery
1 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). w.markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Har- d. Wed. and Fri.,4-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; l by appointment.* •Maggi Brown, Roby Fader and n Weller show their work in *The Locals: Three mbridge Artists*. Through Aug. 29.

ercury Gallery
Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www. rcurygallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. n.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Daniel Robinson shows Chirico– and Italian constructivist–inspired art *New Work* . Through July 2. •Gallery artists show ir work in the annual summer show. July 3-31.

iller Block Gallery
Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www. llerblockgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Ar- gton. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •*Playland*, a group show of paintings and photography, displays through Aug. 2.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: *Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Info@Blah: Organization and Overload*, a group show, displays through July 6.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Japanese artist Mariko Kusumoto shows her mixed-media sculpture. Through July 31. •*Japanese Jewelry and Hollowware*, a collection of jewelry and sculptures by 29 artists, display through July 31.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5 pm.* •Rachel Claflin and Celine McDonald show new paintings. Through July 13.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. Open July and Aug. by appt. only.* •Heidi Whitman's new drawings and paintings are on display in *Brain Terrain*. Through June 28. •A group exhibition of gallery artists' work shows July 2-August.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm.* •*Don't Dilly Dally, We Just Might Have the Next Dali*, a group show, displays through July 20.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www. nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Summer Surprises*, a group show of paintings, drawings and sculpture, displays through Aug. 2.

OHT Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-1677). www. ohtgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. Open by appt. only in July and August.* •Katherine Jackson and Henry Mandell show abstract paintings in *Handwriting on the Wall 2*, through June 28.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The Gallery presents an ongoing local-artists showcase.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.pepper galleryboston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Gallery artists display paintings and drawings. Through July 30.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www. puckergallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •The gallery celebrates its 36th anniversary with *Fine Choices: Something Old, Something New*. June 28-July 29.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www. robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of the Game*, a group show, features photographs celebrating athletics. Through Aug. 23.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* •Robert Sweeney shows paintings and pastels in *Italian Campaign*. Through June 28.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www. societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Botanicals*, a group show of mixed-media work, shows through July 27.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). Wed.-Sat., 12 pm-6 pm; Sun., 1 pm-5 pm. •*Inside-Out* features landscapes by Elizabeth Awalt and still lifes by Tamara Krendel. Through July 6.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •*Eclectic*, a group show, features paintings of Boston, Italy, Mexico and Cape Cod. Through July 15.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 8:30-1 pm.* •*On the Surface*, a group show of paintings, shows through June 27. •*Emerging Artists* features the paintings of Antonio Vitale. Through June 30. •Six artists show multi-media work in *Go Team*. July 8-31.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www. munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Paintings by Pat Cauley*, a show of abstract work, displays July 1- Aug. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www. vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-4 pm.* •Polly Thayer Starr's drawings show in *Carved from Darkness Carved from Light*. Through Aug. 15.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *Thu.-Sun., 2-7 pm.* •John Jagel's new oil paintings show in *Visions & Images*. Through July 6.

PHOTOGRAPHY

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •NESOP celebrates its graduates with the *2003 Graduating Students Exhibition*. Through July 31.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www. panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •Work by Alex MacLean displays through Sept. 6.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.prc boston.org. MBTA: *B Green Line to Blandford. Tue., Wed. and Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-5 pm.* •A members exhibition shows through July 27.

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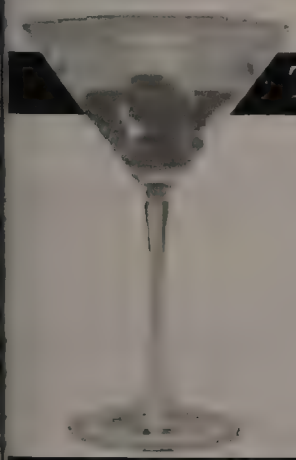

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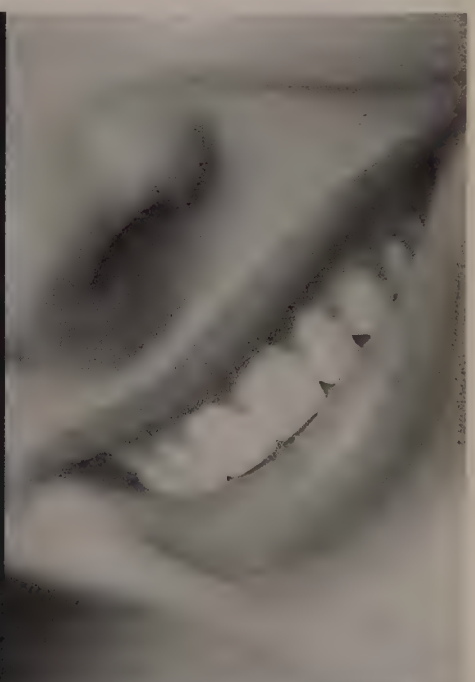

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Borders Chestnut Hill
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-630-1120). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center. 7:30 pm. Free. Tel Aviv resident and former Boston Globe writer **Noah Efron** reads from his book, *Real Jews: Secular vs. Ultra-Orthodox and the Struggle for Jewish Identity in Israel*, an account of the conflict between secular and Orthodox Jews in Israel.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Carolyn Parkhurst** reads from her debut novel, *The Dogs of Babel*, about a man trying to discover the truth about his wife's mysterious death, which only their dog witnessed.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Jill McCorkle** reads from her third short story collection, *Creatures of Habit*. The 12 stories explore humans with animal qualities and animals with human qualities.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Meredith Broussard** reads from the collection short stories she edited, *The Dictionary of Failed Relationships: 26 Stories of Love Gone Wrong*. **Elizabeth Benedict** and **Pagan Kennedy**, two authors whose stories are included in the collection, also read.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **John Allen Paulos** reads from *A Mathematician Plays the Stock Market*, a witty account of his failed attempt to outwit the stock market with mathematical logic.

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Adam Mansbach** reads from his novel *Shackling Water*, about a young African-American saxophonist who leaves Boston to pursue fame in the 1990s Harlem jazz scene.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Noah Efron** reads from *Real Jews: Secular vs. Ultra-Orthodox and the Struggle for Jewish Identity*. See June 25 for description.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* Poet **Aimee Nezhukumatathil** reads from her latest collection of poetry, *Miracle Fruit*, and **Chris Agee** reads from the anthology he edited, *Scar on the Stone: Contemporary Poetry from Bosnia*.

Writers with Drinks
The Lizard Lounge,1667 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter. 6:30 pm. $3-$5. Authors **Delia Sherman**, **Dan Kennedy**, **Charlie Anders** and poet **Shantanette Patrice** read selections from their work, while comedian **Brent Sverdloff** and performance artist **Amatul Hannan** entertain. Proceeds benefit *Other* magazine.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Faneuil Hall
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (800-423-4553). www.faneuilhallforum.org. *7:30 pm. Free.* As part of the Ralph Waldo Emerson 2003 Bicentennial, **Robert Pinsky**, a Boston University professor and former U.S. poet laureate, reads from Emerson's work. Commentary from Emerson scholars **Richard Geldard** and **David M. Robinson** follows.

CALL TO FICTION

As part of our third annual Literary Boston issue, we invite all local authors (residing in Massachusetts) to submit a short work of fiction, no more than **2,500 words, to us by Fri., Aug. 1.** Entries should be original works that have never been previously published.

Upon review by our panel of judges, the winning author's story will be published in our October 8 issue. Plus, the skilled scribe will be saddled with a slew of fun prizes.

Please send your story to us at:
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
Attn: Fiction Contest
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116

Augusten Burroughs reads from *Dry: A Memoir* July 2 at Brookline Booksmith.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* Connecticut-based writer **Vernon Frazer** reads from *Commercial Fiction*, his recent novel about a string of characters, from government agents to soap opera stars, in pursuit of money, power and love.

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Alice Hoffman** reads from her new novel, *The Probable Future*, a story of three generations of women whose mystical powers create extraordinary circumstances in their New England town.

WordsWorth Books
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Mark Pendergrast** reads from *Mirror Mirror: A History of the Human Love Affair with Reflection*, which traces the mirror's effect on science, myth, religion, human behavior and the arts.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Journalist **Jill Nelson** reads from her first novel, *Sexual Healing*, the story of two friends who open a brothel where sexy black men service female clientele.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* Local author **Jake Halpern** reads from his first book, *Braving Home: Dispatches from the Underwater Town, the Lava-Side Inn and Other Extreme Locales*, which documents his tour of rugged landscapes and disaster-prone towns, and the die-hard citizens who live in them.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Augusten Burroughs** reads from his book *Dry: A Memoir*, about his experience in rehab as a young man.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **John Griesemer** reads from his novel *Signal and Noise*, a tale about engineers struggling to lay a trans-Atlantic telegraph cable in the 1850s and '60s.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Donnell Alexander** reads from his memoir *Ghetto Celebrity: Searching for My Father in Me*, which chronicles his experience from his youth in Ohio to his adult success as a hip-hop journalist.

MONDAY, JULY 7

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Candace Bushnell**, author of *Sex and the City*, returns to the subject of Manhattan's singles scene with her new novel, *Trading Up*, about a Victoria's Secret model who uses men for their money.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* Nigerian author **Sunny Abakwue** reads from h work of religious fiction, *The Devil's Land*, in whi Satan triumphs over God in the battle for control American cities.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. (617-491-266 MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 5:30 pm. Free. **A Gutman** reads from her new thriller, *The Anniv sary*, a story of three women connected to an e cuted psychopath.

Newtonville Books and Brews Serie
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). ww newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Tim Gautrea** reads from *The Clearing*, his historical novel about t brothers whose lives have been altered by WWI.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). ww wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 p Free.* Emmy-winning filmmaker **Thomas Levens** reads from his biography of Albert Einstein, *Einst in Berlin*, which covers the scientist's years spent Berlin from 1914 to 1932—a time when he panded on his theory of special relativity.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hos poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-200 MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear w other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level T

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sunday
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-07 MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7:30 poetry jam, 9pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio p background tunes for the featured poet of the w

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock spoken word is performed one Monday a mo The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambi (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evenir titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event t place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Monday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Camb (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Cen 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets l held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Thursdays)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617- 4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downt Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursda each month offers a selection of featured poets an opportunity to take the open mike.

ducation

dvice to Contributors
bmit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Cal-dar: Education, or e-mail information to educa-n@improper.com. Deadline is at least four weeks or to publication.

EDNESDAY, JUNE 25

chnology in the Enterprise
loitte & Touche, 200 Berkeley St., Boston (617-7-2822, ex. 205). www.mimc.org. MBTA: een Line to Arlington. 8-10 am. $35-70, pre-regis-tion required. Hosted by the Massachusetts In-active Media Council, this panel discussion en-led "IT and KM: Friend or Foe?" examines hnology's impact on "knowledge management" d other issues.

HURSDAY, JUNE 26

homas Gainsborough: The bstance of Style
useum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston 7-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line Museum. 6 pm. Free. Frederick Ilchman of the FA's Art of Europe department and the exhibition ator for *Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788*, speaks ut the English painter's artistic style.

arborWalk through rt Point Channel
ll for meeting location. Boston (617-482-1722). w.tbha.org. 12-1 pm. Free. HarborWalk tours, or-ized by the Boston Harbor Association, provide public with an opportunity to evaluate existing ditions and recommend improvements to rborWalk.

blic Health and Bioterrorism: Risk, eparation and Cost
ookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Room 1, Brookline (617-730-2700). www.brooklinead-ed.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline ls. 6-9 pm. Free. Presented by the Friends of ookline Public Health and the Brookline Adult Community Education Program, this forum will moderated by former Massachusetts governor chael Dukakis. Panelists will discuss the daunt-challenges of state and local health depart-nts in dealing with the possibility of bioterror-: the risks, preparation and the financial costs local communities.

ATURDAY, JUNE 28

ower Arrangements
th Summer Blooms
ston Nurseries, Route 135, Hopkinton (508-293-1). www.westonnurseries.com. 9:30 am. Free. this seminar, participants will learn how to ate several one-of-a-kind, eye-catching floral angements.

omebuyer's Workshops
ton Public Library Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston . Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: en Line to Boylston. 9:30 am-1:30 pm. The ighborhood Assistance Corporation of America sents a workshop for those interested in learning re about how to buy a home.

erty's Call
e Paul Revere Memorial Association, 19 North are, Boston (617-523-2338). www.paulrevere use.org. MBTA: Green Line to Government nter. 1-2:30 pm. $1-$3. At the Paul Revere use, costumed performers retell the story of the erican Revolution through songs that helped ire the colonists' revolt.

ysteries of the Milky Way
seum of Science, Charles Hayden Planetarium. nce Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. TA: Green Line to Science Park. 11:30-4:30. 50-$8.50. Opening today, this planetarium show es viewers on a tour of the Milky Way galaxy, loring the creation of the universe and Earth's ition inside of it.

angutans: Living on the Edge
nklin Park Zoo, One Franklin Park Road, Boston 7-541-5466). www.zoonewengland.org. MBTA: nge Line to Forest Hills or Number 16 Bus. 12 . $5-$10. Cheryl Knott hosts this slide lecture, t of the Harvard Museum of Natural History es "Conservation in Action!" Knott describes study of wild orangutans in Borneo, their logy and efforts to save the species.

ce Cars on Display
seum of Science, Science Park., Boston (617-723-0). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 9 am-4 pm. Free. A display of contemporary and vintage racers includes a 2003 Ferrari Modena Spider as well as antique automobiles from the 1930s. On loan from the Museum of Transportation's Larz Anderson Auto Museum, the exhibit is one of the several high-velocity attractions at the MOS this summer centered around the human passion for speed.

Romancing the Wreck
Sert Gallery, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-4900). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11:30 am. Free. This Harvard University Art Museums summer Gallery Talk is given by Linda Norden, associate curator of contemporary art.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Gardens for the Family
Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd., Sturbridge (800-733-1830). www.osv.org. 9:30 am - 5 pm. $10-$20 (village admission). This tour of 19th-century-style gardens features a vast array of plants, advice for tending fruits and vegetables, and a visit to the root cellar at the Freeman Farm.

***Le coq d'or*: Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes**
Busch-Reisinger Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-4900). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2 pm. $5-$6.50. This Harvard University Art Museums summer Gallery Talks is given by Joachim Homann.

Stories Behind the Stones
Forest Hills Cemetery Main Gate, 95 Forest Hills Avenue, Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $5. History guide Al Maze leads a walking tour in the historic Forest Hills Cemetery, focusing on the history, art and horticulture of the cemetery, as well as the eclectic people buried there. The park recommends wearing comfortable shoes and bringing water.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Inside the Sanctuary of Freedom
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. MBTA: Red/Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 11-11:30 am, 2-2:30 pm. $1-$5. A guided architectural tour of the restored 1729 house of worship, covering all areas of the pristine building.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

No Tax on Tea!
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeeting house.org. MBTA: Red/Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 11 am. $1-$5. At this re-creation of the fiery tea tax debate in the Old South Meeting House in 1773, visitors can voice their own arguments and decide whether to "pay the tax" or "dump the tea."

SATURDAY, JULY 5

Freedom Walk with Abigail Adams
Dreams of Freedom Museum: Boston's Immigration Museum, 1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www. dreamsoffreedom.org. MBTA: Orange/Red Line to Downtoun Crossing. 11 am- 1 pm. $22. Join actress/historian Linda Myer as Abigail Adams on a walk along the Freedom Trail; learn what life was like for a woman raising four children amidst the American Revolution.

"Glorious Morning": The Revolutionary War in Song
The Paul Revere Memorial Association, 19 North Square, Boston (617-523-2338). www.paulrevere house.org. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 1-4 pm. $1-$3. Composer and lyricist Carmino Ravosa performs his repertoire of songs centered around the American Revolution.

No Tax on Tea!
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. MBTA: Red/Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 11 am. $1-$5. Same program as July 4, with additional appearances by costumed performers from the Freedom Trail Foundation, Boston National Historical Park and Old South Meeting House to spark the debate.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

HarborWalk: South Boston, Fan Pier to the Fish Pier
Call for meeting location. Boston (617-482-1722). www.tbha.org. 5-6:30 pm. Free. HarborWalk tours, organized by the Boston Harbor Association, provide the public with an opportunity to evaluate existing conditions and recommend improvements to HarborWalk.

gay & lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information, including telephone numbers and nearest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or e-mail gaylesbian@improper.com.

Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* •On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. 10 pm, $5-$8. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+. •*June 26:* DJ Mix Mistress plays a variety of music, with an emphasis on female artists.

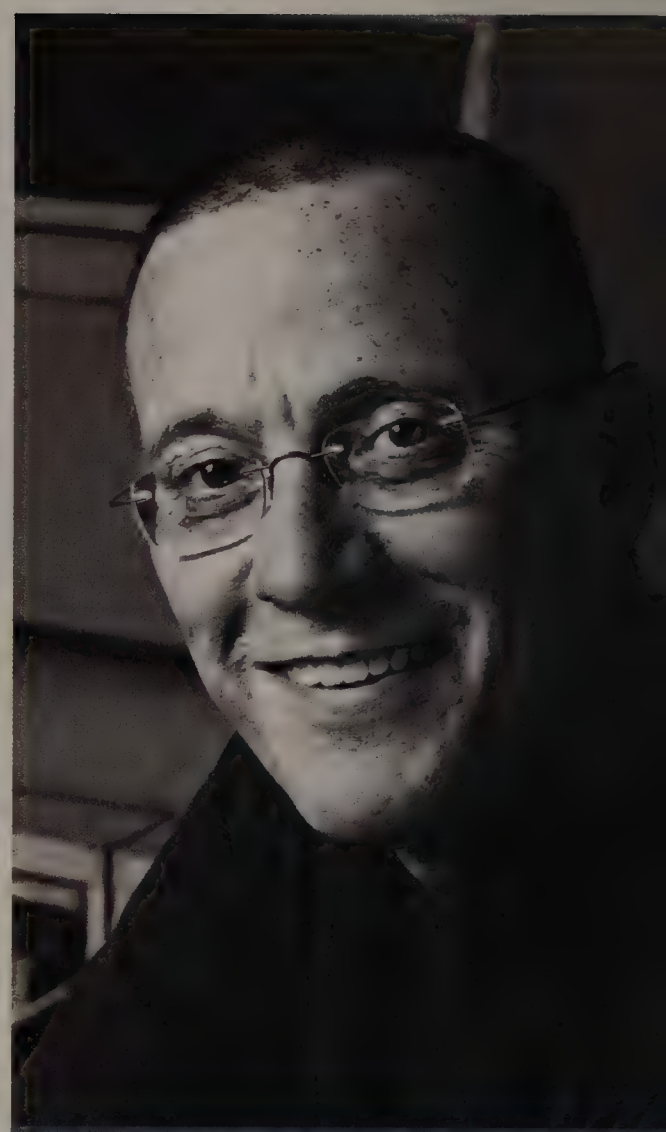
Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candy-Land; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale. •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.


Mark Merlis gives a reading June 26 at We Think the World of Yo

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.ca musbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Stati Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Bosto bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transg dered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-531 www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to C tral. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Su 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Booksto
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www thinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, t community-centered gay and lesbian bookst stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos. •J 26: Author **Mark Merlis** reads from his new no *Man About Town.*

Shows & Events

Children's Museum GLBT Family Event
300 Congress St., Boston (617-426-8855). ww hrc.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. June 5:30-8:30 pm. $15 adults, $10, children.* T Human Rights Campaign joins the Children's M seum as the museum opens up for this evening food and fun.

National HIV Testing Day
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bos (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBT *Green Line to Hynes. 8 am-4 pm. Free.* In recog tion of the day, Fenway will be holding a walk HIV-testing clinic. The test is free, anonym and available all day.

Quick Date Event
Club Cafe's Moonshine Room, 209 Columbus Av Boston (781-891-5996). www.gbpflag.org. MBT *Green Line to Arlington. June 26, 6:30-8:30 pm.* $ Hosted by Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents, Fan and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), this is a S Schools fundraising event, raising money for project created to fight discrimination based on s ual orientation in public schools.

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Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collaborated ith the Elizabeth Stone House to provide this safe, onfidential space to discuss healthy relationships, omestic violence and other issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
oston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and les-ans in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: reen Line to Hynes/ICA. 7 pm.* This group meets he second Tuesday of every month for a discussion ith bisexual men.

BOSS
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: reen Line to Hynes/ICA. 6-8 pm.* This group for y and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity d health.

Boston Bay Blades
ww.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this mpetitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
17-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 ; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: E reen Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay d lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
17-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a l regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: reen Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 5 pm. The center provides social activities for gay, bian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning ung people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
oakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). BTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 . Rugby players of any level, age, race and orien-ion are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
ston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green e to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-m.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action litical group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
17-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
38-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-mem-gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
exual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston 7-424-9595). www.biresource.org. *MBTA: een Line to Arlington. First Wednesday and third ursday of every month. 7-8:45 pm.* An informal port group for bisexual individuals.

Coming Out Group
nway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 7-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: en Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for n and women to discuss issues related to com-out.

Cosmetically Correct
rel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each nth, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
nbridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., nbridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offen-'s guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on dnesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create perfor-nces representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low
way Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 7-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: n Line to Hynes/ICA First Friday of every month. 7-.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of r to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www. esportsboston.com. This club for gay male tlers has more than 160 members.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
way Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 7-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: n Line to Hynes/ICA.* An ongoing support p for people born into biologically female es or who have grown up being viewed as bio-cally female, and who wish to explore gender safe place.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hot-line is confidential and provides support for gay, les-bian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2.* This group is for gay/bi-sexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender seniors ages 60 and over.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tuesday/Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings. Gay and lesbian swim team for both fitness and competitive swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month. Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Meets twice a month. Learn to cope with a partner's illness.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to Washington Street. The first Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Wonder Women Boston
Club Café, 209 Columbus St., Boston. groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Thursday of every month. 8 pm.* This casual, social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s meets once a month.

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body& mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Free Yoga Classes
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. *July 5. Hatha yoga, 9:30 and 11 am; vinyasa yoga: 12:30 pm.* Try one of these free yoga classes at this open house.

Soulful Sundown
First and Second Church in Boston, Unitarian Universalist, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-267-6730). www.fscboston.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. June 28, 9 pm. Free.* Join musicians Kendra Flowers and Michelle Willson and the Evil Gal Festival Orchestra for a night of rhythm and blues and meaningful lyrics.

Workshops

Art, Body and Soul Day: Exploring Depression
Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. June 28, 10 am-5 pm. $75. This workshop with expressive-arts therapist Kat Mitchell is for anyone living with depression who desires a creative outlet. You'll practice facilitated bodywork, movement, dreaming and creative expression through sound, imagery and words.

Bones for Life with Feldenkrais
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. June 28, 1:15-5:15 pm. $63.* Feldenkrais is a movement awareness therapy designed to aid various physical problems such as repetitive stress syndrome and bad posture.

Fearless Buddha, Peaceful Warrior: An Introduction to Shambhala Buddhism
Boston Shambhala Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline. www.primordialdot.org. *June 28 and 29, 9 am-5 pm. $120, lunch provided. Call to pre-register.* This program provides a concise overview of the three vehicles, or *yanas*, taught by Buddha, and the warrior's path within the Shambhala tradition. It's a general introduction to the Shambhala community and an opportunity for students to meet and practice together.

Meditation
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Charles or Green Line to Government Center. July 6, 11 am-1 pm. $15 suggested donation will be given to charity.* These mindfulness classes focus on breathing and finding your own personal path to peace of mind. Meditation helps you get in touch with yourself and complements hatha yoga by developing concentration.

Open Your Hips and Hamstrings Yoga
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. June 28, 2-5 pm. $30.* In this yoga workshop, slowly explore the flexibility of your hips and hamstrings. Let go of deep-seated tension and experience greater ease. Learn several exercises from a variety of yoga traditions that can work for students at any level.

Personal Safety
14 Green St., Brookline (617-738-2800). www.bccaonline.com. *July 6, 2-3 pm. Free.* Share experiences or ask questions in this forum with experts on personal protection, crime prevention and human behavior. Become better informed and protected.

Speaking Up, Speaking Well
Boston Center for Adult Education, 122 Arlington St., Studio 122, Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. June 21, 9 am-5 pm. $103.* Does fear prevent you from expressing yourself fully in personal and professional situations? Learn to control this fear, organize thought and refine articulation to become a more effective and comfortable speaker.

Soulful Sundown

Viniyoga & Vipassana Awakening Yoga
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *June 29, 10 am-4 pm. $55.* Experience both integrated yoga movement and stillness in this daylong retreat. Attendees can try viniyoga, a breath-centered yoga practice, to ease into deep relaxation. Once in this state, they can practice cultivating insight, also called vipassana. The day will include discussion, teachings and awakening practice.

You Go Girl: Sex Tips for Gals
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Building, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. MBTA: *C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. July 2, 7:30-9:30 pm. $34.* In this popular and informative class, Kim Airs shares tricks to try on a man for increasing pleasure and fun. Open to women only.

Lectures

Spirit of Getting Organized
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. *June 27, 7-8:45 pm. Free introductory lecture. June 28, 10 am-3 pm. $65 for workshop.* According to Pamela Kristan, author of *The Spirit of Getting Organized*, "Getting organized is as much a call to deal with our souls, as to deal with our stuff." At this workshop, Kristan discusses 12 organizing skills to help participants build a bridge between their inner and outer environments.

Retreat

Rest and Rejuvenation Yoga Retreat
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Aug. 2, 12:30-5:30 pm. $79.* Meditate and luxuriate at a local home equipped with a garden, hot tub and a swimming pool where you'll practice water yoga. Learn ways to breathe more deeply, develop better posture, lose weight and feel good. No experience needed, all levels welcome.

Ongoing

Beginner's Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-562-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. MBTA: *B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or #57, 64, 66 and 501 bus lines. Wed., 6:30-8pm. $15-$20.* Try the beginner's class at this attractive and peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time. Parking available.

Breathwork
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 5:30-7 pm. $10 donation.* Restore, renew and find peace with the simple technique of breathing. David Vendetti, experienced breathwork facilitator and yoga teacher, leads this relaxing class.

The Healing Power of Yoga
Mind/Body Medical Institute, 824 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-991-0102, ext. 267). www.mbmi.org. MBTA: *#60 or #51 bus. Gentle yoga: Wed., 4-5 pm; midday yoga: Tue., and Thu., 12-1 pm.* Gentle hatha yoga is for people living with chronic pain or chronic health concerns. The midday yoga class is intended to help reduce tension, decrease fatigue, increase vitality and flexibility, strengthen the body, and improve general health.

Silent Meditation
Living Yoga Center, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Sun., 7:15-7:45 pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free.* Unclutter your mind. Silent meditation may help you relax and enhance your peace of mind, plus help you hear the your intuitive voice.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches you to experience your breath as the vehicle to link the mind with the body.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Things to See

The Nightingale
Arlington Street Church, Arlington and Boylston streets, (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *July 5, 11 am. $8, $5 children.* A poor emperor wishes only to share his natural wealth with everyone around him. He enlists the help of his loyal citizens to build a road for visitors, and when they strike gold, everyone's ideas of what's important change. See if the emperor can recapture the Nightingale's song and regain his precious land.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. MBTA: *D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •June 25 and 26, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 4-9: The Spring Valley Puppets perform *The Three Wishes*, which asks the question, What would you do if an elf granted you three wishes? Also see the humorous Aesop's fable, *The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.* •July 2 and 3, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 3-7: The Pumpernickle Puppets present dragons, princesses and an adventure to Mystery Mountain in *Sir George and the Dragon.*

Story Stew
Center for the Arts, 4 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *June 28, 11 am. $8, $5 children.* Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company performs classic stories with new and comic twists. What if the Big Bad Wolf had a chance to defend himself in court? What if Peter Pan hired a private detective to track down Captain Hook? See these fairy tale characters in a completely different light.

Things to Do

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6229). www.acarts.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Alewife, then Arlington Heights bus to Foster Street.* •June 30-July 3, 8:45 am-3:30 pm. The Summer Arts Program presents *Lions, Tigers and Bears*, exploring animal myths through art. • July 7-11, 8:45 am-3:30 pm. *Wood, Clay and Fibers* incorporates carving, weaving, building and sewing.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Harborfest
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. MBTA: *Orange and Red Line to Downtown Crossing, or Green Line to Park Street.* •July 1, 11 am and 2 pm. Inside the Sanctuary of Freedom. A guided tour through the church's restored 1729 architecture. • July 2, 11 am-3 pm. Colonial Kids Faire. Turn berries into ink, write with a quill pen and play traditional 18th-century games. •July 3, 11 am and 2 pm. Colonial Clothing. Kids play dress-up in authentic period regalia. •July 3, 5 pm. Dance a jig as the local band the Jolly Rogues plays Scottish and Irish songs brought here more than 200 years ago. •July 6, 2 pm. Summer Concert with Charlestown Chorale. Patriotic songs directed by Christina Wilhelm.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Free.* •Sat., 11 am, ages 5 and older. Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •KidStage. Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing a
by creating short plays on a real stage. •June
and 29, 2-4 pm. In the Art Studio. Children c
create their own paintings. •June 25 and 27,
am. Music and Movement. Learn to shake, wigg
and giggle along to music. •June 28, 11 am- 4 p
Music and dance celebrating the opening of *Ma
ing America's Music: Rhythm, Roots & Rhyme*, an i
teractive exhibit of our nation's diverse music
forms, created in collaboration with the Bost
Symphony Orchestra

The Discovery Museums
177 Main St., Acton (978-264-0030). ww
discoverymuseums.org. *Through August 31. Daily,
am-4:30 pm. $8 for one museum, $12 for both.* D
cover the fascinations of science, wildlife, arts a
social studies using hands-on experiments and acti
ities. •Mon. 10 am: Monday Fundays. Children i
teract with the environment and the world throu
special weekly showcases.

Fenway Park Tours
*Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (61
236-6666).* www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: *Green Li
to Kenmore. Through September 30. Every hour from
am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9.* Tour t
press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Park.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-384-7296
www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Ha
vard. $6.50, $4 children.* •Saturday Scholars: Sat.,
11 am for preschool, 9 am-12 pm for grades K-
$35. Discover dinosaurs, minerals, insects, ocean
microscopic worlds, ancient civilizations and mo
at a special interactive class. •Wild Wednesda
Wed., 3-5 pm, all ages, free with admission. Th
after-school program offers hands-on activitie
scavenger hunts and live animal shows to let ki
learn more about the world around them.

ImprovBoston Family Show
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1253
www.improvboston.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Ce
tral. Sat., 6 pm. $12, $10 students.* Performers crea
scenes, songs and stories based on suggestions fro
the audience.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444
www.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: *Red Line to Kenda
$5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Light Fantastic*: Th
MIT Museum displays the largest collection of hol
grams in the world and describes the artistic and s
entific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyon*
Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial i
telligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448
www.mfa.org/calendar. MBTA: *E Green Line to M
seum. $15, children under 17 free.* •July 7 and 8, 3:
pm, ages 6-12. *Earthly Delights: Drawing and Design
a Chinese House.* Interactive discussions, teachin
and art projects introduce children to the museum
collection and to their own artistic senses. •July
3:30 pm, ages 6 and under with an adult. *Books Br
Art Alive.* Museum instructors read books, poems a
stories to texturize the paintings and incite kids
ask and talk about what they see.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.or
MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun.,
am-5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 childre*
•Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Sc
ence Theater Program offers *Animals and Stori
Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who co
bine folk tales and myths with visits from live a
mals. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu
3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and
pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, co
stellations, and celestial events in *The Sky Toni*
presentation. •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30
pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observ
tory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, co
stellations and planets.

Museum of Transportation
*Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (61
522-6547).* www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 p*
$5. The Museum of Transportation includes
large collection of rare and antique cars as well
exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution
Speed* exhibit explores the history of Americ
auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing
Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot ca
Hot Wheels and soap-box racing with go-carts
climb in, tracks to build and races to win. •Da
Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the m
seum and receive a free prize.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
*John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Dorchester (6
929-1250).* MBTA: *Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sa
10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free.* The JFK Libr
holds a weekly story hour for kids and adults.

Andy Warhol

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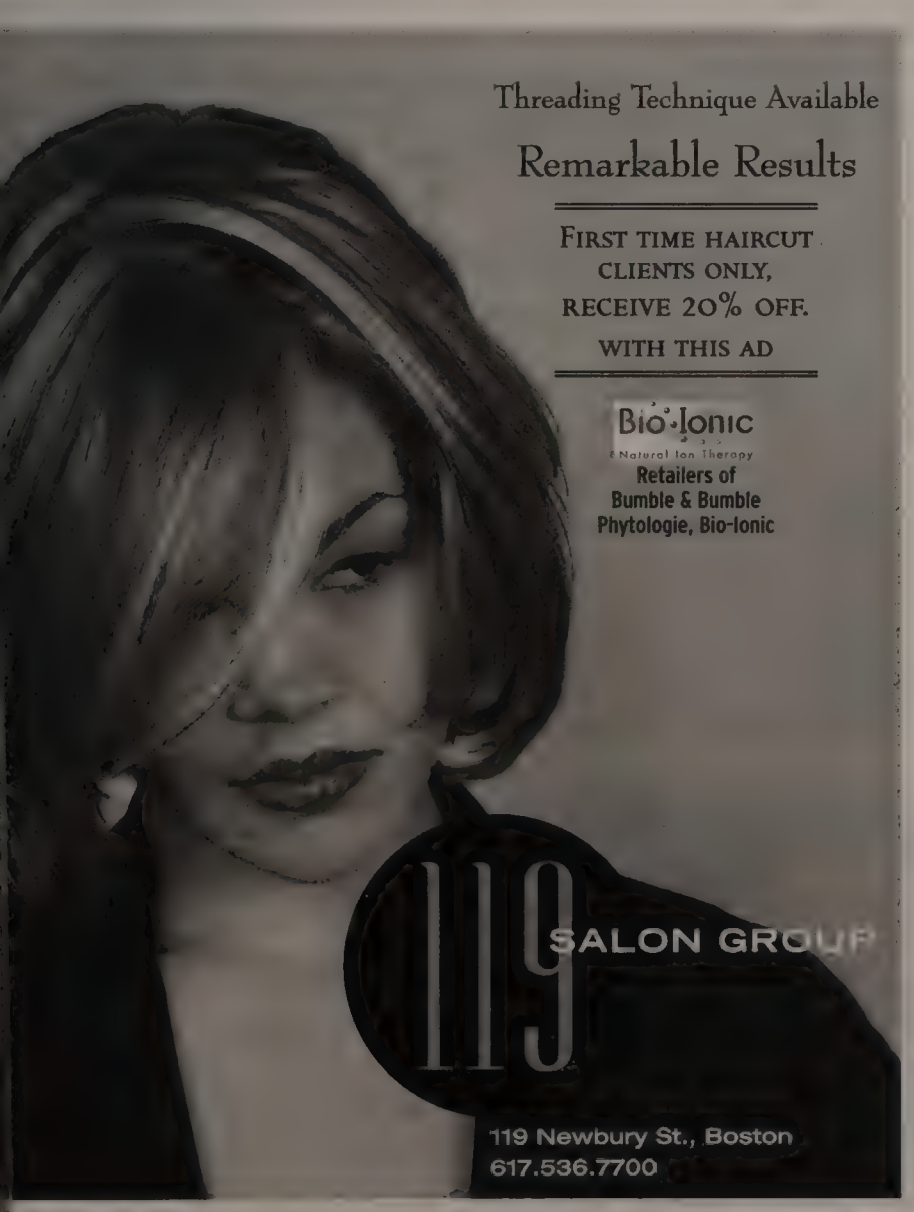

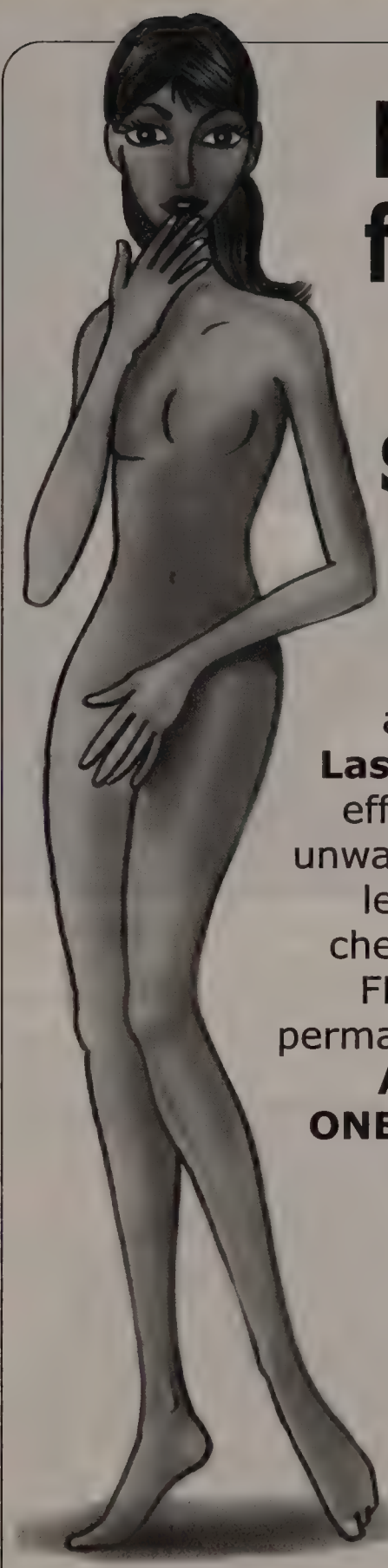

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sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
June 25, 7:05pm vs. Detroit Tigers
June 26, 1:05pm vs. Detroit Tigers
June 27, 7:05pm vs. Florida Marlins
June 28, 7:05pm vs. Florida Marlins
June 29, 2:05pm vs. Florida Marlins

Boston Breakers
•Nickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
June 25, 7 pm vs. New York Power
July 3, 7 pm vs. Washington Freedom

Boston Cannons
•Cawley Stadium, Lowell. Tickets: 888-847-9700
July 6, 6 pm vs. Long Island Lizards

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro. Tickets: 877-438-7387
June 28, 6 pm vs. Colorado Rapids

Kristine Lilly and the Boston Breakers play at home June 25 and July 3.

Events

BSSC Golf Scramble
This best-ball scramble includes prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive. Price includes greens fees, cart, prizes and team match-ups. *Far Corners Golf Club, West Boxford (617-789-4070)* www.bssc.com. *June 28. $76, $86 non-member.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: *B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.*

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.*

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: *Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.*

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: *Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.*

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm. $2.*

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: *Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.*

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.*

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamericanmuseum.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

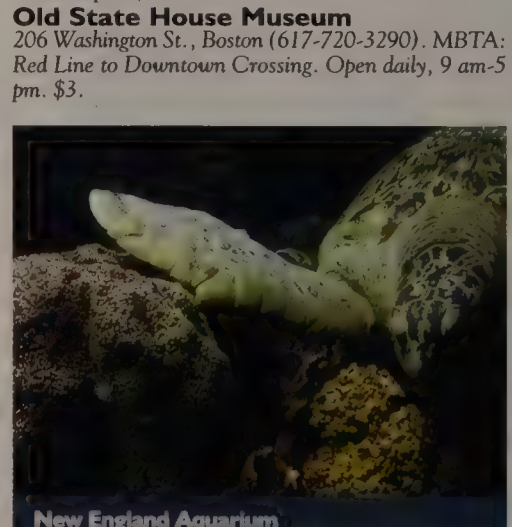
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: *Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 3-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 2, Mon., Tue. and Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Wed.-Thu., 9 am-8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $13.50, $7.50 children.*

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: *Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.*

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: *Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Free.*

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: *Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.*

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: *Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. $3.*


New England Aquarium

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBT*Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 $6, $4 seniors.*

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBT*Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.*

USS Constitution & Museum
*Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-567*www.oldironsides.com. MBTA: *Green or Ora Line to Haymarket, then bus #93 to Navy Yard. N seum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Ship hours: win Thu.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm; summer: Tue.-Sun., 10 4 pm. Free.*

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their lo treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a gi

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer oppor nities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of peo between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization ne volunteers for kitchen, office work, special event

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support children and adults with developmental disabiliti

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a we for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a ch

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly dividual, mentor children or teach an adult to rea

Literacy Volunteers of Massachuset
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or sh with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helplin
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone w people affected by alcoholism and substance abus

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist eld

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Help needed to serve lunch dinner and to work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless gue

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexi
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital forma

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered women's agen

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the din room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely p ple over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with single young p fessionals. •July 12, 9am-2pm: Clean up the Cha River pathways.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Volunteers needed to help res homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legali migrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

THE 10TH ANNUAL

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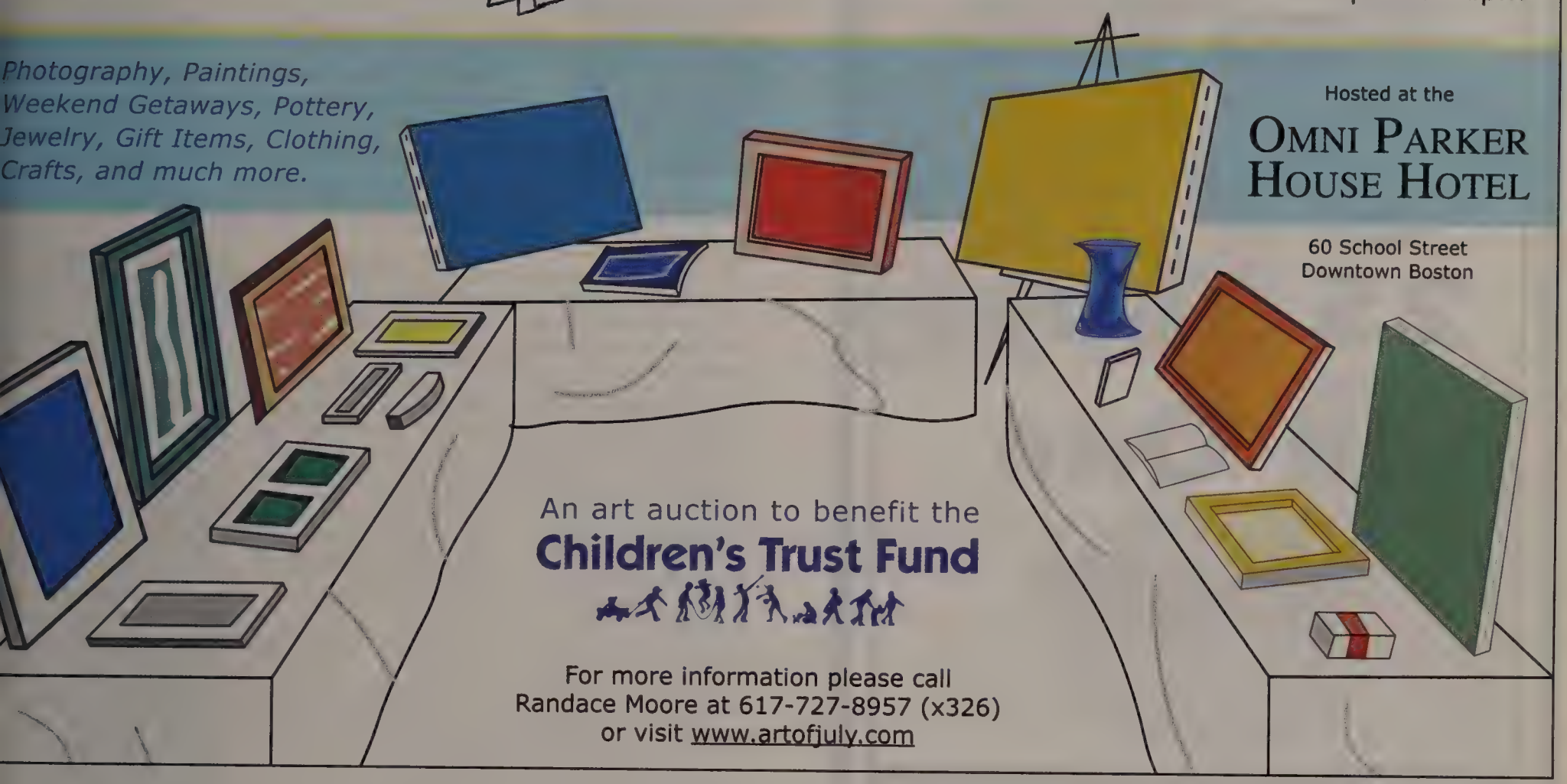

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As seen in **People** *magazine, March 17, 2003*

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity.) Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to typ up e-mailed messages) and write to:

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 617-859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Are You a Slayer?

I see you speeding by in your silver arrow. Where are you going? Do you have a castle and a cave in Newport's cliffs? Do you live in a lair? Pick me up next time I wave to you. Take me away and intoxicate me with your aroma. Let me be your sidekick. Let me get lost in those deep, dark eyes. I keep thinking of you day and night. I don't want to see you speed by me anymore. Take me on that journey, wherever you are headed. I won't bite you, hard.
—harlequin911@yahoo.com

Adam from Night Class

All I know is that your name is Adam and you work in Newton. We were together in a night class that met once a week for the past five months. Because of shyness, we didn't talk until the last two classes of the session. I never asked for your number or e-mail and have been beating myself up for it. Fate gave me another chance when we ended up seeing each other again on May 31. Even though the chance of two strangers seeing each other again in Boston is almost zero, I blew it again by not approaching you. Adam, if you read this and are interested in chatting with me, please send me an e-mail.
—lookingforadam2003@yahoo.com

Club Café

We first met on the evening of May 6 at Club Café, and I swear sparks flew! I was the woman with the short, spiky blond hair and blue eyes, dressed appropriately enough in fiery red. Your name is Kyra and you have straight brown hair, grey eyes, trendy glasses, and are intelligent and fun. We really hit it off and ever since that day, I've seen you a few times walking your bulldog on Tremont Street. I'm guessing you live in the Back Bay too? I was enchanted by you, and I think that you had a great time talking and laughing too. E-mail me soon! Let's see if those sparks can become a full-fledged feminine fire!
—IJunipper@aol.com

To the Beauty at Green Street Grill on April 11

I missed you at Isabella Stewart Gardner in May, but that was my fault—it was Mother's Day. I still see your pierced bellybutton peeking out from below your pink plunging neckline and I can't get it out of my head. I'm helplessly, hopelessly head-over-heals in love with the vision of you. I need to know if that package is complete. I never asked your name, and I've been dying a little every day because of it. Please give me another chance; it's all up to you. E-mail me.
—agentleman11@yahoo.com

Sexy Screenwriter

I met you at the Trenton train station on Memorial Day in the AM. Your train to Boston was over an hour late, my train home was 15 minutes late and we began to talk. Call it dumb luck, but I just had my college graduation in Boston the previous week and you were a second-year grad student at the same university. I did not catch your name, although you got mine as I walked onto my train. All I know is that you are from Alabama but have no accent, you are studying to be a screenwriter and you are very good-looking. If you know who you are, e-mail me.
—trentontrainstation@hotmail.com

Master

Thank you for choosing such a wonderful name for me. I am glad that I have pleased you thus far and hope I continue to do so. If I rebel against your will, it is only to bring you the further pleasure of disciplining me. I do adore you.
—Nymph

State Street—Curly Red Hair and Tennis Rackets

A.K.A. angel in a blue dress: The first time I saw you, I was rendered breathless by your beauty. I often ride up the elevator with you, as I did this morning, but I am always too shy to speak. I'm not sure why I'm writing this...I noticed you had a copy of the IMPROPER with you this morning as you rode up the elevator and figured that if nothing else, I'd let you know that there's someone out there who thinks you are gorgeous. Perhaps one day I'll have the chance to tell you in person, rather than just say the elevator pleasantries. BTW, if you do read this, I'm the tall, short-haired guy from the elevator.
—Elevator Guy

Something About You...

V: There's something about you. Your touch, your smile. I look into your eyes and I feel completely lost. The way you look at me across the room without saying anything at all. You knock me off my feet. You smile and I smile back. And we continue to hold each others' gaze, only to be interrupted by others around us. Yet I can't help but glance back and you're still looking at me, and there is a big smile on your face. I can't help this feeling and I don't think you can either. People are starting to see it too. If only things weren't so complicated and on Saturday night when we both went our separate ways, back to our homes, back to the ones that hold our hearts, we weren't left dreaming of each other. To think I missed the opportunity to dance with you all night long. You still owe me that kiss. Who's the chicken now?
—D.greekgoddess857@yahoo.co

Reply to NFG in the June 11 Issue

Excuse me, but I felt compelled to writ after reading your Impersonal. I think the guy you refer to as "the expert on international standards" was right to advise the people blocking his way tha they were not behaving properly. In most countries (except in the U.K. and in Ireland, where the "standers" are o the left and the "walkers" are on the right) it is the custom for people on escalators to stand on the right and walk on the left. I wasn't present durir the exchange you describe, but it sounds as though the guy with the Vinny Testa's bag had good reason to express his annoyance! And I'm not quite sure why you don't perceive it that way, but, as I said, I wasn't there.
—Spunky Girl

Crazy Train

Me: on the Red line headed toward Central Square as the most unwilling companion of a man that I wanted nothing to do with, June 13...Friday the 13th. I should have known better. You: sitting directly across from me, looking concerned and making eye contact as needed. I'm glad someone was paying attention. I'm glad I was able to make a quick getaway from him. It was nice that you said "have good night." It made me feel better, but I still wished that you were getting off at Central Square, too. I t to keep an open mind and not be afraid to talk to "strangers." After that night it's a little harder. I was just being friendly and then that guy followed me onto the train. What do you think? If you see this and get a chance, drop me an e-mail. I'd be interested in a second opinion.
—kewhetzel@hotmail.com

Stretch the Mind and Body

Friday afternoon yoga class is always little nicer when you are there. I'm n sure if you've ever noticed me trying t catch your eye during class but I've been a fan of your reddish/strawberr blond hair and quiet gracefulness for some time now. Maybe you're just a serious yoga student or simply not interested, but if you ever want to meet up after class or some other tim perhaps you'll drop me a line or retu the glance during class. We could go somewhere other than Sage. Me, I'm a bit older than you but not one of the real old-timers in the class.
—yoga_admirer@yahoo.com

rockie horoscope

JUNE 25 – JULY 9, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

CANCER JUNE 21-JULY 22

Summertime, and this year the living won't be easy. Simply having Saturn in your sign will test your patience, organizational skills and willingness to shoulder more responsibilities. Sound like a cosmic drag or the next step in your ascent to adulthood? Over the next two weeks, if you're amenable, you could receive support from an unexpected source with untapped resources. How does a leap of faith into the unknown grab you? Be sure to make Cancer new moon magic on the 29th; state your intention, do a self-blessing.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

No matter what else is going on or what your plans for the summer are, keep reminding yourself that expansive, protective, downright lucky Jupiter will be in Leo only until the Virgo new moon in August. That gives you two more lunar cycles—the Cancer new moon June 29 and the Leo new moon July 29—to absorb the purely personal benefits the cosmos is showering you with. Jupiter in your Virgo money house will watch over your cash flow, but for greater foresight, wisdom and self-confidence, time is running out.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Something totally unexpected may happen when impulsive Mars collides with rebellious Uranus in your Pisces house of partnerships. An instant sexual attraction or a relationship blown to bits—either possibility would change your scene dramatically. However, reliable support from an older, nurturing person can ease the awkwardness and be a balm for whatever hurts. Take the offer. Also take advantage of the fact that career-wise, you're in top form and tuned in to what the public wants.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

We both could be mistaken, but there seems to be a strong spiritual or artistic sensibility behind everything you're doing now. If you put your thoughts and feelings on paper, canvas, screen, etc., they're bound to get a favorable reception. Concentrating on the creative process can cushion you from the turmoil going on in other places. For further protection from wild, uncontrollable energies during these hectic times, be especially careful when you're near water, at least until the July Fourth holiday is over.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

While the rest of us hide our heads in the sand, the water signs will benefit from the changes in the cosmic equaculture. Because the nurturing Cancer sun reinforces steering Saturn, and your Mars co-ruler joins innovative Uranus in Pisces, Scorpio could successfully combine traditional, family-oriented activities with groundbreaking Mars-Uranus energy. No matter what you're up to, decorating the house or selecting a mutual fund, you should be OK. Another advantage: a rewarding trine from prosperous Jupiter to your Pluto co-ruler.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Step toe through the garden of earthly delights and Boschian horrors and you may appreciate the benefits directed your way. Chief among them is the rewarding trine from your protective Jupiter ruler to powerful Pluto in your sign; if that aspect can improve the world situation, it should help lighten your outlook. Discord in the family or a broken pipe in the kitchen is beyond annoying, so let a Moon Child solve those problems. What'll give you pure pleasure are the encouraging words of love and the laughs coming from the young at heart.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Play hey from work: What a concept! One of the more advantageous financial opportunities for Caps appears when aggressive Mars in your money house trines your conservative Saturn ruler. Go ahead, take the leap. Further support comes from sun's annual meeting with Saturn, and to amp up the benefits of that coalition, inventive Uranus adds an element of surprise. Go ahead, be irreverent. The Cancer new moon on the 29th is key; make your intentions about a gig and/or a relationship known to everyone concerned.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Only once every two years does militant Mars meet your non-conformist Uranus ruler. If nothing major hits the fan, we assume you make your point, declare your independence and move on to something else. Since this is one of those bi-annual time slots, be sure that what you're about to wreck—or even give a gentle nudge to—is what you want to happen. No sign knows better how tricky idiosyncratic Uranian energy can be. However, this time Uranus receives strong support from stable Saturn, so you're more likely to consider your family or an authority figure.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

If cranky is all you get when acerbic Mars meets unpredictable Uranus in the early degrees of Pisces, consider yourself blessed. Cut, shocked or burned is more likely. Big surprises can happen when these destructive forces combine, so to safeguard your precious person, stay away from the water, far from sharp edges and out of electric storms. Emotionally, you're that volcano ready to erupt at the slightest provocation. Comfort comes from artistic friends and older family members; seek them out.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

This is a tricky period. On one hand, your Mars ruler can incite a rebellion while it merges with independent Uranus. Any action that cuts the ties that bind should suit you just fine. On the other hand, Mars receives strong support from stable Saturn and the nurturing Cancer sun, so opting for the tried-and-true would work for you, too. Although dilemmas like this won't pop up very often, Rams can count on a certain amount of confusion for the rest of the year. Mars navigating the diffuse emotional waters of Pisces makes it hard to see clearly.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Too clever, too glib, too marvelous for words. Such is the case when your Venus ruler joins chatty Mercury in quick-witted Gemini. If there's something you need to say or write, now is the time. Not only will you communicate with ease, the content will be imaginative and effective. An aura of spirituality and artistic excellence as Venus reaches out to idealistic Neptune can make this one of the more glorious weeks in a long time. However, that whiff of danger coming from your current romantic interest might mess things up.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Speak your mind loud and clear. Although Gemini is rarely at a loss for words, now is an excellent time to express yourself. You don't have to be brilliant, amusing or even that accurate. Whatever you decide to dish out will be appreciated, even adored, because loving Venus has hooked up with your Mercury ruler. This coupling also improves your odds of attracting a diverse bunch of candidates for a romantic relationship. While an artist-dreamer may not seem much of a threat, anyone with an obvious obsession could be a problem.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise in the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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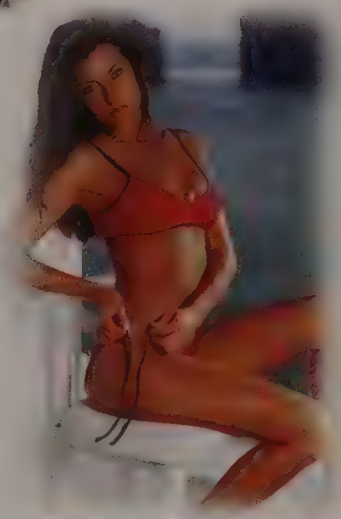

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IMPROPER sightings

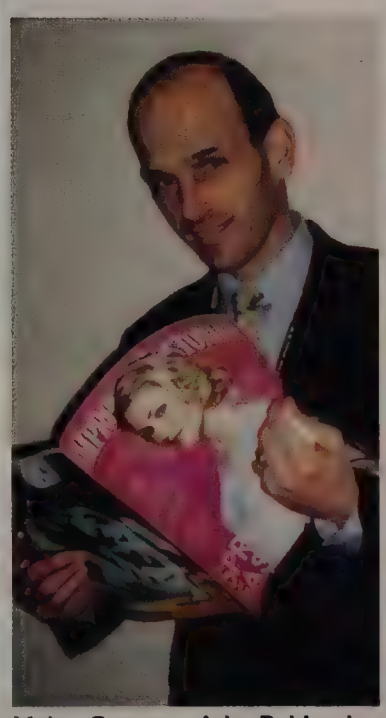
UNLIKE THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS, WE WANT TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

Our lawyers have advised us to tell you that we do not condone bungee-jumping off bridges while reading the IMPROPER, as Jen Kott did in Queenstown, New Zealand.

Amy Kucharik and Chris Sneeringer smeared mud on their faces and bathed in the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa outside Grindavik, Iceland. Nearby, Icelanders laughed.

Linda Aranas and Brian Skerry went spelunking (huh-huh) in Harrison's Cave i Barbados. That's a darling bag, Brian.



Maine Governor John Baldacci reads up on fashion tips to bring back to Augusta.

Amy Dunaway is working for the Peace Corps in Mokolo, Cameroon, where she organized this girls' club. Excuse us while we go return our new Brookstone croquet set, which we now feel profoundly guilty about buying.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Gathering a handful of ammunition for the "Moose Nugget Toss" at the Moose Dropping Festival, July 11-13 in Talkeetna, Alaska.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Wednesday, June 4, the **Tiki Room**, celebrated its grand opening on Lansdowne St., with exotic cocktails and pupu platters.

1. **Joe Berkowitz**, manager of the Tiki Room, and **Victoria Stratton**, director of public relations for the Lyons Group.
2. **Dimitra Tsourianis**, event manager for the Lyons Group, **Eric Aulenback**, managing partner with the Lyons Group, **Mindy D'Arbeloff**, V.P. of marketing with the Lyons Group, **Oedipus**, station manager for WBCN, and **David Joaquin**, CFO of the Lyons Group.
3. **Mark Ottmann**, president of Mark Ottmann Design Associates and **Ed Sparks**, CEO of the Lyons Group.

On Wednesday, June 11, **Virgin Megastore** Boston hosted a membership drive and fundraiser for the Esplanade Association, the event was called "Take Me to the River."

1. **Susanna Concha**, field marketing manager for Virgin Megastore Boston, **Deb Rosenbloom**, co-chair of The Esplanade Association and **Laura Fuller**, consultant for Dove Consultation.
2. **Wendy Pierce**, consultant for Kortenhaus Communications, **Mike Ross**, city councilman, **Dave Sharrow**, sales manager, century division for United Liquors, **Dan Cox**, trade development, century division for United Liquors, and **Lee Ostrowski**, finance associate for Bain Capital.
3. **Anna Cheshire**, teacher at the Boston Ballet, **Tom Kershaw**, owner of the Hampshire House, **Barbara Lemperlygrant**, boutique manager for Chanel and **Jeryl Oristaglio**, co-founder of The Esplanade Association.

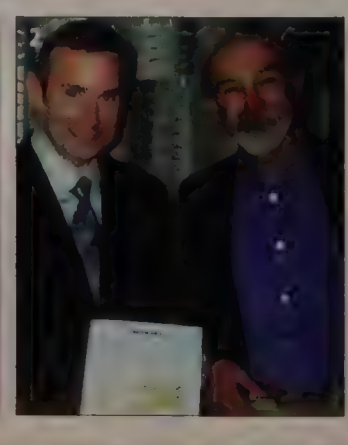
On Tuesday, June 10, Bill Hulsman and Albert Lynch celebrated the opening of **Bill Hulsman Design** with a reception at their new design studio in South Boston.

1. **Albert Lynch**, co-owner of Bill Hulsman Design and **Jea Townsend**, owner of Droll Design.
2. **Lynn Joseph**, manager, and **Kristen Kroen**, outside sa rep, both of Scalamandre, and **Bill Hulsman**, co-owner Bill Hulsman Design.

On Monday, June 9, **Felt** hosted a party for **Gentleman Jack**.

1. **Erin Silvetti**, promoter for Preston Marketing, **Chris Hayward**, actor, and **Kristin Gentile**, promoter for Preston Marketing.
2. **Richard Lewis**, Massachusetts on premise marketing manager, **Mark Grindstaff**, marketing manager, **Steff Scheurich**, senior on-premise channel development manager, **Bruce Ballerstedt**, area sales manager, all o Brown-Forman, and **Sterling Dunn**, general sales manager stealth division Horizon Beverage Company.

On Thursday, June 12, the Kendall Square **Legal Sea Foods** hosted a cookbook demonstration and book signing party. Roger Berkowitz and Jane Doerfer co-wrote *The New Legal Sea Foods Cookbook* and famed *New Yorker* cartoonist Ed Koren provided the illustrations.



1. **Michael Andelman**, VP of business development and **Dave Andelman**, CEO, both of the Phantom Gourmet.
2. **Roger Berkowitz**, owne of Legal Sea Foods and co-author of *The New Legal Sea Foods Cookbook* an **Ed Koren**, illustarator of *The New Legal Sea Foo Cookbook* and cartoonis for *The New Yorker*.

PHOTOS: TIKI ROOM, VIRGIN MEGASTORE, FELT, JULIE KANE; BILL HULSMAN, MICHAEL BURNS; LEGAL SEA FOODS, REGAN COMMUNICA

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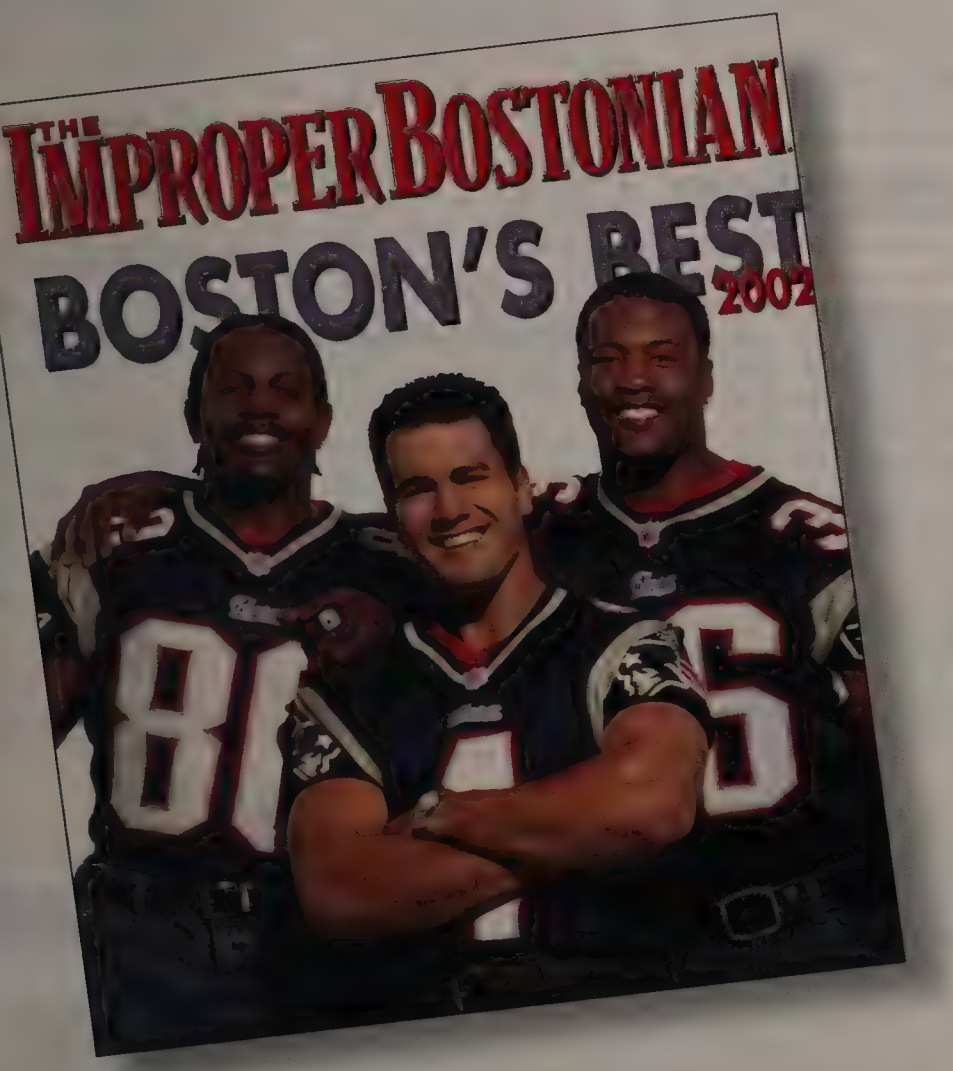

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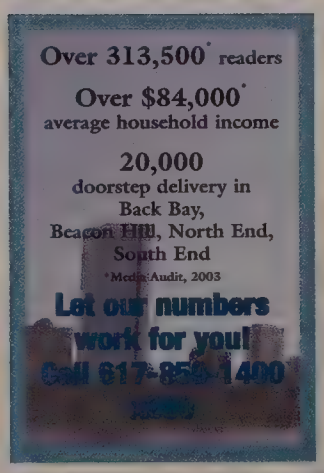

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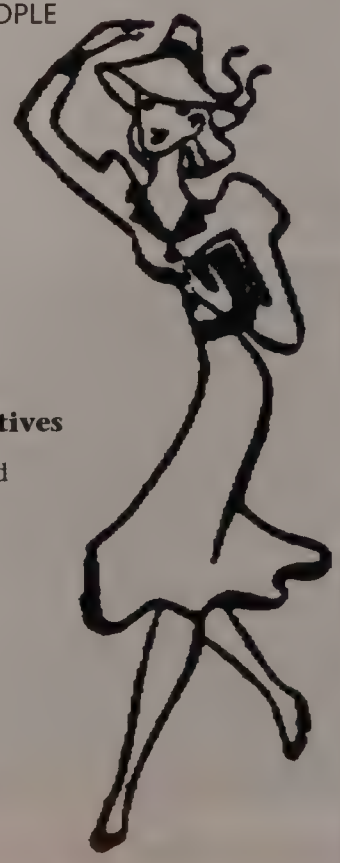

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Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482 7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The men focuses on contemporary American cuisine with spe cialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar an dance club keep the energy level high. Restauran open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2an and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremon Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THI LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporar latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays MONDO BAR, international and house spun by D Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, prope dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, hig energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Doo at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wea

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Marke Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connec tion located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall fea tures the biggest names in comedy with apearance by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Ja Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Mar ket Building, the Connection offers the best in loca and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-946* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape i the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-ai dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-208 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Le your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Sim ply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun i Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come t dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's al ways something exciting happening – and you neve know who you'll bump into. Join us and experienc what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227 2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainmen and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes America and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplac Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improp Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 200 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ bil liards club offers much more than a game of pool Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine ciga Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live band 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny

til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11 am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's gigiant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hostable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the Heart of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617- 236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston, 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe *Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

Sports Bar - Upscale

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

BRUNCH

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Hampshire House *84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9600 www.hampshirehouse.com.* Enjoy Sunday Brunch while listening to live jazz inside and elegant mansion. Hours: 11 am - 2:30pm

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room *Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114.* Enjoy Sunday brunch beginning at noon in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 11 am or 1pm, then check out the latest Omni film or the new Egyptian exhibit. Combination tickets start at $30 and include parking. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call 617-723-2500 or visit mos.org.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Green and White Bash, from top: Carolyn and Mike Rodeno; Bill and Sally Fay Cottingham; Kelly and Paul Verrochi and Beth Dickerson; Jennifer and Tom James

THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION...

It was your typical block party, except for the **Chanel** fashion show in the middle of **Commonwealth Avenue**, and the live auction that raised scads of cash for the **Friends of the Public Garden**, and the fact that instead of a potluck supper, there was a catered dinner beneath lavishly decorated tents on the mall, and the fact that everyone was in formal wear.

But otherwise, the **Green and White Bash** was just your regular gathering of neighborhood folks, assuming you live in a particularly upscale neighborhood. For instance, there were such gorgeous specimens as **Courtney Forrester** (wearing Narciso Rodriguez), **Martha O'Brien** (in Carolina Herrera), **Erin Gilligan** (in Issey Miyake), **Karen Rotenberg** (in Valentino), and **Anna Cheshire Levitan** (in Chanel, of course, since she was the party's co-chair). Also on hand were modeling den mother **Candy Ford**, party pair **Amy** and **Paul Harden**, blonde bombshell **Beth Dickerson**, hunkalicious ER doc **Clay Lawrence**, Harvard factotum **Bob Mitchell**, the magnificent **Susan Doll**, brunette stunner **Roberta Weiner**, mega-philanthropists **Michele** and **Howard Kessler**, Our Lady of Armani **Collette Royer**, Republican publican **Tom Kershaw**, assorted Back Bay and Beacon Hill billionaires, and one man who said that the fashion show "reminded me of the good old days at the Naked I."

Be that as it may, the entire evening was elegant beyond compare, with a gorgeous setting, fantastic food and a band that got even the stiffest of socialites to shake their groove things, which just goes to show you that what's green and white is fabulous all over.

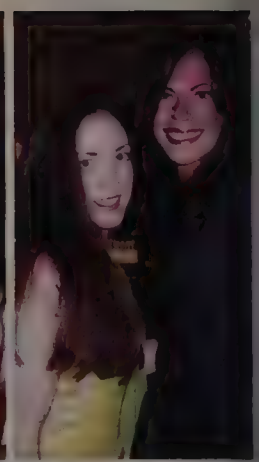
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC MEETS HOLLYWOOD...

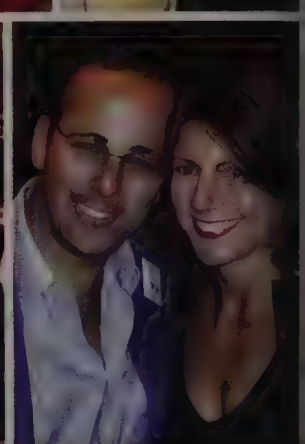
As famous as it is for presenting consistently excellent entertainment, the **American Repertory Theatre** is equally famous for throwing parties that famous people go to, the past guests at their annual spring fund-raiser having included the likes of Matt and Ben and Gwyneth and Meryl.

This year, the major star was Oscar-winner **Chris Cooper**, who was there with his wife, **Marianne Leone Cooper**, to accept an award on behalf of his friend, Christopher Walken. Underneath a big top worthy of Bozo (set up smack dab in the center of the **Radcliffe** quad), guests mixed, mingled, nibbled and tippled, while the ART's new artistic director, **Bob Woodruff**, worked the crowd. Present and accounted for: the incomparable **Joan Parker** and her husband, fiction factory **Robert B.**, arts boosters **Lee** and **Cokie Perry**, one-woman fireworks display **Susan Poduska**, philanthropic brunette **Barbara Jordan**, retired Harvard bigwig **Henry Rosovsky**, former ART head honcho **Bob Brustein**, reformed fashionista **Kathy Connor**, caterer to the stars **Dan Mathieu**, Italian femme fatale **Gloria Pastorino**, stunning young thing **Missy Powar**, the remarkably charming **Tom Sellar**, and so on and so forth down the proverbial A-list.

The tent was designed as an "eclectic lounge noir," which apparently meant sofas and bars and free-form seating, and along with entertainment by the **Flying Karamazov Brothers**, the evening included an appearance by jazz sensation **Peter Cincotti**.

Summing the whole thing up, one guest said, "I'm a little confused. This party is way too fabulous for Cambridge."





At the Peace Games party, clockwise from upper left: Tom and Terry Hamilton; Nina Fialkow and Paulina Neely; Jonathan and Patti Kraft; Kristina Hare Lyons

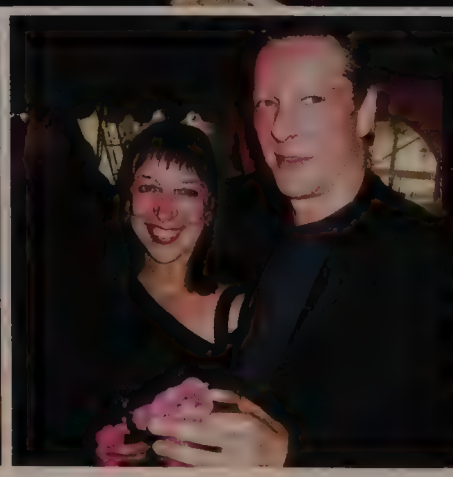
RING-DINGS AMID THE BLING-BLING...

Opportunities to act like a 6-year-old are few and far between, which is one of the many reasons why the fund-raiser for **Peace Games** (an innovative violence-prevention program), hosted by Aerosmith's **Tom Hamilton** and his beguiling wife, **Terry**, was such a welcome change of pace.

Held at the **Shreve, Crump & Low** store in the Chestnut Hill Mall, the evening drew hordes of high-powered heavy hitters out to the hinterlands, among them: the ridiculously gorgeous **Paulina Neely** and her hockey-player husband, **Cam**, mega-restaurateur **Michela Larson**, soignee socialite **Nina Fialkow**, bright young things **Patti** and **Jonathan Kraft**, groovy do-gooder **Kristina Hare Lyons**, banking babe **Heather Campion**, and bearded hipster **Larry Moulter**, to name only a handful.

In addition to sampling some of the games that the program uses to teach kids peaceful ways to resolve conflict, guests could gorge themselves on kids' foods like pizza, burgers and chocolate chip cookies, cleverly served using a board game like Candyland as a platter, or from the back of a plastic dumptruck being driven by **Mr. Potato Head**.

Thankfully, though, adult beverages were available. In the words of one guest: "The only thing I don't miss about childhood is the alarming lack of cocktails." ■



At the ART party, clockwise from upper left: Bob Woodruff; Joe Zina, Mario Russo and Bernie Toale; Marianne Leone Cooper and Chris Cooper; Gideon Lester and Missy Powar

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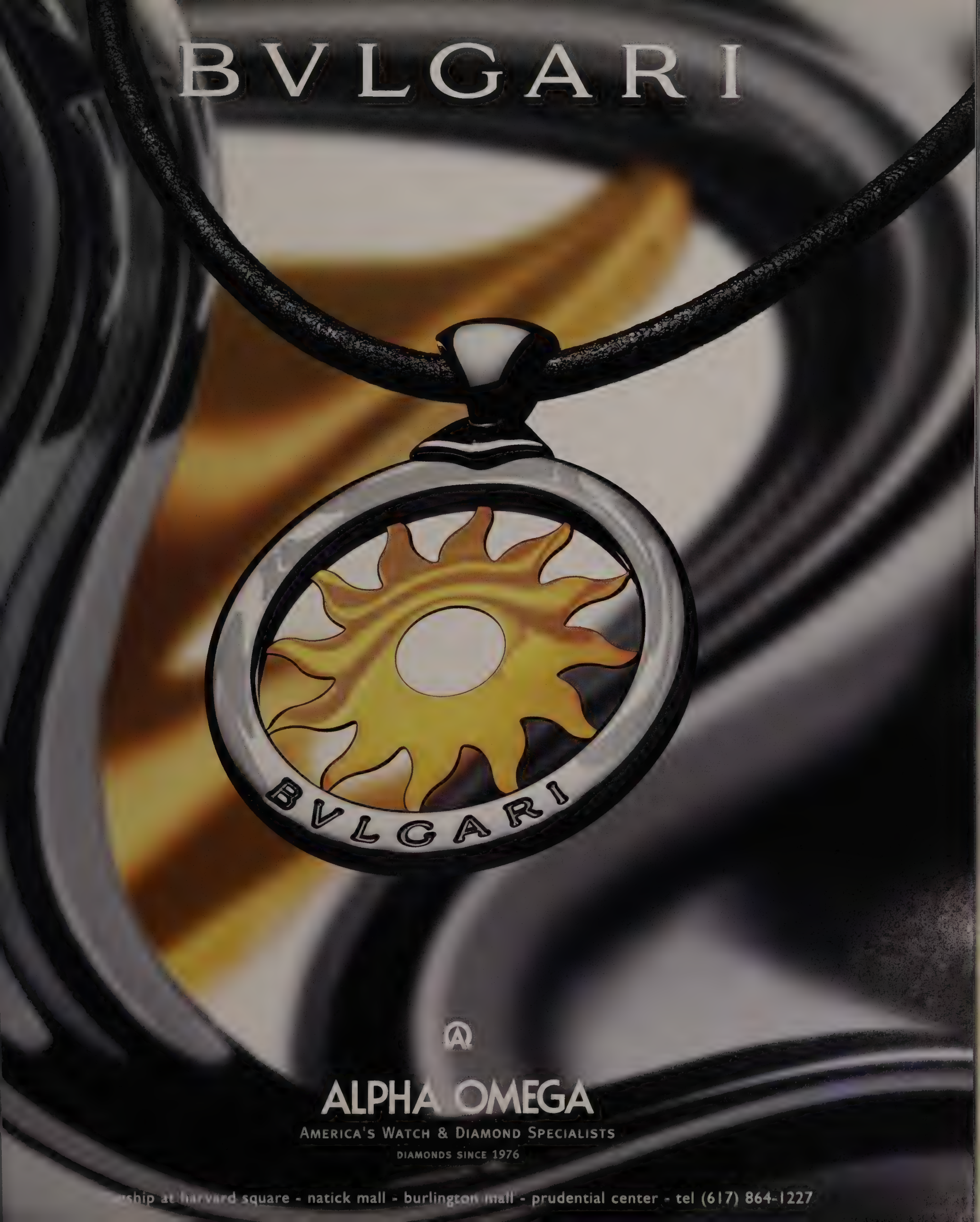
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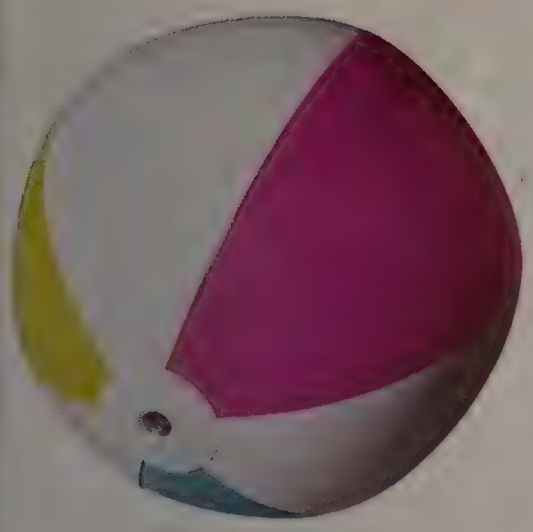

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

LAUGHING IT UP

If you follow pop culture, you can probably name a few well-known comedians who got their start in Boston. Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien and Denis Leary have all posed for IMPROPER covers in recent years, and this issue we add *Sex and the City*'s Mario Cantone to the pantheon of Boston-bred comedians we've celebrated. But how well do you know the current Boston comedy scene—by many accounts one of the top three in the country?

For this issue's feature "Funny Business" (page 18), writer Ezra Dyer explores the local scene and the comedy venues, some now defunct, where so many stars got their start. He also talks to the promising comedians whose faces and writing credits may appear in tomorrow's movies, talk shows and sitcoms.

Fashion editor Samantha House, a self-described comedy groupie, continues the theme in this issue's fashion spread (page 30), a stylish look at seven of her favorite Boston performers.

Perhaps you'll be inspired to gather some friends and check out a show at a local club soon.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

CONTENT DISCONTENT

Your publication needs more social commentary that will involve readers emotionally and stir up some controversy. The title of your publication implies they will get that kind of content, but after reading your latest Music Issue (June 25), I found the only thing improper about the magazine was the cover title. In fact, I found the advertisements in some cases to be more improper than the journalism they appeared beside.

Specifically I would like to comment on the lack of substance in the writing. The subtitle of Ezra Dyer's article "Just Trust Me" suggests it will enlighten the reader about scandals in journalism. On the contrary, Mr. Dyer uses the column as a personal podium to vent about his deadline stress. Nobody wants to read about how tough it is to meet a deadline while he gets paid to write in his home "gazing out across the canopy of the banyan forest that surrounds my treetop geodesic dome in Beacon Hill."

Lastly and less critically, I would like to comment on Paul Robicheau's "10 Bands that Rock" article. I felt the topic was worthy, and while his clichéd style of writing had occasional rhythmic melody and impeccable vernacular, it was obviously overcompensation for a lack of content.

I hope in the future THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN lives up to the responsibilities evoked by its name and delivers social journalism filled with substance and content that impregnates minds with contemplation and reflection.

—RICK SPROWL
Via e-mail

Who the hell does Ezra think he is? ("Just Trust Me," June 25) A "world-class wordsmith"? Well, this reader disagrees…and, frankly, thinks he should not be given a column to spew his uppity, selfish views.

In his latest column, he criticizes other writers for their journalistic indiscretions and then says that "You'll never find such despicable shenanigans in this column." Then what does he do but go on to list the despicable shenanigans in his previous columns, like having an intern write an entire article with no credit! But what infuriated me the most is that he compared his "very stressful profession" to that of an emergency room doctor! *What?* If his stupid column doesn't run, nobody dies. Doctors have that hanging over their heads. As far as I'm concerned, the only thing that he should have hanging over his head is a sign that reads "Asshole."

A disappointed, appalled and former reader of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN,

—AMANDA GILES
Via e-mail

THIS IS THE BEST COVER THE *IMPROPER* HAS EVER PUBLISHED. THE MAKEUP IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE DRESDEN DOLLS LOOK SEXY AS HELL!

—MARIE GALVIN
SOUTH BOSTON

Editor's Note:

Speaking of things that are over people's heads…Ezra replies that living in an urban treetop geodesic dome is not all it's cracked up to be. His neighbors, the Berenstain Bears, "borrowed" his Weed-wacker three months ago, and Peapod won't deliver groceries above the fifth branch. And he still has to leave his tree to come to the office (see photo above), just like unimportant people, such as ER doctors.

CORRECTION

The glass of sangria pictured on page 44 of the Summer Dining issue (June 11) came from Dalí restaurant in Somerville.

Tell Us What You Think

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO: The Improper Bostonian, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116. E-mail: letters@improper.com. Fax: 617-859-1446. Letters must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Suratt**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Bridget Behling, Jamie Bellavance, Julia Hawes, Heather MacNeil, Diana McCarley, Brad Perriello, Melanie Ryan**

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PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

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E-mail: info@improper.com
www.improper.com

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the Word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SURATT

new in town

RIDING THE WAVE

Building a new restaurant from the ground up in the once-burgeoning Fort Point Channel area of South Boston during a weak economy might not be at the top of many entrepreneurs' to-do lists. That is, unless you're Shahram Naghibi, who considered it a good time to buy into this area—in part because real estate suddenly became more affordable. "We knew business wouldn't be as good," says Naghibi, who recently opened Blue Wave on Congress Street, "but I see a bright future here," he says.

For the past 16 years, Naghibi has owned a popular sandwich shop on Congress Street called Siena's. A year and a half ago, he decided to lease the space next door (formerly a parking lot), and he spent the past year creating Blue Wave, a restaurant/lounge in the style of nearby Lucky's. It's open and spacious, with dark wood tables, floor-to-ceiling windows and an extensive American-Italian menu of burgers, pasta, pizza and seafood entrees. A weekly rotation of live music includes everything from neo-soul to open mike to live jazz and rock, and designer martinis are the late-night drink of choice. So far, says Naghibi, business has been good, despite the vacancies in local office buildings. People might be drawn by the name, which conjures up sparkling waters crashing on a sandy beach—an image far superior to the reality of the stagnant harbor down the street. *343 Congress St., Boston (617-790-0720).—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt*

sam says

G SPA BLISS

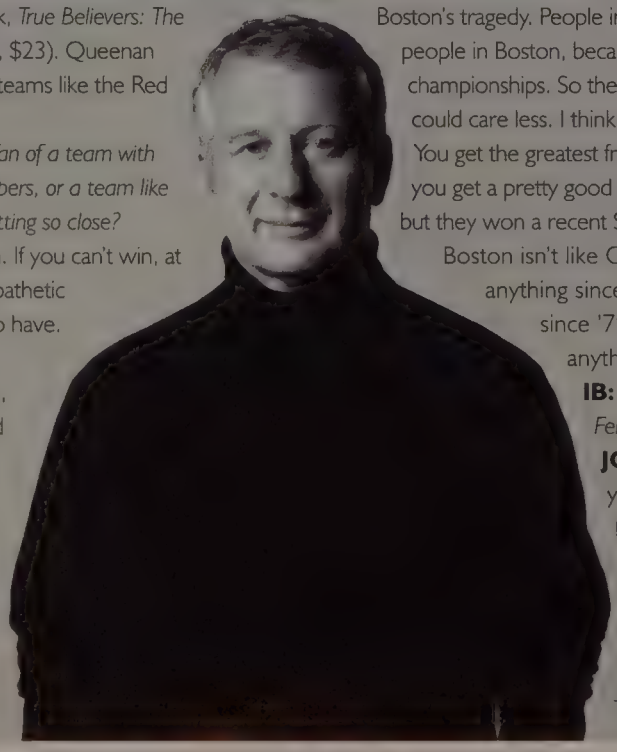
When Gretchen Monahan, founder of Greta Cole and Greta Luxe, opened G Spa on Newbury Street, its cheeky moniker made me (and plenty of passersby) giggle. I attended the opening party and thought, "Good party, nice people," but everyone smiles at a gala reception, especially when the champagne is flowing. I went into the spa a week later, though, and found the same kind of energy. The white walls with lime-green and pink accents are instantly soothing, but more important, the staff is welcoming and friendly (a rare find in the spa circuit). And if they're administering a service as intimate as the ménage-a-spa (three clinicians giving you three treatments simultaneously), you definitely want good relations.

G Spa also offers a beauty bar where patrons can get "quickie" manicures, pedicures and facials that easily fit into a lunch hour, with time to spare for grabbing a salad. And let me tell you, you'll never have a better buff than G Spa's pedicure, which uses a device that looks like a hair dryer with a small sandpaper disc attached to rub away calluses and dry skin. The oxygen facial is also excellent; you walk out rejuvenated and fresh. Check out one of the many services that G Spa offers. You're in for a truly orgasmic experience.

—Samantha House

inner view

MEET JOE Q



Humorist Joe Queenan (author of books like *Red Lobster, White Trash, and the Blue Lagoon: Joe Queenan's America*) takes a good look at sports nuts in his latest work, *True Believers: The Tragic Inner Life of Sports Fans* (Holt, $23). Queenan zeros in on fans of underachieving teams like the Red Sox and his own beloved Phillies.

IB: *What's more pathetic, being a fan of a team with no hope of winning, like the L.A. Clippers, or a team like the Red Sox, which teases you by getting so close?*

JQ: The Clippers have no tradition. If you can't win, at least you want to have that tragic, pathetic mythology—which the Red Sox do have. You figure that nothing worse than trading Babe Ruth will ever happen, but bad things keep happening. Ted Williams never wins; Jim Lonborg puts the ski pole through his chest; and then after the great Fisk home run, they lose. And then '86.

IB: *Is there any hope for the Red Sox?*

JQ: I think if you polled a lot of baseball fans, they'd say they hoped the Red Sox never win. While the Cubs are viewed as kind of harmless losers, the Red Sox are viewed as being tragic. But it's Boston's tragedy. People in Philadelphia don't feel sorry for people in Boston, because the Celtics won 16 championships. So the attitude is "Screw you!" But we could care less. I think fans in Boston really get it both ways: You get the greatest franchise in the history of basketball; you get a pretty good hockey team; football, not so great, but they won a recent Super Bowl. And you get Fenway. Boston isn't like Cleveland. Cleveland hasn't won anything since '64. Seattle hasn't won anything since '79. San Diego's never won anything.

IB: *You think the Red Sox should stick with Fenway?*

JQ: Oh, yeah. Of course. Why would you want to change it?

IB: *Too much bad karma. Too many dull teams full of big, slow players...*

JQ: True. But if the Red Sox got rid of Fenway and they won, who would care about the Red Sox?

—Paul Sherman

trend-spotting

BABY'S GOT SAUCE

These days, it seems that a cocktail is as much a trendy accessory as a Piaget watch or a pair of Christian Louboutins. The Cosmopolitan has enjoyed a long run in the limelight, thanks in part to consistent plugs on *Sex and the City*, but word has it there are a few up-and-comers to watch for. Michael MacDonnell, master mixologist at the Las Vegas Olives in the swank Bellagio Hotel, was in town recently to revamp Todd English's Bonfire and Olives cocktail menus, and we asked him about the next "it" drinks. If the name of your game is beating the trends, MacDonnell says what's old is new—classic cocktails are the way to go. A World War I–era oldie-but-goodie, the Sidecar, a simple blend of Germain-Robin brandy, Cointreau and fresh lemon juice, is among the hottest revivals. "We've featured it on the menu for the past two years in Vegas, and all the people who ask about it are repeat customers and get it every time," says MacDonnell. "When it's done right, it's heavenly." Another saucy-sauce making a comeback, he says, is the Prohibition-era Aviation (Tanqueray 10, maraschino liqueur and fresh lemon juice).*—Jessica Iredale*

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tasty tidbits

PICNICS TO GO, AND WINE 101

Upscale Downstairs... The ever-expanding Briar Group recently added the Commonwealth Restaurant (formerly the Commonwealth Brewery) to its collection of nightclubs and pubs. The new venue strikes a happy medium between the group's swanky Azure in the Lenox Hotel and the laid-back Green Briar in Brighton. Brass fixtures, huge windows and a brewery atmosphere still dominate the restaurant and pub upstairs. Downstairs, in the former brewery's basement, is the newly unveiled Downtown Lounge, which features plush banquettes, red-lit pillars, smooth music, sophisticated martinis and a dark atmosphere. The bar has the potential to attract the over-25 crowd it desires, but the concept—"an evolution in the heart of North Station," as the Downtown folks bill it—is still evolving... hence the temporary folding chairs upstairs. Look for a polished product within the next few months. *138 Portland St., Boston (617-523-8383).*

Taster's Choice... If you're one of those diners who has a mild anxiety attack when the wine list falls in your lap, a little Wine Tasting 101 might be in order. No. 9 Park's Guess the Grape series can mold even the most devout beer drinker into a oenophile in just a few weeks. On Monday and Tuesday nights, guests can taste three wines based on the night's theme (past themes included Grapes of Italy and Three Whites from Around the World) while bartenders offer clues based on smell and taste to help participants guess the grape's identity. Tastings are $20 during July and $25 in August, and the series culminates in a summer tasting party. *9 Park St., Boston (617-742-9991).*

Dining Alfresco... Picnics in the park are often more hassle than they're worth. Squished PB & J sandwiches, broken cookies and warm soda aren't the most appetizing foods—and who really owns a picnic basket? Leave it to the Four Seasons to make dining on the dirt an upscale affair. Its newly launched picnic-to-go package offers a choice of two or three courses (think marinated asparagus with roasted shallots and truffle oil, and crabmeat salad on a poppy roll with tapenade and oven-cured tomatoes) for $38-$45 per person. Packages feed up to six people and include a classic wicker basket (return requested), cutlery and plateware. *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-2066).*

Pie-O-My... There's a new pizza joint on the block. Neopolitan pizzeria DiMio opened six months ago near Porter Square under the management of Daniel Adelson and the former owners of Coolidge Corner's Vici. The menu features panini made with fresh-baked focaccia and gourmet thin-crust pizza with exotic toppings like shrimp and duck. Buono! *1782 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-1111).—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

sports

DEAR DIARY

If you never read P.J. Stock's online diary during the Bruins season, you missed a startlingly honest look into the daily life of a professional athlete. The man whom Joe Thornton named the toughest fighter in the NHL contemplated his uncertain future with the team, reviewed movies and described his toddler son's affinity for crawling around and eating the dog's food. "My sensitive side is really starting to kick in here," he wrote back when the weather turned nice, briefly, this spring. Here are our votes for other pro athlete diaries we'd like to read:

Kendrick Perkins: The Celtics' second 2003 draft pick would reveal what it's like to graduate from high school to the NBA. "I'm worried that I'm missing something, not making some school millions of dollars while getting hassled by the NCAA every time I buy a new shirt at the Gap." No, not really.

Tom Brady: "Today I came home to find 32 women waiting on my lawn. That brings the total so far this week to 85."

Byung-Hyun Kim: "I love Boston. I hope we score 25 runs every time I start. Also: my translator is very sexy. All of the women who read this should make his acquaintance. His phone number is ..." *Ezra Dyer*

improper reports

ROOFING IT

There are precious few open-air rooftop bars and restaurants in Boston, making the rooftop dining and/or imbibing experience all the sweeter for its scarcity. Here's a short guide to the lofty establishments:

* The North End's only rooftop eatery, **Ristorante Fiore** offers a cozy oasis among the treetops. *250 Hanover St., Boston (617-371-1176).*

Dine among the treetops at Fiore

* **George** (formerly the Rattlesnake Grill) on Boylston seats 50 guests comfortably either at the covered bar or at tables. *384 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-8555).*

* **Sophia's** is the place to go for views of the Prudential Center and Fenway Park in a distinctly Spanish/Mediterranean setting. *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*

* Sip a drink at the Caribbean-style bar, dip your feet into the city's only rooftop pool and order up a burger from Brasserie Jo's kitchen at the **Colonnade Hotel**. *120 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-424-7000).*

* Located just moments away from Quincy Market, the **Black Rhino** features a trellised deck perfect for a summer date. *21 Broad St., Boston (617-263-0101). —Diana McCarley*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Wireless White Horse... Allston is going high-tech. As of June 19, White Horse Tavern patrons can surf the Web and check their e-mail free of charge. Taking a cue from Newbury Street wireless pioneers like the Wrap and Trident Booksellers—both of which offer free Internet to patrons—White Horse proprietor Doug Bacon set up the high-speed wireless service "as a benefit to our daytime customers who come in with laptops to work and check e-mail." Anyone with an 802.11b wireless card is good to go. Bacon sees the service as a lasting trend. "Within five years, every place you go will have this," he predicts. *116 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-6633).*

Blue Man Bandit... Think jaywalking is the only illegal activity that happens on buttoned-up Newbury Street? Think again. Around 12:15 am June 27, an M&M-napping occurred outside the newly opened Sugar Heaven. Store manager Debra Novack was just closing up shop when she noticed the absence of Mr. Blue, the four-foot blue M&M who stands guard outside the shop. Apparently walking around with a giant M&M in tow isn't a real head-turner, as the perp went unnoticed by street traffic and Armani Café patrons. Novack and Co. want their mascot back. "It's just not the same without him." A sweet reward is promised for his safe return. *218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-6969).*

Cool Bus... Remember riding to school on the bus and wishing that instead of an uncomfortable seat, an irritable bus driver and a sniffling kid sitting beside you, your bus had a sound system, pulsating lights and a route that included a string of bars? No? Well then put down your protractor while we give you a lesson in Busology. The Bustonian, the brainchild of Matt Robitaille and Brian Napoleon, is a 36-passenger school bus that's been converted into a rolling nightclub. Inside, blue jumpseats line the sides, neon lights decorate the ceiling, and a 10-speaker stereo system blasts your favorite music. There's a cooler up front, and

The Bustonian

the nightly itinerary is whatever suits your mood. Since the Bustonian rolled into town in early May, it's become popular for bachelor and bachelorette parties, and Robitaille says he's working with singles networks to line up trips. (866-462-8746) www.bustonian.com. $150 per hour Fri.-Sat.; $125 per hour weeknights.

Sized Up... From busking to playing bingo (think Via Matta), you need a permit for many public activities these days. In the last edition of the Word, we highlighted Somerville's newly opened 108 gallery as a place worth visiting. Apparently not everyone agreed. Elaine Belsito's opening performance-art piece, *If You Lost Five Pounds You'd Be Perfect*, featured the sports bra– and skimpy shorts–clad artist squeezing into tight clothing in the gallery's front windows. The June 27 performance drew a crowd of about 10 people outside until a Somerville cop stopped the show, saying, "Get out of the window and put some clothes on...or I'm going to arrest you." Turns out neighbors had alerted the authorities—and now the show is on hold until gallery owner Kate Ledogar can obtain an entertainment permit. "I wasn't doing this to shake things up," says Ledogar. "The officer treated it like it was a burlesque show, and it became very embarrassing, like something dirty was going on." Meanwhile, Belsito's performance is on view on video, safely within the gallery walls.

Wild Coyotes... The Irish barmaids are out, and scantily clad, dancing bartenders are in at the former Irish Embassy and soon-to-be Coyote Ugly. At least that's what we're expecting from the New York-bar-turned-Hollywood-chick-flick-turned-national-bar-chain. Word on the street is the restaurant/saloon will open around July 31 and talented wannabe-Coyotes are invited to strut their stuff for the judges at the Coyote search July 20. (Boston head of operations John Cestare says previous auditions have drawn crowds of 600-1,200 women). Ladies, grab your undies and get ready to jump on the bar. Bar owners, make sure your entertainment licenses are in order. *234 Friend St., Boston (617-854-7300).* www.coyoteuglysaloon.com. *Call for audition information.—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

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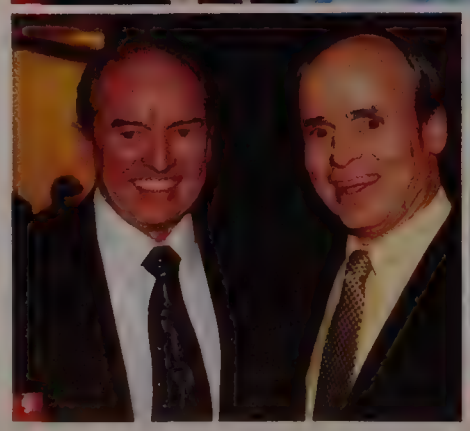
PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY MARGARET BRETT

The **Top of the Arts Awards** were held June 24 at the Top of the Hub Restaurant & Skywalk. More than 200 guests gathered to raise funds for the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston. The mission of the Arts & Business Council is to stimulate partnerships between arts groups and businesses that strengthen both sectors and the communities they serve.

1. **Raphael Oliver**, general manager of the Top of the Hub & Skywalk, and **Celeste Wilson**, executive director of the Arts & Business Council.
2. **Keith MacDonald** (left), vice chairman of SpeakEasy Stage Company and **Michael McCay**, vice chair of the board of directors for the New Repertory Theatre in Newton.
3. **Lynn Bratley** (left) and **Christina Everett**, director and actor, respectively, for the Improbable Players.
4. **Kelly Westerman** (left), flight attendant for Northwest Airlines, and **Ellen Maier**, product consultant for Peoplesoft in Waltham.
5. From left: **Lori Delli Colli**, **Kerry Connolly**, and **Pat Kreger**, communications manager, morning news anchor and director of public affairs, respectively, for WBZ-TV Channel 4.
6. From left: **Gabriella Lawrence**, former executive director for Concordia Orchestra in NYC; **Gene Carr**, president of Patron Technology in NYC; and **Jeanne Courtemanche**, assistant director of communications for the office of marketing and communications at Boston College.
7. **Dawn Singh**, **Troy Siebels** and his wife, **Jane**; publicist, producing director and stage manager, respectively, for the Stoneham Theatre.

The **UMass Alumni Evening at the Pops** was held June 25 at Symphony Hall. The evening attracted more than 2,000 alumni and friends to hear the Boston Pops, who were led by guest conductor Marvin Hamlisch. Prior to the concert a reception was held for 400 VIPs at the Colonnade Hotel. Among those attending the concert and reception were Jack and Shelley Blais, who have contributed $21 million to the UMass Medical School and received the UMass President's Medal in honor of their support.



8. From left: **Fred Kelley**, vice president of financial services for Fahnestock & Co.; **Elizabeth Tyminski**, volunteer for the Junior League of Boston, and **Michael Kelley**, principal of institutional equity Sales for First Albany Corporation.
9. **Jack Blais** (left), CEO of BlaisCo, in Framingham, and House Speaker **Tom Finneran**.
10. **David Colella** (left), vice president and managing director of the Colonnade Hotel, and **William Bulger**, president of UMass.
11. **Mark Kerwin**, CFO, Museum of Fine Arts, and his wife, **Annemarie Lewis-Kerwin**, vice chancellor of university communications and community relations for UMass.

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T IS FOR "TERRIFIC"

Nothing makes you appreciate walking like joining the rush-hour crowd on the Green Line

I recognize that public transit systems are imperfect beasts. In Paris, the trains are not only crowded, they're filled with beggars roaming the aisles talking about how they need money to buy medicine for their sick babies, when you know they're going to turn right around and spend it on art supplies and nice cheeses. Luckily, I can listen to their spiel, smile and say, "Boy, that's great! I don't speak much French, but congratulations on your lottery win!" If it turns out they speak English, I say I'm Japanese.

It's no better anywhere else. In London, the stations are all located near the earth's core in case the Germans act up again. In New York, a token now costs $83.50 and the trains are filled with New Yorkers. Detroit has an excellent monorail that connects lots of places that you wouldn't go on a dare. So in the context of other public transit systems, the T isn't really that dysfunctional. But that doesn't mean I have to like it.

I rekindled my T hatred one recent morning when I was forced to ride the Green Line into work. I normally walk, but that particular day I found myself joining the crowd at St. Paul Street on the C Line.

After a long wait, I was happy when a train finally showed up. How naive of me. This train made New Delhi look sparsely populated. It seemed as if, when the doors opened, people would just explode out onto the ground in a pile, gasping for air and blindly stumbling around in search of an escalator. But I was determined to get on that train, even if I was going to be the last pair of Hanes in the Samsonite.

I squeezed my way in at the very front, barely making it to the top of the stairs. It's good that I made it that far, because this was the second section of cars, the one that includes a driver who doesn't actually get to do anything except yell at people for standing on the stairs. "Move into the car!" she bellowed. "Clear the stairs!" All this earned her was stares from the stairs, as nobody could move any further into the train without violating both the laws of physics and several public-decency ordinances.

Soon the doors closed and the train was moving. At the next stop, about 30 feet away, a few more optimistic people climbed aboard. Hey, who needs oxygen? The non-driving driver seemed happy to have some new recruits to yell at, and everyone else seemed happy to ignore her. Everyone, that is, except for one short, mousy woman, who was hellbent on getting off the stairs. She put her head down, dug her elbow into my side, and made one of the strangest noises I've ever heard from a human being. She didn't even open her mouth, yet she produced a determined mewl, not very loud but quite insistent. "Erreeewwwww!" she said, jabbing my ribcage and pushing toward her mental goal line. "Rrrrruuuuuuwwww." She sounded like a muskrat in heat trying to do yogic breathing. I stared longingly at the "pull here if you can't stand to be on this godforsaken train for one second longer" emergency handle above the door.

At the next stop, a woman had the unbelievable gall to try to get on the train carrying a gigantic cooler. Needless to say, this endeavor received little encouragement from anyone. Unless she popped open that Igloo to reveal a couple of kidneys waiting to be transplanted, she wasn't getting on that train, and even then she wouldn't have been given a seat.

Finally we made it into the tunnel heading for Kenmore. Here's something I don't

I WAS DETERMINED TO GET ON THAT TRAIN, EVEN IF I WAS GOING TO BE THE LAST PAIR OF HANES IN THE SAMSONITE

understand: Why must the train lurch so much once it's in the tunnel? I can see if we're up on the street and cars and pedestrians cut the train off, but how many surprises are there down in the tunnel? What is the driver thinking? "Dum de dum, driving the train, driving the train. Hey, I wonder what I'll have for lunch? Pastrami would be nice but I had that yesterd—*Oh my God the station!*" [Screeching brakes, sound of passengers whumping against the front of the car.]

Since I was surrounded by flesh, I braced myself by pushing up against the ceiling. By the time we got to Copley, this constant overhead press had my shoulders on fire. People were sneezing like they were auditioning for a NyQuil commercial. I was late. Someone on the train hadn't taken his or her Beano. When the doors opened I bolted up the stairs and out into daylight, finally free from soul-crushing, dank tunnels and the mass of sweaty, coughing humanity.

It is a good deal for a dollar, though. IB

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MARIO CANTONE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL STREICHER

Stand-up comedian and actor Mario Cantone, 43, was born in Boston and raised in Everett and Stoneham. After graduating from Stoneham High in 1978, he earned his bachelor's degree from Emerson in 1982 and went to L.A. to break into acting. After nine months, he moved to New York and eventually landed his first TV job, as host of a children's show on a local station. He has since appeared on *The Late Show with David Letterman* and *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* and as a host of A&E's *Biography*. He has a semiregular gig on the morning talk show *The View*, while his numerous credits for Comedy Central include the *USO Comedy Tour*, *Premium Blend* and his own half-hour special, *Comedy Central Presents... Mario Cantone*. He's best known, however, as Charlotte's gay friend, Anthony Marentino, on HBO's wildly popular series *Sex and the City*. On Broadway, he has appeared in *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and in the New York Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Tempest*, while his film credits include *Mouse Hunt*, *Quiz Show* and *Crooked Lines*. As a stand-up comedian, he has performed at Carnegie Hall and frequently appears at Caroline's in New York and Resorts in Atlantic City. His schedule this summer and fall includes further episodes of *Sex and the City* and back-to-back Broadway shows.

Jonathan Soroff: *What's in your pockets right now? Empty them and give me an inventory.*

Mario Cantone: You're going to be incredibly disappointed. I'm just sitting here with nothing...

JS: *You're not wearing any pants?*

MC: [Laughs.] No, I've got my black Diesel jeans on. Let's see: a Tiffany keychain that I got from doing a game show, my wallet, and my cellphone. That's it. I don't even have any cash.

JS: *The* Sex and the City *phenomenon. Explain its popularity.*

MC: The writing is really brilliant. Women relate to it. Gay men relate to it. And believe it or not, there are a lot of straight men who watch it, too.

JS: *Which one of the women on the show would you sleep with?*

MC: Kim [Cattrall], probably because she's one of my best friends. She's just totally cool and low maintenance. They're all beautiful, but Kim is the one I'm most comfortable with. We're very close, and we do so much together. We even went to Disney World together, to Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party, in the pouring rain.

JS: *My favorite thing about being a gay man is that if you date someone your size, you double your wardrobe. What's yours?*

MC: [Laughs.] If you're a cultured, gay man, you've got good taste. But then again, you meet some gay guys these days and you're like, "Everything about you is straight, except for the fact that you sleep with men." They watch sports. They don't know how to dress. It's bizarre. The looks have blurred. You can't tell who's gay or straight anymore.

JS: *Most annoying thing about gay culture?*

MC: I hate a lot of the music and the clubs....I've never liked Madonna. I've never been to a Cher concert.

JS: *How about show tunes?*

MC: I like some. I love a good musical. And I love Judy Garland. There's the cliché. But you know what? She was awesome, the greatest entertainer in the world.

JS: *Out of the stereotypically gay professions—wedding planner, florist, decorator, hair dresser—which would you be?*

MC: I didn't get that gene. If it was up to me, my framed pictures would be on the floor, leaning up against the wall. In clothing, my taste is OK, but I don't even know if something matches. Wedding planner? I'd probably kill the mother of the bride. I couldn't do it. I'm retarded. I'm so bad at that stuff.

JS: *Uh-oh, they might revoke your gay card.*

MC: That's OK. Y'know, I've been doing stand-up for 25 years, and very little of it is about being gay, although I certainly allude to it in my act. But I'm a comedian first, and then I'm gay. I'm not a "gay comic." It's like a fat person doing nothing but fat jokes. It would be so tired.

JS: *Would you ever do a nude scene?*

MC: I'd have to shave my ass, but sure. I actually did it on Broadway. I replaced Nathan Lane in *Love! Valour! Compassion!* I came out in a little apron and heels with my ass hanging out. I'd do it now because I'm in the best shape I've ever been in.

JS: *'Cause you're vain. Here's another cliché: Like all gay men, you're a narcissist.*

MC: Oh, yeah. And it's sad. I get looks from so many people in the city, but it's only because they recognize me. It's very upsetting when you realize it's not because they think you're cute.

JS: *Piece of gossip you'd most like to read about yourself?*

MC: Christ. My mother was a compulsive gambler. I'm gay, and I've been in a relationship for 12 years. So much of it is out on the table, I don't know what they could say.

JS: *One actor you'd most like to do a love scene with?*

MC: I guess LL Cool J.

JS: *Random choice. So what's worse: bad shoes or bad breath?*

MC: Bad breath. Bad shoes don't smell.

JS: *You hosted a kids' show called* Steampipe Alley*?!*

MC: Sounds like a porn movie, doesn't it? It wasn't my choice. I would've called it *The Mario Cantone Show*. But it was great. We were on for five and a half seasons. Sixty-two percent of our audience was adults. We showed cartoons and did sketch comedy and played games like Find Sammy Davis Jr.'s Eye in the Pie, and the *Mommie Dearest* Obstacle Course on Mother's Day. We got away with murder. Then Chris-Craft, the boat company, bought the station. They were unbelievably conservative, so not only did they pull us, but they reused the master tapes. They taped over all of them, so it can never come back to haunt me.

JS: *Justin Timberlake—thumbs up or thumbs down?*

MC: Thumbs sideways. You know why? He's a handsome kid, and very talented. He sounds like Michael Jackson. He dances like him. He does it incredibly well, but it's all unoriginal.

JS: *Speaking of boy bands, what if you went to Toronto and married Joey Fatone from NSync? You could call yourself Mario Cantone-Fatone!*

MC: [Laughs.] I know Joey Fatone, and love him. Great guy. Very funny.

JS: *Worst gig ever?*

MC: One of my worst gigs was at the Improv. It was late at night, and I was doing this bit about the Disney movie *Bambi*, and I said, "Do you know who the villain was? Man. Man killed Bambi's mother..." This girl goes running to the bathroom in tears and I was like, "What's the matter?" It turned out, the week before her mother had died in a car accident trying to avoid hitting a deer.

JS: *You're a semi-regular on* The View. *Can't someone keep Star Jones away from the doughnuts?*

MC: She lives her life. She enjoys her food, and she has a great passion for life...

JS: *She's a hellacious bitch, isn't she?*

MC: No. She's very nice. I've never had a problem with her. But the reason I'm on that show is Joy Behar...

JS: *Speaking of whom—is she on antidepressants, or what?*

MC: Jesus Christ, no! If she was, I don't think she'd be so cranky all the time!

JS: *And that voice is like nails on a chalkboard. Would you ever go on a long car ride with her?*

MC: I have been on a long car trip with her. I love her. She's hilariously funny, very talented, and one of those friends who always remembers where she came from.

JS: *So is comedy a form of hostility, or a defense mechanism?*

MC: Not for everybody, but for me, it comes from a lot of anger and upset and dismay and outrage.

JS: *Favorite word to use in your stand-up act*

MC: Whore.

JS: *One word that best describes you?*

MC: Whore.

JS: *OK—last question: If your life were a Broadway musical, what would it be and why?*

MC: *Merrily We Roll Along*, because it goes backwards and it was a big bomb. IB

[COMEDY], FOR ME, COMES FROM A LOT OF ANGER AND UPSET AND DISMAY AND OUTRAGE.

FUNK

business

DJ Hazard

There may not be as many clubs as there were during the boom of the '80s, but today's comedy scene in Boston is no joke

BY EZRA DYER

In the beginning, there was the Ding Ho. It was the fall of 1979, and the Western-saloon-turned-Chinese-restaurant in Cambridge was looking for a way to fill the seats beneath the wagon-wheel chandeliers in its bar. A comedian named Lenny Clarke began hosting open-mike nights on Wednesdays, and another comedian, Barry Crimmins, recognized the potential of "the Ding" and proposed that its front room become a full-time comedy club.

"Barry Crimmins has to take credit for inventing the Ding Ho," says DJ Hazard, a Boston stand-up stalwart who became the Ding Ho house emcee a few weeks after Crimmins arrived. "He saw that Lenny Clarke's open mike was packed every Wednesday, and he went to the owner, Shune Lee, and said, 'Let me make this a comedy club.' To say that it took off from there would be the understatement of the century. The comedy boom of the '80s came along, and the Ding Ho was the place."

But, as with any bubble market, eventually there was a loud pop. "It was almost like clockwork," says Hazard. "New Year's Eve 1980, everything blossomed. New Year's Eve 1990, everything shriveled." The Ding Ho didn't even last that long; it was closed by the city in the mid-'80s.

Promoter and Comedy Connection owner Bill Blumenreich bought his club 14 years ago, which proved to be unfortunate timing. He originally intended to use Boston performers as headliners, but as comedy cooled off, he discovered he'd need to regularly bring in national acts to stay in business. The Comedy Connection is a survivor, but local comedians take the stage only Sunday through Wednesday, with the weekends reserved for national acts like Cedric the Entertainer, who commands $105,000 for a three-night booking. "It amazes me how good some of the local guys are, but they can't sell tickets," Blumenreich says. "People, when they go out, are buying fame. For example, I started touring nine or 10 years ago with Rosie O'Donnell. Rosie is funny but far from the funniest person I've seen in my life. But people wanted to see the person from the movies, the person who was rumored to be Madonna's lover. People think they're going to see funny, but they're going to see fame."

Why the sudden turnaround from the '80s, when the top Boston headliners could rake in six-figure incomes without leaving town? Blumenreich says that a drop-off in suburban customers seemed to coincide with the onset of the Big Dig. Hazard blames the comedy crash on club expansion that spread the talent too thin. The concentration of high-caliber performers in Boston fueled the popularity of stand-up, but the explosion of new venues resulted in a drastic decline in overall quality. "There became a glut," he says. "In the early days, there were only 15 comedians in Boston, but those 15 were Don Gavin, Steve Sweeney, Barry Crimmins, Steven Wright, Paula Poundstone, Lenny Clarke, Bobcat Goldthwaite....Then everything got diluted. The herd never got thinned. It was supersaturated with banality."

Since the late '70s, Boston has churned out a steady flow of talented comedians, many of whom are now some of America's favorite television and film personalities. The list is a long one, but here are a few who make us proud.

Leno

Mario Cantone

Perhaps best known for his role as Charlotte's prima donna friend Anthony Marentino on *Sex and the City*, cover boy Mario Cantone has his roots in Boston. Cantone has appeared in numerous Broadway productions, including *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *The Tempest*. His television and film credits include Comedy Central's *Premium Blend*, the *USO Comedy Tour* and *Comedy Central Presents ...Mario Cantone*, as well as *Chappelle's Show, The View* and *Mouse Hunt*. Cantone frequently performs at Caroline's on Broadway and on the Atlantic City circuit and contributed to radio's scandalous (and now defunct) *Opie & Anthony* show.

Poehler

Leary

Lenny Clarke

A Bostonian through and through, Lenny Clarke hasn't strayed far from home. Many of his career highlights are Boston-related. The Ding Ho restaurant grad has appeared in a slew of television productions, including the early-'90s sitcom *Lenny* and Denis Leary's *The Job*, and in feature films such as *Southie, Massholes, There's Something About Mary* and *Moonlight Mile*. *Comedy Central Presents...Lenny Clarke* aired in 2002, and Clarke is currently a regular on WEEI Sports Radio (850 AM).

Rogan

Janeane Garofalo

America's reigning queen of cynicism is actually from Jersey, but after attending college in Providence, R.I., she moved to Beantown and met with limited success on the comedy circuit. Soon after, she moved to L.A., teamed up with Ben Stiller, and the rest is history. Her most notable credits include *The Ben Stiller Show*, an Emmy-nominated role on *The Larry Sanders Show*, her own HBO special, *Saturday Night Live* (1994-95), guest appearances on *The Simpsons* and *Law & Order*, and such feature films as *Reality Bites, Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion, The Truth About Cats and Dogs, Clay Pigeons* and *Mystery Men*.

Denis Leary

Worcester native and self-proclaimed "optimistic pessimist" Denis Leary began his comic career while studying at Emerson College, where he taught post-grad while making the rounds on the local stand-up circuit. He penned his breakthrough one-man show, *No Cure for Cancer*, while living in London in the early 1990s; the show was broadcast on Showtime and was released in book, album and video formats. His second television special, 1997's *Lock 'n' Load*, also aired to critical success. Leary's other credits include the films *Wag the Dog* and *The Ref*, the television series *The Job*, and guest spots on Comedy Central's *Crank Yankers*. He also has his own production company, Apostle.

Jay Leno

Andover, Mass., was the childhood home of this long-jawed, late-night star. The Emerson College grad got his start as a stand-up in local strip joints. Leno paid his dues on the comedy club circuit and first appeared on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* in 1977. Ten years later he became Johnny's exclusive guest host, and in 1992 he officially began his now 11-year tenure as host of *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

Conan O'Brien

NBC's brainy after-hours emcee graduated from Brookline High School and went on to Harvard, where he presided over the notorious humor rag *The Harvard Lampoon*. From there he moved on to Los Angeles. A writing gig for HBO led to subsequent work on *Saturday Night Live* and a writer/producer slot with *The Simpsons*. In 1993 O'Brien signed on as host of *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Nine seasons and four Writers Guild Awards later, *Late Night* continues five nights a week with repeats the following day on Comedy Central.

Amy Poehler

Burlington native and Boston College alum Amy Poehler graduated from a college improv troupe to Chicago's famed Second City and wrote and acted for three years on Comedy Central's *Upright Citizens Brigade*. In 2001, Poehler broke into the mainstream as a repertory player on *Saturday Night Live*, and she has appeared in the feature films *Deuce Bigelow: Male Gigolo, Wet Hot American Summer* and the forthcoming *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

Joe Rogan

Hometown boy Joe Rogan broke into the Boston stand-up scene in the late '80s. He climbed into the public eye after being cast as dimwitted electrician Joe Garelli on *NewsRadio* and went on to produce a comedy album, *I'm Gonna Be Dead Someday*, and the video *Joe Rogan: Live from the Belly of the Beast*. The regular guest on radio's *Howard Stern Show* is the host of ABC-TV's *Fear Factor* and, as of Aug. 18, he and Doug Stanhope take over for Jimmy Kimmel and Adam Carolla as co-hosts of Comedy Central's *The Man Show*.

—*Jessica Iredale*

John Tobin and Jim McCue

"Ten years ago there were probably 20 or 30 comedy venues within 20 mile of Boston," says Blumenreich. "Now there's nothing left."

Compared with the heyday of comedy, that may seem true, but Boston stil produces more than its share of comedians who go on to national fame, and a new generation is emerging to find its place alongside the big names of the '80s. "There aren't as many venues as there used to be, but there's a whole new wave of Boston comedians who are kicking butt," says Hazard. "It's the late '90s, 21st-century crowd." The main spawning ground these days is, appropriately enough, a Chinese restaurant in Cambridge: the Comedy Studio at the Hong Kong in Harvard Square.

"The Hong Kong is where a lot of the new crop of comedians come from," says Eugene Mirman, who landed a spot on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* after an audition at the Comedy Studio. Another Boston stand-up comedian, Brendon Small, was temping by day and doing stand-up by night when he was discovered by Loren Bouchard, producer of *Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist*, at the Comedy Studio in 1999. Small is now a writer, executive producer and voice actor (playing himself as an 8-year-old) on *Home Movies*, part of the Cartoon Network's Adult Swim lineup. The night Bouchard was in the audience, Small was doing a parody of an angry Boston comic. "I'd get up there and just scream about ham," he says. "I did a story about ham and got my own cartoon. That's my advice to people. Do that."

Another venue where Boston comedians can attract national attention is the annual Boston International Comedy and Movie Festival, founded in 2000 by comedian Jim McCue and Boston city councillor John Tobin. This year the festival ran for nine days in early May and featured 150 comedians. "We wanted to force the industry to come here and see the talent," says Tobin. "L.A. is the Mount Everest of comedy. But the major places are L.A., New York and Boston. If you can headline in Boston, you can headline anywhere." Local comedian Peter Dutton came in second at last year's competition and was signed by talent agency Brillstein-Gray as a result.

New comics still benefit from the comedy community that cemented Boston's national reputation in the '80s. For neophyte comedians, the level of competition in Boston can be daunting, but a Boston pedigree is a boon to any comic's resume. It certainly doesn't hurt that two of the major late-night TV hosts, Conan O'Brien and Jay Leno, are from the area. (O'Brien grew up in Brookline and was president of the *Harvard Lampoon*; Leno grew up in Andover and began doing stand-up at age 19 in strip clubs.) "Anywhere you go in the U.S. or Canada, you tell other comics that you're from Boston, and they shake their heads and say, 'What is it about Boston? Damn,'" says Arlington native Dane Cook, whose debut comedy album, *Harmful If Swallowed*, hits stores July 22. "The guys before you, the legends—Steve Sweeney, Don Gavin, Kevin Knox—those were the guys you had to follow every single night. My Dad said that if you play basketball with taller guys, you'll get better, and that's what it was like doing stand-up with them."

Besides raising the competitive bar, the veterans also offer practical advice to help up-and-comers hone their acts. "Kevin Knox was the greatest for me,"

says Cook. "He'd always try to find five minutes here and there to help me. He appreciated the fact that I wanted to learn."

Mirman also found Boston to be fertile ground for his developing act. "There were a lot of people who helped me," he says. "Tony V. was really great when I started in Boston. I didn't know anybody or anything, and he was established. I'd done comedy at Hampshire College in Amherst, but that was in a vacuum. Then I moved to Boston and there were more people with the same sensibility, or sense of humor."

DJ Hazard likens his relationship with new comedians to that of the "surf daddy" to the younger surfers in old movies—he may be older, but he can still climb on the board and show the kids a thing or two. "I really enjoy their work," he says. "When they're first starting out, I like to help. And they give me advice too."

But at some point, a young Boston comedian must make a tough career decision. Comedy is show business, and show business means New York and Los Angeles.

"Eventually you realize that you have to go to New York City to advance," says Cook, who moved first to New York, then Los Angeles. "You hit the ceiling. You say, 'I've got to leave to come back.'"

Mirman set his sights on New York as his career started to take off. "I moved to New York to 'make it,'" he says. "There's much more work here than in Boston, although Boston is a wonderful place. It was great to develop there. It was great to hide from the industry and figure stuff out. Boston has a really vibrant scene and comedy community—as opposed to New York, where you feel like you're in a frenzy."

After hooking up with the *Dr. Katz* crew, Small moved to Los Angeles, where he still performs stand-up when he's not working on *Home Movies*. "I moved out here because there are more opportunities for disappointment," he says. "I think eventually you have to move to New York or L.A., and L.A.'s cheaper. I came here pretty early in my career, but I moved out early so I could leave early."

The Holy Grail that awaits in Los Angeles is broader recognition, and that often comes in the form of a TV show. Comedians covet TV shows for the money, of course, but the exposure they get from a national show can be even more valuable. The Comedy Connection's Blumenreich points out that Ray Romano and Kevin James will never have trouble selling tickets to a stand-up performance, even though their material may not be as funny as Joe or Jane Nobody's. "When you're a stand-up, you're like a one-man show," says Small. "How do you get your name out there? It's a hard thing to do."

Sometimes, however, landing a TV show gives a comic a newfound appreciation for stand-up. Next fall, Worcester native Doug Stanhope will co-host *The Man Show* on Comedy Central with fellow comic Joe Rogan (who, years before encouraging hardy *Fear Factor* contestants to choke down raw ostrich eggs, first got behind the mike at Nick's

WHAT MAKES THE COMICS LAUGH?

We went straight to the funny-business experts to find out what makes them laugh. Below, six homegrown stand-ups tell us about their favorite comedians, books, movies and comedy albums.

Favorite contemporary comedians?

Ben Boime: Current headliners like Dane Cook, Kevin Knox and Paul Nardizzi.

Dane Cook: Patrice O'Neal, Robert Kelly. Harland Williams is a little more well known.

Eugene Mirman: Louis CK.

Dan Newbower: Louis CK, Sarah Silverman and Dane Cook. Watching these three live is a natural high for anyone who isn't a comedian. For me, they make me think I suck.

Robbie Printz: Bob Hope. Mark my words, that kid is going to be a star!

Favorite comedy albums or specials?

Ben Boime: Christina Aguilera's *Stripped* and the *Mein Kampf* book on tape.

Dane Cook: *Bill Cosby Himself, Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip* and *Eddie Murphy Raw* or *Delirious*, but I would go with *Raw*.

Eugene Mirman: Emo Phillips' *E=MO²*, all of Steve Martin's records and anything by Louis CK and Coyle & Sharpe.

Dan Newbower: Steven Wright's *I Have a Pony* defined my childhood. Bill Hicks' *Relentless* proved that stand-up can be serious. *Genghis Kahn: Live from the Sunset Steppe* helped shape my military strategy.

Robbie Printz: Eddie Murphy's *Delirious* was the first comedy album I ever bought. I listened to it over and over again and would drive people crazy quoting jokes and doing horrible impressions of Eddie Murphy doing impressions of Mr. T. I remember that album being so big that you could walk up to anybody and say "gooney goo goo," and they would know exactly what you were talking about.

Favorite funny movies?

Ben Boime: *This Is Spinal Tap, Airplane!* and the Zapruder film.

Dane Cook: *Planes, Trains and Automobiles, Trading Places* and *Uncle Buck*.

Eugene Mirman: *Annie Hall* or *Better Off Dead* or maybe *Beverly Hills Cop*.

Dan Newbower: I'm ashamed to say this, but of all the comedies put out over the last few years, the one that made me laugh the hardest was *Black Knight*. I have no idea why. None. On the floor, tears streaming down my face. Another real knee-slapper was *The Hours*.

Robbie Printz: *Arthur* is by far my favorite comedy movie. Hobson, the butler, turns being condescending into an art form. To this day whenever anybody asks me to do something, I reply (in a snobby Hobson manner), "Ah, it's what I live for sir."

Steve Sweeney: *Amarcord* by Federico Fellini, and I like *Waking Ned Divine*.

Favorite funny books or authors?

Ben Boime: I can't read. But I like the pictures in the IMPROPER.

Dane Cook: *The Uncle John's Bathroom Reader* collection (Bathroom Reader's Hysterical Society) and Stephen King. He can be really dark with his comedy. Of his books I like *Dark Tower*.

Eugene Mirman: *Incidences* by Daniil Kharms. It's a collection of absurd short things.

Dan Newbower: My parents bought me the David Sedaris CD box set, and I highly recommend it (thanks, mommy and daddy!). Much funnier when he reads his stuff aloud. Does that count as books? Because it was read from books. I can't read. (God it feels good to finally say that.) How about a funny TV show? Watch *$40 a Day* on the Food Network. It isn't supposed to be funny, but it is the funniest show on television.

Robbie Printz: John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany* made me laugh out loud constantly. Every time Owen speaks it's in capital letters, so you're reading these really funny lines, and at the same time you're yelling to yourself. The book is hysterical and a great story.

Steve Sweeney: Joe Queenan's *Red Lobster, White Trash and the Blue Lagoon: Joe Queenan's America*. Very funny book. And David Sedaris' *Naked*.

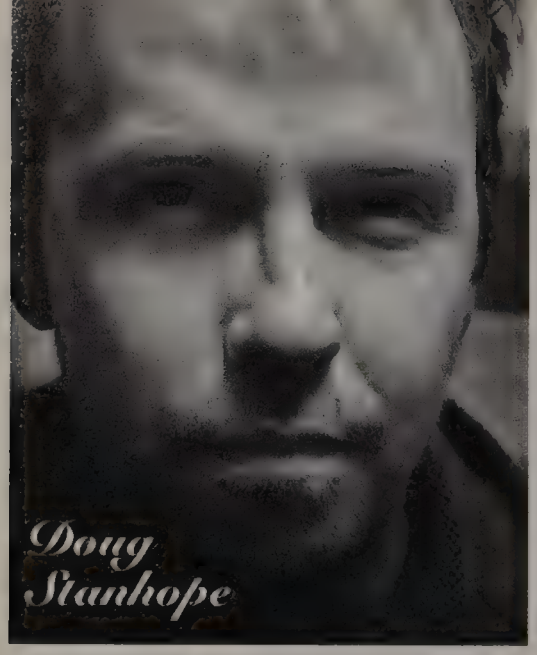
For the latest on these comedians go to:

www.benboime.com
www.danecook.com
www.eugenemirman.com
www.robbieprintz.com

Steve Sweeney's radio show, *Steve Sweeney's Neighborhood*, is broadcast weekday mornings from 5:30-9 am on WZLX-FM (100.7).

Dan Newbower performs regularly at the Comedy Studio in Cambridge.

—Jessica Iredale



Comedy Stop in 1988). The two comics have spent the past few months busily recording episodes, and Stanhope is candid in his opinion of TV stardom thus far: "It blows a lot," he says. "I've been working 14-hour days and living in the office. The legal department actually told me I had to leave. It's all worth it, though, because if the show sucks, it's me up there." Granted, Stanhope is not known for his cheery worldview (in his stand-up act, he proposes turning his bitter mother into a suicide bomber and sending her after the Yankees), but the thankless schedule of TV filming might've made Gandhi violent.

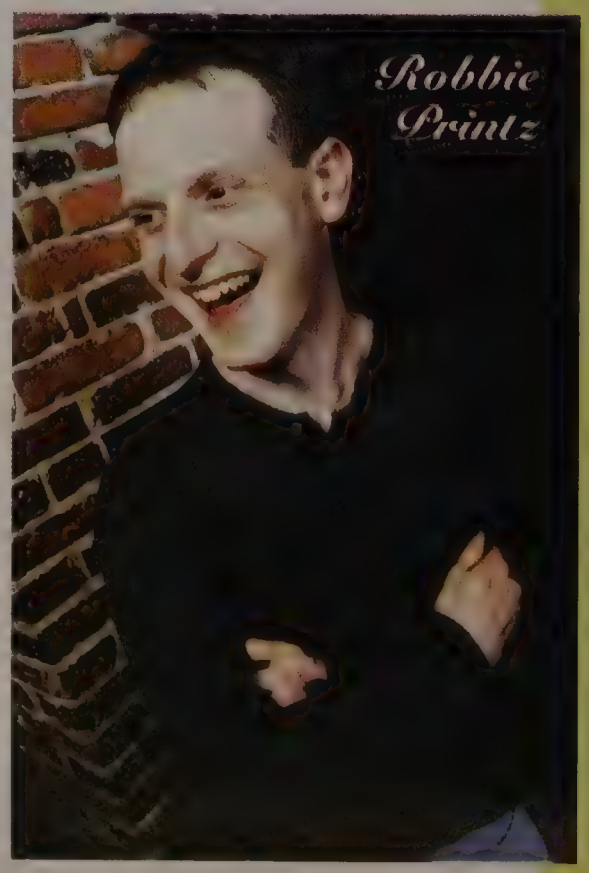
Besides the manic work hours, Stanhope is also adjusting to the influence of censors and editors, two entities that are largely foreign to the world of live stand-up. "Stand-up spoils you so much that way," he says. Stanhope is still learning what will and will not pass muster with the censors. For instance, he and Rogan created a takeoff on the old game show *Make Me Laugh* called *Make Me Hard*, which involved a transvestite stripper and a guy wearing sweatpants. The censors OK'd the bit (with some pixelization and minus the sweatpants) but made them change the name to *Make Me Stiff*. "So we can show a tranny giving this guy a lap dance, but we can't say the word 'hard,'" says Stanhope. "At the end of the day, no matter how good or bad the show is, you leave feeling kind of disappointed because it's censored and edited. It gives me a stutter that I don't have naturally."

Steve Sweeney, one of the Ding Ho originals and now host of the morning show on Boston's WZLX-FM, argues that the "move to Los Angeles and get a TV show" mind-set is overrated, if not misguided. "There are a lot of guys who stayed here and were successful. Kevin [Knox], Don [Gavin], Kenny Rogerson—TV doesn't mean anything. It takes a long time to learn how to do this, so by the time you do, you've got wrinkles and you're not the next new thing."

In the mid-'90s, DJ Hazard moved to Los Angeles for a year and returned with a similar opinion of the West Coast megalopolis. "L.A. is paradise, and everyone's miserable," he says. "There's this weight on everybody's shoulders. If I ran into someone I hadn't seen in a few months and they asked me how I'd been, I'd tell them that I was the new Ty-D-Bol man. They'd say 'Really?!' and actually get jealous."

Robbie Printz, the winner of the 2002 Boston International Comedy and Movie Festival, lives in New Hampshire and keeps a busy schedule performing around New England. "Are there as many clubs as there used to be? No. But there are still plenty of places to work," says Printz, who takes the stage at the Comedy Connection each Tuesday. "I've got 35 schools lined up for the fall. I'm still doing clubs. I like the mix; clubs, corporate functions and schools. I work five or six nights a week here. As far as a city where you can live and perform, Boston's great."

Judging by the roster of recent and upcoming shows, Boston's comedy scene may be in the midst of a turnaround. This summer, the Charles Hotel is bringing comedy to the Regattabar every other Tuesday with the Summer Comedy Series, and last March Lizard Lounge Comedy Hour host Kim Davis kicked of the inaugural Cambridge Fringe Fest, a six-night comedy festival that brought shows to venues like the Cantab Lounge and the All Asia Café. "Comedy has been blowing up lately," says Sophie Zunz, Charles Hotel director of PR and promotions. "Cambridge has a comedy history. It's edgy, young, smart. That's the philosophy of the series." The Summer Comedy Series brings DJ Hazard to the stage July 22, and Brendon Small makes a trip home August 19. "We're not a comedy venue, but it's something we'll look at doing every summer. We'll bring it back to get a younger crowd in the hotel," Zunz says.



ROBBIE PRINTZ. COMEDY CONNECTION: ANTHONY TIEULI

Whether they set off for bigger cities or stay here to cultivate their fan base, Boston comics say they're happy to have the chance to perform and add their names to the city's comedy pantheon. "I can't think of a better job," says Printz. "Lottery winner, maybe."

"If I ended it right now," says Cook, "I can say I gave my best for stand-up comedy. I got to live and work in a community that's unlike any other. Comedy saved my life, and it gave me a life. If it was a person, I'd hug it. I'll always want to do stand-up comedy." iB

PLACES TO LAUGH

As the saying goes, laughter is the best medicine, and Boston delivers a respectable dose of national headliners, local stand-ups and improv troupes at venues throughout the city. Here's a rundown of local places to get your jollies.

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). Thu.-Sun., 9 pm.

Boston Harbor Comedy Cruise *One Long Wharf, Boston (617-227-4321). www.comedytheater.com. July 12 and 19; Aug. 16 and 23. $32.*
Local comedian Tony V. and two guest comics entertain the crowd with a 90-minute act, Tony V. Lost at Sea. *The two-hour cruise includes light music and cocktails.*

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Building, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 and 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). Wed.-Sun., 8 pm.

Emerald Isle Bar
1501 Dorchester Ave., Boston (617-288-3481). Saturdays. Call for show times.

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447).
www.faces4radio.com. *Thu., 8 pm.*

Giggles
517 Broadway, Saugus (781-233-9950). Fri. and Sat. Call for show times.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 8 and 10 pm.*

Improv Boston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253).
www.improvboston.com. *Call for show times.*

Kowloon
948 Broadway (Route 1 North), Saugus (781-233-0077). Fri. and Sat., 8 pm.

Lizard Lounge
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). Mon., 8 pm.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). www. nickscomedystop.com. Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8:45 pm.

Regattabar Summer Comedy Series 2003
Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-661-5000). Every other Tue., June 24-Aug. 19. 8 pm.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Café, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). First and third Sunday each month.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).
www.zeitgeist-gallery.org.
Call for schedule.

IN THE FUTURE...

Boston International Comedy and Movie Festival
April 24-May 1. 2004.
(617-782-8100).
www.bostoncomedyfestival.com
For eight days, more than 150 comedians from around the globe converge on Boston's Theater District for the annual funny fest. Past performers have included comic greats such as George Carlin and Louis Black. Movie screenings and workshops are held throughout the city, and in the Stand-Up Comedy Contest, comedians vie for a $10,000 prize.

Cambridge Fringe Fest
March 21-28, 2004.
www.cambridgefringefest.com
The weeklong laugh fest to fuel the rivalry between Boston and Cambridge comics includes everything from stand-up to sketch comedy to short films. Expected additions in 2004 include one-man shows and commedia dell'arte, a form of improvisational comedy.

—Jessica Iredale

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THE SMOKING-BAN CHRONICLES

A PERSONAL LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BARS AND CLUBS GO SMOKE-FREE

BY SUSAN ABBATTISTA ILLUSTRATIONS BY CAROLYN BOWES

Boston's citywide ban on workplace smoking took effect during this spring's seemingly endless stretch of cold, rainy days. For nonsmokers and employees who were delighted to be free of secondhand smoke, the ban was a bright, sunny day. For bar and nightclub owners, it was a storm that left behind a messy trail of new responsibilities—from cleaning up butts on the sidewalk to catching rule breakers and monitoring the behavior of groups gathered outside at the nicotine oasis. For diehard smokers, the ban put another cloud over one of their most enjoyed, and ingrained, habits. For me, a self-proclaimed "casual smoker," it was a fog through which I could see pieces of my own life emerging.

It's not an easy task to measure the smoking ban's social and economic consequences for the city. But for weeks, notepad in hand, I ducked in and out of bars to take mental snapshots of how things looked and how they had changed for bartenders, business owners, smokers and nonsmokers. What follows is my account of how individuals like these are responding to the smoking ban, and how it has affected them, and me.

MAY 4. It's the last night you can light up inside a bar or club in Boston. Last December the Boston Public Health Commission passed the Clean Air Works regulation, with strong support from Mayor Tom Menino. Here at Les Zygomates, a smoking-ban party is well under way. I'm enjoying a glass of red zinfandel at the bar, surrounded by smokers who have come to bid adieu to a beloved freedom. Just a few feet away, diners enjoy tonight's special menu: smoked chevre salad, smoked salmon, cherry-smoked pork chop. It is an amazing feast.

The guy standing next to me, a smoker named Steve, is clearly ticked off about the looming ban. "I feel like we're living in Iraq," the 43-year-old marketing executive says, spraying my face with a beer-infused mist. "There's no freedom, no personal choice! First the government is coming after your cigarettes; your french fries are next!"

My new friend and his cronies don't seem to mind that I'm scribbling notes for a story. But they do want to know what I think of the ban. I tell them I have mixed feelings. "After years of bumming cigarettes, I finally gave it up," I say. "That was two years ago. In the past few months, my nasty habit has crept back."

Steve pauses for a moment to put two and two together. "And now you're out covering the smoking ban. Hysterical," he says, grabbing his pack of Marlboro Lights from the bar. He flips the top: "Want one?"

It's not my first cigarette of the evening, and it's certainly not my last.

MAY 5: D-Day. At Kings, a bowling alley and bar on Dalton Street, Mayor Menino and Health Commission officials gather for a different kind of smoking-ban party, a celebration of "the most wonderful day for the city of Boston." I stand in a crowd of reporters. Although it's evening, my brain is still fuzzy from last night's party. And my lungs ache.

One by one, speakers step up to the podium and discuss the new law that will protect employees from secondhand smoke. "People should not have to choose between their job and their life," says one speaker, a restaurant manager who came to voice her support. To me, her statement makes perfect sense. The American Lung Association says secondhand smoke contains 43 chemicals that cause cancer. And you don't have to be a scientist to figure out that anything that smells so foul can't be very good for you.

Out on the street, the air is unseasonably cool. I zip up my sweatshirt and wander across Boylston Street. It's a Monday night, about 8 pm, and the Sox are away. I step inside the Pour House, my after-work

hangout back in my 20s, and I'm surprised to see how innocuous the place looks without its old haze. Compared with the raucous Friday nights I recall, it's eerily quiet.

Tonight two people sitting at the corner of the bar are eating hamburgers and talking about the virtues of Krispy Kremes. Almost 20 years ago, I would sit in the same spot, drinking Sea Breezes and smoking with co-workers. I didn't want to become a full-time smoker, so I rarely bought cigarettes—but when I was out drinking, I wouldn't hesitate to ask complete strangers for them. Again and again.

I always believed my casual smoking was a passing habit, but it stuck. At night, as I put my smoky head on the pillow, I would chastise myself for being cavalier, for messing with my health, for inviting death. How could I be so stupid? Today those questions still lurch at me in the dark.

Outside again, I walk down to the Fenway area and duck inside the Baseball Tavern, a large bar on Boylston Street. On this night, nearly every stool is empty, and one of the few patrons—a middle-aged woman in a Harley-Davidson jacket—sits across from me, flicking her lighter and staring into the flame.

I tell Freddy, a 50-something bespectacled bartender and former smoker, that I'm here to "take the pulse" of the smoking ban. Freddy isn't too optimistic. He says it won't affect the Red Sox crowds, but it will definitely hurt business among his 30 or 40 regular customers, most of whom smoke. "Already, in a small way, it's showing its effect," Freddy says. "Some of my regulars aren't here right now. Those are the people who come in the winter, and we rely on them to help business during the off-season."

When the woman in the Harley jacket steps outside, lighter in hand, I follow.

MAY 16. I'm at the Milky Way Lounge & Lanes in Jamaica Plain, drinking a fancy fruity drink and hanging out with friends. The place is packed; loud conversations rise up over the music. As soon as I take the first sip of alcohol—and feel its warmth radiate from my belly to my limbs—I want to smoke. The urge is like a riptide. But submitting to that craving means committing an act of deception. My boyfriend, who is here in the crowd, still thinks I gave up the habit a long time ago.

The ban, I realize, makes the deception harder. No longer can I nonchalantly sneak a drag from a friend's cigarette. Now I must declare my intention to the bouncer, who brands me with a neon green "smoker's wristband."

In a roped-off area just outside the front door, two 20-something women are puffing on American Spirits. I ask for one, and stand with them, shivering in the rain. "Can you imagine having to smoke outside all winter long?" one of them asks me, her pierced bellybutton peeking out from a skimpy T-shirt. "If we have another winter like last year," she says, "it's going to be brutal." If I'm still smoking when it's snowing, I think, I'm in trouble.

As I head back downstairs, I can smell smoke on my hands and breath. There is no such thing as being a so-called casual smoker anymore. You're either outside with the smokers, or you're not.

JUNE 6. In a phone interview, Ian Just, chef and co-owner of Les Zygomates, describes how business has changed since the big party. "We had a lull at the bar when the ban first passed," he says. "I think the initial shock for some people was overwhelming." But Just considers himself lucky. "The bar business doesn't make me or break me," he says, explaining that people still come to dine and hear live jazz. "Smokers tend to drink a lot," he says. For places that rely on drink sales alone, the ban could be a bitter pill to swallow.

For Les Zygomates, the smoke-free atmosphere seems bittersweet. Although Just, who is a nonsmoker, enjoys the clean air, he says the ambiance can seem a bit too sterile. "When you come to hear live jazz," he says, "you kind of expect a sexy, smoky environment."

After I hang up with Just, I open a kitchen drawer and start rummaging through candles, recipes, assorted junk. I find a small slip of paper with a faded telephone number: the Massachusetts Smoker's Quitline. I dial, and within minutes I'm talking with a counselor. She patiently listens as I tell her of my smoke-when-I-drink habit, and she asks me how much and how often. My voice wavers as I tell her everything. It's the first time I've been honest about my smoking, even to myself.

Because I'm calling as an ordinary citizen and not as someone writing a story, I'm a bit surprised when she mentions the ban. "Maybe it will be good for you," she says, "because having to go outside will put an extra step between you and the cigarette." She also suggests that I avoid smoking "triggers," like drinking, for a while.

Before we hang up, she asks me when I plan to quit. I think about it for a second and tell her, with confidence, "sometime this summer."

JUNE 13. At ZuZu, in Central Square, on a Friday night, I hold a margarita in one hand and a Dunhill Light in the other. This week, Cambridge and Somerville passed their own smoking bans, which will kick in October 1.

I look at the ashtrays on each table and know that soon they will be a thing of the past, just as they are now in Boston. I stare at the people all around me who are laughing, drinking and smoking. That's another scene that will soon disappear as the ban makes its way across the state, whether city by city or as a sweeping statewide measure. A few weeks ago, the state Senate approved a statewide workplace smoking ban, and Massachusetts came one step closer to becoming the fifth state in the nation to have one. It's just a matter of time before all the necessary legislative parties agree to it.

On this night in Cambridge, with a future ban fast approaching, people seem to be savoring their right to smoke inside. Now that smoking is forbidden in Boston establishments, it's that much more seductive to pull up a stool, sip your drink and puff away. Of course, it's also one of the worst things you can do to yourself. In a bar, surrounded by music and laughter, it's hard to hear the internal voice that warns of the dangers of this habit. That voice tells me that soon this will have to stop if I want to live a long and healthy life. But now, more than ever, cigarettes are the forbidden poison fruit. At this moment, in a defiant act, I am taking a bite. iB

Want to share a smoking-ban story? Write to letters@improper.com.

UP IN SMOKE

What became of Boston's ashtrays?

More than two months have passed since barflies and club-goers were forced to take it outside—smoking, that is—and everyone is slowly getting accustomed to the change. Inside the bar, that smoky haze has evaporated (no more airing out your coat and spraying your jeans with Febreze the day after going out), and the ashtrays have disappeared. Just where did all the ashtrays go? we wondered. Were they simply tossed into the dumpster? Stored in a basement? Donated to a rehab clinic? Here's what a survey of local nightspots revealed.

Cactus Club, 939 Boylston St., Boston (617-236-0200)
"The owners have been wanting to get rid of smoking for a while, so we'll probably smash them all up."
—Jennifer McGivern, manager

Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555)
"Nothing. They're stored. We thought about putting them up on eBay to make up for the lost business. We hope someday the ban will be lifted and we can take them out so we won't have everyone outside the club instead of inside."
—Brian O'Donnell, managing partner

Jose McIntyre's, 160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460)
"We got a big glass-recycling bin and recycled them."
—Jamie Durham, manager

Kinsale, 2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577)
"We still use them because we have a patio. You can tell people we melted them down and made a statue—as long as you don't need a picture of it."
—Joshua Ganyeau, general manager

Lucky's Lounge, 355 Congress St., Boston (617-357-5825)
"We put them in storage and got oversize flowerpots filled with sand for smokers outside. I guess we can donate the little ones to Cambridge—for now."
—Bill Costa, general manager

Parris, Quincy Market Building, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-248-9900)
"They're sitting in a box in a storeroom. Maybe we'll donate them to starving artists."
—Michael Carlisle, general manager

Porters Bar and Grill, 173 Portland St., Boston (617-742-7678)
"Some were given to staff, and some are waiting on a shelf hoping to be used again one day."
—Scott Nogueira, owner

The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051)
"We're using them as appetizer plates for people who annoy us. Either that or as yarmulkes."
—Heather Michalowski, director of marketing

White Horse Tavern, 116 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-6633)
"They're actually all sitting in my office. We gave a few away to employees. I'm hoping we won't have to dust them off ever. The ban hasn't hurt business at all, so we're all very happy about it."
—Josh Shafer, manager

—Compiled by Jessica Iredale

Parris

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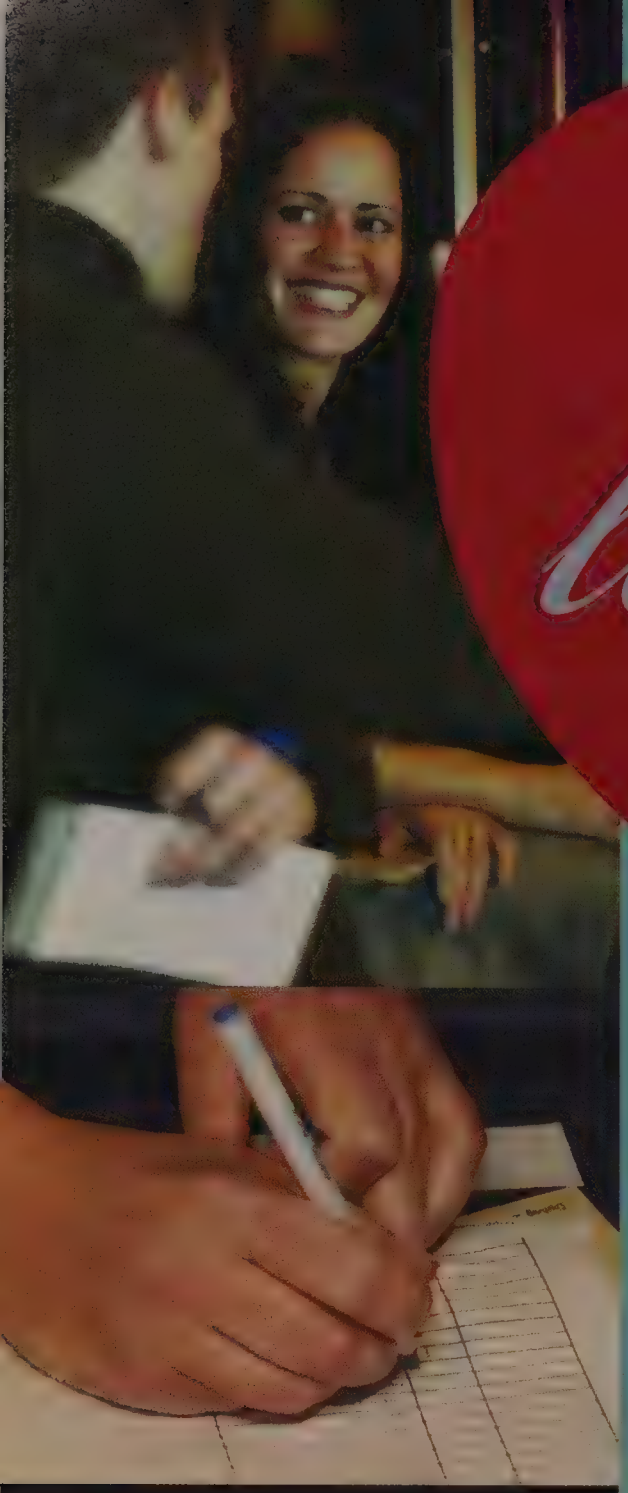


"HOW DO I *love thee?* LET ME COUNT THE MINUTES..."

BY JULIE SURATT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACOB SILBERBERG

Two single Bostonians in search of love try speed-dating

How long does it take to figure out whether you click with someone? Can it happen in the first glance across a crowded bar? A chat in the grocery store checkout line? Or does it take months of waiting for the same bus every morning for sparks to fly? Clearly it depends on the setting, the people—in some cases, even the amount of alcohol imbibed—to determine whether the ingredients are right for a connection.

But what if you had to give it a number—in other words, how many minutes does it take to decide if you're interested enough in a person to follow up with a date? Wait, don't shrug off the question—it isn't rhetorical. We really want to know.

The inspiration for our question is the relatively new phenomenon in matchmaking called speed-dating. By now, most of us have heard of these singles events that pair men and women for a set amount of time—anywhere from one to 10 minutes—for brief conversation across a table. When the time is up, a buzzer sounds, and each man moves one chair to the left to meet the next woman. The concept has been around for about five years now in New York (it started with SpeedDating, which catered exclusively to a Jewish clientele), but it's moved up the coast within the past two years and has quickly become all the rage in Boston. Now there's one-minute dating, three-minute dating, five-minute, seven-, eight-...you get the picture. The premise is that you get to experience several dates in one night, while avoiding, as HurryDate puts it, "the agonizing four-hour blind date gone bad."

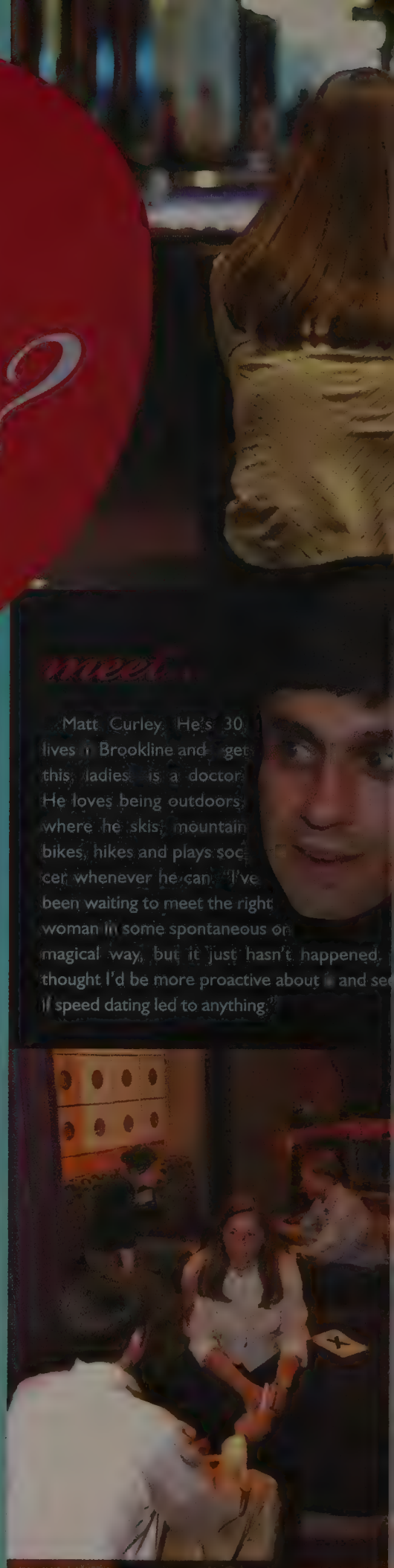
We looked high and low and found two participants willing to subject themselves to the trials of dating-by-the-minute. We asked them to attend three different events: three-minute dating sponsored by HurryDate, seven-minute dating with JJ Productions, and eight-minute dating with 8minuteDating.com. Join us for their journey...

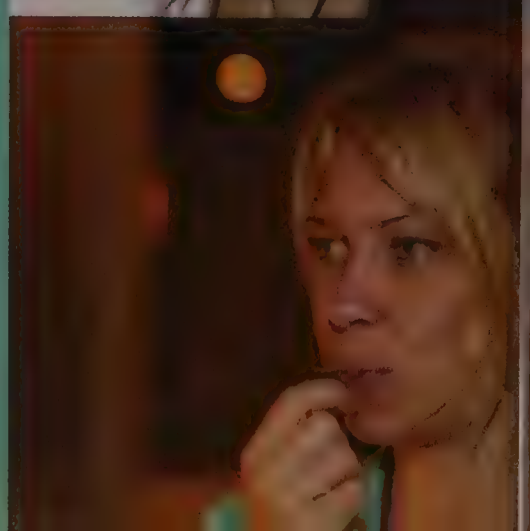
meet...

Michelle Grdina. She's 30, a Somerville resident and Colby College grad who works at Harvard University. She enjoys traveling, hiking, listening to live music, attending sporting events and going on pub crawls. "I'm the type of person who likes to try everything once," says Grdina. Luckily for us, that includes speed-dating. "As a friend of mine always says, 'You just never know,'" adds Grdina.

meet...

Matt Curley. He's 30, lives in Brookline and, get this, ladies, is a doctor. He loves being outdoors, where he skis, mountain bikes, hikes and plays soccer whenever he can. "I've been waiting to meet the right woman in some spontaneous or magical way, but it just hasn't happened. I thought I'd be more proactive about it and see if speed dating led to anything."





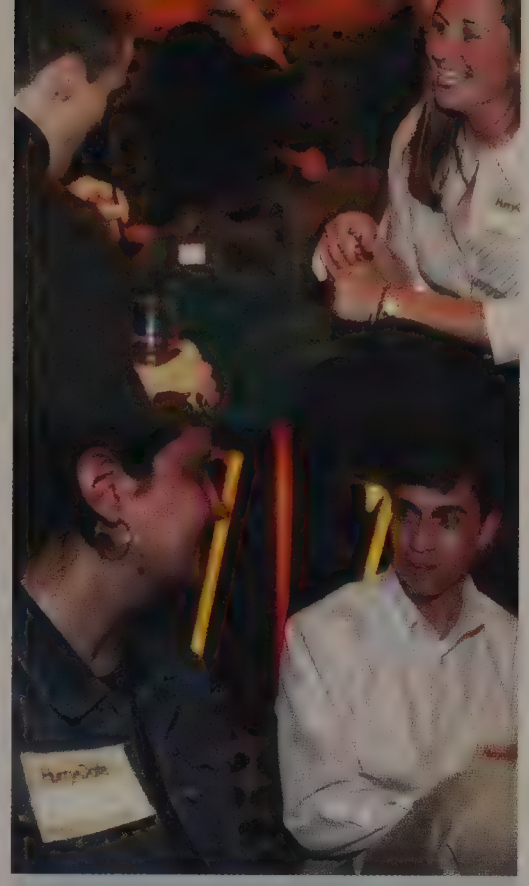
three minutes

Host: HurryDate, approximately 20 three-minute dates
Location: Felt
Age group: 25-35

SHE SAYS

It was the people who asked interesting questions—like what my favorite color is or what's the last thing I threw out—that stood out. But one problem is that it's very easy for one person to dominate the conversation. I tried to keep my answers brief in order to get to know the other person as well. I noticed after a few dates that if I was attracted to a person, I would avoid questions about his job or where he lived. Instead, I'd focus on questions that would allow me to find out if we actually had anything in common on a more personal level.

I don't think three minutes is enough time to figure out if you'd like to see someone a second time. I saw two people that I met on HurryDate again. One was just as funny and interesting on a follow-up date as he'd been at Felt. The other one I happened to see at an eight-minute-dating event at Vox Populi the following week. I had matched with him after the Hurry Date event, but I realized after speaking with him for a few more minutes at Vox Populi that we really didn't have anything in common. I probably would have figured that out if I'd had a few more minutes at Felt.



HE SAYS

The women at HurryDate tended to be younger and more outgoing. This may have been pure coincidence, but I definitely had the most fun at this event.

Three minutes is perfect if you know right away that you're not interested—if they're too old, young, shy or whatever. Then it's nice to be able to move on. On the other hand, if you meet someone who sparks an interest, then three minutes is generally not enough time. It's difficult to determine if you click with someone or have anything in common in that short amount of time. Several times, I found myself just getting into a decent conversation with my date, only to have the HurryDate whistle blow, indicating that I had to move on. It was sometimes frustrating.

I went on one follow-up date. She was definitely as cool as she had seemed after three minutes, though more of a friend than a love connection. If I'd had more time with her, would I have discovered that sooner? I don't think so. We needed a full date to figure that out.

seven minutes

Host: JJ Productions, 12 seven-minute dates
Location: Lucy's in Brookline
Age group: 28-39

SHE SAYS

The age group that I was placed in for the evening was 28-39 years old, and I was easily the youngest woman there by several years. Most of the women were obviously dressed to impress. Also, the men were older than me by several years. They were all really nice, but I had trouble talking to many of them. After getting through all the basic questions I found that I had very little in common with any of them, and it was difficult to keep the conversations flowing.

I didn't have any interest in seeing any of the men that I met again and never even logged onto the Web site after the night of the dates. I found that seven minutes was definitely enough time to figure out if I wanted to see the person again (and in some cases, seven minutes was even too long!). The longer date really gave a good sense of what an evening with the person would be like.

HE SAYS

I was younger than most of the people at the event. This made the night less appealing. I enjoyed talking to a woman who was clearly getting tired of having the same conversations repeatedly. We ended up getting along pretty well, maybe because she made it clear that she did not want to talk about her job, where she lived, etc. I was OK with that.

There were still some painful dates in there, but I did feel like seven minutes gave me the opportunity to get to know the women a bit better than three minutes did.

eight minutes

Host: 8minuteDating.com, 12 eight-minute dates
Location: Vox Populi (Michelle) and Fire & Ice (Matt)
Age group: 25-35

SHE SAYS

It seemed like a fun group of people, and everyone crowded around the bar during the breaks. In general, it was an attractive crowd, although I was not instantly taken with anyone in particular.

The eight-minute date was more informative and less tiring than the three-minute dating, but overall not as much fun. I definitely was able to learn a lot more about the people that I met, but that almost took the fun out of potentially going on a date. I matched with a few of the men and was asked out by one of them as well. I agreed to go on a date with him but then never heard from him again. I'm sure that happens all the time, but it's still a little deflating for the ego!

HE SAYS

On the surface, eight minutes sounds like it has the potential to be excruciatingly long. However, to my surprise, most of the dates were not so bad, though a couple of the dates were slightly painful. On one, I had sat down at our table first. While I waited for my female date, a man started pulling out the chair opposite me, looking as if he was going to sit down. My date then arrived and also noticed this guy, and we sort of looked at each other wondering what was going on. He ultimately kept on moving to the next table—apparently a chair was blocking his path. After my date sat down, I joked, "For a minute there, I thought I accidentally signed up for bisexual night." I thought that was pretty funny, but this woman looked at me like I was the Antichrist. Needless to say, that one didn't go so well.

I also found myself having the same conversations over and over to fill the time. "So what do you do? Where do you live? Where did you grow up? How do you like Boston? Don't you love the Duck Tours?" It also happens with three minutes, but to a lesser extent. Eight minutes definitely gives you more of an opportunity to get to know someone, albeit still on a pretty superficial level. I think that there were a few women that I decided I did not want to see again as a result of this extra time. I actually found myself wondering: If I had only had three minutes to talk to them, would I have picked them, only to find in the first five minutes of our real date that it was a big mistake?

SPEED-DATING TIPS FROM MICHELLE AND MATT

* Have a drink or two, but don't drink too much. Getting loosened up is fine, but you want to be sober enough to carry on an intelligent conversation and assess the candidates clearly.
* Be prepared with some good questions. Asking people what they do and where they live gets redundant and doesn't allow you to find out enough about them. (A caveat from Matt: "I don't believe that asking questions like 'What's your favorite color?' or 'Have you ever streaked?' allows you to learn anything more about that person. When the clock is ticking, this may be important.")
* Have a positive attitude.
* Take the event for what it is, just an opportunity to meet people. Don't expect too much.
* Don't be nervous—everyone there is doing the same thing that you are, and it really doesn't matter if you don't hit it off with a person because you'll likely never see them again.
* Consider going with a friend—this is not absolutely necessary, but it might make you feel more comfortable.

CONTACT
HurryDate.com
JJProductions.net
8MinuteDating.com

conclusion

SHE SAYS

Overall, I enjoyed the three-minute dating the most. While three minutes isn't enough time to really get to know a person, it's enough time to pique your interest and make you want to see the person again. If I ran out of conversation on the seven- or eight-minute date, I assumed that I would have nothing to say to those men on a real date. All in all, my speed-dating experience was good. I definitely met some people that I would like to remain in contact with and had fun at all of the events that I attended even though I didn't meet anyone that I want to date.

HE SAYS

I think these events are a great idea. They're an easy way to meet single women without the pressure of getting shot down (at least not face-to-face). I didn't meet the woman of my dreams, but I did make a couple of friends. I enjoyed the three-minute dating the most. This is mainly because there are more dates, which allows for a greater opportunity to meet someone. However, if I were to start a dating service, I think four or five minutes would be ideal—slightly longer than three minutes to get to know someone a bit more, but not as uncomfortable as seven or eight minutes can be. iB

laughing

LOCAL COMEDIANS ADD punch TO DESIGNER lines

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SAM WALTERS

Performs at the Comedy Studio every Sunday.

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Crawford two-button su
$795. Both at Aquascutu

stock

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB PERACHIO

"DONALD RUMSFELD LOOKS LIKE HE WOULD BE FUN TO HANG OUT WITH FOR ABOUT THE FIRST FOUR BEERS OF THE NIGHT. AT BEER FIVE, HE'D BE LIKE, 'YOU GUYS WANNA SEE A BODY?'"

TIM MCINTIRE

Performs at the Comedy Studio every Thursday night

Crawford pinstripe suit, $895 at Aquascutum. Lime green cotton dress shirt, $155 at Hugo Boss.

Blake formal shirt, $95 at Aquascutum. Three-button celadon suit with beige pinstripes, $895 at Hugo Boss

"I RECENTLY GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH A GUY OVER A PARKING SPACE. HE HAD A POINT— IT WAS HIS DRIVEWAY."

LARRY MURPHY

Performs at the Comedy Studio every Friday and appears August 19th at the Regattabar in the Charles Hotel.

Two-button gray suit with beige pinstripes, $795; textured sportshirt, $125. Both at Hugo Boss

"PLEASE EXCUSE MY APPEARANCE, BUT THIS IS WHAT I LOOK LIKE."

TONY V.

This summer Tony V. hosts a series for Boston Harbor Cruises called "Tony V. Lost at Sea."

"MY BOSS THOUGHT I WAS PREGNANT EVEN THOUGH I SWORE I WASN'T. I FELT REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE SPECIAL TREATMENT AROUND THE OFFICE... ESPECIALLY AT THE BABY SHOWER."

KELLY MACFARLAND

See MacFarland's Web site, www.kellymacfarland.com, for upcoming performances.

Diamond and white gold necklace, $11,500 at Shreve, Crump & Low

Fairhaven navy blazer, $395; white cotton sportshirt, $100; Nicholas cream trousers, $115. All at Aquascutum.

"I'VE DISCOVERED THAT IF I PUT RAISINS IN THE MICROWAVE, THEY TURN BACK INTO GRAPES. SOME PEOPLE SAY I'M PLAYING GOD. I SAY, 'WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY.'"

DJ HAZARD

Hazard performs on July 27th at the Atlantic Connection on Martha's Vineyard and on August 1st and 2nd at the Comedy Studio.

"IN HIGH SCHOOL I WAS VOTED CLASS CLOWN, BUT I WASN'T THE NORMAL KIND OF CLASS CLOWN. I NEVER OWNED A WHOOPIE CUSHION. I WAS TOO POLITE. INSTEAD, I USED TO JUST RAISE MY HAND AND SAY THINGS TO MY TEACHER LIKE, 'I THINK WE'VE ALL HEARD ENOUGH OF YOUR CRAP, HONKY TONK!'"

VAL KAPPA

Kappa performs at the Comedy Escape in North Andover on September 5th and 6th.

Hair:
Mitch Derosa for Mitchell John Salon

Makeup:
Paige Dalton for Sephora

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Hugo Boss
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617-266-7492

Shreve, Crump & Low
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617-267-9100

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617-426-2033

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you've told recently?

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PARTICIA & ANDREA

I was late for work and called my boss to tell him my washing machine flooded the apartment and needed to wait to get it fixed.

SEAN

I told my buddy that I was too sick to go out with him. Later that night he busted me out for dinner with his sister.

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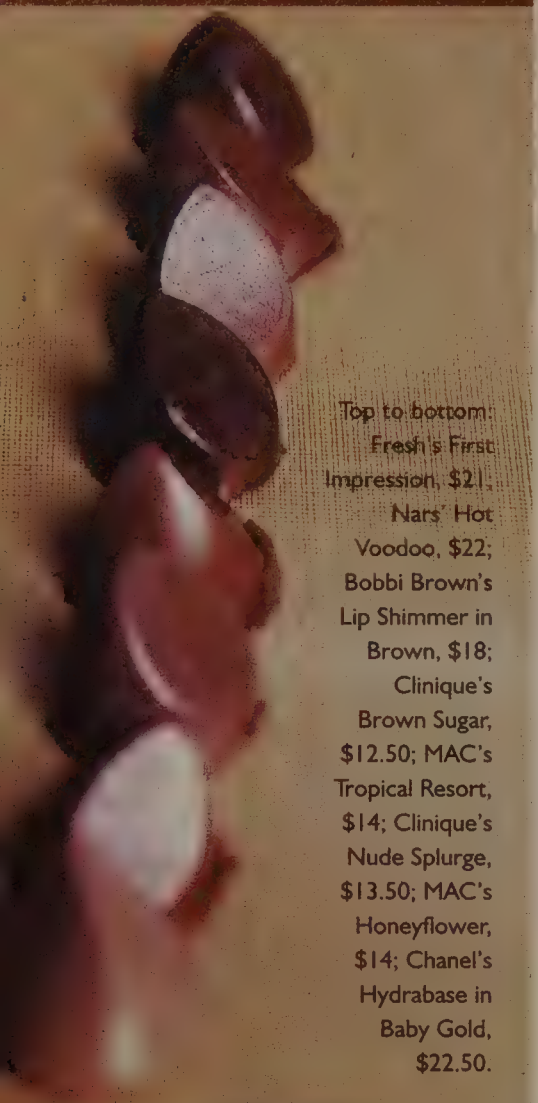

Top to bottom: Fresh's First Impression, $21; Nars' Hot Voodoo, $22; Bobbi Brown's Lip Shimmer in Brown, $18; Clinique's Brown Sugar, $12.50; MAC's Tropical Resort, $14; Clinique's Nude Splurge, $13.50; MAC's Honeyflower, $14; Chanel's Hydrabase in Baby Gold, $22.50.

Top to bottom: Chanel's Infrarouge in Goddess Glacé, $22.50; Clinique's Dreamy Pink, $13.50; MAC's Fresco, $14; Chanel's Infrarouge in Bluff, $22.50; Clinique's Pink Glamour, $13.50; Nars' Roman Holiday, $22; Nars' Schiap, $22; Bobbi Brown's Pale Pink, $18.

summer BEAUTY

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Lipstick, bronzer and the right fragrance are all you need for a beauty-filled season.

BRONZERS

Getting that healthy, natural glow has never been easier.

Clockwise, from upper right: Light enough for all skin tones, Chanel's Silky Bronzing Powder, $45, is perfect all over your face for a golden pick-me-up, adding just enough sparkle. Tony & Tina's Cosmetic in Bronze, $24, adds electric gold shine to cheeks and eyelids. Nars' Casino, $26, works well for dramatic cheekbones and also doubles as an eyeshadow. You'll keep it for year-round use. By layering Clinique's Touch of Bronze, $18.50, you get extra-rich color—a must-have.

FRAGRANCES

Keep it light and simple with these five picks.

Clockwise, from lower right: For a warm, floral scent, try Clinique's Happy Heart, $48.50, or Calvin Klein's Eternity Purple Orchid, $40, which blends the heady scent of orchids with sweet plums. Also perfect for summer are two lighter versions of signature scents—Calvin Klein's Sheer Obsession (center), $50, and Chanel's subtle but intoxicating Coco Mademoiselle Eau de Toilette, $50. Another option is BCBGirls Nature, $40, which delivers a citrus-fresh, floral aroma.

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MOPSY

SERENDIPITOUS SHOPPING: OUR UNFETTERED CORRESPONDENT SEEKS OUT THE SALUBRIOUS AND THE CEREBRAL.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

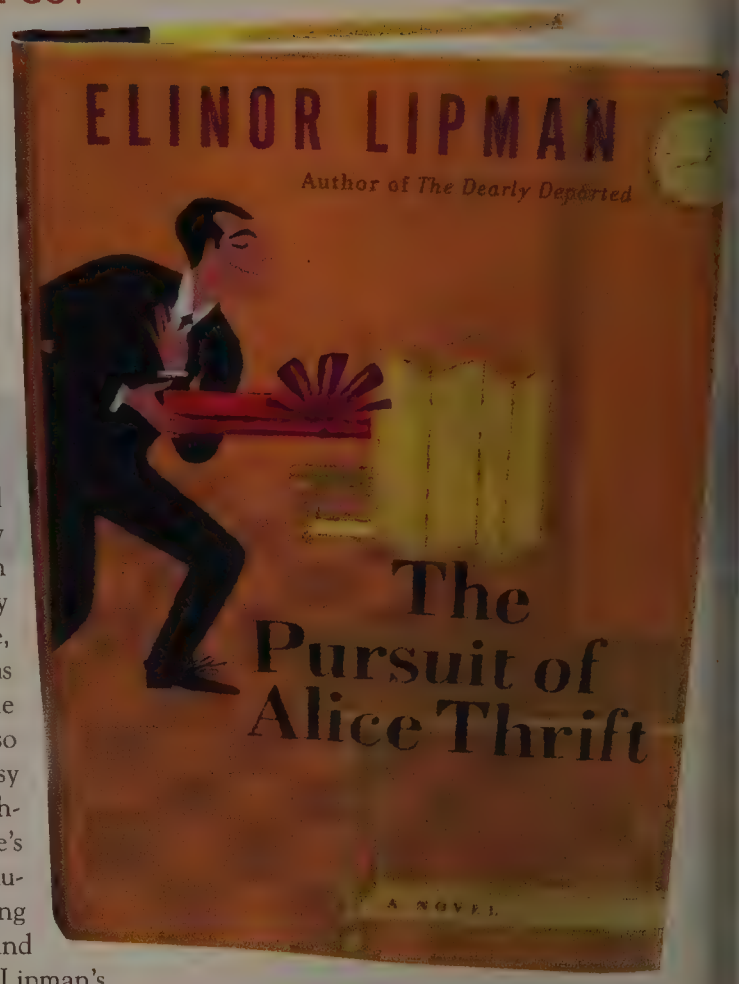
PUT THIS VENUE ON YOUR MENU

The Cambridge Center For Adult Education has a space to rent for parties and events. Call Steve Kilgore at 617-547-6789, ext. 207. $500.

As Harvard Square evolves over time, adding new shops to old flavorful ones and sometimes sadly shedding great businesses, one institution remains stalwartly eternal: that 1727 yellow house at 42 Brattle Street, home of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. Next to the also-classic Brattle Theatre and the Casablanca restaurant, this is truly the heart of the Square. The building, with its characteristic classy quietness, is available to rent for a party; so is its up-the-street brother, the Blacksmith House. Soothingly homelike, and of course educational (about 900 people per term take courses of all kinds here), the CCAE includes a room of about 1,200 square feet. By day it's a dance studio with a mirror at one end; by night it's a pleasing party-ready space. It's intimate yet big enough for dancing, drinking, milling around, or, if you're in the mood, getting married. With pretty rooms all around, it's much cozier than any impersonal flourescent-lit "function room." Here, you can imagine you're partying down among the patriots who occupied the place during the Revolutionary War, throwing out the Tory William Brattle. George Washington also had his military headquarters right down the street.

THE DOC AND THE FUDGE GUY

Elinor Lipman's newest funny book, *The Pursuit of Alice Thrift*, is about a socially awkward woman surgeon and the men in her life.

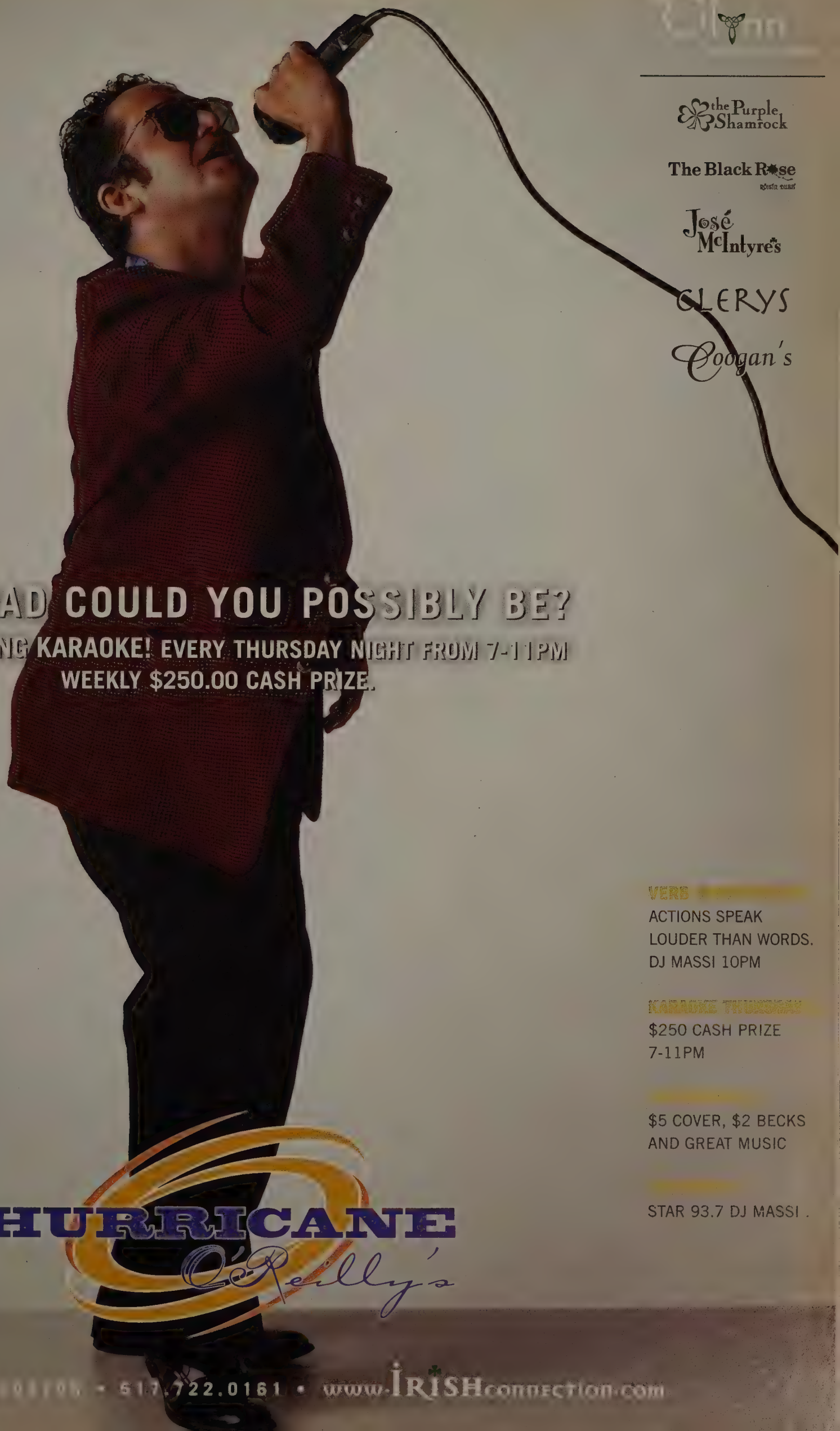


Here's a recipe for romance: take an overly earnest female doctor, a self-proclaimed social misfit, and add a nose-job-seeking guy named Ray. The fact that he's a fudge salesman perfectly encapsulates his foolishly comic self. Dr. Alice Thrift, a struggling surgery intern, with a name that suggests restraint and rectitude, is highlighted as his opposite. Starry-eyed and always deferring to her as "Doc," Ray makes a concerted play for this paragon of introversion, who is lovable precisely because she thinks that she's not. Alice, fated to attract complementary pals, has Leo, a wonderful, sensitive, voluble male nurse, as her best friend. She also develops Sylvie, a bold, almost brassy doctor, as another confidant. The laugh-out-loud tale of Ray's search for Alice's wary heart and hand is surprisingly plausible, not just a campy sketch. Along with her signature snappy dialogue and lavish delivery of delicious details, Lipman's other gift is her ability to develop more serious themes. How do people of different "stations" balance their very dissimilar strengths (nerdy doc; chatty salesman) to forge a strong relationship? And what are the deeper marvels of friendship (Leo and Sylvie) that can sometimes supersede love and romance?

WICKER GOOD FURNITURE

The Wicker Lady, at 925 Webster Street in Needham, sells wicker furniture in several colors, including white, honey and blue. It has fancy indoor mahogany pieces and offers interior design services too. Call 781-449-1172.

Something about wicker just cries out Porch! Summer! Iced Tea! And whereas those sunshine-and-leisure vibes are wicker's famous earmarks, you can also move that spirit indoors for year-round easiness-of-chair. The Wicker Lady shows its wares in appealing little groupings that display wicker's versatility. In its classic white form, you can settle down into a lounge chair with a flat back and nice flat armrests for reading, or rock and roll in a rocker, swishing your lemonade. One of the coziest looks is the roundish, petite bistro chair, extra-beautiful in blue. The many cheery fabrics here bring floweriness, or gingham, or blue stripes to the innate optimism of the wicker. In sofa or loveseat form, these pieces range from poolside-informal to an almost British Empire formality, especially those in brown or honey. The mottled-glass coffee table has that party-by-the-pool feeling, but a larger version with a round glass top can be your kitchen or dining room table, pouring a bit of June into February. For absolutely no maintenance, some pieces are made of vinyl with aluminum frames. Upstairs you'll find complementary indoor glamour, in sleek reproductions of 18th-century mahogany tables, chairs and chests.



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IN THIS SECTION: Review: Peking Tom's Dish: Bricco's on the rise
Tasty Tidbit: A Berry Fest at Bambara

REVIEW

ASIA (NOT SO) MINOR

Peking Tom's does egg foo yung one better, offering gourmet Pan-Asian cuisine in an upscale setting

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Peking Tom's will change the way you think about Chinese restaurants. Gone are the Formica tables, the egg foo yung and chow mein, the paper napkins and the fortune cookies. Enter high design, sleek, substantial tableware and a plenitude of attentive servers attired in blue and black. This is not Peking, but Shanghai, the face of the 21st century, the Asian century.

Owner Michael Conlon of 21st Amendment, the Paramount and the Blarney Stone, and chef Marc Orfaly of Pigalle in the Theater District, have transformed an old Irish watering hole on Kingston Street near Downtown Crossing into an upscale Pan-Asian eatery. The extravagance and style of its design and decor are equaled by the inventive, well-executed creations of its kitchen. The menu is divided into seven categories: raw bar, small plates, dim sum, wok, large plates, vegetables/side and dessert. The raw bar offers a range of seafood, beginning with oysters on the half shell and clams ceviche and concluding with a sushi platter. I tried the tuna rolls ($15) and found them exquisite but, alas, exquisitely expensive as well. Five tiny cylinders of excellent raw tuna encased in crisp wrappers, these minuscule treats were extraordinarily good, but at $3 each, I expected no less.

Peking Tom's small plates were more reasonably priced. Five small skewers of beef teriyaki ($5) brought tender morsels of beef with a rich peanut sauce for dipping. Vietnamese summer rolls ($4.50) yielded four delicate bundles of vegetables including carrots, tomatoes and sprightly mint leaves wrapped in gossamer-thin rice noodles, accompanied by a dipping sauce of mild vinegar and scallions. Shrimp two ways ($7) consisted of four medium-sized, perfectly textured shrimp with a complex aioli sauce, paired with another four shrimp with an orange, sweet and sour sauce. Finally among the small plates was the shrimp-pork pad Thai, a combination of al dente, linguine-like noodles with shards of pork and small shrimp in a mild sesame sauce. Far different from conventional pad Thai, the noodles were not sticky, and the sauce not cloying but subtly sweet.

Dim sum included five hefty shrimp shumai ($6), dumplings filled with chopped shrimp, scallions, and fresh ginger wrapped in soft wheat pasta, served in a covered bamboo steamer. The wok dishes, as the name implies, were stir-fries, and the pork and pineapple fried rice ($12) turned out to be my least favorite choice, with thin, lackluster strips of pork and traces of chopped pineapple. On the other hand, the rib-eye beef chow foon ($16) resembled chow foon from more conventional Chinese restaurants, but the beef was more succulent, and the noodles even broader, thicker and more velvety and luscious than is usually the case. An accompaniment of sautéed greens, redolent of garlic, made this the most hardy dish we tried.

The best of the large plates was the crispy duck with plum sauce and mu shu pancakes ($17). The Peking in the title of the restaurant could well come from this preparation, in essence Peking duck, with crispy, pleasantly salty skin, moist tender flesh, and an accompaniment of pancakes, hoisin sauce, scallions and cucumbers. Vegetable dishes included Szechuan green beans with toasted almonds ($4), a generous portion of thick, spicy, al dente green beans that provided an herbaceous counterpoint to the meaty short ribs and rich duck. Least impressive among the large plates was the crackling pig ($18), which the menu and our waitress suggested would feature crackling, crispy skin. Instead, what arrived were soft soggy shards of pork compressed into a cylinder and steamed to a tender and flavorful, but unfortunately texture-less, mass. Finally, steamed pea pod leaves ($4) turned out to be a marvelous warm salad of resilient leaves dressed in a mild sesame sauce.

As the end of our meal approached, my youngest son asked whether the dessert was likely to be the perfunctory small plate of orange sections or pineapple chunks followed by fortune cookies. We were blown away when our waitress distributed the dessert menu, which listed an impressive assortment of entremets, each priced at $6, a bargain compared with the price of dessert in most upscale Boston restaurants. Panna cotta with fresh fruit consisted of three large slices of creamy custard. While the fruit garnish resembled ordinary fruit cocktail, the resulting combination turned out to be quite pleasant, the sweetness of the fruit complementing the more restrained mellifluousness of the pudding. Ginger-lemongrass crème brûlee combined the subtle yet distinctive flavors of ginger and lemongrass in an interesting, mildly citric and spicy herb that seasons so many Vietnamese dishes. Our only complaint was that it was too small. Finally, a chocolate and almond Florentine with cherry sauce combined crunchy nuts and dark, rich chocolate in a confection designed to appeal to the "if it's not chocolate, it's not dessert" crowd.

Peking Tom's is a nightspot, a watering hole as much as a restaurant, and it is divided into two parts. The Dragon Room, so named for a large dragon stenciled on the wall, includes an elegant, long bar that seats 20 patrons on black wooden stools and a lounge area with upholstered chairs and a large window looking out onto Kingston Street. Farther inside the restaurant is the Buddha Room, named for the white Buddha statue reclining over a smaller bar that seats 10. Banquettes with a plethora of tufted pillows line the periphery of the Buddha Room

Peking Tom's pu pu platter includes orange-tamarind pork spareribs, crab Rangoon, fancy chicken wings, pork spring rolls and beef teriyaki skewers.

PEKING TOM'S

25 Kingston St., Boston
(617-482-6282)

HOURS Mon.-Sat., 11:30 am-2:30 pm, and 5:30-11 pm; Sun., 5:30-11 pm.-
Bar menu: daily, 5:30 pm-1 am

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING on-street

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

Life imitates art as chef Marc Orfaly reclines across the bar.

nd square silk screen panels and nirrors grace the dark red walls. ovely lotus blossom light fixures—sconces, chandeliers, and reestanding floor lamps—proide illumination. My only comlaint about the furnishings temmed from the tables, which ad large, unwieldy trestle bases hat made it difficult to squeeze nto the banquettes and store ne's knees when two or three ables were pushed together for a rge party.

Peking Tom's has a full bar and decent wine list, but since beer our beverage of choice with sian food, we were delighted to e that it offers six beers on tap. is unusual to encounter any raft beer in a fine restaurant, but erhaps this former home of a Hiernian haunt was leased with a estrictive covenant that manated this departure from custom. arge drafts—if not a pint, then arn close—were priced at $4.50, ncluding Pilsner Urquel, one of ne world's most distinguished rews. The reasonable tariff for eking Tom's beer reflects its genrally restrained approach to pricng. While more expensive than ost Asian restaurants, in view of s upscale ambience and menu, ot to mention its downtown loation, it delivers genuine value. will doubtless provide serious mpetition to the growing numer of substantial restaurants in nd around Downtown Crossing nd the Ladder District. IB

A new twist on an old favorite: a tuna sashimi martini

Groups share dishes in the Dragon Room.

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Barbecue at Bomboa
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. July 13, 4-7 pm. $35. Chef **Felino Samson** prepares an all-you-can-eat Latin barbecue on the patio.

Bastille Day at Sel de la Terre
Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-720-1300). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. July 14, 5-10 pm. $35. Chef **Geoff Gardner** offers a three-course French meal with live music and dancing.

Bastille Day Brunch
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-956-8751). MBTA: Blue Line to State. July 13. $45. This French-themed brunch offers classic French dishes and live entertainment.

Bastille Day Celebration
Maison Robert, 45 School St., Boston (617-227-3370). MBTA: Green Line to Park. July 12, 7 pm. $49. Dance under the stars on the outdoor terrace as you enjoy a three-course wine dinner.

Bastille Day in Harvard Square
Sandrine's, 8 Holyoke St., Cambridge (617-497-5300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 14, 5-10 pm. Enjoy an authentic French dinner under the stars on Holyoke Street (which will be closed to traffic) and listen to live music.

Beer Tour
Meet at Watch City Brewing Co., 256 Moody St., Waltham. www.beeradvocate.com. *July 12, 9:30 am. $85.* BeerAdvocate.com sponsors this day-long bus tour of breweries, brewpubs and bars in Western Massachusetts, including Paper City Brewery Co., Amherst Brewing Co., Berkshire Brewing Co., Maplewood Farms Brewery & Restaurant and the Moan and Dove.

Berry Fest
Bambara, 25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-4444). MBTA: Green Line to Science Museum. July 21-Aug. 3. $35. Chef **Tom Berry** celebrates the best of local summer berries by offering a berry-focused appetizer, entrée and dessert. Twenty percent of the proceeds will benefit Cambridge's East End House, a multi-service community center and social service agency.

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494) July 19, 9 am-12 pm. $5. Is there anything better than pancakes made with just-picked blueberries and served with real maple syrup? We think not.

Cooking for a Cause
Bloomingdale's, 175 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-630-6034). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. July 19, 12-3 pm. $20 (for cookbook). Five Boston chefs, including **Ed Doyle** of Haven, **Michael Ehlenfeldt** of Hamersley's Bistro and **Don Yovicsin** of Jake's Dixie Roadhouse, demonstrate recipes from *Commonwealth Cooks*, a new cookbook published by the anti-hunger group Share Our Strength that features recipes from Massachusetts chefs.

It's All in the Basket
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. July 12, 11 am-2:30 pm. $125. Chef de cuisine **Brian Reimer** and sommelier **Scott Fraley** help you pack the perfect picnic basket.

La Fiesta de San Fermin
Gallia, 1525 Washington St., Boston (617-247-4455). July 9, 5:30-10 pm. Chef **David Silva** prepares food from the Basque region of Spain to celebrate the country's biggest festival.

Lobster Special
Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern, 77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). Daily 4-10 pm. $12. Mr. Dooley's offers a 1 1/4-pound lobster special.

Margaritas and Massages
Cactus Club, 939 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-0200). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. July 9, 6-8 pm. Donations encouraged. Representatives from Giuliano Day Spa will be on hand to provide five-minute massages, up-do hairstyles, makeup consultations and manicures. The Cactus Club will provide margaritas at this benefit for the Silent Spring Institute, a non-profit organization that researches the links between environmental factors and women's health problems.

Taste of the Coast
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road (508-636-3423). July 19, 5-7:30 pm. This event starts in the vineyard and proceeds to the Long Acre House for a pairing of wine and seafood by Hemenway's Seafood Grill & Oyster Bar.

Tuesday Night Wine Tastings
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tuesdays, 6 and 8 pm. $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey Fallon** discusses wine, and chef **Ian Just** prepares hors d'ouevres. •July 15: Affordable Burgundy •July 22: Australian whites.

Tuesday Tastings
Zephyr on the Charles, Hyatt Hotel, Memorial Drive, Cambridge (781-444-7771). July 22, 6-9 pm. $19, $29 at the door. Take a seat on the outdoor garden terrace and enjoy a buffet of grilled summer specialties plus a wine tasting.

Wine Barbecue
Rialto, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (617-661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 14, 6 pm. $125. Chef **Jody Adams** and wine director **Patrick Dubsky** offer an evening of food and wine in the Charles Hotel courtyard.

Chef Tom Berry of Bambara hosts a Berry Fest July 21-Aug. 3.

DISH

Happy and Not-so-Happy Returns!

Bravo, Bricco!...Can't-Cope Café... Far from "Haven"?

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Seeing a restaurateur take a second—or third—shot at running a restaurant reminds me of the disclaimer tagged onto on all those mutual funds ads: "Past performance is no indicator of future profitability." You may have heard that the dynamic Italian duo of **Rita D'Angelo** and **Marisa Iocco**, who elicited rave reviews and a fiercely loyal following at **Galleria Italiana**, are back in town after an extended sojourn in Italy. You may know that they are running the front and back of the house at **Bricco** in the North End. What you truly need to know is that the diminutive Marisa, in her dramatic black chef's coat, is turning out an astonishing range of utterly inspired, wonderfully imaginative, and transcendently delicious dishes. And if you think I'm overstating the case, you haven't tried the crispy jumbo softshell crab in a golden tempura-like batter golden with saffron, so sweetly perfect that one bite brought back memories I didn't even know I had. Then there's the voluptuous housemade ravioli with foie gras, parmesan and artichokes, which will make you giddy without a single glass of prosecco. Not to mention the classic, beloved bread pudding that you can enjoy with a leisurely espresso after your meal, instead of seeking dessert elsewhere. And there is free valet parking. Welcome back, ladies!

Marisa Iocco (left) and Rita D'Angelo have taken over the kitchen at Bricco with great success.

On the other hand, there's the **Copacafé** in Lexington. **George Howell**, who founded the **Coffee Connection** in Cambridge (where the menu exhorted diners to ask their "waitron" about dessert) teamed up with **Henry Patterson**, the brains behind the former Cambridge-based **Bel Canto** chain that helped popularize funky pizza; pastry chef **Vicki Lee Boyajian**; and **John Mascia**, who'd been involved with a series of local eateries in varied managerial roles. Ambitiously positioned as the *ne plus ultra* of coffeehouses, a pastry café in the grand European manner that would serve a menu of stylish small plates, the Copacafé opened to great fanfare several months ago. From the start, though, its reach has exceeded its grasp, as the leadership's team spirit was apparently less than copacetic. Patterson was the first to go. By the time you read this, Mascia will be gone. And so will Boyajian, who characterized her imminent departure as a "mutual" decision.

"I got them started, and I'm proud of the quality," she says. "I hope to launch a new venture."

Under what name, now that she has sold the rights to her eponymous Needham-based chain of bakeries? The Pastry Chef Formerly Known as Vicki Lee Boyajian?

"That's a bummer," she laughs, but she's confident about her future. And she's not crying over spilled mocha for the Copacafe's future, either. "Hopefully, they'll bring in a great manager," she says. We'll see how the cookie crumbles.

SECOND COURSE

Ed Doyle update: **Aura**'s former chef is still cagey about details of his upcoming restaurant, but promises in an e-mail that "the location and the opportunity will be well worth the wait." One thing we do know: the new venture will be called Haven. Nice name in these insecure times...**Le Meridien** has promoted **Daniel Kenney** to the position of executive chef. Formerly executive sous chef, Kenney fills the shoes of former executive chef **Mark Sapienza**, who left Le Meridien to cook at the **Bay Tower**...At the **Independent** in Somerville, chef **Mark Usewicz** has hired new sous chef **Paul Oberhauser**. iB

Serving Dish

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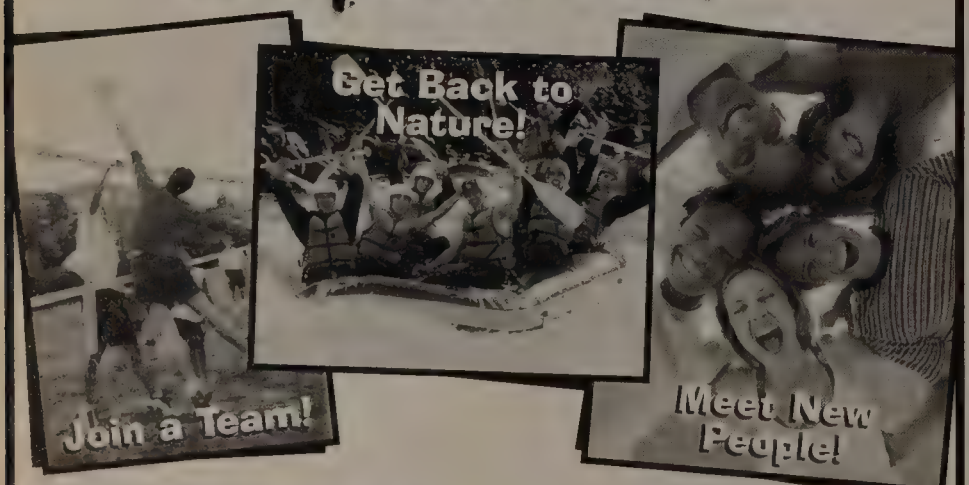

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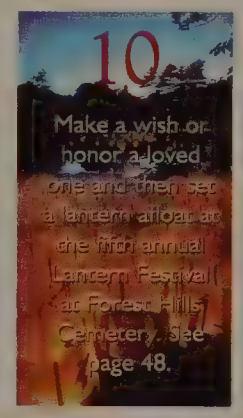
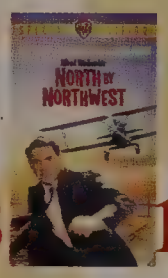
MPROPER PICKS

july 9 - 22

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			9 Sip a frozen margarita while massage therapists from Giuliano Day Spa knead your neck and shoulders at the Cactus Club. See page 42.	10 Make a wish or honor a loved one and then set a lantern afloat at the fifth annual Lantern Festival at Forest Hills Cemetery. See page 48.	11 The Boston Harbor Hotel's free Movies by Moonlight series continues at dusk with Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*. See page 56.	12
13	14 Hillary Clinton signs copies of her autobiography at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge. See page 78.	15	16	17	18	19
20 Indie rockers the White Stripes and Whirlwind Heat come to the FleetBoston Pavilion. See page 62.	21	22				





THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

Performing Arts: Theater Under the Stars

Now that the weather's finally shaped up, it seems that people will leap at any chance to be outdoors, judging from the two-hour wait for patio seating at local restaurants and the crowds of people swarming the banks of the Charles River every evening. For a little culture with your fresh air, why not add theater under the stars to your summer to do list? The single biggest production is put on by the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, and this year's show, *Macbeth*, plays on the Boston Common July 18-Aug. 10. There's no better place to watch Shakespeare's classic tale of smoldering sexuality and unspeakable treachery. Then there's *Twelfth Night* (July 10-Sept. 14) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (through Aug. 31)—both playing at the Publick Theatre—and TheatreZone's *Lorca in the Park: Blood Wedding*, playing July 11-19 at Chelsea's Mary O'Malley Park. And finally, there's *The Winter's Tale*, performed by the Industrial Theatre on the steps of Memorial Church in Harvard Square July 18. Get ye out of doors! *See Performing Arts on page 50 for more information.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs and Sports

SAT./JULY 19

Comedy: Hamburger Helper

Neil Hamburger is the comedian to see if you can't stand stand-up comedians. He's the antidote to typical one-liners like "Take my wife—please!" and "I just flew in from Chicago, and boy are my arms tired!" Instead, Hamburger rambles through interminable monologues that are funny because they're so pointless. Answer-less riddles and jokes with no punch lines (and sometimes no endings at all) are his bread and butter, and his sad-sack delivery accentuates the awkwardness of telling truly bad jokes. But you'll still laugh, despite yourself. Also performing: blues-rock band Canned Hamm. *T.T. the Bear's Place, 10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-2327). 7:15 pm, $8.*

NOW SHOWING

Movies: Alphabetize Your Entertainment

This month, the Harvard Film Archive's summer program, Cinema A–Z, pays homage to art-house classics with an alphabetized roster of cinematic treasures. The series of double-feature screenings takes place throughout the month with themes like E is for Exploitation (*Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* and *Possession*) and W is for Women's Pictures (George Cukor's *The Women* and Pedro Almodóvar's *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*). Fans of the new zombie-dominated release *28 Days Later* should check out the HFA's series finale, Z is for Zombies night, which resurrects the classics *Night of the Living Dead* and *I Walked with a Zombie*. We're especially excited to see O Is for Oracles July 22. At 7 pm the 1940 film *The Thief of Baghdad* (above) screens, followed at 9 pm by the 1977 Australian thriller *The Last Wave*, directed by Peter Weir. One $7 ticket gets you in to both features. *24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-4700).*

SAT./JULY 12

Tastings: Celebrate American Beer Month

If you've already taken tours of the Sam Adams and Harpoon breweries a dozen times, and you feel like you've "done" all the brew pubs in Boston, maybe it's time to expand your suds-soaked horizons. BeerAdvocate.com, "a beer site dedicated to people who love beer, built by people who love beer," is sponsoring an all-day bus trip to breweries, brew pubs and bars in Western Massachusetts July 12. The tour starts at Watch City Brewing Co. in Waltham at 9:30 am and then proceeds to Paper City Brewery Co. in Holyoke for a brewery tour (with samples!) and Amherst Brewing Co. in Amherst for lunch and a tour. In the afternoon, the bus makes stops at Berkshire Brewing Co. in South Deerfield, and Maplewood Farms Brewery & Restaurant and the Moan and Dove bar, both in Amherst, and then heads back to Watch City for dinner at 8:30 pm. After this 12-hour beer bash, you may want to take the advice of the two friendly guys who founded BeerAdvocate.com, Jason and Todd Alström, and pass out…er, spend the night…in Waltham. The founders will suggest places to stay. *Meet at Watch City Brewing Co., 256 Moody St., Waltham.* www.beeradvocate.com. *$85.*

FRI./JULY 18 AND SAT./JULY 19

Art: They Got the Beat

For the past 17 years, Davis Square has played host to ArtBeat, a showcase of Somerville's abundant cultural offerings. This year, the artsy festival take up two full days with heaps of arts-related activities. There's a film festival at Seven Hills Park and the Somerville Theater, along with more live bands than you could see in a week at the clubs: Brazilian music by Bande Ponte; Haitian music by Chita-sou-do'm; pop by Apollo Sunshine and Kay Hanley; and many more. Dance events include Tibetan acts and a show by the Snappy Dance Theater. For theater buffs, there are shows at Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (including performances by Luna Puppet Theatre and Rough & Tumble Theatre) and the *Class Act* political satire at Elm Street Plaza. There are also performances by children's theater groups, performance art and art installations. If you're still standing after all of that, you can whoop it up at the Pajama Soul Party July 19, replete with go-go dancers ($5, or $3 if you wear pajamas.) It's hosted by DJ Miss Firecracker and takes place at the Davis Square VFW. *371 Summer Street, 9 pm to 1 am, 21+.* www.somerville artscouncil.org. *(617-625-6600).*

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Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

HurryDate Event
Downtown Lounge, 138 Portland St., Boston (212-871-6707) www.hurrydate.com. *7 pm. $35.* Go on 25 three-minute dates and see if you meet your match.

Summer Swing
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000) www.bhh.com. *6 pm. Free.* This weekly summer outdoor swing-dance series features demonstrations, dance instruction and, on this opening night, big-band music. The next week, July 16, the theme is "Top Hat and Black Tails: A Night of Romance with Fred and Ginger."

THURSDAY, JULY 10

J Connection Summer Fiesta
Sophia's, 1270 Boylston St., Boston (781-444-7771) www.tjcboston.com. *7:30 pm, merengue lesson at 8:30 pm. $10 in advance, $15 at the door.* This social event for Jewish professionals in their 20s and 30s includes hors d'oeuvres, dance lessons and dancing on the roof deck.

ReadBoston Celebrity Author Series
Devlin's, 332 Washington St., Brighton (617-918-5290). 5:30-7:30 pm. $25. Boston Globe sportswriter Dan Shaughnessy reads from his work to benefit the ReadBoston literacy program.

Sonic Cool Reading
The Paradise Lounge, 969 Comm. Ave., Boston www.thedise.com. *7 pm. Free. 21+.* This night of art and music features author Joe Harrington reading from his book *Sonic Cool*, a screening of the rockumentary *Radiation* and photographs by John Fahnley and others.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

Christopher Columbus Park Reopening
Christopher Columbus Park, Atlantic Ave., Boston (617-635-4505). 6 pm. Mayor Tom Menino unveils the newly renovated Christopher Columbus Park in the North End. The ceremony is followed by a concert by the US Air Force Horizon Band.

Swing 'n' Salsa Singles Dance
First Unitarian Church, 1326 Washington St., West Newton (508-620-7138). 8 pm. $10. Chic casual attire. Learn a few twists and turns and then put your newfound moves into action with swing and salsa dancing from 9 pm to midnight.

Trivia Contest Fund-Raiser
St. Margaret's Parish Church social hall, 431 Lincoln Ave., Saugus (781-231-5204). www.tcsaugus.home.attbi.com. *7 pm. $30. Reserve tickets in advance.* This trivia contest begins with a gourmet dinner; then teams of four face off. The evening includes door prizes, raffles and musical entertainment. Proceeds benefit the Theatre Company of Saugus' production of Jean-Claude van Itallie's play *Interview*.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

New England Microcar Classic
Larz Anderson Museum of Transportation, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.bubbledrome.com. *$15 per car (includes two museum admissions), $5 per spectator.* Coax a microcar owner into taking you for a spin in a Messerschmitt, a King Midget or a Zundapp at this annual celebration of tiny vehicles. Between 60 and 100 of these diminutive machines from the '50s and '60s are expected to buzz into Brookline for the show.

Party with the B-52s
Campanelli Stadium, Brockton (617-445-7777). www.servings.org. *6 pm. $100.* B-52s singer Fred Schneider hosts a VIP preconcert reception and postconcert party at this benefit for Community Servings.

Robin Hood Faire
Hammond Castle, 80 Hesprus Ave., Gloucester (781-853-0583). www.hammondcastle.org. *July 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20, 10 am-5 pm. $10.* Meet Robin Hood and his merry men, watch fighting knights and generally get medieval at a real castle. Bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Cape Ann Food Bank.

Salem Marine Festival
Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Derby Street, Salem (978-741-3252). www.salem.org. *Sat., 9 am-9 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* Salem celebrates its maritime heritage with tours of the tall ship *Friendship* and the Derby House (home of America's first millionaire), live music, and demonstrations of boat-building, shoe-making and other crafts.

Summer Sizzler Charity Cruise
Boston Harbor Cruises, Long Wharf, Boston (877-733-9425). www.brfc.org. *9:30 pm-1 am. $40 in advance, $50 at the dock.* The Boston Rugby Club hosts a night of contests, cocktails and dancing. Open bar. A portion of proceeds benefits the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Bastille Day Harbor Cruise
Boston Harbor Cruises, Long Wharf, Boston (617-912-0400) www.frenchlib.org. *6-9 pm. $65.* For the first time in 28 years, the French Library and Cultural Center holds its annual Bastille Day bash on the water. The sunset harbor cruise includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and Bastille Day cake. Cabaret singer Annie Royer performs with her group, Les Garçons Musettes.

Parents and Children's Walk for Peace
Start and finish at Groom Street, Dorchester (617-825-1917). www.touchablestories.org. This peace walk stops midway to watch speakers at Dudley Town Common before returning to Groom Street for food, refreshments and reflection.

MONDAY, JULY 14

Celebrity Golf Classic
Spring Valley Country Club, Sharon (781-344-4413). $500 per player. Join Ray Bourque, Mayor Menino and other celebrities for a day on the links to raise money for the Grow Clinic for Children at Boston Medical Center.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Boys & Girls Club Harbor Cruise
Provincetown II, Commonwealth Pier, World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-268-4301). www.boston-ptown.com/special.html. *7-10 pm. $25 in advance, $30 the night of the cruise. $100 including VIP reception at the Seaport Bar and Grille. 21+.* This three-hour harbor cruise includes live music from Mark Morris and the Catunes on the lower deck and the Don Alessi Trio on the upper deck. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club's summer day-camp programs and after-school activities.

HurryDate Event
Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (212-871-6707). www.hurrydate.com. *7 pm. $35.* Go on 25 three-minute dates and see if you meet your match.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Lantern Festival
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *6-9 pm. $8 donation suggested for each lantern.* Light a lantern and float it in the pond at this annual festival, which includes performances by the Tsuji Daiko Japanese drummers, the Boston Community Choir and the Chu Ling Dance Academy.

Summer Blues Cruise
The James Doherty, Long Wharf, Boston (617-868-1652). www.transitionhouse.org. *6:30-10 pm. $25.* This harbor cruise, which features live music from Dark Blue, benefits the Transition House's anti–domestic violence programs.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

ALPFA Black-Tie Gala
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-274-4563). www.alpfa.org. *7 pm. $100 members, $175 non-members.* The Boston chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting presents "Connecting with Success: Paving the Way for Latino Leaders in Boston." David M. Walker, comptroller general of the United States, is the keynote speaker.

Artbeat
Elm Street, Holland Street and Seven Hills Park, Somerville (617-625-6600, ext. 2985) www.somervilleartscouncil.org. *12-5 pm, through July 19. $3 donation suggested.* Artists, dancers, musicians and other performers converge on Davis Square for this annual arts festival. Highlights include the Pajama Soul Dance Party July 19 at the Davis Square VFW, where DJ Miss Firecracker spins dance music for pajama-wearing partyers ($5, or $3 if you show up in your jammies).

Swim Across America Boston Harbor Swim
Rowes Wharf, Boston (508-660-1720). www.swimacrossamerica.org. *Minimum $1,500 fund-raising pledge.* Swimmers set out on a 22-mile relay-style swim to raise money for the David B. Perini Jr. Quality of Life Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

54th Massachusetts Regiment Commemoration
The African Meeting House, 46 Joy St., Boston (617-742-5415). 11 am. Free. The Massachusetts 54th regiment, the most famous black regiment in the Civil War, is celebrated through re-enactments and musical performances. A march to the Shaw Memorial at the State House follows the program.

Live at the Rat
Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849) www.regenttheatre.com. *8 pm. $17 in advance, $20 day of show.* Boston punk-rock legends of the '70s, including Willie "Loco" Alexander and the Boom Boom Band, Unnatural Axe and DMZ, play this concert to benefit the Boston Rock & Roll Museum.

Multicultural Arts Festival
Reggie Lewis Track Center, 1350 Tremont St., Boston (617-427-5200). 10:30 am-4 pm. Artists display their work and performers entertain the crowd at this arts and crafts festival. The first 100 visitors receive a gift bag.

Red Sox Wives' Food Drive
Fenway Park, Yawkey Way, Boston (617-427-5200) www.gbfb.org. *Sat., 5-7 pm; Sun., 12-2 pm, July 19 and 20.* The Red Sox wives collect nonperishable food and cash for the Greater Boston Food Bank.

World Beat Day—A Festival of Dance
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-589-0419). www.mos.org. *3-7 pm. Free with exhibit hall admission.* Celebrate rhythm, movement, and music from around the world at World Beat Day. International dance groups transform the exhibit halls with performances, activities, and workshops where visitors can watch traditional dance from different cultures and learn how to dance themselves.

MONDAY, JULY 21

Berry Fest 2003
Bambara Restaurant, 21 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-4444). Through Aug. 3. $35 prix fixe. Bambara chef Tom Berry creates berry-focused appetizers, entrées and desserts. Twenty percent of the cost of each item goes to benefit the East End House, a social services agency.

Fenway Community Health Center Dance Benefit
Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-667-7330). 6 pm, $30. Lineage Dance Co. presents *Ego Systems: An Exploration of the Human Psyche*, a performance of dance, music and poetry to benefit Fenway Community Health Center.

Microcars invade Brookline July 12.

Preview

Come Sail Away

Slip on your boat shoes and prepare to tack to and fro at the Boston Sailing Center's open house

The Boston Sailing Center explores the harbor July 19.

Sailing never looks easy. Even the people helming those little two-sail jobbies that infest the Charles each summer are usually leaning and trimming and ducking booms like they're auditioning for the America's Cup. Those who graduate to a bigger boat and the open sea have to learn about navigation, right-of-way, shoals, weather-watching, pirates....All of that could be off-putting to the novice who is interested in taking up sailing. Fortunately, the Boston Sailing Center, a sailing school based in a converted Louisiana riverboat docked at Lewis Wharf, annually offers an open house that gives novices a chance to get out on the water and satisfy some of their curiosity about nautical activities.

The sails are hoisted July 19 from 1-6 pm. Experienced skippers will helm boats ranging from 23 to 40 feet on trips around Boston Harbor. Sailing Center staff will be aboard to answer questions. So by the time you return, you should know your port from your starboard, your bilge from your bow and your head from your rudder. Even if you're a confirmed landlubber, it's a free day on the water. And refreshments will be served. Ahoy.

Boston Sailing Center open house, Lewis Wharf, Boston, 617-227-4198,* www.bostonsailingcenter.com. *July 19, 1-6 pm. Free.—Ezra Dyer

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

The Chekhov One-Acts
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through August 31. Tue.-Sun., 2 pm. $27-$38.* Shakespeare & Company of the Berkshires presents a quadruplet of Anton Chekhov one-acts, his popular comic sketches of the late 19th century, including *The Celebration, Swan Song, The Harmfulness of Tobacco* and *The Brute.*

The Devil's Disciple
Beatrice Herford's Vokes Theatre, Route 20, Wayland (508-358-4034). July 17-Aug. 2. Thu. and Sat., 8 pm; July 26 and Aug. 2, 2 pm. $13-$15. George Bernard Shaw's passionate comedy of morals is set during the American Revolution in a puritanical New Hampshire town. The play focuses on a saint and sinner who trade places to thwart the Redcoats.

Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat, 3 and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. July 17 - Aug. 9. $18-$25. Two prisoners incarcerated on Rikers Island—one a first-time offender and one a psychopathic serial killer turned born-again Christian—search for morality and grace within the prison gates in this play by Stephen Adly Guirgis.

King Lear
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *July 18-Aug. 30.* Shakespeare & Company presents this tragic tale of an ailing king who's betrayed by his two eldest daughters. Even his youngest daughter's devotion can't save him.

Lorca in the Park: Blood Wedding/Bodas de Sangre
Mary O'Malley Park, Commandant's Way, Chelsea Waterfront at Admiral's Hill, Chelsea (617-887-2336). www.theatrezone.org. *Wed.-Sat., 7:30 pm. July 11-19. Free.* Based on a true story of love, lust and betrayal, Federico Garcia Lorca's play focuses on a young bride in Andalusia who abandons her husband-to-be on their wedding day to escape with her childhood sweetheart. The production will be staged outside and will alternate between performances in English and Spanish.

Macbeth
Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, Boston (617-532-1212). www.commonwealthshakespeare.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Park. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. July 18-Aug. 10. Free.* The Commonwealth Shakespeare Company brings Shakespeare's classic tale of smoldering sexuality and unspeakable treachery to the outdoor theater on the Boston Common.

Federico Garcia Lorca's tale of lust and betrayal, *Blood Wedding*, is performed at Mary O'Malley Park in Chelsea July 11-19.

Oklahoma!
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. July 11-Aug. 17. $15-$21.* This show is set in Indian territory at the turn of the century, when cattlemen and farmers were fighting over fences and water rights. Add a few love triangles and you've got this musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

Twelfth Night
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Park, 1175 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-332-0546). www.publicktheatre.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 10-Sept. 14. Wed., Thu. and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $30.* Enjoy an evening outdoors on the banks of the Charles River as the Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy featuring a shipwreck, a case of mistaken identity, gender confusion and other complexities of love.

Vita and Virginia
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *July 12-August 31.* Eileen Atkin's play is an adaptation of the correspondence between Virginia Woolf and her lover, Vita Sackville-West. The two revolutionary artists draw a connection between unconventional love and creative inspiration through their letters.

The Winter's Tale
The Industrial Theatre, Memorial Church, Harvard University, Cambridge (617-495-9878). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. July 18, 6:30 pm. Free. Industrial Theatre presents an open-air performance of Shakespeare's comedy on the steps of Memorial Church.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Cats
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 pm and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Aug. 3. $19-$53.* Andrew Lloyd Webber's world of junkyard cats comes to the Boston area. Based on T.S. Eliot's *Book of Practical Cats*, this musical features such numbers as "Mr. Mistoffelees" and "Memory."

Fly-Bottle
Spring Lawn Theater, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). Through Aug. 24. $27-$42. David Egan's play examines the famed "poker incident" between renowned philosophers Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popper at the Moral Science Club in England in October 1946. The two are said to have engaged in a heated exchange that culminated in Wittgenstein gesturing with (some say brandishing) a poker that hung by the fireplace.

George Gershwin Alone
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Wed., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through July 26. $27-$45.* Hershey Felder's one-man musical is the biographical story of legendary composer George Gershwin. The play is based on interviews with the composer's family and friends, plus correspondence and manuscripts.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7 pm. Ongoing. $27. In this black comedy written and performed by Donato Colucci, the Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent assistant. He loses his mind during a performance, and only authentic supernatural powers and his dark past can save his show.

Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Through July 13. $30. This evening of song is based on Jacques Brel's lyrics and commentary, accompanied by his music. The performance features classics by the Belgian composer, including *Carousel, Marathon* and *If We Only Have Love.*

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Riverside Park, 1400 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (617-782-5425). www.publicktheatre.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other week, through Aug. 31. Wed., Thu., and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $30.* The Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's comedy about four lovers, a fairy queen and an ass.

Much Ado About Nothing
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through August 31. $27-$38.* Shakespeare's classic comedic tale of feuding lovers Beatrice and Benedict involves passion, deception, honor and revenge in Messina, Italy.

The Producers
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Extended through September 13. $87-$97. Mel Brooks' musical that swept the 2001 Tony Awards, winning the most awards in Broadway history, comes to Boston, starring Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor.

Ruthless!
Boston Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-ARTS). Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through June 28. $25-31. SpeakEasy Stage Company presents this award-winning off-Broadway musical written by Joel Paley, with music by Marvin Laird. This comedic play parodies classic films like *All About Eve* as it tells the story of a 9-year-old girl who will stop at nothing to get the lead in the school play.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Dance

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. *Wed.-Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 8 and 2 pm; Sun., 2 pm. $45. July 9-13.* The Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Company performs ballet and contemporary dance, featuring Moses Pendleton's piece *Noir Blanc* and a world premiere by Jacopo Godani.

Battleworks
Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. *Thu.-Sat., 8:1 pm; Sat., 2:15 pm.; Sun., 5 pm. July 10-13. $2(* The Jacob's Pillow Festival continues with feature works by Robert Battle, a former principal dance and choreographer with the David Parsons Dance Company, as performed by Battle's own New Yor City–based modern dance troupe.

Dance by Design
Museum of Fine Arts, Avenue of the Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa.or film. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. *July 12, and 26, 10:30 am. $6-$9.* This film and dance event features a screening of Valerie Weiss' fil *Dance by Design*, which chronicles the profession and artistic developments of a young New Yor dancer as she decides between designing for a li ing and living to dance. The film will be followe by a live dance performance by Honey Blonder an Melissa Costa and a Q&A with Weiss.

Kitt Johnson & Vincent Mantsoe
Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (41 243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. *Wed.-Sat., 8 pm Sat. and Sun., 2 pm. July 17-20. $35-$40.* Kitt Johnson of Denmark makes her U.S. debut in this pro gram showcasing solo dance. The show also featur South Africa native Vincent Mantsoe.

Rennie Harris
Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (41 243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. *Thu.-Sat., 8:1 pm; Sat., 2:15 pm.; Sun., 5 pm. July 16-20. $2(* *Facing Mekka*, featuring Rennie Harris' theatric take on hip-hop dance, combines movemen rhythm, sound, and image set to live music.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (80 447-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: *Gree Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 ar 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoin $45-$55.* In its ongoing run in Boston, this percu sion hit continues its tradition of no plot or di logue. Performers use everyday objects such brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to crea music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Cale dar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.co *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-72 2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault Remington's features local stand-up comedian •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Come Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper R tunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comed connectionboston.com. MBTA: *Green or Blue Li to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Ha market. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. a Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm.* The oldest co edy club in Boston draws nationally known comed ans on weekends and showcases up-and-comi local talent during the week. •July 9: Don Gav and Harrison Stebins •July 10, $12: Frank Santo the R-Rated Hypnotist •July 11-12, $21-$2 Michael Winslow of *Police Academy* •July 13: Loc comedians •July 14: Amateur Showcase hosted Kevin Knox •July 15: Paul Nardizzi and Robb Printz •July16: Don Gavin and Harrison Steb •July 17, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnot •July 18, $20: Joey Kola of *Premium Blend* •July 7 and 11:15 pm, $29: Lewis Black of *The Daily Sho* 9 pm, $22: Joey Kola •July 20: local comedia •July 21: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Kn •July 22: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Su 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local com dians perform. •July 9: Kelly MacFarland, Tony Alana Devich, Winston Kidd, Tammy Two-To Dan Sally, Denise Robichau and Dave Thomps •July 10: Tom McIntire, Katie Grady, TJ Griff Mary Beth Cowan, Jan Davidson and Stefan F •July 11: Mike Bent, TJ Griffin, Larry Murphy, R Gustus, Adam Pearlman, Ricardo Monzon and M

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Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •July 10, 8:30 pm: All Star Comedy •July 11 and 12, 8:45 pm: Jim McCue, Jim Dunn and Harrison Stebbins •July 17, 8:30 pm: Joe Yannetty, All Star Comedy •July 18 and 19, 8:45: Paul Gilligan, Steve Bjork and Carolyn Plummer.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA:Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm.* $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed. and Thu., $15, and Fri. and Sat., $20: Improv Asylum comedians present their summer main-stage show, *The Brand Ambition Tour.* •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv Jam featuring main-stage performers and special guests.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard.* $5-$1 Boston's longest-running improvisa tional comedy troupe creates every thing on the spot: the characters, th stories, the settings—even the song and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *Th Hump.* This fringe series features Im provBoston's Expansion Teams •Thu., $12: *Micetro*; 10 pm, $5: *Th Great and Secret Comedy Show* Brothers Chris and David Walsh per form stand-up and music, play shor films and do character sketches in display of sibling rivalry •Startin July 11: Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Agent Sp* Leave your cell phone on to help secret agency uncover the truth i this high-octane thriller complet with chase scenes, romance an backstabbing; 10 pm, $12: *Theat Sports.* Two teams of improvisers fac off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBosto Family Show*; 8 and 10 pm, $12: *Im provBoston Mainstage.* Blending storytelling, musi audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast o improvisers creates a show that changes with ever performance. •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's Im provisational Jamboree* features visiting troupes an combines three shows in one.

COMEDY SHOWS

Blue Hair Troupe

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St Boston (800-733-5639). www.bluehairtroupe.com *MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Cen ter. Thu., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3pm and 8pm Sun., 3pm. July 18-Aug. 24. $25 and $30.* Visit th Rula Lenska Senior Center for the Performin Arts, where retirees put on their dance shoes an strut their stuff.

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line t New England Medical Center or Green Line to Boy ston. July 12 and 19, 7:30 pm. $49 for dinner an show. This interactive comedy spoofs a tradition Italian wedding.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., pm. Open mike for creative talent.

The Sopranos Last Supper

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Orange Line to Ne England Medical Center. July 11, 7 pm. $49 for dinn and show. This interactive dinner-theater show is in spired by HBO's *The Sopranos.*

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-49 1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomed jam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month. 8 pm* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike with ho Stash.

Summer Comedy Series

Regattabar, Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambrid (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Ju 22. $10. DJ Hazard performs.

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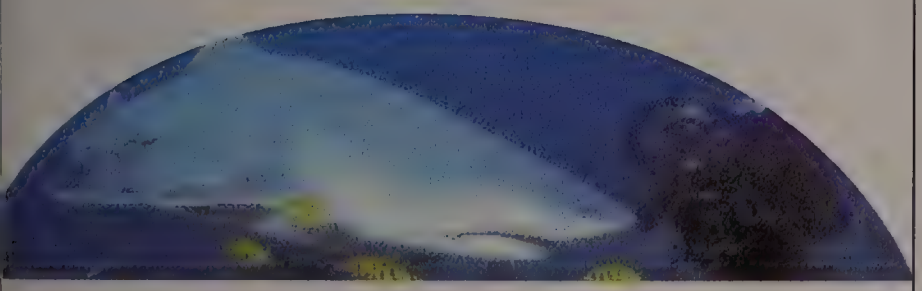

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Moore Is Less

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle runs on empty

BY PAUL SHERMAN

When is a pop-culture spoof so void of original content that it practically ceases to exist? When it's the disappointing sequel *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*.

How could the sequel to such a fun and stylish movie be such a drag? The first movie took the cheesy 1970s TV series about dishy crimefighters and crammed it with unexpected doses of in-your-face comedy and over-the-top action. Few movies were so joyous and liberating. But except for a few scattered moments, the joy is now drudgery. The rehashes from the original aren't so amusing the second time around, and the sequel's plot is a loser.

Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu reunite for *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*.

Where the first movie was assured, the sequel is desperate. You sense that from the very start. Why else does *Full Throttle* include another "once upon a time there were three girls" voice-over from Charlie (voiced by John Forsyth, as always)? The voice-over comes complete with a montage nutshelling the childhoods and exploits of Angels Natalie (Cameron Diaz), Dylan (Drew Barrymore) and Alex (Lucy Liu). Hey, didn't we do this already?

Full Throttle is full of indulgences like that. Sometimes its primary function seems to be to cram in celebrity cameos (Bruce Willis, Pink, Eve, the Olsen Twins, Jaclyn Smith, etc.), and when it has its obligatory reprise of klutzy-but-forever-triumphant Natalie's dancing, this time it's a group dance in which all three Angels mimic MC Hammer's "U Can't Touch This" choreography as the video plays on a nearby TV. Practically everything in this movies serves only to comment on an earlier piece of pop culture.

The plot is the one possible exception, but that immediately poops out. I can't even remember the case the Angels tackled in the first movie, but it couldn't have been as instantly forgettable as the sequel's yarn about two rings encoded with the real identities of those in the witness protection program. New characters after the ring include a U.S. Marshals higher-up (Robert Patrick), an Irish hooligan (Justin Theroux) and Madison Lee (Demi Moore), an ex-Angel gone bad, and they're all washouts.

We're supposed to care about this plot because, it turns out, Barrymore's Dylan is in the witness protection program. She once was the hooligan's girlfriend, but then she testified against him and now he's out of jail and looking for revenge. But the hooligan is a pathetic noncharacter. When we first see him, he's shot just like Robert DeNiro's Max Cady in the *Cape Fear* remake—same upside-down exercising, similar tattooed body, same music. When we see him again, we get the *Cape Fear* music *again*. Who wrote this stuff? Someone with short-term memory loss?

Moore's big comeback is small potatoes, too. It's supposed to be a big deal that Madison is an ex-Angel, but it's not as if she were in the first movie as a good guy and then went bad. We have no emotional investment in the character, and Moore plays her as a cardboard villain. Her stiletto heels have more personality than Madison does.

With lead characters who aren't quite as ingratiating as they used to be, dull villains and hit-or-miss subplots, *Full Throttle* becomes little more than a series of over-eager, special-effects-heavy action sequences that get tired very quickly. These include a motorcycle race that's more confusing than the fight scenes in *Gladiator* (is that possible?), showdowns on a boat and on a rooftop and more close shaves than a Gillette commercial.

There are a few saving graces to *Full Throttle*. As the new Bosley, Bernie Mac is the funniest thing in the movie, and the unsinkable Diaz continues to be fearless, her most amusing moments here being when she sports a lesbian mullet and when she births a calf. John Cleese also contributes a chuckle or two as Alex's uninformed dad.

All in all, though, *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* is a lot like the famous scene in *This Is Spinal Tap* in which lead guitarist Nigel Tufnel shows off amplifiers that have knobs that crank all the way up to 11. When asked if it's louder than any other amp, he repeatedly replies, "It goes to 11." *Full Throttle* is cranked to 11 too, but just as clueless. **iB**

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle ★★

Directed by McG. Written by John August, Cormac Wibberley and Marianne Wibberley. With Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu, Demi Moore, Bernie Mac, Crispin Glover, Justin Theroux and Robert Patrick. Rated PG-13. Columbia Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
The feisty young woman caught between two cultures—think *Double Happiness*, *Mississippi Masala* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—gets trotted out yet again in director Gurinder Chadha's latest, which can't compare to her *Bhaji on the Beach* but is still involving. Parminder Nagra gives a winning performance as Jess, the Indian-English teen with soccer skills and two Sikh parents who won't allow her to pursue such a nontraditional female endeavor. When Jess is recruited to play for a local women's team, with the possibility of discovery by an American pro team, the scene is set for lots of running around behind her parents' back and comic mishaps—in fact, an awful lot of repetitive running around and mishaps. It's all pretty predictable, but Nagra, Anupam Kher (as the heroine's father) and Keira Knightley (as her teammate and sometime rival), as well as Chadha's sense of compassion, help dignity fight caricature to a standoff. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Bruce Almighty ★★
The Majestic was a terrible movie that deserved to flop, but it hurts to see Jim Carrey retreat back into physical comedy with this painfully broad movie about a guy who's ticked off about his accursed, unlucky life until God (Morgan Freeman) lets him take the world's reins for a week to see if he can do any better. Despite a few amusing moments, Carrey's latest is as unconvincingly feel-good as *The Majestic* was. The premise is just a clumsy excuse for his character to discover, à la Jimmy Stewart in *It's a Wonderful Life*, that he didn't have it so bad after all. And don't the Hollywood studios have anything better for Jennifer Aniston than the girlfriend role she's stuck with here? (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Capturing the Friedmans ★★★★
Has a movie ever plunged the viewer into greater moral ambiguity than Andrew Jarecki's documentary about the Friedman family of Great Neck, Long Island? They splintered apart in the late 1980s, when father Arnold and youngest son Jesse were accused of molesting Arnold's computer students. On one hand, it's easy to see how the two Friedmans, and Arnold in particular, might be guilty: He first got into trouble for possessing child porn, and he confessed to having improper relations with minors at other times in his life. On the other hand, the police's investigation and the testimony that investigators got from the kids are both very suspect. It's impossible to believe the Friedmans are totally in the wrong, or totally right in their denials. You have to believe the truth is somewhere in the middle. So is the movie a cautionary tale about evil lurking beneath an everyday suburban surface or about the power of suggestion and the abuse of power? It's both. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Dumb & Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd ★
Loser! This unfunny prequel to the funny Jim Carrey hit really has no reason for being. Carrey and Jeff Daniels are not in this story of how their characters became friends back in high school (just their hairstyles are), and original writer-directors Peter and Bobby Farrelly had nothing to do with the movie. Instead, it's just a generic high school comedy with some bad slapstick. It even wastes Eugene Levy as the evil principal. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Finding Nemo ★★★
The latest computer-animated comedy from Pixar doesn't stray very far from the quest plots of the *Toy Story* movies and *A Bug's Life*, but it's a return to form after the weak *Monsters, Inc.* The digital animation continues to get more expressive, and human characters are again wisely kept to a minimum. This story of a fish trying to find his son, who was grabbed by a scuba diver, features equally expressive work from the voice cast, especially Albert Brooks as the overprotective father and Ellen DeGeneres as the forgetful fish who helps him on his quest. The amusing, but little-seen, early Pixar short "Knick Knacks" precedes the film. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Hollywood Homicide ★★
Writer-director Ron Shelton's mix of comedy, drama, sex, philosophy and male bonding has often worked—just recall *Bull Durham* and *White Men Can't Jump*. But here they're like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that aren't that interesting and don't really go together. An investigation into a quadruple homicide and Shelton's typically jocular humor don't ex-

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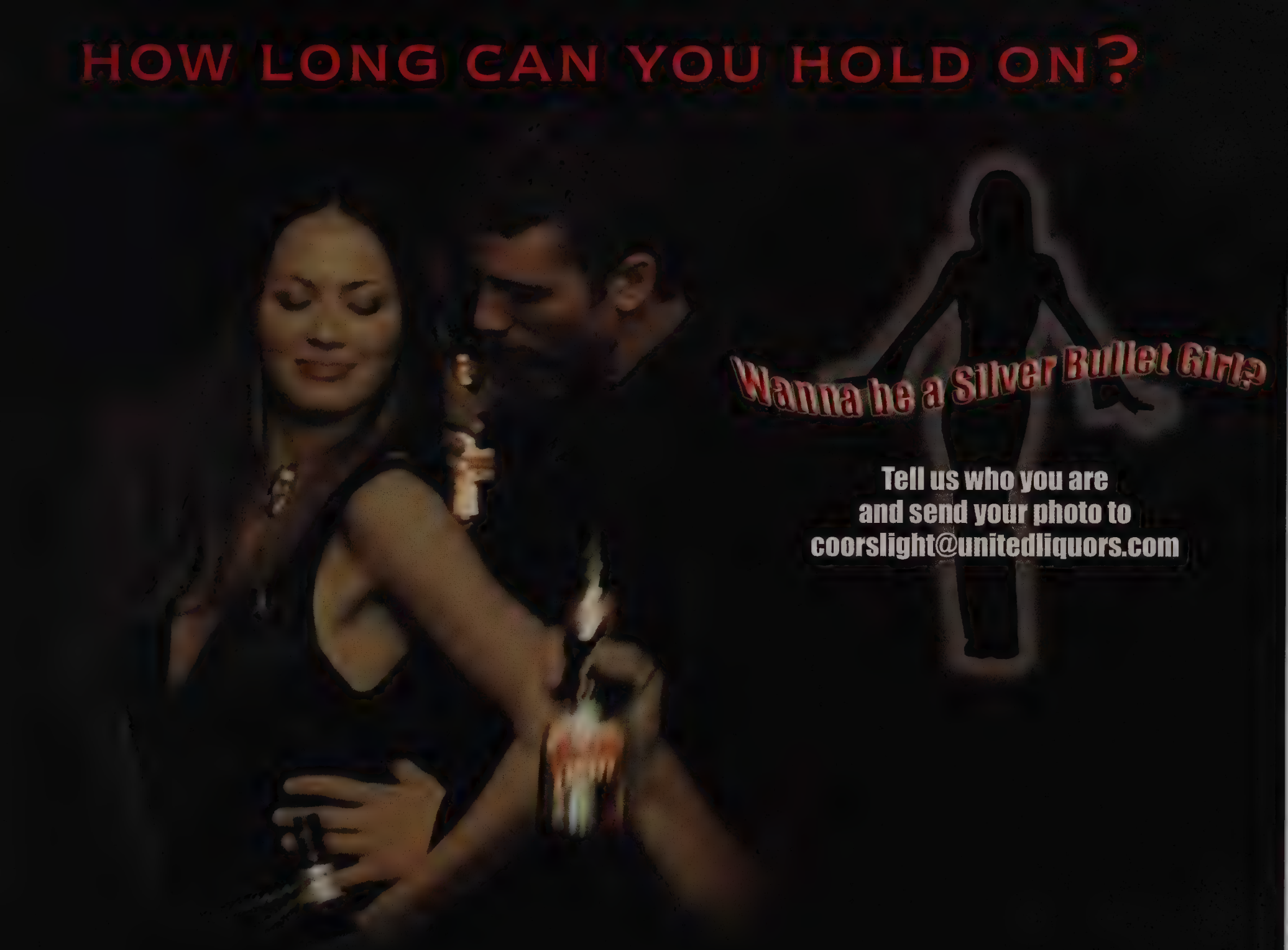

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Orange Julius (Amaury Nolasco), Suki (Devon Aoki) and Slapjack (Michael Ealy, right) surround Brian O'Connor (Paul Walker, third from left) who is back and ready to race in *2 Fast 2 Furious*.

actly commingle, to use a word the movie likes, and Shelton is so busy stressing the fact that Harrison Ford's and Josh Hartnett's characters would rather be moonlighting as, respectively, a realtor and a yoga instructor, that they're not very believable as detectives. Semi-competent and totally mediocre. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Hulk ★★½

Traumatic Childhood + Weird Science = Troubled Oddball Hero. That's the all-too-familiar comic book formula at work, as in *Batman*, *Spider-Man* and *Daredevil*. But Ang Lee's movie gets the set-up right, with Eric Bana as scientist Bruce Banner, who has no idea that his birth father (Nick Nolte), also a scientist, passed on the mutation he induced in himself. Of course, all the physicality of the plot—after being juiced with gamma rays, DNA-mutant Bruce turns into the Hulk whenever he gets angry—is just a stand-in for the emotional baggage parents pass on to children. The movie's snappy editing, which is full of split-screens, nifty wipes and dissolves, also adds energy. Yet as the lengthy story moves along, and we get more Hulk and less Bruce, the characters and the drama recede and the special effects and large-scale action take over. Like its title character, the movie gets a little too big for its britches. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Italian Job ★★

Big car chases are no camouflage for shoddy writing in this underachieving remake of a 1969 heist movie. The characters are all amazingly vague in this story of a gang of thieves (including Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron and Mos Def) that plots revenge after one of them makes off with the spoils of a Venice robbery. The story awkwardly maneuvers itself into the situation of the British original when a cache of gold is heisted from an armored car by using a fleet of stripped-down, souped-up Mini-Coopers. But the cool Minis overshadow the people this time. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Matrix Reloaded ★★½

This spotty sequel to 1999's pop-culture touchstone holds true to the theory that the middle movie is usually the weakest of a trilogy (that's assuming this fall's third movie is better). Where the first was intimate and tightly constructed, the new movie is less specific in its internal logic and has a large scale that is sometimes clumsy (including council meetings and war talk reminiscent of, yikes, *The Phantom Menace*). The sequel seems even more like a videogame than the first, in its increasingly elaborate, animation-dependent fight scenes (which come off as self-parody at times) and in the "leveled" structure (fight to see the Oracle, move up to fight to see the Keymaker, move up to fight your way into the Source, etc.). The heavies have all the fun this time, including Hugo Weaving's Agent Smith, who can now replicate himself at will, and the snippy Frenchman played by Lambert Wilson. Not bad, but not as satisfying as hoped. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

A Mighty Wind ★★★½

In Christopher Guest's latest improvised mockumentary, following *Waiting for Guffman* and *Best in Show*, Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara dominate as a one-time folk duo and romantic couple that reunites for a memorial concert with two other groups. As the fallen folk idol who's had a rough three decades since, Levy is hilariously zonked out, but he and O'Hara sing so well together that their scenes are also disarmingly sweet and touching. Guest and his *This Is Spinal Tap* cohorts Michael McKean and Harry Shearer also score together as the Folksmen, though the three characters are underdeveloped as individuals. Meanwhile, like always, Fred Willard nearly steals the show. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Spellbound ★★★½

Jeffrey Blitz's documentary follows eight junior high schoolers with a magnificent obsession: they're all contestants in the 1999 National Spelling Bee. The movie takes them from their regionals through the Washington, D.C., finals, and it has quirky charm to spare. The kids make up an impressively broad cross section—boys and girls, city and country, white and of color—and the Bee really brings their families together and lets these smart kids, often misfits back in their hometowns, bond with others like themselves. The finals also generate more dramatic tension than any other movie this year, by far. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Swimming Pool ★★½

French writer-director Francois Ozon has made somber movies like *Under the Sand* and playful movies like *8 Women*. His English-language debut seems like an attempt to blend both types, by pairing the first's Charlotte Rampling and the second's Ludivine Sagnier. Rampling plays a dowdy English mystery writer whose publisher (Charles Dance) offers her his home in the south of France for a writing holiday. The unexpected arrival of the publisher's horny French daughter (Sagnier) spoils the working vacation, but it sure livens up the movie. Sagnier's devil-may-care sensuality is a helluva lot more fun than the slow Rampling prologue, and the two women embark on a passive-aggressive cat-and-mouse game. The payoff is way too subtle and puzzling to deliver the needed oomph, though, and the movie remains mostly a showcase for Sagnier's devilish performance. (At Kendall Square.)

2 Fast 2 Furious ★★

Without the original's Vin Diesel (the Steven Seagal of the new millennium), the sequel isn't quite as obnoxious as the original. But it is almost as dumb. Once again, everyone acts like they're extras in a music video—which, considering how the street races are edited to music, isn't entirely incorrect. This just might be the world's most expensive pissing contest, and the "Look at me! Look at my car!" desperation of most of the characters is downright silly. The plot involves Paul Walker (whose character is now an *ex*-cop) and Tyrese going undercover to take down a drug smuggler (Cole Hauser), and still managing to indulge in enough male bonding for three movies (gee, who's on whose tail in *this* race?). The movie achieves its goal of throwing in one of those races every 15 minutes, but I'll take a grade-Z hot-rod movie over this one's product-placement, soundtrack-deal, MTV slickness any day. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

28 Days Later ★★★

Trainspotting director Danny Boyle's apocalyptic sci-fi/action film owes a lot to those of George Romero, especially *Dawn of the Dead*. Still, it's a creepy and lively blend of character drama, zombie film, social commentary, vampire film and action, set in motion when a group of animal-rights activists frees rage-infected lab primates. The animals violently attack and infect the activists, who attack other humans and so on, until nearly all of England (and perhaps the world) is acting like bloodthirsty soccer hooligans. The movie follows Jim (Cillian Murphy), who awakens from a coma into this new world. He meets up with the few uninfected people left, and they try to find any remaining vestige of society and stay alive. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

ALLSTON CINEMA UNDERGROUND

Turn It Up! Music Movies on Screen

•July 11 and 12, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Tom Waits: Big Time** *1988*. Singer Tom Waits is the focus of Chris Blum's theatrical concert movie.

•July 13, 7 and 9 pm. **Wesley Willis: The Daddy of Rock 'n' Roll** 2001. Wesley Willis is a schizophrenic who silences his inner demons through music. Daniel Bitton directs.

•July 18 and 19, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Shane MacGowan: If I Should Fall from Grace** *2001*. Director Sarah Share's documentary about Shane MacGowan, former front man for the Pogues, combines past footage and recent interviews.

•July 20, 7 and 9 pm. **All Kindsa Girls** *2002*. Cheryl Eagan-Donovan chronicles the evolution of punk and garage rock from the 1960s to today's popular punk bands.

BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL

Movies by Moonlight

•July 11, dusk. **North by Northwest** *1959*. In Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller, a New York advertising executive is chased across the States by a gang that thinks he's a government agent.

•July 18, dusk. **The Sting** *1973*. A con man loses his partner in crime and attempts to get his revenge by duping the head of the mob. George Roy Hill directs.

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mayor Menino's Monday Night Movies

•July 14 at dusk, Iacono Playground, Hyde Park. **Stuart Little 2** *2002*. When the canary that Stuart rescued suddenly disappears, Stuart lies to his mother and travels across the city to find it. Rob Minkoff directs.

•July 21 at dusk, Ringer Playground, Allston. **Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius** *2001*. In John A. Davis' film, Jimmy leads the children of the world on a mission to rescue the alien-abducted adults.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer Film Festival: Bogey in the Forties

•July 14, 6 pm. **The Maltese Falcon** *1941*. In John Huston's film, a private eye discovers that the woman who has hired him for an investigation is not who she says she is.

•July 21, 6 pm. **Casablanca** *1942*. Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman star in Michael Curtiz's classic, in which a former American freedom fighter and his lover plot to run off together in World War II Morocco.

Summer Film Festival: From Page to Screen

•July 15, 6 pm. **The Perfect Storm** *2000*. Wolfgang Petersen's film tells the story of Gloucester's ill-fated fishing boat the *Andrea Gail*.

•July 22, 6 pm. **10 Things I Hate About You** *2000*. Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger star in Gil Junger's teen comedy loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Sundays and Mondays–Genre Films of the '50s

•July 21, 3 and 7:15 pm. **Bad Day at Black Rock** *1955*. A stranger visiting the small town of Black Rock is threatened when racist locals learn that he is looking for a Japanese farmer. John Sturges directs and Spencer Tracy stars. •Also showing, 5 and 9:30 pm. **On the Waterfront**. *1954*. A Mob boss is the key suspect in a murder investigation. Elia Kazan directs.

Tuesdays–From Panel to Flame: Comics in the Movies

•July 22, 7:30 pm. **American Splendor** *2003*. In this biographical film, comic book artist Harvey Pekar receives inspiration from his everyday life in Ohio. Robert Pulcini and Shari Springer Berman direct.

•Also showing, 5 and 10 pm. **Ghost World.** *2000*. In Terry Zwigoff's film, two young women graduate from high school and spend their summer trying to redefine themselves as adults in the "real world."

Special Engagements

•Through July 10, 5:15 and 8 pm; Sat. and Sun. matinee, 11:45 am and 2:30 pm **Le cercle rouge** *(The Red Circle) 1970*. In Jean-Pierre Melville's film, a recently paroled thief robs his Mob boss and enlists a murderer and an ex-policeman to join him in a jewel heist.

•July 11-17, 5:15 and 7:30 pm; Sat. and Sun. matinee, 12:15 pm. **Fellini: I'm a Born Liar** *2001*. Damian Pettigrew directs this documentary about filmmaker Federico Fellini. Interviews, clips of the artist at work and images from his films are included.

•Also showing, July 11-17, 9:45 pm. **Versus** *2000*. Two cellmates escape from prison and battle gangsters in this Japanese sci-fi film. Ryuhei Kitamura directs.

•July 12-13, 2:30 pm. **8 1/2** *1963*. Federico Fellini directs this semi-autobiographical work about a film director who struggles to find the motivation to finish a film amid pressures from his wife, mistress and producers.

•July 18-20, Parts 1 and 2, 3:30 and 9:30 pm; Part 3, 6 pm. **The Cremaster Cycle** *1994-2002*. Visual artist Matthew Blarney directs this three-part series about his own artwork. Shot over a 10-year period, the film is a combination of the surreal and the autobiographical.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Features

•Opens July 11. **Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace** *2000*. Eric Till directs this story about the struggle and sacrifice of Deitrich Bonhoeffer, the legendary Christian leader and minister.

•Opens July 11 **Swimming Pool** *2003*. See capsule for description.

•Now playing. **Whale Rider** *2002*. A New Zealand girl fights to claim her rightful position as tribal chief in director Niki Caro's film.

Midnights: Crazy About Swayze

•July 12, 12 am. **Dirty Dancing** *1987*. Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey star in this coming-of-age movie set in the mid-'60s.

•July 11 and 18, 12 am. **Donnie Darko** *2001*. Teenager Donnie Darko embarks on a rebellious spree after a hallucination in which a six-foot bunny tells him the world will end in 28 days. Richard Kelly directs.

•July 19, 12 am. **Road House** *1989*. Swayze plays a philosophy professor cum bouncer hired to clean up a seedy Missouri bar in Rowdy Herrington's '80s flick.

Midnights: Kung-Fu Madness

•July 11 and 12, 12 am. **Mismatched Couples** *1985*. Martial arts and break-dancing come together in this action-comedy directed by Yuen Wo-Ping and starring Donnie Yen.

•July 18 and 19, 12 am. **The Victim** *1980*. Sammo Hung directs and stars in this film about a martial artist who becomes servant and student to a man on the run from his brother.

Summertime Blues

•July 14, 7:30 pm. **John Lee Hooker: That's My Story** *2001*. With the help of friends, family and fellow musicians, including Eric Clapton and Bonnie Raitt, Hooker narrates his rise from sharecropper's son to blues legend in Jorg Bundschuh's documentary.

•July 21, 7:30 pm. **Ray Charles: The Genius of Soul** *1991*. Toby Byrne's documentary features performance clips and interviews with the singer-pianist, his friends and family.

GARDNER MUSEUM

Silents Please–1903 Revisited

•July 22, 8:30 pm. This series of short silents from more than 100 years ago includes works by Thomas Edison, Georges Melies, Edwin Porter and Louis and Auguste Lumiere. Yakov Gubanov performs live piano accompaniment.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Cinema A to Z: Treasures from the Harvard Film Archive G Is for Ghost Stories

•July 9, 7 pm. **Vargtimmen** *(Hour of the Wolf) 1967*.

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JOEY KOLA

JULY 19TH

LEWIS BLACK

JULY 25-26

CAROLINE RHEA

AUGUST 1ST

JOHN VALBY

AUG. 8-9

KEVIN NEALON

AUG. 12TH

JAY MOHR

AUG. 15-16

KEVIN MEANEY

AUG. 23-24

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SATURDAYS: LIVE DJ & LIVE BANDS

A panicky insomniac begs his wife to stay awake with him until the hour when his nightly visions attack. •Also showing, 8:45 pm. **Dead of Night** *1945*. An architect is assigned to work on a haunted Victorian country house. Alberto Cavalcanti, Charles Crichton, Basil Dearden and Robert Hamer direct.

H Is for Historical Revision

•July 10, 7 pm. **Arsenal** *1929*. Alexander Dovzhenko's Soviet silent tells the story of Bolshevik workers fighting to overpower counter-revolutionary "White Russians." Yakov Gubanov provides live piano accompaniment. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Das schreckliche madchen** *(The Nasty Girl) 1989*. A Bavarian schoolgirl unearths the deep, dark secrets of her small town's involvement with the Nazis. Michael Verhoeven directs.

I Is for Insanity

•July 11 and 12, 7 pm. **Pierrot le fou** *1965*. In Jean-Luc Godard's film, a couple traveling through France gets in trouble with the law. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Betty Blue** *1986*. A handyman's dull life gets wild after he meets sexy but insane Betty. Jean-Jacques Beineix directs.

J Is for Jannings At Last

•July 13, 7 pm. **Der letzte mann** *(The Last Laugh) 1924*. Emil Jannings stars as an aging doorman in F.W. Murnau's film scrutinizing the German obsession with social rank. Yakov Gubanov provides live piano accompaniment. •Also showing, 9 pm. **The Last Command** *1928*. Emil Jannings won an Oscar for his role as a defeated Czarist general who moves to Hollywood to work as an extra in a film about the Russian Revolution. Josef von Sternberg directs. Yakov Gubanov provides live piano accompaniment.

K Is for Kitchen Sink

•July 14, 7 pm; July 15, 8:45 pm. **Room at the Top** *1959*. A working stiff in a dreary British town tries to juggle the boss's daughter and an older woman at the same time. Jack Clayton directs. •Also showing, 9:15 pm; July 15, 7 pm. **Saturday Night and Sunday Morning** *1960*. In director Karel Reisz's documentary-style chronicle of industrial Britain, a factory worker rises up against an oppressive class system.

L Is for Love Triangles

•July 16, 7 pm; July 17, 9 pm. **Les deux Anglaises et le continent** *(Two English Girls) 1971*. Relations between lovers are strained when a Parisian belle lures two English sisters into a ménage à trois. Francois Truffaut directs. •Also showing, 9 pm; July 17, 7 pm. **Un coeur en hiver** *(A Heart of Stone) 1991*. Two violin-makers fall for a young prodigy. The feelings are reciprocated for only one of them. Claude Sautet directs.

M Is for Mail Call

•July 18, 7 pm; July 19, 9:15 pm. **Jour de fete** *(The Big Day) 1948*. The people of a small French town tease their simple postman during the annual festival. •Also showing, 8:30 pm; July 19, 7 pm. **The Kremlin Letter** *1969*. A group of American spies is sent Moscow to recover a document that could breed war with China in John Huston's film.

N Is for Nostalgia

•July 20, 7 pm; July 21, 9:15 pm. **Play it Again, Sam** *1972*. Woody Allen stars in Herbert Ross' comical tale about a Humphrey Bogart–obsessed film critic who struggles at dating after his wife leaves him. •Also showing, 8:45 pm and July 21, 7 pm. **Amarcord** *1974*. Federico Fellini's series of impressionistic vignettes focuses on a disorderly family living in a seaside town during the Fascist era.

O Is for Oracles

•July 22, 7 pm. **The Thief of Baghdad** *1940*. A street urchin and a prince escape from prison and embark on incredible adventures with the aid of a genie. Michael Powell, Ludwig Berger and Tim Whelan direct. •Also showing, 9 pm. **The Last Wave** *1977*. A lawyer defending Aboriginal men in a murder case is distracted by a prophecy that heavy rains will flood Australia beyond repair. Peter Weir directs.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•July 10, 6 pm. **Russkij kovcheg** *(Russian Ark) 2002*. In one fluid, unbroken shot, Alexander Sokurov uses 867 actors and three orchestras to tell a history of Russia.

Blues Festival

•July 9, 5:45 pm. **Rhythm 'n' Bayous: A Road Map to Louisiana Music** *2000*. Robert Mugge's upbeat trip through New Orleans and Louisiana reveals "swamp pop," Cajun and Creole music in zydeco clubs and at family gatherings.

Boston French Film Festival: Encores

•July 10, 7:45 pm. **And Now...Ladies and Gentlemen** *2003*. Destiny unites a jewel thief (Jeremy Irons) and a nightclub singer running from her deceitful lover in a hotel on the Moroccan coast. Claude Lelouch directs.

•July 11, 6 pm; July 19, 5 pm. **Petites coupures** *(Small Cuts) 2003*. Pascal Bonitzer directs this comedy-drama about a middle-aged Communist journalist juggling his wife and mistress. •Also showing, 8 pm; July 19, 12:30 pm. **24 heures de la vie d'une femme** *(24 Hours in the Life of a Woman) 2002*. Tales of forbidden love span three separate time periods in Laurent Bouhnik's film adapted from the Stefan Zweig novel.

•July 12, 12:30 pm. **Bord de mer** *(Seaside) 2002*. A factory worker becomes intrigued with the vacationers in her coastal resort town. Julie Lopes Curval directs. •Also showing, 2:15 pm. **Liberté oléron** *2001*. Bruno Podalydes directs this comedic look at a family vacation in which a clumsy father takes his four children to an island and then captains a boat for the first time. •Also showing, 4:20 pm; July 17, 4:10 pm. **La Fille de Keltoum** *(Daughter of Keltoum) 2001*. A young Algerian woman sets out through the desert in search of the mother who abandoned her as an infant. Mehdi Charef directs. •Also showing, 6:25 pm. **Comment j'ai tue mon pere** *(How I Killed My Father) 2000*. Anne Fontaine's psychological drama is the story of a successful French doctor who is thrown for a loop when his estranged father returns from Africa. •Also showing, 8:25 pm. **Une femme de ménage** *(Housekeeper) 2002*. After a failed marriage, a wealthy sound engineer is torn between his desires for privacy and company after he hires a young housekeeper to share and clean his apartment. Claude Berri directs.

•July 13, 10:30 am; July 17, 6:15 pm. **Le Papillon** *(The Butterfly) 2002*. In Phillipe Muyl's film, a retired Parisian and his streetwise 8-year-old neighbor venture into the wilderness in search of a rare mountain butterfly. •Also showing, 12:15 pm. **La Trilogie** *(The Trilogy)*. Lucas Belvaux's three-part series involves three different stories centered on the same cast of characters. In **Cavale** *(One the Run) 2002*, a prison escapee pursues a gang leader while avoiding the police. •Immediately following. **Un couple epatant** *(An Amazing Couple) 2002*. A hypochondriac becomes increasingly erratic, while his wife is convinced he's having an affair. •Immediately following. **Aprés la vie** *(After Life) 2002*. A police officer is torn between love and his career when his morphine-addicted lover asks him to procure her drugs. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Se souvenir des belles choses** *(Try to Remember) 2002*. Zabou Breitman's directorial debut is a love story about a woman struck by lightning who checks herself into an amnesiac home and falls in love with a patient.

•July 17, 8 pm. **Ma vraie vie á Rouen** *(My Life on Ice) 2002*. Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau's coming-of-age comedy, set in Rouen, is the story of a provincial French teenager on the brink of recognizing his homosexuality.

•July 18, 6 pm. **Mischka** *2002*. In this Jean-Francois Stevenin film, a chance roadside meeting brings together an old man, a nurse, a teenage delinquent and a rocker who forge a family unit. •Also showing, 8:15 pm. **Rue de plaisirs** *2002*. A young man raised in a brothel falls in love with a prostitute and vows to find her "Mr. Right." Patrice Leconte directs.

•July 19, 2:30 pm. **Carnages** *2002*. The cast of characters, which ranges from a comatose matador to a young French girl, is linked through a slain Spanish bull in Delphine Gelize's film. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Demonlover** *2002*. Chloe Sevigny and Gina Gershon star in Olivier Assayas' thriller about two corporations competing for pornographic Internet technology.

•July 20, 10:30 am. **Sur le bout des doigts** *(At My Fingertips) 2002*. A mother grows jealous of her daughter's talents in Yves Angelo's film. •Also showing, 12:30 pm. **The Adversary** *2002*. Nicole Garcia's film follows a middle-class father who descends into madness and murder. •Also showing, 3 pm. **Cet amour-lá** *2001*. Josée Dayan interprets the Yann Andrea novel, the true story of his affair with the much older, renowned French author and alcoholic Marguerite Duras. •Also showing, 5 pm, **Swing** *2002*. In Tony Gatlif's film, a 10-year-old boy befriends a gypsy tomboy who teaches him to break free of social constraints. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Choses secretes** *(Secret Things) 2002*. Jean-Claude Brisseau directs this tale of two unemployed female strippers who seduce wealthy men to better their social standing.

Boston Jewish Film Festival

•July 10, 3 pm. **Nirgendwo in Afrika** *2002*. A German-Jewish family escapes the Nazis by fleeing to British-colonized Kenya. Caroline Link directs.

New England Film Artists Present:

•July 12 and 19, 10:30 am. **Dance by Design** *2002*. In Valerie Weiss' film, a young woman must decide between designing or dancing for a living.

Scientist Bruce Banner (Eric Bana) struggles with inner turmoil in *The Hulk*.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Top Speed**. Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion race car driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Aug. 31. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. Call for show times.

•Through Aug. 31. **The Matrix Reloaded: The IMax Experience**. Neo and the rebel leaders face off in with Zion in Andy and Larry Wachowski's sequel to their 1999 hit *The Matrix*. Call for show times.

•Through Aug. 31. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Dive into and explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. Call for show times.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (978-671-9212). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

Allston Cinema Underground
214 Harvard Ave. (617-912-8626). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

Ringer Playground
Allston St., Allston (617-635-4505).

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Harbor Hotel
70 Rowes Wharf. (617-439-7000).

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway (617-566-1401). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

HYDE PARK

Iacono Playground
Readville St. (617-635-4505).

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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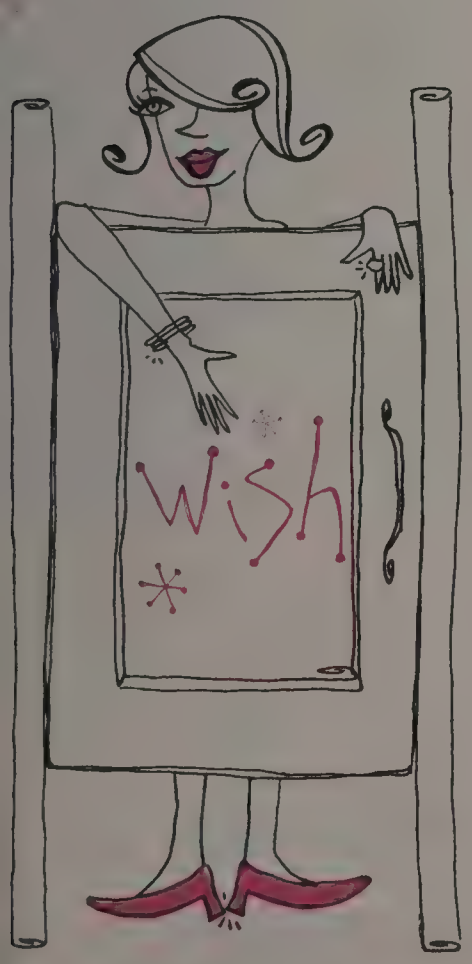

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Every Saturday Night, 8pm

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Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Join Nate Watkin from 8 - 11pm then dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

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THE RACK

Audio Addiction

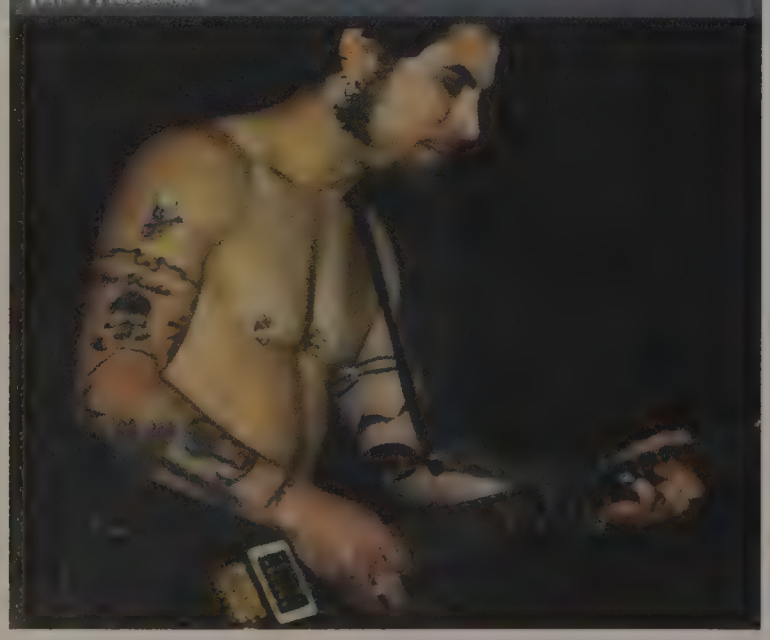
Tom Morello and Dave Navarro trade guitar licks that levitate the diverse world of Lollapalooza

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Dave Navarro and Tom Morello are longtime comrades from the Hollywood rock underground. The two guitarists first met in the mid-1980s, when Navarro was bringing psychedelic finesse to the arty rush of metal, punk and funk that became Jane's Addiction. Then Morello broke new sonic ground on guitar, first with Rage Against the Machine, and now Audioslave.

Now they're fueling their respective supergroups on the reborn Lollapalooza festival, which rolls into the Tweeter Center July 25 with a lineup that also includes Incubus, Queens of the Stone Age, Jurassic 5 and the Donnas.

Jane's launched Lollapalooza in 1991, bringing together alternative rock and rap acts long before those genres became a stale hybrid. Lollapalooza redefined the summer package tour during its seven-year reign—bands that played to big crowds for the first time at Lollapalooza included Rage, Soundgarden (whose singer, Chris Cornell, now fronts Audioslave), Pearl Jam, Nine Inch Nails, Tool, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Smashing Pumpkins.



Tom Morello (above, second from left) plays Lollapalooza with Audioslave, while Dave Navarro (below) returns with the reunited Jane's Addiction.

"That's some of the best music of the '90s," says Morello, who gained exposure, literally, at Lollapalooza when Rage began their performance standing naked with mouths taped in a censorship protest. ("I can't promise a repeat performance," he says.)

"Now is the perfect time for Lollapalooza to be back," says Morello, "because of the dire straits that music is in."

Adds Navarro, "What is spectacular about our tour is the diversity, which the original Lollapaloozas were all about. It wasn't just a rock show for a particular genre."

"It's the kind of thing you want to be at, even if you don't like music," Navarro says of the Xbox-sponsored tour, which will feature interactive games with plasma screens for text messaging. "And if you like music, the music's incredible."

On its third tour since the volatile group broke up after Lollapalooza '91, Jane's is supporting its first studio CD since 1990. Out July 22, *Strays* rocks extra hard, but also dips through the odd musings of singer Perry Farrell, the kinetic drums of Stephen Perkins and the moody bass of newcomer Chris Chaney.

"It's kinda like your first day at work at a job that you somehow know how to do, and don't know why," says Navarro, whose post-Jane's pursuits included a stint with the Chili Peppers. "We don't have any intention of disbanding, unless some ungodly act happens, or somebody dies. We all intend to do our outside projects, but Jane's Addiction is the thing. This is the greatest musical experience I've ever had."

"I turn to music to either tap into or relate to all levels of the human condition," he says. "There's not one style of music that I like the most, because I don't always feel the same. I love the aggression of punk rock and metal, the ethereal sounds of Pink Floyd, and the textures of Led Zeppelin. But I also love electronic music and classical music. So there's not really one genre I identify with."

In turn, Morello—whom Navarro calls "one of my favorite all-time guitar players. He's up there with Hendrix and [Jimmy] Page"—drew from even broader influences.

While studying political science at Harvard in the early '80s, Morello practiced several hours a day, soaking in the styles of everyone from Ozzy sideman Randy Rhoads to jazz fusionist Al DiMeola, and played keg parties with cover bands.

"But it wasn't until I was able to jettison that as the beginning and end of what I wanted to do, and open up my musical head to ideas outside of traditional guitar playing—like hip-hop and techno and trash compactors and coyotes howling—that I really found my own voice," Morello says. "The guitar is nothing more than a piece of wood, six wires and a few electronics, and those things can be manipulated in many ways that don't have anything to do with the blues scale."

"In part of Rage Against the Machine, I was the DJ," Morello says of his rhythmic knack for making the guitar stutter, whistle and whine like a turntable, adding of his solos, "They have more to do with imagination than technique."

"I maintained some of the vocabulary," he says of his new band with Cornell and ex-Rage mates Tim Commerford on bass and Brad Wilk on drums. "But it's also grounded with the stuff that feels like the bones of the earth, the big riffs, and subtle chord changes that we've never played before."

As for possible Lollapalooza collaborations, Navarro says, "It's part of the appeal of having such talented musicians together, to jam with each other. In '91, I ended up playing with every band on the bill, and just about every member of each band came out with us. You don't know what's going to happen." iB

Jane's Addiction and Audioslave play Lollapalooza at the Tweeter Center July 25.

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by f (617-859-1446); by mail to Calendar/Music; or email to music@improper.com. Include dates, time prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not a cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from d ferent sources. Although we make every effort to provi accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahe to double-check dates and times (see complete list venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

ABBA
July 20, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787
The Allman Brothers Band and Susan Tedeschi
July 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Pat Benatar
July 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Bon Jovi, Sheryl Crow and the Goo Goo Dolls
July 22, Gillette Stadium (617-931-2000)
Tracy Chapman
July 18, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Kenny Chesney, Deana Carter and Keith Urban
July 20, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Elvis Costello & the Imposters and Chris Robinso
July 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Dream Theater and Queensryche
July 9, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Eagles
July 15, 16 and 18, Fleet Center (617-931-2000)
Dave Gahan
July 17, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Vince Gill
July 19, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787
Daryl Hall & John Oates
July 13, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787
Hootie & the Blowfish and Big Head Todd & th Monsters
July 19, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Chris Isaak
July 11, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Tom Jones
July 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Ben Lee
July 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Nelly
July 21, Wang Theatre (617-931-2787)
Pearl Jam
July 11, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
The Righteous Brothers
July 11, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787
Rick Springfield
July 18, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-2787
Train
July 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The White Stripes and Whirlwind Heat
July 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Asgard The Drift, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Breezeway Bar and Grill Karin Parker.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Girlyman, Gregory Douglass, 7 pm, $
$10.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cove
21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion Dream Theater, Queensryc
and Fates Warning, 8 pm, $30-$50.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard and Band.
Johnny D's Zen Tricksters.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café PJ Loughran, 9 pm, Busker, 10 pm, $
21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Symbolics.
Lizard Lounge Alexi Murdoch, 7 pm; $7; Case
Desmond and Gene Dante Band and Super Goo
9:30 pm, $6.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9 pm, no cove
21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Two Thumbs Up and a Smil
Clockers, Mus-ok and DJ17, $8, 18+. Zuzu: Full
Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Museum of Fine Arts Rosie Ledet, 8 pm, $24.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble.
The Rack Taylor Bros, 6 pm.

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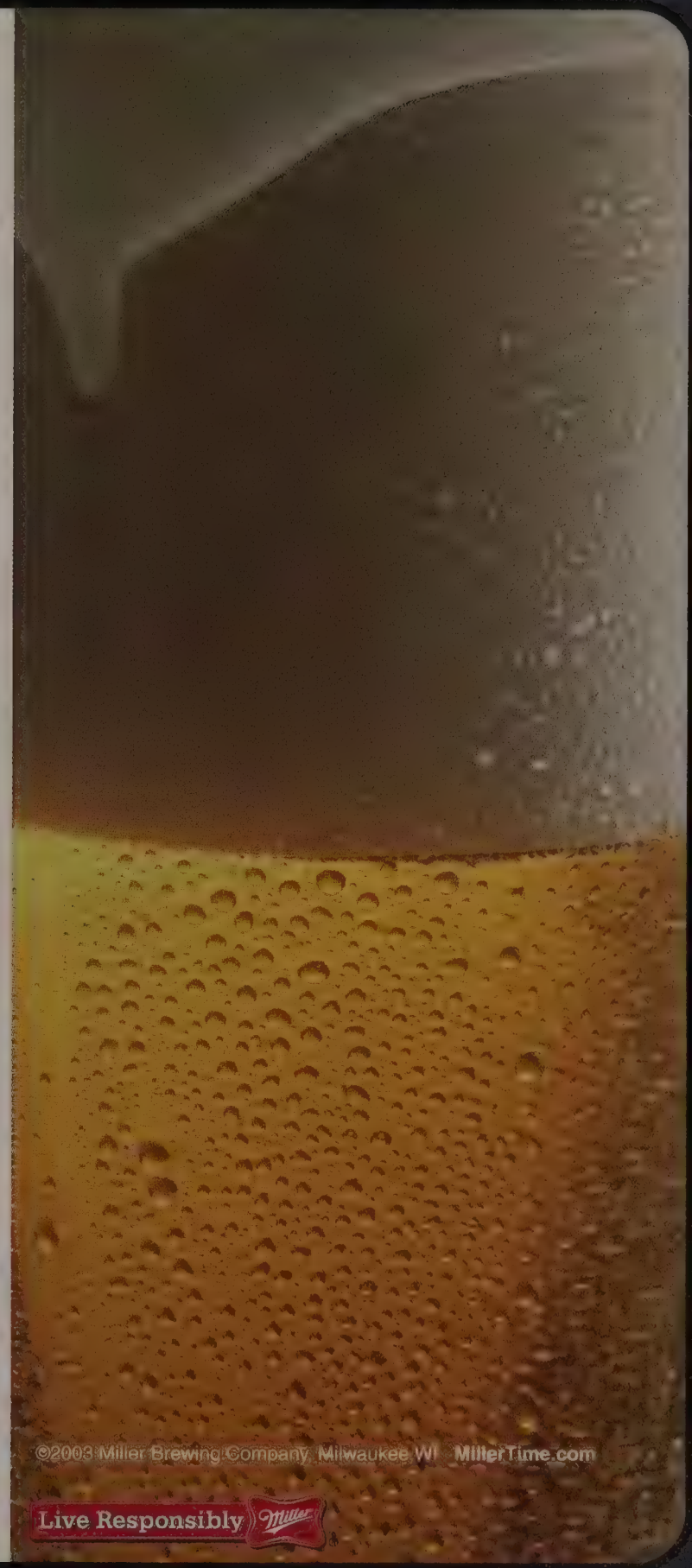

Ryles Jazz Club Los Changos, 8:30 pm, $7.
Sky Bar All Her Kings, Presley, Ellison, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Creeper Lagoon, Calla and Charlene, $10.
Western Front Jeff Chang Trio, Foulmouth Trio and Push-ups, 9 pm.
Les Zygomates Mark Greel.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

Abbey Lounge Abbey Residency featuring Mr. Airplane Man.
Asgard The Symbolics, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway Bar and Grill Ray Brown.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block Not Common Records Residency, the Dead Pedestrians, the Haloes, Red Invasion, the Gunmen, Moral Terror, 9 pm, $5.
Club Passim Emily Curtis, Nini Camps, 8 pm, $8-$10.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion Heart, 8 pm, $35-$40.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Bathtub Mary CD-release show with Swivel Hips Smith, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio.
House of Blues Antigone Rising with Becky Chace Band, 9:30 pm, $9, 18+.
Johnny D's Midnight Crew, 9 pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Monroe Brothers, 8:30 pm, 55 West, 9:30 pm, Chapter in Verse, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Lizard Lounge Beat Science, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Gossip, Sissy Bars, the Boxes, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the New Pornographers, the Organ, I Am Spoonbender, 8 pm, $12-$14, 18+. Zuzu: Lars Vegas, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Pelvic Circus and Broadband.
Plough and Stars Jeff Breeze of WMBR's Pipeline! presents the Can Kickers.
The Rack Unek Aproach, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Abdullah Ibrahim, 8:30 pm. $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Five O'Clock Shadow, 8 pm, $10.
Sky Bar The Plain Janes, the Fallout, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Canibelle, $10.
Western Front Forward Movement, 9 pm.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

Abbey Lounge Benefit for the PMC, Jimmy Fund with the Charms and members of Grass Cowboy.
Asgard Ryan McHugh, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
The Attic Father Grunby, 8:30 pm, $7.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan. Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Diamond Life, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30 pm; Nancy West, 5:30 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block Pug Uglies, Chanticlear, Zippo Raid, Nobody's Heroes, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Club Passim Kate Campbell, 8 pm, $13-$15.
Common Ground Dwight Ritcher Band, 10 pm, $4.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion Chris Isaak and Lisa Marie Presley, 8 pm, $35-$45.
Grand Canal Random Axis, 5 pm.
The Green Briar Ego System.
The Green Dragon Tavern Vent.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Harper's Ferry Tribute to the Allman Brothers Band, featuring Johnny Trama, Gary Backstrom, Greg Vasso, Jeremy Esposito, Alex Howland, Paul Wolstencroft and Garret Sayers, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Sun Junk.
House of Blues Patrick McAloon, 9:30 pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's Love Whip, 8:30 pm, $6.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café The Gladstones, 9:30 pm, Goat, 11 pm, $7, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Lizard Lounge Ricki Valenti, Jeanna Keany and Peter Montgomery, 9 pm, $6.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Tracy Chapman plays at the FleetBoston Pavilion July 18.

Middle East Upstairs: Elefant, Araby, the Good North, Carrigan, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Nervous Eaters, DMZ, the Prime Movers and USM, $10, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper Group 18+. Zuzu: Giancarlo Buscaglia, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Nikulydin, Amun Ra and L-Ref 178.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy & Alan.
O'Leary's Pub The Ed Jurdi Band, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Parris Jumper.
Paradise Lounge Megan McLaughlin and Guest, 10 pm, 21+.
Plough and Stars Los Diablos.
Porters Bar and Grill Brian Burrill Band, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Central Basement, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Abdullah Ibrahim, 7:30 and 10 pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Sweet Willie D, 9 pm, $10.
Sky Bar Acquiesce, Topheavy, Almost Speechless, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Righteous Brothers, 8 pm.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group with Phil Grenadier on Trumpet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rye Coalition, Those Peabodys, Swords Project and Runner and the Thermodynamics, $8.
Tweeter Center Pearl Jam, 7:30 pm, $34-$38.
Western Front Last Emperor record release, 9 pm.
Zeitgeist Gallery Eric Zinman Quartet with Sabir Mateen, 8 and 11 pm, $10.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

Asgard Jack Shanahan, 9 pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
The Attic Ripchordz, 8:30 pm, $6.
Axis Darkbuster, the Skels, Dirty Water, Spitzz, 6 pm, $12.
Big Easy Bar Joe Rock Star, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan. Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30 pm; Alfredo Cardim, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block Pennywheel, Alphatide, Rooftop Suicide Club, Chris Howe, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Club Passim Harvey Reid & Joyce Anderson, 8 pm, $13-$15.
FleetBoston Pavilion Elvis Costello & the Imposters and Chris Robinson, 8 pm, $35-$45.
Grand Canal Brick Park, 5 pm.
The Green Briar Random Axis.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Harper's Ferry Michigan Blacksnake with Town Hall, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson, 5 pm.
House of Blues Badfish with Zox, 9:30 pm, $12, 18+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Jordan Carp and the Subterraneans with Jude Nemo, $7, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Bastille Day a Go-Go Celebration, featuring Shaun Wolf Wortis, Suzi Lee and the Voodoo Krewe, Mardi Gras Band, Jed Parish, Linda and Wayne Veins and a set of Edith Paif songs by All the Queen's Men, $8.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Mark Lind, Mark Linskey, Lenny Lashley, Jason Bennett, Anthony Freeman, 1 pm, $8, 18+. Kingsize, the Model Sons, the High Ceilings, Harris, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Let Luke Sing, Causeway, Audrey Can't Die, the Upwelling, 8 pm, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Soul-le-lu-jah, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy and Alan.
Paradise Rock Club Strangefolk, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Paradise Lounge Bill Janowitz and Chris Toppin, 10 pm, 21+.
Parris Jumper.
Plough and Stars Caged Heat.
Purple Shamrock The Marcels.
Regattabar Abdullah Ibrahim, 7:30 and 10 pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Boston Horns, 9 pm, $10.
Sky Bar Daiseycutter, Stout, the Day Jacob Smiled, the Screen, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Scissor Man CD Release.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Broken Social Scene, $10.
Western Front Joint Chiefs, 9 pm.
Zeitgeist Gallery Daniel Blake and Fish Lung Piano Trio with Animation, 9 pm and 12 am, $10.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8 pm, $5.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Nick Goomis, 10 am.
Breezeway Bar and Grill Hakim Law.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Boys Night Out with Sean Staples, Mark Erelli, Rodd Thibaud, Jabe Beyer and Dennis Brennan, 8 pm, $10-$12.
Dick's Last Resort The Bibletones, 10 am-3 pm; Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion Tom Jones, 8 pm, $35-$55.
The Green Briar Sunday's Well, 4 pm; Finbar Doyle, 8 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
House of Blues Yellowman, 9:30, $18, 18+.
Johnny D's Blues Jam and then Salsa Dancing with Rumba NaMa, 4:30-9 pm.
Julien Bar Andy Baer Trio, 11 am-3 pm.
Kendall Café Jordan Caress, 8 pm; Meg Hutchinson, 9 pm; Antje Duvekot, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7 pm; poetry jam, featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet the Amazon Slam Team, 9 pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Constants in Breaking, Dedspace, Seneca, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Stranghold, Stoic, Spyndakit, Synj, Dryft, 8 pm, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Model A, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Fountains of Wayne and Ben Lee, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Plough and Stars Sasquatch and the Sick-a-Billies.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch with Frank Vardaros. No cover, 10 am-3 pm.
Sky Bar The Vegas Valentinos, the Wayoutz, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am Chris Flory Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Hey Mercedes, Vic Firecracker, the Town War and the Secret Channe $10.
Tweeter Center Allman Brothers Band and Susa Tedeschi, 6 pm, $28.50-$45.
Zeitgeist Gallery Sam Brelsfoard and Electonics, and 5 pm, $3.

MONDAY, JULY 14

Abbey Lounge Double D Blues Band, 8 pm, $2.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Club Passim Alia, 7 pm, $8-$10.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Seisiun.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Charlie Musselwhite, 9:30 pm, $1 21+.
Johnny D's Hillbilly Night Farewell Bash, 8 pm, $5
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Alexi Murdoch, 9 pm, Ellis, 10 pm, $ 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Lizard Lounge Comedy hour hosted by Kim Davi 7-9 pm; the Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: The Call Up, Elad Love A fair, Starla, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Killah Pries 8 pm, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Frank Graham, no cover, 21
Milky Way Sometimes She Burns CD release, Joi Custody and Baby Reds.
Paradise Lounge Chris Korwin Band with Chr Pureka, Bunk 9, and more, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack The Hakim Law, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Flory Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Be with Jo Henley, $3.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday Acoustic show.
Avalon Train.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: King Wilkie, 10 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cove 21+.
Fleet Center Eagles, 8 pm, $45-$175.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
House of Blues Tommy Castro and Stone Blue, 9: pm, $12.
Johnny D's Caroline Herring, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Rose Polenzani, 9 pm, Eastmountai south, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Dear Leader (with Aaron Perrino the Sheila Divine), the Fly Seville and Blake Ha ard, 8:30 pm, $6.
Lucky's Lounge Lucky Stereo, 9 pm, no cover, 21+
Middle East Upstairs: Kimone, the Life and Time Placer, the Forms, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Fran Morey, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Groove Authority, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar The Fizz, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tanglewood John Pizzarelli with Keith Lockha and the Boston Pops in "All That Jazz," 8:30 pm.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Underdogs and Debris, $
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Asgard Dave Tecce, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Avalon Capleton and Cocoa Tea, 8 pm, $20.2 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Breezeway Bar and Grill Paulo Danay.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Billy Jonas & Chris, Meredith Thomp son, 8 pm, $10-$12.
Dick's Last Resort Ricky & the Giants, 7:20 pm, n cover, 21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion The Blue Man Group presen the Complex Rock Tour with Tracy Bonham an Venus Hum, 8 pm, $22.50-$50.
Fleet Center Eagles, 8 pm, $45-$175.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
Harper's Ferry Tom Tom Club, featuring Fuzz, $1 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
House of Blues Kara Tondrof and the Dwigh Ritcher Band with Todd Stakem, 9:30 pm, $10.
Johnny D's Jeff Coffin Group, 8:30 pm, $15.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Frank Morey, 9 pm, Eastmountai south, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Lizard Lounge Trust Us, Joy, the Eyesores and Au tumn Rhythm, 10 pm, $6.

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Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Capital Years, the High Strung, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Dirtbombs, the Kills, the Horrors, 8 pm, $12, 18+. Zuzu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Museum of Fine Arts Patty Larkin, 7:30 pm, $24.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Hillary Noble and Rebecca Cline Enclave, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Nate Aronow Quintet, $8, 8:30 pm.
Tír na nÓg Jimmy Ryan and Duke Levine.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Superlow, Decadence and Everyday Visuals, $5.
Western Front Dusky Silo and the Patrons, 9 pm.
Les Zygomates John Thomas.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Abbey Lounge Abbey Residency with Mr. Airplane Man.
Asgard Brogue, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Bob the Chef's Brandon Sanders Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway Bar and Grill Karin Parker.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block Not Common Records Residency: Days Gone By, Random Acts of Violence, Disengaged, Borgabor V, 9 pm, $5.
Club Passim Rich Price, Stephen Kellogg, 8 pm, $12-$14.
Dick's Last Resort The Rockhopppers, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion Pat Benatar, 8 pm, $30-$40.
The Green Briar Maxie Courtney.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry 19th Annual Harper's Ferry Blues Challenge Finals, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio.
House of Blues Tim Reynolds, 8 pm and 10:45, $18.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Will Hawkens, 8:30 pm, Tom Glynn, 9:30, pm, Chapter in Verse, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9 pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Ray Greene, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Krumbsnatcha, The W.O.L.V.E.S., Jay Hayez, Average White Boyz, Full Clip, Dock Side, 360, 8 pm, $25, 18+. Zuzu: Lars Vegas, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Rock en Español with Deluxe.
Paradise Lounge Mr. Cocktail: Frank Pino and Waltham, Kicked in the Head, Marc Flynn of Drexel, David Age of Favorite Atomic Hero, 10 pm, 21+.
Parris The Brian Maes Band 10 pm, 21+.
Plough and Stars Kevin Connolly.
The Rack Boston Horns, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Ruth Brown and Friends, 8:30 pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Marta Gomez, 8:30 pm, $10.
Scullers Marcus Roberts Trio, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20 show, $55 for dinner and show.
Sky Bar Hidden Soul, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Cignal, the Information, Kamikaze and the Deafening, $6.
Western Front Stout Stile, 9 pm.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Abbey Lounge Emily Grogan Band.
Asgard Stu Lee and Tom Groleau, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
Avalon Blur and Moving Units, 7 pm, $22.25.
Axis RA, Dogfight, 7 pm, $15.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne. Upstairs: Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30pm; Nancy West, 5:30 pm
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block Media Connection, Araby, Count Me Outs, Leah Callahan, the Don't Stop, 9 pm, $7, 21+.

Elvis Costello and his band the Imposters play July 12 at the FleetBoston Pavilion.

Club Passim Jeffrey Foucault, David Goodrich, 8 pm, $10-$12.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs, 10 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion Tracy Chapman and Joseph McArthur, 8 pm, $35-$42.50.
Fleet Center Eagles, 8 pm, $45-$175.
Grand Canal Syndicate, 5 pm.
The Green Briar Stout.
The Green Dragon Tavern Fenian Sons.
The Harp Speed.
Harper's Ferry Papa Grows Funk with Goodfoot, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Random Axis.
House of Blues Marshall Crenshaw, 9:30 pm, $15.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Mike Viola & Candy Butchers, $10, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Lizard Lounge Ad Frank and the Fast Easy Women, the Douglas Fir and Twinemen, 9 pm, $7.
Middle East Upstairs: Drexel, Officer May, Eyes Like Knives, Hail Social, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper Group, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Giancarlo Buscaglia, no cover, 21+,
Milky Way Quest.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue.
O'Leary's Bird Mancici, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Paradise Averi, 9 pm.
Parris The Catunes.
Plough and Stars Peasants.
Porters Bar and Grill Jim Devlin Trio.
The Rack Unek Approach, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Ruth Brown and Friends, 7:30 and 10 pm, $22.
Ryles Jazz Club Eguie Castrillo Grou, 9pm, $10.
Scullers Marcus Roberts Trio, 7 and 9 pm, $22, $57 for dinner and show.
Sky Bar The Motive, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg John Nolan and Hokum.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys and Jittery Jack, $10.
Western Front Blackout Boston, 9 pm.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Abbey Lounge Heavy Stud CD-release show.
Asgard The Blues Bashers, 9 pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
The Attic Lake Boone CD-release party, 8:30 pm.
Axis Mars Volta, 7 pm, $15.
Big Easy Bar Band Camp, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Frank Ryan. Upstairs: Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Antonio Jackson, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30pm; Nancy West, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Club Passim Rockwell Church, 7 and 10 pm, $10-$12.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
FleetBoston Pavilion Hootie and the Blowfish and Big Head Todd and the Monsters, 8 pm, $35-$40.
The Green Briar Inchicore.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry Adam Ezra Group with Mappari, $7, 21+.
House of Blues Ill Kings, 10 pm, $10.
The Independent When Were Big CD-release show.
Johnny D's Nicole Nelson, 9 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 p
Kendall Café Mike Viola a Candy Butchers, $10, 21+.
Kinsale Sunday's Well.
Lucky's Lounge Alex M Dougall, 10 pm, no cover, 21
Middle East Upstairs: Br Rosenberg Problem, Irvi Mittens, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Zu Ready, Steady, Go-Go, cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue.
O'Leary's Rick Baron and Quavers, 9:30 pm.
Paradise Lounge Chris Brok and Milo Jones, 10 pm, 21+.
Parris Central Basement.
Plough and Stars One Tl Dime.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park
Regattabar Ruth Brown a friends, 7:30 and 10 pm, $24.
Ryles Jazz Club The Bluehe ans, 9 pm, $10.
Sky Bar Megalodon, Thickly Settled, Apocaly Brass Band, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Shiner Jones.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Neil Hamburger and Cant Ham, 7:30 pm, $8; The Lonesome Organist, 9 pm, $10.
Wang Center Joao Gilberto, 8 pm, $25-$55.
Western Front Johnny Walker Black, 9 pm.
Zeitgeist Gallery Steve Lantner Group and Jud Berkson Trio, 8 and 11:30 pm, $10 donation.
Les Zygomates Kubota Power Jazz.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Sunday Jazz Brunch with Sor Watson Jazz Quartet, 10 am.
Breezeway Bar and Grill Hakim Law.
Bristol Lounge Nancy Hurrell, 2:30pm.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Jon Svetkey, 7:30 pm, $8-$10.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining, 10 am-3 pm; Time, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+..
FleetBoston Pavilion The White Stripes and Wh wind Heat, 8 pm, $32.50.
The Green Briar Celtic Clan, 4 pm; Finbar Do 8 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnso
Johnny D's Blues Jam then Salsa dancing w Rumba NaMa, 4:30-9 pm.
Julien Bar Alexei Tsganov Trio, 11 am-3 pm.
Kendall Café Stripdown Sunday with Sarah Bor $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7 pm; poetry jam, f turing the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Cantab Slam Team, 9 pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday, 8 pm, no cover, 2
Matt Murphy's Timo Shanko, 10 pm, no cover, 2
Middle East Upstairs: The Influents, Stereo S Future, Central Falls, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Out Hud, 8 pm, $10-$12, 18+.
Milky Way Lisa Jackson and Girl Friday, the El trolytes and Maggotzoid.
Paradise Rock Club The Machine, featuring Pevar, Matt Abts and Johnny Neel performing P Floyd and Grateful Dead tunes, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch with John Purcell, am-3 pm, no cover.
Sky Bar Not Broken, Craving, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sean Yaxovic and the Stree ers, the Quiet and Jones One, $6.
Tweeter Center Kenny Chesney, Deana Carter Keith Urban, 6 pm, $25-$50.

MONDAY, JULY 21

Abbey Lounge Silas Jr., Hot Ribs Blues, 8 pm, $2
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Johnny Mac, 10 pm.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8 pm, $8-$10.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Seisiun.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Vic Chesnutt, $12, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Lizard Lounge Comedy hour hosted by Kim Da 7-9 pm; the Fringe, 10 pm.

att Murphy's Andy Voelker, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
iddle East Downstairs: Trainwreck, Matt Becker, 8), $10-$12, 18+. Zuzu: Torrez, no cover, 21+.
idway Café Carlisle Sound, Hockey Night, Robot n and Red Zone Cuba.
radise Lounge Chris Korwin Band with Joel Cage, ren Grenier, Dana Westover, 9 pm, 21+.
e Rack Ray Brown's Trio, 8 pm.
ullers Michael Buble, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20, $55 dinner and show.
p of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
ang Theatre Nelly, 7 pm, $38-$58.

UESDAY, JULY 22

bey Lounge Twisted Tuesday Acoustic show.
is Trapt, Smile Empty Soul, Three Days Grace, 7), $10.
rklee Performance Center Richard Thompson d Band, 8 pm, $28-$35.50.
e Black Rose Sunday's Well.
ntab Lounge Open Road, 10 pm.
ck's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover, +.
llette Stadium Bon Jovi, Sheryl Crow and the o Goo Dolls, 7 pm, $29.50-$77.
nnessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
use of Blues Dickey Betts and Great Southern, 0 and 8:30, $28.50.
ien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
ndall Café Vic Chesnutt, $12, 21+.
sale Houghie Purcell.
ard Lounge Dear Leader and the Blue Ribbons d Christian McNeill (from Hybrasil), 8:30 pm, $6.
cky's Lounge Lucky Stereo, 9 pm, no cover, +.
ddle East Zuzu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
ugh and Stars Michael Tarbox.
e Rack Soul Source, 6 pm.
ullers Michael Buble, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20, $55 dinner and show.
p of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 8:30 pm.
s Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio.

Music Venues

bey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-31).*
gard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-00). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
rium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (7-236-5300). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Gov- ment Center.*
e Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). BTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
alon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). BTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
is *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). BTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Big Easy Bar *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave., Roxbury (617-541-5400).*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
City Hall Plaza *MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Gillette Stadium *One Patriot Place, Foxborough (800-543-1776).*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*

ADVANCE SEATING

PCOMING HEADLINERS

hristina Aguilera, Justin Timberlake and the lack Eyed Peas Aug. 5 and 6, FleetCenter (617-31-2000)
lien Ant Farm, Die Trying and Strata July 27, aradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
ori Amos and Ben Folds Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavil- n (617-931-2000)
lack Eyed Peas Aug. 7, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
lary Chapin Carpenter July 26, South Shore lusic Circus (617-931-2787)
e Cocker Aug. 1, South Shore Music Circus 17-931-2787)
rosby, Stills, Nash & Young Aug. 23, FleetBoston avilion (617-931-2000)
ef Leppard and Ricky Warwick Aug. 19, Fleet- oston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
ismemberment Plan and Engine Down July 23, oxy (617-423-NEXT)
eart July 26, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
illy Idol Sept. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931- 00)
he Irish Tenors Aug. 1, FleetBoston Pavilion 17-931-2000)
e Jackson Band Aug. 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
hett Miller July 30, Paradise Rock Club (617- 23-NEXT)
ITV2 You Hear It First with Bubba Sparxxx, ommon and Jin July 30, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
he O'Jay's, the Four Tops and the Temptations ug., 7 FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
aranoid Social Club, 6 Gig, Baby Strange and ive July 25, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)

Bruce Springsteen will play two shows each at Gillette Stadium and Fenway Park.

Reel Big Fish, Gob and the Matches July 27, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Todd Rundgren July 30, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Sex Pistols Aug. 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Sister Hazel, Virginia Coalition and Gavin DeGraw Aug. 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band Aug. 1 and 2, Gillette Stadium; Sept. 6 and 7, Fenway Park (617-931-2000)
Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band July 27, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Supergrass, Palo Alto and Ty Cobb July 27 and 28, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
311, G. Love & Special Sauce and Something Corporate Aug. 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)

House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-2583). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Brighton (617-783-9400). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard. Ave.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, Boston (617-357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Museum of Fine Arts *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3770). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.*
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7203).*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Leary's Pub and Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club and Lounge *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Porters Bar and Grill *173 Portland St., Boston (617-742-7678). MBTA: Red Line to North Station.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, 79 or 350 bus to Arlington Center.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
South Shore Music Circus *Sohier St., Cohasset (781-383-9850).*
Tanglewood *297 West St., Lenox (413-637-1600).*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2333). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Mansfield.*
Wang Theatre *270 Tremont St., Boston (617-931-2787) MBTA: Green Line to Boylston*
Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7772).*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

New England Conservatory

St. Botolph Hall, 241 St. Botolph St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free.* The Summer Intercultural Institute presents *African and Indian Rhythm in Theory and Practice.*

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. *7 pm. $14-$43.* Christian Tetzlaff performs Bach's complete sonatas and partitas for solo violin.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

New England Conservatory

St. Botolph Hall, 241 St. Botolph St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free.* The Summer Intercultural Institute presents *African and Indian Rhythm in Theory and Practice*, featuring a tabla solo by Jerry Leake.

Society for Historically Informed Performance

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (508-212-6038). www.sohip.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. $14.* Spanish ensemble Le Tendre Amour performs *Les gouts-reunis dans l'ancien Testement*, 17th- and 18th-century Jewish music from France and Italy.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. *8:30 pm. $14-$43.* Mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson and pianist Peter Serkin perform songs by Mozart, Brahms and others.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

Arts of Music Chamber Players

St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul St., Brookline (781-837-2705). 8 pm. $20. Parisian pianist Olivia Garnier plays Schubert's *Piano Trio in B-Flat*, Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations in A* and other selections.

New England Conservatory

St. Botolph Hall, 241 St. Botolph St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free.* The Summer Intercultural Institute presents *African and Indian Rhythm in Theory and Practice*, featuring a Hindustani recital by George Ruckert (sarod) and Jerry Leake (tabla) plus dancing.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 6 pm. Free for 8:30 pm ticket holders. Members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and guest artists perform Prokofiev's *Sonata in C* for violins and Dvorak's *Quintet in A* for piano and strings.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$80. Rafael Frühbeck De Burgos and Craig Jessop lead the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, members of the orchestra at Temple Square and baritone Russell Braun in a performance of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Brahms' *A German Requiem.*

SATURDAY, JULY 12

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Boston Common Parade Ground, Boston (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 8 pm. Free. The Orchestra presents *¡Ritmo Latino!*, a program including Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 9* and the world premiere of Thomas Oboe Lee's *Mambo.*

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 10:30 am. $16. Kurt Masur leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra in an open rehearsal of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* and Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8.*

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $16-$90. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos leads pianist Van Cliburn in a performance of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor)* and *Symphony No. 7.*

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Chandler Pond Park, Brighton (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. 6 pm. Free. See listing for July 12.

Peter Serkin performs at Tanglewood July 10, 19 and 20.

New England Conservatory

St. Botolph Hall, 241 St. Botolph St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free.* The Summer Intercultural Institute presents a performance entitled *African and Indian Rhythm in Theory and Practice, North Indian Rhythms.*

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $15-$80. Kurt Masur leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* and Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8.*

MONDAY, JULY 14

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Riverside Press Park, Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. 10 and 11:30 am. Free. The orchestra performs Daniel Pinkham's musical based on Robert McCloskey's children's book *Make Way for Ducklings.*

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. The Longy Suzuki Violin Ensemble and the Ottawa Suzuki Strings perform Vivaldi's *Summer* and Michael McLean's *Trepak and Festival Overture.*

TUESDAY, JULY 15

Janus 21 Summer Concert Series

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-734-5174). www.janus21.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $21.* Cellist Alexei Romanenko and pianist Max Levinson perform selections of Bach, Kodály and Schnittke.

Tanglewood

Tanglewood Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $16-$90. Keith Lockhart leads the Boston Pops and jazz musician John Pizzarelli in *All that Jazz.*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. Pianist Dubravka Tomsic plays selections from Beethoven, Chopin and Haydn.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free. Members of NEC's Kodály Music Institute program and a Kodály-trained children's chorus perform in a finale concert.

Society for Historically Informed Performance

First Church, Congregational, 11 Garden St. Cambridge (508-212-6038). www.sohip.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $15-$20. The Blue Heron Renaissance Choir's program, *Gobmert, Morales & Co.*, features Franco-Flemish and Iberian composers.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $10-$25. Robert Spano leads soprano Dawn Upshaw and Tanglewood Music Fellows.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Beale Estate, Adams National Historic Park, 135 Adams St., Quincy (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. MBTA: Red Line to Quincy Center. 7 pm. Free. See listing for July 12.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 730 pm. Free. Aaron Kula leads the NEC Youth Chamber Orchestra in the season finale.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $10-$25. Robert Spano lea the Tanglewood Music Fellows in a performance works by Higdon, Maier, Yaklov, Thomas and Ken as part of the Festival of Contemporary Music.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200 www.bso.org. 6 pm. Free for 8:30 pm ticket holde The BSO performs selections of Beethoven and Iv in a prelude concert.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (88 262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$80. Robe Spano leads violinist Midori and the BSO in wor by Stravinsky, Dvorák and Benjamin.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (88 262-1200). www.bso.org. 10:30 am. $16. Hans Gr leads the BSO and pianist Peter Serkin in an open r hearsal of selections by Mozart, Stravinsky and Webe Pianist Peter Serkin is featured.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200 www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $10-$25. Robert Spano lea the New York Virtuoso Singers and Tanglewoo Music Fellows in a performance of works by Harve Musgrave, Britten and Ligeti as part of the Festiv of Contemporary Music.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200 www.bso.org. 6 pm. $10-$25. Robert Spano leads th New York Virtuoso Singers and Tanglewood Mus Fellows in a performance of works by Wuorine Kingswood, Ligeti, Higdon, Harbison and Carson part of the Festival of Contemporary Music.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (88 262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$80. Ha Graf leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra an pianist Nelson Freire in a program of works Schumann, Beethoven and Bartók.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200 www.bso.org. 10 am. $10-$25. Robert Spano lea TMC Fellows in a performance of works by Cag Rzewski, Lieberson and Zorn as part of the Festiv of Contemporary Music.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (88 262-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $15-$80. Ha Graf leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra in a pr gram of selections by Mozart, Stravinsky and Webe Pianist Peter Serkin is featured.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. Robert Spano lea pianists Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Ursula Oppens ar Robert Spano in a program of works by Benjami Ligeti and Messiaen as part of the Festival of Co temporary Music.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBT Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12. Director Paul Lee houts leads cellist Phoebe Carrai in a performance works by Bach in a program titled *The Compleat Mu sick Master.* The concert is part of the Internation Baroque Institute program.

MONDAY, JULY 21

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBT Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. The Internation Baroque Institute program presents a performan titled *Traité des Agréments.*

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. George Benjam and Robert Spano lead the TMC Orchestra in a pe formance of works by Benjamin, Druckman, Higd and Knussen.

TUESDAY JULY 22

Lavazza Chamber Ensemble

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (61 796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Gre Line to Riverside. 7:30 pm. Free. The Lavazza Chamb Ensemble performs works by Beethoven and Mozart

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-1200 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. Chanticleer's O *American Journey* includes works by Steven Stuc Jackson Hill and Brent Michael Davids.

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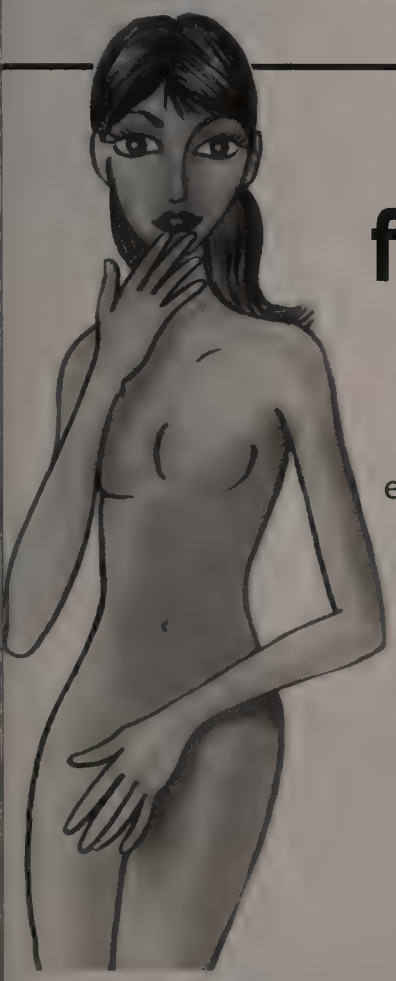

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Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •July 14, Hakim Law, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •July 21, Ray Brown's Trio, 6:30-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live-music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
Den'm Tuesdays Resident DJ G2 spins house, international and hip-hop beats. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis bring the house music and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•July 15, Groove Authority, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •July 22, Soul Source, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21 +.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

House music, a big, happy family and a boat go hand in hand," says DJ Randy Deshaies

Preview

Sunday Sailing

Take to the water on one of the summer's dance cruises

Begun seven years ago, the annual Phoenix Landing boat cruise dance-party series has become a summertime tradition in Boston. Three Sunday-evening cruises set sail from Rowes Wharf every summer (one in June, July and September), pairing local house music DJs and a dance-happy crowd with a sunset voyage through Boston Harbor.

This year a fourth cruise, sponsored by The Kells, aims to add to the house music fun on the water. On July 13, Ireland native John Davis and Boston's Tym Ryan will hoist anchor for A Nice Day Out, a boat cruise that includes a special guest artist from Chicago: up-and-coming tech-house producer Joshua Collins. With a recent release on the seminal UK label Hooj Choons to his credit, Collins is on his way to dance music superstardom. The Kells will host a free pre-party and after-party, with a complimentary shuttle to the wharf, so partygoers can make a day of it.

On Sunday, July 20, the second installment of this summer's Phoenix Landing cruise series gets under way. A lengthy roster of Phoenix Landing resident DJs will provide music. "House music, a big, happy family of party people, and a boat just seem to go hand in hand," says DJ Randy Deshaies. A free after-party will follow at Phoenix Landing.

July 13: Free pre-party, after-party and shuttle at The Kells, 161 Brighton Ave., Allston. 6 pm boat departure from Rowes Wharf, 9 pm return. $25, advance purchase at www.groovetickets.com. 617-782-9082. 21+.

July 20: 6:30 pm departure from Rowes Wharf, 10 pm return. $15, advance purchase recommended. Free after-party at the Phoenix Landing, 10 pm-1am, 512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. 617-576-6260. 21+. —Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJs spin reggae, jungle and dub, 9:30pm, 19+.

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s.

The Rack
DJ Steve Anderson spins dance music, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 9, Live music with the Taylor Bros, 6-10 pm. •July 16, BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae–style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Pe Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky hous 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins and Artie the One Man Party pl top-40, hip-hop and R&B, 10:30 pm, no cov 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 2 (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressi Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajam John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen ho a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orlean themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bil and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tun 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mykonos Lounge DJ Bruno spins Indian and hi hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix featur retro tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hi hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance a house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live music by loc bands goes all night, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop, R&B and top-4 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted KISS 108. Proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spi acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christia Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fre guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue u the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstair 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party starte upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spi dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 21+

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am, 21+

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins Lati dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover befor 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
Brian Maes, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando presen drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 21+

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techn downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge a night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

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WEDNESDAYS AFTER WORK 6PM

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
DJ Lenny C spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 10, live music with Uneek Aproach, 6-10 pm. •July 17, Boston Horns, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves. Proper dress, 10 pm, $11.50.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Superlovers DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40, 10pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
Anything Goes Circuit Girl hosts this women's night with DJ Thom Delahunt spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Parris
•July 11, Jumper. 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •July 18, the Catunes. 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Bobby B spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 11, live music with Central Basement, 6:30-10:30 pm. •July 18, live music with U-Nek Aproach, 6:30-10:30 pm.

RiverGods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes, jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker spins the top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge
DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 1 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 1 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with tw floors of music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Square spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop an vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstair with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, whil downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 10 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and interna tional music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+ •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream international music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80 and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+. $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 18+ $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40 dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+ no cover, 21+. •**Sober Saturdays** Dance to '70s '80s, '90s and top-40 in an alcohol-free atmosphere $15, 18+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•July 12, Jumper,10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •July 19 Central Basement, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm. $5, 21+ •July 12, the Marcels perform live. •July 19, Brick Park takes the stage.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host the dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

RiverGods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ Un lockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

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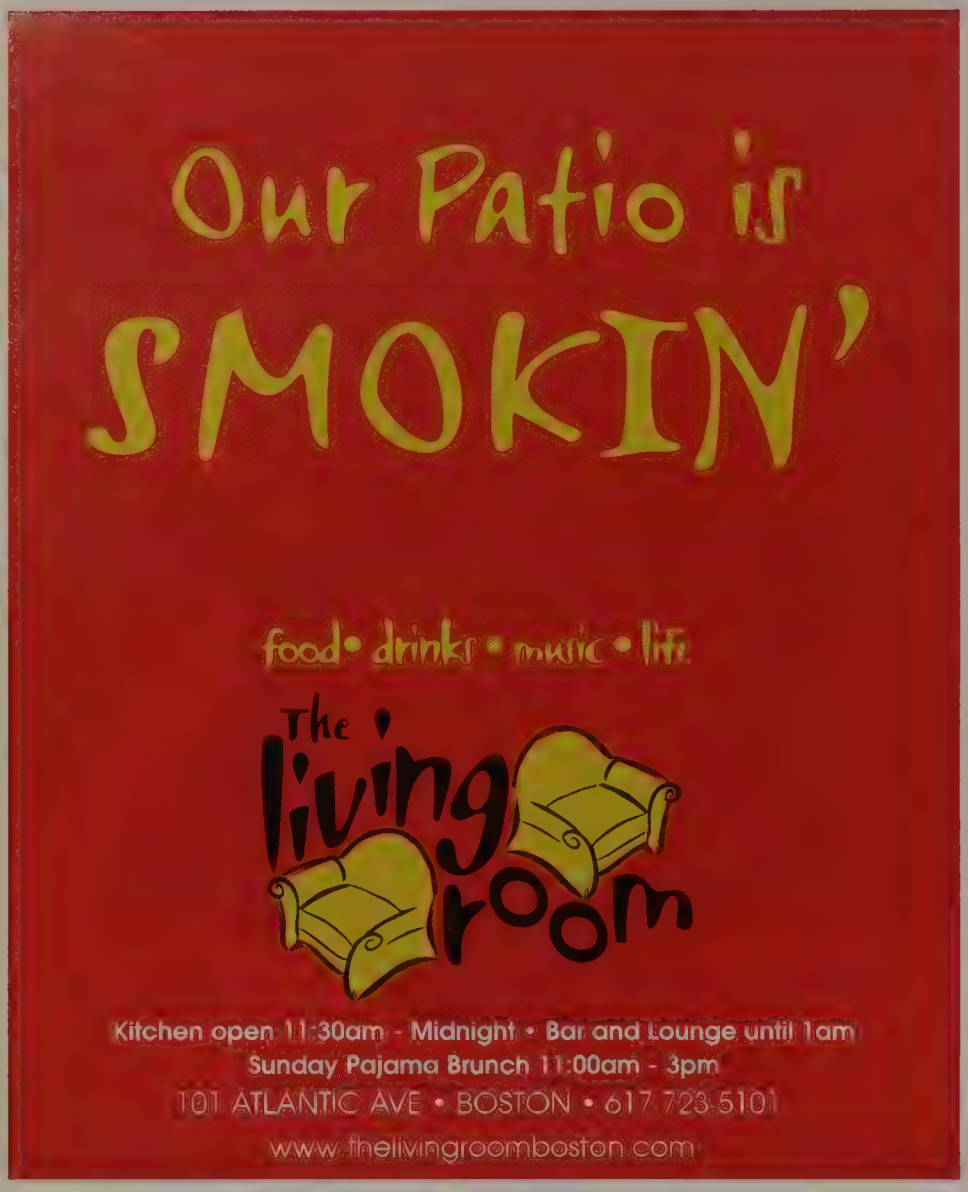

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and light house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
Resident DJs KC Pete and Adam Gibbons play eclectic deep house, 8 pm-1 am, $5, 21+.

Aria
DJ Roger M. spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm , $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It DJs John Davis and B-Coy spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house; DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

RiverGods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30 pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; the you can check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian nig as DJ Leandro spins some hot Brazilian beats, 11 pr $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae ar world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-ho house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
RiverGods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Sept. 7. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Medardo Russo: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows July 19-Oct. 26.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Olmsted's Emerald Necklace*, an exhibition on the historic significance of the Emerald Necklace parks, displays through July 31. •*American Presidents: Life Portraits*, by artist Chas Fagan, displays through Aug. 29.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* produces colorful light beams. Through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down*, a 40-foot relief of a tree, shows through Aug. 31. •*The 2003 DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the work of 11 New England artists. Through Aug. 31. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculptural exhibition, shows through spring 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists, selected from the museum's collection. Through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum

1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained-glass panels, displays through Aug. 31.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm.* •*Kandinsky in 1914* shows through July 13. •*Jean Fautrier 1898-1964* displays through July 20. •*Le Coq d'Or: Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes* shows through Aug. 24. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* displays a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition featuring 15 artists from around the world, explores the complex relationship between the creative process and healing. On display through Aug. 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students; free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through Aug. 24.

Stephen Coyle's alkyd on canvas, *Urban Pools: Beach Ball*, displays at the Chase Gallery.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children.* •*Ann Pendleton-Jullian: Facts + Fictions* highlights four of the writer, architect and MIT professor's books. Through Sept. 5. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*French Royal Furniture* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a collection of figurative art from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788* features 100 of the British artist's paintings and drawings. Through Sept. 14. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* is an exhibition of works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Speed* explores the physical laws that govern velocity. Through Sept. 3. •*Contraptions A-Z* is a hands-on exhibit of gadgets. Through Sept. 8. •*Microbes: Invisible Invaders... Amazing Allies* examines the harmful and beneficial effects of the microscopic wonders. Through Fall 2003.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community*. Ongoing. •*North and South: Berenice Abbott's U.S. Route 1*, a show of 60 of Abbott's photographs, displays through July 13. •*New England Neon* features more than 20 neon signs from the 1920s through the 1970s. Through Sept. 14. •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Worshipping the Ancestors: Chinese Commemorative Portraits* shows through Aug. 10. •*Family Ties* displays contemporary art through Sept. 21. •*Masterpieces of Asian Nineteenth Century Photography*, an exhibition of photographs from China, Japan, India, and Tibet, displays through Sept. 28. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing from Chinese artists in various media. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children* •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features work considering the native people's response to the arrival of Europeans across the continent. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through Aug. 30. •*These Shoes Were Made for ... Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art

38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Summer Salon*, a group show featuring recent acquisitions and works by gallery artists, displays through Aug. 16.

Alianza Gallery

154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm* •*Tea and Fantasy*, a show featuring sculptural teapots by 1 artists, displays through Aug. 31.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Summer Selections* featur new paintings by gallery artists. July 9-Sept. 3.

Arden Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Mart Boyle shows oil-on-canvas works in *New Wor* Through July 30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery

10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490 www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Four to Look* features the work of Cree Bruins, Sally Moore, Ke Sherman and Rachel Perry Welty. Through Aug. 1.

Berenberg Gallery

4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: *C ange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm.* •T gallery celebrates summer with *Tropical Flavors* group show. Through July 31.

Bernard Toale Gallery

450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). ww bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •A show mixed-media works displays July 11-Aug. 30.

Brickbottom Gallery

1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). ww brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm and appointment.* •*What is Big?* features large-sc works in various media. July 12-Aug 9.

Bromfield Art Gallery

27 Thayer St., Boston (617-451-3605). ww bromfieldartgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Ba Bay. Wed.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Hot Dot: Youth Art fr the Dorchester Community Center for the Visual A* shows through July 19.

Brookline Arts Center

86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-571 www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 a 4 pm.* •Fay Grajower shows paper and scrolls *Stone Links*. Through July 31.

Chappell Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). ww chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arli ton. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointme* •Vladimira Klumpar, Anna Matousova and Pa Trnka show their work in *Configurations and Tra formations: Three Students of Libensky*. Throu Aug. 15.

Chase Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). wv chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copl Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Gifts of Su mer: New Work*, a group show of paintings, drawi and mixed-media work, displays through July 26.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm. • The gallery presents three summer shows: Printmaking in the Age of Rembrandt, Whistler and His Circle and At the Docks. July 14-Sept. 6.

Clifford-Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. Open in July and August by appointment only.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Copley Artists Show: A Juried Exhibition and the Masters Show display through July 19.

Crump Gallery
522 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6 pm. •The gallery features an ongoing exhibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •Paul Kerepka's Colorful Landscapes and Recent Works shows through July 25.

Elias Fine Art Gallery
120 Braintree St., Rear, Allston (617-783-1888). Wed.-Sat., 12 pm-5 pm. •Christiane Wallace shows her collection in Patriotic Paintings. Through July 26.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm. •Unfolding Geometries features Don Eyles' photography and Anne Lilly's sculpture. Through July 18.

Galerie d'Orsay
63 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •Jamali shows prints and paintings in Mystical Expressionism. Through July 14.

Gallery AA/B
535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617-574-0022). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu., 12-6 pm, Mon-Fri. by appointment. •Summer Prism features new paintings, monoprints and drawings by Michael Ader and Carlyn Ekstrom. Through July 25.

The Gallery at Black and White
395 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •Brian McNeil: Environmental Portraits shows through Aug. 1.

Gallery @ Green Street
41 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www.timeshull.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Tue., 6-9 pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9 pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm. •Straight Faced, a collection of contemporary self-portraits in photography, painting and sculpture, displays through Aug. 2.

Gallery Katz
150 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. July-Aug. by appointment only. •A group show featuring new works by gallery artists displays July 11-Aug. 31.

Gallery Kayafas
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-0411). Tue.-Fri. 1-5:30 pm; Sat. 12-5:30 pm. •Jo Sandman shows photographs, photograms and drawings in Inside the Image, and Judith McMillan shows X-ray photograms in Optic Explorations. Through July 19.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Lana Z. Caplan shows her photography in On Closer Inspection. Through July 18.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
168 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. Aug. by appointment. Fran Siegel shows his paintings and drawings in Pacific Glow. Through July 15. •A group show featuring gallery artists displays July 18-Aug 31.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm. •From Our Studios: Work from the Artist Tenants at Arlington Center for the Arts displays through Aug. 1.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment. •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Boston Summer 2003 features mixed-media works by Jerry Bergstein, Emily Eveleph, Morgan Bulkeley and others. July 10-Aug. 16.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm. •Vitrum Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath and Board features more than 75 pieces spanning three millennia. Through July 30.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters. •Mini-Masterpieces, the 10th annual summer poster show, displays through Sept. 3.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-6 pm. •Franklin Ross shows his work in Introduction/Space.Time.Emotion. Through July 12. •Carol Gove and Donna Rosenthal show paintings and installations in Introduction. July 16-30.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment. •Star Festival, a group exhibition of paintings and ceramics inspired by the Japanese Tanabata festival, shows July 12-Aug. 7.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm. •The Cambridge Art Association presents a New Members Show. Through July 30.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. •Gil Mares shows his photographs in Harbor Abstracts. Through July 26.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. •New Art '03, a juried show of local and national artists, features paintings, photography and printmaking. Through July 26.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •Corrine Okada and Whitmore Boogaerts show wire and steel works in Bending Metal. Through July 31. •Through the Looking: Glass, a group exhibition of glass vessels and sculpture by Marialyce Hawke, Duncan McClellan, Lucy Bergamini and Stephen Main, shows through Aug. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment. •Maggi Brown, Roby Fader and Dan Weller show their work in The Locals: Three Cambridge Artists. Through Aug. 29.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Gallery artists show their work in the annual summer show. Through July 31.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm. •Playland, a group show of paintings and photography, displays through Aug. 2.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •South Enders 2, a juried exhibition of South End artists, displays July 18-Sept. 26.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm. •Japanese artist Mariko Kusumoto shows her mixed-media sculpture. Through July 31. •Japanese Jewelry and Hollowware, a collection of jewelry and sculptures by 29 artists, displays through July 31.

MPG
228 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1596). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Tue.-Sat. 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun. and Mon. 1-5 pm. •Rachel Claflin and Celine McDonald show new paintings. Through July 13.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. Open July and Aug. by appointment. only. •A group exhibition of gallery artists' work shows through August.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm. •Don't Dilly Dally, We Just Might Have the Next Dali, a group show, displays through July 20.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Summer Surprises, a group show of paintings, drawings and sculpture, displays through Aug. 2.

108 Gallery
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-4 pm. •Tamara Staples shows prints featuring 1950s pinup girls and Elaine Belsito presents her multimedia work If You Lost Five Ponds You'd Be Perfect in the exhibition American Standard. Through July 20.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm. •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Gallery artists display paintings and drawings. Through July 30.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. •The gallery celebrates its 36th anniversary with Fine Choices: Something Old, Something New. Through July 29.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •The Art of the Game, a group show, features photographs celebrating athletics. Through Aug. 23.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •20th Century Master Graphics, a collection of lithographs and aquatint etchings by Sonia Delaunay, Joan Miro and Marino Marini, displays through Aug. 30.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •Botanicals, a group show of mixed-media work, shows through July 27.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Sat., 12 pm-6 pm; Sun., 1 pm-5 pm. • Two Views features watercolors by Susan Demchak and mixed-media works by Nancy Schiesfelin. July 9-Aug. 10.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •Eclectic, a group show, features paintings of Boston, Italy, Mexico and Cape Cod. Through July 15.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 8:30-1 pm. •Six artists show multimedia work in Go Team. Through July 31.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. •Paintings by Pat Cauley, a show of abstract work, displays through Aug. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-4 pm. •Polly Thayer Starr shows drawings in Carved from Darkness Carved from Light. Through Aug. 15.

Zeitgeist Gallery
1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. Thu.-Sun., 2-7 pm. •RAW Arts, Artists for Humanity and Project Image present Louder Than Words, an exhibition of work by local teenagers. July 8-21.

Gil Mares photograph Hull (Reflections) displays at the Kidder Smith Gallery through July 26.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Rd., Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5. Babette Hines displays discarded photobooth portraits spanning 75 years. Visitors can have their photo taken in a working booth and add it to the collection. Through Sept. 12.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm. •The 2003 Graduating Students Exhibition shows through July 31.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm. •Work by Alex MacLean displays through Sept. 6.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.prcboston.org. MBTA: B Green Line to Blandford. Tue., Wed. and Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-5 pm. •A members exhibition shows through July 27.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books@improper. com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Cheryl Mendelson** reads from her novel *Morningside Heights*, about artists and scholars on Manhattan's Upper West Side who are struggling to remain in their gentrified neighborhood.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Marcelle Clements** reads from her novel *Midsummer*, in which a fashion designer hosts a gathering of her acquaintances at her summer home.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www. wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* Journalist **Michael Farquhar** reads from *A Treasury of Royal Scandals: The Shocking True Stories of History's Wickedest, Weirdest, Most Wanton Kings, Queens, Tsars, Popes and Emperors.*

THURSDAY, JULY 10

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Writer **John Mitchell** and illustrator **Jana Christy Mitchell** share *Four Go Mad in Massachusetts: Adventures with the Mitchell Family from Boston to the Berkshires*. Tired of the typical, the Mitchells and their six-year-old twins sought offbeat adventures throughout Massachusetts.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Harlyn Aizley** reads from her memoir *Buying Dad: One Woman's Search for the Perfect Sperm Donor*, about Aizley and her partner's experiences searching for a biological father.

MONDAY, JULY 14

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free.* Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** signs copies of *Living History*, her memoir about her experiences during her husband's presidency.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com.

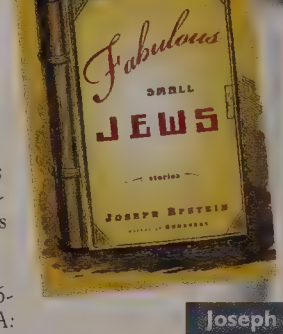
Hillary Clinton signs copies of her new book July 14.

MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Mark Rotella** reads from his travelogue *Stolen Figs, and Other Adventures in Calabria*, a series of anecdotes about the land and people of Calabria, the rugged toe of Italy's boot.

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* Attorney **Nancy Geary** reads from *Redemption*, her thriller about the dark side of privileged society set in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Nancy Geary** reads from *Redemption*. See July 15.



Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Joseph Epstein**, a contributor to *The Best American Essays 2002*, reads from his 13th book, *Fabulous Small Jews*, a collection of short stories about upper-middle-class Jews in Chicago.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* Boston attorney **Susan Neisuler** reads from her book *Justice at the City Gate: Social Policy, Social Services and the Law*, a critical examination of government services for poor families, with a focus on juvenile courts.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Lise Haines** reads from *In My Sister's Country*, her novel about a young woman who moves to Chicago to live with her overbearing older sister. Also, **Elizabeth Searle** reads from *Celebrities in Disgrace*, a novella and four short stories about characters in pursuit of fame.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www. wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **David Ebershoff** reads from his novel *Pasadena*, which follows the efforts of a young entrepreneur trying to buy a Californian ranch at the end of World War II.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Stephen Fox** reads from his book *Transatlantic: Samuel Cunard, Isambard Brunel and the Great Atlantic Steamships*, a history of steamship travel across the North Atlantic from 1820 to 1910.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www. wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* The author of *Into Thin Air*, **Jon Krakauer**, reads from his new book, *Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith*, which looks at a double murder committed by two Mormon fundamentalist brothers and examines Mormonism's extremist sects.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

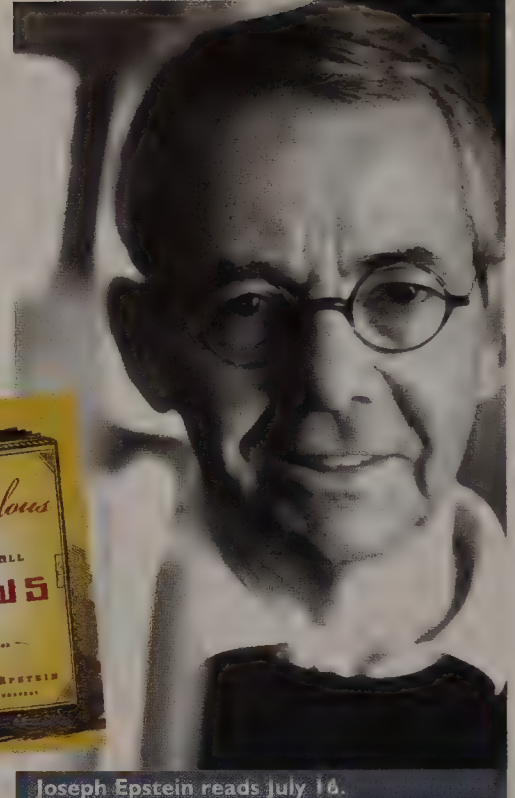
Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
The Attic, Union Street Restaurant, 107 R. Union St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks .com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. 7:30 pm. Free.* **Douglas Coupland** reads from his new novel *Hey Nostradamus!*, which follows a religious young man from a tragic school shooting in 1988 to the present day.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Grub Street Writers
Newtonville Books, 296 Walnut St., Newton (617-623-8100). www.grubstreet.org. *5 pm. $12.* **Barry Eisler** reads from his debut novel, *Rain Fall*, about a Japanese-American assassin in the dark underworld of modern Tokyo.

MONDAY, JULY 21

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www. wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Arthur Phillips** reads from *Prague*, his novel about five American expatriates looking for love and the meaning of life in Budapest while longing for a better life in Prague.


Joseph Epstein reads July 16.

TUESDAY, JULY 22

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Sarah Smith** reads from her novel *Chasing Shakespeares*, in which a geeky Shakespearean scholar and a Harvard student investigate the identity of Shakespeare. Also **Indu Sundaresan** reads from her historical novel *The Feast of Roses*, the sequel to *The Twentieth Wife*. The new novel continues the story of Mehrunnisa, the powerful wife of Emperor Jahangir of the Mughal Empire in 17th-century India.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www. wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Leslie Marshall** reads from her novel, *A Girl Could Stand Up*, about a girl raised by her quirky uncles after her parents' death.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7 pm. $5.* The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is presented one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity to take the open mike.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Ca endar: Education, or e-mail information to educ tion@improper.com. Deadline is at least four wee prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Lowell Lecture Series
Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 Boy ston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.or *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* Durin this panel discussion, **Gianfranco Pocobene** ar **Carol Troyen** compare the cleaning and restoratio process at the Museum of Fine Arts with the Bosto Public Library's project to clean the John Sing Sargent murals.

SATURDAY JULY 12

Magnificent and Modest Beacon Hill Walking Tour
Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Bost (617-227-3957). www.spnea.org. *11 am-1 pm. $1 Registration required.* This program provides glimpse of daily life in the early 19th century. Vis the elegant Federal-style Harrison Gray Otis Hous and then take a walking tour of Beacon Hill, inclu ing the sunny, tree-lined streets where the ric resided and the humbler North Slope that was hon to Boston's working class.

SUNDAY JULY 13

The 4 Elements Exhibit Artists' Talk
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Bost (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *MBT Orange Line to Forest Hills. 10 am-6 pm. Free.* Join number of the artists featured in the *4 Elements* e hibit at Forest Hills, including Kathleen Drisco Danielle Krcmar, Sean Langlais, Mark Winetrou Winslow Burleson and Chris Verplaetse, as th offer a tour the grounds and discuss their pieces.

TUESDAY JULY 15

Information Session on Female Sexual Dysfunction
Conference Room C-D, Newton Pavilion, Bost Medical Center, 88 East Newton St., Boston (61 638-8576). www.bumc.bu.edu/sexualmedicir *7-9 pm. Free.* **Dr. Irwin Goldstein** presents a lecture entitled "Women Without Orgasm: Now or Not Ever?" and relates the experiences of a patient who found a solution to the problem.

The 4 Elements exhibit

Introduction to the Tibetan Language
Sangha Tibet Resource Center, 237 Holland St., Somerville. www.sang -tibet.org. *Tuesdays, beginning July 15. $125 for classes or $15 per class.* This course focuses on conv sational Tibetan, an introduction to Tibetan scr and basic Buddhist vocabulary.

SATURDAY JULY 19

Medardo Rosso: Second Impression
Arthur M. Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Ca bridge (617-495-3251) www.artmuseums.harvard.e *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2 pm. $6.50.* Ha Cooper, curator of modern art, discusses the work late-1800s Italian impressionist sculptor Medar Rosso.

SUNDAY JULY 20

Nineteenth-Century Herbal Medicir
Old Sturbridge Village, One Old Sturbridge Vill Road, Sturbridge (800-SEE-1830). www.osv.o *10-11 am. Free with village admission ($20).* St bridge Village's weekly series, Sundays in the G den focuses on herbal medicine.

Victorian Sculpture Walking Tour
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Bost (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *MBTA: (ange Line to Forest Hills. 6 pm. $5.* Rebecca Reynol keeper of historic collections for the Forest Hills Ec cational Trust, discusses the cemetery's sculptu treasures during this educational walking tour.

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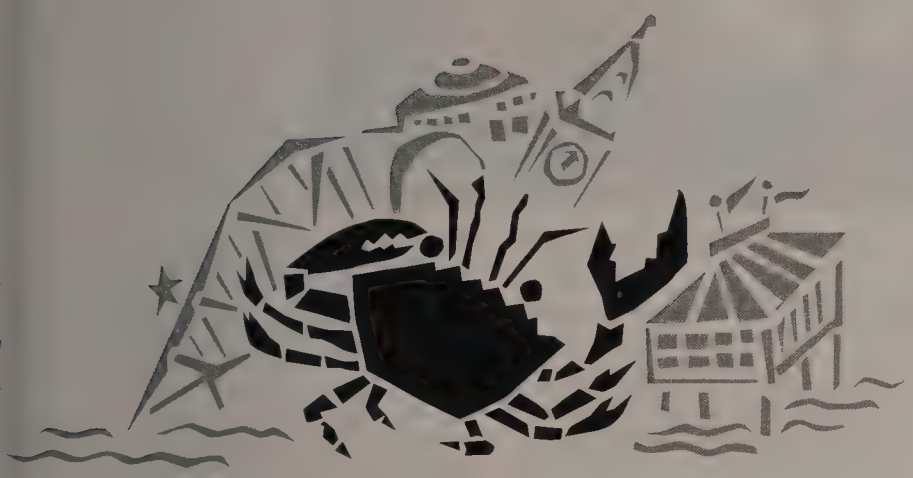

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gay & lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information, including telephone numbers and nearest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or e-mail gaylesbian@improper.com.

Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

A teen confronts his homosexuality in the film *My Life on Ice* at the MFA.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambrid (617-864-0400). www. mar rayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Li to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 ar Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 ar Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to young, alternative clientel ManRay features two dan floors. •Wed.: Crypt featur DJ Chris Ewen in the cage ar DJ Mothra in the front room. pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Camp is a testosterone night with I Brad Gwynn and DJ Chr Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21 •Fri.: Rotating themes inclu Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factor Ooze and scheduled speci events. •Sat.: New Wa Dance Party with DJ Chr Ewen and Disco Inferno wi DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $ 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038 www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Gre Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midw offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotati DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+. •July 10: DJ M tress plays a mix of vocal and progressive hou and other types of music, with an emphasis on f male artists. •July 17: DJ Deja mix show feature mix of vocals, funky house and disco house.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). ww milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Broo* Gay men, women, transgenders and their allies a welcome to start the night early at CandyLand; li entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-wo events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance pa hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-62 1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line*

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Sullivan Square. Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am.* Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Switch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: *Green Line to Boylston.* •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
2B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Childbirth Class for Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6243). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. July 12, 19 and 26, 9 am. $125 includes food for mothers-to-be and their partners.* This childbirth class is taught by a certified childbirth educator. Preregistration is required.

Fetish Flea Market
Park Plaza Castle, 64 Arlington St., Boston (617-376-NELA). www.nla-newengland.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. July, 19, 11 am-6 pm. $15. 18+.* The annual Fetish Flea Market offers all kinds of fetish wear, leather and kinky items of interest. The event also features a few short performances.

Les deux Anglaises et le continent (Two English Girls)
Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.harvardfilmarchive.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. July 16, 7 pm; July 17, 9 pm.* Relations between lovers are strained when a Parisian belle lures two British sisters into a ménage à trois. Francois Truffaut directed this 1971 film.

The Chiltern Mountain Club hosts outdoor activities throughout the summer.

Ma vraie vie à Rouen (My Life on Ice)
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. July 17, 8 pm.* A provincial French teenager confronts his homosexuality in Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau's 2002 comedic coming-of-age film.

Vita and Virginia
Spring Lawn Theater, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *July 12-Aug. 31. Thu., 8 pm; Sat., 10:30 am. $27.* Dan McCleary directs Shakespeare & Company in its production of Eileen Atkin's play, which is based on the correspondence between author Virginia Woolf and her lover Vita Sackville-West.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collaborated with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide this safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relationships, domestic violence and other issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners.* MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 3-5 pm.* The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm.* Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. First Wednesday and third Thursday of every month. 7-8:45 pm.* An informal support group for bisexual individuals.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA First Friday of every month. 7-9 pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated (and 40 or under) for get-togethers with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* An ongoing support group for people born into biologically female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female, and who wish to explore gender in a safe place.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-GLBT). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2.* This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
(617-437-9488). This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tuesday/Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings. Gay and lesbian swim team for both fitness and competitive swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month.* Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Meets twice a month.* Learn to cope with a partner's illness.

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body & mind

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Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Mystical Art and Talent Show
Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-864-4552). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.soulstirring.org. *July 19, 7-9:30 pm. $5-$10, sliding scale.* This show presents a variety of original paintings, readings, stories and songs by local artists who gather their inspiration from dreams, meditations, religion and nature.

Workshops

The Alexander Technique
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter rail to Needham Center. July 16, 7-9 pm.* The Alexander Technique is about being aware of how you move, even during the most mundane activities. The technique is said to help relieve back pain and tension and improve posture. This evening's lecture and demonstration will introduce its history, principles and everyday application.

Art, Body and Soul Day
Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). www.art-and-soul.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. July 12, 10 am-5 pm, $75.* Enjoy a relaxing daylong workshop with expressive arts therapist Kat Mitchell. She'll demonstrate facilitated bodywork, movement and creative expression through sound, imagery and words.

Bridal Survival Club
The Bay Tower, 60 State St., Boston (617-227-2127). MBTA: Red Line to Central. July 10, 6:30-8 pm. Free. Please pre-register. Once engaged, brides-to-be can be overwhelmed with both practical and emotional stress. The Bridal Survival Club is a monthly meeting for brides-to-be—and their friends, mothers or fiancés—who could use a support system.

High Frequency Yoga for Women
Carmela Cattuti, 151 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-970-5320). www.yogame.com. *July 19, 10-12. $45. Beginners welcome.* This class explores basic postures, focusing on the abdominal muscles, and demonstrates techniques for increasing stamina and transforming negative thought patterns.

An Introduction to Integrated Awareness
Cambridge Health Associates, 335 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-3414). www.mfourman.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Free parking. July 17, 7-9 pm. $5. Preregistration required.* Experience the relationship between your mind, body and emotions. Participants can use the Body's Map of Consciousness to discover what location in the body is central to sustaining and releasing the issues that concern them.

Loving Kindness Meditation
Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. July 12, 10 am-5 pm. $55.* This day features meditation practice and discussion on the concept of *metta*, which Buddha taught as an antidote to fear and anger. The systematic practice of metta is believed to help develop concentration and tranquility, strengthen the mind and soften the heart.

Monthly In-Depth Yoga Class
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St, Boston (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles or Green Line to Government Center. July 20, 11 am-2 pm. $25.* This three-hour class with Barbara Benagh is for continuing-level students who wish to deepen their practice and study of yoga. The duration of the class allows for a challenging exploration.

Partner Yoga Workshop
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org *or* www.kimchilds.com. *July 19, 3-5 pm. $55 per pair.* Bring

Barbara Benagh teaches at the Yoga Studio.

your child, friend or significant other and learn partner yoga and light massage in this workshop led by certified Kripalu yoga teacher Kim Childs. You'll both try out conscious communication and playful exercises, which can help deepen understanding between two people. Yoga experience is helpful, but not required.

The Power of the Heart
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *July 11, 7:30 pm. $10.* In many religious traditions, the heart is featured as a powerful point of healing, enlightenment and liberation. At this lecture, learn more about your heart, how it works and how to use it to empower yourself and others.

Relax Your Body, Calm Your Mind
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Four Mondays, 5:45-7:45 pm, beginning July 14. $134.* The Mind/Body Medical Institute, along with colleagues at Harvard Medical School, presents its research on the relaxation response. Speakers will discuss the physiologic changes that occur when a person engages in a repetitive word, sound, phrase or prayer. These changes are said to be beneficial for mind and body and an effective therapy for several physical ailments.

Turning the Mind into an Ally
Boston Shambhala Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline. www.primordialdot.org. *July 19, 9 am-4 pm. $60.* Explore traditional techniques of meditation and contemplation, which can help you develop equanimity, courage and wisdom in daily life.

Ongoing

Beginner's Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-562-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or #57, 64, 66 and 501 bus lines. Wed., 6:30-8 pm. $15-$20.* Try the beginner's class in this attractive and peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time.

Breathwork
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 5:30-7 pm. $10 donation.* Join David Vendetti, experienced breathwork facilitator and yoga teacher, for this relaxing class.

Inner Workout Yoga
Living Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Fri., 5:30-6:30 pm. Donation appreciated.* Increase your energy while relaxing your mind and body at this drop-in Kundalini yoga and meditation class.

Silent Meditation
Living Yoga Center, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Sun., 7:15-7:45 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Free.* Silent meditation can help you relax and enhance your peace of mind, and help you hear your intuitional voice.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches participants to experience their breath as the vehicle to link the mind with the body.

children

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Things to See

Make Way for Ducklings Concert
Boston Landmarks Orchestra, 168 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-520-2206). www.landmarksorchestra.org. *July 14 and 16, 10 and 11:30 am.* The Boston Landmarks Orchestra presents composer Daniel Pinkham's *Make Way for Ducklings*, based on the book by Robert McCloskey.

Mother Hicks
Center for the Arts, 4 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *July 12 and 19, 11 am. $8, $5 children.* Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company performs classic stories with new and comic twists. What if the Big Bad Wolf had a chance to defend himself in court? What if Peter Pan hired a private detective to track down Captain Hook? See these fairy tale characters in a completely different light.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •July 9 and 10, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 4-8: In Poobley Greegy's *Going, Going, Gone Whaling*, Abner, the whale-hunter, sets sail on the sea and meets a family of whales, learning lessons along the way. •July 16 and 17, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 5-10: *East Meets West* by Hua Hua Zhang features traditional Chinese puppets performing stories and dances.

Things to Do

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6229). www.acarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, then Arlington Heights bus to Foster Street.* •July 9-11, 8:45 am-3:30 pm: The Summer Arts Program presents *Glorious Spain*, an investigation of Spanish culture. •July 14-18, 8:45 am-3:30 pm: The exhibit *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles* flies through the history of transportation. •July 21-25, 8:45 am-3:30 pm: *The Rainforest* explores the art, animals, environment and stories of the rainforest.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free.* •Sat., 11 am, ages 5 and older. Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •*Guided Visits of the Japanese House. Mon.-Fri., 11 am-3 pm.* Roam the hallways of a Kyoto townhouse and play fun Japanese games. •KidStage. Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage. •In the Art Studio. July 9-18, Mon.-Fri., 10 am-12 pm and 2-4 pm. Spend the morning making books, or the afternoon doing paper marbling. July 21 and 22, 10 am-12 pm and 2-4 pm. Make watercolor poster paintings before lunch, or do afternoon monoprinting. •*Making America's Music: Rhythm, Roots & Rhyme.* June 28, 10 am-5 pm, Fridays until 9 pm. An interactive exhibit of the nation's diverse musical forms, created in collaboration with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The Discovery Museums
177 Main St., Acton (978-264-0030). www.discoverymuseums.org. *Through August 31. Daily, 9 am-4:30 pm. $8 for one museum, $12 for both.* Discover the fascinations of science, wildlife, arts and social stu ies using hands-on experiments and activitie •Mon. 10 am: Monday Fundays. Children intera with the environment and the world through spec weekly showcases.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (61 236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Green Li to Kenmore. Through September 30. Every hour fro 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9.* To the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Par

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-2341 www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Ha vard. $6.50, $4 children.* •Family Day Trip: Miner Safari. July 12, 8 am-5 pm. Ages 8-16. $50. Travel New Hampshire's Blue Hills to search for minera •Summer Science Camp: July 21-25, 9:30 a 12 pm, preschoolers and grades 4 and 5; July 14-1 9:30 am-12 pm, grades K-3. $100. Students exami museum artifacts, go behind-the-scenes, explore e hibits and do outdoor activities to gain a deeper u derstanding of our world.

Harvard University Art Museum
Arthur M. Sackler Museum, 32 Quincy St., Ca bridge (617-495-4402). www.artmuseums.harva edu. *July 13, 1:30 and 2:45 pm. Free; recommend for ages 6-11.* •Children's Theater: Audience me bers are incorporated into *The Singing Tree*, a ta about love's overpowering effects.

ImprovBoston Family Show
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1253 www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Ce tral. Sat., 6 pm. $12, $10 students.* Performers crea scenes, songs and stories based on suggestions fro the audience.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444 www.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line Kendall. $5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Lig Fantastic:* The MIT Museum displays the large collection of holograms in the world and describ the artistic and scientific facets of the mediu •*Robots and Beyond:* Take a look behind the scen of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in th interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448 www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to M seum. $15, children under 17 free.* •Tuesdays, 3:3 4:30 pm. *Books Bring Art Alive.* Museum instructo read books, poems and stories to texturize the pair ings and incite kids to ask and talk about what th see. •Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30 pm, July 9-August 2 Adults, free with museum admission; children unc 17, free. *Family Night Out: Throne Project.* Perfo mances and activities for the whole family, includi a performance art exhibit by B. Lynch, who will sn children's pictures as works of art. •July 9, 6, 6: and 7:30 pm. English country dancing. •July 9, 6 and 8 pm. *Your Favorite Children's Stories on Fil* Classic children's books are brought to life throu film. •July 16, 6, 6:45 and 7:30 pm. Yorick's han carved wooden marionettes dance in a performan of classical Czech puppet theater. •July 16, 6 anc pm. *Wallace and Gromit Short Films.* The clay p star in three adventures by Nick Park.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.o *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 a 5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children.* •Sat. a Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Thea Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuri professional storytellers who combine folk tales a myths with visits from live animals. •Charles Ha den Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3: and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to ide tify the stars, planets, constellations, and celest events in *The Sky Tonight.* •Gilliland Observato Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use t observatory's two telescopes to view the moon, sta constellations and planets. •World Beat Day: Ju 19, 3-7 pm. Regular admission. Get your groove as international groups dance live in the exhibit ha to celebrate rhythm, movement and music fr around the world.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (61 522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 p $5.* The Museum of Transportation includes large collection of rare and antique cars as well exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution Speed* exhibit explores the history of Americ auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot ca Hot Wheels and soap-box racing with go-carts climb in, tracks to build and races to win. •Dai Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the m seum and receive a free prize.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
uly 17, 7:05 pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
uly 18, 7:05 pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
uly 19, 7:05 pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
uly 20, 2:05 pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
uly 21, 7:05 pm vs. Detroit Tigers
uly 22, 7:05 pm vs. Detroit Tigers

Boston Breakers
•Nickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
uly 13, 6 pm vs. Philadelphia Charge
uly 19, 4 pm vs. Atlanta Beat

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro. Tickets: 877-438-7387
uly 12, 4 pm vs. MetroStars
uly 16, 6:30 pm vs. Dallas Burn

FC Gold Cup Soccer
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro. Tickets: 617-931-2222
uly 12, 1 pm, Costa Rica vs. Canada
uly 12, 6:30 pm, United States vs. El Salvador
uly 14, 6:30 pm, Canada vs. Cuba
uly 14, 8:30 pm, United States vs. Martinique
uly 16, 4:30 pm, Costa Rica vs. Cuba
uly 19, 3 pm, Gold Cup Final

Events

Adidas Tennis Smash
Tennis stars serve up the game, set and match action o benefit the Tim & Tom Gullickson Foundation. This year's roster of players includes Martina Hingis, im Courier, Jan-Michael Gambill and more. *Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club, Brewster (508-896-4880) www.tennissmash.net. July 14-15. Tickets start at $25 or exhibition matches.*

Khoury's Summer Steamer
This annual 4-mile run around Somerville is part of he *New England Runner* Pub Series. The first 300 unners receive free T-shirts, and the race concludes vith a party at Khoury's that features live entertainment from the IT Band. A portion of proceeds benefit St. Benedict's Little Flower School. *Khoury's State Spa, 118 East Broadway, East Somerville (617-24-1121) www.srr.org. July 13, 10 am. $18. Applications available the day of the race.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for he 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

Khoury's Summer Steamer hits the road July 13.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroam museum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Orange or Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Free.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). www.oldironsides.com. *Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Ship hours: summer: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.*

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

Old State House Museum

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Volunteers needed to read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Help needed to serve lunch and dinner and to work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with single young professionals. •July 12, 9am-2pm: Charles River Conservancy •July 13, 1:30-5:30 pm: Waltham Community Farm. •July 19, 9 am-1 pm: Greater Boston Food Bank •July 20, 8 am-1 pm: Women's Lunch Place.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Volunteers needed to help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal immigrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

Tony V

Mike Coleman

Tom Hayes

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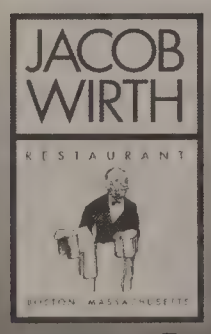

The first 500 people to visit will be automatically entered to win luxury box tickets to an upcoming summer concert at the Fleet Center plus a whole lot of other great prizes!

Very Good - - Alison Arnett The Boston Globe
Jacob Wirth "vigorously soars into its third century."

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improperimpersonals

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity.) Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 617-859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Red Line Rush Hour Romance

I noticed you June 16 around 5 pm at Park Street while I was waiting for the Red Line. Despite the rush-hour chaos all around, you stood out from the crowd. You have dark hair and eyes, tanned skin, and you were wearing a red top. I was wearing a baby-blue dress shirt and jeans. I know you realized I was giving you some attention. You look like you could be Latina, and hopefully you do speak Spanish. The look you gave me as you got off the train at Kendall hit me hard and assured me that you did enjoy the attention from me. That look was enough to tell me you would respond if you read this, that you would let me buy you a drink, that you are just as curious about me as I am about you.
—redlinepoetry@yahoo.com

Rowes Wharf

You said I looked "safe," as we walked along in Downtown Crossing. I thought you looked marvelous, so we met at Rowes Wharf and had a delightful conversation. (This'll be your second time in the Impersonals this year!) So, my dance shoes are on, and the pinot gris is in the fridge. Drop me a line, and I'll give you a proper tour of Boston.
—JohnnyM786@hotmail.com

Joanna, Scientist from Kansas

We were at Government Center station. Me: Sitting on a wall, writing in a notebook. You: Had a less-than-divine time at Ned's. You'd called Steve Dave. Or was it Dave Steve? And the bangs brought bad luck. It couldn't possibly have been the ring. We got talking trying to decide if the Night Owl bus was ever going to come. You seemed cool, but I didn't get a chance to ask you to a show before the creepy blond guy interrupted. So, I'll ask now. Let me know what caused the calluses on your fingertips (to screen out weirdos). Yes, I remember, and it wasn't the mice.
—Bostoncomic@att.net

Shot in the Dark

I know this is a shot in the dark—that you'll read this or that you'll even remember me, but I'll take a chance anyway, as everyone does here! We spoke briefly at T.T. The Bear's in Cambridge, where you were bartending in the back, newer area. It was Dec. 11, 2002, and the bands SR-71 and Sugarcult were playing for the WBCN Xmas Rave. You struck me as down-to-earth, intelligent and genuinely nice—and I found those qualities, as well as your looks, very attractive. I was with someone who was my date that night or I would have spoken to you more. That never evolved into anything and for the longest time I have thought about placing this Impersonal to get in touch with you. I'm sure a guy like you is taken, but if you aren't and you read this and remember me (or if someone who works at T.T.'s reads this!), write to me. Just so I know it's you (and I'm hoping you remember this!), tell me what you were wearing that caused me to start the conversation. Hope to hear from you!
—daydreamer8383@yahoo.com

Thanks

I would just like to say thanks to the two guys who brought their German shepherds to the gravel running track in the Fens at 8 am June 19. First, thanks for smoking as you walked along the track; it was a really courteous thing to do to the four people running on the track. Second, thanks for allowing your dog to chase me as I ran. It doesn't matter if he is "nice," he's a German shepherd and could still tear me to shreds if he wanted to. But don't worry, I enjoy watching my life flash before my eyes every now and again as I work out; it spices things up a bit.
—Aggravated Runner

Chris

You work for IBT in the Hancock Tower. I find you exceptionally attractive and your personality intoxicating. Give me a sign to let me know how you feel.
—You Know Who

December 7, 2002

I stepped off the train, and you knew I was yours. Half a year later I'm still waking up to those beautiful brown eyes looking back at me and I know I'm the luckiest woman in the world.
—Ashy

Springsteen Tickets

You were two people behind me in line at the Orpheum to get tickets to Springsteen at Fenway. We never exchanged names during our two hours in line, but we had the same cell phone and raced to get tix from the Philly Ticketmaster. You won. But my friend got tickets online so I still get to go to the show even though they sold out as we waited. You were so excited to get through you didn't even know where your seats were (I'll be in the grandstands). I asked you out to lunch afterward, but you had plans to meet your brother. If you'd like to get a drink sometime, e-mail me.
—Ellenms32@yahoo.com.

You Caught My Eye and Flew Away

We met a couple weeks ago in the North End on Friday night. You were on your way back from Florida, ready to change out of your airline uniform and ready to enjoy your weekend. I was the talkative one who chatted with you while walking through the streets. We ran into each other later that night in front of Bricco and all I got was your name, Karen. I should have gotten your number. I would lov to chat again over coffee or a glass of wine sometime, but don't know how t reach you.
—Drew1212242@yahoo.com

To Spunky Girl

Please let me clarify my criticisms of "The Expert on International Standards." It is relatively common knowledge that if you are going slow or standing, you keep to the right on an escalator, sidewalk or pathway. I am a strict adherent to that, but I'm also aware that no one's bound by thi unwritten rule and I accept that. There are a lot more serious things in life to get upset over. What I was writing about was this guy's sheer nastiness to complete strangers. It was a short escalator ride, and if he couldn't get past the offending people he should have accepted that and waited the extra five seconds or taker the stairway. He was extremely rude, for which there was no excuse. You would think from his reaction that these guys robbed him or something. It would have been humorous if it weren't so anti-social and pathetic.
—NFG

Sultry Day at Economy Hardware

It was a scorching Friday afternoon ir Allston, June 27. You: sexy with dark hair, dark eyes, grey tank top, black pants. Me: unshaven, green polo shirt tan shorts. We saw each other in the College Furniture place across the street, then minutes later in Economy I smiled at you and we kept running into each other. While you looked at air conditioners, I wandered around the store, trying to come up with something to say. When I did, you were gone. It should have been: "How about some ice cream?"
—mass_ave@yahoo.com

Noosey

It's been 10 years now since our first international coupling. I love you as I've never loved another. You are my north, my south, my east and west, my working week and my Sunday res my noon, my midnight, my talk, my song. My love forever.
—Jack

rockie horoscope

JULY 9 – 22, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

CANCER JUNE 21-JULY 22

Since Moon Children—well, the women anyway—are such dedicated romantics, let's assume that having magnetic Venus in your sign will attract the picture-perfect partner you've been daydreaming about. And since affectionate Venus is on the best of terms with horny Mars in Pisces, the attraction should be mutual. If ever you longed to fulfill a favorite fantasy, this would be the time. Why not see just how compatible (or delusional) two water signs can be—one egging (or is that leading?) the other on? Where's that rational Aquarian when you need one?

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

It's perfectly natural, even for a spotlight-seeking Leo, to want to hide out in the weeks before your birthday and gather psychological strength. Face it, what lies ahead, or who lies in wait, are reasonable concerns. Even though you're the king of your realm, a Lion is obliged to protect whatever beloved beasts live in that kingdom. This month the nurturing Cancer sun reinforces those safety-first, creature-comforting tendencies. But please, don't overdo the (s)mothering. Listen for warning cries and early signs of rebellion.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

The wisdom of the ages, the music of the spheres, the sound of silence: A couple of times a year—usually when your Mercury ruler and the life-giving sun conjunct—you're given an opportunity to tune into the ineffable. Hearing anything the Ancient Masters need to tell you while cherry bombs go off and Roman candles whiz by can be quite the accomplishment. Nevertheless, try to stay within inner earshot and listen to the words, especially the lyrics, running round in your head. There's an important message in the madness.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Your career accomplishments, or other achievements that reflect your family's good name, are in synch with your pleasures—for a change. The activities you're currently participating in, even the challenges, only add to the good things people are saying about you. Such acceptance is the stuff that Libran sociability is made of; that, and the supportive trine between your loving Venus ruler and thrill-seeking Mars in your house of romance and risk. An unexpected invitation is waiting in the wings; an unusual alliance is about to be formed.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Try to postpone anything that isn't a life-or-death matter so that you can devote the rest of the month to nurturing who and what you love best. You might not get such a painless opportunity to reveal how you feel for a long time to come. While it'll be another two years until your Mars co-ruler is in Pisces again, affectionate Venus won't be in Cancer at the same time. It's only now—not in 2005 or 2007 either—that solar Scorpios, as the third leg in a rare Grand Water trine, will reap so many benefits from the harmonious Mars-Venus connection.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

It's traditional. This time of year, during the Cancer-Capricorn time slot, Archers with the gift of foresight take aim in an attempt to target what'll hit big during the fall season. No matter what the product, service or concept is, now is when you get to figure out how to cash in on the next new thing. The people you're attracted to this week and next will probably turn out to be the folks whose resources you can tap into, not the ones to fulfill your romantic longings. Who said summer is vacation time?

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

A romantic interlude, your annual love fest, is set to occur while affectionate Venus merges with your Saturn ruler. After they hook up on the 8th, simply lay back and let Venus bring on the pleasures and pretty things. Since this is the first time in your adult life that these two energies will meet in Cancer—the sign of your cosmic mate—you might feel overwhelmed by your willingness to spread the joy or by the seriousness of your commitment. Besides, such good fortune can extend to your finances as well.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

This summer the same-old, same-old can morph into entirely new experiences. Don't rely on history (we like to eat at this joint, we usually visit those folks) to strike the same pleasant chord it has in the past. Because your Uranus ruler is currently in all-encompassing Pisces instead of in rational Aquarius, you're liable to be less sure of your reaction to or understanding of what's happening. For example, when affectionate Venus favors Uranus this week, is it you who's getting hit on or is it your neighbor?

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

A period of harmony, coupled with a healthy libido, is your reward for enduring the latest round of discord and upsets. Make sure you get your fair share of loving when Venus trines Mars and Uranus in your sign this weekend. Although a Crab may be the most compatible choice for a summer romance, feel free to come on to a rambunctious Ram, a quirky Aquarius, even a mild-mannered Libra. But if you want someone for the long haul, check out a Capricorn home-owner who can fix things. You could use some stability.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Domestic bliss, or whatever is passing for it this summer, is yours for the asking. With so much planetary attention focused on Cancerian concerns—Mom, apple pie, cultural ties, national security—a relative stranger may try to narrow the gap and invite you to "meet my folks." But if you'd rather channel this seasonal desire for cozy and comfortable to less fattening pastimes than greeting and eating, how about redoing the kitchen? Whatever makes you house-proud and more secure would work.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

The new and the old can be equally appealing because your magnetic Venus ruler is attracting both innovative Uranus and tradition-based Saturn. If you want to add excitement and novelty to a borderline boring relationship, this would be a good time. Every now and then Venus (the feminine) and Mars (the masculine principle) stop struggling for supremacy and let you experience perfect harmony and affection, the pleasures of peaceful coexistence. One of those deliciously romantic interludes is coming up on 7/11. Enjoy.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Time to cash in. You might not think you deserve a reward, nevertheless, there's a subtle, perhaps even a substantial one headed your way. Whether you spoke up in protest or did something to rattle an important someone's equilibrium is neither here nor there. What matters is the positive steps being taken and how easily they'll fit into other aspects of your life. Make sure to leave time for the sillier side of romance; you can learn a lot this summer from billing and cooing and other lovebird behavior. Mating for life!

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Denise Tioseco prepares to feed a tortoise an IMPROPER in the Galapagos Islands. These turtles are 8,000 years old and, due to evolution, can fly. And they have thumbs.

Paul Daigle, Kevin Mahoney and Jack McGeorge prepare to tee off in St. George, Utah. After hitting, they jumped the adjacent gorge in their rocket-powered Sky Golf Cart.

Mary M. Buckley traveled to the Faroe Islands for this shot. Her picture was taken by angry tourist who wanted to know where the damn Sphinx and pyramids were.

Alec DiZazzo soaked up some rays in Miami Beach. It's nice to see that he brought some reading for when he got tired of the tiki huts, drinks, nice weather, girls in bikinis...

Stephanie Nist and Brooke Garber visited merry England, where, due to a budget crunch, you can now pal around with the queen and make her hold magazines for a small fee. Her Majesty said that their tiaras were the dog's bollocks.

South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford stops fighting hurricanes for a moment to do a little reading.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Hooting away their hunger and shooting guns in the air at the annual Homowo ("Hooting at Hunger") Festival in Accra, Ghana in late August.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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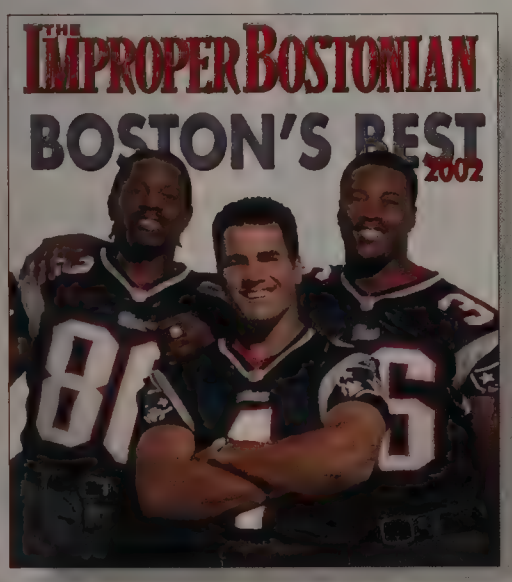

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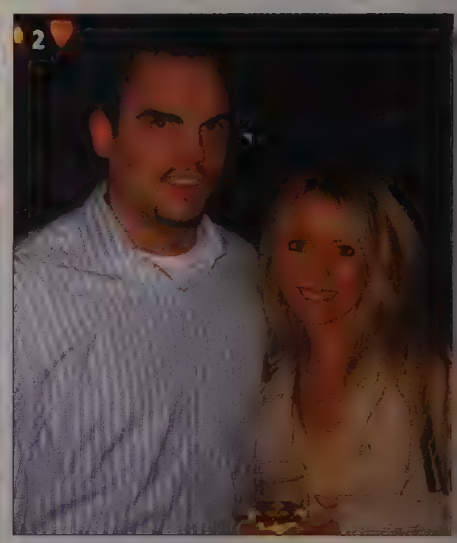
IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Thursday, June 19, the **Glynn Hospitality Group** hosted its 10th annual Block Party at **Jose McIntyre's**, sponsored by **Budweiser**. The event raises money each year for the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**.

1. **Lauren Fish**, recent graduate of the University of New Hampshire; **Kristin Labbe**, server from The Rack; **Rachelle LeBlanc**, server from Sissy K's; and **Cortney Puopolo**, server from Cheers.
2. **Sean Larkin** of Equipment Direct; **Conor Dalton**, a student from Rollins College in Florida; **Justin Platten**, marketing intern for the New England Patriots; **Matt Geraigery**, trader assistant at Fidelity Investments; and **Joe Dalton** of Equipment Direct.
3. **Danielle Ceurvels**, bartender; **Maria Piscitelli**, bartender; **John Labanara**, manager; **Donna Frawley**, bartender; **Tricia Golden**, bartender; **Kristen Costarelli**, server; and **Amanda Laverdiere**, server, all from Jose McIntyre's.

On Monday, June 16, the People of Vision Celebrity Fashion Show with eyewear provided by **SEE** was held at **Ned Devine's** and **Parris** to raise funds for **Prevent Blindness Massachusetts**. The evening was packed with entertainment, including live music by the Rockhoppers, a show by **Giggles Comedy Club**, a live auction and a silent auction.



1. **Tim Parks**, manager of SEE Eyewear, with **Alan Cregg**, executive director of Prevent Blindness Massachusetts.
2. **Phillip Henry**, manager of Ned Devine's, and **Sheri Saperstein Richberg**, marketing manager of the Briar Restaurant Group.
3. **Errol Apostoloupoulos**, owner of The Place, with fiancée **Fran Kelly** and **Michael Kalil**, marketing director of The Place.

On Sunday, June 22, **The Place** played host to the Hawaiian Tropic Bikini Contest regional finals.

1. **Sue MacDonald**, an esthetician with Elizabeth Grady in Braintree, and **Candice Bleicken**, an esthetician of Pipeline Salon in Scituate.
2. **Kate Massey** of Galligher Bassett, **Brian Howard** of Johnson & Johnson and **Jeanne Ficociello**, a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania.
3. **Melanie Mathews**, with her fiancée, **Dan Bacigalupo**, bartender at The Place, with **Cindy Bacigalupo** and **Libby Beecher**, Dan's mother and sister respectively.

On Friday, June 27, the **Somers Group** hosted their first annual Beach Party at the **Grand Canal**. The evening included live music by Dick & Jane and festive beach attire.

1. **Betsy Daniels** of Vertex Pharmaceuticals and **Kelly Rush** of Barry Controls.
2. **T.J. Rowling**, account representative for United Liquors, and **Danielle McKeown**, graphic design coordinator for United Liquors.
3. **Scott Johnston** and **Kristi Johnston**, performers with the band Dick & Jane.

PHOTOS: THE PLACE, KAREN DANA; PARRIS, CARRIE WALLACE; GRAND CANAL, DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN; JOSE MCINTYRE'S, KAREN DA

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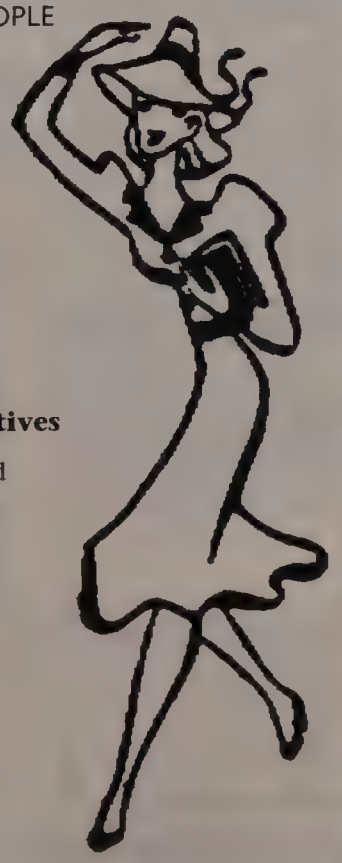

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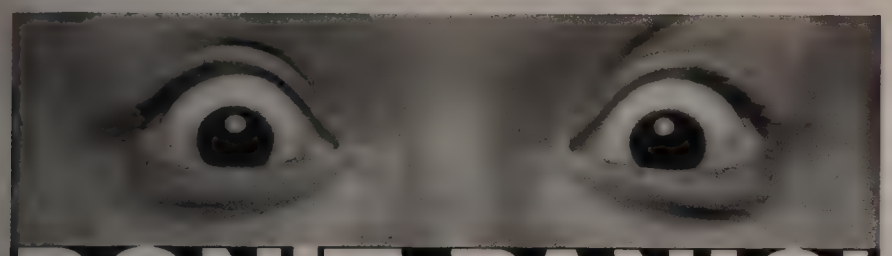

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully hand-crafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere in the heart of downtown Boston. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Science Street Cafe *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out the newest nightspot--The Museum of Science. Try our one-of-a-kind martinis, gourmet appetizers and desserts, then tour the Museum or catch an Omni movie. $25 package includes one drink, one appetizer, Mugar Omni Theater ticket, Exhibit Hall admission and parking. 6-10pm at the Museum of Science

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap:130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here. The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: TH LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporar latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays MONDO BAR, international and house spun by D Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, prope dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, hig energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Doc at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wea

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Marke Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connec tion located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall fea tures the biggest names in comedy with apearance by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Ja Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Mar ket Building, the Connection offers the best in loca and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-946* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape i the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-a dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-208 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Le your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Sim ply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun i Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come t dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's a ways something exciting happening – and you nev know who you'll bump into. Join us and experienc what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-22 2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainmer and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes America and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketpla Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Impro

Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston,617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St.,617- 236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. On Friday and Saturday, live DJ from 10pm - 2am. No cover.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston, 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

TK's Jazz Cafe *Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, Northwest Canopy, Boston. www.jazzcafefaneuilhall.com.* Boston's newest jazz restaurant featuring live music. Open daily. Full menu available from 11:00am - 11:45pm. For reservations call 617-227-7579.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

Sports Bar - Upscale

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

BRUNCH

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

Tonic *1316 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton, 617-566-6699.* We've created the perfect summer setting in our open-air café with comfort food and music to ease you through the weekend. Start off with a custom cocktail you make yourself at our Bloody Mary and Mimosa Bar. Traditional Irish breakfast and a-la-carte American favorites served Saturdays. We roll out the works on Sundays with a truly brilliant buffet including the spectacular desserts of pastry chef Andrea Furtado. Weekends 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Rose Garden Party, clockwise from top: Vanessa Cronin and Courtney Forrester; Molly Dunne, Heather Earl and Carolyn Rodeno; Mayor Menino's grandchildren; fashion accessories; Emily Webster, Karyn Lamb and Allison Fischoeder; Kathleen McDermott.

A PARTY BY ANY OTHER CHARITY WOULD NOT SMELL SO SWEET...

Hope springs eternal, even after a spring of eternally bad weather, as the **Rose Garden Party** to benefit **Park Arts** proved.

The invitation said "garden party attire enthusiastically encouraged," which, for women, apparently means wearing an elaborate floral hat, and for men, something linen or seersucker, with a straw-boater or a Panama hat, and sunglasses.

In fact, about the only woman who dared to go bare-headed was restaurateur **Lydia Shire** (who inexplicably skipped the chance to stick flowers in her chef's toque), but otherwise, everyone was in full compliance. Among them: mover and shaker **Wendy Shattuck** (sporting the added accessory of a purse shaped like a watering can); brunette cutie pie **Vanessa Cronin**; improbably tall arts booster **Bill Nigreen**; fashionista **Caroline Collings** (looking stunning in a checked Fiandaca suit); the oh-so-social Beacon Hill triumvirate of **Karyn Lamb**, **Emily Webster** and **Allison Fischoeder**; their South End counterparts, **Carolyn Rodeno**, **Molly Dunne** and **Heather Earl**; first daughter **Susan Menino Fenton** and her trio of adorable little moppets; ultra-philanthropist **Diddy Cullinane**; über-jeweler **Donna DePrisco**; and one woman whose French manicure did a decent job of hiding the dirt under her fingernails that she got from digging in her garden.

"Hey, when the weather's as lousy as it has been, you take advantage of every second the sun is out," she said in her defense. But she was by no means the only example of aberrant behavior brought on by the biblical downpours of the Spring That Never Was. Normally scintillating conversationalists were reduced to talking about the weather (or more precisely, bitching about how bad it was). One woman claimed to be disoriented upon seeing blue sky for the first time in weeks, and another arrived wearing all black.

"That's garden party attire?" critiqued another guest, to which someone else responded, "Maybe she's dressed as a storm cloud."

Of course, the silver lining was that the roses looked especially lush, and thankfully, the weather held, allowing Irish redheaded fashion avatar **Marie Galvin**, Boston Lyric Opera costume designer **Kathleen McDermott** and *Boston Magazine* fashion editor **Kim Atkinson** to judge the hat contest.

"Are those real orchids and ivy?" one of them asked a woman. "Yup," she said proudly. "My housekeeper made it. I got home this afternoon, and she said, 'Your hat's in the refrigerator.'"

WAKE-UP CALL...

It was unusually early in the morning and an utterly out-of-the-way place to find a gathering of some of Boston's biggest socialites, but there they were, bright and early, at the **Black Falcon Marine Terminal** in South Boston.

The occasion was a breakfast aboard one of the **Mercy Ships**—a fleet of decommissioned boats, outfitted as floating hospitals, that sail around the world, providing free medical care in underdeveloped countries. An Afro-Caribbean band serenaded guests as they arrived at the dock, where they then climbed the gangplank and were greeted by the charity's founders, **Don** and **Deyon Stephens**.

Among those granted permission to come aboard: patrician do-gooder **Richard Dalton**; perennial delight **Sylvia Pope**; Back Bay restaurateur **Debbie Lewis**; the gorgeous mother-and-daughter duo of **Gale** and **Amory Minot**; impossibly chic professor **Michele Talbot**; multiple board member **Michael Halperson**; Chestnut Hill real estate minx **Vicky Whitney**; the Right Reverend **Ray Hammond**; babe-a-licious ob-gyn **Dr. Nawal Nour**; apple blossom **Mary Kay Holder**; **Dola** (Mrs. Staples) **Stemberg**; mondo mover and shaker **Richard Taylor**; Wang CEO **Joe Spaulding** and his wife, **Joyce**; Antiguan power-babe **Collette Phillips**; Channel 5 on-air glamazon **Karen Holmes Ward**; and one man who said to a friend, "I've never seen you this early in the morning," to which she responded, "Really? How do I look?...Actually, don't answer that."

During breakfast, one woman described her plans for the following day, which included having a new cosmetic procedure known as Thermage.

"You go in and get a Demerol," she explained. "Then they prick your face and do this heat thing that fuses the collagen in your skin and makes you look 10 years younger."

Breakfast was followed by an informational video that showed people in Africa whom the Mercy Ships had treated for medical conditions like cleft palate and disfiguring facial tumors, which prompted the woman having plastic surgery the next day to say, "Well, that kind of puts things in perspective." iB

At the Mercy Ships party, clockwise from upper left: Don Stephens; Michele Talbot and Gale and Amory Minot; Karen Holmes Ward and Collette Phillips; Debbie Lewis and Vicky Whitney; the ship; Michael Halperson and Mary Kay Holder.

Avez-vous dish?

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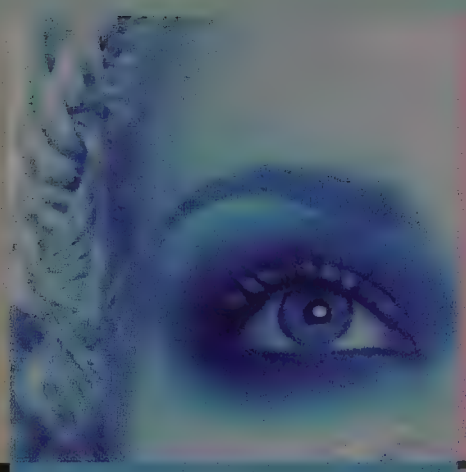

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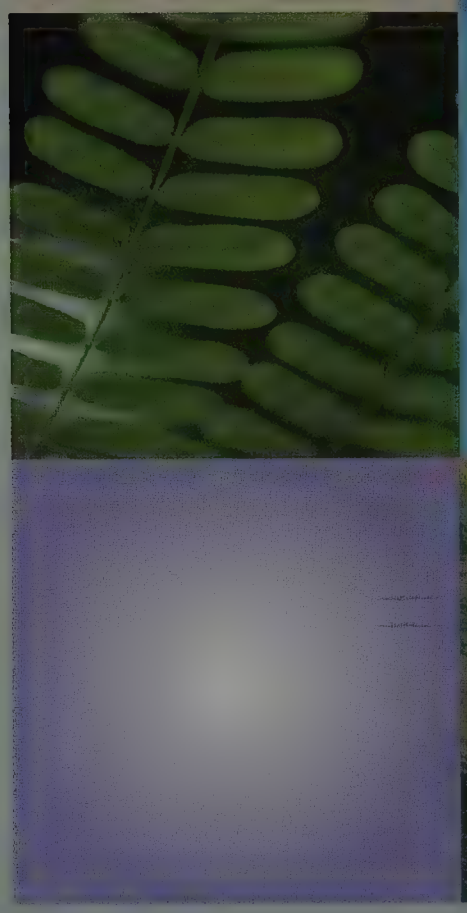

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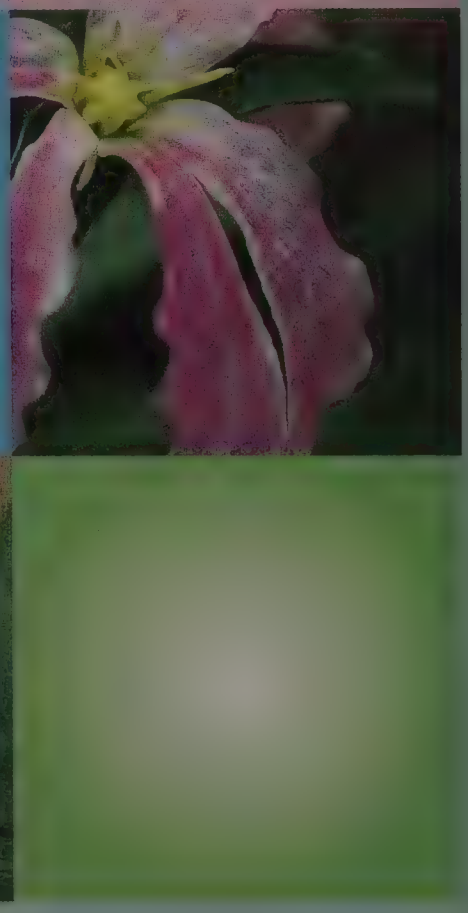

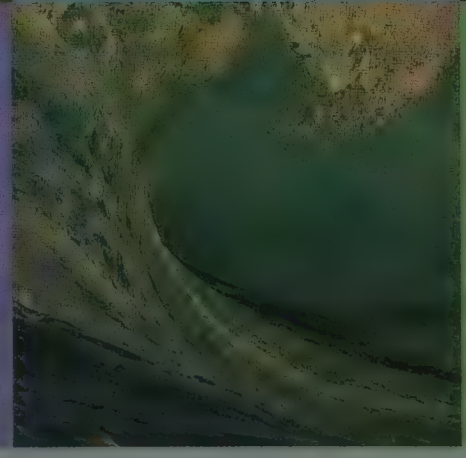

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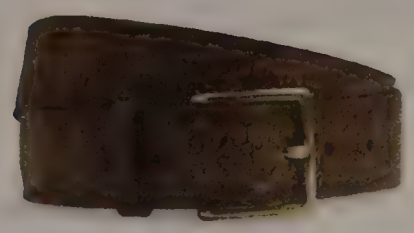

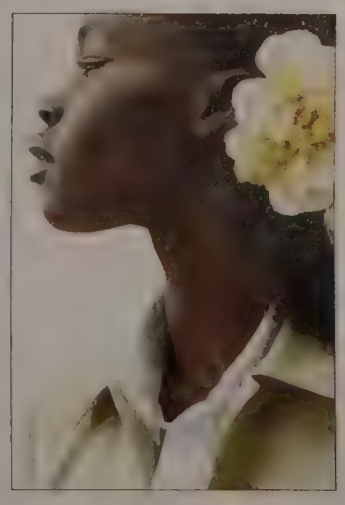

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

BEHIND THE BEST

Every other Monday morning, the first bundles of our latest issue arrive at the IMPROPER's offices in the Back Bay, and staffers experience that all-too-fleeting satisfaction of holding the tangible, finished product in our hands. As the largest issue the IMPROPER has ever produced, this year's Boston's Best issue brings a little added sense of parental pride to everyone who had a hand in it.

The task of naming the best this city has to offer in food, drink, entertainment, sports, fashion, nightlife and more—some 279 awards in all—is of course a research project of mammoth proportions. We poll the experts (see "Meet the Judges" on page 27), read, make calls, visit establishments and deliberate the nominees (sometimes heatedly) until solid winners emerge. Then comes the writing, photographing, editing, fact checking, designing, proofreading, double fact checking, proofreading and more proofreading.

Amid the long hours of serious work, however, we do manage to have some fun. As part of our research, we hang out at bars, try the newest restaurants, browse jewelry stores, watch a lot of baseball and even get haircuts. This year, the staff selected the winners in the contentious categories of best pizza and best Buffalo wings (we got more reader letters last year on our Buffalo wings award than any other topic) in the only way that seemed fair and scientific: We ordered takeout from all the nominees and decided those weighty matters democratically.

Susie Castillo (third from left) with the IMPROPER staff

For me, a highlight of producing this issue was a road trip to New York with three other IMPROPER staffers to photograph Miss USA Susie Castillo for our cover. After a night of hanging out in a Midtown karaoke bar—with one member of our group bravely belting out the not-for-amateurs "Me and Bobby McGee" and the rest of us mostly cowering behind our beers—we arrived at the studio the next morning with bags full of dresses and some stars-and-stripes fabric. Castillo, who really is as witty and down-to-earth as she sounds in her interview with Jonathan Soroff (see page 23), cheerfully spent hours with us and even let fashion editor Samantha House sew her into the American flag–inspired dress that House created on the spot, to the amazement of the rest of us. (Castillo loved the dress so much that she took it with her to the Miss Universe pageant.)

UPS guy gets in on the pizza tasting.

Thanks go to Susie Castillo for beautifying our cover and to all the people who helped create this issue: the judges who cast their ballots and the many other experts we consulted; the interns who tirelessly researched and checked facts; Jonathan Soroff, the longtime IMPROPER writer whose sparkling writing of the lion's share of our entries makes the issue such a kick to read year after year; and all the other staffers. Even if you're not a pack rat, this year's Boston's Best issue is one you'll want to keep around and refer to again and again—until next July.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

CONTRIBUTORS

ANDY LEVINSKY

After spending most of his career in electronic media (as a producer at WBZ-TV and WNEV-TV—now WHDH-TV—and various radio stations in town), Andy Levinsky, two-time author of our Boston's Best Media section, "switched over to the dark side: public relations." He's now director of external relations at North Bennet Street School in the North End. Levinsky has also written for the *Boston Globe*, *Vibe* and numerous trade journals. Turn to page 70 for his latest words on Boston's media scene.

Andy Levinsky

DAVID BERNSTEIN

David Bernstein, the man behind our Boston's Best Business & Technology section, has written for the *Boston Globe Magazine*, *Inc.*, *CFO*, *Computerworld* and many other esteemed publications. We last tapped Bernstein's business expertise in our Oct. 2, 2002, issue, in which he chronicled the Boston businesses that were surviving despite a tough economy. Business & Technology boots up and beats analysts' expectations beginning on page 73.

Tell Us What You Think

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COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

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the Word

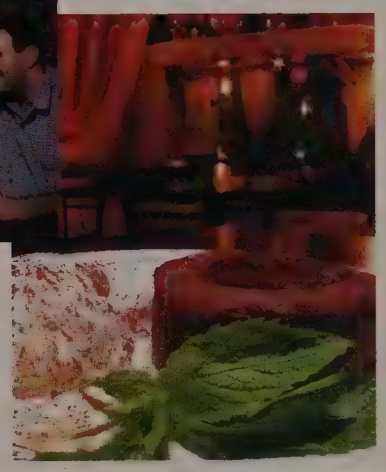
EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SURATT

new in town

BEACON HILL BOÎTE

Listening to chef Scott Herritt's Southern drawl, one might expect him to dish up a platter of chicken-fried steak and mashed potatoes rather than a bowl of tender, hand-cut tagliatelle pasta with grilled balsamic-glazed lobster, fresh peas and cream. Don't be fooled. The Oklahoma native is a master kneader who ran his own pasta shop back in Norman, and his resume includes stints at Legal Sea Foods, the Bostonian Hotel and most recently, the Florentine Café.

On July 9, Herritt and his wife, Danielle, opened Grotto, a cozy, garden-level Italian boîte in Beacon Hill. They gutted the former Istanbul Café, exposing pipes in the ceiling and painting them a warm red; tearing down walls to reveal the original brick; and adding vibrant orange, yellow and red curtains, giant mirrors, chandeliers and colorful artwork. "It was design-by-fire," says Herritt of his wife's efforts to make Grotto (which means "cave" in Italian) a cheery-looking restaurant in a mere three weeks.



She succeeded, and with its background of music by the likes of Billie Holiday and Lena Horne, Grotto is a welcome addition to a neighborhood sorely lacking in restaurants. The prices are reasonable, topping off at $22 for entrées, and the dishes are mouthwatering: grilled seafood salad with lemon, olive oil and thyme; and ricotta gnocchi with summer mushroom saute, cream and truffle oil, to name two. Pair an entrée with an affordable bottle of Caymus Conundrum (priced just above retail at $37) and prepare to indulge. *37 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-227-3434).*

—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt

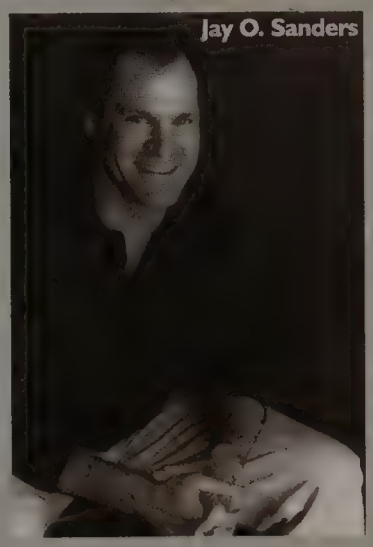
sports

PLAY BALL

We know there's nothing like a trip to Fenway Park, but that can also be an expensive proposition. If you want to watch a professional baseball game without grand-slamming your wallet, there are plenty of pro and semipro teams within a reasonable drive. Minor-league teams have to try a little harder to draw fans, so you can expect lots of fun promotions in addition to cheap tickets. The Brockton Rox, for instance (most expensive ticket: $8) regularly host promos such as "Bring Your Mother-in-Law Night," which featured an interactive *Newlywed Game* spoof called "How Well Do You Know Your Mother-in-Law?" Another nearby ballclub is the North Shore Spirit, who play at Fraser Field in Lynn and feature regular appearances by "World Famous Monkey Boy" (the next one is Aug. 2). Of course, if you'd like to see how the Red Sox farm system is developing, the Portland Sea Dogs and Pawtucket Red Sox—the Double-A and Triple-A affiliates of the Red Sox—offer a chance to see the potential stars of tomorrow, and tickets there also max out at $8. Speaking of future stars, the 10-team Cape Cod Baseball League had 183 alumni in the major leagues last year, including a former Orleans Cardinals player by the name of Nomar. So next time you yearn for the crack of a bat and a box of Cracker Jack, think outside the Fenway box seat.*—Ezra Dyer*

inner view

A KING-SIZE ROLE



If the lead actor in the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's summer production of *Macbeth* (through August 10) leaves you wondering "Where do I know that guy from?" here's a hint: He's starred in episodes of *Law & Order*, *Roseanne* and *Northern Exposure*, and in countless films and Broadway roles. Veteran thespian **Jay O. Sanders**' role as the title character in this year's Shakespeare on the Common production is just one more bullet point on a long and impressive list of acting credits. We recently caught up with Sanders, who's been enjoying our city with his wife, Maryann Plunkett—an actress and Boston native—and their 9-year-old son.

IB: *For what role do people most often recognize you?*

JS: It tends to be whatever they saw most recently. Recently a lot of people have recognized me from guest roles on *Law & Order* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. They still see me on *Roseanne* playing John Goodman's biker best friend, or *Angels in the Outfield* or *JFK*. It's a long list and very varied, which is probably the greatest success of my career.

IB: *What is your favorite scene or line from* Macbeth?

JS: I have two favorite lines. One is "Digg'd i' th' dark," said by one of the witches, and my other is the phrase "What is the night?" [said by Macbeth], which I think is very simple and ranges into the full darkness of this play.

IB: *What's the most fun about playing Macbeth?*

JS: I get to jump around on stage and do sword fights and say great speeches.

IB: *Do you ever accidentally slip into iambic pentameter?*

JS: Yes, constantly. Much to the dismay of subway riders everywhere. I get many looks on the T.

IB: *What do you think of the movie* Scotland, PA?

JS: It's great fun if you know *Macbeth* because of all the references, but it certainly doesn't have the depth of Shakespeare and the language and thought, but it's a wonderful film.

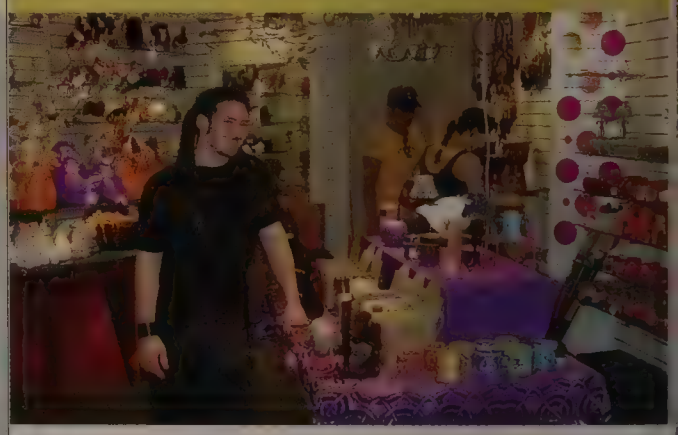
IB: *Do you prefer performing in a theater or outdoors?*

JS: Both. I love the control of a theater...and the lack of control outdoors. You're very naked—open to the sky, the wind, the weather. It's very exciting because you have to [deal with the elements], and the audience shares that with you and it brings them closer to you.

IB: *What are some of your upcoming projects?*

JS: Next summer there's a big blockbuster film called *The Day After Tomorrow* with Jake Gyllenhaal, Dennis Quaid and Sela Ward with the director of *Independence Day*. I did a cable film with Charles Dutton about the Beltway snipers and their capture. I also have a a small independent called *Second Born* by director Jevon Roush that will find its way to festivals and eventually to theaters sometime.

—Jessica Iredale



sam says

WORDLY WARES

As I was walking through the infrequently visited annex of Copley Place, a new store caught my eye: the **Earthbound Trading Company**. Inside is a kaleidoscope of color, with fabulous home goods and giftware on every shelf. There were tribal masks on the walls, Asian lanterns, stone art, silver jewelry, minerals, fossils, hand-blown glass spheres, potted bamboo, candelabra chandeliers...too many things to list. Most are handcrafted from natural materials. It's a national chain, but it is as if owner Chuck Gordon (a native of Concord, Mass.) traveled all around the world picking up a little something here and there. The result is hou of shopping inspiration. And the prices won't break th bank, ranging from $2 to around $150. This is a great place to find a gift for anyone. (617-536-2300).

—Samantha House

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tidbits & morsels

EAT AND FLY

Best of Fest... Houston's might just be up for a rookie of the year award. The Phoenix-based chain beat out such New England seafood stalwarts as the Farragut House, the Lobster Pot and the Chart House for the coveted Silver Bowl at the 22nd annual Chowderfest July 6. More than 11,000 chowdah-heads sampled the award-winning recipe—a tasty marriage of light cream, cubed potatoes, celery, leeks, spices and, of course, clams. Not one to waste a good thing, Houston's donated the 60-gallon postfest chowder surplus to one of its favorite local charities, the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

Perdix Alights... After fleeing its Jamaica Plain nest last fall, Perdix has landed a new home in the South End space formerly occupied by Truc. Husband-and-wife team Tim Partridge and Nini Diana searched for a year before finding the perfect new nest for their creative-American concept, which outgrew the confines of its original 10-table haunt soon after its 2001 opening. In the new 50-seat dining room, Partridge promises to offer the same delicious seafood-focused fare that earned Perdix a steady following. Doors open late July. *560 Tremont St., South End (617-338-8070).*

Charlestown Chew... Sorelle's of Charlestown opened the second installment of its beloved bakery and café July 2 in City Square, just a few blocks from the original. In this case, bigger most likely means better. The new location features about 5 times the seating room; an outdoor, waterfront patio; an expanded menu; extended hours; and beer and wine. Fans of the original might need a time to adjust to the new modern look and revamped menu, which includes less comfort food and more creative grilled and pressed sandwiches. But fear not: Everything's still homemade. *100 City Square, Charlestown (617-242-5980).*

Air Appetit... The idea of airport dining is no longer such a hard pill to swallow. Former Red Sox outfielder Darren Lewis opened Dine Boston Bar & Grill and Dine Boston Café in Logan's Terminal E in mid May. The café offers quick fixes like sandwiches and pastries, while the grill features full-service dining, including a raw bar and brick-oven pizzas. "We tried to capture the different areas of Boston, from the Harbor to the Back Bay to the North End," says restaurant partner Michael Levine. Many menu items are actually inspired by Boston kitchen virtuosos, including Chris Schlesinger of the East Coast Grill and Joe Tinnirello of Terramia. "We want to be the last taste...the reminder of New England before visitors leave," adds Levin. *(617-567-5700).—E.H. J.I. and J.S.*

improper reports

GET BAKED

The long days and refreshing coastal breezes make us yearn for bowls of chowder and plates heaping with steamers, lobster and corn on the cob. Here are a few local caterers that provide New England clambake–style buffets, either catered or on site.

Calla Lily Caterers

Calla Lily's New England Clambake package offers a choice of clam chowder or mesclun salad, steamed clams or mussels, plus steamed lobster, barbecued chicken, grilled corn on the cob, red bliss potato salad, berry shortcake and watermelon slices. *220-5 Reservoir St., Needham (781-444-2308). $54 per person. www.callalilycaterers.com.*

Jules Catering

Jules' New England Tradition package includes clam chowder, steamed lobster, barbecued chicken, mussels and steamers, potato salad, corn on the cob, Caesar salad, hot dogs, shortcake and sliced watermelon. *66 South St., Somerville (617-628-5977). $45 per person. www.julescatering.com.*

Kayo and Company Catering

Kayo's Deluxe Clambake dishes out clam chowder, steamed clams and mussels, lobsters, corn on the cob, cole slaw, rolls, chilled watermelon and assorted cookies and pastries. *0 Fawcett St., Cambridge (617-354-3090). $29 per person.*

Legal Sea Foods

Legal's buffet-style Classic New England Clambake features clam or fish chowder, steamers, lobsters, corn on the cob, potato salad, coleslaw, corn bread and fruit. *3 Northern Ave., Boston (617-790-7900). $60 per person. www.legalseafoods.com.*

Tables of Content Catering

Order up the Pit option and you'll get an authentic clambake in which lobsters, clams and corn on the cob are steamed together in a large hole in the ground and then served with mixed green salad, cold grilled vegetables and old-fashioned pies. *220 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-3533). Prices range from $24.95-$45.95 per person. www.tablesofcontent.com.*

Woodman's of Essex

Woodman's Taste of Tradition menu includes its award-winning New England clam chowder, steamed clams or mussels, lobster or rotisserie chicken, hot dogs, corn on the cob, cole slaw and chilled watermelon. *121 Main Street, Essex (978-768-2559). 30-50 people, $36 per person. www.woodmans.com.*

trend-spotting

ZEN FOR FIDO

Some call it "Doga," some call it "Ruff Yoga." Others just call it ridiculous. Regardless, the trend of doggie yoga has people talking—and dog owners stretching their pups' legs into interesting poses. Fitness trendsetters at Crunch gym in New York, which has been hosting Ruff Yoga sessions semi-regularly in Madison Square Park, say the class "brings you and your pup closer as you do traditional and nontraditional yoga poses on the same mat." Stretching, breathing, praising ("good boy") and hugging are par for this course, which is free to the public. Crunch plans to bring Ruff Yoga to the Boston Common in August and September. In the meantime, we asked a few local yogis for their reaction: "I think it's silly," says Barbara Benagh, director of the Yoga Studio. "I just think that dog don't need yoga. It trivializes yoga." On the othe hand, Claudia de Haven Biddle of Snow Lion Yog says, "You'd help out an adult human. Wh wouldn't you help an animal?"

Consider this: Two (non-satirical) books o the subject, *Doga: Yoga for Dogs* and *Yoga for Pe and the People Who Love Them*, are due out th fall. And doggie yoga is just one of many service that have popped up in recent years to cater t our four-legged friends, including doggie day care, doggie ma sage, doggie playgroups and doggie bakeries. We'll leave yo with this morsel: *The Forward* (a socialist Yiddish newspaper New York) reported recently that dog owners, pet stores– even synagogues —are now welcoming Jewish families' do into the fold by hosting "Bark Mitzvahs." Muzzle to *www.crunch.com. —E.H. and J.S.*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Cheers to our Beers... The votes are in, and BeerAdvocate.com's 13,200 discerning suds swillers have ranked several Boston establishments and brewers among the top 50 in the nation. Highlights include Redbones, which came in second in the "Places to Have a Pint" category (Anam Cara in Brookline also made the cut at number 17) and Cambridge Brewing Company, which ranked fifth in the brewpub category. In an entirely different contest, Westport-based Buzzards Bay Brewing's Olde Buzzard Lager was chosen as one of the top 13 beers in America in the July issue of *Playboy*. Redbones occasionally works Buzzards Bay into its rotation of beers, so keep an eye on their menu and you could drink one of *Playboy*'s top beers at one of BeerAdvocate's top venues. Cheers to that.

Mohegan Fun... Cheap flights and amazing hotel rates may be enticing you to visit Las Vegas this summer, but the next best thing is actually just a two-hour drive away. Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn., may not be the MGM Grand, but thanks to nightlife kingpin Patrick Lyons, it's getting there. Mohegan After Dark, Lyons' new multimillion-dollar entertainment project, opened June 13 with three bustling boîtes: Lucky's Lounge, a second incarnation of the Vegas-style, Rat Pack-y restaurant/bar in South Boston; the Dubliner, a traditional Hibernian haunt; and the super swank 88 Ultra Lounge. This über-luxe lounge is themed after Light in the Bellagio and features VIP seating galore for anyone who's thirsty enough to buy a full bottle (there's even a grand VIP suite complete with personal butler and bathroom) and a Miami nightclub-style 14-foot bed for extreme lounging.

Ye Olde Oyster... As if Faneuil Hall weren't already overrun with tourists, the United States Department of the Interior went and added a national landmark to it. The Union Oyster House won the title of national historic landmark on May 27 on not just one, but two accounts: It's the oldest continually run restaurant and oyster bar in the country, and it's the oldest standing brick building of Georgian architecture in Boston. Over the course of the building's 287-year life, the oyster house has hosted such historic heavyweights as Daniel Webster, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Ozzy Osbourne. If that's not enough of a draw, we hear they have decent seafood too.

House of Glass... The ancient art of glassblowing has gone mainstream, scoring a spot on Newbury Street and a two-page spread in *Elle*'s August issue. Do we sense a trend in the making? The owners of Newbury's the Hempest opened Vòlta, a glass art gallery, just above their hemp clothing and body-care store July 1. Co-owner Jonathan Napoli says that he and his partners had showcased some glass art at the Hempest and decided it needed its own space. Vòlta features handblown glass bowls, jewelry, goblets, paperweights, beads and marbles from national and local artists, including Roxbury's Diablo Glass.

Everything is for sale, and nothing is mass-produced. The shop also sells hard-to-find glassblowing tools and equipment. "There's nothing else like it in Boston," says Napoli. "There are a lot more people getting into glassblowing as an art, and we're hoping that it will catch on [in Boston] too." *207 Newbury St., Boston (617-778-5517). —E.D., E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

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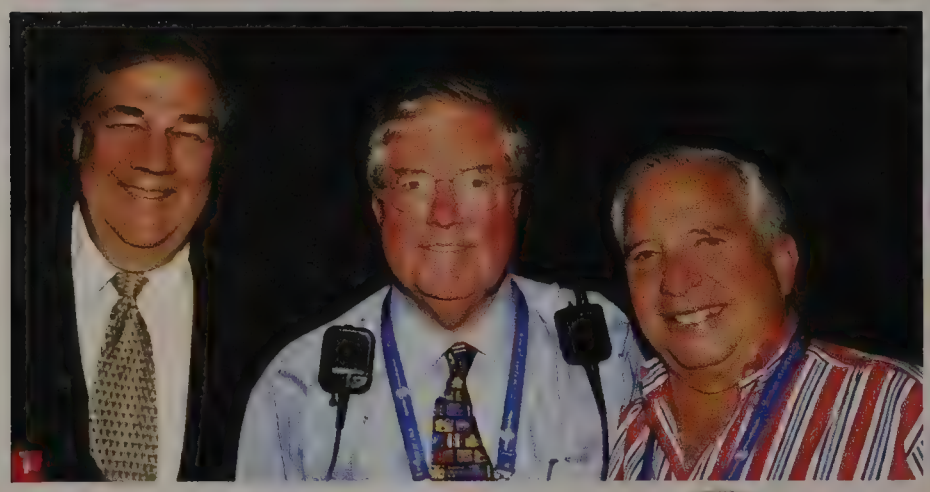
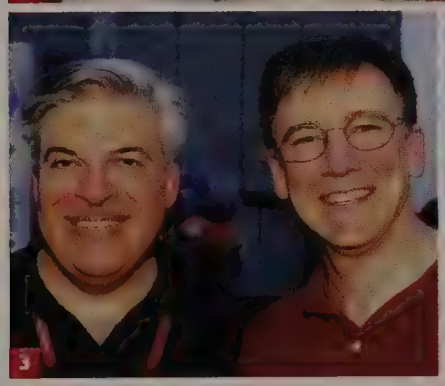
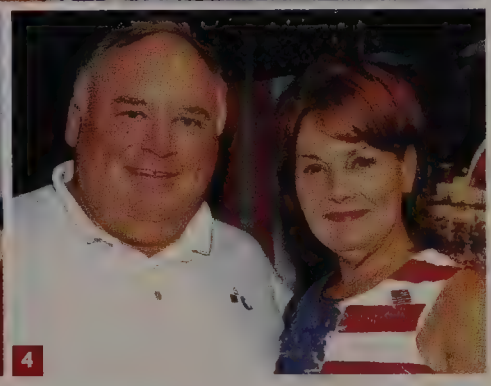
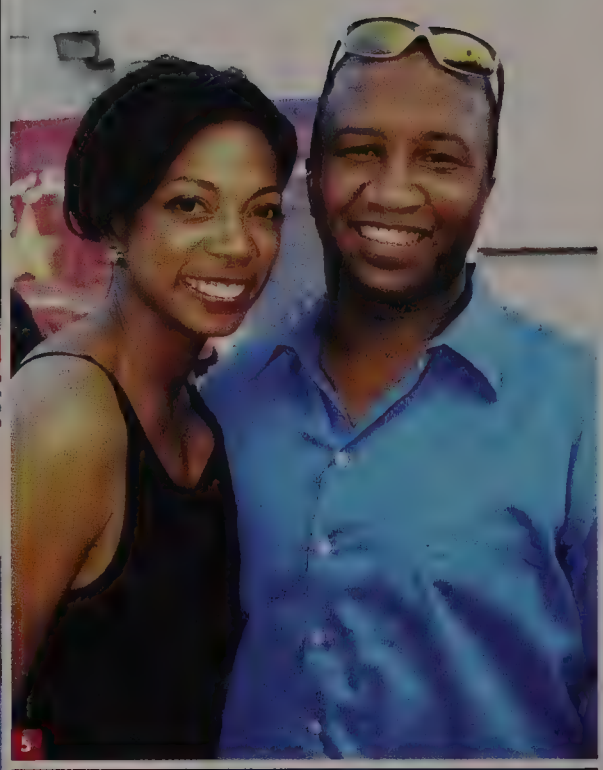
BY MARGARET BREIT









David Mugar, executive producer of the **Boston Fourth of July Celebration** that drew more than 600,000 people to the Esplanade this year, hosted his annual soirée July 4 at 100 Beacon Street, the celebration's command post. Some 280 people attended the party, which featured surround-sound audio of the concert and big-screen TVs broadcasting the festivities. Highlights of the Hatch Shell concert included performances by LeAnn Rimes and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir accompanied by Keith Lockhart and the Pops Esplanade Orchestra. The night concluded with a fireworks show by PPA Spectaculars.

1. From left: **Dennis Swanson**, executive vice president and COO of Viacom Television Stations Group in New York; **David Mugar**, executive producer of Boston's Fourth of July celebration; and **Barry Frank**, vice chairman of TWI in New York.
2. **Elaine Driscoll**, deputy general manager of Regan Communications; **Roger Berkowitz**, president an CEO of Legal Seafoods; his wife, **Lynn**; and **Georg Regan**, president of Regan Communications.
3. **Peter Fiedler**, assistant vice president of Boston University, and **Dana Nickerson**, former communications director for Boston's Fourth of July Foundation.
4. **Dave Balfour**, former commissioner of the Metropolitan District Commission, and **Rosemary Milano**, hostess at JJ Grimsby's Restaurant in Melrose.
5. **Robin Hamilton** and **Al Turner**, reporter and executive director of sales, respectively, for WBZ-TV Channel 4, UPN 38.
6. **Kim Cartelli**, independent fashion designer, and her mom, **Carolyn Cartelli**, attorney, formerly of the Suffolk County DA's office.

Tom Kershaw, chairman and CEO of the Hampshire House Corp., hosted his annual **Rooftop Party** at 84 Beacon Street July 4. Nearly 75 people attended.

7. **Tom Kershaw**, owner of the Hampshire House and Cheers; **Uncle Sam Rounseville**, realtor for Abigail Adams Century 21 in Quincy; and his wife, **Jean Kenney**, assistant vice-president of mortgage originations for Eastern Bank in Quincy.
8. From left: **Paul Foster**, vice president of trade relations for Reebok; his wife, **Cecily**, director, special events, tourism and film for the Mayor's Office; **Bruce Beckham**, executive director of Travelers Conservation Foundation in Canton; and his wife, **Beverly**, *Boston Herald* columnist.
9. **Francois Nivaud**, principal, New England Management Services, and his wife, **Annick**.
10. **Bob Smith**, executive vice president of Citizens Bank, and his wife, **Ellen**.
11. **John Cone**, president of Franklin Portfolio Associates, and his wife, **Kimberly**.

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ezra

BY EZRA DYER

BOOM TOWN

You can't have a short fuse when you're Boomer the Cannon

Boomer, the ladies' cannon

I've lost consciousness due to heatstroke only once in my life, so I wouldn't let an inconvenience like 95-degree weather stop me from donning a heavy foam costume and fulfilling my duties as Boomer the Cannon at a recent major league lacrosse game between the Boston Cannons and the Long Island Lizards. The show must go on: That's my mantra whenever I agree to become an anthropomorphic piece of artillery at a professional lacrosse game.

I arrive at Cawley Stadium in Lowell and make my way to the dressing room, where Boomer waits to be brought to life. The Boomer getup includes heavy red pants, silver stockings, a red shirt-type thing that isn't much more than sleeves, gloves that feature only three bulbous fingers, enormous foam shoes and a huge, hard foam body shaped like a cannon, complete with wheels. The perfect outfit for a scorching summer day.

Luckily I have Jim Dwyer, the regular man behind the cannon, to acquaint me with the typical duties and hazards of livin' la vida Boomer. "The body is open at the top, which is both a blessing and a curse," says Dwyer. "If you get too close to the stands, people might throw stuff down on your head. I'll help you watch out for little kids, because you look out the eyebrows of the face and you can't see anything directly in front of you. And be aware that teenage boys will probably try to hug you. For some reason they assume that there's a girl inside the costume." Great. And I don't even get to make them take me to the prom for my troubles.

We exit the dressing room and head directly for a birthday party under a nearby tent. "Who wants an autograph from Boomer?" Dwyer asks the kids. He somehow gets a marker into my heavily padded, three-fingered paw and hands me a T-shirt to sign, but I can't get my arms out far enough in front of me to see what I'm doing. The shirt's young owner, however, is sufficiently distant for me to witness the look of disappointment on his face when he's presented with Boomer's expressionist handwriting. "I'm sorry that my signature looks like a skid mark," I want to tell him, but I take the Mascot Code of Silence seriously. I'd sooner fire a clown out my head than speak.

Moving on, Boomer heads to the main gate to meet fans on their way into the stadium. I realize at this point that communicating with only your arms, hands and legs is extremely difficult. I find myself repetitively waving and giving the thumbs up. When I try to express frustration, as when the Lizards score a goal, my angry foot-stomping is undermined by the dopey grin permanently plastered across my face. Boomer looks a few ounces short of a full load of gunpowder, if you know what I mean.

Walking past the stands, I make at least two small children cry, which I suppose is understandable. A dancing purple dinosaur is one thing; a dancing piece of weaponry brandishing a lacrosse stick is quite another.

Most of the older kids are friendly, and many pictures are taken, but one lovable little scamp severely tests the Mascot Code of Silence, as well as the Mascot Code of Not Smacking Little Kids Even When They Richly Deserve It. "My Dad says that those costumes are a rip-off, because they're really hot inside," Billy Urchin informs me. By this time, I'm so hot that the two dueling lacrosse teams are intermittently morphing into centaurs playing jai alai against the Jackson 5, and my eyes burn from the river of sweat that I'm unable to wipe away.

I TAKE THE MASCOT CODE OF SILENCE SERIOUSLY. I'D SOONER FIRE A CLOWN OUT MY HEAD THAN SPEAK.

But I try to communicate that I'm not hot at all, waving my hand in a "What, me hot? Naaah," gesture. Billy will have to learn sooner or later that his Dad is a god-damn idiot who doesn't know crap about mascot costumes. But little Billy reiterates his Dad's opinion on mascot heat-retention properties, along with many other absolute truths put forth by his Dad, who is apparently an omniscient deity. Just as I am ready to put this kid in a full nelson and throw him over the railing, Dwyer saves me, saying, "I think Boomer says he could take your Dad. OK, see you later, kids."

By the end of the game, I don't understand lacrosse any better, but I do have a newfound appreciation for the men and women inside our cannons and sausages. So next time you see Boomer the Cannon or Wally the Green Monster or Lucky the Leprechaun, pour a little cold beer into their eyebrows. Trust me, they'll thank you. IB

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BOSTON'S BEST

You know a winner when you see one. Our cover girl, Susie Castillo—who after being crowned Miss Massachusetts last November went on to win the Miss USA title—has taken the beauty pageant world by storm (one glance at her tells you why). However, in Castillo's case, beauty is truly more than skin deep, as we're sure you'll agree after reading her interview with Jonathan Soroff on the next two pages. We think Castillo's brains, beauty, sense of humor and energy epitomize the best that Boston has to offer, and that makes her the perfect person to lead off our 12th annual Boston's Best issue. So we've officially crowned her Miss Boston's Best 2003, and on the 66 pages that follow, we've got heaps of other superlatives coming your way—nearly 300 winners that will inspire you to try something new and remind you to enjoy the city's many wonders. Put this issue on your required-reading list this summer. We think you'll be glad you did.

Soroff ON

SUSIE CASTILLO

BY JONATHAN SOROFF
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL STREICHER

Reigning Miss USA Susie Castillo, 23, was born and raised in Lawrence. After graduating from Endicott College, she supported herself as an office manager while pursuing a modeling career and competing in regional pageants. Competing as Miss Massachusetts, she was crowned Miss USA in San Antonio, Texas, during the 52nd annual staging of the competition. A fluent Spanish speaker with Puerto Rican roots, she has dedicated her reign to dismantling cultural and ethnic stereotypes, and to increasing awareness of breast and ovarian cancer. As the titleholder, she receives a $20,000 wardrobe, a soap opera appearance, and a $45,000 scholarship to the School for Film and Television in New York, and she travels extensively. In June, she represented the United States in the Miss Universe pageant, held in Panama. She currently lives in New York but returns to Lawrence frequently.

Jonathan Soroff: *So, in the presidential line of succession, where does Miss USA fall?*

Susie Castillo: Y'know what? I have no idea where our vice president is, or what he looks like, since he's always in that undisclosed location. So I think I come second.

JS: *What are the day-to-day duties of being Miss USA—waking up and wearing a crown?*

SC: Oh, yeah. I wear my crown while I vacuum. I also enjoy shopping and cooking in it. Seriously, right after I won, it was a media whirlwind. I did a lot of public appearances. I visited our troops.

JS: *So how much does the crown weigh?*

SC: Not much. Actually, the Miss Massachusetts crown weighed a lot more. I think the Miss USA crown is lighter because it's solid sterling silver.

JS: *Maybe it just feels lighter because your head got bigger.*

SC: [Laughs.] No, I have a big head anyway. Naturally, I can't wear hats. It's like an inside joke with my friends. I've given up trying to find a hat that fits me. Even baseball caps. I think I should start a chain of big-and-tall hat shops, for plus-sized heads.

JS: *Does the Miss USA sash chafe under the armpits?*

SC: No, it's silky.

JS: *Should someone give a lifetime achievement award to Charo?*

SC: Who's Charo?

JS: *Who's Charo?! She was the original Jennifer Lopez! The major Latina star of the 1970s! She was on* The Love Boat.

SC: Dude, I was born in 1979. Oh, now I know. She's the one who went "cuchi-cuchi!"

JS: *Exactly.*

SC: Love her.

JS: *So could you kick Miss America's butt?*

SC: Absolutely. No question.

JS: *Since you represent all of them, how many of the states have you actually visited?*

SC: Let's see—I've been to a lot. Maybe 20. I went on a road trip after graduating from college, and I've been to a few more since then.

JS: *By the time you're finished, do you have to visit all 52?*

SC: Umm, there's only 50.

JS: *That was a trick question! I was trying to stump you!*

SC: [Laughs.] I think I caught you. But the answer is, hopefully, yes.

JS: *Why doesn't Miss USA have her own song, like Miss America? Y'know, whoever that cheeseball is, singing, "There she is, Miss A-mer-i-ca."*

SC: We're better than that. We're trying to make it more modern. If you've ever seen Miss USA, it always changes with the times, especially with the new ownership: Donald Trump and NBC.

JS: *Speaking of which, how does Donald Trump's toupee look close up?*

SC: I think it was, it's umm, bad. Yeah. [Laughs.] He's actually a very nice guy. Very kind. Unlike what most people think, myself included before I met him, he's very likable and down-to-earth, you know?

JS: *One ability you'd like to have for the talent competition?*

SC: Although we are talented in many ways, the Miss America pageant is what you're thinking of.

JS: *You mean Miss USA doesn't have a talent competition?*

SC: We have three areas of competition. One is interview, where we speak with all of the judges. We have swimsuit competition, and we have evening-gown competition. Those are the three areas, and each is worth 33 percent.

JS: *OK, if you had to have a talent, what would it be?*

SC: I would not enter. I don't sing. I've never taken dance classes. I don't do well with choreography. In fact, I'm the state delegate they put all the way in the back, because she couldn't get the choreography down.

JS: *People tend to dismiss beauty pageant winners as gorgeous airheads. Tell me one thing that would make the world take you seriously.*

SC: I think the way I carry myself makes the world take me seriously.

JS: *So how do you plan to solve all the world's problems?*

SC: That's tough. I think I'm going to need your help on that one.

JS: *I'll do whatever I can, short of appearing on TV in a swimsuit. Pro or con the swimsuit competition?*

SC: Pro! If anything, it empowers women. It's like saying, "Look at us. We're fit. We're healthy." And then when you hear us speaking intelligently, you realize we've got brains, too. We're the total package.

JS: *Your biggest beauty secret?*

SC: To eat lots of french fries.

JS: *Oh, most women will be thrilled to hear that.*

SC: Then, of course, there's water. Drink lots of water.

JS: *OK, put these things in order of importance: ending world hunger, creating world peace, and figuring out how to stop hair frizz on a humid day.*

[THE SWIMSUIT COMPETITION] EMPOWERS WOMEN. YOU HEAR US SPEAKING INTELLIGENTLY AND REALIZE WE'VE GOT BRAINS, TOO.

SC: I'm gonna have to say tha hunger and world peace are right u there with the hair frizz.

JS: *You hear about all these bizarre things beauty pageant contestants do, like tapin up their breasts, and putting Preparation H under their eyes. Is any of that true?*

SC: Sounds like you've met a few o them. Yeah, I've seen some girl doing both of those. Preparation H on the thighs, too. Then they wra them in Saran Wrap. Supposedly, i makes you firmer.

JS: *That's absurd!*

SC: Well, personally, I enjoy going t the gym more than to CVS.

JS: *Give me a juicy story about backstage backstabbing at Miss USA.*

SC: [Sweetly.] I wasn't backstage, be cause I made the top 10.

JS: *Come on. You must've heard or seen something nasty like a hair-pulling catfight, evening-gown sabotage…*

SC: Actually, all the officials were saying how surprise they were at what a great group it was. We were very we behaved. Honestly, I didn't hear of anything. Thos things only happen in the movies.

JS: *How many aliens from other planets actually enter th Miss Universe pageant, and is it a handicap not to be a carbon-based life-form?*

SC: [Laughs.] Not many, and yes, they don't do ver well. I think it's the big bald head and the bug eyes.

JS: *You get a $20,000 wardrobe allowance? That's barely two gowns at Giorgio Armani.*

SC: I know! It's a crying shame. But there's actually stylist who works with the titleholders. She gets a per centage off, or there are designers who let her borro things. A lot of the time, if there's a gala or somethin and I need an evening gown, a certain designer will len me something. It's nice. It's what the celebrities do.

JS: *You also get to appear on a soap opera?*

SC: I do. On *Passions*.

JS: *What character do you want to play?*

SC: I don't know. I've never watched that show. I' probably be cracking up the whole time. They're just s dramatic. I used to watch *Guiding Light*, and there's th character Reva. How many times has she been dead?

JS: *She dies on a regular basis, and it's always something bizarre or grisly. How about her sister, Princess Cassie of San Cristobel?*

SC: It's all ridiculous. So Cassie's a princess now?

JS: *Yeah, you'll probably meet her at some official function. So, my friend Ezra wants to date you.*

SC: Tell him thanks for the offer. It's funny. Now tha I'm Miss USA, these people are just coming out of th woodwork.

JS: *Well, once you get a crown, does everyone want to go out with you?*

SC: Absolutely! You know, even my little sister, wh goes to Central Catholic High School in Lawrenc says, "Susie, y'know all of a sudden, all the boys a saying how much I look like you, and if things don work out with my current boyfriend..." I'm like, "Jan those are the boys you stay away from."

JS: *If you could be one of Barker's Beauties on* The Price Is Right, *would that be your dream job?*

SC: Well, not my dream job, exactly, but I think would be fun to do it once.

JS: *Last question: Would you rather wear blue jeans or a evening gown?*

SC: Jeans. I love evening gowns, though. I love th glitz and the glamour. I'm a shimmerista. The mo sparkly the better. IB

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Front row, left to right: Ioannis Miaoulis, Ezra Dyer, Kelly Malone, Chris Collins, Terri Fuentes, Katherine Morse, Wendy Semonian, Collette Royer, Olivia Disch English, Veronica Chao, Joe Hanley, Peter Blute and Bryan Quilliams.

Back row, left to right: Jeff Poulos, Steve Almond, Kay Hanley, Cynthia Breazeal, Tony Nunziante, Carolyn Faye-Fox, Deborah Hughes, Mary-Catherine Deibel, Esti Parsons, Helen Greiner, Pat Moscaritolo, Julie Suratt, Erin Hagedorn, Jonathan Soroff and Samantha House.

Using superlatives is a tricky business. By definition, a superlative is subjective and therefore open for debate. That's why, to avoid sounding opinionated, many people hedge their bets with qualifiers like "arguably," "possibly" or "conceivably" before venturing to dub something the "-est."

Not us. We're bolder than that. Surer. More emphatic. In declaring our annual list of Boston's cream-of-the-crop offerings—including food, drink, entertainment, health and beauty, sports, media and more—we throw caution to the wind, call 'em like we see 'em, and stand by our choices.

Which is to say that we know you won't necessarily agree with all of them.

Everyone's entitled to his or her own opinion.

You're also entitled to ours.

But lest we seem like a bunch of high-handed know-it-alls who arbitrarily cobble this issue together over cocktails and bar snacks, let us assure you that the process is much more sophisticated than that. In fact, it's borderline scientific, and more than a little fabulous, to boot.

It starts with a really great dinner party, which we threw this year at UpStairs on the Square (see Best Restaurant Reincarnation). Scouring our personal digital assistants and the piles of business cards that collect in the folds of our wallets, we assemble an eclectic group of movers and shakers to serve as judges. Before dinner, we ply them with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and by the time everyone sits down to eat, their lips are loose and their tongues are wagging freely.

This year, the judges included the following:

Steve Almond, fiction scribe; Peter Blute, talk radio pundit; Cynthia Breazeal, MIT professor; Mariellen Burns, Boston Police Department director of media relations; Chris Collins, NECN sports anchor; Mary-Catherine Deibel, co-owner of UpStairs on the Square; Naamua Delaney, FOX25 lifestyle and entertainment reporter; Olivia Disch English, restaurant owner/namesake and fashion plate; Terri Fuentes, host of Univision's *Pachanga Latina*; Helen Greiner, co-founder and president of iRobot; Joe Hanley, attorney with the firm McDermott, Quilty, & Miller; Kay Hanley, former Letters to Cleo frontwoman and rockin' mom; Carlos Hidalgo, co-owner and manager of Bomboa; Deborah Hughes, co-owner of UpStairs on the Square; Kelly Malone, morning personality at Mix 98.5; Catherine McLaughlin, executive director of the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government; Ioannis Miaoulis, the new president and director of the Museum of Science; Katherine Morse, owner of the Flat of the Hill; Pat Moscaritolo, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau; Tony Nunziante, marketing manager for the city's Special Events Office; Esti Parsons, co-owner and general manager of Radius; Patrick Petty, wardrobe stylist for House of Culture; Jeff Poulos, executive director of StageSource; Bryan Quilliams, concierge at the Ritz-Carlton Boston Common; Collette Royer, general manager of Giorgio Armani; and Karen Holmes Ward, director of public affairs and community services and host/producer of *CityLine* on WCVB; as well as assorted members of the IB staff.

Next comes the grunt work. After our crack team of interns collects the judges' ballots and tallies their votes, our in-house experts (a.k.a. the IMPROPER staff) review the results, check the facts, and conduct even more research where the results are cloudy. Finally, the list takes shape, and we declare the winners.

It's an imperfect system, we grant you. But we do our level best to present unbiased, democratically determined results (for instance, discounting a judge's vote when there's a question of a conflict of interest).

We hope you find this list informative, helpful and thought-provoking. But most of all, enjoyable. IB

FOOD & drink

BAGELS

Kupel's Bakery

421 Harvard St., Brookline; 617-566-9528

Not all bagels are created equal, and success with other O-shaped food items made of dough does not necessarily qualify one to make this Jewish specialty. The bagel bakers at this Brookline institution know what they're about, producing 22 varieties that range from the traditional (sesame, poppy, onion) to nouvelle (cinnamon-glazed, blueberry and sun-dried tomato). Their latest, called the Elvis, has banana and peanut butter baked into it, and they recommend eating it with just a schmear of butter or honey-walnut spread. All their bagels are made fresh daily, and Kupel's mind-boggling selection of more than 20 spreads includes flavors like lox, chive, green olive pesto, dill horseradish, raisin walnut and a lactose-free, tofu-based alternative. Your Bubbe would *plotz*.

BAKERY, BREADS

Iggy's Bread of the World

205 Arlington St., Watertown; 617-924-0949;
5 Pleasant St., Marblehead; 781-639-4717;
www.iggysbread.com

Some things in life, like sex and soufflés, turn out better when done slowly. Bread is another. This outstanding bakery (which supplies many of Boston's top restaurants) uses less yeast and allows its breads to rise naturally for nine to 16 hours, giving them a deeper, richer taste. The brains behind the operation, Igor and Ludmilla Ivanovic, use nothing but the finest all-natural—and whenever possible, organic—ingredients. Their four basic "breads of the world" are country sourdough, whole wheat sourdough, Francese and seedless white rye, but they also produce varieties like seven-grain health and raisin-pecan, as well as traditional French baguettes, focaccias and pizzas. If Watertown is too much of a schlep, Iggy's sells its breads at numerous shops and bakeries, like Whole Foods Market. Either way, it's worth the trip and worth the price.

BAR FOOD

Audubon Circle Restaurant & Bar

838 Beacon St., Boston; 617-421-1910

Not exactly in the thick of things (it's near Kenmore Square, but not really in it), this funky little bar and grill boasts some of the simplest and most delicious vittles of any bar in Boston. Almost everything is grilled, from the burgers and quesadillas to the Tuscan bread appetizer served with a white-bean paste and the tuna steak accompanied by banana salsa. Other favorites include excellent pot-stickers and an apple and brie sandwich that's to die for. A house-made condiment using tomatoes and chipotle peppers brings to mind an artisanal barbecue sauce, but this unpretentious place is too down-to-earth to call it anything but ketchup. Proof that good doesn't have to mean fussy.

BARBECUE

Blue Ribbon BBQ

1375 Washington St., Newton; 617-332-2583;
908 Mass. Ave., Arlington; 781-648-7427;
www.blueribbonbbq.com

This is the closest you'll get to real Memphis dry-rubbed ribs, North Carolina pulled pork or Texas-style brisket without actually decamping for Dixie. The meats are all slow-cooked and wood-smoked, the way they do it down South, and the scrumptious side dishes include chunky garlic mashed potatoes, peppery kale soup, tangy collard greens and creamy sweet-potato pie and cornbread. Blue Ribbon even serves up smoked fish for those who can't handle all that red meat. The service isn't fancy (either take-out or paper and plastic), the food is messy, and the space is a tad small and cluttered, but the mood is upbeat and the prices are as down-home as the homemade tea and lemonade. A Feedbag for Four (which includes ribs, a pint of pulled pork, chicken, baked beans, cornbread, cole slaw and all the other fixings) is $44.95, making it an excellent option for feeding a large group of big eaters at a moment's notice.

BEST-KEPT SECRET

Carmen Quagliata at the Vault

105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston;
617-292-9966

This gem of a restaurant in the Financial District has struggled to define itself through a succession of chefs, but co-owner Brian O'Neill has finally hit upon a winning formula with his new partner. Up-and-coming chef Carmen Quagliata has worked at Tra Vigne in Napa Valley and Felidia in New York, and his cooking reflects a dedication to the three central tenets of Italian cuisine: use the best ingredients available, celebrate the seasons, and know when to stop. His mouth-watering menu includes such inventive creations as seared octopus salad with Jim Cook potatoes and red wine vinaigrette, Pecorino *budino* with sun gold tomatoes, and yellowfin tuna arrabiata. Eschewing obsessively decorative garnishes and architectural presentations, Quagliata makes food that's as simple and unpretentious as it is delicious. While all the food snobs wait three weeks for a reservation at the hot spot du jour, diners at the Vault are eating some of the best food in town, minus all the hype and the endless wait for a table.

BRUNCH

Henrietta's Table

1 Bennett St., Cambridge; 617-661-5005;
www.charleshotel.com

No meal is more civilized than a proper Sunday brunch, and no one does Sunday brunch better than this restaurant, which is reminiscent of a New England farmhouse kitchen. Customers enter through a market selling fruits, jam and other offerings from local farmers. The mission-style tables are set with white linens and simple china in a spacious, sunny room permeated by tempting smells coming from the open kitchen. The $35-$39 prix fixe buffet includes the usual fare (eggs Benedict, waffles, omelets, sausage and bacon) as well as some unexpected but welcome surprises (oysters, artisanal cheeses, pasta and a different carving each week). Whether you're coming from church or straight from an after-hours party, it's worth the trip to Harvard Square on a Sunday morning.

BURGER

R. F. O'Sullivan's

282 Beacon St., Somerville; 617-492-7773;
www.rfosullivan.com

This typically loud, smoky, no-B.S. neighborhood bar just happens to specialize in that most basic and American of culinary creations: the hamburger. O'Sullivan's burgers weigh eight ounces (or half a pound) and are more than two inches thick, which makes it a challenge to open your mouth wide enough to take a bite. Once you do, though, you'll see why we've singled them out. The 30 variations on the theme include the Cape Codder (with avocado and Swiss cheese), the Mexican (served with fresh salsa and mozzarella and heated tortilla shells in between the buns), the North Ender (with tomato sauce and mozzarella) and the Blackjack (made with Cajun spices in the ground beef and served with a tangy Creole mayo and melted cheese). But our favorite is the Black and Blue, featuring fresh black pepper and a creamy bleu cheese dressing, served with onion rings and french fries. Best of all, this is one of the few places where you can actually order your burger rare. Ronald McWho?

BURRITOS

Anna's Taqueria

1412 Beacon St., Brookline; 617-739-7300;
446 Harvard St., Brookline; 617-277-7111;
822 Somerville Ave., Cambridge; 617-661-8500;
236A Elm St., Somerville; 617-666-3900

Even when a burrito is bad, it's still pretty good. However, the hands-down best are to be found at this ever-expanding chain. Perhaps the only place you can order and re

SUSHI

Osushi

10 Huntington Ave., Boston; 617-266-2788;
www.osushirestaurant.com

According to one self-described "sushi whore," this studiously groovy little place just outside the Westin Hotel lobby is the best thing to happen to Boston in eons. The authentic but snazzy menu features consistently excellent fish and assorted other Japanese delicacies, making it accessible for the maven and the neophyte alike. Diners at the sushi bar can watch the hypnotic performance as sushi chefs construct edible works of art, while the modern, sexy dining room has become a favorite dating spot for the young, good-looking and fashionable set. Large windows overlook a bustling street scene one story below, while a soundtrack of the latest in lounge music lends a clubby but comfortable vibe. But it's the food that really stands out. Anyone with a yen for superb and superbly prepared sushi is bound to become a regular.

ceive a well-rounded meal in under a minute, the lines still snake out the door, a testament to the quality of the food. A regular burrito includes meat, beans and salsa, while a super burrito adds cheese and rice to the masterpiece. Grilled chicken, pork, steak, chili verde, and grilled vegetables round out the impressive array of toppings. The flour tortillas are steamed to perfection before being used for burritos. To top it all off, the prices are low too: The super burrito is a mere $3.94.

CAPPUCCINO

Caffe Vittoria

294 Hanover St., Boston; 617-227-7606

Long before Starbucks inspired fast-food joints and doughnut shops to begin offering coffee topped with steamed milk, this Old-World, family-owned North End café was serving cappuccino they way they do in Italy: strong, hot and without a big production. A crowd usually comes right after dinner, since most North End restaurants are small and will hurry diners out after they eat, but a second wave arrives later at night. Then there are the regulars who never leave and who add a bit of local color to an already vibrant atmosphere. An outstanding place to take a date, especially if he or she doesn't drink, it's like stopping at a café in Sicily, except everyone speaks English.

CASUAL DINING

Rustic Kitchen

200 Quincy Market, Boston; 617-523-6334

With all the excellent restaurants in Boston, it seems a bit churlish to lament the lack of laid-back casual options, and one that's overlooked is this standout in Faneuil Hall. Relatively new in the kitchen, chef Bill Bradley—who earned accolades at both Bricco and Carmen in the North End—keeps things simple and satisfying, with a menu that boasts such items as white grape and cucumber gazpacho, veal osso bucco with parsnip puree, pizza, and macaroni and cheese. Pasta and breads are made in-house, and the long narrow dining room (with the wood-fired oven in the middle) extends to an outdoor patio. In the midst of all the Disney-fied, touristy schlock of Faneuil Hall, Rustic Kitchen offers really good food at reasonable prices.

CHEAP BREAKFAST

The Paramount

44 Charles St., Boston; 617-720-1152

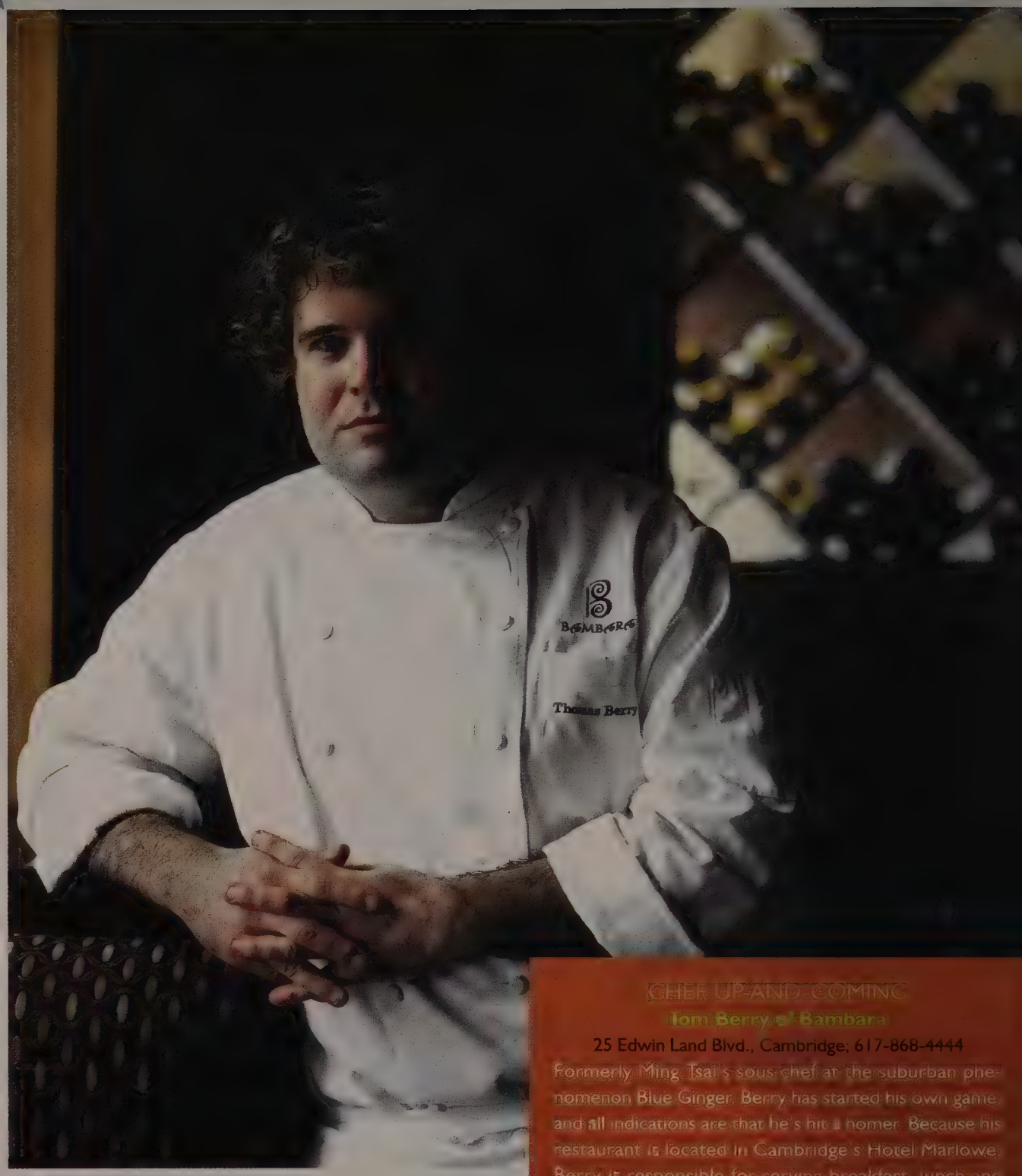
Surrounded by chichi little shops on one of the most picturesque streets in the city, this utilitarian little restaurant serves up the usual (eggs, pancakes, French toast, omelets) at unusually low prices. Nothing on the menu costs more than $7.50, and the homemade banana bread alone is worth twice that. Not surprisingly, there's a line out the door on weekends, and the dress code leans toward sweatpants and Red Sox caps. In other words, if Beacon Hill were a college dorm, this would be the dining hall. Makes you wonder why the same breakfast, only not as good and without any of the charm, is so much more expensive everywhere else.

CHEAP EATS

Flux

1 Appleton St., Boston; 617-695-3589;
www.fluxboston.com

Reaction to both the food and decor of this latest addition to the South End dining scene has been mixed. Some people don't like the spare, white and brown design, and others complain that it's not as inexpensive as everyone says. It's our guess that the former are intimidated by minimalism, while the latter are just plain cheap. The most pricey thing on the menu, at $12, is a delicious French-cut teriyaki pork chop, while $11 buys you the wildly popular turkey meatloaf. Nothing on the wine list is north of $30, while the martinis, which have lately become stupidly expensive everywhere else, are all under $10. Flux's willingness to continually tweak the menu is a sign that things will go from good to great. It's the epitome of an up-tempo neighborhood place, and the fact that management donates the space, food and drinks to host a different nonprofit on the first Tuesday of every month shows they know how to be good neighbors.



CHEF UP-AND-COMING

Tom Berry of Bambara

25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge; 617-868-4444

Formerly Ming Tsai's sous chef at the suburban phenomenon Blue Ginger, Berry has started his own game, and all indications are that he's hit a homer. Because his restaurant is located in Cambridge's Hotel Marlowe, Berry is responsible for serving breakfast, lunch and dinner to guests, as well as room service and catering for functions, but by all accounts, he's more than up for the challenge. Maybe that's a result of years he spent doing recipe development and menu testing for Ming Tsai's books and TV show, and the fact that he's worked with such kitchen gods as Jean-Georges Vongerichten, Nobu Matsuhisa and Jean Louis Palladin. Whatever the reason, the guy's obviously gifted, and his restaurant is sure to become one of the most talked about in an ever-expanding and oversaturated market. We predict it's only a matter of time before the Food Network is knocking on his door.

CHINESE RESTAURANT

New Shanghai Restaurant

21 Hudson St., Boston; 617-338-6688

This is where foodies and celebrity chefs (like Michael Schlow and Ken Oringer) come to eat in Chinatown. Chef C.K. Sau, who formerly worked as executive chef at Sally Ling's, specializes in Shanghai and Cantonese cuisine, with an emphasis on seafood. The menu includes standards like crispy whole fish and Peking duck, as well as more obscure Chinese delicacies like grilled sea bass with Shanghai sauce. Unlike all those dragon palaces where deep-fried everything floats in sweet pink goo, New Shanghai serves authentic Chinese food made from the freshest and best ingredients, and Sau doesn't mask his dishes in heavy sauces. For the real deal, come here.

CLAM CHOWDER

Legal Sea Foods

Many locations;
www.legalseafoods.com

For years, we've wondered how this wildly popular seafood chain has managed to perfect the quintessential New England soup. The broth is thick without being gloppy; the clams are sweet and never rubbery; and the potatoes are soft without being mushy. In short, it's the ultimate chowder, so good that several presidents have seen fit to serve it at their inaugurations. From Legal's waterfront location all the way to the suburbs, this is darn good chowda.

COFFEE SHOP

Cafe Pamplona

12 Bow St., Cambridge; 617-547-2763

This Cambridge institution has been open for 45 years and is the next best thing to a corner café in Salamanca. In addition to strong coffee and delectable pastries, there's an assortment of soups and pressed sandwiches like gazpacho, *sopa de ajo* (garlic soup) in the winter, and the Pamplona special (essentially a Cubano made with roast pork, ham, pickles and cheese). The clientele leans heavily toward Harvard students and professors, which means that the conversation is highly cerebral and the closest anyone comes to making a fashion statement is accessorizing with a dog-eared copy of *Gödel, Escher & Bach*. With its cozy, subterranean atmosphere, this is an ideal place to kill an hour or three.

COMFORT FOOD

Silvertone Bar and Grill

69 Bromfield St., Boston; 617-338-7887

Donna Reed, June Cleaver and all those other 1950s housewives would be green with envy. The food at this subterranean Ladder District hot spot is a throwback to the days when calories and cholesterol weren't something people worried about, and dinner meant warm, hearty and delicious food. Meatloaf and macaroni and cheese are two of the standouts, but the pork chops or steak tips will satisfy the hungriest carnivore, while lighter fare, like fish of the day or a green salad, is ideal for anyone trying to watch their weight. Old-fashioned, no-nonsense cooking just like your Mom used to make, if you were lucky.

DELI

Rubin's Kosher Restaurant Delicatessen

500 Harvard St., Brookline; 617-731-8787

www.rubinskosher.com

You don't need to keep kosher to enjoy the closest thing to a New York deli this side of Manhattan. This traditional Jewish deli serves exceptional renditions of classics like matzo ball soup, extra lean corned beef, brisket, knishes, lox and bagels, and chopped liver. Everything is prepared on the premises, and the circa 1965 decor gives the place a kitsch appeal. Because it's certified kosher—which means the quality of the food and the way it's prepared are held to higher standards—the prices might seem a bit steep, but the portions are enormous. In fact, the last time we went, we took home enough leftovers to last the rest of the week. As our Bubbe used to say, "Esst, meine Kinder."

DESSERT

Finale

1 Columbus Ave., Park Square, Boston; 617-423-3184;

30 Dunster St., Cambridge; 617-441-9797;

www.finaledesserts.com

Anyone with a sweet tooth will think they've died and gone to heaven. In 1998, this chic little desserterie and bakery opened, operating on the bold idea of serving nothing but the final (and our favorite) course. Naysayers predicted it wouldn't survive. Five years later, it expanded to a second location. The menu has something to tempt everyone, although the two signature desserts are a crème brûlée that defies description and molten chocolate, a baked-to-order chocolate cake with a gooey center served with coffee ice cream and chocolate-covered almonds. Tilted mirrors mounted on the ceiling give patrons a view of what the chefs are up to, which also makes it the Best Place to Indulge Your Secret Fetish for Food Porn.

DIM SUM

China Pearl

9 Tyler St., Boston; 617-426-4338;

www.chinapearlrestaurant.com

China Pearl's extensive dim sum selection excels, a fact that's obvious from the number of Chinese families who go there every weekend. Seating is communal, so unless you're up for eating with strangers, come with a group of friends, which also makes it easier to share lots of different dishes. Since most of the waiters speak little English, it's best just to graze randomly from the passing carts. Each of the little steam trays—which contain everything from spare ribs, chicken claws and pork buns to mushrooms, vegetables and custard egg tarts—are $2.25-$4.95, meaning that you might go home with a few bills left in your wallet. A weekend getaway to the Orient without the hassle of packing a suitcase.

DINER

Deluxe Town Diner

627 Mount Auburn St., Watertown; 617-926-8400;

www.deluxetowndiner.com

If there's such a thing as "fine dinering," this is it. Open from 6 am to 10 pm seven days a week, this authentic old-school diner (it was built in 1947, but there's been a diner on the site since the '30s) serves hearty fare with flair. Moreover, everything is made from scratch. The menu regularly changes, although one constant is the drool-worthy pancakes, which include flapjacks made with sour cream and buttermilk, *ployes* (buckwheat pancakes wth no butter or oil), New Orleans sweet-potato pancakes, New York–style potato pancakes and Rhode Island johnnycakes made with

PLACE TO GO WHEN PRICE IS NO OBJECT

Radius

8 High St., Boston; 617-426-1234;

www.radiusrestaurant.com

Walking through the door is like walking onto a stage set for a modern remake of *Dinner at Eight* or some other sophisticated 1930s screwball comedy. The circular dining room is among the most dramatic and exciting rooms in Boston, while the chic, high-powered bar scene offers a less structured setting for celebrations. Chef Michael Schlow's award-winning food is pricey but worth every penny. There's also a communal table where lone diners can join a consistently colorful, rotating cast of urbane hipsters, along with private dining rooms appropriate for swanky dinner parties. The proximity to the Financial District means that lots of lawyers, investment bankers and other expense-account types take power lunches or dinner here, but everyone else will feel welcome and well-looked-after by a staff that's unsurpassed by any other we've ever seen.

The North End's

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stone-ground corn meal. A full stack is $6, while a short stack is $4.50, making this one of the few places where someone with the appetite of a field hand can fill up for under $10. The quality of the food, not to mention special events like an evening with cookbook author Laura Brody, are of a caliber typically associated with fancier places, but it's as genuine and down-to-earth as a diner gets.

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DINNER WITH LIVE MUSIC

Les Zygomates

129 South St., Boston; 617-542-5108;
www.leszygomates.com

Chef-owner Ian Just's cooking is reason enough to seek out this Leather District restaurant specializing in traditional French bistro fare. Add to that the outstanding live jazz acts that appear six nights a week, and it's easy to see why sophisticates and cognoscenti dine there in droves. The pâté is made in-house, the steak frites are magnifique and the pan-roasted veal sweetbreads are as good as at any restaurant in France. And all the while, some of the most talented jazz musicians in Boston serenade you at a decibel level that won't spoil the conversation at your table. The French are great at two things: food and jazz. Les Zygomates has both of them covered.

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FRENCH RESTAURANT

Troquet

140 Boylston St., Boston; 617-695-9463

Troquet offers proof that a French restaurant need not be snotty or a Disney-esque replica of a brasserie or a bistro. Overlooking the Common in a pleasant space decorated in a muted palette of grays, green and black, this intimate spot is understated and underrated. The focus is on pairing wine and foods: The menu lists 47 wines by the glass, printed in a column down the center, with appropriate choices of appetizers on the left and entrées on the right. This is especially good news for anyone who gets intimidated when confronted by a wine list. As for the food, appetizers like braised-short-rib cannelloni with smoked bacon and aromatic vegetables, and main courses like roasted suckling pig with sweet potatoes, golden raisins and endive marmalade, are innovative in conception and execution. True French style without all that Gallic jackasserie.

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HEALTHY RESTAURANT

The Hi Protein Lo Fat Know Fat Grille & Café

222 Arsenal St., Watertown; 617-923-7676

This place is ideal for anyone on Weight Watchers who doesn't want to O.D. on cholesterol. The casual dine-in or takeout menu consists of sandwiches, wraps and dinner plates, all assiduously low in fat. The extensive vegetarian offerings include health food staples such as tofu, tabbouleh, hummus and garden burgers, but the good news is that much of the menu puts a health-food spin on often-forbidden fare. The all-white chicken meatball wrap is a best-seller, as are the steak-tip wrap and the low-fat burger. All sandwiches and wraps come with low-fat "air fries," which are baked instead of fried. Fruit smoothies and soy protein smoothies are like a meal in a glass, and the low-fat, high-protein brownies and cookies are tastier than they sound. The cult-like clientele tends to be intimidatingly fit, which also makes this the Best Place to Meet a Health Nut with One Percent Body Fat.

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ICE CREAM

Christina's Homemade Ice Cream

1255 Cambridge St., Cambridge; 617-492-7021

We've never met an ice cream parlor we didn't like. That said, this Cambridge spot is tops. The ingredients are all-natural, and the 40-plus flavors range from the everyday to the outlandish. Signature offerings include burnt sugar, Wild Turkey bourbon and walnut, coconut Butterfinger, and white coffee mocha flake. For the fat phobic, Christina's also has frozen yogurt, usually about six varieties. It does a brisk wholesale business, selling to several hundred local restaurants, and special requests from chefs often result in new flavors. Christina's recently opened a spice shop next door carrying upwards of 200 spices and herbs from around the world, as well as numerous varieties of dried mushrooms, rice, tea, beans, lentils, chocolate and chilis. We'll take that as proof of the lengths they'll go to for just the right ingredient. In short, this is ice cream for the connoisseur.

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INDIAN RESTAURANT

Diva

246 Elm St., Somerville; 617-629-4963;
www.divabistro.com

When you're craving curry or hankering for vindaloo, nothing else will do, and while there's a surfeit of serviceable Indian restaurants around (especially in Cambridge, where it seems like there's one on every corner), our favorite is this little family place in Davis Square. Everything is done the way it would be in Bombay: nan and other breads come first, followed by rice and the entrées of beef, lamb, chicken, vegetables and so on, beautifully prepared and as authentically spicy as you request it. In other words, Diva doesn't tone down the food for an American palate unless you ask. Even more refreshing than the food is the pace; diners are wonderfully looked after but never rushed, adding to the sensation that you've been transported to the subcontinent. Who knew the flavors of India could be found in mysterious, exotic Somerville?

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ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Bricco

241 Hanover St., Boston; 617-248-6800;
www.bricco.com

"Bricco" refers to the lush grapes adorning the hillside vineyards of Italy, and is an apt name for this North End eatery that ranked in *Bon Appétit*'s top 10 Italian restaurants in the country. Marisa Iocco and Rita D'Angelo, former owners of Galleria Italiana—returned from a six-month sojourn in Italy—recently took over the front and back of the house at Bricco and are wowing patrons with their inventive menu of classic Italian food with a cosmopolitan touch. Feast on such delicacies as crispy jumbo soft-shell crab enveloped in a golden, tempura-like batter, or the house-made ravioli with foie gras, Parmesan and artichokes, which combines an Italian staple with the richness of French paté. The menu also features a wide array of antipasti, ranging from classics like homemade mozzarella with fresh tomatoes, to the octopus *carpaccio*, served with jumbo New Zealand mussel salad. *Manga!*

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LATE-NIGHT FOOD

News Restaurant & Lounge

150 Kneeland St., Boston, 617-426-6397;
www.newsboston.com

One of the most common complaints of Boston visitors who come from more nocturnally lively cities is the lack of late-night places to eat. Beyond Chinatown and fast food, they say, it's slim pickings. Well, now you can take your visiting guests to this Leather District eatery that's open until 4 am on weeknights and 5 am on Friday and Saturday. The restaurant's name is reflected in the selection of international newspapers and magazines available to patrons, as well as wireless Internet hookups and flat-screen TVs playing CNN and other news stations (without the sound). The enormous menu boasts 140 items, with sushi and steak tips among the most popular. Although it's worth checking out early in the evening, while the bar's still open, it's your best bet when the clubs have closed and everyone else has gone home to bed.

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MARGARITA

Cactus Club Restaurant & Bar

939 Boylston St., Boston; 617-236-0200;
www.cactusclubboston.com

For some of us, the national libation of Mexico is serious business. Well tequila is a no-no, and bottled mixes are unthinkable. For the true connoisseur, the bar at this Back Bay restaurant has 25 different tequilas (including the exceedingly hard to find El Tesoro Paradiso), and the mix is made from a secret recipe using freshly squeezed juices. Among the most popular of the 17 signature varieties are the Horni Marg (Sauza Hornitos, Cointreau and a splash of fresh lime), and frozen varieties like raspberry, tangerine and Creamsicle. Several new ones will be added

NEW BAR

Jasper White's Summer Shack

50 Dalton St., Boston; 617-867-9955;
149 Alewife Parkway, Cambridge; 617-520-9500;
www.summershackrestaurant.com

Imagine a roadside clam shack off Route 24 somewhere near Buzzards Bay, owned and operated by one of America's greatest chefs (who's known specifically for his lobster), and you'll get an idea of what the Summer Shack is like. The folks at Summer Shack bill their raw bar as the largest in town, with eight to 10 varieties of oysters daily (some flown in from Washington state and British Columbia), two kinds of clams and rotating options that include shrimp, crab, lobster, tuna tartare and scallop ceviche. In the Back Bay location, which just opened in April, they've even built (and have a patent pending for) a refrigerated storage unit that holds up to 4,000 pieces of shellfish. All that's missing are the seagulls circling overhead and that whiff of low tide.

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this summer, including mango, passion fruit and blueberry. If the Cactus Club's estimate is correct that it serves 5,000 margaritas a week, that's 260,000 a year, which means it must be doing something right. Ay, *que rico!*

MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

Oleana

134 Hampshire St., Cambridge; 617-661-0505

Oleana means "paradise," and it's the full name of co-owner Ana Sortun, who was nominated for this year's James Beard award for best chef in the Northeast. Sortun's Arabic Mediterranean menu also has hints of Italian and Spanish cooking. The ambience is laid-back and intimate, with stone walls and warm, muted earth tones. For authentic Mediterranean atmosphere, there's also alfresco dining on an outdoor patio. The food is as tastefully restrained as the decor, a delicate balance of intense flavors and heady spices. Between your first and last courses, you can enjoy a complete cruise of the Mediterranean without going any farther than Cambridge.

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Tu Y Yo

858 Broadway, Somerville; 617-623-5411;
www.tuyyomexicanfonda.com

We'd all but given up trying to find a Mexican restaurant in Boston that wasn't all about salsa and chips and everything smothered in sour cream. Then we found this place. The owners are from Veracruz and the D.F. (Mexico City to you gringos), and the food is the real enchilada: clean, simple and healthy. The decor is Mexican at least as far as the colors are concerned: brown and yellow booths and a blue and white tile counter, with turn-of-the-century photos on the walls. But it's the food that makes this place worth a visit. Their *sopes*—traditional bite-sized morsels of *masa* stuffed with cheese or vegetables—are delicious, and seafood selections like *pulpo pichirilo* (a vinegary hash of octopus and black olives) and *chile relleno de camaron* (poblano pepper stuffed with shrimp and goat cheese and drizzled with red bell pepper sauce) reflect the rich and varied seafood tradition that's all but ignored by most Mexican restaurants. In fact, this place challenges long-held assumptions about what Mexican food is or isn't, which is why we love it. A selection of three sangrias available by the pitcher and a full array of Mexican beers complete the bill of fare. Good enough for tu y yo, and even for tu mama, tambien.

GREEK RESTAURANT

Dionysos

777 Memorial Drive, Cambridge; 617-661-6800

Appropriately named for the god of wine and celebration, this Mediterranean gem overlooking the Charles River on the second floor of the Radisson Hotel has hosted the mayor of Athens and numerous celebrities of Greek descent. The attraction is Greek delicacies just like Mom used to make, assuming your Mom was born and raised in Athens. The lamb kleftiko is slow-cooked in a clay pot for many hours, while the handmade dolmades (grape leaves) are lovingly stuffed with rice and seasonings. Our favorite, though, is the shrimp saganaki, cooked with tomato sauce and spices, topped with feta cheese and baked. It brings us back to that summer between freshman and sophomore year that we spent on the beach in Skiathos pretending to study the classics. If you've got a big fat appetite for Greek food, this is the place to satisfy it.

MIDDLE EASTERN/PERSIAN RESTAURANT

Lala Rokh

97 Mount Vernon St., Boston; 617-720-5511;
www.lalarokh.com

If you're looking for falafel, hummus or baba ghannouj, look elsewhere. The beyond-fabulous food and the ambient atmosphere at Lala Rokh provide the exotic experience that most of us are looking for in a Middle Eastern restaurant—but the cuisine is distinctly Persian. That means dishes like slow-cooked, marinated beef with basmati rice, and roasted eggplant with garlic, tomato and saffron. The owners, brother-and-sister team Babak Bina and Azita Bina-Seibel, cook with spices and ingredients that their mother brings back from her frequent travels to Iran, and the menu is based entirely upon old family recipes. (Apparently, the Bina family has been eating well for generations.) A recent redo spiffed up the decor, with artwork from the family's private collection, including 19th-century photos of Iran by two of the earliest Persian photographers. Lala Rokh pays further homage to Persian culture with several champagne cocktails named after famous poets, and the owners plan to start hosting semi-regular evenings where patrons can bring their favorite poetry (Persian or otherwise) to recite over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. A Muslim cleric might not approve, but we think that sounds like a heavenly evening.

NACHOS

Coolidge Corner Clubhouse

307-309 Harvard St., Brookline; 617-566-4948

This ubiquitous bar snack gets no respect, existing in the culinary twilight between Super Bowl parties and pubs where there are no other food options. However, this Brookline haunt brings the disrespected and lowly nacho to new levels. Instead of the amorphous blob of cholesterol that most places offer, you get a huge serving of crisp chips loaded with tons of freshly prepared toppings, including sour cream, guacamole, jalapeños, salsa and even chili. And we do mean a huge serving. A half order easily serves three or four people while the full portion is enough to satisfy six, which makes it the ideal appetizer to share while staving off the predinner munchies or staring blankly at the game on TV. The rest of the Clubhouse's pub grub is just as good, but be forewarned: Combined with the beer you're liable to consume, one visit may up your pants size.

NEW CONCEPT

Peking Tom's Longtang Lounge

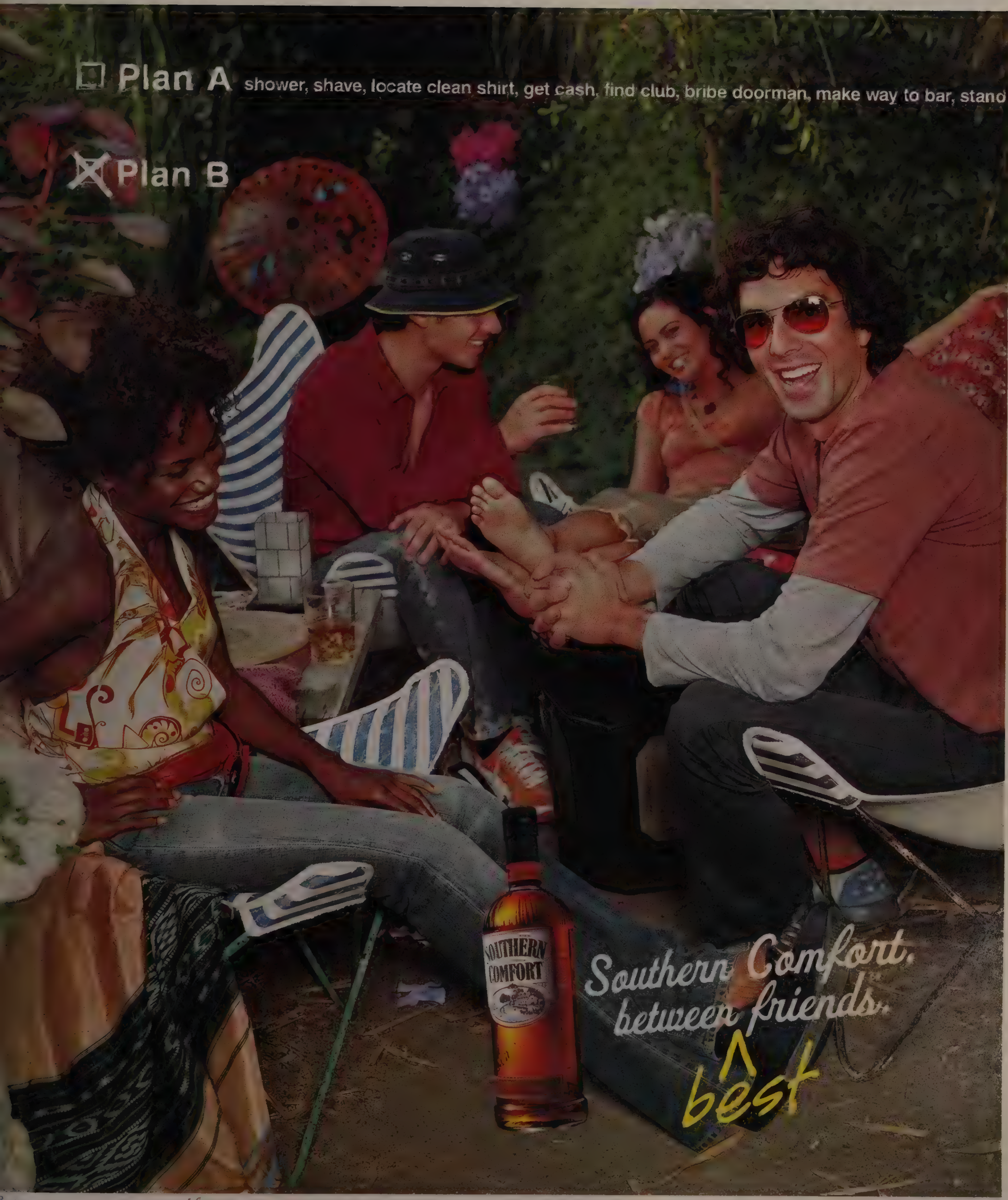
25 Kingston St., Boston; 617-482-6282;
www.pekingtom.com

A latter-day Trader Vic's with a boldly colored, contemporary decor that has enough kitsch touches to keep it from becoming too serious (in all the restrooms, for instance, introductory Chinese language tapes are piped in over the sound system and the walls are covered in Chinese newspapers). "Longtang" refers to the alleys in the Shanghai marketplace, an appropriate choice given the restaurant's two narrow rooms. The straightforward Cantonese menu (courtesy of executive chef Marc Orfaly, of Pigalle fame) includes such standouts as chicken and mango fried rice and "shrimp two ways." Polynesian cocktails are the equivalent of house wines, including such classics as the Mai Tai, Scorpion Bowl, Fogcutter, Zombie and our personal favorite, the aptly named Suffering Bastard, which contains bourbon, gin, ginger ale and lime. The cuisine of Chinatown served in a sexy setting, it's proof that Cantonese cooking doesn't have to be enjoyed in a cafeteria-like atmosphere.

NEW FOOD TREND

Bubble Tea

It took a while for this Asian fad to make it here from the West Coast, but we're glad it finally has. Also known as "black pearl tea," "pearl tea," "tapioca milk tea" or by its Asian name, pronounced "boba," it originated in Taiwan in the early 1990s. Cold black or green tea is mixed with milk and fruit-flavored syrup, and at the bottom of the glass are marble-sized balls of tapioca that look like bubbles (hence the name). Currently available at places like 88 Food Connection in Allston and Cassava on Boylston Street (and popping up at small Chinese restaurants around Boston), it's served in a clear glass to highlight its funky look and sipped through a straw wide enough to suck the tapioca balls through. Although it's called tea, the syrup makes it taste almost like juice. Flavors are endless and can include anything from strawberry to mango, passion fruit, pineapple, coffee, honeydew or peach, making it a nifty and novel alternative to your daily caffeine fix.



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243 Hampshire St., Cambridge; 617-491-9488;
9 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill; 617-277-5629;
2 South Station, Boston; 617-439-4684;
32 Waltham St., Lexington; 617-354-1843;
www.rosiesbakery.com

The home of unapologetically rich desserts like the Chocolate Orgasm (a fudge brownie topped with frosting), this place pulls no caloric punches and cuts no-caloric corners. Co-owner Judy Rosenberg (a.k.a. Rosie) is the author of two cookbooks—*The Rosie's Bakery All Butter, Fresh Cream, Sugar-Packed, No Holds-Barred Baking Book* and *The Rosie's Bakery Chocolate-Packed, Jam-Filled, Butter-Rich No-Holds-Barred Cookie Book*. Among the assortment of cakes, cookies, brownies, bars, tarts and pies are Baby Brownies (small pans that serve 6 to 8) and such sinfully delicious confections as the Velvet Underground (= dark chocolate cake layered with fudge and frosted with vanilla butter cream). You can almost feel your thighs getting bigger the moment you walk through the door.

NEW HOTEL RESTAURANT

Spire at the Nine Zero Hotel

90 Tremont St., Boston; 617-772-0202;
www.ninezero.com/dining_events/spire.html

The space alone warrants a visit to this restaurant, named for its view of the steeple on top of the Park Street Church. The starkly chic interior has bamboo floors and lavender curtains so pale they're practically white, giving it an airy, Scandinavian feel that's as sophisticated as chef Jeffrey Everts' French-influenced cooking. Recently called "worth the splurge" by *Bon Appétit*, the food and wine list are on the pricey side, but the more casual bar menu offers such fare as stuffed calamari and a lobster sandwich. Ideal for after-work cocktails, a dinner date or a special occasion, it's the kind of place you used to have to go to New York to find.

NEW RESTAURANT

Excelsior

The Heritage on the Garden,
272 Boylston St., Boston; 617-426-7878;
www.excelsiorrestaurant.com

Perhaps the most eagerly awaited restaurant in the city's history, it's the latest brainchild of the incomparable Lydia Shire and replaces her legendary Biba, which redefined Boston's dining scene in the 1980s and paved the way for the proliferation of adventurous, chef-owned restaurants that continue to sprout up around the city. Few have a visionary of Shire's brilliance behind them, though, or a setting as magnificent as Excelsior's two floors overlooking the Public Garden. With partner Tim Lynch (of Grill 23 & Bar and Harvest) and designer Adam Tihany, Shire has created the kind of restaurant that makes diehard foodies swoon. The bar downstairs has a luxe, modern but classic aesthetic, with playful lighting and smart brown furniture with orange piping. Upstairs, an understated, elegant dining room seems to float like a sleek dirigible above Boylston Street. However, the visual centerpiece is a three-level glass wine tower with a 7,000-bottle capacity that houses the restaurant's 400-bottle-long wine list. Needless to say, the food defies description, and they've wisely kept old favorites like the lobster pizza on the menu. An instant classic.

ONE-STOP ASIAN

88 Food Connection

1095 Comm. Ave., Allston; 617-787-2288

You're jonesing for General Gau's chicken, but your friend has a yen for sashimi, and his date won't eat anything but bi bim bop. Where to go? This enormous food court in Allston has more than a half-dozen stalls offering the full gamut of Asian food, from Chinese, Japanese and Korean to Vietnamese, Thai and Indian. The low prices (around $5-$10 an entrée) make it a favorite for students, and the authentic food makes it popular among Asian families. A huge, warehouse-like room with the bustling atmosphere of a McDonald's in Shanghai, it's always loud and crowded, and the decor is limited to the small tables and chairs you might expect to see in a cafeteria. However, the vendors, not the ambience, are the draw. They serve all the familiar fare, as well as delicacies you've never heard of, and a few you might try only on a dare.

OUTDOOR DINING

Harvest

44 Brattle St., Cambridge; 617-868-2255;
www.the-harvest.com

Established in 1974, this Harvard Square institution has served as the springboard for some of the most notable names in the Boston restaurant scene. Under the same ownership as Grill 23 & Bar since 1998, Harvest's menu items change weekly, emphasizing local and seasonal specialties, and draws a loyal crowd of locals as well as the rich and famous. However, it's the tree-canopied garden terrace that's the hidden gem. Surrounded by four leafy lindens and a trellis-like fence, it's a lush bit of serenity smack in the middle of the hustle and bustle of busy Harvard Square. Adorned with floral boxes filled with herbs and seasonal flowers, which change often, its marble tables and comfy wrought-iron seats offer the ideal setting for sampling Harvest's famous lobster BLT and a selection from the 200-bottle wine list. And after the last chilly spring, you'll be glad to know that this garden oasis is warmed by gas-operated heaters.

OVERALL VALUE

The Franklin Café

278 Shawmut Ave., Boston; 617-350-0010

So much of going out to eat has become an exercise in remembering which celebrity chefs belong to which restaurants and striving to look like you just fell out of the pages of a fashion magazine. What ever happened to just going out for a bite to eat? Well, that tradition is alive in the South End, where this phenomenally popular neighborhood spot continues to crank out consistently great food at reasonable prices. With a full menu available until 1:30 am seven nights a week and an impressively affordable wine list, it's all about flexibility, and although there is frequently a wait for a table, the social yet unpretentious atmosphere turns the delay into a delight. In fact, you'll probably want to stay and hang out after you eat, too, since the bar scene is one of the most laid-back yet groovy in Boston.

MARTINI

Jer-Ne Restaurant & Bar

10 Avery St., Boston; 617-574-7100;
www.ritzcarlton.com/hotels/boston_common

Don't get us wrong. There's no more civilized place in the world to sip a classic cocktail than a window table overlooking the Public Garden in the bar at the old Ritz. However, the Ritz's sleeker sibling, the new Ritz Carlton, Boston Common, has several things going for it. The bar at Jer-Ne, one of the new Ritz's restaurants, is bigger, less stuffy and more comfortable for larger groups and relaxed get-togethers, while the style and service are up to the exacting standards you'd expect from a Ritz-Carlton. The martinis are flawless, and the bar's signature offering is the Neopolitan (a variation on the Cosmopolitan with raspberries and lime). Wall-to-wall windows prevent the dimly lit, sexy interior from feeling oppressive, and the menu of lighter fare is a delicious way to keep the drinks from going straight to your head. If the *Sex and the City* girls lived in Boston, this is where you'd find them.

PIZZA: ROMAN STYLE

Campo de Fiore

1352 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-354-3805;
37 Center St., Weston; 781-893-6135

Pizza is a contentious issue, capable of causing serious disagreement between otherwise like-minded people. But if you're looking for pizza like you get in Italy, Campo de Fiore's crust will win you over: Italian flat-bread with crispy edges and a chewy center, it's the dough equivalent of al dente. While living in Rome, owners Isabelle Gamsohn and Bruno Galardi-Este fell in love with *pane romano* (Roman bread), recognizing it as the perfect base for thin-crust pizza. After conferring with some top Italian chefs, they imported their tasty concept to the United States, luckily for us, landing in Harvard Square. Five years later, lunch-hungry pizza lovers wait in lines that stretch down the Holyoke Arcade for a slice of this Roman manna, which comes in 25 different varieties. The numerous toppings include such options as fresh goat cheese, pesto and prosciutto, but our favorite is the Navona: squash, zucchini and mushrooms with a light, savory tomato sauce. *Molto delicioso!*

PIZZA: SPECIALTY

Paolo's Trattoria

251 Main St., Charlestown; 617-242-7229

For those of us who believe pizza to be the food of the gods, this place is a little slice of Mount Olympus. In fact all of the food at this tiny (48-seat) Italian joint is pretty good, but the specialty pizzas that come out of its wood-fired oven are especially mouth-watering. Greatest hits include their specialty pizza called Amore (scallops, crushed red pepper, spinach, mozzerella, romano, garlic and olive oil), Paolo's (mozzarella, peppers and kalamata olives) and the plain old margarita (mozzerella, Italian tomatoes, olive oil and fresh basil). The all-important crust is thin and crisp outside and chewy inside; there's a judicious amount of cheese; all the toppings are fresh; and the tomato sauce is the perfect balance between sweet and spicy. Worth the trip over the bridge to Charlestown.

PLEASANT SURPRISE

Houston's

60 State St., Boston; 617-573-9777;
www.houstons.com

Who knew there was such a thing as a cool bar and restaurant that was part of a national chain? Worth braving the Faneuil Hall crowds to check out, it's surprisingly hip and decidedly upscale. Everything on the menu—from the barbecue sauce to the banana cream pie—is made from scratch, and the bar concentrates on quality as well. Houston's even shuns flavored vodkas in its cocktails because they don't taste "pure" enough (Absolut Citron is the one exception). The design is spare but luxe: mahogany paneling, burgundy leather and lots of brass and cinderblocks, and all of the seating (except for the stools at the bar) is in booths, which gives the room a comfortable and intimate feel. The scene is mostly an after-work, upper-yuppie crowd who come for drinks or dinner, and the menu is varied

enough to please even the most finicky eaters. Located on the site of the old Houlihan's, it's a far cry from a beer-and-buffalo-wings emporium and the least chain-like chain restaurant we've ever seen.

POWER BREAKFAST IN GYM CLOTHES

Blu Café at the Sports Club/LA

4 Avery St., Boston; 617-375-8550

Members at the city's fanciest gym tend to be the sort of go-getters who are so busy they need to combine work with working out. The café at this marble and glass temple to fitness, which many members have been heard to describe as "an urban country club," serves smoothies, breakfast burritos, fresh fruit juices, homemade granola and pastries (including low-fat varieties) to Boston's high and mighty, who either grab it and go or sit with the *Wall Street Journal* spread out on one of the summery picnic-style tables. On any given morning, the city's top CEOs, lawyers, bankers and entrepreneurs—along with the celebrity guests staying at the nearby Ritz—can be found ingesting their morning sustenance and getting their game face on. Taking a meeting while wearing workout gear is so L.A., even if the whole thing contradicts the age-old advice to "never let them see you sweat."

POWER LUNCH

Bristol Lounge

200 Boylston St., Boston; 617-338-4400;
www.fourseasons.com/boston/dining

Heavy-hitters from the business world tend to flock to the Four Seasons in every city around the world, and Boston is no exception. The comfortable and casual first-floor bar is the preferred spot for sussing out or sealing major deals, and any given weekday afternoon will find some of the most powerful people in the city quietly and discreetly conducting big business at one of the tables, which are spaced far enough apart to ensure privacy. Both the furniture (plush sofas and cushy chairs) and the food (with daily specials like meatloaf on Mondays, wiener schnitzel on Wednesdays, and fish and chips on Fridays) are homestyle. The more highfalutin can toast their success with Power Tea. This variation on English-style high tea brings a two-tiered tray topped with steak tartare, caviar, lobster salad, tempura and foie gras, and is usually enjoyed with a martini or a glass of champagne. Like catnip for fat cats, the Bristol Lounge is ground zero for big shots, plutocrats and influence brokers.

PRE-THEATER DINING

Teatro

177 Tremont St., Boston; 617-778-6841;
www.teatroboston.com

This seriously gorgeous restaurant overlooking the Boston Common is one of the most welcome additions to Boston's dining scene since baked beans. Scrumptious contemporary Italian fare by chef/owner Jamie Mammano and executive chef Robert Jean is served in a spectacular setting at shockingly reasonable prices (two can eat and drink well for under $100), making this an ideal date spot whether or not you're holding tickets to a movie, a play, the ballet or the opera. If you are headed to the nearby Theater District or the Loews Boston Common cinema, the restaurant's charming staff is sensitive to and accommodating about curtain times. But Teatro is so chic and lively that it's a performance all its own, and you may be tempted to stay all night.

[redacted]

130 Brighton Ave., Allston; 617-254-1331;
www.allstonsfinest.com

The Sunset offers an eye-poppingly encyclopedic selection of beers, with 350 bottled options and 12 on tap. The latter are continually rotated, and the pub's 13-day quality pledge ensures the freshest drafts possible — the kegs are changed and the lines cleaned every two weeks. (The Sunset also buys quarter-barrels whenever possible, so that they're switched more often.) Ambitious regulars can win prizes by sampling all the beers necessary to complete the Euro Tour (for imported beers), the Sunset Beer Club (which includes 69 beers on tap) and the Yard Tour (which involves consuming a certain number of yards of any beer). Among those for whom beer is a religion, this place is paradise.

REASON TO CLIMB BEACON HILL

No. 9 Park

9 Park St., Boston; 617-742-9991;
www.no9park.com

Unless you've been living under a rock, you probably know that chef-owner Barbara Lynch was the recipient of this year's James Beard Award for best chef in the Northeast. That should tell you enough about the food. As for the other reasons we adore No. 9 Park: a staff that's attentive and informed without being sniffy; an unfussy yet sophisticated, dove-gray and dark wood interior that makes it among the warmest, most welcoming dining rooms anywhere; and a killer location on one of the most historic blocks in America, with the Boston Common and the gold dome of the State House right across the street, and the Athenaeum, the Union Club and Park Street Church only a few doors away. One of the best ways to show off the city to out-of-towners, it's one of the few restaurants that's actually worthy of all the breathless praise that's been lavished on it.

RESTAURANT REINCARNATION

UpStairs on the Square

91 Winthrop St., Cambridge; 617-864-1933;
www.upstairsonthesquare.com

When restaurateurs par excellence Mary-Catherine Deibel and Deborah Hughes lost their lease at the Hasty Pudding Club in 2001, we were disconsolate, lamenting the loss of a reliably superb and romantic spot. We were on pins and needles after they announced their reopening in Harvard Square in the space above Grendel's Den, and their new venture does not disappoint. The food is exquisite, and it's served in two of the most exuberantly decorated rooms you'll find outside of Palm Beach. Downstairs is the Monday Club bar, with animal-print rugs, pink and green striped walls and gilded chairs, where chef Susan Regis' menu has a bistro feel and features dishes like a soft-shell crab sandwich, pizzas and rib-eye steak. Upstairs is the Soiree room, which has an Arabian Nights feel and a small blue bar in the corner. In this room, chef Amanda Lydon's more formal French- and Italian-influenced fare prevails. If dining out is a form of theater, this place is worthy of a standing ovation.

SANDWICHES

Parish Café

361 Boylston St., Boston; 617-247-4777

It's a brilliant idea and one we wish we'd thought of: elevating the humble sandwich to high-concept status by inviting chefs from other restaurants to design them. The Schlesinger, named after the East Coast Grill's Chris, features warm banana bread with smoked ham, Monterey Jack and mango chutney, served with pickled ginger and red cabbage. There's also the Biba Steak and Blue (tenderloin and roquefort butter on a bleu cheese bread), the Elephant Walking on Eggs (a julienned vegetable omelette on French bread), and the ever-popular Norma's Zuni Roll (named for Norma Gillaspie of the Cottonwood Cafe, it's smoked turkey, dill havarti cheese, bacon and scallions on a warm tortilla roll and served with cranberry chipotle sauce and sour cream). With a happening weekend bar scene and the option of dining on the outdoor patio in warm weather, it's a hassle-free, casual place to go for a bite and a few beers.

SMOOTHIES

Jamba Juice at Boston University

775 Comm. Ave., Boston; 617-353-2991;
www.jambajuice.com

Now that the smoothie has become an integral part of life, anyone with a blender can claim to make them, but we're sticklers for taste and consistency, and this place has both just right. Part of a large chain that started on the West Coast, where smoothies are a year-round way of life, Jamba's smoothies come in two sizes, huge (24 oz.) and

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huger (32 oz.). The eye-popping selection includes orange, strawberry, cranberry, pineapple, banana, peach, mango, coconut, kiwi and (our personal favorite) chocolate and peanut butter, all made using fresh fruits, juices, yogurts, sorbets and soy milk. Workout warriors can spike their smoothies with protein, fiber and immunity boosters, and the calorically obsessed can get an exact breakdown of fat and vitamin content on the company's Web site. An ideal snack for in-between meals, smoothies offer a liquid pick-me-up that won't slow you down, and this place has them perfected.

SOUTHERN FOOD

Rouge

480 Columbus Ave., Boston; 617-867-0600;
www.rougeboston.com

An evening south of the Mason-Dixon line is only as far away as the South End, thanks to chef-owner Andy Husbands' chic little Dixie kitchen. The surroundings such as the red velvet booths are upscale, and most of the light comes from votive candles, although there are also touches of authentic Southern whimsy in details like the voodoo shrine in the bar. As for the food, it's what those of us who have lived in the South and miss it remember longingly: knife-and-fork chicken, New Orleans barbecue shrimp, root beer–glazed babyback ribs, and the best mint julep this side of Kentucky. The sourcing of ingredients is key; for instance, when Rouge serves up a special like crawfish, it's flown in fresh from the bayou. The only thing about Rouge that lacks that laid-back down-home feel is the efficient and speedy service.

STEAK HOUSE

Abe & Louie's

793 Boylston St., Boston; 617-536-6300;
www.abeandlouies.com

Some people prefer their porterhouse practically raw, except for a light cross-hatching from the grill, while others like their sirloin singed to a fare-thee-well. You'd think every steak house would prepare the steak to a diner's exact specifications, but this Back Bay mecca for meat eaters is one of the few that consistently get it right. In addition to the choicest cuts, expertly prepared, the kitchen turns out superb seafood (including raw shellfish choices on the menu similar to what you'd find at a raw bar) and excellent side dishes that don't taste like afterthoughts. Just as important, it has an award-winning but still manageable wine list and a bar that puts out a mean martini. The de rigeuer dark wood, brass and leather are classic steak house, and the attentive but unobtrusive staff sees to every little detail. Here's proof that being a carnivore is perfectly civilized.

STEAMERS

Barking Crab

88 Sleeper St., Boston; 617-426-2722

There's nothing simpler or more quintessentially New England than steamed clams served with broth and melted butter, and yet at so many restaurants, the steamers are mostly broken, rubbery and full of grit. Not at this casual, ramshackle clam shack, which sits in the shadows of the bigger buildings along the waterfront like a refugee from Booth Bay Harbor. Its secret: The clams are flown in fresh, three times a week, from a supplier in Maine who handpicks them. As a result, fewer are cracked or damaged, and all of them spent their ooze-sucking lives in the cleaner waters off northern New England. It's among the cheapest and least pretentious places to eat a lobster in Boston, and the laid-back atmosphere is complemented by live music five nights a week. A Down East classic, as casual and salty as a sail loft but without all the theme restaurant silliness.

HOT DOGS

Spike's Junkyard Dogs

108 Brighton Ave., Allston; 617-254-7700

A monument to the lowly hot dog, this funky little fast-food joint features a junkyard theme, with car doors, hubcaps and gas signs serving as the decor. Nevertheless, it's spotlessly clean, and the food is of the highest quality. The all-beef hot dogs are made exclusively for Spike's by a fourth-generation German sausage maker, while the buns are baked fresh according to Spike's own recipe. The menu features 22 options, including the Buffalo (topped with buffalo sauce, bleu cheese and scallions), the Reuben Dog (Russian dressing, sauerkraut and Swiss cheese), the Samurai (teriyaki sauce and sauteed onions), the German Shepherd (mustard and sauerkraut) and the Texas Ranger (barbecue sauce, bacon and cheddar). Number 22, the Sinatra, allows you to do it your way. And for any of the combos, feel free to substitute a veggie dog for a healthy alternative. As if all that weren't enough, Spike's has a "wall of fame" known as the Kennel Club. If you eat six hot dogs in 90 minutes or less, you get a T-shirt and your photo on the wall. The reigning champ stands at 12 hot dogs in 90 minutes. Beat that, and you get the T-shirt, the photo and your money back, which you'll probably want to spend on some Alka-Seltzer.

SUBURBAN RESTAURANT

Lumiere

1293 Washington St., West Newton; 617-244-9199;
www.bostonchefs.com

For anyone who considers anything outside of 02116 western Massachusetts, the idea of dining in Newton might seem akin to driving to Worcester for cocktails. But intrepid urbanites would do well to learn what the good citizens of the western suburbs have known for four years: Chef Michael Leviton's upscale modern French cuisine and minimalist, sophisticated dining room rival anything in Boston or Cambridge, although the prices are a tad more reasonable and there's actually a chance of finding on-street parking. The decor is spare but luxe, with white curtains and soft lighting; like Leviton's cooking, it's pure and free of anything extraneous. It may be condescending to describe it as a little slice of the South End all the way out near Exit 16, but that's how it feels. A logical favorite among the well-heeled sophisticates who live nearby, it's worth a trip from town.

TAPAS

Taberna de Haro

999 Beacon St., Brookline; 617-277-8272;
www.tabernadeharo.boston.swbd.net

A rarity among the Spanish restaurants on this side of the Atlantic: The husband-and-wife team who own it, Deborah and Julio de Haro, used to operate one in Madrid. Like a real Spanish tavern, the tables are few (with seating for 30 people only), and many of the regulars choose to eat standing up at the bar. Most of the 45 menu items are tapas, although the portions are slightly larger than at other places—10 to 15 bites each, as opposed to one or two. Among the most popular are *gambas al ajillo* (spicy garlic shrimp in olive oil) and *croqetas de jamon*, which look like mozzarella sticks but have finely ground pork instead of cheese inside. Many of the ingredients are imported from Spain, and flamenco and other Spanish music provides a pleasant sonic backdrop. Boston's next best thing to actually being in Andalusia.

TRIP TO PARIS FOR UNDER $100

Craigie Street Bistrot

5 Craigie Circle, Cambridge; 617-497-5511;
www.craigiestreetbistrot.com

Forget what the food snobs say; the best restaurants in France aren't the Michelin five-star places with famous names but the maman-et-papa holes-in-the-wall, where you feel like you've stumbled into somebody's kitchen. This cozy little nook on the outskirts of Harvard Square brilliantly re-creates both the food and atmosphere of a small French bistro. Chef Tony Maws spent a year in Lyons (and has worked with Wolfgang Puck and Clio's Ken Oringer), and his unfussy French cooking is known for its improvisation based upon the freshest available ingredients. The decor is old-school—red chairs, mustard and black trim, and vintage French art posters. The wine list is exclusively French, and the house wine is decanted before being brought to the table. You'll be tempted to pay in euros, or even old franc notes, but you'll be pleased when you see the bill in U.S. dollars. The three-course prix fixe dinner is $29.99 a head, and on Sundays after 9pm a $24.99 prix fixe meal is available. *Vive le Cambridge!*

WINGS

Buff's Pub

317 Washington St., Newton; 617-332-9134

This Newton Corner nook has won this award so many times it's almost becoming tedious. We'll never tire of its wings, though, which are available in four varieties—barbecue, honey barbecue, honey hot and Buffalo—all made according to a secret recipe. Whatever's in them, the wings achieve the perfect balance of heat and flavor, spicy enough to get the tongue tingling and the eyes watering without being so hellacious as to burn out the taste buds. The consistency, too, is perfect: crisp and meaty instead of slimy or chewy, while the dip for the buffalo wings contains chunks of real bleu cheese. All that deliciousness for $7.95 (a half order is $4.25) explains why people come all the way to Newton Corner to sit in a bar where the only concession to decor is a mangy buffalo head on the wall. ⟶

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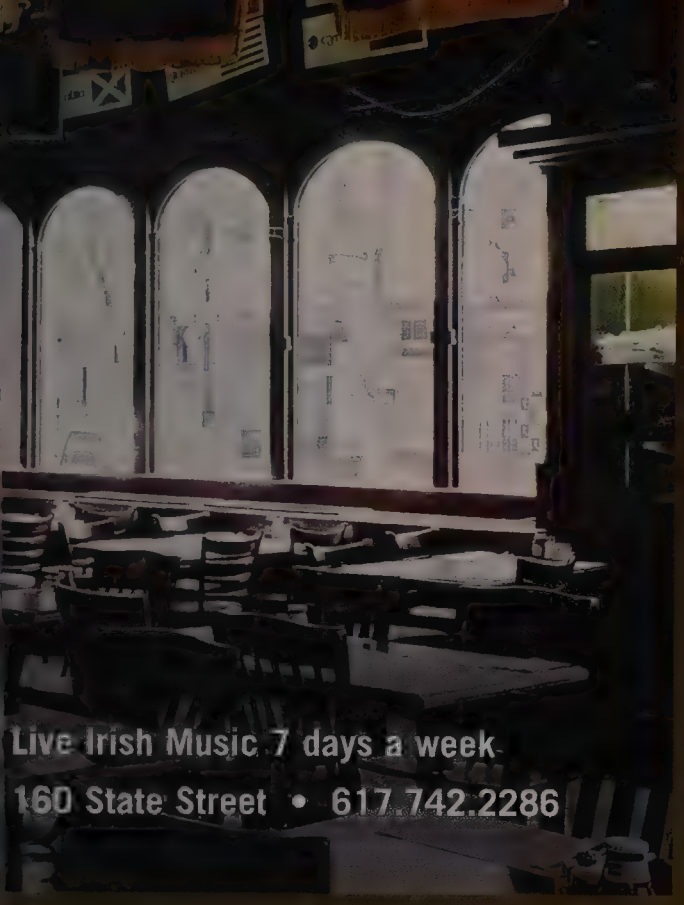

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BARS & clubs

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Aqua

120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900; www.aquaboston.com

For the sophisticated 9-to-5-er who doesn't have the bank to spend beaucoup bucks on a few pops after work, we recommend this sleek, modern hangout in the heart of the Financial District. The wavy blue, green and silver decor fits the club's name, and the slightly funky, downtown vibe helps even the most Dilbert-like office drones forget that they spend most of their day in a cubicle. So do the 20-something honeys who crowd the place at quitting time. Superior bar fare (of the wings, bruschetta and crabcakes variety) keeps everyone from getting a little too tipsy on drinks like the signature Aquatini, which looks a little like Ty-D-Bol but tastes a whole lot better.

BEST-KEPT SECRET

Flann O'Brien's

1619 Tremont St., Boston, 617-566-7744

Tucked away in the hinterlands of Brigham Circle, this funky neighborhood spot attracts a convivial mixture of doctors and nurses from the nearby hospitals, blue-collar locals and bohemian art students. In fact, the portraits of famous Irish literary figures adorning the walls are the handiwork of those talented kids at the Massachusetts College of Art. The jukebox boasts a staggering selection of esoterica, from Kate Bush and the Pixies to Dean Martin and Elvis, which serenades a happy crowd that dances, drinks and mingles with oblivion. A friendly, no-frills playpen for young adults.

BRIGHTON SCENE-STEALER

Tonic

1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton; 617-566-6699; www.thetonicbar.com

Ever since this hot spot opened, hordes of young professionals and college kids have flocked to get in, attracted by it's chic appeal. Classy and hip, Tonic attracts a regular crowd that stays steady and strong until late into the night, drinking martinis and noshing on entrées. Don't worry about overpopularity—it's palatial (including the funky subterranean Met Lounge), so even if it's crowded, you don't feel claustrophobic. And the Sunday brunch (complete with make-your-own Bloody Marys) is the perfect way to wind down after a hard Saturday night.

CHEAP BEER BAR

Side Bar Food & Spirits

14 & 16 Bromfield St., Boston; 617-357-1899

Tossing back a few brewskis shouldn't cost a fistful of simoleons, which explains the appeal of this Downtown Crossing hole-in-the-wall. An eclectic crowd flocks here for cheap eats, even cheaper beer and the cheesiest jukebox this side of 1985. Def Leppard and Skid Row reign supreme, along with the half-price appetizers from 8 to 10 pm, the 10 cent wings from 5-10 pm, and the array of beer specials, like $5 pitchers of Pabst Blue Ribbon (pints are $1.50). Anyone who feels like living large can splurge on a bottle of Busch Light for two bucks. The kind of place where Charles Bukowski or Homer Simpson would feel right at home.

DANCING FOR NON-CLUBBERS

The Alley

Boylston Place, Boston; 617-351-7000; www.bigeasyboston.com; www.sugarshack.com

The math is easy: One alley plus five different venues equals big fun. Whether it's the lazy, Bourbon Street ambience of the Big Easy Bar, the hip-hop and top-40 dance vibe at the Sugar Shack and La Boom, the laid-back English-pub feel of Bishop's or casual dining at the Sweetwater Café (which reopens in September after some renovations are completed), there's a scene to tickle any fancy. There are also enough gorgeous young things to fill an Abercrombie & Fitch catalog, and a pizza kitchen that stays open until the wee hours. What more could you want?

DIVE BAR

The Silhouette Lounge

200 Brighton Ave., Allston; 617-254-9306

Known as "the Sil" to its regulars, this slightly seedy, utterly unpretentious watering hole has sustained a motley crew of students, bohos, punks and barflies for more than 27 years. The pub grub is several notches above edible, and cheap pitchers of beer keep the camaraderie flowing. Besides a pool table, a jukebox and a dart room that attracts teams and enthusiasts from all over, free popcorn is just about the only frill. A throwback to the days before a bar was supposed to resemble a theme park.

EXAMPLE OF KEEPIN' IT REAL

Wally's Cafe

427 Mass. Ave., Boston, 617-424-1408; www.wallyscafe.com

What you won't find here: a stiff cover charge, plush leather banquettes and specialty drinks that call for Cointreau. What you will find: furniture upholstered with torn Naugahyde, a bar with all the basics and great jazz 365 days a year. Since it was founded in 1947 by Joseph Walcott, this South End landmark has endured as an intimate and low-key setting for appearances by jazz legends like Sarah Vaughan and Charlie Parker. A favorite haunt among students at Berklee and the New England Conservatory (who sometimes jam there), it's the top pick among true jazz connoisseurs, as much for its gritty atmosphere as for the excellent music.

GAY MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Vapor

100 Warrenton St., Boston; 617-422-0862

Where the boys are, whether it's Latino night, hip-hop night or even (gasp!) straight night. The mass of sweaty hunks on the dance floor rarely congeals into a swampy mess like some other gay clubs, and you don't have to be a gym rat with bulging biceps and overdeveloped pecs to pair off on the elliptical dance floor. On the quieter (i.e. cruisier) side is a DJ lounge with video screens. An intriguing mix of college-age pretty boys and an edgier dance crowd, it's disco cha-cha without all the hissy fabulousness and attitudinal unpleasantness.

HOTEL BAR

Noir

1 Bennett St., Cambridge; 617-661-8010

There's something intrinsically sexy about hotel bars and it's not just the mysterious strangers from out of town and the fact that the nearest available bed is only an elevator ride away. This decadent but sophisticated little nook at the Charles Hotel gets the atmosphere just right. The decor is inspired by film noir, with plush velvet banquettes and subdued lighting that give it a deliciously illicit feel, whether you're sipping one of their signature cocktails, like Noir's Boudoir, or slurping oysters from the raw bar. An outdoor patio with a grill and live music once a week add to the appeal, as does Noir's punctiliousness about using only the finest ingredients in everything, most noticeably the fresh-squeezed fruit drinks.

IMPRESSION OF THE SUNSET STRIP

Lucky's Lounge

355 Congress St., Boston; 617-357-5828; www.luckyslounge.com

A throwback to the Rat Pack era, it's decorated like the rumpus room of a ranch house in Palm Springs, circa 1967. A favorite among the artsy crowd who live and work in the loft spaces in the surrounding Fort Point Channel area, it also draws cognoscenti from across the bridge, like former J. Geils frontman Peter Wolf and Derek Lowe of the Red Sox. Live music is presented every night except Monday. Sundays are Sinatra night; Tuesdays feature the instrumental guitar group Lucky Stereo. The perfect place to order one for your baby and one more for the road.

DANCE CLUB

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., Boston

617 262 2424

Whether it's hip-hop, R&B and reggae on Thursdays, the polyglot, omnisexual fantasy world of Avaland on Fridays, sexy Saturdays with DJ Nailz, or a standing-room-only concert by a top-notch live band, the granddaddy of Lansdowne Street discos is still the place to shake your groove thang. The club's first-rate sound system (co-created by the acoustic experts at Eastern Audio Works and Avalon co-owner John Lyons), impeccable production values and a giant, wide-open dance floor make it easy to lose yourself in the music. No wonder such hard-partying celebrities as Bruce Willis and Carmen Electra have been spotted there gettin' their groove on.

PLACE WHERE THE VALETS ARE BORED WITH BENTLEYS

Mistral

223 Columbus Ave., Boston; 617-867-9300; www.mistralbistro.com

Even in these tough economic times, it's nice to see that the privileged class still enjoys its privileges, one of which is sipping and supping in the postmodern Provencal elegance of this enduringly chic restaurant. That's not to say that the menu is overpriced, or even particularly expensive — the delicious thin-crust pizzas range from $14 to $18, and everything else is so outstanding that cost isn't really the point. Still, the crowd is decidedly upscale, tending toward expensive-looking blondes in head-to-toe haute couture and guys whose watches cost as much as a condo. The impeccably professional staff is adept at making everyone, whether prince or pauper, feel at home. And the atmosphere is relaxed and lively, not stuffy. It's enough to make a devout Communist want to become a billionaire.

IRISH BAR

Hennessy's of Boston

25 Union St., Boston, 617-742-2121; www.somerspubs.com

In a town with more Irish bars than you can shake a shillelagh at, it's a tall order to single out just one, but our favorite (in Faneuil Hall, of all places) scores on several fronts. To begin with, there's the look, with exposed wood beams and a turf-burning fireplace that looks like something straight out of a pub in Dublin. Then there's the selection of Irish brews, which goes way beyond Guinness, and a menu that includes such authentic grub as imported Irish sausage, shepherd's pie, fish and chips, and cottage pie. It even serves an Irish breakfast every Saturday and Sunday morning. Most important, though, is the convivial atmosphere created by a friendly staff and the colorful crew of regulars. This is the sort of place where you'd like to spend a cold winter evening, sipping Jameson's and swapping tall tales with the blokes at the bar.

JAZZ CLUB

Regattabar

1 Bennett St., Cambridge, 617-661-5000; www.regattabar.com

There was a time when Boston was lousy with great jazz joints like the High Hat and Storyville. This intimate venue inside the Charles Hotel continues the tradition. Recent headliners have included the likes of Elvin Jones, Chick Corea, Ahmad Jamal and Dave Holland. The sightlines are excellent and seating is on the same level as the performers, which encourages interaction between audience and artist. As a result, it's the rare performer who doesn't hang out after the show to chat or sign autographs. The recent installation of $7,000 worth of new equipment has improved the club's already excellent sound, and the picture windows overlooking Harvard Square offer a view with the groove.

LESBIAN NIGHT OUT

Circuit Girl

(now at Night Games at the Holiday Inn)

30 Washington St., Somerville; www.circuitgirl.com

After its third move in as many years, this weekly Friday-night mixer has finally found the perfect home. Located just off the Zakim bridge in Somerville, Circuit Girl a Night Games is a two-story wonderland for sisters of Sap pho, featuring a huge dance floor (where resident DJ Kr Kono spins the night away), pool tables and a wrap around balcony with its own bar, sofas and seating. Best all, there's free parking in a safe, well-lit lot.

MOST IMPROVED

Ryles Jazz Club

212 Hampshire St., Cambridge; 617-876-9330; www.rylesjazz.com

This Inman Square landmark was starting to get a litt dowdy, but along with renovations and physic changes, management has restored the luster to th club's bookings. Ryles presents live music six nights week, and programming includes a Sunday jazz brunc that lasts from 10 am to 3 pm, salsa and merengue dan ing on Thursday and Friday, and swing and latin dan ing on Saturday. The 18-piece in-house band, the Ryl Jazz Orchestra, performs with out-of-town headliner The only survivor from the days when Inman Squa was a mecca for live music, it's a dependable good tim in a fresh new package.

NEW NIGHT

Atmosphere Sundays at An Tua Nua

835 Beacon St., Boston; 617-262-2121

Even hardcore club-crawlers need a night to chill ou and here they do it to the funky bass beats of Bosto only weekly deep-house night. The concept is to dup cate a mellow Manhattan scene, and the crowd is cor

spondingly hip. With DJs KC, Armen and Pete spinning, anyone who doesn't like to dance will probably be bored, and anyone who does will probably become a regular. An excellent way to forget that tomorrow is Monday.

PERENNIAL PARTY

Saturday at the Roxy

279 Tremont St., Boston, 617-338-7699; www.roxyplex.com

A continuous loop of good times, a night at the Roxy is like stepping into a party in South Beach, Rio or Ibiza. A diverse, good-looking and glamorous crowd wedged into the latest designer clubwear laughs, drinks and dances to a superior mix of high-energy house music and dance mixes spun by DJ Adilson. The enormous dance floor is a writhing sea of hotties, while the tables in the wrap-around balcony offer excellent viewing of the action below and an intimate spot to sit it out. If this place doesn't get your blood pumping, you might want to check yourself for a pulse.

PLACE TO DISCOVER YOUR INNER CHILD

Jillian's Boston

145 Ipswich St., Fenway, 617-437-0300; www.jilliansboston.com

Jillian's provides all the thrills of a carnival midway without the shady characters and the smell of old deep-fryer oil. On three floors, you'll find pool tables, table tennis, bubble hockey, foosball, darts, 250 high-tech video games and every other arcade diversion you can think of, as well as a few you've never seen before, like Hyperbowl (virtual bowling). Jillian's even has blackjack tables (though you can't play for real money). Best of all, acting like a 10-year-old doesn't mean you have to forgo the pleasures of adulthood, since the first floor has full bar service. An excellent place to waste a weekend afternoon.

PLACE TO FIND A RELATIONSHIP OF LIMITED DURATION

Vox Populi

755 Boylston St., Boston; 617-424-8300

We're not promising you'll meet Mr. Right or the girl of your dreams, or even someone you'd necessarily want to introduce to your friends, but an amazing amount of eye contact, flirting and swapping of phone numbers goes on at this two-story hot spot across from the Prudential. The first floor consists of a long bar and fireplace lounge, while upstairs is a more subdued restaurant and lounge. In good weather, the sidewalk café offers an excellent vantage point for watching the endless pageant of Boylston Street. The people have spoken, and they've unanimously declared this the Back Bay spot to meet eligible and upscale singles.

PLACE TO MEET AN ATHLETE OR A STOCKBROKER

The Rack

24 Clinton St., Boston, 617-725-1051; www.therackboston.com

In this high-testosterone zone, professional athletes and financial types play pool, drink, dance, consume munchies and otherwise satisfy their nocturnal cravings. Its proximity to both the FleetCenter and Faneuil Hall makes it a no-brainer, while the uniformly good-looking staff ministers to their every need and the buff-colored felt brings out the Minnesota Fats and Fast Eddie Felson in all of them. Live music six nights a week provides a sonic backdrop, with an outdoor patio offering a comparatively quiet place to retreat to. The Rack's endless slate of charity events, which raises about $1 million per year for causes like the Nomar 5 Fund and the American Cancer Society, also makes it Boston's biggest-hearted hot spot.

PLACE TO SEE AND BE SEEN

Saint

90 Exeter St., Boston, 617-236-1134; www.saintnitery.com

Last fall, Boston got a new synonym for "swanky" with the opening of this deluxe subterranean hangout. Located in the space formerly occupied by the legendary restaurant Café Budapest, the tastefully louche lounge scene fuses all the elements of nightlife—dining, drinking, music and couches to sprawl out on and shoot the breeze or watch what everyone else is up to. The entry room features a vodka-infusion bar (with flavors rotating seasonally); the main dining room has a low, communal table that fosters mixing and mingling; and the so-called Bordello Room, with its dark red upholstery and secluded VIP booths hiding velvet-clad beds, brings to mind the Playboy mansion. Outstanding eats by chef Rene Michelena also earn Saint the award for Most Underappreciated Food in Boston.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Kings

117 Scotia St., Boston; 617-266-2695

The sport of kings (or at least guys named Earl) is back in fashion, and there's no more stylish place to play it than this neo-retro bowling alley brought to you by nightlife kingpin Patrick Lyons. The self-consciously hip, mid-century aesthetic is totally boss, and the staff looks like the cast of the latest teen drama from the WB. Sixteen tenpin lanes (four of which are private) are the main attraction, but you can also chill at one of the eight pool tables or in the vintage-Vegas ambience of the club's restaurant, the DeVille. It's one of the few places where you won't feel like a dork wearing rented shoes.

PLACE TO EMBARRASS YOUR FRIENDS

Dick's Last Resort

55 Huntington Ave., Boston

617-267-8080

www.dickslastresort.com

We don't care how dignified or restrained you are. It's impossible to maintain your composure at this den of debauchery. A professionally wiseass crew of local actors, comedians and career wait staff specializes in good-natured debasement, whether it's making the prissiest person you know down a shot named after the sex act Monica Lewinsky performed on Bill Clinton, or forcing your uptight boss to wear a dunce cap and answer to an insulting nickname. The pranks, shenanigans and tomfoolery are nonstop but fall short of hazing. Not surprisingly, it's a popular spot for bachelor and bachelorette parties. If you're going to pay for abuse, you might as well get your money's worth.

PLACE TO TAKE FRIENDS FROM NEW YORK

33 Restaurant & Lounge

33 Stanhope St., Back Bay; 617-572-3311,
www.33restaurant.com

Anyone searching for that New York state of mind need look no further than this oasis of urban suavity and sophistication. The visual focus of the street-level dining room is a bar that subtly but continuously shifts colors through the spectrum, while the downstairs lounge (reached by a staircase that provides an architectural optical illusion) is straight out of Soho. An impossibly young, good-looking, stylish crowd sits around on the minimalist geometric furniture, some of them looking bored and others speaking languages you've never heard of. In fact, the whiff of ennui combined with the palpable hipness are enough to make the most jaded Manhattanite look like a member of the pep squad.

PLACE WHERE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN

The Enormous Room

567 Mass Ave., Cambridge;
617-491-5550

The Casbah meets a Williamsburg artists' loft. Located up a flight of stairs behind a nondescript door in Central Square, it's known for its eclectic, anything-goes lineup of live entertainment, which can range from DJs to performance art starring thinly sliced vegetables. Funky lanterns create a diffuse, dimly lit atmosphere, while couches of various styles and a large multilevel platform sectioned with Persian rugs and deeply colored pillows lend the surroundings a North African den. The menu boasts only two dinner options: meat or vegetarian ($12-$14 per person). Either way, it's whatever the chef feels like cooking, and it's served communally. A bohemian refuge amid the encroaching corporate conformity of Central Square.

PRE-FENWAY BAR

The Baseball Tavern

1306 Boylston St., Boston; 617-437-1644

If the Red Sox had a granny, this would be her attic (assuming she liked a little nip now and then). The place is crammed with mementos and memorabilia that the owners have accumulated, including signed photos of such hometown deities as Ted Williams, Bobby Orr, Larry Bird and Rocky Marciano. TVs, pool tables and dartboards make it a perfect place to rendezvous and kill some time before the game. Best of all, it's a ways from Kenmore Square and the whirling vortex of humanity that descends on that block during a baseball game, so you don't have to feel like a salmon swimming upstream getting there.

POST-FENWAY BAR

Boston Beer Works

112 Canal St., Boston; 617-896-2337

After the last inning, it's a short stumble across the street to this microbrewery and restaurant where they make up to 50 different beers during the year. Some are year-round offerings, like the Bambino Ale and Fenway Pale Ale, while others are seasonal, like the Pumpkin Ale in autumn and the summer Watermelon Ale (served with a slice of actual watermelon on the side). But our personal favorite is the Bluebeery Ale, served with blueberries in the bottom of the glass. It's a bit like pie in alcoholic-beverage form. If you're looking to bring a sampling home with you, buy a Growler—a half-gallon container filled with your choice of whatever is on tap. It can come in handy when the Sox lose. An excellent place to bitch about the Yankees.

PRE-FLEETCENTER BAR

Hurricane O'Reilly's

150 Canal St., Boston; 617-722-0161,
www.hurricaneoreillys.com

The quintessential place for a pregame pop, it's within spitting distance of the FleetCenter and serves as the de facto clubhouse for hard-core Bruins and Celtics fans. The players have been known to stop by after the game, but beforehand they can be criticized and analyzed freely, and they often are. Not surprisingly, the house drink is a Hurricane, made from a secret recipe using Southern Comfort, Bacardi and fruit juices. A few of those and you won't mind paying a week's salary for a slice of pizza at the game. Fans of rival teams are tolerated but not particularly welcome.

POST-FLEETCENTER BAR

The Harp

85 Causeway St., Boston; 617-742-1010

Located around the corner from the FleetCenter, this softly lit, two-floored favorite has reasonable prices for

PLACE TO FIND SUMMER LOVIN

Tia's at Long Wharf

200 Atlantic Ave., Boston

617-227-0828

www.tiaswaterfront.com

If it weren't for the Boston accents, you'd think you were in Key West. This waterfront watering hole with an outdoor patio overlooking the harbor has a breezy, tropical feel, and for 21 years, a barely 21-and-older crowd has gathered there on sultry summer nights. The relaxed atmosphere makes fashion a nonissue, and the proximity to all those boats bobbing on the water lends the place a vacationlike vibe. Hawaiian shirts and huaraches are acceptable. The closest any Boston bar comes to a Jimmy Buffett song.

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617.351.7000

the Big Easy BAR

NEW HIPSTER HANGOUT

The Living Room

10 Atlantic Ave., Boston; 617-723-5101;

www.thelivingroomboston.com

Just as you'd expect, the Living Room's full of comfortable chairs and couches. Unlike most living rooms, though, this one has two bars (a big curved one in the middle and a smaller one backed by a freshwater aquarium off to the side), along with an inordinate number of good-looking people standing around. The location is slightly off the beaten path but convenient to the North End, the waterfront and the FleetCenter. The kitchen stays open until midnight, serving superior grub along the lines of artichoke and spinach pot-stickers and mini-hamburgers known as Roadside Sliders. There's also an outside patio where smoking is allowed. Quiet but lively, hip yet not snotty, it's the scene for people who are too cool to care about making the scene.

beer and food, especially compared with the extortionate concession stands at the game. Later on, it picks up more of a nightclub atmosphere, with dancing and a DJ on Thursday, and live music on Friday and Saturday nights. The bars in Faneuil Hall are fancier, and a lot of its nearby competitors are bigger and better-lit, but for an unpretentious, laid-back place to recover from the adrenaline rush of rooting for the Bruins or the Celtics, the Harp is a hands-down winner.

POST-THEATER DRINKS

Caprice

275 Tremont St., Boston; 617-292-0080;

www.capricelounge.com

Caprice is undoubtedly the Theater District's most cosmopolitan spot to have a nightcap and discuss the play, dissect the opera or deconstruct the ballet. The spare, modern decor, with mahogany walls, recessed lighting and oversize suede sofas reflects the laid-back sensibility of its French, Greek and American owners. Early on, it's a restaurant and lounge serving French Mediterranean food and boasting a vaguely laconic vibe, but later in the evening things get decidedly clubbier, making it a lively place to emerge from the alternate reality of the evening's entertainment.

ROCK CLUB

Middle East

472-480 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-864-3278;

www.mideastclub.com

The last of the great gritty rock clubs from the days when Boston's live music scene included such legendary venues as the Rat, the Channel and Chet's Last Call. An impressive lineup, seven nights a week, features local and national talent ranging from the P-Funk All-Stars to Throwing Muses. On most nights, there's more than one act to choose from, since this Central Square landmark boasts four stages—Upstairs, Downstairs, the Corner, and a performance and restaurant space called ZuZu. A second restaurant next door serves up tasty Middle Eastern/Lebanese fare. In other words, there's really no reason ever to leave, and a lot of the regulars look like they never do.

ROMANTIC BAR

Top of the Hub

800 Boylston St., Boston; 617-536-1775;

www.selectrestaurants.com

This swanky bar atop the city's second-tallest skyscraper looks like the setting of a Cole Porter song or one of those sappy old movies where the reluctant boy and girl realize they're destined to be together through the magic of a dry martini. Located on the 52nd floor of the Prudential, the room offers sweeping, unobstructed views in every direction, and the bar's dim lighting makes the city below twinkle all the more brightly. The quiet atmosphere also includes a small stage and dance floor, with live music nightly. It's perfect for a date on Valentine's Day or an anniversary celebration, and more than a few men have chosen to pop the question here. Attentive but unobtrusive waiters and bartenders provide excellent support staff for Cupid.

SPORTS BAR

The Place

2 Broad St., Boston; 617-523-2081;

www.theplaceboston.com

Most so-called sports bars are little more than standard saloons with a few TVs and some team memorabilia, but the Place reinvents the concept. Flat-screen plasma TVs are just the tip of the technological iceberg. The Place's in-house video production team has put together a video of the greatest moments in Boston sports history (it runs twice nightly), and WBZ-4 sports anchor Bob Lobel hosts a live broadcast every Wednesday night. No wonder Tom Brady and Nomar Garciaparra have been known to jump behind the bar. The kind of spot where you're likely to see sports writers Dan Shaughnessy and Bob Ryan having a heated debate, the Place also serves pizza, sandwiches and appetizers and has a dance floor for those dull moments during halftime.

THEME NIGHTS

ZuZu

474 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-864-3278;

www.mideastclub.com

ZuZu offers a completely different scene depending on the day of the week. Mondays it's "Unhappy Hour," a revolving roster of local bands performing those sad songs that say so much. Tuesdays feature the bluesy, gravel-voiced Frank Morey, and on Wednesdays, it's jazz night. Thursdays through Saturdays boast theme nights that are ever changing (so far, it's been everything from cabaret acts to dance parties featuring '60's go-go gear and mod music). Few bars have such schizophrenic programming, and ZuZu lives up to its multiple personalities brilliantly.

WILD NIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE CITY

The Palace

1500 Broadway, Saugus; 781-321-1660;

www.thepalaceboston.com

This North Shore megaplex boasts a whopping 66,000 square feet of nocturnal goings-on in 11 clubs on two different floors. A $5-$10 cover gets you in either upstairs or down and lets you roam free. Rio, the newest Palace room, re-creates the tropical-party atmosphere of Carnivale. The Male Encounter offers Men in Motion, a beefcake-a-go-go performance popular for bachelorette parties. Oxygen is a hip-hop club featuring DJ Chaos, while the Copa has a Latin dance vibe, and Uptown is a throwback to the golden age of disco, with live performances by the likes of Lisa Lisa and C&C Music Factory. At the Rockpile, local bands headline and Barfly offers old-school reggae while the VIP room does likewise for classic hip-hop. The Lobby Bar is a loungey area with pool tables, and the under-21 club Underground rounds out the offerings. Who knew there was so much to do in Saugus?

NEIGHBORHOOD HANGOUTS

ALLSTON

Common Ground Bar & Grill

85 Harvard Ave., Allston; 617-783-2071

As the name implies, there is something for everyone at the Common Ground—it's the kind of place where Allston hipsters mingle with families during the day while sports fans watch the games. The diverse entertainment lineup runs the gamut from live ska music by regulars the Allstonians, to *Simpsons* Trivia Night and Let Down night (its slogan is "losers and has-beens get a discount at the door"). With 16 draft beers (Magners cider included!) to choose from and one helluva turkey burger, said losers can easily self-medicate.

BACK BAY

Clerys

113 Dartmouth St., Boston; 617-262-9874;
www.irishconnection.com

The clock strikes 5 and Hancock tower staffers and thirsty Back Bay denizens alike migrate en masse to this Irish pub. Window seats are prime real estate for people-watching on the corner of Dartmouth and Columbus, and as the evening progresses so do the moves on the dance floor downstairs. Despite the decidedly Irish motif, the location on the cusp of the South End and Back Back ensures a diverse crowd.

BEACON HILL

Harvard Gardens

316 Cambridge St., Boston; 617-523-2727;
www.harvardgardens.com

This Hill favorite draws hordes of young professionals, from 20- and 30-somethings and recent college grads who live in the neighborhood to doctors at Mass. General. Singles need not be shy; the dating scene is alive and well here—and it's nothing close to a meat-market atmosphere. Stake your claim early Thursday through Saturday nights; the dinner crowd, drawn in by gourmet thin-crust pizzas, mac and cheese and other scrumptious comfort food, often trickles over to the standing-room-only bar.

BRIGHTON

SoHo

386 Market St., Brighton; 617-562-6000;
www.sohoboston.com

We were skeptical when it first opened. A SoHo in Brighton? Dream on. But the restaurant/nightclub/lounge actually delivers a slice of New York's urban atmosphere. The modern-art installations, black leather banquettes and extensive food and drink list make this spot a beacon for a diverse Brighton crowd. Sports fans can watch the games on 16 TVs (which include two screens in the bathrooms). Brighton Center isn't exactly on the beaten path, but lines out the door on Friday and Saturday nights prove it's worth the trek.

BROOKLINE

Washington Square Tavern

714 Washington St., Brookline; 617-232-8989

Dark wood fixtures, the informality of paper napkin settings and Paul Hathaway's comfort food are the key ingredients to the tavern's longstanding appeal. A large communal table in the dining room encourages lively conversation between individual parties (including lots of Brookline regulars), and the dozen imports and microbrews on tap keep things simple yet distinctly unique.

CAMBRIDGE: CENTRAL SQUARE

The Cantab Lounge

738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-354-2685;
www.cantablounge.com

At the Cantab, 81-year-old Little Joe Cook belts out the blues Thursday through Saturday nights and leads a blues jam on Wednesdays, while Geoff Bartley hosts some of the best bluegrass in town on Tuesday nights. With entertainment by local musicians, open-mike nights and improv comedy, the only thing lacking here is a dull moment.

CAMBRIDGE: HARVARD SQUARE

Grafton Street

1230 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-497-0400;
www.graftonstreetcambridge.com

At this upscale Harvard Square hot spot, contemporary cuisine like saffron gnocchi shares the menu with classic Irish influences. Grafton Street's polished decor, expansive dining area and picture windows overlooking Harvard Square and Mass. Ave. make it anything but your typical quaint Irish bar.

CAMBRIDGE: INMAN SQUARE

The Druid

1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge; 617-497-0965

A great place to start or end your night when dining at one of Inman Square's many eateries, the Druid's barroom is smoky, loud and Irish through and through. Live Irish music gives way to patron sing-alongs. The Guinness is pulled properly, the shepherd's pie and meatloaf are served hot and the general feeling is the more, the merrier.

CAMBRIDGE: KENDALL SQUARE

Kendall Café

233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge; 617-661-0993;
www.thekendall.com

Going to the cozy Kendall is like listening to live music in someone's living room. But the word is out, and it gets to be close-quarters pretty fast. Get there early and get comfortable—the shows start as early as 8:30 pm. Patrons have been treated to impromptu performances by the likes of Elvis Costello, Jewel and Big Head Todd, but more likely you'll hear local outfits in numerous genres trying out their songs for a diverse crowd.

CAMBRIDGE: PORTER SQUARE

Toad

1920 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-497-4950

In addition to being a pint-sized Porter Square institution, Toad serves as a platform for musicians on the rise— Toad's been a playpen for locals like Dennis Brennan, Laurie Sargent and Morphine. Booze flows as freely as the conversation—it's impossible not to meet your neighbors when you're in this most tiny of neighborhood bars. And better still, there's never a cover.

CHARLESTOWN

Warren Tavern

This neighborhood hotspot also won an award for Best Wednesday Night Out. See the next page for its write-up in the Days of the Week section.

DORCHESTER

224

224 Boston St., Dorchester; 617-265-1217

There's nothing fancy about 224. And that's why it's so adored. Local artists' work adorns the walls, and tableware is mix and match. The food is the main attraction, and couples, singles, gays, straights and even suburbanites regularly roll in to chow on the no-frills grub. Seafood selections, namely cod cakes and calamari, top the charts.

DOWNTOWN CROSSING

The Littlest Bar

47 Province St., Boston; 617-523-9766

Talk about tiny. The fire marshall cringes when there are more than 38 people in this joint. The window wells double as beer storage, and the draft menu tops out at two (Guinness and Newcastle). But as the saying goes, good things come in small packages. Claustrophobes beware: On an average night you'll rub elbows, literally, with just about everyone in the place.

SOUTH END

Delux

100 Chandler St., Boston; 617-338-5258

In true South End style, this treasure trove of kitsch (complete with vintage record album–covered walls and an Elvis "shrine") attracts an eclectic crowd of bike messengers, artists, bankers and fashionistas. Refreshingly, nothing on the menu costs more than $10, and with recipes hailing from Mexico, the Caribbean, the South and New England, the only thing missing is the King's favorite: peanut-butter-and-banana sandwiches.

WEDNESDAY

Warren Tavern

2 Pleasant St., Charlestown; 617-241-8142

www.warrentavern.com

The oldest tavern in Boston has seen the likes of Paul Revere and George Washington. These days it's not revolutionaries but the after-work and singles crowds that gather here to hoist a few and listen to the one-man cover band: Four local musicians rotate weekly, and their specialties range from the Beatles to new wave.

JAMAICA PLAIN

Doyle's Café

3484 Washington St., Jamaica Plain;
617-524-2345; www.doylescafe.com

A legend in it's own time, Doyle's has been a favorite of Boston's politicians since 1882, with every mayor since John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald paying a visit. Newspaper clippings and photos of Boston's political history adorn the walls and, liberal or conservative, regulars come for the brew (28 on tap), the Irish and German cuisine—and for the company.

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NEWTON

Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar

107 R Union St., Newton Center; 617-964-6684;
www.unionst.com

Tucked behind the shops of Newton's Piccadilly Square, the three-floor sports bar and live music venue features a two-tiered, 150-person outdoor patio the likes of which you'd be hard put to find within city limits. Well worth braving the Green Line for the alfresco dining, as well as the free wings (Mondays, 8-10 pm) and salsa Tuesdays.

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NORTH END

Lucca

226 Hanover St., Boston; 617-742-9200;
www.luccaboston.com

Couples chat over the candlelit tables while scenesters sip and sup Northern Italian staples at the mahogany bar. Factor in the marble floors, lovely stained-glass inset on the back wall and the tall front windows that open onto the hustle and bustle of Hanover Street, and you've got the ideal North End experience.

SOMERVILLE: DAVIS SQUARE

The Burren

247 Elm St., Somerville; 617-776-6896

It's easy to mistake Davis for Dublin at the Burren when you're sipping a Harp or Murphy's and chowing on Guinness beef stew while thick brogues and melodic Irish seissiuns fill the air. The Irish owners' stamp of authenticity is right on the mark, and by the end of the night even the most un-Gaelic patron will know a shillelagh from a claddagh ring.

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SOMERVILLE: UNION SQUARE

Tir na nÓg

366 Somerville Ave., Somerville; 617-628-4300;
www.thenog.com

Known simply as "the Nog" to regulars, this Irish pub is so beloved it has spawned two patron-published newsletters to keep everyone up-to-date on the goings-on of both the pub and its favorite folks. Live music (acoustic is the specialty) is a near-nightly event, and Peter Wolf and Duke Levine are known to jump in occasionally with Harvard and Tufts musicians for a song or two.

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SOUTH BOSTON

The Boston Beer Garden

732 East Broadway, South Boston;
888-307-0668;
www.bostonbeergarden.com

Southie's Beer Garden is the hands-down, no-frills favorite of younger locals. The beer selection (almost 40) is top-notch—and the wine list is surprisingly extensive. The menu runs the gamut from standard pub food to dishes like fried scrod, but the real reasons people love this place are the fish and chips and the steak tips. ⊷

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Network television execs and bar owners will agree that providing solid entertainment seven nights a week is easier said than done. Homebodies have *TV Guide* to direct them toward quality programming, and now social butterflies have the IMPROPER staff to let them know where the party's at each night of the week. After months of bar-hopping we bring you the fruits of our labor: a day-by-day guide to the best places to socialize.

Bump Sundays at Phoenix Landing

512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge;
617-576-6260

Serious house-heads as well as the average bloke looking for a fun evening revel in the Phoenix Landing's underground scene fueled by Bump's resident DJs Randy Deshaies, Sergio Santos, John Pacheco, George Nessis and Arturo. International DJs such as L.A.'s DJ Colette and London's Kenny Hawkes make the rounds, and the result is a hands-in-the-air, screaming-to-the-music kind of vibe you won't find elsewhere on a Sunday.

Celebrity DJ Invitational at the B-Side Lounge

92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge;
617-354-0766

The B-Side's Monday night amateur DJ series is the serious collector's chance to dust off the old 45s or LPs (or CDs) and show off his/her amateur DJ skills in a laid-back setting—a favorite for hipsters and locals alike.

Orange at the Kells

161 Brighton Ave., Allston;
617-782-9082; www.thekells.com

Who says there's nothing to do on a Tuesday night? Resident DJ Tim Ryan and Ireland's John Davis' show at the Kells features local, national and international guest DJs (some are known to stop spinning to buy a round for the house). If nothing else, it's a small reprieve from the workweek grind.

Warren Tavern—see above

The Boston Sail Loft

80 Atlantic Ave., Boston; 617-227-7280

If you prefer a down-to-earth casual bar over DJs and dancing, head to this harborside joint. With its homey atmosphere, yummy sea food and jars of free oreo cookies on the bar, the Sail Loft attracts recently sprung 9-to-5-ers looking to kick back over a beer or a meal. There's even a tiny side deck over the water.

Parris Lounge

250 Quincy Market Building, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston; 617-248-8800

Faneuil Hall's new favorite offers live music, a mellow lounge room and an adjoining Irish bar, all in a huge lofted space unlike any other in Boston. The after-work crowd gives way to a younger, partying demographic around 10 pm. A word to the wise: Get there early—this place gets seriously popular.

Felt

533 Washington St., Boston;
617-350-5555; www.feltboston.com

Felt's three floors (soon to be four) offer a little bit of everything, whether you want to sit and dine, mingle over cocktails, shoot pool or any combination thereof. The Ritz downtown has been known to send its celebrity guests here (the cast of *Mystic River* was so impressed that Sean Penn had his birthday bash here) and it's become *Playboy*'s fave destination for local bunny-filled events.

FELT
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ADDITION TO THE SMALL STAGE

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway

255 Elm St., Somerville; 617-591-1616;
www.jimmytingle.com

This Cambridge-born comedian had a regular gig on *60 Minutes II* for two seasons and has appeared on just about every late-night talk show we can think of, so it might surprise you to hear that he's interested in making other people famous. His Davis Square venue, dedicated to presenting new work by emerging artists, opened last November with Tingle's own one-man show, but the performances that have graced its stage since January hint at the eclectic smorgasbord to come. The 203-seat room is versatile enough to accommodate anything from an intimate poetry reading to a performance by an up-and-coming new band, and at a time when theater, dance and musical groups can't find space to present their work, it's a welcome addition to the metro Boston performing arts scene.

ART-HOUSE MOVIE THEATER

Kendall Square Cinema

1 Kendall Square, Cambridge; 617-494-9800;
www.landmarktheatres.com

Call it the thinking person's multiplex. Those who aren't interested in Hollywood's latest offerings of suspenseless suspense, recycled laughs, gratuitous T&A or nonstop explosions can thank their lucky stars for this cinematic oasis. Offering the best in independent and foreign films, the theater boasts nine screens with comfortable seating and a superior concession stand that sells everything from Sour Patch Kids to espresso. As part of the nationwide Landmark Theatres chain, it offers all the amenities of a mainstream theater while retaining a distinct art-house feel—in other words, the movie might have subtitles, but there's no musty smell or tattered carpeting.

BEST KEPT SECRET

Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center

Villa Victoria, 85 West Newton St., Boston; 617-927-1781;
www.jhcconline.org

You've got to love any place that once hosted a Jewish/Latino dance night called "Salsa with Chutzpah." For years, this converted church tucked onto a side street in the South End has been home to some of the most offbeat yet happening evenings in Boston, ranging from burlesque revival groups reveling in the double entendres of vaudeville-style entertainment to Peruvian musical ensembles showcasing that country's musical heritage. The programming skews toward the Latin American, like weekly salsa, merengue or tango lessons, but there's often some sort of quirky twist. With stained-glass windows, lofty ceilings and a balcony reached by a graceful curving staircase, it's also an ideal rental space for private functions.

COMEDY ACT

Robbie Printz

www.robbieprintz.com

It seems like all good stand-up hinges on pointing out the absurdities of everyday life that you've never noticed before, and Printz is a genius at this. His act has been called "clean cut," and it's a refreshing departure from the obscenity-laden schtick many of his colleagues rely on. He began his comedy career as a Bentley undergrad and has since performed at some of the country's most renowned comedy clubs and has appeared on Comedy Central, MTV and NBC. Winner of the 2002 Boston International Comedy & Movie Festival's best stand-up award, he's among the most requested acts on college campuses and still makes frequent stops at local venues. We're predicting that it won't be long before this hot young talent is one of the biggest names in comedy.

COMEDY CLUB

The Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market, Boston; 617-248-9700;
www.comedyconnectionboston.com

We're surprised the place doesn't sell diapers, since a night out at this Faneuil Hall loony bin promises enough laughs to have you wetting your pants. Seven nights a week, the stage is home to a lineup of the biggest names in the business along with up-and-coming schleppers (local comedians take the stage Sunday through Wednesday, with weekends reserved for national acts), and the convivial crowd seated at both communal and private tables convulses with laughter. A foolproof way to lift your spirits, it's an ab workout and a night on the town rolled into one.

DEAL

Brattle Theatre Double Features

40 Brattle St., Cambridge; 617-876-6837; www.brattlefilm.org

"One" truly is the loneliest number at Harvard Square's legendary revival house, where frequent double bills have kept discerning movie buffs fully satisfied for decades. This year, the Brattle is celebrating its 50th anniversary with all kinds of special cinematic treats. Whether it's back-to-back James Bond action, a double dose of Hitchcock suspense, a pair of Italian classics from the '60s or a duet of French film-noir favorites, the creative programming offers double the pleasure for budget-conscious film fanatics.

FRINGE THEATER

Súgán Theatre Company

Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston;
617-426-2787; www.sugan.org

In a town with more O'Briens than the Dublin phone book and an Irish pub on every street corner, it's perhaps not surprising to find a small theater company dedicated to showcasing contemporary Irish and Celtic plays. What is surprising is its consistent excellence. In its 11-year history (the last five as a resident company at the Boston Center for the Arts), this niche troupe has presented works by Samuel Beckett, Frank McGuinness and Tom Murphy, and has mined Boston's rich vein of Irish theatrical and creative talent to offer diverse perspectives on modern Ireland. A captivating cast of talented actors and a commitment to presenting new works have earned the Súgán the adulation of critics and audiences alike. Whether Irish eyes are smiling, crying or transfixed in amazement, the Súgán never fails to connect with its audience, which includes people of Celtic descent as well as those who just appreciate good theater.

JAZZ BAND

Dead Cat Bounce

www.deadcatbounce.org

PETA might not approve of the name, but funky beats and an original sound have garnered a fanatical following for this sextet, which mixes stylistic traditions and shifts between written scores and improvisation. Founded in 1997, most of the band's members studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, and the virtuosity of the players stands out during their solo sections. Horns, percussion and bass have rarely sounded better.

KARAOKE

Mary Mary's All-Star Karaoke

The Milky Way Lounge & Lanes, 403-405 Centre St.,
Jamaica Plain; 617-524-3740; www.milkywayjp.com

Forget those pathetic places where the karaoke machine is an afterthought and the only people paying attention are a

HIP-HOP ACT
Insight

Whether behind the mixing board or behind the mike, on his own or with his crew, the Electric Company, Insight has been laying his unique stamp on a substantial piece of Boston's hip-hop sound in recent years. A self-proclaimed control freak, Insight rhymes over beats he makes himself and runs his own production lab. He has collaborated with rap artist Dagger for his Maysun Project, played underground punk rock shows and recorded with hip-hop living legend KRS-ONE. And his beats helped fuel local MC Mr. Lif's rise to the national spotlight. Insight's second full-length album, *Blast Radius*, will be released this fall.

OFFBEAT WAY TO SPEND AN EVENING
Jake Ivory's Dueling Piano Show
Thursdays-Saturdays, 9 Lansdowne St., Boston;
617-247-1222; www.jakeivorys.com

It's an idea with endless entertainment potential: Two musicians seated opposite each other at grand pianos face off in an interactive musical duel driven by audience requests. For anyone too shy to try karaoke, it's participatory without being intimidating. And for anyone hankering for affordable live entertainment, it's a night out that won't break the bank. The remarkably versatile and surprisingly witty performers have a gigantic repertoire that encompasses TV theme songs, show tunes, rock and even hip-hop, and half the fun is watching their fingers fly over a rendition of something improbable like a Metallica or Eminem song. The dinner-theater decor lends the proceedings an appropriately laid-back feel, but if you want a table (as opposed to standing room), reservations are recommended because they get booked weeks in advance. Be forewarned: Bachelorette parties are common and audience sing-alongs inevitable.

few inebriated regulars picking the peanuts out of the bar mix. This is karaoke as it's meant to be: goofy, loud and center-stage. Mary, the evening's emcee, gets everyone in the mood with a song of her own and then introduces the brave and/or foolhardy souls anxious for a turn at the mike. With more than 2,000 songs to choose from, there's a sappy ballad, rock anthem or high school favorite to suit every taste, and the rare lulls in the action are gamely filled in by Mary, who also humors regulars with a stage name. The retro sci-fi decor adds the appropriate cheese factor, while old-fashioned candlepin bowling offers an alternative diversion to anyone who tires of playing *American Idol*.

MAINSTREAM MOVIE THEATER
Loews Theatres Boston Common
175 Tremont St., Boston; 617-423-5801; www.loewscineplex.com

Grand doesn't begin to describe this monster of a movie theater, which boasts stadium seating, digital sound and 19 screens showing Hollywood's hottest flicks. The lobby decor is ancient-Egyptian-temple-meets-Vegas-casino, with soaring ceilings, painted pillars and enough razzle-dazzle to stun the most jaded moviegoer, making it a throwback to the days when a cinema's atmosphere was half the experience. Rounding out the big picture is a concession stand that offers an extensive menu including treats like funnel cakes and chicken tenders. A movie palace fit for Hollywood royalty.

NEW YORK WANNABE
Copley Society of Art
158 Newbury St., Boston; 617-536-5049;
www.copleysociety.org

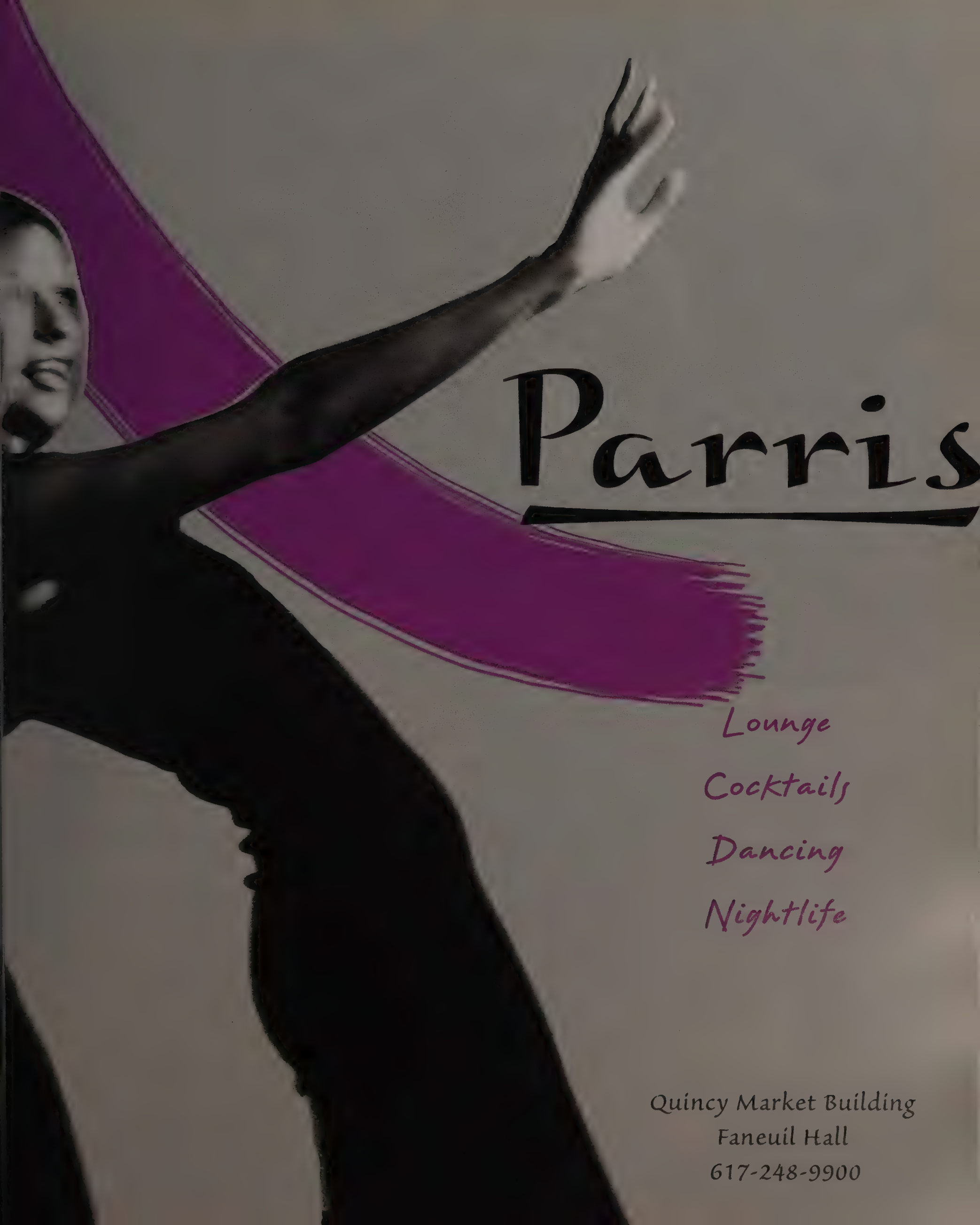
New York of course has Soho, Noho and Tribeca. And as the latest symptom of Boston's NYC inferiority complex, we now have our SoWa and NoWa districts. The trendy abbreviations seem to be gaining ground in the Hub, and while we think Bostonians will eventually get used to—or who knows, maybe even develop an affection for—the new almost-acronyms, we couldn't help but chuckle when we saw the latest one. This year, the prestigious Copley Society of Art (the country's oldest nonprofit art association) adopted the giggle-inducing Co | So logo as part of its new marketing strategy. But whereas urban districts and Hollywood stars (think P. Diddy and J. Lo) manage to pull it off, Co | So is a no | go in our book.

ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING
Coolidge Corner Movie Theatre
290 Harvard St., Brookline; 617-734-2500; www.coolidge.org

For 65 years, this Brookline landmark has provided one of the most compelling reasons to visit Coolidge Corner. With an array of imaginative mixed-media offerings, it goes way beyond the typical art house or revival cinema and keeps getting bigger and better (just check out the state-of-the-art neon marquee). In addition to offering cutting-edge foreign and independent films and documentaries, the Coolidge has a small screening room that showcases experimental films that would never stand a chance of screening elsewhere. Executive director Joe Zina and his creative staff consistently come up with unusual film series, including the popular midnight movies.

READING SERIES
Newtonville Books "Books & Brews" Series
296 Walnut St., Newton; 617-244-6619;
www.newtonvillebooks.com

After gathering in the store for a meet-and-greet-cum-reading, attendees stroll to a nearby restaurant or bar for drinks and appetizers with the author. With the food and drink flowing, so does the conversation, often in surprising directions. The topic can veer from Miles Davis to Butte, Montana, and everywhere in between, and the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Faneuil Hall
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CABARET

Encore Lounge

275 Tremont St., Boston; 617-728-2162;

www.roxyplex.com/encore

Cabaret cognoscenti understand that music is just the beginning. Ambience, intimacy, decor and (perhaps more than anything else) appropriate lighting are equally crucial, and this cozy, softly lit lounge delivers on all fronts. Performers and audience are so close they could touch (and often they seem to want to), while the repertoire ranges from American songbook standards and smoky-throated torch songs to pop/rock, blues and more funky, cutting-edge material. Best of all, this sophisticated nightspot is open seven nights a week.

group—which can range from 15 to 60 people—has been known to converse long after last call and well into the wee hours. (They once wound up back at store owner Tim Huggins' house until 4 am). So compelling has the series proved that regulars attend whether or not they know the author's work—as clear an endorsement as any that it's a guaranteed interesting evening.

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REASON TO ASK FOR A REFUND

Puppetry of the Penis

www.puppetryofthepenis.com

An adolescent pastime turned into a puerile (but blessedly short) evening of theater. That's not to say it isn't funny to watch this pair of buck-naked Aussies twist their privates into more than 40 different shapes, ranging from the Eiffel Tower to the Loch Ness Monster. However, there's a little more Down Under on display than is aesthetically appealing (especially with a big screen simulcasting the scrotal shenanigans in close-up). Men will find themselves crossing their legs tightly and saying, "Ouch." Women will find themselves wondering why guys don't groom down there. The initial shock wears off quickly, and what's left is a lingering sense that Puppetry of the Penis is Australian for "35 bucks to watch two guys play with themselves."

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REASON TO CELEBRATE

Writers with Drinks

www.writerswithdrinks.com

When six ink-stained wretches—whose writings cover every topic from journalism to erotica—come together to read their own work, a stimulating brand of intellectual mayhem is bound to ensue. Whether your tastes run toward literary prose, poetry, comedy, romance, mystery or even science fiction, this reading series/variety show lives up to its name. Since its debut last fall, the series has made regular stops at the Lizard Lounge and showcased an ever-changing roster of writers. With an emcee who tops off the proceedings with off-kilter jokes and fanciful bios of the participants, the thought-provoking banter and persiflage are a welcome departure from all the stale entertainment options out there.

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RECORD LABEL

Kimchee Records

6 Sagamore Rd., Ipswich; 978-356-0093;

www.kimcheerecords.com

Founders Bob Dubrow and Andy Hong are the former host and the off-and-on engineer, respectively, of the live local music show *Pipeline* on WMBR-FM. Their project of recording their favorite tunes by local musicians eventually grew into a full-blown independent music label. With eight releases in the past year and a roster of artists like the Pee Wee Fist, 27, Blake Hazard, Thalia Zedek, Chris Brokaw, Seana Carmody, Torrez and Tiger Saw, Kimchee's offerings range from indie rock to pop, reflecting Dubrow and Hong's willingness to record anything that makes their ears tingle. Artistic integrity is guaranteed by Dubrow's stated goal that "we're not looking for anyone to get famous, just to get heard." Sounds like something those slackers in Seattle might have said before grunge caught on.

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ROCK BAND

Choo Choo la Rouge

www.choochoolarouge.com

This band's debut EP, *Wall to Wall*, has us holding our breath until they release a full-length CD. This local three-piece outfit has a roots-oriented rock sound that often combines with happy-go-lucky beats. Singer and lead guitarist Vince Scorziello's lyrical musings and guitar work waft over Chris Lynch's fluid bass lines and Jon Langmead's tight drumming in material that ranges from quirky to mellow and goes well beyond the predictable. No wonder the crowd that shows up for their gigs is building to a critical mass.

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SCHTICK

The Dresden Dolls

www.brainwashed.com/dresden

The Sex Pistols meet Marlene Dietrich crossed with kabuki theater. This flamboyant duo is more punk performance art than straight-up rock, adding vaudeville twists to a repertoire that touches on styles ranging from 1920s Berlin cabaret to heavy metal. Known for outrageous on-stage antics, white face paint and vintage-cabaret fashion sense, the Dolls (a.k.a. Amanda Palmer and Brian Viglione) have outgrown their original home at the Lizard Lounge and now appear at venues around town. The element of improvisation promises a surprise in every performance from the inventive, out-there duo.

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UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCE

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln; 781-259-8355;

www.decordova.org

Tucked away in the hinterlands of Lincoln, the permanent collection and rotating exhibitions at this unsung and underappreciated little gem boast some of the most interesting art of any New England museum. The 35-acre campus of lawns and woodland includes a sculpture park that's open year-round, free of charge, with a continually changing selection of roughly 75 works. Inside the museum are shows ranging from photography to quilts to an installation made of pig tissue. Like a trip to Soho without leaving the suburbs. ⟶

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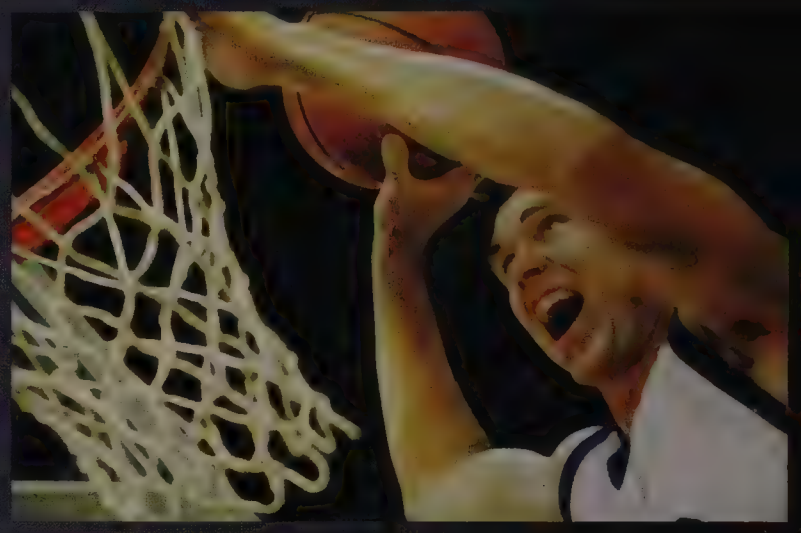

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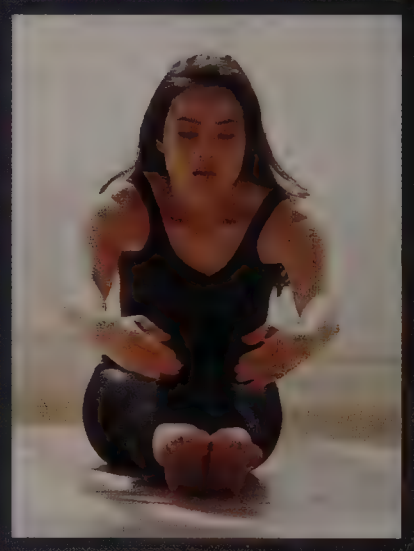
and onto the beach.



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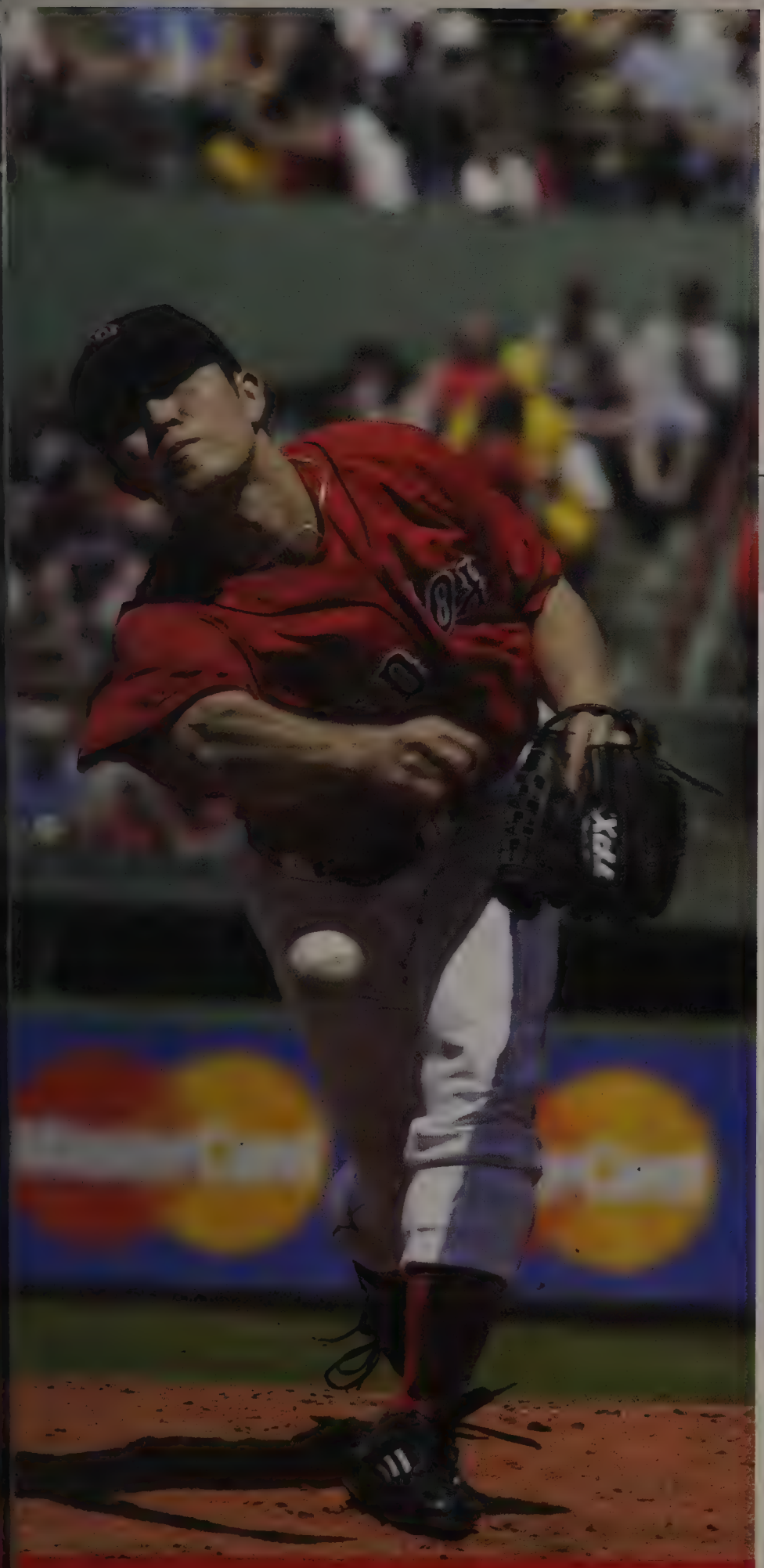

sports

TRADE

Shea Hillenbrand for Byung-Hyun Kim

Being a team player can mean different things in different sports—assists in basketball, sacrifices in baseball—but the term always applies to a player's ability to elevate a team's performance. In that respect, Shea Hillenbrand is the biggest team player of the Red Sox season. With his impressive bat and his low, low salary, Hillenbrand was trade bait from opening day. We were sad to see such a hard-working guy get shipped out, but Hillenbrand was a fair price to pay for Byung-Hyun Kim, whose versatility as a starter or closer has already significantly upgraded the pitching staff. At 24 years old, he could also be a building block for the future, so we needn't worry that the Hillenbrand-Kim trade is the Jeff Bagwell–Larry Andersen of the 21st century.

BEST DRESSED

Vin Baker in Anything but a Celtics Uniform

It's always interesting, after a trade, to read the other side's opinions in the sports pages. When the Celtics acquired Vin Baker last summer, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* columnist Art Thiel wrote, "The three-year quest to unload Baker finally found a victim, but NBA propriety precluded saying something like, 'How stupid are the Celtics?! Who cares!!'" Baker, who still has three more years left on his contract, was a disaster for the Celtics. Last year he made $12,375,000. That works out to $45,833 for each of the 270 total points he scored. The Celtics still made it to the second round of the playoffs, but it's easy to wonder what might have been if Baker's salary was being paid to a player (or players) who actually, you know, played. Here's to hoping that he straightens out his personal life, both for his own good and that of the team.

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BEST-KEPT SECRET

Tim Wakefield

In all the discussion about the Red Sox pitching staff, one name you don't hear very often is Tim Wakefield. That's because he's not emotionally volatile, prone to injury or a frequent actor in awful performances. But last year the veteran knuckleballer finished with 11 wins and five losses—and had a 2.81 ERA. That's low for any pitcher, let alone one whose pitches float down off the mound slow enough that you can go get a sandwich between his wind-up and the ball's meandering trip across the plate. Opposing hitters often take ugly, Little League–looking hacks at Wakefield's dancing pitches, confirming that the secret of the knuckleball is safe in Boston.

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FEMALE ATHLETE

Maren Meinert

This native of Rheinhausen, Germany, puts the blitz in the Boston Breakers' offense. At press time she led the team with eight goals, and her teammates no doubt appreciate the fact that last season she led the entire league in assists, with 15. We'll no doubt wish she was on our side during the upcoming Women's World Cup (she's scored 25 career goals for the German national team), but for the summer we'll just be happy that Meinert's a Breaker.

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HEART

New England Revolution

Things didn't look too good for the Revolution last summer. On Aug. 18 they were in last place in the East and at the bottom of the league standings, and making the playoffs seemed about as likely as David Beckham showing up at Gillette Stadium wearing a sarong and asking if he might sub in. But the Revs didn't give up, going 5-0-1 in their next six games to squeak their way into the playoffs. They then came one goal away from winning the entire championship, losing 1-0 in double overtime to the Los Angeles Galaxy before 61,316 fans at Gillette. Coach Steve Nicol won MLS Coach of the Year for the stunning turnaround, and fans got to enjoy a great run by the Revolution, the latest New England sports underdog to prove its bite.

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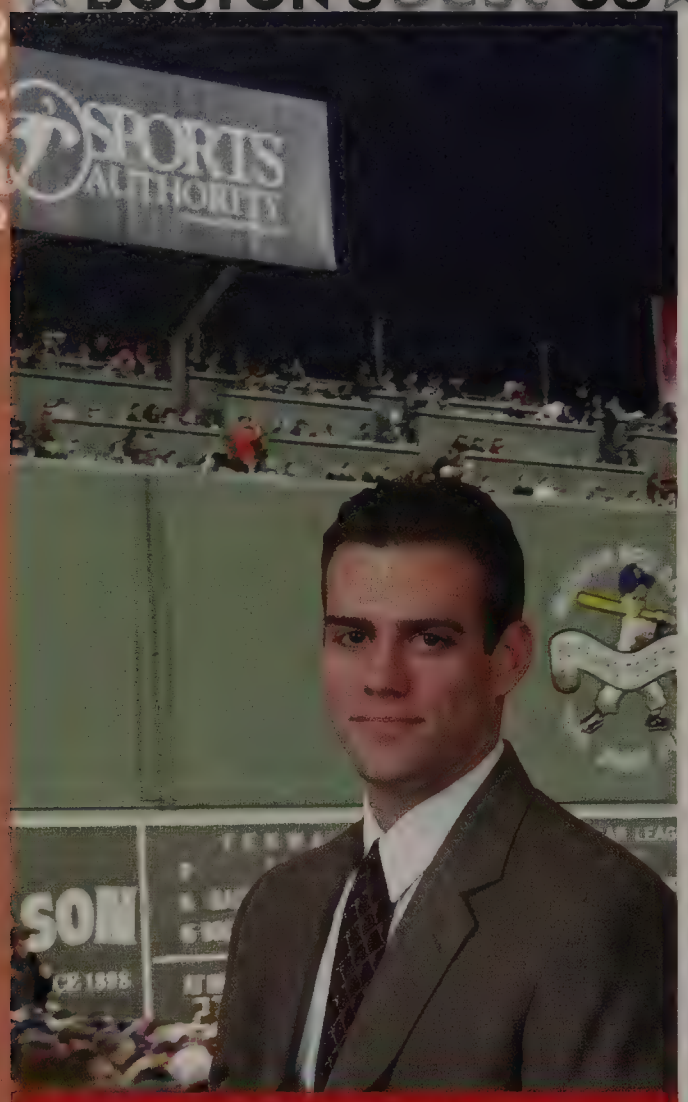
INSPIRATIONAL ATHLETE

Troy Brown

Statistically speaking, Troy Brown didn't have a great year with the Patriots last season, catching passes for a total of 890 yards. A large part of the reason that he was off his career-best 1,199-yard 2001 season was a knee injury that undoubtedly cost him yards after the catch. However, in an era where athletes are coddled through the smallest blisters and booboos, it was impressive that Brown and his bum knee missed only two regular season games. At the end of the season, Brown said, "I think it was a good effort, playing hurt most of the year, just sucking it up and playing tough and playing hard football. That's what you've got to do. Injuries are going to come in football, and you've just got to find a way to overcome them and get out there and help your team win." Enough said.

☆BOSTON'S best '03☆



NEW ADDITION

Theo Epstein and the Green Monster Seats (tie)

In his first season, the Red Sox's young general manager has worn his cloak of authority well. It's too early to say how his maneuverings will pay off in the long run, but thus far his offensive pickups have proven fruitful (Kevin Millar, Bill Mueller and Todd Walker, to name three), and the Hillenbrand-Kim trade shows that he's serious about addressing the 2003 team's greatest weakness: pitching. And while baseball GM-manship isn't a popularity contest, it doesn't hurt that Epstein's far more accessible than his predecessor, Dan Duquette. When you've got a 29-year-old GM and fans are munching Fenway Franks atop the Green Monster, the major question becomes "World Series? Why not?"

JUGGERNAUT

The Red Sox Offense

Did Mayor Menino pass a law this spring that makes it illegal to bat under .300? It sometimes seems that way for the Red Sox starting lineup, who, with the exception of Johnny Damon, are all usually at or above the .300 mark. The team batted .308 in May and a league-leading .315 in June. Even Byung-Hyun Kim is batting .333, and the Red Sox bats continue to fell records (most notably, scoring 10 runs against the Marlins before a single out was recorded in the first inning). Now, about that bullpen...

MOST IN NEED OF A NEW MASCOT

The Celtics

OK, Lucky the Leprechaun is unique, we'll give him that. But his insane grin is simply frightening. And isn't a giant leprechaun something of an oxymoron? The dilemma for the Celtics is what they'd replace him with. A clover? A plate of corned beef and cabbage? That would look strange with arms and a face. We hereby propose "Lucky the Dog," who would be a big, cuddly dog—an Irish wolfhound, of course.

MVP

Joe Thornton

Happily, Boston is home to several athletes who could justifiably win this award, but the nod goes to the Bruins' Joe Thornton, who, at the tender age of 24, has become one of the premier players in the NHL. Last year he finished third in the NHL in points (101) and second in assists, with 65. He also became the first player to rack up more than 100 points while also spending more than 100 minutes in the Sin Bin since Eric Lindros did it in 1995-96 (we're looking forward to seeing what he can do once he cuts down those penalty minutes). Thornton was the top pick overall in the 1997 draft, and we think it's safe to say that he's living up to his potential.

TIME-WILL-TELL DEAL

Tebucky Jones for Three Draft Picks

Whenever you deal a proven player for draft picks, as the Patriots did with Tebucky Jones, you're taking a risk. In this case, the Pats gambled that they could deal Jones to New Orleans, fill his spot with a capable, if older, player (Pro Bowler Rodney Harrison) and spend the difference upgrading other areas of the team and developing younger players. Whether or not the draft picks work out taking this route was at least better than simply letting Jones walk away a free agent. But we'll have to wait until fall to find out how safe the Patriots are at safety. ⊶

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

J.R. Bremer

No Boston sports team introduced a standout rookie of Garciaparra proportions this year, but the Celtics' J.R. Bremer spent the winter quietly establishing himself as a respectable guard in the NBA. The former St. Bonaventure star averaged just 8.3 points per game, but his 25-point outburst against the Clippers in March demonstrated strong potential. He also has a nice touch from behind the arc, ranking third in the NBA last season with 3.23 three-pointers per 48 minutes. Where he'll fit into the puzzle next year, when draft pick Marcus Banks will almost certainly be the go-to point guard, is unclear, but Bremer's rookie year solidified his place in the NBA.

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PEOPLE & places

ASPHALT STRIPTEASE

Zakim Bridge/Route 93 North

Just when you were starting to think the Big Dig was an elaborate ruse and nothing had actually happened below the torn-up streets of the city, Route 93 North went underground and the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge (named for the beloved Anti-Defamation League activist) came to life. Of course there were still slow periods at rush hour, but the wider traffic corridor so improved the flow that state police soon discovered that motorists were exceeding the 45 mph speed limit in the tunnel by, oh, 30 mph. More important than the actual mobility improvement brought by the new 93 North segment, however, is the promise that it bestowed: light at the end of the Big Dig tunnel.

BATHROOM

Houston's

Ladies, be warned: The Houston's men's room is so palatial that guys might go missing for the better part of the night. The loo decor is traditional, with lots of custom woodwork and marble. But the hardware is high-tech enough to titillate the most hard-core plumbing enthusiast. Above the urinals are flat-screen TVs that display guy-friendly programming like sporting events, and after you wash up under an automatic faucet in a black marble sink, C Towels (those thick, expensive-feeling paper towels) await. We hear the food is pretty decent at Houston's too.

The Public Garden is an ideal place to steal a kiss or three, especially at night. It offers a slew of private spots while still managing to provide the thrill of being well, public. So whether the ducklings make way for smoochers or the Swan Boats bear witness to some spirited snogging, there isn't a more scenic spot in the city to put away your PDA and enjoy a little PDA.

BUSKER

Banjo Bob

"Banjo Bob" Sundstrom is a major figure in Boston's underground music scene—the literal underground music scene, that is. A Park Street station fixture, Banjo Bob and his Dixieland tunes from the '20s and '30s are a welcome contrast to the cacophony of trains and shuffling clamor of stressed-out passengers that define the Green Line. If you see the Chicago native plucking his strings on the platform, consider padding his banjo case with a Washington or two. After all, what price an island of art in the sea of the T?

15 MINUTES OF FAME

Any Reality-Show Cast Member

From Elisabeth and Ethan on *Survivor* to Xavier on *Married by America*, Melissa on *For Love or Money* and, lest we forget, Chris on *The Rea World Paris* Boston is quite spawning ground for reality show contestants. We're proud to be so real, but the recent rash of reality makes us pine for the good old days of the dancing baby and secret bathroom hide-out of *Ally McBeal*.

GRACE UNDER FIRE

Donna Morrissey

Soon after Donna Morrissey assumed her position as spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Boston in early 2001, the church's sexual abuse scandals blew up. Though she left her job in May of this year, she was the public face of the church at the height of the scandal, the unlucky messenger who regularly confronted the media's torrent of questions. Some opine that she should have delivered a few more explanations and a few less no-comments, but Morrissey held her own while serving in a job that is the definition of "unenviable position."

MALE VOCALIST

***American Idol*'s Edgar Nova**

Possibly the most gruesome audition on last season's *American Ido* belonged to Boston's own Edgar Nova, whose warbling rendition of Enrique Iglesias' "Escape" prompted Simon Cowell to declare, "You're one of the worst singers I've ever heard." Even the affable Randy Jackson advised, "Don't sing anymore...ever." Not to be discouraged, Nova told his fellow hopefuls, "See you in Hollywood," and was escorted from the premises by security when he returned to do an encore. Nova may not have been Clay Aiken or Ruben Studdard, but he was the most entertaining also-ran of the year.

MOST MISSED

Robert McCloskey

The *Make Way for Ducklings* author, who once lived on Beacon Hill's Myrtle Street, died June 30 at age 88. Bu

his legacy, which includes the row of bronze ducks in the Public Garden (one of the most popular photo ops in the city for the Pampers set), will waddle on to the delight of happy kids for generations to come.

PARTY YOU WEREN'T INVITED TO
Saint Opening

When people are ponying up $10,000 apiece for membership to a club, there's going to be some type of soiree to commemorate its debut. Saint definitely threw the most exclusive bash last year. Produced by Bryan Rafanelli, it featured Cirque du Soleil–style dancers and contortionists at the door, while inside, lucky wealthy folk like Billy Joel indulged in a bacchanalia of champagne and high-end edibles. (The brushed-steel invitations were quite nice too.) It was everything you'd expect of a party with a $10,000 cover charge.

PLACE FOR A FIRST DATE
Fenway Park

What's more romantic than taking in a game at one of the country's oldest, quaintest ballparks? There's a lively atmosphere, but it's usually quiet enough that you can still hold a conversation. If a painful silence arises, you can always make a trip to the beer vendor or, crazy as it might sound, pay attention to the game. If things go well, you can join the thirsty throngs postgame at one of the area's many fine beverage purveyors. But if you and your companion strike out in the chemistry department, there's no harm in parting ways at Gate A.

PLACE TO BREAK UP
Fenway Park

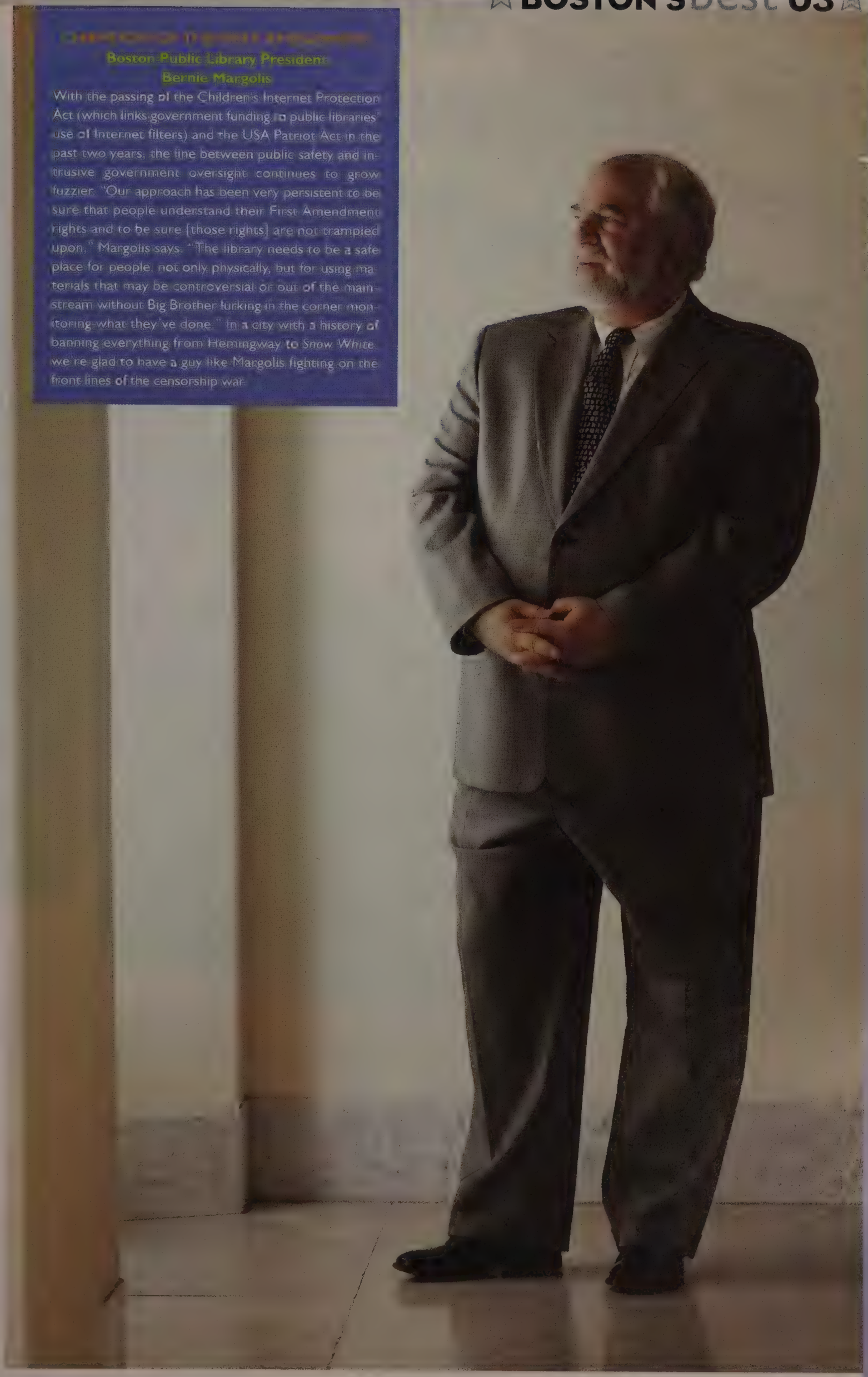
While Fenway is a great first-date venue, it's also well-suited to a last date. Think about it: It's noisy, crowded, there are multiple exits, and security has already frisked your soon-to-be ex for potential weapons. Downside: It would be a shame to waste a $4.50 Coors Light by getting it dumped on your head.

WORST PLACE TO MAKE OUT
The Christian Science Plaza

Oh, it might look inviting on a warm summer night: the reflecting pool, surrounded by tall buildings that cast shadows into corners here and there, perhaps a bit of moonlight shining through to lend a moody sexiness to the scene. You're not planning on pulling an Opie and Anthony stunt, but it might be appealingly naughty to duck into one of those shadows for a quick smooch. And then: flashlight in your face! That's right; they're on their toes at the Mother Church, and security guards roam the grounds at night to discourage sinners. Move along, folks, move along. ⟶

Boston Public Library President Bernie Margolis

With the passing of the Children's Internet Protection Act (which links government funding to public libraries' use of Internet filters) and the USA Patriot Act in the past two years, the line between public safety and intrusive government oversight continues to grow fuzzier. "Our approach has been very persistent to be sure that people understand their First Amendment rights and to be sure [those rights] are not trampled upon," Margolis says. "The library needs to be a safe place for people, not only physically, but for using materials that may be controversial or out of the mainstream without Big Brother lurking in the corner monitoring what they've done." In a city with a history of banning everything from Hemingway to *Snow White*, we're glad to have a guy like Margolis fighting on the front lines of the censorship war.



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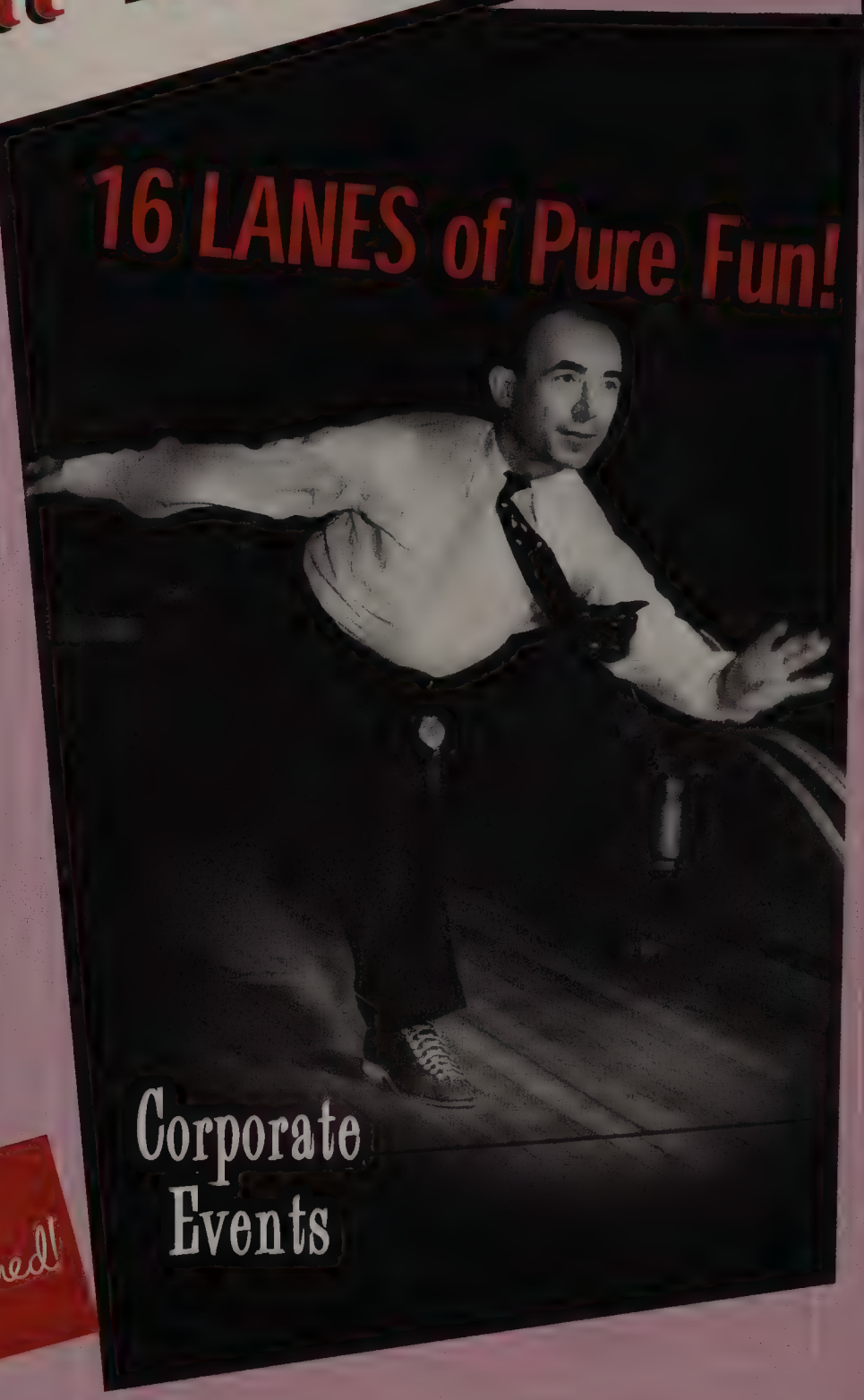

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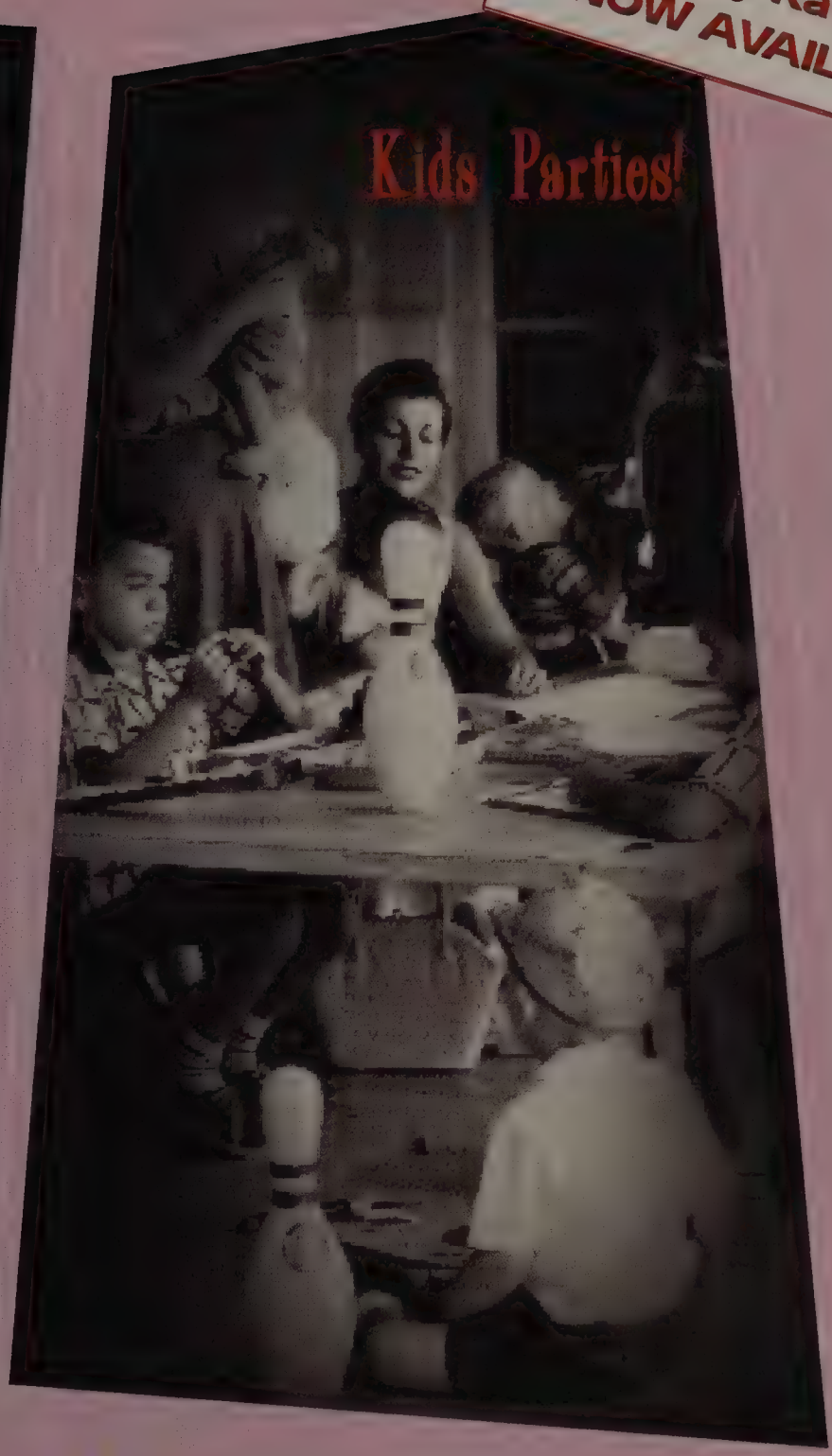

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BROADCAST PIONEER

Natalie Jacobson, Anchor/Reporter, WCVB-TV NewsCenter 5

Little more than a decade ago, Boston's TV news anchors were among its celebrities, equal in status to its mayor and its professional athletes. Back then, we were on a first-name basis with an elite group, including Liz and Jack, Tony and Tom, and Chet and Natalie. Today, there is Natalié. After more than 30 years with WCVB-TV, Natalie Jacobson has survived a succession of news directors, a very public split with husband/co-anchor Chet Curtis, and a new world order spurred by the rise of Channel 7, with its generic anchors and reporters. Jacobson ("Nat" to all—except, perhaps, John Silber) has seen Boston through elections, presidential visits, marathons and most of the major events of the past three decades. The first woman to anchor an evening newscast in Boston, her longevity is all the more impressive because it is based not on hype but on credibility with viewers. The last real star in Boston television news continues to be its brightest.

BUSINESS COLUMNIST

Cosmo Macero Jr., *Boston Herald*

He got the inside story on the frosty relationship between Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation President Michael Widmer and the Romney administration. He continued as point man for the *Boston Herald*'s award-winning reporting on the Red Sox sale. But our favorite story by business columnist Cosmo Macero this year involved what he characterized as a "shakedown" of the *Boston Globe* by a neighborhood civics association. Macero made a strong case that the *Globe* caved in to the group's demand for coverage in exchange for support of the paper's plant expansion project. "The *Boston Globe* has done a turnaround," the group's liaison to the paper told Macero after a *Globe* article addressed its concerns. "They are now more supportive of the community." The *Globe*'s PR flack concluded, "I don't think one of these things has to do with another." For the *Herald*, we don't think it gets any better than this.

GOSSIP COLUMNISTS

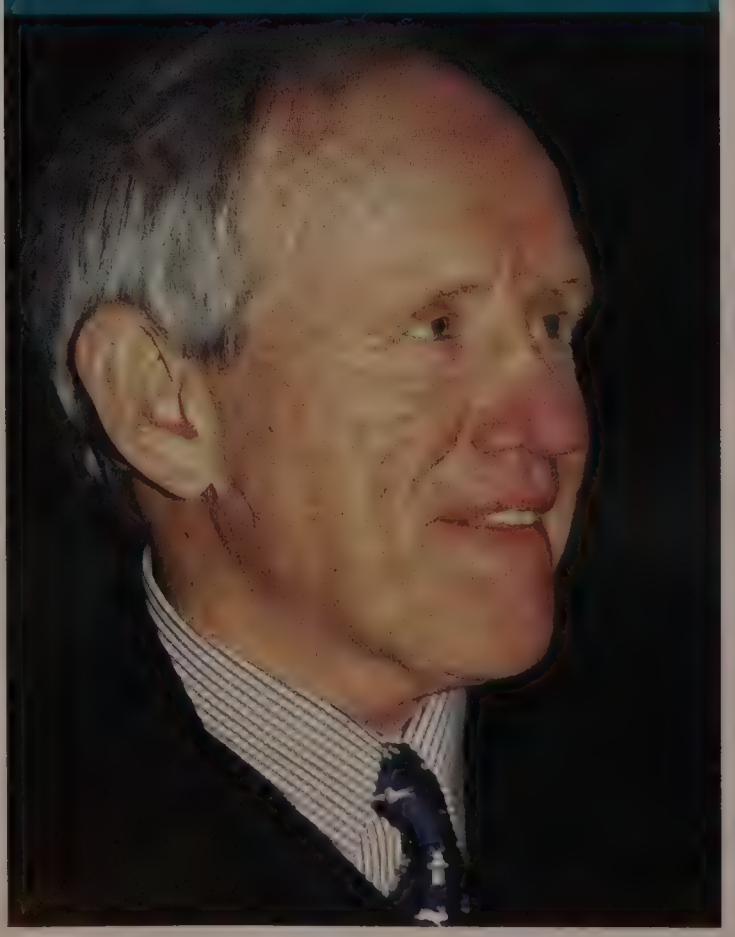
Gayle Fee and Laura Raposa, *Boston Herald*

We see you on the T every morning, skipping over the news on the president's economic summit and the latest MCAS controversy to the real scoops: Derek Jeter's visit to Saint with his new pals from Centerfolds; the identity of J. Lo's "booty double"; and Val Kilmer's shirtless greeting at XV Beacon. And now that the *Herald*'s two gossip pages have been consolidated into a two-page spread, it's easier than ever to get your daily gossip fix.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Will McDonough, *Boston Globe* Sports Reporter/Columnist, 1960-2001 (Freelance Columnist, 2001-2003)

For all his years as a columnist, Will McDonough was never known as a great writer. "I'm not even sure he liked to write," fellow *Globe* sportswriter Bob Ryan observed. "Forget the writing part. Will McDonough was the greatest sports reporter of all." That assessment was echoed by one colleague after another following the death of the legendary sports reporter last January. Dan Shaughnessy went so far as to suggest that McDonough's cubicle at the *Globe* be permanently retired. McDonough's endurance (41 years with the *Globe*, all 38 Super Bowls covered, countless sources developed) inspired that kind of admiration. He was a mentor to a generation of sports reporters, and his ability to break a story made his column the first place sports fans turned. "Whatever Will McDonough printed in his Sunday column was the most insight on the NFL people were going to get all week," then CBS Sports producer Ted Shaker (now at NBC) told the *Globe*, explaining his controversial decision to hire a print journalist "with a face for radio and a voice for newspapers." McDonough himself once said, "I proved once and for all you don't have to be pretty to be on television." To his readers, and even his viewers, Will McDonough looked pretty darn good.



LIVING/ARTS COLUMNIST

Alex Beam, *Boston Globe*

Alex Beam's favorite muse—Boston University chancellor John Silber—isn't in the spotlight so much anymore, but the well has hardly run dry. After 16 years the Beamer continues to find plenty of inspirational annoyances in everyday life, from the poetry of Maya Angelou ("prolific hack") to the career of Celine Dion ("world's most cloying human") to the culture of Sweden ("the land of sex, suicide and socialism"). Boston's answer to Christopher Buckley also displays frequent self-deprecating wit. "The silliest thing I have read lately," begins a recent column, "not under my own byline, that is…"

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

The Back Bay Courant

A good test of any neighborhood newspaper is how well it reflects the voice of its community. Boston's *Back Bay Courant* serves a variety of constituencies: students in the Fenway, the upscale residents of the Newbury Street and Beacon Hill areas, and the rainbow coalition of the South End. The *Courant* meets the challenge of reflecting its eclectic population, with a mix of stories ranging from the hard-hitting (local development, groundwater problems) to the offbeat ("Ask Diesel Dog," an advice column for yet another notable Back Bay constituency). Boston's own BBC does a notable job of keeping this noteworthy neighborhood au courant.

RADIO DUO

Matt Siegel and Billy Costa, WXKS-FM

There's no mistaking who is the star of "Matty in the Morning" on KISS-108, but News and Entertainment Director Billy Costa is far more than a sidekick to host Matt Siegel. Like Conan and Andy, or Howard and Robin, Matty and Billy have the kind of easygoing, genuine rapport that's behind every winning team; and after 12 years of hosting the station's top-rated show together, this duo remains as dynamic as ever.

RADIO REVIVAL

WBOS 92.9FM

If you're reading this now, there's a good chance you're a 'BOS listener. The station's internal research shows "an amazingly high correlation between IM PROPER readership and WBOS listenership." The outlook wasn't always so positive at WBOS. Three years ago, the corporate owners of this perennial underperformer were on the verge of replacing its ill-defined album-rock format with FM talk. At the last moment they decided to hire a new program director and give album rock one more try. Today, the music is focused, the jocks sound like they enjoy playing it, listener numbers

are up (by 27 percent, according to a recent ratings book), and WBOS finally has the one thing it always seemed to lack: an identity.

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RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

Robin Young, *Here & Now*, WBUR

Another radio survival—and revival—story also began two years ago. That was when Robin Young was named co-host of WBUR's newsmagazine, *Here & Now*, following an ill-fitted shift as a DJ at the (formerly) moribund WBOS. Back then, we hailed her return to radio as "Best Media Personality Comeback," a title Young has more than lived up to. Whether she's talking with Johnny Pesky, John Malkovich or Mario Cuomo, this former co-host of TV's *Evening Magazine* has the rare ability to forget she's on the radio and be herself: naturally curious, focused and perceptive. May she stay forever Young.

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SCOOP

Globe Big Dig/Bechtel story

How much would taxpayers know today about the Big Dig's massive cost overruns without the *Boston Globe*'s ongoing investigation? How much would the state be able to recover from Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, the project's private-sector manager, without the information the paper uncovered—or the state inspector general's inquiry that followed? The subject was more technical and less salacious than the Catholic Church sex abuse scandals touched off by the *Globe*'s Pulitzer prize–winning investigation of that story. Yet the paper's coverage of both had a powerful impact. "I think they're very comparable," says Chris Daly, a former State House reporter, now an associate professor of journalism at Boston University College of Communication. "In both cases, what you see is an institution, the *Boston Globe*, that has the resources and is willing to take the initiative to look into the performance of other very powerful institutions." The *Globe*'s ambitious, tenacious reporting on the $14.6 billion Central Artery/Tunnel Project was more than a "scoop." It was a big dig.

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TAG TEAM

WCVB Meteorologists Harvey Leonard and Dick Albert

When WCVB announced it was adding Harvey Leonard to its already ample staff last June, our first thought was, "How many marquee meteorologists does one television station really need?" After all, Channel 5 already had its own chief meteorologist in Dick Albert, a fixture at the station since 1978. Raiding ratings leader Channel 7, Leonard's home for 25 years, seemed like little more than an act of revenge, destined to cause friction between longtime rivals. But behind the scenes, Leonard and Albert also had a personal history that spanned 20 years, a friendship that has made their roles as co-chief meteorologists complementary. Albert handles the 5 and 6 pm newscasts, while Leonard is on at 5:30 and 11 pm. So far, it's been a smooth segue, giving Channel 5 two of the most experienced, and popular, forecasters in Boston television. ⊷

COLLEGE RADIO STATION

WERS 88.9 FM

Sure, WBUR is more "professional." The only students you're likely to hear on air are the ones who call in to *Car Talk*. Real college radio is about training students as well as entertaining listeners—and the Emerson College station does an excellent job of both. As the only entirely student-run operation in a major radio market, WERS offers an eclectic range of programming that includes more than 20 varieties of music, from folk and reggae to show tunes and a cappella.

AQUA

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BUSINESS & technology

WELCOME HOME

In this low chapter in the book publishing business, in which nearly as many titles go out of print each year as get published, Boston has one shining star: 170-year-old Houghton Mifflin. Little, Brown & Co. got bought up and hauled to New York to become part of the AOL Time Warner empire, and Houghton got snapped up by French conglomerate Vivendi Universal. But when Vivendi decided to sell, it was local firms Bain Capital and Thomas H. Lee Partners that bought, for $1.66 billion. Plans for the debt-ridden company are unclear, especially with the recent resignation of president and CEO Hans Gieskes. But at least Boston's literati can claim one truly local publishing powerhouse again.

BIGGEST CRASH, NON-TECH

Hill & Barlow

It defended Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. It launched three Massachusetts governors. It lived for 107 years, and it came crashing down in a matter of days. The venerable firm's entire 33-lawyer real estate group stunned everyone in December by leaving en masse for Piper Rudnick LLP, and days later the 44 partners voted to dissolve the company, which employed nearly 300 people. Within a month, according to one report, all but 13 of the firm's lawyers had left, as companies like Fish & Richardson and Ropes & Gray snatched up whole practices of the imploded firm. The already topsy-turvy local legal scene turned into chaos. While other law firms announced layoffs, mergers and restructurings, none came close to matching the sudden, completely unexpected death of Hill & Barlow.

BIGGEST CRASH, TECH

StorageNetworks Inc.

When the Waltham data-storage company went public in late 2000, its shares soared to $150, annual revenues surpassed $100 million, and people in the industry considered it a serious challenger to EMC and IBM. Last year, losses totaled more than $75 million, and in January, half the employees got sacked at the same time that co-founder Peter Bell left as president and CEO in order to "pursue other personal and business interests." By late June the company abandoned its managed-service business, eliminating another 35 percent of its staff, leaving just 60 employees from a high of about 600. Today, with shares selling for a buck and change, rumors have the company trying to sell off anything left of value. Meanwhile, the new executives are holding a pile of $200 million in cash and are actively looking to buy a completely new business that has, according to a press release, "revenues, established channels and leading technology." In other words, what StorageNetworks had three years ago.

BIGGEST EXECUTIVE WINDFALL

John Hancock Financial Services Inc.

John Hancock's sales and net income dropped in 2002, resulting in workforce reduction, sale of its eponymous tower and rumors of a merger. Nevertheless, CEO David D'Alessandro earned a tidy $21.7 million for the year's work. Such heady days are over, however; the company is reportedly cutting D'Alessandro's pay to a more modest $14 million for 2003. There could be a onetime financial boon coming on top of that, however: the *Boston Globe* has reported that the sale of the company's group life insurance business to MetLife, announced in June, could net Hancock's top five executives a total of $116 million in cash and stock value. (Company officials, meanwhile, say the figure would be closer to $97 million.)

BIGGEST SALE (LITERALLY)

John Hancock Financial Services Inc.

In the recent spate of big-building acquisitions, none looms larger than the sale of the 60-story Hancock Tower. This March, Hancock sold the skyscraper, along with buildings at 197 Clarendon Street and 200 Berkeley Street, for a whopping $910 million to Beacon Capital Partners. With some 3 million square feet in all, the properties represent one of the biggest sales ever in the Hub both in size and

money, and the sale demonstrated the persistent optimism about Boston's metropolitan office space. Beacon Capital expects to more than make back the sale price through rent—including, of course, tenant John Hancock—which agreed to a long-term lease as part of the sale.

CONTROVERSIAL NEW BUSINESS

Personal Physicians Health Care

"Concierge medicine" came to Boston last year when Dr. Steven Flier and Dr. Jordan Busch—a couple of normal, albeit highly successful, Beth Israel Deaconess primary care physicians—opened this Chestnut Hill practice. Instead of serving 3,000 patients each at normal (insurance-covered) rates, each PPHC doctor accepts an exclusive roster of 300 who are willing to pay a $4,000 per individual out-of-pocket annual fee in exchange for more personal and devoted attention. Critics appeared everywhere from the *Globe* to *NBC Nightly News* to warn that "concierge medicine" would lead to a chasm with good doctors serving the wealthy few and the rest of society herded like cattle through a second-tier health care world. Undaunted, several other "concierge" practices in the Boston area have followed PPHC's lead, and the idea looks like it will be with us for a while.

MOST PUBLIC INTERNAL DISPUTE

Unicco Service Co.

Some companies settle their labor problems quietly. Some suffer through a small round of picketing and buried-in-the-business-section newspaper articles. Unicco, a 5,500-employee janitorial service in Newton, was another story. Its janitors went on strike last fall for several weeks, gathering by the hundreds in front of some of downtown Boston's biggest office buildings and staging high-profile demonstrations. Every day brought fresh front-page news, mostly negative for Unicco. The Service Employees International Union, hoping to make the confrontation a national referendum on benefits for part-time employees, kicked in $1 million to the strike fund, brought charges against Unicco to the National Labor Relations Board, and set up Uniccodirt.com on the Web. Tenants demanded that owners of high-profile buildings, such as 18 Tremont Street, fire Unicco on principle. Governor Jane Swift broke the state's contract with the company. Even wing-tipped executives sided with the janitors, with the former chief executive of Stride Rite Corp. pledging to donate $500,000 to the strike fund and John Hancock Financial Services saying it would be willing to pay an extra $1.5 million in cleaning services to ensure good wages and benefits. Unicco gave in to most of the union's demands, and the strike ended , but somehow the smell still lingers.

SIGN OF HARD TIMES

Fidelity Investments

Sure, the Dow Jones hit a five-year low, CMGI had to remove its name from the football stadium, unemployment rose and venture capital disappeared. But until last September, Boston's financial leaders were holding out hope that they could ride it out. Then Fidelity, the world's largest mutual funds company, announced that revenues had declined by $1 billion and it would lay off roughly 1,700 employees including about 900 in Massachusetts. It was the breakin of the dam: In October Boston's oldest mutual fund firm MFS Investment Management, cut 110 jobs; in Novembe Pioneer Investment Management dropped 44 employees; i January FleetBoston Financial Corp. eliminated 1,900 job in April State Street Corp. slashed 1,800 jobs. The feelin seemed to be that if Fidelity couldn't weather this recessio then nobody could.

WORST LITTLE-GUY SCREWING

Stop & Shop Supermarket Co.

Royal Ahold N.V. allegedly used some "irregular accoun ing practices" to overstate earnings by approximately $88 million over the past three years, which came as news of th worst kind to run-of-the-mill employees of Quincy-base Stop & Shop, which is owned by Ahold. Although it's to soon to tell whether the Dutch company's woes will affe the supermarket chain's business, the employees who too part in the company's stock-option plan have seen the savings pummeled by Ahold's 75 percent drop in stoc value. The worst may be yet to come, as Ahold's U.S. ope ations remain under scrutiny (it recently "found" anothe $29 million in errors and also missed the June 30 deadlin for auditing its 2002 books). ⟶

HOLDOUT

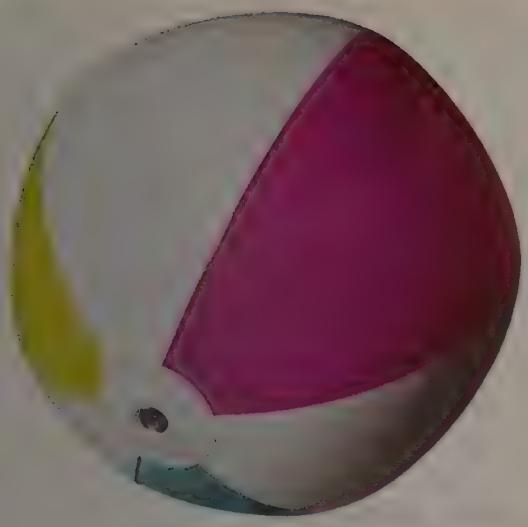
The Atlantic Monthly

When Gruner & Jahr USA announced the move of *Inc.* magazine's operations to New York last fall (to nobody's surprise), the ancient and venerable *Atlantic* was left as the lone national newsstand magazine published in the Hub. G&J also took *Fast Company* to the Big Apple, *Harvard Business Review* cut staff, *Boston Law Tribune* ceased publication, and IDG converted *Darwin* to an online-only magazine, among other bad news in the industry. Amid all of this—and the devastating death of editor-at-large Michael Kelly in Iraq—the *Atlantic* stayed put, and thrived. Superior, relevant, timely features on the World Trade Center, the Iraq War, and the usual obscure-but-interesting subjects earned the magazine renewed interest and the award for general excellence at the American Society of Magazine Editors' 2003 National Magazine Awards.

PATTED

Krispy Kr

You've never even heard of Jan Cos. of Cranston, R.I., but if you're a Krispy Kreme fanatic—and who isn't?—you owe the folks there a big hug. That's the company that owns the New England franchise rights for the doughnut chain. After what seemed like decades of rumors (the first reporting on the impending arrival dates to 2000), groundbreaking began in December at Wellington Circle. The store has now finally opened, prompting numerous fans of the superglazed, made-right-in-front-of-you delicacies to reroute their commutes through Medford. Rumors continue to swirl over future locations (Saugus seems a solid bet, and Dedham just granted Krispy Kreme a special permit for a drive-through window). Randolph-based Dunkin' Donuts insists that it isn't afraid of the competition. Time will tell.



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GOODS & services

ART SUPPLIES

Pearl Art & Craft Supplies

579 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-547-6600;
www.pearlpaint.com

Whether you're a professional portrait painter or a weekend watercolorist, this Central Square institution has everything you need for your creative endeavors, and if not, employees know where to find it. The staff consists almost exclusively of artists who understand the stuff they're selling, and a gigantic inventory spread over three floors makes this the perfect destination for one-stop shopping. From canvas to paint to frames, Pearl has got you covered through every step of the artistic process. Your arts and crafts teacher from grade school would find nirvana here.

BIKE SHOP

Ace Wheelworks

145 Elm St., Somerville; 617-776-2100;
Belmont Wheelworks, 480 Trapelo Road,
Belmont; 617-489-3577;
Wheelworks Too, 22 Church St., Belmont; 617-484-9247;
www.wheelworks.com

Ace is the No. 1 source for serious cyclists. The bike enthusiasts who work at each location are as dedicated to two-wheeled transportation as the engineers at NASA are to space travel. Ace carries a wide selection of bikes from major manufacturers including Specialized, Cannondale and Trek, along with local custom builders like Independent Fabrication and 7 Cycles. Needless to say, you'll find all the accessories you need, including locks, helmets, bells, whistles and water bottles. However, the ace in the hole is its knowledgeable employees, who are adept at matching bikes with riders, imparting useful information and teaching repair techniques. The three stores have fostered a sense of community among Boston's cyclists. The Somerville location, in particular, catering to bicycle commuters, specializes in repairing older bikes and stocking spare parts.

BOOKSTORE, LOCAL

Brookline Booksmith

279 Harvard St., Brookline; 617-566-6660;
www.brooklinebooksmith.com

Pointing and clicking on a computer screen will never compare with the pleasure of walking through aisles of books, running your fingers across the spines, smelling ink on paper and feeling the solidness of a new work as you hold it in your hands. Our favorite place to do all those things is at this Coolidge Corner jewel. For the past several years, Brookline Booksmith has won this award, not so much because of what it sells but how it sells. In addition to numerous author appearances, poetry readings and other book-related events, the staff has an obvious love of books and will gladly make suggestions or discuss them at length, but they'll also leave you alone while you're browsing. They even have a jar of dog biscuits to placate canine companions. It's the perfect place to pass a leisurely afternoon or stock up on bedside reading, a prime example of why independent bookstores have it over retail or online giants.

BOOKSTORE, USED

Brattle Book Shop

9 West St., Boston; 617-542-0210;
www.brattlebookshop.com

You can keep your wee antiques stores or trendy clothing consignment boutiques. Our favorite previously owned item to buy is books, and Brattle's four floors are stuffed to the rafters with them—at any given time, about 100,000 titles, many bought from estates. The ever-changing inventory ranges from the prosaic (dog-eared copies of Grisham novels) to the exceedingly rare (the shop once sold a handwritten thank-you letter that Charles Dickens wrote to a host he stayed with in Boston during the Christmas holidays), and the prices range accordingly. For anyone with old leather-bound volumes collecting dust in the attic, the shop also does appraisals. "Specializing in not specializing," the store collects volumes on an astonishing array of genres and topics, ensuring that even if you had nothing specific in mind when you walked in (the best way to enter a place like this), you'll have something that fascinates you when you walk out.

CATERING

Max Ultimate Food

100 Magazine St., Boston; 617-427-9799;
www.maxultimatefood.com

During the past year, the age-old party question ("Who did the catering?") has had only one answer: Max Ultimate Food. A full-service caterer, it provides exquisite food and flawless service at many of the city's swankiest social occasions, including events for the American Repertory Theatre, the Institute of Contemporary Art and the Friends of the Public Garden. The caterer's secret lies in going far beyond delivering fantastic food. Staff members are artists at orchestrating the flow of a party, helping the host keep the guests entertained and making sure everyone is looked after. If God is in the details, Max has got divinity down pat.

ELECTRONICS STORE

Tweeter

Various locations throughout Massachusetts;
www.tweeter.com

A gadget freak's dream, Tweeter sells plasma-screen TVs, Surround Sound systems, multiroom audio systems, digital cameras, camcorders, car stereo equipment, minidisc players, MP3 players—in short, just about everything (except computers) that you can plug into a wall for entertainment. Brands include Sony, Phillips, Pioneer, Panasonic, Denon and Yamaha, priced to fit all budgets, from grad student frugality to rap-star extravagance. In addition to the goods, it's got helpful, unpushy salespeople who will offer a tutorial on how to use a product and help with any problems you may encounter once you get it home. Here you get all the advantages of a superstore, without the runaround.

EVENT PLANNER

Bryan Rafanelli of Rafanelli Events Management

142 Berkeley St., Boston; 617-357-1818;
www.rafanellievents.com

Rafanelli's soup-to-nuts party planning includes concept development, invitations, lighting, design, flowers, food, drink, entertainment and party favors. Clients who have taken advantage of those services include the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Boston Ballet, Friends of the Public Garden, Mass. General Hospital, Children's Hospital, the Peabody Essex Museum, the Boston Public Library, Chanel and even the New York–based Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. So it's no exaggeration to say that the planner is responsible for all the splashiest charity galas on Boston's social circuit. In addition to epic soirees, Rafanelli and his crew are equally adept at throwing an intimate dinner party for 20 or the fairytale wedding of every girl's dreams. Their genius lies in attention to detail and approaching the logistics involved in throwing an event with almost military precision. No wonder the most memorable parties in Boston invariably begin with Bryan Rafanelli.

FURNITURE, BASIC

Boston Interiors

Many locations throughout Massachusetts;
www.bostoninteriors.com

Short of inheriting it, there's no inexpensive or easy way to acquire all the furniture you need to turn your house into a home, but this chain, which has five stores throughout the state, goes a long way toward easing the process. Offering competitive prices for high-quality furniture, Boston Interiors carries a wide range of styles, from contemporary to classic, country casual to city sophisticate, and everything in between. Whether you're replacing the sofa in your den or completely redecorating, the expert staff can make helpful suggestions and ease that giant leap from showroom to your room. No high-profile TV campaign and no virtual-reality rides; just well-made furniture at affordable prices.

CREATIVE HOME FURNISHINGS

Koo de Kir

65 Chestnut St., Boston; 617-723-8111;
www.koodekir.com

Looking for that offbeat piece to accent your living room decor? Desperate to find an unusual gift for your friend the interior decorator? Need a one-of-a-kind house gift for your future mother-in-law? Head to Koo de Kir's new location on Chestnut Street, where this charming home-goods store carries everything from vases and tchotchkes to major furniture pieces, none of it generic or commonplace. Owner Kristine Irving, who's regularly featured in both *In Style* and *Lucky* magazines, is the sought-after designer responsible for such bold and original interiors as the trendy Chinese restaurant Peking Tom's. Her store offers complimentary home design services with some minimum purchase requirements; Irving or her staff will be happy to suggest ways to apply their rare finds to your personal space. The antithesis of Crate and Barrel, Koo de Kir carries reasonably priced, high-style design items to enrich and enliven the home.

☆BOSTON'S best '03☆

FURNITURE, HIGH-STYLE

Montage

75 Arlington St., Boston; 617-451-9400;
www.montagefurniture.com

Until this venerable, 40-year-old business opened its impressive Back Bay showroom last year, it had been located for 20 years at the Design Center. At that location it was a well-kept secret among interior decorators who probably told some fee-inflating tall tales to clients wondering where they'd found such unique and exquisite pieces. Now the cat's out of the bag, and this store specializing in fine furnishings from the best American and European designers has become a de rigueur stop for stylish urbanites refurbishing their homes. The overall look is sleek and contemporary, but the shop carries items that nicely compliment more traditional decor.

GIFT BOUTIQUE

Flat of the Hill

60 Charles St., Boston; 617-619-9977

It's nearly impossible to amble down Charles Street without noticing (and perhaps even wandering into) this little shop of delights. Whether you're on a quest for the perfect birthday present for that person who has everything, or you're just ambling and shopping, you're guaranteed to find exactly the right thing. Unique and funky jewelry, chic but whimsical handbags, and a variety of enticing bath and body products are only the beginning. Because of its popularity among Beacon Hill shoppers, things fly off the shelves, and compulsive shoppers, beware: The continually changing merchandise guarantees you'll spot something new on every visit. We defy you to leave this store without buying something.

GOLF STORE

Wayland Golf

890 Commonwealth Ave., Boston; 617-277-3999;
www.waylandgolf.com

As anyone who plays the game will tell you, golf is a religion. The matter of equipment is therefore a sacred one, and it's treated as such at this full-service store, which began as the pro shop at the Wayland Country Club (a public golf course, despite the highfalutin' name) and has since opened several locations throughout the state. Wayland Golf has it all—the latest putter designs, club covers and clothing, lessons by teaching pros, and all those nifty little things you keep in your bag to help you play (and pray) for 18 holes. If your pitching wedge is old and tired, their Used Club Buyback program will take it as a trade-in for store credit. Whether you're the club champ or a duffer out for your annual day on the links, Wayland Golf can provide you with everything short of Tiger Woods' mojo.

HOME BOUTIQUE

Bliss

121 Newbury St., Boston; 617-421-5544;
www.blisshome.com

Flash back to several years ago, when Panamai Manadee was planning her wedding and couldn't find a single store whose gift registry seemed distinctive and appealing. Frustrated by the lack of imagination in the standard bridal registries, she opened the original Bliss in Cambridge, filling it chockablock with the kind of unique and distinctive items discerning couples dream about. Today, having relocated to cushy new digs on Newbury Street, she has expanded the store's focus to include accessories like handbags and pillows, personal care items and much more, but the colorful boutique still specializes in extraordinary merchandise for people who would lovingly carry Sienese crockery back from Italy rather than trying to find something similar in the States. For brides who don't want to become Stepford Wives, this is the place to shop.

MOVING COMPANY

Gentle Giant

29 Harding St., Somerville; 617-661-3333;
www.gentlegiant.com

What better recommendation could there be than the fact that they're the official moving company of the Boston Marathon, schlepping all the equipment, food and medical supplies needed along the race's 26-mile route? Recipient of the Better Business Bureau's 2002 and 2003 "Local Torch Award" for best company of its size, Gentle Giant has received our Boston's Best award numerous times in the past due to its outstanding customer service. Eighty percent of its clients are repeat customers or word-of-mouth referrals, and the company follows up all moves with a phone call to gauge customer satisfaction. It also offers a crew-member guarantee: A portion of your fee is refunded if you're dissatisfied with one of their movers. Capable of coaxing a grand piano up five flights of stairs to its new home, or sending everything you own clear across the country, they're the ultimate relocation pros and handle everything with care, whether it's marked fragile or not.

OFFBEAT HOME GOODS

Fresh Eggs

58 Clarendon St., Boston; 617-247-8150

This store's motto is "everything for your nest," and poultry products are about the only thing it doesn't carry. Major items include furniture like sofas for you living room, or a cherry and steel buffet for your dinin room. Then there are the knick-knacks, like hand blown glass lamps, tablecloths, imported linens, sheet dishes and ceramics. Interspersed among it all is whimsical array of goods ranging from Phillipe Starc toothbrushes to funky earrings. The smaller items, lik

FLORIST

Box Exquisite Floral Design

53 Charles St., Boston; 617-742-4844

There's more to flower arrangement than simply stuffing some roses into a vase, and while Boston thankfully suffers from no shortage of talented florists, this Beacon Hill business is in a category all its own. Whether creating a simple bouquet to deliver to a sweetheart or a magnificent display to grace an elegant wedding, Box Exquisite's work is imaginative and interesting, and its designers add an original twist to every piece. A testament to the shop's excellence is its strong relationships with clients. One prominent woman we know wouldn't dream of throwing a party without the customized services of Box to match with the linens, lighting and surroundings. The shop also carries clout with wholesalers who consistently provide it with the freshest and most flawless blooms, from the everyday to the exotic. Small wonder that the best hotels call Box to create bouquets for visiting VIPs, dignitaries and celebrities.

YOU CAN GIVE FLOWERS.
OR YOU CAN GIVE WINSTON FLOWERS.

If you want someone to feel good, send them flowers. If you want them to feel extra special, send them Winston Flowers. *Winston searches the world to find the freshest seasonal flowers. And our artistic ability creates a one-of-a kind gift that says you really care. For a truly exceptional gift, come to* Winston Flowers.
Call us at **800-457-4901** *or order online at* ***www.winstonflowers.com.***

STORE LOCATIONS IN BOSTON: BACK BAY, BEACON HILL, POST OFFICE SQUARE
OUTSIDE OF BOSTON: CONCORD, HINGHAM, LEXINGTON, NEWTON & WELLESLEY

bath and beauty products and candles, make ideal housewarming gifts, while the pricier stuff is of a caliber to impress even the sniffiest design snob.

POSTMODERN YENTA

Speed Dating Craze

www.8minutedating.com
www.HurryDate.com
www.jjproductions.net
www.accelodate.com

Everything in modern life happens at warp speed, so why should the search for true love be any different? The speed-dating phenomenon has spawned numerous services, but all of them offer essentially the same thing: an opportunity to meet multiple potential partners in an evening. With 8-Minute Dating, for example, which holds events at bars and restaurants all over town and tailors them to specific age groups or areas of interest (Christians, baseball fans, etc.), $28.88 buys you eight dates that last eight minutes each, with your next event free if you don't meet anyone you like. Despite the whiff of desperation and the inherent sense of impatience, proponents say it's better than online dating, since you meet the person face-to-face in a safe and neutral environment and your contact information is released only with your permission. Another obvious advantage is that there's not just safety but better odds in numbers. In any case, speed-dating has become amazingly popular, with variations on the same basic theme like Cosmo parties in New York (where nothing but Cosmopolitans are served) and, in Australia, "Blink Dating"—all of which makes us pine for the days when "speed-dating" was nothing but a euphemism for "one-night stand."

QUIRKY GIFTS

Black Ink

101 Charles St., Boston; 617-723-3883
5 Brattle St., Cambridge; 617-497-1221
370 Broadway, Cambridge; 617-576-3322

The term whimsical doesn't begin to describe this charmingly oddball purveyor of pop cultural arcana and what it calls "unexpected necessities." Housewares that emphasize the fun in functional, like a Bob's Big Boy coin bank or Rhodia notebooks (a fetish among some journal-keepers) share shelf space with things that will have you waxing nostalgic for your childhood or wishing you led the kind of life that requires a lunchbox. The selection of toys is worth throwing a temper tantrum over, and an array of inexpensive but inventive items makes it a breeze to buy gifts for those hard-to-shop-for friends and relatives. Unlike most novelty merchandise you'll find in stores, Black Ink's doesn't seem cheap or mass-produced, and most things serve some purpose other than simply putting a smile on your face (though they will do that as well).

RECORD STORE, LOCAL

Newbury Comics

332 Newbury St., Boston; 617-236-4930;
other locations in and around Boston;
www.newbury.com

The new album by Radiohead is coming out. Or Jay-Z or Beyoncé—it doesn't matter. The only thing you need to know is: You will find it cheapest at Newbury Comics. How do they keep their prices so low? It's the sheer numbers of units they move in Manic Panic hair dyes, Ozzy Osbourne (and family) action figures and little Goth lunchboxes that allow the stores to keep the prices down on their superb selection of music—from pop to hip-hop to punk to jazz to rock and everything in between. Boston audiophiles have been blessed with Newbury Comics' incredible selection of new and used music and video for 25 years, so drop by and wish them a "wicked good" birthday.

RECORD STORE, NATIONAL

Virgin Megastore

360 Newbury St., Boston; 617-896-0950
www.virginmega.com

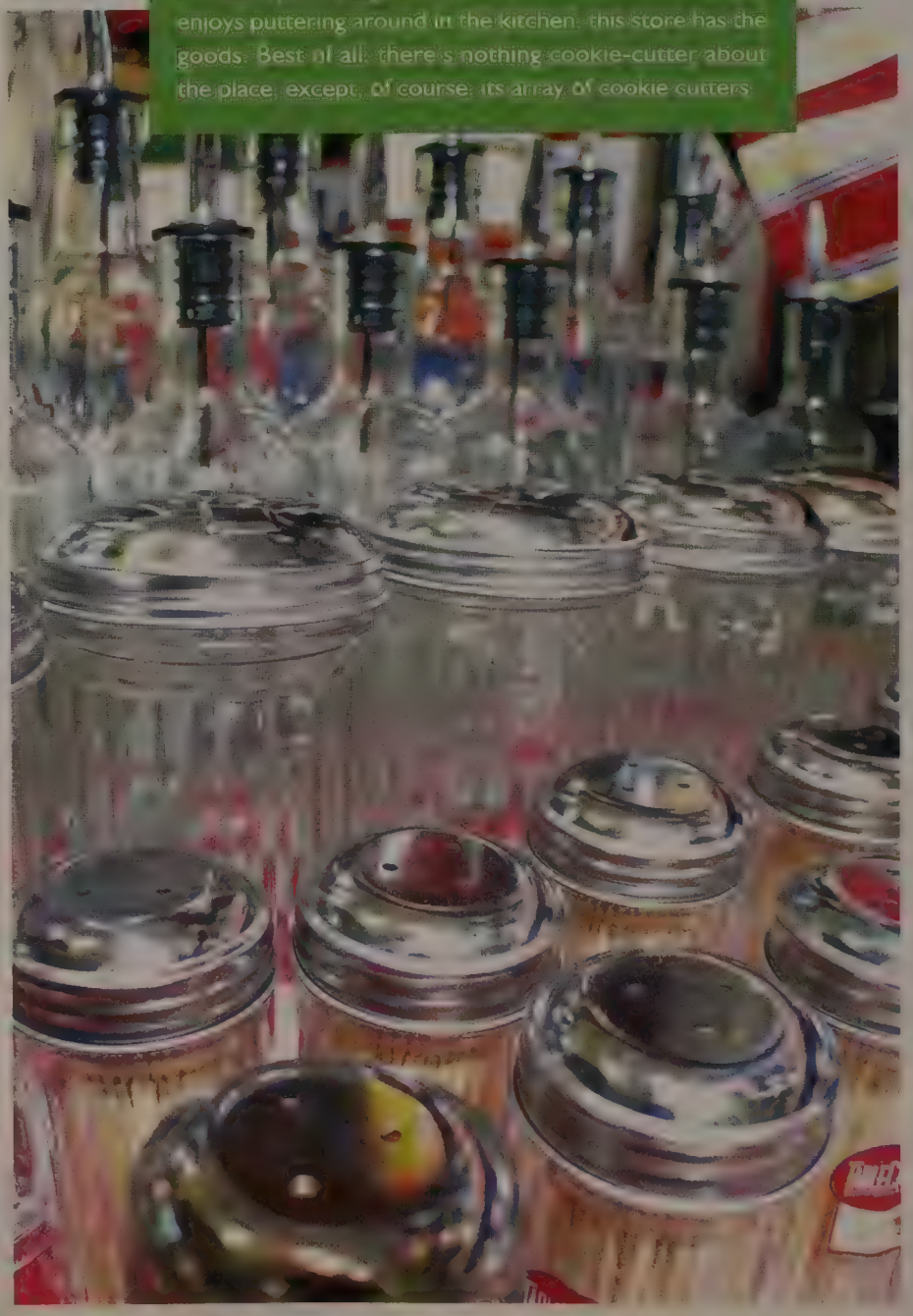
The corner of Newbury Street and Mass. Ave. has seen its share of record stores, but none have compared with its current occupant—the 40,000-square-foot Virgin store, a foothold in billionaire balloonist Richard Branson's empire. Virgin upped the ante for the other local chain music stores by covering ground they weren't, offering a vast selection of classical music and lots of new vinyl. There always seems to be some kind of tempting sale, and with Virgin's myriad of services—the café-bakery, the magical machines that let you hear any track on any CD and the frequent live DJs—customers might even miss the huge selection of CDs, DVDs, books, magazines and video games. Ah, who're we kidding? They'll see 'em.

COOKING STORE

Kitchen Arts

161 Newbury St., Boston; 617-266-8701

This tiny shop is crammed with everything you'll ever need for preparing and presenting food. Pots and pans hang from nearly every square inch of the ceiling, while the selection of tea kettles is almost comical in its variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Behind the counter, you'll find knives and pot holders. The shelves are stacked with nifty gizmos like waffle irons, espresso machines, serving utensils, sushi molds, cruets and chopsticks. Whether you're a gourmet chef or someone who simply enjoys puttering around in the kitchen, this store has the goods. Best of all, there's nothing cookie-cutter about the place, except, of course, its array of cookie cutters.



SPORTING GOODS

City Sports

Many locations around Boston;
www.citysports.com

Nobody wants to spend a fortune on sports equipment, but let's face it: If you don't have the right gear, you look like a dork. The answer to this conundrum is City Sports, which carries a wide selection of top-brand equipment at chain-store prices. Virtually any activity that involves a ball or raising your heart rate can be outfitted here, although the stores are especially strong in the clothing department. The well-trained staff are all athletes themselves, so they know a thing or two about the gear they're selling. The ubiquitous City Sports T-shirt, which you see someone wearing every 10 feet or so in Boston, is proof of the store's popularity.

TATTOO PARLOR

House of Pain

412 Ferry St., Everett; 617-394-0660;
www.houseofpaineverett.net

Thinking about getting some ink done? Then find your way over to this tucked-away tattoo parlor in Everett. It started out five years ago doing piercings (and has done upwards of 50,000 so far) and expanded into "body art" when tattooing became legal in Massachusetts. It has since developed a reputation for superior artistry and outstanding customer satisfaction. Because love is fleeting but a tattoo is forever, you can't get your girlfriend's name put on your bicep here, nor will the staff do anything it considers distasteful. In fact, they'd rather do nothing at all than saddle someone with a permanent marker that isn't appropriate. The level of hygiene is impeccable, and despite the shop's name, the staff does everything in its power to make the process less painful and intimidating.

VIDEO STORE

Mike's Movies

630 Tremont St., Boston; 617-266-9222;
250 Cambridge St., Boston; 617-742-7771;
www.mikesmoviesboston.com

If you're like us, when you're looking to rent a movie, you aren't interested in what some conglomerate in Hollywood has selected as this season's entertainment. That's why, once again, we've given top honors to this two-store video chain where the selection goes far beyond the lowest common denominator. Yes, the block-busters and new releases are here, including new releases of smaller, more obscure films that the big chains can't be bothered with. What's more, the stores actually carry a selection (as opposed to a few major titles) of independent, foreign and special-interest films, classics and documentaries (and their vast array of porn beggars the imagination). All rentals, with the exception of new releases, are for five days, which means you won't be racking up those sneaky late charges when real life gets in the way of watching videos. Best of all, Mike's has a snack selection that matches that of most cinemas, and both stores are manned by the kind of movie freak who can list every Fassbinder film in order or quote at length from *Monsters, Inc.* ➙

Your home is a reflection of your own unique sense of style. Each piece of furniture, every fabric, drapery or pattern is a statement of your individuality. That's why interior designer William Hulsman created Bill Hulsman Ready-to-Wear Home Fashions. He's filled his showroom with beautifully designed furniture, lighting, rugs, bedding and home accessories just waiting for you to make your own. Choose from the nearly limitless supply of fabrics to custom upholster that sofa or chair, or to create that drapery or pillow. Reasonably priced and available in 30 days, they're created for you and can't be found anywhere else. So, let Bill assist you in creating your own unique environment. After all, there's only one you.

22 Elkins Street, Third Floor, Boston, Massachusetts (617) 464.7920

home

BILL HULSMAN

BEAUTY & health

BEAUTY BOUTIQUE

Beauty and Main

30 Brattle St., Cambridge; 617-868-7171;
66 South St., Hingham; 781-741-8501;
www.beautyandmain.com

With the endless options available in the wild world of beauty products, it can be difficult to see the forest for the trees. The savvy owners of Beauty and Main have done the research for you, selecting and stocking only the best cosmetic and skin care lines from around the world in their two stores. Here you'll find such gems as Trish McEvoy brushes, hair care products from Terax, makeup by Creed, NARS, Darphin and Laura Mercier—pretty much everything to make you look great, short of cosmetic surgery. Of course, it's tempting to spend a fortune, since every shelf has that one little something you just can't live without. After all, beauty may only be skin deep, but good beauty products are truly priceless. Look for a third location in Hingham's Derby Street Shoppes this fall.

BIKINI WAX

Austen for Austen's

115 Newbury St., Boston; 617-266-4017;
www.austensthestudio.com

No grooming ritual is as fraught with anxiety as the bikini wax, also known as the Brazilian Beauty Torture or the Dreaded Kitty Rip. When done poorly, it hurts like the devil and leaves unsightly bumps and irritated skin. When done well, however, it's a vast improvement on Mother Nature. Austen has the bikini wax down to a science. Discomfort is minimal and redness rare, while his professionalism makes being in a vulnerable and somewhat compromised position less distasteful. In fact, the highest praise we can offer is the assurance that you won't mind going back every five weeks, which is about as long as the waxing lasts.

BIO IONIC HAIR STRAIGHTENING

Lord's and Lady's

450 Belgrade Ave., West Roxbury; 617-323-4700

The demand for the permanent hair-straightening system known as bio ionic has forced nearly every salon to learn the Japanese technique. However, this suburban coiffeur is head-and-shoulders above the rest. Part of a 23-store chain that's been doing business throughout New England for more than 30 years, it has always been known for its technical excellence. The shop began to do bio ionic straightening four years ago (long before competitors started offering it) and has since pleased more than 2,000 clients. The salon has several stylists devoted solely to the bio ionic technique, and the process, which takes three to five hours to complete, costs between $500 and $700 (depending on the length, condition and thickness of your hair). Just think: You'll never have to use a straightening iron again.

COSMETIC DENTIST

Dr. Steven D. Spitz at Smileboston

665 Beacon St., Boston; 617-437-1060;
www.smileboston.net

There's more to cosmetic dentistry than simply spiffing up your choppers with some whitening agent. At Smileboston, headed up by Dr. Steven Spitz, they start from the foundation, making sure your gums are in perfect shape before working on any other part of your mouth or teeth. The gifted Dr. Spitz can realign your teeth using various techniques, and fill in gaps using crowns or veneers. He also offers the popular (and long-lasting) Britesmile whitening procedure to make your smile as dazzling as a Pepsodent commercial. Smileboston's motto—"Confidence begins with a great smile"—is an understatement. You won't be able to stop grinning when you see yourself.

BEAUTY SALON, OVERALL

Salon Mario Russo

9 Newbury St., Boston; 617-424-6676;
234 Berkeley St., Boston; 617-266-4485;
www.mariorusso.com

There's a reason you read about Mario Russo, his salon, his line of products and his top-rated stylists in the pages of fashion magazines. His skills have been touted in publications like *Elle* and *Allure*, and when celebrities come to town and need freshening up, they see Russo. And because the man himself trains every member of the staff, each of whom spends a minimum of one and a half years assisting him and learning the art of keeping abreast of current trends, they're all masters at making you look like a million bucks.

COSMETICS DEPARTMENT

Filene's

426 Washington St., Boston; 617-357-2100; www.filenes.com

The cosmetics department at Filene's is always buzzing with something new. You might find makeup artists from MAC applying the latest trendy colors to customers, or a Clarins rep offering to brush on some powder on your way out the door. The recent addition of a state-of-the-art Stila bay has brought Filene's to another level in the high-end beauty market. The staff is helpful without being pushy and welcomes visitors who are simply there to play. The gifts with purchases are an added perk, and the fun events are actually worth attending.

CREATIVE STYLING

Patrick McGinley, Vidal Sassoon

14 Newbury St., Boston; 617-536-5496

If the name Patrick McGinley sounds familiar, perhaps it's because the Alabama native garnered last year's award for Best Women's Haircut. Well, he's back again, this year for his impeccable styling skills. His name has become synonymous with sexy, innovative, up-to-the-minute styling. Whether you're looking for a head-turning updo for a black-tie affair, or you simply want to put the sparkle back in your significant other's eye, McGinley's the man for the job. He'll turn your mane into a work of art.

DAY SPA

Giuliano Spa for Beauty and Wellness

338 Newbury St., Boston; 617-262-2220;
www.giulianodayspa.com

Giuliano Day Spa has become so well-known among Bostonians who know how to pamper themselves that they had to install an automated service to handle the volume of phone calls. Everything else, however, is done with a personal touch, and what a soothing touch it is. Unique services include the Rasul Treatment, in which the client sits in a steam chamber while mineral-rich muds soak up impurities from the skin; a simulated rain storm then washes the impurities away. The soft-pack treatment, meanwhile, is one of the spa's most sough

GIRLS' NIGHT IN

Powder Hour at the Beauty Mark

92B Pinckney St., Boston; 617-720-1555

Like a pajama party in a sorority house, this Beacon Hill shop hosts an evening of beauty for successful professional women every Thursday night. Spend an hour or two with your girlfriends, learning how to enhance your gorgeousness by deftly applying makeup while sipping wine, gossiping and giggling. The expert staff will do mini makeovers or offer tips for minor improvements without giving you the hard sell. The fun-and-then-some service is free with a minimum purchase of $15, and you'll be out the door by 8 pm—in plenty of time to meet a date for dinner or drinks so you can try out your new look.

er packages—after being massaged with a choice of s or treatments, the client is wrapped first in a warm th, then in a waterproof blanket and, finally, is subrged from neck to feet in warm water that helps the n absorb the treatment. In addition to its special serces, Giuliano always offers the best in standard facial, ssage and beauty treatments. Enjoy a day in paradise thout leaving the Back Bay.

DOWN-AND-DIRTY WORKOUT

Boston Athletic Club

653 Summer St., Boston; 617-269-4300;
www.bostonathleticclub.com

ıe Boston Athletic Club has everything a fitness cen- needs without all the fluff. Workout options range m cardio to resistance training, with or without the tivating force of BAC's personal trainers or group ness classes. An intensely no-nonsense attitude per- ates the place, which makes feeling the burn as ex- arating as it is exhausting. Founded as a tennis club the 1970s, it hasn't lost sight of its humble beginıgs and still offers basketball, tennis, racquetball, ıash and handball courts. While your competitive e flourishes, there are plenty of ways to nourish the dy with a little TLC: Nutritional counseling, physical therapy, sports chiropractic services, massage and salon services round out the picture. BAC gets bonus points for being kid-friendly: It offers babysitting, junior tennis and swimming lessons, and after-school, vacation and summer programs.

ETHNIC HAIR SALON

Olive's Salon and Day Spa

1198 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill; 617-734-3944;
www.olivestextures.com

While most upscale salons concentrate on the tonsorial traits of Caucasians, this elegant salon in Chestnut Hill specializes in treating all hair textures and is known for its excellence in chemical relaxing. All the employees are well-schooled in the follicular differences between ethnic groups, and they provide flawless service to everyone who enters. Best known for styling the city's most stylish women of color (including Amy Johnson of Channel 7), Olive's deserves major kudos for making Boston a more beautiful place.

EYEBROW SHAPING

Renée Christopher for Maksou Salon and Day Spa

125 Broad St., Boston; 617-443-8633; www.maksou.com

Nothing can change your face more drastically than the shape of your brows, but having the wrong person perform the task can result in disaster. Renée Christopher at Maksou is quick and efficient without causing even the tiniest twinge of pain. She prefers just slightly shaped brows that are uniform throughout and have a delicate arch in the middle. She's more than happy to give you the brows of your choice, of course, but her advice and expertise are always worth following. Let her do that voodoo that she does so well, and Christopher will give you brows that bless your face.

FACIAL

Splash at the Sports Club/LA

4 Avery St., Boston; 617-375-8580;
www.thesportsclubla.com

Members of this world-class gym swear by the spa and its services, which are also known among the cognoscenti who don't have a membership. The level of luxury is unparalleled in the city, and a full range of beauty and relaxation treatments are administered by the best in the profession. Facials, offered in many varieties, are a major standout, and the Splash Signature Facial is a must at least once per season. After 50 minutes of cleansing, exfoliating, extractions, masking and moisturizing, your skin will glow like it's never done before, and that radiance will last for weeks. It's as effective as a sip from the fountain of youth.

GLAM WORKOUT

The Sports Club/LA

4 Avery St., Boston; 617-375-8200;
www.thesportsclubla.com

Looking for a little West Coast pampering in your workout? Look no further than the Sports Club/LA, the ultimate in luxurious fitness facilities, where the odious task of attaining physical perfection is actually made pleasant. All the latest and greatest equipment is here in a sleek, state-of-the-art gym that boasts magnificent views of the city. In 100,000 square feet of floor space you'll find it all: aerobics and pilates, cardio and resistance training, swimming, boxing, basketball, squash and more. The personal trainers are people you'd want to socialize with, and the group class offerings are as varied as those at any gym we've seen—fencing, scuba certification and yoga being only a few of the options. A full-service salon and day spa, along with one of the city's best restaurants, Blu, make it the urban equivalent of a country club. And with a clientele that includes the city's biggest movers and shakers as well as guests at the Ritz-Carlton, it's as upscale as a gym can get. In fact, it's the only gym we've ever been to where we could honestly say that we didn't want to leave.

HAIR COLORIST

Seth Selman for James Joseph Salon

30 Newbury St., Boston; 617-266-7222;
www.jamesjosephsalon.com

Whether you're looking for funky color that makes a statement or the subtlest highlights, Seth from James Joseph Salon is your man. If natural's your aim, he can give you sun-kissed tresses that'll have people thinking you just got back from St. Barts. For those with a wilder side, his ability to blend unexpected colors in surprising combos results in an artful display on your head. Rather than a punk-rock freak show, he somehow manages to make it look sexy and cool. This Falmouth native has a bubbly personality and will entertain you throughout the process. An hour or so in his chair will color your world.

WOMEN'S HAIRCUT

Charles Maksou for Maksou Salon and Day Spa

125 Broad St., Boston; 617-443-8633; www.maksou.com

Charles Maksou is the man responsible for bringing John Sahag's celebrated dry-cut method to Boston. His approach takes into account the shape of the head and the direction that the hair grows. After assessing your head, he moves your hair to see how it naturally falls. After he cuts your hair, you'll find that you can simply shampoo and condition it and let it air-dry with consistently flawless results. You can also straighten your hair for Maksou's sleek, signature look. Women who go to him once are instantly addicted to the quality of his cuts, and his vivacious charm adds to his appeal.

HAIR EXTENSIONS

Dwayne Hicks for Danny's His and Hers

189 Mass. Ave., Boston; 617-266-6022

These days, hair extensions are as commonplace as facelifts and breast implants, and it's become an everyday occurrence to see someone who has shoulder-length hair one day sporting waist-length locks the next. Unfortunately, it's difficult to find someone who can do the job well at a reasonable price, so many times hair extensions look as fake as a $10 wig. Hicks at Danny's His and Hers is already wrestling with an overbooked schedule, but we're sure he can handle a couple more. His method involves sewing each row of new hair (all natural and all human) into your own by using very thin braids, which keeps the rows from looking bulky. The result is a more natural appearance and feel, and one visit will last around two months. Proof of the old saying: "Hair today, long tomorrow."

MAKEUP ARTIST

Ingrid Cordeiro for Team, the Agency

423 West Broadway, Fourth floor, South Boston; 617-268-3600; www.teamtheagency.com

Most makeup artists are armed with brushes. Cordeiro has chosen to go another route, using an airbrush machine to apply makeup. The result is the most delicately applied, even coverage, which makes for a flawless complexion. Cordeiro is equally adept at achieving a natural, everyday look or dramatic makeup for weddings or fashion shoots. You'd never guess that looking your best could mean looking this good.

MANICURE

Donna Charloff for Beaucage

71 Newbury St., Boston; 617-437-7171; www.beaucage.com

Like Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Charloff knows the importance of flawless nails and the value of a good polish change. In fact, her laid-back demeanor and gentle ministrations can make the lousiest day seem manageable. After artfully snipping each cuticle, she'll buff and paint each nail to perfection. She's also an expert at choosing the right color to go with any outfit. Tailoring her services to suit the personality and style of each client, she's built a fan base that extends well beyond Boston. If she ever left, we're not sure the suicide hotline could handle all the calls.

MASSAGE

The staff at Etant

524 Tremont St., Boston; 617-423-5040; www.etant.com

Short of developing an addiction to prescription drugs, there's no more reliable way to remain stress-free than with a regular visit to this South End House of Soothing. There's no need to schedule an appointment with a specific therapist because every member of the staff is outstanding, whether you need knots worked out with a deep-tissue sports massage or merely a relaxing rubdown (the Swedish massage). The surroundings are pleasant and the services superb, with a minimum of the New Age mumbo jumbo that makes so many other massage places unbearable. In short, they've got just the right touch.

MEN'S HAIRCUT

Jessica Puglia for Mitchell John Salon

67 Broad St., Boston; 617-951-0122

Whether you want a whole new you or a cut that's completely low-maintenance, you can't go wrong with Jessica Puglia. This skilled professional invests the necessary time to ensure an impeccable cut and never lets her clients walk out the door with a style they can't maintain at home. Because most men prefer a natural look, she doesn't use a lot of sticky products unless requested. Guys with unruly hair, meanwhile, will be styled into submission. And men need not worry about encountering a flighty hair salon attitude. She's as down-to-earth and welcoming as they come.

MIRACLE WORKER

Dean Boudreau for Beaucage

71 Newbury St., Boston; 617-437-7171; www.beaucage.com

When bad color happens to good people, Boudreau is the only person in the city who can fix the damage. No matter the disaster, he's got the solution, from toning down badly done dye jobs, to neutralizing chlorine green, to repairing mishaps from supermarket coloring kits. He'll accommodate clients at a moment's notice—if he's booked, he can assess the damage, choose a color and let another stylist take over. Expertly jumping between clients, doing patch tests and identifying how to fix the problem, he's a one-man mission of mercy and best friend to those suffering from hair anxiety.

PEDICURE

My Nail Salon

669 Tremont St., Boston; 617-424-6261

When your paws need prettifying, this gem hidden away in the South End is aces. Guess where all those high-priced manicurists on Newbury Street go to get their nails done? At the hands of the courteous and efficient staff here, you'll leave looking like you spent a lot more than you did on your digits. One of the city's best-kept beauty secrets, it deserves props for being speedy without making your pedicure look like a rush job.

SALON INTERIOR

James Joseph Salon

30 Newbury St., Second floor, Boston; 617-266-7222; www.jamesjosephsalon.com

Having your hair done is as much about the experience as the end result, and both are flawless at this gorgeous salon on the first block of Newbury Street. Owner William George worked with white-hot design firm Office dA to create an interior that's minimalist without being stark, luxurious without being ostentatious, and contemporary without being sci-fi. The space has high ceilings, and dark wood is accented with panels of sheer fabric. The stations are sumptuously comfortable and highly functional, and the sink area is equipped with designer massage chairs. There's even an impressive deck out back, where the most stylish outdoor furniture we've ever seen offers clients a pleasant space to lounge around and enjoy some fresh air while waiting for an appointment or processing. If there are hair salons in heaven, they probably look something like this.

TANNING SALON

Tanning Etc.

485 Comm. Ave., Boston; 617-267-7744

There are any number of ways to achieve the sun-kissed bronze of a deep, dark tan, and this place offers all of them. For those who crave a direct dose of UV, UVA and UVB rays, there are tanning beds, which are clean and well-maintained. It also has a high-intensity tanning system called Ultra Sun Turbo that offers a savage tan in 2 minutes. For those who are wary of radiation in any form it offers the Mystic Tan: a booth that sprays you from head to toe with a fine mist of self-tanner that gives you a healthy glow, safely, in just 60 seconds. In the time it takes to read this, you can look like you just got back from a week at the beach.

WELCOME ADDITION

G Spa

35 Newbury St., Boston; 617-267-4772

G Spa is a welcome offshoot of the wildly successful suburban businesses (Grettacole salons in Wellesley, Chestnut Hill and Copley, and GrettaLuxe clothing boutique in Wellesley) founded by fashion and beauty guru Gretchen Monahan. Exactly what Boston has been missing, G Spa offers quickie services in a convenient location. Facials, manicures, pedicures, hair services, massage and body treatments are all available on short notice. Facials are performed in the deluxe spa upstairs, or at the beauty bar, where clients sip while sipping specialty drinks. A lightning-fast manicure or pedicure can be done in as little as 20 minutes, although if you have the time, you can get the works. The decor is sumptuous yet simple, warm and welcoming, with stylish little touches like stainless-steel pedicure basins. Whether you're a harried, high-powered exec or a leisurely lady who lunches, it's an oasis of world-class pampering in the heart of the Back Bay. ⊶

Double Take

Two brothers taking style to the next level

"A hair style can be a fabulous, fun expression of your beauty" — Richard Fontana.

Richard Fontana and Scott Fontana bring their West Coast and New York hair sensibilities to Boston with a fresh, personal approach to hair fashion. The brothers are committed to providing the utmost in personal attention and pampering to both men and women.

At Salon Fontana all clients experience a one-on-one consultation with either Richard or Scott to determine a cut, color and style that best compliments their hair type, facial features, skin tone, lifestyle and personality.

"A perfect hair cut is one that suits you as an individual and expresses your personality" — Scott Fontana.

Unique to Salon Fontana is the range of training and experience the two brothers offer. Richard and Scott each own and manage a salon in Las Vegas, Nevada and Newport Beach, California respectively. "Splitting time between our salons gives us the chance to share new styles and techniques from across the country with clients. Hair is a fashion necessity, a look you wear everyday." says Scott.

Salon fontana

Salon Fontana, Sports Club/LA 617.375.8510
Salon Fontana, Ritz Carlton, Lake Las Vegas 702.562.4660
www.salonfontana.com

fashion

BARGAIN HUNTING

Filene's Basement

426 Washington St., Boston; 617-542-2011;
www.filenesbasement.com

It's funny to think that in far-flung places like Uttar Pradesh and the Trobriand Islands, people are talking about the deals they found at Filene's Basement, but it's probably true. Everyone who visits Boston and discovers the granddaddy of discount stores tells their friends back home, and "the Basement," as it's affectionately known, is consequently world famous. Unlike its chain locations, the original store still has piles of clothing unceremoniously heaped in bins or hung on racks, as well as that ineffable I'll-fight-you-to-the-death-for-that-sweater atmosphere. Famous designer labels are a major draw, as are legendary sales like the annual bridal gown event, where otherwise civilized women are known to change in the aisles and come to blows over a dress. You never know what you'll find at the Basement. One day it could be a pair of Keds and the next a Valentino ball gown.

BOUTIQUE MEGASTORE

Jasmine Sola

344 Newbury St., Boston; 617-867-4636;
37 A Brattle St., Cambridge; 617-354-6043;
199 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill; 617-332-8415;
www.jasminesola.com

Jasmine Sola was started decades ago by Luciano Manganella, and when he expanded to Newbury Street some years back, the shop became a bona fide boutique-*cum*-department store. Among the fashions you'll find on the racks: names like BCBG, Juicy Couture and Manganella's own design line, Jasmine. The shoe selection is epic, and the clothing includes the latest in hipster attire, including low-slung jeans, cute little tops and flirty dresses. Cutting-edge accessories and campy gifts round out the picture. Not surprisingly, Jasmine Sola is doing so well that it has recently opened stores in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

CLUB WEAR

Industria Boutique

222 Newbury St., Boston; 617-859-3635

For anyone who's ever suffered the severe mortification of walking into a party or a club wearing the same outfit as somebody else, this boutique is a godsend. Funky and casual, it carries clothing for both sexes and caters to a range of tastes and budgets. The selection of trendy play clothes will flatter most body types (the svelte will do better here, due to what they call a more fitted "European" cut), including jeans, shirts, halter tops, dresses, slacks and so on, all by designers like Couture and Planet. The prices make it less painful to pay for something you know you'll wear only a few times before it goes out of style, and best of all, the chances of anyone you know owning the same item are close to nil. Rather than dressing like a Gucci clone, you're better off scouring the racks at this offbeat shop. Lest it get overrun by tragically hip fashion victims, let's keep it our little secret, shall we?

COSTUME JEWELRY

High Gear

139 Richmond St., Boston; 617-523-5804

You may not have noticed a small costume jewelry shop tucked away on a side street in the North End. But for anyone who's wandered in, it has undoubtedly become a secret treasure trove. High Gear carries cutting-edge, high-fashion jewelry inspired by top designers at remarkably reasonable prices—everything from sterling silver to rhinestone pieces in a variety of sizes and styles. The shop is like an explosion of dazzling colors and shapes, and you might not come out from under its spell until your vision begins to blur and you walk out the door weighed down by a bag full of goodies.

FASHION SECRET

Lord & Taylor

760 Boylston St., Boston; 617-262-6000;
and various other locations in Massachusetts;
www.lordandtaylor.com

One of Fifth Avenue's most venerable retailers, Lord & Taylor has long been a fixture among upper-crust Bostonians, who rely on its no-nonsense approach to fashion to fit their no-nonsense lifestyles. Whether you need a gown for a formal gala or a flannel nightgown for a cold winter evening in front of the TV, Lord & Taylor has an array of affordably priced styles mixed in with its merchandise. The men's shop is a bastion of conservatism but has all the basics, and although the store's image can seem a bit stodgy, there are treasures to be found. The sales, especially, are fantastic. At the end of each season, you can find gorgeous designer duds marked down as much as 70 percent. And because the store caters to a more staid clientele, what's left is often some of the most interesting stuff. Proof that sometimes the best things come in unexpected packages.

FINE JEWELRY

Tiffany & Co.

100 Huntington Ave., Copley Place, Boston; 617-353-0222;
300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill; 617-527-1881; www.tiffany.com

Nothing raises expectations quite like that little blue box, and perhaps no store is more synonymous with impeccable taste and refined elegance. Since the original store opened in New York City 166 years ago, Tiffany & Co. has outfitted the discerning elite with baubles and trinkets of unequaled quality and craftsmanship. With its respect for tradition combined with an uncanny ability to stay contemporary—for example, identifying the genius of such designers as Elsa Peretti and Paloma Picasso—it's not surprising that it has maintained its image of grace and glamour. Our only criticism is that the Boston locations don't serve breakfast.

HANDBAGS

Longchamp

139A Newbury St., Boston; 617-425-0740;
www.longchamp.com

The expression "like buttah" could have been coined to describe the exquisite handbags produced by this legendary French maker, which took its name from the famous racetrack near Paris. Using the finest leathers in the world, dyed in a magnificent array of colors and styled for both comfort and looks, Longchamp produces a line of truly flawless handbags, the most popular model being the Pliage. A nylon and leather sack that comes folded up in a small rectangle, it can be thrown into a purse or suitcase for travel. When it's unfolded, voilà! A gorgeous, full-size bag that you can use to tote home all your new purchases, which (if you're smart) will include something new from Longchamp.

INTIMATE APPAREL

La Perla

250 Boylston St., Boston; 617-423-5709; www.laperla.com

The Italians know that life holds no greater pleasure than the feeling of fine lingerie against the skin, or the look of a sexy little something on the woman you love. The undergarments at La Perla are a case in point. Paying a small fortune for an article of clothing no one but you and your S.O.

MEN'S SUITS

Aquascutum of London

450 Boylston St., Boston; 617-262-0066

We've all noticed the large blue awning on Boylston Street bearing the name Aquascutum. It looks somewhat intimidating and, let's face it, stuffy. Most men wouldn't dare to peek inside, for fear of finding a more uptight version of the store where their grandfather shopped. But for the adventurous few, a fashion jackpot is the reward for bravery. Inside, you'll find the most gorgeously constructed classically tailored British suits. Short of Saville Row, it doesn't get any better. Prices range from $695 to $1,195, but once the soft, tightly woven fabric touches your skin, you'll be more willing to give up your first born than your new threads. That dark awning is just a frame for a veritable gold mine of merchandise designed to make you look like James Bond.

will see (and briefly, at that) might seem slightly self-indulgent. So what makes these pieces worth every single penny? The quality and design. Using the finest Parisian lace, La Perla crafts its delicate little nothings in Italy, but the inspiration clearly comes from heaven. Here, you'll find a merry widow that will make you look like a devilish angel and feel like a queen, a corset that would induce heart palpitations in most heterosexual men, or a peignoir that'll have your husband panting. We're not sure, but La Perla might be Italian for "sometimes the wrapping makes the gift even better."

MEN'S DRESS SHIRTS

Thomas Pink

280 Washington St., Boston; 617-426-7859;
Copley Place., Boston; 617-267-0447; www.thomaspink.com

Known simply as "Pink" to partisans, this English shirtmaker is noted for its bold use of color and patterns. One of the few ways a man wearing a suit can make a fashion statement is with his choice of a shirt, and Pink's fairly scream, "I might have to look all corporate, but underneath, I'm a wild guy with a vivid imagination." They also say, "I'm successful," since there's nothing cheap about them. In fact, in London, a Pink shirt is de rigueur among investment bankers and other financial types. The styling, from French cuffs to spread collars, is classic and comfortable, the materials and workmanship superb, and the selection rivals F. Scott Fitzgerald's description of Gatsby's closet.

MEN'S HIGH-END CLOTHING

Paul Smith at Neiman-Marcus

5 Copley Place, Boston; 617-536-3660

Whimsical yet dignified is probably the best way to describe the clothing of English designer Paul Smith, who's built a quiet cult following among male fashion addicts. The appeal lies in the details: A jacket lining so beautiful you'd be tempted to wear it inside out. A subtle, beautifully made pinstriped suit that allows a glimpse of vibrant color when the wind blows. Shirt buttons in interesting, offbeat shapes. Smith is also the guy who thought of using things like old typewriter keys as cufflinks. Boston's best-dressed men are waiting with bated breath for him to open a free-standing boutique, but until then, the source is either New York or Neiman-Marcus.

TIES

Hermes of Paris

320 Boylston St., Boston; 617-482-8707; www.hermes.com

It's almost a cliche. Wearing a Hermes tie, like playing polo or graduating from a Swiss boarding school, immediately marks a man as belonging to the upper crust. This French luxury-goods store, which started out making tack and saddles for Europe's elite, has long been known for its playful neckties in cheerful but sophisticated colors and patterns. Yellow elephants against a pink background. Interconnected gold loops on a field of royal blue. They're all made in limited editions, which lessens the likelihood of someone else at the country club having the exact same tie. Best of all, unlike many other status symbols they'll never go out of style.

MEN'S MODERATE CLOTHING

DKNY

37 Newbury St., Boston; 617-236-0476; www.dkny.com

Simple, stylish men's clothing that isn't boring is hard to come by, but that's what you'll find on the third floor of the DKNY boutique. Although the store is better known for its women's line, the men's collection is equally strong. The pieces avoid passing trends and are easy to work into your existing wardrobe, while the prices are comparatively low. For guys who shy away from designer labels because they're not low-key enough, DKNY offers the solution, with classic, clean lines and a crisp silhouette. Most of the clothing is casual enough for a weekend day, but the shop also carries a respectable selection of pants and shirts that are appropriate for the office or a night out. Best of all, you won't look like you tried too hard.

MEN'S SHOES

Louis Boston

234 Berkeley St., Boston; 617-262-6100;
www.louisboston.com

Here's a secret: many men are just as bad as women are when it comes to being shoe whores. Instead of Jimmy Choo's and Manolo's, it's Silvano Lattanzi or Sutor Mantellassi, and Louis is where the well-shod man goes to shoe shop. In keeping with the store's status as a temple to fashion, it has shoes to fit every occasion and coordinate with any outfit, from black-tie to a weekend trip to the Cape. Obscure and hard-to-find designers, like Miu-Miu and Costume National, are the *spécialité de la maison*, but Louis has Prada and Todd's, too. They say you can't judge a man until you've walked a mile in his moccasins, but if his moccasins are from Louis, you at least know he has good taste.

OUTLET SHOPPING

Wrentham Village Premium Outlets

1 Premium Outlets Blvd., Wrentham; 508-384-0600;
www.premiumoutlets.com

Just 30 minutes south of the city (if you drive like a true Bostonian) lies a mini-city of outlet shops that, upon initial inspection, can be somewhat daunting. The choices are overwhelming, with an outdoor promenade that houses such mid- to high-end retailers as BCBG, Versace and Williams-Sonoma. This is where the merchandise that doesn't sell at the regular stores goes to be marked down, often obscenely. But unlike the Island of Misfit Toys in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, most merchandise here is first-quality and undamaged. You can find just about everything you need, from home goods to candy to accessories to clothing, as well as things you don't really need but might as well buy because they're such a bargain. For shopaholics, it's slightly less dangerous than the neighborhood mall, and for the label-conscious but financially challenged, it's a godsend.

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marblehead. portland. nantucket. mashpee. edgartown. 888.695.4559. inthepinkonline.com

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TRENDY AFFORDABLE

H&M

350 Washington St., Boston; 617-482-7001; www.hm.com

The problem with fashion trends is that they're over quickly, and you're left holding the outdated goods with an outstanding balance on your credit card. Thankfully, this Swedish clothing store has started a fashion revolution, offering up-to-the-minute styles at prices that won't make you wince. It carries men's, women's and children's clothing, so you can have the whole family looking au courant without breaking the bank. The Downtown Crossing location has become ground zero for the chic but thrifty. Combined with a trip to Filene's Basement, it's cut-rate couture that can't be beat.

PLUS-SIZE CLOTHING

Marina Rinaldi

296 Boylston St., Boston; 617-423-1221

Most fashion designers have decided that big-boned gals don't want to look sexy. In their opinion, any woman larger than a size 14 might as well just wear a muumuu. However, Marina Rinaldi is one of the few retailers that realizes many plus-sized women are comfortable with their bodies and don't mind showing them off in a tasteful but flirtatious way. The clothing bears a striking resemblance to Max Mara, Marina Rinaldi's parent company—the finest fabrics sewn into fetching items like a slip dress with geometric finishing or a low-cut shirt to accent a 1940s-style suit. Sizes range from 10 to 22, and you won't find any references to "big and tall" anywhere in the store.

THRIFT STORE

The Garment District

200 Broadway, Cambridge; 617-876-5230;
www.thegarmentdistrict.com

Located at the funkier end of Cambridge, near Kendall Square, this legendary thrift store has become a way of life for some. Devotees spend hours every week searching for that perfect vintage treasure. Because the stock is constantly refreshed, you never know what you'll find in this cavernous emporium. The Dollar-A-Pound room is our favorite, if only for its sheer gimmickry. The staff piles clothing and accessories into gigantic mounds that customers sift through. Once you've pillaged to the point of exhaustion, you throw your finds on a scale to determine how much you owe. Now you know where the computer geek in your office finds all those funky shirts.

WATCHES

Alpha Omega

1380 Mass. Ave., Cambridge; 617-864-1227;
www.alphaomegajewelers.com

Wristwatches are a mere afterthought at most jewelers. At Alpha Omega, they're the main event. Founded in 1978, the store is renowned for its extensive collection in a wide range of prices to suit any wallet. From Fossil and Gucci to Piaget and Rolex, there's a style to suit everyone. The original Alpha Omega store opened in Harvard Square in 1978. Since then, it has expanded to eight locations throughout the Boston area. The flagship store in Cambridge boasts over 6,000 square feet of watches and jewelry. A store dedicated to the proposition that everyone should enjoy answering the question "What time is it?"

WELCOME ADDITION

Christina Delfalco

383 Hanover St., Boston; 617-523-8870;
www.christinadelfalco.com

A rarity in Boston: a designer-owned and -operated boutique. The playful, colorful clothing designed by Delfalco includes cute little skirts, dresses, T-shirts, jewelry and handbags, all with a charmingly quirky, individualistic feel that offers a welcome respite from mass-market, mass-produced clothing. (The shop also carries a few jewelry items from other designers.) If you're sick of looking like a paper doll dressed in the same thing that everyone else is wearing, it's well worth a visit.

WOMEN'S HIGH-END CLOTHING

Giorgio Armani Boutique

22 Newbury St., Boston; 617-267-3200;
www.giorgioarmani.com

With a reputation for appealing mainly to an older clientele, Armani has come out with younger, hipper styles in its recent collections. The clean lines and exquisite fabrics have that flawlessly modern appeal, and a unique touch or two catapults each design into the realm of the truly special. Though the clothes are admittedly pricey (apparently, no one in Milan bats an eyelash at spending a week's salary for a little black dress), each piece is a classic you'll wear for years to come. Truly chic and truly timeless rarely go together, but at Armani, they're of a piece.

WOMEN'S MODERATE CLOTHING

DKNY

37 Newbury St., Boston; 617-236-0476; www.dkny.com

Each season, Donna Karan comes out with a collection that contains clothing any woman could wear, and by "any woman" we don't mean Heidi Klum or Giselle Bundchen. Every three months, the DKNY boutique offers a collection of elegant but wearable styles that stay abreast of the latest trends without going overboard. Perfectly priced for a young professional, it still has that designer cachet, and because the shop stocks only four or five of each piece, you know that you're safe from seeing your purchase on women all over the city. However, it also means that if you see something in *Bazaar* that you absolutely have to own, you'd better jump on it pronto because it won't be around for long.

WOMEN'S SHOES

Stuart Weitzman

Copley Place, Boston; 617-266-8699;
www.stuartweitzman.com

This boutique's window displays, redecorated each month with shoes made by a different artist, reflect the designer's belief that shoes are a work of art. While the shoes in the window aren't for sale (they're made of materials like papier mâché or glass or decorated with playing cards or other creative objects), the ones you'll find inside are equally inventive, glamorous and sexy, as well as both practical and affordable. The shop has everything from flats to stilettos, but its signature style is truly unique: beaded and rhinestone-studded heels that are dazzling but not overdone. Everyone who walks into the store is instantly mesmerized by the glitter of these hard-to-find gems. Once the awe has worn off, you'll find that all of Stuart Weitzman's designs make you look like you've spent your entire life shoe shopping and your entire net worth paying for them. ⊷

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bridal

PLACE TO GET ENGAGED

Dali

415 Washington St., Somerville; 617-661-3254;
www.dalirestaurant.com

Mario Leon and Tamara Bourso opened the Spanish restaurant Dali 4 years ago. After eight years, Leon and Bourso were on their way to the altar. Perhaps that's another reason, in addition to the romantic setting, that people tend to pop the question at Dali. One of Boston's most popular restaurants for its delicious Spanish food, Dali is aglow with candles that illuminate a richly colored decor. The waitstaff is so used to people proposing there that they've become masters at co-conspiring to help things run smoothly. Once the question has been popped, waiters serenade the happy couple with a song, shower them with bubbles and place a veil on the head of the bride-to-be. With that kind of personal attention and a little of the addictive sangria, you can easily see why it's hard to say no to anything while dining in this incredible space.

BRIDESMAID GOWNS

Jessica McClintock

201 Newbury St., Boston;
617-247-6667;
www.jessicamcclintock.com

Many women know all too well the mortification of being encased in a hideous gown in a color no one would wear, and having their humiliation witnessed by family and friends and immortalized in photos. That nightmare ends at the Jessica McClintock boutique on Newbury Street. With dozens of different styles of dresses (including plus-size options and a line by Scott McClintock), the options go way beyond seafoam-green polyester hoopskirts. From the classic, strapless A-line gown to the more form-fitting sheath, from tulle to satin, there's a size and style to flatter every figure. A BU alum, McClintock is no stranger to Boston, and her Newbury boutique has become an institution. After all, if you're always a bridesmaid, never a bride, you might as well look good in the damn thing.

WEDDING CAKES

The Icing on the Cake

230 Adams St., Newton, 617-969-1830;
www.theicingonthecake.com

For 17 years, the Icing on the Cake has provided exactl that for all types of weddings. Its trademark is handmad icing flowers "as lifelike as the ones you carry down th aisle." Clients receive the highly personalized service of one-on-one consultation with the designer, and becaus the shop specializes in cakes, it does them to perfection (It once made a 10-tiered masterpiece that required a lad der to assemble.) The 14 flavors (plus up to four seasona varieties) include Orange Grand Marnier and Decaden Chocolate Chocolate Mousse. The cakes are so beautiful you'll almost feel guilty eating them. iB

BRIDAL FLORIST

569 Boylston St., Boston; 617-541-1100;
www.winstonflowers.com

On the most important day of your life, the flower should be equal to the occasion, and no one does spec tacular bouquets like Boston's premier florist. The se lection of blossoms beggars description; whether yo want a symphony of roses, lilacs and freesia or a spra of multicolored orchids. Because Winston has been i business 57 years, it has strong relationships with it best suppliers, and its staff of designers can create th ideal arrangement for a fairytale wedding. Multiple lo cations make working with Winston convenient as well

BRIDAL HAIRSTYLIST

Javier Berdecia for Daryl Christopher Salon & Day Spa

37 Newbury St., Boston; 617-247-9718; www.dchristopher.com

Javier Berdecia has been doing hair for more than 15 years, and on weekends he concentrates on bridal 'dos. His style ranges from the simple to the elaborate, but he always keeps the look clean. One of his biggest strengths is ensuring that not a single hair is out of place, while avoiding that plastered, helmet-head look. A bride who has the good fortune to secure one of his coveted weekend slots invariably looks (and feels) like the princess she's supposed to be. Berdecia's personal aesthetic leans toward the classical and romantic, and he performs his magic with such ease and dispatch that brides don't have to worry about time constraints and won't feel like they spent more time getting their hair done than planning the wedding.

GOWN SALON

The Altered Bride

376 Boylston St., Boston; 617-859-8289; www.alteredbride.com

Roseanna Martino, owner of the Altered Bride, cares about her clients so much that she ends up attending more weddings than a clergyman and often stays in touch with her brides well into their married lives. Her personal attention and her handpicked assortment of gorgeous gowns (most are her own designs) are two of the reasons her store is always humming. Her staff is trained to treat brides like they've never been treated before, and they can be there on the big day to make sure everything is perfect. An on-staff seamstress makes for one-stop shopping, and the Altered Bride is particularly adept at turning heirloom dresses into modern masterpieces. Martino's frankness ensures that you won't end up with a dress that's unflattering, but she's so sweet and capable that she's like the fairy godmother every bride deserves.

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PLACE TO FIND SUMMER LOVIN' Tia's at Long Wharf *200 Atlantic Ave., Boston.* **50**
PLACE TO MEET AN ATHLETE OR A STOCKBROKER The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston* **49**
PLACE TO SEE AND BE SEEN Saint *90 Exeter St., Boston.* **49**
PLACE TO TAKE FRIENDS FROM NEW YORK 33 Restaurant & Lounge *33 Stanhope St., Back Bay* **50**
PLACE WHERE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN The Enormous Room *567 Mass. Ave., Cambridge* **50**
PLACE WHERE THE VALETS ARE BORED WITH BENTLEYS Mistral *223 Columbus Ave., Boston* . . **48**
PRE-FENWAY BAR The Baseball Tavern *1306 Boylston St., Boston* **50**
POST-FENWAY BAR Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., Boston* **50**
PRE-FLEETCENTER BAR Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston.* **50**
POST-FLEETCENTER BAR The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston* **50**
POST-THEATER DRINKS Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston.* **52**
ROCK CLUB Middle East *472-480 Mass Ave., Cambridge* **52**
ROMANTIC BAR Top of the Hub *800 Boylston St., Boston.* **52**
SPORTS BAR The Place *2 Broad St., Boston* . . . **52**
THEME NIGHTS ZuZu *474 Mass Ave., Cambridge* **52**
WILD NIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE CITY The Palace *1500 Broadway, Saugus* **52**

NEIGHBORHOOD HANGOUTS

ALLSTON Common Ground Bar & Grill *85 Harvard Ave., Allston* **53**
BACK BAY Clerys *113 Dartmouth St., Boston* . . **53**
BEACON HILL Harvard Gardens *316 Cambridge St., Boston* **53**
BRIGHTON SoHo *386 Market St., Brighton* **53**
BROOKLINE Washington Square Tavern *714 Washington St., Brookline* **53**
CAMBRIDGE: CENTRAL SQUARE The Cantab Lounge *738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge* **53**
CAMBRIDGE: HARVARD SQUARE Grafton Street *1230 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.* **53**
CAMBRIDGE: INMAN SQUARE The Druid *1357 Cambridge St., Cambridge.* **53**
CAMBRIDGE: KENDALL SQUARE Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Ave., Cambridge* **53**
CAMBRIDGE: PORTER SQUARE Toad *1920 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.* **53**
CHARLESTOWN Warren Tavern *2 Pleasant St., Charlestown* **53**
DORCHESTER 224 *224 Boston St., Dorchester* . **53**
DOWNTOWN CROSSING The Littlest Bar *47 Province St., Boston* **53**
JAMAICA PLAIN Doyle's Café *3484 Washington St., Jamaica Plain* **54**
NEWTON Union Street Restaurant & The Attic Bar *107 R Union St., Newton Center.* **54**
NORTH END Lucca *226 Hanover St., Boston* **54**
SOMERVILLE: DAVIS SQUARE The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville* **54**
SOMERVILLE: UNION SQUARE Tir na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville* **54**
SOUTH BOSTON The Boston Beer Garden *732 East Broadway, South Boston* **54**
SOUTH END Delux *100 Chandler St., Boston.* . . **53**

DAYS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY Bump Sundays at Phoenix Landing *512 Mass Ave., Cambridge* **54**
MONDAY Celebrity DJ Invitational at the B-Side Lounge *92 Hampshire St., East Cambridge* **54**
TUESDAY Orange at the Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Allston* **54**
WEDNESDAY Warren Tavern *2 Pleasant St., Charlestown.* **54**
THURSDAY The Boston Sail Loft *80 Atlantic Ave., Boston* **54**
FRIDAY Parris Lounge *250 Quincy Market Building, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston* **54**
SATURDAY Felt *533 Washington St., Boston* **54**

BEAUTY & health

BEAUTY BOUTIQUE Beauty and Main *30 Brattle St., Cambridge; 66 South St., Hingham* **82**
BEAUTY SALON, OVERALL Salon Mario Russo *9 Newbury St., Boston; 234 Berkeley St., Boston.* **82**
BIKINI WAX Austen for Austen's *115 Newbury St., Boston* **82**
BIO IONIC HAIR STRAIGHTENING Lord's and Lady's *450 Belgrade Ave., West Roxbury* **82**
COSMETIC DENTIST Dr. Steven D. Spitz at Smile-boston *665 Beacon St., Boston* **82**
COSMETICS DEPARTMENT Filene's *426 Washington St., Boston* **82**
CREATIVE STYLING Patrick McGinley, Vidal Sassoon *14 Newbury St., Boston* **82**
DAY SPA Giuliano Spa for Beauty and Wellness *338 Newbury St., Boston* **82**
DOWN-AND-DIRTY WORKOUT Boston Athletic Club *653 Summer St., Boston.* **83**
ETHNIC HAIR SALON Olive's Salon and Day Spa *1198 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill* **83**
EYEBROW SHAPING Renée Christopher for Maksou Salon and Day Spa *125 Broad St., Boston.* **83**
FACIAL Splash at the Sports Club/LA *4 Avery St., Boston.* **83**
GIRLS' NIGHT IN Powder Hour at the Beauty Mark *92B Pinckney St., Boston.* **83**
GLAM WORKOUT The Sports Club/LA *4 Avery St., Boston* **83**
HAIR COLORIST Seth Selman for James Joseph Salon *30 Newbury St., Boston.* **83**
HAIR EXTENSIONS Dwayne Hicks for Danny's His and Hers *189 Mass. Ave., Boston* **84**
MAKEUP ARTIST Ingrid Cordeiro for Team. the Agency *423 West Broadway, Fourth floor, South Boston.* **84**
MANICURE Donna Charloff for Beaucage *71 Newbury St., Boston* **84**
MASSAGE The Staff at Etant *524 Tremont St., Boston.* **84**
MEN'S HAIRCUT Jessica Puglia for Mitchell John Salon *67 Broad St., Boston.* **84**
MIRACLE WORKER Dean Boudreau for Beaucage *71 Newbury St., Boston* **84**
PEDICURE My Nail Salon *669 Tremont St., Boston* **84**
SALON INTERIOR James Joseph Salon *30 Newbury St., Second Floor, Boston* **84**
TANNING SALON Tanning Etc. *485 Comm. Ave., Boston.* **84**
WELCOME ADDITION G Spa *35 Newbury St., Boston.* **84**
WOMEN'S HAIRCUT Charles Maksou for Maksou Salon and Day Spa *125 Broad St., Boston.* **84**

bridal

BRIDAL FLORIST Winston Flowers *569 Bolyston St., Boston* **92**
BRIDAL HAIRSTYLIST Javier Berdecia for Daryl Christopher Salon & Day Spa *37 Newbury St., Boston.* **92**
BRIDESMAID GOWNS Jessica McClintock *201 Newbury St., Boston* **92**
GOWN SALON The Altered Bride *376 Boylston St., Boston* **92**
PLACE TO GET ENGAGED Dalí *415 Washington St., Somerville* **92**
WEDDING CAKES The Icing on the Cake *230 Adams St., Newton* **92**

BUSINESS & technology

BIGGEST CRASH, NON-TECH Hill & Barlow . . . **73**
BIGGEST CRASH, TECH StorageNetworks Inc. . . **73**
BIGGEST EXECUTIVE WINDFALL John Hancock Financial Services Inc. **73**
BIGGEST SALE (LITERALLY) John Hancock Financial Services Inc. **73**
CONTROVERSIAL NEW BUSINESS Personal Physicians Health Care **74**
HOLDOUT *The Atlantic Monthly.* **74**
MOST-ANTICIPATED FRANCHISE EXPANSION Krispy Kreme Doughnuts **74**
MOST PUBLIC INTERNAL DISPUTE Unicco Service Co. **74**
SIGN OF HARD TIMES Fidelity Investments . . . **74**
WELCOME HOME Houghton Mifflin Co. **73**
WORST LITTLE-GUY SCREWING Stop & Shop Supermarket Co. **74**

fashion

BARGAIN HUNTING Filene's Basement *426 Washington St., Boston* **84**
BOUTIQUE MEGASTORE Jasmine Sola *344 Newbury St., Boston; 37 A Brattle St., Cambridge; 199 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill* **84**

THE LEARY FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CELEBRITY HAT TRICK

BOBBY ORR

MR. HOCKEY®, GORDIE HOWE®

PHIL ESPOSITO

GUY LAFLEUR

RAY BOURQUE

JEAN BELIVEAU

PAT LAFONTAINE

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MARCEL DIONNE

PIE MCKENZIE

BRYAN TROTTIER

DEREK SANDERSON

AND MANY MORE...

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003

Denis Leary is proud to present the 4th Annual Celebrity Hat Trick to benefit The Leary Firefighters Foundation. This year's event, "Hockey's Greatest skate for America's Bravest," will feature a competitive hockey game pitting 25 of hockey's all-time greatest against each other with celebrity players competing on each team.

Joining Leary on the ice will be Kiefer Sutherland, Michael J. Fox, Tim Robbins and others facing off with Hockey's Greatest.

The mission of The Leary Firefighters Foundation is to provide funding for fire departments to obtain the highest level of equipment, technology and training.

Sunday, September 28, 2003, 3:00PM
FleetCenter, Boston, MA
Tickets: $25 & $50 CALL TICKETMASTER: 617-931-2000
www.fleetcenter.com www.learyfirefighters.org

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BOSTON'S best '03

CLUB WEAR Industria Boutique *222 Newbury St., Boston* . . . 86
COSTUME JEWELRY High Gear *139 Richmond St., Boston* . . . 86
FASHION SECRET Lord & Taylor *760 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 86
FINE JEWELRY Tiffany & Co. *100 Huntington Ave., Copley Place, Boston; 300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill* . . . 86
HANDBAGS Longchamp *139A Newbury St., Boston* . . . 86
INTIMATE APPAREL La Perla *250 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 86
MEN'S DRESS SHIRTS Thomas Pink *280 Washington St., Boston; 100 Huntington Ave., Copley Place, Boston* . . . 88
MEN'S HIGH-END CLOTHING Paul Smith at Neiman Marcus *5 Copley Place, Boston* . . . 88
MEN'S MODERATE CLOTHING DKNY *37 Newbury St., Boston* . . . 88
MEN'S SHOES Louis Boston *234 Berkeley St., Boston* . . . 88
MEN'S SUITS Aquascutum of London *450 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 86
OUTLET SHOPPING Wrentham Village Premium Outlets *1 Premium Outlets Blvd., Wrentham* . . . 88
PLUS-SIZE CLOTHING Marina Rinaldi *296 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 90
THRIFT STORE The Garment District *200 Broadway, Cambridge* . . . 90
TIES Hermès of Paris *320 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 88
TRENDY AFFORDABLE H&M *350 Washington St., Boston* . . . 90
WATCHES Alpha Omega *1380 Mass. Ave., Cambridge* . . . 90
WELCOME ADDITION Christina Delfalco *383 Hanover St., Boston* . . . 90
WOMEN'S HIGH-END CLOTHING Giorgio Armani Boutique *22 Newbury St., Boston* . . . 90
WOMEN'S MODERATE CLOTHING DKNY *37 Newbury St., Boston* . . . 90
WOMEN'S SHOES Stuart Weitzman *100 Huntington Ave., Copley Place, Boston* . . . 90

FOOD & drink

BAGELS Kupel's Bakery *421 Harvard St., Brookline* . . . 28
BAKERY, BREADS Iggy's Bread of the World *205 Arlington St., Watertown; 5 Pleasant St., Marblehead* . . . 28
BAKERY, SWEETS Rosie's Bakery *243 Hampshire St., Cambridge; 9 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill; 2 South Station, Boston; 32 Waltham St., Lexington* . . . 38
BAR FOOD Audubon Circle Restaurant & Bar *838 Beacon St., Boston* . . . 28
BARBECUE Blue Ribbon BBQ *1375 Washington St., Newton; 908 Mass. Ave., Arlington* . . . 28
BEER SELECTION Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston* . . . 40
BEST-KEPT SECRET Carmen Quagliata at the Vault *105 Water St., Liberty Square, Boston* . . . 28
BRUNCH Henrietta's Table *1 Bennett St., Cambridge* . . . 28
BURGER R. F. O'Sullivan's *282 Beacon St., Somerville* . . . 28
BURRITOS Anna's Taqueria *1412 Beacon St., Brookline; 446 Harvard St., Brookline; 822 Somerville Ave., Cambridge; 236A Elm St., Somerville* . . . 28
CAPPUCCINO Caffe Vittoria *294 Hanover St., Boston* . . . 30
CASUAL DINING Rustic Kitchen *200 Quincy Market, Boston* . . . 30
CHEAP BREAKFAST The Paramount *44 Charles St., Boston* . . . 30
CHEAP EATS Flux *1 Appleton St., Boston* . . . 30
CHEF, UP-AND-COMING Tom Berry of Bambara *25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge* . . . 30
CHINESE RESTAURANT New Shanghai Restaurant *21 Hudson St., Boston* . . . 30
CLAM CHOWDER Legal Sea Foods *Many locations* . . . 30
COFFEE SHOP Cafe Pamplona *12 Bow St., Cambridge* . . . 31
COMFORT FOOD Silvertone Bar and Grill *69 Bromfield St., Boston* . . . 31
DELI Rubin's Kosher Restaurant Delicatessen *500 Harvard St., Brookline* . . . 31
DESSERT Finale *1 Columbus Ave., Park Square, Boston; 30 Dunster St., Cambridge* . . . 31
DIM SUM China Pearl *9 Tyler St., Boston* . . . 31
DINER Deluxe Town Diner *627 Mount Auburn St., Watertown* . . . 31
DINNER WITH LIVE MUSIC Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston* . . . 34
FRENCH RESTAURANT Troquet *140 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 34
GREEK RESTAURANT Dionysos *777 Memorial Dr., Cambridge* . . . 36
HEALTHY RESTAURANT The Hi Protein Lo Fat Know Fat Grille & Café *222 Arsenal St., Watertown* . . . 34
HOT DOGS Spike's Junkyard Dogs *108 Brighton Ave., Allston* . . . 42
ICE CREAM Christina's Homemade Ice Cream *1255 Cambridge St., Cambridge* . . . 34
INDIAN RESTAURANT Diva *246 Elm St., Somerville* . . . 34
ITALIAN RESTAURANT Bricco *241 Hanover St., Boston* . . . 34
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MARGARITA Cactus Club Restaurant & Bar *939 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 34
MARTINI Jer-Ne Restaurant & Bar *10 Avery St., Boston* . . . 39
MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT Oleana *134 Hampshire St., Cambridge* . . . 36
MEXICAN RESTAURANT Tu Y Yo *858 Broadway, Somerville* . . . 36
MIDDLE EASTERN/PERSIAN RESTAURANT Lala Rokh *97 Mount Vernon St., Boston* . . . 36
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NEW RESTAURANT Excelsior *The Heritage on the Garden, 272 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 39
ONE-STOP ASIAN 88 Food Connection *1095 Comm. Ave., Allston* . . . 39
OUTDOOR DINING Harvest *44 Brattle Street, Cambridge* . . . 39
OVERALL VALUE The Franklin Café *278 Shawmut Ave., Boston* . . . 39
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PIZZA: SPECIALTY Paolo's Trattoria *251 Main St., Charlestown* . . . 39
PLACE TO GO WHEN PRICE IS NO OBJECT Radius *8 High St., Boston* . . . 31
PLEASANT SURPRISE Houston's *60 State St., Boston* . . . 39
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POWER LUNCH Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 40
PRE-THEATER DINING Teatro *177 Tremont St., Boston* . . . 40
RAW BAR Jasper White's Summer Shack *50 Dalton St., Boston; 149 Alewife Parkway, Cambridge* . . . 34
REASON TO CLIMB BEACON HILL No. 9 Park *9 Park St., Boston* . . . 40
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SANDWICHES Parish Café *361 Boylston St., Boston* . . . 40
SMOOTHIES Jamba Juice at Boston University *775 Comm. Ave., Boston* . . . 40
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STEAMERS Barking Crab *88 Sleeper St., Boston* . . . 42
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TAPAS Taberna de Haro *999 Beacon St., Brookline* . . . 42
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WINGS Buff's Pub *317 Washington St., Newton* . . . 42

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BIKE SHOP Ace Wheelworks *145 Elm St., Somerville; 480 Trapelo Road, Belmont; 22 Church St., Belmont* . . . 76
BOOKSTORE, LOCAL Brookline Booksmith *279 Harvard St., Brookline* . . . 76
BOOKSTORE, USED Brattle Book Shop *9 West St., Boston* . . . 76
CATERING Max Ultimate Food *100 Magazine St., Boston* . . . 76
COOKING STORE Kitchen Arts *161 Newbury St., Boston* . . . 80
CREATIVE HOME FURNISHINGS Koo de Kir *65 Chestnut St., Boston* . . . 77
ELECTRONICS STORE Tweeter *Various locations throughout Massachusetts* . . . 76
EVENT PLANNER Bryan Rafanelli of Rafanelli Events Management *142 Berkeley St., Boston* . . . 76
FLORIST Box Exquisite Floral Design *53 Charles St., Boston* . . . 78
FURNITURE, BASIC Boston Interiors *Many locations throughout Massachusetts* . . . 76
FURNITURE, HIGH-STYLE Montage *75 Arlington St., Boston* . . . 78
GIFT BOUTIQUE Flat of the Hill *60 Charles St., Boston* . . . 78
GOLF STORE Wayland Golf *890 Commonwealth Ave., Boston* . . . 78
HOME BOUTIQUE Bliss *121 Newbury St., Boston* 78
MOVING COMPANY Gentle Giant *29 Harding St., Somerville* . . . 78
OFFBEAT HOMEGOODS Fresh Eggs *58 Clarendon St., Boston* . . . 78
POSTMODERN YENTA Speed Dating Craze . . . 80
QUIRKY GIFTS Black Ink *101 Charles St., Boston; 5 Brattle St., Cambridge; 370 Broadway, Cambridge* . . . 80
RECORD STORE, LOCAL Newbury Comics *332 Newbury St., Boston, and other locations in and around Boston* . . . 80
RECORD STORE, NATIONAL Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston* . . . 80
SPORTING GOODS City Sports *Many locations around Boston* . . . 80
TATTOO PARLOR House of Pain *412 Ferry St., Everett* . . . 80
VIDEO STORE Mike's Movies *630 Tremont St., Boston; 250 Cambridge St., Boston* . . . 80

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE Will McDonough, *Boston Globe* Sports Reporter/Columnist . . . 70
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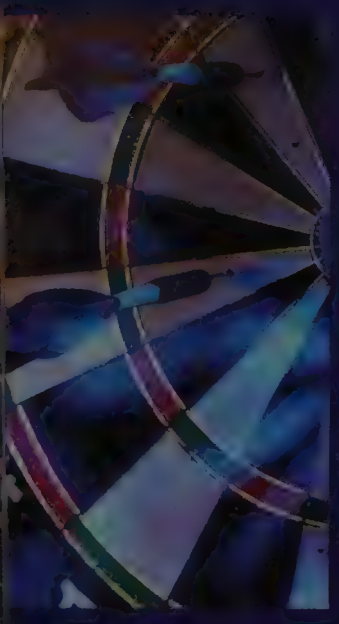

THE LAST DROP

a Neighborhood Bar

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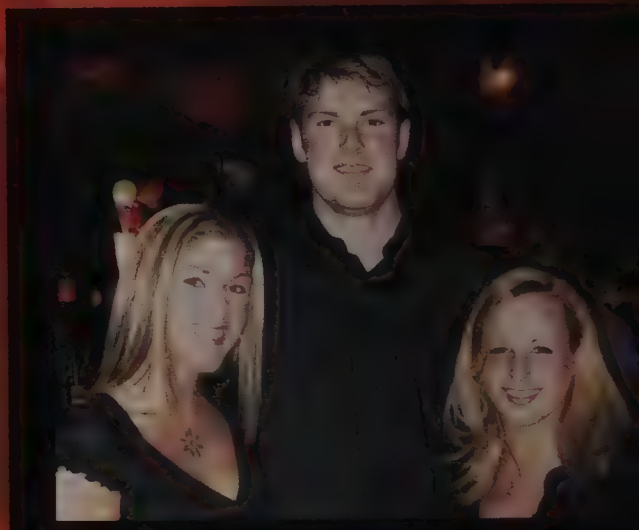

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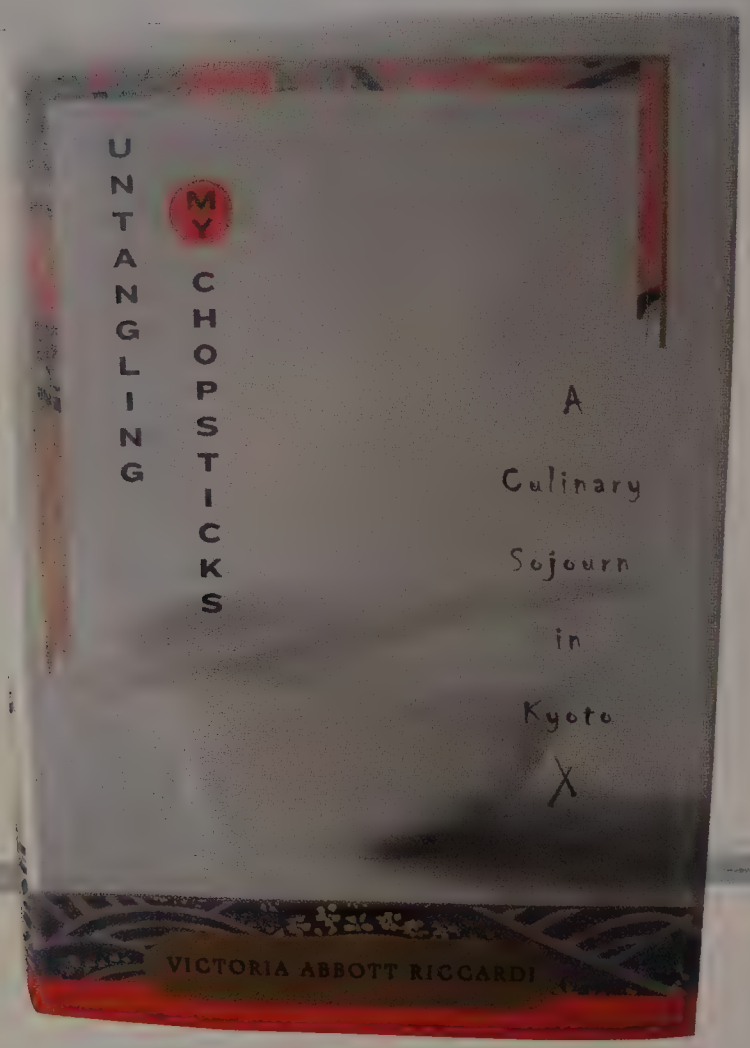

SOY AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS

In *Untangling My Chopsticks: A Culinary Sojourn in Kyoto*, Newton resident Victoria Abbott Riccardi recounts her life in Japan, where she learned all about the food and the tea ceremony called *kaiseki*.

With a degree from the famed Le Cordon Bleu school behind her and a keen interest in Japan, Victoria Abbott Riccardi plunges, solo, into Kyoto. Her goal: to learn the intricate, subtle and extensive culinary arts connected to the tea *kaiseki* ceremony. Taken in by a Japanese family, she spends some time teaching English. But mostly she shops, cooks, studies the culinary exoticisms of Japan and eats what seems like miles of food, often in tiny, beautiful bites. She contemplates not just the exotic deliciousness but also the philosophy that flows through the food she is learning to revere. Accustomed to the overspiced Japanese food she used to eat back home, she writes, "Ever so slowly, I started tasting—really tasting—the ingredients. It was like entering a dark room on a sunny day." She slows down to take in the rarefied symbolism of Japanese food, with its attunement to nature, purity and beauty. This is a kind of narrative cookbook, indeed filled with recipes but made more enticing by Riccardi's adventuresome discovery. In elegantly austere Japanese settings she finds things like succulently grilled eels, "loamy tasting chrysanthemum leaves" and salty fermented soybeans. Her food odyssey can inspire your own.

COUNTRY AND HURON

Aya, at 364a Huron Ave. in Cambridge, is a friendly gift shop full of unexpected treats for adults and kids alike. Call 617-354-0027.

In the space formerly occupied by Coromandel sits a charmingly quirky gift shop where, as Gail Stone, the owner says, "You can afford to buy a gift and still have something left over for yourself." Overflowing with neighborhood friendliness, Aya features Stone-invented Body Bibs for babies. The bibs encase the tiny tyke in puffy coverage, patterned with alligators or Clifford the dog, and are designed to contend with the full spinach or green-pea volcano. Co-worker Cindy Yee has made reading stools for kids, which are sweet step-stools painted with giraffes and elephants. Alongside the cute kid-related things you'll find sexy red silk dresses fit for an elegant cocktail party. And Aya offers a taste of the outdoors too, with glistening glass hummingbird feeders and mini Adirondack chairs. Add to those summer flavors Aya's generous blue-striped pottery bowls, aching to embrace rising bread dough. Another of Stone's talents is baking. Her customized cakes ($50 and up) are brilliant with playful details. On one cake, a man plays golf on his hands and knees; on another, a groom jokingly tethered by a ball and chain runs for his freedom. There's also a splendorous Barbie plunged into a huge, cakey hoop skirt.

BRING YOUR OWN SHEETS AND SHEETS OF PAPER

The Fifth House Lodge in Maine offers retreats for writers in a former hunting lodge with an adjacent cabin. Work alone or take one of the workshops offered in July, August or the fall. Call 207-647-3506 or go to *www.fifthhouselodge.net*. $425 per week for the cabin, $325-$425 per "retreat workshop" weekend.

To foster creative vision, write need two things: time and spac And both should preferably be c pacious, with no intrusion fro nattering technology like ce phones and beepers. Joan Le Hunter runs such an establish ment, in a low-key, high-peacefu ness lodge located an hour nort west of Portland, Maine, whe beauty of house, mountains an sky invite inspiration. In one va ation, the writer simply holes for a week, keeping his or her ow literary counsel and possibly hi ing Hunter, who is also a writi teacher, for some brief critiq ($50 per hour). But the solitu can also be ringed with the company of other writers, in a friendly, pretty atmosphere where participa work at a long writing table. Among the workshops, "The Whole Writer" (Oct. 17-19) emphasizes l tening to the inner voice, following associations into the dreamy, picture-rich right brain. Hunter s the workshop, aimed at people who want to jump-start their writing, is a discovery process, taking t writer down what she calls "many rabbit holes." Another involves shamanistic trance work accom nied by steady drumbeats to bring on altered states of consciousness, which, through a kind of psyc softening, make the mind receptive to imagery and imagination (that one runs Sept. 19-21). Scree writing weekends are also offered. Briefly blocked? Walk a trail through the mountain's majesty.

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

American Cheeses
L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-262-3023). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Aug. 5, 7 pm. $55. L'Espalier presents some of the best American cheeses at this four-course dinner paired with wine.

Bass & Beer
Cambridge Brewing Co., One Kendall Square, Cambridge (617-494-1994). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Aug. 2, 5:30-10 pm. "It doesn't get any better than fresh striped bass and a pint of fresh beer," says CBC owner Phil Bannatyne. Chef **Chris Carlson** prepares the prized summer game fish paired with CBC's house-brewed ales.

Berry Fest
Bambara, 25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-4444). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Through Aug. 3. $35. Chef **Tom Berry** celebrates the best of local summer berries by offering a berry-focused appetizer, entrée and dessert. Twenty percent of the proceeds will benefit the East End House, a multiservice community center and social service agency.

Chef's Day Out
Maynard Community Farmers' Market, Clock Tower Place, Main Street, Maynard. www.maynard.ma.us/civic/farmers. *Aug. 2, 10 am.* Chef **Raymond Ost** of Sandrine's offers a cooking demonstration using market produce.

Clam Boil
Baker's Field, Wellfleet (508-349-0330, ext. 116). July 26, 12-3 pm. Feast on littlenecks at this benefit for the United Wellfleet Shellfishermen.

Guess the Grape
No. 9 Park, 9 Park St., Boston (617-742-9991). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mondays and Tuesdays. Participate in a blind taste test of wines from around the world chosen by wine director **Cat Silirie**. •July 28 and 29: Champagne, prosecco and the New World •Aug. 4 and 5: a vintage study of chianti •Aug. 11 and 12: Harker vs. Parker. General manager **Garrett Harker** challenges the vaunted Robert Parker ratings by offering patrons a chance to taste two underrated wines and draw their own conclusions.

Lunch under the Tent
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). July 26, 11 am. $14.95. **Steve Verrill** leads a field trip to view tomatoes, herbs and other crops and learn about growing them. Visitors will then sit down to a meal prepared by the farm-stand kitchen.

Massachusetts Marketplace Festival
Elm Bank Horticultural Center, 900 Washington St., Wellesley (617-933-4984). www.masshort.org. *Aug. 2, 10 am-4 pm. $6.* This festival features the finest from Massachusetts fields, farms, gardens and kitchens. Enjoy a full day of demos activities and horticultural information for gar deners and gourmets.

Radius' chef de cuisine Brian Reimer (above) and chef/owner Michael Schlow offer cooking lessons at the restaurant

New England Barbecue Championships
Harpoon, 336 Ruth Carney Drive, Windsor, Ver mont (888-427-7666). July 26-27. This two-da event offers Harpoon beer, liv music, barbecued food and firsthand look at master barbe cuers practicing their craft.

Pasta, Molto Pasta
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617 426-1234). MBTA: Red Line t South Station. July 26, 11 am 2:30 pm. $125. Chef **Michae Schlow** teaches participant how to make perfect pasta.

Salon Sparkling Gala
Westport Rivers Vineyard Winery, 417 Hixbridge Roa Westport (508-636-3423). Ju 26, 6-9 pm. $125. Chef **Mar Allen** of Le Soir in Newtc Highlands prepares a fiv course meal of contemporar French country cuisine paire with Westport bubbly.

Salsa Soiree
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-23 6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Aug. 5, pm. $25, $30 at the door. At this benefit for t Brookline Community Center for the Arts, Mojito cocktails, nibble on hors d'oeuvres, a take salsa lessons.

Sunset Cruise
Meet at 75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Bost (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green Line to Pa Wed., 6:45 pm. July 30-Aug. 20. $49. Emba on a two-hour sunset cruise up the Charl River. After the cruise, enjoy a two-course di ner at 75 Chestnut.

Tuesday Night Wine Tastings
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-54 5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tu days, 6 and 8 pm. $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey F lon** discusses wine, and chef **Ian Just** prepa hors d'oeuvres. •July 29: New Zealand •Aug. Sicily and Sardinia •Aug. 12: Spanish whites

Turn the Tables
Saint, 90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-113 Aug. 11, 7 pm. $75. Chef **Rene Michelena** w comes visiting chef **Andrew Chase** of Mark's New York, as well as chefs **Thomas John** Mantra, **Marc Orfaly** of Pigalle, **Michael Le ton** of Lumiere and **Joanne Chang** of Flour a seven-course meal with wine.

Wine Barbecue
Café Louis, 234 Berkeley St., Boston (617-2 4680). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Aug 6:30 pm. $65. This evening begins with gril cuisine paired with Ravenswood wines, follov by homemade ice cream and live blues.

Wine Cruise
Yacht Integrity, World Trade Center, 164 Seap Ave., Boston (617-242-7837). MBTA: Red l to South Station. July 23, 6 pm. $37. The W Bottega sponsors this cruise of the harbor c plete with a wine tasting and food provided Carmen restaurant.

Wines of Portugal
Solea Restaurant & Tapas Bar, 388 Moody Waltham (781-894-1805). July 23, 7 pm. $ This six-course tapas dinner features a variet wines from Portugal.

DISH

Wake Up, Little Tuesday...

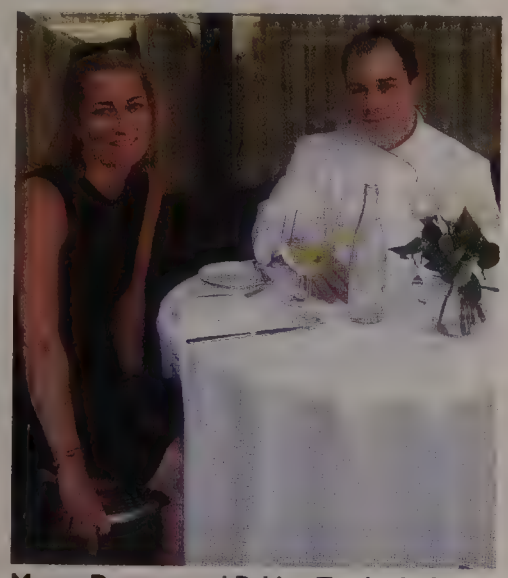
Dinner & a date?...Blue's news & BBQs....

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Yes it's a great way to meet people over dinner on a Tuesday night, but *please* keep the focus on matching food and wine, not matching potential dates, says **Maura Downes**, a former waitress who's put her life savings and all of her energy into a new venture that she calls "Boston's original menu-tasting event provider."

After her inaugural event—a prix-fixe food-and-wine tasting dinner at **Peking Tom's** that drew about 25 diners—Downes is enthusiastic about forging ahead with her vision of having a chef's table interpretation" (translation: a pay-as-you-go dinner party) in an "interactive atmosphere." The chef discusses the evening's menu and his inspiration. Tax, tip and a gift bag for each guest are included in the cost.

So what's the bottom line? Typically, Tuesday nights are slow, says Downes, and the restaurant benefits from attracting a group of frequent-diner types. Downes, who negotiates a per-person cost with the restaurant, adds what she describes as "a small margin" for herself. And the diners enjoy not only dinner and the company of the chef, but a ready-made dinner party without social stress (hey, it's Tuesday). At this point, Downes is publicizing her venture mostly by word of mouth, but you can reach her at maura@taste-boston.com.



Maura Downes and Peking Tom's chef Marc Orfaly recently hosted a prix-fixe food-and-wine tasting dinner.

SECOND COURSE

Like Elvis, he's left the building, but like Arnold, he'll be back. **Steve Johnson**, who sold his share in Cambridge's storied **Blue Room** to former partners **Nick Zappa** and **Deanna Briggs**, says he's put up the proverbial Gone Fishin' sign and will take the summer off both to fish and to develop at least one new restaurant project. We'll keep you posted. Meanwhile, Zappa and Briggs have promoted former sous chef **Jorge Lopes** to fill Johnson's shoes, and they assure loyal patrons that "the entire Blue Room staff remains in place."

Some restaurants stop serving brunch during the summer months, but **Tremont 647** has begun to serve a Saturday brunch—a slightly scaled-down version of its Sunday brunch, which is famous for its pajama-clad waitstaff. No word on whether correspondingly skimpier PJs are on the menu. Also in the South End, **Rouge** owner/chef **Andy Husbands** is eagerly anticipating the delivery of his Backwoods Smoker any day now. To celebrate, he plans a series of all-you-can-eat barbecue Mondays, priced at $19.50.

That's less than you'll spend for the grilled pizza of the day ($21) at **Cafe Louis**, which has added 10 seats to a new enclosed patio area. Then again, you don't go to Cafe Louis thinking "value meal." Instead, think Maine lobster with peach and avocado salad; Jamison Farm grilled lamb chop scottadito (Italian for "scorched fingers") with fresh favas, mint, and capers; and lemon cream tart with raspberry-grappa sauce. If you must have barbecue on Newbury Street, Cafe Louis is pairing a panoply of grilled fare with Ravenswood wines and live blues on August 8.

While you're thinking Italian outside the North End, check out **The Vault**'s new summer menu. After years on the West Coast, chef/owner **Carmen Quagliata** is making the most of local seafood, fresh corn and summer berries. Expect dishes such as crispy soft-shell crab with chilled sweet corn juice and red chile vinegar dressing; lobster with Sardinian cous cous in lobster-basil broth with sweet peas; and panna cotta with seasonal fruit. Make sure to visit the bar: Recently hired **Michael Ray**, formerly of **Abe & Louie's**, has been honored more than once as one of the IMPROPER's Beloved Bartenders. Besides fancy-pants cocktails, there's great-sounding bar food: an artisanal cheese plate with red-pepper marmellata, flavored honey and crostini, or Calabrian sardine and red-chile spread with toasted focaccia. iB

Serving Dish

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WINE

Big, Brash Petite Sirah

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

Warning: Petite sirah will stain your teeth. Also your gums, lips and any other body part with which it makes contact, so don't even think of having a glass and then trying to convince someone you haven't been drinking. In fact, petite sirah's so deep in color that California's zinfandel producers routinely blend in vast quantities of this opaque, gutsy red grape to darken and improve the flavor of their wine. In other words, it's not even remotely "petite" (think the neighborhood seven-footer whom the kids nickname "Shorty").

In fact, the grape happens not to be syrah either, but another red variety known originally as durif that has never attracted much of a fan club in its homeland of France and has, in the last few decades, virtually disappeared there. There's some controversy about whether peloursin, another obscurity from southern France, is also planted in California under the name petite sirah, but while the truth of its origins may be shrouded in mist, it's clear that California petite sirah is beginning to attract an underground, almost cultlike following. Part of the reason for the trend is that scattered throughout the state, but mostly in the hillsides off the beaten path pockets of Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa and Monterey counties, there are patches of "old vine" petite sirah vineyards that yield very concentrated, deeply flavorful fruit; devoted winemakers can produce wondrously delicious wines with these grapes at bargain prices. Remember: The older the vine, the better the wine, and among California's most venerable are the free-standing petite sirah vines that are scattered throughout the state. However, since the grape doesn't even make it onto the Top 40 list of most wine shops or restaurants, it requires some passion and faith on the part of a wine company even to produce a petite sirah. So those who work with the grape are believers, and their dedication reflects a sense that some of these gnarly, grumpy old petite sirah vines, as opposed to the vast shining fields of merlot planted in the past decade, constitute California's most enduring vine heritage.

Not all petite sirah is bargain priced; there are some fancy-pedigreed bottles that cost $30 and more, but the average good honest petite sirah can be yours for less than $15 and, in some cases, $10. Because of the grapes' thick skins and rustic, in-your-face flavors, you don't lose as much incrementally in terms of quality by trading down from the more expensive to the cheaper ones as you would with, say, a pinot noir or cabernet.

And, for those of us with good storage and reason to believe we may not be moving every year, petite sirahs of all stripes promise tremendous aging potential at a cut-rate price. I've got some in the cellar from the mid-'80's with fading $9.99 price tags that are even more delicious now than they were 10 years ago and show no signs of quitting.

Why talk about this wine equivalent of heavyweight woolens in mid-July when most of us are thinking sleeveless, silky and see-through? Because petite sirah is a brawler that's just quintessential with grilled and barbecued meat of all types. When I start smelling that sweet spicy smoke rising up, I'm thinking I want some of that dark purple, brash, fruit-loaded, black peppery–tasting stuff that's a bit on the rough side in my glass. It just works. (If you think about it, how are you going to match up a delicate, understated, subtle-flavored wine with the fiery flavors of sizzling meat from the grill?) The key is you have to serve the wine a little bit on the cool side, as in 55 to 60 degrees. It will warm up quick, but if you use that as a starting point it's a perfect foil for anything from kebabs to burgers to ribs to charred beef. Or, for that matter, blackened fish. IB

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wi for Horizon Beverage.

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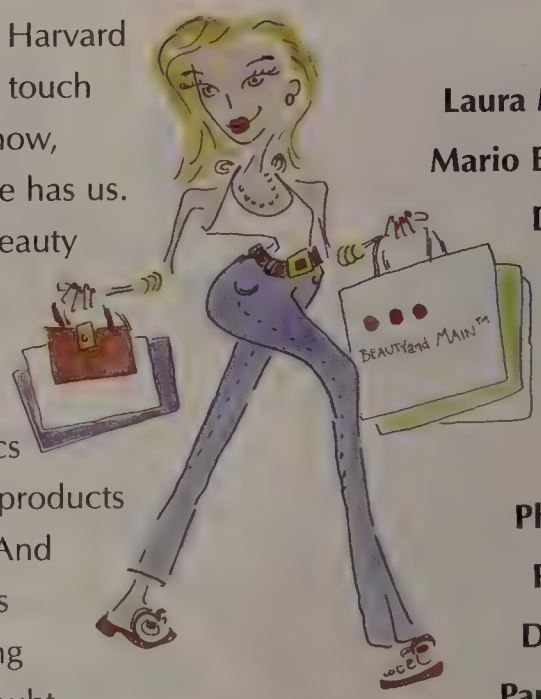

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MPROPER PICKS

july 23 - august 12

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			23	24 Harpoon Brewery hosts a **Jerry Garcia Memorial River Run and Music Fest.** See page 110.	25 Jane's Addiction headlines **Lollapalooza** at the Tweeter Center. See Music on page 132.	26 **Caroline Rhea** is at the Comedy Connection. See Comedy on page 114.
27 Visit the **Jeanie Johnston**, a replica of an Irish famine ship, at Rowes Wharf. See CityScope on page 110.	28 **Alan Lightman** reads from his new novel at Brookline Booksmith. See Books on page 164.	29	30	31	1	2 Take a 30-minute boat trip during **Discover Boating Day** at Marina Bay in Quincy. See CityScope on page 110.
3	4 **The Beach Boys** play at the North Shore Music Theatre. See Music on page 138.	5	6	7	8	9
10 The **Joe Jackson Band** plays at Avalon. See Music on page 140.	11	12				

FRI./AUG. 8-SUN./AUG. 10

Performing Arts: Three Enchanted Evenings

Watching *South Pacific* in a theater is enjoyable. Watching *South Pacific* performed aboard a World War II destroyer is a different experience altogether. So grab a lawn chair and park yourself in Charlestown Navy Yard for Opera Boston and Boston Landmarks Orchestra's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical. Adapted from stories by James Michener, *South Pacific* details a love affair between a nurse and a French plantation owner during World War II. This fully staged production will be performed on and in front of the USS Cassin Young at dusk, immediately following the U.S. Navy's traditional Evening Colors Ceremony. *Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-451-3388). Aug. 8-10, 8:15 pm. Free.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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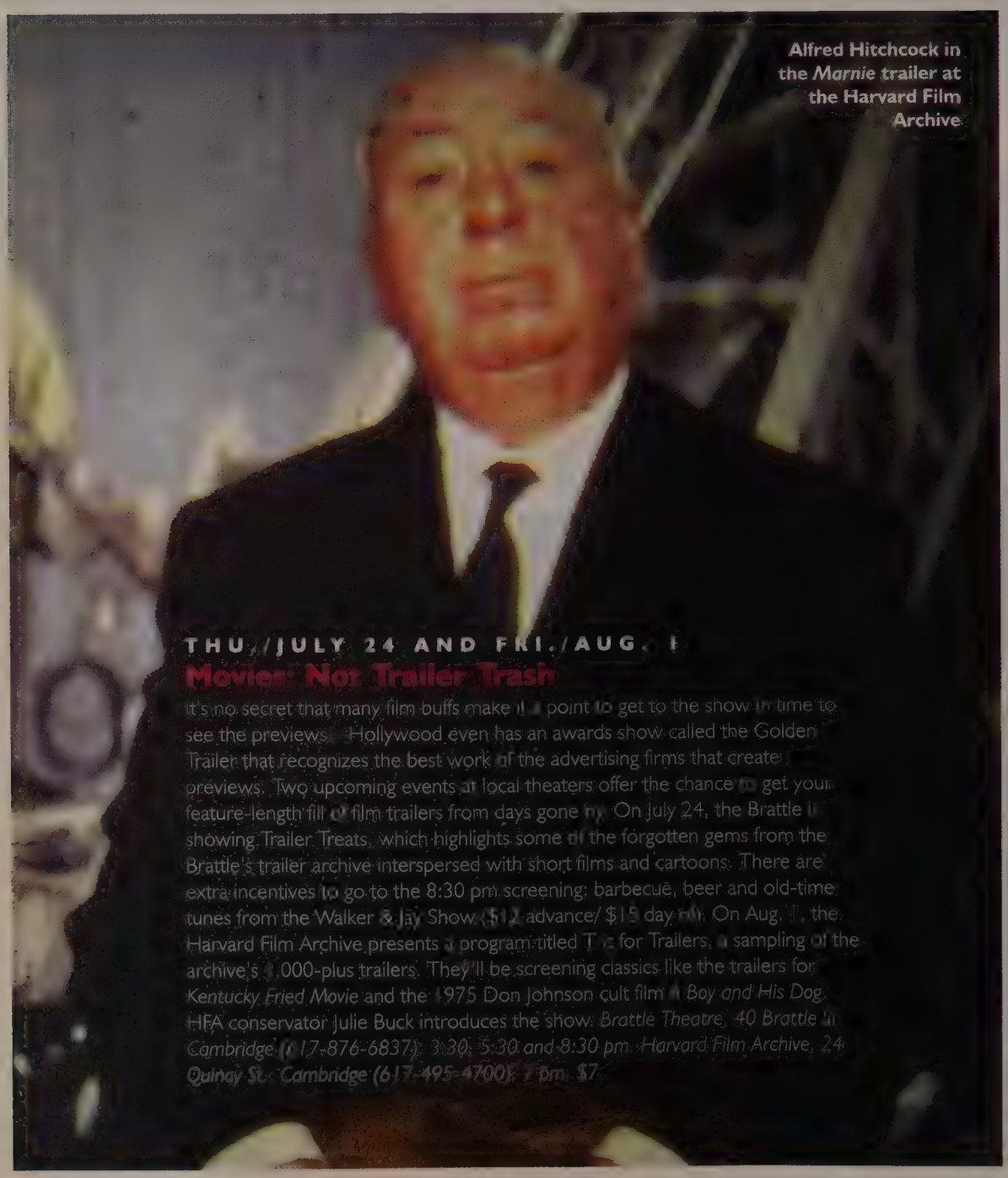
EDITED BY:
ERIN HAGEDORN
Art, Books & Poetry, Movies, Gay & Lesbian, Music
JULIE SHORT
Around Town, Children, Comedy, Education, Theater
ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:
Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind
Paul Sherman Film Capsules
Ezra Dyer CityScope
Dance Clubs and Sports

A rider participates in the Over the Walls Horse Trials in Hardwick, Mass.

LATE JULY AND EARLY AUGUST

Tastings and CityScope: Road Trippin'

There's nothing like midsummer in the city: Gone are the lines at the movies; snagging a seat on the T (except on the Green Line when the Sox are playing) is a breeze; and you can get a reservation at Radius or L'Espalier at the snap of your fingers. It's wonderful...until you start feeling you're the only one *without* fun vacation plans. At that point, it's time to escape. Here are a few tantalizing weekend out-of-town options that won't squander your precious vacation days. Head north for the **New England Barbecue Championships** in Windsor, Vt., July 26-27. It's two days of Harpoon beer, live music, tasty food and a firsthand look at master barbecuers practicing their craft. Or head east to the Cape for Wellfleet's first annual **Clam Boil** July 26. Feast on littlenecks at this benefit for the United Wellfleet Shellfishermen. Or head west to watch three days of competition by 200 of the country's most accomplished horses and riders at the **Over the Walls Horse Trials** in Hardwick, Mass., Aug. 1-3. *See Tastings on page 102 and CityScope on page 110 for more information.*



Alfred Hitchcock in the *Marnie* trailer at the Harvard Film Archive

THU./JULY 24 AND FRI./AUG. 1

Movies: Not Trailer Trash

It's no secret that many film buffs make a point to get to the show in time to see the previews. Hollywood even has an awards show called the Golden Trailer that recognizes the best work of the advertising firms that create previews. Two upcoming events at local theaters offer the chance to get your feature-length fill of film trailers from days gone by. On July 24, the Brattle is showing Trailer Treats, which highlights some of the forgotten gems from the Brattle's trailer archive interspersed with short films and cartoons. There are extra incentives to go to the 8:30 pm screening: barbecue, beer and old-time tunes from the Walker & Jay Show ($12 advance/ $15 day of). On Aug. 1, the Harvard Film Archive presents a program titled T is for Trailers, a sampling of the archive's 1,000-plus trailers. They'll be screening classics like the trailers for *Kentucky Fried Movie* and the 1975 Don Johnson cult film *A Boy and His Dog*. HFA conservator Julie Buck introduces the show. *Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-6837). 3:30, 5:30 and 8:30 pm. Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-4700). 7 pm. $7.*

Boris McCutcheon

THU./AUG. 7

Books & Poetry: Take Cover

There's no doubt about it. Book readings are getting more creative. Just look at cutting-edge series like **Cover 2 Cover**, which was started in Ma by Newtonville Books' literary maven Tim Huggins and author Steve Almond. At Cover 2 Cover events, musicians play their favorite songs written by other musicians and writers read works by their favorite writers—and there's always copious amounts of alcohol. The next Cove 2 Cover event, at the Paradise Lounge, features zydeco master Mickey Bones, who incorporates the sounds of Chuck Berry into his Cajun tune and roots maestro Boris McCutcheon (above), who is slated to belt out his version of "Take Me out to the Ballgame." Short-story writer and Renaissance man Karl Iagnemma takes a break from robotics research a MIT to read works by Donald Barthelme, Natick native Lewis Robinson reads from Harold Brodky and writer Chris Castellani has *memorized* a Grace Paley story to read aloud. Jennifer Haight and Mike Rosovsky als read. The ubiquitous Almond plays DJ, spinning covers all night. *Parad Lounge, 969 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8814). 8 pm. $5.*

THU./AUG. 7

CityScope: Always a Bridesmaid...

Maybe you got lucky. Maybe when you were a bridesmaid, the bride chose a simple, sophisticated black number that you've since worn to a black-tie event or a swanky cocktail party with no one the wiser about its original purpose. If you're like the rest of us, however, the pariah of your closet is an unflattering, Easter egg–colored frock (perhaps even a collection of them) that for sentimental reasons you've been unable to throw away. The IMPROPER's second annual **Bridesmaids' Ball** at Hurricane O'Reilly's Aug. 7 offers the unprecedented chance to put that bridesmaid's gown to use and even to benefit from its unprettiness. Pull out your "favorite" bridesmaid's dress—the more outrageous, the better—and get ready to catch the bouquet. There's a grand prize for the gal with the sharpest elbows. *Hurricane O'Reilly's, 150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161). 7-10 pm. $5 (to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's Race for the Cure).*

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Art of July
The Omni Parker House, 60 School St., Boston (617-727-8957, ext. 326). www.artofjuly.com. *7-11 pm.* $30. More than 23 companies and 44 artists have donated items to this annual silent auction and benefit party for the Children's Trust Fund. The evening includes a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Creative dress.

Lucky's on the Water
The Provincetown II, Seaport Blvd., next to the World Trade Center, Boston (617-357-5825). 6:30-10 pm. $75. Lucky's Lounge hosts an evening on the water featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and the Alex MacDougall Band playing Motown, funk and R&B.

Saks in the City
Saks Fifth Avenue, Prudential Center, Boston. 5-9 pm. Tonight shoppers looking for end-of-season designer duds will be able to designate 2 percent of their bill to either the AIDS Action Committee, the American Heart Association, the Institute of Contemporary Art or the Wang Center for the Performing Arts. The organization that has totaled the most money at the end of the night will be the beneficiary of a fashion fund-raising event this fall.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Harpoon Brewery Jerry Garcia Memorial River Run and Music Fest
American Legion Marsh Post, 5 Greenough Blvd.-Eliot Bridge, Cambridge (617-625-2140). www.clydesdale.org. *7:30 pm.* $15. This 4.4-mile walk/run is followed by a barbecue, refreshments and live music from Grateful Dead cover band Electric Hummus.

Jeanie Johnston Replica Ship Arrival
Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7700). www.jeaniejohnston.ie. *Ceremonies at 11am, ship open to the public July 25-Aug. 3, 10:30 am-6:30 pm.* $7. The Jeanie Johnston was a three-masted ship that carried more than 2,500 immigrants to America during the Irish famine in the mid-1800s. This replica ship contains a museum that shows what those voyages were like. The arrival ceremony includes Irish dancers and music by Irish tenor Tommy Flemming.

Pan-Mass Challenge/Red Sox Party
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). www.therackboston.com. *6 pm. No cover.* Enjoy live music from Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns as well as a complimentary dinner buffet and pool at this pre-party for the Pan-Mass Challenge.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Bazaar and Barbecue
Mount Alvernia High School Gym, 790 Centre St., Newton (617-964-2438). 9:30 am-3 pm. A yard sale, bake sale and lunchtime barbecue benefit the education and social service programs supported by the Missionary Franciscan Sisters.

Lou Gehrig's Disease Fund-Raiser
The home of Gail Forrest, Duxbury (508-947-2929). 5:30 pm. $100. A gourmet clambake with lobster and filet mignon, a wine tasting and bluegrass music from the Wild Cat Bog Stompers are all part of the South Shore Oceans of Love Committee's summer gala to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association's ALS division.

NAAAP Boston's Summer Picnic
Camp Chicamee, Route 20, Wayland (617-529-8727). www.naaapboston.org. *11:30 am-6 pm. $10 members, $20 nonmembers. Nonmembers may join the day of the picnic and get in free.* The National Association of Asian American Professionals Boston Chapter holds its annual picnic. Play volleyball, go swimming, eat barbecue and make a few new friends.

Rock & Roll Library Summer Cocktail Reception
33 Restaurant and Lounge, 33 Stanhope St., Boston (617-572-3311). www.rocklibrary.com. *7-9 pm.* $40. The Rock & Roll Library hosts a summer fund-raiser that includes hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a silent auction and special guests.

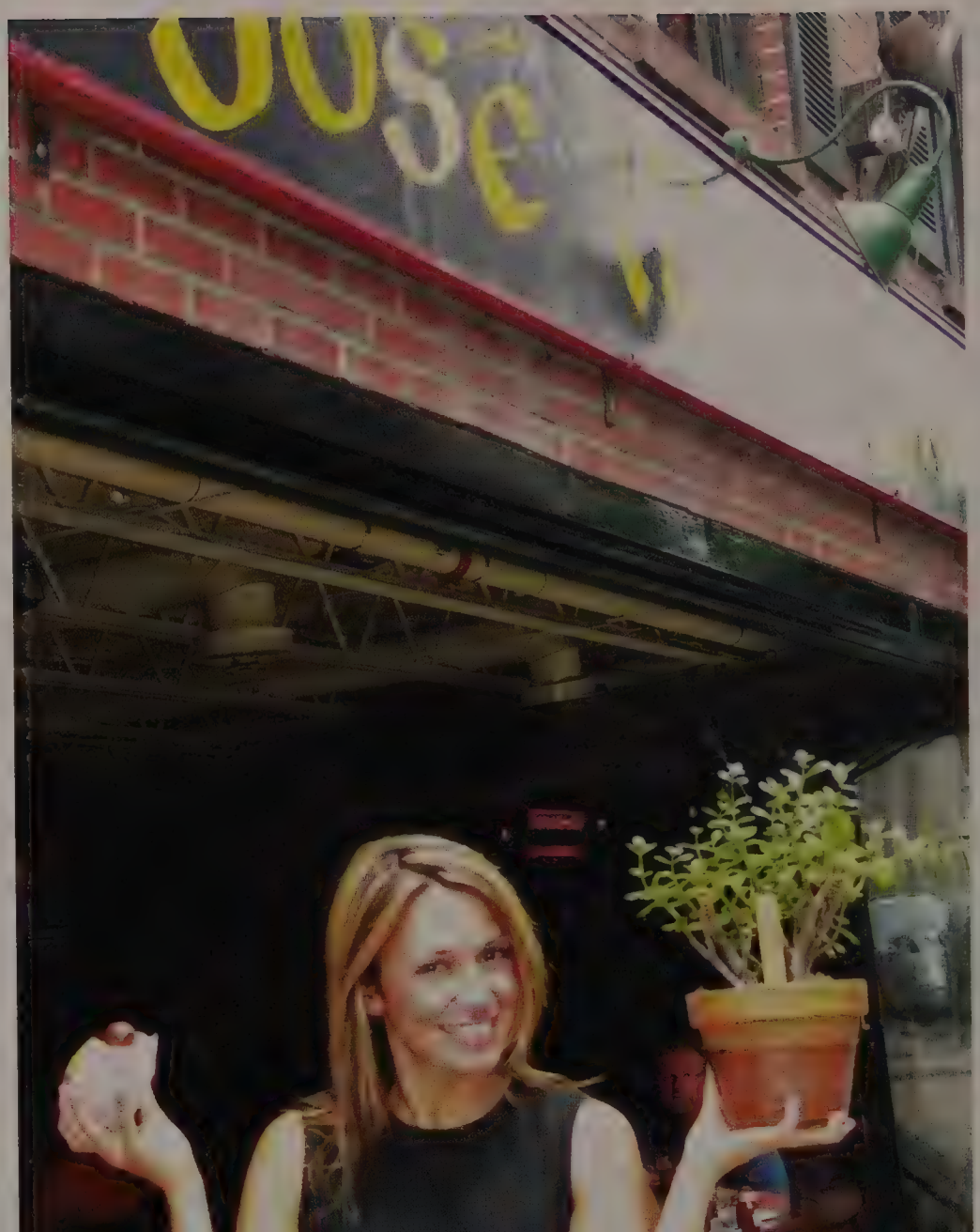
Single Executives Club Singles Dance Party
Joseph's On High, 200 High St., Boston (617-523-4000). 9 pm-1 am. $10 before 9:30 pm, $15 thereafter. Business-casual dress. This dance party for singles ages 35 and over features music by DJ Brian Milligan, door prizes and hors d'oeuvres.

MONDAY, JULY 28

Fore Kids by Kids Benefit Golf Tournament
Franklin Park Golf Course, Boston (617-695-2300, ext. 168). www.citizenschools.org. *$150 per player.* This annual tournament benefits Citizen Schools' after-school program. Each entrant receives a 50-degree lob wedge (a $100 value), and the hole-in-one prize is a Hummer H2.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Weber Foundation Cruise
The Odyssey, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-274-4709). www.theweberfoundation.com. *6-11 pm.* $125. This benefit cruise includes a four-course dinner with wine and a midway stop at Waterworks in Quincy for a concert by the B Street Band. A postcruise party follows at the Rack. Proceeds benefit the Weber Foundation Freedom Fund, which financially assists veterans and others who have been adversely affected by the war on terrorism.



Preview

Beyond Independence Day

Jose McIntyre's "All That's Unique About July" party salutes the month's lesser-known special days

It seems that everyone's got a cause, and many of the days and weeks of July are devoted to those causes. For instance, did you know that July 27 is "Take Your Houseplant for a Walk Day"? Or that July 7-12 is "Copious Compliments Week"? Maybe you missed the chance to dish out the flattery that week, but you can still celebrate the other bogus and amusing "events" of July at Jose McIntyre's "Everything That's Unique About July" party July 24.

Mix 98.5's Kelly Malone (above) presides over the festivities, which will include a hot dog–eating contest (July is National Hot Dog Month), a houseplant relay race (if a walk is good for a plant, surely a run is even better) and a horseshoe toss (July 7-13 is National Farriers Week). If you want to celebrate International Group B Strep Awareness Month or Rat-catchers Day (July 22), however, you're on your own. Proceeds benefit the Special Olympics—July 20 is, among other things, Special Olympics Day.

Jose McIntyre's, 160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). July 24, 7 pm-close. $2.—Ezra Dyer

HurryDate Event
Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (212-871-6707) www.hurrydate.com. *7 pm.* $35. Go on 25 three-minute dates and see if you meet your match.

FRIDAY, AUG. 1

Over the Walls Horse Trials
Great Meadowbrook Farm, Hardwick (413-477-0041). www.overthewalls.com. *8 am, through Aug. 3. $5 parking charge per car.* More than 200 horses and riders from the U.S. and abroad compete for the National Advanced Horse Trials Championship.

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

Discover Boating Day
Marina Bay, North Quincy (617-847-1800). www.marinabayboston.com. *9:30 am-4:30 pm. Free.* Take a 30-minute spin around the bay in a variety of boats at this event to celebrate National Marina Week. Sponsored by *Offshore* magazine.

Massachusetts Marketplace Festival
Elm Bank Horticultural Center, 900 Washington St., Wellesley (617-933-4984). www.masshort.org. *10 am-4 pm.* $6. This festival features the finest fro Massachusetts fields, farms, gardens and kitchen Enjoy a full day of demos, activities and horticultural information for gardeners and gourmets.

TUESDAY, AUG. 5

Salsa Soiree for the BCCA
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363) www.bccaonline.com. *7 pm-2 am. $25 in advance, $30 at the door.* Bomboa hosts a benefit for the newly opened Brookline Community Center for the Ar The evening includes a mojito sampling, hors d'oeuvres, dance performances and salsa lessons.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6

Friends of the Bay Cove Harbor Cruise
Boarding at the New Boston, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-371-3025). www.baycove.org. *6:30-9:30 pm.* $ Jam'n 94.5's DJ Master J spins the tunes on this harbor cruise to benefit Bay Cove Human Services. T night includes dancing, food, a raffle and a cash bar.

THURSDAY, AUG. 7

Bridesmaid's Ball
Hurricane O'Reilly's, 150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161). 7-10 pm. $5. The Bridesmaid's Ball turns for its second year with contests for st bridesmaid, ugliest dress, craziest up-do—and grand prize for catching the IMPROPER bouqu Hosted by a Mix 98.5 personality, proceeds ben the Komen Boston Race for the Cure. Sponsored THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

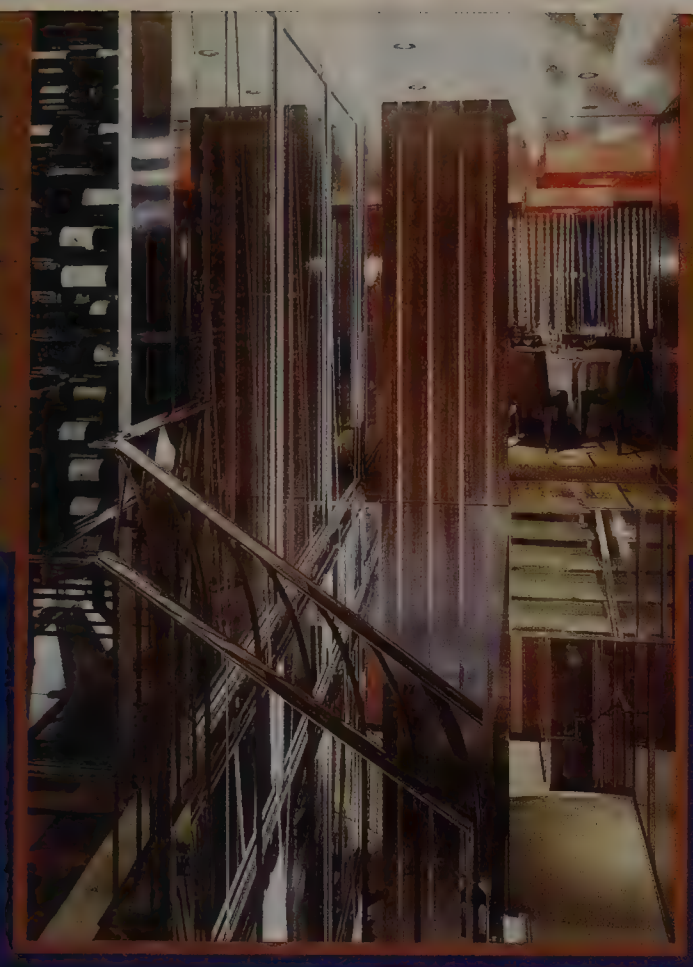
FRIDAY, AUG. 8

Gerard Dewan Memorial Golf Tournament
Ponkapoag Golf Course, Canton (781-821-138 www.gerardpdewan.org. *7:30 am. $125 per golfer, dinner only.* This benefit tournament includes driv range use, cart, greens fees, dinner and prizes. T dinner, open to both golfers and nongolfers, is at IBEW Hall in Dorchester and features a comed raffles and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit a sch arship fund at Sacred Heart grammar school.

***South Pacific* at USS Cassin Young**
USS Cassin Young, Charlestown Navy Y Charlestown (617-242-0055). At dusk, through A 10. Free. Grab a lawn chair and head to Charlestown Navy Yard to see the Boston Acad of Music and Boston Landmarks Orchestra's per mance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pa* aboard the WWII destroyer Cassin Young.

SATURDAY, AUG. 9

Mayflower Foundation Make-a-Wish Benefit
Boston Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Bos www.mayflowerfoundation.org. *8 pm-12 am. Semi-formal.* T the Mayflower F dation send a c to Disney Worl attending this be party, which feat complimentary hors d'oeuvres, port Storm dessert and a sp gift from designe Bradley. Music is vided by Me This Kid, and fa local pugilist McNeeley (left) special guest a event.



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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Cloud 9
Harvard-Radcliffe Summer Theatre, Loeb Drama Center Experimental Theater, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). hcs.harvard.edu/~hrst. *July 23 and 24, 7:30 pm; July 25 and 26, 8 pm; July 26, 2 pm. $7-$14.* Written by Caryl Churchill and directed by Joy Brooke Fairfield, this play journeys from the premodern, Colonial world of rigidly imposed sexual and racial identities to the postmodern world of sexual liberation and a fluid, self-determined identity, and asks, how liberated are we really?

Hats Off!
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *July 24, 7:30 pm; July 25, 8 pm; Aug. 2, 8 pm; Aug. 3, 2 pm.* Kathy St. George, Bobbie Steinbach and Robert Saoud perform 100 years' worth of Broadway hits in this musical comedy.

Romantique
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Aug. 1-17. $25-$45.* Combining Eugène Delacroix's emotional art, George Sand's revealing stories and Frédéric Chopin's greatest music, the creators of *George Gershwin Alone* illuminate one of the most dramatic moments in those artists' lives when their paths cross one evening in the Paris countryside.

South Pacific
USS Cassin Young, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-451-3388). Aug. 8-10, 8:15 pm. Free. Opera Boston joins with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra and Boston National Historical Park to present three outdoor performances of Rodgers and Hammerstein's American classic alongside the World War II destroyer the USS Cassin Young.

Summer Shorts Festival
Abbot Theatre, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). July 24-26, 8 pm. $12. The Hovey Players present their seventh annual Summer Shorts Festival. Each evening features four original short plays and one mini musical by local playwrights and composers.

NOW RUNNING

Bankside Festival
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 31. Free.* This outdoor festival offers a variety of entertainment, including romps through Shakespeare's most famous scenes, musical interludes, slapstick comedies and swordfights. • *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Thu., 6 pm; Sat., 10 am and 6 pm. The youth of Athens and a troupe of laborers enter the fairy kingdom and are transformed by magic and mischief into their truest selves. • *Shakespeare and the Language that Shaped a World*: Wed., 6 pm; Sun., 10 am and 6 pm. This fast-paced performance provides historical and thematic contexts for selected Shakespearean scenes, which are presented with more modern language.

Michael Premo stars in *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: *Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53.* There's no dialogue, but somehow this multimedia production manages to make an impact with tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Cats
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd., Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 pm and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Aug. 3. $19-$53.* Andrew Lloyd Webber's world of junkyard cats comes to the Boston area. Based on T.S. Eliot's *Book of Practical Cats*, this musical features such numbers as "Mr. Mistoffelees" and "Memory."

The Chekhov One-Acts
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through August 31. Tue.-Sun., 2 pm. $27-$38.* Shakespeare & Company presents a quadruplet of Anton Chekhov's one-acts, his popular comic sketches of the late 19th century, including *The Celebration, Swan Song, The Harmfulness of Tobacco* and *The Brute*.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through August 31. $10-$30.* Playwrights Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield squeezed all of Shakespeare's 37 plays into just two hours. Witness the madness of "Shakespeare without borders."

The Devil's Disciple
Beatrice Herford's Vokes Theatre, Route 20, Wayland (508-358-4034). Thu. and Sat., 8 pm; July 26 and Aug. 2, 2 pm. Through August 2. $13-$15. George Bernard Shaw's passionate comedy of morals is set during the American Revolution in a puritanical New Hampshire town. The play focuses on a saint and sinner who trade places to thwart the Redcoats.

Fly-Bottle
Spring Lawn Theater, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 24. $27-$42.* David Egan's play examines the famed "poker incident" between renowned philosophers Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popper at the Moral Science Club in England in October 1946. The two are said to have engaged in a heated exchange that culminated in Wittgenstein gesturing with (some say brandishing) a poker that hung by the fireplace.

George Gershwin Alone
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Wed., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through July 26. $27-$45.* Hershey Felder's one-man show is a musical biography of legendary composer George Gershwin. The play is based on interviews with the composer's family and friends, plus correspondence and manuscripts.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7 pm. Ongoing. $27. In this black comedy written and performed by Donato Colucci, the Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent assistant. He loses his mind during a performance, and only authentic supernatural powers and his dark past can save his show.

Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat, 3 and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through Aug. 9. $18-$25.* Two prisoners incarcerated on Rikers Island—one a first-time offender and one a psychopathic serial killer turned born-again Christian—search for morality and grace within the prison gates in this play by Stephen Adly Guirgis.

King Lear
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 30.* Shakespeare & Company presents this tragic tale of an ailing king who's betrayed by his two eldest daughters. Even his youngest daughter's devotion can't save him.

Live Girls
Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, East Commercial St., Wellfleet (508-349-6835). www.what.org. *Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. Through July 26. $21.* Written by Victoria Stewart and directed by David Wheeler, this show is a provocative look at race, sex and pornography. It asks the question, What is real when everything is performance?

Macbeth
Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, Boston (617-532-1212). www.commonwealthshakespeare.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Park. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. July 18-Aug. 10. Free.* The Commonwealth Shakespeare Company brings Shakespeare's classic tale of smoldering sexuality and unspeakable treachery to the outdoor theater on the Boston Common.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Riverside Park, 1400 Soldiers Field Rd., Brighton (617-782-5425). www.publicktheatre.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Every other week, through Aug. 31. Wed., Thu., and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $3*
The Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's comedy about four lovers, a fairy queen and an ass.

Much Ado About Nothing
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through August 31. $27-$38.* Shakespeare's classic comedic tale of feuding lovers Beatrice and Benedict involves passion, deception, honor and revenge in Messina, Italy.

Oklahoma!
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *Thu.-Sat., pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Aug. 17. $15-$21.* The show is set in Indian territory at the turn of the century, when cattlemen and farmers were fighting over fences and water rights. Add a few love triangles and you've got this musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

The Producers
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Extended through September 13. $87-$97. Mel Brooks' musical that swept the 2001 Tony Awards, winning the most awards in Broadway history, comes to Boston, starring Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor.

Proof
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Through Aug. 3. $30. In this Pulitzer Prize–winning play by David Auburn, a brilliant mathematician has died and left behind what may be a proof of worldwide importance.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Twelfth Night
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Park, 1175 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-332-0546). www.publictheatre.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. July-Sept. 14. Wed., Thu. and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $30.* Enjoy an evening outdoors on the banks of the Charles River as the Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy featuring shipwreck, a case of mistaken identity, gender confusion and other complexities.

Vita and Virginia
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 31.* Eileen Atkins' play is an adaptation of the correspondence between Virginia Woolf and her lover, Vita Sackville-West. Through their letters, the two revolutionary artists draw a connection between unconventional love and creative inspiration.

Dance

Buglisi/Foreman Dance
Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. *July 24 and 8:15 pm; July 26, 2:15 and 8:15 pm; July 27, 5 $20.* Founding members Jacqulyn Buglisi, Dore Foreman, Terese Capucilli and Christine Dakin t this 9-year-old company of 13 dancers in a mod ballet performance with live music.

CND2 Dances by Nacho Duato
Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. *July 23-26, 8 July 27, 2 pm. $40-$45.* Known for his contem rary ballets, European choreographer Nacho Du brings his new group, CND2, to the Berkshires its U.S. debut.

Dance by Design
Museum of Fine Arts, Avenue of the Arts, 465 H ington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa. film. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. July 10:30 am. $6-$9.* This film and dance event tures a screening of Valerie Weiss' film *Dan*

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Design, which chronicles the professional and artistic developments of a young New York dancer as she decides between designing for a living and living to dance. The film will be followed by a live dance performance by Honey Blonder and Melissa Costa and a Q&A with Weiss.

David Parker & the Bang Group

Concord Academy, 166 Main St., Concord (978-402-2339). www.summerstagesdance.org. July 24, 8 pm. $18. Choreographer David Parker crafts works in which performers bang their heads on the floor and slap body parts to create a wacky, syncopated dance accompaniment.

Jo Stromgren Kompani

Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. July 31, Aug. 1, 8:15 pm; Aug. 2, 2:15 and 8:15 pm; Aug. 3, 5 pm. $10-$20. The art of physical theater breaks down the barriers between dance and theater. Employing movement, acting, humor and slapstick, the Jo Stromgren Kompani makes its U.S. debut.

Merce Cunningham Dance Company

Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-243-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. July 31, Aug. 1, 8 pm; August 2, 2 and 8 pm; Aug. 3, 2 pm. $45-$50. An icon of modern dance celebrates his company's 50th anniversary with a program featuring signature works and live music, with original sets by Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg.

Stomp

Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55. In its ongoing run in Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •July 23: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebins •July 24, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •July 25-26, $21-$25: Caroline Rhea, host of *The Caroline Rhea Show* •July 13: local comedians •July 27: local comedians •July 28: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •July29: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •July 30: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebins •July 31, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Aug. 8-9, 8 and 10:15 pm, $21-$25: Kevin Nealon from *Saturday Night Live*.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •July 23: Kelly MacFarland, Tony V, Janet Cormier, Christine Herman •July 24: Tom McIntire, Eric Cheung, Coleen Gavin, Ryan Stitcher, Abe Smith •July 25: Larry Murphy, Tim Fenn, Chris Walsh, Chris Tabb, Jeremy Turoff •July 26: Chris Tabb, Sandy Asai, Tim Fenn, Tammy Two-Tone •July 27: Sam Walters, "Pain with No Cause," Katie Grady, Tom Morello, Emily Singer, Corey Manning, Janet Cormier •July 30: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Jan Davidson, Joe Dinkin •August 1: DJ Hazard, Evan O'Television, Max Silvestri, Joe Huang, Chris Walsh, Larry Murphy •August 2: DJ Hazard, Meredith Apflebaum, Joe Huang, Evan O'Television, Mary Beth Cowan, Amanda White, Max Silvestri•Aug. 3: Jan Davidson "Moving to L.A." show.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •July 24, 8:30 pm: J Yannetty, All-Star Comedy •July 25 and 26, 8: pm: Paul De Angelo, Craig Boggis and Sam Walt •July 31, 8:30 pm: Joe Yannetty and All-Star Co edy •Aug. 1-2, 8:45 pm: Jim McCue, Pete Dutt and PJ Walsh.

Romantique plays at the American Repertory Theatre Aug. 1-17

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA:Red L to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8. Improv comedians po fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.impr asylum.com. *MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Ha market or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fr 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Din packages also available.* Improvisation and ske comedy in the North End. •Wed. and Thu., $ and Fri. and Sat., $20: Improv Asylum comedi present their summer main-stage show, *The Bra Ambition Tour.* •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv J featuring main-stage performers and special guest

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (61 576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: R Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longe running improvisational comedy troupe crea everything on the spot: the characters, the stori the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed. pm, $5: *The Hump*. This fringe series features I provBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $12: Micet 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show*. Brot ers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up a music, play short films and do character sketches display of sibling rivalry •Starting July 11: Fri. 8 $12: *Agent Spy*. Leave your cell phone on to help secret agency uncover the truth in this thriller co plete with chase scenes, romance and backstabbi 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports*. Two teams of improvi face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Sho* 8 and 10 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage*. Blendi storytelling, music, audience participation and joy chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show th changes with every performance. •Sun., 7 pm, *Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree* features v iting troupes and combines three shows in one.

COMEDY SHOWS

Blue Hair Troupe

Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont S Boston (800-733-5639). www.bluehairtroupe.co *MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Cen Thu., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3pm and 8pm; Su 3pm. July 18-Aug. 24. $25 and $30.* Visit the R Lenska Senior Center for the Performing Arts, whe retirees put on their dance shoes and strut their stu

Open Mike Night

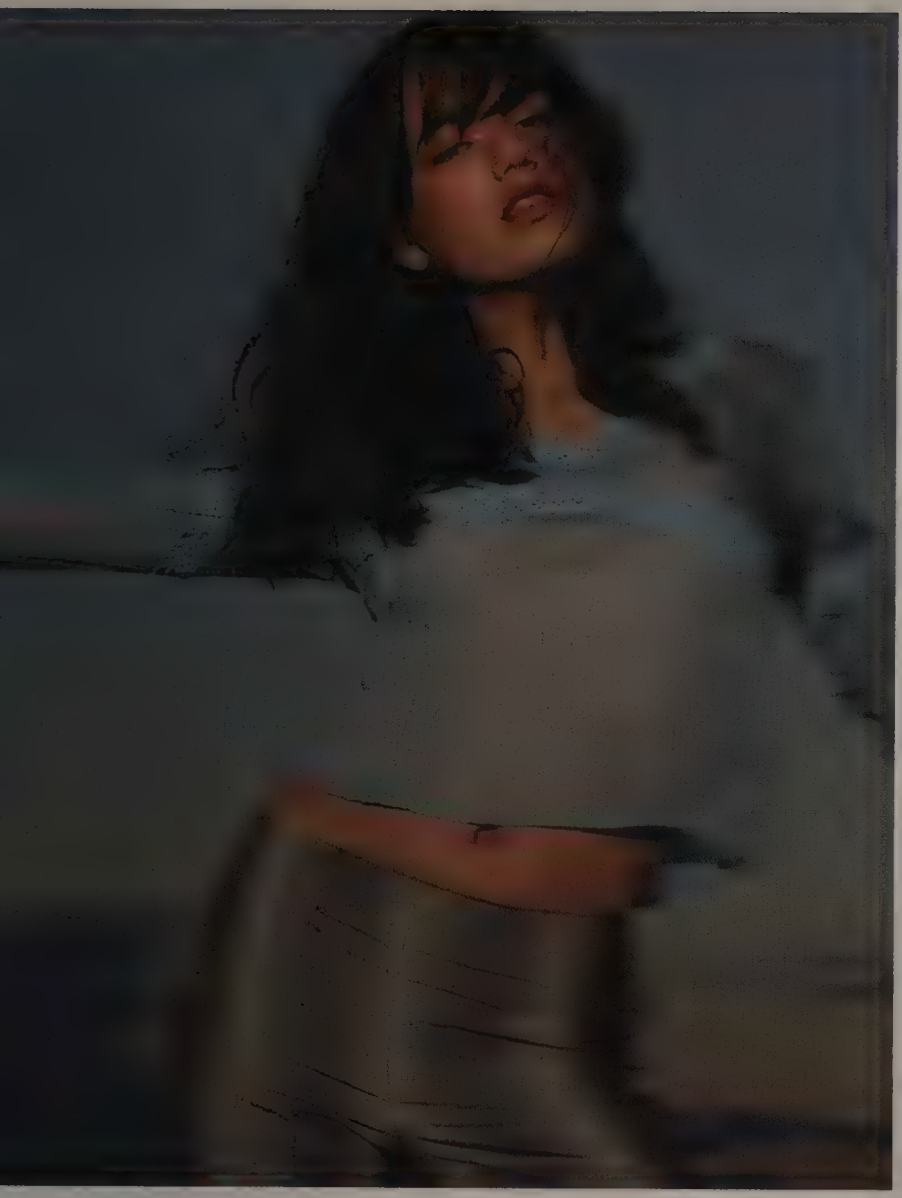
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-4 1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcom jam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month. 8 p* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike wi host Stash.

Summer Comedy Series

Regattabar, Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambri (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard gust 5. $10. Tim McIntire performs.



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Armed and Dangerous

Buffalo Soldiers conducts irreverent army maneuvers

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Ray Elwood, the conniving and charismatic soldier Joaquin Phoenix plays in the black comedy *Buffalo Soldiers*, would get a kick out of the U.S. Army's "Army of One" marketing campaign. The slogan is, I suppose, meant to suggest self-reliance; to me, it's always unintentionally promoted selfishness over teamwork. And selfishness is exactly what Elwood, a wheeler-dealer in the tradition of comic anti-heroes such as *The Phil Silvers Show*'s Ernie Bilko and *Catch-22*'s Milo Minderbender, is all about.

Joaquin Phoenix plays a charismatic soldier who dates the sergeant's daughter, played by Anna Paquin.

The army is just one big warehouse for Elwood, who's stationed in Stuttgart in 1989, a time when, he tells us in voice-over, the army was desperate for men and opened its ranks to convicts. (Surprise, surprise—Elwood is one of the cons.) But it's peacetime, the Iron Curtain is crumbling, and those assigned to handle our army's resources have a major case of idle hands. So what's a bored soldier in a supply battalion, with sales skills and dreams of ill-gotten gains, to do?

Maybe cook morphine into heroin and hawk it to the other equally bored soldiers on the base? Maybe get a requisition for 1,000 gallons of Mop & Glo past his oblivious commanding officer (Ed Harris) and sell most of it on the German black market? Maybe hijack two truckloads of rocket launchers and other assault weapons, after the drivers get blown away in an explosion started by a stoned crew of a runaway tank? Maybe barter those weapons for enough raw materials to cook more heroin than Elwood and his cohorts have ever dreamed of selling?

Maybe all of the above.

In between his schemes, Elwood also finds time to be the boy-toy of the CO's independent wife (Elizabeth McGovern) and to butt heads with the aptly named Robert E. Lee (Scott Glenn), the new "top sergeant" in his company. He strikes back by dating the gung ho sarge's shapely daughter (Anna Paquin), who's no wallflower herself.

There are no good guys in *Buffalo Soldiers*, yet director Gregor Jordan and writers Eric Axel Weiss and Nora Maccoby, adapting Robert O'Connor's novel, wring sympathy from their characters by making the army base a supremely absurd example of human endeavor gone awry and by giving the characters clear motivations. At heart, the movie is a tale of the bored (Elwood, the CO's wife), the rebellious (the sergeant's daughter) and the misguided (the CO, the sergeant).

There is also the movie's tasty anti-authoritarian streak, in which the neat structure of the military is no match for the unrelenting messiness of human behavior. The physical gags can get extreme, especially when the stoned tank crew wreaks its inept havoc on a German village. But *Buffalo Soldiers* shows young men in uniform acting as young men often do, something most military movies shy away from. Ego, stupidity and pettiness do not mysteriously vanish when people are together in the military, except maybe in Mel Gibson movies. So, in the tradition of *Three Kings*, M*A*S*H, *Apocalypse Now*, *Full Metal Jacket* and *Catch-22*, *Buffalo Soldiers* is laced with opportunistic behavior, office politics and infighting.

The infighting takes on more and more dimension as Elwood wages his escalating battles: to keep the CO clueless, to frustrate the top sarge, to please the violent German crooks to whom he wants to sell the stolen weapons and to outsmart his rival in scheming, the base's head MP (Shiek Mahmud-Bey). But don't worry about Elwood. In a catastrophe, the rats are always the most likely to survive, even charismatic, rebel-underdogs like him.

Fortunately, *Buffalo Soldiers* has shown survival skill too. Miramax snapped up its distribution rights at the 2001 Toronto Film Festival on Sept. 10, 2001, and—after the next day's events—has sat on it until now. Actually, the movie couldn't be more timely, following the carefully orchestrated Gulf War II. The behind-the-scenes, "movie they didn't want you to see" drama adds some oomph to *Buffalo Soldiers*, though that shouldn't be overestimated. This military comedy is hardly original, but it's a wry and raucous ride. iB

Buffalo Soldiers ★★★

Directed by Gregor Jordan. Written by Gregor Jordan, Eric Axel Weiss and Nora Maccoby. Based on the book by Robert O'Connor. With Joaquin Phoenix, Ed Harris, Scott Glenn, Anna Paquin and Elizabeth McGovern. Rated R. Miramax Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Capturing the Friedmans ★★★★
Has a movie ever plunged the viewer into grea moral ambiguity than Andrew Jarecki's docume tary about the Friedman family of Great Ne Long Island? They splintered apart in the l 1980s, when father Arnold and youngest son Je were accused of molesting Arnold's computer s dents. On one hand, it's easy to see how the t Friedmans, and Arnold in particular, might guilty: He first got into trouble for possessing ch porn, and he confessed to having improper re tions with minors at other times in his life. On other hand, the police's investigation and the timony that investigators got from the kids both very suspect. It's impossible to believe Friedmans are totally in the wrong, or totally ri in their denials. You have to believe the truth somewhere in the middle. So is the movie a c tionary tale about evil lurking beneath an eve day suburban surface or about the power of sugg tion and the abuse of power? It's both. (At Cop Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle ★★
The first movie was a blast. So why is the seco such a dud? Maybe it's because almost nothin done here that isn't a parody of or a nod to so earlier piece of pop culture (one of the villa only character development is that he has sim tattoos and the same theme music as Rob DeNiro in *Cape Fear*). Maybe it's the utterly un markable "comeback" of Demi Moore, who pla villainess and who showed more humor in *Jane*. Maybe it's the dominance of special effe over characters. Bernie Mac and Cameron Diaz as enjoyable as ever, but this series has jumped shark. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburb

Dirty Pretty Things ★★★
For years, director Stephen Frears has been flitt back and forth between Hollywood movies like *Fidelity* and smaller movies made in his native land. This intimate drama, set in the subcultur London's illegal-immigrant community, is his "small movie" since the rowdy Roddy Doyle ada tion, *The Van*. Chiwetel Ejiofer and Audrey Tau are sympathetic as two co-workers in a Lon hotel who are repeatedly taken advantage o bosses and immigration officials. Ejiofer, who pla disgraced Nigerian doctor hanging on to his self spect, is especially affecting, and although the gets more intricate than expected, Frears never sorts to sentimentality in getting us to care for heroes. (Opens Aug. 1.)

Finding Nemo ★★★
The latest computer-animated comedy from P doesn't stray very far from the quest plots of *Toy Story* movies and *A Bug's Life*, but it's a re to form after the weak *Monsters, Inc.* The dig animation continues to get more expressive, human characters are again wisely kept to a m mum. This story of a fish trying to find his who was grabbed by a scuba diver, features equ expressive work from the voice cast, especially bert Brooks as the overprotective father and E DeGeneres as the forgetful fish who helps him his quest. The amusing, but little-seen, early P short "Knick Knacks" precedes the film. Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Hollywood Homicide ★★
Writer-director Ron Shelton's mix of com drama, sex, philosophy and male bonding has o worked—just recall *Bull Durham* and *White Can't Jump*. But here the ingredients are like pi of a jigsaw puzzle that aren't that interesting don't really fit together. An investigation in quadruple homicide and Shelton's typically joc humor don't exactly commingle, to use a word movie likes, and Shelton is so busy stressing fact that Harrison Ford's and Josh Hartnett's c acters would rather be moonlighting as, res tively, a realtor and a yoga instructor, that the not very believable as detectives. Semi-compe and totally mediocre. (At Boston Common, way and suburbs.)

The Hulk ★★½
Traumatic Childhood + Weird Science = Trou Oddball Hero. That's the all-too-familiar co book formula at work, as in *Batman*, *Spider* and *Daredevil*. But Ang Lee's movie gets the se right, with Eric Bana as scientist Bruce Ban who has no idea that his birth father (Nick No also a scientist, passed on the mutation he ind in himself. Of course, all the physicality of plot—after being juiced with gamma rays, D mutant Bruce turns into the Hulk whenev gets angry—is just a stand-in for the emoti

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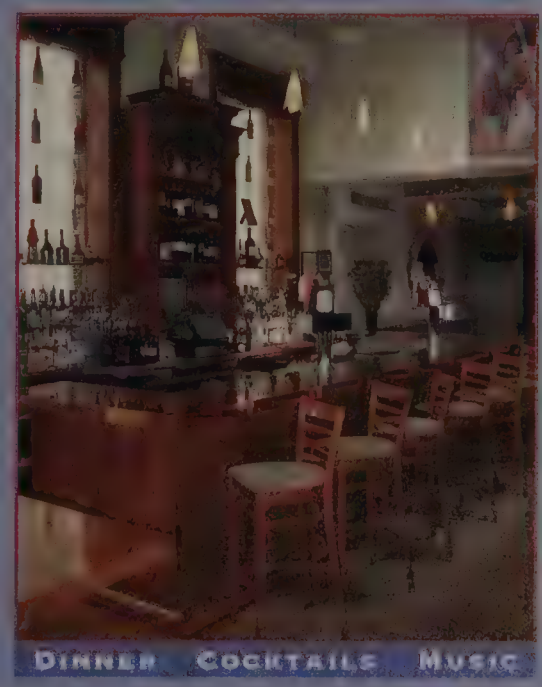

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baggage parents pass on to children. The movie's snappy editing, which is full of split screens, nifty wipes and dissolves, also adds energy. Yet as the lengthy story moves along, and we get more Hulk and less Bruce, the characters and the drama recede and the special effects and large-scale action take over. Like its title character, the movie gets a little too big for its britches. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde ★½
Reese Witherspoon's performance kept the first movie, a so-so *Clueless* knock-off, respectable. But the second time *isn't* the charm for this numbing sequel, in which the good things about sunny heroine Elle Woods (optimism, ideals, persistence) are a pittance next to her obnoxious qualities (the bad case of shopaholism, the pathological anthropomorphizing of her dog, the conspicuous materialism). This time she wins over a bunch of naysaying elitists in Washington, just as she did in Cambridge in the first movie, culminating in the "borrowing" of the climax of *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. For a movie that tries to be inspiring, this is unbelievably uninspired. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Masked & Anonymous ★★
Sometimes the writing comes alive in this comedy starring and pseudonymously written by Bob Dylan. And the musical footage is memorable, especially Dylan's version of "Dixie." But is Dylan playing himself or his character, called Jack Fate? That's the question that's never really answered, and it's the most confusing thing in an overly puzzling movie set in an America that's deteriorated into a Third World country. The deep cast includes Jeff Bridges, Jessica Lange, John Goodman and Luke Wilson—and some of the actors (Val Kilmer, Mickey Rourke, Giovanni Ribisi and Bruce Dern) even come off looking good. But they're in the minority. (At Kendall Square.)

The Matrix Reloaded ★★½
This spotty sequel to 1999's pop-culture touchstone holds true to the theory that the middle movie is usually the weakest of a trilogy (that's assuming this fall's third movie is better). Where the first was intimate and tightly constructed, the new movie is less specific in its internal logic and has a large scale

Nick Stahl, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Claire Danes help stop computers from taking over the world in the futuristic action thriller *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*.

that is sometimes clumsy (including council meetings and war talk reminiscent of, yikes, *The Phantom Menace*). The sequel seems even more like a videogame than the first, in its increasingly elaborate, animation-dependent fight scenes (which come off as self-parody at times) and in the "leveled" structure (fight to see the Oracle, move up to fight to see the Keymaker, move up to fight your way into the Source, etc.). The heavies have all the fun this time, including Hugo Weaving's Agent Smith, who can now replicate himself at will, and the snippy Frenchman played by Lambert Wilson. Not bad, but not as satisfying as hoped. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

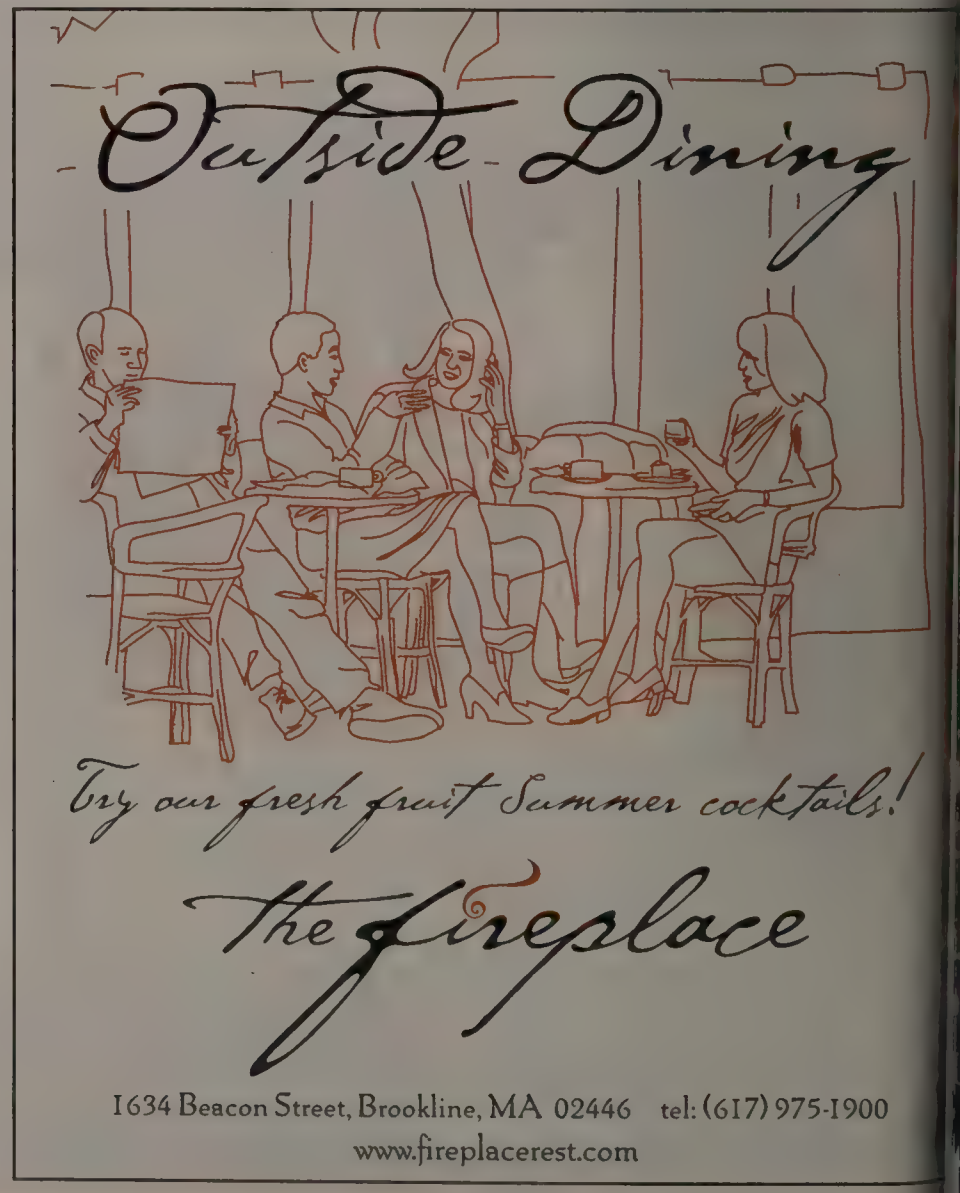
Northfork ★
The Polish Brothers debuted with the beautiful *Twin Falls Idaho*, but like their second film, *Jackpot*, this third film is drearily dull. A minimalist tale of the 1950s evacuation of a small Montana town to make way for a dam and a lake, *Northfork* might have had a dusty *Last Picture Show* lyricism (and this film shares old country tunes and a washed-out look with that 1970s classic). But one half of the story, about the six men getting paid to evacuate homeowners, only touches upon the human reality of the situation about half the time. And the other half of the story, a dream that an ill boy has, is about as pretentious and uninteresting as any plot could be. (At Kendall Square.)

Spellbound ★★★½
Jeffrey Blitz's documentary follows eight junior high schoolers with a magnificent obsession: they're all contestants in the 1999 National Spelling Bee. The movie takes them from their regionals through the Washington, D.C., finals, and it has quirky charm to spare. The kids make up an impressively broad cross section—boys and girls, city and country, white and of color—and the Bee

really brings their families together and lets thes smart kids, often misfits back in their hometown bond with others like themselves. The finals als generate more dramatic tension than any othe movie this year, by far. (At Copley Place, Kenda Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Swimming Pool ★★½
French writer-director Francois Ozon has mad somber movies like *Under the Sand* and playfu movies like *8 Women*. His English-language debu seems like an attempt to blend both types, by pai ing the first's Charlotte Rampling and the second Ludivine Sagnier. Rampling plays a dowdy Englis mystery writer whose publisher (Charles Dance offers her his home in the south of France for writing holiday. The unexpected arrival of th publisher's horny French daughter (Sagnier) spoi the working vacation, but it sure livens up th movie. Sagnier's devil-may-care sensuality is a he luva lot more fun than the slow Rampling pro logue, and the two women embark on a passive-ag gressive cat-and-mouse game. The payoff is wa too subtle and puzzling to deliver the neede oomph, though, and the movie remains mostly showcase for Sagnier's devilish performance. (A Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines ★★★
It's been nearly 20 years since the first *Terminato* and for the last 10 years, Arnold Schwarzenegge has been a total joke. Yet this sequel improbabl comes through. Compared with the other b movies this summer, its story is meaty, its concern serious and its treatment dramatic. Arnold travel back from the future again (in a different andro shell) to protect John Connor (Nick Stahl), the f ture hero who will help the humans beat back th computers who take over the world. Also dragge into the fight this time is Claire Danes, who's su prised to learn she's also going to be a future revol tionary. Super-robot killing machine Kristanna Loken makes a better icy villainess than De Moore in *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*, an Schwarzenegger excels at the role for which he wa always best suited. This is definitely the drive movie of the summer. (At Boston Common, Fe way and suburbs.)



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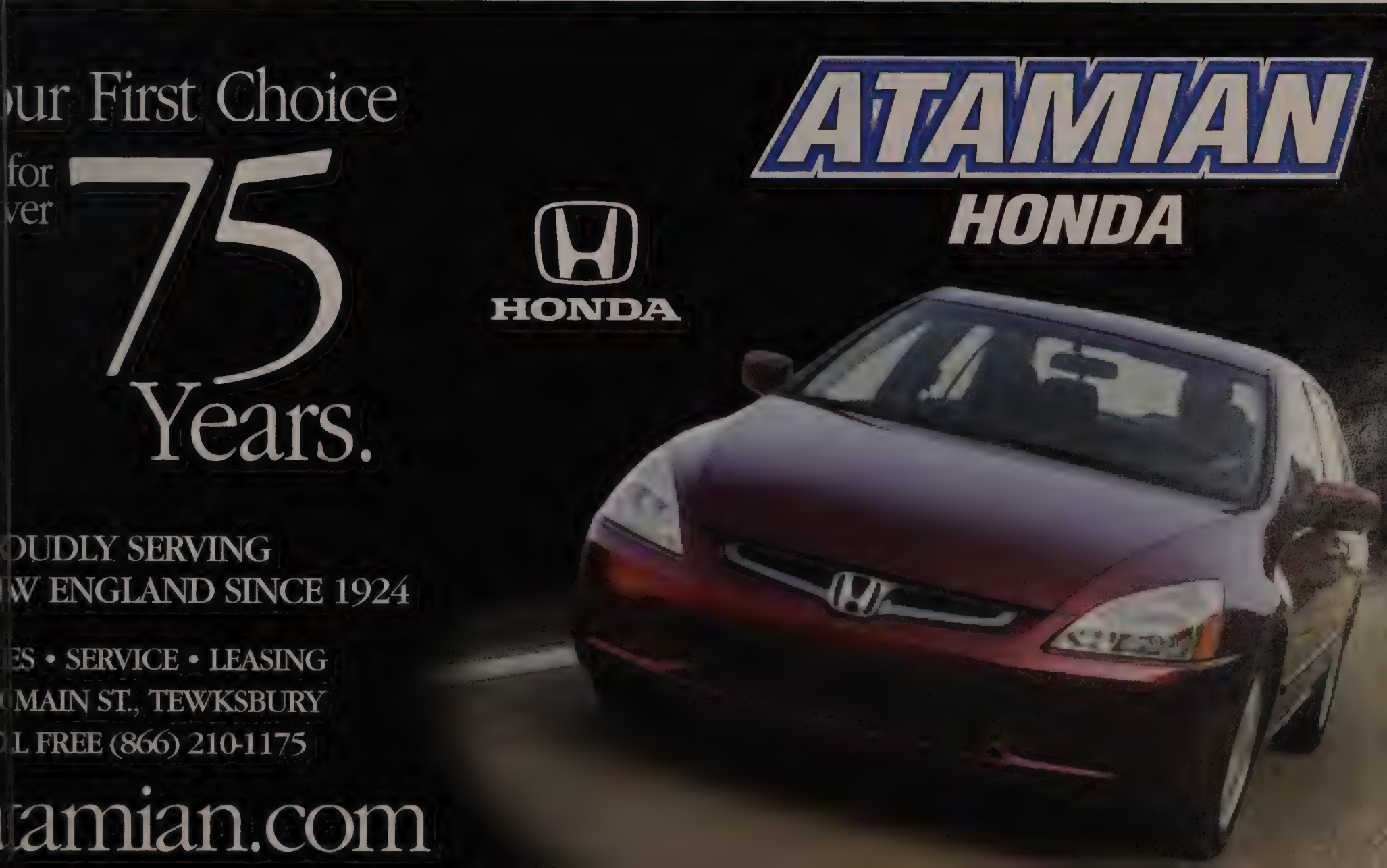

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2 Fast 2 Furious ★★

Without the original's Vin Diesel (the Steven Seagal of the new millennium), the sequel isn't quite as obnoxious as the original. But it is almost as dumb. Once again, everyone acts like they're extras in a music video—which, considering how the street races are edited to music, isn't entirely incorrect. This just might be the world's most expensive pissing contest, and the "Look at me! Look at my car!" desperation of most of the characters is downright silly. The plot involves Paul Walker (whose character is now an *ex*-cop) and Tyrese going undercover to take down a drug smuggler (Cole Hauser), and still managing to indulge in enough male bonding for three movies (gee, who's on whose tail in *this* race?). The movie achieves its goal of throwing in one of those races every 15 minutes, but I'll take a grade-Z hot-rod movie over this one's product-placement, soundtrack-deal, MTV slickness any day. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

28 Days Later ★★★

Trainspotting director Danny Boyle's apocalyptic sci-fi/action film owes a lot to those of George Romero, especially *Dawn of the Dead*. Still, it's a creepy and lively blend of character drama, zombie film, social commentary, vampire film and action, set in motion when a group of animal-rights activists frees rage-infected lab primates. The animals violently attack and infect the activists, who attack other humans and so on, until nearly all of England (and perhaps the world) is acting like bloodthirsty soccer hooligans. The movie follows Jim (Cillian Murphy), who awakens from a coma into this new world. He meets up with the few uninfected people left, and they try to find any remaining vestige of society and stay alive. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

Reese Witherspoon reprises her role as Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde*.

ALLSTON CINEMA UNDERGROUND

The Hip-Hop Film Festival

•July 25 and 26, 7:30 pm. **Freestyle: The Art of Rhyme** *2002*. Shot over 10 years, Kevin Fitzgerald's film explores the oral traditions that make up hip-hop and features many well-known rappers. •Also showing, 9:30 pm. **Word** *2001*. This film profiles the independent hip-hop scene, focusing on what has been taking place in New York City. Directed by Tony Greer.

•July 26, 7:30 pm. **Breath Control: History of the Human Beatbox** *2002*. Joey Garfield's documentary focuses on the history of beatboxing and looks at various artists who specialize in "vocal percussion."

•July 27, 6 pm. **Soundz of Spirit** *2003*. Director Jocelyn Rose Lyons' film examines the relationship between the creative process and spirituality in hip-hop culture. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Street Legends** *2002*. Directors Todd Hickey and Corey Johnson trace the story of the Living Legends Crew.

BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL

Movies by Moonlight

•July 25 at dusk. **Adam's Rib** *1949*. Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn team up for this battle-of-the-sexes romantic comedy, in which a husband and wife go head-to-head in court. Directed by George Cukor.

•Aug. 1 at dusk. **Guys and Dolls** *1955*. Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra star in Joseph L. Mankiewicz's film version of the Broadway musical.

•Aug. 8 at dusk. **Cool Hand Luke** *1967*. Paul Newman plays Luke, a man who gives his fellow inmates a glimpse of hope in a rural prison. Stuart Rosenberg directs.

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mayor Menino's Monday Night Movies

•July 28 at dusk, McConnell Park in Dorchester. **Scooby Doo** *2002*. After a bitter breakup, members of the Mystery Inc. gang are individually brought to an island resort to investigate strange happenings. Raja Gosnell directs.

•Aug. 4 at dusk, McLaughlin Playground in Missio Hill. **Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams** *2001* Robert Rodriguez directs this film about a brothe and-sister spy team who set out for a mysterious i land, where they battle a pair of rival spy kids.

•Aug. 11 at dusk, Hunt/Almont Playground, Matta pan. **Spider-Man** *2002*. Sam Raimi directs this big screen adaptation of the comic book about a gee (Tobey Maguire) who develops supernatural powe after being bitten by a spider.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bogey in the Forties

•July 28, 6 pm. **To Have and Have Not** *1944* Howard Hawks directs this adaptation of Erne Hemingway's World War II novel set in Martiniqu

•Aug. 4, 6 pm. **The Big Sleep** *1946*. Howar Hawks once again directs Bogart and Bacall in th film noir classic. A private eye looks after a dyin general's family and finds himself involved in murder case.

•Aug. 11, 6 pm. **Dark Passage** *1947*. Bogart's cha acter escapes from prison in order to prove his inno cence. Delmer Daves directs.

Summer Film Festival: From Page to Screen

•July 29, 6 pm. **What's Eating Gilbert Grape** *1993* In this Lasse Hallström film, Johnny Depp stars as young man taking care of his troubled younge brother (Leonardo DiCaprio) and obese mother.

•Aug. 5, 6 pm. **The Outsiders** *1983*. Francis For Coppola directed this film about two opposin groups of young men from the wrong side of th tracks, fighting to keep control of their turf. C Thomas Howell, Matt Dillon, Emilio Estevez an Tom Cruise star.

•Aug. 12, 6 pm. **Snow Falling on Cedars** *1999* Scott Hicks directs this story about anti-Japane sentiments in a small town in Washington sta where a Japanese man is accused of murder.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Mondays–Genre Films of the '50s

•July 28, 3 and 7:15 pm. **All that Heaven Allow** *1955*. Rock Hudson stars in this Douglas Sirk mel

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The Boston Herald

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Alison Arnett, The Boston Globe

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Mat Schaffer, The Boston Globe

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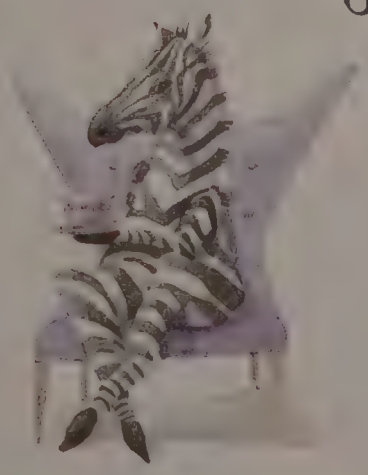

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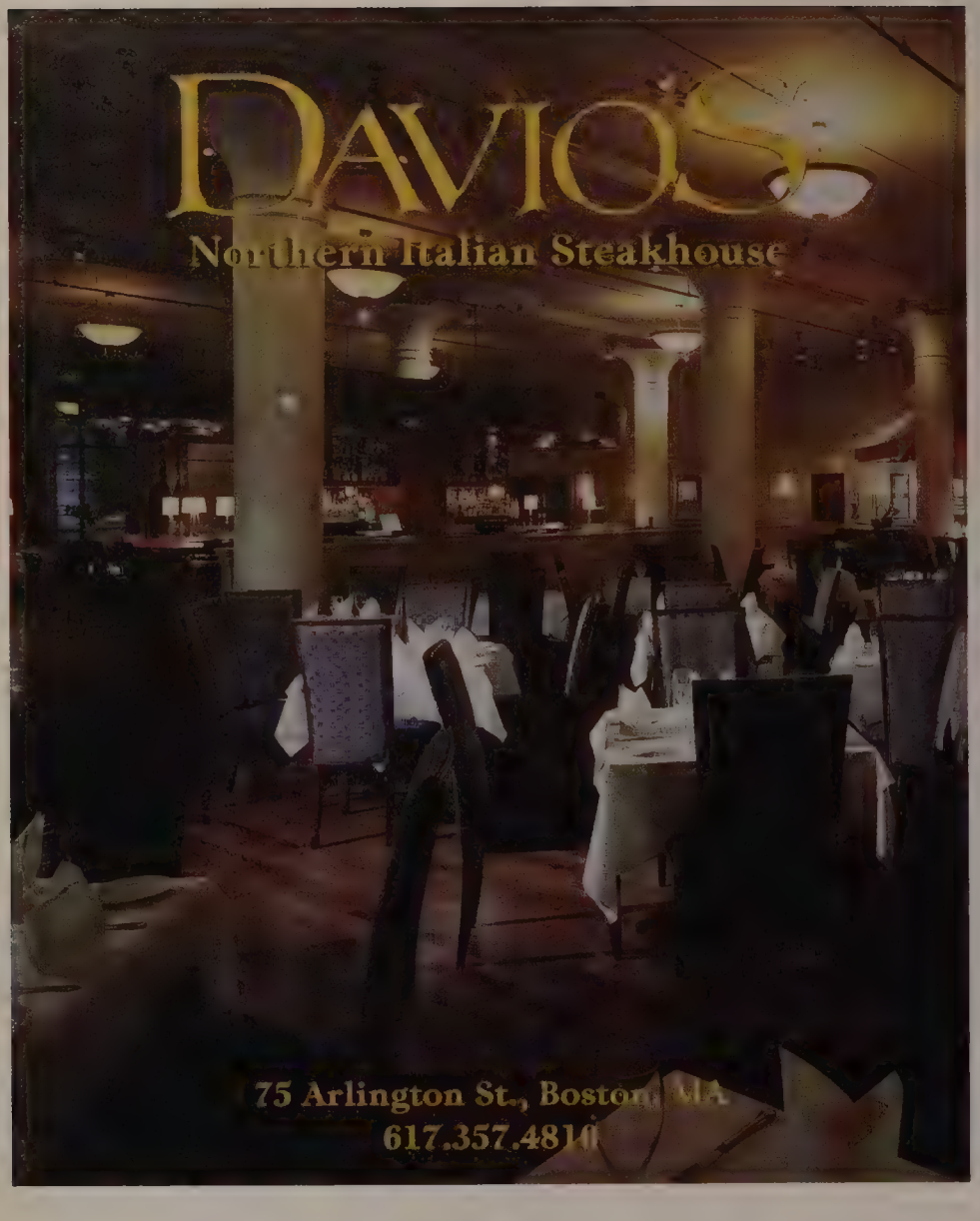

drama about a wealthy, lonely widow who falls for her gardener. •Also showing, 5 and 9:30 pm. **Pillow Talk** *1959*. In this Doris Day and Rock Hudson sex comedy, a womanizing songwriter and an interior designer are forced to share a phone line. Directed by Michael Gordon.

•Aug. 4, 3 and 7:15 pm. **High Noon** *1952*. Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly star in this Frank Zinnemann Western about a retiring marshal who is forced to return to work when a dangerous outlaw and his gang return to town to settle a deadly score. •Also showing, 5:15 and 9:30 pm. **Ride Lonesome** *1959*. Budd Boetticher directs this story about a bounty hunter who withstands attacks from Indians and hired guns while trying to get an outlaw safely to Santa Fe.

•Aug. 11, 3:15 and 7:15 pm. **The Thing** *1951*. In this sci-fi thriller, a spaceship is discovered in the Arctic. The alien does not come in peace. •Also showing, 5:15 and 9:30 pm. **The Man from Planet X** *1951*. Edgar G. Ulmer's story features a scientist on his way to Scotland to investigate a planet that may soon collide with Earth. Soon after his arrival, a spaceship lands near his lab.

Tuesdays–From Panel to Flame: Comics in the Movies

•July 29, 3, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 pm. **Barbarella** *1968*. Roger Vadim directs this adaptation of the French comic strip by Jean-Claude Forest. Jane Fonda stars in the space-age fantasy as a vampish secret agent sent on a mission to save the galaxy from an evil scientist.

•Aug. 5, 3:15 and 7:30 pm. **Ghost in the Shell** *1995*. Mamoru Oshii directs this anime tale of a renegade hacker called the Puppet Master, who is being pursued by cyber-cops. •Also showing, 5:15 and 9:30 pm. **Metropolis** *2001*. This anime film is an adaptation of Osamu Tezuka's *manga* (comic) in which a boy and his uncle arrive in a city ruled by robots. Rin Taro directs this movie about the relationship that develops between the human boy and a robotic girl.

•Aug. 12, 3:15 and 7:30 pm. **Crumb** *1994*. Terry Zwigoff looks at the life of comic book artist R. Crumb, creator of Fritz the Cat. •Also showing, 5:45 and 10 pm. **Fritz the Cat** *1972*. Fritz the Cat, an animated promiscuous college student, goes on an X-rated romp. Directed by Ralph Bakshi.

Wednesdays–Recent Raves

•July 23, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 pm. **Spider** *2002*. This David Cronenberg film tells the story of "Spider" Clegg (Ralph Fiennes), an institutionalized man who moves into a London halfway house where he is consumed by a troubled past.

•July 30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:45 pm. **Morvern Callar** *2002*. The film tells the story of a working-class woman who comes home to find that her boyfriend has committed suicide. He leaves her the manuscript of his novel, which she claims as her own. Directed by Lynne Ramsay.

•Aug. 6, 3:30 and 7:45 pm. **The Good Thief** *2002*. Neil Jordan's adaptation of Jean-Pierre Melville's *Bob le flambeur* stars Nick Nolte. •Also showing, 5:45 and 10 pm. **Bob le flambeur** *1955*. This Jean-Pierre Melville heist movie is considered the first film of the French New Wave.

Thursdays–Chinese Period Drama

•July 31, 4:30 and 8 pm. **Farewell My Concubine** *1993*. Chen Kaige directs this film about two boys who meet in the Peking Opera, endure years of professional training and remain friends for 60 years, until they fall for the same woman.

•Aug. 7, 7:15 pm. **Raise the Red Lantern** *1991*. Director Zhang Yimou's film follows Songlian, who is forced to become the fourth wife of a wealthy man. •Also showing, 5 and 9:45 pm. **Ju Dou** *1990*. Director Zhang Yimou confronts the issue of women's oppression in Chinese culture through the story of a man who drives two wives to their deaths when they can't produce an heir.

Special Engagements

•July 25-27, 5, 7:20 and 9:45 pm. **Lilja 4-Ever** *2002*. Lukas Moodysson's film is the story of a Soviet Union teenager who is abandoned by her mother, evicted and shunned, but finds a friend in a glue-sniffing young boy. •Also showing, July 25 and July 27, 12:30 and 2:30 pm. **Microcosmos** *1996*. This film takes the viewer into the creepy, crawly world of insects. Directed by Claude Nuridsany.

•Aug. 1-3, 4:30 and 8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 1 pm. **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** *1966*. Clint Eastwood stars in this tale about a bounty hunter, a Mexican bandito and a con man who battle one another and Civil War armies in their search for gold. Directed by Sergio Leone.

Trailer Treats

•July 24, 3:30, 5:30 and 8 pm. Various trailers for upcoming features as well as classic trailers for old films screen. Interspersed are films from the Brattle's collection of cartoons and shorts. The 8:30 pm sho includes musical entertainment, snacks and drin Admission for the party is $12 in advance and $ at the door.

A Tribute to Gregory Peck

•Aug. 8, 7 pm; Aug 9, 1:45 pm; Aug. 10, 1:45 p **Roman Holiday** *1953*. Gregory Peck plays a journa ist who falls in love with a princess (Audrey He burn). •Also showing, 4:15 and 9:30 pm. **To Kill Mockingbird** *1962*. Peck gives an Academy Awar winning performance as a lawyer who risks his c reer to defend a black man accused of raping a whi woman. Robert Mulligan directs.

•Aug. 10, 3, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 pm. **Cape Fe** *1962*. J. Lee Thompson's original version of this fil stars Peck as a family man nearly driven crazy by ex-con.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•July 23 and 24. **Bonhoeffer** *2003*. Mart Doblmeier directs this movie about a religious lead who challenged the Christian church and help the Jews as Hitler wreaked havoc in Europe.

•July 25-Aug. 7. **On-Line** *2003*. Jed Weintrob d rects this film about a man who participates in ero online chat sessions while pining for his ex-fiance •Aug. 8-12. **What I Want My Words to Do to Y** *2002*. In Madeleine Gavin's documentary, Eve E sler (*The Vagina Monologues*) leads a group of fema inmates as they put their thoughts about th crimes down on paper. Actresses Rosie Perez, Mar Tomei and Glenn Close act out their manuscripts

Film Class

•Aug. 5, 7 pm. **Eraserhead** *1977*. Michael Kal leads the discussion on this David Lynch film a the director's innovative filmmaking. $25 for the ries of two lectures on Aug. 5 and Aug 19. Call 6 783-9241 ext. 15 to register.

Meet the Director

•Aug. 12, 7:30 pm. **The Cloggers of Putneyv** *2002*. Director Stewart Engesser takes questi after a screening of his mountain culture moc mentary that follows extreme cloggers (people w slip on their clogs and trek through mud for fun).

Midnights: Crazy About Swayze

•July 19, 12 am. **Road House** *1989*. Rowdy Herri ton directs Patrick Swayze in this film about a p losophy professor-*cum*-bouncer who is hired to cl up a seedy Missouri bar.

•July 25, 12 am. **Donnie Darko** *2001*. Swayze pl Jim, the self-help guru of a cynical teenage boy (J Gyllenhaal) who grapples with theories of G mental stability and visions of a giant, satan Rabbit named Frank. Richard Kelly directs.

•July 26, 12 am. **Ghost** *1990*. Swayze puts hea on hold to reunite with his troubled wife (D Moore) through a psychic (Whoopi Goldberg) rected by Jerry Zucker.

Midnights: Kung-Fu Madness

•July 26 and 27, 12 am. **Can que** (*Crip Avengers*) *1978*. Cheh Chang directs this about three men who encounter an evil land and build a friendship.

Senior Film Series

•July 23, 1:30 pm. **Whale Rider** *2002*. A Zealand girl fights to claim her rightful positio tribal chief in Niki Caro's film.

•July 30, 1:30 pm. **Swimming Pool** *2003*. Fran Ozon directs the tale of a female writer whose ries heat up once she meets her publisher's su young daughter.

Special Features

•July 24, 7:30 pm. **Singin' in the Rain** *1952*. Sta Donen and Gene Kelly direct this classic mu about movie stars who must make the transi from silent pictures to sound. Starring Gene K Debbie Reynolds and Jean Hagen.

Summertime Blues

•July 28, 7:30 pm. **The Blues** *2002*. Martin Sco executive-produced this miniseries in which seve rectors tell seven different stories about blues mu

GARDNER MUSEUM

All Talking, All Singing, All Dancin

•July 23, 8:30 pm. This program celebrate emergence of film sound through newsreel foot Vitaphone short and a screening of the *1933* Berkeley–choreographed musical **42nd Street**.

Animating Music

•July 24, 8:30 pm. This program traces the e tion of the animated short from the early carto the modern, sophisticated production by major lywood studios.

Black Orpheus

•July 30, 8:30 pm. **Orfeu Negro** (*Black Orp* *1959*. Marcel Camus reworks the classic G tragedy of Orpheus into a contemporary Bra setting.

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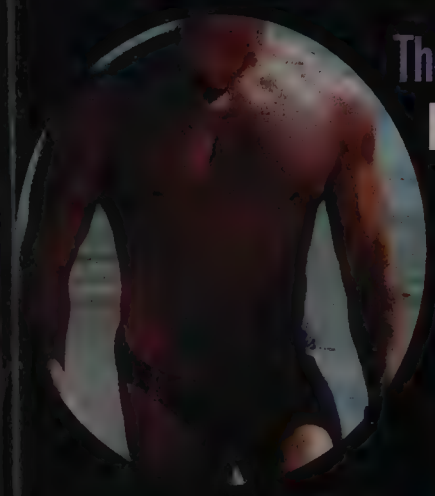

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The City Symphony

•July 29, 8:30 pm. **Chelovek s kinoapparatom** *(The Man with a Movie Camera) 1929*. Dziga Vertov's silent masterpiece screens with live musical accompaniment by pianist Yakov Gubanov.

Latcho Drom

•July 31, 7 pm. **Latcho drom** *(Safe Journey) 1993*. French filmmaker Tony Gatlif's film is an evocation of the ancient culture of the Rom people and the role of song in their lives. The film includes no narration or dialogue.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Cinema A to Z: Treasures from the Harvard Film Archive

O is for Oracles

•July 23, 7 pm. **The Thief of Bagdad** *1940*. A street urchin and a prince escape from prison and embark on incredible adventures with the aid of a genie. Directed by Michael Powell, Ludwig Berger and Tim Whelan. •Also showing, 9 pm. **The Last Wave** *1977*. As rains flood Australia, an aborigine group is accused of murder and searches for the answer to a cryptic prophecy. Directed by Peter Weir.

P is for Polanski

•July 24, 7 pm; July 25, 9:15 pm. **Nóz w wodzie** *(Knife in the Water) 1962*. Roman Polanski's cinematic debut tells the story of a couple on a yachting trip who engage in an emotional game with a young hitchhiker. •Also showing, July 24, 9 pm; July 25, 7 pm. **The Tenant** *1976*. Polanski casts himself in the role of a Polish office clerk in Paris who moves into a new apartment to find the building's elderly tenants inexplicably hostile toward him.

Q is for Queer Renegades

•July 26, 7 pm; July 27, 9 pm. **Without You, I'm Nothing** *1990*. John Boskovich directs this adaptation of Sandra Bernhard's acclaimed one-woman comedy show. •Also showing, July 26, 8:45 pm; July 27, 7 pm. **Caravaggio** *1986*. Derek Jarman directs this film about the 17th-century Renaissance artist Caravaggio.

R is for Roeg Images

•July 28, 7 pm; July 29, 8:45 pm. **The Man Who Fell to Earth** *1976*. Director Nicolas Roeg's film is about an alien who lands on Earth in search of water but becomes the head of a high-tech conglomerate. •Also showing, July 28, 9:30 pm; July 29, 7 pm. **The Masque of the Red Death** *1964*. Roeg served as the director of photography in this Roger Corman adaptation of the classic Edgar Allan Poe tale.

S is for Simply Sellers

•July 30, 7 pm; July 31, 9 pm. **The Ladykillers** *1955*. In this Alexander Mackendrick film, Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers star as criminals masquerading as a string ensemble, intending to use their landlady as an accomplice to their crimes. •Also showing, July 30, 9 pm; July 31, 7 pm. **I'm All Right Jack** *1959*. John Boulting directs Sellers in this satirical portrait of British society.

T is for Trailers

•Aug. 1, 7 pm. **Trailers, Trailers, Trailers**. This A-to-Z overview of the 1,000-plus trailers held by the Harvard Film Archive examines the popularity of movie trailers and attempts to bring back to life forgotten trailers of the past.

U is for UK Underdogs

•Aug. 2, 7 pm. **High Hopes** *1988*. Mike Leigh directs this family drama about a London couple debating parenthood while caring for an aging, forgetful parent.

•Also showing, 9 pm. **Raining Stones** *1993*. This film is a tale of an unemployed Brit who goes to extreme lengths to procure a dress for his daughter's first communion. Directed by Ken Loach.

V is for Vitti Vignettes

•Aug. 3, 7 pm. **The Phantom of Liberty** *1974*. Luis Buñuel's film jumps between 19th-century Toledo, Spain, where French troops murder citizens, and a modern day Parisian park, where two au pairs discuss the horrors of Napoleonic times as their young charges are accosted. •Also showing, 9 pm. **High Infidelity** *1965*. Four Italian directors created this film, offering different takes on marriage and betrayal. It features the work of Franco Rossi, Elio Petri, Luciano Salce and Mario Monicelli.

W is for Women's Pictures

•Aug. 4, 7 pm; Aug. 5, 8:45 pm. **The Women** *1939*. George Cukor directs this film with an all-female cast, offering a female perspective on the war between the sexes. Starring Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford and Rosalind Russell. •Also showing, Aug. 4, 9:30 pm; Aug. 5, 7 pm. **Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown** *1988*. This farcical comedy by Pedro Almodóvar tells the story of a soap star who is losing her mind after being abandoned by her lover.

X is for X-Rated in America

•Aug. 6, 7 pm, 18+. **W.R.: Mysteries of the Organism** *1971*. This controversial film by Dusan Makavejev studies the relationship between sexu energy and political power. •Also showing, 8: pm, (18+). **Blue Shorts**. The Harvard Fil Archive screens its collection of "blue movie erotic shorts that range from silent-era stag films modern animated works.

Y is for Youth Gone Wild

•Aug. 7 and 8, 7 pm. **Zero for Conduct** *1933*. Th film by Jean Vigo was banned by French authoriti until 1946 because it criticized the education syste The autobiographical film is about a revolt at boarding school. •Also showing, Aug. 7 and 8, 8 p **If...** *1968*. Lindsay Anderson's story of a young ana chist attempting to overthrow a British public scho continues the night's theme of schoolboy rebellion

Z is for Zombies

•Aug. 9, 7 pm; Aug. 10, 8:30 pm. **Night of the Li ing Dead** *1968*. George Romero's popular, go movie about flesh-eating zombies was the first ho ror film to feature an African-American (Dua Jones) in a leading role. •Also showing, Aug. 9 pm; Aug. 10, 7 pm. **I Walked with a Zombie** *194* This silent movie by Jacques Tourneur is full voodoo magic, floating women wearing white an of course, the undead.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•Aug. 2, 10:30 am; Aug. 7, 3:15 pm; Aug. 10, 10: am. **Chi-hwa-seon** *(Painted Fire) 2002*. This Sou Korean film by Im Kwon-taek is a portrait of an u couth 19-century painter whose lifestyle places h on the fringes of moralistic Korean society.

•Aug. 3, 10:30 am and Aug. 7, 5:30 pm. **El Sol d membrillo** *(Dream of Light) 1992*. This drama tells t story of painter Antonio López Garcia's daily work a still life of a tree in his backyard. Victor Erice dire

Blues Festival

•Aug. 9, 7:30 pm. **Last of the Mississippi Jukes** *20* Robert Mugge's documentary visits Mississippi's bl juke joints that are rapidly becoming extinct.

Boston French Film Festival: Encore

•July 24, 2 pm. **Sur le bout des doigts** *(At My Fing tips) 2002*. Yves Angelo directs this tale of a moth who grows jealous of the talent she cultivates in h daughter. •Also showing, 4 pm. **Comment j'ai t mon pere** *(How I Killed My Father) 2000*. An Fontaine's psychological drama is the story of a s cessful French doctor whose reality is thrown wh his estranged father returns from Africa. •Also sho ing, 6 pm. **Les Diables** *(The Devils) 2002*. This fa follows two abandoned children, whose damag souls keep them trapped in a vortex. Directed Christophe Ruggia. •Also showing, 8:15 pm. **chatte á deux têtes** *(Porn Theater) 2002*. Set Parisian porn theater, Jacques Nolot's film tells story of a cashier, a 50-year-old man and a young jectionist who are drawn into a complex love affai •July 25, 6 pm. **Bord de mer** *(Seaside) 2002*. J Lopes-Curval directs this film, which follows a in the life of a small coastal resort town in north France, where a young factory worker becomes sessed with the town's vacationers. Winner of First Feature at Cannes. •Also showing, 7:45 **Choses secretes** *(Secret Things) 2002*. Jean-Cl Brisseau directs this tale of two unemployed fe strippers who, when hired by a large firm, se wealthy men to better their social standing.

•July 26, 5 pm, **Swing** *2002*. In Tony Gatlif's fil 10-year-old boy takes guitar lessons while visiting grandmother in pastoral Alsace. He befriends Sw a gypsy tomboy who teaches him to break free of s etal constraints. •Also showing, 2:30 pm. **L'Ad saire** *(The Adversary) 2002*. Nicole Garcia's film lows a middle-class father who descends into mad and murder. •Also showing, 5 pm. **Les Diables** *Devils) 2002*. See July 24 description. •Also sho 7:15 pm. **Rue de plaisirs** *(Love Street) 2002*. A y man raised in a brothel falls in love with a prost and vows to find her "Mr. Right." Patrice Lec directs. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Scénes intimes** *Is Comedy) 2002*. Catherine Breillat's film fo the story of a film director who is consumed by ficult sex scene involving a young actress and a •July 27, 10:30 am. **Liberté-Oléron** *(Freedom O 2001*. Bruno Podalydes directs this comedic loo family vacation in which a clumsy father take four children to an island and then captains a bo the first time. •Also showing, 12:45 pm. **11'0** *2002*. Made by 11 international directors, this f a combination of segments depicting various tional responses to Sept. 11, 2001. Each episod exactly 11 minutes, nine seconds and are one long. •Also showing, 3:30 pm. **Mischka** *200* this Jean-Francois Stevenin film, a chance ro meeting brings together a punk girl named M and her little brother with an androgynous old a gypsy woman and a drunk. •Also showing, **Le Défi** *(The Challenge) 2002*. This Blanca Li

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Children's Films

•July 23, 6, 7 and 8 pm; Aug. 6, 6, 7 and 8 pm. **Four Favorite Children's Stories on Film.** Robert McCloskey's *Lentil*, Maurice Sendak's *Chicken Soup with Rice*, Rosemary Wells' *Noisy Nora* and Verna Aardema's *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* screen.

•July 30, 6 and 8 pm. **Wallace and Gromit Short Films.** Nick Park directs three Oscar-winning clay animation films starring Wallace and his comical doggie: **A Grand Day Out** *1992*, **The Wrong Trousers** *1993* and **A Close Shave** *1995*.

Heroic Grace: Chinese Martial Arts Films

•Aug. 2, 6:30 pm. **Red Knight-Errant** *1929*. The only surviving episode of Wen Yimin's 13-part serial follows a woman who emerges as a full-fledged warrior years after being kidnapped and seeks to avenge her grandmother's death. •Also showing, 8:30 pm. **Huangjiang Nüxia** *(Swordswoman of Huangjiang) 1930*. In this silent film, swordswoman Fang Yunqing roams the countryside and dispenses aid and protection to villagers.

•Aug. 3, 3:30 pm. **Luk Chi Kam Moh, Seung Chap/Liu Zhi Qin Mo, Shanji** *(The Six-Fingered Lord of the Lute, Part I) 1965*. Chan Lit-ban's martial arts fantasy is the story of the son of an aging martial artist who encounters heroes and villains.

•Aug. 8, 6 pm. **Da Zui Zia** *(Come Drink with Me) 1966*. In this film by King Hu, a young magistrate is kidnapped by a gang of thugs until a warrior comes to the rescue. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Jin Yanzi** *(Golden Swallow) 1968*. This sequel to *Da Zui Zia* is directed by Zhang Chen. It centers on a brooding knight whose violent nature is his downfall.

•Aug. 9, 2 pm. **Dubi Dao** *(The One-Armed Swordsman) 1967*. In Zhang Che's film, a student at a martial arts academy sacrifices himself during an attack. His dying wish is to have his son enter the school. •Also showing, 4:10 pm. **Baochou** *(Vengeance!) 1970*. Zhang Che directs this tale about a man seeking retribution for his brother's slaughter.

New England Film Artists Present

•July 26, 10:30 am. **Dance by Design** *2002*. Valerie Weiss directs this film about a young woman struggling to choose between designing and dancing for a living.

•Aug. 1, 6 pm.; Aug. 2, 2:30 pm; Aug. 10, 4:15 pm. **Touched** *2003*. Laurel Chiten directs this film about the alien-abduction phenomenon. It is based on meetings with alleged victims. •Also showing, 7:30 pm; Aug. 2, 4 pm; Aug. 7, 8 pm; Aug. 9, 10:30 am; Aug. 10, 12:45 pm. **The Year That Trembled** *2002*. This 1970s coming-of-age drama, directed by Jay Craven, is an unconventional love story set on the American homefront during the Vietnam War.

•Aug. 2, 12:45 pm; Aug. 9, 10:30 am; Aug. 10, 2:45 pm. **Tupperware!** *2003*. Laurie Kahn-Leavitt directs this documentary of Earl Silas Tupper, the Massachusetts inventor of Tupperware, and marketing genius Brownie Wise, the saleswoman who built him an empire out of bowls that burped.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure.** Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey.** Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Top Speed.** Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion race car driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Aug. 31. **Cirque Du Soleil: Journey of Man.** The unique artistry and music of Cirque Du Soleil come to the big screen in this 38-minute film that follows the stages of human development from birth to maturity.

•Through Aug. 31. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D.** Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic.

•Through Aug. 31. **The Matrix Reloaded: The IMax Experience.** Neo and the rebel leaders face off in with Zion in Andy and Larry Wachowski's sequel to their 1999 hit *The Matrix*.

•Through Aug. 31. **Ocean Wonderland 3D.** Dive into and explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (978-671-9212). MBTA: B Gre Line to Harvard Ave.

Allston Cinema Underground
214 Harvard Ave. (617-912-8626). MBTA: B Gre Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Gre Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Harbor Hotel
70 Rowes Wharf. (617-439-7000).

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Gre Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBT Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
2 Palace Rd. (617-566-1401). MBTA: E Green Li to Museum.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Gre Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Lin Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBT Green Line to Boylston.

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Springdale and Denny Streets, Dorchester (617-6 4505).

McLaughlin Playground
Parker Hill Avenue, Mission Hill (617-635-4505)

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Lin Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gr Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MB Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D G Line to Chestnut Hill.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: O Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red L Davis.

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After decades out of the spotlight, jazz legend Jimmy Scott has found a place for his distinctive voice

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

For 60 years, people have thought Jimmy Scott was a woman when they first heard him sing. "I've had that said many times, and I pay it no mind," he says. "The song has to come forth. It's in the soul. How it comes forth, I'm not the determiner. All I can do is deliver it as God created it."

Scott's high-pitched tenor is the result of Kallmann's syndrome, a hereditary hormonal deficiency that stunted his growth at puberty. But the wiry jazz stylist was left with a voice that was not only unique, but emotionally penetrating.

Jimmy Scott's career was reignited in 1991 when he was rediscovered singing at a funeral and landed a major record deal

"It's a gift," says Scott of his voice. "It has rewarded me in so many ways, and I'm grateful for it. I've got to accept it as the truth."

That truth, in turn, won many admirers. Billie Holiday once said Scott was her favorite singer. Marvin Gaye took a tape of Scott to Belgium when he had a bout with depression. Nancy Wilson acknowledged Scott as a major influence. And Madonna claimed he was the only singer that made her cry.

"It was always the ballads for me," says Scott, who performs Aug. 2 at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum with his band, the Jazz Expressions. "It's got to mean something. Are you saying something to the people? Are you embracing them?"

Growing up in Cleveland, Scott and his nine siblings were placed in foster care by his father when Scott was 13, after his mother died in a traffic accident. He drew early inspiration as a performer from Judy Garland. "She gave you the anxiety to be a part of the thing," he says.

Scott found himself at the jazz crossroads of the '40s and '50s, hanging out with Holiday as well as sax giants Charlie Parker and Lester Young, whose playing left its own stamp on Scott's lingering phrases and vibrato. "In their music, you could hear a message," says the singer, who sat in with both players. "They blew their horns like they were telling a story. It was introducing you to something about life."

But when it comes to stories, it would be hard to match Scott's life, as detailed in a new biography, *Faith in Time*, written by David Ritz. "That's what it's all about, having faith in time," Scott says. "You've got to have patience."

Scott, whose 78th birthday was July 17, endured a string of setbacks in his career. His record company woes included a frustrating '50s stint with Savoy, whose indifferent owner resurfaced in the '60s to scuttle potential career-breaking records for Scott on two major labels, claiming the singer was under contract.

It wasn't until 1991 that Scott landed another major record deal—after being rediscovered by label executives when he sang at the funeral of songwriter friend Doc Pomus. In the quarter-century before that, Scott worked as a busboy, hotel clerk, elevator operator and nurse's aide, singing to senior citizens and avoiding the trap of bitterness.

"God gave you life, you live it," says Scott, who claims that his financial state during those years was the closest thing he had to a regret. "But then, it became a thing where finance didn't mean a damn thing. It was a living."

Scott has made his recent records for the jazz label Milestone, which just released *Moon Glow*, featuring standards from "How Long Has This Been Going On?" and "I Thought About You" to the Beatles' "Yesterday." It includes pianist Cyrus Chestnut, drummer Lewis Nash and saxophonists Hank Crawford and longtime Scott associate David "Fathead" Newman, and was produced by Todd Barkan, who booked a Japanese tour for Scott in the early '90s.

"He knew the type of music I was interested in," Scott says of jazz producer Barkan. "You're rewarded by having those people in the business to support the music you like.

"There are men my age who were in show business that are gone," says the singer, speaking from his home in Cleveland before a mid-July tour of Japan. "I'm still hanging in."

While he can look small and frail when he approaches the stage, walking with a limp he has had since a 1971 fall, he grows animated at the microphone.

"Hey babe, you'd think I was a jitterbug," says Scott, whose enduring work ethic can be traced both to his mother and to Estelle "Caledonia" Young, in whose vaudeville troupe he got his start.

"Either you do a job right or you don't do it at all," he says. "On any stage with Estelle Young, you did it with determination, you did it with love of what you were doing. You felt it all coming to you." iB

Jimmy Scott and the Jazz Expressions
play the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Aug. 2.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or email to music@improper.com. Include dates, tim prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadlin four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from ferent sources. Although we make every effort to pro accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ah to double-check dates and times (see complete lis venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Christina Aguilera, Justin Timberlake and Black Eyed Peas
Aug. 5 and 6, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Alien Ant Farm, Die Trying and Strata
July 27, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Black Eyed Peas
Aug. 7, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Mary Chapin Carpenter
July 26, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
Joe Cocker
Aug. 1, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
Dismemberment Plan and Engine Down
July 23, Roxy (617-931-2000)
The Irish Tenors
Aug. 1, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Joe Jackson Band
Aug. 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Lollapalooza with Jane's Addiction, Audiosl Incubus, Jurassic 5, Queens of the Stone Age the Donnas
July 25, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Lynyrd Skynyrd
July 27, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Rhett Miller
July 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
MTV's You Hear It First with Bubba Spa Common and Jin
July 30, Roxy (617-931-2000)
The O'Jays, the Four Tops and the Temptation
Aug. 7, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Paranoid Social Club, 6 Gig, Baby Strange Give
July 25, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Reel Big Fish, Gob and the Matches
July 27, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Todd Rundgren
July 31, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Sister Hazel, Virginia Coalition and Gavin DeG
Aug. 1, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band
Aug. 1 and 2, Gillette Stadium (617-931-2000)
Ringo Starr and His All-Star Band
July 27, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Supergrass, Palo Alto and Ty Cobb
July 27 and 28, Paradise Rock Club (617- NEXT)
Train and Matt Nathanson
July 25, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
Asgard Oneside, 8:30 pm.
Axis Taproot, 8 pm, $15.
Bill's Bar Parker House, Theory and Tarbeach, $8,
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 5 pm.
The Burren John Carty, 9 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9 p
Club Passim Zoe Lewis and her Rubber Band Deirdre Flint, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm cover.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeG 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Chixie Dicks.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
House of Blues Kindred, 9:30 pm, $15, 18+.
Johnny D's Tim Miller, 8:30 pm.
Kendall Café Lanterna, 8:30 pm; John O'Brien pm; Lesser Birds of Paradise, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+
Kinsale Paul Duffy.
Lizard Lounge Reed Foehl, 9 pm, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Race for Titles, Lagu Shark and Bear, Jeffrey Simmons and the S toms, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Downstairs: The Sta Mints, April March, the Like, 8 pm, $10, 18+; The Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+

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Jane's Addiction is one of the headliners at Lollapalooza July 25 at the Tweeter Center

Milky Way Momentum, 8 pm.
Museum of Fine Arts Chandler Travis Philharmonic, the Ladybug Transistor, 7 pm, $24.
Plough and Stars Bad Art.
The Rack BlackSole, 6 pm.
Regattabar The Cercie Miller Quintet with Herb Pomeroy, 8:30 pm, $12.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Roxy Dismemberment Plan and Engine Down, 8 pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Andy Voelker Trio, 8 pm; the Jim Pobitaille Group, 10 pm, $7.
Saint Ron Murphy, 9 pm, 21+.
Scullers Eric Alexander, $14.
Sky Bar Kobayashi, Brand New Disaster and Skyline Awake, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Jimmy Ryan, Duke Levine and Jeff Berlin.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7 pm; Bangalore, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lost on Main St., Nancy Mroczek PhD, Sorry Orange and the Breakouts, $5.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries
Les Zygomates Steve Hunt.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Abbey Lounge Mr. Airplane Man, Preachers Kids, Triple Thick, Turpentine Bros. and the Traps.
Asgard Christy O'Connell, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Three Percent, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Joe Morocco, 7 pm.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block NotCommon Records Residency, Adolf Satan, Noosebomb, Hirudinea and Sedate, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Club Passim Sean Altman and Jedediah Parish, $12, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry RAQ, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Monte Montgomery, 10 pm, $12, 18+.
Johnny D's Paul Rishell and the Annie Raines Band, 9 pm, $8.
Kendall Café Jes Perry, Chad Perrone and Chris Tilden and Chapter in Verse, 8:30 pm. $5, 21+.
Kirkland Café Mo Lotman, Surce and Alex Tobin, $5.
The Linwood Blood for Blood, Killgrip and Blood Mask, $8, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Beat Science, $10.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: The Mendoza Line, Saturday Looks Good to Me, Jeff Klein, Alphatide, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Mass Mixer DJ Battle, 8 pm. ZuZu: Lars Vegas, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way *Centre St. Tracks* compilation release party with Whistle Jacket, Verona Downs, Choo Choo La Rouge and Quick Release.
Paradise Pernice Brothers, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Brick Park.
Plough and Stars Kenne Highland.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns pm.
Regattabar The Shelley Neill Quintet with Jo Blake, Jr., Bevan Manson, John Lockwood, a Yoron Israel, 8:30 pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Patricia Vlieg, 8:30 pm, $9.
Scullers Jimmy McGriff Quartet, $21.
Sky Bar Rane and the Whatnot and Oneside, 8 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad The Armadillos, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Legendary Shack Shak the Konks and Radar Eyes, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

Abbey Lounge Bowman and Godboxer.
Asgard Ryan McHugh, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15 pm; Gi Barkan, 9 pm.
The Attic Will Hawkins.
Avalon Train, Matt Nathanson, 7 pm, $25.25, 18
Bill's Bar High as the Moon, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Upstairs: Inchicore; Downsta Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Tall Richards, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 5 pm; Suzanne Da Duo, 9 pm.
The Burren Jabe, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thriller pm.
Choppin' Block Nobody's Heroes, Partyfight, Bla Tradition, Guff and Whistlejacket, $7, 9pm, 21+.
Club Passim Ari, Lloyd Thayer and David Johnst 8 pm, $12.
Common Ground Stymie, 10 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Ego System, 5 pm.
The Green Briar The Return.
The Green Dragon Tavern Big Delicious and P Duffy, 5 pm.
The Harp Flavor.
Harper's Ferry Peter Prince and the Trauma U $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Audio Underground.
House of Blues Jeffrey Gaines and Mieka Paul 9:30 pm, $18, 21+.
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Beat the D key: Cyro Baptista, percussion, 8 pm, $15.
Johnny D's Suzy Bogguss, 9:30 pm, $20.
Kendall Café The Splendid Nobodies and Tarb Ramblers, $7, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Cheat Notes, East Coast Edge M chine, Line of Girls and Mickey Bliss Organ Com $5.
The Linwood Supagroup, the DTs, Bender X and Stoves, $7.
Lizard Lounge Benefit Barbecue concert for Ho for Little Wanderers with the Collisions and Shelley Winters Project, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10 pm.
Matt Murphy's Boris McCutcheon, 10 pm, cover.

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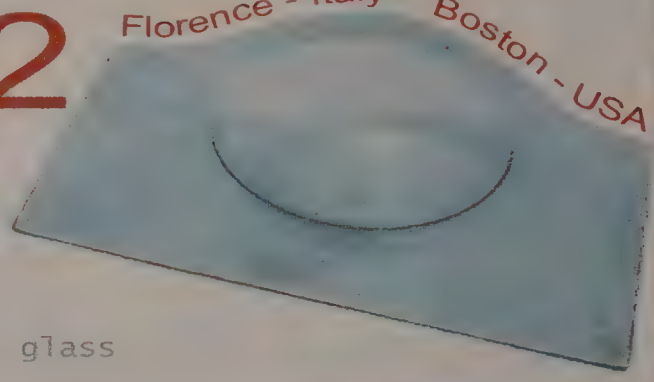

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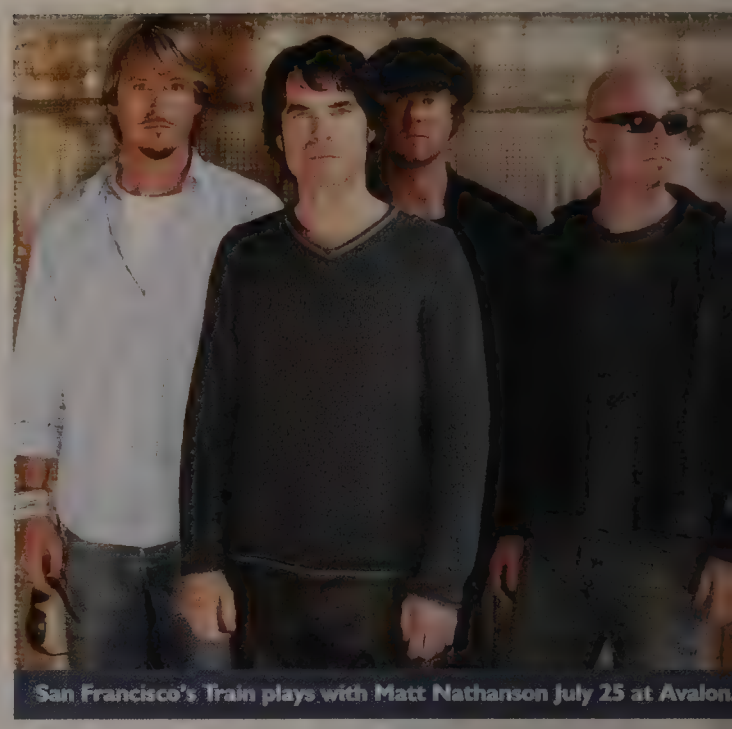

San Francisco's Train plays with Matt Nathanson July 25 at Avalon

Middle East Upstairs: The Ivory Coast, Helms, Victory at Sea, the Deafening, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Default Outfit, 8 pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper Group, 10 pm, no cover, 18+. ZuZu: Gian Carlo Buscaglia, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way The Pills and the Information.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Paradise Paranoid Social Club and 6 Gig, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Plough and Stars Stumbleweeds.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
The Rack Central Basement, 6 pm.
Regattabar The Ivan Lins Band, 7:30 and 10 pm, $22.
Ryles Jazz Club Mango Blue, 9 pm, $12.
Scullers The Yellowjackets, $18.
Sky Bar The Grift, Named by Strangers and Laura Thomas, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Kevin Connelly.
Toad Barn Burning, no cover.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Reverse, Amanda Palmer, Auto Interiors and the Good North, $10.
Tweeter Center Lollapalooza, featuring Jane's Addiction, Audioslave, Incubus, Queens of the Stone Age, the Donnas, Jurassic 5 and the Distillers, 2 pm, $44.50-$65.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Abbey Lounge Ganesh, the Spoilers, Tbags and Tim Marden.
Asgard Tom Groleau, 9 pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:15 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
Avalon Dave Gahan, 7 pm, $35.25, 18+.
The Black Rose Downstairs: Sunday's Well and Booby Folkes. Upstairs: Innchicore.
Bob the Chef's Diamond Life, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5 pm; Suzanne Davis Duo, 9 pm.
The Burren The Well, 10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers.
Club Passim Melissa Ferrick, 7 and 10 pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fleet Boston Pavillion Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, 8 pm, $35-$65.
The Grand Canal Dick and Jane.
The Green Briar Jon Frederik Band.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syphfo.
The Harp Flavor.
House of Blues St. Somewhere, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Aaron Go berg Quartet with Michael Brecker, tenor sax phone, 8 pm, $15.
Johnny D's Pressure Cooker, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Kendra Flowers, $7, 21+.
Kirkland Café Porcelain, Turtle Bone and Matching Drapes, $5.
The Linwood Cheredovanie and Table Dreams, $1
Lizard Lounge The Ray Corvair Trio, 9 pm, $8.
Lucky's Lounge Groove Authority, 10 pm.
Matt Murphy's Andy Voelker, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: The Wretched Ones, Tom and the Terrors, Dead Pedestrians, Mourningsi and Famous in Vegas, 1 pm, $7, 18+; Read Yello Quick Fix, Elgin James and the Suicide Gang, 9 p $9, 18+. Downstairs: The Shods, Kings of Nuth and Frank Morey, 8 pm, $10, 18+. ZuZu: Soul-le jah, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Paradise Rocktopus with Chauncey, Lincoln Co spiracy and Violet Nine, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Plough and Stars Cash Monies and the Jetsetter cover.
Purple Shamrock Moo Tycoon.
Regattabar The Ivan Lins Band, 7:30 and 10 pm, $
Ryles Jazz Club Lance Martin Band, (pm, $10.
Scullers The Yellowjackets, $18.
Sky Bar Papermoon and Moso, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Mary Chapin Carpent 8 pm, $36.50.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Blandingos, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub John Hazilla Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rilo Kiley, M. Ward & A Ba of Four and Statistics, $12.
Wonder Bar Rust Scott Quartet, featuing Hard Layne, no cover.
Les Zygomates Candita Rose.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Los Amigos Invisibles Oct. 9, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Tori Amos and Ben Folds Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Bjork and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs Aug. 31, Suffolk Downs (617-931-2000)
Boston Folk Festival with Emmylou Harris, Greg Brown, Tom Rush, Richard Shindell, Danu, Kate Campbell, Paul Brady, Koko Taylor & Her Blues Machine and more Sept. 19-21, UMass Boston (617- 287-6900)
Mariah Carey Sept. 8, Wang Center (617-931-2000)
George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic Oct. 8, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Crosby, Stills & Nash Aug. 23, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
The Dandy Warhols Sept. 10, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Def Leppard and Ricky Warwick Aug. 19, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Gipsy Kings Sept. 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Guster Sept. 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000
Billy Idol Sept. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931 2000)
Jason Mraz Sept. 3, The Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Les Nubians and Zap Mama Aug. 16, Somervill Theatre (617-931-2000)
Liz Phair and Wheat Aug. 17, Avalon (617-42 NEXT)
Damien Rice Sept. 13, Paradise Rock Club (617 423-NEXT)
The Raveonettes and Stellastarr Sept. 7, Paradis Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Sex Pistols Aug. 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617 931-2000)
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band Sept and 7, Fenway Park (617-931-2000)
String Cheese Incident Oct. 10, Orpheum The atre (617-931-2000)
311, G. Love & Special Sauce and Something Corpo rate Aug. 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000
Village People, Thelma Houston, the Pointer Anita Ward and Martha Wash Aug. 21, Flee Center (617-931-2000)

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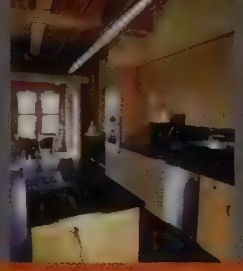

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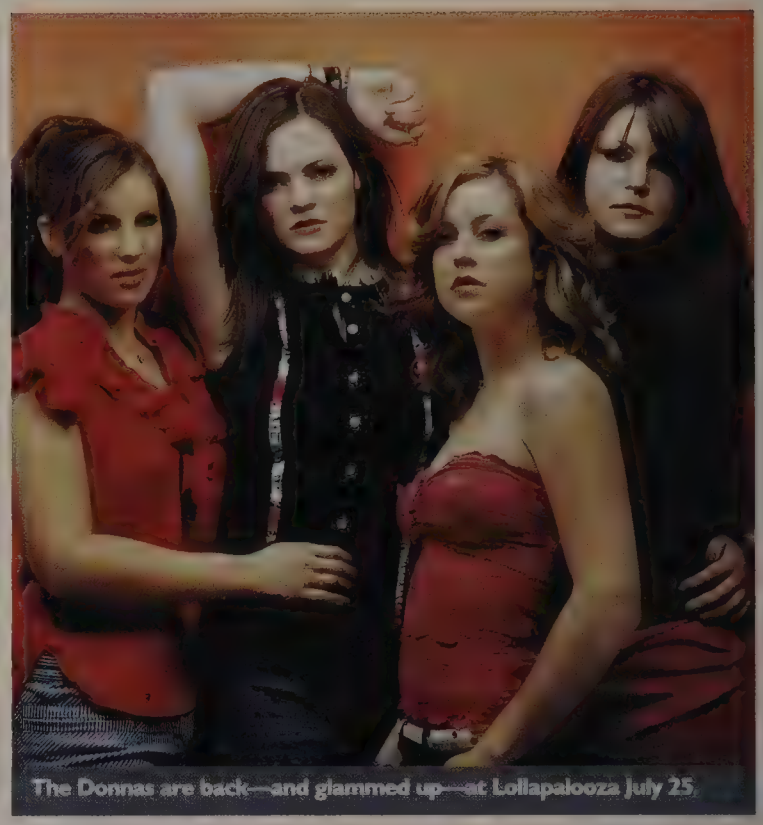

The Donnas are back—and glammed up—at Lollapalooza July 25.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

Abbey Lounge The Second Annual Abbey Lounge Booze Cruise, featuring the Other Girls, Coffin Lids, the Dents, Heavy Stud Lenny and the Pisspoor Boys, Muck & the Mires and Schnockered, $30.
Avalon Reel Big Fish, Gob and the Matches, 6 pm, $16.25.
Axis Alien Ant Farm, Die Trying and Strata, 8 pm, $10.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Bobby Folkes, no cover.
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Jazz Quartet, 10 am and 3 pm.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Jazz Duo, 11 am; Alfredo Cardim, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Candy's Blue Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Melissa Ferrick, 7 and 10 pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelation, 10 am; Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fleet Boston Pavillion Ringo Starr and his All-Star Band, 8 pm, $35-$60.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords, 4 pm; Finbar Doyle, 8 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swingin' Johnsons, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Cold Duck Complex, 9 pm, $4, 21+.
House of Blues The Gift, 9:30 pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Rumba NaMa.
Kendall Café Emericans and the Scrimshanders, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Jeff Robinson Trio, 7 pm, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday, 8 pm, no cover.
Matt Murphy's Mang Dub, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Clara Ramona Flamenco Snow, 2 pm, $15, 18+; The Crush CD-release party, Dissolver Revolver, Vibrotica, 9 pm, $9, 18+. ZuZu: The Autumn Rhythm and Star Star Quarterback, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Fire Balls Drag Bingo, 8 pm.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
Paradise Supergrass, Palo Alto and Ty Cobb, 8 pm, $15, 18 +.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch with Yoko Miwa, 10 am-3 pm; Amazon Super Slam, 7:30 pm, $9.
Sky Bar The Nebulas and the Infrareds, 8:30 pm.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad Kelley Buchanan and the Dave Foley Band, 7 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am; Gordon Beadle Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place After the Fall and Quick Release, $5.
Tweeter Center Lynyrd Skynyrd, 7 pm, $25-$50.
Western Front Arturo Stable Band, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, no cover.

MONDAY, JULY 28

Abbey Lounge Double D Blues Band, 8 pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Modelo, Haloburn, Donnybrook and Blind by Noon, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Tír na nÓg The Outside.
Toad Shwang, the Tim Gearan Band, 8 pm, cover.
Top of the Hub Gordon Beadle Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Be $3.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, cover.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Bristol Lounge Ray Santisi, 7 pm.
The Burren Hugh McGowan, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, pm.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cov
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cove
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues The Glyph featuring Shuman, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Fruit, 8:30 pm, $8.
Kendall Café Matt Tobin, 9:30 pm; Mo Lottm 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Lizard Lounge Dear Leader and Chauncey, 8:30 pm
Middle East Corner: Gustavo and Andres, $2, 1 ZuZu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Plough and Stars Michael.
The Rack ZMQ, 6-10 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club John Payne Sax Choir, 8:30 pm,
Scullers Katy Roberts Septet, $15.
Sky Bar The Riff Raffs, Cars Can Be Blue and S mour Glass, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Toad Maybe Baby, Jabe, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Billy Nayer Show, $8.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, no cover.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Asgard Dave Tecce, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Stilfro, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 5-9 pm.
The Burren Peter Molloy hosts traditional I music, 9 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook's Blues Jam, 9
Club Passim Richard Shindell, 7 and 10 pm, $2
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm cover.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeG 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
Johnny D's Matt Jenson's Acid Reggae, 8:30 pm.
Kendall Café Jay Nash, 8:30 pm; Howie Statla NYCSmoke, 9:30 pm; Photoflash, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Lizard Lounge Dennis Brennan Band and A White and the Blue Souvenirs, 9 pm, $7.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 9 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Ilya, Roh Delicate and A faux, 9 pm, $8, 18+. ZuZu: Fully Celebrated Or tra, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Rhett Miller, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art.

Bristol Lounge Ray Sa tisi, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Divi Maggees, 10 pm.
Club Passim Lake Effe 8 pm, $10.
Encore Lounge Mag Rose Quartet, 9:30 p no cover.
Hennessy's Joe Carson
House of Blues Le Jones Quintet, 9:30 p $14, 21+.
Kendall Café Bun Park, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheeha
Lizard Lounge T Fringe, 10 pm.
Middle East Upsta Close Call CD-rele show with Bottom Li R N R and Dump Tru 9 pm, $8, 18+. Corn Deluxe, 10 pm, $2, 1 ZuZu: Bourbon Prince no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Marinate.
Paradise Supergrass, P Alto and Ty Cobb, 8 p $15, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Sc Damgaard.
The Rack PTM30, 6 p

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The Rack BlackSole, 6-10 pm.
Regattabar The Rusty Scott Organ Group, 8:30 pm, $12.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Orbis Rex and Boatyard Resin, 8:30 pm, $8.
Roxy MTV's You Hear It First, featuring Common, Gin, Anthony Hamilton and Bubba Sparxx, 8 pm, $25, 18+.
Saint Ron Murphy, 9 pm, 21+.
Scullers Tingstad & Rumbel, $16.
Sky Bar Turkish Queen, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7 pm; Zyrah's Orange, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm-12:30 am.
T.T. the Bear's Place A Wish for Fire, the Milwaukees, Thea Wolfe and Valentine, $6.
Western Front Chris Johannsen Ensemble, Cat Show Snapshots, featuring Adam Schneit, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries.
Les Zygomates Steve Hunt.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Abbey Lounge Mr. Airplane Man, Downbeat 5, Tough and Lovely, Michael Tarbox and Howie Ferguson.
Asgard Brogue, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Axis Hanzel und Gretyl, 7 pm, $15, 18+.
Bill's Bar Dryft, Stoic, Changing Skin and Breathe, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Bob the Chef's Tracey Rose, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Joe Morocco, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block Kevokian's Angels with Ascendancy, Watchmaker, and Bane of Existence, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Club Passim Ben Arnold band, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Rubikon with Asect and Lucid, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio.
House of Blues John Brown's Body, 9:30 pm, $6, 18+.
Kendall Café Mara Levi, 8:30 pm; Meghan Cary, 9:30 pm; Chapter in Verse, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Kirkland Café The Motive, Com'on Man and Predicates, $5.
Lizard Lounge Spookie Daly Pride.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall, 10 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Stocklan, Gargantua Soul, Al Rock and Endway, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Lars Vegas, no cover, 21+.
Parris Joshua Tree.
Plough and Stars Fame Grundey.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Uneek Aproach Horns, 6-10 pm, no cover.
Regattabar The Katie Viqueira Group with Nando Michelin, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Inner Orchestra, 8:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Tom Wopat, $20.
Somerville Theatre Todd Rundgren, 8 pm, $28.50.
Sky Bar Sugabomb, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad Porter Davis, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm-12:30 am.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Halogens, the Great Northern and the Pilot Light, $7.
Western Front Mang Dub, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, no cover.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Abbey Lounge Carlisle Sound.
Asgard Stu Lee and Tom Groleau, 8:30 pm, no cover.
The Attic Jerry Garcia birthday party with Grateful Dead cover band Electric Hummus, 8:30 pm.
Avalon Sister Hazel, Virginia Coalition and Gavin DeGraw, 6 pm, $20, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne, Upstairs: Innchicore.
Bob the Chef's Four Piece Suit, 7:30 pm.
Choppin' Block The Photon Torpedos, Satan's Teardrop, Devil's Spade and the Gutter Demons, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Club Passim Andrew Kerr, 8 pm, $12.
Common Ground Superhoney, 10 pm, $7.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavillion Irish Tenors, 8 pm, $40-$80.
Gillette Stadium Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, 7:30 pm, $57-$77.
Grand Canal Pig Pen, 5 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern 5 to the Face and Paul Duffy, 5-8 pm.
Harper's Ferry Clarias CD-release party with Mieka Pauley, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues John Brown's Body, 9:30 pm, $13, 18+.
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Tango Meets Jazz, 8 pm, $15.
Johnny D's Toni Lynn Washington CD-release Party, 9:45 pm.
Kirkland Café Underdogs, Debris, Torque and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood Pure Fiction and Raymond, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Spookie Daly Pride.
Matt Murphy's Dead Cat, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Downstairs: Ely Guerra, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Milky Way Akrobatik and Foundation.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Plough and Stars Kevin Connolly, 9 pm.
The Rack Kiss 108, Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns, 6-10:45 pm.
Regattabar Hector Cuevas and the Boston Latin Band, 7:20 and 10 pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Patricia Adams, 9 pm, $12.
Scullers The Manhattans, Gerald Alston and Blue Lovett, $28.
Somerville Theatre The Eels and MC Honky, 8:30 pm, $18.50, 18+.
Sky Bar Great American, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Joe Cocker, 8 pm, $38.50.
Toad The Coots, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Steve Wynn, Tim Easton, $10. 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Cronic and Joe McMahon

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Abbey Lounge Lake Boone.
Asgard The Symbolics. 9 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Bobby, Upstairs: Innchicore.
Club Passim DaVinci's Notebook, Sean Altm opens, 7 and 10 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Gillette Stadium Bruce Springsteen and the Street Band, 7:30 pm, $57-$77.
Grand Canal Second Nature, 5 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern Freeze Pop.
Harper's Ferry Slipknot, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson, 4 pm.
House of Blues The Toasters, 9:30 pm, $10.
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Jimmy Sc and the Jazz Expressions, 8 pm, $15.
Johnny D's Babaloo, 9:45 pm, $8.
Kinsale The Black Thorn Band
Kirkland Café Shotz, $5.
Matt Murphy's Marta Gomez, 10 pm, no cover.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Paradise III Kings, Royal Family and Spontaneo 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Plough and Stars Young Ones.
Regattabar The New Black Eagle Jazz Band, 7 a 9:30 pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Frankie V, 9 pm, $12.
Scullers The Manhattans, Gerald Alston and B Lovett, $28.
Sky Bar Sugar High Diaries, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Woodpile, No cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Waltham, Kicked in the He Angry Hill, Seemless, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, with Harold Layn

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Berklee Performance Center A Perfect Circle, 7 pm, $28.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Bobby Folkes
Bob the Chef's Sonny Watson Jazz Quartet, 10 and 3 pm.
Club Passim Newport Roots Stage Preview w Mark Erelli, Jake Amerding and Rachael Davis, 7 pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelation, 10 am; Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, cover.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords, 4 and 8 pm; Fin Doyle.

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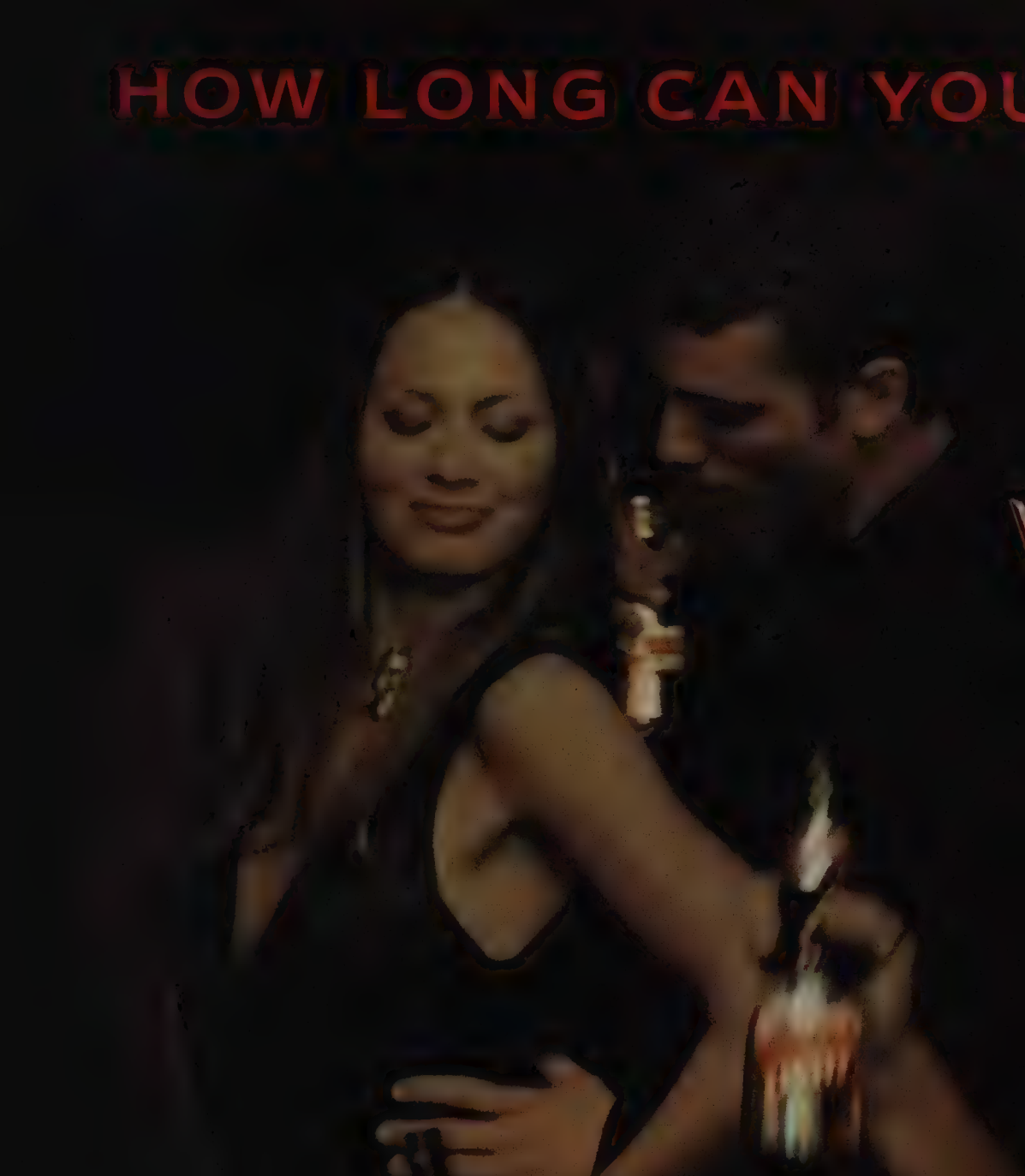

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The Green Dragon Tavern Swingin' Johnsons.
Hennessy's Joe Carson, 4 pm.
House of Blues The Headhunters, 9:30 pm, 18+.
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, 1:30 pm, $15.
Johnny D's Rumba NaMa.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm-12 am.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch with John Purcell, 10 am-3 pm.
Sky Bar Cholo, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday Live Blues Jam with Silas Jr. Hot Ribs Blues, 8-11 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Freddie MacGregor, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Matt Murphy's Irish Session, 10 pm, no cover.
Milky Way Horns and Haloes.
North Shore Music Theatre The Beach Boys.
Plough and Stars Starhick.
The Rack Ray Brown Trio, 6-10 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday acoustic show with Tim Martin, 8 pm; Max Heinegg, 8:30 pm; Lloyd Thayer, 9:30 pm; Mike Diplomat, 10 pm; Teresa Storch, 10:30 pm.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fleet Center Christina Aguilera, Justin Timberlake and the Black Eyed Peas, 7:30 pm, $39.50-$75.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Old School Freight Train, 8:30 pm.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Matt Murphy's Public House, 10 pm, no cover.
North Shore Music Theatre Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis.
Paradise The Dark World Cabaret Incus CD-release show, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox.
The Rack BlackSole, 6-10 pm.
Sky Bar Ochmoneks, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Abbey Lounge The Collisions.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Leslie Helpert and Brad Barr, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm.
Encore Lounge Stacy Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fleet Center Christina Aguilera, Justin Timberlake and the Black Eyed Peas, 7:30 pm, $39.50-$75.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Middle East Downstairs: Café TaCuba, $25, 18+.
Museum of Fine Arts Brazilian Landscapes: Ari and Andreza Mendes Quintet, 7:30 pm, $20.
North Shore Music Theatre Paul Anka
Paradise The Walkmen and French Kicks, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble.
Regattabar The Pierre Hurel Trio, 8:30 pm, $12.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Mike Casano Quartet, featuring George Garzone, 8:30 pm, $8.
Saint Ron Murphy, 9 pm, 21+.
Scullers Nicole Nelson Band, $12.

Ska-punk band Reel Big Fish (above) plays with Gob and the Matches at Avalon July 27

Sky Bar Premonition, 8:30 pm, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Lot Six Residency, Officer May and the Noise, $8.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Abbey Lounge Dents, Bamboo Kids.
Asgard Brogue, 8 pm, no cover.
Axis F-Minus, the Forgotten and Global Threat, 6:30 pm, $8.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Black Sole Ensemble, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Club Passim Deb Talan and Steve Tannen, 7 and 10 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion The O'Jays, the Four Tops a the Temptations, 7:30 pm, $40.50-$65.50.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Me and Julio.
Johnny D's Papa and Cheikh, 9 pm, $10.
Kirkland Café David Dribbon, Cool Fool and K Ballou (Insoma), $5.
Matt Murphy's Round Midnight, 10 pm, no cove
Middle East Upstairs: The New Amsterdams, M Pond PA and Rocky Votolato, 9 pm, $10, 18 Downstairs: Cafe Tacuba, 8 pm, $25, 18+. Corn Stretch, 10 pm, no cover, 18+.
Milky Way Super Cannes and Oranje.
North Shore Music Theatre Peter, Paul and Mar
Paradise Black Eyed Peas, 9 pm, $17, 18+.
Plough and Stars Sticky.
The Rack Uneek Aproach, 6:30-10:30 pm.
Regattabar The Tony Perez Quartet, 8:30 pm, $1

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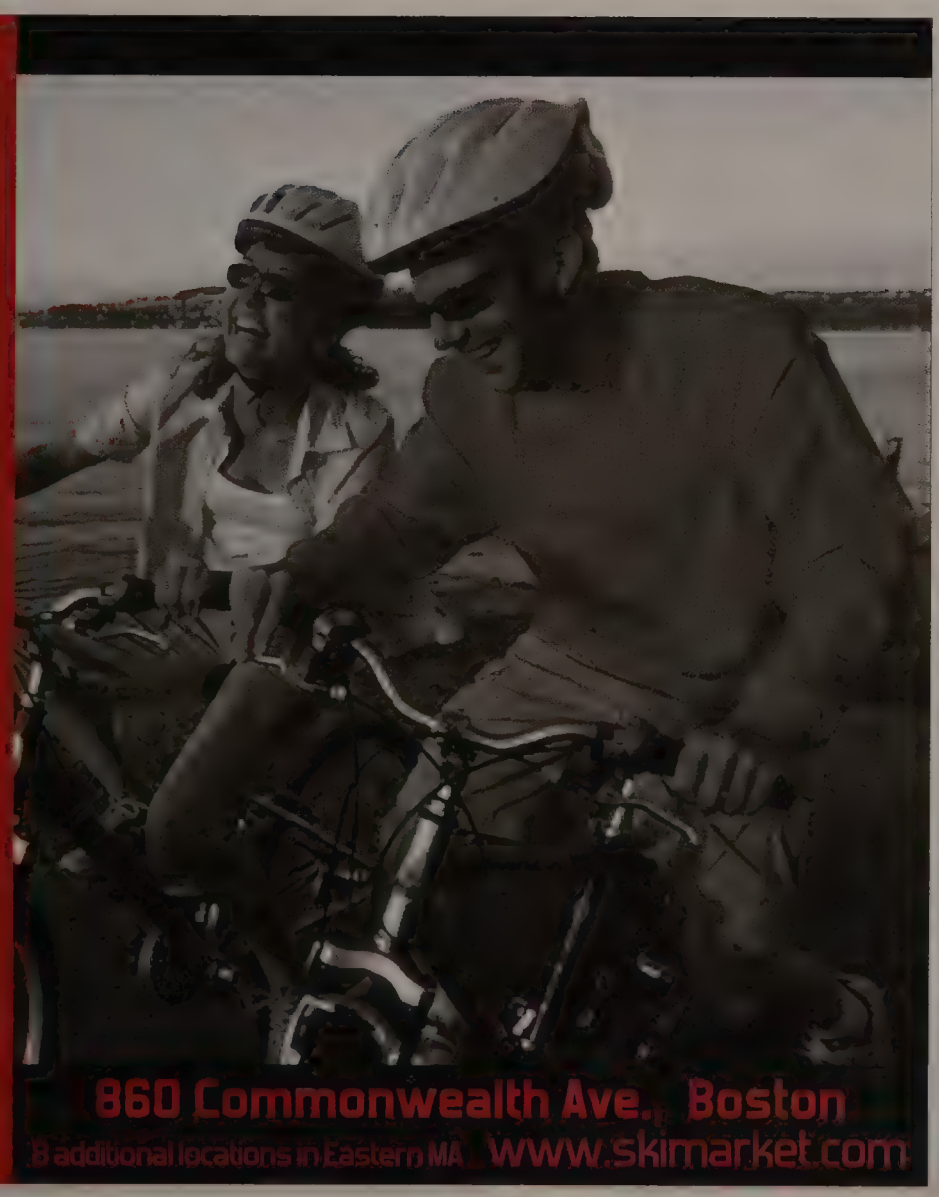

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Ryles Jazz Club Ball in the House Acapella, 8 pm, $10.
Scullers Taj Mahal, $35.
Sky Bar Supachik and Awakening Stick, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Wonder Bar Frank Langford, no cover.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Abbey Lounge Catapult.
Axis Year of the Rabbit, Cardia and Ovalooven, 6:30 pm, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Tracey Rose, 7:30 pm.
Choppin' Block Moki, Seymour Glass, Nobody's Heroes and the Prozac's, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Club Passim Cosy Sheriden and Keith Hampton, 8 pm, $12.
Common Ground The Pressure Cooker, 10 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Six Shot Brody, 5 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern Vent and Paul Duffy, 5-8 pm.
Harper's Ferry Mr. Brownstone with Asect, $12, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 5 pm.
Kirkland Café Melodeego, Amigazo and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Matt Murphy's Boris McCutcheon, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Downstairs: Elevation 74, 8 pm, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy & Tony.
North Shore Music Theatre Dwight Yoakam.
Paradise Bob Mould, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Plough and Stars The Charms.
Porters Bar and Grill Brian Burrill.
The Rack Kiss 108 and Central Basement, 6-10:45 pm.
Regattabar Dave Frishberg, 7:30 and 10 pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club Janusz Kowalski and Super Fusion, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers The Conga Kings, $20.
Sky Bar Baby Strange and the Information, 8:30 pm, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kay Hanley, Sam Roberts, Jed Parish and the Mother Tongues, $14.
Wonder Bar Johnny Cronic and Joe McMahon, no cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Abbey Lounge Real Kids, Caged Heat and the Probates.
Asgard Sunset, 9 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan, Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Diamond Life, 7:30 pm.
Club Passim Guy Davis, 8 pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Incadence, 5 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis.
Harper's Ferry Satellite with Ingram Hill, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson, 4 pm.
Johnny D's Otis Taylor, 9:45.
Kinsale Jerry Martin Project.
Matt Murphy's Andy Voelker, 10 pm, no cover.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy & Tony.
Paradise Granddaddy, Earlimart and Patrick Park, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Plough and Stars Three Day Threshold.
Regattabar Dave Frishberg, 7:30 pm and 10 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club BJ Magoon, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers The Conga Kings, $20.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Detroit Cobras, the Woggles and Muck and the Mires, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet featuring Harold Layne.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Avalon Joe Jackson Band, 7 pm, $28.75, 18+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law, 10 am and 3 pm.
Dick's Last Resort The Bibletones, 10 am-3 pm; Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Swingin' Johnsons.
Hennessy's Joe Carson, 4 pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam with Rumba NaMa.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Matt Murphy's LND, the Wow, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Avey Tare and Panda Bear, Orgurusu Norhide, Via Tania, 9 pm, $9, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
North Shore Music Theatre Vince Gill.
Plough and Stars Lenny and the Piss Poor Boys, 21+.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm-12 am.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch with John Purcell, 10 am-3 pm.
Sky Bar Odeon, Enuma Elish and Fluttr 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Abbey Lounge Blue Monday Live Blues Jam with Double D Blues Band, 8-11 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's The Waybacks, 8:30 pm.
Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Matt Murphy's Irish Session, 10 pm, no cover.
Middle East Downstairs: Sensefield, Hey Mercedes, Damone and Soundtrak, 8 pm, $12, 18+. Corner: Deluxe, 10 pm, $2, 18+.
North Shore Music Theatre Mary Chapin Carpenter, 8 pm, $39-$53.
Plough and Stars Starhick.
The Rack ZMQ, 6-10 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

Abbey Lounge Jack Paradis, Local Jack and Rosie Huntress.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Broderick, 8:30 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox.
The Rack Groove Authority, 6-10 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Pat Donaher and Ooomph!, 8:30 pm, $7.
Sky Bar Drug War, 8 pm, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place King Missile III, Bradford, $10.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, no cover.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441 9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684) MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424) MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
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Fri, July 24
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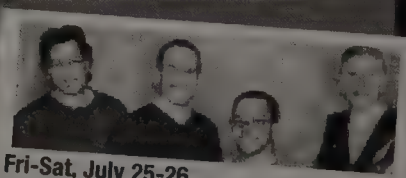
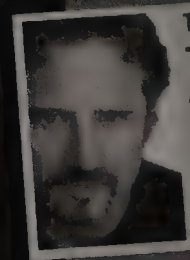


Fri-Sat, July 25-26
THE YELLOWJACKETS
This group will be debuting their first new studio recording in five years titled "Time Squared" on Heads Up Records. This trail blazing group features Russell Ferrante, Jimmy Haslip, Bob Minzter and Marcus Baylor.

Tues, July 29
KATY ROBERTS SEPTET



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Gillette Stadium *One Patriot Place, Foxborough (800-543-1776).*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum *280 The Fenway, Boston (671-734-1359). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*

Shelley Winters Project plays at a benefit barbecue concert July 25 at the Lizard Lounge.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, Boston (617-357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washinghton St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Museum of Fine Arts *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3770). MBTA:E Green Line to Museum of Fine Arts.*
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7203).*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Leary's Pub and Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
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Saint *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambrid (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623 5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerv (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
South Shore Music Circus *Sohier St., Cohasset (7 383-9850).*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617- 628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-53 1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts *885 So Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2333). MBTA: Co muter Rail to Mansfield.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-35 2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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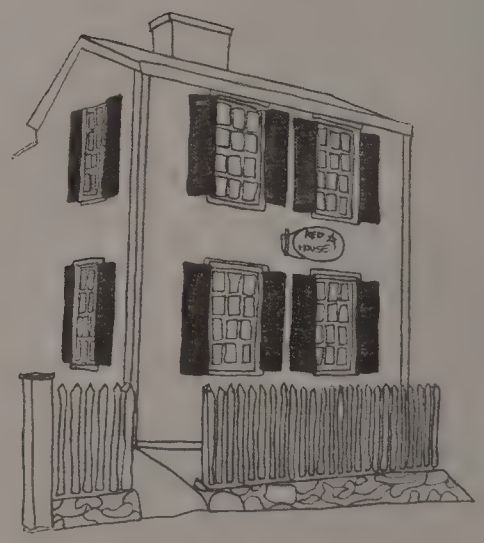

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Ruth Gordon Ampitheater, Quincy (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. *10:30 am and 12 pm. Free.* The orchestra performs Daniel Pinkham's musical based on Robert McCloskey's children's book *Make Way for Ducklings.*

WCRB Classical Concerts
Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston (781-736-9577). www.wcrb.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 7:30 pm. Free.* Classical 102.5 WCRB presents a performance by the Boston Bar Association Orchestra as part of its WCRB Summer Classical Concerts series.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free.* The Boston Landmarks Orchestra presents *Romantics in the Park*, featuring Rossini's *La Cenerentola Overture*, Dvorák's *Violin Concerto* and Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony.*

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free.* The International Baroque Institute presents *Banchetto Musicale*, a performance of vocal and instrumental chamber music.

New England Conservatory
St. Botolph Hall, 241 St. Botolph St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. Free.* Hankus Netsky, director of the Klezmer Institute, leads a faculty concert.

Society for Historically Informed Performance
Lindsey Chapel, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (508-212-6038). www.sohip.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8 pm. $14.* The Saltarello ensemble performs 18th-century works by Vivaldi, Bach, Telemann and Johan Helmich Roman.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. *8:30 pm. $14-$43.* The Borodin String Quartet performs Beethoven's Quartet No. 9 in C and Shostakovich's Quartet No. 11 in F minor and Quartet No. 12 in D flat.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Jamaica Pond Park, Jamaica Plain (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. *8 pm. Free.* Same program as July 24.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1 pm. Free.* The International Baroque Institute presents *Deliciae Studiosorum*, featuring institute members.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.* The International Baroque Institute and Collegium Atlantis present *Trésor d'Orphée*, a performance of chamber music.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. *6 pm. Free for 8:30 pm ticket holders.* BSO and guests perform Kodály's Serenade in E-flat and Chausson's Concert in D for string and piano.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. *8:30 pm. $16-$90.* Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos and John Oliver lead the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in a performance of Manuel de Falla's opera *La vida brève.*

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Fort Warren, George's Island, Boston (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. *MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Ferries depart from Long Wharf. 8 pm. Free.* Same program as July 23.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $15.* The International Baroque Institute presents *Terpsichore.* The institute's grand-finale performance at Longy includes dancing and refreshments.

The Boston Chamber Music Society plays at the Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall Aug. 2 and

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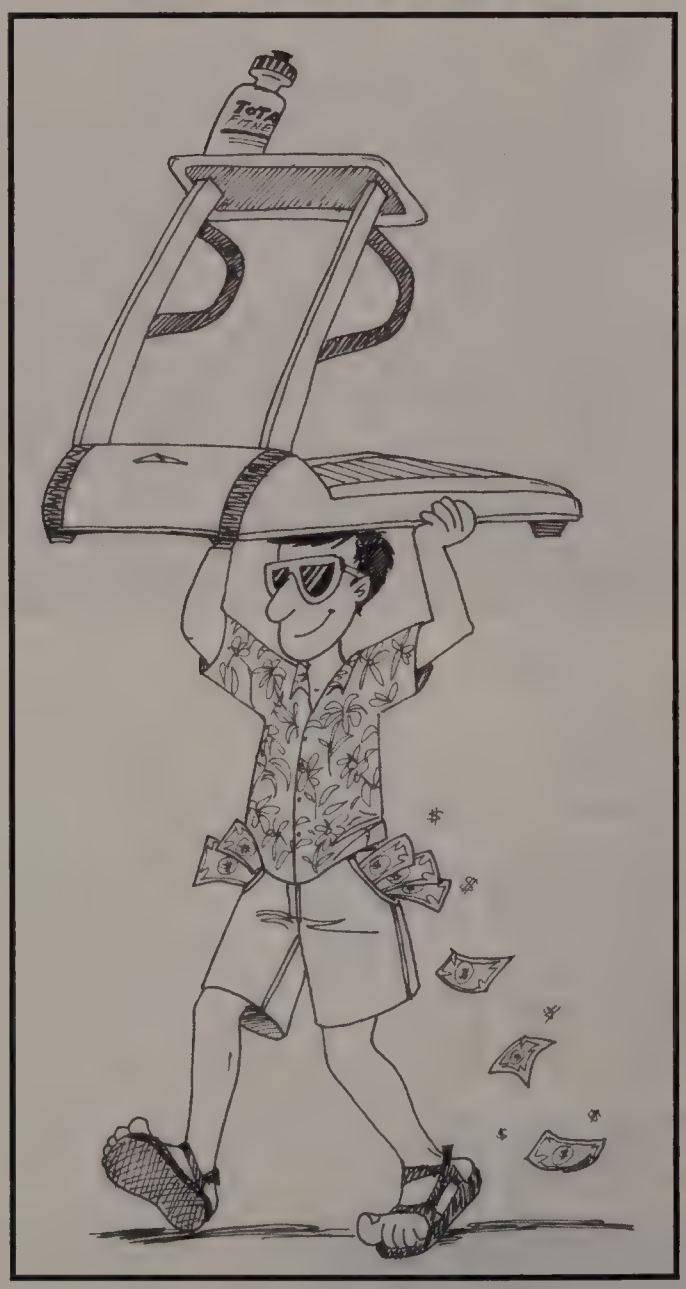

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Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 10:30 am. $16. Miguel Harth-Bedoya leads the BSO, soprano Dawn Upshaw and pianist Garrick Ohlsson in an open rehearsal of works by Golijov, Kodàly, Mozart and Rossini.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$80. Jeffrey Tate leads the BSO in a performance of Humperdinck's Overture to *Hänsel und Gretel*, Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 in A and excerpts from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 241 St. Botolph St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 5 pm. Free. Paige Dashner Long conducts multiple flutes in the Metropolitan Flute Festival Orchestra concert.

Tanglewood
Osawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 10 am. $10-$25. The Tanglewood Music Center Fellows perform chamber music.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $15-$80. Miguel Harth-Bedoya leads the BSO, soprano Dawn Upshaw and pianist Garrick Ohlsson in a performance of works by Golijov, Kodàly, Mozart and Rossini.

MONDAY, JULY 28

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Boston Common Parade Ground, Boston (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 8 pm. Free. Same program as July 24.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Paul Revere Mall, 390 Hanover St., Boston (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. 10:30 am and 12 pm. Free. Same program as July 23.

Janus 21 Summer Concert Series
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-734-5174). www.janus21.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $21. Violinist Andrew Kohji Taylor, pianist Max Levinson, cellist Alexei Romanenko and tenor Michael Calmés perform music by Ravel in *Exquisite Harmony*.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chapel
Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Ian Watson performs on the C.B. Fisk organ.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $10-$25. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos leads the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra in a performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$48. The Emerson String Quartet and pianist Jeffrey Kahane perform Smetana's Quartet No. 1, *From My Life*, Janacek's Quartet No. 1, *Kreutzer* and Brahms' Piano Quintet in F Minor.

WCRB Classical Concerts
Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston (781-736-9577). www.wcrb.com. MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 7:30 pm. Free. Classical 102.5 WCRB presents a performance by the New England Conservatory Youth Chorale as part of its WCRB Summer Classical Concert series.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 241 St. Botolph St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. Free. Aaron Kula leads the NEC Festival Youth Orchestra in a performance of chamber music.

Society for Historically Informed Performance
Lindsey Chapel, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (508-212-6038). www.sohip.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8 pm. $14. Amphion's Lyre presents *L'Etat C'est Moi! Louis XIV and Lully*, a performance of works by Campra, Clearmbault and Couperin.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. Pianist Piotr An-

Miguel Harth-Bedoya leads the BSO July 2

derszewski performs Beethoven's *Variations o Waltz Hall by Diabelli*, Op. 120, and Bach's Th Preludes and Fugues from *The Well-Tempered Cla* and Partita No. 1.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Beale Estate, Adams National Historic Park, Adams St., Quincy (617-520-2200). www.landma orchestra.org. MBTA: Red Line to Quincy Cente pm. Free. Same program as July 24.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-120 www.bso.org. 6 pm. Free for 8:30 pm ticket hold Members of the BSO perform Dvorák's Piano Tri E Minor, Op. 90, *Dumbky* and Martin's *La Revu Cuisine*.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (8 266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$80. Ra Frühbeck de Burgos and John Oliver lead the B and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in a per mance of Verdi's *Requiem*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Boston Chamber Music Society
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden Cambridge (617-349-0086). www.bostoncham music.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $ Violinist Ruggero Allifranchini, cellist Mina Sm and pianist Max Levinson perform works Beethoven, Brahms and Schumann as part of Louis H. Hamel Summer Music Festival.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (8 266-1200). www.bso.org. 10:30 am. $16. Christ von Dohnanyi leads the BSO and pianist Eman Ax in an open rehearsal of Brahms' Piano Conce No. 1 and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, *From the N World*.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-120 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $16-$90. John Williams John Oliver lead the Boston Pops and the Tang wood Festival Orchestra in a performance of mu cal selections from *Harry Potter and the Chambe Secrets* and *Catch Me If You Can* for Film Night Tanglewood.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-262-120 www. bso.org. 10 am. $10-$25. The Tanglewo Music Center Fellows perform chamber music.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (8 262-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $16-$90. C ductor Christoph von Dohnányi leads the B performing Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 and D rak's Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (8 266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$80. Cel Yo-Yo Ma and guests perform a selection of Bra ian pieces, featuring styles such as bossa nova the Afro-Brazilian music of classical compo Villa-Lobos.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Chorus Pro Musica Summer Sings
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (6 267-7442). www.choruspromusica.com. MB

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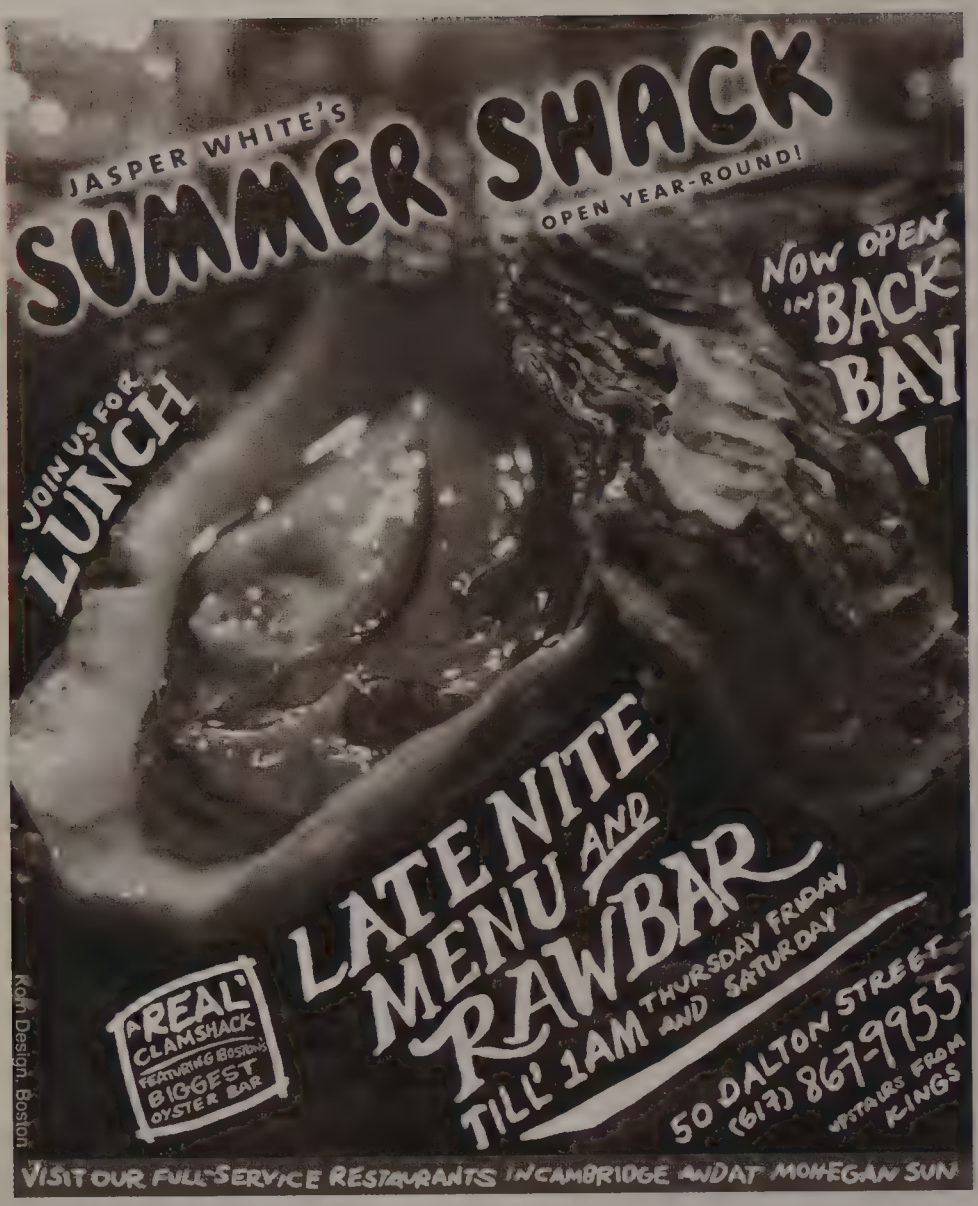

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and guests perform at Tanglewood Aug. 3

Green Line to Copley. 7:30 pm. $4-$8. Conductor Jeffrey Rink leads a rehearsal and performance of Verdi's *Requiem*.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chapel

Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Winnie Dahlgren performs on the marimba.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $18-$90. This Tanglewood on Parade concert features performances by the BSO, the Boston Pops and the TMC Music Center Orchestra. With narration by James Taylor, the groups perform Britten's *A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Bizet's *L'Arlésienne*, Suite No. 2, Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, Williams' *The Reivers* and Tchaikovsky's *1812* Overture.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$48. This all-Beethoven program features Sir Roger Norrington conducting Camerata Salzburg in a performance of Beethoven's *The Creatures of Prometheus* and Symphony No. 3, *Eroica*.

WCRB Classical Concerts

Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston. (781-736-9577). www.wcrb.com. MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 7:30 pm. Free. Classical 102.5 WCRB presents a performance by the New Philharmonica Orchestra, under the direction of Ronald Knudsen. The performance features soloist Gabriel Lefkowitz.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Society for Historically Informed Performance

Lindsey Chapel, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (508-212-6038). www.sohip.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8 pm. $14. La Donna Musicale presents *Superbi Italiane: 16th- and 17th-Century Italian Women Composers*, a selection of works by Madalena Casulana and Isabella Leonard.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. 8:15 pm. Free. The BLO and Opera Boston perform pieces from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Jeffrey Rink conducts the Longy Summer Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major.

Tanglewood

Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Leno (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. pm. Free for 8:30 pm concert ticke holders. This prelude concert fe tures string and piano musician performing Beethoven's Strin Trio in C Minor and Shostakovich Quintet in G minor for piano an strings.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 29 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$8 Peter Oundijan, accompanied b pianist Richard Goode, conduc the BSO in this all-Moza Program.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Boston Chamber Music Society

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hal 27 Garden St., Cambridge (61 349-0086). www.bostonchamb music.org. MBTA: Red Line Harvard. 8 pm. $22. Chamb members perform selections Debussy, Stravinsky, Dahl an Ravel as part of the Louis Hamel Summer Music Festival.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Charlestown Navy Yard, Bost (617-520-2200). www.landmar sorchestra.org. 8:15 pm. Fre Same program as Aug. 8.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 W St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 p $15-$80. Edo de Waart conducts pianist Yefi Bronfman and the BSO in a performamce Adams' *Harmonielehre* and Tchaikovsky's Pia Concerto No. 1.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-520-220 www.landmarksorchestra.org. 8:15 pm. Free. San program as Aug. 8.

Tanglewood

Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (88 266-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $15-$80. This Strauss program, in memory of Serge and Olga Ko sevitzky, features conductor Edo de Waart leadi the BSO and soprano Renée Fleming as they perfo Strauss' Serenade for Thirteen Wind Instrumen Op.7, *Four Last Songs* and *An Alpine Symphony*.

Tanglewood

The Theatre, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-120 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $10-$90. The Tanglew Music Center Vocal Fellows and Orchestra lead t performance, conducted by Stefan Asbury a Robert Spano. Sopranos Lucy Shelton and Da Upshaw perform Zuidam's *Rage d'amours* and G jov's *Ainadamar*.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Chorus Pro Musica Summer Sings Series

Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (617-2 7442). www.choruspromusica.com. MBTA: Gr Line to Copley. 7:30 pm. $4-$8. Conductor Jeff Rink leads a performance of Bach's Mass in B Mi

Tanglewood

The Theatre, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-120 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $10-$90. Same program Aug. 10.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Shirley-Eustis House, 33 Shirley St., Roxbury (6 520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. MB Orange Line to Ruggles, Bus 15 to Dudley Square and 11:30 am. Free. Same program as July 23.

Janus 21 Summer Concert Series

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden S Cambridge (617-734-5174). www.janus21.o MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $21. In Amer *Voices: Wisdom, Wit and Grace*, mezzo-soprano J Struss, tenor Michael Calmés and pianist Brian M perform American songs, from ballads to prayers.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chap

Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (6 227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: G Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Bobby Zhang and Zhang perform Chinese traditional music for yanquin and pipa.

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •July 28, PTM30, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 4, Ray Brown Trio, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 11, ZMQ, 6-10 pm, no cover.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live-music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
Den'm Tuesdays Resident DJ G2 spins house, international and hip-hop beats. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tym Ryan and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•July 29, Jazz Afterwork with ZMQ, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 5, Black Sole, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 12, Groove Authority, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Preview

Head of the House

Josh Wink combines mainstream success with street cred

It's rare in the dance-music industry for an artist to enjoy mainstream crossover success and still maintain underground credibility with clubbers. There are exceptions to every rule, however, and Philadelphia native Josh Wink is definitely one of them. Although Wink hit it big on the radio with his 1998 chart-topping hit "Higher State of Consciousness," he continues to play a vital role in clubland.

Wink's musical roots date back to early 1990s rave culture, and his sound still reflects a freewheeling approach to the dance floor. He deliberately steers clear of genre boundaries, playing and producing music that falls squarely between house and techno. "I'm not one for holding people to a single, specific genre," says Wink. "I love being on the median in between." Wink's ability to defy expectations and appeal to different audiences has served him well over the years; earlier this summer, he found himself playing on the main stage at Bonnaroo, the mammoth jam band festival held in Manchester, Tenn.

On Friday, Aug. 1, Josh Wink returns to Avaland at Avalon in support of *Profound Sounds Volume 2*, his first DJ mix compilation since 1999. True to form, he remixed every track on the compilation before mixing and recording the album. From searing acid house to Radiohead remixes and tracky techno, Avaland-goers can expect the unexpected.

Josh Wink, Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St. (617-262-2424). Aug. 1, 10 pm-2 am. $20. No dress code, 19+.—Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJs spin reggae, jungle and dub, 9:30pm, 19+.

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin everything from deep house to trance and grassroots techno with guest DJs from around the world, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Steve Anderson spins dance music, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 23, Live music with BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm. •July 30, BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analo Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Pete Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins and Artie the One Man Party pla top-40, hip-hop and R&B, 10:30 pm, no cove 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21 (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressiv Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajam John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen ho a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tune 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, cover, 21+.

Caprice
Mykonos Lounge DJ Bruno spins Indian and hip hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix featur tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance an house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz an electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop, R&B and top-4 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted KISS 108. Proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spi acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christia Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fre guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstair 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party start upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia sp dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no cover, 21

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am, 2

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins La dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover bef 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando pres drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 2

ANNO 1366.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
DJ Lenny C spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 24, 31 and Aug. 7, live music with Uneek Aproach, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Roxy
Latin Quarter Dance to salsa, merengue, house and other Latin grooves. Proper dress, 10 pm, $11.50.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+. •Aug. 1, DJ Josh Wink.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

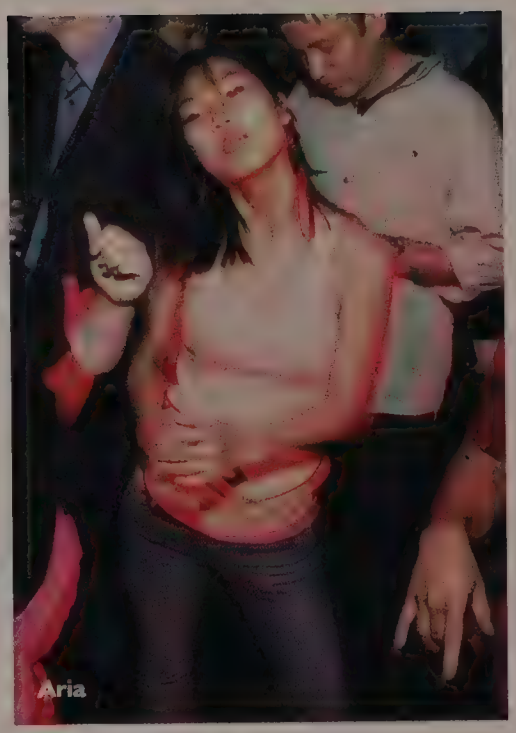
Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.



Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
•July 25, live music with Pig Pen. DJ Bobby B spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •July 25, live music with Central Basement, 6-10:45 pm. •Aug. 1, live music with Sugarfoot & the Brass Kickin' Horns, 6-10:45 pm. •Aug. 8, Central Basement performs, 6-10:45 pm.

River Gods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

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Saturdays

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Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SWI
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker spins the top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge
DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream international music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cove 21+. •**Sober Saturdays** Dance to '70s, '80s, '90s an top-40 in an alcohol-free atmosphere, $15, 18+. •**Up town** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '8 and '90s, proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, prope dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21+ •July 26, Moo Tycoon performs.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host th dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ U lockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techni 10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and interna tional music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Dow stairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

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Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and light house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
Resident DJs KC Pete and Adam Gibbons play eclectic deep house, 8 pm-1 am, $5, 21+.

Aria
DJ Roger M. spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm , $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It DJs John Davis and B-Coy spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house; DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Nate Watkins, 8 pm-12 am.

River Gods
•**Lumen Eclipse** Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30 pm, 21+. •**Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae and world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
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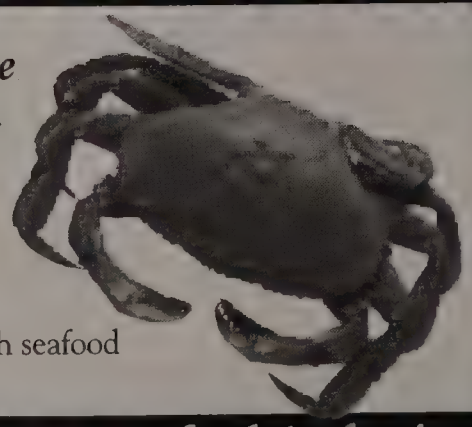

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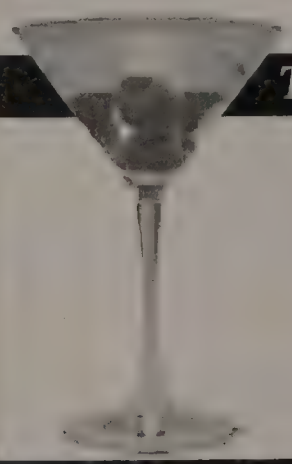

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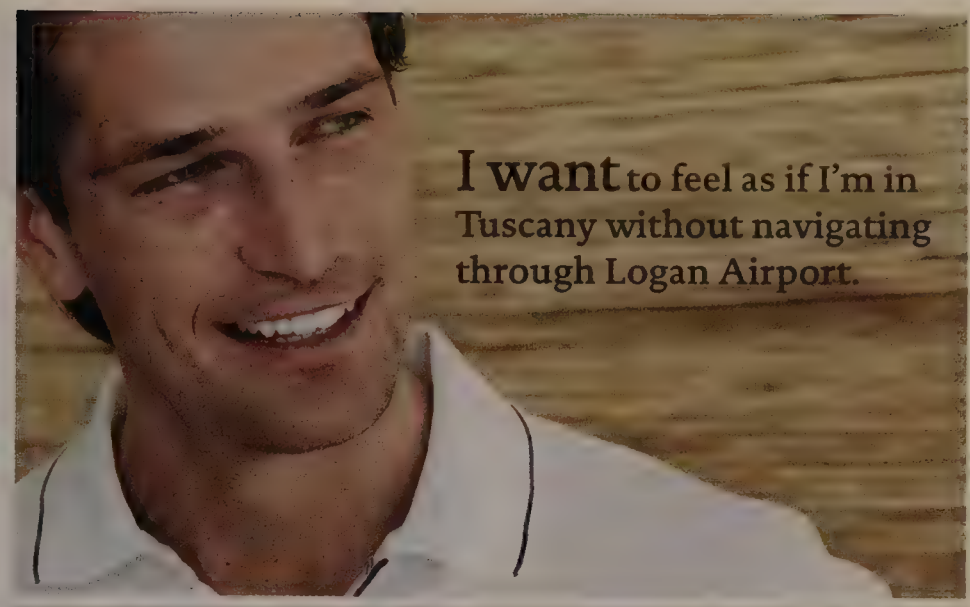

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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Sept. 7. •*Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows through Oct. 26. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Olmsted's Emerald Necklace*, an exhibition highlighting the historic significance of the Emerald Necklace parks, displays through July 31. •*American Presidents: Life Portraits*, paintings by artist Chas Fagan, displays through Aug. 29.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* is a 3-D light sculpture on display through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down*, a 40-foot relief of a tree, shows through Aug. 31. •*The 2003 DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the work of 11 New England artists. Through Aug. 31. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculptural exhibition, shows through spring 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists, selected from the museum's collection. Through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum

1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained-glass panels, displays through Aug. 31.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Le Coq d'Or: Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes* shows through Aug. 24. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* features a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition featuring 15 artists from around the world, explores the complex relationship between the creative process and healing. On display through Aug. 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through Aug. 24.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Ann Pendleton-Jullian: Facts + Fictions* highlights four books by the writer, architect and MIT professor. Through Sept. 5. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*French Royal Furniture* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a collection of figurative art from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788* features 100 of the British artist's paintings and drawings. Through Sept. 14. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* is an exhibition of works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Speed* explores the physical laws that govern velocity. Through Sept. 3. •*Contraptions A-Z* is a hands-on exhibit of gadgets. Through Sept. 8. •*Microbes: Invisible Invaders... Amazing Allies* examines the harmful and beneficial effects of the microscopic wonders. Through fall 2003.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community*. Ongoing. •*New England Neon* features more than 20 neon signs from the 1920s through the 1970s. Through Sept. 14. •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Worshipping the Ancestors: Chinese Commemorative Portraits* shows through Aug. 10. •*Family Ties* displays contemporary art through Sept. 21. •*Masterpieces of Asian Nineteenth Century Photography*, an exhibition of photographs from China, Japan, India and Tibet, displays through Sept. 28. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing from Chinese artists in various media. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children* •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features work depicting the Native American response to the arrival of Europeans across the continent. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands. •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through Aug. 30. •*These Shoes Were Made for ... Walking?* a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Greg Halpern's photographs of Harvard service employees like Lillianna Lenares (above) show at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts through Aug. 17.

Preview

Nickel-and-Dimed

Harvard graduate captures the low-wage life of university workers in black and white

One night while hanging out with tuxedo-clad friends at one of Harvard University's fraternity-like "finals clubs," undergrad Greg Halpern noticed custodian Carol-Ann Malatesta quietly cleaning up around them. He began talking to her and found that despite working full-time, Malatesta, like many other Harvard custodians, couldn't afford to feed her family on the university's wages. "It blew my mind," he says. "I said to myself, 'You have to start recording these [stories].'"

So Halpern, a history and literature major, began a yearlong senior project photographing and interviewing Harvard service workers. After graduating in 1998, he continued his project while volunteering for the Living Wage Campaign, which culminated in April 2001's sit-in and Harvard administrators' decision to increase the average service worker's hourly wage from $9 to $16. Photos from Halpern's forthcoming book, *Harvard Works Because We Do* (October 2003), are on display at the university's Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts through Aug. 17.

"I went into this hoping for direct political change, but now I feel that each story has its own message," Halpern says. "I just hope that people will look at each portrait and relate to these people and see a side of things they are not familiar with." *Harvard University Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). www.ves.fas.harvard.edu. Mon.-Fri. 9 am-11:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-11:30 pm; Sun., 12-11:30 pm. Free. Through Aug. 17.—Melanie Ryan*

Galleries

FINE ART

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38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Summer Salon*, a group show featuring recent acquisitions and works by gallery artists, displays through Aug. 16.

Alianza Gallery

154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm* •*Tea as Fantasy*, a show featuring sculptural teapots by artists, displays through Aug. 31.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Summer Selections* features new paintings by gallery artists. Through Sept. 3.

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Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Martin Boyle shows oil-on-canvas works in *New Work*. Through July 30. •*New Landscapes by Judith Brassard Brown* features oil paintings. Aug. 4-30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm. By appointment only in August.* •*Four to Look At* features the work of Cree Bruins, Sally Moore, Kelly Sherman and Rachel Perry Welty. Through Sept. 6.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery celebrates summer with *Tropical Flavors*, a group show. Through July 31. •Works from the gallery's collection display through Sept. 6.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www. bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •A show of mixed-media works displays through Aug. 30.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm and by appointment.* •*What Is Big?* features large-scale works in various media. Through Aug 9.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •Fay Grajower shows paper and scrolls in *Stone Links*. Through July 31. •Barry Hazard shows *Portrait Paintings*. Aug. 4-29.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •Vladimira Klumpar, Anna Matousova and Pavel Trnka show their work in *Configurations and Transformations: Three Students of Libensky*. Through Aug. 15.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* •Melora Kuhn and Jessica Grace Brooks show figurative paintings. July 31-Aug. 30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* • The gallery presents three summer shows: *Printmaking in the Age of Rembrandt, Whistler and His Circle* and *At the Docks*. Through Sept. 6.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •The *New Members Show* displays July 24-Aug. 16.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing exhibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. • *Old Comforts/New Views* features oil paintings by Joe Blajda. July 29-Aug. 30.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Unfolding Geometries* features Don Eyles' photography and Anne Lilly's sculpture. Through July 25. •*Float*, a group show of drawings and paintings, shows Aug. 1-30.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*

Rosso's Aetas Aurea is at the Sackler.

Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •An ong ing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prin from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Re brandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Ch gall. •*The Third Annual Impressionist Exhibit* featu paintings by Renoir, Pissarro, Manet and Cassa Through Aug. 31.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641 MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. Closed for A gust. •*Brian McNeil: Environmental Portraits* sho through Aug. 1.

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). ww jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Stre Tue., 6-9 pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9 pm, Fri. and Sa 12-5 pm. Closed Aug. 3-31.* •*Face to Face*, a colle tion of contemporary self-portraits in photograph painting and sculpture, displays through Aug. 2.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). ww gallerykatz.com. *July-Aug. by appointment only.* group show featuring new works by gallery artis displays through Aug. 31.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738 Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. Aug. by appointme only. •A group show featuring gallery artists displa through Aug. 31.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlingt (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9 a 5 pm. Closed, Aug. 1-24.* •*From Our Studios: Wo from the Artist Tenants at Arlington Center for t Arts* displays through Aug. 1.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.hal steele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fr 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointme* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century a tique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). ww howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Boston Su mer 2003* features mixed-media works by Jerry Be stein, Emily Eveleph, Morgan Bulkeley and othe Through Aug. 16.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-688 www.hurstgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm.* •Vit *Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath Board* displays through Aug. 31.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). ww internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to C ley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •T gallery's permanent collection showcases a vari of vintage posters. •*Mini-Masterpieces*, the 10th nual summer poster show, displays through Sept

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). w judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Cop Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Carol G and Donna Rosenthal show paintings and insta tions in *Introduction*. Through July 30. • *Boutiqu* group show, displays through August.

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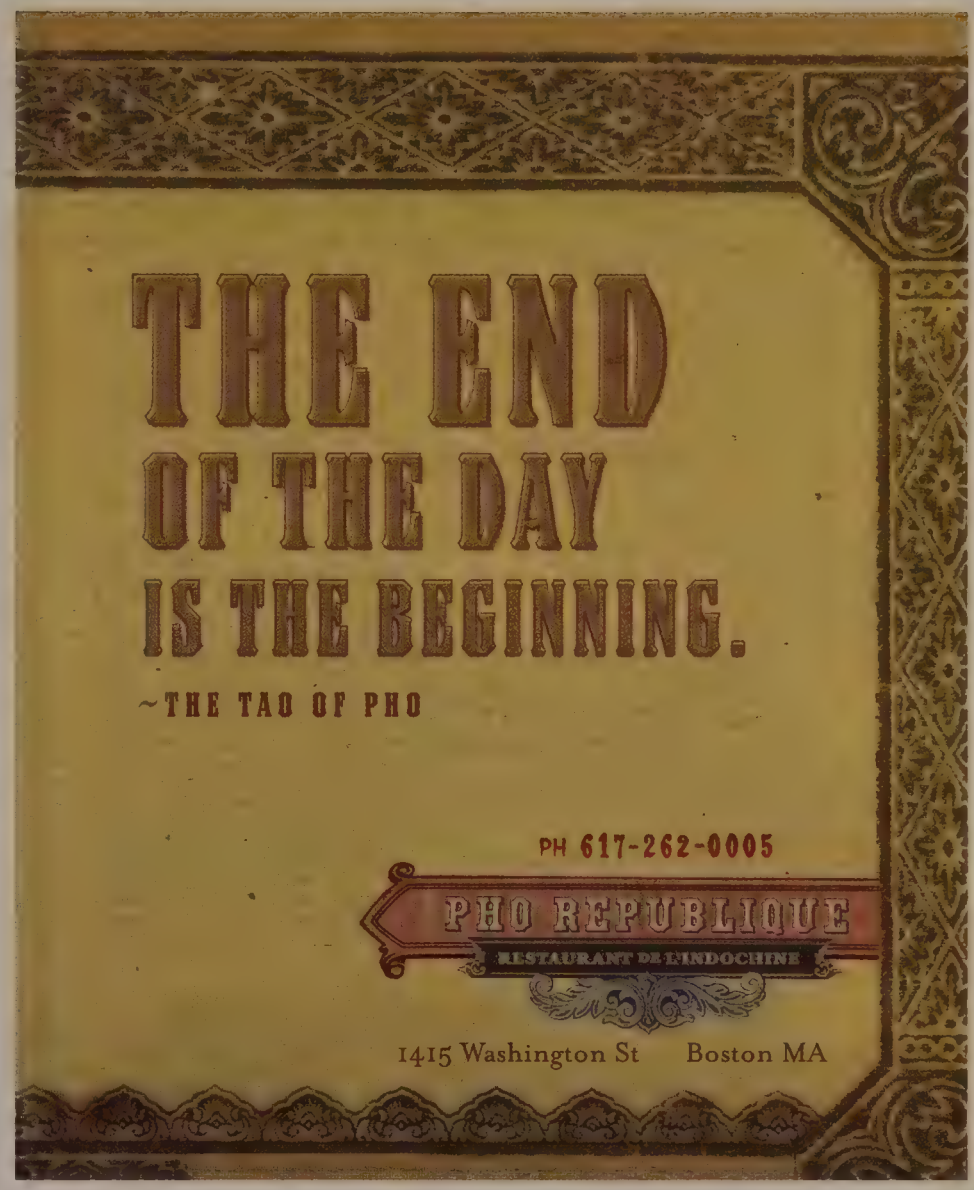
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Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment.* •*Star Festival*, a group exhibition of paintings and ceramics inspired by the Japanese Tanabata Festival, shows through Aug. 7.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm. Closed for August.* •The Cambridge Art Association presents a *New Members Show*. Through July 30.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Gil Mares shows his photographs in *Harbor Abstracts*. Through July 26. •A group show featuring paintings and photographs by an array of national artists shows July 29-Aug. 23.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*New Art '03*, a juried show of local and national artists, features paintings, photography and printmaking. Through July 26.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Through the Looking: Glass*, a group exhibition of glass vessels and sculpture by Marialyce Hawke, Duncan McClellan, Lucy Bergamini and Stephen Main, shows through Aug. 31. •*Vogt and Turula* is a collection of ceramic mosaics and paintings by Russ Vogt and John Turula. Aug. 1-Sept. 8.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •Maggi Brown, Roby Fader and Dan Weller show their work in *The Locals: Three Cambridge Artists*. Through Aug. 29.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. Closed for August.* •Gallery artists show their work in the annual summer show. Through July 31.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •*Playland*, a group show of paintings and photography, displays through Aug. 15.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: *Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*South Enders 2*, a juried exhibition of South End artists, displays through Sept. 26.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Japanese artist Mariko Kusumoto shows her mixed-media sculpture. Through July 31. •*Japanese Jewelry and Hollowware*, a collection of jewelry and sculptures by 29 artists, displays through July 31. •Jeanette Ahlgren shows her work in *Beaded Glass Structures*. Aug. 5-31.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. July and Aug. by appointment. only.* •A group exhibition of gallery artists' work shows through Aug. 31.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm.* •*20 Local Artists Go Nude*, a show featuring paintings and sculptures, displays July 24-Sept. 1.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. In Aug., Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Summer Surprises*, a group show of paintings, drawings and sculpture, displays through Aug. 31.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-4 pm.* •A group show featuring Alice Denison, Paton Miller, Paul Richard and others displays through Aug. 15.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.pepper galleryboston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. Closed Aug. 15-31.* •Gallery artists display paintings and drawings. Through Aug. 15.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •The gallery celebrates its 36th anniversary with *Fine Choices: Something Old, Something New*. Through Aug. 26.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery showcases an ongoing collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of the Game*, a group show, features photographs celebrating athletics. Through Aug. 23.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* •*20th Century Master Graphics*, a collection of lithographs and aquatint etchings by Sonia Delaunay, Joan Miro and Marino Marini, displays through Aug. 30.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Botanicals*, a group show of mixed-media work, shows through July 27. •*Words Text Stories* features work by various artists in glass, wood, clay and fiber. Aug. 3-Oct. 26.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1 pm-5 pm.* •*Two Views* features watercolors by Susan Demchak and mixed-media work by Nancy Schiesfelin. Through Aug. 10.

University Place Gallery
124 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat. 9 am-1 pm. Hot Days Cool Nights, a group show of mixed-media work, displays through Sept. 3.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 8:30-1 pm. Closed for August.* •Six artists show multimedia work in *Go Team*. Through July 31.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Pat Cauley: Paintings on Paper and Linen*, a collection of works inspired by the poetry of E. E. Cummings, displays through Aug. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-4 pm.* •Polly Thayer Starr shows drawings in *Carved from Darkness Carved from Light*. Through Aug. 15.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: *Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •Babeth Hines displays discarded photo-booth portraits spanning 75 years. Visitors can have their photo taken in a working booth and add it to the collection. Through Sept. 12.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*The 2003 Graduating Students' Exhibition* shows through July 31. •Harvey Halpern shows color photographs in *Reflecting on Mud*. Through Aug. 16.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •Work by Alan MacLean displays through Sept. 6.

Photographic Resource Center
832 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.prc-boston.org. MBTA: *B Green Line to Blandford. Tue.-Wed. and Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-5 pm. Closed for August.* •A member exhibition shows through July 27.

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6 pm. Free. Attorney **Rose Connor** reads from her crime novel *Temporary Sanity*, a story about a Cape Cod lawyer who defends a man who kills his son's murderer.

McIntyre and Moore Booksellers
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7:30 pm. Free. The Local Writers' Group presents an event titled Expatriate Culture Shock, Childhood Gym Trauma and More, a reading featuring **Linda Savarese**, **Alesia Selby**, **Noelle Shough**, **Chris Vrotsos** and **Jane Wentzell**.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Bill Eidson** reads from *The Repo*, his new thriller about a retired drug enforcement officer who solves mysteries in Charlestown, Mass.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* Former Yankee pitcher **Jim Bouton** reads from his book *Foul Ball: My Life and Hard Times Trying to Save an Old Ballpark*, an account of the fight between residents of the town of Pittsfield, Mass. and developers who wanted to build a new baseball stadium.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Movie critic **Joel Siegel** reads from his book *Lessons for Dylan*, about his experiences becoming a father and learning that he had cancer in the same year. In this book, he shares everything he wants his son Dylan to know about his heritage.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* **Dorothee Rozenberg** reads from her mother's recently translated memoir, *Girl with Two Landscapes: The Wartime Diary of Lena Jedwab, 1941-1945*. The book chronicles the experiences of a Polish girl who was attending summer camp in Russia when Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

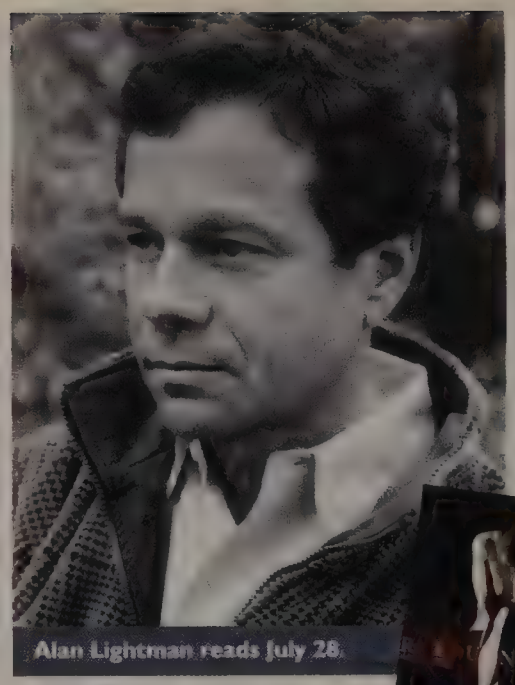
WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Alice Hoffman** reads from her novel *The Probable Future*, the story of three generations of women whose mystical powers create extraordinary circumstances in their New England town.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
The Attic, Union Street Restaurant, 107 R. Union St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. 7:30 pm. Free.* **Zadie Smith** reads from her second novel, *Autograph Man*, about a professional autograph collector in London trying to make his way in the world.

MONDAY, JULY 28

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* National Book Award nominee **Alan Lightman** reads from his novel *Reunion*, about a man forced to face his past when he attends his 30-year college reunion.


Alan Lightman reads July 28.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Maria Flook** reads from *Invisible Eden: A Story of Love and Murder on Cape Cod*, her controversial book about the life and death of fashion writer Christa Worthington, who was found murdered in Truro, Mass.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **R.L. Stine**, the author of more than 100 young-adult books, reads from his most recent thriller, *The Sitter*, about a young girl who accepts a job as a nanny for a questionable family.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Adam Mansbach** reads from his debut novel, *Shackling Water*, about a gifted saxophonist looking for his muse in Harlem.

WordsWorth Books
Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7 pm. Free.* Lowell native **Olympia Dukakis** reads from her autobiography, *Ask Me Again Tomorrow: A Life in Progress*, in which she describes her struggles and successes as a stage and screen actress.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Borders Chestnut Hill
The Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St., Newton (617-630-1120). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Center. 7:30 pm. Free. **Maria Flook** reads from *Invisible Eden: A Story of Love and Murder on Cape Cod*. See July 29 for a description.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Mako Yoshikawa** reads from her novel *Once Removed*, the story of two stepsisters who are reunited after 17 years. Also, **Dawn Clifton Tripp** reads from her novel *Moon Tide*, which follows the lives of three women in Westport, Mass., during a 1938 hurricane.

Ibbetson Street Press
Grand Cafe, 61 Union Square, Somerville (617-628-2313). 6 pm. Free. Three recently published poets read from their books at this event sponsored by Ibbetson Street, Somerville's literary press. Featured poets are **Linda Lerner**, **Harris Gardner** and **Marc Goldfinger**.

Kate's Mystery Books
2211 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-2660). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6 pm. Free. Four mystery writers read from their books. **Alex Kava** reads from *The Soul Catcher*; **Keith Ablow** reads from *Psychopath*; **Elise Title** reads from *Inside Out*; and **Cynthia Riggs** reads from *The Cemetery Yew*.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Janette Turner Hospital** reads from her novel *Due Preparations for the Plague*, in which a single father struggles to understand the 1987 hijacking of an Air France plane that resulted in the death of his mother.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* Local author **Laura Zigman** reads from her comedic novel *Her*, about a woman obsessed with her fiancé's ex-girlfriend.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Cover 2 Cover
Paradise Lounge, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. 8 pm. Free. Newtonville Books presents the third installment of Cover 2 Cover, an event that features writers reading works by their favorite writers, and musicians who play covers of their favorite songs. The featured author is **Junot Diaz** and the featured musician is **Boris McCutcheon**. Author **Steve Almond** is the guest DJ.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. Boston Globe* columnist **James Carroll** reads from his novel *Secret Father*, about three teens caught in Berlin in 1961 and their parents' struggle to save them.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Ann Cummins** reads from *Red Ant House*, her collection of short stories about people, especially young children, on the periphery of society. Also, **Jane Avrich** reads from *The Winter Without Milk*, her collection of stories featuring historical figures in unusual situations.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Robert Ginna** reads from his book *The Irish Way: A Walk Through Ireland's Past and Present*. Ginna walked 351 miles across Ireland when he was 76 years old.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Dire Reader (First Friday)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $4. Local writers read for 15 minutes each in this open mike for long-form fiction, followed by longer readings by two featured authors.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7 pm. $5.* The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is presented one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-554-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity to take the open mike.

The Weber Foundation Freedom Fund

is a special project of **The Weber Foundation of Helping Hands, Inc. and the past Commander of the National and Massachusetts American Legion, Jake Comer**, that identifies and financially supports veterans, their families, and others who have been adversely affected by the war on terrorism.

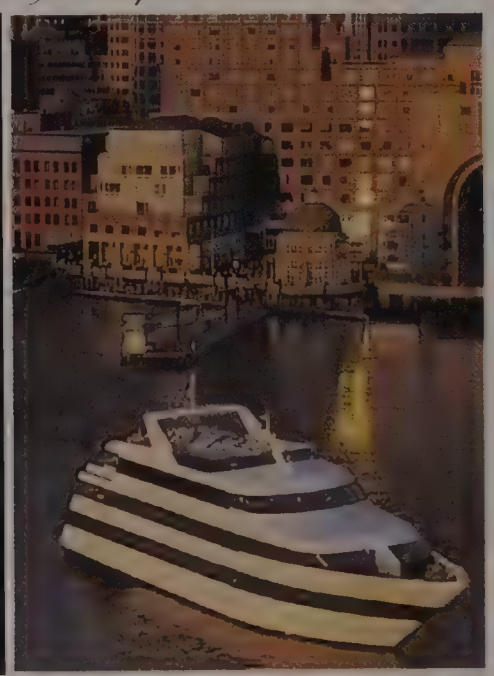
Please join us for this special event:

Odyssey Dinner Cruise and Concert To Support The Weber Foundation Freedom Fund

When: Wednesday, July 30th 2003
Where: The Odyssey, Rowes Wharf, Boston, MA
Time: 6:00-11:00pm

Itinerary:
- Guests Board the Odyssey/V.I.P.
- Reception 6:00-6:45pm
- Seating/Dinner 6:45pm
- Cruise Departure 7:00pm
- Dock at Marina Bay for a Concert at Waterworks 8:30pm
- En Route to Rowes Wharf 10:30pm
- Appreciation Party at The Rack 11:30pm-2:00am

Includes:
- Four Course Plated Dinner w/ Wine
- Harbor Cruise with Entertainment Concert at Waterworks Featuring the "B Street Band"
- Appreciation Party at The Rack



For more information about this event – or if you cannot attend but would like to donate to The Weber Foundation Freedom Fund – please call (617) 274-4709 or visit our website at www.theweberfoundation.com

If you or someone you know has been adversely affected by the war on terrorism and would like to apply for a grant from The Weber Foundation's Freedom Fund, please call (617) 274-4709 for more information or visit our website.

The Weber Foundation of Helping Hands Inc. is a non-profit public charity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and an exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

The Improper Bostonian Magazine

PRESENTS

The Second Annual Bridesmaid's Ball

AT HURRICANE O'REILLY'S

Thursday, August 7, 2003

150 Canal St, Boston
Doors open at 7 pm.

There will be prizes for most creative up-do, ugliest dress, prettiest dress, sexiest bridesmaid and more!

Prizes will include:
A teeth whitening and a complete makeover from Exclusive Skin Solutions. A Bachelorette Night for you and your friends on the Bustonian.

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Tickets are $5. Proceeds to benefit the Komen Boston Race for the Cure
Call 617.859.1400 ext. 321 for more details

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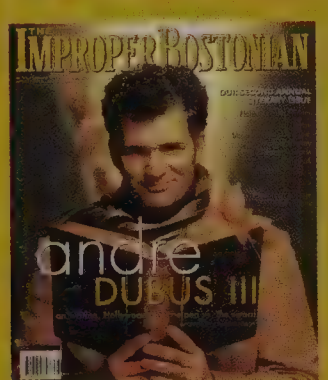
CALL TO FICTION



As part of our third annual Literary Boston issue, we invite all local authors (residing in Massachusetts) to submit a short work of fiction, no more than **2,500 words, to us by Fri., Aug. 1.** Entries should be original works that have never been previously published.

Upon review by our panel of judges, the winning author's story will be published in our October 8 issue. Plus, the skilled scribe will be saddled with a slew of fun prizes.

Please send your story to us at:

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

Attn: Fiction Contest
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116

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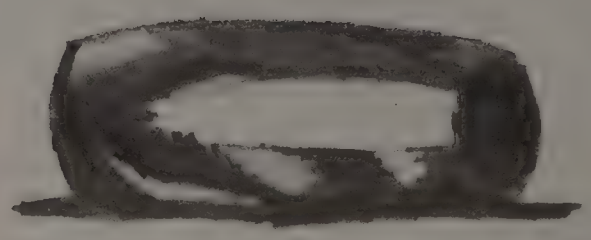

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Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Education, or e-mail information to education@improper.com. Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Japan in the 18th Century

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 11 am. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk will focus on 18th-century Asian and Oceanic art.

Which Breed Do You Need?

Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington St., Newton (617-796-1463). www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson. 7 pm. $2-$5. **Stephanie Kodis** of Mount Ida College's Canine Studies Program will discuss how to choose the best dog to suit an owner's lifestyle. She'll also provide information on daily care of dogs, the needs of specific breeds and what to look for when choosing a dog.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

National Children's Literature Conference

300 The Fenway, Boston (617-521-2540). www.simmons.edu/graduate/childrens_literature/index.html. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum/Ruggles. July 24-27. $350-$500; pre-registration required. This four-day conference entitled Midnight Gardens is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons College. Authors of children's literature, including **Natalie Babbitt, Jack Gantos** and winners of the Caldecott Medal, the Newbery Medal, the Printz Honor and the *Boston Globe*–Horn Book Award discuss the theme of good and evil in children's literature.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

ASIMO North American Tour

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-589-0250). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. July 26 and 27, 12, 2, 4 and 6 pm. Free with admission ($10-$13). This presentation introduces ASIMO, the world's most advanced humanoid robot, and explains how ASIMO was created and how robotic technology may advance in years to come.

Observing Forest Fruits

New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877-7630). 6:30 pm. Naturalist **Carol Govan** teaches this class about the relationship between fruits and their flowers. Take a walk through Garden in the Woods and examine forest fruits.

Visions and Revisions

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 12 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk will focus on contemporary works on paper: prints, drawings, photographs and illustrated books.

Where Traditions Meet

Arthur M. Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-496-8576). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11:30 am. Free with admission ($5-$6.50). **Alexander Keefe**, a guest curator and Ph.D. candidate in Sanskrit and Indian studies, leads this gallery talk on painting in India from the 14th to the 17th century.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

American Impressionists

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. July 27 and Aug. 7, 2 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk focuses on impressionist art created in the United States.

Stories Behind the Stones

Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $5. Historian **Al Maze** leads a walking tour of the cemetery, focusing on the history, people, art and horticulture of the area.

MONDAY, JULY 28

Shifting Landscapes: Jewish Life in 21st-Century America

Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). www.brandeis.edu/programs/berkshires. 8 pm. $5. In *Shifting Landscapes: Jewish Life in 21st-Century America*, **Dr. Deborah Lipstadt**, a professor of modern Jewish and holocaust studies at Emory University, discusses the challenges and opportunities facing the American Jewish community today.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Food Fight: Genetically Modified Crops

Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-589-0250). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This presentation investigates both the positive and negative facets of genetically modified crops.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Man and Wife: Egypt to Expressionism

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6 pm. Free with admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk focuses on the image of the husband and wife as expressed in both ancient and contemporary art.

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

20th-Century Spanish Painting

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 12 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This artist talk focuses on the development of the realist style in 20th-century Spanish art as featured in the Blake-Purnell Collection.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

Figurative Tradition in Spanish Art

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 2 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk focuses on Spanish art, specifically the importance of the human figure, beginning with 17th-century masterpieces and ending with works of 20th-century masters.

Super-Natural Gardening

New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877-7630). 12:30 pm. Free with $3-$7 admission. **Robin Wilkerson** teaches this class about natural gardening and garden design.

Victorian Sculpture Tour

Historic Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 6 pm. $5. Keeper of collections **Rebecca Reynolds** leads a tour exploring 19th-century masterpieces throughout the cemetery.

THURSDAY, AUG. 7

Sex & Warfare: Why Does That Plant Do That?

New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Rd., Framingham (508-877-7630). 4 pm. Naturalist **Hilary Hopkins** presents this slide lecture that examines plant strategies, pollinators and seed distribution. After the lecture, Hopkins leads a walk through Garden in the Woods.

SATURDAY, AUG. 9

European Portraiture

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 12 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk looks at portraits created in Europe, as seen from the sitter's perspective

Learn to Pack Like the Pros

Gentle Giant Moving Co., 29 Harding St., Somerville (617-806-1010). 10 am. Free. Representatives from Gentle Giant offer time- and money-saving tips and helpful advice.

Put Your Best Paw Forward

Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead, 527 Washington St., Newton (617-796-1463). www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson. 2 pm. $2-$5. This seminar offers a demonstration of grooming techniques and general care for dogs. **Stephanie Kodis** of Mount Ida College's Canine Studies Program provides tips on coat and teeth brushing, nail clipping and ear cleaning.

MONDAY, AUG. 11

Islam, Judaism and Christianity: Pluralism and Discord in the Contemporary World

Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). www.brandeis.edu/programs/berkshires. 8 pm. $5. A variety of authors, professors and journalists, including **James Carroll, Yossi Klein Halevi, Khaleel Mohammed** and **Jack Wertheimer**, discuss the sources of conflict within the major Western faith traditions and suggest resources for coexistence and tolerance. Panelists will also discuss the relationship between religion and politics in the Middle East and around the world.

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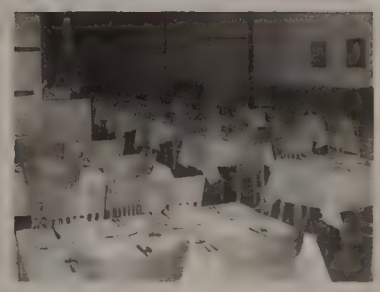

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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

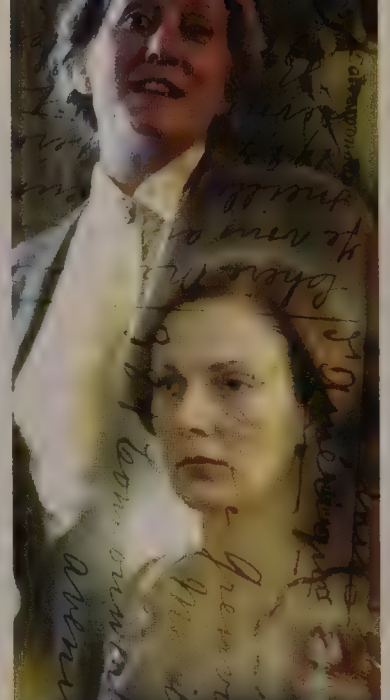
Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.


Shakespeare & Company performs *Vita and Virginia* in Lenox.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+. •July 10: DJ Mistress plays a mix of vocal and progressive house and other types of music, with an emphasis on female artists. •July 17: DJ Deja mix show features a mix of vocals, funky house and disco house.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men and women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at CandyLand; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: Th Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house an DJ Ron Steel spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae an funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance part with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamu books.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Statio Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and trans gendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310, www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Cen tral. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features a array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.w thinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:3 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, th community-centered gay and lesbian bookstor stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

AIDS Action Ride
Berkshire Community College, 1350 West St., Pitt field. (617-450-1100). www.aidsactionride.org. *Au 8-10. $10 per mile.* The AIDS Action Committe sponsors a three-day 225-mile pan-Massachuset charity bike ride from Pittsfield to Amherst. Partic pants are welcome to complete the whole course individual legs to benefit the AAC.

Broken Silence Ball
The Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 53 Tremont St., Boston (617-988-2600, ext. 207). Ju 26th. 6 pm. This event, with a DJ, dancing and r freshments, celebrates fun, fashion, unity and prid

Cloud 9
Loeb Drama Center Experimental Theatre, 64 Brat St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). July 23-26, 7: pm. $14. Joy Fairfield directs the Harvard-Ra cliffe Summer Theatre's production of Car Churchill's comedic history of sexuality from t buttoned-up Victorian era to present-day contr versies over homosexuality.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transge dered Professionals Building Comm nity Boat Cruise
World Trade Center, Northern Ave., Boston (61 236-4222). www.gbbc.org. *July 30, 7:30 pm. $ members, $30 non-members, $35 at dock.* Join t GBBC on the Provincetown II for an evening music, dancing, networking and raffles.

Making Porn
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Bost (617-426-5000). www.bcaonline.org. *Through Au 3. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 7 p $27-$37.* Caryn Horwitz and Blueblake.com pres Ronnie Larsen's off-Broadway comedy about people who work in the gay porn industry.

Tiffany Club Picnic and Pool Party
Randolph Country Club, 44 Mazzeo Drive, Rando (781-961-2414). www.tcne.org. *July 26, 11 am. $* The Tiffany Club of New England, a commun group for transexual and transgendered men a women, hosts its barbecue picnic and pool party.

Vita and Virginia
Spring Lawn Theater, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (4 637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. Thu., 8 pm; Sat., 10:30 am. $27.* Dan McCleary rects Shakespeare & Company in its production Eileen Atkins' play, which is based on the corresp dence between author Virginia Woolf and her lo Vita Sackville-West.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bost (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MB Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collabora with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide this s confidential space to discuss healthy relationsh domestic violence and other issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling Leag
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617- 1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and bians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

As seen in **People** *magazine, March 17, 2003*

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Bi-Curious Men's Group
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA. 7 pm.* This group meets he second Tuesday of every month for a discussion ith bisexual men.

BOSS
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA. 6-8 pm.* This group for y and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity d health.

oston Bay Blades
ww.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join is competitive, recreational group of rowers and ullers.

oston Boasts Squash
17-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue., 7-9 n; Sat., 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners.* MBTA: *E reen Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay d lesbian players and their friends.

oston Gay Basketball League
17-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a ll regular season and playoff schedule each year.

oston GLASS Community Center
3 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 5 pm.* The center provides social activities for gay, sbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning oung people, ages 13-25.

oston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
oakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). BTA: *Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30* n. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

oston Lesbian Avengers
oston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA.* www.lesbianavengers. g. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-endly direct-action political group focuses on isses affecting lesbians.

ambridge/Boston Volleyball
17-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

hiltern Mountain Club
88-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-ember gay club with outdoor activities.

oming Out as Bisexual
sexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston 17-424-9595). www.biresource.org. MBTA: *een Line to Arlington. First Wednesday and third ursday of every month. 7-8:45 pm.* An informal pport group for bisexual individuals.

oming Out Group
nway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 17-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *een Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for men d women to discuss issues related to coming out.

osmetically Correct
urel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each nth, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick optional.

agger
mbridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., mbridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offen-e's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on dnesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

he Down Low
nway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 17-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *een Line to Hynes/ICA First Friday of the month. pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual n of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture d health.

st Coast Wrestling Club
41-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www. lesportsboston.com. This club for gay male stlers has more than 160 members.

egant Outings
6-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group comes gay and gay-friendly professional women o are intelligent, chic and sophisticated (and 40 or er) for get-togethers with like-minded women for versations, dinners, theater and networking.

plore Gender in a Safe Place
way Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 7-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *en Line to Hynes/ICA.* An ongoing support up for people born into biologically female ies or who have grown up being viewed as biocally female, and who wish to explore gender safe place.

AG Flag Football
w.flagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join ton's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual ng season, followed by a formal fall season. All welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2.* This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tuesday/Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings. Gay and lesbian swim team for both fitness and competitive swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month.* Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Meets twice a month.* Learn to cope with a partner's illness.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: *C or B Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8.* Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Wonder Women Boston
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. First Thursday of every month. 8 pm.* This casual social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s meets once a month.

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body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

The Holy Mother Sri Mata Amritanandamyi
Sheraton Ferncroft Resort, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers (978-433-5121). www.ammachi.org. July 23, 10 am-3 pm and 7:30 pm-4 am. Free. Join Amma, a spiritual leader and humanitarian, for this day of mediation, inspirational lectures, devotional singing and individual blessings.

Workshops

Art, Body and Soul Day
Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). www.art-and-soul.info. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Aug. 9, 10 am-5 pm, $75. Spend a day with yourself at this workshop led by expressive arts therapist Kat Mitchell that features facilitated bodywork, movement and creative expression through sound, imagery and words.

Ayurvedic Secrets of Holistic Living
Living Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. July 26, 1-5 pm. $50. Ayurveda is a holistic healing system from India that addresses individuals' varying constitutions. This workshop presents teachings from Ayurvedic masters on the causes of ill health and provides practical lifestyle ideas for preventing illnesses before they occur.

Breathwork: Opening Body, Mind and Spirit
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-316-0282 or 617-285-3981). www.arlingtoncenter.org. July 27, 1-3 pm. $25. Call ahead to register. Certified breath facilitators and massage practitioners Christine Hall and Tamar Naor provide instruction on how to use breathing to still the mind, clear emotions and relax the body.

Change Your Inner Talk and Change Your World
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. July 30, 6-9pm. $35. In this workshop, examine how your "inner voice" affects your feelings, performance and relationships. Learn how to avoid being your own worst enemy and treat yourself kindly.

Communicating the Inner Landscape: A Yoga Intensive
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. MBTA: Red Line to Charles or Green Line to Government Center. Aug. 1-3 (10 hours). $150. One challenge many people encounter while practicing yoga is how to initiate the flow of inner life force. This workshop with Barbara Benagh helps individuals explore how language, metaphor and breath can be used to enhance external asanas and awaken the life force within.

Introduction to Longevity Breathing
Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Aug. 9, 1:45-4 pm. $30. Do you get short of breath or have breathing difficulties? This class provides an introduction to longevity breathing, helping individuals to breathe gently and deeply, which can help to soothe nerves, quiet the mind and aid overall health.

Managing Back Pain Naturally
Bailey Therapeutic Massage, 14 Nason St., Maynard (978-897-0110). web.maynard.ma.us/biz/bmassage. July 27, 2-4:30 pm. $35. This workshop is suitable for individuals of all fitness levels who wish to learn techniques for treating back pain without drugs as well as ways to prevent back pain.

Raphael Cushnir: Setting Your Heart on Fire
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org or www.heartonfire.

Author Raphael Cushnir talks about how to find inspiration during difficult times July 31.

org. July 31, 7-8:45 pm. Free. Raphael Cushnir, author of *Unconditional Bliss: Finding Happiness in the Face of Hardship*, talks about how to find love, inspiration, creativity and wisdom during difficult times.

Reiki Energy Healing
Arlington Reiki Associates, 366 Mass Ave #304, Arlington (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. July 25, 6:30-9:30 pm. $10. Call ahead. Experience a relaxing Reiki healing treatment.

The Seven Steps of Change
Austen's, 115 Newbury St., Boston (617-731-2290). www.namoliving.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Presentation: Aug. 15, 7:30-9:30 pm. Free. Workshop: August 18, 10 am-4:30 pm. $80. This workshop provides an introduction to mental exercises that can change how you handle everyday life. Participants will learn tips for increasing awareness of the connection between external and internal experiences and transforming stress into positive, personal progress.

Tibetan Music Concert and Discussion
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101 or 978-897-7627). www.tsboston.org. July 25, 7:30 pm. $12. Penpa Tsering, musician, singer and dancer from Tibet, joined the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts after relocating to Nepal to escape Chinese persecution. See him play traditional instruments, including strings, flutes and horns, and listen to him discuss Tibetan philosophy and religion.

The Ultimate Weight Loss Solution
56 Pickering St., Needham (781-444-6940). July 23, 7-9 pm. $39. Dr. Judith A. Swack presents her program, Healing from the Body Level Up, a methodology designed to help people deal with hidden food and diet phobias. She offers an easy-to-follow diet and exercise program for consistent weight loss without cravings.

Retreat

Rest and Rejuvenation Yoga Retreat
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Aug. 2, 12:30-5:30 pm. $79. Escape to a peaceful retreat at a Tudor home in Cambridge equipped with a garden, hot tub and swimming pool. Meditate, luxuriate and practice water yoga. Learn different ways to improve breathing, posture, physical health and general well-being.

Ongoing

Beginner's Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-562-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or #57, 64, 66 and 501 bus lines. Wed., 6:30-8 pm. $15-$20. Try the beginner's class in this peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time.

Breathwork
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 5:30-7 pm. $10 donation. Join David Vendetti, experienced breathwork facilitator and yoga teacher, for this relaxing class.

Silent Meditation
Living Yoga Center, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. Sun., 7:15-7:45 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Free. Silent meditation can help you relax and enhance your peace of mind and help you hear your intuitional voice.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Things to See

The Gift of Love
Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Aug. 2 and 9, 11 am. $8, $5 children. The Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company's Children's Performance Series continues with this story of an ailing king who is saved by his townspeople and a mysterious visitor. The show is told through shadow puppetry, original music and classical story-telling.

Make Way for Ducklings Concert
Boston Landmarks Orchestra, 168 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-520-2206). www.landmarksorchestra.org. July 23 and 29, 10:30 am and 12 pm; July 26, 12 pm; July 27, 3 and 4:30 pm; August 12, 10 and 11:30 am. Locations vary. Check the Web site or call for directions. The Boston Landmarks Orchestra presents composer Daniel Pinkham's *Make Way for Ducklings*, based on the book by Robert McCloskey.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400).www.puppetshowplace.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •July 23 and 24, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 4 and older: Based on a folktale from Malawi, *Leopard Learns a Lesson* tells the story of a mother leopard and her son who spend much of their time bullying smaller animals. They soon learn that cooperation works better than intimidation. •July 30 and 31, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 4 and older: Paul Vincent Davis' performance of *Rumpelstiltskin* tells the story of a young woman ordered by the king to spin straw into gold. A troll offers to help her but demands a terrible price in return. •August 6 and 7, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 5 and older: *Tales from the Nest* is a collection of fairy tales narrated by three neurotic birds as they wait for their mother.

Things to Do

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6229). www.acarts.org. MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, transfer to Arlington Heights bus to Foster Street. Weekly summer programs, 8:45 am-3:30 pm. $205-$240/week. •July 28-Aug. 1: Musically Inspired. Make posters, CD covers and instruments. •Aug. 4-8: Wonders of the Sea. Learn about marine animals and make art. •Aug. 11-15. In the Mirror. The center asks children to look into the mirror and think about what they see and what they would like to be.

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. •July 23 and 30, 11 am. Nickelodeon Summer Camp. On July 23, join SpongeBob Squarepants on his underwater adventures in Bikini Bottom, then partake in Oswald camp activities with the blue octopus July 30. •July 26, 12 pm. Storytime with Timothy Basil Ering. The author of *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone* reads from his picture book. •July 27, 12 pm. *Songs My Family Taught Me*. Singer John Storms-Rohm sings from his CD of children's music. •July 31, 3 pm. Harry Potter Birthday Party. Join fellow Muggles for the birthday celebration of literature's favorite teenage wizard—complete with discussion and trivia on *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6. Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free. •Sat., 11 am, ages 5 and older. Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

The Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children. •*Guided Visits of the Japanese House. Mon.-Fri., 11 am-3 pm.* Roam the hallways of a Kyoto townhouse and play fun Japanese games. •KidStage. Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage. •Art Studio. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-12 pm and 2-4 pm. Through Aug. 1. Spend the morning creating watercolor postcards, or the afternoon monoprinting.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through September 30. Every hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9. Tour the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Park.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-2341). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $6.50, $4 children. •Summer Science Camp. Mon.-Fri., 9:30 am-12 pm. July 23-25 or Aug. 4-8 for pre-school and grades 4-5. July 28-Aug. 1 for grades K-3. $100. Students examine museum artifacts and exhibitions, go behind-the-scenes and engage in outdoor activities for a deeper understanding of the world around them. •Family Day: Seashore Safari. Aug. 9, 8 am-5 pm. $45-$50. Ages 8 and older. This family day begins at the museum with a hands-on introduction to marine biology, and then moves to the coast to explore marine life firsthand.

ImprovBoston Family Show
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat., 6 pm. $12, $10 students. Performers create scenes, songs and stories based on suggestions from the audience.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. $15, children under 17 free. •Tue., 1:30 pm; Wed., 3:30 pm; Sat., 11:30 am, 12:30 and 1:30 pm. Books Bring Art Alive. Museum instructors read books, poems and stories to texturize the paintings and encourage kids to talk about what they see. •Wed., 5:30-8:30 pm. Through Aug. 20. Free for children under 17. Family Night Out: Throne Project. Activities for the whole family include a performance art exhibit by B. Lynch, who will snap children's pictures as works of art. •July 23 and 24, 3:30 pm. Children ages 6-12. Free. Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper. This Children's Room class combines discussions and hands-on studio art projects. •July 23, 6, 7 and 8 pm. Four Favorite Children's Stories on Film. This family-night-out program features film adaptations of four children classics narrated by James Earl Jones. •July 28-31, 3:30 pm. Children ages 6-12. Free. Jonathan Borofsky: Mixed Materials 3D. This Children's Room class will focus on working with a variety of three-dimensional materials. •July 30, 6 and 8 pm. Wallace and Gromit Short Films. This family-night-out program will feature three films starring the Oscar-winning clay-animation duo. •August 4-7, 3:30 pm. Children ages 6-12. Free. Screens and Scrolls: Sumi-e Painting. This Children's Room class combines explorations of the museum's collection and hands-on art projects. •August 11-14, 3:30 Children ages 6-12. Free. Fabulous Portraits: Painting Workshop. This painting-intensive Children's Room class focuses on the creation of the portrait.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children. •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events in *The Sky Tonight*. •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •July 26 and 27, 12, 2, and 6 pm. ASIMO North American Tour. A presentation introduces visitors to ASIMO, the world's most advanced humanoid robot, and explains how it was created and how robotic technology may advance in years to come.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Dorchester (617-929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free. The JFK Library holds a weekly story hour for kids and adults.

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sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
July 23, 7:05 pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
July 24, 1:05 pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
July 25, 7:05 pm vs. New York Yankees
July 26, 1:20 pm vs. New York Yankees
July 27, 8:05 pm vs. New York Yankees
Aug. 5, 7:05 pm vs. Anaheim Angels
Aug. 6, 7:05 pm vs. Anaheim Angels
Aug. 7, 7:05 pm vs. Anaheim Angels
Aug. 8, 7:05 pm vs. Baltimore Orioles
Aug. 9, 7:05 pm vs. Baltimore Orioles
Aug. 10, 2:05 pm vs. Baltimore Orioles

Boston Breakers
•Nickerson Field. Tickets: 617-931-2222
July 23, 7:30 pm vs. Washington Freedom
Aug. 6, 7 pm vs. Carolina Courage

Boston Cannons
•Cawley Stadium, Lowell. Tickets: 888-847-9700
July 24, 7:30 pm vs. Long Island Lizards
Aug. 2, 7 pm vs. Baltimore Bayhawks
Aug. 7, 7:30 pm vs. Bridgeport Barrage

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro. Tickets: 877-438-7387
July 27, 4 pm vs. D.C. United

International Soccer
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro. Tickets: 877-438-7387
July 27, 6:30 pm, Barcelona vs. Juventus

Events

AIDS Action Ride
This three-day, 225-mile bike ride makes its way from Pittsfield in the Berkshires to Salem to raise money to help people living with AIDS. *(617-450-1568)* www.aidsactionride.org. *Aug. 8-10. $50 registration fee, $2100 fund-raising minimum.*

Jim Kane Sugar Bowl Five-Miler
Take a jog around the South Boston waterfront to raise money for a variety of worthy causes including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and the Jim Kane Scholarship Fund. A runners expo with more than 30 exhibitors also takes place, and a party with food follows the race's conclusion. *Bayside Expo Center, Boston (781-335-5121)* www.lstreet.org. *July 24, 6:30 pm. $20.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

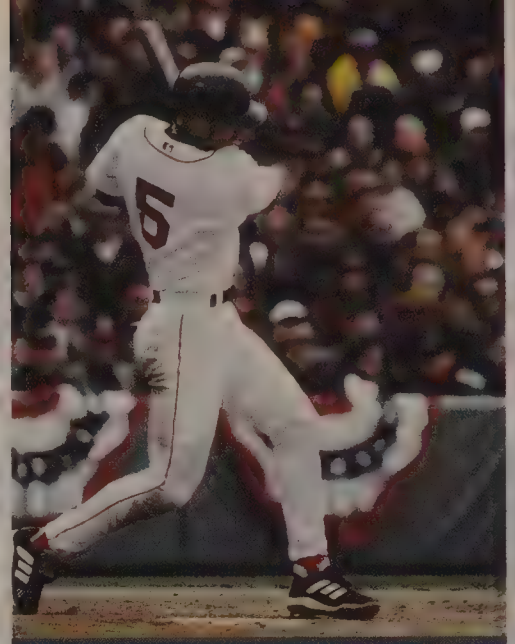
Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.



Catch the *Improper's* 1999 Boston's Best cover star Nomar Garciaparra.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: *B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.*

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.*

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: *Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.*

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: *Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.*

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: *C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm. $2.*

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: *Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.*

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.*

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: *Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.*

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: *Blue Line to State; Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.*

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: *Orange Line to Haymarket. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm. Free.*

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: *Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.*

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: *Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $3.*

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.*

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.*

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Ship hours: summer: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Help needed to serve lunch and dinner and to work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with single young professionals. •July 26, 10am-2 pm: Clean up the Franklin Park Zoo.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Volunteers needed to help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Volunteers for Citizenship
(800-234-0110). Volunteers needed to help legal immigrants and refugees become naturalized citizens.

Museum of Afro-American History

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

B.

From the first moment I saw you I knew I was in love. I never had enough courage to do anything about it. When I talk to you I get so nervous I can't stand it. I wish I knew how you felt, if you are seeing anybody, if our age difference is a problem and simply if I have a chance at all. I know there is a lot against us, like the fact that we work at the same company and it would be awkward for some people. I think we have a lot in common and it would be fun to find out just how much. Hopefully you are reading this and realizing that the right person is closer than you think.
—*J*

Eighth-floor Girl, I Will Remember You

You are the Chinese-American girl living somewhere else but visiting your grandma and sister in the Chinatown apartment building once every week. On the evening of July 2, before you two were about to get in the elevator after coming back from the laundry room, your sister looked over her shoulder just to catch me glaring at your back. I thought her looking back was a deliberate action and yes, she is right if she sensed that I have a crush on you. Since the first sight, I've been charmed by your delicate and mature feminine beauty, your slim figure, focused and poised facial expressions and swift and brisk walking. Everything about you simply looks so glamorous and attractive in my eyes. You never know how I wish God could extend my brief encounter with you each time to eternity, and in that case I would never move my eyes off you. I never talked to you and only talked indirectly to your sister once. The first reason is shyness. The second and the more important one is that since I earned my MBA from a top 20 B-school last year, I've never been able to land a decent job in this sluggish economy and I really don't know where I'll end up in the near future. So, I don't wish to bother you. Recently, I've decided to go back to my home country in August and you will remain a mystery to me, forever, unless you get a chance to read this. Before I leave, I just want to say this: In the journey of life, perhaps we are doomed to pass by each other, but "I Will Remember You" (Sarah McLachlan). But if you see this, e-mail me.
—*chris_wxb@hotmail.com.*

Similar Sweet Tooth

You: well-dressed with charming, boyish good looks in the lobby shop of 99 High Street. Me: blonde, petite, Ann Taylor suit with the short skirt, nice smile (well, that is what the two guys behind the counter say). I have noticed that we share the same love of Swedish fish—I wonder what other kinds of sweet desires we have in common? Let's get together and find out.
—*swedish_fish_fun@hotmail.com*

Meet Me in St. Louis

Hi Francis. You're a Harvard grad student who said he loves to learn. Unfortunately I'm so cheap I can't e-mail you back after we got in touch through Match! If you know Mr. Bill, then maybe we can get together before the next Cards game, eh? Formerly from the Loop, now stuck in the South End, Sarah.
—*unclebillstl@yahoo.com*

Dear Chick Riding the 66,

You know what? It took a hell of a lot of courage for me to tell you, a total stranger, riding on the same bus, sitting next to me, that I thought you were cute. Maybe you weren't interested. Maybe people hit on you all the time. Maybe you thought I was a fraud or some kind of strange bus-riding pervert, but that does not excuse the fact that you were rude. The next time someone tells you that you're a good-looking woman, don't give them a look of death, just say thanks and consider yourself complimented. It's more meaningful when it comes from a member of your own sex, because honey, I know what I look like in the morning without the gel, and the outfits, and all the other crap that comes with being a woman, and I can take a pretty good guess that you aren't that damn cute then, either.
—*Stupidly looking for Ms. Right on the bus*

Davis Square, June 30 around Noon.

To the person who left their doggie in their car with the windows tightly sealed on a 98-degree day: We walked past your car and witnessed a very distressed pet, howling and panting and looking like she/he needed air. If you own a pet and leave it in your car, please be thoughtful and mindful. It can reach 120 degrees in no time in there. We are sure you want your doggie to be happy and cool and comfy. And live a long life.
—*Concerned canine sympathizers*

Just Being Bitter

If only you could see how wonderful you are. Your only flaw is that you don't want to see it. I used to think I was lucky to have a guy who was so amazing, incredibly attractive, had everything that I could hope for, yet didn't have a huge ego. But because you are so convinced that you are a loser, that makes you one. And you really lost big-time. I can't believe that you choose to be so self-destructive instead of believing in someone who is just trying to make you happy. Someday, you'll meet a girl who treats you like dirt and cheats on you, and you'll think you love her, because then you can continue feeling sorry for yourself. The only thing I'm sorry for is having wasted time and energy on you. So maybe you were right. You're not so wonderful after all. Happy now?
—*Me*

I'll See You Again

After the night I met you in that famous club in the Theater District, who would have thought that we would have something so intense going on during the months after. Your irresistible looks and beautiful personality give you what it takes to make you such an attractive and desirable woman. I guess as time goes by I just realize how intense were our moments together. Every minute was a challenge for me; even though I felt so much inner peace, because of our reasons I had to make the best of every opportunity we had to be by ourselves, maybe because I never knew when someone could step in and make us behave like nothing happened between us. I'll never forget how it feels to caress your silky hair through my hands, or hold your hand under the dinner table. I really enjoyed every minute spent with you. I would definitely do it again and again without any variation. I hope you had the same enjoyable and exciting moments that I did. Thank you for everything and all we've done. I'll always be looking for you in my dreams.
—*Kittendreams2003@hotmail.com*

Three More Minutes

I saw you on a Friday night at Kinglis Hall. You: a beautiful blonde wearing a fabulous outfit and great pants, sittin at a table near the bar with some guy who it looked like you were on a first date with (you were shaking his hand). He seemed like a jerk and probably doesn't deserve you. I saw you on you way back from the bathroom. Me: ta brown-haired man wearing a lavend shirt and Clark Kent glasses. You cau my eye and we talked briefly, maybe only three minutes, but it was enoug to know you were the woman for me every way. You are witty, smart, kind and beautiful and it would be my ho to treat you like the angel that you a Three minutes just wasn't enough a need much, much more. You may no know it now but I am perfect for you dump that loser you were with and come spend three, five or even eight minutes with me. You won't be sorry
—*themostglamboy@hotmail.*

Drink Responsibly

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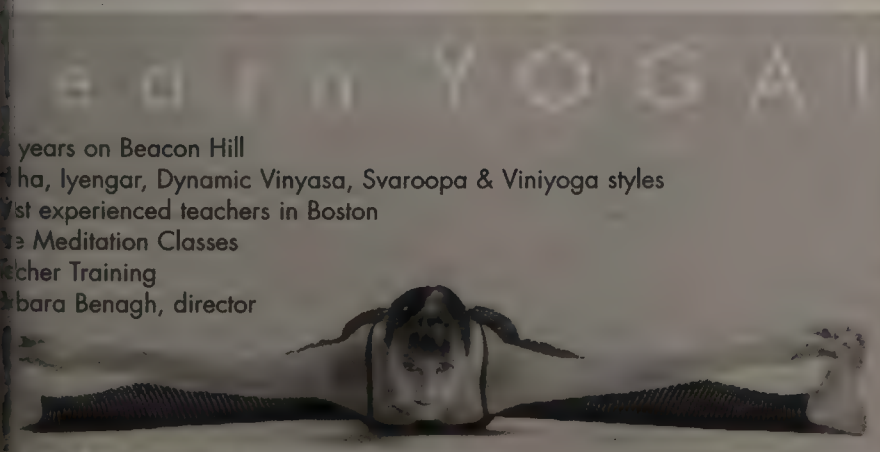

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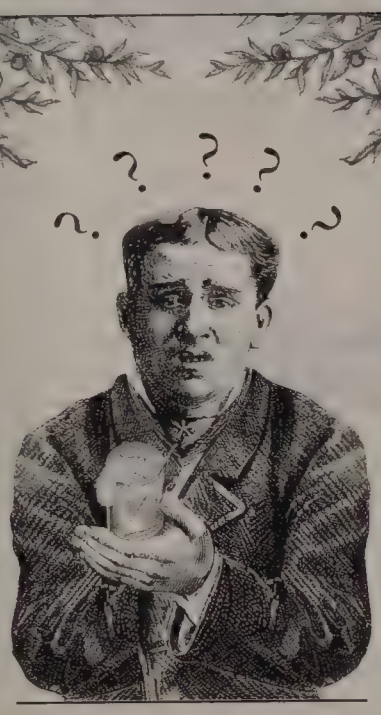

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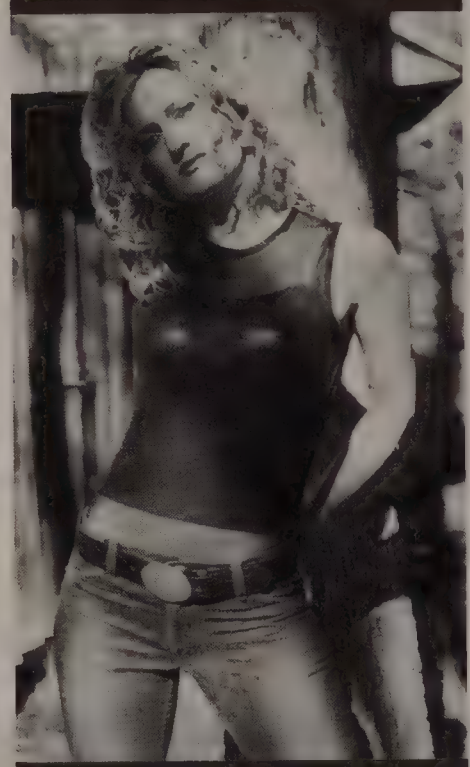

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JULY 23 – AUGUST 12, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Outright, unapologetic lionizing: Expect to receive every compliment you deserve, and some you don't, while so much planetary attention is focused on Leo. This is the time to look as glamorous as you dare, to act as imperiously as you can get away with. Should anyone oppose you, it's bound to be some poor soul with delusions of grandeur. Or another Leo. Having imaginative, idealistic Neptune in your Aquarius house of allies and antagonists can be tricky. Who's perpetrating a fraud? Whose talent is the real deal? Who should you believe?

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

You're bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and into everybody's business. Natural curiosity may one day kill the cat, but your inquisitiveness right now is based more on learning how beneficial your relationship with other signs can be. An Aquarian or Pisces may insist that friendship is the number-one priority, but try not to hedge your bets. Loyalty to family is what the Sagittarian and Scorpion will harp on. Also, how about healing the rift? The Leos might be too proud to show vulnerability, but we all know they are kittens at heart.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You could be torn between playing with a couple of wild cards—jokers whose appetite for adventure exceeds your own—and being entertained by one or two sports determined to show you a good time. Either way, you won't lose out. However, after your Venus ruler gets to Leo you'll probably enjoy sitting in the lap of luxury more than the thrills of another roller-coaster relationship. It's a matter of blending the very good with the not-so-good, while maintaining Libra's right to change your mind without offending anyone.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

This summer is special. Make the most of the favors being offered, the sympathetic chords you're striking simply because your Mars co-ruler is in Pisces, a compatible water sign. Next summer is another interesting, but not as rewarding, story. This week keep an ear open for information about a money matter that'll help you attain a career objective. But be patient; it'll take a few more weeks before the deed or the deal is done. In the meantime, immerse yourself in those healing waters and learn all you can about that career move.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Reach out to a wider audience. While your expansive Jupiter ruler is in Leo, a spirited fire sign that generously rewards the Centaur's knowledge, you shouldn't have any trouble getting your viewpoint across. The lighter and brighter you make your message, the better it will be received. This is also a good time to polish your image, so go for a makeover and send someone else the bill. Other joint money matters, such as insurance, inheritance and investments, shouldn't be a problem once you find the time to do a bit of business.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Deal with the relationship, be it with a co-worker or partner in crime. Whatever problem is hindering its further development or is getting in the way of a closer alliance will benefit now from some attention on both your parts. Since there are no other red flags being waved at this juncture, it pays to make an effort to clear away the obstacle and clear up a misunderstanding. The issue might not be resolved forever, but for the time being, i.e., the rest of the summer, it should be smooth sailing.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

You're not exactly invisible, but with so much attention being paid to your Leo counterpart, it'll be hard to hear what you have to say. Or to read your lips. The trick—with illusionary Neptune in your sign, you appear to be full of them—would be to have a puppet mouth your words. But if you're not Dick Cheney and politics isn't your game, then this would be a good time to go on a spiritual or mental health retreat. Yoga camp could restore your energy and redirect your focus, so that, come fall, you can come out fighting.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Reactions from Fish feeling the effects of rebellious Uranus in their sign range from bouncing off the walls to cutting out for parts unknown. A few have already incorporated constructive vibes from Saturn in Cancer and are busy organizing their tools. Don't be surprised if you're taken completely unawares when Uranus gets around to changing your life. Meanwhile, energetic Mars in Pisces is slowing down before turning retrograde on the 29th for the next two months. Fish born in February might be let off the hook until Halloween.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Time is running out. Because generous Jupiter will leave your Leo house of romance and recreation at the end of August, make the most of the benefits provided to a fellow fire sign. Once the jolly giant enters analytic Virgo, you're likely to become more circumspect and judgmental about the things that give you pleasure (and the people, too). If you're having a rollicking good time, carry on, but if not, then get busy. Need an excuse? Blame indecision or sheer laziness on your Mars ruler drifting through Pisces.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

How much self-indulgence can a serious sensualist experience? How much fun can you have at home? During luxury-loving Leo, Bulls may feel that they have to outdo themselves. They tend to create special occasions to rise to, along with big tabs to pick up along the way. You have about another month's worth of elegant temptations and cockeyed optimism before Jupiter leaves Leo for prudent Virgo. If you can contain your enthusiasm, you won't run up much debt. But if that doesn't work, remind yourself that restrictive Saturn can still curb your income.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

For the rest of July, as your Mercury ruler travels through open-hearted, demonstrative Leo, you'll be in a position to bestow a lot of affection, along with some very nice goodies. Right now, you could also be quite inventive and imaginative, fairly psychic and sensitive to other people's secret desires. What you do with these gifts shouldn't be debatable in the customary Gemini way. Since the opportunities you're about to receive to do this much good aren't going to last, be grateful and get on with the giving.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Now would be a good time to work on beefing up your finances and dressing up your image. Take advantage of easy opportunities to impress people by showing them the bright, beautiful side of the sometimes reclusive, often elusive Crab. A pleasing appearance and a friendly manner should continue to attract folks until the new moon on the 28th, which is when lovable Venus exits Cancer for Leo. After that, you're left with only capable Saturn in your sign. Respect and admiration are nice, but they rarely warm you cockles or buy you dinner.

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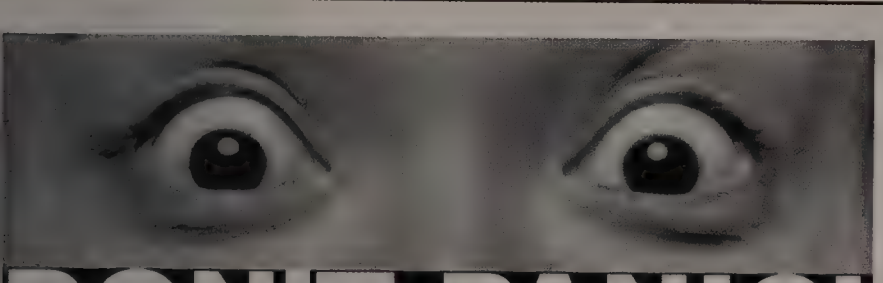

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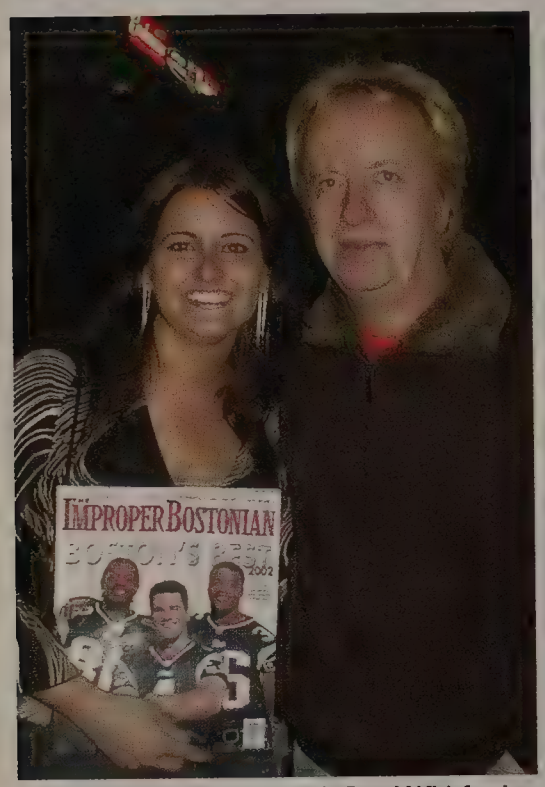
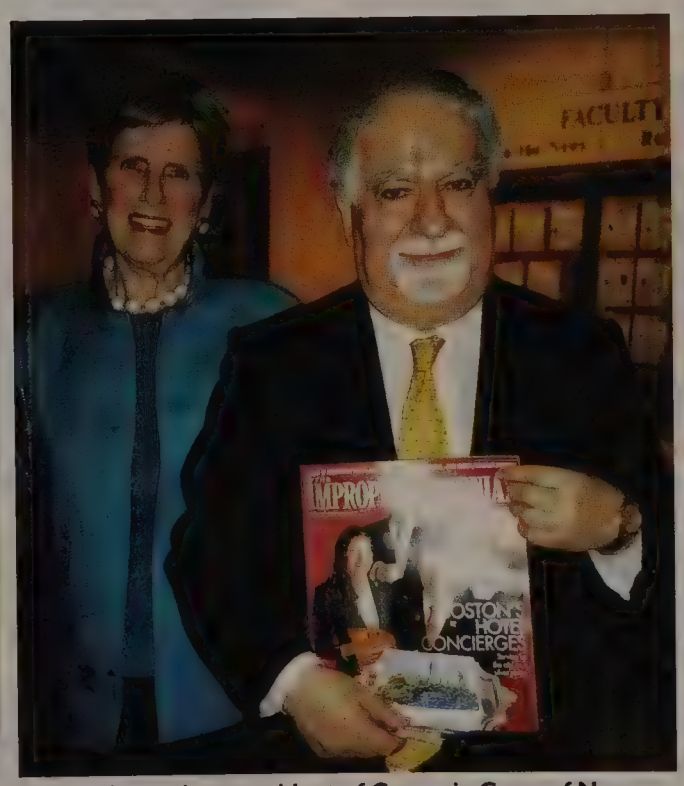


Toni Corliss and Aerosmith's Brad Whitford are Crazy over last year's Boston's Best.

Erica Frene and Cristina Batogowski met coverboy Michael Chiklis at a party in Malibu, Calif. They were relieved that his head isn't actually that large in real life.

Alexandra Neitlich and Eileen Batista check out the King's wings in Memphis, Tenn.

James and Nancy Boone chill with Ted Williams at the Hitters Hall of Fame in Citrus Hills, Fla.



Vartan Gregorian, president of Carnegie Corp. of New York, and his wife, Clare, catch up with concierges.

Kahlil Olmstead, Janice Payne and Gregory Payne read up on Boston's beloved bartenders at NBC Studios in Burbank, Calif.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Sharing a Kudos bar with a hungry wandering ghost at the Feast of the Wandering Souls and Hungry Ghosts, nationwide in Vietnam through August and September.

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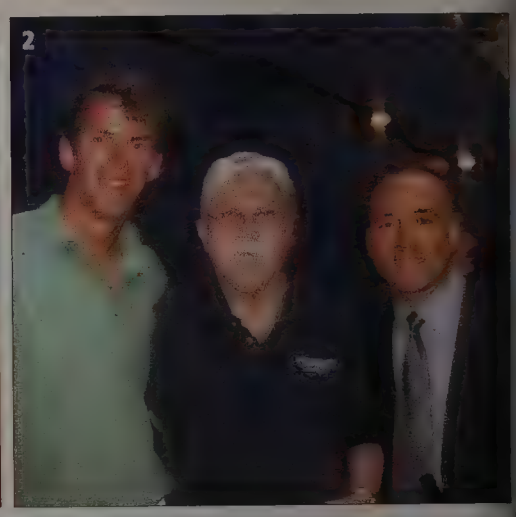
The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Wednesday, June 25, **Felt** hosted the "Playboy Players VIP Party."

1. **Stacy Fuson, Cara Wakelin, Jennifer Walcott**, all Playboy Playmates; **Ajay M. Pathak**, president & chief operating officer, Playboy Golf; **Lindsey Vuolo**, Playboy Playmate; **Teri Harrison**, residency program coordinator, OB-GYN, New England Medical Center, and **Starla Pathak**, Playboy Playmate.
2. **Suzanne Musco**, promotional representative for Tanqueray; **Sean Crowley**, manager for Felt; **Kim Piche** and **Jennifer Howard**, both promotional representatives for Tanqueray.
3. **Trevor Arp**, New England region content manager for Comcast; **John Harper**, engineer at CDM; **Ben Keeler**, project consultant for MacGregor; **Pete Moorman**, recruiter for CRT. Front: **Jessica Hall** and **Kelley Rogers**, both recent Boston University graduates.

On Monday, June 30, **George, an American tavern** celebrated its grand opening.



1. **Alene Jennette**, court reporter; **Tracey Panter**, human resources for McKinsey & Company; and **Beth Long**, communications for State Street.
2. **Rich Devoe**, owner of Score Satellite Sports; **Eddie Doyle**, bartender at the Bull & Finch Pub; and **Tony Castagnozzi**, co-owner of George.
3. **D.J. Jenkins**, entrepreneur, The Wild Life Grill; **Cathy Arata**, sales for Top Shelf; and **Jim Joyce**, president of Office Works.

On Wednesday, July 9, **Cactus Club** and **Giuliano Day Spa** hosted "Margaritas and Massages" at Cactus Club to benefit the **Silent Spring Institute**.

1. **Brian Brady**, makeup director for Giuliano Day Spa, with **Jamie Masone**, psychiatrist at Brigham and Women's Hospital.
2. **Kathleen Mellon**, marketing assistant for Houghton Mifflin, with **Brady Brumfield**, stylist for Giuliano Day Spa.
3. **Gina Gogos**, director of client relations for Giuliano Day Spa, with **Jennifer McGivern**, manager and marketing director for Cactus Club.

On Monday, July 14, bartenders competed at the **Blue Cat Cafe** in a contest for the best **Cointreau** drink idea. Nine winners nationwide will be selected and flown to New York to be made over by top stylists and appear in a photo shoot for ***Vogue*** magazine.

1. **Heather Heuser**, bartender at the Blue Cat Café and Pravda 116.
2. **Mike Bruno**, sales representative for Martignetti Co., and **Leslie Smith**, promotional representative for Cointreau.
3. **Brian Leussler**, bartender at Mistral; **Tiffany Chapman** and **Amy Kotary**, bartenders at Skipjack's in Newton.

PHOTOS: FELT, JULIE KANE; CACTUS CLUB, GEORGE, KAREN DANA; BLUE CAT CAFE, DANIELLE NATARE

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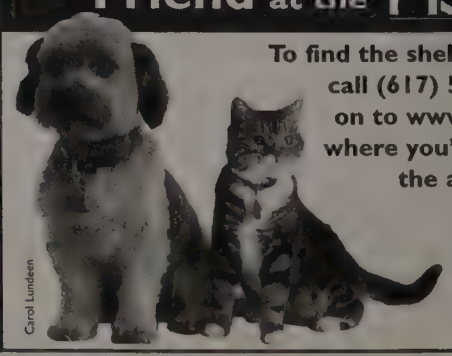
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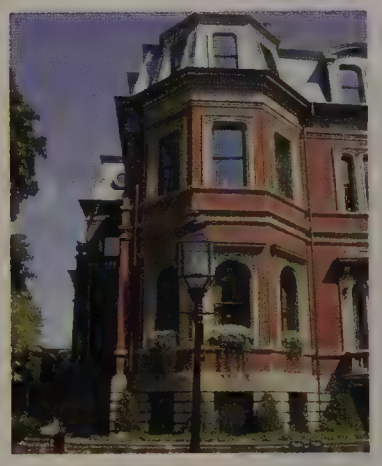

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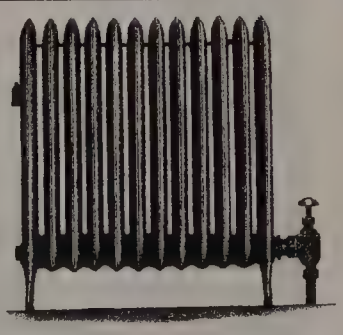

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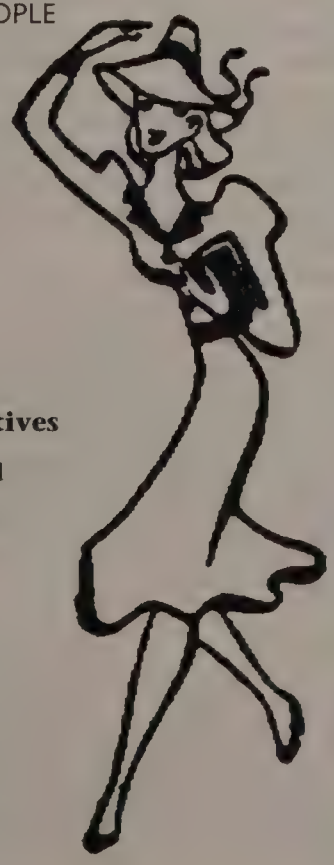

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RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully hand-crafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere in the heart of downtown Boston. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening -- and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston,617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11 am - 1 am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St.,Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston , 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston,617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

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Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

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BRUNCH

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science - Skyline Room *Science Park, Boston, MA, 02114.* Enjoy Sunday brunch beginning at noon in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 11 am or 1pm, then check out the latest Omni film or the new Egyptian exhibit. Combination tickets start at $30 and include parking. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call 617-723-2500 or visit mos.org.

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LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At Rialto's Bold and the Beautiful barbecue, top row: Kristen Baylis, Patrick Dubsky and Regan Dillon. Middle row: Bob Sturm and Gary Sullivan; Monica and Max McNamara; Laurie Snow and Patrick Troy. Bottom row: Jody Adams; Stephanie Warburg and Ann Gund; George Nickolopoulos; Neal Robert and Julia Cruz.

EMILY POST IS ROLLING OVER IN HER GRAVE

July is high barbecue season, and nobody grills outside quite like the folks at **Rialto**, which hosted its annual alfresco dinner in the courtyard outside the restaurant.

Guests at **The Bold and the Beautiful**, as this year's cookout was called, included the likes of management consultant **Eileen Shapiro**; attorney-at-large **Patrick Troy**; outrageous raconteur **Laurie Snow**; the delightful **Monica** and **Max McNamara**; stunning blonde **Kristen Baylis**; software moguls **Gary** and **Kathy Bechtel**; radio personality **Neal Robert** and his babe-a-licious other half, **Julia Cruz**; Citizens Bank president **Rick Wayne**, who showed up a bit on the late side; and scintillating socialites **Stephanie Warburg** and **Ann Gund**, who stopped by to say hi on their way to another engagement.

The five-course cookout was paired with wines by charming Czech sommelier **Patrick Dubsky**, and there was lots of lofty talk along the lines of "This one is very juicy and jammy," and, "It's all peaches and honey, especially in the nose." At one table however, the conversation included the true tale of a Jack Russell terrier that mauled a cockatoo at a Fourth of July picnic; it turned out that the woman who brought the cockatoo to the party was only looking after it for someone who was in jail. A waxing horror story followed, and the dual moral of two tales seemed to be: Don't believe it when they say that having the hair ripped from your nether regions doesn't hurt, and never offer to babysit a prison inmate's pet.

THE FRENCH STILL KNOW HOW TO REVOLT...

History's most notorious prison break was celebrated in **Harvard Square** when Sandrine's hosted a **Bastille Day** block party, complete with shouts of "Liberté!" "Egalité!" "Fraternité!" and "I need another drink!"

Hosted by the restaurant's owner and master chef, **Raymond Ost**, the fete attracted a colorful assortment of Francophiles and fabulous people, among them: Gallic funboy **Frédéric Dingemans**, art consultant **Christophe Perez** (who runs whitecubes.org, a Web site devoted to contemporary art); Perez's wife, **April** (who hails from Nebraska); a pair of Parisian **Stephanies**—**Molinard** and **Baulac**—the effervescent **Lionel Gellon**; and **Alan Basset**, who arrived looking extremely French, riding a bicycle while smoking a cigarette.

As couples danced on the sidewalks and people sat at tables in the middle of the street, drinking wine and eating, the lead singer of the band made the following observation: "In New Orleans, it's OK to have a good time and show it. In New York, it's OK to have a good time but it's not OK to show it. And in Boston, it's not OK to have a good time."

Apparently, however, it's allowed in Cambridge at least once a year.

THE SENATOR AND THE SOCIALITES

Anyone wondering whether **Hillary Clinton** wields as much clout as a senator as she did when she was first lady should see her enter a party full of people who wield plenty of clout of their own. Even among the high and mighty, her arrival draws the attention of the entire room.

Such was the scene at the private reception held at the **Charles Hotel** by its owner, Clinton intimate **Dick Friedman**, and his beyond-gorgeous other half, **Nancy**, to celebrate the publication of the senator's wildly successful memoir, *Living History*. (Later on, Clinton did a public book signing for the hoi polloi in the hotel's ballroom.)

The VIPs and bigshots mingling in the presidential suite included mega-DNC donors **Elaine** and **Jerry Shuster**, first family scion **Jim Roosevelt**, Clinton cabinet member **Robert Reich**, gazillionaire divorcée **Barbara Lee**, Harvard president **Larry Summers**, Wellesley president **Diana Chapman Walsh**, secretary of state **Bill Galvin**, former gubernatorial hopeful **Shannon O'Brien**, Harvard B-School panjandrum **Rosabeth Moss Kanter**, glittery party planner **Bryan Rafanelli**, brunette anchorbabe **Liz Brunner**, design avatar **Denise Korn**, and numerous people who wisely accessorized with children. (After all, what's a party for a politician without a few babies to kiss?)

Among the amusing comments overheard:

"When we got off the elevator, I asked one of the Secret Service guys where to go to meet Hillary. He said, 'Take a right and then a left,' and someone behind me said, 'Yeah, but only a moderate left.'"

"I work for Howard Dean, but I elected not to wear my button."

"I see you-know-who didn't buy a book. He's probably waiting to get it cheaper at BJ's."

"It's the perfect beach read: sex, power, and intrigue, and more sex, power and intrigue."

"I haven't read it yet, but I suppose I could lie to her and say, 'Oh, it's fabulous!'"

Then there was the guy who told Clinton that he looked forward to reading her book once he finished the new Harry Potter, to which she responded, "I hope you enjoy mine as much."

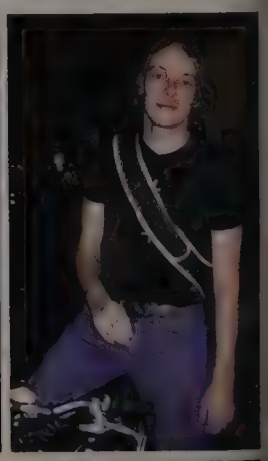
Lest it seem that nothing was discussed other than politics and literary matters, there was a triumvirate of socialites in one corner busy comparing their choices of toenail polish.

"I found this one at the supermarket," said the first. "I forget who makes it."

"Mine is called NYPD," said the second.

"I only got this color because of the name," said the third. "It's called Vito, Is My Car Ready?" iB

At the Bastille Day block party, clockwise from right: Alan Basset; Frédéric Dingemans, April and Christophe Perez, and Amelia Stephenson; Guillaume Alchaz, Guillaume Adelmant and Stephanie Baulac.



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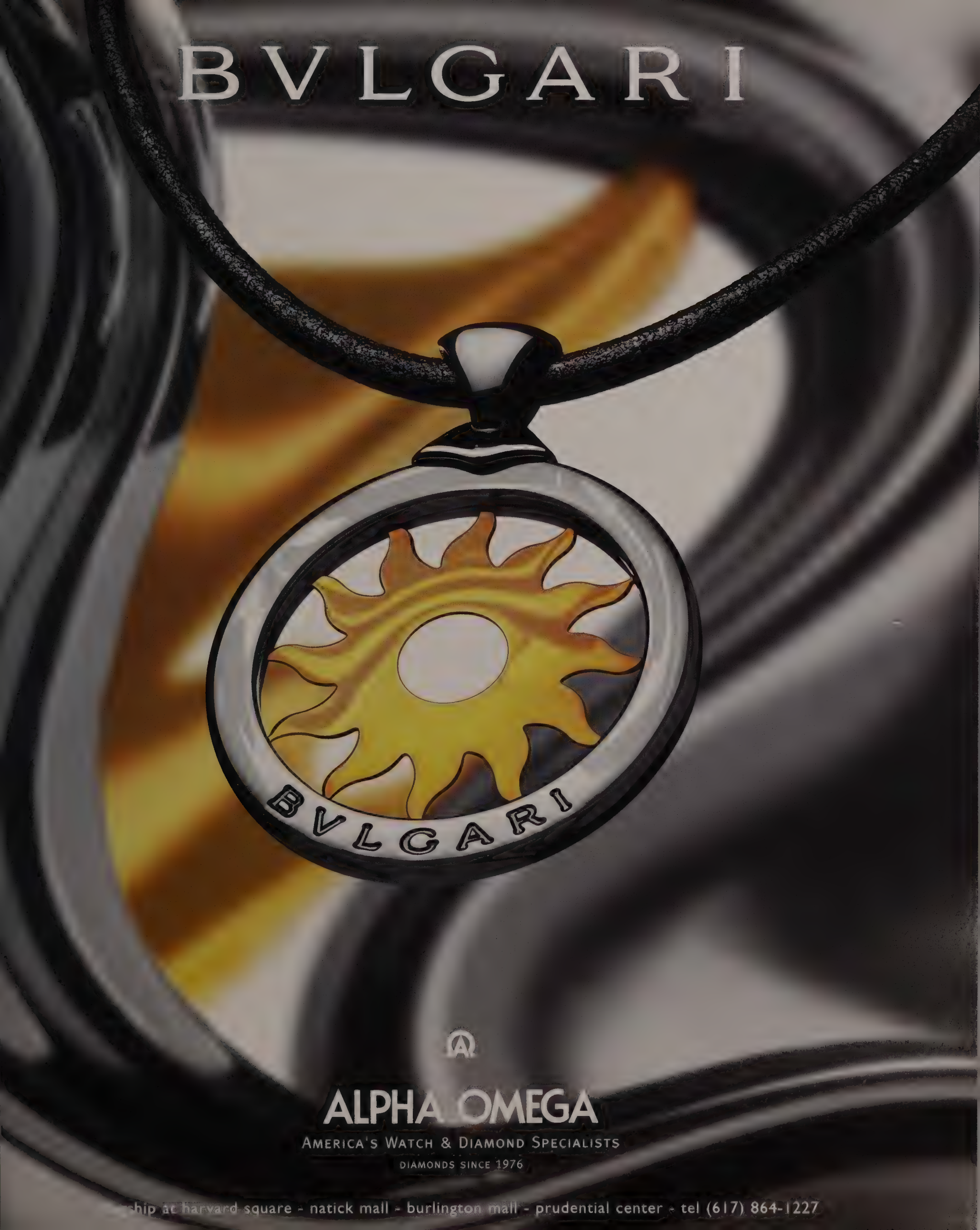
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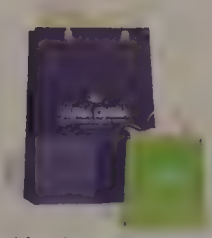

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Bill Streicher

Location: **W Hotel, New York;** hair: **Charles Maksou for Maksou Artisan;** clothes: **shirt and suit by Paul Smith, available at Neiman Marcus.**

BOB PERACHIO

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ET CETERA

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

MATTERS OF THE HEARTH

A topic we can all relate to—where we live and how much we pay to live there—provides the theme for this issue. If you're in pursuit of lower rent or a better deal than the one you have, Dan Schulman's feature story (see page 22) provides some practical advice for achieving those goals, along with anecdotal evidence that now is a good time for renters to negotiate with landlords.

Schulman's article offers tips for deal-seeking buyers too, though if you're waiting for housing prices to drop in Boston, you may be waiting in vain. According to Eric Belsky, executive director of Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, prices are unlikely to fall significantly, for a number of reasons. Belsky sees indications of slow economic recovery—"not the kind of recovery that would trigger inflation" and drastically raise mortgage interest rates. And in desirable Boston, where, as Belsky says, "it is very difficult to build new housing," supply is not likely to outstrip demand. Yes, interest rates have risen slightly of late, but, he points out, rates are still very low.

Practical advice and your actual paycheck aside, this issue also offers a peek inside some of the area's most expensive homes, all currently on the market and all with multimillion-dollar price tags (see page 28). Julia Child's former home is among them. We can dream, can't we?

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

CHEERS AND JEERS

Every year I look forward to the IB's Boston's Best issue, which usually stacks up with the other "Best Ofs" somewhere between *Boston* magazine (predictable) and the *Phoenix* (excellent).

Who is to blame for your issue's shockingly unimaginative writing? Did you really have to work the word "bubbe" into the reviews of both Kupel's and Rubin's? What about "subterranean" in two consecutive reviews (Café Pamplona and Silvertone)? I think "downstairs" or "underground" would have sufficed. You also use such lame descriptors as "Disney-fied" (Rustic Kitchen) and "Disney-esque" (Troquet).

Your writer(s) also left out the "i" in "mangia" in the Bricco review. Proofreading is cool—and funnily enough, something Veronica Chao mentions three times in her editor's letter.

But—are you still reading?—my biggest beef about your Best issue: Have you heard of Jamaica Plain? Not one JP restaurant was represented! For shame. I mean, everyone knows that Silvertone's mac and cheese is ace, but the same dish at Zon's is superior.

—EMILY DONAHUE
Jamaica Plain

I can accept the fact that no East Boston entities won any of your magazine's Boston's Best awards. After all, these award choices are open to debate and one's personal tastes and preferences. As an East Boston resident, however, I find it insulting and offensive that THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN had the audacity to fail to list an East Boston pub/bar/restaurant in the "Neighborhood Hangouts" pages of its vast Boston's Best edition. Even though the first road sign at the far end of the Callahan Tunnel reads "Route 1A Revere," it would serve the Improper well to remember that Boston's most ethnically diverse neighborhood deserves the courtesy of your attention.

—CHRIS CRONIN
East Boston

SILVERTONE'S MAC AND CHEESE IS ACE, BUT THE SAME DISH AT ZON'S IS SUPERIOR.
—EMILY DONAHUE
JAMAICA PLAIN

As a longtime reader of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN, I was eagerly awaiting the Best issue and once again I was not let down. I use your issue as a guide to find out what's hot, places to shop and eat, and as always, I love your unique and creative Best categories.

When I read the IMPROPER, I remember all of the reasons why I live in Boston and it gives me good reason to venture out of Charlestown and explore all that this city has to offer.

—KRISTINA MCKAY
Charlestown

CORRECTIONS

In the Boston's Best Fashion section, we misspelled Christina DeFalco's name. Her web site is *www.christinadefalco.com*.

Also in the Boston's Best issue, the address for Boston Beer Works' Fenway location is 61 Brookline Ave.

CONTRIBUTOR

DANIEL SCHULMAN

A former technology reporter and intermittent playwright, Daniel Schulman is a freelance writer based in Cambridge. His work appears frequently in the pages of the IMPROPER and *Psychology Today*, among other publications. His latest story for the IMPROPER, "The Real (Estate) Deal," begins on page 22.

BOSTON'S BEST COVER BILL STREICHER

Tell Us What You Think

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COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Jamie Bellavance, Julia Hawes, Heather MacNeil, Diana McCarley, Melanie Ryan**

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PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

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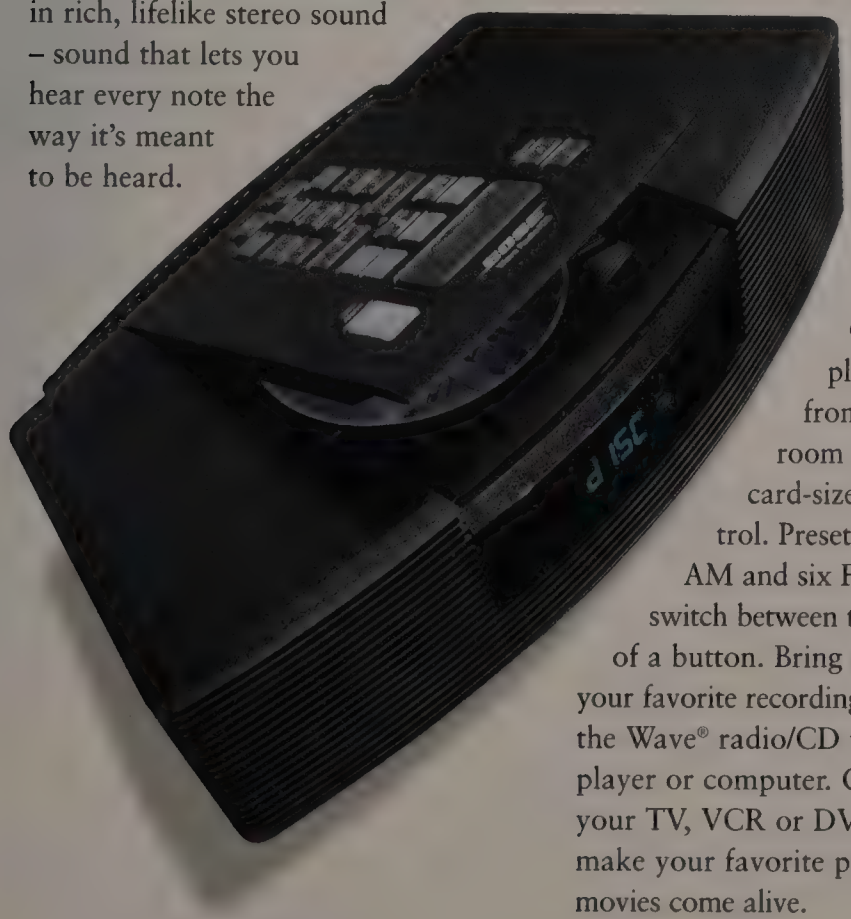

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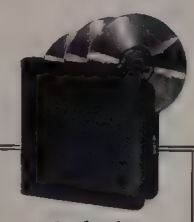

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EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SURATT

new in town

MORE MOHR & MCPHERSON

Loyal patrons were disappointed when import home furnishings store Mohr & McPherson vacated its palatial downtown digs a few years ago. Now some good news: They're back in the Back Bay. But let's start at the beginning—or rather, the *end*—of the story, when the gorgeous furniture emporium closed its Arlington Street store three years ago. Owner Kevin McPherson moved the store's contents to a 13,000-square-foot warehouse in Cambridge (near his smaller Mohr & McPherson boutique on Concord Avenue), and built up more than $3 million in inventory gathered from around the world.

Fast-forward to our recent discovery of Mohr & McPherson's new showroom on Boylston Street. Much smaller than the vast warehouse, this cozy store highlights some of the company's most exquisite offerings—including furniture, antiques, jewelry, textiles and rugs from such exotic locales as China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Myanmar, Korea and Morocco. "It's quite small, but it offers a good overview of the kinds of things we offer and it captures the feeling of [Mohr & McPherson]," says McPherson. You can get an antique Maduran canopy bed for $2,490, a Manchurian altar table for $990, a turn-of-the-century walnut tea table for $849 or a set of coasters from Peru for $68.

McPherson regularly travels abroad to hand-pick items—like the huge tents and colorful sunbleached rugs he recently brought back from Morocco. "There's a different story behind each object," he says. "Some we designed and had made for us, others are old pieces that have been made into something new—like a door turned into a cabinet." *352 Boylston St., Boston (617-450-0204).—E.H. and J.S.*

sam says

OH MY, OMEGA

The name Alpha Omega is usually synonymous with watches—fancy, expensive ones. But a look at its new three-floor, 6,000-square-foot store located in Harvard Square offered some surprises. Not only did I see reasonable prices, but the shop carries some of the most beautiful jewelry I've seen in some time—a clean and modern collection. In September, look for a brand new diamond cut called the Tycoon—a cross between an emerald and a princess cut. The store's three floors feature more than a dozen designer boutiques with full collections, a floor of jewelry by designers like Doris Panos, Gregg Ruth and Bulgari, and a service center that caters to your every whim. You can spend anywhere from $20 to $100,000. So if you're walking by with only $100 in your pocket, don't be afraid to stop in. *1380 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-876-0324).—Samantha House*

inner view

CANINE COUNSEL

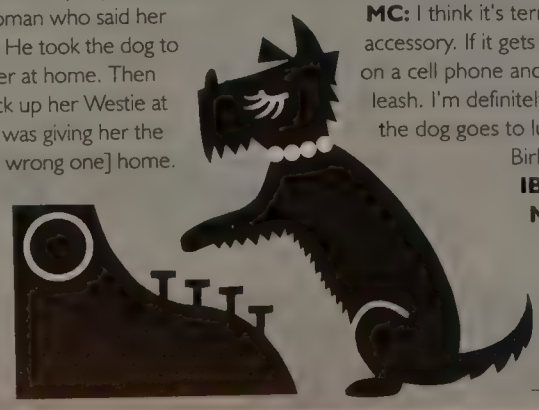
Move over, Ann Landers. There's a new advice columnist in town: Her name is Monica Collins, a.k.a. Dog Lady, and she's the voice of reason to dog owners worldwide. Collins, who writes about television for the *Boston Herald*, began her canine advice column four years ago as a North End neighborhood newsletter and has since parlayed her woofs of wisdom into a regular column that has appeared in national dog mag *The Bark*, several local papers and, most recently, *www.askdoglady.com*, which launched in March. Here, Collins shares with her views on (wo)man's best friend (and some owners).

IB: *What's been your most off-the-wall letter?*

MC: My weirdest questions have been about people—other people and their dogs. There was a woman who said her boyfriend liked her dog more than her. He took the dog to Easter dinner at his mother's and left her at home. Then there was the woman who went to pick up her Westie at the groomer and insisted the groomer was giving her the wrong dog. She took another dog [the wrong one] home.

IB: *What was your favorite column?*

MC: I got a letter from a guy in Cambridge who wrote about his rottweiler, Larry, whom he had brought north from Washington D.C. The dog was unruly, sloppy and not nice to office workers, and the man asked if castration would help. I couched the answer by saying the dog must be a Democrat, and that yes, castration would help. It would've helped Bill Clinton. It turned out this column caused a fuss at Harvard because everyone thought it was written about Larry Summers, the president of Harvard.



IB: *What makes you a dog expert?*

MC: I've certainly become an expert through years of living with a dog and learning about dogs. When it comes down to it, I don't give any medical or health advice. I'm not a vet, and I don't play one on the Internet. People can take it with a grain of salt or take it seriously.

IB: *Do you believe in taxidermy after a dog has died?*

MC: I'm not like the cat lady of Beacon Hill. Dog Lady seeks to dispel all those myths about loony pet people.

IB: *How do you feel about women who carry dogs as accessories, like Paris Hilton?*

MC: I think it's terrible. I know a woman whose dog is her accessory. If it gets any walking time it's while the woman is on a cell phone and the dog is scrambling at the end of a leash. I'm definitely not part of the New York culture where the dog goes to lunch at Le Cirque and fits in an Hermès Birkin bag.

IB: *Is dog truly man's best friend?*

MC: Dog is woman's best friend. But that doesn't preclude other best friends. It should never be your top relationship in life.

IB: *How do you feel about cats?*

MC: I think cats are cute, but I'm allergic to them.

—Jessica Iredale

sports

'TIS THE SEASON TICKET

You can always get tickets to that Bruins-Islanders game, but the only way to ensure you'll be at the FleetCenter, Fenway Park or Gillette Stadium for the the big game is to buy season tickets. With the Patriots Bruins and Celtics seasons right around the corner, we checked out the current cost of true fandom.

The Patriots have the cheapest season tickets—not surprising since they play only eight home games. Unfortunately, the affordability of Pats tickets ($1,040 for two midprice season tickets) means there's a waiting list to get them. Oh well—at least you're not a Bengals fan.

Midprice season tickets for the Bruins or Celtics (including all 41 home games plus two exhibitions) run anywhere from $4,000 to the mid-$5,000 range for two seats, depending on location. Season ticket holders are also guaranteed home playoff tickets and receive other perks like the chance to attend a team practice.

Season tickets for the 81 Red Sox home games cost $10,530 for two loge box seats. Or you and a friend can get behind home plate for $44,550. If that sounds extravagant, consider that two 2003–04 Celtics courtside season tickets go for a cool $60,200, which also includes a dinner at Morton's with the owners and coaching staff. Hope you like steak.—*Ezra Dyer*

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tasty tidbits

TEA TIME

Never Before Scene...Instead of trying to one-up the already flamboyant South End scene (playground of gay fashionistas, starving artists and all-around hipsters) with a giant dose of esoteric chic, restaurateur Jim Hamelburg and company are taking the road less traveled: mainstream and simple. The former owner of the G Lounge is set to open Joe V's in late August/early September in the space formerly occupied by On the Park. With moderately priced Italian cuisine (pasta, panini and salads), café-style seating and beer, wine and cordials, Joe V's is the antithesis of the G Lounge. "It's going to be a drop-in place for the neighborhood," says Hamelburg. "We're not looking for the crowd who goes from one opening to the next." Looks like it could be the next big antiscene scene. *315 Shawmut Ave., Boston (617-426-0862).*

Head Notes...It's a simple law of economics: Let demand surpass supply and watch the profits roll in. We would never accuse our friends at Harpoon of such unabashed capitalism, but it just so happens that their latest endeavor fits that formula perfectly. The Boston-based brewery's Vermont depot launched the Harpoon 100 Barrel Series in June. Each beer in the series is produced in limited quantity (yep—just 100 barrels of each) by a different Harpoon brewer. The series kicked off with Oatmeal Stout, available for a limited time at Martignetti's, Blanchard's, the Burren and Redbones. Look for additional sudsy delights in coming months.

New in Newton...With all the fabulous restaurants in the city, why trek all the way to Newton for Asian cuisine? The answer is simple: Green Tea. Not the beverage, but chef Sunny Wong's new restaurant, which has generated quite a buzz since opening five months ago. The main attraction is Wong's sushi creation called the Matrix, a Hollywood-inspired edi maki roll surrounded by broiled salmon and black and white sauce. Wong's resume includes stints in Hong Kong and at the North End's Billy Tse's, as well as 12 years under the tutelage of Meritage's Daniel Bruce. Stop by for a taste of his sushi, as well as the dim sum and Taiwanese dishes. *24 Elliot St., Newton (617-965-2260).*

More Irish...When McCarthy's flew its Boylston coop earlier this year, it left a prime piece of real estate up for grabs. The merrymakers behind such lively pubs as McGann's and, until recently, the Irish Embassy, scooped up the property in June and added another Gaelic haunt to their cache with Lír. Save for a few minor renovations, the interior remains the same, but the Back Bay's latest watering hole is upping the ante with 22 TVs for optimum sports coverage. *903 Boylston St., Boston (617-778-0089).*

Word Scramble...If you're looking for a slice of deep-dish at Pizzeria Uno or a vat of chicken marsala at Vinny Testa's, it's too late. Both restaurants are a thing of the past...sort of. In the name of rebranding, both restaurants are now operating under new names. Buca Inc. bought Vinny Testa's early last year and last month unveiled Vinny T's of Boston, complete with a new and improved menu. According to a Vinny T's spokesperson, the name change makes it a little more personal and a little less like "Who is this Vinny Testa guy?" (For the record, it's a made-up name, with no relation to New York Jets football player Vinny Testaverde.) As for the restaurant formerly known as Pizzeria Uno, after 60 years, the company decided that Uno Chicago Grill had a nicer ring to it. Either way, expect the same, if not better, in terms of food and service.

Surf 'n' Turf... The gastronomic geniuses at No. 9 Park are ready to unveil two new pet projects sure to tickle taste buds all over town. Chef/owner Barbara Lynch and her trusty GM Garrett Harker take their culinary prowess to the simpler side for B & G Oysters Ltd., set to open Aug. 21 in the South End digs formerly occupied by Le Gamin. The 38-seat eatery features an oyster and raw bar with a selection of clams, oysters, lobster rolls, chowder and mussels. "It's more of a neighborhood spot," says Harker. "Thoughtful but familiar."

Just two weeks later, the duo plans to open the Butcher Shop just down the street. The focus here is bringing the choice cuts used at No. 9 to the front lines. Jason Bond, Lynch's right-hand man, will run the shop, which also features charcuterie and a panini and wine bar. *B & G Oysters Ltd., 550 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-0550); The Butcher Shop, 552 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-4800).—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

trend spotting

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Women: There comes a time in your life when you should be able to distinguish between a cabernet and a Shiraz. That time is now, and Kindra Spector is here to help. The Weston resident parlayed her interest in wine into Wine Sisters USA, a national wine and food self-study organization. Her idea was to create a forum for women and their friends to learn about wine in private groups. Since the official launch of its Web site in June, Wine Sisters' extensive educational materials and resources, including tips on how to host at-home tastings, have been available to chapters nationwide. Start-up advice, food-pairing suggestions and supplemental readings are accessible online. Spector reports that sisterhoods, as she calls them, and brotherhoods have sprung up all over the country, from New York's Upper East Side to Brentwood, Calif. Even our resident master of wine, IMPROPER columnist Sandy Block, has given it his coveted seal of approval. *Membership: $100 (for a group) www.winesisters.com —Jessica Iredale*

improper reports

PAYING TO PARK

A very wise IMPROPER staffer once wrote "If hell had a parking lot, it would be Beacon Hill." We're going to go ahead and extend that metaphor to the whole of Boston. Unless you have an incredibly long fuse, enjoy a challenge or simply don't own a car, parking garages are the way to go. Here's a roundup of monthly rates for 24-hour parking at city garages.

* **A&C Parking Inc.**, 210 Columbus Avenue (617-482-4401): $400
* **Boston Common Parking Garage**, 0 Charles Street (617-954-2034): $310
* **Charles Street Garage**, 144 Charles Street (617-523-8432): $430
* **Danker & Donohue Garage**, 341 Newbury Street (617-536-3380): $295
* **Government Center Garage**, 50 New Sudbury Street (617-227-0385): $28
* **Marketplace Center Garage** 200 State Street (617-367-4373): $335
* **North End Garage**, 600 Commercial Street (617-742 6759): $235
* **Pilgrim Parking**, 99 Summe Street (617-439-9606): $39
* **75 State Street Garage**, 75 State Street (617-742-7275) $400

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTIO

Scenic Route... In-laws visiting again? Where do you take 'em this time? And where do you park the car? Old Town Trolley Tours feels your pain. In an effort to diminish the aggravations of hosting, the trolley tour company is offering free admission for all Massachusetts residents when accompanied by a paying adult. Flash your ID and you've got a free 110-minute ride.

Checks and Balances...*Consumer Reports* was a trailblazer in terms of watching out for the little guy. Now Boston residents have their own version of the shopper's advocate. *Boston Consumers' Checkbook*, which launched in early January, rates the best and worst of local service firms. The biannual publication's second issue, released in mid-July, dishes the skinny on local supermarkets, body shops, banks, hardware stores, heating and AC repair services, opticians and physician specialists. A two-year subscription is $30, and subscribers receive access to updates on the Web site, *www.checkbook.org.*

Designing Women...In a greeting-card market saturated with cliched "another year older" and "this card is all I could afford" messages, two local women have come up with a refreshing alternative. Meredith Noyes and Camille Heidebrecht launched ITgirls, their 64-card line, out of Melrose in May. Each brightly colored, to-the-point card is illustrated with an ITgirl image and a kitschy message. The cutesy cards target women ages 16-44, "or anyone young at heart." Look for the funky cards locally at Copley Flair and at www.itgirlscards.com.

Paper Trail...Paper fiends will be thrilled that Paper Source, which sells everything from hand-crafted stationery to photo albums and custom invitations, is set to open its third and largest local location next to Shreve, Crump & Low in mid-September. The Chicago-based paper purveyors operate two outposts in Brookline and Cambridge, but the bigge (4,800 square feet) and possibly the bes will reside on Boylston Street. Paper-making, book-binding, printmaking and decoupage workshops will be offered a the new store. *338 Boylston St., Bosto (617-536-3444).—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY MARGARET SMITH

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Saks Fifth Avenue's **"Saks in the City" Preview Party** was held July 23 at Saks Fifth Avenue in the Prudential Center. More than 1,000 fashionistas gathered to shop till they dropped to benefit four Boston organizations: the AIDS Action Committee, the American Heart Association, the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) and the Wang Center for the Performing Arts. Guests scooped up bargains collected from Saks stores across the country while sipping martinis served by Tonic. All organizations received 2 percent of sales designated for them. The American Heart Association won the grand prize, which is a benefit fashion show this fall underwritten by Saks Fifth Avenue.

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1. From left: **Heather Maloney**, communications direct for the American Heart Association; **Jay Blackwell**, director of the Boston Heart Ball for the American Hea Association; and **Angie Knauf**, manager of the Boston Heart Ball for the American Heart Association.
2. From left: **Denise Spencer**, freelance designer; **Micha Agha**, partner at Spinnaker LLC; and **Christina Watso** membership manager for the ICA.
3. From left: **Emily Moore**, **Alex Jones**, **Tiffanie Ting** and **Svan Karadottir**; curatorial assistant, director of major gifts, education assistant, and gallery manager, respectively, for the ICA.
4. **Jessica Rhodes**, student at the Boston Conservatory o Music, and **Nate Lew**, student at Skidmore College.
5. From left: **Pamela Kirby**, trust administrator for Investors Bank & Trust; **Gaenslie Lamour**, program director for the Center for Community Health, Education & Research in Dorchester; and **Nadine Marcellus**, Boston regional director for Peace Games South Boston.
6. **Gale Minot**, volunteer for Mercy Ships (floating hospitals) and her daughter, **Hilary**, student at Princet University.
7. **Rosemarie Puya**, vice president and general manag of Saks Fifth Avenue, and **Josiah Spaulding**, preside and CEO of the Wang Center.

The fourth annual **Doug Flutie Jr. Golf Classic Pre-Tournament Party** was held July 7 at the DoubleTree Guest Suites. More than 400 friends of the Flutie Foundation gathered for a dinner and auction benefiting the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. Highlights of the evening were a performance by the Flutie Gang Band featuring San Diego Chargers quarterback Doug Flutie on drums. The party and golf tournament raised $105,000.

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8. **Doug Flutie**, quarterback for the San Diego Chargers, and his wife, **Laurie**.
9. **Mike Freni**, **Claudia Wyman** and **Jon Haddad**; all are marketing representatives for Pinnacle Marketing in Danvers.
10. **Karen Lopez**, accountant for the Flutie Foundation, and **Felix Lopez**, customer support manager for Axcelis Technologies in Beverly.
11. **Jack Cooperstein**, sales representative for Carolina Wine & Spirits in Norwood, and **Kim Goodman**, attorney for Bellotti & Barretto in Cambridge.

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BY EZRA DYER

PARKING SPAZ

You've heard of road rage. Now meet the new scourge of the streets: parking pique

People in this city go absolutely mental over parking spaces. As car owners can attest, at any given time there are a total of about five open spots in the entire Greater Boston area, and all of them have a car backing in at the moment. I have, on many occasions, nearly gone on a *Grand Theft Auto*–style rampage after the car in front of me pulled into the last available resident-parking spot. I have wished terrible things upon you, fellow drivers, and I'm sorry if any of you actually contracted foot-and-mouth disease.

But even though I've blued the air with disturbingly creative profanity in frustration over parking spaces lost, I've never actually had an altercation over a spot. Until now.

I was driving to work, which I don't usually do, but I wanted my car available for a quick Friday-afternoon getaway. Now, there are usually plenty of meter spots in the vicinity of Improper Towers, so I wasn't worried about finding a space. In fact, I was upping the ante—I was looking for a free, nonmeter space. And while driving across the Mass. Turnpike overpass on Berkeley Street, I found one. I backed in and switched off the ignition.

At just about this time, a Jetta diesel that had been furiously reversing up the street stopped, and a red-faced gentleman in a pastel Polo shirt jumped out and stormed over to my window. "This is my space! Get the f--k out of this f--king space right now!" he screamed.

This was indeed a conundrum, because clearly it was not his space. Not only did this space lack a sign in front of it reading "Reserved for Entitled Pricks," there was also the matter of my car being in it. I double-checked and affirmed that I had not parked atop the roof of another car, so therefore the space must have been vacant when I took it. My old physics teacher would have been proud.

I am a reasonable person, and if I really had committed a parking sin I might have conceded the point and driven away. However, the space race hadn't even been close. He was pulling off Cortes Street a good distance ahead as I'd been pulling into the spot, which seemed a pretty weak basis for his claims of ownership. I was in the right, but when faced with such a confrontation, one must size up one's adversary and make a judgment call. If the space-claimer is six-foot-five, driving a 1975 Camaro Z-28 with bullet holes in the mud flaps, and has a tattoo of a teardrop under his left eye, perhaps it's smart to cede the space. But when your adversary is wearing a pastel Ralph Lauren shirt and driving a Jetta, you can safely assume you're not dealing with Tony Soprano.

"I'm not moving," I informed him. "It's the principle of it."

"Move this f--king car right now!" he shrieked back at me. "I saw this space first!" Apparently, the kind of guy who jumps out of his car and demands your parking space is also the kind of guy who doesn't take no for an answer.

"Who says you saw it first?" I asked the Conquistador of Cortes Street. Reverting to fourth-grade debate techniques, I added, "I saw it first." I then gestured directly across the street to an open meter and told my new friend that a fine space awaited him right there. "But that's at a meter and this is *free*!" he screeched. Well, cry me a river. Casual Friday is off to quite a terrible start, isn't it Mr. Pastel Polo?

I told him that he'd have to pay the grand sum of two bucks for a meter. He just stood

IF YOUR ADVERSARY IS WEARING A PASTEL RALPH LAUREN SHIRT AND DRIVING A JETTA, YOU CAN SAFELY ASSUME YOU'RE NOT DEALING WITH TONY SOPRANO

there staring, as if he was contemplating dragging me from my car and beating me which he undoubtedly was. I stared back envisioning what life must be like for this guy's family and coworkers. I can see him at home, punching the microwave when his popcorn burns, cheating against his kids at Go Fish and bragging to the neighbors about the awesome mileage his Jetta diesel gets. And if he acts like this much of a dill-nut over two dollars in quarters, he's probably not much fun on a trip to Foxwoods, either.

Eventually he gave up and stormed away with a shouted threat that he would some day break my mirrors off. As soon as he got back into his car, I pulled out onto Berkeley Street behind him and another car quickly took the much-debated space. It felt good giving that new person the nice excitement you get when you find a free spot. ■

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FREE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

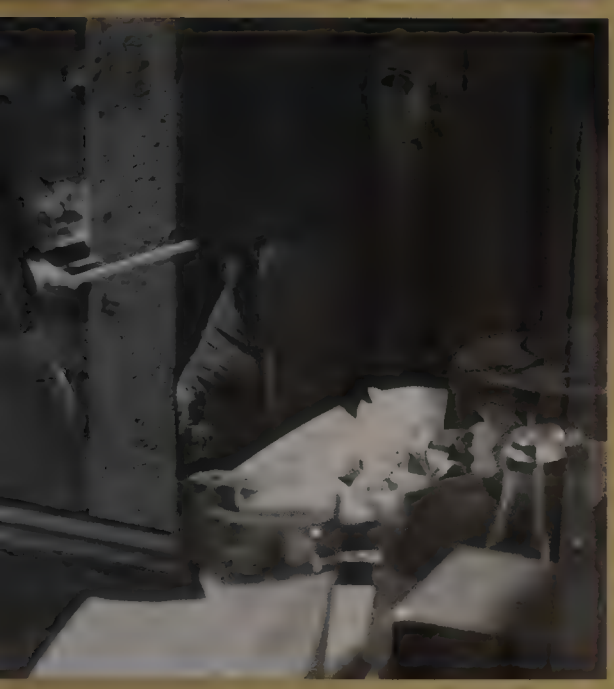
As host of Black Entertainment Television's *106 & Park*, the top-rated music video countdown show on cable television, co-host Free has become one of the network's most popular stars and a force to be reckoned with in the world of R&B, rap and hip-hop. The show, which airs Monday through Friday at 11:30 am and 6 pm, reaches 700,000 viewers daily and attracts guests like Will Smith, Jennifer Lopez, Ja Rule, P. Diddy and Jay-Z, as well as helping to launch the careers of stars like Alicia Keys, India.Arie and Lil' Bow Wow. Born Marie Wright, Free was raised in Roxbury and Dorchester and went to Northeastern University. She left a job in the computer industry to launch a recording career and was eventually signed to a record deal with Wyclef Jean but left to pursue other opportunities. At a record release party for Busta Rhymes, she bumped into BET's vice president of music programming, whom she had known while interning at Boston's WILD-AM. Despite having no previous TV experience, she was hired to do the show alongside male cohost AJ. In addition to her TV career, Free recently completed work on her own album, due out in September. She lives in New York.

JS: *OK, so you're the flyest girl on BET…*
F: Thank you!
JS: *But your co-host, AJ—he's a pain in the ass.*
F: Big pain! We love it!
JS: *I just wanna see you reach out and slap him. Don't you ever feel like smacking him?*
F: I do, but I can't slap him. I get to hit him with pillows, though.
JS: *Your hair's different practically every day. How much time do you spend on it?*
F: Not much.
JS: *Liar.*
F: No! We're creative, and we're fast. I don't like to sit still, so we just move through it. I've always changed my hair. Before the show started, I've always gotten bored after a few days or a week or two with the same hairstyle, and my best friend [Tracy Washington, from Boston] is a hairdresser. She works at BET. So it makes sense to have fun.
JS: *How about AJ's hair? Let's discuss that for a minute…*
F: Well, he's got corn-rows on the side and dreads on the top of his head.
JS: *Yeah. What's that about?*
F: He's had his hair like that for years now.
JS: *That's no excuse.*
F: It works for his head. You couldn't wear your hair like that, but AJ can.
JS: *Alright, I admit it. I'm jealous of AJ.*
F: You should be. He's good with the ladies.
JS: *Whatever. So who'd win in a catfight, Missy Elliott or Lil' Kim?*
F: [Laughs.] Oh golly. That's a draw.
JS: *Female hip-hop star who lives up to her hoochie-mama image?*
F: See, the image is one thing, but when you meet people, a lot of them are completely different. So nobody's been a hoochie-mama in front of me. I haven't seen the hoochie-mama-ness.
JS: *OK, biggest diva? Whitney? Mariah?*
F: [Laughs.] Ummm…no. I gotta pass on that one.
JS: *Biggest gentleman in rap?*

IMAGE IS ONE THING, BUT WHEN YOU MEET [HIP-HOP STARS], A LOT OF THEM ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT... I HAVEN'T SEEN THE HOOCHIE-MAMA-NESS.

F: All of 'em, but let's see…Mos Def… Nelly's cool.
JS: *Have you ever seen him take his clothes off, cause it was gettin' hot in here?*
F: No. Onstage, he does it all the time. But not in private.
JS: *One rapper you'd never date?*
F: Oh, God! Why are you asking me these questions? Hmmm. Never say never.
JS: *OK, rapper you most want to date?*
F: Damn! Nobody comes to mind right now, but when somebody does, I'm gonna call you first.
JS: *Has* MTV's Total Request Live *started to follow your lead?*
F: I have no idea, because when they're on, I'm getting ready for my show, so I don't get to see it.
JS: *Carson Daly: Thumbs up? Thumbs down?*
F: He's good at what he does. Hey, he's still doin' it.
JS: *What if MTV offered you his job?*
F: I'm happy at BET. I love my audience, what I do and where I work.
JS: *Most expensive indulgence since you became a big TV star?*
F: My bed. I bought a really expensive bed. It's gorgeous. It's wood. It's very hard, and I have proof, because I have bruises all over my body from where I keep fallin' on it. I don't know who designed it. I know the store where I got it, but I'm not gonna tell you that, because then everyone will have my bed. And it's my freakin' bed.
JS: *How about bling-bling? Platinum chains? Diamond rings that spell out your name?*
F: None. I haven't dipped into that yet.
JS: *Who answers all your fan mail?*
F: My assistant will open the mail and separate it by different ages and types of letters, and I'll go through some. Sometimes I'll get online and e-mail some people back.
JS: *So who are your biggest fans?*
F: How would I know? I'm on the other side of the camera! I get older people in their 50s, young kids....It seems like everybody watches it.
JS: *What about white viewers, and what do you think of white suburban kids who are wanna-be rappers?*
F: I don't differentiate between them anymore. It's all one to me now.
JS: *So hip-hop has nothing to do with skin color?*
F: I hope not. I think it's just love of music is what brings people together.
JS: *When you first started on the show, you'd never done TV and had no idea what you were doing. What was that like?*
F: They said, "That's a camera. And when we say, 'Cut,' you cut. And when we say 'Five-four-three-two-one,' that means go. And that's a microphone." It was the basics. Then I learned about concentrating, taking your craft seriously and researching your guests before they come on, so you can have a great interview, which is our goal.
JS: *So when does your own album come out?*
F: Late summer. Early September.
JS: *Tell me about it.*
F: Wow. The music is coming out great. People are asking, "Are you rapping; are you singing?" I always just say, "I'm expressing myself." Just talking about life and some things I've seen, stuff I've been through. There's a lot of hip-hop with the beats. There's a lot of live instruments.
JS: *Thing you miss most about Boston?*
F: My family. Being able to be with them every day. And Ali's Roti on Blue Hill Avenue. [Laughs.] It's a West Indian Jamaican restaurant. I gotta go there every time I come home. And spring and summertime. It's so pretty.
JS: *What's the rap and hip-hop scene like here?*
F: There's a lot goin' on there. In fact, we're thinking about doing a talent show up there. That's what I want to do as soon as my album is finished. People are rhyming. Every time I come home, everywhere I'm at, there's a lot goin' on.
JS: *Will J.Lo and Ben actually get married?*
F: Yes. [Laughs.] You gotta believe!
JS: *Will you be in the wedding?*
F: [Laughs.] I don't know them that well!
JS: *Well, I'm voting for you as one of her bridesmaids.*
F: I'd love it! I would do it. I would hold her gown.
JS: *Last question. Will you give me a little shout-out on the show?*
F: I will. You and all of Boston.

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well if one has not dined well." – Virginia Woolf



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The Real (Estate)

The bargain hunter's guide to finding houses and apartments in Boston

For most Bostonians, it's no surprise when the city routinely turns up near the top of U.S. cost-of-living surveys. From the bone-chilling cost of utilities to the sobering tab for a night on the town, we have grown accustomed to paying top dollar to live here. Most daunting of all, of course, is the price tag of real estate. While many renters and home buyers have flocked to the suburbs in search of better deals, diehard urbanites have stuck around, only to watch sky-high prices rise even higher.

According to the Boston Department of Neighborhood Development, the average price of a single-family home in neighborhoods from South Boston to the South End nearly doubled between 1998 and 2002. Average rents, meanwhile, have followed a similar trend: Whereas eight years ago a modest two-bedroom rental in Boston proper fetched between $850 and $1,000, at this time last year a "cozy" (read: small), "garden level" (read: basement) two-bedroom nook in the Fens was a bargain at $1,600.

How high rents and prices will go is anyone's guess, but on the rental side at least, there is some sign of relief. Some landlords are renewing their leases without raising rents—a significant departure from the past decade when monthly rent could be upped $50, $100, $200 each year. On the sales side, though mortgage interest rates, which have been hovering at Eisenhower-era lows for most of the year, rose incrementally in the final weeks of July, they remain appealing. Able to borrow more capital at a lower rate of return, many home buyers have found previously unattainable properties are now within their grasp.

Whether or not the soaring real estate market, which took off during the mid-1990s, is beginning to plateau, a little savvy can go a long way in finding the right housing at the right price. With that in mind, we set out to find useful advice—including how and where to look—to help you get the best digs for your dollar.

BY DANIEL SCHULMAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB PERACHIO

Kate Pieczarka and her boyfriend, Mike Keohane, negotiated and paid only half the broker's fee for their Somerville apartment.

THE NEW DEAL

Not long ago, the perception was that you'd better grab something no matter how much it cost," says broker Thomas O'Connor of Prudential Prime Properties, headquartered in Jamaica Plain. Low vacancy rates and high demand for rentals infused the market with a dog-eat-dog urgency. "Now prices have gone down a bit, and things sit on the market longer. The rental market is actually kind of soft now."

Michael Albano, vice president of Boston Real Estate Group in the Back Bay, says that the rental market has ebbed as a result of current trends in the sales market, among them low interest rates. "Young professionals have been flooding the sales market, trying to get out of the rental trap and get into some kind of a property to take advantage of these low interest rates. That has loosened up the rental market a lot," he says. Since mortgage rates have begun to rebound of late, one would expect home sales to sag as a result. Not so, says Albano. "In the short term, it's having the opposite effect," Albano says. "People are worried that rates are going to continue to go up. They want to lock in now."

Until recently, most attempts to negotiate rent or rental fees with brokers would have gotten you, at best, a sympathetic grin. With no shortage of prospective tenants (some even overbidding to seal the deal), landlords and brokers did not have to entertain lowball offers. But now renters are well positioned to play hardball, say many brokers. Everything's negotiable, from rents and fees to no-pet policies. "This year, renters are almost like buyers; they are looking at everything, and then they are coming in with an offer," says realtor Matthew Hayward of ERA CityState Real Estate on Beacon Hill. "Because the supply is exceeding the demand, tenants are in more of a position to negotiate a deal."

Daniel Karp (left) and Michael Clavadetscher convinced their landlord to let them build new bedrooms in their large South End loft

Kate Pieczarka and her boyfriend, Mike Keohane, both 26 and recent law school grads, began looking for their first apartment together in early May. Saddled with considerable school loans, the pair set out to find a two-bedroom rental for under $1,350, a tall order in most Boston-area neighborhoods. After trying the no-fee approach and viewing a succession of squalid rentals, Pieczarka and Keohane accompanied their broker to a well-maintained five-room apartment in a two-family home a few blocks from Teele Square in Somerville. In addition to two spacious bedrooms, a sunny living room and an eat-in kitchen, the apartment included a rare find in Boston-area housing: a dining room. The price: $1,300 per month.

"Our mouths were hanging open. We loved it," says Pieczarka. "Of course the broker pressured us to snatch it right then, but it was a full fee." That's when her law-school training kicked in. "I told the broker, 'I'm not willing to discuss this if it's full fee,'" Pieczarka says. They struck a deal when their broker persuaded the landlord to pick up half the fee.

A LITTLE HELP FROM THE WEB

For bargain hunters looking to gain an edge over the competition, a little cyber savvy goes a long way. As opposed to traditional print listings, Web sites featuring apartments and houses are updated throughout the day, which gives online seekers a critical advantage in timing.

Based on the sheer volume and quality of its listings, Craigslist.org is the best place for apartment hunters to begin their search. Founded in San Francisco in 1995 by software programmer Craig Newmark, Craigslist drew a fervent following in that city; the Boston-based Craigslist, launched in 2000, has become an equally valued resource in this area. Though it was once Boston's best kept secret for apartment hunters, word has spread about Craigslist, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. True, there's more competition for listings. But the growing audience in turn inspires more brokers, landlords and home owners to post available properties. While the site also offers a section devoted to properties for sale in the Greater Boston area (usually posting about 100 new listings per week), it's far more useful for renters, particularly those looking to eliminate the dreaded realtor's fee. On average, Craigslist posts between 150 and 300 new no-fee apartment listings daily that are priced to fit a range of lifestyles—everything from a luxury waterfront three-bedroom in the North End ($4,500) to a no-frills studio in Brighton ($800). Some listings even include digital photos.

Another worthwhile site devoted to apartments in the Boston area is Dwellings.com. What Dwellings lacks in listings (there were only about 50 the last time we checked) it makes up for in other areas, namely a database—including phone numbers and Web links—of more than 60 apartment complexes and management companies that rent directly to tenants.

For home buyers, the Multiple Listing Service (MLS)—a searchable database of sale properties shared and updated by numerous agencies—can be a valuable tool. Accessible online with free registration through several Boston real estate firms, including ERA Boston Real Estate Group (Bostonrealestate.net) and Coldwell Banker (Newenglandmoves.com), among others, the MLS allows home buyers to search listings using a range of criteria, from size and price to design features. From there, properties can be compared with other homes in the same neighborhood.

RESOURCEFUL MOVES

You may know where to look and how to haggle, but finding the most elusive bargains takes a mixture of dumb luck, dogged determination, old-fashioned ingenuity and, at times, a bit of compromise. Recently some Bostonians have taken the phrase "thinking outside the box" quite literally—avoiding pricey, shoebox-like apartments.

When Cate and Tom Karlhuber moved to town several years ago, they sought an affordable rental near Harvard University, where Tom would be going to graduate school. Call it beginner's luck: Through Harvard's off-campus housing service, they found a large one-bedroom close to Harvard Square for $800 per month, including utilities, an unbeatable price even at that time. "It was a unique living situation," Cate, now 28, says. The couple's apartment was located on the third floor of an old Victorian that was owned and occupied by an elderly couple. "We had no separate entrance. We entered through the main foyer of this couple's home and walked up two flights of stairs by their bedrooms and through their living quarters. There was no s

te door even upstairs. We lived for three years on the trust that neither of us would rude uninvited. It worked out very well."

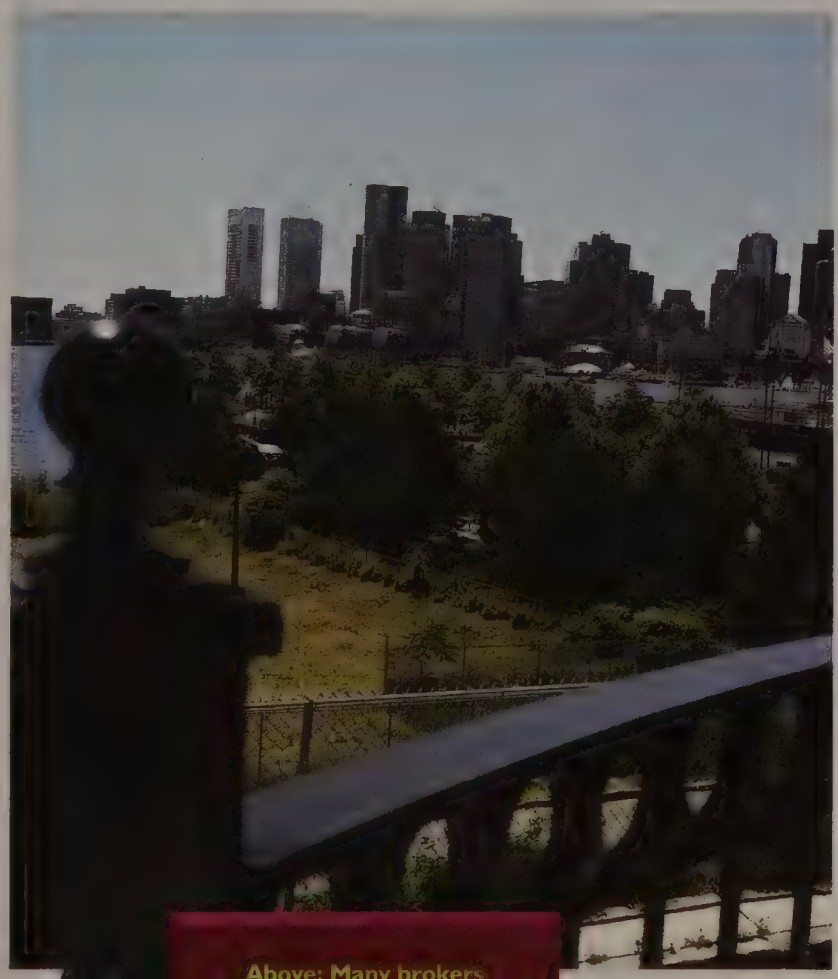
Indeed, the Karlhubers' deal was a rare find, but similar accommodations are occanally listed through college off-campus housing offices; some are publicly accessible line (Emerson College, Tufts University), others are available only to affiliates of the lege (Boston University, Boston College, MIT and Harvard), alums included.

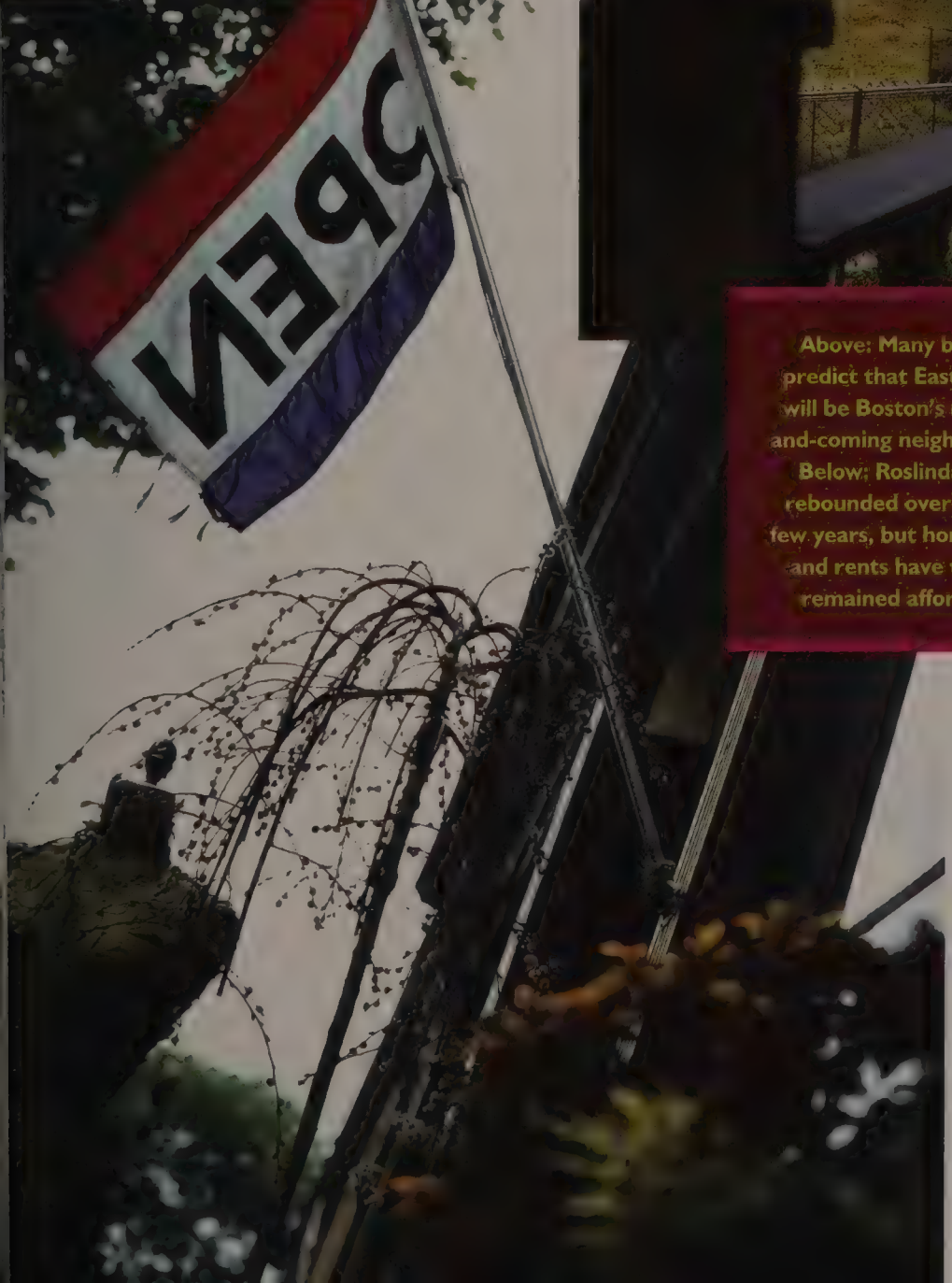
Twenty-six-year-old Daniel Karp and his roommate, Michael Clavadetscher, nd their current digs the newfangled way, using Craigslist. After months of rching for the perfect two-bedroom this spring, they came upon a deal they uldn't pass up: a no-fee, 1,400-square-foot loft in the South End for $1,600 per nth. The apartment had only one drawback: The bedrooms, constructed by the or tenant, consisted of makeshift plywood partitions that afforded little privacy. nvinced that he and his roommate had the know-how to build two new bedms, Karp approached the landlord with a blueprint. "The place had lots of potial," Karp says. The landlord agreed to foot the bill for building materials and ered them access to the apartment two weeks be- e the start of their lease on June 15. Two months, eral inches of sawdust and untold trips to the me Depot later, construction on the loft is near mpletion. "I haven't really been able to relax here —put my feet up and have a cold beer," Karp says. e're almost there, though."

UNTAPPED TERRAIN

s more and more "bargain neighborhoods" become settled and gentrified around Boston—Central uare in Cambridge is just one recent example—it's beming harder to find the hidden gems where the cost of l estate remains below the city standard. But, brokers there are still unspoiled frontiers worth checking out. For years many brokers have predicted that East ston would become the area's next up-and-coming neighborhood, while others maintained that its proximity to Logan Airport—with its accompanying noise and traffic—coupled with its somewhat out-of-the-way location, would make "Eastie" unattractive to many renters and home buyers. What was once Eastie's "Achilles' heel," as broker Thomas O'Connor puts it, is now being remedied with the completion of the Big Dig. "With the new Liberty Tunnel open, you'd be amazed at how quickly you can get there. It's remarkable. It cuts the drive time to and from Boston down by 70 percent. People don't know that yet. Because of that, the real estate market's still a little bit depressed over there," says O'Connor.

According to the latest figures from the Boston Department of Neighborhood Development, released in February, rents and sale prices in East Boston are the lowest in the city: on average $1,200 per month for a two-bedroom apartment and $184,000 for a single-family home. Don't expect prices to remain so affordable for long, though. With astounding views of the Boston skyline and more than $20 million in funding allocated to beautify the area with 42 acres of parkland in the years to come (as part of the Central Artery/Tunnel project), this neighborhood is bound to boom.





Above: Many brokers predict that East Boston will be Boston's next up-and-coming neighborhood. Below: Roslindale has rebounded over the last few years, but home prices and rents have thus far remained affordable.

While East Boston's market has yet to blossom, Roslindale, located at the tail end of Jamaica Plain, is in the early stages of a real estate renaissance, according to Liz Kedzierski, co-owner of South End Realty Group. "Even the aesthetic is changing," Kedzierski notes. "Now people are repainting their Victorians, porches are back in use, lawns are well groomed." And best of all, rental and sale properties are still at the low end of the spectrum; expect to pay about $1,200 to $1,400 per month for a two-bedroom apartment and roughly $350,000 for a single-family home. Roslindale's downtown business district, once stagnant, has been revived over the past few years with the addition of new shops, restaurants and a supermarket. Even with a commuter rail stop located downtown and the Orange Line a short bus ride away, some might be concerned that the neighborhood is still hard to reach from downtown Boston. Dan Tebo, 24, who along with his roommates has rented a sprawling four-bedroom ($2,100 per month) in Roslindale for the past two years, counters, "Why would you want to leave? Everything you need is right here."

For those who don't want to stray too far from downtown Boston but wouldn't mind escaping costly downtown apartments, East Cambridge is another option—that is, if the sight of vinyl siding doesn't bother you. Charismatically scruffy with a distinct old-world vibe, the neighborhood's main drag, Cambridge Street, boasts a couple of fresh-fish markets, several bars, a bunch of restaurants serving ethnic cuisine and, of course, the Mayflower Poultry Co.'s infamous "Live Poultry Fresh Killed" sign. Given its location—a short T ride to downtown on either the Green (Lechmere) or Red (Kendall) line—and the fact that the price of real estate in nearby neighborhoods in Cambridge and Somerville has swelled to rival parts of Boston, it's remarkable that housing in East Cambridge remains a bargain. According to Nathan Kling, a rental agent at Skyline Realty in Central Square, in this part of Cambridge, a quality two-bedroom rents for about $1,500 per month, and single-family homes are priced between $350,000 and $400,000.

GOOD BUY

Unlike renting, which always feels transitory, owning property calls to mind a sense of rootedness, accomplishment and peace of mind. Unfortunately, the romantic notion of home ownership loses some of its luster in the face of Boston's formidable property costs. In the first quarter of 2003, the average selling price of a single-family home in the Greater Boston area was $508,354, according to the Massachusetts Association of Realtors—an increase of 15 percent since the same time last year. While the rental market is beginning to soften, realtors maintain that sales are still surging. So, how can wanna-be home owners find bargain properties to indulge that homesteading instinct? One option is real estate auctions.

The IMPROPER's Julie Suratt recently had her first auction experience when a builder, who'd been hired to case the rental condo she shares with her husband, in-

After deciding against putting down four months' rent for an apartment lease, Brooke Wotton researched property auctions and found an 826-square-foot loft in Medford.

formed her that her pad was up for bid. A simple Google search confirmed the builder's story: Their apartment was listed among properties seized by the IRS for nonpayment of federal taxes on the U.S. Department of Treasury's Web site (www.ustreas.gov/auctions/irs/real1.html) and was up for auction. The minimum bid: about $68,000. Like many seized properties, Suratt's apartment was listed as a drive-by auction, meaning that interested parties could view the property only from the outside before logging a bid.

While IRS property auctions in the Boston area are rare—at last count the Treasury Department's Web site listed 21 properties, none of those in Massachusetts—bank foreclosure auctions are not. Such listings are posted daily in the classified sections of the *Boston Globe* and the *Herald* and include the date and time of the auction, the basic specs of the property and the deposit required to secure a winning bid. The rest is up to you.

"Do your homework. Go to the Registry of Deeds," recommends auctioneer Marianne Sullivan of Paul E. Saperstein Co. Inc., a Holbrook-based firm that handles property auctions in New England. Since the interior of most foreclosed properties cannot be viewed prior to sale, auctiongoers must rely on information archived at the local Registry of Deeds, including detailed floor plans, zoning restrictions and the amount of back taxes owed, if any, that the new owner may have to pay. In addition to thorough research, buying at auction requires a degree of restraint, especially for inexperienced home buyers. "It's easy to get caught up in the furor of it all and end up overbidding," cautions broker Ted Pietras of Gibson Domain | Domain in the South End. But with a bit of business savvy and a lot of legwork, buyers can sweep up foreclosed properties at prices well below market value.

Two years ago, when 34-year-old Brooke Wotton returned to Boston from Saudi Arabia, she at first considered settling in a downtown rental. Then she thought better of it. "First, last, security deposit and realtor's fee—you almost have a down payment right there," she says. Instead of renting, she hit the auction circuit. After two weeks of scouring newspapers, researching properties and attending local auctions, her efforts were rewarded. She was the highest bidder for an 826-square-foot Medford loft, located in what was once a high school. She paid $152,500 for a property then valued at $187,000. Wotton, who is now a real estate broker herself, recently put her apartment back on the market and quickly sold it for $253,500.

Wotton's success, and the creative efforts of all the buyers and renters mentioned in this story, can serve as inspiration for anyone buying, renting or still mulling over the options in high-priced Boston. The deals are out there, if you just know where to look. IB

EXPERT ADVICE

When pressed for bargain-hunting tips, brokers respond in wholly differen ways. Some focus on developing neighborhoods and seasonal trends, whi others stress the power of negotiating a lease. (There are others, of course who merely laugh for a disconcerting length of time, but we won't let them discourag us.) Here, the experts sound off with further advice for renters and home buyers.

FOR RENTERS

Spread the word that you're looking. "Start with your circle of friends and family. Put the word out that you're looking for an apartment. Somebody might know somebody who knows somebody. Use the grapevine."

—Thomas O'Connor, Prudential Prime Properties

Put your best foot forward. "Be organized and have strong references. Anything you can do to prove to a landlord that you've been a positive tenant in the past has a strong value. Presentation is everything, and that's when negotiations come into play."

And use the power of negotiation. "Try to find something with heat and hot water included. These things add up. If you're paying for heat, [check] the condition of the windows. Lower floors are much more costly to heat than upper floors. You can also check with the electric or gas company to find out what the average ran for the prior tenant."

—Liz Kedzierski, South End Realty Group

Plan to look in the off-season. "A September 1st move-in date is the least negotiable. Look during the dead of winter. The first day it snows more than a foot, that's when you should be out looking. It's nasty, wet and miserable, but that's when no one else is looking."

—Will Fastow, A.E. Rondeau Real Estate

Remember that money talks. "Bring your checkbook. Nobody negotiates until the money's down. The best way to do it is to name your price, submit your offer and see what happens."

—Nathan Kling, Skyline Realty

FOR BUYERS

Remember the value of good timing. "Brokers probably don't want me talking about this, but the magic moment to buy is between Thanksgiving and New Year's. That's the worst time of year to sell a house. But some people have no choice. If somebody needs to sell during that time of year, they are more willing to cut a deal.

And look for yard sales. "Why are they having a yard sale? They might be looking to move. They might have to move o short notice. Let's say the people havin the yard sale aren't moving, there are s plenty of neighbors there. Ask around Don't be shy."

—Thomas O'Conno Prudential Prime Properties

Look for fellow fixer-uppers. "If you' willing to put some sweat equity int something, look for neighborhood where people are starting to paint the homes, where there's a sense of cleanl ness and pride in the location. If you c find something that needs some swea equity, that's always your best bet."

—Liz Kedzierski South End Realty Grou

Remember the art of compromis "Make a prioritized list of the types amenities and features you want you home to have, and decide which fea tures are going to be negotiable for you Have as flexible a position as possible Based upon that, choose the neighbor hood where you want to live—no solely based upon the aesthetics of th neighborhood. In neighborhoods li Back Bay and the South End, you' paying a premium to live there. That not necessarily a price that you have t pay if you can find something just as nic that you'd be happy with in a less gentr fied neighborhood."

—Will Fastow A.E. Rondeau Real Estat

Hedge your investment. "One thing som people are doing is buying multifamil homes, living in a part of the home an renting out the other part, or condo-co verting it. You can use the fact that you c borrow more money at a lower rate t buy more property than you need, to b income property. There you're not on hedging your investment but offsetting th fact that you're paying somewhat of a pre mium in this market and you may s prices come down in the short run."

—Michael Albano Boston Real Estate Gro

Create a bargain. "Often bargains are n found but created. Say you find a pla with ugly shag carpeting. Putting in har wood floors will cost you $4,00 $5,000, but when it comes time to s your home could be worth $10,000 $15,000 more."

—Bill Sco Coldwell Ban

One of Boston's Best just got better.

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200 BEACON STREET: $5.7 MILLION

103 IRVING STREET: $4.45 MILLION

royal RESIDENCES

BY TODD LARS

44 BRIMMER STREET: $3 MILLION

906-907 FLAGSHIP WHARF: $3 MILLION

For many of us, seeing a "for sale" sign outside a beautiful seven-figure home can result in a case of wistfulness that stops us in our tracks. "What would it be like to live here?" we ask, as we try to sneak a peek inside. Maybe we get a glimpse of dark wood paneling, velvet curtains, a painting or a chandelier. Maybe we see the lucky person who lives there, casually sitting on the sofa with the Sunday paper. Maybe we keep walking, heading for the nearest convenience store to buy a scratch ticket.

To remove some of the mystery behind the highest imaginable standards of living, we ventured inside a handful of multimillion-dollar homes tucked into neighborhoods all around Boston, from brownstone-lined streets to windswept wharfs. These magnificent residences, all currently on the market, range from the 1889 Colonial/Classical Revival house in Cambridge where Julia Child lived (and cooked) for many years to a new six-bedroom penthouse in the South End that offers a 360-degree view of Boston's skyline. Step inside—you might find the house of your dreams.

TAKE A TOUR OF THESE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR HOMES AND FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE LIKE A KING (OR QUEEN).

200 BEACON STREET, PENTHOUSE UNIT #5, BACK BAY: $5.7 MILLION

Contact: Lili Banani, Coldwell Banker Itzkan & Marchiel, Back Bay; 617-796-7521

From the outside, this austere brownstone, built in 1862 by John Rollins, offers few clues to the palatial dimensions inside. Newbury Street interior designer Anthony Catalfano embellished the building's 3400-square-foot triplex penthouse unit between 2000 and 2001. "I was going for an international style or old-world effect that could be in New York, Paris or Boston," he says. Custom-milled crown moldings and Brazilian cherry-wood floors are among the many eye-catchers in this unit, which also has broad views of the Charles River.

At the central parlor level, the elevator door opens onto a paneled foyer with a brass ring knocker, allowing visitors to announce their arrival with Park Avenue pomp. The light-filled living room is dressed for grand-scale entertaining with muted green wallpaper, a green marble fireplace, a silver-leaf tea-paper ceiling, and a wrought-iron Juliet balcony that provides a panoramic Cambridge-on-the-Charles view. Roman Doric columns flank the entrance to the dining room, which mirrors the color of the living room's balcony, ceiling and walls. Images of birds and trees, modeled after 18th-century hand-painted Hong Kong wallpaper, cover the walls; together with the ceiling, they recall the days when many Bostonians built their fortunes through trade with China.

Mirrored double French doors, reflecting the river view, open to the gourmet kitchen with its limestone floors, tiger-maple cabinetry and green granite island and counters. Appliances include a five-burner cooktop electric stove, a Sub-Zero refrigerator with two pull-out freezers, and a double dishwasher (the latter two neatly concealed in the woodwork). A kitchen-to-foyer corridor is devoted to liquid refreshments—here you'll find a Sub-Zero wine cooler and two pull-out beverage fridges.

A French neocolonial brass/iron staircase with a domed skylight leads to the upper and lower levels. The lower-level library/family room level has its original arched marble mantel with a female bust keystone and cast-iron coal grate. With its crimson walls, striped carpeting, bamboo shades and faux bamboo ceiling, it has the aura of the British West Indies. The adjacent guest room has tassel-bordered window draperies, an original Doric-columned mantel, and silhouette illustrations covering its walls.

The upper-level master bedroom, whose walls are covered with equestrian scenes, overlooks the lagoon and the Charles and offers a view of Harvard's towers across the river. The master bath has a lime-stone floor, a water-jet tub and a two-head shower. A second guest room is playfully painted with Boston scenery—to see the real thing, head to the private roofdeck.

103 IRVING STREET, CAMBRIDGE: $4.45 MILLION

Contact: Ferle Bramson, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Cambridge; 617-864-8566, ext. 297

Gastronomic grande dame Julia Child and her husband bought this 5,710-square-foot Colonial/Classical Revival mansion, built in 1889 for Harvard professor Josiah Royce, in 1958. Child actually taped two PBS television series in the home's kitchen, but that doesn't mean the buyer can assume toque and tongs at the cordon bleu's ovens and burners, as she donated her kitchen to the Smithsonian Institution. However, Concord-based developers William Hall and Ferle Bramson and Winchester architect Sally Wood Ziegelman have filled its void with a state-of-the-art Italian kitchen as part of complete renovation of the property.

The new kitchen is outfitted with marble counters, frosted-glass and white-lacquer cabinetry, museum-quality lighting and restaurant-caliber stainless-steel appliances, including a six-burner stove and an oven built into the central island counter. The comprehensive silverware/cutlery drawer, pot-rack cabinet and cherry desk for cookbook consultation all honor Child's penchant for customizing her work space. Sunlit by a wall of windows, the kitchen radiates into the dining room, where 9-foot floor-to-ceiling windows look out onto the stone-and-brick terrace and picturesque garden.

This mélange of Child's vibrant progressivism and Royce's scholarly repose permeates the house, a marriage of classical temple and contemporary loft. The columned grand foyer flows into the formal living and dining rooms and library, all with slate fireplaces and paneled bookcases. The dining room features an original window-seat bay and connects to the kitchen via a full second kitchen with a Sub-Zero wine cooler. The library's entertainment center has doors that disappear to reveal a space for a flat-screen TV.

The leaded-glass stairwell window mingles Victorian tracery with Frank Lloyd Wright geometrics. The master suite includes a mahogany dressing room, a master bedroom (with one of three gas-powered fireplaces), a triple-window sitting area, garden-view deck and travertine master bath with water-jet/steam shower, Hydro-Air tub and marble-topped mahogany vanity. A second bedroom has its own bath; two others share a bath. The third floor—with its large bedroom/family room, additional bedroom, full bath, kitchenette and generous cedar closets—can serve as a home office or guest suite. The basement holds a charming reminder of the former owner: a temperature-controlled wine cellar with Child's labels still attached to the cubbyholes.

44 BRIMMER STREET, BEACON HILL: $3 MILLION

Contact: Sally Withington, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Beacon Hill; 617-723-2737

This ivy-bedecked brick domicile was the home and birthplace of maritime historian Samuel Eliot Morison, renowned for his Pulitzer Prize–winning biographies of Christopher Columbus and John Paul Jones. This property, built in 1869–70 by Morison's grandparents, occupies an entire city block and has two corner exposures, four levels of spacious rooms and nine fireplaces.

The solid oak doors at either end of the foyer open to formal living and dining rooms with 14-foot ceilings, eight-foot windows and hardwood floors, which the current owners restored when they bought the house after Morison died in 1976.

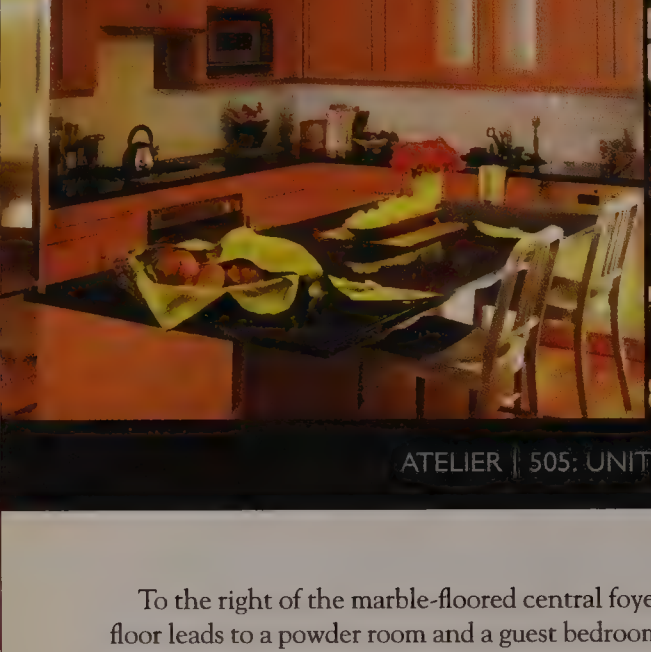
The dining room features a glazed china closet, a marble fireplace mantel and a kitchenette that used to house the old dumbwaiter pantry. The living room is distinguished by a bow window, a white marble fireplace mantel and a silver-leaf Chinese tea paper ceiling. A full bath occupies the original butler's water closet, preserving the casement window from which the butler observed guests arriving at the front door. An etched-glass paneled door introduces the staircase to the basement, where Morison's "big basement kitchen, with its coal range"—as described in his memoir *One Boy's Boston*—has been converted into a guest suite with bedroom/study, kitchenette, bathroom, powder room, hall closet and door to the garden, in addition to a laundry, wine cellar and workshop. The walled garden's two levels of tree-shaded brick patio offer gate access to Lime Street.

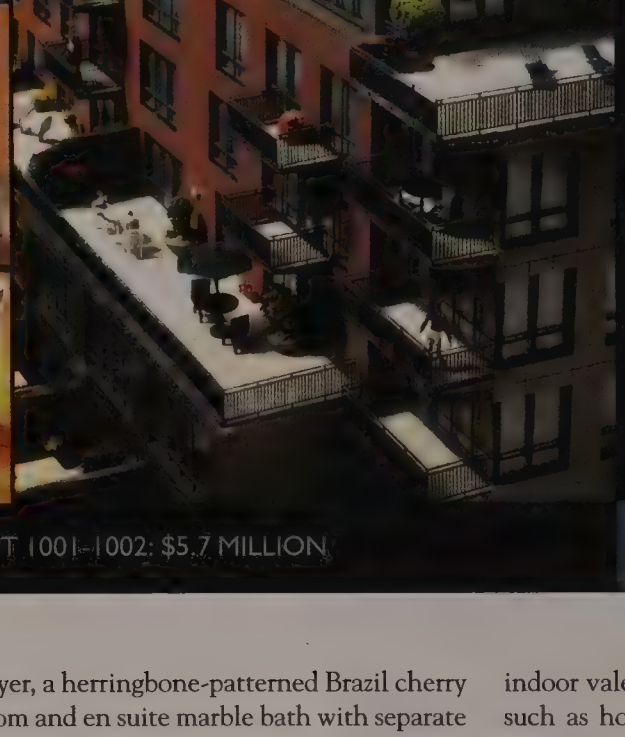
The second-floor library, lined with bookshelves and adorned with a white marble mantel, offers a bow-window view of the Church of the Advent across Mount Vernon Street. The central dressing room is equipped with two walk-in closets and a scalloped sink and connects to the master bedroom, which has a keystone-arched marble mantel and a 12-foot ceiling. The master bath includes a marble-top corner vanity and walnut paneling original to the home, and a modern water-jet tub. More high-end bed-and-bath accommodations can be found in the former children's and servants' quarters above.

906-907 FLAGSHIP WHARF, CHARLESTOWN: $3 MILLION

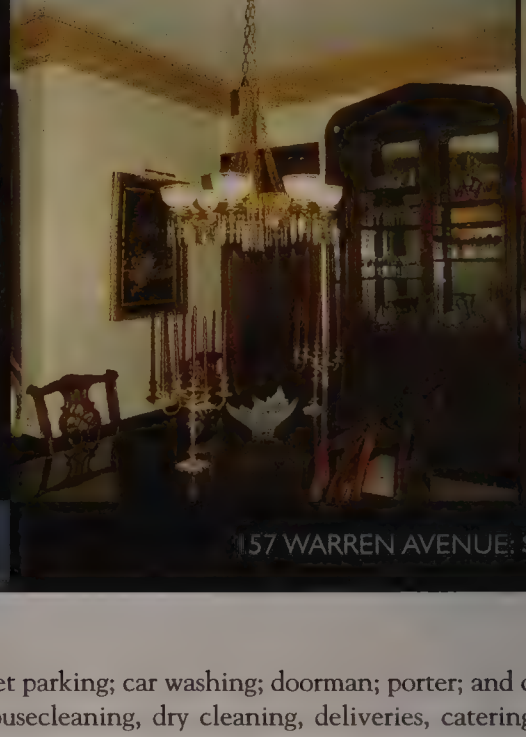
Contact: Jeffrey R. Goldman, Premier Properties of Boston Inc., Waterfront/North End; 617-723-4240

Built around 1938 as a radar, sonar and radio equipment factory for the Charlestown Navy Yard, this massive building was reconstructed as a 200-unit luxury waterfront condominium in 1990 by Raymond Development and the Architects' Collaborative. The two broad projecting wings that were added to Unit 906-907 made space for four large carpeted bedrooms, three and a half baths, extensive living-dining-kitchen space, a professional home office and an all-encompassing harbor/city vista.





ATELIER | 505: UNIT 1001–1002: $5.7 MILLION



157 WARREN AVENUE: $3 MILLION

To the right of the marble-floored central foyer, a herringbone-patterned Brazil cherry floor leads to a powder room and a guest bedroom and en suite marble bath with separate Jacuzzi and tub/shower. The cherry floor continues into the home office, with built-in cherry desks and bookcases, and the living-dining-kitchen area.

The living-dining room's wraparound floor-to-ceiling windows guide your eye along the skyline of the Financial District and the seascapes of the North End, the Boston Waterfront, the World Trade Center, Spectacle Island and Logan Airport. The living-room balcony lets you enjoy morning coffee in sea-breezy ambience.

A peninsular breakfast bar separates the dining room from the open kitchen, with its granite running counter and paneled maple cabinets, including a pot-rack pulley system. Among the appliances are a double dishwasher, a four-burner smooth-top electric stove, a double convection oven, and a water- and ice-dispensing refrigerator.

A play area and children's bedroom lie to the left of the foyer. To the right is a second guest room with a window-seat view. The master bedroom has northeastern corner exposure and a changing room lined with cherry closets, drawers and shoe shelves. The master bath features a green marble shower, a three-person Jacuzzi, a bidet and a marble-top vanity with his-and-her sinks.

ATELIER | 505, UNIT 1001-1002, 505 TREMONT STREET, SOUTH END: $5.7 MILLION

Contact: Mary Benoit, sales manager; 617-451-5050

Known for such projects as the Kenmore Hotel in 1915, Heritage on the Garden in 1988 and the Residences at the Colonnade this year, the Druker Co. has a 102-year history in Boston. Druker's latest project, slated for completion by the summer of 2004, is a 103-unit full-service condominium with street-level shops, restaurants and theaters. The pinnacle of this magnum opus will be units 1001 and 1002, occupying the building's 10th floor. The two can be purchased separately or as a combined 5,335-square-foot double penthouse flat that offers six bedrooms with nine-foot ceilings, five full baths, two half baths, two fireplaces, and a 360-degree panorama of Boston's skyline from its four corner terraces and four walls of oversize windows. There's also an option to hire your own team of designers and customize the space to your own taste.

Optional features include hardwood floors, state-of-the-art bathroom fixtures, stainless-steel kitchen appliances, a telecommunications system and zoned four-season heat and air conditioning. The model European kitchen on display at Atelier's sales center has wood cabinetry, a granite island and running counters, a Sub-Zero refrigerator and an oversize sink. Also exhibited is a marble model bath with a deep cast-iron steeping tub, mosaic-floored glass shower and marble-top double vanity.

Atelier's amenities include a fitness center with saunas and massage room; a residents' suite with library, dining/conference room, function room and catering kitchen; storage; indoor valet parking; car washing; doorman; porter; and concierge assistance with ta such as housecleaning, dry cleaning, deliveries, catering, dog-walking and restaur and theater reservations. The building abuts the historic Cyclorama building, a ver for Boston Center for the Arts and Huntington Theatre Company productions, a when completed will also include a separate theater pavilion.

157 WARREN AVENUE, SOUTH END: $3 MILLION

Contact: John Neale, Sprogis & Neale Real Estate, South End; 617-262-1504

Built in 1868 by Morton & Chesley as one of four mansard-roofed brick row hous this 4,000-square-foot dwelling fell on hard times over the South End's hundred-y decline from a fashionable neighborhood to a boarding-house district.

"There were multiple units in it and the conditions were not the best," says the c rent owner, who bought the five-story building in 1994 and gave it a top-to-bott makeover. He preserved or replicated architectural details, reconfigured several floors a single-family dwelling, excavated the basement for a carpeted guest suite with kitch bath and laundry, and attached a two-car garage.

"There are three levels you can entertain on without interfering with any of t sleeping or private quarters upstairs," he says. "That allows you to have large parties."

The fun starts on the facade: Scrolled lintels, a cornice of bracket modillions a jigsaw-cut ornaments, and a keystoned arch framing a double-arched walnut entran door introduce a vestibule with a stained-glass door leading to the historically int parlor level. The foyer's herringbone-patterned mahogany floor continues into the l ing and dining rooms. A walnut door leads to the formal living room, where a cro molding, arched marble mantel with cast-iron grate, flowery ceiling medallion and b window view of Hayes Park envelop you in Victorian glamour.

Pocket doors with cut-glass panels extend the elegance into the formal dining roo which has an identical crown molding and mantel, a built-in secretary, a Gothic-arch china cabinet, a new granite wet bar, and a rear-window view of the condo-conver Bancroft and Rice schools of 1869.

For a less formal setting, the floor below has a huge informal living-dining room with antique Beacon Hill walnut mantel surrounding a working fireplace. The adjacent kitch has cherry cabinetry, new Thermador and Sub-Zero appliances, two sinks and a runni granite counter that ends in a peninsular breakfast bar. A large rear deck over the gar can host summer cocktails and cookouts; a private understoop front entrance is also han

The second-floor master suite includes a park-view bedroom; a windowed walk closet; and a bath with cast-iron soaking tub, separate shower, double marble vanity a water closet with telephone. The guest room has its own marble bath. The top fl consists of a front bedroom with abundant storage, a bath like the master with a 4 gallon Jacuzzi, and a rear bedroom/study with a spiral staircase to the roofdeck, wh the entire Back Bay and South End are yours to behold. ib

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HOMES for sale
dain

OPEN-HOUSE ADDICTS

Looking at real estate can be a hard habit to break

BY ERIN HAGEDORN ILLUSTRATION BY BONNIE DAIN/LILLA ROGERS STUDIO

Man's search for shelter is as old as mankind itself. Paleolithic humans staked out caves in which to find refuge from the elements and sanctuary from predators. And it's likely that since earliest civilization, jealousy has flared up over the best places to live. Keeping up with the Joneses was probably as much a concern for early man as it is for today's go-getter. "Joneses have view of water hole, Herman. Why we not have nice view?" early man's wife would ask him. And of course, when it came to where early man lived, the grass was always greener on the other side of the stone fence. "Joneses have grass, Herman. Why we not have grass?"

And so, the field of real estate was born (possibly in an actual field). And a curious thing happened. When the first "open caves" took place, the sellers began noticing that a certain percentage of the visitors had no intention whatsoever of moving out of their own cave; they were simply taking advantage of the opportunity to walk around inside the caves of their neighbors. These original "open-house grazers" began a tradition that has remained remarkably consistent, from the primitive lookers ("Me love antelope painting on wall of kids' den, wife!") to the more refined grazers of today ("That basket-weave parquet is just wonderful, darling!"). For these window-shoppers, visiting homes for sale is an afternoon's entertainment, nothing more.

Laura Frogel, a young mother who has owned a home in Coolidge Corner for years, routinely goes to open houses simply for the Peeping Tom appeal. "I like to see how other people live," Frogel says. "Even if it's a house not in my price range, I can get ideas for decorating or renovating."

Plenty of people, from curious 20-somethings to wistful retirees, share Frogel's enjoyment of checking out strangers' homes. (Consider the popularity of reality shows like *Trading Spaces* and *While You Were Out*.) It's no surprise that here in Boston, where so much of day-to-day life is taken up with real estate–related thoughts and worries, open-house grazers are a thriving breed.

Barbara Watkins, a realtor at Century 21 for the past 15 years, has seen her share of what fellow realtors jokingly call professional lookers and tire kickers. When she showed a $3 million mansion in Hingham, she could hardly accommodate all the people who wanted to view the house. "Lots of people just wanted to picture what it would be like to live there," she says. "And you can't really not let someone see it. We ended up doing tours."

The grass-is-greener syndrome is only one reason grazers make a habit of looking at other people's homes. Toni Fernandez spent eight months religiously going to open houses with her husband before buying a Victorian home in Melrose. Even after they bought their house, they continued shopping as a way to find validation: Did we buy the right house? Did we pay the right price? Then, their surveying turned into market research. (What would our house go for compared with others?) "It became a Sunday morning activity for us," Fernandez says. "And it's a really hard habit to break." Nowadays, she says, grazing is more about restoration and renovation. "It's fun to see the architecture of other Victorians and get a sense of what others do with their places. It gives you a lot of ideas of what to do, and what not to do."

Fernandez's husband, Paul, enjoys browsing as much as she does. "You don't have to make a reservation, there's no cost, and it fits in well as a Sunday activity. We get up, have breakfast, and see if it's a nice day for a stroll. What's better on a walk than to poke your nose into a house and say, 'Let's go up to the third floor and see what the view is like'? Maybe there's a window looking out into an incredible backyard that you'd never know existed just seeing it from the street."

Looking inside other people's homes also involves "a certain human level of nosiness," Paul concedes. "Some people must be thinking, 'That house down the street, they don't keep up their lawn, let's go see how lousy their house looks inside.' Or they think, 'That house has wonderful landscaping; I can imagine what they did with the inside. Did they do anything better than we did?'"

Although some lookers make grazing a couple's activity, Watkins tells us that among professional lookers, women definitely outnumber men. "Football Sundays are more popular for sure," she says. "You get women who are out looking while the husband is sitting at home watching the game." Michelle Baker, who has made open-house grazing her Sunday ritual for the past 10 years, says, "I like to do it much more than my husband. He gets a little frustrated. I think men are more in the mind-set of why look if you're not buying?"

There can be an unexpected social appeal of chronic grazing, however. Sunday shopping sprees can result in impromptu get-togethers when the whole neighborhood turns up at the same open house. "Last spring, a beautiful Victorian went on the market down the street, and we met all our neighbors in the house," Toni Fernandez says. "We even met the people who lived in our house seven years ago."

Watkins has mixed feelings about the trend (which she suspects may be far more widespread than it appears, given the number of people who take virtual online tours of homes). "It was more annoying to me when I first started in the business—before I realized that some of these people don't want a house. Some just love to look. Some want a friend. And some did become my friends, actually, because we hung out for so long looking for houses. It's just how it is," Watkins says. "Some people go to yard sales. Other people look at other people's houses. But maybe some of the more obsessive-compulsive lookers should get their license and go into the business. Then they could get into all of the houses and make money at the same time." IB

ANTHONY MICHAEL HALL

IS IN THE ZONE

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STREICHER

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE W HOTEL, NEW YORK

Anthony Michael Hall, whose real name is Michael Anthony Thomas Charles Hall, has been acting since he was 8 years old. People remember him mainly for his role in *Sixteen Candles* as a panties-stealing geek who, by the end of the movie, had stolen our hearts as well. In the '80s, Hall was pretty much typecast as the nerd du jour, and that's an image that today's audiences have trouble forgetting. When asked about his '80s icon status, Hall, now 35, says, "It's the first thing that everyone asks me. Most '80s stars won't talk about their past, but I'm proud of it. It's enabled me to do what I love for all this time."

It's almost too perfect that the awkward high school kid would become a classic heartthrob nearly 20 years later. When we caught a fresh glimpse of the actor last year, he was looking decidedly handsome. Hall emerged in a 40-second spot promoting his new television show, *The Dead Zone*, which airs Sunday nights on the USA Network. In *The Dead Zone*, based on the novel by Stephen King, Hall plays a man who has awakened from a six-year coma with the ability to see people's past and future. In the future, danger lurks around every corner, and Hall's character is the one who can stop it.

The instant the *Dead Zone* spot aired, you could almost hear Gen-Xers collectively exclaiming, "Wow! Where the hell has he been?" The answer: just about everywhere. After a brief mid-'80s stint on *Saturday Night Live*, he struggled to find work. He did land some good roles, like Winona Ryder's arrogant, beefy boyfriend in *Edward Scissorhands*, and the part of Bill Gates in TNT's Emmy-nominated 1999 film, *Pirates of Silicon Valley*. He even had a role in *Six Degrees of Separation*. But his look had changed so much that you might not have recognized him. Hall says of his years out of the limelight: "It's not that I didn't want to work. For a while there, I just wasn't getting the jobs that I wanted. During that time, I did work on my method acting, and I think I learned a lot about the art form." When asked what his favorite role was, he says, "I haven't done it yet. I'd like to think the best is in front of me—not behind me."

If you spent some time with Hall, as I did, you'd see that his once-upon-a-time geek persona has completely vanished. He's a charming, down-to-earth guy who's more modest than the average Joe. He talks to most people as if he knows them well. He has a warm smile that puts you instantly at ease, and his personality is more boy-next-door than fancy movie star.

"My mother's family is from Boston, and I was born here," Hall says. "I love this city and the people in it." While he was here in late July, I took him around to some stores and night spots, and everywhere we went, people said the same thing with giddy inflection: "I loved you in *Sixteen Candles* and *Weird Science*!" Hall simply smiled and said, "Yeah, I get that a lot."

—*Samantha House*

s page: Striped shirt by Dolce & Gabbana, 295 - Saks Fifth Avenue. Facing page: Tan ped shirt by Turnbull & Asser, $210; tan tie by rnbull & Asser, $110; striped suit by Dolce & abbana, $1,450. All at Neiman Marcus.

Blue- and brown-striped shirt by Paul Smith, $180; gray suit by Paul Smith, $1,075. Both at Neiman Marcus.

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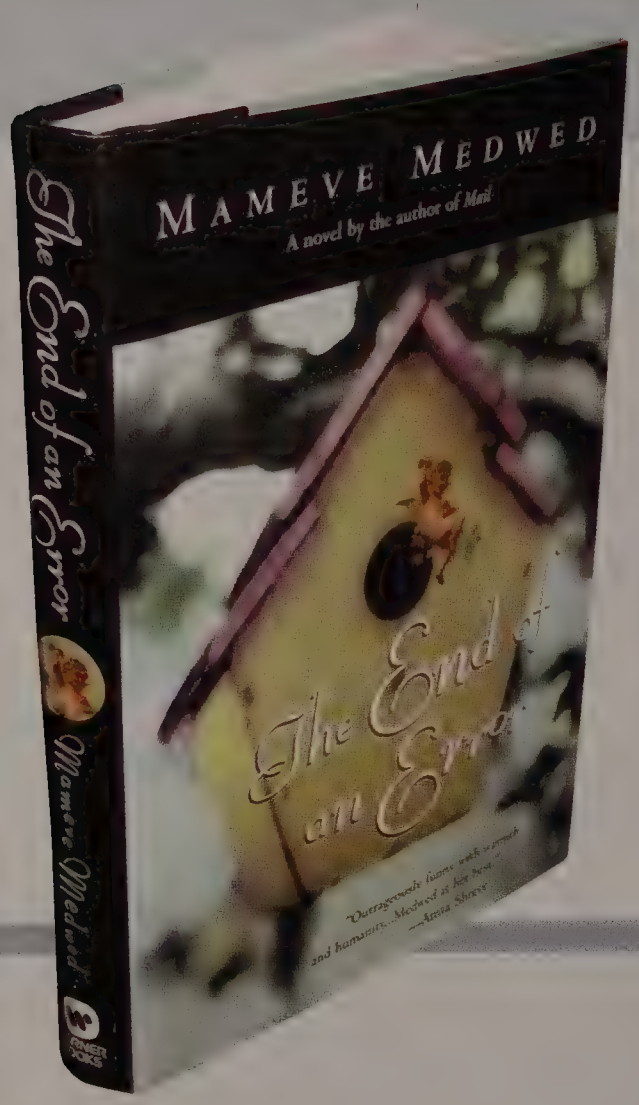
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Mameve Medwed, the Cambridge writer who delivered us *Mail*, has a new novel, *The End of an Error*, a comedy of persisting love.

Lee Emory, wife of reliable husband and stolid scholar Ben, has a grandmother who is as flamboyant as Ben is middle-of-the-road. High-living and deliciously imperious, grandma Marguerite is the one who introduced Lee to her first love, the tender Englishman Simon, during college. That once-young love has simmered underground for decades, a stretch during which Lee married and happily had three children. Medwed portrays hubby Ben's focus on his biographical quarry, Nathaniel Tarbell, a chronicler of the logging industry, as comically square yet somehow mushily romantic. When, midmarriage, Lee and Ben go to England and stay with Simon and his stodgy, worthy wife, Caroline, there are twinklings of trystiness between the old lovers. The book underscores a poignant dilemma: how to reconcile a perfectly good, long-lasting marriage with a continuing passion for an old flame? Medwed's specialty lies in the delicious mischief with which she views all this, and the intimate liveliness she brings to her characters. Though some are deserving of her satirical salt, she allows both Ben and Simon to be solid, lovable and even slightly ridiculous, so Lee's ambivalence makes for a good elastic tugging.

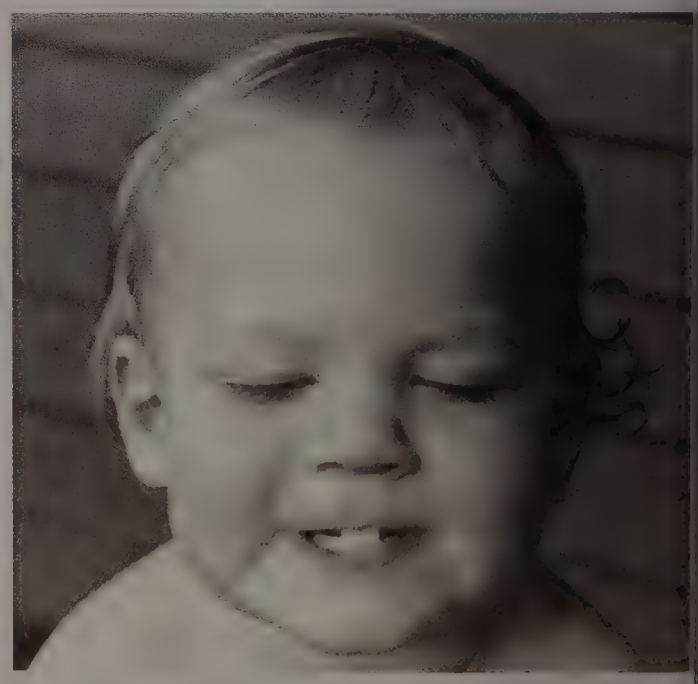
PURITY AND FLAVOR

The Gatehouse, at 110 Comm. Ave. in West Concord, sells colorful Marimekko brand clothes from Finland, plus contemporary furniture and crafts. Call 978-369-0252 for more information.

There's something about a look that once lit up a particular era that works like an energizing youth serum when it comes back in vogue again. In this case, it's Marimekko and its close design cousins. Armi Ratia, the Finnish woman who started the company, was a design innovator whose merry, loose approach had patterns dancing over from dresses onto towels, pillows, fabric and curtains. Marimekko's years in the sun were the 1950s through the '70s, but the cheery, splashy prints—especially one signature red and pink poppy design—are recognizable anywhere. Constructed from 100 percent cotton, the fabrics make you feel 100 percent wrapped in Scandinavian nature. The Gatehouse also features th handiwork of kindred designers: floaty blue ca tan-like dresses; finely meshed, high-quali dresses; and some jackets that are works of ar The Gatehouse is also filled with American co temporary crafts and furniture. Patrick Plourd furniture uses metal scraps and old pieces wood to form singular new tables and more (t store also sells his sculptures). And, evoking t spirit of patriotism, tables are designed with faded flag. Abstract birds, meanwhile, are ma of glass and ceramics. And two designers off enormous, lolling baskets that look like bir nests or silvery spun sugar.

FAMILY PICTURES

Marjorie Nichols photographs weddings, children and families. For $1,350 you get three consultations, a sitting and six prints from different negatives. Call 617-776-6320 or visit www.marjorienichols.com.



Maybe you've seen Marjorie Nichols' gently haunting black-and-white photographs at the Cambridge Trust. Her Nikon focuses mainly on family life and its quotidian, incidental relationships. "I like to capture life on film like a documentary," she says. And while many of her pictures are portraits (three sisters sitting on a tree trunk, for instance), there's usually a strong element of easy, candidly captured flow. One Nichols shot shows expressive summertime siblings at an outdoor table at the Cape, gesturing avidly toward somethi behind the viewer. Another—tilted slightly upward, suggesting the curvy perspective of sand a sea—captures the vacation dailiness of mother, father, baby and dog at a beach. In another, a br and her mother-in-law, shown arm-in-arm from behind, are encompassed by posthurrica weather that interestingly swirls the train of the bride's dress sideways. Nichols is working o sibling series, and her pictures are full of the inborn intimacy of such duos; indeed, intimacy is over her pictures. A slight graininess and shades of *Life* magazine's photography infuse all of th photographs. Some families have been photographed over years and decades by Nichols, creatin comforting continuity.

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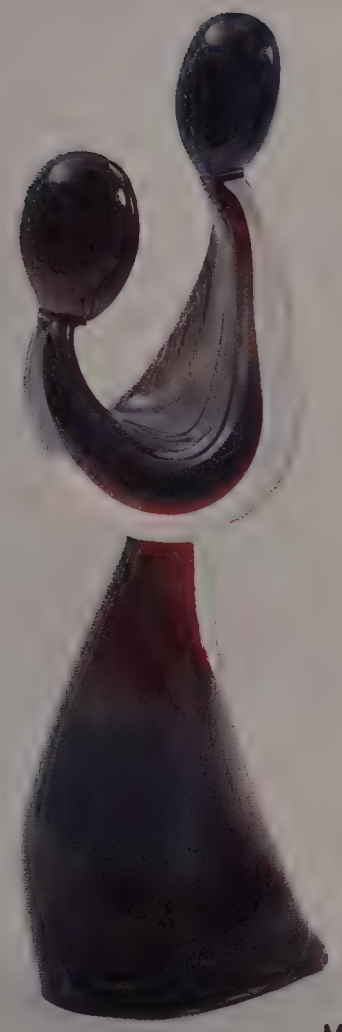

Murano Glass Sculpture
by Dino Rosin

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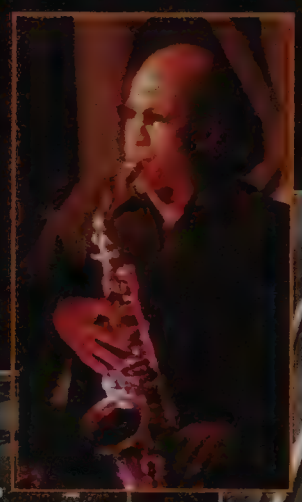

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REVIEW

A NOBLE UNDERTAKING

Chef Daniel Bruce's new restaurant, Meritage, pairs gourmet cuisine and wine with extraordinary results

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

I have long been guided by the axiom, "you can't eat the view." Years of travel and dining have reinforced the conclusion that the quality of food in a restaurant is often inversely related to the charm of the view from its windows. Meritage, the Boston Harbor Hotel's smart new emporium of fine food and drink, is a clear exception to that rule.

The view from Meritage's large, southern exposed windows, sweeping from Rowes Wharf Marina below to the imposing façade of the U.S. Courthouse across the channel, coexists with superb food efficiently and graciously served in a dining room that is elegant and urbane, yet fresh. Once the food started coming from the kitchen, however, the elegance of the design and decor and the charm of the view seemed beside the point, as all of our senses were engaged by the steady stream of imaginatively conceived and professionally executed treats laid before us.

Meritage's menu offers 24 dinner choices and five multifaceted dessert selections. Rather than dividing its principal dishes into appetizers and main courses, Meritage offers all 24 as large plates ($29) or small plates ($15), with the small plates half the size of the large ones. This clever approach to constructing a menu provides the option of dining conventionally, with a small plate as an appetizer and a large plate as a main course; or "grazing" on an assortment of small plates; or constructing an exciting tasting menu. Meritage's menu divides its large and small plates into six categories matched with wine types.

Right out of the box chef Daniel Bruce seized my attention, with an extraordinarily flavorful yet delicate *amuse gueule* of fennel cream and parsley oil, served in a tiny, handleless demitasse cup. Some time after we placed our orders a second amuse gueule appeared, accompanied by an explanation and apology that our first courses had been delayed. So exquisite was this gesture of apology—a pristine tartare of raw tuna served in a thin slice of fresh cucumber rolled into a cylinder and garnished with drops of intensely flavored red wine sauce—that I would have been thrilled to encounter such delays all night long.

That thought did not last long, however, once the spectacular dishes we ordered began their triumphal parade from the kitchen. Crispy sweetbreads, served over caramelized fennel with tarragon butter, made new converts to this esoteric dish, the sweet butter and mild licorice hints of the tarragon enhancing this outstanding offering. Poached halibut in a double fish consommé combined the good, firm flesh of this fish with a refined, aromatic, vegetable-infused broth. A tiny, crisp rice cake described on the menu as "wispy" completed this nuanced ensemble.

Pan-seared red grouper with wild asparagus and zucchini paired this soft-textured fish with vegetables cooked to just the right degree of al dente crunch, in a buttery reduction of the cooking juices and sauvignon blanc wine. Stuffed roast rabbit with oven-dried peppers, pea shoots and cipollini onions took the form of a diminutive galantine of white and dark rabbit meat rolled around a stuffing of sweet green peas and then sliced, the dark and light flesh giving it a marbled appearance, with the peas, onions, and gently roasted red pepper contributing different levels of sweetness. Since Georges Bank off the New England coast was reopened to scallopers, large succulent sea scallops have become a staple of supermarkets and restaurants alike. At Meritage these mammoth mollusks were grilled to a perfect, velvety texture.

Chef Daniel Bruce's menu suggests wine pairings with every entrée.

MERITAGE

Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-3995)

HOURS Tue.-Thu., 5:30-10 pm; Fri.-Sat., 5:30-11 pm; Sun., 10:30 am-2 pm

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING complimentary valet

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

Blackberry-glazed wild Pacific salmo captivated us, as did its garnish of Vermon fiddleheads—the tender, pleasantly bitte spiral-shaped ferns that bring out scores foragers for just a few weeks each spring— and tiny purple turnips. The texture of th salmon was firmer than farm-raise salmon, and the blackberry and Shira demiglaze stood up well to its rich flavo Cumin- and cilantro-roasted rack of lam with fava beans and Sardinian couscou was grouped with the salmon as a selectio to be enjoyed with fruity red wine. While took issue with this pairing—the lamb be longed with a robust red—I took no issu at all with the two magnificent chop cooked rare as ordered, and the superb ac companiment of large-grained couscou and hearty fava beans served in a smal well-constructed pastry shell.

One of the most exquisite offerings o Meritage's menu turned out to be th stuffed Sonoma squab, served on a ragou of chanterelles and nuggets of bacon. Th Vidalia onion–and–herb stuffing proved felicitous merger of sweet and savory, whil the delicate, woodsy chanterelles an smoky bacon created a multidimensiona dish with engagingly varied textures an sweet, salty and smoky flavors.

Meritage will charm beefeaters with i charcoal-grilled filet mignon. Accompanie by creamy spring garli French beans an whipped potatoes, thi steak rivaled the bes offering from any of th tony steakhouses tha dot the Boston land scape. The purée mild, young garlic wa sufficiently subdued t avoid upstaging th mild flavor of beef s tender it virtuall melted in our mouth An alternative to bee but equally appealin to carnivores, was th ostrich filet, crusted with cocoa and ca damom and served with a tangy, slightl sweet black currant sauce and cream Yukon potatoes. The most controversial the dozen dishes that our gang of six sam pled was the barbecued veal loin ove

The dining room at Meritage overlooks Boston Harbor.

rilled baby vegetable and fresh herb
atatouille. The resilient texture of
ne veal bordered on tough, an in-
vitable result of its lack of marbling
nd charcoal-grilled preparation, but
ne flavor imparted by the charcoal
ompensated for the toughness.
here was no dispute about the won-
erful array of baby vegetables that
companied the veal: a melange of
nall, sweet red peppers, baby egg-
ants, and green and yellow squash.

The ratatouille served with Mer-
age's veal offering illustrated one
f the superb characteristics of
aniel Bruce's cuisine: the promi-
ence played by vegetables and the
ellar way in which they are pre-
ared and presented. Bruce's
tchen amazed us with the fresh,
vely tastes and textures of his veg-
able garnishes, from the tiny egg-
ant and miniature red pepper
ith the veal, to the pleasantly bit-
r Swiss chard with the ostrich,
nd the morels and Oregon ramps
mall leeks) with the scallops. An-
her strength of his kitchen was
esentation. Not a dish emerged
om the kitchen that lacked pic-
re-perfect eye appeal.

After feasting on fully half of
eritage's 24 principal dish offerings, we
uld have left and been perfectly happy to
rgo dessert. Dutifully, however, we or-
ered four of the five trios of desserts on
eritage's menu. Each of the trios was
ranged around a theme: citrus, white
uit, red fruit, chocolate and nut; and each
as priced at $11. It would be impossible
choose a winner from this array, but for
nocoholics, the pot au crème and the bit-
rsweet chocolate tower—a dark choco-
te cylinder filled with light chocolate
ousse—stood out.

Meritage's wine list was admirable, rang-
g in price from the $21 Borgo Magredo,
not grigio from Friuli, Italy's northeast-
n province, a delightful accompaniment
the seafood and lighter dishes, to the
ore full-bodied 1999 Benziger cabernet
uvignon ($35), which went particularly
ell with the lamb, beef and ostrich.

If Meritage's exquisite food were served
a barn, it would still merit a journey.

Black and white shrimp cannelloni with saffron cream and sautéed spinach

Wood-grilled quail with green chickpeas and shredded baby artichokes

But the space is a match for its gorgeous waterfront setting. The dining room is anchored at one end by a bar with 12 stools, art deco cranberry glass light fixtures overhead, and a couple of upholstered chairs that would make waiting for one's table a treat rather than a trial. Throughout the restaurant, space-age, stainless steel hanging light fixtures provide soft illumination. Upholstered walls coffered with black woodwork are hung with modern art in black frames replicating the coffering. Well-spaced black granite tables are set with Frette linens, small candles in handsome silver-plated shades, silver butter dishes with diminutive silver cloches, and refined stemware and tableware—replenished with incredible frequency. Legions of energetic, attentive servers were equal to the task of serving six dishes at a table simultaneously. Grace and smiles abounded. Meritage has taken the Boston dining scene by storm. iB

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SHORT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Barbecue Mondays
Rouge, 480 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon., 5:30-10 pm. $19.95. Chef **Andy Husbands** invites barbecue lovers to help celebrate the arrival of his new Backwoods Smoker with an all-you-can-eat barbecue feast.

Basic Skills:
You Gotta Start Somewhere
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Aug. 16, 11 am-2:30 pm. $125. Chef de cuisine **Brian Reimer** takes participants through the kitchen basics: how to use a knife properly, how to slow-roast and how to sauté for best results.

Belly Dancing Brunch
Argana, 1287 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-868-1247). Aug. 24, 11:30 am. $20. Enjoy a brunch with Moroccan specialties and then learn belly dancing from Lily Filip. Afterward, it's an open belly dancing party.

Bermuda Tea
The Edwardian Tea Room, 1332 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-648-6508). Aug. 17, 12-6 pm. $25. Enjoy an indoor lawn party with a tea buffet and tabletop games.

Boston Restaurant Week
(800-SEE-BOSTON). www.bostonusa.com/restaurantweek. *Aug. 18-22. $20.03 (lunch); $30.03 (dinner).* More than 75 participating restaurants offer special prix fixe meals.

Corn and Tomato Festival
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). Aug. 16 and 17, 12-4 pm. Taste more than 30 varieties of tomatoes and eight varieties of corn while enjoying live music.

Fisherman's Feast
Fleet and Lewis Streets, North End, Boston. www.fishermansfeast.com. Aug. 14-17. Free. The oldest continuous festival in the North End, the Fisherman's Feast features live entertainment, competitions and Italian food.

Guess the Grape
No. 9 Park, 9 Park St., Boston (617-742-9991). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mondays and Tuesdays. Participate in a blind taste test of wines from around the world chosen by wine director **Cat Silirie**. •Aug. 18 and 19, $25: Guess the Gilded Palate. Guess the wine and the sommelier who chose it.

Harbor Dinner Cruise
Mon Amour, World Trade Center, 164 Seaport Ave., Boston (617-242-7837). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Aug. 24 and 31, 6:15 pm. $49. Enjoy a sangria cocktail and an eight-course tapas dinner provided by Tasca Restaurant.

Honey Days
Dogwood Cafe, 3712 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-7997). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Aug. 21-23, 5-10 pm. $35. This five-course meal features honey from chef **Mike Graney**'s hives, herbs from the Leland Garden and other local ingredients. Proceeds support the Leland Community Garden.

Irish Whiskey Tasting
Mr. Dooley's, 77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). Aug. 21, 5 pm. **Tom Kelly**, the self-pro claimed "Irish whiskey ambassador" hosts whiskey tasting.

Margaritas & Massages
Cactus Club, 939 Boylston St., Boston (617-236-0200). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Aug 13, 6-8 pm. Donations accepted. Representative from Giuliano Day Spa offer massages, hairstylin makeup consultations and manicures to benef the Silent Spring Institute, a nonprofit organiza tion that researches the links between enviror mental factors and women's health problems.

Picnic Basket Auction
Our Lady of the Cedar Church, 61 Rockwood St Jamaica Plain (617-522-0640). www.arcenci daycare.com. *Aug. 13, 5 pm.* Local restauran donate picnic baskets for this silent auction. A proceeds go toward providing free day care f families in need.

The Soul of Wine
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 41 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Au 13, 6:30-9 pm. $50. After a tour focused on th process of growing grapes and making win guests will learn about the history of wine i America. **Darryl Settles** of Bob the Chef's w prepare food to accompany the wines.

Sunset Cruise
Meet at 75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Bost (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green Line to Par Wednesdays, 6:45 pm. Through Aug. 20. $4 Embark on a two-hour sunset cruise up th Charles River. After the cruise, enjoy a tw course dinner at 75 Chestnut.

Taste-Boston Event
Sage Restaurant, 69 Prince St., Boston (617-36 8142). www.taste-boston.com. *MBTA: Gre Line to Government Center. Aug. 26, 6:30 pm a 8:30 pm. $70.* Chef/owner **Anthony Susi** pr pares a four-course tasting menu paired with wir

Tuesday Night Wine Tastings
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-54 5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tu days, 6 and 8 pm. $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey F lon** discusses wine, and chef **Ian Just** prepar hors d'oeuvres. •Aug. 19: Amarone ($5 su charge) •Aug. 26: Southern Italy.

Wine Table
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-22 2175). Aug. 18. $85. Sommelier **David Ama** hosts a dinner with wine from Provence.

Chef Mike Graney of the Dogwood Cafe harvests honey from his own hives to prepare for Honey Days Aug. 21-23.

DISH

Schlow-Pitch Baseball

Chef aims over the plate…
Special deals aim for your wallet…

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

When he takes the mound at Fenway on Aug. 10 (it should have happened by the time you read this), **Michael Schlow** will be fulfilling his youthful dream of becoming a professional baseball player...sort of. He won't be clothed in the pinstripes of his beloved Yankees; he won't even wear a Yankees cap ("I'm smarter than that," he says).

He will, however, throw out the first pitch at that day's Red Sox game against the Baltimore Orioles. Will Schlow, the chef/owner of hot spots **Radius** and **Via Matta**, be tempted to throw a heater?

"I'll be lucky not to throw it over the catcher's head," he says, laughing, a few weeks before the game. "All I want to do is get it over the plate. I'm not throwing any heat, I'm not brushing anyone back."

Chef Michael Schlow throws out the first pitch at the Red Sox game against the Baltimore Orioles.

Schlow's moment in the Fenway spotlight is a gift from a Via Matta regular, unceremoniously presented in a brown paper bag that also included a shrink-wrapped stack of World Series Heroes baseball cards with a Michael Schlow card tucked in. "It's the best gift I ever received," he says. "For me, it's a very big deal. I get to keep the baseball."

And although he's a stalwart Yankees fan, he assures us he always roots for the Sox when they're not playing against baseball's evil empire.

SECOND COURSE

Simplify, simplify: **Centro** owner **Brian O'Neill** has hired chef Ben Nathan, most recently of **The Fireplace** in Brookline, to streamline the Cambridge eatery's menu of rustic Italian fare and scale back the prices. New summer dishes include mission figs with gorgonzola and sweet onion jam; grilled pork chop with sweet and sour peaches, crispy potato cake, and lavender mascarpone; and homemade blueberry gelato.

Chef of the first water: **Todd Winer**, formerly the Olive Group's *floating* corporate chef, has been promoted to the position of executive chef at **Kingfish Hall**. Winer, who helped **Todd English** open the Tokyo Dives, also trained under such renowned chefs as Charlie Palmer and Bobby Flay.

Table scraps: Curious about Greek wine? Order a bottle with your meal at **Paolo's Trattoria** in Charlestown and receive your choice of a free appetizer or dessert. No limits here; this offer is available every night, from now until chef/co-owner **Paul Delios** opens the upscale **Meze Estiatorio** in Charlestown's City Square in September. More good deals: **Tasca Restaurant** in Brighton is continuing to offer a Sunday prix-fixe menu at just $21.95 that includes a choice of five appetizers and five main courses, including New Zealand roasted rack and leg of lamb. Also on Sundays through Labor Day, you can order any bottle of wine for half price at Cambridge's **Craigie Street Bistrot**. Plus, chef/owner **Tony Maws** is offering a three-course Chef's Choice dinner on Sundays for only $24.95. Openings: **Masala Art** in Needham Center should be open by the time you read this; **Sweet Tomatoes Pizza** is working on opening a new restaurant in West Newton, in the space formerly occupied by **Ben's Coffee House**; **Bravo** will open in September at the Museum of Fine Arts. iB

Serving Dish

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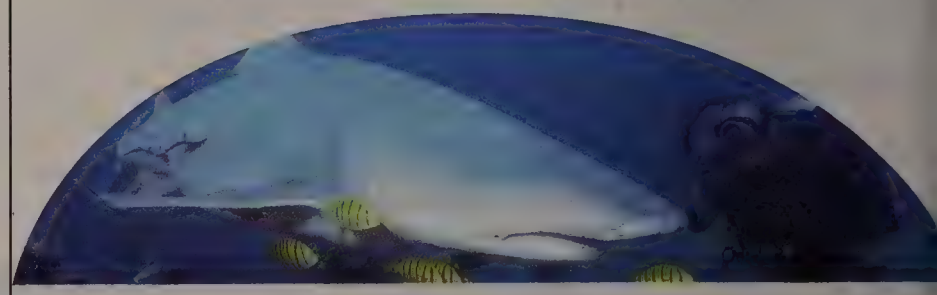

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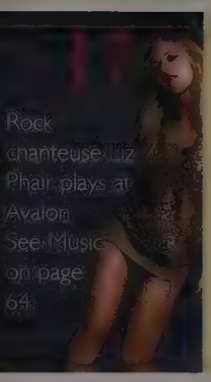
agenda

MPROPER PICKS

august 13 – 26

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26				



Rock chanteuse Liz Phair plays at Avalon. See Music on page 64.

Vietnamese spiritual teacher Thich Nhat Hanh gives a free reading at the Boston Public Library. See Books on page 84.

The Counting Crows and John Mayer play a double-bill at the Tweeter Center. See Music on page 68.

Tori Amos and Ben Folds perform at the FleetBoston Pavilion. See Music on page 64.

TORI AMOS: KURT MARKUS; LIZ PHAIR: PHIL POYNTER

MONDAYS IN AUGUST

Movies: Katharine the Great

When **Katharine Hepburn** died in June, her legions of fans were heartbroken. But the actress lives on in her more than 50 films, and the Coolidge Corner Theatre is helping to keep them in the spotlight with a tribute series that takes place Mondays at 7:30 pm in August. On Aug. 18 *Woman of the Year*, George Stevens' 1942 comic romance in which Hepburn first teamed up with Spencer Tracy, screens. Tracy plays an opinionated New York sportswriter and Hepburn a sassy newspaper columnist; the two wage war but eventually fall in love. Next up Aug. 25 is *Suddenly, Last Summer*, the way-ahead-of-its-time 1959 film costarring Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, Montgomery Clift and Albert Dekker. (Hepburn and Taylor were both nominated for Oscars.) This film, based on a Tennessee Williams play, has it all—high drama, homosexuality, insanity, murder, lobotomies and a touch of incest. *290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2500).* www.coolidge.org. $8.50.

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

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Around Town, Children, Comedy, Education, Theater

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

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ERIN

JULIE

THU./AUG. 21

CityScope: Rock This Town

Throw on your pegged-leg, acid-wash jeans; brush on some blue eye shadow; feather your hair and get ready to rock to tunes like "I Melt With You," "Tainted Love" and "Rebel Yell" aboard the Giving Inspiration for Tomorrow (GIFT) foundation's **Cruise Back to the '80s**. The Ohio-based cover band the Reaganomics performs hits by Men Without Hats, Duran Duran, Simple Minds, Robert Palmer and others to raise money for the foundation's endowment, which supports local and national charitable groups through a variety of fund-raising, volunteer and collaborative opportunities. The three-hour tour includes hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a silent auction. *Board at Long Wharf, Boston (866-468-7619).* www.thegiftfoundation.org. *6:30-10 pm. $35.*

From left, Phyllis Kaplowitz of Jacob Wirth, Gordon Hamersley of Hamersley's Bistro and Peter Davis of Henrietta's Table celebrate Restaurant Week.

MON./AUG. 18–FRI./AUG. 22

Tastings: The Pleasures of Prix-Fixe

You could make your own lunch for three weeks straight, cancel your gym membership for a month, or bypass Newbury Street on your way home from work in order to save up enough money for a big night out at the Federalist...or you could simply make reservations during **Restaurant Week**, when all dinners are $30.03 and lunches are $20.03. We vote for the last option. From Aug. 18-22, more than 75 restaurants will offer this prix-fixe option with hopes of luring in new diners. Among the other restaurants participating are Azure, No. 9 Park, Spire, Hamersley's Bistro, Pigalle and Via Matta. Visit *www.bostonusa.com/restaurantweek* for the complete list. *(888-SEE-BOSTON).*

THU./AUG. 14

CityScope: BYO Alpo

Calling all hounds, mutts, mongrels, pooches and puppies: It's officially your day at the Rack. This is the fourth year the Rack has hosted **Dog Day Afternoon**, an annual favorite that routinely draws in more than 100 dogs, their owners and heaps of onlookers. Those thinking of participating should keep this in mind: If you dress up your dog in creative attire, he or she can participate in the Doggie Fashion Show. Better yet, enter your star-quality pooch in the first-ever American Fido talent contest (a la *American Idol*). And don't forget the doggie/owner lookalike contest. Many prizes are up for grabs, including doggie lollipops, biscotti and cupcakes, all handed out by Cookie Monster. The event is sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and Star 93.7, whose Fast Freddy emcees. Proceeds benefit the World Society for the Protection of Animals and the MSPCA. *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). 6 pm.*

THU./AUG. 14–SUN./AUG. 17

CityScope: Blessing the Waters

If you're stuck in the city in mid-August, head to the North End to be transported to Sicily—if only for a few days. The annual **Fisherman's Feast**, which takes place Aug. 14-17, began in Boston in 1911, but the tradition dates back to the 16th century in Sciacca, Sicily, where fishermen paid homage to the Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help). It's quite a scene, with local men hefting a statue of the Madonna through the streets and the not-to-be-missed ceremonial Flight of the Angel, when a young girl bedecked in white is lowered over the crowd on a pulley. Add live entertainment and Italian food, and you're definitely not in Boston anymore, Toto. *Fleet and Lewis Streets, North End, Boston.* www.fishermansfeast.com. *Free.*

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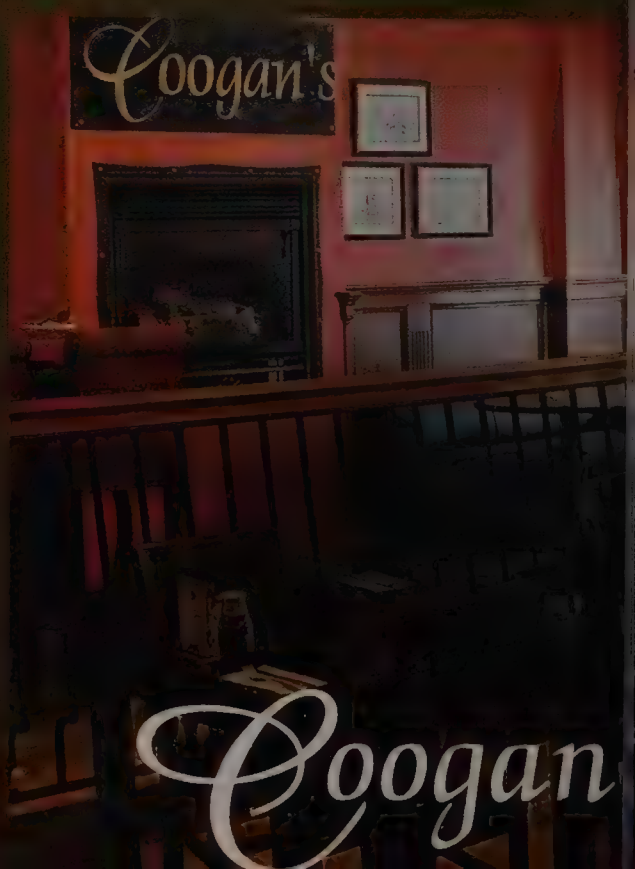

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cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13

Picnic Basket Auction
Arc En Ciel Day Care, 61 Rockwood St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0640). www.arcencieldaycare.com. *5 pm.* Bid on a picnic basket from a local restaurant containing dinner for four to six people to benefit the Arc En Ciel Day Care Center.

THURSDAY, AUG. 14

Boston Cityviews Fund-Raiser
Hyatt Harborside Hotel Logan Airport, 101 Harborside Drive, East Boston (617-561-1044). www.eastbostonmainstreets.com. *6:30-10 pm. $150.* Mayor Menino and Massachusetts State Senate president Robert Travaglini are the honorary chairs at this fund-raiser for several East Boston organizations. The night includes food, musical and comical entertainment, sailboat rides, games of chance, fortune-tellers and off-site child care.

Dog Day at the Rack
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). www.therackboston.com. *6 pm.* Dog Day is back at the Rack and dog owners are encouraged to bring their pooches for an evening out. The event features dog pools for lounging, an "American Fido" talent contest, a doggie fashion show and Cookie Monster handing out doggie treats. Proceeds benefit the World Society for the Protection of Animals and the MSPCA. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

93rd Annual Fisherman's Feast
North, Fleet and Lewis streets, North End, Boston (617-625-2140). www.fishermansfeast.com. *Through Aug. 17. Evening Thu.-Fri., afternoon and evening, Sat.-Sun.* This annual religious ceremony and street fair includes a procession of the Madonna del Soccorso to Waterfront Park for the blessing of the fishing waters, entertainment from Dominic Chianese (Uncle Junior from *The Sopranos*) on Thursday night and tenor Michael Amante Friday night, and plenty of music and food throughout the weekend.

FRIDAY, AUG. 15

Cape Cod Beach Trip and Party Bus Tour
Bayside Resort, 225 Main St., West Yarmouth (617-591-1400, ext. 5). www.bostonypa.com. *Bus leaves Boston at 6 pm. Through Aug. 17. $130-$305.* The Boston Young Professionals Association hosts this party trip to the Cape. The weekend includes two nights at the Bayside Resort Hotel, a welcome reception on Friday night, a three-course dinner on Saturday night followed by a bar tour on the Bustonian party bus, and transportation to and from the Cape on the Bustonian.

EMBA Tournament
Armenian Cultural Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown (781-438-1594). www.acblemba.org. *Through Aug. 17. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 1 and 7 pm; Sun., 11 am. $7.* The Eastern Mass. Bridge Association holds a sectional tournament with players competing at all levels for prizes.

Latin American Musical Festival
Mystic Mall, Everett Ave., Chelsea. Through Aug. 17. Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat., 2-11 pm; Sun., 2-10 pm. $1. This annual music festival features performances by Soda Stereo, Facundo Monti, Los Rollans, Cocaban and many others. Proceeds from admission benefit the Chelsea Summer Youth Jobs Program.

Saints Constantine and Helen Annual Hellenic Festival
Sts. Helen and Constantine Greek Orthodox Church, 14 Magazine St., Cambridge (617-876-3601). Fri.-Sat., 11 am-11 pm; Sun. 11 am-10 pm. The annual Hellenic Festival includes Greek food and homemade pastries, raffle prizes and live music every night.

SATURDAY, AUG. 16

Boston Antique and Classic Boat Festival
Hawthorne Cove Marina, 10 White St., Salem (617-666-8530). Sat., 12-5 pm; Sun., 11 am-3 pm. $5. Antique boats of many varieties sail, motor and steam into Salem for this annual festival. Prizes are awarded for best sailboat, powerboat and more. A grand parade of boats concludes the event on Sunday.

Education First Jam Fest
Cabbage Patch Field outside Melrose High School, Melrose (781-665-1528). 12-6 pm. $5. Education First raises money to help compensate for Melrose High School's budget cuts with a six-hour concert. Featured acts include the Dresden Dolls, Sugabomb, Ravin Klaim and Silence.

Island Rock 'n' Rugby Fest
Thompson Island, ferries leave from Long Wharf, Boston (617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. *10 am-8 pm. $10 ferry tickets.* The Boston Rugby Football Club hosts a day of rock music and rugby on Thompson Island. In addition to the music and a rugby tournament, there is a cash bar and barbecue concession stands. Proceeds benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Outward Bound Education Center for inner-city youth.

Saw Doctors Concert
Irish Cultural Centre of New England, 200 Boston Drive, Canton (781-821-8291). 8 pm. $25. Come see the Irish band the Saw Doctors on a date other than St. Patty's Day, and you might actually be able to get a ticket to the show.

MONDAY, AUG. 18

Boston Restaurant Week
Various restaurants around the city (888-733-2678). www.bostonusa.com. *Through Aug. 22. $20.03 lunches, $30.03 dinners.* Score a bargain meal while helping to fight hunger: More than 80 restaurants participate in this annual food fest, which helps support the Anthony Spinazzola Foundation's hunger-relief efforts.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20

HurryDate Event
House of Blues, 96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (212-871-6707). www.hurrydate.com. *6:30 pm. $35.* Singles ages 25-35 are invited to try to find their match by sitting down to 25 three-minute "dates" over the course of the evening.

THURSDAY, AUG. 21

Sea Revels Pub Sing
Jimmy's Harborside, 242 Northern Ave., Boston (617-972-8300, ext. 29). 6:30-9:30 pm. $12. RSVP by Aug. 15. Arr, matey. Hit the Harborside's waterfront deck and join the Revels for sea songs, chanteys and other summer sing-alongs. Ticket price includes hors d'oeuvres and a Sea Revels Pocket Pub Songbook. Cash bar. Instruments welcome.

Summer Nights, City Lights
New England Aquarium, Boston (617-563-4441) www.bostoncares.org. *6-10 pm. $35.* A wide variety of goodies are up for auction at this fund-raiser for Boston Cares, a volunteering organization. The evening also includes hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and music from the White Heat Swing Quartet.

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

Funkmaster Flex Celebrity Car Show
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mount Vernon St. (Columbia Point), Boston (800-477-6849). www.massconcerts.com. *2-10 pm. $30.* This car show features the pimped-out rides of celebrities like Cent, Ludacris, Nelly, DMX and local pro athl Along with the stars' cars there are appearance Lil' Kim, Joe Budden and others, as well as pl of customizers and their wares.

Medium's Day
Masonic Center, 32 Church St., Watertown (923-4334). 11 am-3 pm. $20 for readings; $1 students and seniors. Get a private psychic/s tual reading or visit the book sale at Medi Day. Proceeds benefit the Greater Boston Ch of Spiritualism.

SUNDAY, AUG. 24

Cambridge Carnival International
Central Square, Cambridge (617-661-0457). w folksites.com/cambridgecarnival. *12-7 pm. Free.* Cambridge Carnival International street festiva turns for its 11th year with a Mardi Gras–style pa live music and more than 200 vendors.

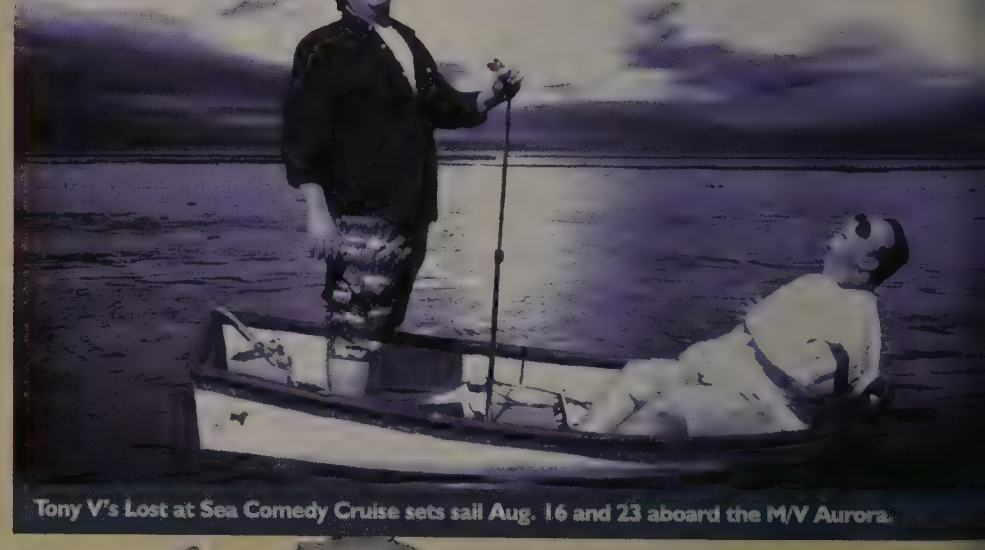
Honey Day
Leland St. Community Garden, 15 Leland St., Jam Plain (617-522-2902). 12-4 pm. Free. Meet local deners, taste some mead and buy local honey at open-garden day.

MONDAY, AUG. 25

Pitching in for Kids Kick-Off Party
Comedy Connection, Faneuil Hall Marketpl Boston (617-367-3322). 7 pm. $25. Red Sox p ers Tim Wakefield and Johnny Damon host benefit party for the Franciscan Hospital for C dren. The evening features live and silent tions, food and cocktails from the Capital G Grey Goose Vodka and Sam Adams, and pe mances from Boston comedians.

Cruise Control

See Boston from a new perspective on one of the summer's many party cruises around the harbor


Tony V's Lost at Sea Comedy Cruise sets sail Aug. 16 and 23 aboard the M/V Aurora.

FRIDAY, AUG. 15

Blues Cruise with Memphis Train
Mass Bay Lines, 60 Rowes Wharf, Boston. (617-542-8000) www.massbaylines.com. *8:30-11 pm. $20. 21+.* Tour the harbor and catch some live blues from Memphis Train. Live music cruise every Friday: Aug. 22 Bird Mancini takes the stage.

Kaplan English Programs International Party Cruise
The James Doherty, boarding at Long Wharf, Boston (617-722-4180, ext. 1) www.kaplaninternational.com. *7:30-11 pm. $10 in advance at Boston Kaplan Center (One Congress Street) or $20 at the boat. Bonjour! Ola! Ni hao!* Get a chance to exercise your multilingual abilities on this international harbor cruise, which features a DJ and dancing. Open to people 18 and over, with a cash bar for those ages 21 and over (with passport).

SATURDAY, AUG. 16

Hawaiian Romance Singles Dance and Harbor Cruise
Boarding at Gate C, Rowes Wharf, Boston (781-283-0400). www.se-4you.com. *Bon voyage party, 6-7:30 pm; cruise, 8-11 pm. $40.* Join 375 single professionals ages 30 and over for a dance and harbor cruise with salad, sandwiches, dessert and music by Bruno. Island or casual attire.

Tony V's Lost at Sea Comedy Cruise
M/V Aurora, One Long Wharf, Boston (800-697-2583) www.comedytheater.com. *8:30 pm. $28 in advance, $32 at the gangplank. Also Aug. 23.* Tony V hosts a waterborne comedy cruis featuring Chris Zito, DJ Hazard, Jimmy Dun and other comedians. Cash bar.

Bourbon Street meets Boston Harbor on the Rock the Boat Mardi Gras Cruise.

THURSDAY, AUG. 21

Cruise Back to the '80s
Boarding at Long Wharf, Boston (866-468-7619) www.thegiftfoundation.org. *6:30-10 pm. $3* Get in touch with your 1980s side on this ha bor cruise to benefit the Giving Inspiration fo Tomorrow (GIFT) foundation. The three-ho tour includes '80s music from the Reaganomic hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a silent auction

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

Rock the Boat Mardi Gras Cruise
Boarding at 290 Northern Ave., betwee Jimmy's Harborside and the Fleet Pavilio tent, Boston (781-444-7771). ww bostoneventguide.com. *8:30 pm 12 am. $25 by Aug. 21, $3 thereafter.* The annu Mardi Gras cruise shov off with a DJ, top-de outdoor dancing a hors-d'oeuvres. A pos cruise party follo disembarkment.

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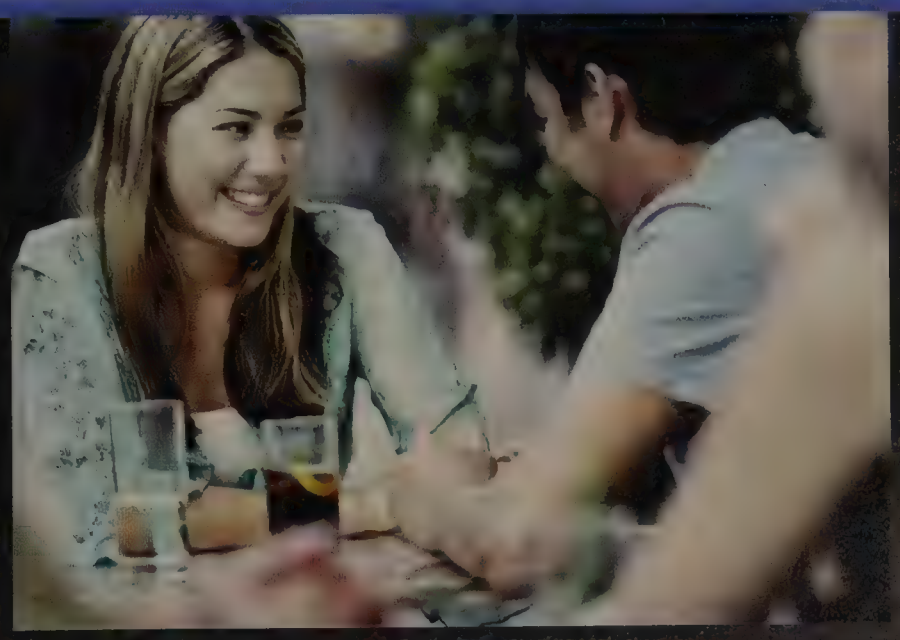

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

I Hate Hamlet
Bennett Library, 3 Concord Road, Billerica Center (978-667-0550). www.atlantisplaymakers.com. *Mon. and Tue., 8 pm. Aug. 14-22.* This play by Paul Rudnick tells the story of a failing television actor who is haunted by John Barrymore when he relocates to New York and takes on the role of Hamlet.

Off-Season
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). www.gloucesterstage.com. *Wed.- Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5pm. Through Aug. 24.* $30. Tom Caruso directs this duet by renowned playwrights Terence McNally and Israel Horovitz. McNally's play takes place during a summer in Key West, Fla., and Horowitz's in the middle of winter in Gloucester, Mass.

Othello
The Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). www.swanstage.com. *Mon.-Thu., 8 pm. Aug. 14-24.* Courtney O'Connor directs William Shakespeare's classic tragedy about a man driven to jealousy and violence through the machinations of his calculating friend, Iago.

Pacific Overtures
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., Thu., Fri., 8 pm; Wed., Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Aug. 26-Sept. 14. $16.25-$47.25.* This musical about the clash of cultures following Japan's first contact with America combines the music of composer Stephen Sondheim with the ancient Japanese arts of Kabuki theater, haiku, dance and masks.

Twelfth Night plays outdoors at the Publick Theatre on the banks of the Charles River, through Sept. 14.

NOW RUNNING

Bankside Festival
Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 31. Free.* This outdoor festival offers a variety of entertainment, including romps through Shakespeare's most famous scenes, musical interludes, slapstick comedies and swordfights. •*A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Thu., 6 pm; Sat., 10 am and 6 pm. The youth of Athens and a troupe of laborers enter the fairy kingdom and are transformed by magic and mischief into their truest selves. •*Shakespeare and the Language that Shaped a World*: Wed., 6 pm; Sun., 10 am and 6 pm. This fast-paced performance provides historical and thematic contexts for selected Shakespearean scenes, which are presented with more modern language.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This multimedia production abandons all verbal dialogue and instead focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

The Chekhov One-Acts
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 31. Tue.-Sun., 2 pm. $27-$38.* Shakespeare & Company presents a quadruplet of Anton Chekhov's one-acts, his popular comic sketches of the late 19th century, including *The Celebration*, *Swan Song*, *The Harmfulness of Tobacco* and *The Brute*.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through August 31. $10-$30.* Playwrights Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield squeeze all of Shakespeare's 37 plays into just two hours. Witness the madness of "Shakespeare without borders."

Fly-Bottle
Spring Lawn Theater, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 24. $27-$42.* David Egan's play examines the famed "poker incident" between renowned philosophers Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popper at the Moral Science Club in England in October 1946. The two are said to have engaged in a heated exchange that culminated in Wittgenstein gesturing with (some say brandishing) a poker that hung by the fireplace.

The Great Gorgonzola & His New Assistant
Actors Workshop, 327 Summer St., Studio 4, Boston (617-931-2000). Fri.-Mon., 7 pm. Ongoing. $27. In this black comedy written and performed by Donato Colucci, the Great Gorgonzola is a has-been magician, plagued by his spotlight-hungry, incompetent assistant. He loses his mind during a performance, and only authentic supernatural powers and his dark past can save his show.

Jewbano
Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater, East Commercial Street, Wellfleet (508-349-6835). www.what.org. *Mon. and Tue., 8 pm. Through Aug. 26.* Frank Speiser stars in this one-man autobiographical sh that mirrors a stand-up routine.

King Lear
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). w shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 30.* Shakespear Company presents this tale of an ailing king wh betrayed by his two eldest daughters.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Riverside Pa 1400 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-782-54 www.publicktheatre.org. *MBTA: Red Line to H vard. Every other week, through Aug. 31. We Thu., and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $* The Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's c edy about four lovers, a fairy queen and an ass.

Much Ado About Nothing
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 K ble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespe org. *Through August 31. $27-$38.* Shakespea classic comedic tale of feuding lovers Beatrice Benedict involves passion, deception, honor revenge in Messina, Italy.

Oklahoma!
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., New (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *Thu.-Sat pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Aug. 17. $15-$21.* T show is set in Indian territory at the turn of the c tury, when cattlemen and farmers were fighting fences and water rights. Add a few love trian and you've got this musical by Richard Rodgers Oscar Hammerstein II.

The Producers
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Bo (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boyls Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Exter through Sept. 13. $87-$97. Mel Brooks' mus that swept the 2001 Tony Awards, winning most awards in Broadway history, comes Boston, starring Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor.

Romantique
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., C bridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Line to Harvard. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Thr Aug. 17. $25-$45.* Combining Eugène Delacr emotional art, George Sand's revealing stories Frédéric Chopin's greatest music, this play by shey Felder illuminates a dramatic moment in t artists' lives when their paths cross one evenin the Paris countryside.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (6 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. T Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whoduni in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Bost longest-running play.

Twelfth Night
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Park, 1175 Sol Field Road, Brighton (617-332-0546). www.pub theatre.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. W Thu. and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8*

August 29 – August 31

Tanglewood Jazz Festival 2003

AUGUST 29 FRIDAY

Ozawa Hall, 8pm
Gato Barbieri
Michel Camilo Trio
Jonathan "Juanito" Pascual
$57, $42, and $31, lawn $20

GATO BARBIERI

AUGUST 30 SATURDAY

Ozawa Hall, 3pm
Marian McPartland's
Piano Jazz with Special Guest **Norah Jones**
$43, $36, and $29, lawn $15

MARION MCPARTLAND & NORAH JONES

SHIRLEY HORN

Ozawa Hall, 8pm
Shirley Horn and her Trio
Kenny Barron & **Canta Brazil** with **Trio da Paz**
$57, $42, and $31, lawn $20

AUGUST 31 SUNDAY

Theatre, 1pm
Remembering the Modern Jazz Quartet:
Donal Fox, Inventions in Blue
$15

DONAL FOX

JAY MCSHANN

Ozawa Hall, 3pm
Celebrating the Year of the Blues!
Jay McShann, piano & **The Duke Robillard Band**
Louisiana Red, solo blues guitar/vocals
The Nicole Nelson Band
Kendrick Oliver & The New Life Jazz Orchestra
$43, $36, and $29, lawn $15

Shed, 8pm
Natalie Cole
The Wynton Marsalis Septet
Hiromi
$75, $60, $45, and $30, lawn $20

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rough Sept. 14. $30. Enjoy an evening outdoors ng the Charles River as the Publick Theatre sents Shakespeare's romantic comedy featuring hipwreck, a case of mistaken identity, gender fusion and other complexities.

ta and Virginia
ing Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 nble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.kespeare.org. Through Aug. 31. Eileen Atkins' play is adaptation of the correspondence between Virginia olf and her lover, Vita Sackville-West. Through r letters, the two writers draw a connection between onventional love and creative inspiration.

ance

ram Khan Dance Company
b's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. Thu. and Fri, 5 pm; Sat., 2:15 and 8:15 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Aug. 17. $20. The U.S. premiere of *Kaash* (Hindi for) features Khan and his dancers, an original re by Nitin Sawhney and set design by artist ish Kapoor.

mpagnie Felix Rückert
b's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. Thu. and Fri., 8:15 Sat., 2:15 and 8:15 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Aug. 21-24. . *Deluxe Joy Pilot*, a multimedia performance by x Rückert's company, features techno music and a n which the dancers interact with audience mem- according to where they sit.

ephen Petronio Company
b's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, Becket (413-0745). www.jacobspillow.org. Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; , 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Aug. 13-17. $40. ronio combines the latest trends in new music, al art and fashion in his athletic yet sensual reography. The program features *City of Twist*, a k about the rhythm and soul of New York City, an original score by Laurie Anderson.

omp
rt Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: Green to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and m; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. -$55. In its ongoing run in Boston, this percus- hit continues its tradition of no plot or dia- ue. Performers use everyday objects such as oms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create ic for their dance numbers.

omedy

vice to Contributors
nit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calen- Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. lline is four weeks prior to publication.

AND-UP CLUBS

antown Comedy Vault
ington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-5). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., n. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at ington's features local stand-up comedians. days and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

medy Connection
Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Ro- a, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedy nectionboston.com. MBTA: Green or Blue Line overnment Center; Green or Orange Line to Hay- et. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 8:30 pm; Fri. and 8 pm, 10:15 pm; Sun., 7 pm. The oldest com- club in Boston draws nationally known comedi- n weekends and showcases up-and-coming l talent during the week. •Aug. 14, Frank Santos, the R-Rated notist •Aug. 15, 8 and 10pm, Kevin Meaney of *Make Me h* •Aug. 16, $25: Kevin iney •Aug. 17, $12: Jim etta and Greg Rodrigues g. 18, $12: Amateur wcase hosted by Kevin x •Aug. 19, $12: Paul lizzi and Robbie Printz g. 20, $12: Harrison bins •Aug. 21, $12: k Santos, the R-Rated notist •Aug. 23, 12 am, Bruce Bruce of *Comic* •Aug. 24, 7 and 9:30 $22.50: Bruce Bruce g. 25, $12: Amateur wcase •Aug. 26, $12: ison Stebbins.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Aug. 13: Tony V, Kelly McFarland, Patrice Vinci and Maz Silvestri •Aug. 14: Tim McIntire, Christine Herman and Hugh Chatfield •Aug. 15: Chris Walsh, Larry Murphy, Katie Grady and Greg Johnson •Aug. 16: Katie Grady, Greg Johnson and Rick Jenkins •Aug. 17: Sacrificing Virgins. First-time comedians are supported by professionals TJ Griffin, Sandy Asai and Steve Calechman. •Aug. 20: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Patrice Vinci and Maz Silvestri •Aug. 21: a benefit for the fight against Alzheimer's disease, starring Tom Morello •Aug. 22 and 23: The Circus Pigs, Corey Manning and Rick Jenkins •Aug. 24: Sam Walters, Rob Reuter, Amanda White, Coleen Galvin, Michael Herman, Greg Johnson, Chris Hamman and Dave Thompson.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Aug. 15 and 16: Tony V •Aug. 22 and 23: Paul Nardizzi.

IMPROV COMEDY

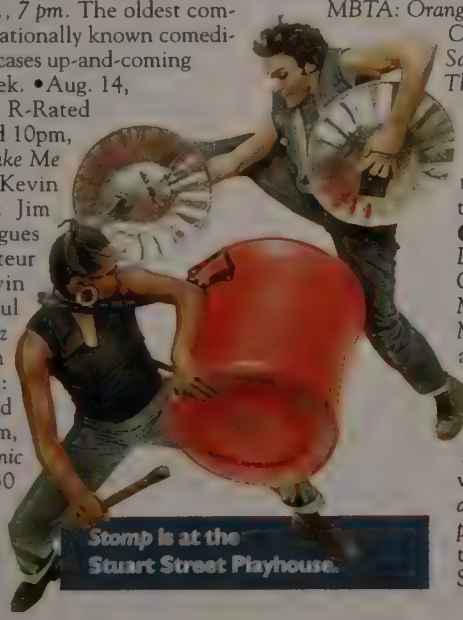
Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA:Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available. Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed. and Thu., $15, and Fri. and Sat., $20: Improv Asylum comedians present their summer main-stage show, *The Brand Ambition Tour*. •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv Jam featuring main-stage performers and special guests.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump*. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $12: *Micetro*; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show*. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Agent Spy*. Leave your cell phone on to help a secret agency uncover the truth in this thriller complete with chase scenes, romance and backstabbing; 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports*. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show*; 8 and 10 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage*. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree* features visiting troupes and combines three shows in one.

COMEDY SHOWS

Blue Hair Troupe
Tremont Playhouse, Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). www.bluehairtroupe.com. MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Thu., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3pm and 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Through Aug. 24. $25 and $30. Visit the Rula Lenska Senior Center for the Performing Arts, where retirees put on their dance shoes and strut their stuff.



Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8 pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. First and third Sunday of the month. 8 pm. Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike with host Stash.

DJ Littles with Police Academy's Michael Winslow.

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Thursday, August 14th, 6pm

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THE RACK

Out of the Money

Seabiscuit result: The book was better

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Seabiscuit was the odds-on favorite to bring class to the crass summer movie season. But this sure winner disappoints. Granted, Gary (*Pleasantville*) Ross' adaptation of Laura Hillenbrand's unforgettable book steers clear of most Hollywood gimmickry, and its blend of character and history aims higher than most movies. But if you've read Hillenbrand's best-seller about the up-and-down ride of the legendary 1930s racehorse, you'll probably leave the movie unsatisfied.

Seabiscuit tells the story of the thoroughbred that—like jockey Red Pollard (Tobey Maguire), trainer Tom Smith (Chris Cooper) and owner Charles Howard (Jeff Bridges)—took advantage of a second chance in life to excel. But instead of the lush human drama that the book rolled out, the movie serves up an uplifting sports story in the *Rocky* and *Rudy* tradition, designed to send ticket buyers out with a smile.

In *Seabiscuit*, Tobey Maguire plays the jockey Red Pollard, who gets a new lease on life

Ross struggles with the telling of that story and makes several questionable choices along the way. As the book did, *Seabiscuit* takes the time to supply background details on its three human characters, and though their lives climaxed in the late 1930s and early 1940s, the movie starts 30 years earlier. At the time, Howard is a bicycle repairman who starts selling Buicks and makes his fortune (with shades of Bridges' forward-thinking title character in *Tucker*), and Smith is a mustang breaker out west who is becoming obsolete. A little while later, the action picks up Pollard, a well-read youth whose family lands in a shantytown when the depression hits.

Howard bottoms out after his young son dies and his first marriage ends. Smith kicks around racetracks with little to do but heal broken-down nags others have given up on. And Pollard, with a gift for riding, is nudged out the door by his struggling family, yet can't make a better living on his own as a jockey.

Cut-ins narrated by historian (and frequent PBS host) David McCullough, consisting of Ken Burns–style montages of black-and-white still photos, pepper the first hour of *Seabiscuit*—and here's where the movie starts stumbling. The more they occur, the more unnecessary these cut-ins are. Do we really need narration to tell us betting on the ponies is "the chance to turn bad luck into good"? After the historical background about western migration, industrialization and the depression are established, the movie's fictionalized drama needs to take over, but Ross won't let it.

The problem only gets worse when *Seabiscuit* changes narrators halfway through. That's after Howard and second wife Marcela (Elizabeth Banks) decide to dabble in racehorses. They hire Smith, who grabs underachieving Seabiscuit for a small claiming fee, and get Pollard to ride the habitual loser. After a period of mainly psychological rehab, they turn Seabiscuit into a winner and fan favorite, which brings hammy radio announcer Tick Tock McGlaughlin (William H. Macy) into the story. His over-the-top (though amusing) broadcasts on Seabiscuit's career are the new "narration." (Tick Tock is the main fictional addition to the story, although in the movie's streamlining, the considerable role of Suffolk Downs has been lost.)

It's as if Ross couldn't decide whether he was making a socioeconomic docudrama (the McCullough version) or an entertaining lark (the Tick Tock version), so he switches from one to the other with the finesse of a 10-ton Mack truck. Screech. And the movie ends up being neither.

The schizo narration dilemma is just one example of how the movie struggles to externalize its themes about second chances and about how late bloomer Seabiscuit became a folk hero for a depression-walloped nation that, like the horse, was looking for an opportunity to succeed. When Smith tells Howard early on that "you don't throw a whole life away because he's banged up a little," in reference to a horse, it's an obvious metaphor for the story's human characters. But *Seabiscuit* hammers this line in, with Howard reprising it to Smith in reference to injury-prone Pollard. Later, the otherwise splendid climax nearly ruins itself with a Pollard voice-over about how Seabiscuit "fixed" the human characters, not vice versa. Yes, we get it!

If Ross had given his script one more pass, made a firmer decision about the movie's tone and put more faith in visual storytelling, *Seabiscuit* might have been a winner. But, like *A Civil Action* and *The Perfect Storm*, it's another unremarkable movie that doesn't measure up to its remarkable nonfiction source. IB

Seabiscuit ★★

Written and directed by Gary Ross. Based on the book by Laura Hillenbrand. With Jeff Bridges, Chris Cooper, Tobey Maguire, Elizabeth Banks, Gary Stevens and William H. Macy. Rated PG-13. Universal Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Buffalo Soldiers ★★★
What's a bored soldier in a peacetime army suppl battalion, with sales skills and dreams of ill-gotte gains, to do? Con, con, con. That's exactly wh Joaquin Phoenix's antihero does in this story s within the U.S. Army in 1989 Germany. He tak advantage of his oblivious CO (Ed Harris), r mances his sergeant's frisky daughter (Anna Paqui and plots to trade a cache of stolen weapons f drugs. This military comedy often travels the sam path as *Catch-22* and TV's *Phil Silvers Show*, b Phoenix wreaks more havoc before 9:30 than mo of us do all day. (At Copley Place.)

Camp ★★
Actor turned writer and now director Todd Graff unconvincingly feel-good indie movie features gung ho teen cast playing the aspiring singer dancers and actors at Camp Ovation, a performi arts camp. There's some novelty in seeing talente teens play adults in fully staged production numbe of Sondheim or Bacharach-David songs (this is t *Terror of Tiny Town* of musicals). But the comed drama is such a superficial afterschool special, wi all its dilemmas miraculously resolved without fuss muss, that it has no emotional credibility. Despite the unrequited love, sexual dilemma and backsta bickering, it's a trifle. (At Kendall Square.)

Capturing the Friedmans ★★★★
Has a movie ever plunged the viewer into great moral ambiguity than Andrew Jarecki's documenta about the Friedman family of Great Neck, Long land? They splintered apart in the late 1980s, whe father Arnold and youngest son Jesse were accused molesting Arnold's computer students. On one han it's easy to see how the two Friedmans, and Arnold particular, might be guilty: He first got into troub for possessing child porn, and he confessed to havi improper relations with minors at other times in h life. On the other hand, the police's investigati and the testimony that investigators got from t kids are both very suspect. It's impossible to belie the Friedmans are totally in the wrong, or total right in their denials. You have to believe the truth somewhere in the middle. So is the movie a cautio ary tale about evil lurking beneath an everyday su urban surface or about the power of suggestion a the abuse of power? It's both. (At Copley Plac Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Dirty Pretty Things ★★★
For years, director Stephen Frears has been flitti back and forth between Hollywood movies like *Hi Fidelity* and smaller movies made in his native En land. This intimate drama, set in the subculture London's illegal-immigrant community, is his be "small movie" since the rowdy Roddy Doyle adapt tion, *The Van*. Chiwetel Ejiofer and Audrey Tau are sympathetic as two co-workers in a Lond hotel who are repeatedly taken advantage of bosses and immigration officials. Ejiofer, who play disgraced Nigerian doctor hanging on to his self- spect, is especially affecting, and although the pl gets more intricate than expected, Frears never sorts to sentimentality in getting the audience care for his heroes. (At Harvard Square.)

Johnny English ★★★
There's nothing very special about Rowan (*Bla Adder*, *Bean*) Atkinson's spy spoof. But even thou you can sometimes see the gags coming, and though the comedy of errors shares similar territo with Mike Myers' *Austin Powers* movies and Pe Sellers' Inspector Clouseau films, Atkinson is able make enough of the jokes work that the movie ra a mild recommendation. (At Boston Common, Fe way and suburbs.)

Secret Lives of Dentists ★★
The perils of modern masculinity are sometim amusing and provocative in this comedy abou dentist (Campbell Scott) who suspects his dent wife (Hope Davis) is having an affair. But take aw the laughs injected by Denis Leary, playing a cran patient who becomes an imaginary confidant of t husband, and there's not a whole lot left. Al Rudolph's movie is sluggish until Leary's sourp musician becomes a fantasy figure for the conflict husband, commenting on the dentist's demandi kids and egging him on to confront his wife. (Kendall Square.)

Shaolin Soccer ★★½
Hong Kong action-comedy star Stephen Chow (T *God of Cookery*) storms the multiplex with t dubbed version of one of his Asian hits. He play Bruce Lee–loving Shaolin kung fu disciple w gathers a soccer team made of his former martial a classmates and enters a tournament. The comedy an odd combination of lots of special effects and

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of vaudeville-style slapstick. To add to the oddity, sometimes it's cringingly unfunny, while other times it's clever, tongue-in-cheek and very funny. It's like a live-action cartoon, and the airborne soccer matches have little to do with the earthbound version the Revolution plays. Add that fact to the *Mighty Ducks*–like story and it's easy to see why this is being marketed to kids. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Spy Kids 3D: Game Over ★★

"Don't split up," pint-sized spy Juni Cortez (Daryl Sabara) yells at one point in the third *Spy Kids* movie, "It never works!" He's right. This installment is almost all Juni, with little of his chemistry with sister Carmen (Alexa Vega) and just a taste of their sophisticated parents (Antonio Banderas, Carla Gugino). In separating the Cortezes, much of the fun is gone from this second sequel, in which Juni enters a 3D videogame to rescue Carmen and stop the Toymaker (Sylvester Stallone) from taking over kids' minds. The gimmicks of 3D and Stallone have their amusing moments, but this is the first film in the series to appeal mainly to children. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Swimming Pool ★★½

French writer-director Francois Ozon has made somber movies like *Under the Sand* and playful movies like *8 Women*. His English-language debut seems like an attempt to blend both types, by pairing the former's Charlotte Rampling and the latter's Ludivine Sagnier. Rampling plays a dowdy English mystery writer whose publisher (Charles Dance) offers her his home in the south of France for a writing holiday. The unexpected arrival of the publisher's horny French daughter (Sagnier) spoils the working vacation, but it sure livens up the movie. Sagnier's devil-may-care sensuality is a helluva lot more fun than the slow Rampling prologue, and the two women embark on a passive-aggressive cat-and-mouse game. The payoff is way too subtle and puzzling to deliver the needed oomph, though, and the movie remains mostly a showcase for Sagnier's devilish performance. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines ★★★

It's been nearly 20 years since the first *Terminator*, and for the last 10 years, Arnold Schwarzenegger has been a total joke. Yet this sequel improbably comes through. Compared with the other big movies this summer, its story is meaty, its concerns serious and its treatment dramatic. Arnold travels back from the future again (in a different android shell) to protect John Connor (Nick Stahl), the future hero who will help the humans beat back the computers who take over the world. Also dragged into the fight this time is Claire Danes, who's surprised to learn she's also going to be a future revolutionary. Super-robot killing machine Kristanna Loken makes a better icy villainess than Demi Moore in *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*, and Schwarzenegger excels at the role for which he was always best suited. This is definitely the drive-in movie of the summer. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Thirteen ★★★

In the spectrum of movies about troubled teenaged girls, Catherine Hardwicke's debut falls somewhere between the cliches of the recent *Blue Car* and the unique emotional eeriness of *The Virgin Suicides*. Evan Rachel Wood, who has a Kirsten Dunst–like mix of sweetness and naughtiness, is very convincing as the initially girlish seventh-grader who yearns to hang out with the popular, more physically mature girls—and gets to, by taking drugs, shoplifting and pushing her budding sexuality just as they do. Meanwhile, her frazzled mom (Holly Hunter) tries to straddle the line between being firm and friendly, while her new best friend (Nikki Reed), who cowrote the script with Hardwicke, manipulates everyone in sight. Although the movie can sometimes come off as a pat cautionary tale, its emotional messiness is awfully realistic, with most everyone oblivious to their own faults. (At Kendall Square.)

Tupperware! ★★★

Local filmmaker Laurie Kahn-Leavitt zips us back to the 1950s, when Massachusetts inventor Earl Tupper and go-getter Brownie Wise rallied a legion of housewives to sell the plastic containers that took over the world. Before women's lib, Tupperware sales parties were a gateway to earnings and empowerment, and Wise was the most powerful female executive in the country. Through interviews with Tupperware ladies, amazing clips from company films and a heavy dose of vintage music (thanks to WMBR DJ John Funke), Kahn-Leavitt evokes the country's postwar materialism and the opportunities Tupperware presented to thousands of working-class women. (At the Museum of Fine Arts, Aug. 16.)

Hollywood actresses perform female inmates' stories in *What I Want My Words to Do to You*.

Preview

Breaking Out

Writing Goes Behind Bars in a New Documentary

Eve Ensler has been helping women express themselves since she took the word "vagina" out of the doctor's office and into the theater. *What I Want My Words to Do to You*, a 2003 PBS documentary showing at the Coolidge Corner Theatre through Aug. 21, captures the *Vagina Monologues* playwright's latest project: a writing workshop at a maximum-security women's prison. Since 1998, Ensler has conducted the workshops in hopes of inspiring the inmates to think and talk about their lives in prison and the consequences of their incarceration.

Producer Judith Katz was so moved by the inmates' monologues, as read by professional performers at one of Ensler's many celebrity-studded fundraisers, that she decided to capture the workshop process on film.

Katz and co-producers Madeleine Gavin and Gary Sunshine took their cameras inside New York's Bedford Hills Correctional Facility to document the emotional writings of 15 prisoners, including such high-profile felons as Pamela Smart and Weather Underground members Kathy Boudin and Judith Clark. *What I Want My Words to Do to You*, winner of the Freedom of Expression Award at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, seeks to dispel the myth that "all prison women are tough and mean," says Katz. "Most are victims of violence and that's how they ended up being violent themselves." The documentary culminates when the inmates view a theatrical performance of their writing by seasoned actresses, including Mary Alice, Glenn Close, Hazelle Goodman, Rosie Perez and Marisa Tomei. Placid expressions and proud reflection on their progress show that "the more the inmates take responsibility for their crimes, the more they transform," says Katz. *Coolidge Corner Movie Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2500). Through Aug. 21. Call for show times.—Jamie Bellavance*

28 Days Later ★★★

Trainspotting director Danny Boyle's apocalyptic sci-fi/action film owes a lot to those of George Romero, especially *Dawn of the Dead*. Still, it's a creepy and lively blend of character drama, zombie film, social commentary, vampire film and action, set in motion when a group of animal-rights activists frees rage-infected lab primates. The animals violently attack and infect the activists, who attack other humans and so on, until nearly all of England (and perhaps the world) is acting like bloodthirsty soccer hooligans. The movie follows Jim (Cillian Murphy), who awakens from a coma into this new world. He meets up with the few uninfected people left, and they try to find any remaining vestige of society and stay alive. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Weather Underground ★★★½

Since the range of political discussion is so narrow these days, and those who merely vote are actually considered "involved," it's easy to forget how much wider the political spectrum was back in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Sam Green and Bill Siegel's documentary is a fascinating reminder. It profiles the Weathermen, the militant splinter group from the Students for a Democratic Society, whose most infamous achievement was its "Bring the War Home" campaign, a series of bombings meant to remind Americans of the acts the Nixon administration was perpetrating in our name in Vietnam. Although the 90-minute movie sometimes just scratches the surface, it's full of bracing old clips of Weathermen leaders like Bernardine Dohrn and Mark Rudd, as well as bittersweet, candid interviews with the now middle-aged radicals. (At the Brattle Theatre, Aug. 22-Sept. 4.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

ALLSTON CINEMA UNDERGROUND

Features

•Opens Aug. 22. **Polissons et galipettes** *(The Good Old Naughty Days) 2002.* Michel Reilhac's compilation of 12 short French films from the early 20th century offers a glimpse of the early pornography used to entertain brothel patrons while they waited their turn.

Wednesday Night Kung Fu

•Aug. 13, 8 pm. **Miu meng yan che** *(A Life of Ninja) 1983.* Tso Nam Lee's film captures a kung fu killing spree that emphasizes quick combatants and seductive female fighters.

•Aug. 20, 8 pm. **Zhi fen shuang xiong** *(Pantyhose Hero) 1990.* Sammo, a homophobic detective investigating a gay man's murder, pretends to be gay in order to solve the case. Sammo Hung Kam-Bo directs.

BOSTON FILM & VIDEO FOUNDATION

Rough Cuts

•Aug. 21, 7:30 pm. **Trouble in Paradise.** Laurel Greenberg's unfinished documentary follows a group of Floridians who are moved to get involved in politics after the 2000 presidential election. Audience members are invited to share their feedback on the film with the director while it is still in the editing stage. *Screens at the Brookline Arts Center. Free.*

BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL

Movies by Moonlight

•Aug. 15, dusk. **Shane** *1953.* In this Western weary gunfighter is drawn into a conflict betwee family and the cattle ranchers who try to drive th from their land. George Stevens directs.

•Aug. 22, dusk. **The Great Escape** *1963.* Ste McQueen plays a rebellious American officer w orchestrates the escape of British and Americ soldiers from a German POW camp in Jo Sturges' film.

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mayor Menino's Monday Night Movies

•Aug. 18, dusk, Orchard Park, Roxbury. **Lilo Stitch** *2002.* Disney's animated adventure follo the unlikely friendship between a spunky Hawaii girl and an alien fugitive. Dean Deblois and Ch Sanders direct.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer Film Festival: Bogey in the Forties

•Aug. 18, 6 pm. **The Treasure of the Sierra Mad** *1948.* Humphrey Bogart stars as a down-and-c contractor searching for gold in the Mexican hi in John Huston's film.

•Aug. 25, 6 pm. **Key Largo** *1948.* Tensions mou when a bitter vet (Bogart) travels to a run-do Key Largo hotel to meet his buddy's widow (Laur Bacall), only to find gangsters are running the sho John Huston directs.

Summer Film Festival: From Page to Screen

•Aug. 19, 6 pm. **Harry Potter and the Sorcere Stone** *2001.* In Chris Columbus' film adaptation J.K. Rowling's wildly popular novel, an 11-year-c magic prodigy attends his first year of wizard school.

•Aug. 26, 6 pm. **Harry Potter and the Chamb of Secrets** *2002.* Harry Potter returns to Hogwa School despite mysterious attacks and warnin that his life is in danger. Chris Columbus returns direct the second installment of the series.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Mondays–Genre Films of the '50s

•Aug. 18, 2:45 and 7:15 pm. **Rear Window** *195* James Stewart and Grace Kelly star in Alfr Hitchcock's classic horror flick, in which a hou bound photojournalist witnesses odd occurren and obsesses about the possible murder of his neig bor. •Also showing, 5:15 and 10 pm. **The Snip** *1952.* A San Francisco detective must track dow serial killer targeting beautiful brunettes. Edwa Dmytryk directs.

Tuesdays–From Panel to Frame: Comics in the Movies

•Aug 19, 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm. **Blade** *199* Stephen Norrington's gory film stars Wesley Snip as a half-human, half-vampire on a mission avenge his mother's death.

Wednesdays–Recent Raves

•Aug. 13, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:45 pm. **Mies vai menneisyyttä** *(The Man Without a Past) 2002.* A Kaurismaki directs the story of an amnesiac w tries to piece together his life after being left for de in Helsinki.

•Aug. 20, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Ten** *200* Director Abbas Kiarostami examines the lives Iranian woman through 10 conversations betwee female taxi driver in Tehran and her passengers.

Thursdays–Chinese Period Drama

•Aug. 14, 7:15 pm. **To Live** *1994.* A man loses l land, fortune and family to a gambling addiction 1940s Communist China. Zhang Yimou direc

•Also showing, 5 and 9:45 pm. **The Story of Qiu** *1992.* In Zhang Yimou's film, a woman mo through the Chinese political system while seeki justice for her humiliated husband.

•Aug. 21, 3 and 7:30 pm. **In the Mood for Lo** *2000.* Two neighbors befriend each other after th discover their spouses are cheating on them. F mance ensues. Wong Kar-Wai directs. •Also sho ing, 5:15 and 9:45 pm. **Shanghai Triad** *1995.* Zhang Yimou's film, a country boy is hired to se the mistress of a Shanghai crime boss.

Special Features

•Aug. 15-17, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45 and 10 pm; Sat. ma nee, 1 pm. **Tattoo** *2002.* A serial killer tracks do the walking art of a tattoo artist, then slaughters customers and collects their skin. Robert Schwe tke directs.

•Aug. 22-Sept. 4, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p Sat. and Sun. matinee, 1:30 pm. **The Weath Underground** *2002.* See New Releases fo description.

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COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Opens Aug. 22. **OT: Our Town** *2002*. Scott Hamilton Kennedy directs this documentary about a group of Compton high school students who experience a culture clash while staging a performance of Thornton Wilder's famous play.

•Through Aug. 21. **What I Want My Words to Do to You** *2003*. Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz and Gary Sunshine document playwright Eve Ensler's *(The Vagina Monologues)* writing workshop at a women's correctional facility. Actresses Rosie Perez, Marisa Tomei and Glenn Close perform the inmates' written work as monologues.

•Now playing. **Whale Rider** *2002*. A New Zealand girl fights to claim her rightful position as tribal chief in director Niki Caro's film.

Features

•Opens Aug. 22. **American Splendor** 2003. Fact, fiction and comic book art come together to depict the life of R. Crumb collaborator Harvey Pekar in this docudrama from directors Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini.

Katharine the Great: A Tribute to Katharine Hepburn, 1907-2003

•Aug. 18, 7:30 pm. **Woman of the Year** *1942*. Hepburn and Spencer Tracy's real-life romance began in George Stevens' film about a New York sportswriter and an opinionated newspaper columnist who fall in love despite their feuding columns.

•Aug. 25, 7:30 pm. **Suddenly, Last Summer** *1959*. Hepburn and Elizabeth Taylor star as a wealthy widow and her niece who are grieving over the death of the widow's son. Joseph L. Mankiewicz directs.

Midnights: Kung-Fu Madness

•Aug. 15 and 16, 12 am. **The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai: Across the 8th Dimension** *1984*. Rock star, brain surgeon, comic book hero and samurai all in one, Buckaroo Banzai defends the world against the evil beings of the 8th dimension. W.D. Richter directs. •Aug. 22 and 23, 12 am. **Spaceballs** *1987*. John Candy, Rick Moranis and Joan Rivers star in Mel Brooks' sci-fi parody about a princess whose kidnappers demand that the king give the air on his planet as her ransom.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•Aug. 14, 3:15pm; Aug. 17 and 23, 10:30 am. **Dream of Light** *1992*. The daily life of Spanish painter Antonio López Garcia is seen through the eyes of friends and other artists in this drama by Victor Erice.

Blues Festival

•Aug. 24, 2 pm. **Deep Blues** *1991*. Director Robert Mugge collaborates with writer Robert Palmer and musician David Stewart of the Eurythmics to pay tribute to the legends and talented unknowns of the Mississippi blues scene.

Boston French Film Festival: Return Engagement

•Aug. 14, 6 pm; Aug. 16, 10:30 am; Aug. 17 and 24, 3:45 pm; Aug. 21, 4 pm. **Un hirondelle a fait le printemps** *(The Girl from Paris). 2000*. An unlikely intergenerational friendship emerges when a 30-year-old urban woman buys a farm from an elderly man, under the condition that he be allowed to stay for a year. Christian Carion directs.

Chinese Martial Arts Film Series

•Aug. 15, 6 pm. **Ai nu** (*Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan) 1972*. Seduction, deception and feminine power replace testosterone-driven warriors in Chu Yuan's murder mystery about a brothel's lesbian madam and her vengeful protegée. •Also showing, 7:45 pm. **Ci ma** (*Blood Brothers) 1973*. Two outlaw brothers befriend a general after attempting to rob him in Zhang Che's reality-based epic historical adventure.

•Aug. 16, 2 pm. **Da zui zia** (*Come Drink with Me) 1966*. A young magistrate is mysteriously kidnapped by a disguised warrior who is actually the daughter of the governor. King Hu directs. •Also playing, 3:45 pm. **Jin yanzi** (*Golden Swallow) 1968*. Golden Swallow, the heroine of King Hu's *Come Drink with Me*, returns in Zhang Che's sequel. This time her power is challenged by a violent knight.

•Aug. 22, 6:30 pm. **Hu shan hang** (*Escorts Over Tiger Hills) 1969*. A guerrilla warrior turned pacifist monk transports a group of prisoners across the mountains as his final mission. Wang Xingle directs. •Also showing, 8:30 pm. **Luke yu daoke** (*From the Highway) 1970*. When a horde of bandits ravages the village of An, a mysterious stranger emerges as a hero. Zhang Zengze directs.

•Aug. 23, 1:15 pm. **Shaolin sanshiliu fang** (*The 36th Chamber of Shaolin) 1978*. A Chinese commoner finds sanctuary from Manchu oppressors at the Shaolin Temple where he begins martial arts training. Lau Kar-leung directs. •Also showing, 3:30 pm. **Shaolin dapeng dashi** (*Return to the 36th Chamber) 1980*. Director Lau-Kar-leung teams up with actor Lau-Kar-fai for the comedic sequel to *The 36th Chamber of Shaolin*. This time a former kung fu master disguises himself as a Shaolin priest. •Aug. 27, 6 pm. **Dubi dao** (*One-Armed Swordsman) 1967*. In Zhang Che's film, a student at a martial arts academy sacrifices himself during an attack. His dying wish is to have his son enter the school. •Also showing, 8:10 pm. **Baochou** (*Vengeance!) 1970*. The brother of a murdered Beijing opera star embarks on a path of bloody revenge in Zhang Che's violent film.

Films of Aki Kaurismäki

•Aug. 21, 6:15 pm; Aug. 24, 10:30 am. **Calamari Union** *1985*. Kaurismäki's ode to Jean-Luc Godard features 15 men named Frank who disappear one by one as they migrate to a suburb of Helsinki.

Free Children's Films

•Aug. 13, 6 and 8 pm. **Wallace and Gromit Short Films**. Nick Park's claymation duo, Wallace the inventor and his clever dog, screen in three half-hour episodes: *A Grand Day Out 1992*, *The Wrong Trousers 1993*; and *A Close Shave 1995*.

•Aug. 20, 6, 7 and 8 pm. **Four Favorite Children's Stories on Film**. Weston Woods Studios brings classic children's books to the big screen, including Robert McCloskey's *Lentil*, Rosemary Wells' *Noisy Nora* and Maurice Sendak's *Chicken Soup with Rice*.

New England Film Artists Present

•Aug. 16, 12:30 pm. **Tupperware!** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Sept. 1. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 1. **Top Speed**. Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion race car driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Aug. 31. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. Call for show times.

•Through Aug. 31. **The Matrix Reloaded: The IMax Experience**. Neo and the rebel leaders face off with Zion in Andy and Larry Wachowski's sequel to *The Matrix*. Call for show times.

•Through Aug. 31. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Dive into and explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. Call for show times.

ROXBURY FILM FESTIVAL

Blackman Theatre

•Aug. 15, 5:30 pm. **Baghdad Café** *1988*. A German tourist stranded in a Mojave Desert café forms an unlikely friendship with the black café proprietor in Percy Aldon's film. A Q&A with actress CCH Pounder follows. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Jeremiah Strong** *2002*. Kevin Shaw's film is the story of a homeless man who tries to get back on track by looking for low-income housing. •Immediately following, **Civil Brand** *2002*. Inmates at a women's correctional facility rise against the cruel administrators after they're exploited for their work. A Q&A with director Neema Barnette follows.

•Aug. 15, 7:30 pm. **The First Three Lives of Stuart Hornsley** *2003*. A man travels back in time to win back the love of his life, but tinkering with his past complicates his future. Leigh Dana Jackson directs. •Immediately following, **12 Horas** *2001*. Three divorcées, a virgin on the prowl, a elderly taxi driver, a gigolo and a new reporter hit the town on a Friday night in San Juan. Raúl Marchand Sánchez directs.

Museum of Fine Arts

•Aug. 14, 8 pm. **Civil Brand** *2002*. See listing for Blackman Theatre, Aug. 15.

•Aug. 17, 1:15 pm. **The First Three Lives of Stuart Hornsley** *2003*. See listing for Blackman Theatre, Aug. 15. Two short films, Tamika Lamison's **Hope** *2003* and Helen Haeyoung Lee's **Sophie** *2002*, follow. •Immediately following, **China** *2003*. When a middle-aged man takes up martial arts, his wife struggles to find her place in his journey to self-discovery. Jeffrey C. Wray directs.

Raytheon Amphitheater

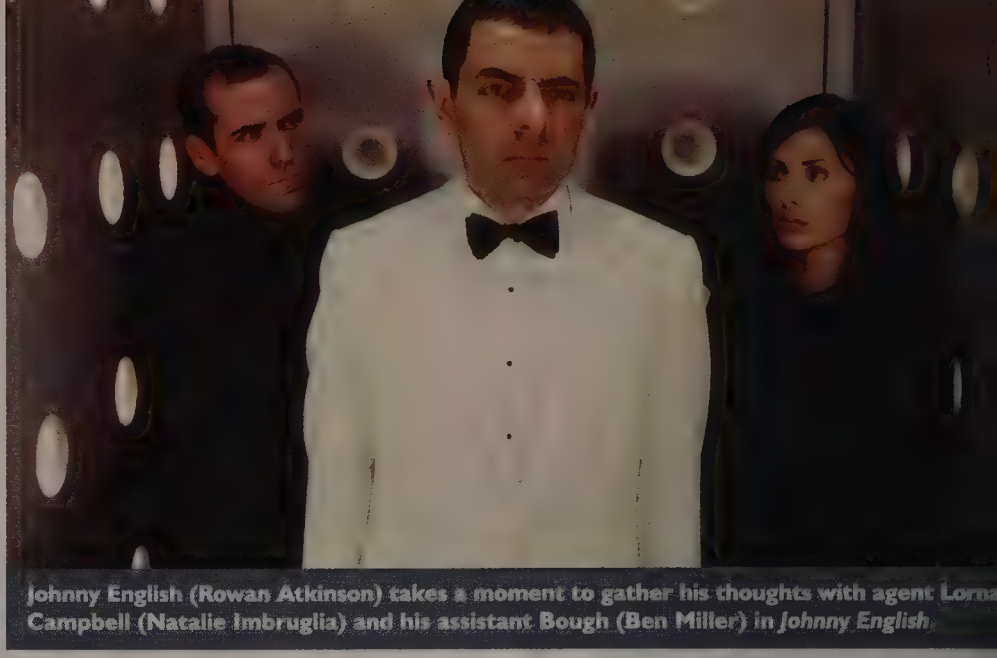
•Aug. 16, 11 am. Mary Wamjiru Njendu's **Safari Ya Jamhuri: A Journey to Freedom**. •Immediately following, Nancee Oku Bright's **Liberia: America's Stepchild**. •Also showing, 5:30 pm. Yvonne Buchanan's **Adrift**, Donna Carter's **Tomboy**, Mateen O. Kamet's **Silence**, Mark Harris' **The Test**, Michelle Nicholson's **Girl at Risk**. •Also showing, 8 pm. Hanelle M. Culpepper's **A Single Rose**, Helen Haeyoung Lee's **Sophie**, Tamika Lamison's **Hope** and Jeffrey C. Wray's **China**.

•Aug. 17, 11 am. **Double Dutch, Mirar, Mirror** and **Sisters In Cinema**. •Also showing, 1 pm. Judy Richardson's **Break Me My Bounds: The Paul Laurence Dunbar Story**, Llewellyn M. Smith's **Race—The Power of an Illusion** (part 3 of **The House We Live In**) and Andrew Millington's **In My Mother's House**.

Tower Auditorium

•Aug. 15, 7:30 pm. **Un coupable idéal** (*Murder on a Sunday Morning) 2001*. Jean-Xavier de Lestrade's Oscar-winning documentary follows the trial of a black American teenager wrongfully accused of murdering a white tourist in Jacksonville, Fla. Two short films precede the screening.

•Aug. 16, 12:30 pm. **Status** *2000*. A 23-year-old part-time student reflects on his life and thinks he has nothing to show for it. Andrew Burroughs directs. •Immediately following, **Never Trust a Serial Killer** *2002*. Juan Carlos Garza's film depicts a Latino yuppie who is recruited by his college buddy to track down a serial killer. •Also showing, 3 pm. **Flag Wars** *2003*. Linda Goode Bryant's documentary, filmed over a four-year period in Columbus, Ohio, follows the conflict that results when gay white professionals move into a black working-class neighborhood. Two short films precede the screening. •Also showing, 6 pm. **Nigger or Not** *2003*. Ken Wyatt's documentary explores black Americans' use of the world "nigger." •Immediately following, **AfroPunk: The Rock and Roll Nigger Experience** *2003*. James Spooner's documentary follows the lives of four people dedicated to punk rock. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Ocean Waves** *2003*. Cristina A. Kotz Cornejo's film follows two corporate employees caught in a power struggle. •Immediately following, **The Epicureans** *2002*. Brandon Broussard's film explores the sex lives of four young professional men in Washington, D.C.



Johnny English (Rowan Atkinson) takes a moment to gather his thoughts with agent Lorna Campbell (Natalie Imbruglia) and his assistant Bough (Ben Miller) in *Johnny English*.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2

214 Harvard Ave. (978-671-9212). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

Allston Cinema Underground

214 Harvard Ave. (617-912-8626). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Blackman Theatre

346 Huntington Ave., Boston (617- 373-2000). MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern.

Boston Film•Video Foundation

1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Harbor Hotel

70 Rowes Wharf. (617-439-7000).

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBT Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre

201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common

175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Gre Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science

Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line Science Park.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBT Blue Line to Aquarium.

Northeastern University

360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-200 MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern.

Orchard Park

Corner of Chadwick and Yeoman Streets. (617-6 4000). MBTA: Orange Line to Dudley.

Raytheon Amphitheater

Egan Hall, Rm 240, 360 Huntington Ave., Bost (617-373-2000). MBTA: E Green to Northeastern

Tower Auditorium

621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-879-700 MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood.

Wang Center

270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBT Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Brookline Arts Center

86 Monmouth St., Brookline. (617-566-571 MBTA: C Green Line to St. Marys.

Circle Cinema

399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gre Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line Harvard.

Fresh Pond

168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBT Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema

One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: R Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony

10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Gre Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orat Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Dav

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Scarlet's Web

Tori Amos finds new wisdom and maturity through an American travelogue that grew into her latest album

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

When Tori Amos pulls into the FleetBoston Pavilion Aug. 24, she'll be two days past her 40th birthday. And although the singer-pianist has always been more of a sophisticated pop eccentric than an MTV cornflake girl, she clearly has the milestone in mind when she considers her long-term career.

"For a while, we've been caught up in worshipping the youth culture, which is very dangerous, because you lose all that wisdom from the women in the tribe," says Amos, who has been making tremors since her 1992 solo debut, *Little Earthquakes*, wrapping piano filigrees around ethereal soprano musings.

Tori Amos performs with Ben Folds at the FleetBoston Pavilion Aug. 24

"So many people want to be 24 when they're almost 40, but more people at 24 should want to be more like 40, especially when they open their mouth," Amos says from a California tour stop. "Sometimes I think the women's magazines have done us a disservice, because they've devalued what it takes to gain wisdom, and what it takes to carry grace, and that's about experience. You can't go to the gym and get that."

Amos' experience thus far includes seven albums, eight Grammy nominations and countless tours. The songs on her latest CD, *Scarlet's Walk*, came out of Amos' reflections on the American experience as she traveled across the U.S. in the fall of 2001.

"The feeling that if you asked questions, you were betraying your country was something that I found was troubling people," she says of that tour in the wake of 9/11. "The work was changing as I saw how people were questioning their relationship with America as a soul. A lot of America has not been about the soul of the land. It's about the forefathers who control the land."

For the CD's narrative, however, Amos departed from her past writing style to convey the songs through a character named Scarlet, whose travels paralleled her own journey in some ways, but not all. "I needed people to see themselves in Scarlet," she says. "I might be in Scarlet, but she was her own persona—and she changed me. She had four lovers in the story. When I was writing it, I wasn't having four lovers. My husband has asked me this question!"

Songs range from romantic encounters to the haunting 9/11–shaded confusion of "I Can't See New York" to "Gold Dust," in which Scarlet gives birth to a child—as Amos did in September 2000. Several songs also contemplate the plight of Native Americans, a subject that strikes a personal chord with Amos, who used to listen to stories told by her part-Cherokee maternal grandfather.

"His belief was that until the land could be seen as sovereign and autonomous, and as a spiritual mother, we as European-Americans, African-Americans, Latino-Americans—the whole ball of wax—are not caretakers for the country," she says. "We're just takers. We are not nurturing and leaving anything for several generations from now. He said to me, a generation must rise—and to redefine generation, it's not an age, it's a consciousness. And that has really stayed with me, the idea of redefining power."

Given that Amos' fans rank among the most fanatical in pop music, such adulation could provide its own sense of empowerment. But she says, "You can't get drawn into that. You really have to see yourself as a space. You hold a space for people to come and claim their own sovereignty."

Growing up, Amos claimed her musical sovereignty from a broad pool. A piano prodigy, she studied at Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory from age 5, but rebelled against the classical regimen and was expelled at age 11. She shifted her focus to musicians like Ray Charles, Joni Mitchell, Laura Nyro, Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin over the years to follow.

"People have impressions of the piano that I don't have," Amos says. "My kind of orientation as a keyboard player has been Jimi Hendrix." Now, after spending most of her career performing in a dramatic solo context, she tours in a trio format with bassist Jon Evans and drummer Matt Chamberlain. And in addition to her trusty Bosendorfer grand piano, Amos takes turns on Fender Rhodes and Wurlitzer electric pianos. The Wurlitzer was used by Country Joe and the Fish at the original Woodstock. Now it's painted with a Cherokee flag.

Amos' current tour ends just in time for her daughter Natasha's third birthday. "Ballet class starts in September, so the clock's ticking," Amos says. "We made a deal that I'm going to be off the road by her birthday. The last show is Sept. 4 and her birthday's Sept. 5. I wouldn't say I don't cut it close, but I only sort of make it before I turn into a pumpkin." iB

Tori Amos
plays the FleetBoston Pavilion Aug. 24.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fa (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or b email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not ac cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from dif ferent sources. Although we make every effort to provid accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahea to double-check dates and times (see complete list o venues at the end of the section).

Top Billing

Aerosmith
Aug. 25 and 27, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Tori Amos and Ben Folds
Aug. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jimmy Cliff
Aug. 14, South Shore Music Circus (61-931-2787)
Counting Crows and John Mayer
Aug. 22 and 23, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Crosby, Stills and Nash
Aug. 23, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Def Leppard and Ricky Warwick
Aug. 19, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Ani DiFranco
Aug. 19, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
Get Up 'N' Dance, with the Village People, Bonni and June Pointer, Thelma Houston and Marth Wash
Aug. 21, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Julio Iglesias
Aug. 16, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
B.B. King Music Festival
Aug. 17, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Aimee Mann
Aug. 22, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
Les Nubians and Zap Mama
Aug. 16, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Ozzfest
Aug. 14 and 15, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Liz Phair
Aug. 17, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Radiohead
Aug. 13, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Sex Pistols, Dropkick Murphys and Reverend Horton Heat
Aug. 20, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Steely Dan
Aug. 16, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
311, G.Love & Special Sauce and Something Corporate
Aug. 13, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Ronan Tynan of the Irish Tenors
Aug. 23, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278
Wynnona
Aug. 24, South Shore Music Circus (617-931-278

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Asgard Down Dog.
Berklee College of Music Jennifer Elowsky-Fox a students, 4 pm, $5; Komiko Morishim, 7 pm, $5.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne, 9:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7-10 pm
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+
Club Passim Vanessa Trien and Carla Ryder, 8 p $10.
Dick's Last Resort Ricky & the Giants, 7:20 pm, cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGra 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion 311, G. Love and Spec Sauce and Something Corporate, 7 pm, $30.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band, 10 pm.
House of Blues Franky Perez and the Highw Saints, 9:30 pm, $10.
Johnny D's Roger Wallace, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Meagan McLaughlin, Bourb Princess and Freeda Rome, 8:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Symbolics.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmon 8:30 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Neva Dinova and Sweepers, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Zuzu: Eileen Rose cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Dis 'n' Dat, 8 pm, no cover.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm.

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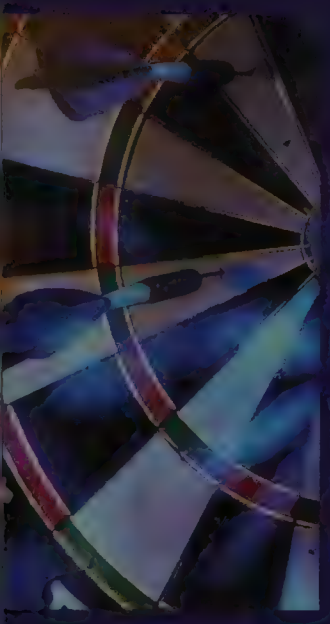

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Regattabar The Charlie Kohlhase/David Wertman Lou Grassi Trio, 8:30 pm, $12.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Lola Danza, 8:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Lizz Wright, 8 and 10 pm, $15.
Sky Bar Purchase Order and Everyday Visuals, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Boris McCutcheon.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Lot Six residency.
Tweeter Center Radiohead, 7:30 pm, $38.50-$45.
The Western Front Duksy Silo and the Patrons, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Alexi Tsiganov, 8 pm.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Abbey Lounge The Collisions, 8 pm.
Asgard The Symbolics.
Berklee College of Music Shinya Yonezawa, 7 pm, $5.
Bill's Bar 8 Deep, $8-$10, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Alan Goodrich, 8-11 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne, 9:30 pm.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Ben Cook, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Noah Weinstein and Jess Tardy, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Rockhoppers, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 10 pm.
House of Blues The Motet, 9:30 pm, $12.
Johnny D's Railroad Earth, 9 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Kellie Lin Knott, Rachel Sage CD-release and Stargazer Lily, 9 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
The Linwood Amnesty International 14 for 14 Benefit featuring Hope Roth, the Downbeat 5 and Mappari, $7.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's Pub 'Round Midnight Jazz Session, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Dada, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Milky Way Spoilsport.
Paradise The Polyphonic Spree, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Central Basement.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Uneek Aproach, 6:30 pm.
Regattabar The Bad Plus, 8 and 10 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Megalodon, 8:30 pm, $7.
Scullers Terence Blanchard Sextet, 8 and 10 pm, $18.
Sky Bar Busker, Focusin' and CPM, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Jimmy Cliff, 8 pm, $30-$40.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Lawrence Arms.
Tweeter Center Ozzfest, 9 am, $39.50-$65.50.
The Western Front Mad Skim and Team Omega, 9 pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Abbey Lounge Monique Ortiz and Emily Grogan Band, 8 pm.
Asgard Ryan McHugh.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no charge.
Berklee College of Music Bileghan Tuncer, 7 pm, $5.
Bill's Bar Spread Eagle, "The Eagles Tribute Show," $8, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Becky Chase Band, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne, Upstairs: Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Boston Horns, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm-12 am, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Choppin' Block Out Cold, Drugwar, Full Blown AIDS and Watchmaker, 9 pm, $10.
Club Passim Kim Richey and Susan Gibson, 8 pm, $15.
Common Ground Gaffney, 10 pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort Elvis Memorial with Mike Viselli, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Syndicate.
The Green Briar Lulu's N Crisis.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
The Harp The Chad LaMarsh Band.

Five-piece rap-metal outfit 311 performs at the FleetBoston Pavilion Aug. 13.

Harper's Ferry Pulse, $6, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Cabaret Diosa and Lovewhip, 10 pm, $11.
Johnny D's Jeff Pitchell, 9:45 pm, $7.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Shane Bartell, Porterdavis and the Jeff Harris Band, 9:30 pm, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Kirkland Café Baystate Houserockers, Flexie, Kier Byrnes, Devon Irish and Dave of the Universe, $5.
Lizard Lounge Sarah Borges and the Confidence Men and the Coming Grass, 9 pm, $7.
Matt Murphy's Pub James Merenda, 10:30 pm, no cover 21+.
McGann's Punk Rock Fleadh, with the Skels, Jackdaw, the Ruffians, the Gobshites and the Pubcrawlers, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Rosa Chancewell, the Cignal and December Sound, 9 pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Edo. G, Kreators and Smoke Bulga, 8 pm, $14-$18, 18+.
Milky Way Kimchee Records Showcase, with Torrez.
Mr. Dooley's Sunday's Well.
North Shore Music Theatre Johnny Mathis, $25-$85, 8 pm.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
O'Brien's Tommy and the Terrors, Roachenders, Tampoffs and Rattle Battle, 6 pm.
Paradise Anne Heaton, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Parris Darik and the Funbags.
Porters Bar and Grill Jim Devlin Trio.
The Rack Central Basement, 6 pm.
Regattabar The Rebecca Parris Quintet, 7:30 and 10 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers Terence Blanchard Sextet, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20.
Sky Bar Rabadango and Coby Carlucci & Tractor Trailer, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Engelbert Humperdinck, 8 pm, $37.50.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Victory at Sea.
Tweeter Center Ozzfest, 9 am, $39.50-$65.50.
The Western Front Greedy Family, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMa
9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 7 pm.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Abbey Lounge Downbeat 5, 8 pm.
Asgard Jack Shanahan.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm; G
Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
Axis A Static Lullaby, Eighteen Visions and St
Out, 6 pm, $14.
Bill's Bar The Plaid Daddy Band, 9 pm, $8, 21+
Black Horse Tavern Sweet Willie D., 9 pm-12
no cover.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Frank Ryan.
stairs: Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Provide
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm
am, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thrille
pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Megan Toohey and Jordan Care
pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort The Hootchies, 8:30 pm
cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover
Grand Canal Ransom.
The Green Briar Infractions.
The Harp Central Basement.
Johnny D's Iguanas, 9:45 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm, no cover.
Kendall Café Adam Brodsky and Peter M
gomery, 10 pm, $7.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Lazyboy Rockers, Brother Mo
Twilight Rhythm Ranchers and the Mickey
Organ Combo, $5.
Lizard Lounge The Electrolytes, All the Que
Men and Mick Mondo, 9 pm, $7.
Matt Murphy's Pub Marta Gomez, 10:30 pm
cover, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Tigerbeat6 Paws Ac
America Tour, with Kid606, DJ Rupture
Dwayne Sodahberk, 8 pm, $12-$15, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Sunday's Well.
North Shore Music Theatre Johnny Mathis, 8
$25-$85.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm
cover.
Paradise Cash Monies and the Jetsetter
Antler, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris Darik and the Funbags.
Regattabar The Bruce Katz Band, 7:30 and 10
$12.
Ryles Jazz Club Herman Johnson, 9 pm, $10.
Sky Bar Named by Strangers, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Somerville Theater Les Nubians and Zap Mam
pm, $27-$33.
South Shore Music Circus Julio Iglesias, 8
$47.50.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
Tweeter Center Steely Dan, 8 pm, $38.50-$65
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet with Ha
Layne, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates David Eure, 7 pm.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Avalon Liz Phair, 7 pm, $15.25-$17.25, 18+.
Axis The Street Dogs, Confront, the Blue Bl
and Dirty Water, 5 pm, $10.
Bill's Bar Dub Station, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern The Ervin Dhimo Trio, 4-7
no cover.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Frank Ryan
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, cover varies;
Choppin' Block Kalibas.
Club Passim Kemp Harris, 7:30 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelation, 10 am-3
Big Time, 7:20 pm no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm
cover.
The Green Briar Celtic Clan, 4 pm; Finbar Do
pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging John
House of Blues Clarias and Mieka Pauley, 9 pm
Kendall Café John Vecchiarelli, John Brodeu
Ray's Vast Basement, 8:30 pm, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Matt Murphy's Pub Bud E. Green, 10:30 pm
cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Zambonis and Transpare
pm, $8, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch with Yoko Miwa, 1
Sky Bar Decadence and Mocean 8, 8:30 pm, 2
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 1
Paul Schmeling Trio, 8 pm.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Los Amigos Invisibles
Oct. 9, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Bjork and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Aug. 31, Suffolk Downs (617-931-2000)
Boston Folk Festival, featuring Emmylou Harris, Greg Brown, Tom Rush, Richard Shindell, Danu, Kate Campbell, Paul Brady, Koko Taylor & Her Blues Machine and more
Sept. 19-21, UMass Boston (617- 287-6900)
Built to Spill and the Solace Brothers
Sept. 29 and 30 (617-423-NEXT)
Mariah Carey
Sept. 8, Wang Center (617-931-2000)
George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic
Oct. 8, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
The Dandy Warhols
Sept. 10, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Fleetwood Mac
Sept. 24, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Peter Frampton and Joe Bonamassa
Sept. 28, Roxy (617-931-2000)
Gipsy Kings
Sept. 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Heidi Gluck, Julianna Hatfield and Freda Love
Sept. 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Gov't Mule and Chris Robinson
Oct. 17, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Guided by Voices
Sept. 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Guster Sept. 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Shirly Horn
Oct. 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Billy Idol
Sept. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jewel Sept. 27, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jason Mraz Sept. 3, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Meshell Ndegeocello and Soulive
Oct. 22, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The Raveonettes and Stellastarr
Sept. 7, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Damien Rice
Sept. 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band
Sept. 6 and 7, Fenway Park (sold out)
String Cheese Incident
Oct. 10, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Unlimited Sunshine Tour with Cake, Cheap Trick, Detroit Cobras, the Hackensaw Boys and Charlie Louvin
Sept. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

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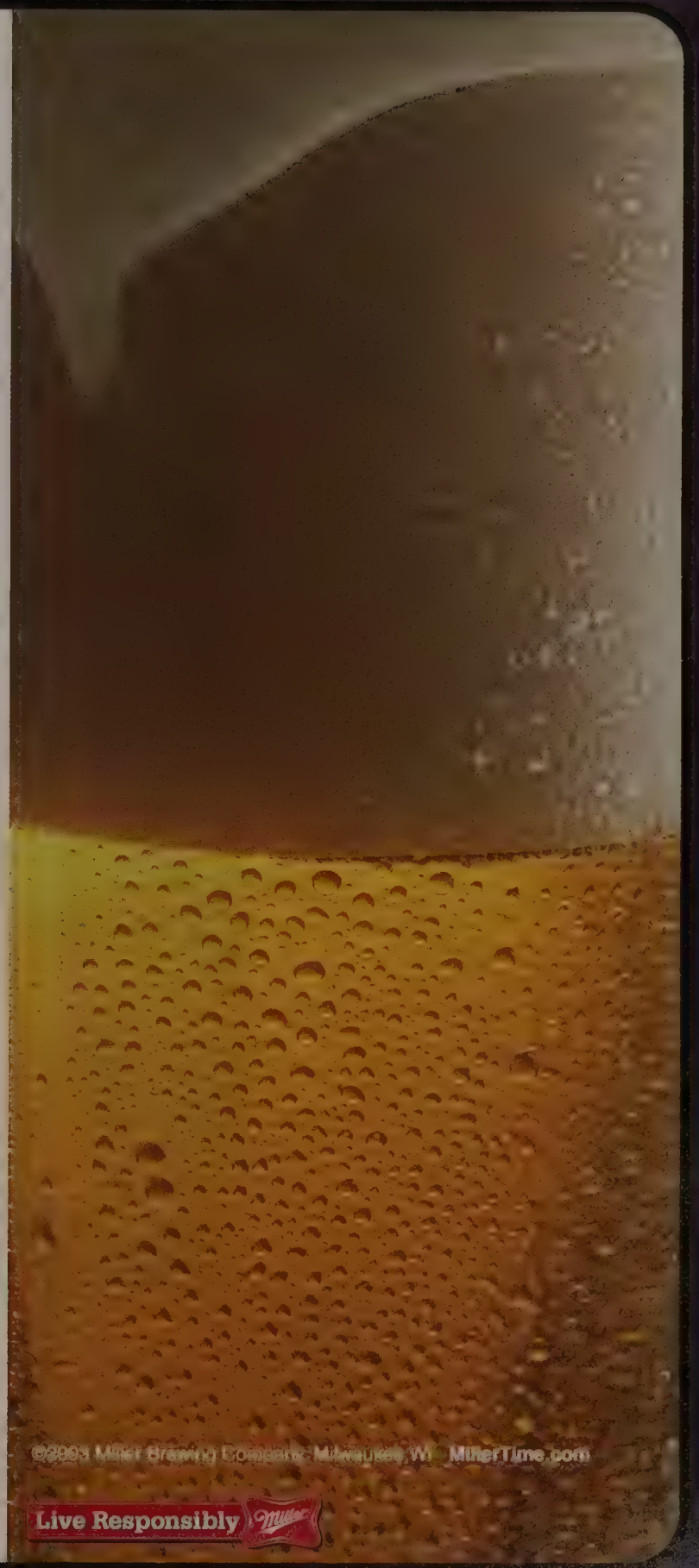

Tweeter Center B.B. King Music Festival, 6 pm, $30.50-$50.50.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm.
Zeitgeist Holland Hopson, 8-11:30 pm, $8.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Abbey Lounge Double D Blues Band, 8 pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Righteous Jams, Mental and the A Team. $10, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Michael Pickett, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Perpetual Groove.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues An Evening of Bopnique Musique, 8:45 pm, $12.
Johnny D's Marcia Ball, 8 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Michael Holt and David Celia, 9 pm, $5.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Middle East Upstairs: the Exit, the Ghost, Communique and Mount St. Helens, $9, 18+. Corner: Deluxe, 18+, no cover. ZuZu: Unhappy Hour with Tony Goddess, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Daniel Blake.
Paradise Chris Korwin Band, Chris Fitz, the Buckners and Fredis Bowling Ball, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Hakim Law, 6 pm.
Tír na nÓg The Out Side.
Top of the Hub Paul Schmeling Trio, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

Abbey Lounge Sue and Misachi Band, 8 pm; Local Jack, 8:30 pm; Corin Ashley 9 pm; Max Heinegg, 10 pm; Lisa Basto, 10:30 pm.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Cantab Lounge Mill City Ramblers, 10 pm, cover varies, 21 +.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Def Leppard, 8 pm, $39.50-$49.50.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band, 10 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Paul Schneider and Buxton, 9:30 pm, $5.
Kinsale Frank Ryan.
Lizard Lounge Jim's Big Ego and Aaron Shadwell, 8:30 pm.
Matt Murphy's Pub Public House with Geoff Scott, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Jealous Sound and Paris Texas, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Noche Mexicana, 8 pm, $2, 18+. ZuZu: Frank Morey, 21+, no cover.
The Rack Evan Goodrow, 6 pm.
Scullers The Hank Jones Trio, 8 and 10 pm, $22.
South Shore Music Circus Ani DiFranco, 8 pm, $40.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Asgard Tom Groleau.
Bill's Bar Motormags and No Means Yes, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Brock Mumford and Rachelle Garniez, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion The Sex Pistols, Dropkick Murphys and Reverend Horton Heat 8 pm, $35-$40.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
Harper's Ferry Mountain of Venus.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Michael Tarbox and Howard Furguson, Bourbon Princess and West, 8:30 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Lizard Lounge Suzanne Thorpe and the Caufield Sisters, 9 pm, $6.
Middle East Upstairs: Deerhoof, Isle of Citadel and Fat Worm of Error, 9 pm, $9, 18+. ZuZu: Eileen Rose, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm.
Regattabar Noisy Old Men, 8:30 pm, $16.

Liz Phair performs songs from her new album at Avalon Aug. 17

Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Kim Trusty Band, 8:30 pm, $8.
Saint Ron Murphy, 9 pm.
Scullers The Brubeck Brothers, 8 and 10 pm, $18.
Sky Bar Joint Custody, Medina Sod and God Fearing Man, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Three Day Threshold.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Lot Six Residency.
The Western Front Peter Stolzman and the Dan Anderson Ensemble.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Alexi Tsiganov, 8 pm.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Abbey Lounge The Collisions, 8 pm.
Asgard Brogue.
Bill's Bar III Kings and Mystic Vibes, $8-$10, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Monster Mike Welch Duo, 9-11 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Chops Turner, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Ben Cook, 7-10 pm.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Christopher Williams and Al Rose, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fleet Center Get Up 'N Dance, 7:30 pm, $35-$50.
The Green Briar Maxie Courtney.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 10 pm.
House of Blues Three Percent, 9:30 pm, $10.
Jimmy's Harborside Revels' Pub Sing, 6:30-9:30 pm, $12.
Johnny D's Marta Gomez, 9 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Beth Boucher and Bill Deasy, 9 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Lizard Lounge Beat Science, Devil's Music and Naftule's Dream, 9 pm, $8.
Matt Murphy's Pub 'Round Midnight Jazz Session, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Party of One, El Guapo and Vic Firecracker, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: The Gentlemen, Cracktorch, the Damn Personals and the Soft Explosions, 8 pm, $10, 18+. Corner: Stretch, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Zemog El Gallo Bueno, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Skating Club and Tiger Saw.
Paradise Araby, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Boston Horns, 6 pm.
Regattabar The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 8:30 pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club SynCoPation, 8:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Howard Tate, 8 and 10 pm, $24.
Sky Bar Clemmy's Guttata, Porcelain and Turtlebone, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tanglewood David Daniels and Craig Ogden, 8:30 pm, $14-$43.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Abbey Lounge Jim Nolan and Hokum, 8 pm.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
Bill's Bar Diverdown (Van Halen Tribute), $8, 18+.
Black Horse Tavern Mike Iontounni Band, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Upstairs: Bo Folkes.
Bob the Chef's Tall Richards, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzannne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 12 am, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thriller pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Jeanne Ciampa and Fretless, 8 pm,
Common Ground Dwight Ritcher Band, 10 pm,
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no co 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Undercover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scoobie Snax.
The Harp Flavor.
Harper's Ferry Ben Taylor Band, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Paul Kelly and Charlotte Ma 9:30 pm, $12.
Johnny D's Brave Combo.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm. no charge.
Kendall Café Officer May, Auto Interiors, Leach and Vic Firecracker, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.
Kirkland Café Machinery Hall, $5.
The Linwood Popgun 7, $7.
Matt Murphy's Pub Boris McCutcheon, 10:30 no cover, 21+.
McGann's Pub Freezepop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Lamont, the Model S Cougars and Pinebender, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Cor Sam Hooper Group, 18+, no cover. ZuZu: Gianc Buscaglia, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm cover.
Paradise The Pill, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris The Catunes.
Porters Bar and Grill Nate Watkins.
The Rack Uneek Aproach, 6:30 pm.
Regattabar The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 7:30 10 pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Nicole Nelson Band, 9 pm, $10
Scullers David Sanchez, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20.
Sky Bar The Dresden Dolls, the Throes, the F and Nicki Jaine, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Aimee Mann, 8 pm,
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kings of Nuthin.
Tweeter Center Counting Crows and John M 7 pm, $32.50-$48.50.
The Western Front Boja and the Insurrectic pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMa 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 7 pm.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Abbey Lounge Cranktones, 8 pm.
Asgard Sunset.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30-9 pm; G Barkan, 9 pm-12 am, no cover.
Bill's Bar Five Speed Bleu, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Groove Authority, 9 p am, no cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Bobby. Ups Bobby Folkes.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 12 am, no charge.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thri 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Mindy Jostyn and David Jacobs-S 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 8:30 pm, no c 21+.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cove
FleetBoston Pavilion Crosby, Stills and Nash, $41-$46.
Grand Canal Dick 'n' Jane.
The Green Briar The Joshua Tree.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syphfo.
The Harp Flavor.
House of Blues Ryan Montbleau Band an Dwight Ritcher Band, 9:30 pm, $12.
Johnny D's Sleepy La Beef.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-11 pm, no charge.
Kendall Café Reckless Daughter, Pure Fictio the High Ceilings, 9:30 pm, $7.
Kirkland Café Stalagamites, Dan Sheehan, Ch Matt York, Monique Ortiz, Devon Irish and M Bliss Organ Combo.
The Linwood Leukemia Benefit Show feat Shockwave, Bonescrew, Medicine, 4 Tim, Tw Letdown, Ironhead, Drinkfist, Stratejacke Trauma Concept, $10.
Lizard Lounge The Rag Man Son Revue, 9 pm
Matt Murphy's Pub Al Voelker, 10:30 pm, no

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Middle East Upstairs: Officer May, Glasseater, Read Yellow, My Hotel Year and Bayside, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Sand Machine and Big Toe, 8 pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Freelance Bishops, no cover, 18+. ZuZu: Soul-le-lu-jah, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Celtic Clan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Mr. Cocktail and Jackopierce, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Parris Central Basement.
Regattabar The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 7:30 and 10 pm, $22.
Ryles Jazz Club Melvin Sparks, 9 pm, $10.
Sky Bar Stray Bullets, White Trash Deluxe, the Spoilers, the Drags and the Numbskulls, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Ronan Tynan and the Irish Tenors, 8 pm, $30.50.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
The Western Front Red Pill and Soulfege, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet with Harold Layne, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty, 7 pm.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Berklee College of Music Eva Ayllon, 7 pm, $28-$48.
Bill's Bar Dub Station, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern The Ervin Dhimo Trio, 4-7 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Bobby.
Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with Zeke Martin, 10 am.
Club Passim Chris Pandolfi CD-release show, 7:30 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining, 10 am-3 pm; Big Time, 7:20 pm.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Tori Amos and Ben Folds, 7 pm, $30-$45.
The Green Briar Inchicore, 4 pm; Finbar Doyle, 8 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
House of Blues Concentric, 9 pm, $7.
Kendall Café Brian King and Nathan Cohen, Ari and Jesse Ciarmataro, 8 pm, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Point of Pleasure, Wheelers and Dealers, and Big Black Bee, $5.
Matt Murphy's Pub Panorama, 10:30 pm, no cover 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Helios Creed, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Scissorfight, Pelican, 5ive and the Austerity Program, 8 pm, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch with Yoko Miwa, 10 am.
Sky Bar Hootmagnum and Mop Stanley, 8:30 pm, 21+.
South Shore Music Circus Wynonna, 7:30 pm, $35.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am; Marshall Wood Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Dexter Romweber Solo.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Abbey Lounge Silas Jr., Hot Ribs Blues, 8 pm, no cover.
Bill's Bar Bedlam 23, Thyk, Captain Cutthroat and MukRake, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Jim Gilmour, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Songwriter Tribute Night to Neil Young, 7 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm..
Hennessy's Joe Carson, 10 pm.
House of Blues Hem and Leona Ness, 9:30 pm, $10.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Eric Nassau, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Middle East Upstairs: America Is Waiting, Lake Superior and Clatter, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Corner: Deluxe, no cover, 18+.
Milky Way Marinate.
Paradise Chris Korwin Band, Focusin, Melanie Disa Band and Ryan Montbleu, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Dropkick Murphys perform at the FleetBoston Pavilion Aug. 20.

Acoustic duo Jackopierce's reunion tour lands them at the Paradise Rock Club Aug. 23

The Rack ZMQ, 6 pm.
Top of the Hub Marshall Wood Trio, 8:30 pm.
Tweeter Center Aerosmith, 7 pm, $49.50-$135.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Abbey Lounge Local Jack, 8:30 pm; Rosie Huntress, 9 pm; Paddy Saul, 9:30 pm; Eric Nassau, 10:30 pm.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Cantab Lounge Chris Pandolfi & Friends, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band, 10 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5-10 pm.
Kendall Café Paul Janovitz and friends, $5.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Lizard Lounge Jim's Big Ego and Shiffai, 8:30 pm.
Matt Murphy's Pub Public House with Geoff Scott, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Bishop Allen and Lincoln Conspiracy, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Corner: Noche Mexicana, 8 pm, $2, 18+. ZuZu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Herman Johnson, 6 pm.
Scullers Richard Elliot, 8 and 10 pm, $24.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee College of Music *1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-8820). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
City Hall Plaza *MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Pruden*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-3 7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Stat*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Gillette Stadium *One Patriot Place, Foxborough (800-543-1776).*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Ca bridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Cent*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Bost (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to P Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-11 MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Bost (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-10 MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617- 9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Avenue.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-212 MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Cente*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (61 491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (61 440-6022).*
Jimmy's Harborside *242 Northern Ave., Boston (617-423-1000). MBTA: Red Line to South Stati*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776- 2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451- 9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-19 MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Camb (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (61 426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park St*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577) MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Cent*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (6 482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8 MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvar*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress Street, Boston (61 357-5825). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (6 232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Vi*
McGann's *190 Portland St., Boston (617-227-40 MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-4 9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washinghton St., Jamaica Plai (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony B*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-5 3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-56 MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Cent*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. J Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Gree Line to Copley.*

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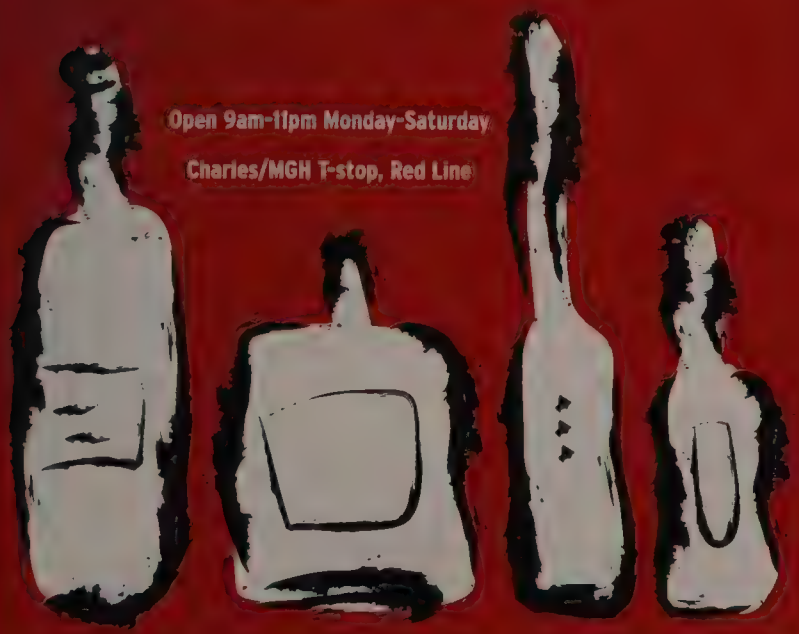

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David Daniels (above) performs at Tanglewood with Craig Ogden Aug. 21.

O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245) MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Avenue.*
O'Leary's Pub and Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, 79 or 350 bus to Arlington Center.*
Remington's of Boston *124 Boylston St., Boston (617-574-9676). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Saint *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
South Shore Music Circus *Sohier St., Cohasset (781-383-9850).*
Tanglewood *297 West Street Lenox (413-637-1600).*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2333). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Mansfield.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. Ludovic Morlot conducts the Boston Symphony Chamber Players and pianist Joseph Kalichstein in a performance of Lutoslawski's *Chain 1*, Harbison's Quintet for Winds and Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 3 in C Minor.

WCRB Classical Concerts
Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston. (781-736-9577). www.wcrb.com. MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. 7:30 pm. Free. WCRB Classical Concerts at the Hatch Shell continue with this performance by the Air Force Band of Liberty.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. The Juilliard String Quartet performs Haydn's Quartet in G Minor, Schuller's Quartet No. 4 and Beethoven's Quartet No. 13 in B-flat, Op. 130.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-80. Neeme Järvi conducts the BSO and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet in a performance of Smetana's "The Moldau" from *Má Vlast*, Grieg's Piano Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Boston Chamber Music Society
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-349-0086). www.bostonchambermusic.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $22; $20, seniors; $10, students. The Hamel Summer Music Festival continues with a performance of works by Schumann, Kodály and Dvorák.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Boston Common Parade Ground, Boston (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 8 pm. Free. Sopranos Ina Kancheva, Jonita Lattimore and Deborah Fields perform selections from Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Gershwin, Rodgers & Hammerstein and others.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bu.edu/cfa/music/tanglewood. 2:30 pm. $14-$43. David Hoose conducts the Boston University–affiliated Young Artists Orchestra in a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D and Schumann's *Nachtlied.*

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $16-$90. Conductor John Williams leads the BSO with cellist Yo-Yo Ma and bagpiper Ianian Massie in a performance of selections by Maxwell Davies, Michael Tippett and Edward Elgar.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Franklin Park, Roxbury (617-520-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. 6 pm. Free. Same program as Aug. 16.

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $15-$80. James Conlon conducts the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and violinist Joshua Bell in the world premiere of Zemlinksy's Suite from *A Florentine Tragedy*, as well as works by Tchaikovsky and Brahms.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Chorus Pro Musica Summer Sings
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (617-267-7442). www.choruspromusica.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7:30 pm. $4 to listen, $8 to sing. Conductor Jeffrey Rink leads the audience through a rehearsal and performance of Brahms' *Requiem.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

Cambridge Friends Meeting House
5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (802-426-3210). www.northernharmony.pair.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. $7-$10. The Village Harmony Youth World Music Choir performs traditional songs and dances from South Africa, Bulgaria, Appalachia and more.

United States Air Force Band of Liberty plays at the Hatch Shell Aug. 13.

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Cha
Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: G Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. This week's program tures Phillips' *Consort of Viols.*

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-12 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-$48. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma pianist Emanuel Ax perform Schumann's *Fa Pieces* and Adagio and Allegro in A-flat, Bra Sonata in E-flat, and Beethoven's Sonata No. 3 in

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Rogers Center for the Arts, North Andover (617-2200). www.landmarksorchestra.org. 7 pm. Same program as Aug. 16.

Tanglewood
Ozawa Hall, 297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1 www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $14-$43. The Norwe Chamber Orchestra and pianist and director Leif Andsnes perform Rameau's Suite from *Dard* Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 18 in B-flat and phony No. 4 and Haydn's Piano Concerto No. 3

WCRB Classical Concerts
Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston. (736-9577). www.wcrb.com. MBTA: Red Li Charles/MGH. 7:30 pm. Free. WCRB Clas Concerts at the Hatch Shell continue with this formance by the Longwood Symphony Orchest

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox (266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $15-80. Sir Ne Marriner conducts the BSO, pianist Lang Lang Women of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and vocalists in an all-Mendelssohn program.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Boston Chamber Music Society
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden Cambridge (617-349-0086). www.bostoncha music.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $20, seniors; $10, students. Cellist Ronald Th pianist Mihae Lee, violinist Scott Yoo and f Julia Scolnik perform selections from Weber Villa Lobos and Brahms.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra
Fitchburg Riverfront Park, Fitchburg (617-520-2 www.landmarksorchestra.org. 2 and 3:30 pm. The orchestra performs Daniel Pinkham's mu adaptation of Robert McCloskey's children's *Make Way for Ducklings.*

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox 262-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $16-$9 Neville Marriner conducts the BSO and vio Itzhak Perlman in a performance of Berlioz's ture to *Béatrice et Bénédict*, Bruch's Violin Co No. 1 and Vaughan Williams' *A London Symph*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox 262-1200). www.bso.org. 2:30 pm. $16-$90. ductor James Conlon leads the BSO, the Ta wood Festival Chorus, and other vocalists concert honoring the 65th anniversary of the cation of the Koussevitzky Music Shed.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Chorus Pro Musica Summer Sing
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (61 7442). www.choruspromusica.com. MBTA: Line to Copley. 7:30 pm. $4 to listen, $8 to sing. ductor Jeffrey Rink leads the audience throug hearsal and performance of Orff's *Carmina Bura*

Tanglewood
Koussevitzky Music Shed, 297 West St., Lenox 266-1200). www.bso.org. 8:30 pm. $16-$90. Vic Regina Carter, Eileen Ivers and Lara St. John co jazz, world music and classical in *Fiddlers Three.* diately following, Keith Lockhart leads the Po performance of Christopher Brubeck's *Interplay*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Ch
Corner of Tremont and School, Boston (61 2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Green Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Organist Gail Archer pe classical selections.

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays Guest DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 18, Hakim Law, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 25, ZMQ, 6-10 pm, no cover.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live-music series, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Neo-Soul Lounge Karmen and Natural Karma perform live, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
Den'm Tuesdays Resident DJ G2 spins house, international and hip-hop beats. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack and C combine dub, jungle and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•Aug. 19, Evan Goodrow, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 26, Herman Johnson, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJs spin reggae, jungle and dub, 9:30pm, 19+.

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Shake it at Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

The Exchange
Wednesday Night Focus DJ Funkshun spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Matrix
Lively A cast of DJs spin underground garage, 10 pm, $8.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Steve Anderson spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 13, Live music with BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm. •Aug. 20, BlackSole Jazz Combo, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Tim Collins and Artie the One Man Party play top-40, hip-hop and R&B, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJs pump out progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami, John Debo, Dave Ralph and Michael Whalen host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill's and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tunes, 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & Internation DJ Pup Dawg spins Indian and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz and electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

The Exchange
Groove Theory DJs play hip-hop, R&B and to 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, host KISS 108. Proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Chri Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty c the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downs 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party s upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gi spin dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no c 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am

The Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men. •**Contro**
Thursday Aug. 21, DJ John Morris spins progre house for the bi-gay/bi-curious party crowd. 9 am, $8, 21+.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover b 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando pr drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 2

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive te downtempo and soul classics in the front loun night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul D Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rot residency.

The Rack
DJ Lenny C spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, •Aug. 14, live music with U-neek Aproach, 6-1 no cover, 21+. •Aug. 21, Boston Horns, 6-10 p cover, 21+.

River Gods
DJ Dali spins a mix of global street beats, 9 p cover, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music b Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan shall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 p cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-schoo pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm,

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJs spin hip-hop, progressive tech and house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40, 10 pm, $5,

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. P dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

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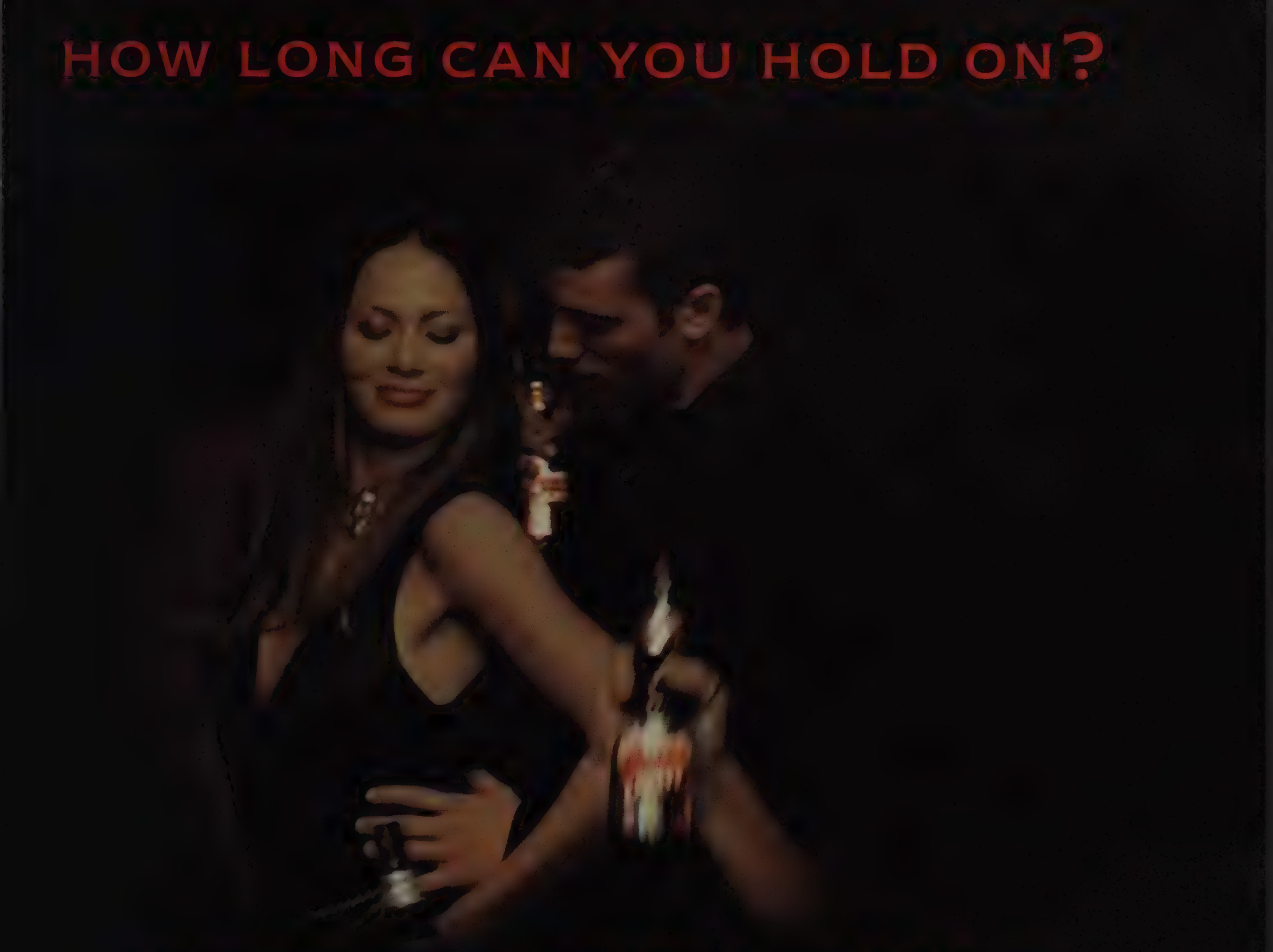

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Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Nocturnal Fridays DJ Mark Vieira is joined by live rock bands, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
DJ Noel spins progressive house on the third floor and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake It Up DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 15, live music with Central Basement, 6-10:45 pm. •Aug. 22, live music with U-neek Aproach, 6-10:45 pm.

River Gods
Retro Re-Imagined DJ Easy, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Ekco with two floors of music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ Brian Roache spins top-40, and DJ G-Sq
spins hip-hop and R&B, 9 pm, $10. Proper dress

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favo
disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-ho
vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Art
21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is up
with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9
$10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and
hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40,
downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KIS
host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square** DJ Albertik spins Russian and int
tional music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10,
•**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ R
spin mainstream international music on the f
and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house
the back room features dance favorites from th
and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz
merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15,

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin
music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez
Willie D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 b
10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest
ning all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm,
runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Ox**
DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes. P
dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs
hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae fo
under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Do
Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Braz
atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Sober**
urdays Dance to '70s, '80s, '90s and top-40
alcohol-free atmosphere, $15, 18+. •**Uptow**
Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s
'90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJ Vinney spins new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. P
dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21+

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles hos
dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure: We know it when we mix it DJ
lockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and tec
10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and int
tional music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; D
stairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 p

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin
plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos
Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in
front room, and DJ Steve Anderson spins retr
vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm
21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5,

Preview

Feeling It

Feel keeps grassroots dance on till dawn in Brookline

Brookline is probably the last place you'd expect to find an all-night dance club. But Feel, the Friday-night dance party at the recently opened Brookline Community Center for the Arts, makes up for its lack of strobes and lasers with an energetic crowd and dedicated DJs who keep the music going until the decidedly un-Bostonlike hour of 6 am.

Dancers jump around until 6 am at the BCCA

Every week, professional dance instructor Jose Eric Cruz teams up with the BCCA's Dan Yonah Marshall and Boston House Music Coalition DJs Bob Diesel and Maurice Wilkey to present Feel. Their aim, the group says, is to bring together people from all walks of life to enjoy a night of music without the dress codes and restrictions of commercial clubs. The BCCA space seems to complement the group's back-to-basics approach, with no club-themed decor or lighting. Feel is spread over two floors, with Cool-DJ Big Ones, Act One and Bradford James providing a mix of music upstairs on the "Elevation" level, while Wilkey and Diesel spin garage house and disco classics downstairs on the "Sanctuary" level. Because no alcohol is served at the BCCA, Feel can keep the dancing going well past the usual 2 am curfew time, and all ages are welcome.

Feel, Friday nights at the Brookline Community Center for the Arts, 14 Green St., Brookline. (617-738-2800). www.bccaonline.com. $5 before 12 am, $10 after. —Daniel Spurling

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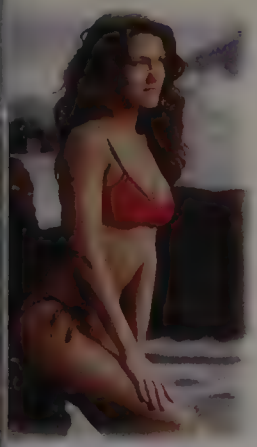
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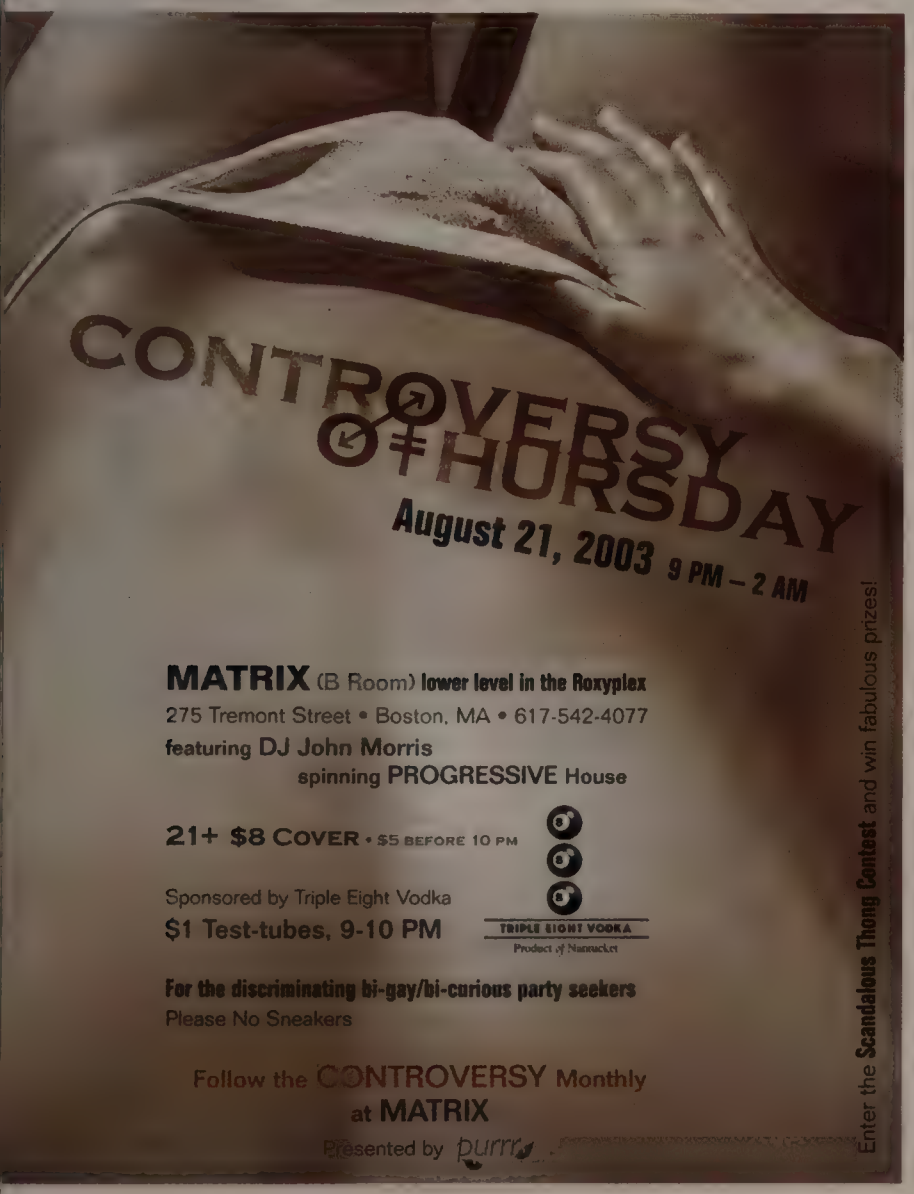

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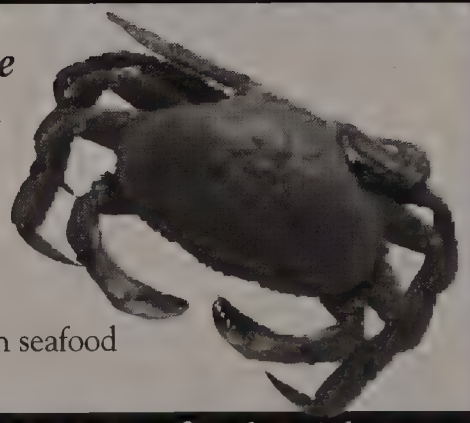

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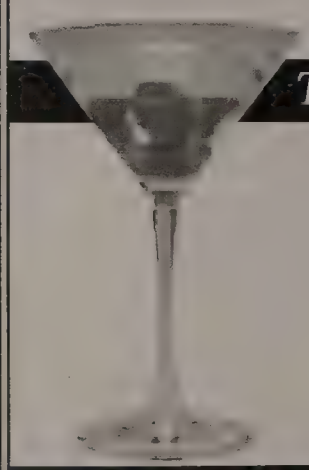

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SWI
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and light house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
Resident DJs KC Pete and Adam Gibbons play eclectic deep house, 8 pm-1 am, $5, 21+.

Aria
DJ Roger M. spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
DJ Bruno spins hip-hop, R&B and top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

The Exchange
XXX Night DJ Sensae spins a mix of top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm , $10, 19+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It DJs John Davis and B-Coy spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
VuDu Lounge DJ Franklin spins Latin and house; DJ Alessandro spins deep house, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

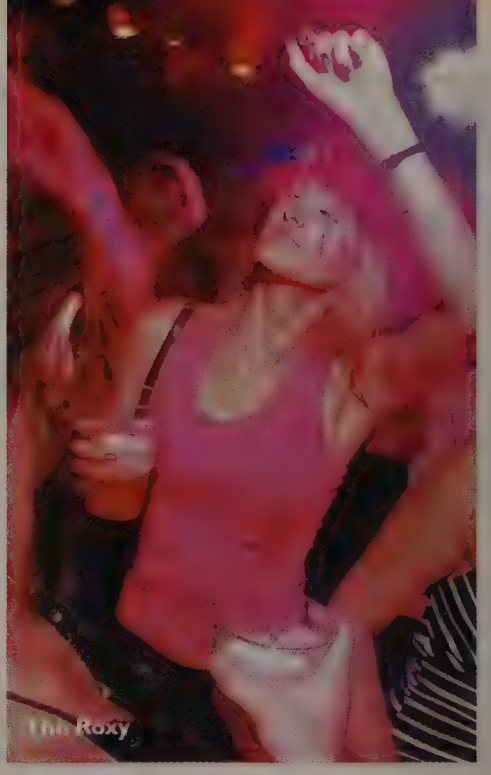
The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Nate Watkins, 8 pm-12 am.

River Gods
•Lumen Eclipse Weekly guests host a night of experimental videos, 7:30-9:30 pm, 21+. **•Stickabush** DJ Kavalier spins R&B and hip-hop, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.



Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ I
ille spins reggae and w
beats. Proper dress, 10
$10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts s
rock classics, hip-hop, h
and R&B.

Club Venue

An Tain *35 India St., Bost*
(617-426-1870).
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon S*
Boston (617-262-2121).
Aria *246 Tremont St., Bos*
(617-338-7080).
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Bo*
(617-437-0300).
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St.,*
Boston (617-262-2424).
The Avenue *1249 Comm.*
Ave., Allston (617-782-95
Axis *13 Lansdowne St.,*
Boston (617-262-2437).
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Plac*
Boston (617-351-7000).
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-967*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-11*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St.,*
Somerville (617-628-1000).
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-987*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617*
783-2071).
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-018*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-*
2100).
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-*
7601).
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555)*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-*
277-9722).
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-7*
4100).
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-530*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-10*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617*
722-0161).
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-94*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-90*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-94*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-68*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (61*
524-3740).
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-*
351-2581).
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers'*
Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 15
Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market*
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Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61*
576-6260).
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-77*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-*
227-2060).
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051)*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-188*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-00*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-70*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-*
351-2515).
SWI *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-669*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston*
(617-792-3382).
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-03*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-*
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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows through Oct. 26. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*American Presidents: Life Portraits*, paintings by Chas Fagan, displays through Aug. 29. • *Stories on Stone* features photographs of historic stone markers by Betsy Fuchs. Through Aug. 29. •*Maps from the BPL Collections* shows through Aug. 31. •*Five Centuries of Moveable Books*, an exhibition of antique and contemporary children's books with moveable parts and pop-ups, shows through Sept. 5.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* is a 3-D light sculpture on display through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down*, a 40-foot relief of a tree, shows through Aug. 31. •*The 2003 DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the work of 11 New England artists. Through Aug. 31. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibit, shows through May 16, 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists, selected from the museum's collection. Through summer 2004.

Dreams of Freedom: Boston's Immigration Museum

1 Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). www.dreamsoffreedom.com. *MBTA: Blue and Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. $7.50, $6.50 students and seniors, $3.50 children.* •*American Mosaic*, a show of stained-glass panels, displays through Aug. 31.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $5, $4 seniors, $3 students; free Wed. evenings and Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Le Coq d'Or: Natalia Goncharova's Designs for the Ballets Russes* shows through Aug. 24. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* shows through Nov. 2. •*The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* displays through Nov. 16. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* features a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition featuring 15 artists from around the world, explores the complex relationship between the creative process and healing. Through Aug. 31.

Jackson Pollock's *No. 1* is on display at the Fogg Art Museum.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*The Making of the Museum: Isabella Stewart Gardner as Collector, Architect and Designer* traces the early history of the museum. Through Aug. 24. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Ann Pendleton-Jullian: Facts + Fictions* highlights four books by the writer, architect and MIT professor. Through Sept. 5. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing. •*Singular Visions: The Melvin Blake and Frank Purnell Legacy* displays a collection of figurative art from the late 20th century. Through Aug. 24. •*Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788* features 100 of the British artist's paintings and drawings. Through Sept. 14. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* is an exhibition of works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*French Royal Furniture* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.sc*MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 a pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 ch dren.* •*Speed* explores the physical laws that gove velocity. Through Sept. 3. •*Contraptions A-Z* is hands-on exhibit of gadgets. Through Sept. 8. •*M crobes: Invisible Invaders...Amazing Allies* examines t harmful and beneficial effects of the microscopic wo ders. Through fall 2003. •*The Computing Revoluti* traces the history of the computer from the electron giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ong ing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of nosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). ww monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 p Free.* •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in Americ Community*. Ongoing. •*New England Neon* featu more than 20 neon signs from the 1920s through t 1970s. Through Sept. 14. •*Children's Favorit Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 1 •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who h vest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 2004. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Ma achusetts* features household objects from the p three centuries. Ongoing.

Newton Free Library

330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). ww *ci.newton.ma.us. Mon-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri., 9 a pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm. Free.* •*Boston in Black and Wh* exhibits Roger Cody's photographs of local hau and historic buildings. Through Aug. 28. •*The Pa ings of Sean Moore* shows through Aug. 28.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). ww pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 a 9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; child 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Fam Ties* displays contemporary art through Sept. •*Masterpieces of Asian Nineteenth-Century Phot raphy*, an exhibition of photographs from Chi Japan, India and Tibet, displays through Sept. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-sc Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Pl Women Weave* displays images of weaving plowing from Chinese artists in various me Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). w peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harva Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors students, $5 children* •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: So western Portraits, 1888-1896* is a selection of the H vard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through A 30. •*These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a col tion of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contem rary times, shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the Ameri Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexi Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. •*Dis guished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. On ing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing hibition featuring original sculpture and plaster of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North Am can Indian: Change and Continuity* features work picting the Native American response to the ar of Europeans across the continent. Ongoing. •*Pa Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays tifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-98 www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* c bines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia interactive media to explore the rise and fa Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only on which operates today. Through March 28, 2004

Galleries

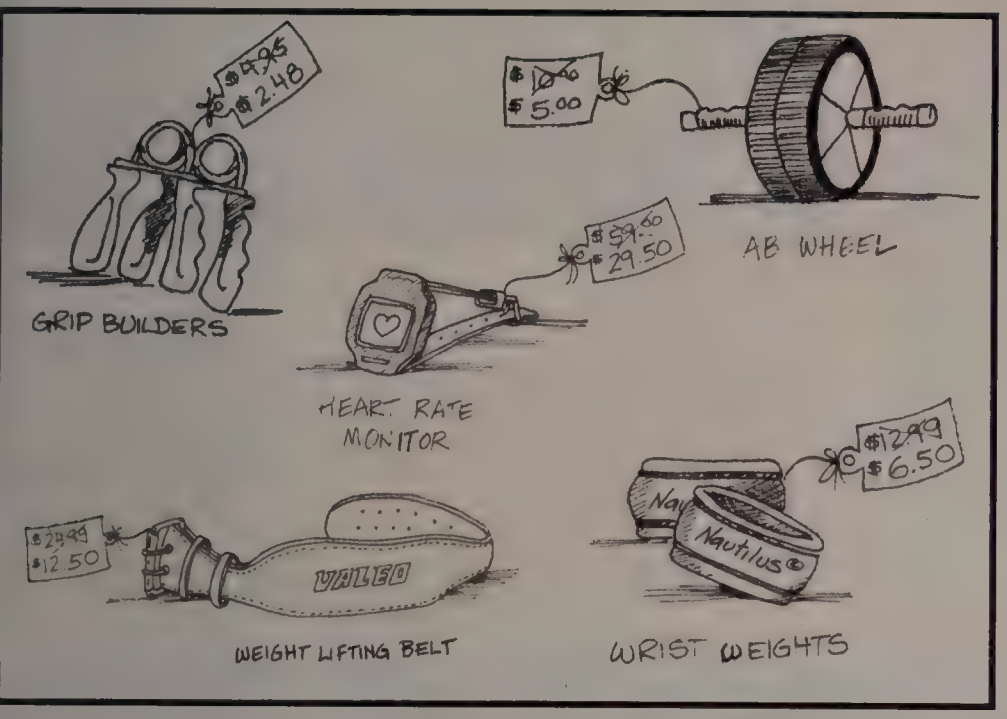
FINE ART

Acme Fine Art

38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.a fineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. T Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Summer Salon*, a group show turing recent acquisitions and works by ga artists, displays through Aug. 16.

Alianza Gallery

154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co*



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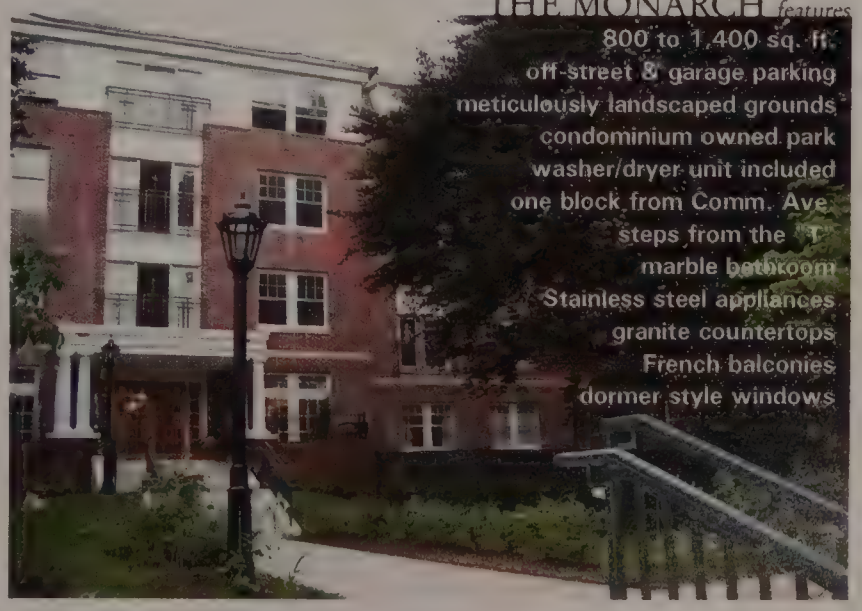

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Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm •*Tea and Fantasy*, a show featuring sculptural teapots by 16 artists, displays through Aug. 31.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Summer Selections* features new paintings by gallery artists. Through Sept. 3.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*New Landscapes by Judith Brassard Brown* features oil paintings. Through Aug. 30.

Art Interactive
130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge (617-498-0100). www.artinteractive.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central.* •*Engaging Characters* is an interactive robot- and computer-based exhibition. Through Oct. 5.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm. By appointment only in August.* •*Four to Look At* features the work of Cree Bruins, Sally Moore, Kelly Sherman and Rachel Perry Welty. Through Sept. 6.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Works from the gallery's collection display through Sept. 6.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •A show of mixed-media works displays through Aug. 30.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •Barry Hazard shows *Portrait Paintings*. Through Aug. 29.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. Aug. 16 through Aug. 26 by appointment only.* •Vladimira Klumpar, Anna Matousova and Pavel Trnka show their work in *Configurations and Transformations: Three Students of Libensky*. Through Aug. 15.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* •Melora Kuhn and Jessica Grace Brooks show figurative paintings. Through Aug. 30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* • The gallery presents three summer shows: *Printmaking in the Age of Rembrandt, Whistler and His Circle* and *At the Docks*. Through Sept. 6.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. Closed from Aug. 17 to Sept. 4.* •The *New Members Show* displays through Aug. 16.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Dyansen Gallery
132A Newbury St., Boston (617-262-4800). www.dyansengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Thu., 10 am-8 pm; Fri. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery features an ongoing exhibition of Italian Murano glass sculpture and works by Alexandra Nechita.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* • *Old Comforts/New Views* features oil paintings by Joe Blajda. Through Aug. 30.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Float*, a group show of drawings and paintings, shows through Aug. 30.

Sculptural teapots show at the Alianza Gallery.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •*The Third Annual Impressionist Exhibit* features paintings by Renoir, Pissarro, Manet and Cassatt. Through Aug. 31.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. Closed for August.*

Gallery @ Green Street
141 Green St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-0000). www. jameshull.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Tue., 6-9 pm, Wed. and Thu., 12-9 pm, Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm. Closed through Aug. 31.*

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. *Open in Aug. by appointment only.* •A group show featuring new works by gallery artists displays through Aug. 31.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. Aug. by appointment only. •A group show featuring gallery artists displays through Aug. 31.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm. Closed through Sept. 1.*

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339)..www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. Closed Aug.17 through Sept. 2.* •*Boston Summer 2003* features mixed-media works by Jerry Bergstein, Emily Eveleph, Morgan Bulkeley and others. Through Aug. 16.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm.* •*Vitrum Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath and Board* displays through Aug. 31.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters. •*Mini-Masterpieces*, the 10th annual summer poster show, displays through Sept. 3.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* • *Summer Rotations*, a group show of paintings, displays through Sept. 1.

Carol Gove's *Republic* shows at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery through Sept. 1

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment. Closed through Sept. 19.*

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www. cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm. Closed for August.*

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. Closed Aug. 24 through Sept. 1.* •A group show featuring paintings and photographs by an array of national artists shows through Aug. 23.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. Closed for August.*

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Through the Looking: Glass*, a group exhibition of glass vessels and sculpture by Marialyce Hawke, Duncan McClellan, Lucy Bergamini and Stephen Main, shows through Aug. 31. •*Vogt and Turula* is a collection of ceramic mosaics and paintings by Russ Vogt and John Turula. Through Sept. 8.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •Maggi Brown, Roby Fader and Dan Weller show their work in *The Locals: Three Cambridge Artists*. Through Aug. 29.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. Closed for August.*

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm. Closed Aug. 16 through Labor Day.* •*Playland*, a group show of paintings and photographs, displays through Aug. 15.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: *Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*South Enders 2*, a juried exhibition of South End artists, displays through Sept. 26.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Jeanette Ahlgren shows her work in *Beaded Glass Structures*. Through Aug. 31.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. Aug. by appointment. only.* •A group exhibition of gallery artists' work shows through Aug. 31.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm.* •*20 Local Artists Go Nude*, a show featuring paintings and sculptures, displays through Sept. 1.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. In Aug., Fri. and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Summer Surprises*, a group show of paintings, drawings and sculpture, displays through Aug. 31.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-4 pm.* •A group show featuring Alice Denison, Paton Miller, Paul Richard and others displa through Aug. 15.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (61 354-5287). www. outofth blueartgallery.com. *MBTA: R Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12 pm.* •A local-artists showcase ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (61 236-4497). www.peppergalle boston. com. *MBTA: Green Li to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 a 5:30 pm. Closed Aug. 15-3* •Gallery artists display pain ings and drawings. Throu Aug. 15.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (61 267-9473). www.puckergalle com. *MBTA: Green Line to Co ley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 p Sun., 1-5 pm.* •The gallery c ebrates its 36th anniversa with *Fine Choices: Somethi Old, Something New*. Throu Aug. 26.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (61 266-3321). MBTA: *Green Li to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am pm.* •The gallery showcases an ongoing exhibit 19th- and 20th-century American and Europe paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). ww robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to A lington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 p* •*The Art of the Game*, a group show, features ph tographs celebrating athletics. Through Aug. 23.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tu Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBT Green Line to Copley. •*20th Century Mas Graphics*, a collection of lithographs and aquati etchings by Sonia Delaunay, Joan Miro a Marino Marini, displays through Aug. 30.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). ww societyofcrafts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copl Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Wo Text Stories* features works by various artists glass, wood, clay and fiber. Through Oct. 26.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBT *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Sat., 6 pm; Sun., 1 pm-5 pm. Sat. and Sun., 12-6 through August.* •A group show of gallery artists d plays through Sept. 6.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). ww munroefineart.com. *MBTA: Green or Red Line Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appoi ment. Closed Aug. 16 through Aug. 29.* •*Pat Caul Paintings on Paper and Linen*, a collection of wo inspired by the poetry of E.E. Cummings, displ through Aug. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). ww vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copl Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 9 am-4 pm.* •Po Thayer Starr shows drawings in *Carved from Da ness, Carved from Light*. Through Aug. 15. •*Int ducing John Enser (1898-1968): Scenes of New E land* shows through Aug. 30.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). ww griffinmuseum.org. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to W chester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •Babe Hines displays discarded photo-booth portraits sp ning 75 years. Visitors can have their photo take a working booth and add it to the collecti Through Sept. 12.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-4 1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to K more. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •Harvey Halp shows color photographs in *Reflecting on M* Through Aug. 16. •*The Boston Photo Collabora Show* displays Aug. 18-Sept. 5.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). w panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •Work by A MacLean displays through Sept. 6.

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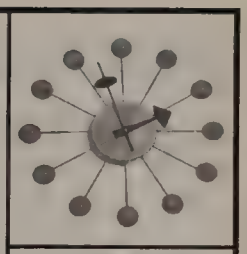
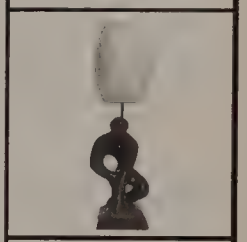
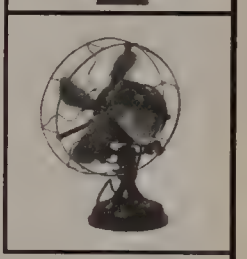

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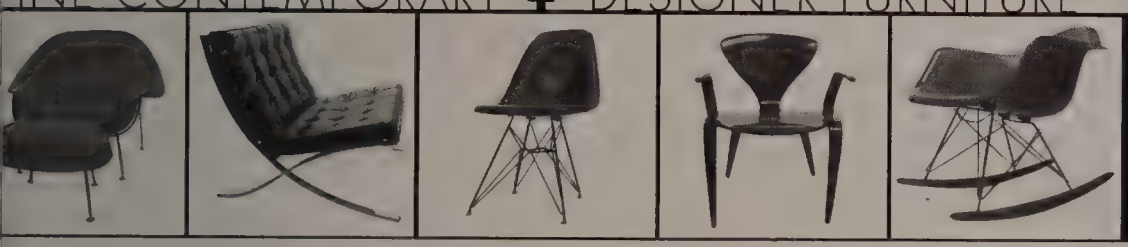

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13

Harvard Book Store
Boston Public Library Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. 7 pm. Free.* Vietnamese spiritual teacher **Thich Nhat Hanh** reads from *Creating True Peace: Ending Violence in Yourself, Your Family, Your Community, and the World.*

Katy Lederer reads from her memoir, *Poker Face*, at the Charles Hotel Aug. 18.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Dawn Clifton Tripp** reads from her novel *Moon Tide*, which follows the lives of three New England women from 1913 through the Hurricane of 1938. Join the author for food and cocktails after the reading.

THURSDAY, AUG. 14

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Carlo Rotella** reads from his book *Cut Time: An Education at the Fights*, a collection of essays that compare boxing ring behavior with everyday situations.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* Newton writer **Victoria Abbott Riccardi** reads from her new book *Untangling My Chopsticks: A Culinary Sojourn in Kyoto*, a memoir of her experiences in Japan where she studied *kaiseki*, a traditional form of Japanese cooking.

Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
The Attic Bar, 107 R Union St., Newton Centre (617-964-6684). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Centre. 7:30 pm. Free.* Local author **Steve Almond** hosts Bad Erotica Night. Boris McCudgeon plays live music while Almond reads selections of his work and other R-rated stories that are "so bad it's funny."

MONDAY, AUG. 18

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free.* **Katy Lederer** reads from *Poker Face: A Girlhood among Gamblers*, her memoir about how her siblings grew from New England private-school kids to world-class poker players in Las Vegas.

TUESDAY, AUG. 19

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). MBTA: www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Dr. Elinor Levy** and **Mark Fischetti** read from the book they co-authored, *The New Killer Diseases: How the Alarming Evolution of Mutant Germs Threatens Us All*, which examines 30 new infectious diseases that have been discovered since the 1970s, including AIDS, Lyme disease and SARS.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20

Grub Street Writers
Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.grubstreet.org. *7 pm. $12.* MIT scientist **Karl Iagnemma** reads from *On the Nature of Human Romantic Interaction*, his collection of short stories examining the irrational forces of love versus the need for logic and order in people's lives.

Hotel Marlowe
25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-8000). MBTA: *Green Line to Lechmere. 5:30 pm. Free.* **Edith Pearlman** reads from *Love among the Greats and Other Stories*, her collection of short stories about offbeat characters in a variety of locations, from Czech villages to Midwestern universities.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Donna Morrissey** reads from her novel *Downhill Chance*, about a friendship between two families in Newfoundland's remote fishing villages during and after World War II.

THURSDAY, AUG. 21

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Jim Hightower** reads from *Thieves in High Places: They've Stolen Our Country and It's Time to Take It Back*, a criticism on the Bush administration and the corporate and political strongholds that heavily influence society.

TUESDAY, AUG. 26

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C *Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Paul McComas** reads from his debut novel, *Unplugged*, about a rock star who abandons fame to deal with her depression in South Dakota. Local musicians provide musical accompaniment.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3.* Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free.* Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7 pm. $5.* The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B *Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm.* A mix of rock and spoken word is presented one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3.* Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4.* Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: *Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free.* The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity to take the open mike.

education

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WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13

The Image Reversed
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. 6 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15).* This gallery talk focuses on Japanese stencils.

SATURDAY, AUG. 16

Gorilla Conservation: Is Ecotourism the Answer?
Franklin Park Zoo, One Franklin Park Road, Boston (617-495-2341). 12 pm. **Dr. Michelle Goldsmith**, who spent 12 years studying the behavior and ecology of gorillas, presents an overview of the threats affecting their survival and the role of tourism in the struggle.

Nature Walk with Peter Alden
Walden Pond, Concord (1-800-432-5520). www.bostonlearningsociety.org. *9 am-12 pm. $39.* **Peter Alden**, primary author of the National Audubon Society's *Field Guide to New England*, leads a nature walk through Walden Pond State Reservation.

Roman Portraiture
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. 12 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15).* This talk focuses on portraits by Italian artists.

SUNDAY, AUG. 17

Mitochondria: Powerhouses of the Cell
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-589-0105). MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. 2:30 pm. $13.* **Dr. Vamsi Mootha** of the Whitehead Institute/MIT Center for Genome Research reveals some of mitochondria's secrets.

Summer Gardening Series
New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877-7630). 12:30 pm. Free with admission ($3-$7). Learn how to create garden designs that are successful throughout the year.

MONDAY, AUG. 18

Shifting Landscapes: Jewish Life in 21st-Century America
Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-1199). www.brandeis.edu/programs/berkshires. *8 pm. $5.* **Dr. Deborah Lipstadt**, a professor of modern Jewish and Holocaust studies at Emory University, discusses the challenges and opportunities facing today's American Jewish community.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20

The Aesthetic Movement in America
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. 6 pm. Free with admission ($13-$15).* This gallery talk highlights the aesthetic movement in American painting.

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording
Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-8576). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 11:30 am. Free with museum admission ($5-$7).* This gallery talk focuses on the graphic recording techniques used for archeological discoveries in Sardis.

Colonial Boston
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. 12 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15).* This gallery talk highlights the development of art in Boston during the Colonial period.

SUNDAY, AUG. 24

Modern Sculpture
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). 2 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk features a discussion of the museum's modern sculptures.

Victorian Sculpture Tour
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128). 6 pm. $5. Keeper of collections **Rebecca Reynolds** leads a tour exploring 19th-century masterpieces throughout the cemetery.

gay & lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information, including telephone numbers a nearest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or mail gaylesbian@improper.com.

Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBT *Red or Green Line to Park Street.* DJ John Mor spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesd night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBT *Green Line to Kenmore.* For 20 years, these fo have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the b of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors p drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 p $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBT *Green Line to Kenmore.* The glamorous Mizery ho a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive hou An amateur drag show takes place the last Mond of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.b boston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Boylston.* Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ M Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Mich Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room a lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-280 MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 p Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This sm (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesb owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/het crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Dail
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-096 www.club cafe.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arli ton. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 a Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draw dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music the front room or video entertainment in t back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays a Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show feat ing new and classic music videos. •On Saturda it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningha No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-999 MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominan gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips fr classic movies and the latest music videos—co piled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mo *Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 a MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.* This qu friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it g closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBT *Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 a Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am.* TV sets show satel sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softb league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3 pm on weekends.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). w shuttavac.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Chinato 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: G *Line to Arlington.* Patrons relax with a friendly cr and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •T Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. • and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Show Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10

. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

achine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-aturdays)

56 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: een Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: raoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: st Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Fried- in spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. at.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house sic. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry ght with DJ Afrodite.

anRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)

Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). w.manrayclub.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. d., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 -2 am. Catering to a young, alternative clientele, nRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt fea- es DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a tosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ ris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating mes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and eduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance ty with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ ry Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

idway Cafe (Thursdays)

96 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-88). www.dykenight.com. MBTA: Orange Line Green Street. 9 pm-2 am. On Thursday nights, Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, h rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+. uly 24, 8:30 pm. "Dyke Night" brings together lie rockers Chris Pureka, Sarah Bolen and ston Gay Idol finalist Allison Hale to perform ustic sets followed by a DJ and dancing.

ilky Way Lounge (Sundays)

Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www. kywayjp.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Stony ok. Gay men and women, transgenders and their es are welcome to start the night early at Candy- nd; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spo- n-word events and jazz. Finish the night with a ce party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, er varies, 21+.

ght Games (Fridays)

iday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-0). www.circuitgirl.com. MBTA: Orange Line to ivan Square. Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the ce tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. pm, $10, 21+.

radise (Daily)

Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www. adisecambridge.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. .-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am. Male ppers perform every night. The dance floor fea- es top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and ance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

mrod (Daily)

4 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: en Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself he largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ram- enforces a strict dress code (leather is obliga- for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: tch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise h DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise h DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with se music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. e: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

por (Tuesdays-Sundays)

Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). TA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge h DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino ht with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. . •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spin- g deep house and DJ Ron Stele spinning R&B, -hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner cle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. an.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and hael Sheehan. 21+.

ooks

lamus Bookstore

South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www. amus books.com. MBTA: Red Line to South tion. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. ton's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals transgendered people.

nter for New Words

Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). w.centerfornewwords.org. MBTA: Red Line to tral. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; ., 12-6 pm. The New Words Live series features array of feminist and lesbian author events. ender Crash, Cambridge Summer Special Edi- : I Heart You!, Aug. 14, 7:30 pm. Join other pas- sionate poets on stage with your own personal writings of love and lust at this open-mike gathering.

We Think the World of You Bookstore

540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.we thinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Fever! Dance Event

The Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester (781-648-0722). www.djdee. com. *Aug. 16, 8 pm. $10.* Join other Boston-area women for a night of music by DJ Dee and hip-hop dance lessons with Gabrie'l Atchison. Table reservations are available.

Guys as Dolls

Crown & Anchor Hotel, 247 Commercial St., Provincetown www.guysasdolls.net. *Through Labor Day, Tue. and Thu.-Sun., 7:30 pm. $18.* In a show of song, dance, drag and burlesque Joe Schmitz and Joe Posa do impersonations of Marilyn, Barbra, Joan, Liza and J. Lo, while dancer Brandon Michael Glasgow struts his stuff in the comedic musical revue's fifth season.

Same Sex Dance Classes

Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 179 South St., Sixth floor, Boston (617-247-2435). www.fadsboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Begins Aug. 21, 7:30 pm. $72 for a six week class.* Revisit the good old days with six weeks of tango, fox-trot, merengue and salsa lessons.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collaborated with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide this safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relationships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY

St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9 pm.* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth hosts a weekly series of meetings and social events for young people seeking community, support and a place to discuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League

Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 7 pm.* This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

BOSS

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades

www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash

(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League

(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center

93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 3-5 pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club

Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers

Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball

(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club

(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual

Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Wednesday and third Thursday of every month. 7-8:45 pm.* An informal support group for bisexual individuals.

Coming Out Group

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct

Laurel, 142 Berkeley St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger

Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA First Friday of the month. 7-9 pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club

(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www. pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings

(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated (and 40 or older) for get-togethers with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female, and who wish to explore gender in a safe place.

FLAG Flag Football

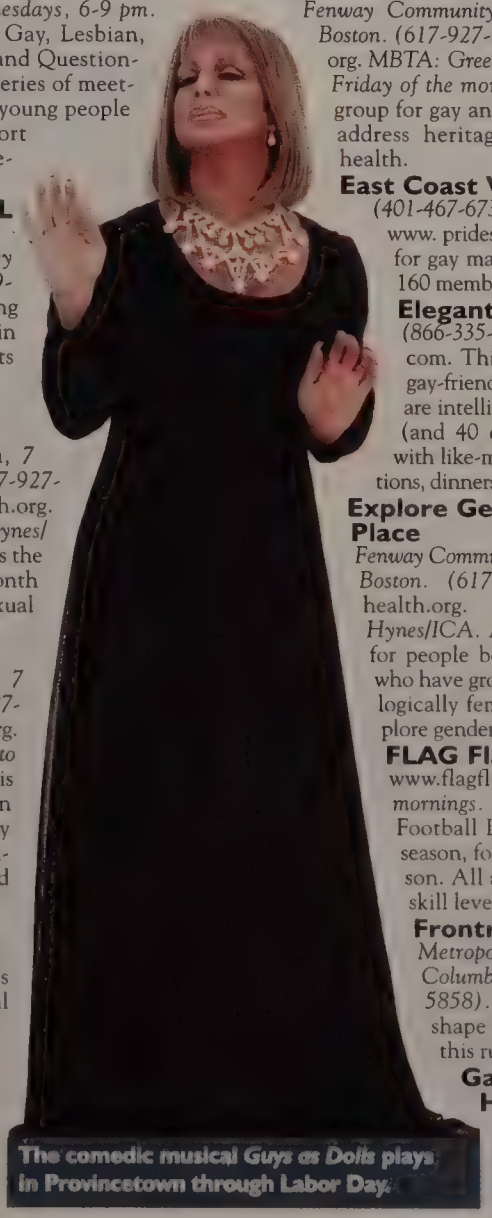
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston

Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline

(617-267-9001) or (888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.



The comedic musical *Guys as Dolls* plays in Provincetown through Labor Day.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston

First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2.* This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab

www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community

(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group

(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz

(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

Greater Boston Business Council

PO Box 1059, Boston *(617-236-4222).* www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals for monthly meetings.

HIV Counseling and Testing

Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming

(617-937-5858, #8). Tuesday/Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings. Gay and lesbian swim team for both fitness and competitive swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston

groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance

(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line

(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East

402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men

7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month. Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer

7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Meets twice a month. Learn to cope with a partner's illness.

Swingtime Boston

Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Wonder Women Boston

Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Thursday of every month. 8 pm.* This casual social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s meets once a month.

body& mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Annual Summer Dance Vision Festival
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 840 Sandwich Road, Falmouth (508-495-3311). Aug. 22-24. $20. This festival is the fifth in a series dedicated to dance as a spiritual practice. Dancers and nondancers alike are invited to experience the joys of life through dance.

Mystical Healing Fair
Hollyhurst Cottage Inn and Healing Center, 14 Holly St., Onset (508-291-2200). www.hollyhurstcottageinn.com. *Aug. 16. $3.* Learn more about the healing methods of aromatherapy, massage and reiki at this healing fair.

Lectures

Core Theosophy: The Cyclic Path—Human Evolution Through Globes, Rounds and Chains
The Theosophical Society, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *Aug. 15, 7 pm. $5.* **Ken LaSorella**'s lecture focuses on human evolution and the expansion of consciousness.

Krishnamurti: The Challenge of Change
The Theosophical Society, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *Aug. 22, 7:30 pm. $5.* **Zack Lansdowne** presents a film and leads a discussion on religious philosopher Jiddhu Krishnamurti.

Workshops

Back Pain Yoga Clinic
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282 or 617-285-3981). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Aug. 16, 3-5 pm. $25. Beginners welcome.* Join yoga teacher Liz Owen in exploring therapeutic movements (asanas) that focus on chronic back pain and back injuries.

Barefoot Boogie Jam
CasaNia: A Home for Every Body, 46 Porter Road, Cambridge (617-491-5144). www.niaboston.com/casania. *Aug. 22, 6-8 pm. Free.* Participants are invited to de-stress with this blend of dance, martial arts and healing arts.

Breath, Bandhas & Alignment Within Ashtanga Yoga
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Aug. 16, 6:30-8 pm. $40.* Guest teachers Fiona Stang and Julian Deck demonstrate the physically, mentally and spiritually integrated practice of Ashtanga yoga, providing instruction on meditative breathing, philosophy, alignment and life energy.

Everyday Chi Gung
Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Aug. 17, 12:45-4 pm. $40.* Chi gung focuses on the flow of the chi, the body's life energy. This class features exercises that can be practiced while driving, standing or sitting.

Mindful Modern Dance
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-864-3191 or 857-928-2288). Aug. 19 and 26, 7:30-9 pm. $8. Modern dance movements are slowed down to focus on the body's alignment, breathing, centering and movement. The class is led by Nicole Bindler, a teacher of contact improvisation, pilates, yoga, Feldenkrais and body-mind-centering. There will be some partnering and hands-on work.

Psychic Skills for a Psychic Life
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Begins Aug. 13 (six Wednesdays), 6:15-7:45 pm. $115.* This class teaches participants to work with dreams, ESP, innate healing powers, intuition and connect with others through the soul. Participants will also discuss myth, religion, science and New Age philosophy and how they relate to psychic cognition.

The Seven Steps of Change
Austen's, 115 Newbury St., Boston (617-731-2290). www.namoliving.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Presentation: Aug. 15, 7:30-9:30 pm. Free. Workshops: Aug. 17 and 18, 10 am-4:30 pm. $80 per workshop.* This workshop will introduce you to mental exercises that can help you change the ways that you handle everyday life. Increased awareness of the connection between external and internal experiences may aid in transforming stress into personal progress.

Ongoing

Beginner's Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-562-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or bus #57, 64, 66 and 501. Wed., 6:30-8pm. $15-$20.* Try the beginner's class in this attractive and peaceful environment, but call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time. Parking available.

Breathwork
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 6:30-8 pm. $10 donation.* Join David Vendetti, experienced breathwork facilitator and yoga teacher, for this relaxing class.

Silent Meditation
Living Yoga Center, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Sun., 7:15-7:45 pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free.* Silent meditation can enhance your peace of mind to let your intuitive voice be heard.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10. All levels welcome.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches you to experience your breath as the body's link with the mind. Practice a gentle approach to hatha yoga that includes basic physical fitness, mental focus and an opening to the deep connection with spirit.

Yoga/Harvard Square
Portia Brockway in Cambridge (617-864-YOGA). www.yogainharvardsquare.com. *MBTA Red Line to Harvard. Mon. 6-7:15 pm. $16. Drop-in. Beginner's welcome.* To wind down after work, try a moderate, flowing yoga workout.

Yoga/Newton
The Green Planet, 22 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-320-9792). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. www.thegreenplanet.com. *Sun., 9 -10:30 am. $16/class. Alternate location: Myrtle Church, 21 Curve St., West Newton (617-320-9792). Wed., 6-7:15 pm. $12/class.* Yoga can provide relaxation, enabling practitioners to center and connect with their body's needs and to improve balance, strength and flexibility as they develop movement awareness.

Yoga/Watertown
Integral Yoga, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.integralyogaofma.com. *Beginners Hatha Yoga: Tue. and Wed., 7:30-9 pm. $15. Drop-in.* This center offers regular hatha yoga classes, weekly meditations and workshops.

Nicole Bindler teaches Mindful Modern Dance

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated press releases by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Things to See

The Colony of Cats
Baker's Field, Kendrick Ave., Wellfleet (508-349-6835). www.what.org. *Through Aug. 27. Mon.-Wed., 7:30 pm. $9.* Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater opens its second season of WHAT for Kids! with this world premiere of playwright and actor Stephen Russell's *The Colony of Cats*. This variation on the classic Cinderella story features felines who help a young girl go from rags to riches.

The Gift of Love
The Center for Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfullofltales.com. *Aug. 16 and 23. 11 am. $8, $5 children.* The Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company's Children's Performance Series continues with this story of an ailing king who is saved by his townspeople and a mysterious visitor. The show includes shadow puppetry, original music and storytelling.

Make Way for Ducklings Concert
Boston Landmarks Orchestra, 168 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-520-2206). www.landmarksorchestra.org. *Aug. 23, 2 and 3:30 pm. Locations vary, see Web site.* The Boston Landmarks Orchestra presents composer Daniel Pinkham's *Make Way for Ducklings*, based on the book by Robert McCloskey.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •Aug. 13 and 14, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 4 and older: *Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimey*. This puppet show based on traditional fairy tales features a janitor who fills in for a missing puppeteer and uses the tools of his trade to bring the tales to life. •Aug. 20 and 21, 10:30 am and 1 pm, ages 3-6: *Bingo the Circus Dog* tells the story of a star circus dog who has been dognapped by the jealous magician Fargo the Fantastic.

Things to Do

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6229). www.acarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, transfer to Arlington Heights bus to Foster Street. Weekly summer programs, 8:45 am-3:30 pm. $205-$240/week.* •Through Aug. 15. In the Mirror. Camp leaders ask children to look into the mirror and think about what they see and what they would like to be. •Aug. 18-22: Children explore the artistic and cultural traditions of ancient and modern China. •Aug. 25-29: Flights of Fancy. Students draw inspiration from all things levitational.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free.* •Sat., 11 am, ages 5 and older: Take a children's tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery. •Aug. 15 and 22, 10 am, ages preschool to 7: Kid's Cinema.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children. •Mon.-Fri., 11 am-3 pm: Guided Visits of the Japanese House. Roam the hallways of a Kyoto townhouse and play Japanese games. •*KidStage*. Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through September 30. Every hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9.* Tou the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Pa

ImprovBoston Family Show
1253 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat., 6 pm. $12, $10 students.* Performers creat scenes, songs and stories based on suggestions fro the audience.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendal $5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Light Fantastic*: Th MIT Museum displays the largest collection of hol grams in the world and describes the artistic and sc entific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyon* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial i telligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to M seum. $15, children under 17 free.* •Tue. and Wed 3:30 pm. *Books Bring Art Alive.* Museum instructo read books, poems and stories to texturize the pain ings and encourage kids to talk about what they se •Aug. 13-14, 3:30. Ages 6-12. Fabulous Portrai Painting Workshop. This painting-intensive cla focuses on the creation of the portrait. •Aug. 13 ar 20, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Teenage members of th Strolling Street Theater interact with museu works in *Technicolor*, a performance about acceptir differences. •Wed., 5:30-8:30 pm. Through Aug. 2 Family Night Out: Throne Project. Activities f the whole family include a performance art exhib by B. Lynch, who will snap children's pictures works of art. •Aug. 20, 6, 7 and 8 pm. Four Favori Children's Stories on Film features adaptations the children's classics *Lentil, Chicken Soup with Ric Noisy Nora* and *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People Ears*. •Aug. 18-21, 3:30. Ages 6-12. The Ancie American World: Narrative Painting. This Chi dren's Room class features interactive discussion sketching and hands-on studio art projects.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.or *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 a 5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children.* •Sat. Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theat Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuri professional storytellers who combine folk tales a myths with visits from live animals. •Charles Hayd Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 a 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify t stars, planets, constellations and celestial events *The Sky Tonight*. •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observato two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellatio and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., pm, 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 childre Travel from Brazil to Japan to North America and b yond exploring the regions' percussion beats and c tures in *Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey*, directed by t creators of the *STOMP* stage production.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (61 522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 p $5.* The Museum of Transportation includes large collection of rare and antique cars as well exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution Speed* exhibit explores the history of Americ auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot ca Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts climb in, tracks to build and races to compete •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt throu the museum and receive a free prize.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). ww ci.newton.ma.us/Library. *MBTA: D Green Line Newton Highlands. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm.* •Aug. 13, 11 am: 3- a 4-year-old storytime; 2:30 pm: Mobil Maki Story Craft Hour; 7 pm, ages 10 and older: Bo Investigators provides a time for discussing vorite summer reads, sharing a snack and swapp titles. •Aug. 14, 3:30 pm: storytime for childr ages 5 and older; 4:30 pm: Art of Cooking class ages 7 and older; 7 pm: Pajama Storytime. •A 15 and 22, 10:30 am: preschool films; 2:30 p Book Bingo for ages 6 and older.

Stories with Mother Goose
FAO Schwarz, 440 Boylston St., Boston (617-2 5900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. We Thurs. and Fri., 10:30 am -5:30 pm. Free. Ages 2 Meet Mother Goose and listen to her stories.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Do ester (617-929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UM Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free. The JFK Libr holds a weekly story hour for kids and adults.

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9/11 Thursday 6PM
Chuck Palahniuk *Diary*
Coolidge Corner Theatre – Tickets $2

In his latest novel *Diary*, Chuck Palahniuk, author of *Fight Club, Choke,* and *Lullaby,* examines the dark (that's right, dark–duh!) relationship between art and suffering, and the terrifying extremes that people will go to in order to preserve a generations-old way of life.

9/18 Thursday 7PM
Julianna Baggott *The Madam*
Joy Fielding *Lost*

In *The Madam,* Julianna Baggott writes a beautiful, aching novel based on her grandmother, who was raised in a house of prostitution, and her great-grandmother who was a madam. Joy Fielding's *Lost* takes readers into the heart of a woman overwhelmed by her determination to find the daughter she's lost, and, if at all possible, to reclaim the respect she once had for herself.

coming soon....9/30 Susan Choi • 10/14 Gregory Maguire
10/21 Stewart O'Nan • 10/28 Emily Franklin & Lisa Dierbeck
10/29 Judy Collins • 11/4 Olaf Olafson • 11/12 Peter Carey

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sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
Aug. 19, 7:05 pm vs. Oakland Athletics
Aug. 20, 7:05 pm vs. Oakland Athletics
Aug. 21, 7:05 pm vs. Oakland Athletics
Aug. 22, 7:05 pm vs. Seattle Mariners
Aug. 23, 1:20 pm vs. Seattle Mariners
Aug. 24, 2:05 pm vs. Seattle Mariners
Aug. 25, 1:05 pm vs. Seattle Mariners
Aug. 26, 7:05 pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxborough. Tickets: 877-438-7387
Aug. 16, 4 pm vs. San Jose Earthquakes

Events

Boston City Center's Golf Tournament
Hit the links to support the International Interior Design Association New England Chapter. The day includes breakfast and lunch. *Sheraton Colonial Hotel and Golf Club, Wakefield.* www.iidane.org. *Aug. 21, 6:30 am. $150.*

Walk for Community Boating
Take a 6K walk around the Charles River to raise money for Community Boating. *(617-523-1038, ext. 18)* www.community-boating.org. *Aug. 23, 10 am-12 pm.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes, evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SAILING

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (617-523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *Mon.-Fri., 1 pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-sunset. Membership price varies.* Beginners and experienced sailors alike are welcome to come to the Esplanade and sail boats from 15-23 feet long, as well as go windsurfing and kayaking.

SOCCER

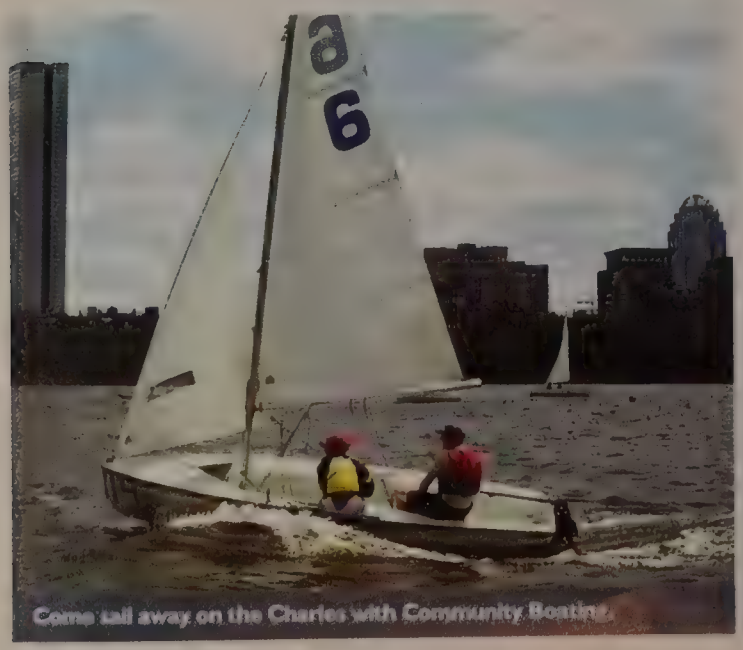
BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels) in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set 'n' spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.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around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site
83 Beals St., Brookline (617-566-7937). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4:30 pm. $2.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5 adults, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

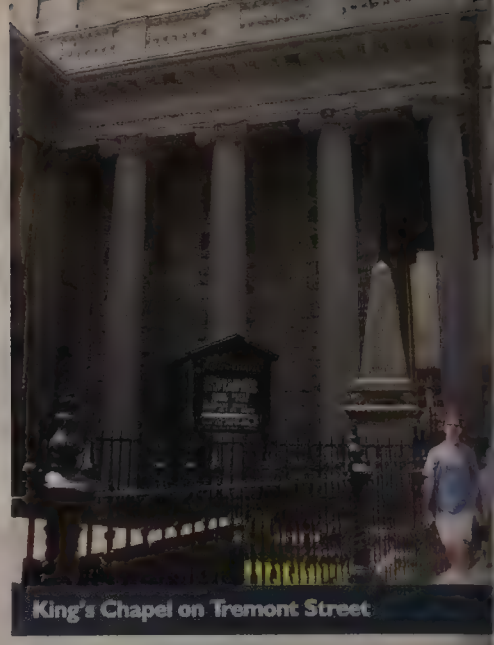
Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Summer ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.


King's Chapel on Tremont Street

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available in Greater Boston.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Seeks volunteers one day a week for four hours to help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Jimmy Fund Walk
(866-539-4376). www.jimmyfundwalk.org. Help walkers at the Sept. 21 Jimmy Fund Walk.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve lunch and dinner to homeless people and work in the food pantry.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Positive Directions
(617-262-3456). Reception volunteers needed for HIV/AIDS advocacy agency.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital format.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young professionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Volunteers needed to help reach homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

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—London Times

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—The Boston Globe

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity.) Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

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FAX: 617-859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Good Samaritans

Many thanks to those who stopped to help me after my bicycle accident July 13 on the Longfellow Bridge. In particular, thanks to Heather and her friends, who were kind enough to drive me home. It's a comforting thought to know that there are so many good people out there!
—Justine

Mullet Man

To the tall skinny guy in tights who had that spiky mullet: I saw you sing at Club Hideout off the Wonderland T stop, on the Blue Line. I was the blond punk-rock girl in the front row. I heard they call you the "Goblin King." All I know is, this girl fell in love! I want to be the babe with the power. Be there again some Friday night? If you want to talk, I will be wearing a bright pink ribbon in my hair. I usually sit under the big Frank Sinatra portrait with my friends Sarah and Kelly. Oh yeah, if you are singing again, I'd love to hear "Dance Magic Dance" by David Bowie. It's my favorite!
—DanceMagicDanceGirl

You and Me and Seafood Makes Three

You stole my gaze the first day I saw you. You had just started working at BR Copley and we met in the back room. I was captured by your cute smile and the very sound of your voice. Over the months we worked many deliveries together and I got to know you better. When you worked on the floor, I would find any excuse to come out from the back room to talk to you, or when you came out back, I would find myself a project close to you just so I could get one more glimpse of your smile and hear your voice. One night during a late delivery I promised to take you out for seafood on your birthday. And to this day I'm still kicking myself that I missed a great chance to see that smile and hear that voice again. If you read this note, please e-mail me and tell me how you are and maybe we can go out for that dinner I had promised you.
—me_you_seafood@hotmail.com

Good Bi-kiss

You and your girlfriend spiced up a boring night at the bar in the Back Bay on July 17. The kiss was so hottt. Thanks again.
—lesbianlover442003@yahoo.com

On the Way to the Cape

It was June 20. You: white Jeep Cherokee. Me: red Honda Civic coupe (long blond hair). We were stuck in traffic and kept passing each other and saying hi, waving and flirting. I have no idea if you even read these, but I figured it was worth a shot. So if you're interested in meeting in the same lane, maybe you'll drop me a note.
—getorganizedal@hotmail.com.

To Concerned Canine Sympathizers

How can you call yourself concerned if you walked by a pet locked in a car in 98-degree heat? That warrants a phone call to the police and even smashing a window to let the poor thing out, not a veiled letter to a magazine. You are really lame!
—An action-taking canine sympathizer

Orange Line Hottie

I see you almost every night around 5:30 riding the Orange Line to Wellington Station. You are a fine-looking man of Spanish descent with dark hair, about 5'9", and extremely handsome. I am too shy to approach you. I think that you would recognize me if you saw me. I was sitting next to you and you were bouncing your blue ball. I think that you were so into playing with your ball that you didn't even notice the attractive babe—that's me—sitting next to you. If you ever need help playing with your ball give me a call!
—Orange Line babe

Instructions for Reading on the Subway

First, if you are reading a newspaper, I have nothing to say to you. You are an amateur. Select a book. A childhood favorite, a *New York Times* best-seller, or *Harry Potter*. Do not be ashamed of the cover. Pay the $1 fare. Walk to the back of the trolley because there you are less likely to be swiped, smacked, smashed, mobbed, mugged, hugged or held at gunpoint. Place your gym bag at your feet. This is courtesy. Place your left hand on the rail for balance. Stand in third position. Shoulder your purse and clamp it beneath your elbow. Hold book aloft and follow the words left to right unless you're reading Hebrew—then track right to left. If you are reading Chinese or Japanese, you are too smart for me and don't need my advice. Turn pages when the train is stopped. If this is too difficult, take a cab.
—Chet Noir

10-Point Antler

I saw you at the Paradise Lounge. Three songs into Antler's set, I couldn't help noticing you, and you noticing me. With your long red hair, bell-bottom hip-huggers, silver hoop earrings, and sea-water eyes, you stood out like a rose in a room full o dandelions. I have black hair, was wearing a denim jacket, rust-colored cords and black boots. I know you remember me because during one of the band's quiet songs, as the rest of the crowd raised their lighters, you turned to me and said "I dig your Motorhead shirt." Unfortunately, I was too shy to do anything but say thanks and smile. What are the chances you'll be at the Paradise for the next Antler show? I'll be there, wearing the same shirt. Let's talk more over a cold PBR.
—Motorhead shirt

My Little Crypt-Keeper

It was Halloween in 2000. Amidst all the people I saw you, the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. It was almost like you were glowing. We spoke briefly then we went our separate ways. We were supposed to meet after our friends were gone but fell asleep. That night I knew you were the one for me and no on else would ever do. Now it's been almost three years and I couldn't be more in love with you. I just want you to know that I will never forget that night for as long as I live. I love you honey. Happy birthday.
—Your Ghoul

August 7, 2002, Corner of Summer and Cedar

You have made every day special for an entire year, and I dream of all the years yet to come. I found it, my rainbow connection, my Kermit the Snog. I love you.
—Me

The Fire + Ice Man Cometh

You have to be the most delicious man I have ever encountered! We struck up a conversation at Fire + Ice at the bar. Your eyes were so deep and your stare so intense that can't get you out of my mind! We only spoke for about five minutes, casually that I fear you may not remember me. You, tall muscular, brown hair, sunkissed skin and hug brown eyes. I was the tall blond wit green eyes and we talked about how we both loved the fruit-soaked vodka at Fire + Ice. If only I was bolder and told you I wanted to drink one of those shots off of what can only imagine as your well-defined abs. If we should happen to run into each other there again—hint, hint, say on a Monday night—we can discuss body shots and other adventures further.
—Wishing for more fire, less ice

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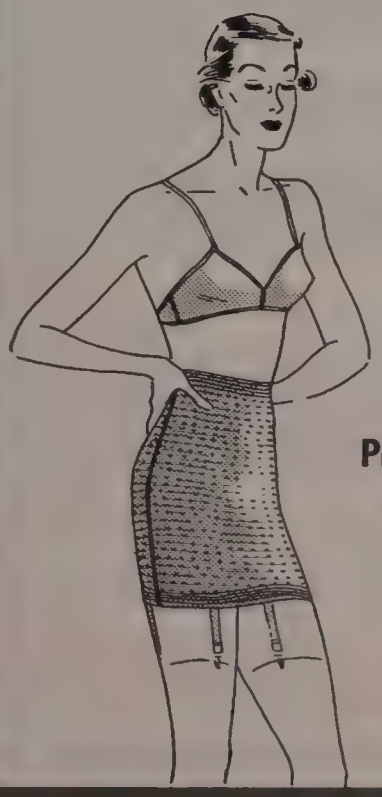

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LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Lions know how to put on a spectacular show, the kind of party that leaves a lasting impression. Since grandiose Jupiter is about to exit your sign (and won't return for another 12 years), and lovable Venus won't even be in Leo for your next birthday, make this year's celebration as memorable as you possibly can. It'll be worth the extra expense if the goodwill you generate now becomes an insurance policy for the dark and stormy days that might come three years from now, when Jupiter starts testing you.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

It'll be just a few more weeks of waiting before you can welcome generous Jupiter into your sign for a full year's worth of opportunity, prosperity and sheer luck. Until then, pay attention to the small stuff, the "i's" you may have to dot now that your Mercury ruler is in Virgo. Make preparations now for the end of the month, when Jupiter arrives and Mercury turns retrograde. You know the drill: Get the car and electronic equipment repaired ASAP, make contingency plans in case of delays or cancellations, back up your files, cover your ass.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Weirdness around the house, a whiff of scandal about a relative, an unexplained oil leak in the driveway: When lit by the rays of the Leo sun, amorphous Neptune can take many shapes. Why a strange turn of events becomes a source of artistic inspiration is your secret to share. But that can happen when your romantic Venus ruler comes face-to-face with that imaginative Neptunian vibe. A subtle spiritual connection could become a steamy affair next week when passionate Pluto horns in. Summer fun and games.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Keep your eye on the glitter and the glitz. Behind the glamour, the showmanship, the exaggerations and the promises lies the real thing, the pure gold. Maybe not a huge pile, but enough to enrich your coffers. Add an active social life, and you'll easily see how having expansive Jupiter in your Leo midheaven has dramatized/traumatized your life. Jupiter will soon enter Virgo, where it should protect you from any more slings, arrows and painful opportunities to "grow."

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Affirmation of the changes you've been going through, the rehabilitation taking place on a cellular level—Pilates exercises, human growth-hormone shots, anti-depressants—arrives as the proud Leo sun and affectionate Venus support Pluto, ruler of regeneration, in your sign. Rewards for a successful metamorphosis are rare, and seen more often in theatrical productions than in everyday life. But they do occur, even to Centaurs who no longer run with the wind. Look for a friendly Lion bearing gifts.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Something slightly fishy about a financial matter could sound an inner alarm, but other than a misunderstanding about money, nothing should disturb your equilibrium until Mercury turns retrograde at the end of August. Because the flip occurs in Virgo, a compatible earth sign, it won't be a big deal, except for travel plans. Even adjusting your current schedule to accommodate your partner's social agenda shouldn't divert your attention from whatever pastime entertains you this summer.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Dazzled, deluded or just daydreaming? Vague, vaporous Neptune in your sign is getting a lot of play from the planets in Leo right now. If you're a musician, dancer or magician you won't mind having bright-eyed, bushy-tailed enthusiasts looking at you. But if you're into quasi-legal stuff, scandal or spin-doctoring, all that attention could blow your cover. Classic Aquarian-type heroes, such as Robin Hood and Lady Godiva, with their strong sense of social responsibility and love of the spotlight, should have a field day.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Read for Aquarius. Again, it's your Neptune ruler setting the tone for both signs, so you're likely to find that, right now, you're tied to the Water Bearer in subtle, somewhat mystical ways. Although you might not be in the forefront of sociopolitical reform, like the Lady of the Lake and Merlin you're a hero in your own right, a somewhat invisible yet powerful force for change. However, that cloak of invisibility might drop while the Leo sun and Venus focus on Pluto in your career/reputation midheaven.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

It's playtime, big-time. Over the next few weeks, while the optimistic Leo sun, lucky Jupiter and romantic Venus are passing through your house of fun and games, feel free to frolic to your heart's content. With so much positive planetary energy reinforcing your innate sense of adventure, you'd be a freak of nature if you turned down a chance to have big fun. Or to win big money. Or, for that matter, to spread it around. Besides, while your Mars ruler is retrograde, reflecting on past behavior, you won't see much forward progress.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Entertaining on a grand scale, dressing to the nines, doing a star turn for an ever-widening audience—these are a few of the perks being offered while your Venus ruler travels through luxurious Leo. Although you usually have a blast during the goddess' annual summer tour, this year the Bull gets extra benefits from having jolly, generous Jupiter in Leo as well. Not for another 12 years will you be encouraged to make such sweeping plays, hog as much of the spotlight or show how imperious and magnanimous you can be.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Gemini's chances of making serious money right now are excellent; so are the odds you'll spend it to satisfy your partner or outfox the competition. Your Mercury ruler's passage through earthy Virgo should bolster the Twins' practical, rational side; instead, it might make you hell-bent on proving your point. Meanwhile, Mercury's forward march may also increase your antsiness—the itch to be somewhere else, drive something else or change your zip code entirely. Patience wears thin, harsh words are exchanged. Watch it.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

While other signs can relax this summer, go on vacation or take long weekends out of town, cosmic forces are urging Crabs to come up with dramatic and entertaining ways to upgrade their lifestyle. It can't be helped. Because both Jupiter and Venus, the planets that bring "good fortune," as well the creative sun, are in your Leo money house, easy opportunities to rake it in can suddenly surround you. This window won't stay open much longer—Venus moves into shy, retiring Virgo on the 22nd, and Jupiter follows on the 27th.

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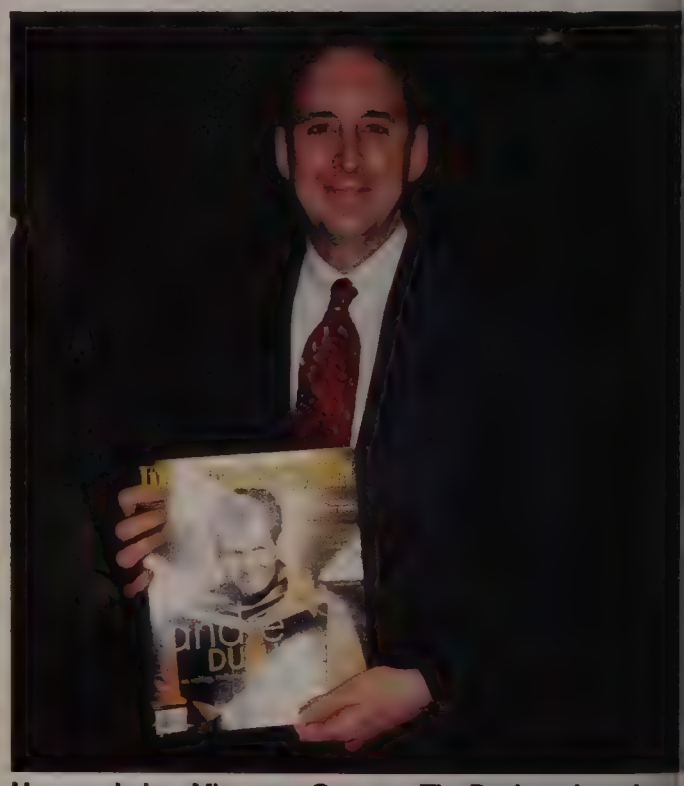
James Song, a Cambridge-based hypnotist, levitates an IMPROPER in Laguna Beach, Calif. We hear he also makes a killer omelette and can vacuum under his coffee table using only his mind.

Miya French finds summer fun at the Top of Waikiki restaurant in Hawaii. She appeared on the ill-fated *Wheel of Fortune Hawaii*, which went off the air because nobody could afford to buy all those vowels.

Brian Katulis visited a Saddam palace i Baghdad. Then he spray-painted "goober nugget" on a Saddam statue.

Director John Singleton makes sure to read his IMPROPER 2Fast and 2Furiously every 2Weeks.

Beth and Mark Bowers wait for an elephant taxi in Chiang Rai, Thailand. In Chiang Rai, the wealthiest villagers ride elephants, while the peasants are forced to ride monkeys or drive Chevy Cavaliers.



How much does Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty love the IMPROPER? Pawlenty! He's standing up because Jesse Ventura broke all the folding chairs in the governor's mansion.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: Looking around some fields, we suppose, at the Looking Around the Fields Festival, held every September in Zetang, Tibet to ensure a good harvest.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
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IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Wednesday, July 30, **The Dining Scene** hosted "Bacardi Night," a get-together at **Clerys**.

1. **Chet McNeil**, IT contractor for Teksystems; **Jeff Driscoll**, mechanical engineer for Dynisco Instruments; **Joey Eastman**, sales representative for E.F. Education; and **Lauren Dilzell**, mutual fund accountant for Investors Bank and Trust.
2. **Darrin Watson**, general manager for Clerys; **Julie Price**, senior usability specialist for Fidelity Investments; and **Devin McQueeny**, creative director at Feratech.
3. **Shawn Palma**, bartender at Three Cheers; **Tracy Mellor**, program coordinator at MIT Sloan School; **Sam Dearborn**, CEO of Snap Consulting; and **Patty Kelly**, lead analyst for Sunlife.

On Thursday, July 24, **The Rack** hosted the kick-off party for the Pan-Mass Challenge which is presented by **The Boston Red Sox**. The party honored local riders of the annual PMC bike-a-thon, which raises money for the **Dana-Farber Cancer Institute** through its **Jimmy Fund**.

1. **Billy Starr**, founder and executive director of the Pan-Mass Challenge; **Stacey Lucchino**; **Meredith Beat Starr**; and **Larry Lucchino**, preside and CEO of the Boston Red Sox.
2. **Paul Barclay**, owner of The Rack a quick dip in the "dunk tank" to bene Dana Farber.
3. **Jessica Chang**, student at Cornell University; **Albert Piacente** profes New York University; **Nicole Chen**, revenue manager for Interstate Hote Resorts; and **Jay Severin**, radio hos 96.9FM.

On Thursday, July 17, **The Improper Bostonian** hosted a grand event at the **Downtown Lounge**. Guests enjoyed special recipe **Finlandia** martinis and a fabulous fashion show featuring clothes by **Arden B**. Models were provided by **Dynasty** with hair by **Mitchell John Salon**.

1. **Ellen Grimm**, VP of marketing for Grimm Enterprises; **Sean Spencer**, law student; **Pete Michelini** of Charlestown and **Ed Miller**, mechanical contractor fo G.E. Miller.
2. **Diana Durka** of Hingham, **Alice Voke** of Cohasset, **Robin Dellot**, **Mary O'Connor**, **Christy Holden** and **Mary Ellen Miller,** all of Hingham.
3. **Dynasty Model** in the latest from Arden B.
4. **Austin O'Connor, Jr.**, CEO of the Briar Restaurant Group, **Richard Lewis**, Massachusetts on-premise marketing manager, Brown-Forman Spirits; and **Steffani Scheurich**, senior on-premise channel development manager, Brown-Forman Spirits
5. **Nicki Fertile**, assignment editor for NECN; **Kimberly Crowe** and **Jennifer Salerno**, both students at Boston College; and **Sara Schiano**, student at Boston University.

PHOTOS: CLERYS, MICHAEL BURNS; THE RACK, SARA SCHIANO; DOWNTOWN LOUNGE, ALISON MORR

Fall Forward

In this Issue *The Improper Bostonian* will take a look at all that is fresh and new in fall fashion. This is the biggest shopping season of the year and our resident fashion expert extraordinaire, Samantha House, will coolly guide you through all that autumn has to offer. You will learn how to dress, where to shop and about all the latest fashion secrets and trends.

Don't miss a chance to advertise before this Fashion Issue for Fall leaves!!

The Improper Bostonian reaches more than **313,500 readers** every two weeks!

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MAGAZINE

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere in the heart of downtown Boston. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1 am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here. The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Doors at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs.

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2080 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening -- and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

rish

THE BLACK ROSE *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th ear! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, he menu features American and Irish specialties. Live rish music nightly.

HENNESSY'S OF BOSTON *25 Union St., Boston, 617-42-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to aneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials nd Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer nd wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer enu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week vith pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of oston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part f the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

THE GRAND CANAL *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub em-ire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features ver fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full in-ernational menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. he Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and eatures Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing ruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a ue "Irish Pub Experience."

GREEN BRIAR *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-89-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, ffordable food. One of the most popular nightspots n town, the Green Briar has become the area's head-uarters for international sports viewing and live en-ertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring ocal bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun very Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tues-ay. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green riar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding ehearsals, social gatherings and small business eetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover harge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some porting events on Sundays.

THE GREEN DRAGON *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-67-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," is favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable lace serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed ish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The ivern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled orewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and ntertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

KINVARA *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* t the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hos-table, the food is great and everyone is treated as a egular". It's the local gathering place with authentic ish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via tellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands ntertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The main-ream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches nd fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innova-ve daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true sh pub experience. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

MR. DOOLEY'S BOSTON TAVERN *77 Broad St., oston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the em of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite eeting place for young professionals. The authentic sh pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been oted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." pen daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. rough Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

eneral

THE ALLEY *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. ww.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of ourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands nd DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a rap around balcony for plenty of people watching. he Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the igar Shack have something for every mood, so grab our beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

AQUA *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

THE BLACK RHINO *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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CHEERS *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

CHEERS *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

DOWNTOWN LOUNGE *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

ENCORE LOUNGE *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

THE HARP *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

HURRICANE O'REILLY'S *150 Canal St., Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

JILLIAN'S BOSTON *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

PARRIS *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

ROXY *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston, 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

THE RACK *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

REGATTABAR *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

Latin

SOPHIA'S *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

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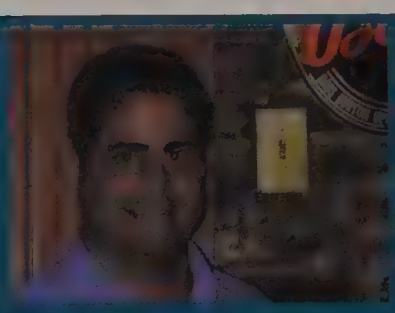

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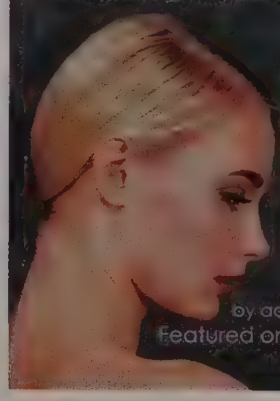
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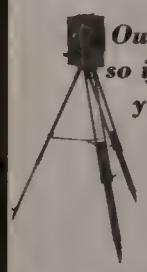
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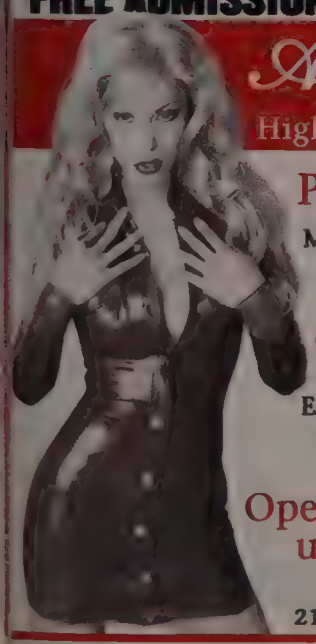
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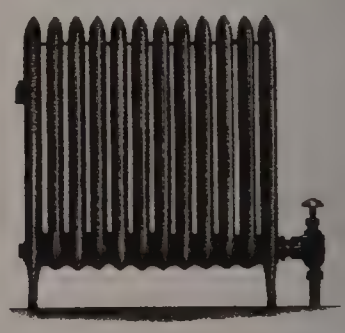

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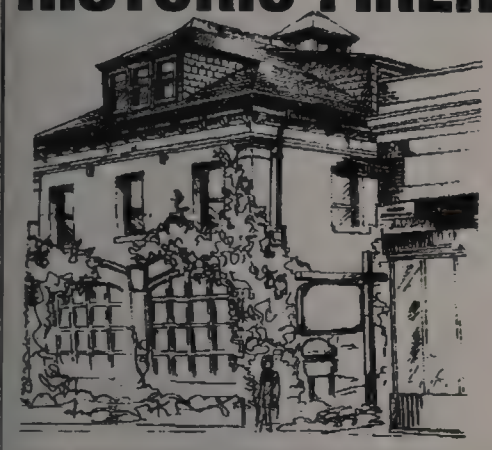

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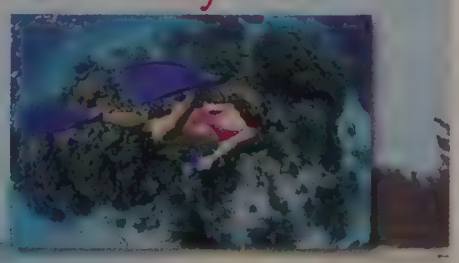

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LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At Saks in the City, top: a pile of Guccis, Manolos and Jimmy Choos. Upper middle: Drew Martin and Nora Ferguson; Bill Emery and Dan Mathieu; Mario Russo. Lower middle: Juan Prieto; Sheryl Marshall and Jill Medvedow show off their matching Issey Miyake purchases; Larry Post and Stamatis Astras. Bottom: Heather Unruh; Lynne Aronson and Jeannie Flynn.

NOBLESSE OBLIGE, AND CHARGE IT, PLEASE...

The seemingly contradictory mottoes of "Give till it hurts" and "Shop till you drop" came together nicely at **Saks in the City**—an evening of dramatically discounted shopping at **Saks Fifth Avenue** that raised money for five local charities.

Needless to say, knowing that one's purchases would benefit a worthwhile cause made it that much easier to splurge with reckless abandon, as 2 percent of each sale went to the **AIDS Action Committee**, the **American Heart Association**, the **Institute of Contemporary Art** or the **Wang Center for the Performing Arts**. (Buyers specified their charity of choice, and the organization that received the highest percentage of total sales from the evening received the added boon of a fashion benefit hosted by Saks this fall.)

Spotted indulging in some serious retail therapy: such fashion plates and clothes horses as banking babe **Alison Bibbins Ward** of Mellon; TV news glamazon **Heather Unruh** of Channel 5; hair deity **Mario Russo**; nightlife chatelaine **Diane Mantouvalos** of Saint (where everyone went later to toast their bargains or drink away their buyer's remorse); gallery owner **Jim Smith**; dreadlocked jewelry designer **Drew Martin**; bowtied hipster **Robin Lincoln**; the alarmingly handsome **Bill Emery**; foodie superhero **Dan Mathieu**; the fairy godfather of real estate, **Dan Mullin**; venture capitalist **Sheryl Marshall** and ICA director **Jill Medvedow** (who bought matching blue Issey Miyake numbers); Greek tycoon **Stamatis Astras**; Amex financial adviser bigwig **Larry Post**; Boston's newest NY import, chef extraordinaire **Lynne Aronson**; blue-eyed playboy and scratch golfer **Jay Gordon**; a woman who said, "I'm pregnant, but I'm still buying shoes" and a man who grabbed a glass of champagne from the bar and said, "OK, now it's time for a credit card workout."

Other comments overheard during the course of the evening:

"I'll meet you in better handbags," and "The security guards better keep an eye on me—Winona and I go way back."

However, the sauciest comment came from a gay man who looked at the Michael Kors pants his friend was contemplating buying and said, "Those'll make you look big...and not in the right places."

NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MERLOT...

OK, pop quiz: **The Art of July** refers to:

A) maximizing one's time at the beach

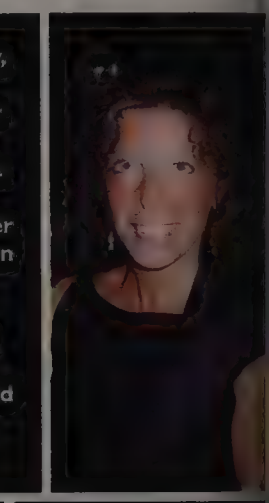
B) eating as many cherries as possible without puking

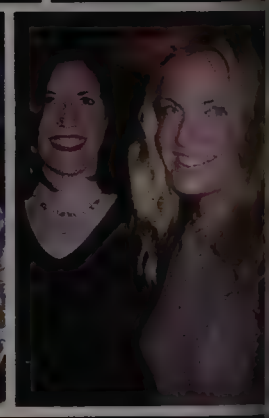
C) a gigantic silent auction of work by local artists to raise money for the **Children's Trust Fund**.

If you picked C, chances are you were in the rooftop ballroom of the **Omni Parker House** for the 10th annual summertime fund-raiser. If so, you were toe-to-toe with the likes of the event's founder, **Randace Moore**; PR princess **Kate Shamon**; the ubiquitous **Zvi Cole**; male model in training **Gene Goldman**; Indian gadfly **Amit Kanodia**; the fiercely fabulous **Evelyn Nellum**; gregarious investment banker **Robert White**; congenial couple **Jenn Goff Barry** and her husband, **John**; interior designer and Dudley Do-Right doppelganger **Duncan Hughes**; the always affable **Jeff Popkin**; hairstylist extraordinaire **Albert Julian**; improbably tall artist **Christopher Ellsworth**; headhunter (and daughter of baseball Hall of Famer Jim) **Jamie Palmer**; fiery fashion plate **Lisa Rebello**; world-famous photographer **Cheryl Richards**; stand-up comic and man-of-a-thousand-voices **Bob Gautreau** and his boyfriend, the artist continually known as **Brian Patrick Adams**; sassy advertising chick **Jannine Fonte-Hathaway**; and one person who downed a vodka and tonic and said, "I sucked that drink down like I just got out of rehab."

Memo to the guy who made a noticeable, loud fuss about the glass of wine that accidentally got spilled: Going to a party means running the risk of getting a stain on your clothing, and there was no need to throw such an ungracious hissy fit. In fact, it actually did your girlfriend a favor, since that dress made her look like she' d been badly upholstered. P.S. Any decent dry cleaner nowadays can remove a minor red wine stain from a pair of khakis, and if not, you should just look at it as the (abstract) art of July.

At The Art of July, from top: Lisa Rebello; Matthew Rushford; Kate Shamon and Anja Kola; Jenn Goff Barry, Christopher Ellsworth and John Barry; Gene Goldman, Lori Sullivan and Rob White. Bottom: Evelyn Nellum and Doug Nahigian; Zvi Cole.





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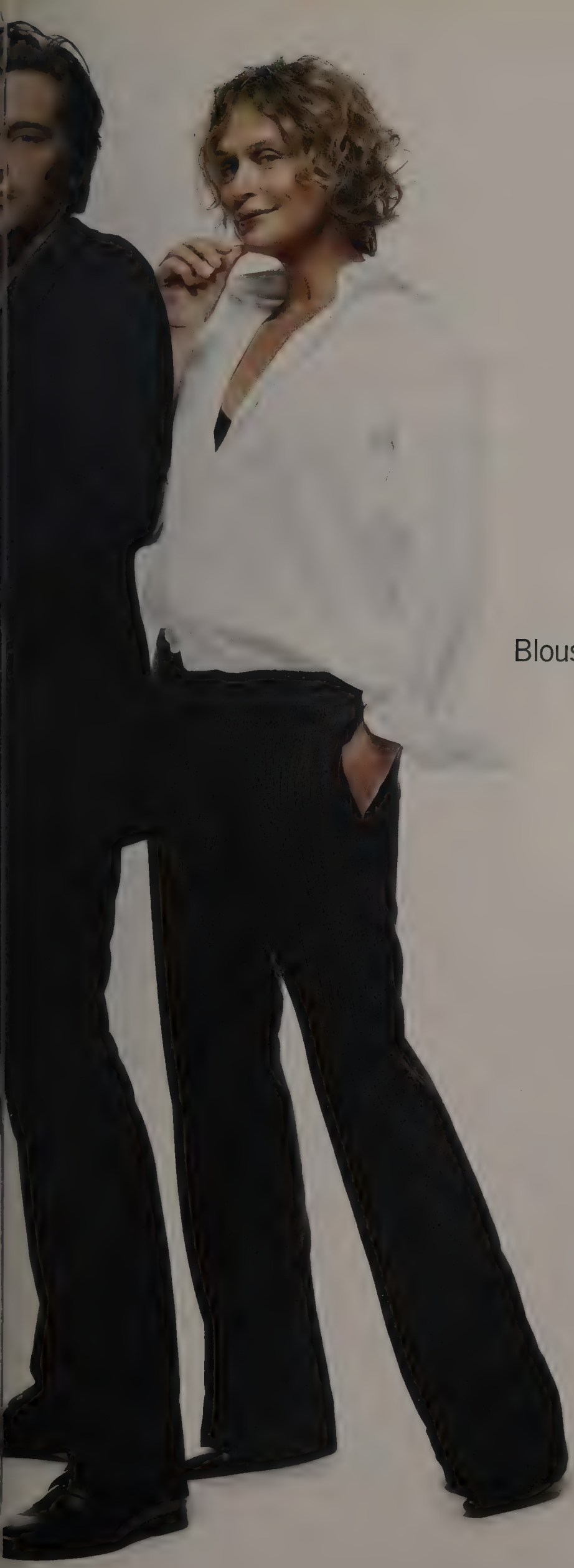

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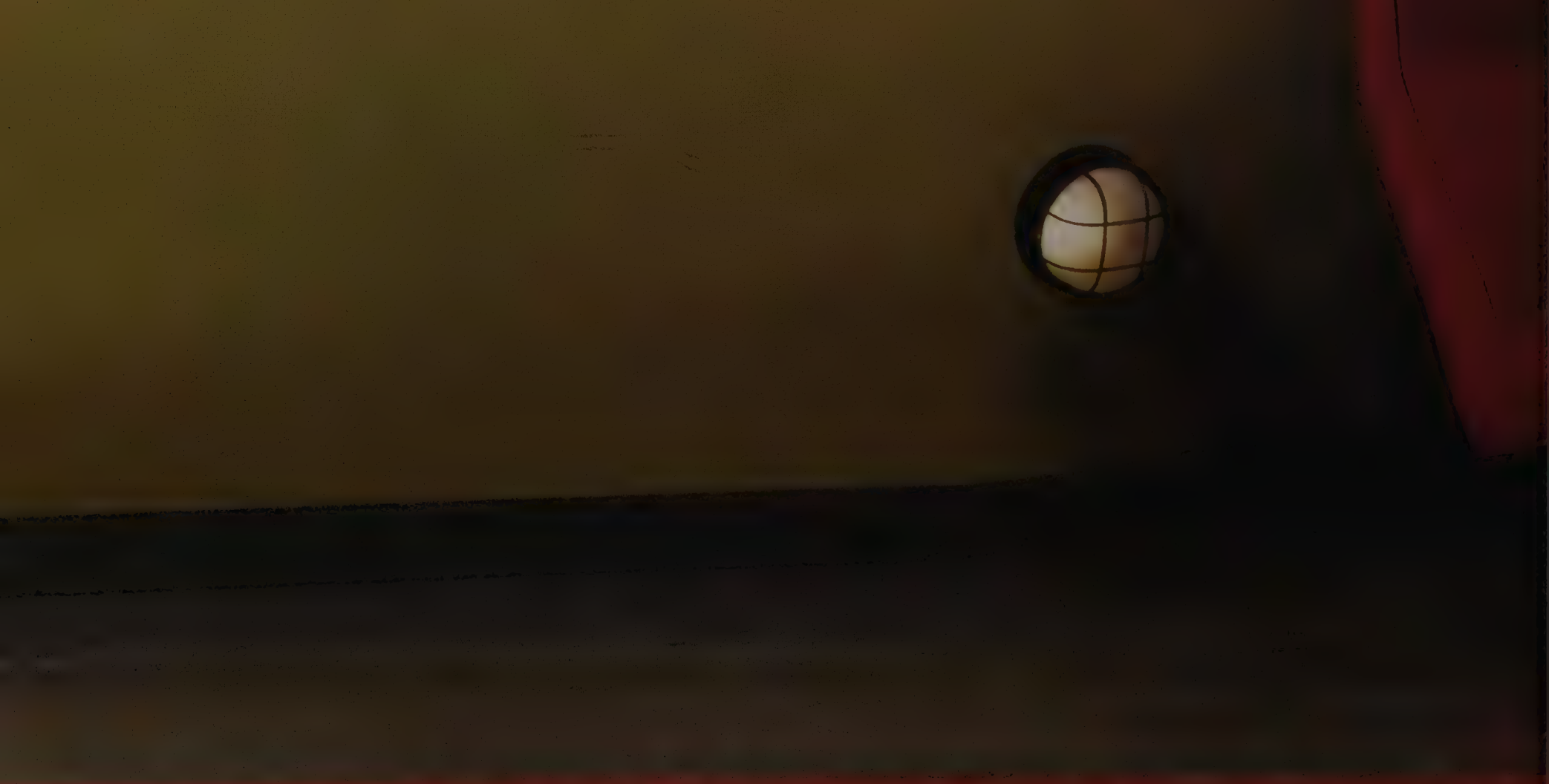

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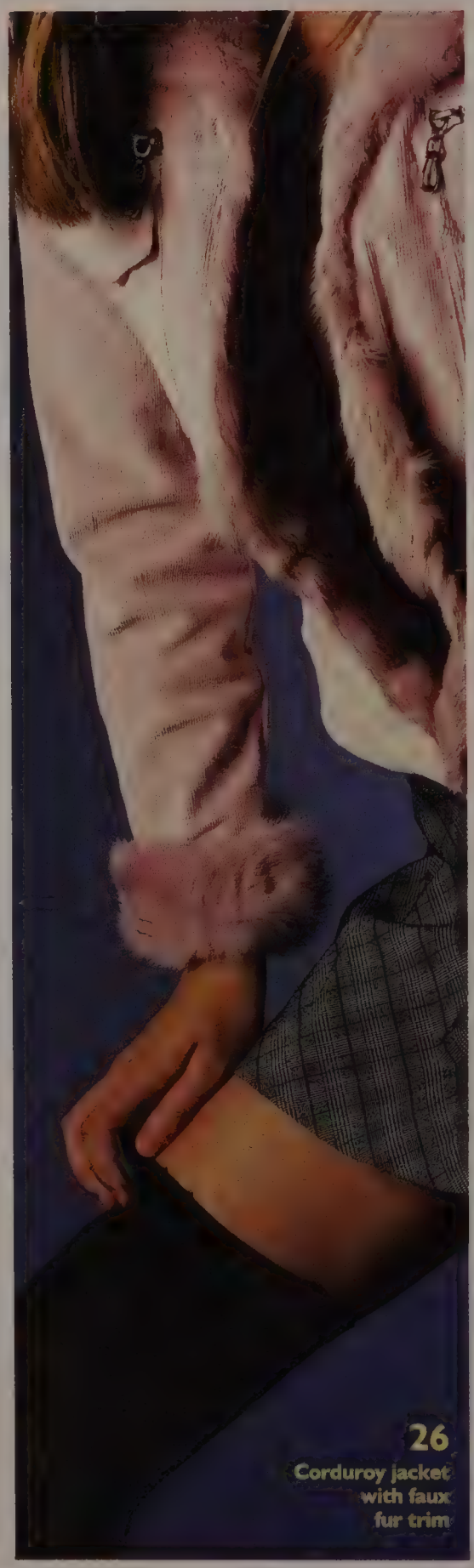

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Corduroy jacket with faux fur trim

BOB PERACHIO

Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Bill Streicher

Hair: **Mitch DeRosa for Mitchell John Salon;** clothing: **wool officer coat and stretch cotton shirt available at DKNY;** location: **W hotel, Union Square, New York**

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

STYLE FORECAST

Though shops and department stores around Boston are laying on the wool, and outerwear is creeping in where bathing suits recently staked a claim, I've turned a blind eye to that dark, heavy stuff with eyes only for the summer sale section. Soon, however, even those last racks of summer leftovers will vanish, and undeniable signposts like shorter, cooler days and the closing of the Colonnade's rooftop pool will force us all to address the matter of our fall wardrobes.

Lucky for us, the IMPROPER's fashion editor, Samantha House, has overcome her own Florida-native fear of cold weather and the clothes that go with it. She spent the past few months visiting designer showrooms and talking to boutique owners about what will be in style this fall, and we've packed this issue with the results of her research. In these pages, you'll find information on the clothing styles, fabrics, accessories, shoes, beauty products and the color that will be in vogue this fall—all accompanied by pretty photos that will inspire you to hit the stores.

Earning this issue's good-sport award, cover boy Jay Mohr spent a few hours bouncing on a trampoline in a hotel ballroom for the men's fashion photo shoot (pages 32-36). Those striking images, and all the gorgeous fall clothes in this issue, might even have you looking forward to the cooler weather.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

THE $184,000 QUESTION

I'd like to know if Daniel Schulman has ever actually priced out homes in East Boston ("The Real (Estate) Deal," Aug. 13). I'm a lifelong resident of East Boston and would love to continue living there but the houses are out of reach! Schulman reports that the average single-family home in East Boston is $184,000. *Where?!* Not even the condemned properties are that cheap!

—ANNA ALETA C.
East Boston

Editor's Note: The $184,000 figure (actually the median price, not the average) came from the City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development's mid-year report for the year 2002, the most recent report available at press time. The just-released 2002 Annual Report gives a median of $187,500 for East Boston. You can view the report at *www.cityofboston.gov*. Search for "Boston real estate trends."

JAMAICA COMPLAIN

Just want to back up Emily Donahue of JP's letter in the Aug. 13 issue—not about the "unimaginative" writing of your Boston's Best issue (July 23)—I enjoyed the writing. But for sure Jamaica Plain was so missing. JP is paradise, and has many great boutiques and restaurants. But maybe we'd prefer it if people didn't come around and we could have it all to ourselves. They have enough to occupy them in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, South End, etc.—in other words, swank/chichi land. I prefer real people, real diversity and everything else JP has to offer.

—JEN HODSON
Jamaica Plain

A TRUE AFICIONACHO

I can't explain how psyched I was when I realized that there was a best nacho category in your Boston's Best issue. I'm a nacho fan, and my love has become an obsession (sadly, I'm not kidding). Some co-workers and I have spent the last year rating Boston's nachos—I've even developed a Web site devoted to the best and worst nachos. In my opinion, although the Coolidge Corner Clubhouse does have very tasty nachos, the best nachos in Boston are at the Black Rhino (yeah—who'd have guessed?). They really are fabulous—cheesy, crunchy, ample toppings piled high—and I've eaten a lot of nachos. (At least once a week for the past year! Impressive, if you ask me.)

—TINA RIZZITANO
Brookline

BOOKS ON VIDEOTAPE

I couldn't agree more with Paul Sherman's thoughts concerning the failure of movies that are based on books to measure up to the original versions (*Seabiscuit* review, Aug. 13). I'm reminded of the tale of two goats, chewing on old discarded film on an MGM lot. One goat asks his companion, "How is it?" The other goat replies, "It's good, but not as good as the book."

—MARK COHEN
Brookline

CORRECTION

In the Word section of the Aug. 13 issue we reported that On the Park restaurant was to be replaced by Joe V's. On the Park owner Lisa Martel says she has no plans to close the restaurant.

SCHULMAN REPORTS THAT THE AVERAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME IN EAST BOSTON IS $184,000. *WHERE?!*

—ANNA ALETA C.
EAST BOSTON

Tell Us What You Think

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EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Sura**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Danielle Friedman, Julia Hawes, Heather MacNeil, Diana McCarley, Melanie Ryan**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Vanessa Earl, Joanie Tobin**

FASHION & BEAUTY EDITOR **Samantha House**

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER **Alison Morant**

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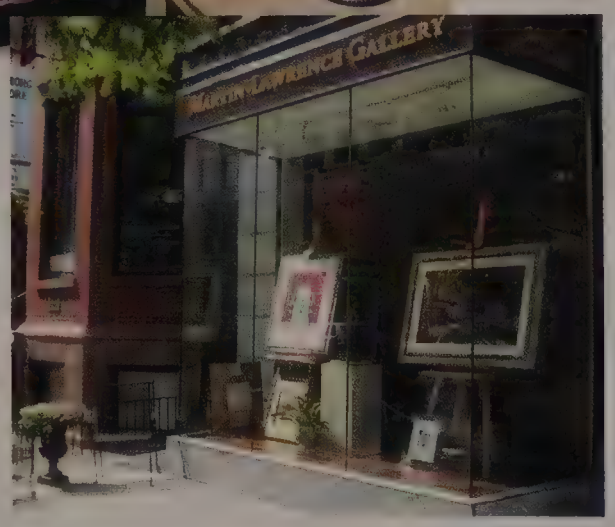
the Word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SURATT

new in town

ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS

The first thing you should know about the new Martin Lawrence gallery on Newbury Street is that it has nothing whatsoever to do with the comedian. In fact, there's nothing funny at all about this swank space—we're talking serious high art. The gallery is named after original partners Martin Blinder and Lawrence Ross, who started the first Martin Lawrence in a shopping mall about 30 years ago. Now there are 11 branches around the country. Current owner David Rogath bought the franchise six years ago and opened this Boston location Aug. 5 with the gallery's signature selection of works by modern masters, namely Picasso, Lichtenstein, Warhol and Chagall.



The Rogath team scouted Boston locations for three years before finding this one—an expansive, multilevel space measuring a whopping 3,500 square feet. When you see the 300-odd paintings (ranging in price from $400 to $1 million) hanging amid the intricate ornamental architectural work, it's hard not to wonder how a gallery this big has the gumption to open on Newbury Street when so many Newbury institutions—among them, the Dyansen Gallery—have gone out of business. Gallery director Sher Fox says, "It's all you hear about these days—which places are closing. [This gallery] is a shot in the arm for Boston."

The gallery's unique features include two mini living rooms, where you can place a painting on a wall, sit back on a couch and view the painting while varying the brightness of the lights. "You can imagine how it would look in your house morning, noon and night," says Fox. If a browser would like to learn more about a painting or an artist before sealing the deal, there's a media station with videos about many of the works. "If you're going to have a piece of art for the rest of your life, you really want to know everything about it," Fox adds. Finally, while you're checking out Warhol's giant Mick Jagger painting (signed by both the artist and subject), your kids can amuse themselves at the coloring station upstairs.

If you can't make the opening party on Sept. 20, you'll certainly have a chance to check out the gallery another time. Whereas most local galleries take a siesta during August and are rarely open Mondays, Martin Lawrence is open until 9 pm Mon.–Sat. and 11am–7 pm on Sundays. *77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). —Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt*

sam says

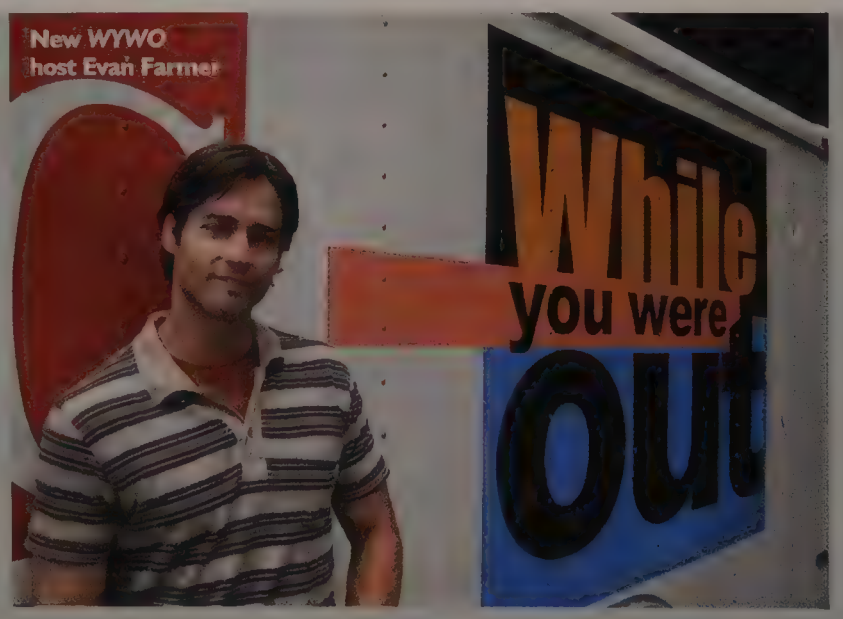
TRASHY FASHION

A few weeks ago, I bumped into two men wearing the slogans "Wicked Pissah" and "Everything You'll Never Have" on their T-shirts. Turns out the shirts' designer is Boston-based and a friend of the twosome. Erin Wallace creates the cheeky T's with 250 amusing phrases like "A Guaranteed Good Time," "Beer Me," "Boozebag," "Don't Flatter Yourself" and "Closet Nice Guy." The combination of 100 percent cotton and '70s-style velvet and embroidered applique lettering strikes the perfect balance of tongue-in-cheek with retro style. *617-851-3976, or theshertjerk@hotmail.com. $15-$20.—Samantha House*

innerview

THE NEW FIXER-UPPER

After a successful debut season, TLC's *While You Were Out*, the home makeover show with heart, returns to the tube with 60 new episodes and a brand new host. Along with his boyish good looks, newcomer Evan Farmer brings experience in front of the camera (he had a small part in *Austin Powers in Goldmember* and has guest-hosted MTV's *TRL*), plus some knowledge of architecture, to the crew of comely carpenters (namely Andrew Dan-Jumbo) and designers. The cast recently came to Boston to redesign the State House office of Shawn Feddeman, Governor Mitt Romney's press secretary. While there, Farmer, 31, took a few minutes to chat with the IMPROPER about his new job.



IB: *This is quite a departure from appearing in* Austin Powers *and* TRL. *How did you decide to apply for this job?*

EF: This is right up my alley. I went to architecture school for a couple of years and I've done carpentry. I really like working with my hands, so this job is the best of both worlds.

IB: *Did you encounter any major problems while working on Boston's State House?*

EF: Our main fear was that [the press secretary] was going to come back to work. She is such a devoted worker that we couldn't get her to leave.

IB: *Did Mitt Romney make an appearance on the set or lend a hand in the project?*

EF: He did come in, and he was hilarious. I got the impression he likes a good prank. We had him call her and ask her to come in to the office.

IB: *Did you get to go out in Boston at all?*

EF: We went to the Union Oyster House. That's where I met up with the press secretary. And we went crazy on our night off.

IB: *What were your favorite areas or buildings in the city?*

EF: I got a kick out of Beacon Hill. It was nice and quaint and with the Big Dig going on, it was nice to have a sanctuary to hang out in.

IB: *Are there any celebrities in store for the show this season?*

EF: There's a lot more people who want to get involved. We did the house of Washington Redskin LaVar Arrington's brother. We have a couple more celebrities in store that we can't publicize yet or we'll get busted.

IB: *Does Andrew get flocked by women at every location?*

EF: Andrew gets flocked by women; Leslie gets flocked by men. I've been enjoying anonymity, but I've only got another week before the series airs and then it's all over. For now, it's really fun because I can just stand back and watch from the sidelines while they get attacked, literally.

—Jessica Iredale

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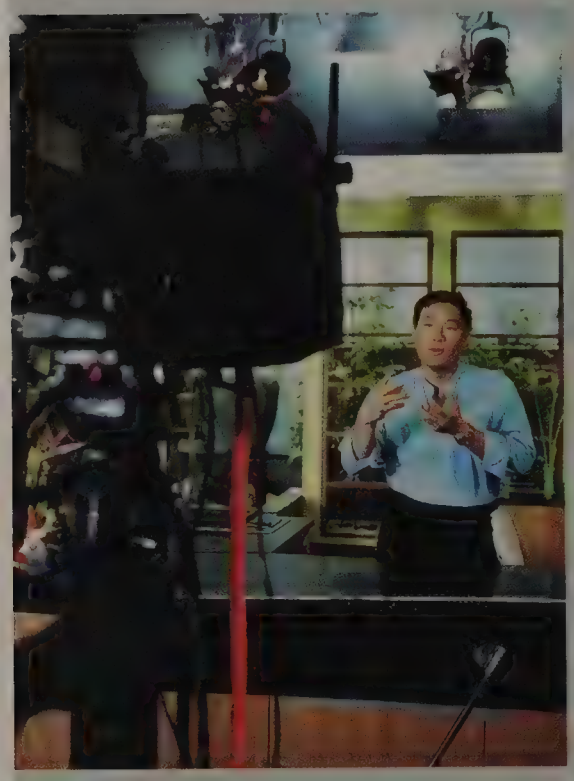
tasty tidbits

SMOKIN'

Smokey Fireplace...Adding nonedibles to a restaurant's menu might not seem like the brightest idea—especially when the nonedibles are cigars and the city is smoke-free. But Jim Solomon (right), chef/owner of Brookline's the Fireplace, doesn't care. He added Red Sox legend Luis Tiant's line of Cuban-style cigars to the Fireplace's stock about a month ago. "Luis Tiant is such a hometown favorite that I thought it would be an appropriate and fun thing to do," says Solomon. Don't miss El Tiante Night on Sept. 9, when Tiant himself will make an appearance. Cigar rollers, hot Cuban appetizers, live Cuban music and a one-night-only outdoor smoking lounge are part of the festivities. In the spirit of good times, Solomon says, "Don't call, just come and party." *1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900).*



Ming Goes Public...Wellesley's own Ming Tsai, chef/owner of celebrated Blue Ginger and host of the Food Network's *East Meets West*, is wrapping things up on network television and making the jump to public TV for his third televised cooking show, *Simply Ming*. Tsai describes the series, based on his book by the same title due out in October, as "East Meets West simplified." Each of the 26 episodes features a cooking demo and an appearance by a guest chef, including Todd English, Jasper White, Ana Sortun and Tsai's parents. "I've always wanted to do public television," says Tsai. "I grew up watching Julia and the gang on public TV, and if we can get people to cook East/West food at home, that would be awesome." *Simply Ming* premieres on WGBH 2 Channel 2 on Oct. 4.

Fast Food...Sifting through outdated menus and rounding up orders from a dozen employees for lunch meetings is now a thing of the past. Vmeals online catering service, launched in early August, handles all the dirty work involved in planning the dining component of business functions. Customers can log onto the Web site and choose from 15 local restaurants and caterers and the service can e-mail a menu to all attendees to collect orders. Once entered, Vmeals tracks everything to ensure food arrives on time, at the same time. Right now, participating restaurants include Bangkok Blue, Genarro's Italian Kitchen, India Samraat and Max's Deli Café...and the list keeps growing. *www.vmeals.com.—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

improper reports

HOTEL HOOK

Whether it's extreme pampering, movies and martinis or the use of an expensive car, enterprising local hotels are getting creative with special offers. These packages are the newest means of persuading guests to ante up a few extra dollars for a little extra fun.

•Girls Night Out Weekend Getaway

Highlights: Leave the boys at home and binge on martinis, yoga and in-suite movies.

Consensus: A grown-up slumber party.

Hyatt Regency Cambridge, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-492-1234). $650/night (four people per room).

•Free at Last Back-to-School Package

Highlights: After a long day of helping junior move into the dorms, parents enjoy in-room massages, while their son or daughter gets a booty of stamps, paper clips, a Starbucks gift card and ramen noodles.

Consensus: Grad school anyone?

Hotel Marlowe, 25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-8000). $475/two nights.

•Key to Luxury Package

Highlights: Use of a 2003 Mercedes-Benz with unlimited mileage and a full tank of gas each morning.

Consensus: Enough said.

The Ritz-Carlton, Boston, 15 Arlington St., Boston (617-536-5700). $525 per night; The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common, 10 Avery St., Boston (617-574-7100). $495/night.

•Romance Package

Highlights: A limousine tour of Boston and a complimentary DVD or VHS of the classic film *Love Story*, which was filmed at the hotel.

Consensus: It's the perfect way to say you're sorry.

Lenox Hotel, 61 Exeter St., Boston (617-536-5300). $650/two nights.

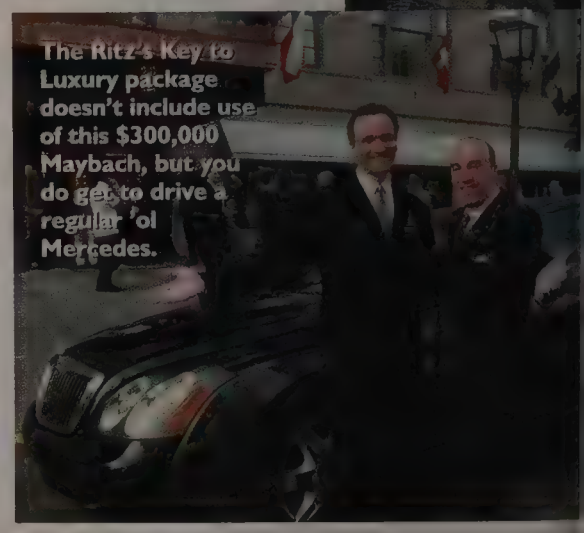
•Harry Potter V Package

Highlights: Guests reach into the Sorting Hat at the hotel's front desk to obtain their guestroom keys. The package includes book five of the series, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, and DVDs of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

Consensus: BYO Nimbus 2000 and you've got yourself a party.

The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-864-1200). $269 per night.

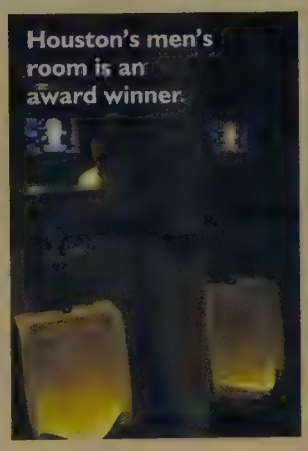
—Julia Hawes



IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTIO

Sneak Peak...Since we blew the lid on the men's bathroom at Houston's in our Boston's Best issue (we gave it Best Bathroom), it seems the fairer sex has been eager to get a look. A spokesperson for Houston's reports that GM Jeff Palermo has caught more than a handful of ladies peeking at the men's loo. Apparently, the standard drill requires one woman to stand guard while the others attempt to gain entrance. Once sighted by Palermo, they hide in the women's room until they think the coast is clear. The official tour is offered upon reemergence but usually declined with bashful smiles and averted eyes.



Aw, Shucks...To dine at Jasper White's Cambridge Summer Shack is to dine in the presence of greatness—not just because of the award-winning cuisine, but also because of the talents of award-winning oyster and clam shucker Tien Van Tran. The Massachusetts state—and Northeast regional—champion is currently training for the National Oyster Shucking Championship Oct. 18 and 19 in Maryland, and his daily training regimen includes speed-shucking 600-800 oysters and clams, as well as doing 100 pushups. If all goes well in Maryland, the Vietnam native is looking at a spot in the World Shucking Championship in Galway, Ireland.

Westward, Ho!...Boston isn't exactly the open range. Cowboy boots are about as scarce as a real celebrity in this town. Western- and rockabilly-inspired gear have had even less of a presence in town since Walker's Riding Apparel closed its doors after 70 years on Boylston Street in June 2002. But now the one-of-a-kind shop—packed with unique memorabilia such as antique movie posters and photographs of former customers, including Roy Rogers—is making a comeback of sorts. Rick Murphy, Walker's former GM, and his girlfriend, Rachel Walsh, will open Rick Walker's downtown in late August. An abundant selection of cowboy boots, Stetson hats, belt buckles, vintage rockabilly shorts and motorcycle apparel lines the shelves, and much of the original decor of photos and collectibles has been restored. If nothing else, it's a refreshing alternative to polos and Nantucket Reds. *21 Temple Place, Boston (617-482-7426).*

Wild West 47th...Newton native Bill Lichtenstein and his wife, June Peoples, recently completed *West 47th Street*, an ambitious documentary that chronicles four people's battle with mental illness over the course of three years at New York's Fountain House rehab center. Lichtenstein has some personal experience with his film's topic, as his own battles with depression cost him his career in TV news. *West 47th Street* airs Sept. 2 at 9 pm on WGBH Channel 44.

A Giant Help...For many renters and students, the approaching Labor Day weekend will actually require hard labor. Sept. 1 is not only a national holiday, but also the busiest moving day of the year in Boston. In the name of easing the pain of one- or two-person moving crews struggling to hoist beds and sofas up narrow flights of stairs, Gentle Giant is offering a Crisis Crew (free of charge) to assist movers in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Charlestown, Fenway, the North End, the South End, and the Waterfront Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. Calls will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis; individuals must provide their own moving vehicle and the crew is limited to 30 minutes and a maximum of three items per location. Hotline hours are 11:30 am–7:30 pm Sunday and Monday *(617-806-1036).*

—E.H., J.I. and J.S.

Got scoop?

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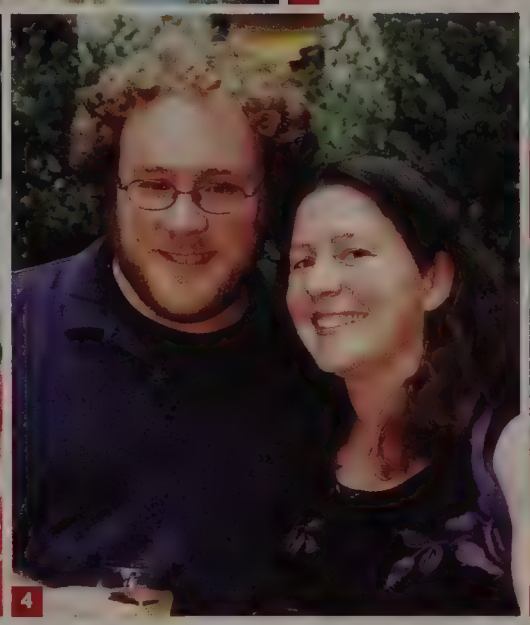
PROPER BOSTONIANS

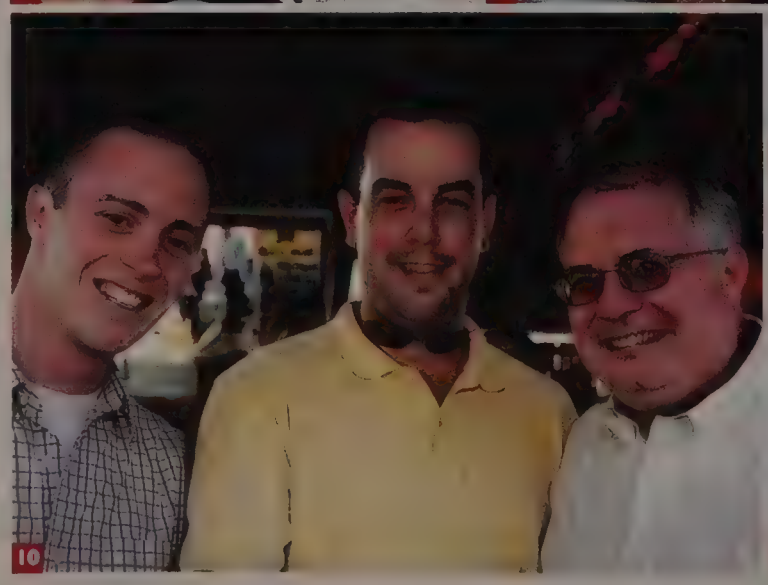
BY MARGARET BRETT



The fifth annual **Roxbury Film Festival** was held Aug. 14 at the Museum of Fine Arts. More than 400 moviegoers joined 34 filmmakers at the celebration, which showcased works written and produced by filmmakers of color. Highlights of the evening included special celebrity guests Victoria Rowell, who plays Drucilla on *The Young and the Restless*, and CCH Pounder, who plays detective Claudette Wynns on *The Shield*.

1. From left: **Gail Snowden**, managing director, Fleet Community Investment Group and president of FleetBoston Financial Foundation; **Tessil Collins**, president of Spectrum Creatives and producer and director of *My Roxbury*; and **CCH Pounder**, star of *The Shield*.
2. **Pam Bailey**, volunteer at the Roxbury Film Festival, and **Sidney Punter**, director of diversity and community relations for the Museum of Fine Arts.
3. **Barbara Beach**, mother of *Third Watch* star Michael Beach, and **Deanna Gross**, correspondence secretary for Wachovia Evergreen Bank.
4. **Kyle Robidoux**, program director of *What's Up Magazine*, and **Jill Kimmel**, director of operations for Cambridge Cares About AIDS in Cambridge.
5. **Victoria Rowell**, cast member of *The Young and the Restless*.

Father Bill's Place Annual Food Fest & Auction was held Aug. 6 at Waterworks in Marina Bay, Quincy. More than 1,200 friends of Father Bill's Place gathered at the benefit. Numerous South Shore restaurants participated in the Food Fest, which raised $300,000. Proceeds will help provide shelter for the homeless and provide after-care services for formerly homeless clients.



6. From left: **Leah Canham**, tax accountant for American Tower; **Jonathan Stearns** and **Sharon O'Connor**, assistant account manager and account manager, respectively, for William Gallagher Associates.
7. **Kim** and **Santiago Villanueva**, owners of Professional Cleaning Services Inc. in Quincy and Kingston.
8. **E. J. Haley**, Boston firefighter, and his wife, **Theresa**.
9. **Joe Perrotto**, CFO for Orchard Cove Continuing Care in Canton, and **Emily Burden**, assistant account manager for William Gallagher Associates.
10. From left: **Jack Hennessey**, Bridgewater police officer; **Patrick Donnelly**, owner and general contractor for Patrick Donnelly Construction Co. in Milton; and **Frank Corcoran**, construction manager for John Corcoran Construction Co. in Braintree.
11. From left: **James Smith**, service and parts director for Quirk Chevrolet in Braintree; his wife, **Melanie**, administrative assistant at Quirk Chevrolet; **Dan Quirk**, owner of Quirk Chevrolet; and **Mike Cooley**, vice president of Quincy Auto Auction.

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BOOK A COOK

You could get used to having a personal chef

Cooking is a fine idea. In practice, however, it never really works out for me. Consider a recent foray into the world of culinary improvisation, wherein I attempted to customize a jar of spaghetti sauce with a dollop of Dave's Insanity Sauce. The next morning I put in my first contact lens and my eye began tearing like I was Tammy Faye Bakker. Apparently there must have been a trace of hot sauce on my finger, because the insanity was in my eye. I went to work looking like I'd been maced, which was preferable to what happened when I tried to make home fries and ended up getting stitches in the emergency room because I inadvertently added my hand to the recipe. I should give up cooking for a less dangerous pastime, like skydive chainsaw juggling.

But a guy's got to eat. What I need, you're probably saying, is a personal chef (and a bodyguard and a posse, but let's take one thing at a time). Luckily, soon after the insanity incident I got a call from Karen Fabian, proprietor of The Main Dish, a local personal-chef service. Fabian's mission is to take the aggravation out of keeping yourself fed—and to do it with stuff that's tastier and better for you than the grog you'd cook for yourself.

Never one to turn down free food, I signed up for a few meals to try living the PC life. On the menu: pork and pineapple skewers with peanut sauce over basmati rice, Italian meatloaf with smashed potatoes, Cornish game hens with rosemary roasted potatoes, and chocolate ricotta muffins and blueberry pie.

One morning before I left for work Fabian arrived carrying pots, pans, knives and enough cooking-related hardware to make Williams-Sonoma look like the KFC spork bin. However, my kitchen served up one challenge for which she wasn't prepared: the jalopy oven. Long ago our stove's knobs succumbed to oven leprosy and fell off. Since the temperature scale was on the oven knob, you'd need Lorenzo Lamas and a laser pointer to know how hot your turkey is. Fabian looked at the bare metal shafts sticking out of my oven and said resignedly, "I guess I just expected there to be knobs."

I left for work soon after Fabian set up her supplies and began making the pie. When I returned home that night, there was an array of carefully labeled plastic containers in my fridge. On the counter was a printout detailing the nutritional information of each dish, and my stove and counter were also much cleaner than they'd been when she arrived that morning. Fabian left a note explaining that she'd used some downtime while things were cooking to straighten up the work area. I get the idea that if Fabian ran Bechtel, not only would the Big Dig be done right now, it would include a North-South rail link, which she would've built while she was waiting for some concrete to set in the Central Artery.

I'm not a food writer, but I did find that the meatloaf's tender nuttiness was an ideal contrast to the creamy texture of the smashed potatoes, while the steamed basil leaf in repose atop the beef's restrained layer of tangy tomato sauce offered a visual as well as gastronomic garnish—not always the case with the latest trompe l'oeil school of culinary embellishment, which often amounts to little more than the illusion of lemon zest. I done ate the whole darn thang faster'n an ornery coon hound treein' a possum!

FABIAN ARRIVED CARRYING ENOUGH COOKING-RELATED HARDWARE TO MAKE WILLIAMS-SONOMA LOOK LIKE THE KFC SPORK BIN

The rest of the dishes were also delicious, which is particularly impressive given that they were culled from health-food magazines (Fabian is also a yoga instructor, and the food fits in with that whole mind-body wellness thing). Even better than the food, however, was the fact that I didn't have to do anything except throw it in the microwave. I didn't have to shop, cook, clean or go through the drudgery of putting on pants when the delivery guy shows up. This is what I've been missing since I moved out of my parents' house—I don't really want convenience, I want someone to take care of me.

The cost for a six-serving package (two servings of three entrees) is $180, and I'm in danger of becoming a regular. The way I look at it, having a personal chef is more expensive than ordering a pizza, but far cheaper than a trip to the emergency room. iB

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Soroff ON

DAVID MUIR

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

For the past three years, David Muir has appeared on WCVB-TV (Channel 5) as a reporter and weekend anchor. Born and raised in Syracuse, N.Y., he studied broadcast journalism at Ithaca College and graduated magna cum laude. He also studied European politics and Spanish at the University of Salamanca in Spain and attended the Institute on Political Journalism at Georgetown University. He began his broadcasting career at WTVH-TV, the CBS affiliate in Syracuse, where he spent five years as anchor and reporter, receiving numerous awards and accolades. He joined WCVB in May 2000, and was part of the investigative team that won the regional Edward R. Murrow award, a National Headliner award, and Associated Press honors for its work tracing the path of the Sept. 11 terrorists. This past March, he was the only television reporter from Boston covering the war in Iraq from Qatar, providing live reports for Channel 5 and Hearst-Argyle stations nationwide. Muir, 29, was recently named anchor and correspondent for ABC News' overnight broadcasts, *World News Now* and *World News This Morning*. He moved to Tribeca and began his new job with the network on August 11.

David Muir reports from Boston's Copley Square during NewsCenter 5's local, live coverage.

Jonathan Soroff: *Tell the truth: Did you have to sleep with Barbara Walters to land your new job?*
David Muir: I never kiss and tell.
JS: *How do you plan to sabotage Peter Jennings' career so you can have his spot?*
DM: Sitting in Peter Jennings' chair is a frightening thought. For me, it's a dream to work in the same newsroom as him.
JS: *Who would you prefer to be compared to: Tom Brokaw or Ted Koppel?*
DM: I think Brokaw is the Midwestern guy next door. People can relate to him as someone who was mowing his lawn just before he came on the air. Whereas Ted Koppel was with the Third Infantry, covering the war, a man who's done this for many years and is still out there in the trenches. In the end, I guess I'd have to choose Ted Koppel, because I'd like to have the kind of seasoning he has.
JS: *Would you slit your wrists if someone compared you to Geraldo Rivera?*
DM: Geraldo's done some pretty spectacular things in his career.
JS: *Spectacularly stupid, you mean?*
DM: OK, let's just say I hope my career path is a little different than his.

JS: *How old were you when you knew you wanted to work in TV news?*
DM: When I was 12, I wrote to the local anchor in Syracuse, Ron Curtis, asking what I needed to do to prepare myself for a job like his. I waited by that mailbox every day, and sure enough, he wrote back, saying, "Read the newspapers. Read them out loud. Learn as much as you can about everything." He gave me a couple of colleges and universities to consider. And the last line of his letter said, "The competition in television news is keen, but there's always room for the right person. It could be you."

> TO BE A GOOD BROADCASTER, YOU HAVE TO BE AN EXCELLENT WRITER. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO WRITE CONCISE, CONVERSATIONAL STORIES, AND OFTEN YOU HAVE TO DO IT VERY, VERY QUICKLY.

JS: *Wow. Where would you be without Ron Curtis?*
DM: There's more to the story. After he wrote to me, I corresponded with other people in the newsroom, begging to be an intern, which they found laughable, because I was only 12. But they finally decided to let me do it. So I was carrying the tripods, going out on stories…
JS: *What did your friends think of all that?*
DM: What do you think?
JS: *That you were a total dork.*
DM: There you go. But I had a growth chart on the newsroom wall, where they'd measure how much taller I'd gotten since the last school vacation. They joked that as my height increased, my voice would drop a notch. And 10 years after Ron Curtis wrote me that letter, I was sharing his chair on the anchor desk, doing the 5 o'clock news.
JS: *Biggest on-air faux pas?*
DM: The story about a St. Louis Cardinals pitcher who died of a heart attack at a very young age, and I said, "Dr. Timothy Johnson joins us now with a medical perspective. Doctor Tim, this is such a heartbreaker." I just wanted to disappear behind my desk.
JS: *Biggest story you ever covered?*
DM: The war in Iraq, because I was over there, on my own.
JS: *Biggest non-story?*
DM: Well, I was in Qatar for a month. I come back and debrief with Natalie Jacobson about my experience covering the war in the Middle East, and I go from doing that at 6 o'clock to doing a story on the 11 o'clock about tainted Skittles at a pharmacy in Chelsea. Some people thought they'd been exposed to something that made them ill. All the emergency people on the scene were laughing. I went from gas masks in the Middle East to a bad bag of candy.
JS: *What story affected you most deeply in an emotional sense?*
DM: Sept. 11, of course, but the nightclub fire in Rhode Island really got to me too. The pictures from inside that club were the worst pictures I've ever seen as a reporter.
JS: *Do strangers expect you to know everything about current affairs?*
DM: Of course. And I think we should know. That's what we do.
JS: *One thing most people don't appreciate about TV news?*
DM: The writing that's involved. To be a good broadcaster, you have to be an excellent writer. A lot of people watch the news and think you just show up and they hand you a script. You have to be able to write concise, conversational stories, and often you have to do it very, very quickly.
JS: *Words that throw you off when you see them on the teleprompter?*
DM: A lot of the place names in New England, like Lake Cochituate, or all those towns that end in "-ham," but with some the "h" is pronounced and others it's silent like Eastham or Dedham.
JS: *Is it a good or a bad thing that most people get their news from TV?*
DM: Well, for me, it's good, since it means that hopefully I'll have a long career. But I don't think it should be their sole source of news. Take a half-hour newscast, take the ad time out, and you're left with a pretty small news hole. If I'm out reporting in the field, I might be given a minute and a half for a story. That's not a heck of a lot of time, and I'd think people would want to know more.
JS: *CNN or Fox?*
DM: ABC.
JS: *How will you get used to your weird new hours? Crystal meth, maybe?*
DM: [Laughs.] I haven't thought about it but I guess there'll probably be some sort of caffeine IV under the desk. It's going to be a major adjustment.
JS: *If you could have any trademark sign-off, what would it be?*
DM: I wouldn't. I think they're kinda hokey.
JS: *Does the camera really add 10 pounds?*
DM: I think it does add weight. Y'know, my hair's not really as big as it looks on TV.
JS: *One adjective that describes David Muir?*
DM: Just one?
JS: *Yup.*
DM: Dedicated. IB

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FALL FASHION

When I first moved to Boston from Florida, I dreaded the coming of fall. I was in love with summer's pretty pastels, body-bar- g styles, and light, airy fabrics. The thought of fall's dark col- , bulky knits and the mountains of snow that would soon in every nice pair of shoes I held dear hurled me into a pre- ll wardrobe depression. Unable to make myself go out and y boring suits and sweaters, I wore my warm-weather lothes throughout my first fall in Boston. I was in complete enial. After a few winters here, however, I've learned to ope, and this year I've even caught myself looking forward to t first hint of crispness in the air so I can go on a monthlong hopping spree for the season's gorgeous treasures. There's much to get excited about in this fall's array of beautiful extures, fabrics, accessories and colors.

Furs are in again, much to the chagrin of animal rights roups. If purchasing and wearing real fur bothers you, opt for faux versions (they're also easier on the wallet) that will available in stores in about a month. The fur collar is the ost popular accessory for men and women this fall—wrap it round a tweed jacket to glam up your look. Neiman Marcus ready has several doughnut-shaped furs that you slip over our head to create a funnel-neck collar.

For the mod look, another strong trend this season, pair vi- ant colors like yellow, blue, orange or green with black and hite. Solid colors worn together make a big impact. Pick an l-black outfit and add the hottest of all trends this fall— bove-the-knee stockings and tights, like the ones featured on age 39. (You can find inexpensive above-the-knee stockings at rden B, or head to the Chanel boutique for a sumptuous ather version.)

Menswear-inspired looks are also huge for women this fall. hink tailored at the waist for a flattering silhouette, like the suit rom DKNY on page 27. You'll see men's tailoring in coats oo—the newest styles look like a man's coat that has been nched in the back to reveal a smaller waist. Look for fabrics e tweed or wool and pair these pieces with satin or silk for a odern, feminine twist. This design trend for women echoes e popularity of suits among men, who've been dressing more onservatively in recent seasons.

Women's shoes are ultra girly this year. The two strongest ends are bright colors like the hot-pink pumps on page 42 nd 1940s-style heels in every color. If you're daring enough, ick up a pair of above-the-knee boots that will add sex appeal almost anything you wear. Bags—either sparkly clutches for ening or crocodile bags for daytime—have gone smaller this eason. For accessories, try large necklaces or dozens of racelets to top off a sophisticated, high-society look.

Whether you prefer girly, suave, sexy or romantic, there's lenty in this issue—from the latest trends, colors, shoes, bar- ains, hairstyles and menswear—to inspire your next shopping rip. Have fun with fashion and embrace the coming cooler onths. If I learned to do it, you can too. —Samantha Hoi

JAY MOHR
page 32

26

30

32

38

39

40

41

42

OP AND SAVE | ON STYLE | NIGHT & DAY | BEAUTY BUFFET | ON YOUR FEET

Minis are sticking around for the chilly season, and with fall patterns and fabrics, they're sexier than ever. Above-the-knee leg warmers will keep your gams toasty. Pink corduroy jacket with faux fur trim, $148; plaid mini, $78; leg warmers, $24. All at Aqua.

stick with minis

seven rules to stay ahead of the fashion curve when the temperature drop

fallFUNDAMENTALS

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB PERACHIO

aid your daddy's closet

l inspired by men's
thing are a sexy
tidote to girly-girl
drome. Pinstriped
ket, $368; matching
nts, $228. Both
DKNY.

remember the classics

Houndstooth patterns and tweeds are back. They add texture to fall suits, dresses and jackets. Houndstooth zipper dress, $368, DKNY.

give in to you
animal instinct
Animal prints are
slinking up again
every shape and size
Some even add a
splash of color Giraffe
print velvet hoodie
$445 matching
pants, $305. Both
Sonia Rykiel.
Whether you opt for
faux or real, fur is hot for
fall. In addition to
full-length coats, look
for fur shrugs or collars.
go for fur

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617-266-9707

Sonia Rykiel
280 Boylston St
617-426-2038

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Patrick McGinley
for Vidal Sassoon

Models
Mariel and Jenny
for Dynasty Models

get tough

eather goes with
nything this fall. Pair it
black satin skirt
nd driving gloves for a
hic biker-babe look.
ack leather jacket,
satin skirt, $78;
lack driving gloves,
All at Arden B.

Brightly colored above-the-knee tights and socks liven up any wardrobe. Seafoam turtleneck, $145; chiffon printed cardigan, $275; ink-dyed stitched skirt, $455. All by Rozae Nichols available at Matsu. Thigh-high socks by Antipast, $45, at Matsu.

brighten up

from demure TO DIVA

FIVE EASY STEPS TO REVEAL YOUR INNER GLAMAZON

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

Many of us feel like glamorous stars on the inside, but when it comes to our outward style we play it safe. If this sounds familiar, it might be time for a star-style makeo
Following these simple steps can give you the boost you need to turn yourself into a hottie worthy of the red-carpet treatment.

The model: When Jeanie Flynn, founder of Jeanie Flynn PR and an up-and-coming jazz-singing diva, came to us, she looked pretty. But we wanted to see more of her sexy side and add some color to her look.

First stop: G Spa for a manicure and pedicure with Celina. Opting to keep Jeanie's fingernails short to suit her active lifestyle, Celina trims, buffs and polishes Jeanie's nails to perfection. She chooses a vibrant red to add a "pop" of color to her fingers and toes. *$45 for manicure and pedicure.*

Second stop: Exclusive Skin Solutions for teeth whitening with Josh. It takes only an hour, and when Jeanie is done, she has bright white teeth. Remember, you can't be a "stah" without a game-show-host smile. *$275.*

Third stop: Gretta Cole Salon for a color, cut and style with Jeffrey. He cuts some much needed layers into Jeanie's hair and adds some life with honey highlights. For a sleek look, Jeffrey smooths her hair with a flattening iron. *$220.*

Fourth stop: Sephora for smoky eyes a glossy lips. Sephora's Paige chooses Stil cosmetics for Jeanie because there are many fun colors to play with. Paige star with light foundation to even out Jeanie skin tone. Then she adds heavy eyeline and smoky shadow around the eyes, a finishes off with shiny lips for the siren look. *Makeovers are complimentary. Appointment recommended.*

Final stop: Jeanie's closet for a dres already owns but never though would wear. Vintage BCBG. It' long and just her (new)

Exc
Skin Solu
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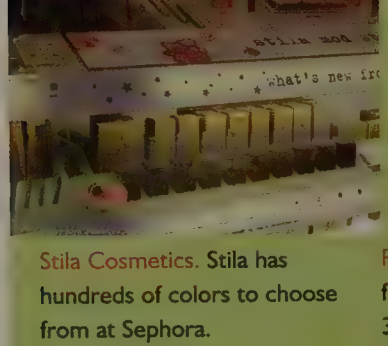
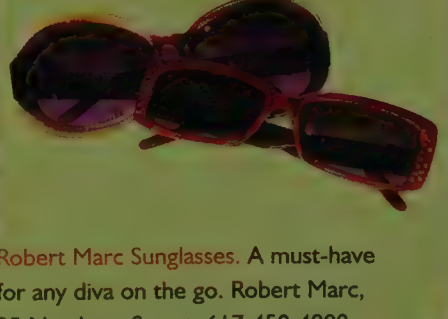
LUXURY GOODS



Stila Cosmetics. Stila has hundreds of colors to choose from at Sephora.



Robert Marc Sunglasses. A must-have for any diva on the go. Robert Marc, 35 Newbury Street, 617-450-4900.

Kiehl's products are the beauty basics the stars can't live without. Kiehl's, 112 Newbury Street, 617-247-1777.

Paul and Joe nail polish. The polish of choice at G Spa, Paul and Joe is reminiscent of the Tinkerbell line you had when you were 8, but the colors go on flawlessly.

lilly is never at a loss for style

THE FALL COLLECTION: AVAILABLE NOW. 133 NEWBURY STREET, BOSTON
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A MAN,
SOME CLOTHES,
A TRAMPOLINE.

falling for mohr

LAST COMIC STANDING HOST JAY MOHR
SHOWS OFF THE LATEST MENSWEAR.

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STREICHER

Antiqued fitted leather jacket, $695; wool Donegal turtleneck, $148; low-rise jeans, $98. All at DKNY.

Jay Mohr is always on. From the moment he showed up at the fashion shoot, he was hamming it up from one end of the room to the other, reciting bits of his act and past performances. With him, he brought his tour manager and right-hand man, Walter Gause, and the two played off of each other in a way that reminded me of a modern Abbott and Costello. Counting the photographer and the hairstylist, the room was full of testosterone—and me. The guys recited their favorite lines from movies like *The Godfather* and *Caddyshack* and spent free time in between shots air-boxing and comparing their form. It was a study in how boys become men and then boys again.

It's no wonder that Mohr is loving his life right now. His career has seen the usual ups and downs, but at 33 years old, he's been blessed with his first child (with his wife of six years, Nicole Chamberlain) and high ratings for *Last Comic Standing*, a show he produced and hosted on NBC during the summer.

Mohr started his career as a teenager performing standup at colleges and clubs—wherever they would have him. His standup career took off in Boston, and as word of his talent spread he gained national recognition and did a two-year stint on *Saturday Night Live*, where he became frustrated when he didn't get much airtime. Many people saw him for the first time in the 1996 movie *Jerry Maguire*, in which he played an obnoxious agent who fires his mentor. From there, he went on to play a too-nice guy who wins the heart of Jennifer Aniston in 1997's *Picture Perfect*. In addition to appearing in numerous films since then, Mohr has hosted an ESPN show called *Mohr Sports*. Nowadays, he's traveling, performing on his "Filthy Clean Tour" while looking forward to a new season of *Last Comic Standing*. He still appears regularly in Boston at the Comedy Connection.

As with any actor who has played so many different characters, you wonder which one is most like the real him. "I'm probably most like Brett in *Suicide Kings*. He was a prick but he was loyal." he says. "He was the only one of the guys that never wavered from the original plan to help his friend. Everyone else jumped ship, but Brett stayed loyal."

Speaking of jumping, for our Fall Fashion issue, Mohr proved a good sport, agreeing to bounce up and down on a trampoline in the ballroom of a New York hotel for three hours as we photographed him in four different outfits. I asked him about his take on fashion.

Samantha House: *How would you describe your personal clothing style?*
Jay Mohr: I'm pretty laid back with T-shirts and jeans but I like to rock a suit every once in a while.
SH: *Who's your favorite designer?*
JM: Donna Karan. Her suits fit me without being tailored, plus she was the first person to give me free stuff.
SH: *What one item of clothing can you not live without?*
JM: Definitely blue jeans.
SH: *What's the sexiest thing a woman can wear?*
JM: No makeup and see-through panties.
—*Samantha House*

Wool officer coat, $425; stretch cotton shirt, $70; wool sateen trousers, $125. All at DKN

button cotton corduroy blazer, $245; cotton herringbone striped shirt, $125; cotton corduroy trousers, $125. All at DKNY

Finisher: wool/cashmere jacket, $495; matching trousers, $250; stretch cotton shirt, $70. All at DKNY.

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White shirt, $39.98; brown patchwork boots, $59.99. Both at Kenneth Cole at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets. Brown suede belt, $23.99; brown corduroy skirt, $33.99. Both at Benetton at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets. Brown suede sack by Tacto, $90 at Turtle.
Total price: $252.95

Metallic hoops, $2.50; beaded bracelet, $3.50 pink scarf, $7.5 All at H&M. Black silk dress by Laundry, $79.99 at Marshalls. Blac beaded bag, $24.99 at Aldo Black pony hai pumps, $49.99 at Kenneth Co at Wrentham Village Premiu Outlets.
Total price: $168.47

Silver hoop earrings, $3.50; winter handbag, $12; beaded bracelets, $2.50. All at H&M. White button-down shirt, $9.99; print skirt, $16.99. Both at Tello's. Black pony hair pumps, $49.99 at Kenneth Cole at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets.
Total price: $94.97

Gold earrings, $2.50; brown corduroy blaze $39.90; brown corduroy pant $29.90. All at H&M. Brown leather hand-bag, $24.99 at Aldo. Brown leather sling-backs, $69.99 at Kenneth Co at Wrentham Village Premiu Outlets.
Total price: $167.28

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOE GREENE MAKEUP BY JENNY BROWN MODEL: TACHOU FOR MAGGI

ON STYLE

GREEN: THE SEASON'S HOTTEST COLOR

While it rained this spring and summer, designers helped us fight off the gloom with an onslaught of pastel-colored clothing. The most popular color in the trend palette was pink. Vibrant color is going to stick around for the fall, and as the weather cools, look for a new mood-lifting hue: green. It has been winking at us in shades of mint and kelly for the past three months, and it will only become more popular as the season changes.

Makeup companies have already unveiled green as their favorite color for eyeshadows, eyeliners and even mascara. I like MAC's Aquadisiac eyeshadow, and Tony & Tina's Herbal Eye Pencils in forest green and olive. You can either rim your eyes with the shades or sweep the colors over your upper and lower lids, adding black liner and mascara for a dramatic effect. Wear them only with light-colored lipstick to avoid the dreaded clownish look.

As for clothing, every shade of green will soon be available. Neiman Marcus currently has wool coats and Asian-print green suits, with more coming in their fall lineup. On page 42 you'll find a pair of lime-green Nine West slingbacks that will surprise you by matching nearly everything in your closet. On the casual clothing front, Ralph Lauren has relaunched its classic polo shirts in six shades of green that look great with denim.

The easiest way for anyone to wear green, however, is in the form of accessories. Accent any blue, black, gold, plum or pink (my favorite) outfit with the *couleur du jour*. Jojo makes stackable sparkly bracelets with an alligator clasp, or try an array of glasses by Robert Marc or one of Marie Galvin's custom-made hats to top off the look. Any way you decide to wear the color of the season, you can bet that passersby will be green with envy.

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TRACY POWELL

Off-white slip by Eberjey, $54; polka-dot slip dress by Eberjey, $54. Both available at Holiday Boutique. Yellow over-the-knee tights by Wolford, $25, at Wolford, Chestnut Hill Mall. Brown boots, $298, at DKNY. Green stackable bracelets by Jojo, $56, www.jojoware.com.

Hair: Mitch Derosa for Mitchell John Salon
Makeup: Jenny Brown
Model: Kayla Anderson for Dynasty
Shot on location at Excelsior

night & DAY

STYLISTS CREATE SOPHISTICATED LOOKS FOR THE OFFICE, WEEKEND FUN AND A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB PERACHIO

Model: Andrea Jean, marketing manager for Vidal Sassoon Salons nationwide. Hair: Patrick McGinley for Vidal Sassoon. Makeup basics: Double Perfection compact; Irréelle blush in Be-Bop; Quadra eyeshadow in Blue Notes, Intense eye pencil in Noir, Infrarouge Whisperlight lipstick in Tulle and Drama Lash Maximum Wear mascara in Jet. All by Chanel. Available at Neiman Marcus.

Patrick molded Andrea's hair using Wella SP Mattmaxx from roots to ends and held it in place with Wella SP Perfection Hair Spray.

Model: Nidhi Handa, director of stores for Alpha Omega Jewelers. Hair: Mitch Derosa for Mitchell John Salon. Makeup basics: Illuminating eyeshadow in Penninsula, Hydrabase lipstick in Baby Gold and Supercurl mascara in Noir. All by Chanel. Available at Neiman Marcus.

After twisting Nidhi's hair into sections and spraying it with Bumble and Bumble styling lotion, Mitch shook the hair loose for a tousled look.

Model: Betsy Lee, head booker for Maggie Inc. Hair: Sally Drinkwater and Michelle Barsamian for Lord's & Lady's. Makeup basics: Multi-Vitamin Natural Makeup, Powder Blush in Reflex, Quadra eyeshadow in Nymphea, Glossimer in Crystal Blue and Supercurl mascara in Brun. All by Chanel. Available at Neiman Marcus.

Sally and Michelle pulled Betsy's hair loosely over to one side of her head, keeping it low. Then, with several bobby pins, they secured a loose bun and sprayed it with Bumble and Bumble Does It All while letting stray hairs fall out.

BEAUTY BUFFET

AMPER AND PRIMP WITH THIS SATISFYING SPREAD

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

1. MAC All Over gloss, $15 at Filene's. 2. Lorac Portable Paints, $12 each at Beauty.com. 3. La Source Skin Therapy Hand Recovery, $18 at Crabtree and Evelyn, Copley Place. 4. Kanebo International Body Firming Formula, $70 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 5. Kai perfume oil, $40 at the Beauty Mark. 6. Stila Mod Look #3, $35 at Filene's. 7. Vera Wang eau de parfum, $85 at Sephora. 8. Ramy Alive! blush, $19 at Ramybeautytherapy.com. 9. Cerruti 1881 Amber eau de toilette, $50 at Filene's. 10. Sundari Nighttime Nourishing Oil, $90 at Louis Boston. 11. Lush solid shampoo, $8.95 at Lush. 12. Lush Red Rooster body soap, $26.31 per pound at Lush. 13. Caswell-Massey Cucumber Luxury body soap, $22 at Caswell-Massey, Copley Place 14. Lush Retread deep conditioner, $8.95 at Lush. 15. Bobbi Brown cream blush sticks, $25 each at Neiman Marcus. 16. La Source revitalizing foot smoother, $20 at Crabtree and Evelyn. 17. Red Flower North American Lilac soap and dish, $18 at Beauty and Main. 18. Code Blue aftershave gel by Brave Soldier, $18 at Menessentials.com. 19. Sundari Lavender moisturizer, $36 at Louis Boston. 20. beComing Redefine Airbrush Foundation, $19.50 at IBecome.com. 21. Giorgio Armani fluid sheer, $44 at Giorgio Armani. 22. Fresh Milk body lotion, $25 at Fresh. 23. Kiehl's liquid body scrub, $13 at Kiehl's. 24. Stila Convertible lip colors, $24 at Filene's. 25. Nars eyeliner in Sandstorm, $18 at Neiman Marcus. 26. Kevyn Aucoin Liquid Cyber Lips, $25 at Neiman Marcus. 27. Stila lip glaze, $24 at Filene's. 28. Castelbajac eau de parfum, $72 at Sephora. 29. Cooks antibacterial and deodorizing handwash, $17 at Crabtree and Evelyn, Copley Place. 30. Fresh Milk shower gel, $30 each at Fresh. 31. Kai Body Glow, $28 at the Beauty Mark. 32. Era Face Spray-on Foundation, $55 at the Beauty Mark. 33. Calvin Klein Truth aftershave, $34 at Beauty.com. 34. Cartier Le Baiser du Dragon eau de parfum, $55 at Cartier. 35. Calvin Klein Obsession aftershave, $34 at Beauty.com. 36. Caswell-Massey Cucumber body splash, $18 at Caswell-Massey, Copley Place. 37. Calvin Klein Truth eau de toilette spray, $38 at Beauty.com.

ON YOUR FEET!

THIS FALL, SLIP INTO SOMETHING SOPHISTICATE

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB PERACHIO

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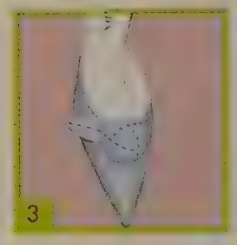
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1. White lace-up boots by Marc Jacobs, $505 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 2. Gray patent leather heels by Marc Jacobs, $250 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 3. Blue suede slides by Prada, $435 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 4. Red low heels by Anne Klein, $198 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 5. Brown logo heels by Gucci, $360 at Gucci. 6. Black ankle boots by Gucci, $595 at Gucci. 7. Satin slides by Manolo Blahnik, $485 at Neiman Marcus. 8. Embroidered slides by Giuseppe Zanotti, $395 at Neiman Marcus. 9. Two-toned heels by Chanel, $505 at the Chanel Boutique. 10. Pink patent leather heels by Christian Louboutin, $475 at Neiman Marcus. 11. Red slides with rhinestone snake accent by Giuseppe Zanotti, $460 at Neiman Marcus. 12. "Outright" black heel with white stitching, $59 at Bandolino. 13. "Ely" red heel, $59 at Bandolino. 14. Green satin heel, $225 at DKNY. 15. Red heel with ankle strap, $198 at DKNY. 16. White python ankle boot, $480 at Stuart Weitzman. 17. Lime green wedge, $69 at Nine West. 18. Pink heels, $69 at Nine West. 19. Classic black pumps, $69 at Nine West. 20. Brown ankle boots, $99 at Nine West. Shot on location at the Four Seasons Hotel.

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tough break

TEAMMATES BECOME OPPONENTS WHEN BOSTON BREAKERS PLAYERS FROM FOUR COUNTRIES SQUARE OFF IN THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP THIS FALL

BY EZRA DYER

ile the mystery epidemic SARS wreaked havoc with orld travel and confounded doctors from Beijing to oronto this past spring, it dropped a nifty prize in the aps of New England soccer fans: The Women's World up, originally scheduled to be played in China, was oved to the United States and now features first-round nd quarterfinal matches at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. hank you very much, FIFA.

Besides bringing the top female soccer players in the orld to Gillette, the schedule change also means that ocal soccer hooligans could get an in-person opportuity to watch the Boston Breakers' seven World Cup layers compete against one another at the international evel. In this year's tournament, Kristine Lilly, Kate Sorero and Angela Hucles fly the Stars and Stripes, tephanie Mugneret-Beghe boots the ball for France, agny Mellgren and Ragnhild Gulbrandsen lead the way or Norway and Karina LeBlanc protects the net for anada. So will knowing thine enemy be an advantage the Cup?

"I don't think so," says LeBlanc, gathered with her felw Breaker World Cuppers at BU's Nickerson Field after recent Breakers practice. "They're too unpredictable. If cheat left, they'll shoot right."

"Most of us play different positions, so we won't be directly competing against one another," adds Sobrero.

Differing positions, however, didn't prevent defender Sobrero and forward Gulbrandsen from mixing it up in international play a few years ago, before they became Breakers teammates. "Somebody called somebody a bitch," recalls Gulbrandsen, as Sobrero acknowledges the accusation by admitting that her trash talk actually may have been a little more severe than that. "You started it, though," she says.

"I'm nice," replies Gulbrandsen, who appears sorry only that she wasn't capable at the time of properly responding to Sobrero's verbal assault. "I didn't speak much English then," she says, "So all I could say back to her was 'No, you are a bitch!'"

If the U.S meets Norway (a strong possibility in the quarterfinal round), there is another, more memorable bit of bad blood between the teams: Norway's controversial gold medal in the 2000 Olympics. Mellgren and Gulbrandsen both figured prominently in the outcome of the deciding game. First, Gulbrandsen scored the goal that tied the game and forced overtime. Then, in overtime, the ball came across the box, hit Mellgren's hand—or didn't, depending on whom you ask—and she booted it in for the gold. "They won that game on a questionable hand ball," says Sobrero. "But I'm over it," Lilly adds, feigning bitterness, though it's hard to tell if she's truly joking.

In order for a U.S.-Norway rematch to take place, however, the Americans will have to slug their way through the so-called group of death that they've drawn for the first round. Their first three opponents are Sweden, Sept. 21, at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C.; Nigeria, Sept. 25, at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia; and North Korea, Sept. 28, at Columbus Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio. Sweden is the fifth-ranked team in the world, Nigeria was the 2002 African Women's champion and North Korea is the 2003 Asian champion, having defeated China for the title three consecutive times. But assuming that the U.S. makes it past the first round, they'll face one of the top two teams from Group B—which includes Norway and France—in Foxboro Oct. 1. If that match-up occurs, will the bond forged over the course of 21 regular-season WUSA games cause the opposing Breakers teammates to treat their "friendly" adversaries any differently than a non-Breakers opponent? "I might say 'nice job,'" says Sobrero. iB

For complete schedules and updates on the Women's World Cup, go to www.fifaworldcup.com.

MOPSY

SERENDIPITOUS SHOPPING: OUR UNFETTERED CORRESPONDENT SEEKS OUT THE SALUBRIOUS AND THE CEREBRAL.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

A HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

***The Big House*, by George Howe Colt, chronicles life over a century at his family's Cape Cod summer house.**

It's possible that a house, at least a much-loved, well-worn one, is possessed of something like a soul. Such a house existed for the extended clan of George Howe Colt, whose family branched from Boston's illustrious Forbeses. The huge, four-story shingle-style house on Buzzards Bay was the long-running center for this Brahmin brood who for a hundred years retreated there off-season to sail, play tennis, read books on the piazza and nurse the wounds of life.

Perched in a locale of distinct upper-class privilege, the house was a nest for complex family connections, with its spacious, beautiful wooded privacy, its gables and nooks and 11 bedrooms. It was also peeling, quirky, drafty, and uncomfortable, the antithesis of nouveau gentility. Colt, whose tone is swimmingly graceful, celebratory and sometimes melancholy, shows how deeply the house echoed the Colt family's contradictions and Brahmin style. Some family members, while certainly cultivated and intelligent, were also variously eccentric, depressed, puritanically stingy, maritally at odds or emotionally adrift. But the large embrace of the house lovingly contained it all. And Colt turns its threatened demise into a heart-grabbing tale of mystery.

ENTERTAINING ECLECTICA

Essentia, at the Mall at Chestnut Hill, sells artful, unusual small home furnishings and jewelry. Call 617-244-4468.

Essentia emanates originality and eccentricity here at this fanciest of malls, seeming more like a shop one would find in Harvard Square. You're greeted by the madcap whimsy of porcelain objects from the Bee's Knees, made by mother and daughter Linda and Miriam Aubry. Their creations include pitchers, crooked bird and bunny cups and droll teapots that seem to rest their hands, quizzically, on their flowered hips. Owner Victoria Wallins, restless for interesting variety—especially in items that are otherwise dully utilitarian—sells stylish lamps designed by Jill Rosenwald, plus some glass-based ones by Tracy Glover. Luisa Cevese Riedizioni's creations—raincoats, bags and placemats—are made of translucent greenish rubber, revealing lacy patterns inside. Both useful and attractive, they have a high-tech yet oddly delicate look. Former Bostonian John Derian uses decoupage and hortatory quotes with a sepia-shaded antique flavor ("Each moment spend to some good end") on everything from cake plates to paperweights. And Essentia can order felted wool rugs from Milan or get you a rocking chair covered in one of 40 fabrics.

THIRTY CARDS TO A HAPPIER YOU

Living Life is a card game that suggests 30 "life adventures." At Newbury Comics or at www.livinglifegame.com.

The good and the bad in life often just seem to tumble into reality by accident. You do what you do rutted into the ordained grooves of your schedule, necessity's slave. But the card game Living Life invites you to do things more deliberately, enhancing your own life and others' too. Each of the 30 cards proposes an activity. Sometimes it's a therapeutic and soul-cleansing suggestion, like apologizing to someone you've hurt. Or the card may instruct you to explore the high and low points of your life in search of stability and balance. Other cards invite you to consider talking to strangers, or to contact old friends who've become strangers and rekindle joys gone by. Some suggest adventure, stretching yourself into the wilder, bluer yonder. The cards get you researching, daydreaming, envisioning some personal Shangri-la, then going there. Some ingenious man, one card tells us, began selling waterproof watches by mail order. That venture became the Sharper Image. So dare to dream, o entrepreneurial one! Living Life, you might give blood, volunteer, bake a cake or just ponder the vividness of the present moment.

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飲 DRINK
笑 LAUGH

REVIEW

NEWTONVILLE NEWCOMER

Chef Christos Tsardounis' restaurant, Ariadne, pleases with well-prepared food, attentive service and an upscale setting

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Many think of Newton as a suburban town. In fact, it is a city, with a surprisingly diverse population. Working- and middle-class neighborhoods lie north of the Mass. Pike and south of Route 9, bracketing more affluent residents in between. Newton also supports a level of commercial activity not found in a typical bedroom community.

As befits its status as a city, Newton is now home to a number of urbane, sophisticated restaurants. Skepticism greeted the arrival of Lumiere in West Newton a few years ago, but Michael and Jill Leviton's success in converting a former ice cream parlor into an upscale French eatery encouraged other gastronomic entrepreneurs. Lumiere was followed by Kouzina, where Nelson Cognac—with his refreshing and imaginative Mediterranean cuisine—took over space in the village of Waban that once housed a bakery. Then came wunderkind Mark Allen, who with Le Soir brought to Newton Highlands the creative flair and professionalism he had developed in the Napa Valley and later refined during a successful stint as executive chef of Boston's Ritz-Carlton.

Enter Ariadne in Newtonville, just off the Pike, rounding out a quartet of fine Continental eateries distributed among the dozen villages of Newton. Chef-owner Christos Tsardounis and his wife and partner, Kathleen Malloy, have turned what appeared to be a jinxed site on Walnut Street—three or four restaurants have come and gone at that address in a few years—into a popular, upscale eatery that draws patrons from well beyond Newton's borders. On any given evening, couples in search of a romantic interlude, families celebrating major life events and enthusiastic diners in search of good food and pleasant ambience can be found filling Ariadne's high-backed upholstered chairs and banquettes, basking in the glow of its Victorian shaded sconces and candles in heavy marble candleholders. Tones of beige, green and gold adorn the walls and continue in comely draperies that cover the storefront windows, shielding diners' eyes from less-exalted establishments across the street. Peach-rose hued woodwork moldings and cornices create a sumptuous environment. Three large square columns reach to the high ceiling, which is recessed to create an even greater impression of space.

Grilled squid with green olives, arugula and creamy hummus

Ariadne's menu is limited but varied enough to satisfy a broad range of palates, touching all the bases from seafood to poultry to meat. Appetizers included a duck confit ($9) with salty crisp skin and succulent flesh. A toothsome sauce of golden raisins, sliced plums and almond slivers created a kaleidoscope of tastes and textures: salty, sweet, tart, crisp, crunchy, tender. Only the tough stems of a gratuitous mound of watercress flawed the dish.

ARIADNE

344 Walnut St., Newton
(617-332-4653)

HOURS Mon.-Thu., 11:30 am-2:30 pm and 5-10 pm; Fri., 11:30 am-2:30 pm and 5-11 pm; Sat., 5-11 pm

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING lot behind restaurant

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

With the grilled squid ($9), chef Tsardou nis reached into his Mediterranean her itage and portfolio of flavors: Slices c small squid, at once silky and resilient, al most chewy, shared a small plate wit huge green olives, garlicky hummus, pleas antly bitter sautéed arugula, and fruit extra virgin olive oil and lemon. Th hauntingly smoky nuances of the squi complemented the warm, pungent flavo of the garnish, transporting me to a fondl remembered wedding I attended on windswept Aegean island.

Among Ariadne's main courses, th roasted chicken breast ($19), served wit crunchy green asparagus tips, tender art choke hearts and earthy, firm-texture mushrooms, was a winner. The "cor jus," a flavorful reduction of cookin juices, garlic and seductively aromat sage, rendered the accompanyin whipped potatoes delightful. Pan-seare Pacific halibut ($25) brought a generou thick filet of this delicate, white-fleshe fish, with firm texture and a tasty garnis of thin, crunchy asparagus, chanterel mushrooms and a mellow brandade- puréed fish mixed with potato—in a firs rate, light brown sauce. One evening, th kitchen displayed the grace and flexibi ity that is the soul of hospitality, obligin my request for a half portion of the ha ibut served as a fish course between th appetizer and meat. The final course tried was the pork chop ($21), the lea successful of Ariadne's offerings. I c dered it medium-rare, but it arriv medium-well. While it was a good si piece of meat, it needed to be thicker half to avoid being dried out on the gri The waiter graciously offered to replace with something more to my liking, bu was so satisfied and sated with the con that preceded it that I declined the off Fortunately, a moist, mint-accented bu gur wheat–and–flageolet bean salad an plump grilled half peach added moistu to the pork chop ensemble.

Among the more endearing aspects Ariadne was the professionalism of young staff, wholly consistent with t upscale refinement of the physical s ting. Obviously well trained, they re dered informed, efficient and friendly s vice, while eschewing the chumi

Kathleen Malloy and her husband, chef Christos Tsardounis, have sold their popular Cambridge restaurant, Aspasia, to focus their attention on Ariadne.

familiarity that excess informality in neighborhood eateries often begets. Crisp-crusted bread from Cambridge's Hi-Rise Bread Company provided the perfect vehicle for mopping up Tsardounis' toothsome sauces. A good selection of wines across a reasonable range of prices included a dry, almost austere barbera d'Asti ($7 a glass). The few half bottles offered included 2001 Lohr Cypress barrel-fermented chardonnay ($15). Full, rich and buttery, in the California style, it was a fine accompaniment for the richly sauced halibut. The chardonnay was served cold. Unaccompanied by an ice bucket, however, it warmed up in the course of the dinner, one of the few service slips I experienced.

Among Ariadne's desserts, the refreshing frozen lemon mousse ($8) was accompanied by fresh black raspberries and poundcake and finished with a lusciously tangy lemon sauce. Summer berry crostata ($11) featured warm, rich pastry topped with tart-sweet summer berries and white nectarines. While somewhat pricey, the crostata's substantial size made it more than adequate for sharing.

A flight of sorbets includes blueberry, coconut, cantaloupe and lemon.

The restaurant offers a good selection of wines at reasonable prices.

Chef Tsardounis and Malloy have sold their highly regarded Cambridge restaurant, Aspasia, to focus all of their attention on Ariadne. Malloy's eye for style and decor, and her supervision of the front of the house, combined with Tsardounis' sure culinary instincts, promise to give this estimable eatery more staying power than restaurants that previously occupied the space. IB

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

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Events

August Crab Festival
Magnolias, 1193 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1971). Through Aug. 30. Magnolias celebrates its tenth anniversary with the annual Crab Festival featuring entrees and appetizers prepared with Louisiana crab meat flown directly from the Bayou State.

Barbecue Mondays
Rouge, 480 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon., 5:30-10 pm. $19.95. Chef **Andy Husbands** invites barbecue lovers to help celebrate the arrival of his new Backwoods Smoker with an all-you-can-eat barbecue feast.

Beer Dinner
Bukowski's Tavern, 1281 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-497-7077). www.beeradvocate.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Sept. 8, 6 pm.* $40. Enjoy a three-course meal of German cuisine paired with German beers. **Dane Bass** from B. United will be on hand to discuss the beers.

Bread Class
Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-720-1300). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Tue., 11am-12 pm. $25 (includes lunch). Chef **Michael Rhoads** teaches this hour-long class for both novices and seasoned bakers. Learn what you need to make bread and where to get your supplies.

Harbor Dinner Cruise
Mon Amour, World Trade Center, 164 Seaport Ave., Boston (617-242-7837). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Aug. 31, 6:15 pm. $49. Enjoy a sangria cocktail and an eight-course tapas dinner provided by Tasca Restaurant.

Saint Anthony's Feast
Endicott, Thacher and North Margin streets, North End, Boston (617-723-8669). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center or Haymarket. Aug. 29-31, noon-11 pm. This Italian festival features parades, strolling singers, Italian folk dancing, live entertainment and religious and cultura ceremonies—not to mention sausages with pep pers and onions, calamari, quahogs, pasta, can noli, zeppole and handmade torrone—through out the weekend.

Summer Tasty Cruise
Yacht Integrity, World Trade Center, 164 Seapor Ave., Boston (617-242-7837). MBTA: Red Lin to South Station. Sept. 3, 6 pm. $37. Representa tives from the Wine Bottega pour and discus wines and Carmen Restaurant provides hor d'oeuvres aboard this sunset cruise of the harbo

Taste Boston
Rouge, 480 Columbus Ave, Boston (617-367 8142). www.taste-boston.com. *MBTA: Orang Line to Back Bay. Sept. 9, 7:30pm.* $65 Chef/owner **Andy Husbands** creates a fou course menu featuring "adventurous America cuisine," American beer and Southern cocktail at this upscale, Southern-style barbecue.

Tuesday Night Wine Tastings
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542 5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Tues days, 6 and 8 pm. $25. Sommelier **Geoffrey Fal lon** discusses wine, and chef **Ian Just** prepare hors d'oeuvres. •Aug. 26: Southern Italy. •Sep 2: Ribera del Duero.

Weekly Clambakes
Turner Fisheries, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (617 424-7425). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Frida and Saturdays. $49. The restaurant offers a weekl clambake with chowder, Maine lobster, Chathar top neck clams and Prince Edward Island mussel along with corn on the cob, red bliss potatoe corn bread and Boston cream pie.

Wine Dinner
Rustic Kitchen, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-23 1020). MBTA: Green Line to Government Ce ter. Sept. 4, 7 pm. $67. **Rob Forman** of Dal Terra Imports hosts this evening featuring th northern Italian wines of Alois Lageder and cu sine by chef **Bill Bradley**.

Wine Mondays and Cheese Tuesday
L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-26. 3023). •Sept. 8, 7 pm, $50: Wine Mondays. San ple wines paired with Chef **Frank McClellanc** contemporary French–New England cuisin •Sept. 9, 7 pm, $55: Cheese Tuesday. McClellar builds a four-course menu around cheeses of va ous tastes, origins and textures, while cheese e pert **Louis Risoli** discusses the offerings.

Bring your beloved pooch to Doggie Happy Hour at Gallia's sidewalk café in the South End every Tuesday evening, and you and Sparky can munch two-for-$1 tapas—one for you, the other provided by nearby Polka Dog Bakery. *Gallia, 1525 Washington St., Boston (617-247-4455).*

DISH

When the chefs go marching in…

Turn and re-Turn...Living Lounge...

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Chef Rene Michelena of Saint (third from left) hosted a bevy of local and national chefs at the "Turn the Tables" event Aug. 11.

Michael Leviton doesn't just play hard to get; he is hard to get. "I usually say no to anything that makes me leave the kitchen," says the seriously hardworking chef/owner of Lumiere. So what was this low-key, non–party animal doing at boutique nitery **Saint** amid a bevy of top local chefs—Saint's own **Rene Michelena**, **Thomas John** of **Mantra**, **Joanne Chang** of **Flour**, **Marc Orfaly** of **Pigalle**—and special guest **Andrew Chase** of **Mark's** in the Mark Hotel in New York City?

Apparently, enjoying himself immensely both in the kitchen and in the dining room during Saint's most recent "Turn the Tables" night. Every six weeks or so, Michelena assembles a sociable group of chefs to cook one course apiece for appreciative diners who promise to be a very desirable demographic, especially in these slow times. "Rene called," says Leviton, "so I thought, why not on a Monday night in August?" The next TtT takes place in late September.

Wake 'n' Bake: When **Tony Ambrose** reopens the former **Ambrosia on Huntington** as a **Blackfin Chop House**, the centerpiece of the new restaurant will be a stainless steel–lined, mahogany "tuna coffin." According to Ambrose, the coffin is "more beautiful, more aesthetically pleasing" than the boxes that are customarily used to ship large whole tuna to Japan. The custom casket, set about five feet above floor level, will display the big fish—usually weighing from 300 to 500 pounds—before the chef whips out his 30-inch "samurai blade" to break down the tuna in front of the diners.

"I'm more excited about this than I was about opening Ambrosia the first time," says Ambrose, who describes the nautical decor as "neat and tight and clean." Until, of course, the big knife turns him into Sweeney Codd. He expects to open the new Blackfin by mid-October.

More bounce to the lounge: Yes, the hookahs have left the building, but there's still reason to don your lounge-erie and head over to **Mantra**. New plush-to-the-push red settees and marble mini-tables provide a more comfortable setting in which to enjoy a comfortably priced ($8-$13) "lounge menu" ranging from wild mushroom samosas with tamarind-fig sauce to smoked tenderloin carpaccio, not to mention the fresh-fruit "Man-trinis" in peach, watermelon, mango, and pomegranate flavors. Honestly, these days martinis are being subjected to more experiments than the average lab rats and not always to the betterment of humankind. A key lime martini can be delicious, but a créme brûlée martini sounds like a big mistake. If you actually drink one, do let us know.

SECOND COURSE

Number's up: The **57**, which first opened in 1951, moved into its Theater District hotel location (now the Radisson) in 1974, and underwent a Peter Niemitz makeover less than two years ago, has closed. But it's not completely gone. Ever adaptable, that same stylish space, instead of competing in a tough restaurant economy, will now be used to meet the growing demand for banquet room at the Radisson.

Start the revolution: **Tim Healy** is the new executive chef at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge, which means he'll also be in charge of hotel restaurants **Zephyr on the Charles** and **Spinnaker**... **Shane Lessard**, formerly of **Grill 23** and **No. 9 Park** in Boston, **Harvest** in Cambridge, and **Fore Street** in Portland, Maine, is the new wine director at **UpStairs on the Square**. Lessard will continue the popular Wednesday-night wine tastings and dinners initiated by former wine director **Lorenzo Savona**. IB

Serving Dish

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WINE

Unoaking the Secret

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

Chardonnay and oak: the royalty of white wine. This glamour couple has been together for so long that they've begun to look alike. Sometimes it seems that where one leaves off the other begins, to the point where the two appear not merely complementary but indistinguishable. In the worlds of wine and fashion, however, all things must pass, so there have been some definite cracks showing up in the decades-long marriage lately.

It started when some bright, ambitious winemakers decided to push things perhaps a bit further than they should have in a bold new direction. As easy as it is to buy a barrel, it's that much harder to get the delicate fruit of the chardonnay grape tasting perfectly ripe and in balance. The path of least resistance dictated to the winemaking guild that if people like the way chardonnay tastes after it's been aged and perhaps fermented in an oak barrel—if that smoky toasty buttery flavor is all the rage—why not just take it to the limit? Why not forget about the grape flavor altogether and make wine so it tastes like wood? This reasoning proved very popular, and anything that works in one vintage is copied by virtually everyone the next. So in a short period of time we started to see extremely oaky chardonnays popping up everywhere, until eventually the press and some troublesome chefs said something to the effect of, "Hold on there, boys. People may buy this big buttery stuff, but you can't drink it with food." Some winemakers then wondered if perhaps they had gotten things backwards and if maybe the oak had become a bit too dominant.

So fast-forward to 2003, and we have the novel concept of "unoaked chardonnay," able to stand on its own, friendly with food and doing quite well after the divorce. This is actually far from a new idea. There were always producers who believed that the grape had a personality of its own that it wanted to express and that its flavors were being unnaturally suppressed. Helped by the recent explosion of interest in sauvignon blancs and rieslings that are not aged in wood, chardonnay producers worldwide have begun to experiment with producing their wines in a pure, fruit-driven style, where you actually taste the grape and nothing but the grape because there's no barrel-aging to mask it. Chardonnay is naturally less dramatic than sauvignon blanc and riesling though, so when it's done right in an unoaked style, the flavors are milder. Subtlety is in today, so the time is right for us to drink more chardonnay in this mode, although the problem is that when the fruit's not done right, the wine can be low-key to the point of tasting nonexistent.

Where are the most exciting places to explore the unadorned, newly liberated flavors of chardonnay? Generally in cool-climate wine regions at the limits of where the grape will be able to fully ripen, meaning Chablis, Burgundy proper, New Zealand, northern Italy and cooler parts of Australia and the United States. The problem in warmer areas is that acidity levels are too low for the grape to have much flavor interest beyond some murky, vaguely melonlike characteristics.

To me, the classic is and remains Chablis, as long as the winemaker keeps to the traditional style and doesn't age the wine in a barrel in imitation of the norm farther south in the Cote de Beaune. Fine Chablis has a lovely minerallike flavor tone that I find complementary to the crisp apple and citrus fruit, which is more chardonnay-specific. The best are denominated Premier Cru and Grand Cru, and they can age beautifully, so if you find a bottle that is five or six years old and you can be sure of the storage being sound, you'll have a much more interesting drink. The only problem is knowing which producers use oak and which don't; there your best guide is the retailer or restaurateur who purchased the wines because the information is almost never included on the label.

New Zealand and Australia are a different story, and this is one of the reasons why these countries are among the hottest purveyors of wine worldwide. Quite simply, if you find a bottle of chardonnay from one of these countries, the bottle will proclaim prominently on the label in large print, "Unoaked." I tend to prefer the New Zealand wines, especially those from Marlborough or Martinborough, because they are gently fruity, well structured and, like the best Chablis, lingering in flavor, even if they lack that magic mineral essence. Other good versions can be found in the Mâcon district of southern Burgundy, Collio and Trentino in northern Italy, Oregon and California's Central Coast, although in all of these areas the problem is the same as in Chablis: The label won't give you much information about the oak treatment or lack thereof. ■

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master of wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.

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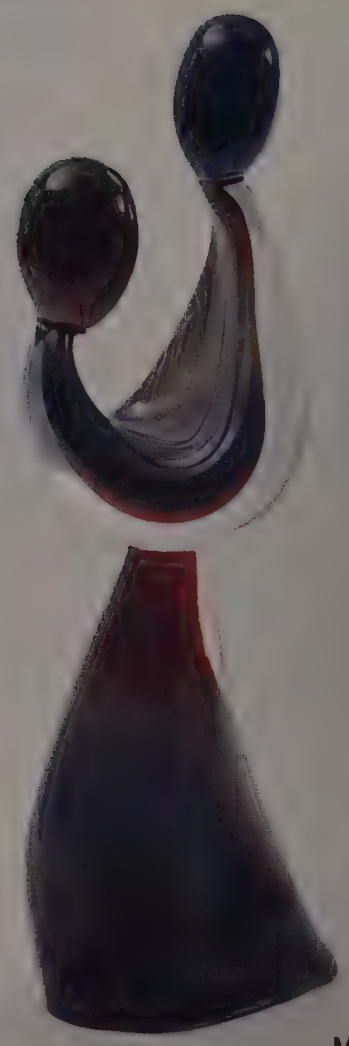

Murano Glass Sculpture
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Photography by Robert Perachio

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agenda

MPROPER PICKS

august 27 - september 9

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			27	28	29	30
					Follow the scent of grilled sausage and peppers to the 84th annual St. Anthony's Feast in the North End. See CityScope on page 58.	Vince McMahon jumps into the fray at the World Wrestling Entertainment event at the FleetCenter. See CityScope on page 58.
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Björk and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs play at Suffolk Downs. See Music on page 72.			*Sleek*, a new exhibition of six modern artists' work, opens today at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery. See Art on page 96.		The seventh annual NEMO music fest takes place today and tomorrow all over town. For the lineup, see Music on page 78.	Watch the New England Bubble Hockey Tournament at Conrad's Restaurant in Norwood. See Sports on page 102.
7	8	9				
This week you can see *Out on the Edge*, a festival of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered theater. See page 100.						

SUN./SEPT. 7

CityScope: Racing for the Cure

If you're looking to jump-start your fall fitness regimen, the **Race for the Cure** is a great motivator. Just ask Cal Gal Julie, who did the five-kilometer run five years ago. Cheered on by crowds on the sidelines, she stumbled past the finish line, inspired by breast cancer survivors happily trotting along in their bright pink T-shirts. These days, you'll find her training for marathons—but the Race for the Cure is still one of her favorites. The day kicks off with an aerobic warm-up at 8:45 am followed by a survivor ceremony at 9 am. The run itself takes place shortly thereafter. Proceeds will be used for breast cancer awareness, education and treatment. *Daly Field along the Charles River, Brighton (617-746-9292). www.bostonraceforthecure.org. Shuttle buses leave from Harvard Square. Race time: 9:45 am. $5-$20 entry fee.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind
Paul Sherman Film Capsules
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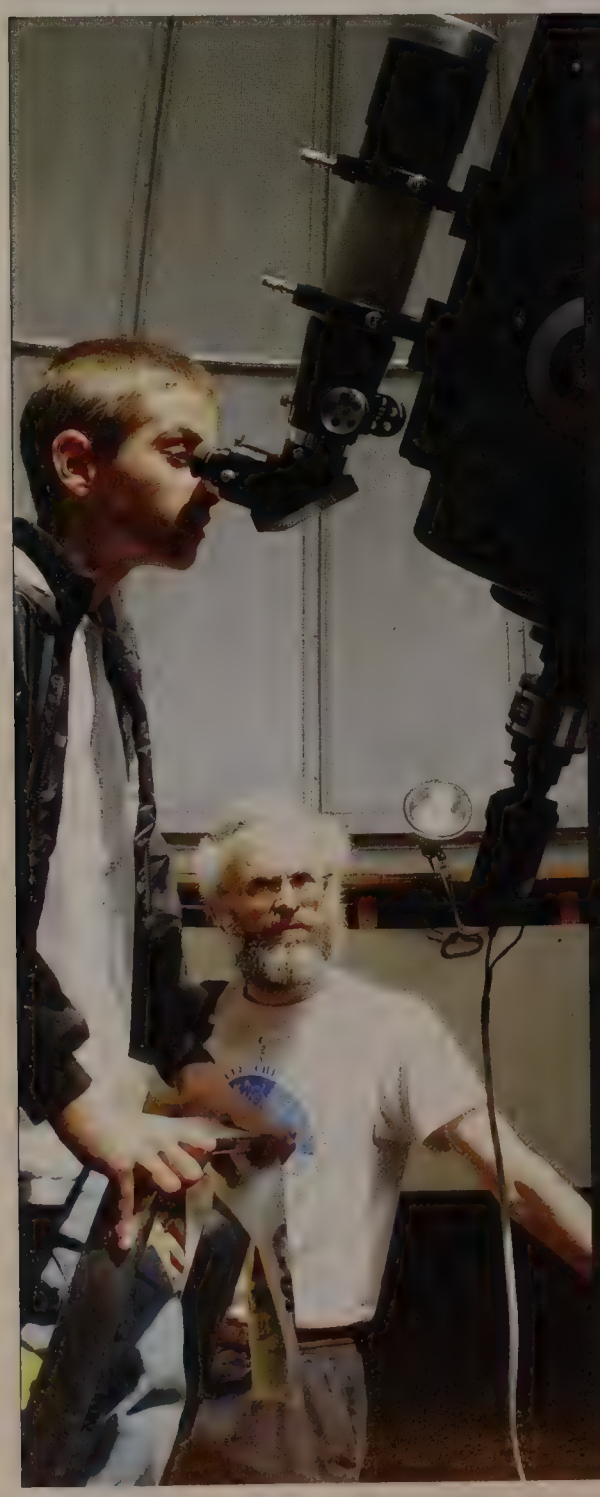
OPENING FRI./AUG.29

Movies: Hot as Popcorn

We admit it: We haven't yet made a proper fuss over one of the hippest, most interesting things to happen to the local cinema scene in years—the opening of the Allston Cinema Underground. Showcasing cutting-edge art-house, independent, cult and zany foreign films, the theater opened in June with a series of off-kilter Asian action and kung-fu movies. In July, the theme moved to music documentaries, and the current series features some of the best new independent film releases. Here's a quick preview for the weeks to come: Opening Aug. 29 is the charming *Melvin Goes to Dinner*, a hit at this year's Independent Film Festival of Boston. The movie, which is somewhat reminiscent of 1981's *My Dinner with Andre*, captures the conversation of four people at a restaurant. Opening Sept. 12 is the campy *Beyond Re-Animator*, the third installment of the ultra-gory *Re-Animator* saga. Also opening in September is the super-silly *Southlander: Diary of a Desperate Musician*. What we love the most, however, is the Wednesday night "weekly ass-kicking"—a series of classic Hong Kong and kung fu action films. *214 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-912-8626).*



WED./ AUG. 27

Education: Earth to Mars

How many times have you promised to wake up before dawn to see a meteor shower or watch a comet streaking across the sky? Then, when the time came, you sleepily turned off your alarm clock and snuggled deeper under the covers? Well, this time you have no excuse to miss a celestial spectacle. On Aug. 27 Mars will be the closest it has been to Earth in 50,000 years—a mere 35 million miles away. With the naked eye, you'll be able to see a bright red object blazing in the night sky—bigger and brighter than usual. And you don't have to set the alarm for this one; you'll be able to see Mars as early as 10 pm. If nearby buildings block your view, we suggest you join other stargazers at the Museum of Science, which will offer a special planetarium show and a Star Party on the roof of the museum's garage. Mars viewing begins at 10 pm. *Science Park, Boston (617-589-0273). www.mos.org. 6:30-11 pm, weather permitting.*

SUN./SEPT. 7

Music: Rabble Rousers Redux

Move over, new-school pop-punks. Cheap Trick wrote the book on playful power-pop decades ago. When members of Green Day and Blink 182 were still in diapers, this quartet was churning out hit after hit. And though it's possible that cover bands have played Cheap Trick's songs more than the seminal group itself—think "Surrender" and "I Want You to Want Me"—Cheap Trick is still going strong, satisfying the singalong desires of original fans and winning over newcomers. The band comes to the Orpheum as part of the Unlimited Sunshine Tour. Also on the bill: Cake, Detroit Cobras, the Hackensaw Boys and Charlie Louvin. *1 Hamilton Place, Boston (617-931-2000). $30-$35.*

SUN./SEPT. 7

CityScope: All the World's a Fair

On any given day, walking through culturally diverse Jamaica Plain feels a bit like taking a trip around the world: ethnic bakeries and grocers abound; restaurants dish out delicacies like Jamaican beef patties, Brazilian feijoada and Ethiopian injera; and the sounds of merengue drift through open windows. But once a year, the spirit of diversity hits a high point as the neighborhood pulls out all the stops for the annual **Jamaica Plain World's Fair**. What began as a simple sidewalk sale 14 years ago has grown into an extravaganza attracting more than 20,000 people. The event features music, dance, arts and crafts, and international food, plus three stages with salsa, merengue, gospel, funk, mariachi, rock and reggae. *Hyde/Jackson Square, Centre Street, Jamaica Plain (617-522-3694). 12-6 pm.*

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Festivals, Benefits & Events

THURSDAY, AUG. 28

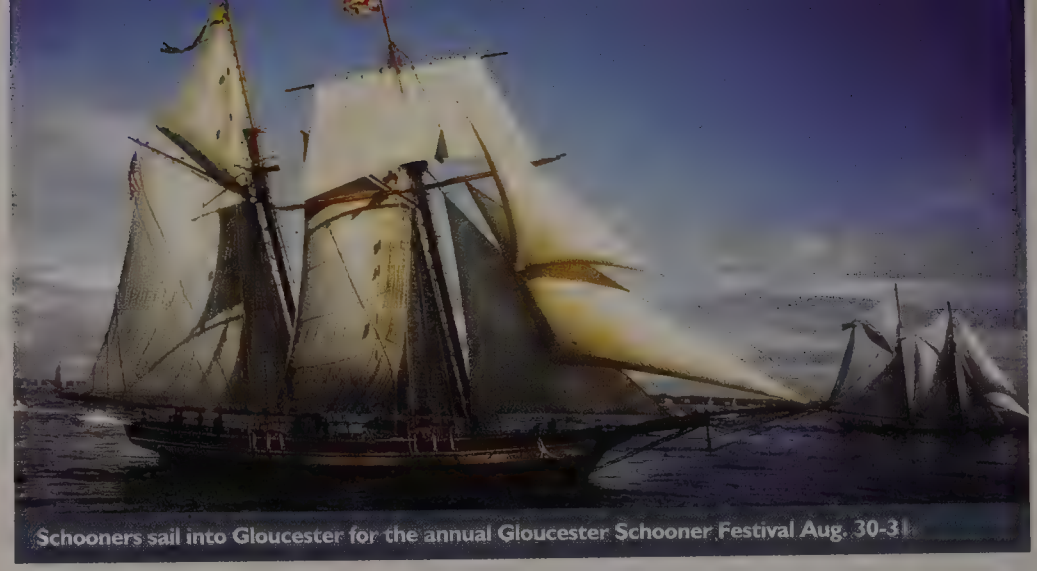
Pitching In for Kids Golf Tournament
Butternut Farms Golf Club, Stow (617-367-3322). 9 am. $2,000 per team of four or five. Join Red Sox players Tim Wakefield and Johnny Damon in this best-ball tournament to benefit the Franciscan Hospital for Children. Meals are provided.

FRIDAY, AUG. 29

Jamaican Joy Ride
Aboard the Bay State, Long Wharf, Boston (617-742-2121). www.clubvibes.com. 8-11 pm. $25 in advance, $30 at the gate. 21 +. Ya mon, this reggae cruise features live music from Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe, hip-hop spun by DJ Snoyle and a raffle for two tickets to Jamaica.

Parrot Head Regatta
The Charles River, off Magazine Beach, Boston/Cambridge (508-699-2758). www.parrotheadregatta.com. 1 pm. $250 entry fee. Jimmy Buffett fans will take to the water in kayaks and other vessels to raise money for Easter Seals of Massachusetts, an organization that assists disabled children and adults.

Saint Anthony's Feast
Endicott, Thacher and North Margin streets, North End, Boston (617-723-8669). Aug. 29-31, 12-11 pm. This Italian festival features parades, strolling singers, Italian folk dancing, live entertainment, religious and cultural services and lots of food.


Schooners sail into Gloucester for the annual Gloucester Schooner Festival Aug. 30-31

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

Gloucester Schooner Festival
Various locations, Gloucester (978-283-1601). www.capeannvacations.com. Aug. 30-31. A slew of schooners sails into Gloucester from points as distant as Norfolk, Va. Vessels range in length from 19 feet to more than 125 feet, and racing takes place Saturday and Sunday. The festival also includes an illuminated boat parade and fireworks Saturday night.

The Great Gatsby Party
The Hotel Viking, One Bellevue Ave., Newport, R.I. www.jetsetevents.com. 8 pm-1 am. $35 in advance, $50 at the door. This soiree features music from the Felix Brown Band and DJ Sensae, a raffle for the use of a luxury car for a weekend, and other prizes. A portion of proceeds will benefit cancer research and the Ally Foundation, a charitable organization founded in memory of Alexandra Zapp that supports causes such as volunteerism.

WWE at the FleetCenter
The FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). 7:30 pm. Tickets start at $20. WWE stars like Chris Benoit and Rhyno square off to settle scores and break folding chairs over each other's noggins.

SUNDAY, AUG. 31

Monster Challenge Triathlon
World Trade Center, Northern Avenue, Boston. (617-472-0113). www.monsterchallenge.org. 7 am. $100 individual, $150 relay teams. This triathlon raises money for the AIDS Action Committee. The Olympic class consists of a .93-mile swim, 24.8-mile bike ride and 6.2-mile run. The sprint class, which includes both relay teams and individuals, includes a .5-mile swim, 12.4-mile bike and 3.1-mile run.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3

Fidelity Investments Jumper Classic
Myopia Hunt Club, Route 1A, South Hamilton (978-283-7708). www.jumperclassic.com. Sept. 3-7. Tickets start at $15. The top equestrian event in New England returns to the Myopia Hunt Club. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 4

Boston Music Awards
The Wang Center, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.wangcenter.org. 8 pm. Tickets start at $28. The Dresden Dolls, Rubyhorse, Godsmack, the Ben Taylor Band and many others play at this annual awards show for Boston's best bands and musicians. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

East Cambridge Italian Festival
Warren Street (off Cambridge Street), East Cambridge (888-725-9090). www.cosmas-and-damian.com Sat., 6-11 pm; Sun., 8:30 am-10 pm. The annual East Cambridge Italian Festival of the Saints Cosmas and Damian includes live music, games, religious processions and a street carnival.

Walk of Hope
Registration at Wakefield's lower common, Wakefield (781-245-4545). www.theangelfund.org. Registration 9 am, walk 11 am. This benefit walk around Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield raises money for the Angel Fund, which provides research to fight Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

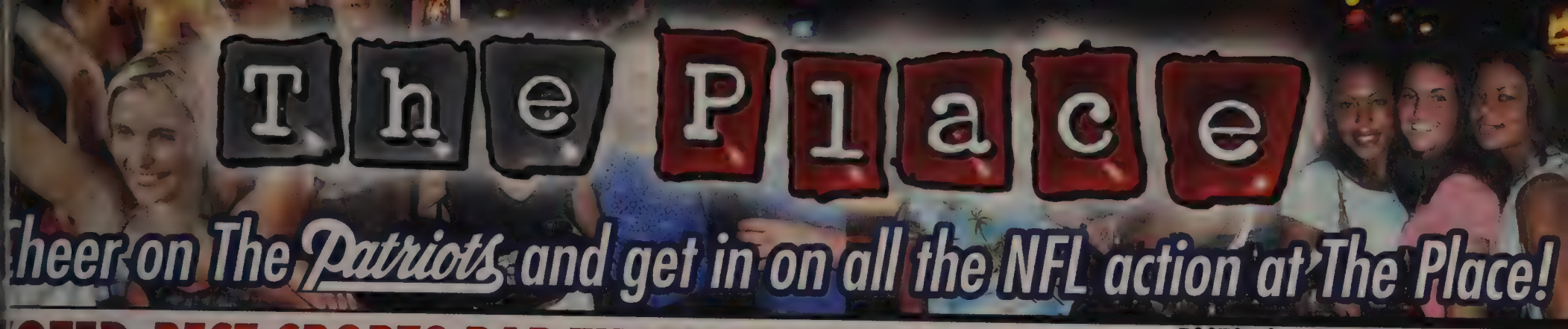
The Children's Room Cut-a-thon
Joli, 184 Grove St. at Putterham Circle, Chestnut Hill (617-327-0900). 8 am-8 pm. Suggestion donation $50 for adults and $15 for children. Haircuts throughout the day raise money for the Children's Room Center for Grieving Children and Adults. The event also includes a silent auction.

Jamaica Plain World's Fair
Centre Street, Jamaica Plain (617-522-3694). 12 pm. Rain or shine. More than 20,000 people are expected at the 15th annual Jamaica Plain World's Fair. More than 80 vendors sell international food and crafts, and three stages of live music feature genres ranging from country-Western to gospel.

Komen Race for the Cure
Daly Field on the Charles River, Brighton (617-749-9292). bostonraceforthecure.org. 7 am-12 pm. $1 online registration through Sept. 2, $20 race day. This annual 5K run and family walk along the Charles benefits the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

American Cancer Society Corporate Billiards Challenge
The Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (508-652-4334 www.cancer.org. 6-11 pm. $50. Shoot some stick and raise money for the American Cancer Society. The evening includes a billiards tournament, food, music, a silent auction and a raffle.



The Place

Cheer on The Patriots and get in on all the NFL action at The Place!

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BOSTON'S BEST 2001 — The Improper Bostonian
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BOSTON'S BEST 2003 — The Improper Bostonian

PATRIOTS SCHEDULE

7 - at Bills 1:00

14 - at Eagles 4:15

21 - Jets 1:00 pm

28 - at Redskins 1:00

5 - Titans 1:00

12 - Giants 1:00

19 - at Dolphins 1:00

26 - Browns 1:00

3 - at Broncos 9:00

16 - Cowboys 8:30

23 - at Texans 1:00

30 - at Colts 1:00 pm

7 - Dolphins 4:15

14 - Jaguars 1:00 pm

20 - at Jets 8:30 pm

27 - Bills 1:30

HIGHTLIGHTS

KICK OFF!

Come watch Brady vs. Bledsoe and enter to win tix to PATS Home Opener!

HOME OPENER

Division rivalry w/drink specials and 1/2 PRICE PIZZAS!

COME EARLY AND GRAB YOUR SEAT!

SQUISH THE FISH!

A classic rivalry enhanced with a FREE SEAFOOD BUFFET!

EVERY SUNDAY STARTING AT 11AM CHEER ON THE PATS AND YOUR OTHER FAVORITE TEAMS

TUNA BOWL

PARCELLS returns! We'll have LIVE MUSIC pre- & post- game, with a HALFTIME CHEERLEADER SHOW!

THERE ISN'T A BAD VIEW IN THE PLACE, SO COME KICK BACK, RELAX AND ENJOY OUR PLASMA TVs...

WZLX CLASSIC ROCK

Come party live with the WZLX crew and qualify to win hot PATS and CONCERT TICKETS!

AND SIGNATURE COCKTAILS ...SERVED UP BY OUR BEAUTIFUL STAFF! WE EVEN PROVIDE HALFTIME NFL REPORTS

SUPER BOWL BOUND

Watch PATS Playoff run (hopefully!) Either way, we'll be giving away TICKETS to SUPERBOWL XXXVIII.

FEATURED COCKTAILS

BLOODY MARY BLITZ
ENOUGH SPICY PEPPER AND HORSERADISH TO GIVE YOU A HEAD RUSH

MIMOSA MADNESS
A BUBBLY, ENERGIZING MID-DAY WAKE-UP

TEQUILA SUNRISE
THE UNBEATABLE HAIR OF THE DOG CONCOCTION FOR A SUNDAY KICK-OFF

PATRIOT MARTINI
THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE TWIST ON A CLASSIC

HAIL MARY MARGARITAS
WE'LL HAVE YOU SAYING "SI SEÑORITA, I'LL HAVE ANOTHER"

WINNING WHITE RUSSIANS
JUST LIKE THE PATS, IT'S MATCHLESS

KEOKE COFFEE KICKOFF
THE PERFECT BLEND OF COFFEE AND SPICE

SUPERBOWL SOMBREROS
MAKE-YOUR-MOUTH-WATER KUHLUA AND CREAM

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COME JOIN US FOR THESE CLASSIC HANGOVER REMEDIES!

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BBQ SPARE RIBS,
BUFFALO CHICKEN WINGS,
SMOTHERED SAUSAGES,
EGGS, BACON, AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

NFL SUNDAY TICKET

FANTASY FOOTBALL HEADQUARTERS

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PLAYER PROFILES!

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Where People Meet

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TRAVEL INDUSTRY BASH II

THURSDAY AUGUST 28 9PM-2AM

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COME DRINK, DANCE AND BRING YOUR COMPANY ID TO QUALIFY FOR COOL PRIZES AND GIFT CERTIFICATES.
IF YOU'VE GOT A CASE OF WANDERLUST, GET TO THE PLACE!

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WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
9PM-2AM

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AND YOUR HOST ROB FROM SURVIVOR MARQUESAS!
BIKINIS, BEACH BALLS, AND COOL DRINKS!

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FRIDAY/SATURDAY NIGH
9PM-2A

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CHECK OUT OUR AD ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE
TEAR IT OUT AND MAKE SURE YOU KEEP UP WITH
ALL THE PATRIOTS ACTION AT THE PLACE!

Patriots

NFL SUNDAY TICKET

SportsPlus Live with Bob Lobel

WEDNESDAYS AFTER WORK 6PM

performing arts

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Performing Arts. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

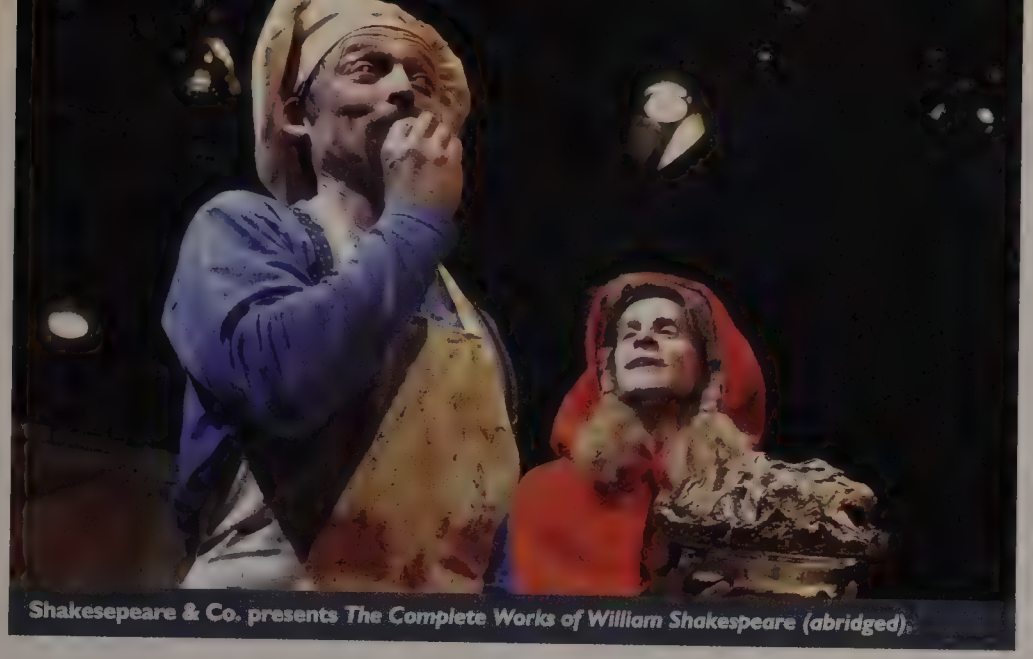
Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Collected Stories
Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). www.gloucesterstage.com.



Shakesepeare & Co. presents *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*.

Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Aug. 27-Sept 7. $30. Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize–nominated play follows the evolving and occasionally volatile relationship between a renowned short-story writer and graduate school professor and her protégée.

Frederick Law Olmsted: Passages in the Life of an Unpractical Man
Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, 99 Warren St., Brookline (617-566-1689, ext. 235). MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Aug. 31, 4 pm. This one-man performance by Gerry Wright celebrates Olmsted's life and legacy and commemorates the 100th anniversary of the landscape architect's death.

Old Soldiers
The Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. Through Sept. 15. $10. Robert Saxner directs this Martin Jones play in which three veterans share war stories on Armistice Day in 1962.

Out on the Edge: Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-436-2787). www.thetheateroffensive.org. Sept. 6-27 (call for event schedule). $18-$27. The Theater Offensive's LGBT festival hosts a range of events from interactive discussions with performers, playwrights and directors to workshops, panels and community events.

Pacific Overtures
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. Tue., Thu., Fri., 8 pm; Wed., Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Sept. 14. $16.25-$47.25. This musical about the clash of cultures following Japan's first contact with America combines the music of composer Stephen Sondheim with the ancient Japanese arts of Kabuki theater, haiku, dance and masks.

NOW RUNNING

Bankside Festival
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. Through Aug. 31. Free. This outdoor festival offers a variety of entertainment, including romps through Shakespeare's most famous scenes, musical interludes, slapstick comedies and swordfights. •*A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Thu., 6 pm; Sat., 10 am and 6 pm. The youth of Athens and a troupe of laborers enter the fairy kingdom and are transformed by magic and mischief into their truest selves. •*Shakespeare and the Language That Shaped a World*: Wed., 6 pm; Sun., 10 am and 6 pm. This fast-paced performance provides historical and thematic contexts for selected Shakespearean scenes, which are presented with more modern language.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This multimedia production abandons all dialogue and instead focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

The Chekhov One-Acts
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. Through Aug. 31. Tue.-Sun., 2 pm. $27-$38. Shakespeare & Company presents a quadruplet of Anton Chekhov's one-acts, his popular comic sketches of the late 19th century, including *The Celebration*, *Swan Song*, *The Harmfulness of Tobacco* and *The Brute*.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. Through August 31. $10-$30. Playwrights Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield squeeze all of Shakespeare's 37 plays into just two hours. Witness the madness of "Shakespeare without borders."

King Lear
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. Through Aug. 30. Shakespeare & Company presents the Bard's classic tale of an ailing king who's betrayed by his two eldest daughters.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Riverside Park, 1400 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-782-5425). www.publicktheatre.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every other week, through Aug. 31. Wed., Thu., and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $30. The Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's comedy about four lovers, a fairy queen and an ass.

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"33 IS THE LUCKY NUMBER" BOSTON MAGAZINE

"OWNERS GREG DEN HERDER AND IGOR BLATNIK HAVE CREATED A WINNER" IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

"AT 33, THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN CUISINE IS SOARING OUT OF THE KITCHEN..." NEWBURY ST& BACK BAY GUIDE

"WITH ITS BRICK WALLS, SLATTED OAK CEILING AND ROOM-LENGTH LED-LIT BAR THAT MORPHS METRONOMICALLY THROUGH THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW, 33 BECOMES A HIP HAPPENING HOT SPOT..."
MAT SCHAFFER, THE BOSTON GLOBE

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Reservations 617.572.33.11
www.33restaurant.com

Much Ado About Nothing
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through August 31. $27-$38.* Shakespeare's comedy about feuding lovers Beatrice and Benedict involves passion, deception, honor and revenge in Messina, Italy.

The Producers
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Extended through Sept. 13. $87-$97. Mel Brooks' musical that swept the 2001 Tony Awards, winning the most awards in Broadway history, comes to Boston, starring Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Twelfth Night
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Park, 1175 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-332-0546). www.publicktheatre.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed., Thu. and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. Through Sept. 14. $30.* Enjoy an evening outdoors along the Charles River as the Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy featuring a shipwreck, a case of mistaken identity, gender confusion and other complications.

Vita and Virginia
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Through Aug. 31.* Eileen Atkins' play is an adaptation of the correspondence between Virginia Woolf and her lover, Vita Sackville-West. Through their letters, the two writers draw a connection between unconventional love and creative inspiration.

Dance

The Han-Tang Yuefu Ensemble
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (781-259-8195). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Aug. 29, 8 pm. $20 and $25. In this show based on an ancient Chinese tale, introverted Nankuan music is combined with songs and subtle modern movements inspired by the ancient tradition of Liyuan music.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55.* In its ongoing run in Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Aug. 28: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Aug. 29, $30: Dane Cook •Aug. 30, 8 pm, 10:15 pm and 12 am, $30: Dane Cook •Aug. 31, $28: Dane Cook •Sept. 1: Amateur Showcase hosted by Tony V •Sept. 2: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Sept. 3: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •Sept. 4: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Sept. 5, $20: Jim Norton •Sept. 6, 6 pm; 8 pm and 10:15 pm, $25: Steve Sweeney •Sept. 8: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the "Wildman of Comedy" •Sept. 9: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Aug. 27: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Suzanne Willet, Jay Montepare, Craig Zeltsar, Erin Judge, Ben Murray, Joe Randazzo, Mike Whitman and Michael Della Penna • Aug. 28, Tim McIntire, Emily Singer, Joe Juang, Dave Thompson, Jesse Shapiro, Mike Whitman, Tom Dustin and Cyndi Stiles •Aug. 29: Val Kappa, Chris Walsh, Larry Murphy, TJ Griffin, Dave Greenberg, Abe Smith and Charles Neilsen •Aug. 30: Val Kappa, TJ Griffin, Dave Greenberg, Stephan Frey, Dan Sulman and Steve Hubbard •Aug. 31: Sam Walters, Chris Hamman, Jessica Casciano, Abe Smith, Mike Anthony, Jesse Gersten, Steve Calechman and Dan Sulman •Sept. 3: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Michael Herman, Erik Charles Neilsen, Tim Kaelin, Dan Sulman and Ira Proctor •Sept. 4: The comedy Luvs 2 Laf, starring Steve Calechman, is by, about and for singles. •Sept. 5: The Eric Riley Moore Show with guests Larry Murphy and Chris Walsh •Sept. 6: Rick Jenkins, Christine Herman and Sam Walters •Sept. 7: Sam Walters, Corey Manning, Andy O'Fish, Rob Asaro, Ben Murray, Mike Whitman and Olin Meyers.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Aug. 29 and 30, 8:45 pm: John Fish •Sept. 4 (free admission), 8:30 pm and Sept. 5-6, 8:45 pm: Kevin Knox, Dave Russo and Al Klemick

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA:Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri. 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed. and Thu., $15 and Fri. and Sat., $20: Improv Asylum comedians present their summer main-stage show, *The Brand Ambition Tour.* •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv Jam featuring main-stage performers and special guests.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed. 8 pm, $5: *The Hump.* This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $12: Micetro 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show.* Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Agent Sp* Leave your cell phone on to help a secret agency uncover the truth in this thriller complete with chase scenes, romance and backstabbing; 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports.* Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show;* 8 and 10 pm $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage.* Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree* features visiting troupes and combines three shows in one.

COMEDY SHOWS

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month. 8 pm.* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike with host Stash.

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Every Monday Night, 6-9:30pm

NOT just your average Monday Night! Featuring The Rack's All-Star jazz jam!
DJ Mike Janedy 9:30pm-2am.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday Night, 6pm

After work Jazz with Boston's Best Jazz bands, Black Sole & Zeke Martin.
DJ Ricky spins every Wednesday night 10pm - 2am!

Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

Get a JUMP START on your weekend! In fact, blow off work on Friday with R&B, Jazz and Soul bands like Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns and Uneek Approach! Dance the night away with DJ Littles 10pm - 2am.

Every Friday Night, 6pm

Join us right after work with the best band in Boston, Central Basement!
Hosted by Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party! DJ Johnny C will keep you dancing 'til 2am!

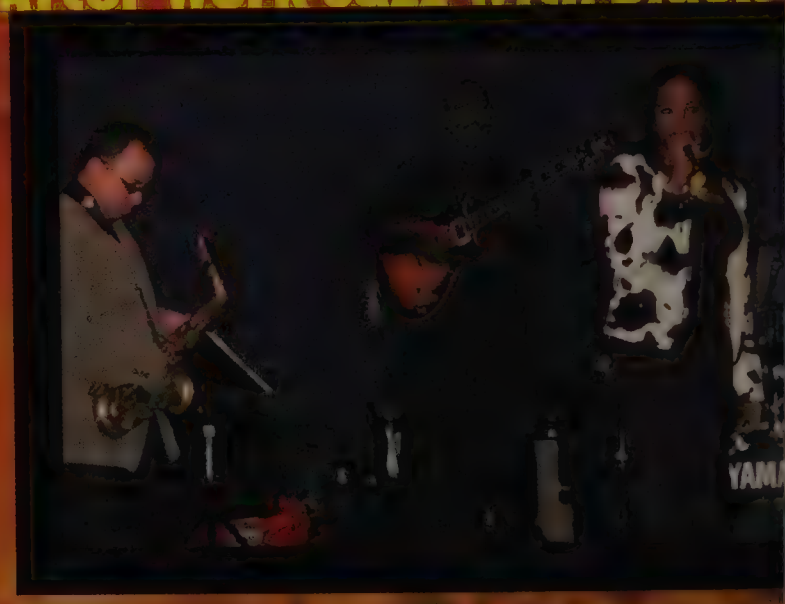
Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way!
DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Join Nate Watkin from 8 - 11pm then dance 'til 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

After Work Jazz With Black



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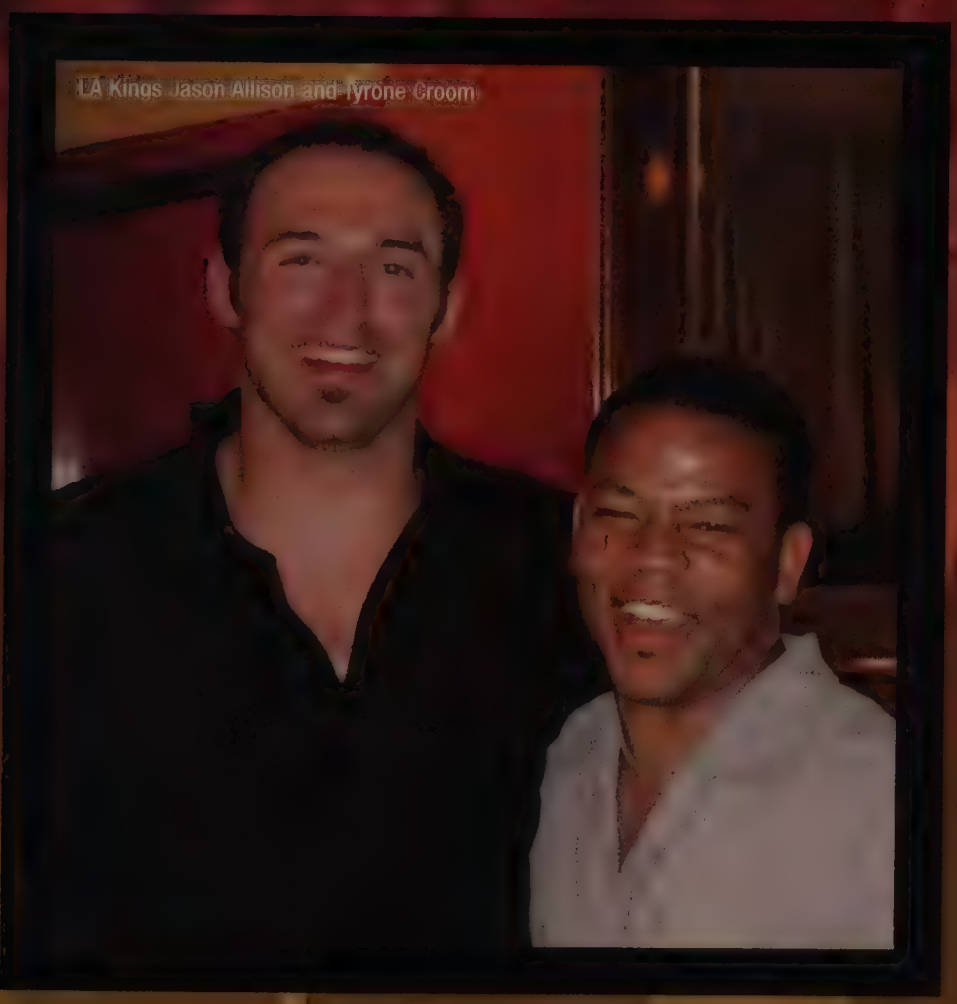
Dance, party Southern Cal style and bang it sick on Tuesday! This is definitely the night you don't want to miss! To benefit the Active Force Foundation.


LA Kings Jason Allison and Tyrone Croom

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The Magdalene Sisters is a potent Sinderella story

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The Magdalene Sisters depicts life in one of Ireland's Magdalene asylums for "wayward" girls in the 1960s.

Practically all of 2003's good movie drama has been in documentaries. So it's only fitting that one of the year's rare pieces of fiction to match *Capturing the Friedmans*, *Spellbound* or *The Weather Underground* is itself based on reality. *The Magdalene Sisters*, actor-turned-director Peter Mullan's intense and brooding knockout, is set in one of Ireland's Magdalene asylums, where—until the 1990s—the Catholic Church took in "wayward" young women, worked them like pack mules and reaped the financial rewards of their work.

The movie's three teenage characters become instantly sympathetic once the viewer sees what passes for unredeemably wayward in Dublin County in 1964. Rose (Dorothy Duffy) gives birth to an illegitimate child, and her parents browbeat her into giving the baby up for adoption. Margaret (Anne-Marie Duff) is raped at a wedding by a cousin, and the men in her family blame her. Bernadette (Nora-Jane Noone), who lives in a church-run orphanage, merely flirts with the local boys.

In its early action, *The Magdalene Sisters* makes clear that the injustices it highlights are part of the wider culture, and not just the church. Rose, Margaret and Bernadette are considered shameful only because they're women, and the men in their families, the church and the government have just the place to lock them away, one of the asylums named for the Bible's poster child for female sinfulness.

The women's nightmare only gets worse after each arrives at the asylum on the same day. The asylum is really just a big industrial laundry in which the women work seemingly endless hours. Its head nun (Geraldine McEwan) has developed oblivious self-righteousness into an art form, which usually involves demeaning the girls she's meant to be looking after. In the most emotionally brutal scene, one nun viciously belittles the naked bodies of a group of young women.

Mullan, a Scotsman whose acting credits include *My Name Is Joe*, *The Claim* and the locally shot *Session 9*, manages to make this cruelty dramatic, rather than just sadistic. He also wrote the script, and his writing and directing have a bracing immediacy. The movie's lean style is apparent early on, in the wedding scene when Margaret is raped; the aftermath of the rape—and the scheming of the men around Margaret—unfurls through sharp editing, with little dialogue. Mullan also infuses *The Magdalene Sisters* with a remarkable amount of dark humor, most of it stemming from cheeky Bernadette. In one amusing shot, a priest is blessing an unseen person or thing that turns out to be a bank of new washing machines.

Overall, the movie has a wider range of emotions than the subject matter might suggest. And the title characters are not just passive punching bags. They fight the harsh treatment they receive from the nuns and priests, especially after they realize the nuns have no plans to ever set them free. Rose, Bernadette and Margaret also become involved in aiding Crispina (Eileen Walsh), a less stable woman who was in the asylum before they got there and who is the most tragic figure in the movie. Margaret in particular finds imaginative ways to help her and get back at a priest who's been taking advantage of Crispina.

The Magdalene Sisters works its way to its heroines' climactic act of rebellion as a good women-in-prison film might, but it's not exploitative or morally simple. Its heroines aren't perfect, and its villainy is spread over many people, in differing degrees. Mullan's moral outrage hits its targets with precision and power, and *The Magdalene Sisters* is a primal scream against injustice. **IB**

The Magdalene Sisters ★★★½

Written and directed by Peter Mullan. With Nora-Jane Noone, Anne-Marie Duff, Dorothy Duffy, Eileen Walsh and Geraldine McEwan. Rated R. Miramax Films.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

American Splendor ★★★
The movie version of Harvey Pekar's autobiograph ical comic book series sticks to the comics' realis so much that, in addition to scenes with a pitch perfect Paul Giamatti as cranky Pekar, it also in cludes narration by and interviews with Pekar hir self. That hybrid is clumsy at times, but the mov captures Pekar's search for the extraordinary in th everyday, as well as his hard-headed individualism with precision and affection. We see Pekar at h humble file clerk job and in his legendary Dav Letterman appearances. (At Kendall Square an Coolidge Corner.)

American Wedding ★★
The last installment of the *American Pie* trilogy is *T Stifler Show*. Seann William Scott's Stifler is the life this generally mirthless party. His vulgarities pa tially camouflage the fact that this series long ago r out of ideas and that seeing Jason Biggs in emba rassing predicaments for the 54th time can be a maj drag. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
Though it can seem like the formulaic story of woman caught between two cultures (the formu that gave us *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*), Parminc Nagra gives a winning performance as Jess, the I dian-English girl with soccer skills and two Si parents who won't let her pursue such a nontrad tional endeavor. When Jess is recruited to play fo local women's team, with the possibility of disco ery by an American pro team, the scene is set lots of running around behind the parents' back a comic mishaps, ad nauseum. It's all pretty p dictable, but Nagra, Anupam Kher (as Jess' fath and *Pirates of the Caribbean*'s Keira Knightley (as l teammate and sometime rival) help dignity fig caricature to a standoff. (At Copley Place, Kenc Square and suburbs.)

Camp ★★
Actor turned writer and now director Todd Gra unconvincingly feel-good indie movie feature gung ho teen cast playing the aspiring singe dancers and actors at Camp Ovation, a perform arts camp. There's some novelty in seeing talen teens play adults in fully staged production numb of Sondheim or Bacharach-David songs (this is *Terror of Tiny Town* of musicals). But the come drama is such a superficial after-school special, w all its dilemmas miraculously resolved without fus muss, that it has no emotional credibility. Despite the unrequited love, sexual dilemmas and backst bickering, it's a trifle. (At Kendall Square.)

Freddy vs. Jason ★★
OK, first of all, that big stiff Jason Voorhees doe deserve to be witty Freddy Krueger's manserva let alone be presented as his equal in a match And the *Nightmare on Elm Street* series is vastly perior to the *Friday the 13th* series (I'm still wait for one good movie from that series). Both se closed weakly, and this *Celebrity Boxing*–s showdown can't revive them. Jason is his dc self, Freddy is disappointingly bland, the teen cl acters caught in the middle of their battle are gettable, and there's way too much unconvinc plot for the movie just to have some fun. As us little that happens in the film really matters, cause it ends in a slate-wiping sequel setup. Boston Common and suburbs.)

Melvin Goes to Dinner ★★★
Bob Odenkirk (TV's *Mr. Show*) makes a strong rectorial debut with this low-budget comedy b on a play by co-star (and former *Daily Show* cont utor) Michael Blieden. The title basically descr the movie, as sad-sack Melvin (Blieden) goes ou eat with an old friend (Matt Price), a friend o (Stephanie Courtney) and a friend of (Annabelle Gurwitch). The realistic interplay tween the cast is what makes this work, Odenkirk filmed it with several digital video c eras. The characters' self-revealing stories are very amusing, while there are cameos f Odenkirk, David Cross, Jack Black and Maura ney. (At Allston Cinema Underground.)

Passionada ★★
Shot in New Bedford's Portuguese-American ne borhoods, this *Moonstruck* wanna-be is too clum achieve its intended romantic sweep. Romantic l Sofia Milos and Jason Isaacs are a little stiff, the ing is amateurish at times, and the whole t comes off like a mediocre cable movie. (At Fen Copley Square, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Seabiscuit ★★
Writer-director Gary (*Pleasantville*) Ross struggl bring Laura Hillenbrand's unforgettable book a the 1930s racehorse to the screen. He veers

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Ken Burns–like documentary sequences to fictional comic relief from a radio personality played by William H. Macy. He also repeatedly whacks us over the head with the same point: Owner Charles Howard (Jeff Bridges), trainer Tom Smith (Chris Cooper) and jockey Red Pollard (Tobey Maguire) all excelled at second chances in life, just like the late-blooming horse. The movie might have had more oomph were it earthier, but it's just a well-crafted, generic piece of uplifting sports moviemaking. Read the book. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Secret Lives of Dentists ★★

The perils of modern masculinity are sometimes amusing and provocative in this comedy about a dentist (Campbell Scott) who suspects his dentist wife (Hope Davis) is having an affair. But take away the laughs injected by Denis Leary, playing a cranky patient who becomes an imaginary confidant of the husband, and there's not a whole lot left. Alan Rudolph's movie is sluggish until Leary's sourpuss musician becomes a fantasy figure for the conflicted husband, commenting on the dentist's demanding kids and egging him on to confront his wife. (At Coolidge Corner, Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

Spy Kids 3D: Game Over ★★

"Don't split up," pint-sized spy Juni Cortez (Daryl Sabara) yells at one point in the third *Spy Kids* movie. "It never works!" He's right. This installment is almost all Juni, with little of his chemistry with sister Carmen (Alexa Vega) and just a taste of their sophisticated parents (Antonio Banderas, Carla Gugino). In separating the Cortezes, much of the fun is lost from this second sequel, in which Juni enters a 3D video game to rescue Carmen and stop the Toymaker (Sylvester Stallone) from taking over kids' minds. The gimmicks of 3D and Stallone have their amusing moments, but this is the first film in the series to appeal mainly to children. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Thirteen ★★★

In the spectrum of movies about troubled teenage girls, Catherine Hardwicke's debut falls somewhere between the cliches of the recent *Blue Car* and the unique emotional eeriness of *The Virgin Suicides*. Evan Rachel Wood, who has a Kirsten Dunst–like mix of sweetness and naughtiness, is convincing as the initially girlish seventh-grader who yearns to hang out with the popular, more physically mature girls—and gets to, by taking drugs, shoplifting and pushing her budding sexuality just as they do. Meanwhile, her frazzled mom (Holly Hunter) tries to straddle the line between being firm and friendly, while her new best friend (Nikki Reed, who co-wrote the script with Hardwicke) manipulates everyone in sight. Although the movie can sometimes come off as a pat cautionary tale, its emotional messiness is awfully realistic, with most everyone oblivious to their own faults. (At Kendall Square, Coolidge Corner and Copley Place.)

28 Days Later ★★★

Trainspotting director Danny Boyle's apocalyptic sci-fi/action film owes a lot to those of George Romero, especially *Dawn of the Dead*. Still, it's a creepy and lively blend of character drama, zombie film, social commentary, vampire film and action, set in motion when a group of animal-rights activists frees rage-infected lab primates. The animals violently attack and infect the activists, who attack other humans and so on, until nearly all of England (and perhaps the world) is acting like bloodthirsty soccer hooligans. The movie follows Jim (Cillian Murphy), who awakens from a coma into this new world. He meets up with the few uninfected people left, and they try to find any remaining vestige of society and stay alive. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Weather Underground, a documentary about the late-'60s/early-'70s militant group, shows at the Brattle.

The Weather Underground ★★★½

Since the range of political discussion is so narrow these days, and those who merely vote are actually considered "involved," it's easy to forget how much wider the political spectrum was back in the late 1960s and early '70s. Sam Green and Bill Siegel's documentary is a fascinating reminder. It profiles the Weather Underground (also known as the Weathermen), the militant splinter group from the Students for a Democratic Society whose most infamous achievement was its "Bring the War Home" campaign, a series of bombings meant to remind Americans of the acts the Nixon administration was perpetrating in Vietnam. Although the 90-minute movie sometimes just scratches the surface, it's full of bracing old clips of Weathermen leaders like Bernadine Dohrn and Mark Rudd, as well as bittersweet, candid interviews with the now middle-aged radicals. (At the Brattle Theatre, Aug. 22-Sept. 4.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Film, or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

ALLSTON CINEMA UNDERGROUND

Features

•Opening Aug. 29. **Melvin Goes to Dinner** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

Wednesday Night Kung Fu

•Aug. 27, 8 pm. **Lu ding ji** *(Royal Tramp) 1992*. Chaos ensues when a pimp/revolutionary leader goes undercover serving the royal family he is assigned to overthrow.

•Sept. 3, 8 pm. **Yi tian tu long ji zhi mo jiao jiao zhu** *(Kung Fu Cult Master) 1993*. Wong Jing and Sammo Hung direct Jet Li as a young man seeking revenge on the kung fu cult responsible for his parents' deaths.

BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL

Movies by Moonlight

•Aug. 29, dusk. **Rear Window** *1954*. Confined to his apartment by an accident, a famous photographer passes time watching and recording the lives of his neighbors in this Alfred Hitchcock film.

•Sept. 5, dusk. **Gigi** *1958*. Vincente Minnelli directs this musical about a naive French girl pushed into love with an older millionaire by her sche ing family.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

•Sept. 9, 6:30 pm. **The Jubilee Singers** *20* Local filmmaker Llewellyn Smith produced documentary about a group of ex-slaves who sa their school from foreclosure by giving concert the North and in Europe throughout the dec following the Civil War.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Special Features

•Aug. 27-Sept. 4, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm; and Sun. matinee at 1:30 pm. **The Weather Und ground** *2002*. See New Releases for a descriptio

•Sept. 5-9, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm; Sat. and S matinees, 1:30 and 3:30 pm. **A Woman Is a Wo** *1961*. Angela, a stripper, desperately wants to ha baby. When her boyfriend refuses, she turns to best friend. Jean-Luc Godard directs.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Opening Aug. 29. **Boys Life 4: Four Play** *20* This latest *Boys Life* installment continues explo aspects of gay relationships, from intimacy probl to queer bashing.

•Now playing. **Whale Rider** *2002*. A New Zeal girl fights to claim her rightful position as t chief in director Niki Caro's film.

•Opening Sept. 5. **Medea** *1988*. Lars von T adapts Euripides' tragedy to modern-day Denm where a woman scorned by her lover seeks reve on him by harming their children.

Features

•Now Playing. **American Splendor** *2003*. See N Releases for a description.

Midnights

•Aug. 29 and 30, 12 am. **Krull** *1983*. Evil aliens nap the lovely princess Lyssa, and only a magic star can save her. Pete Yates directs.

•Aug. 29 and 30, 12 am. **Beyond the Valley of Dolls** *1970*. Russ Meyer's spoof takes a musical j ney through the gratuitous sex, drugs and roc roll of hippie-era Hollywood.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

No screenings through Sept. 12.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•Sept. 4, 1 pm; Sept. 5, 6 pm; Sept. 7, 10:30 **Russkij kovcheg** *(Russian Ark) 2002*. Filmed i fluid, unbroken shot, director Alexandr Soku film moves through the Hermitage in St. Peter with real and imagined characters from Russia European history.

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Boston French Film Festival: Return Engagement

•Aug. 28, 4 pm; Sat. Aug. 30, 11 am. **Une hirondelle a fait le printemps** (*The Girl from Paris*) *2000*. Christian Carion directs this film about a woman who pursues her dream of farming and lives for a year with the cantankerous man who sells her the land.

•Sept. 3, 8:15 pm; Sept. 4, 3 pm; Sept. 6, 10:30 am; Sept. 7, 3:40 pm; Sept. 11, 4:15 pm. **Cet amour-lá** (*This Love*) *2001*. Josée Dayan directs the true story of a love affair between author Marguerite Duras and her much younger apprentice.

•Also showing, Sept. 4, 5 pm; Sept. 5, 8 pm; Sept. 6, 3:40 pm. **Ma vraie vie á Rouen** (*My Life on Ice*) *2002*. A French teen on the brink of recognizing his homosexuality becomes obsessed with figure skating and video cameras. Oliver Ducastel and Jacques Martineau direct.

Chinese Martial Arts Film Series

•Aug. 27, 6 pm. **Bubi dao** (*The One-Armed Swordsman*) *1967*. An orphaned scholarship student ridiculed by his peers must learn to fight left-handed after his arm is cut off. Zhang Che directs.

•Also showing, 8:10 pm. **Bao chou** (*Vengeance!*) *1970*. Zhang Che directs this violent film about a murdered opera performer whose brother seeks a grisly revenge.

•Aug. 29, 5:45 pm. **Shaolin sanshiliu fang** (*The 36th Chamber of Shaolin*) *1978*. A Chinese commoner finds sanctuary from Manchu oppressors at the Shaolin Temple where he begins martial arts training. Lau Kar-leung directs. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Shaolin dapeng dashi** (*Return to the 36th Chamber*) *1980*. Lau Kar-Leung directs Lau-Ka-fai in the comedic sequel to *The 36th Chamber of Shaolin*. This time a former kung fu master disguises himself as a Shaolin priest.

•Aug. 30, 1 pm. **Ai nu** (*Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan*) *1972*. Seduction, deception and feminine power replace testosterone-driven warriors in Chu Yuan's murder mystery about a brothel's lesbian madam and her vengeful protégée. •Also showing, 3 pm. **Ci ma** (*Blood Brothers*) *1973*. Two outlaw brothers befriend a general after attempting to rob him in Zhang Che's adventure film.

•Aug. 31, 2:20 pm. **Hu shan hang** (*Escorts Over Tiger Hills*) *1969*. A guerrilla warrior turned pacifist monk transports a group of prisoners across the mountains as his final mission. Wang Xingle directs. •Also showing, 4:15 pm. **Luke yu daoke** (*From the Highway*) *1970*. When a horde of bandits ravages the village of An, a mysterious stranger emerges as a hero. Zhang Zengze directs.

The Films of Aki Kaurismäki

•Aug. 28, 6:30 pm; Aug. 31, 12:45 pm. **Varjoja paratiisissa** (*Shadows in Paradise*) *1986*. A lonely, socially awkward garbageman finds unexpected romance with an unemployed cashier in the first film of Kaurismäki's self-described "Working Class" series. •Also showing, Aug. 28, 8 pm, Aug. 31, 11 am. **Rikos ya rangaistus** (*Crime and Punishment*) *1983*. Dostoyevsky's classic tale of guilt and retribution makes a smooth transition from 19th-century Russia to contemporary Helsinki when a factory worker kills a man and then befriends a young woman while he's on the run.

•Sept. 3, 5:10 pm; Sept. 6 12:30 pm. **Ariel** *1985*. Kaurismäki tells the story of an unemployed miner who sets out on the road in his father's Cadillac.

•Also showing, Sept. 3, 5:10 pm; Sept. 6, 12:30 pm. **Hamlet liikenmaailmassa** (*Hamlet Gets Business*) *1987*. Kaurismäki's Hamlet finds himself the inheritor of controlling interest in a corrupt family business.

•Sept. 4, 8:30 pm; Sept. 7, 4 pm. **Tulitikkutehtaan** (*The Match Factory Girl*) *1990*. A lonely factory worker's chance meeting with a man sparks a quest for revenge in Kaurismäki's final "Working Class" film. •Also showing, **Leningrad Cowboys Go America** (*1989*). Sept. 4, 7 pm; Sept. 7, 2 pm. The Finnish invasion comes to America when a rock band known as the Leningrad Cowboys heads stateside.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Oct. 2. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Oct. 2. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.

•Through Oct. 2. **Top Speed**. Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion race car driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Aug. 31. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Acad
emy Award–winning director James Cameron take
audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore th
wreckage of the Titanic. Call for show times.

•Through Aug. 31. **The Matrix Reloaded: Th
IMAX Experience**. In the sequel to *The Matrix*, Ne
and the rebel leaders battle the machines that hav
overpowered the human race. Call for show times.

•Through Aug. 31. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Dive
and explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Au
tralia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, stin
rays and rainbows of tropical fish. Call for show time

•Opening Sept. 4. **Bugs!** Experience a bug's-eye vie
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kingdom, magnified up to 250,000 times. *Bugs!* take
you to the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asi
where predator meets prey.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2

*214 Harvard Ave. (978-671-9212). MBTA: B Gree
Line to Harvard Ave.*

Allston Cinema Underground

*214 Harvard Ave. (617-912-8626). MBTA: B Gree
Line to Harvard Ave.*

BELMONT

Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Harbor Hotel

70 Rowes Wharf. (617-439-7000).

Boston Public Library

*666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Gree
Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.*

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

*100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA
Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.*

Fenway 13 Theatre

*201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA:
D Green Line to Fenway.*

Loews Boston Common

*175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Gree
Line to Boylston.*

Museum of Fine Arts

*465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA:
E Green Line to Museum.*

Museum of Science

*Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line
Science Park.*

New England Aquarium

*Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBTA
Blue Line to Aquarium.*

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema

*399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA:
Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line
Reservoir.*

Coolidge Corner Theatre

*290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gre
Line to Coolidge Corner.*

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre

*40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line
Harvard.*

Fresh Pond

*168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBT
Red Line to Alewife.*

Harvard Film Archive

*24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Lin
Harvard.*

Kendall Square Cinema

*One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA:
Line to Kendall/MIT.*

Loews/Sony

*10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Lin
Harvard.*

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

*27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Gr
Line to Chestnut Hill.*

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

*35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Or
Line to Sullivan Square.*

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Da

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The anti-Hanson

Brother outfit Kings of Leon flirts with the dark side on the road from church revivals to rock and roll salvation

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Southern boy Jared Followill learned to play bass in a month when he got the chance to join a band last year at age 16.

But he wasn't auditioning for a boy band. Followill was drafted by his older brothers, singer-guitarist Caleb and drummer Nathan, and guitarist cousin Matthew for Kings of Leon, a scruffy Tennessee rock and roll outfit already being hailed in England as the greatest thing since the Strokes.

"I don't have to dance or put hair gel in, or bathe or cut my hair for that matter," says Followill, who roughed it for years as the son of an itinerant Pentecostal preacher who brought the three brothers on his rural church rounds.

The Followill clan, a.k.a. the Kings of Leon, from left: brothers Jared (bass), Caleb (vocals/guitar) and Nathan (drums) and cousin Matthew (guitar).

"Sometimes at the church we'd preach in, they'd put us up in a motel or we'd stay at a house," he says from Colorado, the band's second stop on the Lollapalooza tour. Following that jaunt, the band headlines a tour that hits Axis Sept. 12. "But most of the time, depending on the week, we'd sleep in the car or get a motel on our own."

Or, in the case of one revival, the boys would get picked up after school in Arkansas, ride three hours each way to the church in Oklahoma, and make it back to bed by 1 am, only to get up the next day for class and do it all over again—for 11 consecutive weeks.

"After that, we got into home schooling," Followill says. "That's why we don't have asses. We've all got flat asses from riding our whole lives."

While Jared admits that as a child he would fall asleep under the pews in church, Nathan and Caleb eventually began to play the drums behind their pianist mother at the services.

"If you're looking from the outside, it can seem a little cultish," the youngest Followill says of the Pentecostal religion. "But the church services were so powerful. There was a lot of energy. It was like rock and roll. They'd use electric guitars. And the people who sang had so much character in their voices and stories to tell.

"If your dad's a preacher, you end up being a preacher," he says. "But my dad was different from most preachers. He was a closet alcoholic. We ended up getting out of the church, and turned on to so many different things, we never went back."

Among those discoveries were the Rolling Stones, Neil Young and the Who, music their father used to play when their mother wasn't around. Then came the Cure, the Pixies and other newer bands. Yet the brothers still drew from their early experiences.

"We didn't really like our lives that much, so we always had a better imagination about things than most kids," Followill says. "We were all kinda dreamers, and we draw on that now. And we were good liars. But I think it builds character."

Such imagination fuels the pathos behind the dark characters (adulterers, hookers and murderers among them) that populate Kings of Leon's new album, *Youth and Young Manhood*, which Britain's *New Musical Express* dubbed "one of the most exciting rock 'n' roll debuts of the last 10 years."

Certainly, the music shows a range far beyond the years of the Followill boys (Nathan, the oldest, is 24), echoing and transcending their rock, gospel and country influences. Standouts "Red Morning Light," "Molly's Chambers" and "Wasted Time" seethe with catchy riffs and feverish vocals that suggest a hormonally amped Tom Petty. How did it gel so well, so quickly?

"It has a lot to do with family chemistry," says the nascent bassist, noting that the extended Followill clan has always been good at team activities, be it basketball, softball or music. "When we play together, it's something electric. We can all feel it. We get chill bumps."

Before he got his first bass last year though, Followill had only fooled around on his brother's guitar. "It taught me what chords go with what," he says. "I would just listen to records and mimic my favorite bassists.

"We weren't seasoned musicians and weren't really great at our instruments," he says. "Before the White Stripes and the Strokes, it made us nervous. But we saw these other bands and said, 'That's pretty raw and people are accepting it.'"

Now, Followill says, "I go up and play, and I'll have all these bass players that I look up to come up and say, 'Man, I love your bass lines. You've got great melody and stuff,' and I don't know what to say. I don't feel deserving."

"It's crazy," he adds of the buzz that's suddenly exploding around the band, which the brothers named after their cool grandfather Leon. "We were so poor when we grew up, we thought it would be funny to call ourselves kings." IB

Kings of Leon
play Axis Sept. 12.

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fa (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or b email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not ac cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers
Information for the Music section is compiled from di ferent sources. Although we make every effort to provid accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahea to double-check dates and times (see complete list venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Aerosmith and Kiss
Aug. 27, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000).
Björk and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Aug. 31, Suffolk Downs (617-931-2000).
Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band
Aug. 28 and 30, Tweeter Center (sold out).
Mariah Carey
Sept. 8, Wang Center (617-931-2000).
Gipsy Kings
Sept. 6, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000).
Guided by Voices
Sept. 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Billy Idol
Sept. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000).
Dave Matthews Band
Sept. 8 and 9, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000).
Jason Mraz
Sept. 3, The Roxy (617-931-2000).
Mandy Patinkin
Sept. 8, North Shore Music Theatre (978-23 7200).
The Raveonettes and Stellastarr
Sept. 7, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
The River's 8th Birthday Bash with Shelby Lynn Jessie Malin and Steadman
Aug. 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band
Sept. 6 and 7, Fenway Park (sold out).
The Unlimited Sunshine Tour with Cake, Che Trick, Detroit Cobras, the Hackensaw Boys a Charlie Louvin
Sept. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27

Asgard Down Dog.
Bill's Bar Pete Pidgeon, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Breezeway Fred Woodard Trio.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7 pm.
The Burren The London Lasses and Peter Quinn
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim StoryLAB, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGr 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
Harper's Ferry Invisible Downtown with Gr stone, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard Band.
House of Blues Fuzz with members of Deep Bana Blackout and the Boston Horns, 9:30 pm, $12, 1
Johnny D's Acid Reggae Xperience, 8:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Franc Graham Band, 8:30 pm; Bourl Princess, 9:30 pm; Willie Alexander, 10:30 pm, $5
Kennedy's Mid-Town Paul Duffy, 8 pm.
Kinsale Sunday's Well.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmoi 8:30 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Deathray Davies, 9 pm, 1 ZuZu: Eileen Rose, 21+.
Midway Café Leo Blais and the Jumblies.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble, 9 pm.
The Rack Taylor Brothers, 6 pm.
Regattabar Fernando Huergo and the Jinga Q tet, 8:30 pm, $12.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Shimon Ben-Shir, 8:30 pm, $9.
Scullers Russell Malone and Benny Green, 8 an pm, $18.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Lot Six residency, Ap Sunshine, Mittens and the Mansfields, $8.
Tweeter Center Aerosmith and Kiss, 7 pm, $49 $135.

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Western Front NEC Trio and the Rebecca Weintraub Ensemble, 9 pm.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries.
Zeitgeist Gallery G. & T. Stone, 7 pm, $7.
Les Zygomates Rusty Scott.

THURSDAY, AUG. 28

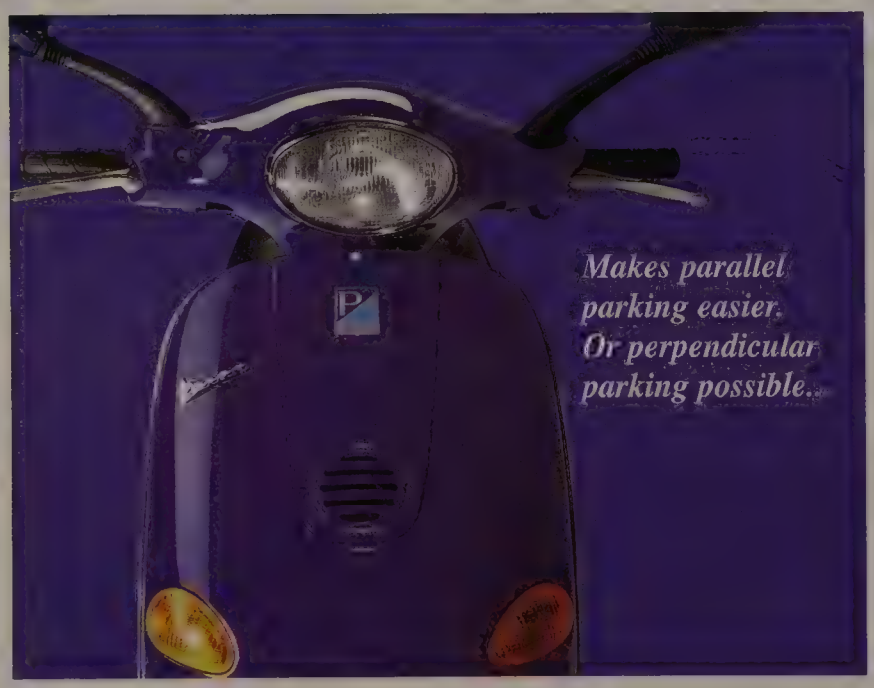
Abbey Lounge The Collisions, Revered Glass Eye & His Wooden Legs, Coffin Lids and Caged Heat.
Asgard Nate Watkins.
Bill's Bar Cree 8, Stoic and Junkchief, $8, 18+.
Blackhorse Tavern Donnie Noyes.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway Margo Thunder.
Bristol Lounge Ben Cook, 7 pm.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm.
Club Passim Clare Burson and Mark Simos, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Groove Authority, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe, 9 pm-1 am.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Matthew Stubbs Band, $6, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 10 pm.
House of Blues Kara Tondorf, Katie Barbato, Meg Hutchinson, Jackie Green and Todd Stakem, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Nicole McKenna, 9 pm; Busker, 10 pm, $5.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Joe Carson, 7 pm.
Kirkland Café Odd Way, Flash in Blue and Walk Don't Run, $5.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9 pm, $10.
Middle East Upstairs: Mappari, Godboxer, Favorite Atomic Hero and the Irresponsibles, 9 pm, $9, 18+. ZuZu: Zemog El Gallo Bueno, 21+.
Milky Way June Millington, Becky Chace Band and Elizabeth Borden Band, 9 pm.
Parris Brian Mae's Band.
Plough and Stars Amphibian, 9 pm.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm.
Regattabar The Maria Muldaur Quintet, 8:30 pm, $18.
Scullers Doug Wamble, 8 and 10 pm, $12.
Sky Bar Kate Schrock, Joe Mannix and Dave Rave, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Tweeter Center Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band, 8 pm (sold out).
Western Front Mang Dub and the Well, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford.

Cake comes to the Orpheum Sept. 7 as part of the Unlimited Sunshine Tour.

Les Zygomates Steve Langone Trio, no cover.

FRIDAY, AUG. 29

Abbey Lounge Road to Ruin, All Mod Cons and Malibu Lou.
Asgard Ryan McHugh.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
Bill's Bar Badfish (Sublime tribute), $8, 18+.
Blackhorse Tavern Pi Alley.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne. Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Big Delicious Band, 10 pm, $3.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Choppin' Block Out Cold, Drugwar, Missionshifter and Closer to Nothing, 9 pm, $10.
Club Passim Cutting Edge of the Campfire, 12 pm, $18.
Common Ground Heather Hates You and Last Mission, $4.
Dick's Last Resort Magnus, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Cape Fear.
The Green Briar Infractions.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis.
The Harp Cosmic Box.
Harper's Ferry The Coalboilers, 10 pm, $6, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 5 pm.
House of Blues Mac MacNally, 10 pm, $25, 21+. Blues Cruise with Entrain, 8-11 pm, $25-$35 (leaves from the World Trade Center).
Johnny D's New Orleans Klezmer Allstars, 9:45 pm, $8.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Mandomania, $7.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 6 pm.



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The Linwood The Peter Montgomery Band and Ebenezer, $7.
Lizard Lounge King Radio.
Matt Murphy's Momentum.
Middle East Downstairs: Throe and No One's Kind, 8 pm, $10, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper Group, 10 pm, 18+. ZuZu: Giancarlo Buscaglia, 21+.
Midway Café The Jody Grind and the Tokyo Tramps.
Milky Way The Pill, 9 pm.
Mr. Dooley's McTagerts.
O'Leary's Attention Shoppers.
Parris The Interns.
Plough and Stars 22-40's, 9 pm.
The Rack Uneek Approach, 6 pm.
Regattabar The Maria Muldaur Quintet, 7:30 pm and 10 pm, $18.
Scullers Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchestra with Monica Lynk, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20.
Sky Bar Moontide, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tanglewood Jazz Festival Gato Barbieri, Michel Camilo Trio and Jonathan "Juanito" Pascual, 8 pm, $20-$57.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Dear Leader.
Western Front Joint Chiefs, 9 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon.
Zeitgeist Gallery Sofia Koutsovitis Quintet, 9:30 pm, $7.
Les Zygomates T.J. Wheeler.

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

Abbey Lounge The Konks, the Hammicks and Tunnel of Love.
Asgard Jack Shanahan.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Tom O'Carroll. Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Pondering Judd, 10 pm, $3.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.

Indie rock superstars Guided by Voices play Sept. 3 at the Paradise Rock Club.

Club Passim Cutting Edge of the Campfire, 12 pm, $18.
Dick's Last Resort The Lovebrokers, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Thomas Park.
The Green Briar Jon Frederik Band.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syphfo.
Harper's Ferry Brother Mosley.
The Harp Cosmic Box.
Hennessy's McTagerts.
House of Blues Vibewise, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's The Grandsons and the Spurs, 9:45pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kendall Café Rachel Loy, 9:30 pm; Elizabeth Ziman, 10:30 pm, $7.
Kinsale Tin Finnegans.
Kirkland Café Insider, Bell Jars, Trip to Molly, $5.
The Linwood Quintaine Americana, 45 to Pay the Rent, Jesus Eater, Defcon 4, $7.
Lizard Lounge King Radio.
Matt Murphy's Blue Rhino.
Middle East Upstairs: The Rocket Summer, the Format, Jet Black Summer and Harris, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Salacious Crumb, Plan B, the USM, Sweatpant Boners, 8 pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Porter Davis, 10 pm, 18+. ZuZu: Ready, Steady, Go-Go! 21+.
Midway Café Rajas.
O'Leary's Tom Carroll.
Paradise The River's 8th Birthday Party with Shelby Lynne, Jesse Malin and Steadman, 8 pm, $9.25, 18+.
Parris The Interns.
Plough and Stars Bluegrass Power Quintet, 5 pm.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park.
Sky Bar Black Nasty, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tanglewood Jazz Festival Marian McPartland with Norah Jones, 3 pm, $15-$43; Shirely Horn, Kenny Barron, Canta Brazil with Trio Da Paz, 8 pm, $20-$57.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
Tweeter Center Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band, 8 pm (sold out).
Virgin Megastore Concept 6, 7 pm.
Western Front Hot Like Fire, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.
Zeitgeist Gallery Mark Cunningham, 9 pm, $10.
Les Zygomates Jim Bridges.

SUNDAY, AUG. 31

Bill's Bar Dub Station, 21+.
Blackhorse Tavern Ervin Dhimo Trio.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne and Tom O'Carroll.
Bob the Chef's Sunday jazz brunch with the Paul Danay Jazz Quartet, 10 am.
Breezeway Hakim Law.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Cutting Edge of the Campfire, 12 pm $18.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, n cover.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords, 4 pm; Finba Doyle, 8 pm.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnson
House of Blues Los Lonely Boys, 9:30 pm, $9, 18+.
Johnny D's Blues Jam.
Julien Bar Jazz brunch piano trio, 11 am.
Kendall Café Laura MacLean, 8:30 pm, $5.
Kinsale Martin Kellaher.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7 pm; poetry jam featuring the Jeff Robinson Trio, 9 pm, $5.
Matt Murphy's Mang Dub, Live and Direct.
Middle East Upstairs: The Epoxies and the Tam poffs, 9 pm, $9, 18+. ZuZu: Glad Stress-Free Pop 21+.
Midway Café The Coachmen.
Plough and Stars The Young Ones, 9 pm.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack Nate Watkins, 8 pm.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz Brunch with Frank Vardaros, 1 am, no cover.
Sky Bar Joanie Loves Trotsky, Moonshot and All Fifteen, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

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Suffolk Downs Björk and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, 7 pm, $45.
Tanglewood Jazz Festival Donal Fox, Inventions in Blue, 1 pm, $15-$22, Tanglewood Theatre; Celebrating the Year of the Blues, 3 pm, $29-$43, Ozawa Hall; Natalie Cole, Wynton Marsalis Septet, 8 pm, $20-$75, Koussevitzy Shed.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am; Consuelo Candelaria Trio, 8 pm.
Western Front Arturo Stable Band, 5 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.
Zeitgeist Gallery X-Jams at Zeitgeist with Elio Deluca, 2 pm, $3.

MONDAY, SEPT. 1

The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Middle East Upstairs: Mourningside, Defcon 4, the Escaped and Monster Squad, 9 pm, $8, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
Toad Schwang featuring Anita Suhanin, 8 pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 2

The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's McKrells, 8:30 pm, $7.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kinsale Sean Cunningham.
Middle East Upstairs: The Sounds, $10, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Tito Puente Jr.
Scullers Cubanismo, 8 and 10 pm, $28.
Sky Bar Yoni Gordon and the Goods, the Memory Effect and Distinguished Members, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Toad Rachel McCartney, 7 pm; Jon Nolan and Hokum, 9 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3

Asgard Tom Groleau.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
Johnny D's Two High String Band and Blue Light, 8:30 pm, $7.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Middle East Upstairs: Debris CD-release party, Junk Chief, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Jedi Mind Tricks, the Last Emperor and Outer Space, 8 pm, $14, 18+.
Paradise Guided by Voices and the Oranges Band, 7 pm, $18.50, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Dis 'n' Dat.
The Rack Mike Iannantuonni.
Regattabar Natraj and Charushree, 8:30 pm, $12.
Roxy Jason Mraz, 8:30 pm, $20.
Scullers Rene Marie, 8 and 10 pm, $18.
Sky Bar Jennifer Matthews and Sons of Jupiter and the Predicates, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Toad The Heygoods, 7 pm; the Ken Clark Organ Trio, 10 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 4

Asgard Brogue.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe, 9 pm-1 am.
Harper's Ferry Culture with Joseph Hill, 21+.
Hennessy's Blind By Marriage.
Johnny D's Mercy Brothers, 9 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kirkland Café Surca, Platypus Rex and the New Renditions, $5.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns.
Regattabar Los Changos, 8:30 pm, $12.
Scullers Willie and Lobo, 8 and 10 pm, $18.
Sky Bar Milkbar Droogies, Plain Janes and Gutta, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7 pm; the Dwight Ritcher Band, 10 pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford.

Bruce Springsteen plays two sold-out shows at Fenway Park Sept. 6 and 7.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 5

Abbey Lounge The Charms, Triple Thick and AKAs.
Asgard Oneside.
Berklee Student Convocation.
Bill's Bar NEMO showcase with the Cignal, Elgin James & the Suicide Gang, Aberdeen City, Washington Social Club and the Good North.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
Cambridgeside Galleria NEMO' showcase wit Seeking Homer and Tom Glynn, no cover.
Choppin' Block Harris, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Copperfield's NEMO showcase. Upstairs: Centra Basement, 9 pm; Strain Busy Sky, 9:45 pm; Lo Pilot, 10:30 pm; Rainshine, 11:15 pm, Cube, 12 an Eden Row, 12:45 am. Downstairs: SED, 9 pm; ADI 9:45 pm; LP, 10:30 pm; IIJ, 11:15 pm; TRUE, 12 an T*House and the All Mighty, 12:45 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Billy Idol, 8 pm, $30.

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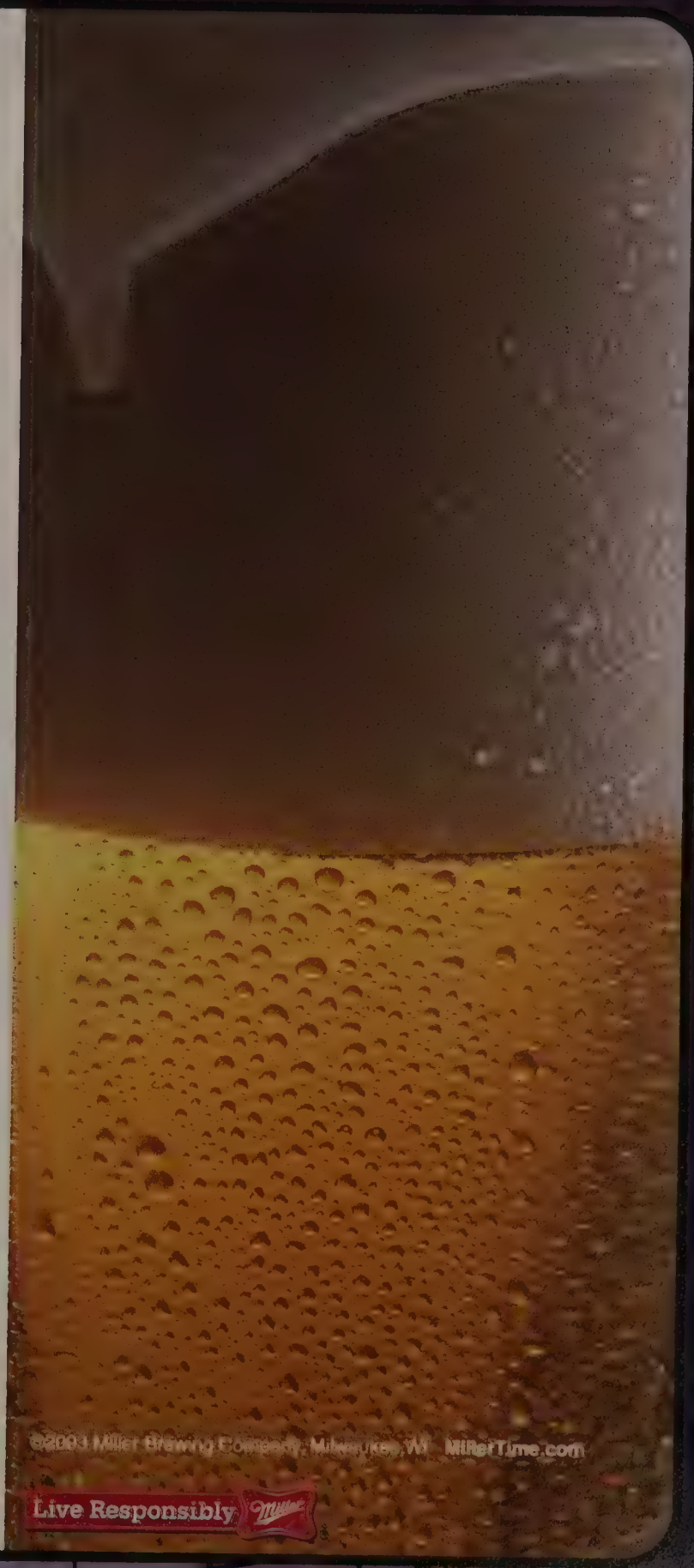

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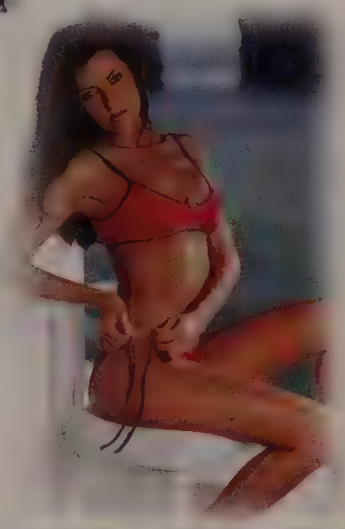
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Los Amigos Invisibles Oct. 9, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Boston Folk Festival with Emmylou Harris, Greg Brown, Tom Rush, Richard Shindell, Danu, Kate Campbell, Paul Brady, Koko Taylor & Her Blues Machine and more Sept. 19-21, UMass Boston (617- 287-6900)
Built to Spill and the Solace Brothers Sept. 29 and 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Capercaillie Oct. 3, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic Oct. 8, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Cowboy Mouth and Cracker Oct. 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Evan Dando and Vic Chesnutt Oct. 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Dandy Warhols Sept. 10, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Dresden Dolls Sept. 26, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Evanescence, Finger Eleven and Revis Sept. 14, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Fleetwood Mac Sept. 24, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Peter Frampton and Joe Bonamassa Sept. 28, Roxy (617-931-2000)
Gov't Mule and Chris Robinson Oct. 17, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Guster Sept. 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Juliana Hatfield, Heidi Gluck and Freda Love Sept. 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Shirley Horn Oct. 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Billy Idol Sept. 5, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Jewel Sept. 27, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Brian McKnight Sept. 10, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Meshell Ndegeocello and Soulive Oct. 22, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Popsmear tour with the Samples Sept. 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Damien Rice Sept. 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Sheila Divine Oct. 10 and 11, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
String Cheese Incident Oct. 10 and 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Lucinda Williams and the Jayhawks Oct. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Neil Young Sept. 10, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)

Grand Canal Sun Junk.
Hard Rock Café NEMO showcase with Rubicon, 9:30 pm; Munk, 11 pm; Strawman, 11:45 pm; Blind by Noon, 12:30 am, $5, 21+.
Harper's Ferry NEMO showcase with Parker House and Theory, 8 pm; Nine Mile, 8:45 pm; Elevation 74, 9:30 pm; Francis Jockey, 10:15 pm; Soul of John Black, 11 am; Urban Funk Ordinance, 11:45 pm; Superhoney, 12:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30 pm; Pi Alley.
House of Blues NEMO showcase with Nicole Nelson Band, 8:30 pm; Keith Dunn, 9:10 pm; Seks Bomba, 9:50 pm; Stymie, 10:30 pm; Al and the Trans Americans, 11 pm.
Hyatt Regency Boston NEMO showcase with Gregory Douglas, 12 pm; Ashleigh Flynn, 12:35 pm; Kodac Harrison, 1:10 pm; Bailey Jester, 1:45 pm; Jason Spooner, 2:20 pm; Ann Demming, 2:55 pm; Craig Corothers, 3:30 pm.
Johnny D's Geno Delafose, 9:45 pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kendall Cafe NEMO showcase with the Heygoods, 8 pm; the Stairs, 8:45 pm; the Splendid Nobodies, 9:30 pm; Devon Sproul, 10:30 pm; Emergency Music, 11 pm; Pasternak, 11:45 pm.
Kirkland Café The Motive, Mark McKay and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood NEMO showcase with Rocket Science, 9:30 pm; Paranoid Social Club, 10:15 pm; the Suggestions, 11 pm; By Divine Right, 11:45 pm.
Lizard Lounge NEMO showcase with Lanky, 9 pm; Loretta, 10 pm; Blankface, 11 pm; Miranda Sound, 12 am; Ad Frank, 1 am.
Matt Murphy's Monique Ortiz, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East NEMO showcase. Upstairs: Lipfloater, 8:30 pm; Favorite Atomic Hero, 9:15 pm; the Remedey Session, 10 pm; Quickfix, 10:45 pm; Before Braille, 11:30 pm; Officer May, 12:15 am. Downstairs: Elcodrive, 8:30 pm; Mrs. Children, 9:15 pm; Scout, 10 pm; Mappari, 10:45 pm; the Pieces, 11:30 pm; Baby Strange, 12:15 am. Corner: Romero, 11 pm; Pharaoh's Daughter, 11:55 pm; Sali Oyugi, 12:50 am. ZuZu: Rob Gonzalez. 11 pm; Cory Branan, 11:40 pm; Matt Keating, 12:20 am; Grubstake, 1 am.
Midway Café
Milky Way Dirty Water, the USM, the Pug Uglies, Far from Finished and Mung, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
O'Leary's Rick Baron and the Quavers.
Paddy Burke's Pub Dave Smith, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise NEMO showcase. Front room: Dave Aranoff, 9 pm; Paul Brill, 10 pm; Dresden Dolls, 11 pm;, Bleu, 12 am. Main room: Hero Pattern, 9 pm; Jetpak, 9:45 pm; Pilot to Gunner, 10:30 pm; Superdrag, 11:30 pm.
The Rack Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns.
Regattabar Deborah Henson-Conant, 7 pm and 9:30 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club NEMO showcase with Mamadou, Pieces of East, Kusun Ensemble and Lovewhip.
Scullers Pharoah Sanders, 8 and 10:30 pm, $24.
Sky Bar Matt Chase Group, David K and Lyn Pa Junction, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Toad NEMO showcase with the Pearl, 9 pm; th Myrtles, 10 pm; Damnwells 11 pm; the Flapjacks, am; Three Day Threshold, 1 am.
T.T. the Bear's Place NEMO showcase with Killit, pm; Damn Personals, 9:50 pm; the Love Scen 10:40 pm; Read Yellow, 11:30 pm; Consonant, 12: am, $10, 18+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Abbey Lounge The Marvels.
Asgard The Symbolics.
Bill's Bar NEMO showcase with No Decembe Slitheryn, Six Gig, the Buzzhorn and Gargant Soul.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan, U stairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Black Sole Ensemble, 7:30 pm.
Cambridgeside Galleria NEMO showcase wi Kendra Flowers and Jo Davidson, no cover.
Club Passim NEMO showcase with Amy Fairchil 9:30 pm; Yael Naim, 10 pm; Karaugh Brown, 10: pm; Matt Haimovitz, 11 pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fenway Park Bruce Springsteen and the E Stre Band, 7:30 pm, sold out.
FleetBoston Pavilion The Gipsy Kings, 8 pm, $4 $60.
Grand Canal Eco System.
Hard Rock NEMO showcase with the High Ce ings, 9:30 pm; De Nova Dahl, 10:15 pm; Bachel Red, 11 pm; the Dead Abigails, 11:45 pm; Chubb 12:30 am, $5, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Maceo Parker, $30, 21+.
Hatch Shell Less Than Jake, 1 pm.
House of Blues NEMO showcase with Gle Tilbrook of Squeeze, Jill Sobule and Angie Apa 8:30 pm.
Hyatt Regency Boston NEMO showcase. Indo Natalia Zuckerman, 12 pm; Devon Sproul, 12: pm; Melanie Decker, 1:10 pm; Tim Miser, 1:45 p Owen Plant, 2:20 pm; Amanda Roger, 2:55 p Mike Evins, 3:30 pm. Outdoor: The Fuzz, 12 p Rebecca Reed, 12:40 pm; Bandcamp, 1:20 pm; Re Waddle, 2 pm; Shakaya, 2:40 pm; Kirstin Can 3:20 pm; Gilli Moon, 4 pm.
Johnny D's Slipknot, 9:45 pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kendall Café NEMO showcase with Beth Bouch 8 pm; Lucid, 8:45 pm; Flynn, 10:15 pm; Nath Wiley, 11 pm; Carla Ryder, 11:45 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Rover, $5.
The Linwood NEMO showcase with the Deafen 9:30 pm; Gordo Gringo, 10:15 pm; Shelby, 11 p Digby, 11:45 pm; Fooled by April, 12:30 am.
Lizard Lounge NEMO showcase with Bowm 8:45 pm; Inflight Safety, 9:40 pm; the Brilliant M takes, 10:35 pm; Emm Gryner, 11:30 pm; Brunettes, 12:25 am; the Irresponsibles, 1:20 am.
Matt Murphy's Duggs Trio, 10:30 pm, no cov 21+.

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JIM NORTON

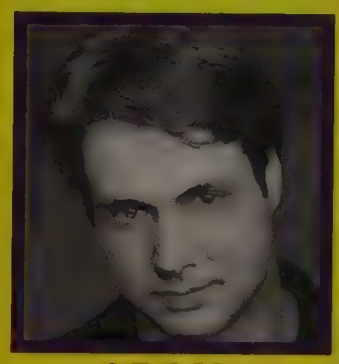
SEPTEMBER 12-13

JAKE JOHANNSEN

SEPTEMBER 6TH

STEVE SWEENEY

SEPTEMBER 26-27



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Middle East NEMO showcase. Upstairs: III Kings, 8:30 pm; Crisis Center, 9:30 pm; the Foundation, 10 pm; OVM, 10:30 pm; Kabir, 11 pm; Jenae Raquel, 11:30 pm; D Tension, 12 am; Psyche Origami. 12:30 am; 7L & Esoteric, 1 am. Downstairs: American Girls Club, 8:30pm; Alphatide, 9:15 pm; Foursided Letter, 10 pm; Car Crash Show, 10:45 pm; Val Emmich, 11:30 pm; Kingsize, 12:15 am. Corner: The Macvitties, 11 pm; Alan Dobb. 12:50 am. ZuZu: David Berkley, 11 pm; Emma Wall. 11:40 pm; John O'Brien, 12:20 am; Mieka Pauley, 1 am.
Mr. Dooley's Inchicore.
O'Leary's The Allen Estes Duo.
Paddy Burke's Pub Dave Smith, 9:30 pm, 21+, no cover.
Paradise NEMO showcase. Front room: Tom Glynn, 9 pm; the Method and Result, 9:55 pm; Annette Farrington, 10:50 pm; the Broken Hips, 11:45 pm; Chauncey, 12:40 am.
Regattabar Deborah Henson-Conant, 7 pm and 9:30 pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club NEMO showcase with Mamiko Watabe, Vadim Neselovskyi, Steve Kirby and CK5.
Scullers Pharoah Sanders, 8 and 10:30 pm, $24.
Sky Bar Sugar High Diaries and the Naked Sams, 8:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad NEMO showcase with Jess Tardy, 9 pm;, Becky Chase, 10 pm; Boris McCutcheon, 11 pm; Grace Hearn and Michael Savage, 12 am; Jabe, 1 am.
T.T. the Bear's Place NEMO showcase with Señor Happy, 9 pm; Johnny Society, 9:50 pm; Francine, 10:40 pm; Oh, Ranger!, 11:40 pm; Loveless, 12:20 am, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.
Zeitgeist Gallery Subconscious café, new chamber music, 8 pm, $10.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

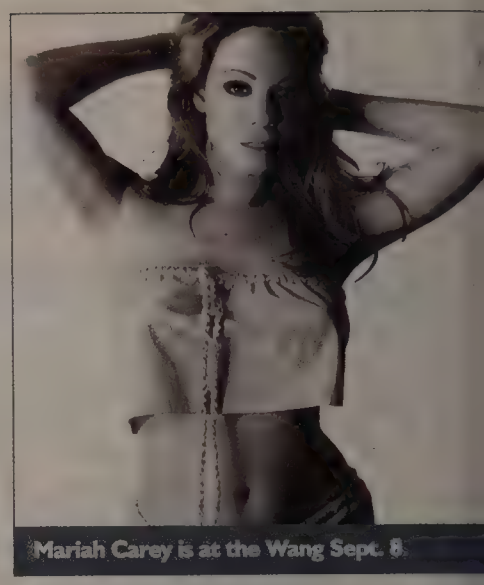
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Sunday jazz brunch with Just 4 Praise, 10 am.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Fenway Park Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, 7:30 pm, sold out.
Harper's Ferry NBFB and A440, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe, 9 pm-1 am.
House of Blues Glenn Tilbrook of Squeeze, Jill Sobule and Angie Aparo, 7:30 pm.
Johnny D's Blues Jam.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Middle East Upstairs: Daughters, Ex Models and the Chinese Stars, 9 pm, 18+.
Orpheum Unlimited Sunshine Tour with Cake and Cheap Trick, 7 pm, $30-$35.
Paradise The Raveonettes and Stellastar, 8 pm, $12.
Sky Bar Mersa, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

MONDAY, SEPT. 8

Abbey Lounge Live blues jam, 8 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Radio Takeover Tour with Fall Out Boy, Acceptance and Spitalfield, 9:15 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
North Shore Music Theatre Mandy Patinkin, 8 pm, $38-$55.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
The Rack PTM30.
Toad Schwang featuring Anita Suhanin, 8 pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover.
T.T. The Bears Clientele.
Tweeter Center Dave Matthews Band, 7 pm, $38.50-$56.
Wang Center Mariah Carey, 8 pm, $48-$93.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Ember Swift and Pamela Means, 9:30 pm.
Johnny D's Roadbirds and Mad Agnes, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 6 pm.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Middle East Upstairs: Plain White T's and Tokyo Rose, 9 pm, $8, 18+.
The Rack ZMQ.
Scullers Miles Donahue Standards Band, 8 and 10 pm, $20.



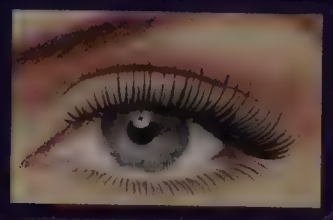
Mariah Carey is at the Wang Sept. 8.

Toad The Residency, featuring Rachel McCartn 7 pm; Jon Nolan and Hokum, 9 pm, no cover.
Tweeter Center Dave Matthews Band, 7 p $38.50-$56.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Atrium Lounge *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee College of Music *1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-8820). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Li to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Breezeway Bar and Grille *153 Blue Hill Ave., Ro bury (617-541-5400).*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338 4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cambridgeside Galleria *100 Cambridgeside Place Cambridge (617-621-8666). MBTA: Green Line t Lechmere.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (61 734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617 783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave*
Copperfield's *98 Brookline Ave., Boston (617-24 8605). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Pruden*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-33 7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Fenway Park *MBTA: Green Line to Kendall or Fen*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Stati*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (6 624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-111 MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (6 789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Bost (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line t Haymarket.*
Hard Rock Café *131 Clarendon St., Boston (617 424-7625). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-10 MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617- 9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hatch Shell *Storrow Drive, Boston. MBTA: Red to Charles.*

Missed it Sunday?
Watch it Monday
after work !



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Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Hyatt Regency Boston *1 Avenue De Lafayette, Boston (617-451-2600). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7203).*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245) MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Avenue.*
O'Leary's Pub and Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paddy Burke's *132 Portland St., Boston (617-367-8370). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Suffolk Downs *111 Waldemar Ave., East Boston (61 567-3900). MBTA: Blue Line to Suffolk Downs.*
Tanglewood *297 West St., Lenox (888-266-1200).*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508 339-2333). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Mansfield.*
Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Wang Center *270 Tremont St., Boston (617-532-1224). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27

WCRB Classical Concerts

Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, Boston (78 736-9577). www.wcrb.com. MBTA: Red Line Charles/MGH. 7:30 pm. Free. The Hillyer Festi Orchestra performs in WCRB's final Hatch Sh concert of 2003.

THURSDAY, AUG. 28

Newton Free Library Event

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (6 796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Gr Line to Newton Highlands. 7 pm. Free. Flu Vanessa Holroyd and pianist Joy Cline Phinney p form works by Telemann, Paganini, Doppler a Lieberman.

FRIDAY, AUG. 29

Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts

John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (7 259-8195). www.hantang.com.tw. MBTA: Gr Line to Copley. 8 pm. $20-25. The Han-Tang Yu Ensemble performs ancient Nankuan music fr Taiwan and Fuji using traditional Chinese inst ments, such as the stringed erhu.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 2

Noon Hour Recitals at King's Chap

Corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (6 227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Re Green Line to Park Street. 12:15 pm. $2. Me soprano Susan Forrester and organist P Watchorn perform.

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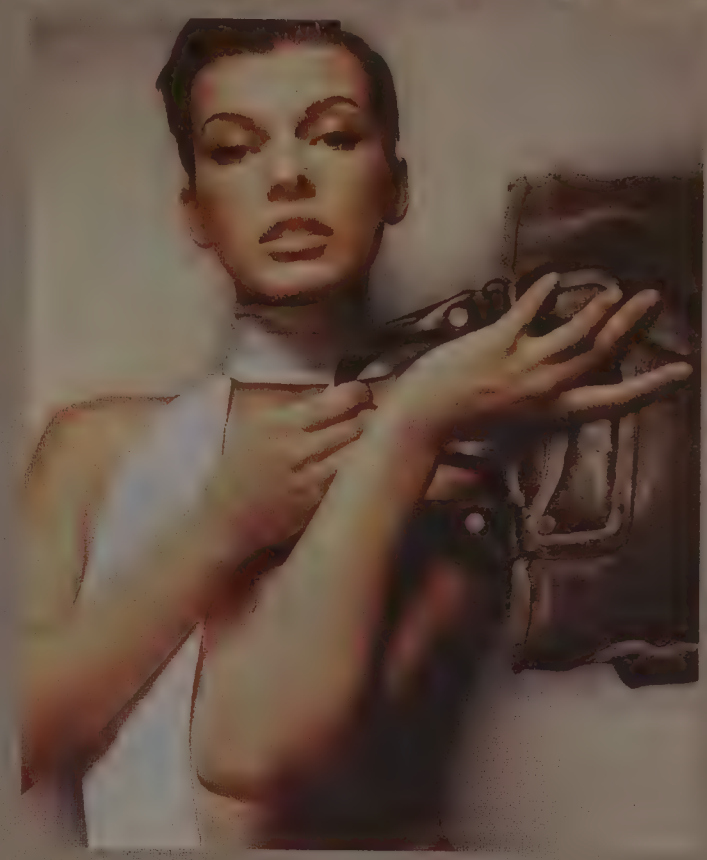

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 8, Latin jazz with PTM30, 6-9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live-music series, $5, 18+.

Felt
Den'm Tuesdays DJ Ghost spins vocal house and DJ Eddie Lee spins hip hop. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
Sept. 9, ZMQ performs live, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Disco balls notwithstanding, Axis' no-frills space focuses attention on the music and dancing.

Preview

Tilting the Axis

Square One at Axis gains steam, presenting big-name DJs without any gimmicks

A few years have passed since the dark, intimate dance floor at Axis regularly hosted international superstar DJs on Thursday nights. Thanks to a new weekly event known as Square One, the Thursday-night buzz is now back on Lansdowne Street. The idea behind Square One is simple: a stripped-down, back-to-basics club night with no glitzy promotion and a singular focus on music.

Over the past few months, Square One partygoers have been treated to performances by an ensemble of talented local DJs (plus a few special guests with local ties, including Steve Porter, Chris Fortier and Dave Ralph). "Since Square One kicked off this past spring, I think that people have had a good taste of our local DJ talent," says Square One regular Dave Weigner, who goes by the DJ moniker Dave Wagz. "Now I'm excited that we're ready to add some new sounds and guests to the mix." One such guest slated for a special set Aug. 28 is Hybrid, a U.K. dance-music superstar act. Hybrid's Mike Truman, Chris Healings and Lee Mullins have spent almost a decade invigorating dance music with their original studio productions and remix work. By combining huge acts like Hybrid with a no-frills, underground atmosphere, Square One is reviving the spirit of 2000 at Axis.

Thursdays at Axis, 13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). 10 pm-2 am. 19+. $5-$10.

—Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Matrix
Lively A cast of DJs spin underground garage, 10 pm, $8.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Steve Anderson spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 27, Live music with Taylor Bros., 6-10 pm. •Sept. 3, Mike Iannantuonni performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky hous 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Fizzle DJ McFly spins techno, top-40 and hip-ho 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21 (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and gues pump out rap and progressive Eurohouse tunes, pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajar and John Debo host a night of progressive dan music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orlean themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bil and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tun 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hi hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indi and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cov 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix featu tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 p 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $ 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hi hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance a house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz a electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted KISS 108's Randy. Proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe sp acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christi Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fr guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downsta 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party start upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gios spin dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no co 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progress and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reggae. pm, $10, 21+.

Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins La dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men. •**Controve Thursday** Aug. 21, DJ John Morris spins progress house for the bi-gay/bi-curious party crowd. 9 2 am, $8, 21+.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover bef 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando pre drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5,

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Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
DJ Lenny C spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Aug. 28, live music with Uneek Aproach, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 4, Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns perform live, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a mix of electro, Funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins 80s classics and today's alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B on the fourth and fifth floors and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dre required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 a no cover, 21+. •Aug. 29, live music with Bla Sole, 6-10:45 pm. •Sept. 5, Sugarfoot and the Br Kickin' Horns perform live, 6-10:45 pm.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins retro mixes, mellow techn and French House, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstai live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and D Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $1 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in t front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit po mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international hou while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vib Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $1 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

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The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal house, travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes. Proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Sober Saturdays** Dance to '70s, '80s, '90s and top-40 in an alcohol-free atmosphere, $15, 18+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host the dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and interna tional music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Down stairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin ban plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spin Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in th front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro f vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $ 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s fun 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Anta and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and light hous 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk a top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit pop and new wave tunes, pm-1 am, $5, 21+.

Aria
DJ Roger M. spins international house and Lat pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance a techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features D Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

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Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It DJs John Davis and B-Coy spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synthpop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Nate Watkins, 8 pm-midnight.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

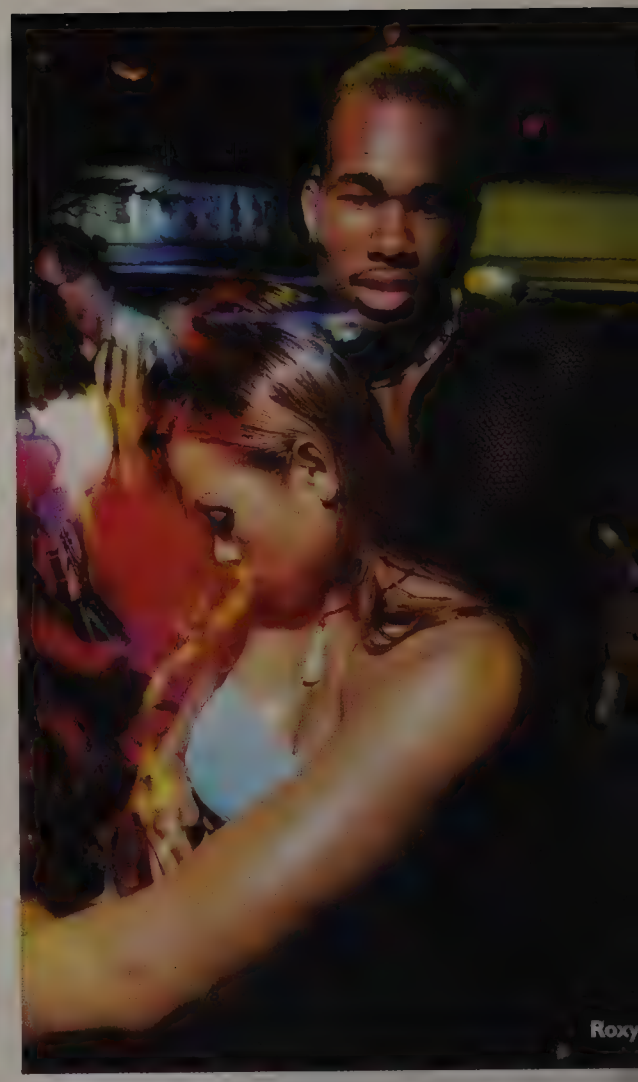
Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae and world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.



Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-78 4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-946*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-908*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-680*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617 524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 15 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-77*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
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711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-70*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
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Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
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Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061)*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-760*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-03*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542 1483).*

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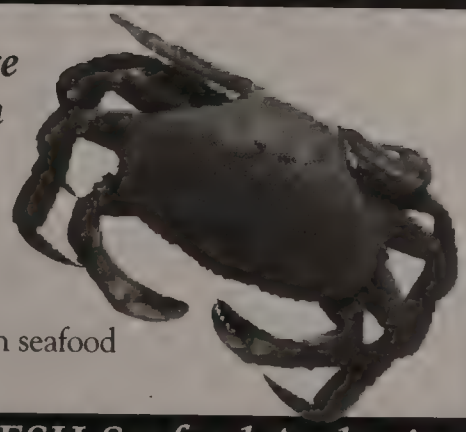

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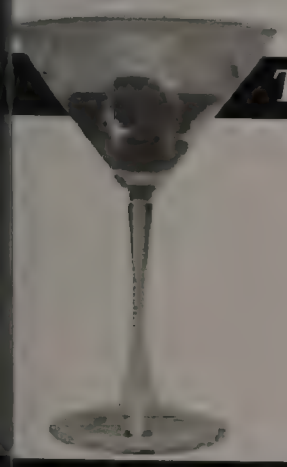

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows through Oct. 26. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*American Presidents: Life Portraits*, paintings by Chas Fagan, displays through Aug. 29. • *Stories on Stone* features photographs of historic stone markers by Betsy Fuchs. Through Aug. 29. •*Maps from the BPL Collections* shows through Aug. 31. •*Five Centuries of Moveable Books*, an exhibition of antique and contemporary children's books with moveable parts and pop-ups, shows through Sept. 5. •Julia Zhogina shows photographs in *Almost Forgotten Russia*, Sept. 2-30. •*Outdoor Murals of Boston* features photographs by Joel Kershner. Sept. 2-30.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Robert Kieronski: Photonic Evolution in Deep Time II* is a 3-D light sculpture on display through Aug. 30. •*Bryan Nash Gill: Blow Down*, a 40-foot relief of a tree, shows through Aug. 31. •*The 2003 DeCordova Annual Exhibition* features the work of 11 New England artists. Through Aug. 31. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibition, shows through May 16, 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* shows through Nov. 2. •*The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* displays through Nov. 16. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests & Young* features a variety of dinosaur eggs from around the globe. Through Sept. 3. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Pulse: Art, Healing and Transformation*, a group exhibition featuring 15 artists from around the world, explores the complex relationship between the creative process and healing. Through Aug. 31.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

Bernd Haussmann's *Untitled #1139*, mixed media on wood, at the Chase Gallery Sept. 4-28

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Ann Pendleton-Jullian: Facts + Fictions* highlights four books by the writer, architect and MIT professor. Through Sept. 5. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788* features 100 of the British artist's paintings and drawings. Through Sept. 14. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* is an exhibition of works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and his followers show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25, 2004. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $9 children.* •*Speed* explores the physical laws that govern velocity. Through Sept. 3. •*Contraptions A-Z* is a hands-on exhibit of gadgets. Through Sept. 8. •*Microbes: Invisible Invaders…Amazing Allies* examines the harmful and beneficial effects of the microscopic wonders. Through fall 2003. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*New England Neon* features more than 20 neon signs from the 1920s through the 1970s. Through Sept. 14. •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16. •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1, 2004. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community*. Ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Family Ties* displays works in which contemporary artists interpret family. Through Sept. 21. •*Masterpieces of Asian Nineteenth-Century Photography*, an exhibition of photographs from China, Japan, India and Tibet, displays through Sept. 28. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children* •*Charles Fletcher Lummis: Southwestern Portraits, 1888-1896* includes pieces from the Harvard alumnus' blueprint collection. Through Aug. 30. •*These Shoes Were Made for…Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb., 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the Native American response to the arrival of Europeans across the continent. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.lostheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri. 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 11 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Kenneth Stubbs shows paintings in *Cape Cod Shorescapes from the 1950s and 1960s*. Sept. 5-Oct.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Tea and Fantasy*, a show featuring sculptural teapots by 16 artists, displays through Sept. 1.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Summer Selections* features new paintings by gallery artists. Through Sept. •Kathy Kissik shows mixed-media assemblages made from photos, found objects, plaster and paint. Sept. 6-Oct. 4.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*New Landscapes by Sebastian Spreng* features oil paintings. Through Aug. 30. •Paul Balmer shows oil paintings in *New Works*, Sept. 2-29.

Art Interactive
130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge (617-498-0100). www.artinteractive.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •*Engaging Characters* is an interactive robot- and computer-based exhibition. Through Oct. 5.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm. By appointment only in August.* •*Four to Look At* features the work of Cree Bruins, Sally Moore, Kelly Sherman and Rachel Perry Welty. Through Sept. 6.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •Works from the gallery's collection display through Sept. 6.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •A show of mixed-media works displays through Aug. •Sculpture by Jill Levine and drawings by Tom Burckhardt display Sept. 5-27.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5710). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •Barry Hazard shows *Portrait Painting*. Through Aug. 29. •*The Art of Batik: George Sumners and His Students* shows Sept. 3-30.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Insights* features glass art by Alex Gabriel Berns and Kait Rhoads. Sept. 5-Oct. 4.

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Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm. •Melora Kuhn and Jessica Grace Brooks show figurative paintings. Through Aug. 30. •*In the Moment* features mixed-media paintings by Bernd Haussmann. Sept. 4-28.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •The gallery presents three summer shows: *Printmaking in the Age of Rembrandt, Whistler and His Circle* and *At the Docks*. Through Sept. 6.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. Closed Aug. 16-Sept. 4.* •*Close to Home: The Hand-Worked Photograph* features photographs by Mary Elizabeth Manz. Sept. 4-27. •Carole Chisolm Garvey and Ann M. Murphy show their work in *Landscapes in Pastel*. Sept. 4-27.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Don Gurewitz's photographs display in *Mustang: The Lost Tibetan Kingdom*, at the Griffin Museum through Oct. 31.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •*Old Comforts/ New Views* features oil paintings by Joe Blajda. Through Aug. 30. •*In Search of Nurturing Light* showcases black-and-white photography by Peg O'Connell. Sept. 3-Oct. 4.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Hidden Language* features recent works by Claudia Ravaschiere and Jesseca Ferguson. Through Oct. 4.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. •The third annual *Masters of Impressionism* exhibition features paintings by Renoir, Pissarro, Manet and Cassatt. Through Aug. 31.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm.* •Linda Rutenberg shows infrared photographs in *Landmarks*. Through Sept. 26.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. *Open in Aug. by appointment only.* •A group show of new works by gallery artists displays through Aug. 31. •Jessica Hess shows paintings in *Industrial Landscapes*. Sept. 5-27.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. Aug. by appointment only. •A group show featuring gallery artists displays through Aug. 31. •Ellen Rich shows new paintings. Sept. 5-Oct. 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of Teaching Art* features the work of art educators and their students, grades K-12. Through Oct. 3.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haley steele.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. Closed through Sept. 2.* •Katarina Andersson displays paintings on linen and Lalla A. Essaydi shows large photographs of Moroccan culture. Sept. 4-30.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. *Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm.* •*Vitrum Antiquorum: Ancient Glass from Boudoir, Bath and Board* displays through Aug. 31.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters. •*Mini-Masterpieces*, the 10th annual summer poster show, displays through Sept. 3.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Summer Rotations*, a group show of paintings, displays through Sept. 1. •*Sleek* features works by Dorothy Krause, Martin Cooper, Jacob Kulin, Jennifer Liston-Munson, Patricia Peacock and Philip Spinks. Sept. 3-29.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. Closed through Sept. 19.*

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm. Closed for August.* •*The 59th Annual Fall Salon* features works by members of the Cambridge Art Association. Sept. 6-29.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. Closed Aug. 24-Sept. 1.* •James Holmberg's abstract paintings display Sept 2-27.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. Closed in August.* •The annual members show, *Wide Turns and Frequent Stops*, displays through Sept 5.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Through the Looking: Glass*, a group exhibition of glass vessels and sculpture by Marialyce Hawke, Duncan McClellan, Lucy Bergamini and Stephen Main, shows through Aug. 31. •*Vogt and Turula* is a collection of ceramic mosaics and paintings by Russ Vogt and John Turula. Through Sept. 8.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •Maggi Brown, Roby Fader and Dan Weller show their work in *The Locals: Three Cambridge Artists*. Through Aug. 29. •*Longing for Height* features paintings, alabaster sculptures and encaustic works by Jane Deutsch and Chad Erpelding. Sept. 6-Oct. 10.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. Closed in August.* •*Pastoral* features landscape art by Adolph Gottlieb, Harry Gottlieb, Jon Marshall, Philip Jones, Daniel Robinson, Joseph Solman, Lucette White and Karl Zerbe. Sept. 3-24.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm. Closed Aug. 16-Sept. 1.* •*Lines, Dots and Curly Qs*, a group show of paintings, drawings and installations, displays Sept. 5-30.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: *Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*South Enders 2*, a juried exhibition of South End artists, displays through Sept. 26.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Jeanette Ahlgren shows her work in *Beaded Glass Structures*. Through Aug. 31. •Richard Shaw shows still-life ceramics, Roy deForest displays paintings and drawings and Jennifer Trask shows linked-metal jewelry. Sept 2-30.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. Aug. by appointment. only.* •A group exhibition of gallery artists' work shows through Aug. 31. •Juan Perdiguero shows mixed media on photo emulsion works. Sept. 5-Oct. 25.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm.* •*20 Local Artists Go Nude*, a show featuring paintings and sculptures, displays through Sept. 1. •*Snooze and You Could Lose the Next Toulouse*, a group show of local artists, displays Sept. 4-Oct. 5.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Summer Surprises*, a group show of paintings, drawings and sculpture, displays through Aug. 30.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-4 pm.* •*Summer in the City*, a group show, displays through Sept. 14.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outofthebluearteallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergallery.boston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm Sat., 11-5 Closed through Aug. 31* •Marja Lianko shows sculpture and paintings. Sept. 5-Oct. 4

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com MBTA: *Green Line to Copley Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •Brother Thomas' ceramics are on display in *The Creator of Luminaries*. Sept. 6-Oct. 10.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery showcases an ongoing exhibit of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Sally Gall's *Subterranea* features black-and-white images of caves. Sept. 5-Oct. 4.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* •*20th Century Master Graphics*, a collection of lithographs and aquatint etchings by Sonia Delaunay, Joan Miro and Marino Marini, displays through Sept. 30.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Word Text Stories* features works by various artists in glass, wood, clay and fiber. Through Oct. 26.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1 pm-5 pm. Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm through August.* •A group show of work by gallery artists displays through Sept. 6.

Studio Soto
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-426-7686). www.studiosoto.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat 2 pm-5 pm and by appointment.* Between Constraint features works by Masako Kamiya, David Palmer and Jennifer Riley.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. Closed Aug. 16 through Aug. 29.* •*Porfirio DiDonna Drawings* shows Sept. 13-Oct. 18.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Introducing John Enser (1898-1968): Scenes of New England* shows through Aug. 30. •*The Artists of Fenway Studios* shows works by local artists Sept. 9-20.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12 pm-6 pm. •*The Traveling Master's Show* features works by Picasso, Miro and Dali. Through Sept. 18.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: *Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •Babet Hines displays discarded photo-booth portra spanning 75 years. Visitors can have their pho taken in a working booth and add it to the colle tion. Through Sept. 12. •*Mustang: The Lost Tibetan Kingdom* shows images by Don Gurewi Through Oct. 31.

New England School of Photograph
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-4 1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to K more. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*Through our Eyes* f tures work by teenage photographers. Throu Aug. 30. •Mim Adkins shows photographs in *Evolution of Affection*. Sept. 8-Oct. 17.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Co muter Rail to Waltham. www.panopt.com. Mo Fri., *10 am-6 pm.* •Work by Alex MacLean displ through Sept. 6.

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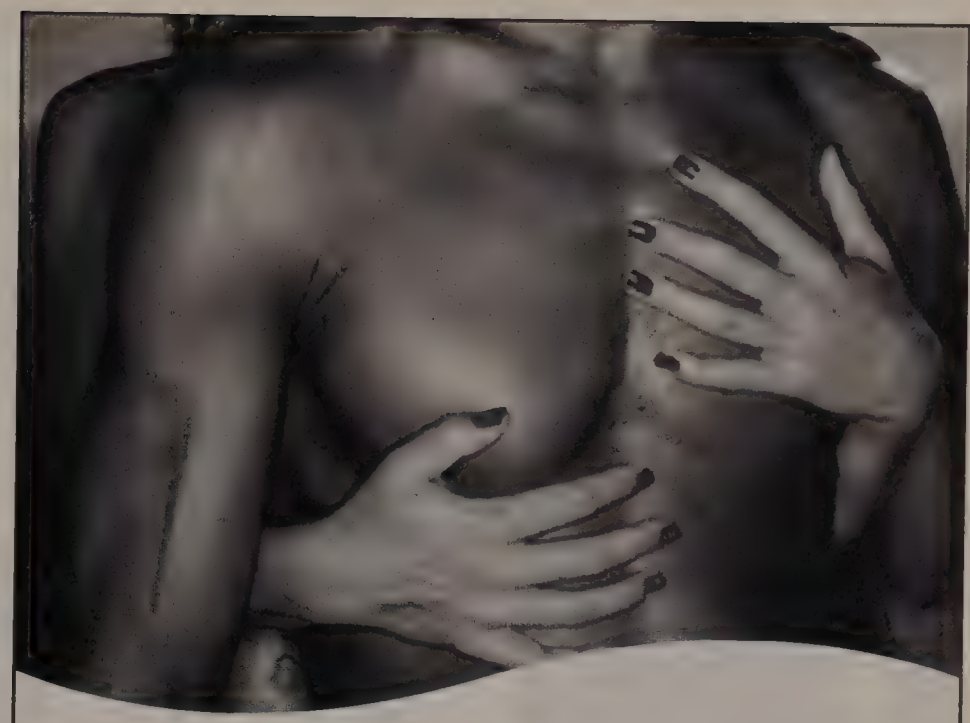

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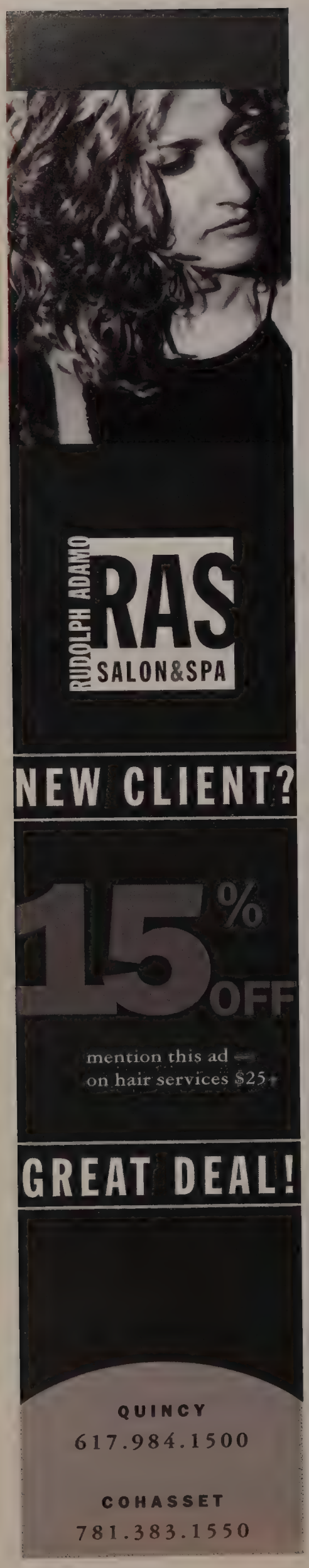

books & poetry

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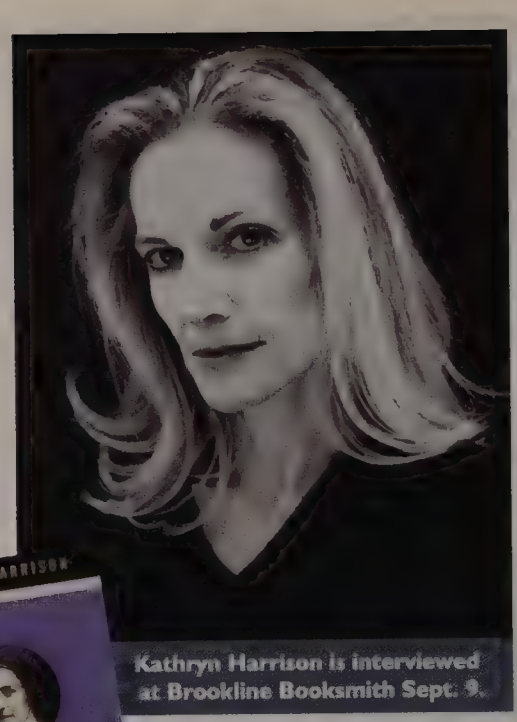
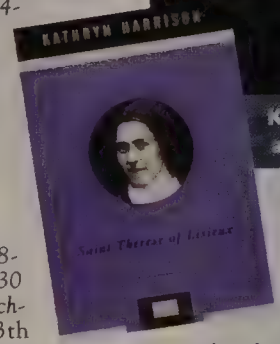
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books@improper. com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Rebecca Donner** reads from her novel *Sunset Terrace*, about a young girl growing up in a poor L.A. neighborhood.


Kathryn Harrison is interviewed at Brookline Booksmith Sept. 9.



THURSDAY, AUG. 28

McIntyre and Moore Booksellers
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-628-2313). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7:30 pm. Free. Local literary magazine *Technology of the Sun* celebrates its 13th birthday with a party hosted by poet **Andrew Rosen**, with readings from **Sarah Darling**, **Frank Montresor** and **Adnan Adam Onart**.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **George Howe Colt** reads from his memoir, *The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home*, in which he recalls the 42 summers he spent at his family's bucolic Cape Cod retreat.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 4

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Rabbi **Harold S. Kushner** reads from *The Lord Is My Shepherd: The Healing and Wisdom of the 23rd Psalm*, his analysis of one of the Bible's most familiar passages.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords. org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free.* Journalist **Jill Nelson** reads from her first novel, *Sexual Healing*, the story of two women who open a brothel where sexy black men service female clientele.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonville books.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* BU professor **Leslie Epstein** reads from his semiautobiographical *San Remo Drive: A Novel from Memory*, the story of a 1950s Hollywood director and his family.

Rebecca Donner reads Aug. 27.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 5

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* Journalist **David Von Drehle** reads from *Triangle: The Fire That Changed America*, an account of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire that killed 146 workers.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Robert Birnbaum** talks to **Kathryn Harrison** about her book *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*, a novel based on the life of a French Carmelite nun who died of tuberculosis at age 24.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Joan Leegant** reads from her debut collection of short stories, *An Hour in Paradise*, about Jewish characters in search of human connections and divine inspiration.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7 pm. $5.* The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is presented one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity to take the open mike.

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endar: Education, or e-mail information to edu
tion@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four we*
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WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27

Buddhist Arts
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Bos (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Gr Line to Museum. 6 pm. Free with museum admiss ($13-$15).* **Midori Oka** presents this gallery talk Buddhist art in China and Japan.

Mars Fever!
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-5 0250). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Scie Park. 6:30-11 pm.* On Aug. 27, Mars will be the c est it has been to Earth in 50,000 years. Celebrate rare celestial event by viewing a special presentat at the planetarium and then heading to the museu rooftop with members of the Amateur Telescope M ers of Boston.

THURSDAY, AUG. 28

Art of Colonial Boston
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Bos (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Gr Line to Museum. 11 am. Free with museum admiss ($13-$15).* **Gillian Shalcross**' gallery talk focuses the art of Colonial Boston.

Boston Light Tour
Trips leave from JFK Library & Museum, Colum Point, Boston (617-223-8666). www.bostonisla com. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. July 28 29, 10 am and 2pm.* Enjoy expansive views of Boston Harbor on a ranger-guided tour of the co try's oldest lighthouse, on Brewster Island.

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

Colonial Remedies
Paul Revere House, 19 North Square, Boston (617-5 2338). www.paulreverehouse.org. *MBTA: Green to Government Center. 1 pm. Free with museum ad sion ($1-$3).* **Dan** and **Judith Grillo** display a collec of period and re-created medical instruments and cuss healing practices during the Colonial era.

Color Lines Conference
Harvard University, Cambridge (617-496-63 www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/colorlines.p *Online preregistration required. Aug. 30-Sept 1. $* At this three-day conference, **Julian Bond**, **Ant Hernandez**, **William Julius Wilson**, **Karen Nara** and other panelists discuss and debate different ics related to racial integration. The individual els will feature leaders drawn from a wide rang academic and professional backgrounds.

SUNDAY, AUG. 31

Stories Behind the Stones
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Bo (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MB *Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $5.* Historia **Maze** leads a walking tour of the cemetery, focu on the history, art and horticulture of the area on some of the people buried in the cemetery.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3

The Civil War Reveres: A Family Story
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmee house.org. *6:30 pm. Free with museum admis ($1-$5).* **Nina Zannieri**, executive director o Paul Revere Memorial Association, talks about vere's two grandsons, who fought and died du the Civil War.

Edgar Degas
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Bo (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E G Line to Museum. Sept. 3, 6 pm; Sept. 4, 11 am. with admission ($13-$15).* **Natasha Khand** gives this gallery talk on the impressionist Edgar Degas.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Art on Paper Since 1960
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Bo (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E G Line to Museum. 12 pm. Free with museum adm ($13-$15).* **Marlene Oliver** delivers this artist t selected contemporary prints, drawings and tographs from the museum's collection.

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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
214 Pi Alley, Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Nightly, 5 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather and Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday-night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502)). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Boston's gay Tuesday-night dance party features disco pop music, guest DJs and weekly contests. 9 pm-2 am, $4-$7, 21+.

Performance artist Noël Alumit appears in the Out on the Edge Festival through Sept. 27.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway offers Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www. milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men and women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at CandyLand; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 a* Male strippers perform every night. The dan floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Sa urday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986 MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 a Billing itself as the largest leather bar on t East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dre code (leather is obligatory for the back roo on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ De nis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ D Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dan Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance wi house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament a pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500 MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tu Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cov •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson a host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Mus Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house a DJ Ron Stele spinning R&B, hip-hop, regg and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay I •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae a Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-193 www. calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red L to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Su 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbia bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-531 www.centerfornewwords.org. MBTA: Red Line Central. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 p Sun., 12-6 pm. The New Words Live series f tures an array of feminist and lesbian auth events. •Sept. 4, 7 pm; Jill Nelson reads from first novel, *Sexual Healing*, the story of two wom who open a brothel where sexy black men serv female clientele.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www. thinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this co munity-centered gay and lesbian bookstore sto literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Boys Life 4: Four Play
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brook (617-734-2500). www.coolidge.org. *Aug. 29-Sept Boys Life 4: Four Play*, the latest *Boys Life* inst ment, explores various aspects of gay relationsh from intimacy problems to gay bashing.

Gay and Lesbian Square Dancing
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., maica Plain (617-288-8816). www.lcfd.org/bu. *S 3, 7 pm. No cover.* The Boston Uncomm Boston's gay and lesbian square dance club, inv dancers of all levels and sexual orientations to d do their partners in a gender-role-free environm

Guys as Dolls
Crown & Anchor Hotel, 247 Commercial Provincetown (508-487-1430). www.guysasd net. *Through Sept. 1, Tue. and Thu.-Sun., 7:30 $18.* In the comedic musical revue's fifth sea Joe Schmitz and Joe Posa do impersonation Marilyn, Barbra, Joan, Liza and J. Lo, while da Brandon Michael Glasgow struts his stuff.

Out on the Edge: 12th Annual Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont Boston (617-436-2787). www.thetheateroffens org. *Sept. 6-27. Call for event schedule. $18-$* The Theater Offensive's festival hosts a rang events, from interactive discussions with perf ers, playwrights and directors to workshops, pa and community events.

Ongoing

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St., B (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MBTA: Gree*

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Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9 pm. The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth hosts a weekly series of meetings and social events for young people seeking community, support and a place to discuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-7552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 7 pm.* This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

Bi Rap
Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (617-354-8807). Tuesdays, first and third week of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning women.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, pm. The center provides social activities for gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Oakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(978-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Cosmetically Correct
Cafe, 439 Tremont St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick optional.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA First Friday of the month. 7-9* Gay and bisexual men of color meet to discuss image, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(617-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pride bostonboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(617-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated (and 40 and older) for get-togethers with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

GLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Gentrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 7-10 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This confidential hotline provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2.* This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings with psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

Greater Boston Business Council
PO Box 1059, Boston *(617-236-4222).* www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals for monthly meetings.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tuesday/Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings. Gay and lesbian swim team for both fitness and competitive swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referrals and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month. Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Meets twice a month. Learn to cope with a partner's illness.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Wonder Women Boston
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Thursday of every month. 8 pm.* This casual social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s meets once a month.

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body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Brookline Tai Chi Open House
Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. MBTA: C *Green Line to Washington Square. Sept. 1, 7:30 pm. Free.* The instructors at this tai chi center invite you to participate in informal discussions and view demonstrations of various healing arts.

Drum and Dance Saturday
*Earth Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502).*www.earthdrum.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 6, 8-11:30pm.* $6. Bring your stomping feet, your clapping hands, and your drums, spoons and tambourines for this day of dance and percussion.

Seventh Annual Harvest Gathering
Camp Middlesex, Ashby (508-839-2228). www.spiritofchange.org. *Aug. 29-Sept. 1.* Sponsored by *Spirit of Change* magazine, this weekend honors First Nations ceremonies, teachings and elders. Visitors will learn outdoor wilderness and survival skills, and see yoga, healing bodywork and macrobiotic cooking demonstrations.

Workshops

The Art of Nourishment
Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). Sept. 1, 6-8 pm and Sept. 2, 9 am-1 pm. $95. Daverick Leggett, author of *Recipes for Self Healing*, teaches participants how to work with Chinese Medicine to nourish the body. Learn about the nourishment of different foods, as well as recipes suited for your constitution.

Dance of Universal Peace
Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-491-8694 or 617-776-5767). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 5, 7:30-9:30 pm. Requested donation: $6-10.* Participants join hands in simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. All dances are accompanied by live music, and instruction is provided.

Master Wang Haijun
Waltham Athletic Club, 249 Lexington St., Waltham (781-643-1545). www.kungfumovies.net/biography_of_master_wang_haiju.html. *Sept. 8 and 9, 6:30-8:30 pm. $50 for one day, $95 for both.* Master Wang, expert in tai chi and martial arts theory, teaches these workshops, which emphasize silk reeling exercises, Chen Zhenglei's 18 Essential Movements form and Lao Jia Yilu.

Meditation
The Yoga Studio, 74 Joy St., Boston (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Charles or Green Line to Government Center. Sept. 7, 11 am-1 pm. $15 suggested donation goes to charity.* These mindfulness classes focus on breathing and finding your own path to peace of mind.

New Approach to Buddhism Study Group
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *Aug. 30, 1:30 pm. $5 suggested donation.* This study group, affiliated with the Institute for Research in Human Happiness, focuses on the pillars of Buddhism and the teachings of spiritual leader Ryuho Okawa.

The Seven Steps of Change
Austen's, 115 Newbury St., Boston (617-731-2290). www.namoliving.com. MBTA: *Green line to Copley. Presentation: Sept. 19, 7:30-9:30 pm. Free. Workshops: Sept. 21 or 22, 10 am-4:30 pm.* $80. This workshop provides an introduction to mental exercises that are designed to change how you handle everyday life. Participants learn tips for increasing awareness of the connection between external and internal experiences and transforming stress into personal progress.

Spiritual-Mystical Qigong Exercise
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101 or 617-869-6371). www.tsboston.org. *Sept. 4, 7:30-9:30 pm.* $80. *Preregistration is required.* The Pan Gu Shengong moving form incorporates simple arm movements, breathing and visualization, and is said to help cultivate universal life energy and increase general well-being.

Ongoing

Beginner Meditation
Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Tue., 6-7:15 pm. Free.* This class offers novices a chance to try meditation in a soothing setting.

Breathwork
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 6:30-8 pm.* $10 *donation.* Join David Vendetti, experienced breathwork facilitator and yoga teacher, for this relaxing class.

Silent Meditation
Living Yoga Center, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Sun., 7:15-7:45 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Free.* Silent meditation can enhance your peace of mind to let your intuitive voice be heard.

Yoga for Beginners/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-562-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. MBTA: B *Green Line to Harvard Ave. or bus #57, 64, 66 and 501. Wed., 6:30-8 pm.* $15-$20. Try the beginner's class in this peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10. All levels welcome.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches participants to experience the breath as the body's link with the mind. This gentle approach to hatha yoga includes basic physical fitness, mental focus and an opening to the deep connection with spirit.

Yoga/Harvard Square
Portia Brockway in Cambridge (617-864-YOGA). www.yogainharvardsquare.com. MBTA *Red Line to Harvard. Mon. 6-7:15 pm.* $16. *Drop-in. Beginners are welcome.* To wind down after work, try a moderate, flowing yoga workout.

Yoga/Newton
The Green Planet, 22 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-320-9792). MBTA: D *Green Line to Newton Highlands.* www.thegreenplanet.com. *Sun., 9-10:30 am. $16/class. Alternate location: Myrtle Church, 21 Curve St., West Newton (617-320-9792). Wed., 6-7:15 pm. $12/class.* Yoga can provide relaxation, enabling practitioners to center and connect with their body's needs and to improve balance, strength and flexibility as they develop movement awareness.

Yoga/Watertown
Integral Yoga, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.integralyogaofma.com. *Beginners hatha yoga: Tue. and Wed., 7:30-9 pm.* $15. *Drop-in.* This center offers regular hatha yoga classes, weekly meditations and workshops.

Learn about Old Ways living at the Harvest Gathering in Ashby.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
Aug. 27, 7:05 pm vs. Toronto Blue Jays
Aug. 29, 7:05 pm vs. New York Yankees
Aug. 30, 1:20 pm vs. New York Yankees
Aug. 31, 2:05 pm vs. New York Yankees

New England Patriots
•Gillette Stadium, Foxborough.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Aug. 27, 8 pm vs. Chicago Bears (preseason)

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxborough.
Tickets: 877-438-7387
Aug. 30, 6 pm vs. Chicago Fire

Events

Brie Burger in Paradise Run and Tailgate Party
This 4.4-mile run around the Charles River includes a post-race barbecue with beer from Harpoon, as well as a concert by a cover band playing the music of Jimmy Buffett. *Marsh Post, 5 Greenough Blvd./Eliot Bridge, Cambridge (617-625-2140).* www.clydesdale.org/BAEvents/harpoon/index.html. *Aug. 28, 6:30 pm. $15.*

New England Bubble Hockey Tournament
New England's top bubble-hockey athletes converge on Conrad's Restaurant to decide the bubble hockey "King of New England." A bubble hockey table valued at $2,500 will also be raffled. *Conrad's Restaurant, 728 Washington St., Norwood (617-504-7733).* www.rodhockey.net. *Sept. 6, 11 am.* $30 *entry fee.*

Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life and Paddler Flotilla
Jump in the water or paddle your floating vessel of choice to raise money for AIDS organizations and women's groups at this annual trek across Provincetown Harbor. A brunch follows the swim. *Registration at the Boatslip Resort, 161 Commercial St., Provincetown (508-487-1930).* www.swim4life.org. *Sept. 6, 9:30 am.* $100 *minimum in pledges.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice and work out in locations throughout Boston. Year-round.

BOXING

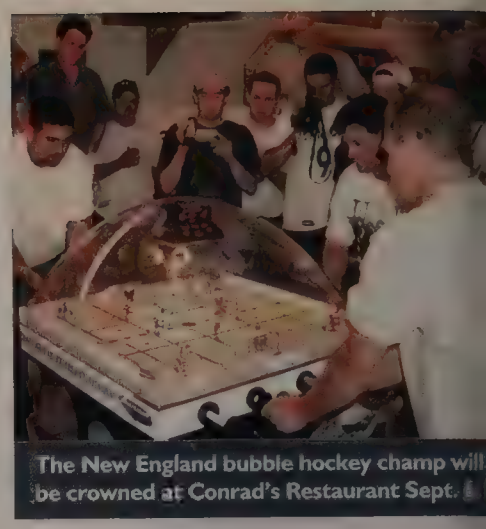
Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the rules of fencing, as well as footwork, conditioning and bladework.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.


The New England bubble hockey champ will be crowned at Conrad's Restaurant Sept.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. & Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bosthash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Night Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SAILING

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (617-523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *Mon.-Fri., 1 pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-sunset. Membership price varies.* Beginners and experienced sailors alike are welcome to come to the Esplanade and sail boats from 15 to 30 feet long, as well as go windsurfing and kayaking.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 2. Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming now (all levels). Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and New... Teams and individuals are welcome to set and spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

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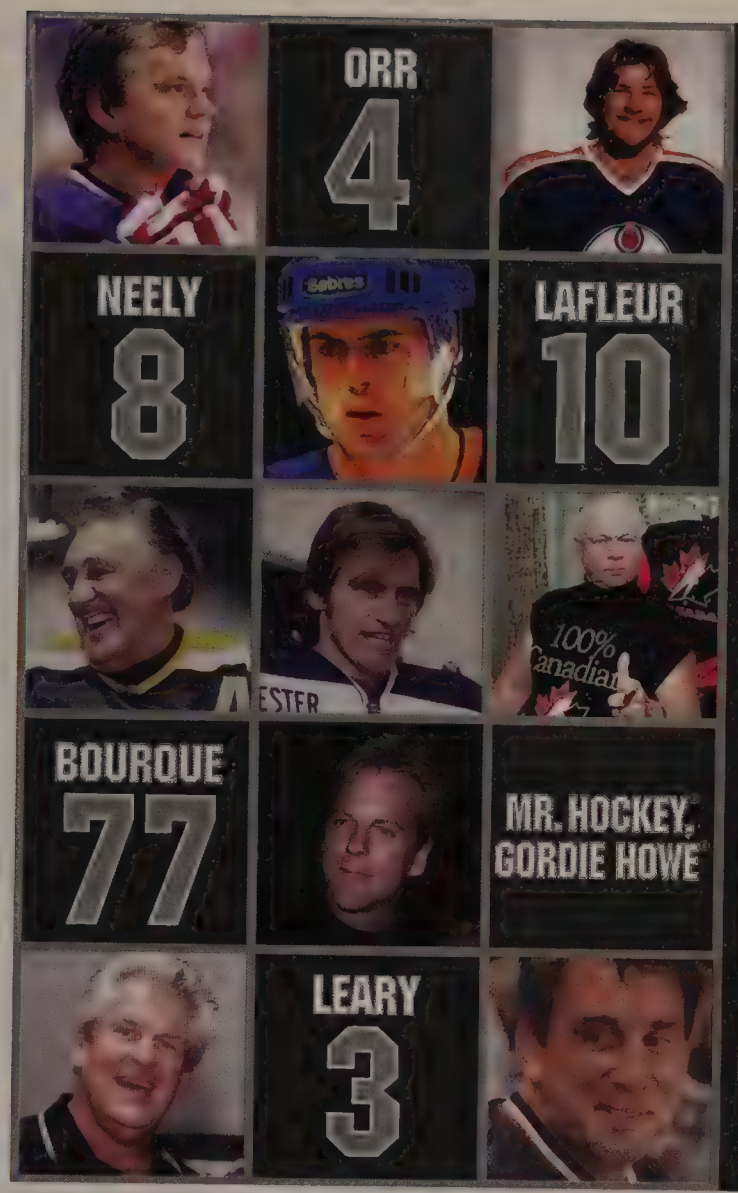

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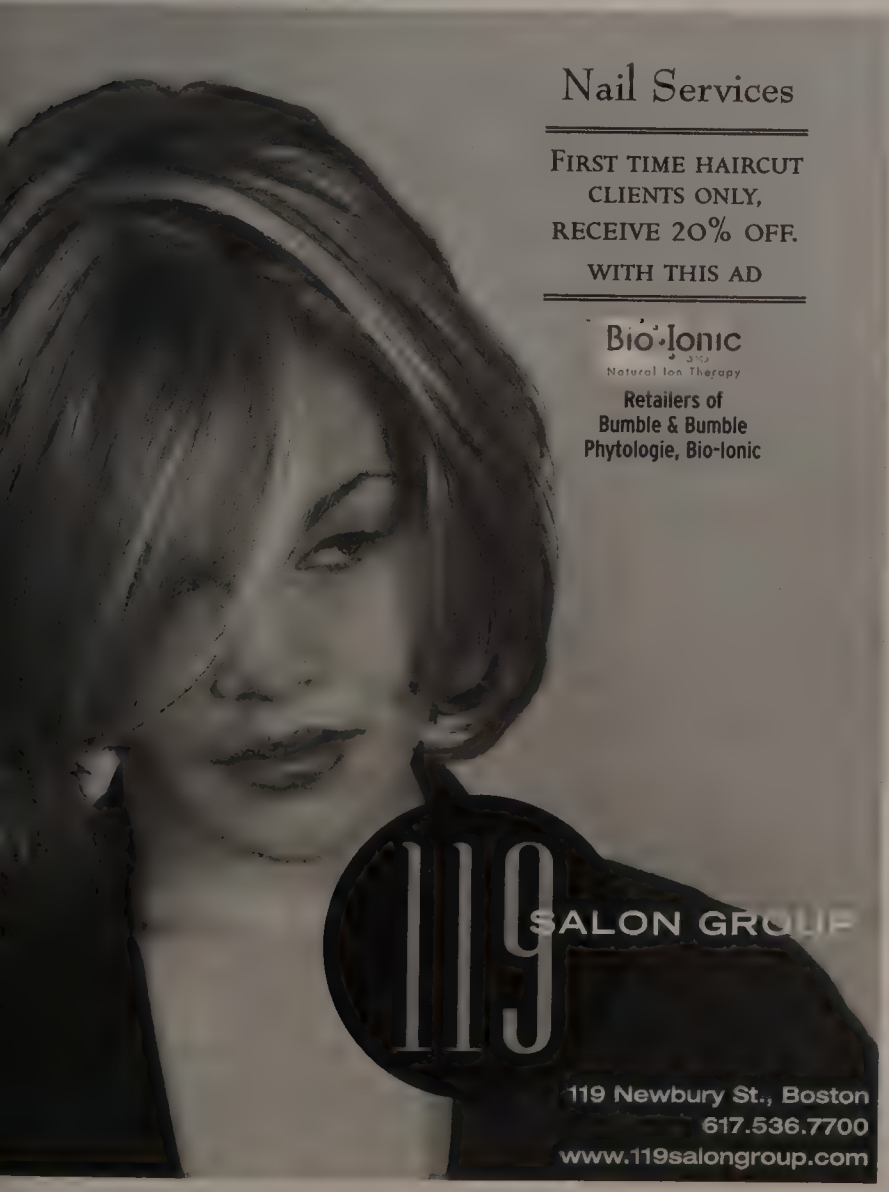
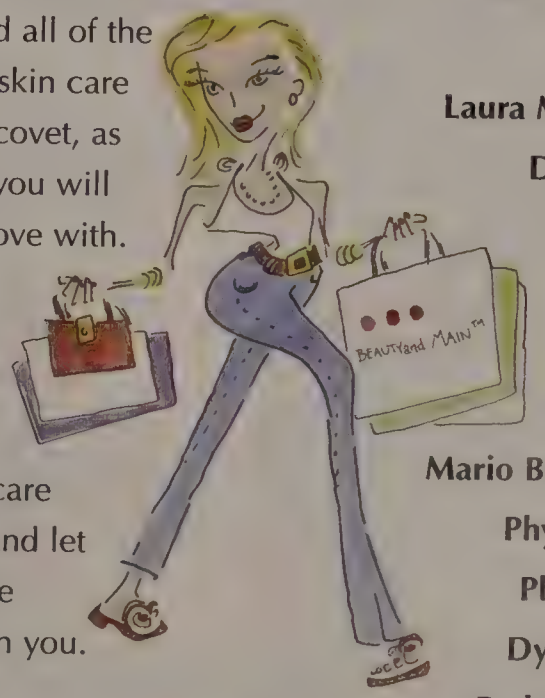


At Beauty and Main you will surely find all of the cosmetic and skin care products you covet, as well as those you will surely fall in love with. Make an appointment with one of our make up artists or skin care professionals and let us help find the radiance within you.



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BOSTON'S BEST 2003 The Improper Bostonian

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Things to See

The Colony of Cats
Baker's Field, Kendrick Ave., Wellfleet (508-349-6835). www.what.org. Mon.-Wed., 7:30 pm. Through Aug. 27. $9. Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater opens its second season of WHAT for Kids! with this world premiere of playwright and actor Stephen Russell's *The Colony of Cats*. This variation on the classic Cinderella story features felines who help a young girl go from rags to riches.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Library/default.asp. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands.* •Aug. 29, 10:30 am: Preschool films.

Nigel Pepper
The Center for Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. Sept. 6, 11 am. $8, $5 children. Travel around the world with Nigel Pepper and his grandfather's magical globe that can transport him anywhere he wants.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •Aug. 27 and 28, 10:30 am and 1 pm. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* is a playful rendition of Washington's Irving's tale of a headless horseman who haunts a small village. The play features marionettes, two life-size puppets and classical and traditional folk music. Ages 5 and older.

Things to Do

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6229). www.acarts.org. MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, transfer to Arlington Heights bus to Foster Street. Weekly summer programs, 8:45 am-3:30 pm. $205-$240/week. •Aug. 25-29: Flights of Fancy. Students draw inspiration from all things that fly.

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere or Red Line to Kendall, transfer to free shuttle. •Sat., noon. Gather in the children's department to listen to staff members read from new and classic storybooks.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6. Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Light Tour
Trips leave from JFK Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-223-8666). www.bostonislands.com. MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. July 28 and 29, 10 am and 2pm. Ages 8 and older. Enjoy expansive views of the Boston Harbor on a ranger-guided tour of the country's oldest lighthouse, on Brewster Island.

Boston Public Library Children's Tour
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sat. 11 am. Free. Ages 5 and older. Take a tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children. •Mon.-Fri., 11 am-3 pm. Visit the Japanese House. Roam the hallways of a Kyoto townhouse and play Japanese games. •KidStage. Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage. •Aug. 27, 11 am-1 pm: Lunchtime Fun on the Boardwalk. Mural painting with midweek music from noon-1 pm. •Aug. 29, noon-1 pm: Lunch con Salsa. Both adults and children can learn Latin dance steps.

Colonial Clothing
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. 10:30 am. Free with museum admission ($1-$5). Step back in time and try on colonial clothes, including a tri-cornered hat, britches, vest, mob cap or a traditional dress.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through September 30. Every hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9. Tour the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Park.

Instrument Petting Zoo
Longy School of Music, Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-349-0086). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 6, 10 am-2pm. Free. Children explore different musical instruments hands-on. Longy faculty will be available to help children explore the instruments and speak to parents about music study.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. $5, $1 children. •*Holography, the Light Fantastic:* The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyond:* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. $15, children under 17 free. •Tue. and Wed., 3:30 pm. Books Bring Art Alive. Museum instructors read books, poems and stories to bring the paintings to life and encourage kids to talk about what they see.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children. •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events in *The Sky Tonight.* •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., 12 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 children. Travel from Brazil to Japan to North America and beyond, exploring the regions' percussion beats and cultures in *Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey*, directed by the creators of the *STOMP* stage production. •Aug. 27. *Mars Fever.* On Aug. 27, Mars and Earth will be closer together than they have been for more than 50,000 years. Bostonians will be able to see Mars in the night sky. Special presentations and activities will revolve around this event, including a live planetarium show called *Mars Tonight* at 6:30 and 7:30 pm. There will also be free observation activities using telescopes on the roof beginning at 8:30 pm and Mars viewing from 10-11 pm.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5. The Museum of Transportation includes a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the museum and receive a free prize.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Dorchester (617-929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free. The JFK Library holds a weekly story hour for kids and adults.

Story Time
FAO Schwarz, 440 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-5900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Daily, 1 pm, 3 pm & 5 pm. Free. Ages 2-7. Kids can listen to stories read by Mother Goose, Raggedy Ann and other characters.

around town

The Old State House on Washington Street

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Summer ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Aug. 27, 6-7 pm. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading to an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Jimmy Fund Walk
(866-539-4376). www.jimmyfundwalk.org. Help walkers at the Sept. 21 Jimmy Fund Walk.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital format.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young professionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Life in the FastLane

I am a current FastLane member. I am a firm believer that this service is convenient, efficient and time-saving. However, there are certain aspects of FastLane that are dangerous. Each morning I zip along until I approach the first of my FastLane toll booths. This is where the nightmare begins. There are two yellow FastLane booths on the far right and only one near the left side. Inevitably some imbecile is stopped in the toll booth. This is extremely dangerous for other drivers who are expecting to drive through at 15 mph! Why would they stop in the booth?! Good question. I thought that to receive a license one needed the ability to read, but I guess I was mistaken, for people are always confused by the FastLane despite the ample signage and warnings.

Recently, some complete moron was stopped in the booth and expected the four cars (including me) behind him to reverse direction so that he could pull out of the lane and try another! This is very common. Yeah, that's smart! Throw your car in reverse on a highway! A few weeks ago I observed a woman who had stopped in the FastLane. She was throwing change at the side of the booth. Now, mind you, there was no basket to collect the change. Quarters and nickels banged against the metal booth. She waited for some invisible gate to open and proceeded to drive through.

If you are stopped in that booth you deserve to be hit by a car, or better yet, an 18-wheeler that can't stop so quickly. Smarten up. You are an embarrassment to yourself and should be ashamed. However, if by chance you do get confused, or you can't merge properly, just blow through the toll. That is a whole lot better than potentially causing a five-car pileup!

To all of those drivers that continue to act like idiots and cause back-ups in the Fast Lane, expect me to lay on my horn, scream at you from my car, record your plate and report you to the MTA—after I've given you the finger. See you on the road,
—Too Fast, Too Furious

Bus Beauty

We were on the No. 9 bus headed to Southie, and you sat down next to a crazy but happy old guy who was talking about being from another planet and something about Yeats. I was sitting across from you and was taken by your dazzling smile and good humor. It was an awkward moment to introduce myself but now I'm kicking myself that I didn't. If you happen to read this drop me a line!
—crazyno92003@yahoo.com

Mr. Nasty

You are a vile human being. You pretended to be my friend, yet you kept stabbing me in the back. You go on about your wife, yet you cheat on her constantly and kept a mistress. I feel sorry for you. Obviously you have low self-esteem and you have never had much luck with the ladies or you wouldn't behave this way. What do you need to prove? You aren't proving it by walking around making a fool of yourself, saying that every woman wants your body—like every woman wants a fat, balding, homely middle-aged man with back hair and a three-inch package. Keep carrying around that gun to make up for your lack of masculinity. Grow some balls, loser.
—Me

Action-Taking Canine Sympathizer

You are absolutely right! I should've bashed that window in or called the cops. I felt kind of powerless just writing my little note for the windshield. Now I know for next time!
—L

Parking Pandemonium

On Aug. 16 at around noon I was on Boylston Street and proceeded to park in an empty space. Unbeknownst to me, there was a raging lunatic that had spied the spot, and was navigating across three lanes of traffic in an attempt to park where I had just placed my vehicle. Then he proceeded to come within inches of my car, yell something that I can only assume was not of good will and speed off. Now if this young man in his fresh-out-of-the-junkyard, red-primer-colored pickup truck had stayed there, I would have no doubt relinquished the spot to him. But he left and I put my quarters in the meter and went about my business. Upon my return, I gave my car a once-over, and sure enough, there was some type of sticky caramel coffee all over the front of my Benz. Hey Primer Truck Guy—instead of being the Coffee Bandit, how about being the Get A Job Bandit, and making better use out of all your apparent free time.
—Blonde Girl in Benz

Asian Girl

Seeking sexy, size-zero, Asian girl with long, wet, black hair, who was riding the back of her shopping cart in Shaw's Supermarket at Prudential Center at 10 pm on July 30. We checked out together. Please shop at Shaw's late some Wednesday evening so we can meet again. You are the coolest chick I have ever seen.
— Anonymous

Aug. 11

It was my birthday and I was hanging with my friends at the Blue Cat Cafe when you walked in the door. My eyes were popping and it wasn't because of the martinis. You entered and met some of your friends, a scorching redhead in a black and white dress, a loud-laughing blonde and a busty brunette. But you, oh my pretty flower, you are absolutely smoking hotness. You were wearing a black shirt and jeans that really showed your assets. I wanted to talk to you but you looked like you were having too much fun and I was too intimidated. I will be there on Sept. at 8 pm, waiting for you.
—Mr. Dry Martini.

Crunchy Granola

I saw you in the hallway at work. You went into the kitchen the same time I did. You reached for the dolphin-safe tuna, and I for the chemical-free and environmentally safe nicoise salad. Since we share an office and are obviously earth-friendly, maybe we could share something special together. Want to go have a vegan burger sometime?
—ilovemybeta@hotmail.com

Tuff Choice

I smiled and you smiled too. You looked at me, and I looked back. You came from San Francisco that night late June. You went out with my friends and me. We had fun! We talked and laughed. You bought me a sweet drink, my favorite. I am hooked now. I keep rewinding back to that night and remembering every moment we spent together, like a romantic comedy. It is ridiculous but true. I wish you were close. I wonder, what would you sacrifice, if you only knew
—russianlady007@yahoo.com

To Andy

There once was a man named Andy
Who, when sober, could almost be handy.
He loved corn beef hash
And bands that were brash
And was always free with his candy
Happy half birthday.
—Bug

Moopy

I just wanted to let you know that I love you and am so happy to be your wife. We're two lucky kids, surrounded by loving family and friends. And we have each other, always. Thank you for loving me, being my best friend, always keeping me laughing, and for letting me be me. Happy first anniversary! Love
—Schmoopy (and Zippy)

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rockie horoscope

AUGUST 27 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Everything's coming up Virgo! Really, the best year in the past 12 begins when magnanimous Jupiter joins magnetic Venus, the moon and the sun in your sign on the 27th. So many interesting opportunities, such ease of access to influential people, such smart moves can turn even a shy and retiring Virgin into a major player. But first you may have to handle unexpected weirdness from your partner or a rebellion rising from the ranks of fellow workers. Why this is so sexy is a puzzle only you can solve. Intriguing.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Interesting changes can take place if you let your artistic Venus ruler accept the surprises in store this week. As long as you maintain that enviable Libran sense of balance, an unexpected event, even a minor accident can be enlightening. But don't fall into a trap that your lover or child may set by playing on your sympathy for the underdog. They'll be more demanding and devoted to their cause while Uranus and Mars in Pisces, the sign of the martyr, are opposing Venus. Still, something inexplicably erotic can emerge from the juxtaposition.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

The pressure to succeed, to give a stellar performance eases once the sun, Venus and Jupiter leave spotlight-loving Leo. While this upbeat trio is in Virgo, you can accomplish as much without attracting a lot of attention. For a somewhat secretive Scorpio, this is a good thing. Especially if a family matter undergoes the dramatic change one expects when three planets oppose not only your Mars co-ruler, but topsy-turvy Uranus as well. However, what first appears chaotic could turn out to be a stroke of luck.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The Virgo new moon on the 27th is critical because you're being urged to come up with something radically different this season. Career challenges can start as soon as your Jupiter ruler faces inventive Uranus on the 29th. The energy to get a bold enterprise under way peaks when Jupiter opposes motivated Mars shortly after Labor Day. This is your window of opportunity, so plan accordingly. Of course, you might become distracted by a sudden attraction to another inappropriate person, but what else is new?

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Have faith. Even if odd things are happening all around you, if adjustments suddenly have to be made, you'll come out OK. A significant shift of cosmic energy this week favors all earth signs, but Caps—who better?—will see the benefit at first in their financial sector. Later in the year you may get to travel and share the wisdom you've acquired. The Virgo new moon can be the jumping-off point for a project dear to the heart and kind to the wallet of you and a significant other. Do the research before you launch.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Another stage in the development of a significant relationship begins with the Virgo new moon on the 27th. Whether it concerns your spouse, business partner, agent, attorney or enemy doesn't matter much. As long as you're aware that a surprise might be stashed up one of their respective sleeves, you should be able to adjust accordingly. Nobody said that quick changes come easily for a fixed sign such as yours, but before too much longer, you'll dart and weave with the best of them, them being the mutable signs: Pisces, Gemini, Virgo and Sag.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

You're about to be rescued, which, for any Pisces adrift in a sea of confusion, would be the answer to all your troubles. Think back 12 years ago: What benefits were bestowed when protective Jupiter was last in Virgo, your cosmic complement? Who was your knight in shining armor, who offered the job opportunity of a lifetime? Something similar, possibly even more promising, can happen over the next 11 months. However, the next few weeks might not go smoothly, and the transition from miserable to happy could be rough.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Enough summer fun and fooling around! With the practical Virgo new moon on the 27th comes a renewed sense of purpose, particularly since your Mars ruler will soon be tested by the strong-willed sun and "love me or leave me" Venus. You cannot avoid paying a lot more attention to a romantic relationship nor can you leave a creative project in the hands of someone else. And because Mercury will be retrograde for the next three weeks, it's important to keep on top of the comings and goings of paperwork, packages and people.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

The season, the semester could get off to a rocky start simply because you're more willing to be swept off your feet by a sudden turn of events, less concerned about maintaining the status quo. Perhaps you sense that you'll be protected by benevolent Jupiter once it enters Virgo, another discriminating earth sign, on the 27th. Maybe you're confident that your Venus ruler, also in Virgo, will attract the attention of popular, pretty people. Or is it obvious that whatever the new moon sets in motion will benefit the entire family?

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

A budding romance can bloom at the strangest times. Keep that in mind as you wait to see what develops from the Virgo new moon on the 27th. You may already have a pretty good idea of what'll happen when your Mercury ruler turns retrograde the next day. Focusing your attention on the house or a family situation can be draining, however a chance to exchange opinions and information about the matter with someone who is not as emotionally involved could be the start of a beautiful friendship. Take the risk.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Moon Children are especially affected by strong planetary influences at work during the all-important new-moon period. These cosmic forces set the tone for the Virgo lunar cycle that begins on the 27th. So if you're aware that erratic Uranus is playing with the on-off switch in your house of assets and values, you won't get too upset when checks don't arrive or payments aren't made on time. Also know that a romantic relationship may run into trouble while loving Venus faces off against argumentative Mars, but it can also heat up enough to blow you away again.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

The party's (almost) over. You'll continue to benefit financially after generous Jupiter moves into your Virgo money house, but the philosophical growth spurt you've enjoyed, the wisdom you've acquired, the opportunities and good times you've had just by being in the right place at the right time with the right people won't last much longer. However, you can maintain the elevated position you're in. Just roll with whatever punches are thrown at you when your sun ruler opposes rebellious Uranus and provocative Mars as the month ends.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, www.rockiehoroscope.com. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com

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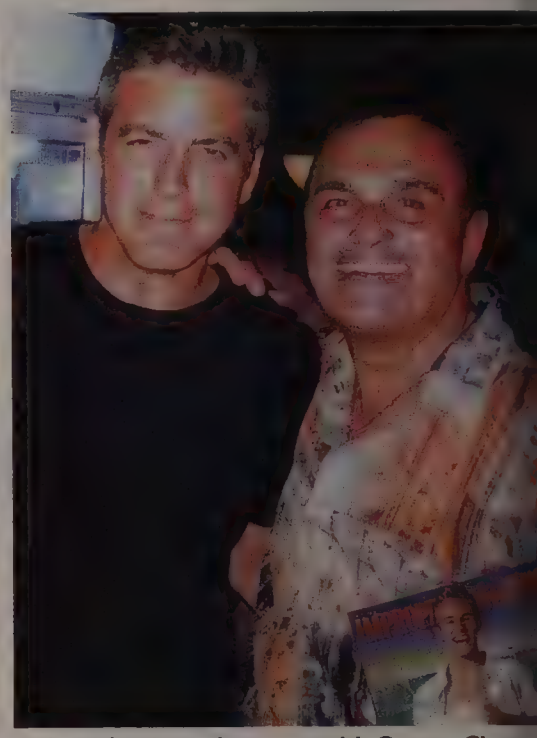
Dan Viens reports that they're pushing the Leaning Tower of Pisa over a little bit further in hopes of attracting more tourists.

Erin Gaughan, Heather Pritchard and Cindy Young pal around with a *Star Wars* Storm Trooper in sunny Hollywood. Either that or Michael Jackson's plastic surgeon has really gone overboard this time.



Richard Settipane hung out with George Cloone backstage at a Rolling Stones concert in Milan, which is cooler than anything you've done lately.

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue knows what to read when he gets a chance to get away from Hotlanta.

Carrie Field and her high school German exchange sister, Nadine Tiller, reunited at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany and laughed about old *grubnugenschpeil*.

Jay White found that residents of Baghdad, liberated from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, have become Red Sox fans and are now getting their heartbreak and ruthless oppression from another reviled madman: George Steinbrenner.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: Sharing valuable wisdom such as "man who walk through airport door sideways going to Bangkok" at the celebration of Confucius' birthday, Sept. 28, in Qufu, China.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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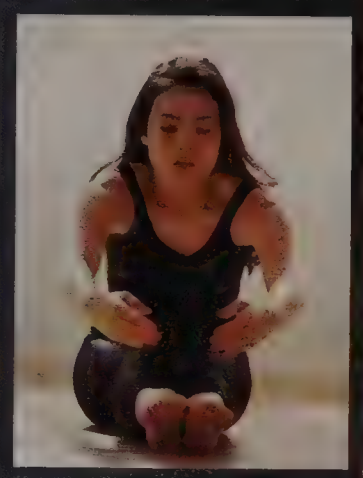

IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Thursday, August 14, ***The Improper Bostonian*** sponsored Dog Day Afternoon at **The Rack**. Guests and their owners enjoyed a doggie fashion show and "The American Fido" talent competition. Fast Freddy of **Star 93.7** hosted the fun. Proceeds benefit the **World Society for the Protection of Animals**.

1. **Heidi Barclay**, wife of Rack owner, Paul, and **John Walsh**, international projects director for the World Society for the Protection of Animals.
2. **Fast Freddy**, DJ from Star 93.7; "American Fido" judges **Samantha House** and **Ezra Dyer** from the *Improper Bostonian*; and **Kate Sobrero** of the Boston Breakers.
3. **Emma**, a seven-month-old yellow lab, gives her owner **Harvey** a high-five during the "American Fido" competition.

On Monday, August 18, **The Blue Cat** hosted a launch party for **Vox Raspberry**.

1. **Ernie Buonaccorsi**, future brands portfolio manager for United Liquors Ltd.; **Noelia Traube**, promoter for Vox Raspberry; **Alex Steppacher**, on premise manager Massachusetts for Future Brands; **Helen Wang**, promoter for Vox Raspberry; and **Jim Reddish**, national accounts manager, Northeast, for Future Brands.
2. **John Boyle O'Reilly**, state manager Massachusetts for Future Brands; **Kait Muhlfelder**, marketing specialist for Future Brands; and **Jeremy J. Betts**, associate marketing manager super premium brands, Jim Beam Brands Co.

On Thursday, August 7, ***The Improper Bostonian*** presented the Second Annua Bridesmaid's Ball at **Hurricane O'Reilly's**. Michael Viselli from **Tony 'n' Mia's Comedy Wedding** played host to the festivities. The event was sponsored by **Mohegan Sun**, **Mix 98.5** and **New Balance**, with proceeds benefiting the **Komen Boston Race for the Cure**.

1. **Mandy Vandam**, receptionist, **Liz Moise**, assistant, **Bessy Hiou**, stylist, and **Jenni McNeill**, receptioni all of Lord's & Lady's Salon.
2. **Michael Viselli** of Tony 'n' Mia's Comedy Wedding and **Joey Noone**, president of Noontime Entertainment.
3. **Joanna Stimson**, attorney for First American, and **John Stimson**, mortgage broker for Boston Federal.
4. **Noa Berrin**, receptionist for Salon 350; **Jennifer Pittore** and **Tina Pittore**, sales managers for Apco.

On Monday, August 11, **the Patriots Cheerleaders** and **FOX Sports Net** celebrated th release of the Patriots Cheerleaders Swimsuit Calendar at **Parris**.

1. New England Patriots cheerleaders **Diana Martufi**, **Lori Dolce**, **Joelle Christian** and **Helen Grimes** posing wi mascot **Pat Patriot**.
2. **Elizabeth Hanson** and **Line Penterosa**, cheerleaders for t New England Patriots; **Sean Kelly**, chef at the Lenox Hotel; **Matt Hashem**, controller for U.S. Genomics; and **Darrell Young**, receiver at the Lenox Hotel.

PHOTOS: BLUE CAT, JULIE KANE; THE RACK, ROBYN SARKISIAN; HURRICANE O'REILLY'S AND PARRIS, SARA SCH

Fall Arts Preview

The autumn breeze brings back memories of school days and makes us yearn to learn. *The Improper Bostonian*'s Fall Arts Preview Issue will guide you through all of Boston's cultural endeavors. Not only will you expand your horizons, but you will also enjoy yourself as we take a look at visual arts, dance, theater and music. Be sure to advertise in this issue and be a part of our readers' busy fall agendas!

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully hand-crafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere in the heart of downtown Boston. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Science Street Café *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out Boston's newest nightspot - The Science Street Café at the Museum of Science. Try our out-of-this world signature martinis, gourmet appetizers and decadent desserts - all while listening to live music. Perfect before or after an Omni film. Open 6-10pm. Parking available.

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. All CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here. The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Friday: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Doors at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and J. Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-946* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs.

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-20 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-2 2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketpl Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Impro Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2

Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's gigantic cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the sun of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

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The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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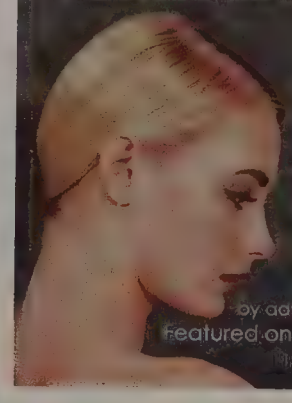
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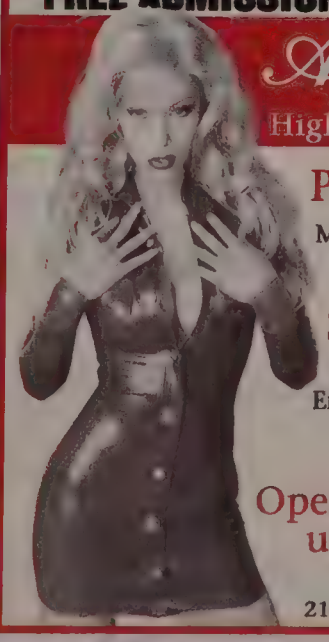
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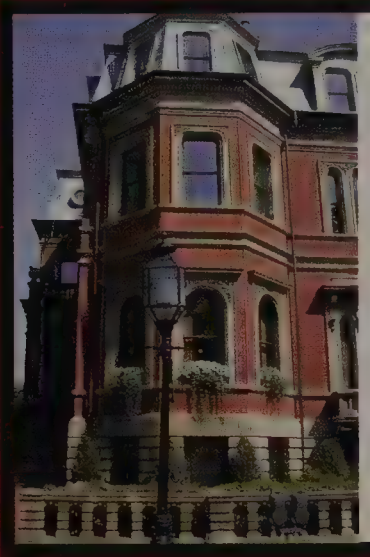

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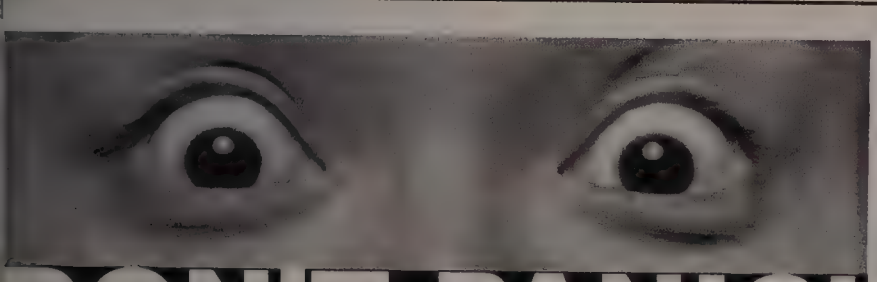

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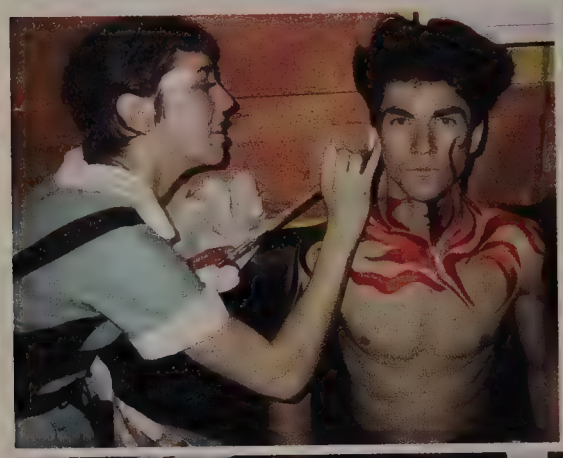
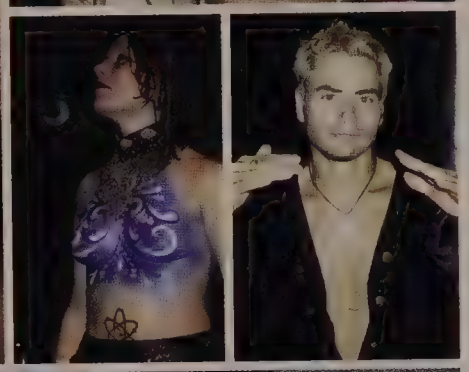




At the Boston Body Painting Festival, clockwise from top right: Kara Trott and Garabed Setrakian; Tatiana de Profundis; Ben Blanchard; Jason Cohen and Jennifer Wilson; Felicia McNeill, Steve Monson and Brian James; Zea Barker and Brian Viglione.

IS THERE A DERMATOLOGIST IN THE HOUSE?

When it comes to party concepts, getting nearly naked and covering yourself in body paint is among the most imaginative we've heard. Add to that a lineup of tribal-goth-rock acts, a few belly dancers, and lots of multiply pierced people sporting various permutations of the velvet-fishnets-and-tons-of-mascara look, and you've got a real corker of an evening.

The first (and hopefully annual) **Boston Body Painting Festival**, which took place at the **Paradise Rock Club** and also served as a CD-release party for the local band **Incus**, was like a cross between Halloween and a Grateful Dead show. There were appearances by the Baltimore band **Ego Likeness**, as well as assorted characters from the local cutting-edge music and performance art scenes, while upstairs in the balcony, makeup artists charged a nominal fee to decorate the flesh of anyone who was willing.

In addition to Incus frontman **Jason Cohen** (painted like the Jolly Green Satyr), other notables on hand included Miss Gothic Massachusetts **Tatiana de Profundis** (who served as the evening's hostess), vocalists **Kara Trott** (Fluttr) and **Jennifer Wilson**; musician-heartthrob **Ben Blanchard** with willowy blonde yoga instructor **Saskia Bergmans**; mixological savant **Peter Cipriani**; fashion designer–animator–artist **Zea Barker**; supercute Dresden Dolls drummer **Brian Viglione**; the achingly lovely **Felicia McNeill**; dancer/construction worker **Brian James**; the adorable **Steve Monson** (who works for a mail-order witchcraft supply company); flamboyant video producer **Garabed Setrakian**; plus, a man who sat in a corner, quietly and intently writing in his journal, someone who announced to no one in particular that he'd just gotten back from an outdoor music festival in Utah, a guy wearing a T-shirt that said Feral Dirt Child, and another guy sporting khakis and a polo shirt who looked like he'd wandered into the wrong party but seemed to enjoy himself nonetheless.

The most curious part of an evening that kept getting curiouser and curiouser was the guy with long purple- and red-dyed dreadlocks and unkempt goatee who, nevertheless, had painstakingly shaved his armpits.

Typical of the evening's conversation were the following comments:

"There's a fine line between looking Goth and looking like a Vegas showgirl," and "I have this theory: Between all the '80s hair bands and the bands that are big now, they ran out of conditioner."

However, the evening's most amusing exchange, overheard by the bar, was the following:

"Is that a tattoo or body paint?"

"Actually, I think it's a skin condition."

WE LOVE, WE LOVE, WE LOVE OUR CALENDAR GIRLS...

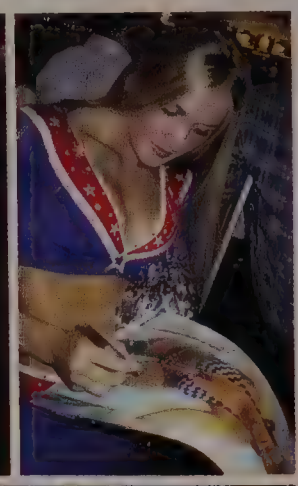
Even if the Patriots don't make the playoffs this year, they've got a winning team as far as their cheerleaders are concerned, a fact made abundantly clear by the party held at **Gillette Stadium** to celebrate the publication of the **Patriots Cheerleaders' 2004 Swimsuit Calendar**.

Gathered in the Pro Shop for this unabashed tribute to T&A were such fans and supporters as team scion **Jonathan Kraft**; Fox Sports Net VP **David Woodman**; Patriots publishing genius **Fred Kirsch** and his lovely wife, **Nikki**; the fearsome foursome of **Ted Carlson**, **Jim Keaney**, **Eric Spector** and **Trevor Gillespie** (who together make up the white-hot local rock act **Roxie**); the **Pats' pep squad** and their perky commander in chief, **Tracy Sormanti**; lots of friends and relatives; and several admiring guys whose jaws threatened to scrape the floor throughout this jiggle-and-giggle fest.

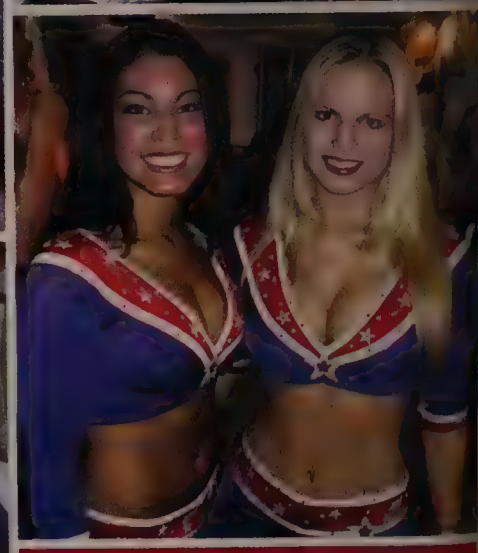
After the debut of a behind-the-scenes TV show about shooting the calendar, Roxie performed. The cheerleaders, meanwhile, wore uniforms that encouraged speculation as to who might have had breast implants (midriff-baring, spangled red, white and blue halter tops and micro-minis), while patiently signing calendars, caps and anything else admirers put in front of them (imagine Santa's elves with important hair and 34-26-34 measurements).

"Not that I watch porn, but you know who she looks like?" asked one lunkhead, who undoubtedly would have been disappointed to learn that many of the girls are either spoken for or married, and that few (if any) of them are in it to meet guys.

In fact, when asked about their contractual prohibition from dating members of the Patriots, one member of the squad shrugged and said, "Who cares? I'd much rather be a cheerleader." IB



At the Patriots cheerleaders' party, clockwise from top: Sarah Mackin next to her bikini shot; Jonathan Kraft, Tracy Sormanti and Diana Martufi; Joelle Christian and Cassie McLaughlin; Narra Martineau, Elizabeth Hanson and Melinda McGrath; Nikki and Fred Kirsch; Narra Martineau signing calendars.



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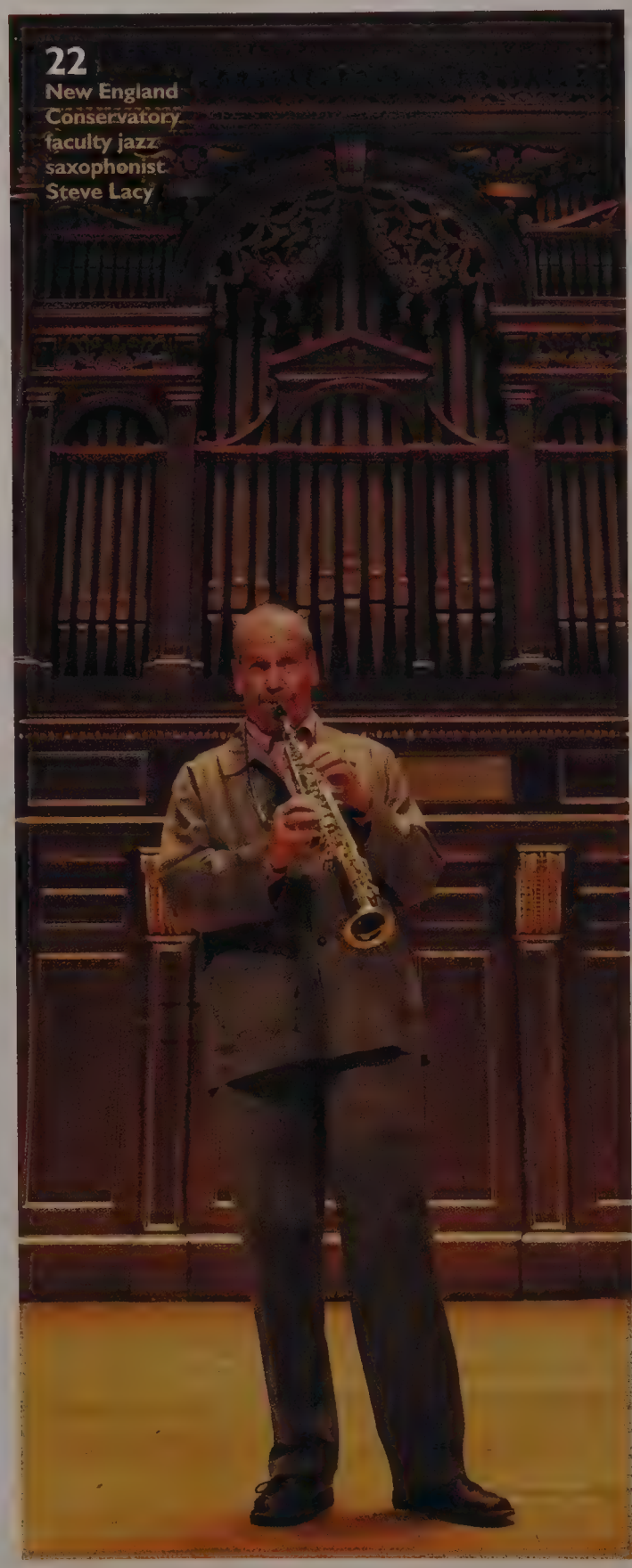

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

ARTS APPRECIATION

In a city with as many impressive cultural offerings as Boston (we have more cultural organizations per capita than any other U.S. city), it's easy to become blasé about the beauty and creative expression that surround us. But if you step back for a moment and pretend you're a tourist, you might feel renewed appreciation for the visual art, music, theater and dance that are so abundant here.

With budget cuts the order of the day and arts organizations hit especially hard, getting out to a play, concert or other cultural event is not just personally enriching, it helps ensure that Boston's diverse arts community stays healthy. In this issue, we preview some of the many performances, exhibitions, changes and trends that can make patronizing the arts exciting this fall—free classical music concerts at Boston's many outstanding conservatories, a host of new dancers at Boston Ballet, art exhibitions ranging from Rembrandt to cartoon art, and local theaters' forays into brand new works, to name just a few.

Now's the perfect time to look over what's coming up and mark your calendar for some cultural enrichment this fall—you can keep up with arts happenings, of course, through the many listings in our calendar pages every issue.

As Esther Kaplan, commissioner for Boston's Office of Cultural Affairs, points out, getting involved in the arts can help you see the world around you in a new way. "Art is about creating variation, about taking a different perspective and using all your senses—it can help us remember to do those things in the rest of our lives too," says Kaplan. "And let's not forget that it's fun and brings joy and beauty into our lives."

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

THE ANTHONY MICHAEL HALL OF FAME

A good friend of mine in the United States mailed me a copy of the Aug. 13 issue, and I just wanted to thank you for publishing that set of photos of Anthony Michael Hall ("Anthony Michael Hall is in the Zone"). What a very good-looking man he has grown into.

I was very pleased to hear *The Dead Zone* has been renewed for a third season and that AMH will still be in the starring role. In the meantime, I think it's great to see him trying his hand at other things—namely, being a fashion model! Thanks again—the pictures were a real thrill.

—LAURA COUSINS
Dorset, United Kingdom

FURVENT AND FURIOUS

I am very disappointed in your publication. For a number of years, with the rising public awareness of the plight of fur-bearing mammals, shops and magazines were showing very little or no real fur, only fake alternatives. Lately I've noticed a disturbing trend back to the old ways (as with "Fall Fundamentals" in your Aug. 27 issue). What is going on? Have we really lost this much ground? I hope enough people will be as outraged as I am, and this disgusting backsliding in values will once again turn around.

—KRIS COLLINS
Lynn

VALIDATED PARKING

Every time I read one of Ezra's articles I laugh out loud, and that's rare. The article about his parking dispute ("Parking Spaz," Aug. 13) really hit home for me. When I go into Boston it seems I always have some type of parking situation, but I finally had "The Official Parking Altercation" today. I'd like to thank Ezra for the entertainment he provides us. So few writers have the insight to look at certain situations and realize just how crazy and stupid they really are, but Ezra does, and he mocks them with intelligence and flair.

—VALERIE TRIOLA
Waltham

CONTRIBUTORS

KEITH POWERS

A former IMPROPER staffer, Keith Powers covers classical music for the *Boston Herald*. His features and reviews have also appeared in *Musician*, *Chamber Music*, the *Quarterly Review of Wines*, *Bolshoi* and *Portfolio*. He recently contributed the liner notes to the Boston Modern Orchestra Project's recording of the complete symphonic works of Arthur Berger. Powers' latest work for the IMPROPER, "Night School," begins on page 22.

VICKI SANDERS

Vicki Sanders is a features writer and theater and dance critic who has written for *Dance* magazine, the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald*, the *Miami Herald* and *CitySearch.com*, among many others. She was the founding managing editor of *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine and is the award-winning editor of *Boston College Law School Magazine*. Turn to page 30 to read her feature story on Boston's dance trends, "In Motion."

COVER IMAGE BILL STRECHER

Tell Us What You Think

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EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Sura**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Danielle Friedman, Julia Hawes, Heather MacNeil, Diana McCarley, Melanie Ryan**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Vanessa Earl, Joanie Tobin**

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GREEK DELIGHT

Look up Greek in the cuisine index of the Boston *Zagat* restaurant guide, and you'll find only a few entries. The majority of Greek-owned establishments in this town tend to be casual family restaurants or takeout joints that serve up the occasional gyro or Greek salad amid burgers and slices of pizza.

Enter Meze Estiatorio, a new Greek restaurant in Charlestown. "You won't see colorful posters of the Greek isles or Aegean blue walls," says co-owner Bill Galatis. "Not that there's anything wrong with that—it's just not what we're presenting here." Instead, you'll find an upscale restaurant that features giant picture windows overlooking the Zakim Bridge and serves gourmet Greek dishes prepared by co-owner and chef Paul Delios of Paolo's Trattoria.

The mouthwatering menu features hot and cold small plates, called "meze," with such delicacies as grilled octopus salad, lamb meatballs simmered in a tomato sauce, mussels steamed in lobster stock and Greek sausage over a bed of arugula. You can opt for full-size entrees, or for a casual night out, hang out in the adjoining taverna and make a meal out of appetizers and a carafe of Greek wine.

"We're calling it comfort dining," says Galatis, who found his way into the restaurant business through serendipity. Years ago, he stopped at Paolo's for dinner. At the end of the meal, a waiter brought over a *calabrese pizzetta* (a type of savory sweet roll) compliments of the chef. Surprised by such a hospitable gesture, Galatis asked the waiter if the chef happened to be Greek. When he was told yes, Galatis excitedly asked to meet Delios. The two quickly discovered a shared dream of opening a Greek restaurant and the very next day began planning Meze along with third co-owner Chuck Samiotes. Their restaurant reaches new heights of *philoxenia* (that's Greek for hospitality). *100 City Square, Charlestown (617-242-6393).*

—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt

Above right: before Kunzig puts her magic touch on the room. At left: after "staging"

this just in

CENTER STAGE

Anyone who's sold a car is probably familiar with detailing, in which a car is given a wax job and thorough cleaning to maximize its selling price. Lisa Kunzig, founder of a company called ZigZag, advocates a similar process when selling a home: staging.

Kunzig says staging is like getting your home ready for a big, impress-the-guests party, and in fact ZigZag began as a party-planning firm until staging snowballed to become its primary business. "You stage to sell, not to live," she says. "You want to create an environment that will appeal to the widest possible audience." Making a home more attractive to potential buyers can mean everything from rearranging furniture to knocking out walls and expanding windows. At a recent job on a $2.7-million home in Newton, Kunzig went in search of rugs, urns and other antiques for a thorough redecoration.

Effective staging is often the result of applying a fresh eye to a home, says Kunzig. "You spend $5,000 to chop down some trees, and all of a sudden you can see Boston," she says. "I don't chop down trees, but I can tell you if you should do it."

—Ezra Dyer

inner view

HUBBY HUNTING

There's an epidemic sweeping the country, and no doctor can stop it. No, it's not the Sobig virus, but the increasing number of unmarried women over the age of 35. Rachel Greenwald is on the case, armed with her Harvard M.B.A. Her new self-help guide, *Find a Husband After 35: Using What I Learned at Harvard Business School* (Ballantine Books), is a 15-step action plan designed to help would-be brides land a man based on marketing strategies normally reserved for alcoholic beverages and sports gear. Happily married to a man she met in Boston, Greenwald has been sending women down the aisle through her course at Colorado Free University and her private practice for years. She took a few minutes to chat about her book before it hits shelves Sept. 16.

IB: *Why did you write the book?*

RG: About five years ago, I had a 41-year-old friend who was single and fabulous in every way, who couldn't find a guy. And I just started advising her casually, like 'You really need to stand out. You really need a brand.' I was a marketing consultant, so I started advising her with marketing strategies. She ended up getting married within a year. I started getting lots of phone calls from women and I started a private client business.

IB: *Did you follow your 15-step plan, including stuff like setting up a separate "husband search" bank account for makeup and weight-loss programs and things like that, to meet your husband?*

RG: Eleven years ago I didn't have the terminology that I have now. I can't honestly say that I set up a separate bank account and gave it a label. What I did was prioritize my spending. If I had $100 and I was trying to decide between a new jacket or a ticket to a fund-raiser where I thought a lot of interesting people would be, I would choose the ticket.

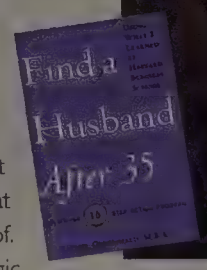
IB: *What are some of your more unconventional tips?*

RG: One tip might to be to cancel your newspaper subscription and buy it at the newsstand and read it in public at Starbucks. Anything that keeps you in your home, get rid of. Turn everyday errands into strategic moves. If your car breaks down, and you have to take it to the shop, bring a magazine and sit in the lobby for an hour just to see who passes through.

IB: *Why 35?*

RG: Around the age of 35 there's a shift in your marriage priority. It's more urgent and usually it's triggered by a milestone birthday, a wedding or seeing a sign of aging on your face or body.

IB: *Do you think 10 or 15 years ago, your focus would have been finding a husband after 30?*



RG: I do think the age is getting later. My book is being published abroad under the title *Find a Husband After 30*. They're behind on trends.

IB: *What's the biggest mistake someone in this age bracket makes?*

RG: To narrow down the market segment that they're focused on: Mr. Right has to be six feet tall, successful, same religion... Step 4 [of my plan] is crucial: market expansion.

IB: *Did you find the dating pool in Boston to be slim pickings?*

RG: When I was in Boston I was in my 20s, and I thought it was bountiful. Today I have many friends in Boston, and they tell me it is very difficult to find a great guy in their 30s, 40s and 50s. But the three cities I hear complaints about most ardently are New York, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

IB: *Do you have a money-back guarantee?*

RG: I've just had so much success, that it hasn't occurred to me. It's almost impossible for me to imagine that if someone followed these steps to the letter that they wouldn't be able to find someone within 12 to 18 months.*—Jessica Iredale*

Greenwald reads from her book Sept. 24 at Borders Books & Music, 100 Cambridgeside Place, Cambridge (617-679-0887). 6:30 pm.

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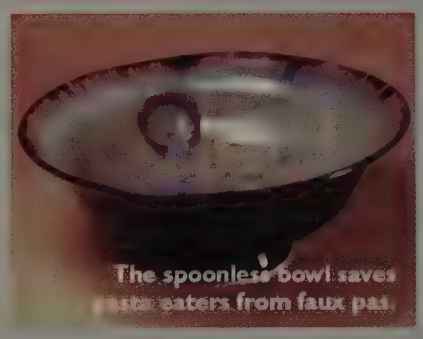
tasty tidbits

PROPER PASTA


The spoonless bowl saves pasta eaters from faux pas.

Spooning Prohibited...According to some sources in Italy, twirling pasta with a spoon ranks among obesity and chronic baseball hat wearing as a widely mocked American habit. In an attempt to bridge the gap between refined European culture and Yankee ways, Andy Howarth of the South End art studio Claygo has designed a spoonless pasta bowl. Inspired by his stint creating kitchenware for the Italian Culinary Institute of New York, Howarth's patented bowl features a small well within the interior (kind of a built-in spoon) to aid the twirling process. The spoonless wonder makes its debut Sept. 13 and 14 during the South End Open Studios, followed by a test-run with Bill Bradley's pasta at Rustic Kitchen.

Toast of the Town...Somerville's Union Square gets a little more momentum in its upswing with the opening of Toast Lounge in late September. Ken Kelly, owner of the Independent, and Judy Pagano, former GM of Axis, are teaming up to revamp the space formerly occupied by Rauxa and most recently by Macondo. The finished product will feature a funky lounge with two bars, a DJ booth and a dance floor. If it has the same charisma as its nearby sister bar, expect delish cuisine from the all-appetizer menu and a laid-back vibe. *70 Union Square, Somerville (617-571-9958).*

Silver Slivers...Boston's never-ending Kennedy obsession continues with the upcoming 50th anniversary of the JFK-Jackie nuptials Sept. 12. Camelot devotees can literally get a taste of the wedding thanks to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum and Gourmet Caterers, who are serving up 500 pieces of cake to ticketed museum visitors on the blessed day. A nonedible replica of the five-tiered white cake with buttercream frosting makes a one-day-only cameo in the anniversary exhibition, alongside the fabled 7.84-carat engagement ring and taffeta dress. The rest of the wedding exhibition displays through Oct. 31.

Grapes of Pleasure...Once again, Saint has cornered the market on a hot new cocktail. The chic club premiered Cîroc Snap Frost Vodka, the only vodka distilled from grapes, at a swanky private launch party Aug. 20. Cîroc is cultivated from French grapes that have been left on the vine past the first frost. The overripe bunches are pressed and cold-fermented and then distilled five times (as opposed to the more run-of-the-mill, thrice-distilled wheat and potato vodkas) to produce a smooth, crisp flavor. Ooh la la.—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

improper reports

A MAZE-ING

Davis' Mega Maze

Mike's Amazing Maze

Sure, you can welcome fall by picking apples, tailgating or leaf peeping, but how about trying a unique form of agritainment: navigating a corn maze. Here are a few farms in New England that offer special mazes this fall.

■ The 3.5-mile Mega Maze at Davis Farmland is redesigned each year by preeminent maze architect Adrian Fisher. This year's theme is Lost Kingdom. *45 Redstone Hill, Sterling (978-422-6606), www.davisfarmland.com. Open weekends through Oct. 26. $10.95, $8.95 for children 13 and under.*

■ With more than 85 decision points, two miles of pathways and viewing bridges, Lyman Orchard's corn maze resembles an apple pie. Intersection of Rtes. 147 and 157, Middlefield, Conn. (860-349-1793), www.lymanorchards.com. Wed.-Sun. through Nov. 2. $9.50 per person, children 7 and under free.

■ Mike's Amazing Maze features an Egyptian theme with paths carved into the shape of a pharaoh. If you get hungry halfway through, there's a Corn Cafe in the heart of the maze. *Warner Farm, 27 South Main, Sunderland (413-665-8811), www.mikesmaze.com. Open weekends through Nov. 1. $7; $5 for children 12 and under.*

■ There are two mazes at Cider Hill Farm in Amesbury. One, outdoors, made of specialty corn planted along a grape arbor; the other, an 800-bale hay maze inside a greenhouse. The owners have yet to decide whether to revive their popular corn maze. *45 Kern Ave., Amesbury (978-388-0781), www.ciderhill.com. Through Oct. 31.*

sam says

FALL CLEANING

Now's the perfect time to bring out your fall wardrobe from last year and freshen it up a bit before stores are fully stocked with their fall clothing lines. Here's my system: I sort through my clothes and accessories and decide what goes to charity. Then I try on the remainder of the clothes and decide if I want to alter any of them to make them more current. Mini-dresses and knee-length pencil skirts are trendy this season, so I'll take most of my dresses and skirts to the tailor to either shorten them, make them narrower or add a little bit more fabric to the bottom. Blouses are more tailored this year, so I'll have them taken in. All of my shoes will get new heels and a shine. Doing all of this a month or so beforehand also gives you an idea of what new items you might need and helps you develop a well-rounded wardrobe that isn't based on impulse buying. By the time the cooler weather comes along, you can look as though you have a whole new wardrobe.

—*Samantha House*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

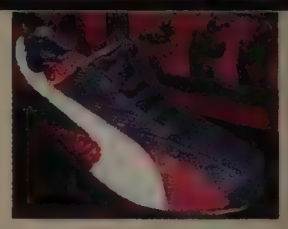
SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Sex, Bi-Coastal...Ever wonder how our notoriously buttoned-up city stacks up against free-to-be L.A. in the sex department? Brookline erotic boutique Grand Opening! opened a Santa Monica location this past April, and proprietrix Kim Airs dished the dirt on sex trends both here and there. According to Airs, her clientele are comparable age-wise, and the best-sellers are the same East and West. But, she says, "It seems that people know a little more about toys [in L.A.]." Yawn. So what does L.A. have that Boston doesn't? Swingers. "They're everywhere," says Airs. "It's definitely a cultural thing." But the West doesn't out-lib Boston in all things alternative: Airs says there's much more of a lesbian scene here, though it remains slightly underground. Catch Airs on an HBO special, *Real Sex Presents: Porn 101, XXXtra Credit*, Sept. 13 at 10:30 pm.

Almost Famous...Tune into ABC's new sitcom, *It's All Relative*, set to debut Oct. 1, and you may see a familiar sight—in addition to its star, Boston thoroughbred Lenny Clarke. Faneuil Hall's Green Dragon Tavern beat out 200 local Irish pubs to represent the bar owned by Clarke's character in the show, the backdrop for much of the action. A panel from Paramount Pictures chose the Green Dragon for its "charm and authenticity." The camera crew filmed some exterior shots for a few days in August, and depending on series development, the lights, cameras and action may return. Could it be the next *Cheers*?

Riding the Wave...Lately it seems yoga has become the Ashton and Demi of exercise—way overpublicized and a little weird. The latest yoga trend fits the bill: the Big O yoga workshop at Newbury Street's new Dancing Shiva Yoga Studio. The Big O aims to balance mind, body and libido. Studio owner and instructor Claudette Moussa came up with the concept while talking with male friends about tantric yoga and their sexual endurance—or lack thereof. The Big O workshop (for both men and women) features exercises and postures that strengthen the pelvic area, plus breathing techniques. According to Moussa, breathing exercises are crucial for a longer orgasm: "Imagine there is a wave and you want to go over the top without crashing down." The workshop begins Sept. 13 and includes four 90-minute sessions. *297 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-0770).* www.dancingshivayogacom.

Urban Round Table...City dwellers ages 20 to 34 are invited to voice their opinions for Mayor Menino and the Boston Redevelopment Authority's A Better Boston for You study. The program hopes to get 1,000 to 3,000 participants to fill out questionnaires on the positives and negatives of living in Boston and what they would like to see in the future. Duh. How about 4 am last call for bars, rent control and expanded late-night public transportation for starters? A spokesperson for the BRA was a little vague on what the agency hopes to accomplish with the survey, but references to "consumers," "spending power," and "growth tip of the economy" make us think that it's mainly about the city's business environment. Log onto *www.abetterbostonforyou.org* to sound off.

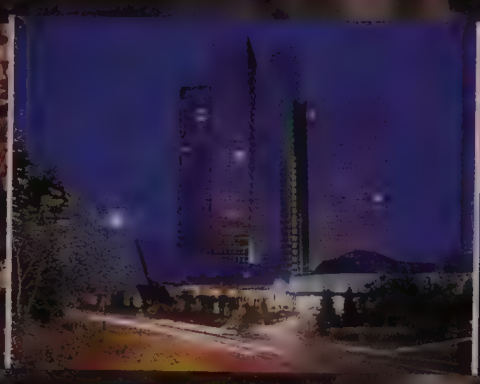


Shudoh Tang Clan...When Boston Breakers star Angela Hucles takes to the turf in the Women's World Cup this fall, she'll be kickin' it with a pair of Puma cleats specially designed to commemorate the WWC. Called the Shudoh Tang, the shoe was designed in collaboration with Chinese apparel retailer Shanghai Tang and sports an Asian-influenced design (recall that prior to the SARS outbreak the WWC was scheduled to be played in China). Puma is also producing a street shoe of the same design (minus the cleats) that hits stores Sept. 18. But if you want a pair of the streetwise Shudoh Tangs, you'll have to be quick on your feet—only 888 pairs will be sold worldwide.—*E.D., E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

Why should Saturday and Sunday have all the fun?



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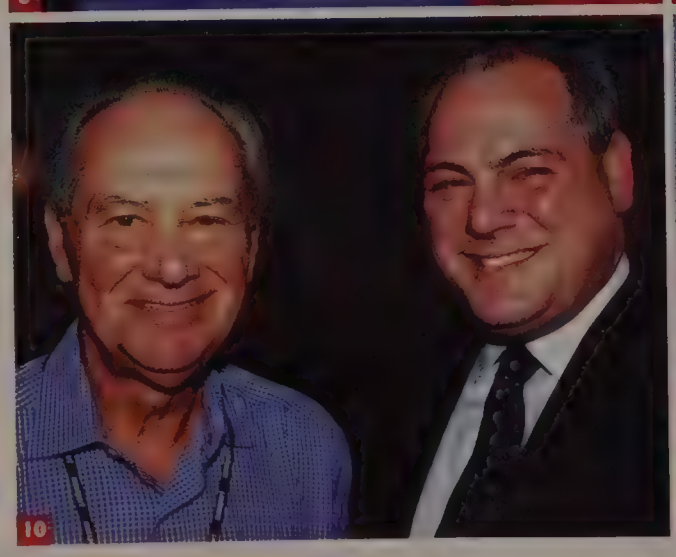
PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY MARGARET BRETT

The **Fourth Annual Esplanade Clambake** was held Aug. 27 on the Charles River Esplanade near the Hatch Shell. More than 250 people attended the fund-raiser for the restoration of the Esplanade. The evening included a clambake, a live auction and a classical concert at the Hatch Shell.

1. Boston City Councilor **Michael Ross** and **Kelley Tuthill**, news reporter for Channel 5.
2. From left: **Jeryl Oristaglio**, co president of the Esplanade Association; **Jeff Bellows** and **Deb Rosenbloom**, co-chairs of the event; and **Linda Cox**, co-president of the Esplanade Association.
3. **Hisiya Beppu**, graphic designer for City Year, and **David Zampese**, programmer for IBM Global Services Group.
4. **Jason Millhouse** and **Jennifer DuBois**, designers for Cambridge Seven Associates in Cambridge.
5. **Lawrance O'Connor** and his wife, **Mary**, director of operations and president, respectively, of Louisburg Gardens.
6. **Kenneth Cukier**, research fellow at Harvard University, and **Heather Hopkins**, director of marketing for Dalbar Inc.
7. **Diane Yarrow**, director of sales for Jupiter Research, and **Chris Carroll**, realtor for Back Bay Properties.

The **Boston Cityviews** fund-raiser was held Aug. 14 at the Hyatt Harborside Hotel at Boston's Logan Airport. More than 225 guests attended, raising money for four East Boston nonprofits: East Boston Main Streets, the East Boston YMCA, Piers Park Sailing Center and Savio Preparatory High School. The benefit raised $25,000.



8. From left: **Elvira Federico**, subcontracts administrator for Tetra Tech F.W.; **Neffo Cappuccio**, sales manager for Cappuccio Construction Co. in Revere; and **Lisa Capogreco**, event coordinator for Italia Unita in East Boston.
9. From left: **David Gifford**, **Brian Murphy** and **Larry Govoni**, waterfront director, member and sailing instructor, respectively, at the Piers Park Sailing Center in East Boston.
10. **Nick Del Peschio** (left), area sales manager for American Airlines, and **Jim Anello**, director of catering for the Hilton Hotel in East Boston.
11. **Vincent Del Peschio**, president of East Boston Main Streets, and his wife, **Donna**.
12. **Dayla Arabella Santurri** (left), general manager for Scullers Jazz Club, and **Jo Ellen Coen**, director of special events for the Suffolk Downs race track.

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ezra BY EZRA DYER

BURGLAR KING

Thou shalt not steal, except change, which is fine.

I've written before about how loath I am to part with my spare change. I love my change all out of proportion to its monetary value. O noble quarter! Giver of clean laundry and lifeblood of parking meters! O dimes, nickels and pennies, fodder for a future Coinstar check! I even love 50-cent pieces and Canadian money, those ostracized bastards of the coin community. Thus I find it extremely upsetting that someone keeps kicking in the door to my apartment and stealing my change.

That's right, I have a change thief. The first time this happened, I came home to find my apartment door forced open, the frame in splinters. I feared the worst, but the PlayStation was still there, thank God. A quick spin around the apartment confirmed that nothing seemed to be missing—nothing, that is, except my cache of hard-earned change, which had resided in a bowl atop my dresser. The bowl was still there, but it was denuded of its shiny bounty. I threw my hands toward the heavens, sank to my knees and bellowed "Noooooooooo!" It had taken me a long time to fill that bowl. Like the accumulation of nutrient-rich sediment that formed the Nile delta, it was a long and beautiful process. How many times had I said, "Sorry, don't have any," when bums had asked for that change? How many coffee-shop tip jars had gone unfilled? My unborn childrens' college fund was reset to zero. My laundry would wait another month.

Roommates Scott and Lance took stock of their belongings and found similar scenarios. Still, we thought it necessary to file a police report, and in short order a Boston cop was in our apartment surveying the damage. He told us we were lucky that we hadn't been burglarized sooner, since our door is so flimsy that a determined toddler could break into our apartment with a Fisher-Price My First Crowbar. We resolved to bulk up security, and to that end had a metal plate installed where the doorknob engages the frame. Total *Panic Room*, yo.

After a few weeks I forgot about our unwanted visitor and began happily restocking my change bowl. It was just starting to return to respectable levels when I came home to find the door kicked in once again, our metal door-frame sheath popped out of the frame with apparent ease. I went straight to my room and found my coin collection pillaged anew.

While my serial change plunderer once again made off with every penny, I was more perplexed at what he didn't steal, given that he'd just cased the joint a few weeks earlier: the TV, the surround-sound system, my "Take me drunk, I'm home" T-shirt, Lance's air purifier, Lance, a Tiffany money clip, Scott's old laptop computer or the spare keys to the apartment. Granted, I suppose staggering down the street with a 32-inch TV on your back would be a bit conspicuous, but he didn't even bother to grab a DVD or two while he was visiting. Is it that hard to fence a *Jumanji* DVD? OK, bad example.

I became quite dismayed after this second break-in. Despite the fact that I'd been relieved of only about $30, it's unsettling to know that your apartment enjoys less security than a Mariah Carey CD at Sam Goody. If it happened twice, it would probably happen again, and I was powerless to prevent it. Maybe I could just place my change bowl in the hallway outside our door, with a note saying, "If you are in this hallway and thinking about kicking in this door to steal some change, please help yourself. No need to get all crazy." Or maybe I could hire a neighborhood boy to

IT'S UNSETTLING TO KNOW THAT YOUR APARTMENT ENJOYS LESS SECURITY THAN A MARIAH CAREY CD AT SAM GOODY

live in my apartment when I'm not home and thwart the thief with clever and hilarious booby traps. Or maybe the best solution is one that will soon come to pass: moving to a whole new apartment.

Yep, Scott and I are movin' on up, and Lance is inheriting our apartment. Unfortunately for Lance and the two roommates he's lined up, nearly every item in the apartment belongs to Scott or me: the couch, the TV, the stereo and DVD player, the kitchen chairs; the coffee table, microwave, Foreman Grill and toaster oven, the coffeemaker, and all the pots and pans, dishes and silverware. We don't want to yank the rug out from under him, but we probably will since we're taking that too.

If our thieving friend visits again, all he'll likely find is Lance, sitting on the floor eating beef jerky and listening to his clock-radio. And that will not quite be the change he was looking for. IB

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GRANT LLEWELLYN

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Music director of the Handel and Haydn Society (America's longest continually performing musical group), Grant Llewellyn, 42, was born in Tenby, South Wales, and began cello lessons at the age of 9. He began his formal musical training at the Chethams School of Music and continued his cello studies in Italy. After attending Cambridge University, where he was a choral scholar, he studied conducting at the Royal College of Music. He won a conducting fellowship to Tanglewood in 1985, where he worked with the likes of Leonard Bernstein, Andre Previn, Kurt Masur, and Seiji Ozawa. In 1990, he was appointed assistant music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, leading the symphony at Tanglewood and Symphony Hall, and he made his Pops debut in 1992. He has served as associate guest conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and principal guest conductor of the Royal Flanders Philharmonic, and he became head of the Handel and Haydn Society in 2000. He lives in Wales with his wife, Charlotte, and their four children.

Jonathan Soroff: *Handel and Haydn is the oldest continually performing musical group in America. How does that affect your job responsibilities?*

Grant Llewellyn: We've been performing since 1815, and we're very proud of that. I don't know whether it really impinges on the job, except that there's a serious element of permanence, and I guess you approach it with care and attention and a view to a long future. That's in the back of my mind when I come up with some of my crazy schemes, which look as though they might bankrupt the society. There's an added responsibility with something of such standing and longevity.

JS: *How dedicated are you to historically accurate performances?*

GL: That's a relatively recent addition to the society's mission statement, if you will—it's only since Christopher Hogwood arrived that the society pledged itself to playing on period instruments. I personally don't feel the need to fly that flag with quite the same zeal as pioneers like him do, but I'm absolutely, 100 percent pledged to the continued exploration of period instruments and playing techniques.

JS: *So would you arm-wrestle Keith Lockhart?*

GL: I reckon I could probably give him a run for his money.

JS: *Toughest thing about conducting?*

GL: The realization that you never, ever quite realize what you had in mind. But that's also kind of liberating too, the fact that live music-making is far from a perfect science. I suspect that's why performers always go back to the same repertoire.

> VERY FEW [GOOD CONDUCTORS] DON'T HAVE A DOSE OF ARROGANCE, BUT THE VERY BEST ALL HAVE A SENSE OF HUMILITY.

JS: *Do you make funny faces while you conduct?*

GL: Not consciously, but my family tell me I'm a great embarrassment to them. I played piano at my son's end-of-term concert to accompany people, and afterward, he told me all his stickball and rugby-playing friends were wetting themselves over the various gestures I made. So thank God I can't see myself.

JS: *Is conducting a good physical workout?*

GL: It is, but I'm fortunate in that I enjoy that. I play soccer as often as I can, and I swim, and I run, so I'm not straining to get through performances. But, yeah, it's an aerobic workout, especially if we're doing a long oratorio. That's a strenuous two or three hours. So on performance days you won't find me in the gym.

JS: *Are you a soccer hooligan?*

GL: Most certainly not. Although I am known for getting into some close encounters on the pitch. When I'm playing, I can get quite excited with a referee.

JS: *Most unconventional use you ever found for a baton?*

GL: There was a conducting seminar I went to once with the BBC up in Manchester. I was with a great friend, another conductor, and after all the students had gone to bed, we found ourselves left in the student union bar, which was closed. To our dismay, they had a metal grille over the drinks cabinet, but about whatever time in the morning it was, I found that if I held my baton right, the cork handle was just long enough to work the bottles of spirits toward me and tip up against the grill sufficiently that we had a helluva night. I'm afraid we made a bit of a mess, though.

JS: *One quality of a good conductor?*

GL: My first instinct is to say arrogance, but then I thought it should be humility. Oddly, it's probably a combination of the two. Very few of us don't have a dose of arrogance, but the very best all have a sense of humility.

JS: *Any superstitions before performing?*

GL: Not really. Things go differently every night, no matter what I had for breakfast, and I think I'm far too chaotic to have any kind of rituals.

JS: *One composer from history you'd most like to meet?*

GL: I think I'd have got on pretty well with Wolfgang Amadeus, both on and off the football pitch.

JS: *Thing you most like to conduct?*

GL: Whatever I'm conducting next.

JS: *Musical guilty pleasures—Abba? The Carpenters? Metallica?*

GL: I did have a soft spot for Barry White in my youth.

JS: *May he rest in peace. What are your kids listening to?*

GL: Whoever is the latest young sensation whose name I can't pronounce. My teenage daughters are furiously trying to force me into the 21st century, usually in the car, and I think my attention's been drawn from the road once or twice, but never get as far as identifying who thes people are. We do have some great band in Wales, though. Catatonia. The Mani Street Preachers. They're hugely talented original and creative. But in general, it hard to find time outside of work to liste to music.

JS: *So there's something in Wales besides sheep?*

GL: Well, I just spent the afternoon on on of the most gorgeous beaches in the mids of one of the most fantastic coastlines i the world, which is about 100 yards fro where I was born.

JS: *How about the Welsh language? Every time I see it written I think you people need t go on* Wheel of Fortune *and buy yourselves some vowels.*

GL: It's called Celtic, and it's one of th oldest Indo-European languages.

JS: *Favorite thing about Boston?*

GL: The sights of the city are just uniquel beautiful. It's a fantastic city visually.

JS: *Who was a better composer—Handel or Haydn?*

GL: [Laughs.] That's impossible. They en joyed such different circumstances. Bot were brilliantly eclectic, fantastically ver satile and wrote in every idiom of their ag although I suspect that Handel was th more proficient performer, so maybe th more complete musician in that sens whereas Haydn was a little more remote.

JS: *What current pop music will H&H be performing 180 years from now—Burt Bacharach? The Beatles?*

GL: You mean what will stand the test o time? Undoubtedly, the Beatles. Elvis. Ob viously, Barry White. [Laughs.]

JS: *Last question: When no one's looking, d you ever play air guitar?*

GL: I don't care if they're looking. I'm great on air guitar.

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fall Arts preview

22 NIGHT SCHOOL

26 FIRST ACTS

30 IN MOTION

32 HIGH ART

The cultural abyss known as summer is officially over, and there's a certain crispness to the air. It's time to brush the sand off your legs, exchange your sunglasses for opera glasses and your bathing suit for a gabardine suit, and feast on fall's bountiful harvest of artistic offerings. The four preview sections that follow are overflowing with recommendations for art exhibitions, classical music performances, theater productions and dance extravaganzas. Whatever your artistic passion, fall is the season to get out and indulge your senses. A cultural cornucopia awaits.

NIGHT school

BOSTON'S CONSERVATORIES OFFER GREAT FREE MUSIC—LOTS OF IT

BY KEITH POWERS

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY
NEC faculty jazz saxophonist Steve Lacy plays at Jordan Hall's Centennial Celebration.

n a list of the things that make Boston such a culturally rich city, classical music is near the top. With one of the greatest orchestras in the world, an international reputation as a center for early music, and a horde of excellent chamber ensembles and soloists that call the city home, music forms the backbone of Boston's cultural life.

So it's no surprise that the city is one of the premier training grounds for young musicians. With three classically oriented conservatories, along with outstanding music programs at many other area universities, the city teems with students carrying those oddly shaped cases. The good news for music lovers is that those schools offer thousands of concerts a year. Although the programming is designed to serve the students, performances are open the public and are often free. If you'd like to hear something other than Jewel or Linkin Park on occasion, there are options any given week.

Start with the **New England Conservatory of Music**, Boston's largest school for classical music, situated around the corner from Symphony Hall on Huntington Avenue. The NEC was founded in 1867 and is the only music school in America designated as a National Historic Landmark. With more than 1,000 faculty and students to draw from, the NEC offers more than 600 events each year. Beginning in October, the school's magnificent Jordan Hall hosts faculty (and friends) chamber recitals the first Monday of the month. It's worth going just for a peek at the venue's ornate decor. The cognoscenti sit upstairs for a good view and impeccable acoustics. Also in October, the NEC celebrates Jordan Hall's centennial with a weekend-long series of concerts, lectures and other musical happenings. (For more details on the upcoming shows mentioned here, see sidebar on page 24.)

Just up the street from the NEC, on the Fenway, the **Boston Conservatory** develops musicians of a different stripe. The Boston Conservatory offers training in theater, dance and music, and is a prime training ground for Broadway types. The major student theater presentations happen in the spring (it takes time to rehearse), but this fall you can still hear free concerts by the Wind Ensemble, conducted by William Drury (Oct. 10 and Dec. 11), and the Conservatory's elite Piano Masters series (Oct. 7 and 28 and Dec. 2), as well as the Funk Project (Sept. 19), a performance featuring the Percussion Ensemble.

Across the river, the **Longy School of Music** is a Cambridge fixture, on the other side of Cambridge Common from Harvard Square. Longy's Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall may not be the most beautiful space in the world, but it's intimate and has solid acoustics (avoid sitting underneath the overhanging balcony, though). Longy also presents hundreds of free events during the year; this school year kicks off with SeptemberFest. Later in the fall, don't miss the Gershwin celebration (Oct. 15), the excellent Longy Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Jeffrey Rink (Oct. 10 and Nov. 7) and the new-music ensemble Longitude (Nov. 11).

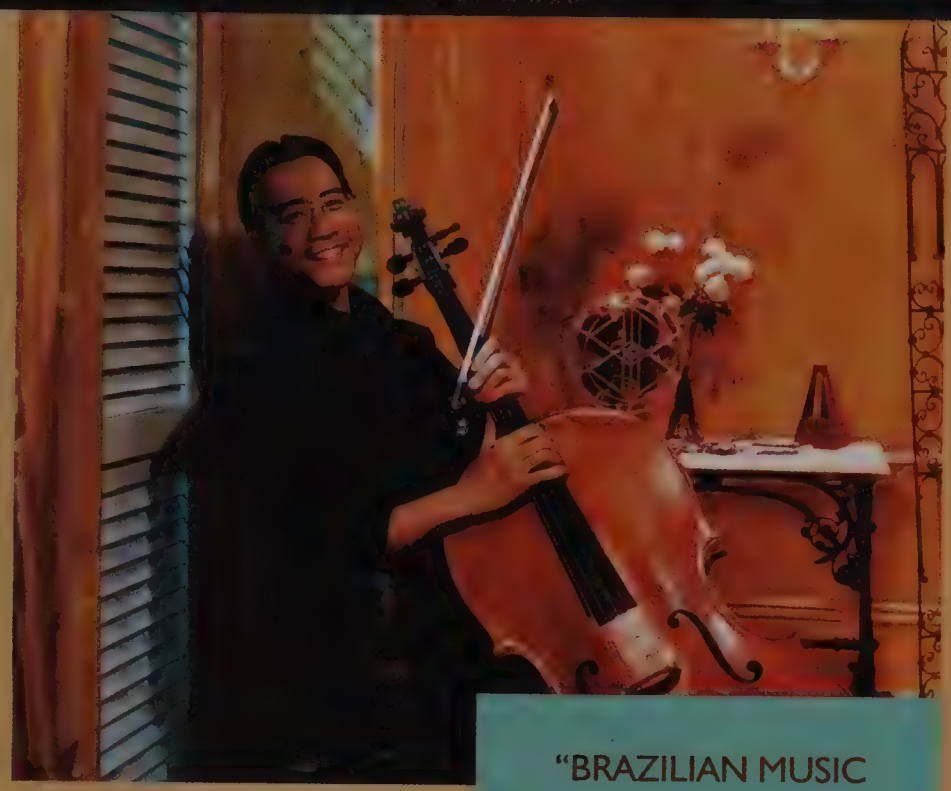
Of course the conservatories excel at music, but many of the area's universities offer high-quality music programs too. **Boston University** has a reputation for developing great singers, and opera fans shouldn't miss a chance to hear the latest phenom from the

BOSTON CONSERVATORY
Bruce Hangen (center) was named director of orchestral activities this past spring.

YO-YO'S WORLD MUSIC

THE CELLIST'S LATEST PROJECT TAKES HIM SOUTH OF THE BORDER

by Keith Powers



"BRAZILIAN MUSIC REACHES HIGH AND LOW. THERE'S A WAY WHERE EVERYBODY CAN PARTICIPATE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE MUSIC IS SOPHISTICATED."

You'd think that mastering the entire solo classical cello repertory would be enough for Yo-Yo Ma. But the 47-year-old musician, who calls Cambridge home when he isn't appearing on some far-away stage, has long been driven by even greater goals.

"Since I was 11, I wanted to learn things," Ma says. "I wanted to understand the world." So for Ma, works like his Appalachian recordings, his collaboration with Asian artists on the Silk Road Project, and his new album, *Obrigado Brazil*, are just natural extensions of that curiosity. "I've always been interested in Brazil," he says. "I had a radio when I was a kid, and I would listen to Brazilian stations late at night. But it's one thing to like something and another to participate. For a long time I didn't even know what questions to ask."

Ma didn't assemble just any group of collaborators for *Obrigado Brazil*. His all-star lineup includes Cuban clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera, percussionist Cyro Baptista, composer Egberto Gismonti and guitarists Sérgio and Odair Assad. Ma's longtime piano accompanist Kathryn Stott also sits in, as does Brazilian vocalist Rosa Passos. D'Rivera, Baptista, the Assads and Stott were among the musicians who joined Ma when he performed music from the disc at Tanglewood in August.

"Paquito I've known for 20 years," Ma says, "but I wasn't ready to work with him until now. And I've worked with the Assad brothers. But Rosa I had never heard before. I was listening to a tape with [producer] Jorge Calandrelli, and when we heard her amazing voice, we knew we had to work with her. So we wrote a letter. A couple days later someone slipped a note under my door in Cambridge—it said she would be glad to participate. It was from her brother-in-law, who lives in Newton. Sometimes you try to find out about the world, and it's essentially next door."

The arrangements on *Obrigado Brazil*, most by Calandrelli, put the cello front and center. But they still maintain that essential Brazilian feel, mixing rhythmic complexity with a strong undercurrent of melancholia—sad music with a groove.

"Brazilian music reaches high and low," Ma says. "There's a way where everybody can participate, but at the same time the music is sophisticated. And still it seems simple—in the same way that Mozart is simple. In some way it's an ideal of mine."

Ma admits he's not a great improviser. "I love to improvise," he says, "but it's the equivalent of singing in the shower." His collaborative partners assist in that area, however. "We help each other," he says. "Trust is the biggest factor in collaboration. You build up mutual respect so that you can take risks. We learn from each other's strengths."

For Ma, musical categories are irrelevant. "I'm not worried about genre definition," he says. "I'm interested in traditions. It's not like I live in this ghetto, and you live in that ghetto, and we should never talk. I like any music that's literate, that's complex enough for our complex world. It's not better or worse, up or down. It's appropriate. That's what I'm gunning for."

Yo-Yo Ma's next Boston performance is Jan. 6 at Symphony Hall, with members of the Silk Road Project.

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WHO LIKE TO
HEAR SOMETHING
OTHER THAN JEWEL
OR LINKIN PARK
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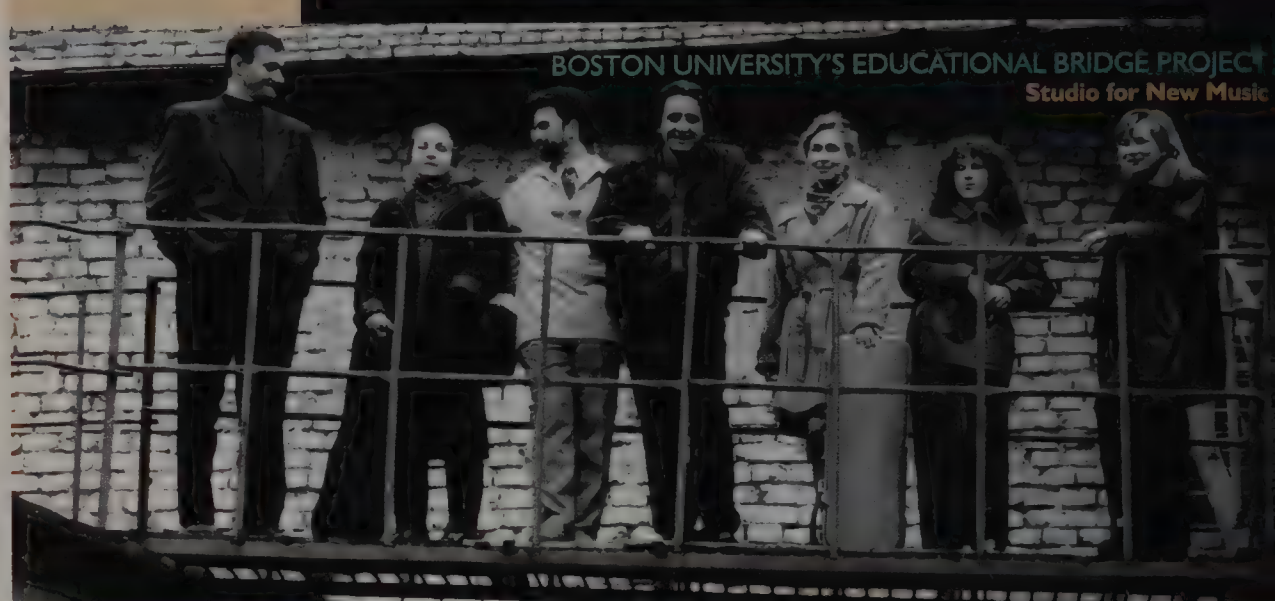
GREAT SCORES

CLASSICAL CONCERTS TO CHECK OUT THIS FALL

by Keith Powers



school's Opera Institute. The full performance schedule for this fall was not available at press time, so check *www.bu.edu/cfa* for details. One event to look for is the Educational Bridge Project, directed by Ludmilla Leibman of BU's music department. This annual program exchanges musicians, critics, curators, filmmakers and the like between BU and two cities in Russia—St. Petersburg and Moscow. The Russians visit in the fall, and the Bostonians travel to Russia in the spring. Each year, the exchange brings about important discussions and presentations about the state of the arts in the United States and Russia. Dozens of concerts, lectures, master classes, film presentations and meetings will take place as part of the program.

Berklee College of Music crosses all genres, but is best known as a jazz and rock institution. Its Berklee Performance Center hosts concerts by many big-name jazz and rock artists, but the school also presents numerous free student and faculty performances. Upcoming free shows include a classical recital by clarinetist Peter Cokkinias Sept. 17 and a performance by the chamber-jazz trio Tre Corda Sept. 22, both at the David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston St., Boston. Call the concert hotline (617-747-8820) or visit www.berklee.edu/events for more information about fall events.

Back on the other side of the Charles, **MIT's music department** and its Media Lab host adventurous concerts each season. Besides MIT's quartet series, you can hear free concerts in the MIT chapel Thursdays at noon. Music ranges from Renaissance to new commissions. Wellesley College also presents lots of quality music events—and scores a big coup this September with an appearance by the early-music vocal ensemble Anonymous 4 on its farewell tour. Did we mention it's free? iB

Longy SeptemberFest

Every fall SeptemberFest brings Boston-area music lovers together again after the summer hiatus. Six concerts this year include a Piano Fest Sept. 13 (including music for piano for 12 hands—curious), a work by local composer Howard Frazin featuring soprano Jayne West Sept. 19, and the festival closer with music of Dvorak, Bill Evans, Charlie Parker and others. *Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956).* www.longy.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 12-14 and 19-21. Free.*

Wellesley College Concert Series

Wellesley presents Anonymous 4, early music's greatest female ensemble, which is touring one final time before retiring. Mark the date: Sept. 21. Piano trio Triple Helix continues its Beethoven cycle Sept. 28, and pianist Judith Gordon explores works by John Harbison, with the composer providing some insights, Oct. 29. *Houghton Memorial Chapel, 106 Central Ave., Wellesley (781-283-2028).* www.wellesley.edu. *MBTA: Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail to Wellesley Square. Sept. 21-Dec. 11. Free.*

Boston Conservatory Piano Masters

The piano faculty at Boston Conservatory, led by Michael Lewin, is second to none around town. Each year some of those faculty, as well as distinguished guests, offer recitals that present a wide variety of music. Highlights: Guest Marc-André Hamelin, who opens the series Oct. 7, and faculty member Jung-Ja Kim Dec. 2. Plus, the concerts are Tuesday evenings—so you know you're free. *Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway, Boston (617-912-9222).* www.bostonconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Oct. 7-April 20. Free.*

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall Centennial Celebration

The NEC celebrates its acclaimed midsize concert hall, which opened in 1903, with a weekend-long series of events. And if you think NEC turns out only classical artists, think again. The jazz faculty ranks with the finest in the world. A concert on Friday evening features four MacArthur Fellows: Faculty members Ran Blake, Steve Lacy and George Russell and NEC alumnus Cecil Taylor are all recipients of the "genius grants." Another MacArthur Fellow, Gunther Schuller, leads the NEC student orchestra Saturday evening. Sunday festivities include children's activities, such as an "instrument petting zoo" that lets kids investigate instruments, plus choral, ragtime and philharmonic concerts. *Jordan Hall, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-585-1122).* www.newengland conservatory. edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Oct. 24-26. Free. (Passes, available to the public, are required for some performances.)*

Boston University's Educational Bridge Project

This exchange of musicians and intelligentsia between Boston University and St. Petersburg and Moscow takes place annually. In the fall, the Russians come to BU; in the spring, BU faculty and students travel to Russia. Come to the Boston events—Russia is too far. Highlights: American and Russian Singers collaborative concert (Nov. 1), the Studio for New Music's *50 Years After Stalin's Death: The History of Russia in Sounds* (Nov. 16) and Composer's Workshop (Nov. 18). *Boston University College of Fine Arts Concert Hall, 855 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-3349).* www.bu.edu. *MBTA: B Green Line to BU West. Oct. 27-Nov. 18. Free.*

MIT Guest Artist Series

The unheralded but top-notch MIT music department has hosted a string quartet series that has brought nearly all the great foursomes to the area over the years. This fall MIT hosts the first Boston-area appearance of the Zehetmair String Quartet, acclaimed for its recordings of contemporary music. *Kresge Auditorium, 84 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-2826).* www.mit.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Nov. 22. Free.*

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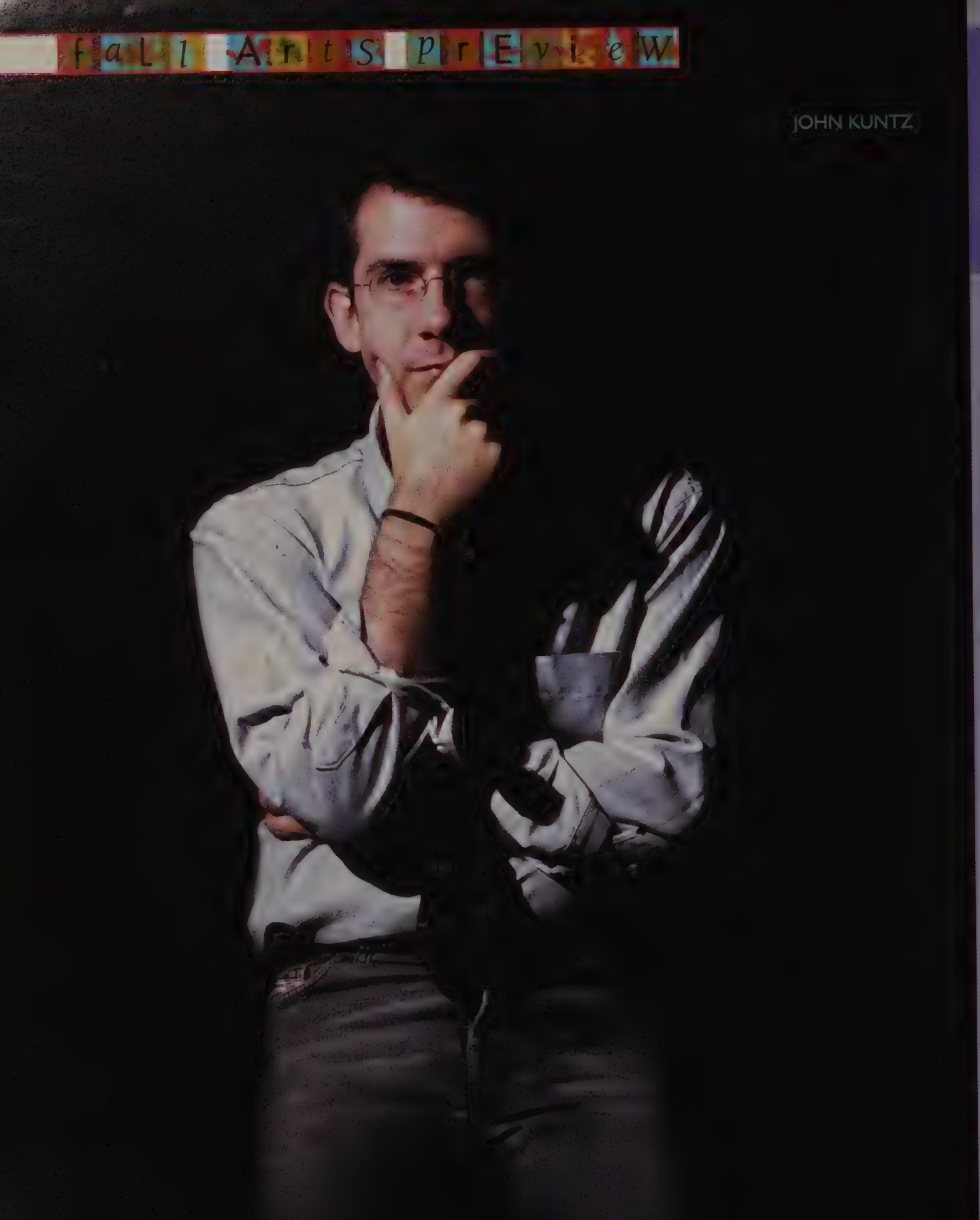


MORE THEATER COMPANIES ARE TAKING A GAMBLE ON NEW TALENT IN THEIR FALL LINEUPS

first ACTS

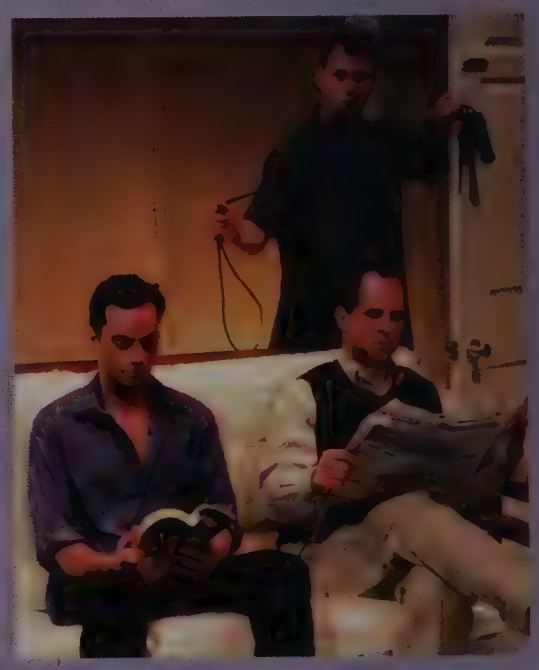
BY LIZA WEISSTUCH

Playwright and actor John Kuntz is a busy man these days. You might find him at home, busily reworking a draft of his newest play or onstage in *Shear Madness*, which he's appeared in sporadically for three years. Kuntz, who's played roles in everything from Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's outdoor summer productions on the Common to mainstage shows at the Huntington Theatre, is now known as much for the madcap comic romps that he writes as for the characters he brings to life on stage. In fact, he's racked up such an inventory of scripts—from last year's *Jump/Rope*, which was produced by one of Boston's newest theater companies, Next Stages, to *Starfuckers*, which won "best solo show" at the New York International Fringe Festival in 2002—that Boston Theatre Works commissioned him to write a brand new holiday play for this season.

Kuntz's newest play, whose working title is *My Life with the Kringle Cult*, is one of many to make its debut in Boston in recent years. In the 2002-03 season alone, Boston theater companies workshopped or produced nearly 30 brand-new works. The Huntington Theatre Company and the American Repertory Theatre, for example, both peppered last season's schedule of stalwarts and classics with world premieres. And a scan of this fall's offerings proves that despite the financial risks of producing a show without the lure of a familiar title or playwright—a David Mamet or Neil LaBute—more and more companies are hitching their wagons to rising stars and integrating new plays into their lineups.

"Boston is not going to become a theater destination until people start producing new plays here," says Kuntz. "The problem is we're still thought of as being in the shadows of big theater towns. We have to start growing our own plays here and having them go to New York rather than the other way around."

The robust economy of the 1990s fed the growth of several theater companies in Boston, many of which now have the financial means to secure rights to the plays that cause a stir off-Broadway. But the increased number of bidders vying for the same prime property has led artistic leaders to look elsewhere and to seek treasures closer to home. Producing new plays and showcasing homegrown writers are both crucial to putting Boston on the national theatrical radar screen, giving the city a reputation for developing plays that are exported for production in other major cities. With the Boston Center for the Arts gearing up to open its



NEXT STAGES
Jump/Rope

new theater complex next fall, new works are also critical to feeding local audiences. The BCA's new performance spaces will serve as the Huntington Theatre Company's second stage and provide more stage time for the many companies that use the BCA's stages. That means increased opportunity for companies to spotlight local talent in other departments—from actors to directors to designers—which can only mean a boon to the theater community in general.

Any talk of producing new works in Boston must start with the companies that have been doing it all along. The **Boston Playwrights' Theatre** is a hotbed of fresh voices where new material has been produced under the auspices of Boston University since 1981. BPT, in fact, runs the playwriting component of the graduate creative writing program at BU. It not only produces as many as three plays each fall by alumni of the program but also offers space to other companies during periods between productions. There is just one stipulation: The company must present a new work—or at least a Boston premiere. Jake Strautmann, managing director, gauges the proliferation of new works by how many requests BPT receives from professional and nonprofit companies to stage new works.

"Kate [Snodgrass] likes to make the point that you can't do Shakespeare and Chekhov forever," Strautmann says of BPT's artistic director. "As many new ways as there are to stage these plays, we need to tell our own stories. As far as the future of Boston theater, if it is to continue to thrive, it's going to need new plays. That's where the excitement is."

The BPT's three debut plays for the Fall 2003 season form a triad of sorts, as each is based on an episode in American history. Bill Lattanzi, founder of the Boston Theater Marathon, the BPT's annual 10-hour carnival of 10-minute plays, launches the season with *Pictures of Patty Hearst*, which dramatizes the many mysteries surrounding the heiress. Then Zayd Dohrn travels back to 1880s Chicago in *Haymarket*. Based on the lives of anarchist activists Lucy and Albert Parsons, the play is set during Albert's trial for participating in an act of terror at a labor demonstration. Russell Lees, whose *Nixon's Nixon* was part of the Huntington's season in 2002, wraps up the season with *Monticel'*, an account of Thomas Jefferson's tryst with Sally Hemmings and her brother's interference in the affair.

Though rooted in history, the plays have an uncanny resonance with present-day events. "I've never written a political play [before *Haymarket*], but in the last three years, politics has been closer to our daily lives, so I started thinking about how to address that," says Dohrn. "It wouldn't work to do it head-on in 2003. We don't have enough distance on it to understand it in a play. *Haymarket* centers on the first major act of terrorism on American soil. I thought it would be interesting to consider terrorism 120 years ago and how society reacts, all the fear and lashing out and anger that goes along with it."

By showcasing new plays, and the playwrights who pen them, BPT offers a peek at who may emerge as the next big thing. A production here, says Strautmann, "is an opportunity to get their name out there. The best possible setup is that an alumni's plays will get noticed by the theater community here—and hopefully by a theater community elsewhere." That can happen if a production goes on to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, an annual event in Washington, D.C., where BU alum Ronan Noone's *The Lepers of Baile Baste* won the 2002 student playwriting award after its BPT student production in 2001. Or perhaps a staged reading of a student's play will pique the interest of an area artistic director.

"Boston has long been an echo chamber of what's happening somewhere else. Maybe we're tired of that," says Carmel O'Reilly, artistic director of **Súgán Theatre Company**, a resident company of the BCA. "Theater is, by nature, risky anyway, so why not take that risk to do something new?" O'Reilly asks. "Now that we've established credibility and developed an audience, we're more secure, and there's validation to our feeling that we can take that risk."

Since its founding in 1992, Súgán's mission has been to produce contemporary works from or related to Ireland. Naturally, O'Reilly has scouted for talent in the Emerald Isle, where young writers who have yet to be heard in the United States are upholding the rich legacy of Irish drama.

"Our journey might be different from other theater companies in that most writers aren't American and not known here. We've probably put some Irish writers on the map here because it's the first chance for audiences to see their work," O'Reilly says. Súgán's production of Tom Murphy's *Bailegangaire*, for example, was deemed "best of 2002" by several Boston critics. "He had never been done here, but he's giant in Ireland," says O'Reilly. "That gave us the strength to say, 'If we can make good judgment calls about this then perhaps [we can] take a leap of faith to take on a completely new script.'"

That new script was Jon Lipsky's *Molly Maguire* in 2002. Súgán then gave Noone's *Lepers* its professional premiere and will do the same this February with the third installment of Noone's Ireland-based Baile trilogy, *The Gigolo Confessions of Baile Breag*. (The middle installment, *The Blowin' of Baile Gall*, premiered at the BPT this past spring.)

The **New Repertory Theatre**, a regional theater accustomed to working with budding playwrights, takes the leap this year with a world premiere of *A Girl's War*, by BU alum Joyce Van Dyke. The story follows a New York model who returns to her Armenian hometown when her brother is killed in the country's ethnic conflicts; she begins an affair with his friend, a soldier with politically ambiguous leanings. Producing artistic director Rick Lombardo says the play's resonance is what prompted him to produce it.

"If you look around the world at burning conflicts, you see people of different ethnicities and faiths each claiming pieces of earth," Lombardo says. "It's the essential international issue of the 21st century. I think it's important that theater deal with it in interesting ways and ask questions."

Boston Theatre Works spotlights new talent in Unbound, an annual spring festival of new plays in which actors perform staged readings of five to six works, selected from submissions from playwrights nationwide. The event is an opportunity for a director and playwright to work together on a script with the aim of prepping it for a future production on BTW's stage or elsewhere. Last season's *Veronika Vavoom, Volcanologist* came from such a script. Another show BTW workshopped, Emily Mann's *Meshugah*, which was staged in 2002, thrived beyond Boston. A New York production by Naked Angels Theater Company starred Ned Eisenberg, who originated the role here. In February, BTW

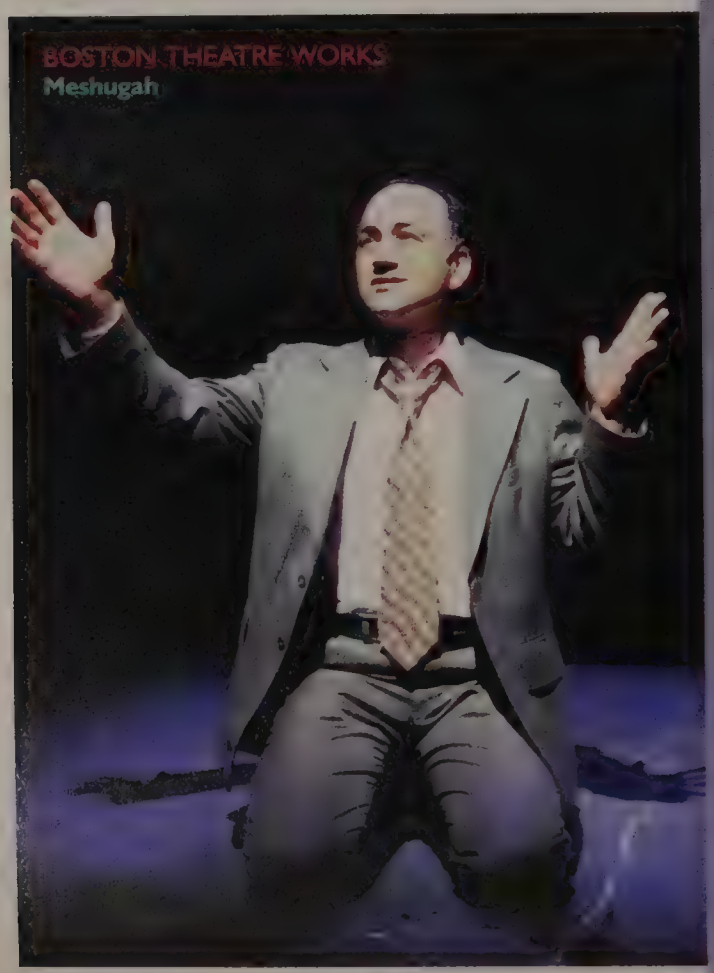
premieres Steven Bogart's *Conspiracy of Memory*, another play that premiered at Unbound, about a Holocaust survivor suffering from Alzheimer's.

BTW has also made a break from its usual search methods. This fall marks the first time that artistic director Jason Southerland has commissioned a work: John Kuntz's holiday play. Though some could point out that Kuntz is already well established, the move still reflects a mission that took shape while Southerland worked at Playwrights Horizons, a leading theater for developing new work. "I knew that there was a wealth of playwrights out there who aren't being seen. That's why it was important to start a company that gives them exposure," Southerland says.

Another company launched more recently with a similar focus is **Next Stages**, the brainchild of Justin Waldman, assistant to the Huntington's artistic director, Nicholas Martin. To Waldman, producing new plays is an opportunity "for audiences to say 'I saw this play when.' I firmly believe these writers are going to be the next household names."

Waldman discovers many of those names through his work at the **Huntington Theatre Company**, which, with the new theaters slated to open at the BCA next fall, has been revving up its new-play initiatives. Though *The Paris Letter*, a play commissioned from Jon Robin Baitz, whose works are produced all over the country, has been postponed this season, the company is preparing for the opening of the new theater spaces, which will be dedicated primarily to new works. The effort has recently begun with the commissioning of four local scribes: Kuntz, Noone, Melinda Lopez and Sinan Unel.

"They're commissioned to become part of artistic fabric of the Huntington," says Ilana Brownstein, the theater's literary manager. "Rather than commission specific plays as we've done in the past, we're commissioning their participation in a process. Unlike most commissions at most theaters, this gives us chance to build relationships with them and provide them with artistic and dramaturgical support as they pursue their work. By investing in local writers, we're strengthening the arts scene in Boston instead of importing it from other cities." iB



IN THE WINGS

FALL'S THEATER LINEUP MIXES NEW OFFERINGS WITH THE TRIED-AND-TRUE

Out on the Edge Festival

The Theater Offensive presents its 12th annual banquet of performances, staged readings and artist workshops showcasing who's who and who's next in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender theater. The event assembles performers and playwrights from across the country with a special emphasis on works by artists of color. Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.thetheateroffensive.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Through Sept. 26. $18–$27.

Ain't Misbehavin'

This tribute to stride pianist extraordinaire and jazz pioneer Fats Waller is a musical revue set in the Harlem Renaissance and covers rhythmic hits like "Honeysuckle Rose" and others from Waller's catalog of more than 450 songs. The production honors the show's 25th anniversary. Huntington Theatre Company, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. Sept. 12–Oct. 19. $14–$69.

Lady with a Lapdog

The eminent Russian director Kama Ginkas has racked up honors throughout Russia and Europe with his clever adaptations and stagings of Chekhov's famed short stories. His visit to the ART marks his first time working with American actors. In this tale of a summer fling turned into a passionate affair, characters interact with the audience and blend burlesque and tragedy to reveal their complex inner lives. American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 13–Oct. 11. $35–$69.

A Girl's War

An Armenian fashion model who is successful in America returns home where family affairs and personal identities take on overwhelming proportions in the context of the region's brutal ethnic clashes. This is the world premiere of area playwright Joyce Van Dyke's provocative work. New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Sept. 17–Oct.19. $27–$45.

A Man of No Importance

It's no surprise that the first joint effort between Súgán Theatre Company, purveyors of Irish works, and musical specialist SpeakEasy Stage Company is the area premiere of this award-winning off-Broadway musical by Lynn Ahrens (lyrics), Stephen Flaherty (music) and Terrence McNally (book). Based on the 1994 film with Albert Finney, it's about a Dublin bus driver who wants to stage Oscar Wilde's *Salome* and the hullabaloo his plan sets off with church officials. Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.sugan.org or www.speakeasystage.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Oct. 3–Nov. 9, $30–$35.

Hairspray

The Broadway hit that swept the Tony Awards last year sockhops to town on a Broadway in Boston bill. Based on John Waters' cult film classic, with Bruce Vilanch in the role that won awards for Harvey Fierstein, the show flashes back to 1962 for big boppers, big hair and the obsessions of a teenage girl with a big heart. Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 7–Nov. 1. $30-$97.

Pictures of Patty Hearst

The co-founder of the Boston Theater Marathon, Bill Lattanzi, shows his long-form capabilities. His new dramatization of the life of the kidnapped heiress/convict/model explores what happened around the media circus of 1974. This play has been selected to compete in the 2004 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Oct. 9–19. $5–$15.

Haymarket

Zayd Dohrn, a graduate of BU's creative writing program, sets his historical play about free speech and rebellion in 1880s Chicago. A terrorist act at a labor demonstration leads to the trial of Albert Parsons and to full-throttle organizing and demonstrating by Parsons' wife, Lucy. Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Oct. 30-Nov. 16. $10-$20.

The Silent Movie Play

Rough & Tumble Theatre, the area's chief source for "cutting-edge physical theater," reprises its first collectively developed, original show, about the life of a lowly shop boy. Attending to devious villains, crotchety bosses and lovely maidens is just part of a day's work, and it all plays out to live piano accompaniment. Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.rough-and-tumble.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Oct. 31–Nov. 22. $10–$12.

Chicago

Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly prove with hip-swinging certainty that crime does pay. The 1975 musical enjoys a sizzling renaissance following last year's film version. Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.wangcenter.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 4–9. $28–$75.

As You Like It

The Huntington Theatre Company teams up with Broadway in Boston to import Sir Peter Hall and his company in the Theatre Royal Bath's production of Shakespeare's shimmering comedy of roguish forest dwellers, cross-dressing schemers and lovesick fools. Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St., Boston, (617-931-2787). www.huntingtontheatre.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 11–Dec. 21. $25-$67.

My Life with the Kringle Cult

Actor/playwright John Kuntz, local master of the madcap, unveils his tale of Christmas outlandishness. (Note that this is a working title and it may change.) It's a comic confection involving a cult of fanatic toy makers, their fraudulent leader, an undercover reporter and a giant ball of bellybutton lint. Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.bostontheatreworks.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Nov. 28–Dec. 13. $20-$25.

Monticel'

Russell Lees, a Boston-area playwright, follows his *Nixon's Nixon*, a satire of the president on the eve of his resignation, with another political portrait. This one traces Thomas Jefferson's business and pleasure with his slave and mistress, Sally Hemmings. Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri.–Sat. 8 pm; Sun. 2 pm. Dec. 4–21. $10–$20.

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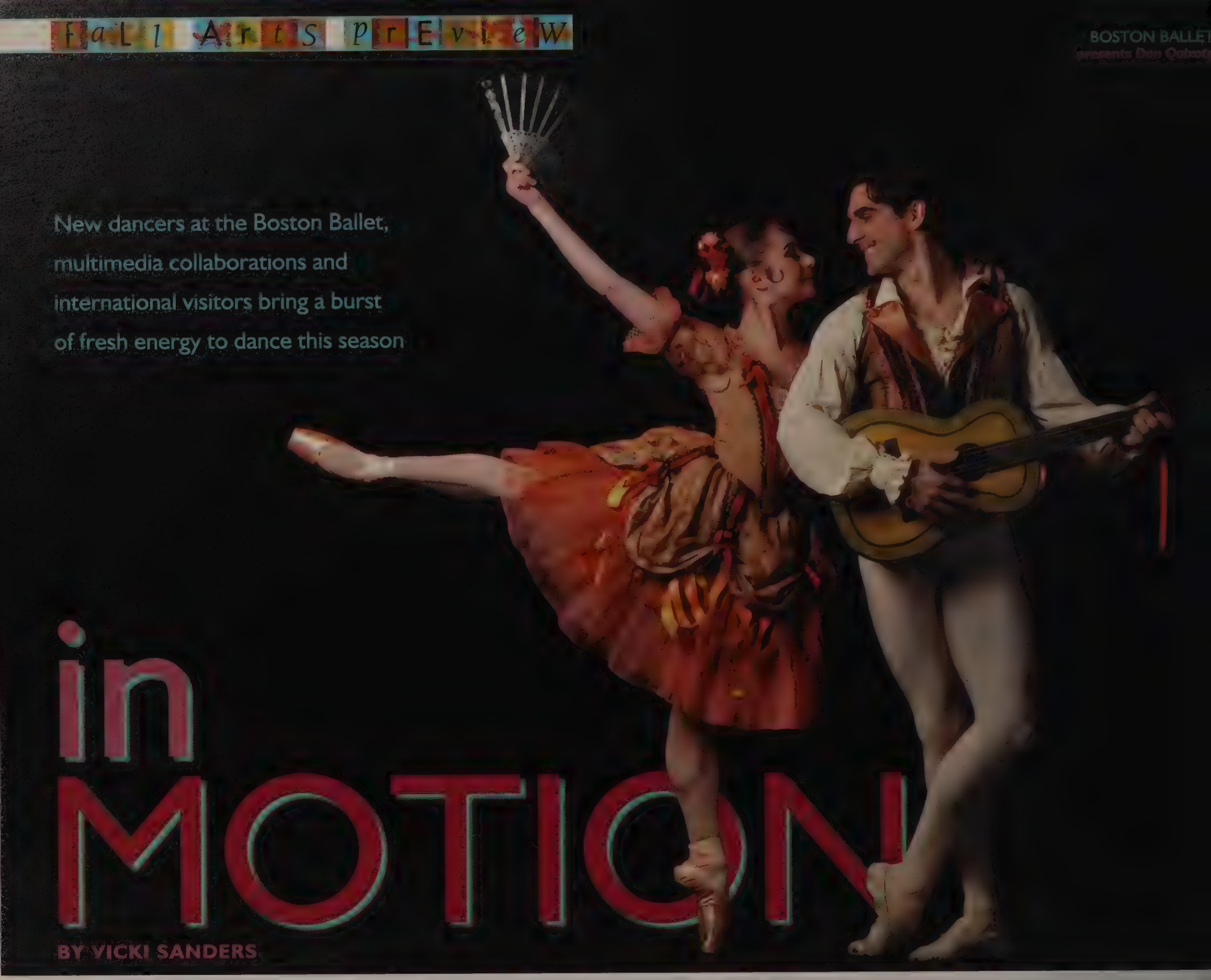


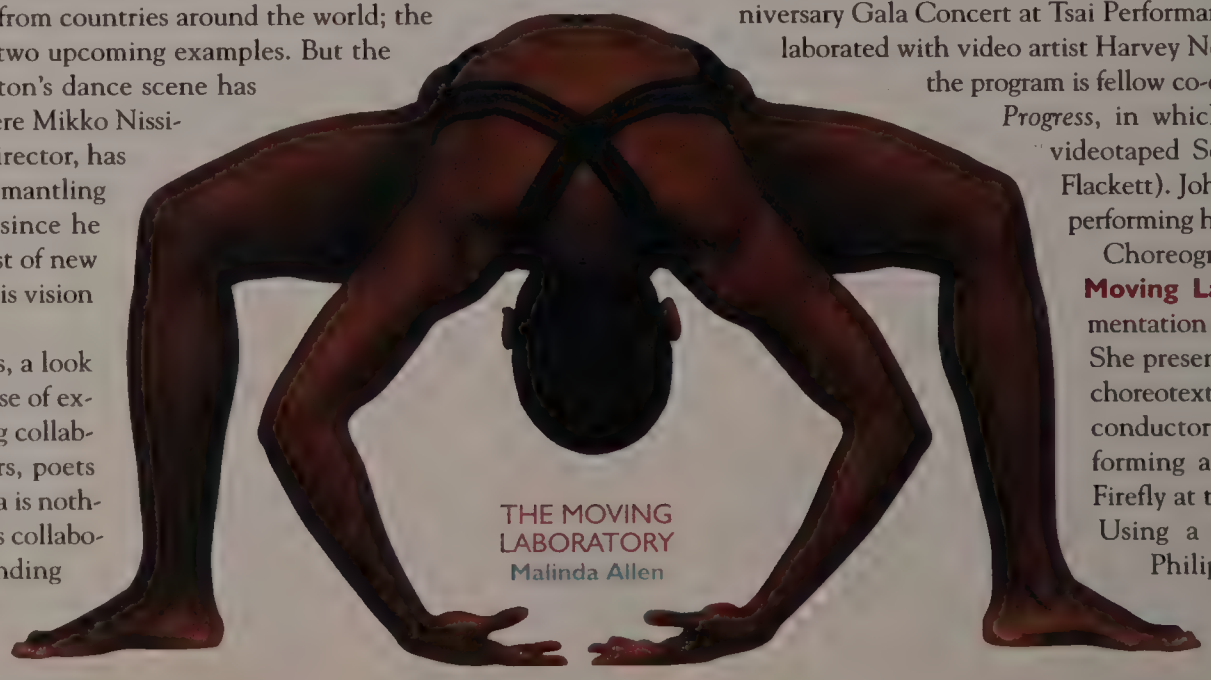
New dancers at the Boston Ballet, multimedia collaborations and international visitors bring a burst of fresh energy to dance this season

in MOTION

BY VICKI SANDERS

hanges have been afoot in the Boston dance scene for some time now, and the fall season is a prime time to find out where the trends are heading. Some of the shifts have been rather subtle. In the modern-dance arena, for instance, multimedia collaborations have become increasingly popular. On another front, local venues have been providing a widening array of exotic offerings from countries around the world; the Kirov Ballet and Noche Flamenca are two upcoming examples. But the most noticeable transformation in Boston's dance scene has been occurring at the Boston Ballet, where Mikko Nissinen, in his second full year as artistic director, has made some radical moves, essentially dismantling the troupe (13 dancers have departed since he came on). This season, armed with a host of new dancers, Nissinen will begin to show us his vision of the company's future.

For Boston's smaller dance companies, a look at the autumn lineup shows a healthy dose of experimentation and innovation, including collaborations with the likes of videographers, poets and visual artists. The mixing up of media is nothing new, of course—dance by its nature is collaborative—but some choreographers are finding that crossing such boundaries is a way to lure new, often younger audiences.



Collaboration, says Micki Taylor-Pinney, artistic co-director of the **Dance Collectiv of Boston**, "is a way to target a larger market, bring together different genres, generat some excitement and open dance to new audiences." For her *Forest to Trees*, a piece pr miering Sept. 19 and 20 at Dangling by a Thread, the collective's 30th An niversary Gala Concert at Tsai Performance Center, Taylor-Pinney co laborated with video artist Harvey Nosowitz and a jazz trio. Also o the program is fellow co-director Dawn Kramer's *Walk Progress*, in which Kramer dances live with videotaped Sean Curran (shot by Anton Flackett). John Clark accompanies the pie performing his jazzy bass score.

Choreographer Malinda Allen of th **Moving Laboratory** is pushing exper mentation in a slightly different directio She presents her *In Telling, Tell Apart,* choreotext for eight dancer/vocalists and conductor" at a new Thursday night pe forming arts series in Arlington call Firefly at the Regent Theatre on Oct. 1 Using a poem by Marlene Nourbe Philip as a basis for the piece, All assigns each dancer a word a a corresponding movemen

As conductor, she directs their expanding series of looped utterances and movement phrases until all the elements coalesce into an audiovisual poem and all the pieces find unison in the ending line, "...in whose language am I, if not in yours, beautiful?"

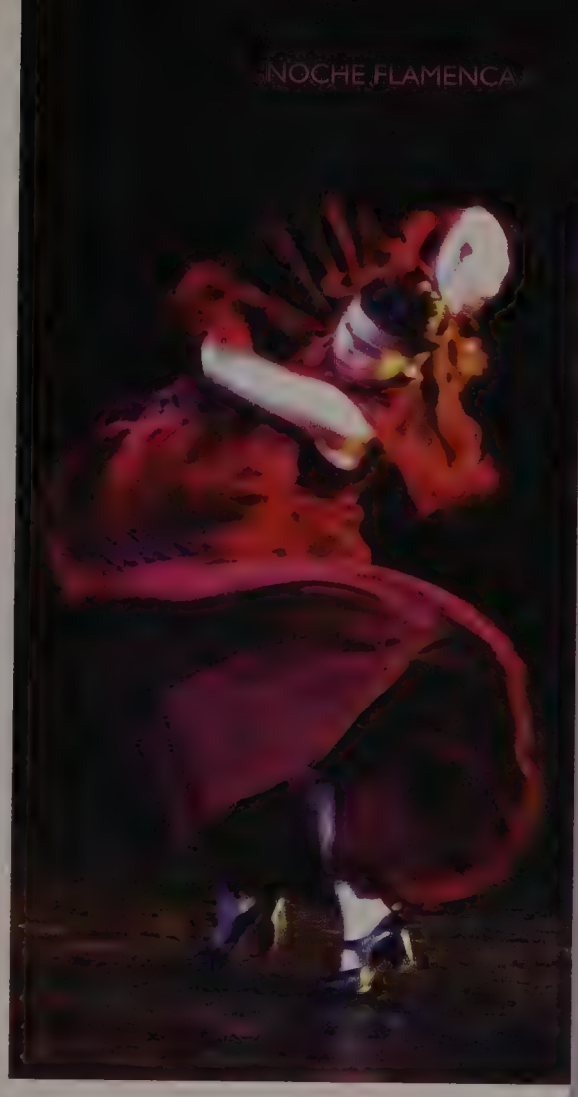
Arts audiences have developed a greater appetite in recent years for international performers of every ilk, and this trend holds true for dance performance as well. Since the demise of Dance Umbrella several seasons ago, **World Music** has done its part to bring culturally diverse dance programming to Boston with its Crash Arts series. According to World Music's Susan Weiler, ethnic dance can open doors to a broader appreciation of all types of dance and may be a factor in the growing diversification of Boston's dance audiences. "We're hoping that international performers also bring new audiences to modern dance," she says. "Dance is so expressive. If somebody enjoys flamenco, maybe they'll experiment with something different next time." This fall, World Music's offerings include a return engagement by Spain's Noche Flamenca Oct. 2-4.

The joint effort by the **FleetBoston Celebrity Series** and the Wang Center for the Performing Arts to bring the Kirov Ballet to Boston Nov. 13-16 is an important milestone in Boston arts. It marks a renewed commitment to putting the city back on the itinerary of the top international touring companies, despite the high cost of bringing them here. "It's of great value to the community to have the Kirov, to see this extremely high level of dancing," says Martha H. Jones, president and executive director of the Celebrity Series. "Why should audiences have to go to New York? Why shouldn't Boston be able to have the gifted Kirov? It raises the standard for everybody."

Including the **Boston Ballet**. The company's upcoming 40th anniversary season is both a look back into history and a look forward, Nissinen says, but next year's focus will be on "forward, forward, forward."

This fall, the company remembers its past with a staging of Rudolph Nureyev's production of *Don Quixote* (Oct. 16-19 and Oct. 30-Nov. 2), complete with refurbished sets and costumes. Nissinen's touch can be seen in his selection of French dance artist Aleth Francillon to stage the production, a choice that reinforces his intention to expand European influences in Boston Ballet's programming. Another mission, Nissinen says, is to move away from the company's academic classical repertory and toward a more neoclassical one. To that end, he's presenting (Oct. 23-26) George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes* and *Mozartiana* and a dance called *The Grey Area*, an award-winning contemporary work by English dancer and choreographer David Dawson.

Both programs are an opportunity to catch Nissinen's team of new dancers. Of audience members who've followed the company's veterans for years and will miss them, Nissinen says, "they will get to fall in love again in the same right with new people." With 25 new faces, there will be a lot to love. IB



IN STEP

SAMPLER OF FALL'S BEST DANCE PERFORMANCES

by Vicki Sanders

Dangling by a Thread

Revivals, surprise appearances and premieres (including Micki Taylor-Pinney's *Forest to Trees* and Dawn Kramer's *Walk in Progress*) mark Dance Collective's 30th-anniversary concert. *Tsai Performance Center at Boston University, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-8725).* http://dancecollective.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Boston University East. Sept. 19 and 20. $15–$30.*

Noche Flamenca

World Music presents one of Spain's leading troupes, bringing the raw power of flamenco to the stage. *Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-876-4275).* www.worldmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 2–4. $25-$45.*

Undercurrents

The intimate surroundings and cabaret-style seating make the Sanctuary Theatre in Harvard Square a ballet venue unlike any other in town. It's a rush to be so close to the dancers that you can practically touch them. Such is the setting for the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's program in which the company explores "a new level of abstraction" with *Courtly Lovers*, a revival of *The Last Circus* and a premiere of a new work by Mateo. *Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cambridge (617-354-7467).* www.ballettheatre.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. Oct. 3–26. $28.*

Dance Showcase

A virtual smorgasbord of Boston talent, this annual choreographic rumble is a great way to see a variety of dance styles in a single program. It features Boston University faculty and alumni, including five who now dance professionally. *Sargent Dance Studio/Theatre, 1 University Road, Boston (617-353-1597).* www.bu.edu. *MBTA: Green B Line to Boston University East. Oct. 4 and 5. $15.*

In Telling, Tell Apart

Malinda Allen presents her critically acclaimed work based on poet Marlene Nourbese Philip's poem "Meditations on the Declensions of Beauty by the Girl with the Flying Cheekbones." If that title isn't enough to get you to the new Firefly at the Regent series, nothing is. *Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington (617-592-5980).* www.fireflyatnight.com. *MBTA: 77 bus from Harvard Square, 80 bus from Lechmere. Oct. 16, 8 pm. $16.*

Boston Ballet

Classical and neoclassical dance meet in a season that celebrates the 40-year-old company's past and offers a glimpse of its future. *Don Quixote*, Oct. 16–19 and Oct. 30–Nov. 2. George Balanchine's *Stars and Stripes* and *Mozartiana* and David Dawson's *The Grey Area*, Oct. 23–26. *Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400).* www. bostonballet.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. $38–$95.*

Facing Mekka

Rennie Harris, the king of hip-hop choreography, combines 17 dancers, three vocalists, three DJs, live percussion and collage projections in *Facing Mekka*. This new work traces the African lineage of hip-hop, fusing break, freestyle club, Aboriginal, ceremonial African and Brazilian capoeira dance. *Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-876-4275).* www.worldmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 17–19. $25–$45.*

Kirov Ballet

Quite simply, Kirov is one of the world's finest dance companies and the standard-bearer of the classical form. During its Boston visit, it will present three works by the legendary Russian choreographer Michel Fokine, who was noted for bringing greater naturalism to the form. The company performs *Schéhérazade*, *Chopiniana* and *Firebird*. *Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400).* www.celebrityseries.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 13–16. $45–$90.*

Missa Brevis, plus Two Premieres

The José Limón–trained Jennifer Scanlon revives her mentor's 1958 classic, *Missa Brevis*, a rarely performed majestic work for 21 dancers. Set in a bombed-out church in Poland during World War II, the ballet celebrates the human spirit's capacity to transcend adversity. On a program with premieres by former Boston Ballet dancer Laszlo Berdo and modern dancers Diane Arvanites-Noya and Tommy Neblett. *The Boston Conservatory Theatre, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (617-912-9222).* www. bostonconservatory.edu. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Nov 13–16. $5–$16.*

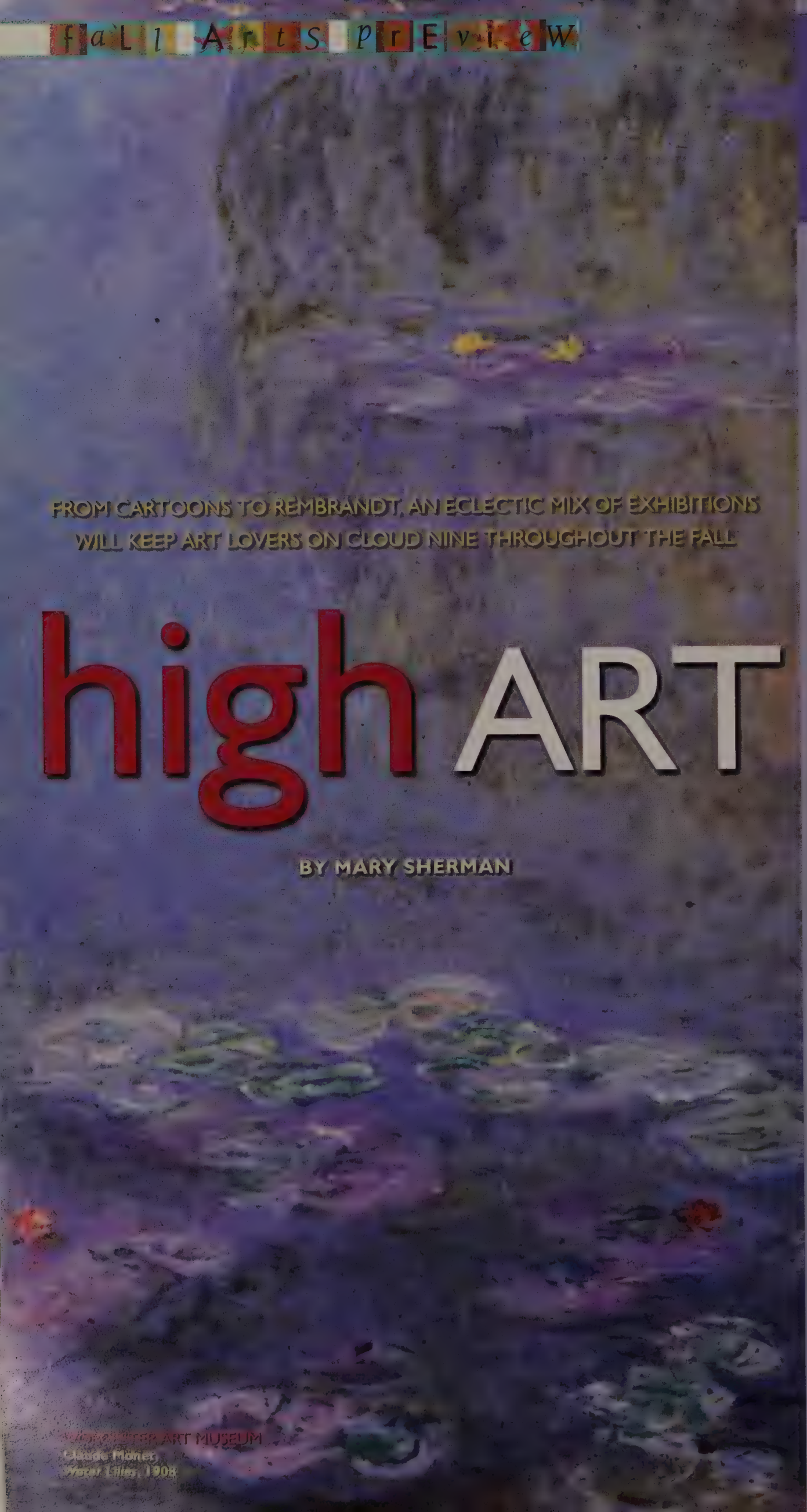
Caitlin Corbett Dance Company

The choreographer known for her quirky explorations of form and structure presents two premieres. *Cowboy, Red* is a quartet set to a backdrop of old films; the "visual score" choreographs the movement in the way that a musical score would in a traditional ballet. *No Rain* propels nine women in space to the wildly romantic music of a Mexican string ensemble. *Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood Medical Area. Dec. 13–14. $15.*

FROM CARTOONS TO REMBRANDT, AN ECLECTIC MIX OF EXHIBITIONS WILL KEEP ART LOVERS ON CLOUD NINE THROUGHOUT THE FALL

high ART

BY MARY SHERMAN



For the past two seasons, the Boston visual arts scene has en-
joyed a swell of attention and activity: Brandeis University's
Rose Art Museum unveiled a new hangar-size space for con-
temporary art; the Museum of Fine Arts announced a majo
expansion project; the Institute of Contemporary Art unveile
plans for a new museum on the Boston waterfront; and th
Peabody Essex Museum opened an impressive new wing tha
includes a 200-year-old house transported from China and re
assembled—timber by timber—within the museum.

Boston's arts scene also caught the eye of a number of out
side institutions that lured away some of the area's brightes
stars. The Harvard University Art Museums lost one of thi
country's most brilliant directors, James Cuno, to London'
Courtauld Institute Galleries. New York's Frick Collectio
snapped up the MFA's curator of European decorative arts an
sculpture, Anne Poulet, to serve as its director; and the Whit
ney Museum of American Art in New York just announce
that the talented director of the Addison Gallery of America
Art, Adam Weinberg, will become its new director.

Such a flurry of activity can't last forever, of course. But thi
season's exhibition lineup may keep us in a state of bliss fo
some time.

The Institute of Contemporary Art jump-starts the sea
son with a bang: *Splat, Boom, Pow! The Influence of Cartoons i
Contemporary Art*. From Sept. 17 through Jan. 4, 2004, the ex
hibition examines the high art craze for all things cartoon
from the pop art movement of the 1960s to Takashi Mu
rakami's infatuation with Japanese comic books.

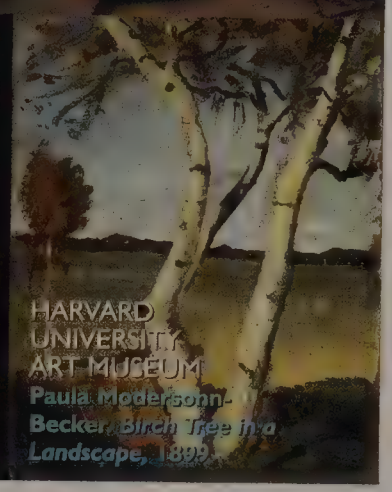
A similar tendency runs through the work of Andover na
tive Pat Keck, whose figurative sculptures are on view at th
DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park from Sept. 13 t
Jan. 18. Although more inspired by marionettes and automa
tons, the works play on our alternating attraction to and fear
humanoid figures, hovering between creepy kitsch and un
nerving psychological tableaux.

For those who prefer their art a bit more calming, from Oct
ber 8 to January 11, the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museu**
will be presenting *Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banke
The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti*. Bringing together a painting
Raphael and sculptures by Cellini—including Cellini's bron
bust of the better-known collector Cosimo de'Medici and a
other of Altoviti—the show will examine the fascinating ar
complex relationship between artist and patron.

Also, the **Worcester Art Museum** offers a variation on th
ever popular impressionist theme with *Paths to Impressionis
French and American Landscape Painting*. Just in time for fall f
liage, the show opens Oct. 5 and runs through next June. Wi
42 paintings by artists such as Monet, Corot and Pissarro,
chronicles the evolution of landscape painting from the Barbizo
school's unsentimental look at nature to the impressionists' e
ploration of light.

Meanwhile, the **Museum of Fine Arts** is trading in its fo
mer diet of impressionist shows to focus on another of
strengths, Rembrandt prints. Co-organized with the Art Ins
tute of Chicago, *Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsma
Etcher* premieres at the MFA Oct. 26 and runs through Jan. 1
Including more than 200 works from every period of Re
brandt's career, the show will be the first American exhibiti
in decades focusing on Rembrandt's prints in relation to
paintings and drawings.

Harvard University's **Busch-Reisinger Museum** is al
drawing on its strengths. To celebrate its 100th anniversa
the museum is presenting *Before Expressionism: Art in Ge
many circa 1903*, Oct. 24 through Feb. 15. With its focus
the art of German-speaking countries, the Busch-Reising
has a vast collection of works from late medieval art
through the most comprehensive array of multiples in t
world by postwar artist Joseph Beuys. (Multiples are wo
that are reproducible, rather than one-of-a-kind, and Be
considered the form crucial to his work.) This show focu
on a lesser-known era in German art, although it includ
works by such popular artists as Emil Nolde and Paul Klee



The Busch-Reisinger also has a virtual show at *www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/sites/eoed/history.html*. Although it can be viewed only online, this interactive look at the legendary Bauhaus art and design school, through film clips, archives, furniture, architecture and art works, is a must-see for anyone interested in either modern art or design.

Meanwhile, the **Peabody Essex Museum** continues to pursue its global view of art by drawing on its renowned collection of Native American works to create a major show, *Uncommon Legacies*, running Sept. 19 through Dec. 3. Including more than 100 pieces from a number of artistic cultures, the exhibition aims to reveal the majestic beauty of one of this country's most important collections of early Native American art.

For those hungering for more contemporary work, the **Rose Art Museum** is the venue to hit. The museum kicks off its season with the first exhibition by new curator Raphaela Platow, *Painting*^{4}, opening Sept. 11 and running through Dec. 7. Instead of reinforcing easel painting's status quo, *Painting*^{4}, finds ways to reinvent it. The exhibition's four artists take painting beyond the confines of the flat picture plane and expand it out into world—literally. Ingrid Calame makes stencils of found patterns (such as those made by stains) and transfers the images directly to the exhibition space, where the walls become the background. Michael Lin's paintings spread across floors that visitors can sit on; Jimmy O'Neal uses reactive paint to include the images of viewers in the work; and Katharina Grosse paints diaphanous films of intense colors that extend from walls to ceilings, blurring the boundary between the two and transforming the space.

For those who couldn't get to Venice this summer for the art world's most prestigious event, the Venice Biennale, the **Addison Gallery of America** is currently showing *Fred Wilson: Objects and Installations, 1979–2000*, a midcareer survey of the artist who was chosen to represent the United States in Venice this year. Wilson is known for his provocative "mock" museum installations, and the Addison show traces his use of art to question the so-called objectivity of most museums' presentations, exhibitions and didactic texts.

Similarly, from Oct. 16 to Jan. 6, MIT's **List Visual Arts Center** will present a survey of work by Michael Joo, the New York–based sculptor who represented Korea at the 2001 Venice Biennale. Typically combining scientific theory and artistic practices to create sculptures that look like a cross between biological dioramas and traditional figurative work, Joo demonstrates how commonplace actions, like eating, can transform both individuals and cultures. Along with such works, the show will include the world premiere of Joo's three-screen digital video shot in Alaska, *Circannual Rhythm(pibloktok)*.

MIT is actually one of the best-kept secrets in the Boston area for major contemporary art pieces. Its Percent-for-Art program sets aside a percentage of each new building's budget for art. Last year, the university commissioned Matthew Ritchie to create an engaging walk- and see-through installation in a glass corridor in its new gym. MIT also will soon unveil a pavilion, Yin/Yang, designed by the conceptual artist Dan Graham, in its new dormitory, Simmons Hall (which itself is a unique piece of sculpture). This year there is talk that the school is looking to commission a work by Sarah Sze. (Sze is the artist whose recent installation at the MFA, *RSVP*, greeted viewers in the museum's West Wing with a dangling piece of paper that swept up to the second floor and across a hallway to create a complex meditation on a spring breeze.)

But perhaps the most exciting art news at MIT is—surprise!—another new building. Opening this winter, this structure is not a museum. The Stata Center, which is nearing completion and can already be seen off Vassar Street, will house the university's artificial intelligence laboratory and other departments. Designed by Frank Gehry, the architect of the famous Guggenheim Bilbao, the building is marked by the kind of dizzy, undulating curves that have made Gehry a household name.

Like the rest of the local art scene this year, developments of last year's magnitude—new acquisitions, directorial changes and museum expansion plans—may be within sight, but it's still too early to start uncorking the champagne. For now, we'll have to be satisfied with the museums' lineups of tantalizing treats for the eyes. **iB**

VISUAL FEASTS

FALL'S FULL OF TREATS FOR THE EYES

Fred Wilson: Objects and Installations, 1979-2000
Addison Gallery of American Art
Phillips Academy, 180 Main St., Andover (978-749-4015). www.andover.edu/addison. Through Nov. 9. Free.

Painting^4
Rose Art Museum
415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3434). www.brandeis.edu/rose. MBTA Commuter Rail: Fitchburg/South Acton Line to Brandeis/Roberts. Sept. 11–Dec. 7. $3; under 16 free.

Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck
DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. Sept. 13–Jan. 18, 2004. Free. (Cost to enter the museum is $6; $4 seniors, students and children 6-12.)

Splat, Boom, Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art
Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sept. 17–Jan. 4, 2004. $7; $5 seniors and students; under 12 free.

Uncommon Legacies
Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (978-745-9500). www.pem.org. MBTA Commuter Rail: Newburyport/Rockport Line to Salem. Sept. 19–Dec. 13. $12; $10 seniors; $8 students; under 16 free.

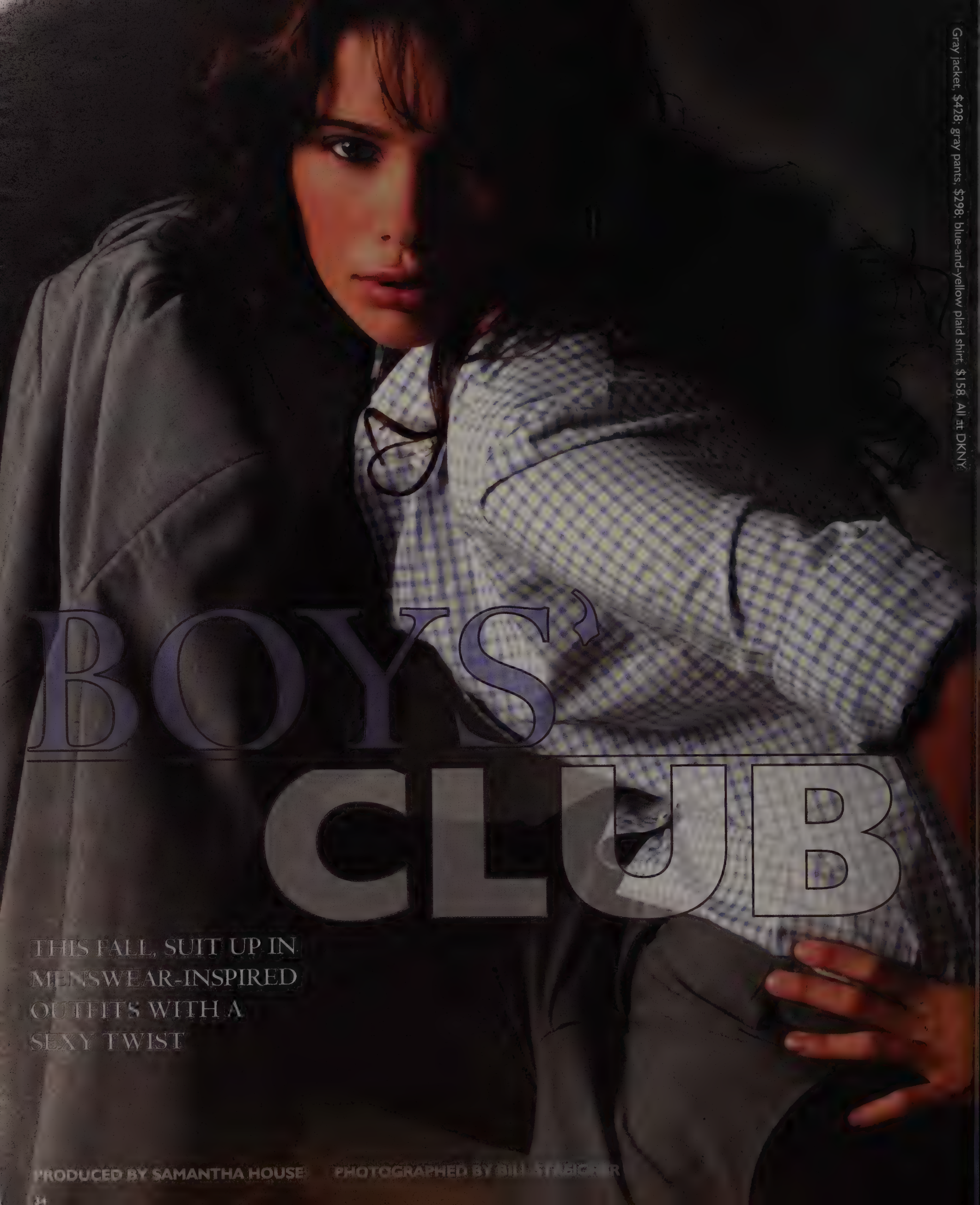
Paths to Impressionism: French and American Landscape Painting
Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury St., Worcester (508-799-4406). www.worcesterart.org. Oct. 5–June 27, 2004. $8; $6 seniors and students; under 17 free.

Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banker: The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401), www.gardnermuseum.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Oct. 8–Jan. 11, 2004. $10; $7 seniors; $5 students; under 18 free.

Michael Joo
MIT List Visual Arts Center
20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4680). www.mit.edu/lvac. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Oct. 16–Jan. 6, 2004. Free.

Before Expressionism: Art in Germany circa 1903
Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-405-9400). www.artmuseums.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 24–Feb. 15, 2004. $6.50; $5 seniors and students; under 18 free.

Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Oct. 26–Jan. 18, 2004. $15; $13 seniors and students; $6.50 children 7–17.



BOYS' CLUB

THIS FALL, SUIT UP IN MENSWEAR-INSPIRED OUTFITS WITH A SEXY TWIST

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STEIGERWALD

Gray jacket, $428; gray pants, $298; blue-and-yellow plaid shirt, $158. All at DKNY.

Gray wool tweed suit with snap detailing, $15,535, at Neiman Marcus. Leather leggings, $890, at the Chanel Boutique.

Dark gray wool jacket, $428; dark gray wool pants, $298; pale yellow shirt, $198. All at DKNY.

White denim jacket, $1,365, at the Chanel Boutique. Silver snap necklace, $1,100, at Bloomingdale's.

Bloomingdale's
55 Boylston St
Chestnut Hill
617-630-6784

Chanel Boutique
5 Newbury St
617-859-0055

DKNY
37 Newbury St
617-236-0476

Neiman Marcus
Copley Place
617-536-3660

Hair by Charles Maksou
for Maksou Salon

Makeup by
Don Rockiki

Black-and-white pin-striped suit jacket, $448; matching pin-striped pants, $298; white button-down shirt, $148. All at DKNY.

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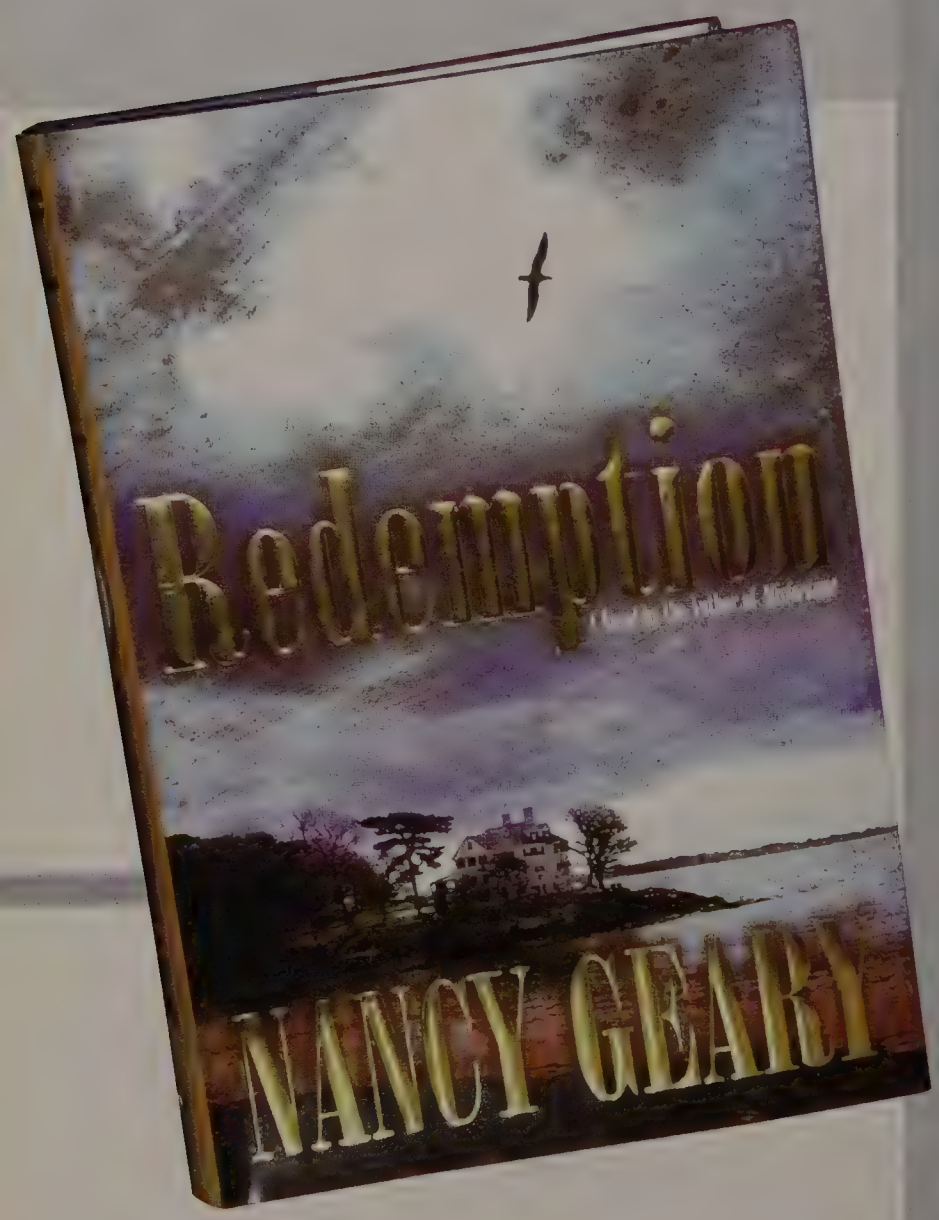
MOPSY

SERENDIPITOUS SHOPPING: OUR UNFETTERED CORRESPONDENT SEEKS OUT THE SALUBRIOUS AND THE CEREBRAL.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



CABOTS SPEAK ONLY TO GOD

***Redemption*, Nancy Geary's second mystery novel, is set in Manchester, Mass.**

Nancy Geary plays with the fine distinctions of Boston social class in her second mystery, *Redemption* (the first was *Misfortune*). Hope, from a striving Lawrence family, is about to marry into the wealthy Cabot clan. This makes Hope's parents a lot happier than it does the father of the groom, who brandishes a prenuptial agreement. Hope is a brooding, troubled character, her life filled with issues that include an eating disorder, a flight into religion and an ongoing affair with a Portuguese lobster-fisherman. Horribly, her wedding day finds her dead by hanging. Hope's cousin Frances, formerly with the DA's office and a domestic-violence specialist, snoops from a cool insider-outsider position. Is this murder disguised as suicide? Does the desire to maintain blue bloodlines constitute a motive? The Episcopal clergy also figure in the mystery. Family politics and sibling rivalry roil in this book, and Geary manages to slice the cake of privilege into varied, and amusing, pieces.

ALL THE LONELY TABLES

Advertising executive and photographer Cheryl Heller has turned a series of photographs chronicling the rituals of the table into haunting, arty placemats called Table Manners. For sale at Louis Boston and soon available at www.hellercommunicationsinc.com.

Cheryl Heller, a New York advertising executive, has focused her mind and lens on a weirdly compelling subject: the landscape of meals, or what she calls "the rituals of the table." She has turned her black-and-white images into high-class laminated, felt-backed placemats that further multiply the concept: pictures of tabletops on your tabletop. Heller pursued her quarry worldwide, from northern Sweden to South Africa. The food, the plates, the glasses, the pretty little desserts she's captured on film often look hopeful, while at the same time, there's something lonely and melancholy about many of the images. In one, half-empty glasses sit on a deserted porch overlooking the water; in another, a French ashtray on a white table dominates the foreground, while a woman bikes and crowds roam about in the background. Someone on a train—we see only his folded hands—has a tray of bright white cups before him, while a kind of sepia sadness colors the half-shaded window. These artful accessories are like a form of dark, foreign-flavored mood music.

A BRIGHTER SHADE OF GREEN

Financing Your Dreams is a workshop for women run by Adelaide Aitken, CFP, and Miriam Hawley, LICSW. At Christ Church, Cambridge, September 26, 9:30 am-4 pm. $195. Call 617-661-6393 or 617-876-9400. A private session with either or both leaders at a later date is included with the workshop.

Money is probably on a par with love in the irrationality department. Our own internal Dow fluctuates with the real one in response to real-life and imaginary factors. Adelaide Aitken, financial planner and co-author of *Money Order, The Money Management Guide for Women*, and Miriam Hawley, co-author of *The New Our Bodies Ourselves*, have experience in helping women explore the roots of their money philosophies. They approach the matter along two dimensions—the checkbook and the psyche. Their workshop encourages participants to explore their beliefs about money, financial fears and spend-and-save tendencies, locating their actual and imagined place along the scarcity-to-abundance spectrum. "Silly" questions will be answered sympathetically. The workshop's goal: to increase knowledge of the workings of investments, and generally to increase confidence. Participants will write a financial autobiography and learn 10 laws of financial planning.

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REVIEW

CATCH OF THE DAY

Fine seafood and efficient service are on the docket at Great Bay

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Michael Schlow has done it again. Having made his mark as a chef more than a decade ago at Café Louis, Schlow moved into the front ranks of Boston restaurateurs in 1999, when with partner Christopher Myers he opened Radius on the fringe of the Financial District. Then, less than two years ago, Schlow teamed again with Myers to create Via Matta, which from its opening has drawn enthusiastic crowds with its fresh, well-prepared Italian cuisine.

But Schlow and Myers refused to quit while they were ahead. They apparently could not resist the challenge of starting up an upscale seafood restaurant in a troubled Boston economy, and in the shadow of Fenway Park to boot. Will the demographics of Kenmore Square support such a venture? The prognosis looks excellent, because Schlow and Myers have recruited experienced executive chef Jeremy Sewall—whose credentials range from Boston's own L'Espalier to the Lark Creek Inn in Larkspur, California—to create some of the best seafood dining in Boston.

Upon entering Great Bay, one is almost overwhelmed by the massive scale of its physical dimensions. When the sun is up, ceiling-height windows dressed with sheer curtains flood the main dining room with natural light, augmented by long-stem brushed stainless steel light fixtures with cone-shaped shades suspended from the ceiling. Stainless-steel-bordered, red stained-glass tables set with absorbent napkins, elegant tableware and large white plates and bowls contribute to the upscale ambience. Legions of servers, knowledgeable and bustling about with purposeful gait, promise attentive, efficient service, with occasional overkill—on a slow night their number and kinetic energy made them a hovering presence.

Great Bay's clam chowder ($10) was world-class. My waitress brought an oversized bowl that held a mound of cubed, firm potatoes, minced shallots, chunks of smoky-salty pancetta, fresh parsley, thyme and chervil, and three kinds of clams—chopped quahogs, whole razor clams and whole littlenecks. Then, in a flourish of culinary theater, she decanted a small black kettle of hot, intensely flavorful broth, light but somehow creamy, into the bowl, rendering the most exquisite clam chowder I have ever encountered—the gold standard against which all future clam chowders could be measured.

A tasty selection from the raw bar is the Maine lobster roll, which includes avocado, pickled onions and crème fraîche.

GREAT BAY

500 Comm. Ave., Boston

617-532-5300

HOURS Sun.-Wed., 11:30 am-2:30 pm and 5-10 pm; Thu.-Sat., 11:30 am-2:30 pm and 5-11 pm.

RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

PARKING valet

LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

An order of steamed mussels ($11) with green garlic yielded small, sweet, impeccably clean shucked mussels served in a small bowl with a sauce of chopped fresh tomatoes, broad-leaf parsley and an aromatic an fruity olive oil. Organic tomato salad ($12 featured four kinds of tomatoes: thick slice of red and green heirlooms and tiny yello pear and red cherry tomatoes. With th larger slices stacked sandwich style, accom panied by an array of fresh basil, arugula an balsamic vinegar, the ensemble made a re freshing prelude to the main course.

Great Bay's main courses included th first local halibut I have encountered in long time ($27). North Atlantic halibut firmer and inevitably fresher than the Pa cific halibut usually served (even in an Ea Coast fishing bastion like Boston). Grea Bay's preparation, a generously thick file was seared brown and then broiled, pr serving its first-rate texture, and serve mounted on thick slices of heirloom tom toes, one red, one yellow. Perched on tc of the halibut was a tempura squash blo som stuffed with pesto, a clever gamb that yielded a delightful sauce that dril bled onto the fish and tomatoes when or cut into it. Unfortunately, the precarious tall and unstable structure made such cu ting problematic—even Schlow and h acolytes are not immune to the tall-foo affectation. Crunchy, julienned strips fennel and a fresh basil leaf completed th garnish of this estimable dish.

One evening, Great Bay offered a fill of sashimi-quality, grilled ivory salmo ($26), pale in color as its name denote but rich in flavor. The interior was rar almost raw, and resilient in texture, wi fresh, pristine flavor; the exterior w cooked through, but still moist and su culent. An accompaniment of tir sweet, earthy beets and thin slices of fi gerling potatoes was delicious and vis ally appealing.

Although seafood is the name of the gar at Great Bay, I could not resist the app wood smoked pork chop ($24), and I w glad I tried it. This carnivore's delight, most two inches thick, arrived juicy, ten and medium-rare as ordered. Small pe onions, shallot-and-mushroom marmala a hefty cylinder of dauphine potatoes, an mound of silky, moist, pleasantly bit spinach made this a delightfully varied a satisfying dish.

Great Bay's reasonably priced wine l featured pleasant, serviceable whites

Chilled seafood salad is topped with carrot vinaigrette and sprigs of mint.

Great Bay co-owner Michael Schlow (left) with executive chef Jeremy Sewall

Great Bay's cavernous interior boasts a lounge, two dining rooms and a raw bar.

the low 20s. For example, an Alsatian pinot blanc ($24) of the 2002 vintage, fruity and slightly off dry, roasted decent structure and sufficient acid to provide a good pairing with Great Bay's seafood.

Great Bay's desserts included a chocolate tart ($9), substantial in size, served with very slightly sweetened crème fraîche, swirls of cajeta (a caramelized condensed-milk sauce) and a hazelnut tuile (a wafer-thin, crisp cookie). While the tart satisfied the primordial chocolate urge that takes over at dessert time, even better was the summer plum crumble ($8), served in a ramekin with a crunchy almond topping and a dividend of vanilla bean ice cream. The crumble's slightly tart, succulent sliced plums contrasted nicely with pastry crumble, that inevitably sweet combination of butter and sugar.

Michael Schlow has been mocked for small, nouvelle cuisine–sized servings at Radius. Whether that is a fair criticism or not, large portions are the order of the day at Great Bay, and a three-course meal will challenge even the heartiest of appetites. That attribute by itself may enhance the restaurant's popularity and increase its chances of success in the increasingly difficult and competitive restaurant environment of Boston. And in that environment, if any team can make the grade, it is one managed and directed by Schlow and Myers, with a field general as talented as Jeremy Sewall. IB

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Art of Beer Festival: Stammtisch
The Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston. www.beeradvocate.com. *Sept. 13, 12-11pm. $20.* Enjoy a wide range of local and imported German-style beers, authentic German music and traditional Bavarian cuisine.

Barbecue at the Farm
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). Sept. 20, 12-6 pm. Feast on barbecue from Firefly, enjoy live music by the Pine Hill Ramblers and learn the secrets of grilling with members of the New England Barbecue Society.

Boston Oktoberfest
The Castle at Park Plaza, 130 Columbus Ave., Boston (888-945-2337). www.beersummit.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 20, 12-10 pm. $10 (includes one pint of beer).* Sample German beers and enjoy German music.

Celebrity Chef Event
Radius Restaurant, 8 High St., Boston (617-236-8060). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept. 21, 6-9 pm. $125 (or two for $200). Taste creations from such chefs as **Joanne Chang** of Flour, **Barbara Lynch** of No. 9 Park, **Brian Reimer** of Radius, **Luis Morales** of Via Matta and **Jeremy Sewall** of Great Bay at this benefit for the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston.

Farm Dinner
Elements, 689 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-643-7203). Sept. 10, 6 pm. $55. Chef **Bill Flumerfelt** prepares a four-course meal based on the late-summer harvest from Verrill Farm in Concord.

Fireside Chats
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Every other Saturday, 3 pm. $25. Chef/owner **Jim Solomon** hosts experts who share knowledge on everything from fine American wines to seasonal New England foods and microbrews. •Sept. 13: Pinot grigio/viognier.

Great Steaks, Great Wine
Grill 23, 161 Berkeley St., Boston (800-432-5520). Sept. 13, 11 am-1 pm. $50. Chef **Jay Murray** offers advice on preparing meat at home. Learn which wines should be paired with different meats.

Le Cirque 2000 at 33
33 Restaurant, 33 Stanhope St., Boston (617-572-3311). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 18, 7 pm. $75. Chef **Joshua Botsford** and guest chef **Anthony Cinicola** of Le Cirque 2000 prepare a four-course wine dinner.

Moroccan Wine and Tapas
Argana, 1287 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-868-1247). Sept. 16, 6:30-9:30 pm. $10. Celebrate Argana's first anniversary with Moroccan tapas, a wine tasting and entertainment.

Moueix Wine Dinner
Jer-Ne, 10 Avery St., Boston (617-912-3355) MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 12, 6:3(pm. $169. This four-course vertical wine dinne features Chateau Magdelaine's great vintages o the last half century. **Edouard Moueix** discusse the winery's history in Bordeaux.

A Night in Provence
Gallia, 1525 Washington St., Boston (617-247 4455). Sept. 16, 5:30-10 pm. A la carte. Che **David Silva** creates a special menu of Provença dishes paired with wines of Cotes de Provence.

Peter and the Buzzard
Westport Rivers Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road Westport (508-636-3423). Sept. 20, 4-6:30 pm $50. Tour Buzzards Bay Brewing's facility, the enjoy a beer tasting and a dinner prepared b chef **Peter Davis** of Henrietta's Table.

Summer Tasty Cruise
Yacht Integrity, World Trade Center, 164 Seapo Ave., Boston (617-242-7837). MBTA: Red Lin to South Station. Sept. 17, 6 pm. $37. Represer tatives from the Wine Bottega pour and discu wines, and Carmen Restaurant provides ho d'oeuvres aboard this sunset cruise of the harbo

Taste Boston
Grotto, 37 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-367 8142). www.taste-boston.com. *MBTA: Gree Line to Government Center. Sept. 16, 7:30 pm $65.* Chef/owner **Scott Herritt** creates a fou course menu paired with wine.

Taste of Boston
City Hall Plaza, Boston. www.tasteofboston.con *Sept. 20, 11 am-6 pm; Sept. 21, 12-6 pm. $1 p meal ticket.* Taste food from local restaurant watch chef demonstrations and listen to li music at this benefit for the Greater Bosto Food Bank.

Trinchero Wine Dinner
Le Soir, 51 Lincoln St., Newton (617-965-3100 MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Sep 22, 7 pm. $95. Le Soir chef **Mark Allen** a **Chuck Parker** of Trinchero Family Winery Napa Valley host this five-course dinner.

Wine and Dine
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-22 2175). MBTA: Green Line to Park. $85. Limit to 12 guests, this biweekly wine table offers three-course food and wine pairing men •Sept. 15: Rioja.

Wine and Oyster Tasting
McCormick & Schmick's, Faneuil Hall Mark place, Boston (617-720-5522). MBTA: Gre Line to Government Center. Sept. 23, 6-8 p $30. This monthly eve features East and W Coast oysters and a sele tion of wines.

Wines of South Afri
Tremont 647, 647 Tremo St., Boston (617-26 4600). MBTA: Oran Line to Back Bay. Sept. 2 6:30 pm. $65. Sou African wines are pair with a four-course dinne

Wines of Spain Dinner
Solea, 388 Moody S Waltham (781-894-180 Sept. 23, 7 pm. $60. T evening includes a s course tapas dinner an variety of wines from t Rioja region of Spain.

Le Soir chef Mark Allen (right) and pastry chef David James prepare a Trinchero wine dinner.

DISH

A Man, A Pan, A Plan

Basket case solved...Restaurant Week extended...

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Four Seasons Hotel chef Steve Roginski is a winner.

What would you do if someone gave you a basket of random raw ingredients—ranging from baby fennel and Dover sole to unripe peaches and a half ounce of white chocolate—and ordered you to whip up a three-course meal using every last item?

Steve Roginski, saucier chef at the **Four Seasons Hotel**, faced this challenge and won the 2003 national Jeune Commis Competition. He is currently honing his skills for the international finals of the contest in Cape Town, South Africa. Roginski, a marvel of focused, talented resourcefulness behind the stove, exudes confidence in the kitchen. Outside the kitchen, however, his organizational skills falter: En route to one of the regional competitions, he had to make a quick stop at a department store when he realized he'd forgotten his knife.

That won't happen next time, says Roginski. "My wife says she'll staple my tools to my ass before I go," he laughs. Roginski also plans to pack a surgical mask, to protect himself from a potential allergen in the mystery basket: bananas. "It's just the fragrance [that I'm allergic to]," he explains. "I can touch them."

The contest, also known as the Young Chef Rotisseur Competition, is organized by the Chaine des Rotisseurs, an international gastronomic society founded in Paris in 1950 and inspired by the old French royal guild of (them) goose roasters. A quick perusal of the website (*www.chaineus.org/general.htm*) reveals an esoteric system of special badges and ribbons, titles, programs, and policies, a phonetic guide to French pronunciation ("table" is "tahb leuh")...there may even be a secret handshake somewhere. It's like a fabulous conglomeration of Boy Scouts, Iron Chefs and the Loyal Order of Mousse. It's hope Roginski brings home the merit badge of victory!

Restaurant Week rumblings: The best reason to stay around Boston in August lasted a little longer than usual this summer. After a scrifically successful five-day run, more than a dozen restaurants extended their participation in the event for an additional week of $30.02 lunches and/or $30.03 dinners.

Although the prices were the same everywhere, each restaurant devised its own menu and policies. Most offered a special menu for the week, with two or three choices for each course. **The Independent** in Somerville, however, invited diners to choose a starter, a main course and a dessert from the regular menu. On the other end of the spectrum, **UpStairs on the Square** took a more streamlined approach, with two entrees and one designated dessert.

Dish heard from several disgruntled diners who complained about the prevalence of the chicken-or-salmon main course choice. Also sparking grumbles was the unusual, possibly unique, policy implemented by **Mistral** for the second year. Diners were informed that an 18 percent gratuity "based on the actual value of the meal" (calculated at $45) would be added to each check.

It's all about protecting the waitstaff, according to Mistral general manager **Mark D'Alessandro**. "We don't think it's fair to the staff to take a cut in pay for the week," he says. "They work just as hard."

Sure they do, and they are justifiably renowned as some of the finest waitstaff in Boston. Dine at Mistral and you will be professionally pampered just short of being tucked in and read a bedtime story. But people make their reservations planning in good faith to spend (and tip on) $30 for dinner. What if the restaurant itself "ate" the difference?

"I never thought about it that way," says D'Alessandro. "It may be something to think about in the future." On the other hand, he points out, "it wasn't an issue with most people. There were less than a handful of people who questioned it, and everyone I spoke to was cool about it. If anybody objected to it, of course, we [didn't] expect them to pay it." iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

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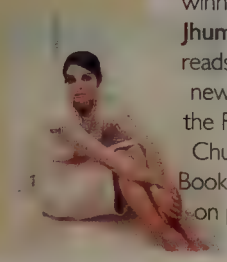
MPROPER PICKS

september 10 - 23

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			10 This is the last week you can see the **Thomas Gainsborough** exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts. See Art on page 84.	11	12 Tufts University alums **Guster** return to Boston to play at the FleetBoston Pavilion. See Music on page 70.	 13 The **US Open Squash Championship** is held at Symphony Hall (that's right, *Symphony Hall*). See CityScope on page 50.
 14 Lug your great aunt's wooden rocker to **Antiques Appraisal Day** at Gore Place. See CityScope on page 50.	15	 16 Pulitzer Prize–winning author **Jhumpa Lahiri** reads from her new novel at the First Parish Church. See Books & Poetry on page 88.	17	 18 **The Samples** rock the Paradise with their unique jazz-pop sound and hypnotic grooves. See Music on page 72.	19	20 The **Boston Folk Festival** features traditional and cutting-edge folk music at UMass Boston. See CityScope on page 50.
21	22	23				

Sister Sledge performs at the Taste of Boston.

SAT./SEPT. 20–SUN./SEPT. 21

Tastings: Get a Taste of This

This year's **Taste of Boston**, sponsored by the IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and produced by Entercom Boston, features an amazing lineup of chefs offering demonstrations—Chris Schlesinger of East Coast Grill, Robert Fathman of Azure, Jasper White of the Summer Shack, Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger, Daniel Bruce of Meritage and Thomas John of Mantra, among others—and a 21+ tent with beer, wine and live music. Pick up some cooking tips from the experts, fill up a plate with cuisine from more than 40 restaurants, and groove to the tunes of Jessica Simpson and Sister Sledge on the Star 93.7 main stage. *City Hall Plaza, Boston.* www.tasteofboston.com. *Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. $1 per meal ticket.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:
ERIN HAGEDORN
Art, Books & Poetry, Gay & Lesbian, Movies, Music, Museums
JULIE SURATT
Around Town, Children, Education, Performing Arts
ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:
Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind
Paul Sherman Film Capsules
Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs, Sports

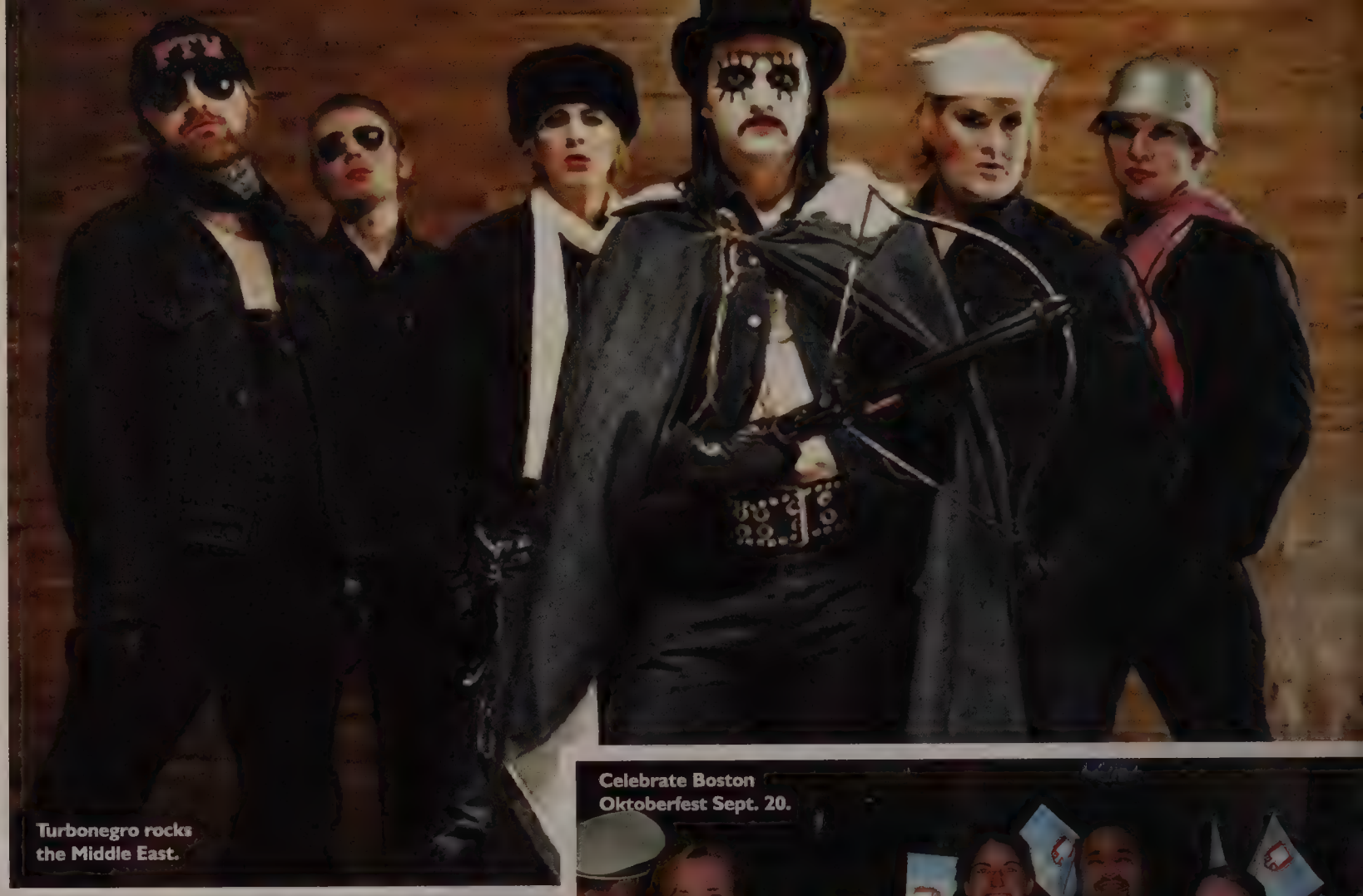
ERIN

JULIE

WED./SEPT. 17

Music: Turbocharge It

Monstrous offspring of the Village People and Alice Cooper, the band **Turbonegro** stokes sweaty passion in the hearts of underground rock fans. Ferociously hard-rocking and ragingly homosexual, the Norwegian sexports have been storming the stage since the mid-1990s, releasing a string of brilliant, heavy albums along the way. These princes of the power chord climbed back in the saddle last year after disbanding "forever" in December of 1998; earlier this year the band released *Scandinavian Leather* to a legion of fans rabid with anticipation (their fan clubs are international; check out www.bostonjugend.cjb.net/ for the local chapter). Better get tickets early—these boys will pack the place. *The Middle East, 472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-2327). 8 pm. $15, 18+.*



Turbonegro rocks the Middle East.

Celebrate Boston Oktoberfest Sept. 20.

Maria and the gang sing the praises of their favorite things during *The Sound of Music*.

TUE./SEPT. 16–SUN./SEPT. 21

Performing Arts: When You're Feeling Bad...

If you can sing the words to "Sixteen Going on Seventeen"; if you can't climb a hill without bursting into "The hills are alive..."; if you've ever eyed a pair of curtains and considered making a dress; or if you've ever attended the Sing-A-Long *Sound of Music* at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, then we don't need to convince you to head to the Wang Theatre for the stage version of *The Sound of Music*, Sept. 16–21. If you haven't done any of those things... well, you're missing out. *Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.wangcenter.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 16, 7 pm; Sept. 17, 7 pm; Sept. 18, 8 pm; Sept 21, 7 pm. $28-$68.*

SAT./SEPT. 13 AND SAT./SEPT. 20

Tastings: Their Cups Runneth Over

'Tis the season to drink beer. This month, beer fests on back-to-back Saturdays try to one-up the competition with their suds-soaked options. The first, called the **Art of Beer Festival**, or Stammtisch, is sponsored by BeerAdvocate.com and promises 11 hours of fun—enough time to sample many of the 60 promised brews, including Pilsners, Weissbiers, Kellerbiers, Altbiers, Oktoberfestbiers, Schwarzbiers, Rauchbiers and Bocks. Lustige Musikanten des Heimatlandes (otherwise known as the Mad Bavarian Brass Band) cranks out some German tunes. The second event, **Boston Oktoberfest**, sponsored by BeerSummit.com, features such tasty options as Spaten Optimator, Spaten Lager, Franziskaner Hefe-Weisen, Spaten Oktoberfest, Spaten Maibock, Franziskaner Dunkel Hefe-Weisen and, new this year, Dinkel Acker Pilsner—not to mention knockwurst and sauerkraut by Jacob Wirth and music by the Oberlaendler Hofbrau Band and the Jolly Kopper Schmidts. *Prost! See Tastings on page 44 for more information.*

SAT./SEPT. 20

CityScope: A Wild Walk

We're such suckers for dog-related events. It's partly that we can't resist hanging with big-eyed, floppy-eared pups. But it's mostly because we love imagining all of the things that can go wrong at an event that brings together hundreds of dogs. Chan for disaster are decreased with the mandatory leash policy at the sixth annual **Walk** in Jamaica Plain, where dog owners bring their pooches to the sprawling Fo Hills Cemetery for a guided tour. Amid the cemetery's 275 acres of trees, Victo monuments and a lake, historian Dee Morris leads a tour of the 19th- and 20th-c tury statues that feature dogs on them, telling stories along the way. BYO poo scooper. *95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). 10 am. $10.*

116 Brighton Ave., Allston 617.254.6633

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Sun. 10-2am

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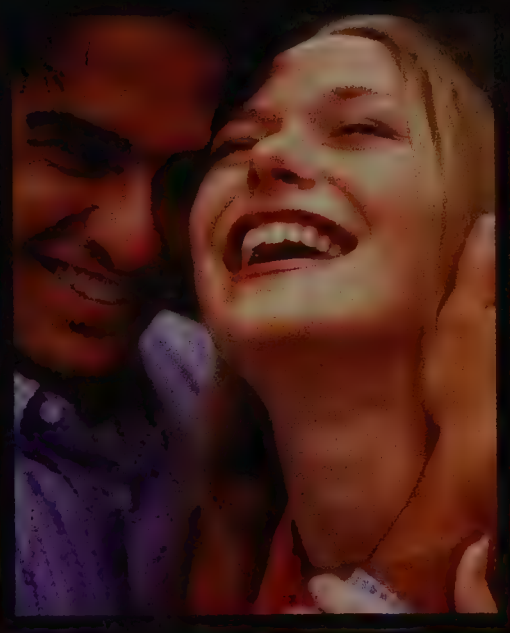

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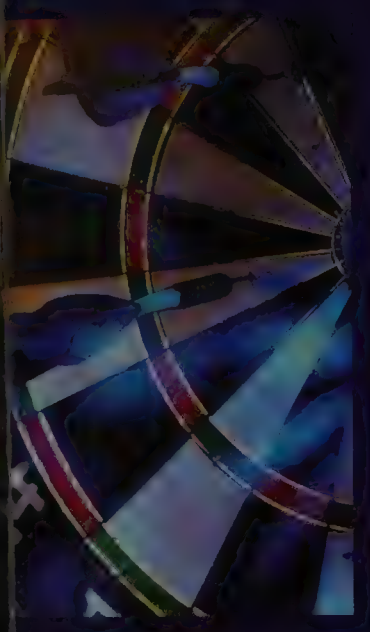

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11

One Day's Pay Comedy Benefit
Comedy Connection, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-248-9700). 8:30 pm. $12. Frank Santos, the R-rated hypnotist, headlines this comedy show to benefit the USO of New England.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Singles Dance
First Unitarian Hall, 1326 Washington St. (Route 16), West Newton (508-620-7138). 8-11:30 pm. $10. Singles are invited to learn a few twists and turns with dance instruction from 8-9 pm, then put tho moves to use with swing, salsa and contempora music. Casual attire.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

(ähts): The Boston Arts Festival
Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park, North En Boston (617-635-3689). www.cityofboston.gov. *am-6 pm. Rain date: Sept. 14.* Boston kicks off the a season with a juried showcase of more than 75 visu artists' work. The event also features performanc from the Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Jazz Reperto Orchestra, Boston Ballet and Chu Ling Dance.

South End Open Studios
Various studios around the South End, Boston (61 267-8862). www.useaboston.com. *Sept. 13-14, am-6 pm.* Artists in nearly 40 South End buildin open their doors for visitors to view (and possib purchase) their work. Free parking available at 4 and 560 Harrison Ave.

US Open Squash Championships
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (877-52 5685). www.usopensquash.com. *Sept. 13-16. Tic ets start at $20.* The US Open Squash Champ onships return to Symphony Hall, where the t players in the world square off on a 32-by-21-fo glass-enclosed court.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

Antiques Appraisal Day
Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-279 www.goreplace.org. 12:45 pm. $10 per item or $

FRESH-AIR FUND-RAISERS

Help your favorite cause and get some exercise at benefit golf tournaments, bike rides and walks

The Ride for Hunger takes cyclists on either a 25-mile or 75-mile route around Natick.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Hospitality Homes Charity Golf Classic
Widow's Walk Golf Course, Scituate (617-482-4338). www.hosp.org. *Registration and breakfast at 7:30 am. $150.* Break out the clubs at one of *Golf Digest*'s "Best New Courses" to benefit Hospitality Homes. The day includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Harbor to the Bay Bike Ride
Boston to Provincetown (617-630-9567). www.harbortothebay.org. *$50 registration fee, $1,500 fund-raising minimum.* Bicyclists pedal 125 miles from Boston to Provincetown to raise money for Fenway Community Health and the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod. A 68-mile route beginning in Sandwich is also offered.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

Project Bread Ride for Hunger
Start/finish in Cochituate State Park, Natick (617-723-5000). www.projectbread.org. Choose to bike either a 25-mile or 75-mile route to raise money for Project Bread's hunger-relief programs.

MONDAY, SEPT. 15

Mike Cameron Golf Classic
Weston Golf Club, 275 Meadowbrook Rd., Weston (781-893-6620). www.walthambgc.org. *Registration at 11 am. $275.* Tee off to raise money for the Waltham Boys & Girls Club. Fee includes a cart, lunch, dinner and gifts.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

MTC Scholarship Golf Tournament
Shaker Hills Golf Club, Harvard (781-684-0880) www.masstel.org. *1-7 pm. $175.* This golf tournament benefits technical scholarships at Massachusetts schools and includes lunch, a postgame reception and several prizes.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

Boston Heart Walk
Start at Lederman Field, Charles River Esplanade, Boston (508-392-3974). www.heartwalk.kintera.org/bostonma. *9 am. $100 fund-raising minimum to receive a Heart Walk T-shirt.* This pledge walk along the Charles River benefits the American Heart Association. Rain or shine.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk
Start at Hopkinton, Wellesley, or Harvard Medical School; finish at Copley Square, Boston (800-632-3562). www.jimmyfund.org. *Start time at 7 am, 11 am or 2 pm, depending on route. $200 fund-raising minimum.* Walk the Boston Marathon route (or a portion) to benefit cancer research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

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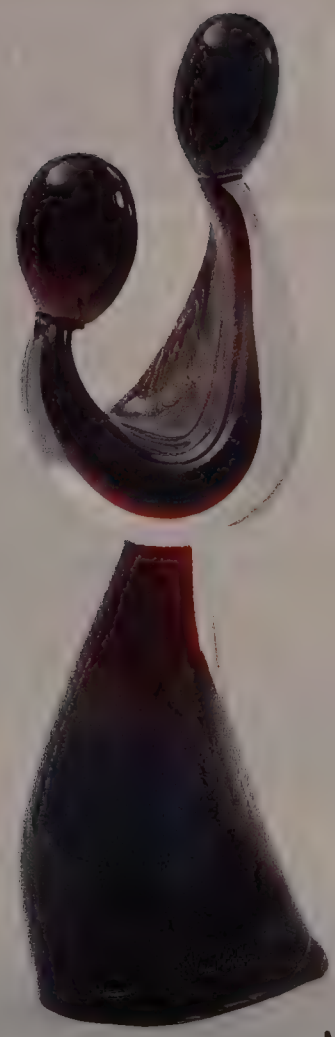

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[1]

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Pumpkin-ricotta cavatelli pasta, house course ground sausage, mushrooms, and fresh peas 9

Applewood smoked bacon, figs, gorgonzola dolce, and baby spinach 8

Roman style tripe alla parmigiana and roasted garlic country bread 8

Fonduta...A Piedmont style fondue with grilled steak tips and mushrooms 10

Peach and ricotta ravioli, aged balsamic vinegar, amaretti and brown butter 8

Nonna's tomato soup and a petite grilled cheese sandwich ...8

Baby spinach, goat cheese, spiced walnuts, beets and raspberry vinaigrette 8

Mussels on a beach in Sicily 10

[2]

Hand crafted potato gnocchi, braised shortribs, gorgonzola, and onion agrodoce 17

Tagliatelle pasta, lobster, fresh peas, and lobster cream 20

Grilled rare side up tuna, olives, capers, hand crafted ziti, and a lady of the evening sauce 21

Pan roasted veal, roasted potatoes, mushrooms, spinach, and marsala sauce 19

Grilled proscuitto wrapped beef tenderloin, Reggiano risotto, grilled asparagus, and a red wine sauce 22

Pan roasted halibut, artichokes, preserved tomatoes, asparagus, and lemon garlic brodo 21

Spaghetti, small meatballs, and Brady's insanely fabulous tomato sauce 15

Pan roasted chicken "under a brick", whipped roasted garlic potatoes, and a warm artichoke vinaigrette 18

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The Bikers' Barbecue

Start at Roller Kingdom parking lot, 5 Highland St., Hudson; finish at Jake's Dixie Roadhouse, 220 Moody St., Waltham (617-267-5828). www.strength.org. *Ride begins at 9 am, barbecue at 12:30 pm. $40 fund-raising minimum. Barbecue tickets $25 in advance, $30 at the door.* Motorcyclists embark on a 65-mile pledge ride to benefit Operation Frontline's Share Our Strength antihunger programs. The ride concludes with an all-you-can eat barbecue with food from local restaurants, including Tremont 647 and Bonfire.

Cars, Planes and Exciting Research

The Collings Foundation Estate, 137 Barton Road, Stow (617-916-5436). www.cureautoimmunity.org. *12:30-6 pm. $100.* Munch hors d'oeuvres and get private tours of the Collings Foundation's historic airplanes and cars at this event to raise money to fight autoimmune diseases. The afternoon also includes a silent auction and a presentation by researcher Dr. Denise Faustman.

Set Sail 2003

The pier at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 125 Nashua St., Boston (617-573-2920). 3-6 pm. $75 in advance, $100 at the door. This riverside benefit for Spaulding Rehab includes a barbecue, live and silent auctions, canoeing and kayaking, and music.

MONDAY, SEPT. 15

Wine and Tapas II

Bricco, 241 Hanover St., Boston (617-227-2270). 6-9 pm. $50. This benefit for the North End Music and Performing Arts Center features tapas and wine accompanied by guitar music.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Bostonians at Home: Twilight House Tour

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Boston (617-227-3956). www.spnea.org. *6 pm $5-$15.* Five of Boston's historic house museums, including the Paul Revere House and the Otis House Museum, are on the itinerary for the fourth annual Twilight Tour, sponsored by the House Museum Alliance of Downtown Boston.

Free Roses for Good Neighbor Day

B & G Sawin Florist, 238 Faneuil St., Brighton (617-254-4454). 8 am-5 pm. Anyone who stops by B & G Sawin Florist today receives a dozen free roses, with the caveat that you must keep one and give the other 11 away to spread a little cheer. Voluntary contributions go to the Franciscan Hospital for Children.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

BCAE Volunteer Fair

Boston Marriott Copley Place, third floor, Boston (877-865-3247). 4-8 pm. Nearly 200 nonprofit organizations help interested people learn how to start volunteering.

Benefit Barbecue

Behind Cambridge Community Television, 675 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6900). 5:30 pm. $35. This benefit barbecue for CCTV's youth programs features food from area restaurants and live music by Dub Station.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Boston Folk Festival

UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (617 287-6911). www.bostonfolkfestival.org. *Sept. 19, 7 10 pm; Sept. 20-21, 11 am-7 pm. $35 for one-da pass.* Performers at this annual music festival includ Emmylou Harris, Tom Rush and Koko Taylor. Th festival also features food and crafts vendors, danc workshops and harbor cruises.

A Tribute to Neil Shapiro

Fortunado Hall, Winthrop High School, 400 Main St Winthrop (617-755-8892). Sept. 19-20, 8 pm; Sep 21, 2 pm. $20. The Winthrop High School dram society alumni present a musical revue and week end-long silent auction to raise money for the Ne Shapiro Scholarship Fund.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

Forest Hills Cemetery Dog Walk

Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamai Plain (617-524-0128). 10 am. $10. Bring yo pooch for a guided tour of the cemetery's dog-relate statues.

Franklin Park Zoo Clean-Up and Fund-Raiser

The Giraffe Entrance of the Franklin Park Zoo, Bosto www.starbucks.com. *9:30 am-1 pm.* Starbucks d nates $10 per volunteer hour for every person wh shows up to help clean Franklin Park Zoo. Coffe pastries and lunch are free for volunteers.

Taste of Boston

City Hall Plaza, Boston (617-778-5763). www.tas ofbostoncom. *Sept. 20, 11 am-6 pm; Sept. 21, 12 pm. $1.* Taste samples from a slew of Boston resta rants at this two-day foodie-fest. The events inclu celebrity chef cooking demonstrations, concer from Sister Sledge and Jessica Simpson and a WE sports area with batting cages and putting green Presented by Entercom Boston and sponsored THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

Celebrity Chef Big Sister Benefit

Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-236-806 www.bigsister.com. *6-9 pm. $125, two tickets $200.* Taste the creations of top chefs from arou the city to benefit the Big Sister Association Greater Boston. The evening also includes live a silent auctions.

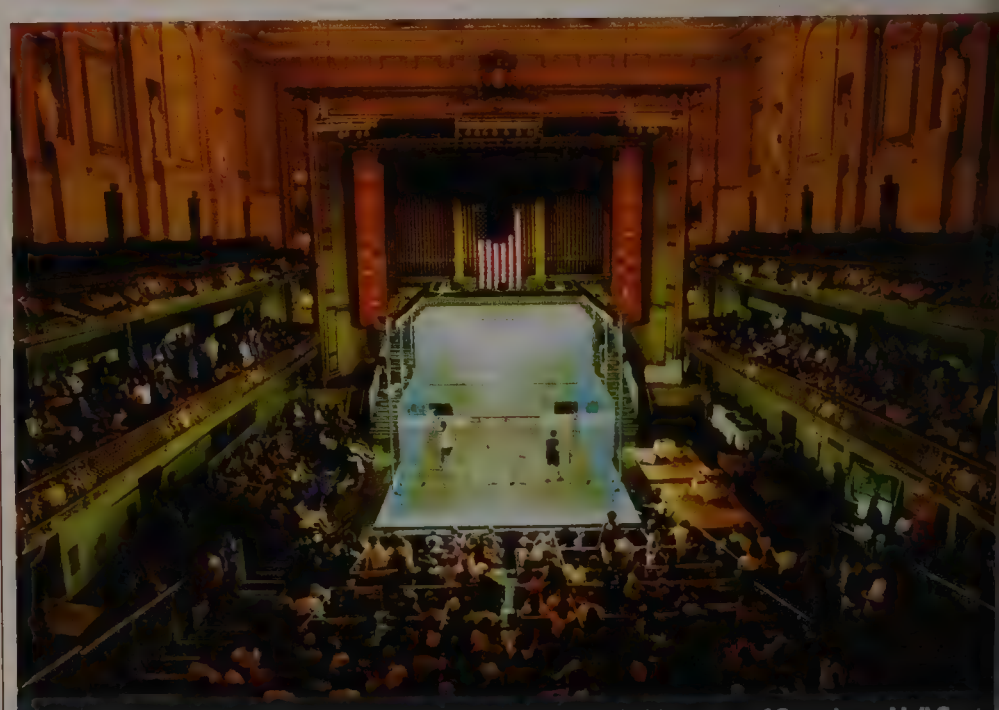
Rachel Molly Markoff Foundation Benefit Concert

Sanders Theater, Harvard University, Cambri (617-496-2222). www.fas.harvard.edu/tickets *pm. $27 or $42; $125 including a postconcert dess buffet.* The Empire Brass Quintet and pian Carol Arschin Levy play Gershwin's "Rhapsody Blue" and other selections to raise money for br tumor research.

MONDAY, SEPT. 22

Boston Young Professionals Clambake

Legal Sea Foods, 26 Park Plaza, Boston (617-5 1400, ext. 5). www.bostonypa.com. *7 pm. $7 advance, $85 at the door.* Professionals ages 21 are invited to join the Boston Young Profession Association for a traditional New England cla bake, including chowder, steamers and lobs Cash bar.



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Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Performing Arts. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Ain't Misbehavin'
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Wed., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Sept. 12-Oct. 19. $14-$69.* Marcia Milgrom Dodge directs and choreographs this tribute to Fats Waller, showcasing music from the Harlem Renaissance.

Antony and Cleopatra
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-939-9939). www.bostontheatreworks.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Sept. 19-Oct. 12. $25.* Shakespeare's classic tale of love and intrigue, directed by Jason Slavick, gets its first professional staging in Boston in more than 20 years.

A Girl's War
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7 pm; Thu., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Sept. 17-Oct. 19.* Joyce Van Dyke's play tells the story of a young Armenian girl who is torn by the competing desires of love and vengeance in an age-old ethnic clash.

Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris
Gloucester Stage Company, Gorton Theatre, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). www.gloucesterstage.com. *Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Sept. 10-14. $30.* Eric Blau and Mort Shuman's show featuring the music of Belgian composer Jacques Brel returns to Gloucester for a limited engagement.

Lady with a Lapdog
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue., Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm.; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm.; Sun., 2 pm. Sept. 13-Oct. 11. $12-$69.* Russian director Kama Ginkas combines burlesque and tragedy in his adaptation of Anton Chekhov's short story about a summer flirtation that unexpectedly becomes a passionate relationship.

Memphis
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., Thu., Fri., 8 pm; Wed., Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Sept. 23-Oct. 12. $16.25-$47.25.* Joe DiPietro's new musical tells the story of a white DJ who introduces his listeners to African-American music during the 1940s.

Nunsense II
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun, 2 pm. Sept. 12-Oct. 5. $22.* This sequel to the hit musical *Nunsense* follows four energetic nuns living under the watchful eye of Mother Superior.

Howard Crabtree's gay musical revue, *When Pigs Fly*, opens at the Lyric Stage Co. Sept. 12.

Preview

Hog Heaven

The Lyric Stage Co. revives *When Pigs Fly*

On the set of Lyric Stage's production of *When Pigs Fly*, musical director Steven Bergman is in the minority: He's straight. "It's like *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*," Bergman jokes, "I'm the straight one. Maybe I'll get a makeover."

This in-your-face musical comedy conceived by Howard Crabtree and Mark Waldrop is about a gay man's coming-of-age. Based in part on Crabtree's own life, it follows a young man whose nasty high school guidance counselor tells him that he might achieve success on Broadway "when pigs fly." The show garnered rave reviews when it premiered at the Lyric Stage Co. in 1999. "A doctor friend of mine said it was the funniest show he'd ever seen," says Bergman. "I knew then that if it appealed to the most straight-line guy I know, it will appeal to everyone."

So when it came time to choose a show to help celebrate the theater's 30th anniversary season, Bergman says, "*When Pigs Fly* was the obvious choice. People haven't stopped asking us to bring it back." The show has been revamped slightly since its first run, but gay jokes still abound, and campy songs, high-energy dances, shameless wordplay and gaudy costumes give the audience plenty to feast on. The updated show includes commentary on the recent gay marriage controversy and current political figures.

Crabtree, a costume designer, did not live to see the show's premiere in New York. But, Bergman says, his spirit lives on through the show. "Howard always believed that the show must go on—with a smile. He really emphasized keeping the humor in life." *140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 pm and 8 pm; Sunday, 3 pm. Sept. 12-Oct. 18. $22–$43. —Heather MacNeil*

Pete 'n' Keely
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Wed., Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Sept. 28. $32.* James Hindman's musical tells the story of two singing sweethearts who reunite for a live television special and relive their illustrious career in Las Vegas showrooms.

The Sound of Music
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.wangcenter.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 16, 8 pm; Sept. 17, 7 pm; Sept. 18, 8 pm; Sept 21, 7 pm. $28-$68.* This classic musical tells the story of Maria, a nun in training sent to be governess to the seven children of a widowed Austrian aristocrat just before the onset of World War II.

Stones in His Pockets
Gloucester Stage Company, Gorton Theatre, 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Sept. 17-Oct. 5. $30. Zoya Kachadurian directs this comedy by Marie Jones about a small Irish town that's forever changed when a Hollywood film company arrives to shoot a movie.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This multimedia production abandons all dialogue and instead focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Old Soldiers
The Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. Through Sept. 13. $10.* On Armistice Day, 1965, three veterans of the World Wars exchange stories, lament the vagaries of old age and wait for the arrival of an old army buddy. Martin Jones' play about friendship, loyalty and the personal realities of war will be followed by performances by local singer/songwriters.

Out on the Edge: Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-436-2787). www.thetheateroffensive.org. *Sept. 6-27 (call for event schedule). $18-$27.* The Theater Offensive's LGBT festival hosts a range of events from interactive discussions with performers, playwrights and directors to workshops, panels and community events.

Pacific Overtures
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., Thu., Fri., 8 pm; Wed., Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Sept. 14. $16.25-$47.25.* This musical about the clash of cultures following Japan's first contact with America combines the music of composer Stephen Sondheim with the ancient Japanese arts of Kabuki theater, haiku, dance and masks.

The Producers
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-9366). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat.-Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Extended through Sept. 13. $87-$97. Mel Brooks' musical that swept the 2001 Tony Awards, winning the most awards in Broadway history, stars Brad Oscar and Andy Taylor.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Twelfth Night
Publick Theatre, Christian Herter Park, 1175 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton (617-332-0546). www.publictheatre.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed., Thu. and Sun., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. Through Sept. 14. $30.* Enjoy an evening outdoors along the Charles River as the Publick Theatre presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy featuring a shipwreck, a case of mistaken identity, gender confusion and other complications.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Into the Woods
Kresge Little Theatre, 48 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-253-6294). web.mit.edu/arts. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Sept. 4-6 and Sept. 11-13, 8 pm. $9.* MIT's Musical Theatre Guild presents James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim's musical based on several fairy tales, including *Cinderella* and *Little Red Riding Hood.*

Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992
Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). www.brandeis.edu/theater. *Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Sept. 16-21. $16-$20.* Candice Brown directs this play about the civil disturbances in Los Angeles after the Rodney King trial in 1992.

Dance

Dangling by a Thread
Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-8725). www.dancecollective.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Sept. 19 and 20, 8 pm. $15-$30 (patrons born in 1973 are admitted free).* Dance Collective is celebrating its 30th birthday with the anniversary gala concert that features new works, revivals, live music and surprise appearances.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55.* In its ongoing run in Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

The American Repertory Theatre presents Anton Chekhov's *Lady with a Lapdog*.

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Ain't Misbehavin', at the Huntington Theatre, pays tribute to musician Fats Waller.

Comedy

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STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Sept. 11: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Sept. 12, $20: Jake Johannsen •Sept. 13, $20: Jake Johannsen •Sept. 14: Joe Carroll •Sept. 15: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, "The Wildman of Comedy" •Sept. 16: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Sept. 17: Harrison Stebbins •Sept. 18, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Sept. 19 and 20, $20 and $22: Jeffrey Ross •Sept. 21: Dave Rattigan •Sept. 22: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox •Sept. 23: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Sept 10: Kelly McFarland, Tony V., Andy O'Fish, Malissa Hunt, Tome Dustin and Chris Hammon • Sept. 11: Tim McIntire, Mindi Fay, Malissa Hunt and Dan Sulman •Sept 12: Chris Walsh, Larry Murphy, Malissa Hunt and EJ Murphy •Sept. 13: Erin Judge, EJ Murphy, Malissa Hunt and Ben Murray •Sept. 14: Sam Walters, Ira Proctor, Michael Della Penna, Malissa Hunt, Jesse Shapiro, Bob Hagearty, Lois McCormack and Jeremy Turoff •Sept. 17: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland and Jessica Casiano •Sept. 18: Tim McIntyre, Christine Herman, Joe Randazzo •Sept. 19: Larry Murphy, Chris Walsh, Steve Calechman and Mike Whitman •Sept. 20: Steve Calechman, Erin Judge and Jesse Shapiro, Dan Sulman and Mike Whitman •Sept. 21: Sam Walters, Erin Judge, Erik Charles Nielsen, Tim Kaelin and Dan Sulman

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Sept. 11 (free admission), 8:30 pm: Kevin Knox, Mike McCarthy and Steve Bjork •Sept. 12 and 13, 8:45 pm: Mike McCarthy, Steve Bjork and George DeMartino •Sept. 18 (free admission), 8:30 pm: Kevin Knox, All-Star Comedy

•Sept 19 and 20, 8:45 pm: Chance Langton, Ir Proctor and Steve Scarfo.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617 510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA: Red Lin to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8.* Improv comedians pok fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.impro asylum.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Ha market or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$2 Dinner packages also available.* Improvisation an sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed. an Thu., $15, and Fri. and Sat., $20: Improv Asylu comedians present their summer main-stage sho *The Brand Ambition Tour.* •Thu., 9:45 pm, fre Improv Jam featuring main-stage performers an special guests.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (61 576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: R Line to Central or Harvard. $5-$12.* Boston's longes running improvisational comedy troupe creat everything on the spot: the characters, the stori the settings—even the songs and dances. •We 8 pm, $5: *The Hump.* This fringe series features li provBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $1 *Micetro*; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Come Show.* Brothers Chris and David Walsh perfo stand-up and music, play short films and do chara ter sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri pm, $12: *Agent Spy.* Leave your cell phone on help a secret agency uncover the truth in t thriller complete with chase scenes, romance a backstabbing; 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports.* T teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: I *provBoston Family Show*; 8 and 10 pm, $12: *Impr Boston Mainstage.* Blending storytelling, music, dience participation and joyful chaos, a cast improvisers creates a show that changes with ev performance. •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's provisational Jamboree* features visiting troupes combines three shows in one.

COMEDY SHOWS

Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding
Tremont Playhouse in the Tremont Hotel, 275 Trem St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Lin Boylston. Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm. Through Nov. $49. This interactive dinner show follows Maria Joey through their wacky wedding.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam
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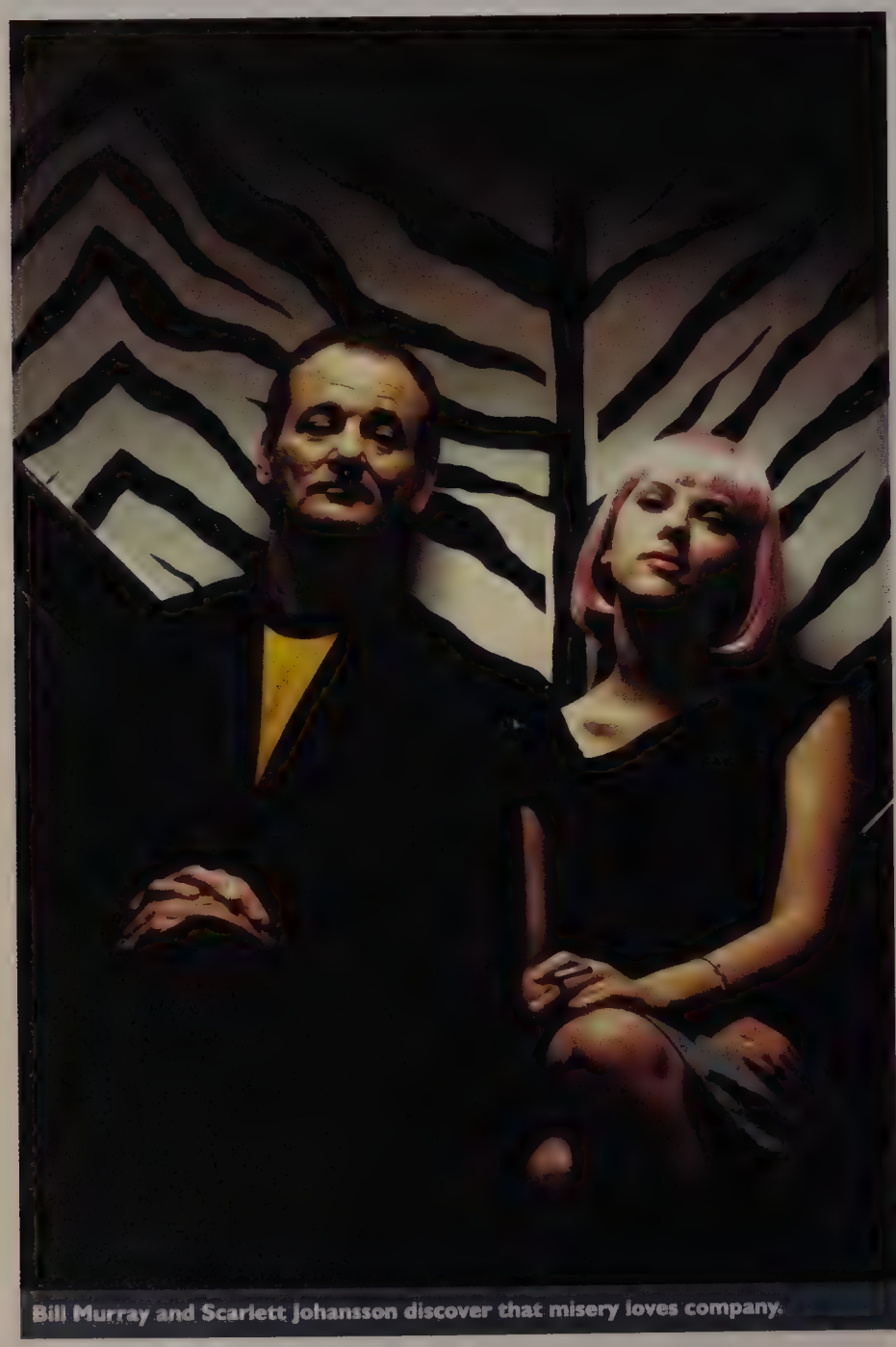
Heartbreak Hotel

Murray and Johansson try to check out in *Lost in Translation*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

In *Groundhog Day*, a Bill Murray character found amusement in monotony. In *Lost in Translation*, Murray's character isn't so lucky.

Murray plays Bob Harris, a washed-up movie star who's in Tokyo to do TV commercials and billboard ads for a Japanese whiskey. He's also taking the opportunity to distance himself from his wife of 25 years and his kids. He's grown almost as tired of them as he has of himself.



Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson discover that misery loves company.

The one time we see Bob's work, it's in a clip of an amusingly lame buddy-cop action-comedy from the 1980s in which Bob's partner is played by a chimp. The animal-cop clip provides the perfect shorthand for understanding Bob's career: He's a Tom (*Turner and Hooch*) Hanks who never graduated to better movies, or a Jim (*K-9*) Belushi who stayed, alas, Jim Belushi.

Bob sees the clip when he's channel-surfing in his hotel room. When he's not shooting a TV commercial or doing a photo shoot for the whiskey—and trying to figure out just exactly what the demanding, English-challenged director and photographer want from him—he's usually holed up in his room or the hotel lounge. Those are the same places where a traveler can usually find another uncomfortable American, and Bob meets Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson). She's the young wife of a rock and roll photographer (Giovanni Ribisi) who's more interested in his work than in her, and who leaves her for hours and eventually days at a time while he's off shooting bands. While Bob is burned out, Charlotte is just confused about her life. She makes forays outside the hotel to religious shrines, hoping to feel a spiritual pull, but returns disappointed. (The movie perfectly captures Japan's blend of the disposably schlocky and the traditionally spiritual, of instant gratification and quiet solitude.)

Bob and Charlotte notice each other around the hotel and sense each other's alienation from their own lives, and from being in a strange country where they don't speak the language. The 50-ish actor and the 20-ish recent college grad start hanging around together. They go to a club with some Japanese people she knows, sing circa-1980 songs karaoke-style ("What's So Funny About Peace, Love and Understanding?" and "More Than This" for him, "Brass in Pocket" for her) and romp around the Tokyo hospital he takes her to after he sees her stubbed toe. "Does it get better?" she asks of life during one chat. "No," he immediately answers, before unconvincingly trying to backpedal.

Writer-director Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her unforgettable 2000 debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, which she adapted from Jeffrey Eugenides' novel and which perfectly captured the heartache of being 13. Working from an original screenplay this time, Coppola conjures up a similar funny-sad tone for these adults, who haven't figured out much more about life than her earlier movie's teens had. But if misery loves company, Bob and Charlotte make a great movie couple, and their relationship, though platonic, has its share of sexual tension. Part of the sadness in *Lost in Translation* is that each of these lost souls knows they'll have to part when Bob flies back to Los Angeles.

Murray gives a Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance built mainly around physical and especially facial reactions to absurd situations, like trying to decipher the motormouth TV commercial director when his translator relays next to nothing, or trying to control a machine in the hotel health club that "speaks" Japanese to him. Bob's career may or may not be inspired by that of Jim Belushi, but fortunately Bob has a lot of Murray's humor and underlying warmth, and recalls Murray's *Rushmore* sad-sack. Johansson, from *Ghost World* and *The Man Who Wasn't There*, gives a sweet, smart, heartbreaking performance as a young woman slightly older than the actress. You'll be thinking about both of them days after you see *Lost in Translation*. iB

Lost in Translation ★★★½

Written and directed by Sofia Coppola. With Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson, Anna Faris and Giovanni Ribisi. Rated R. Focus Features.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

American Splendor ★★★
The movie version of Harvey Pekar's autobiographical comic book series sticks to the comics' realism to such a degree that, in addition to scenes with pitch-perfect Paul Giamatti as cranky Pekar, it also includes narration by and interviews with Pekar himself. That hybrid is clumsy at times, but the movie captures Pekar's search for the extraordinary in the everyday, as well as his hard-headed individualism, with precision and affection. We see Pekar at his humble file clerk job and in his legendary appearances on David Letterman's shows. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Bend It Like Beckham ★★½
Though it can seem like the formulaic story of a woman caught between two cultures (the formula that gave us *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*), Parminder Nagra gives a winning performance as Jess, the Indian-English girl with soccer skills and two Sikh parents who won't let her pursue such a nontraditional endeavor. When Jess is recruited to play for a local women's team, with the possibility of discovery by an American pro team, the scene is set for lots of running around behind the parents' back and comic mishap and nauseum. It's all pretty predictable, but Nagra, Anupam Kher (as Jess' father) and *Pirates of the Caribbean*'s Keira Knightley (as her teammate and sometime rival) help dignity fight caricature to a standoff. (At Copley Place, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Cabin Fever ★★½
The old spam-in-a-cabin premise of a group of college kids going into the woods and finding horror play out with less cliché than usual here. The big twist this time is that the rednecks who are trying to kill the kids aren't the only danger. The real threat is a flesh-eating virus that one of the kids catches, and which seems headed for the others. There's the obligatory horny girl, doofus guy and hero for us to identify with, but this is a lively, decent creepshow. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Camp ★★
Actor turned writer and now director Todd Graff's unconvincingly feel-good indie movie features a gung ho teen cast playing the aspiring singers, dancers and actors at Camp Ovation, a performing arts camp. There's some novelty in seeing talented teens play adults in fully staged production numbers of Sondheim or Bacharach-David songs (this is the *Terror of Tiny Town* of musicals). But the comedy-drama is such a superficial after-school special, with all its dilemmas miraculously resolved without fuss or muss, that it has no emotional credibility. Despite all the unrequited love, sexual dilemmas and backstage bickering, it's a trifle. (At Kendall Square.)

Freddy vs. Jason ★★
OK, first of all, that big stiff Jason Voorhees doesn't deserve to be witty Freddy Krueger's manservant, let alone be presented as his equal in a matchup. And the *Nightmare on Elm Street* series is vastly superior to the *Friday the 13th* series (I'm still waiting for one good movie from the latter one). Both series closed weakly, and this *Celebrity Boxing*–style showdown can't revive them. Jason is his dour self, Freddy is disappointingly bland, the teen characters caught in the middle of their battle are forgettable, and all the unconvincing plot clutters the movie more than its dead bodies. As usual, little that happens in the film really matters, because it ends in a slate-wiping sequel setup. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Hell's Highway: The True Story of Highway Safety Films ★★★
Long before *Scared Straight*, some Ohio filmmakers hit upon a way to try to make people drive more safely: by producing highway safety movies spiked with gory footage of real accidents. Thus was born Highway Safety Films Inc., the subject of this fun and informative documentary. With such lurid films as *Wheels of Tragedy* and *Highways of Agony*, Highway Safety Films offered a sometimes creepy, sometimes amusing blend of Midwestern earnestness and lurid voyeurism, especially when the company branched out to movies like *The Child Molester*. *Hell's Highway* includes great comments by Something Weird Video's Mike Vraney (who likens safety films' grisly narration to "the uncle you never wanted") and educational-film archivist extraordinaire Rick Prelinger. (At Coolidge Corner.)

The Magdalene Sisters ★★★½
Actor turned writer-director Peter Mullan's tense movie about Ireland's brutal Magdalene asylums is the best argument for the separation of church and state since the Taliban. It was in the asylums, which existed until the mid-1990s,

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Paul Giamatti plays the cranky Harvey Pekar, and Hope Davis plays his third wife, in *American Splendor*.

the Catholic Church used to take in "wayward" girls and force them to work, under the premise of rehabilitating them, all with the tacit approval of the government and society. Unlike so many movies that portray cruelty and violence, such things actually have great consequence in Mullan's movie. He makes you care about his three victimized heroines, and his movie is a chilling look at abuse of power on many levels—in family and community as much as the church. (At Kendall Square.)

The Medallion ★
The Tuxedo was just about the worst movie of Jackie Chan's career. So what does he do? A year after that Hollywood-made stinker, he has his own production company make another vehicle in which a lame gimmick is responsible for enhancing Jackie's crime-fighting skills. It's still a lousy idea, and the new movie's clunky script, cheesy visual effects and weak characters are no help either. (At Loews Boston Common, AMC Fenway and suburbs.)

Open Range ★★½
Costner's Last Stand is an oddball of a movie. If you compare it solely with today's movies, it's certainly more involving than most, and it boasts a sturdy Robert Duvall appearance. But if you judge it against what constituted a good western back in the genre's heyday, it's longwinded and heavy-handed. Of course, you can't blame director and star Costner that our culture has lost the storytelling shorthand that enabled western moviemakers to tell their stories so economically, but why must every western these days be an epic? Costner's tale about a team of free-grazing cattlemen fighting a powerful rancher (Michael Gambon) who won't let them use their land—and wants to kill them and steal their cattle—surely works. But it sometimes dotes on details it should devote seconds to, and could well lose the emotion-cueing music and the shots that are mere scenery. Annette Bening and the late Michael Jeter, both giving strong performances, round out the cast. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Rivers and Tides ★★★
Director Thomas Riedelsheimer's visually striking movie about Scottish artist Andy Goldsworthy, who makes sculptures in nature that are often swept away by the elements, is among the year's amazing crop of documentaries. (At the Museum of Fine Arts, Sept. 13, 14, 21, 26 and 28.)

Seabiscuit ★★
Writer-director Gary (*Pleasantville*) Ross struggles to bring Laura Hillenbrand's unforgettable book about the 1930s racehorse to the screen. He veers from Ken Burns–like documentary sequences to comic relief from a fictional radio personality played by William H. Macy. He also repeatedly whacks us over the head with the same point: Owner Charles Howard (Jeff Bridges), trainer Tom Smith (Chris Cooper) and jockey Red Pollard (Tobey Maguire) all excelled at second chances in life, just like the late-bloomi horse. The movie might have had more oomph w it earthier, but it's just a well-crafted, generic piece uplifting sports moviemaking. Read the book. (Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

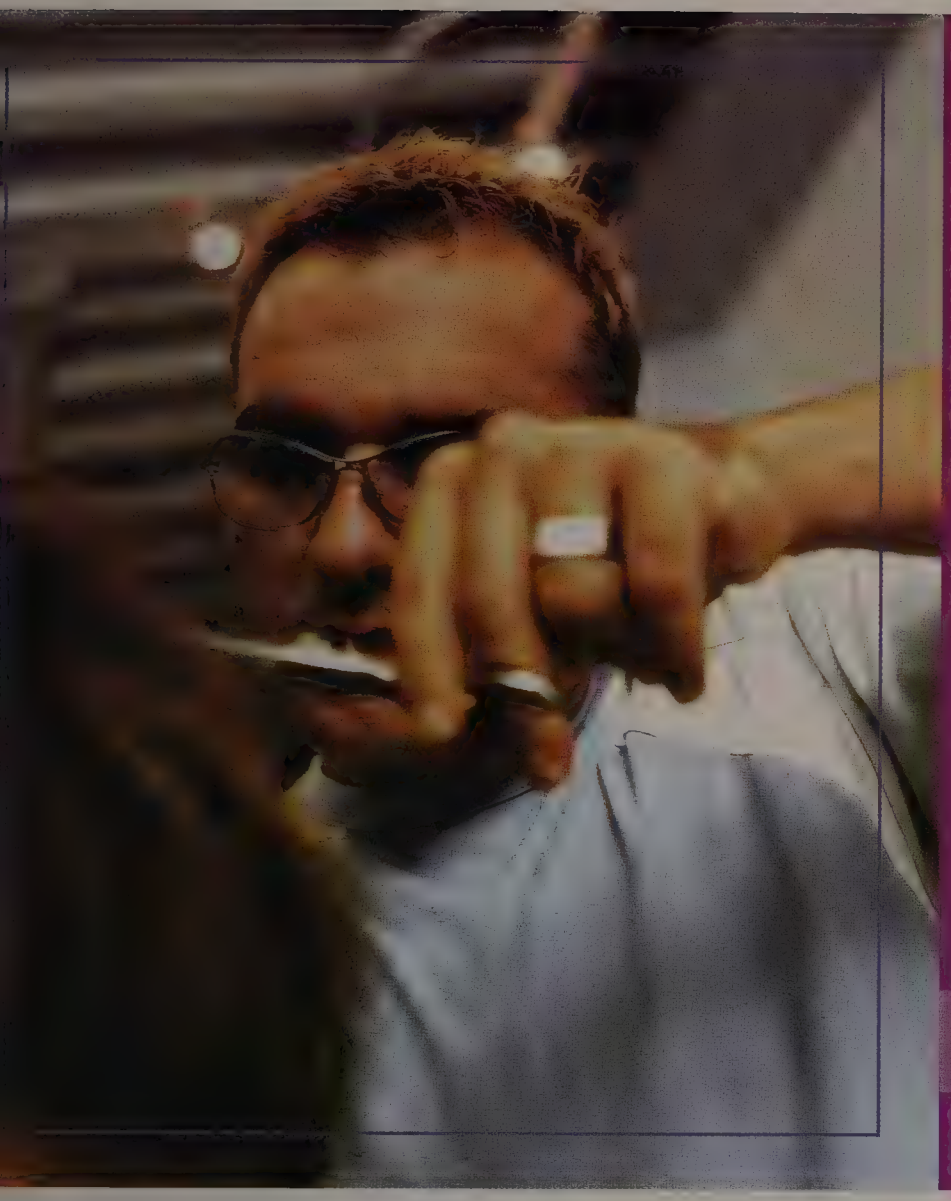
Shaolin Soccer ★★½
Hong Kong action-comedy star Stephen Chow (*God of Cookery*) plays a Bruce Lee–loving Shao kung fu disciple who gathers a soccer team made his former martial arts classmates and enters a to nament. The comedy is an odd combination of of special effects and lots of vaudeville-style sl stick. To add to the oddity, sometimes it's cringin unfunny, while other times it's clever, tongue-cheek and very funny. It's like a live-action carto and the airborne soccer matches have little to with the earthbound version the Revolution p Add the *Mighty Ducks*–like story, and the movie comes mainly kids' stuff. (At Kendall Square.)

Thirteen ★★★
In the spectrum of movies about troubled teen girls, Catherine Hardwicke's debut falls somewh between the cliches of the recent *Blue Car* and unique emotional eeriness of *The Virgin Suici* Evan Rachel Wood, who has a Kirsten Dunst–l mix of sweetness and naughtiness, is convincin the initially girlish seventh-grader who yearn hang out with the popular, more physically ma girls—and gets to, by taking drugs, shoplifting pushing her budding sexuality just as they do. Me while, her frazzled mom (Holly Hunter) trie straddle the line between being firm and frien while her new best friend (Nikki Reed, who co-w the script with Hardwicke) manipulates everyon sight. Although the movie can sometimes come as a pat cautionary tale, its emotional messine awfully realistic, with most everyone obliviou their own faults. (At Boston Common, Co Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), ma Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

ALLSTON CINEMA UNDERGROUND
Features
•Opening Sept. 12. **Beyond Re-Animator** 200 12-year-old boy who found a serum to revivi dead has grown up to be an obsessed doctor. I Yuzna directs.
•Opening Sept. 19. **Southlander: Diary of a perate Musician** *2001*. Steven Hanft's dark co



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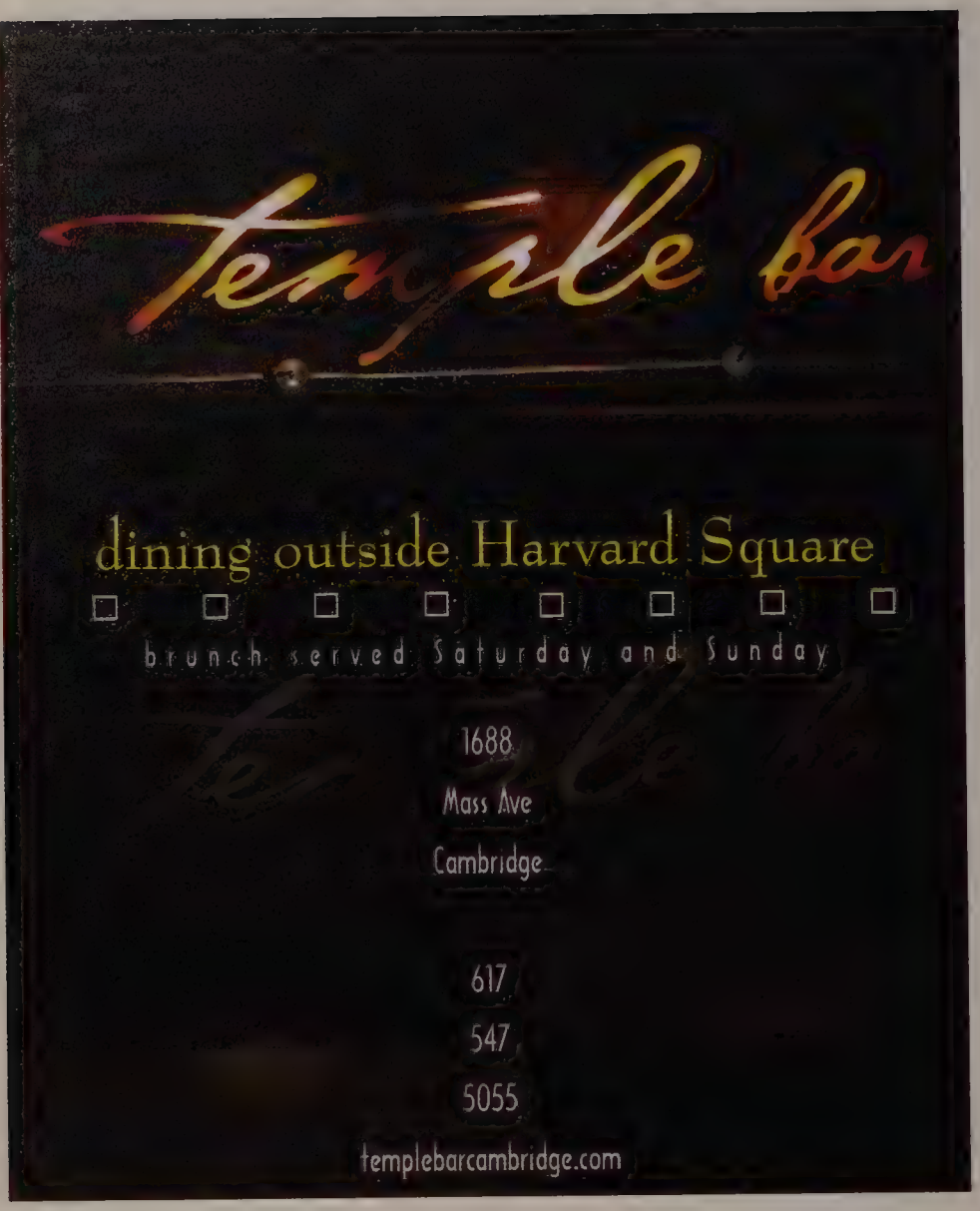

follows an unknown musician whose big break comes via an unusual synthesizer keyboard.

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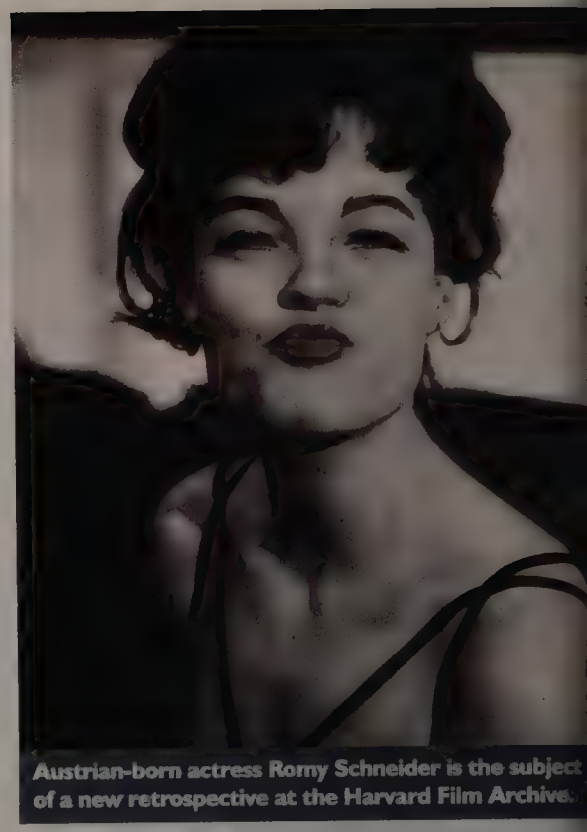
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Faces of a Star: A Romy Schneider Retrospective

•Sept. 22, 6 pm, **Ludwig (part 1)** *1972*. The first half of Luchino Visconti's chronicle of Bavarian king Ludwig chronicles the beginning of his short and tormented reign. Starring Romy Schneider.


Austrian-born actress Romy Schneider is the subject of a new retrospective at the Harvard Film Archive.

BRATTLE THEATRE

The Man with No Name Trilogy

•Sept. 19 and 20. **The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly** *1966*. Clint Eastwood stars as "the Good" in Sergio Leone's film about three men searching for treasure in the desert. •Also showing Sept. 19. **A Fistful of Dollars** *1964*. In the first installment of the trilogy, Eastwood plays a lone gunfighter who offers his services to two local gangs. Sergio Leone directs. •Also showing, Sept. 20. **For a Few Dollars More** *1965*. Eastwood returns as the man with no name. This time he joins forces with his former enemy to capture a homicidal bandit. *Call for show times*.

Special Features

•Sept. 10 and 11, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **A Woman Is a Woman** *1961*. Jean-Luc Godard's film stars Anna Karina as a stripper who dreams of becoming a mother. •Sept. 12 and 13. **A Mighty Wind** *2003*. Christopher Guest's mockumentary features three folk music groups who reunite for a tribute concert in New York City's Town Hall. •Also showing. **Waiting for Guffman** *1996*. An inept group of actors stages an amateur production in their small town while awaiting the arrival of a theater critic. Christopher Guest directs. *Call for show times*.

•Sept. 14 and 15. **Sunset Blvd.** *1950*. A bankrupt screenwriter narrates the events leading up to his death. Billy Wilder directs. *Call for show times*.

•Sept. 16. **Il Conformista** *(The Conformist) 1970*. Bernardo Bertolucci's film is the story of a Mussolini follower who is sent to assassinate one of his former professors. *Call for show times*.

•Sept. 17. **Le Peuple migrateur** *(Winged Migration) 2001*. Jacques Perrin, Jacques Cluzaud and Michel Debats' documentary captures the migration of flocks of birds around the globe. •Also showing. **Microcosmos: Le peuple de l'herbe** *(Microcosmos) 1996*. Claude Nuridsany and Marie Pérennou's documentary captures the lives of insects in nature. *Call for show times*.

•Sept. 18. **To Sleep with Anger** *1990*. A drifter (Danny Glover) shows up on the doorstep of an old friend and assumes the role of man of the house when his friend has a stroke. Director Charles Burnett is present for the screening. *Call for show times*.

•Sept. 21 and 22. **Dark City** *1950*. A bookie tricks an out-of-towner into a bogus poker game and finds himself the target of a personal vendetta. William Dieterle directs. *Call for show times*.

•Sept. 23. **Le Notti di Cabiria** *(Nights of Cabiria) 1957*. A naive prostitute remains hopeful after being taken advantage of. Federico Fellini directs. •Also showing. **Il Grido** *(The Outcry) 1957*. A man becomes unstable when his lover rejects his marriage proposal and admits to having an affair. Michelangelo Antonioni directs. *Call for show times*.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Opening Sept. 12. **Hell's Highway: The True Story of Highway Safety Films** *2003*. See film capsules for a description.

Features

•Now playing. **American Splendor** *2003*. See film capsules for a description.

Meet the Director Screening

•Sept. 16, 7:30 pm. **The Pink Satin Suit**. Directors Anastasia and Will Lyman take questions after a screening of their film, which documents one self-made man's struggles.

Midnights: '80s Sci-Fi

•Sept. 12 and 13, 12 am. **Something Weird** *1972*. In Herschel Gordon Lewis' film, a masked murderer preys on strippers at a Miami nightclub.

•Sept. 19 and 20, 12 am. **Beyond Re-Animator** *2003*. A 12-year-old boy who found a serum to revive the dead has grown up to be an obsessed doct Brian Yuzna directs.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Film Architectures

•Sept. 23, 6 pm. **Metropolis** *1927*. Fritz Lan silent film is a skeptical look at the future, focusi on an underground city that is built below a boo ing metropolis.

From Cinematic to Digital Culture

•Sept. 21, 7 pm. **Paisan** *1946*. In this the second i stallment of his war trilogy, director Robe Rossellini pieces together newsreels and intervie from Sicily during the Allied invasion.

The New German Cinema

•Sept. 22, 7 pm. **Die Mörder sind unter uns** *(T Murderers Are Among Us) 1946*. Director Wolfga Staudt produced this postwar German film, whi addresses the state of a nation coming to terms wi its dark recent history.

Remembering Romy

•Sept. 12, 7 pm. **Le Procés** *(The Trial) 1962* Orson Welles' film adaptation of Franz Kaf novel, a man wakes up to find he is on trial fo crime never explained to him. Starring Ro Schneider. •Also showing, 9:15 pm; Sept. 15 pm. **La Passante du Sans-Souci** *(The Passer 1982*. A respected leader of an international or nization stands trial for murdering a Paraguay ambassador. Jacques Rouffio directs. •Sept. 13 pm. **Les Choses de la vie** *(The Things of Li 1969*. In Claude Sautet's film, a dying architect alizes his wife, son and friends are more meani ful to him than money. •Also showing, 9 p Sept. 22, 9 pm. **La Piscine** *(The Swimming Po 1970*. A couple enjoying their poolside villa visited by an old friend and his 18-year-old dau ter. A four-way sexual entanglement ens Jacques Deray directs.

•Sept. 14, 7 pm; Sept. 19, 9 pm. **Ludwig** *19* Luchino Visconti's chronicle of Bavarian king L wig is shown in the condensed, 137-minute versi •Sept. 19, 7 pm; Sept. 21, 9 pm. **Sissi** 1955. Ba ian princess Sissi falls in love with and eventu marries Austrian emperor Franz Josef. Directe Ernst Marischka.

•Sept. 20, 7 pm. **The Cardinal** *1963*. Otto minger's adaptation of Henry Morton Robins novel follows a young priest through his caree the church.

(Re)screening Shakespeare

•Sept. 17, 7 pm. **Richard III** 1995. Richard craine transforms Shakespeare's classic play in film about a 1930s Hitleresque dictator.

Screening Modern China

•Sept. 23, 8:30 pm.**Wong Fei-hung** *(Once Up Time in China) 1991*. Jet Li stars in Tsui Hark's about China's transition to modern times.

LOEWS THEATRE COPLEY PLACE

Sundance Film Series

•Sept. 19-Oct. 3, at 1, 4, 7 and 10 pm. **In World** *2002*. Michael Winterbottom's film fol two Afghan refugees as they travel through Turkey, Italy, France and the UK in searc refuge.

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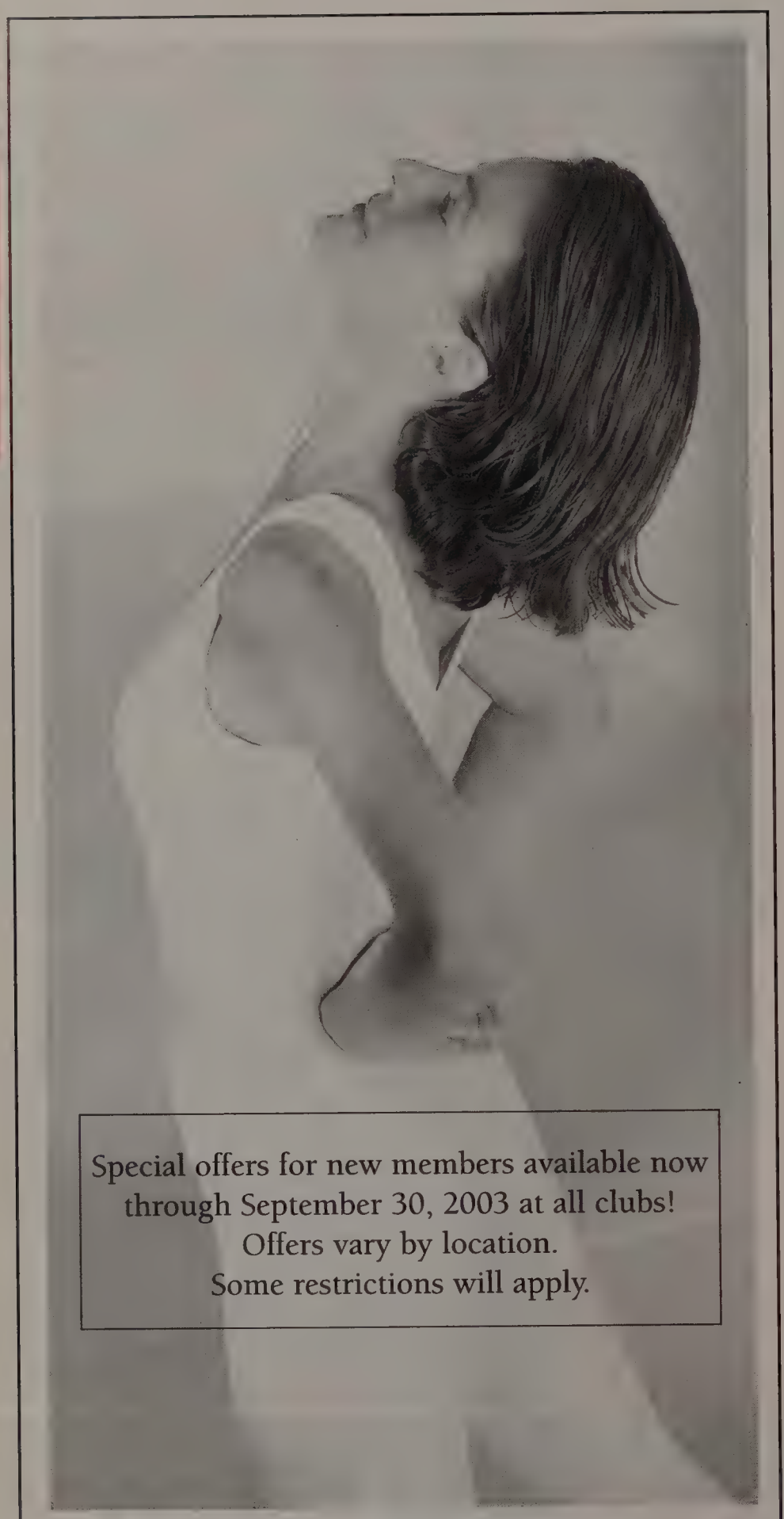

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•Sept. 13, 4 pm; Sept. 14, 10:30 pm; Sept. 21, 10:30am. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2002*. See film capsules for a description.

The Films of Aki Kaurismäki

•Sept. 11, 6:15 pm; Sept. 13, 10:30 am. **I Hired a Contract Killer** *1990*. A suicidal Londoner hires an assassin to kill him, but changes his mind when he finds love. •Also showing, 8 pm; Sept. 13, 12 pm. **La Vie de bohéme** *(Boheemielämää) 1992*. Adapted from the Henri Murger novel, this film follows a French playwright, an Albanian artist and an Irish musician whom live on the Left Bank during the 19th century.

•Sept. 17, 7:45 pm; Sept. 20, 1:45 pm. **Pidä huivista kiinni, Tatjana** *(Take Care of Your Scarf, Tatiana) 1994*. Two drunk men discuss frustrations regarding intimate relationships with two Russian women whom they met on the road. •Immediately following, **Total Balalaika Show** *1994*. Kaurismäki's documentary captures a concert in Helsinki by the Leningrad Cowboys and the Alexandrov Red Army Choir and Ballet.

•Sept. 18, 8:20 pm. **Leningrad Cowboys Meet Moses** *1994*. A band leaves Mexico for Coney Island, where they run into their devious manager who promises to take them to Siberia.

French Film Series

•Sept. 11, 4:15 pm. **Cet amour-lá** *2001*. Josée Dayan chronicles Yann Andrea's tempestuous affair with his mentor, French novelist Marguerite Duras.

•Sept. 12, 6 pm. **Ma vraie vie á Rouen** *(My Life on Ice) 2002*. A teen comes to terms with his homosexuality and develops an obsession with figure skating and filming the lives of his friends and family. Olivier Ducastel directs.

New England Film Artists Present

•Sept. 10, 7:15 pm. **Touched** *2003*. Laurel Chiten documents former Harvard University professor and psychiatrist Dr. John Mack and the patients he believes have been abducted by aliens. •Also showing, 8 :45 pm. **The Jew in the Lotus** *1990*. Laurel Chiten follows author Rodger Kamenetz as he records the spiritual journey of eight Jewish delegates traveling to India to meet the Dalai Lama.

Susan Sontag's Most Favorite Japanese Films

•Sept. 10, 5:30 pm. **Gion no kyoudai** *(Sisters of Gion) 1936*. Two geisha sisters, one conservative and the other modern, struggle to get by. Keenji Mizoguchi directs.

•Sept. 11, 2 pm; Sept. 20, 11:30 pm. **Waga seishun ni kui nashi** *(No Regrets for Our Youth) 1946*. Akira Kurosawa presents the reality-based story of a Kyoto University professor persecuted by the Japanese government for his liberal beliefs.

•Sept. 12, 8 pm. **Anjo-ke no butoukai** *(A Ball at the Anjo House) 1947*. Kozaburo Yoshimura directs this film about a noble family who, devoid of fortune and nobility after World War II, throw a party on the eve of their eviction.

•Sept. 13, 2 pm; Sept, 18, 1 pm. **Entotsu no mieru basho** *(Where Chimneys Are Seen) 1953*. Heinosuke Gosho adapts Rinzo Shiina's novel about the trials of two working-class couples in Tokyo.

•Sept. 14, 12:30 pm; Sept. 18, 3:10 pm. **Nijushi no hitomi** *(Twenty-Four Eyes) 1954*. Based on Sakae Tsuboi's novel of the same name, Keisuke Kinoshita's film tells the story of a teacher and her 12 pupils secluded on an island during World War II.

•Also showing, Sept. 14, 3:30 pm. **Ukigumo** *(Floating Clouds) 1955*. In Mikio Naruse's film, a young woman pursues a married man.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Sept. 20. **Coral Reef Adventure**. Discover Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the reefs of Fiji and Tahiti and the Rangiroa Atoll in French Polynesia. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 20. **Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey**. Travel from New York City to the American Southwest, Africa, South America, Asia and Europe with percussion artists from *Stomp*. Call for show times.

•Through Sept. 20. **Top Speed**. Tim Allen narrates this look at all things fast, from Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones to Le Mans champion race car driver Lucas Luhr. Call for show times.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Now Playing. **Bugs! 3D**. This film features a bug's-eye view of the fascinating world of insects in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size. *Call for show times.*

NEWTON FREE LIBRARY

•Sept. 16, 6:45 pm. **Offspring** *2001*. Directe
Barry Stevens documents his search to discover h
biological father and unknown siblings, who we
among the first people conceived by artificial in
semination.

WOMEN IN FILM AND VIDEO/ NEW ENGLAND

Chicks Make Flicks

Monthly screenings celebrate female filmmakers an
feature local directors.

•Sept. 10, 7 pm. **My Father, the Genius** *2002*. Loc
filmmaker Lucia Small's documentary is a biograph
of her neglectful father, a successful and career-o
sessed architect.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2

*214 Harvard Ave. (978-671-9212). MBTA: B Gre
Line to Harvard Ave.*

Allston Cinema Underground

*214 Harvard Ave. (617-912-8626). MBTA: B Gre
Line to Harvard Ave.*

BELMONT

Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Public Library

*666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Gre
Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.*

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

*100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBT
Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.*

Fenway 13 Theatre

*201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA:
D Green Line to Fenway.*

Loews Boston Common

*175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Gre
Line to Boylston.*

Museum of Fine Arts

*465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA:
E Green Line to Museum.*

Museum of Science

*Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line
Science Park.*

New England Aquarium

*Central Wharf (866-815-IMAX or 4629). MBT
Blue Line to Aquarium.*

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema

*399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA
Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line
Reservoir.*

Coolidge Corner Theatre

*290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gr
Line to Coolidge Corner.*

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre

*40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Lin
Harvard.*

Fresh Pond

*168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MB
Red Line to Alewife.*

Harvard Film Archive

*24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Lin
Harvard.*

Kendall Square Cinema

*One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA:
Line to Kendall/MIT.*

Loews/Sony

*10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Lin
Harvard.*

Women in Film and Video/New England

*MIT Building 4, Screening Room (617-612-00
www.wifvne.org. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MI*

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

*27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D G
Line to Chestnut Hill.*

Newton Free Library

330 Homer St. (617-796-1360).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

*35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: O
Line to Sullivan Square.*

Somerville Theatre

*55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Li
Davis.*

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Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

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Every Friday Night, 6pm

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Every Saturday Night, 8pm

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Every Sunday Night, 8pm

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BOSTON'S BEST 2003 IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

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THE RACK

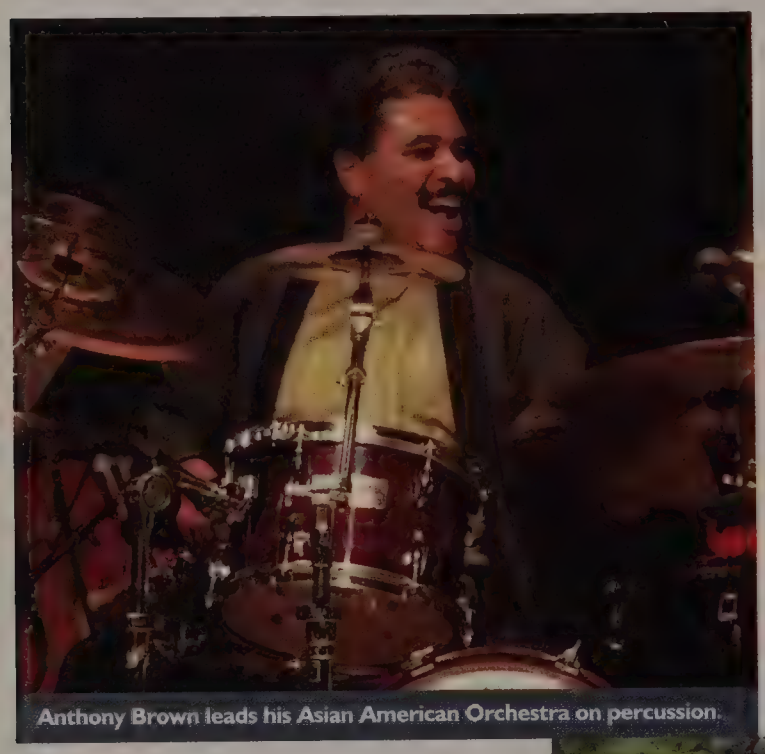
Different Colors

From jazz orchestra to fusion trio, Anthony Brown and Hiromi bring Asian sensibilities to an expansive Equinox Music Festival

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

From the traditional to the avant-garde, from the sounds of the West to the sounds of the East, Boston's jazz world will expand this month when the third annual Equinox Music Festival stages its most adventurous lineup yet.

The main events are the 26th annual John Coltrane Memorial Concert, with Coltrane peer Pharoah Sanders, at Northeastern's Blackman Auditorium, Sept. 20, and the first local concert in several years by maverick pianist Cecil Taylor, fronting the Sound Vision Orchestra at the Somerville Theatre Sept. 24.



Anthony Brown leads his Asian American Orchestra on percussion.

But the closing weekend boasts the Boston debut of Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra with soprano sax great Steve Lacy at the Berklee Performance Center, Sept. 26, and a free City Hall Plaza finale that includes Japanese piano hotshot Hiromi Sept. 28.

24-year-old piano star Hiromi

The Bay Area–based Asian American Orchestra will be playing music from its CD *Monk's Moods*—an impressionistic disc with Boston resident Lacy, who played with Thelonious Monk—plus two pieces by Duke Ellington, to whom the orchestra paid tribute on its Grammy-nominated 2000 CD *Far East Suite*.

"Sidney Bechet playing Ellington's 'The Mooche'—which is one of the tunes we play—is what inspired Steve to play soprano," says Brown, the orchestra's percussionist leader. "The whole relationship with Steve is not only built around his taste in music, but his own personal experience. And he has worked in other Asian-oriented projects, so he was very comfortable with those different sensibilities."

"This is familiar material, but it's presented in a whole new way," says Brown, whose cross-cultural group includes Chinese viola and dulcimer soloists along with standard big-band instrumentation. "It's hopefully helping to break down stereotypes about Asians not being able to play American pop music or jazz and only participate in the classical realm, which is ludicrous. But it's also to show that this music can be sung in a lot of different voices and languages."

The ensemble was launched in 1997 with Big Bands Behind Barbed Wire, a federally funded multimedia project that promoted education about Japanese internment in World War II. The subject interested Brown, both because his mother was a Tokyo native and his father had African/Native American lineage. "I saw a pattern there," says the 50-year-old drummer, who also holds a doctorate in ethnomusicology.

At the other end of the jazz spectrum from Brown's orchestra is Hiromi, who brings a fresh energy to jazz fusion with her high-powered trio sporting bassist Mitch Cohn and drummer Dave DiCenso.

"Even though I'm not really conscious about it, my Asian part is being expressed," says the 24-year-old Berklee grad, who was born Hiromi Uehara. Her dynamic debut, *Another Mind*, bristles with inspiration that spans Bach, King Crimson and the original Woodstock era, as well as piano mentors Oscar Peterson, Ahmad Jamal and Chick Corea.

"I get energy from everywhere," she says, "listening to people's stories, walking in the trees and seeing nature, and going to see concerts and sports games."

Hiromi knows her music proves similarly active for listeners. "You can play Frank Sinatra when you're eating dinner, for the mood—like you'll have a romantic mood—but my music can't be played in that room," she says. "It's too much."

Recalling her first piano lessons at age 5 with teacher Noriko Hikida, Hiromi says, "She always told me, 'Play by heart and feel your music…' Music should always be heart-to-heart communication, not finger-to-ear or brain-to-brain.

"I love improvisational music," says Hiromi, who also returns to play Scullers Jazz Club Nov. 11. "Every day I can play differently, with my own mood, and pure communication and interplay between me and my band and also the audience."

Hiromi's teacher also urged her young pupil to think in colors rather than technique, a concept Hiromi holds true to this day. "I see color when I improvise, and sometimes I see scenery," she says. "Blue stands for sadness or can be the ocean, red is passion, yellow maybe happiness, and white pure. It all comes through emotions. I'm playing music to deliver my emotions to an audience."

A visual approach also works for Brown, who started out as a visual artist—as did his idol Ellington. "We've just added more colors to the palette as far as bringing in those different sonorities and timbres of the Asian instruments," Brown says. "When Ellington talked to his musicians, he talked in visual terms, like 'Imagine a solitary flower in the middle of the deepest jungle in Africa…' I look at music that way, so thinking in terms of tonal colors and shapes and balances, I see the parallels. That's why orchestration like Ellington is one of the things I really enjoy." iB

Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra
plays the Berklee Performance Center Sept. 26.

Hiromi
plays City Hall Plaza Sept. 28 and Scullers Nov. 11.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or by email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Black 47, Seven Nations and Young Dubliners
Sept. 18, the Roxy (617-931-2000)
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
Sept. 20, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Boston Folk Festival
Sept. 19-21, UMass Boston (617-287-6911)
Dandy Warhols
Sept. 10, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Edwin McCain Band
Sept. 18, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Evanescence, Finger Eleven and Revis
Sept. 14, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Guster
Sept. 12, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Juliana Hatfield
Sept. 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Alan Jackson
Sept. 20, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Kings of Leon
Sept. 12, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Brian McKnight
Sept.10, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
A Mighty Wind, the Tour
Sept. 22, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
My Morning Jacket and the Sleepy Jackson
Sept. 16, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Randy Newman
Sept. 20, Berklee Performance Center (617-93 2000)
Red Hot Chili Peppers
Sept. 10, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000)
Josh Ritter
Sept. 12, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
The Samples
Sept. 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Stereophonics
Sept. 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Neil Young & Crazy Horse and Emmylou Harris
Sept. 10, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Asgard Down Dog.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Breezeway Bar & Grill Paulo Danay, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Rubyhorse, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Howard Armstrong Tribute, 8 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Ricky and the Giants, 7:20 pm
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGr 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion Neil Young & Crazy Ho and Emmylou Harris, 7 pm, $37.50-$85.
House of Blues OM Trio with Mister Rourke, 9 pm.
Johnny D's Galatic Fractures and PJ Gray, 8:30 $5.
Kendall Café The eMericans, 9 pm; the Weisst nauts, 10 pm; Charlie Chesterman, 11 pm. $5.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmo 8:30 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Cancer to the Stars, the In mation, This Blue Holiday and Emergency Mu $8, 18+.
Orpheum Theatre Brian McKnight, Rhian Ben and David Corey, 7:30 pm, $31.50-$36.50.
Paradise Rock Club The Dandy Warhols, 8 $15, 18+.
Paradise Lounge Blackout Bar, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack BlackSole.
Regattabar The Kate McGarry Quartet, 8:30 $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Daryl Lowery and Instant! Gro and the Tim Miller Group, 7:30 pm, $9.
Scullers Jazz Club Kurt Elling and the Laure Hobgood Trio, $16, 8 and 10 pm.

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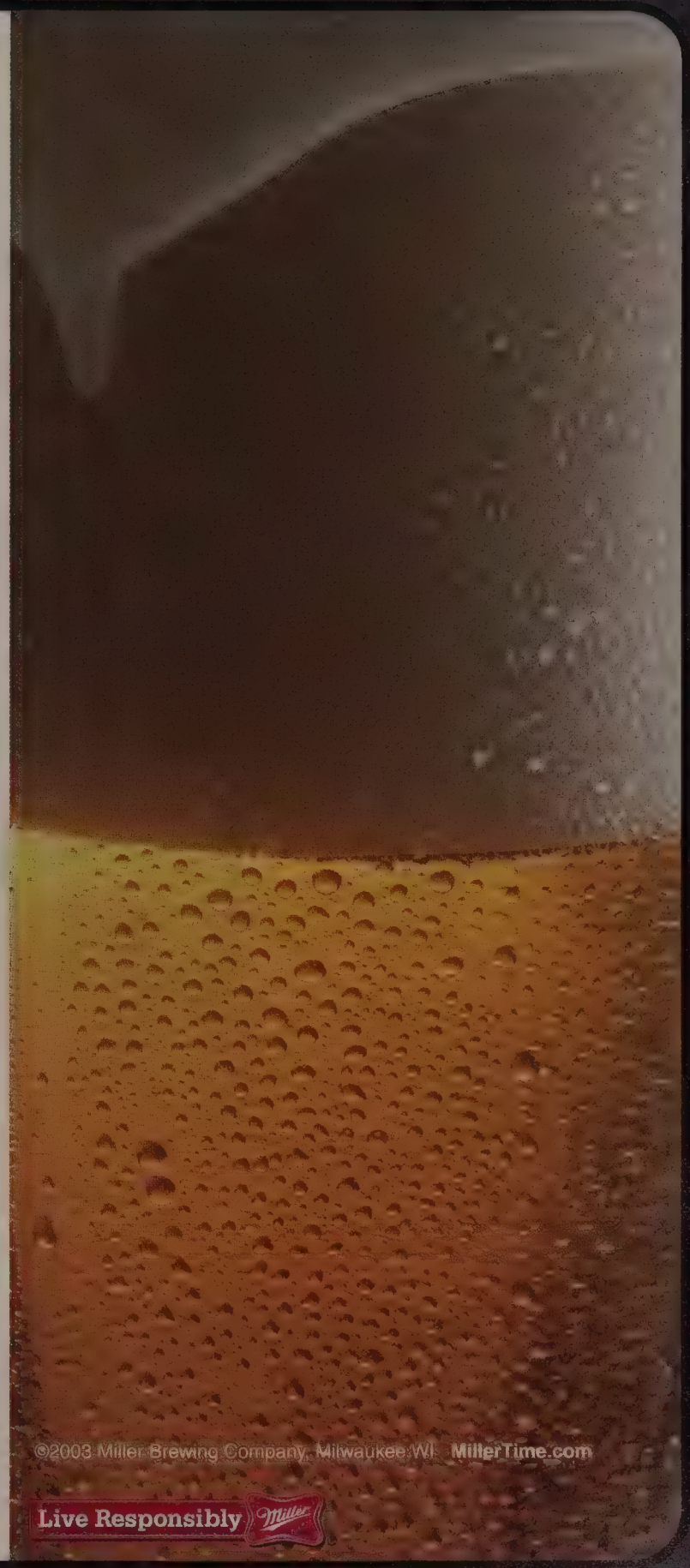

Sky Bar Just Another Victim, Trip Society and Nobody's Heroes, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad The Heygoods and the Armadillos, 7 pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, featuring pianist Joe Mulholland, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Damon and Naomi with Kurihara of Ghost, Dredd Foole and Nmperign, $8.
Tweeter Center Red Hot Chili Peppers, 7 pm, $36.50-$46.50.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries.
Les Zygomates David Eure and the Latin Explosion.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Asgard Nate Watkins.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Black Sole Ensemble, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway Bar & Grill Margo Thunder R&B Live Night, 8:30 pm, $10.
Bristol Lounge Ben Cook, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cambridgeside Galleria Flynn, 5 pm.
Cantab Lounge Bobby Mack and New Day, 9 pm.
Club Passim Beppe Gembetta, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort The Rockhoppers, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm.
Harper's Ferry Benevento Russo, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
House of Blues Wishbone Ash with Illuminada, 10 pm.
Johnny D's Nikulydon, 9 pm.
Kendall Café John Haydon, 9 pm; Jess McDonough, 10 pm; Duke McVinnie, 11 pm. $5.
Lizard Lounge Club D'elf, 9 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's 'Round Midnight Jazz Session, 21+, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: The Cignal, the Static Age and Kind of Like Spitting, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Ex, Erase Errata, Numbers and Neptune, $10, 18+.
Paradise Lounge Fritter, Starr Fathfull, Amusia and Eileen Rose, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Dave Osoff, Mosaic and the Vykki Vox Band, 7:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Kurt Elling and the Laurence Hobgood Trio, 8 and 10 pm, $16.
Skellig Sonic 761, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Union Label, Brian Kenney Fresno and the Vegas Valentinos, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Family Jewels, Billy Blocks Western Beat Roots Revival with the Carl Ryder Band, Warren Hood and the Blue Light Specials, 7 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, featuring pianist Joe Mulholland, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place World Apocalypse Revival with Blackstone Valley Sinners, the Family Jewels and Jimmy Ryan, $7.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Abbey Lounge The Tampoffs, the Real Kids and Napalm Stars.
Asgard Ryan McHugh.
The Attic Marie's Children.
Axis Kings of Leon, 22-20s, Jet, 6:30 pm, $12.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Jose Ramos and the Special Blend, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Three Day Threshold, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Club Passim Pastures of Plenty, 8 pm, $15.
Common Ground Joint Chiefs of Reggae, 10:30 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm.
FleetBoston Pavilion Guster, 8 pm, $27.50.
Grand Canal Pig Pen.
Harper's Ferry Topaz with Megalodon, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, Pie Alley,5 pm.
House of Blues Johnny A., 9:30 pm, $15, 21+.
Institute of Contemporary Art John Butcher/Rhodri Davies Trio, 8 pm, $16.
Johnny D's Michigan Blacksnake and Jen Kearney, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Carla Ryder Band with Evangeline the Baker, $7.
Kirkland Café Twisted Rico Review, $5.
The Linwood Sarah Rabdau, 10 pm, $7.
Lizard Lounge The Coots, 9 pm, $6.
Matt Murphy's Jay Pun, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Ted Leo, Rebecca Gates and Rosa Chancewell. Downstairs: Nebula, the BellRays and Shikasta, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony's.

The Tarbox Ramblers play at the Boston Folk Festival at UMass Boston Sept. 20.

Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8 pm, 21+.
O'Leary's Four Piece Suit, 9:30 pm.
Paradise Josh Ritter, 9 pm, $12, 18+.
Paradise Lounge The Pill with DJ Ken, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris Drop Dead Sexy and the Zone, 9:30 pm, $10.
Porters Bar and Grill Nate Watkins, 9 pm.
The Rack Sugarfoot.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm, no cover.
Regattabar Lyambiko CD-release show, 7:30 and 10 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Mark Elf Trio, 7:30 pm, $10.
Sanders Theatre Youssou N'Dour, 8 pm, $30-$35.
Scullers Arturo Sandoval, $24, 8 and 10:30 pm.
Sky Bar Hum Machine and Tricycle, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Black Eggs, no cover.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group with Phil Grenadier on trumpet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place DJ Vadim, Emcee Blurum 13 and DJ First Rate, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon.
Les Zygomates Ronny Ron Trio.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Abbey Lounge Jay Allen.
Asgard Jack and Present Co.
The Attic Lovewhip.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Antonio Jackson, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Los Amigos Invisibles Oct. 9, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Built to Spill and the Solace Brothers Sept. 29 and 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Capercaillie Oct. 3, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000)
Celebrity, Count the Stars, Hopesfall and the Juliana Theory Oct. 4, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic Oct. 8, Roxy (617-423-NEXT)
Bruce Cockburn Oct. 24, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Cowboy Mouth and Cracker Oct. 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Evan Dando and Vic Chesnutt Oct. 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Howie Day and Jump Little Children Sept. 29, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Dresden Dolls Sept. 26, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Fleetwood Mac Sept. 24, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Peter Frampton and Joe Bonamassa Sept. 28, Roxy (617-931-2000)
Gov't Mule and Chris Robinson Oct. 17, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Shirley Horn Oct. 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Jewel Sept. 27, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000)
Mix 98.5 Mixfest with Tori Amos, Barenaked Ladies, Michelle Branch, Dido, Duran Duran, Jason Mraz, Train and Vertical Horizon Oct. 3, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Meshell Ndegeocello and Soulive Oct. 22, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
The Pietasters, River City Rebels and Voodoo Glow Skulls Oct. 1, Axis (617-423-NEXT)
Reverend Horton Heat, Southern Culture on the Skids and Throw Rag Sept. 25, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Road to Voodoo Tour with DJ Swamp, Fuel and Smile Empty Soul Oct. 23, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Sheila Divine Oct. 10 and 11, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT)
Songwriter Tour with Mary Chapin Carpenter, Shawn Colvin, Patty Griffin and Dar Williams Oct. 3, Wang Center (617-931-2000)
String Cheese Incident Oct. 10 and 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Shania Twain Oct. 7, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
Lucinda Williams and the Jayhawks Oct. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)

The Burren The Troubadors, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm
Club Passim Ramblin' Jack Elliot, 8 pm, $20.
Dick's Last Resort Death by Marriage, 8:30 pm.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm.
Grand Canal Incidence.
Harper's Ferry Fighting Gravity with Suspect and the Low Life, $10, 21+.
House of Blues Jim's Big Ego, 8 pm, $10; 10:30 pm $12, 18+.
Johnny D's Milo Z, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Blue Tree, 9:30 pm; Blue Horizon 10:30 pm; Natural Toy, 11:30 pm. $7.
Kinsale Black Thorn Band.
Kirkland Café Twilight Rhythm Ranchers, Loca Jack, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood Dreadnaught, Specimen 37, 23 Skee doo and Graze, 10 pm, $7.
Lizard Lounge The Electric Logs and BJ Snowden, pm, $6.
Matt Murphy's The 2240's, 10:30 pm, no cove 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Baby Strange, the Goo North, Soviet, the December Sound and Val Em mich, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Tommy Stinson, th Figgs and Confidence Men, $12, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Patsy and Tony.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8 pm, 21+.
O'Leary's Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, 9:30 pm
Paradise Damien Rice, 9 pm, 18+, $15.
Paradise Lounge Stymie with Tony Roberts, 10 pm $5, 21+.
Parris Drop Dead Sexy and the Zone, 9:30 pm, $10
Purple Shamrock Moo Tycoon, 9:30 pm, $5.
Scullers Arturo Sandoval, $24, 8 and 10:30 pm.
Skellig Big Delicious Band, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Sky Bar Living Inward, M-Lab, Redletter and Vac tionland, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Greg's Saturday Showcase, 7 pm; the Blandi gos, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Helicopter Helicopter, Dres Bessy, the Collisions and Superlow, $9.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet featuring Haro Layne
Les Zygomates Marianne.
Zeitgeist Gallery Second annual piano festival, pm, $10.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Avalon Evanescence, Revis, Finger Eleven, 6 pm $26.25.
Axis Five Iron Frenzy, Bleach, Holland, 4:30 pm, $2
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle.
Bob the Chef's Nat Simpkins Jazz Quartet, 10 am
Breezeway Bar & Grill Hakim Law.
The Burren Singer-Songwriter series with Daniel 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Jake Armerding, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort The Bibletones, 10 am; Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm.
Harper's Ferry NBFB and Logan, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe Re gae Band, 9 pm.
House of Blues Jon Butcher with James Mor gomery, Johnny Kalishes, Steven Paul Perry, D Kenny and John Troy, 8:30 pm, $15, 18+.
Kendall Café Jimmy Ryan, Ad Frank, Jason Hatfi and the Marmalade, Elgin James and Cubby. $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7 pm; poetry jam, f turing the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured p Bassey Ikpi, 9 pm, $5.
Matt Murphy's Live and Direct.
Middle East Upstairs: the Carlsonics and EXO, 18+. Downstairs: the Slackers and Mass Hyste $12, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Frank Vardos, 10 am, no cover.
Sky Bar Sort, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Paul Ahlstrand Band, 7 pm; the Sunday Ni Band, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Why?, featuring member cLOUDDEAD, and Dosh, $8.
Tweeter Center Sprite Liquid Mix Tour, featur N.E.R.D., O.A.R., the Roots, Talib Kweli, Rob Randolph and the Family Band, 4 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Abbey Lounge Live blues jam, 8 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan
Cantab Lounge Jim Rader, 10 pm.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, cover.

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SUNDAY STYLIN' PARTY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 9PM-2AM

IF YOU SPEND YOUR DAYS PAMPERING EVERYONE ELSE, THIS PARTY IS FOR YOU! HAIR STYLISTS, PEDICURISTS, MANICURISTS AND FELLOW STYLE COLLEAGUES, COME ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY CHAIR MASSAGES, EXTREME VODKA DRINKS, AND ENTER OUR RAFFLE TO WIN A FANTASTIC GIFT PACKAGE!

Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm.
Hennessy's Joe Carson
House of Blues Hobex with John Cate and the Van Gogh Brothers, 9:30 pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Whirlybirds, 8 pm.
Kendall Café Stolie with Kellie Lin Knott, 9 pm; Joe DeVeau, 10 pm. $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Lizard Lounge Comedy hour open mike, hosted by Kim Davis, 7-9 pm, no cover.
McGann's Pub Pressure Sessions: DJs Illux, Mathius and Guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Vanishing, the Faux, Young Sexy Assassins and Cathy Cathodic, 18+.
Paradise Lounge Chris Korwin Band with Brent Newcomb, Pj Shapiro and Joshua Csehak, 9 pm, 21+, no cover.
The Rack ZMQ.
Toad Shwang, featuring Anita Suhanin, 8 pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place CD-listening party for Kim Paula Kelley, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
The Burren Open Mic with Hugh McGowan, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; Adam Dewey and Crazy Creek, 10 pm.
Club Passim Open Mic, 8 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Kill Hannah with Tripside and Silvertide, 9:15 pm, $8, 18+.
Johnny D's Rafter Bats, 8:30 pm.
Kendall Café Kelly Buchanan, 8:30 pm; Bajuco, 9:30 pm; Jennifer Matthews and the Sons of Jupiter, 10:30 pm. $5.
Kinsale Houghie Purcell.
Lizard Lounge The Mobius Band, Violent Nine and Torrez, 8:30 pm, $6.
Matt Murphy's Public House with Geoff Scott, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Lake Trout, $12, 18+.
Paradise Rock Club My Morning Jacket, 7 pm, 18+, $15.
The Rack Mike Valeres.
Regattabar Rick McLaughlin Trio, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Frank Vardaros, 7:30, $8.
Scullers Bud Shank Quartet, 8 and 10 pm, $20.
Sky Bar The States and Stop Plate Techtronics, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Rachel McCartney, 7pm; Jon Nolan and Hokum, 9 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Ton Perez Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Jason Liebman, $5.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry.
Zeitgeist Gallery Trio Chroch.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Asgard Tom Groleau
The Black Rose Sunday's Well .
Breezeway Bar & Grill Sherry Eatmon, $5.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Rubyhorse, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Halali CD-release show, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
House of Blues Witness Protection Program with DJ Icculus, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's Deb Talan, 8:30 pm.
Kendall Café Scott Janovitz, 9 pm; Steve Poltz CD-release show, 10 pm. $10.
Kinsale Symbolics.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmonic, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: The Common Cold, Disband, Invercaron, Your Black Star and Riddle of Steel, 18+. Downstairs: Turbonegro, $12.50, 18+.
Paradise Rock Club Juliana Hatfield, Freda Love and Heidi Gluck, 8 pm, 18+, $14.
Paradise Lounge Black Bar, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
The Rack U-Nek Approach.
Regattabar Jack Donahue Record Release, 8:30 pm, $12
Ryles Jazz Club Mahavishnu Project, 7:30 pm, $15.
Scullers Greg Osby, $18, 8 and 10 pm.
Sky Bar Riding Shotgun, Greystreet and Rane, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad The Heygoods, 7 pm; the Coachmen, 10 pm, no cover
Top of the Hub Tony Perez Trio, 8:30 pm.

Pasta fanatics and Tufts grads Guster perform at the FleetBoston Pavilion Sept. 12.

T.T. the Bear's Place Mark Gardener with Goldrush and Charlene, $10.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford.
Les Zygomates David Eure and the Latin Explosion.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Asgard Brogue.
Avalon Edwin McCain, Will Hoge, 7 pm, $18.25, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Joe Barger and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway Bar & Grill Margo Thunder R&B Live Night, $10.
Bristol Lounge Ben Cook, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cambridgeside Galleria Spookie Daly Pride, 5 pm.
Cantab Lounge Cheryl Aruda and New Day, 9 pm.
Club Passim Don Ross, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
House of Blues Robert Walter's 20th Congress with the Greyhounds, 9:30 pm.
Johnny D's Old Blind Dogs, 9 pm, $12.
Kendall Café Bruce Grover, 9 pm; Summer Villains, 10 pm; Clear Blue, 11 pm. $5.
Lizard Lounge Benefit for Lexi Kahn, featuring Bleu, Paula Kelley, the Irresponsibles, Rocketscience, 3-Day Threshold, Ramona Silver, Dave Johnston and Ad Frank, 9 pm.
Matt Murphy's 'Round Midnight jazz session, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Kabir CD-release show, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Cursive, the Blood Brothers and Eastern Youth, $12, 18+.
Paradise Rock Club The Samples, the Skills of Ortega and Jim's Big Ego, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
The Rack U-Neck Approach.
Regattabar The Dominique Eade Quartet, 8:30 pm, $12.
Roxy Black 47, Seven Nations and Young Dubliners, 8 pm, $17.
Ryles Jazz Club Ken Clark Organ Trio, 7:30 pm, $10.
Scullers Acoustic Alchemy, 8 and 10 pm, $22.
Skellig Boston Horns, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Slumberfunk and Chocolate Milk, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7 pm; the Dwight Richter Band, 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Tony Perez Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Aberdeen City CD-release show with Godboxer and the Washington Square Social Club, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Abbey Lounge Coffin Lids.
Asgard Oneside.
The Attic Fivewise.
Axis The Distillers and the Bronx, 6:30 pm, $12.
The Black Rose Sundays Well and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Tracey Rose, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.
The Burren Boston Horns, 10 pm, $3, 21+
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Club Passim Dulcie Taylor and Bill Staines, 8 pm, $15.
Common Ground Dwight Ritcher Band, 10:30 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm.
Grand Canal Brick Park.
The Harp Chorduroy, 10:30 pm, $10.
Hennessy's Me and Julio.
House of Blues Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra, 10 pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's Superhoney, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Amorphous Duo, 9:30 pm; Ethan Bessey Band, 10:30; Tractor Trailer, 11:30 pm, $7.
The Linwood Siamese Triplets CD-release show, Moose and the Mudbugs, Kenne Highland and His Vatican Sex Kittens, 10 pm, $5.
Lizard Lounge Spookie Daly Pride, 9 pm, $7.
Matt Murphy's The Thing, 10:30, 21+, no cover.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue.
O'Leary's Tom Carroll, 9:30 pm.
Paradise Rock Club Seeking Homer, 9 pm, 18+, $10.
Paradise Lounge Ryan Montbleu, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Porters Bar and Grill Jim Devlin Trio, 9 pm.
The Rack Planet Groove.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm-2 am, no cover.
Regattabar The Joe Lovano Nonet CD-release show, 7:30 and 10 pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Ezra Weiss Sextet, 7:30, $15.
Scullers Acoustic Alchemy, $22, 8 and 10:30 pm.
Sky Bar Spike Emerson Society, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad David Johnston, no cover.
Top of the Hub The Bertram Lehman Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place T.T.'s 30th-anniversary celebration with the Gravel Pit, Kings of Nuthin', the Raging Teens, the Konks, Last Stand, Jules Verdone, the So & So's, the Charms, Mistle Thrush, Ad Frank & the Fast Easy Women, Aaron Perrino, Thalia Zedek, Mary Lou Lord and Paula Kelley, $10.
UMass Boston Boston Folk Festival, featuring Tom Rush, Joel Mabus and performances by the winners of the songwriting contest, 7-10 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon.
Les Zygomates Ronny Ron Trio.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Abbey Lounge The Downbeat 5.
Asgard Sunset.
The Attic Cocteau Twins celebration.
Avalon Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, the Warlocks, 7 pm, $15.
Berklee Performance Center Randy Newman, 7:30, $32.50-$40.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm,no cover.
The Burren The Well, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm.
Club Passim Charlie Farren, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort The Big 80's, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm.
FleetCenter Alan Jackson, 7:30 pm, $29.50-$59.50.
Grand Canal Thomas Park.
The Harp Chorduroy, 10:30 pm, $10.
Harper's Ferry Carbon Leaf with Cardinal Direction, $10, 21+.
House of Blues Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra, 10 pm, $15, 21+.
Johnny D's Mike Welch, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Phil Aiken, 9:30; Winterboy, 10:30; The Screaming Sellouts, 11:30. $7.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
The Linwood Bonescrew, the Foundation, Drinkfist, Stratejacket, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Spookie Daly Pride, 9 pm, $7.
Matt Murphy's Andy Volker, 10:30 pm, 21+, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: WZBC 30th-anniversary show, with Bardo Pond, Cul de Sac, Devil Music and Neptune, 18+. Downstairs: WZBC 30th-anniversary show, with Quasi, Out Hud, Hella and Tunnel of Love, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue.
O'Leary's The Dave Foley Band, 9:30 pm.
Paradise Rock Club Goldfrapp, 9 pm, 18+. $15.
Paradise Lounge The Adam Ezra Band, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Syndicate, 9:30 pm, $5.
Regattabar The Joe Lovano Nonet CD-release show, 7:30 and 10 pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Storms and Nocturnes, 7:30 pm, $20.
Skellig Jim Ambrose, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Toad The Hayseed Prophets, featuring John Haydon and the Splendid Nobodies, 10pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub The Bertram Lehman Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place WZBC's 30th-anniversary show with No Neck Blues Band, Nautical Almanac, Action Quintet, featuring Thurston Moore.
UMass Boston Boston Folk Festival with Scott Alarik, Kate Campbell, Chantey Boat Singers, Ho Soup, Les Samprou, Carol Noonan, Tom Rush, Tar box Ramblers, Koko Taylor, Tony Trischka and more, 11 am-7 pm, $35.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, featuring Harold Layne.
Les Zygomates Marianne.
Zeitgeist Gallery Pete Robbins, Mark Dresser, Randy Peterson, Nate McBride Group, 8 pm, $10.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Axis Delerium, Conjure One, 7 pm, $15.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle.
Bob the Chef's Wanetta Jackson, 10 am.
Breezeway Bar & Grill Hakim Law.
The Burren Singer-songwriter series with Daniell 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Alix Olson and Pamela Means doubl CD release, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelation, 10 am; B Time, 7:20, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm.
Harper's Ferry NBFB with Pocket Sauce, $5, 21+
Hennessy's Nanny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe Re gae Band.
House of Blues Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra, $1 10 pm, 18+.
Kendall Café Meg Toohey and the So & So's, Jasc Hatfield and the Marmalade, Chilly Kurtz wi Allen Devine and Meaghan McLaughlin, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Poetry slam, 7 pm; poetry jam, fe turing the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Ab Smith, 9 pm, $5.
Matt Murphy's Live and Direct, 10:30 pm, cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Mappari, New Invisible J and New Blood Revival, $8, 18+.
Paradise Lounge Stereophonics, Leaves, 9 pm, $1 18+.
Regattabar The Joe Lovano Nonet, 3 and 7 pm, $1
Ryles Jazz Club Yoko Miwa, 10 am, no cover.
Sky Bar Suckapunch, Nitro Nine, 8 pm, 21+, $5.
Toad Kelly Riley, 7-9 pm; the Sunday Night Bar 10 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 a Paul Schmeling Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Koroli Shut and Shiva, $25.
UMass Boston Boston Folk Festival with P Brady, Greg Brown, Captain Stan and Daisy N Chantey Boat Singers, Anni Clark, Catie Curt Danu, Emmylou Harris, Mercy Brothers, Richa Shindell, Kevin So, T.J. Wheeler, Don White a more, 11 am-7 pm, $35.

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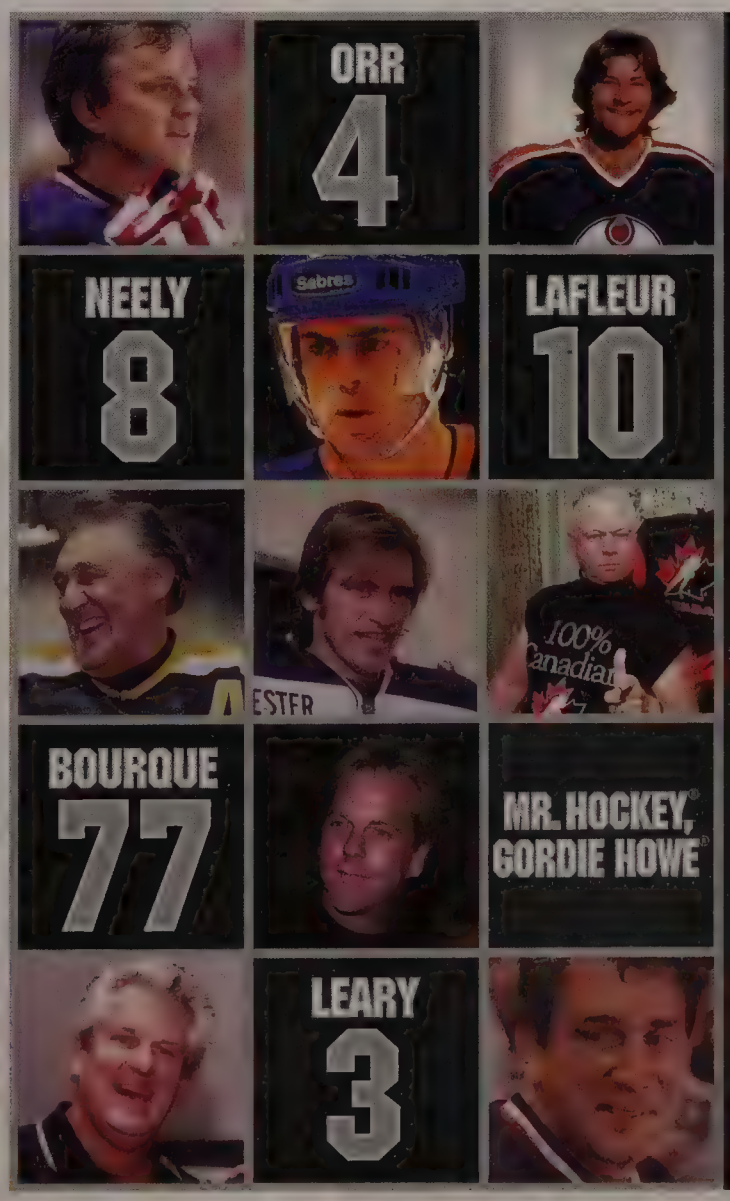

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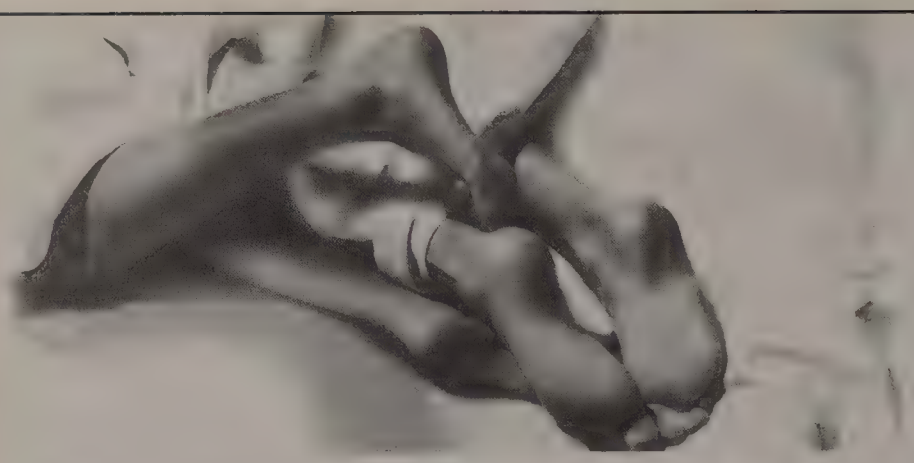

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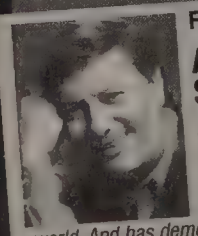

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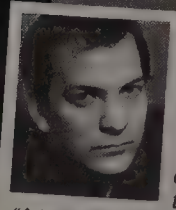

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Juliana Hatfield plays the Paradise Sept. 17.

Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Jesse Gage, 10 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
House of Blues Crossfire, 9:30 pm, $8, 18+.
Kendall Café Lemonstone, 9 pm; Great American Music, 10 pm, $5.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Lizard Lounge Comedy hour open mike, hosted by Kim Davis, 7-9 pm, no cover.
Matt Murphy's Michael Cain, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
McGann's Pub Pressure Sessions: Lenore, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Orpheum A Mighty Wind, the Tour, 7 pm, $30-$46.50.
Paradise Lounge Chris Korwin Band with Mickey Bones, Lydia Warren, Semipure, 9 pm, 21+, no cover.
The Rack ZMQ.
Regattabar The Richie Hart Trio, 8:30 pm, $12.
Scullers Jazz Club Rick Braun, $30, 8 and 10 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Other Side of the Bear with New Blood Band, $3.
Toad Shwang, featuring Anita Suhanin, 8 pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Paul Schmeling Trio, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

The Black Rose Eugene Bryne.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Old School Freight Train, 10 pm.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
House of Blues Jesse Cook, 10 pm, $25. 18+.
Johnny D's JP Cormier, 8:30 pm.
Kendall Café Justin Purtil, 8:30 pm; Putnam Murdoch, 9:30 pm; Jennifer Matthews and the Sons of Jupiter, 10:30. $5.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Lizard Lounge The Mobius Band, Verona Downs and Hello Attack!, 8:30 pm, $6.
Matt Murphy's Public House with Geoff Scott, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Mike Valeres.
Regattabar Felipe Salles Group, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Frank Varados conducts the Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Jazz Club Rick Braun, $30, 8 and 10 pm.
Toad Rachel McCartney, 7 pm; Jon Nolan and Hokum, 9 pm, no cover.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, featuring pianist Joe Mulholland, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Stars, the Essex Green and California Stadium, $8.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100).* MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684).* MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).* MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).* MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee College of Music *1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-8820).* MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).* MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038).* MBTA: *Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286).* MBTA: *Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286).* MBTA: *Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Breezeway Bar & Grill *153 Blue Hill Ave., Roxbury (617-541-5400)* MBTA:*Orange Line to Ruggles.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896).* MBTA: *Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685).* MBTA: *Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177).* MBTA: *Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
City Hall Plaza MBTA: *Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679).* MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).* MBTA: *B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080).* MBTA: *E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).* MBTA: *Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600).* MBTA: *Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000).* MBTA: *Green Line to North Station.*
Gillette Stadium *One Patriot Place, Foxborough (800-543-1776).*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112).* MBTA: *Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617 789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055).* MBTA: *Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).* MBTA: *Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254 9743).* MBTA: *B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).* MBTA: *Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
House of Blues *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-491-BLUE).* MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004).* MBTA: *Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).* MBTA: *Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900).* MBTA: *Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993).* MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333).* MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577).* MBTA: *Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920).* MBTA: *Red Line to Davis.*

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9/12 THE POINT
147 Hanover Street, Boston 9-11pm

9/13 THE TAP
19 Union Street, Boston 9-11pm

9/17 THE BELL IN HAND
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Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washinghton St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Redline *59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, 79 or 350 bus to Arlington Center.*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Skellig *240 Moody St.,Waltham (781-647-0679).*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2333). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Mansfield.*
UMass Boston *100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (617-287-6911). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass.*
Wang Center *270 Tremont St., Boston (617-532-1224). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

Tom Rush plays at UMass Sept. 19 and 20.

classical music

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Conductor Lorna Cooke deVaron and the Longy Chamber Singers host a community sing of Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Brahms' *Liebesleider Waltzes*, Opus 52.

Parish of All Saints
209 Ashmont St., Dorchester (978-283-1909). 7:30 pm. $5-$10. Jean-Christophe Geiser performs a selection of works by Bach, Séjean, Brahms and others on the C.B. Fisk organ.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11

WCRB Classical Concert Series
Copley Place, Boston (781-893-7080). www.wcrb. com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12 pm. Free. 102.5 WCRB continues its classical concert series with a performance by pianist Lara Downes.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Longy's annual SeptemberFest commences with piano and string performances of works by Weinberg, Infante and Shostakovich.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. SeptemberFest continues with a faculty-pianists performance of works by Fauré, Scriabin, Copland, Ravel and Sousa.

Music for Viols & Friends
First Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-776-0692). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12-$16. The Ensemble Chaconne performs music by Bach, Abel, Giardini and Straube in *A Musical Portrait: Thomas Gainsborough and His Circle.*

Zeitgeist Gallery
Zeitgeist Gallery, 1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. 12 pm-1 am. $5-$10. The Zeitgeist Second Annual Piano Festival features various local pianists in a 13-hour showcase.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (866-468-7619). www.gardnermuseum.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30 pm. $10-$15. Pianist Vassilis Varvaresos, winner of the 1998 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, performs works by Beethoven, Bach and Ravel.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Musicians perform Brahms' Sonata in F-Minor and Trio in E flat Major, Villa-Lobos' Chôros No. 2 and Muczynski's Duos for Flute and Clarinet.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 2 pm. Free. Pianist Eleanor Perrone performs works by Albeniz, Gershwin, Scarlatti and Chopin.

Somerville Museum
1 Westwood Rd., Somerville (617-666-9810). www.ci.somerville.ma.us. 3 pm. $9-$14. The Ensemble Chaconne performs works by Bach, Abel, Giardini and Straube in *A Musical Portrait: Thomas Gainsborough and His Circle.*

Pianist Vassilis Varvaresos performs Sept. 14 at the Gardner.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

WCRB Classical Concert Series
Copley Place, Boston (781-893-7080). www.wcrb.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 12 pm. Free. 102.5 WCRB continues its classical concert series with a performance by the Boston Classical Orchestra.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-423-3883). www.boston classical orchestra.org. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 8 pm. $23-$45. The orchestra's season opens with guest flutists Robert Stallman and Fenwick Smith in a performance of works by Boccherini, Mozart, Persichetti and Shubert.

Handel and Haydn Society
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handelandhaydn.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8 pm. $42-$74. Grant Llewellyn leads the chorus and orchestra in a fully staged production of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, which features a troupe of Asian dancers. The show is staged directed by Chen Shi-Zheng.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. SeptemberFest continues with this performance of Mozart's String Quartet in D Major, the premiere of Howard Frazin's *From Sonnet to Song*, and Franck's Sonata for Piano and Viola in A-Major.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

Handel and Haydn Society
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handelandhaydn.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8 pm. $42-$74. Same program as Sept. 19.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. In this program of early music, musicians and vocalists perform works by Guillaume de Machaut and Bach and new interpretations of Occitan folk songs, medieval cantigas and seguidillas.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

Boston Classical Orchestra
Fanieul Hall, Boston (617-423-3883). www.boston classicalorchestra.org. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. 3 pm. $23-$45. Same program as Sept. 19.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 11 am. Free. Emmanuel Music performs Bach's BWV 173.

Handel and Haydn Society
Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handelandhaydn.org.MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3 pm. $42-$74. Same program as Sept. 19.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (866-468-7619). www.gardnermuseum.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1:30 pm. $10-$15. The Borromeo String Quartet performs works by Kurtag, Szervansky and Brahms.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. SeptemberFest concludes with performances of Dvorák's String Quartet No. 3 and Piano Trio in F Minor and selections from the Harvey Diamond Trio and Quintet's repertoire.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 2 pm. Free. Soprano Leslie Goldberg joins composer/pianist Robert Polansky in a performance of Polansky's own work, as well as selections by Prokofiev, Adams and Pinkham.

Wellesley College
Houghton Memorial Chapel, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu/Music/concerts.html. 7 pm. Free. The Anonymous 4 performs works by Hildegard of Bingen.

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Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 15, live music with Ray Brown, 6-9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 22, ZMQ performs, 6-9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live-music series, $5, 18+.

Felt
Den'm Tuesdays DJ Ghost spins vocal house and DJ Eddie Lee spins hip-hop. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Tim Ryan and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•Sept. 16, Blacksole performs live, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 23, live music with Mike Valeres, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Preview

Shameless on You

One of New York's hottest new parties hits Boston when Shameless lands at Pravda 116

On September 12, GLO Fridays at Pravda 116 hosts a visit from New York City's Shameless party (or, as the organizers prefer to write it, "Shame<"). Led by Jason Swamy, the Shameless DJ collective takes over the Sullivan Room in Greenwich Village every Saturday for an all-night, all-out clubbing affair. Over the past year, Shameless has grown into one of the hottest weekly events in Manhattan—and the party's burgeoning popularity has helped to establish the Sullivan Room as one of the city's best new venues.

Shameless founder and Hong Kong native Swamy, known for his wild antics outside the DJ booth, describes his own sound as "bass-heavy, sex-drenched house." For the Boston premiere of Shameless, he'll team up with local DJ and monthly Pravda resident Joe Musser (who also goes by the DJ moniker Joe Mama) and another Bostonian, DJ Arsit. Fellow Shameless conspirators Steven Lee Cabrera and duo AstroGlyde will also join Swamy for the Boston road trip.

Based on his experience with Shameless in New York, Musser says he expects a big night to unfold at Pravda. "The first time I checked out their party at the Sullivan Room, it was Steven Lee's birthday bash," he says. "The party went nonstop for two days." Instead of griping that a bash like that could never happen with Boston's early curfew, let's just think of Shameless as a two-day party distilled into one night.

116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799). 10 pm-2 am. $15. 21+. —Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go-Go Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Matrix
Lively A cast of DJs spin underground garage, 10 pm, $8.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Steve Anderson spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 10, live music with Blacksole, 6-10 pm. •Sept. 17, Uneek Aproach performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Fizzle DJ McFly spins techno, top-40 and hip-hop 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and guests pump out rap and progressive Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami and John Debo host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill's and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tunes, 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indian and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance and house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz and electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
Plush Live jazz and music from DJ Greg, hosted by KISS 108's Randy. Proper dress, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstairs 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Giosci spin dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no cover 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progressive and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins Latin dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men. •**Controversy Thursday** Aug. 21, DJ John Morris spins progressive house for the bi/gay/curious party crowd. 9 pm 2 am, $8, 21+.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover before 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge a night, $10, 21+.

ANNO 1366.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
DJ Lenny C spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 18, live music with Uneek Aproach, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a mix of electro, Funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
•Sept. 11, Commemorate 9/11/01 with Boston Bands Together, featuring Jon Butcher, Charlie Farren and Farrenheit, Tom Hambridge and the Wreckage, James Montgomery and John Troy, $25. The World Keeps Spinning kicks off with Elevation 74, Meet the Day, and Earthworm Justice, 11 pm, $11, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Bells spins house, lounge and dance. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+ •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 12, live music with Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin' Horns, 6-10:45 pm. •Sept. 1 Planet Groove perform live, 6-10:45 pm.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins retro mixes, mellow techno and French House, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJ Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $1 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international hot while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibe. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play fu and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 p 21+.

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SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Roland spins dance and house. Proper dress.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal house, travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes. Proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21+. •Sept. 13, Moo Tycoon performs live. •Sept. 20, live music with Syndicate.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host the dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins high-energy house and techno, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house, hip-hop, reggae and '70s funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and light house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $5, 21+.

Aria
DJ Roger M. spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Aving It DJs John Davis and B-Coy spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40 tunes, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Nate Watkins, 8 pm-midnight.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

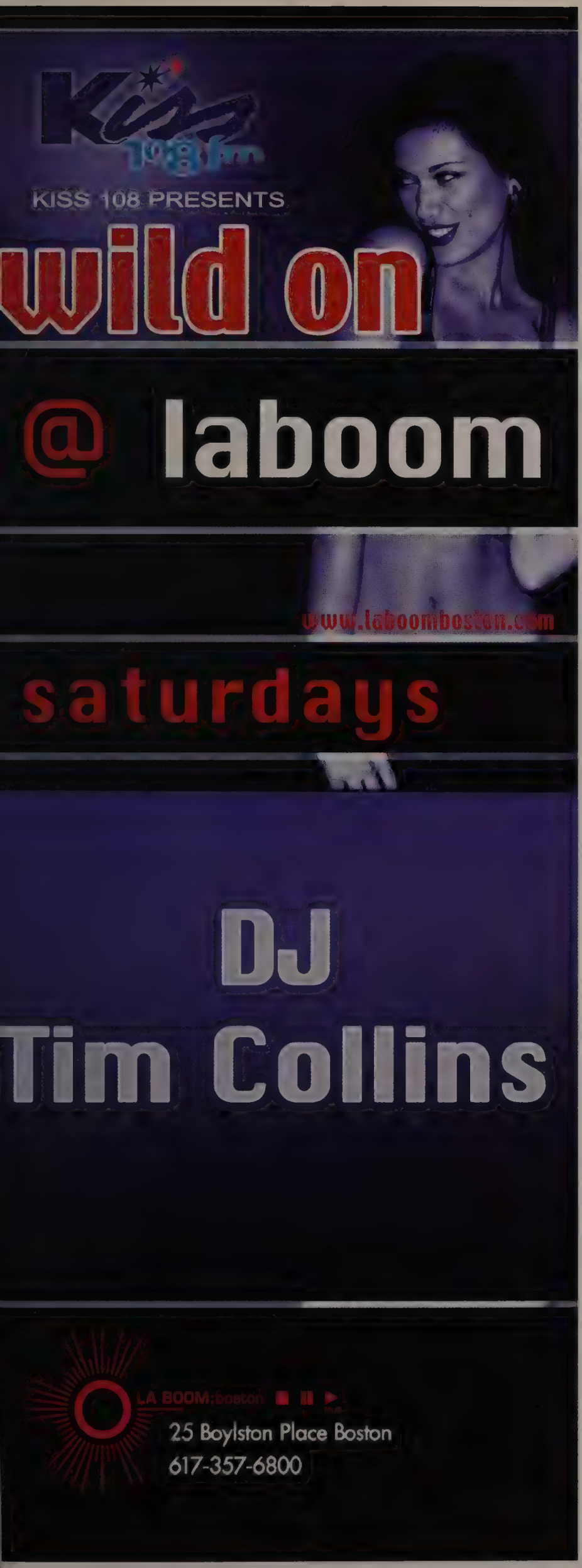
Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae and world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7600).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows through Oct. 26. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •Julia Zhogina shows photographs in *Almost Forgotten Russia*. Through Sept. 30. •*Outdoor Murals of Boston* features photographs by Joel Kershner. Through Sept. 30.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface* features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibit, shows through May 16, 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004. •*Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows Sept. 13-Jan. 18, 2004. •*Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows Sept. 13-Jan. 18, 2004. •*Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Sept. 13-Jan. 18, 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* shows through Nov. 2. •*The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* displays through Nov. 16. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22, 2004.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize* shows temporary installations Weathersby created using materials he gathered while cleaning. Sept. 17-Jan. 4, 2004. •*Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Sept. 17-Jan. 4, 2004.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection includes more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

Roy Lichtenstein's *Forget it! Forget Me!* displays in *Splat Boom Pow!* at the Institute of Contemporary Art

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •*Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* shows 50 color landscapes. Sept. 22-Jan. 30, 2004. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788* features 100 of the British artist's paintings and drawings. Through Sept. 14. •*Visions and Revisions: Art on Paper Since 1960* includes drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Through Sept. 21. •*John Currin Selects* is an exhibition of works from the museum's collection, chosen by the associate curator. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists that he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25, 2004. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children.* •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of the computer from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features full-scale models of Mount Everest, a wave tank and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*New England Neon* features more than 20 neon signs from the 1920s through the 1970s. Through Sept. 14. •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16. •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1, 2004. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community*. Ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Family Ties* displays contemporary art. Through Sept. 21. •*Masterpieces of Asian Nineteenth Century Photography*, an exhibition of photographs from China, Japan, India and Tibet, displays through Sept. 28. •*Uncommon Legacies* features more than a hundred 18th- and 19th-century Native American works. Sept. 19-Dec. 13. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children.* •*Portrait from China, 1923 - 1946: Photographers and their Subjects* features the work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frederick Wulsin. Sept. 19-Jan. 15, 2004. •*These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb., 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the American* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the response of Native Americans across the continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat. 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Kenneth Stubbs shows paintings in *Cape Cod Shorescapes from the 1950s and 1960s*. Through Oct. 4.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Clockwork* shows sculptural clocks by 12 artists. Sept. 13-Nov. 1.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Kathy Kissik shows mixed media assemblages made from photos, found objects, plaster and paint. Through Oct. 4.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Paul Balnis shows oil paintings in *New Works*. Through Sept. 27.

Art Interactive
130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge (617-498-0100). www.artinteractive.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •*Engaging Characters* is an interactive robot- and computer-based exhibition. Through Oct. 5.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Michael Beatty's *Low Fat* shows Sept. 13-Oct. 22. •Jenny Barlett shows her work in *Print Publisher's Spotlight: Brand X Editions*. Sept. 13-Oct. 22.

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Boston Event Guide

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •*Shining Stars: Celebrating 30 Years of Gateway* Arts showcases 30 years of 20 artists' work. Sept. 10-Nov.1.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Sculpture by Jill Levine and drawing by Tom Burckhardt displays Through Sept. 27.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •*The Art of Batik: George Summers and His Students* shows through Sept. 30.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*New Insights* features glass art by Alex Gabriel Bernstein and Kait Rhoads. Through Oct. 4.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* •*In the Moment* features mixed-media paintings by Bernd Haussmann. Through Sept. 28.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*Florence Robinson in Italy*, paintings, *Prints of the Roman High Renaissance* and *The Power of Myth, sculpture*, lithographs, paintings and engravings show Sept. 15-Nov. 16.

Copley Society
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Close to Home: The Hand-Worked Photograph* features photographs by Mary Elizabeth Manz. Through Sept. 27. •Carole Chisolm Garvey and Ann M. Murphy show their work in *Landscapes in Pastel*. Through Sept. 27.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •*In Search of Nurturing Light* showcases black-and-white photography by Peg O'Connell. Through Oct. 4.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www. fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Hidden Language* features recent works by Claudia Ravaschiere and Jesseca Ferguson. Through Oct. 4.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

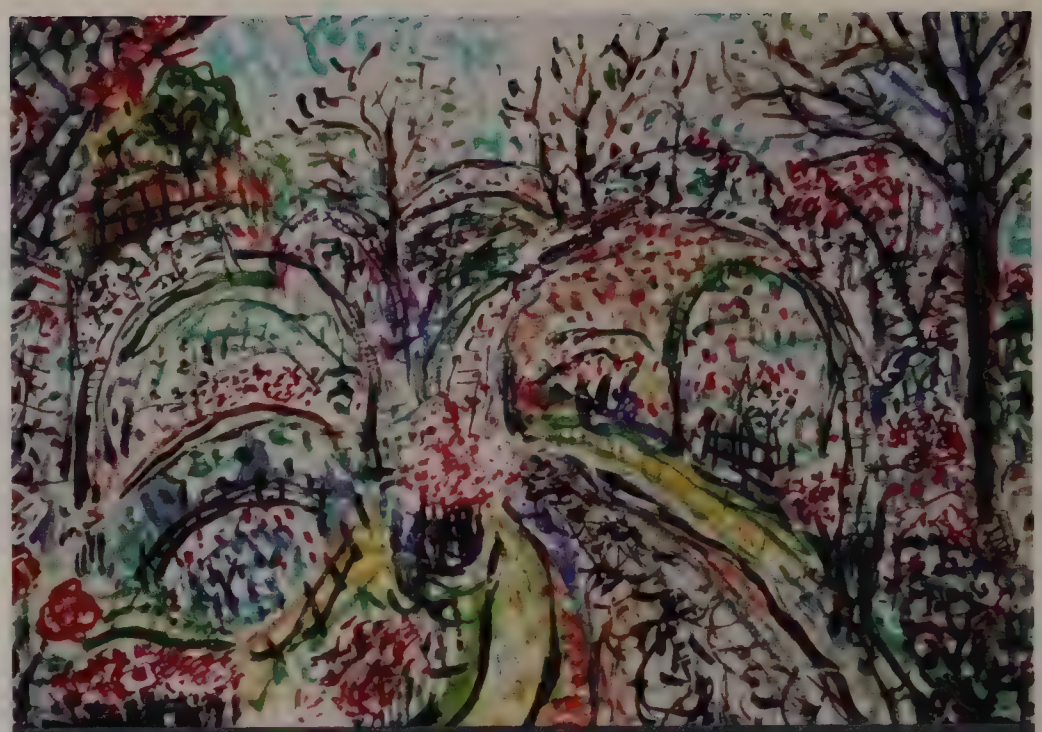
Gallery AA/B
2535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 - 0022). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; Fri., 11 am-3 pm •Mark Vonnegut, son of author Kurt Vonnegut, shows recent paintings. Through Oct. 31.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •Linda Rutenberg shows infrared photographs in *Landmarks*. Through Sept. 26.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. •Jessica Hess shows paintings in *Industrial Landscapes*. Through Sept. 27.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Ellen Rich shows new paintings. Through Oct. 1.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of Teaching Art* features the work of



Mark Vonnegut's watercolor *Rose Garden* shows at Gallery AA/B through Oct. 31.

art educators and their students, grades K-12. Through Oct. 3.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haley steele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www. howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Katarina Andersson displays paintings on linen, and Lalla A. Essaydi shows large photographs of Moroccan culture in *Converging Territories*. Through Sept. 30.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www. internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www. judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Sleek* features works by Dorothy Krause, Martin Cooper, Jacob Kulin, Jennifer Liston-Munson, Patricia Peacock and Philip Spinks. Through Sept. 29.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www. kajiasostudio.com. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment. Closed through Sept. 19.*

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www. cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*The 59th Annual Fall Salon* features works by members of the Cambridge Art Association. Through Sept. 29.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •James Holmberg's abstract paintings display through Sept. 27.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Wide Turns and Frequent Stops*, a group show of 19 artists, shows through Sept. 27.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*Duet: Harmony in Oil and Bronze* features the abstract oil paintings and bronze sculptures of Tom and Carol Odell. Sept. 19-Oct. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www. markartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •*Longing for Height* features paintings, alabaster sculptures and encaustic works by Jane Deutsch and Chad Erpelding. Through Oct. 10.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.martinlawrence.com. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm.* •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www. mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Pastoral* features landscape art by Adolph Gottlieb, Harry Gottlieb, Jon Marshall, Philip Jones, Daniel Robinson, Joseph Solman, Lucette White and Karl Zerbe. Through Sept. 24.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www. millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •*Lines, Dots and Curly Qs*, a group show of paintings, drawings and installations, displays through Sept. 30.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*South Enders 2*, a juried exhibition of South End artists, displays through Sept. 26.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Richard Shaw shows still-life ceramics, Roy deForest displays paintings and drawings and Jennifer Trask shows linked metal jewelry. Through Sept. 30.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. •Juan Perdiguero shows mixed-media-on-photo-emulsion works.Through Oct. 25.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm. •*Snooze and You Could Lose the Next Toulouse*, a group show of local artists, displays through Oct. 5.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www. nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •*A Parable in Mark and Ritual: Work by Porfirio DiDonna*. Sept. 13-Oct. 18.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www. gallery108.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-4 pm.* •*Summer in the City*, a group show, displays through Sept. 14.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm.* •Jacob El Hanani shows his work in *Recent Drawings*. Through Sept. 27.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www. outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www. peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Marja Lianko shows sculptures and paintings.Through Oct. 4.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www. puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Brother Thomas' ceramics are on display in *The Creator of Luminaries*. Through Oct. 10.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •The gallery showcases an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www. robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Sally Gall's *Subterranea* features black-and-white images of caves. Through Oct. 4.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. •*20th Century Master Graphics*, a collection of lithographs and aquatint etchings by Sonia Delaunay, Joan Miro and Marino Marini, displays through Sept. 30.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www. societyofcrafts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Word Text Stories* features works by various artists in glass, wood, clay and fiber. Through Oct. 26.

Studio Soto
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-426-7686). www.studio soto.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat., 2 pm-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Between Constraint* features works by Masako Kamiya, David Palme and Jennifer Riley.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-5:30 pm. Sat., 10 am-1 pm. •*Expressions of Light and Shadow*, group show of painting and photography, display through Sept. 27.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www. munroefineart.com. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Porfirio DiDonna Drawings* shows Sept. 13-Oct. 18.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www. vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*The Artists of Fenway Studios* shows works by local artists. Through Sept. 20.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). Mon-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12 pm-6 pm. •*The Traveling Master's Show* features works by Picasso, Miro and Dali. Through Sept. 18. •Charles Fazzino shows 3-D pop art. Through Oct. 10.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www. griffinmuseum.org. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •Babet Hines displays discarded photo-booth portraits spanning 75 years. Visitors can have their photo taken in working booth and add it to the collection. Through Sept. 12. •*Mustang: The Lost Tibetan Kingdom* shows images by Don Gurewitz. Through Oct. 31.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •Mim Adkins shows photographs in *The Evolution of Affection*. Through Oct. 17.

Panopticon Inc.
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Commuter Rail to Waltham. www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri. 10 am-6 pm.* •B.A. King shows his work in *About Children*. Sept. 11-Oct. 25.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Jamaica Plain Open Studios
(617-524-3816). www.bostonopenstudios.org. *Sept. 20 and 21, 11:30 am-6 pm.* The 10th annual JP Open Studios features 150 local artists displaying their work at more than 50 locations.

South End Open Studios
(617-267-8862). www.useaboston.com. *Sept. 13 and 14, 11 am-6 pm.* The 17th annual South End Open Studios features more than 250 local artists showcasing their work in lofts, warehouses, brownstones and galleries throughout the community.

Ravi Shankar
& Anoushka Shankar

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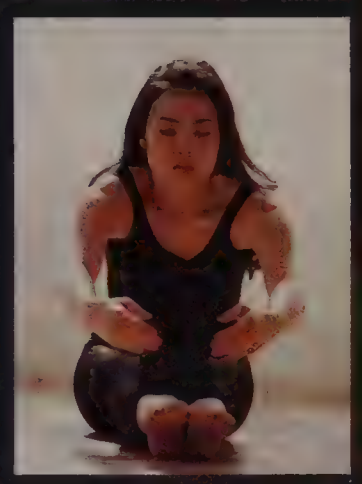

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books & poetry

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Boston Herald sportswriter **Howard Bryant** reads from his book, *Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston*, which examines the Red Sox's history of race relations.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Jake Halpern** reads from *Braving Home: Dispatches from the Underwater Town, the Lava-Side Inn and Other Extreme Locales*, his collection of essays about places where people live despite danger or hardship.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6 pm. Free.* **Chuck Palahniuk** reads from his new novel, *Diary*, about a painter whose husband is in a coma following a suicide attempt.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Psychiatrist **Howard Cutler** reads from *The Art of Happiness at Work*, the second book he has cowritten with the Dalai Lama. The book aims to help people find happiness in the workplace.

MONDAY, SEPT. 15

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Vendela Vida**, co-editor of *The Believer* magazine, reads from her new novel, *And Now You Can Go*, about a grad student whose life changes when she is held up at gunpoint. Also, **Julie Orringer** reads from *How to Breathe Underwater*, her collection of short stories about people learning to deal with loss.

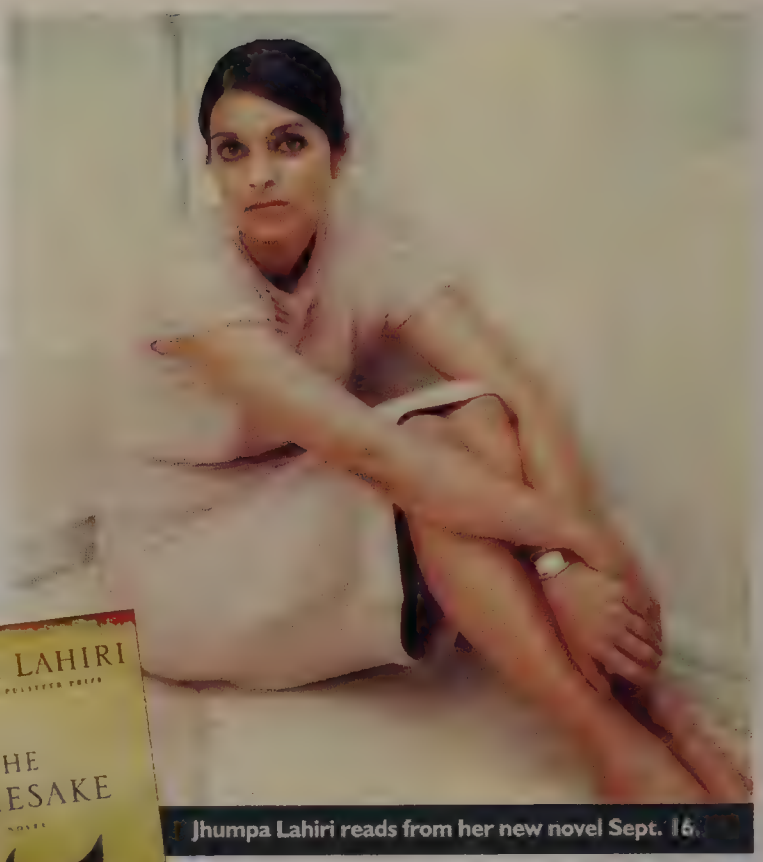
TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Edward MacKenzie** and co-writer **Phyllis Karas** read from their book, *Street Soldier: My Life as an Enforcer for Whitey Bulger and the Boston Irish Mob.*

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Sarah Turnbull** reads from her memoir, *Almost French*, in which she describes falling in love with a Frenchman, moving to France and adjusting to the new culture.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Science writer **Amir Aczel** reads from *Pendulum: Leon Foucault and the Triumph of Science*, his book about the life and work of the French physicist whose invention of the pendulum helped to prove that the Earth rotates.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free.* Indian journalist **Anita Pratap** reads from *Island of Blood: Frontline Reports from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Other South Asian Flashpoints*, her memoir about her experiences reporting on the consequences of natural disasters, war and prejudice in South Asia.



Jhumpa Lahiri reads from her new novel Sept. 16.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard. com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **Mark Zanger** reads from *The American History Cookbook*, a history of American cooking from the pilgrims' time to the present.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www. newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Joanna Hershon** reads from *The Outside of August*, her novel about a young woman trying to understand her mother's wanderlust. The audience is invited to join the author for food and cocktails after the reading.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www. oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:15 pm. $5.* **Howard Bryant** reads from *Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston*. See Sept. 10 for a description.

WordsWorth Books
The First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* Pulitzer Prize winner **Jhumpa Lahiri** reads from her new novel, *The Namesake*, about an Indian family trying to adjust to an American lifestyle.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Sarah Smith** reads from her novel *Chasing Shakespeares*, a story of two scholars searching for the truth about who really wrote Shakespeare's plays.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Historian **Stephanie Schorow** reads from her book, *Boston on Fire: A History of Fires and Firefighting in Boston.*

Harvard Book Store
Longfellow Hall, Askwith Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard. com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **Tracy Kidder** discusses *Mountains Beyond Mountains: Healing the World*, his biography of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Massachusetts doctor who discovered a treatment for tuberculosis while working in Haiti.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www. newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* Sportswriter **Jane Leavy** reads from *Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy*, her biography of the legendary Dodgers pitcher.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. MIT scientist **Karl Iagnemma** reads from *On the Nature of Human Interaction*, his collection of short stories that examine the irrational forces of love and the need for order in people's lives.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Sabin Willett** reads from *Present Value*, her social commentary–filled novel about a well-to-do couple who suddenly lose everything.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith. com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Julianna Baggott** reads from *The Madam*, her fictional account of a 1920s brothel in West Virginia. Also, **Joy Fielding** reads from *Lost*, in which a woman whose daughter is missing must deal with the police, the media and her ex-husband.

Center for New Words
Simmons College Alumnae Hall, 321 Brookline Ave., Boston (617-876-5310). www.newwords books.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Jennifer Finney Boylan** reads from her novel *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, about a man named James who becomes a woman named Jenny.

Grub Street Writers
561 Windsor St., Somerville (617-623-8100). www. grubstreet.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 7 pm. $8.* **Claire Cook** reads from *Must Love Dogs*, her novel about a divorced preschool teacher who takes a chance on a canine-themed personal ad.

Harvard Book Store
Longfellow Hall, Askwith Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard. com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* Harvard professor **Robert Putnam** and public policy expert **Lewis Feldstein** read from *Better Together: Restoring the American Community*, which gives examples of new community-building activities and organizations.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci. newton.ma.us. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* Newton-based author **Jonathan Wilson** reads from his novel *A Palestine Affair*, about a young couple who witness a murder in 1920s British Palestine.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www. harvard. com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free.* Harvard librarian **Matthew Battles** reads from his book, *Library: An Unquiet History*, which details the historical significance of libraries, and how the role of libraries has changed.

Harvard Book Store
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *6 pm. Free. New York Times* columnist **Paul Krugman** reads from his book *The Great Unraveling: Losing Our Way in the New Century*, in which he gives his opinions on America's economic state and his recommendations for the future.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www. outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8:30 pm. Free.* Contributors to *Quick Fiction*, a local literary magazine, read from their "microfiction"—short stories that are fewer than 500 words. Readers include **Steve Almond**, **Beth Bayley** and **Brian Ruuska**.

MONDAY, SEPT. 22

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 5:30 pm. Free. Sportswriter **Allan Wood** reads from his book, *Babe Ruth and the 1918 Red Sox*, which describes the season that led to Red Sox's most recent World Series victory.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. U.S. Ambassador **Madeleine Albright** reads from her memoir *Madame Secretary*, which describes her emigration from war-torn Eastern Europe, her ascension through the American political system and her years as President Clinton's secretary of state.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23

Barnes and Noble at Boston University
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: B, C or D Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **David J. Loftus** reads from *Watching Sex: How Men Really Respond to Pornography*, in which he interviews men about how they use pornography.

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. Historian **Stephen Puleo** reads from his book *Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919*, which recalls the infamous molasses tank collapse that sent 2.3 million gallons of the liquid rushing through the North End, killing 21 people.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Brendan Halpin** reads from *Losing my Faculties: A Teacher's Story*, his memoir about the years he spent working in the Boston public school system.

Harvard Book Store
Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-661-1515). www.harvard. com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* **Stephen Puleo** reads from his book *Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919*. See today's Borders Boston listing, above, for a description.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci. newton.ma.us. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* Contributors **Sonia Sanchez** and **Katherine Butler Jones** and editor **Herb Boyd** read from the anthology *The Harlem Reader: A Celebration of New York's Most Famous Neighborhood from the Renaissance Years to the 21st Century.*

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www. newtonvillebooks.com. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Shona Rajmaya** reads from *Operation Monsoon*, her collection of stories about her native India and its position at the cultural crossroads.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $5. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7 pm. $5.* The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. A mix of rock and spoken word is presented one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled *Open Bark*—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-574-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity to take the open mike.

education

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Education, or e-mail information to education@improper.com. Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Introductory Writing Workshop

Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-23-8100) www.grubstreet.org. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Join other aspiring writers of all experience levels for a session of inspirational exercises hosted by Grub Street Writers.

19th & 20th Century Decorative Arts

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sept. 10, 6 pm, and Sept. 20, 12 pm. Free with museum admission ($13-$15).* **Meghan Melvin** presents this gallery talk.

The Paul Family of Boston: Faith and Fortitude on Beacon Hill

Old South Meeting House, Boston (617-482-9621). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm.* **Dr. Lois Brown** lectures on this family of leaders in Boston's African-American community.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

Curiosity Fair

MCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (617-547-6789) www.ccaa.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central.11 am. Free.* Visitors can investigate a variety of employment options and ask questions of industry professionals in such fields as the arts, health sciences and technology.

Trimmings and Trappings: Colonial Clothing

Paul Revere House, 19 North Square, Boston (617-523-1775). www.paulreverehouse.org. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 1 pm. $1-$3.* Costume historian Lynne Wilkinson provides a glimpse into the lives of Colonial Bostonians through the garments they wore.

Walking Tour of Olmsted's Brookline Neighborhood

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Dudley Way and Lee Street, Brookline (617-566-1689) MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 10:30 am. Free. National Park Service rangers lead free guided tours of this picturesque neighborhood designed by architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

Victorian Sculpture Tours

Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $5.* Keeper of collections **Rebecca Reynolds** leads a walking tour of the masterpieces of Victorian sculpture in Forest Hills Cemetery.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Bostonians at Home: Twilight House Tour

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Boston (617-227-3956). www.spnea.org. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 6 pm $5-$15.* Five of Boston's historic house museums, including the Paul Revere House and the Otis House Museum, comprise the fourth annual Twilight Tour, sponsored by the House Museum Alliance of Downtown Boston.

The Future for Women in Business

Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6:30 pm. Free. This seminar presented by Forte Forums explores opportunities for women in the business world.

Improving Sexual Function

Boston Medical Center, Conference Room C-D, 88 East Newton St., Boston (617-638-8576). 7-9 pm. Free. **Dr. Irwin Goldstein**, professor of urology and gynecology and director of the Institute for Sexual Medicine, discusses androgens as treatments for both men and women with sexual health issues.

Neuroscience and the Soul: How Free Are We?

McIntyre & Moore Booksellers, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-4840). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7:30 pm. Moderator **Tom Clark** engages participants in a discussion of science and free will during this installment of the Davis Square Philosophy Café.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17

Modern Art in America

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6 pm. Free with admission ($13-$15).* **Heather Cotter** gives this gallery talk on 20th century American art.

The Quincys of Massachusetts

Old South Meeting House, Boston (617-482-9621). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm.* **John Quincy Jr.**, an 11th-generation descendant of the famous Boston family, lectures on the family's many prominent members.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

Japanese Stencils

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 11 am. Free with admission ($13-$15)* **Angie Simonds** discusses the history and techniques of Japanese stencil art.

19th-Century Asian Photography

Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *7:30 pm.* Assistant curator **Leslie Laufer** shares the stories behind the museum's large collection of rare photographs.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

Floral Design Styles and Today's Trends

Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham (781-894-2798). 4 pm. Also daylong sessions Sept. 19-21. $15. Learn the importance of color, texture and design in creating floral arrangements. Internationally known designer **Michael J. Skaff**, floral designer for both the 1993 Clinton inauguration and the 2001 Bush inauguration, reveals the latest design trends and techniques.

Floral designer Michael Skaff discusses trends Sept. 19-21.

Invasive Plant Summit

New England Wild Flower Society at the Sheraton Hotel, Framingham (508-877-3658.) www.newfs.org. *$90. Register in advance.* Join biologists and horticulturists from around the country for this discussion and investigation into threats to native plant populations worldwide.

Photography Salon

Brookline Arts Center, 86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway. 6:30 pm. Free.* Photographers **Edua Wilde** and **Ivo Vermeulen** discuss their exhibition of photographs. This discussion is part of a continuing series for both novice and experienced photographers.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

A Conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point (617-514-1643). Sept. 21, 4-5:30 pm. Free. National Public Radio's legal affairs correspondent **Nina Totenberg** moderates this conversation with U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Stephen Breyer**, who discusses some of the judicial issues facing the nation today and in recent decades.

Observations: Jewelry of Our Time

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 2 pm. Free with admission ($13-$15).* Craft scholar and dealer **Helen Drutt English** discusses a collection of modern jewelry featuring the works of 57 different artists.

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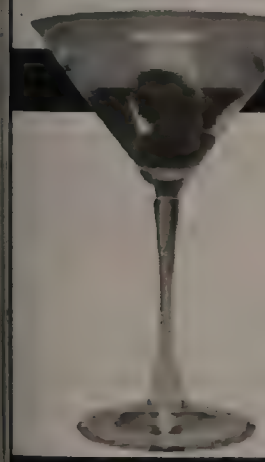

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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
214 PI Alley, Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Nightly, 5 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until at least 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.club cafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502)). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features disco and pop music, guest DJs and weekly contests. 9 pm-2 am, $4-$7, 21+.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men and women, transgenders and their allies are welcome to start the night early at Candy-Land; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. Finish the night with a dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Stele spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

The Alley is a new leather-and-Levi's bar located downtown.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events. •Sept. 16, 7 pm: **Anita Pratap** reads from *Island of Blood: Frontline Reports from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Other South Asian Flashpoints*, her memoir about her experiences reporting on the consequences of natural disasters, war and prejudice in South Asia. •Sept. 18, 7 pm: Author **Jennifer Finney Boylan** reads from her book *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, a memoir of a man named James who becomes a woman named Jenny. *At Simmons College Alumnae Hall, 321 Brookline Ave., Boston.* •Sept. 19, 7:30 pm: New Voices Open Mic night, for women and their allies, features **Letta Neely**.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Childbirth Class for Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sept. 13 and 20, 9 am-1 pm. $125.* The class is taught by a Certified Childbirth Educator and provides snacks for each pregnant woman and her partner.

Fall Fling
Provincetown Inn, One Commercial St., Provincetown (781-891-9325). Sept. 19-21. $75. The Tiffany Cl of New England hosts this annual weekend and fu raiser in Provincetown.

Fever! Fall Ball for Women
Sons of Italy, Winchester, 117 Swanton St. Winchest Sept. 20, 8 pm-12 am. $10. www.djdee.com. Practi swing, Latin and country dance moves from 8-9 p Then, DJ Dee spins Motown, disco, house and t 40 dance until midnight.

Harbor to the Bay
www.harbortothebay.org. *(617-274-4560). Sept. Registration fee of $50.* This one-day, 68- or 125-m bike ride from Boston to Provincetown benefits Fe way Community Health and the AIDS Supp Group of Cape Cod.

Out on the Edge Festival of Lesbian Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theat
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Trem St., Boston (617-436-2787). www.thethea offensive.org. *Through Sept. 27. Call for ev schedule. $18-$27.* The Theater Offensive's LG festival hosts a range of events, from interact discussions with performers, playwrights and rectors to workshops, panels and commun events.

Ongoing

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MB Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9 pm.* Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Tra gendered and Questioning Youth hosts a weekly ries of meetings and social events for young pe seeking community, support and a place to dis relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
oston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes. 7 pm.* This group meets the sec-nd Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bi-xual men.

Bi Rap
he Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., ambridge (617-354-8807). Tuesdays, first and third eek of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is pen to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning omen.

BOSS
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA. 6-8 pm.* This group for ay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday f each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity nd health.

Boston Bay Blades
ww.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join is competitive, recreational group of rowers and ullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 n; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners.* MBTA: *E reen Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay nd lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers full regular season and playoff schedule each ear.

Boston GLASS Community Center
3 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 5 pm.* The center provides social activities for gay, sbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning oung people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
loakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 n.* Rugby players of any level, age, race and orien-tion are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Boston Uncommons
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain. www.lcfd.org/bu. *Wednesdays.* A gay and lesbian square dancing group.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. First Wednesday and third Thursday of every month. 7-8:45 pm.* An informal support group for bisexual individuals.

Cosmetically Correct
Masa, 439 Tremont St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick encouraged.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA First Friday of the month. 7-9 pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pride sportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated (and 40 or older) for get-togethers with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes.* An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female, and who wish to explore gender in a safe place.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. Get in shape and have some fun with this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Greater Boston Business Council
PO Box 1059, Boston *(617-236-4222).* www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals for monthly meetings.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tuesday/Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings. Gay and lesbian swim team for both fitness and competitive swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-PEER). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-GLBT). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month.* Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Meets twice a month.* Learn to cope with a partner's illness.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: *C or B Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing.* $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered.

Wonder Women Boston
Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston. groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. First Thursday of every month. 8 pm.* This casual social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s meets once a month.

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body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail, fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/ Mind, or electronically to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, time, date, location and directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least 4 weeks in advance.

Events

The Dalai Lama
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com or www.dalailamaboston.org. *Sept. 14, 5 pm. Tickets priced at $100, $60, $40, $18 and $12.* The Dalai Lama comes for a rare visit to talk about compassion, practices that encourage a peaceful mind and positive ways to live during difficult times. Tibetan musician Nawang Khechog will perform.

Mystical Art and Talent Show
Swedenborg Chapel, 50 Quincy St. Cambridge (617-864-4552). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. www.soulstirring.org. *Sept. 20, 7-9:30 pm. $5-10, sliding scale.* This evening presents of a variety of original paintings, readings and songs by local artists who gather their inspiration from dreams, meditations, religion, nature and other sources.

Lectures

Holistic Cleansing and Rejuvenation with Ayurveda
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. *Sept. 12, 7:30 pm. $5.* Jonathan Glass, acupuncturist and ayurvedic practitioner, leads a lecture on ayurvedic philosophy and teachings. The talk covers the roles of nutrition and cleansing in improving wellness.

Workshops

Alexander Technique
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Sept. 18, 7-9 pm. $35.* This class aims to restore good posture by teaching how to recognize and unlearn poor postural habits.

Beginners Meditation Workshop
Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sept. 13, 10 am-4 pm. $40.* This workshop includes meditation instruction along with group discussion and is designed for people with no meditation experience or who are relatively new to vipassana (insight meditation). Bring your own vegetarian lunch.

Get Started with Neuromuscular Integrative Action
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Sept. 20, 3-5pm. $25.* In this workshop, participants explore the basic movement forms of neuromuscular integrative action, also called NIA. This holistic fitness program combines Eastern and Western healing arts, martial arts and dance.

Kundalini Yoga
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Sept. 20, 2-4:30 pm. $25.* Learn to awaken and cultivate kundalini energy through movements, asanas, breathing and deep relaxation. The technique is designed to promote elevated consciousness using mudras, meditation and visualization.

Living Space, Style and Success
Armani Café, 214 Newbury St., Boston (617-983-1111). Sept. 18, 6-8 pm. $65. Self Esteem Boston presents this workshop on empowering yourself with the energies of feng shui. Feng shui expert and interior designer Lidia Scher shares techniques and ideas that participants can use to change their home or work environment according to feng shui's principles for creating harmonious energy.

Outdoor Improvisational Movement
The Fells, West Medford (781-395-9428). Carpooling available. Sept. 13, 2-5 pm. $25-$80, sliding scale. Please register in advance. Get out into the wind and woods to explore improvisational movement.

Overcoming Fears, Phobias and Trauma
Judith A. Swack, 56 Pickering St., Needham (781-444-6940). Sept. 14, 1-5 pm. $49. Phobia and trauma expert Dr. Judith A. Swack presents this workshop to help participants learn natural ways to deal with irrational fears, phobias and traumas.

Psychic Development Workshop
Ross Miller, 1075 Washington St., Newton (617-527-3583). www.themysticway.com. *Sept. 20, 10 am-5 pm. Call to register.* Psychic and healer Ross Miller discusses how to identify your guardian angels and spirit guides and receive their guidance. Participants also try to feel their aura, rediscover past lives, give psychic readings to others and more.

Reiki Clinic
Arlington Reiki Associates, 366 Mass Ave #304, Arlington (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. *Sept. 12, 6:30-9:30 pm. $10.* Experience a reiki energy healing treatment. Admission includes treatments from reiki practitioners. Call ahead.

The Seven Steps of Change
Austen's, 115 Newbury St., Boston (617-731-2290). www.namoliving.com. *MBTA: Green line to Copley. Presentation: Sept. 19, 7:30-9:30 pm. Free. Workshops: Sept. 21 or 22, 10am-4:30 pm. $80.* This workshop provides an introduction to mental exercises intended to change how you handle everyday life. Participants will learn tips for increasing awareness of the connection between external and internal experiences and for transforming stress into positive, personal progress.

Stress Reduction and Wellness
Veggie Planet/Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-824-4225). http://boston.earthsave.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Sq. Sept. 14, 3 pm. Free.* Dr. Eva Selhub, director, trainer and researcher at the Mind/Body Medical Institute in Chestnut Hill, speaks about the mind/body connection, the physiology of stress and coping, the relationship of stress to illness, and spirituality within the healing process. Selhub specializes in the integration of Eastern and Western philosophies with her practice. A vegan dinner will be offered afterwards for $10. RSVP for the food.

Ten Steps to Health
Charles River School of Shiatsu,180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.charlesrivershiatsu.com. *Sept. 18, 7-8:30 pm. $15.* Natural-foods cooking teacher and health counselor Warren Kramer teaches tips for maintaining basic wellness.

The World Series: Sex Tips for Guys
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Bldg., Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sept. 16, 7:30-9:30 pm. $34. Men only.* Grand Opening proprietrix Kim Airs shares tips on pleasuring women. Learn about female anatomy, toys and tricks that will make you a team player.

Yoga Workshop: What Is Devotion?
Center of Light Yoga Studio, 663 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-4411). www.centeroflightyoga.com. *MBTA: Buslines #39. Sept. 13, 1:30-4:30 pm and/or Sept. 14, 1-3:30 pm. $60 for both, $35 per class. Preregistration is required.* This class features meditation and chanting along with vigorous asana practice. The goal is to channel energy to attain a blissful state.

Your Big Life Workshop
Break the Tape Coaching, Weston Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-795-0576). www.breakthetape.com. *Sept. 10, 6:30-8:30 pm $45.* This workshop is designed to help individuals develop achievable goals. Learn exercises to help you look at your life in new ways and find out what you value most.

The Dalai Lama visits Boston Sept. 14

Ongoing

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10. All levels welcome.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches participants to experience the breath as the body's link with the mind.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
Sept. 12, 7:05 pm vs. Chicago White Sox
Sept. 13, 7:05 pm vs. Chicago White Sox
Sept. 14, 2:05 pm vs. Chicago White Sox
Sept. 15, 7:05 pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
Sept. 16, 7:05 pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
Sept. 17, 7:05 pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
Sept. 18, 7:05 pm vs. Tampa Bay Devil Rays
Sept. 22, 7:05 pm vs. Baltimore Orioles
Sept. 23, 7:05 pm vs. Baltimore Orioles

New England Patriots
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Sept. 21, 1 pm vs. New York Jets

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 877-438-7387
Sept. 18, 7:30 pm vs. Colorado Rapids

New England Storm Women's Professional Football
•Hormel Stadium, Medford.
Tickets: 781-395-8326
Sept. 13, 7:30 pm vs. Colorado Rapids

Events

Marino Foundation Autumn Classic
Spend a day on the links to raise money for the Marino Foundation's health centers. *Walpole Country Club, Walpole (617-661-6225, ext. 230).* www.marinocenter.org. *Sept. 22. $1,200 per foursome.*

New England Firefighters Big City Five & Dive Road Race
Run in 5-mile, 10-mile individual, or 10-mile team relay races to benefit the Somerville Gridiron Club. *Start and finish at Tufts University, Medford-Somerville (617-625-2140).* www.clydesdale.org. *Sept. 21, 9 am. $20 for 5-mile race, $22 for 10-mile race.*

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Ages 17-40. Seeking players for the 2003 season.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the basics of fencing.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext.

BSSC outdoor soccer is looking for players.

242). Sign up individually or with a group o friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
Games are played Tuesdays in Brighton. (617-789 4070). Relive your grade-school glory by playin kickball. Teams and individuals welcome.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experi enced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is lookin for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Clul
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seek new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysti rugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club we comes both new and experienced players who war to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. ar Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New an experienced players are welcome to tape up the ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostc hash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. yea round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singi bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-pr claimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First S Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Week runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun Ru
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (78 275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursd nights, 7 pm.*

SAILING

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (617-523-103 www.community-boating.org. Mon.-Fri., 1 p sunset; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-sunset. Membership price vari Beginners and experienced sailors alike are welco to come to the Esplanade and sail boats from 15- feet long, as well as go windsurfing and kayaking.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games play in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading a Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 22 Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in Cambridge, W tertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and in viduals are welcome to set and spike their way glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. A ateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill l els. Weekly practices held year-round.

children

Advice to Contributors
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Things to See

Family Sing Out!
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 21, 3 pm. $3-$5.* The CCAE hosts this family concert with guitarist Vanessa Trien, featuring original songs and old favorites to sing and dance to.

Nigel Pepper
Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 13, 11 am. $8, $5 children.* Travel around the world with Nigel Pepper and his grandfather's magical globe that can transport him anywhere he wants to go.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
2 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. MBTA: *D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •Sept. 20 and 21, 1 and 3 pm: The Tanglewood Marionettes perform the classic fairy tale *Cinderella.*

World Cultures Day
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Library/default.asp. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Sept. 16, 3:30 pm. Ages 5 and older.* Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with a story, crafts and a treat.

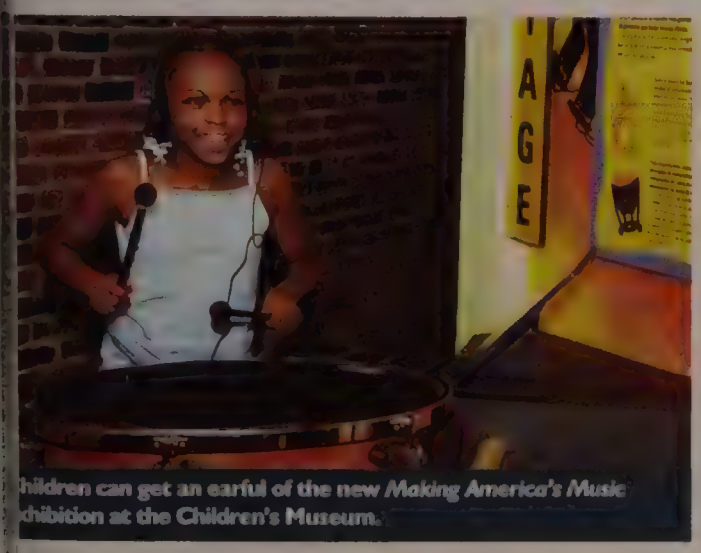
Things to Do

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Lechmere or Red Line to Kendall, transfer to free shuttle.* Saturdays, 12 pm. Gather in the children's department to listen to staff members read from new and classic storybooks.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library Children's Tour
Abbe Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Sat. 11 am. Free. Ages 5 and older.* Take a tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •Mon.-Fri., 11 am-2 pm. Visit the Japanese house. Roam the hallways of a Kyoto townhouse and play Japanese games. •Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage. •Sept. 10, 12 pm: The Club Passim American Music Series features Roots Rock with Todd Thibaud. •Sept. 13, 12 pm: Kitchen Science. Experiment with items you don't normally find in your own kitchen. •Sept. 14, 1 pm: The Equinox Music Festival, with a special prefestival family performance by Lisa Yves and the Young Beboppers. •Sept. 17, 12 pm: The Club Passim American Music Series features the fiddling talents of Hanneke Cassel and Jake Armerding. •Sept. 20, 10 am: The Family Musical Celebration is a day for families to watch music performances, make musical art and learn dances of the '50's and '60's.


Children can get an earful of the new *Making America's Music* exhibition at the Children's Museum.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Through Sept. 30. Every hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9.* Tour the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Park.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall. $5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Light Fantastic:* The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyond:* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. $15, children under 17 free.* •Tue. and Wed., 3:30 pm. *Books Bring Art Alive.* Museum instructors read books, poems and stories to bring the paintings to life and encourage kids to talk about what they see.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children.* •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!*, featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events during the presentation, *The Sky Tonight.* •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., 12 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 children. Travel from Brazil to Japan to North America and beyond, exploring the regions' percussion beats and cultures in *Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey*, directed by the creators of the *Stomp* stage production. •*Theater of Electricity:* Daily at 12 and 2 pm. The Van de Graaff generator provides a risk-free lightning show.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5.* The Museum of Transportation includes a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the museum and receive a free prize.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Dorchester (617-929-1250). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free.* The JFK Library holds a weekly story hour for kids and adults.

Story Time
FAO Schwarz, 440 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-5900). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Daily, 1 pm, 3 pm and 5 pm. Free. Ages 2-7.* Kids can listen to stories read by Mother Goose, Raggedy Ann and other characters.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: *B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.*

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.*

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: *Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.*

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: *Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.*

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: *Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.*

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.*

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamericanmuseum.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: *Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.*

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: *Blue Line to State; Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.*

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: *Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.*

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: *Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.*

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: *Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.*

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.*

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.*

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Summer ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Clean up Franklin Park Zoo Sept. 20.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Information sessions: Sept. 10, 12-1 pm; Sept. 15, 6-7 pm; Sept. 22, 6-7 pm. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Call to Action Project
(781-395-8307). Donate quilt blocks to be pieced into quilts and placed on auction to benefit the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge Family & Children's Services
(617-876-4210). Sept. 16. Learn how to adopt a child.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Franklin Park Zoo Cleanup
Franklin Park Zoo, Giraffe Entrance, One Franklin Park Road, Boston. www.starbucks.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Forest Hills. Sept. 20, 9:30 am-1 pm.* Clean up the zoo, while raising money for Zoo New England. Starbucks will donate $10 per hour per volunteer.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-972-1702). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-431-1211). Care for homeless rabbits.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Jimmy Fund Walk
(866-539-4376). www.jimmyfundwalk.org. Help walkers at the Sept. 21 Jimmy Fund Walk.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors are needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic-violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young professionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

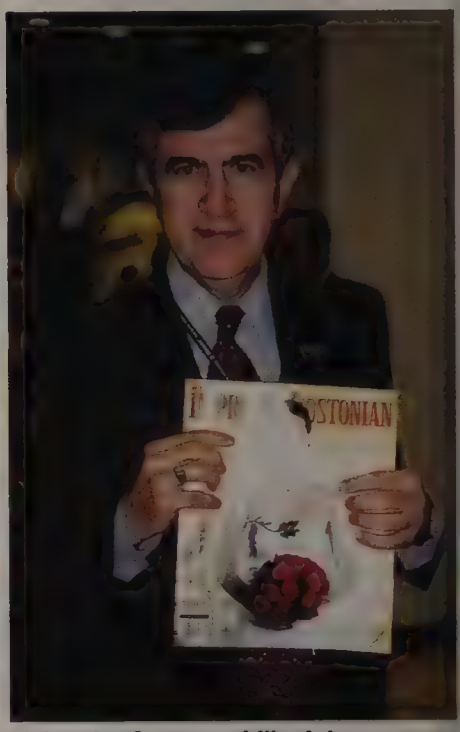
IMPROPER sightings

UNLIKE THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS, WE WANT TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

Qadir Wahid introduces locals Tereza and Tatiana to the IMPROPER in Prague, Czech Republic. They wanted to buy it, but he wouldn't take a personal Czech.

Joan Jacobs, Kristen Carlson, Mark Siegrist and Alison Gregian acquaint Carlos the waiter with the IMPROPER at the Tall Club International Convention aboard a Caribbean cruise. At one point Carlos got snippy, but he apologized for being short.



Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns always reads his IMPROPER. We bet the Comedy Issue was big in Oma...ha.

Maurice Thomas upholds the law with the 42nd Military Police Co. in Hohenfels, Germany. Yield, soldier!

Merisa Titlow and Adriane Kilar took some reading to Denali National Park in Alaska. They wanted to drive through Denali Park, but there was no place to park their Denali.

Philip Ketchian and his wife, Elsa Ronningstam (second and third from right, respectively), scaled Mount Ararat in Turkey. From the length of their shadows, they must Noah it will be ark soon.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: Buying some locally made wares at the Festival of the Pot (which, despite the name, has nothing to do with Snoop Dogg) in La Quiaca, Argentina, in late October.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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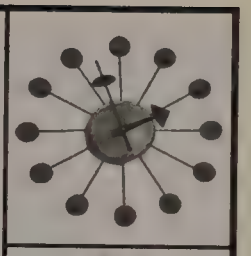
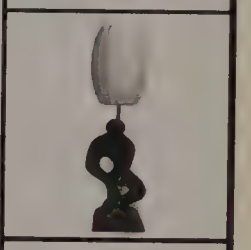

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rockie horoscope

SEPTEMBER 10 – 23, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

The Virgo-Pisces full moon highlights a personal goal, a close relationship, your parents and last, but not least, where you're living. If revelations come creeping out of the primeval ooze that is your past when the Virgo sun challenges Pluto, Lord of the Underworld, use what suits you now and stuff the rest back in the closet until a later date. You may be especially eager to look a lot more attractive while beautifying Venus merges with your Mercury ruler in Virgo. If this be vanity, make the most of it.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Pangs of remorse after a jealous outburst, a stronger sense of community involvement or payback for being bitchy to a "poor me" Pisces can keep you occupied until your Venus ruler finds safe haven in Libra. But until the 15th arrives, try to fulfill your commitments and provide for the needy without stepping into the spotlight. The weeks before the equinox are best spent renewing your energy, tweaking the image you want to project so that, come Libra, you'll shine. Meanwhile, continue sifting and sorting.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

The Harvest full moon can be surprisingly enjoyable if you spend it with clever, articulate pals who have something intelligent to impart. No doubt plenty of sloppy drunks and druggies will bob to the surface during the mystical, musical Pisces lunar event, but an intuitive water sign like yours will become aware of the danger signs before you actually see them. Did you know that while the sun is applying pressure to your Pluto co-ruler in your Sagittarius money house, a friendship could cost you dearly? Who's paying for rehab?

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Although career and family concerns come to the fore during the annual Virgo-Pisces full moon, you can probably postpone making a decision until after Mercury turns direct in your midheaven on the 20th. But don't downplay any information you manage to acquire or allow anyone to twist your arm too hard to get what they want. There's bound to be blatant manipulation when the Virgo sun tests Pluto in your sign. However, tit-for-tat doesn't really work for a Centaur; better to sense what's coming and cut the competition off at the pass.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Make the adjustment, already. Since you're not in the line of fire, and the harvest full moon is being kind to all the earth signs, why not agree to whatever your favorite Cancer, Pisces or Aquarius is asking? Shifting your focus and looking further into the future, even if it means diverting some funds, could do more for your entrepreneurial spirit than you're aware of right now. Although Mercury is retrograde, you can still benefit from what foreign publications, talking heads and bloggers are conveying.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

If you're feeling pressured by a group of friends or an organization (the IRS?) to contribute more than you'd like, try to renegotiate. One of the advantages of Mercury retrograde is the breathing space it affords us—you'll have the time to reconsider a prior decision. Since Mercury and the Virgo-Pisces full moon are focused on your finances, why not try to save both bucks and aggravation? This is also a good time to get more serious about creating or acquiring artwork. Channel your muse of choice.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

This month is primarily about communicating. While the planets offering goodies, goodness and growth converge in your Virgo house of partners, get ready to share your wealth of knowledge and be willing to receive as much in return. The full moon in Pisces could make you even more receptive to the undercurrents in cosmic consciousness than ever before. However, like the other mutable signs, you should beware of sneaky attempts by the manipulative boss, a politician with a hidden agenda or a controlling parent to exert undue influence.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

You'll get another growth opportunity—probably in mid-November when your Mars ruler faces enthusiastic, entrepreneurial Jupiter again—similar to the one you're being offered right about now. Since retrograde is hardly the time to "carpe diem," it makes sense to wait and see what else develops during this month of madness. The Harvest full moon will shed light on a crucial matter; so after Mercury turns direct on the 20th and Mars flips forward on the 27th, you'll be much better informed, especially about work and health matters.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Try tapping into your unconscious via hypnosis, automatic writing, meditation or dreams to unleash more of your creative potential. Virgo can be a very powerful period for Bulls who aspire to excel at their art form, also for those who want to mend romantic fences. Somehow you'll know just how hard to press forward and when to lie back so that can you achieve exactly the effect you desire. Around the 15th, when your Venus ruler moves into Libra, you're liable to have another, more socially aware, politically savvy agenda entirely.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Whether or not you elect to pick up, you're getting beeped from beyond. There's a message waiting for Twins whose moment of decision has arrived. At first you'll grow acutely aware of what suits you best and what'll make you popular, but the crucial choice might not come until just after the Pisces full moon on the 10th. Make sure you have the latest information, the dirtiest dish before taking action. And remember that your Mercury ruler is in retrograde, so you'll be reconsidering and reevaluating until it flips forward on the 20th.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

During this year's "shine on" Harvest moon, consider getting away from it all and nurturing your inner hermit Crab instead. Not only is the full moon light very bright, there's also a powerful cosmic force urging you to reveal secrets from your dark side and communicate them to far too many others. If you feel caught between the critical Virgo sun and the sacrificial Pisces moon, manipulated by a co-worker or exhausted by the ups and downs of a financial matter, take a dive. Come up for air when this wave is spent.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

It's time for serious fun, a secret desire to please a loved one or the passion to create something memorable. When your sun ruler rises to a challenge issued by powerful Pluto, major changes take place. Trace the arc yourself: What began in December, faced its first challenge in March and reached a critical point in June is about to be tested again. Afterwards, it's clear sailing until December. The Virgo-Pisces full moon focuses attention on a money matter or possibly something else you value.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, www.rockiehoroscope.com. Read my daily forecast online at www.laweekly.com.

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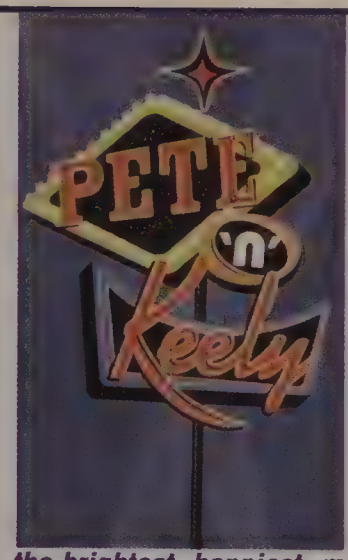

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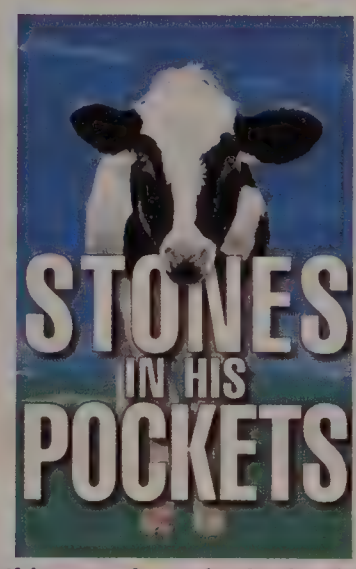

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

NASCAR Twit

To the besotted waste of a NASCAR fan I found sprawled in my garden last weekend: It seems that the general hooting and cacophony of beer belches wasn't sufficiently spoiling each and every Sunday in our neighborhood. After all, the rest of us had grown used to obscenities and plumes of marijuana smoke emanating from your apartment, piled-up pizza boxes stuffed in the community trash receptacle, and hordes of revelers coming and going, dressed in clown-suit regalia to support their racing heroes. So, we were enthralled that you decided to add trespassing to your repertoire, wrapping yourself in your favorite Tony Stewart blanket and staking out my flowerbed for a mid-afternoon slumber. Thanks for the continuing knucklehead-fest.
—Revved Up in Somerville

This film Is Not Suitable for Children

It was Aug. 25. Me: A handsome, dark-haired clerk at Mike's Movies. You: A buxom brunette with beautiful green eyes and very soft hands. I recall that you rented *Glitter*, starring Mariah Carey, and we locked eyes—time stopped. I have to see you again. You haven't been back here since, and I wonder if it was something I said or if I came on too strong. I was rendered speechless by your beauty. Please forgive me and remember Tuesday is rent one, get one free!
—Filmloverboy

Hey Silver Saturn Girl

You gave me a very funny face and a great smile after I (in the red Jeep) let you into traffic in Newton on Aug. 25. I've never seen someone so happy to be let in, especially in Boston. That smile and the Vermont plates made me wonder who you are.
—newtonjeepguy@yahoo.com

In Gratitude

To the staff of the Charles Playhouse who helped out when my daughter, Ariel, became ill on Aug. 16. A special thank you to nurse Kristie, who took time away from attending the performance to assist. Your knowledge and compassion were much appreciated.
—Drake

Green-Line Girl

At the Brookline Village stop we let the train go by while we talked. After boarding the next train you stood near, but alas, there was soon only one stop to go. I should have stayed on to the end of the line. It was like an old-time film with Judy Garland singing the "Trolley Song." When I was leaving the train and said, "I'll see you again," I really meant that you're a beautiful girl. But when you said, "I hope so," I nearly fell. I can't wait to see you again at the Brookline Village stop.
—Jeffrey from Las Vegas

Hi Bob

It's been a while and I've been back to the Black Rose several times following our meeting in hopes to find you again. You know, I can't seem to convince others about the merits of (or frankly, the existence of) extra-cold ice. I admit, I was suspicious of it myself, but now my Tanqueray and tonic just doesn't taste the same without it. Thanks to the Green Line our conversation was cut short that night before the 4th of July. I was wearing a white V-neck tank top and jeans and had my hair pulled back in a ponytail. I gave you my number after we joked about how best to spell my name. We only had a short while to talk but you had a great smile and kept making me laugh. I was forced to leave you there to finish your pint, but I left smiling and awaiting a phone call. Maybe it was because we didn't get to make our introductions past first names, maybe it was because my number was for another state (I had only just moved here), but I had wanted to get that phone call. Perhaps I still can? Or maybe via e-mail?
—alissacb_03@hotmail.com

Green Monsters on the Green Line

I know why the Red Sox will never win the series: karma. Ever been on the Green Line on game day? Droves of fans mob the T, pushing aside the elderly, handicapped, children and pregnant women, and generally forgoing all human decency. Last week I saw a child nearly crushed by three big guys too concerned with screaming "Yankees suck" to help make room on the train. And yes, I did (politely but assertively) say something to them, and yes, they did obnoxiously harass me for it. Last month I had to ask half the train before someone agreed to give up their seat to an elderly man with a cane—I'm not exaggerating, people actually refused! Why is it that on game day, normal people turn into such monsters? When you get on the T (anytime, not just game day), look around. Does anyone need a seat more than you do? Is there room for you to move into the train? Can you make this trip a little more pleasant for those around you? I guarantee if you take the New York subway to Yankee Stadium, the ride is a lot better. And maybe it's not karma—but if the Yankees suck as much as you say, there must be some reason the Sox can't beat them. We won't reverse the curse until people start being a little more considerate of each other, and there's no better place to start than on the way to the game. Be a true fan and spread the word.
—reversethekarmacurse@yahoo.com

In Search of Bus No. 7 Cutie

I can't believe I am doing this, but it's worth a shot: I have seen you walking to and from work on Devonshire Street in the Financial District a bunch of times and some of those times we have caught eyes and exchanged smiles. One time it was after work and you got on the bus on the corner at Summer Street. I think it was the No. 7 bus. The Friday before Labor Day weekend, I saw you in the morning (around 8 am) and wanted to say hi, but you were on your cell phone. You are tall, with blondish hair and brown eyes. I am 5' 7" with long black hair. E-mail me if you are interested in actually meeting. If not, I will still enjoy seeing that smile every now and then.
—downtowncrossinggirl@yahoo.com

For Mark with "Nice Teeth"

Paris is a jewel but you may be a gem! I hope so. I was looking at the Fall Fashion issue of the Improper on the C Line and introduced you to the Impersonals! We both got off at Coolidge Corner. I was headed to the bookstore, you had plans, so we exchanged numbers on the taxi cab bench. It was the "highlight-er" of my day! My last words to you were, "Maybe I'll write about you in the Impersonals." Venice sparkles but I hope I don't have to travel so far for another Italian treasure.
—Susan, RDH

Blue Bimmer Man

Regrettably, I do not know of any parking rulebook that allows your friends to stand in a parking spot and save it for you. To swear at me and scream for taking "your space" is quite revealing of your utter lack of class. Consider yourself fortunate that I am a nonviolent person who gets her frustrations out through punching meat, like Rocky, otherwise you would have been the recipient of a rather nasty kick to your nether regions. At times, I regret not going with my first impulse and throwing my parking meter change in your face. You lucked out. Perhaps instead of a Bimmer, you should drive a car that is a true indicator of your character, i.e. a Yugo.
—Bimmer Hater

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IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Friday, August 22, the **Miller Lite** Catfight girls experienced the nightlife of Boston visiting bars such as **Whiskey's**, **Vox**, **Ned Devine's**, **Parris**, and **The Rack**.

1. **Jamie Hale**, promotional specialist for Team Entertainment; **Andrew Quesnel**, strategic marketing team manager for Team Entertainment; and **Amanda Cukrier**, promotional specialist for Team Entertainment.
2. Standing: **Rob Goodyear**, merchandising salesman for Burke Distributing; **Mark Doogue**, on-premise manager for Burke Distributing; **Paul Mead**, sales manager for WAAF; **Mike Braccia**, on-premise manager for Burke Distributing; **Brendan Dalton**, general manager of the Northeast market for Miller Brewing Company; **Morgen Miller-Jones**, account executive for Miller Brewing Company; and **Brian Murphy**, merchandising salesman for Burke Distributing. Front: **Tanya Bellinger** and **Kitana Baker**, Miller Lite Catfight Girls.
3. **Kate Sansomi**, PR representative for Burson-Marsteller and **Eddie Webb**, on-air personality for WAAF.

On Wednesday, August 27, **Black Rhino** hosted the "Taste of the Financial District." The food, drink and cigar tasting event helped to benefit the **South Boston Collaborative Center**.

1. **Kim Bilderback**, VP of sales, and **Sara Libin**, sales, both of AT&T, and **David Moon**, chief underwriter for John Hancock.
2. **Amy Blanco**, scotch brand ambassador for Pernod Ricard USA; **Bill Star**, attorney; and **Paige Reed**, sales manager for Grill 23.
3. **Betsy Carroll**, senior director, human resources for Reed Business Information, and **Kevin Gorham**, senior consultant for Hollister Associates.
4. **Paige Brewster** and **Leslie Smith**, promotional representatives for Results Publications & Marketing.

On Wednesday, August 20, **Ciroc Vodka** held their launch party at **Saint**.

1. **James Tye** of United Liquors, LTD, **Stephen Rust**, executive VP of sales for Schieffelin & Somerset Company.
2. **Andy Brown**, on-premise marketing manager for Schieffelin & Somerset; **Danny Cox** of United Liquors LTD, **Indus Johnson** of Andonia Inc.; and **Efren Puente**, senior brand manager of Schieffelin & Somerset.
3. **Eleicea Brandolini** of US Concepts; **Mike Milne**, market manager MA for Schieffelin & Somerset; **Holly McWilliams** and **Erin Pickering**, both of US Concepts.

PHOTOS: MILLER LITE, KAREN DANA; BLACK RHINO, MIKE BURNS; SAINT, WENDY SEMON

Fresh on the Scene

Newcomers to Boston—and even longtime Bostonians looking to add excitement to their social lives—will want to read *The Improper Bostonian*'s Newcomer's Guide. This issue will steer newly proper Bostonians through the party scene, showing them the hottest places to meet people and offering insiders' tips for making friends in Boston. This issue will help everyone navigate the city social scene, with real-life accounts from some of Boston's newest residents.

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@theblackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere in the heart of downtown Boston. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Doors at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs.

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-208 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 200 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of poo Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine ciga Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live banc 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Bla Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

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LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Freaky Tiki Party, top: Christine Glynn, Anne Marie Boursiquot and Jodi Wolin. Second row, from left: Melissa Knowles, Debbie Cawley, Nicole Ross, Islande Icart, John Bonavita and Lisa Nappi. Third row, from left: John Podwal, Anne Harrel and Drew Podwal; Maurice Rucker and John Guastella; Andrea Brown and Tom Conigliaro. Bottom: Kristin Wright, Jen Bauer, Randace Rauscher-Moore and Tom Rasku

SOUSED PACIFIC...

Remember that *Brady Bunch* episode where they went to Hawaii, and Greg found the idol, and zany adventures involving much madcap hilarity ensued? Well, minus a special guest appearance by Vincent Price, that was the general vibe at the **Freaky Tiki Party**—a cocktail reception and silent auction hosted by the **Boston Young Professionals Association** to raise money for the **Rogerson Communities** (a nonprofit that provides affordable housing to the homeless and elderly).

Held amid the high-kitsch, faux–South Seas splendor of Lansdowne Street's **Tiki Room** (you've gotta love any bar that shows continuous video clips from *Gilligan's Island*), the event attracted an attractive and impressive crowd (especially for a sweltering Monday night) who imbibed tropical drinks, grazed from pu-pu platters and otherwise made merry. Looking positively Polynesian and having a wonderful time were Rogerson head honcha **Anne Smith** and her husband, jazzman extraordinaire **Maurice Rucker**; talented artist and tireless philanthropist **Randace Rauscher-Moore**; mutual fund babe **Christine Klemme**; adorably upbeat development doll **Jodi Wolin**; super-smooth software hepcat **Travell Perkins** of State Street; fun-loving Fidelity financiers **Jen Bauer** (who's also an artist and photographer) and **Tom Rasku** (guitarist for the band Henry); Rogerson board member **Anne Marie Boursiquot**; the sibling tag team of **Drew** and **John Podwal**; perpetual partygoer **John Guastella**; the very fabulous **Christine Glynn**; affable investment adviser and inveterate volunteer **Bi Le**; groovy Zipcar folks **Tom Conigliaro** and **Morgan Stockmeyer**; and the irresistible **Kristin Wright** of the Children's Trust Fund.

In keeping with the evening's theme, guests sported flowered leis, prompting the following double entendres:

"Hey, no fair! That guy got lei'd twice, and I only got lei'd once."

"I didn't get lei'd at all."

"Well, look at your shirt."

However, the evening's most memorable quip occurred when a waitress approached a table to take drink orders.

"I'll have a Suffering Bastard," said one guest, to which another replied, "How nice—they finally named a cocktail after me."

HOW MUCH IS THAT HOT GUY IN THE WINDOW?

Bachelor auctions are to charity events what reality programming is to TV—strangely compelling to watch but wildly humiliating for those involved.

Such was the scenario at **Summer Nights, City Lights**—a festive soiree to benefit **Boston Cares** (an organization that promotes volunteerism), held under a huge white tent at the **New England Aquarium** on a deck overlooking Boston Harbor.

On hand on a hot August night were such august personages as stunning interior designer **Suzanne Logan** and a gaggle of her girlfriends, including the lovely **Jen LaVin** and **Kathy Gay**; twinkletoed playboy **Lance Kussel**; city councilor and man-about-town **Mike Ross**; tantalizing tech trainer **Karen O'Neill**; software siren **Cathy Baird**; and numerous good-looking and big-hearted 20- and 30-somethings, who bid on assorted stuff in both a silent and live auction.

However, the evening's main event was the bachelor auction, which featured (in the words of one) "a veritable stable of stallions." Among them: Harvard internet law guru **Jonathan Zittrain**; graduate film student and former minor league baseball player **Russ Chambliss**; executive compensation consultant **Alex Cedro**; Harvard admissions officer **Logan Powell**; and Boston Beer Company IT guy **Tim Baker**.

"I gave a friend 50 dollars to bid on me, just in case..." confided one bachelor, while another said, "I don't know my fair market value—maybe 20 bucks?"

As for how they got roped into doing it, all of them mentioned some variation of the phrase "worthwhile cause," while one offered an additional explanation: "I thought it would be useful to get the most embarrassing moment of my life out of the way, in a controlled and safe environment."

To their credit, all of the bachelors netted more than they predicted they would, with the exception of the cocky guy who bragged that he'd bring in "twice what anyone else did."

Summing the whole thing up, one of the men gave a philosophical shrug and said, "Now I know how the pigs at Hormel feel." iB

At Summer Nights, City Lights, from top: Cathy Baird, Logan Powell and Karen O'Neill; Alex Cedro (left); Russ Chambliss (right); Suzanne Logan, Jen LaVin and Kathy Gay; Jim Baker (left); Mike Ross (right).

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Greg Henry/LaMoine Photo Group

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ET CETERA

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Improper Sightings
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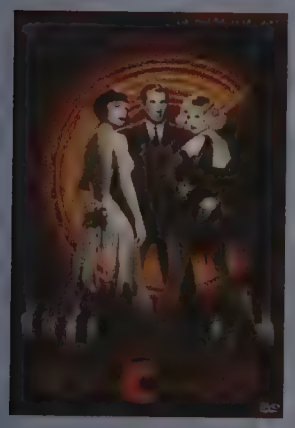

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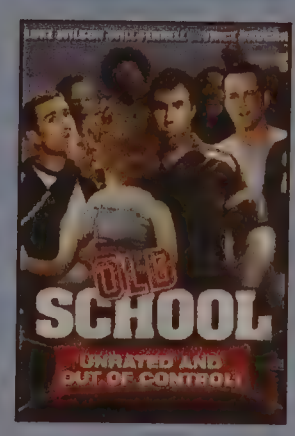

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

NEW IN TOWN

Though we've designed most of this issue's feature stories for Boston newcomers, I hope longtime Bostonians will find them fun reading too. Certainly Jonathan Soroff's 10 truisms about Bostonians (page 24)—from the question they consider rude to their fashion sense and their feelings about the weather, New York and driving—are fodder for happy-hour conversation and might even spark a self-realization or two. Newcomers will find the story a useful field guide to the local population's behavioral quirks.

While Soroff gives us the insider's view of Bostonians as a species, Caitlin O'Neil gets newcomers' take on their new neighbors and the social scene here (page 28). Does Boston really deserve its reputation for standoffishness? Newbies have some interesting tales and observations about this city's friendliness quotient.

Finally, in "Join the Club," (page 32), IMPROPER staffer Julie Suratt turns a practical eye to the important matter of making friends. She explores some of the many social, special interest and volunteer groups that can connect you with people who'll make you feel this city is home. Anyone whose social life could use a little boost will find ideas here.

As Boston newcomers acclimate to this town, this issue's cover boy, Dorchester-native Donnie Wahlberg, continues to build a life on the Left Coast. He talks to IMPROPER staffer Susan Abbattista about Hollywood and his enduring feelings for his hometown (page 20).

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

EYE FOR ARTS

I just wanted to thank you guys for keeping us informed about all the great cultural offerings in Boston this fall (Sept. 10). Now that *The* O.C. is on hiatus until Oct. 30, maybe my friends and I will be motivated to try something other than the usual weekend plans of eating, drinking and shopping.

STEPHANIE BROWN
BEACON HILL

Congratulations on the very informative and beautifully designed Fall Arts Preview issue. It is wonderful to see our bountiful arts offerings given as much attention as any of the hot bartenders in town. And special mention must go to the gorgeous photo of Yo-Yo Ma in the lead story. It is gracing my wall right now. I'm looking forward to many more arts previews to come.

—KATI MITCHELL
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE

CORRECTION

On page 43 in the Sept. 10 issue, a photo of Chris Myers was misidentified as Michael Schlow.

"IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE OUR BOUNTIFUL ARTS OFFERINGS GIVEN AS MUCH ATTENTION AS ANY OF THE HOT BARTENDERS IN TOWN."

—KATI MITCHELL
AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE

CONTRIBUTORS

GREG HENRY

Greg Henry was born in Oklahoma but now lives in Los Angeles with his much photographed pug, Buster. His photography has appeared in *Cosmopolitan, Details, Entertainment Weekly, Glamour, Maxim* and numerous other U.S. and European publications. Henry also works in advertising with clients that include Disney, DreamWorks, MGM and Sega, and his photographs have won placement in the Advertising Photographers of America Awards. Henry's latest work for the IMPROPER is this issue's cover, which he shot on location in Los Angeles.

SCOTT MAGOON

By day, Scott Magoon designs children's books for Candlewick Press in Cambridge. By night, he's a freelance illustrator and designer. In his other life, you might find him singing jazz standards with his septet. A Bostonian for 13 years, Magoon currently lives in Somerville. His work graces "Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Boston... but were too afraid of pissing someone off to ask," on page 24.

YO-YO MA COVER: STEPHEN DANELIAN/SONY CLASSICAL

Tell Us What You Think

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Surat**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Kelli Acciardo, Kate Hedgpeth, Sarah Korval**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Marilyn Chung, Vanessa Earl**

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JOAILLERIE

new in town

BRAVO TO NOVEL

Appreciating art and literature at two of Boston's beloved cultural institutions, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Boston Public Library, broadens the mind and liberates the spirit. But let's be honest: It can also be mentally and physically taxing. So when you just can't absorb anymore Rembrandt or Kant, it's time to rest your weary head and refuel. Now you can, at two new eateries—Bravo at the Museum of Fine Arts and Novel at the Boston Public Library.

Sample cocktails at Bravo's bar or grab a bite to eat in the dining room (right).

Housed in the former Fine Arts Restaurant, **Bravo** features updated decor by architect Peter Niemitz, who originally designed the space 10 years ago. He's made the space more cozy, adding banquettes, intimate lighting and warm colors. "Usually museum curators don't like anything to compete with the art; they discourage signage or bold design statements," says Bravo's director of restaurant associates Robert Platner. In other words, "very beige and white." But MFA director Malcolm Rogers was "very amenable to changing the feel of the room," Platner says. Hence the burnt-tangerine walls and upholstery that give the room a soft glow at night, and the artwork that adorns the walls, selected from the museum's collection. And while the name is more likely to conjure up images of staged performances than art exhibitions, it actually refers to contemporary Latin American artist Claudio Bravo, whose paintings currently decorate the space.

Chef Benjamin Cevelo's seasonally inspired and locally flavored menu includes entrées like Vermont goat cheese tart with heirloom tomato and basil salad, and Chatham line-hooked cod with a potato-feta cake and salsa verde. We can already imagine art lovers inspired by Georgia O'Keefe ordering up an Angus cheeseburger with chipotle-tomato ketchup. *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3474).*

The Boston Public Library's **Novel** restaurant, which opened in May, is most certainly a novel idea—given that we've been warned since we were kids not to eat or drink in the library.

The spacious dining area is hushed and relaxed, with a view of the library's Italian courtyard. And as one might expect, many patrons read while they eat—there's even a stack of novels and nonfiction to borrow while you sup upon the upscale buffet offerings (soup, gourmet salads, sandwiches and savory entrées). Novel also serves afternoon tea, with scones, tea breads, bite-size sandwiches and miniature desserts.

Sebastian's Map Room Café is more casual...

...while Novel offers a more formal dining experience.

For a more casual dining experience, there's the new Sebastian's Map Room Café, which offers breakfast and lunch items—at lower prices—in a space that used to serve as an actual map room in the late 1800s. Here, patrons can read, write and eat among the giant maps that hang on the walls. And best of all, you can talk without getting shushed. *700 Boylston St., Boston (617-385-5660).*

—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt

improper reports

SPORTS BARS

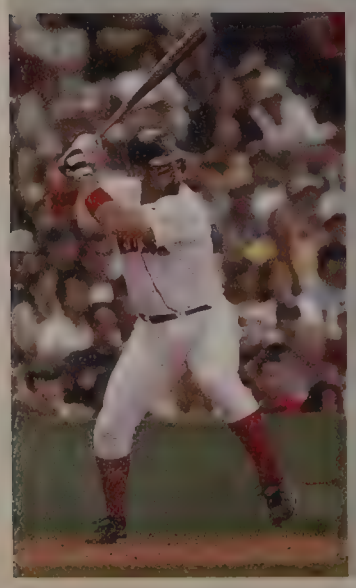
With the Red Sox and Patriots vying for valuable sports-viewing time, it's even more crucial to find a place where you can get your baseball and football fix in one sitting. Belly up to these bars and set your gaze on a large-screen TV.

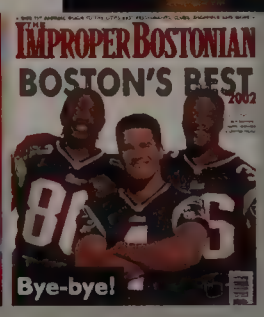
- **Atlas Bar & Grill:** *145 Ipswich St, Boston, (617-437-0300).* 40 TVs.
- **Big City:** *138 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-782-2020).* 11 TVs.
- **Boston Beer Works:** *61 Brookline Ave., Boston (617-536-2337).* 12 TVs.
- **Champions Sports Bar:** *110 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-937-5658).* 33 TVs.
- **Coolidge Corner Clubhouse:** *307-309 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-4948).* 20 TVs.
- **Hurricane O'Reilly's:** *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).* 14 TVs.
- **Jillian's:** *145 Ipswich St., Boston (617-437-0300).* 20 TVs.
- **Kings:** *10 Scotia Street, Boston (617-266-2695).* 22 TVs.
- **The Place:** *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).* 6 TVs.
- **The Rack:** *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).* 9 TVs.
- **White Horse Tavern:** *116 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-6633).* 10 TVs.

The Place

inner view

FAREWELL LAWYER, WELCOME BACK LOU





It was a tumultuous summer for two pro-athlete IMPROPER cover boys. Lawyer Milloy, who appeared on our 2002 Boston's Best cover, is now playing for the suddenly competitive Buffalo Bills, and this past spring the Red Sox traded Framingham native Lou Merloni, who graced our Jan. 22 cover, to the San Diego Padres. Happily, Lou has since been reacquired by the Red Sox, and we recently caught up with him to find out how a San Diego summer treated one of Boston's 10 Hottest Bachelors.

IB: *First of all, what happened to your mustache? Did the airline lose it on the way back to Boston?*

LM: I left it in San Diego. Actually, I had a similar look going last year.

IB: *So how big a role do you think your title as one of Boston's hottest bachelors played in the Red Sox's decision to bring you back to the team?*

LM: I'm not sure that was one of the main reasons they brought me back—but if it helped, it helped.

IB: *Compare the nightlife in San Diego and Boston.*

LM: Boston is something I grew up with and became accustomed to, and San Diego's definitely different. You're going out in La Jolla and it's a big show. It's more dressy, more of an L.A. scene. You don't go out wearing jeans and a button-down shirt like you can here.

IB: *What about the nightlife from the point of view of a single guy?*

LM: It doesn't suck, that's for sure. There are some beautiful women out there. It was a fun four months.

IB: *Did they ever get the hang of the "Lou" chant in San Diego?*

LM: They started getting the "Lou" chant going there. Red Sox fans seem to be everywhere. People would come up to me in bars and get the chant going. There are a lot of people from Boston out there.

IB: *What do you think of the chances for the current Red Sox team compared with the one you left in the spring?*

LM: The team was good from the beginning of the season, but Theo did a good job of answering the questions, particularly with the bullpen. This team right now is primed for the stretch run. Everyone's excited about it.

—Ezra Dyer

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tasty tidbits

NEW ON THE SCENE

Spaghetti to the Stars...There's a new restaurant in the North End and (surprise!) it's Italian. Strega opened May 29 with a bang—or was it a bada bing? The Italian cuisine (and the persuasive powers of manager Nick Varano) drew in a slew of *Sopranos* stars for the grand opening, including John Ventimiglia (Artie Bucco) and Vincent Pastore (Big Pussy). Since then, several other celebs have stopped in for a taste, among them, Tori Spelling and Joey Fatone. And b-ball überkind LeBron James is a repeat customer. Could it be the Ivy of the North End? *379 Hanover St., Boston (617-523-8481).*

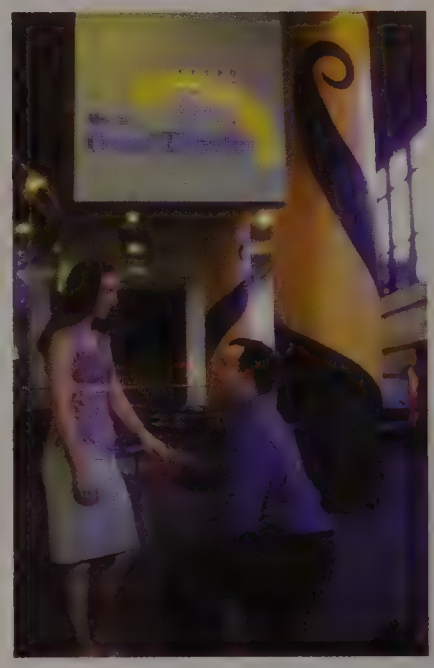
New Eats...Vinalia is set to open in the Downtown Crossing digs formerly occupied by Dakota's Oct. 14. The new restaurant will feature a menu by former Boston Harbor Hotel executive sous chef Justin Villa, as well as a martini bar. In the spirit of the BHH's Meritage, Vinalia will have a strong focus on wine and offer weekly aprés-work tastings. *101 Arch St., Boston (617-737-1777).*

Chain Reaction...Kenmore Square will sport two tried and true additions in mid October. Italian eatery Bertucci's moves into the Beacon Street spot the Gap cleared out (seems the denim and khaki giant couldn't hack it without a food court and a Banana Republic nearby). Meanwhile, Toscanini and Sons opens in the Hotel Commonwealth. It will feature the Cambridge creamery's delish ice cream and coffee, as well as gourmet sandwiches prepared by former Daddy-O's sous chef Andrew Platt.

—E.H., J.I. and J.S

engagement story

AN ENGAGEMENT STORY



It was a match made in big-screen heaven. No, not the Jumbotron at Fenway. The latest creative engagement was more egghead than meathead. Paralegal Michael Goodwin, 27, popped the question to his honey, librarian Michelle McHugh, 23, via a large projector at the Museum of Science Omni Theater.

The story starts six months ago, when Goodwin came up with the idea to revisit the museum (the site of their first date)—this time with an agenda and a diamond. After extensive e-mailing with the head projectionist and a heck of a lot of coordinating, Goodwin was ready. He asked his mother, a school teacher, to invite McHugh to see *Coral Reef* under the pretense that they were screening the film for a future field trip. McHugh didn't suspect a thing. Meanwhile, Goodwin and his father, who cleverly beefed up their alibi with a fictitious trip to a casino, were behind the scenes. When the credits were about roll, the phrase "Michelle, let me ask you a question. Love, Mike" appeared on the screen. Michael took his cue, assumed the one-kneed position in front of the theater audience, and the rest is history. The "I do" date is set for spring 2005.

around town

WHAT'S THAT BUZZ?

Have you ever read a book, gone to see a movie or tried a beer because a friend told you about it? If the answer is yes, then you have unofficially participated in buzz marketing. In June 2002, entrepreneur Dave Balter founded BzzAgent to turn this kind of word-of-mouth advertising into a business in itself.

BzzAgent members, or "agents," get to try new products, and in turn they inform BzzAgent how they may have talked up said product. However, agents aren't required to be pure pitchmen. "If people have something they don't like about a product, we want them to tell people that too," says Balter. "People don't believe all positives." So far, Boston-based BzzAgent counts about 1,000 members in Boston, with thousands more throughout the country. So the next time someone encourages you to see *Austin Powers 7*, beware: You might be in the presence of an agent. To become an agent, visit *www.bzzagent.com.—Ezra Dyer*

sam says

JUST OUR LUSH

Eight-year-old British body-and-bath chain Lush debuts on Newbury Street Sept. 27—one of only two Lush stores in the United States (the other's in San Francisco). The 200-store chain—known for "Trader Joe's"-like interior similar to a high-end supermarket with products that look like something you'd get from your local deli. Chunks of solid shampoos, conditioners and facial cleansers are carved off larger blocks and wrapped up like cheese and priced by the ounce (prices range from $4–$50). All products are hand-made with natural ingredients. There's even a face and body mask bar where the ingredients are packaged like little tubs of ice cream. But Lush's best selling product is the Sex Bomb, a four-inch "bath ball" that combines aphrodisiacal herbs and essential oils and has a small flower embedded in it that deflowers—it dissolves. *166 Newbury St., Boston (781-375-5874).*

—Samantha House

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Fenway Feng Shui...How far will Bostonians go to "reverse the curse"? Pretty darn far—consider the guy who recently climbed Mount Everest and burned a Yankees cap. But local feng shui experts Daphne Weld Nichols and Diane Dalpe decided to take matters into their own hands, stationing themselves outside of the Green Monster to "refocus" the park's energy, especially the "blockage in the success area of the wall." After some chanting, burning of incense and waving of crystals, the demons were declared exorcised. An 83-year-old curse and that's all it took? Dalpe doesn't promise immediate results. She says, "I think the Red Sox could use one more treatment. It usually comes in threes." See their story featured on the Ben Affleck–narrated HBO special, *Curse of the Bambino*, which plays through Oct. 8.

Renaissance Woman...In addition to being one of the top commercial fishing and charter boat captains on Martha's Vineyard and the wife of comedian/TV star Lenny Clarke, Jennifer Clarke is a singer-songwriter. Over the summer, when she wasn't taking the rich and famous fishing for striped bass on her boat, she found time to finish recording her debut CD, *Time Flies*. The style is pure rock, and Clarke's voice is like a bluesy Chrissy Hynde. She played the basic piano and guitar tracks, and she's accompanied on the album by guitar greats Stu Kimball and Duke Levine. Although she has no major label to back her, having Clarke's CD has become something of an insider's status symbol on the island. If you get your hands on a copy, you'll find yourself saying, "This woman fishes for a living?!"

Real Love...Will the ladies fall as hard for Ken Oringer as they did for Andrew Firestone on ABC-TV's *The Bachelor*? If all goes well, they'll have the chance. That's right, the hunkalicious chef/owner of Clio is in the running for ABC's next installment of the voyeuristic race to the altar. Network execs approached the culinary whiz kid, and he's now in the midst of what he calls "a very long process." What does Oringer think of possibly finding the Barbie of his dreams on national TV? "It's intriguing," he says. "I've never seen the show. I think it's probably better that way." Alas, we won't find out if he makes the cut until February. Stay tuned.

Ken Oringer

A Quicker Fixer-Upper...Sleek USA, a medical spa, is set to unveil its fifth location, on Newbury Street. The medically supervised spa (plastic surgeons and registered nurses run the show) offers such services as weight-loss management, microdermabrasion, vein and hair removal and Botox and collagen treatments without the clinical feel of a hospital. With its ultra-luxe spa environment and highly visible Newbury locale, it looks like getting "enhancements" is no longer so hush-hush. *228 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-4444).*

Upstairs Downstairs...Dedo, Park Square's year-old gay bar, has expanded its MO as well as its borders. It's now two floors—upstairs is still the predominately gay lounge, but there's a new swank bistro downstairs, in the former digs of restaurant Mario's. Dedo owner James Conforti, also of Gargoyles on the Square, bought the downstairs space and hired executive chef Michael Scelfo and pastry chef Lee Napoli, both formerly of Arlington's Tea Tray in the Sky, to provide an alternative to the neighborhood's handful of chain restaurants. *69 Church St., Boston (617-338-9999).—E.H., J.I. and J.S*

Got scoop?

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PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY MARGARET BRETT

The **Samuel Adams Celebrity Draw Party and Auction** for the Sean McDonough Charitable Foundation was held Sept 14 at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Close to 400 sports enthusiasts gathered for the second annual live and silent auction, and $200,000 was raised to benefit the foundation, which supports Massachusetts Children's Charities, Dana-Farber, Children's Hospital, Project Step, Boys & Girls Club of Waltham, Summer Search and the Joey Fund. Tickets were $150.

1. From left: **Sean McDonough**, ABC and NESN sports broadcaster; **Bob Costas**, NBC sports broadcaster; and **Jim Koch**, brewer and founder of Sam Adams.
2. From left: **Kent Damon**, father of actor Matt Damon; **Rich Cicetti**, an independent consultant from Santa Monica, Calif.; and **Bob Hillson**, investment banker for American Express.
3. **Chris Sanzone**, attorney at Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, and his wife, **Annika**, portfolio manager for HDCM.
4. **Joseph Abboud** (left), clothing designer, and **Frank Goldstein**, owner of Pacific Packaging Products.
5. **Tom Coughlin**, former head coach of the Boston College football team and the Jacksonville Jaguars; and **Billy Packer,** CBS Sports broadcaster.
6. **Mike Eruzione**, captain of the gold medal–winning 1980 US Olympic Hockey team, and his wife, **Donna**.
7. **Matt Davison** (left), former University of Nebraska wide receiver, and **Eric Crouch**, quarterback for the Green Bay Packers.
8. Pro golfer **Brad Faxon**, and his wife, **Dory**.

The **Fidelity Investment Jumper Classic** was held Sept. 7 at Myopia Hunt Club in South Hamilton. Guests at the IMPROPER-sponsored event watched the Grand Prix competition, which was won by Ainsley Vince riding Catch-22. The day also featured a VIP luncheon and a ladies' hat contest.

9. **Ted Clark** (left), director of public relations for the Animal Rescue League, and **Lee Ostrowski**, finance assistant for Bain Capital.
10. **Jennifer Sciolto** and **Allen Nissim**, sales manager and director, respectively, at Tiffany & Co. in Chestnut Hill.
11. **Paul Girard**, investment broker for A.G. Edwards, and **Barbara Erickson**, vice president of business development for Fleet Boston.
12. **Judy Hill**, independent specialty chemical sales marketer in Ipswich, and her father, **Harry Cobb**.

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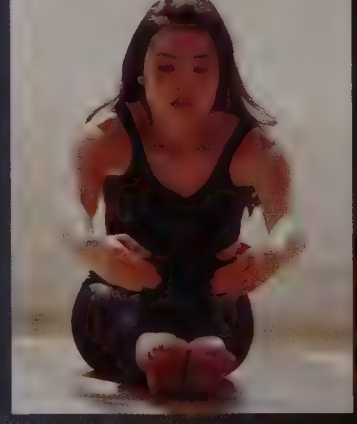

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ezra

BY EZRA DYER

A MOVING STORY

Moving to a new apartment breeds new respect for nomads, turtles and Gentle Giant

Before this year I hadn't moved into an apartment on Sept. 1, but I can now say that Labor Day is the most aptly named holiday on the calendar, at least until Columbus Day is renamed Blatant Excuse to Take a Day Off Day.

In a case of less-than-ideal timing, I had to go to New York for a bachelor party two days before Moving Day. So when I returned on the 31st, I sported a hangover that rendered my efforts to prepare for the move quite fruitless. Every time I looked at all the crap that I had to pack up, my headache mushroomed and I began pondering extreme measures, like arson or hiring movers.

On the appointed day, my parents and brother arrived to help with the move. My mother no doubt expected to see the apartment neatly stacked with boxes and the furniture covered with bubble wrap, but instead found Scott and me frantically sweeping entire shelves of belongings wholesale into whatever containers we could find, including trash bags and empty 12-pack boxes. "Oh my God," she declared.

Personality clashes surfaced almost immediately. In fact, the first dispute involved bubble wrap, which my mom loves. Mom brought enough bubble wrap to safely transport a brontosaurus skeleton, and damned if she wasn't going to use it. "Let's bubble-wrap the TV," she commanded. "Let's just plan on not banging the TV into any walls on the way out," I countered. Given the state of disaster in our apartment and the fact that the new people were waiting for us to leave before they could move in, I didn't see much time for frivolous pursuits like protecting fragile items from destruction.

The bubble-wrap debate was soon eclipsed by larger issues, such as how to get our enormous sectional couch down the stairs. The fact that the couch was in the apartment was evidence that it could be done, but my brother and I soon discovered that maneuvering the couch down the stairwell required a keen spatial awareness because it would only fit around the newel posts in a particular way. Rotating a heavy couch around obstacles while descending stairs is never easy, and it's even harder when one of the obstacles is your mother, who has jammed herself between the couch and the wall to dictate the proper couch-spinning technique.

The situation became extremely heated on the second landing when the couch got lodged between the wall and newel post. It seemed no amount of jiggering would free it, but once again Mom took charge to overcome the impasse.

"Go get your saw," she said. "We'll sa off the top of the post."

"We're not sawing off the post," I said thinking of my cherished security deposi "The couch came up these stairs just th way they are, so it'll go back down."

"No it won't. It's stuck. We've got to sa off the post." Answering the next obviou question, she added, "We can glue the to back on after the couch is out."

I successfully vetoed any amateur ca pentry, and eventually we birthed th couch from the stairwell and loaded it int the truck, where my father stood guar against the ever-diligent Boston Police Earlier a scowling cop had attempted t have my car towed, a process I thwarted b getting in and driving away.

The couch continued to antagonize me While we were carrying it down to my ne "garden level" (or "in the basement with th machinery") apartment, momentum pushe

MOVING IS AN ODD MIX OF TEDIUM, PHYSICAL DISTRESS AND UNPLEASANT TASKS—SORT OF LIKE HIGH SCHOOL

me slightly past the door and into a piece flypaper loaded with insect carcasses. As welcome to the neighborhood, I would' preferred a fruitcake.

My new neighbor John, who lives acro the hall, came out and removed the flyp per from its hook and me. I've sinc learned that John is quite, shall we sa particular about insects. He doesn't lik them. He also doesn't like when peop leave the hallway door open and let the in, even if it's only for a minute whi those people carry in groceries. As an ind cation of John's commitment to insec cide, his piece of flypaper is hung *outs* the building's door. I'm sure it's making significant dent in the Massachusetts mo quito population.

I don't have space to describe the mo ing process in full, but suffice it to say tha was an odd mix of tedium, physical distr and unpleasant tasks—sort of like hi school. At least my old foe the chan thief doesn't know where I live. Yet. IB

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Soroff ON

JAY HARRINGTON

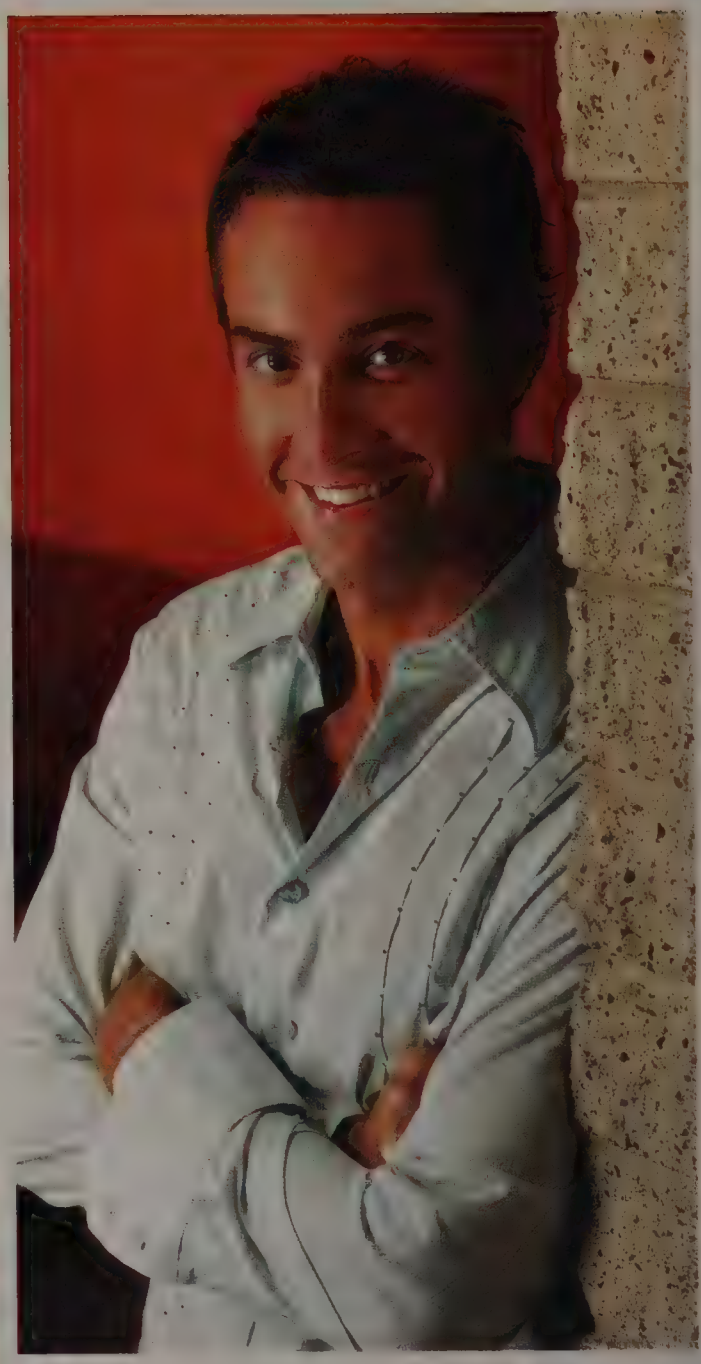
BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Up-and-coming actor Jay Harrington, 31, was raised in Wellesley and studied theater at Syracuse University. Already familiar to TV viewers from his recurring role on Lifetime's cop drama, *The Division*, he's poised to become one of the biggest new stars of the fall TV season thanks to his role as Steve on *Coupling*, the hotly anticipated show on NBC's Thursday night lineup. Adapted from a wildly popular British sitcom, *Coupling* is a provocative urban comedy that explores the lust and love in the intertwined lives of six thirty-somethings. Harrington's other TV credits include appearances on the FX hit *The Shield*, NBC's *A.U.S.A.* and Fox's *Time of Your Life*, and he has appeared in such films as *Whatever It Takes*, *Anywhere but Here* and the independent features *Hourly Rates* and *A Little Inside*. On stage, he has starred in off-Broadway productions of *Barefoot in the Park* and *Tony and Tina's Wedding*. He currently lives in Los Angeles and is an avid sports fan who plays in the NBA Entertainment League and dons skates for an amateur hockey team.

Jonathan Soroff: *Do we really need another TV show about attractive thirty-somethings and their relationships?*
Jay Harrington: Absolutely! Especially since I'm on this one.
JS: *So* Coupling *is a British sitcom that's been retooled for an American audience?*
JH: Yes, and in the past, like with *Sanford and Son*, it's worked, and sometimes it's failed miserably, like with *Ab Fab* or *Men Behaving Badly*. But with *Coupling*, it didn't feel specifically British. There isn't a very strong sense of place. It's more about the characters and the ways they interact, and I think everyone will relate to it in one way or another.
JS: *People are comparing your show to* Friends. *Any comments?*
JH: Well, it's obviously hugely flattering, since *Friends* has been so phenomenally successful, and it's an easy comparison to make because of the three guys and three girls. But there are major differences. For instance, on *Coupling*, not everyone likes each other.
JS: *Which Friend would you most like to couple with?*
JH: I guess Joey. [Laughs.] Just kidding. I remember when I was young, everyone was talking about a kid from Newton who did a Heinz commercial. It was Matt LeBlanc.
JS: *Are you looking at this as your big break?*
JH: Of course. I've been out here working for a while, and getting jobs, but this is the first time I've felt like it was going to be really big.
JS: *I've heard that* Coupling *is really racy. What's the naughtiest thing you've done on the show?*
JH: Well, in the pilot, my character wants to break up with his girlfriend, but he ends up with her, in a stall in the ladies room, completely naked, and they go at it. That's the chemistry on the show—every time my character wants to break up with his girlfriend, she tells him what she is or isn't wearing, or about the time she got together with another woman…

> I'VE BEEN WORKING AT THIS FOR A WHILE, AND I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S HAPPENING. I MEAN, I GREW UP WATCHING THE NBC THURSDAY NIGHT COMEDIES. NOW I'M ON ONE. IT'S KIND OF STRANGE.

JS: *What is it with straight guys and lesbian fantasies?*
JH: Well, women are just incredibly beautiful.
JS: *So that's the math—if one woman is good…*
JH: Then two are better. Yeah.
JS: *But you do realize that when women tell you stuff like that, most of them are just making it up to get your engine revving.*
JH: Yup. Doesn't matter.
JS: *So who's your fantasy love scene partner?*
JH: Probably Michelle Pfeiffer dressed as Catwoman.



JS: *Kinky. One sex act you'd never perform on-screen?*
JH: Well, I'd worry that I wouldn't be convincing doing a man-to-man kiss, but the way our show's going, it's a possibility.
JS: *Three reasons why* Coupling *is Must See TV?*
JH: Well, the writing is incredibly smart. There's an excellent ensemble cast…which leads me to number three: Jay Harrington.
JS: *Thing that scares you most about becoming famous?*
JH: That it actually might happen. The fact of it. I've been working at this for a while, and I still kind of can't believe it's happening. I mean, I grew up watching the NBC Thursday night comedies. Now I'm on one. It's kind of strange.
JS: *Thing you think will change the most?*
JH: Probably my living arrangements. Instead of sharing a three-bedroom apartment with a few friends, I actually might be able to move into a nicer place.
JS: *Biggest indulgence since you got your new job?*
JH: I actually went to a gas station and told the guy to fill it up. It was the first time I'd done that in a while.
JS: *OK, answer that annoying job interview question. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?*
JH: Hopefully, still acting on television and doing an occasional movie. I'd like to have a career that sustains.
JS: *Finish this sentence: I knew I was the new it-boy when…*
JH: I haven't felt that way yet, but I'll let you know when I do.
JS: *How about your best feature?*
JH: Ooof, these questions are meant for someone with a big ego, aren't they?
JS: *C'mon! You're an actor, for God's sake! You're supposed to be egotistical!*
JH: OK, I guess my eyes.
JS: *Worst feature?*
JH: My interview skills.
JS: *When you finally pose for the cover of* Vanity Fair, *what will you be wearing?*
JH: A tuxedo. No tie.
JS: *You're the oldest of three boys. What's the worst thing you ever did to one of your little brothers?*
JH: While he was sleeping, I held my younger brother's nose closed and put my hand over his mouth to see how long he could go without breathing.
JS: *And he's still alive?*
JH: Yup. And hopefully he's forgiven me.
JS: *Worst audition story?*
JH: There are millions, but I guess the time I went to an audition for a role that I really thought I had a chance at, and while I was reading, I overheard someone in the next room offering the job to another actor.
JS: *One role you wish you'd turned down, or one piece of film you wish didn't exist?*
JH: I don't really have one. There's been nothing that I'm hugely embarrassed about.
JS: *One adjective to describe growing up in Wellesley?*
JH: Very lucky.
JS: *Thing you'd most like to read about yourself in a supermarket tabloid?*
JH: [Laughs.] Um, caught cheating on J.L. with Tara Reid.
JS: *Thing you like least about Celebrityville?*
JH: I don't live there, so I don't know.
JS: *Oh, please. You've at least seen a glimpse of it.*
JH: Sure. And I guess the least attractive thing is the people who feel they're owed something or entitled to it.
JS: *Now that you're a big huge star, what one thing would you like to say to the folks back home in Boston?*
JH: This is the year that the Red Sox will win the World Series and the Bruins are gonna take the Stanley Cup. It's a lock. Oh, and also: watch *Coupling* every Thursday night on NBC. IB

y your moment responsibly.

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FROM BOSTON TO BOOMTOWN

DONNIE WAHLBERG HITS THE STREETS OF L.A. IN THE SECOND SEASON

OF NBC'S ARTFUL (AND ADDICTIVE) CRIME DRAMA

BY SUSAN ABBATTISTA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GREG HENRY/
LAMOINE PHOTO GROUP

We know him by his many incarnations: teen pop star, record producer, older brother of Mark, movie actor who made us stop and say "That was Donnie Wahlberg?" and now, prime-time TV star. If there's anyone who proves that cats aren't the only creatures with nine lives, it's Donnie Wahlberg.

Nearly two decades have passed since the Dorchester native found fame by singing, dancing and hangin' tough with the New Kids on the Block. Now an actor in full stride at age 34, Wahlberg stars in the NBC crime drama *Boomtown*, which kicks off its second season Friday, Sept. 26, at 10 pm. He plays Joel Stevens, a smart, hard-working detective who seeks out the home invaders, kidnappers, meth-lab operators and other deviants on the streets of L.A. On the surface, his character is cool, thoughtful and determined. On the inside, he carries emotional baggage—grief over the recent death of his newborn baby, distance from his depressed wife and romantic longing for a friendly paramedic he sees on the job.

So far, *Boomtown* has been something of an enigma. The show has received consistent praise from TV critics who are impressed by its unusual nonlinear format. Stories are pieced together from the multiple points of view of the central characters, who include two detectives, two cops, an assistant DA (played by fellow Boston boy Neal McDonough) and the paramedic. The crime drama has also received several awards and was named one of the 10 best shows of the year by the American Film Institute. But even though critics have called the series "engrossing" and Wahlberg's performance "a revelation," *Boomtown* has thus far failed to make enough noise in the all-important network ratings.

Wahlberg, who says he is proud to work on such a quality production, has his own theory about last season's surprisingly mediocre ratings. "People watch TV for consistency, for formula. When something comes out that's really different, it can scare people," he says. "If critics really like your show and use certain words like 'smart,' 'unique' and 'different,' it can alienate people. So the show has to be a little less smart to open itself to a greater viewership."

It seems likely that *Boomtown*'s creator and writer, Graham Yost, will tinker with the format in upcoming episodes. Its new time slot on Friday nights rather than Sundays may also affect the ratings, for better or worse. Regardless of the changes, Wahlberg says those who follow the show—the 11 million viewers who tuned in each week last season—will find the new episodes as involving as last season's. Detective Stevens, who normally conveys his feelings with faraway eyes and a tightly set jaw, may begin to open up, whether he likes it or not. "He's going to get a big surprise," Wahlberg says. And the flirty, guilt-inducing infatuation he has with paramedic Teresa Ortiz (Lana Parrilla) will intensify, he adds.

Like his character, Wahlberg is entrenched in the Los Angeles experience—the superfast freeways, the regular parade of oddballs and the glittery-yet-gritty, surreal quality of everyday life. Unlike his character, he's an open book, willing to talk candidly about the current chapter of his life.

"I'm a small fish in a huge ocean," he says. "I quite enjoy it." But as comfortable as he feels right now, Wahlberg misses the familiarity of a much smaller ocean. "I think about Boston every day. I went to do the Jay Leno show last year for *Boomtown*, and I'm there, and I'm thinking of Boston. I'll be honest. I care about what the city thinks of me. Boston is such a part of who I am, and it means so much to me, the city. It's always there, always with me."

What about those days, back in the '80s, when he would step onstage with the New Kids and be greeted by thousands of screaming fans? Surely there are few experiences as ego-inflating as that. "I don't miss it. I don't," he says. "It's funny, like, I look at those *American Idol* kids. I look at the grind they're in—flying here, flying there, doing those cornball commercials for the show—and just thinking about what they do is enough to scare me away from the music business for another 10 years."

With the intoxication of pop stardom now firmly behind him, replaced by a zen-like appreciation for the here and now, Wahlberg says he's content with life just as it is. "This is the hardest job I've ever had. I go to work for 16 hours, and it's grind, grind, grind. But right now I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. It's really weird. I don't know if I would have traded in every dime from the New Kids to feel the sort of respect that I feel now from people, but I'd have traded a good chunk of it." IB

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the NEWCOMERS ISSUE

What do you need to know when you're new in town? Everything. Where to live, eat, shop, get a cold beer, a hot coffee and a decent haircut. If we do say so ourselves, the IMPROPER's pages can help you with all those practical matters every issue. For our first Newcomers Issue, however, we've turned the full focus of our feature stories to the concern that's most crucial to your happiness in this strange new land—your social life. Understanding the natives can be a challenge. So we kick off our newcomers section with longtime Bostonian Jonathan Soroff's insights into the social behavior that passes for normal in this town. Next up, a little camaraderie in the form of interviews with newcomers who've gone before you. They talk about how they befriended the locals and built social lives here. Finally, a guide to the groups of every type that offer immediate access to people who'll make you feel you belong. Longtimers, don't tune out. All this stuff is good for you too. After all, who couldn't stand a little more self-awareness or a few more friends?

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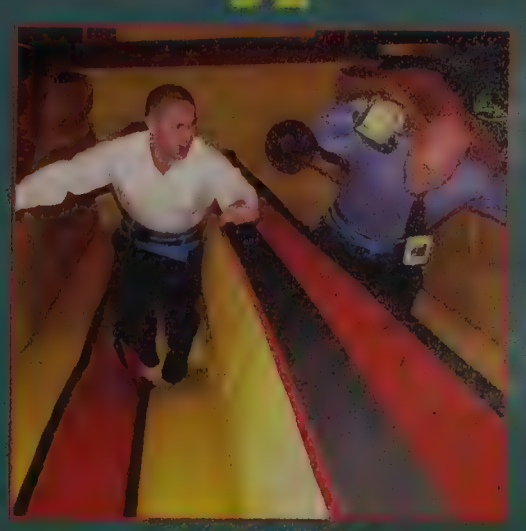

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EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BOSTON . . . *

BY [redacted] ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT MAGOON

Here's a little something most people don't learn until after they've already moved here: Boston isn't the friendliest city in the world. The natives, like the winters, tend to be chilly, especially compared with the saccharine sweetness of Southerners, the phony familiarity of Californians or the "How d'you do; sure, you can marry my sister" openness of people from the Midwest. Bostonians don't say hello to strangers on the street. We avoid eye contact, even in social situations. We smile only when provoked and communicate largely through heavy sarcasm. New Yorkers, by contrast, seem warm and welcoming. "Hell is other people," Jean-Paul Sartre famously observed. He could easily have been describing the attitude of the average Boston native.

Yet for all our crustiness, there's a genuine lack of bullshit that makes winning us over worth the Herculean effort. Like gaining the trust of a dyspeptic pit bull, befriending a born-and-bred Bostonian offers the reward of knowing that once he or she is on your side, you possess a staunch ally. Misanthropic? Perhaps. But we're also brutally honest, meaning that unlike, say, your college roommate from Little Rock, we won't spare your feelings and lie when you ask if those jeans make your ass look big.

As for how to gain our confidence, forget all that crap Dale Carnegie wrote about winning friends and influencing people. He was talking about dealing with dipsticks from Turnipville, not the denizens of a city whose primary claim to culinary fame—baked beans—has the antisocial side effect of flatulence. With Bostonians, it's best to dispense with the pretense. In addition, we suggest you keep these 10 helpful pointers in mind:

We don't care how you did it back home.

We're sure there are things that people do better in Nebraska, like livestock auctions or landscaping a double-wide trailer. However, a born-and-bred Bostonian won't hesitate to tell a Mexican how to make a taco. This attitude applies to everything from the latest medical procedures to celebrating St. Patrick's Day. For that reason, it's unwise to point out to a Bostonian that, say, Savannah, Ga., has the biggest St. Patty's Day parade in the United States, or that Dublin might be an interesting place to be on March 17. The response is likely to be a vaguely disgusted "So what are you doing here?" Interestingly, this habit also holds true when Bostonians travel. For instance, if you meet someone from Roslindale on the most magnificent beach in Bora-Bora, they're bound to compare it unfavorably with Cape Cod.

Bitching about the weather is both a God-given right and a civic responsibility.

In many cultures, talking about meteorological matters is considered trite or tedious. Not here. Minnesota might get more snow, and northern Maine is certainly colder, but the Boston winter inspires those of us who have lived here our entire lives to wax rhapsodic about how much it sucks, even when the skiing is excellent. This remains equally true when the weather turns unexpectedly nice. No day of glorious sunshine and low humidity can be complete without a lengthy recollection of how wet and dismal the spring was or how catastrophic the coming hurricane season is likely to be. Just how deeply ingrained this habit is in the local psyche is evident in the fact that last winter, all the Boston news stations produced elegiac 25th anniversary specials to commemorate the Blizzard of '78.

Making fun of a Boston accent is only funny when we do it.

Remember Robin Williams' Oscar-nominated performance in *Good Will Hunting*? It's a miracle an angry lynch mob from Southie didn't storm the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. If a gifted mimic like Williams can't capture the local inflection, the likelihood that you can is slim-to-none. "Pahking the cah in Hahvid Yahd" may be funny in Pocatello, Idaho, but it's "retahdid" to us, so save your "wicked pissah's" for visits home. The strange caveat to this is that we expect you to find it uproariously funny when we make fun of the way you talk. In other words, it's fair dinkum for us to do a bad Crocodile Dundee impression for a group of Australians, but the second they call one of us a "chowdah head," it's time to take it outside.

Discussing New York in general—and, more specifically, how anything there might be superior—is verboten.

It goes beyond the patently obvious fact that the Yankees suck. Far beyond, in fact—all the way down to the deep-seated inferiority complex that Boston has harbored toward the Big Apple ever since it became bigger, richer and more important than us. Bostonians prefer to think of New York as a trading post that was settled by the Dutch and became overbuilt, overcrowded, overpriced and inhabited exclusively by smug, silly people who slavishly follow trends. By this reasoning, the Boston Symphony Orchestra is not only better than the New York Philharmonic but plays in a better concert hall (in fact,

***...but were too afraid of pissing someone off to ask**

the most acoustically perfect in all of North America). That maestro James Levine has agreed to leave the Metropolitan Opera to become the BSO's conductor only proves this point, as do a zillion other examples: Harvard kicks Columbia's Ivy League ass; our subway system is not only older but cleaner; Larry Bird left French Lick, Ind., to come here, not Manhattan. And—oh, yes—the Yankees *do* suck.

Asking someone what they do is considered rude.
In some places, asking what line of work someone is in is a perfectly acceptable icebreaker, even, surprisingly, in one-industry towns like Washington, D.C., or Los Angeles, where the answers have an inevitable sameness. It's a sociological idiosyncrasy of Boston that this line of questioning is frowned upon, especially when one considers that other personal questions, no matter how inappropriate or intrusive, are not. So, it's not OK to ask an OB-GYN what he does for a living, but it's perfectly fine to ask pointed questions about his sex life.

If you go to Harvard, don't be coy.
The following conversation takes place in Boston every day, ad infinitum and ad nauseum:

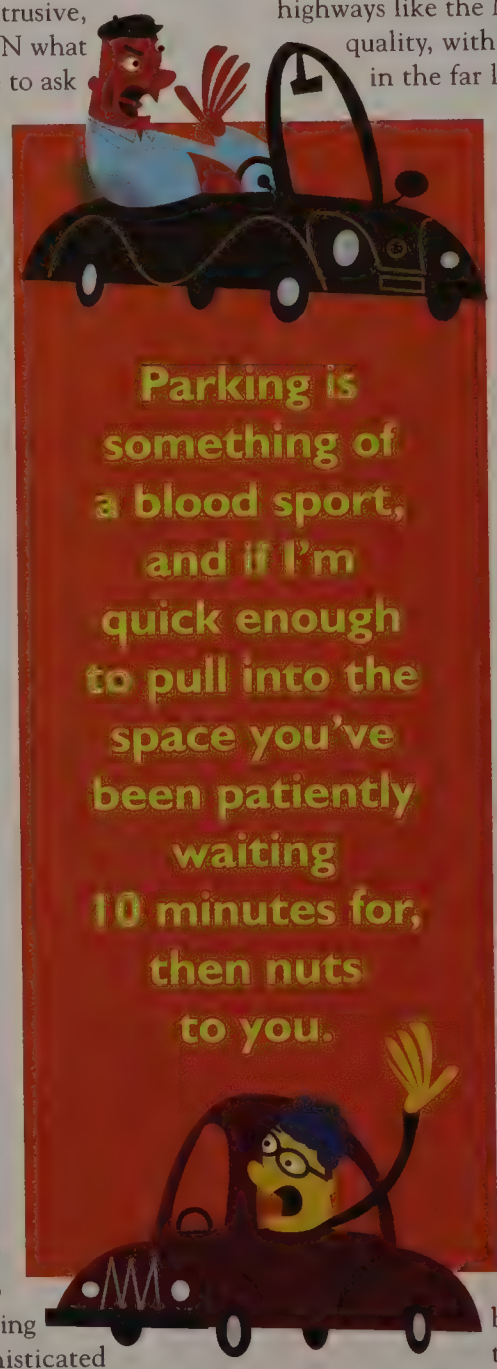
"I go to school here."
"Oh, where?"
"Cambridge."
"Oh. Where?"
"Ummm...Harvard?"

The local's response is liable to be something like, "Never heard of it" or "Didn't get in anywhere else, huh?" And rightly so. What's less becoming than false modesty in a know-it-all? So you scored 1,600 on your SATs. We're not impressed. Greater Boston probably has more Nobel laureates per capita than any other city in the world, so drop the pretense. That goes for MIT students as well.

A Phi Beta Kappa key will get you further than fake tits or overdeveloped pecs.
While we're on the subject of intellect, it's a good time to point out that just as offensive as the demure Ivy League Ph.D. candidate is the proudly ditsy girl or willfully ignorant guy. Not that we don't have our fair share of mental pygmies and troglodytes here, but Boston is a smart city. Pretending you don't know it's stupid to flick your cigarette butt into a flower bed at the Public Garden or saying something like "Europe is such a sophisticated country" is neither cute nor sexy. In places like Miami, where people walk around in nothing but thongs, being anatomically perfect but cerebrally deficient might be acceptable. Here, it's lame. In other words: Being blond is perfectly OK; acting blond isn't.

Having fashion sense is an eccentricity.
Yes, there are those anomalous individuals who make Boston look stylish with their tragically hip street wear or up-to-the-minute designer duds. But beyond the boutiques of Newbury Street and the odd fashion plate, Boston, at its core, is defiantly backward in sartorial matters. At the theater or an elegant restaurant, you'll probably encounter woefully underdressed people in jeans and sneakers. Anywhere else, this would be an abomination, but in Boston, it's not uncommon to see a prominent socialite arrive at a black-tie event wearing a ball gown and gardening clogs. If questioned about this, she will wave her hand dismissively and offer some excuse about the weather or a complete non sequitur like "I came straight from the office" (as if that were an excuse). This is because we want you to believe we're too high-minded to concern ourselves with such trivialities or that we're shabby-chic. The sad fact of the matter is that we're just clueless and cheap.

You may be my best friend, but if I'm behind the wheel, all bets are off.
Much has been said about the driving habits of Bostonians, and all of it is true. "Erratic" would be the charitable way to describe the observance of basic laws, and it wouldn't take a board-certified psychiatrist to see that this is a city in the grip of a collective and chronic case of road rage. As a result, highways like the Mass. Pike have taken on an oddly British quality, with maddeningly slow drivers crawling along in the far left lane, and cars going 80 mph whizzing past them on the right, their drivers extending a middle-finger salute. Parking, meanwhile, is something of a blood sport, and if I'm quick enough to pull into the space you've been patiently waiting 10 minutes for, then nuts to you. Similarly, the most common way in which new arrivals to Boston take their lives into their own hands is to park in a spot that someone else has dug out after a snowstorm. These are clearly marked with stolen orange traffic cones, lawn chairs or other household detritus, and violating this uniquely Boston rule will earn you anything from key marks in your paint job to a trip to the emergency room. As for parking tickets, they're an unavoidable fact of life here, and our meter maids make Cruella De Vil look like Mary Poppins.



Don't ask for directions if you expect to be able to follow them.
Unless you were born hardwired with an internal global positioning system, you'll never find your way around here, but asking for directions won't help. What you'll hear is advice like "Don't pay any attention to the sign that says 128—it's Route 95, and if you want to go north, head south." Or, if you happen to ask one of our many Irish citizens, their points of reference will consist entirely of Roman Catholic landmarks, as in "Pass St. Agnes on the left and the convent where my buddy Fitzy's sister is the mother superior, then look for the big bathtub Mary on the corner. If you get to Our Lady of Perpetual Suffering, you've gone too far." Contrary to the way this sounds, we're not a bunch of incoherent lunatics. It just happens that we live in a city where it makes perfect, logical sense to say "the corner of Tremont and Tremont."

There are numerous other ways in which Bostonians differ from everyone else, but we hope these basic rules will help newcomers acclimate. Three final bits of advice: If someone asks "Wanna spucky?" they're not proposing that you join them in the latest dance craze; they're asking if you'd like a submarine sandwich. When you hear someone ask for a "shadnay," they're ordering a glass of the white wine varietal known elsewhere as chardonnay. And finally: "Scrod" is not the past tense of "screw." Keep these things in mind, and you'll fit in just fine around here...in about 30 or 40 years. iB

10 GREAT PLACES TO MEET PEOPLE IN BOSTON

1. First Fridays at the MFA
On the first Friday of every month, the Museum o Fine Arts hosts a party that's like a cross between sorority mixer and a singles bar. The art provides natural topic of conversation; just don't ask th woman you're trying to pick up if she looks like on of Gaugin's subjects without her clothes on.

2. Group therapy or 12-Step programs
In these sessions, you're guaranteed to have at leas one thing in common, such as a tortured childhoo or an addiction. And all the probing and soul-search ing that goes on guarantees that you'll hear th worst about each other directly from the sourc rather than hearing it from your friends later on.

3. The Bristol Lounge at the Four Seasons
The high-and-mighty go to this super-swanky pian bar to tipple before and after social engagement It's a happy hunting ground for anyone in search of rich spouse, and it's also remarkably cozy for som place so fancy.

4. The Esplanade
Whether you're taking in a concert at the Hat Shell, biking, blading or running along the path sailing with Community Boating or just catchi some rays on the grass, Boston's backyard is outstanding place to meet people, and the view are spectacular.

5. Charity work or event committees
What better way to win friends than to show ever one what a wonderful person you are by donati your time and energy to a worthy cause? Be for warned, though: You will be judged by the compa you keep.

6. The Sports Club/LA
If you like 'em fit and financially secure, Boston's pr mier gym is the spot to meet the person of yo dreams. As social as it is luxurious, there's an ou door patio for warm-weather schmoozing, a café a quick bite to eat, and a bar and fine-dining esta lishment for more substantial socializing.

7. Laundromat or laundry room
At least you'll know how they look at their v worst, since most folks don't do laundry until th absolutely have to. Added bonus: the ability to p view sheets and undergarments.

8. Jury duty
Few things bring people together like a summon serve on a jury. By doing your civic duty, which u ally means sitting on uncomfortable furniture large, stuffy room until someone tells you to home, you can meet people from all walks of Just don't expect much from anyone who is brou into the building wearing handcuffs.

9. Adult education classes
The continuing-education courses offered by a ed centers include classes on networking and flir but any subject, from cooking to pottery, will you in touch with new people.

10. The Enormous Room
The entertainment at this funky Central Sq hangout ranges from jam bands to poetry rea to performance art, and lots of it is provoc enough to spark conversation.

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NEW to the NEIGHBORHOOD

DO BOSTONIANS DESERVE THEIR REPUTATION FOR STANDOFFISHNESS AND INDIFFERENCE TO "OUTSIDERS"? NEWCOMERS TO THE CITY TELL IT LIKE THEY SEE IT.

BY CAITLIN O'NEIL PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY TIEULI

ike people, cities get reputations: shallow, glamorous Los Angeles; sophisticated, fast-talking New York; bohemian San Francisco. Boston is known as both brash and clannish, a place where people are as loyal to their cronies as they are to their families. But is the city still the insular enclave of John Collins Bossidy's 1910 toast, "Where the Lowells talk to the Cabots/And the Cabots talk only to God?" r do the natives look more kindly on newcomers these days? To find out, we spoke to me men and women who've moved to Boston in recent years.

THE WELCOME WAGON

ewcomers quickly learn that Boston is a town of tradition, tight ties and testiness. The lo-ls' loyalty to the way it's always been can make them seem off-putting and old-fashioned, t it's often this same pride of place that many newcomers hope to share eventually.

For California native Kerry Williams, 32, Boston has more historic value than the est Coast. "It has a sense of community and seems to combine the old with the w," she says. But her fellow Golden Staters couldn't see the draw. "When I told ople back home that I wanted to move here, they said, 'Why do you want to go to ew England? It's cliquey and rude and not open.'" She moved here from San Jose Labor Day 2001 and quickly found the opposite to be true. "People often go out of eir way to bust the stereotype. I met a guy at a garden party who is also a runner. fore the night was over, he'd invited me to run with a group that meets at Nike-wn on Wednesday nights."

"I thought people would be rude, fast paced and disrespectful," adds chiropractor Je-ny Tietgen, 26, from Kansas City, Kan. But he wound up feeling welcome even before 'd moved in. Taking a break from apartment hunting one afternoon, he stopped into Waterfront Bar in the North End. "I was trying to decide between two studio apart-nts, one $1,200 and one $1,030. Apartments are $300 a month in the Midwest, so I d no way to know what might be better. The owner of the bar had me read out the ings and told me which was the better neighborhood for my money."

Williams has a similar story from her first day on Beacon Hill. "I had trouble getting a ce of furniture into my apartment," she says. "I went to the True Value on Cambridge eet looking for a saw. The owner was very friendly. When he found out what I needed it he said, 'Why don't you just borrow it and bring it back?' That surprised me."

Many newcomers from the larger cities of the South and West say they were surprised ind how easily they made connections here and credit Boston's small neighborhoods l walkable streets.

I didn't realize how 'small town-y' it really was for a big-name city," says recent icago transplant Samar Sen, 24. He says he immediately liked "the narrow, cobbled ets and the fact that you could walk everywhere. It reminded me of my days in Lon- and traveling around Europe."

Laura Howenstine, 34, arrived in June 2001 from Houston, where "you have to drive rywhere," she says. "Houston is a place where there's not a lot of community. I nted to live in a real, traditional city." The Oklahoma native says that Boston has ed the bill. "If I'm out running in the morning, people chat on the street and shout 'Five miles, way to go!' I think the South End is a very friendly place; there's a lot of mmunity in general. I feel like I know more of my neighbors here."

People will tell you differently, but I've had good experiences in Boston," says wenstine. "I was in the South End one day, hanging around looking at places, and I t to the Garden of Eden for a cup of tea and a baguette. I started chatting with the waiter. I told him I was looking for a job, looking to live in the South End. He wouldn't let me pay for breakfast. Another morning this past winter, I was walking to my car and a middle-aged woman driving past rolled down her window and said, 'Do you need a ride somewhere? You look really cold.'"

Others find the scale of a colonial city familiar but haven't found the community connections they left behind. "The street where we lived in Philadelphia was small, out of the way, and everyone knew each other. People would meet on the street and look through your front window and say, 'I like what you've done with the place,'" says Greg Durkin, 39, who moved to the South End in June 2002 with his partner, Jeff Goldsmith, 33. "People talk of the South End being a real community. We've found that people are friendly within our building but it ends at the door. You'll see the same people on the street every day, walking their dogs and going to the store, and they don't say hi."

Durkin and Goldsmith say that they don't consider Bostonians to be unfriendly; rather, they don't seem especially outgoing. "An acquaintance of ours told me people in Boston won't talk to you for three years. Then, bang! After three years, they start talking to you," says Goldsmith. "Because people have been here forever, they have well-established friends and don't need new ones."

"People are definitely not as friendly here as they are in the South. I've had several people here tell me that I am incredibly friendly, and I'm not even trying to be," says Lauren McDonald, 22, who moved east from Dallas last July.

Mike Hodgson, 31, a New Yorker who has been living and working in Cambridge for the past year and a half, says that Bostonians are a tough crowd to befriend because they're out of practice. "My impression is that few people in New York stay there for their whole lives. So in a sense, everyone is new," he says. "In Boston, people have been here forever. There is a tendency to stick to people and places they know, stick to traditions, stick with their friends. They're all set."

OUT ON THE TOWN

When it comes to friends and lovers, what newcomers find in Boston can depend on where they're looking. With a social scene that runs the gamut from bar crawl to charity ball, Boston's love of tradition is always apparent. Familiar faces and favorite bars rule the day.

"From the little I've seen, [Boston]'s more down-to-earth than D.C.," says Bessmarie Moll, 26, who moved here from Washington, D.C., to take a job at *The Atlantic Monthly*. "People don't go to get drinks and ask, 'What are you doing now? Where are you working? It's more, 'What's going on with your family?' It just feels so much more human."

"In Boston, I expected to find people with ducks on their pants, in plaid shorts, with 'Jr.' and 'Sr.' and numbers after their names, people who summered in Woonsocket. Preppy, WASPy folks wearing their Docksiders out to the boating party," says Hodgson. "There is an element of that, but it's more eclectic than I expected."

Still, he finds people in Boston are also "less jokey, less open than people in New York," where people are ready for the strange, the odd, the unexpected. But he also enjoys what he sees as a challenge. "People are so not used to talking to strangers here that it's kind of fun to throw people off."

Sen agrees that Bostonians aren't big on change. "The bar and club scene here is very strange, I have to admit," he says. "It's always Tia's after work, Caprice on Monday, Pravda on Wednesday, Venu on Friday. Because of this, you seem to run into people all the time. This was never the case for my network in Chicago, because we would go to a different place every weekend of the year and not know anyone."

Such lockstep partying patterns can even make it difficult for newcomers to meet new people. "The dating scene leaves a little to be desired because everyone knows everyone," says Sen, who says he finds Boston women unapproachable. "I have noticed a lot of 'old money' princess types who project a very stuck-up and intimidating stance." But one man's ice princess is another man's straight shooter. "People are more honest here," says Tietgen. "You buy a girl a drink and talk to her, and she will be direct about whether she really wants to talk to you or not."

Women who are new to Boston, on the other hand, say they find Boston men more accessible. "I've found men more outgoing here than in San Francisco," says Katie Eagan, 27, a survivor of the Silicon Valley technology boom and bust. "Here they'll come right out and ask for your number."

Williams says that in her experience it's been easier to meet men than women. "Women are more competitive in Boston. They see you as the competition. But generally I find that if you are friendly to people, they will open up."

How friendliness turns into friendship is a more complex question. Durkin tells of a promising meeting at Laurel in the Back Bay on a crowded Friday night. "We sat at the bar with a group of guys, chatted and exchanged business cards. They said, 'Let's get together sometime.' But we never heard from them."

"A friend of mine years ago said that the older you are when you move somewhere, the more urgency you have to settle down and make friends," says Goldsmith. "But the people already living wherever you've moved don't have that urgency. And we've found that to be true in Boston."

Until new friendships are formed, newcomers can always fly solo. "I feel very comfortable doing stuff alone here," says Hodgson, who frequents Cambridge haunts like the Enormous Room, the B-Side Lounge and the 1369 Coffee House in Central Square. "There are lots of weird, loner academics in Cambridge. So there's a quirk factor that makes it OK to be alone."

Jeremy Tietgen, a transplant from the Midwest, got some friendly apartment-hunting help at the North End's Waterfront Bar.

"PEOPLE ARE MORE HONEST HERE. YOU BUY A GIRL A DRINK, AND SHE WILL BE DIRECT ABOUT WHETHER SHE REALLY WANTS TO TALK TO YOU."

FITTING IN

But what is a Bostonian anyway? In a city that has attracted so many "outsiders," so-called natives may be shouldering too much of the credit or blame for the impression that the city makes on newcomers. "When people say people are unfriendly in the Northeast, I think that's less true in big cities because they attract people from everywhere," says Howenstine. In Boston, she says, "chances are you're talking to someone who's not from Boston. If you're talking to me, you're talking to someone from Oklahoma."

Mark Schwitau, an Air Force first lieutenant and a transplant from San Antonio, Texas, has also found the city more varied than he expected. "Actually, I don't know many people in Boston who are from Boston," he says. "Eighty percent of my friends aren't from here." Which raises the question: If newcomers are befriending each another, where else could the locals be but together? Have they succeeded in closing themselves off without anyone being the wiser?

Katie Martin, 33, who returned to the East Coast after living in Boulder, Colo., and Menlo Park, Calif., believes that there is an old Boston network, but with some effort newcomers can gain entry. "You have to get into the network somehow, and once you're in, you can meet lots of people," says Martin. "I feel that I'm just as guilty, going out with my friends from Colby [College] and not branching out. It's like a bad habit we all fall into."

But Eagan disagrees. "I don't feel that I'm left out because I didn't go to school around here," she says. "I think it's harder to make friends in general at my age. I don't think it's particular to Boston."

"People in Boston are set in their ways," says Goldsmith. Finding the social scene a bust, Durkin and Goldsmith have enrolled in a French class they heard about through one of Durkin's colleagues. They hope that by doing what they enjoy, they'll eventually find like-minded people who will become close friends.

Schwitau also endorses that strategy. "There's so much to do, so many hobby groups to join. Bongo drums or French classes. You just need to take the first step," he says. "If you're friendly, you can turn anywhere into a good place to meet people."

Howenstine recently started lessons at the Boston Sailing Center, where she "met another whole group of people. I had a beer with my instructor and another classmate after class last night," she says. She's also met people through the Wharton Club of Boston, where she is now on the board. "If your school has an alumni club in Boston, that's helpful because you can plug into the scene. There's an instant connection."

"What I've always found really helpful is finding people that were in the same boat I was," says Martin of her many moves to new cities. "It's not like you have to be lifelong best friends with them; you can explore the city together and find new things and be open to new things. If you can find a group of people who share your interests, I'd say that's the most important thing." iB

"My building is like Melrose Place," says Kerry Williams (center), shown here with fellow tenants on their Beacon Hill rooftop.

TAKE IT FROM US

How does a newcomer make friend and develop a satisfying social life i Boston? Here's advice from those wh have done it.

"In a big city like this, it's easy to fin roommates, and that's one way t meet tons of new people. I'd also sa going to church or playing a sport lik basketball are good ways to get ou there. As I told my buddies i Chicago and Denver, be outgoing, b approachable. Don't be afraid to sa 'Hi, I just moved here...' People sta home and complain they're no meeting people, but if you don't tr you won't."
—Jeremy Tietgen, South Boston

"Know the activities that interest yo and get involved. If you like interna tional relations, get involved in th Kennedy School. If you like sailing, joi one of the sailing clubs. Get involved your alumni group. It's not any on thing; it's all these things together."
—Laura Howenstine, South End

"Always try to get contacts before yo move—friends of current friends, fam ily friends, anything—so that when yo arrive you have someone to talk t about where it's safe to live. The through roommates, or work buddie you can start sampling the local scen slowly. Go out with all the differe groups you can."
— Samar Sen, Brookline

"I found my roommate on Craigslis org. She's lived here five years an has taken me out and introduce me to her friends. I would say th greatest thing to have when yo move here would be a great room mate. She's been a total suppo system."
—Lauren McDonald, Back Bay

"When I first got here, I attended mee ings of the Young Friends and Neig bors Club in Beacon Hill. I also went charity events like the Black and Whi Ball and the Commonwealth Coura Foundation fund-raiser. I recomme getting involved in networking even or a sporting group where you'll me like-minded people. I've met so great people through soccer at t Boston Ski & Sports Club."
—Kerry Williams, Beacon Hill

"Don't take people personally right the bat, because there's such a diff ent culture of behavior from city city. People here are more dire They scream a lot more. There more fights in bars, hands down. very entertaining. Here it's nothing fensive if someone says, 'What the are you doing that for?' They're s ous. They want to know."
—Bessmarie Moll, North End

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JOIN THE CLUB

GROUPS OF EVERY STRIPE OFFER BOSTONIANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH LIKE-MINDED SOULS

BY JULIE SURATT

Loner or joiner: Most of us fall into one category or the other. If you're reading *Atonement* for your book club, helping plan a fund-raiser at a local bar, playing volleyball twice a week or sorting canned food at the Greater Boston Food Bank, chances are you're a joiner. You seek the camaraderie that group activities provide.

Whether you're a newcomer to the city or your best friends have moved away, gotten married or started families, joining a group can be a great way to meet new people and make friends. Thousands of groups exist around the city—from social, charitable and educational to cultural and recreational. The focus of each may be different, but the groups all share a similar goal: to provide a forum for people with similar interests to gather on a regular basis to socialize, go on outings, plan events, host parties, help others or simply play games.

Groups offer their members a sense of connection to the community, something that's not always easy to find in Boston, according to many city dwellers. "When I first moved here, I met a lot of people right away at parties and by going out with coworkers," says Tara Sanders, 27, an administrative assistant from Toledo, Ohio. "But after a year had passed, I realized that most of them were still just acquaintances. I'd see them out every once in a while, but there was no sense of continuity."

Without a regular excuse to gather with the same group of people, or the familiar social interactions we once enjoyed in a college environment, it may be tough to turn acquaintances into friends, given many Bostonians' penchant for working long hours and their reputation for being "rather aloof," as Sanders puts it.

It's not that Bostonians aren't interested in making friends; rather, some people say they don't make the effort or find the opportunities necessary to maintain friendships. Joining a group forces you to interact with others when your inclination might be to retreat to the couch after a long day at work. Ph.D. student Naomi Wernick, 28, joined Jewish InterAction—a social group that helps people in their 20s and 30s connect with the city's Jewish community—after ending a long relationship. "I needed to get out and meet new people," Wernick says.

Stacia Zukroff, 34, chair of the Appalachian Mountain Club Young Members Committee, joined the AMC when she moved back to Boston from Washington state and discovered all her friends were married with children. "They didn't have a lot of time for me," she says. Fast-forward five years and, "It's insane. I have more friends now than I know what to do with," she laughs. "The AMC is the best thing that's happened to me."

So have we piqued your interest? Join us as we take a look at some of the organizations that can keep you active and in touch.

A BIT OF ART AND CULTURE

Banish the thought of stodgy men and women standing around pretentiously discussing the merits of Jackson Pollock or the finer points of Mozart. Most of the local museums, theaters, dance companies and music organizations sponsor groups that cater to young professionals, offering not only preferential viewing privileges but also fun social events.

The **Museum of Fine Arts Museum Council** regularly brings together adults ages 21 to 45 to introduce them to the departments of the museum and provide networking and social opportunities. Unlike MFA Fridays, a weekly gathering for singles featuring live music and cocktails (with a little bit of art on the side), the council is geared toward patrons who desire greater involvement with the museum. "Members of the council are interested in art and want to support the museum philanthropically," says Teryn Weintz, the council's development officer. By contributing $500 in dues per year—a substantial discount from the $2,500-per-year contribution of museum patrons—council members have an opportunity to go behind the scenes of traveling exhibitions, for example, and talk to the curators about the paintings. The dues provide vital annual operating funds for the museum.

The same is true for the **Museum of Science Museum Council**, a group of young professionals ages 20 to 40. For $200, members get a behind-the-scenes view of museum exhibitions and invitations to attend museum social functions that make science a lot more fun than it was in high school physics. During the recent Science Behind Wine dinner, for example, participants learned how

IN THE LOOP

The following are just some of the ways to get involved and meet others. Many groups are free. Prices are for one-year membership, unless otherwise indicated.

ARTS/CULTURAL GROUPS

Boston Ballet's U35
The Boston Ballet's U35 program—aimed at the under-35 audience—features discounted tickets to three ballets and one pre-performance cocktail reception. *617-695-6955.* www.bostonballet.org. *$195.*

Boston Philharmonic's Encore
The Philharmonic's young-members program is geared toward classical enthusiasts ages 25 to 45. Encore members attend two concert receptions and this season's cocktail event organized with the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Courtside Circle (see below). *617-236-0999.* www.bostonphil.org. *$150.*

Boston Symphony Orchestra's Repartee
See story for more details. *617-266-7575.* www.bso.org. *$96-$184.*

Huntington Theatre Company's Night Club
Theatergoers ages 21 to 35 meet for a pre- or post-theater reception the first Thursday of each Huntington main-stage production. The Out and About Club—the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender version of Night Club—gathers for the second Wednesday performance of each production. *617-266-0800.* www.huntingtontheatre.org. *$26-$41 for Night Club; $14-$69 for Out and About.*

Institute of Contemporary Art's New Group
Young professionals and art enthusiasts engage in Boston's contemporary-art scene through social, educational and fund-raising events. *617-927-6612.* www.icaboston.org/membership. *$100.*

Isabella Gardner Museum's Courtyard Circle
Young members (roughly 21 to 40) partake in private exhibition tours, interact with curators and visiting artists, and receive priority seating at concerts. *617-278-5136.* www.gardnermuseum.org. *$500-$1,500.*

Museum of Fine Arts' Museum Council
See story for more details. *617-369-3268.* www.mfa.org/council. *$500 council members; $1,000 fellows.*

Museum of Science's Museum Council
See story for more details. *617-589-0473.* www.mos.org/council. *$200.*

SERVICE/CHARITABLE GROUPS

Boston Cares
See story for more details. *617-563-0452.* www.bostoncares.org. *$10-$30.*

Boston Jaycees
The Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) offer young professionals ages 21 to 40 the opportunity to participate in charity events and social activities and develop business contacts. *617-367-5710.* www.bostonjaycees.org.

Franciscan Children's Hospital's Young Professional Council
See story for more details. *617-779-1414.* www.fchrc.org.

Junior League of Boston
The JLB is a 1,500-member volunteer association for women. Community activities focus on mentoring teenage girls and include serving on foster-care review panels, staffing the Women's Lunch Place and one-day volunteer projects. *617-536-9644.* www.jlboston.org.

Single Volunteers Boston
See story for more details. *www.svboston.org.*

SPORTS/RECREATIONAL GROUPS

Appalachian Mountain Club Young Members Committee
See story for more details. *617-523-0655*. www.amcboston.org/youngmembers/index.html. *$25-$40*.

Boston Amateur Golf Society
Open to golfers of all skill levels, this group offers tournaments for golfers who want to compete in organized events. *617-327-3698*. www.bagsgolf.com. *$165*.

Boston Ski & Sports Club
The BSSC has athletic leagues including soccer, kickball and softball and organizes weekend skiing and hiking trips. *617-789-4070*. www.bssc.com. *$60*.

Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance
See story for more details. www.buda.org. *$40 per season*.

Cambridge Sports Union
This group hosts weekly events, mostly running but also softball, hiking, skiing and orienteering, for participants ranging from beginners to nationally competitive athletes. www.csurun.org. *$15*.

Charles River Wheelmen
This group of men and women gets together for weekly bike rides and social events. Cyclists at all levels are welcome. *617-964-5727*. www.crw.org. *$20*.

Community Boating
See story for more details. *617-523-1038*. www.communityboating.org. *$175*.

ETHNIC/RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

African American Federation of Greater Boston
The Federation supports community-based organizations that serve the social, educational, health and community-relations needs of the African American community in Boston. www.massagenda.com/afamfed. *$10*.

Arab-American Young Professionals in Boston
AAYP-Boston is part of a national nonprofit organization for young professionals of Arab descent who live in the United States. Events include networking socials, volunteering at the Greater Boston Food Bank, picnics and ski trips. *617-970-5517*. www.aaypboston.org.

Arlington Street Church
This Unitarian church offers worship as well as programs like a social justice group, yoga classes and gay and lesbian support groups. *617-536-7050*. www.ascboston.com.

Jewish InterAction
See story for more details. *617-457-8666*. www.jinteraction.org.

Latino Professional Network
The LPN's main mission is to create career, educational and social opportunities for Latinos. Events include workshops, volunteer days and networking parties. *617-247-1818*. www.lpn.org.

National Association of Asian American Professionals Boston
This organization promotes the career advancement and leadership development of Asian American professionals in all fields through networking and by promoting community service and diversity. *781-937-7072*. www.naaap.org. *$35*.

Park Street Church
See story for more details. *617-523-3383*. www.parkstreet.org.

Continued on next page

Museum of Science Museum Council

Boston Symphony Orchestra's Repartee

wine is made and then tasted samples. Every year, the museum hosts an evening called the S-Games, where members team up and visit problem-solving stations around the museum. At one station, the entire team had to climb on a seesaw and keep it balanced. Drinks flow liberally during these events, but first and foremost, "it's an intellectual organization," says Kimberly Slater, president of the council. "We're not nerdy techies, but we're all really committed to science and understanding."

The Boston Symphony Orchestra offers a subscription program, called **Repartee**, for music enthusiasts from ages 21 to 38. Members can choose to attend three or four concerts, which are preceded by a cocktail reception and a brief talk by an orchestra member or a guest artist. "It's for people who want to learn more about music," says Sarah Manoog, BSO director of marketing and programs.

Ronda Brands, 38, felt compelled to join Repartee for the reduced ticket prices. "Plus, the group seating makes you feel more comfortable if you're attending a show by yourself," she says. While the focus is on the performance, Brands says she's made a few acquaintances, and she even found her current job by networking at a BSO event.

HELP OTHERS, HELP YOURSELF

If you're looking to meet people and give back to the community at the same time, try volunteering at one of the city's many local nonprofit organizations. **Single Volunteers Boston** (SVB) connects singles ages 25 to 35 who share an interest in volunteerism. Sign up on the organization's Web site to receive e-mail updates about the group's outings. For example, you can rake leaves or weed the gardens at Waltham Community Farm; scoop ice cream at WGBH's Ice Cream Fun Fest fund-raiser; or sort food at the Greater Boston Food Bank. "I try to keep an even male-female ratio at all events," says co-founder Stephanie Hayes. Each event is followed by a social activity at a local restaurant. "Our first goal is to provide one-shot volunteer opportunities for people who might not otherwise have the time for a longer commitment," says Hayes. "The second is to help people meet new friends. A lot of people are shy at first, but once they volunteer and then go out with the group afterward, they find conversation much easier."

Although SVB has nearly 1,000 members, participants begin to see familiar faces at events. **Boston Cares**, a larger organization, has more than 6,000 volunteers and publishes a list of more than 100 volunteer opportunities around the city every month. Susan Goldstein, 28, a volunteer with the nonprofit organization, says it can be more difficult to make friends at Boston Cares events due to the sheer number of participants. "The people I meet are great, but I haven't made any friends," Goldstein says. "You don't really exchange names. We volunteer, and then we all go home."

Goldstein has had more success meeting friends through the **Franciscan Children's Hospital's Young Professionals Council** (YPC), whose 500 members, young professionals ages 22 to 35, gather four times a year at fund-raising events held at local bars or restaurants. "Most of us can't afford to pay a lot of money to attend a gala or an awards dinner, but we want to give back to the community," says Megan Lynch, the council's special events manager. So the events, held at restaurants like Tonic or Abe & Louie's, rarely cost more than $25. Goldstein, an organizational development manager, joined shortly after quitting a job that required her to travel out of state Monday through Friday. "I had some friends in the area, but I only saw them on weekends," Goldstein says. "I joined YPC and met loads of people. It's a very welcoming group."

A WIDER PLAYING FIELD

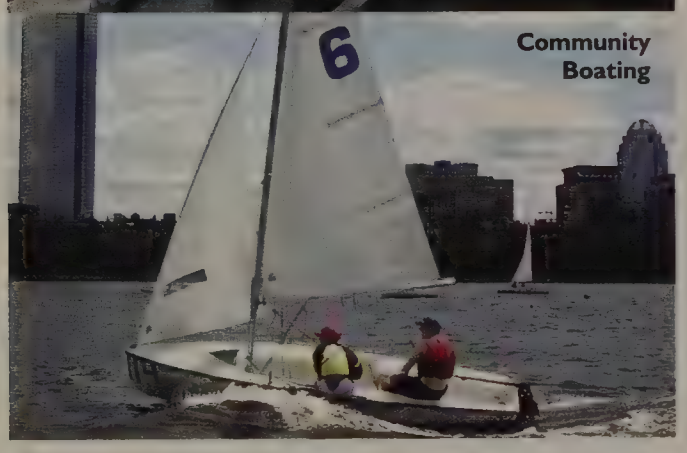
If making the strenuous climb up New Hampshire's Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail to the Lake of the Clouds Hut and then walking the ridge along scenic Crawford Path with eight other outdoor enthusiasts sounds like heaven, you're a perfect fit for the **Appalachian Mountain Club Young Members Committee**.

"The committee sprang out of a few AMC members' desire to do activities with people their age who have similar professional and career interests and similar life experiences," says Stacia Zukroff, chair of the AMC Young Members Committee. The group offers everything from kayaking, biking and skating trips to barbecues, potlucks and picnics, but "the number of outdoor activities far exceeds the social activities," says Zukroff. "Seventy five percent of our trips are hiking." Every month, the 2,000 members, who are in their 20s and 30s, receive an e-mail list of trips hosted by the Young Members. "Most people sign up for trips individually," says Megan Reilly, 26, an elementary school teacher who's gone on four excursions with AMC.

Single Volunteers Boston

Franciscan Children's Hospital's Young Professionals Council

Appalachian Mountain Club


Community Boating

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

Boston Young Professionals Association

If what you really want is just to have some fun and meet new people in a social setting, you're not alone. In fact, two young entrepreneurs have zeroed in on that urban yen and launched social-events groups this year.

Boston newcomer Anne Harrell founded the **Boston Young Professionals Association** this spring. Working as an accountant and planning events as a side job in Washington, D.C., Harrell got the urge to launch a young professionals' group like the one she was involved with in D.C. She moved to Boston and threw her first BYPA party in April at Felt—"We packed the top two floors," says Harrell. Since then, the group's membership has grown to more than 3,000 people, all professionals between the ages of 21 and 40. With the goal of introducing its members to new people, BYPA hosts three to eight events per month, and Harrell's proud that her group gives back to the community. Ten percent of the proceeds from her events—singles parties, theater outings, a Fourth of July cruise, a martini tasting, and even employment and financial seminars, to name a few—go to that month's designated charity. Membership's free, and event prices range from $5 to $200. Harrell says newcomers to the group are pleasantly surprised by its fun-loving, welcoming spirit: "People come to my events and say 'I can't believe how friendly everyone is.'" *www.bostonypa.com*.

Even newer than BYPA is **Boston Unlisted**, the brainchild of Kim Wallins, who, when we spoke to her, was poised to launch her first event—a margarita party Sept. 23 at Cottonwood Café with a guest list of 50. Wallins' concept is an upscale social group for 30-somethings, both single and married, who are looking to make new friends. "Boston is a younger city, and it can be difficult to find other 30-somethings," says Wallins, a Peabody native and tech salesperson by day. She emphasizes that her group "will not be a singles thing—I wanted to steer away from that. I have so many married woman friends who just want to meet girlfriends, for example." Upcoming Boston Unlisted events include Monday night football parties at Lir, *The Bachelor* viewing parties at Vox Populi, and a Bustonian field trip to a cornfield maze. Membership is free, and events range from $5 to $45. *www.bostonunlisted.com*.

The only downside Reilly cites is the lack of sustained, long-term contact with her fellow hikers. She finds that kind of connection as a member of the **Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance**, whose 70 or so teams accept beginners as well as more experienced players. The teams meet once or twice a week for games and practices in the fall and spring. "You're more likely to make close friends if you're on a team and see your teammates regularly than if you're going on one-day hiking trips," Reilly says.

BSO Repartee member Ronda Brands, who also enjoys the outdoors, recommends trying **Community Boating**, on the Esplanade. She learned how to sail by accompanying an experienced sailor on Charles River outings. "Usually there are a few other beginners with you in the boat, and you have time to chat," she says. "I met friends and went on a few dates through my experience at Community Boating."

SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS

Founded nine years ago, **Jewish InterAction** provides social opportunities for Jewish people in their 20s and early 30s, who may not be as active in their synagogue or local Jewish Community Center as young adults of previous generations. The group hosts two or three events per week—from billiards to Shabbat dinners to tutoring underprivileged teens. Program associate Melissa Norman stresses that it's not just a singles program—JI boats 3,000 members, both single and married, straight and gay. "It's for people who want to meet other Jews, through volunteering, by celebrating Shabbat or by joining groups of people with common interests like film or folk dancing," says member Naomi Wernick. "If you want to go to a Friday night service or celebrate a holiday, you always have someone to go with."

The **Park Street Church**, a conservative congregational church, has two young-adult groups: **Café**, for people in their 20s, and **Crosswalk**, for those in their 30s. Both host small Bible study groups and organize monthly assemblies with guest speakers, and social and service projects throughout Boston—not to mention sports teams and dining clubs. Melissa Audette, 25, who moved to Boston from Nevada last summer, says she heard about the church from some Boston natives she met out west. "My main motivation was to find some kind of religious fellowship," she says, "but it's clearly a great social outlet as well. You know you're going to find people with similar interests."

SPECIAL INTERESTS

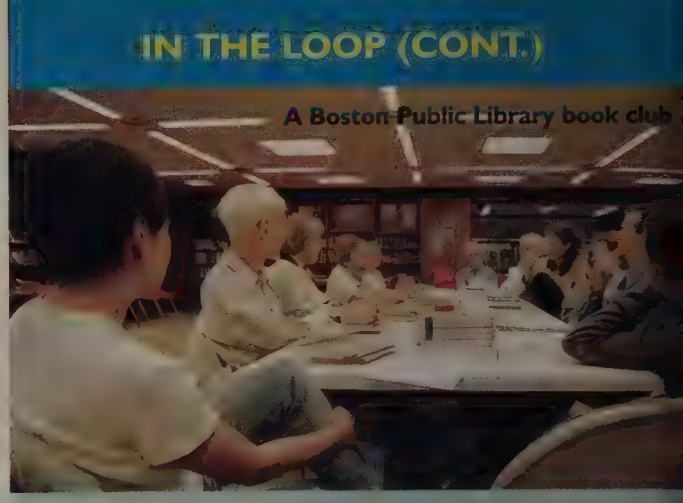
Does the thought of feasting on savory barbecue paired with a pint of a locally brewed lager make your mouth water? Are you looking for companions to discuss whether an ice age 600 million years ago paved the way for complex organisms to evolve? Are you a novice photographer looking to take your hobby to a new level?

If you answered yes to any of the above, there's a group for you. City living might be tough when it comes to finding parking or affordable housing, but the upside is that there's always at least a handful of other people who share your interests—no matter how obscure. For example, **BeerSummit.com**, a Web-based group for local lagerheads, sponsors beer-pairing dinners at Boston brew houses. Members of **Café Scientifique**, meanwhile, meet at a local bar to discuss hot topics in science. The **Boston Camera Club** meets weekly with the goal of advancing photography as an art and a science.

If none of those groups floats your boat, it's simply a matter of doing a quick search on the Internet to find an organization that matches your interests. Or, if you're really motivated, you could always start your own group. **Wine Sisters USA**, for example, is a Web site started by Weston resident Kindra Spector that can help you start a monthly wine-tasting group with fellow oenologists. Soon enough, your phone will be ringing off the hook and your Blackberry will be filled with appointments. Go forth, get connected and conquer! **iB**

Jewish InterAction

IN THE LOOP (CONT.)


A Boston Public Library book club

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

BeerSummit.com
See story for more details. E-mail *info@beersummit.com.*

Boston Camera Club
See story for more details. *www.photo-ne.com/BostonCC/.*

Boston Public Library Book Clubs
Most of the Boston Public Library's branches host adult book discussion groups that meet monthly. The main branch's book group meets one Monday of the month at 7 pm. *617-536-5400, ext. 2339.* www.bpl.org.

Café Scientifique
See story for more details. *www.newscientist.com/hottopics/cafescientifique/us.jsp.*

Philosophy Café
This philosophy discussion group, held on the third Tuesday of each month, is modeled on philosophy cafés in other cities in the U.S. and Europe. The informal discussion focuses on a range of topics in philosophy and its real-world applications. No expertise is required to participate. *McIntyre & Moore Booksellers, 255 Elm St., Somerville. 617-629-4840.* www.mcintyreandmoore.com.

Stitch 'n' Bitch
This knitting group for both women and men offers experienced and novice knitters a chance to meet and knit together. Get-togethers range from six to 12 people and meet Wednesday nights from 6-8 pm. *Redline, 59 JFK St., Cambridge. 617-491-9851.*

Stitch 'n' Bitch

Wine Sisters USA
See story for more details. www.winesisters.com. *$100 one-time cost to register a club with the national group.*

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Black Label Kama Sutra pink print camisole, $184; matching thong, $84. Both at La Perla. Bracelet, $3.50; earrings, $2.50. Both at H&M

DRESS

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STREICHER

Memories bustier in black, $432, matching brief, $108; black gloves, $22. All at Claire's Boutique.

Black Label lace slip in gold and pink, $238 at La Perla. Gold shoes, $69.99 at Lord & Taylor.

Black Label lace soft bra in white and black, $129; Black Label thong in satin white, $49; Virgo stockings, $61. All at La Perla.

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La Perla
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617-423-5709

Lord & Taylor
760 Boylston St.
617-262-6000

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Robbie Nelson

Model: Jennifer
for Reinhard

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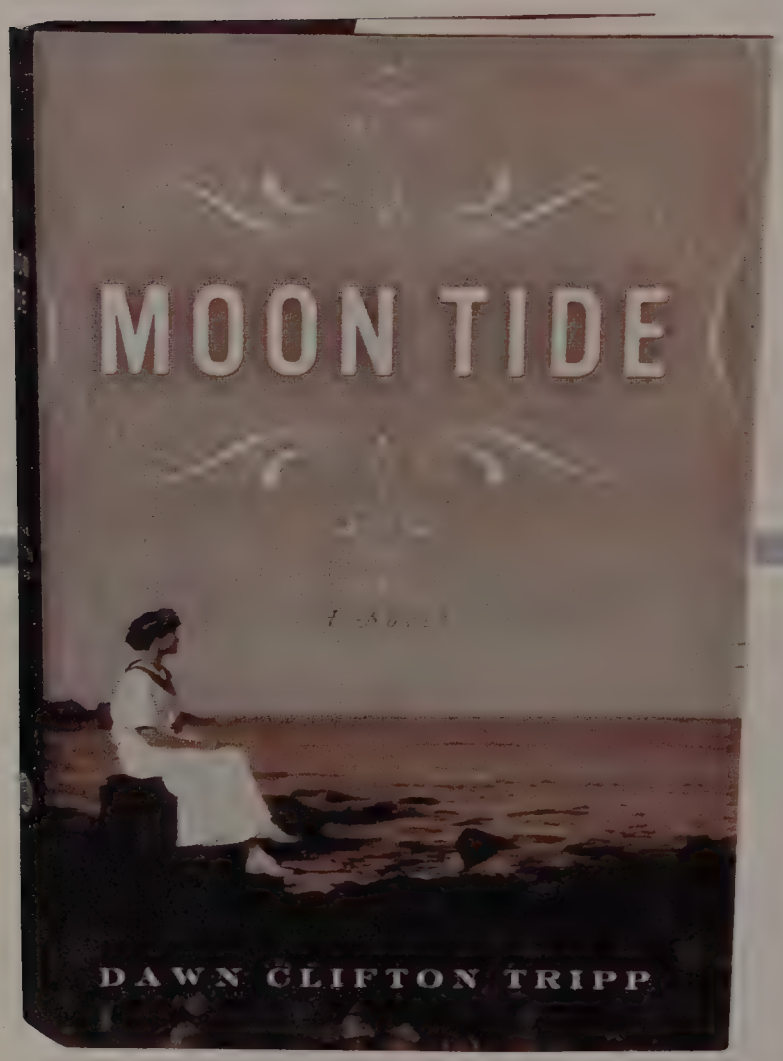
SERENDIPITOUS SHOPPING: OUR UNFETTERED CORRESPONDENT SEEKS OUT THE SALUBRIOUS AND THE CEREBRAL.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



STORMY WEATHER

***Moon Tide*, the first novel by Harvard graduate Dawn Clifton Tripp, poetically chronicles various strata of a largely Irish community in the early 20th century in Westport, Mass.**

"Down below, at the bottom of the hill, the river is silver, its surface hammered in the light," writes Dawn Clifton Tripp in *Moon Tide*. Silver is the color, almost the substance of this dreamy novel set in early-1900s Westport, Mass. Drifting poetically in and out of the minds of her characters, Tripp weaves together the lives of the people in the town, masters and their servants, many of them Irish. Elizabeth—who lives in a big house with her widowed son and his daughter, Eve—is tended to by the earthy, mysterious Maggie. There's a magic-herbalist witchiness to Maggie, giving the character an almost Colonial flavor. The men in the book love her, and one of the roiling themes of the story is the parallel, class-crossing romances that unfurl over long stretches of time in the lives of Elizabeth and Eve. The climactic 1938 hurricane is the perfect vehicle for conveying near-mysticism, and that watery onslaught, dangerous and beautiful, dramatically alters the lives of all concerned.

THE FOOT BONE'S CONNECTED TO EVERYTHING

Rachel Ann Payne, board certified reflexologist, gives treatments to your feet, hands or both. Traditional treatment and the more aggressive Rwo Shur method are available. Prices range from $35 to $80. Her Wellness Gardens practice has locations in Harvard Square and Marblehead. Call 781-789-1344.

According to reflexology, the foot is a microcosm of the body, a sort of Mini-Me where the toes correspond to the head and the heel represents the pelvis. Reflexology's roots are ancient, found in such places as Egypt, China and India. And like that other paradigm-shifting approach, acupuncture, it's both intriguingly different from Western medicine and complementary to it. The intricate manipulations of the art include a corkscrew kneading gesture called "thumb walking" and "the wave," which soothingly yet stimulatingly moves your feet in ways you can't do yourself. Different from massage, Payne's various techniques include imprinting a kind of intricate fingertip hieroglyphics on the 7,000 nerve endings in the feet. At a distance from the heart, and away from the actual organs and glands, the foot becomes a sort of metaphor for the rest of the body, an ambassador t those places. Payne says that by stimulating energetic pathways and breaking up toxic "congestion treatments may relieve conditions ranging from everyday stress to debilitating illnesses. Her footsic manner is respectful, responsive, and soothing—you just lie there with a lavender pillow on your eyes.

MANY PENNY CANDIES, TONS OF CARDS

Hidden Sweets, a store offering candy, cards and gifts, has opened a bigger location at 25 Brattle St., Cambridge. Th movie-side store still hides at 6 Church St. Call 617-497-2600.

Hidden Sweets has expanded with a second, larger location. While the old store occupies a hidden sp on Church Street, the new store's planted prominently on Brattle Street, with doors opened wide Harvard Square's bustling streetlife. True to its name, bins and bins of bulk candy, 300 varieties in a line an enormous wall. Among the polyglot yummies: chocolate-covered Oreos and orange peel, Bost Baked Beans in a crock, Gummi Bears and peanut butter pretzel balls, plus eight feet of sugar-free goo ies. The store has many nooks and you can browse the vast card sections as at a bookstore. There are holiday sections (it's already black-cat Halloween, and you can still get that Rosh Hashanah card). T sympathy-card area has sad music playing. Hysterically funny cards abound, and gay-themed cards here too. Upstairs, T-shirts of the Harvard persuasion, surprisingly cheap, sate tourist hunger for 021 ness. Comic tchotchkes—Grow a Girlfriend, Freud bobbleheads—satisfy the jokey-gift urge. See, t the more serious items, including dreamy, pretty resin angels, Christmas-themed or generally "spiritu and picture frames, many of which cost only $20.

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IN THIS SECTION: Review: The Red House Dish: Autumnal offerings Wine: Tuscan wines
Tasty Tidbit: A Taste of Cambridge

REVIEW

(RED) HOUSE PROUD

Tucked away in a small, early-1800s house in Harvard Square, the Red House turns out well-rendered, value-packed offerings in a cozy setting

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

What makes travel invigorating, restorative and even exciting is the occasional encounter with a vista, an architectural masterpiece or a picture-perfect town or village that is a total surprise, unheralded by reporters and guidebooks, wholly unexpected and therefore that much more delightful and satisfying. The same result can enliven the explorations of a restaurant reviewer. Jaded by compulsory visits to restaurants for which hype has created elevated expectations, I am relieved and refreshed to run across an understated restaurant, where lack of pretension is combined with refined culinary instincts, professionalism and value, and which draws patrons on its merits (not because self-appointed arbiters of taste and fashion have designated it as the place to go). Such a restaurant is the Red House in Cambridge, one of the most engaging eateries this reviewer has visited in some time.

The Red House inhabits a small, red (surprise) house tucked into Winthrop Street in Cambridge, next door to the recently closed House of Blues and across the street from the justly heralded UpStairs on the Square. On entering this small, but pretty property, a handsome bluestone floor leads to a bar and cocktail lounge on the right and to a small dining room in the rear. Outdoors, just beyond the bar, alfresco seating beneath large, dark-blue umbrellas offers a glimpse of Harvardian comings and goings in the fading light and cool air of a late summer evening.

Grilled fillet of salmon is served over sautéed ginger-glazed asparagus.

The dining room seats almost 60 at white paneled booths and upholstered banquettes littered with an assortment of throw pillows. A large octagonal skylight dominates the dining room, mitigating the effect of an otherwise low ceiling. White wood paneling extends two-thirds of the way up the walls, while dark wood molding frames small windows. A scattering of potted plants and a small tree strung with twinkling lights, lovely wooden tables and two attractively illuminated framed paintings complete the appointments in the dining room. While the napkins are heavy paper rather than cloth, and the red wine glasses are undersized, the table settings are otherwise respectable, with salt and pepper mills, a bottle of extra virgin olive oil and generous bowls of variegated olives, ranging from tiny black Nicoise to large green.

The Red House boasts a remarkably varied and versatile menu, with eight appetizers and 10 main courses, augmented nightly by another dozen or so specials. Among the appetizers, the Caesar salad ($5.95) was an ample portion of first-rate quality: a large bowl of impeccably crisp Romaine lettuce, whole wheat garlic croutons, mustardy dressing with just a hint of anchovy, and shaved Asiago cheese. Grilled vegetable Napoleon ($7.95)—layered slices of eggplant, yellow squash, zucchini, peppers, Vidalia onions and Bufala mozzarella—provided a toothsome mélange of summery vegetable flavors offset by muted garlic and fruity olive oil. The potato torte ($7.95) combined thin potato slices, scallions and Westphalian ham with tangy Gruyere cheese.

Following the lead, perhaps, of the Boston Harbor Hotel's Meritage, the Red House offers its main courses in large or scaled-down, "appetizer" portions, so that diners interested in sampling a larger arra of menu choices can graze. The dinner-siz portion of roasted baby chicken ($17.95) almost a whole small bird, had been rubbe with herbs, garlic and lemon. It emerge from the broiler with crisp skin and succu lent flesh, accompanied by sautéed spinach garlic and tomatoes—a rich and fillin ragout. Veal tenderloin ($19.95 as a mair $12.95 as an appetizer), pan roasted to tender and juicy turn, came with luscious tart plums chopped and grilled into a chut ney that complemented the mild flavor o the veal. Whipped potatoes and sautée broccolini, both enlivened with a restraine dose of garlic, accompanied the veal.

An appetizer-sized portion of grille salmon ($12.95), an ample fillet of good textured, moist fish, was served over gin ger-honey-glazed sautéed asparagus, whos crunchy texture and bright green colo added a tactile and visual dimension to th dish. A garland of roasted cherry tomatoe crowned a moist, firm-textured fillet haddock ($17.50), a special one evenin turning the dish into a summery deligh The same sautéed broccoli and whippe potatoes that had accompanied the ve reappeared with the haddock.

In contrast to its finely prepared fish impeccable texture, the Red House disap pointed with its grilled porterhouse stea ($22.95). I had expected a thick cu since the waitress advised that the diffe ence between the appetizer and full-si steak was thickness (not surprising sinc apart from the thickness, a porterhou steak comes in a standard size, with t tenderloin on one side of the T-bone a the sirloin on the other). At any rate, t lack of heft combined with inadequa grilling that failed to sufficiently sear t steak, resulted in a texture deficit. thought perhaps that despite our orderi the main course size, the thinner app tizer size was brought, but I was so sat fied with the remainder of the meal, i cluding the savory porcini mushroo relish that accompanied the steak, tha kept the thought to myself.

The Red House's well-rendered a value-packed offerings continued throu dessert. In view of the double-digit pri that desserts command at many Bos restaurants, the $5.50 tariff for the

THE RED HOUSE
98 Winthrop St., Cambridge
(617-576-0605)

HOURS Tue.-Sat., 12-3 pm and 5-11 pm; Sun., 1-9 pm
RESERVATIONS recommended
CREDIT CARDS all major
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes
PARKING validated for Charles Hotel Garage and University Place Garage
LIQUOR LICENSE full bar

An appetizer of grilled day-boat sea scallops is topped with a tropical fruit salsa.

Chef Marc Plourde stands by the Red House's white picket fence.

House's confections provided ncomparable value. The key ime pie, with sweet, crunchy raham cracker crust; tart, reamy, intensely limey filling; nd semisweet whipped cream vas one of the best key lime ies I have ever had. Rasp-erry white chocolate cake ombined pleasant raspberry housse with moist white cake, ut better was the "ultimate hocolate," a multilayered ex-ravaganza of dark chocolate ake alternating with creamy, infully rich mousse.

The Red House's wine list eatured bottles ranging in rice down into the low $20s, s well as credible choices by he glass for as little as $6, in-luding a decent Napa Valley inot noir ($6.50). Of the bot-es, the 1997 Vetrice Chianti ufina Reserva ($27) was fruity ut well balanced, with a full, ch bouquet and a fine finish. read baked on the premises ncluded rich olive bread and ard-crusted baguettes. Service as informed, attentive, effi-ient and unobtrusive. And sing the French standard of rapport prix-qualité"—rela-onship of price to quality—he Red House shined with rices 25 to 30 percent below hat comparable meals would tch elsewhere in Boston and ambridge. The irony of a self-facing, unpretentious estab-shment within a stone's throw Harvard Square merely in-nsified my enjoyment of this spitable hostelry. IB

Diners relax with cocktails in the lounge.

A slice of savory meat pie with green tomato piccalilli

TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Chocolate Bar Opening Reception
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900, ext. 7099). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Sept. 30, 5:30-7:30 pm. $45. This reception benefitting Children's Hospital features a chocolate buffet, plus signature creations by local pastry chefs. The event concludes with a runway fashion show of Denise Hajjar's fall/winter collection.

Cigar and Smoke Dinner
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Sept. 24, 7 pm. $70. This four-course, steakhouse-style dinner prepared by chef Felino Samson features port wine from Churchill Graham Ltd. and cigars from Cigar Masters.

Cooking for a Cause
The Union Club, 8 Park St., Boston (617-876-4444). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Oct. 4, 7-10 pm. $125. This IMPROPER BOSTONIAN–sponsored benefit for the East End House features local chefs, entertainment and a silent auction. Taste food from the Vault, Bambara, Chez Henri, Rustic Kitchen and Torch, among others.

Cooking with Lumiere
Lifelong Learning, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). Sept. 30, 6-9 pm. $150. Chef/owner **Michael Leviton** of Lumiere in West Newton teaches you how to use French techniques to prepare Mediterranean foods.

Cornucopia Dinner
Caffé Umbra, 1395 Washington St., Boston (617-867-0707). Sept. 30, 7 pm. $65. This multicourse dinner prepared by chef **Laura Brennan** has a corn-inspired theme.

Doggy Happy Hour
Gallia, 1525 Washington St., Boston (617-247-4455). Tue., 5-7 pm. Bring your pooch and enjoy two-for-$1 tapas. Polka Dog Bakery provides dog treats. The owners of Four Paws and a Leash offer training trips and advice.

Fireside Chats
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Every other Saturday, 3 pm. $25. Chef/owner **Jim Solomon** hosts experts who share knowledge on everything from fine American wines to seasonal New England foods and microbrews. •Sept. 27: Chenin blanc/pinot gris.

Harpoon Octoberfest
The Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666, ext. 3). MBTA: Red Line to South Station, transfer to shuttle. Oct. 3, 5:30-11 pm; Oct. 4, 3:30-9 pm. $10. Sample a wide selection of Harpoon beers and enjoy live entertainment by German-style oompah bands under the tent.

L'Espalier's 25th Anniversary Dinner
L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston (617-262-3023). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sept. 25, $185. Chef Frank McClelland prepares an eight-course menu paired with wine. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Copley Society and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Martini March
Register at Vox Populi, 755 Boylston St., Boston www.themartinimarch.com. *Sept. 25, 6:30 pm. $20 with donation of three cans of food; $25 without donation.* Travel from Vox Populi to Bar Code to Pravda 116 to the Pour House and other martini bars and sample each bar's offering.

Murder Cacciatore
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-697-2583). Sept. 27, 7 pm. $49 (includes dinner and show). Take one savory Italian love story, add a pint of spicy passion and two tablespoons of bitter jealousy, stir in a pinch of opera and an abundance of fine cuisine, and you have the recipe for this interactive murder mystery.

Oktoberfest Dinner
Jacob Wirth Restaurant, 31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 29, 8 pm. $50. Enjoy a four-course meal by chef **Phyllis Kaplowitz** paired with Oktoberfest brews.

Rustic Cuisine and Rustic Wine
Lifelong Learning, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). Oct. 1, 6-8 pm. $50. Chef **Bi Bradley** of Rustic Kitchen and the IMPROPER wine columnist **Sandy Block** offer Mediterranean-inspired creations paired with wine.

Stars of Land and Sea
Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery, 417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Oct. 4, 12-2:3 pm. $60. Taste sparkling wines during this three-course pairing menu with Cape Cod oysters and seafood prepared by the Naked Oyster.

Taste of Cambridge
Technology Square at MIT Courtyard, Main and Albany streets, Cambridge. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Sept. 25, 5-8 pm. $25, $35 at the door. This fund-raiser for the Cambridge Licensing Advisory Board, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing underage drinking, features tasting-size portions of signature dishes from local restaurants and samples from local breweries and wineries. The band Four Piece Suit performs.

Wine and Dine
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green Line to Park. $8 Limited to 12 guests, this biweekly wine tasting offers a three-course food and wine pairing menu. •Oct. 6: Southern Rhone (France).

Wine and Oyster Tasting
McCormick & Schmick's, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-720-5522). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Tue., 7-9 pm. A la carte. Chef **Eric Naruszewicz** and general manager **Paul Tietge** offer shucking lessons, sample tastings and explanations of a wide array of oysters and host a question-and-answer session on wine and oyster pairing.

DISH

Fall Forecast

Variations on a theme...Toast of the town...

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

So far, this fall is mostly quiet on the dining front. Instead of big splashy openings and glitzy all-out events, restaurants are fine-tuning their marketing and their menus to draw new diners and keep regulars coming back.

Deep-pocketed diners will always have new options—**Bravo** has opened at the Museum of Fine Arts, and **Excelsior** is now serving lunch—but if you're tightening your belt and looking for added value without clipping Outback coupons, read on.

In Cambridge, **Craigie Street Bistrot** is continuing its Sunday Chef's Choice menu, originally limited to August, indefinitely. For just $29.95 per person, chef/owner **Tony Maws** will cook up an ad hoc three- or four-course dinner for you and your tablemates. The bad news: The deal is only available after 9 pm. The good news: Maws will accommodate food allergies and/or vegetarian preferences, and you don't need a resident permit to park on Cambridge streets on Sundays.

Also in Cambridge, **Harvest** is presenting savory seminars, monthly five-course tasting events, priced at $35, that will feature the finest offerings from New England's farmers, fishermen, foragers, purveyors, cheesemakers and more. The Sept. 17 "Harvest Review," for example, featured five oyster courses prepared by chef **Eric Brennan** paired with wines selected by wine director **Stephen Sink**. Upcoming: cheese, mushrooms, and bluefin tuna.

Over in Jamaica Plain, the diminutive **Ten Tables** has begun a series of Tuesday night wine dinners. The price is a mere $35 for four courses plus four glasses of wine. Not only are the dinners, which spotlight a different geographic region each week, a terrific value, says owner **Krista Kranyak**, but "you get your personalized sommelier service as opposed to classroom style." So you can put away your No. 2 pencils and relax.

Excelsior is now serving lunch.

SECOND COURSE

Double (trouble?) entendre department: What's in a name? Opening a new restaurant is a risky business in the very best of economic times. So it's rather curious to learn of a restaurant dubbed **Toast**. Not only is it tempting fate to christen your eatery with the same name traditionally used to describe the Red Sox in late September, but check out the location: Toast is set to open in the Union Square (Somerville) space that formerly housed the now-defunct **Macondo** and **Rauxa**. Certainly names have more than one definition ("excelsior" is also a kind of packing material), but it's prudent to avoid any potential negative connotation. When a survivor of the Donner Party opened a restaurant in San Francisco, he didn't call it Donner Deli. Let's raise a glass to Toast and hope nobody gets burned.

Then again, even a wonderful name doesn't guarantee endless success. **Eat**—which opened back in 1996 in Union Square on a shoestring budget, attracted a devoted clientele including **Julia Child**, and was one of the first restaurants to feature regular guest chef nights—closed its doors in August.

Seasonal etc.: The Chocolate Bar at **Le Meridien** reopens for its 15th year... Brunch is back at various restaurants, including the **Hampshire House**'s jazz brunch (a great place to take out-of-town visitors)...and **Meritage** at the Boston Harbor Hotel has introduced the perfect solution for those of us who'd rather not commit to a big plate of pancakes, yet don't care to graze from a buffet: a "small plates" brunch...**Adam Halsberg** is the new sous chef at Caffé Umbra. IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com

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WINE

Under the Toscano Sun

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

Italy remains far and away our number one source of imported wine, with twice as much volume as the closest contender, Australia. Part of the reason is our enduring love affair with Italian food, which the wines naturally complement, part relates to the pinot grigio juggernaut (the largest single category of wine imported into the U.S.); but most has to do with the amazing flavor impact that the country's red wines deliver at reasonable prices. If there's one zone within Italy that epitomizes the revolution in quality and image that Italian wines have undergone in the past decade, it's the ruggedly hilly, almost inconceivably beautiful region of Tuscany.

The Sangiovese grape is the heart and soul of Tuscan wine, producing a versatile range of wines that go seamlessly with everything from pizza to pasta in red sauce to veal chops or grilled steak. People often have an immediate reaction to Sangiovese: It makes them hungry. The grape's tangy cherry fruit and earthy, sometimes smoky, flavor edge endow Tuscan Sangiovese with an appetizing openness that, while anything but mild, rarely overshadows food.

Chianti in all its glorious variety is the primary wine we associate with Sangiovese. This area has undergone a dramatic transformation in the past few decades, with newly improved clones of the Sangiovese grape planted closer together than ever before in the vineyards, to encourage the production of grapes with greater flavor concentration and color. Chianti enjoyed an unprecedented string of great dry sunny weather from 1995 until 2001, so the extra ripeness needed to smooth the sometimes-tart Sangiovese flavors has been abundantly available to grape growers. The wines may now be made from 100 percent Sangiovese, although there are often other local grapes (Canaiolo, Mammolo, Colorino, Malavasia Nera) or imported grapes (cabernet sauvignon, merlot and, increasingly, syrah) blended in small quantities to add flavor interest.

The two best areas within Chianti are the historic center of production between Florence and Siena, the Classico zone, and the smaller Rufina zone to the east, which is slightly cooler in climate, producing wines that are alluringly aromatic and savory in flavor, often showing red fruit, clove, bitter almond and tobacco nuances. In both areas only hillside vines qualify to produce grapes and the soil must be composed primarily of sandstone, limestone, marl, clay schist, or pebbles. The highest official classification for a Chianti is Riserva, which refers to higher standards of ripeness for the grapes, lower yields per acre and a mandatory minimum of two years' aging, either in cask or bottle, after harvest.

The most ubiquitous among the many fine Sangioveses produced outside the Chianti zone are now labeled as Sangiovese di Toscana, IGT, a recently authorized legal category that gives winemakers the flexibility to experiment with blending grapes from different parts of Tuscany to achieve greater balance. Many of these wines are fresh and fruity, although some top-quality producers' IGTs rival the best Chianti Riservas. Vino Nobile di Montepulciano is another outstanding Sangiovese originating from high-altitude vineyards in Tuscany's southeast corner, where the climate is slightly warmer and therefore the wines are often a bit richer in flavor. Further south and toward the coast, in an area known as the Maremma, there is a rustic, somewhat harder-edged wine known as Morellino di Scansano, which I have enjoyed immensely with stews and other slow-cooked meat dishes. Morellino is rarely polished but can deliver outstanding mushroomy, spicy aromas and the fiery, roasted flavors we associate with peasant cooking.

The most prestigious Sangiovese wines, and perhaps the most celebrated wines of all Italy, originate near the walled fortified hill town of Montalcino, nestled in the southern part of the Chianti zone, and are distinctive enough to be classified separately as either Rosso or Brunello di Montalcino. In this hot, arid climate 70 miles south of Florence, summer evenings are cool, bringing balance to the deeply colored and richly flavored grapes. The rocky soils produce vines that yield only meager quantities of the Brunello, the local clone of the Sangiovese grape. Rosso is produced in smaller quantities than the Brunello and is aged for a year. About a third of the price of the more famous Brunello di Montalcino, it often shows suggestions of leather and spice, tends to be medium-full in body and is enjoyable upon release. Brunello di Montalcino ages for 50 months (including at least 24 in cask) before sale and then is best enjoyed after softening further in the bottle for another few years. It's not that the wine is dryly tannic, it's just that its incomparable violet-scented aromas and lush, velvety black-cherry flavors remain concealed in youth.

Brunello is not cheap, but there are two magnificent vintages on offer now, 1997 and 1998, that are produced in tiny quantities compared with, say 2000 Bordeaux, and are equally delicious but available at a fraction of the price of the more famous French wines. IB

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master of wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wi for Horizon Beverage.

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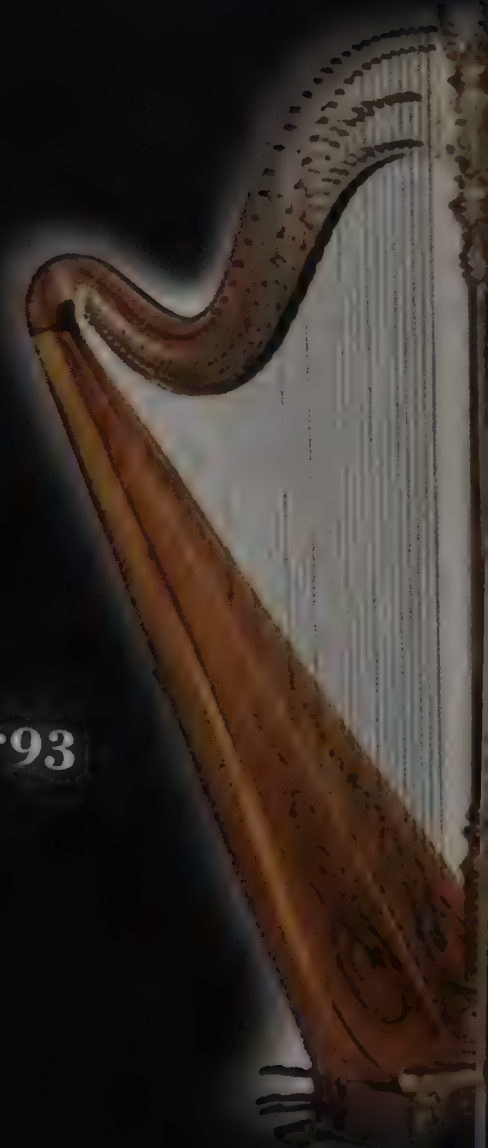

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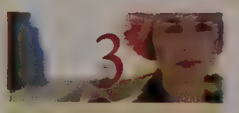
agenda

MPROPER PICKS

september 24 - october 7

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			24	25 Sample signature dishes from more than 40 restaurants at the **Taste of Cambridge.** *See Tastings on page 46.*	26	27 The **Boston Underground Film Festival** is in full swing at several theaters around town. *See Film on page 62.*
28	29	30 Feast on more than 35 chocolate desserts at the opening reception for the **Chocolate Bar** at Le Meridien Hotel. *See Tastings on page 46.*	1 **Aesop Rock, Akrobatik, EL-P, Mr. Lif, Fakts One** and **SA Smash** play at the Paradise Rock Club. *See Music on page 76.*	2	3  **MixFest** at the FleetCenter features Tori Amos, the Barenaked Ladies, Michelle Branch, Dido, Duran Duran, Train and Vertical Horizon. *See Music on page 76.*	4 Harpoon Brewery hosts its annual **Octoberfest** under a giant tent. *See Tastings on page 46.*
5	6	7 The Tony Award–winning musical ***Hairspray*** opens at the Colonial Theatre. *See Performing Arts on page 56.*				

SUN./SEPT. 28

CityScope: Fire on Ice

As casual hockey fans, we have to admit that (much to the chagrin of our significant others) our main motivation for attending the IMPROPER-sponsored **Celebrity Hat Trick** isn't to see Bobby Orr, Cam Neely or Ray Bourque sneak a slapshot through the five-hole. No, we're really there to see Kiefer Sutherland, Michael J. Fox and Tim Robbins play with and against 25 of hockey's all-time greatest to benefit the Leary Firefighters Foundation. And that doesn't count the host of Hollywood celebs that are sure to be in the audience—in previous years, Robert DeNiro, Linda Evangelista, Mick Jagger, Harrison Ford and Elizabeth Hurley have made appearances. When you're not ogling your fellow audience members, cheer on players Gordie Howe, Phil Esposito, Pat LaFontaine and Guy Lafleur, among others (including Senator John Kerry). *FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). 3 pm. $25 and $50.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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JULIE SURATT
Around Town, Children, Education, Performing Arts
ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:
Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind
Paul Sherman Film Capsules
Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs and Sports

SAT./SEPT. 27

Music: Dancing In the Streets

It's become one of our favorite fall rituals. For the past few years, the South End has dedicated a late-September Saturday to bringing music, food and fun to Columbus Avenue. This year, the BeanTown Jazz Festival line-up includes jazz greats Pieces of a Dream and the Average White Band, along with Wannetta Jackson, Paulo Danay, Just 4 Praise, the Boston Horns, Herman Johnson, Jose Ramos, Myanna, and Tracey Rose. The bands play on four stages, and as you wander between them, you can sample food from nearby restaurants Bob the Chef's Jazz Café, Tremont 647 and others. There's also a family area with arts and crafts and children's entertainment. *Columbus Avenue between Mass. Ave. and Burke Street. $5 suggested donation (goes to Prostate Cancer Awareness). (866-442-7995). ww.beantownjazz.org. 12–6 pm.*

Pieces of a Dr
erforms a
BeanTown
Fes

Former Brat Packer Judd Nelson stars in *He She Them.*

TUE./SEPT. 30–SUN./OCT. 12

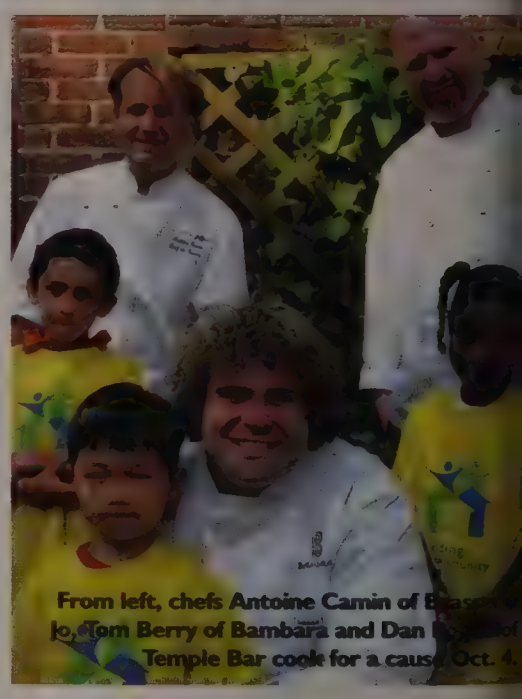
Performing Arts: Mr. Playwright, Esq.

Countless attorneys have put aside their JDs to write books, perform on stage, tend bar or work in marketing. But it's unusual to find law school grad Irwin M. Heller (to be more specific, who's not only still a practicing attorney (with the firm Mintz Levin) but also CEO of a chemical company (Twin Rivers Technologies) and, most recently, a playwright. Heller's play *He She Them* debuts at the Shubert this fall. What's more, this isn't a crime thriller but a touchy-feely play about relationships. (Who knew lawyers had a soft side.) Former Brat Packer Judd Nelson and actress Tasha Lawrence star in this intimate emotional ride directed by the artistic director of the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Steven Maler. *Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). Tue.–Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. $25–$39.*

SAT./OCT. 4

Tastings: All the Best

Perhaps when you were flipping through the pages of this year's Boston's Best issue, you thought to yourself, "I ought to try Boston's best Southern food," or "I should sample the cuisine of Boston's best up-and-coming chef." Haven't gotten around to it yet? Here's your opportunity: Chefs Andy Husbands of Rouge (Southern Food) and Tom Berry of Bambara (Up-and-Coming Chef), as well as Carmen Quagliata of the Vault (Best-Kept Secret), Bill Bradley of Rustic Kitchen (Best Casual Dining) and a dozen other chefs will be at THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN–sponsored **Cooking for a Cause**. This benefit for the East End House features fine food and wine and entertainment by the Winiker Orchestra, plus a silent auction, on five floors of Beacon Hill's Union Club. Join the IMPROPER gang for a night o feasting. *The Union Club, 8 Park St., Boston (617-876-4444). 7-10 pm. $125.*



From left, chefs Antoine Camin of B
lo, Tom Berry of Bambara and Dan
Temple Bar cook for a caus Oct. 4

THU./OCT. 2 & TUE./OCT. 7

CityScope and Books: The Un Nobel Prize

The sad truth is you'll probably never win the Nobel Prize, so you'll most likely never attend the Nobel Prize ceremony. But that's OK. The Ig Nobel Prize ceremony, a spoof of the real deal, is a lot more fun—and it's open to the public. The wacky Ig Nobel prizes (the "Igs") are doled out by the science humor magazine *Annals of Improbable Research* (*AIR*), which honors those who've conducted research that "cannot or should not be reproduced." To wit: A study of electric shock treatment's effects on rattlesnake bites received an award. Another went to the Southern Baptist Church of Alabama, which devised a formula to determine how many Alabamans will go to Hell. Get the idea? The keynote speaker this year is Edward A. Murphy III, son of the air force engineer who formulated Murphy's Law. Surprisingly, the Ig Nobels are doled out by honest-to-goodness Nobel laureates (some brainiacs do, it seems, have a sense of humor). Winners are pelted with paper airplanes, and baseball umpires strictly enforce a 30-second limit on acceptance speeches. If you can't make the ceremony, you can listen to *AIR* editor Marc Abrahams read from his book, the *Ig Nobel Prizes: The Annals of Improbable Research*, a compendium of the awards, at the Harvard Book Store, at 1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Oct. 7, at 6 pm. *The ceremony takes place at Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). 7:30 pm. $16-$25.*

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cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

Greater Boston Business Council Awards for Excellence
Westin Copley Place, Boston (617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. *$75.* WHDH-TV anchorman Randy Price hosts the Greater Boston Business Council's annual dinner, silent auction and awards ceremony honoring businesses and community organizations that exemplify respect for diversity.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

The Altered Bride Silver Soiree
The Altered Bride, 376 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-8289). www.alteredbride.com. *1-5 pm.* The Altered Bride celebrates its grand reopening in a new location with wine, food and prizes. Visitors qualify to win prizes by making a $15 donation to the Ellie Fund to fight breast cancer.

Ideology Fashion Event
Filene's, 426 Washington St., Boston (617-563-8142). 6-8 pm. $25. Filene's and *In Style* magazine host a fall Ideology collection fashion show and bachelor auction to benefit the volunteer group Boston Cares.

Rock for RAINN: A Benefit to Unlock the Silence
The Matrix, 279 Tremont St., Boston (800-656-4673). http://boston.rainn.org. *7:30 pm-12 am. $15.* This concert benefits the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network and the Save Massachusetts Rape Crisis Centers Campaign. Performers include Alice Peacock, Flynn, Rachel McCartney and Barbara Kessler, and an auction offers the chance to bid on music memorabilia.

Taste of Cambridge
Technology Square at MIT Courtyard, Main and Albany streets, Cambridge. www.clab.org. *5-8 pm. $25 in advance, $35 at the gate.* This fund-raiser for the Shelter Inc. and the Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board's outreach programs features tastings from 40 Cambridge restaurants, including the East Coast Grill, the House of Blues and Bambara.

World Team Tennis All-Star Smash Hits
FleetCenter, Boston (617-509-9412 or 617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com. *7:30 pm. Reserved seats start at $25; $300 for VIP pre-event celebrity reception attended by the players.* Elton John and Billie Jean King host this celebrity tennis match to benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Massachusetts Community AIDS Partnership. Play begins with a doubles match featuring Elton John and King. Andre Agassi, Anna Kournikova, John McEnroe and Chanda Rubin also compete.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

Beantown Jazz Festival
Columbus Ave., between Mass. Ave. and Burke St., Boston (866-442-7995). www.beantownjazz.org. *12-6 pm. $5 donation suggested.* National and local jazz performers take the stage at this annual festival, which also features food and arts and crafts. Performers include Pieces of a Dream, Average White Band and Wannetta Jackson. Donations benefit Prostate Cancer Awareness.

Four Seasons Run of Hope
Start at the lagoon near the Hatch Shell, the Esplanade, Boston (617-338-4400). 8 am registration, 10 am start. $20. This 5K run/walk along the Charles River raises money for Mass. General Hospital and pediatric cancer research.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

Denis Leary's Celebrity Hat Trick
The FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.learyfirefighters.org. *3 pm. $25 and $50.* Denis Leary is joined by 25 hockey greats and celebrities in a benefit hockey game for the Leary Firefighters Foundation. Players include Michael J. Fox, Bobby Orr and Keifer Sutherland. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

Preview

Clear the Runway

Paul Pierce and Tommy Hilfiger team up for a fashionable fund-raiser at the Runway 34 fashion show

Paul Pierce's work attire isn't exactly cutting-edge fashion (although the Celtics have made great progress in lengthening their shorts since the '80s), but the C's star likes to look dashing when he's not dashing down the court. So it makes sense that Pierce is partnering with Tommy Hilfiger and *GQ* to unveil the Hilfiger fall collection in a benefit fashion show at Avalon Sept. 30. The IMPROPER-sponsored event raises money for Pierce's Truth Fund—which provides educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth—and the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation.

In keeping with the high-style, high society tone of the night, DJ Cassidy—a New York stalwart who has DJ'ed the MTV Video Music Awards and P. Diddy's private parties—provides the music. You don't have to be in Diddy's entourage to get the VIP treatment, as $250 gets you a pass to the pre-event celebrity reception, complimentary food and drinks, valet parking, reserved seating for the show and access to the VIP area. If that's still a little rich for your blood, general admission tickets to the show cost $100 (and include an open bar)—and in either case, it's not a shabby way to help a pair of good causes.

Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-423-6398). www.nextticketing.com. 6:30 pm. $250 VIP, $100 general admission.—Ezra Dyer

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30

Art 4 Kids' Sake
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). www.jimmytingle.com. *5:30 pm. $50.* Comedian Jimmy Tingle hosts a benefit night of comedy in honor of Somerville alderman Jack Connelly's 20 years of service. The show and preshow reception at the Burren benefit the Art 4 Kids' Sake children's performance series.

Chocolate Bar Opening Reception
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900, ext. 7099). 5:30-7:30 pm. $45. This reception benefitting Children's Hospital Boston features a chocolate buffet, plus signature creations by local pastry chefs. The event concludes with a runway fashion show of Denise Hajjar's fall/winter collection.

Fall for the Arts!
The Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). 6-8 pm. Free. Various arts organizations, including Boston Ballet, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Peabody Essex Museum, participate in an open house at the ICA. The event features wine and food, as well as raffles and discounts to upcoming shows.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

Poliform-Boston Grand Opening
Poliform-Boston, Boston Design Center, Suite 634, 1 Design Center Place, Boston (617-896-2700). www.poliformboston.com. *6:30 pm.* Poliform-Boston celebrates the grand opening of its new showroom with a reception and auction. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Boston.

Tedeschi House Tours
55 Tara Drive, Norwell (877-746-4687. www.showhousemedia.com. *Tue.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. Through Oct. 31. $30.* The former home of Tedeschi grocery stores magnate Ralph Tedeschi is open for tours throughout the month to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Evening of Stars
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge (617-731-5600). www.newfund.org. *$150, $250 VIP.* The Evening of Stars awards ceremony honors LPGA hall-of-famer Nancy Lopez and other prominent New England women to benefit the New England Women's Fund.

Jose High: Relive Your Glory Days
Jose McIntyre's, 160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). 6-9 pm. $2. School is back in session, so peg your pants and don your best '90s high school attire to vie for the title of homecoming king and queen at this benefit party for United Way.

The 13th First Annual Ig Nobel Prizes
Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). 7:30 pm. Tickets start at $19. The annual Ig Nobel prizes, awarded for funny and often thought-provoking achievements, are presented by actual Nobel laureates in 10 categories. The evening also includes the "Win a Date with a Nobel Laureate" contest, the Nano-Lectures (each is seven seconds long) and a keynote address by Edward A. Murphy III, son of the man who discovered Murphy's Law.

Welcome Back to Fall Bash
Sophia's, 1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-591-1400, ext. 5) www.bostonypa.com. *9 pm. $10 in advance, $15 at the door.* The Boston Young Professionals Association hosts a fall party, with 10 percent of proceeds going to the Ellie Fund Breast Cancer Foundation. Fashionable dress, open bar.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

Boys & Girls Club of Middlesex County's 30th Anniversary Celebration
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge (781-925-3459). 6:30 pm. $150. This benefit for the Boys & Girls Club of Middlesex County includes a cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, dinner and dancing.

Harpoon Octoberfest
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666). www.harpoonbrewery.com. *Oct. 3, 5:30-11 pm; Oct. 4, 3:30-9 pm. $10.* Get your autumn Teutonic party started with knockwurst, oompah bands, chicken-dancing contests and Octoberfest brew.

Nnenna Freelon Benefit Concert
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). 8 pm. Tickets begin at $23. Five-time Grammy nominee Nnenna Freelon plays to raise money for the Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund.

Singles Dance
Burlington Four Points/Sheraton, 30 Wheeler Road, Burlington (781-721-5844). www.funfunfun.org. *9:30 pm-1 am. $15.* FunFunFun.org sponsors this singles dance, which features a DJ playing dance music and a cash bar. Business or cocktail attire.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

Art Around Every Corner
Sites throughout Roxbury and Mission Hill (617-541-3900). www.actroxbury.com. *11 am-6 pm, through Oct. 5.* More than 100 Roxbury artists open their studios to the public. A shuttle bus to the studios leaves from the Orange Line's Roxbury Crossing T station.

Chelsea Historic Home Tour
Tour leaves from the Chelsea City Cafe, 173 Washington Ave., Chelsea (617-884-5821). 11 am-4 pm. $10. Eleven homeowners open their doors for a self-guided tour of some of Chelsea's historic residences. The tour includes houses ranging from a restored Victorian to an Arts and Crafts–era home.

Cooking for a Cause
Union Club, 8 Park St., Boston (617-876-4444). 7-10 pm. $125. Boston's top chefs cook up an evening of food and wine to benefit East End House. The event also features a silent auction and music by the Winike Orchestra. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

Passport to Boston
Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common, Boston (617-254-3800, ext. 1414). 10 am-4 pm. $10. This self-guided tour and scavenger hunt takes participants to Boston landmarks. Entertainment, snacks and prizes provided. All proceeds benefit the Franciscan Hospital for Children and the Genesis Fund.

SUNDAY, OCT. 5

An Evolution of Style Gala
World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-867-9484). www.salonsoca.com. *7-10 pm. $100.* Soci Salon and Salon Soca host a black-and-white ball to raise money for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The evening includes a fashion show, silent auction and dancing.

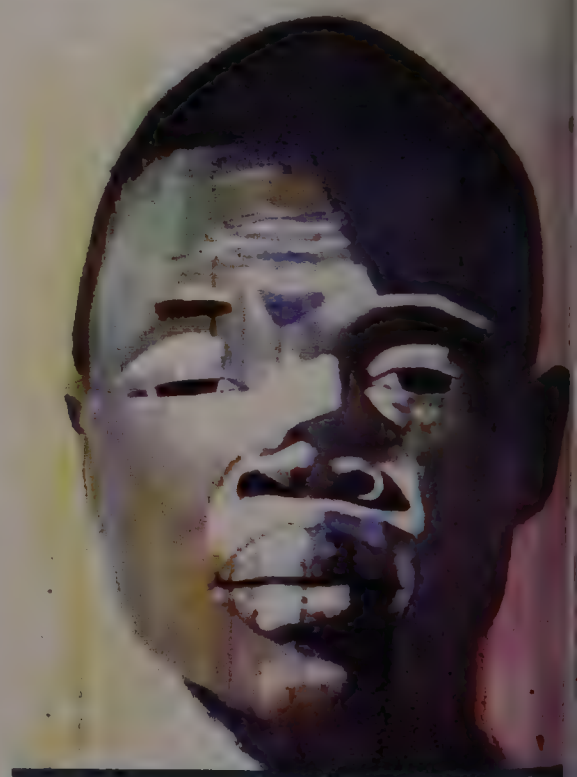
Workout in the Park
Boston Common, Boston (888-844-7353). 11 am-3 pm. $10. *Self* magazine hosts this annual health-and-fitness event, which includes a climbing wall, fitness classes and sampling of new health and beauty products. Proceeds benefit the Big Bam! and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

MONDAY, OCT. 6

Boston Park Rangers Fall Fund-Raiser
Jacob Wirth's Restaurant, 31 Stuart St., Boston (617-635-4505, ext. 3039). 6-8 pm. $125. Jacob Wirth's hosts a benefit dinner for the Boston Park Rangers.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

East Boston Social Centers' $10,000 Dinner
Spinelli's Function Facility, Route 1, Lynnfield (617-569-3221). www.ebsoc.org. *6:30 pm. $125 raffle tickets, $25 dinner only.* This benefit for the East Boston Social Centers includes dinner, open bar and a raffle with a $10,000 grand prize.



Ralph Beach's *Daniel* is one of the works on display at Art Around Every Corner Oct. 4-5.

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Baby with the Bathwater
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (781-424-8592). Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Through Oct. 11. $20. Christopher Durang's absurdly comical tale shows how the sins of our parents come back to haunt us when we have children.

Dublin Carol
Nora Theatre Company at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (617-491-2026). Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 5. $25. In this Conor McPherson play, Christmas revelry pits a middle-aged Dublin undertaker against his past, offering him a shot at redemption.

Fall for the Arts
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sept. 30, 6-8 pm. This evening features wine, food and entertainment from local cultural organizations, including the American Repertory Theatre, Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Representatives from each organization will be on hand to discuss special packages geared toward young professionals.

The Fire of Life (A New Rock Opera)
The Cambridge Family YMCA Theater, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-536-9772). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Sept. 25-28, Oct. 2-4. $10. This new rock opera by Eben Portnoy and Ben Spiegelman melds science fiction, Greek tragedy and rock and roll. It describes a not-so-distant future in which an experimental treatment allows humans to absorb energy from sunlight.

Hairspray
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Oct. 7-Nov. 1. It's 1962 in Baltimore, and 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto television's most popular show. Can a big girl with big dreams—and even bigger hair—change the world...and still have time to win the boy she loves? Bruce Vilanch stars in this Tony Award–winning musical about a young girl's struggle with self-acceptance.

He She Them
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (888-889-8587). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm.; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun. 1 and 7 pm. Sept. 30-Oct. 12. $25-$39. Judd Nelson and Tasha Lawrence star in this new play by Irwin M. Heller, directed by Steven Maler. "He" is a successful real estate developer. "She" is a married architect designing one of his buildings. Flirtation grows to friendship, and then to the possibility of love.

Miss Saigon, a musical about the relationship between an American GI and a Vietnamese prostitute, is at the Wang Theatre Sept. 23-28.

Hooray for Hollywood
Fiddlehead Theatre Co., 109 Central St., Norwood (781-762-40460). Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Sept. 27-Oct. 5. $21. Performers pay tribute to singing stars—everyone from Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to Richard Gere and Renée Zellweger—and their films.

A Man of No Importance
SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat. 4 and 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm. Oct. 3-Nov. 9. Based on the 1994 film starring Albert Finney, this show with music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens follows a Dublin bus driver's attempts to stage Oscar Wilde's *Salome* at his church in the 1960s, despite the protests from parish officials.

Miss Saigon
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.wangcenter.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 23-28, 8 pm. $28-$68.* Mitchell Lemsky directs this musical about an American GI and a naive Saigon prostitute separated by war but bound by love and the future of their son.

Private Lives
Boston Church of the New Jerusalem, 140 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-361-3828). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Sept. 26-27, 8 pm; Sept. 28, 3 pm. $17. Theatre on the Hill presents Noel Coward's farce about divorce and remarriage.

Toccata: A Nocturne About Robert Schumann
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-731-6400). www.figuretheater-wildevogel.de. *Sept. 27-28, 8 pm; $20.* This night of adult puppetry by Wilde & Vogel of Stuttgart, Germany, mixes music, puppetry and the lyrics of composer Robert Schumann.

Tongue of a Bird
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 3-25. $25.* This lyrical play by Ellen McLaughlin tells the story of a search-and-rescue pilot who finds herself confronting losses of her own as she sets out on the trail of a kidnapped young girl.

NOW RUNNING

Ain't Misbehavin'
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Wed., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Through Oct. 19. $14-$69.* Marcia Milgrom Dodge directs and choreographs this tribute to Fats Waller, showcasing music from the Harlem Renaissance.

Antony and Cleopatra
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-939-9939). www.bostontheatreworks.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 12. $25.* Shakespeare's classic tale of love and intrigue, directed by Jason Slavick, gets its first professional staging in Boston in more than 20 years.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This production abandons all dialogue and instead focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Ethan Frome
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 26. $10-$45.* In this play by Dennis Krausnick, adapted from Edith Wharton's novella, a young engineer looks into the past of Ethan, a beaten and withered figure who has reached middle age before his time.

A Girl's War
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7 pm; Thu., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 19.* Joyce Van Dyke's play tells the story of a young Armenian girl who is torn by the competing desires of love and vengeance in an age-old ethnic clash.

Lady with a Lapdog
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue., Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm.; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm.; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 11. $12-$69.* Russian director Kama Ginkas combines burlesque and tragedy in his adaptation of Anton Chekhov's short story about a summer flirtation that unexpectedly becomes a passionate relationship.

Memphis
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., Thu., Fri., 8 pm; Wed., Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 12. $16.25-$47.25.* Joe DiPietro's new musical tells the story of a white DJ who introduces his listeners to African-American music during the 1940s.

Nunsense II
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun, 2 pm. Through Oct. 5. $22.* This sequel to the hit musical *Nunsense* follows four energetic nuns living under the watchful eye of Mother Superior.

Out on the Edge: Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.thetheateroffensive.org. *Through Sept. 27 (call for event schedule). $18-$27.* The Theater Offensive's LGBT festival hosts a range of events from interactive discussions with performers, playwrights and directors to workshops, panels and community events.

Pete 'n' Keely
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Wed., Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Sept. 28. $32.* James Hindman's musical tells the story of two singing sweethearts who reunite for a live television special and relive their illustrious career in Las Vegas showrooms.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Some Like It Hot
The Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (866-811-4111). Sept. 28, 7 pm. $20. Enjoy an evening of Broadway music and popular songs to benefit the Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachusetts.

Stones in His Pockets
Gloucester Stage Company (co-produced by the Stoneham Theatre), 267 East Main St., Gloucester (978-281-4433). Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Through Oct. 5. $30. Zoya Kachadurian directs this comedy by Marie Jones about a small Irish town that's forever changed when a Hollywood film company arrives to shoot a movie.

When Pigs Fly
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 11. $22-$43.* Garish costumes and double entendres mark this campy musical conceived by Howard Crabtree and Mark Wardrop about a gay man's coming-of-age. Based in part on Crabtree's own life, it follows a young man whose nasty high school guidance counselor tells him that he might achieve success on Broadway "when pigs fly."

UNIVERSITY THEATER

The Black Panther Suite
Blackman Auditorium Center for the Arts, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-373-2249). Oct.3, 8 pm. Composer, producer, musician and political activist Fred Ho and martial artist Jose Figueroa compare and contrast the social struggles of the 1960s and '70s (including sexual and racial oppression, Third World liberation, police brutality, environmental concerns and corporate greed) with those we face today.

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Kresge Little Theatre, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-6294). web.mit.edu/arts. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Sept. 29 and 30, 7:30 pm. $9.* This Shakespeare comedy explores the constraints placed on love and sexuality in 17th-century England.

Dance

Dance Showcase
Sargent Dance Studio, One University Road, Boston (617-353-1597). www.bu.edu/perd/dance. *MBTA: Green Line to BU Central. Oct. 4 and 5, 8 pm. $8-$15.* Boston University alumni, faculty and guest artists return to perform new works, revivals and live music.

Noche Flamenca
Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-876-4275). www.worldmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7 pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm. Oct. 2-4. $25-$45.* Director Martin Santangelo brings Spain's finest dancers, musicians and singers together, evoking the raw, steamy atmosphere of Spain's café cantantes.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55.* In its ongoing run in Boston, this percussive hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue

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Comedy

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STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Sept. 25, $12: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Sept. 26, $20: Adam Ferrara •Sept. 27, $22: Adam Ferrara, co-star of *The Job* •Sept. 27 and 28, $25: Sommore, former host of BET's *Comic View* •Sept. 30: Paul Nardizzi •Oct. 3-4: Bobby Slayton, the Pitbull of Comedy.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Sept. 24: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Paul Day, Arielle Goldman, John Keating, Chrissy Lavoie, Max Silvestri and Jeremy Turoff •Sept. 25: Tim McIntire with Tissa Hami, Ben Boime, Eric Cheung, Janet Cormier, Nicole Luparelli and Ira Proctor •Sept. 26: Mike Bent, Jessica Casiano, Michael Della Penna, EJ Murphy, Larry Murphy and Erik Charles Neilsen •Sept. 27: Mike Bent, Michael Della Penna, Erik Charles Neilsen, Denise Robichau, Bethany Van Delft and Brian Gordon •Sept. 28: Sam Walters, Tom Dustin, Mindi Fay, Michael Herman, Dan Sulman, Greg Thibideau and Craig Zeltsar •Sept. 30: The Mystery Lounge comedy/magic show with David Oliver and Mike Bent •Oct. 1: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Mike Whitman, Chris Tabb, Dan Hirshon and Tommy Morello •Oct. 2: Erik Charles Neilsen, Tim Kaelin, Steve Calechman, Denise Robichau and Brian Longwell •Oct. 3: DJ Hazard, Brian Longwell, Larry Murphy and Chris Walsh •Oct. 4: DJ Hazard, Chris Coxen, Brian Longwell and Brian Gordon •Oct. 5: Bob Hagearty, Michael Della Penna, Joe Randazzo, Adam Pearlman and Amanda White.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Sept. 25, 8:30 pm, free admission over 21: Joe Yannetty, All-Star Comedy •Sept. 26 and 27, 8:45 pm: Mike Donovan, Jim Coliton and John Keating

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA:Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 8 and 10 pm; Sat., 6, 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed. and Thu., $15, and Fri. and Sat., $20: *The Brand Ambition Tour* •Thu., 9:45 pm, free: Improv Jam featuring main-stage performers and special guests. •Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 7:30 pm, $10: *Postmortem.* This improvisational drama, based on a real-life obituary taken from the daily newspaper, explores the life of a recently deceased person.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central . $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump.* This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., $12: *Micetro;* 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show.* Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Luv Boat.* Instead of washed-up celebrities setting sail, the audience members are the passengers on this cruise; 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports.* Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show;* 8 and 10 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage.* Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Sun., 7 pm, $5: *Sgt. Culpepper's Improvisational Jamboree* features visiting troupes and combines three shows in one.

Improv Asylum presents Postmortem, an improvisational drama based on real-life obituaries.

COMEDY SHOWS

Comedy at the Isle

Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Sat., Sept. 27, 8:30 pm, $10. Kenny Rogerson and Mike Donovan perform.

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse in the Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm. Through Nov. 29. $49. This interactive dinner show follows Maria and Joey through their wacky wedding.

Maria's Bachelorette Party

Tremont Playhouse in the Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sept. 26 and Oct. 24, 7 pm. $42. At this dinner theater show, Maria's friends and bridesmaids throw her a bash she won't forget.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8 pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month. 8 pm.* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike with host Stash.

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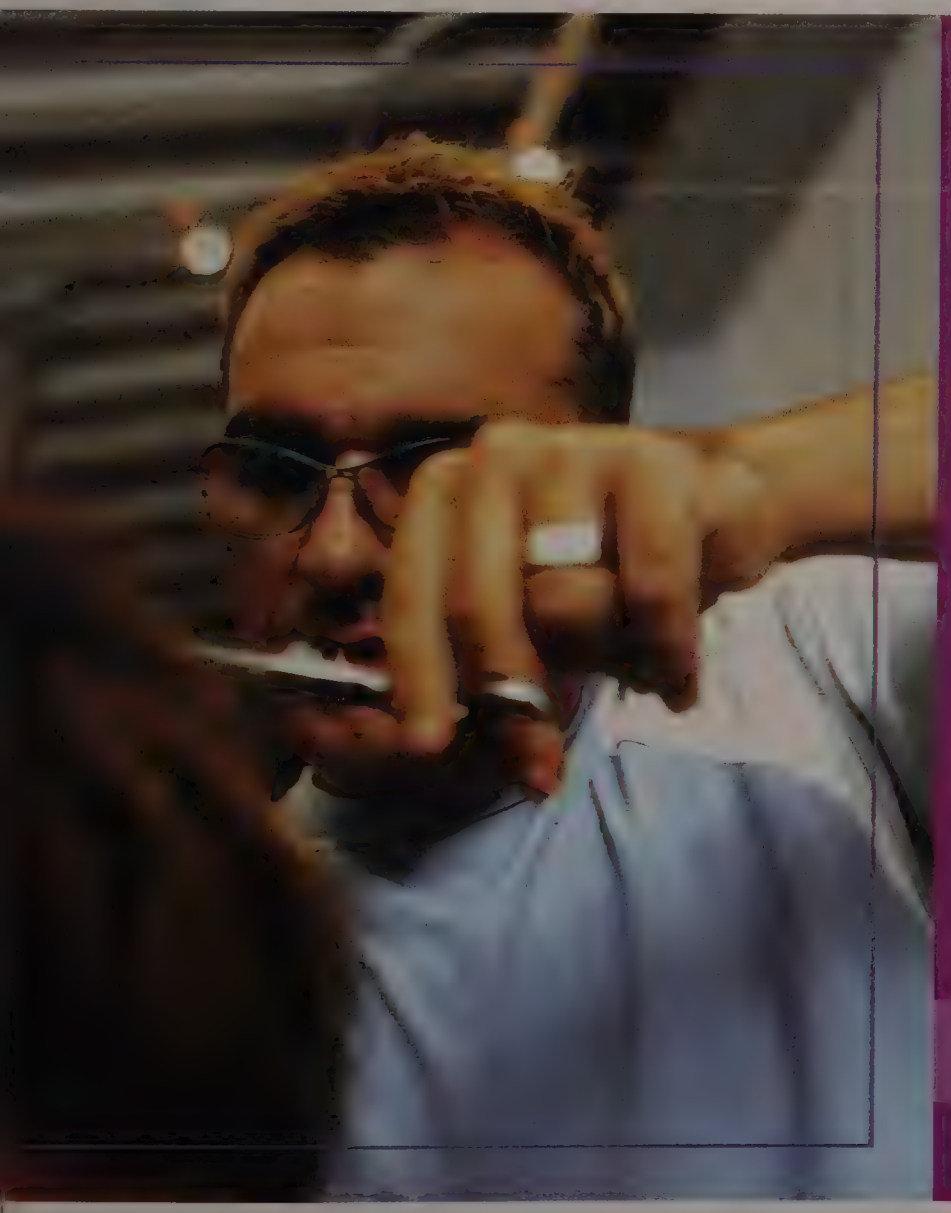

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Caged Heat

Nicolas Cage lights up Ridley Scott's *Matchstick Men*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

If it's a Nicolas Cage movie, the more neuroses the better. After playing a self-loathing, hallucinating writer in last winter's *Adaptation*, Cage scores again with an obsessive-compulsive, chain-smoking con man trying belatedly to be a parent in Ridley Scott's *Matchstick Men*. Roy, Cage's uneasy character, is the sort of guy who gets literally shaken when Frank (Sam Rockwell), his partner in crime, doesn't remove his shoes before coming into Roy's immaculate house. Don't ask what happens when Frank starts leaving a trail of crumbs on Roy's carpet.

Nicolas Cage plays an obsessive-compulsive con man in the new comedy *Matchstick Men*

About the only time Roy seems comfortable is when he and Frank are pulling scams, like the telemarketing con in which the duo tells someone they've won a trip to Paris, and if the winner spends $300 for a water filter (that Roy and Frank have bought for $50), then no taxes will have to be paid to the IRS on the lucrative prize, which now becomes a gift included with the purchase. Roy and Frank clear $250 quick profit, the "winner" never gets a trip and Roy has more money to buy cleaning products with which to scrub his house. Sometimes the pair even pretends to be federal agents investigating the crime, so the victim thinks the authorities are looking for the swindlers.

But Roy can't even handle con jobs after he accidentally knocks his bottle of tranquilizers down the drain. Frank convinces his partner he needs to go see a shrink (Bruce Altman), and it's in these sessions we learn the three things eating at Roy: the break-up of his last meaningful relationship 15 years earlier; the mystery over whether his ex-girlfriend had the child she was expecting; and Roy's festering inability to connect with other people because of his phobias. After he learns that he has a 14-year-old daughter, Roy, armed with a supply of pill samples and bolstered by his weekly meetings with the psychiatrist, asks the doc to help him set up a meeting with the child.

Tomboy Angela (Alison Lohman) arrives in Roy's life as his opposite. He has a routine, she's impulsive. He's neat, she's a slob. He's weary, she's lively. But Roy is determined to make this new relationship work, even after Angela shows up unannounced at his house for a few days and then wants him to teach her his trade. Instead of being disappointed he's not "in antiques," as he'd said, she's impressed he's a criminal and eager to help out.

Roy walks Angela through a small con on a friendly woman (Beth Grant) at a laundromat, and the teen ends up helping him and Frank out in a more involved scheme to defraud a shady businessman (Bruce McGill). This plot, in which Roy's newly tapped paternal instincts might threaten his criminal ways, and vice versa, recalls the bittersweet Ryan O'Neal–Tatum O'Neal comedy *Paper Moon*, but the comedy in *Matchstick Men* (the title is slang for con men) is less screwball, and the crime has more of a lingering impact on the father-daughter relationship.

Of course, it would spoil the movie if I spilled what happens after Roy's professional and personal lives intertwine more than he'd wanted. In a sense, the climax is a comeuppance for Roy, but it's also a liberation. As in *Adaptation*, a Cage character learns the value of loosening up, and the mix of pain and joy is once again all over Cage's expressive face. For an actor who had such trouble fitting his quirks into the mainstream early in his career, and recently had such a hard time picking good movies, Cage has impressively found purpose again.

Even more surprising is that *Matchstick Men* is directed by Ridley Scott, whose work lately—in *Gladiator*, *Black Hawk Down* and *Hannibal*—has been blustery and unsubtle. His direction of this emotionally intricate and clever comedy is no con job. IB

Matchstick Men ★★★

Directed by Ridley Scott. Written by Eric Garcia. With Nicolas Cage, Sam Rockwell, Alison Lohman and Bruce McGill. Rated PG-13. Warner Bros.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

American Splendor ★★★
The movie version of Harvey Pekar's autobiographical comic book series sticks to the comics' realism to such a degree that, in addition to scenes with a pitch-perfect Paul Giamatti as cranky Pekar, it also includes narration by and interviews with Pekar himself. That hybrid is clumsy at times, but the movie captures Pekar's search for the extraordinary in the everyday, as well as his hard-headed individualism, with precision and affection. We see Pekar at his humble file clerk job and in his legendary appearances on David Letterman's shows. (At Boston Common, Harvard Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Cabin Fever ★★½
The old spam-in-a-cabin premise of a group of college kids going into the woods and finding horror plays out with less cliché than usual here. The big twist this time is that the rednecks who are trying to kill the kids aren't the only danger. The real threat is a flesh-eating virus that one of the kids catches, and which seems headed for the others. There's the obligatory horny girl, doofus guy and hero for us to identify with, but this is a lively, decent creepshow. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Camp ★★
Actor turned writer and now director Todd Graff's unconvincingly feel-good indie movie features a gung ho teen cast playing the aspiring singers, dancers and actors at Camp Ovation, a performing arts camp. There's some novelty in seeing talented teens play adults in fully staged production numbers of Sondheim or Bacharach-David songs (this is the *Terror of Tiny Town* of musicals). But the comedy-drama is such a superficial after-school special, with all its dilemmas miraculously resolved without fuss or muss, that it has no emotional credibility. Despite all the unrequited love, sexual dilemmas and backstage bickering, it's a trifle. (At Kendall Square.)

Casa de los Babys ★★
Writer-director John Sayles' movies either have narrative thrust (*Lone Star*, *Sunshine State*) or they don't. His latest just sits there in search of purpose. This story of a half-dozen American women in Mexico (waiting to adopt babies from a local agency) and the Mexicans they come into contact with feels like a first draft: The characters are sketchy, the action is tentative and the point is fuzzy. The relationship between parenting and imperialism bubbles under the story, but never hits home. Too bad, because Sayles assembled an eclectic cast of actresses—including Lili Taylor, Marcia Gay Harden, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Mary Steenburgen—who interact well together but are let down by the script. (At Kendall Square.)

Dickie Roberts, Former Child Star ★½
Hasn't Gary Coleman's campaign for governor of California rendered this David Spade movie obsolete? If it hasn't, the lack of laughs will, in this story of a 35-year-old former sitcom star who tries to experience the childhood he never had by renting a family for a month. The scary part is that he does all this to try to get a role in a movie directed by Rob Reiner! I guess he hasn't seen Reiner's last few movies. There's no salvation there, Dickie. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Fighting Temptations ★★★
Here's a big surprise. Although it stars Cuba Gooding, Jr. (he of the painful *Snow Dogs* and *Boat Trip*) and it's a formula film about a jaded yuppie who sees the light when he returns to his small home town, this is actually an enjoyable ensemble comedy with great musical performances. Gooding plays a New York ad exec who's not above advising a liquor company to market malt liquor to blacks. Then he returns to his Georgia hometown for a great aunt's funeral and, as stipulated in her will, has to get her church's choir into a local competition in order to collect his inheritance. The cast is filled with singers (Beyonce, the O'Jays, Melba Moore), and the songs are often knockouts, while Mike Epps and Steve Harvey are very funny and Gooding's Jack Lemmon facial expressions of disbelief are just right for his character. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lost in Translation ★★★½
Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her 2000 directorial debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, and she conjures up a similar funny-sad tone in her tale of two Americans (Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson) adrift in Tokyo. He's a washed-up movie star making a bundle endorsing Japanese booze, while she's the wife of a work-consumed photographer (Giovanni Ribisi). They're staying at the same hotel and killing time

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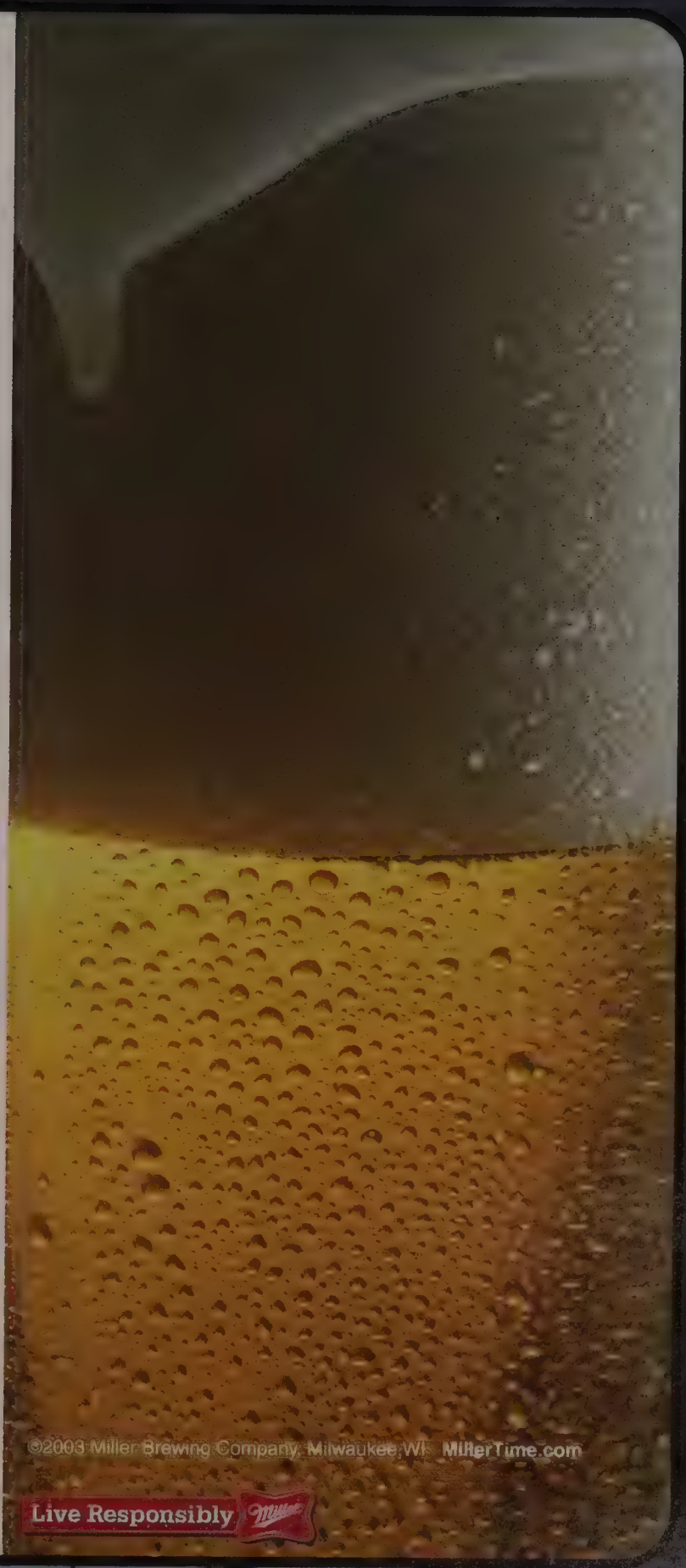

the same hotel bar, and their misery loves company. The characters make a great movie couple, although their relationship is platonic (with its share of sexual tension). Murray gives a Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance built mainly around physical and especially facial reactions to absurd situations, and Johansson is a little heartbreaker. (At Boston Common and Harvard Square.)

The Magdalene Sisters ★★★½
Actor turned writer-director Peter Mullan's intense movie about Ireland's brutal Magdalene asylums is the best argument for the separation of church and state since the Taliban. It was in these asylums, which existed until the mid-1990s, that the Catholic Church used to take in "wayward" girls and force them to work, under the premise of rehabilitating them, all with the tacit approval of the government and society. Unlike so many movies that portray cruelty and violence, such things actually have great consequence in Mullan's movie. He makes you care about his three victimized heroines, and his movie is a chilling look at abuse of power on many levels—in family and community as much as the church. (At Kendall Square.)

Out of Time ★★½
Nearly a decade ago, director Carl Franklin and star Denzel Washington made *Devil in a Blue Dress*, an evocative 1940s-set neo-noir that should have launched a series featuring author Walter Mosley's hero, 'Easy' Rawlins—if only audiences hadn't been so indifferent. Franklin and Washington's new collaboration is another thriller involving sex, money and deceit. This one is competent but much less layered and much more conventional (I guess the generic title is a tip-off). Washington plays a small-town police chief who's about to be divorced from one woman (fellow cop Eva Mendes) and is sleeping around with another (married woman Sanaa Lathan). A splashy crime involving the lover, and a trail of evidence incriminating the chief, perk the attentions of the fellow cop, and the chief has to scurry to clear his name. There are a few thrills, but there's also a ridiculously sunny ending. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Same River Twice ★★★
A fascinating, intimate documentary that dispels the myth that the generation that tuned in, turned on and dropped out later sold out. Robb Moss' movie finds him revisiting some of the friends with whom he'd been a Colorado River guide during the 1970s. The 1970s footage, which Moss filmed during one of the group's last outings together, makes the group seem like a counterculture Outward Bound. The present-day footage finds the one-time outsiders more entrenched in mainstream society, yet navigating life's bumps like those on the rapids they used to ride down. These baby boomers are still questioning their life choices. (At Coolidge Corner.)

Scarface ★★
Written by Oliver Stone, directed by Brian DePalma and overacted by Al Pacino, the 1983 remake of Howard Hawks' classic 1930s gangster drama continues to inspire generations of gangsta rappers with its excesses. But it's still ridiculously long and ludicrous, and its 20th-anniversary rerelease can't change that. (At Boston Common through Sept. 25.)

Seabiscuit ★★
Writer-director Gary (*Pleasantville*) Ross struggles to bring Laura Hillenbrand's unforgettable book about the 1930s racehorse to the screen. He veers from Ken Burns–like documentary sequences to comic relief from a fictional radio personality played by William H. Macy. He also repeatedly whacks us over the head with the same point: Owner Charles Howard (Jeff Bridges), trainer Tom Smith (Chris Cooper) and jockey Red Pollard (Tobey Maguire) all excelled at second chances in life, just like the late-blooming horse. The movie might have had more oomph were it earthier, but it's just a well-crafted, generic piece of uplifting sports moviemaking. Read the book. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Thirteen ★★★
In the spectrum of movies about troubled teenage girls, Catherine Hardwicke's debut falls somewhere between the clichés of the recent *Blue Car* and the unique emotional eeriness of *The Virgin Suicides*. Evan Rachel Wood, who has a Kirsten Dunst–like mix of sweetness and naughtiness, is convincing as the initially girlish seventh-grader who yearns to hang out with the popular, more physically mature girls—and gets to, by taking drugs, shoplifting and pushing her budding sexuality just as they do. Meanwhile, her frazzled mom (Holly Hunter) tries to straddle the line between being firm and friendly, while her new best friend (Nikki Reed, who co-wrote the script with Hardwicke) manipulates everyone in sight. Although the movie can sometimes come off as a pat cautionary tale, its emotional messiness is awfully realistic, with most everyone oblivious to their own faults. (At Boston Common, Copley Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

David Spade (left) plays Dickie Roberts, and (clockwise from Spade) Dustin Diamond, Corey Feldman, Danny Bonaduce, Barry Williams and Leif Garrett play themselves in *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star*.

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
The Faces of a Star: A Romy Schneider Retrospective
•Sept. 29, 6 pm. **Ludwig (part two)** *1972.* The s ond half of Luchino Visconti's chronicle of Bavari king Ludwig's life captures his short but torment reign. Oct. 6, 6 pm. **Good Neighbor Sam** *1964.* mild-mannered man helps his wife's best friend herit her grandfather's fortune by pretending to her husband.

BOSTON UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL
•Sept. 25-Oct. 10. The fifth annual Boston U derground Film Festival moves to the fall with 16-day schedule of independent and experimen film, as well as discussion panels and receptio with the local film community. Venues inclu the Allston Cinema Underground, Brattle Th atre, Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, Mi Way, MIT, Museum of Fine Arts, Oni Gallery a

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more. See *www.bostonundergroundfilmfestival.com* for schedule.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Sundays and Mondays—Shades of Noir

•Sept. 28 and Sept. 29, 1:30, 5:30 and 9:30 pm. **Shockproof** *1949*. A paroled murderess is torn between life with her parole officer–turned–romantic interest and her shady former flame. Douglas Sirk directs. •Also showing, 3:30 and 7:30 pm. **Johnny O'Clock** *1947*. Two gamblers who run a casino are suspected in the murder of a cop's sister. Robert Rossen directs.

•Oct. 5, 2:15 and 7 pm; Oct. 6, 7 pm. **Chinatown** *1974*. Roman Polanski's film stars Jack Nicholson as a private investigator on a case of murder, incest and adultery. •Also showing, 4:45 and 9:45 pm. **The Manchurian Candidate** *1962*. In John Frankenheimer's film, a group of Korean War vets are brainwashed and turned into mercenaries by Russian and Chinese agents.

Tuesdays—Pasolini and His World

•Sept. 30, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm. **Il Decameron** *1970*. Pier Paolo Pasolini directs the film adaptation of nine stories from Bocaccio's *Decameron*.

•Oct. 7, 5 and 10 pm. **I Racconti di Canterbury** (*The Canterbury Tales*) *1971*. Pasolini adapts Geoffrey Chaucer's classic novel. •Also showing, 7:30 pm. **Il Fiore Delle Mille e Una Notte** (*Arabian Nights*) *1974*. A young man searches for his lost love and encounters travelers who tell their stories along the way.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•Sept. 24, 5:15, 7:30 and 9 :45 pm. **Northfork** *2003*. Michael Polish's drama follows the residents of a small 1950s Montana town who are forced to move to make way for a dam.

•Oct. 1, 5:30 and 8:30 pm. **Le Cercle Rouge** (*The Red Circle*) *1970*. Trouble ensues in Jean-Pierre Melville's film when an ex-thief enlists a murderer and an ex-police sharpshooter to pull off a jewel heist.

Thursdays—Selected by Charles Burnett

•Sept. 25, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm. **Ganja & Hess** *1972*. A doctor's assistant becomes bloodthirsty after being stabbed with an ancient, germ-infested knife in Bill Gunn and Fima Noveck's horror movie.

•Oct. 2, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. **Bush Mama** *1979*. A welfare mother struggles to raise her daughter in an L.A. ghetto. Haile Gerima directs.

Fridays and Saturdays—Special Engagements

•Sept. 26 and Sept. 27, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm; Sat. matinee, 2:30 pm. **Donnie Darko** *2001*. A teenage boy grapples with religion, mental instability and visions of a giant, evil rabbit. Richard Kelly directs.

•Oct. 3, 2 and 7 pm; Oct. 4, 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 pm. **To Catch a Thief** 1955. Cary Grant plays a retired burglar who might be up to his old tricks. Alfred Hitchcock directs. •Also showing, 9:15 pm. **Boston Cinema Census III**. The Brattle's third installment of the BCC features locally produced films by emerging filmmakers. See *www.centralproductions.org*.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Now playing. **Etre et Avoir** (*To Be and to Have*) *2003*. Nicolas Philibert documents a classroom in a small French village where students ages 4 to 10 learn together.

•Opening Oct. 3. **The Same River Twice** 2003. See New Releases for a description.

Midnights: '80s Fantasy!

•Sept. 26 and 27, 12 am. **Conan the Barbarian** *1982*. Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a gladiator seeking to avenge the death of his parents. John Milius directs.

•Sept 26 and 27, 12 am. **Beyond Re-Animator** *2003*. A 12-year-old boy who found a serum to revive the dead has grown up to be a doctor obsessed with working alongside his mentor. Brian Yuzna directs.

Video Screening Room: Bank Busters Film Festival

•Sept 26, 7 pm; Sept. 27, 8:30 pm. **Lifting the Veil**. Shonali Bose's documentary follows contemporary Indian workers, politicians, students, teachers and housewives who speak about policies of liberalization, privatization and globalization. •Also showing, Sept. 26, 8:30 pm; Sept. 27, 7 pm. **The New Rulers of the World**. John Pilger and Alan Lowery's film examines several large multinational corporations and the institutions that back them.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Directors in Focus: Fassbinder!

•Oct. 3, 7 pm. **Fassbinder in Hollywood** *2002*. Robert Fischer's documentary compares contemporary Hollywood with Rainer Werner Fassbinder's films and includes interviews with the German cinematographer's company of workers. •Also showing, 9 pm, Oct. 5, 9 pm. **Liebe Ist Kälter Als der Tod** (*Love Is Colder Than Death*) *1969*. Fassbinder's first film follows the efforts of a small-time pimp who resists recruitment by a powerful Berlin crime syndicate.

•Oct. 4, 7 pm. **Der Amerikanische Soldat** (*The American Soldier*) *1970*. Fassbinder's film about a charismatic but disillusioned hitman returning home from Vietnam hearkens back to the cinematic era of Humphry Bogart and the great American directors of the 1940s and '50s. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Despair—Eine Reise ins Licht** (*Despair*) *1978*. A restless chocolate factory owner plans to switch identities with a struggling artist in the film adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov's novel. Fassbinder directs.

•Oct. 6, 9 pm. **Die Dritte Generation** (*The Third Generation*) *1979*. Fassbinder's controversial film looks at the connections between terrorism and capitalism, focusing on a group of disenchanted citizens who are manipulated by industrialists.

Film Architectures

•Sept. 24, 6 pm. **Metropolis** *1927*. Fritz Lang's classic, silent film is a cynical look at the future.

•Oct. 5, 7 pm. **Dong** (*The Hole*) *1998*. The future looks bleak for the tenants of a run-down urban housing project. Ming-liang Tsai directs.

•Oct. 7, 7 pm. **Ni Neibian Jidian** (*What Time Is It There?*) *2001*. Director Ming-liang Tsai appears in person for a screening of his most recent film, which presents contrasting portraits of Paris and Taipei through the lives of a grieving Taipei man and a young Parisian vacationer. •Immediately following. **Tien Chao Bu Jien Le** (*The Skywalk Is Gone*) *2002*. Ming-Liang's continuation of Ni Neibian Jidian follows the Parisian traveler on her return to a changed Taipei, where she combs the city searching for a particular street vendor.

From Cinematic to Digital Culture

•Sept. 28, 7 pm. **Berlin: Die Sinfonie der Grobstadt** (*Berlin: Symphony of a Great City*) *1927*. Walte Ruttmann's silent impressionistic vision of pre World War II Berlin follows city dwellers throug the routine events of a spring day. Live piano mus accompanies the screening. •Also showing, 8:30 pm **Los Olvidados** (*The Young and the Damned*) *195* Surrealist director Luis Bañuel's examination poverty and violence depicts the descent of a Mex can street urchin.

The New German Cinema

•Sept. 29, 7 pm. **Machorka-Muff** *1962*. Jean-Mar Straub and Daniéle Huillet direct this story about reactivated West German officer.

•Oct. 6, 7 pm. **Massnahmen Gegen Fanatiker** (*Pr cautions Against Fanatics*) *1968*. An old man ded cates himself to protecting racehorses against th abuses of fanatical trainers. Werner Herzog directs.

Remembering Romy

•Sept. 26, 7 pm. **The Cardinal** *1963*. Otto Pr minger's adaptation of Henry Morton Robinson novel follows a young priest through his career the church. Romy Schneider plays a student wh tests the priest's virtue.

•Sept. 29, 9 pm. **Le Procés** (*The Trial*) *1962*. Orson Welles' adaptation of Franz Kafka's novel, man wakes up to find he is on trial for a crime nev explained to him.

(Re)screening Shakespeare

•Sept. 24, 9 pm. **Romeo + Juliet** *1996*. Director B Luhrmann transports Shakespeare's tale of st crossed lovers to 1990s Florida, where the characte have handguns, drop acid and receive advice fro disco-dancing drag queens.

Screening Modern China

•Sept. 30, 7 pm. **Yuen Ling-Yuk** (*Center Stage*) *199* Scandal, torrid affairs, turbulent romantic and fa ily relationships define the final years of actre Ruan Lingyu's life in Stanley Kwan's biopic.

•Oct. 1, 7 pm. **Xin Nüxing** (*New Woman*) *1934*. teacher becomes a successful fiction writer, only be confronted with the realities of sexual hara ment and discrimination.

LOEWS THEATRES COPLEY PLACE

Sundance Film Series

•Through Oct. 3, 1, 4, 7 and 10 pm. **In This Wo** *2002*. Michael Winterbottom's film follows

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film
•Sept. 28, 10:30 pm; Oct. 2, 1:30 pm. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2002*. Thomas Riedelsheimer's documentary follows sculptor Goldsworthy as he creates art out of natural materials.

The Films of Aki Kaurismäki
•Sept. 25, 6 pm; Sept. 27, 4:15 pm. **Juha** *1999*. This silent film is the story of a farmer's wife who leaves the country for an urban brothel. •Also showing, 4 pm and Sept. 27, 2:15 pm. **Kauas Pilvet Karkaavat** *(Drifting Clouds) 1996*. Amid widespread unemployment in mid-1990s Helsinki, a married couple struggles to stay together.

New England Film Artists Present
•Also showing, 8:45 pm. **The Jew in the Lotus** *1990*. Director Laurel Chiten follows author Rodger Kamenetz as Kamenetz records the spiritual journey of eight Jewish delegates traveling to India to meet the Dalai Lama.

World Cinema
•Sept. 26, 8 pm; Oct. 3, 8 pm; Oct. 5, 3:45 pm. **Im Juli** *(In July) 2000*. Faith Akin's film follows a young physics teacher who leaves his monotonous life to traipse around Europe in search of true love.
•Oct. 2, 3:30 pm, Oct. 4, 11 am. **Whale Rider** *2002*. After the death of her twin brother, a headstrong 12-year-old Maori girl strives to become the next tribal chief. Niki Caro directs.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater
•Opens Oct. 4. **Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees**. Enter the playful world of the wild chimpanzees of Africa's Gombe Stream National Park. *Call for show times*.
•Opens Oct. 4, **Africa: The Serengeti**. This film depicts some of the 1.5 million animals that migrate across the African plains. *Call for show times*.
•Opens Oct. 4, **Space Station**. Blast into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts of the International Space Station. *Call for show times*.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater
•Now Playing. **Bugs! 3D**. This film focuses on the world of insects in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size. *Call for show times*.
•Through Oct. 2. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. *Call for show times*.
•Through Oct. 2. **The Matrix Reloaded: The Imax Experience**. In the sequel to *The Matrix*, Neo and the rebel leaders battle the machines that have overpowered the human race. *Call for show times*.
•Through Oct. 2. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Dive in and explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. *Call for show times*.
•Through Oct. 2. **Space Station 3D**. Take a trip to the International Space Station and experience life in zero gravity with the astronauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. *Call for show times*.

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM

African Film Series
•Oct. 3, 7:30 pm. **Faat Kiné** *2000*. Despite her difficulties, an unwed mother who is betrayed by several men emerges a self-reliant business woman.
•Oct. 4, 4:30 pm. **La Petite Vendeusede Soleil** *(The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun) 1999*. A 12-year-old beggar transcends the cruel realities of Dakar's bustling marketplace. •Also showing , 7 pm. **Le Franc** *1994*. In this film directed by Djibril Diop Mambéty, a penniless musician whose instrument is confiscated for back rent pins his hopes on a lottery ticket. •Also showing, 9 pm, **Hyènes** *(Hyenas) 1992*. Mambéty satirizes the hopes of African independence through the story of a once prosperous African village that has fallen into poverty.

WANG CENTER

Classic Film Series
•Sept. 29, 7 pm. Free. **Breakfast at Tiffany's** *(1961)*. The film adaptation of Truman Capote's novel stars Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly, a girl about town who falls for the handsome writer upstairs. Blake Edwards directs.

Cinema Venues

ALLSTON

Allston Bombay Cinema 2
214 Harvard Ave. (978-671-9212). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

Allston Cinema Underground
214 Harvard Ave. (617-912-8626). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline. (617-566-5715); MBTA: C Green Line to St. Marys.

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

PEABODY

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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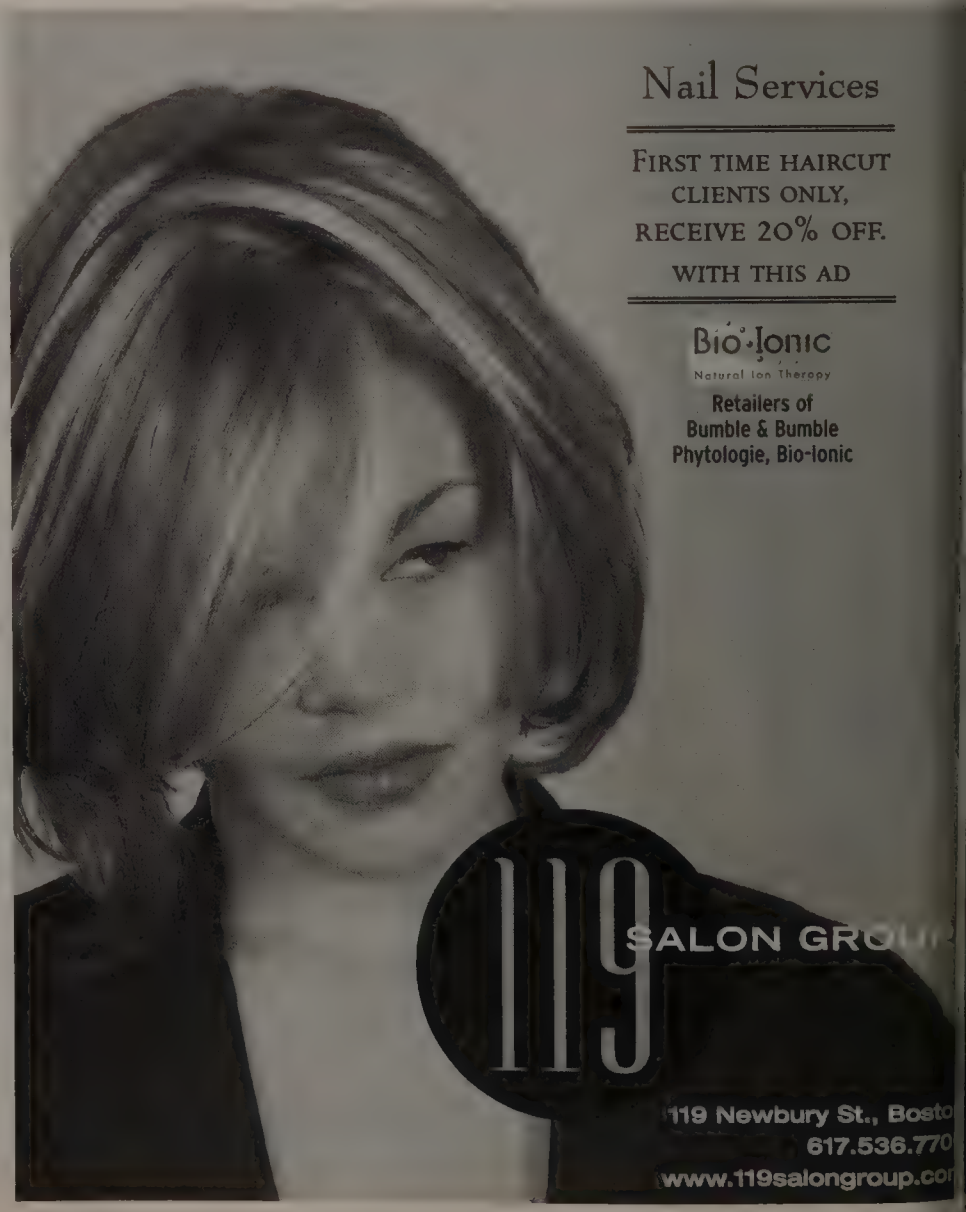

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THE RACK

In Time

R.E.M.'s return to touring includes new material along with '80s and '90s hits

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

For a band that's grown from rehearsing in an abandoned church to gradual superstardom to a renewed work ethic in its third decade, R.E.M. realizes, according to guitarist Peter Buck, that some lucky forces haven't changed.

"Being in a band is such a strange thing, because there's a symbiosis that happens, this synergy thing where it's more than you are as a person," Buck says as R.E.M. rolls toward an Oct. 5 date at the Tweeter Center on its first U.S. tour since 1999. "It just seems like a shame to give that up.

R.E.M, from left: Peter Buck (guitar), Michael Stipe (vocals) and Mike Mills (bass)

"Whenever I talk to young people in bands—'cause I'll always give advice to younger groups—and they have this great chemistry and they're arguing, I'll say, 'You know, this chemistry thing doesn't always happen,'" says Buck, 46. "Sometimes you lose one person and it totally changes. I've seen that happen. But you can't really give it up."

That was what Buck, bassist Mike Mills and singer Michael Stipe realized after drummer Bill Berry's 1997 retirement from the group the four launched in the Georgia college town of Athens in 1980. A tough year of retrenchment yielded 1998's semi-experimental *Up*, followed by 2001's *Reveal*, which sold only 400,000 copies in the U.S. but did better in Europe. But R.E.M. is revving up; the group has nearly completed a new studio album to follow *In Time: The Best of R.E.M. 1988–2003* (in stores Oct. 28) and is planning another tour next year.

"We just felt like going out [on tour]," says Buck, whose band is supplemented on the road by drummer Bill Rieflin (ex-Ministry) and multi-instrumentalists Ken Stringfellow (ex-Posies) and Scott McCaughey, who also plays with Buck in the Minus 5 and the Young Fresh Fellows. "We're thinking about where we are in our ages, being in a band. If we want to do a lot of work, we should do it now. It seems that people in their fifties don't go out as much.

"I don't want to be just an oldies touring band, and we're not," he says from his Seattle home. "We're continuing to work on new stuff."

Two new songs—"Bad Day" (which targets politics and the media as bad bedfellows) and psychedelic rocker "Animal"—have been included on *In Time* and are in the band's live repertoire. But the tour is noteworthy for its range of retrospective, dipping beyond the band's 1988–2003 Warner Brothers catalog to include a rotation of such '80s nuggets as "Pilgrimage," "Sitting Still," "Feeling Gravity's Pull," "Maps and Legends," "These Days," "Cuyahoga" and "Exhuming McCarthy," as well as the '90s hits "Losing My Religion," "Everybody Hurts" and "Man on the Moon."

"We ended up learning somewhere around 75 or 80 songs and we felt, 'Let's just throw in whatever we're feeling at whatever time,'" says Buck, whose band is fielding requests at www.remhq.com. "We did 'Pilgrimage' a few times. That was one of the ones we played and I looked at everyone and said, 'Jeez, could we have put one more part in the song?' It's got like 20 chords, four different sections and two bridges, and it comes out of the bridge in a different key. You can tell that's our first record. We thought we'd never get to do another one, so we had to stick everything in.

"We tend to do pretty much the album versions," Buck adds. "Little things might change, but my feeling is, if you get tired of the way the song is, rather than make it a reggae version, just don't play it for a while. That's one of the reasons we change the set around. I love Bob Dylan, but I remember those tours where you'd hear a reggae version of 'Don't Think Twice, It's Alright,' then a metal version of 'Mr. Tambourine Man,' and go, 'That doesn't mean anything to me.'"

Indeed, Buck was a clerk in a used record store when R.E.M. began, and he takes some old-school views: "I don't care about the downloading thing one way or the other. I've never done it. I prefer to buy records and support the bands I like, but I'm not going to say it's wrong if someone does it."

At least R.E.M.'s renewed activity should get the band back in the headlines for its music rather than Buck's infamous "air rage" incident. In 2001, he was charged, then cleared by a jury, of attacking British Airways staff during a 2001 flight. Buck says he blanked out from a sleeping pill and wine.

"I woke up in jail and didn't know where I was," he says. "It's not my proudest moment. It will be in my obituary. But if I can laugh about it, everyone else should be able to also." iB

R.E.M.
plays the Tweeter Center Oct. 5.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information by fax (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or by email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Addison Groove Project
Sept. 27, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Aesop Rock, Akrobatik, EL-P, Mr. Lif, Fakts One and SA Smash
Oct. 1, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
BeanTown Jazz Festival, with the Boston Horns, Herman Johnson, Myanna, Jose Ramos, Trace, Rose and Stan Strickland
Sept. 27, Columbus Avenue (617-471-7990).
Regina Belle
Sept. 27, Berklee Performance Center (617-93[illegible] 2000).
Bowling for Soup, Lucky Boys Confusion and Never Heard of It
Oct. 7, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Built to Spill and the Solace Brothers
Sept. 29 and 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-42[illegible] NEXT).
Capercaillie
Oct. 3, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Mary Chapin Carpenter, Shawn Colvin, Patty Griffin and Dar Williams
Oct. 3, Wang Center (800-447-7400).
Howie Day, Jump Little Children and Charlotte Martin
Sept. 29, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Dresden Dolls
Sept. 26, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Fleetwood Mac
Sept. 24, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Peter Frampton and Joe Bonamassa
Sept. 28, Roxy (617-931-2000).
John Gorka and Mary Gauthier
Oct. 4, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Reverend Horton Heat, Southern Culture on the Skids and Throw Rag
Sept. 25, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Hoobastank, Diffuser and All-American Rejects
Oct. 4, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Jewel, Josh Kelley and Susan Greenbaum
Sept. 24, FleetBoston Pavilion (617-931-2000).
Jonny Lang and Indigenous
Oct. 1, Orpheum Theatre (617-423-NEXT).
The Juliana Theory, Hopesfall, Count the Stars and Celebrity
Oct. 4, Axis (617-931-2000).
Matchbox Twenty
Sept. 30, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000).
Mixfest, with Vertical Horizon, Jason Mraz, Dido, Tori Amos, Michelle Branch, Train, Barenaked Ladies, Duran Duran and Mark McGrath
Oct.3, FleetCenter (617-931-2000)
No Use for a Name
Sept. 30, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
R.E.M.
Oct. 5, Tweeter Center (617-931-2000).
Shania Twain
Oct. 7, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Lucinda Williams and the Jayhawks
Oct. 7, Orpheum Theater (617-423-NEXT).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

Abbey Lounge Biopop.
Asgard Down Dog.
The Attic A Northern Chorus, 9 pm.
Bill's Bar Imprint, Breathe, Dryft and Stoic, 9 p[illegible] $9, 19+.
Bristol Lounge Bert Seager, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Monster Mike Welch and Barrie A[illegible] derson, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, no co[illegible]
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGr[illegible] 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Jewel, Josh Kelley and Su[illegible] Greenbaum, 8 pm, $35.50-$45.50.
FleetCenter Fleetwood Mac, 7 pm, $49.50-$125.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.

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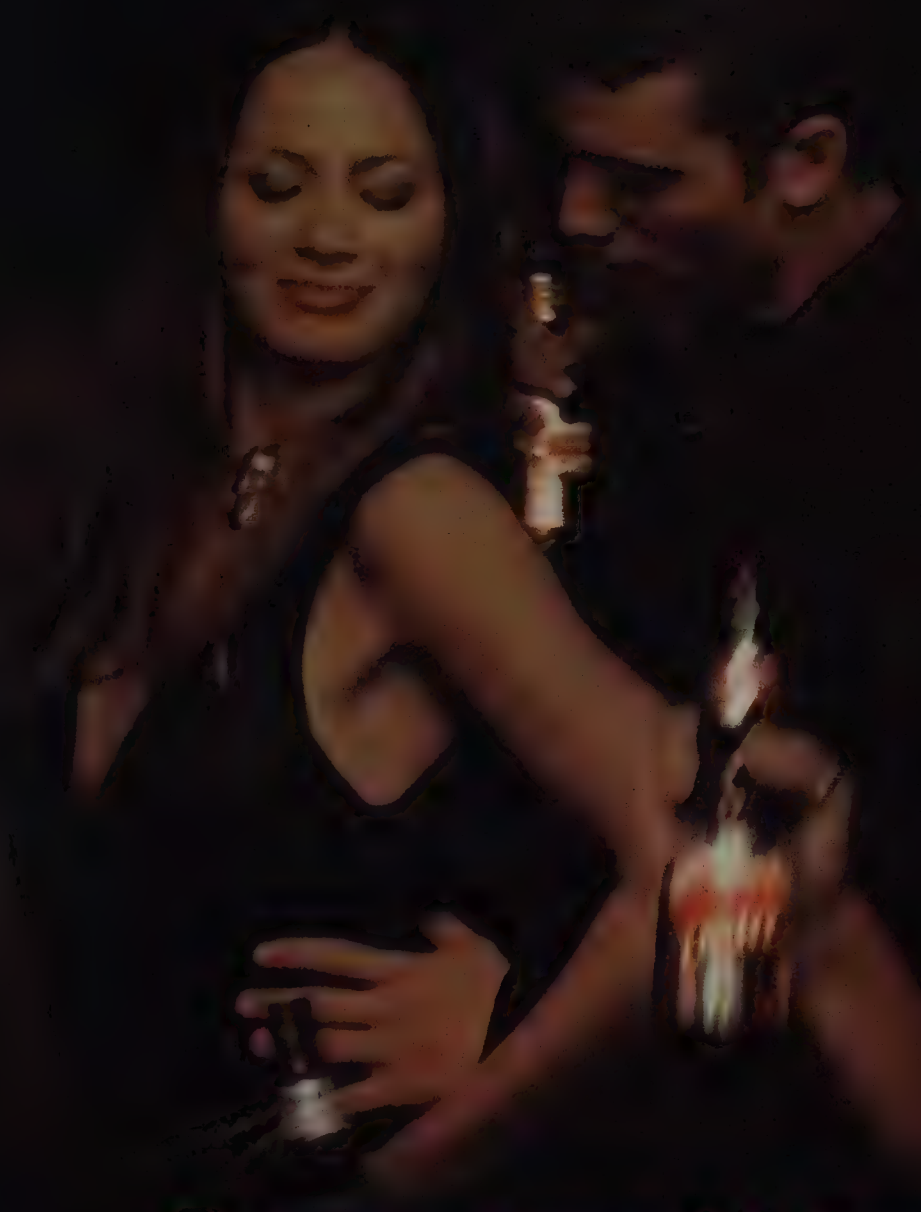

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Harper's Ferry An evening of arena rock, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
Johnny D's Julian Kasper and Kevin Grudecki, 8:30 pm.
Kendall Café Rosanna Lee, 8:30 pm; 4 Way Street CD-release, 9:30 pm; Sarah Pierce, 10:45 pm, $8.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmonic, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Easy Action, 25 Suaves, White Trash Deluxe and Deny Everything, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Ambulance Ltd., $9, 18+. ZuZu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Nick Jones and Public, 21+.
Milky Way Artful Words open mike with Momentum.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm-10:30 pm.
Plough and Stars Bad Art Ensemble, 9 pm.
The Rack BlackSole.
Regattabar The Felipe Salles Group, 8:30pm, $12
Ryles Jazz Club Bruce Bartlett Trio, 8 pm, $10.
Scullers Brad Mehldau, $18.
Sky Bar Bucky Spins, Goldman and West View, 8 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Boris McCutcheon.
Toad The Heygoods, 7 pm; Woodpile, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio with Joe Mulholland, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Oneside, 9 pm; Asteroid No. 4, 10 pm; Barn Burning, 11 pm, $6.
Virgin Megastore Dennis Shafer, 1 pm.
Western Front Dan Blake Ensemble.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries.
Les Zygomates David Eure and the Latin Explosion, 8 pm.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

Abbey Lounge Dave Derby.
Asgard Nate Watkins.
Bill's Bar The Fever Movement, Thea Wolfe and Blizzard of '78, 9 pm, $10, 19+.
Black Horse Tavern Alan Goodrich.
Bob the Chef's Brandon Sanders Quartet, 7:30 pm
Bristol Lounge Ben Cook, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Chris Waller and New Day, 9 pm.
Club Passim James O'Brien and the Church of the Kitchen Sink CD-release show and Nathan Pyritz, 8 pm, $12.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Los Amigos Invisibles Oct. 9, Roxy (617-423-NEXT).
Joan Baez Oct. 11, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic Oct. 8, Roxy (617-423-NEXT).
Bruce Cockburn Oct. 24, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Cowboy Mouth and Cracker Oct. 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Evan Dando and Vic Chesnutt Oct. 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Chris Delmhorst and Peter Mulvey Oct. 18, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Ani Difranco Nov. 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Gov't Mule and Chris Robinson Oct. 17, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Herbie Hancock Nov. 2, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Shirley Horn Oct. 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Interpol and Elefant Oct. 16 and 17, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Lyle Lovett Nov. 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Marilyn Manson Oct. 23, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Maroon 5 and Gavin DeGraw Oct. 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Leona Naess Oct. 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Meshell Ndegeocello and Soulive Oct. 22, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Robert Randolph and the Family Band Nov. 19 Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Road to Voodoo Tour with DJ Swamp, Fuel and Smile Empty Soul Oct. 23, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Sheila Divine Oct. 10 and 11, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Soledad Brothers Oct. 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
String Cheese Incident Oct. 10 and 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Travis Oct. 26, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Ween Oct. 29, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Keller Williams Oct. 24, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Steve Winwood and the North Mississippi Allstars Oct. 8, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).

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Common Ground '80s Love Night with DJ Brian. 10 pm, $3.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Uncle Sammy, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm-10 pm.
Johnny D's Boston Blues Festival Kick-off Bash, 9 pm, $10.
Kendall Café The Basil Exposition and Yoni Gordon and the Goods, $5.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9:30 pm, $10.
Matt Murphy's 'Round Midnight jazz session.
Middle East Upstairs: Black Eyed Snakes, Antler, Kid Dakota, Jordan Carp and the Subterranians, $9, 18+. Corner: Stretch, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Supergoo, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Dyke night, 21+.
MIT Wong Auditorium Peggy Seeger, 7:30 pm.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm-10:30 pm.
Paradise Toots and the Maytals, 8 pm, $18.
Plough and Stars Classic Ruins and Kenne Highland, 9 pm.
The Rack Uneek Aproach.
Regattabar Steve Wilson Quartet, 8:30 pm, $16.
Roxy Rock for RAINN: A Benefit to Unlock the Silence, with Alice Peacock, Flynn, Rachel McCartney and Barbara Kessler, 7:30 pm, $15.
Ryles Jazz Club Marta Gomez, 7:30 pm, $10.
Scullers Brad Mehldau, $20.
Sky Bar Juniper's Daughter and Hidden Soul, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7 pm; the Steve Mayone Band, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio with Joe Mulholland, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Drexel, Kicked In the Head, Digger and Random Acts of Violence, $8.
Western Front Mang Dub and the Well.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

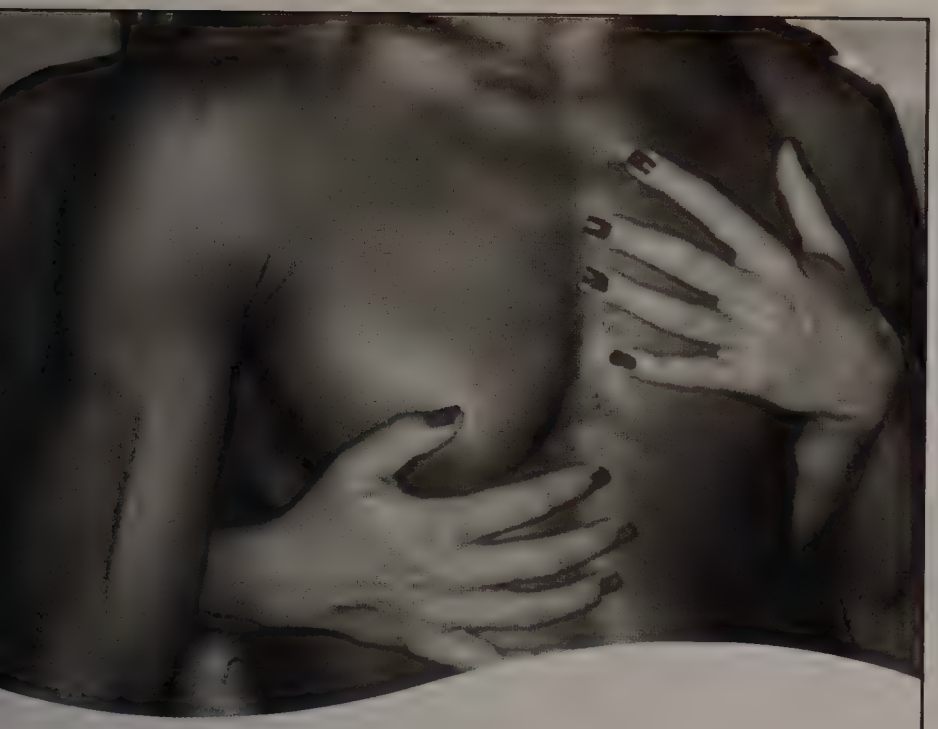
Abbey Lounge Red Zone Cuba and Auto Interiors.
Asgard Ryan McHugh.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
The Attic Three Tree.
Bill's Bar Badfish, 9 pm, $9, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern The Chicken Slacks Soul Review.
Bob the Chef's Tall Richards, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim The Paperboys, 8 pm, $14.
Common Ground The Pressure Cooker, 10 pm, $4.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Syndicate.
Harper's Ferry Aaron Katz Band and Violet Nine, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Six Shot Brody.
Jacob Wirth Sing-along night, 8 pm-12 am.
Johnny D's Bruce Katz, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Lloyd Thayer, Matt Keating and Chris Elliot and the Goods, $5.
Kirkland Café Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, 22-40's, The RPM's and Just Another Victim, $5.
The Linwood Benefit for the ACLU with the Jack McCoys, Bender X, the Spoilers and Max Heinegg.
Lizard Lounge The Ware River Club, 9 pm.
Matt Murphy's Rachel McCartney.
Middle East Downstairs: Nada Surf, Ozma and Dear Leader, $10, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Latin with Giancarlo Buscaglia, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Zu and Lazer Lazer, 21+.
Milky Way Jake Brennan.
Mr. Dooley's Paul Duffy.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm-12:15 am.
O'Leary's The John Cate Band, 9:30 pm.
Paradise Dresden Dolls CD-release party, 9 pm, $12, 18+.
PA's Lounge Papermoon, $5, 21+.
Plough and Stars Los Diablos, 9 pm.
Porters Bar and Grill Greytone.
The Rack Taylor Brothers Band.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm-2 am, no cover.
Regattabar The Latin Jazz All Stars, 7:30 and 10 pm, $20.
Ryles Jazz Club Bebop Guitars, 8 pm, $10.
Scullers Brad Mehldau, $22.
Sky Bar Meet the Day and Boatyard Resin, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Kevin Connelly.
Toad Bangalore, no cover.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group with Phil Grenadier, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Dirty Truckers, 9:30 pm; Lenny and the Piss Poor Boys, 10:30 pm; Robbie Fulks, 11:30 pm. $10.
Western Front Joint Chiefs.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon.
Les Zygomates Ronny Ron Trio, 7 pm.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

Abbey Lounge Seana Carmody.
Asgard Jack & Present Co.
Atrium Lounge Dave Phillip, 5:30 pm; Gilad Barkan, 9 pm.
Berklee Performance Center Regina Belle, 8 pm, $28-$58.
Bill's Bar Paisley Project and DJ Rob Nockshis, 9 pm, $9, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Groove Authority.
Bob the Chef's Pat Loomis, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim What I Like About Jew, 8 pm, $14.
Columbus Avenue BeanTown Jazz Festival, 12-6 pm, free.
Common Ground The Let Down w/ DJs Brian and Ken, 10 pm, $3.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetBoston Pavilion Jewel, Josh Kelley and Susan Greenbaum, 8 pm, $35.50-$45.50.
Grand Canal Dick and Jane.
The Green Dragon Tavern Fenian Sons.
Harper's Ferry Entrain and the Alternate Routes, $12, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm-11 pm.
Johnny D's Cool Side of the Pillow, 9:45 pm.
Kendall Café Hector on Stilts, 9:30 pm; Henry CD-release show, 10:30 pm; Photoflash, 11:30 pm, $7.
Kinsale Symbolics.
Kirkland Café Shotz, $5.
The Linwood Give, Linus, Seemless and Fuser.
Lizard Lounge Cul de Sac, John Sinclair with the Devil Gods and the Shelley Winters Project, 9 pm, $7.
Matt Murphy's Blasto.
Middle East Upstairs: Pilot to Gunner and Retisonic, 9 pm, $9. Downstairs: Kotter, Missing Joe, Labb and CPM, $10, 18+. Corner: Jennifer Matthews Band, no cover, 18+. ZuZu: Ready Steady, Go-Go!, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café The Jumblies and the Arrangements, 21+
Mr. Dooley's Paul Duffy.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm-12:15 am.
O'Leary's Four 'n' More, 9:30 pm.
Paradise III Kings, Vibewise and Foundation, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Plough and Stars The Bag Boys, 5 pm; Kevin Connolly, 9 pm.
Regattabar The Latin Jazz All-Stars, 7:30 and 10 pm, $22.
Ryles Jazz Club Megawatt Blues Crushers, 8 pm, $10.
Somerville Theater Addison Groove Project, 7:30 pm, $15.
Tír na nÓg DJ Derek.
Toad Greg's Saturday Showcase, 7 pm; the Splendid Nobodies, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub The Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Triple Thick, the Konks and the Limes, 9 pm; Mr. Airplane Man CD-release show, 11:50 pm, $10.
Virgin Megastore Jones One, 7 pm.
Western Front King Dubious.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.
Les Zygomates Marianne Sullivan, 7 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

Berklee Performance Center Mercedes Sosa, 7 pm, $30-$60.
Bill's Bar Dub Station, 9 pm, $9, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Sunday jazz brunch with Paul Danay Hazz Quartet, 10 am.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm.
Club Passim Kate Taylor, 6 and 9 pm, $17.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining, 10 am; Big Tim, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry Weekend Extension with NBF and Otis Grove, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Trucker and the Vibe Tribe.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Matt Dorko and Lar K., 9 am-2:30 pm; Blues Jam and Salsa Dancing w/ Rumba NaMa.



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Kendall Café Sleepyhead, Monique Ortiz, Jason Hatfield and the Marmalade, Chris Colbourn and Jim Buni, $5.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Matt Murphy's Live and Direct Bud E. Green.
Middle East ZuZu: Jimmy Fox, no cover.
Midway Café Sensorium and guests, 21+.
Plough and Stars The Young Ones, 9 pm.
Roxy Peter Frampton and Joe Bonamassa, 8 pm, $25.
Ryles Jazz Club Sunday jazz brunch, 10 am.
Sky Bar O, Infinity Clip, Zerogodz and Tung, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Paul Ahlstrand Band, 7 pm; the Mercy Brothers, 10 pm.
Top of the Hub The Big Easy, 11 am-3 pm; Tim Ray Trio, 8 pm.
Western Front Arturo Stable Band.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

MONDAY, SEPT. 29

Abbey Lounge Live blues jam, 8 pm, no cover.
Avalon Howie Day, Jump Little Children and Charlotte Martin, 8 pm, $18.75.
Bill's Bar Cannae CD-release party, 9 pm, $9, 19+.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8 pm; Kinloch Nelson, 10 pm.
Choppin' Block Jazz jam session, 8 pm to 12 am, 21+
Club Passim Story Lab: the Black Humor Show, 8 pm, $10.
Common Ground Karaoke, 10 pm.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike night.
Harper's Ferry Best bands showcase, no cover, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Benefit for Greyhound Friends, 8 pm.
Kendall Café Aaron Shadwell and Slycee Jenkins, $5.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Matt Murphy's Meowskers.
Middle East Downstairs: Polysics and Freezepop, $9, 18+. Zuzu: Unhappy Hour with Milo Jones, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Built to Spill and the Solace Brothers, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Plough and Stars Kelly Riley, 9 pm.
The Rack Ray Brown.
Sky Bar Yo Flaco!, 8:30 pm.
Tír na nÓg The Out Side.
Toad Shwang, 8 pm; the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm.
Top of the Hub Tim Ray Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Hrvatski, Blood on the Wall and Black Dice, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.
Les Zygomates Todne Texiera, 9 pm.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30

Abbey Lounge Dead Platinum Rings and Naomi Sommers, 8:30 pm.
Axis No Use for a Name, 9 pm, $13.
Bill's Bar Old school hip-hop with DJ D-Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, College ID required
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass pickin' party, 8 pm; the Bagboys, 10 pm.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Brian Locher, 7:20 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Harper's Ferry Jiggle, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Pat Burtis and Patrick Fitzsimmons, 8:30 pm, $7.

Peter Frampton plays Sept. 28 at the Roxy.

Lizard Lounge Mobius Band residency and the Solace Brothers, 8:30 pm, $6.
Matt Murphy's Public House and Geoff Scott.
Middle East ZuZu: Frank Morey, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Built to Spill, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Plough and Stars Michael Tarbox, 9 pm.
The Rack Groove Authority.
Regattabar Bruno Raberg CD release, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Big Band Tuesdays with the Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Avishai Cohen Quartet, $18.
Sky Bar Joe Mazzari Band and Rude Toys, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Smoke Out!
Toad Rachel McCartney and Jon Nolan and Hokum, 7 pm.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place American Car, the Spaceshots, Runner and the Thermodynamics, and Damn Personals, 9 pm, $8.
Tweeter Center Matchbox Twenty, 7 pm, $25-$45.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry, 8 pm.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

Abbey Lounge The Drags.
Axis The Pietasters, Voodoo Glow Skulls and River City Rebels, 8 pm, $12.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Brian Webb, Rachel McCartney and Bill Deasy, 8 pm, $14.
Common Ground Mod night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, $3.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
Harper's Ferry Graham Colton Band and Rueben, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
Johnny D's Galactic Fractures with PJ Gray, 8:30 pm, $5.
Middle East Upstairs: The Beatings, the Autumn Rhythm, the Eyesores and the Big Huge, $9, 18+.
Midway Café Tom Lawlor's Open Jam
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm-10:30 pm
Orpheum Theatre Jonny Lang, 7:30 pm, $30-$35.
Paradise Aesop Rock. El-P, Mr. Lif, Akrobatik, Fakts One, and SA Smash, 8 pm, $20, 18+.
The Rack BlackSole, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Laszlo Gardony Trio, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club James Merenda's Masked Marvels, 7:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Jane Bunnett and the Spirits of Havana, $18.
Sky Bar Ochmoneks and Melodram, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place Decadence, the Gasolines and Luke the Band, $5.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries.
Les Zygomates Latin Explosion and the David Eure Band, 7:30 pm

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Abbey Lounge Sunburned Hand of the Man.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Choppin' Block Johnny Most.
Club Passim Girlyman CD-release show and the Dolly Ranchers, 8 pm, $12.
Common Ground 80's Love Night with DJ Brian, 10 pm, $3.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm-10 pm.
Johnny D's Liz Carroll, 9 pm, $16.
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center Carla Ryder, 7 pm, $25.
Kirkland Café Decadence, the States and Public, $5.
Milky Way Booty Juice.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30-10:30 pm.
Paradise Pat Green, Honeybrowne, 8 pm, $15.
PA's Lounge Greystreet, International Pen-Pal, $5, 21+.
The Rack Boston Horns, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Kurt Rosenwinkel Band, 8:30 pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Seth Kaufman, 7:30 pm, $12.
Sky Bar Gallery, Purchase Order, and Dali, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Todd Thibaud, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings, 10:15 pm, $10.

Celtic pop group Capercaillie performs at the Somerville Theatre Oct. 3.

Wonder Bar Grant Langford.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

Abbey Lounge Caged Heat, Delta Clutch and the Coots.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Inchicore.
Club Passim Teddy Goldstein CD-release show and Milton, 8 pm, $12.
Common Ground The Swinging Johnsons, 10 pm, $5.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetCenter MixFest X, 6 pm, $39.50-$87.50.
The Grand Canal Random Axis.
The Green Dragon Tavern Freeze Pop.
Harper's Ferry The Joshua Tree: A Tribute to U2, with the Nine, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5 pm; Ransom.
Jacob Wirth Sing Along Night, 8 pm-12 am.
Kirkland Café Rollo Tomasi Quartet, The Local Motive, $5.
Matt Murphy's Bangalore.
Middle East Downstairs: Joint Custody CD-release show, the Goodbyes CD-release show, Topheavy CD-release show and Heather Bright, 8 pm, $9, 18+.
Milky Way Akrobatik, Edan, Insight, the Foundation and Pangea Pham.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy and Alan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm-12:15 am.
Paradise Reid Genauer and the Assembly of Dust, Ryan Montbleau 9 pm, $16.50, 18+.
PA's Lounge Nancy Mroczek, $5, 21+
Porters Bar and Grill Nate Watkins.
The Rack Uneek Aproach, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm-2 am, no cover.
Regattabar The Kurt Rosenwinkel Band, 7:30 and 10 pm, $18.
Ryles Jazz Club Soul Kitchen, 8 pm, $10.
Sanders Theatre Nnenna Freelon, Benefit for Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund, 8 pm, $23-$28.
Scullers Danilo Perez, $16.
Sky Bar Spacecake, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Capercaillie, 8 pm, $22-$28.
T.T. the Bear's Place Moonraker, Illuminada, Annie Clark, 10:30 pm, $10, 18+.
Wang Center Mary Chapin Carpenter, Shawn Colvin, Patty Griffin and Dar Williams, 7 pm, $38-$53.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm.

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

Abbey Lounge WMFO Benefit; Downbeat 5.
Avalon Hoobastank, Diffuser and All-American Rejects, 6 pm, $20.25.
Axis Juliana Theory, Hope Falls, Count the Stars and Celebrity, 6:30 pm, $15.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan and Inchicore.
Club Passim Geoff Bartley and Rick Yost, 8 pm $14.
Common Ground The Let Down w/ DJs Brian an Ken, 10 pm, $3.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Grand Canal Incadence.
The Green Dragon Tavern Swinging Johnsons.
Harper's Ferry The Sweet and Tender Hooligar and Chris Emerson Band, $8, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm-11 pm.
The Linwood Trendkill, Kevorkian and White.
Matt Murphy's The Inbetweens.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy and Alan.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm 12:15 am.
Paradise The Mavericks, 9 pm, $20, 18+.
PA's Lounge Big Top Vertigo, the Stereobirds an the Verge, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
Regattabar David Maxwell's Maximum Blues, 7: and 10 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Five O'Clock Shadow, 8 pm, $10.
Sanders Theatre The Dianne Reeves Quartet, pm, $22.50-$27.50.
Scullers Danilo Perez, $16.
Somerville Theater John Gorka and Mary Ga thier, 8 pm, $21.50-$25.50.
T.T. the Bear's Place Certainly Sir, 10:50 pm; t Fly Seville CD-release show, 11:45 pm, $8.
Virgin Megastore Abby & Norm, 7 pm.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet.
Les Zygomates Marianne Sullivan, 7 pm.

SUNDAY, OCT. 5

The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Ferron, 7:30 pm, $22.50.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnson
Harper's Ferry Weekend Extension with NB and Red Pill, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Trucker and the Vibe Tribe.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch, 9 am-2:30 pm; blues ja and Salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Middle East Downstairs: Rainer Maria, $12, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Sunday jazz brunch, 10 am.
Sky Bar The Weigh Down and the Close , 8 pm,
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
T.T. the Bear's Place Fragile Alex, $5.
Tweeter Center R.E.M., 7 pm, $28.50-$65.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

MONDAY, OCT. 6

The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Choppin' Block Jazz jam session, 8 pm to 12 am, 21
Common Ground Karaoke, 10 pm.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, cover.

The Place

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Comedian Denis Leary joined Bob Lobel and SportsPlus! commentators Nick Cafardo and Michael Smith on Wednesday, September 10th.

A fundraiser for RI Station nightclub fire survivor Joe Kinan raised over $7,000. Pictured above, event host WBZ-TV's Bob Lobel is surrounded by Kinan's family and friends.

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The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike night.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Johnny D's Bruhaha comedy night, 8 pm, $5.
Middle East Upstairs: Tony Goddess, the Sixth Great Lake and James Hindle, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Peaches and Electrocute, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Tír na nÓg The Out Side.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

Axis Bowling for Soup, Lucky Boys Confusion and Never Heard of It, 8 pm, $12.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetCenter Shania Twain, 7:30 pm, $45-$80.
Harper's Ferry Jiggle, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Rob Gonzales, 8:30 pm.
Middle East Upstairs: Deminer and Jericho, $8, 18+.
Orpheum Theater Lucinda Williams, 7:30 pm, $26.50-$39.
Paradise The Black Keys and Magic Magicians, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
The Rack BlackSole, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Dave Weckl Band, 7:30 pm, $25.
Sky Bar Earth Defense Force, Mystechs, and Robotzen, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Resophonics, no cover.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee College of Music *1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-8820). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Jacob Wirth *31 Stuart St.,Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center *85 West Newton St., Boston (617-927-0061).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644) MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
MIT Wong Auditorium *2 Amherst St., Cambridge (617-253-8844). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656) MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
North Shore Music Theatre *62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7203).*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Leary's Pub and Restaurant *1010 Beacon St., Brookline (617-734-0049). MBTA: C Green Line to St. Mary's.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800) MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
PA's Lounge *345 Union Square, Somerville (617-776-1557). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Porters Bar and Grill *173 Portland St., Boston (617-742-7678). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2069) MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051) MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Redline *59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife, 79 or 350 bus to Arlington Center.*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-4595). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts *885 South Main St., Mansfield (508-339-2333). MBTA: Commuter Rail to Mansfield.*
Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Wang Center *270 Tremont St., Boston (617-532-1224). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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classical music

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Bassoonist Richard Svoboda and guests perform Joseph Bodin de Boismortier's Suite, Op. 40, Michel Corrette's *Le Phénix Concerto*; Francois Devienne's Sonata in G Minor, Op. 25, No. 5, Edward Elgar's *Romance*, Op. 62 and William Hurlstone's Sonata in F Major.

New England Conservatory

Williams Hall, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. German pianist and composer Steffen Schleiermacher performs a program of new music with works by Pierre Boulez, Stefan Wolpe and Giacinto Scelsi.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

Berklee Performance Center

1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-2261). www.berkleebpc.com. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8 pm. $20.50-$35.50. Composer and percussionist Anthony Brown leads his Grammy-nominated Asian American Orchestra in this performance, part of the third annual Equinox Music Festival.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Violinists Frederic Bednarz, Judith Lee and Rimma Yermosh, pianist Winston Choi and violist Shannon Farrell perform a selection of works by Chausson, Mendelssohn and Mozart.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $10, $5 students and children. The Radius Ensemble performs works by Zorn, Berio, Mozart and Ginastera.

Longy School of Music

Rey-Waldstein Building, Recital Room N1, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $16, $12 students and seniors. Cambridge Opera performs duets for voice and piano by Brahms, Goddard and Purcell.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2 pm. $5. Music Alive! presents *Bach*, a fully-staged musical that traces the composer's life from a young orphan to adulthood.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5 pm. Free. Flutist Elizabeth Ostling, oboist John Ferrillo, violinist Elita Kang, violist Carol Redland and pianist Hugh Hinton perform works by Bach, Barber, Debussy, Messiaen and Schumann in a musical tribute to the survivors of clergy sex abuse.

Tsai Performance Center

855 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-8725). www.bu.edu/tsai. MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 3pm. $25, $25 students. Armenian cellist Suren Bagratuni performs a concert to benefit the Build a Healthy Armenia Project.

MONDAY, SEPT. 29

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Guest conductor Joseph Silverstein leads NEC's Philharmonic in a performance of works by Berlioz, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

Music in the Cathedral

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-5800). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. 12:15 pm. $2. Organist Mark Englehardt performs a 35-minute recital.

Music on Marlborough

First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (781-237-0153). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 12:15 pm. $8. Mezzo-soprano D'Anna Fortunato and pianist Lucienne Davidson perform works by Berlioz.

The BSO season opens with a concert conducted by Bernard Haitink at Symphony Hall Oct. 2.

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6:30 pm. The opening performance of the BSO's 2003–04 season features conductor Bernard Haitink and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in a performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*.

MIT Chapel Concert Series

MIT Chapel, opposite 77 Mass Ave., Boston (617-253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Central, 12 pm. Free. Bayreuth performs the baroque music of Kleinknecht with baroque flute, violin, cello and harpsichord instruments.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

Boston Lyric Opera

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-542-4912). www.blo.org. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 6 pm. The BLO performs a short selection of Italian arias as part of the Museum of Fine Arts' First Friday series.

Boston Musica Viva

Tsai Performance Center, Boston University, 855 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-8724). www.bmv.org. MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. 7 pm. $18. Composers Arnold Schoenberg, John Adams and Fabio Vacchi present their works in an all-string chamber orchestra performance.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30 pm. $26-$86. Bernard Haitink conducts an all-Beethoven program, featuring a preconcert talk by Marc Mandel.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series

Symphony Hall, Higginson Room, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $42-$87. Vocalist Marilyn Horne and Broadway singer Barbara Cook perform *Just Between Friends*, a program of selections from the American songbook. A cocktail reception and dinner precede the concert.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Violinist Jack Glatzer performs J.S. Bach's Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, Ernest Bloch's Suite No. 1, Pietro Locatelli's *Three Caprices* and Paganini's *Eight Caprices*.

New England Conservatory

Keller Room, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 9:30 am. $15. Pianist Russell Sherman performs a program titled Musical Roots and Branches.

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $29-$95. Same program as Oct. 3.

Chameleon Arts Ensemble

First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-472-8200). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8 pm. $15-$30. The Chameleon season opens with a program of work by Brahms, Schoenberg and Gorecki.

Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (781-259-8195). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $20-$25. This performance features Ning An on piano, Joseph Lin on violin, and Wen Law on cello.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. The Vietnamese Culture Society presents a recital by pianist Quynh Nguyen.

Lydian String Quartet

Slosberg Recital Hall, Brandeis University 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-4204). 8 pm. $15. The Lydian, in a series of four concerts, this performance includes Webern's *Bagatelles* and *Slow Movement*, Harbison's String Quartet No. 2 and Beethoven's *Rasoumoffsky*.

New England Conservatory

Williams Hall, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Leonid Dudochkin Memorial Concert features performance of works by Bloch, Brahms, Gliere, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, and Dudochkin's friends Roman Yakub and Jakov Jakoubi.

SUNDAY, OCT. 5

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext., 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 2 pm. Free. Composer Eric Sawyer presents the Boston premiere of his String Quartet No. 3.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-1260). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2 pm. Free. Pianist Christopher O'Riley hosts young musicians in a recording of the national radio show *From the Top*.

MONDAY, OCT. 6

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 290 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-536-1260). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Cellist Lawrence Lesser and NEC faculty and friends perform Bach's Sonata in G Minor, Grant Beglarian's *Of Fables, Foibles, and Fancies* and Dvorák's Trio in E Minor, Op. 65.

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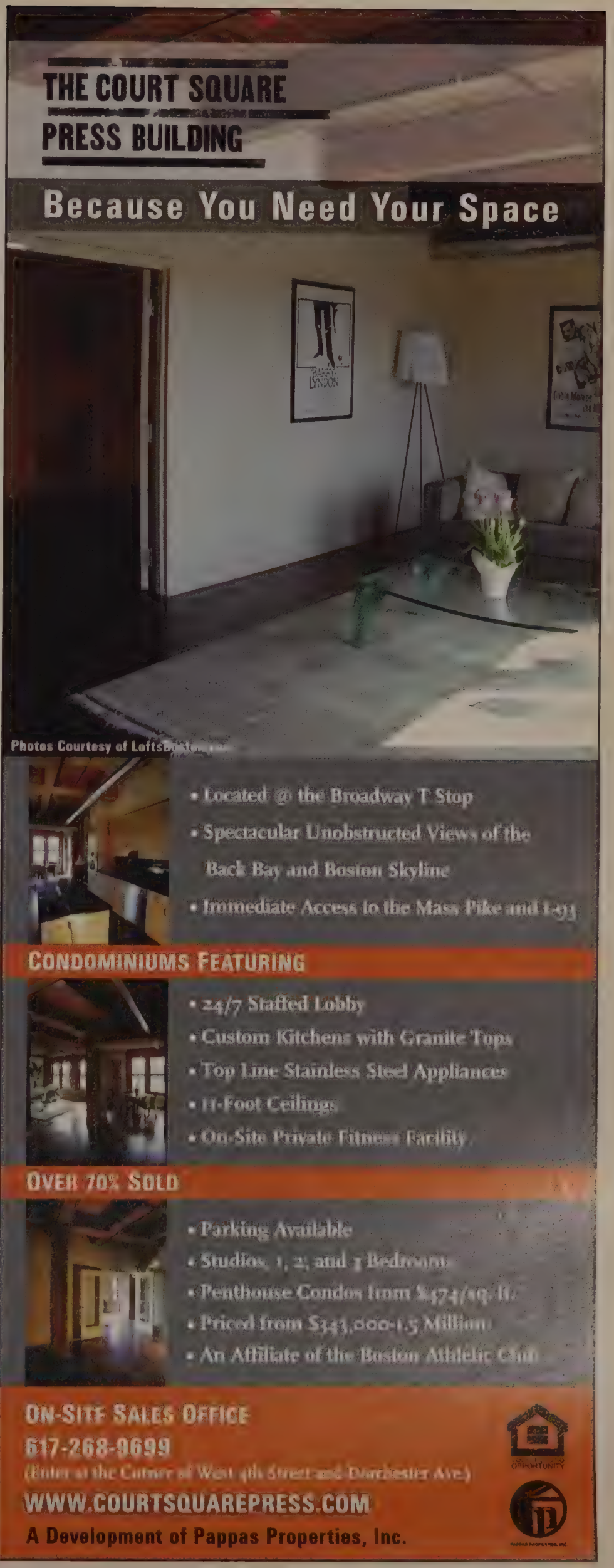


dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 29, live music with Ray Brown, 6-9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm, followed by the live-music series, $5, 18+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Matt Diamond and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•Sept. 30, Groove Authority performs live, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 7, live music with Blacksole, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Felt
Weekly Therapy Party Guest DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Matrix
Lively A cast of DJs spin underground garage, 10 pm, $8.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Steve Anderson spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, live music with Blacksole, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Fizzle DJ McFly spins techno, top-40 and hip-hop 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and guests play rap and Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami and John Debo host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
College MegaPlex One cover gets you into Bill's and Jake Ivory's with DJ Ren Justice spinning tunes, 9 pm, $8, 18+, 21+ with college ID.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indian and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 p 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $ 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hi hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
Latin Lounge with DJ JC playing Latin dance a house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz a electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
KISS 108's DJ Randy hosts the night and spi Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spi acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christi Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fr guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downsta 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party star upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gios spin dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no co 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progressi and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reg 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins La dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men. •**Controve**
Thursday Aug. 21, DJ John Morris spins progress house for the bi/gay/curious party crowd. 9 p 2 am, $8, 21+.

The Modern
Soma DJ Omar spins house music. No cover bef 11 pm, $15 after 11 pm, 19+.

Parris
10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando pres drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 2

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive tech downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dal Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotat residency.

The Rack
DJ Lenny C spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 2 •Sept. 25, live music with Uneek Aproach, 6 pm, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 2, Boston Horns per live, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a m electro, Funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cover, 2

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house m with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan B shall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

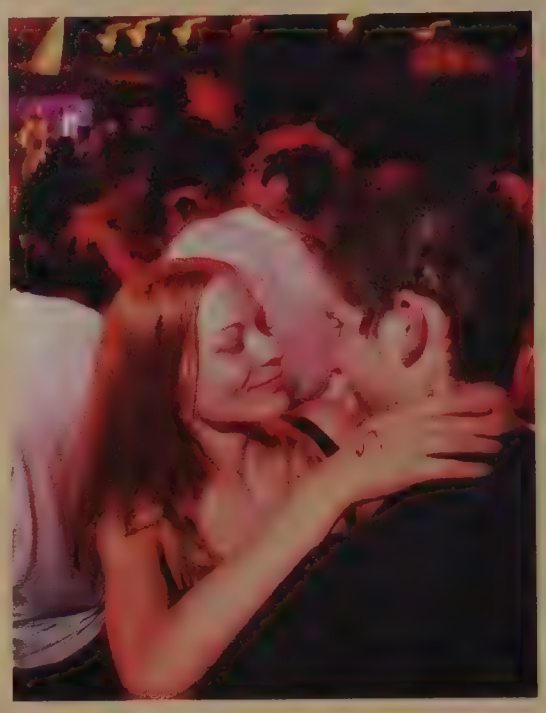
SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15

Preview

New York State of Mind

The Roxy brings New York to Boston with a new Manhattan-themed night this fall



In the realm of nightlife, as in baseball, New York always seems to trump Boston. But, as the saying goes, if you can't beat 'em, emulate 'em. With a tip of the hat to the Big Apple, the Roxy kicks off a lavish new Manhattan-themed night for the fall. Called "The Roxy Goes Manhattan, or I Love NY (But the Yankees Still Suck!)," the night begins Saturday, Sept. 27.

"I think that Saturday nights at the Roxy have been so successful for so many years because we're always gradually reinventing ourselves—the music, the lights, the themes and our promotions," says Roxy promotions director Jeff Delpidio. To that end, the club's new Manhattan modifications include a 20-foot-tall Empire State Building, a Chrysler Building, an elevated 42nd Street and other NYC-related props—although clubgoers might prefer to get their caffeine from Red Bull instead of coffee at the miniature re-creation of the Central Perk cafe from *Friends*. With Roxy resident DJ Adilson spinning a blend of New York–style vocal house and techno, clubbers may forget that they're still four hours north of the city that never sleeps.

127 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). Saturdays starting Sept. 27, 9 pm-2 am. $15. 21+. Jeans allowed, no athletic wear. —Daniel Spurling

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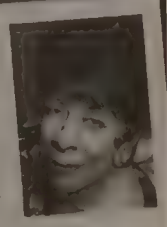
GEORGIE FAME

Tues, Sept. 30
AVISHAI COHEN QUARTET

Weds, Oct. 1
BOMBAY JIM & THE SWINGING SAPHIRES

Thurs, Oct. 2
JANE BUNNETT & THE SPIRITS OF HAVANA

Fri-Sat, Oct. 10-11
SHIRLEY HORN
Ms. Shirley Horn, widely regarded as the premiere singing pianist in jazz since Nat "King" Cole, and renowned for her inimitable ability to negotiate melodies and lyrics at an exquisitely unhurried pace returns to Scullers for two special evenings. She will be celebrating her new Verve CD "May the Music Never End" with her great trio.



Fri-Sat, Oct. 3-4
DANILO PEREZ
One of Sculler's favorite pianists returns with his trio featuring Ben Street on bass and Adam Cruz on drums. He will be celebrating the release of his his new CD "Till Then".

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Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
Revolution Fridays DJ Ricky Fatts spins hip-hop, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
After-work live jazz, 5-9 pm. Kiss 108's Billy Costa hosts the party and DJ Ricky Phatts spins high-energy dance, hip-hop and Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Sept. 26, live music with Taylor Brothers Band, 6-10:45 pm. •Oct. 3, Uneek Aproach performs live, 6-10:45 pm.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins retro mixes, mellow techno and French House, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7 10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJ Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+

SWI
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international hou while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibe Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play fu and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 p 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

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Matrix

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
Classic Saturdays DJ Eddy K spins Eurohouse, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Ghost spins hip-hop and house, 9 pm, no cover

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstai with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 p $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hi hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, wh downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 1 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spi Russian and international music on the third flo 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal hous travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floo 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house whi the back room features dance favorites from the '8 and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz spi merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts plays downtempo and house, $15, 19

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dan music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Will D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10: pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Ma Encounter** New England's longest-running all-ma dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 a $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spi top-40 and hip-hop mixes. Proper dress, $15, 18 $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top- dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins ma stream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18 no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up h from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18 no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new wa and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. Prop dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21 •Oct. 4, live music with Brick Park.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host t dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, cover, 21+.

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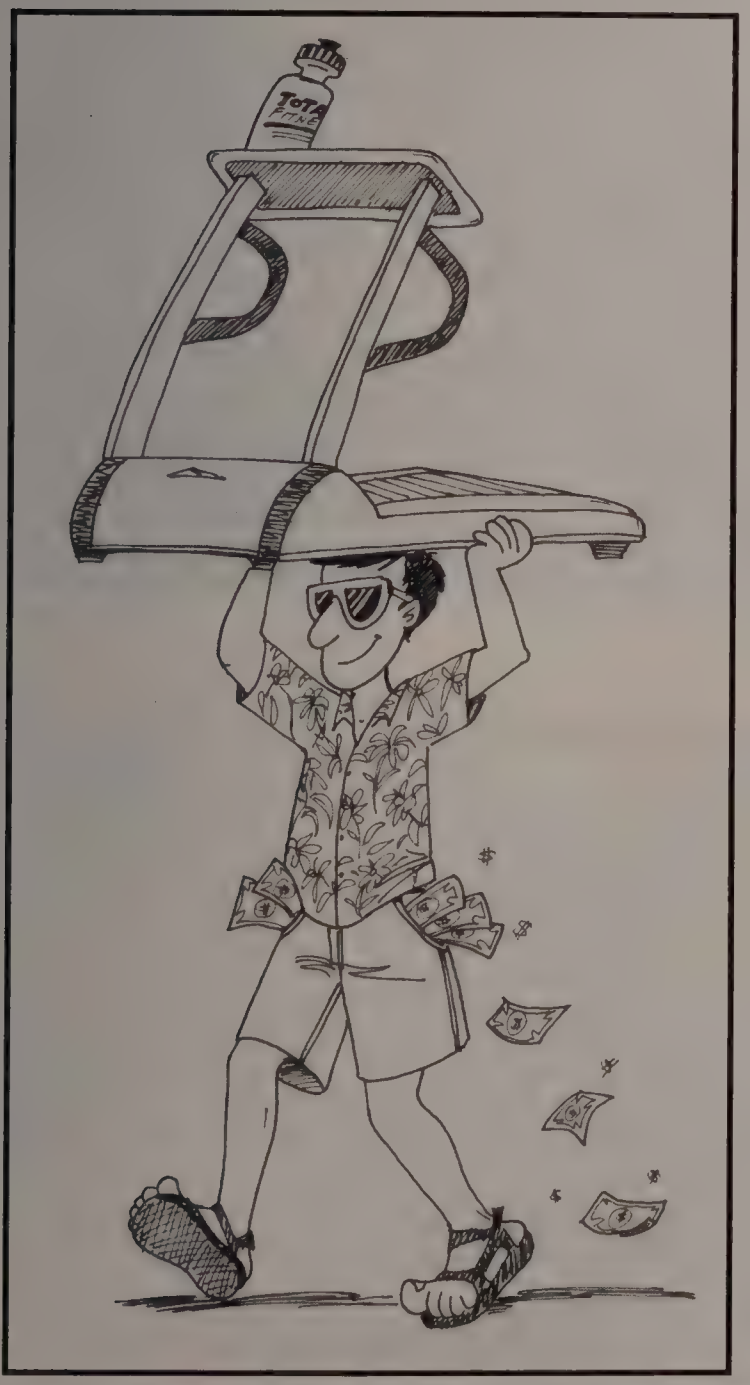

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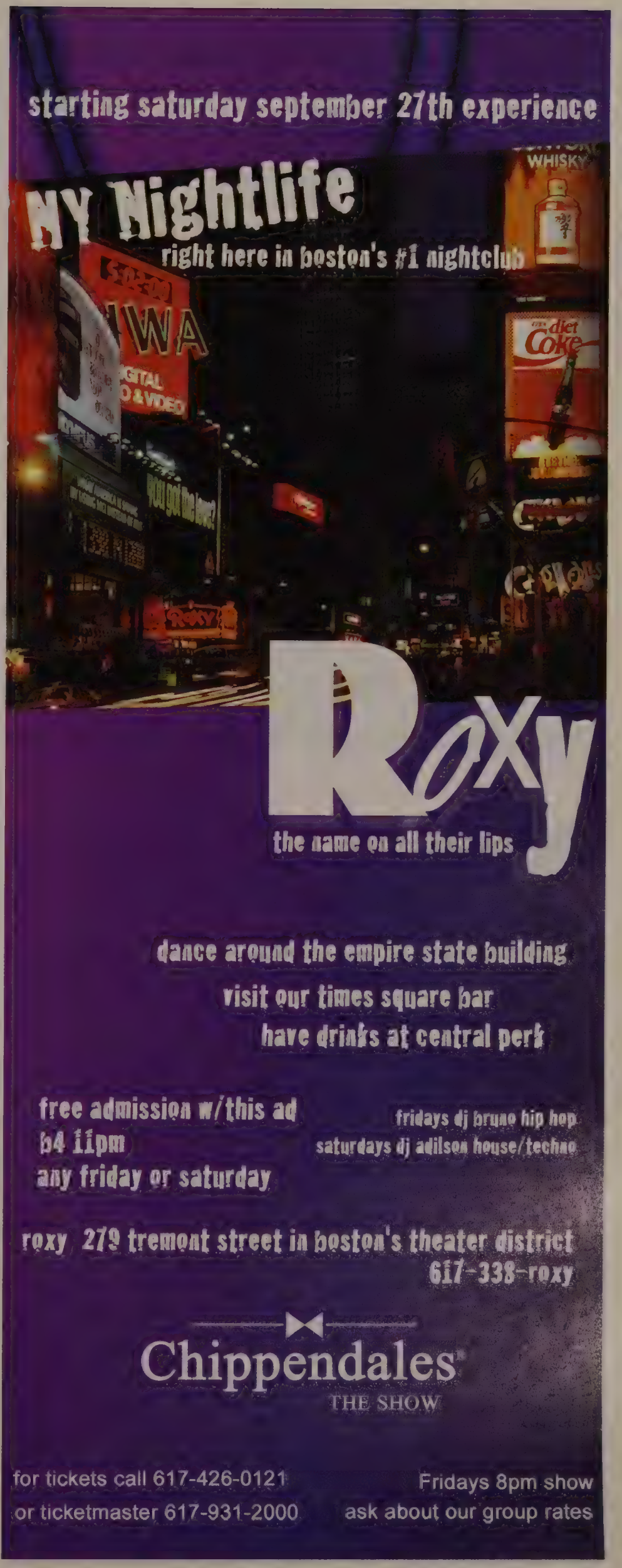

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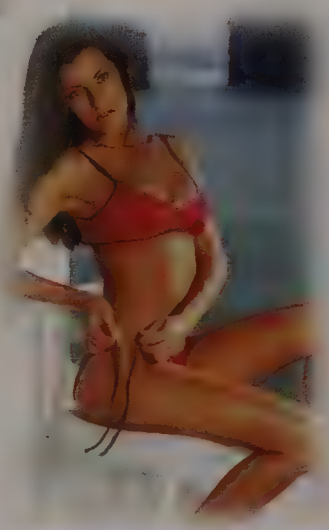
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The Roxy
The Roxy Goes Manhattan DJ Adilson spins house and techno at this Big Apple-themed night, 9 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house and funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $5, 21+.

Aria
DJ Roger M. spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
DJs Doc and Kieran spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40, 11 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Nate Watkins, 8 pm-midnight.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Latrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Tequila Rain
Grand Opening Party • Oct. 4, Playboy Playmate Trishelle Cannatella hosts the grand opening of Lansdowne Street's newest club, 10 pm, $5.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian ni
as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $
19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae a
world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-h
house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-212*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424)*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-700*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-11*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080)*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-987*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-018*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-760*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-7 4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-530*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-101*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-946*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-90*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-680*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (61 524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 15 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-77*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051)*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-70*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tequila Rain *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-03*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-669*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-806*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-76*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-03*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows through Oct. 26. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •Julia Zhogina shows photographs in *Almost Forgotten Russia*. Through Sept. 30. •*Outdoor Murals of Boston* features photographs by Joel Kershner. Through Sept. 30. •*Photographer's View of the Art of Teaching Musicians* features the work of Diane Griliches. Oct. 1-31.

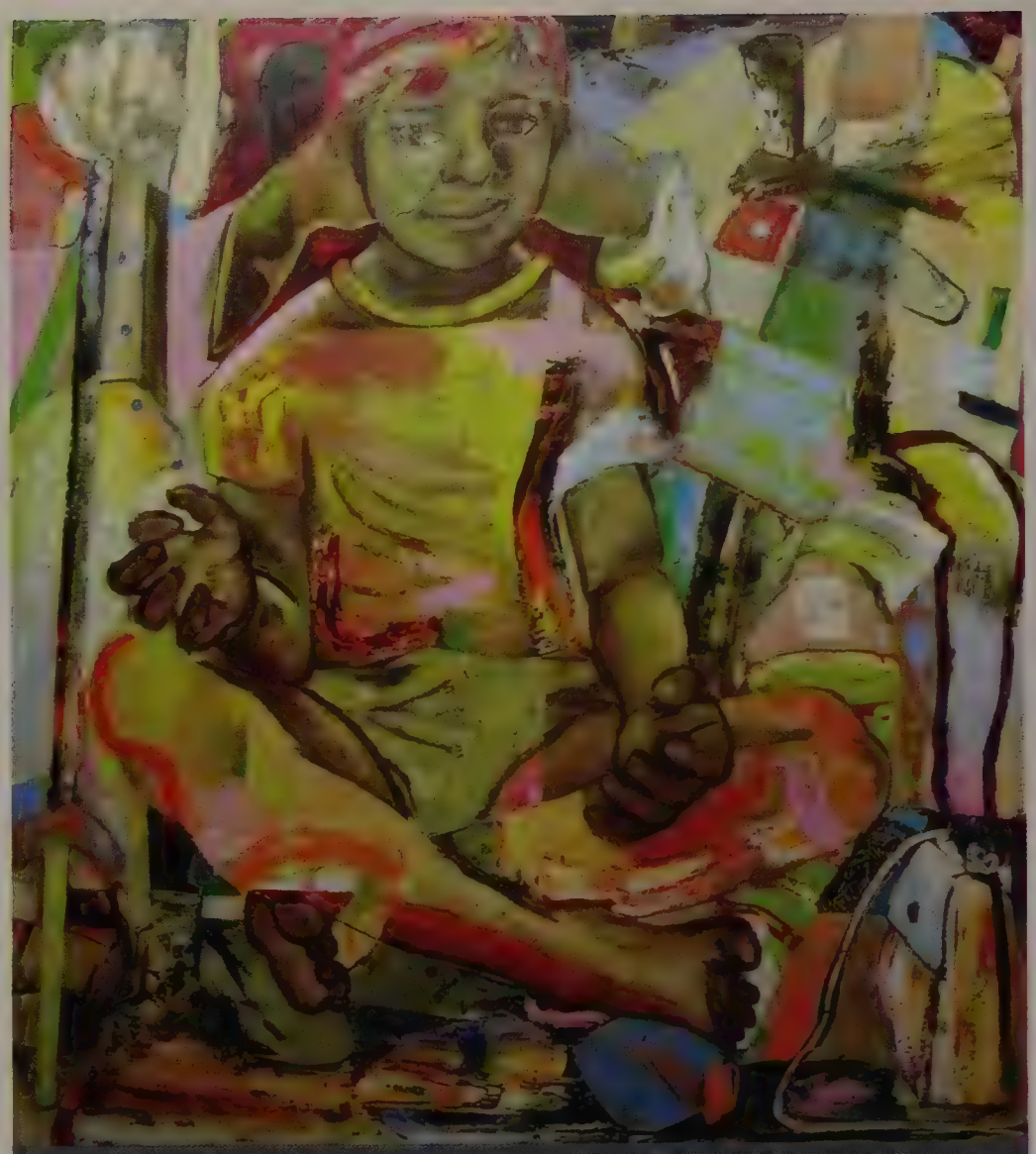
DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface* features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. •*Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibit, shows through May 16, 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* shows through Nov. 2. •*The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* displays through Nov. 16. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22, 2004.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Into the Mountains*, features the photography of mountaineer Bradford Washburn. Oct. 4-spring 2004. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize* shows temporary installations that Weathersby created while cleaning at the ICA. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Through Jan. 4, 2004.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection features more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.


Jennifer Amadeo-Holl's *Small Things Gone Missing* shows at the Judi Rotenberg Gallery.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •*Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* shows 50 color landscapes. Through Jan. 30, 2004. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*John Currin Selects*, an exhibition assembled by the MFA's associate curator, displays works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists that he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25, 2004. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children.* •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of computers from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features full-scale models of Mount Everest, a wave tank and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16. •*Generals, Admirals, and American War Leaders*, an exhibition of personal and official autographs from famous American leaders, shows through Jan. 11, 2004 •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1, 2004. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community*. Ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Masterpieces of Asian Nineteenth-Century Photography*, an exhibition of photographs from China, Japan, India and Tibet, displays through Sept. 28. •*Uncommon Legacies* features more than a hundred 18th- and 19th-century Native American works. Through Dec. 13. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children* •*Portraits from China, 1923-1946: Photographers and Their Subjects* features the work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frederick Wulsin. Through Jan. 15, 2004. •*These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb., 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the response of Native Americans across the continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Kenneth Stubbs shows paintings in *Cape Cod Shorescapes from the 1950s and 1960s*. Through Oct. 4.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm* •*Clockwork* shows sculptural clocks by 12 artists. Through Nov. 16.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Kathy Kissik shows mixed-media assemblages made from photos, found objects, plaster and paint. Through Oct. 4. •Wlodzimierz Ksiazek displays large-scale abstract paintings. Oct. 4-29.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Paul Balmer shows oil paintings in *New Works*. Through Sept. 25. •Lynda Lowe displays mixed-media works on wooden panels in *New Paintings*. Oct. 2-30.

Art Interactive
130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge (617-498-0100). www.artinteractive.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central Sat. and Sun., 12-6 pm.* •*Engaging Characters* is an interactive robot- and computer-based exhibition. Through Oct. 5.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Michael Beatty's *Low Fat* shows through Oct. 22. •Jennifer Barlett shows her work in *Print Publisher's Spotlight: Brand X Editions*. Through Oct. 22.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •*Shining Stars: Celebrating 30 Years of Gateway* Arts showcases 30 years of 20 artists' work. Through Nov. 1.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Sculptures by Jill Levine and drawings by Tom Burckhardt are on displays through Sept. 27. •*Preview/Review* group show by David Hilliard, Jocelyn Lee, Abelardo Morell, Deborah Bright, Virginia Beahan, and Laura McPhee, shows Oct. 2-Nov. 9.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Thurs.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Homemade: Images of Home (Architectural, Domestic, and Historical)* group show of photography, sculpture, painting and mixed-media work, displays through Oct. 25.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5711). www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •*The Art of Batik: George Summers and His Students* shows through Sept. 30. •*100 Weaves of India* displays Oct. 7-Nov. 17.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington*

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Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. •*New Insights* features glass art by Alex Gabriel Bernstein and Kait Rhoads. Through Oct. 4.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* •*In the Moment* features mixed-media paintings by Bernd Haussmann. Through Sept. 28. •Danna Ruth Harvey shows paintings in *Time and Other Times.* Oct. 1-28.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. MBTA:*Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*Florence Robinson in Italy* (paintings) *Prints of the Roman High Renaissance* and *The Power of Myth* (sculpture, lithographs, paintings and engravings) show through Nov. 16.

Copley Society of Art
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Close to Home: The Hand-Worked Photograph* features photographs by Mary Elizabeth Manz. Through Sept. 27. •Carole Chisolm Garvey and Ann M. Murphy show their work in *Landscapes in Pastel.* Through Sept. 27. •*Fall Members Show: A Juried Exhibition* shows Oct. 2-18.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •*In Search of Nurturing Light* showcases black-and-white photography by Peg O'Connell. Through Oct. 4. •Gretje Ferguson's black-and-white photography shows Oct. 7-Nov. 1.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www. fortpointarts.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Hidden Language* features recent works by Claudia Ravaschiere and Jesseca Ferguson. Through Oct. 4.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery AA/B
2535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 - 0022). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; Fri., 11 am-3 pm* •Mark Vonnegut, son of author Kurt Vonnegut, shows recent paintings. Through Oct. 31.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm.* •Linda Rutenberg shows infrared photographs in *Landmarks.* Through Sept. 26. •Photographs from the gallery's collection show through October.

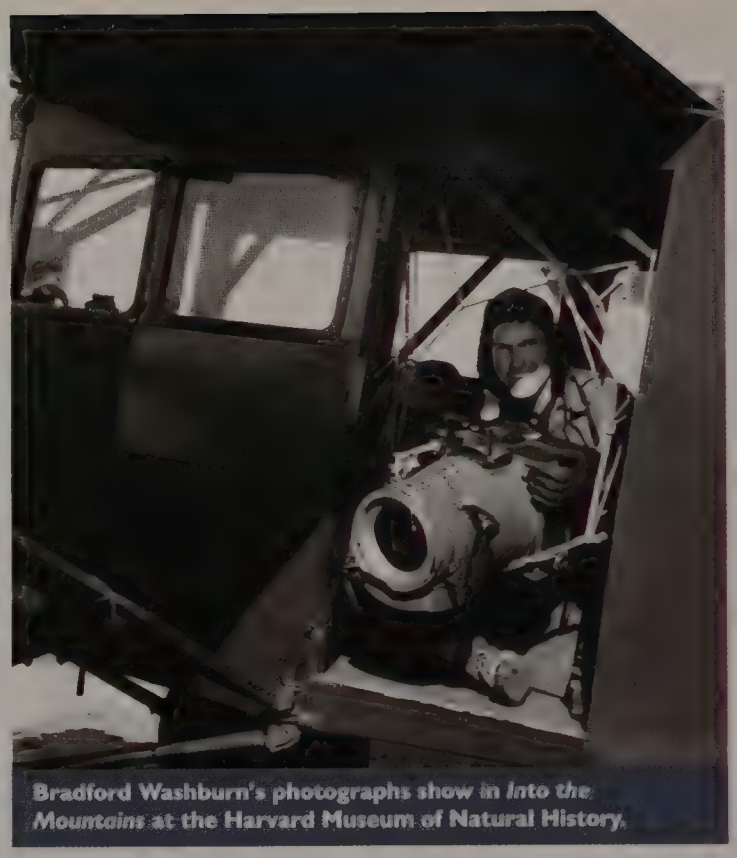
Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Wed.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Jessica Hess shows paintings in *Industrial Landscapes.* Through Sept. 27.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Ellen Rich shows new paintings. Through Oct. 1. •Craig Stockwell shows new paintings in *Monogamy and Painting.* Oct. 3-Nov. 4.

Gibbs Gallery
Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of Teaching Art* features the work of art educators and their students from grades K-12. Through Oct. 10.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haley steele.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www. howardyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Katarina Andersson displays paintings on linen, and Lalla



Bradford Washburn's photographs show in *Into the Mountains* at the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

A. Essaydi shows large photographs of Moroccan culture in *Converging Territories.* Through Sept. 30. •Catherine McCarthy shows new paintings in *We Walk on Jewels.* Oct. 3-Nov. 4.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www. internationalposter.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www. judirotenberg.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Sleek* features works by Dorothy Krause, Martin Cooper, Jacob Kulin, Jennifer Liston-Munson, Patricia Peacock and Philip Spinks. Through Sept. 29. •*Icons: Jankowski and Amadeo-Holl* features paintings by Zygmund Jankowski and Jennifer Amadeo-Holl. Oct.2-26

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www. kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment.* •Local artists display paintings and ceramics in *Open Studios 2003.*

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www. cambridgeart.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*The 59th Annual Fall Salon* features works by members of the Cambridge Art Association. Through Sept. 29. •*Pushing the Envelope,* a juried exhibition, shows Oct. 7-30.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •James Holmberg's abstract paintings display through Sept. 27. •Cheryl Goldsleger shows architecturally based encaustic work. Sept. 30-Nov. 1.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Wide Turns and Frequent Stops,* a group show of 19 artists, shows through Sept. 27. •Elif Soyer shows paintings in *Flowers and Germs.* Sept. 30-Nov. 1.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Duet: Harmony in Oil and Bronze* features the abstract oil paintings and bronze sculptures of Tom and Carol Odell. Through Oct. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www. markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Wed. and Fri.,4-7 pm; Thu. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •*Longing for Height* features paintings, alabaster sculptures and encaustic works by Jane Deutsch and Chad Erpelding. Through Oct. 10.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington.* www.martinlawrence.com. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm.* •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercury gallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Pastoral* features landscape art by Adolph Gottlieb, Harry Gottlieb, Jon Marshall, Philip Jones, Daniel Robinson, Joseph Solman, Lucette White and Karl Zerbe. Through Sept. 24. •*Philip Jones: Boston,* a photography exhibition, shows Oct. 11-Nov. 5.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblock gallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •*Lines, Dots and Curly Qs,* a group show of paintings, drawings and installations, displays through Sept. 30. •*Joe Kievitt: Recent Drawings* features charcoal/graphite compositions. Oct. 11-Nov. 12

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: *Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*South Enders 2,* a juried exhibition of South End artists, displays through Sept. 26.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Richard Shaw shows still-life ceramics, Roy deForest displays paintings and drawings and Jennifer Trask shows linked metal jewelry. Through Sept. 30. •*Botanical Jewelry,* a group exhibition, shows Oct. 4-Nov. 1.

NAP Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment.* •Juan Perdiguero shows mixed-media-on-photo-emulsion works.Through Oct. 25.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm.* •*Snooze and You Could Lose the Next Toulouse,* a group show of local artists, displays through Oct. 5.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www. nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •*A Parable in Mark and Ritual: Work by Porfirio DiDonna* shows through Oct. 18.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www. gallery108.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Wed.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12-4 pm.* •Iraqi artist Nedim Kufi shows ceramics, etchings and sculpture. Through Oct. 12.

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., 5th floor, Boston (617-542-6983). www.onigallery.org. MBTA: *Orange Line to Chinatown. Wed.-Sun., 2-6 pm.* •*Overhung,* a juried exhibition, shows through Oct. 11.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm.* •Jacob El Hanani shows his work in *Recent Drawings.* Through Sept. 27. •A group show of work featured in the 2003 *New American Paintings* MFA Annual is on display Oct. 3-Nov. 15.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www. outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www. peppergalleryboston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Marja Lianko shows sculptures and paintings. Through Oct. 4.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www. puckergallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Brother Thomas' ceramics are on display in *The Creator of Luminaries.* Through Oct. 14.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery has an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www. robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Sally Gall's *Subterranea* features black-and-white images of caves. Through Oct. 4.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* Free. •*20th Century Masters Graphics,* a collection of lithographs and aquatint etchings by Sonia Delaunay, Joan Miro and Marino Marini, displays through Sept. 30. •*Robert Sweeney: The Italian Campaign II* features recent paintings and pastels of Tuscany. Oct. 3-31.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www. societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Word Text Stories,* a group show of glass, wood, clay and fiber, shows through Oct. 26.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Lori Warner shows new woven prints. Through Oct. 5.

Studio Soto
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-426-7686). www.studio soto.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat. 2 pm-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Between Constraints* shows work by Masako Kamiya, David Palmer and Jennifer Riley. Through Oct. 5.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-5:30 pm. Sat., 10 am-1 pm.* •*Expressions of Light and Shadow,* a group show of painting and photography, displays through Sept. 27. •*Elusive Form* features painting and sculpture by Amanda Annis, Virginia Peck and Guillermo Velasco. Oct. 6-27.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www. munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*Porfirio DiDonna Drawings* shows through Oct. 18.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www. vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •David Brega shows contemporary works. Oct. 4-Nov. 15

Washington Allston Gallery
Sts. Luke and Margaret Episcopal Church, St. Luke Rd., Allston (617-782-2029). MBTA: *B Green Line to Packard's Corner. Mon., 5-8 pm; Wed., 4:30-7:30 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm and by appt.* •*Satori* features new paintings by Beth Walsh-Bolstad. Through Oct. 12.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). www.wentworthgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •Charles Fazzino shows 3-D pop art. Through Oct. 10.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www. griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: *Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •*Mustang: The Lost Tibetan Kingdom* shows images by Don Guntz. Through Oct. 31.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •Mim Adkins shows photographs in *The Evolution of Affection.* Through Oct. 17.

Panopticon Gallery
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Commuter Rail to Waltham. www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri. 10 am-6 pm.* •B.A. King shows his work in *About Children.* Through Oct. 25.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Roxbury Open Studios
(617-541-3900, ext. 223). MBTA: *Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing.* www.actroxbury.org. *Oct. 4 and 10 am-6 pm.* •The fifth annual Roxbury Open Studios features more than 100 local artists showcasing their work throughout the neighborhood.

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Christopher Castellani** discusses *A Kiss from Maddalena*, his novel set in 1943 in Italy about a young man courting the town beauty. Also, **Kristin Duisberg** discusses her novel *The Good Patient*, about a young woman with self-destructive tendencies.

Borders Cambridgeside
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.borders.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 6:30 pm. Free. **Rachel Greenwald** reads from her new book, *Find a Husband After 35 Using What I Learned in Harvard Business School: A Revolutionary 15-Step Action Program*, which gives marriage-bent women marketing tactics on how to find a husband.

Center for New Words
Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. 7 pm. Free. Filmmaker **Saira Shah** screens parts of her documentary, *Beneath the Veil*, and reads from her memoir, *The Storyteller's Daughter*, about her trip to her homeland in Afghanistan.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Brian Herbert** and **Kevin Anderson** read from the book they cowrote, *Dune: The Machine Crusade*, the 11th installment in the *Dune* science fiction series.

Harvard University
Lamont Forum Room, Lamont Library, Harvard University, Cambridge (617-495-2454). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5 pm. Free. Poet **Peter Gizzi** reads from Jack Spicer's works. Also, poet **Sharon Olds** reads poems by George Oppen.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Karin Slaughter** reads from her thriller *A Faint Cold Fear*, about a series of suicides in a small college town.

UMass Boston
University Club, Healy Library, 11th Floor, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston (617-287-6700). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 2:30 pm. Free. **Adrienne Rich** discusses her new collection of poetry, *Fox*, and reads poems from her compilation *The Fact of a Doorframe: Poems 1950-2001*.

Wild Women Outfitters
397 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-641-5776). 7 pm. Free. **Kathy Elliott** discusses the book she co-wrote, *The Old Girls Network*, a guide for women who want to start their own business.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Harvard law professor **Elizabeth Warren** reads from her book *The Two-Way Income Trap: Why Middle-Class Mothers and Fathers Are Going Broke*, which addresses problems that families face when both parents work.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

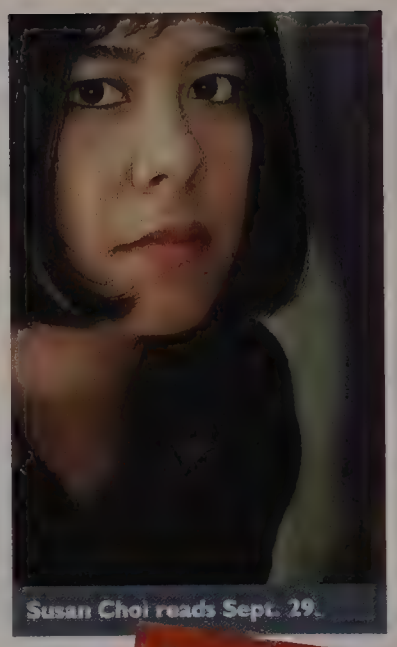
Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Vicki Robin** reads from the book she co-wrote, *Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence*, which analyzes overspending habits.

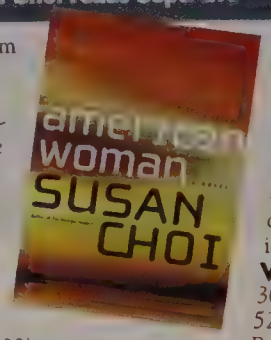
Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). www.borders.com. MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 12:30 pm. Free. **Kathleen Doherty** discusses the new *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition*, which she helped edit.

Boston Public Library
Mezzanine Conference Room, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. **Diane Darling** discusses networking strategies based on her new book, *The Networking Survival Guide*.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. New York Times foreign correspondent **Stephen Kinzer** reads from his new book, *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror*, which examines the CIA's 1953 overthrow of Iranian leader Mohammad Mossadegh.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. Restaurant critic **Mark Zanger** reads from his book *The American History Cookbook*, a look at American cooking from the pilgrims' time to the present.





Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. Trauma expert **Dr. Kaethe Weingarten** reads from her book, *Common Shock: Witnessing Violence Every Day—How We Are Harmed, How We Can Heal*, which offers tips on how to cope with acts of violence.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Tufts University professor **Sheldon Krimsky** discusses the book he cowrote with Ralph Nader, *Science in the Private Interest: Has the Lure of Profits Corrupted Biomedical Research?*

Poetry@Gallery Diablo
1514 Tremont St., Boston (617-417-5750). MBTA: Orange Line to Roxbury Crossing. 7 pm. Free. The Women's Voice in Poetry event features local poets **Elizabeth Doran**, **Ann Killough** and **Shin Yu Pai**, who read their poems as well as poetry by other writers.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Dick Lehr** and **Mitchell Zuckoff** discuss the book they co-authored, *Judgement Ridge: The True Story Behind the Dartmouth Murders*, which traces the events leading up to the 2001 murders of two Dartmouth professors.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

Harvard Book Store
Askwith Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. **Slavoj Zizek** reads from his new book, *The Puppet and the Dwarf: The Perverse Core of Christianity*, a critical examination of the current state of Christianity.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **David J. Loftus** reads from his book *Watching Sex: How Men Really Respond to Pornography*, in which he interviews men about how they use pornography.

MONDAY, SEPT. 29

Borders Boston
10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 7 pm. Free. **Susan Choi** reads from her novel *American Woman*, based on the 1974 kidnapping of Patty Hearst.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Adam Haslett** discusses his short story collection, *You Are Not a Stranger Here*, about people affected by loss.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Evie Blaikie** reads from her memoir, *Magda's Daughter: A Hidden Child's Journey Home*, about her experiences as a Holocaust survivor.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Janine Roberts** reads from her book *Glitter and Greed: The Secret World of the Diamond Cartel*, an examination of the diamond industry.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Susan Choi** reads from her new novel, *American Woman*. See Sept. 29 for a description.

Harvard Book Store
Askwith Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. National Public Radio foreign correspondent **Anne Garrels** reads from her book *Naked in Baghdad: The Iraq War as seen by NPR's Correspondent*, an account of her experiences during the war.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Yemi Ogunyemi** discusses his new book, *The Melodrama of the Last Word*, a story of a woman who wants to make a difference in the world before agreeing to marriage.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Tibetan writer **Lama Surya Das** reads from his new book, *Letting Go of the Person You Used to Be: Lessons on Loss, Change and Spiritual Transformation*, which offers advice on how to deal with difficult experiences.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Victoria Abbott Riccardi** reads from her memoir, *Untangling My Chopsticks*, which details her experiences studying Japanese culinary culture.

Center for New Words
Durrell Hall, Cambridge Family YMCA, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. 8 pm. Free. Political commentator **Molly Ivins** reads from her new book, *Bushwacked: Life in George W. Bush's America*, her take on the Bush administration.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Poets **Jenny Barber** and **Don Share** read from their work.

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Dorothy C. Buck** reads from her book *Dialogues with Saints and Mystics: In the Spirit of Louis Massignon*, a collection of stories about people who are inspired by the divine.

The Bostonian Society
Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-1713). MBTA: Blue Line to State Street. 6:30 pm. Free. Historian **Stephen Puleo** discusses his book, *Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919*, about the molasses tank that collapsed in the North End, killing many Bostonians.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Louis Begley** discusses his new novel, *Shipwreck*, about a writer who is suddenly plagued by doubts about the merits of his work.

Harvard Bookstore
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Newton author **Emily Franklin** reads from her debut novel, *Liner Notes*, the story of a young woman who inadvertently ends up driving across country with her mother.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Roanne Weisman** reads from her new book, *Own Your Health: Choosing the Best from Alternative and Conventional Medicine*, which discusses various Chinese medicines and exercises that may help cancer patients and those with spinal cord injuries.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Nelly Reifler** reads from *See Through*, her collection of short stories that focus on adolescents' experiences.

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

Brookline Booksmith
Wellesley Free Library, 530 Washington St., Wellesley (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. 2 pm. Free. **Kathryn Lasky** reads from her new children's book, *The Guardians of Ga'Hoole*, about two young owls who discover an evil force that threatens their kingdom.

Center for New Words
Jamaica Plain Public Library, 12 Sedgwick St., Jamaica Plain (617-876-5310). www.newwordsbooks.com. 7 pm. Free. **Harlyn Aizley** reads from her memoir *Buying Dad: One Woman's Search for the Perfect Sperm Donor*, about her and her life partner's experiences searching for a sperm donor.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

Brookline Booksmith
79 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Adrienne Eisen** reads from her novel *Making Scenes*, about a troubled young woman deciding between cities, careers and lovers. Also, **Steve Almond** reads from his collection of short stories, *My Life in Heavy Metal*.

Harvard Bookstore
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. **Mark Abrahams** reads from his book *The Ig Nobel Prizes*, a compendium of the annual awards given by the science humor magazine *Annals of Improbable Research*.

Harvard University
Houghton Library, Cambridge (617-495-2454). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 5:30 pm. Free. **Alice Fulton** reads from *Felt*, her collection of poems revolving around the theme of privacy.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **David Guterson** reads from his novel *Our Lady of the Forest*, about a teen runaway who becomes a symbol of hope for a tiny logging town when she has visions of the Virgin Mary.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $5. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (Tuesdays)
255 Elm Street, Somerville (617-591-1616). www.jimmytingle.com. $10. 8 pm. Eight local poets perform their own work in a two-hour theatrical show every third Tuesday of the month. Directed by Michael Brown.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7 pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.
•Sept. 28: Lanelle N. Moise.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. O'Brien presents a mix of rock and spoken word one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the event is titled Open Bark—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity to take the open mike.

education

dvice to Contributors
ubmit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Cal-ndar: Education, or e-mail information to educa-on@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks ior to publication.*

VEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

he Real Family Behind *Little Women*: he Alcotts, a Family of Reformers
ld South Meeting House, Boston (617-482-6439). ww.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. MBTA: Red or Or-nge Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. **Jan rnquist**, executive director of the Orchard House, e original home of the Alcott family, shows slides d lectures about this 19th-century family

cience in the News
arvard Medical School, 200 Longwood Ave., Boston 00-699-2466). www.hms.harvard.edu/sitn. MBTA: Green Line to Longwood. 7 pm. Free. The first pre-ntation in this nine-week lecture series focuses on e Human Genome Project and genetic testing.

/riting Workshop
llage Books, 751 South St., Roslindale (617-623-00). 7 pm. Free. This introductory writing class is osted by the Grub Street Writers. Learn how to put ords on paper by participating in writing exercises.

RIDAY, SEPT. 25

aymarket Riot of 1886
ld South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., oston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeeting ouse.org. MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. pm. The Boston Playwrights' Theatre presents a ading of playwright **Zayd Dohrn**'s play, which ex-pres the struggle for free speech and civil liberties 1880s Chicago, as embodied by the infamous aymarket riot in 1886 (during which eight police fficers were killed). A panel discussion follows th Dohrn; director **Adam Zahler**; executive di-ctor for Massachusetts Advocates for the Arts, iences and Humanities **Dan Hunter**; and profes-r of public and community service at UMass oston **James Green**.

ATURDAY, SEPT. 27

olonial Tea Bowls and Coffee Cups
ul Revere House, 19 North Square, Boston (617-3-1775). www.paulreverehouse.org. MBTA: reen or Blue Line to Government Center. 1 pm. $1-. Potter **Julia Smith** discusses Europe's caffeine ze in the 1600s, and demonstrates the production cups and bowls specifically designed to hold the wly discovered beverages.

UNDAY, SEPT. 28

ventors and Industrialists: Walking Tour of Forest Hills emetery
rest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston 17-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: range Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $5. Guide **Al ize** gives this tour of the history, people and art of rest Hills, focusing on famous innovators of the th century.

ock Around the Block
body Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem (866-5-1876). www.pem.org. 2-4 pm. Free. Follow geol-st and stone sculptor **Ed Myskowski** on a walking ir of Salem. See the rock and mineral types found local architecture, landmarks and cemeteries.

outh Boston Waterfront Tour
ets at Boston Bike Tour Stand, Boston Common, ston (617-308-5902). www.bcae.org. MBTA: d/Green Line to Park. 11 am. $25. This 15-mile cycle tour begins at Boston Common and jour-ys through the Big Dig to the South Boston wa-front. Examine local architecture and learn out the evolution of the area.

ONDAY, SEPT. 29

overing the War in Iraq
n F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, ston (617-514-1643). 5:30-7 pm. Free. National blic Radio's senior foreign correspondent **Anne rrels** discusses her experiences covering the war Iraq. NPR's correspondent Garrels and WBUR's **k Gordon** host the forum.

emocracy in the Age of Dubya
mbridge Forum at First Parish, 3 Church St., Cam-dge (617-495-2727). www.cambridgeforum.org. BTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. Political irist and author **Al Franken** leads this discussion on the state of American democracy under George W. Bush's administration.

Entrepreneurship for Artists
Neighborhood Business Builders, 105 Chauncy St., Boston (617-737-0093). 6 pm. Free. This program helps creative professionals and artists go into business and reevaluate existing business practices by providing training, technical assistance, one-on-one mentoring and more.

Woodland Garden Design Seminar
New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham (508-877-7630). www.newfs.org. All day. Horticulture director **Cheryl Lowe** and propagation manager **Bill Cullina** teach this seminar on native plant materials and design.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

Iraqi Art and Archaeology: Looting, Losses and Lasting Treasures
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 7 pm. $13. A panel of experts share their knowledge of the ancient artifacts of Iraq. Join a discussion about the significance of the art, recent finds and feared losses related to the looting of the National Museum in Baghdad and of archaeological sites.

What in the World Should We Do?
Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont St., Boston (617-373-5800). www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 6:30 pm. Free. The Ford Hall Forum hosts this discussion about current and future U.S. foreign policy led by lecturer **Mickey Edwards** from the Kennedy School of Government and professors **Elaine Hagopian** of Simmons College and **Jeffrey Taliaferro** of Tufts University.

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Highlights from the American Collection
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 11 am. Free with admission ($13-$15). Curator of American Art **Carol Troyen** leads this gallery talk about the MFA's American Collection.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

Important Bird Areas
Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. 7:30 pm. Free. As part of the international effort to identify and protect the world's most important habitats for birds, Massachusetts Audubon Society's **Andrea Jones** unveils a list of 100 newly designated sites in the state. Jones discusses the results of this initiative on the North Shore and its implications for the future.

SATURDAY, OCT.4

John Currin Selects
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 11 am. Free with admission ($13-$15). Artist **Gerry Bergstein** leads this gallery talk about the exhibition curated by contemporary artist **John Currin**. It features Currin's own work and other pieces from the museum's American and European painting collection.

Printing Demonstration: Paul Revere's Political Cartoons
Paul Revere House, 19 North Square, Boston (617-523-1775). www.paulreverehouse.org. MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 1 pm. $1-$3. **R.P. Hale** reproduces Paul Revere's lesser-known contribution to the American independence movement: inflammatory political cartoons.

SUNDAY, OCT. 5

Worshipping Stone
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 11 am. Free with admission ($13-$15). This gallery talk focuses on Southeast Asian religious sculpture.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7

Families for a Peaceful Tomorrow
Barnes & Noble, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. Barnes & Noble hosts a discussion about Families for a Peaceful Tomorrow, a group founded by relatives of September 11 victims who have united to turn grief into action for peace.

Shades of Light on Color and Texture
New England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Rd., Framingham (508-877-7630). www.newfs.org. 9 am. Chicago landscape designer **Julie Siegel** gives this seminar for designers, gardeners, horticulturists and wanna-be green thumbs at the NEWFS's Garden in the Woods.

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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
214 PI Alley, Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Nightly, 5 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents this bar to check out clips from classic movies and the latest music videos—compiled by the bar's own VJ. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502)). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features disco and pop music, guest DJs and weekly contests. 9 pm-2 am, $4-$7, 21+.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*

The Boston Bay Blades recently participated in the Stonewall Regatta in Washington, D.C. All are welcome to join this group of rowers and scullers.

10 pm-2 am. This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www. milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men and women, transgenders and their allies can start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. A dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila caps off the evening. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Stele spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Boston Bay Blades Erg-a-Thon
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston. info@bayblades.org. www.bayblades.org/boston. *Sept. 27, 7 am-7 pm.* In a fund-raiser for the Somerville High School rowing club, participants raise money per meter rowed on a stationary machine (a.k.a. an erg) in the all-day Erg-a-Thon.

Controversy Thursday
Matrix B Room, 275 Tremont St., Boston (617-54 4077). Sept 24, 10 pm-2 am. $5 before 11 pm, $8 re ular admission. This gay and bi dance party featur DJ John Morris spinning progressive house musi No sneakers allowed.

The Credeaux Canvas
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont S Boston (617 426-2787). www.bcaonline.org. O 3-25. Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 8 pm; Su 7 pm. $25, $20 seniors and students. The Zeitge Stage Company's production of Keith Bunin's *T Credeaux Canvas* follows three aspiring New Yo artists as they paint and attempt to quell a burgeo ing love triangle.

Out on the Edge: 12th Annual Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Theater
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont S Boston (617-426-2787). www.theatermania.co Through Sept. 27. Call for event schedule. $18-$2 The Theater Offensive's LGBT festival host range of events, from interactive discussions w performers, playwrights and directors to wo shops, panels and community events.

Some Like It Hot
The Lyric Stage, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (866-8 4111). www.ftmmass.org. *Sept. 28, 7 pm. $20.* En an evening of Broadway and popular music to ben the Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachuse which works to make same-sex marriage legal.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bos (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. MB *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collabora with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relati ships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. MB *Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisex Transgendered and Questioning Youth h weekly meetings and social events for young p ple seeking community, support and a place to cuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling Leag
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and bians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi Rap
The Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Cambridge (617-354-8807). Tuesdays, first and week of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion gro open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questio women.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes.* 6-8 *pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners.* MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dancers
First Church of Jamaica Plain, Jamaica Plain (617-522-2216). 7:30-11 pm. Square dancing and English country dancing lessons are available for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends, $8.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 3-5 pm.* The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm.* Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* www.lesbianavengers. org. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Boston Uncommons
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain. www.lcfd.org/bu. *Orange Line to Green St. Wednesdays, 7 pm* A gay and lesbian square dancing group.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Bisexual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. First Wednesday and third Thursday of every month. 7-8:45 pm.* An informal support group for bisexual individuals.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Casa, 439 Tremont St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick encouraged.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes. First Friday of the month. 7-9 pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women 40 and older who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated to get together with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes.* An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. All are welcome to join this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001) or (888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm.* $2. This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings. The groups are moderated by psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

Greater Boston Business Council
PO Box 1059, Boston (617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals. The group meets on a monthly basis.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tue. and Thu. evenings and Sun. mornings. This gay and lesbian swim team is open to people of all ages and swimming abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provide information, referral and support confidentially.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-4528). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month.* Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: *C or B Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing.* $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Wonder Women Boston
533 Washington St., Boston. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. Wonder Women Boston (WWB), a social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s, meets the first Thursday of every month at Felt.

body/mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. *Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.*

Events

Discovering Environmental Wisdom: A Sacred View
Boston Shambhala Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline. www.primordialdot.org. *Sept. 26, 7-10 pm. $15 suggested donation.* Join Diana Mukpo for a talk on mindfulness.

Yoga Open House
Serenity Yoga and Wellness Center, 18 North Rd., Bedford (781-275-4092). www.serenityyoga.com. *Sept. 28, 1-5pm.* Free. Meet yoga teachers and wellness practitioners to discuss therapeutic massage, acupuncture and chiropractic services. Visitors receive a free chair massage and may participate in a yoga mini-class.

Lectures

Beyond the Birds and the Bees
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Bldg., Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 1, 7:30-9:30 pm. $25.* Join Dr. Camilla Parham to learn about ovulation, hormones, menstruation, birth control, STD prevention and more.

Jung and the I Ching
The C.G Jung Institute, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston. (617-267-5984). www.cgjungboston.com. *Begins Sept. 30 and runs for eight Tuesdays, 7-9 pm. $180.* Explore the ancient Chinese divination tool of the I Ching, a book Jung used to discover his unconscious intentions and that provided the philosophical foundation for his principle of synchronicity.

Seeds of Deception Book Signing and Talk
Harvest Co-op Market, 581 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1580). www.harvestcoop.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 7, 6 pm.* Jeffrey M. Smith, author of *Seeds of Deception*, speaks about the health dangers of genetically modified foods.

The Sweetest Addiction: Overcoming Sugar Dependency
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Oct. 4, 2-5. $35.* Learn what can trigger sugar cravings and how you can overcome sugar addiction with a change of diet. Plus sample some snacks that can serve as healthy stand-ins for sugar.

Why Your Brain May Be Making You Fat
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Sept. 30, 7-9 pm. $35.* Learn how emotional needs, prescription medications and eating the wrong foods can cause excessive hunger. Participants are encouraged to develop a food plan to help avoid their personal pitfalls.

Diana Mukpo leads a talk on environmental wisdom at the Boston Shambhala Center Sept. 26

Workshops

Buddhist Eightfold Path and Koan Meditation
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101 or 617-498-5079). www.tsboston.org. *Sept. 26, 7:30 pm. $5 suggested donation.* Michael Hughes, a Buddhist monk from Japan, teaches the concept of Koan meditation and the Buddhist Eightfold path as a method of self-reflection.

Everyday Qigong
Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Sept. 28, 12:45-4 pm. $40.* This class features qigong exercises that can be incorporated into everyday activities like driving, standing or sitting.

Healing and Preventing Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Other Repetitive Stress Injuries
Lexington Continuing Education, Minuteman Regional High School (781-648-9334 or 781-861-7150). Sept. 23, 7-9 pm. Learn how to avoid and treat carpal tunnel syndrome with exercises, supplements and workstation setup strategy, as well as how to find practitioners who treat the condition.

Let's Talk About Sex, Baby
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Bldg., Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sept. 28, 6:30-9 pm. $25.* Lynn Rosenbaum, certified sexuality educator and author of *Our Bodies, Ourselves for the New Century*, speaks about how to communicate clearly about sex while staying connected to your partner.

PreCautions Group
BCCA, 14 Green St., Brookline (617-738-2800). www.busseystyle.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 5, 2-3 pm. Free.* This safety group meets every month to share stories, discuss issues, learn techniques and foster community. Snacks provided.

Yoga Basics for Beginners
Wellspace, 1 New St., Fresh Pond Mall, Cambridge (617-876-2660). www.wellspace.com *or* www.kimchilds.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Alewife. Oct. 5, 12-2 pm. $30.* This workshop introduces the fundamentals of yoga practice: breathing, centering, aligning, and tuning in to the body's wisdom. Learn classic Kripalu yoga warm-ups, postures and relaxation techniques, as well as the benefits of yoga practice. All levels welcome.

Retreat

Saturday Yoga Retreat
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 4, 10 am-3:30 pm. $68.* Yoga practitioners can practice and learn more about yoga at this retreat. Open to all levels.

Ongoing

Breathwork
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Sun., 6:30-8 pm. $10 donation.* Join David Vendetti, experienced breathwork facilitator and yoga teacher, for this relaxing class.

Silent Meditation
Living Yoga Center, 613 Mount Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Sun., 7:15-7:45 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Free.* Silent meditation can enhance your peace of mind to let your intuitive voice be heard.

Yoga for Beginners/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-562-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or bus #57, 64, 66 and 501. Wed., 6:30-8 pm. $15-$20.* Try the beginner's class in this peaceful environment. Call ahead if you're dropping in for the first time.

Yoga/Harvard Square
Portia Brockway in Cambridge (617-864-YOGA). www.yogainharvardsquare.com. *MBTA Red Line to Harvard. Mon. 6-7:15 pm. $16. Drop-in. Beginners are welcome.* To wind down after work, try a moderate, flowing yoga workout.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

The Red Bull Bike Battle rides (and jumps) into City Hall Plaza Sept. 27

Home Games

Boston Red Sox
•Fenway Park. Tickets: 877-733-7699
Sept. 24, 7:05 pm vs. Baltimore Orioles
Sept. 25, 7:05 pm vs. Baltimore Orioles

New England Patriots
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Sept. 21, 1 pm vs. New York Jets

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 877-438-7387
Oct. 5, 1 pm vs. Tennessee Titans

New England Storm Women's Professional Football
•Hormel Stadium, Medford.
Tickets: 781-395-8326
Sept. 27, 7 pm vs. Orlando Fire

Events

Boston Athletic Club Open House
This open house includes food samples from the BAC's restaurant and fitness classes held on the basketball court with music by DJ C-Zone. *Boston Athletic Club, 653 Summer St., Boston (617-269-4300).* www.bostonathleticclub.com. *Sept. 27, 9 am-6 pm. Free.*

Golf and Gamble Trip
The Kowloon restaurant and Foxwoods pair up to offer a twist on the benefit golf tournament formula. Instead of playing 18 holes of golf, participants play nine holes and then trade the links for the casino tables for four hours. Proceeds benefit the Joey Fund and the Massachusetts Restaurant Association. Buffet lunch and transportation included. *Buses leave from the Kowloon Restaurant, Route 1 North, Saugus (781-233-0077). Sept. 24, 7:15 am. $125.*

Red Bull Bike Battle
Top mountain bikers from around the country converge on City Hall Plaza to ride the railings and steps and perform other tricks in this urban-riding competition. *City Hall Plaza, Boston.* www.redbullbikebattle.com. *Sept. 27. 12-4 pm. Free.*

To Play

BASEBALL
Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-40.

BASKETBALL
BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING
Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING
Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the basics of fencing.

FLOOR HOCKEY
BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL
BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL
BSSC Kickball
Games are played Tuesdays in Brighton. (617-789-4070). Relive your grade-school glory by playing kickball. Teams and individuals welcome.

RUGBY
Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING
Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SAILING
Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (617-523-1038). www.community-boating.org. *Mon.-Fri., 1 pm-sunset; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-sunset. Membership price varies.* Beginners and experienced sailors alike are welcome to come to the Esplanade and sail boats from 15-2 feet long, as well as go windsurfing and kayaking.

SOCCER
BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set and spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING
Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

A fall fashion show in Boston so big, even New York will be there.

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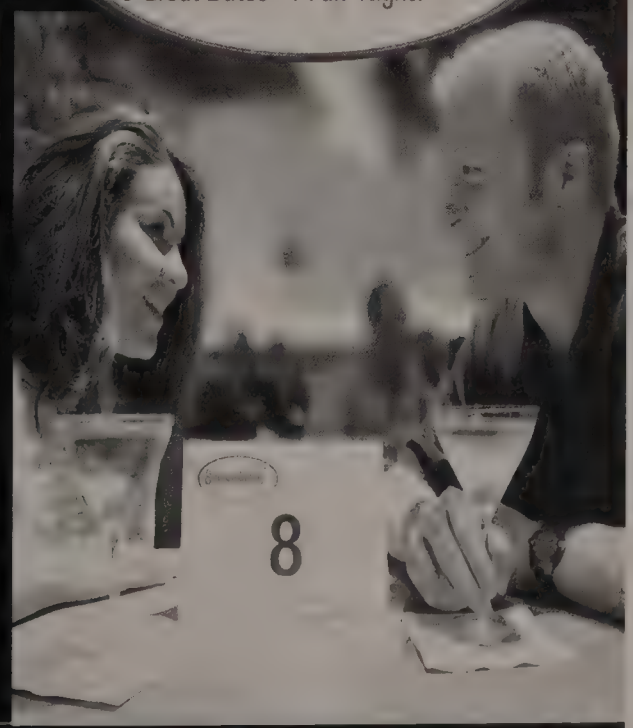

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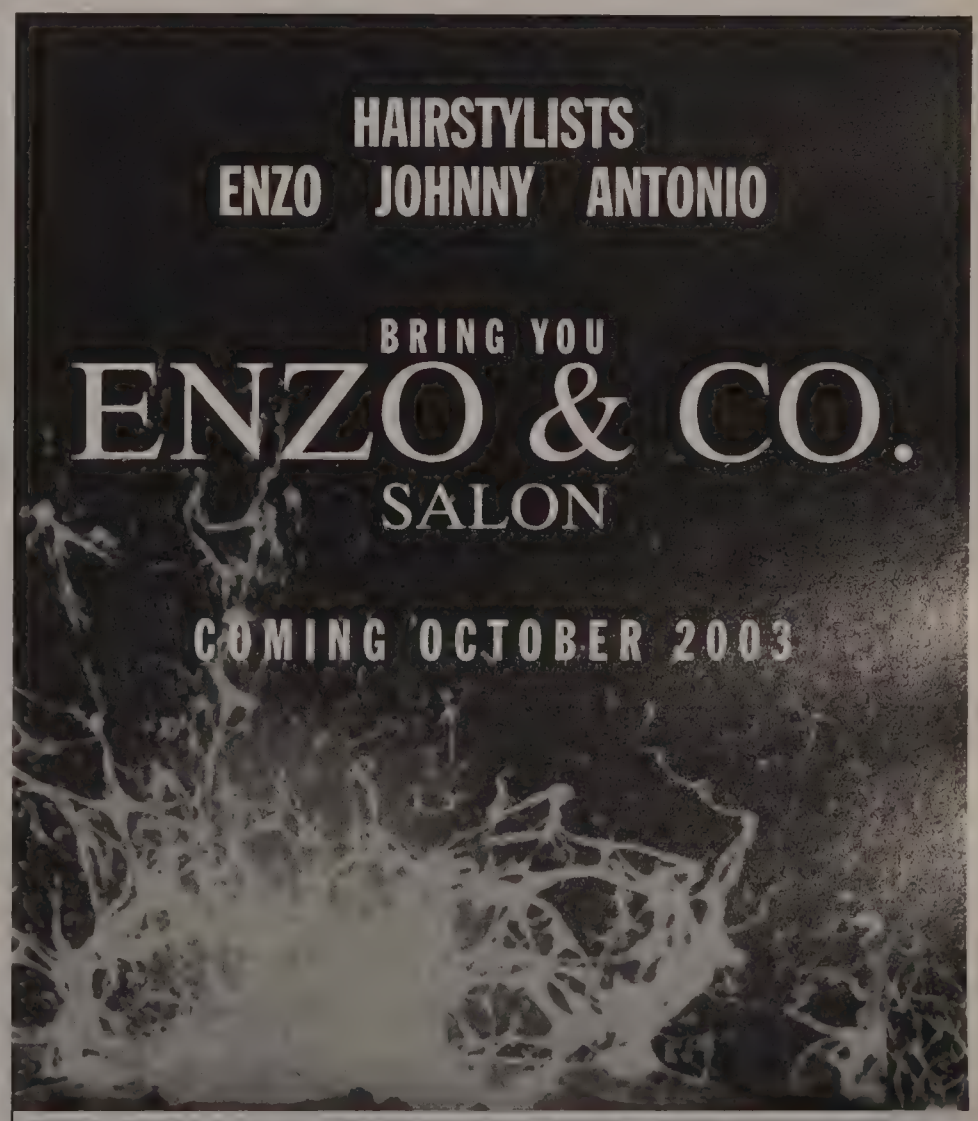

135 Newbury St., Boston

children

Join the Family Scavenger Hunt around the Museum of Transportation in Brookline's Larz Anderson Park

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Things to See

Fun with Folktales
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/library. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Sept. 25, 4:15 pm. Ages 7 and older.* Talk about folktales, make a craft and enjoy a snack.

The Knight Who Was Afraid of the Dark
Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 4, 11 am. $8, $5 children.* Fred is used to slaying dragons and catching spiders, but can he keep his biggest fear a secret?

Puppet Showplace Theatre
*32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400).*www.puppetshowplace.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •Sept. 24 and 25, 1 and 3 pm, ages 3-6: *Raccoon Tales* is performed by Paul Vincent Davis. •Sept. 27 and 28, 1 and 3 pm: Go on a *Treasure Hunt* with Jim, sea captain Mike, mermaid Jewel and the rest of the underwater gang during this tale performed by No Strings Marionettes. •Oct. 4 and 5, 1 and 3 pm: See *Androcles and the Lion* and *The Golden Touch of Midas* performed by puppeteer Paul Vincent Davis.

Things to Do

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere or Red Line to Kendall, transfer to free shuttle.* •Saturdays, 12 pm. Gather in the children's department to listen to staff members read from new and classic storybooks.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6.* Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods in a one-hour tour tailored for kids.

Boston Public Library Children's Tour
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley.* •Sat. 11 am, through Nov. 29. Free. Ages 5 and older. Take a tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery. •Oct. 3, 10:15 am. Free. Ages 2-7 (accompanied by an adult). Kids' Cinema. Watch an animated film in the Rabb Lecture Hall.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8, $7 children.* •Mon., Wed. and Fri., 11 am-12 pm. Come shake, wiggle and move around for music and movement. •Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm. Professional instructors introduce kids to performing arts by creating short plays on a real stage.

Fenway Park Tours
Fenway Park, Gate D, Lansdowne St., Boston (617-236-6666). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through Sept. 30. Every hour from 9 am-4 pm, except on scheduled game days. $9.* Tour the press box, field, dugout and more at Fenway Park.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. $5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Light Fantastic.* The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyond.* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. $15, children under 17 free.* •Tue. and Wed., 3:30 pm. *Books Bring Art Alive.* Museum instructors read books, poems and stories to bring the paintings to life and encourage kids to talk about what they see.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children.* •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!*, featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events during the presentation *The Sky Tonight.* •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., 12 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 children. Travel from Brazil to Japan to North America and beyond, exploring the regions' percussion beats and cultures in *Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey*, directed by the creators of the *STOMP* stage production. •*Theater of Electricity*: Daily at 12 and 2 pm. The Van de Graaff generator provides a risk-free lightning show.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5.* The Museum of Transportation has a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the museum and receive a free prize. •Sept. 28, $5, $3 children: Volkswagen Van Day. Lawn Events offer participants a chance to look at vintage cars, sample food and participate in activities.

Story Hour at the Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sept. 27, 11 am. Preschool age. Free. Listen to *Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah* and make a spider during craft time.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Dorchester (617-929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free. The JFK Library holds a weekly story hour for kids and their parents.

Story Time
FAO Schwarz, 440 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-5900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Daily, 1 pm, 3 pm & 5 pm. Free. Ages 2-7. Kids can listen to stories read by Mother Goose, Raggedy Ann and other characters.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm; Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamericanmuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Sun.-Thu., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $10, $7 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State; Green Line to Haymarket; Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Summer ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Info session Sept. 30, 6-7 pm. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Call to Action Project
(781-395-8307). datalova@aol.com. Donate quilt blocks to be pieced into quilts and placed on auction to benefit the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-431-1211). Provide foster care for homeless rabbits.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young professionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

The USS Constitution & Museum in Charlestown

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IMPROPER sightings

UNLIKE THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS, WE WANT TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

Bill Blais (left) and Rob Peirce both sent in pictures from the same toilet in Alcatraz. Say, guys, you're not allowed to take photos in there. How'd you smuggle in your cameras?

Cyndi Schick brought 13 friends and several IMPROPERS to South Beach in Miami for her bachelorette party. This photo was taken by a thong-wearing man named Antonio.

Todd Stradford ate at a restaurant in Obi, Japan, that is a former samurai dwelling. The waiters are all ninjas and sneak up on you with your sushi.

Michaela M. Rudis stopped for this picture in Morocco. We suspect that "halfway between Casablanca and Marrakesh" will not be touted by *Condé Nast Traveler* as the next hot vacation spot anytime soon.

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius reads the IMPROPER, which can be rolled up and used to fend off flying monkeys if necessary.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: Reminding everyone that Frankenstein was the scientist and not the monster in Mary Shelley's novel, at the Frankenstein Festival, held in late October in Darmstadt, Germany.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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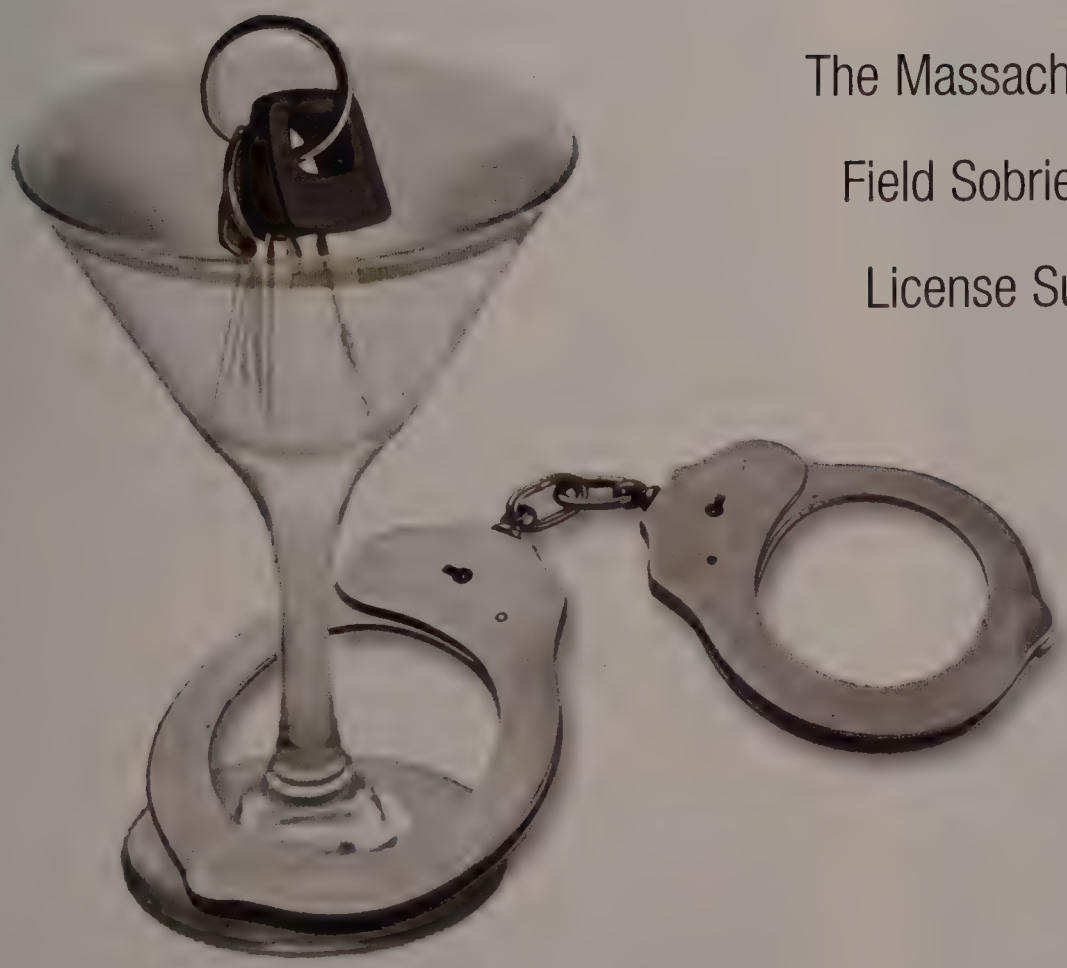

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Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 617-859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

B.B.

Every time I see your smile you bring such joy into my heart. Just the chance to talk to you, to look into your eyes, to hear your thoughts and make you laugh or to bring a smile to your sweet face makes my day. I know your heart belongs to someone else: I hope someday your relationship will grow to bring you the happiness you deserve. I can never be the one for you—the age difference between us is too great. But I'll always be there for you when you need a friend to listen to you or a shoulder to cry on or arms to hold you. My fervent wish is that you grow to be stronger and have more faith in yourself, to love yourself and find happiness. If you could only see yourself the way I see you and know how special you are! You're a smart, sensitive, compassionate, funny and sexy man who has worked so hard and accomplished so much already. You are worthy of love and the one you love should know just how lucky she is to have you. Yes, I do adore you so; you are the light of my life. We don't see each other too often anymore; how I miss the time when I saw you every day! I look forward to each time I see you again and envy those lucky enough to see that impish smile or even that worried frown of yours every day.

—cambridgegrrl@yahoo.com

Why the Long Face?

To the blue-jeaned fake blond at Harvard Gardens on Sept. 6: You live in a Beacon Hill...no I'm sorry, a West End obnoxious high-rise. After lip-syncing to Radiohead, you told me I looked like Kiefer Sutherland (which is not so bad, I suppose; I've been called much worse). You are originally from Rhode Island (enter trailer park trash joke here). Your Wellesley friend was at least civilized...ambivalent, but civilized. My buddy and I were trying to think of what actress you looked like, but we couldn't come up with any with a long face and dumpy ass! Get over yourself! Heidi Klum wouldn't sport the 'tude that you do!

—Some Sutherland

Sweetest Jacqueline

Let this note find you well, wherever it is that you have gone. Know that you are forever in my thoughts and forever shall you pervade my dreams. For I am still in love with you and forever shall I be. All of my love, for you,

—Michael

Bow Wow

I was walking by the new waterfront park the other day with my labradoodle. You were playing catch with two blond girls and another guy with a red shirt. You were the shorter of the two men out there. I thought I saw you smile at me as I walked by. I was just wondering if you would like to play catch with me sometime? If you remember me, I had the hot pink sundress on. I thought I saw you again walking by the medical school near the Back Bay, but I could be mistaken. Whoever you are, you amaze me and make my insides feel like a butterfly factory. Let's not make the mistake the Pats made dropping Lawyer Milloy, and keep me on your team.

—Hotpinklabradoodle@hotmail.com

Great Short Conversation on the B Line Sept. 12

Hey, I struck up conversation with you on a Friday night as you were making your way to Park Street, while I was on my way to Kenmore. We talked a little about the Green Line construction and then went more to a personal level. All I know of you is that you are a 21-year-old Boston University student at the Sargent College of Health and Rehab. You are originally from Connecticut. I only got a first name from you, starting with letter "A." Mine starts with a "K." I am a 23-year-old UMass Amherst graduate still looking for a job. If you remember our conversation, which was cut short by the ride, then please e-mail me. I'd like to talk to you again sometime.

—funnytguy@yahoo.com

To the Red Socks RTB Team 2003:

Whoo-hoo. Lookin' good. Keep going! You're almost there! To my van one teammates (Chris, Jeremy, Siobhan, Marianne, Mike and Matt): You rock. To my van two teammates (Chris, Brett, Julie, Alethea, Chris, Courtney and Jason): You roll. Let's create blisters again next year.

—From your Leg 4, 16 and 28 teammate

Never Caught Your Name

I met you at Cheers. We scooted down a seat so you and your two friends could squeeze in at the bar. You bought us a round to thank us and we reciprocated. You: a manager at the swanky new hotel owned by the company of the guy I once dated. Me: the brunette you sat next to who was going to the comedy club later and who looks like your friend's patient. (Did his wife have her baby yet?) When I left, I thanked you again for the drinks and (jokingly) told you to say hi to someone. I gave you my name, but never got yours. Anyway, I thought you seemed pretty cool and I regretted not asking your name. How will I recommend your hotel to visitors if I don't have the manager's name to give them?

—thegirlatcheers@yahoo.com

Bumpin' at Dunkin

We bumped into each other at Dunkin Donuts behind Tufts. You're from Vermont. You asked about my T-shirt. You were stunning. I was at a loss for words. Drop me an e-mail. Let's see if we can't untie my tongue.

—uvmdunkindonut@yahoo.com

Has Anyone Seen "Big Rob"?

Missing: one large Italian/Irish-American gent, last seen in Polly Esther's in NYC. Believed to have recently relocated to the Boston area. Answers to "Bobby Shoulders." Drives an early-model Hyundai (from back when the name meant something) and is usually in the company of young co-eds. Likes beer and ice cream and appreciates the many uses of puppets. Approach with caution.

—Concerned

Tourist Trap

I have a few complaints about all the damn tourists in this city: They come into our neighborhoods and walk slow. They almost always make lines five times the length they should be. And how many times do people need to take pictures of an old church, anyway? All a guy did was yell from the top of it as a guy on a horse went nuts. How interesting can Quincy Market be? Aren't there food courts where you're from? The most ridiculous thing is tourists using the laundromat near my house. Who goes on vacation and does laundry? I was late to work this morning because a school bus full of anklebiters were excited about a graveyard! Save yourself the air/bus fare and learn about your own damn city.

—Aggravated Bostonian

Walk This Way

You walk to work every morning heading toward the Financial District and I always seem to walk behind you. Whether I'm running five minutes late or 10 minutes early, you seem to always leave at the same time. Who are you? I don't know where you end up because I always go my own way at the Common (despite writing an Impersonal, I'm not a stalker). You're a brunette with a red bag and you usually wear high heels. I'd like to actually talk to you sometime, so if you're interested in a nice guy who walks to work, e-mail me. You intrigue me.

—niceguywalking@yahoo.com

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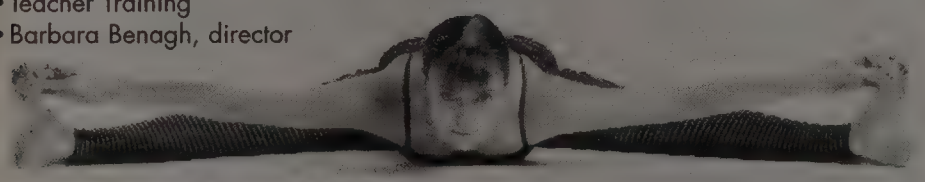

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SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 7, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Now is not the time to be shy or self-effacing. Although good manners will always matter, please feel free to elbow your way into the limelight. Since Libra brings out a more refined sense of enjoyment, an appreciation of civilizations and their cultures that the other signs crave, we instinctively turn to you guys for our seasonal fix. "In demand" hardly describes our need to be around you and the innate talents you possess. So, while your magnetic Venus ruler and musical Neptune are in sync, shall we dance?

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

If you felt disconnected while Mercury was retrograde in your house of friends, hopes and wishes, don't give it another thought. They'll soon be back in full force, hoping and wishing that now you'll give them what they want. However, you may have to wait until your Mars co-ruler changes direction on the 27th before you become sufficiently motivated. Actually, anything you've managed to accomplish since Mars went retrograde at the end of July should be considered a minor miracle. Congratulations.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Dream on, because it's your imagination and connection to cosmic consciousness that'll bring in the bucks. Musicians, photographers and inventors build careers on this arcane bit of knowledge, but those of us who don't come by these talents naturally can promote and cash in on them now. However, you might encounter resistance from a partner, someone's attorney or even a regulatory agency. (Downloading files?) Meanwhile, once irritating Mars turns direct, a family matter or a problem with the house could resurface.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

First you're liable to feel a chill. Affectionate Venus may turn off her love light on the 25th when she squares your Saturn ruler in your Cancer marriage house. Then Goats get to bear the full brunt of the challenge when the Libra sun squares Saturn on the 6th. Even if you're not embroiled in a contest, you're apt to feel depressed or isolated simply because difficult aspects to restrictive Saturn stress the colder, harder facts of life. Once Mars turns around and the money starts flowing, you'll cheer up.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Most of the planets are focusing on close relationships and what you have in common (stocks, antiques, copyrights) with significant others. While the vibe is so harmonious, you can show more of your idiosyncratic self than usual. Originality and artistry are encouraged, but try not to step over the line; you know how quickly the worm turns. This is also a good time to make romantic overtures to a fresh object of desire. Your standby squeeze is probably more resistant, preoccupied or crankier than usual.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

The high spots of this new-moon period come first on the 25th when you attract people with taste and refinement, not to mention appreciable good looks. The uber-romantic connection between affectionate Venus and your Neptune is sheer fantasy fulfillment. Enjoy. The other memorable date is the 27th as Mars in your sign turns direct and frees you from an irritating tie to the past. After that, you're in for a booster shot of energy and ambition, enough to keep you going through the office Christmas party season.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Living on the edge? Not sure where you'll land? Maybe it's because your thrill-seeking Mars ruler is at a crossroads, returning you to the beginning of artistic, idealistic Pisces, yet close enough to Aquarius to feel the pull of the group ethic. If experience is still the best teacher, think back to mid-June and the way a similar situation was resolved. If you were somewhat successful then, do exactly what you did, but wait until the new moon on the 25th and retrograde Mars flips forward on the 27th before making your intentions known.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20

The delicately romantic liaison between your sensual Venus ruler and melodic, mystical Neptune occurs smack in the middle of your autumnal equinox celebration on Tuesday. How can you not fall in love? But when Venus faces the stark reality Saturn brings to a situation, how can you continue to delude yourself? Bouncing between two poles—faith and fact—should keep you plenty busy, even if nothing crucial happens until the Libra new moon gets another cycle of desire, action and reaction under way.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20

It must be magic. As soon as autumn officially arrives, the annoyances that have been bugging you lately and weighing down your ebullient spirit manage to disappear. Must be the fresh breeze blowing in with the Libra sun that is clearing the air of the tiresome and trivial. Even though your Mercury ruler finally is moving forward, helping you communicate more effectively, taking care of a tricky household or family matter, your social life needn't be compromised. Deal first, then date.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22

You could be under pressure to play Big Daddy or to act as if you're the leader of the pack. This way the folks around you won't be blamed if things become sticky or don't work out as planned. That's what happens when Saturn travels through your sun sign; you get to be the idiot responsible. The next two weeks can be particularly trying because both sociable Venus and the Libra sun are setting up tests for you to pass. If only you could laugh them off! But Saturn means serious business, so look for something positive to lift your spirits.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Each time their sun ruler crosses an equinox or solstice point, Lions embrace the seasonal change with gusto. Well, maybe the darkening of the light doesn't exactly thrill you, but this autumn promises mental stimulation and physical pleasures that the summer never delivered. The Libra new moon can also introduce an assortment of welcome attractions to your scene, beautiful goods and gracious services that'll enhance all sorts of social interaction. No kidding, romance is in the air. Dress accordingly.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

While the start of the fall season doesn't always mean there's money to be made, providing something that people currently value should fuel that vaunted Virgo sense of service. Not to mention your imagination. It may take a few more days, until your Mercury ruler picks up speed and ambitious Mars comes out of retrograde on the 27th, before the brainstorm hits. Be patient; because prosperous, protective Jupiter is in your sign, this is Virgo's year to grow wealthier and wiser. Healthier, as always, is up to you.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

Feast Upon Fall

The Improper Bostonian's Fall Dining Issue will take you on a culinary tour of autumn's finest cuisine.

First, we will cover extreme dining—the most outrageous food around town. Next, we will sample our way through local cheese farms…yes, cheese farms. We will also look at some area cooking classes that are being taught by Boston's greatest chefs!

This is an issue you will devour.

The Improper Bostonian reaches more than 392,900 readers every two weeks.

92% of our readers dine out on a regular basis.

Our readers consume an average of 16 meals per month in restaurants.

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

Issue Date: October 22

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The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Tuesday, September 9, the Chivas Regal VIP Lounge Party was held at the **Fairmont Copley Oak Room**. Guests enjoyed **Chivas Regal** cocktails and **Jacob's Creek** wines.

1. **Michelle Princi**, manager of the Improv Asylum, and **Phil Hillman**, sales specialist for United Liquors Ltd.
2. **Paul Canavan**, general sales manager for United Liquors Ltd., and **Dani Campbell**, model from Winthrop.
3. **Patrick Cross**, proprietor of the Thirsty Scholar, and the Overdraught with his wife, **Karen Cross**; **Gerry Brennan**, partner of Patrick Cross, and owner of the Brendan Behan with wife **Marrion**; and **Tony Kim**, financial services advisor.

On Thursday, September 4, **The Improper Bostonian** was a sponsor for the 16th annual Boston Music Awards at **The Wang Center**.

1. **Dicky Barrett** of The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, the emcee of the Boston Music Awards, with one of the evening's performers, singer **Bleu**.
2. **Walter McCarty**, forward for the Boston Celtics, and **Keith Gainsboro**, consultant for Regan Communications
3. Winner of Debut Album of the Year and Outstanding Male Vocalist of the Year, **Howie Day**.

On Friday, September 12, **Alex & Co.** celebrated the grand opening of a new location on Needham Street in Newton.

1. **Alex** and **Sophia Zamsky**, the owners of Alex & Co.
2. **Priscilla Stumm**, sales associate for Alex & Co., and **Audrey Snyder** of Newton.
3. **Vikky Kahn**, and **Barbara Cohen**, both sales associates for Alex & Co.

On Wednesday, September 10, Denis Leary made a special guest appearance with Bob Lobel on **NESN's SportsPlus** live at **The Place**.

1. **Billy Fairweather**, co-owner of The Place; **Denis Leary** of the Denis Leary Firefighters Foundation; **Bob Lobel**, host of *SportsPlus*; **Errol Apostolopolous**, co-owner of The Place; **Michael Kalil**, marketing an event manager for The Place.
2. **Chris Coakley** of the Department of Housing and Community Development, with **Doug O'Neill**, lawyer, and **Jim Lynch**, human resources for Fidelity Investments.

PHOTOS: THE OAK ROOM, ALISON MORANT; THE BOSTON MUSIC AWARDS AND ALEX & CO., JULIE KANE; THE PLACE, KAREN DAN

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere in the heart of downtown Boston. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Science Street Café *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out Boston's newest nightspot - The Science Street Café at the Museum of Science. Try our out-of-this world signature martinis, gourmet appetizers and decadent desserts - all while listening to live music. Perfect before or after an Omni film. Open 6-10pm. Parking available

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1 am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

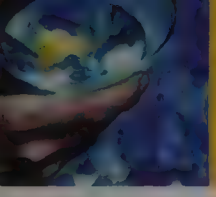
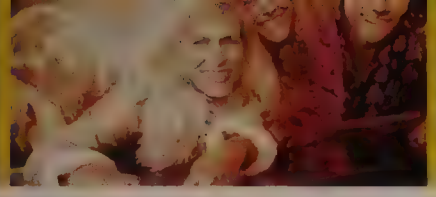
Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 200

Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11 am - 1 am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1 am (til 2 am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

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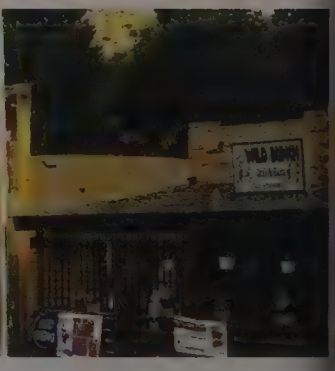

Clockwise from top center: Hawkeye and me; the Cowboy Cafe; Tom and Boyd scouting for game during lunch on the trail; downtown Dubois; hobbling the horses; Spencer begs. Center: a jackalope in Dubois

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION, OR "COYOTES AND COUGARS AND BEARS? OH, MY!"

Dubois, Wyoming, (population 1,034) is one of those wild-ass frontier towns, hours away from anywhere, that attracts eccentrics and oddballs from all over, like an intergalactic way station in a sci-fi movie. In the words of one local, "It's just like a big city, but without the normal people."

Pronounced "Doo-boyce," its biggest claim to fame is probably the National Bighorn Sheep Center. The local calendar of events includes the Bad Boys of Bull Riding Rodeo and the 4th of July Testicle Festival at the Ramshorn Inn. The sidewalks are wooden, and the main drag includes a giant plastic jackalope (a rabbit with antlers) in front of a gas station, a stuffed moose on top of a car wash, and businesses like the Rustic Tavern, Welty's General Store, and a Sotheby's real estate office that sells chunks of big-sky country to rich dropouts who consider Jackson Hole too civilized.

The night we arrived, we were invited to a cocktail party where we met a woman who races sled dogs in Alaska's Iditarod, a waitress who grew up in Brooklyn, an heir to the Remington firearms fortune, the French chef who runs the Cowboy Cafe and an Australian couple who train animals like the Budweiser Clydesdale that kicked a football during the Super Bowl.

The next day, we recovered from all the mojitos with a visit to the not-quite-famous and not-particularly-hot warm springs. After buying some last-minute things we'd need to go camping on horseback in the mountains for six days, we ate dinner and had a few drinks at the Outlaw Saloon, where we were lucky enough to watch the Red Sox spank the Yankees, 6 to 4, prompting the bartender, Marge, to say, "Everyone out here hates 'em, too."

The sun was barely up when we drove out past Mabel's Hill (where the chimney is all that's left of a whorehouse the townsfolk burnt down in a fit of Christian piety) to pick up the horses and get fishing licenses. Then it was a two-hour drive down an unpaved road, through jaw-droppingly beautiful country, to the trailhead, where we received lessons on how to use bear mace and availed ourselves of an outdoor toilet with one of the most spectacular views I've ever seen.

There were five of us on the trip: me and a friend; our guide, Tom Rose, who runs Emerald Creek Outfitters, the camp where we stayed; a wrangler/camp cook named Meredith Martin (a Mount Holyoke grad who grew up on a horse farm in Virginia); and Boyd Brown, a farrier and wrangler who wore his cowboy boots and hat even when he went swimming. In addition to the horses, we had three dogs: a golden lab named Kenya, an Airedale named Argus, and a blue healer (a breed of Australian cattle dog) named Spencer.

I ALSO GOT AN EDUCATION IN THE BASICS OF HORSEMANSHIP: HOW TO GROOM, SADDLE AND HOBBLE A HORSE, AS WELL AS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO GET KICKED BY ONE.

My mount, Hawkeye, was a big, dumb paint that loved to run downhill—the equestrian equivalent of a kid running with scissors. He was surefooted, though, for which I was thankful on the four-hour ride to camp (one of two that Emerald Creek operates in cooperation with the U.S. Forestry Service) through scenery that would make for an excellent 5,000-piece jigsaw puzzle.

We spent most of our time in the saddle, riding for four to five hours at a stretch. One day, we rode up to a mountain pass at 11,600 feet, where we had to dismount and lead our horses part of the way, and we ended up looking down at fields of snow. The next day, we made our way up the valley through meadows studded with lupine and Indian paintbrush, past fresh bear tracks and a waterfall that provided the week's only shower, to a pass overlooking a pristine valley brimming with elk and bighorn sheep. With the patience of Job, Boyd taught us to fly-fish, and I discovered that between the stream and camp, a brook trout can grow as much as 18 inches (at least in the retelling). I also got an education in the basics of horsemanship: how to groom, saddle and hobble a horse, as well as what it feels like to get kicked by one.

We slept under the stars, and on the first three nights were awakened by a pack of coyotes that entered camp and began howling, which got the dogs and horses going. At dawn on the last two mornings, a mountain lion stalked the edge of the meadow where we were sleeping. We also learned such salient aspects of western life as the fact that you "ain't a cowboy unless you're pushin' cows," and that Friday is the night to meet "ranch muffins" and "buckle bunnies" at the local bars.

By the time we returned to Dubois, the concept of indoor plumbing seemed strangely wonderful, and everything we owned smelled like horses and campfire smoke. On our last night in town, we opted against attending the National Rifle Association Ball, not having anything appropriate to wear, and instead went to a karaoke bar with a group of German models who were in town to shoot a European Marlboro ad.

It's good to be back home and all, but driving my Volkswagen can't compare with riding the range. I'll definitely go back to Dubois…just as soon as I get over the saddlesores. IB

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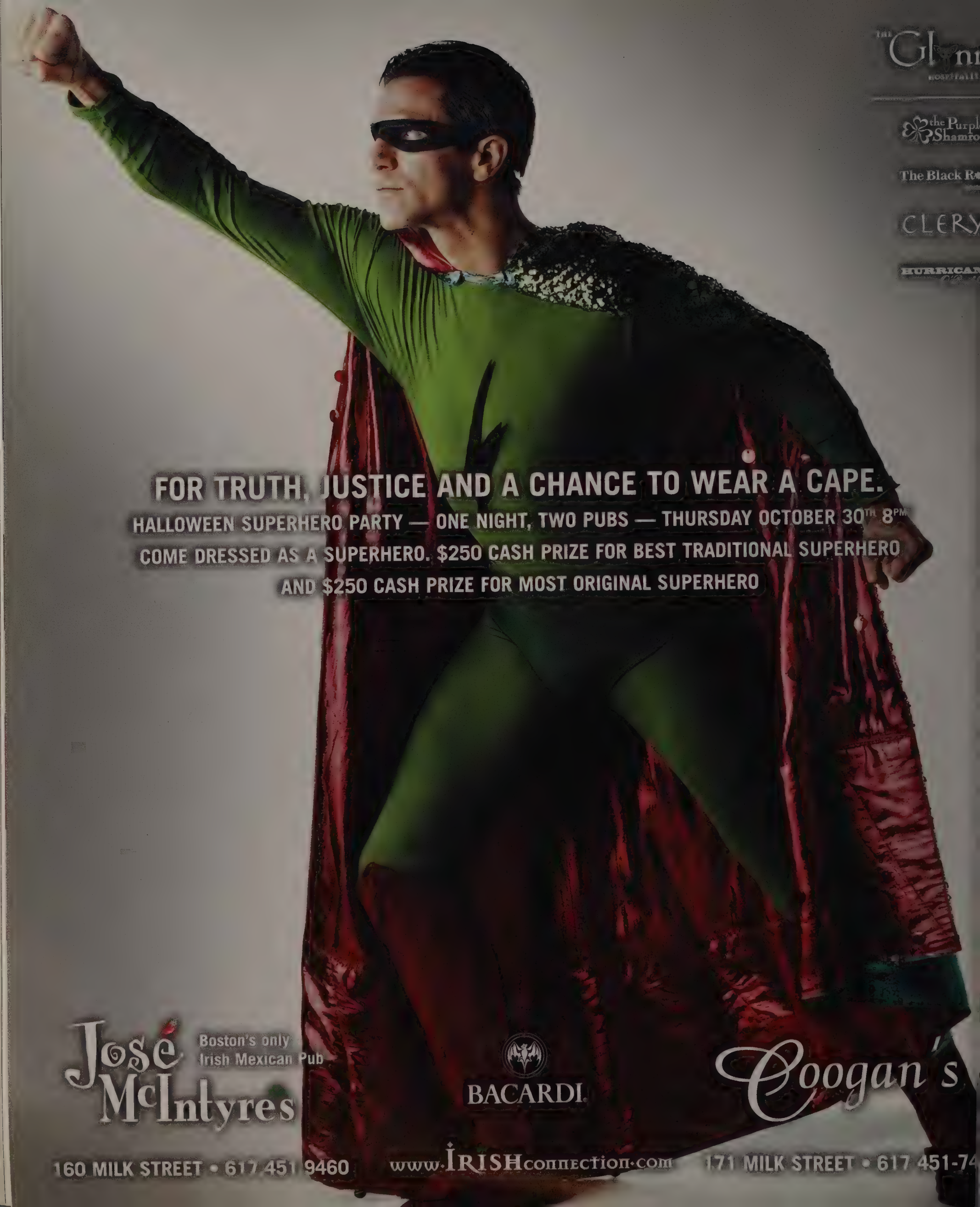
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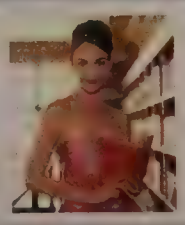

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Improper Sightings
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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

THE READING LIFE

With about 2,000 books to her name and a personal mandate to read a book a week, managing editor Erin Hagedorn is a devoted reader worthy of inclusion in this issue's feature story on local bookworms. So it's no surprise that it was Hagedorn who conceived of and launched the IMPROPER's annual literary issue three years ago. "After editing the magazine's Books section for a few months, I realized how many amazing authors lived in Boston," she says. "The issue seemed a natural fit for a town with such a thriving literary scene."

We tapped local fiction writers for all the feature stories in this issue: Novelist Emily Franklin profiles some of Boston's most ardent bookworms, and three local authors (Mameve Medwed, Matthew Pearl and Steve Almond) interview other local authors (Elinor Lipman, James Carroll and Tom Perrotta). Meanwhile, Ricco Villanueva Siasoco explores some new frontiers in literary readings—creative events that add cocktails, music and unusual settings to enliven the traditional author-behind-the-lectern format.

Finally, we present the winning story in our annual fiction contest. Author and practicing physician Perri Klass (interviewed on page 18) kindly helped us select the winner, a story by Rachel Solar-Tuttle about a well-to-do woman's obsession with one of the Red Sox's most beloved players. Klass praises the story for its subtlety, humor and poignancy. "It's very much a Boston story," she says. "It resonates particularly this October."

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

SOME GOOD IDEARS

"Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Boston…" (Sept. 24) was a very nice piece—it covered myths, misnomers and just plain truth. But let's fix a couple of errors, if you don't mind:

Jonathan Soroff really should recall that Robin Williams wasn't just nominated for an Oscar for his mediocre "Baahstan" accent—he actually won the darn thing. At least he was better than Cliff on *Cheers*.

And about comparisons with New York: The fact that the BSO is better than the New York Philharmonic is pretty passé. The best orchestra in New York is Jimmy Levine's MET Opera Orchestra, and they don't really cover the standard symphonic rep. Also, Levine isn't leaving the MET for the Boston Symphony. He's cutting back but will be music director of both organizations.

I enjoy your publication a lot.

—JAMES BODGE
Somerville

THIN CHOWDA

I am an Irish-American, and I have a sense of humor. However, Jonathan Soroff's "Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Boston…" bothered me.

It wasn't energetic reading. It tried to be funny but didn't get to the meat of parodying Boston. It had some high points, but the ramblings about the New York Philharmonic, the waste of words about Harvard, the section about what's considered rude—yawn. And the Irish using Catholic landmarks to give directions? Who says that? If that's not offensive, it's certainly so old it's wearing platform shoes. For a tongue-in-cheek article, it was such a cop-out.

—ELLIOT MOORE
Brookline

BOSTON CARES CARES

Your coverage of Boston Cares in "Join the Club" (Sept. 24) was disappointing. Far from offering huge projects where individuals get lost in the crowd, most of Boston Cares' teams involve small numbers of volunteers who overwhelmingly report they have made friends through Boston Cares.

It's true that Boston Cares is the largest team-oriented volunteer organization in the region, and the variety and convenience of 140-plus monthly projects is attractive to our members, who are participating in record numbers. The fact that many of those volunteers will make personal, professional and civic connections along the way is a wonderful thing.

—PATRICE KEEGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BOSTON CARES

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 24 fashion spread, the model's name is Jessica, and the shoes are Manolo Blahniks, available at Saks Fifth Avenue.

CONTRIBUTOR

RACHEL SOLAR-TUTTLE

The winner of our annual fiction contest, Brookline resident Rachel Solar-Tuttle, is a published fiction and nonfiction author. She says she began work on her winning story, "The Shadow of Manny Ramirez"(page 30), a few years ago after writing to Ramirez when he first came to Boston. "I started imagining, what if Manny wrote back, but what if the person to whom he replied was at some sort of crossroads where the reply could have a major impact on her?"

Solar-Tuttle's prizes, all graciously donated, include a weekend stay for two at the Charles Hotel and brunch for two at Henrietta's Table, two tickets to Boston Ballet's production of *Don Quixote*, $50 gift certificates from both Zipcar and the Cactus Club, a tour from Boston Art Tours and tickets to a show at the Comedy Connection.

Tell Us What You Think

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Suratt**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

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ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Marilyn Chung, Vanessa Earl**

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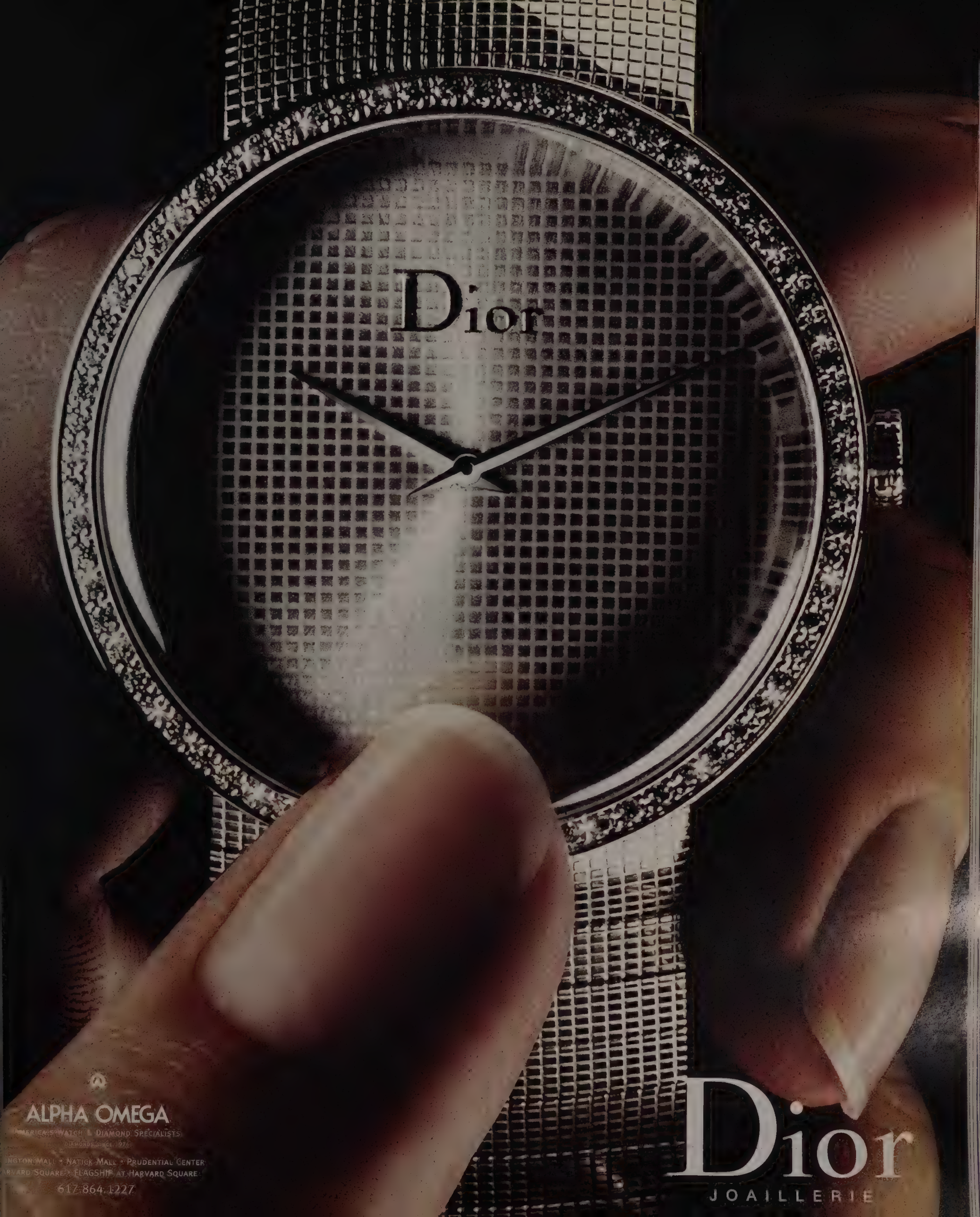
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OYSTER-RIFIC!

It's such a fantastically fun idea, it's a wonder no one thought of it before: a cozy, South End boîte that serves a smattering of seafood entrées, but whose main focus is oysters on the half shell. Leave it to Barbara Lynch—the genius behind No. 9 Park—and her trusty manager, Garrett Harker, to come up with B&G Oysters Ltd., the new garden-level, 37-seat oyster bar on Tremont Street.

The restaurant is designed around an open kitchen surrounded by a semi-circular bar, where oyster shuckers garbed in white chef's coats practice their trade with impressive speed and agility. Patrons can pull up a stool and watch the team assemble a plate of oysters, harvested twice a day from local waters and beyond. On the day we visited, Lynch was offering six different varieties. We ordered one of each at $2 an oyster. Served on a silver platter that reflected the shiny, silver hue of the restaurant's decor, the oysters came on a bed of shaved ice placed around a saucer of mignonette (a tasty dipping sauce made from a mixture of prosecco, chardonnay vinegar, shallots and cracked black pepper). Although it was tough to choose, our favorites were the Wellfleet, a small, soft and supple oyster; the Bras d'Or from Nova Scotia, a firmer, slightly salty bivalve with the authentic touch of a dusting of sand; and the Cape Breton, also from Nova Scotia, which had a smooth texture and tasted like the ocean.

An extensive wine list, naturally heavy on the whites (the majority from France), offers a pleasing foil to the oysters' brininess. You can make a meal of oysters, or order up a plate of clam fritters (delicately fried with a crispy, non-greasy crunch and soft bellies), broiled scallops, fried oysters or Woodbury littlenecks. We could almost hear the surf crashing in the distance. *550 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-0550).—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt*

sam says

MOTOR CITY CHIC

While perusing the South End's offbeat shops the other day, I wandered into the relatively new women's clothing boutique Turtle. Among the racks, I found scarves, hats, clothes and accessories in an array of unique fabrics. I was particularly drawn to the funky, retro patterns of Kim White's handbag collection. Turns out White purchased a warehouse full of fabrics from '70s- and '80s-era American car interiors, and cut them into a line of purses. Styles range from a bold red and black, super-sized houndstooth clutch to an Aztec print tote. Each is tagged with the car's year and make, so you'll know if you walk away with a limited-edition Camaro or a Pacer. $97-$215. 619 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-2610). *—Samantha House*

inner view

JUDD NELSON

Putting his Brat Pack years behind him, 42-year-old Judd Nelson has managed to build an impressive resume (and avoid the '80s-star purgatory of Lifetime original movies) through consistent work in film, television and theater, including NBC's *Suddenly Susan* and the film *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*. Currently, Nelson is back on stage in the Shubert Theatre's production of *He She Them*. Here he chats with us about acting, hometown teams and interoffice lovin'.

IB: *You're from Maine originally. Do you consider yourself a New Englander?*

JN: Absolutely. Not just a New Englander, but a Bruins, Celtics and Patriots fan exclusively, which is great and also incredibly painful.

IB: *If the Patriots have any more injuries, are you willing to suit up?*

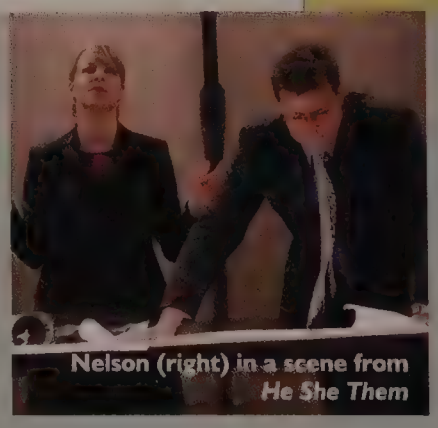
JN: Absolutely, I'm not fast, I'm not strong, but I have good hands.

IB: He She Them *is about an interoffice romance. Have you ever dipped your pen in the company ink?*

JN: It's about a real estate developer who falls in love with his architect and the problem is she's married. Absolutely not. No, no, no. I'm a big fan of that expression, "Don't *blank* where you eat."

IB: *What do you like most about your character?*

JN: He's reached his 40s, he's always been single, same as me, and he's reaching this slow decision that he really doesn't want to spend his life alone, and she helps him reach that decision because he falls head over heels for her. Unfortunately, he chooses a married woman, ergo the play. It's fun for me, the notion of the analysis that goes into the transformation from a single man to one who desires a full commitment. Granted, you might make the argument that he's choosing someone he can't be with.


Nelson (right) in a scene from *He She Them*

IB: *What project are you most proud of?*

JN: What's that saying? Pride's a sin 'cause it blinds us. I've chosen all the projects I've done for different reasons. The most interesting for me, in retrospect, was a small independent I did called *The Dark Backward*. I played a victim in that, and most of the time I play victimizers. I fought for the role and I got it, and if there was one that stood out by virtue of its uniqueness, it would be that one.

IB: *Did you ever have interest in pursuing fields other than acting and writing?*

JN: I've always liked landscaping, strangely enough. My father's an attorney, but I was not that interested in doing that kind of work—there's a lot of schooling involved.

IB: *Do you prefer the stage or screen, film over television?*

JN: I like them all. I was trained as a theater actor. I like the immediate response you get from an audience. A lot of film is created in post-production and the actor is left out.

IB: *We recently interviewed Anthony Michael Hall and he said the Brat Pack is still the first thing people ask him about. Is that true for you?*

JN: Some people believe that any news is good news. I don't think that's true. I would say the bad thing about the term "brat pack" is it portrays people as unprofessional. The truth is all the actors I've worked with in my generation have been on time, hardworking, completely professional. There was no real group that hung out together. It was a catchy phrase from an unimaginative writer. But my mother says if you can't take the heat get out of the kitchen. It was a long time ago, and even some people in the South have stopped talking about the Civil War.

IB: *Any closing comments?*

JN: This is the year for the Red Sox!

—Jessica Iredale

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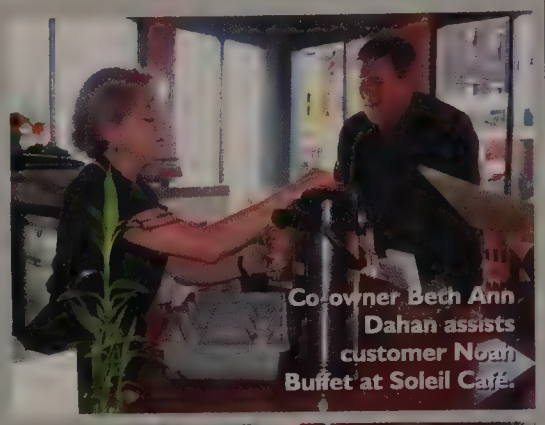
tasty tidbits

FLAMMEKUECHE?

Say What?..."God bless you" is not, in fact, the proper response to "Flammekueche." Nor is flammekueche the Flemish word for redhead. It's actually an Alsatian crispy flatbread, topped with fromage blanc and blended spices, baked to order in a brick oven. (Sounds a bit like something we call pizza.) Cambridge's Sandrine's Bistro fired up a flammekueche bar just over a week ago, offering a package deal of four roughly 8-inch flammes (traditionally prepared with hickory smoked bacon, fromage blanc and caramelized onion), a simple green salad and choice of Alsatian ice beer Tutz or Alsatian Domaine Schlumberger pinot blanc. All for $21. *8 Holyoke St., Cambridge (617-497-5300).*

In the 'Hood... Two new neighborhood hangouts have opened recently. The first, Soleil Café, is a sibling-owned venture in Somerville's Teele Square. Co-owners Bryan McConnaughey and his sister, Beth Ann Dahan, opened the gourmet deli/cafe in July. McConnaughey mans the kitchen, whipping up breakfast, lunch, dinner and an array of prepared foods, while Dahan manages the front of the house. We hear the food is delish. Over in Jamaica Plain, the coffee shop Junebug Café swung open its doors Sept. 1 in Rhythm & Muse's old digs, offering light fare of sandwiches, homemade entrées and pastries, plus wireless Internet access. Co-owner June Nguyen hopes the 'Bug will begin screening independent films on two large-screen TVs, as well as secure a 3 am curfew from the licensing board. Here's to positive thinking. *Soleil Café, 1153 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-0082). Junebug Café, 403A Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-522-2393).*


Co-owner Beth Ann Dahan assists customer Noah Buffet at Soleil Café.

Dessert at the Junebug

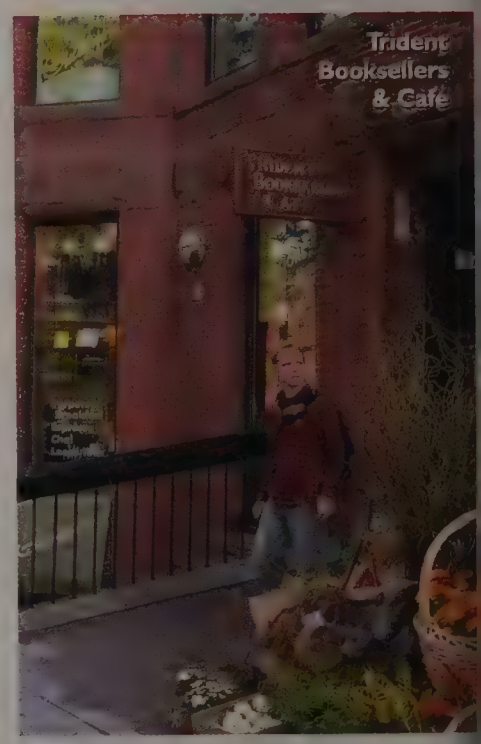
Competing with the Joneses... Dunkin' Donuts has ditched its no-frills attitude toward coffee, as evidenced by the recent addition of lattes, espresso and cappuccino to its menu. Needless to say, it seems like an attempt to compete with imperial Starbucks and its spawn. Old faithful Dunkin' Donuts promises to distinguish itself in the market by underpricing the competition, and it claims a faster turnaround time. Will DD lure Starbucks addicts away from their tall decaf nonfat vanilla latte with extra foam? Let the java wars begin.

American Anthem... Azure and City Bar chef Robert "Midas" Fathman is about to bring his golden touch to the North Station/FleetCenter area. What was formerly the Commonwealth Brewery and Downtown Lounge is now becoming one cohesive restaurant called Anthem. The joint venture between Fathman and the Briar Group is set to open in late October. The copper brewing cylinders and brew-pub feel have given way to a mahogany bar and velour beaded curtains—what a spokesperson describes as a "casual sexy" vibe. The lunch and dinner menu offers such quirky dishes as fried rock shrimp po' boy and fried Twinkies. "It's comfort food we all know and love," says Fathman. *138 Portland St., Boston (617-523-8383).—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

improper reports

READ & NOSH

With sweater weather quickly approaching, our days of lazing in the park or at the beach with a good book are over. Here are some of the best indoor spots to buy or borrow a book and read while nibbling munchies.


Trident Booksellers & Cafe

✻**Barnes & Noble Café:** Sample goodies from the Cheesecake Factory in the store's two cafés. *The Prudential Center, 111 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-247-6959).*

✻**Borders Café:** Smoothies, sandwiches, desserts and snacks are served in the back corner of the bookstore, and there's a quieter space for reading that includes a glass room for people-watching. *100 Cambridgeside Place, Cambridge (617-679-0887).*

✻**The Harvard Coop:** Read or study in the second-floor café, which serves sandwiches and pastries. *1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000).*

✻**Novel:** The Boston Public Library's new restaurant offers afternoon tea, soup, gourmet salads and sandwiches, and entrées in its relaxed dining area, which looks out on the library's Italian courtyard. There's a selection of books to peruse while you eat. *700 Boylston St., Boston (617-385-5660).*

✻**Trident Booksellers & Café:** Trident serves breakfast, lunch and dinner in its front dining room, where you can read a new release or gaze out onto Newbury Street. *338 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-8688).*

✻**Virgin Megastore Café:** After you pick up the newest CD release, buy one of the store's many magazines or books and head upstairs to the window-lined cafe where you can savor a sandwich and soup while you read. *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950).*

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Courier Kudos... Boston's crop of daredevil bike couriers has a champion among them. Adam Ford, an RS Express rider by day and Pho Republique bartender by night, recently took home top honors at the 11th annual Cycle Messenger World Championships in Seattle. The tour de dispatch draws riders from all over the world who compete for glory in skidding, cargo-carrying and urban navigation events. Ford swept three individual categories and departed Emerald City with a booty of trophies, bike supplies and parts. So what does this mean for the Lance Armstrong of alternative biking? "It's not really going to change anything for me," says Ford. It's just another day out of the office.

Stop the Presses!... Or shall we say, Start them? Okay, bad pun, but for what must be the first time in the history of print media, a New York daily has been inspired by one based in Boston. Former Boston *Metro* publisher Russel Pergament and the Chicago-based Tribune Co. are set to launch *amNew York*, a Big Apple version of the *Metro*, in the fall. The ADD sufferers' dream targets young urban commuters. Pergament is so confident in his grasp of the notoriously fickle audience, he reportedly plans to surpass the *Metro*'s 166,000 daily circulation. Probably not that lofty a goal considering the population difference between the two cities.

A for Effort... It all comes down to money. As of Oct. 8, indie favorite the Allston Cinema Underground is no more. Clinton McClung, the man behind the celluloid mayhem that movie junkies have come to cherish at both the Allston Cinema and the Coolidge Corner Theatre, closes up the ACU with a big thank you to underground cinema junkies. Rest assured, he'll continue programming for the Coolidge and will look for new projects. "There will be more crazy, inventive programming elsewhere in town as we work to collaborate with other venues to find a permanent home for underground, cult, and subversive cinema," he says. Another positive note is that the Allston Bombay Cinema (in the same complex) will continue the Underground's Kung Fu Mania series on Wednesday Nights.

Mish vs. Isabel... When we heard WBZ-4's weather darling Mish Michaels was ditching the Doppler for a firsthand look at the eye of Hurricane Isabel, our first thought was, "Is she nuts?" Turns out, meteorologists all over the country were dying to get a one-on-one with Izzy. Michaels was one of three lucky stormchasers (out of 2,000 applicants) who got to ride in a C130 airplane into the eye on Sept. 17. So what was it like in the belly of the beast? According to Michaels, "We experienced moderate turbulence while I was up there, and I really began to get very nauseated." Luckily some pressurized wristbands nipped the nausea in the bud, and Michaels and company were saved from any upsets. Any glimpse of Dorothy and Toto? "No, they were in a tornado," says Michaels. "There were probably a lot of disturbed fish, but no mammals."

Daredevil Mish Michaels

Beacon Hill Bites... Attention local politicos. Last month marked the launch of a new Web site dedicated to sharing the blather of all things left and right on Beacon Hill. Former *Boston Herald* and *Boston Business Journal* political columnist Michael Segal launched www.massinsider.com to provide free "coverage on the coverage" of 50 Mass. newspapers, as well as some nationals. Segal models his advertising-funded service after such nationals as ABC News' e-mail newsletter *The Note*. Regular features include a point/counterpoint segment in which representatives Peter Larkin and James Marzilli square off on various issues, and Legleaks, which focuses on Hill gossip from State House insiders. "I want this to be a must-read for the public opinion–making people of Massachusetts—and I want to make some money," says Segal.

DIY Is Dead... If you haven't been to Cambridge's Grolier Poetry Book Shop in a while, and you're planning on stopping by, a word to the wise: Keep your hands to yourself. When we last stopped in to browse through books, we learned that owner Louisa Solano had declared that Grolier was "no longer self-service," meaning that customers are allowed to view the titles in their spots on the shelves, but handling of the wares is for personnel only. (This kind of bold watchdog policy is normally reserved for antiquarian book shops that specialize in pricey vintage tomes.) "People originally complained about it all the time," Solano says. "It just makes me more comfortable. I don't really think it's so terrible."

—E.H., J.I. and J.S.

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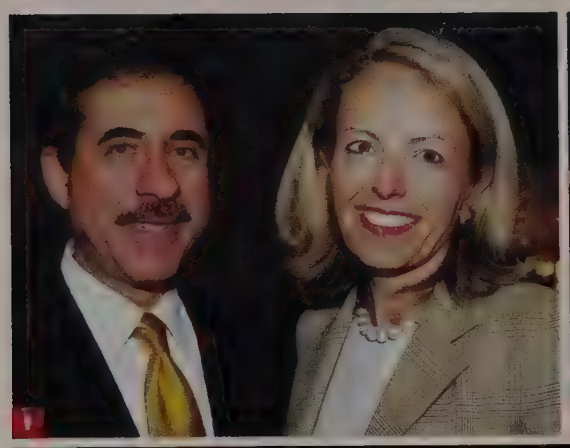
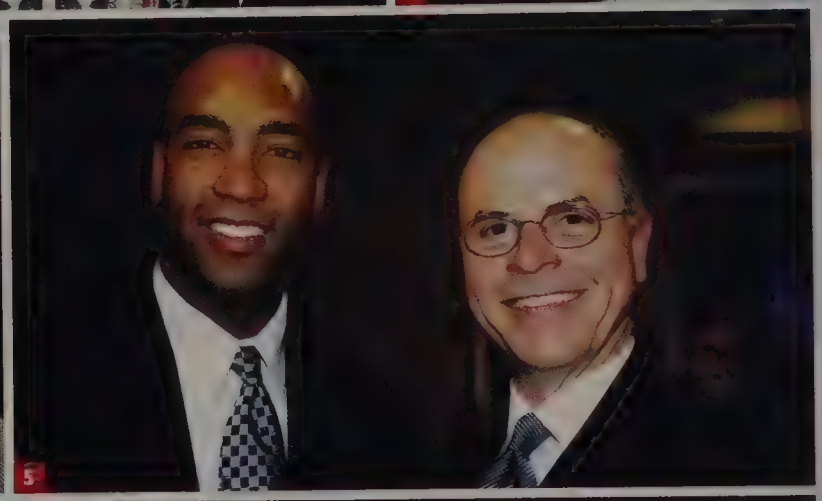
PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY MARGARET BRETT

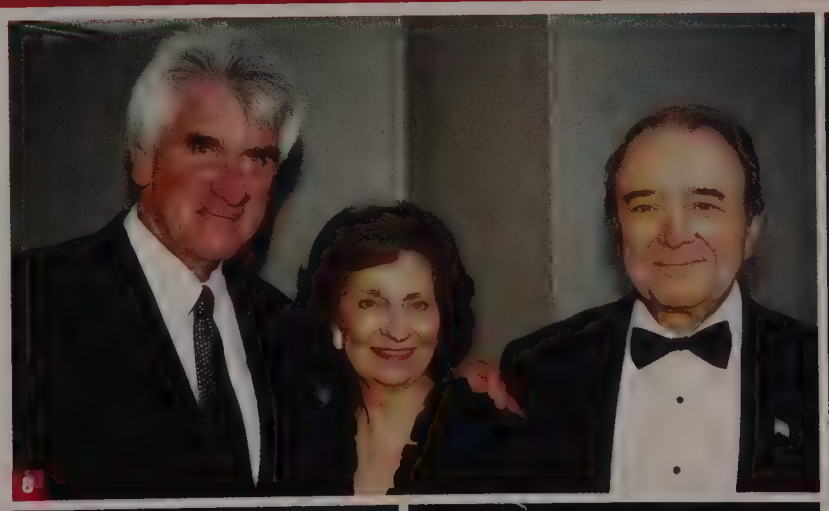




An Evening of Fashion for Art with designer **Giuliana Teso**, was held Sept. 25 at Neiman Marcus. More than 150 guests attended the champagne reception and fashion show, which raised funds for the Boston Chapter of Save Venice Inc.

1. **Juan Prieto**, CEO of Cabot, Cabot and Forbes, and **Dyan Goodwin**, senior vice president of Fleet Private Clients Group.
2. From left: **Anthony Orlando**, director of the Giuliana Teso Luxury Division in New York; **Giuliana Teso**, designer; and **Terry Thornton**, divisional merchandise manager of furs for Neiman Marcus.
3. **Victoria DiStephano** (left), co-chair, and **Sunne Savage**, private art dealer.
4. From left: **Hollis Colby**, executive committee board member for Save Venice; **Dr. Rick Spagnuolo, D.D.S**, West Roxbury; and **Jody Snider**, director of new business development for Soup2Nuts in Watertown.
5. **Darryl Anderson** (left) and **John Lovallo**, human resource manager and merchandise manager, respectively, for Neiman Marcus.
6. From left: **Jennifer O'Neil**, student at UMass Medical in Worcester; her mother, **Elinor**; and her sister, **Allison O'Neil Fischoeder**, assistant district attorney for the Middlesex District Attorneys Office.
7. From left: **Emily Webster**, sales professional for Webster & Co.; **Pierluigi Squillante**, Italian consul general; and **Jan Saragoni**, president of Saragoni & Co. in Boston.

Mount Auburn Hospital honored **John Kenneth Galbraith**, professor emeritus of economics at Harvard University, at a dinner on Sept. 24 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. More than 250 friends of the world-renowned economist gathered to celebrate his many accomplishments. Proceeds from the event benefited Mount Auburn Hospital's cardiac services, including the construction of a new electro-physiology treatment center. Tickets were $250.



8. From left: **Thomas O'Neill**, chairman of the Mount Auburn Hospital board of trustees; **Nancy Derderian**, event chair; and **Kelam Derderian**, contract administrator for the Boston School Department.
9. **Leon Palandjian**, Mount Auburn Hospital trustee, and his wife, **Tracy**, managing director for the Parthenon Group.
10. **Lisa Compagnone** (left), nurse anesthetist at Mount Auburn Hospital, and **Monica Wu**, occupational therapist.
11. **John Kenneth Galbraith**, economist, and **Jeanette Clough**, president and CEO of the Mount Auburn Hospital.

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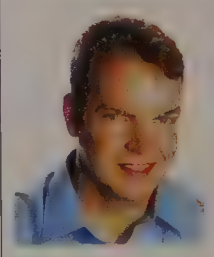

PLAYER HATER

Despite a couple of minor issues with pimps and pee, the new digs are mighty nice

I moved into a new apartment about a month ago, and so far I don't regret the move. The new pad is a lot bigger than my old place, it's got a backyard garden area, and it's convenient to many downtown destinations. I'm really quite happy with it, but I'm still getting used to the neighborhood. Every area has its own unique attractions, be it Charles Street in Beacon Hill, the restaurants of the North End or Back Bay's ever-festive Commonwealth Avenue mall. Likewise, my new locale is a vibrant, bustling community offering everything a savvy young professional like myself could want, be it an eight-ball of crack, a couple of hookers or a dark, trash-strewn alley in which to enjoy either one.

There are upsides to living in a seedy neighborhood. For one thing, the abundance of pimps means that you never have to worry about ho's getting out of line. I know this is true because a few weeks ago I was awakened at 4 am by a pimp reprimanding one of his employees directly outside my bedroom window. I could only hear the pimp end of the conversation, but apparently he had a problem with her productivity—a classic management dilemma. At one point he said, "I don't care if you lookin' sexy, you out here to make money!"

There was subsequent debate over how much money was to be made and so on, and eventually I began wondering if I would be kept up all night by this here playa'. I'd never dealt with this scenario in Beacon Hill, so I wasn't sure how to proceed. Should I call the cops? Should I poke my head out the window and say, "Excuse me, Mr. Pimp? Would you mind keeping it down a bit? Trying to get a little shut-eye, thanks!...I'm sorry, I don't know anyone named Joe Mama."

Until my recent encounter, I'd always thought of pimps as fur coat–wearing individuals who drive money-green Cadillacs and wear platform shoes filled with goldfish (to reference the seminal film *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka*). But this pimp was just scary and probably wasn't even wearing a comical hat. If I were his ho', I'd be looking around for a new hustler with better people skills.

Having a lot of prostitutes in the area also makes me feel guilty whenever I'm driving around looking for a parking space. The other night I got home around midnight and ran into a traffic jam because of a drug deal going down at the end of the street. (I'm assuming that the guy in the car and the guy standing at his window were not exchanging recipes for delicious chocolate pudding.) So I was stuck sitting there as scantily clad ladies strutted past my car and stared at me. You know you don't live in the best part of town when you find yourself thinking, "I wish they'd hurry up with that drug deal so I could get away from these hookers."

At least the prostitutes don't bother me personally, which is in stark contrast to my upstairs neighbors. The people several floors above me like to party. That's OK—I enjoy getting drunk and screaming as much as the next guy. But on a recent Saturday morning at about 3 am, roommate Scott and I were eating late-night mac and cheese and watching *Old School* for the 300th time when a sudden downpour erupted outside. This downpour was extremely localized; in fact, it was hitting just one of our chairs outside. Yes, some cretin upstairs was standing on the fire escape and urinating all over our things. Worse, we couldn't get outside to take action because the deluge was directly in front of our door.

I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT OF PIMPS AS FUR COAT–WEARING INDIVIDUALS WHO DRIVE MONEY-GREEN CADILLACS.

For a moment I contemplated grabbing an umbrella, braving the storm and climbing the fire escape (an idea that I can only attribute to my having consumed excessive quantities of beer at the Beantown Pub earlier in the evening), but fear of getting leaked on kept me inside until the last drop had fallen. At that point we rushed outside and screamed obscenities toward the upper floors of the building, which didn't change the situation any but probably aggravated our neighbors who *hadn't* peed all over the patio. But if my friends upstairs are reading this, I'll have you know that we've wired the fire escape with 110-volt AC current, and if you pee on our chairs again you will be electrocuted through your johnson.

My neighborhood might be the model for Liberty City in *Grand Theft Auto 3*, and my fellow residents might think my backyard is a bathroom, but I've now got a bedroom that's big enough for me to approach the bed from either side, and that's pretty sweet. IB

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Soroff ON

PERRI KLASS

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Perri Klass, who served as judge for the IMPROPER's fiction contest this year (see page 30 for the winning story), is a practicing pediatrician, an acclaimed author of fiction and nonfiction and a prize-winning journalist. Born in Trinidad (the daughter of a cultural anthropologist), she was raised mainly in New York and New Jersey, except for a year spent in India. After graduating from Harvard, she began graduate studies in zoology at Berkeley but then returned to Harvard to study medicine. Following a fellowship at Boston City Hospital, she began her clinical practice in Dorchester. As a writer, she published her first story in *Seventeen* magazine when she was 13. Since then, she has won five O. Henry Awards for her short stories, which have been published in the collections *Love and Modern Medicine* and *I Am Having An Adventure*. She has also published two novels, *Recombinations* and *Other Women's Children*, and two collections of essays about medicine, *A Not Entirely Benign Procedure: Four Years as a Medical Student* and *Baby Doctor: A Pediatrician's Training*. Her columns and articles have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post* and *Parenting*. She recently won a James Beard Foundation Journalism Award for an article in *Gourmet* magazine. She lives in Cambridge with Larry Wolff, a Boston College history professor, and their children.

Jonathan Soroff: *What's more important or gratifying to you—being a doctor or a writer?*

Perri Klass: I could do other jobs. I could be something other than a doctor, or I could be a different kind, and I'd still be a writer. I can't imagine anything I would do with my life that didn't include writing. On the other hand, on a day-to-day basis, I'm much more deeply involved in being a doctor. What keeps me up at night, what worries me, often has to do with taking care of patients. I also have to acknowledge that the person I am, and the voice I have as a writer, are certainly shaped by being a doctor.

JS: *So is writing an escape from the responsibilities of being a doctor?*

PK: Sometimes. And it's a very particular kind of escape. If you think about the accusation that doctors like to play God, well, how much more can you play God than by being a novelist?

JS: *Is that the biggest similarity between doctoring and writing?*

PK: Well, that's probably the biggest connection between doctoring and writing fiction. For journalism, there's another similarity, which has to do with being a busybody. A lot of your clinical education as a doctor is learning to ask rude questions. You have to see someone who looks like your grandmother and go in five minutes from "Hi," to "It says here that you've been constipated," or "How many sexual partners have you had?" So the interest in other people's lives and the eagerness to ask questions outside the bounds of polite chit-chat are things doctors have in common with journalists.

> I COULD BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN A DOCTOR, AND I'D STILL BE A WRITER. I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING I WOULD DO WITH MY LIFE THAT DIDN'T INCLUDE WRITING.

JS: *Which pays better?*

PK: [Laughs.] For me, medicine pays better and more regularly.

JS: *Of the many doctors who were also writers—Arthur Conan Doyle, Robin Cook, Somerset Maugham—who's your favorite?*

PK: Well, if I were choosing an ideal or a model, I'd want it to be someone who actually practiced medicine while writing, and the problem is many of the ones I admire most as writers, like Maugham or Chekhov, didn't practice. For them, doctoring was a detour. So the pediatric model would probably be William Carlos Williams, who had a busy practice but was also an incredible poet and writer.

JS: *The only profession that seems to produce more writers is law. Why is that?*

PK: With both professions, there's a surfeit of plot. You're surrounded by drama and conflict. There's also that curiosity, busybody factor for both, which I think is real, and probably some desire to escape the bounds of your profession.

JS: *As a pediatrician, what one thing do you wish all parents knew?*

PK: Probably the importance of books in young children's lives, and the importance of reading to them starting when they're very young. What that translates into is the fact that nothing takes the place of what parents can give their kids one-on-one, nothing compares to what kids get from books, and nothing links children to books like a parent reading to them.

JS: *Isn't caring for other people's children extraordinarily difficult?*

PK: Not half as difficult as dealing with adults.

JS: *But I would think it would be tough to constantly see children in pain or suffering.*

PK: That's true, and the interesting paradox of pediatrics is that we all go into it because we like children, but having chosen it, especially during residency, it involves actually causing pain, giving shots or running an IV. That's one of the hardest things about the training. On the other hand, if you're doing primary-care pediatrics, your patients are almost all going to grow up, for the most part they're healthy, and the good thing about working with kids is that as soon as they feel a little bit better, they act it. There's no such thing as a child sitting around saying, "Oh, boy, have I been sick." As soon as they feel a little bit better, they're bouncing around the room, and that's really satisfying.

JS: *Top three parenting tips?*

PK: To start with, every little thing isn't going to determine the outcome. I'm amazed by the level of agony some parents put themselves through over small decisions. The whole "Oh, no! He's wrecked for life!" mindset. He's not. You get seven million chances to screw it up or get it right, and it's going to be cumulative. The second would come back to books and reading. One of the great joys of child rearing is those moments when they go beyond you, and that seems to happen most often with books, as they learn things their parents might not know, or explore their own interests. And finally, I'd probably say, remember to have fun. Being brought up by someone who's doing it conscientiously or obsessively or neurotically is not helpful.

JS: *You won a James Beard Award. Are you a good cook?*

PK: Yeah, but that's not why I won. I wrote an essay called "The Lunch Box as Battlefield" for *Gourmet* magazine. I'm a veteran of many years of day care in Cambridge, and there are always some crazy parents in the group who are trying to bring up their children in some nutritionally pure zone, whatever that is. They say, "How does my child even know Gummi Worms exist? Because you put them in your child's lunchbox!" So then they try to make a rule like, "No white sugar," or "no flour," and my essay was a sort of grouchy "stay outta my kid's lunchbox" rant. I told a story, which was true, about a little boy who was being brought up with no white sugar of any kind, and he traded away his winter coat for an Oreo cookie.

JS: *Where the hell do you find the time to write?*

PK: A lot of the time, I don't. I'd probably write more if I weren't a doctor. But there's the cliché about pediatrics, that a lot of us have a touch of attention deficit. I think for me it's a nicer feeling that I have a lot more to write than time to do it in, as opposed to having a lot of time and not much to say.

JS: *Three people from history you'd most like to have dinner with?*

PK: Wow. I'm thinking of a bunch of people, and interestingly, they're all writers. I'm not sure why that is, since I'm not sure writers make the best dinner guests, but of the top of my head: Mary McCarthy, Barbara Pym, and from the point of view of really good conversation, Dorothy Parker.

JS: *Is there a word or phrase you overuse, and if so, does it relate to medicine?*

PK: All doctors, child-rearing experts and teachers overuse the words "appropriate" and "inappropriate," and I'm trying to eradicate them from my vocabulary. Within my family, I'm also notorious about my feelings for the word "share." I really can't deal with the usage: "Share your feelings," or "I'd like to share this with you," unless the person is talking about a box of cookies that's too big for him to eat by himself.

JS: *What one adjective would you use to describe your writing?*

PK: I might go with something like "good-humored."

JS: *Would you use the same adjective to describe yourself as a doctor?*

PK: I hope so. IB

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IN THREE INTERVIEWS, WRITERS ASK OTHER WRITERS ABOUT THE COMPELLING, SOMETIMES CURIOUS, INTERACTION BETWEEN WORK, LIFE AND THE CREATIVE FORCE WITHIN

TOM PERROTTA

Interview by Steve Almond

Tom Perrotta is the author of four books: the novels *The Wishbones*, *Joe College* and *Election* (which was made into a 1999 film) and a short-story collection, *Bad Haircut: Stories of the Seventies*. The 42-year-old New Jersey native is also an accomplished screenwriter who has written several original scripts. His next novel, *Little Children*, will be published in March by St. Martin's. He lives in Belmont with his wife and two children.

Steve Almond: *What's the new book about?*
Tom Perrotta: It's kind of a departure for me, because I think I've finally stepped away from coming of age and New Jersey. I'm trying to tackle what my life has become, so it's basically about young parents behaving badly. That's my tagline.
SA: *But you don't behave badly, do you?*
TP: Well, I'm writing fiction (laughs). Actually, what you have in *Little Children* are these two parents of 3-year-olds. They meet at the playground and begin this torrid affair that is made possible by the fact that their kids nap at the same time every day. In this same town is a child molester who's been released from prison and has come back to live with his mother. The parents in town know he's back, and there's a lot of agitation to try to get rid of him. So the main male character has this daytime secret life of having this intense affair and a nighttime secret life of teaming up with this ex-cop and trying to get rid of this child molester. And these two stories sort of collide. The comic tone is at odds with some of the dark material. I've always been interested in that.
SA: *What was it like having* Election *made into a film?*
TP: That was a great experience for many reasons. The first was that I couldn't publish the book. It had been sitting on my shelf for about four years before it got optioned for film, and that then drove the publication. Then they also made a great movie. I made a significant amount of money, and I hate to talk about money, but I wasn't making a living as a writer till then. It's funny, I used to go to writers' conferences and I'd tell people I wrote *Bad Haircut* and *The Wishbones*, and they'd go, "Well, that's nice." And now I say, "I wrote *Election*," and they say, "Oh! I saw that movie!"
SA: *Do you find that depressing?*
TP: No, only because it seems like a step up. The other reality was more depressing [laughs].
SA: *How did you get into screenwriting?*
TP: Partly to make money. But I have always loved movies. When I went on set for *Election*, I had a kind of revelation. I could see that films created this whole community, all these strangers converging to work like crazy for three or four months, and that seemed extremely appealing to me. If I had known at age 20 that working in that kind of community was a possibility, I might have gone in that direction. But I was so focused on becoming the kind of writer I am, I didn't see it.
SA: *Was shifting to screenwriting hard?*
TP: In a way it's been easy for me. As a fiction writer I've paid every kind of dues you can pay. I wrote three books before I got one published. I ghostwrote teen horror novels for money. I feel like I dove for every scrap. With film, because *Election* was a success, the doors just flew open. I know if I had gone to L.A. as a screenwriter I would have had to bang my head against the wall for 10 years. But there's a certain kind of respect you get out there as a book writer, because at some moment you have material that people want. But once you become a screenwriter, it doesn't matter who you are. You're not in charge anymore, you're an employee.
SA: *Are the two forms similar?*
TP: No, I definitely see screenwriting as a different craft. I remember when I first started writing fiction, someone told me, "In Hollywood they insist that a certain thing happen by page 27," and I was appalled because it seemed like the antithesis of novel writing. When I write novels, I regularly start with only the thinnest sense of what I'm doing. I just need some little engine to get started, and I'll find out where I end up in a year or two. But with a script, you'd better not start writing unless you can pretty much outline it all scene by scene.
SA: *Did you always want to be a writer?*
TP: It's almost embarrassing when my kids ask me what I wanted to be at their age, because it was never a real career. It was always a path to glory: writer, baseball player, lead guitar player.
SA: *What happened with music?*
TP: Well, obviously it didn't work out [laughs]. Actually, it's a really interesting thing, because as a teacher I often meet students who are trying so hard, and I can see that it doesn't come easily to them. And I really feel for them because I was that way with music. I tried so hard, and there were things I could teach

myself to do by sheer determination, but I just lacked some basic musicality.

SA: *You're a Jersey guy. How'd you end up in Boston?*

TP: I basically crawled my way up the East Coast. I taught for a couple of years at Yale after grad school; then I was offered a job in the Expository Writing program at Harvard. I stopped teaching after three years, when the screenwriting started, and at that point we could have moved anywhere. But we didn't want to go anywhere.

SA: *Will you ever stop writing?*

TP: I hope not. If I had become a rock and roll star, or an athlete, I guess I would have had to stop. But if you're a writer, there's nothing that says you have to stop, and nothing to keep you from getting better.

Steve Almond's story collection, My Life in Heavy Metal, *is out in paperback. Algonquin will publish his next book,* Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America, *in spring 2004.*

Elinor Lipman (left) and Mameve Medwed

ELINOR LIPMAN

Interview by Mameve Medwed

Elinor Lipman is the author of seven novels, including *The Inn at Lake Devine*, *Isabel's Bed* and, most recently, the widely acclaimed *Pursuit of Alice Thrift*. She says she most certainly does not tire of the frequent Jane Austen comparisons—what writer would?—and has been described by *Publishers Weekly* as "as close as you can get to that oxymoron, an unneurotic writer." She lives in Cambridge.

Mameve Medwed: *First things first—in the interest of full disclosure, would you like to quote the dedication to* The Pursuit of Alice Thrift?

Elinor Lipman: "For Mameve Medwed, dear and exemplary friend."

MM: *Now onto the heavy-duty stuff. Your hair is longer—can you tell us about that?*

EL: It's been really short since I was 28, and my son started saying on a regular basis, "Mom. It's so 1980s." The defining moment was seeing pictures of myself taken at a Curry College event about 18 months ago. I was horrified by the pixie-ish tendril effect. I began growing my hair that day. No one recognizes me, though.

MM: *Beauty angst aside, I guess we should move on to the "w" word. Why did you become a writer?*

EL: I hate that question. Although I usually have to answer it politely.

MM: *What's your polite answer?*

EL: Lots of encouragement early on starting with my father. He actually brought my "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" essay, which I wrote the first day of sixth grade, to his nightly rocking-chair-on-the-veranda club and read it aloud to his friends Sam McElroy, Bill Corbett and Eddie Reeney. In college I majored in something then called publications at Simmons, where I wrote for the school newspaper and penned a few satires, such as "How to Be a Freshman," but wrote not a word of fiction until I was 28.

MM: *The same year you cut your hair? Maybe your biographers will make a big deal over that.*

EL: Free advice to future biographers: Leave that topic out of your book proposal.

MM: *To return to how you started writing, what was the catalyst?*

EL: I had just read *Anne Sexton: A Self-Portrait in Letters*, which gave me the idea to sign up for a creative writing workshop. [Sexton took a course] at BU, taught by Robert Lowell. After class, the whole group went to the Ritz for martinis. [Within two months] I enrolled in a beginning fiction workshop at Brandeis adult ed, run by Arthur Edelstein, who I always say taught me to write.

MM: *I am duty bound, journalistically, to ask if one can go to school to learn how to write.*

EL: I can only answer for myself. He taught me some basics, corrected mistakes and hammered in fundamentals about point of view, dialogue and voice. Mostly, he saw something there underneath the beginner's efforts.

MM: *How did you get from adult ed to Random House?*

EL: The briefest summary—and I'm known for my economy—is: a couple of short stories published, a Viking short-story collection in 1987. Then I followed my editor to Pocket for three more novels. Finally to Random House and Vintage for the last four, and, I hope, however many more I squeeze out.

MM: *What other questions do you hate?*

EL: "Where do you get your ideas?"—which is unanswerable and usually asked by someone who doesn't understand how real life pushes a button in the brain and produces an idea that inspires a novel. They want a concrete answer like "*The Wall Street Journal*" or "Filene's Basement." I also dread the question, Whom do you like to read? because my mind goes blank and because in almost every case I can't recommend an author's entire oeuvre—present company excluded. I've started keeping a li with me: 10 books I've recently read and loved that th audience writes down dutifully to report to their boo groups, which is the whole point of their question.

MM: *So I shouldn't ask you to name names?*

EL: I name my buddies: You, Anita Shreve, Stacy Schif Steve McCauley, Tom Perrotta, Haven Kimme Madeleine Blais, Meg Wolitzer, Margot Livesey, Carolir Preston, Anthony Giardina, Roland Merullo, and I ways begin with Carol Shields. Is this name-droppin Because when pressed, I can name strangers.

MM: *Let's stick with the buddies since it's a great segue to th next question. You're thanked, acknowledged, exalted by other writers in their books, interviews, essays, poems, etc., extolling your generosity and help—present company include*

EL: It's viewed as generosity but I look at it as a selfi act because I get so much pleasure out of seeing a wo derful manuscript turned into a book. People think help every newcomer, but I don't. I only take up th cause of terrific writers.

MM: *Which you made so clear in your "Writers on Writin essay in* The New York Times *where you talked about blu promiscuity.*

EL: Some grouch once said you should judge the value a blurb by how many times that author's name appears a book jacket in a given year. I disagree. My sense is th people who blurb a lot remember what's it's like to for for quotes and how good it feels to get the blessing c published author.

MM: *Another dreaded question must be, What are you working on now?*

EL: Not so dreaded. I have five chapters of a new novel set in, of course, greater Boston. At this point I don't say what it's about because several of my beginnings have ended up in my own junk pile.

MM: *Any news from the undependables in Hollywood?*

EL: Actually, I just signed a contract for *The Inn at Lake Devine*, not with Hollywood, which had no appetite for a movie about anti-Semitism, but with two English blokes. There's interest in a few other titles, but until I sign the contract, I consider it pie in the sky.

MM: *Do you think I should ask about your hobbies?*

EL: I read. I knit. I just bought *Pilates for Dummies*. I walk if the weather conditions are ideal. I write e-mail. I'm a trustee at the Williston Northampton School, my son's alma mater, so I'm pretty involved there. I cook a lot.

MM: *What's for dinner tonight?*

EL: [Long pause] Do you think that casts us in a serious enough light?

MM: *Probably not.*

EL: Then say "madeleines."

Mameve Medwed is the author of three novels: Mail, Host Family, *and her just-published* The End of an Error. *Her short stories, essays and book reviews have appeared in, among others,* Yankee, Redbook, Playgirl, The Boston Globe *and* Newsday. Mail, *her first novel, has been optioned by Archer Street Films and will be directed by Sharon Maguire* (Bridget Jones's Diary). *Born in Bangor, Maine, she and her husband have two sons and live in Cambridge. She met Elinor Lipman 24 years ago in a creative writing workshop, and they have been friends, through publishing thick and thin, ever since.*

AMES CARROLL

nterview by Matthew Pearl

mes Carroll is the acclaimed author of numerous fiction nd nonfiction books and a winner of the National Book ward for *An American Requiem: God, My Father, and the Var That Came Between Us*. His new book, *Secret Father*, his first novel in nine years. Carroll also writes a weekly o-ed column for *The Boston Globe*. He lives in Boston.

atthew Pearl: *You're a poet and a columnist as well as author. What's your answer when someone asks what you , and how do you prefer to think of yourself professionally?*

mes Carroll: I take pleasure in identifying myself as a iter. My work has me on the margins of several institutons and professions (the press, religion, politics, fiction). y marginal status is precisely what gives me the way into merous worlds—although never with the power of nure. Such access is a privilege. Orwell says that free play the mind is key to the art of fiction, but it is necessary for good writing. And in my case, the various forms stimure each other. My preoccupations as a weekly op-ed lumnist inform my longer works of history; my responsiities as a political writer and as a citizen inspire aspects my fiction. My religious interest pushes me toward self-ticism (how can a Catholic not be self-critical?) and to nsider the great questions of death, loss, hope. All of s, in my case, defines the vocation of writer.

?: *It can be awkward when someone you meet hasn't urd of your writing, or perhaps even more awkward when y have. Or when they think you've written something that haven't. Do people ever confuse you with Jim Carroll* he Basketball Diaries*) or Lewis Carroll?*

Instead of assuming that strangers are familiar with work, I am, frankly, always somewhat surprised if they are. After all, to be a writer is to imagine, first, that there are readers out there. Readers become the ultimate figment of a writer's imagination. Then, when a writer actually encounters readers as real, it can seem a wondrous surprise, almost as if one is encountering, on the street, the characters in one's fiction. Any interaction with readers, whether through mail or in person, is precious.

MP: *Many authors complain about touring to promote their books. You're in the middle of a tour to promote* Secret Father. *Are you enjoying it?*

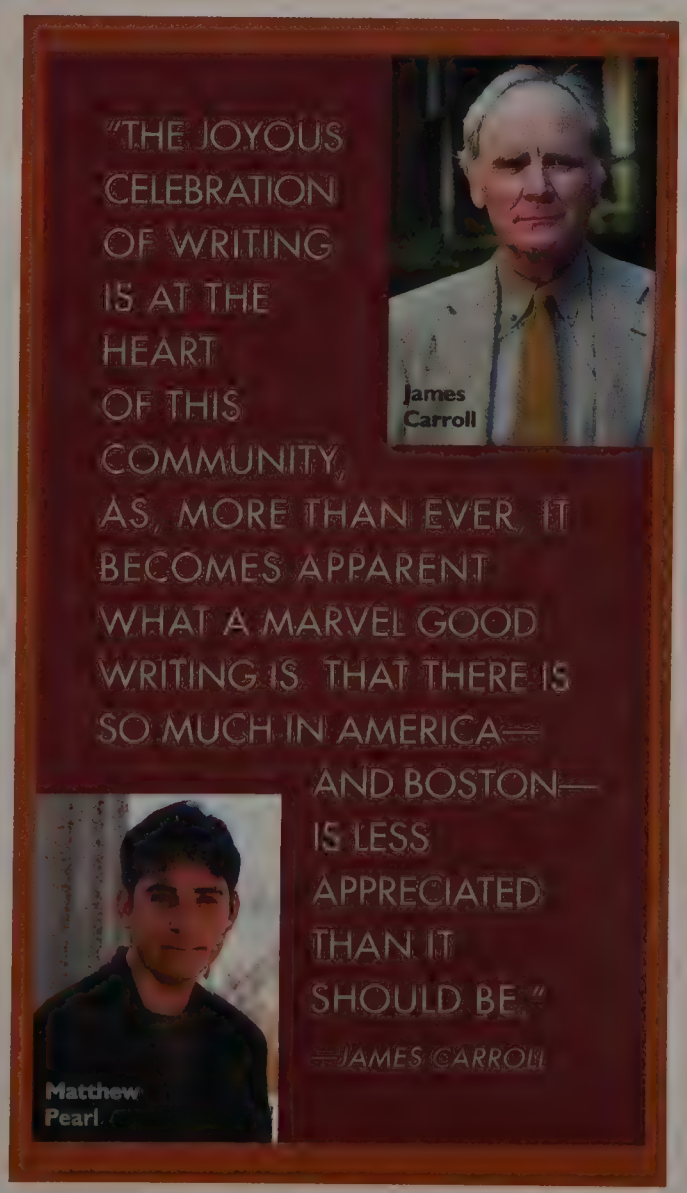
JC: Since the work of writing is intensely solitary, the quite unsolitary work of promotion poses a real challenge. It's not enough to simply throw one's finished book out of one's room, as it were. The book deserves to be led somewhat gently into the world, where it will then find its fate. I rather like the brief chore of the book tour. I especially value the chance to meet booksellers and librarians, who are the true heroes of this business.

MP: *Speaking of interaction, have you considered having a Web site?*

JC: I'm actually a bit shy about interacting with the public through the computer. That has less to do with my somewhat awkward relationship to the new technologies (I still think of my computer mainly as a typewriter) than with my rather desperate wish to maintain a zone of privacy. I still depend on my publishers to serve as the mediators between me and the public, and I hope to continue doing so.

MP: *From your vantage point, what has changed most about book publishing since the start of your career?*

JC: I began my professional novel-writing life at Little, Brown when it was still run by Arthur Thornhill Jr., who had taken over [in the 1960s] from his father. A great American publisher, yet it still had the spirit of a family business. And its main concern was not profit, but quality publishing. It was a privilege to begin my career in such a place, and though the much-noted takeover of publishing by profit-driven conglomerates has increased, American publishing still has islands of quality and seriousness. Houghton Mifflin remains one of them. Its devotion to quality publishing draws sustenance from its being in Boston.



MP: *Has the literary community in Boston changed or evolved in the years you've lived here as a professional writer?*

JC: There is a thriving literary community in Boston, centered in PEN New England. PEN is especially impressive in its work for literacy and its defense of free expression. The joyous celebration of writing is at the heart of this community, as, more than ever, it becomes apparent what a marvel good writing is. That there is so much in America—and Boston—is less appreciated than it should be.

MP: *As a columnist for the* Globe, *you often express strong political, though not partisan, views. How do you feel about politics as part of fiction?*

JC: Partly through accidents of family and age, I'm a politically preoccupied person, which affects my writing. Opposition to war defines my life. That provides me with an obvious theme for my columns, but how could it not show up in my fiction as well? *Secret Father* takes up the question of what story we tell about the Cold War. Was it "won" by America, through the brandishing of its weapons? Or was it, perhaps, brought to its mainly nonviolent conclusion by nonviolent movements on both sides of the Wall, but especially in the East? There are political implications to memory, grief, loss and even love. The characters in my fiction—because it's mine—must make their ways through that thicket, even if they do it in their own ways.

MP: *Do you pay close attention to critical reactions to your work?*

JC: Critics can help a writer to be better. I've published 10 novels, and the most important reviews I've received are the ones that, first, grasped my intentions for the book, and second, helped me see how I'd fallen short of them. To be measured against Proust can be profoundly disheartening for all but the most gifted writers. To be measured against one's own potential can be profoundly useful. Of course, in that case, one is always falling short. That is why the main impulse I have when I complete a novel is to get to work on the next one. To do it better.

MP: *Fiction and nonfiction are seen as separate universes, though they seem to me to swirl together in so many important ways. As someone accomplished in both forms, do you see fiction and nonfiction writing as being connected?*

JC: It's important to maintain the distinction between fiction and nonfiction, for the sake of the integrity of both forms. I referred earlier to Orwell's note about the free play of the mind in fiction. Nonfiction requires an expansive imagination too, but the firm discipline that's required by faithfulness to facts can itself be a source of a liberated imagination. In fiction, the free play can be far more unbounded, which is why reading a novel can be so exhilarating. Of course, a work of fiction is bound too, but bound by itself. Thus, in a novel, anything can happen—but only as long as it's true to the character whose action makes it so. The greatest moments in fiction come when the infinite possibilities of an unfolding story lead to outcomes, however surprising, that alone—the exact right ending—fulfill those possibilities. IB

Matthew Pearl is the author of the historical thriller The Dante Club, *a* New York Times *bestseller now being translated into more than 15 languages. He will appear at the Concord Festival of Authors Nov. 2. He lives in Cambridge.*

easy LISTENING

New literary events mix old-fashioned readings with a party atmosphere

BY RICCO VILLANUEVA SIASOCO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

"Writers with Drinks" may sound like the name of a whacked-out reality TV show hosted by a slurring Charles Bukowski or a raucous roundtable of larger-than-life figures like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway and Dorothy Parker. But just outside Harvard Square, down a steep flight of stairs and into the smoky air of a red-lit bar, it is exactly this—real writers with stiff drinks—that's drawn four dozen audience members to this basement room. The crowd of 20- and 30-something hipsters, who form a fashion menagerie of black leather, nerdy-chic glasses and striped socks, are here for the latest evening of Writers with Drinks, a kind of literary reading/vaudeville show/cocktail party. People lounge at café tables with studied poses, or stand as if in a police lineup against the mirrored wall.

"Every reading should have alcohol and music—the more the better," says Karl Iagnemma, author of the short-story collection *On the Nature of Human Romantic Interaction* and a fan of literary events like this one that combine reading with other diversions. "They tend to relax listeners and readers and basically guarantee that everyone's going to have a good time."

In smoky (or smoke-free) bars, busy four-star restaurants and opulent hotel lobbies, a flurry of new reading events like Writers with Drinks are mixing the literary with the loungelike. Other notable series include Books & Brews, hosted by the indomitable Newtonville Books, and the new Weekly Readings at the Marlowe (the brainchild of best-selling author Sue Miller with PEN New England), an elegant cocktail and hors d'oeuvres event that takes place monthly at Cambridge's Hotel Marlowe. All aim to transform the traditional readings that have been de rigueur for Boston's literary scene into something a little more lively and social.

It's not just drink that contributes to the relaxed atmosphere. In the one-of-a-kind Cover 2 Cover series, organizers Steve Almond and Tim Huggins have put writers and musicians on the same bill, the writers "covering" their favorite authors (imagine witty *Election* author Tom Perrotta reading from Raymond Carver's *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* or best-selling author Laura Zigman reading a work in progress by indie rocker Jen Trynin) and the musicians doing the same (like Buffalo Tom's Bill Janovitz covering country legend George Jones). The result? An intoxicating hybrid of literature, music and entertainment.

Newtonville Books owner Tim Huggins was the first in the Boston area to pair writers and drinks through his two popular series, Books & Brews and Earfull, which were designed to break the form of the traditional literary reading. "Other readings were only an hour," says Huggins—a recipient of PEN New England's Friend to Writers award—"and I was trying to create an event that was a little longer and larger, to get people out of the house and try to extend that social experience of hiring a babysitter and going to a movie."

Earfull, which had been held at the Kendall Café and combined literary readings with performances by local musicians, is on temporary hiatus. Huggins and fellow founders Jen Trynin and Mike Denneen, of the recording studio Q Division, hope to relaunch it early in 2004 in a new venue.

Fred Marchant re
at the Wee
Readings serie
the Hotel Marlo

Meanwhile, the ever-popular Books & Brews series is going strong, pairing literary reading and bookselling with socializing. After a reading at the bookstore, the writer and audience members walk to a nearby pub like the Karoun. Huggins picks up the tab for the first round of drinks, and the pub supplies complimentary appetizers. In this laid-back atmosphere, book lovers can relax and chat with the author.

For many of Huggins' loyal followers, Books & Brews has become an institution; it's presented nearly every week and features locals such as MIT writers/scientists Alan Lightman and Karl Iagnemma, as well as other writers on tour. This fall's roster includes the likes of nonfiction writer John Shattuck talking about his *Freedom on Fire: Human Rights Wars and America's Response*, and Heidi Jon Schmidt reading from her anticipated first novel, *The Bride of Catastrophe*.

"Books and authors stand on their own," Huggins says. "I wanted to extend the performance part of a reading to make it a full night out." Then, with a smile, he adds, "also I liked the idea of underwriting my drinking."

SUBTERRANEAN SUBTEXT

Back in the red-lit basement room of the Lizard Lounge, novelist and short-story writer Elizabeth Searle—wearing a smart dress, a white button-down shirt and a man's necktie—approaches the spindly microphone with an impish smile. The crowd seems to lean forward as she speaks.

"I'm here to read porn about gay men," she proclaims, and a conspiratorial laugh erupts from the crowd. Searle is one act at this evening's edition of Writers with Drinks (cleverly subtitled "Writers in Drag"). At this event, Searle joins four other writers who will read from work they've written that's outside their normal genre. Among them: *The Exes* author and zine publisher Pagan Kennedy, who reads a children's story, and budding talent Toni Amato, who reads a stream-of-consciousness rant about young love.

Billed alternately as the "cocktail of colloquy" or "remix of rhetoric," transgendered writer-huckster Charlie Anders' eclectic, bicoastal series is part stand-up comedy, part vaudeville performance and, tonight, part drag show. "Writers in Drag was a chance to celebrate genre differences in another way," says Anders. "I thought it would be fun to see if a horror piece written by a poet who didn't usually write horror would be different than a typical horror piece."

Standing on the ragtag oriental carpet that separates the reading space from the crowd, Searle waves a glossy issue of *Genre*, a gay men's magazine that published her story. "I promised you gay porn, and here goes," she announces. As she reads, the crowd falls silent, and the only sounds are those of highball glasses being filled with ice, and lighters being flicked for cigarettes.

Part of the panache of this user-friendly trend in literary readings comes from the change in venue from rigid, theater-style seating to cushy sofas, café tables or even the plush surroundings of a luxury hotel.

PEN New England, the writer's association that counts Maxine Kumin, Saul Bellow and Elie Wiesel among its esteemed membership, has removed some of the stuffiness from its events. During the annual PEN Eros Night, held at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, local novelists, poets and short-story writers read their erotica on a black box stage and then invite the audience to join them for chocolates and wine in the theater's green room. This past summer, PEN built on the success of this informal spring gathering with its new Weekly Readings at the Marlowe series, in which authors join hotel guests, literary locals and other writers for a weekly wine hour and informal reading in the hotel's lounge. Local favorites featured in the series so far include literary critic Sven Birkerts, poet Fred Marchant and popular novelists Doug Bauer, Jill McCorkle and Michael Lowenthal.

"When I read at the Hotel Marlowe, the majority of the folks in the crowd were hotel guests who had simply come for the free wine and had no idea that someone would be reading," Lowenthal, author of the indie-bookstore favorite *Avoidance*, says about the Weekly Readings series. "I took it as a challenge to see if I could engage them and keep them engaged with my story against the competing distractions of the drinks table and the other hotel guests arriving in the nearby lobby. Much to my delight, they all stayed put, listening intently, and I felt sort of triumphant—much more so than when I read to the usual literary crowd."

Lowenthal's a fan of the lounge setting, too. "It has this sort of *I Dream of Jeannie* harem-in-the-palace decor, very conducive to storytelling," he says.

Across the Charles from PEN's refined gathering, smack dab in the middle of downtown, members and friends of the Writers' Room of Boston also see a reading's setting as being critical to success. Their monthly reading series, open to the public, is held once a month at Kennedy's Midtown bar.

Bob Dall, coordinator of the Writers' Room series, says, "We have our own room, but it's folks sitting at tables, not in auditorium-style seating. There's plenty of time just to chat before and afterward, and there's food and drink to be had." Dall says the laid-back feel of Kennedy's produces a different kind of reading: "It's not quite revolutionary, but it is decidedly relaxed."

THE BEAT GOES ON

Long before pop songstress Jewel sullied the poetry section at Barnes & Noble with her bland verse, there were knock-your-socks-off poet-musicians like Patti Smith taking the stage at St. Mark's Church in the Bowery, paying tribute to influential writers like Allen Ginsberg by reciting his epic "Howl" before enthralled crowds of writers and musicians alike.

But everybody knows Boston isn't Manhattan and the Athenaeum isn't St. Mark's Church. Still, local lit guy Steve Almond always sensed there was a way to bring out this kind of natural symbiosis between literature and music. One night while having a beer with his friend Huggins (who had already launched Books & Brews and Earfull), Almond saw his opportunity.

"As a writer and reader, I love going to readings. And I love going to see live music," says Almond. "Our hope with Earfull and Cover 2 Cover was simply to cross-pollinate those scenes, to connect authors and musicians and the fans of those art forms. It's not that we want to 'spruce up' literary readings with booze and food so much as we want to celebrate words and music in a relaxed, social setting."

Both men were interested in somehow bringing together two Boston constituencies that seemed performance spaces apart: the literary folks (say, habitués of the Grolier Poetry Book Shop) and the grungier rock fans who hung out down Mass. Ave. at the Middle East. From this conversation the notion of Cover 2 Cover was born; Almond and Huggins spent the next few months planning the logistics, and the series premiered this past spring at the Paradise Lounge.

What makes these hybrids of readings and concerts so popular? Is it just the booze that's greasing both writers and audience members into a rollicking time? For Sue Rosenkranz, a fledgling novelist who lives in Somerville and regularly attends Writers with Drinks, the reasons for the rise of the hybrid reading and social events are many. "You can laugh, hoot, hiss at the villains, and the readers can play off each," she says. "It's my favorite thing—serious play."

Though planners like Almond are looking to attract new audiences with an atmosphere of fun, the content remains important. "At Cover 2 Cover, folks really do listen to the readings," he says. "It's not just a party. We're not just trying to promote a particular book, though there's nothing wrong with that. We're trying to get people to realize how funny and sad and moving the best literature is." IB

Ricco Villanueva Siasoco has published fiction in The North American Review, Flyway, Drunken Boat *and* Genre. *His essays and reviews have appeared in the* Boston Globe, Boston Magazine *and* ArchitectureBoston, *among others. He teaches writing at Boston College and is working on a novel.*

Elizabeth Searle's among the local writers who participate in readings.

Writers with Drinks organizer Charlie Anders at the Writers in Drag event

Amie M. Evans at Writers with Drinks at the Lizard Lounge

A Books & Brews event at Ariadne

LISTEN HERE

BOOKS & BREWS
Newtonville Books, 296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com.

COVER 2 COVER
Paradise Lounge, 969 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8814). www.newtonvillebooks.com.

EARFULL
www.earfull.org. Relaunch planned for early 2004.

WEEKLY READINGS AT THE MARLOWE
Hotel Marlowe, 25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-8000). www.pen-ne.org. Meets Wednesdays, 5:30 pm.

WRITERS' ROOM OF BOSTON SERIES
Kennedy's Midtown, 42 Province St., Boston (617-523-0566). Meets the third Sunday of each month, 5 pm.

WRITERS WITH DRINKS
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.writerswithdrinks.com.

Carol Trauner's Somerville apartment is overflowing with books arranged in sections like grammar, 17th-century English history and old hardbacks.

BY EMILY FRANKLIN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRACY POWELL

boston's BOOKWORMS

Here's how I knew my relationship with Clark was doomed: The oceanside retreat he called home contained not one single book. I had ways of coping with his feline companion (namely, Benadryl), and I actually didn't mind that his music collection was largely late-1970s. One issue that wouldn't fade into the background, however, was the fact that Clark's house was bare of all books—and that was the breaking point for me, for us. Suffice it to say that the relationship didn't last, though I did leave behind my old copy of *Great Expectations*, possibly so he might read it or, more likely, so I could leave some trace of myself behind.

Book lovers. Reading fanatics. Bookworms. If the first image that springs to mind is someone so deeply connected to books that they shrug off most modern conventions, then Jerry Sullivan is the bookworm poster child. An English and Latin teacher in East Boston during the academic year and a librarian at Harvard's Widener Library during the summer, Sullivan lives for his love of books—and he doesn't have a credit card or an e-mail account.

While many people find occasional solace in a novel, bookworms are fanatical fans of the written word. Perhaps one of the defining characteristics of a 'worm is the sheer volume of…volumes. Sullivan's house in Stoneham is a testament to this. "When I sit down on my chair to grade papers or write, I have to move books," he says. "When I sit on my bed, I move books. There are piles everywhere. I just move the stacks from one place to another."

Unattached, except for the constant grip on his books, Sullivan tries to read for at least an hour and a half a night and finishes about a book a week throughout the year. So deep is his connection to the objects of his affections, he's even planned trips to hunt for that special one. "I've been to Maine, the Cape and New York City, looking for books almost the whole time," he says. In New York, Sullivan favors the Strand, with its cluttered piles and endless stacks of treasures waiting to be claimed.

Bibliophiles find that life is sweeter when surrounded by books.

Lots of them.

Rob Meltzer, an attorney who lives in Framingham, is just as extreme in his love for books. "I'd say they are a part of my family," he says. "Another way of putting it—an analogy my wife finds distasteful—is that it's like the relationship between an addict and his drug of choice." Meltzer's house is brimming with books, so much so that he and his wife are "about to engage in a massive home remodeling project that will create a library with stacks to accommodate the books."

Meltzer devotes hours to reading each day and doesn't own a television."We live in a democracy in which we are asked to make decisions on complicated issues," he says. "Television has done a terrible job of providing context for complex problems. Books give a far greater opportunity to delve into something."

Over the top? Perhaps. But bookworms wouldn't have it any other way. Book-obsessed folks like Sullivan and Meltzer are a determined lot. The quest for that particular novel, biography or obscure out-of-print collection is akin to searching for the Holy Grail. "Some people think it's an eccentricity, but I don't mind," Sullivan says. One of his favorite activities is wandering around the Avenue Victor Hugo bookshop on Newbury Street. While on vacation, he doesn't stop searching for books; the Cape's Isaiah Thomas Books lures him with the possibility of stumbling upon an early Signet or Bantam paperback classic. "I like discovering something I didn't know about, like a rare Henry James collection," he says. Sullivan's collection of books is well into the hundreds, so he resists the urge to buy every interesting volume he finds. "I only buy a book if it's a keeper." And keep is what all bookworms do—the typical bibliophile's shelves are stuffed with books picked up in bargain basements, used and new bookstores. And the collection is ever growing.

The idea of being surrounded by books is one that every fanatical bookworm relates to—and part of the need to collect books must stem from this desire for stacks upon stacks of hardcovers and paperbacks. Meltzer's volumes are so numerous that he keeps them "maintained in Library of Congress order," complete with a card catalog that's housed in the main library area. Meltzer moonlights as a book reviewer, which only fuels the fire. "I've found a convenient way to get my supply at low cost," he says.

Though reading is usually a solitary activity, some bookworms find friends through their love of literature. Book groups have grown in popularity over the years, and collectors of books might link up with other lurkers frequenting the stacks of used bookstores and street stalls. "I've made a tremendous number of friends through my book review columns," Meltzer says. "I get a great deal of feedback from both readers and authors. I'm on a first-name basis with a huge number of bookstore proprietors between Boston and San Francisco. It's not uncommon for them to call me asking for a good book on a subject." Connecting through books can help balance frenzied days spent sending instant messages and e-mails, all the while glued to our cell phones and Blackberries. "As we become more and more dependent on technology, I find that books create a continuity with our past and a sense of being prepared for the future," Meltzer says.

Boston is full of bookworms of all shapes and fashion senses, not only the quiet and refined, or the bookish and tweed-clad. Take Tania Rodriguez, for example. Perhaps an unlikely bookworm—trendy and self-assured in her black pants and fitted top—she admits to being "unable to stop" buying books. She teaches Pilates and just got married. While she's happy to gush about her recent nuptials, she's also thrilled about the new addition to their household. "We just got a huge new bookshelf!" she says. "It's dark metal and already totally overflowing with books." Rodriguez's Cambridge apartment holds double rows of books on most shelves, and now that she's married to another book lover, there's an even more desperate need for shelving. So although Rodriguez might not fit the clichéd image of a bookworm, she's got the lifestyle and furnishings to qualify.

This defining decor is typical of the bookworm. Not content merely to borrow a book from a library or friend, one characteristic is the need to own the texts. "I certainly wouldn't refuse to read a book if I didn't own it," says Carol Trauner, publications director for Chefs Collaborative, a national network that promotes sustainable agriculture. "[But] I prefer to own the book." Trauner's one-bedroom Somerville apartment is overflowing with books. "It was a little less embarrassing when I lived with roommates, and people didn't immediately know that all of them were mine." She admits to getting "in real trouble" if she wanders into Harvard Book Store's used section after a drink or two. "The next day I discover that I've bought a 17th-century Italian novel, a biography of an English poet, a cookbook, a reference book and another Russian novel." Trauner, who reads about a book a week, is literally never without a book. She reads during her hour-and-a-half commute, at night and even

when she's waiting in line. "All of my bags need to be big enough to fit a book," she says.

Most rabid book lovers become avid readers at an early age. Rather than spending time at the baseball park or playground, young bookworms lurk for hours in the library, or anywhere they can get their hands on a book. "I can't remember a time before books," Meltzer says. Sullivan, meanwhile, has "loved books forever. I was always reading as a kid—always." And Trauner's childhood memories include being in the back seat of the car, reading, even as she traveled in Germany with her parents. "I read past the great sights of Europe," she says. "I was also carsick a lot. Didn't stop me."

But what to do with all the books? When the piles and stacks become overwhelming, some use them for other purposes. Forced to come to terms with their overgrown, oversized art-book collection, one bookworm pair, Nicolas and Katherine Franklin, came up with a functional (if Seinfeldian) solution—a coffee table made of coffee table books. Four thigh-high stacks of hardcovers serve as the legs, supporting a large piece of framed glass.

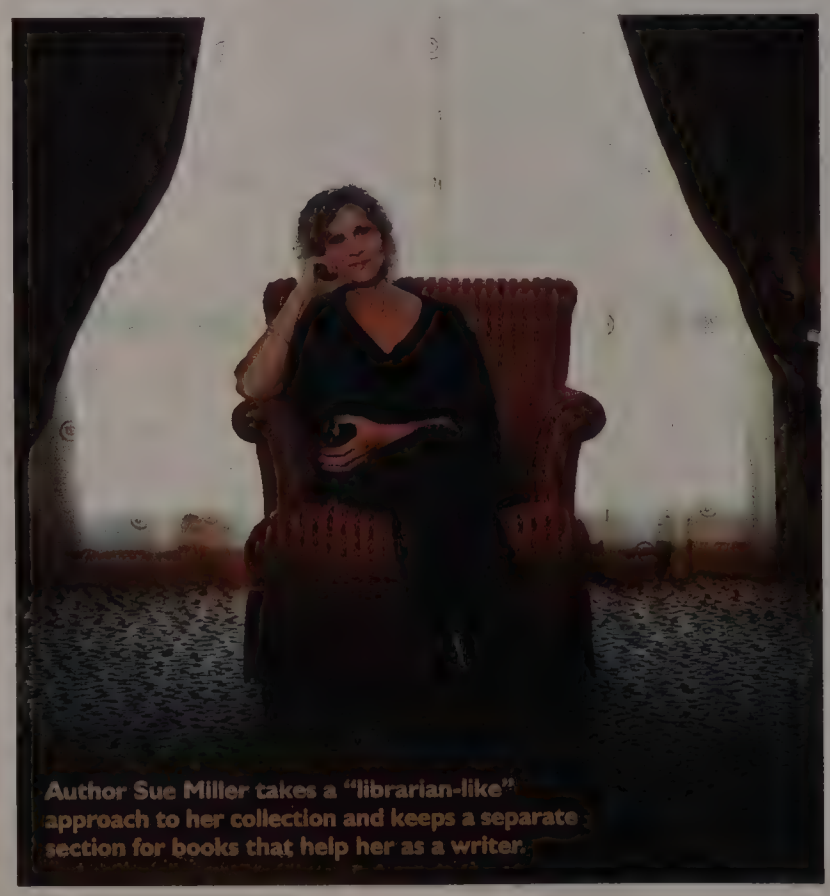
Bookworm Robert Meltzer, an attorney who lives in Framingham, says books are "part of my family."

For many bookworms, cataloging their conquests is a must—lists, files, alphabetized by rows. Meltzer's collection is categorized: "It's almost entirely nonfiction, specializing in history, politics, sociology, philosophy, architecture, criminology, urban studies, ethnic studies, geography, travel, biography, technology, the history of the date palm industry to the 19th century sort of thing."

Trauner organizes her books by subject and keeps the fiction in alphabetical order. There are also separate sections for grammar, 17th-century English history, old hardbacks and, she says, "assigned reading from classes that for some reason I'm convinced I need to keep—you know, in case I suddenly need to know something about early 20th-century Russian painting or German politics between the wars."

Local bibliophile Sue Miller, author of *The Good Mother*, *Inventing the Abbotts and Other Stories* and many other books, also prefers the alphabetical approach. "I'm librarian-like," she says. Miller's books are crammed on shelves, although she keeps one group separate from the others. Her "special books" are ones that help her as a writer. Miller refers to them while she writes, choosing to reread those that "thrill" and "encourage" her.

As a writer and reader, Miller enjoys what many of us do—being taken away by the story. "I am interested in being transported." The escape provided by reading stories is certainly part of the lure. In an instant we can be whisked away to Tolstoy's Russia or inside the mind of Bridget Jones. Many people read just for this escapism, longing to be swept off to a Shangri-la of sorts, or to trek Nepal, or travel back to an English drawing room in the late 1800s. For many bookworms, it doesn't matter what the subject is—the only thing of importance is that there are ample hours to read. The act is so integral to the daily life of a bookworm that one reader muses, "I'm not sure what people who don't read are doing all the time. Are they just sitting there?"


Author Sue Miller takes a "librarian-like" approach to her collection and keeps a separate section for books that help her as a writer.

Most bookworms like to revisit their treasures. Miller returns to her fondest books frequently. Part of the joy of being surrounded by books, bookworms say, is the ability to go back and find ones that they've nearly forgotten about. Another part of the allure is that books are a portable art form. Whereas carting around a Calder or a Kandinsky would be taxing (both physically and monetarily), you can take a book pretty much anywhere. What other art form can be carried into the sanctuary of the bathroom? Unlike televisions that have a fixed place in the house, books are free to roam with us wherever we go—on the T, on vacation, the doctor's waiting room. Books—without so much as flirting with us—can wind up in our beds.

This intimacy connects the texts to us, and perhaps this is one reason why it's difficult for the bookworm to let any go. Books draw us in, lead us off to other places and planets, allow us, as Miller suggests, to be "transported," and yet they also provide for us what our lives cannot: Their endings are already written. Whether the tome in front of us is a John Grisham thriller, a Toni Morrison tale or a weighty historical biography, the outcome is decided. Unlike our daily lives that keep us guessing ("Is he the one?" "Do I take that job in Seattle?" "Fat-free or 1 percent?") indefinitely, books bring with them the solace that no matter how frantic the pacing, how much is at stake for the characters, we will know their fate in several hundred pages.

I remember stepping into the house of Clark (that old book-bare boyfriend), and even with its near-perfect location by the beach, I had a feeling of emptiness. As with music, our bookshelves help to reveal who we are. With our books on display, so are we telling all who see our shelves something about who we are: the preschool teacher who adores horror novels, the academic with a taste for "chick lit."

Books have always made me feel at home. As a young girl, I dreamed of being stuck overnight in a bookstore, and I suppose certain areas of my house have the same appeal, towered high with novels, poetry, histories. I am a lending library of sorts—forever doling out loans of favorite reads to friends who stop by for dinner and want a fix. In the evenings now, I read to my own children. Bunnies, moons and talking trucks lull the kids to sleep. The stories remind me of why I love books; the tales transport and comfort us, elicit reactions we can't predetermine and offer glimpses outside our own worlds. Book collections are road maps, markers for who and where we've been, each with its own memory and meaning, insisting you were here. ■

Emily Franklin's first novel, Liner Notes, *was just published by Simon & Schuster/Downtown Press. She lives locally and is on the staff of the National Public Radio program* Car Talk. *Her book tour includes a stop at Brookline Booksmith on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7 pm.*

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THE SHADOW OF

MANNY RAMIREZ

BY RACHEL SOLAR-TUTTLE

When I invite Manny Ramirez to dinner, Jack is skeptical. I tell him after I've already mailed the letter to Manny, in care of his agent. "Dear Manny," it says. "Everyone is so excited that you're coming to Boston. Don't worry, you'll do fine. And if you ever get homesick, my husband and I live in Brookline, right near the ballpark. Call us. You can come over for some home cooking!" I include our phone number.

"They probably put you on the list," Jack says.

"What list?"

"The list of suspicious fans. Psychos. People to watch."

"They did not," I say.

"There's probably a van outside our house right now. And FBI bugs."

"It is not a federal offense for one nice person to invite another nice person for dinner."

"What makes you think he's a nice person?"

"Hello! Did you not read the papers all week? His best friend was a clubhouse attendant. He has pictures in his locker of minor league players!"

"And this makes him a nice guy?"

"Yes. Quiet. Salt of the earth. Understated. Humble."

Jack shakes his head and walks out to the backyard with a cigar.

I don't seriously expect Manny to call. Except for that little part of me that does. Sure, he might be suspicious of me and my intentions. But it's equally easy (and feels much better) to believe that he just might look at my letter, my careful, looped script, and somehow see me, my earnestness. How much I need him.

Sometimes, days go by and I'm so consumed with daily life—or nonlife—that I lose Manny completely, stop reading three sports sections, stop letting his words—"Boston fans are nice. They're cool. They're pumped up"—come in and live in my mind, stop thinking of him as a sweet friend. But then I check voice mail and hear a male voice and feel a jolt, my heart skipping and unsteady. Hope like a dish I didn't order, a favorite meal from a long time ago.

At first, when Manny does call, I don't believe it. Actually, it isn't Manny per se. "This is a message for Ms. Levine," says the low, unfamiliar voice. "It's Gene Mato. I work with Jeff Moorad, Manny Ramirez's agent. Manny received from you an invitation to some sort of cookout, apparently? And he's asked me to get in touch with you to affirm that he will be in attendance. It is my understanding that there is no charitable component to this engagement. It's just an informal gathering, is that correct? Date and time TBD. Manny would like to schedule that for his upcoming off day, July 23rd, which is a week from Monday. If you could, please fax directions to the location and any other information he needs to my office. I'm sure you must be very excited, Ms. Levine. Manny is looking forward to it as well."

I try to put the phone back on the receiver, but my hands shake, and it falls to the floor. I can't sit, can't stand, so I just slide down the wall like water and pool there. I wonder how I ever breathed before when breathing is so, so hard. How do babies do it? And old people in nursing homes? I listen to the message over and over. Especially the part that says "Manny is looking forward to it as well." A few times, I try to get up, but something catches in my chest, a bubble springs up, sharp, and I just can't get a good breath. So I stay there for hours, just listening to the grandfather clock tick and the phone ring periodically and the mailman push *Town and Country* and *Fortune* and *Baseball Digest* through the mail slot below.

I say, out loud, just to hear it: "Manny Ramirez is coming to dinner." Manny Ramirez is coming in 10 days. Manny Ramirez will walk through our door. His fingertip (soft, yet somehow in itself athletic, the color of untoasted wheat bread, I imagine) will touch our doorbell! Normally, if someone important were coming, I'd panic about the menu and convince Mary to cook something complicated from *The Olives Table* cookbook. And then I'd end up ordering some little dress I don't need from Scoop in New York because Sophie, the salesgirl, who went to Spence or Dalton and has a white tattoo, says Kevin Bacon bought one for his wife, Kyra, and I imagine it will change my life.

But this is Manny Ramirez! Manny would see through all that. It would scare him. He'd probably say, in a quiet voice, devoid of even a shade of impoliteness, "What's with you, man?" After all, what he was drawn to in the first place was the exact opposite of any air—the glimmer of the real me I let him see. For once I didn't listen to those

inside voices that say what's wrong, what's inappropriate, what's not allowed. I was real. And I offered Manny the possibility of home—real home—after a long road trip, and in the midst of his first season away from softer, homier Cleveland. What I have to do is distill down to that essence of me. Clip back all the weeds, relocate that girl inside, that person Manny might want for his friend.

"What's up?" Jack's always short when I call before the market closes.

"You're not going to believe this."

"Whoa. Slow down. You sound really strange."

"Manny—" But that's all I can say.

"Manny what, honey? I don't want to rush you, but I'm pretty crunched right now."

I drag in some air; it makes a rough, scraping sound inside my ears. "Manny—"

"What is it? Manny's number one in homers. Manny went three for four last night. Manny's going back to Cleveland."

"NO!"

"Whoa. OK, OK. Calm down."

"Manny is coming to dinner."

"Ha, ha. Very funny. That's cute, sweetie, but I really need to go. The market—"

"I'm serious. Manny is coming to dinner."

"OK, it's ceasing to be funny, because I really need to make a call now. And I'm worried about you, sweetie, and the extent of this whole—fantasy world you've invented. I mean, I know that you're a creative person, but at some point there's a danger to…"

"I am NOT being creative! Manny Ramirez is coming to dinner. A week from Monday."

"Shhhhh. Shhhhh. Honey, you need to breathe."

"Don't shush me. Just call voice mail. Listen for yourself."

I hang up, walk into my study and boot up the computer. Since I quit my job, I rarely use it. When I told Jack I was on the Internet researching at-home business ideas, I was just getting a break from him and reading about the Sox on ESPN.com. Now I go to MapQuest and punch in our address as the destination and "4 Yawkey Way" as the origin. Just typing "Yawkey Way" gives me a shiver. Maybe Jack's right. I need to breathe. I'm going to have to calm down before Manny comes to dinner.

As I print out the map, the phone rings.

"Oh my God," says Jack.

"You owe me a big apology."

"And you don't think it's someone playing a prank?"

"Do you?"

"Oh my God."

"You said that already."

"Jesus H. Christ."

"Wait a minute. You sound not happy."

"Well, honey, how do you want me to sound? It's the middle of the workday, and you drop this bombshell..."

"Bombshell? You act like having Manny Ramirez to dinner, a turn of events beyond my wildest dreams, is some kind of negative thing. "

"It's just...what do we have in common with Manny Ramirez? What could we possibly have to talk about?"

"You are such a snob. I'm getting off the phone."

"Hold on a second. I'm not a snob. And if I were, the subject of this alleged snobbery would not be a baseball player with a $252 million contract."

"You're thinking of A-Rod. Manny's contract is only for $160 million. "

"You're right. You got me. This is why I look down on him."

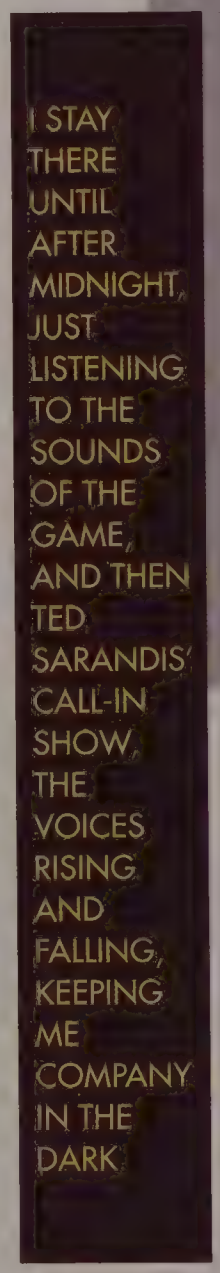
"No, it's because he's not old New England money like you and he didn't go to St. Paul's and he doesn't summer in Chatham."

"That's ridiculous. OK, you tell me. You're the one who's orchestrated this whole...shindig. What do you plan to talk about with a professional athlete? And how's his English, by the way?"

"You asshole! His English is perfect. He translates for Arrojo!"

"This is working out well," Jack says.

"I have to go." And he lets me.



Manny is coming just in time. I feel more energized than I have in months. I fax the directions and a note ("This is so thrilling!") to Gene Mato. I write a list of simple, homey comfort foods that a pretensionless, salt-of-the-earth type of person might want away from home: chicken, burgers, potato salad, Toll House cookies, lemonade, beer. When I read the list out loud to Mary, she laughs.

"What's so funny?"

"Just that you usually have me make all this fancy stuff. And now Manny Ramirez is coming to dinner and you want me to make...this?"

"No, I don't want you to make it. I'm going to make it. I just wanted your opinion."

"You're going to make all that stuff? Potato salad? Toll House cookies?"

"Mary, don't you have any confidence in me? I was a vice president at Andersen and I can't make a cookie? Even Hillary Clinton can make a cookie."

"No, no, of course I have confidence in you. I'm sure you can do anything you put your mind to. It's just..."

"Just what?"

"Well, I don't know. You're just not the cooking type. And the way you've been moping around here..."

"I know. I've been a little down. But I'm putting together a game plan."

"A game plan about what? Manny Ramirez and cookies?"

"Mary, can't you just be happy for me?"

"Of course I can," says Mary. "And instant oats."

"What?"

"Instant oats are the magic ingredient."

Is something on fire?" asks Jack, walking through the door and sniffing.

"What?" But I hear him. I'm on my third batch of test-run cookies. I don't know how Mary does this. I've already ruined a pan, set off the smoke alarm (when I couldn't get it to stop, I smashed it with a grooved wooden mallet I found in a kitchen drawer) and created something so salty it more closely resembles risotto than a batch of cookies. You need an MIT degree in advanced chemistry to bake Toll House cookies from scratch. How will I ever master this in time? I have egg yolk on my H belt and flour handprints on my best black T.

"Never mind." Jack starts up the stairs, and I know without needing to look that he's walking to his dressing room, emptying his pockets, separating the change by denomination. I turn the kitchen radio to WEEI for the pregame interviews. Lowe blew a save last night, and Joe Castiglione purports to ask Jimy about it, soft-pedaling as usual. "So, last night's outcome was unfortunate, Jimy. Lowe seemed to have a tough time. The sinker wasn't exactly sinking. Do you just pick up and move on?"

"Pretty much, Joe. Sometimes you need a little luck in baseball and maybe luck just wasn't on our side."

Slowly, I clean the kitchen from side to side, listening to the game, until only a small container full of my test-run potato salad, a half glass of test-run lemonade and three cookies from the best batch (the rest were burnt beyond repair) remain on the countertop. I stand at the kitchen doorway for a moment. Down the hall, the blue light from the television flickers as the ticker tape moves. I go back to the kitchen and sit down to the little meal I've made. The lemonade is good—cool and tart. I stay there until after midnight, just listening to the sounds of the game, and then Ted Sarandis' call-in show, the voices rising and falling, keeping me company in the dark.

The next day I don't sleep late. I've been sleeping late since the day I quit. Actually, that was the first thing I did when I got home. I quit in the morning, was home by 11, went upstairs, took off my shoes and stockings, pulled the drapes shut and climbed under the thick down duvet, the air conditioning prickling my shinbones. Every day since, I've heard all the normal Jack sounds each morning—the chime of change, the long, heavy breaths as he knots his tie in front of the mirror, the click of his briefcase—but only peripherally, a backdrop to my dreams of endless, endless falling.

But today the wink of light that pushes under the edge of the drape seems warm white instead of intrusive. I open my eyes. The Manny call has not evaporated the way some highs do, like some night in college when you thought you were finally alive that grows hazier and hazier, sliding even further out of your grasp every time you try to call it up again. No, this memory stays true, and the feelings come back even stronger when I play the message again or think of the weight of him, of Manny Ramirez standing on our doorstep, the promising shadow he will cast across our threshold.

"You're awake?" asks Jack, straightening his tie in front of the mirror.

We haven't spoken since the night before. Lately, we've been doing that, putting aside the old adage about going to bed angry. Sleeping back to back.

"I'm awake," I say.

"We never talked last night."

"I know." It hangs in the air for a moment.

"Did the Sox win?"

"Yeah."

"Tell me how Manny did."

I sit up in bed, prop the pillows behind my back, smile. "He went three for four with a homer and four RBIs."

"So how does he do it?"

"They say natural talent, but that underestimates how hard he works. First to the park, extra BP, hundreds of balls thrown at him a day, learning every carom. But it's also something else, I think. A love of what you do. Faith. Fate. Maybe magic."

Sometimes I make these little deals with myself. Sometimes I whisper these shocking little things in my head. If he makes fun of me now, I think, I'll just leave him. I'll move into a Holiday Inn, cash in my 401(k), road trip across the country.

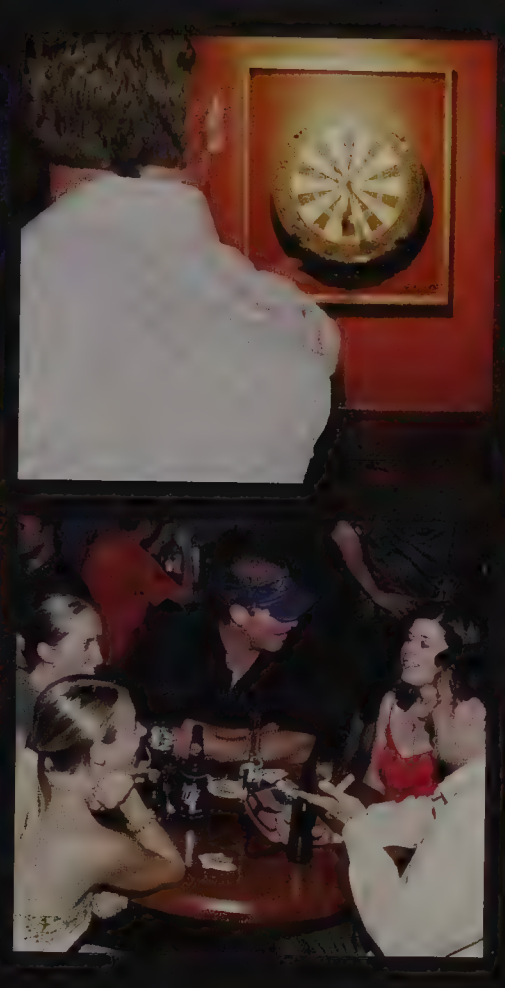
"Magic, huh?"

I hold my breath.

"I guess I'll have to ask him about that at dinner," my husband says. He walks to the window and peeks out onto the park. "Wow, the sun is out already."

I get up out of bed to see for myself. IB

Brookline writer and ardent Red Sox fan Rachel Solar-Tuttle is the author of the novel Number 6 Fumbles *and co-author of* Table Talk: The Savvy Girl's Alternative Guide to Networking. *Her work has been published in the* Boston Globe *and other publications.*



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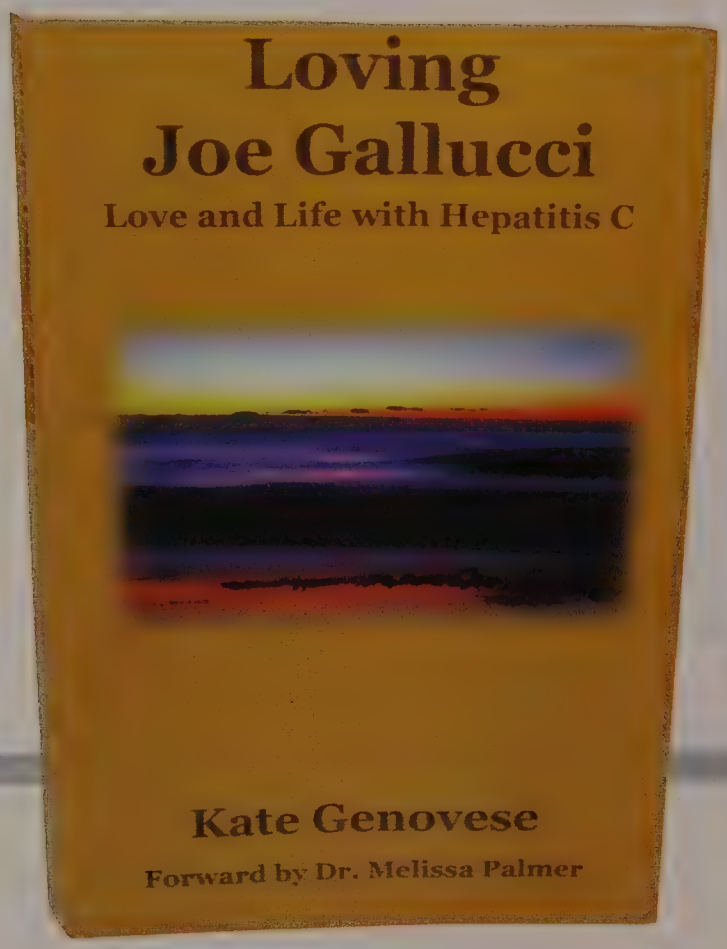

DRUGGING, A LOVE STORY

***Loving Joe Gallucci*, by Kate Genovese, is a novel about love tortured by drugs and eventual hepatitis C. Some of the proceeds from the book will go to the Liver Foundation.**

Surprising as it may seem, this novel about drugs and the long scar they leave on the lives of users is a good, almost upbeat read. Because writer Kate Genovese is a nurse, she knows the drug world of the 1960s from various standpoints. Genovese follows Meg Flaherty, daughter of a Massachusetts senator, through her bumpy yet steadfast relationship and marriage to the rough-cut, blue-collar Jimmy Romano—who is certainly not the kind of man the senator wants for his daughter. Meg plausibly segues from her exhausting nursing work to the hard partying that leads to early addiction, then a sobering up. Jimmy, who nicknames his drug-devil self Joe Gallucci, gets far more involved in heroin and cocaine, with all the sly shadiness, denial and sordidness they entail. But the rocklike Meg sticks by him, and they marry and have children. Not till decades later, their lives finally solidified, does the dark, dormant seed of hepatitis C germinate. This delayed punishment for a lifetime of dangerous sex and needles leads to a liver transplant. But Meg's grit and long-term devotion make these unwelcome consequences almost bearable.

A KITCHEN YOU COULD EAT OFF OF

Arclinea Boston, at 2014 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge, offers custom-made Italian kitchens. Call 617-876-9888 or go to www.arclineaboston.com.

Imagine a kitchen so sleek and elegant that its crucial elements seem at first barely there—it's a silver bird flying past. Italian designer Antonio Citterio designs truly custom kitchens that are at once cunningly complex in the arrangements of the components and chic to the point of professional kitchenism. Ergonomically designed pieces are stashed behind poker-faced stainless-steel designs of beautifully understated shininess. The various food-prep, cooking and cleanup units are arranged to tighten up the cooking dance; everything is close at hand. Placement is based, cleverly, on "rotation," or frequency of use. Shipshape tidiness is found in subtly recessed pulls, overhead metal drying racks and clear lines of visibility; even the trash buckets are stylish. All this dovetails with well-concealed enormity; shelves and bins you could almost swim in or a marvelously tall Dr. Seuss–like sink sprayer with real restaurant authority. Softness glows from gray Carrara marble countertops with rounded edges. The variety of ingenious, artistic solutions that bring "mental and physical" order invite a luxurious showroom stroll. Many appliances can be integrated with these designed spaces.

HIT THE HIGH NOTE

Karen Welling, a Somerville therapist and professional musician, offers sessions in creativity and performance enhancement for artists and writers. Call 617-623-3703.

Karen Welling is a performing musician who has experienced the paralyzing terror of stage fright. Happily, she has learned to apply the techniques of EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) in the exhilarating emergency of the onstage moment. EMDR was discovered in the 1980s by a therapist named Francine Shapiro. While walking and mulling over a disturbing thought, Shapiro's eyes began moving in a particular way. Afterwards, amazingly, she felt cleansed of her worry. From this seed, Shapiro developed EMDR, based partly on those eye movements. The technique is said to help erase traumatic images and emotions. Specific protocols juxtapose negative, drag-you-down memories and feelings with empowering, "self-talking" messages. This internal, experiential technique has subsequently been applied to help artists reduce impediments and inhibitions, like stage fright. Weller helps artists reach into their particular memory swamp, first inquiring into those hopeless, shaming experiences, then making them more succinct and tight, like a balloon to be popped with a sharp needle of positive intention. What emerges is cleaner, braver artistic confidence.

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REVIEW

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BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

Lemon oil–brushed rack of lamb with zucchini blossoms

The place: Boston. The time: the 1970s, the decade of Nixon and Watergate, Carter and Iran, as well as the resurgence of the hated Yankees. The bill of fare: baked beans, scrod, Indian pudding—upscale at Locke-Ober (hold the beans); down-market at Durgin Park. Suddenly, a voice crying out in the desert. John the Baptist? No. It was Lydia Shire, about to lead Boston out of the gastronomic wilderness to a new era.

From those early days in the 1980s behind the stove with Jasper White at the Bostonian Hotel, Shire eventually opened her own restaurant, Biba, overlooking the Public Garden. Biba appeared in the late '80s like a supernova—brilliant, audacious, provocative, exciting—attracting sybaritic pilgrims from across the Northeast. It burned brightly for more than a dozen years, closing several months ago to make way for Shire's latest extravaganza, Excelsior, a collaboration with accomplished restaurateur Tim Lynch of Grill 23.

The name says it all: Excelsior. Higher, better. And it is. Some would contend that "higher" applies primarily to Excelsior's prices, but that would be unfair. Don't get me wrong, Excelsior is not cheap. Its appetizers are particularly pricey, averaging over $17 even without considering the caviar outlier at $85. Main courses are more down-to-earth, almost half of them below $30. While wine prices range into the stratosphere, one can buy a decent bottle for under $30. Excelsior is clearly not among the most expensive restaurants in the region. More important, it delivers value for its substantial prices. When one pays a lot of money, one expects luxury. Excelsior delivers.

Soft-shell crab with green garlic and pistachio ($16) took my breath away. This late-summer treat, lightly breaded and fried to a crisp yet delicate turn, virtually exploded with flavor. Complemented by the tang of lemon aioli and crunchy pistachios, the crab shared a plate with a small avocado half stuffed with cubed cucumbers, flaky crabmeat and nuggets of potatoes. Shire is sometimes criticized as a mistress of excess—a practitioner of the Todd English, too-many-things-on-the-plate school—but this dish evidenced a discipline and focus that made it work as a whole. Flan of brûléed sugar and butter corn with chanterelle glaze ($16) brought a small, square shot glass filled to the brim with ambrosial corn custard, sweet but not cloying, with a garnish of velvety-textured chanterelle mushrooms of wild and woodsy flavor and al dente kernels of yellow and white corn.

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RESERVATIONS recommended

CREDIT CARDS all major

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE yes

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A pricier appetizer, the foie gras steak ($25), evidenced the same streamlined classicism, in which artistic flourishes and skillful use of well-chosen ingredients focused and framed the heart of the dish. Walnut halves, red and white currants, crispy slivers of fried leeks, a small dollop of mashed potatoes, and a crisped bay leaf provided flavor and texture counterpoints to the silky, luxurious foie gras. We ordered this dish as part of the tasting menu, and its scaled-down size—perhaps a quarter of the regular appetizer-size portion—was appropriate to its overwhelming richness. Four ounces of the stuff may have been lethal (but what a way to go!).

Excelsior's main courses included the best duck dish ($28) I have ever had this side of La Tour d'Argent in Paris. A product of the restaurant's vertical oven, the hefty half-duck had been roasted in a fashion that rendered most of the fat, leaving the skin crisp and the flesh underneath moist and succulent. While the hindquarters were cooked medium, the breast remained rare beneath its pleasantly charred, impeccably crisp skin. The marinade of jasmine tea and Asian five spice—cinnamon, ginger, clove, fennel seed and star anise—gave the duck a perfumed, almost exotic flavor, replicated in a delectable taro cake accompaniment, an unexpectedly light and flavorful garnish from this classic South American starchy root. A moist pineapple chunk surmounted by chopped duck giblets, with their concentrated, intense flavors, provided the perfect finishing touch.

Hacked ginger lobster tails with spiced rice and mango ($39) came bathed in an exquisite saffron-accented sauce, with slightly sweet, slightly bitter pea tendrils. Shavings of coconut and slices of mango contributed to the felicitous mélange of contrasting but compatible sweet, salty and savory flavors. Finally from the main course selections came the lamb ($39), a rack of small ribs with elongated bones, brushed with a lemon marinade and roasted in Excelsior's vertical oven, producing flesh that was tender and rare. Morsels of caramelized fat along the rib bones made for satisfying gnawing—etiquette be damned. A crisp fried zucchini flower redolent of parsley and sage shared the plate alongside small cylinders of baby zucchini, hollowed out and stuffed with pine nuts.

The grand dessert, the finale of Excelsior tasting menu, consisted of a handsomely presented rectangular plate, featuring on one side cocoa tart—two rich triangles garnished with crème fraiche and a large ripe strawberry—and on the other a refreshing mango sorbet served on a crispy pineapple chip and topped with a pine nut cookie.

From Excelsior's wine selections, on one night I enjoyed a half bottle of 1999 Ruffino Chianti Classico Riserva ($25), a refined and reliable Sangiovese, soft but not flabby with a full, rich bouquet and a fine finish. On my second visit, I ordered wine by the glass and was pleasantly surprised at both the generous pour (almost a full six ounces) and the quality of the 2001 Arbole Carmenere from the Colchaga Valley, Chile ($8). This well-structured red wi

good acid made a splendid food wine. Less impressive was the 2001 Montes Cabernet Sauvignon Riserva, also from Chile, which lacked the structure and finesse of its Carmenere cousin.

Excelsior's bread basket contained toothsome, ethereal roti, a Malaysian bread similar to Indian poori, painted with garlic and anchovy butter; thick slices of rich, dark brown nut bread; and peppery grilled brioche. Hiding underneath was a length of French baguette, which proved to be the most serviceable vehicle for mopping up Excelsior's superlative sauces.

The stage on which Excelsior presents its formidable productions includes a three-story, climate-controlled wine tower that confronts one immediately upon entering the restaurant. To the right is a stylish bar with high-definition television screens mounted high. An elevator that bisects the wine tower takes diners to the second floor dining room. Divided into sectors by large, high-gloss columns, the dining room retains its priceless views of the Public Garden and swan boats. The reddish brown, glossy veneer ceiling seems a bit too low for the grandeur of the place, but the totality of the setting conveys refined elegance.

On both of my visits, the service shined, with what must be the highest server-to-patron ratio in the city. Legions of attendants vigilantly prowled the dining room, ready to respond to the slightest facial expression or gesture. When I carelessly dropped a morsel of food on my sports jacket and began dabbing it with a wet napkin, a server was at my side instantly, offering to bring bubbly water to more effectively control the damage.

A word about Excelsior's portions. On one evening I ordered one appetizer and one main course. The resulting servings were so rich and substantial that I could not finish them. On my second visit I chose the tasting menu ($85), which began with an extra, unannounced course, an amuse gueule of a fresh oyster on the half shell and a "pea shooter"—a shot glass of light-bodied, intensely flavorful pea soup. However, together with the next five courses, two from the appetizer side of the menu, two from the main course side, and dessert, this six-course tasting menu provided a smaller quantity of food than the five regular courses of my earlier visit.

While the small size of the tasting menu portions at first surprised me, by the time I finished the meal, leaving the table satisfied but not stuffed, I appreciated the wisdom of Excelsior's approach. The richness of the preparations and the pleasure of consuming an entire, carefully scripted meal showcasing different aspects of Lydia Shire's genius made the tasting menu portions "right-sized." The labor and artistry involved in preparing and serving six different dishes compared with two justified the higher price for the smaller quantity of food. Sometimes—perhaps often—less is more. iB

Tuna au poivre with Roman semolina gnocchi

Chef/owner Lydia Shire balances a plate of French cheese in the three-story wine tower.

Excelsior's dining room overlooks the Public Garden.

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Boston Vegetarian Food Festival
Reggie Lewis Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St., Boston. www.bostonveg.org/foodfest. *Oct. 18, 10 am-6 pm. Free.* Taste free samples of a variety of vegetarian foods, talk to food exhibitors and learn about the latest veggie products. There's also a lineup of experts speaking on health, nutrition and cooking.

Cigar and Port Dinner
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 15, 7 pm. $70. This four-course, steakhouse-style dinner prepared by chef **Felino Samson** features port wine from Churchill Graham Ltd. and cigars from Cigar Masters.

Don't Dessert Us!
Boston Design Center, One Design Center, Boston (617-445-7777). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Oct. 9, 6:30 pm. $100. At this benefit for Community Servings, 12 chefs create unique desserts that serve as the inspiration for 12 local and national designers to create one-of-a-kind evening gowns. Sample desserts, liqueurs and cordials at this IMPROPER BOSTONIAN–sponsored event, which concludes with a runway show.

East Coast Grill BBQ Night
East Coast Grill, 1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-491-6568). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 20, 5:30 pm. $35. Sample classic and nouveau grilled cuisine.

Fireside Chats
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. Every other Saturday, 3 pm. $25. Chef/owner **Jim Solomon** hosts experts who share knowledge on everything from fine American wines to seasonal New England foods and microbrews. •Oct. 11: Sauvignon blanc.

Lucy's First Anniversary Dinner
Lucy's, 242 Harvard St., Brookline (617-232-5829). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 14-17, 5-7 pm. Enjoy free gourmet pizzas at the bar in celebration of Lucy's first anniversary.

Market Tour with Ana Sortun
Lifelong Learning, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). Oct. 18, 10 am-2 pm. $100. Chef **Ana Sortun** of Oleana introduces food lovers to Watertown markets. Learn where to buy Mediterranean spices, olives, grains, nuts, yogurts, pastry and wines.

Monday Night Football Barbecue
Rouge [Red], 480 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mondays. $19.95. Enjoy Monday night football while dining on all-you-can-eat baby back ribs, pulled pork and baked beans.

October Wine Series
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900, ext. 7099). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Oct. 9. $165. Chef **Daniel Kenney** and **France Posener** of Opus One Winery host this four-course dinner paired with Opus One wines.

Pumpkin & Potato Harvest Day
Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord (978-369-4494). Oct. 11, 12-4 pm. Pick your own pumpkins, taste roasted potatoes and cider, take a hayride and listen to live entertainment.

Radius Fall Cooking Series
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Oct. 11, 11 am. $125. Join chef de cuisine **Brian Reimer** and wine steward **Scott Fraley** in the kitchen. •Oct. 11: Food & Wine of Gascony.

Sagra della Porchetta
Antico Forno, 93 Salem St., Boston (617-723-6733). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Oct. 19, 2 pm. $35. Terramia Ristorante and Antico Forno celebrate their 10th and seventh anniversaries, respectively, with a meal of slow-roasted suckling pig served with rosemary focaccia and other Naples specialties. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Tapas Dinner
Tremont 647, 647 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-4600). Oct. 20, 6:30 pm. $65. Enjoy a reception and sit-down dinner of tapas, sangria and Spanish wines.

A Taste of History
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). Oct. 15, 6-8 pm. $50. This fund-raising event benefits the Old South Meeting House and honors patriot Samuel Adams. Boston Beer Company brewer **Grant Wood** and Gourmet Caterers chef **Eddie Brit** discuss beer and food pairings.

Wellfleet Oyster Festival
Wellfleet, Mass. (508-349-0330). Oct. 17-19. Elbow your way through the busy street fair, boogie at the disco dance party, test your skills in the oyster-shucking contest and learn about Wellfleet mollusks at educational talks and demonstrations. Proceeds benefit Wellfleet shellfishermen.

Wine and Dine
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green Line to Park. $85. Limited to 12 guests, this biweekly wine table offers a three-course food and wine pairing menu. •Oct. 20: Northern Rhone (France).

Wine and Oyster Tasting
McCormick & Schmick's, 34 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-482-3999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue., 7-9 pm. A la carte. Chef **Eric Naruszewicz** and general manager **Paul Tietge** offer shucking lessons, sample tastings and information on a wide array of oysters and host a question-and-answer session on wine and oyster pairing.

Wines of Spain Dinner
Caffé Umbra, 1395 Washington St., Boston (617-867-0707). Oct. 21. General manager **Jim Becker**, former chef at Taranta and Rauxa, among others, steps back into the kitchen to prepare a four-course dinner paired with Spanish wines.

Pig out at the pig-free Boston Vegetarian Food Festival.

DISH

...That's La Morra!

Busy in Brookline...A Rouge by any other name...Cable and table...

When you're opening your first restaurant, confidence and flexibility can be even more important than careful planning. That's why **Josh Ziskin**, who expects to open **La Morra** in Brookline the very same week his wife expects to give birth to their third child, sounds excited instead of stressed.

"I guess I forgot to tell her I was opening a restaurant, and she forgot to tell me she wanted a third kid," he quips.

Ziskin, most recently chef de cuisine at **Tuscan Grill** in Waltham for four years, says the 72-seat La Morra will focus on traditional northern Italian cuisine. He's especially enthusiastic about featuring *cicchetti*—Venetian-style tapas or small dishes—and a nightly four-course meal for $35 that will include appetizer, pasta, main course and dessert. Ziskin will prepare homemade pastas and breads, and the bar and lounge areas of the two-level spot will feature Italian wine and liqueurs. But wait, there's more: La Morra, which opens in mid-November in the former **Fajitas & 'Ritas** space in Brookline Village, will offer both on-street and valet parking.

Josh Ziskin will open La Morra in the former Fajitas & 'Ritas near Brookline Village in mid-November.

SECOND COURSE

Most restaurants don't undergo a name change unless there's a change of ownership. So it was intriguing to receive a press release from **Andy Husbands** that referred to Rouge as "**Rouge [Red]**." What's up with the subtitle, Andy?

"It's kind of a marketing move," he says. "Rouge is a French word, and I'm an American guy making a move toward barbecue." In fact, Husbands is featuring all-you-can-eat barbecue Mondays throughout the football season in his formerly New Orleans–themed South End eatery. That means ribs, pulled pork and brisket, along with football on satellite TV. Which begs the question: will Husbands add [Neck] to Rouge [Red]?

"No comment," laughs the pork rind–loving chef, who's also heading south—to Providence—to open a new restaurant. The as-yet-unnamed restaurant is slated to open its doors December 1 in the space formerly occupied by the highly rated **Empire**, which closed last May. **Jason Santos**, longtime executive chef at **Tremont 647**, has been promoted to the position of operating chef and business partner.

All you can watch: At the launch party for *TV Diner*, NECN's new restaurant show starring **Billy Costa**, a capacity crowd sipped "Costa-politans" (on all other nights, it's called a Telotus martini) and nibbled on colossal shrimp at **Mantra**. Unlike new *Phantom Gourmet* host David Robichaud, who jumped on a table and sang at that show's party, the famously good-natured Costa declined to perform. Another contrast: A guest who'd been invited to both parties lauded the "much better food" at the *TVD* bash. "I mean, Papa Gino's pizza and deep-fried Twinkies compared to this," he said, holding a plateful of oysters.

Sean Simmons, owner and executive chef of the **Parish Cafe**, now qualifies as an Extreme Pedestrian: He's also working with childhood buddy **Gordon Wilcox** as executive chef of **George: An American Tavern**, just a hop, a skip and a swerve across busy Boylston Street. iB

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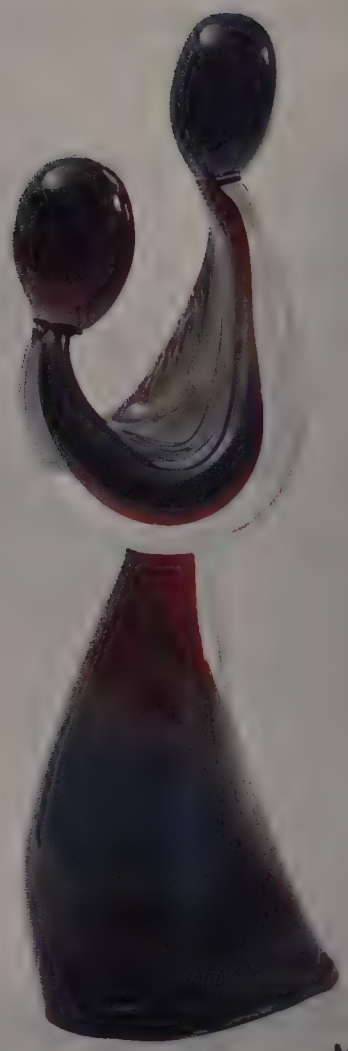

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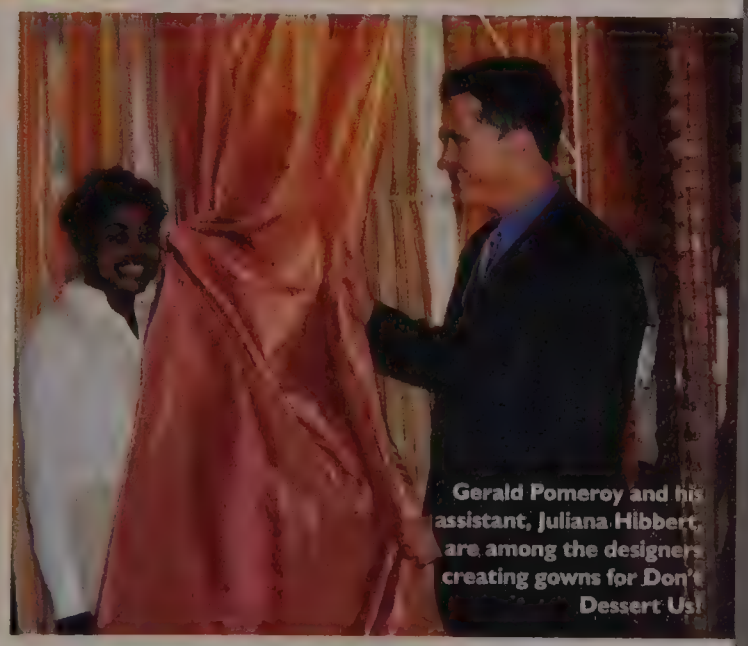
IMPROPER PICKS

october 8 - 21

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			8 Visit seven design showrooms during the **Walk About Boston's Design District** event. *See CityScope on page 50.*	9 The **Boston Globe Book Festival** continues this week at the Boston Public Library. *See Books & Poetry on page 88.*	10 World-class ice skaters perform at **An Evening with Champions**, a benefit for the Jimmy Fund. *See CityScope on page 50.*	11 ***100 Days***, a film about the Rwandan government's genocidal reign of the 1990s, plays at Museum of Fine Arts. *See Movies on page 64.*
12 ***Thoroughly Modern Millie***, a musical based on the 1967 Oscar-winning film, is at the Wang Theatre. *See Performing Arts on page 52.*	13 **Opening Our Doors Day** is Boston's largest free community cultural event. *See CityScope on page 50.*	14 Dziga Vertov's classic ***The Man with the Movie Camera*** screens with live piano accompaniment. At the Harvard Film Archive. *See Movies on page 64.*	15	16 In Rudolf Nureyev's ***Don Quixote***, Boston Ballet recreates Miguel de Cervantes' 17th-century tale. *See Performing Arts on page 54.*	17 **Pauly Shore** performs at the Comedy Connection. *See Performing Arts on page 54.*	18 ***Facing Mekka***, a celebration of hip-hop dance, is at the Cutler Majestic Theatre. *See Performing Arts on page 54.*
19 **Eric Idle** of Monty Python performs songs and skits at the Orpheum. *See Performing Arts on page 54.*	20	21 Frank Gorshin plays George Burns in ***Say Goodnight, Gracie*** at the Wilbur Theatre. *See Performing Arts on page 52.*				



Gerald Pomeroy and his assistant, Juliana Hibbert, are among the designers creating gowns for Don't Dessert Us!

THU./OCT. 9

Tastings: Yum...Dessert

The Boston Design Center's annual **Don't Dessert Us!** benefit for Community Servings has a new twist. In past years, this IMPROPER BOSTONIAN-sponsored event has featured upholstered chairs with unique designs inspired by desserts. This year, it's one-of-a-kind evening gowns. Imagine a full-length, mint-green ball gown taking its design cues from a raspberry-infused, crème de menthe soufflé. A total of 12 local and national designers (including the IMPROPER's fashion and beauty editor Samantha House) will create gowns to match desserts prepared by Michael Leviton of Lumiere, Kristen Murray of No. 9 Park, Raymond Ost of Sandrine's and Rich Vellante of Legal Sea Foods, among others. Mingle with other foodies and design enthusiasts and sample the desserts along with liqueurs and cordials as you tour the design center's showrooms. The evening, which concludes with a runway show and silent auction of the gowns, brings new meaning to the phrase, "You look good enough to eat." *Boston Design Center, One Design Center, Boston (617-445-7777). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Oct. 9, 6:30 pm. $100.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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Art, Books & Poetry, Gay & Lesbian, Museums, Movies, Music

JULIE SURATT

Around Town, Children, Education, Performing Arts

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Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs, and Sports

SAT. AND SUN./OCT. 11 AND 12

Art: Pluckin' Pumpkins

Last October, we drove out to a farm in New Hampshire to bring home our pet pumpkin. After much hemming and hawing, our eyes fell upon little Gordon the Gourd, a pint-sized pumpkin—and we immediately fell in love. Until a month later when he rotted and his gooey innards got stuck to our mantle top. We vowed never to go through that kind of heartbreak again, so this year, we're going to MIT's **Great Glass Pumpkin Patch** to pick a pumpkin that's guaranteed not to go soft on us. At this annual event, more than 1,000 glass pumpkins, squashes and gourds, created by students in MIT's Glass Lab art program, are strewn throughout a grassy court in front of MIT's Kresge Auditorium. Visitors can (carefully) stroll through the pumpkin patch and choose their favorite autumnal orb to take home (prices range from $20-$200). Browsing is free. *Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4003). 10 am-5 pm each day.*

THU./OCT. 16

CityScope: Saks It Up

The summer season of *Sex and the City* is all but a distant memory, and the next season of new episodes doesn't start for months. But here's an event that'll get you through the drought until you can get another fab-four fix. Tonic is hosting a Saks in the City fashion show, a party inspired by the HBO series, with cocktails, door prizes and hors d'oeuvres. The fashion show features models from Maggie, Inc., celebrity athletes and sports anchors, who will don Saks clothing and strut their stuff. The evening also includes trivia contests, raffle prizes and special drinks. Proceeds benefit Franciscan Children's Hospital. *Tonic, 1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-779-1130). 7-10 pm. $25.*

TUE./OCT. 7-SAT./NOV. 1

Performing Arts: What a Tease

If you're a John Waters fan, here's an opportunity to see his crazy cinematic style performed live on stage. The King of Camp plays creative consultant to the stage remake of his 1988 cult hit film, *Hairspray*, at the Colonial Theatre Oct. 7-Nov. 1. This production is a bit more mainstream (a toned-down version of the over-the-top zaniness that cast members Sonny Bono, Deborah Harry, Ricki Lake, Ric Ocasek and Jerry Stiller lent to the film). But the musical, which opened on Broadway in August 2002 to rave reviews, garnered eight Tony Awards in 2003, which ain't half bad. For those unfamiliar with the show, it's set in Baltimore in 1962, and 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto television's most popular show. She earns a coveted spot, but the real question is: Can she win the heart of dreamy Link Larkin and integrate a television show at the same time? *Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. $30-$97.*

The cast of *Hairspray*

This bra designed by Susan Sarandon is one of the undergarments up for bid at the Celebrity Bra Auction.

THU./OCT. 9

CityScope: Bra-vo!

With the outrageous amount that bras cost nowadays, do you ever feel like you should be wearing your bra over your shirt? If you make the winning bid on a bra designed by Pamela Anderson, Goldie Hawn, Billy Joel or Samuel L. Jackson at the first annual **Celebrity Bra Auction**, maybe you'll want to do so. At a similar event in Los Angeles, bras went for as much as $2,000. Conservative Bostonians may not shell out such big bucks for a bra by Reba McEntire or Susan Sarandon—but they might be tempted by designs from former Red Sox pitcher Bill Lee or the New England Patriots cheerleaders. Attendees can place their bids on "four of the biggest celebrity bras," according to Ellie Fund publicist Dan Karp (we're assuming he means bras designed by the biggest-name celebrities), or participate in a silent auction for the others. The evening concludes with a lingerie fashion show. Proceeds benefit the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, the Ellie Fund and the Expedition Inspiration Fund for Breast Cancer Research. *Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-376-6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 6-10 pm. $35; $45 at the door.*

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Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8

Tee Off to Cure MS
Pinehills Country Club, 54 Clubhouse Drive, Plymouth (781-788-0227). www.bostoncure.org. *11 am. $300.* This golf tournament raises money to fight multiple sclerosis. Fee includes a cart, a bucket of balls, dinner and prizes.

Walk About Boston's Design District
Park Square/upper Boylston Street area, Boston (617-778-5759). www.massart.edu/calendar. *Retailers open 5-8 pm; party in the Galleria at 10 St. James St., 8-10pm. $15 in advance, $20 day of event.* Seven home furnishing retailers introduce their fall collections in an event to benefit the Mass. College of Art. Attendees are eligible for raffle prizes, and a party with live jazz and food and drink from Davio's follows the stores' open house.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

Alpha Omega/Gucci Benefit Party
Alpha Omega, 57 JFK St., Cambridge (617-864-1227, ext. 213). 6-9 pm. Alpha Omega and Gucci celebrate the new Gucci watch and jewelry line with a party and silent auction to benefit the Mass. Community AIDS Partnership. In addition, 10 percent of proceeds from Gucci items purchased that night (and through Nov. 31) benefits the Partnership. The evening also includes a performance by the Harvard Glee Club Lite.

BU Irish Scholarship Dinner
Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston (617-353-2238). www.bu.edu/alumni/events/shannongala. *6 pm. $150.* Author Frank McCourt is the honored guest at this dinner to raise money for the William V. Shannon Memorial Fellowship Foundation, which sponsors Irish graduate students at Boston University.

Don't Dessert Us
Boston Design Center, One Design Center Place, Boston (617-617-445-7777). www.servings.org. *6:30-9:30 pm. $100.* Twelve top chefs create unique desserts, and clothing designers stitch together gowns inspired by those sweet treats to benefit Community Servings, which delivers hot meals to people with AIDS. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and champagne, and the night concludes with a fashion show and silent auction of the gowns. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.

Night of Champions Fund-Raiser
Lantana, 43 Scanlon Drive, Randolph (508-580-2445). 6:30-9:30 pm. $75. Boxing writer and historian Bert Sugar joins former heavyweight champ Leon Spinks and many others at this benefit for the Boxing Hall of Fame. The evening includes a buffet dinner, silent auction, cash bar and autograph opportunities.

100 Weaves of India Exhibition Opening Reception
Zeitgeist Gallery, 1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). www.zeitgeist-gallery.org. *6-9 pm. Exhibition runs through Oct. 12. Free.* This exhibition and sale includes weaves, prints and embroideries from all over India. The opening reception includes an Indian classical dance performance. A portion of proceeds benefits the organization Funding Indian Rural Enterprise.

A Sancocho of Art
The Roxy, 279 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7686). www.studiosoto.org. *6-10 pm. $25 general admission, $45 VIP.* Grammy-nominated Venezuelan dance band Los Amigos Invisibles headlines this benefit performance for the Studio Soto arts space.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

Chelsea Theatre Works Grand Opening
Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea Square (617-887-2336). www.theatrezone.org. *Performances Oct. 10-Nov. 1, Thu.-Sat. at 8 pm. Grand opening benefit performance tickets, including preshow reception and dessert and champagne after the show, $50. Regular performances $12 in advance and $15 at the door.* TheatreZone performs Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize–winning play *Dinner With Friends* to introduce its new performance space in the Chelsea Theatre Works.

An Evening With Champions
Harvard's Bright Hockey Center (617-493-8172). www.aneveningwithchampions.org. *Oct. 10-11, 8 pm. $30.* World-class skaters, including Paul Wylie, Oksana Baiul and Steven Cousins, put on an exhibition to benefit the Jimmy Fund.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
One Fleet Center, Boston (617-931-2000). www.fleetcenter.com. *Oct. 10-19. $10-$60.* Witness the Greatest Show on Earth, with ringmaster Kevin Venardos, Sara the Tiger Whisperer, the Prince of Laughter and the Empress of Equilibrium.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Harvard Square Oktoberfest
Harvard Square, Cambridge (617-491-3434). www.harvardsquare.com. *12-6 pm.* Harvard Square's annual Oktoberfest celebration attracts more than 100,000 people and includes five performance areas, a "Dare to be Bare" haircut-a-thon for the Alice Hoffman Center at Mount Auburn Hospital, international cuisine, crafts vendors and of course, a beer garden.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
MDC Hatch Shell, the Esplanade, Boston (800-227-2345). www.cancer.org. *Rolling start, 8-10 am.* This annual 5-mile pledge walk along the Esplanade raises money for the American Cancer Society's programs to fight breast cancer.

Sunday Singles Dance
Raffael's Restaurant, One Enterprise Drive, State Street bank Building, N. Quincy (781-446-0234). Every Sunday, 7-11 pm. $10. Single professionals ages 35 and over are invited for an evening of dancing to music by Beau Paris. Complimentary buffet, proper business dress required.

MONDAY, OCT. 13

Fenway Opening Our Doors Day
Various Fenway locations (617-437-7544). www.fenwayculture.org. *10:30 am-4 pm. Free.* Sixteen Fenway Cultural District organizations, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and others, host open houses, performances and classes.

Tufts Health Plan 10K for Women
Boston Common, Boston (888-767-7223). www.tuftshealthplan.com. *12 pm. $24.* This race along the Charles River is the U.S. Women's 10K Championship and attracts 6,500 runners each year.

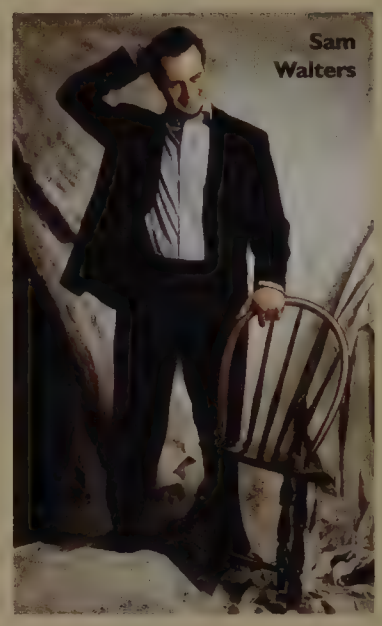
TUESDAY, OCT. 14

A Night of Pink Drinks
George, 384 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-8555). 6-8 pm. Free. This party celebrates the launch of *Bartender* magazine editor Jaclyn Wilson Foley's *Pink Drink Book*. Sales of pink drinks and the book benefit the women's cancer charity A Time for Me.

Preview

Hardy-Har-Harp

The Harp celebrates its 10-year anniversary with Comedy and Cocktails



Harp music is tranquil and sedate, but the bar by the same name near the FleetCenter tends to be quite the opposite. Whether there's a band upstairs or a DJ downstairs, whether the Celtics or Bruins are in town or away, a certain boisterous energy has defined the Harp's tenure on Causeway Street for the past decade. Thus it's fitting that on Oct. 9, Bud Light and THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN help the Harp celebrate its 10-year anniversary with a properly energetic party, Comedy and Cocktails.

As the name implies, Comedy and Cocktails features six Boston comedians taking turns cracking up the crowd. Host Sam Walters is joined by Kelly MacFarland, Larry Murphy, Tim McIntyre, Ben Boime and Tony Moschetto. When the joking around is over, DJ Nailz comes on to fire up the music until closing time—not a bad night out for the price, which is free. And that's no joke.

85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). Oct. 9, 7 pm. Free. —Ezra Dyer

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

Amistad Replica Ship Visit
Fan Pier, Boston (508-875-5233). www.amistadboston.org. *2-5 pm weekdays, 10 am-1 pm and 2-5 pm weekends. Oct. 15-24, Oct. 26. $5. Bring two forms of ID to enter through Moakley Courthouse.* A replica of the famous slave ship Amistad docks in Boston and is open to the public for tours.

Maxine Hong Kingston Benefit Reading
Cambridge Friends Meetinghouse, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-661-6130). 6 pm. Suggested donation $10-$50. Maxine Hong Kingston, author of *Tripmaster Monkey* and *The Woman Warrior*, reads from her latest book, *The Fifth Book of Peace*, to benefit the American Friends Service Committee's *Peacework* magazine.

A Taste of History
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). 6-8 pm. $50. This fund-raising event benefits the Old South Meeting House and honors patriot Samuel Adams. Boston Beer Company brewer Grant Wood and Gourmet Catererers chef Eddie Britt discuss beer-and-food pairings.

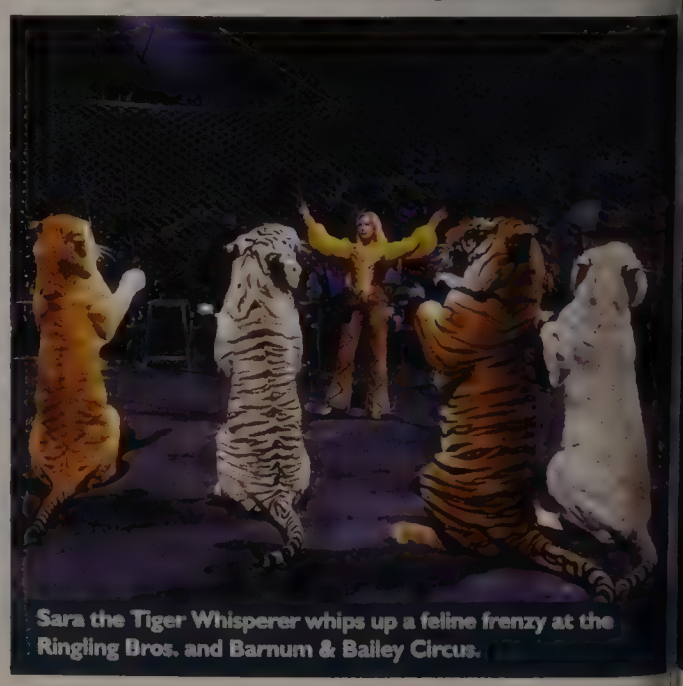
Tedeschi House Tours
55 Tara Drive, Norwell (877-746-4687. www.showhousemedia.com. *Tue.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. Through Oct. 31. $30.* The former home of Tedeschi grocery stores magnate Ralph Tedeschi is open for tours throughout the month to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Women's Breakfast
The Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-287-1900). www.horizonsinitiative.org. *7:30-9:30 am. $50.* Author Barbara Ehrenreich speaks at this breakfast to raise money for the Horizons Initiative, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of homeless children.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

Camille Cosby World of Children Gala
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston (617-232-8390, ext. 2122). www.jbcc.harvard.edu. *6:30-9:30 pm. $225.* This cocktail reception and dinner honors people who have improved the lives of children. Proceeds support the Judge Baker Children's Center in Mission Hill.

HOPE College Fair
Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury (617-524-8888,ext.121). 9 am-1 pm. The Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation (HOPE) gathers more than 50 area colleges and universities to provide high school students with admissions and financial aid information.


Sara the Tiger Whisperer whips up a feline frenzy at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Saks in the City Fashion Show
Tonic, 1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-779-141[illegible] 7-10 pm. $25. This Saks Fifth Avenue fashion sh[illegible] benefits the Franciscan Hospital for Children. T[illegible] evening includes cocktails, appetizers, trivia conte[illegible] and raffle prizes.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

Dance Lesson, Fashion Show and Part[illegible]
SuperShag Mega Dance Complex, 406 Moody S[illegible] Waltham (781-354-9113). www.crowningaffair.co[illegible] *7 pm. $70, includes makeup and photo session prior the event.* Live out your catwalk dreams by parti[illegible]pating in a fashion show. Several days prior to t[illegible] event, participants get a makeup and photo sessi[illegible] Then, they model their look at the fashion sh[illegible] The evening also includes dance lessons, a prof[illegible]sional dance demonstration and hors d'oeuvres.

Regatta Ball
Hyatt Regency Hotel, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambri[illegible] (508-276-1200). www.sudiko.com. *8:30 pm-2 a[illegible] $40 in advance, $50 at the door.* Motown band Soul[illegible] Out plays this annual Head of the Charles weeke[illegible] dance. A portion of the proceeds benefits the A[illegible] Foundation, which was founded in memory [illegible] Alexandra Zapp. Black tie optional.

Singles Party
Elephant & Castle, 161 Devonshire St., Boston (8[illegible] 945-2337). www.beersummit.com. *6-9 pm. $[illegible]* Two hundred singles mingle at this party hosted [illegible] Beer Summit and Boston.com. The party inclu[illegible] appetizers and all the Oktoberfest beer you need [illegible] lower your social inhibitions.

Strictly Sinatra!
Boston Logan Airport Hilton Hotel, East Boston (6[illegible] 561-3201). www.italiaunita.org. *7 pm. $60, in a[illegible] vance only.* Join Italia Unita and Al Natale's Clas[illegible] Swing Orchestra for dinner and a night of Sina[illegible] tunes. Proceeds benefit Italia Unita's 2004 festiv[illegible] Formal attire.

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

CitySprouts Harvest Festival
Haggerty School, 110 Cushing St., Cambridge (6[illegible] 491-0258). www.citysprouts.org. *10 am-3 pm.* T[illegible] nonprofit garden education group CitySprouts ce[illegible] brates gardening and healthy food with cider maki[illegible] live music, a raffle, and food from local farmers a[illegible] chefs. Proceeds benefit CitySprouts.

PBNA Street Fair and Carnival
Harriet Tubman Park at Columbus Square in the So[illegible] End, Boston (617-262-6209). 10 am-3 pm. The Pi[illegible] Block Neighborhood Association hosts a fall fun[illegible] raiser featuring a white elephant sale, a bake sa[illegible] raffle and more. Proceeds benefit the PBNA's co[illegible] munity activites.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

Hike for Health
Starts near Bloomingdale's at the Chestnut Hill M[illegible] Chestnut Hill (617-558-1881). www.medainc.org. *[illegible] am-3 pm.* This pledge walk along Hammond Po[illegible] Parkway raises money for the Massachusetts Eat[illegible] Disorder Association.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

International Festival
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., Bos[illegible] (617-474-6000). www.one-1world.com. *Thro[illegible] Oct. 24.* This annual cultural festival features int[illegible] national music, dancing and games, and vend[illegible] offer ethnic foods and goods from around the wo[illegible]

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Accidental Death of an Anarchist
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 26. $22-$25. Playwright Dario Fo's political farce is based on the true story of an anarchist who was said to have fallen out the fourth floor window of police headquarters while under investigation. The play follows a character who poses as a judge in an effort to force the truth from the police.

The Credeaux Canvas
Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Oct. 9-25. $25. Flat broke and newly disinherited, Jamie persuades his roommate to paint a portrait of Jamie's lover in the style of an obscure 19th-century painter. The plan: to pass the painting off as a newfound masterpiece and sell it to a wealthy art collector.

Dinner with Friends
TheatreZone at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea Square (617-887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. Oct. 10-Nov. 1. $12-$15. Donald Margulies' comedy of "modern manners" tells the story of two married couples who have been best friends for years and the ensuing fallout when one couple splits up.

Fighting Words
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 and 8 pm, Sun., 3 pm. Oct. 16-Oct. 25., $20. The QE2 Players present the Boston premiere of this play by Sunil Kuruvilla about Welsh boxer Johnny Owen. The story—told from the perspective of three women—follows Owen's fight for the bantamweight world championship.

I Could Be Happy with You
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 333). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 18, 8 pm. $15. Part of Jennie Mulqueen's Conscious Cabaret series, this musical features two women and three men exploring contemporary gender roles, marriage and family life.

Performance @ Large
37 Everett St., Hyde Park (617-276-3223). www.artistsatlargeinc.org. *Oct. 12, 8 pm. $7.* This performance of mime and poetry features Puppet Master Jake and spoken word artist Ian Thal.

Pictures of Patty Hearst
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 9-19. $5-$15. Kidnapped at gunpoint, held hostage in a closet, convicted of bank robbery and vilified in the press, heiress and cinema celebrity Patty Hearst remains an American media icon. But what really happened in 1974? Playwright Bill Lattanzi gives his interpretation in this new production.

Dinner with Friends, a comedy of "modern manners," plays at Chelsea Theatre Works.

Say Goodnight, Gracie
Wilbur Theatre, 106 Boylston, Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 21-Nov. 2. Take a guided tour through an American century as seen by George Burns (played by Frank Gorshin)—from his impoverished youth on New York's lower East side, to his career in Vaudeville, his marriage to Gracie Allen and the couple's rise to success on stage, screen, radio and television.

Sexuality in the City
The Devanaughn Theatre at the Piano Factory, 791 Tremont St., Boston (617-738-2967). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. Oct. 17-Nov.1. $20. A *Sex and the City* parody, this play offers a voyeuristic glimpse into the sexual dynamics of today's relationships. Will love transcend age, intellect, impotence and gender?

Side Show
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (617-361-7024). Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 1. $21. Based on a true story, this Tony-nominated musical by Bill Russell portrays the lives of conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, who sought love and fame as they became Vaudeville stars during the depression.

Stones in His Pockets
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 9-26. $32.* Two actors play more than a dozen roles in this comedy by Marie Jones. Discover what happens when a film crew descends upon a small Irish town to film a Hollywood blockbuster.

Thoroughly Modern Millie
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., 7 pm; Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 1 and 7 pm. Through Oct. 12. $28-$78. Based on the 1967 Oscar-winning film, this musical takes audiences back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York, when "moderns"—including a flapper named Millie Dillmount—were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce and rewriting the rules of love.

NOW RUNNING

Ain't Misbehavin'
Huntington Theatre Co., 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Wed., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Through Oct. 19. $14-$69.* Marcia Milgrom Dodge directs and choreographs this tribute to Fats Waller, showcasing music from the Harlem Renaissance.

Antony and Cleopatra
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (617-939-9939). www.bostontheatreworks.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 12. $25.* Shakespeare's classic tale of love and intrigue, directed by Jason Slavick, gets its first professional staging in Boston in more than 20 years.

Baby with the Bathwater
The Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Boston (781-424-8592). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Through Oct. 11. $20. Christopher Durang's absurdly comical tale shows how the sins of our parents come back to haunt us when we have children.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This production abandons all dialogue and focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Ethan Frome
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 26. $10-$45.* In this play by Dennis Krausnick, adapted from Edith Wharton's novella, a young engineer looks into the past of Ethan, a beaten and withered figure who has reached middle age before his time.

A Girl's War
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7 pm; Thu.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Through Oct. 19. $27-$42.* Joyce Van Dyke's play tells the story of a young Armenian girl who is torn by the competing desires of love and vengeance in an age-old ethnic clash.

Hairspray
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Nov. 1. $30-$97. It's 1962 in Baltimore, and 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto television's most popular show. Can a big girl with big dreams—and even bigger hair—change the world and still have time to win the boy she loves? Bruce Vilanch stars in this Tony Award–winning musical about a young girl's struggle with self-acceptance.

He She Them
The Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri. 8 pm.; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun. 1 and 7 pm. Through Oct. 12. $25-$39. Judd Nelson and Tasha Lawrence star in this new play by Irwin M. Heller, directed by Steven Maler. He is a successful real estate developer. She is a married architect designing one of his buildings. Flirtation grows to friendship, and then to the possibility of love.

Lady with a Lapdog
American Repertory Theatre, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue., Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm.; Fri., pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm.; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 11 $12-$69.* Russian director Kama Ginkas combines burlesque and tragedy in his adaptation of Anton Chekhov's short story about a summer flirtation that unexpectedly becomes a passionate relationship..

A Man of No Importance
SpeakEasy Stage Company at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787) MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Thu., 7:3 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm. Through Nov. 9. $25-$35. Based on the 1994 film starring Albert Finney, this show with music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens follows a Dublin bus driver's attempts to stage Oscar Wilde's *Salome* at his church in the 1960s, despite protests from parish officials.

Memphis
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverl (617-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., Thu., Fri., pm; Wed., Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 12. $16.25-$47.25.* Joe DiPietro's new musical tells the story of a white DJ who introduces his listeners to African-American music during the 1940

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617 426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:3 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston longest-running play.

Tongue of a Bird
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617 625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri.-Sat., 8 pm Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 25. $15-$25.* This lyric play by Ellen McLaughlin tells the story of a search and-rescue pilot who finds herself confronting loss of her own as she sets out on the trail of a kidnapped young girl.

When Pigs Fly
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (61 437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Li to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Fri., 8 pm; Sa 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 11. $22-$4* Garish costumes and double entendres mark th campy musical conceived by Howard Crabtree a Mark Wardrop about a gay man's coming-of-ag Based in part on Crabtree's own life, it follows young man whose nasty high school guidance cou selor tells him that he might achieve success Broadway "when pigs fly."

The Winter's Tale
The Devanaughn Theatre at the Piano Factory, 7 Tremont St., Boston (617-738-2967). Thu.-Sat., pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 12. $17-$19. D vanaughn presents a sexy and kinetic production William Shakespeare's play about betrayal, jealou destiny and love, set in the pre-Christian era.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Blue Window
Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis University, 415 So St., Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Bra deis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Oct. 26. Craig Lucas' play is about nervous Libby who about to host a dinner party for virtual strangers, b to herself and each other. The strangers talk but do seem to communicate as an air of mystery hangs o the evening.

Carousel
Emerson Stage at the Greene Theatre, 10 Boylston Pl Boston (617-824-8369). MBTA: Green Line to Bo ston. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 16-19. $5 swaggering carnival barker falls in love with a mill in this musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Dance

Body Languages
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (6 864-3191). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 17-1 pm. $15. Seidman Says Dance presents this show turing modern dance works by choreographer Su

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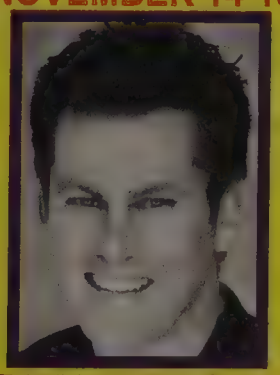
NOVEMBER 14-15



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Seidman, as well as works by guest choreographers Susan Barnard and yoga-dance artist Stafani Reitter.

Facing Mekka
Cutler Majestic Theatre, Emerson College, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-876-4275). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 17, 7 pm; Oct. 18, 8 pm; Oct. 19, 2 pm. $25-$45. Rennie Harris journeys to the roots of hip-hop dance and celebrates dance as a universal language. This work features 17 dancers, three vocalists, three DJs, live percussion and collage projections. Tracing the African lineage of hip-hop dance, Harris fuses the styles of B-boy (breaking) and house (freestyle club) dance with elements from aboriginal dance, ceremonial African dances and Brazilian capoeira.

Fields of Vision
Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington (781-646-4849). Oct. 16, 8 pm. $16. The first part of the evening features the Morris-Sandvik Duo, inspired by historic recordings of ancient haunting field songs and spirituals. The second part features choreographer and dancer Malinda Allen of the Moving Lab, with local dancers.

Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's Undercurrents
Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cambridge (617-354-7467). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 4 pm. $28. Experience ballet with cabaret-style seating, cocktails during the show and a close-up view of the dancers. This show includes a revival of Mateo's *The Last Circus* (1990) set to Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano & Wind Instruments, *Courtly Lovers* set to Haydn's *Surprise Symphony*, and the premiere of Mateo's latest work, set to music by Robert Schumann.

Rudolf Nureyev's Don Quixote
Boston Ballet at the Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 16-19. $38-$95. This re-creation of Miguel de Cervantes' classic 17th-century tale is set in the heart of the Spanish countryside and features chivalry, passion and comical adventure. Principal dancer Jennifer Gelfand makes her farewell performance.

Shattered
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400, ext.10). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. www.cmacusa.org. Oct. 9 and 10, 8 pm; Oct. 11, 2 and 8 pm. $15-$20. This showcase of inventive dance theater by GreenGlass Dance features the choreography of Lillian Carter.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55. In its ongoing run in Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Oct. 9 and 16: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Oct. 10 and 11, $25: David Brenner •Oct. 12: Dave Rattigan •Oct. 13 and 20: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Oct. 14 and 21: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Oct. 15: Jim Lauletta •Oct. 17, $25: Pauly Shore. •Oct. 18, 8 pm, $17: Paul Nardizzi; 10:30 pm, $27.50: Pauly Shore •Oct. 19: Ira Proctor.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Oct. 8: Tony V Experiment with Kelly MacFarland, Rob O'Reilly, Norm Laviolette, Will MacNeill, Jeremy Turoff, Peter Dutton, Jen Ruelas and EJ Murphy •Oct. 9: Tim McIntire Experience with Dan Sulman, Greg Thibideau, JJ, Peter Dutton, Mandy Donovan, Myq Kaplan and Mary Beth Cowan •Oct. 10: Larry Murphy Chris Walsh, Chris Tabb, Tissa Hami, Max Silvestri and Rob Reuter, Jay Montepare and Dan Sally •Oct. 11: Pat O'Shea, Tissa Hami, Brian Gordon, Chris Tabb, Max Silvestri, Andy Wasif and Dan Sally •Oct. 12: Sam Walters, Tim Kaelin, Eric Cheung, Ben Boime, Jeff Hanna, Bethany Van Delft, Nicole Luparelli, Evan O'Television and Joe Meade •Oct. 14: The Mystery Lounge comedy/magic show with Jon Stetson and Steve Kradolfer •Oct. 15: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Jen Ruelas, Dan Hershon, Sandy Assai, Stece Hubbard, Mike Anthony and Jesse Gersten •Oct. 17: Chris Walsh, Larry Murphy, Deb Farrar-Parkman, Myq Kaplan, Chris O'Carroll and Baratunde •Oct. 18: Arielle Goldman, Brian Gordon, Deb Farrar-Parkman, Myq Kaplan and Baratunde •Oct. 19: Sam Walters, Denise Robichau, EJ Murphy, Joe Wong, Tammy Two-Tone, Walter Dixon, Dan Sulman and Steve Calechman •Oct. 21: The Mystery Lounge comedy/magic show •Oct. 22: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Rob Reuter, Jeremy Turoff, Evan O'Television, Larry Starr, Matt Winninger, Corey Manning, Tony Moschetto and Amanda White.

Thoroughly Modern Millie at the Wang Theatre takes audiences back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Oct. 9, 8:30 pm, free admission: Paul Gilligan, All-Star Comedy •Oct. 10 and 11, 8:45 pm: Paul Gilligan, Mark Scalia and Dave Greenberg •Oct. 16, 8:30 pm, free admission: John David, All-Star Comedy •Oct. 17 and 18, 8:45 pm: John David, Spike Tobin and Stephanie Peters.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. *MBTA:Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. *MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed. and Thu., $15, and Fri. and Sat., $20: *Improv Asylum Announces the End of Major Hostilities*, a new show on the mainstage •Sun., 8 pm, $10: *Postmortem*. This improvisational drama, based on a real-life obituary taken from the daily newspaper, explores the life of a recently deceased person.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central . $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump*. This fringe series features ImprovBoston's Expansion Teams. •Thu., 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show*. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Luv Boat*. Instead of washed-up celebrities setting sail, the audience members are the passengers on this cruise; 8 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports*. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show*; 8 and 10 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage*. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance.

COMEDY SHOWS

Comedy at the Isle
Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchest (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Co ner. •Oct. 11, 8:30 pm, $10. Tony V and Ji McCue •Oct. 18: DJ Hazard.

Eric Idle's Greedy Bastard Tour
Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, Boston (61 931-2000). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. O 19, 7:30 pm, $40-$55. Monty Python's Eric Id presents an evening of songs and skits with gue John Du Prez, Nigel Spasm, the Bruces and S Dirk McQuickly of the Rutles.

The Gulls
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-622 MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri. and Sat. 8 p Through Nov. 8. Ryan Landry's play *The Gul* loosely based on Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Birds*, the story of rebellious seagulls exacting revenge Provincetown developers.

Haunted Dinner Theatre
Three Cheers, 332 Congress St., Boston (800-69 2583). www.mysterycafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line South Station. Oct. 10, 17 and 24, 7:30 pm; Oct. 7:30 pm; Oct. 18, 5:30 and 9 pm; Oct. 12, 19, 6 p $32.95-$42.95 for dinner and show.* Mystery Ca and Haunted Dinner Theatre present *Ghost of B Table Manor* by Larry Blamire. Join Chives, Mast Chase and other suspects as they search for the ra million-dollar Tom Jones stamp.

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding
Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (80 733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. a Sat., 7:30 pm. Through Nov. 29. $49. This intera tive dinner show follows Maria and Joey throu their wacky wedding.

Maria's Bachelorette Party
Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (80 733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. and Nov. 21, 7 pm. $42. At this dinner thea show, Maria's friends and bridesmaids throw he bash she won't forget.

Murder Cacciatore
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass Ave., Cambridge (8 697-2583). www.mysterycafe.com. *Oct. 17, 7 pm; Oct. 18, 7:30 pm. $49 for dinner and show.* T Gourmet Detective serves up Italian cuisine wit murder mystery.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon. pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Sopranos' Last Supper
Tremont Playhouse in the Tremont Hotel, 275 Trem St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Lin Boylston. Oct. 17, 7 pm. $49, includes entrance Matrix. This interactive dinner theatre show has diences sitting in on a Mafia commission, getting augurated into a mob ceremony and gambling w laundered money.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-4 1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcom jam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month. 8* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike w host Stash.

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				7:00 PM†	3:00 PM	1:00 PM
					7:00 PM	5:00 PM

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Music by Tim Crandell 6-9pm
The Zoo Live 10pm

Saturday 11
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WZLX 9pm-Midnight
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Sunday 12
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Stuff @ Night Party 6-8pm
Music by Tim Crandell 6-9pm
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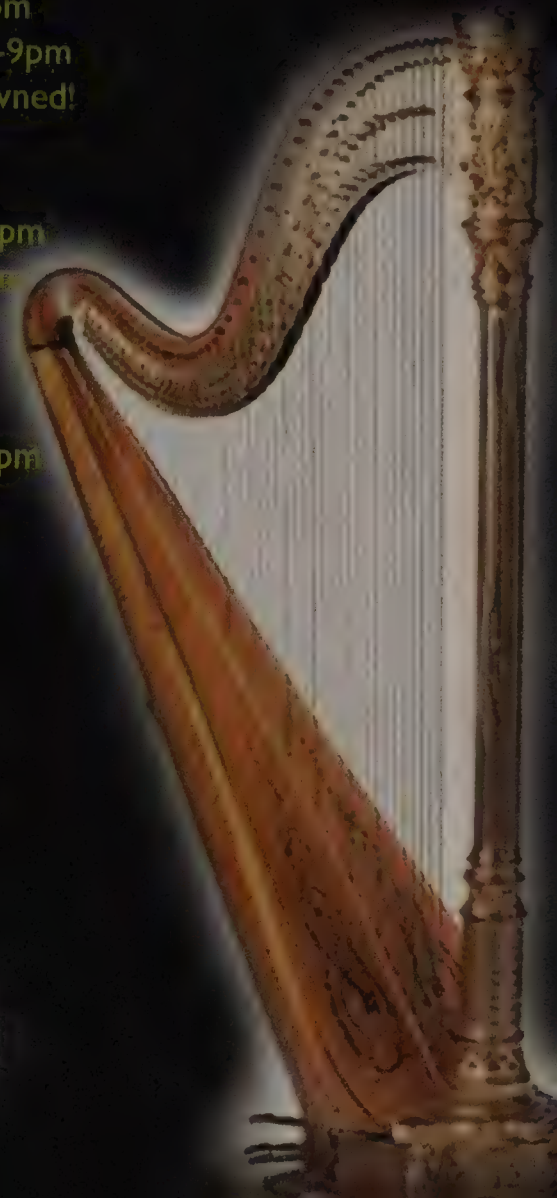
Flavor Live 10pm

Friday 17
Mr. Green Genes Live 10pm
Studio Kiss 108 11pm-2am

Saturday 18
Notre Dame Alumni
Game Watch 2:30pm
Mr. Green Genes Live 10pm



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To Sir, with *Rock*

Jack Black aces *The School of Rock*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The School of Rock is a great reminder that there aren't smart comedies and stupid comedies—just good ones and bad ones. The movie's plot could have been yanked from the lamest vehicle for a *Saturday Night Live* cast member: A self-centered guitarist gets kicked out of his band and, desperate for money, impersonates a substitute teacher and ends up schooling a class of fourth-graders into being his new band. That could be the plot of a Rob Schneider movie. Yet this premise that might have easily been a cringe-worthy formula film succeeds in *The School of Rock* because everyone involved decided not to settle for the formulaic and the obvious.

Jack Black jams with fourth-graders in the new comedy *The School of Rock*.

First off, there's Jack Black's performance as the arrogant rocker. *The School of Rock* is the movie breakthrough Black has been destined for ever since his scathingly funny record store clerk in *High Fidelity*. It's a breakthrough that was supposed to happen in *Shallow Hal* but didn't because Black had to play straight man to that movie's visual gimmicks. But he's all over Dewey, a fist-pumping guitar player who could see *This Is Spinal Tap* and not only believe it was all real, but come out of it worshipping England's loudest faux metal band.

Dewey's self-serving stage antics get him axed from his band. But when he's hard up for money and intercepts a phone call for his substitute-teacher roommate Ned (Mike White, who also wrote the script), he decides to take up the caller's offer of subbing for a suddenly hospitalized fourth-grade teacher at a posh private school.

Dewey shows up at the school in a scarf and bowtie, his amusingly cliched image of a teacher, and is ready to offer the kids days and days of no learning. But these 10-year-olds are stressed-out overachievers with demanding, rich parents. They don't want all-day recess, and it's up to Dewey to teach them how to "stick it to the man" with rock and roll. He passes along riffs from AC/DC, Black Sabbath and Deep Purple songs as if they were pearls of wisdom and divides the nonmusicians in the class into such rock essentials as roadies, techies, management and, yes, groupies.

Dewey draws heavily on Black's persona in Tenacious D, his tongue-in-cheek "acoustic heavy-metal duo" with Kyle Gass: the over-the-top guitar theatrics, the mythologizing (Dewey's "In the End of Time," co-written by Black, idealizes his lingering debts), the crusading zealousness and Black's rock-scat singing. You have to assume White, who also wrote *Orange County*, in which Black co-starred, conceived *The School of Rock* with Black in mind, since it's such a perfect fit.

But *The School of Rock* isn't just The Jack Black Show. White and director Richard (*Dazed and Confused*) Linklater, in his most mainstream movie yet, make many rewarding choices in telling the story here. For instance, the school's hard-nosed principal (Joan Cusack) isn't a villain, just someone who, like the kids, has lost her sense of fun and needs to loosen up. Similarly, Dewey's students are remarkably free of caricature. Sure, there are brains and nerds and fat kids in the classroom, but the movie treats them all with respect (not a fart joke in the entire film!), while the interaction between the mostly young cast comes across as easy and unforced. And the movie actually refrains from having one of those easily impressed, pretty *and* pretty bland love interests for Dewey.

All these elements combine to make *The School of Rock* a comedy that actually makes you feel good and a tale of underdogs for whom you gladly root. So many movies try to shove those qualities down our throats, but this one actually earns them. So the next time a lousy David Spade or Dana Carvey movie comes out, remember—it didn't have to be so bad. *The School of Rock* is proof that old formulas can get new life in the right hands. iB

The School of Rock ★★★½

Directed by Richard Linklater. Written by Mike White. With Jack Black, Joan Cusack, White and Sarah Silverman. Rated PG-13. Paramount Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

American Splendor ★★★
The movie version of Harvey Pekar's autobiographical comic book series sticks to the comics' realism to such a degree that, in addition to scenes with a pitch-perfect Paul Giamatti as cranky Pekar, it also includes narration by and interviews with Pekar himself. That hybrid is clumsy at times, but the movie captures Pekar's search for the extraordinary in the everyday, as well as his hard-headed individualism, with precision and affection. We see Pekar at his humble file clerk job and in his legendary appearances on David Letterman's shows. (At Boston Common, Harvard Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Anything Else ★
Is Woody Allen surrounded by the most sycophantic "yes men" on the planet? Isn't there anyone there to tell him, "When every character who's in more than one scene is annoying, that makes for an annoying movie"? Evidently not, because Woody's done it again. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Cabin Fever ★★½
The old spam-in-a-cabin premise of a group of college kids going into the woods and finding horror plays out with less cliché than usual here. The big twist this time is that the rednecks who are trying to kill the kids aren't the only danger. The real threat is a flesh-eating virus that one of the kids catches, and which seems headed for the others. There's the obligatory horny girl, doofus guy and hero for us to identify with, but this is a lively, decent creepshow. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Camp ★★
Actor turned writer and now director Todd Graff's unconvincingly feel-good indie movie features a gung ho teen cast playing the aspiring singers, dancers and actors at Camp Ovation, a performing arts camp. There's some novelty in seeing talented teens play adults in fully staged production numbers of Sondheim or Bacharach-David songs (this is the *Terror of Tiny Town* of musicals). But the comedy-drama is such a superficial after-school special, with all its dilemmas miraculously resolved without fuss or muss, that it has no emotional credibility. Despite all the unrequited love, sexual dilemmas and backstage bickering, it's a trifle. (At Kendall Square.)

Casa de los Babys ★★
Writer-director John Sayles' movies either have narrative thrust (*Lone Star*, *Sunshine State*) or they don't. His latest just sits there in search of purpose. This story of a half-dozen American women in Mexico (waiting to adopt babies from a local agency) and the Mexicans they come into contact with feels like a first draft. The characters are sketchy, the action is tentative and the point is fuzzy. The relationship between parenting and imperialism bubbles under the story, but never hits home. Too bad, because Sayles assembled an eclectic cast of actresses—including Lili Taylor, Marcia Gay Harden, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Mary Steenburgen—who interact well together but are let down by the script. (At Kendall Square.)

Dopamine ★★★
John Livingston (brother of Ron from *Office Space*) and Sabrina Lloyd (TV's *Sports Night*) make a more compelling couple than any Hollywood romantic comedy has offered this year. This down-to-earth San Francisco story about the couple's up-and-down relationship also captures the bars and coffeehouses where they hang out without the overeager quirks that other indie films might have indulged in. (At Copley Place.)

Duplex ★★
Chances are, you've already seen Ben Stiller whacked around in *Flirting with Disaster*, *There's Something About Mary* or *Meet the Parents*. Now, you get to see him whacked around by a little old lady (Eileen Essel), but it's not so funny this time. He and Drew Barrymore play first-time homeowners who inherit the sweet-looking but nasty tenant who can't be kicked out of her rent-controlled apartment. The couple tries to force her out; the old lady tries to get under their skin; the comedy feels like a sitcom episode stretched too thin. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Fighting Temptations ★★★
Here's a big surprise. Although it stars Cuba Gooding Jr. (he of the painful *Snow Dogs* and *Boat Trip*) and it's a formula film about a jaded yuppie who sees the light when he returns to his small home town, this is actually an enjoyable ensemble comedy with great musical performances. Good plays a New York ad exec who's not above advising a liquor company to market malt liquor to bla

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Then he returns to his Georgia hometown for a great aunt's funeral and, as stipulated in her will, has to get her church's choir into a local competition in order to collect his inheritance. The cast is filled with singers (Beyonce, the O'Jays, Melba Moore), and the songs are often knockouts, while Mike Epps and Steve Harvey are very funny and Gooding's Jack Lemmon facial expressions of disbelief are just right for his character. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

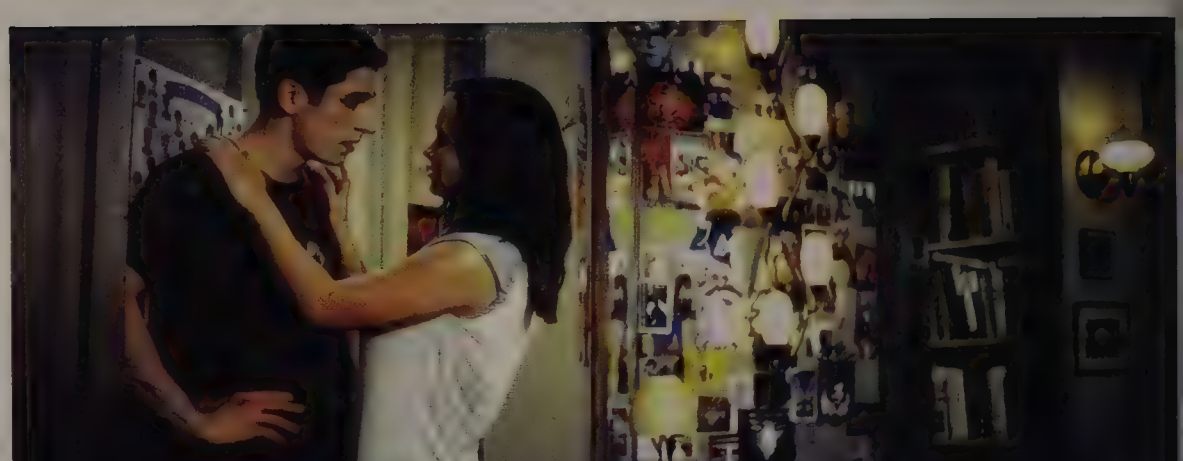
Lost in Translation ★★★½
Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her 2000 directorial debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, and she conjures up a similar funny-sad tone in her tale of two Americans (Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson) adrift in Tokyo. He's a washed-up movie star making a bundle endorsing Japanese booze, while she's the wife of a work-consumed photographer (Giovanni Ribisi). They're staying at the same hotel and killing time at the same hotel bar, and their misery loves company. The characters make a great movie couple, although their relationship is platonic (with its share of sexual tension). Murray gives a Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance built mainly around physical and especially facial reactions to absurd situations, and Johansson is a little heartbreaker. (At Boston Common, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

The Magdalene Sisters ★★★½
Actor turned writer-director Peter Mullan's intense movie about Ireland's brutal Magdalene asylums is the best argument for the separation of church and state since the Taliban. It was in these asylums, which existed until the mid-1990s, that the Catholic Church used to take in "wayward" girls and force them to work, under the premise of rehabilitating them, all with the tacit approval of the government and society. Unlike so many movies that portray cruelty and violence, such things actually have great consequence in Mullan's movie. He makes you care about his three victimized heroines, and his movie is a chilling look at abuse of power on many levels—in family and community as much as the church. (At Kendall Square.)

Matchstick Men ★★★
If it's a Nicolas Cage movie, the more neuroses the better. He follows his self-loathing writer from *Adaptation* with an obsessive-compulsive neatnik in Ridley Scott's comedy. Cage's con-man can't function if there's a speck on the carpet, and he thinks that initiating a relationship with the 14-year-old daughter (Alison Lohman) he's never seen might help. The intertwining of his professional life and his strained attempt at fatherhood makes for some amusing moments, as does Cage's trademark twisted emotionalism. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Morning Sun ★★½
Brookline-based Carma Hinton and Richard Gordon's *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (1995) is the definitive documentary about the Tiananmen Square uprising of 1989. Their latest, co-directed with Geremie R. Barme, covers the Chinese Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and is always involving, though it raises more questions than it answers. The Cultural Revolution was like an extreme version of American McCarthyism, a call to root out "enemies within" carried out with mob rule, but in China it resulted in a cycle of martyrdom and scapegoating even more tragic and absurd than what happened in the U.S. The movie offers some insight, with interviews from many who've never before spoken on camera about their experiences, but you couldn't say it actually makes sense of things. The main question that lingers is how Mao Zedong could manipulate so many people for so long; his apparent puppeteer's role in the events is never really explored. (At the Museum of Fine Arts, Oct. 17-19, 22-25.)

My Life Without Me ★★
Sometimes Canadian understatement, so appealing in such movies as *Last Night* or *The Sweet Hereafter*, backfires. This drama is about an ordinary young wife and mother (Sarah Polley, who costarred in those other two movies) who finds out she has two months left to live. Instead of telling anyone else, she makes a private to-do list and then tries to accomplish the items. Although she carries through on some of them, including "make someone fall in love with me," others (like "say what I'm thinking") are conveniently forgotten, and the movie never imparts any urgency or sense of liberation in the heroine's unusual path to death. It tries to tell her story in everyday terms, but writer-director Isabel Coixet manages to make death at 23 seem incredibly ordinary. (At Coolidge Corner and Kendall Square.)


Jerry Falk (Jason Biggs) finds unpredictability with Amanda (Christina Ricci) in Woody Allen's new comedy, *Anything Else*.

Once upon a Time in Mexico ★★
Johnny Depp has fun playing a CIA agent who blissfully mucks things up south of the border in Robert Rodriguez's third *El Mariachi* movie, with Antonio Banderas back as the guitar-slinging desperado. But the spoof is more ironic than funny, setting up ridiculously violent situations and then sitting back and smugly smiling. The film violates a basic movie violence rule, repeatedly: gunslingers with handguns or even rifles can seem cool, but when you start pulling out machine guns and assault weapons, you kill off any coolness. Rodriguez should know better. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Out of Time ★★½
Nearly a decade ago, director Carl Franklin and star Denzel Washington made *Devil in a Blue Dress*, an evocative 1940s-set neo-noir that should have launched a series featuring author Walter Mosley's hero, "Easy" Rawlins—if only audiences hadn't been so indifferent. Franklin and Washington's new collaboration is another thriller involving sex, money and deceit. This one is competent but much less layered and much more conventional. (I guess the generic title is a tip-off.) Washington plays a small-town police chief who's about to be divorced from one woman (fellow cop Eva Mendes) and is sleeping with another (married woman Sanaa Lathan). A splashy crime involving the lover and a trail of evidence incriminating the chief perk the attentions of the fellow cop, and the chief has to scurry to clear his name. There are a few thrills, but there's also a ridiculously sunny ending. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Pieces of April ★★★
Black humor and optimism blend surprisingly well in this story of the title character (Katie Holmes) fixing Thanksgiving dinner for her visiting family. While she deals with kitchen problems in her Manhattan apartment, like finding a neighbor who'll let her use a stove after she realizes hers doesn't work, we also see the family (including dad Oliver Platt and ill mom

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BOSTON'S BEST 2003
The Improper Bostonian

Patricia Clarkson) trekking their way downstate to see her. The feeling of dread is mutual for the black-sheep daughter and her disappointed parents, and the colorful cast pulls off the heightened reality in writer-director Peter Hedges' story. (At Coolidge Corner.)

The Station Agent ★★★

This comedy about a dwarf (Peter Dinklage) who moves into an abandoned train depot in a small New Jersey town might have been a cloyingly quirky indie film. Instead, it's a pretty special experience. Dinklage's deadpan performance as Fin wryly captures how his character's expectations of his fellow man have been pounded down by their reaction to his height. Broader comedy comes from Bobby Canavale, as a food-truck owner who tries to befriend Fin, and Patricia Clarkson as a woman escaping a fizzled marriage whom Fin tries to befriend. There's a wise and endearing clash of humanity here, and an unpredictable story to go along with it. Along with *Pieces of April* (see above), another brittle yet funny Clarkson performance. (At Kendall Square.)

Thirteen ★★★

In the spectrum of movies about troubled teenage girls, Catherine Hardwicke's debut falls somewhere between the clichés of the recent *Blue Car* and the unique emotional eeriness of *The Virgin Suicides*. Evan Rachel Wood, who has a Kirsten Dunst–like mix of sweetness and naughtiness, is convincing as the initially girlish seventh-grader who yearns to hang out with the popular, more physically mature girls—and gets to, by taking drugs, shoplifting and pushing her budding sexuality just as they do. Meanwhile, her frazzled mom (Holly Hunter) tries to straddle the line between being firm and friendly, while her new best friend (Nikki Reed, who co-wrote the script with Hardwicke) manipulates everyone in sight. Although the movie can sometimes come off as a pat cautionary tale, its emotional messiness is awfully realistic, with most everyone oblivious to their own faults. (At Boston Common, Copley Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Veronica Guerin ★★

Unlike his previous movies, nothing blows up in producer Jerry Bruckheimer's latest, except his pretensions of getting an Oscar nomination for making something a touch more human than *Bad Boys 2*. In this forgettable thriller based on a true story, the last two years of the title character, a slain Irish journalist (played by Cate Blanchett), get the slick Hollywood treatment. The story called for the stripped-down grit of director Joel Schumacher's best and most uncharacteristic movie, *Tigerland*, but instead we get his usual gloss as Guerin makes enemies while digging into the Dublin drug underworld. The bad guys sneer, the addicts sport their gaunt make-up and the movie's overeager attempts to make Guerin a saint (she likes music! she likes soccer!) are comical. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Faces of a Star: A Romy Schneider Retrospective

•Oct. 6, 6 pm. **Good Neighbor Sam** *1964*. A man poses as a woman's husband to help her meet the terms of her grandfather's will and inherit $15 million.

BOSTON UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

•Through Oct. 10. The fifth annual Boston Underground Film Festival continues with screenings of independent and experimental films, as well as discussion panels and receptions with the local film community. Venues include the Allston Cinema Underground, Brattle Theatre, Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, the Milky Way, MIT, the Museum of Fine Arts, Oni Gallery and more. See *www.bostonundergroundfilmfestival.com* for a schedule.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Boston Fantastic Film Festival

•Oct. 17-23. The Brattle and Steven Jay Schneider, editor of *Fear Without Frontiers: Horror Cinema Across the Globe*, team up for seven days of horror, science fiction, fantasy and cult films from around the world. See *www.brattlefilm.org* for a schedule.

Sundays and Mondays—Shades of Noir

•Oct. 12 and Oct. 13, 2:45 and 7:15 pm. **Taxi Driver** *1976*. Robert DeNiro stars as a deranged New York taxi driver in Martin Scorsese's film. •Also showing, 5 and 9:45 pm. **Taking of Pelham, 1-2-3** *1974*. Four criminals hijack a subway car and demand a million dollars ransom for its passengers. Joseph Sargent directs.

Tuesdays—Pasolini and His World

•Oct. 14, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm. **Salò o le 120 Giornate di Sodoma** *(Salo, or the 120 Days of Sodom) 1975*. Pier Paolo Pasolini's film adaptation of the Marquis de Sade's *120 Days of Sodom* is set in 1940s Nazi-occupied Italy.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•Oct. 8, 5:30 and 7:30 pm. **Friday Night** *2002*. A woman trapped in a Paris traffic jam invites a stranger into her car and, eventually, into her bed. Claire Denis directs.

•Oct. 15, 7:30 pm. **28 Days Later** *2002*. After a virus wipes out most of the planet, a handful of survivors try to save the human race from extinction. Danny Boyle directs. •Also showing, 5 and 10 pm. **Versus** *2000*. In Ryuhei Kitamura's film, zombies torment the gangsters who killed them.

Thursdays—Selected by Charles Burnett

•Oct. 9, 5:30, 7:30, and 9:30 pm. **Nothing but a Man** *1964*. A railroad lineman struggles to fit in with his coworkers. Michael Roemer directs.

•Oct. 16, 7:30 pm. **Sugar Cane Alley** *1983*. With the help of his grandmother and an education, a young boy escapes the poverty of 1930s Martinique. Euzhan Palcy directs. •Also showing, 5 and 9:45 pm. **Daughters of the Dust** *1991*. Julie Dash's film follows an African Gullah family's attempt to stay together at the turn of the 19th century.

Fridays and Saturdays—Special Engagements

•Oct. 10,7:30 pm; Oct. 11, 3 and 7:30 pm. **Beauty and the Beast** *1946*. Jean Cocteau adapts the classic fairy tale for the big screen. •Also showing, 5 and 9:30 pm. **Orpheus** *1949*. Jean Cocteau interprets the Greek myth in this story of a musician who makes a deal with Death to free his love from the Underworld.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Balagan Film Series

Oct. 9, 7:30 pm. **Charles and Ray Eames: Film an Apparatus for Modeling Ideas** *1989*. Balaga presents a collection of experimental films by th Eames brothers, two of the most influential Amer ican designers of the 20th century.

BF/VF Meet the Director

•Oct. 14, 7:30 pm. **One in Nine** *2001*. Janet Va Ham's documentary follows nine women from acros the nation who come together to race in the Hea of the Charles regatta in Boston.

Channel Zero Presents

•Oct. 16, 7:30 pm. **The Gorilla** *1939*. The Rit Brothers try to find a gorilla and a murderer wh are roaming around in a haunted house. Alla Dwan directs.

Coolidge Selects

•Opens Oct. 17. **Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion** *2002* Tom Peosay's documentary examines Tibetan cul ture and the Chinese occupation through interview with Tibetans.

•Now playing. **The Same River Twice** *2003*. Rob Moss' documentary follows a group of men who wer Colorado River guides in the 1970s.

Kids Variety Shows

•Oct. 11, 10:30 am. **Babe** *1995*. A pig raised b sheepdogs learns to herd sheep with a little hel from Farmer Hoggett. Chris Noonan directs.

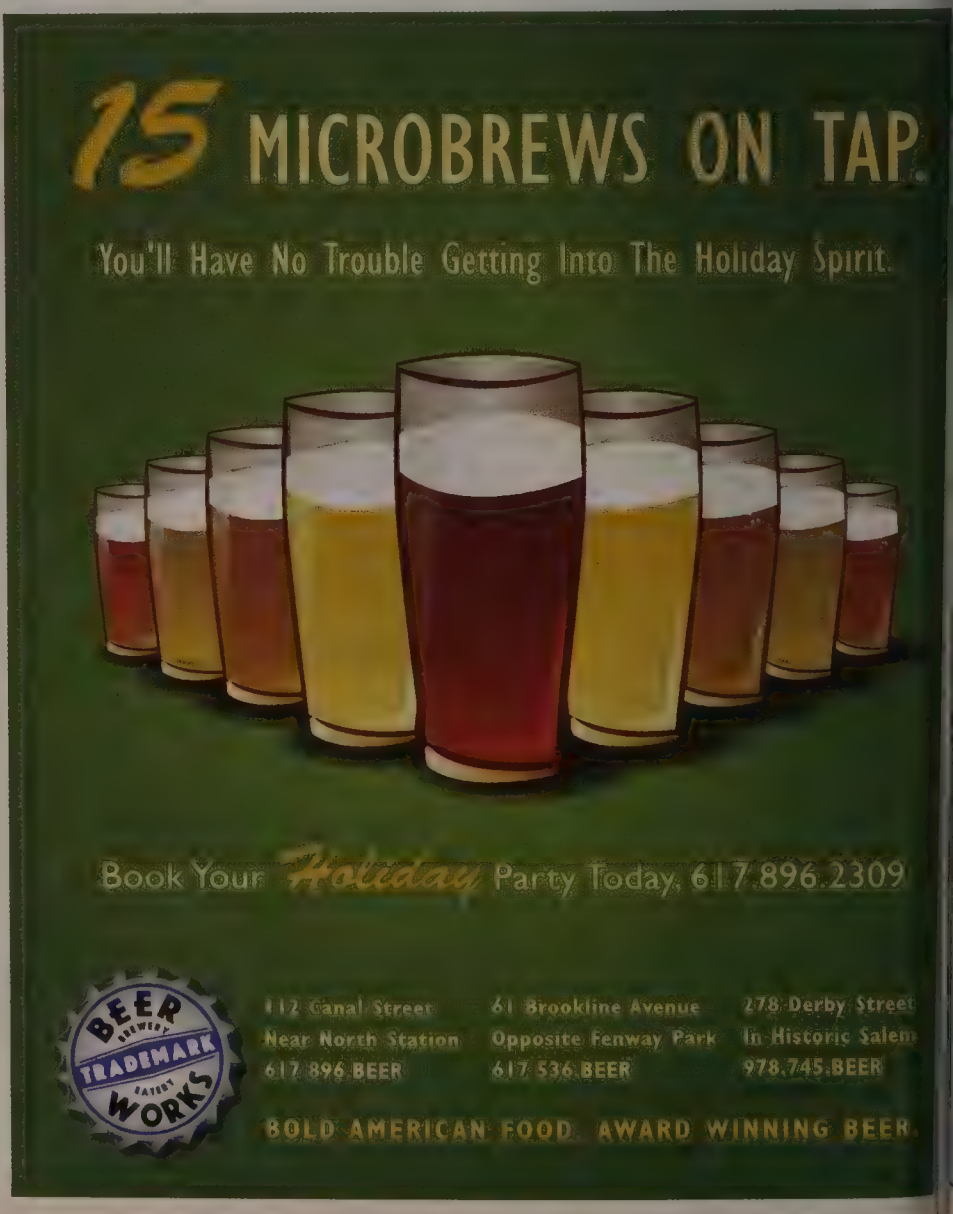
Midnight Movies: Vincent Price

•Oct. 10 and 11, 12 am. **Conqueror Worm** (als known as *Witchfinder General*) *1968*. A 15th century witch hunter (Price) brings his reign o terror to an English village. Michael Reeve directs.

•Oct. 17 and 18, 12 am. **The Abominable D Phibes** *1971*. Price plays a musicologist who is de formed in a car crash and exacts revenge on th doctors who failed to save his wife. Directed b Brian Etwell.

Relatively Speaking

•Oct. 20, 7 pm. **A Thousand Clowns** *1965*. To and Ray Magliozzi of NPR's *Car Talk* are present fo this screening of one of their favorite films—Fre Coe's story of a writer who quits his job in order t enjoy himself, only to become the unexpecte guardian of his young nephew.



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HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Directors in Focus: Fassbinder!

•Oct. 8, 9 pm. **Der Amerikanische Soldat** *(The American Soldier) 1970.* A hired gunman carries out his assignments while trying to reconnect with his old neighborhood and family.

•Oct. 10, 7 pm; Oct. 15, 9 pm. **Angst Essen Seele Auf** *(Ali: Fear Eats the Soul) 1973.* In Fassbinder's melodrama, a German cleaning woman marries a Moroccan mechanic 20 years her junior. •Also showing, 9 pm; Oct. 13, 7 pm. **Der Händler der Vier Jahreszeiten** *(The Merchant of Four Seasons) 1971.* A police officer is fired and must make a living as a street vendor.

•Oct. 11, 7 pm. **Die Ehe der Maria Braun** *(The Marriage of Maria Braun) 1978.* Fassbinder's film features an impoverished war bride who is transformed into a mercenary business woman. •Also showing, 9:15 pm. **Lili Marleen** *(1980).* Fassbinder directs this story of a love affair between a Nazi singer and a young Jewish-Swiss composer.

•Oct. 12, 7 pm. **Warum Läuft Herr R. Amok?** *(Why Does Herr R. Run Amok?) 1969.* An apathetic man with an ambitious wife eventually loses his cool. •Also showing, 9 pm. **In Einem Jahr Mit 13 Monden** *(In the Year of Thirteen Moons) 1978.* During the last five days of his life, a suicidal transsexual contemplates the past.

•Oct. 13, 9 pm. **Ich Will Doch nur, Das Irh Mich Liebt** *(I Only Want You to Love Me) 1976.* A German construction worker tries to compensate for his loveless childhood by buying extravagant gifts for others, while sinking into debt.

•Oct. 17 (parts 1-5), Oct. 18 (parts 6-10), and Oct. 19 (parts 11-14), 6 pm. **Berlin Alexanderplatz** *1980.* Fassbinder's film, originally produced as a 13-part television movie, captures the decadence of the German Weimar Republic.

•Oct. 20, 9 pm. **Nora Helmer** *1973.* Fassbinder adapts Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* for the screen.

Film and Visual Representation

•Oct. 8, 7 pm. **Sunrise** *1927.* In F. W. Murnau's first American film, an attractive woman from the city tempts a young, married farmer. The film screens with live piano accompaniment.

•Oct. 15, 7 pm. **Viaggio in Italia** *(Voyage in Italy) 1953.* Ingrid Bergman and George Sanders play a bored British couple who struggle to keep their marriage alive. Roberto Rossellini directs.

Film Architectures

•Oct. 14, 7 pm. **Chelovek s Kinoapparotom** *(The Man with the Movie Camera) 1929.* Dziga Vertov's documentary depicting a day in the life of a Soviet metropolis screens with live piano accompaniment.

•Oct. 21, 7 pm. **La Notte** *1961.* Michelangelo Antonioni's film follows an novelist and his disenchanted wife from a visit with a dying friend to a book-launching party to the couple's separate nocturnal forays.

The New German Cinema

•Oct. 20, 7 pm. **Jeder für Sich und Gott Gegen Alle** *(Every Man for Himself and God Against All) 1974.* A young man without speech, reason or memory is gradually educated in the ways of Western civilization. Werner Herzog directs.

(Re)screening Shakespeare

•Oct. 21, 9:15 pm. **My Own Private Idaho** *1991.* Gus Van Sant's update of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* stars Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix.

Screening Modern China

•Oct. 14, 9 pm. **Huang Tu Di** *(Yellow Earth) 1984.* A Communist soldier develops a relationship with a young girl in an unliberated village in the remote western highlands. Chen Kaige directs.

LOEWS THEATRES COPLEY PLACE

Sundance Film Series

•Opens Oct. 10, 1, 4, 7 and 10 pm. **Dopamine** *2003.* See New Releases for a description.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Asian American Film Weekend

•Oct. 10, 8 pm. **Contemporary Pan-Asian Film Shorts.** A collection of new Asian short films includes Daniel Hsia's *How to Do the Asian Squat,* Michael Sandoval's *The Good Son,* Gurinder Chadha's *What Do You Call an Indian Woman Who's Funny?,* Joy Dietrich's *Surplus* and Jane Wong's *Dim Sum (A Little Bit of Heart).*

•Oct. 11, 4 pm. **Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity** *2002.* A woman uses Taoist magic to bring happiness to her lonely, overworked single mom. Mina Shum directs.

Cinema India

•Oct. 9, 8:15 pm; Oct. 11, 2:10 pm. **Manda Meyer Upakkhyan** *(A Tale of a Naughty Girl) 2001.* A movie theater owner, a chauffeur and a prostitute's daughter try to improve their lives. Buddhadeb Dasgupta directs.

•Oct. 16, 7:45 pm; Oct. 18, 3:30 pm. **Mr. and Mrs. Iyer** *2002.* A Tamil Brahmin woman and her child help a Muslim photographer escape an angry mob of Hindu extremists by posing as his family. Aparna Sen directs.

Directed by Dorothy Azner

•Oct. 8, 6 pm. **Merrily We Go to Hell** *1932.* Azner's film is about a playwright whose marriage goes sour when his play becomes a Broadway hit.

•Oct. 9, 3 pm. **The Wild Party** *1929.* Clara Bow stars as the most popular party girl at an exclusive women's college full of high-spirited flappers. •Also showing, 4:30 pm; Oct. 11, 12:30 pm. **Working Girls** *1931.* Two girls from Indiana go to New York City to look for work and love.

•Oct. 12, 12:30 pm. **Honor Among Lovers** *1931.* A young secretary rejects her boss' proposal of marriage and chooses a young stockbroker who turns out to be the wrong man.

Indie Hits

•Oct. 12 and 16, 2 pm. **Spellbound** *2002.* Jeff Blitz's Academy Award–nominated documentary chronicles a National Spelling Bee, as seen through the eyes of eight young participants.

Local Filmmakers

•Oct. 17, 5:30; Oct. 18, 1 pm. **All Men Are Sons: Exploring the Legacy of Fatherhood** *2003.* Five men from diverse backgrounds explore their relationships with their fathers. John Badalament directs. •Also showing, **Wrestling with Manhood** *2003.* Sut Jhally and Jackson Katz explore the enormous popularity of professional wrestling among male youth.

New England Film Artists Present

•Oct. 17, 7:30 pm; Oct. 18 and 19, 10:30 am. **Morning Sun** *2003.* Carma Hinton, Geremie Barmé and Richard Gordon's documentary explores some of the forces behind China's Cultural Revolution.

Short Films by Richard Massingham

•Oct. 16, 6 pm. This collection of Richard Massingham's British commercials, training films and government informationals spans 1933-1950.

World Cinema—Africa

•Oct. 8, 7:45 pm; Oct. 10, 6 pm; Oct. 11, 10:30 am; Oct. 16, 4 pm. **100 Days** *2000.* Nick Hughes' film follows a Tutsi family that tries to survive during the Rwandan government's genocidal reign of the 1990s.

World Cinema—Germany

•Oct. 9, 6 pm; Oct. 12, 3:50 pm. **Im Juli** *(In July) 2000.* A young physics teacher leaves behind his mundane existence to pursue the girl of his dreams in Istanbul. He ends up traveling with an attractive stranger. Faith Akin directs.

World Cinema—New Zealand

•Oct. 9, 1 pm; Oct. 12, 10:30 am. **Whale Rider** *2002.* A 12-year-old Maori girl dreams of becoming the chief of her people. Niki Caro directs.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through March 31, 2004. **Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees.** Enter the world of the wild chimpanzees of Africa's Gombe Stream National Park. *Call for show times.*

Marco Leonardi, Antonio Banderas and Enrique Iglesias star in the new action-adventure *Once upon a Time in Mexico.*

•Through Dec. 16. **Africa: The Serengeti.** This Omni film depicts the 1.5 million animals that migrate across the African plains. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 16, 2004. **Space Station.** Blast into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts of the International Space Station. *Call for show times.*

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Nov. 4. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D.** Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. *Call for show times.*

•Through Nov. 4. **Ocean Wonderland 3D.** Explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. *Call for show times.*

•Through Nov. 4. **Rolling Stones: At the Max.** The Stones perform 15 of their classic songs, with footage from their Steel Wheels/Urban Jungle tour. *Call for show times.*

•Through Nov. 4. **Space Station 3D.** Travel to the International Space Station and experience life in zero gravity with the astronauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. *Call for show times.*

•Through November. **The Matrix Reloaded: The Imax Experience.** In the sequel to *The Matrix,* Neo and the rebel leaders battle the machines that have overpowered the human race. *Call for show times.*

•Through June 2004. **Bugs! 3D.** This film focuses on the world of insects in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size. *Call for show times.*

WOMEN IN FILM AND VIDEO/ NEW ENGLAND

Chicks Make Flicks

Monthly screenings celebrate female filmmakers and feature works by local directors, writers, producers and editors. •Oct. 8, 7 pm. **Next Stop Wonderland** *1998.* Brad Anderson's film follows a lonely Boston nurse who dates a series of strange men after her mother places a personal ad for her. Producer Patricia Alvarado is present for the screening and discussion. *MIT, Building Four, room 270, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-612-0091). www.wifvne.org. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.*

Cinema Venues

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Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline. (617-566-5715) MBTA: C Green Line to St. Marys.

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

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CHARLES EALY, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

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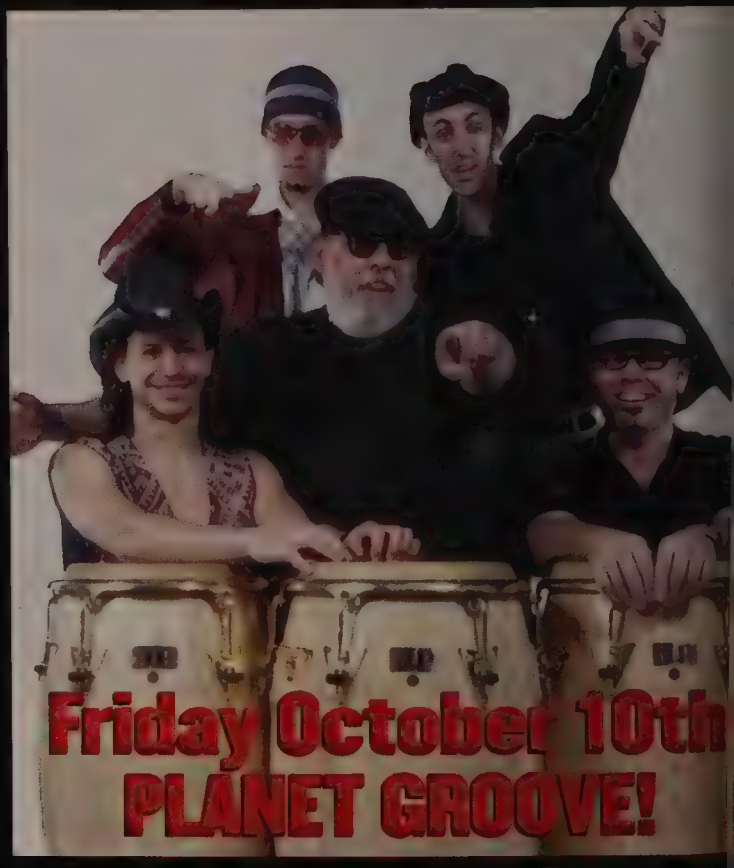

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THE RACK

Power to the Peaceful

Michael Franti combines music and message with newfound accessibility on Spearhead's potent new release

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

It's not surprising that a politically active songwriter like Michael Franti of Spearhead sat down and did some heavy thinking in the aftermath of September 11.

"The Bush administration was saying, 'We're going to go chase down everybody who looks or thinks or smells like a terrorist, and we're going to kill them before they kill us,'" Franti says. "I just thought of the insanity of that practice, and that our bombing is probably going to do the opposite of what they have intended it to do, and create more tension and hostility toward America."

Michael Franti's politically charged music has prompted the government to investigate his band, Spearhead.

He came up with the song "Bomb the World," whose chorus, "We can bomb the world to pieces, but we can't bomb the world to peace," spread to signs at demonstrations and even a mural on the side of a restaurant in Northern California.

But what was surprising for Spearhead, which plays the Somerville Theatre Oct. 16, was the broad direction that the song took musically. It appears twice on the group's new CD, *Everyone Deserves Music*, first in a resolute gospel-funk version, then as a punchy dancehall track produced by the famed reggae duo Sly and Robbie, following earlier attempts that ranged from acoustic to psychedelic rock.

"Sly and Robbie's influence extends beyond the tracks they worked with us on," says Franti, who also got songwriting tips from Bill Bottrell, a producer recently known for his work with Sheryl Crow. "Their attitude is like every song should be a hit single. That's how it works in Jamaica."

The CD brims with radio-ready tunes that build on Franti's early influences (Marvin Gaye, Bob Marley and Stevie Wonder), pairing organic grooves with pop-savvy arrangements. "The ultimate goal is when you can make a song that moves people's hearts and it's also danceable," says Franti, 37.

The bouncy "We Don't Stop" recalls "The Magnificent Seven" by the Clash, the punk band that Franti first discovered through its work with reggae producer Mickey Dread. Franti was inspired by the way the Clash mixed rock with jazz, funk, hip-hop, reggae and Latin music on its 1980 album, *Sandinista*.

"They had brought it all into one sound that you could say was the Clash," Franti says from his San Francisco home. "That's what we've been working toward as a band, to draw on all these influences, but to have them be one sound."

The songs on *Everyone Deserves Music* make a natural mix. "In the past, we'd always write from the beat and work our way up," he says. "This time around, I wrote most of the songs from the acoustic guitar, and really worked on the melody and chord structures."

He also began doing more singing than rapping. "I've been doing a lot of spoken-word performing, and it's interesting that that's why I actually learned to sing," Franti says. "If I could just add a melody to one or two parts of the poem, it would become more interesting."

Franti also credits a 1999 artists' summit in Cuba that found him swapping songs with Bonnie Raitt, the Indigo Girls and Peter Frampton, in addition to hearing Cuban performers sing in Spanish. "I got this incredible feeling from the harmonies they were creating with their voices and guitar, and that transcends borders," he says. "It's international, and that's what I want to do."

Politics, of course, still drive his music as well. "I was adopted as a baby," Franti says. "I grew up in a family where I didn't feel like I fit in, so I had an affinity for the underdog and people who felt left out."

Franti's activism and music grew through his previous bands the Beatnigs and the Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy (the latter also featuring jazz guitarist Charlie Hunter). Then he launched Spearhead, which landed lots of airplay in 1994 with the laconic hip-hop parable "Hole in the Bucket."

In recent years, through both music and protests (including the band's annual Power to the Peaceful festival), Franti has raised his voice against such targets as the death penalty, the prison-industrial complex and corporate globalization. He says that in March, military intelligence dropped in on the mother of one of his Spearhead bandmates, inquiring about her son's Spearhead involvement while his sister was in the military.

"They had our flight records and pictures of us performing at demonstrations," Franti says. "It was unsettling as a band, and as a management team, because they had pictures and names of everybody who works in our office too."

Nonetheless, Spearhead stuck to its mission. "The power of music is not going to change the minds of leaders," Franti says. "But it's going to give everyday people the energy and inspiration to continue on with what they believe in strongly." IB

Michael Franti and Spearhead
play the Somerville Theatre Oct. 16.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fa (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or b email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not ac cepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from di ferent sources. Although we make every effort to provid accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahea to double-check dates and times (see complete list venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Los Amigos Invisibles
Oct. 9, Roxy (617-423-NEXT).
The Ataris and Vendetta Red
Oct. 14, Colleges of the Fenway (617-423-NEXT).
Joan Baez
Oct. 11, Berklee Performance Center (617-93 2000).
Barenaked Ladies
Oct. 21, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Bleu, Sleeping at Last and Switchfoot
Oct. 15, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
George Clinton and Parliament/Funkadelic
Oct. 8, the Roxy (617-931-2000).
Cowboy Mouth, Cracker and DJ Dan
Oct. 10, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Evan Dando, Vic Chesnutt
Oct. 17, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Chris Delmhorst and Peter Mulvey
Oct. 18, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Good Charlotte, Mest and Something Corporate
Oct. 12, Tsongas Arena (617-931-2000).
Gov't Mule and Chris Robinson
Oct. 17, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Shirley Horn
Oct. 10, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000)
Interpol and Elefant
Oct. 16 and 17, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Leona Naess
Oct. 18, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Boz Scaggs
Oct. 12, 13 and 14, Paradise Rock Club (617-42 NEXT).
Sheila Divine
Oct. 10 and 11, Paradise Rock Club (617-42 NEXT).
Soledad Brothers
Oct. 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
String Cheese Incident
Oct. 10 and 11, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
Steve Winwood and the North Mississippi AllSta
Oct. 8, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8

Abbey Lounge The Drags, Pelt, the Stoves and Tu nel of Love, 21+.
Avalon Sound Tribe Sector 9, LTJ Bukem, MC Co rad and Makoto, 8 pm, $17.25, 18+.
Axis Hot Hot Heat, French Kicks and Ima Robot pm, $16, all ages.
Bill's Bar Invisible Downtown, Renata and Da Cain, 9 pm, 19+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Breezeway J-Vibes, 7:30, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Rob Laurens, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGra 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Briar Dublin City Ramblers.
Harper's Ferry Code Talkers, Col. Bruce Hampt and Three Percent, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
Johnny D's Cracow Klezmer Band, 8:30 pm, $1 21+.
Kinsale Michael Courtney.
The Linwood Trendkill, Kevorkian, Shutterbox a White, 10 pm, $8, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Amun Ra and Enuma Elish, 10: pm, $6, 21+.
Milky Way Open mike, 8 pm, $5.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Orpheum Steve Winwood and the North Miss sippi Allstars, 7:30 pm, $30-$35.
Regattabar Paul Im and Remember Rockefell 8:30 pm, $12.
Roxy George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic pm, $28.50, 18+.

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ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Belle and Sebastian Nov. 13, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Bruce Cockburn Oct. 24, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Alice Cooper Oct. 25, Lowell Memorial Auditorium (617-931-2000).
Chris Delmhorst and Peter Mulvey Oct. 18, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Ani Difranco Nov. 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Echo & the Bunnymen Oct. 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Herbie Hancock Nov. 2, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Tom Jones Nov. 20, Lowell Memorial Auditorium (617-931-2000).
Ben Lee, Phantom Planet Nov. 14, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Lyle Lovett
Nov. 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Marilyn Manson Oct. 23, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Maroon 5 and Gavin DeGraw Oct. 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Meshell Ndegeocello and Soulive Oct. 22, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Nickelback, Three Days Grace, and Trapt Nov. 2 Tsongas Arena (617-931-2000).
Robert Randolph & the Family Band Nov. 19 Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Road to Voodoo Tour with DJ Swamp, Fuel an Smile Empty Soul Oct. 23, Avalon (617-423 NEXT).
Saves the Day and Taking Back Sunday Nov. 21 Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Simon & Garfunkel Dec. 11 and 13, FleetCente (617-931-2000).
The Strokes Oct. 31, Tsongas Arena (617-931 2000).
Travis Oct. 26, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Ween Oct. 29, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
The White Stripes, Whirlwind Heat Nov. 21 Tsongas Arena (617-931-2000).
Keller Williams Oct. 24, Somerville Theatre (617 931-2000).
Steve Winwood and the North Mississippi All Stars Oct. 8, Orpheum Theatre (617-931 2000).

Ryles Jazz Club Alex Skolnick Trio, 8:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Scullers The Mike Clark Quartet, 8 pm and 10 pm, $20-$55, 21+.
Sky Bar Annie and the Applepickers, Reason Being and Avatar, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Toad The Heygoods, 7-9pm; Planet 3, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Frances Kim Band, Starr Faithful and Tristan da Cunha, 9 pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries. 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

Abbey Lounge Slidepiece and the Humanoids, 21+.
Axis Hot Hot Heat, A.R.E. Weapons and Caesars, 6:30 pm, $16, all ages.
Bill's Bar Baby Strange, Median Sod, the Bocks and Stereo Soul Future, 9 pm, 19+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Breezeway Margo Thunder R&B, 7:30, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Matt and Shannon Heaton CD-release show, 8 pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Harper's Ferry Tantric and Sloth, $15, 18+.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Fuzz from Deep Banana Blackout, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Kendall Café Garrin Benfield and Steve Poltz.
Kirkland Café Avatar and Polyethelene, $5.
Lizard Lounge Quick Release, Leo Blais and the Arrangement, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Grayson Farmer round midnight jazz session, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: 90 Day Men, the Panthers and the Cignal and Placer, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Del the Funky Homosapien, Souls of Mischief, Casual and Pep Love with Little Brother and Encore, $20, 18+.
Milky Way Grupo Fantasma.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Paradise Calexico and the Frames, 9 pm, $16, 18+.
Parris Central Basement.
PA's The Franks, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Unek Approach, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Fully Celebrated Orchestra, 8:30 pm, $12.
Roxy Los Amigos Invisibles, 6 pm, $25-$45, 19+.
Ryles Jazz Club Yoron Israel and Organic CD-release show, 8:30 pm, $12, 21+.
Scullers Georgie Fame, 8 and 10 pm, $20, 21+.
Sky Bar Malachi Constant, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7-9 pm; Todd Thibaud, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Apollo Sunshine CD-relea show and the Lot Six, 10 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cov 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cov 21+.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

Abbey Lounge The Charms, Leisure Class a Aloud, 21+.
Avalon Cowboy Mouth and Cracker, 7 pm, $17 18+.
The Big Easy Dick & Jane, 10:30, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Vagabond Kings, 9 pm, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Cheryl Arena, 9 pm, cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Celtic Cl 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thriller pm, 21+.
Club Passim Daniel Pearl tribute, 8 pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover ages.
Grand Canal Cape Fear.
Green Briar Ego System.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syptifo.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Superhoney with Bluestring, 10 p $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30 pm; Sun Junk.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Ronnie Baker Brooks, 9:45 pm.
Kirkland Café Prime Rib and Mickey Bliss Org Combo, $5.
The Linwood Ultravixen and Raven, 10 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Ken Clark Organ Trio and Kierny, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Pub Mad Dog Trio, 10:30 pm, cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Quick Fix, Elkland and phatide, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Radio 4, Natural History and Read Yellow, 8 pm, $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's McTaggerts.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, cover.
Orpheum The String Cheese Incident, 8 pm, $30
Paradise The Sheila Divine and Helicopter He copter, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Burnt Sienna.
The Rack Sugarfoot, 6 pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar Lynne Jackson & Mike Palter, 7:30 10 pm, $16.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra and Sl Hampton, 9 pm, $20, 21+.
Sanders Theatre John McLaughlin and Zakir Hu sain, 8 pm, $35-$45.
Toad The Stacy Queen Band, 10 pm, no cov 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Handsome Family, J White and Jimmy Ryan, 9:30 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMah 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cov 21+.

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SATURDAY, OCT. 11

Abbey Lounge Jim Noland and Hokum, 21+.
Avalon Spiritualized and Soledad Brothers, 6:45 pm, $15.25, 18+.
Axis Street Dogs CD-release show, Lost City Angels, Dirty Water, the Briggs and the Marvels, 6 pm, $12, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Joan Baez, 8 pm, $30-$37.50.
The Big Easy Dick & Jane, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Five Speed Blue, 9 pm, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Professor Harp, 9 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle and Celtic Clan.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Rockwell Church, 7 and 10 pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort Mojo Slim, 8:30 pm, no cover..
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Grand Canal Syndicate.
Green Briar Inchicore.
The Green Dragon Tavern Big Delicious.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Babaloo, the Allstonians and Owen Plant, $10, 21+.
Institute of Contemporary Art Sunny Murray/Sabir Mateen/Oluyemi Thomas Trio, 8 pm, $12-$16.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Luther Johnson, 9:45 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Kirkland Café Red Dirt, $5.
The Linwood Midget Stereo, AM Stereo, Kodachrome and Cheaterpint, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Jeff Harris Band, Kelly Buchanan, and the Sand Machine, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Pub Andy Voelker, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Quintron & Miss Pussycat, the Frogs and Baby Rosebud, 9 pm, $10, 18+; Downstairs: MoFro and Hi8us, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's McTaggerts.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Orpheum The String Cheese Incident, 8 pm, $30.
Paradise Sheila Divine and Aerial Love Feed, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Burnt Sienna.
PA's So and So, Whistle Jacket and the In Out, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock The Marcels.
Ryles Jazz Club Four Piece Suit, 9 pm, $9, 21+.
Sky Bar Knee Deep Shag, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Greg's Saturday Showcase, 7-9 pm; the Cranktones, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Red Elvises, the Popgun Seven and Vegas Valentinos, 9:15 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet with Harold Layne, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Axis E-Town Concrete, Candiria and God Forbid, 6 pm, $10, all ages.
Bill's Bar Reggae night, 9 pm, 19+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle, 4:30, no cover, 21+.
Breezeway Hakim Law, 11-3 pm, $13, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Members' party at Codman Farm, 3 pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Briar Finbar Doyle, Celtic Clan and DJ Stelah.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
The Harp The Zoo.
Harper's Ferry Weekend Extension, NBFB and Space Station Integration, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe Reggae Band, 9 pm.
Johnny D's Jazz Brunch, 9:30 am-2:30 pm; blues jam, 4:30-8:30.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Matt Murphy's Live and Direct, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East U: Deluxe, 18+. Corner: Bellydance show with Sahar and the Dancers and DJ Garabed 8pm, no cover,18+.
Paradise Boz Scaggs, 8 pm, $35, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Frank Vardaros, 10 am-3 pm, no cover; Sweet & Salty, 7 pm, $18, 21+.
Scullers Strunz and Farah, 7 and 9 pm, $24-$59, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Alternative pop singer/songwriter Leona Naess performs at the Paradise Rock Club Oct. 18.

Toad The Frank Morey Band, 7-9 pm; Session Americana, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm, no cover; Tim Ray Trio, 8 pm, no cover.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, OCT. 13

The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bill's Bar Monster Mondays, 9 pm, 19+.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8 pm; the Wiyos, 10 pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block Jazz session, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Club Passim School of Music Showcase, 9 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike.
Harper's Ferry Blues jam.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Institute of Contemporary Art Available Jelly, 8 pm, $12-$16.
Middle East Upstairs: Anatomy of a Ghost, Bear vs. Shark, My Hotel Year and Fear Before the March of Flames, 9 pm, $9, 18+.
Paradise Boz Scaggs, 8 pm, $35, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
Roxy Beth Gibbons and Rustin Man.
Tír na nÓg Dangerous Brothers, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Shwang with Anita Suhanin, 8-10 pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Tim Ray Trio, 8 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday acoustic show, 8 pm, 21+.
Berklee Performance Center Greg Badolato, George Garzone, and Frank Tiberi, 8:15, $20-$30.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; Boston City Limits, 10 pm. 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzales, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Harper's Ferry Jiggle the Handle, 9:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Annie Clark and Don Campbell, 8:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Kinsale Sean Cunningham.
Lizard Lounge Tommy Dempsey, 9 pm, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Geoff Scott and Public House, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Anatomy of a Ghost, Bear vs. Shark, My Hotel Year and Fear Before the March. Downstairs: Fishbone and Kings X, 8 pm, $20, 18+.
Paradise Boz Scaggs, 8 pm, $35, 18+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Average White Band, 8 and 10 pm, $18-$53, 21+.
Sky Bar Twelfth of Never, Terminal Bliss and Platform One, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Resophonics, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Over the Rhine, Steven Delopoulos and Susan Enan, 9:15 pm, $14.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

Abbey Lounge The Drags, Brett Rosenberg, Problem, Mercury Charm, Offensive, and the Irreverends, 21+.
Avalon Mike Gordon and Kaki King, 8 pm, $22.75, 18+.
Axis Switchfoot, Bleu and Sleeping at Last, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Bill's Bar The Laura Glyder Band, Meiva Pauley and MAVE, 9 pm, 19+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Breezeway Sherry Eatmon, 7:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim John McGann, Matt Glaser, Greg Liszt and Corey DiMario, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
Harper's Ferry Liz and Jenn of Rusted Root, 8 pm, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
Johnny D's Peter Case and Jeff Foucault, 8:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Kings Duke and the Drivers CD-release show, 7 pm.
Kinsale Symbolics.
Lizard Lounge Eileen Rose, Huck and Frank Morey Band, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Jucifer, Jet by Day and Medea Connection, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Blue Rodeo and the Sadies, $15, 18+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover.
The Rack Groove Authority, 6 pm, no charge, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Boston Acappela Scene, 7 pm, $7, 21+.
Scullers Average White Band, 8 and 10 pm, $18-$53, 21+.
Sky Bar The Gasolines, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
The Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Toad Weed, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place 20 Miles and Jedediah Parish & the Mother Tongues, 9:50 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

Abbey Lounge James the Viking, 21+.
Avalon Interpol, Elefant and the Occasion, 7 pm, $20, all ages.
Bill's Bar Crumble, Rubikon, Absolve, and Fuser, 9 pm, 19+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Breezeway Margo Thunder R&B Live Night, 7:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim BMI night with Ari Hest, Miek Pauley and Stephen Kellogg, 7 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City,7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Marcy Callahan and Brian Patton 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, n cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café B-Sides, Mister Sparkle and Mid night Moon, $5.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Grayson Farmer Round Midnigh jazz session, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Jay Farrar and Canyon, pm,$15, 18+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Paradise Super Diamond and Tijuana Strip Club, pm, $20, 18+.
Parris Central Basement.
PA's Lemonstone and Eternity, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Part Time Lovers, 6 pm, no charge, 21+.
Regattabar The Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, 8:30 pm $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey, 8:30 pm $10, 21+.
Scullers Randy Brecker Band, 8 and 10 pm, $1 $55, 21+.
Sky Bar Al Rock and Mike Boston, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 9 pm, no cove 21+.
Toad Diamond Platinum Rings, 7-9 pm; Tod Thibaud, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, n cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Iron and Wine, Charlene a Jesse Sykes & the Sweet Hereafter, 9:15 pm, $12.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cove 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, 2

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

Abbey Lounge Fearsome Earsome, Goldenwest M torlodge and the Mittens, 21+.
Avalon Interpol, Elefant and the Occasion, 7 p $20, 18+.
Berklee Performance Center Leahy, 8 pm, $22-2
The Big Easy Syndicate, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Demolition Man, 9 pm, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Sweet Willie D, 9 pm, no cov
The Black Rose Celtic Clan; Upstairs: Tony O'Ri dan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers pm, 21+.
Club Passim Nerissa and Katryna Nields, 7 and pm, $15.
Dick's Last Resort The Rockhoppers, 8:30 pm, cover.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, ages.
Grand Canal Dick and Jane.
Green Briar Infractions.
The Green Dragon Tavern 5 to the Face.
The Harp Mr. Greengenes.
Harper's Ferry Project Object, Ike Will Napoleon Murphy Brock and Don Preston, $ 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30 pm; Opito Obliv
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover, all ages
Kirkland Café Defacto, Bathtub Saints, and Mic Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood The Kickbacks, 10 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Shelley Winters Proj Arabyfever Monument, Cathal Coughlin, J*M pm, $8, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Pub James Merenda, 10:30 pm, cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: PW Long, Antler and Brought Low, 9 pm, $9, 18+; Downstairs: Pr Girls Make Graves, Cobra High and Jr. Ewing, 9 $10, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, cover.
Orpheum Chris Robinson, Gov't Mule, and N Earth Mud, 7:30pm, $25.
Paradise Evan Dando and Vic Chesnutt, 9 pm, 18+.
Parris Flavor.
PA's Local Radio and Verona Downs, 9 pm, $5, 2
The Rack First Class, 6 pm, $5, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Dave Valentin, 8:30 pm, $25, 2
Scullers Richard Bona, 8 and 10 pm, $18-$55, 2
Sky Bar Catapult and Madison Falls, 8 pm, $5,

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The Barenaked Ladies come to the Orpheum Theatre Oct. 21.

Toad The Dwight Richter Band, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Gentlemen, the Downbeat 5, the Dents and Andrea Gillis, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

Axis The Fire Theft, 7 pm, $15, all ages.
The Big Easy Joe Rock Star, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Bill's Bar Motha's Mistake, 9 pm, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Tony Gallo, 9 pm, no cover.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan. Upstairs: Tony O'Riordan, 4:30 pm, no cover, all ages, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Don White, 8 pm, $14.
Common Ground Octoberfest, 4-11 pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Clara Lofaro, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Grand Canal Brick Park.
Green Briar Inchicore.
The Green Dragon Tavern Scooby Snax.
The Harp Mr. Greengenes.
Harper's Ferry Holly Harris (of WBOS) 10th Anniversary Party, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Holly Harris (of WBOS) 10th Anniversary Party, with Jay Geils, the Severn Allstars and others, 9:45 pm.
Kinsale North Street.
Kirkland Café Grey Street, $5.
The Linwood Give, Rocketscience, and Ross Phasor, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Andy Stochansky and 9 mile, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Pub The Weisstronauts, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Holly Golightly, KO and the Knockouts and Dame Fate, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Beulah, John Vanderslice and Matt Suggs, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Mr. Dooley's Christy O'Connell.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Josh Rouse and Leona Naess, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Flavor.
PA's The Inhale and Without, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Syndicate.
Regattabar Dane Vannatter and the Dick Johnson Quintet, 7:30 and 10 pm, $14.
Ryles Jazz Club The Mason Brothers, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Sky Bar Ganesh and Fixer
pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Gregg's Saturd
Showcase, 7-9 pm; Dav
Johnson, 10 pm, no cov
21+.
Top of the Hub The Ch
Taylor Quartet, 9 pm,
cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Kir
of Nuthin, One Man Arr
and the Eyeliners, 9:55 p
$10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Sc
Quartet with Harold Layn
9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery To
Brunel & Co. and Pear, 9:
pm, $10.
Les Zygomates Danie
Schoechler Trio, 8 pm,
cover, 21+.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

Bill's Bar Reggae Night
pm, 19+.
The Black Rose Celtic Cl
4:30 pm, no cover, all ag
Celtic Clan, 9:30 pm,
21+.
Breezeway Hakim Law,
3 pm, $13, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam
pm, 21+.
Club Passim Steve Sesk
and Janet Feld, 7:30 p
$12.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm,
cover, all ages.
Green Briar Finbar Doyle, Maxi Courtney and
Stelah.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnso
Harper's Ferry Weekend Extension, NBFB a
Mang Dub, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe R
gae Band, 9 pm.
Johnny D's Jazz Brunch, 9 am-2:30 pm; Blues Ja
4:30 pm-8:30 pm.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell
Matt Murphy's Live and Direct, reggae DJ a
bands, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Form of Rocket, New Trai
Direction, Dare Diablo and Pink Swords, 9 pm,
18+.
Paradise Bob Schneider, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Yoko Miwa, 10 am-3 pm, no cov
Paquito D'Rivera, 7:30 pm, $25, 21+.
Sanders Theatre Ronnie Gilbert, 3 pm, $22-$26
Sky Bar Hypersolid, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Tim Hughes and Friends, 7-9 pm; Sessi
Americana, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 an
pm, no cover; Gordon Beadle Trio, 8 pm, no cov
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11
am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMah
9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, OCT. 20

Axis "The Girlz Garage Tour" with Brassy, Lil
Northern State, the Peak Show, and the Start, 7
$12, all ages.
Bill's Bar Monster Mondays, 9 pm, 19+ with coll
ID.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21
Cantab Lounge Singer-songwriter open mike, 8
Carl Cacho, 10 pm. 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:30 pm;
cover.
Encore Lounge Maggie Rose Quartet, 9:30 pm
cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike.
Harper's Ferry Blues jam, $2, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan.
Middle East Upstairs: Brian Jonestown Massa
the High Strung and Deathray Davies, 9 pm, $
18+. Downstairs: Gorky's Zygotic Mynci and Kin
bury Manx, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
Sky Bar E3, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Dangerous Brothers, 9 pm, no co
21+.
Toad Shwang with Anita Suhanin, 8-10 pm;
Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Gordon Beadle Trio, 8 pm, no co

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Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Sarah Brindell, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday acoustic show 8 pm, 21+.
Avalon Kirk Franklin, tobyMAC, and Soul Jahz, 8 pm, $30.25, all ages.
Axis Bret Michaels and Cracktorch, 10 pm, $18, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; One Night Stand, 10 pm. 21+.
Club Passim Dan Bern.
Cottonwood Café Barbara Dolan's Jazz Therapy, 9 pm, no cover.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzales, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Harper's Ferry Jiggle the Handle, 9:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Ivo Papasov, 8:30 pm, $20, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Tommy Dempsey, 9 pm, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Geoff Scott and Public House, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Drunkhorse, Bongzilla and On Trial, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Superchunk and the Rosebuds, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Orpheum Barenaked Ladies, 7:30 pm, $40.
The Rack Paolo Darnay, 6 pm, no charge, 21+.
Regattabar Charlie Kohlhase's CK5, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Sky Bar Ashley Farrell, Michelle Lewis and Jen Shamro, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Resophonics, 10 pm, no cover. 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Lot Six, the Paper Lions, Fin Fang Foom and Those Who Wait, 9 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Steve Winwood and the North Mississippi AllStars play Oct. 8 at the Orpheum Theatre

classical music

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8

Music in the Cathedral

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Bos (617-482-4826, ext. 1103). MBTA: Red or Gr Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2 suggested donation. Org ist Nigel Potts performs.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5 2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA *Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* Stephen Lip conducts the New England Conservatory Symph Orchestra in a performance that includes Rossi Overture to La Gazza Ladra and Brahms' Symph No. 2.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

Boston Philharmonic

Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-4 2222). www.bostonphil.org. MBTA: *Red Lin Harvard. 7:30 pm. $15-$63.* The Boston Phil monic performs selections from Gustav Mahler w baritone William Sharp.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2 1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to S phony. 8 pm. $26-$86.* Guest conductor Bern Haitink leads the orchestra in a performance o lections by Wagner, Debussy and Franck.

MIT Chapel Concert Series

MIT Chapel, opposite 77 Mass. Ave., Cambr (617-253-2826). http://web.mit.edu/arts. *12 Free.* Joshua Millard performs works by Albe Dowland, Piazzolla and Brouwer.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

Boston Chamber Music Society

New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). w bostonchambermusic.org. MBTA: *E Green Lin Symphony. 7:30 pm. $16-$42.* Pianist Martin Ka violinist Elina Vähälä, cellist Ronald Thomas pianist Randall Hodgkinson perform works Fauré, Hall Overton and Dvorak.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2 1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to S phony. 8 pm. $29-$95.* Same program as Oct. 9.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MB *Red Line to Harvard. Free.* Jeffrey Rink leads Longy Chamber Orchestra in a performance of w by Mozart, Brahms and Weber.

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

Boston Early Music Festival

First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St., Cambi (617-424-4232). www.bemf.org. MBTA: *Red Li Harvard. 8 pm. $18-$52.* Violinist Andrew M performs works by Tartini, Bach and Stokowski.

Boston Philharmonic

New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gains ough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.bo phil.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 $15-$63.* Same program as Oct. 9.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass Ave., Boston (617-2 1492). MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 $29-$95.* Same program as Oct. 9.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Boston Chamber Music Society

Sanders Theatre, Cambridge (617-536-2412). w bostonchambermusic.org. MBTA: *Red Line to vard. 7:30 pm. $16-$42.* Same program as Oct.

Boston Philharmonic

New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gains ough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.bo phil.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. $15-$63.* Same program as Oct. 9.

Emmanuel Music

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (6 536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. MB *Green Line to Copley. 11 am. Free.* The Emma Music orchestra and chorus perform Bach's *Meine Freude* during Sunday church service.

Emmanuel Music

The Chamber Series, Emmanuel Church, 15 New St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emma music.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. 4 pm.*

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Big Easy *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
The Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave., Boston (617-541-5400).*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
City Hall Plaza *MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Independent *Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Institute of Contemporary Art Theater *955 Boylston St., Boston (617-354-6898). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Jacob Wirth *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kings *10 Scotia St., Boston (617-266-2695). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park St.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
PA's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557).*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *74 Mt Auburn St., Cambridge (617-495-8676). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
The Tap *19 Union St., Boston (617-367-0033). MBTA; Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Tsongas Arena *300 Arcand Drive, Lowell (978-848-6900.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Washington Square Tavern *714 Washington St., Brookline (617-232-8989).*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard St., Boston (617-351-2665) MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Zeigeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

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Benjamin Zander leads the Boston Philharmonic in a series of performances Oct. 9, 11 and 12

patrons, $22 general admission, $18 students. The chorus and orchestra perform pieces by J.S. Bach and original works by Emmanuel Music's composer John Harbison.

MIT Heritage of South Asia Concert
Room 10-250, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-258-7971). web.mit.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 4 pm. $14-$18. Hindustani singer Ashwine Bhide performs with Vishwanath Shirodkar on the tabla and Seema Shirodkar on the harmonium.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. Free. Faculty member Jean Rife accompanies the Boston Baroque Orchestra on the natural horn in a performance of works by Handel, Strauss and Beethoven.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Green Line to Riverside. 2 pm. Free. Pianist Sayuri Miyamoto performs works by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin.

MONDAY, OCT. 13

Boston Lyric Opera
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 2 pm. Free. The BLO and soprano Guiping Deng perform for the MFA's Columbus Day open house.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. John Greer, the NEC's new director of opera studies, leads Perkin Opera Scenes.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy. edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Eda Mazo-Shlyam, Ludmilla Lifson, Peter Cassion, Stan Strickland and Sara Bielanski perform a piano arrangement of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess.*

Music in the Cathedral
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 1103). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Members of Renaissonics perform.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 6 pm. Free. The Borromeo String Quartet performs Kurtag's *Officium Breve.*

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Founding member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra Donald Palma leads the NEC Chamber Orchestra.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $26-$86. Guest conductor Bernard Haitink leads a performance of Debussy's opera *Pelléas et Mélisande.*

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Donna Roll directs arias and scenes from operas by Mozart, Kurt Weill, Berlioz, Rossini, Douglas Moore, Beethoven, Humperdinck and Massenet.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-53 2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Charles Peltz co ducts the NEC Wind Ensemble.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

Boston Baroque
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsb ough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.bost baroque.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony pm. $20-$62.* Boston Baroque performs a semi-sta version of Handel's opera *Alcina.*

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-2 1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Sy phony. 1:30 pm. $26-$85. Same program as Oct. 9

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden S Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBT Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Same program Oct. 16.

MIT Family Weekend Concert
Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambri (617-253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 8 Free. The MIT Wind Ensemble and the MIT Fe val Jazz Ensemble perform symphonic music inspi by jazz and jazz music inspired by dance, includ works by Bernstein, Joplin, Ellington and Mingu

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

Boston Baroque
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsb ough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.bos baroque.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphon pm.* Same program as Oct. 17.

Goethe-Institut Boston
170 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-6050). MB Green Line to Copley. 7:30 pm. Free. Violinist Bili Voutchkova and cellist Agnieszka Dziubak perf works by Bartok, Ysaye and Kodely.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

Emmanuel Showcase Series
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-5 3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. MBTA: E G Line to Copley. 4 pm. $20. The trio Favella Lyrica forms motets by Schültz, Schein and Buxtehude.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5 2412). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E G Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $41-$61. Baritone Tho Hampson and pianist Wolfram Rieger perform.

King's Chapel Concert Series
King's Chapel, Tremont and School streets, Bos (617-227-2155, ext. 345). www.kings-chapel MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Cent pm. $12, $6 students and seniors. The King's Cha choir performs pieces from Berlioz's *Messe Solenn*

MONDAY, OCT. 20

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5 2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MB E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Colin Dun leads the NEC Concert Choir and Chamber Sin in a concert including performances of Ja MacMillan's *Changed,* Weelkes' *When David H* and Buxtehude's *Magnificat.*

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5 2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MB E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Malcom ton leads a bass-baritone and chamber ensemble performance of his composition *Sonnets from Donne* plus other works.

Blizzard of Beauty

When faced with yet another nor'easter, Bostonians will turn up their collars against the wind and look for something, anything, to cure their winter blues.

The Improper Bostonian's Winter Fashion Issue is the perfect remedy for those cold, blustery days. We will guide readers through winter's warm colors, rich textures and superb tailoring that give the colder months some of the most dignified clothing of the year. *The Improper* will also make people feel warm all over with cozy, colorful sweaters. We will also focus on quirky accessories that add fun and sparkle to a winter wardrobe. And fashion just wouldn't be the same without the season's most coveted shoes! (Just watch out for those puddles!)

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Celebrate A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (ladies), 21+ (guys).

TUESDAYS

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm, followed by live music, $5, 18+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Matt Diamond and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
•Oct. 14, ZMQ performs live, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 21, live music with Paulo Danay, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

DJ Ziggy

Preview

Sun Rising

The Diplomat finds new success by staying up all night

As people stream out of Boston's clubs and bars at 2 am, the party is just hitting full stride at Sunrise, a few miles north of the city. From the outside, the Diplomat in Saugus looks like a rather unlikely venue to host the biggest weekly after-hours party in the Boston area. The building itself is an enormous banquet facility and function hall perched in the middle of a vast parking lot along Route 1 North.

In the wee hours of the morning, however, a long line of clubgoers stretches from the entrance, and plenty more are already inside. Resident DJ Taner K headlines in the club's main room, while resident DJ Manolo presides over the Green Room next door. The Green Room now opens at 10 pm, making Sunrise a true all-night club. Alcohol is served until 2 am, when the main room opens for Taner K to provide hard and funky tribal house rhythms well into Sunday morning.

On Oct. 11, guest DJ (and frequent Taner K collaborator) Matt "Tasty" Fonstein takes over the main room for an extended set to celebrate his birthday. Sunrise will also host a special Columbus Day edition on Sunday, Oct. 12, featuring New York's Shawn Ink and Ziggy in the main room. On Oct. 18, Manolo's birthday bash takes center stage. It's a good thing Route 1 also features restaurants that serve breakfast.

334 Broadway, Route 1 North, Saugus. www.sunriseafterhours.com. Saturdays, 10 pm-8 am. $20, 18+. No dress code. —Daniel Spurling

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Felt
Weekly Therapy Party Guest DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Matrix
Lively A cast of DJs spin underground garage, 10 pm, $8.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Steve Anderson spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 8, Jose Ramos Band performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 15, live music with Groove Authority, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Fizzle DJ McFly spins techno, top-40 and hip-hop 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and gue play rap and Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Aja and John Debo host a night of progressive dan music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orlean themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and h hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indi and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 2

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix featu tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 p 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin h hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+, women; 21+, men.

Embassy
DJ JC spins international house, 10:30 pm, $ 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz a electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
KISS 108's DJ Randy hosts the night and sp Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe sp acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christi Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies f guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downsta 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party star upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gio spin dance tunes and old school, 10 pm, no co 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progres and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reg 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins L dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men. •Oct GrooveBoston plays dance music, 10 pm, $15, 1

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts spins house and hip-hop. 10:30 $15, 19+.

Parris
10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando pre drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 2

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive tec downtempo and soul classics in the front loung night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Da Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rota residency.

The Rack
DJ Lenny C spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, •Oct. 9, Uneek Aproach performs, 6-10 pm cover, 21+. •Oct. 16, Part-Time Lovers perfor 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a m electro, Funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cover,

The Place

where people meet

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well bash for Amanda!

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MONDAYS 8PM

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atriots players Bobby Hamilton,
H Seymour & Ty Law -- and The Place
nders -- mix it up on Celebrity Night

ESPN's Steve Levy & Sal Paolantonio talk football with a fan of The Place.

Former Patriots QB Scott Zolak, NY Jets Wide Receiver Carl Morris, The Place Owner SJ Torres & WWE Wrestler Chris Nowitzki check out the NFL action.

SJ Torres and Bruins players Rob Zamuner, Glenn Murray & Joe Thornton try a new sport.

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TS, BRAIDS, AND BOBBY SOCKS. OUR SCHOOLGIRL-INSPIRED
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SUNDAY TAILGATE BRUNCH

SUNDAYS 12PM

CHEER ON THE PATS AND GET ALL YOUR NFL ACTION AT THE PLACE! ONLY $9.99 ALL YOU CAN EAT! DON'T MISS OUR SUNDAY SIGNATURE COCKTAILS!

NFL SUNDAY TICKET

Answer Sports Trivia and compete to win a grand prize trip to Super Bowl XXXVIII!

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Atlas
DJs spin top-40 dance music, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Nailz and DJ Eddie Lee spin hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $20, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
After-work live jazz, 5-9 pm. KISS 108's Billy Costa hosts the party and DJ Ricky Fatts spins high-energy dance, hip-hop and Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 10, live music with Sugarfoot, 6-10:45 pm. •Oct. 17, first class performs, 6-10:45 pm.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins retro mixes, mellow techno and French House, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Tequila Rain
DJ Tim Collins spins top-40, hip-hop and house. • Oct. 10, the Coors Light Twins host, 10 pm, $5.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10:30 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Atlas
DJs play top-40 dance, 10:30 pm, $7, 21+.

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothna 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood w two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Roger M spins international house, 10:30 p $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 2

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $ 21+.

Felt
DJ Ghost spins hip-hop and house, 9 pm, no co

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorit disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upst with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 p $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and h hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top- while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik sp Russian and international music on the third fl 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal ho travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth flo 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house wh the back room features dance favorites from the and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio O spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 $7.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee plays hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin da music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez Willie D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 be 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**Male Encounter** New England's longest-runn all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show ru pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes. Pro dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Don Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian mosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new w and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. Pro dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 2 •Oct. 11, live music with the Marcels. •Oct. Syndicate performs.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles hos dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

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Fireside Chats

TASTINGS - SATURDAYS AT THREE PM

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Saturday, October 25 - Chardonnay

Saturday, November 8 - Pinot Noir

Saturday, November 22 - Merlot

Saturday, December 6 - Cabernet Sauvignon

Saturday, December 20 - Sparkling Wine

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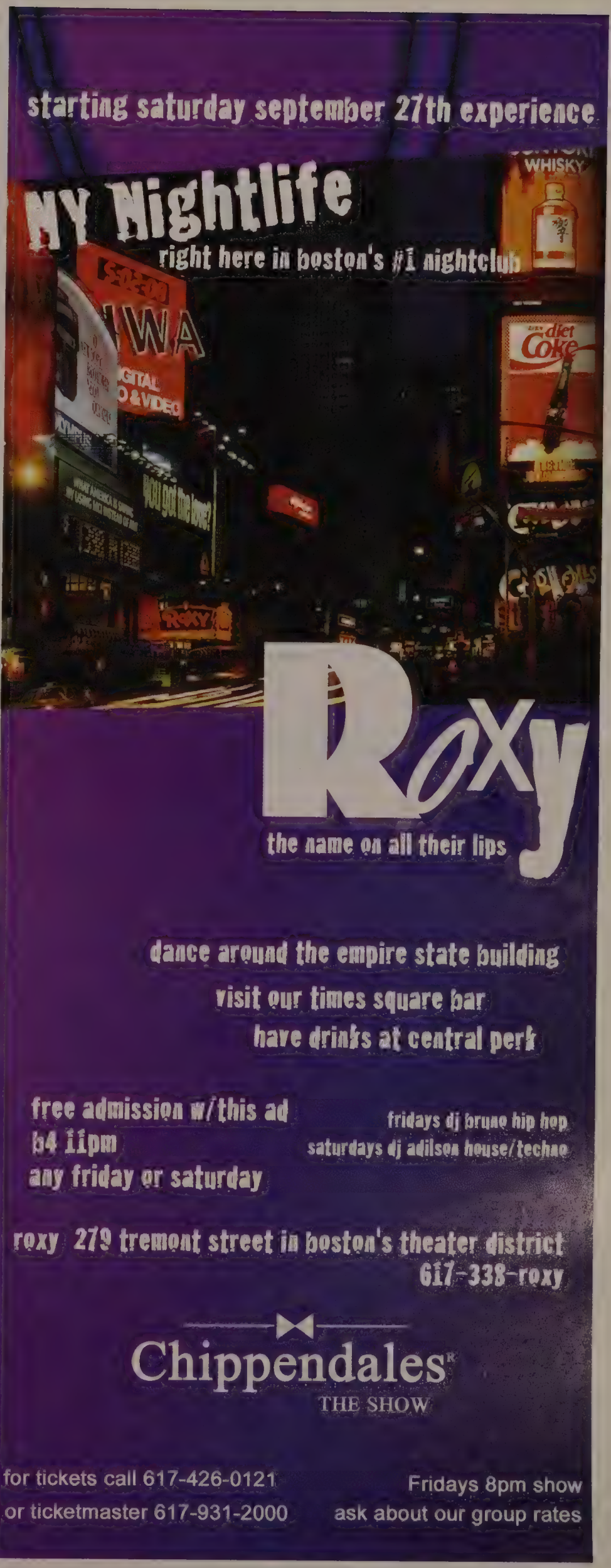

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River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
The Roxy Goes Manhattan DJ Adilson spins house and techno at this Big Apple–themed night, 9 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house and funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $5, 21+.

Aria
DJ Roger M spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
DJs Doc and Kieran spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian n
as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm,
19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae
world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-
house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-21*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Atlas *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-70*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-967*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-11*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-987*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-018*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-760*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-7*
4100).
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-530*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-101*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-94*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-90*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-68*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (61*
524-3740).
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 15 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61*
576-6260).
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-77*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051)*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-70*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tequila Rain *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-03*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-669*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-76*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-03*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

Feast Upon Fall

The Improper Bostonian's Fall Dining Issue will take you on a culinary tour of autumn's finest cuisine. First, we will cover extreme dining—the most outrageous food around town. Next, we will sample our way through local cheese farms…yes, cheese farms. We will also look at some area cooking classes that are being taught by Boston's greatest chefs!

This is an issue you will devour.

The Improper Bostonian reaches more than 392,900 readers every two weeks.
92% of our readers dine out on a regular basis.
Our readers consume an average of 16 meals per month in restaurants.

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
MAGAZINE

Issue Date: October 22
Advertising Deadline: October 8
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art

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows through Oct. 26. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4, 2004.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Fashion Week 2003* is an exhibition detailing historical women's wear for the workforce. Oct. 14-31. •*Photographer's View of the Art of Teaching Musicians* features the work of Diane Griliches. Through Oct. 31.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface* features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. •*Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibit, shows through May 16, 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* shows through Nov. 2. •*The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* displays through Nov. 16. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22, 2004.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Into the Mountains* features the photography of mountaineer Bradford Washburn. Through spring 2004. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize* shows temporary installations that Weathersby created while cleaning at the ICA. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Through Jan. 4, 2004.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •*Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banker: The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti* features a painting by Raphael, sculpture by Cellini and busts of Cosimo de'Medici and Altoviti. Through Jan. 11, 2004. •The permanent collection features more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

Raphael's portrait of Bindo Altoviti shows at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •More than 1,000 hand-blown glass pumpkins display on the lawn in front of MIT's Kresge Auditorium (48 Mass. Ave.) in *The Great Glass Pumpkin Patch*. Oct. 11-12. •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •*Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* shows 50 color landscapes. Through Jan. 30, 2004. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*John Currin Selects*, an exhibition assembled by the MFA's associate curator, displays works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists that he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25, 2004. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children.* •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of computers from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features models of a wave tank, Mount Everest and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16. •*Generals, Admirals, and American War Leaders*, an exhibition of personal and official autographs from famous American leaders, shows through Jan. 11, 2004 •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1, 2004. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community* is ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Uncommon Legacies* features more than a hundred 18th- and 19th-century Native American works. Through Dec. 13. •*Vanished Kingdoms: The Wulsin Photographs of China, Tibet, and Mongolia 1921-1925*, an exhibition of color images taken by American explorers Janet E. and Frederick R. Wulsin, shows Oct. 17-Feb. 29, 2004. •*Under the Imperial Ga* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Throug May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displa images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artist Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027 www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Ha vard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 senio and students, $5 children* •*Portraits from China, 192 1946: Photographers and Their Subjects* features t work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frede ick Wulsin. Through Jan. 15, 2004. •*These Shoes We Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of sho from ancient to contemporary times, shows throu Feb., 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres P tery from the American Southwest* features artifacts fr New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through De 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monume* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast colle tion. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an o going exhibition featuring original sculpture and pl ter casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the No American Indian: Change and Continuity* features depicting the response of Native Americans across t continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. •*P cific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displ artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-981 www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm a Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* co bines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and teractive media to explore the rise and fall Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.ac fineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tu Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Lillian Orlowsky shows her a stract work in *The Fifties*. Oct. 9-Nov. 15.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). ww alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copl Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Clockwo* shows sculptural clocks by 12 artists. Through Nov.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alp gallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tu Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Wlodzimierz Ksiazek displ large-scale abstract paintings. Through Oct. 29.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). w ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mo Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Lynda Lowe plays mixed-media works on wooden panels in *Paintings*. Through Oct. 30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-44 www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Lin Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Mich Beatty's *Low Fat*, a show of minimalist sculpture, plays through Oct. 22. •Jennifer Barlett shows work in *Print Publisher's Spotlight of Brand X Editi* Through Oct. 22.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MB *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Shining Stars: Celebrating 30 of Gateway* Arts showcases 30 years of 20 art work. Through Nov. 1.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). w bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Lin Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Previeu view*, a group show by David Hilliard, Jocelyn Abelardo Morell, Deborah Bright, Virginia Bea and Laura McPhee, shows through Nov. 9.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410) brickbottomartists.com. *MBTA: Green Line to l mere. Thurs.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Homemade: Ima Home (Architectural, Domestic, and Historica* group show of photography, sculpture, painting mixed-media work, displays through Oct. 25.

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-57 www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 4 pm.* •*100 Weaves of India* displays thr Nov. 17.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arli*

e.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. •Kath-n Holmes: Something to Say in Glass shows Oct. 9-ov. 11.

hase Gallery
9 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.asegallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. on.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm. •Danna Ruth Harvey ows paintings in Time and Other Times. Through t. 28.

nilds Gallery
9 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.ildsgallery.com. MBTA:Green Line to Copley. e.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm. lorence Robinson in Italy (paintings), Prints of the man High Renaissance and The Power of Myth ulptures, lithographs, paintings and engravings) ow through Nov. 16.

iifford-Smith Gallery
0 Harrison Ave., Suite 300, Boston (617-695-55). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. MBTA: Or-ge Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5:30 pm. Marco Breuer shows color photographs. Through t. 25.

opley Society of Art
3 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.pleysociety.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. .-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Fall Members Show: uried Exhibition shows through Oct. 18.

rump Gallery
2 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An ibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole Norman Crump is ongoing.

clipse Gallery
Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: en Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •Gretje guson's black-and-white photography shows ough Nov. 1.

quator Gallery
Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: en Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. .-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •The ery specializes in Latin American fine art, in-ding paintings, textiles and ceramics.

rt Point Arts Community Gallery
Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fort ntarts.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. n.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm. •Open dios Group Show features works in all media. . 10-Nov. 9. •The 24th Annual Fort Point n Studios features works by community artists. . 17-19.

lerie d'Orsay
Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.rie-dorsay.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. .-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •An ongoing bition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pis-o, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

llery AA/B
Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 - 0022). TA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; 11 am-3 pm •Mark Vonnegut, son of author Vonnegut, shows recent paintings. Through 31.

e Gallery at Black and White
Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). TA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to s. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •Photographs the gallery's collection show through October.

llery Katz
Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.rykatz.com. MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. -Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •David Scanavino shows aintings in Balloons. Through Nov. 1.

novese/Sullivan Gallery
Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). -Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Craig Stockwell s new paintings in Monogamy and Painting. ugh Nov. 4.

bs Gallery
gton Center for the Arts, 41 Foster St., Arlington -648-6220). www.acarts.org. Mon.-Fri., 9 am- •The Art of Teaching Art features the work of ducators and their students from grades K-12. ugh Oct. 10. •ACA Open Studios Group Show ys Oct. 13-Nov. 7.

ey & Steele
ewbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haley .com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., n-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment. gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century an-prints. Ongoing.

vard Yezerski Gallery
ewbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.rdyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to gton. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Catherine arthy shows new paintings in We Walk on Jew-hrough Nov. 4.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. •Emotional Moves, a video installation by Bebe Beard, shows through Oct. 25. •Icons: Jankowski and Amadeo-Holl features paintings by Zygmund Jankowski and Jennifer Amadeo-Holl. Through Oct. 26.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment. •Local artists display paintings and ceramics in Open Studios 2003. Through Oct. 16.•Art on Paper shows the work of Haruko Cho. Oct. 18-24.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm. •Pushing the Envelope, a juried exhibition, shows through Oct. 30.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. •Cheryl Goldsleger shows architecturally based encaustic work. Through Nov. 1.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. •Elif Soyer shows paintings in Flowers and Germs. Through Nov. 1.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •Duet: Harmony in Oil and Bronze features the abstract oil paintings and bronze sculptures of Tom and Carol Odell. Through Oct. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www. markartgallery.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu.,4-7 pm; Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat., 12-5; and by appointment. •Longing for Height features paintings, alabaster sculptures and encaustic works by Jane Deutsch and Chad Erpelding. Through Oct. 10. •Juan Jose Barboza Gubo and Bobbi Kovner show their work in Visions, Views and Vistas. Oct. 11-Nov. 14.

James Tellin's *Wood Construction #135*, part of the *What If?* exhibition at the Mills Gallery.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.martinlawrence.com. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Philip Jones: Boston, a photography exhibition, shows Oct. 11-Nov. 5.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm. •Joe Kievitt: Recent Drawings features charcoal/graphite compositions. Oct. 11-Nov. 12

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •What If?, a group exhibition of video, installations, glasswork, paintings and sculpture, shows Oct. 10-Nov. 30.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobiliagallery.com. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm. •Botanical Jewelry, a group exhibition, shows through Nov. 1.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. •Juan Perdiguero shows mixed-media-on-photo-emulsion works. Through Oct. 25.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm. •Find the Next Francis Bacon for Not a Lot of Bread, a group show of 20 local artists, displays Oct. 10-Nov. 9.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment. •A Parable in Mark and Ritual: Work by Porfirio DiDonna shows through Oct. 18.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Tue.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm; Sun. by appointment. •Iraqi artist Nedim Kufi shows ceramics, etchings and sculpture. Through Oct. 12. •Melissa Davenport, Carly Weaver and Mary Kenny show paintings and sculpture. Oct. 16-Nov. 2.

Oni Gallery
684 Washington St., 5th floor, Boston (617-542-6983). www.onigallery.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. Wed.-Sun., 2-6 pm. •Overhung, a juried exhibition, shows through Oct. 11.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm. •A group show of work featured in the 2003 New American Paintings MFA Annual is on display through Nov. 15.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www. outofthebluearts gallery.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm. •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •Phyllis Berman: Paintings shows Oct. 9- Nov. 15.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. •Brother Thomas' ceramics are on display in The Creator of Luminaries. Through Oct. 14. •Mark Davis shows metal work in New Work, and Zevi Blum shows etchings in Artistic Equilibrium. Oct. 18-Nov. 10.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •The gallery has an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •Photography by Aaron Siskind and Carl Chiarenza displays Oct. 9-Nov. 15.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Free. •Robert Sweeney: The Italian Campaign II features recent paintings and pastels of Tuscany. Through Oct. 31.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •Words Text Stories, a group show of glass, wood, clay and fiber, shows through Oct. 26.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. •Claudia Goulette shows ink on paper and Robert Markey shows paintings and drawings in Personal-Universal. Oct. 8-Nov. 2

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm; Mon. by appointment. •Kaleidoscope, a group show of paintings by William St. George, Anne Grandin, Sandra Mueller-Dick, Christina Keating and Judy St. Peter, shows through Oct. 31.

Studio Soto
63 Melcher St., Boston (617-426-7686). www.studiosoto.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Fri.-Sat., 2-5 pm and by appointment. •Latin Art Digital Diaspora, a collection of multimedia art curated by Adriana Barrios, shows Oct. 10-Nov. 2.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-5:30 pm.; Sat., 10 am-1 pm. •Elusive Form features painting and sculpture by Amanda Annis, Virginia Peck, and Guillermo Velasco. Through Oct. 27.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. •Porfirio DiDonna Drawings shows through Oct. 18. •Susan Walt shows drawings. Oct. 21-Nov. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •David Brega shows contemporary works. Through Nov. 15

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). www.wentworthgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •Charles Fazzino shows 3-D pop art. Through Oct. 10. •The gallery's collection shows through Nov. 1.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5. •Mustang: The Lost Tibetan Kingdom shows images by Don Conniwitz. Through Oct. 31. •Jan Staller: A Retrospective shows through Nov. 28.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm. •Mim Adkins shows photographs in The Evolution of Affection. Through Oct. 17. •Ruth S. Nickse Memorial Photographic Exhibit shows Oct. 20-Dec. 5.

Panopticon Gallery
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Commuter Rail to Waltham. www.panopt.com. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm. •B.A. King shows his work in About Children. Through Oct. 25.

SPECIAL EVENTS

East Boston Open Studios
(617-759-2492.). MBTA: Blue Line to Maverick. www.eastbostonartistsgroup.org. Oct. 11-13, Sat. and Sun, 12-6 pm; Mon., 12-4 pm.•The East Boston Artists Group presents the third annual East Boston Open Studios, a showcase of the work of community artists, with events taking place throughout the neighborhood.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books @improper.com. Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.

Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8

Boston Globe Book Festival
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. **Sena Jeter Naslund** reads from her novel *Four Spirits*, a story of life in Birmingham, Ala., in the early 1960s.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Nat Hentoff** reads from his book *The War on the Bill of Rights and the Gathering Resistance*, which examines the recent increase of government access to private information.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Neal Stephenson** reads from his historical novel *Quicksilver: Volume One of the Baroque Cycle*, in which three characters encounter legends of the Baroque Period, including Louis XIV, Isaac Newton and Ben Franklin.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Amir Aczel** reads from his book *Pendulum: Leon Foucault and the Triumph of Science*, the story of the French physicist whose pendulum helped prove that the Earth rotates.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Leonard Shlain** discusses his book *Sex, Time and Power: How Women's Sexuality Shaped Human Evolution*, an exploration of archaic views of women's sexuality.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7:30 pm. Free. Tufts professor **Sheldon Krimsky** discusses the book he co-wrote with Ralph Nader, *Science in the Private Interest: Has the Lure of Profits Corrupted Biomedical Research?*

Boston Globe Book Festival
Boston Public Library, Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. National Book Award winner **James Carroll** reads from his new novel, *Secret Father*, about three students in Berlin during the summer of 1961.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Henry Petroski** reads from his new book *Small Things Considered*, which examines the design of such everyday objects as duct tape and lightbulbs.

Center for New Words
Reading Room, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. 7 pm. Free. **Claire Robson** reads from her memoir, *Love in Good Time*, about her struggle with gender and identity.

Harvard Book Store
Ames Courtroom in Austin Hall, Harvard Law School, 1515 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Scott Turow** reads from his book *Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer's Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty*, in which the former prosecutor weighs the issues surrounding capital punishment.

McIntyre & Moore Booksellers
255 Elm St., Cambridge (617-629-4840). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. www.mcintyreandmoore.com. 7:30 pm. Free. The New Renaissance literary magazine celebrates its 35th anniversary with readings by local authors. A post-reading reception follows.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Charles Baxter** reads from his new novel, *Saul and Patsy*, the story of an ordinary Midwestern couple and the troubled 16-year-old who is obsessed with them.

Step Up & Read
The Rashi School, 15 Walnut Park, Newton Corner, Newton (617-965-2026). www.thesecondstep.org. 7:30 pm. $20, $50 for dinner with the author at 6:30 pm. **Michele Weldon** speaks about her autobiography, *I Closed My Eyes*, which focuses on her tumultuous marriage.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Mark Salzman** reads from his book *True Notebooks: A Writer's Year at Juvenile Hall*, about his experiences teaching a writing class to juvenile offenders.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. **Jonathan Rosenberg** reads from the book he co-wrote, *Kennedy, Johnson, and the Quest for Justice: The Civil Rights Tapes*, a collection of transcripts from recordings made by the two presidents during the writing of the Civil Rights Act.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Peter Hart** discusses his book, *The Oh Really? Factor: Unspinning the Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly*, which challenges many of the opinions O'Reilly expresses in his cable news program.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). 7:30 pm. Free. **Matthew Battles** reads from his book, *Library: An Unquiet History*, which examines the role of libraries, from ancient times to the current digital age.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Charles Baxter** reads from his novel *Saul and Patsy*; see Oct. 9, Newtonville Books for a description.

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Susan Hood** discusses her book *Royal Roots-Republican Inheritance: The Survival of the Office of Arms*, a historical account of the Office of Arms in Ireland.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Newtonville Books in the Attic Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. Humorist **Neal Pollack** reads from *Never Mind the Pollacks: A Rock and Roll Novel*, a story about a rock critic told through a series of interviews with celebrity rockers.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Heather Woodbury** discusses her novel *What Ever*, based on her one-woman performance art show.

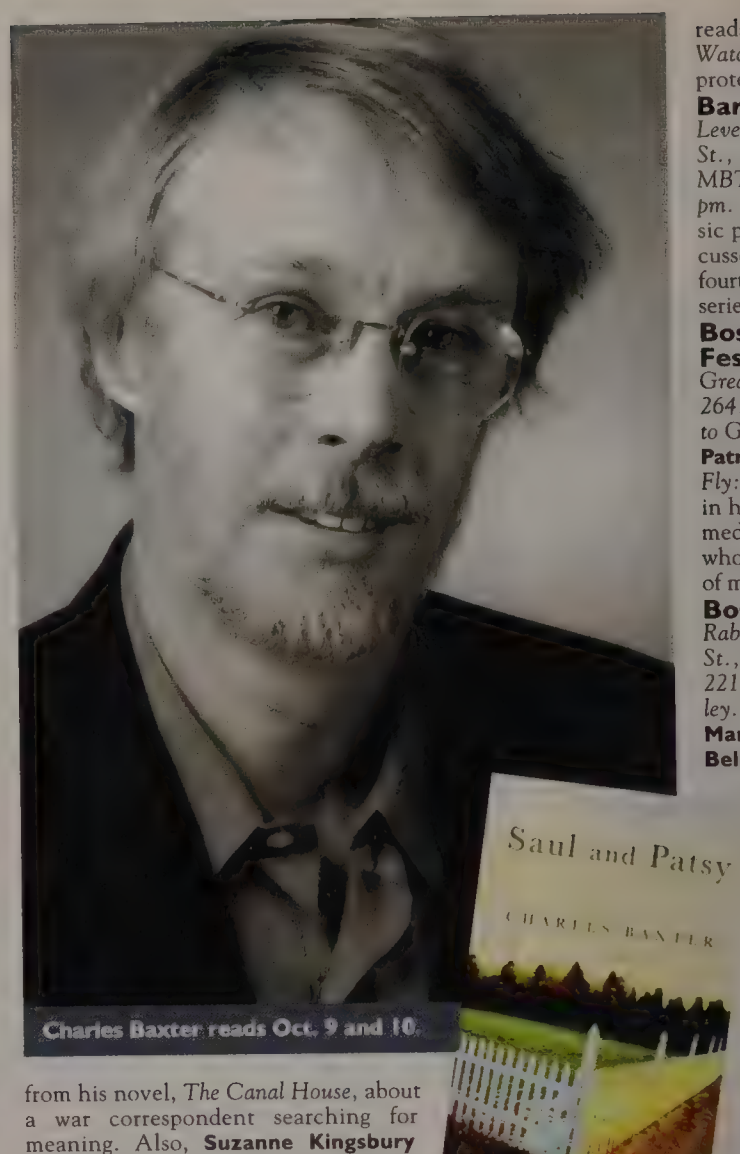
Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Gregory Maguire** reads from his new novel, *Mirror Mirror*, a take-off of the fairytale *Snow White*, set in renaissance Italy.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free with ticket, available at the book store. **Hayden Herrera** reads from her biography, *Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work*, about the modernist Armenian painter.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Michael West** discusses his book, *Immortal Cell: How Stem Cell Biotechnology Can Conquer and Extend Life, One Scientist's Quest to Solve the Mystery of Human Aging*, which chronicles the breakthroughs scientists have made in biotechnology using stem cells.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). 7:30 pm. Free. Poets **Tim Gager**, **Gary Duehr** and **Ayelet Amittay** read from their poetry.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Mark Lee** reads from his novel, *The Canal House*, about a war correspondent searching for meaning. Also, **Suzanne Kingsbury** reads from her novel *The Gospel According to Gracey*, which chronicles a day in the life of a woman formerly married to an Atlanta drug lord.



Charles Baxter reads Oct. 9 and 10.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Mary Pipher** reads from her new book, *Letters to a Young Therapist*, in which she shares her advice from 30 years in the profession.

Cambridge Friends Meetinghouse
5 Longfellow Park., Cambridge (617-661-6130). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. $10-$50. **Maxine Hong Kingston** reads from her memoir, *The Fifth Book of Peace*, which relates stories as wide-ranging as losing one of her manuscripts in a wildfire and forming a writers' group with Vietnam-era veterans.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Twyla Tharp** reads from her book *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life*, which offers tips on how to harness one's creativity.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Samuel Shem** reads from his novel *The House of God*, about six medical interns' struggles to become doctors.

Newton Community Service Center
492 Waltham St., West Newton (617-868-7684). 7 pm. $10 with preregistration. **Linda Mason** discusses her book *The Working Mother's Guide to Life: Strategies, Secrets & Solutions*, which offers tips on how to balance work and parenting.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). 7:30 pm. Free. **Howard Blue** discusses his book *Words at War: World War II Era Radio Drama and the Postwar Broadcasting Industry Blacklist*, about the role that radio played during World War II and the blacklisting that occurred after the war.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. 7:30 pm. **Emily Franklin** reads from her debut novel, *Liner Notes*. Also, **Rachel Solar-Tuttle** reads from her novel, *Number 6 Fumbles*, and the book she co-wrote, *Table Talk: The Savvy Girl's Alternative to Networking*. Also, **Pamela Powell** reads from her book, *The Turtl Watchers*, in which three siste protect turtle eggs from poachers

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beaco St., Boston (617-267-8484 MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. pm. Free. Local author and forer sic psychologist **Keith Ablow** di cusses his novel *Psychopath*, th fourth book in his Frank Cleveng series.

Boston Globe Book Festival
Great Hall, Faneuil Hall (617-92 2641). MBTA: Blue or Green Li to Government Center. 6 pm. Fre **Patricia Cornwell** reads from *Blo Fly: A Scarpetta Novel*, the late in her series of mysteries featuri medical examiner Kay Scarpett who this time investigates a strin of murders in Florida.

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylst St., Boston (617-536-5400, e 2212). MBTA: Green Line to Co ley. 6 pm. Free. **James Wood** a **Martin Amis** speak about **Sa Bellow**'s book *The Adventures Augie March*. The event ce brates the book's 50th niversary as well as B low's induction into t Library of America.

Center for New Words
Simmons College, 300 T Fenway., 3rd floor, Bos (617-876-5310). www.c terfornewwords.org. MBT E Green Line to Museum. 7 Free. **Maxine Hong Kingst** reads from her new book, *Fifth Book of Peace*. See C 15, Cambridgeside Frie Meetinghouse for a descripti

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-200 www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **W.R. Eubanks** discusses memoir *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey Into Mi sippi's Dark Past*, about his experiences growing u Mississippi during the Civil Rights era.

Newtonville Books and Brews Seri
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). w newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Lin Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. **Stephen Good** reads from his novel *Breaking Her Fall*, a s about a divorced father dealing with paren and a troublesome affair. **Carlo Rotella** r from his collection of essays, *Cut Time: An I cation at the Fights*, about lessons learned in boxing ring.

Woodberry Poetry Room
Lamont Library, Level 5, Harvard University, C bridge (617-495-2454). hcl.harvard.edu/hough departments/poetry.html. MBTA: Red Line to vard. 5:30 pm. Free. **Tom Sleigh** reads from his collection of poetry, *Far Side of the Earth*, w deals with the theme of grief.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1 www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Har 3 pm. Free. Linguist **John McWhorter** reads his book, *Doing Our Own Thing: The Degrad of Language and Music and Why We Should Care*, a look at how English is being replac "street English."

Literary Lights for Children
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Boston (617-536-3886). www.literaryligl children.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlingt pm. $25-$50. Children's books authors **Av drea Davis Pinkney**, **Jon Scieszka** and **Jean head George** are acknowledged during an a ceremony. Book signings follow with tea a freshments.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

Jamaicaway Books
676 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-983-3 www.jamaicawaybooks.com. Bus #39. 3pm. Restaurant critic **Mark Zanger** reads fro book *The American History Cookbook*, a l American cooking from the pilgrims' time present.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Education, or e-mail information to education@improper.com. Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

Light and Black Comedy in Jewish-American Fiction
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-730-2700). www.brooklineadulted.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-8:30 pm. $5. Reviewing the work of such writers as Saul Bellow, I.B. Singer, Philip Roth, and Bernard Malamud, professor **Arthur Weitzman** discusses how novels and short stories bring to life such Jewish figures as the schlemiel, the toomler (stand-up comic), the overbearing mom, the kibbitzer and the luftmensch (penniless dreamer), among others.

New England Professional Organizers' Organizing U
Renaissance Bedford Hotel, 44 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford (617-233-7166).www.nepo-organizers.com. 5:30-9:30 pm. $45. Learn how to get organized at home and at work. Professional organizers share tricks of the trade and offer advice on how to streamline your space, reduce your stress and save time.

Rebuilding Iraq
Lesley University, Alumni Hall, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (617-349-8525). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.lesley.edu/dir.html. 4 pm. Free. **Aaron Williams** of RTI International, the organization recently selected by the U.S. Agency for International Development to implement a local governance program throughout Iraq, speaks about reconstruction efforts.

Up Close and Personal: Embedded Reporter Gets Inside the War in Iraq
Northeastern University, Egan Center/Raytheon Amphitheater, 120 Forsyth St., Boston (617-373-5800). www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Northeastern or Orange Line to Ruggles. 6:30 pm. Free. **Brian MacQuarrie**, a *Boston Globe* reporter who traveled to Iraq last March, discusses the question, "Can reporters enter a story in such a direct manner and still retain their objectivity?"

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

Caring for Your Treasured Books
New England Historical Geneaological Society, 99 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5740). www.newenglandancestors.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10 am. Free. Conservation experts teach you how to preserve books and photo albums.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Piercing the Veil
Historic Forest Hills Cemetery, Jamaica Plain (617-542-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $5. Historian **Dee Morris** discusses the world of the Victorian spiritualists during this two-mile walking tour of their burial sites.

Sitting Pretty: Anatomy of a Classic 18th-Century American Chair
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 1-4 pm. Free. **Steve Brown** of the North Bennet Street School guides visitors through the making of an 18th-century chair, revealing the story behind pieces found in the MFA collection.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14

A Conversation with Richard Gephardt
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1643). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 10am. Free. U.S. Representative Richard Gephardt, presidential candidate in 2004, discusses his positions on a range of domestic and foreign-policy issues facing the nation.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

Degas's Duchess: Three Views
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Art Museum. 11 am. $13. The MFA has just acquired Degas' 1876 masterpiece, *The Duchess di Montejasi with Her Daughters, Elena and Camilla.* Photographer **Nicholas Nixon**, whose own collection includes images of family members, and novelist **Mary Gordon**, whose books focus on family relationships, share their responses to this personal work, along with curator **George Shackelford**, who will place the painting in the context of Degas' overall career.

An Evening with James Hillman
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-730-2700). www.brooklineadulted.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7-9:30 pm. $15. Jungian psychologist **James Hillman** discusses archetypal psychology.

Lowest Common Denominator: A Lecture by Frank Kozik
Massachusetts College of Art, 620 Huntington Ave., Boston (781-643-6990). http://boston.gag.org/events. MBTA: E Green Line to Longwood. 7-9 pm. $10. Rock poster artist Frank Kozik lectures on poster design, his influences, his record label and his past design work for such clients as Altoids, Slim Jim, Nike, MTV and the Hell's Angels.

Rights & Liberties in the Age of Biotechnology
Cambridge Forum, The First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). www.cambridgeforum.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. Free. **Paul Billings**, chair of the Council for Responsible Genetics, discusses growing concerns about privacy for people undergoing genetic screening for potential diseases.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

The Queen of Sheba: Behind the Myth
Boston University School of Management, 595 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-1754). MBTA: B Green Line to Blandford. 6 pm. Free. Professor **Carole Fontaine** of Andover Newton Theological School discusses her new documentary on the Queen of Sheba and explores recent Hollywood portrayals of the queen.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

What Animals Think: Dolittle's Dream and Darwin's Theory
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. Many animals are capable of actions beyond human reach, including echolocation, ultraviolet vision and flight. Harvard psychology professor **Marc Hauser** explores the evolution of animals' capacities for number sense, self-awareness and cooperative behavior.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

Digging into the Back Bay: Technology and Transformation
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-589-0419). MBTA: Green Line to Science. 2 pm. Free. Construction companies are digging out Trinity Church's dirt-floored undercroft, stabilizing its tower and drilling cutting-edge geothermal wells—all on highly unstable landfill. How does a cultural icon balance heritage and growth? Find out at this panel discussion.

MONDAY, OCT. 20

Graduate School Admissions 101
Boston Kaplan Center, One Congress St., Boston (617-591-1400, ext. 5). MBTA: Blue Line to State. 7 pm. $10. Learn to navigate the admissions processes for graduate, business, law and medical schools at this event sponsored by the Boston Young Professionals Association. Kaplan experts discuss such topics as finding and researching schools, how schools evaluate applicants and writing personal statements.

Remembering the Ladies
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston, Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. **Meredith Bergmann**, designer and sculptor of the new Boston Women's Memorial; **Henry Louis Gates Jr.**, director of the W.E.B DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research; and historian **Andrea Moore Kerr** discuss the new memorial honoring Abigail Adams, Lucy Stone and Phillis Wheatley that will soon be unveiled on Commonwealth Avenue.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston, Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. **Peter Steinfels**, former senior religion correspondent for *The New York Times*, asserts that the Roman Catholic church must embrace profound transformation or face irreversible decline. He examines the church's responses to changing understandings of sexuality, women's roles and the priesthood, as well as its struggles to renew worship and religious education.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-[illegible]-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
[illegible]0 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). [illegible]TA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear what [illegible]er Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the [illegible]vard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (Tuesdays)
[illegible] Elm Street, Somerville (617-591-1616). www.[illegible]mytingle.com. $10. 8 pm. Eight local poets per[illegible]m their own work in a two-hour theatrical show [illegible]ry third Tuesday of the month. Directed by [illegible]hael Brown.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
[illegible]7 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.[illegible]tryjam.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry [illegible], 7 pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays back[illegible]nd tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
[illegible]arvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B [illegible]en Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. O'Brien's presents [illegible] ix of rock and spoken word one Monday a [illegible]th. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
[illegible] of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge [illegible]7-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 [illegible] $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the [illegible]ning is titled Open Bark—and a spoken-word [illegible]nt takes place on the fourth Saturday of each [illegible]th.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
[illegible]of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge [illegible]-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30 [illegible] $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have [illegible] weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
[illegible]ers Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-[illegible]). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown [illegible]sing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday of [illegible] month offers a selection of featured poets and [illegible]pportunity for others to take the open mike.

Tapestry of Voices
Forsyth Chapel, Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.forest[illegible]illstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 [illegible]m. $4. In a tribute to **E.E. Cummings**, local poets **Charles Coe, John Hildebidle, Robert K. Johnson** [illegible]nd **John Sturm** read from his work as well as from [illegible]heir own. A walk to the poet's burial site follows.

MONDAY, OCT. 20

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
[illegible]6 Brattle House, Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. [illegible]). www.ccae.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 [illegible]m. $3. Poets **David Daniel** and **Peter Shippy** read [illegible]heir work.

Harvard Coop
[illegible]400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). [illegible]ww.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Har[illegible]rd. 7 pm. Free. **Ashmita Khasnabish** discusses her [illegible]ook *Jouissance as Ananda: Indian Philosophy, Femi[illegible]st Theory, and Literature.*

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

Barnes and Noble at BU
[illegible]evel 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-[illegible]57-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. [illegible]ee. **Amir Aczel** discusses his book *Pendulum: Leon [illegible]ducault and the Triumph of Science.* See Oct. 8, New[illegible]nville Books, for a description.

Brookline Booksmith
[illegible]9 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.[illegible]ooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to [illegible]oolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Stewart O'Nan** reads [illegible]om his novel *The Night Country*, about a car wreck [illegible]d the effect it has on a community.

Harvard Book Store
[illegible]56 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). [illegible]BTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Sherwin [illegible]uland** reads from his book *The Doctor's Plague: [illegible]erms, Childbed Fever and the Strange Story of Ignac [illegible]mmelweis*, which chronicles the achievements of [illegible]e Austrian doctor who discovered the origin of [illegible]ildbed fever.

Harvard Coop
[illegible]00 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.[illegible]store.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 [illegible]. Free. **Susan Neisuler** discusses her book, *Justice at [illegible] City Gate: Social Policy, Social Services, and the Law*, [illegible]ich is based on her experiences interacting with the [illegible]partment of Social Services as a lawyer.

gay & lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information, including telephone numbers and nearest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or e-mail gaylesbian@improper.com.

Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
214 Pl Alley, Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Nightly, 5 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday-night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents the upstairs lounge at Dedo's, which features a nightly piano bar and club room. Tuesday nights feature show tunes and Sunday is disco night. No cover, 21+.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502)). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features disco and pop music, guest DJs and weekly contests. 9 pm-2 am, $4-$7, 21+.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www. milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men and women, transgenders and their allies can start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. A dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila caps off the evening. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Stele spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

The Credeaux Canvas
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.bcaonline.org. *Through Oct. 25. Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm. $25, $20 seniors and students.* The Zeitgeist Stage Company's production of Keith Bunin's *The Credeaux Canvas* follows three aspiring New York artists ensnared in a love triangle.

The Gulls
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through Nov. 8. Fri. and Sat. 8 pm. $25. Ryan Landry's play *The Gulls*, loosely based on Hitchcock's *The Birds*, is the story of rebellious seagulls exacting revenge on Provincetown developers.

Lambda Literary Festival
Multiple sites in Provincetown (202-682-0952). www.lambdalit.org. *Oct. 10-12. $35-$125.* The Lambda Literary Foundation's fifth annual festival honors gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender authors, poets and playwrights with three days of events, panels and workshops. Participants include Toni Amato, Anthony Bidulka, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Nancy Boutilier, Mark Merlis and others.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collaborated with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide the safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relationships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9 pm.* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth hosts weekly meetings and social events for young people seeking community, support and a place to discuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-825-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 7 pm.* This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

Bi Rap
The Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (617-354-8807). Tuesdays, first and third week of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning women.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dancers
1st Church of Jamaica Plain, Jamaica Plain (617-2216). 7:30-11 pm. Square dancing and English country dancing lessons are available for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends, $8.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm; 3-5 pm. The center provides social activities for

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3 Locations:
1728 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 617.354.7400
149 First St., Cambridge, 617.354.5550
1294 Beacon St., Brookline, 617.739.3900

The play *The Credeaux Canvas* is at the Boston Center for the Arts.

sbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning ung people, ages 13-25.

oston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
oakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). BTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 n. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

oston Lesbian Avengers
ston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green ne to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers. org. *Thu., 8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action litical group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

oston Uncommons
ntral Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jaica Plain. www.lcfd.org/bu. *Orange Line to Green Wednesdays, 7 pm* A gay and lesbian square-ncing group.

ambridge/Boston Volleyball
17-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

hiltern Mountain Club
88-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-mber gay club with outdoor activities.

oming Out as Bisexual
exual Resource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston 7-424-9595). www.biresource.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Wednesday and third Thursday of every month. 7-8:45 pm.* An informal support group for bisexual individuals.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.pridesportsboston.com. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women 40 and older who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated to get together with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. All are welcome to join this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001 or 888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2.* This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings. The groups are moderated by psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

Greater Boston Business Council
PO Box 1059, Boston (617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals. The group meets on a monthly basis.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

Liquid Assets Swimming
(617-937-5858, #8). Tue. and Thu. evenings and Sun. mornings. This gay and lesbian swim team is open to people of all ages and swimming abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provides confidential information, referrals and support.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-4528). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Somos Latin
somoslatinoslgbt@hotmail.com. The only social and networking group for LGBT Latinos and Latinas in the Boston area. Viernes Sociales take place every month. Email for more information.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month. Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C or B Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

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For other locations and phone numbers visit www.skimarket.com
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body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Be Here Now with Bhagavan Das
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Oct. 10, 8 pm. $20.* At this full moon *kirtan*, Yogi Bhagavan Das offers his perspective on blending Eastern consciousness with the Western lifestyle.

Charles River Shiatsu Open House
Charles River School of Shiatsu,180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.charlesrivershiatsu.com. *Oct. 11, 3-5 pm. Free.* Stop by to observe shiatsu and martial arts demonstrations and eat sushi.

O2 Yoga Open House
O2 Yoga Studio, 288 Highland, Somerville (617-354-6169). www.o2yoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Oct. 18, 8 am-8 pm. Free.* O2 Yoga offers a day of free classes from beginning to advanced levels. A potluck dinner is served at 6:30 pm.

Tibetan Music Concert with Penpa Tsering
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101 or 978-897-7627). www.tsboston.org. *Oct. 10, 8 pm. $12.* Penpa Tsering performs traditional sacred songs, dances and chants on a variety of string and wind instruments and tells stories about Tibetan culture.

Lectures

The Soul in Our Culture: An Evening with James Hillman
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough St. (617-730-2700 x107). www.brooklineadulted.org. *Oct. 15, 7-9:30 pm. $15.* Psychologist James Hillman, author of *The Soul's Code* and *Re-Visioning Psychology*, discusses thinking beyond traditional notions of therapy and cure, and the place of the soul in culture.

Workshops

Anxiety and Relaxation: An Introduction to Integrated Awareness
Cambridge Health Associates, 335 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-3414). www.mfourman.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 17, 7-9 pm. $5.* Explore the relationship between your mind, body and emotions to learn how to deal with personal issues.

The Art of Being Human
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (617-734-1498). www.primordialdot.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Oct. 17-19, 19.5 hours. $120.* This weekend of Shambhala training introduces participants to the practice of sitting meditation and the basic principles of the Shambhala path of warriorship. The program includes meditation instruction, lecture, discussion and individual interviews with instructors.

Body Stories: Body Systems and Yoga
Cambridge Masonic Hall, 1950 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge (617-523-7138). www.yogastudio.org. *Oct. 11, 1-5 pm and Oct. 12, 11 am-4 pm. $150.* This two-day workshop focuses on the skeletal system as a basis for efficiency in yoga postures. Lectures and movement explorations focus on how the brain and nervous system interact while practicing yoga.

Buddhist Meditation Class
All Saints Church, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline (508-999-6723). www.meditationinnewengland.org. *Oct. 15, 7-8:30 pm. $10 suggested donation.* American Buddhist nun Gen Kelsang Chöma speaks about finding contentment and how ancient Buddhist wisdom can help one realize their full potential. The lecture is followed by guided meditation and a question-and-answer session.

Dreams and Dreaming Seminar
The C.G Jung Institute, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston. (617-267-5984). www.cgjungboston.com. *Oct. 16, 7-9 pm. $150.* This seminar focuses on the Jungian view of dreams as bridges to consciousness and windows on the psyche. Participants learn several models of dream interpretation and study the many-layered meanings of dreams.

Kripalu DansKinetics
CasaNia Studio, 46 Porter Rd., Cambridge (617-876-9211). www.casania.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Oct. 17, 6-7:30 pm. $10.* This class teaches Kripalu DansKinetics, a blend of dance and yoga.

Partner Yoga
Karma Yoga Studio, 1132 Mass Ave, Cambridge (617-547-9642). http://karmayogastudio.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. Oct. 18, 5:30-7 pm. $20.* Learn yoga poses and stretches to perform with a partner. All levels welcome.

Reiki Energy Healing Clinic
Arlington Reiki Associates, 366 Mass Ave #304, Arlington (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. *Oct. 24, 6:30-9:30 pm. $10.* Experience a Reiki energy healing treatment.

The Secret Art of Seamm Jasani
Borders at the Atrium Mall, 300 Boylston St. (Route 9) Chestnut Hill (617-480-8237). www.boabom.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. Oct. 11, 3pm. Free.* Benjamin Kelley gives a demonstration of Seamm Jasani, an ancient Tibetan system of relaxation and self-healing that is similar to tai chi and yoga.

Tibetan Dance and Chant Workshop
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101 or 978-897-7627). www.tsboston.org. *Oct. 11, 12-4pm. $40.* Penpa Tsering teaches Tibetan dances based on yoga poses, as well as the polyphonic throat-singing technique used by the Tibetan monks of Gyuto.

Ongoing

Lunch Time Yoga on Beacon Hill
The Paulist Center, 5 Park St., Boston (617-970-5320). www.yogame.com. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. Tues. and Wed., 1-1:45 pm. $10.* All levels are welcome at these short yoga classes held near Boston Common.

Personal Protection for Working Professionals
Brookline Community Center for the Arts, 14 Green St., Brookline (617-738-2800 or 781-405-1248). www.bccaonline.com or www.busseystyle.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Fri., 3-4:30 pm.* This personal protection class teaches the Bussey style of self-defense for adults.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10. All levels welcome.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches participants to experience the breath as the body's link with the mind.

Yoga/South End
South End House, 48 Rutland St., Boston (617- 522-7199). www.angelfire.com/ma/patrice. *MBTA: Orange line to Mass Ave or Back Bay. Mon. and Tues., 7 pm. $15-$17.* These mixed-level yoga classes are taught by certified Kripalu yoga instructor Patrice Flesch. Drop-ins and beginners welcome.

Penpa Tsering plays Tibetan music Oct. 10.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

New England Patriots
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Oct. 12, 1 pm vs. New York Giants

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 877-438-7387
Oct. 11, 4 pm vs. DC United

New England Storm Women's Professional Football
•Hormel Stadium, Medford.
Tickets: 781-395-8326
Oct. 11, 7 pm vs. Dayton Rebellion

Events

Cape Cod Bike Trip
Group meets in Falmouth (617-789-4070). www.bssc.com. *Oct. 17-19. $172 members, $202 nonmembers.* The Boston Ski and Sports Club takes a weekend bike trip to the Cape and the Vineyard. The trip includes two nights in the Falmouth Inn, two breakfasts, round-trip ferry and bike transfer, and an escorted ride on Martha's Vineyard on Saturday. Bike rentals are available on the island. Helmet required.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-40.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the basics of fencing.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
Games are played Tuesdays in Brighton. (617-789-4070). Relive your grade-school glory days by playing kickball. Teams and individuals welcome.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

The Patriots take on the Giants Oct. 12.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looki for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Clu
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club see new players for games in Brookline and Cambridg

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mys rugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club w comes both new and experienced players who wa to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New a experienced players are welcome to tape up th ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bos hash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. y round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and sing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-p claimed "serious drinkers with a running problen

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *We runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun R
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (7 275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thur nights, 7 pm.*

SAILING

Community Boating
21 David Mugar Way, Boston (617-523-10 www.community-boating.org. *Mon.-Fri., 1 sunset; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-sunset. Membership price v* Beginners and experienced sailors alike are welc to come to the Esplanade and sail boats from 1 feet long, as well as go windsurfing and kayaking.

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
Various area MDC rinks (781-890-8480). baystateskatingschool.org. *$108.50 for a seven- class. Check Web site for schedules.* Skating class adults and children teach the fundamentals either figure skates or hockey skates.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Socce
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games p in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Readin Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in bridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. and individuals are welcome to set and spik way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com ateur folk-style wrestling group open to all sk els. Weekly practices held year-round.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) o Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to hildren@improper.com. Include address, phone umber, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a rief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks rior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over he telephone.

Things to See

Kids Variety Show
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline 617-738-6533). www.coolidge.kidsshow.info. MBTA: Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 10:30 am. $2. Oct. 18: Judith Black tells stories.

The Knight Who Was Afraid f the Dark
rlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston 617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. MBTA: reen Line to Arlington. Sat., 11 am. Through Oct. 5. $8, $5 children. Watch this knight slay dragons nd catch spiders (and keep his real fear a secret).

uppet Showplace Theatre
2 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.pup-tshowplace.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brook-he Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. Oct. 8 and 9, 10:30 am. Ages 3-6. Sparky Davis ares her smart and sassy tales. •Oct. 15 and 16, 0:30 am. Ages 3-6. Sarah Lamstein performs unny Bone Tales. •Oct. 11 and 12, 1 and 3 pm. ges 4-9. The Spring Valley Puppet Theatre per-rms Puss in Boots.

eading Hour
1 South St., Roslindale (617-325-1994). Tue., 4 n. Free. Ages 5 and under. Watch children's book ustrators read and doodle.

ngling Bros. and arnum & Bailey Circus
ie Fleet Center, Boston (617-931-2000). w.fleetcenter.com. MBTA: Orange or Green Line North Station. Oct. 10-19. $10-$60. Witness the eatest Show on Earth, with ringmaster Kevin nardos, Sara the Tiger Whisperer, the Prince of ughter and the Empress of Equilibrium.

ie Star Keeper
gis College, 235 Wellesley St., Weston (781-768-70). www.regiscollege.edu. Oct. 12, 2 pm. $15. lebrate National Children's Day at Regis College, ere the Theatre de l'Ceil performs a tale about a ng wormlike being whose mission is to return a en star to its home

hings to Do

rders Books and Music
nbridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). w.bordersstores.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lech-e. Sat., 12 pm. Staff members read from new classic storybooks.

ston by Little Feet
euil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: Green to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; 2 pm. $6. Walk the Freedom Trail and learn ut the history and architecture of Boston's ghborhoods.

ston Public Library Children's Tour
b Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to ley. Sat. 11 am. Through Nov. 29. Free. Ages 5 older. Take a tour of the art and architecture of Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art ac-y in the Sargent Gallery.

ildren's Museum
Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-5). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to h Station. $8, $7 children. •Oct. 13, 12, 1 and 2 See Ben Rudnick and Friends perform. •Oct. 12 pm: Kitchen Science. Experiment with gs you might find in your own kitchen. •Oct. 11:15 am, 12:15 pm, 1:15 pm and 2:15 pm: Crit-Day. Meet dogs who help people with disabili-and learn how you can get involved.

l Family Festival
England Wild Flower Society, 180 Hemenway Framingham (508-877-7630). www.newfs. Oct. 19, 12-4 pm. Free. Go on scavenger ts, see animal shows and listen to singers and tellers at this festival hosted by the New Eng-Wild Flower Society.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. $7.50, $5 children 3-18, Under 3, free. Open daily 9 am- 5 pm. •Sat. 9 am. $35. Preschool age: Saturday Scholars. Discover dinosaurs, animals, minerals, insects, oceans, ancient civilizations and the microworld in this class taught by museum science educators. Through Feb. 28. •Oct. 18, 9 am-12 pm. 2nd and 3rd graders: Discovering Dinosaurs. Take a safari back in time to meet various dinosaurs.

Harvest Festival
Haggerty School, 110 Cushing St., Cambridge (617-491-0258). www.citysprouts.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard, bus #73 to Watertown. Oct. 18, 10 am-3 pm. Free.Join local growers and chefs to celebrate the fall harvest with pumpkin decorating, music, raffles, crafts, cider pressing and a parade.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. $5, $1 children. •Holography, the Light Fantastic. The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •Robots and Beyond. Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. $15, children under 17 free. •Tue. and Wed., 3:30 pm. Books Bring Art Alive. Museum instructors read books, poems and stories to bring the paintings to life and encourage kids to talk about what they see.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children. •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers Animals and Stories Alive!, featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •Magic: The Science of Illusion. Discover how illusions come together through science, math, psychology and the art of performance at this new exhibition. Through Feb. 22. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events during the presentation The Sky Tonight. •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., 12 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 children. Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees and Africa: The Serengeti •Theater of Electricity: Daily at 12 and 2 pm. The Van de Graaff generator provides a risk-free lightning show.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5. The Museum of Transportation has a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •The Evolution of Speed exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •Racing of Our Youth lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the museum and receive a free prize.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. •Oct. 14, 3:30 pm, ages 5 and older: World Cultures focuses on Sukkot. •Fri., 10:30 am. Preschool Films. Through Oct. 24. •Thu., 7 pm. Ages 4 and older. Pajama Storytime. Through Oct. 30.

Story Hour at the Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every Sat., 11 am. Preschool age. Free. Story hour for children.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Dorchester (617-929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free. The JFK Library holds a weekly story hour for kids and their parents.

Story Time
FAO Schwarz, 440 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-5900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Daily, 1 pm, 3 pm & 5 pm. Free. Ages 2-7. Kids can listen to stories read by Mother Goose, Raggedy Ann and other characters.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamericanmuseum.org. MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 seniors and children.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State, Orange or Green Line to Haymarket, or Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange or Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Summer ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AFC Mentoring Program
(617-695-2441). Mentor an adopted or foster care child.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Call to Action Project
(781-395-8307). datalova@aol.com. Donate quilt blocks to be pieced into quilts and placed on auction to benefit the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-431-1211). Provide foster care for homeless rabbits.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

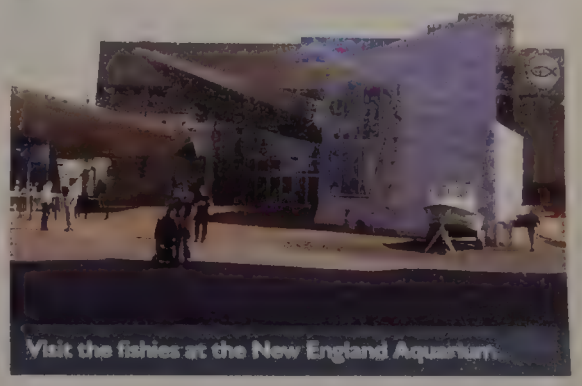
SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.


Visit the fishies at the New England Aquarium.

IMPROPER sightings

UNLIKE THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS, WE WANT TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

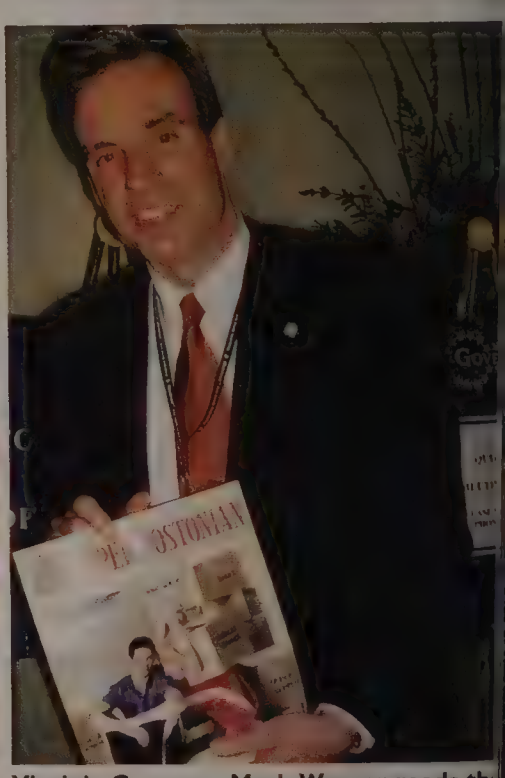
Janet Burke and Mary Kakos hung out with Australian tennis great Roy Emerson in Gstaad, Switzerland. The Alps are famous for their Australian tennis greats.

Gregory and Elizabeth Manos spent part of their honeymoon in Chichen Itza, Mexico. They expected to find a nice resort there, but when they arrived the place was in ruins.

Matthew Maki visited the 18th hole at St. Andrews in Scotland. It's a venerable spot where Braveheart once disemboweled 1,000 enemies and shot four under par.

Russ Laky and Kyle Metzler are flanked by Aussie jumpers Tim and Wally minutes before skydiving near Airlie Beach, Australia. They report that skydiving is more fun in Australia because you fall up.

Debi and Tina Banerjee visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, during a balmy 115-degree day last summer. That Indian weather is sure *agra*-vating sometimes!



Virginia Governor Mark Warner reads th Real Estate issue, which featured a handy story on moving out of the way of hurricane

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Showing off some great yams at the Great Yam Festival, held during October in the Abron tribal areas of Ghana.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

t the West end of Faneuil Hall Marketplace. Following the three
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join your fellow runners at The Rack
for the official post-race party.
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REGISTRATION IS AT 6PM
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$30 ($35 on October 30) includes T-shirt, goody bag & post party at The Rack. Post party includes buffet and one drink coupon.

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Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 617-859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Our Paths Cross Once Again

The first time I saw you, you were standing behind me in line. I was taken aback by your height. I'm 5' 10" and I rarely have to "look up" to men. You were the center of attention and tall jokes were being thrown at you from all directions. We exchanged glances and smiles as I exited the pizza shop. I've thought about the chance encounter throughout the years, wishing I had spoken up. I was shopping in Filene's after work today (Sept. 29) and you were scheduled to be there. I made the required purchase and waited in line for you to appear. I thought of so many things to say during our one-on-one, but when I stepped before you, I was rendered speechless. I didn't introduce myself when I "forced you" to shake my hand. I said thank you for the autograph and went on my way. I don't know when or if we will ever meet again, but I wanted to let you know that I admire you.

—lovesthetruth@hotmail.com

Riverfest Rapper

We spoke briefly as we left the weekend known as Riverfest. I thought there was a connection, but I remember your smile the best. I stopped next to your truck to drop off my recyclable. Perhaps you share the sentiment and another meeting was and is predictable.

—tranquiliti@aol.com

Carolyn

It's really happening now, isn't it? I've bought my ticket, I've landed an apartment and I'm on my way. You're Boston's best-kept secret even if you're only here three days a week. So as I leave I give you a short list of things I will and won't miss about Boston: I won't miss Red Sox game nights on the Green Line, ridiculously overpriced fashions on Newbury Street, being a receptionist, or the snow and windchill of New England winters. I will miss that whoosh of air when the Red Line pulls into Park Street, Anna's burritos, Jesse (the cute guy) at The Art Store, bread pudding at Trivia Night and being a short bus ride away from my sisters' houses. Oh, and one other little thing. You. You mean the world to me and if I could fold you up and stick you in my pocket and take you all the way to Seattle, you know I would. You're my best friend and I love you very much. I'll miss you like...well, like nothing else.

—Parker

Blue Eyes

On a recent Thursday night at the Cantab, I saw you downstairs at the Tribe Presents improv comedy show. You were sitting at a table with your friends, talking, laughing, lighting up the room with your smile. I was on the other side of the room with my friends. I'm sorry, I couldn't help staring at you. I was hoping you'd see me. After the show, our eyes met for a moment. I smiled at you and you smiled back. I wanted to talk to you. I think you wanted to talk to me, too, but you left before I had a chance to introduce myself. Give me a second chance. Meet me at the Cantab next Thursday. Let's improvise something together.

—laughingboy0919@yahoo.com

Good Samaritan in Porter Square

I had a seizure while walking near Porter Square on the night of Sept. 14. I have no recollection of any of it—but some good, civic-minded person found me and called the ambulance. I'm fine now, and extremely grateful for the help of this neighborly stranger. If you're reading this: Thanks—your kindness means so much to me!

—Dilantin Darling

Rudy

I know all Boston women can't be as rude as you were. I had the misfortune of crossing paths with you on the morning of Sept. 23 at 10 am in front of an ATM machine on Tremont Street, across from the Park Street T station. You were so wrapped up in your damn cell phone conversation that you couldn't see I was stopping to be polite and let you go first. Instead, you swore at me and told me to get out of the way. I should have smacked you with my umbrella. Please get over yourself.

—anonymous

Harpoonfest Hottie

Who'd've thought that we'd need more to drink after Octoberfest? Thanks for luring me to Lucky's, you minx. I always knew that you were out there; I just didn't think that I'd find you so soon. One year down, the rest of our lives to go.

—Andy

Butchie

The bear hug and the kiss on my cheek thrilled me down to the tips of my toes. Why I didn't follow you anywhere, I just don't know. We met on Park Drive, near the baseball field, on a Thursday afternoon in September. I was coming back from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. We saw each other and you came up to me. We wanted to exchange phone numbers but neither of us had a pen. You wanted to walk me home and I said no. You wanted to meet somewhere just so we could talk. We'd agreed to meet on Friday at noon, but...All I want is to see you again walking on Park Drive, so we can hug, kiss and talk. You have no idea what meeting you meant to me.

—Bbgirl562000C@aol.com

Chance Encounter at Brookline Marathon Sports

You: striking, 5' 8" (I'm bad at guessing height so you're probably even taller), shoulder-length blond hair, wearing a blue T-shirt-type top, jeans and a small backpack, trying out new running shoes at the Brookline Marathon Sports around 2 pm on Sept. 27. I walked in as you were doing a test run outside the store. I was in front of you at the cash register wearing a blue, button-down summer shirt and khaki shorts, and I'm about 6' 1" with brown hair. I was paying for a water bottle. You smiled as I was done paying, and on my way out I nearly tripped and fell over another customer like a nervous schoolboy. You have the most amazing blue eyes! Damn, do I wish I had said something! Let's go for a run sometime.

—runningincircles2003@hotmail.com

You Looked Just Like My Brother

I met you on the T as we were both getting off at the Harvard stop on Sept. 30. You look just like my brothe and I told you that, and we started talking but we were going in different directions, so we didn't get very far. You were wearing a cobalt-blue shirt and black pants, and your name was Caleb. Our conversation was cut off right when you were talking about starting your first job after college in the Copley area. I would like to continue our conversation someday.

—colacao55@hotmail.com

Three Glances at the Copley CVS

On Sept. 30 at 2:50 pm, it happened: accidentally brushed against you in the shampoo section. We both turnec and glanced at each other. I knew I was in a rush to buy things, but I decided to take another glance at yo and there you were looking back at me. And once again a couple second later. You're an attractive, petite blond-haired, blue-eyed young woman. You were wearing jeans and light-blue hooded sweatshirt. I was guy with short black hair, jeans and tight, white long-sleeved shirt. You when I was in line. E-mail me. I'd li to know if there was a spark betwee us or if was it the carpets at CVS.

—christophe.k@rcn.com

If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery.

So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see!

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

* writers & readers series

10/14 Tuesday 7 PM

GREGORY MAGUIRE *Mirror Mirror*

After a quick stint on Broadway, where his best-selling *Wicked* has been adapted into a hit musical, Gregory Maguire stops by to read from his compelling new tale. In the tradition of his earlier novels, *Wicked*, *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*, and *Lost*, *Mirror Mirror* is a retelling of the Snow White story set in Renaissance Italy.

10/21 Tuesday 7PM

STEWART O'NAN *The Night Country*

Granta has named him one of the Twenty Best Young American Novelists. Now the author who brought us *Wish You Were Here*, *The Speed Queen*, and *A Prayer for the Dying* ventures into horror literature with his scary and enthralling novel *The Night Country*.

10/28 Tuesday 7PM

EMILY FRANKLIN *Liner Notes*

LISA DIERBECK *One Pill Makes You Smaller*

A road trip and a box of old mix-tapes are the link between mother and daughter in Emily Franklin's debut novel *Liner Notes*. Lisa Dierbeck's debut is a modern retelling of *Alice in Wonderland* set in one 70's Manhattan summer amid drugs, sex, and art camp.

* Find out more about events online at www.**brooklinebooksmith**.com

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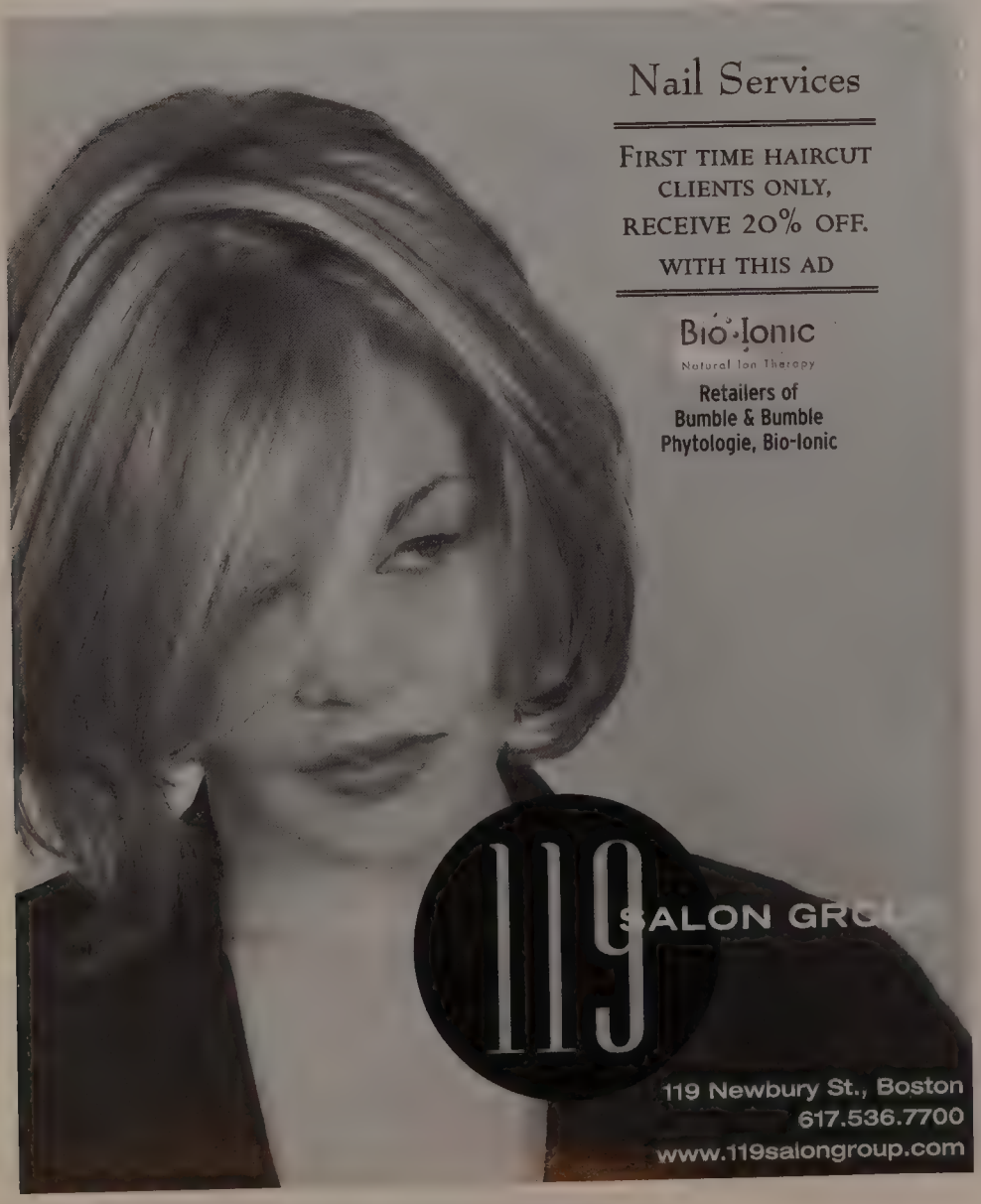

rockie horoscope

OCTOBER 8 – 21, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Easy come, easy go. Popularity or notoriety and the accouterments of local celebrity status may fade when your Venus ruler moves out of Libra. Even if you still have birthday celebrations to attend and gifts to open, once Venus enters sexy, secretive Scorpio on the 9th, you could become more furtive about your plans. More closed-mouthed? That's questionable. Having chatterbox Mercury in your sign encourages you to spill the beans simply to inform or entertain an appreciative audience. Good for writers.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Money might not flow with the speed or ease you'd like, but for that you should blame the seasonal sun-Saturn square. Like Leo, you may feel pressured to help out a friend financially, but you're not compelled to—there are no dire consequences. Instead, concentrate on looking good and attracting admirers so that when Venus enters your sign on the 9th, you'll be ready to receive them. A romantic relationship starts to heat up as the moon grows fatter, and reaches some sort of climax on the 10th, when the full moon peaks.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

This could turn out to be one of those interim weeks when nothing happens to you, only to a few people around you. Unless you're in an unstable environment, even the volatile Mars-Uranus conjunction might not turn your household upside-down. However, be aware that your landlord or a family member could be feeling testy. A friend or a renter's rights organization may help smooth the situation, but while we're in harmonious, sociable Libra, hardly any friction is directed your way. Enjoy.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Students, primarily, benefit from the intelligence offered by the Libra planets, especially after Mercury jumps in. Travelers should have an easy time of it too. Executive types can come across more favorably because Venus is in your midheaven, helping you seem attractive, even if you're a ruthless shit. Venus is funny; sometimes the goddess is gentle, appreciative and diplomatic; sometimes she's the proverbial iron fist in the velvet glove. Either way, a reward or payoff is due to arrive around the full moon.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

A life-altering thunderbolt may strike you about the time that loving Venus trines your erotic, electric Uranus ruler—currently back in your sign—and then, before you can recover, trines Mars as well. You're about to be rewarded for only the god (Uranus) knows what. If things in your life change radically, assume it's for the greater good. Another awakening experience could shake up your world on the 22nd when the sun completes the work that Venus began this week.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Love, not time, heals the wounds this week. And calms you down, too. Whether it also wounds the heels is hard to predict. Because gentle, romantic Venus rewards the disruptive, highly sexual coupling of Uranus and Mars, her affections can go either way. How close your birthday comes to the Aquarius/Pisces cusp determines if you'll be affected now or whether you must wait until Venus trines your Pisces sun some time before November 1. Mid-March babies should start planning for a very special Halloween.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Independent Rams usually don't rely on other people, except to do the grunt work for them. However, during Libra, when the scales are tipped in favor of everything that is not you, you can't help but search out an equal. See what your mate, closest ally or business buddy has to offer before taking matters into your own hands. Because reconciliation and steamy romance are slated for the full moon weekend, you'd be a headstrong fool not to take advantage. Besides, your recently retrograde Mars ruler isn't fully revived until November.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20

This week the choices you've been leaning toward can get codified and written in stone. But if you're feeling restricted and your Venus ruler offers an alternative, break free and claim a Uranian change of heart. Although work and career decisions may be uppermost in your mind, leave yourself leeway should lust suddenly enter the picture. And if you can combine the two, all the better. It's not often that Venus makes you ambitious and exceptionally erotic at the same time. What will this cost? Not as much as you think.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20

Cosmic law, social conventions, renters' rights, the rules of the game—any and all can become more relevant once your Mercury ruler enters judicious Libra. Its shift may also increase your desire to voice your opinions, exchange information and play the mediator in family disagreements, but only if absolutely necessary. Whether your taste level will rise is open to discussion, but any immersion in the literate Libran mind-set should lighten up your life. Chasing culture and beauty is fun; more important are the people you meet along the way.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22

After Venus moves into Scorpio on the 9th, it may dawn on you that lately you've been thinking too much, trying to achieve a Libran sense of balance. Weighing your options is OK for some things—what to wear, what to see—but it can sorely complicate a romance. However, when Venus is in Scorpio, a water sign like your own, the goddess tends to emphasize gut reactions and animal instinct. Since matters regarding love and sex are bound to come up during the Libra-Aries full moon, make sure you listen to your heart and your head.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Be prepared to cough up some dough. Why a friendship wil soon cost you good money or something else you value highly isn't readily apparent, or a given, either. However, periodically, when your sun ruler is tested by stern Saturn, problem usually arises that only you (and your generosity) can fix. If a buddy isn't in trouble, then maybe an organization—social, political, professional—hits a nerv and scores. Emotional support from a significant other is available if you ask nicely.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Your overall approach to things, and even your current interests, may change when your Mercury ruler exits Virgo After almost 10 weeks of enlightened self-interest, it's tim for the loftier and looser heights of Libra. Suddenly you st doing research and spouting stats, and, instead, seek out people to do fun things with. After you take your head out the books and shut down your computer, your sense of humor should improve, as will your sense of adventure. Charting new territory, charming worldly folks, courting a potential partner: That's your autumn agenda.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*

As seen in **People** *magazine, March 17, 2003*

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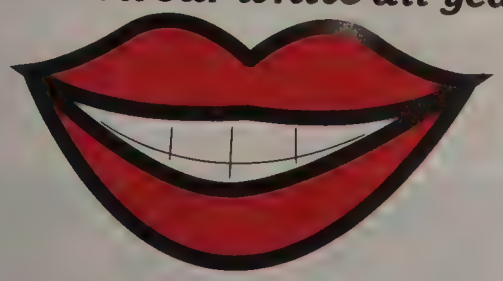

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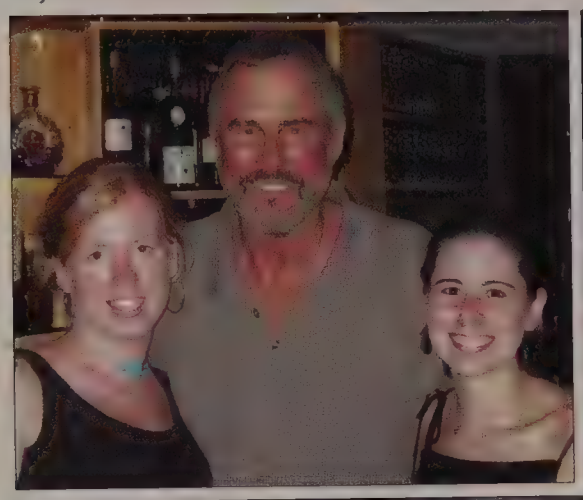
IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Tuesday, September 16, **The Living Room** hosted a launch party for **Plymouth Gin**.



1. **Cheray Lane**, bartender, **John Hauck**, owner, and **Kyla Calcagno**, bartender, all of The Living Room.
2. **Kate Sturk**, manager, and **Aliz Csaki**, manager, both of Preston Marketing.
3. **Simon Ford**, ambassador for Plymouth Gin; **Jessica Sobel**, manager for Preston Marketing; **Terri Cronin**, manager for Preston Marketing; and **Kenneth Murphy**, area manager, Massachusetts East Coast Division for Future Brands.

On Saturday, September 27, **The Roxy** packed it in for the kick-off party of "NY Nightlife," going on throughout the fall. Partygoers danced among tall buildings and a giant dancing Statue of Liberty.

1. **Robyn Ryan**, bartender; **Sarah Getchius**, bartender; and **Katie Sullivan**, hair stylist, all from Maine.
2. **Mark Rideof**, engineer at US Telecenters, and **Kim Petzke**, dance instructor from Saugus.
3. **Joyce Correio**, bartender at Barbosa's; **Paula DeSilva**, student at Fischer College; **Hope DeMoranzeville**, waitress at Ma Raffa's; **Ana Bernardes**, bartender at Barbosa's; and **Robert Peterson**, telemarketer at All Pro.

On Wednesday, September 24, **Horizon Beverage** hosted its Annual Fall Gala Wine Tasting at **Gillette Stadium** in Foxboro.

1. **Doug Epstein**, executive VP of Horizon Beverage Co; **Jonathan Kraft**, president and COO of the Kraft Group; and **Bob Epstein**, president of Horizon Beverage Co.
2. **Richard Cordoza**, president of Cordoza's Wine & Spirit, and **Sandy Block**, master of wine and wine columnist for *The Improper Bostonian*.
3. **Glenn Lawler**, on-premise sales manager for Horizon Beverage Co., and **Tim Lynch**, chief operations manager for Excelsior, Grill 23 and Harvest.

On Saturday, September 20, The Improper Bostonian sponsored **A Taste Of Boston** at City Hall Plaza. The annual event is presented by **Entercom Media**.

1. **Ellis Garvin**, head chef, **Jillian Rosati**, head waitress, **Michael Germaine**, manager, and **Elizabeth Serverino**, manager, all of Tavern O The Charles.
2. **Jim Sheehan**, marketing director; **Ashley Hagler**, Miss July for Mantown Calendar; **Greg Hill**, morning DJ; and **Jamie Sugar – Butter**, street team, all of WAAF Ra
3. **Chris Langley**, account executive; **Caroline Ahn**, account coordinator **Saverio Mancina**, senior account manager, all of Kortenhaus Communications, with singer **Jessi Simpson**.

PHOTOS: LIVING ROOM, JULIE KANE; ROXY, ALISON MORANT; GILETTE STADIUM, CARRIE WALLACE; TASTE OF BOSTON, JULIE

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
MAGAZINE

presents

the 4th Annual

Holiday Gift Guide

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November 19	November 5
December 3	November 19
December 17	December 3

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1 am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere in the heart of downtown Boston. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1 am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here. The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Doors at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-946* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstai

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-20 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. S ply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fu Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Com dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's ways something exciting happening – and you ne know who you'll bump into. Join us and experie what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-2 2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainm and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes Ameri and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

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Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

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Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesday - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston, 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

Sports Bar - Upscale

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

BRUNCH

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science – Skyline Room *Science Park, Boston.* Enjoy Sunday Brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 12 p.m., then check out the latest Omni film. Combination tickets start at $32 and include on-site parking when available. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call (617) 723-2500 or visit mos.org.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beer, mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. taps, 380 microbrews.

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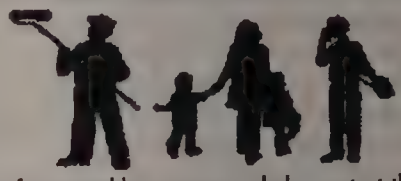

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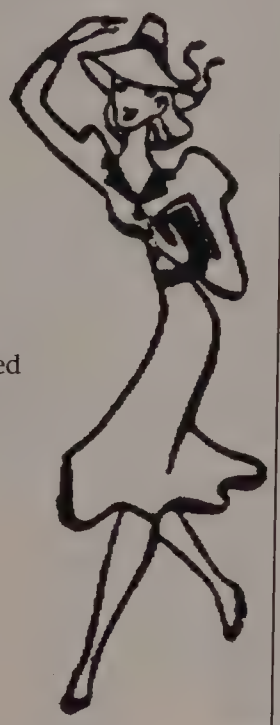

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LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At From Fenway to the Runway, top: Peggy Henry and Stacey Lucchino. Middle row: (from left) Juliana Ramirez, Manny Ramirez and Lisa Hughes; Smaiyra Million. Bottom row: Lynne Smith; Sarah Underwood; Karen Varitek and Kim Fossum.

BEHIND EVERY GREAT BALLPLAYER...

It wasn't your typical ladies' lunch. For one thing, Red Sox superstar **Manny Ramirez** was there. For another, the main course was roast beef, instead of some calorie-conscious spa selection. The guests, meanwhile, were women whose weekday afternoons don't normally involve sipping white wine and watching a fashion show.

From Fenway to the Runway, held at the ultra-glam restaurant **Excelsior**, was hosted by the **Red Sox Wives** and the **Shops at Heritage on the Garden** to benefit the **Gillette Center for Women's Cancers** at Dana-Farber.

Guests assembled in the downstairs bar for champagne and a fashion show starring the hometown team's other halves, modeling outfits by the likes of Sonia Rykiel, St. John, Escada, Marina Rinaldi and Anne Fontaine. Everyone then repaired upstairs for a leisurely lunch that included informal modeling by impossibly gorgeous professional clothing hangers, and a live auction of Red Sox–related items that raised a whopping amount of dough for a very worthwhile cause.

Present and accounted for: culinary supernova **Lydia Shire** (who had the imagination and chutzpah to come up with the surprisingly hearty menu); luscious owners' wives **Peggy Henry** and **Stacey Lucchino**; several generations of the **Druker** women, including the absurdly gorgeous **Julie** and the equally gorgeous and very pregnant **Kim**; Channel 4 glamazons **Lisa Hughes** and **Sarah Underwood**; the stunning and statuesque **Susan Spooner**; former fashion editor **Julie Hatfield**; Sports Club L.A. head honcha **Smaiyra Million**; fashion plate **Jacqui Budd**; uber mover-and-shaker **Gloria Larson**; PR czarina **Lynn Kortenhaus**; thematically dressed **Lynne Smith**; force of nature **Jackie Jenkins-Scott**; banking bigwig **Anne Finucane**; the eternally chic **Nancy Eskandarian**; and such babe-a-licious players' wives as **Juliana Ramirez**, **Kim Fossum**, **Katie Walker**, **Kathryn Nixon**, **Tiffany Ortiz**, **Stacy Wakefield** and **Karen Varitek**.

At each table, one of the guests won either a signed baseball or an Hermes scarf, and after "oohing" and "aahing" over the clothing, everyone continued to "ooh" and "aah" over the wild bidding for the items in the live auction.

Overheard during the course of the afternoon:

"Nice top she's almost wearing."

"I have an eight-and-a-half-year-old. Black's a good color for me."

"That model is like the girl in that movie *Weird Science*. She's freakishly perfect, so everything's going to look good on her."

"I've almost had enough wine to buy that coat."

And the following exchange, between one of the player's wives and a guest:

"That looks great on her. Where's it from?"

"You mean her body? I assume the gym."

NO PARKING ON THE DANCE FLOOR?

In our experience, a party on the roof of a parking garage most likely involves illicit drugs and, at some point in the evening, the police. So out of sheer curiosity, if nothing else, it seemed worth checking out **Roaring on the Roof**, the 25th-anniversary celebration for the **Boston Preservation Alliance**.

Held atop the newly restored **Motor Mart** building in Park Square (which was the world's largest parking garage when it was built in 1929), the evening involved neither contraband (that we saw) nor the police, although it did attract their boss, **Mayor Menino**, and equally august others. Among them: urban preservationist **Roger Webb**; the ever affable **Todd Saunders**; real estate magnates **Drew Leff**, **Roger Tackeff** and **Bob Beal**; thoroughbred racehorse syndicator and fiery filly **Cynthia Frederick**; historian and gadfly **Steve Jerome**; Millennium Partners man in black **Tony Pangaro**; catering genius and Eastern European countess **Ariadne Clifton**; Harvard factotum **Janet Goff**; and others of their rarefied ilk.

From underneath a yellow-and-white-striped tent, the city's skyline looked spectacular during an hour or so of cocktails and nibbly things, while a quartet called Four Guys in Tuxes provided the entertainment—as did the tart-tongued guest who greeted a friend by saying, "Hey! What are you doing dressed like that?"

An awards ceremony followed cocktails, after which came more merrymaking, and best of all, when the evening ended, everyone already had their parking validated. iB

At the Roaring on the Roof party, clockwise from upper right: Todd Saunders; Tony Pangaro; Steve Jerome; Cynthia Frederick.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSICA PURSLEY

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Wendy Idele

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

HUNGRY IN BOSTON

Just as watching food movies like *Chocolat* and *Big Night* had my stomach growling long before the credits rolled, editing the IMPROPER's twice-yearly dining issues has sent me rummaging through my filing cabinet's secret snack drawer more often than I'd care to admit.

If you're at all suggestible, Julie Suratt's story on New England cheeses (page 26) will have you ransacking your own refrigerator for some sharp cheddar or buttery Swiss. Suratt's tour of six nearby farms that produce flavorful cheese the old-fashioned way may even move you to plan a dairy day trip. For a quicker fix, make a date with a cheese plate at a local restaurant—many have added this savory option to their dessert menus.

Far from cheese's broad appeal, the dishes in Galen Moore's "Going to Extremes" (page 22) tempt a select few. In his survey of Boston's spiciest, most exotic, and other superlatives, Moore tells the daring where to find such delicacies as tongue tacos, thousand-year eggs and deep-fried Twinkies.

For a big-picture view on Boston cuisine, Andy Levinsky's story, "Turning the Tables" (page 22), gives some of the best local chefs the chance to respond to past critiques and to talk about how Boston ranks now in the national dining scene. They speak out on everything from portion size to service to dress code and the need for more foodies.

We hope it goes without saying that no Boston chef cooked up the Salisbury steak dinner in Joe Rogan's hands on the cover of this issue. (That meal is itself incentive to run screaming to a restaurant.) You know Rogan as host of *The Man Show* and *Fear Factor*, but he discovered his real passion—stand-up comedy—15 years ago in Boston. He talks with Ezra Dyer on page 21.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

FULLY BOOKED

I've just finished reading the IMPROPER's great article on Boston's bookworms (Oct. 8). A lover and collector of books myself, it's always a pleasure to read about like souls who appreciate and value the written word. I started collecting when I was in elementary school and haven't stopped yet. And bibliophile Carol Trauner is proof that bookworms can be intelligent, successful and beautiful.

WILLIAM O. DUPUIS
Worcester

MR. DYER'S NEIGHBORHOOD

I was laughing hysterically at Ezra's last [illegible] ("Player Hater," Oct. 8). I felt like I was reading about one of my normal nights living in the neighborhood. I am lucky enough to live above one of the busiest corners in the 'hood. I wake up nightly to girls yelling at each other and johns driving by, checking out the selection. It's great. Hey, at least now Ezra has some new material for his column.

—SHARON DOHERTY
Boston

Amidst the hookers, pimps, flypaper and "golden showers" cascading into Ezra's yard, he will find an apology. In the future, I will direct my party guests to urinate on the hookers and drug dealers in front of the building, thereby creating a watchdog program like the city of Boston has never seen. Cash prizes and certificates of achievement will be handed out based on number of hits, marksmanship and individual style. Being on the "garden level," Ezra is somewhat challenged in the area of range, so I extend an open invitation to join the group of vigilante homosexuals taking the law into their own hands on the third floor. We owe you beers…big time.

—DAVANT SCARBOROUGH
Boston

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 24 issue (page 82): The correct address for the Roxy is 279 Tremont St.

In the Oct. 8 issue: Jaime Manion is pictured with Stacey Lucchino (page 108), and author Elinor Lipman (page 22) lives in Northampton.

CONTRIBUTORS

GALEN MOORE

Galen Moore grew up in Oakland, Calif., and came to Boston to follow three unhealthy obsessions: baseball, writing and cream-filled breakfast pastries. He also writes for the *Boston Globe* and *Yankee* magazine, and he manages the wine and cheese department at the Harvest Co-op in Jamaica Plain. Moore's exploration of Boston's most outrageous edibles, "Going to Extremes," begins on page 30.

ALLI ARNOLD

Alli Arnold is a native New Yorker and graduate of Parsons School of Design.

Her clients include the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Seventeen*, *Elle* and *New York Magazine*.

In 2000, Arnold created the Barney's New York baby logo, and she recently illustrated the Kate Spade Neiman Marcus 95th Anniversary bag.

Her illustrations accompany "Turning the Tables" on page 22.

Tell Us What You Think

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO: The Improper Bostonian, 142 Berkeley St., Third Floor, Boston, MA 02116. E-mail: letters@improper.com. Fax: 617-859-1446. Letters must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Suratt**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Kelli Acciardo, Katelyn Belyus, Kristen Grieco, Kate Hedgpeth, Sarah Korval**

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FOUNDER **Mark Semonian**

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E-mail: info@improper.com
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TRENDS TITTLE TATTLE PEOPLE PANACHE

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SURATT

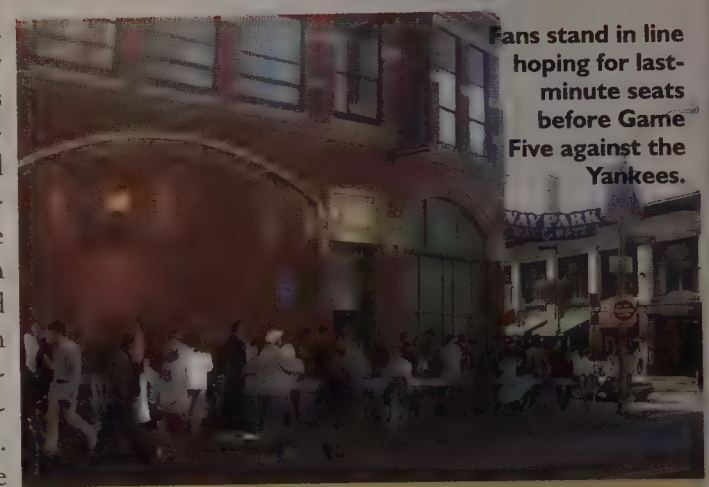
new in town

THE STATE OF UNION

Shortly after Seth Woods opened Metropolis Cafe in 1995, then–*New York Times* restaurant critic Ruth Reichl listed the South End Bistro as one of her favorite restaurants in Boston. Woods, who's since gone on to open the much-acclaimed Aquitaine and Aquitaine Bis, is at it again, hoping to lure sophisticated palates to his latest endeavor: the Union Bar and Grille on Washington Street.

This one, too, has the potential to charm a New York food reviewer—if merely for its hip, Manhattan bistro–like ambience. The Peter Niemitz–designed restaurant sports a black-and-white color scheme, with high-backed black leather booths, starched white tablecloths and black-and-white prints on white walls. From across the street, Union—with its floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook the Cathedral of the Holy Cross—looks like an old-fashioned train dining car that's briefly pulled into a station.

But comparisons to a dining car end once you step inside. The menu features imaginative, New England–inspired contemporary cuisine that reflects the dining philosophy Woods shares with his partners, Jeffrey Gates and Matthew Burns—"good food that you want to eat." Chef de cuisine Stephen Sherman's specialties include smoked Menemsha bluefish with a celery, walnut and apple salad and horseradish mustard; and lobster fricassee with sweet corn, chanterelles and potato gnocchi. What's the story behind the curiously named $10K tuna with grilled fennel, baby arugula and roasted-tomato vinaigrette? we wondered. The name refers not to the price of the dish ($27) but to Sherman's prize in a contest hosted by the Culinary Institute of America. "He won $10,000 for his seasoning," says assistant general manager Chris McMahon. "He used it for a down payment on his house." *1357 Washington St., Boston (617-423-0555).* www.unionrestaurant.com. *—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt*



Fans stand in line hoping for last-minute seats before Game Five against the Yankees.

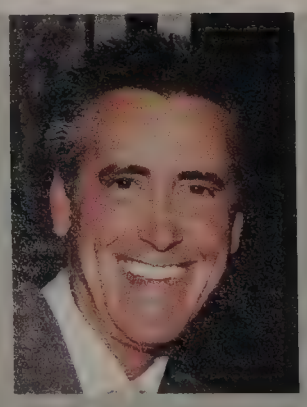
sports

THAT'S THE TICKET

So you wanted to go to the Red Sox playoff games against the Yankees? Join the club. There were tickets to be had, but with standing-room tickets selling for $400 on the black market, many Sox fans had to get creative with their online offers. Barters on the table for a pair of ALCS tickets included round-trip airfare to anywhere in the United States, a week at a lake house in Maine (a $2,500 value), a laptop computer, plane tickets to Brazil and a 1999 Mercury Sable. While the Sable's book value was $7,200, that fan wanted four box seats to all three playoff games, plus one ticket to each World Series game. With field boxes fetching more than $1,500 per pair, we're guessing he still owns the Sable. There were also plenty of single guys looking for attractive females to accompany them to the game, but the strangest date proposal didn't involve the game itself: One ticket seeker, a restaurant critic, offered sellers the chance to accompany him on a restaurant review. Keep your eye on Boston publications for an upcoming review of the Sausage Guy...—*Ezra Dyer*

inner view

BILLY COSTA



He's been amusing local audiences for years as news and entertainment director of KISS 108's *Matty in the Morning* show and, until recently, as the host of NECN's *Phantom Gourmet*. In September, the *Phantom* moved to UPN 38, while Costa stayed put at NECN with the recently launched *TV Diner*. Costa chatted with us about his new ventures and his views on Hub dining.

IB: *How is* TV Diner *different from* The Phantom Gourmet?

BC: I haven't seen [*The Phantom's*] new show yet. I'd like to think *TV Diner*'s a little more behind the scenes and a lot more out on the road and in the thick of things. We're kind of trying to be the *Access Hollywood* of the restaurant business. If there's something big going on, an opening or a new chef at a restaurant, we want to be there [illegible] every week we send a viewer to [illegible] pick up the tab, and then he [illegible] the show and talk [illegible] experience.

IB: *What do you think about Boston's evolution as a place to dine?*

BC: I'm just blown away. It's exploded over the past 10 years, and not only in Boston but in some of the surrounding suburbs. I think we've seen some mini dining capitals open up: Cambridge and Somerville, as well as Waltham. Out on the North Shore, communities like Beverly and Ipswich have developed incredibly. Even west of Boston, you've got Ming Tsai in Wellesley.

IB: *Are you a big eater?*

BC: I wouldn't call myself a big eater, but I certainly am a lover of food. I think that happened the day I met my wife. I like to think of her as a gourmet cook. Between my wife and the radio business, traveling and having to eat out and going to industry parties and sampling the food, I've developed an appreciation for chefs and the whole industry.

IB: *Favorite neighborhood to eat in?*

BC: I've always been a big fan of the North End. Who knew that it could get any better than it was 15 years ago? There's an outstanding restaurant on every corner.

IB: *What's the best hot spot you've found so far?*

BC: Let me tell you, I fell in love with B & G Oysters Ltd., Barbara Lynch's new place. I went there for our weekly Hot Spot segment to pick up the tab on somebody's meal, and I couldn't leave.

IB: *What's the most underrated restaurant you've dined in?*

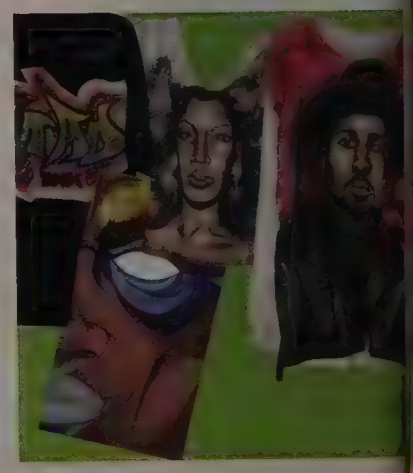
BC: Places that I think people really need to discover are Red Rock Bistro in Swampscott and Donatello in Saugus. I think if he was working in Boston, Nino [DiCenso], the chef at Donatello, would be one of the most celebrated chefs in the city.

IB: *If you had your perfect day of dining, where would you go for breakfast, lunch and dinner?*

BC: Oh my. I would probably have breakfast at Aujourd'hui at the Four Seasons. I'd probably do lunch in the North End at Salumeria. I'd have them make me a nice authentic Italian sandwich. Dinner—I don't want to make any enemies here—would probably be at Prezza.—*Jessica Iredale*

sam says

MAD ABOUT INK



Local graffiti artists Magestik, Acoma and Diablito have turned their public art into a legit business. The trio has been airbrushing designs onto shirts, jeans, hats, jackets and bags since 2000, but recently they found a permanent home (on Tremont Street) and a brand name for their business: Mad Ink. They sell made-to-order clothing with any kind of airbrushed design—from simple text to portraits. Items can also be embellished with rhinestones and embroidery. If you can't find the right item in the studio, you can always bring your own garment in for customized work. It's the perfect way to jazz up a tired pair of jeans or an old T-shirt. Prices range from $25-$120. *652 Tremont St., Suite 1 R, Boston (617-947-2545).—Samantha House*

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Tasty Tidbits

STEAKING CLAIM

Meat Lovers' Delight...Typically host to conventions and events, Boston's historic Armory Castle has been commissioned for a new project: meat and potatoes. Medieval Times might seem like a better fit for the architecture, but New York–based steakhouse chain Smith & Wollensky revealed its plans to move into the castle in summer 2004. Originally built in 1891 as the headquarters for the First Corps of Cadets, the 18,000-square-foot space in the Back Bay will seat 300 patrons. The main dining room will occupy the first-floor gun room, social hall and museum, while the mezzanine will be converted to a cocktail and dining space. The upper floor will house a banquet hall. We have just one lament: Whither the beloved J. Crew warehouse sales?

Masala Art has a new spice bar.

Spice It Up...Needham's recently opened Masala Art has added some heat to its menu with its new spice bar. Guests choose their spices, three appetizers and three entrées from either the vegetarian, meat or seafood menu. Executive chef Soni Sunil prepares the dishes while teaching patrons about the spices du jour and Indian cooking traditions, and then sends them home with sample spices. *990 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-449-4050.)*

Ticket to Ride...Boston College football fans looking to make merry at pre- and post-game tailgates (while avoiding the parking anarchy that surrounds campus) can stop at Tonic for a free ride. The Allston bar launched its Take the T to Tonic campaign Sept. 20. Eagles fans are invited to stop by 90 minutes before kickoff to gorge on free hors d'oeuvres and then hitch a ride with the Bustonian to the WEEI tailgate on BC's campus. Sounds way better than being the DD.

In the Kitchen...Foodies rejoice! Gordon Hamersley has finally dished his trade secrets in his debut cookbook, *Bistro Cooking at Home*. The tome, which hit bookstores Oct. 14, contains more than 150 classic and contemporary dishes from Hamersley's Bistro in the South End. "I was first asked to write this book in 1989," says Hamersley. "I was like, 'I don't have enough to say or enough food to put in a book.' With 16 years of experience under his belt, Hamersley's ready to tell all. The chef couldn't pick just one favorite recipe, but he did give a nod to braised meats. "They kind of epitomize bistro cooking for me."

Saving Sandwiches...Whether it's the old standby PBJ or a four-meat sub with chips in the middle, everyone has his or her own idea of the perfect sandwich. Maggiano's Little Italy is celebrating National Sandwich Day Nov. 3 with a little friendly competition. Members of the public are invited to submit their favorite sandwich recipe at the restaurant or online at *www.nationalsandwichday.com* for a chance to win dinner for 10 at Maggiano's. On National Sandwich Day, 10 semi-finalists will present their recipes to a panel of celebrity judges. The winning recipe will be available on Maggiano's menu for the month of November, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the local charity Project Bread.

—E.H., J.I and J.S.

improper reports

AUTUMN BREWS

There's no better way to toast the change of season than with a pint of pumpkin ale or harvest lager. Head to one of these bars for an autumn beer that will quench your thirst and add a little spice to your life.

•**Boston Beer Garden** *734 E. Broadway, Boston (617-269-0990)*. Cozy up with Harpoon's Winter Warmer, a full-bodied, rich ale spiced with cinnamon and nutmeg, or the Octoberfest, made from six different malts. **$4** a pint.

•**Boston Beer Works** *61 Brookline Ave., Boston (617-536-2337)*. Taste the Pumpkinhead Ale, a medium-bodied, pumpkin-flavored beer spiced with cinnamon, ginger and vanilla. **$4** a pint. Or have an Oktoberfest beer, a full-bodied ale with a sweet malt flavor. **$4.25** a pint.

•**Boston Billiard Club** *126 Brookline Ave., Boston (617-536-7665)*. The Blue Moon Pumpkin Ale combines the flavor of vine-ripened pumpkin with spices—clove, nutmeg, allspice and cinnamon. **$4** a bottle.

•**Cambridge Brewing Company** *1 Kendall Square, Cambridge (617-494-1994)*. Pure Pumpkin Ale is made from fresh sugar pumpkins, cinnamon and allspice. **$4.25** a pint.

•**John Harvard's Brew House** *33 Dunster St., Cambridge (617-868-3585)*. Sample the Harvest Spiced Ale, an amber ale with cinnamon and ginger spices. **$3.75** a pint. The Oktoberfest beer offers a fruitier taste. **$3.75** a pint.

•**Rock Bottom** *115 Stuart St., Boston (617-742-2739)*. The folks behind the bar tell us that the flavor of the Rocktoberfest beer resembles toast. We'll let you decide. **$3.75** a pint.

•**Sunset Grill & Tap** *130 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-1331)*. Samuel Adams' OctoberFest beer is a smooth lager made from a blend of four malts with a caramel taste and a nutty finish. **$3.95** a pint.

•**Watch City Brewing Company** *256 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-4000)*. The Pie Eyed Pumpkin Ale is made from sugar pumpkins and spices like cinnamon and nutmeg. **$3.75** a pint.

—Kelli Acciardo

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Yankee Doodler...Sometimes doodling pays off. If you're one of the roughly 1 million people who turned out for Danny DeVito's latest comedy, *Duplex*, you know what we're talking about. Local animator Gabriel Polonsky was recruited by friend Dave Lipson of Noodlesoup Productions and Miramax Pictures to draw caricatures of co-stars Ben Stiller and Drew Barrymore for the film's two-minute animated intro. "I didn't work with [Stiller and Barrymore] directly, but they had me revise their noses, clothing and bodies until everyone was happy," Polonsky says. So does this mean big things for the Emmy-nominated (in 1999 for *Woof! It's a Dog's Life with Uncle Matty*) animator? "Right now I'm waiting to hear back about an animated sandwich for a small chain of [illegible] stores," he says. "They're [illegible]

Inconvenience Store..."Oh, thank heaven" was not the response in the South End when plans surfaced for a 7-Eleven store on Washington Street several months ago. Despite the allure of 54-ounce Slurpees and quarter-pound Big Bite Hot Dogs, neighborhood residents were outraged by the impending presence of the 24-hour convenience giant, questioning its cleanliness, security and appeal to loiterers. "This is not the vision we have for the neighborhood at all," says Cary Raymond, a member of the Old Dover Neighborhood Association and co-chair of the Stop 7-Eleven Committee. The disgruntled neighborhood associations pulled out the big gun: the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Legal action was taken, and the final result will be what Raymond calls "the best 7-Eleven you've ever seen." The contract calls for: a hunter green and white awning (in place of the typical orange and green sign); no signs in the windows; pendant (rather than florescent) lighting; and a cutback of the store's hours to 6 am-11 pm. Look for the un-7-Eleven this winter.

Move Over, Beverly Hills...At some point, every office drone out there has found himself or herself lured in by a catchy link on Msn.com: 20 Most Expensive Homes or Top Ten Cities for Singles. Just the other day, we found one that struck our fancy: *Forbes*' Most Expensive ZIP Codes in America. We were surprised to find that not only was 90210 not No. 1, it wasn't even in the top 20. We were equally shocked to see that 02114, Boston's very own Beacon Hill, ranked 18 out of tens of thousands, with the average home costing a tidy $1,135,000. Apparently, people in Jupiter Island, Fla., have deep pockets. Its 33455 was named the toniest ZIP, with the average home priced at $5.6 million.

Notes of Note...Two local bands have dropped into the limelight via the most powerful vehicle in the biz: the tube. Papas Fritas, the trio of Tufts grads who pulled a disappearing act after their late-'90s tour with Beck, re-emerged when a song from their 2000 album *Buildings and Grounds* made the rounds on a Dentyne Ice commercial (the one in which a girl writes her number in frosty breath on subway window). Despite the resulting radio play, lead singer Tony Goddess is the only Papas member actively pursuing a career in music. On a slightly different note, indie-rock group the Push Stars were selected to accompany Matchbox Twenty on its fall tour despite the Stars' lack of big-label backing. The band, however, plays regular gigs and has received massive exposure by contributing to the soundtracks of *Me, Myself and Irene*, *There's Something About Mary*, *Malcolm in the Middle* and *ER*. In other music news, local alt-rock band Guster got into the holiday spirit a little early. The trio recently recorded a new version of "(Mamacita) Donde Esta Santa Claus?" for a compilation album featuring such musical heavy-weights as the Barenaked Ladies and the Dave Matthews Band. The humor isn't lost on the band members—three Jews who no hablan Español.

First and Last Chapters...After 42 years peddling new books, Brookline Booksmith is entering the used market. The independent bookseller recently opened a used-book cellar in the Writers and Readers Room. Stock mainly consists of paperbacks and some hardcovers. Meanwhile, on Newbury Street, Spenser's Mystery Books is closing up shop after 20 years due to high rents and competition with online merchants. The closing date hasn't been set, and co-owner Kathy Phillips plans to continue selling books through www.spensersmysterybooks.com. "There's always a possibility at some point I'll convince [my partner] to reopen in the suburbs," says Phillips.*—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

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PROPER BOSTONIANS

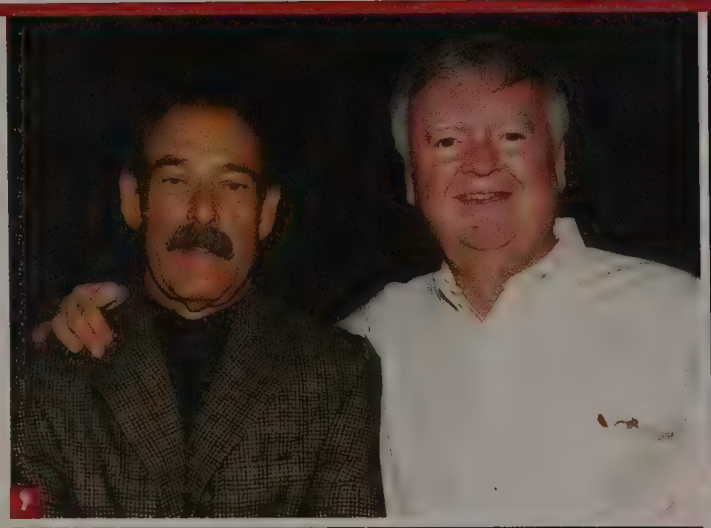
BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

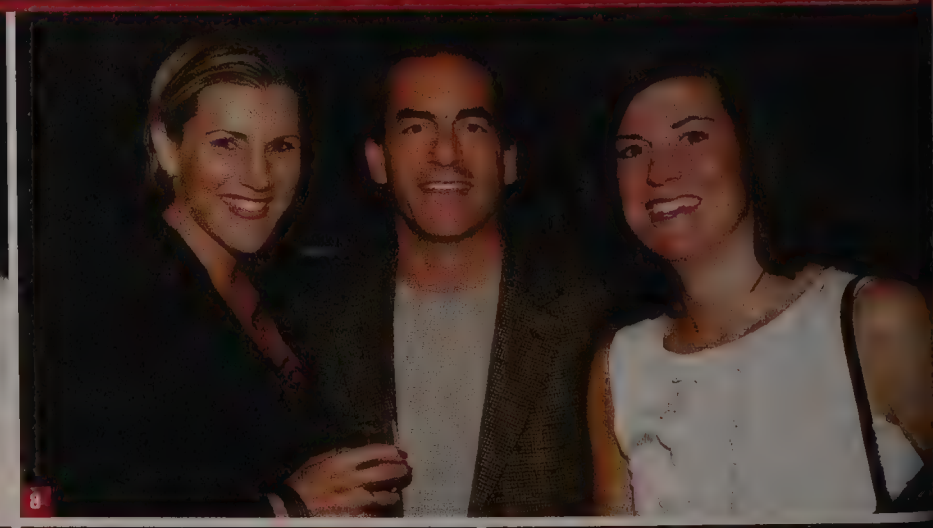
The **Runway 34 Celebrity Fashion Show** was held Sept. 30 at Avalon. Boston Celtics co-captain Paul Pierce teamed up with GQ magazine and Tommy Hilfiger to raise funds for the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and Pierce's The Truth Fund. Several hundred guests attended, and almost $100,000 was raised.

1. From left: **Bill Costa**, morning personality for KISS 108 FM; Costa's wife, **Lisa**; and **Donnie Wahlberg**, actor.
2. **Rebecca Brothers**, actress, and **Paul Pierce**, Boston Celtic.
3. From left: **Ann Mary Johnson**, makeup artist for Stila Cosmetics; **Michael Gregorio**, sales associate for United Liquors; and **Lindsay Smith**, makeup artist for Stila Cosmetics.
4. From left: **Ed Kane**, president of Eat Well Inc.; **Tim Cahill**, state treasurer, and **Shawn Donovan**, manager at Felt.
5. **Andrea Casanova**, founder of the Ally Foundation, and **Peter Flaherty**, deputy chief of staff for Governor Mitt Romney.
6. From left: **Bill Thompson** and **Scott Grenert**, investment advisor and senior vice president, respectively, of RBC Dain Rauscher; and **Stephen Burm**, legislative aide to Representative Garrett Bradley.

WROR's Bras for a Cause was held Oct. 9 at Avalon. More than 400 party-goers attended the first annual celebrity bra auction. Guests participated in the live and silent auctions, bidding on bras designed by national movie stars and local sports celebrities. More than $25,000 was raised to benefit the Ellie Fund, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition and Expedition Inspiration.

7. **Loren Owens** (left) and **Wally Brine**, hosts of the *Loren and Wally Show* on WROR 105.7 FM.
8. From left: **Lind Hartney**, sales associate for WROR 105.7 FM; **John Powell**, president of Washington Appraisal in Norwell; and Powell's sister, **Anne**, local sales manager for WROR 105.7 FM.
9. **Barry Tatelman** (left), CEO of Jordan's Furniture, and **Paul Saperstein**, auctioneer.
10. **Lesley Lane** (left), massage therapist, and [illegible], vice president of sales [illegible] Radio Group.
11. [illegible] and Tia, intern and afternoon personality, respectively, for WROR 105.7 FM.





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THAT'S THE TICKET

When the playoffs roll around, Fenway should replace its turnstiles with velvet ropes

If you want to feel like a rock star, forget about dating Christina Aguilera or causing a fatal car accident, and just get tickets to an important sporting event. Having attended both Game 3 of the Red Sox's first-round playoff series and the Patriots' win over the Titans the next day, I have sipped from the golden chalice of the good life. The bad news is, I'm finding it hard to return to the plastic cup of mediocrity.

I lucked into tickets for both games. In the case of the Red Sox, my friend Neskey was taking a break from carving up cadavers in medical school and offered me his extra ticket. Neskey possessed this coveted slip of paper because Papa Neskey, who has season tickets, was out of town that weekend. I'd like to publicly thank Mr. Neskey not only for the ticket, but for planning a trip to California during the playoffs. I'd also like to add that the Chon Buri Buffalo Races, held around World Series time in Chon Buri, Thailand, are not to be missed. I'm just pointing that out.

When I go to Fenway I usually end up sitting either in the top row of the bleachers, behind an enormous stanchion, or, in one unfortunate instance, in the alcohol-free section. But Neskey's seats were six rows back on the third-base side, so close that you could almost hear Barry Zito humming Phish songs in the visitors' dugout. We didn't get our own little TV screen like Ben Affleck and J. Lo, but it was high society nonetheless. While everyone ate hot dogs, drank beer and displayed the usual enthusiasm for the Red Sox, I got the distinct impression that many of my fellow occupants in the box seats would find it useful if Fenway included a decent helicopter landing pad. I tried to act like I belonged, but my crude exuberance gave me away in the 11th inning, when Trot Nixon homered and I almost threw Neskey onto the field like an octopus after a hat trick. I consider picking up one's friends and flailing them to and fro to be a normal reaction to a postseason walk-off home run, but a quick glance around confirmed that our neighbors were wondering if Neskey had somehow lured Little Joe, the escaped gorilla, into the park for a ballgame.

The next day Neskey and I headed to Gillette Stadium on our second man-date in as many days. At the gate we met Skip, who hooked me up with the tickets. Skip works for Fox Sports Net, which I hereby endorse as the best sports network on TV, at least until someone from ESPN gives me better seats. I'd never been to a Pats game before, and I was pleasantly surprised that the crowd at Gillette made my own meathead antics the night before seem like the serene satisfaction of a 1950s TV mom who has baked a perfect blueberry pie. Everyone at the game was a bigger meathead than me, including the woman who marched up and demanded I tell her the location of the nearest ladies' room. (I apparently looked like a more likely resource for that information than any of the women milling about.) As soon as she was out of earshot Neskey muttered, "She definitely pees standing up."

One symptom of testosterone saturation is compulsive high-fiving, an activity that was in effect throughout the game. This posed a problem because I carefully wash my hands after going to the bathroom, a habit that seemed to put me in the minority at Gillette. The tattooed, pierced, jersey-wearing guys in front of our seats didn't strike me as big hand-washers, but they were big high-fivers. The hulking, screaming lunatic in front of us looked genuinely saddened when he turned around to high-five Neskey and found him entranced by the JumboTron. In an act of solidarity, I reached over and high-fived him myself, lest he notice that I refuse to use the word "cowboy" as a verb and climb into our row to give us purple nurples.

> OUR SEATS WERE SO CLOSE THAT YOU COULD ALMOST HEAR BARRY ZITO HUMMING PHISH SONGS IN THE VISITORS' DUGOUT

The rampant spread of dangerous microbes aside, going to a game has it all over watching it on TV, not least because you get to feel superior to everyone who didn't have tickets. "Yeah, I was there," I casually told anyone I heard talking about Nixon's homer the following Monday. "Yeah, I was there too," I'd say when the conversation turned to the Patriots. As I write this the Sox are playing the Yankees, and I can still say I was there, but only if you're talking about the end of the enormous line of people waiting futilely, to get into Who's on First once the ticket-holders left for their seats. iB

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Soroff ON

THE PHANTOM GOURMET

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

The Phantom Gourmet is an anonymous restaurant critic who dines in disguise, never revealing his identity and always paying his own bills, with the goal of ensuring that his reviews are as uncorrupted, honest and trustworthy as possible. His eponymous television show, now hosted by WBZ-TV veteran Dave Robichaud, first aired in June 1993 and quickly developed a following. In February 1995, WBZ 1030 AM Newsradio added the Phantom Gourmet to its lineup. A 90-second feature airs weekdays at 10:56 am and weekends at 2:56 pm and 3:56 pm. In September, Phantom Gourmet Inc. signed a deal with Viacom, bringing the *Phantom Gourmet* program to UPN Channel 38 on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 am. In addition, the Phantom's "Restaurant Report Card" segments air regularly on WBZ-TV 4's 5:30 pm newscast and UPN 38's *Nightcast* at 10 pm, and his reviews can be found online at Phantomgourmet.com. He agreed to answer Jonathan Soroff's questions via e-mail.

I'VE TRAVELED THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF AUTHENTIC NOODLE STREET SNACKS IN THAILAND AND MU MU HOT ROCK COOKOUTS IN PAPUA, NEW GUINEA. I HAVE DISTINCT MEMORIES OF EVERY MEAL MY MOTHER COOKED WHILE WORKING HER WAY, COVER TO COVER, THROUGH *THE JOY OF COOKING*. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, NO ONE KNOWS WHO I AM.

Jonathan Soroff: *What qualifies you to critique restaurants?*

Phantom Gourmet: I've traveled the world in search of authentic noodle street snacks in Thailand and mu mu hot rock cookouts in Papua, New Guinea. I have distinct memories of every single meal my mother cooked while working her way, cover to cover, through *The Joy of Cooking*. I know the business inside and out, and most importantly, no one, save the tight-lipped Andelman brothers, knows who I am, so that I can do my job from the perspective of Joe Anybody.

JS: *Your favorite disguise?*

PG: I've got glasses, wigs, skinny suits, and fake mustaches, but for the most part, I just try to blend in.

JS: *Do you use fake accents, and if so, which?*

PG: I've got the southern drawl down, plus I'm constantly studying Miss Piggy and Arnold Schwarzenegger for inno- additions to my repertoire. And h accent, she ees very beeyoo-

-and-dagger stuff a bit silly?

PG: Heck no! If people knew my face, then I'd get special treatment and my work would be corrupt. I'm taking this secret to the grave, and I'm happy to slap on some prosthetic makeup if it'll keep my identity under wraps.

JS: *Ever been recognized or had your cover blown?*

PG: Not once. But I've eaten out many times when the waiter has suggested a dish as "The Phantom's favorite." I just nod and say, "I'll take two."

JS: *How do you determine a tip, or what's your personal tipping policy?*

PG: Having been a waiter myself, I know how hard the job can be. They earn every cent, so I start at 20 percent and go higher for exceptional table-wowing.

JS: *Cocktail of choice?*

PG: That's a no-brainer—cocktail sauce. Nothing keeps me refreshed, regular, and revving to go like a tangy mixture of horseradish, lemon juice, Tabasco and ketchup.

JS: *Most annoying current food trend?*

PG: Fast-food joints turning healthy. You can't keep your sloppy Joe customers and bring in the tofu crowd, too. When I'm on the go, I want super-size fries, burgers, and un-Diet Coke. Who wants to see a grilled chicken pita when you're knee-deep in wings and nachos? It's enough to spoil an appetite.

JS: *Thing that instantly turns you off in a restaurant?*

PG: Mispronunciation gets me hotter than a frying pan. The *t* in merlot is silent, and "quesadilla" doesn't have six different pronunciations.

JS: *Single biggest mistake restaurateurs make?*

PG: Stationing an incompetent mumbler at the phone. It makes me nuts when I call to ask for the address and it takes three people and 10 minutes to get the info. Posting directions near the phone doesn't take rocket science!

JS: *Best-kept dining secret in New England?*

PG: My identity.

JS: *McDonald's or Burger King?*

PG: Wendy's.

JS: *Guilty food pleasure—deep-fried Twinkies? Jalapeño poppers? What do you eat when no one's looking?*

PG: All of the above, as well as custard doughnuts, caviar blini, and the ultimate comfort food—bologna-wrapped hot dogs smeared with mayo.

JS: *Grossest food you've ever eaten?*

PG: Cheez Whiz…No, haggis.

JS: *Biggest gap in the Boston dining scene—either a kind of restaurant or ethnic cuisine that isn't, or is only badly, represented?*

PG: We need more rotating conveyer-belt bars, like they have in Japan, where you sit around a circulating island, grab the food as it comes around, and pay according to how many empty plates you stack. It's the ultimate lazy Susan approach to eating out.

JS: *If you could be one Boston chef for a day, who would it be and why?*

PG: The Sausage Guy on Lansdowne Street. He's my hero.

JS: *Are you a good cook?*

PG: No way. There are two kinds of people in this world—the eaters and the cookers. I'm an eater, and I have the gut to prove it.

JS: *Three things everyone should know how to do in the kitchen?*

PG: Make coffee. Stuff a chicken. Call for takeout.

JS: *What foods do you put ketchup on?*

PG: The question should be, "What foods don't you put ketchup on?" And the answer, of course, is anything that's still moving.

JS: *Favorite condiment?*

PG: Butter.

JS: *How do you feel about high-end restaurants where they don't put salt and pepper on the table?*

PG: It stresses me out. No two tongues are alike, so how do they know they got it just right for me?

JS: *Do you put parmesan cheese on seafood pasta?*

PG: Only when it's hot in Georgia.

JS: *Are you any relation to the Phantom of the Opera?*

PG: Third cousin, twice removed. I'm better looking. He's a better singer.

JS: *Last question: Aren't you ever tempted to scream (especially when the service is terrible), "But I'm the goddamned Phantom Gourmet!"*

PG: Only every single day. IB

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JOLTIN' JOE

BY EZRA DYER

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER HE FIRST TOOK THE STAGE IN BOSTON, NEWTON NATIVE JOE ROGAN IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST COMEDIANS IN HOLLYWOOD

Between his jobs hosting NBC's *Fear Factor* and Comedy Central's *The Man Show*, working as a commentator for Ultimate Fighting Championship, performing stand-up comedy and staying in shape with weight training and martial arts (sometimes working out twice a day), Joe Rogan doesn't have a lot of spare time. "He'll tape three shows in a day and then go to the Comedy Store for an hour. The guy's an animal," says *Man Show* co-host Doug Stanhope. At age 36, Rogan has never taken a vacation in his professional life.

Rogan, who grew up in Newton and has lived in L.A. since 1994, first took the stage at the Boston club Stitches in 1988 and still performs every weekend, despite his hectic schedule. "Being a stand-up comedian is the most rewarding job on the planet," Rogan says. "But if you don't constantly practice, you'll lose your edge. You have to do it. You find time to force it in."

Though he built his fame through TV—as Joe Garelli on *NewsRadio* from 1995 to 1999, and hosting *Fear Factor* since 2001 and *The Man Show* since August 2003—he's candid about the fact that TV work is not his passion. "Sometimes on *Fear Factor* I'm sitting there, wearing makeup with a camera pointed at me, saying 'Come on, you can do it!' to a chick eating a plate of animal penises, and I think, What am I doing here? Of all the things I've done in my life, I never thought I'd be hosting a show like *Fear Factor*."

However, the recognition Rogan has gained on TV allows him to consistently pack comedy clubs—although fans of *Fear Factor* and *The Man Show* are sometimes surprised by his live act, which is far from TV-ready. "A lot of people who see my act don't even know I'm a comedian," he says. That seems odd in the Comedy Central era, but Rogan's routines would have to be eviscerated to pass muster with network censors, and that's a step he's not willing to take. So Rogan's bit about a cloned Jesus coming back mentally retarded and his impression of Arnold Schwarzenegger getting buggered with a cucumber remain the province of clubs, Internet clips and DVDs. "HBO's not doing specials anymore, and there's too much I wouldn't be able to talk about on Comedy Central," he says. "There aren't too many places you can perform, so a lot of people have no idea what to expect."

While Rogan calls stand-up his priority, he ranks *The Man Show* as his most enjoyable TV job yet. "There's a really talented writing staff, including a couple of Boston guys," Rogan says. "We all sit around and come up with sketch ideas. It's a really cool environment—easily the most fun I've had on a show."

The Man Show is the Anti-*Oprah*, with Rogan and Stanhope constantly pushing censors' limits. In one episode, for example, the *Wheel of Destiny* game featured an unlucky audience member getting his temperature taken the hard way by "Nurse Angry Hand." But Rogan's own personality is decidedly at odds with the macho pretense of the show. "Martial arts is great because it releases you from the insecurity that you have to prove yourself," he says. "We're all a bunch of talking monkeys trying to protect our mating grounds. It's all driven by ego. Clean yourself of your ego and realize that you're just an organism moving around in the universe. To reach that point, you could do yoga or something, or you could do a big, fat, healthy dose of mushrooms."

The experience he's gained over the years has also helped Rogan's stand-up act. "I'm better now than I was in my 20s," he says. "When you're young, you're just a boner standing there with a beer in your hand trying to make people laugh. I understand my place in the world better now." ■

TURNING THE TABLES

Quick—what's the best city in America for dining out?

Chances are, you picked New York. With approximately 21,000 restaurants—more than all but two states—New York City is in a league of its own. San Francisco, a pioneer in the eclectic, seasonal style that came to be known as California cuisine, is probably right up there in quality of food, if not in quantity of restaurants. Then there's New Orleans, a city that's well known for its rich culinary history. All of those places are positively passionate about food.

Where does Boston fit in on the culinary spectrum? Historically, it has been dismissed for lacking a cuisine. In the 1990s, it was dissed for the one that it had. But in the past few years, something exciting has been afoot. You can feel it in the anticipation when a restaurant opens. You can see it on cooking shows that have turned Boston chefs like Todd English and Ming Tsai into national stars. You can hear it in the way "Jasper," "Todd" and "Lydia" have joined "Nomar," "Matt" and "Ben" as part of our local lexicon. And, of course, you can taste it in a cuisine diverse and sophisticated enough to attract the attention of critics and the public alike.

Consider the growing list of James Beard Foundation Award winners over the past few years, from members of the old guard like Jasper White (now of the Summer Shack) and Frank McClelland (L'Espalier) to rising stars like Ana Sortun (Oleana) and Barbara Lynch (No. 9 Park), who is described as "a hometown heroine" in *Gourmet*'s 2003 Restaurant issue.

Tanya Steel, of *Bon Appétit*, credits chefs like Jasper White, Lydia Shire and Gordon Hamersley for sparking "a culinary renaissance" in the '80s. (Back then, White was chef at his own Jasper's; Shire, currently chef and co-owner of Locke-Ober and Excelsior, established herself at Seasons and Biba; and Hamersley had already opened the eponymous bistro he runs today). Now, Steel says, chefs like Lynch, Ken Oringer (Clio), Michael Schlow (Radius, Via Matta, Great Bay) and other members of the next generation are "making Boston into a world-class restaurant city."

"World class"? The phrase has long applied in education, technology and medicine, but has Boston, once a city of culinary underachievers, really cracked the top tier of foodie destinations? "I don't think there's any city in America we can't compete with," says Gordon Hamersley.

Maybe so, but it sure wasn't always that way.

BY ANDY LEVINSKY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALLI ARNOLD

HAVE BOSTON RESTAURANTS FINALLY MADE THE BIG LEAGUES?
RESPONDING TO PAST RANTS FROM CRITICS, LOCAL CHEFS TALK TURKEY
ABOUT DINING OUT IN BEANTOWN.

CRITICAL MASS

"Boston has become an island of lost cuisine, a refuge for chefs without a sense of reality."
—Alan Richman, GQ, September 1997

A lot has happened on our little island since food and wine critic Alan Richman, a "pretentious New Yorker" (as he was called by his friend and dining companion), put this city's cuisine on a skewer in GQ magazine. Any chef who was around town six years ago will recall "The Boston Glob," a six-page diatribe against local chefs, restaurants and even diners written by the former "Boston homesteader."

What was his beef? The preparations were too fussy. The portions were too big. The lines were too long. The attire was too casual. Oh, and then there was the service, which evoked "a smidgen of sympathy for beleaguered Boston diners. Not only are they served inedible food," he wrote, "they're scolded if they refuse to eat it."

Although he was not among the elite group Richman singled out for ridicule in his article, Steve Johnson, who recently left the Blue Room in Cambridge to plan his own restaurant, reacted to the "Glob" label pretty much as most local chefs did: "Alan has a reputation for being provocative," he shrugs. "It was designed to sell magazines."

No doubt—and yet, for a long time, certain impressions stuck. Take the whole notion of culinary overload. "Boston chefs have gone beyond the idiosyncratic to the fringes of derangement," Richman wrote. "What comes to the table at Boston's most highly regarded restaurants is mammoth portions of incompatible ingredients."

Like big hair, "big food" was not invented in Boston—it was merely practiced here. Any notion to the contrary is based, largely, on one chef whom Richman identified as the perpetrator of this trend.

"I'm a generous person," says Todd English, whose big flavors—and portions—drew throngs of Bostonians to his first restaurant, Olives, in Charlestown, from the time it opened, in May 1989. Today, the English stamp on everything from the pizzeria (Figs) to the steakhouse (Bonfire) to the seafood restaurant (Kingfish Hall in Boston, Fish Club in Seattle) continues to draw plenty of customers, along with his share of detractors, in the food world.

"Full frontal assault cooking" is how *New York Times* restaurant critic William Grimes describes the food at Olives New York, part of the growing English empire that spans from Aspen to Tokyo. Grimes confesses to liking some dishes very much. "But in the end," he says, "I felt sort of pistol-whipped."

It was this style—lusty, bold, generous (or sloppy, excessive and assaultive), that became synonymous with Boston throughout much of the '90s. "I don't think it was exclusive to Boston," recalls Robert Fathman, chef at Azure. Fathman observed the same trend in Los Angeles, where he worked for 10 years before arriving here in 1992. And Jody Adams, singled out by Richman for "an aberrant culinary creation" that came from the kitchen at her restaurant, Rialto in Cambridge, "standing on end like a rearing trained bear," also suggests the style was big—everywhere.

"I don't think our dishes were overwrought, any more than anyone else's," she says. "I think it was a period of time, if you look at restaurants in New York, where dishes stood a foot off the table." It was, after all, Alfred Portale, chef at Manhattan's revered Gotham Bar & Grill, who was widely known as "the king of vertical cuisine."

If Boston plates are less about form and more about function, maybe they are a reaction to this showiness. East Coast Grill chef Chris Schlesinger, who was scolded by Richman for putting "way too much food on his plates," says that sometimes restaurants "try too hard to be artful." With their more generous, casual presentations, chefs like Schlesinger and English seemed to be bucking the trend of nouvelle cuisine, which appeared more concerned with satisfying the eyes than filling the stomach.

"It's easier to make food look beautiful when it's smaller portions, but at what price?" asks Schlow, a former New York chef. He found out when he first opened Radius, in 1999. Some of his customers would order his six-course tasting menu and tell him, "I was starving afterwards." Today, Schlow says, he makes sure diners have enough food on the plate "because Boston certainly is portion conscious."

If that somehow makes our palates less sophisticated, so be it. Diners here know that quantity is no substitute for quality, but we also challenge the idea that generous portion sizes can somehow turn good food bad. So do many of the chefs here, much to their credit. Now if only our service held up as well under heavy grilling.

"WE ARE ALL COLLEGIAL BECAUSE WE KNOW EACH OTHER, BECAUSE WE GREW UP TOGETHER."

Laura Brennan, Caffe Umbria

WAITING TO BE SERVED?

When Zagat polled Boston diners for its *Zagat 2003/04 Boston Restaurant Survey*, whopping 77 percent of respondents cited service as the "most irritating" aspect of dining out. Food was a distant second, at 5 percent. And though *Bon Appétit*'s Steel includes Boston on her list of the five best restaurant cities in America, she refers to the service here as "the last component to fall into place." Schlow seems less confident that it actually has. When he was first interviewing staff from other Boston restaurants for jobs at Radius, he says, something was "really wrong." He recalls thinking, "Either they're not understanding what [other owners] are teaching, or they're teaching some really bad habits."

Is the staff situation in this town really as "horrific" as Schlow, and apparently many diners, believe? Is it a difference in style—a preference for the kind of "friendly, unobtrusive, seamless service" Fathman generally finds here and actually favors over that of Manhattan, where it can be "a bit stiff." Or does service get a bad rap here simply because, as Hamersley suggests, "Bostonians like to bitch and moan about something, and they can't bitch and moan about the food as much anymore"?

The average waiter at Hamersley's Bistro in the South End is somewhere in his or her late 20s to early 40s. "That shows me that they're professional waiters," Hamersley says. "It's not like in L.A., where everybody is an actor, or New York, where everybody is a playwright, and they're doing waiting on the side."

Age and experience may be basic ingredients of good service, but what about attitude? Steve Johnson points out that if Bostonians are perceived as less friendly or more rude in general, then "there's no reason to single out restaurants." So if service is the most important thing about a restaurant, as Schlow says, where does that leave us? Probably on a par with cities like New York or Los Angeles, which have attitude and service problems of their own.

Whatever reservations we have about service apparently fade during the time we're given to contemplate our experience as we wait for our checks. According to the Zagat survey, Bostonians, along with Philadelphians, are the most generous tippers in the United States, a surprising statistic considering the stereotypes about Yankees being tightwads. Then again, Boston's chefs aren't the only ones in need of an image makeover.

> "PEOPLE COME IN IN THEIR BEST BOWLING SHIRT. I DON'T CARE. I WOULD RATHER THEY COME IN AND ENJOY THE WAY WE COOK THAN NOT COME IN AT ALL."
>
> —*Michael Schlow, Radius*

DRESS CODE BLUE

Let's start with the perception: When it comes to fine dining, you can take Bostonians out, but you can't dress them up. "Jeans," Richman observed in his 1997 article, "go out to eat in Boston all too often."

So it's a little surprising to hear Mark-Evan Blackman, an associate professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, describe Bostonians as "a little more formal in their approach to attire" than New Yorkers. In that city, he says, diners are more likely to wear a $2,000 blazer over a pair of jeans," whereas here, "people make a conservative effort to put on a jacket."

Never mind that the jacket was made in the disco era. "You might have somebody who comes in, who you know has been wearing that tweed jacket for 25 years," says Jody Adams, "but it's not inappropriate or disrespectful or anything like that. It's just the way it is."

"People come in [to Radius] in their best bowling shirt. I don't care," Schlow says. "I would rather they come in and enjoy the way we cook than not come in at all."

These days, any rule that might discourage a customer from coming through the door seems less palatable to most restaurant owners. But long before the current sag in the economy, dress codes were on the way out. For the Boston diner, the issue is, well, old-fashioned. We were tweedy, even seedy, long before it was cool. In our own way, we anticipated the trend toward a casual look, where practically anything goes.

"Styles have changed," says Robert Fathman. "What wasn't acceptable 20 years ago, today is acceptable." And if what we're wearing happens to be from 20 years ago, well, it seems we should wear it proudly.

BOSTON'S FOOD CHAIN

It was a perfect metaphor: Boston's community of chefs was a symbol for, well, Boston. Wasn't it Shire, after all, who worked with Hamersley, who trained Adams, who also had begun with Shire, and so on? If Boston really was, as Richman's critique suggested, "this most insular of cities," its chefs must have been products of their parochial, incestuous training.

The idea that so many homegrown, locally trained chefs led to a monolithic style of cooking is easily disproved by the differences between, say, chef Paul O'Connell of the Cuban/French bistro Chez Henri; Bob Sargent, who cooks up New American–style cuisine at Clio; and Anthony Caturano of the rustic Mediterranean Prezza. All did tours of duty with Todd English at Olives.

For those who were new to the profession, or striking out on their own for the first time, Boston's tight community of chefs was simply a good support system. Early on, for example, the city had the largest chef's collaborative in the country—larger, even, than California's and New York's. "Boston's always had a tight-knit community [where] people looked at each other as colleagues more than competitors," says the East Coast Grill's Schlesinger.

"In some ways, it was kind of nice and provincial, in that sense," Jody Adams says. "We were definitely competitive, but there was also a really strong sense that when one rises, everyone rises."

That may be changing. As Boston has become a top dining destination, more chefs with no previous connection to the area have been drawn here. The result, ironically, is that those chefs attracted here by the sense of community may be less likely to find it. "One of the reasons I moved here was the idea that this was a really tight-knit culinary community," says Schlow. "It's a little more cliquish than that. I do think that everybody's friendly to each other, for the most part. But we don't do a ton of stuff together."

Many activities in Boston's chef community are centered around charitable events, like the Super Hunger Brunch each February. Others involve the promotion of regional farmers and food producers. Whether these types of activities will be enough to sustain a strong chef's community—even with the growing number of restaurants and the influx of outsiders—remains unclear.

"We are all collegial because we know each other, because we grew up together," says Laura Brennan, the veteran Boston chef who recently struck out on her own to open Caffe Umbra in the South End. "Whether that will be different remains to be seen, as those of us who've been cooking for a long time sell or step down. Who knows what will happen in 10 years? I don't know what the next tier will do."

The early links in Boston's food chain—chefs like Schlesinger, Adams and Hamersley—seem energized by the current wave from out of town. This infusion of new talent, they suggest, has helped elevate the city's culinary standards. The challenge will be to create a balance, preserving the influence of those who helped establish our local cuisine, while encouraging those who are taking it in new and exciting directions.

ARE WE THERE YET?

What would Richman say about Boston restaurants today?

GQ's former restaurant critic dismissed diners here for "mindless devotion" to who chefs are "and not all that much thought to what they are doing," but it would be difficult to ignore the buzz coming from outside Boston. Talk to people in the culinary world today and you get a definite sense of a city on the verge.

Steel, of *Bon Appétit*, says Boston has "one of the finest levels of independent, chef-owned neighborhood restaurants." Veteran food writer John Mariani, at *Esquire*, raves about places like Great Bay, under Michael Schlow ("I think he has really taken seafood in Boston to a different level"), and Bricco, now run by Rita D'Angelo and Marisa Iocco ("the best Italian food in America"). Both writers now rank Boston among the top five American cities for dining out.

Reservations? Even Boston chefs have a few.

"Dare I be the one to say it: There just aren't enough foodies in this town," Schlow says. Compared with cities like San Francisco, where "they act is if good food is some sort of birthright, I don't think it's that important here. I think we like it, I think we enjoy it when we have it, but I don't think we are so fierce about it, and so protective of it."

At the same time, Schlow says, "I don't know of too many cities where the citizens have a first-name-basis relationship with all their chefs." That relationship, he has discovered, goes beyond just name recognition. "You can build in Boston a really wonderful, really loyal friendship with your guests here that I never really felt with my New York clientele. These people have become my friends and family."

The big leagues? Maybe that happens one New York convert at a time. He'll never be a Red Sox fan, Schlow insists. "But I threw out the first pitch at Fenway this year," he says excitedly. "That was pretty cool."

A tip of the toque to Jody Adams, Chris Schlesinger, Robert Fathman, Todd English, Laura Brennan, Michael Schlow and Steve Johnson, who contributed their feedback on the Boston dining scene for this article.

cheese, GLORIOUS cheese

CREAMY, DELICATE, PUNGENT, RICH —
SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST DELICIOUS DAIRY TREATS ARE JUST A DAY TRIP AWAY

BY JULIE SURATT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB PERACHIO

Six cheese farms in three states—in one day. "Why?" asks my editor, when I first propose an article about the cheeses of New England. "Uh, because they're there?" I'm serious. In recent years, many New England farms have begun to produce artisanal, or handcrafted, cheeses. But they're still a secret to most Boston gourmands.

My tour begins on a Tuesday morning in late July. I rise before dawn, stumble to my car with a cup of coffee in hand, and head west, armed with my itinerary, a map and directions like "Turn left at the general store." My first destination: Smith's Country Cheese in Winchendon, Mass.

Out past Concord, the traffic lessens on Route 2, and the drive becomes more tranquil, traversing rolling hills and passing endless stretches of cornfields. At the end of unpaved roads intersecting the highway, farmstands sell vine-ripened tomatoes and cartons of just-picked blueberries. My itinerary has me arriving at Smith's Farm by 8 am. After a few wrong turns, I eventually pull into the gravel parking lot just as rain begins to fall. So much for a beautiful day in the country.

I know that Serena Ball, the highly organized communications director of the New England Dairy Promotion Board, which represents more than 30 cheese farms, would have arranged for sunshine had she a direct line to Mother Nature. She's been amazingly responsive to my calls ever since we first met a year ago, when she was promoting New England cheeses at a tasting event. She tells me that locally produced cheeses swept category after category at the prestigious American Cheese Society's annual competition in San Francisco this year. Who knew? Not the general public, I thought. I was eager to see for myself.

Jennifer Smith meets me at the door to Smith's Country Cheese, which is known for its farmstead Gouda. The term "farmstead," Smith explains as she leads me into her family's cheese-making facility, refers to cheese made by a farmer using exclusively the milk from his or her own herd. The well-known Cabot Creamery's cheese, for example, isn't considered farmstead because Cabot uses milk from a number of cooperative farms in central Vermont. With 200 Holsteins, the Smiths have been making cheese from their own milk for 18 years.

At Smith's Country Cheese, in Winchendon, Mass., milk from the farm's 200 Holstein cows is used to make several varieties of Gouda and other cheeses. Here, curds are molded into blocks for ripening.

Smith starts off with a cheese-making tutorial. The first step in the process is to pump fresh milk into a vat and heat it slowly. The cheese maker then adds culture and rennin to make it curdle. The whey (the watery part of milk that separates from the curds) is drained away, and the concentrated curds are molded into blocks or wheels. Then the cheese is left to ripen. This is when the different flavors and characteristics develop. Farmstead cheese makers generally use raw, unpasteurized milk in their cheese because they feel the pasteurization process removes some of the character of their milk. While the cheese ripens, it builds up acids that cause it to self-pasteurize, making it safe to eat. The FDA, which regulates the dairy industry, mandates that cheese be aged at least 60 days.

When I enter the back room at Smith's, I see row upon colorful row of Gouda wheels in various stages of aging. Some are floating in brine—absorbing the salt flavor—for 12 hours. Others have been removed from the brine, scrubbed to remove extra salt and left to dry on a shelf. The next day they'll be brushed with a protective coating to prevent mold from growing. Every other day, the wheel will be turned over so that the coat dries evenly. In 10 days, the wheel is dipped into a cherry-red wax and placed on a shelf in cold storage. Two months later, it's sent to local grocers, as well as chain markets like Shaw's and Whole Foods.

Smith's two-person cheese-making operation consists of Jennifer's father, David, and head cheese maker Marcia Sims. David awakens at 4 am daily to milk the cows. Three times a week, the pair makes plain Gouda; varieties of Gouda flavored with cumin, caraway, garlic and sun-dried tomato and basil; cheddar; and various cheese spreads. I leave without trying any cheese—it's just too early for Gouda. Smith tells me that anybody who stops by can watch the process through a glass window and taste the cheese afterward.

I return to my car and drive 25 minutes northwest along winding roads to a small farmhouse perched on a grassy hill in Warwick, Mass. As I proceed down the narrow lane to Chase Hill Farm, a tall, thin man wearing a flannel shirt and jeans waves his arms over his head. I think he's waving hello, until I see a herd of cows trotting toward my car and across the road in front of me. I pull over and watch them pass. "Bet you didn't expect to hit rush hour up here," jokes Mark Fellows, who owns this organic farm with his wife, Jeannette. Mark inherited the farm from his parents, and three years ago, the couple converted the milk room into a cheese room and began making Colby and Camembert. How did they decide on these two cheeses? "I make what I like," says Jeannette, garbed in overalls and big rubber boots. She tells me that the taste and color of her Colby vary according to the season, depending on whether the cows are eating grass (deep yellow) or hay (paler yellow). That bright orange Colby sold at supermarkets is "artificial," says Jeanette. The Fellows' product is creamy and buttery.

With only 30 Normande, Jersey and Holstein cows, Chase Hill is one of the smaller cheese producers on my tour. The Fellows consider themselves farmers first and foremost. "We're not gourmets," says Jeanette. "People ask, 'Can you taste the grass and clover?' I don't know." The couple sure is friendly, though. When I leave, they thrust a paper bag full of cheese into my hands, imploring me to come again soon.

I drive about an hour north to visit with the Jersey cows of Westminster Dairy in southern Vermont. Cheese maker Peter Dixon, a lanky man who has the taut energy of a marathoner, is in the back room, stirring a huge vat of Toma (a cow's milk cheese with a washed rind). He's been doing this for 20 years, "so I should be able to make cheese and talk at the same time," he says. Dixon and co-owner Bill Acquaviva make organic Italian and French cheeses, including mozzarella, feta, ricotta, Brie and Camembert, and aged raw-milk cheeses (provolone, Parmesan and Asiago). No cheddar. "There was already too much cheddar out there," Dixon says. He makes a different type of cheese every day except Sunday, which is reserved for family time.

Dixon takes me on a tour of the farm's cellar, where hundreds of blocks of cheese are aged at a low temperature. He explains that many New England farmers have begun to convert their milking facilities to cheese making because they can make a greater profit on cheese. "The government sets the price of milk, but you can sell cheese for whatever price you want—especially if it's organic," he adds. "Committed patrons will buy organic no matter what the price."

Nothing goes to waste during the process. When Dixon makes mozzarella, for example, he uses the leftover whey to make ricotta. He offers me samples of a creamy Camembert—my personal favorite—smoked feta, Vermont pinnacle, Toma and smoked provolone until I can eat no more and retreat outside to my car, the screen door slamming behind me.

I'm Boggy Meadow bound. This huge farm situated in the Connecticut River Valley of southern New Hampshire boasts a herd of 280 Holsteins, which explains the pervasive aroma of manure as I drive down the lane. A large glass window in the general store allows visitors to watch the graceful efforts of Mark Whitney, who's been making award-winning baby Swiss since 1997. He greets me with slices of two types of Swiss on a plate. I nibble on one. It's delicious: buttery and slightly nutty. Another slice has a sweet, smoked flavor that can be traced to the maple wood used in the smokehouse. Both cheeses have tiny holes, called eyes, made by carbon dioxide bubbles that form during the cheesemaking process. When I ask, "Why baby Swiss?" I again hear the reply, "Everybody makes cheddar."

I head next toward Grafton Village Cheese, located 15 scenic but twisty miles from Boggy Meadow in the heart of what appears to be the quintessential Vermont town. After passing a historic inn and old Victorian homes with wraparound porches, I find

UpStairs on the Square's cheese plate includes a range of textures, colors and flavors.

the farm next to a covered bridge that spans the lower Saxtons River. But when I walk in, I realize this isn't like the other farms I've visited that day. In comparison, it's a big-time operation. Vice president Peter Mohn confirms this fact: Grafton Village Cheese has seven cheese makers and produces 5,000 pounds per day. But, he emphasizes, that's nowhere near the production of a company like Kraft, which produces about 900,000 pounds per day. Also, Grafton's cheeses are mostly made by hand, using milk supplied by 14 different farms.

I'm happy to see the ubiquitous cheddar that everyone's been talking about all day. My mouth starts to water as Mohn brings out a plate of cheese chunks with wooden toothpicks. He's particularly proud of the company's newest focus: aged cheddars. He stabs a crumble of cheese that's been aged for four years and hands it to me. "There's so much more complexity and flavor" than in younger cheddars, he says. I put it in my mouth. Initially it's salty, and then it melts to a wonderful buttery finish. "I'm not sure Americans know what real cheddar should taste like," he says. He refers to typical shelf-brand cheddars as "3- to 6-month-old, rubbery, bland pieces of wax." Cheddar should be rich and creamy, with a complex aftertaste, Mohn says.

We bypass the window where visitors normally stand to watch the process and head for the factory floor itself. The men are just beginning to fill the giant vats (so much bigger than anything I've seen all day) with milk. We walk back into the cold storage, and I see shelves stretching endlessly down the length of the building, with huge blocks of shrink-wrapped cheese stacked on each.

I'm interested, but I'm really thinking about the store at the front of the farm where they have samples of each of the cheeses sitting on the counter. I want more of that 4-year-old cheddar.

I thank Mohn and Grafton Village marketing guru Chad Bassette for showing me around. So far, this is the most established of the cheese farms that I've visited. They even have a video of the cheese-making process, which Bassette sticks into my doggie bag. It turns out that he lives next door to the final farm on my tour, so I follow him along the back roads to Taylor Farm in Londonderry, Vt.

By now, it's 5:30 pm, and I'm exhausted. Owner Jon Wright is in the fields when I pull into the driveway. He waves and approaches the car. As I explain my purpose for being there, a calf tethered by the barn moos for attention. Wright—a cheerful man with a dark, full beard—acknowledges the calf with a wave of his hand and then shrugs his shoulders with a sheepish smile: just another one of his babies. Wright has 40 Holsteins, which he milks twice a day. He also finds the time to make 800 pounds of Gouda—plain, cumin, smoked and garlic—every week, and he hopes to expand the operation and increase production to 1,200 pounds a week. Ever industrious, he and his wife have just opened a bed-and-breakfast on the property, and they offer sleigh rides pulled by Belgian draft horses in the winter. Visitors can watch the cheese-making process and even participate.

Sensing that I'm a weary traveler on her last legs, Wright opens the refrigerator. Just in time, I'm rewarded for nearly 200 miles of travel with a slice of smoked Gouda, a delicate, sweet, creamy creation far different from the waxy chunk you get at the supermarket. Who needs crackers when you have cheese that tastes this good?

I thank Wright, return to my car—again with a goody bag of cheese. I have a three-hour journey back to Boston ahead of me. But my stomach is full of Gouda, mozzarella, Colby, cheddar, baby Swiss and Camembert. I'm happy. iB

TO BRIE OR NOT TO BRIE

To most Americans, cheese is a hunger stopgap—a chunk of bright orange cheddar sandwiched between two Triscuits to be devoured before dinner. To the French, on the other hand, cheese is a sliver of Raclette or a slice of Camembert that's savored after dinner with a glass of port. Thankfully, in recent years Americans have been catching on to the joys of this dairy delicacy. More than two dozen local restaurants offer cheese plates—and that number is growing as Bostonians become educated on the finer points of Neufchâtel, Grana Padano and Manchego.

We surveyed a number of local restaurants to find out who's doing what with cheese. Jody Adams, chef/owner of Rialto, summarizes it best: "Cheese is one of God's miracles. It has a lifespan, and it must be treated with respect and care." Amen, sister!

Where are they serving cheese? Aujourd'hui, Beacon Hill Bistro, Blu, Blue Room, Brasserie Jo, Caffe Umbra, Clio, Craigie Street Bistrot, L'Espalier, Excelsior, Great Bay, Hamersley's Bistro, Harvest, Julien, Maison Robert, Meritage, No. 9 Park, Pigalle, Radius, Rialto, Sage, Saint, Sandrine's, Sel de la Terre, 75 Chestnut, Le Soir, Troquet, UpStairs on the Square, the Vault, Via Matta and Les Zygomates all offer cheese plates.

What are they serving? Goat's, sheep's or cow's milk cheese; European or American; soft, semihard, hard—you name it, and restaurants offer it. Jason Bond of No. 9 Park seeks out hand-made "farmstead" cheeses. (For cheese to qualify as "farmstead," it must be made entirely from milk from the farmer's own herd.) "I don't use a lot of American cheeses," Bond says, preferring instead French and Italian varieties. The same is true of Brasserie Jo's Antoine Camin, a Paris transplant, who serves only imported cheeses. But, he adds, "There's a lot of very good cheese in the United States." Tony Maws of Craigie Street Bistrot tries to mix up textures: "We'll serve a runny, gooey cow, with a drier sheep and a younger goat—all French, of course." The key is to go with the flow, says Vincent Sapochetti of UpStairs on the Square. "Take advantage of seasonal cheeses. Right now, goat's milk cheeses are spectacular."

When are they serving it? Jody Adams of Rialto says she initially wanted to offer cheese as an appetizer to introduce diners to the concept of gourmet cheese: "We figured if we put it after the meal, they wouldn't order it." Six years later, Rialto's cheese plate is now listed on the dessert menu. And for good reason: "People don't realize that eating cheese as an appetizer destroys their palate for the courses that follow," says Maws of Craigie Street, who recommends cheese as a way to finish off a bottle of wine at the end of a meal. For those worried about the added calories, think of it this way: "It's the equivalent of a big piece of cake," says Sapochetti of UpStairs. "Only it's not as heavy."

How is the cheese served? Marble or wooden cheese boards, custom-built cheese carts, oversized trays. Whatever the presentation, the offerings are the same: hunks and chunks of cheeses of all varieties for the choosing. Adams serves three different cheeses—usually a blue, a hard and a soft cheese—with seasonal fruit, almond-filled dates, macadamia nuts, bulgur crackers and sliced Tuscan rolls. "I tried to take away the crackers and fruit, but people rebelled," she says.

Louis Risoli at L'Espalier offers 25 different cheeses on a tray. He can describe each cheese—where it's from, what kind of milk is used, a little bit about the flavor and the story behind the cheese. Guests can choose up to 12 cheeses (à la carte), and Risoli arranges them on a plate in a tasting order— from the least complex to the most full-flavored—paired with dried fruits and nuts.

Of course, if you're a traditionalist, you'll eat cheese without any accompaniment. "In France, it's only about the cheese," says Maws.

Who are the cheese experts? Most restaurants have one person on their staff who is educated on how to care for cheese—not an easy task, say the cheese aficionados. Chris Campbell, owner of Troquet, for example, plays the dual role of sommelier (for more than 400 wines) and cheese server. "Taking care of the cheese is a lot more work, at least two hours every day," he says. "You have to wash and rotate it daily." Rarely does a restaurant have one person whose sole responsibility is serving cheese. "I can think of only two in New York," Campbell says—but that doesn't mean the waitstaff doesn't know its cheese. Campbell points to Sapochetti at UpStairs as an example. "He knows everything about cheese, but he's also a waiter."—*J.S.*

THE FARM LEAGUE

All the farms I visited offer opportunities to watch the cheese-making process and, of course, purchase cheese. Call ahead. For a more complete list of New England's cheese makers, visit *www.newenglandcheese.com*.

Boggy Meadow Farm, 13 Boggy Meadow Lane, Walpole, N.H. 877-541-3953. *www.fannymasoncheese.com*.

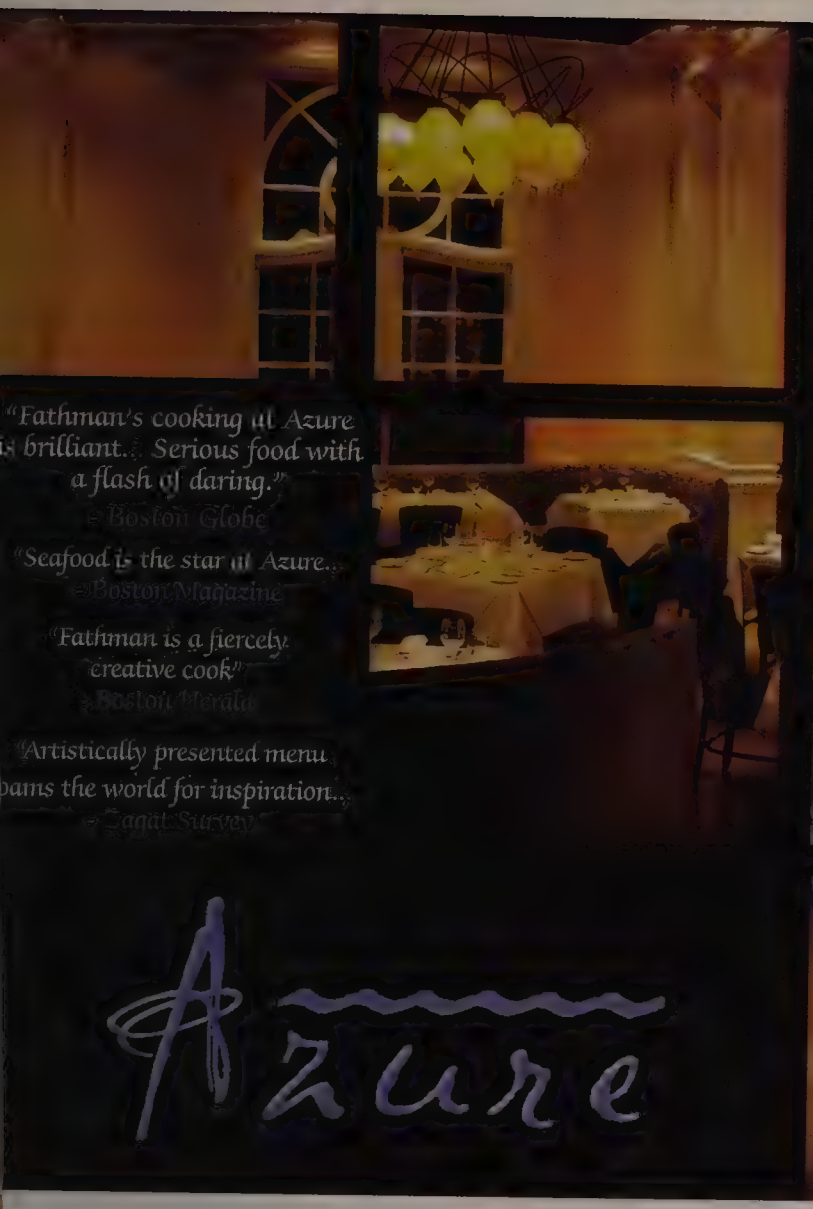
Chase Hill Farm, 74 Chase Hill Road, Warwick, Mass. 978-544-6327.

Grafton Village Cheese, 533 Townshend Road, Grafton, Vt. 800-472-3866. *www.graftonvillagecheese.com*.

Smith's Country Cheese, 20 Otter River Road, Winchendon, Mass. 800-700-9974.

Taylor Farm, 825 Route 11, Londonderry, Vt. 802-824-5690. *www.taylorfarmvermont.com*.

Westminster Dairy, 1289 Westminster West Road, Westminster West, Vt. 802-387-5110.



"Fathman's cooking at Azure is brilliant... Serious food with a flash of daring."
- Boston Globe

"Seafood is the star at Azure..."
- Boston Magazine

"Fathman is a fiercely creative cook"
- Boston Herald

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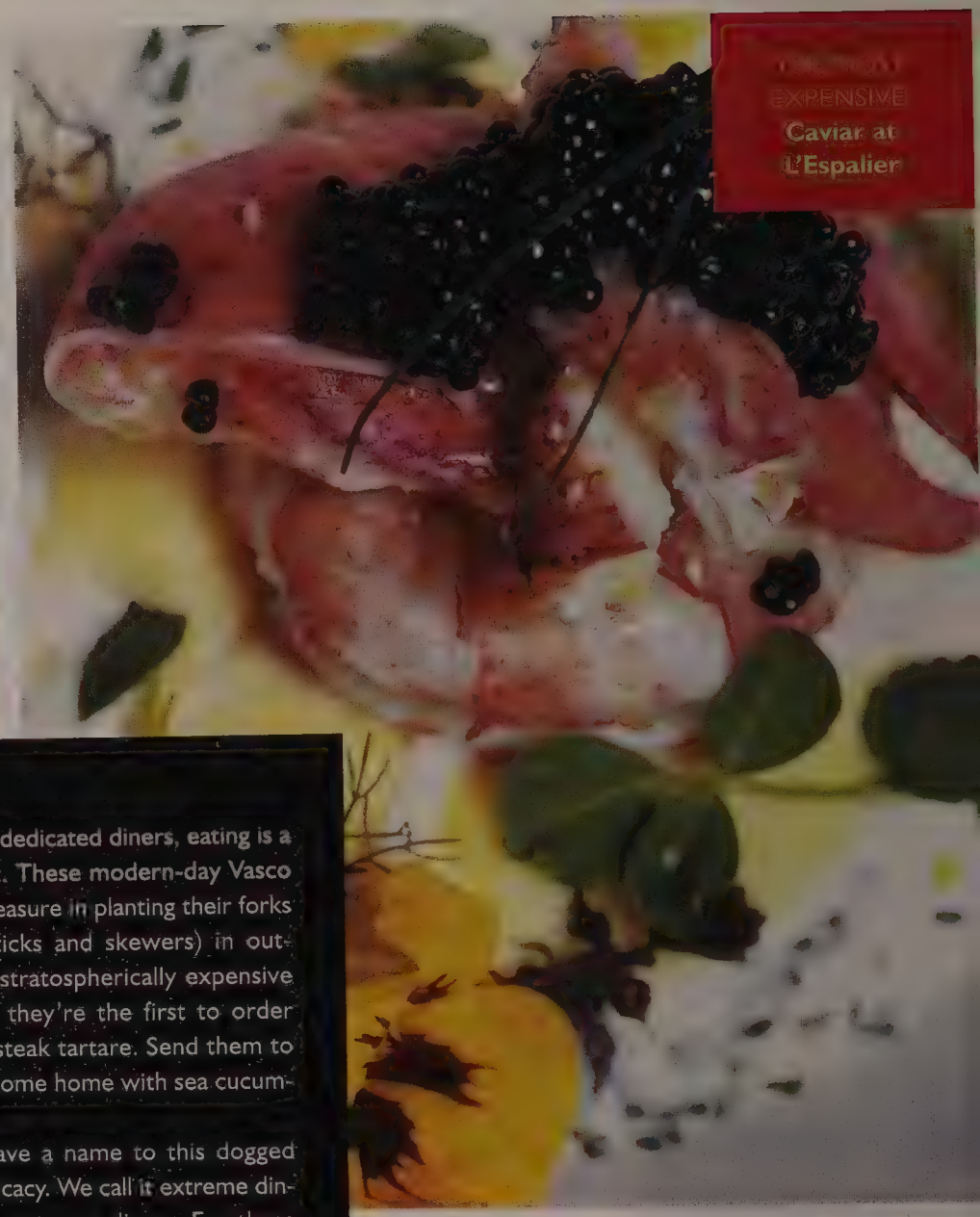
THE OLDEST
Aged meats at Toscano's



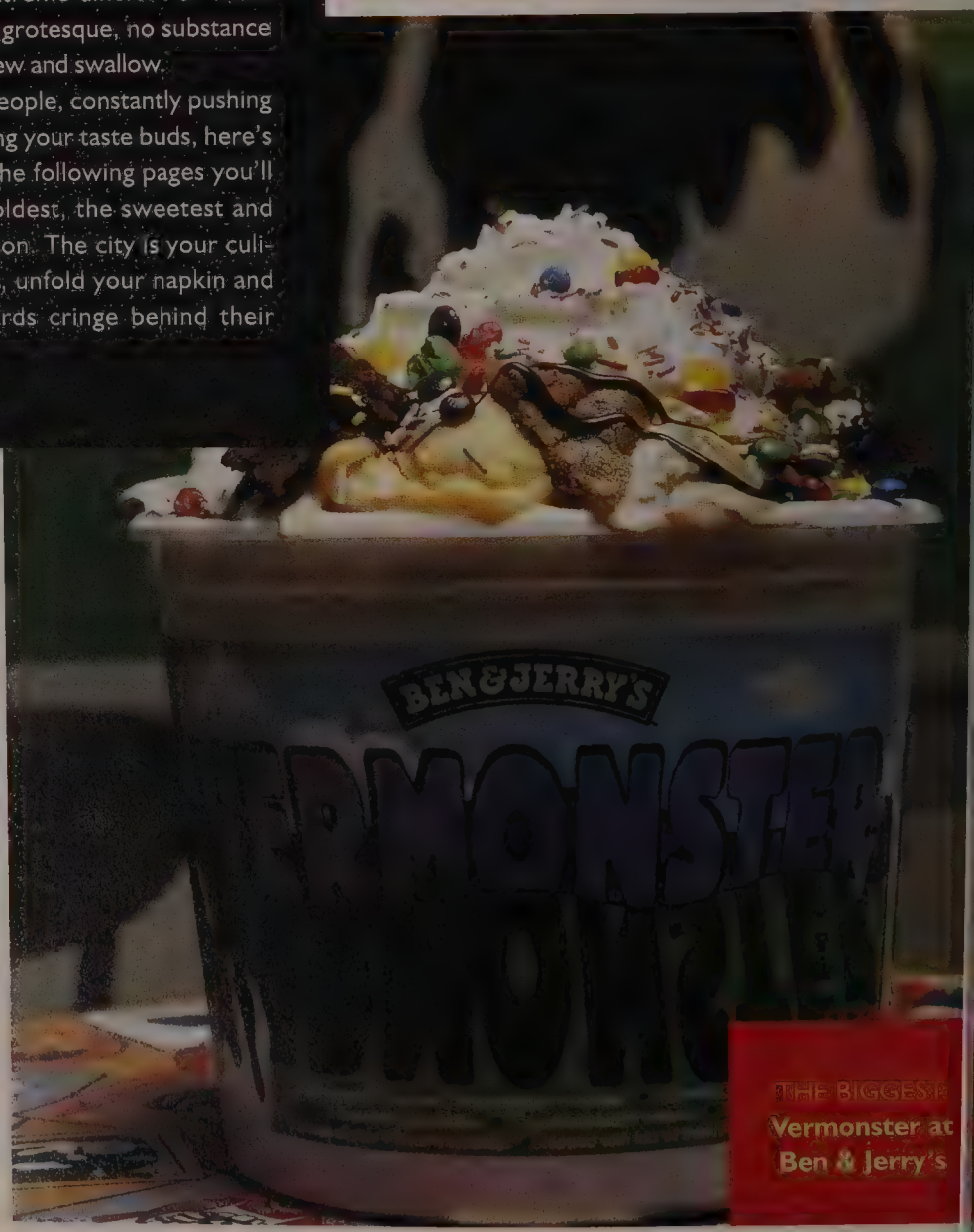
EXPENSIVE
Caviar at L'Espalier

For a rare crew of dedicated diners, eating is a form of conquest. These modern-day Vasco da Gamas take pleasure in planting their forks and knives (and chopsticks and skewers) in outlandish, exotic or even stratospherically expensive foods. At a restaurant, they're the first to order squid-ink fettuccine or steak tartare. Send them to the market, and they'll come home with sea cucumbers and pickled eel.

It's time someone gave a name to this dogged quest for the bizarre delicacy. We call it extreme dining and its practitioners extreme diners. For these folks, no animal part is too grotesque, no substance too rare and precious to chew and swallow.

If you are one of those people, constantly pushing the envelope and challenging your taste buds, here's a dining guide for you. In the following pages you'll find the spiciest and the oldest, the sweetest and the smelliest foods in Boston. The city is your culinary playground: Go forth, unfold your napkin and conquer, while the cowards cringe behind their meatloaf and milk.

[illegible]
Deep-fried Twinkies at Anthem



THE BIGGEST
Vermonster at Ben & Jerry's

GOING TO EXTREMES

BY GALEN MOORE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA DANIELS

THE MOST EXOTIC

In our fair city (crossroads of culture that it is) one can find the hidden delicacies of a wide range of cuisines. Funky and unfamiliar as they may be, grit your teeth and give them a chance. They might join your list of regular cravings.

Tacos de Lengua at Taco Mex

"Tongue taco" is not a vulgar euphemism. It's an extremely popular Mexican appetizer, served and consumed with gusto in almost every authentic Mexican restaurant—in Boston and Jalisco.

At one time in history, tongue was prized universally. Now, sadly, most Americans are unaware of its many joys. The flavor is superb—like rare steak but far more tender and mild. At Taco Mex, in East Boston, a *taco de lengua* is tiny morsels of roasted beef-tongue piled high on two steaming corn tortillas, decked with cilantro and white onion, alongside lime and salsa verde.

So crack open a couple of *cervezas* and work up your nerve to try a tongue taco. You won't be disappointed.

Taco Mex, 65 Maverick Square, East Boston. 617-569-2838.

Les Amourettes at Baraka Café

Ah, the French—so inventive with their charming language. *Les amourettes*—literally, "the tiny loves"—is their term for the testicles of a lamb, a dish that is illegal to serve in the United States.

That may be one reason les amourettes are not on the menu at Cambridge's Baraka Café. But chef/owner Alia Meddeb will procure them for you with glee if you request them (at Baraka, they are called *roignons blanc*). A note of excitement creeps into Meddeb's voice as she describes the delicacy: "The same texture as foie gras, but lighter. They're really delicious."

Pan-seared and dressed simply with lemon preserves, crushed coriander, green olives and black pepper, they're served whole as an appetizer. Another reason they're not on Baraka's menu regularly is their relative scarcity. "You buy a lamb, you get two," Meddeb explains. "You don't get 10."

Baraka Café, 80½ Pearl St., Cambridge. 617-868-3951.

Fermented Tofu at Taiwan Café

The menu is a smorgasbord of outlandish delights: jellyfish, blood-pudding rice cakes, chilled pork intestines served three ways. Snatches of conversation drift across from neighboring tables: "The fish jumped out of the soup!" one diner enthuses.

This is the Taiwan Café. Fermented tofu is also on the menu here, but the waiters seem alarmed that anyone would order it. "It smells," cautions one.

Smell, it does. The aroma snaking up from the crisply fried cubes of fermented tofu has some of the sour, funky qualities of a wash-rind cheese like taleggio, but the dish lacks the cheese's creamy, nutty qualities. However, if you can get past the smell, this dish has its appeal. It tastes like cheesy tofu, as you might expect, and its fermented richness is cut by spicy pickled cabbage and a meaty, soy-based sauce. Recommended? Perhaps not. But if grossing out friends is your objective, this may be your ticket.

Taiwan Café, 34 Oxford St., Boston. 617-426-8181.

Cuttlefish at Hong Kong Eatery

Fish are on display in a bubbling tank in the window at the Hong Kong Eatery in Chinatown. Some are living; some are floating there, dead. A diner might understandably feel uncertain about the other items on display. Like the cuttlefish. Yellow and many-tentacled, these bulbous creatures of the sea lie roasted and spread out on sheet pans in Hong Kong Eatery's Harrison Avenue storefront. Aside from the dead fish in the tank, they are the most daunting thing in sight.

Yet they are surprisingly tasty. With swift, decisive strokes, a cook slices one specimen into bite-size pieces and packs them in a styrofoam container. They taste a lot like calamari. There, that wasn't so bad, was it?

Hong Kong Eatery, 79 Harrison Ave., Boston. 617-423-0838.

THE BIGGEST

While anyone can go and gorge themselves at an all-night buffet, the true extreme diner will look for the biggest portion: monumental dishes that would leave an ordinary gourmand quailing in fear. Your motivation? No plate is too great.

20-Ounce Steak at the Hilltop

If you didn't know what to expect at the Hilltop Steak House, the gigantic neon cactus out front should provide a hint. Inside, presiding over a menu of lesser meats, is the granddaddy of them all: the 20-ounce bone-in sirloin. Granted, the bone takes up some of the pound-and-a-quarter weight on this leviathan. Nonetheless, a 20-ounce steak will whup your butt if you don't give it the respect it deserves.

"It's definitely not for children," cautions the Hilltop's marketing director, Koren Broden.

Hilltop Steak House, 855 Broadway, Saugus. 781-233-7700.

Vermonster at Ben & Jerry's

It comes in a bucket: 20 scoops of ice cream; four bananas; four ladles of hot fudge; three chocolate-chip cookies; one brownie; and whatever toppings you want.

It is the Vermonster. It costs $28.50, and according to the scooper at Ben & Jerry's on Newbury Street, its consumption is usually restricted to fraternity pledges and bachelorette parties.

The Vermonster is understandably not the staff favorite. The massive sundae usually leaves the store, the patrons and the preparers a horrible, sticky mess.

Ben & Jerry's, 174 Newbury St., Boston. 617-536-5456.

Pasta Plates at Vinny T's

"Per uno" or "per due"—that's how each dish is offered on the menu at Vinny T's of Boston (formerly known as Vinny Testa's). But when you see the steaming plate set before you, it's difficult to imagine the "uno" they had in mind.

These plates are more like platters. A pork chop isn't one pork chop, but two—and they aren't skimpy. Penne Fiorentina comes piled before you on a long platter; in a seafood linguine dish, clams and noodles float in a swimming pool of a bowl that's piled above the rim with shrimp, mussels and calamari.

No one ever leaves hungry, the restaurant boasts. Most are probably unable even to get out of their chairs.

Vinny T's of Boston, 867 Boylston St., Boston. 617-262-6699.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE

Maybe your friends are truly hard to impress. Or maybe you take pleasure in popping into your mouth foods with price tags more suited to a jewelry store. Either way, here are a few suggestions.

Caviar Prix Fixe at L'Espalier

It must be nice to be Frank McClelland. The chef and owner of L'Espalier gets to play with many of the most expensive and rare ingredients available to the modern palate. So the self-described "caviar-addicted guy" has put a four-course caviar tasting (seven courses, if you include the cheese, soufflé and dessert) on his constantly changing menu.

The menu begins with Russian sevruga caviar served with Wellfleet oysters on the half shell with cactus-pear sorbet, and finishes with Iranian ossetra, accompanied by grilled loin of veal and flambéed calf's liver with salad of sweet corn, arugula and crisp bacon.

The Iranian ossetra is McClelland's favorite. "The Iranian has different layers of flavor—oily, nutty and all these different really amazing earthy flavor levels," he says. "And the eggs are just beautiful—almost orange in color."

L'Espalier's caviar degustation menu is $165; for $50 more, the sommelier will pour wines to match each course.

L'Espalier, 30 Gloucester St., Boston. 617-262-3023.

Winter Truffles at Harvest

At $2,300 a pound, the white truffle of Alba is one ingredient that's procured rather like an illegal, mind-altering substance. Distributor Ben Maleson says he spends much of

his time waiting to hear from his suppliers—usually in a van, engine running, in the alley behind Icarus, Harvest or one of his other restaurant accounts. "It's the never-ending exasperation of trying to hook up with the supply," he says.

At Harvest restaurant in Cambridge, chef Eric Brennan limits himself to black winter truffles, which usually go for about half the price of the white. Brennan uses truffles in many dishes and usually "tries to get the most he can for his money." Before he uses them, he stores them next to other foods, which pick up the truffle's exotic flavor. "It'll permeate eggshells," Brennan says.

What's this flavor like? Most people agree that it's hard to describe, because there's nothing else like it in the world. Maleson believes that it's not just the unique taste that makes diners crave the precious fungi. Apparently truffles contain chemicals that are nearly identical to human sex hormones. That might explain it.

Harvest, 44 Brattle St., Cambridge. 617-868-2255.

Bar-le-Duc Currant Jam

If you really are the toast of the town and want to prove it, break out a few jars of this stuff at your next brunch. At $26.99 for a 3-ounce container, English muffins for six could easily run you $100.

At Bar-le-Duc's jam-making factory in the tiny French village of Bar-le-Duc, hundreds of nimble-fingered workers seed each currant individually with a goose-feather quill. As each tiny fruit receives its coup de grâce, it sheds its skin, disgorges its seeds and yields up its tender pulp intact for the world's most expensive jelly.

According to Bar-le-Duc's literature, it takes three hours to produce a single kilogram of the precious product. However, it may take only 30 seconds to eat a croissant spread with the stuff.

Cardullo's Gourmet Shoppe, 6 Brattle St., Cambridge. 617-491-8888.

THE SPICIEST

Some diners overcome deeply ingrained feelings of revulsion to try new things. Others put off buying a house in order to make sure they get to taste caviar before they die. Only a chosen few will actually subject their bodies to dire physical pain in the name of extreme dining.

Hotter than Hell Night

Once a year, the waitresses at the East Coast Grill dress in costume. And the cooks in the kitchen get ready to dish out some hurt.

On the nights of Nov. 3, 4 and 5, the Cambridge restaurant will issue an open challenge to all Boston-area diners: You cannot eat this food, they say. With buckets of milk to cool their blistering hands, the cooks go to work preparing their dangerous wares—for example, a pork chop soaked in a pepper brine, studded with habanero peppers and served alongside "bad apple relish."

"It's a fight," says sous chef Jason Lord of the evening's festivities, during which cooks wear particle masks to protect their lungs. "It's a fight between kids that think they can eat it, and us that put the smack down."

East Coast Grill, 1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge. 617-491-6568.

El Pelón Chili Pepper Eating Contest

After Hotter than Hell Night, you have six months to recuperate before the hot chili pepper eating contest at El Pelón Taquería, where contestants eat raw chili peppers until they can't eat them anymore.

The peppers are served in flights of three—with the relatively mild serrano and jalapeño to start, then through six other varieties, all the way up to the scorching Scotch bonnet and habanero peppers.

"We tantalize them with a glass of milk in front of them," says El Pelón owner Nate Walker. Meanwhile, the staff cheers the eaters on to tear-jerking heights of overconsumption. But Walker says the last thing he wants is for participants to go beyond their limit. "We've had some really crazy people in here," he says. For that reason, contestants must sign a document waiving their right to prosecute the restaurant for anything that happens to them as a result of eating too many chilies.

Winners receive a month of free food at El Pelón (starting as soon as they get out of the hospital).

El Pelón Taquería, 92 Peterborough St., Boston. 617-262-9090.

THE OLDEST

As America's most European city, Boston is a good place to find old food. We're not talking about HoJo's. We're talking about actual pieces of food that have been around long enough to dryly observe a few chic dining fads come and go. If you're looking for flavors that have a little history and character, here is where you may find them.

Aged Meats at Toscano's

At Beacon Hill's most venerable Italian restaurant, chef/owner Vinicio Paoli isn't satisfied with the prosciutto he imports from Italy. "If you go like this to a prosciutto you buy, it goes right through," he says, jabbing a thick finger at the unyielding surface of one of the prosciutto hams he serves in his restaurant.

Before a ham can come near a dinner plate in Toscano's, it must hang for six months in Paoli's wine cellar, which is located beneath the restaurant, alongside homemade *salsiccia* and pancetta. The texture of the prosciutto becomes daintier, the flavor nuttier. In comparison, prosciutto fresh from the store tastes a little salty and a little chewy.

Ristorante Toscano, 41 Charles St., Beacon Hill, Boston. 617-723-4090.

Fromage Fort at the South End Formaggio

As the cheese buyer at the South End Formaggio, Michael Lee knows about some old things. He points out tall wheels of 4-year-old gouda—deeply orange, its flavor like rich, savory candy—and 2-year-old parmigiano reggiano.

For Lee, these cheeses aren't old. They just taste the way they are supposed to. An old cheese, he says, is one that's definitely past its prime. "Cheese never really dies," Lee says. "It just comes to the point where people don't really want to buy it." When that happens, Lee grates it, adds wine and lets it sit. After a while, it becomes *fromage fort*, which the gourmet shop sells by the pound from a heavy stoneware urn.

With the consistency of goat cheese, fromage fort has a flavor that demands respect: powerful, straightforward and deeply mellowed. This is the kind of thing you might spread on your morning bagel—that is, if you are accustomed to drinking heavily at breakfast.

South End Formaggio, 268 Shawmut Ave., Boston. 617-350-6996.

Thousand-Year Eggs at Skipjack's

So-called thousand-year eggs are not 1,000 years old. Nor are they part of a traditional sushi chef's repertoire. Neither of those facts bothers Skipjack's sushi chef Otto Tsui in the slightest.

"If they like it, I make it," says Tsui as he deftly rolls french fries and ketchup between layers of seaweed paper and rice. The thousand-year egg is a duck egg preserved for about six months. The shell is light gray, the white a deep greenish amber, the yolk the color of spinach. (Maybe this is what inspired Dr. Seuss.) In an Asian salad, dressed with Tsui's *ponzu* sauce and sprinkled with scallions, they taste delicious. More rich in flavor than a regular egg, and velvety in texture.

Why are they called thousand-year eggs? Tsui is at a loss. "Maybe some people lied and said it's a thousand years old," he suggests. "It looks like it's a thousand years old."

Skipjack's, 55 Needham St., Newton. 617-964-4244.

THE SWEETEST

So you say you have a sweet tooth. Nothing's too sugary, too fatty, too rich for your blood? Care to prove it?

The Mars Bar Toastie at the Squealing Pig

The Squealing Pig, near Brigham Circle, is known for its "toasties," hot, crispy sandwiches made in a sandwich press. The list of sandwich fillings is listed proudly on a large chalkboard: turkey reuben; salmon; brie and cranberry; among other appetizing options.

Then, down at the bottom, there it is—doubtless the invention of some willful 7-year-old: the Mars Bar Toastie. Slices of Mars bar and banana laid lovingly between two Eggo waffles, grilled and topped with whipped cream and chocolate sauce.

You may feel the need to radically change your diet after eating one of these. Thankfully, the Harvard School of Public Health is right across the street.

The Squealing Pig, 134 Smith St., Boston. 617-566-6651

Deep-Fried Twinkies at Anthem

Desserts can be evil. Remember the Stay-Puft Marshmallow man in *Ghostbusters*? This is something like that—only a lot smaller. And possibly a lot more evil.

"[A Twinkie] is evil to begin with," says Robert Fathman, chef at the new restaurant Anthem and creator of the deep-fried treat. "And then you dip it in batter and fry it."

Fathman's disturbing concoction is on the menu at Anthem, which just opened near North Station. The chef says he doesn't know how the public will react, but he's prepared for anything. "We'll have an EMT standing by," he promises.

Anthem, 138 Portland St., Boston. 617-523-8383. IB

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH COOKIE

Here's a sampling of restaurants that teach amateur chefs how to cook like a pro.

The Elephant Walk
Executive chef Nadsa de Monteiro's Fusion or Confusion class demonstrates the art of fusing Asian and Western foods. Also, pastry chef Marsha Campbell demystifies the French holiday Yule log in the fourth annual Buche de Noel class. *Fusion or Confusion, Nov. 16, 10:30 am. $59. Buche de Noel, Dec. 6, 10:30 am. $59. 900 Beacon St., Boston. 617-285-1056.* www.elephantwalk.com.

L'Espalier
Chef/owner Frank McClelland's master class is an intensive program for the ambitious cook. The executive chef, sous chefs, pastry chef and sommelier lead two or three four-hour sessions (for up to two people) or a daylong eight-hour lesson (for one person only). The curriculum includes first course, family meal, main courses, wine pairing, desserts and pastries, and cheese course. Pupils go home with a personalized L'Espalier chef's jacket and a belly full of McClelland dinner. *By appointment only. $1,000. 30 Gloucester St., Boston. 617-262-3023.* www.lespalier.com.

Radius
Chef de cuisine Brian Reimer and wine steward Scott Fraley's Saturday cooking classes cover such gastronomic ventures as the food and wine of Gasconny, the perfect Thanksgiving dinner and simmering braises, stocks and stews. Each session ends with a lunch featuring the dishes from that day's lesson. *Nov. 8 and Jan. 24, 11 am. $125. 8 High St., Boston. 617-426-1234.* www.radiusrestaurant.com.

Rialto
Beginning in January 2004, on one Saturday per month chef Jody Adams teaches a class geared toward entertaining. *Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 6, 11 am. $75. 1 Bennett St., Cambridge. 617-661-5050.*

Sel de la Terre
Executive chef Geoff Gardner, pastry chef Michael Rhoads or assistant pastry chef Peter Merrill reveals secrets de cuisine at the weekly Saturday morning cooking class. The specialty changes each month, and brunch follows each lesson. *Oct., saucisson (sausage); Nov., hors d'oeuvres; Dec., holiday breads; Jan., soups; Feb., chocolate. Saturdays, 11 am. $35. 255 State St., Boston. 617-720-1300.* www.seldelaterre.com.

Les Zygomates
Chef Ian Just pairs his wine-tasting sessions with a brief cooking demonstration of a dish that complements the wines. *Tuesday evenings, 6 and 8 pm. $25. 129 South St., Boston. 617-542-5108.* www.vinebar.com.

WHAT'S cookin'?

LOCAL CHEFS TURN THEIR KITCHENS INTO CLASSROOMS

BY JESSICA IREDALE

It's 10:30 am Saturday morning, and instead of indulging my weeklong fantasy of sleeping until noon, I'm headed to Sel de la Terre to explore what, for me, has been uncharted territory: cooking. In day-to-day life, I'm content to rely on simple foods like sandwiches, yogurt and coffee for sustenance. In fact, the thought of measuring, mixing, folding and (yawn) simmering is about as appealing to me as a soggy burrito. But in the name of broadening my horizons, I've agreed to explore the growing trend of chef-taught, in-restaurant cooking classes.

Todd English. Jasper White. Ming Tsai. In this town, noteworthy chefs don't just feed the celebrities, they *are* the celebrities. So it's no wonder that, like starstruck fans crowding the red carpet in Hollywood, amateur chefs and foodies line up to learn tricks of the trade from some of Boston's most beloved hashers. Classes range from a 20-minute béarnaise demonstration over a glass of wine at Les Zygomates to an eight-hour tour de cuisine at L'Espalier, with chefs slicing, dicing and stir-frying in their native environment. Many focus on a seasonal theme, such as a Yule log (at the Elephant Walk) or winter braises, stocks and stews (at Radius), and most sessions end with a lunch or brunch (included in the course price). In the process, chefs pass on trade secrets to home cooks while also boosting visibility—and, presumably, business—for the restaurant.

L'Espalier's Frank McClelland oversees some fowl play.

At Sel de la Terre, Peter Merrill whips up a batch of sorbet.

As luck would have it, the class I'm taking at Sel de la Terre covers ice cream and sorbet. Phew! Soft, frozen foods mean that burns and cuts will be kept to a minimum. My compatriots consist of two middle-aged women whose hobbies include decorating and gardening, and a foodie couple desperate to find the secret to making unburnt caramel. Baby-faced assistant pastry chef Peter Merrill leads us to the kitchen to start on the day's recipes: vanilla ice cream and blueberry sorbet. Sandwiched between a prep cook and a busy pastry chef, Merrill takes us step-by-step through the process of creating the creamiest caramel-swirled vanilla ice cream and the smoothest sorbet ever to pass my lips.

The ice cream requires four egg yolks, heavy cream, milk, sugar, one vanilla bean and some corn syrup, which, after some scalding, whipping, mixing and chilling, go into an industrial ice cream machine. After several minutes of churning, the final product oozes out into a bowl and is ready for tasting.

The sorbet is much simpler. Merrill brings some sugar and water to a boil, cools it, combines it with blueberry purée and throws it into the ice cream machine. Voilà! Most of what he says is Greek to me, but judging from the other students' "oohing" and "aahing," he's divulging a few serious secrets. Number one on the "ooh-aah" meter is dropping a raw, uncracked egg into the sorbet mixture. If the egg floats, you've struck the right balance between puréed fruit and syrup. If it sinks, add more syrup.

From start to finish, the demonstration lasts about 40 minutes, and the only audience participation is dipping our spoons for a taste. "If someone wants to jump in and try something, I'm more than happy to let them," Merrill tells me after the class. "It depends how interested the class is. The people who come are mainly foodies but some tourists. Home bakers love it." Once the lesson is over, the class moves to the dining room for a three-course brunch.

At the end of the day, I haven't graduated a pro in the art of ice cream making, and I'm not sure a single cooking class is enough to inspire me to tie on an apron on a regular basis. But I do realize that cooking isn't a mysterious skill reserved for mothers and Culinary Institute of America wunderkinder. Once you get past the fancy name, sorbet is only fruit, sugar and water. I can do that. IB

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Black-and-white top, $68; black skirt, $68; long earrings, $28; bracelet, $24. All at Arden B.

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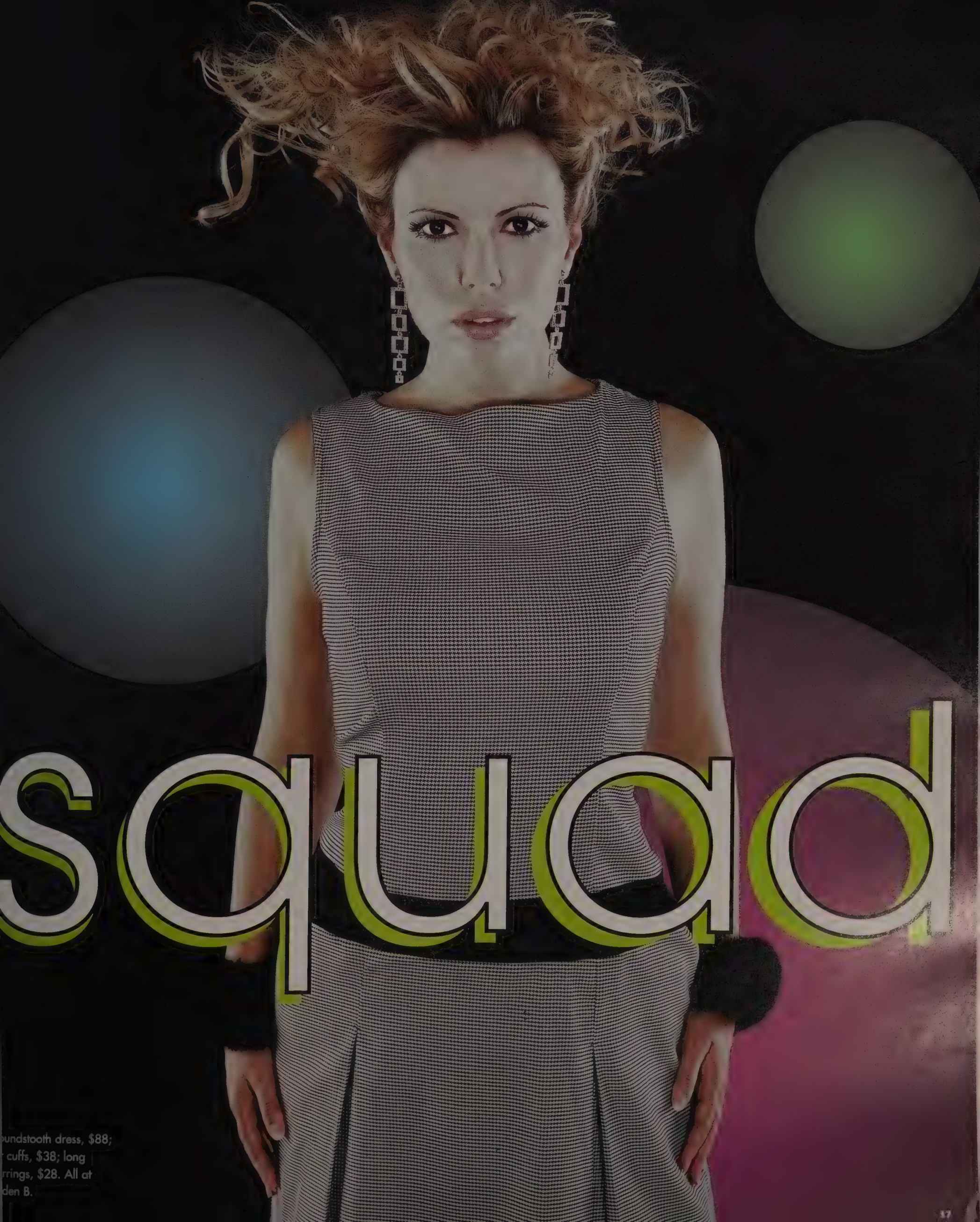

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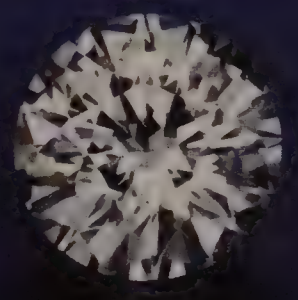

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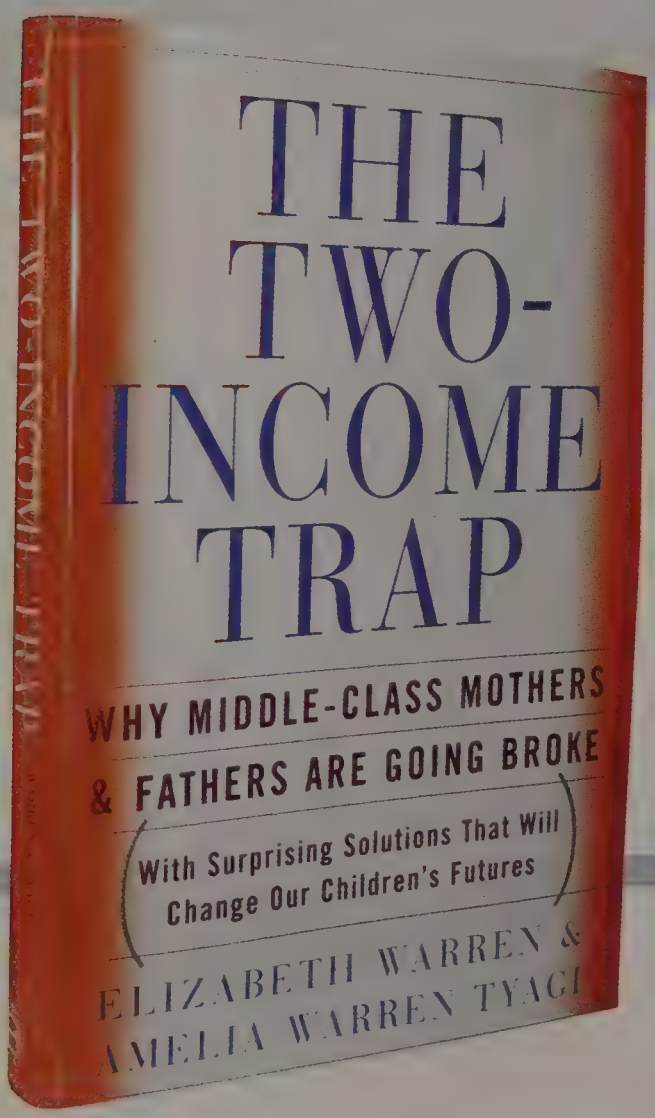

MORE IS LESS

Harvard Law professor Elizabeth Warren, a bankruptcy expert, and her daughter, Amelia Warren Tyagi, a business consultant, examine the complexities and disturbing surprises of working couples' finances in *The Two-Income Trap*.

Back when women began stampeding into the workplace, mothers included, it looked like everyone was simply going to get richer, more secure. Thirty years later, the mother-and-daughter team of Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Tyagi has exposed the disheartening paradoxes that ensued. The unpayday of it all is that many couples (even worse, the single mother) have been entangled in enormous expenses and debt that lead to bankruptcy far more often than you'd think. One disturbing statistic: Bankruptcy filings are more common than divorces. The steroids of ambition, hard work and expanded possibilities put many of these middle-class families in what Warren and Tyagi call "bidding wars" for better school districts and bigger houses that spawn a bulging budget, gobbling every two-paycheck penny. But when half of the tandem sags (for example, due to layoff or sickness) the other person is left with more than they can handle. The authors discuss debt, the disturbing rise of monster interest rates and the terrors and reality of repossession. Happily, the culprit is not the smaller indulgences. And the book's "financial fire drill" gives informed advice on how to cope.

REMEMBRANCE OF TINS PAST

The Attic Gallery, at 1110 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, is a collection of useful, original, often comic artistic creations. Call 617-566-2696.

Ingenious originality rules at the Attic Gallery, with recycling at its heart. Utilitarian metals emanate patient, secret beauty in their second lives as objets d'art. Take one yellow and red chair—erect, yet comfortable—made from old painted metal road signs: Its back fiercely declares Wrong (as in Way). A related glass-topped table has triangular metal legs with tantalizing parts of words written on them. One company that has salvaged tons of bike bits, including the slithery chatterboxes of chains, has remade them into picture frames, can openers and a sinuous CD holder that flows up from curvy bike wheel rims. Forks and spoons, those incidental beauties, fold into money-claspers, twist into candle holders and clang together melodiously as wind chimes. Old black typewriters—what elegant parts!—live on, their pretty keys reborn as earrings. And one clockmaker uses a feather minute-hand, which sweeps airily past a stern black metal base that also borrows a typewriter's orphaned keys. Yet another clock preserves the luxurious charm of a blue tin caviar box. There are several extraordinary lamps, one made from a magnificent golden saxophone, surrounded by trombones that support and illuminate little glass tables. An old gramophone with a twisty, silver stylus-holder coaxes unbelievably rich, honeyed music from LPs.

OUT OF THE BOX AND INTO THE ALBUM

Consultant Sheri Park teaches scrapbooking, helping clients organize their photos and memories. Park offers workshops and classes, as well as one-on-one sessions. Call 617-484-7271 or go to www.creativememories.com/sheripark.

Consider the dusty, evocative, overwhelming bunches of family pictures you have squirreled away somewhere in boxes. Maybe they're photos of long-lost relatives or an adventure with your children. Sheri Park of Creative Memories can help you organize them, with identifications, flavor and storylines recombobulated. Using acid-free albums and all sorts of amusing framing and decorative paper adornments—some abstract squiggles and shapes, some seasonal pictures of trees and hearts—she'll help you create a sort of magazine layout to tell the story. There's a cozy busyness to this burgeoning American activity. A scrapbook can be closely focused, capturing a child's birthday or special outing, or it might pursue larger themes such as immigration, the journey of adoption, a move or a business open[ing]. Organizing photos and giving them captions and commentary sometimes necessitates sleuthing for [more] info; that's part of the fun. Park, a grade-school teacher, exudes enthusiasm and encouragement to pursue the rewards, the "tons of fun" of scrapbooking.

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IN THIS SECTION: Review: Davio's Dish Fathman's back...back again Wine: You say shiraz, we say Syrah
Tasty Tidbit: Jazz musician Herb Pomeroy records live at 75 Chestnut

REVIEW

DAVIO'S REBIRTH

Davio's has reinvented itself as a Northern Italian steak and chop house—with impressive results

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

A Niman Ranch double-cut pork chop with sweet potato and apple and onion marsala jam

Last year, Davio's moved from Newbury Street to the corner of Arlington and Stuart, anchoring the western end of Park Plaza, the virtual restaurant epicenter of Boston. Here lies a dazzling array of substantial eateries within easy walking distance of each other—from Via Matta, Legal Seafood, Bonfire and Finale, to the Ritz, Aujourd'hui and Excelsior around the corner on the Public Garden. Davio's, which has reinvented itself as a Northern Italian steak and chop house, is a welcome addition to this company.

Davio's designers have done their best to turn a space that formerly housed a furniture showroom into an upscale dining environment. Huge round columns, their capitals illuminated by small spotlights, reach to the 25-foot ceilings. The dining room seats about 125 at tables with white tablecloths and high-backed upholstered chairs, a short stretch of banquettes and a handful of booths. A large, oblong bar to the left of the entrance lies below a handsome wooden dropped ceiling. Hardwood oak flooring and other reflecting surfaces elevate the noise level, making conversation sometimes difficult, but the overall ambience, particularly on a busy Saturday night, evokes a lively urban buzz.

Once we were seated, tall stainless steel baskets brought an assortment of breads baked on the premises, including a marvelous crisp-crusted, semidark cherry-pecan bread. In lieu of olive oil or butter, a lovely crescent-shaped dish filled with substantial antipasti—a lively caponata, al dente vinaigrette-dressed mushroom caps, and a white-bean puree flavored with hauntingly delicious white truffle oil and fresh thyme—accompanied the bread.

Davio's menu takes some study to negotiate. Its *classici* come first, nine or 10 appetizers, pastas and main courses that Davio's lists as its traditional specialties. Among these, the crispy chicken livers with Port balsamic glaze, spinach and toasted pine nuts ($9) stood out. While the livers were not crisp, the sweet-savory sauce accentuated their richness, making this a very filling dish more suited to a main course than an appetizer. The crunch of the pine nuts and crisp spinach provided pleasant texture counterpoints. Another of the classici, bearing the simple but eloquent label "homemade sausage" ($8), was a combination of veal and pork, ground with cheese, sun-dried tomatoes and herbs, grilled over a hot flame so that its moist, flavorful goodness was sealed inside the casing.

DAVIO'S

75 Arlington St., Boston
(617-357-4810)

HOURS Mon.-Wed., 11:30 am-3 pm and 5-10 pm; Thu.-Fri., 11:30 am-3 pm and 5-11 pm; Sat., 5-11 pm; Sun., 5-10 pm

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Among Davio's regular appetizers, the pan-seared Jonah crab cake ($13) boasted a golden-brown exterior encasing a luscious mixture of crabmeat, chopped sweet red peppers and onions, at once moist and light. A fluffy, sweet mound of crabmeat garnished the top of the crab cake, while swirls of piquant mayonnaise decorated the plate. Spinach salad ($10), another of Davio's old favorites, combined wood-roasted yellow and red peppers cut into strips, meaty portobello mushrooms, and garlic, with delicate, stemless leaves of young spinach. Three or four dollops of robust goat cheese punctuated the dish.

Moving to the pastas, tagliatelle Bolognese ($12) lived up to its billing as one of Davio's classics. Braised veal, pork and beef in a robust tomato sauce dressed firm, al dente fresh pasta. Although we ordered the appetizer size (all of Davio's pastas are offered in appetizer sizes for a little over half the main-course price), the substantial bowl that arrived could have served as a main course. The spaghetti with white wine and clam sauce ($13, appetizer size) was not as successful. The sauce seemed watery, with the most predominant flavor provided by hot pepper. And the clams had been simmered a trifle too long, making them slightly tough.

With the main courses, Davio's scored three clear winners. Crisply roasted Statler chicken ($22) demonstrated why this simple dish serves as such a reliable gauge of a kitchen's merits. Davio's chicken, a breast complete with wing bone, combined crisp skin with moist, succulent flesh infused with thin slices of garlic that mellowed in the roasting. The cooking juices of the garlic and chicken permeated a mound of delicious braised spinach, and even more spectacular, potato au gratin of ever so thin slices of firm potatoes, coated in butter and cheese and layered together with herbs. Potatoes gratin also accompanied the roast filet of salmon ($25), a mammoth wedge of fresh salmon, pleasantly charred on the outside, and moist and medium rare, as ordered, within. Arugula and tomato salad provided a fresh and refreshing contrast to the rich salmon.

Finally, from the *carni* offerings—which included several cuts of premium-grade beef, veal, pork and lamb—I chose the least expensive, the Niman Ranch pork chop ($27). This double-thick extravaganza looked somewhat naked on the plate—in true steak house fashion, Davio's pushes a la carte sides (*contorni*) with its grilled meat selections. But the pork lived up to its billing substantial in size, tender, rare and flavorful. Unfortunately, our waiter failed to remind us to order one of Davio's selection of sauces—Barolo wine, gorgonzola cheese, parsley (*prezzemolata*), pepper (*pepata*) and horseradish cream—that accompany the steaks and chops. The sauce probably would have significantly enhanced the dish, since the chop's only garnish, a few cloves of roasted but cold garlic, was underwhelming.

Davio's Boston takes its wine list seriously, and it has a polished and knowledg

Homemade potato gnocchi with wild mushrooms and white truffle oil

Davio's cavernous dining room formerly housed a furniture showroom.

Executive chef Eric Swartz (right) and chef de cuisine Rodney Murillo

able sommelier to help explore it: Al Stankus, an accomplished food journalist in his own right. His description of the Costaripa Le Mazane, a reasonably priced ($31) Italian red grown on the shores of Lake Garda between Lombardy and Venetia, a 2001, was right on the money. This ruby red, intensely fruity wine (Stankus calls it a "fruit bomb") made from the obscure varietal Marzemino, proved a splendid accompaniment to our diverse selections of pasta, fish, chicken and pork.

Davio's delights continued through dessert. When the waiter told us that the warm chocolate cake would take 0 minutes to prepare, I ordered the assorted cookies nd chocolate mousse ($8) the meantime. These eats included three kinds of runchy biscotti, an elephant ear (a flaky, buttery, irled confection), an apricot tart and a tangy lemon uare. The centerpiece of the cookie ensemble was a demitasse cup of creamy ocolate mousse. Then came the pièce de sistance, a gooey, rich, mini chocolate ke, accompanied by three diminutive ops of vanilla bean ice cream. Fabulous!

For a restaurant of substance and seris aspirations, Davio's is remarkable in lack of pretension. Where else could you find a restaurant with prime steaks and chops and an impressive wine list (complete with urbane sommelier) that also offers a children's menu? Where better to hold a family celebration, with Dad enjoying his $37 Porterhouse veal chop while the kids chow down on burgers, spaghetti, pizza or macaroni and cheese for $6 to $8? IB

TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Beer Dinner
Olé Mexican Grill, 11 Springfield St., Cambridge (617-492-4495). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 4. $45. This three-course meal features Mexican beers.

Belly Dancing Brunch
Argana, 1287 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-868-1247). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 26, 11:30 am. $20. Enjoy a Moroccan brunch followed by belly dancing lessons by Lily Filip.

Bistro Cooking at Home with Gordon Hamersley
Lifelong Learning, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). Oct. 27, 6 pm. $70. **Gordon Hamersley** of Hamersley's Bistro shares recipes from his new book, *Bistro Cooking at Home.*

Chalk Hill Wine Dinner
Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (617-912-3355). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 22, 6:30 pm. $135. Chef **Tony Esnault** and **Yves Sauboua**, estate sommelier for Chalk Hill Winery, offer a six-course dinner paired with eight Chalk Hill wines.

Chocolate! Chocolate! Chocolate!
Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, 2020 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2020). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Nov. 1, 1 pm. $60. Pastry chef **Nick Malgieri**, author of *Chocolate, Perfect Pastry, Perfect Cakes*, demonstrates new chocolate desserts.

Cooking Demo and Book Signing
Best Cellars, 745 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 1, 2-4 pm. **Courtney Febbroriello** signs copies of her new book, *Wife of the Chef: The True Story of a Restaurant and Romance*, while her husband, chef **Chris Prosperi** of Metro Bis restaurant in Simsbury, Conn., offers a cooking demonstration.

East Coast Grill Events
1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-491-6568). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. A la carte pricing. •Nov. 2, 11 am-2:30 pm: Day of the Dead Mexican holiday brunch. Enjoy a traditional menu for El Dia de los Muertos. •Nov. 3, 4 and 5, 5:30 pm: Hell Night Tripleheader. Challenge your taste buds with some really hot food.

Fall Dinner
Evoo, 118 Beacon St., Somerville (781-893-8222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 27, 7:30 pm. $100. Chef **Peter McCarthy** offers a five-course wine dinner featuring Massachusetts agricultural products. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets.

Jazz Dinner
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Oct. 28-29, 6 and 8:30 pm. $75. Jazz musician Herb Pomeroy and his trio record a CD, *Herb Pomeroy Live from 75 Chestnut*, at this three-course dinner. Attendees will receive a copy of the CD when it's released.

Kosher Dining Extravaganza
Four Seasons, 200 Boylston St., Boston (617-232-2300). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 26, 6:30 pm. $250. Chefs **Nicole Coady** of Finale, **Todd English** of Olives, **Ed Gannon** of Aujourd'hui, **Gordon Hamersley** of Hamersley's Bistro, **Jacky Robert** of Locke-Ober and **Lydia Shire** of Excelsior prepare dinner for this fund-raiser for Israel's Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Legal Sea Foods Wine Tasting
Legal Sea Foods, 26 Park Square, Boston (617-530-9423). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 4, 6:30-8:30 pm. $35. Sample nine vintages of Trimbach wine at this tasting hosted by **Jean Trimbach** of Trimbach winery and Legal wine director **David Alphonse**.

Milliners' Tea Party
The School of Fashion Design, 136 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-9343). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Oct. 24, 4-7 pm. $10. Don a stylish hat and enjoy a Friday afternoon tea.

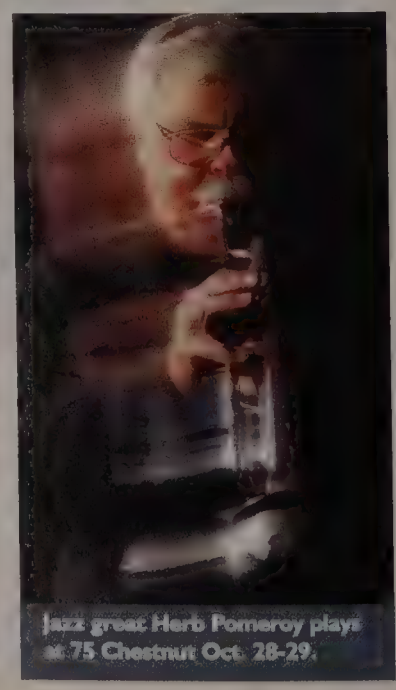
October Wine Series
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900, ext. 7099). MBTA: Blue Line to State. $95. Chef **Daniel Kenney** hosts this four-course wine dinner. •Oct. 23: **Brendan Byass** of Geyser Peak Winery •Oct. 30: **Devin McGarry** from Maisons Marques & Domaines.

Oktoberfest Beer Dinner
Jacob Wirth Restaurant, 31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. 27, 8 pm. $50. Enjoy a five-course meal by chef **Phyllis Kaplowitz** paired with Oktoberfest brews.

The Pleasures of French Wine: A Tasting Series
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mondays, Oct. 27-Nov. 17, 6:30-8:30 pm. $75 per session. This wine-tasting series features sommeliers from L'Espalier, Le Soir, Meritage and Radius who will share their knowledge and their favorite wines.

The Seven Grand Crus of Chablis
Les Zygomates, 129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Oct 27, 7 pm. $77. Sample seven Grand Cru wines paired with seven food courses.

Wine and Oyster Tasting
McCormick & Schmick's, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-720-5230). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center or Haymarket. Oct. 28, 6 pm. $30
Sophie Daniels of Rub Wines offers a sampling Riesling and Vouvray, an chef **Tindaro Losurdo** di cusses oysters and offers shucking demonstration.


Jazz great Herb Pomeroy plays at 75 Chestnut Oct. 28-29.

Winetasting Party
Crate & Barrel, 48 Bratt St., Cambridge (617-54 6789). MBTA: Red Line Harvard. Nov. 1, 8-10: pm. $24 (or $44 per person) Enjoy an evening of wir music and dancing am shelves of housewares this benefit for the Ca bridge Center for Adult E ucation scholarship fund.

DISH

Blue-Eyed Anthem Man

Fathman revs up again…Vinalia is not an onion… Suburban spice

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Just hum a few bars, and he'll pick up the tuning fork. Wherever **Robert Fathman** goes to cook—**Grill 23 & Bar**, **The Federalist**, **Azure** and now the newly opened **Anthem** near North Station—he starts out on an upbeat note. This time, given that he's continuing to run the kitchen at Azure while co-creating the Anthem menu with chef de cuisine **Sildo Junior**, Fathman hopes to strike a chord with casual, quirky fare for lunch and dinner.

Casual, as in four-cheese fondue, or a fried rock shrimp po boy with bleu cheese dressing. Quirky, as in a fried Twinkie with berry coulis on the dessert menu. (Please refrain from telling Fathman that a recent state fair in Texas featured deep-fried Oreo cookies.) And irresistibly delicious sounding, as in roasted pumpkin soup with molasses, sage, brown sugar, and fried potato dumplings. Located at the site of the former **Commonwealth Fish & Beer Company**, Anthem also features a downstairs lounge area with a bar menu and, of course, a variety of martinis. We pray none is garnished with a sliced Hostess Snoball.

Chef Robert Fathman has his way with the menu at the newly opened Anthem near North Station.

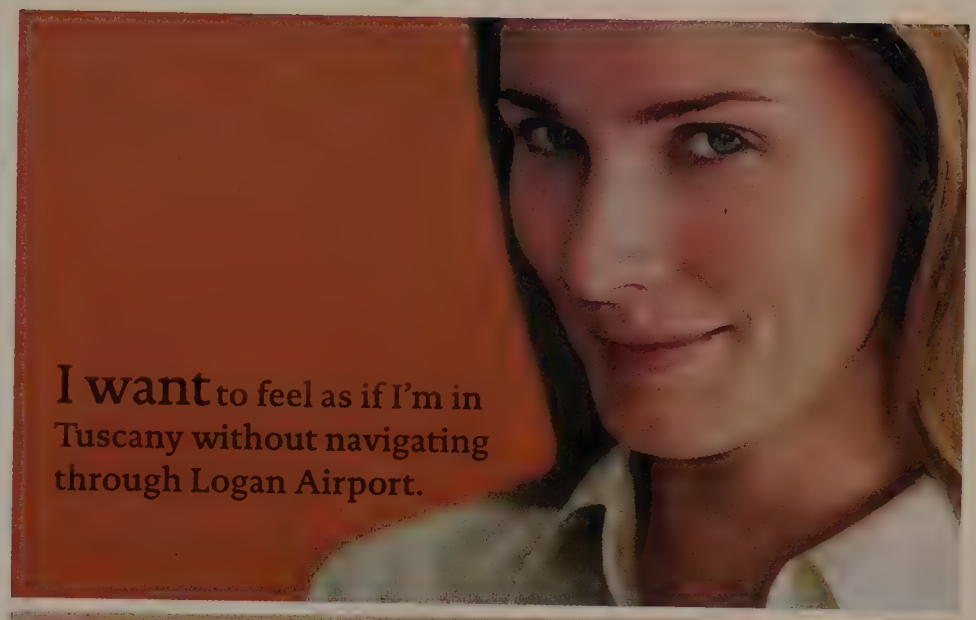
Olé Mexican Grill in Inman Square has opened a new lounge called Onda.

SECOND COURSE

Happy fifth birthday to **Olé Mexican Grill**. The upscale Mexican eatery in Cambridge's Inman Square is opening a new lounge within the restaurant. It's called Onda—Mexican slang for "surf's up/all is cool." How Cantabrigian... The old **Davio's** space on Newbury Street is being revamped and will soon open as a white-tablecloth pizzeria called **Croma**. Heavy metal crust?...**Vinalia** has opened in the former location of **Dakota's** on Arch Street in Downtown Crossing...Farm & charm: **Chris Douglass**, chef/owner of **Icarus**, is teaming up with **Mark Gaier** and **Clark Frasier** from the renowned **Arrows** in Ogunquit for a wicked special dinner in November...Blurbs from the 'burbs: **Ariadne** in Newtonville is now serving Sunday brunch and weekday lunch. The lunch menu includes a Cubano sandwich with chipotle aioli and flat iron steak with panzanella. More BBQ: **Firefly's** has opened in Framingham. Beyond Botox: The creaky old **Hartwell House** restaurant in Lexington is getting a culinary makeover in the extraordinarily capable hands of **Mantra**'s executive chef, **Thomas John**, and pastry chef, **Ernie Quinones**. One World Cuisine, the consortium that owns and operates Mantra and other businesses in Greater Boston, purchased the suburban standby and is refurbishing the decor as well as the menu. John is "consulting" with executive chef **Kevin Carey** to create new dishes such as tatin of eggplant with leek fondue; spiced chicken and foie gras spring rolls; and pumpkin flan with fall vegetables. IB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com



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WINE

Que Syrah, Syrah

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

There's no doubt that Australian shiraz is a formidable presence in the wine market. It's captured top position in the category of imported red wines and its popularity cuts across all segments, impacting connoisseurs as much as novices, experts as well as newcomers to wine. Shiraz's rise is relatively recent though, so its name still conveys "cutting edge" to many wine drinkers, meaning that people can buy a bottle or order a glass and feel like full-fledged insiders.

Trendy as shiraz is, it's been around for a long, long time, though not under its current exotic name. This is an ancient grape variety that originated in France's Northern Rhone Valley. In the Rhone's steep, rocky vineyards it's known as Syrah and it labors, for the most part, in anonymity, because quality French wines are almost never named after grapes but instead are identified by the village or region where the vineyard is located, even wines that are 100 percent pure and unblended.

Aussie shiraz is amazingly versatile, producing red wines that range from light and fruity to hearty and tannic—and even all the way off the deep end to sweet and sparkling. The category's success has generated significant interest in South Africa, Chile, California, the Pacific Northwest, Italy and throughout the sweep of southern France, where vineyards are being planted, or re-planted, with Syrah in vast swaths.

What makes northern Rhone Syrah special is that for the most part the grapes are planted on steep granite hillsides overlooking the river. Here Syrah makes a densely colored, violet and spice-scented wine, full of blackberry and pepper flavors that often have complex vegetal undertones. These vigorous wines, rich in tannin and potently alcoholic, marry beautifully with wild game and are often ideal candidates for the cellar. In the not too distant past, the best of them were considered equals of top burgundy and Bordeaux in terms of price and prestige, but since only minute quantities are produced, they are not well known today. The following should constitute your best reference points for discovering what Syrah can do in its native habitat.

Côte Rotie: Often surprisingly accessible to the palate, with brilliant, rich ruby colors and a texture that approaches pure velvet, Côte Rotie may be France's most obscure great red wine. The whole appellation produces only about 75,000 cases, which is the size of no more than two or three individual Bordeaux chateaux. The wines tend to be marked by raspberry and smoky floral aromas, with whiffs of meat and tar. They're great choices with game or lamb. Côte Rotie is no longer a bargain, but consistency is very high.

Hermitage: The Rhone's greatest wine, Hermitage is rare, expensive ($50-$75 per bottle) and an unfailingly majestic expression of Syrah's warmth, but unlike Côte Rotie, it generally requires several years of bottle age before its silky essences reach their full potential. There are only about 300 acres of vineyard on the Hermitage hill, and total production is just 50,000 to 60,000 cases per year. The wines are supremely concentrated and powerfully spicy.

Crozes Hermitage: Spread out geographically and quite diverse in quality, this moderately priced, lighter, Syrah-based wine originates on flat-sited vineyards that are set back from the river. They are often the fruitiest wines of the region, and with about 500,000 cases produced annually, more widely available than the other northern Rhones. Some are basic in flavor, but particularly in great vintages (1995, 1996, 1999) they offer the same opulence you find in Hermitage, but at a fraction of the price.

St. Joseph: Another diverse appellation covering most of the west bank of the Rhone River from Condrieu to Valence and producing a wide range of Syrahs that run the gamut from sumptuously layered and fruity to hard-edged and charmless. These in general are wines to drink young, like Crozes Hermitage, but although there is a substantial amount produced (about 300,000 cases per year) St. Joseph is difficult to find in the United States.

Cornas: Cornas occupies a middle ground stylistically and in terms of price between Hermitage and Côte Rotie on the one hand, and St. Joseph and Crozes Hermitage on the other. Every bit as intense as the big two, Cornas is a great value ($25 to $35) if you like more rustic, robust and quintessentially fiery versions of Syrah with a tannic bite. It's my pick for outstanding northern Rhone Syrah value. IB

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master of wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.

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agenda

IMPROPER PICKS

october 22 - november 4

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			22	23	24	25
					For the next three days, the Harvard Film Archive presents the **Cambridge Latino Film Festival**. *See Movies on page 66.*	**Tony Hawk's Boom Boom Huck Jam** skates into the FleetCenter. *See CityScope on page 56.*
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
The Museum of Fine Arts' new exhibition, *Rembrandt's Journey*, is now open. *See Art page 94.*			**Toni Morrison** reads from her new novel, *Love*, at Faneuil Hall. *See Books on page 100.*	See award-winning TV commercials at the **British Advertising Films of 2002** event at the MFA. *See Movies on page 68.*		All 150 pieces of art are on sale for $150 at the **Gallery @ Green Street Mad Dash**. *See CityScope on page 56.*
2	3	4				
Honor the **Day of the Dead** at Forest Hills Cemetery. *See CityScope—Haunted Happenings on page 54.*	The Omni film ***Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees*** shows at the Museum of Science. *See Movies on page 68.*					

WED./OCT. 29

CityScope: Not Just a Funny Face

Any fan of **Audrey Hepburn** knows that the actress devoted the latter part of her life to helping children in Latin America and Africa as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. This contribution—like her classic films *Sabrina*, *My Fair Lady* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*—lives on. The upcoming UNICEF benefit at the Ritz-Carlton celebrates the actress' life with a reception hosted by Hepburn's son, Sean Hepburn Ferrer, followed by a screening of her movie *Funny Face* at Loews Boston Common. An after-party at the "Left Bank Café" (aka the Sugar Shack) concludes the evening. Signed copies of Ferrer's new book, *Audrey Hepburn, An Elegant Spirit: A Son Remembers*, are available, with all proceeds to benefit UNICEF programs. *Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (617-227-3334, ext. 32). 6 pm. $150 including reception and signed copy of book, $25 for movie screening and reception.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

Art, Books & Poetry, Gay & Lesbian, Movies, Music

JULIE SURATT

Around Town, Children, Education, Performing Arts

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs, Sports

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

Music: Paying Tribute

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and for some reason, there is a lot of flattery going on lately—an inordinately large number of bands are paying homage to their musical idols. First, on Fri., Oct. 24, Bill's Bar hosts the Boston-based band High as the Moon, which pays tribute to the **Black Crowes**. That's at 9 pm, $8, 21+. Then, on Mon., Oct. 27, Club Passim has a Songwriter Tribute Night to **U2**, featuring local singers Andrew Kerr, Daniel Barrett, Hanneke Cassel, Jake Amerding and Rachel Loy. At 7 pm, $12, all ages. **Tom Waits** fans won't want to miss out on a night devoted to him at the Paradise Thu. Oct. 30, when local rockers Torr Skoog (Kings of Nuthin'), Frank Morey, George (Give) and Ryan Dowd (Kicked in the Head) belt out raspy Waits songs. That's at 9 pm, $5, 21+. On Halloween night, Oct. 31, the band Run to the Hills plays **Iron Maiden** tunes at Bill's Bar, 9 pm, $8, and over in Somerville the Abbey Lounge features two bands in Halloween disguise: Spitzz (as the **Cramps**) and Coffin Lids (as the **Mummies**), 9:30 pm. *Bill's Bar, 5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). Paradise, 967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). Abbey Lounge, 3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*

Mayor Thomas Menino kicking off a past City Year Serve-a-Thon

SAT./OCT. 25

CityScope: Service with a Smile

For those of us who lack the time to work at a soup kitchen or sort cans at a food bank on a regular basis, City Year Boston's annual **Serve-a-Thon** provides the perfect solution. You can get all your do-gooder bennies in one fell swoop by donating a stretch of seven hours on Oct. 25. Meet at the Boston Common for registration, breakfast and a psyche-up session at 7:30 am. At 8, volunteers are dispatched to locations around the city to paint a skate park overrun with graffiti, landscape at a housing development or plant grass at a playground. Join the crowd of 5,000. *(617-927-2300). www.cityyear.org/serveathon. 8 am-3 pm. $25 registration fee.*

THU./OCT. 30

CityScope: Tricks and Treats

After jogging along the city streets at the IMPROPER-sponsored **Halloween Fun Run** each of the past five years, we've learned that it's no holds barred when it comes to costumes. Imagine a waiter and a restaurant patron (complete with set table), a surfer being attacked by an octopus or Crocodile Dundee with a life-size blow-up croc. The question is, How do these Halloweenatics actually run three miles encumbered by such costumes? Beats us. We don't actually stick around the back of the pack long enough to ask, cause we're sprinting to the post-race party at the Rack for pizza, wings and beer. Proceeds benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (800-966-0444). 6 pm (registration), 7 pm (race). $30 ($35 on Oct. 30).*

SAT. AND SUN./ OCT. 25 AND 26

Movies: Fright Night

What do you get when you combine monsters, improvised circus music and dancing girls wearing pasties? The Coolidge Corner Theatre's **Halloween Horror Movie Marathon**, which features 12 straight hours of spooky Halloween-themed films, plus musical and burlesque shows. The spookalicious films include Vincent Price's *House of Wax* (in 3-D); the ever-funny *Ghostbusters*; Herschell Gordon Lewis' massacre movie *2,000 Maniacs*; the Japanese zombie comedy *Devil Fetus*; Brian De Palma's classic *Carrie*; and Tim Burton's *Edward Scissorhands*. Interspersed between movies are burlesque acts by Black Cat Burlesque and musical performances from Beat Science (an improv sextet with an affinity for circus, tango and cartoon music) and the garage-rock band Thee Monkey Butlers. If you come in costume, you could win a prize. *Oct. 25, 12 am-Oct. 26, 12 pm. $30. Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2500).*

Served in fine establishments and questionable joints everywhere.

cityscope

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

Amistad Replica Ship Visit
Fan Pier, Boston (508-875-5233). www.amistadboston.org. *2-5 pm weekdays, 10 am-1 pm and 2-5 pm weekends. Oct. 22-24, Oct. 26. $5. Bring two forms of ID to enter through Moakley Courthouse.* A replica of the famous slave ship Amistad docks in Boston and is open to the public for tours.

Bid for a Cure
(800-932-9253). http://pmc.cmarket.com. *Through Oct. 30.* Items up for bid to benefit the Jimmy Fund in the Pan Mass Challenge's annual online auction include chances to watch a Red Sox game with general manager Theo Epstein next season, announce a Bruins game on NESN and become the anonymous restaurant patron on NECN's *TV Diner.*

Boston Can Share Food Drive
Post offices and various other drop-off spots around the city. (617-635-4507). www.bostoncanshare.com. *Through Nov. 14.* Drop off tuna, beef stew and other nonperishable food items in this citywide food drive for the Greater Boston Food Bank.

An Evening With Your Favorite Authors
Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-499-5098). 5:30 pm. Cocktails and dinner, $200. VIP reception with authors, $1,000. Authors Alice Hoffman and Anna Quindlen, actress Debra Winger and others read from their favorite works to raise money for the Hoffman Breast Center at Mount Auburn Hospital.

modelBOSTON Fashion Show
Gamble Mansion, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. 7 pm. $18 member, $20 nonmember. Winners of a yearlong model search strut their stuff and show off the latest fashions. A portion of proceeds benefits the Vision Awards Scholarship Fund.

Second Time Around Fashion Show
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). 6:30-8:30 pm. Free. Bomboa sets up a runway on the outdoor patio (weather permitting) to show designer consignment shop Second Time Around's fall/winter offerings. All pieces shown are available to purchase after the show. Cash bar.

Tedeschi House Tours
55 Tara Drive, Norwell (877-746-4687. www.showhousemedia.com. *Tue.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. Through Oct. 31. $30.* The former home of Tedeschi grocery stores magnate Ralph Tedeschi is open for tours throughout the month to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Deux Amours: A Sensual Tribute to Josephine Baker
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). www.frenchlib .org. *7:30-10 pm. $35 members, $40 nonmembers.* The FLCC salutes Josephine Baker with live jazz, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a lingerie fashion show by Belle du Jour.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

ABCD Community Awards Dinner
Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston (617-348-6242). 6 pm. $150. Fox 25 TV news anchors Jodi Applegate and Maria Stephanos emcee Action for Boston Community Development's annual fundraiser dinner. The event includes a reception, dancing and a raffle.

Art and Sole
New Art Center in Newton, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville (617-964-3424). www.newartcenter .org. *7-10 pm. $50.* Twenty-five pairs of shoes that have been transformed into sculpture are auctioned off to benefit the New Art Center in Newton. The event also features an auction of other items as well as a wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres from area restaurants.

Canstruction, part of the Boston Can Share food drive, runs through Nov. 7 at the Museum of Science.

Bindlestiff Family Cirkus
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (877-246-3537). www.bindlestiff.org. *Midnight-2 am. $15, $12 for clowns in makeup.* Sword-swallowers, clowns, contortionists, dancers and more perform in the Bindlestiff Family Cirkus' latest show, High Heels and Red Noses.

Faith in Action Benefit Concert
First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-924-1212). 7 pm. $15. This silent auction and concert of Irish and American folk songs benefits Faith in Action caregivers for the elderly.

Milliner's Tea Party
The School of Fashion Design. 136 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-9343). www.fashionweek.org. *4-7 pm. $10.* Creative headwear is encouraged at this evening tea party, which benefits the One Family Campaign and the School of Fashion Design's scholarship fund.

Tarbox Ramblers Benefit Concert
Emerald Isle, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-0010). www.dorchesterartists.org. *9:30 pm. $3.* The Tarbox Ramblers perform traditional American music to benefit Dorchester Open Studios.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Ace Bailey Turkey Gala
John Joseph Moakley Courthouse, Onè Courthouse Way, Boston (888-454-3011). www.acebailey.com. *7 pm. $150. Courthouse requires two forms of ID for entry.* A festive turkey dinner is served in honor of former Boston Bruins player Ace Bailey, who died on 9/11. The night also includes live and silent auctions and benefits the New England Medical Center's Floating Hospital.

City Year Serve-a-Thon
Various locations around the city (617-927-2300). www.cityyear.org. *$25.* Join more than 5,000 volunteers in community service projects at City Year's annual fund-raiser and service day.

Dorchester Open Studios
Various locations around Dorchester (617-822-8205). www.dorchesterartists.org. *11 am-5 pm.* More than 75 visual artists living or working in Dorchester display their work in homes, studios and public spaces.

Eclectic Elegance Fashion Show
Aqua, 120 Water St., Boston (617-720-4900). 7 pm. Designer Kristin Michelle debuts her Saffron 2004 collection. The evening features Ciroc Vodka cocktails and benefits the Ellie Fund.

Esplanade Autumn Cleanup
The Esplanade, Boston (617-859-3088). 9:30 am-12:30 pm. The Esplanade Association and local volunteers pick up detritus along the three-mile riverside park.

FDR Humanitarian Award Gala
Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 15 Arlington St., Boston (508-663-2110). 6 pm. Local and international French master chefs prepare an array of dishes at this black tie benefit for the March of Dimes.

Silk Road Gala
Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave , Boston (617-338-2350). www.atask.org. *5 pm. $125.* The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence hosts its annual black-tie fund-raiser. The night includes a reception, dinner and live entertainment.

Solid Gold Prom
Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, 85 West Newton St., Boston (860-435-6464). www.solidgoldprom.com. *9 pm-1 am. $25 single, $45 couple.* Put on your best

Haunted Happenings

A selection of spooky ways to scare up a good time

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Halloween Hustle 5K Road Race and Walk
Starting line at 1589 Beacon St., Newton (617-964-2039). www.heartbreakhill.org. *Walk, 8:30 am; run, 9:30 am. $17 online, $20 day of race.* Prizes will be awarded not only to the winners of this 5K road race, but to the participant wearing the best costume. Proceeds benefit Partners Home Care pediatric services.

Pirates of the Caribbean Singles Dance and Cruise
Gate C, Rowes Wharf, Boston (781-283-0400). www.se-4you.com. *8-11 pm. $40. Casual or Halloween attire. Pirates encouraged.* Singles ages 35 and up are invited to cruise around the harbor with guys and ghouls. The cruise includes food, desserts and music by Bruno.

Trick or Treat Trot
Register in front of Emack and Bolio Ice Cream, 2 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale (617-327-4065). www.roslindaletrot.com. *10 am. $15 in advance, $18 day of the race.* Don a nonrestrictive costume and enter the only competitive race of the year that runs through the Arnold Arboretum. The 5K race raises money for the Roslindale Village Main Streets Program.

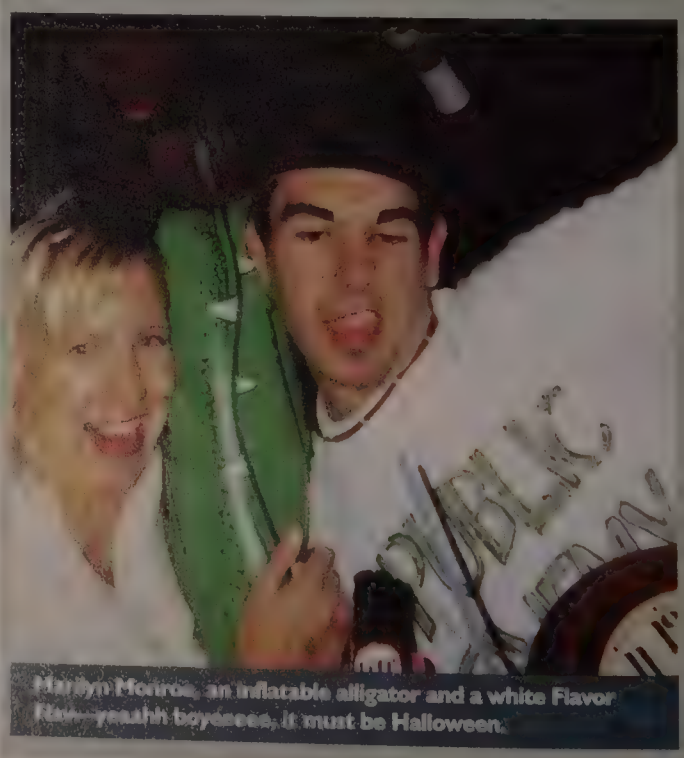
THURSDAY, OCT. 30

AAJANE Benefit Costume Party
Sugar Shack, Boylston Place, Boston (781-433-4217). www.aajane.org. *6-9:30 pm. $15 students, $25 professionals.* The Asian American Journalists Association of New England hosts a benefit costume bash to raise money for scholarships. The party features light food, door prizes, DJ Chhay Chhun and performances by comedians Malissa Hunt and Myq Kaplan.

Einstein Lookalike Party
The Hotel @ MIT, 20 Sidney St., Cambridge (617-867-2208). www.hotelatmit.com. *7 pm. $7, free with costume.* Dress up like the famous physicist to compete for prizes. Party includes appetizers and Halloween-themed cocktails.

Halloween Bash at the Place
The Place, 2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081). www.theplaceboston.com. *9 pm-2 am. $5.* Get spooked a day early at the Place. Prizes awarded for best costumes.

Halloween Fun Run
Start at the west end of Faneuil Hall Marketplace, finish at the Rack, 24 Clinton St., Boston (800-966-0444). www.therackboston.com. *6 pm. $30 in advance, $35 day of run.* Put on your running shoes and a costume for a three-mile trot around Boston Common to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Entry fee includes a T-shirt, goody bag and buffet/drink coupon for the post-party at the Rack. Sponsored by THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.



Marilyn Monroe, an inflatable alligator and a white Flavor Flav—yeahh boyeeee, it must be Halloween.

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

BSSC Halloween Masquerade Party
Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (617-789-4070). www.bssc.com. *9 pm-1 am. $15 members in advance, $20 nonmembers or at the door.* The Boston Ski and Sports Club throws its annual Halloween ball with live music from Scooby Snax and more than $500 in prizes for the top costumes.

Cottonwood Benefit Costume Ball
Cottonwood Cafe, 222 Berkeley St., Boston (617-247-2225). www.cottonwoodboston.com. *10 pm-1:30 am. $25.* This costume party benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston and includes a DJ, dancing, prizes and a silent auction.

Felt's Wicked Halloween Party
Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555). www.feltboston.com. *9 pm. $10.* KISS 108's Billy Costa hosts this party, which features a costume contest with a $500 top prize and performances by former Cirque du Soleil performers Imago.

Halloween Superhero Party
Jose McIntyre's, 160 Milk St., and Coogan's, 171 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460 and 617-451-7415). www.irishconnection.com. *8 pm.* Two pubs host a superhero Halloween party, with $250 prizes for best traditional superhero and most original superhero.

Mayhem and Madness: Halloween at the Harp
The Harp, 65 Causeway St., Boston (617-591-1400, ext. 5). www.bostonypa.com. *8 pm. $25 in advance, $30 at the door.* Mayhem and Madness includes four hours of open bar from Pravda vodka and Chambord, palm readers and prizes for scariest, funniest, sexiest and most original costumes. Ten percent of proceeds benefit the Ellie Fund.

Monster Bowl
Kings, 10 Scotia St., Boston (617-266-2695). www.backbaykings.com. *8 pm-12 am.* Answer Halloween trivia and participate in a costume contest to win prizes.

Pajama Jam
Tequila Rain, 3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-859-0030). www.tequilarainboston.com. Break out your best jammies at this bedtime-themed Halloween party.

Purple Shamrock Halloween
The Purple Shamrock, One Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). 8 pm. The guest with the best Boston-related costume wins a $666 cash prize. A portion of proceeds benefits Boys and Girls Club of Boston.

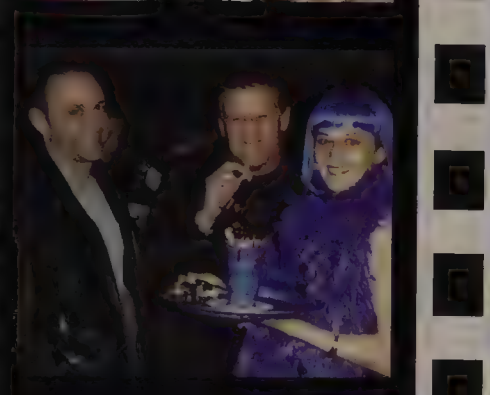
Saint's Haunted Playboy Mansion
Saint, 90 Exeter St., Boston (617-670-1224). www.saintboston.com. *8 pm. $30.* The Haunted Playboy Mansion party features a sushi bar until midnight, Moet champagne from 8-10 pm and hors d'oeuvres. Costumes or theme dress.

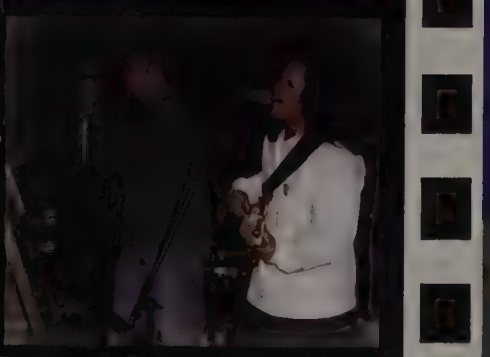
Spirit of Boston Halloween Cruise
Boat leaves from the World Trade Center, Boston (866-211-3807). www.spiritofboston.com. *9 pm-12 am. $25, or $40 including open bar for beer and wine.* This Halloween harbor cruise for college students features a DJ, hors d'oeuvres and full cocktail menu.

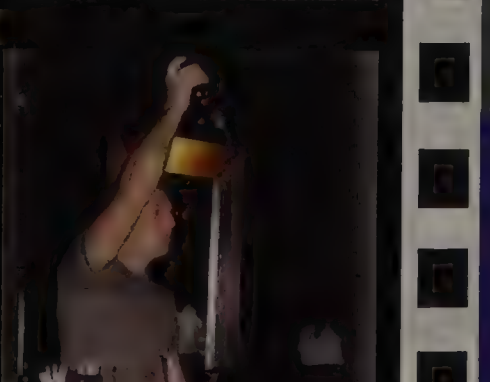
33's *Matrix* Halloween Party
33 Restaurant and Lounge, 33 Stanhope St., Boston (617-572-3311). www.33restaurant.com. *No cover.* This *Matrix*-themed party features complimentary red and blue shots, a screening of the movie and two prix-fixe dinner options before the party (the red menu and blue menu, of course). Dress is *Matrix*-y.

SUNDAY, NOV. 2

Day of the Dead
Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-617-524-0128). www.foresthills trust.org. *4-6 pm. Free.* Forest Hills Cemetery honors the traditional Mexican Day of the Dead with a candle-lit altar, ceremonial chanting, and music and dance from the local cultural group La Piñata.







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★

Bring this ad with you to Hurricane O'Reilly's on October 28th or November 4th and receive a Skyy T-shirt from one of the Skyy girls.

DATES:

Preliminary Dates:
October 28th & November 4th
Finals: November 11th

TIME:

All events start at 8:30 p.m.
Skyy Open Bar 8:30 - 9:30 pm
(must RSVP for open bar)

PLACE:

Hurricane O'Reilly's
150 Canal Street, Boston

To compete, RSVP and for complete event information go to: www.bostonskyy.com

All are welcome to the event.
You must be 21 to enter Hurricane O'Reilly's or to compete.

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1973 prom attire and dance to music from the International Male, Patiokings and DJ Kev Sugar. This prom benefits Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts.

Tony Hawk's Boom Boom Huck Jam
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.boomboomhuckjam.com. Oct. 25, 7:30 pm, Oct. 26, 1 pm. Tickets start at $25. The country's top skateboarders, BMX riders and motocross riders perform tricks to live music from the Anarchy Orchestra.

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

ALS Benefit Walk
Start/finish at the Bartlett Mall, Newburyport (978-462-8537). 1 pm. The first annual Rick Shelburne Memorial Walk for ALS is a 3-mile pledge walk that raises money for the Angel Fund, an organization that supports amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research.

Country Music Festival
American Legion Post 156, 215 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham (781-891-7800). www.johnpennyband.net. 2-8 pm. $10. More than 10 musicians and bands, including the John Penny Band, play an all-day concert to benefit the American Liver Foundation.

Moakley's Run for Research
Start/finish on Day Blvd. at Moakley Park, Boston (617-527-5600). www.liverfoundation-ne.org. 10 am. $20. This 5-mile road race benefits the American Liver Foundation.

Sunday Singles Dance
Raffael's Restaurant, One Enterprise Drive, State Street bank Building, N. Quincy (781-446-0234). Every Sunday, 7-11 pm. $10. Single professionals ages 35 and over are invited for an evening of dancing to music by Beau Paris. Complimentary buffet. Proper business dress required.

TUESDAY, OCT. 28

Opening Doors Awards
Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-698-6616). 5:30 pm. $125. This awards dinner benefits the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development.

Shared Benefit
Armenian Library and Museum, 65 Main St., Watertown (617-429-2900). www.healthshares.org. Through Nov. 2. This weeklong series of events includes an exhibition and auction of Sara JH Ashodian's sculpture *Passages* and a concert by the folk ensemble Arev. Proceeds benefit Shared's efforts to provide essential medicines in Armenia.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29

Ellis Antiques Show
The Castle at Park Plaza, Boston (617-523-8696). www.ellisantiques.com. Preview party, 6-9 pm, $225 in advance, $250 at the door. Regular admission $25. Show runs Oct. 20-Nov. 2. One of the area's major antiques shows includes a preview party, lectures, guided tours and a champagne reception. Proceeds benefit the Mass. General Hospital for Children and Ellis Memorial & Eldredge House.

Martinis and Gambling
The Black Rose, 160 State St., Boston (617-742-2286). www.irishconnection.com. 7-11 pm. $5. Gamble some (play) money on tables from Mohegan Sun to benefit the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Pink drinks provided by Seagram's Vodka.

Unicef Audrey Hepburn Benefit
Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (617-227-3334, ext. 32). www.unicefusa.org. 6 pm. $150 including reception, $25 for movie screening only. Unicef celebrates the life of Audrey Hepburn with a reception hosted by her son, Sean Hepburn Ferrer, followed by a screening of *Funny Face* at the Loews Boston Common cinema. An after-party at the "Left Bank Cafe" (aka the Sugar Shack) concludes the evening.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Raising the Roof
Joseph's, 200 High St., Boston (617-423-2223). www.habitatboston.org. 6-9 pm. $25 in advance, $30 at the door. A night of music and dancing raises money for Habitat for Humanity projects in Northern Ireland.

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair
Hynes Convention Center, Boston (617-266-6540. www.bostonbookfair.com. Oct. 31, 5-9 pm; Nov. 1, 12-7 pm; Nov. 2, 12-4 pm. $15 for the opening night through the weekend, $8 per day. Boston's oldest continually running antiquarian book fair returns for the 27th year with 135 exhibitors and thousands of rare and collectible books. Highlights include two books illustrated by Pablo Picasso and a 1666 edition of Shakespeare's plays.

North Bennett Street School Open House
39 North Bennett St., Boston (617-227-0155). www.nbss.org. Oct. 31, 10 am-2 pm; Nov. 1, 10 am-3 pm. The North Bennett School opens its doors to the public with demonstrations of its classes, including carpentry, jewelry making, bookbinding and more.

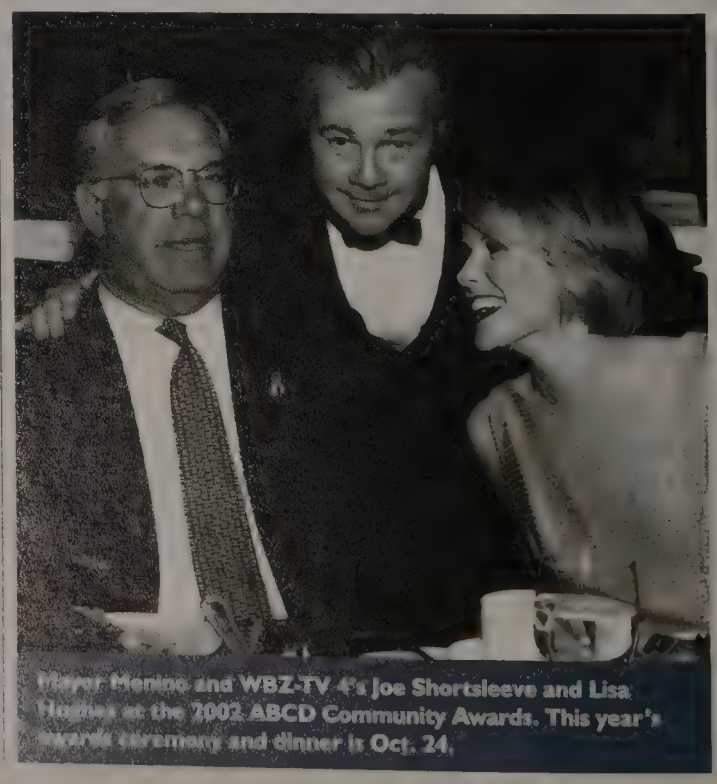
Steppin' Out
World Trade Center, 164 Northern Ave, Boston (617-442-8800, ext. 1207). Young professionals kick-off party Oct. 31, 7:30 pm-2 am, $50 in advance, $60 at the door. Feel the Rhythm concert, Nov. 1, 8 pm-2 am, $150. Steppin' Out Gospel Brunch, Nov. 2, 11 am- 2 pm, $50 in advance, $60 at the door. This three-day benefit for the Dimock Community Health Center features a young professionals kick-off party, a black-tie jazz concert with Walter Beasley, Roberta Flack and more than 20 other performers, and a gospel brunch.

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

The Gallery @ Green Street Mad Dash
141 Green St., Boston (617-522-0000). www.jameshull.com. 12 pm. The Gallery @ Green Street, located at the Green Street MBTA stop, raises money with its annual 150 x 150 Mad Dash event. All 150 pieces of art for sale cost $150.

PBNA Street Fair and Carnival
Harriet Tubman Park at Columbus Square in the South End, Boston (617-262-6209). 10 am-3 pm. The Pilot Block Neighborhood Association hosts a fall fundraiser featuring a white elephant sale, a bake sale, a raffle and more. Proceeds benefit the PBNA's community activities.

Susan G. Komen Foundation Pink Ball
Tara Drive Showhouse, 55 Tara Drive, Norwell (781-925-3459). 6 pm. $200. This benefit for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation includes a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing and silent auction.

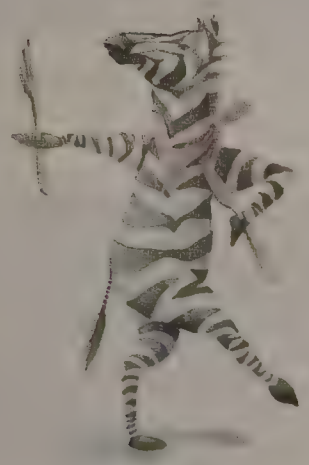

Mayor Menino and WBZ-TV 4's Joe Shortsleeve and Lisa Hughes at the 2002 ABCD Community Awards. This year's awards ceremony and dinner is Oct. 24.

Women of Means Benefit Concert
Wellesley Congregational Church, 2 Central St., Wellesley (781-239-0290). www.womenofmeans.org. 8 pm. $35. Miranda Russell and the Smokin' Hot Band perform to benefit Women of Means, an organization that provides medical care to homeless women.

SUNDAY, NOV. 2

Library Lovers' Evening
Westin Hotel, Waltham (617-796-1407). 6:30 pm. $75. RSVP by Oct. 24. This benefit party for the Newton Free Library features authors William Nova, Steve Almond and Charles Pierce, as well as cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dinner.

UPSTAIRS ON THE SQUARE



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Submit updated listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Performing Arts. Or e-mail information to performing@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Book of Days
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Oct. 24-Nov. 22. $22-$41. A quiet midwestern town with more churches than bars serves as the setting for Lanford Wilson's (*Talley's Folly* and *The Hot L Baltimore*) play about adultery, theft, lies and the politics of community theater.

Boston Fringe
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-5000). www.company one.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Oct. 30-Nov. 22. $25.* Company One offers a dynamic collection of plays and performances produced by Boston's leading alternative companies, including Centastage, Hysterical Performance, Mill 6 Theatre Collaborative, New African Company, Tricord Productions and Zeitgeist Stage Company. Performances feature poets, dancers, musicians and storytellers.

Boy Gets Girl
Merrimack Repertory Theater, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-3926). Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Oct. 23-Nov. 16. $16-$24. This thriller explores what it means to be secure in today's world, as a young man's infatuation quickly turns into obsession after a blind date. Rebecca Gilman's play follows a young career woman's gradual unraveling as she comes to realize that her safety may depend on giving up everything she has.

Butley
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Wed., 2 pm.; Tue.-Thu. 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun. 2 and 7 pm. Through Nov. 30. $14-$64. Two-time Tony Award winner Nathan Lane stars in Simon Gray's dark comedy about a literary professor whose wife and lover both leave him on the same day.

Candide
Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (617-912-9222). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 8 pm; Nov. 1-2, 2 pm. $5-$16. The Boston Conservatory Theater presents the American premiere of the Royal National Theatre's *Candide*, the story of a lowly man on a quest to figure out if ours is the best of all possible worlds. This version, by Leonard Bernstein, restores much of the text and original satiric intent of Voltaire.

The Girl in the Frame
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 30-Nov. 9. $32.* This musical by Jeremy Desmon is about a man who falls in love with a fantasy girl from a picture frame.

Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* plays at Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway.

Haymarket
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Oct. 30-Nov. 16.* From Zayd Dohrn, the critically acclaimed author of *Shameless*, comes the dramatic story of anarchist labor activists Lucy and Albert Parsons. When dynamite explodes and a riot breaks out in Haymarket, killing 11 people—seven of them policemen—the tenor of 1886 Chicago grows murderous.

High Heels and Red Noses
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (1-877-246-3537). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 24, 12 am. $15 ($12 for clowns in make-up). Bindlestiff Family Cirkus presents a burlesque comedy circus show with singing, dancing, juggling, sword-swallowing, acrobatics and more.

Paradise by the River
Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts, 41 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5160). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Oct. 24, 8 pm. Donation suggested, refreshments served. A group of local actors gives a dramatic reading of this play about Italian Canadians arrested during World War II.

The Peace of Wild Things
Rey-Waldstein Building, Longy School of Music, 33 Garden St., Cambridge (617-547-7819). www.cambridgeopera.org. *Oct. 25, 8 pm. $20.* This concert sponsored by Cambridge Opera is based on the theme of animals and nature and features the Boston debut of a song cycle (with the same name) by Houston composer David Ashley White. Many of the songs are popular poems set to music.

The Phantom Tollbooth
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-879-2300). www.wheelock.edu/wft. *Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat. and Sun., 3 pm. Oct. 31-Nov. 30. $12-$18.* "It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time," laments bored protagonist Milo. But then a mysterious tollbooth appears in his bedroom and he is whisked away to the Land of Expectations. Follow Milo's magical and mysterious adventures in this musical based on Norton Juster's 1961 novel.

Porgy and Bess
Emerson College, The Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (888-889-8587). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue. and Fri., 7:30 pm; Wed., 7 pm;Thu., 8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Oct. 28-Nov. 2. $25-$65. Set in a fishing village in 1912 South Carolina, George Gershwin's folk opera tells the story of Bess, a woman with a disreputable past who breaks free from her brutish lover to seek refuge with a cripple named Porgy.

Puppets at Night: Tiger Tales
Puppet Showplace Theatre, 32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Oct. 23-25, 8 pm. $20. Based on Chinese folktales, this shadow puppet performance deals with issues of power and the survival of the small and powerless in today's modern jungle.

ReOrientalism
Center for Latino Arts, 85 West Newton St., Boston (617-927-1781). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Oct. 22, 8 pm. $20. Inspired by the writings of recently deceased author/activist Edward Said, this mini-opera includes projected visual imagery and original and traditional instrumental and vocal music, spoken and sung in English and several Middle Eastern languages. The piece explores the themes of Said's *Orientalism*, especially the West's simultaneous romanticism and fear of Islam.

Rigoletto
Boston Lyric Opera at the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Wed., 7:30 pm; Fri., 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Nov. 5-18. $33-$152. Rigoletto will do almost anything to save his daughter from the Duke's heartless ill-use. But at what cost? His adversary controls his fate. This production is sung in Italian (with English subtitles).

The Shakespeare Stealer
Theatre I, Tufte Performance Center, 10 Boylston Place, Boston (617-824-8369). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 7 pm; Sat. 2 and 7 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 24-Nov. 2. $14. Based on the novel by Gary L. Blackwood, this play follows an orphaned apprentice on his quest to steal the only copy of Shakespeare's new play, *Hamlet*. Shakespeare's company of actors befriend him and, for the first time, he feels like a part of a family. How can he betray them now?

West Side Story
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., 8 pm; Wed., 2 and 8 pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 28-Nov. 23. $26-63.* The modern-day version of *Romeo and Juliet* finds two young lovers caught between warring street gangs and opposing cultures.

NOW RUNNING

Accidental Death of an Anarchist
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 26. $22-$25. Playwright Dario Fo's political farce is based on the true story of an anarchist who was said to have fallen out the fourth-floor window of police headquarters while under investigation. The play follows a character who poses as a judge in an effort to force the truth from the police.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This production abandons all dialogue and focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

The Credeaux Canvas
Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through Oct. 25. $25. Flat broke and newly disinherited, Jamie persuades his roommate to paint a portrait of Jamie's lover in the style of an obscure 19th-century painter. The plan: to pass the painting off as a newfound masterpiece and sell it to a wealthy art collector.

Dinner with Friends
TheatreZone at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea Square (617-887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. Through Nov. 1. $12-$15. Donald Margulies' comedy of "modern manners" tells the story of two married couples who have been best friends for years and the ensuing fallout when one couple splits up.

Ethan Frome
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 26. $10-$45.* In this play by Dennis Krausnick, adapted from Edith Wharton's novella, a young engineer looks into the past of Ethan, a beaten and withered man who has reached middle age before his time.

Fighting Words
Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-0320). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 and 8 pm, Sun., 3 pm. Through Oct. 25., $20. The QE2 Players present the Boston premiere of this play by Sunil Kuruvilla about Welsh boxer Johnny Owen. The story—told from the perspective of three women—follows Owen's fight for the bantamweight world championship.

The Gulls
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri. and Sat. 8 pm. Through Nov. 8. Ryan Landry's play *The Gulls*, loosely based on Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Birds*, is the story of rebellious seagulls exacting revenge on Provincetown developers.

Hairspray
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Nov. 1. $30-$97.* It's 1962 in Baltimore, and 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto television's most popular show. Can a big girl with big dreams—and even bigger hair—change the world and still have time to win the boy she loves? Bruce Vilanch stars in this Tony Award–winning musical about a young girl's struggle with self-acceptance.

A Man of No Importance
SpeakEasy Stage Company at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm. Through Nov. 9. $25-$35. Based on the 1994 film starring Albert Finney, this show with music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens follows a Dublin bus driver's attempts to stage Oscar Wilde's *Salome* at his church in the 1960s, despite protests from parish officials.

Say Goodnight, Gracie
Wilbur Theatre, 106 Boylston, Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Through Nov. 2. Take a guided tour through an American century as seen by George Burns (played by Frank Gorshin)—from his impoverished youth on New York's lower East side, to his career in Vaudeville, his marriage to Gracie Allen and the couple's rise to success on stage, screen, radio and television.

Sexuality in the City
The Devanaughn Theatre at the Piano Factory, 791 Tremont St., Boston (617-738-2967). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. Through Nov.1. $20. A *Sex and the City* parody, this play offers a voyeuristic glimpse into the sexual dynamics of today's relationships. Can love transcend age, intellect, impotence and gender?

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Side Show
Riverside Theatre Works, 45 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park (617-361-7024). Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 1. $21. Based on a true story, this Tony-nominated musical by Bill Russell portrays the story of real-life conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, who sought love and fame as they became Vaudeville stars during the depression.

Stones in His Pockets
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 26. $32.* Two actors play more than a dozen roles in this comedy by Marie Jones. Discover what happens when a film crew descends upon a small Irish town to film a Hollywood blockbuster.

Tongue of a Bird
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Oct. 25. $15-$25.* This lyrical play by Ellen McLaughlin tells the story of a search-and-rescue pilot who finds herself confronting losses of her own as she sets out on the trail of a kidnapped young girl.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Blue Window
Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Through Oct. 26. Craig Lucas' play is about nervous Libby who is about to host a dinner party for virtual strangers both to herself and each other. The strangers talk but don't seem to communicate as an air of mystery hangs over the evening.

How I Learned to Drive
Black Box Theatre, Regis College Theatre Company, 235 Wellesley St., Weston (781-768-7070). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Oct. 30-Nov. 2. $8. Winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize, this play by Paula Vogel is both a humorous and disturbing tale of survival

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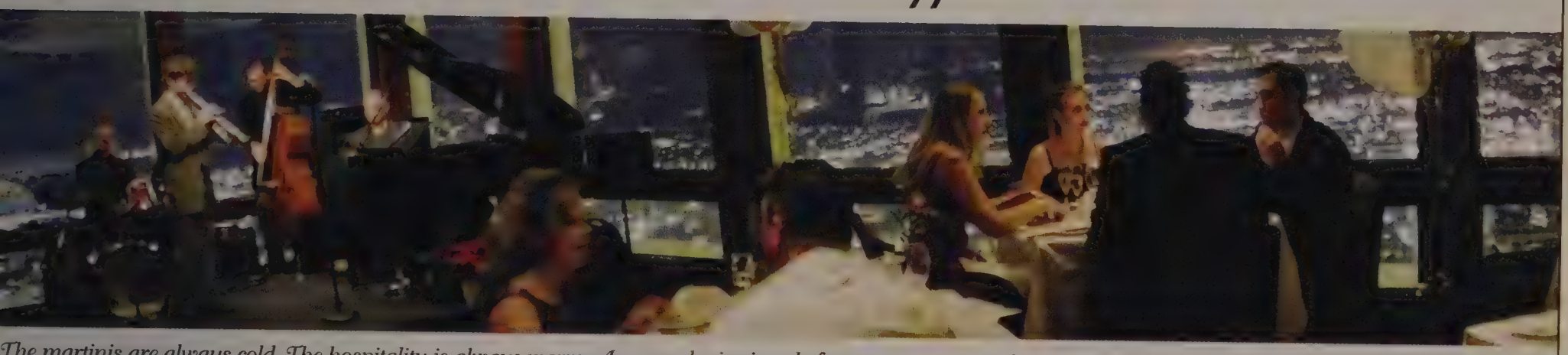

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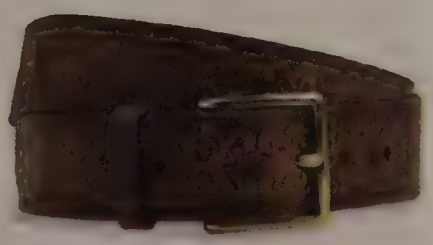

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seen through the lens of a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man.

Temptation
Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club at Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 24, 25 and 31, 8 pm; Oct. 25 and 26, 2 pm; Oct. 30, 7:30 pm and Nov. 1, 2 and 8 pm. $12. Former Czech president Vaclav Havel presents a play about darkness, religion and science that centers around a devil offering to teach magic.

Dance

Dancer/Choreographer Peter DiMuro
Sargent Dance Studio, One University Road, Boston (617-353-1597). Oct. 25, 8 pm. Free. Dancer/choreographer Peter DiMuro mines diverse materials ranging from political speeches to rap lyrics to present a new movement study based on parades and protests.

Dancing on Common Ground
Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover (978-837-5355). www.merrimack.edu/rogers. Oct. 24, 7:30 pm. $20. World Champion Irish step dancers, country cloggers and American tap dancers perform.

Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's Undercurrents
Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cambridge (617-354-7467). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu., Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 4 pm. Through Oct. 26. $28. Experience ballet with cabaret-style seating, cocktails during the show and a close-up view of the dancers. This show includes a revival of Mateo's *The Last Circus* (1990), set to Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano & Wind Instruments; *Courtly Lovers*, set to Haydn's *Surprise Symphony*; and the premiere of Mateo's latest work, set to music by Robert Schumann.

Naya Deep
Little Kresge Theater, MIT, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (508-981-9091). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Oct. 18, 7:30 pm. $20. This performance of traditional Kathak dance celebrates the season of Diwali, a time of renewal, light and new beginnings.

New Open Floor
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-480-9630). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Nov. 2, 6:30 pm. $3-$5. Daniel McCusker hosts a monthly, ongoing, open floor for dancers and choreographers.

Boston Ballet commemorates choreographer George Balanchine with *Stars and Stripes*

Red Cross Line
The Dance Complex, 536 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 24 and 25, 8 pm. $9. This performance features new works of modern dance, ballet, Irish step dancing and movement-based performance art presented by emerging local choreographers.

Rudolf Nureyev's Don Quixote
Boston Ballet at the Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Oct. 30-Nov. 2. $39-$96. This re-creation of Miguel de Cervantes' classic 17th-century tale is set in the heart of the Spanish countryside and features chivalry, passion and comical adventure. Principal dancer Jennifer Gelfand makes her farewell performance with the Boston Ballet.

Sprout
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-864-3191). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 8 pm. $15. Ryuji Yamaguchi and his dancers display seven new and recent works, using props ranging from water guns to blindfolds.

Stars and Stripes
Boston Ballet at the Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 8 pm. Oct. 23-26. $39-$96. The Boston Ballet commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of the world's greatest choreographers, George Balanchine, with a repertory production that includes *Stars and Stripes* and *Mozartiana* and a performance of *The Grey Area*, choreographed by David Dawson.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. Ongoing. $45-$55. In its ongoing run in Boston, this percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot or dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such as brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle
Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. 8:30 pm. $10. •Nov. 1: Jim Colliton and Greg Rodrigues.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12. The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Oct. 23 and 30: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Oct. 24: John Valby, a.k.a Dr. Dirty •Oct. 25, $27: Steve Sweeney from *There's Something About Mary* •Oct. 27: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy. •Oct. 28: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Oct. 29: DJ Hazard.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Oct. 22: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Rob Reuter, Jeremy Turoff, Evan O'Television, Larry Starr, Matt Winninger, Corey Manning, Tony Moschetto and Amanda White. •Oct. 23: The Tim McIntire Show with James Patterson, Chris Coxen, Adam Pearlman, Nicole Luparelli, Peter Dutton, Jay Montepare and Jon Rineman. •Oct. 24: Tommy Morello, Larry Murphy, Greg Thibideau, Chris Walsh, Eric Cheung and Andy O'Fish. •Oct. 25: Kelly MacFarland, Brian Kiley, Brian Gordon, Dan Sulman, Abe Smith, Tommy Morello and Tim Kaelin. •Oct. 26: Sam Walters, Rob Asaro, Deb Darrar-Parkman, Tissa Hami, Bethany Van Delft, Jen Ruelas, JJ, Dan Sulman and Janet Cormier. •Oct. 28: The Mystery Lounge Magic/Comedy Show. •Oct. 29: The Tony V Experiment, Kelly MacFarland, Dan Sulman, Joe Wong, Steve Farrell, Will McNeill, Ku, Walter Dixon and Jesse Gersten. •Oct. 30: The Tim McIntire Show with Janet Cormier, Mikey D., Myq Kaplan, Anthony Spencer, Dan Sally and Hugh Chatfield. •Oct. 31: Mary Beth Cowan, Evan O'Television, Sandy Asai, Chris Walsh and Larry Murphy. •Nov. 1: Sandy Asai, Tammy Two-Tone, Evan O' Television, Mary Beth Cowan and Brian Gordon. •Nov. 2: Evan O'Television's Idiot Box, performance art/comedy.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Oct. 25, 8:45 pm: Brad Mastrangelo, Tim McIntire and Chris Jones •Oct. 30, 8:30 pm, free admission: Kevin Knox and All Star Comedy •Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 8:45 pm, : Bob Gautreau, Charlie K and Ted Barrett.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA:Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available. Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed.-Sat.: *Improv Asylum Announces the End of Major Hostilities*, a new show on the mainstage.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central . $5-$12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed. 8 pm, $5: *The Hump*. This series for experimental and improvisational theater features ScripTease and The Tribe •Thu., 8 pm, $12: *Unnatural Selection*. A master of ceremonies randomly eliminates players until only one is left; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show*. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Luv Boat*. Instead of washed-up celebrities setting sail, the audience members are the passengers on this cruise; 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports*. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show*; 8 and 10 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage*. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance. •Oct. 31, 7 pm, 9 pm and 11 pm, $15: *Gorefest*, an improvised musical about a day at the office that goes horribly wrong.

COMEDY SHOWS

Shelley Berman
The Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (617-558-6486). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. Oct. 25, 8 pm; Oct. 26, 2 and 8 pm. $35. Shelley Berman, the first comedian to win a Grammy award for a nonmusical recording and the first stand-up comedian to appear at Carnegie Hall, takes the stage after a performance by jazz vocalist Rebecca Parris.

Haunted Dinner Theatre
Three Cheers, 332 Congress St., Boston (800-697-2583).www.mysterycafe.com. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Oct. 24 and 31, 7:30 pm; Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 5:30 and 9 pm; Oct. 26, 6 pm. $32.95-$42.95 for dinner and show. Mystery Café and Haunted Dinner Theatre present *Ghost of Bad Tabby Manor* by Larry Blamire. Join Chives, Master Chef and other suspects as they search for the rare million-dollar Tom Jones stamp.

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding
Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm. Through Nov. 29. $49. This interactive dinner show follows Maria and Joey through their wacky wedding. Throw on a blue tuxedo or your puffiest gown and join the festivities.

Maria's Bachelorette Party
Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Oct. and Nov. 21, 7 pm. $42. At this dinner theater show, Maria's friends and bridesmaids throw her a bash she won't forget.

Murder Cacciatore
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-697-2583). www.mysterycafe.com. MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 7:30 pm. $42.95 for dinner and show. The Gourmet Detective serves up Italian cuisine with a murder mystery.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon. pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-491-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. First and third Sunday of the month. 8 pm. Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike with host Stash.

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Muddy *River*

Eastwood can't reverse the curse

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Forget about The Curse of the Bambino. What about The Curse of the Filmbino? I'm sure you know that one—it's the curse that keeps turning outstanding Boston-related books like *A Civil Action*, *The Perfect Storm* and now *Mystic River* into routine, rather forgettable movies.

There was hope that *Mystic River* might turn out to be something special when Clint Eastwood came to town to film it. The drama in Dennis Lehane's novel had a slow build, which is tricky for a mainstream movie to pull off in these days of instant cinematic gratification. But its story of the murder of one man's 19-year-old daughter—with the case being investigated by one of his childhood friends and the main suspect being another of his childhood friends—dealt with crime and male bonding, familiar territory for Eastwood. And his previous movie, *Blood Work*, was a damn good meat-and-potatoes thriller. But there's the rub. *Mystic River* isn't meat and potatoes, and this story of lingering emotional scars, bitter resentments and everyday drudgery fails to play to Eastwood's strengths at straightforward storytelling.

Mystic River is instantly recognizable as an Eastwood movie. No one else's movies are as dark. Eastwood may change cinematographers every five or 10 years, with Tom Stern being his latest, but the movies are always Clint-murky. That's not such a bad thing for the Dorchester-meets-Charlestown-meets-Southie setting of *Mystic River*—which is heavy on drab vinyl siding, asphalt and the back porches and front stoops of triple-deckers—or for the creepy prologue. That's the 1970s sequence when three boys playing street hockey are approached by two men in a beat-up Ford who pretend to be detectives, and take one of them away. It turns out they're not cops but child molesters.

The murky look of the movie is less helpful to Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon, Tim Robbins and the rest of the cast, and is emblematic of how the movie pales their characters. Those three actors play, respectively, Jimmy Markum, Sean Devine and Dave Boyle, the three friends now grown into their late 30s, and estranged enough to be just acquaintances. Jimmy (Penn) is an ex-con who owns a convenience store; Sean (Bacon) is a detective just separated from his wife; and Dave (Robbins), the victim of the molesters as a boy and now an adult with a perpetual hurt look on his face, happens to come home covered in blood on the night Jimmy's daughter (Emmy Rossum) is murdered in a nearby park.

As is usually the case, *Mystic River* retains nearly all the plot of the novel but jettisons much of the detail that enriches the book. In this case, that means the movie primarily follows the investigation into the murder. But the murderer was fairly easy to pick out in Lehane's book, and the case was just an excuse to explore the emotional wounds of Jimmy, Sean and Dave. Jimmy, the most volatile of the trio, is the most reduced in the movie. He doesn't feel like the big man in the neighborhood he's meant to be, and all the concentration on the investigation means that the detective's pragmatic partner, well played by Laurence Fishburne, is on screen as much as Jimmy. Penn also looks as if he dug out his wardrobe from his late-1980s Irish-American gangster movie, *State of Grace*, which makes Jimmy seem generic.

Despite its all-around strong performances (from Laura Linney and Marcia Gay Harden as well), *Mystic River* needed to find cinematic ways to replace all of the emotional baggage it jettisoned from the book. But that's not Eastwood's way. He offers a few stylistic flourishes, like the overhead shots of Jimmy bursting with rage upon discovering his missing daughter is dead, or the intercutting between two separate violent confrontations. But *Mystic River* is mainly a workmanlike Eastwood production, short on mood and with a strained orchestral score written by Clint himself. As a Boston neighborhood thriller, it's the big, soggy version of *Monument Avenue*, the Denis Leary movie that has a gut-level kick *Mystic River* never musters. IB

Sean Penn plays the father of a murdered young woman in director Clint Eastwood's new movie, *Mystic River*

Mystic River ★★

Directed by Clint Eastwood. Written by Brian Helgeland. Based on the novel by Dennis Lehane. With Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon, Laurence Fishburne, Laura Linney and Marcia Gay Harden. Rated R. Warner Bros.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

American Splendor ★★★
The movie version of Harvey Pekar's autobiographical comic book series sticks to the comics' realism to such a degree that, in addition to scenes with a pitch-perfect Paul Giamatti as cranky Pekar, it also includes narration by and interviews with Pekar himself. That hybrid is clumsy at times, but the movie captures Pekar's search for the extraordinary in the everyday, as well as his hard-headed individualism, with precision and affection. We see Pekar at his humble file clerk job and in his legendary appearances on David Letterman's shows. (At Boston Common, Harvard Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Casa de los Babys ★★
Writer-director John Sayles' movies either have narrative thrust (*Lone Star*, *Sunshine State*), or they don't. His latest just sits there in search of purpose. This story of a half-dozen American women in Mexico (waiting to adopt babies from a local agency) and the Mexicans they come into contact with feels like a first draft. The characters are sketchy, the action is tentative, and the point is fuzzy. The relationship between parenting and imperialism bubbles under the story, but never hits home. Too bad, because Sayles assembled an eclectic cast of actresses—including Lili Taylor, Marcia Gay Harden, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Mary Steenburgen—who interact well together but are let down by the script. (At Kendall Square.)

The Fighting Temptations ★★★
Here's a big surprise. Although it stars Cuba Gooding Jr. (he of the painful *Snow Dogs* and *Boat Trip*) and it's a formula film about a jaded yuppie who sees the light when he returns to his small hometown, this is actually an enjoyable ensemble comedy with great musical performances. Gooding plays a New York ad exec who's not above advising a liquor company to market malt liquor to blacks. Then he returns to his Georgia hometown for a great aunt's funeral and, as stipulated in her will, has to get her church's choir into a local competition in order to collect his inheritance. The cast is filled with singers (Beyonce, the O'Jays, Melba Moore), and the songs are often knockouts, while Mike Epps and Steve Harvey are very funny and Gooding's Jack Lemmon facial expressions of disbelief are just right for his character. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Kill Bill—Vol. 1 ★★
Before the first few minutes of Volume 1 of Quentin Tarantino's long-awaited action epic—the second half arrives in February—you get the circa-1970 Shaw Brothers' "Shawscope" logo from the team's old martial arts films, the swirly circa-1970 "Our Feature Presentation" intro that movie theaters used to show, a circa-1970 Klingons reference and a taste of the circa-1970 *Ironside* theme song. This instantly goes to show that Tarantino's style, cool and clever a decade ago, is now only as adventurous as an episode of VH1's *I Love the '70s*. Make that VH1 with literal geysers of blood. Tarantino's story is a revenge tale with Uma Thurman as a modern-day warrior seeking revenge on the assassins who left her for dead. The pop-cultural quotes come fast and hard—spaghetti westerns, Japanese manga comics, Tarantino's own *Reservoir Dogs*, etc.—so much so that you wish he would just settle down and let his characters and words do their jobs, as in the movie's best sequence, when the warrior enlists a philosophical Okinawan sword maker (Sonny Chiba). Let's hope the second half has more stretches like that. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lost in Translation ★★★½
Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her 2001 directorial debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, and she conjures up a similar funny-sad tone in her tale of two Americans (Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson) adrift in Tokyo. He's a washed-up movie star making a bundle endorsing Japanese booze; she's the wife of a work-consumed photographer (Giovanni Ribisi). They're staying at the same hotel and killing time at the same hotel bar, and their misery loves company. The characters make a great movie couple, although their relationship is platonic (with its share of sexual tension). Murray gives a Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance but mainly around physical and especially facial reactions to absurd situations, and Johansson is a little heartbreaker. (At Boston Common, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Matchstick Men ★★★
If it's a Nicolas Cage movie, the more neuroses the better. He follows his self-loathing writer fro

"33 Raises The Bar In The South End"
The Boston Globe

"33 Is The Lucky Number"
Boston Magazine

"Owners Greg Den Herder And Igor Blatnik Have Created A Winner"
Improper Bostonian

"At 33, The French And Italian Cuisine Is Soaring Out Of The Kitchen..."
Newbury St& Back Bay Guide

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"The Menu Features Dishes Almost Never Seen These Days And Are Excellent And Creative"
Alison Arnett, The Boston Globe

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Mat Schaffer, The Boston Globe

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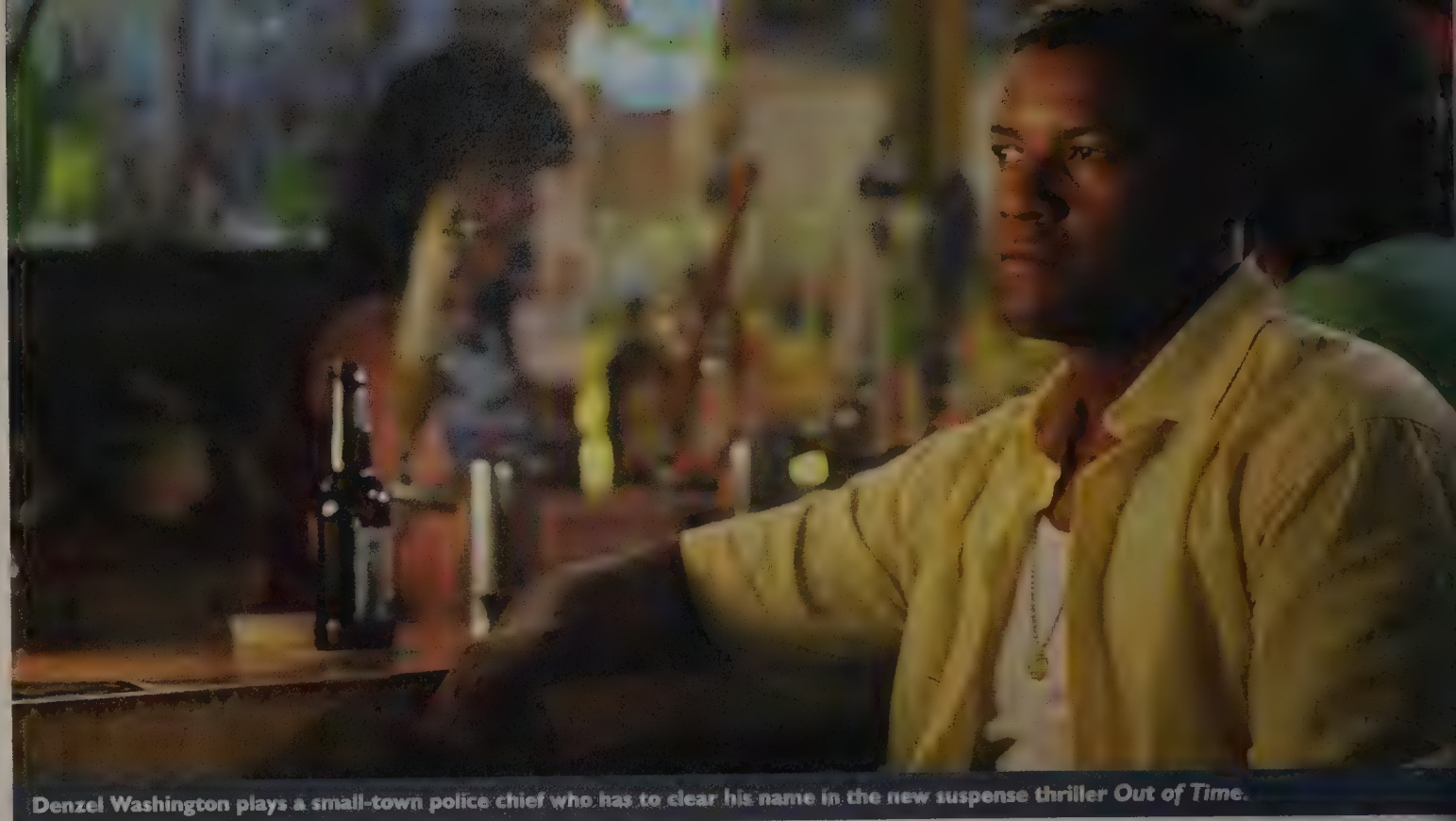
Adaptation with an obsessive-compulsive neatnik in Ridley Scott's comedy. Cage's con man can't function if there's a speck on the carpet, and he thinks that initiating a relationship with the 14-year-old daughter (Alison Lohman) he's never seen might help. The intertwining of his professional life with his strained attempt at fatherhood makes for some amusing moments, as does Cage's trademark twisted emotionalism. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Morning Sun ★★½
Brookline-based Carma Hinton and Richard Gordon's *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (1995) is the definitive documentary about the Tiananmen Square uprising of 1989. Their latest, co-directed with Geremie R. Barme, covers the Chinese Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and is always involving, though it raises more questions than it answers. The Cultural Revolution was like an extreme version of American McCarthyism, a call to root out "enemies within" carried out with mob rule. But in China it resulted in a cycle of martyrdom and scapegoating even more tragic and absurd than what happened in the United States. The movie offers some insight, with interviews from many who've never before spoken on camera about their experiences, but you can't say it actually makes sense of things. The main question that lingers is how Mao Zedong could manipulate so many people for so long; his apparent puppeteer's role in the events is never really explored. (At the Museum of Fine Arts, Oct. 22-25, 30-31, and Nov. 1.)

Out of Time ★★½
Nearly a decade ago, director Carl Franklin and star Denzel Washington made *Devil in a Blue Dress*, an evocative 1940s-set neo-noir that should have launched a series featuring author Walter Mosley's hero, "Easy" Rawlins—if only audiences hadn't been so indifferent. Franklin and Washington's new collaboration is another thriller involving sex, money and deceit. This one is competent but much less layered and much more conventional. (I guess the generic title is a tip-off.) Washington plays a small-town police chief who's about to be divorced from one woman (fellow cop Eva Mendes) and is sleeping with another (married woman Sanaa Lathan). A splashy crime involving the lover and a trail of evidence incriminating the chief perk the attentions of the fellow cop, and the chief has to scurry to clear his name. There are a few thrills, but there's also a ridiculously sunny ending. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)


Denzel Washington plays a small-town police chief who has to clear his name in the new suspense thriller *Out of Time*.

Pieces of April ★★★
Black humor and optimism blend surprisingly well in this story of the title character (Katie Holmes) fixing Thanksgiving dinner for her visiting family. While she deals with kitchen problems in her Manhattan apartment, like finding a neighbor who'll let her use a stove after she realizes hers doesn't work, we also see the family (including dad Oliver Platt and ill mom Patricia Clarkson) trekking their way downstate to see her. The feeling of dread is mutual for the black-sheep daughter and her disappointed parents, and the colorful cast pulls off the heightened reality in writer-director Peter Hedges' story. (At Coolidge Corner.)

The Rundown ★★
The Rock still makes a great action leading man, and the movie sets up his character here with a blistering prologue. But the main plot, set in the Amazon and sending the Rock after wayward rich kid Seann William Scott (who does not come off well here) just isn't that involving. Having Christopher Walken around as the bad guy helps, but this is one of those weak "when in doubt, blow something up" action movies. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Station Agent ★★★
This comedy about a dwarf (Peter Dinklage) who moves into an abandoned train depot in a small New Jersey town might have been a cloyingly quirky indie film. Instead, it's a pretty special experience. Dinklage's deadpan performance as Fin wryly captures how his character's expectations of his fellow man have been pounded down by their reaction to his height. Broader comedy comes from Bobby Canavale, as a food-truck owner who tries to befriend Fin, and Patricia Clarkson as a woman escaping a fizzled marriage whom Fin tries to befriend. There's a wise and endearing clash of humanity here, and an unpredictable story to go along with it. Along with *Pieces of April*, another brittle yet funny Clarkson performance. (At Kendall Square.)

Thirteen ★★★
In the spectrum of movies about troubled teenage girls, Catherine Hardwicke's debut falls somewhere between the clichés of the recent *Blue Car* and the unique emotional eeriness of *The Virgin Suicides*. Evan Rachel Wood, who has a Kirsten Dunst–like mix of sweetness and naughtiness, is convincing as the initially girlish seventh-grader who yearns to hang out with the popular, more physically mature girls—and gets to, by taking drugs, shoplifting and pushing her budding sexuality just as they do. Meanwhile, her frazzled mom (Holly Hunter) tries to straddle the line between being firm and friendly, while her new best friend (Nikki Reed, who co-wrote the script with Hardwicke) manipulates everyone in sight. Although the movie can sometimes come off as a pat cautionary tale, its emotional messiness is awfully realistic, with most everyone oblivious to their own faults. (At Boston Common, Copley Place, Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election ★★★½
The next time someone rants about the so-called liberal-run media, think about why this outraged exposé of the 2000 presidential election (which ultimately condemns the Democrat leadership as well as the Republican) is playing in the 40-seat Coolidge Corner Theater Screening Room instead of being on a network in prime time. Put this one in the time capsule. Directed by Richard Ray Perez and Joan Sekler. (At the Coolidge Corner.)

Veronica Guerin ★★
Unlike his previous movies, nothing blows up in producer Jerry Bruckheimer's latest, except his pretensions of getting an Oscar nomination for making something a touch more human than *Bad Boys 2*. In this forgettable thriller based on a true story, the last two years of the title character, a slain Irish journalist (played by Cate Blanchett), get the slick Hollywood treatment. The story called for the stripped-down grit of director Joel Schumacher's best and most uncharacteristic movie, *Tigerland*, but instead we get his usual gloss as Guerin makes enemies while digging into the Dublin drug underworld. The bad guys sneer, the addicts sport their gaunt makeup and the movie's overeager attempts to make Guerin a saint (she likes music! she likes soccer!) are comical. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Zero Day ★★★½
The thought of a movie inspired by the Columbine school shooting isn't very appealing. But director and cowriter Ben Coccio's debut movie is a potent and totally involving tale of two high school outsiders (Andre Kreuck, Calvin Robertson) planning such an attack. The movie is composed of excerpts from the video diary the characters are filming to chronicle their preparations for the big day, and the action feels amazingly authentic. Kreuck and Robertson are simply tremendous. They're also smart and initially likable, which makes their characters' on-camera gun demonstrations and their climactic attack all the more tragic. (At Copley Place.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BRATTLE THEATRE

Boston Fantastic Film Festival
•Through Oct. 23. The Brattle and Steven Jay Schneider, editor of *Fear Without Frontiers: Horror Cinema Across the Globe*, team up for this festival of horror, science fiction, fantasy and cult films. See *www.brattlefilm.org* for a schedule.

Special Engagements
•Oct. 31, 10 pm. **Evil Dead 2** *1987*. The Brattle continues its Halloween tradition, screening this horror/comedy about a chainsaw-wielding hero and the army of "deadites" that he must defeat before dawn. Sam Raimi directs.
•Oct. 24-30, 4:30, 7 and 9:30 pm. **Carnage** *2002*. Delphine Gleize directs this story that traces the bizarre effects a 1,000 pound Andalusian bull has on a disparate group of characters who receive parts of the bull's body after it is killed in a bullfight.
•Oct. 31-Nov. 5, 5:15 and 7:30 pm. **The Adventures of Robin Hood** *1938*. The original film about the famous English outlaw stars Errol Flynn. The film is presented in a new 35mm print with restored image and sound. Michael Curtiz directs. •Also showing, 9:45 pm. **Tamala 2010: A Punk Cat in Outer Space** *2002*. In this Japanese animated feature, a cat heads for Orion in search of her mother but instead uncovers the conspiracy of Catty & Co, a multinational conglomerate plotting to rule the world. T.o.L. (Tree of Life) directs.

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well if one has not dined well." – Virginia Woolf

photography: Darlene DeVita

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COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Balagan Film Series

•Oct. 23, 7:30 pm. **Film as a Subversive Art II**. The second selection of films mentioned in Amos Vogel's book *Film as Subversive Art* explores how film can be used to manipulate conscious and unconscious thought and undermine existing value systems.

Boston Film•Video Foundation Special Presentation

•Oct. 27, 7:30 pm, $7. **Close up in Black**. Gary Dauphin, editor in chief of Africana.com, leads an evening of film clips and discussion on the roles of African-Americans in film.

Coolidge Selects

•Now showing. **Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion** *2002*. Tom Peosay's documentary examines Tibetan culture and the Chinese occupation through interviews with Tibetans.

•Opening Oct. 31. **Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election** *2002*. See New Releases for a description.

•Opening Nov. 7. **Elephant** *2003*. Gus Van Sant offers an expressionistic take on the 1999 Columbine shootings, focusing on the banality and tiny terrors of ordinary high school life in general, as well as the horrific shootings.

Halloween Horror Movie Marathon

•Oct. 25, 12 am, $30. Six Halloween-themed films are shown in 12 hours, including *Ghostbusters*, *Carrie* and *Edward Scissorhands*. Live music and burlesque acts are also featured.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Cambridge Latino Film Festival

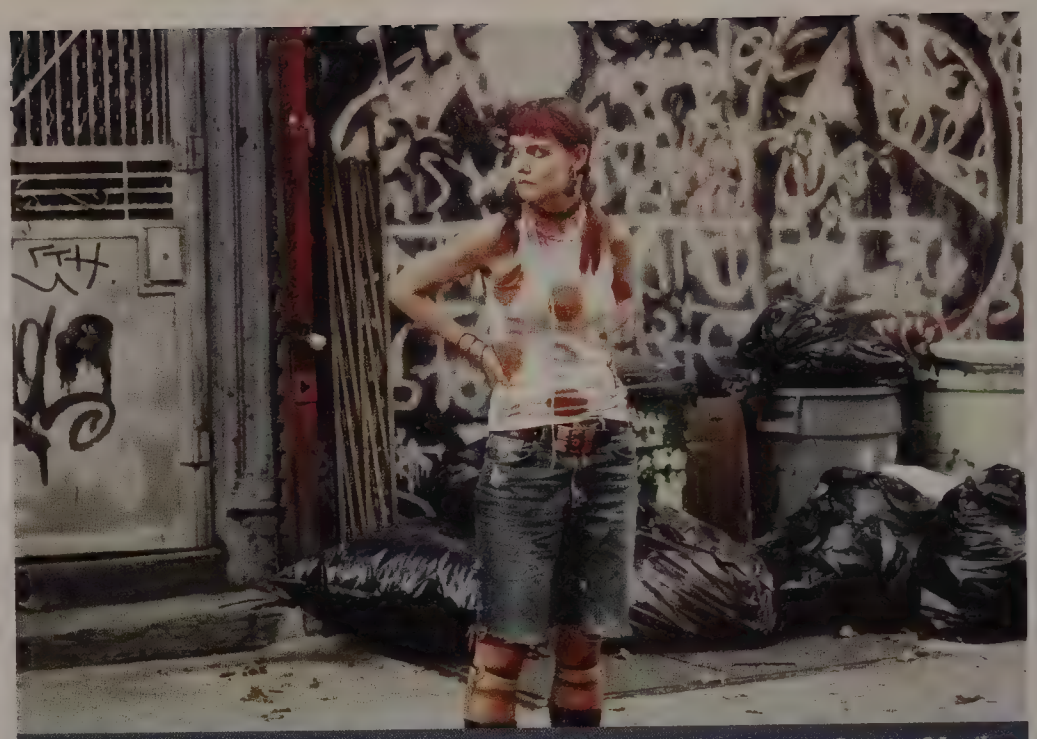
•Oct. 24-26, 7 pm. The CLFF features alternative films with social content from Latin America and films dealing with Latino issues in the United States. For schedule information, visit www.cambridgelatinofilmfestival.org.

Directors in Focus: Charlotte Zwerin

•Nov. 1, 7 pm. **Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser** *1989*. Charlotte Zwerin offers an intimate look at eccentric jazz great Thelonious Monk. The film includes rare, unseen studio and performance footage, as well as interviews with Monk and others.

•Nov. 2, 9:30 pm. **Running Fence** *1978*. In this documentary, two artists work with a skeptical community to achieve their vision: a 24-mile fabric fence in the California hills. Charlotte Zwerin, Albert Maysles and David Maysles direct. •Immediately following. **Arshile Gorky** *1982*. Dustin Hoffman narrates this short film about Arshile Gorky, an artist whose works anticipated abstract expressionist painting.

•Nov. 7, 7 pm. **Gimme Shelter** *1970*. This documentary is a portrait of the ill-fated Rolling Stones tour that ended at Altamont Speedway in 1969. Charlotte Zwerin, Albert Maysles and David Maysles direct. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Salesman** *1969*. This documentary chronicles six weeks in the lives of four traveling bible salesmen. Charlotte Zwerin, Albert Maysles and David Maysles direct.



April (Katie Holmes) waits for her family to arrive for Thanksgiving dinner in *Pieces of April*.

Directors in Focus: Fassbinder!

•Oct. 27, 9 pm. **Bremen Freiheit** *(Bremen Freedom) 1972*. This period drama set in early 19th-century Bremen is about an abused wife turned serial killer who finds "freedom" with the help of a bottle of poison. Rainer Werner Fassbinder directs.

Film and Visual Representation

•Oct. 22, 7 pm. **L'Avventura** *1960*. The lover and best friend of a missing woman set out to find her but become distracted from their task when they fall into a sexual relationship. Michelangelo Antonioni directs.

•Oct. 29, 7 pm. **Craig's Wife** *1936*. Dorothy Arzner directs this adaptation of George Kelley's play about a domineering woman who marries a wealthy man for his money, then uses her new position to further her own ambitions for money and power.

Film Architectures

•Oct. 28, 7 pm. **The Fountainhead** *1949*. King Vidor directs this adaptation of Ayn Rand's novel about an architect who refuses to compromise his purist agenda.

•Nov. 4 and 5, 7 pm. **Toute une Nuit** *(All Night Long) 1982*. On a sultry summer night in Brussels, various people in search of love collide. Chantal Akerman directs.

From Cinematic to Digital Culture

•Nov. 2, 7 pm. **Forrest Gump** *1994*. Tom Hanks stars in this feel-good story of a Southern man with a low IQ who stumbles through the major American events of the second half of the 20th century. Robert Zemeckis directs.

The New German Cinema

•Oct. 22, 9:30 pm. **Aguirre, der Zorn Gottes** *(Aguirre, the Wrath of God) 1972*. The 16th-century Spanish explorer Aguirre searches for El Dorado in South America. Werner Herzog directs.

•Oct. 27, 7 pm. **Falsche Bewegung** *(Wrong Movement) 1974*. A young, discontented writer sets out from home to roam the country in search of adventure and inspiration. Wim Wender directs.

•Oct. 29, 9 pm. **Die Linkshändige Frau** *(The Left-Handed Woman) 1977*. A woman living in the Paris suburbs struggles with a loveless marriage and apathy toward her family and friends as she spends her days quietly wandering around her house. Peter Handke directs.

•Nov. 3, 7 pm. **Der Amerikanische Freund** *(The American Friend) 1977*. A terminally ill picture framer in Hamburg reluctantly agrees to become a hit man to ensure the future of his soon-to-be widow. Wim Wenders directs.

•Nov. 5, 9 pm. **Tokyo-Ga** *1985*. Wim Wenders directs this cinematic scrutiny of all things Japanese, dwelling on the production and consumption of hyperreal images, then seeking out remnants of traditionalism.

Screening Modern China

•Oct. 28, 9 pm. **Yangguang Calan de Rizi** *(In the Heat of the Sun) 1994*. Jiang Wen directs this coming-of-age story about a group of adolescent boys living in 1970s Beijing, which is largely depopulated of adult authority figures as a result of Mao's rule.

•Nov. 4, 9 pm. **Suzhou He** *(Suzhou River) 2000*. A lonely videographer falls in love with a mysterious nightclub performer. Lou Ye directs.

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Two by Tod Browning
•Oct. 31, 7 pm. **The Blackbird** *1926*. A criminal in London has his eyes on jewels and a showgirl as he disguises himself between heists as a palsied English priest in charge of a charity mission. Tod Browning directs. •Also showing. **Mark of the Vampire** *1935*. In this remake of the 1927 silent film *London After Midnight*, a vampire expert tries to prevent a vampire from killing the daughter of his last victim. Tod Browning directs.

VES Faculty Screening
•Oct. 23, 7 pm. **Bright Leaves** *2003*. Ross McElwee directs this journey across the social, economic and psychological terrain of North Carolina, which produces more tobacco than any other state.

LOEWS THEATRES COPLEY PLACE

Sundance Film Series
•Oct. 31-Nov. 6, at 1, 4, 7 and 10 pm. **Die Mommie Die!** *2003*. An ex–pop singer kills her husband-to-be with her young lover, and her daughter plots Electra-like revenge. Mark Rucker directs.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Chinese Cinema
•Oct. 22, 8 pm; Oct. 23, 5:45 pm; Oct. 25, 11 am. **Ren Xiao Yao** *(Unknown Pleasures) 2002*. Disaffected Chinese teenagers try to find meaning in bars, nightclubs and American movies. Jia Zheng Ke directs.

Cinema India
•Oct. 23, 8 pm, and Oct. 25, 3:45 pm. **Naukar Ki Kameez** *(The Servant's Shirt) 1999*. A lower-middle-class junior clerk in a provincial government office struggles to keep from slipping down the social ladder. Mani Kaul directs.

Film and Performance
•Oct. 26, 3 pm. **The Coney Island of Lawrence Ferlinghetti** *1996*. Christopher Felver's documentary dispels the enigma surrounding Beat mythology by offering intimate glimpses into the life, art and politics of renowned poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Ferlinghetti will read his poetry following the screening.

French Cinema
•Oct. 26, 12:20 pm; Oct. 30, 3 pm; Nov. 1 and 2, 10:30 am; Nov. 6, 3:45 pm. **Winged Migration** *2001*. Jacques Perrin directs this documentary following the annual migration of several species of birds.

Indie Hits
•Oct. 23, 1:30 pm; Oct. 26, 10:30 am; Oct. 30, 1 pm. **Spellbound** *2002*. Jeff Blitz's Academy Award–nominated documentary chronicles a National Spelling Bee, as seen through the eyes of eight young participants.

New England Film Artists Present
•Oct. 22 and 30, 5:45 pm; Oct. 23 and Nov. 1, 3:30 pm; Oct. 24 and 31, 7:45 pm; Oct. 25, 1:30 pm. **Morning Sun** *2003*. Carma Hinton, Geremie Barmé and Richard Gordon direct this documentary about China's Cultural Revolution.
•Oct. 24, 6 pm and Nov. 1, 2 pm. **Floating Market** *2003*. Joan Kaufman's documentary follows sailors who travel 40 miles on the open sea in small wooden boats to sell fresh fruits and vegetables in Curaçao's floating market.

The World's Best TV Ads
•Oct. 30, 8 pm; Oct. 31, 6 pm; Nov. 1, 12:15 pm. **British Advertising Films of 2002** *2002*. Peter Bigg of the British Advertising Broadcast Awards is here on opening night to present this collection of last year's award-winning TV commercials.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater
•Through Dec. 16. **Africa: The Serengeti**. This Omni film depicts the 1.5 million animals that migrate across the African plains. *Call for show times*.
•Through Jan. 16, 2004. **Space Station**. Blast into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts of the International Space Station. *Call for show times*.
•Through March 31, 2004. **Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees**. Enter the world of the wild chimpanzees of Africa's Gombe Stream National Park. *Call for show times*.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater
•Through Nov. 4. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. *Call for show times*.
•Through Nov. 4. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. *Call for show times*.
•Through Nov. 4. **Rolling Stones: At the Max.** The Stones perform 15 of their classic songs, with footage from their Steel Wheels/Urban Jungle tour. *Call for show times*.
•Through Nov. 4. **Space Station 3D**. Travel to the International Space Station and experience life in zero gravity with the astronauts from Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. *Call for show times*.
•Through November. **The Matrix Reloaded: The Imax Experience**. In the sequel to *The Matrix*, Neo and the rebel leaders battle the machines that have overpowered the human race. *Call for show times*.
•Through June 2004. **Bugs! 3D**. This film focuses on the world of insects in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size. *Call for show times*.

Cinema Venues

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Film•Video Foundation
1126 Boylston St. (617-783-9241). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-9393). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way! DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

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Thursday, October 23rd

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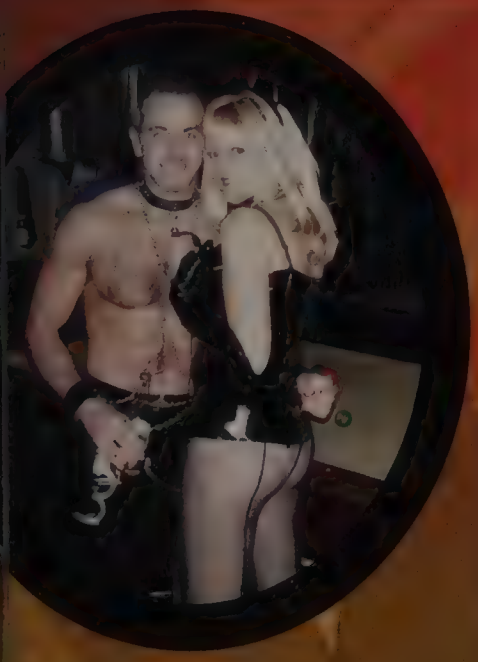
Halloween Night KISS 108'S Artie the One Man Party is hosting the sexiest lingerie Halloween Dance Party in Boston! Featuring Sugarfoot and the Brass Kickin Horns, DJ Johnny C and many ghostly goblins! 8pm - 2am.



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THE RACK

All in the Family

Sol y Canto and Dan Zanes shift gears into a kid-friendly universe

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

All-ages shows have taken on a new meaning for Dan Zanes since his days rocking Boston clubs and parties with the Del Fuegos in the early '80s. Today, many of his fans are sucking on milk instead of beer: Zanes is a pied piper of roots music for the preschool and grade-school audience.

In his mind, it's also not much of a stretch from one setting to the other. "When the Fuegos started out in Boston, it was a very communal situation—the band was just part of the goings-on," Zanes says. "We were hanging out with people before and after. The idea was always how much we can get people to dance, and the audience was always a part of it. It was never, How great can we sound that we can get a record deal? That never occurred to us."

In turn, it never occurred to Zanes when he made a cassette of kids-friendly tunes for his daughter and friends around his Brooklyn neighborhood that it would be a much bigger sensation than his 1995 solo album, *Cool Down Time*.

He's since made four family-music CDs, hailed by tykes and critics alike and featuring guests from Sheryl Crow to Bob Weir. And Dan Zanes + Friends pack matinee concerts like the pair they'll play at the Somerville Theatre Nov. 23.

"I've found my calling," he says. "This is really what I'm best suited for, how I can spread my enthusiasm for music."

In turn, Sol y Canto, another Boston-rooted outfit popular with adults, has expanded to a younger crowd with its new disc *El Doble de Amigos/Twice as Many Friends*. Like Zanes, husband-and-wife bandleaders Brian and Rosi Amador warmed to the concept because of their daughters. Specifically, they wanted to provide their kids and other youngsters with bilingual music.

Sol y Canto (top) and Dan Zanes (bottom)

"Our approach to music has always been that it's part of life," Brian Amador says. "That's why us having children and the children's album just kind of flowed together."

The CD flows with songs about diversity, peace, learning to count, caring for the environment and flying kites—all played in the ensemble's breezy Afro-Latin acoustic style.

The title track sets the tone with its bilingual sing-along, "Twice as many friends, twice as much fun, that's why two languages are better than one." Rhythms shift from cumbia to calypso to merengue across a range of originals and favorites from the U.S. and Latin America. Some tunes also sport vocals from the couple's twin daughters and the chorus of Cambridge's Amigos School. The twins and the chorus join Sol y Canto for Nov. 2 matinees at the Somerville Theatre.

"This is a direction we've been going in a while, even though a lot of people didn't know about it," says Rosi Amador, whose group shifts into adult mode to perform her husband's Latin suite "Prisma de amores" with a string quintet at Northeastern's Blackman Auditorium Jan. 31.

"Even when it's primarily an adult audience, there's bound to be children," she says. "We often dedicate a song to the children, and the adults end up having a good time."

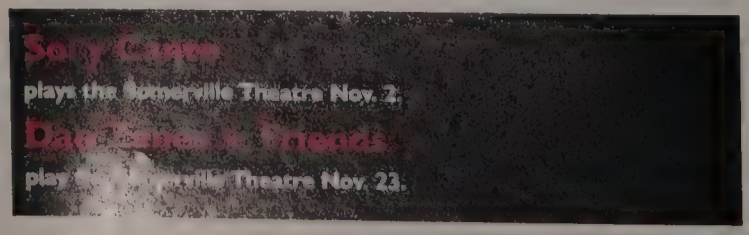
"Sol y Canto's mission has always been one of mixing entertaining with educating," says Rosi, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, while her husband has Mexican roots. "We celebrate Latin culture through music, and we like to expose both Latinos and non-Latinos to [new] genres."

Zanes, on the other hand, says, "I don't think of myself as an educator in any way. I'm pretty much a song-and-dance man in all this. But I do think music in any way, shape or form is so good for kids." He recalls how, growing up in New Hampshire, he was first exposed to music through Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Leadbelly and the Clancy Brothers.

"Everybody had a bunch of songs up their sleeves for young people," Zanes recalls of that informal introduction, a model for the home recordings on his own Festival Fire label. "I thought it would be good to make records where listeners could easily picture people in a house hanging out and making music. That's really my message with all of it, that you can do this too. This is just something people do at home on their front steps or in parks or at parties."

His latest CD, in fact, is called *House Party*, and it includes a catchy, rustic blend of originals and international folk tunes including "Wabash Cannonball" and "Waltzing Matilda." The disc features celebrity contributions from the Grateful Dead's Weir, Blondie's Deborah Harry and Philip Glass.

"That part has been a lot of fun," Zanes says. "It makes it more interesting for parents, and it's right to consider parents in all this. I like the idea that it's a big all-ages experience where everybody's got a way in." IB



Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or by email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Averi and Chauncey Oct. 24, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Bouncing Souls, Let it Burn, Strike Anywhere and Tsunami Bomb Oct. 30, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Bruck Cockburn Oct. 24, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Echo and the Bunnymen Oct. 23, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Fuel, Smile Empty Soul and DJ Swamp Oct. 23, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Arlo Guthrie Nov. 3-7, Club Passim, (617-492-7679)
Herbie Hancock Nov. 2, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Ted Leo & the Pharmacists and Weird War Oct. 29, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Longwave, Calla and Dios Oct. 25, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Marilyn Manson Oct. 23, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Maroon 5 and Gavin DeGraw Oct. 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-931-2000). Sold out.
Monster Jam with 50 Cent, Ludacris, Chingy, D Band, Fabolous, Lil Jon, and Obie Trice Oct. 28, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Puddle of Mudd Oct. 27, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Soulive and Meshell Ndegeocello Oct. 22, Avalo (617-423-NEXT).
Travis Oct. 26, Orpheum Theatre (617-93 2000).
Ween Oct. 29, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Keller Williams Oct. 24, Somerville Theatre (61 931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

Abbey Lounge Abbey residency with the Drags, R verse, Goldenwest Motorlodge and Jon Craig, 9: pm, 21+.
Asgard Tom Groleau, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Soulive and Meshell Ndegeocello, 8 pm.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
The Breezeway Amigos, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Burren Jessie Smith and Donna Long, 9 pm, cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover, 2 (after 9 pm).
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGr 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Gordon Stone Band, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
Johnny D's Jimmy Tingle and Sam Hooper, 8:30 $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Lizard Lounge Amelia White and the Blue S venirs and Jabe, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougal.
Middle East Upstairs: the Decemberists, Rever Glasseye and His Wooden Leg and the Roots of chis, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Pharcyde, Pe Under the Stairs, Cunninlyguists and Brassmun pm, $20, 18+. ZuZu: Fully Celebrated Orche 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Ever Present and Blue Ribbons, c varies, 21+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Paradise Love with Arthur Lee, 8 pm, $25, Lounge: 4 Way Street and Rob Gonzalez, 7 $8, 21+.
Parris Central Basement.
Purple Shamrock Eugene Byrne.
The Rack Black Sole, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Katie Viqueira Group with N Michelin, 8:30 pm, $12, 21+.

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Ryles Jazz Club Ball in the House, 7:30 pm, $12; Greg Hopkins, Tim Ray, Billy Pierce and Mick Goodrick, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Cyrus Chestnut Trio, 8 and 10 pm, $18, 21+.
Sky Bar A Wish for Fire, Low Skies and Farewood, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm.
Toad The Heygoods, 7-9 pm; The Swinging Steaks, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Bettie Serveert and Everybody Else, featuring Carrick and Sukilove, 9 pm, $12, 18+.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure and the Latin Explosion, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Abbey Lounge Awakening Stick, Meat Depressed, Necrowafers and Just Another Victim, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Asgard New Regulars and Oneside, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Fuel, Smile Empty Soul and DJ Swamp, 7 pm doors, $17.75, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Stanley Clarke Band and the Jean-Luc Ponty Band, 7:30 pm, $26-$36.
Bill's Bar Lost Pilot, Red Letter and Violet Nine, 9 pm, $10, 19+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Zeke Martin, 7:30 pm.
The Breezeway Margo Thunder, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
The Burren Helena Delaney, Peter Molloy and Shannon Aaron, 10 pm, no cover, 21+; Backroom: Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Mark Simos CD-release show, 8 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort The Rockhoppers, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+ (after 9 pm).
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Big Daddy D & His Music Makers.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Ekoostik Hookah and Bathtub Mary, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Paranoid Social Club, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Café The Douglas Fir, 9 pm; Godboxer, 10 pm; Jake Brennan, 11 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kirkland Café International Passport, Ken Ballou, and Rebecca Weintraub Experience, $5.
Lucky's Lounge Ray Greene.
Matt Murphy's Grayson Farmer Round Midnight Jazz Session, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Don Caballero, the Constantines and Black Helicopter, 9 pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Benefit for the Mark Sandman Music Education Fund with Twinemen, 8 pm, $12, 18+. Corner: Mitchell Kalsuness, 10 pm, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Geoff Farina, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Lovers Rock with Gary Banton
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Orpheum Marilyn Manson, 7:30 pm, $36.50.
Paradise Lounge: Cory Brennan, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris Central Basement.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
The Rack Uneek Approach, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Mark Shilansky Ensemble with Luciana Souza and Syncopation, 8:30 pm, $12, 21+.
Roxy Burning Spear, 8 pm
Ryles Jazz Club Candida Rose Quintet, 7:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Cyrus Chestnut Trio, 8 and 10 pm, $18, 21+.
Sky Bar Bill Mallonee and Ian Moore, 8 pm, $12, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7-9 pm; Todd Thibaud, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Trio,8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place KaitO UK, the Rogers Sisters, and Runner and the Thermodynamics, 9:15 pm, $10, 18+.
Virgin Megastore Burning Spear, 1 pm; Open mike Night, 6 pm.
The Western Front The Well, 9 pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Longwave plays at the Paradise Oct. 25.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Abbey Lounge Weisstronauts and My Own Worst Enemy CD-release show, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Asgard Christie Leigh and Ryan McHugh., 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30 pm, no cover; Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover.
The Attic Jennifer Tefft and Alternate Routes, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon Paul Weller, 7 pm, $25.25, 18+.
Axis The Thrills with Adam Green from the Moldy Peaches, 7 pm, $12, all ages.
Big Easy Bob's Day Off.
Bill's Bar High as the Moon: A Tribute to the Black Crowes, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Black Horse Tavern Joe Mack, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30 pm.
Boston Harbor Hotel Bill and Bo Winiker Orchestra, 7 pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Burren Tina Lech, Ted Davis and Dave Cory, 10 pm, $3, 21+. Back room: Jabe, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Rebecca Hall and Mark Erelli, 8 pm, $12.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Hit Squad, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+ (after 9 pm).
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Brover Mooney & the Moon Unit.
The Good Life Downtown Borderland.
Grand Canal Magnus.
The Green Briar Velvet Jones.
The Green Dragon Tavern Say When.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Harper's Ferry Adam Ezra Group and Jonah Smith CD-release, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30 pm, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller's Sing-along, 8 pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Badfish, 9:45 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Café The Heygoods, no cover, 21+.
Kirkland Café Melodeego, Holiday, Lake Boone and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood Labb, Top Heavy, Deck Eleven, and Motor Skills, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Sparkola CD-release show, 9 pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall.
Matt Murphy's Mike Rivard, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Young People, Singapore Sling and Exchange Students, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Death Cab for Cutie and Mates of State, 8 pm, $15, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper Group, 10 pm, no cover, 18+. ZuZu: Latin with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

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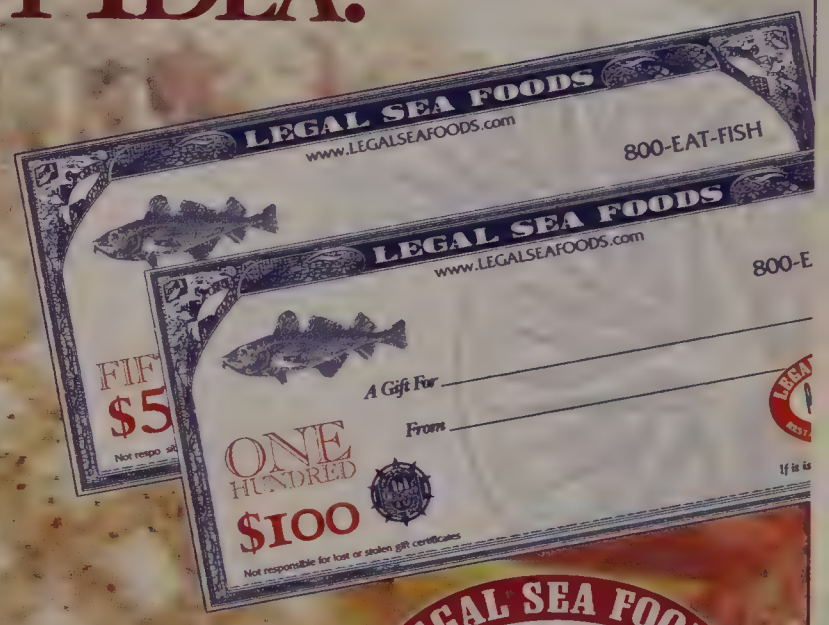

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Midway Café Gene Dante, Blasting Caps and Tokyo Tramps, 9:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Milky Way Either/Orchestra CD-release show, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Averi, Chauncey and Zox, 9 pm, $12, 18+. Lounge: Treehouse 3, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Parris Steamroller Picnic, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Porters Bar and Grill The Risk, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Taylor Bros., 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Duke Robillard Band CD-release show, 7:30 and 10 pm, $14, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Thaddeus Hogarth, 8 pm, $9, 21+.
Scullers Nicholas Payton Sonic Trance, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22, 21+.
Sky Bar The Allstonians, the Spoilers and Beat Soup, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Jimmy Ryan, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Mickey Bones Zydeco, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Fooled by April and the So & So's, 9:30 pm, $8, 18+.
Virgin Megastore Dorian, 5 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Abbey Lounge Schnockered, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Asgard Jack & Present Company, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30 pm. Live Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover.
Avalon The Mars Volta, Enon and JR Ewing, 6:30 pm, $15.25, all ages.
Axis Killing Joke and Amen, 7 pm, $13, 18+.
Bill's Bar Bar Flyz, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Big Easy Bob's Day Off.
Black Horse Tavern The Monster Mike Welch Band, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Kevin Byrne; Upstairs: Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Pat Loomis, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Burren Tommy, Louise, Helena Delaney and Fabian Joyce, 10 pm, $3, 21+. Back room: Tarbox Ramblers, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Chronic Pleasure, 7 and 10 pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort Booty, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+ (after 9 pm).
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Cambridge Borderland.
The Good Life Downtown Michael Shea Trio featuring Johnny Souza, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Thomas Park.
The Green Briar Pi Alley.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Peatmoss.
Harper's Ferry Mappari and Brown Couch with Town Hall, $8, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Four Piece Suit, 9:45 pm, $7, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kirkland Café Four More White Guys, Porcelain, and Purple Onion, $5.
The Linwood KubZavrod, Table Dreams, and Cherdovanie, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Jake Zuckerman and Goat, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Undercover.
Matt Murphy's The Scissormen, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Freezepop, Mono and Zea, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Death Cab for Cutie and American Analog Set, 8 pm, $15, 18+. Corner: the Splendid Nobodies, 10 pm, no cover, 18+. Zuzu: Ready, Steady, Go-Go, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Dogtag, the Fade-Outs and Cog, cover varies, 21+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Calla and Longwave, 9 pm, $12, 18+. Lounge: Pocket Sauce and Motive, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris Steamroller Picnic, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park.
Regattabar Patricia Barber, 7:30 and 10pm, $18, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Melvin Sparks, 8 pm, $10, 21+.
Scullers Nicholas Payton Sonic Trance, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22, 21+.
Sky Bar Elevation 74 and the Huda, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Symphony Hall Patti LuPone, 8 pm, $32-$67.
Toad Sam Bisbee, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Consonant and Heavy Stud, $10.
Virgin Megastore Tyler Ingram, 5 pm; Rachel Solomon, 7 pm.
The Western Front Chances, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Kim Trusty, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Axis UK Subs, Toxic Narcotic, State Control and Confront, 6 pm, $12, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Doudou N'Diaye Rose, 7 pm, $25-$37.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Kevin Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 10 am-3 pm.
The Breezeway Hakim Law at the Sunday Jazz Brunch, 11 am-3 pm, $13.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm,.
The Burren The Gannon Family, 2 pm, no cover, 21+. Tommy, Louise, Dan Isaacson and George Keith, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+. Back room: Danielle, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Bassists Gonzalo Silva, Seth Horan and Tom Bianchi CD-release show, 7:30 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining Gospel, 10 am-3 pm, no cover ($15.99 for brunch), all ages.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Finbar Doyle and Sunday's Well.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons.
Green Street Grill Balla Townkara and Groupe Spirit, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry NBFB, Red Pill and Audible Mainframe, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe Reggae Band.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Matt Dorko and Larry Kukers, 9 am-2:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Café Jordan Carp, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Tony McCabe.
Lucky's Lounge Sinatra Sunday, 8 pm.
Matt Murphy's Live and Direct, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Cuts, the Cougars, the Proper Villains and the Joggers, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Starlight Mints, 8 pm, $10, 18+. ZuZu: Cabaret and Goddess Pearlman, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café The Coachmen, cover varies, 21+.
Orpheum Travis, 7:30 pm, $31.
Ryles Jazz Club Sunday Jazz Brunch with Steve Rochinski, 10 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Sky Bar Turkish Queen, Tim Mungenast's Pre-existing Conditions and Dreamchild, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Adam Ezra, 7-9 pm; Session Americana, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Clue to Kalo and Themselves, 9:50 pm, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe MacMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, OCT. 27

Avalon Puddle of Mudd, 7 pm, $15.25, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Armsted Christian and Babrielle Goodman, 8:15 pm, $2-$5.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
The Burren Johnny O'Leary and Vinny Costello, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Open mike with Geoff Bartley, 8 pm, 21+. PJ Shapiro, 10 pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block Marianne Solivan Quartet Jazz Session, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Club Passim Songwriter Tribute Night to U2, 7 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+ (after 9 pm).
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike.
Green Street Grill Hot Tamale Brass Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

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Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Middle East Upstairs: Minus the Bear, These Arms Are Snakes and the Velvet Teen, 9 pm, $9, 18+. ZuZu: the Unhappy Hour with Jason Hatfield, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Jim McCarthy, Jon Gorey, Raven Sadhaka, Mike Delaney, Nils Erickson and Jo Henley, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Marinate.
Paradise Lounge: Songwriters in Paradise: Chris Korwin Band, Sam Bigelow, Mick & Tom and Boys Suck, 8 pm, $3, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
Sky Bar Regatta 69, Johnny Most and Mossberg, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Dangerous Brothers, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Shwang with Anita Suhanin, 8-10 pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Mary Reillys, Mark Robinson and Rosa Chance Well, 9:40, $7, 18+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Sarah Brindell, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, OCT. 28

Abbey Lounge Twisted Tuesday Acoustic: Jeremy O'Neill, 8 pm, 21+.
Berklee Performance Center Kushion and Ian Rapien, 8:15 pm, $2-$5.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
The Burren Tommy, Louise, Peter Molloy and Matt Glover, 10 pm, no cover, 21+; Back room: open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm, cover varies, 21+. True Life Bluegrass, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. Downstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Rob Gonzales, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+ (after 9 pm).
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
FleetCenter 50 Cent, Ludacris, Fabolous, Chingy, Lil Jon, Obie Trice and Bad Boys: Da Band, 6 pm, $55-$94.
Green Street Grill High Plain Drifters, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard.
Johnny D's Kara Tondorf and Ryan Montbleau, 8:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Lizard Lounge Tommy Dempsey, 8:30, cover varies, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Lucky Stereo featuring Bobby Keyes.
Matt Murphy's Geoff Scott and Public House, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Rocket Summer, 9 pm, $7, 18+. ZuZu: Frank Morey, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Pierre Hurel Trio, 8:30 pm, $12, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra for Big Band Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Greg Abate, 8 and 10 pm, $16, 21+.
Sky Bar The Screaming Sellouts, Pictures of Animals, the Mark and Grand Champeen, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad The Resophonics, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Tony Carelli Group, 8:30 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Aloud, Public, Left Hand Does and Common Thrill, 9 pm, $5, 18+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29

Abbey Lounge Abbey residency with the Drags, Shake Dog Shake, Sugabomb, and Muck & the Mires, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Asgard Matty Metcalf, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis My Chemical Romance and A Static Lullaby, 7 pm, $10, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Jazz Composition Department annual fall concert, 8:15 pm, $2-$5.
Bill's Bar Munk CD-release show, 9 pm, $10, 19+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
The Breezeway Jeff Felder, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues Jam, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Richard Cambridge's Poet's Theater presents All Hallow's Eve Pyro-Poetics, 8 pm, $10.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Chixie Dicks.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Cast Iron Filter and Freight Train, $8, 21+.
Hennessy's Blind Eye Snake.
Johnny D's Paul "Wine" Jones, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kendall Café Kate Kim, 9 pm; Sam Bigelow, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Brehan Law.
Lizard Lounge Sam Shaber and Uber Band and Wendywoo, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall.
Middle East Upstairs: VHS or Beta, Your Enemies' Friends and Moving Units, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Weakerthans, Maritime Plan and Mico, 8 pm, $12, 18+. ZuZu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Midway Café Gladys and the Mule and Audrey Ryan, cover varies, 21+.
Milky Way Mercury Lounge.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Paradise Ted Leo & the Pharmacists, Weird War, Helms and DJ Klaus, 8 pm, $12, 18+. Lounge: 4 Way Street and Jessica Tardy, 7 pm, $8, 21+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Gargonz with George Garzone, Jerry Bergonzi, Bruce Gertz, John Lockwood, Bob Gullotti and Bob Kaufman, 8:30pm, $14, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Andy Voelker Trio, 7:30 pm, $8; Jim Robitaille Quintet, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Habana Sax, 8 and 10 pm, $18, 21+.
Sky Bar Aesma Daeva, Kayo Dot and Salem Fires, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm.
Toad Smooch, 7-9 pm; The Freelance Bishops, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Tony Carelli Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Acrobrats, the States, Busker and Focusin, 9 pm, $5, 18+.
Virgin Megastore Lunchtime jazz, 1-2 pm.
The Western Front Hey Rim Jeon Ensemble and Brian Adler Ensemble, 9 pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure and the Latin Explosion, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Abbey Lounge The Pickups, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Asgard Jason Scolnick and Brogue, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Bouncing Souls, Strike Anywhere, Tsunami Bomb and Let It Burn, 6 pm, $13.50.
Berklee Performance Center Stan Strickland and Jeannie Wolff-Gagne, 8:15 pm, $2-$5.
Bill's Bar Bowman, Flynn and Andrea Gillis, 9 pm, $10, 19+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Tracey Rose, 7:30 pm, no cover.
The Breezeway Margo Thunder, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
The Burren Helena Delaney, Peter Molloy and Shannon Aaron, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Vienna Teng, 7 and 10 pm, $12.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Big Daddy D & H Music Makers.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Robyn Hitchcock, 9 pm, $15, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kirkland Café Webber Keefe, the Verge, and Rachel J Solomon, $5.
Lizard Lounge Club d'Elf, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall.
Matt Murphy's Grayson Farmer Round Midnight Jazz Session, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Favorite Atomic Hero and Sunday Driver, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Juniper Daughter, 8 pm, $9, 18+. Corner: Mitchel Kalsuness, 10 pm, no cover, 18+. ZuZu: Geoff Farina, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover.

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Paradise Maroon 5 and Gavin DeGraw (sold out). Lounge: Tom Waits tribute with Torr Skoog (Kings of Nuthin'), Frank Morey, George (Give) and Ryan Dowd (Kicked in the Head), 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
Ryles Jazz Club Tony Gallo Group, 7:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Scullers Lavay Smith and her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, 8 and 10 pm, $18, 21+.
Sky Bar Daisycutter, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Rick Wakeman of Yes, 8 pm, $23-$35.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 10 pm, no cover.
Toad Todd Thibaud, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Tony Carelli Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Smokewagon, the Marvels and Rock City Crimewave, 9:15 pm, $7, 21+.
Virgin Megastore Open mike night, 6 pm.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

Abbey Lounge Spitzz (as the Cramps), Coffin Lids (as the Mummies) and Midnight Ploughboys, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Asgard Halloween Show, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30 pm, no cover; Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover.
Axis Bidd and the Kids Table with Kicked in the Head, 6 pm, $12, all ages.
Big Easy Aphrodisiac.
Bill's Bar Beefy DC: A Tribute to AC/DC, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan; Upstairs: Dave Foley.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30.
Boston Harbor Hotel Bill and Bo Winiker Orchestra, 7 pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Burren Tina Lech, Ted Davis and Dave Cory, 10 pm, $3, 21+; Backroom: Jabe, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Jim's Big Ego, 7 and 10 pm, $15, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Halloween Party, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+ (after 9 pm).
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Grover Mooney & the Moon Unit.
The Good Life Downtown Borderland.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Seeking Homer, $10, 21+.
Hennessy's Me & Julio, 5-7:30 pm, 21+; Six Shot Brody, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller's Sing-along, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Halloween costume party with Milo, 9:45 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kirkland Café Just Another Victim, Girl on Top, Supachik, and Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood Lucifuge, Officer May, Science of Yabra, and Big Bear, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Adonai and the Board of Ed, 9 pm, 21+.
Lucky's Lounge Alex MacDougall.
Matt Murphy's The Thing, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Groovie Ghoulies, BlackCat Burlesque, the Flipsides and the Humanoids, 9 pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Scissorfight, the Dukes of Nothing, Suicide Contest and Seemless, 18+; Corner: Sam Hooper Group, 10 pm, no cover, 18+; ZuZu: Latin with Giancarlo Buscaglia, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Venus Factor 5 Halloween Bash.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise The Slip (Halloween Costume Show), 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Love Seed Mama Jump.
PA's Surca, Mossberg, Everything is Everything, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Taylor Brothers, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters CD-release, 7:30 and 10 pm, $18, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Johnny Hoy & the Bluefish, 8 pm, $9, 21+.
Sanders Theatre Swingin' with the Chief: The Annual Dartmouth Band Concert, 8 pm, $8-$10.
Scullers Lavay Smith and her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, 8 and 10:30 pm, $20, 21+.
Sky Bar Default Outfit, Lincoln Conspiracy, Rabadango and Evil Jake, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Kevin Conelly, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad The Dwight Ritcher Band, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Tony Carelli Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Cannibelle, Soundtrack, Baby Strange and Dear Leader, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Virgin Megastore Brian Bergeron, 5 pm; Russel Wolf, 7 pm.
The Western Front Exposition, 10 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Nunn sings at Waltham High School Nov. 1

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Abbey Lounge Smorgasbord, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30 pm, no cover; Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover.
Axis KMFDM with PIG and Bile, 7 pm, $20.
Berklee Performance Center Jane Oliver, 7:30pm, $29-$35.50.
Big Easy Aphrodisiac.
Black Horse Tavern Typoon Ferri, 9 pm, no cover.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, 21+.
The Burren Tommy, Louise, Helena Delaney and Fabian Joyce, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Anne Heaton and Kat Goldman, 7 and 10 pm, $14, all ages.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Michael Shea Trio featuring Johnny Souza, 9:30 pm, no charge, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Vent.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Entrain, $12, 18+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Barbarito Torres, 9:45 pm, $16, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
The Linwood The Kenmores, the Real Kids, Mung, Suspect Device, the Dents, Avoid One Thing, the McGunks, Lizzy Borden and Friends, Gobshites and the Syphlloids, 10 pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Ray Mason Band, John Haydon and the Hayseed Prophets and Jed Parish and the Mother Tongues, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Dwarves and AKA's; 9 pm, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Paradise Hybrasil, Jake Brennan and the Confidence Men, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Parris Love Seed Mama Jump.
PA's The Anchormen, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Regattabar The Donna Byrne Quintet and Herb Pomeroy, 7 and 9:30 pm, $18, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Sherrie Maricle and Diva Band, 8 pm, $28, 21+.
Scullers Livingston Taylor, 8 and 10:30 pm, $24, 21+.
Sky Bar The Bocks and New Blood, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Yoni Gordon and the Goods, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Tony Carelli Group, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Pills CD Release, Midnight, the Collisions CD-Release and Stevie & the Thrillers, 10 pm, $8, 18+.
Waltham High School Robinson Theatre Nunn, 7:30 pm, $50, all ages.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Adam Green of the Moldy Peaches plays Oct. 24 at Axis

SUNDAY, NOV. 2

The Attic The Coalboilers, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Tracey Rose, 10 am-3 pm.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Jazz Duo, 11 am.
The Breezeway Bar & Grill Hakim Law at the Sunday Jazz Brunch, 11 am-3 pm, $13
The Burren The Gannon Family, 2 pm, no cover, 21+; Tommy, Louise, Dan Isaacson and George Keith, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Ellen Schmidt and Wendy Santis, 7:30 pm, $12, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining Gospel, 10 am.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm.
Green Street Grill Balla Townkara and Groupe Spirit, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Sex Mob, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's Jazz Brunch, 9 am-2:30 pm.
Julien Bar Jazz Brunch Piano Trio, 11 am-3 pm, no cover; Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Middle East Upstairs: Chris Brokaw, Rebecca Gates and Drew O'Doherty, 9 pm, $9, 18+; Downstairs: Aesop Rock, Mr. Lif, Murs, Sa Smash and DJ Fakts One, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Regattabar Inca Son, 6:30 and 9 pm, $16, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club John Purcell, 10 am-3 pm.
Somerville Theatre Sol y Canto, 11 am and 3 pm, $15.
T.T. the Bear's Place Aspera, Nice Nice and Cex, 9:40 pm, $8, 18+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, NOV. 3

The Burren Johnny O'Leary and Vinny Costello, 10 pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block Marianne Solivan Quartet Jazz Session, 8 pm, $4, 21+
Club Passim Arlo Gutherie.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Hot Tamale Brass Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan
Middle East Upstairs: Puny Human, 16 and the Planet The, 9 pm, $9, 18+; Downstairs: Electric Six and Junior Senior, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard.
Sky Bar James Cleare and Bergeron, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, NOV. 4

Axis Mushroomhead, Motograter and 40 Below Summer, 7:30 pm, $15, all ages.
The Burren Tommy, Louise, Peter Molloy and Matt Glover, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Arlo Guthrie, 8 pm, $35, all ages.
Cottonwood Café Barbara Dolan's Jazz Therapy, 9 pm.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill High Plain Drifters, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Felicia Brady, 8:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Sean Cunningham.
Middle East Upstairs: Kid Koala presents Short Attention Span Theatre, 6 pm and 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Paradise Prefuse 73, Dabrye and Beans, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar La Timba Loca, 8:30pm, $12, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra for Big Band Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Scullers Follen Angels feat. Hildy Grossman, Jeanne Laforgia and Reiko Tanaka, 8 and 10 pm, $18, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Cash Brothers and Mike Murray, $10.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Atrium Lounge *Millenium Bostonian Hotel, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blue Lines to Government Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Big Easy Bar *1 Boylston Place., Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286) MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Boston Harbor Hotel *Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-856-7744) MBTA: Blue Line to Government Center*
The Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave., Boston (617-541-5400).*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential*

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Aerosmith and Kiss Nov. 26, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Avenge Sevenfold, the Suicide Machines and the Unseen Nov. 13, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Belle and Sebastian Nov. 13, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Blind Boys of Alabama Dec. 2, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
David Bowie and Macy Gray Dec. 9, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Ani Difranco Nov. 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Donna the Buffalo Nov. 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
G3 with Joe Satriani and Steve Vai Nov. 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Ben Lee and Phantom Planet Nov. 14, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Phil Lesh and Friends Nov. 23-25, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Lyle Lovett Nov. 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Dave Matthews, Emmylou Harris, Tim Reynolds and Trey Anastasio Dec. 16, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
moe Nov. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Phish Dec. 2, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Primus Nov. 17, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Robert Randolph & the Family Band and Los Lonely Boys Nov. 19, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Saves the Day and Taking Back Sunday Nov. 21, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Simon & Garfunkel Dec. 11 and 13, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Gillian Welch Nov. 8, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
The White Stripes and Whirlwind Heat Nov. 2, Tsongas Arena (617-931-2000).

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FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (617-876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Jacob Wirth *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Kenmore.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter or Harvard.*
Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., Boston (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washinghton St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston, (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
PA's *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557).*
Porters Bar and Grill *173 Portland St., Boston (617-742-PORT). MBTA: Red Line to North Station.*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Central.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA : Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Symphony Hall *301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.*
The Tap *19 Union St., Boston (617-367-0033). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.*
Waltham High School *671 Lexington St., Waltham (617-359-0413).*
The Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

Music in the Cathedral

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 1103). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Organist Mark Keane performs.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Conductor Sergio Monterisi leads the NEC Sinfonietta in its first concert of the season, a performance of works by Dvorak, Beethoven and Mozart.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Harvard University

John Knowles Paine Concert Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free with pass. The Ying Quartet performs pieces by Mendelssohn, Schubert and Elliott Gyger.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. The NEC Wind Ensemble performs works by composers who have been in residence at NEC, with guest performances by the NEC Jordan Winds, the Contemporary Ensemble and the Callithumian Consort.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Handel and Haydn Society

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1815). www.handelandhaydn.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $25-$58. The chorus and orchestra, conducted by Grant Llewellyn, perform a selection of Handel's works composed during his stay in Rome.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $20. In her debut recital pianist Nareh Arghamanyan performs works by Scarlatti, Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Ravel, Liszt and Seto Baghdassarian.

MIT Symphony Orchestra

Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-452-2394). web.mit.edu/arts. 8 pm. $5. The orchestra features pieces from Beethoven and Stravinsky directed by Dante Anzolini.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1151). www.newenglandconservatory.edu/centennial. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free with a pass. The Best of Jazz, the first concert of Jordan Hall's three-night Centennial Celebration, features performances by NEC faculty and alumni.

Old South Church

645 Boylston St., Boston (617-267-7442, ext. 0). www.choruspromusica.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 8 pm. $20-$40. The Chorus Pro Musica performs Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes Op. 52.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Boston Camerata

First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-262-5459). www.bostoncamerata.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $22-$42. Joel Cohen directs *Nueva España: Close Encounters in the New World, 1590-1690*, a performance of music that demonstrates how Spanish-born composers integrated Renaissance polyphony, Hispanic fiesta music, Indian dialects and African rhythms into their music.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $10. Soprano Xochitl Mendez and pianist Michael Strauss perform works by Schubert, Schumann, Faure and others.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1151). www.newenglandconservatory.edu/centennial. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free with pass. NEC president Gunther Schuller returns to conduct the NEC's top orchestral players and soloists in a Jordan Hall Centennial Celebration concert.

SARASA Chamber Ensemble

Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-492-4758). www.sarasamusic.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $18. Cellists Phoebe Carter, Myron Lutzke and Timothy Merton perform mu

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SUNDAY, OCT. 26

FleetBoston Celebrity Series

Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-6467). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: *B Green Line to BU East. 2 pm. $15-$25.* Robert Kapilow leads the New England Philharmonic in *Trick or Treat!*, a presentation of some of the scariest music in the classical canon.

Handel and Haydn Society

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-262-1815). www.handelandhaydn.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $25-$58.* The chorus and orchestra, conducted by Grant Llewellyn, perform a selection of Handel's works composed during his stay in Rome.

MIT Heritage of South Asia Concert

Wong Auditorium, MIT Tang Center, 2 Amherst St., Cambridge (617-258-7971). web.mit.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall. 4 pm. $12-$25.* Saxophonist Kadri Gopalnath performs with A. Kanyakumari on violin and Dhendanikottai Mani on thavil.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1151). www.newenglandconservatory.edu/centennial. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 2 pm. Free with pass.* Benjamin Zander conducts the NEC's Youth Philharmonic Orchestra in a celebration of NEC composers and performers.

New England Philharmonic

Tsai Performance Center, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-868-1222). www.nephilharmonic.org. MBTA: *Green Line to BU East. 2 pm. $20.* Guest conductor Rob Kapilow directs pieces by Dukas, Mussorgsky and Saint-Saens.

Retro Pro Arte 1978

Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.proarte.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. $9-$45.* Pro Arte gives a reprise of its first concert, performing works by Stravinsky, Schubert, and Dvorák to celebrate the orchestra's 25th anniversary.

MONDAY, OCT. 27

New England Conservatory

Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* The Callithumpian Consort performs music by Salvatore Sciarrino, Gerard Grisey, Helmut Lachenmann and Toshio Hosokawa.

TUESDAY, OCT. 28

Boston Lyric Opera

Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-542-4912). www.blo.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley Station. 7 pm. Free.* The troupe presents a mini-performance of Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*, followed by a discussion.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $26-$86.* Sir Charles Mackerras directs a program of music by Berlioz, featuring violist Steven Ansell.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29

Music in the Cathedral

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 1103). MBTA: *Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2.* Clarinetist Leslie Walters performs with the Chamber Music Outreach Project of Boston.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* Robert Cogan and Pozzi Escot present *Visions*, an evening of their own music and the music of Elliott Carter.

Charles Mackerras conducts the BSO Oct. 28 and 30.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $26-$86.* Sir Charles Mackerras directs a program of music by Berlioz, featuring violist Steven Ansell.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* William Drury conducts the Jordan Winds in their first performance the season.

Parish of All Saints

209 Ashmont St., Dorchester (617-436-3520 ext. 221). MBTA: *Red Line to Ashmont. 7 pm. Free.* The All Saints' Choir of Men and Boys performs.

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

First Church Cambridge

11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-499-4860). www.bostonsecession.org MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $25-$35.* Boston Secession presents *To Hell and Back!* a Halloween concert of the spookier music of Verdi, Gluck, Faure, Hugo Distler and others.

Music at the Immaculate

The Jesuit Urban Center, 775 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-536-8440). 8 pm. $10. Viennese organist Thomas Reuter presents a solo recital incorporating pieces by Walter Nussgruber, Josef Dopplebauer, Alexandre Guilmant, Augustins Kropfreiter and Theodore Dubois.

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Longwood Symphony Orchestra

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1260). www.longwoodsymphony.org/season.html MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $15-$25.* The orchestra presents the American premiere of "Wave" by Sarajevo-born composer Vuk Kulenovic

SUNDAY, NOV. 2

Emmanuel Music

Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. 11 am. Free.* Leonard Matczynski conducts Bach's Cantata, No. 90 as part of the Sunday church service.

Longy School of Music

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext. 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. $10.* Vento Chiaro performs works by Berio, Nielsen, Zemlinsky, Ravel, Armand Qualliotine and Luciano Bario.

The Masterworks Chorale

Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.masterworkschorale.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. $16-$36.* Allen Lannom conducts the Chorale in a performance of music by Berlioz.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa.org/concerts. MBTA: *E Green Line to Museum. 3 pm. $20-$24.* John Gibbons and Daniel Stepner perform a selection of Mozart's pieces for keyboard and violin.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* Guitarist Robert Paul Sullivan performs.

Newton Free Library

330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: *D Green Line to Riverside. 3 pm. Free.* Soprano Jean Danton, pianist Brian Mo and trumpeter Dennis Alves present a concert featuring songs by Haydn, Purcell, Gershwin and more.

Symphony Hall

301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Heath. 3 pm. $37-$67.* The Brandenburg Ensemble performs keyboard concertos by Johann Sebastian Bach.

MONDAY, NOV. 3

Newton Free Library

330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci. newton.ma.us. MBTA: *D Green Line to Riverside. 7:30 pm. Free.* Cellist Jonathan Miller, violinist Sharan Leventhal and pianist Tatiana Yampolsky perform music by Haydn and Schubert.

TUESDAY, NOV. 4

The Bach Keyboard Project

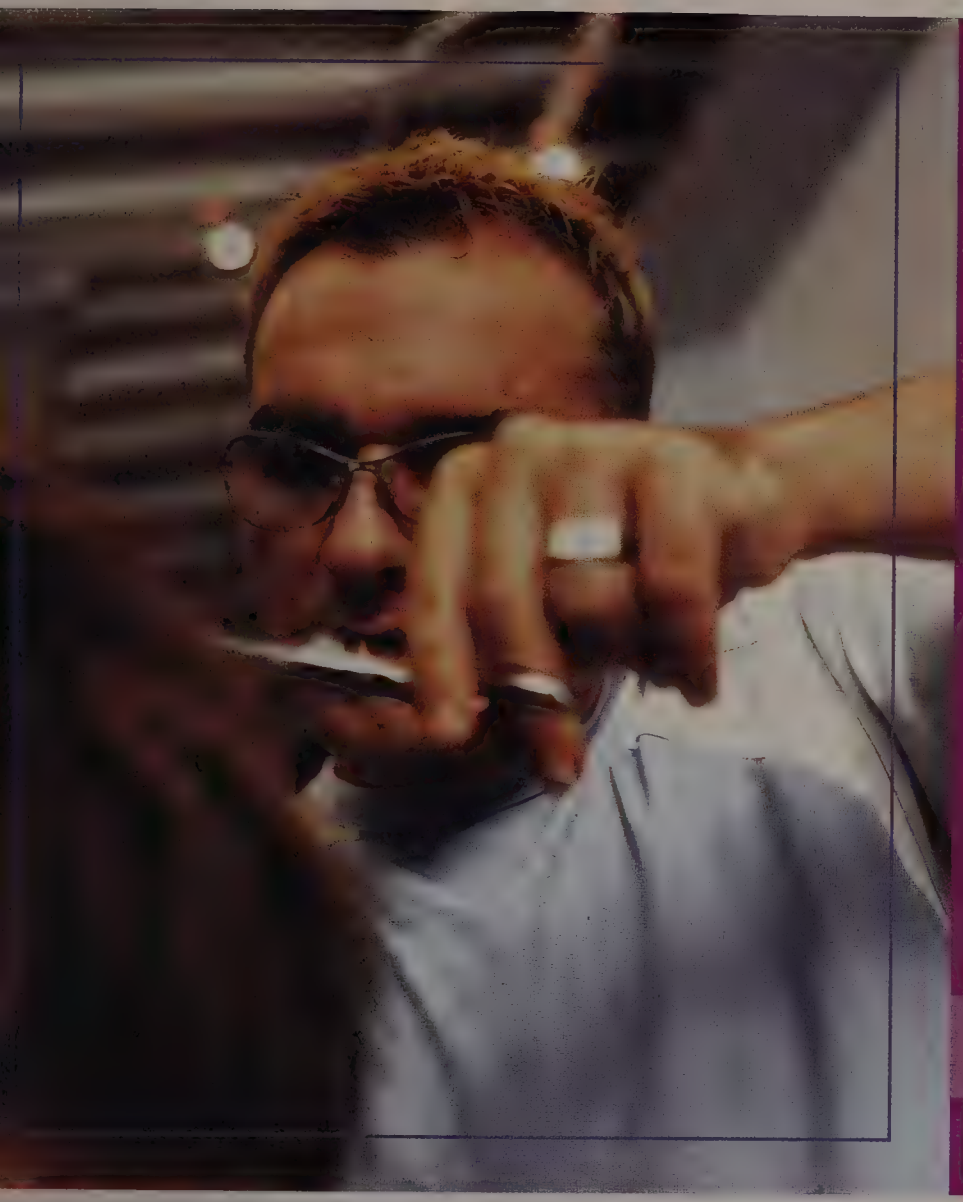
Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-661-0570). www.tuesdayswithsebastian.org MBTA: *Red Line to Charles/MGH. 8 pm. $10.* Organist Peter Sykes performs works by Bach.

Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Moonshine Room at Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-363-0396). www.bmop.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. 7 pm. $15.* The Orchestra performs pieces by Michael Torke, Steve Reich and Julia Wolfe.

New England Conservatory

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* The NEC Orchestra performs.



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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Ceremony A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 27, Join the Patriots' Lonie Paxton and friends in a benefit for the Active Force Foundation, 9 pm.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
S.I.N. Service Industry Night DJ Tony Moreno spins house, breaks and hip hop, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

TUESDAYS

An Tua Nua
What's Up Night A night of R&B, house, funk and soul music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Aria
One Nation DJ Chubby Chub spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm, followed by live music, $5, 18+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Matt Diamond and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins, 10 pm. •Oct. 28, ZMQ performs live, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 4, Jose Ramos & the No Way Jose Band perform, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, $10, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Felt
Weekly Therapy Party Guest DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Matrix
Lively A cast of DJs spin underground garage, 10 pm, $8.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 22 and 29, BlackSole performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
The Skinny DJ Ren Justice spins techno, top-40 and hip-hop 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and guests play rap and Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami and John Debo host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Preview

Tricks, Treats and Beats

It's good clean Halloween fun at Filth

Tym Ryan is the kind of guy who hands out business cards that list his profession as "Scumbag." That's not your average job title, but Ryan is not your average DJ. He's probably best known for his decade-long tenure as resident DJ and ringleader of Spin Cycle, a now-defunct Friday night party on Lansdowne Street. After a two-year absence, and just in time for Halloween, Friday nights with Tym Ryan are back in Boston. Joined by partner in crime John Davis, Ryan recently kicked off a new event called Filth, which takes place every Friday night from 10 pm to 2 am at McGann's, an Irish bar near the Fleet Center. Ryan and Davis spin everything from tech house to breakbeats alongside weekly local guests. Ryan's genre-bending take on dance music is sleazy, glitzy, fun and decadent, promising to provide an appropriate soundtrack to all your ghoulish dancing and merriment.

197 Portland St., Fridays, 10 pm-2 am. $5. 21+. 617-227-4059—Daniel Spurling

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indian and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

Embassy
DJ JC spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz and electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
KISS 108's DJ Randy hosts the night and spins Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christian Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free, guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstairs, 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Giosdu spin dance tunes and old-school, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progressive and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Matrix
Club Candela DJ Michael Mercado spins Latin dance, 10 pm, 18+ ladies, 21+ men.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts spins house and hip-hop. 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Parris
Oct. 23, Central Basement performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $ 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge, night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dail Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotati residency.

The Rack
DJ Littles spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 2 •Oct. 23, Uneek Aproach performs, 6-10 pm, cover, 21+. •Oct. 30, the IMPROPER's Hallowe Fun Run to benefit cystic fibrosis, 6-10 pm, cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a mix electro, Funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no co 21+.

Saint
Deja Vu DJs and weekly guest hosts spin lou music, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house mu with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by

Friday October 31st

Raise Hell This Halloween

FELT BOSTON

TY FOR LIFE? DRINK RESPONSIBLY.
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ee before 9PM $10 tickets available at the Door

Entertainment throughout the night by IMAGO, former Cirque du Soleil performers

Costume Contest with $500 Cash Prize for best costume

Special Guest Dj

Hosted by: KISS 108's Billy Costa

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BACARDI® WICKED PARTY®

Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Superlovers DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40 from the '70s, '80s and '90s, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 18+.

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+. •Oct. 24, 10 pm, Seb Fontaine CD release.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins a mix of international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Nailz and DJ Eddie Lee spin hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $20, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $1 21+.

Felt
After-work live jazz, 5-9 pm. KISS 108's Billy Cos hosts the party and DJ Ricky Fatts spins high-ener dance, hip-hop and Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '9 and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstai with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Oct. 2 Peatmoss performs live. •Oct. 31, live music wi the Catunes.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B an dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spi house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before mi night, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashio night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae an R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Nik spins Greek and international tunes on the thi floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-ener house, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-ru ning all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show ru 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18 $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstrea hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broa casts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $1 18+; $5, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up h from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18 no cover, 21+.

Parris
•Oct. 24, Steamroller Picnic performs, 10 pm, co varies, 21+. •Oct. 31, Love Seed Mama Jump p forms, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Jus spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

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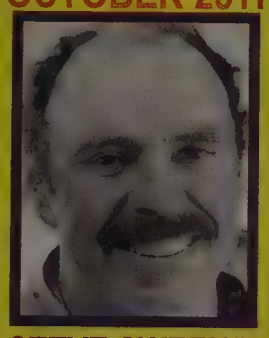
OCTOBER 24TH

JOHN VALBY

OCTOBER 25TH



STEVE SWEENEY

OCTOBER 31ST

OTTO & GEORGE

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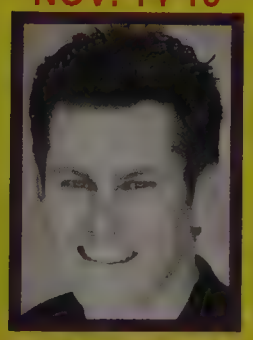
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

NOV. 7-9

TOMMY DAVIDSON

NOV. 14-15



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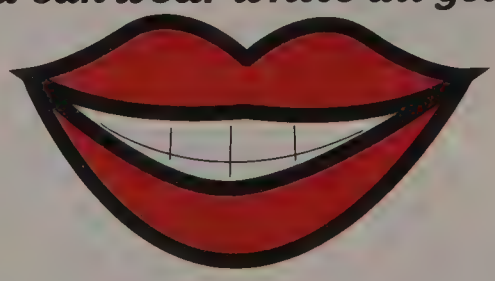

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The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports video highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Oct. 24, live music with Taylor Bros., 6:30-10:30 pm. •Oct. 31, Halloween Party with Artie, 8 pm-2 am.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins neusoul, scsi diisko, poplock hits, and a few feel-good classics, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; Downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Tequila Rain
DJ Tim Collins spins top-40, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $5.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

Aria
International Saturdays DJ Roger M spins vocal house and international hits, proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (guys), 19+ (ladies).

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Roger M spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Ghost spins hip-hop and house, 9 pm, no cover

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Oct. 25, Peatmoss performs live.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal house, travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Pedro Gonzales plays high-energy house while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortiz spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee plays hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes. Proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•Oct. 25, Steamroller Picnic performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new wave and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21+. •Oct. 25, live music with Brick Park.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host the dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

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The Roxy
The Roxy Goes Manhattan DJ Adilson spins house and techno at this Big Apple–themed night, 9 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house and funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit-pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $3, 19+.

Aria
DJ Roger M spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
DJs Doc and Kieran spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae and world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001).*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tequila Rain *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699).*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7600).*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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art

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions*, a collection of the sculptor's work, shows through Oct. 26. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4, 2004.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Fashion Week 2003* is an exhibition detailing historical women's wear for the workforce. Through Oct. 31. •*Photographer's View of the Art of Teaching Musicians* features the work of Diane Griliches. Through Oct. 31.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface* features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. •*Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibition, shows through May 16, 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Before Expressionism: Art in Germany circa 1903* features drawings, prints and paintings from German avant garde artists. Oct. 24-Feb. 15, 2004. •*George Bellows: The Tragedies of War* displays through Oct. 26. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* shows through Nov. 2. •*The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* displays through Nov. 16. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22, 2004.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Into the Mountains* features the photography of mountaineer Bradford Washburn. Through spring 2004. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize* shows temporary installations that Weathersby created while cleaning at the ICA. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Through Jan. 4, 2004.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •*Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banker: The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti* features a painting by Raphael, sculpture by Cellini and busts of Cosimo de'Medici and Altoviti. Through Jan. 11, 2004. •The permanent collection features more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). www.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children.* •*Winning Hand: Images from the MIT Radiation Laboratory Negative Collection* displays through Nov. 2. •*The ZENetic Computer: The Work of Naoko Tosa and Seigo Matsuoka* is an interactive exhibition that combines Buddhist principles, Asian philosophy, and traditional Japanese culture. Oct. 24-Nov. 13. •*Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* shows 50 color landscapes. Through Jan. 30, 2004. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*John Currin Selects*, an exhibition assembled by the MFA's associate curator, displays works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*Rembrandt's Journey: Painter/Draftsman/Etcher* is a comprehensive exhibition of more than 200 of Rembrandt's works. Oct. 26-Jan. 18, 2004. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists that he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25, 2004. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children.* •*Canstruction* features 21 cubic structures items designed by architects, engineers and students and made out of nonperishable food. Through Nov. 7. •*Magic: The Science of Illusion* is an interactive exhibition focusing on mind reading, levitation, transformation, and the disembodied head. Through Feb. 22, 2004. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of computers from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features models of a wave tank, Mount Everest and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16. •*Close-up in Black: African American Film Posters* features 90 posters that chronicle black film history. Nov. 1-Jan. 4, 2004. •*Generals, Admirals, and American War Leaders*, an exhibition of personal and official autographs from famous American leaders, shows through Jan. 11, 2004 •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1, 2004. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community* is ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Uncommon Legacies* features more than a hundred 18th- and 19th-century Native American works. Through Dec. 13. •*Vanished Kingdoms: The Wulsin Photographs of China, Tibet, and Mongolia 1921-1925*, an exhibition of color images taken by American explorers Janet E. and Frederick R. Wulsin, shows through Feb. 29, 2004. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children* •*Dia de los Muertos: The Day of the Dead* features Aztec art and objects from the Alice Melvin Mexican folk art collection. Nov. 1-30, Sat. and Sun, 10 am-4 pm.•*Portraits from China, 1923-1946: Photographers and Their Subjects* features the work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frederick Wulsin. Through Jan. 15, 2004. •*These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb., 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the response of Native Americans across the continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28, 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art

38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Lillian Orlowsky shows her abstract work in *The Fifties*. Through Nov. 15.

Alianza Gallery

154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Clockwork* shows sculptural clocks by 12 artists. Through Nov.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Wlodzimierz Ksiazek displays large-scale abstract paintings. Through Oct. 2 •Anne Neely shows abstract paintings. Nov. 1-Dec.

Arden Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Lynda Lowe displays mixed-media works on wooden panels in *New Paintings*. Through Oct. 30. •John Stockwell shows paintings in *New Landscapes*. Nov. 3-29.

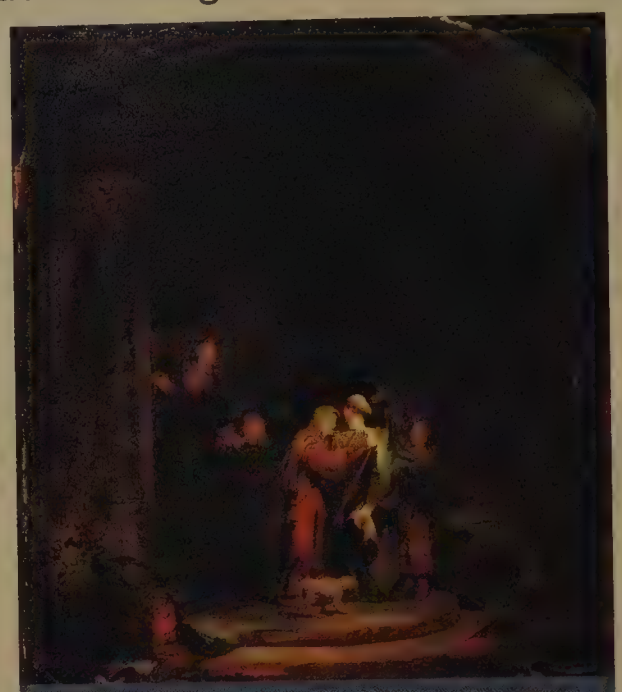
Barbara Krakow Gallery

10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Michael Beatty's *Low Fat*, a show of minimalist sculpture, displays through Oct. 22. •Jennifer Barlett shows

Preview

Rembrandt Roundup

The MFA surveys the artist's repertoire in a rare retrospective exhibition including lesser-known works



Rembrandt's oil painting *The Visitation* displays at the Museum of Fine Arts through Jan. 18, 2004.

No matter what the medium, an artist's work changes over time. Just as the Beatles' *A Hard Day's Night* is vastly different from the *White Album*, Rembrandt's early self-portraits are leagues apart from his late landscapes. But unlike music lovers who can track an artist's career by visiting a music store, an art aficionado who wants to view a master's evolution might need to visit museums around the world. The Museum of Fine Arts' newest exhibition, *Rembrandt's Journey: Painter/Draftsman/Etcher*, opens Oct. 26 and offers the Dutch artist's admirers the rare opportunity to view a wide range of his work under one roof. For the first American Rembrandt exhibition in decades, the MFA and the Art Institute of Chicago have gathered 20 paintings, 35 drawings and 150 etchings from collections around the world to examine the range of the 17th-century artist's career. Highlights include the first-state print *Christ Preaching*, the drypoint *Christ Crucified*, the painting *Rest on the Flight to Egypt*, and many early and late self-portraits, nudes and landscapes. "By bringing together works that have never before been seen together, this exhibition allows visitors to enter into Rembrandt's unique world," says exhibition curator Clifford Ackley. Most compelling may be the etchings, including tiny, emotive self-portraits. "Rembrandt was the most experimental etcher of his time," says Ackley.

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-542-4632). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Oct. 26–Jan. 18, 2004. $22 adults, $20 seniors and students, $7.50 ages 7-17.—Jessica Iredale

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work in *Print Publisher's Spotlight: Brand X Projects*. Through Oct. 22. •*Generic Space(s)* features paintings, drawings and prints by Mel Bochner. Oct. 25-Dec. 10. •*Print Publisher's Spotlight: Edition Schellmann*, a group show, displays Oct. 25-Dec. 10.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •*Shining Stars: Celebrating 30 Years of Gateway Arts* showcases 30 years of 20 artists' work. Through Nov. 1.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •*Preview/Review*, a group show by David Hilliard, Jocelyn Lee, Abelardo Morell, Deborah Bright, Virginia Beahan, and Laura McPhee, shows through Nov. 9.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410) www.brickbottomartists.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Thurs.-Sat., 12-5 pm. •*Homemade: Images of Home (Architectural, Domestic, and Historical)*, a group show of photography, sculpture, painting and mixed-media work, displays through Oct. 25. •

Brookline Arts Center
86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm. •*100 Weaves of India* displays through Nov. 17.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. •*Kathleen Holmes: Something to Say in Glass* shows through Nov. 11.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm. •Danna Ruth Harvey shows paintings in *Time and Other Times*. Through Oct. 28. •Joe Piccillo shows sketches of horses in *New Work*. Oct. 30-Nov. 30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. MBTA:Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.

Picasso's *Faunes Et Chévre* is available at the New England Print Fair.

•*Florence Robinson in Italy* (paintings), *Prints of the Roman High Renaissance* and *The Power of Myth* (sculptures, lithographs, paintings and engravings) show through Nov. 16.

Clifford-Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Suite 300, Boston (617-695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5:30 pm. •Marco Breuer shows color photographs. Through Oct. 25.

Copley Society of Art
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •*Suzanne Ulrich: An Invitational Exhibition* shows Oct. 23-Nov. 15. •*Maloney & Sons: William, Paul and Robert* shows Oct. 23-Nov. 15.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •Gretje Ferguson's black-and-white photography shows through Nov. 1.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm. •*Open Studios Group Show* features works in all media. Through Nov. 9.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery AA/B
535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 -0022). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; Fri., 11 am-3 pm •Mark Vonnegut, son of author Kurt Vonnegut, shows recent paintings. Through Oct. 31.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •Photographs from the gallery's collection show through Nov. 16.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Wed.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •David Scanavino shows his paintings in *Balloons*. Through Nov. 1.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Craig Stockwell shows new paintings in *Monogamy and Painting*. Through Nov. 4.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment. •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing. •Ronalee Crocker shows recent oil paintings. Oct. 24-Nov. 20.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Catherine McCarthy shows new paintings in *We Walk on Jewels*. Through Nov. 4.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm. •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. •*Emotional Moves*, a video installation by Bebe Beard, shows through Oct. 25. •*Icons: Jankowski and Amadeo-Holl* features paintings by Zygmund Jankowski and Jennifer Amadeo-Holl. Through Oct. 26. •David Kupferman shows paintings. Oct. 30-Nov. 29.

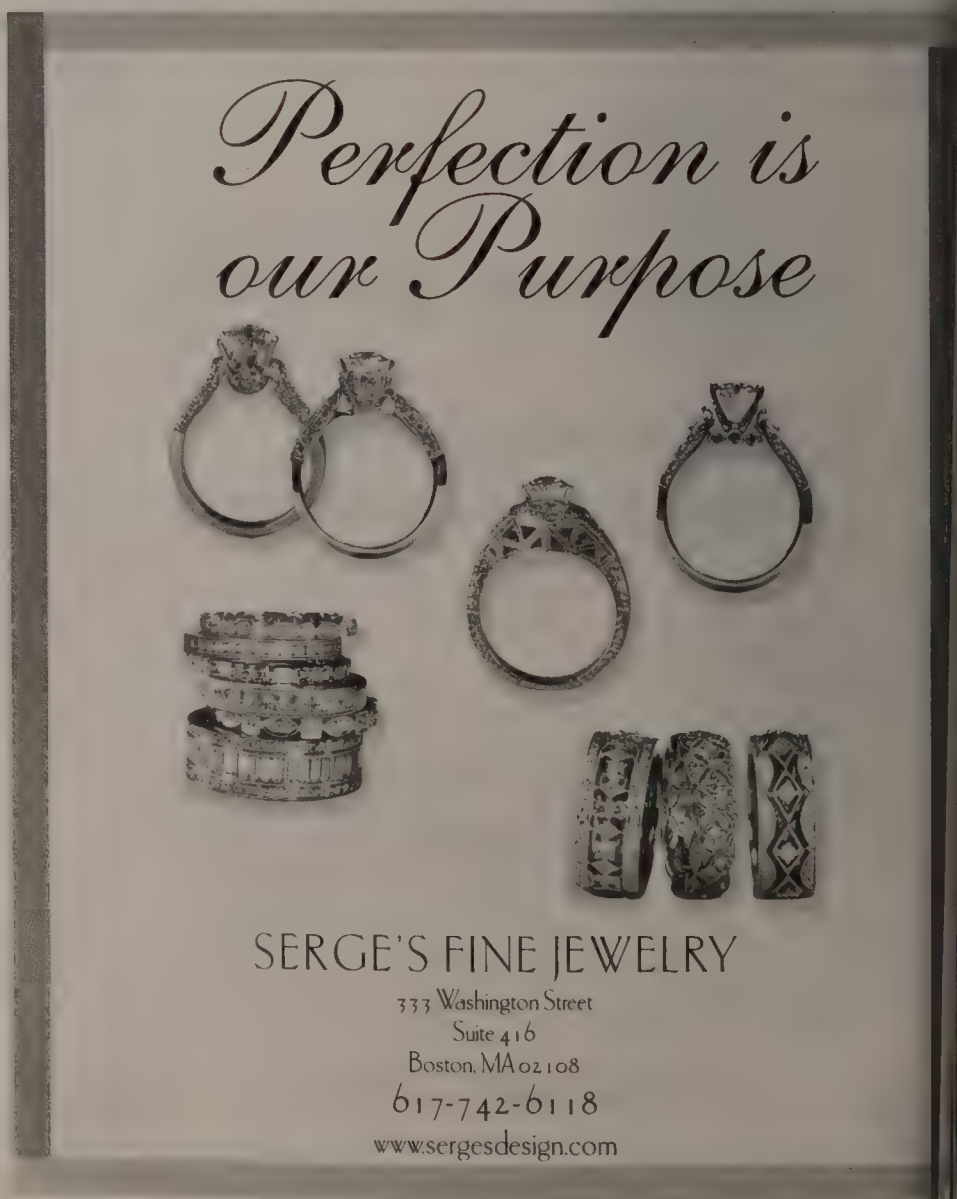
Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm and by appointment. •*Art on Paper* shows the work of Haruko Cho. Through Oct. 24.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm. •*Pushing the Envelope*, a juried exhibition, shows through Oct. 30.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm. •Cheryl Goldsleger shows architecturally based encaustic work. Through Nov. 1. •Graham Gillmore shows paintings in *New Work*. Nov. 4-29 .

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm. •Elif Soyer shows paintings in *Flowers and Germs*. Through Nov. 1.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun.



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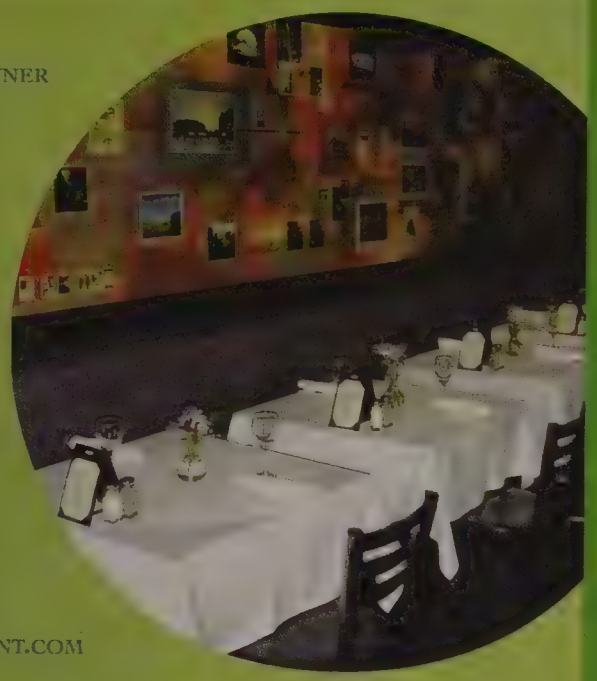

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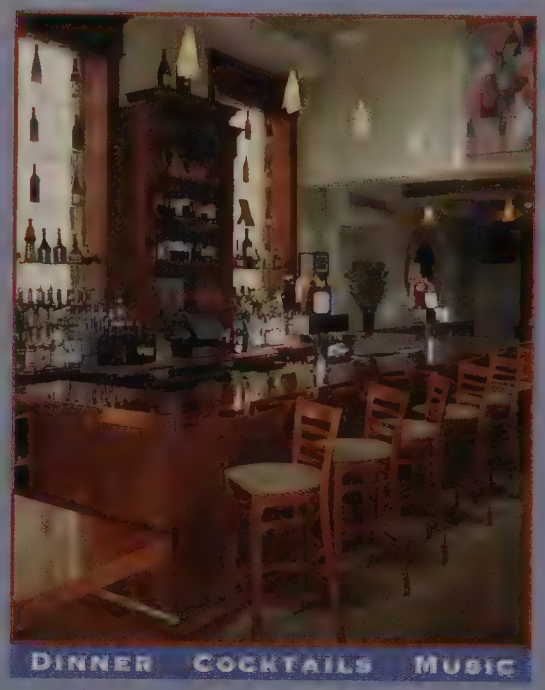

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12-5 pm. •*Duet: Harmony in Oil and Bronze* features the abstract oil paintings and bronze sculptures of Tom and Carol Odell. Through Nov. 6.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Thu.,4-7 pm; Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat., 12-5; and by appointment.* •Juan Jose Barboza Gubo and Bobbi Kovner show their work in *Visions, Views and Vistas.* Through Nov. 14.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington.* www.martinlawrence.com. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm.* •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Philip Jones: Boston*, a photography exhibition, shows through Nov. 5.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •*Joe Kievitt: Recent Drawings* shows through Nov. 12

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: *Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*What If?*, a group exhibition of video, installations, glasswork, paintings and sculpture, shows through Nov. 30.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*Botanical Jewelry*, a group exhibition, shows through Nov. 1.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment.* •Juan Perdiguero shows mixed-media-on-photo-emulsion works. Through Oct. 25.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm.* •*Find the Next Francis Bacon for Not a Lot of Bread*, a group show of 20 local artists, displays through Nov. 9.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Artists Without Borders* displays Oct. 25-Nov. 29.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Tue.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm; Sun. by appointment.* •Melissa Davenport, Carly Weaver and Mary Kenny show paintings and sculpture. Through Nov. 2.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm.* •A group show of work featured in the 2003 *New American Paintings MFA Annual* is on display through Nov. 15.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.pepper galleryboston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Phyllis Berman: Paintings* shows through Nov. 15.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Mark Davis shows metal work in *New Work*, and Zevi Blum shows etchings in *Artistic Equilibrium.* Through Nov. 10.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery has an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Photography by Aaron Siskind and Carl Chiarenza displays through Nov. 15.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* Free. •*Robert Sweeney: The Italian Campaign II* features recent paintings and pastels of Tuscany. Through Oct. 31. •

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Words Text Stories*, a group show of glass, wood, clay and fiber, shows through Oct. 26. •*Domesticated Animals*, a group show of mixed-media, displays Nov. 1-Jan. 18.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Claudia Goulette shows ink on paper and Robert Markey shows paintings and drawings in *Personal-Universal.* Through Nov. 2

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm; Mon. by appointment.* •*Kaleidoscope*, a group show of paintings by William St. George, Anne Grandin, Sandra Mueller-Dick, Christina Keating and Judy St. Peter, shows through Oct. 31.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-5:30 pm.; Sat., 10 am-1 pm.* •*Elusive Form* features paintings and sculpture by Amanda Annis, Virginia Peck, and Guillermo Velasco. Through Oct. 27.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •Susan Walt shows drawings. Through Nov. 15.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •David Brega shows contemporary works. Through Nov. 15

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). www.wentworthgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's collection shows through November.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: *Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •*Mustang: The Lost Tibetan Kingdom* shows images by Don Gurewitz. Through Oct. 31. •*Jan Staller: A Retrospective* shows through Nov. 28.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*Ruth S. Nickse Memorial Photographic Exhibit* shows through Dec. 5.

Panopticon Gallery
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Commuter Rail to Waltham. www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri. 10 am-6 pm.* •B.A. King shows his work in *About Children.* Through Oct. 25. •*A Music Show*, photographs by Ron Pownall and Herb Greene, displays through Nov. 3-Jan. 3, 2004.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dorchester Open Studios
(617-822-8205). MBTA: *Red Line to Fields Corner.* www.dorchesterartists.org. *Oct. 25, 11 am-5 pm.* •Dorchester Arts Collaborative presents Dorchester Open Studios, a showcase of the work of community artists throughout the neighborhood.

5th Annual New England Print Fair
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-6540). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* www.newenglandprintfair.com. *Oct. 31, 5-9 pm; Nov. 1, 12-7 pm; Nov. 2, 12-4 pm. $8-$15.* •More than 30 international art dealers display and sell prints, drawings and photographs from the Renaissance to the 1950s.

South Boston Open Studios
(617-464-3561). MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway.* www.artistsfoundation.org. *Nov. 1 and 2, 12 pm.* •South Boston artists showcase their work at four sites throughout the neighborhood.

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Tues, Oct. 28
GREG ABATE
Greg comes in with his powerful group consisting of Hilton Ruiz on piano, Harvie S on bass and Tony Reedus on drums.

Weds, Oct. 29
HABANA SAX
This incredible group makes their first Boston appearance. In addition to their musical wizardry, they also do choreography while playing.

Thurs-Fri, Oct. 30-31
LAVAY SMITH AND HER RED HOT SKILLET LICKERS
This saucy vocalist with her eight piece band delivers a great Kansas City style of jump, swing and R&B. They've become real favorites around here — you can join the crowd.

Sat, Nov. 1
LIVINGSTON TAYLOR

Tues, Nov. 4
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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Joan Leegant** discusses *An Hour in Paradise*, her collection of short stories that deal with contemporary Jewish life.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Jessica Hagedorn** reads from her novel *Dream Jungle*, about two seemingly unrelated events: the discovery of a lost Filipino tribe and the filming of a movie in a Philippine rain forest. Also, **Robin Hemley** reads from his book *Invented Eden*, an account of the 1971 discovery of the Filipino Tasaday tribe, which was later reported to be a hoax.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Katharine Weber** reads from her novel *The Little Women*, a contemporary story based on Louisa May Alcott's book about three sisters.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Heidi Schmidt** reads from her novel, *The Bride of Catastrophe*, about a woman whose dysfunctional family gets in the way of her search for a new identity. Also, **Dan Pope** reads from his novel, *In the Cherry Tree*, about a boy whose adolescence ends over the course of one summer.

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-864-1200). www.charleshotel.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **David Guterson** reads from his novel *Our Lady of the Forest*, about a poor mushroom picker who claims to have a vision of the Virgin Mary.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Authors @ MIT
MIT Building E25, Room 111, 45 Carleton St., Cambridge (617-253-5249). web.mit.edu/bookstore/www/events. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 6:30 pm. Free. **Lester Thurow** reads from his book *Fortune Favors the Bold*, a look at how the globalization process could be changed to reduce some of the world's inequalities.

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Jon Papernick** reads from *The Ascent of Eli Israel and Other Stories*, his collection of stories inspired by his experiences as a reporter in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Cambridge Public Library
449 Broadway, Cambridge (617-349-4040). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Edward Humes** reads from his new book, *School of Dreams: Making the Grade at a Top American High School*, an account of Humes' experience as a teacher at a California public high school.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Lois Banner** reads from her book *Intertwined Lives: Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict and Their Circle*, a joint biography of the influential anthropologists Mead and Benedict.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Harvard professor **Susan Suleiman** reads from the anthology she edited, *Contemporary Jewish Writing in Hungary*, which includes excerpts by 24 Hungarian writers about what it means to be Jewish in post-Holocaust Eastern Europe.

Dan Pope reads from his novel Oct. 22

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Newsday reporter **Thomas Maier** discusses his book *The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings*, a look at the family's Irish roots and its relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Poets **Ethan Paquin** and **Lori Lubeski** read from their work.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Ayelet Waldman** reads from her new novel, *Daughter's Keeper*, about a young woman who battles the legal system when she is arrested in a drug crime.

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Poets **Wanda Phipps**, **Joel Sloman** and **Christina Strong** read from their work.

MONDAY, OCT. 27

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle Square, Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 1). www.ccae.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $3. **Glyn Maxwell** reads from his new poetry collection, *The Nerve*, and **Katia Kapovich** reads from her new novel written in verse, *Suflior*.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Francis Bok** discusses his memoir *Escape From Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity–and My Journey to Freedom in America*, about being taken from his home in Sudan and enslaved by Muslim farmers for 10 years before escaping.

TUESDAY, OCT. 28

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. Boston University professor **Lance Morrow** discusses his book *Evil: An Investigation*, in which he examines the concept of evil through topics like Sept. 11 and the Holocaust.

Borders Chestnut Hill
300 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-630-1120). www.borders.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill. 7:30 pm. Free. **Victoria Zackheim** reads from her novel, *The Bone Weaver*, about a woman who explores her Jewish identity and deals with the death of her friend.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Emily Franklin** reads from her debut novel, *Liner Notes*, about a young woman who inadvertently goes on a road trip with her mother. Also, **Lisa Dierbeck** reads from her novel, *One Pill Makes You Smaller*, a story about a girl's summer experiences with sex and drugs at camp.

Cambridge Public Library
449 Broadway, Cambridge (617-349-4040). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. Vogue magazine food writer **Jeffrey Steingarten** discusses his new book, *It Must've Been Something I Ate*, a collection of his essays about food.

Harvard Book Store
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. Nobel Prize winner **Joseph Stiglitz** reads from his book *The Roaring Nineties: A New History of the World's Most Prosperous Decade*, a look at the factors that led one of the greatest economic expansions in history to collapse.

Harvard Graduate School of Education
Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge (617-495-0740). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot** speaks about her new book, *Essential Conversation: What Parents and Teachers Can Learn from Each Other*, an examination of the parent/teacher relationship.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). 7:30 pm. Free. MIT professor **Alan Lightman** reads from his novel *Reunion*, about a divorced college professor who attends his 30th college reunion and is confronted with memories of his youth.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. Mass. College of Art professor **Ted Richer** discusses his collection of vignettes, *The Writer in the Story and Other Figurations*, monologues and dialogues that center on the theme of love.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6 pm. Free. Singer **Judy Collins** reads from her new memoir, *Sanity and Grace*.

Cambridge Forum
3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). www.cambridgeforum.org. 7:30 pm. Free. Doctors **Lauren Slater** and **Jessica Henderson Daniel** read from and discuss the book they edited, *The Complete Guide to Mental Health for Women*, in which more than 50 experts provide information on a range of women's mental health issues.

Harvard Book Store
Faneuil Hall, Great Hall, Government Center, Boston (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 6 pm. Free. **Toni Morrison** reads from her new novel, *Love*, about a deceased proprietor of a once thriving African-American hotel, his widow and his granddaughter.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/ harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Heidi Schmidt** discusses her novel, *The Bride of Catastrophe*. See Oct. 22 Newtonville Books for description.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Edward Jones** reads from his novel *The Known World*, about a former slave who goes on to own a plantation and slaves.

Old South Church
645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Local author **James Carroll** reads from his new novel, *Secret Father*, about three students in Berlin during the summer of 1961.

Toni Morrison reads Oct. 29.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Didi Emmons** discusses her cookbook *Entertaining for a Veggie Planet: 250 Down-to-Earth Recipes*, a collection of new vegetarian recipes.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. 7:30pm. Free. **Adam Patcher**, winner of the IMPROPER'S 2001 fiction contest, reads from his short story collection, *Ash*. Also, **Christopher Castellani** reads from his novel, *A Kiss from Maddalena*, about a young Italian boy courting a girl during World War II.

Boston Public Library
900 St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. **Nikki Giovanni** reads from her collection of poetry, *Quilting the Black Eyed Pea*.

Harvard Book Store
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Jonathan Lethem** reads from his novel *The Fortress of Solitude*, about two motherless boys growing up in 1970s Brooklyn.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Richard Sobel** discusses the book he edited, *International Public Opinion and the Bosnia Crisis*, a collection of public opinion essays from writers during the war in Bosnia.

Schoenhof's Foreign Books
76A Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-8855). www.schoenhofs.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6:30 pm. Free. Local author **Daniele Lévy Alvarèz** reads in French from her spiritual memoir *La Réparation*.

WordsWorth Books
The Charles Hotel, One Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Stuart Sheppard** reads from his novel, *Spindrift*, about a man who quits his job as a stockbroker to work as a lobster cook on Nantucket.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Brett Fromson** reads from his book *Hitting the Jackpot: The Inside Story of the Richest Indian Tribe in History*, the story of the events that brought the first casino to Connecticut.

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. **Mark Oppenheimer** reads from his book *Knocking on Heaven's Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture*, which explores how 1960s radical groups influenced the religious beliefs of mainstream people.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). www.bkstore.com/harvard. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Michael Wood** reads from his book *Shakespeare*, which contains new ideas about the Bard, faith, work and attitudes toward sex.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Poets **Sean Cole** and **David Kirschenbaum** read from their work.

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Paradise Lounge
969 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8804). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. 6 pm. $7. **Cover Cover**, the Saturday Night Fever edition, featuring **Andre Dubus III** reading a classic story by his father, and **Junot Diaz** reading a Denis Johnson short story. Performances follow by musicians Blake Hazard and Merrie Amsterburg who perform covers of their favorite '70s hits. Local author Tom Perrotta hosts and Steve Almond D

MONDAY, NOV. 3

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-267-8484). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 5 pm. Free. **Elie Wiesel** signs copies of his new book, *Wise Men and Their Tales: Portraits of Biblical, Talmudic*

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Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle Square, Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. 1). www.ccae.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $3. **Rosamond Purcell** reads from her poetry collection, *Owl's Head*. Also, **Shona Ramaya** discusses her book *Operation Monsoon*, a collection of short stories that look at the tradition and modernity in present-day India.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free with ticket. **Paul Johnson** reads from his book *Art: A New History*.

TUESDAY, NOV. 4

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7pm. Free. **James Zug** reads from his book, *Squash: A History of the Game*, which gives a detailed history of the game and parallels that history with American social movements.

Harvard Book Store
Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6pm. Free with ticket. **Thomas Cahill** reads from his book *Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Why the Greeks Matter*, which focuses on six archetypal figures, including Odysseus, Sophocles, Plato and Aristotle.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Karen Propp** reads from her memoir, *In Sickness and in Health: A Love Story*, about her husband's struggle with prostate cancer. Also, **Jean Troustine** reads from *Almost Home Free*, her collection of poems about dealing with cancer.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Boston Jewish Book Fair
(617-558-6442). www.lsjcc.org. Nov. 4-Dec. 19. Call for location, time and prices. Prominent Jewish authors, including Anita Diamant, Leslie Epstein and Robert Reich read and discuss their work.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (Tuesdays)
255 Elm Street, Somerville (617-591-1616). www.jimmytingle.com. $10. 8 pm. Eight local poets perform their own work in a two-hour theatrical show every third Tuesday of the month. Directed by Michael Brown.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry slam, 7 pm. $5. The Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. O'Brien's presents a mix of rock and spoken word one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled Open Bark—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30 pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity for others to take the open mike.

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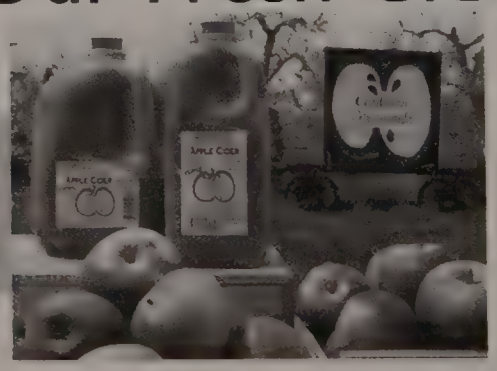

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

Beyond Clans and Tartans: Scottish Genealogical Research
New England Historic and Genealogical Society, 99 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5740). www.newenglandancestors.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10 am. Free. This introductory lecture will provide information on tracking Scottish roots.

Domestic Violence Forum
Brookline Municipal Court, 260 Washington St., Boston (617-730-2700). www.brooklineadulted.org. 7 pm. Free with registration. **Thomas J. May**, presiding justice of the Brookline District Court, moderates this forum, which includes a survivor's story and details about what victims of assault need to know about the law.

Identity and the Survival of Native America
Boston College, Devlin Hall, 140 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill (617-553-4820). MBTA: B Green Line to Boston College. 7:30 pm. Free. What makes a "real Indian" and why does it matter? **Eve Marie Garroute**, an assistant professor of sociology at Boston College, discusses competing definitions of racial identity and their implications for a range of legal and cultural issues, including affirmative action on college campuses, the preservation of cultural knowledge and the protection of community resources.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

The History of Recorded Sound
Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-730-2700). www.brooklineadulted.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7 pm. $5. Musician **Dan Gorn** lectures on the history of recorded sound—from old wax cylinders and 78s to compact discs and MP3 players.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

Elizabeth Peters and the Egyptian Experience
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum or Orange Line to Ruggles. 6:30 pm. $13. **Barbara Mertz**, known to mystery lovers as Elizabeth Peters, published her first Amelia Peabody mystery in 1975. Here she shares her lifelong love of Egypt in a discussion of Amelia Peabody's most recent archaeological adventures.

Harvard in the Caribbean: Three Centuries of Scientific Discovery
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Harvard biology professor and entomology curator **Brian D. Farrell** discusses how the latest technologies in insect collecting and digital communications are bringing to light the Caribbean's stunning biodiversity.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

The Elegant Universe
Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-589-0419). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 2:30 pm. Free. Columbia University professor of physics and mathematics **Brian Greene** describes string theory and its influence on modern physics.

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Women in Politics
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1550). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 4-5:30 pm. **Gwen Ifill** moderates this conversation with congresswoman **Loretta Sanchez**, former congresswoman **Geraldine Ferraro** and others about their experiences in the national political arena.

Frontiers of Health Science
The Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617-589-0419). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 1:30 pm. $13. Harvard Medical School geneticist **Dr. Adrian Ivinson** leads a discussion about the ethics of stem cell research.

Slide Introduction to Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum or Orange Line to Ruggles. 1 and 2 pm. Free with museum admission ($15). This half-hour talk and slide show provides background for the exhibition, suggesting ways of looking at and understanding the work of this master artist.

MONDAY, OCT. 27

Theology on Tap
George: An American Tavern, 384 Boylston St., Boston (617-523-2377). www.friendsattheadvent.org. 7 pm. Free. Sponsored by the Church of the Advent on Beacon Hill, this program for men and women in their 20s and 30s features speakers who discuss issues involving Christian faith.

TUESDAY, OCT. 28

Treasures in Your Attic: Old and Rare Books
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-0439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 6 pm. $10. **Ken Gloss**, proprietor of the Brattle Book Shop, shares stories of historical finds and gives audience members a chance to have their books appraised.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29

American Values: Understanding Patriotism in Our Time
John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1550). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 4-5:30 pm. **Caroline Kennedy** introduces a panel discussion with **Roger Wilkins, Louis Menand** and others exploring the ideals upon which the United States was founded and how those values can best be fulfilled at home and abroad.

Eating and Drinking in America
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum or Orange Line to Ruggles. 6 pm. Free with museum admission ($15). **Alyce Perry** looks at images of food and drink in American paintings.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Craft in Context Between the Wars
Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Boston (617-227-0155). www.nbss.org. MBTA: Green to Blue Line to Government Center. 6:30 pm. Free. **Robert Adam**, department chair of preservation carpentry at the North Bennet Street School, and **Michael Lynch**, vice president of properties and preservation at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, lecture on architecture from the Civil War to World War I.

Exploring the Salem Witch Trials
Brookline High, 115 Greenough St., Brookline (617-730-2700). www.brooklineadulted.org. MBTA: Green Line to Brookline Hills. 7 pm. $5. Amateur historian **Bill Harrington** discusses the Salem witch hunt and the hysteria and deceit that gripped the town. Learn the history of this event, details of why hundreds of presumably innocent people were accused of entertaining Satan, and the aftermath of this event for the town of Salem.

Monster of God: The Man-Eating Predator in the Jungles of History and the Mind
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 24 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **David Quammen** explores the past, present and future of predators such as lions, sharks and crocodiles, as well as society's view of those animals.

Writing Workshop: Mining Your Life
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-267-4430, ext. 708). www.bcae.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 6:30 pm. $35-$3
Author **Elizabeth Searle** leads this workshop, designed to teach participants how to identify the sometimes-unexpected aspects of their own lives that can become inspiration for fiction.

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Symposium-Extraordinary Gardens
Mass Bay Community College, 50 Oakland St., Wellesley (508-877-7630). www.newfs.org. 9 a.m.-4:15 pm. $100, includes lunch and snacks. Join gardening experts for lectures, seminars and demonstrations on how to turn ordinary gardens into fabulous havens.

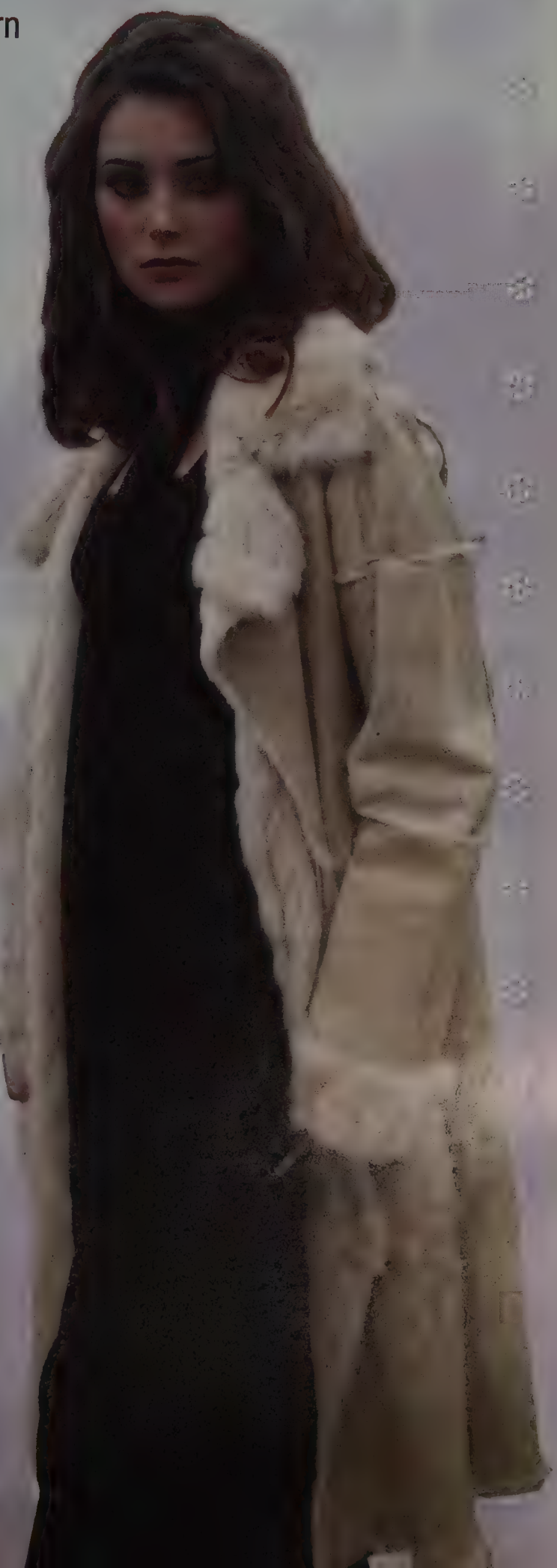
SUNDAY, NOV. 2

Enslaved and Free People of Color in New England Life Through the Revolution
National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. 2 pm. Free. Professor **Joanne Melish** examines the role of African-Americans in the American Revolution and assesses the impact of a growing free black population on the state's move to abolish slavery in 1783.

Blizzard of Beauty

When faced with yet another nor'easter, Bostonians will turn up their collars against the wind and look for something, anything, to cure their winter blues.

The Improper Bostonian's Winter Fashion Issue is the perfect remedy for those cold, blustery days. We will guide readers through winter's warm colors, rich textures and superb tailoring that give the colder months some of the most dignified clothing of the year. *The Improper* will also make people feel warm all over with cozy, colorful sweaters. We will also focus on quirky accessories that add fun and sparkle to a winter wardrobe. And fashion just wouldn't be the same without the season's most coveted shoes! (Just watch out for those puddles!)



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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
214 Pi Alley, Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Nightly, 5 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+. •On the first Sunday of every month, join PrideSports representatives for cocktails from 7:30-10 pm.

Dedo's Lounge & Bistro (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents the upstairs lounge at Dedo's, which features a nightly piano bar and club room. Tuesday nights feature show tunes, and Sunday is disco night. No cover, 21+.

Diesel Café (Daily)
257 Elm St., Somerville, (617-629-8717). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Thu. 7 am-midnight, Fri., 7-1 am, Sat., 8-1 am, Sun., 8-12 am. Diesel is a great place for GLBT people to go for coffee, pastry and pool. All ages.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Ryan Landry's play *The Gulls* is at Machine through Nov. 8.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features disco and pop music, guest DJs and weekly contests. 9 pm-2 am, $4-$7, 21+.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men and women, transgendered persons and their allies can start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. A dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila caps off the evening. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www. paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Purrr Promotions at the Matrix
Matrix, 275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077). www.purrrpromotions.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* •Oct. 30, 10 pm, $8, 21+. This gay and bi Halloween dance party celebrates the holiday.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Stele spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

The Credeaux Canvas
Boston Center for the Arts Theater, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.bcaonline.org. *Through Oct. 25. Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm. $25, $20 seniors and students.* The Zeitgeist Stage Company's production of Keith Bunin's *The Credeaux Canvas* follows three aspiring New York artists ensnared in a love triangle.

The Gulls
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through Nov. 8. Fri. and Sat. 8 pm. $25. Ryan Landry's play *The Gulls*, loosely based on Hitchcock's *The Birds*, is the story of rebellious seagulls exacting revenge on Provincetown developers.

Lunafest
Simmons Main College Building, 3rd floor conference center (617-521-2840). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Oct. 23, 7 pm, $7. Simmons College Feminist Union, Department of Women's Studies and Institute for Leadership and Change sponsor the third annual Lunafest festival of films by, for or about women. Screenings include: Grace Lee's *Barrier Device*, Daniela Zanzotto's *Kissed by Angels*, Erin Flannery's *Judy's Time*, Eva Saks' *Colorforms*, Tiffany Shlain's *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness* and Stephanie Morgenstern and Paul Fleck's *Remembrance*.

Sirens Wild Ride Tour
Midway Cafe 3496 Washington St., Boston (617-524-9038). www.midwaycafe.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. Oct. 23, 8 pm. $5-$10. 21+.* The Midway Cafe's Dyke Night hosts the Sirens Wild Ride Tour, featuring four female artists: Athena Reich, Karen Grenier, Emily Zuzik and Denise Barbarita. Live music and dancing with DJ Mix Mistress follows.

Transcending Boundaries: Celebrating the Spectrum of Sexuality, Gender and Sex
University of Mass., Amherst (413-545-0154). Oct. 24-26, $55. This two-day conference, co-sponsored by the UMass Pride Alliance, addresses issues faced by those who do not fit into the categories of gay/straight or male/female.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collaborated with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide the safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relationships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9 pm.* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth hosts weekly meetings and social events for young people seeking community, support and a place to discuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-288-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 7 pm.* This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

Bi Rap
The Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (617-354-8807). Tuesdays, first and third week of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning women.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dancers
1st Church of Jamaica Plain, Jamaica Plain (617-522-2216). 7:30-11 pm. Square dancing and English country dancing lessons are available for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends, $8.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston Glass Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 3-5 pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Boston Uncommons
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain. www.lcfd.org/bu. *Orange Line to Green St. Wednesdays, 7 pm* A gay and lesbian square-dancing group.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Cosmetically Correct
Masa, 439 Tremont St., Boston. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month, 6:30-10 pm. Lipstick encouraged.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. First Friday of the month. 7-9 pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext: 6). www.eastcoastwrestlingclub.org. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women 40 and older who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated to get together with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female.

GLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. All are welcome to join this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001 or 888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 7-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-642-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm. $2.* This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join in this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings. The groups are moderated by psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

Greater Boston Business Council
PO Box 1059, Boston (617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals. The group meets on a monthly basis.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

LGBT Considering Parenting Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243) www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term (eight-week) group for LGBT persons who are considering becoming parents. Sliding fee scale available. Call for information.

Liquid Assets Swimming
www.swim-lanes.org. *Tue., Wed. and Thu. evenings and Sat. and Sun. mornings at either MIT or South End Fitness Center.* This predominantly gay and lesbian swim team is open to both competitive and fitness swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provide confidential information, referrals and support.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-4528). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

Somos Latin
somoslatinoslgbt@hotmail.com. The only social and networking group for GLBT Latinos and Latinas in the Boston area. Viernes Sociales take place every month. E-mail for more information.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. First three Tuesdays of each month. Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Lesbians with Cancer
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed. evenings, twice a month. Free. For those who want to discuss the impact of this disease, and its treatments, on their lives. Also offered: Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing. $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Violence Recovery Program (VRP)
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6250). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. VRP provides free support groups for GLBT people.

Wonder Women Boston
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. WWB is a social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s. It meets the first Thursday of every month.

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body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Holistic Expo
Holiday Inn Newton, 399 Grove St. Newton (617-527-0247). www.centerforbalance.org. *Nov. 2, 9 am-5 pm. $5.* Lectures on various holistic methods take place throughout the day. Visitors can meet practitioners in the fields of bodywork, yoga and nutrition.

Sacred Link Healing Revolution Tour
First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge (508-835-1176). www.himalayaninstitute.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Oct. 25, 2 pm. $15.* Pandit Rajmani Tigunait, spiritual head of the Himalayan Institute, talks about how to quiet the mind and practice heart-meditation.

Sane Wisdom for an Insane World
Hynes Auditorium, 900 Boylston St., Boston (1-800-998-2324). www.lorettalaroche.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Oct. 30, 9 am-4 pm. $149.* This daylong mind/body conference features authors Loretta LaRoche and Joan Borysenko and TV journalist Liz Walker, who will discuss stress management, self-help and well-being. Seminar proceeds benefit Self Esteem Boston's programs for at-risk women.

Sweat Your Prayers Dance Jam
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). www.dancecomplex.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Nov. 3, 8-9:30pm. Sliding scale: $11-8.* This freestyle dance workshop features deep listening, improvisation and other exercises designed to stimulate creativity. All levels welcome.

Lectures

The G-Spot and More Explained
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Bldg., Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Oct. 22, 7:30-9:30 pm. $34.* Discuss the myths and realities of the G-spot. Open to all.

Workshops

The Body and Soul of Tai Chi
Brookline Tai Chi, 1615 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-2975). www.brooklinetaichi.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Sq. Tai Chi for Your Spirit: Oct. 23, 7-10 pm. $60. Tai Chi for Stress: Oct. 24, 7-10 pm. $60.* B.K. Frantzis teaches these workshops that focus on tai chi's spiritual and meditative qualities and how they can be used to alleviate stress and improve physical health.

Introduction to Anusara Yoga
Karma Yoga Studio, 1132 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (617-547-9642). http://karmayogastudio.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. Nov. 1, 12:45-2:15 pm. $25.* Learn anusara yoga's unifying principles of alignment. All levels welcome.

Intro to Reiki Energy Healing
Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Commonwealth Ave., Boston (781-648-9334 or 617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Oct. 27, 6-7:30 pm. Free.* Learn about this ancient hands-on method for reducing stress, relieving pain and facilitating personal growth.

Managing Back and Shoulder Pain Naturally
Bailey Therapeutic Massage, 14 Nason St., Suite 201, Maynard (978-897-0110). http: web.maynard.ma.us/biz/bmassage. *Nov. 2, 2-4:30 pm. $35.* Learn self-care techniques that may help ease pain without drugs and prevent future pain.

Mindful Modern Dance
CasaNia Studio, 46 Porter Rd., Cambridge (617-876-9211). www.casania.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Oct. 25, 2-5 pm. $8.* Modern dance movements are slowed down to focus on body alignment, breathing and centering. The class includes some partnering and hands-on work.

Reiki Energy Healing Clinic
Arlington Reiki Associates, 366 Mass Ave #304, Arlington (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. *Oct. 24, 6:30-9:30 pm. $10.* Experience a reiki energy healing treatment.

The Soul of Your Career
Brookline (617-739-5353). www.yoursoulswork.com. *Oct. 25, 10 am-6 pm. $60.* Spend a day exploring the spiritual side of work. This workshop is designed to help participants find meaning and purpose in their career endeavors.

Thai Yoga Massage
Charles River School of Shiatsu,180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.charlesrivershiatsu.com. *Oct. 25-26, 9am-5pm. $225.* This class explores Thai yoga massage, which is a blend of Chinese and Ayurvedic (East Indian) medicine that focuses on balancing one's energy patterns.

Yoga Asana According to the Sutras
Living Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. *Oct. 25, 2-5 pm, $45. Register in advance.* This asana-based workshop explores the sutras of Patanjali and focuses on customizing yoga practice to the individual. All levels welcome.

Ongoing

Lunchtime Yoga on Beacon Hill
The Paulist Center, 5 Park St., Boston (617-970-5320). www.yogame.com. *MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. Tues. and Wed., 1-1:45 pm. $10.* Fit yoga into your schedule at lunchtime. All levels welcome.

Personal Protection for Adults
Brookline Community Center for the Arts, 14 Green St., Brookline (781-405-1248). www.busseystyle.com. *MBTA Green C Line to Coolidge Corner. Mon., 6-7:30pm or Fri., 3-4:30 pm.* This class teaches adults the Bussey style of self-defense. Learn practical self-defense moves as well as concepts to help improve confidence.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind & Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10. All levels welcome.* Kripalu-certified yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches participants to experience breathing as the body's link with the mind.

Yoga/Newton
The Green Planet, 22 Lincoln St, Newton Highlands (617-320-9792). www.thegreenplanet.com. *Sun., 9-10:30 am. $16/class. Or at Myrtle Church, 21 Curve St, West Newton (617-320-9792). Wed., 6-7:15 pm. $12/class.* This yoga class is designed to assist with developing movement awareness to improve balance, strength and flexibility.

Yoga/South End
South End House, 48 Rutland St., Boston (617- 522-7199). www.angelfire.com/ma/patrice. *MBTA: Orange line to Mass Ave or Back Bay. Mon. and Tues., 7 pm. $15-$17.* These mixed-level yoga classes are taught by certified Kripalu yoga instructor Patrice Flesch. Drop-ins and beginners welcome.

B.K. Frantzis teaches two tai chi [illegible] Oct. 23-24 at Brookline Tai Chi

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 617-931-2000
Oct. 23, 7:30 pm vs. Carolina Hurricanes
Oct. 30, 7 pm vs. Montreal Canadiens

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 800-462-2849
Preseason: Oct. 22, 7 pm vs. Minnesota Timberwolves
Preseason: Oct. 24, 7:30 pm vs. New Jersey Nets
Home opener: Oct. 29, 7 pm vs. Miami Heat

New England Patriots
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Oct. 26, 1 pm vs. Cleveland Browns

New England Revolution
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 877-438-7387
Oct. 25, 4 pm vs. MetroStars

Events

Oktoberfest Blues Run and Barbecue Bash
VFW James Logan Post, 1192 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-2140). www.clydesdale.org/BAEvents/harpoon/oktoberfest.html. *Oct. 30. $15.* This 3.2-mile road race concludes with a barbecue, beer from Harpoon and live music from the Cat Sass Blues Band. In the spirit of Halloween, there is also a contest for the best Blues Brothers costume and impersonation.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-40.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the basics of fencing.

FLOOR HOCKEY

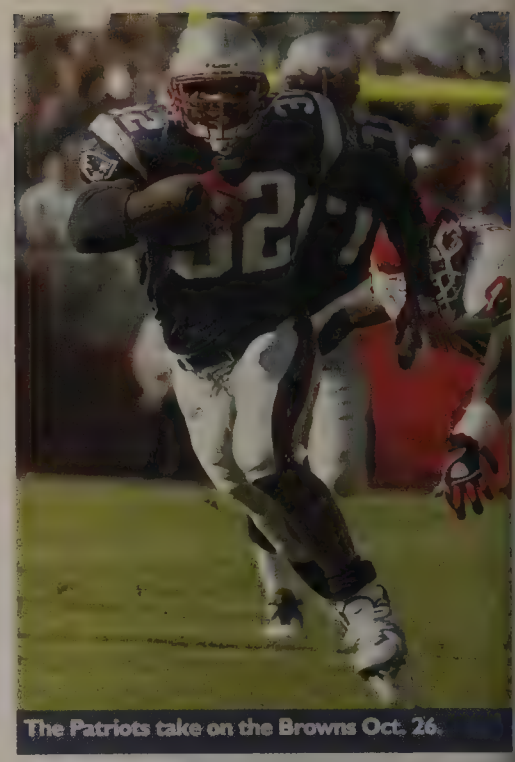
BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag or Touch Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

KICKBALL

BSSC Kickball
Games are played Tuesdays in Brighton. (617-789-4070). Relive your grade-school glory days by playing kickball. Teams and individuals welcome.


The Patriots take on the Browns Oct. 26.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome to tape up their ears and jump in the scrum.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
Various area MDC rinks (781-890-8480). www.baystateskatingschool.org. *$108.50 for a seven-week class. Check Web site for schedules.* Skating classes for adults and children teach the fundamentals using either figure skates or hockey skates.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set and spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

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children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Things to See

Family Concert
Merrimack College, The Rogers Center, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover (978-837-5355) www.merrimack.edu/rogers. Oct.25, 2 pm. $10. Television and radio personality Red Grammer performs children's songs with his guitar.

Kids Variety Show
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-738-6533). www.coolidge.kidsshow.info. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 10:30 am. $10, $8 children. •Oct. 25: Nancy Tucker sings songs and tells jokes.

Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company
The Center for Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. Sat., 11 am. $8, $5 children. •Oct. 25: *The Knight Who Was Afraid of the Dark.* •Nov. 1-22: Participate in *Silly Sketches*, an afternoon of sketch comedy where children supply the topics for the commercial breaks.

Poems That Go Bump in the Night
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Oct. 25, 10 am. $5 children, free for children. David Zucker performs a selection of poems tailored for the Halloween season, including works by Edgar Allan Poe, Ogden Nash, Edward Lear, Hillaire Belloc and James Whitcomb Riley.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •Oct. 22 and 23, 10:30 am. Ages 3-6. Deborah Costine performs a shadow puppet show of *The Three Pigs and Other Tales.* •Oct. 25 and 26, 1 and 3 pm. Ages 4-10. Dress in costume for the Halloween celebration of *Under the Night Sky*, a shadow puppet show. Prizes and refreshments for all. •Oct. 29 and 30, 10:30 am. Ages 3-6. Paul Vincent Davis performs *Bingo the Circus Dog.* •Nov. 1 and 2, 1 and 3 pm. Ages 4-10. The Tanglewood Marionettes perform *An Arabian Adventure* with special stage effects and elaborate scenery.

Story Hour at the Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every Sat., 11 am. Preschool age. Free. Story hour for children.

Story Hour at the JFK Library
Smith Hall, John F. Kennedy Library & Museum, Dorchester (617-929-1250). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Sat., 10:30 am. Ages 5 and older. Free. The JFK Library holds a weekly story hour for kids and their parents.

Story Time
FAO Schwarz, 440 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-5900). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Daily, 1 pm, 3 pm & 5 pm. Free. Ages 2-7. Kids can listen to stories read by Mother Goose, Raggedy Ann and other characters.

The Witching Hour Story Hour
Village Books, 751 South St., Roslindale (617-325-1994). Tue., 4 pm. Free. Ages 5 and under. Children's book illustrators read and doodle. •Oct. 28: Illustrator **Elicia Castaldi** reads from *Miss Polly Has a Dolly.*

Things to Do

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere or Red Line to Kendall (transfer to shuttle). Sat., 12 pm. Staff members read from new and classic storybooks.

Boston by Little Feet
Faneuil Hall, 77 North Washington St., Boston (617-367-2345). www.bostonbyfoot.com. MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Mon. and Sat., 10 am; Sun. 2 pm. $6. Walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history and architecture of Boston's neighborhoods.

Boston Public Library Children's Tour
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sat. 11 am. Through Nov. 29. Free. Ages 5 and older. Take a tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. •KidStage: Children are introduced to live theater with 20-30 minute participatory performances. The schedule changes daily. •Oct. 25, 11 am-4 pm: Dare to Engineer. Use common household items to create, design, build and problem-solve. •New exhibition: *Making America's Music: Rhythm, Roots & Rhyme.* Interactive exhibits let kids conduct at Symphony Hall, rock at the school dance, sing jazz in a nightclub, jam in a traveling tour bus, mix some tunes and hear celebrities' stories about why they love music. Through May 2004.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. $5, $1 children. •*Holography, the Light Fantastic.* The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyond.* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

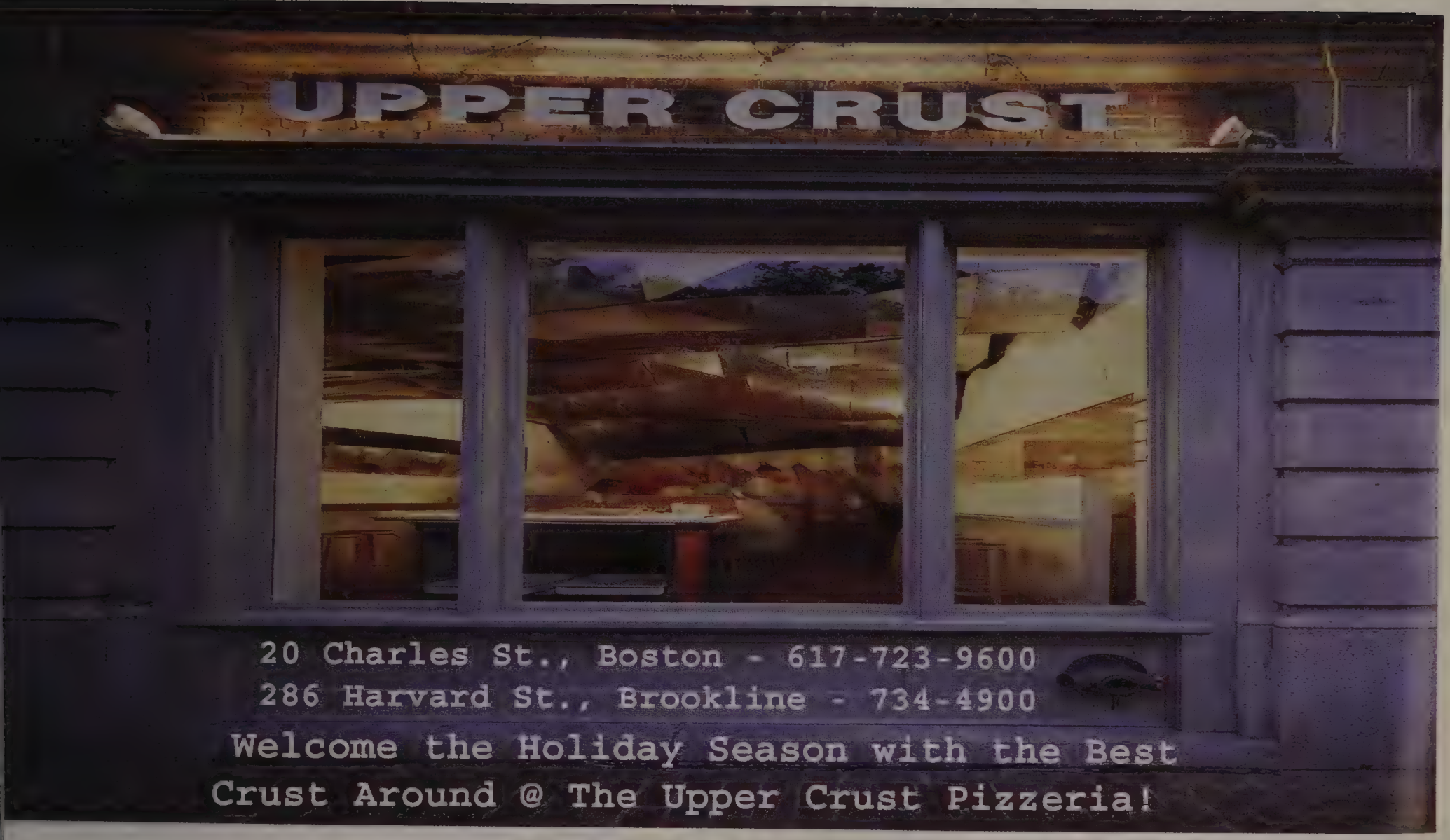
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3448). www.mfa.org/calendar. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. $15, children under 17 free. •Tue. and Wed., 3:30 pm: Books Bring Art Alive. Museum instructors read books, poems and stories to bring the paintings to life and encourage kids to talk about what they see

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon. Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Sci ence Theater Program offers Animals and Storie Alive!, featuring professional storytellers who com bine folk tales and myths with visits from live ani mals. •Magic: The Science of Illusion. Discove how illusions come together through science, math psychology and the art of performance at this ne exhibition. Through Feb. 22. •Charles Hayde Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 an 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identif stars, planets, constellations and celestial even during the presentation The Sky Tonigh •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weath permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two tel scopes to find the moon, stars, constellations ar planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., 12 pr 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 children. Jar Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees and Africa: Tl Serengeti •Theater of Electricity: Daily at 12 and pm. The Van de Graaff generator provides a risk-fr lightning show.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (61 522-6547). www.mot.org. Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 p $5. The museum has a large collection of rare a antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile h tory. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores t history of American auto racing with race cars a displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore t world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox raci with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and ra to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scaven Hunt through the museum and receive a prize.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www. newton.ma.us. MBTA: *D Green Line to New Highlands. Registration required* •Oct. 28, 3 pm, age and older: The New England Aquarium's travel tide pool offers an opportunity for hands-on disc eries. •Oct. 30, 4:15 pm, ages 7 and older: M some witches and enjoy a craft and a snack at l with Folktales. •Thursdays, 3:30 pm, ages 4 older: Pajama Storytime. Through Oct. 30. • 10:30 am, through Oct. 24: Preschool Films.

Saturday Scholars
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 6 Oxford Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harva edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Saturdays.* Discover dinosaurs, animals, minerals, inse oceans, ancient civilizations and the microworl this class taught by museum science educat •Nov. 1, 9-11 am, ages 4-5: Color Your World! L at the different colors of birds, snakes and other mals. •Nov. 1, 9 am-12 pm, ages 6-7: Whooo (There? Take a night hike around the museu learn the secrets of bats, owls and moths.



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around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 seniors and children.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State, Orange or Green Line to Haymarket, or Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange or Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA or E Green Line to Prudential. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Summer ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AFC Mentoring Program
(617-695-2441). Mentor an adopted child.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 100 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040). Educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteer in Cambridge schools for one or two hours per week.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

March of Dimes
(508-663-2100). This maternal and child health care organization seeks volunteers.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elder

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guest

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital format

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agenc

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Help in the dining room.

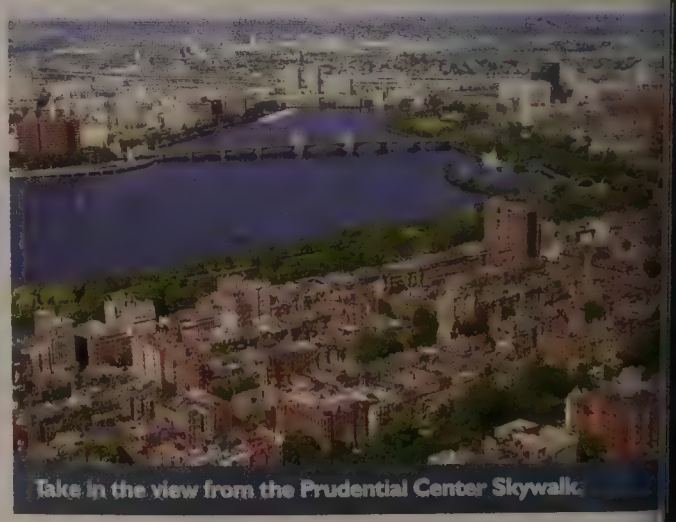
SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour d mestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely pe ple over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young professiona

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Hostess

I talked to you at a restaurant in Inman Square where I am a hostess on Sept. 19, a Friday night. You were having dinner with another guy. We talked before you left the restaurant but I didn't get your name because it started to get busy. You are tall, blond and you were wearing black-framed glasses. I am 5'4" with long brown hair and hazel eyes. If you read this and are interested in getting together, send me an e-mail.
—Southernhazel@hotmail.com

To the Great Triumvirate of Insurance Dunces:

You backstabbing neanderthals. You think you hurt me and had the last laugh in the way you used me to do your work, packing up my office for me and giving me five minutes to leave? Let me tell you something—you did me the biggest favor ever! Not only did I leave the worst job I ever had in this and any previous life, but I got a great new career that I love, making more money then I ever thought I could. I wake up every morning with a smile and am happy for all I have.

But as I finally close that prior chapter of my life, there are a few things I need to say to you, since you ran like rats before I had a chance to say it to your faces.

No. 1: You are a pathetic soul and pathological liar. No one thinks you are funny and no one believes a thing you say. Sadly, it is only you that believes in yourself. Pitiful.

No. 2: You are truly the dumbest man I've ever met in my life. If God Himself didn't piss on you with luck, you would still be selling beer and trying to add 21 years to the ID you have been handed. And if you want to screw around with a guy, just do it. You are hardly my type to begin with, and being married with children makes you that much less desirable. It was really tiring of you to keep rubbing your willy in my office. I don't care how big you said it was.

No. 3: Where to start with you? You are likely the saddest person I have ever met. You are unable to retain a friendship longer than a person's ability to tolerate you and your drama. I mean, really, I could tell all of Boston about your extramarital affair, the man you married for money over love (whilst carrying on with the one you did love), the one-night stands throughout Boston, waking up in strange men's apartments and the social climbing with people you thought were the elite of Boston. I am here to tell you: You aren't their friend and you aren't one of them. You don't know what a friend is. I was a friend to you. And you know it. Maybe that's why you are too ashamed to even call and see how I am. This is why you are over 40, divorced, friendless and raising a kid you have to medicate to keep sane. You deserve everything you get and I couldn't wish it on a better person.

You three deserve each other. I can only hope that you all spend many miserable hours trapped with each other. I can't think of three people that deserve it more.
—Happily Employed

Quincy Goodlooking

You: SWM, tall, dark (possibly darker than me), wicked haaat, a smahhty pants and a genuinely great guy. It wasn't until our second meeting that you caught my eye, yet you've held my gaze ever since. With one look from those piercing blue eyes you unravel me, like pulling a string and I'm open. I love being near you, feeling the essence of your vapor trail. I may seem coy and aloof on the surface but inside I'm seething with energy. Summer was sultry and steamy...care to make fall cozy and intimate?
—Miss Gropez

Matt from Portland, Maine

We met Sept. 20 at Phoenix Landing. You approached me and we spoke many times that night. You took my number and never called, even though I was nice enough to drive you to your friend's house. And you wondered why I'm suspicious of men who hit on me at bars...
—redeemyourself2003@yahoo.com

Shamrock Girl

You and your friends were at the Purple Shamrock for Game 3 of the Yankees–Red Sox. My friend and I ordered food so you could keep your table. I thought you were dating the guy next to you, but my friend thinks I'm wrong. If that's true, I'm an idiot. Any girl who can work up that much utter hatred for the Yankees is a girl I'd like to spend more time with. Drop me a line if you want someone to watch the World Series with.
—Shyallstonboy@aol.com

Laura/Laurel

When I was in Boston in early September I read about a bar named Harvard Gardens and decided to go there. I didn't know what to expect. I just wanted to try it. So I ordered a Coke and spent that evening there. I got to know different people who introduced themselves and obviously enjoyed talking to someone from a faraway country. I liked this friendly, open-minded way of the Americans. As you can imagine, due to the fact that I haven't gone out much in the past, I am a little bit shy when it comes to talking to other people. When I attended a reception given by the governing mayor of Berlin in June, I had no problem talking to the U.S. ambassador to Germany and other distinguished guests, but it is something very different to talk to a woman—especially when you are completely inexperienced in things like that. So I was really happy that some other people made the first move and I found someone to talk to. And then came Laura. I had noticed a woman standing next to me for some time as she was talking to some friends, but I would never have the courage to talk to her. So I was surprised when she turned to me and asked, Do you have a cigarette? "No. I don't smoke," was my response and so there was no conversation yet. I wondered what I could do and a few minutes later I asked the barkeeper for a cigarette. He gave me one and I turned to that woman and gave it to her. I mentioned that I was from Germany and that was the beginning of a nice conversation. We talked about many different things. I have to say that I had the impression that it was fascinating for her and her friends to meet someone from Germany. She offered me a sip of her drinks and I did it ■ she held my arm. "You smell good," she said, and asked me which perfume I was wearing. She mentioned that she had a German last name but I can't remember it. Again, I don't know what made that night so special, but I just felt close to her in a way. It wasn't more than a meaningless flirtation like hundreds of thousands of others, but for me it was something very special. I just can't forget her. I left America, but my heart remained in Boston.

By the way, I was in Boston because I'm interested in JFK. I have published texts on President Kennedy, and because of my interest I have visited the United States thre times. I also held lectures, and in June I had the chance to talk about JFK in front of thousands of Berliners as the German capital celebrated the 40th anniversary of the president's historic visit. I met with the U.S. ambassador t Germany and other important people. Many newspapers, radio stations and even nationwide television have reporte about my work.

I am writing this because I don't know what else I can do to find Laura/Lauren. I just can't forget her. Of course, don't know if my search will be crowned with success, but at least I can say that I tried everything possible. I don't even know what to expect if I find the right woman. I just hope it could be the beginning of a friendship.
—alexanderdensow@web.de

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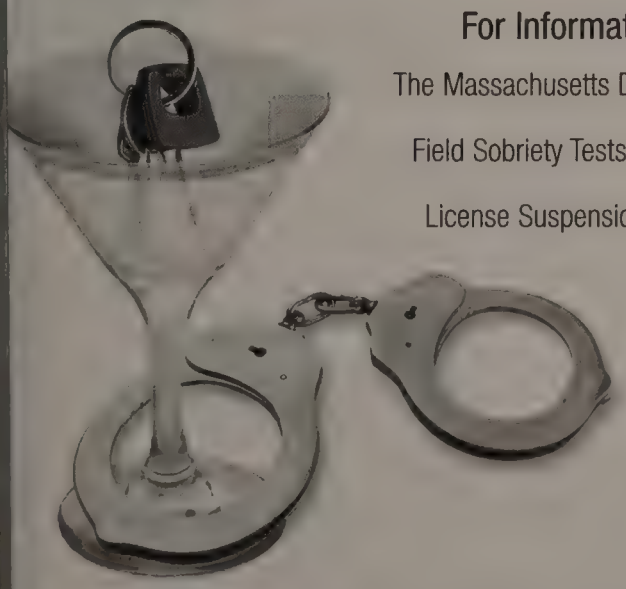

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rockie horoscope

OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 4, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Finish what should get done before the Scorpio new moon on the 25th. That's when you come into season, so to speak, and inaugurate a new agenda, hopefully one based almost exclusively on what you desire. There's a time to compromise, usually during Libra, and a time to be true to your inner nature, and Scorpio is it. Expect to encounter diversions and reversals as major planets change direction—Neptune goes direct, Saturn retrograde—and allow some time for them to settle down. Hint: Halloween weekend.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The heat is off and no sign is openly seeking your advice. Whether this pleases or annoys you depends in part on how involved you are in the process of reinventing yourself. Pluto in your sign discovers what isn't working and either suppresses it or makes it too painful to ignore. And no, Pluto isn't going away anytime soon; however it's pretty much finished with natives born in the first 15 days of Sagittarius. You guys are as sick, healed, rehabilitated and transformed as you're going to get in this lifetime. Now it's our turn.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

A lot of attention is currently centered on your accomplishments, reputation or family's good name and how those things can translate into more income. Since your Saturn ruler is getting ready to turn retrograde in Cancer on the 25th, be prepared to encounter resistance from a partner or coworker. Something from the past is bound to come up that could thwart your present plans. If possible, nip it in the bud, because on New Year's Eve when the Capricorn sun opposes Saturn, it can rise up and bite you in the ass.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

You may still be online with visionary or long-distance travel sites. While a majority of the personal planets converge in your house of spirituality and philosophy, it might be difficult to feel that you're involved in the daily grind or to care about those who are. Since this elevated state of mind is temporary at best, make the most of all the altruism you can muster. After five months of dozing off, Neptune turns direct in your sign on the 22nd, adding a heady mixture of idealism and imagination to whatever else you're consuming.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Progress of sorts: Once your Neptune ruler turns direct on the 22nd, you can anticipate enjoying the feeling that you're moving on, even if, realistically, you aren't. Well, not for a while. Illusion and delusion is the realm Neptune rules with such reckless abandon, especially when it inundates you with wave upon wave of conflicting emotions. Such may well be the case when Neptune stops looking at your past and tries to show you an alternative future. Pay extra attention to your dreams during this sensitive period for revealing clues.

ARIES
MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Take a deep breath before making decisions while idealistic Neptune and realistic Saturn change directions. Saturn, the ruler of older relatives and restrictions, flipping backward through your domestic scene can put a family or household matter on hold until spring. However, Neptune turning direct should release you from whatever spell you've been under since it flipped in mid May. A project that's been on the back burner suddenly becomes hot again and you see light at the end of the tunnel.

TAURUS
APRIL 20-MAY 20

Even if a problem seems fairly heavy at first glance, sweetness, a lighter approach and reliance on luck will probably see you through it. Because your Venus ruler makes nice with the planets granting all the above, don't bother wringing your hands for effect or kvetching except in jest. For Bulls born on the border of Gemini, a new day is dawning; for the rest, a deeper understanding of your creative process helps you express one of your fondest ideals. After Scorpio gets under way, you could be rewarded for it.

GEMINI
MAY 21-JUNE 20

Maybe it's the nip in the air, maybe the new clothes, but the general atmosphere can seem a lot hotter than before. Could it be Mercury, your ruling planet in your Libra house of romance and risk, presenting interesting possibilities, or is it Neptune in your house of sex and magic coming out of a five-month stupor? Or is it because you're able to see beyond the obvious and take chances you previously wouldn't? Enjoy this interlude, because soon enough Mercury will move into Scorpio and you'll become passionate about something else, like an assignment at work.

CANCER
JUNE 21-JULY 22

Goodness and goodies are heading your way because patience, i.e., having Saturn in your sign is (no matter what the sages say) not its own reward. You need tangible treats and genuine displays of affection to convince yourself that Venus approves of what you're doing. But if you don't receive special favors as a result of the trine between the goddess of love and the lord of retribution, try to be patient a while longer. A supportive trine from the Scorpio sun and another from Mars in Pisces are coming soon.

LEO
JULY 23-AUGUST 22

This week the urge to break free and act unpredictably can underlie what you do and how you react to what significant others do too. Rebel with or without a cause; it makes little difference when you're imbued with iconoclastic, independent Uranian energy. But because the relationship between Uranus and your sun ruler is a positive one, you won't cause too much havoc along the way. Think of yourself as a source of enlightenment, in touch with all the higher powers, especially while Mercury prepares to inform the sun for their meeting at the new moon.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Money still matters, but instead of more questions, you'll find answers if you look for them. It's not that you're avoiding the truth or the consequences either, but sometimes a detail-driven Virgo can't focus properly and stumbles into a "can't see the forest for the trees" situation. But after Mercury moves into Scorpio on the 24th and merges with the sun, mysteries get solved and down-and-dirty facts surface. Even though Jupiter in your sign isn't claiming bragging rights at the moment, it's still coming up with opportunities to grow.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Although you may be deluding yourself a little—Neptune struts his stuff this week—you're also willing to take responsibility for wishfully thinking aloud about a career matter. Since your Venus ruler is on friendly terms with the other forces (and other people) at work, it's likely that nobody will get hurt by a simple indiscretion. However, someone's weird behavior can suddenly change the rules of the game. Stay focused on personal priorities; now is not the time to make sacrifices for the good of the group.

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James M. Blake finds that in Iraq, the IMPROPER's paperboys sometimes throw the magazines at people's doorsteps a little too forcefully.

Luke Zhang stands in front of the Huangpu River in Shanghai, China. Shanghai was designed entirely by one architect, PBS's Commander Mark.

Brian Rice and Alethea Pieters, both budget analysts for the Mass. Senate Committee on Ways and Means, found the way to some mean magma at the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii.

Waleed Meleis toted an IMPROPER to the wall of the Corniche in Alexandria, Egypt. "Corniche" means "protecting the beach of much patio furniture" in ancient Egyptian.

Jane Talanian (front row, fourth from left) celebrated her 50th birthday party with friends, family and plenty of IMPROPERS at Davio's in September.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER:
Desperately trying to find out whatever happened to Silverchair at the Australian Bush Music Festival, held late November in Glen Innes, New South Wales, Australia.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Saturday, October 4, **The Improper Bostonian** was a sponsor of Cooking for a Cause at **The Union Club**. The evening of food and wine benefitted the **East End House**.

1. **Marlo Fogelman**, vice president of public relations for CM Communications; **Carconnie Spinos**, board member of East End House; **Tom Berry**, executive chef at Bambara; and **Steve Barone**, line cook at Bambara.
2. **Jennifer Hart**, event committee member for East End House; **Carmen Quagliata**, executive chef for The Vault; and **Marko J. Karakasevic**, winemaker and owner of Charbay Flavored Vodka.
3. **Arvind Saraf**, **Neda Vukmirovic** and **Nick Tsui**, all students from MIT and volunteers for East End House.

On Sunday, September 28, **Manulife Financial** sponsored the running of the Ollie Road Race to benefit the **South Boston Neighborhood House**. Post-race festivities were held at the **FleetBoston Pavilion**.

1. **Suzanne Daley**, account executive for Arnold Worldwide; **Brad Hoglund**, director of IT for South Boston Neighborhood House; **Jackie Pelton**, teacher for Boston Public Schools; **Sue Destefanis**, accounting for AAA; **Paul Tsimikas**, MBA student; **Kelly Ferrone**, business analyst for Electric Insurance Marketing and **Ray Destefanis**, fiscal advisor for the City Providence.
2. **Kevin Rice**, Cisco Systems, and **Stephen Sullivan**, accounting for State Street.
3. **Ken Seaman**, workflow coordinator; **Matt Gendron**, quality control; and **Stacy Evans**, S annuity services representative, all of Manulife Financial.

On Wednesday, October 1, **Soho** hosted an FHM model search sponsored by **Coors Light**.

1. **Juan Acevedo**, principal for State Street Global advisors, and **Joseph Henry**, daytrader.
2. **Pat Ryan**, logistics for TJX Companies; **Renee Satterwaite**, Ford model; and **Jamie Asselta**, account executive for Marriott Hotels.
3. **Corina Birta**, Ford model; **Vida Guerra**, model for FHM; and **Julie Bannerton**, Ford model.

On Sunday, September 28, **The Improper Bostonian** was a sponsor of the Four Annual Celebrity Hat Trick at the **FleetCenter**. The hockey event was presented by the **EMC Corporation** to benefit the **Leary Firefighters Foundation**.

1. **Ray Bourque**, hockey legend, and **Nick Patti Jr.**, owner and president New Floors Installers.
2. **Bobby Orr**, hockey legend, and **Denis Lea** founder of the Leary Firefighters Foundation.
3. **Jennifer Clarke**, fishin captain; **Lenny Clarke**, actor and comedian; **Ph Barrineau**, Lenny Clark spiritual advisor; and **Adam Ferrara**, actor a comedian.

PHOTOS: EAST END HOUSE, JULIE KANE; OLLIE ROAD RACE AND SOHO, MIKE BURNS; CELEBRITY HAT TRICK, WENDY SEMO

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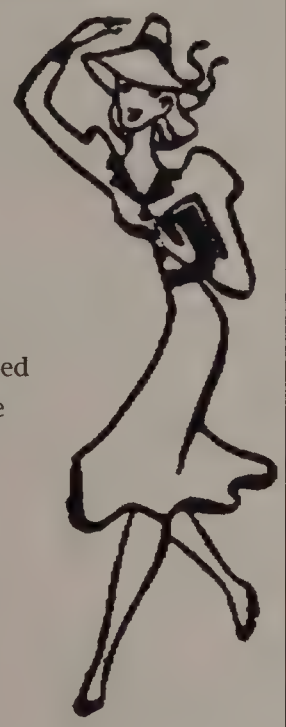

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston, 617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella-Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC, V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444. Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11 am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere inthe heart of downtown Boston. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Ristorante Fiore *250 Hanover St., Boston, 617-371-1176.* One of the true gems of Boston's Historic North End is the fine casual dining of Ristorante Fiore...this authentic Italian experience features central-southern cuisine served in three distinctive dining rooms as well as the charming sidewalk cafe. The rooftop at Fiore's is the hottest spot in the North End...it's also the North End's only rooftop dining. A great place for dinner and cocktails any night of the week. Valet parking available.

Science Street Café *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out Boston's newest nightspot - The Science Street Café at the Museum of Science. Try our out-of-this world signature martinis, gourmet appetizers and decadent desserts - all while listening to live music. Perfect before or after an Omni film. Open 6-10pm. Parking available

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

Trio Restaurant and Lounge *174 Lincoln Street, Boston, 617.357.TRIO.* A unique dining experience located in Boston's Leather District. Executive Chef David Perrier, formerly of The Federalist and Grill 23, presents a new approach to creative American cuisine. Tuesday - Friday, please join us after work for cocktails 5:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. and dinner 6:00pm. Saturday evenings cocktail & dinner 6:00 p.m. Call for reservations. Also fully equipped for corporate functions and events. View menu and wine list at www.Trioboston.com. Excellent 2002/03 Zagat review.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

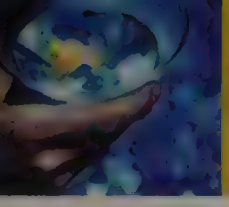
Dance

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002



Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston,617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11 am - 1 am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1 am (til 2 am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston , 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 & 2002 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

Sports Bar - Upscale

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 2 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

BRUNCH

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar including a free Sunday paper and your first Bloody Mary or mimosa. Full menu [illegible] taps, 380 microbrews

Tonic *1316 Commonwealth [illegible] 566-6699.* We've created the perfect summer setting in our open-air cafe with comfort food and music to ease you through the weekend. Start off with a custom cocktail you make yourself at our Bloody Mary and Mimosa Bar. Traditional Irish breakfast and a-la-carte American favorites served Saturdays. We roll out the works on Sundays with a truly brilliant buffet including the spectacular desserts of pastry chef Andrea Furtado. Weekends 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

IMPROPER SHOPPER

Classifieds for Bostonians

ACTIVITIES

GLASS CLASSES / OPEN STUDIO

Simple Syrup Glass Studio is offering Glass Blowing Classes! Come visit during our Open Studio Event Dec. 6th & 7th For more information see our Ad on page 123, or call 508.588.8022.

PERMANENT COSMETICS

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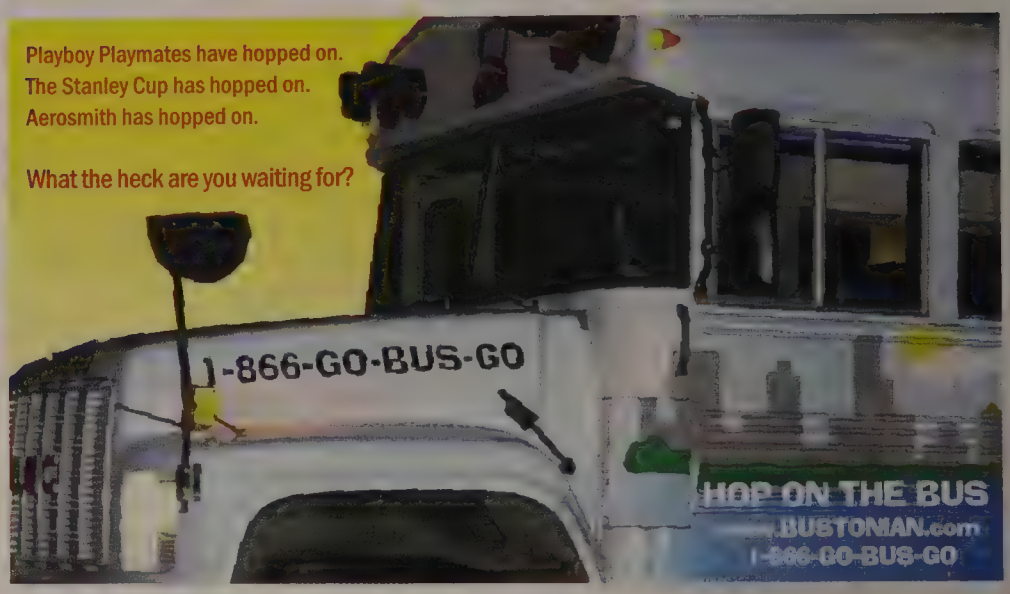

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LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At the Celebrity Chef party at Radius, clockwise from top left: Alisyn Camerota; Suzanne Logan; Sally Beach, Rainbow Brite and Kenn Gray; Linda Schwabe and Pascal and Irina Aguirre de Navarre; Dan Schwinn and Caterina Bandini.

A REFRESHING ALTERNATIVE TO COCO CRISPIES AND VODKA...

The only problem with a raging party on a Sunday night is that Monday morning feels like cruel and unusual punishment. That said, it was worth the a.m. agony to attend the **Big Sister Association**'s **Celebrity Chef Event** at **Radius**.

In addition to cocktails and kibitzing, there were the obligatory silent and live auctions and a smorgasbord of finger-lickin' good grub by such notable hash-slingers as **Marc Orfaly** of Pigalle, **Evan Deluty** of Torch (with his mom, **Marcia**), **Joanne Chang** of Flour and **Kevin Long** of Tosca.

Seen milling about, drinks in hand, were the evening's co-chairs, **Sally Beach** and **Kenn Gray**; the latter's de-facto Vermont-type husband, gifted graphic designer **Christopher Gray Ellsworth**; the TV news triumvirate of Channel 7 minx **Caterina Bandini** (with her other half, **Dan Schwinn**), Fox News blonde bombshell **Alisyn Camerota** and WB weather babe **Bonnie Schneider**; super-hot personal trainers **Stephanie Weston** and **Isaiah Truyman** of the Sports Club L.A.; Euro-cuties **Pascal** and **Irina Aguirre de Navarre**; Radius partners **Michael Schlow**, **Chris Myers** and **Esti Parsons** (the evening's hosts); the latter's rockstar husband, **Drew**, of American HiFi; tag-teaming PR princesses **Alicia Gordon** and **Anne Lower**; a drag queen named **Rainbow Brite**, whose false eyelashes looked like something that escaped from a coral reef; and one utterly objectionable person who insisted on trading shirts with chef **Brian Reimer** in the middle of the party.

The evening raged on long after the auction was over, the food was gone, and the bartenders had finished fixing cocktails; in fact, everyone relocated to Peking Tom's. Whether or not this was a good idea is open to debate, but at least there were some memorable moments, like when the interior designer took a sip of a watermelon martini and said, "I think this is going to be my new breakfast drink."

PASS THE ALKA SELTZER...

If allowed to, a goldfish will eat itself to death.

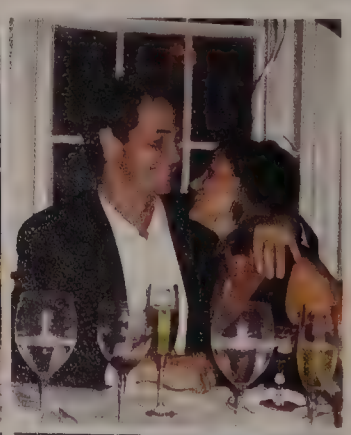
This fact came to mind at **L'Espalier's 25th-anniversary party**, a 10-course dinner to benefit the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** and the **Copley Society**, hosted by **Moncef Medeb**, and owner **Frank McClelland**.

The menu was accompanied by wines almost as distinguished as the guest list, which included some of the biggest names in the restaurant business and sundry rich and influential types.

Among them: James Beard award winner **Barbara Lynch**; TV cooking god **Ming Tsai** and his delightful other half, **Polly**; the incomparable **Lydia Shire** and the gifted **Jacky Robert**; potential *Bachelor* contestant and Clio owner **Ken Oringer** with the delectable **Nancy Cutler**; tall drink of water **Gordon Hamersley**; Rialto sorceress **Jody Adams**; Upstairs on the Square's **Deborah Hughes** and **Mary Catherine Deibel**, and so on and so forth.

Watermelon gazpacho with Maine crabmeat was followed by Hudson Valley foie gras, after which came roasted monkfish, and then a crepinette of Scottish grouse, grilled lamb with white truffles, a cheese course, sorbet, and something called "Three Decades of Chocolate," which would have been more aptly called "Three Decades at the Gym."

Amazingly (or not, given how tasty each dish was), everyone seemed to eat every bite, and if there were any complaints to be heard, they had to do with having worn pants a few sizes too small. Throughout the evening, people offered toasts and recollections about the restaurant, and by 1 am, many of the guests were beginning to slip quietly into a food coma, at which point the party broke up and everyone went home, safe in the knowledge that evenings like that come along only every quarter of a century or so.



At L'Espalier's 25th-anniversary party, clockwise from upper left: Richie and Maureen Balsbaugh; Nancy Cutler and Ken Oringer; Lydia Shire; Ming and Polly Tsai.

A SURE SIGN OF FALL...

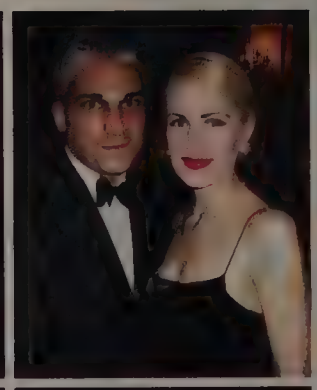
Given that his is the only name carved into the proscenium arch at **Symphony Hall**, the all-Beethoven program that kicked off the **Boston Symphony Orchestra**'s 123rd season was eminently appropriate for **Opening Night**.

The black-tie gala, which marks the unofficial start to Boston's social season, began with a cocktail reception in the Higginson Room, where one longtime Symphony supporter was relieved to find that while Seiji Ozawa might be gone, the tradition of serving sushi as an hors d'oeuvre before the Opening Night concert carries on.

The performance, led by guest conductor **Bernard Haitink** and featuring pianist **Dubravka Tomsic**, was followed by a formal dinner for benefactors and bigwigs in the ballroom of the **Copley Plaza Hotel**.

Present and accounted for: soignee socialite **Gale Minot**, squired by the affable **Cabot Henderson**; event chairs **Judy** and **Roger Feingold**; transplanted Bostonian (to Seattle, of all places) **David Endicott Gannett**; mega-music lovers **Gabriella** and **Leo Beranek** and **Chet** and **Farla Krentzman**; catering vixen **Susan Callendar** and Channel 4 factotum **Don Lowery** (sporting the Super Bowl ring he earned when he worked for the Patriots); power couple **Joan Wallace-Benjamin** and her handsome husband, **Milton**; legal eagle **Jack Zalkind**; uber-philanthropists **John** and **Marilyn Keane**; and board chairman **Peter Brooke**, who referred to the orchestra, with characteristic understatement, as "an extraordinary band."

However, the evening's most entertaining comment came from a fetching brunette who, looking down at her décolletage, said, "I really can't blame men. I get distracted by my cleavage." IB



At the BSO Opening Night, clockwise from upper left: Gale Minot; Ramsey and Nicole Alsarraff; Susan Callendar and Don Lowery; Michele Cotler and Dave Gannett.

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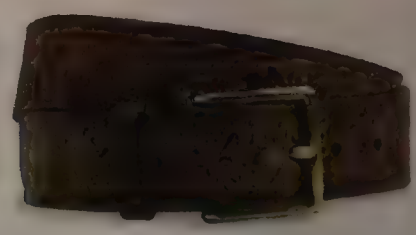

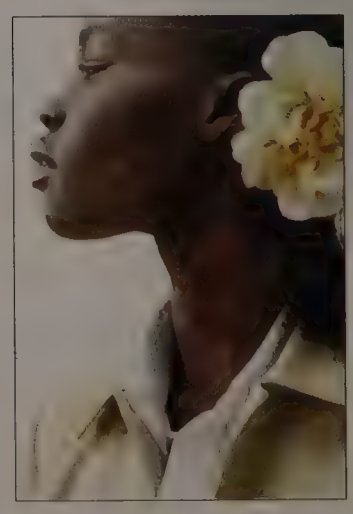

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

WHAT TO WEAR?

In one of the features in this issue, devoted to bettering your wardrobe, we've combined the topic of fashion with one that many of our readers say they can't get enough of: dating in Boston. For "Clothes Call" (page 30), we recruited a few men and women, ages 23 to 40, and quizzed them about what the opposite sex should wear to hold their attention. Sure, a stylish jacket can't do for you what a great sense of humor or a fascinating life story can, but in those sometimes awkward getting-to-know-you moments, confidence in your appearance can't hurt.

There were a few surprises in our meeting with the fashion panel. For one thing, the men in our group put the lie to the notion that guys don't care much about clothes. In reacting to eight different dinner-date outfits we put together, they proved nearly as opinionated as the women, offering Blackwell-worthy quips from "Burn the sweater" to "I love the boots. Everything else has to go."

Other feature stories offer looks at the latest styles in sweaters, coats, shoes, accessories and more, plus tips from fashion editor Samantha House on wearing them. Fur is one of the season's strongest trends, and we've featured it on a few pages this issue. But if you're against real fur, there is of course the faux (or no) fur option. As designer Lana Bilzerian tells Jonathan Soroff (page 18), "Fashion is self-expression." That's what makes deciding what to wear and which fashions to follow a creative pursuit as well as a fun one.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

...AND AN ANGIOPLASTY ON THE SIDE, PLEASE

I really enjoyed reading your piece on extreme foods in the Oct. 22 issue. I thought the categories were great, except one category seemed to go unacknowledged: "Most Heart-Stopping." And I'd like to be the first to nominate Bennigan's (I know they're a chain and not as highbrow as most of the restaurants you feature) and their outstanding Monte Cristo sandwich. It's a typical Monte Cristo, with the ham, turkey and cheese, but then they deep-fry that bad boy. You're likely to have chest pains just looking at its picture on the menu.

A second entry should be the Irish breakfast at Mul's Diner in Southie. Four kinds of meat! What's not to like?

I hope you can work this into an upcoming issue, as I may not be around for next year's installment. Or at the very least I'll be on doctor's orders eating nothing but wheat grass and soy.

Keep up the good work.

—ERICK BAKSTRAN
Attleboro

HUNGRY FOR THE NEXT COURSE

As a young, obsessive foodie, I have known since my freshman year of high school that I want to be a chef. I am now a senior in high school and am ready to earn my bachelor's degree in baking and pastry arts. I especially loved your Fall Dining issue—it showed me that with enough innovation and talent, it's possible to rise to the top. Thanks for the inspiration!

—LAURA LO
Malden

MMMM...HAGGIS

OK, I am a huge fan of eating, and Boston has so many wonderful places to offer—it's almost too much to choose from and definitely raises the question, Why do we cook for ourselves?

The Phantom Gourmet is great, but I do have a slight issue with one of his answers in Jonathan Soroff's interview (Oct. 22). In response to the question, "Grossest food you've ever eaten?" the Phantom replies, "Cheez Whiz...no, haggis."

I'm in total agreement with the Cheez Whiz comment, but come on, haggis? Has he even tried it? I'm Scottish and I love haggis.

If the Phantom Gourmet wants to have a great night out, he should join me and my friends in January for a Burns Supper (as in Robert Burns, the poet). Haggis is great, although most people are turned off by the idea of it (originally cooked in sheep's stomach, now synthetic products). Get over it. Don't knock it until you try it. After all, what's in bologna?!

—ROSLYN MCLEAN
Charlestown

ONE CATEGORY SEEMED TO GO UNACKNOWLEDGED IN YOUR "EXTREME FOODS" ARTICLE: MOST HEART-STOPPING. I NOMINATE BENNIGAN'S DEEP-FRIED MONTE CRISTO.

—ERICK BAKSTRAN
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COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

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FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

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142 Berkeley St., 3RD Floor
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617-859-1400 Fax: 617-859-1446
E-mail: info@improper.com
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A FESTIVAL OF WINE

Vinalia should win an award for the Most Difficult Restaurant to Find (or at least share one with blu, hidden away in the Sports Club/LA). Located on the second floor of a nondescript office building in Downtown Crossing, Vinalia isn't likely to lure in passersby unless they: a) have a very good sense of direction, or b) have dined at the space's former occupant, Dakota's.

But given the crowd at Vinalia's two bars and in the dining room on a recent weekday, clearly the word has gotten out. It was filled with neighborhood suits sipping wine and nibbling on crispy flatbread with herb white bean dip.

Vinalia, which means "wine festival" in Latin, certainly lives up to its name: It boasts a 2,500-bottle wine collection, serves more than 40 wines by the glass and hosts weekly wine tastings. This focus on wine makes sense given that co-owner and general manager Ed Costa ran the Boston Wine Festival at the Boston Harbor Hotel for 10 years before going off on his own with Vinalia.

Costa has turned a restaurant with passable food (Dakota's) into a hip wine bar. It's now got sleek slate and blond hard-wood flooring, deep mustard yellow walls and a glass-backed bar. And Costa has added a 20-seat martini bar where guests can invent their own libations with ingredients like olives, herbs, chocolate shavings and espresso beans. Prices are reasonable (nothing's over $20), and the simply prepared entrées are quite tasty. We tried pan-seared yellowfin tuna over crisp Bibb lettuce with black olives, tomatoes and broccoli and a sesame vinaigrette, and an oven-roasted barbecue chicken breast with eggplant ratatouille and garlic whipped potatoes. Next visit, we'll splurge on the nightly four-course wine-pairing menu for $55. *101 Arch St., Boston (617-737-1777). —Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt*

sports

HOT OR NOT?

HOT

Steve Nicol

The Revolution coach leads the team to a strong finish, triggering his contract extension for next season.

Bank of America burgers
Served at the soon-to-be-renamed home of the Celtics and Bruins?

The Patriots defense
The D is a big reason the Patriots led the division at the season's halfway point, despite losing Lawyer Milloy and Tebucky Jones.

Patrice Bergeron
The 18-year-old Bruins rookie scored seven points in his first nine games, a total that took Joe Thornton 55 games to reach in his debut year.

NOT

Grady Little
Fenway gains its first self-proclaimed ghost.

Yankee dogs
Much to our bittersweet satisfaction.

Kenyatta Jones jerseys
The Patriots tackle was released by the team after allegedly scalding his administrative assistant with hot water, raising a disturbing question: Football players have administrative assistants?

Anything else...
...that has to do with ice or the onset of winter.

—Ezra Dyer

inner view

MITCH ALBOM

Detroit Free Press sportswriter–turned–sentimental author (and Brandeis alum) Mitch Albom topped national bestseller lists with the 1997 phenomenon *Tuesdays with Morrie*, his memoir about reconnecting with one of his Brandeis professors after he learns the professor is terminally ill. Six years, a play and a made-for-TV movie later, the enduring patience of Oprah's Book Club devotees is finally rewarded with Albom's follow-up book. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a novel about an amusement park mechanic who dies thinking his life was a failure but then meets five people in heaven who show him how he affected others. Albom, who signs his new book at Borders Boston Nov. 11, took a few minutes to chat with us about fiction, the afterlife and rooting for a losing team.

IB: *Why the long wait for another book after* Tuesdays with Morrie?
MA: Well, mostly because I didn't want to write *Wednesdays with Morrie*. The publishing industry didn't want to publish *Tuesdays with Morrie* at the beginning. I wrote it to pay Morrie's medical bills. But when I took it to publishers I had [worked with] before, they said they didn't want it. And after it became what it became, then I had the opposite problem. They all wanted more Morrie. I never did that book for money, and I wasn't going to do another book in that style. I decided to wait a while for another idea that moved me as much. If it took a year, it took a year. If it took six, it took six.
IB: *How has your career changed after* Tuesdays with Morrie's *success?*
MA: Prior to *Tuesdays with Morrie*, I was primarily a sportswriter, and most of my work was in sports and most of my conversations were in sports. After, most of that shifted. People stop me and say, "My dad just died of cancer, and we read your book together before he died." Now when I get asked to speak, it isn't just rotary clubs asking about the ALCS. A lot of my concerns and concentrations moved away from sports and onto weightier issues. I cut out all freelance and television work. Everything got sliced off just to have more time to think and put into effect some of the things I learned with Morrie. So I guess the answer would be: Everything changed completely.
IB: *What's the message you hope people take from* The Five People You Meet in Heaven*?*
MA: Everyone's more connected than they realize. We live in a world where if you're not rich or famous, you don't get noticed. People come up and say, "Hi, I'm nobody, but I love your book." And I say, "Why do you say you're nobody?" I realize that we live in a world where if you're not Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, you don't count. The character in this book is an old guy that fixes roller coasters, and he found out he touched all these lives.
IB: *Do you think that if you hadn't reconnected with Morrie that you'd ever have written fiction?*
MA: I doubt I would've written a book like this. I would've written more sports books and continued to work 600 hours a week and not thought anything of it.
IB: *What's your next project?*
MA: I hope to write more fiction if this book is received well, and early signs are it will be. I've written a few plays. That's sort of become an interest of mine. I wrote the play for *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and I wrote a play for Jeff Daniels.
IB: *Has Oprah read* The Five People You Meet in Heaven *yet?*
MA: I think so. I sent her a couple copies, and the woman who made the movie, her right-hand woman, has read it.
IB: *Now for a sports question: How come a team that the Red Sox scored 14 runs against in one inning gets to be in the World Series?*
MA: [Laughs.] 'Cause life isn't fair.
—Jessica Iredale

INK WET RESPONSIBLY

WET BY BEEFEATER

tidbits and morsels

SWEET STUFF

Back to the Alley...Much to the dismay of summertime partyers, the Sweetwater Café shut down for the spring and summer in order to renovate its interior and prep for an early-October reopening. Now, the new and improved Sweetwater has re-emerged with a casual restaurant/tavern feel that its drunkapalooza counterparts lack. The kitchen is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, and owner Eric Aulenback says the food quality and atmosphere are much more along the lines of Harvard Gardens and Lucky's (also Lyons Group establishments). Although Sweetwater served food before the renovations, "It was really just a bar," says general manager Adam Hawk, referring to the room's party atmosphere. "Now it's much more toned down."

Got Id?...Les Zygomates has been keeping oenophiles happy with its option of reasonably priced or super-fancy reserve wine lists for nearly a decade. But this fall, sommelier Geoffrey Fallon decided to strike a happy medium between the two by introducing his "id list"—Fallon's choice of wines priced between $20 and $60. Selections range from his personal favorites to bin ends and "downright funky wines." All are available in limited quantity, so it's a new experience every time (the list has already changed more than 16 times in the past two months).

Piggly Wiggly...When Cambridge's House of Blues closed in September, many wondered what would become of the Harvard Square landmark. The answer should set mouths watering: New York–based barbecue joint Brother Jimmy's announced plans to takeover HOB's former haunt in early November. Jimmy's promises to "put some South in yo' mouth" with three types of Southern-style ribs and other Southern specialities that have caught on like wildfire in NYC. The pitmasters swear allegiance to BBQ, booze and the ACC and plan to offer live music and catering. *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-547-7427).*

On the Move...Beloved South End chef/restaurateur Andy Husbands is expanding his domain to Rhode Island. But don't worry—he's not leaving Boston. Come Dec. 1, the man behind the magic at Rouge, Tremont 647 and Sister Sorel swings open the doors of his latest venture, Kestral, in Providence's theater district. Joy Richard, a bartender at Tremont 647, says the two-floor bistro will aim for Tremont's "fun and funky" atmosphere. In fact, Kestral is a Boston endeavor through and through—Husbands' partners are his wife Gretchen, Rouge co-owner Peter White and former Tremont 647 executive chef Jason Santos. Meanwhile, Matthew Audette is graduating from sous to executive chef, replacing Santos at Tremont 647.—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

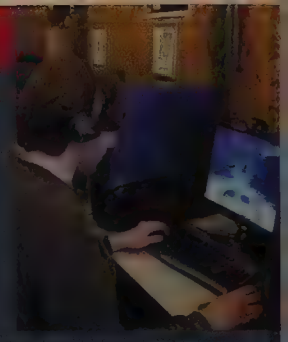
sam says

PREP RALLY

When Wellesley-based accessory designer Abby Ackerman launched Blue Dragonfly in spring 2001, the label's signature preppy look took off nationwide. Two seasons later, the breezy, bamboo-handled canvas bags and belts remain a summer staple from Nantucket to Palm Beach. Now, Ackerman is warming up her look with a debut mini fall/winter line of cosmetic bags and belts. Preppy still reigns (and always will in Boston), so I suggest choosing the colorful corduroy and ribbon belts embroidered with a classic monogram or with tiny patterns of high heels, martini glasses or tiaras. For a little more glitz, pair the black corduroy belt with rhinestone buckle with jeans or a little black dress. *www.shopbluedragonfly.com. $35-$48.*
—*Samantha House*

around town

GAME TIME



Solitaire has its virtues, but the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat are more poignant when they involve an opponent. In that spirit, the new Game On! LAN (local area network) Center and Internet Café has linked together 24 Alienware Area-51 PCs (and connected with the outside world via two T1 lines) to create a social environment where video game players can congregate and challenge one another. On a recent weekday we fired up NASCAR 2004, connected to the Net and found three races in progress. "The races could be going on in Cambridge or in Africa," says Ken Parker, Game-On executive operations manager.

Seat time in one of the Herman Miller Aeron chairs stationed at each computer runs $20 for three hours, but you can take a 20-minute test-drive for free. An Internet café room also offers e-mail access and business applications, and computer education classes will soon begin on the building's second floor. However, the name says it all: who wants to work in Microsoft Office when you could be getting your game on? 52 Broad St., Boston (617-261-0460). *Ezra Dyer*

improper reports

A STICH IN TIME

Julia Roberts has been doing it for years, and word has it Cameron Diaz, Kate Moss and Madonna are recent converts to this low-impact activity. Nope, for once it's not yoga but good old-fashioned knitting. Even Hollywood is a little behind the curve, though. Knitting groups have been popping up all over Boston the past few years. Whether you're looking for a great slip stitch or a little company, here are places that offer both.

- **Greater Boston Knitting and Crochet Guild** The College Club, 44 Comm. Ave., Boston (781-235-1499). Third Thursday of each month, 10:30 am-2:30 pm. **$25** yearly membership (includes newsletter, guest speakers and store discounts).
- **Knitsmiths** Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). Sun., 4-7 pm. **Free.**
- **Mind's Eye Yarns Knitting Group** 22 White St., Cambridge (617-354-7253). Wed., 7-9 pm. **$30** six-month membership (includes weekly classes).
- **Stitch 'n' Bitch Boston** Visit *www.groups.yahoo.com/group/stitchnbitch-boston* for weekly locations. Sites include Borders Books, Peet's Coffee and Trident Booksellers & Cafe. **Free.**
- **West Branch/Somerville Public Library Knitting Group** 40 College Ave., Somerville (617-623-5000). Mon., 6:30-8:30 pm. **Free.**
- **Woolcott & Co. Stitch 'n' Bitch** Redline, 59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). Wed., 6-8 pm. **Free.**

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

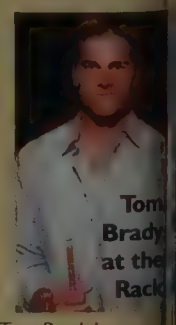
Looking for the Limelight...Virtually all of the Hollywood A-listers who hail from Boston had to hightail it to NYC or LA before making it big. Why? According to Boston-based actress Diane McNamara, it's because of the lack of networking in Beantown. So she's taking the lessons she learned as an actress in the Big Apple and Southern California and sharing them with Boston wannabes in her new networking program, Project Green Light Boston (no connection with Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's similarly named HBO project). Aspiring actors, screenwriters and directors can convene Monday nights at George to share their ideas, head shots and scripts. The series kicked off Oct. 27 with *Irish Eyes* director Dan McCarthy and Boston Casting owner Angela Peri. McNamara says, "In New York and L.A. you bump into people in the industry everywhere. But in Boston you need to create a place for people to go." *384 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-8555).*

Crunch Time...Since its fall 2002 opening in Downtown Crossing, Crunch Fitness has been a work in progress. The transition from Planet Fitness to Crunch's state-of-the-art facilities was neither quick nor pretty, but the final product seems to be worth the wait. The two-story, 20,000-square-foot gym was unveiled in late October and features a Japanese rock garden, a grassy Astroturf stretch area, a new boxing ring, a stadium-seating cycling studio and funhouse mirrors that promise to motivate even the laziest member.

Survey Says...T's Pub, home of the perennial Tuesday night karaoke party, is adding some "family" fun (for 21-and-overs of course). The Comm. Ave. watering hole debuts a version of *Family Feud* Nov. 18. DJ Dan McCarthy promises it'll be almost exactly as it is on TV, with two big buzzers and a 12-foot screen. There will be a featured team each night, followed by rounds with contestants from the crowd. "It's my goal to pit a lot of the rivalries in Boston against each other," says McCarthy. The debut match pits the Coyote Ugly gals against the Hooters girls, and McCarthy hopes to follow it up with UPS against FedEx, and Staples vs. W.B. Mason. The series is set for Tuesday nights from 8-11 pm followed by karaoke. One hundred smackers are up for grabs in each round.

Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?...Take it from Paris Hilton—every now and then it's good to get back to the simple life. The Monastery Guesthouse, the sanctuary of the Episcopalian Brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, has revamped its old-school approach to the three S's (serenity, silence and simplicity) with completely refurbished guest quarters. Needless to say, after 67 years in the retreat business, it needed a little spiffing up. The working monastery features 15 revamped units overlooking the Charles for those who seek a little R & R in a (very) peaceful environment. Packages include three daily meals with the Brothers, 24-hour access to the private chapel and a spiritual guidance option. All faiths welcome. *980 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-876-3037).*

Nice Rack...Scantily clad bartenders, a wazillion televisions, Lonie Paxton and killer steak tips...As it is, Monday Night Football at the Rack is the red-blooded American male's dream. What could make it better? Complimentary limo service within the Boston-metro area, courtesy of bar owner Paul Barclay. A one-way ride to the Faneuil Hall sports bar is free (with a few hours notice) Monday nights between 7 and 11 pm for the duration of the football season. And word has it Tom Brady's a regular at the Rack. Call 617-725-1051 or email info@therackboston.com.
—*E.H., J.I. and J.S.*



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PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

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Funny Women…Serious Business, a benefit for Rosie's Place, was held Oct. 22 at the Marriott Copley Place. The annual event brought together more than 1,200 supporters of Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women. Highlights of the luncheon included special guest, Academy Award–nominated actress Rosie Perez, as well as a cast of Boston media women including Susan Wornick, Caterina Bandini, Lisa Hughes, Karen Marinella, Emily Rooney, Maria Stephanos and Sara Underwood. More than $275,000 was raised.

1. **Kip Tiernan**, founder of Rosie's Place, and actress **Rosie Perez**.
2. From Left: **Sara Underwood**, news anchor for UPN-38; **Emily Rooney**, host and executive editor of *Greater Boston* on WGBH-2; and **Lisa Hughes**, news anchor for WBZ-4.
3. **Pamela Copeman** (left), principal of the Pamela Copeman Design Group in Hingham, and **Amy Mills Tunnicliffe**, director of the Proper Manor in Hingham.
4. From left: **Marie Turley**, executive director of the City of Boston Women's Commission; **Charlotte Golar Richie**, chief of housing and director of the Department of Neighborhood Development; and **Conny Doty**, director of jobs and community services for the mayor's office.
5. From left: **Stacey Lucchino**, **Angela Menino** and **Maria Stephanos**, news anchor for Fox-25.
6. **Karen Marinella** (left), news anchor for WB-56, and **Caterina Bandini**, news anchor for WHDH-7.
7. **Lynne Smith**, Rosie's Place supporter, and **Susan Wornick**, news anchor for WCVB-5.

The Harvard School of Public Health's (HSPH) Inaugural Leadership Council Luncheon was held Oct. 21 at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge. The event honored Katie Couric, co-anchor of the *Today* show and contributing anchor for *Dateline NBC*, with the Julius Richmond Award for her colon cancer prevention work.

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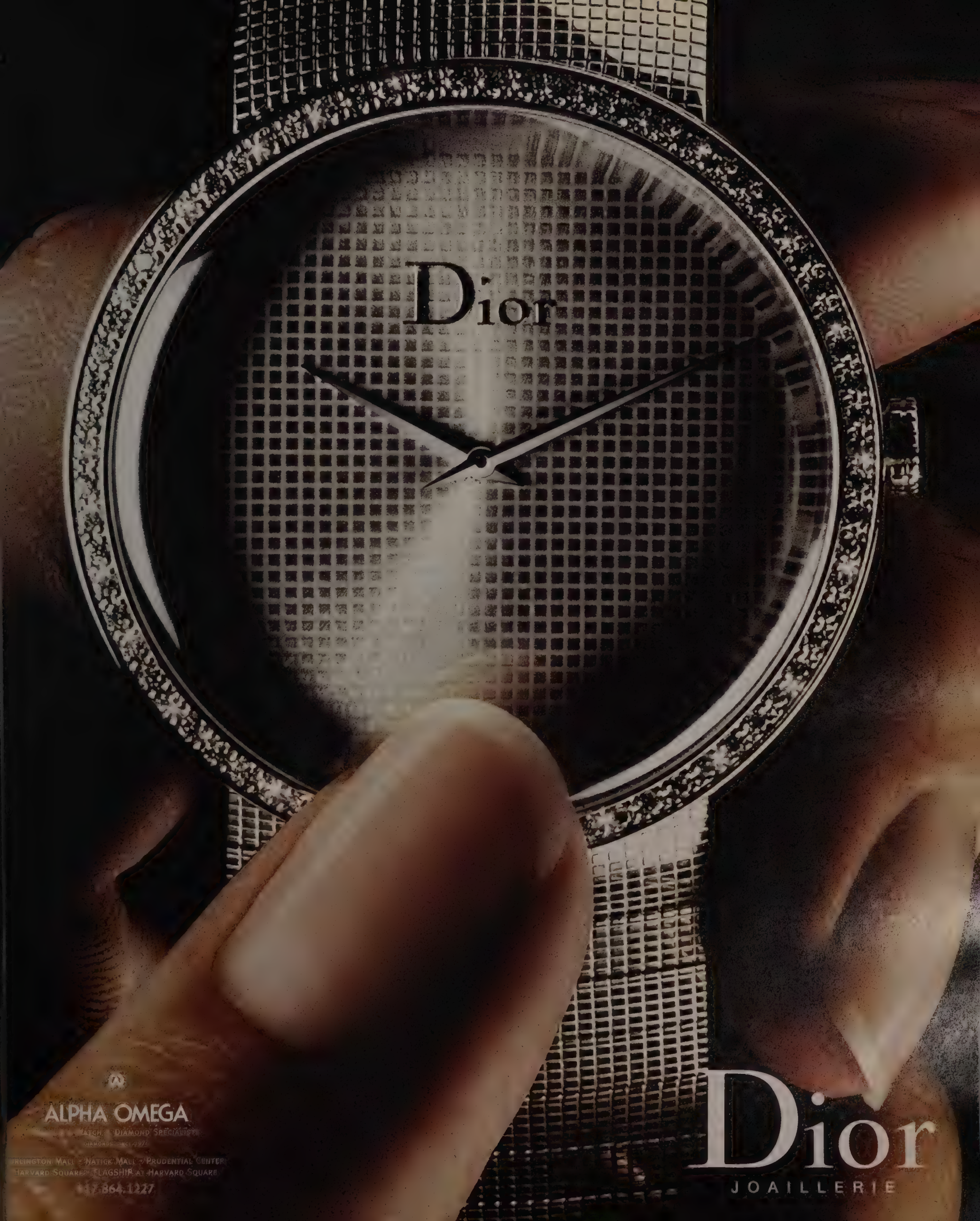
8. **Dr. Howard Koh**, associate dean for public health practice and professor of health policy and management at HSPH, and **Katie Couric**, co-anchor of *Today* and contributing anchor for *Dateline NBC*.
9. **Robin Herman** and **Steve Gortmaker**, director of communications and professor of society, human development and health, respectively, at HSPH; and **Jane Draper**, writer and supporter of the Harvard AIDS Institute.
10. **Dr. Julius Richmond**, John D. MacArthur professor of health policy emeritus at HSPH, and **Deborah Prothrow-Stith**, professor of public health at HSPH.
11. **Walter Willett**, chair of nutrition at HSPH, and **Mollie Katzen**, author of the *Moosewood Cookbook*.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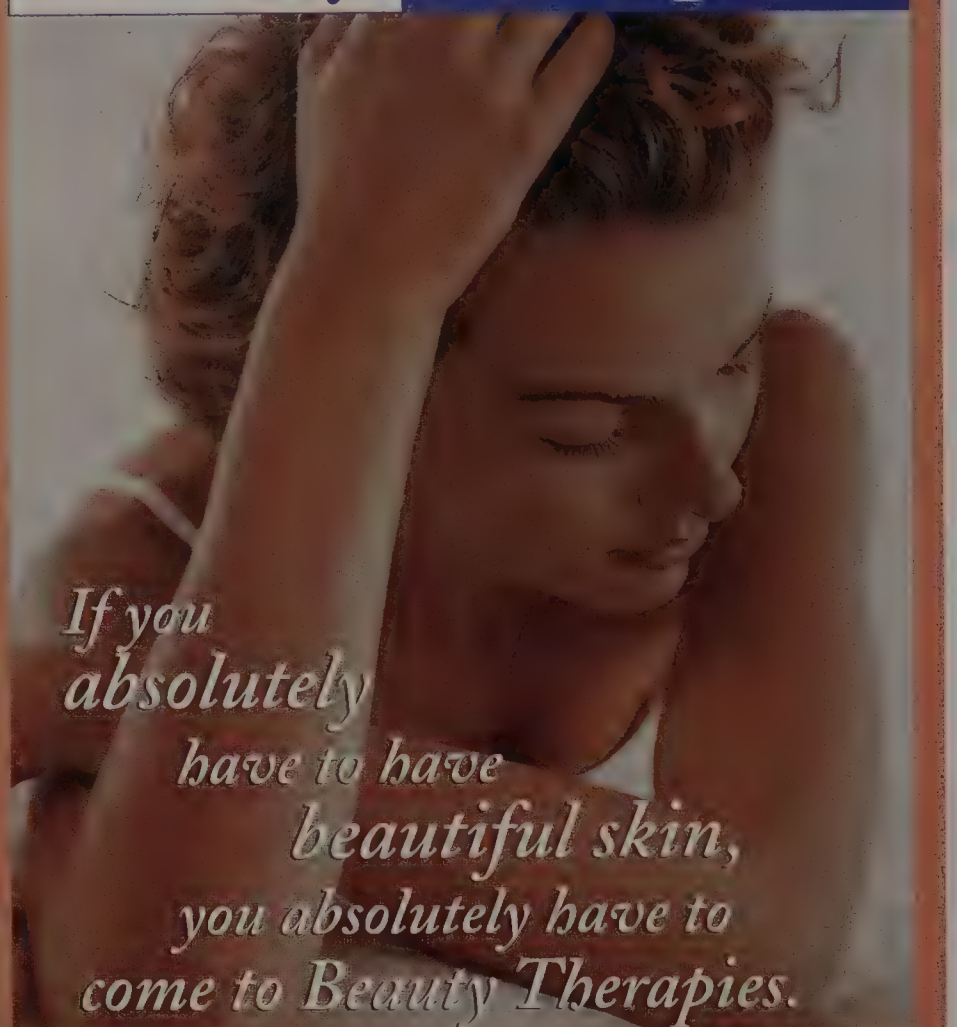

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A NICE LITTLE SATURDAY

Please don't make me go to any more well-stocked stores with plentiful parking

I thought the worst of it was behind me after moving day was finished. All my stuff was in my apartment; it seemed I just needed to organize it. But once all your crap is finally unpacked and put away, you realize that there are a couple more finishing touches you need, and the pursuit of these items will consume your every spare moment until you're a wild-eyed shell of a human being, staring vacantly at a Bed Bath & Beyond catalog and wondering how anyone gets along without a $100 over-the-toilet shelf system.

I mention that item specifically because I am now the proud owner of just such a bathroom accessory. Roommate Scott and I decided that we needed an over-the-toilet shelf because our new bathroom is even smaller than our old one, which is to say it would probably fit nicely under the deck of one of those beginner sailboats that you see capsizing regularly on the Charles. So we went to Bed, Bath & Your Soul on a Platter to see what was available, and not surprisingly there were many options. What was surprising was that all the cheapest models looked like they aspired to find homes in fancy European mansions, assuming that owners of fancy European mansions go for toilet furniture. They were tacky, faux wrought-iron numbers with lots of curlicues, and matching magazine holders. I never suspected I'd have an opinion on above-toilet shelving, but I strongly disliked these. They were pretentious, and if you need shelves over your toilet you have no right to assume an air of gentility. That's like carrying around your Kraft mac-and-cheese coupons in a fake gold money clip.

The only decent-looking option (simply a metal frame with wooden shelves) was also the most expensive, at $100. But I bought it because I care what my toilet shelves say about me. This piece says, "Prominently display some Kiehl's products on me, for I am equal to the task. Men, admire my sturdy, austere form and covet me for your own apartment while taking a leak. Women, though you are facing in the wrong direction to gaze upon my purposeful lines, perhaps you may linger upon me for a few moments while washing your hands."

While B, B & B also furnished me with two bedside tables, two sets of sheets, a bicycle wall rack and a Jelli board, our needs went beyond the bed and bath. My next trip took me down to the second ring of hell, Home Depot. I needed to get a propane tank filled, and the charming independent local hardware store had none. Maybe Mom and Pop are too distracted by the foreclosure notices to keep track of their inventory.

Home Depot keeps the propane tanks in the garden section, which is outdoors and contains nearly as much plant life as is burned each day by Amazon cattle farmers or Snoop Dogg. There was one woman working the entire department, and Lewis, Clark and Sacagawea couldn't have found her with a GPS and a team of police dogs. (I suspect she was hiding overhead in the lipstick plants.) So I dragged my propane tank through the aisles aimlessly, eventually stopping to rest at a beautiful gazebo oasis. When I regained my strength, I took my bearings and began the trek to the entrance, where I persuaded a security guard to radio for help. After about 20 more minutes, an orange-vested minion of Lord Depot arrived with a full tank, which was at least nice and new. I always get a lot of satisfaction from exchanging a rusty propane tank for a new one—it makes me feel like I'm getting away with something.

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO HOME DEPOT—I WANT TO GO TO THE HOME DEPOT SECTION OF ULTIMART AND RIDE THE AISLES IN MY GOLF CART

I still had some more shopping to do, so the next stop was Target. As I trudged past the in-store Taco Bell I wondered why all the companies in the Everett retail park don't just cut the pretense and put it all under one roof. Right on, Target and Taco Bell. Give me one store that's so big and comprehensive I'll never have to go anywhere else. Have a big old orgiastic merger and get it over with. I don't want to go to Home Depot—I want to go to the Home Depot section of UltiMart and ride the aisles in my golf cart, shopping for lumber and Old Navy ringer tees. If I'm going to kill my day shopping for boring-yet-necessary merchandise, just let it be over with as quickly as possible. I need all the time I can find to talk to my shrink about the Red Sox and how to beat post-traumatic stress disorder. iB

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Soroff ON

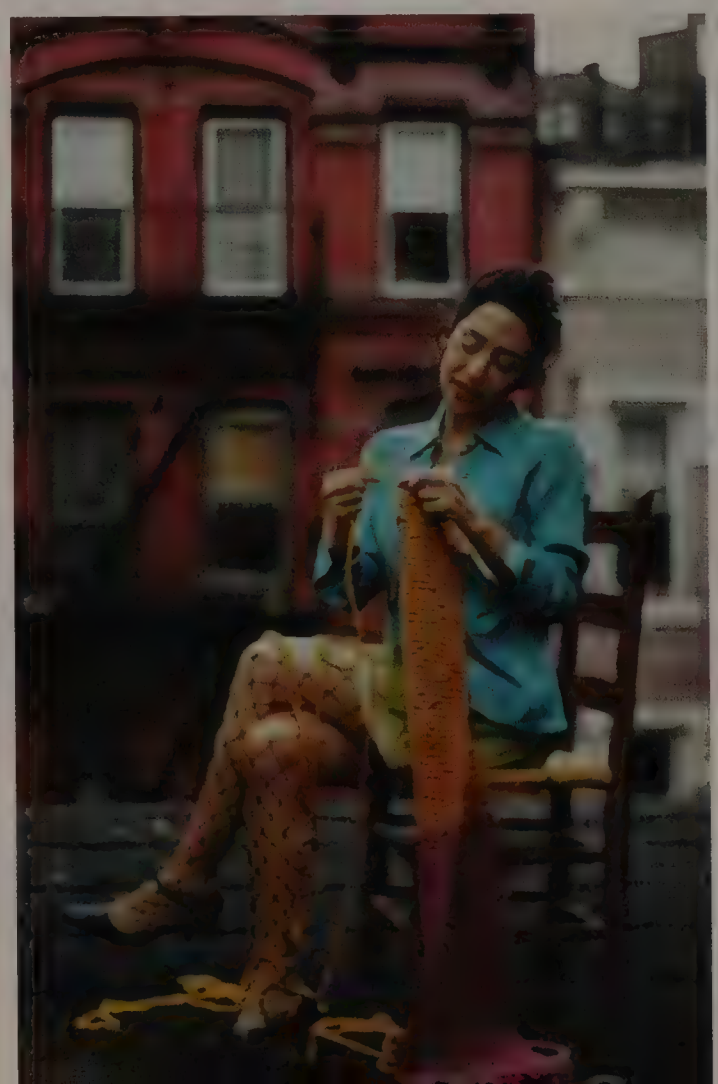
LANA BILZERIAN

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Knitwear designer Lana Bilzerian was raised in Newton, the daughter of fashion design duo Alan and Be Bilzerian, who own and operate the Newbury Street boutique that bears his name. After graduating from Chestnut Hill's Beaver Country Day School, Lana majored in acting at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. As an actress, she appeared on stage in New York and Vermont as well as in the feature films *The Winslow Boy* and *State and Main*. Before graduating from college, she was named head designer of an Italian knitwear company and transformed its small conservative line into a hip, modern cashmere collection targeting women of all ages. Building on her success in revitalizing someone else's company, she launched her own knitwear label, Lana Bilzerian, last fall. Her designs have been featured in *Elle*, *W* and *O* magazines and they have been carried by such retailers as Barney's in New York and Fred Segal in Los Angeles. In Boston they are available at Alan Bilzerian. Splitting her time between the United States and Italy, she is currently showing her fourth collection in New York and Paris.

JS: *Who's your favorite designer, other than yourself?*
LB: Yohji Yamamoto, and my mom. She's by far the best knitwear designer that ever lived. She designed for Cuccinelli, Benetton, Missoni.
JS: *Worst current fashion trend?*
LB: I'm not a fan of the leg warmers, and there's a lot of leg warmers going on right now. It just doesn't work for me.
JS: *Most annoying thing about the fashion business?*
LB: Trends. Following them. Being late on them.
JS: *One thing you'd never be caught dead wearing?*
LB: Those pants with whales on them. I don't think I could pull that one off. Because I'm small, I can usually get away with a lot, but that's just not gonna work for me.
JS: *Single favorite article of clothing?*
LB: My Yohji Yamamoto linen jacket. I wear it all the time. I try to work it into winter. It's ridiculous.
JS: *Linen after Labor Day?! Isn't that illegal?*
LB: I wear white shoes in the winter. I'm breakin' all the rules. I have this new thing—I wear white jazz shoes. You can't find good shoes anywhere. I can't stand the shoes that are out there. So I wear kind of weird stuff.
JS: *Three things every woman should have in her closet?*
LB: A black cardigan. A jacket or blazer you can throw over anything. And a great pair of boots.
JS: *Not a little black dress?*
LB: No. Not necessary.
JS: *One thing I'd be shocked to find in your closet?*
LB: If you knew me, you wouldn't be surprised by anything. I collect a lot of vintage clothing, even if I can't wear it, so I have really random stuff in my closet. Maybe you'd be shocked to see a college sweatshirt. I have one from NYU, and some people think that's strange for me.
JS: *Is Boston a fashionable place?*
LB: It is. There are a lot of really cool, very interesting people in Boston. In my opinion, New Yorkers can be just as conservative as a lot of Bostonians, but it just so happens that in New York, the fashion business is there, magazines, music, everything. So it's an environment with people from all over and it seems very fashionable. You can't compare Boston to New York, but if you compare Boston to other cities, it's a fashionable place.
JS: *Why are Europeans so much more stylish than Americans?*
LB: The environment. Everything in Europe—the architecture, food, everything—is more aesthetic. We're so casual in the U.S. You go out to lunch with a friend—you don't even dress up to see her. You dress down. Or you go shopping, and you dress down. It's cooler in the U.S. to wear a pair of running shoes and a sweat outfit with sunglasses, and act like you're incognito or something, or to buy an outfit for I-don't-know-when because you never dress up anyway. In Europe, you actually put your best outfit on to go shopping.
JS: *So which do you relate to?*
LB: Well, Europe. There's a tradition of looking your best for your friends or family. You dress up to go to the theater, whereas in the U.S., if you're overdressed, you're lame.
JS: *Well, if you're wearing white tie and tails to a baseball game…*
LB: That would be cool to me. That's the person I'd be talking to.
JS: *Item of men's clothing you wish women wore?*
LB: Good question. A lot of stuff has crossed over, like the tuxedo. I think women should wear them more often.
JS: *How about thong underwear on men?*
LB: Ummm, no. That's all I have to say. [Laughs.] Next question.
JS: *Three things you can't live without?*
LB: Oh my god. I'm so high maintenance, this is gonna be hard. All right. Pretty much my entire bathroom with all my cosmetics…ChapStick…Do they have to be material things?
JS: *No. Whatever you want.*
LB: OK, then ChapStick not at the top of my list. Now I'm thinking of something like, the love and acceptance of the world. OK. I couldn't live without laughter, my family, and my Agent Provocateur perfume.
JS: *Worst decade in fashion or fashion faux pas?*
LB: I really didn't like the '90s. I felt like the whole time we were waiting to find out what was going to happen next, and whatever it was never happened. Then everyone was like, "Oh, 2000. Good. We don't have to worry about the '90s anymore."
JS: *Finish this sentence: _____ is the new black.*
LB: I'm gonna have to say yellow.
JS: *If you were going to be abandoned on a deserted island, what one item of clothing would you take?*
LB: My boots that lace up all the way to my knee, because I could take them apart and use the laces, or the hooks for different things.
JS: *Most chic person you know?*
LB: Besides my mother? Her best friend! [Laughs.] She's an old family friend who owns a modeling agency, and she's super super chic.
JS: *Trend prediction for next season?*
LB: I don't really follow trends that closely. I'm a practical person. I like clothing that fits someone's lifestyle, or stuff that will stand the test of time, without being conservative. Classics with a twist. But let's see. Next season. It's knit-crazy. There's knits everywhere—pants, skirts, bathing suits. Also leggings. They're big. Wearing brightly colored leggings under skirts or dresses, with heels.
JS: *A fashion from the past that you wish would come back?*
LB: Hats. Look at an old picture of New York City. You can't see the tops of anyone's head. Everyone's walking around in a hat. I think it's so romantic.
JS: *Best backstabbing story from the rag trade?*
LB: There's this restaurant called Davé in Paris. Every season, it's where the shit goes down. The entire fashion business is there—every designer, every editor, every store—and people are so cutthroat to get a table, because if you're not seen there, it's a total catastrophe. So people will walk in and tell the owner "So-and-so is not coming. Give me his table." Then so-and-so shows up and can't have a table. It's hilarious. It's so insane.
JS: *One thing most people don't realize about the fashion business?*
LB: It's not as glamorous as they think.
JS: *What's more important: good shoes or good hair?*
LB: Good shoes. Definitely. With hair you can just pull it back in a ponytail or whatever.
JS: *Last question: Isn't fashion silly?*
LB: No. I mean, it can be, with the way people go crazy over who's wearing what and labels, and all that stuff, but fashion is self-expression. It's how you present yourself to the world. I'm not saying looks are everything—and fashion isn't all-important—but personally, I think it's the coolest thing. IB

FASHION IS SELF-EXPRESSION. IT'S HOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF TO THE WORLD.



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WINTER FASHION

Although most of us concentrate on staying warm in winter, there is no reason you can't do that with style. The following pages offer tips—from the toastiest coats and sexiest sweaters to the trendiest accessories and most stylish boots—for looking your best as the temperature falls. Feeling the budget crunch? Our Shop and Save section offers some real steals that look great. Even the simple purchase of a new lipstick can perk up your look, as well as your outlook, as the days grow shorter. So curl up by the fire with the IMPROPER's Winter Fashion issue and join us as we embrace the season. Let it snow.

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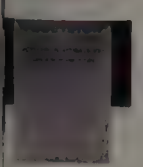

44
SKIN DEEP

jUMPER

THIS WINTER, STAY WARM IN SEXY SWEATERS

Green sweater, $78; green skirt with embroidery, $138. Both at Anthropologie. Smoky quartz and aquamarine necklace, $440; sterling silver and crystal quartz earrings, $90. Both by Blue Sky Collection at Long's Jewelers.

Floral sweater, $128; lace skirt, $168. Both at Anthropologie. Eighteen-karat gold lariat necklace with diamonds, $3,750; matching earrings, $1,350. Both by David Yurman at Long's Jewelers.

CLASSIC

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STREICHER

Full-length sweater with rhinestone clasps, $288 at Anthropologie. Eighteen-karat white gold and pavé diamond bracelet, $2,900; aquamarine pendant on blue cord by Barry Kronen, $1,350. Both at Long's Jewelers.

velvet skirt, $138 at Anthropologie; handmade pink tourmaline and diamond earrings, $6,000 at Long's Jewelers

Black sweater with rhinestone buttons, $139; tiered lace skirt, $189. Both at Holiday. Toggle heart necklace, $1,350; matching bracelet, $1,600; buckle bracelet with diamonds, $1,500. All by Scott Kay at Long's Jewelers.

Anthropologie
799 Boylston St.
Boston
617-262-0545

Holiday
127 Charles St.
Boston
617-973-9730

Long's Jeweler
60 South Ave
Burlingtoi
781-272-540

Model: Lindsey Smit

Hair: Monrüd fc
Mitchell John Salo

Makeup: Jenny Brow

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SAVE AND SHOP

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TRACY POWELL

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SEVEN OUTFITS THAT WILL SPRUCE YOU UP—WITHOUT CLEARING OUT YOUR WALLET

Finding stylish clothing that won't break the bank isn't difficult; you just have to know where to look. These seven outfits—perfect for a power meeting or a night on the town—are all under $300 and are easy to scoop up from stores in the area. You'll even have money left over to celebrate your fantastic purchases with a martini at the Ritz.

Black dress, $88; s
necklace, $16. Bot
Express. Black pa
leather heels, $39.
black tights, $3
Both at Mars
Total price: $1

Pink wrap shirt, $74; tweed skirt, $149. Both at Off 5th at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets. Black boots, $39.99; black tights, $3.99. Both at Marshalls. Silver necklace, $22 at Express.
Total price: $288.98

Pink top, $14.99; striped skirt with rhinestone star pin, $19.99; pink ankle-high boots, $16.99. All at Rainbow. Long earrings, $22 at Express.
Total price: $73.97

Brown jacket with piping, $39.99; matching skirt, $24; brown sling-backs, $29.99. All at Marshalls.
Total price: $93.98

White turtleneck, $19.50; pink vest, $34.50; pleated skirt, $34.99. All at Wet Seal. Black tights, $3.99 at Marshalls. Black suede shoes, $69.90 at Off 5th at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets.
Total price: $162.88

Sequined dress, $19.90; fishnet thigh-highs, $4.50. Both at H&M. Black patent leather heels, $39.99 at Marshalls.
Total price: $64.39

Satin halter, $9.90; black satin pants, $29.90. Both at H&M. Black ankle boots, $199 at Off 5th at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets. Earrings, $22 at Express.
Total price: $260.80

clothesCALL

FIRST IMPRESSIONS CAN MAKE OR BREAK A FIRST DATE

BY JESSICA IREDALE PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRIAN SILVERSTEIN

Top: IMPROPER staffers listen in as panelists debate the outfits.

Inset: The panel. Front (from left): Julie, Kerna, Doreen, Catherine and Ashley; back: Ryan, Leigh, Andrew, David and Alex (absent: Debbie)

You met him last weekend, he called on Tuesday to ask you out to dinner, and now it's Friday and he's knocking at your door. Before you answer, you send up a final prayer that you like what you see on the other side (you can be sure the guy on your door-step is doing the same).

For most of us, clothes are hardly the make-or-break issue in a budding romance, but the way a date dresses does count when we're sizing him/her up for the first time. And if that impression is a bad one, the first date could be the last.

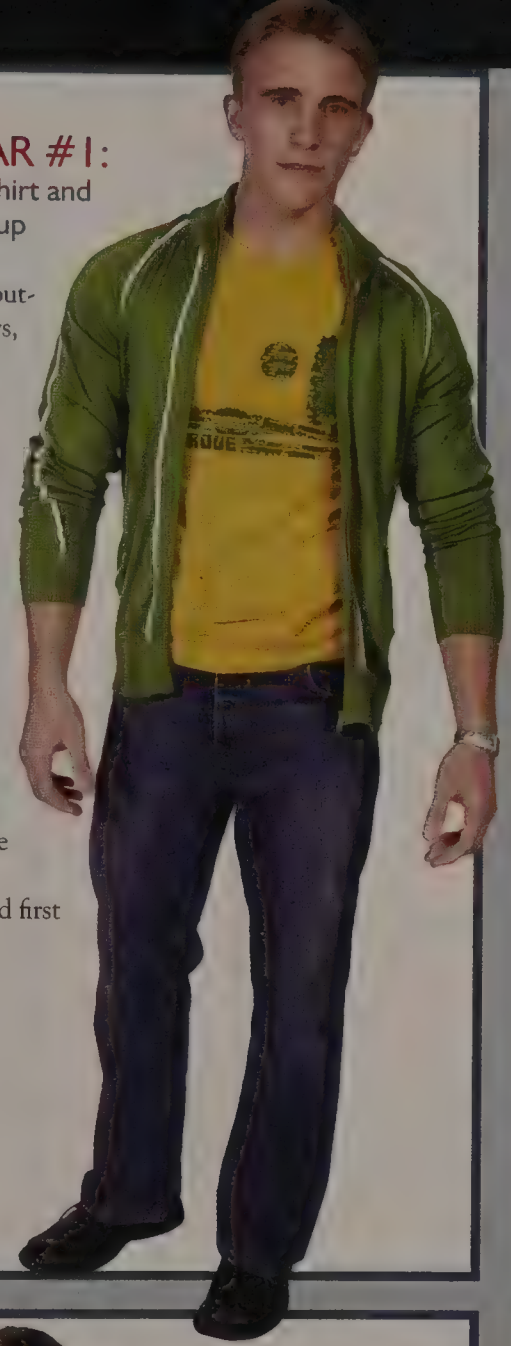
But just what are the right and wrong things to wear in the eyes of the ever mysterious opposite sex? To find out, we recruited 11 men and women, ages 23–40, to play Joan Rivers for a day. We brought them into our offices, plied them with wine and quizzed them on what they'd wear to dinner and how they'd like to see their date dress—and we even invited them to say which Boston fashion trends they'd eighty-six forever. Then we put on a little fashion show, dressing a male and female model in four different outfits each and inviting our judges to give each look the thumbs-up or thumbs-down. (You can read their opinions in the boxes at right and on the next page.)

Knowing that one person's hot is another person's not, we chose panelists with varied personal styles. So when you're reading their opinions below, consider which is the type of guy or gal you'd most likely want to date. Living by the "it's better to be overdressed" motto, for example, attorney Leigh, 35, delights in a pair of well-oiled Cole Haan calfskins and a three-piece Brooks Brothers suit. Younger musicians Andrew and Ryan, on the other hand, are happier in a pair of 501 Blues (circa 1994) and are most likely to respond to the brand name Jimmy Choo with "Gesundheit," while 30-something professionals David and Alex fall somewhere in the middle.

As for the women, professionals Kerna, 30, and Debbie and Ashley, both in their 20s, are more casual. They favor jeans paired with a casual but flirty shirt. Catherine, a 20-something fashionista, prefers the Prada shoes–with–classic Levis look, while Julie, 34, goes for a sophisticated look, like knee-high boots with a sharp and perfectly coordinated skirt and sweater. Among the women, Doreen was the fashion moderate.

Who knew what to expect from a bunch of strangers discussing sartorial issues? Sure, sit a couple of women down with a bottle of wine, throw in the initial "love your shirt," and you're guaranteed a fashion powwow. But men at the roundtable? Can you hear the pin drop? Surprisingly enough, the boys rose to the occasion. Before the models even suited up, the five men were speaking with fashion

MENSWEAR #1:
Jeans, fitted T-shirt and kelly green zip-up

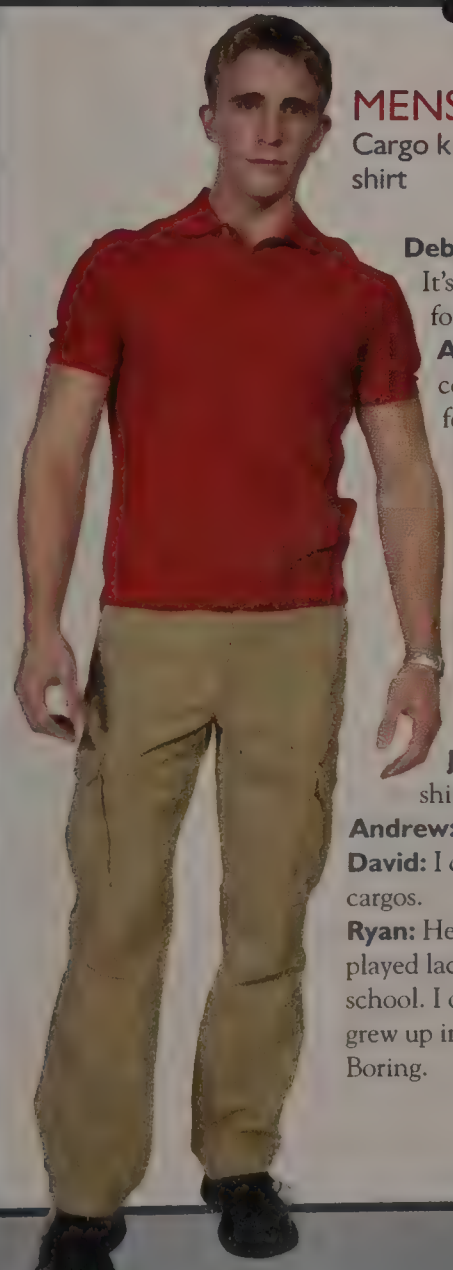


Catherine: His outfit is stylish. It says, "I didn't try too hard," yet it's apparent he made an effort.
Julie: If I was 24, I'd be psyched. At 34, I'm like, "The playground is that way."
Andrew: It's $40 Urban Outfitters BS. Be real or be gone, dude.
Ryan: He's trying way too hard to be casual.
David: Not a good first impression.

WOMENSWEAR #1:
Jeans, fitted turtleneck sweater, strap heels

Ashley: Cute, but it shows a lack of effort to make a great first impression. Anything denim says you're all about your own comfort.
Catherine: Cute, but very daytime. I wouldn't wear it on a first date.
Doreen: It's nice, simple and casual, but I wouldn't wear jeans.
Alex: It's more appropriate than the guy's outfit, but it's still too casual for a first date.
Ryan: Burn the sweater! I like the jeans, but this outfit is way too safe. There should always be a theme of sex.
Andrew: It's adorable; it looks so comfy. If she showed up looking like that, we might not even leave the house.

MENSWEAR #2:
Cargo khakis and a polo shirt



Debbie: Very boring. It's a little too preppy for me.
Ashley: It's the conservative uniform of Boston.
Doreen: It's less trendy and more collegiate than the first, but still too young and casual.
Catherine: Not a big fan of the cargos.
Julie: And the shirt's too small.
Andrew: Yawn.
David: I do not like the cargos.
Ryan: Hey, look at me. I played lacrosse in high school. I drive a Jeep and grew up in Greenwich. Boring.

WOMENSWEAR #2:
Suit jacket and pinstripe skirt

Julie: It's almost too severe businesswoman on top. I'd soften it up with a sweater.
Kerna: I like the jacket.
Ashley: It's conservative, but there are accents of sex. Maybe a little cleavage would help.
Andrew: It's the mullet of outfits. All business on top, party on the bottom. That skirt is pure weapons-grade cute-tonium.
Ryan: It says, "I'm well put together." And it's a little provocative.
Alex: I like the look, but it's conservative and needs more sex appeal.

conviction that would have made Joan and Melissa proud.

Once we discovered that our men did indeed have an opinion on how women should dress, we got right to the juicy question of turn-offs. On that subject, the responses were personal rather than universal. A few of our panelists agree it's time to send designer logo accessories where the sun don't shine. "Fendi bags, Louis Vuitton, whatever—you're boring," says Andrew. Alex has three major female fashion pet peeves: "annoying J.Lo sunglasses," clunky shoes and low-rise pants on the wrong body.

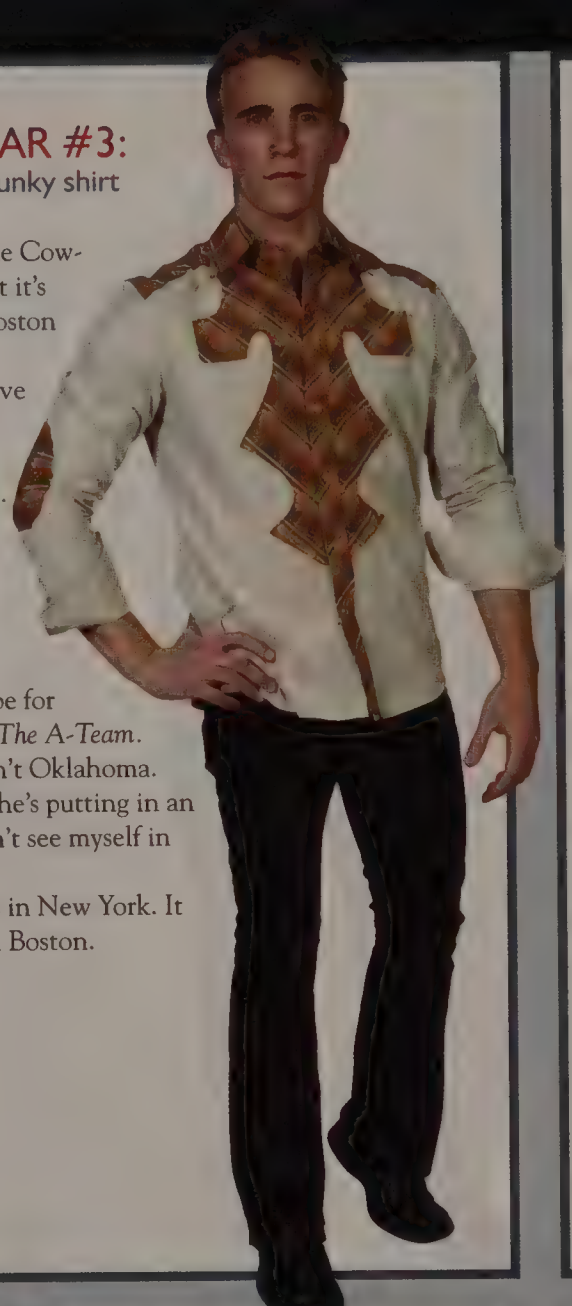
As for turn-ons, David looks for "something feminine," and Ryan says he fantasizes about stiletto heels and leather mini skirts. "Oh, and more women should wear their hair long," he adds. Leigh wants to see some attention to accessories (jewelry, shoes and hats) "that complement the clothes, not overwhelm them." But before you upgrade your entire view of men's appreciation for women's clothes, keep Andrew's words in mind: "Speaking as an average guy, we never, ever notice your shoes."

Men, meanwhile, can take this advice from the women: Know your size and find a tailor. If the women have one shared peeve it's ill-fitting clothes; pants that are too baggy or too short don't cut it. Catherine loathes jean tuxedos (jean jacket with jeans). "Take it back to Jersey," she says, adding that "turtlenecks on guys are only good for hiding hickeys." Julie (and just about everyone else in the room) says sayonara to cargos. And Doreen thinks it's time men (and women) ditch the junior high uniform of athletic-inspired wear. And sorry guys, women will never understand men's inclination toward company logo polos or, worse yet, pleated pants (though, according to Leigh, the latter is "just a matter of comfort").

Interestingly enough, on the narrower topic of what they themselves would wear on a first date to a nice restaurant, you could barely tell the difference between the sexes. The majority of both the men and women said they would most likely don some version of dark, classic slacks and a simple but stylish shirt, with the exception of Julie, who was stepping out in a wrap dress, knee-high boots and fishnets.

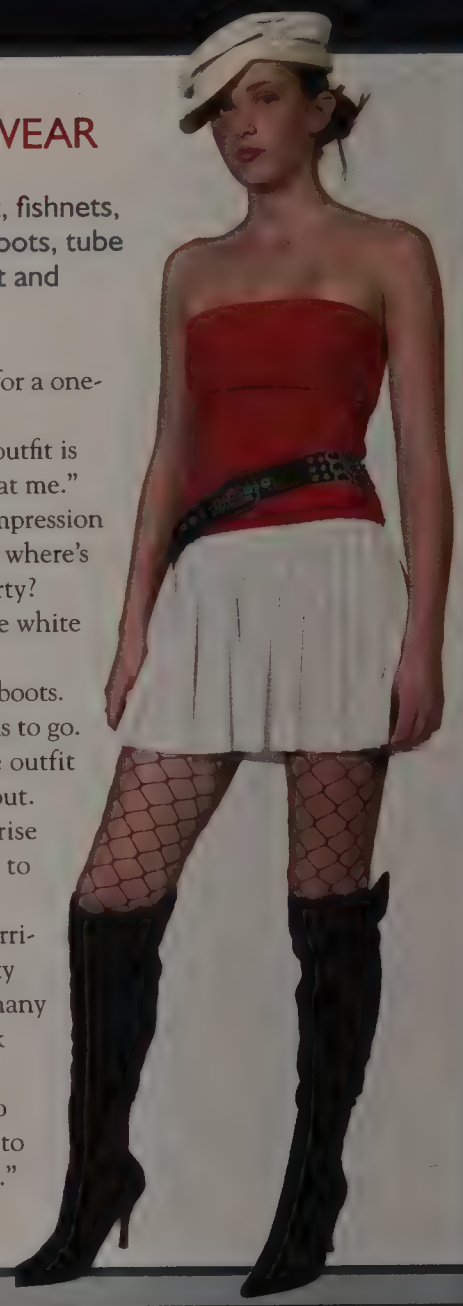
Whatever their personal sense of style, most of our panelists agree that Boston is (surprise) a conservative and rather casual town. "People dress on the safe side here. They're not really willing to take a fashion risk unless it's over the top, like college kids trying trends," observes Julie. Ryan agrees. "Trends here are watered down. Nothing's too dramatic. Everything pretty much stays the same." iB

Got a fashion opinion? Write to letters@improper.com



MENSWEAR #3:
Suede pants, funky shirt

Doreen: It's like Cowboy Up. At least it's not the usual Boston boring.
Catherine: I give this person credit for their fashion courage. The pants are cool, but the shirt looks like he's going to a hoedown.
Andrew: Maybe for *Knight Rider* or *The A-Team*.
David: This ain't Oklahoma.
Alex: It shows he's putting in an effort, but I don't see myself in suede pants.
Leigh: It works in New York. It doesn't work in Boston.



WOMENSWEAR #3:
Pleated miniskirt, fishnets, over-the-knee boots, tube top, studded belt and newsboy cap

Ashley: It's great for a one-night stand.
Catherine: This outfit is screaming, "Look at me." The overall first impression is it's trampy. And where's the Halloween party?
Kerna: I don't like white for fall.
David: I love the boots. Everything else has to go.
Leigh: This is the outfit I'm going to ask out. But it would surprise me on a first date to a restaurant.
Alex: This is a horrible outfit. It's slutty and there are so many other ways to look sexy.
Ryan: This says to me, "We're going to have so much fun."

MENSWEAR #4:
Suit and tie

Julie: Five words: When are we getting married? I love it. It says success. It says, "I care about this date."
Doreen: Classic and a great first impression.
Debbie: On a Saturday night? No, too much.
Kerna: Without the tie, it might be more appropriate.
Leigh: I like a guy in a three-button suit. This is right on target. And it's always better to be overdressed.
Ryan: It says, "I'm the man. I'm not here to play games."

WOMENSWEAR #4:
Polka-dot dress and heels

Doreen: This is the best of the women's outfits. Dresses are best.
Catherine: It's flirty and fun. Perfect for a first date.
Ashley: Adorable! Jackie O with playful flirtiness.
Debbie: Sexy and cute.
David: I don't like polka dots.
Leigh: Perfect. This is what I want my date to wear.
Alex: I like it.
Andrew: Two words: debutante ball.
Ryan: Yada yada. Obviously it looks nice.

Holiday shopping
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A FLASH OF COLOR

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TRACY POWELL

TOO MUCH BLACK IN YOUR WARDROBE? COLORFUL ACCESSORIES ADD A FESTIVE TOUCH.

If you're like most women, your winter wardrobe has always been built around one color. Black dominates cold-weather fashions—from sweaters and skirts to coats and boots—like no other hue. Although it's versatile and slimming, black can get a little boring when you wear it every day from daylight-deprived November through snow-blown February. It's time to reinvigorate by inviting color back into your winter wardrobe. Don't worry: You don't have to donate your little black dresses to charity. Instead, focus on adding some well-placed accessories. It doesn't matter whether you prefer subtle pastels or bright shades—both are great ways to turn any outfit from drab to fab. Try one of Target's yellow scarves with bright blue gloves, or DKNY's elbow-length leather gloves in lavender. Add some glitter with big, colorful gemstones (real or costume) or some jingle with Chanel's charm bracelet, which tinkles with four different pastel colors. You'll be surprised how much spark a little color can give your look.

Model: Laura Marx
Shot on location at Sophia's

Fluorescent pink pumps, $79 at Steve Madden. Pink leather bag with rose detail, $1,595; cloth logo belt, $445; logo cuff, $670; logo charm bracelet, $785. All at the Chanel boutique.

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IT'S A WRAP

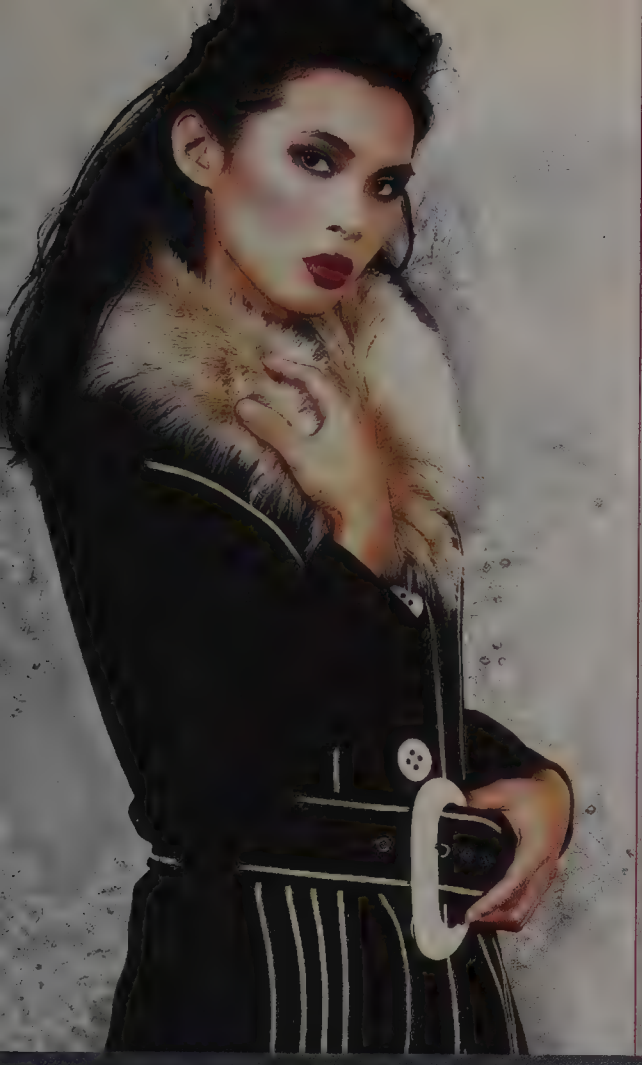
BUNDLE UP IN A COAT THAT COVERS YOU BUT NOT YOUR STYLE

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Coats this winter run the gamut from sporty bombers to fur-lined, floor-length overcoats, so it's easy to find one that fits your lifestyle. If you're looking for the hot new look, though, go for a floor-length wool overcoat that nips in at the waist, just like the one your grandmother once wore. Pick a classic color like winter white, powder blue or jet black. The best part about this style is that it works equally well for casual or dressy situations. Button it up over a sweater and jeans or layer it over a cocktail dress, with a pretty ribbon tied around the waist. If your look is more sporty, a quilted jacket is the way to go. Choose a pastel or bright color to liven up gray winter days. Following are some suggestions on how to stay warm while looking great.

Black velvet coat with satin deta
at waist, $315 at Fil



Brown tweed coat with fur collar by Jungal
$920 at Matsu

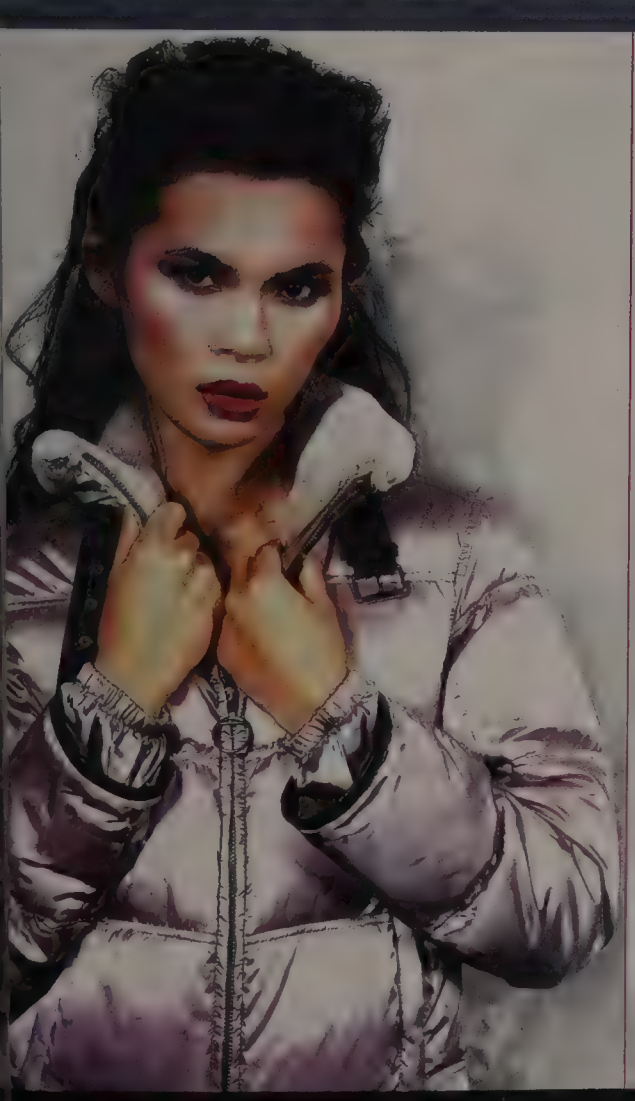
White fur coat with leather trim,
$2,100 at DKNY

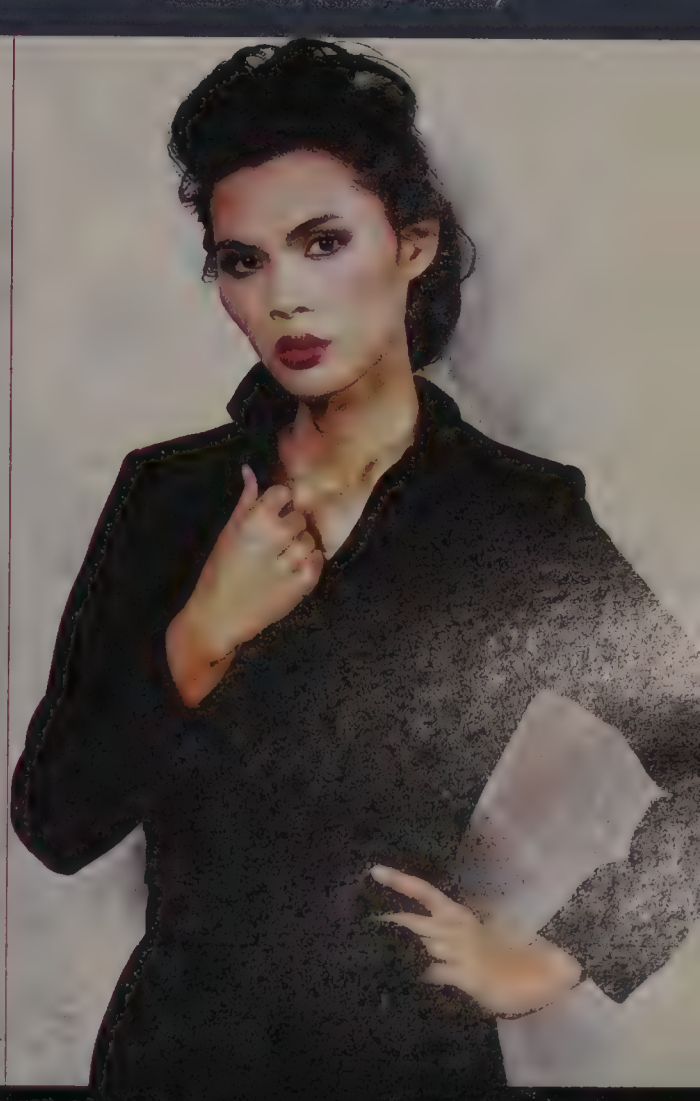
Pink large-weave wool coat by L.K. Bennett
$459 at Holiday

Pale pink coat by Prada,
$1,350 at Saks Fifth Avenue

Green wool coat with hood and
faux fur detailing, $69.90 at H&M

Black wool coat with ribbon detailing by
Edward An, $480 at Holiday





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Filene's
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617-357-2100

H&M
350 Washington St.
617-482-7001

Holiday
27 Charles St.
617-973-9730

Matsu
259 Newbury St.
617-266-9707

Saks Fifth Avenue
The Prudential Center
617-262-8500

Model: Angie Lim for Maggie. Makeup: Jenny Brown. Hair: Monrüd for Mitchell John Salon. Stylist: Sara Schiano.

SHOE-INS

CAN YOU CHANGE YOUR LIFE WITH SEXY BOOTS AND PRETTY PUMPS? YOU BET!

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB PERACHIO

If diamonds are a girl's best friend, then shoes are a close second. Most women will agree: New shoes can make a bad day good and change your outlook on the world. Lucky for us, this season has loads of fun shoes in store. Over-the-knee boots are the strongest trend for work and play, and the ones you'll see this season are a little less *Pretty Woman* and a little more Catholic schoolgirl, all grown up. If you wear them to work, simply wear a skirt that covers the tops (making them look a little like leather stockings). For evening, throw on a miniskirt with those boots and watch the guys go nuts.

For long walks to work, try Kors shearling boots by Michael Kors, at Lord & Taylor. They're flat, padded inside and, when weatherproofed, will make you glad that you have them on a snowy day. (You can change into your fave heels at the office, and it certainly beats the stockings-with-socks-and-sneakers look—ick!)

Boots and pumps are pretty much the way to go this winter. Don't even try to get away with open-toed shoes, even for a black-tie event. It's passé, and you will just freeze your tootsies off. When choosing pumps, go for classic shapes—Nine West has a great selection right now. I like to have a pair of black ones as my staple and then collect bright colors, like the hot-pink or neon-yellow ones from Steve Madden. They look great with an all-black outfit. And if you take the plunge with Technicolor shoes, you'll be ahead of the curve, considering they'll be next spring's hottest trend.

Top to bottom: Black fishnet stockings, $4.50 at H&M; black heels with bows, $188 at DKNY. Hot-pink opaque tights, $8.50 at Wet Seal; black ankle boots, $295 at DKNY. Striped over-the-knee socks, $2 at H&M; pink pumps by Christian Dior, $440 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Textured tights by Ellen Tracey, $18; black strap heels by Gucci, $460; both at Saks Fifth Avenue. Black leggings, $4.50 at H&M; black pumps with ankle strap, $198 at DKNY.

1. Suede boots with fur trim, $335 at Stuart Weitzman. 2. Tan leather boots by Prada, $615 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 3. Suede boots by Prada, $380 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 4. Black suede boo with pom-pom by Jimmy Choo, $895 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 5. Grey denim low boot by Dior, $530 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 6. Black lace pumps by Manolo Blahnik, $495 at Saks Fifth Avenu 7. Pink suede pumps with round toe and bow by Marc Jacobs, $260 at Saks Fifth Avenue. 8. Brown suede ankle boot, $160 at Ecco. 9. Asian pumps, $69.99 at Aldo. 10. Leather and nyl boots, $99 at 9West. 11. Red patent leather boots, $119 at 9West. 12. Black boots with snaps, $159 at 9West. 13. Silver pumps, $69 at 9West. 14. Orange faux croc pumps, $69 at 9We 15. Black lace boots by Manolo Blahnik, $745 at Neiman Marcus. 16. Purple suede pumps by Christian LaCroix, $285 at Neiman Marcus. 17. Off-white leather pumps, $69 at 9We 18. Black-and-white pumps by Dior, $565 at Neiman Marcus. 19. Black pumps with bow, $69.99 at Aldo. 20. Black knee-high boots with lace-up backs by Peter Kent, $395 at Moxie.

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I ON STYLE: fur

Satin and fox fur coat; $2,700; feather hairpiece; $350; Both at The Altered Bride. Pony hair belt; $105; black satin and fox fur bag; $295; both at Arden B. Hair: Mitch Derosa for Mitchell John Salon; Makeup: Jenny Brown; Model: Laura Marx.

A TIMELESS FAVORITE GOES UP-TO-DATE

Although fur has never really gone out of style—and probably never will—this year, it seems to be everywhere. Perhaps that's because fur complements the 1940s clothing style that has been popular since last year. Whatever the reason, fur—both faux and the real thing—is at the top of the style charts. You'll find everything from traditional looks to ultramodern silhouettes and more unique items.

If you want something that will stand the test of time, try the more traditional fur items like full-length coats, shrugs and handbags. IJ Fox has thousands of fur coats that add glamour to any outfit, and DKNY has several fur handbags that pair with just about anything. For just a hint of fur, opt for a fur collar on a tailored coat or long sweater. You can find these almost anywhere. Among my favorite of the season's many fur accessories are the flowers I found at the Altered Bride. Irresistibly soft and pretty, they pin right on anything and come in several colors.

If you prefer to wear the fake stuff, Arden B sells faux fur cuffs that wrap around your wrists to complement a long-sleeved shirt. Add fur to a little black dress and glam it up a bit—you'll be ready for a night on the town.

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY TRACY POWELL

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RED ALERT

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Cold weather brings lush fabrics, romantic clothing and tons of black-tie events and swank dinner parties. Not every day is full of long gowns and air kisses, but you can have a bit of glam in your life any day in the form of red lipstick. It adds elegance to a black dress, but it can just as easily dress-up jeans and a T-shirt. Now, which red will best complement your coloring? As women who've bought lipstick after red lipstick searching for that perfect shade can attest, it's a harder question to answer than you might think. I searched the shelves for the most beautiful reds and found the following winners.

The best brownish reds

Old Flame, at Fresh, $21. More brown than red, and a bit sheer. #15 lipstick by Giorgio Armani, at Saks Fifth Avenue, $22.50. Burgundy-brown with a hint of pink. Burgundy lip color by Bobbi Brown, at Neiman Marcus, $19. Creamy burgundy with a touch of orange.

The best pinkish reds

Sun Red lipstick, at Kiehl's, $16.50. Three-dimensional color with pink and gold sparkle. Matador lipstick by Chanel, at Saks Fifth Avenue, $23. Hot pink with red overtones.

The best deep reds

Sweet Love by Lola, at the Beauty Mark, $20. Blood red, with lots of shine. Rouge de Monde, at Fresh, $21. The deepest wine color around.

The best true reds

Shu Uemura Red Lip Rouge M165, www.shuuemura.com, $18. Apple red. Flamenco by Clinique, at Filene's, $13.50. Fire engine red with a tiny bit of gold. Rediculous by Lola, at the Beauty Mark, $20. Cherry red with the tiniest hint of pink. Scarlet by Chanel, at Saks Fifth Avenue, $23. Sheer and sparkly red.

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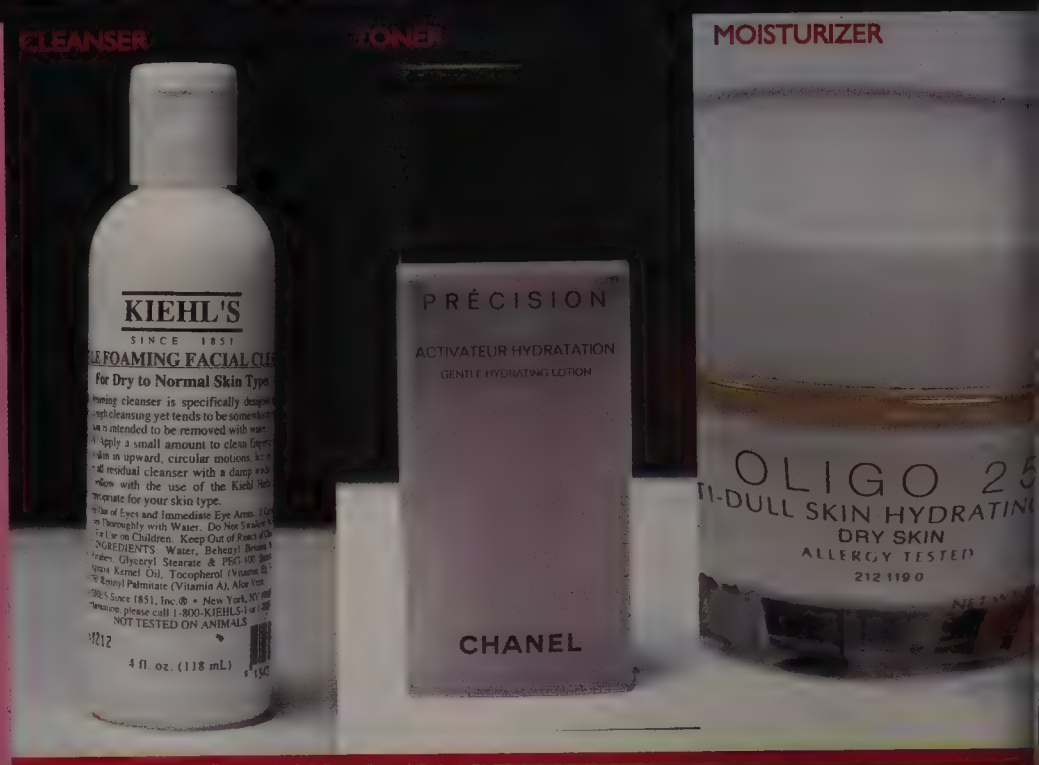
SKIN DEEP

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Keeping skin in perfect shape can be a challenge, especially in winter. But most aestheticians recommend a simple approach: Cleanse your skin to remove dirt, tone it to remove excess residue and moisturize it to keep it smooth and supple. So, when we go shopping, why do we feel the need to complicate things? Here are some great skin-care regimens for morning and night to help you pare down to essentials.

NORMAL/COMBINATION

CLEANSER Repechage Hydra Dew Gentle Cleansing Mousse, $25 at Repechage.com
TONER Elemis Aromapure Rehydrating Ginseng Toner, $30 at Elemis.com
MOISTURIZER Fresh Rice Face Cream, $75 at Fresh



DRY

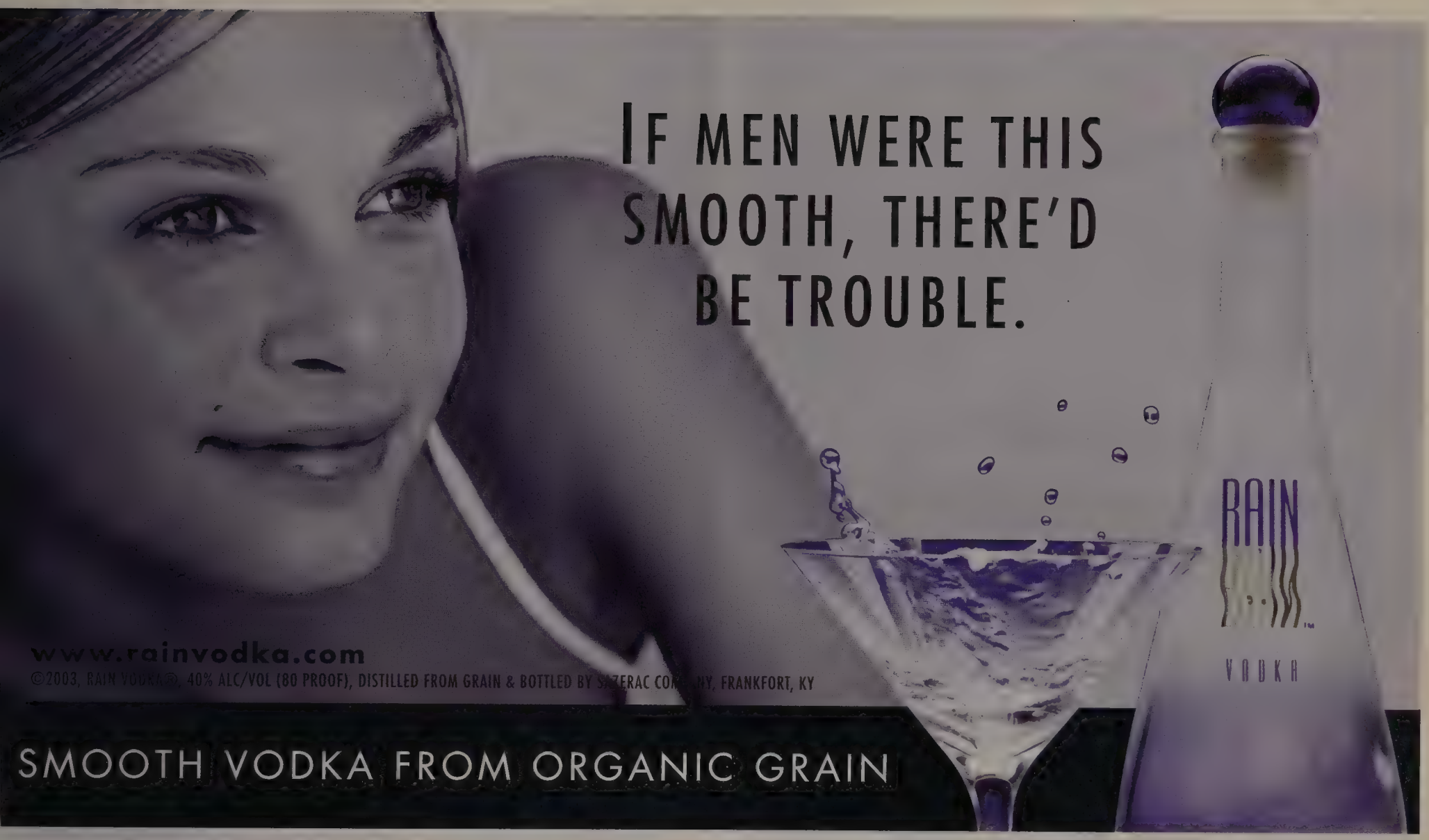
CLEANSER Kiehl's Gentle Foaming Facial Cleanser, $10.50 at Kiehl's
TONER Precision Activateur Gentle Hydrating Lotion, $35 at Saks Fifth Avenue
MOISTURIZER Vichy Laboratoires Oligo 25 Anti-Dull Skin Hydrating Care, $19 at Brooks Pharmacy

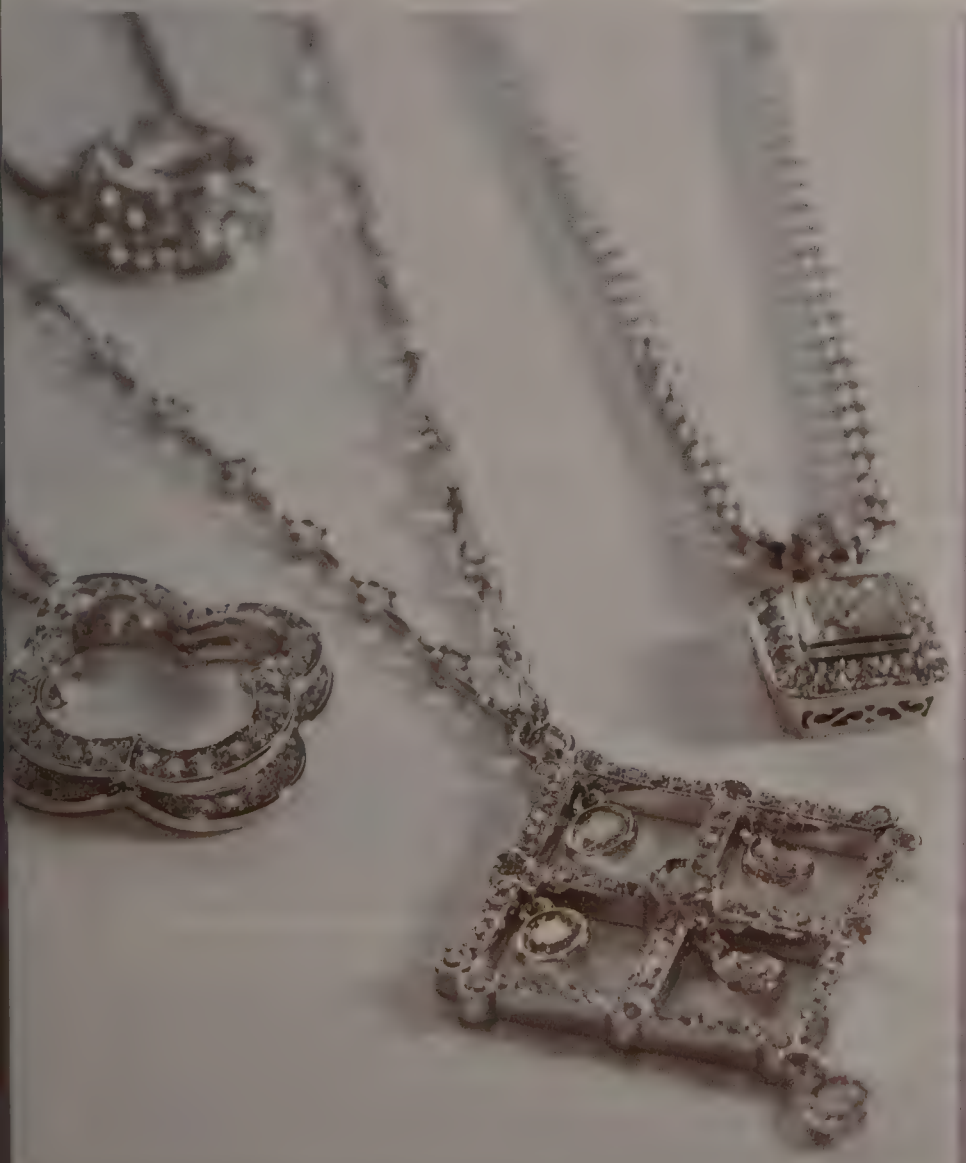
OILY

CLEANSER Fresh Milk Face Cleanser, $35 at Fresh
TONER Kiehl's Blue Astringent Herbal Lotion, $9.50 at Kiehl's
MOISTURIZER Kanebo IB Oil Control, $40 at Saks Fifth Avenue

ALL SKIN TYPES

For extra special treatment, try these repair products for all skin types once a week:
LIP CARE Vichy Laboratoires Nutrilogie Lèvres, $9 at Brooks Pharmacy
DEEP CLEANSING MASK Origins Clear Improvement, $18.50 at Filene's
EXFOLIATOR Lush Ocean Salt Facial Scrub, $14.40 at Lush
MOISTURIZING MASK Kiehl's Imperiale Repairateur Treatment Line Formula "MM" Moisturizing Masque, $20 at Kiehl's





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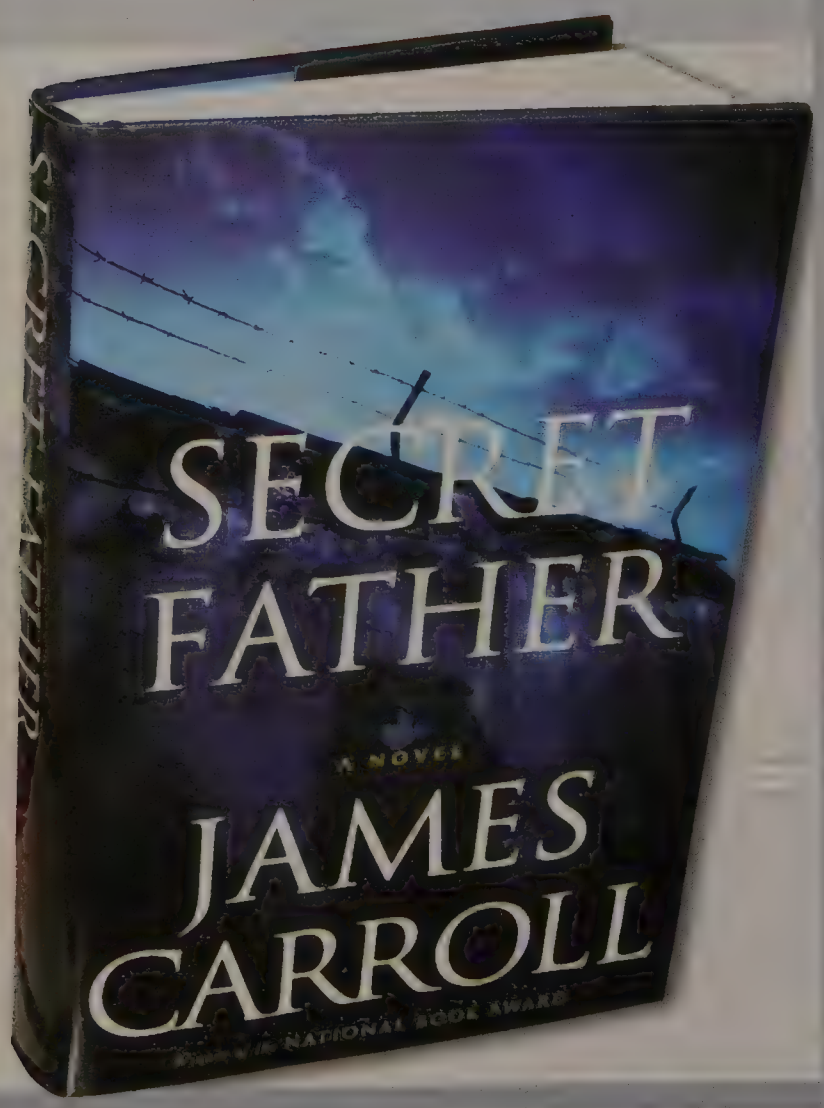

WHO IS "EIN BERLINER"?

***Secret Father*, by *Boston Globe* columnist and novelist James Carroll, takes place in 1961, in divided Berlin.**

The personal is political and vice-versa to a great degree in James Carroll's new book, *Secret Father*. The novel is set in Berlin in 1961, when the famous Wall was constructed and tensions between East and West were sizzling. Three teenagers, idealistic and fecklessly larky, go into East Berlin for the Communist celebration of May Day. German-born Ulrich, traveling as Americanized Rick, is the stepson of an American general, and the story has spooky undertones. But murkier yet, Ulrich's biological father is a long-dead German whose sinister dealings at the end of World War II are painfully revealed. Ulrich's mother and the widowed father of Michael, a limping polio survivor, go in search of their sons and their friend Kit after the three are detained by the East German Stasi. At every turn, the layers of political duplicity thicken the plot and throw each relationship—between the two parents, the three teenagers, the Berlin guides and drivers who may or may not be quite as they seem—dangerously off-center. Themes of tormented fatherhood—a preoccupation Carroll has explored in his memoir *An American Requiem*—loyalty, rebellion and discord run through the book, with divided Berlin as the metaphor.

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PLEASING ZZZZZZ'ING

"Easier, Deeper Sleep" is a three-hour class at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, on Nov. 16. Therapist Merle Bombardieri, who teaches the class, offers further classes and consultations. Call 781-862-1662.

Whether it's a restless night's sleep or trouble getting to sleep at all, there are times when sleep doesn't quite do the job of knitting up that old raveled sleeve of care. Therapist Merle Bombardieri teaches a class that provides behavioral, hypnotic and practical approaches to help you learn to fade into the happy horizontal. Habits in the daytime—coffee, exercise, alcohol—affect sleep, so you'll learn to do advance planning in those departments. Likewise, you'll structure that honeyed twilight zone before bedtime. Myths and sleep-research realities are discussed—crises, menopause, a snoring spouse and obesity can affect sleep, and sleep-deprived people are dangerous drivers. Mostly, however, Bombardieri trains clients to "empower themselves to engage in behaviors they already know about." Gentle visualizations expand on the benign pretense that beautiful sleep has already occurred. Self-hypnosis and affirming self-talk can come to replace the drill sergeant of the superego, which only reinforces wakefulness. Bombardieri aims to help sleep-seekers "put their worries to bed," so that a refreshing night can help them "be replenished and healed to think more clearly."

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IN THIS SECTION: Review: Bambara Dish: Au revoir, Maison Robert
Tasty Tidbit: Gingerbread House Competition

REVIEW

BLOSSOMING BRASSERIE

With its newly revamped menu, Hotel Marlowe's Bambara shows flashes of brilliance

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

BAMBARA

25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge
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HOURS Mon.-Thu., 7-10 am, 11:30 am-2 pm and 5:30-10 pm; Fri., 7-10 am, 11:30 am-2 pm and 5:30-11 pm; Sat., 8-11:30 am and 5:30-11 pm; Sun., 8-11:30 am and 5:30-9 pm

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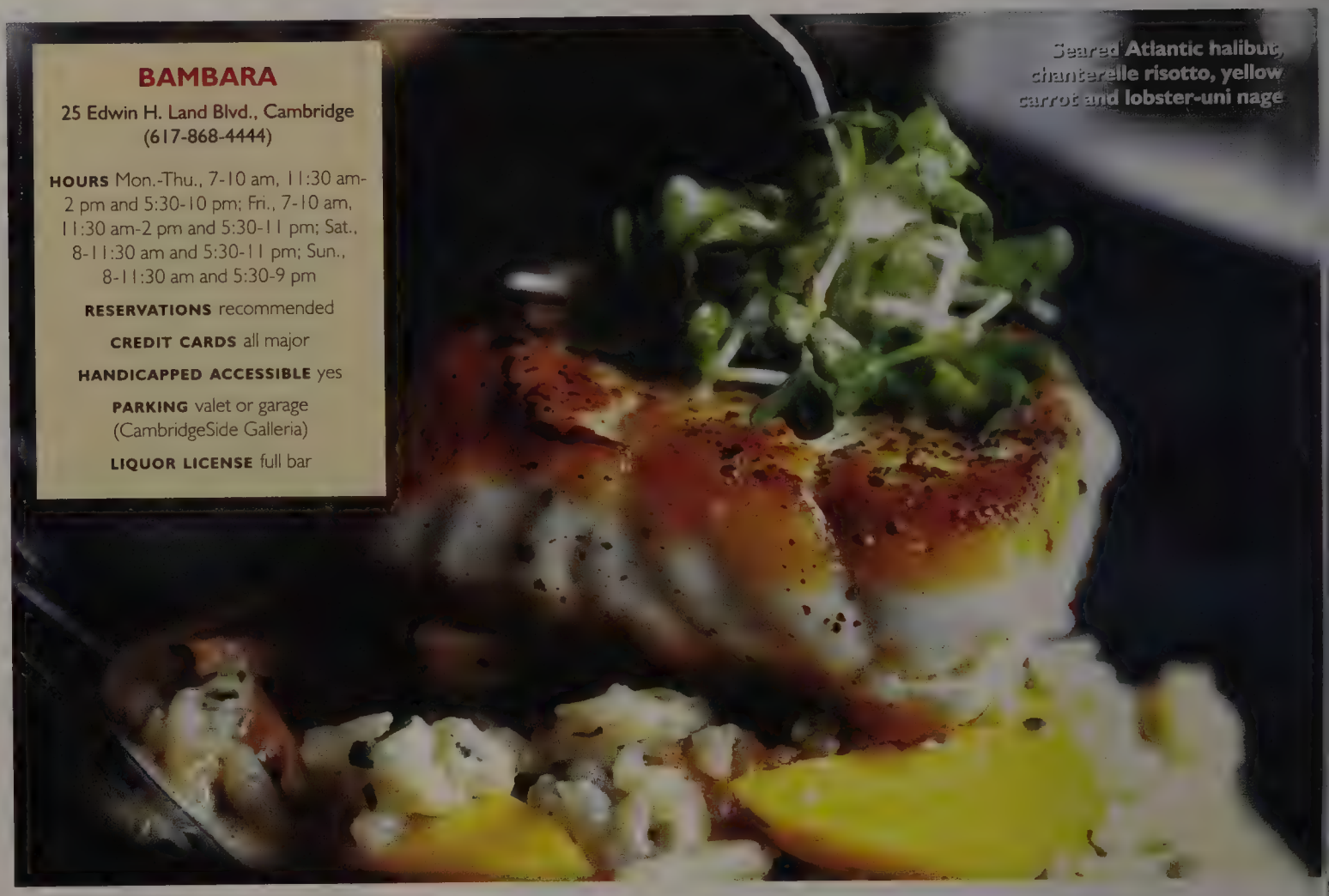


Seared Atlantic halibut, chanterelle risotto, yellow carrot and lobster-uni nage

Ensconced in a newly constructed building next door to the CambridgeSide Galleria, across the street from the Sonesta Hotel and the Charles River, Hotel Marlowe aspires to the personalized service and gracious atmosphere associated with small European hotels. From the looks of hotel guests enjoying a complimentary early-evening wine reception in the eclectically and extravagantly decorated, mirror-filled drawing room/lounge, it looks like a success. To give culinary expression to its studied ambience, the Kimpton Hotel Group brought in Tom Berry, Ming Tsai's former sous chef from Blue Ginger, who created and presides over the Marlowe's restaurant, Bambara.

Bambara got off to a rocky start earlier this year, with critics almost unanimous in lambasting its cutesy menu groupings (like "soupy," "leafy" and "crabby"). One critic went so far as to add his own category: "dopey." Bambara soon abandoned these flights of fancy imposed upon it by Kimpton management and restructured its menu in a more traditional format, with starters, salads, entrées and sides. Relieved of its menu baggage, Bambara serves some mighty fine food.

One evening I started with the steamed Prince Edward Island mussels ($8). About a dozen and a half plump, tender, impeccably clean mollusks cohabited a large bowl with a delicious combination of smoky bacon, white beans, garlic, onions, tiny pear-shaped tomatoes and pleasantly bitter escarole. The meaty chunks of mildly salty bacon and the creamy bean puree gave the dish substantial body, making it into a veritable stew. Indeed, it could have sufficed as a main course. The same could be said of the Maine crab cake ($12), a remarkably fat patty (nearly the size of a flattened baseball) of almost pure crabmeat, with delicate, sweet flavor, expertly seared to a crisp golden brown on the outside with moist goodness within. Accompanied by a vinaigrette-dressed salad of baby arugula, hefty cubes of roasted yellow beets and balsamic vinegar, it delighted the mouth with its combination of sweet, tart, crispy and smooth. The delicate sweetness of the warm crabmeat provided a subtle contrast to the earthy sweetness of the beets.

In a category by themselves were an assortment of stuffed mini rolls ($12), ever so sweet and eggy toasted brioche buns. Of the four different fillings, we chose the whole-belly fried clam, sweet scallop ceviche and Maine crab. In the first, four or five flash-fried clams burst from the buttered brioche roll, making it one of the more distinguished clam rolls I have ever had. The ceviche, with sea scallops "cooked" in acidic, citrusy lime juice and accompanied by a cilantro-laced avocado puree, refreshed and stimulated the taste buds, while the sweet crabmeat with small slivers of mango was a soothing counterpoint. A single one of these rolls would have sufficed as an appetizer, and the ensemble, complete with a scoop of well-balanced coleslaw, begged to be shared.

Among the main courses, the North Atlantic halibut, chanterelle risotto, yellow carrot and lobster-uni nage ($22) deserved star billing. Served in a large, square bowl, the halibut's firm yet delicate texture and fresh flavor would have been superb standing on their own, but they were elevated to new heights by the rich, mouth-filling flavor of the creamy risotto, redolent of lobster and sea urchin, and the slightly earthy nuances of the chanterelle mushrooms. While the sublimity of its halibut was hard to match, Bambara did a pretty good job with its crispy-skin organic chicken breast ($17). Presented in the form known as Statler, with a single wing bone protruding, the chicken had rendered cooking juices that, combined with white wine, garlic, carrots and herbs, produced what the menu describes as "drunken chicken sauce." A formless creamy polenta formed the base for this dish, alongside a scattering of pearl onions.

The excellence of Bambara's high scores with its halibut and roast chicken made its disappointing hanger steak ($18) and pommes frites all the more surprising. The steak arrived under a prodigious tangle of thin, limp, slightly greasy and less than hot French fries. While they were not bad tasting, the combination of their poor presentation and their lukewarm temperature dampened my enthusiasm. I asked for a separate plate so I could remove the frites and get at the steak. Although reasonably moist, the steak was even more coarse and chewy than I expected in this particular cut, and the "lemony rocket" sauce did nothing to redeem it. The French fries doubly disappointed in view of Bambara's characterization of itself as an American brasserie. One thing that a competent French bistro or brasserie can be trusted to turn out with some consistency is hot golden-brown, freshly cooked frites—a far cry from what Bambara tendered. Fortunately, the same evening Bambara's beef short rib ($22) rescued the beef genre. Described on the menu as "melt in your mouth," this rich, soft-textured, robust cut of tender beef fully lived up to its billing. Accompanying roasted Kabocha squash puree and baby bok choy profited from their association with the rich sauces rendered by the beef.

Bambara's desserts brought large, filling portions at customer-friendly prices ($6.50). The flourless chocolate cake came with a quartet of accompaniments—semi-sweet whipped cream, toothsome crème anglais, bittersweet chocolate sauce and

Chef Tom Berry was Ming Tsai's sous chef at Blue Ginger.

raspberry coulis—that mitigated its somewhat dry texture. Pineapple upside-down bread pudding proved moist and delicious, but the toasted-coconut ice cream that accompanied it was almost cloying in its sweetness. "Three little profiteroles," despite their name, were the size of tennis balls. Each was filled with a different flavor ice cream—strawberry, vanilla and chocolate—and drizzled with a skimpy but scrumptious tease of chocolate sauce. Finally, the warm seasonal fruit crisp with brioche crust and vanilla-bean ice cream brought luscious wedges of apples but no crispness; the pastry was more of a crumble.

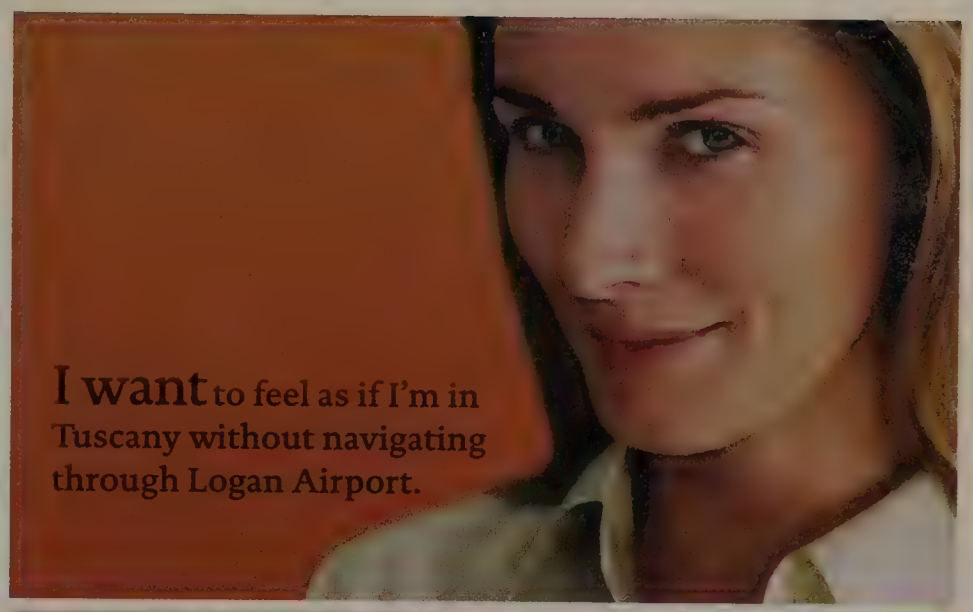
The restaurant offers a reasonable selection of wines by the bottle, though it's a little sparse in the lower price ranges. I chose a Gigondas from the southern Rhone, 2000 Domaine les Bosquets ($28), which made an especially good accompaniment to the hearty beef dishes, well structured with good acid and lacking the sometimes unpleasant peppery overtones of cheaper Rhone reds.

The dining room's layout is large and sprawling. The upper area near the entrance struck me as cramped, perhaps due to a low ceiling and busy, almost labored decor. A more comfortable dining alcove in the rear of the restaurant seemed more spacious and included a colorful assortment of fisherman-themed oil paintings by artist Marshall Crossman. It's difficult to identify or classify the style of the restaurant's design, which includes elements that could be called art deco (swirls in the tableware, funky geometric shapes of the plates and bowls), an eclectic mix of woods and veneers, and a less than eye-easing carpet. In a clichéd attempt to evoke brasserie ambience, Bambara covers its white tablecloths with butcher paper.

Fried native goat cheese, chilled ratatouille and yellow tomato vinaigrette

The upper dining area overlooks the open kitchen.

Critics have praised and panned Bambara's design and décor, but love it or hate it, the restaurant's physical setting plays second fiddle to the generally high level of its cuisine and its value-priced menu. As a hotel restaurant, Bambara may not reach the heights of Great Bay, Meritage and Azure, but it is definitely in the same league. IB



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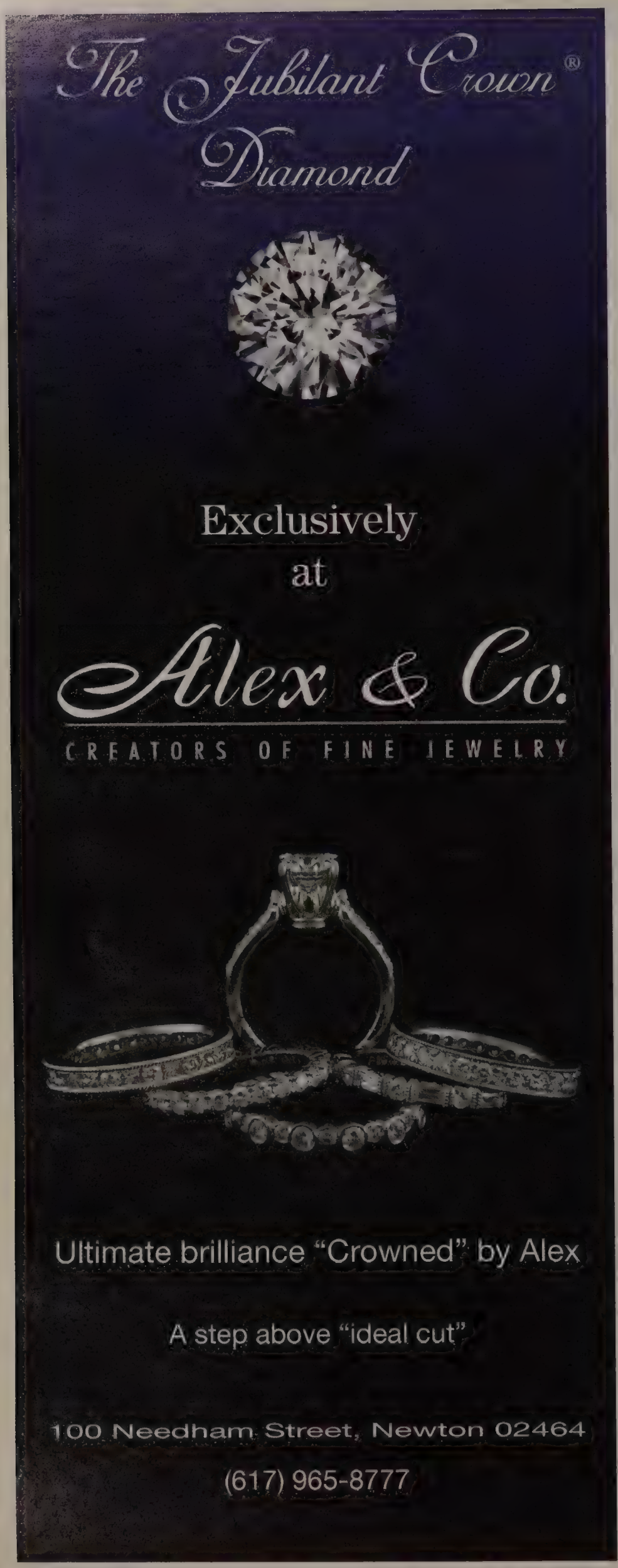

TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Beer Dinner
Argana, 1287 Cambridge St., Cambridge. www.beersummit.com. Nov. 6, 7 pm. $35. Chef **Younes Rouzky** prepares a four-course Moroccan meal paired with Paulaner beer.

B-Side Lounge Bistro Night
B-Side Lounge, 92 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-354-0766). Nov. 5. A la carte pricing. Guest chef **Jamie Bissonnette** joins B-Side chef **Tōmas Garcia** for a night of favorites.

$48 for 48 Months
Bomboa, 35 Stanhope St., Boston (617-236-6363). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nov. 12, 7 or 9:15 pm. $48. Bomboa celebrates its fourth anniversary with an à la carte dinner featuring favorites and staples.

Gingerbread House Competition
World Trade Center, 164 Seaport Blvd., Boston (617-445-7777). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Nov. 7-9. One-of-a-kind creations from local pastry chefs are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Community Servings.

Harvest Review
Harvest, 44 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-868-2255). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 18. $35. Executive chef **Eric Brennan** introduces guests to New England farmers, purveyors and seafood authorities at this five-course tasting event. •Nov. 18, 6 pm: Bluefin tuna with **Bob Kliss** and **Jeff Jendras** of North Atlantic Traders.

Hotter Than Hell Night
East Coast Grill, 1271 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-491-6568). MBTA: Red Line to Central or Harvard. Nov. 5, 5:30 pm. A la carte pricing. Challenge your taste buds with some really hot food.

Jake's Spam Challenge
Jake's Dixie Roadhouse, 220 Moody St., Waltham (781-894-4227). Nov. 10, 6-10 pm. Sample the results as chefs from Jake's Dixie Roadhouse, the East Coast Grill, Blu and Blue Ribbon BBQ prepare dishes using Spam as the main ingredient.

Jason's Last Supper
Tremont 647, 647 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-4600). Nov. 17, 6:30 pm. $75. In honor of his last days at Tremont 647 before he leaves for Providence to head up Kestral, chef **Jason Santos** creates a five-course meal.

John Hancock Memorial Wine Tasting
Old State House, 206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-1713). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Nov. 7, 6-8 pm. $45, $50 at the door. Sample from more than 100 imported and domestic wines in the historic surroundings of the Old State House, where John Hancock was tried by the British for smuggling Madeira wine. Proceeds benefit the Bostonian Society.

October Wine Series
Le Meridien, 250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900, ext. 7099). MBTA: Blue Line to State. $95. Chef **Daniel Kenney** hosts this four-course wine dinner. •Nov. 13: The IMPROPER's wine columnist, **Sandy Block**, comments on wines from Cakebread Cellars.

100 Barrel Series Beer Dinner
Aura, Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston (617-385-4300). MBTA: Red Line to South Station; transfer to shuttle to World Trade Center. Nov. 10, 6 pm. $40. Celebrate Harpoon's 100 Barrel Series with a three-course meal paired with Harpoon Oatmeal Stout, the Harpoon Wit and Harpoon Abbey Style Ale. Brewers **Al Marzi**, **Jaime Schier** and **Sean Cornelius** discuss the beers.

Oyster-ology Nights
McCormick & Schmick's, Park Plaza, 34 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-482-3999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue., 7-9 pm. Free. Chef **Eric Naruszewicz** and general manager **Paul Tietge** offer shucking lessons and discuss the differences among the wide array of oysters served at the raw bar.

The Pleasures of French Wine: A Tasting Series
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington or Copley. Mondays, Nov. 10 and 17, 6:30-8:30 pm. $75 per session. This wine-tasting series features sommeliers from L'Espalier, Le Soir, Meritage and Radius who will share their knowledge and present their favorite wines.

Radius Fall Cooking Series: Prepare the Perfect Thanksgiving Dinner
Radius, 8 High St., Boston (617-426-1234). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Nov. 8, 11 am-2:30 pm. $125. Learn the art of coaxing flavor from a turkey, one-minute gravy and simple stuffing.

Rialto Fall Wine Classes: It's Party Wine
Rialto, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (617-661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 8, 11 am. $45. Whether your goal is to pair wines with an intimate dinner or host a cocktail party for 100, wine director **Patrick Dubsky** gives advice on finding moderately priced wines that work.

Ultimate Dinner
Davio's, 75 Arlington St., Boston (617-357-4810) MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Through Dec 30. $150. Chefs **Stephen Brown** and **Eric Swartz** create a four-course menu followed by a special tasting of the Grande Champagne Cognac, Louis XIII de Rémy Martin (which retails at $1,40 a bottle).

Wine and Dine
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. $85. Limited to 1 guests, this biweekly wine table offers a three-course food and wine pairing menu. •Nov. 17: Tuscany (Italy).

The World of Sake Part
One Milk St., Boston (617-451-0726). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Nov. 5, 6:30 pm. $5
John Gaunter, writer and director of the Sake Export Association, discusses the beverag Taste sake from a variety breweries around Japan.

Harry Potter's Hogwarts Castle won the Kids' Choice award at last year's Gingerbread House Competition.

DISH

Wham, bam, thank you, Spam!

Au revoir, Maison Robert… Spam-o-rama…Tuna on trial…

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Boston will lose a little bit of its romance when **Maison Robert** closes its French doors for the last time in mid February. On the other hand, general manager **Andree Robert**, who has also cooked at the elegant restaurant owned by her parents during its 30-plus-year history, will gain more of a life.

"First, I'm going to relax," she says. "I want to do some other things." The restaurant, in Boston's Old City Hall, has played a key role in Boston's culinary history since its 1972 opening. Now the venue is being shopped around to a gaggle of high-profile chefs, rumored to include **Emeril Lagasse**. So if you crave a quiet, civilized Valentine's Day dinner overlooking the Granary Burial Ground, this could be your last chance.

From the sublime to the ridiculous: On Nov. 10, five chefs from illustrious eateries such as **Blu** and **East Coast Grill** compete in the first annual Spam Challenge at **Jake's Dixie Roadhouse** in Waltham. And the trophy will most definitely *not* go to the likes of a casserole made with Easy Cheese or Bisquick. "Someone's going to be doing Spam Wellington," says owner Don Yovicsin. There's also been talk of "Spam-palaya," which entails (entrails?) stuffing smoked Spam into sausage casings to create a substitute for andouille sausage. Jake's own recipe is "garlic-rubbed, herb-crusted Spam shanks with a red wine reduction gravy." Shanks for the memories, for sure.

The case of the incredible shrinking tuna tartare at Kingfish Hall has been solved.

SECOND COURSE

Dish CSI (Culinary Scene Investigation): A financial services executive asked Dish to get to the bottom of a mystery: the incredible shrinking tuna tartare at **Kingfish Hall**.

"It used to be a rectangle, the best thing in town, about five inches by two inches," he recalled wistfully. "Then they chopped it in half. And now it's a little circle on a big circular plate." After months of observing the process, he was as bemused as he was mystified. Recently, when this regular diner was served the tiny tuna by a regular waitress, he said, she scurried off in embarrassment when he pointed at the petite portion and gave her a questioning look.

So how endangered is the tuna? Kingfish Hall manager **Carolynn Jordan** acknowledges that "it's definitely changed shape, through experimentation with different plateware and garnishes. The size is probably more regulated now, more standard, not necessarily smaller. It used to be served on a very small rectangular plate."

Well, how big is it then?

Jordan checked with the kitchen and reported: "It's a four-ounce portion size. It's exactly the same every time now." Case closed…till next time.

Hot ticket bargain alerts: At the edge of the Theater District, **Pigalle** is offering a three-course Sunday Night Regional Tasting Menu now through December for $35. Choose your favorite fall flavors from the likes of terrine of confit duck with dried fruit and brioche; *brandade de morue rosti* cake with stuffed zucchini and garlic aioli; and rum-raisin ice cream. But wait—there's more! Add a sampling of wine from France's Languedoc region for another five bucks. A few blocks away, **33 Restaurant & Lounge** is featuring a pre-theater dinner special. Thirty dollars gets you the entree of the day, salad or dessert, coffee, and...complimentary valet parking! The catch: You must show your theater ticket to qualify. IB

Serving Dish

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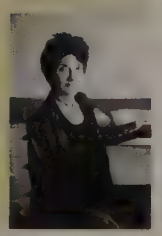
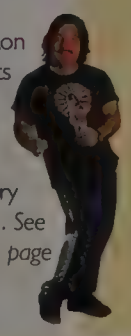
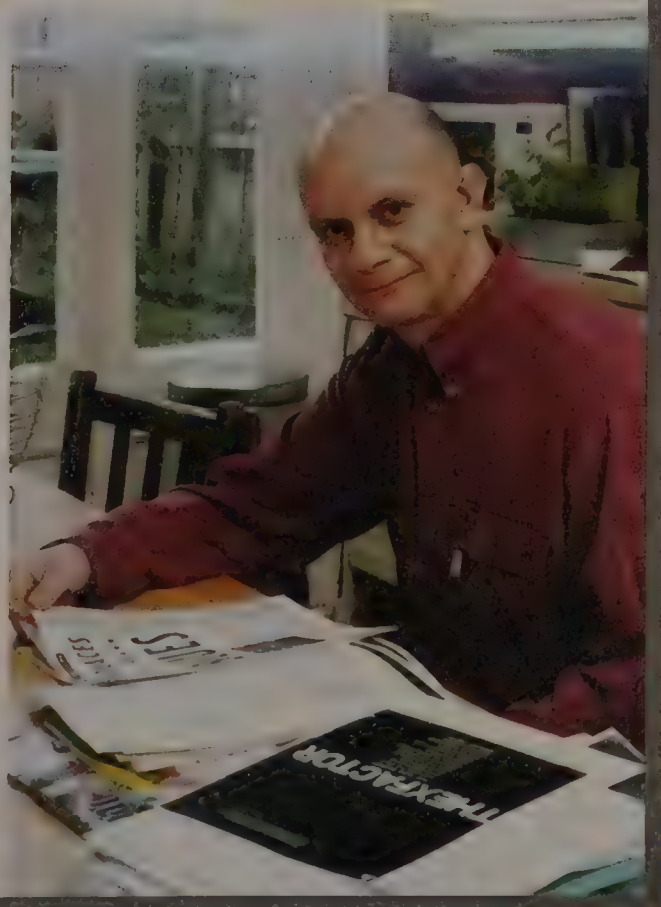
agenda

IMPROPER PICKS

november 5 - 18

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			5	6	7	8
			**Diane Middlebrook** reads from her biography about Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes at WordsWorth Books. *See Books on page 92.*		The three-day **Christmas Craft Festival** at the World Trade Center starts today. *See CityScope on page 56.*	The **Boston Jewish Film Festival** is in full swing. Tonight, the Coolidge Corner Theatre screens three films. *See Movies on page 66.*
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Porn star Ron Jeremy hosts **Grand Opening**'s tenth anniversary celebration. *See CityScope on page 56.* 				**Belle and Sebastian** with Rasputina play at the Orpheum. *See Music on page 76.*	Purchase paintings at the **Boston International Fine Art Show** at the Cyclorama. *See Museums & Galleries on page 90.*	The GIFT Foundation's **Fall Fandango** features live music, dancing and a silent auction. *See CityScope on page 56.*
16	17	18				
	The 1930s screwball comedy *Bringing Up Baby* screens at the Boston Public Library. It's free. *See Movies on page 66.*					



NICK HORNBY: JIM PILKINGTON

TUE./NOV. 11

Books & Poetry: Personal Playlist

In his hit novel *High Fidelity*, Nick Hornby showed us the world through the eyes of a music snob who evaluates anyone and everyone solely on the basis of their musical taste. A music geek himself, Hornby throws the fiction pretense out the window with his new work, *Songbook*, a collection of essays about his 31 favorite songs (with many humorous asides). At his reading, you'll have a chance to pick up a copy of the book (the hardcover version comes with an 11-song CD). Another reason to buy the book: Profits benefit the autism organizations Treehouse Trust and 826 Valencia. *The event, sponsored by WordsWorth Books, is at the First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). 7 pm.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:

ERIN HAGEDORN

Books & Poetry, Gay & Lesbian, Movies, Music

JULIE SURATT

Around Town, Children, Education, Performing Arts

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

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Jessica Iredale Museums & Galleries

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Movie Capsules

Nathan Lane stars in the Huntington Theatre Company's production of *Butley*.

THROUGH SUN./NOV. 30

Performing Arts: From Bialystock to Butley

On stage, actor Nathan Lane has made his mark in the role of the lovable scoundrel: Think Max Bialystock in *The Producers* and Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*. This month, however, he takes on a more complex, darkly comic role in Simon's Gray's ***Butley*** at the Huntington Theatre Company. Lane rises to the challenge as Butley, a bitter, sharp-tongued literary professor whose estranged wife and lover both desert him on the same day. "I can't think of a better actor to play Butley," says artistic director Nicholas Martin, who worked to make the production happen after learning that one of his pal Lane's lifelong dreams was to star in the show. The two-time Tony Award–winning actor plays a man out of sorts as his wife announces that she intends to marry a mutual friend whom Butley can't stand, and his live-in male lover moves out to be with another man. *264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). Through Nov. 30. $14-$64.*

FRI./NOV. 7 AND MON./NOV. 10

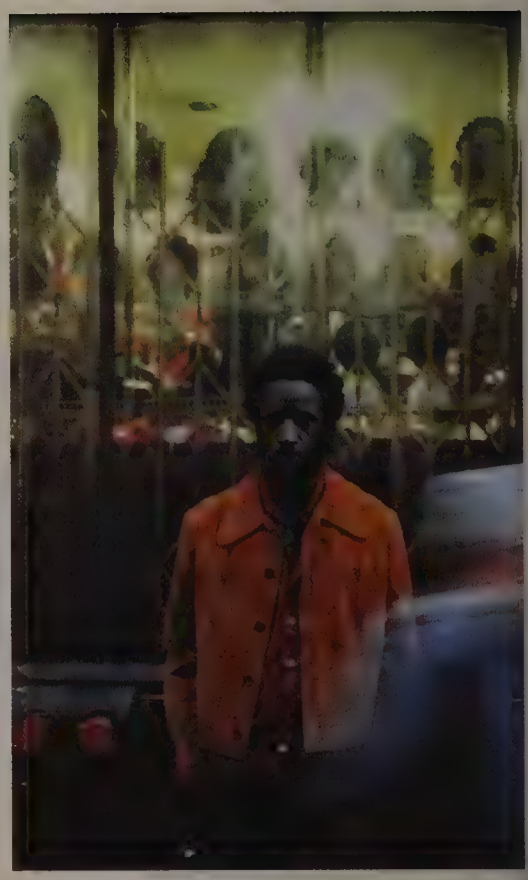
Tastings: Winos and Lagerheads

The Calendar Girls are of two different minds on the subject of beverages: One of us loves lager; the other dreams of nothing but a glass of shiraz at the end of a long day. So we're highlighting two different events for beer and wine fanatics. On Nov. 7, you can sample from more than 100 imported and domestic wines at the **John Hancock Memorial Wine Tasting**, held in the Old State House, where Hancock was tried by the British for smuggling Madeira wine. Three days later, on Nov. 10, the Seaport Hotel hosts a celebration of Harpoon's **100 Barrel Series**. These one-of-a-kind beers are made by a Harpoon brewer, and each batch is limited to 100 barrels. So once the last beer has been poured from a batch, that's it. Chef John Merrill of Aura prepares a three-course meal paired with Harpoon Oatmeal Stout, Harpoon Wit and Harpoon Abbey-Style Ale, and the individual brewers will be on hand to discuss their beers. *See Tastings on page 50 for more information.*

WED./NOV. 5

Music: Super Saul

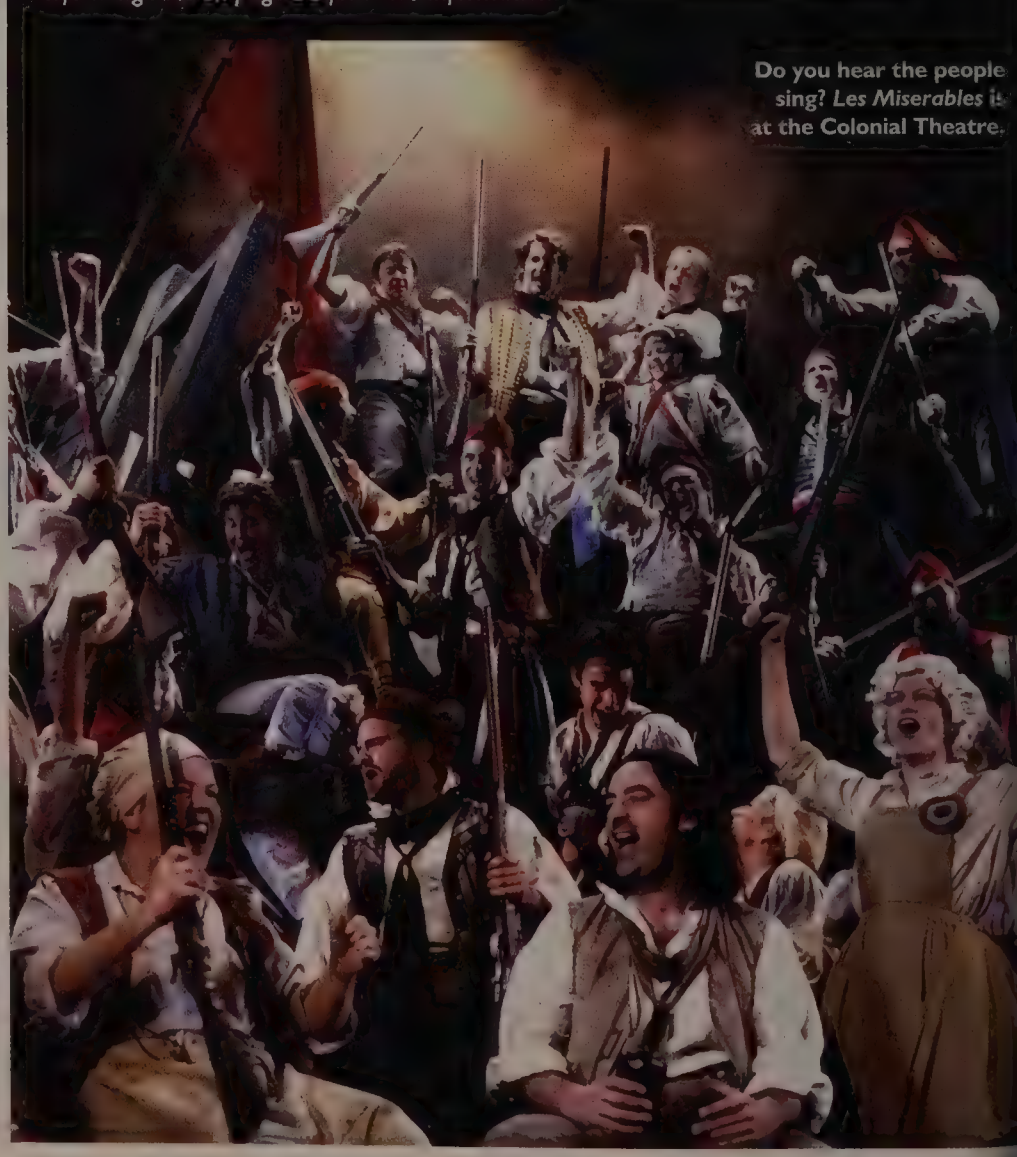
A hip-hop Renaissance man, Saul Williams has been lurking below the mainstream radar for some time now. Known for his high-intensity live performances, Williams cut his teeth in the NYC slam poetry scene of the early-to-mid 1990s. As versatile and multifaceted as hip-hop itself, he's an author (*She*) and a visual artist as well as an MC who creates his own stunningly multilayered beats. Most recently Williams collaborated with UK DJ legends Coldcut on an antiwar EP titled *Not in My Name*. For something a little less politically minded, check out his brilliant album, *Amethyst Rock Star*. Described as "genre-defining" by the jaded, seen-it-all types at the record stores and college radio stations, the album is a shining example of the power of hip-hop to move the mind and the heart as well as the body. *Paradise Rock Club, 969 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-423-NEXT). 8 pm, $15, 18+.*



NOV. 4–9 AND NOV. 5–DEC. 7

Performing Arts: Curtain Calls

Goodness, it's blockbuster season in the Theater District. On the heels of *Hairspray* and *Say Goodnight, Gracie* come *Chicago* to the Wang Theatre (Nov. 4–9) and *Les Miserables* to the Colonial (Nov. 5–Dec. 7). We know why everyone's geared up for seeing *Chicago* (blame it on the wildly popular movie version that took home six Oscars), and well, people just can't seem to get enough of *Les Mis* (if you haven't already seen it, like, three times, you're a novice). Both are solid bets for the preholiday season. You'll find us as close to the front row as we can possibly afford (read: balcony) at both shows. For the uninitiated, *Les Miserables* is based on Victor Hugo's novel about fugitive Jean Valjean, and *Chicago* features murderesses Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart, along with their slick lawyer Billy Flynn, in their quest for headlines and a moment in the spotlight. *See Performing Arts on page 58 for more information.*



Do you hear the people sing? *Les Miserables* is at the Colonial Theatre.

Baseball is over! Let's move on.

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Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

Alzheimer's Charity Event
Toast Lounge, 70 Union Square, Somerville (617-623-9211). www.spiritalive.us/alzheimers. *7 pm. $20.* This party raises money for Alzheimer's treatment and research. Open bar, 7-9 pm.

Arthritis Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston (617-244-8225). www.arthritis.org. *6:30-9:30 pm.* Hill, Holiday CEO Jack Connors Jr. is honored for his charitable work in the Boston community. Proceeds support arthritis research.

Boston Can Share Food Drive
Post offices and various other drop-off spots around the city. (617-635-4507). www.bostoncanshare.com. *Through Nov. 14.* Drop off tuna, beef stew and other nonperishable food items in this citywide food drive for the Greater Boston Food Bank.

New England International Auto Show
Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., Columbia Point, Boston. (800-322-4821). www.bostonautoshow.com. *Nov. 5-7, 1-10 pm; Nov. 8, 10 am-10 pm; Nov. 9, 10 am-7 pm. $9.* Thirty-nine different car manufacturers display hundreds of new models and concept cars under one roof. Highlights of the show include Mark Martin's NASCAR stock car (Nov. 8-9), the new Ford GT and the Ferrari Enzo.

The Ferrari Enzo (left) and Ford GT are two stars of the New England International Auto Show, Nov. 5-9 at the Bayside Expo Center.

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Big Bash III
Joseph's on High, 200 High St., Boston (617-236-4634). www.bigsister.org. *6-10 pm. $10.* Big Brothers/Big Sisters hosts a party with hors d'oeuvres, raffles and a cash bar.

Charity Jam
Pat Flanagan's, 79 Parkway St., Quincy (617-899-4740). 8 pm. $5 donation at the door. The bands Stop the Wombats, Doc Holliday, Mersa and Decadence play a concert to benefit the Miami Foundation, an organization that funds paralysis research.

HEAR Benefit
TechSpace, 580 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-275-7000). 7-9:30 pm. $20. Elizabeth Steen, singer and keyboard player for Natalie Merchant's band, performs at this benefit for Hearing Education and Awareness for Rockers, an organization dedicated to preventing hearing loss among musicians. Adam Hirsch also performs.

Spring in November Luncheon
Grand Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Boston (617-632-5091). 11:30 am. $300, $2,500 to sit at Oscar de la Renta's table. Designer Oscar de la Renta debuts his spring 2004 collection to benefit the Women's Cancers Program at Dana-Farber. A trunk show at Neiman Marcus follows on Nov. 8.

A Sterling Affair
Long's Jewelers, Middlesex Turnpike, Burlington (877-845-6647, ext. 254). 6:30-8:30 pm. High-end platinum jewelry designer Scott Kay debuts his new sterling silver collection. The event includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music. Guests may enter to win a piece from the new collection.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Alliance for Children Foundation Benefit Screening
Copley Theatre, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (781-431-7148). 7 pm. $20. This private screening of *Casas de los Babys* raises money for the ACF's projects for children in Latin America.

Christmas Craft Festival
World Trade Center, , Boston (617-385-5000). Nov. 7, 12-7 pm; Nov. 8, 10 am-7 pm; Nov. 9, 10 am-5 pm. $10. More than 350 artists and crafts people sell jewelry, clothing, accessories and other gift-worthy items for the holiday season. The festival also includes a gingerbread house competition—sales of the entries benefit Community Servings.

Global Citizens Circle Dinner
Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston (617-267-8862). Dinner follows discussion in Cityview Ballroom of the World Trade Center, 3-5 pm. $150. Global Citizens Circle celebrates 30 years of encourging civil discourse with a reception, dinner and entertainment by satirist Mark Russell.

PRC Benefit Auction
808 Gallery, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-975-0600). www.prcboston.org. *6:30 pm. $35.* The Photographic Resource Center auctions more than 200 photographs from 150 artists, with values from $50 to $5,000.

Learn some ballroom dancing moves at the Copley Soiree Nov. 9.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

Jewish Family & Children's Service Black Tie Fund-Raiser
Seaport Hotel, One Seaport Lane, Boston (617-227-6641). 7 pm. This annual fund-raising party for JF&CS includes dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a live auction hosted by Christie's auctioneer George McNeely.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

BAC 5-Mile Benefit Road Race
Start/finish at the Boston Athletic Club, 653 Summer St., Boston (617-269-4300). 11 am. $20. The Boston Athletic Club hosts a 5-mile run and 3-mile walk to benefit several organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club.

The Copley Soiree
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-227-9009). 7-10 pm. $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Singles and couples are invited to this evening of ballroom dancing, which includes a dance demonstration, Latin and swing music, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and a door prize from DePrisco Diamond Jewelers. Singles seated together. Semiformal attire, black tie optional.

Grand Opening 10th Anniversary Party
Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *3-7 pm. $10 in advance, $15 at the door.* Grand Opening celebrates 10 years in business with Brother Cleve spinning lounge music, FetishDiva Midori tying up volunteers and an erotic ice cream–eating contest. Ron Jeremy is the guest host.

Sunday Singles Dance
Raffael's Restaurant, One Enterprise Drive, State Street Bank Building, N. Quincy (781-446-0234). Every Sunday, 7-11 pm. $10. Single professionals ages 35 and over are invited for an evening of dancing to music by Beau Paris.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

Concert for a Landmine-Free World
Harvard's Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.vvaf.org. *7:30 pm. Tickets start at $42.50.* Nancy Griffith, Julie Gold and others perform to benefit landmine survivors.

The Night Is Ours Benefit
Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-248-0922). www.barcc.org. *6:30 pm. $175.* The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center hosts a silent auction and cocktail reception, followed by a dinner and awards ceremony. Proceeds, which will help offset recent funding cuts, benefit the BARCC's counseling and advocacy services for victims of rape and sexual assault.

Poliform-Boston Party
Poliform-Boston, One Design Center Place, Boston (617-896-2700). www.poliform-boston.com. *6:30 pm.* Poliform-Boston celebrates its grand opening with a reception hosted by *Architectural Digest*. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Boys and Girls Club of Boston.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Adopt-a-Student Foundation's Young Professionals Pre-Holiday Kickoff
Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (617-563-9113). 6 pm. $50. This early holiday party features live music from the Love Dogs, free pool and appetizers and a cash bar. Proceeds benefit the Freshman Literacy Project at Cathedral High School in the South End.

Boy Scouts Awards Breakfast
Hyatt Boston, One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston (617-723-0007). 8 am. $125. Area leaders are recognized at this benefit breakfast for Boston Boy Scouts programs.

The Fine Art of Living Gala Preview
The Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-988-2518). www.bcaonline.org. *6-9 pm. $100.* This preview party for the Boston International Fine Art Show (which runs Nov. 14-16) includes food and wine, and attendees get the first chance to purchase art. Proceeds benefit the Boston Center for the Arts.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

ALS Benefit Concert
Regent Theatre, Arlington (781-646-4849). 8 pm. Tickets start at $30. Edie Carey headlines and Kesenia Mach opens at this concert to raise money for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research.

A Night out on the Town
Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge (617-886-9156). 7:30 pm-12 am. $100, $175 per couple. The Rusty Scott Quartet and the Men in Black Band play this benefit for Bridge Over Troubled Waters, an organization that helps at-risk young people. The evening features a martini bar, cigar lounge and silent auction.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

Earth Night 2003
Black Falcon Cruise Terminal, Boston (508-698-6810). www.earthnight.org. *6:30-11 pm. $75.* The Environmental League of Massachusetts hosts a party and auction to benefit environmental advocacy programs. Among the items up for auction are a Toyota Prius, a chance to ride the Zamboni during a Bruins game and a walk-on part on the TV show *Judging Amy*.

GIFT Foundation Fall Fandango
Children's Museum, 300 Congress St., Boston (617-226-3180). www.thegiftfoundation.org. *8 pm-12:30 am. $65 in advance, $75 at the door.* This Carnivale-themed benefit for the National Black College Alliance features live music from the Evan Goodrow band, desserts, dancing, a silent auction and an open bar. Black tie or masquerade attire optional.

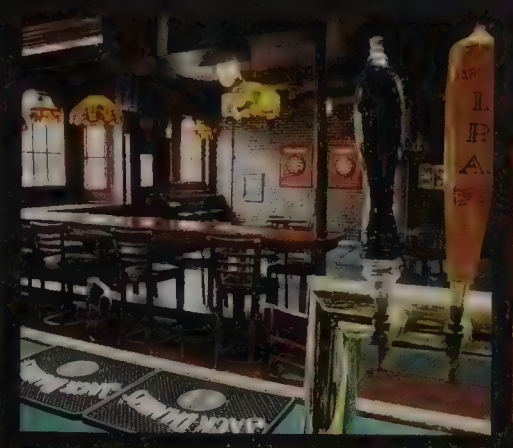
Joslin High Hopes Diamond Gala
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (888-567-5462). 6:30 pm-12 am. $300 for the evening, $150 for a chance at the diamond. The Joslin Diabetes Center's annual fund-raiser features a chance to win a $10,000 pair of earrings from DePrisco Jewelers (there are 299 boxes of cubic zirconia earrings, but one contains a pair with real diamonds). The evening also includes live and silent auction and live music from the Platters.

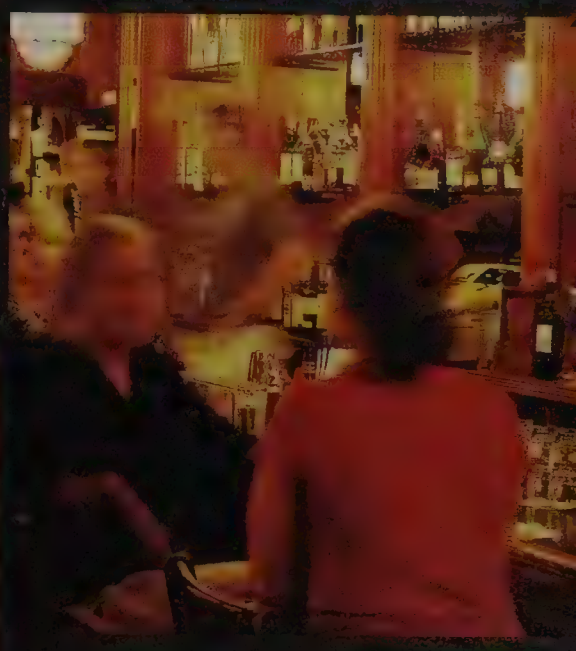
Just Wish for It!
The International, 184 High St., Boston. www.acteva.com/go/chioboston. *8 pm. $25.* The Greater Boston Chi Omega Alumnae Chapter hosts this benefit party for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Tag Sale
Cambridge Friends Center, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-876-5312). www.afsc.org. *9:30 am-2 pm. $3.* Sales of clothing, jewelry and other items at the tag sale raise money for the American Friends Service Committee's emergency aid to people in need.

MONDAY, NOV. 17

Benefit Wine Tasting
Morton's, 1 Exeter Plaza, Boston (617-624-1923). www.bostonbruinsfoundation.com. *6-8 pm. $75.* This benefit for the Boston Bruins Foundation includes wine tasting, steak sandwiches, appetizers and an autograph session with Bruins players Hal Gill, Marty Lapointe and Sean O'Donnell.





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performing arts

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

As You Like It
Wilbur Theatre, 106 Boylston, Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Nov. 11-Dec. 21. $25-$67. Shakespeare's play tells the story of Rosalind and her cousin Celia, who have run away to the idyllic Forest of Arden. This production is directed by Sir Peter Hall, founder of England's Royal Shakespeare Company.

Blanche and Her Joy Boys
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646.). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7 pm; Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Nov. 12-Dec. 14. $33-$42. Chris Calloway, daughter of famed big band leader Cab Calloway, performs this one-woman show about her aunt Blanche (Cab's sister). This show features a jazz combo with Calloway singing the songs that made Blanche popular, including "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and "I Need Lovin'."

Blue Hair Troupe
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (866-443-2248). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Nov. 7-Dec. 7. This musical revue takes place at a senior center for the performing arts where the retirees create and perform their own shows.

Chicago
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue., Thu.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 1 pm. Nov. 4-9. $28-$75. In this Tony Award–winning musical by Bob Fosse, murderesses Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart compete not just for headlines, but also—with the help of their slick lawyer Billy Flynn—for a lasting moment in the spotlight.

Creation of the World and Other Business
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Nov. 14-Dec. 13. $20.* Arthur Miller's play, which alternates scenes of humor with absorbing confrontations between God and Lucifer, and God and his fallible creations, explores a basic human dilemma: When every person wants justice, why do people go on creating injustice?

Critical Acclaim
SouthCity Theatre Company at the Actor's Workshop Black Box, 327 Summer St., Boston (781-724-0316). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Nov. 7-8, 13-15, 8 pm. $12. This play by John Michael Manship, about two undergraduate psychology majors, explores the nature of human behavior, discovery and creation.

Preview

Retiree Revue

Rockport's most vivacious senior citizen dazzles in *Blue Hair Troupe*

Many people would consider Gloria Stanton old. After all, she is 63, has some gray hair, adores her grandchildren—and even qualifies for senior citizen discounts. Yet, the actress (pictured bottom right), who's currently starring in the musical comedy *Blue Hair Troupe* at the Tremont Theatre, exudes a youthful energy and attitude. "There's a line I sing towards the end of the show that really sums up how I feel about aging," she explains. "It says, 'If I refuse to grow old, I will never be old.'"

***Blue Hair Troupe* follows the retirees of the Rula Lenska Senior Center for the Performing Arts as they put on their dancing shoes and strut their stuff. Stanton, a Rockport native and career actress who's performed in theaters as far away as San Francisco and London, embodies *BHT*'s "stay young" motto and lives her life accordingly. She jokes that she has been acting for "200 years," and she has also found time to write, produce and act in her own one-woman shows that focus on events in her life.**

Stanton says that *Blue Hair Troupe*'s older cast is a lot of fun. "At this age, no one needs to be a diva any more," she says, "and everyone is willing to make a great show." To those a little younger and a little less wise, Stanton offers some advice: "Never give up on your dreams. I was 57 when I resumed the pursuit of my acting dream after taking time off to raise my children, and it means more to me now than it ever has. You are never too old."
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (866-443-2248). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Nov. 7-Dec. 7.

—Heather MacNeil

The Crucible
The Salem Theatre Company, St. Peter's Church, 32 St. Peter St., Salem (978-790-8546). Thu. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Nov. 6-22. $15. Arthur Miller's play confronts issues of principle, paranoia and passion within the historical context of the Salem witchcraft hysteria of 1692.

Dylan Thomas: Return Journey
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Nov. 6-8, 8 pm. $20-$25. Originally directed by Sir Anthony Hopkins, this show commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Welsh poet's death at age 39.

Fiddler on the Roof
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Nov. 7-Dec. 30. $22.* Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, this musical tells the story of Tevye, a Jewish peasant in pre-Revolutionary Russia who must cope with the day-to-day problems of shtetl life.

Follies
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. 14, 21 and 22, 8 pm. $30. In this fully staged version of Stephen Sondheim's 1971 musical, a group of Follies girls holds a reunion at their old theater on the night before it's scheduled to be leveled to make way for a parking lot.

G.R. Point
Hovey Players, Abbott Theatre, 9 Spring St., Waltham (781-893-9171). Nov. 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29, 8 pm; Nov. 16 and 23, 2 pm. $15. David Berry's war drama is set at a Graves Registration Point in Vietnam in 1969, where bodies of combat victims are processed before being sent home. Through the experience of a young draftee and the situation he and others are thrust into, the play explores what leads decent young men to commit horrible acts.

Les Miserables
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 7:30 pm. Nov. 5-Dec. 7. $30-$87.* Based on Victor Hugo's novel, this musical by Alain Boublil and Claud-Michel Schonberg tells the story of the fugitive Jean Valjean, who is pitted against the cruel and self-righteous Inspector Javert in a lifelong struggle to evade capture.

Lettice and Lovage
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org. *Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Nov. 7-Dec. 14. $27-$42.* Lettice Douffet lectures as a tour guide at one of Britain's least stately homes in this play by Peter Shaffer. The house has so little relative importance that she begins to embellish its history. This gets her in trouble with an inspector from the Preservation Trust. But eventually the two women forge an alliance to "awaken their fellow citizens to the dreariness of their lives."

Moving Target
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 8 pm. $18. Local singer and actress Celia Slattery offers this one-woman show with music about growing up in the '60s and '70s.

Oratorio of the Possibilitarians
Cambridge Family YMCA Theatre, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-9622). First week: Thu.-Sun., 8 pm; second week: Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. Nov. 13-23. $10. Bread & Puppet Theater director Peter Schumann and his band of seven Vermont puppeteers are joined by 25 local puppeteers. The show addresses social, political and environmental issues.

Rigoletto
Boston Lyric Opera at the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Wed., 7:30 pm; Fri., 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Nov. 5-18. $33-$152. Rigoletto will do almost anything to save his daughter from the Duke's heartless ill use. But at what cost? His adversary controls his fate. This production of Verdi's opera is sung in Italian (with projected English translation).

She Loves Me
St. John's Episcopal Church, Central and Prospect streets, Saugus (781-231-5204). Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Nov. 14-29. $15. The Theatre Company of Saugus performs this romantic musical by Joe Masteroff (book), Jerry Bock (music) and Sheldon Harnick (lyrics). Set in a European perfume shop in the 1930s, the story revolves around two of its clerks who feud daily but, unknown to both, are romantic pen pals.

The Silent Movie Play
Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Nov. 22. $10-$12. Rough & Tumble Theatre presents this original physical comedy about a lowly shop boy and his trials and travails.

The Star Keeper
Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-876-4275). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Nov. 8, 11 am and 3 pm. $15. Theatre de L'oeil's wordless story combines visual poetry, music and fantasy. A character named Pretzel ventures into celestial and underwater realms to return a fallen star to its proper place. Along the way, he encounters a multitude of eccentrics in the form of more than 30 intricate puppets.

A Streetcar Named Desire
Fiddlehead Theatre Company, 106 Central St., Norwood (781-762-4060). Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Nov. 9. $22. Tennessee Williams' sultry story of reality and illusion is set in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Sunrise, Sunset: The Songs of Sheldon Harnick
Jewish Theatre of New England, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre (617-558-6480). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Nov. 13, 2 and 7:30 pm; Nov. 15, 8 pm; Nov. 16, 2 and 7 pm. $28. Broadway actress Maureen Brennan stars in this revue based on the music of Tony- and Pulitzer Prize–winning lyricist Sheldon Harnick (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *Fiorello* and *She Loves Me*).

West Side Story
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Tue., 8 pm; Wed., 2 and 8 pm; Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Nov. 23. $26-63.* The modern-day version of *Romeo and Juliet* finds two young lovers caught between warring street gangs and opposing cultures.

The Women
Footlight Club, 7A Eliot St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3200). Nov. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 8 pm; Nov. 16, 2 pm. $12-$15. Author, editor, playwright, journalist, congresswoman and diplomat Clare Boothe Luce's 1936 play satirizes upper-class New York women.

You Must Not Speak! The Language of Human Rights
Boston Arts Academy, 174 Ipswich St., Boston (617-635-6543). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Nov. 13-15, 7 pm. $5. Conceived by director Rosalind Thomas-Clark, this original dramatic production about human rights is based on her work as a Surdna Arts Teachers Fellow in Brazil.

NOW RUNNING

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This production abandons all dialogue and focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Book of Days
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed., Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 22. $22-$41. A quiet midwestern town with more churches than bars serves as the setting for Lanford Wilson's (*Talley's Folly*, *The Hot L Baltimore*) play about adultery, theft, lies and the politics of community theater.

Boston Fringe
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-5000). www.companyone.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through Nov. 22. $25.* Company One offers a selection of plays and performances produced by Boston's leading alternative companies, including Centastage

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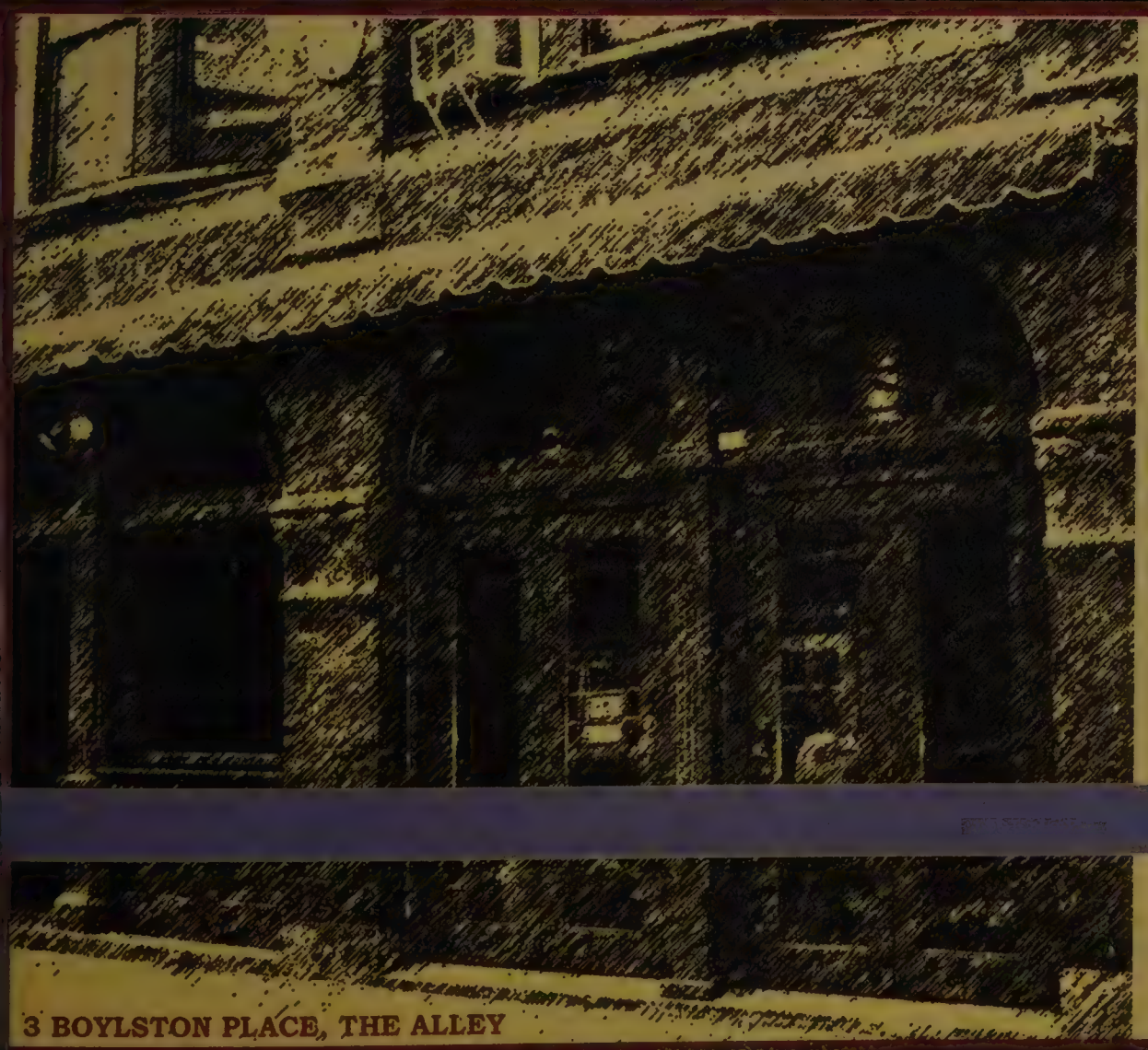

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Boy Gets Girl

Merrimack Repertory Theater, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-3926). Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Through Nov. 16. $16-$24. This thriller explores what it means to be secure in today's world, as a young man's infatuation quickly turns into obsession after a blind date. Rebecca Gilman's play follows a young career woman's gradual unraveling as she comes to realize that her safety may depend on giving up everything she has.

Butley

Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Wed., 2 pm.; Tue.-Thu. 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun. 2 and 7 pm. Through Nov. 30. $14-$64. Two-time Tony Award winner Nathan Lane stars in Simon Gray's dark comedy about a literary professor whose wife and lover both leave him on the same day.

The Girl in the Frame

Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Nov. 9. $32. This musical by Jeremy Desmon is about a man who falls in love with a girl from a picture frame.

The Gulls

Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri. and Sat. 8 pm. Through Nov. 8. Ryan Landry's play *The Gulls*, loosely based on Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Birds*, is the story of rebellious seagulls exacting revenge on Provincetown developers.

Haymarket

Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Through Nov. 16. From Zayd Dohrn, the critically acclaimed author of *Shameless*, comes the story of anarchist labor activists Lucy and Albert Parsons. When dynamite explodes and a riot breaks out in Haymarket, killing 11 people—seven of them policemen—the tenor of 1886 Chicago grows murderous.

The Boston Lyric Opera performs *Rigoletto*.

A Man of No Importance

SpeakEasy Stage Company at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm. Through Nov. 9. $25-$35. Based on the 1994 film starring Albert Finney, this show with music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens follows a Dublin bus driver's attempts to stage Oscar Wilde's *Salome* at his church in the 1960s, despite protests from parish officials.

The Phantom Tollbooth

Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-879-2300). www.wheelock.edu/wft. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat. and Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 30. $12-$18. Bored Milo laments that "almost everything is a waste of time." But then a mysterious tollbooth appears in his bedroom and he is whisked away to the Land of Expectations. Follow Milo's magical adventures in this musical based on Norton Juster's 1961 novel.

Shear Madness

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Don Quixote

Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Nov. 18-23. $16-$20. Double Edge Theatre partners with Brandeis University to create a unique version of Miguel Cervantes' Spanish tale.

The Fabulous Invalid

Emerson College, The Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (888-889-8587). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 14, 15, 20-21, 8pm; Nov. 16, 2 pm; Nov. 22, 2 and 8 pm. $8-$21. In 1903, a famous acting couple dies on stage during the opening night performance of a new theater. The pair stays and haunts the theater in a new adaptation of this play by George Kaufman and Moss Hart.

Temptation

Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club at Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 8 pm. $12. Former Czech president Vaclav Havel wrote this play about darkness, religion and science that centers around a devil offering to teach magic.

Dance

Boston Conservatory Dance Theatre Presents

31 Hemenway St., Boston (617-912-9222). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Nov. 13-15, 8 pm; Nov. 16, 2 pm. $16. The program includes two premieres: *Knowing We Can Never Know*, by Diane Arvanites-Noya and Tommy Neblett, and *Missa Brevis*, by José Limón.

Complexities: A Dance Complex Faculty Showcase

Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617 547-9363). Nov. 15, 8 pm; Nov. 16, 7 pm. $15. Th Dance Complex presents this show featuring ne works from faculty choreographers.

Experimental Dance Concert

Greene Theatre, Tufts Performance and Productio Center, 10 Boylston Place, Boston (617-824-8369) www.ticketweb.com. *Nov. 5-7, 8 pm; Nov. 8, 2 and pm.* $5. Emerson's Dance Program presents a perfo mance of student choreography.

Kirov Ballet and Orchestra

Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (888-447 7400). www.celebrityseries.org. *Nov. 13, 7:30 pm Nov. 14-15, 8 pm; Nov. 16, 3 pm.* $45-$90. In cel bration of the 300th anniversary of the founding the city of St. Petersburg, the Kirov Ballet and O chestra perform a program of works by choreographi and St. Petersburg native Michel Fokine.

The Shaolin Warriors

Orpheum Theatre, One Hamilton Place, Bosto (617-876-4275). MBTA: Green or Red Line Park. Nov. 8, 8 pm. $30-$40. The Songsha Shaolin Martial Monks Troupe's 20 warriors ha have made hand-to-hand and weapons combi into an artform. The Shaolin Warriors' perfo mance combines gymnastic skill with the grace ballet and a touch of Cirque du Soleil.

Stomp

Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Bosto (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. *MBTA Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. O going.* $45-$55. In its ongoing run in Boston, th percussion hit continues its tradition of no plot dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to cr ate music for their dance numbers.

Things That Go Unsaid

Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (61 864-3191). web.mit.edu/kdonovan/www. *Nov. 7- 8 pm.* $15. Kelley Donovan and Dancers present th program of contemporary dance that investigat community, spirituality and transformation, explo ing the energy of movement and gestural vocabul as a form of nonverbal communication.

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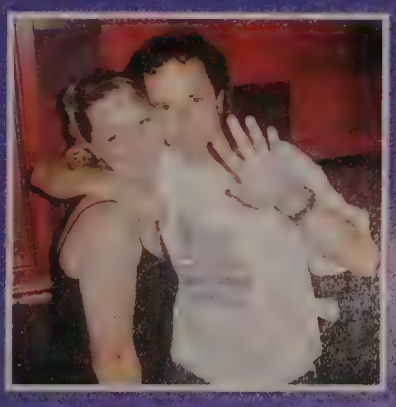
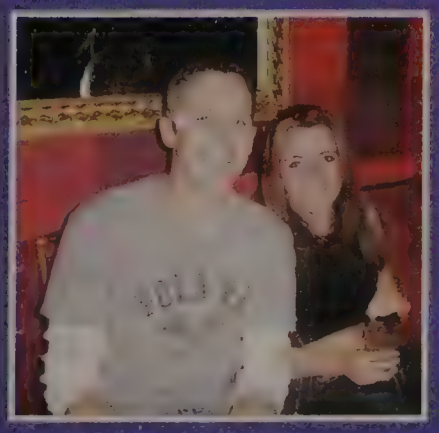


Pauly Shore after his Comedy Connection performance!



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Comedy

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STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle
Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. 8:30 pm. $10. •Nov. 8: Jim Lauletta and Chris Zito •Nov. 15: Jim McCue.

Julie White stars with Nathan Lane in the Huntington Theatre Company's *Butley*.

Comedy Connection
245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. MBTA: *Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Nov. 5: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins Nov. 6: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Nov. 7: Tommy Davison from *In Living Color* •Nov. 8, 8 pm, $17: Rich Ceisler; 10:30 pm, $27: Tommy Davidson •Nov. 9, 4 pm, $20: Jimmy Keys; 8 pm, $21: Tommy Davidson •Nov. 10: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Nov. 11: Paul Nardizzi and Johnny K. •Nov. 12: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •Nov. 13: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Nov. 14, $23.50: Brian Regan from Showtime •Nov. 15, 6 pm, $20; 8 pm and 10:15 pm, $27: Brian Regan •Nov. 17: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Nov. 18: Paul Nardizzi and John David.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$9. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Nov. 5, $10: Benefit for Best Buddies with Tony V, Kelly MacFarland and Peter Dutton •Nov. 6: Gay & Lesbian Good-Time Comedy Jamboree with host Greg Rodrigues •Nov. 7: Chris Walsh, Larry Murphy and Jay Montepare •Nov. 8: DJ Hazard, Mandy Donovan, Jay Montepare and Dan Sulman •Nov. 9: Sam Walters, Eric Cheung, Rob Reuter, Joe Wong, Steve Hubbard, Will McNeill and Myq Kaplan •Nov. 11: Mystery Lounge magic/comedy show •Nov. 12: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Sandy Asai, Abe Smith, Matt Winniger, Dan Sally, Baratunde and Tony Moschetto •Nov. 13: Baratunde, Ku, Reggie Harris and Walter Dixon •Nov. 14: Chris Walsh, Larry Murphy and Mikey D. •Nov. 15: Brian Gordon, Dan Sulman and Mikey D. •Nov. 16: Sam Walters, Tommy Morello, Jeremy Turoff, Cyndi Stiles, Peter Dutton, Dan Sally and Derek Gerry •Nov. 18: Mystery Lounge magic/comedy show.

Nick's Comedy Stop
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Nov. 6, 8:30 pm: Joe Yannetty and Katy Grady •Nov. 7 and 8, 8:45 pm: Joe Yannetty, Katy Grady and Mike Cote •Nov. 13, 8:30 pm; Nov. 14 and 15, 8:45 pm: Kevin Knox, PJ Walsh and Mike O'Neil.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8.* Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA: *Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed.-Sat.: *Improv Asylum Announces the End of Major Hostilities*, a new show on the mainstage.

ImprovBoston
1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central . $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump.* This series for experimental and improvisational theater features ScripTease and The Tribe •Thu., 8 pm, $12: *Unnatural Selection.* A master of ceremonies randomly eliminates players until only one is left; 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show.* Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Luv Boat.* Instead of washed-up celebrities setting sail, the audience members are the passengers on this cruise; 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports.* Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 6 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show*; 8 and 10 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage.* Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance.

COMEDY SHOWS

Haunted Dinner Theatre
Three Cheers, 332 Congress St., Boston (800-697-2583). www.mysterycafe.com. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm. $32.95-$42.95 for dinner and show.* Mystery Café and Haunted Dinner Theatre present *Ghost of Bad Table Manor* by Larry Blamire. Join Chives, Master Chase and other suspects as they search for the rare million-dollar Tom Jones stamp.

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding
Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm. Through Nov. 29. $49. This interactive dinner show follows Maria and Joey through their wacky wedding. Throw on a blue tuxedo or your puffiest gown and join the festivities.

Maria's Bachelorette Party
Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 21, 7 pm. $42. At this dinner-theater show, Maria's friends and bridesmaids throw her a bash that she—or the audience—will never forget.

Murder Cacciatore
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-697-2583). www.mysterycafe.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Porter. Nov. 8, 14 and 15, 7:30 pm. $49 for dinner and show.* The Gourmet Detective serves up Italian cuisine with a murder mystery.

Open Mike Night
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8 pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Sopranos' Last Supper
Tremont Playhouse in the Tremont Hotel, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 14, 7 pm, $49, includes entrance into Matrix. This interactive dinner-theater show has audiences sitting in on a Mafia commission, getting inaugurated in a mob ceremony and gambling with laundered money.

Stash's Comedy Jam
All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. *First and third Sunday of the month. 8 pm.* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike with host Stash.

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Love Hurts

Holiday cheer falls flat in romantic comedy

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Love Actually is as clumsy as a two-foot-tall greeting card—and just as tacky. Veteran English writer Richard Curtis, who makes his directorial debut here, operates under the same say-it-loud and pile-on-the-exclamation-points concept as the oversized greeting card: In his movie's case, that means he piles on about eight half-baked romantic subplots, hoping they'll miraculously accumulate into one big plot.

Hugh Grant plays a new British prime minister in the romantic comedy *Love Actually*.

If only.

Curtis shovels on unrequited love, puppy love, love on the rocks, unlikely love, love interrupted by death, fraternal love, professional love, international love and love that crosses class lines. He gives us lovesick men, horny women, shy guys, silently suffering wives and eager youths. And he bastes them all in sap, structuring *Love Actually* by counting down the weeks until Christmas. Awww.

Nearly all of the subplots are flimsy and shallow. Perhaps most disappointing is the one featuring Hugh Grant as the new British prime minister who develops a crush on the young Cockney woman (Martine McCutcheon) who serves him his tea. Grant has had a sex scandal, so I suppose he has some political qualifications for the role, but his clueless character comes off as less equipped to govern than Arnold Schwarzenegger. Grant reinvigorated his career with the mean streak of his *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *About a Boy* characters, but now he's back to doing his annoying, aw-shucks stammering. And, even taking movie creative license into account, the way the "tea lady" simply barges into the PM's office and drops off official documents along with his pekoe and biscuits is just baffling. (Is she an executive secretary, too?)

There's also recent widower Liam Neeson advising his 11-year-old son (Thomas Sangster) about the boy's crush, in supercute scenes that make you long for *Courtship of Eddie's Father* reruns. Meanwhile, Emma Thompson plays a wife and mother who finds a boxed gold necklace that she thinks her husband (Alan Rickman) will be giving her, only to find out it's for his flirty secretary (Heike Makatsch). And Colin Firth plays a jilted writer who scrambles off to France and while there falls for his Portuguese housekeeper (Lucia Moniz), even though neither speaks the other's language. And so on.

Ironically, there's also one couple that's supposed to spoof the phoniness of movie relationships. They're two increasingly scantily clad stand-ins for a sex scene at a movie shoot, and their perfectly pleasant conversation contrasts with the intimate sex acts they're miming so a camera crew can rehearse. Typical of *Love Actually*, though, the action regularly cuts to this couple for a while; then they disappear for half the movie before suddenly reappearing. Also, typically, their eventual romance is as convincing as Grant's politician.

At least there's some genuine comic relief to be had. The story also occasionally follows Bill Nighy, who plays a washed-up rock star (not unlike the one he played in 1998's *Still Crazy*) who records a cheesy Christmas version of the Troggs' "Love is All Around" (in which "Christmas" replaces "love" and "come on and let it show" becomes "...let it snow." The guileless singer then promotes his new single on radio and TV with a candor that repeatedly makes his manager cringe.

Curtis—who first made his mark as cowriter of Rowan Atkinson's TV series *Black Adder* and *Mr. Bean*—also enlists Atkinson for an amusing cameo as, naturally, a very annoying man.

Despite the sporadic genuine laughs, most of the time *Love Actually* tries to be funny and sweet, and the result is phony cheer, culminating in a dreaded multiple happy ending featuring two separate mad dashes in which characters race to tell loved ones how they feel. Curtis' greatest success was his script for the very amusing *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, and he has said that this time around he was motivated to do something more complex than that and his similar *Notting Hill*. I guess that explains why, not 15 minutes into *Love Actually*, he cuts back and forth between a wedding and a funeral. It's that kind of shameless movie. **iB**

Love Actually ★★

Written and directed by Richard Curtis. With Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Alan Rickman, Laura Linney, Liam Neeson and Bill Nighy. Rated R. Universal Studios.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Intolerable Cruelty ★★★
It's "Coen Brothers lite" in a way, as *The B Lebowski* brothers have revised a pre-existing scrip for their latest and co-produced it with Brian Graze (*A Beautiful Mind*). But even if the absurdity onl occasionally hits the Coens' usual pitch (especiall during a hilarious trial scene), this fast-paced battle of-the-sexes comedy is still very funny. Georg Clooney is just right as a vain divorce attorney wit no conscience—no one else today can do a movi star turn as he can—while curvaceous Catherin Zeta Jones keeps right up with him as the golddigg who turns out to be his match in more ways tha one. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Kill Bill—Vol. 1 ★★
Before the first few minutes of Volume 1 Quentin Tarantino's long-awaited action epic- the second half arrives in February—you get th circa-1970 Shaw Brothers' "Shawscope" logo fro the team's old martial arts films, the swirly circ 1970 "Our Feature Presentation" intro movie th aters used to show, a circa-1970 Klingons refe ence and a taste of the circa-1970 *Ironside* them song. This instantly goes to show that Tarantin style, cool and clever a decade ago, is now only adventurous as an episode of VH1's *I Love the '70* Make that VH1 with literal geysers of bloo Tarantino's story is a revenge tale with Uma Thu man as a modern-day warrior seeking revenge the assassins who left her for dead. The po cultural quotes come fast and hard—spaghe westerns, manga, Tarantino's own *Reservoir Do* etc.—so much so that you wish he would just se tle down and let his characters and words do the jobs, as in the movie's best sequence, when th warrior enlists a philosophical Okinawan swo maker (Sonny Chiba). Let's hope the second ha has more stretches like that. (At Boston Commo Fenway, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Lost in Translation ★★★½
Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her 20 directorial debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, and she co jures up a similar funny-sad tone in her tale of t Americans (Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson) adr in Tokyo. He's a washed-up movie star making bundle endorsing Japanese booze; she's the wife a work-consumed photographer (Giovan Ribisi). They're staying at the same hotel a killing time at the same hotel bar, and their mise loves company. The characters make a great mo couple, although their relationship is platon (with its share of sexual tension). Murray give Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance bu mainly around physical and especially facial rea tions to absurd situations, and Johansson is a lit heartbreaker. (At Boston Common, Harva Square and suburbs.)

Matchstick Men ★★★
If it's a Nicolas Cage movie, the more neuroses t better. He follows his self-loathing writer fr *Adaptation* with an obsessive-compulsive neatn in Ridley Scott's comedy. Cage's con man ca function if there's a speck on the carpet, and thinks that initiating a relationship with the year-old daughter (Alison Lohman) he's nev seen might help. The intertwining of his prof sional life with his strained attempt at fatherho makes for some amusing moments, as does Cag trademark twisted emotionalism. (At Cop Place and suburbs.)

Mystic River ★★
Where are Robert Mitchum and *The Friends of Ed Coyle* when you need them? Clint Eastwood's ad tation of Dennis Lehane's novel would like to be same sort of somber, blue-collar crime story as th 1970s Boston-shot classic. But this disappointme is plodding and literally and figuratively murky. Ea wood assembles a great cast whose efforts don't ways pay off, especially Sean Penn, whose charac Jimmy, suffers most from the loss of the novel's ba ground detail. Kevin Bacon and Tim Robbins p the other two childhood friends whose fates beco intertwined anew when Jimmy's daughter is m dered—one is the detective investigating the cri and the other is the prime suspect. As a whodu this is competent enough, but its ambitions larger than that, and its reach exceeds its grasp. Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Out of Time ★★½
Nearly a decade ago, director Carl Franklin a star Denzel Washington made *Devil in a B Dress*, an evocative 1940s-set neo-noir should have launched a series featuring aut Walter Mosley's hero, "Easy" Rawlins—if only diences hadn't been so indifferent. Franklin a

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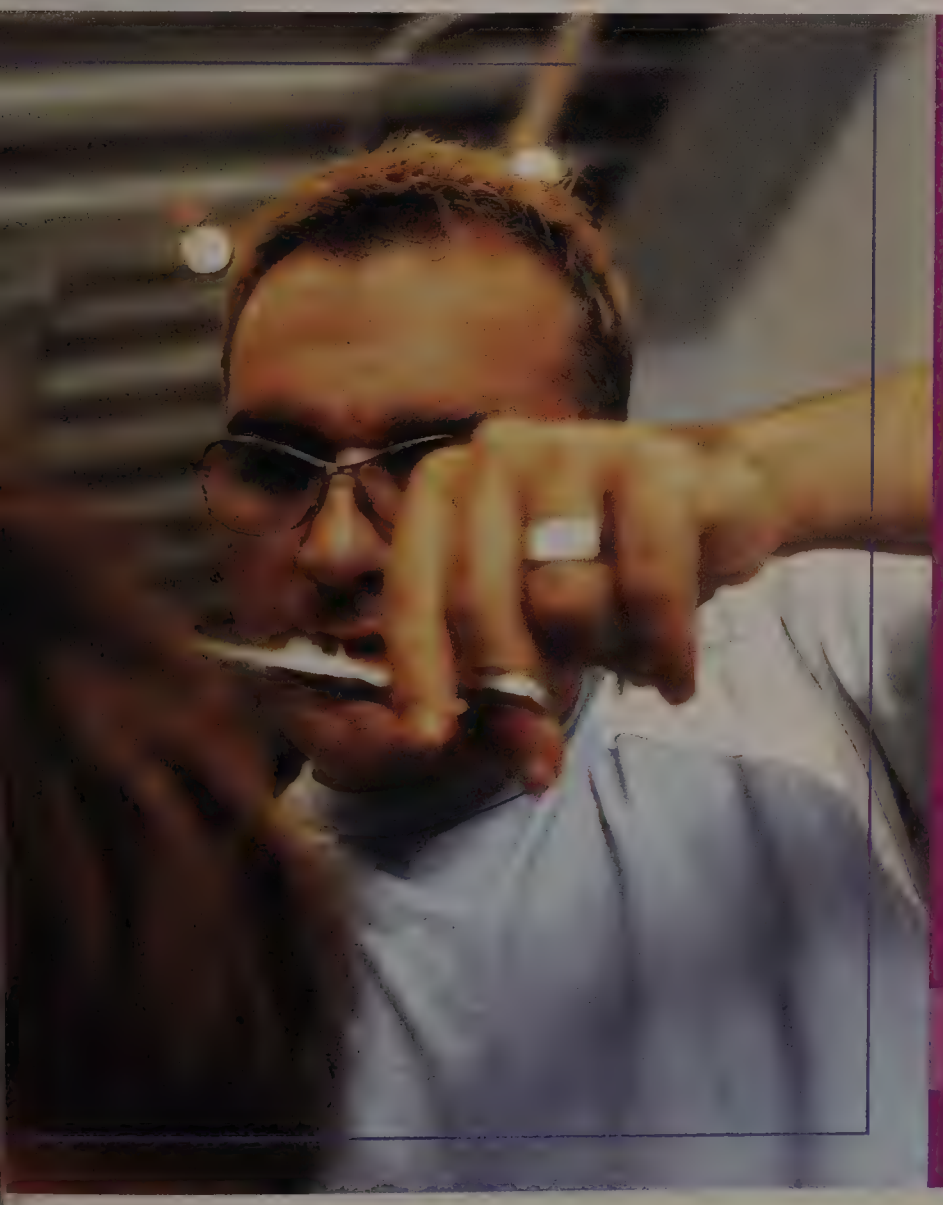

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Washington's new collaboration is another thriller involving sex, money and deceit. This one is competent but much less layered and much more conventional. (I guess the generic title is a tip-off.) Washington plays a small-town police chief who's about to be divorced from one woman (fellow cop Eva Mendes) and is sleeping with another, married woman (Sanaa Lathan). A splashy crime involving the lover and a trail of evidence incriminating the chief perk the attentions of the fellow cop, and the chief has to scurry to clear his name. There are a few thrills, but there's also a ridiculously sunny ending. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Pieces of April ★★★
Black humor and optimism blend surprisingly well in this story of the title character (Katie Holmes) fixing Thanksgiving dinner for her visiting family. While she deals with kitchen problems in her Manhattan apartment, like finding a neighbor who'll let her use a stove after she realizes hers doesn't work, we also see the family (including dad Oliver Platt and ill mom Patricia Clarkson) trekking their way downstate to see her. The feeling of dread is mutual for the black-sheep daughter and her disappointed parents, and the colorful cast pulls off the heightened reality in writer-director Peter Hedges' story. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner and Kendall Square.)

Prey for Rock and Roll ★
No rock and roll movie should ever take itself as seriously as this one does. Gina Gershon does her best "my way or the highway" Chrissie Hynde swagger as an aging singer-songwriter still chasing her musical dream, and the songs aren't half bad. But when the music stops—and that's most of the time—this wallows in over-the-top melodrama. (At Kendall Square.)

Runaway Jury ★★★
The latest John Grisham adaptation is a fun popcorn thriller, with Gene Hackman's cynical jury consultant stealing the movie. Hackman and his minions' appetite for jury members' dirty secrets—all the better to twist their arms with—would do J. Edgar Hoover proud. John Cusack and Rachel Weisz are in on the fun, too, as one person in the jury and one outside the jury who've teamed to sway the votes to the highest bidder in a high-profile case against gun manufacturers. As the crusading plaintiff's attorney, Dustin Hoffman has the left-out look of a teetotaler at happy hour. The movie occasionally acts like Hoffman's character too, especially during its earnest last few scenes, but this courtroom drama zips by. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Rundown ★★
The Rock still makes a great action leading man, and the movie sets up his character here with a blistering prologue. But the main plot, set in the Amazon and sending the Rock after wayward rich kid Seann William Scott (who does not come off well here) just isn't that involving. Having Christopher Walken around as the bad guy helps, but this is one of those weak "when in doubt, blow something up" action movies. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

School of Rock ★★★½
Jack Black has the big-screen breakthrough he's been destined for ever since his scene-stealing role in *High Fidelity*, as a failed rock-and-roller who impersonates a substitute teacher and schools his fourth-graders to be his new band. Writer Mike White, who also plays a supporting role, tailored the story to Black's manic talents, and he and director Richard Linklater (*Dazed & Confused*) take what could have been a lame David Spade or Rob Schneider movie and made a very funny, genuinely feel-good movie. So, the next time one of those painful movies starring a *Saturday Night Live* cast member comes out, remember it didn't have to be so bad. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Singing Detective ★★
If it ain't broke, don't fix it. So why this two-hour adaptation of Dennis Potter's deeply involving seven-hour 1980s miniseries? Naturally, much of the drama gets dulled by the abridgement of Potter's tale of a writer trapped in the hospital by a debilitating case of psoriasis. In its full-strength form, it's an intoxicating mix of present-day action, the detective story reeling inside the writer's head (which casts him as a glib gumshoe), surreal hallucinations (usually involving Potter's trademark device of characters lip-synching to old tunes) and childhood flashbacks revealing the writer's emotional scars. Potter wrote the screenplay before his 1994 death, so it touches upon his main points, but there isn't a single aspect in which the movie matches up to its miniseries predecessor. (At Copley Place and Harvard Square.)

Catherine Zeta-Jones plays a use-'em-and-lose-'em woman who meets her match in Miles (George Clooney) in *Intolerable Cruelty*.

The Station Agent ★★★
This comedy about a dwarf (Peter Dinklage) who moves into an abandoned train depot in a small New Jersey town might have been a cloyingly quirky indie film. Instead, it's a pretty special experience. Dinklage's deadpan performance as Fin wryly captures how his character's expectations of his fellow man have been pounded down by their reaction to his height. Broader comedy comes from Bobby Canavale, as a food-truck owner who tries to befriend Fin and Patricia Clarkson as a woman escaping a fizzled marriage whom Fin tries to befriend. There's a wise and endearing clash of humanity here, and an unpredictable story to go along with it. Along with *Pieces of April* (see above), another brittle yet funny Clarkson performance. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre ★
Just rent the original. It has more frights and fewer clichés than this unnecessary remake. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Veronica Guerin ★★
Unlike his previous movies, nothing blows up in producer Jerry Bruckheimer's latest, except his pretensions of getting an Oscar nomination for making something a touch more human than *Bad Boys 2*. In this forgettable thriller based on a true story, the last two years of the title character, a slain Irish journalist (played by Cate Blanchett), get the slick Hollywood treatment. The story called for the stripped-down grit of director Joel Schumacher's best and most uncharacteristic movie, *Tigerland*, but instead we get his usual gloss as Guerin makes enemies while digging into the Dublin drug underworld. The bad guys sneer, the addicts sport their gaunt makeup and the movie's overeager attempts to make Guerin a saint (she likes music! she likes soccer!) are comical. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Kendall Square and suburbs.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Request: Katharine Hepburn
•Nov. 10, 6 pm. **Little Women** *1933*. In George Cukor's film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel, four Massachusetts sisters come of age during the Civil War while their father is away serving as a minister to the troops.
•Nov. 17, 6 pm. **Bringing Up Baby** *1938*. In this classic screwball comedy, a couple (Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn) has a series of misadventures involving a leopard named Baby. Howard Hawks directs.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Boston Jewish Film Festival
•Nov. 8, 6:45 pm. **Samuel Condemned to Braces** *2001*. A boy with braces is horrified when his orthodontist wants to apply more. Noud Holtman directs. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Bit by Bit** *2002*. A 25-year-old man obsessed with Nintendo tries to make it through his family's seder before competing in the Nintendo World Championships. Jonathan Metzger directs. •Also showing, 9:30 pm. **James' Journey to Jerusalem** *2003*. James is chosen by his African village to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, but a misunderstanding lands him in jail. Ra'anan Alexandrowicz directs.
•Nov. 9, 5:50 pm. **The Barber** *2001*. A barber in a Nazi-occupied French village ponders killing an SS officer who comes in for a shave. Jon Carnoy directs. •Also showing, 6 pm. **Hitler's Hat** *2002*. Director Jeff Krulik charts the life of a 19-year-old Jewish-American GI and his military buddies who found Hitler's hat in April 1943. •Also showing, 7:30 pm. **The Burial Society** *2002*. A mild-mannered loan officer is forced to flee the big city when a money-laundering scheme goes awry. He offers his services to a struggling small-town Jewish burial society. Nicholas Racz directs.
•Nov. 10, 5:30 pm. **Class Queers** *2003*. Melissa Levin and Roxana Spicer direct this documentary about the Triangle program in Toronto, Canada's only classroom for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered high school students. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Moments—Israel 2002** *2002*. A collection of 17 three-minute films by Israeli artists explores the complexity of Israeli citizens' feelings toward the present state of their country. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Forget Baghdad—Jews and Arabs: The Iraqi Connection** *2002*. Swiss director Samir profiles four Iraqi Jews, all members of the Iraqi Communist Party, who fled to Israel during the 1950s and '60s.
•Nov. 11, 1 pm; Nov. 13, 5 pm. **Sewing for Bread** *2002*. Julie Shles and Doron Tsabari's documentary follows a group of Israeli seamstresses who kept their plant running on their own after the owners left. •Also showing, 6 pm; Nov. 12, 1 pm. **Shorts Program: East Side, West Side, All Around**. Four short films screen: David Zackin's *Tunanooda*, Neil Goldberg's *A System for Writing Thank-You Notes*, Faye Lederman's *A Good Uplift* and Judd Ehrlich's *Mayor of the West Side*. •Also showing, 7 pm; Nov. 12, 8 pm. **Under Strange Skies** *2002*. Daniel Blaufuk's documentary tells the story of his German Jewish family who were among the few Jewish refugees to settle in Lisbon, Portugal. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Ford Tran** *2003*. Hany Abu-Assad's film, part documentary a part fiction, follows taxi-van driver Rajai through l daily routine on the West Bank.
•Nov. 12, 5:25 pm. **My Brother's Wedding** *200* Brookline director Daniel Akiba's film documents family's trip to Israel to attend his Orthodox broth wedding. •Also showing, 6 pm. **Welcome to t Waks Family** *2002*. Barbara Chobocky's document chronicles five years in the life of an Orthodox fam and its 17 children. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Net** *2003*. Lina Chaplin's documentary follows the life Netiva Ben-Yehuda, a Jewish woman who has bee member of the Palmach (a pre-Israeli state fight force), as well as a humorist, linguist and editor. •A showing, 8:30 pm. **Divan** *2003*. Director Peral Gl documents her journey to find a family heirloom t she hopes will help heal negative feelings about Hassidic father.
•Nov. 13, 5:30 pm. **Sunset Story** *2003*. Direc Laura Gabbert captures Sunset Hall, an L.A. tirement home for aging radicals, artists and left •Also showing, 7 pm. **Yossi and Jagger** Yoss conservative, young Israeli commander, and handsome Jagger carry out a secret love affair the Israeli-Lebanese border. Eytan Fox dire •Also showing, 9:30 pm. **The Hebrew Hamr** *2002*. "Semitic super stud" Mordechai Jeffer Carver (Adam Goldberg) is on a mission to s Chanukah from the evil, anti-Semitic son of Sa (Andy Dick). Jonathan Kesselman directs.

Coolidge Selects
•Now playing. **Unprecedented: The 2000 Pr dential Election** *2002*. Richard Ray Perez and J Sekler document the battle over the key political s of Florida in the 2000 election.
•Opens Nov. 14. **Elephant** *2003*. Gus Van Sant is an expressionistic take on the 1999 Columl shootings that follows students at a fictitious l school through the tiny terrors of teenage life.
•Opens Nov. 14. **Teknolust** *2002*. Tilda Swi stars in a quadruple role as a nerdy chemist who cl herself into three sexy, man-hungry women. I Hershman-Leeson directs.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Directors in Focus: Fassbinder!
•Nov. 17, 7pm. **The Marriage of Maria B** *1978*. An impoverished war bride is transfo into a mercenary businesswoman and stru with fidelity in post–World War II Gerr Rainer Werner Fassbinder directs.

Directors in Focus: Charlotte Zwe
•Nov. 7, 7 pm; Nov. 9, 9 pm. **Gimme Shelter** Zwerin's documentary (co-directed with A and David Maysles) is a portrait of the ill- Rolling Stones U.S. tour of 1969 that ended a

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tamont Speedway. •Also showing, 9 pm; Nov. 9, 7 pm. **Salesman** *1969*. Zwerin and the Maysles brothers' documentary chronicles six weeks in the lives of four traveling Bible salesmen.

•Nov. 8, 7 pm. **Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser** *1989*. This intimate look at "the high prince of bebop" features Monk performances and rare, unseen studio footage. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Ella Fitzgerald: Something to Live For** *1999*. Zwerin directs this biography of "The First Lady of Song." Tony Bennett narrates.

•Nov 10, 9 pm. **Toru Takemitsu: Music for the Movies** *1994*. Zwerin directs this portrait of Takemitsu, a Japanese composer.

Film Architectures

•Nov. 5, 7 pm. **Toute une Nuit** *(All Night Long) 1982*. On a sultry summer night in Brussels, various people in search of love connect. Chantal Akerman directs.

•Nov. 11, 6:30 pm; Nov. 12, 7 pm. **Playtime** *1967*. A French man finds himself lost in a maze of urban architecture while trying to contact an American official in Paris. Jacques Tati directs.

•Nov. 18, 7 pm, 9 pm. **Le Mepris** *(Contempt) 1963*. A filmmaker struggles with marital and professional problems as he crafts an adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey*. Jean-Luc Godard directs.

From Cinematic to Digital Culture

•Nov. 17, 9 pm. **L'Anglaise et le Duc** *(The Lady and the Duke) 2001*. Eric Rohmer directs this adaptation of Grace Elliot's memoir about a Scottish aristocrat who engages in a series of affairs during the French Revolution.

Global Re-visions: Around the World with Barbara Hammer

•Nov. 14, 7 pm. **Devotion, A Film About Ogawa Productions** *2000*. Barbara Hammer's film follows the Japanese postwar documentary filmmakers of Ogawa Productions.

•Nov. 15, 7 pm. **Resisting Paradise** *2003*. Hammer explores the conflict between art and war by juxtaposing the stories of four World War II French Resistance fighters with two artists who go on painting during the war. •Also showing, 9:30 pm. **My Babushka: Searching Ukrainian Identities** *2000*. Director Hammer sets out to discover her ethnic roots in post-glasnost Ukraine. •Immediately following. **Our Grief Is Not a Cry for War** *2002*. Hammer's short documentary captures a silent demonstration for peace in Times Square a month after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The New German Cinema

•Nov. 5, 9 pm. **Tokyo-Ga** *1985*. Inspired by the work of Japanese filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu, director Wim Wenders travels to Tokyo to film scenery that Ozu captured.

•Nov. 10, 7 pm. **Mathias Kneissl** *1985*. Reinhard Hauff directs this dark portrait of a clan who attempt to maintain their existence on the outskirts of society.

•Nov. 12, 9:30 pm. **Die Verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum** *(The Last Honor of Katharina Blum) 1975*. Volker Schlondorff and Margarethe von Trotta's adaptation of Heinrich Boll's novel explores a young woman's fight to regain her honor after being linked with an alleged terrorist.

Screening Modern China

•Nov. 11, 9:15 pm. **Mahjong** *1996*. Edward Yang directs this film about life in the metropolis of Taipei.

•Nov. 16, 7 pm. **Beiqing Chengshi** *(City of Sadness) 1989*. The lives of three brothers go in different directions as two become involved with smugglers from Shanghai while one falls in love with his friend's sister. Hou Hsiao-hsien directs.

MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

•Through Nov. 12. **Calder's Circus** *1961*. Carlos Vilardebo's documentary follows artist Alexander Calder as he operates his miniature mechanical circus in which tiny figures walk tightropes, dance, lift weights and perform acrobatics in the ring.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Arts Alive: Free Film for All Ages

•Nov. 7, 7:30 pm. **Andulez** *2003*. Karen Aqua and Joanna Priestly's animated film about the culture, landscape and architecture of southern Spain is followed by a live flamenco performance by the Jaunito Pascual Flamenco Quartet.

•Nov. 8, 10:30 am. **An Angel for May** *2002*. A young boy runs away from home and stumbles into a portal that transports him to Yorkshire, England, during World War II. Harley Cokeliss directs.

•Nov. 15, 10:30 am. **Artful Animation**. A series of short, animated films for children ages 6 and up screens.

Boston Festival of Films from Iran

•Nov. 14, 8 pm. **Rooze Ghar-e-ma** *(Our Times) 2002*. Rakhshan Bani Etemad's documentary follows a group of college girls who run a campaign office for an Iranian presidential candidate, and a 25-year-old divorcée who runs decides to run in the election.

•Nov. 15, 1:45 pm. **Iranian Women Filmmakers** *(2003)*. Hamid Khairolkin and Majid Khabazan's documentary examines the rise of Iranian women filmmakers through interviews with the well-known Iranian directors and actresses and clips from their work. •Also showing, 3 pm. **Zir-E Proust-E Shahr** *(Under the Skin of the City) 2002*. A factory worker and her four sons try to pull themselves out of the lower class in Rakhshan Bani Etemad's film •Also showing, 5:15 pm. **Namehay Bad** *(Letters in the Wind) 2001*. Young Iranian soldiers struggle to coexist while isolated in a camp near Tehran. Ali Reza Amini directs.

•Nov. 16, 5:10 pm. **Banoo-Ye Ordibehesht** *(The May Lady) 1997*. Rakhshan Bani Etemad's film is the story of a 40-something divorcée's conflict with her teenage son when she begins to date.

Boston Jewish Film Festival

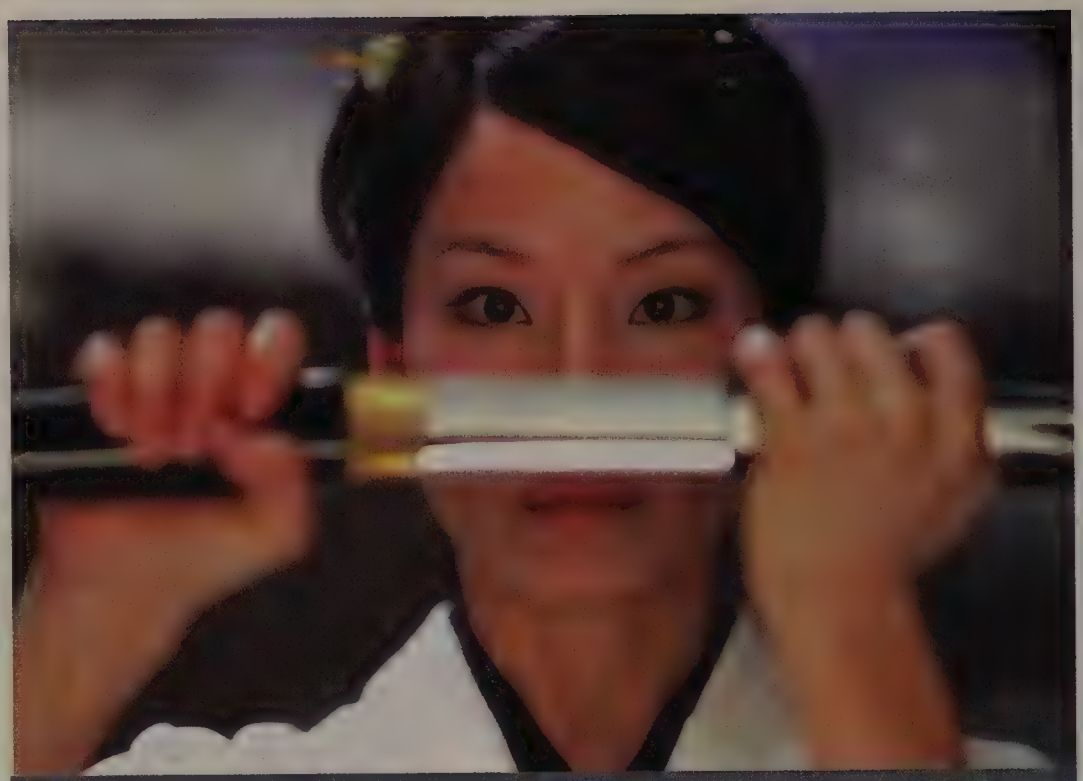
•Nov. 6, 7:30 pm. **Samy and I** *2002*. A depressed, middle-aged Jewish Argentinean comic meets a ditzy, beautiful woman who helps him find stardom. Eduardo Milewicz directs.

•Nov. 9, 12:30 pm. **Netiva** *2003*. See Coolidge Corner Theatre, Nov. 12, for a description. •Also showing, 2 pm. **My Terrorist** *2002*. This documentary examines relations between Israelis and Palestinians. Yulie Gerstel-Cohen, a former member of an El Al flight crew taken hostage by Palestinian terrorists in 1978, directs. •Also showing, 4 pm. **Décryptage** *2002*. Jacques Tarnero and Philippe Bensoussan's documentary explores the French media's portrayal of Israel and its influence on anti-semitism. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Kedma** *2002*. Shortly before the creation of the state of Israel, hundreds of Holocaust survivors risked arrest to flee to the West Bank. Amos Gitai directs.

•Nov. 11, 2 pm. **Moments—Israel 2002** *2002*. See Coolidge Corner Theatre, Nov. 10, for description. •Also showing, 3:30 pm. **From Dachau with Love** *2001*. Bernd Fischer's documentary is about the town of Dachau, the former site of a World War II concentration camp. •Also showing, 6 pm. **Displaced! Miracle at St. Ottilien** *2002*. Boston College professor John Michalczyk's documentary tells the story of two American soldiers stationed at St. Ottilien, a displaced person's camp for Holocaust survivors. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Metamorphosis** *2002*. Valery Fokin directs this cinematic adaptation of Franz Kafka's short story.

•Nov. 13, 5:30 pm. **Meyer from Berlin** *1919*. Ernst Lubitsch directs and stars in this classic silent comedy about a go-getting Berlin Jew who is out of place in the Bavarian Alps. •Also showing. **Shoe Palace Pinkus** *1916*. Ernst Lubitsch directs and stars in a silent comedy about a flirtatious master of Jewish urban culture. •Also showing, 8 pm. **Shalom Ireland** *2003*. Valerie Lapin Ganley's documentary chronicles the history of Irish Jewry and profiles several famous Irish Jews.

•Nov. 15, 7 pm. **Secret Passage** *2001*. Two Jewish sisters flee across Europe to escape the Inquisition of 1492. Ademir Kenovic directs.



Lucy Liu is O-Ren Ishii in director Quentin Tarantino's new action movie, *Kill Bill—Vol. 1*.

•Nov. 16, 1 pm. **Thunder in Guyana** *2001*. Suzanne Wasserman's documentary follows her cousin Janet Rosenberg Jagan, a Jewish woman from Detroit who became the first American-born woman to lead a nation when she was elected president of Guyana in 1997. •Also showing, 3 pm. **Unstrung Heroes** *1995*. When his mother becomes seriously ill and his father has problems coping, a 12-year-old boy is sent to live with his uncles. Diane Keaton directs. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Almost Peaceful** *2002*. A Jewish tailor runs a successful business in 1946 Paris in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Michel Deville directs.

Engagements: Chinese Cinema

•Nov. 6, 2 pm; Nov. 9, 10:30 am; Nov. 13, 3:45 pm; Nov. 14, 6 pm; Nov. 15, 12 pm; Nov. 16, 11 am. **Nashan Naren Nagou** *(Postmen in the Mountains) 1998*. Huo Jianqi's directorial debut follows a Chinese father who hands his 112-mile mail route over to his son.

Engagements

•Nov. 8, 12:30 pm; Nov. 13, 2 pm. **Kiss My Wheels** *2003*. Miguel Grunstein and Dale Kruzic's documentary follows a nationally ranked junior wheelchair basketball team through a full season.

Engagements: French Cinema

•Nov. 6, 3:45 pm; Nov. 8, 2:15 pm. **Winged Migration** *2001*. Jacques Perrin directs this documentary following the annual migration of several species of birds.

World's Best TV Ads

•Nov. 6, 5:30 pm; Nov. 8, 4 pm. **British Advertising Films of 2002** *2002*. Peter Bigg of the British Advertising Broadcast Awards is on hand on opening night to present this collection of last year's award-winning British TV commercials.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Dec. 16. **Africa: The Serengeti**. This Omni film depicts the 1.5 million animals that migrate across the African plains. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 16, 2004. **Space Station**. Blast into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts of the International Space Station. *Call for show times.*

•Through March 31, 2004. **Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees**. Enter the world of the wild chimpanzees of Africa's Gombe Stream National Park. *Call for show times.*

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through Nov. 4. **Ghosts of the Abyss 3D**. Academy Award–winning director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. *Call for show times.*

•Through Nov. 4. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. Explore the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef to search for sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. *Call for show times.*

•Through Nov. 4. **Rolling Stones: At the Max.** The Stones perform 15 of their classic songs, with footage from their Steel Wheels/Urban Jungle tour. *Call for show times.*

•Through Nov. 4. **Space Station 3D**. Travel to the International Space Station and experience life in zero gravity with the astronauts fro Florida's Kennedy Space Center and Russi Baikonur Cosmodrome. *Call for show times.*

•Through November. **The Matrix Reloade The Imax Experience**. In the sequel to T *Matrix*, Neo and the rebel leaders battle t machines that have overpowered the hum race. *Call for show times.*

•Through June 2004. **Bugs! 3D**. This film f cuses on the world of insects in the tropic rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs ma nified up to 250,000 times their normal si *Call for show times.*

SPECIAL EVENTS

•Nov. 7, 7 pm. **Casa de los Babys** *2003*. T Alliance for Children Foundation, a no profit international adoption agency, host special screening of John Sayles' latest fil Six women who planned on traveling to C lumbia to adopt babies are forced, by law, live there. *Loews Copley Place, 100 Hunting Ave., Boston (781-431-7148). MBTA: Gre Line to Copley. $20. Advance reservations required.*

Cinema Venues

BELMONT

Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Gre Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBT Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre

201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common

175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Gr Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science

Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Lin Science Park.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Lin Aquarium.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema

399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Lin Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Gr Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Fresh Pond

168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MB Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema

One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony

10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Lin Harvard.

MIT List Visual Arts Center

Whitaker Building (No. 56), 20 Ames St., Camb (617-253-4400). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D G Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: O Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red L Davis.

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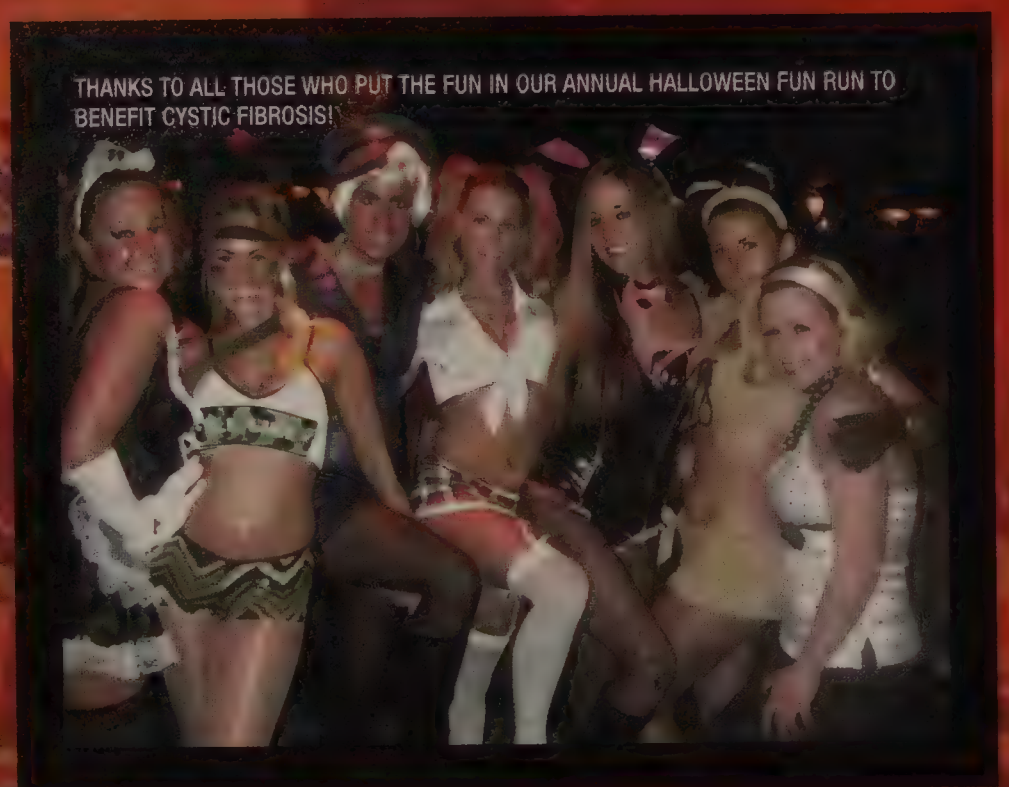

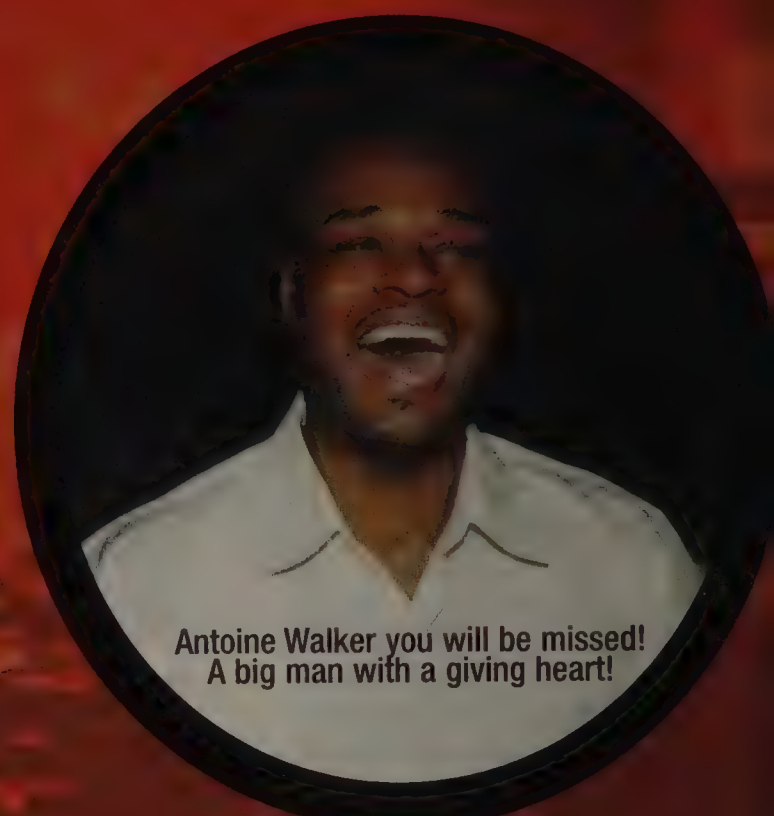

inside RACK

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Every Friday Night, 6pm

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Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way! DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

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Monday, November 10, 6pm

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THE RACK

The Rufus on Fire

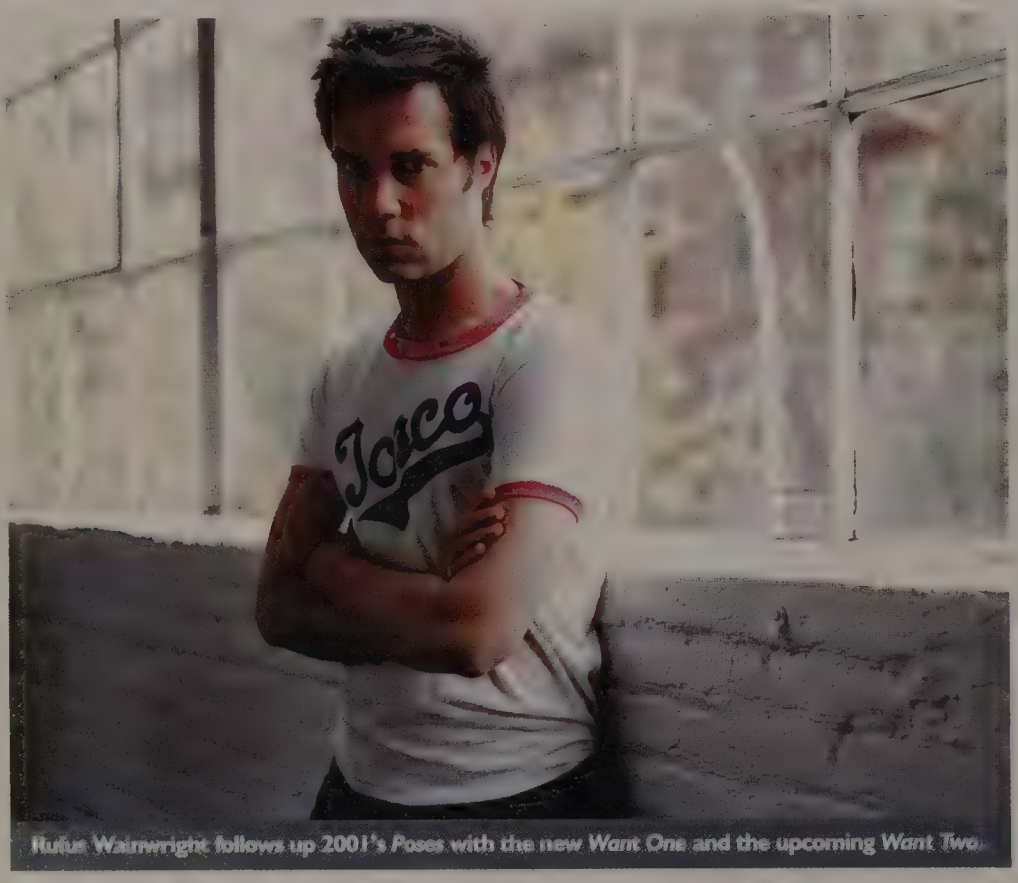
Rufus Wainwright rises from a drug-riddled abyss to reclaim his operatic pop ambitions

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Facing his 30th birthday, Rufus Wainwright realized he needed to make some changes in his life, and getting a shorter haircut was "just the tip of the iceberg."

"I was like Frankenstein's laboratory for a while," the Canadian singer-songwriter says of the indulgent, hard-partying lifestyle he took up in the wake of his 2001 album, *Poses*. The openly gay pop eccentric experimented with such drugs as acid, alcohol, cocaine, ecstasy and crystal meth (the last of which fueled some anonymous sexual exploits) before he suffered an emotional breakdown and spent a month in rehab.

"Life in general is pretty tough for most folks, and one can spend a lot of time—especially in show business—thinking that applause or money or a glass of wine will fix the problem," says Wainwright, who plays Avalon Nov. 16. "But you have to face your demons, especially when you're dipping into them so many times for your inspiration. You can't really fool around in that area without being scathed."



Rufus Wainwright follows up 2001's *Poses* with the new *Want One* and the upcoming *Want Two*

Wainwright has come out the other side with not one, but two CDs, the just-released *Want One* and its counterpart, *Want Two*, which is planned for release early next year.

Want One presents rich, finely sculpted pop masterpieces, ranging from the lovely piano-and-vocal solo piece "Pretty Things" to grandiose orchestral arrangements with strings, horns and as many as 350 vocal parts on songs like "Oh, What a World" and "Vicious World."

"I just wanted to do that because I've always been a big fan of Brian Wilson's work," Wainwright says from his New York apartment. "Especially on a song like 'Vicious World,' that's a tip of the hat to him."

Wainwright's songs also reflect his affinity for cabaret, Tin Pan Alley and classical music. "I still mainly listen to opera, or go to the opera a lot," he says. "The opera for me is very much somewhere where I can turn off my own criticism of stuff, and really just let myself go."

Composing provides another outlet. "For me, writing is definitely a type of medication," Wainwright says. "I saw an opportunity to create a certain arc for this record, 'cause I knew I had a whole bunch of songs from when I was seriously using [drugs], and songs from when I needed to find a way out, and that I should definitely figure out how to write *not* under the influence. I was a little worried about whether the newer songs would not be as interesting. But for me anyway, I dispelled that myth. Any artist who goes through that kind of transition has to establish that, and some artists don't, and that's a nightmare I didn't want to live."

Tucked beneath the bright veneer of some songs on *Want One* are lyrics that hint at Wainwright's drug-addled travails, in lines like "Stop me falling down, stop me making movies of myself" and "Guardian angels who left me stranded/It was worth it, feeling abandoned/Makes one hardened, but what has happened to love?"

"I definitely kept the utter descent and broken-glass sections to myself," he says of the sessions with producer Marius deVries, music director from the *Moulin Rouge* soundtrack, which included Wainwright. "It's in the lyrics and the songs, but I didn't bring it into the studio."

"Dinner at Eight" also exposes raw feelings left from the divorce of his parents, folk luminaries Kate McGarrigle and Loudon Wainwright III, noting how his father left him "long ago, actually in the drifting white snow."

"When I told him I was going to do this, I said, 'Well, I'm sorry Dad, it's a bit of an intense song,'" Wainwright says. "But he said, 'Rufus, I've written so many songs about so many people, I probably deserve it.'"

"I've hung out a lot with Sean Lennon, and at least my father's alive," he says. "Even though my parents weren't as famous as [John Lennon and Yoko Ono], they were spared some of the excesses and psychological turmoil that major fame brings. So our family did stay intact in the end."

Want One includes contributions from McGarrigle and Wainwright's sister, Martha, who sings in Wainwright's live band. Guitarist Teddy Thompson, son of Richard Thompson, also plays on the disc.

On tour, there's also a chance Wainwright will preview more extreme material from *Want Two*, such as "Gay Messiah," a song that's already causing a buzz for its risqué lyrics, though it's not about him.

"In putting out this first record, I didn't want one single strike against it. I wanted it to be available to more people, so I sort of toned down the subject matter," he says, adding of the shift from one record to the other, "I lead you all down this beautiful trail to a valley, and then there's a cliff." IB

Rufus Wainwright
plays Avalon Nov. 16.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or by email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Belle and Sebastian and Rasputina Nov. 13, Orpheum Theatre (617-679-0810).
Ani DiFranco Nov. 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-679-0810).
The Eels and MC Honky Nov. 6, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
The Fixx Nov. 9, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Fula Flute Ensemble Nov. 14, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
G3 with Joe Satriani, Yngwie Malmsteen and Steve Va Nov. 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-679-0810).
Jump Little Children and Sudden Ease Nov. 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
King Crimson and Living Colour Nov. 12, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Ben Lee and Phantom Planet Nov. 14, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Leftover Salmon Nov. 14, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Lyle Lovett Nov. 9, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Pat Metheny Nov. 12 and 13, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Warren Miller's "Journey" Nov. 6, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Moe Nov. 7, Orpheum Theatre (617-679-0810).
Enrique Morente Nov. 9, Sanders Theatre (617-876-4275).
Particle Nov. 15, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Primus Nov. 17 and 18, Orpheum Theatre (617-679-0810).
Rancid Nov. 15, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Bubba Sparxxx, the Kinison and Blink 182 Nov. Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
The Star Keeper Nov. 8, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
The Suicide Machines, Avenged Sevenfold, th Unseen and Western Waste Nov. 13, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Rufus Wainwright Nov. 16, Avalon (617-423-NEXT)
Wayfaring Strangers Nov. 15, Somerville Theatr (617-931-2000).
Gillian Welch Nov. 8, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Saul Williams Nov. 5, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

Abbey Lounge Paddy Saul, 8:40 pm; Steve Mardor Local Jack and Lloyd Thayer, 9:40 pm; Cliff Hill Tim Marten and Teresa Storch, 10:40 pm; Emil Grogan, Naomi Sommers, Dan Tressler and Ne Blood, 11:40 pm, $7, 21+.
Axis Throe, Absolve, Breathe and Cade, 8 pm, $1 all ages.
Bob the Chef's Black Sole Ensemble, 7:30 pm, cover, all ages.
Breezeway Sherry Eatmon, 7:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Arlo Guthrie, Sarah Lee Guthrie a Johnny Iron, 8 pm, $35, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, cover, 21+.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6 pm, no cover, 21
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGra 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
First and Second Church Margaret Ulmer, 12: pm, $8.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino jazz group, 11:30 p no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry The Big Wu and Suspect, 8 pm, $1 18+.
Johnny D's Madison Falls, the Underdogs a Chewy, 8:30 pm, $6, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Jon Nolan and Hokum, 8:30 pm, 21+.

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Middle East Upstairs: the Alarm, $15, 18+. Downstairs: Mass for Dean, a monthly Cambridge meeting for volunteers supporting Howard Dean's presidential campaign, 7-9 pm.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Saul Williams, 8 pm, $15, 21+. Ben Arthur, Jennifer Marks and Brand New Sin, 8 pm, 21+.
The Rack Groove Authority, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Jim Porcella and Ida Zecco, 8:30 pm, $22, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Nate Aronow Quintet, 8:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Bill Bruford's Earthworks, 8 and 10 pm, $20, 21+.
Sky Bar Lamont Smooth and Ron Noyes Band, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place British Sea Power and the Cignal, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Western Front Lefteris Kordis Ensembles, 9 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure Latin Explosion, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

Abbey Lounge The Pickups, 10 pm.
Avalon Bubba Sparxx.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Breezeway Margo Thunder R&B night, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Shirley Lewis and New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Arlo Guthrie and Family and Chris Williams, 8 pm, $35, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trax, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Brick Park.
Harper's Ferry Cardinal Direction, Rich Price and Greg Naughton, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Virginia Rodriguez, 9 pm, $15, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Great American, Rollo, Tomasi Quarter and Counterpart, $5.
The Linwood Declan Buckley and Ad Frank, Mojo Nine and Buzz, and Just Bill, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Loveless, the Charms, Cheater Pint and Ultravixen, 8:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Psychedelic Breakfast and Brother Mosely, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Kristin Hersh, Howe Gelb and Andrew Bird, $15, 18+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Paradise The Eels and MC Honky, 8:30 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Central Basement.
Pat Flanagan's Stop the Wombats, Doc Holliday, Mersa and Decadence, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club William Street's Seven Colors of Love, 8 pm, $7; Steve Songs, 9:15 pm, $8.
Scullers Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth, 8 and 10 pm, $30-$35.
Sky Bar Rory Lowe Band and Buddahead, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Warren Miller's "Journey," 6 and 10 pm, $16.
Sophia's The Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
TechSpace Fundraiser for Group Preventing Hearing Loss Among Musicians and Fans features Elizabeth Steen and Adam Hirsh, 7 pm, $20.
Top of the Hub The Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
Western Front The Project, 9 pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Mr. Curt, Open Hand and Doctor X, 7 pm, $7, all ages.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Abbey Lounge Sugabomb, Kenne Highland and the She Wolves, 9:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+; Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Attic NBSB, 9 pm, 21+.
Berklee Performance Center Michael Camilo, 8:15 pm, $20-$30, all ages.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Boston Harbor Hotel Bill and Bo Winiker Orchestra, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers.
Club Passim Arlo Guthrie and Family and Christopher Williams, 8 pm, $35, all ages.

The Wayfaring Strangers bluegrass-jazz collective, with Matt Glaser, Tony Trischka and Laszlo Gardony, features guest singer Jennifer Kimball in a concert at the Somerville Theatre Nov. 15

Common Ground The Swinging Johnsons, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Borderland, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Drop Dead Sexy.
Harper's Ferry Mr. Brownstone (Guns 'n' Roses tribute band), 8 pm, $12, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Eddie Clearwater, 9:45 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Audrey Ryan, Groove Trust, Local Radio, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
The Linwood The Upper Crust and Supagroup, 9 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Ware River Club, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Kilowatthours, Mendoza Line and Okkerville River, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Dirtbombs, the Sights and the Konks, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover.
Orpheum Moe, 7:30 pm, $25, all ages.
Parris Central Basement.
P.A.'s Lounge Grupstake, Belljars and Gone Baby Gone, 9 pm, 21+.
The Rack First Class, 6 pm, 45, 21+.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Quartet, 7:30 and 10 pm, $30, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 9 pm, $20.
Scullers Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth, 8 and 10:30 pm, $30-$35.
Sky Bar The Motive, Pocketsauce and Chocolate Milk, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Sophia's The Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Maggie Galloway Group, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Magnolia Electric Co., the Wrens, +/– and the Ninety Nine, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Virgin Megastore Kobi Arad, 5 pm, no cover.
Western Front Mang Dub and Blackout Boston, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Bar Rot, 9:30 pm, $10, all ages.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

Abbey Lounge Catapult, 10 pm, 21+.
All-Asia Cafe Fragile Alex, 8 pm, $5, all ages.
Asgard Brick Park.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+; Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Attic Marly Horik and Jordan Carp, 9 pm, 21+.
Avalon Gillian Welch, 7 pm, $18.75, 18+.
Berklee Performance Center Ian Anderson, 7:30 pm, $35.50-$48, all ages.
Bob the Chef's Pat Loomis, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Christopher Williams, 7 and 10 pm, $15, all ages.
Common Ground Dwight Ritcher Band, 10 pm, $4, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort The Lovebrokers, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown The Mike Shea Trio with Barbara Boudreau, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Inchicore.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Drop Dead Sexy.
Harper's Ferry The Bottle Rockets and Quick Fix, 8 pm, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Babaloo, 9:45 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Turkey Hollow Boys, Arcade, A.J. Crowe and Mr. Sparkle, 8 pm, $5.
The Linwood Gang Green, Granite Ave. and Automatic, 9 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Reverse, the Douglas Fir and Mittens, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: SSIOn and the Izzys, $9, 18+; Downstairs: Waltham, Lamont, Crash & Burn, Black Helicopter, Blacktail and the Hidden, $10, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Plaid, Luke Vibert, Chris Clark and N.E.D., 9 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Benjamins.
P.A.'s Lounge Counterpart, 9 pm, 21+.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Quartet, 7:30 and 10 pm, $30, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club John Stein, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth, 8 and 10:30 pm, $30-$35.
Sky Bar Slycee Jenkins, Almost Speechless and Big Toe, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre The Star Keeper, 11 am and 3 pm, $14.50.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Explosions in the Sky, Lazarus, Zykos and Lost Pilot, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Virgin Megastore Sudden Ease, 5 pm; Reason Being, 7 pm, no cover.
Western Front Joint Chiefs, 9 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

Asgard Christy O'Connell.
The Attic The Coalboilers, 9 pm, 21+.
Axis The Fixx, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law, 10 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Steph Corby and Kerri Powers, 8 pm, $12, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelations, 10 am-3 pm; Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Celtic Clan and Finbar Doyle.
Green Street Grill Balla Tounkara and Groupe Spirit, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Without Roy and the Crowding Out Effect, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Johnny D's Matt Dorko and Larry Kukers, 9 am-2:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Jeff Robinson Trio with poet Mr. Sincere, 7 pm, $6, 21+.
Orpheum Lyle Lovett, 7:30 pm, $39-$66.50.
Paradise Mike Doughty and Charlotte Martin, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Quartet, 3 and 7:30 pm, $30, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Frank Vardaros, 10 am-3 pm, n cover, all ages.
Sanders Theatre Enrique Morente, 7:30 pm, $2 $37, all ages.
Sky Bar Mr. Etc., Shudderbox and Mindstep, 8 pm $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am- pm; Paul Schmelling Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sole, Alias & Telephone Ji Jesus, Odd Nosdam, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:3 am, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Steve Thomas and the Co-con spirators, 7 pm, $7.

MONDAY, NOV. 10

Asgard Frank Ryan.
Cantab Lounge Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8 pm Joe Stead, 10 pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block Jazz jam session, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Club Passim ALIA, 7 pm, $10, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, n cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Seisiun.
Green Street Grill Hot Tamale Brass Band, 10: pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Elliott, Drumkan and Yo Black Star, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Easy Star A Stars and Ill Kings, $12, 18+.
Regattabar The McCoy Tyner Quartet, 8 and pm, $30, all ages.
Sky Bar Parker Hill and Particle Zoo, 8 pm, $5, 21
Top of the Hub Paul Schmelling Trio, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMaho 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Three Play, 7 pm, $8, all ages.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

Asgard Tom Courtney.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 p Kruger Brothers, 10 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover
Green Street Grill High Plain Drifters, 10:30 p no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry New Monsoon and Sonic Flu, 8 p $7, 21+.
Johnny D's Pete Morton, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Rose Polenzani and Boris M Cutcheon, 8:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Flutopia and Pete Pidgeo $8, 18+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Greg Burk Trio, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 8 pm, $8.
Sky Bar Hypaspace, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Death Vessel, Volcano Still Excited, the Fifty Mission Crush and Whis Jacket, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no co 21+.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

Abbey Lounge The Spoilers, Musclecah, Ultravix and Supachik, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Avalon King Crimson and Living Colour, 8 p $30.25, 18+.
Bob the Chef's ZMQ, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages
Breezeway J-Vibes, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim The Loomers, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, cover, 21+.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6 pm, no co 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGi 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar DJ Power.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Danny Wood, 8 pm, $12, 21+.
Johnny D's Marshall Crenshaw, 8:30 pm, $15, 21
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Mercy Brothers, Tim Gearan B and Alastair Mook, 8:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Alarm and Dog Fash Disco, $15, 18+. Downstairs: Lacuna Coil, $15,
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Orpheum Theatre G3 with Joe Satriani, Yng Malmsteen and Steve Vai, 7 pm, $30-$66.50 ages.

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Paradise Lacuna Coil, 8 pm, $13, 18+.
The Rack Black Sole, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Cercie Miller Quartet, 8:30 pm, $12.
Ryles Jazz Club Zeitlin Jazz Quintet, 8:30 pm, $8.
Sanders Theatre Nanci Griffith, Julie Gold, the Kennedys and Le Ann Etheridge, 7:30 pm, $42.50-$52.50, all ages.
Scullers Orquesta Aragon, 8 and 10 pm, $24.
Sky Bar The Pheromones, Three Speed Amplifier and the Great Northern, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Pat Methany, 8 pm, $32-$42.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Everyday Visual, Elgin James, Blue Letter Days and Mersa, 9 pm, $5.
Western Front Rebecca Weintraub Experience and Alec Spiegelman Ensemble, 9 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure Latin Explosion, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Abbey Lounge The Pickups, $5, 10 pm, 21+.
Axis Suicide Machines, Avenged Sevenfold, the Unseen and Western Waste, 6 pm, $15, all ages.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Breezeway Margo Thunder R&B night, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge The Cheriees, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Po' Girl, Jake Armerdine and Hanneke Cassel, 7 pm, $14.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Mike Farris and Mark Femino Band, 8 pm, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Kanda Bongo Man, 9 pm, no cover 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Riding Shotgun, Hartford's Grey and Public, $5.
Middle East Upstairs: the Explosion, the Lot Six, Spitzz, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Glenn Phillips (of Toad the Wet Sprocket) and Teitur, $15, 18+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover.
Orpheum Theatre Belle and Sebastian and Rasputina, 7:30 pm, $30, all ages.
Paradise Jump Little Children and Sudden Ease, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Central Basement.
The Rack U-Nek Approach, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+
Regattabar Marta Gomez and Friends, 8 and 10 pm, $12, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Inner Orchestra, 8:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Jacqui Naylor, 8 and 10 pm, $15.
Sky Bar The State, the Jumblies, Sugar High Diaries and Sonic Bonnet, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Sophia's The Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Pat Metheny, 8 pm, $32.50 - $42.50, all ages.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Silkworm, On Fire (formerly the Burning Paris) and the Bon Savants, 9 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+; Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Attic Marie's Children with Lou, 9 pm, 21+.
Axis Ben Lee and Phantom Planet, 7 pm, $12, all ages.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Boston Harbor Hotel Bill and Bo Winiker Orchestra, 7 pm, no cover.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Micheal Merenda and Pierce Woodward, 8 pm, $14, all ages.
Common Ground The Box Social, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown Borderland, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Ego System.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Spookie Daly Pride and Town Hall, 8 pm, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Paula Kelly and Seekonk, 9:45 pm, $7, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Gein and the Graverobbers, Nebulas, They're Going to Get You, Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5.
Kresge Auditorium MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, 8 pm, $5, all ages.
The Linwood The Halogens, Bully Pulpit, Rocket-science and the Kickbacks, 9 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Club D'elf, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Pansy Division and Les Sans Cullotes, $9, 18+; Downstairs: Crooked Fingers, Azure Ray and David Dondero, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, 21+.
Old South Church Notes of Gratitude, 7 pm, $25.
Paradise Leftover Salmon, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Parris Catunes.
P.A.'s Lounge Liquid Destruction, Infinity Clip, Tung and Lifetribe, 9 pm, 21+.
The Rack Part-Time Lovers, 6:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club The Earl MacDonald 6, 9 pm, $12.
Scullers The Roy Haynes Trio, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22.
Sky Bar Beantown Project, Audrey Ryan Band, Greesome, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Fula Flute Ensemble, 8 pm, $20, all ages.
Sophia's The Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sondre Lerche, Rachael Yamagata and Thalia Zedek, 9:30 pm, $10.
Western Front Mike Boston, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

Abbey Lounge Radar Eyes and the Count Me Outs, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+. Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Rancid, Roger Miret and the Disasters, the Slackers and Tiger Army, 6 pm, $18.25, all ages.
Bob the Chef's ZMQ, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim John Shain and Bill Morrissey, 8 pm, $12, all ages.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Good Life Downtown The Mike Shea Trio with Barbara Boudreau, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Nicole Nelson, 9:45 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Kirkland Café Reason Being, Steve Marden and the Egregious Typos, Darlings, Gary Rand and MC Mickey Bliss, $5.
The Linwood Quintaine Americana, Cash Monies and the Jetsetter, Throttlerod, Dennis Brennan, the Confidence Men, Antler, Slim Jim and the Mad-cows, 9 pm, $12, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Lars Vegas, Innova and the Revolutionary Snake Ensemble, 9 pm, $12, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Stratejacket, Drinkfist, White and Suicide Dream, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Dogmatics, the Gentlemen, Last Stand, Stevie and the Thrillers (featuring Kevin Stevenson of the Shods), the Johnnys, the Shaggahs and the Piranha Brothers, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Steve Silverman Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Particle and Nero, 9 pm, $12, 18+.

Alterna-pop rockers Moe play at the Orpheum Nov. 7.

Elizabeth Steen performs at a fund-raiser for H.E.A.R. at TechSpace Nov. 6.

Parris Catunes.
Regattabar Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone, 7:30 and 10 pm, $18, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Timo Arthur Band, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers The Roy Haynes Trio, 8 and 10:30 pm, $22, 21+.
Sky Bar Hawley Sawyer Rifle Co, Lake Boone and Eric Fontana, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre The Wayfaring Strangers, 8 pm, $20-$25, all ages.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Moonraker, 11:30 pm, $10.
Virgin Megastore Jones One, 5 pm; Sarah Brindell, 7 pm, no cover.
Western Front Hot Like Fire, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Dan Levin Group and Stone-house, 9:30 pm, $10, all ages.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

Abbey Lounge Pleasure Club, Eric Saulnier and Andrea Gillis, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Asgard Christy O'Connell.
The Attic The Coalboilers, 9 pm, 21+.
Avalon Rufus Wainwright, 7 pm, $20, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Zeke Martin's Jazz, 10 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Breezeway Hakim Law, 12-3 pm, $13.95, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Geoff Muldaur, 3 pm, $17, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort New Revelations, 10 am-3 pm; Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Forsyth Chapel Birdsongs of the Mesozoic and Oral Moses, 4 pm, $10.
The Green Briar Inchicore and Finbar Doyle.
Green Street Grill Balla Tounkara and Groupe Spirit, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Ridgley Snow, 9 am-2:30 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Jeff Robinson Trio with poet Adrianne Alleyne, 7 pm, $6, 12+.
Middle East Upstairs: Estradasphere and Choexpire-ment, $10, 18+.
Orpheum Ani DiFranco, 7:30 pm, $35, all ages.
Regattabar Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone, 3 and 7 pm, $16, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Yoko Miwa, 10 am-3 pm, no cover.
Sky Bar Truth Ending Cycle, Digital Ruin, Cork-skrew and Resonate, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Twilight Singers, featuring Greg Dulli, 10 pm, $12.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery The Uprising, 7 pm, $7, all ages.

MONDAY, NOV. 17

Asgard Christy O'Connell.
Cantab Lounge Singer-songwriter open mike, 8 pm; Kat Eggleston and Kate MacLeod, 10 pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block Jazz Jam Session, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Seisiun.
Green Street Grill Hot Tamale Brass Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: The Modey Lemon, Jeremiah Freed, the Secret Channel and the Everyothers, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Rahzel, Life-savas and Spooks, $20, 18+.
Orpheum Primus, 8 pm, $39.50, all ages.
Paradise Poi Dog Pondering, 8 pm, $10, 18+.
Sky Bar Esoteriqa, Secondary Mind and Silencio, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Marty Ballou Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ms. John Soda, B. Fleis-chmann and Christian Kleine, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Three Play, 7 pm, $8, all ages.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18

Asgard Paul Duffy.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; King Wilkie, 10 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Cottonwood Café Barbara Dolan's Jazz Therapy, 9 pm, $10.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover.
Green Street Grill High Plain Drifters, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Skerik's Syncopated Taint Septet and Benevento Russo, 8 pm, $10, 18+.
Johnny D's The Strawbs, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover.
Lizard Lounge Rose Polenzani and Noam Wein-stein, 8:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Junction 18, Endway, Jeta-vana Grove and Gone Baby Gone, $8, 18+. Down-stairs: Denali, Victory at Sea and Eyes Like Knives, $10, 18+.
Orpheum Primus, 8 pm, $39.50, all ages.
The Rack Herman Johnson, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Vardan Ovsepian Quartet, 8:30 pm, $12, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 8 pm, $8.
Scullers Kenny Rankin, 8 and 10 pm, $20.
Top of the Hub Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
T.T. The Bear's Place Damien Jurado, Rosi Thomas and Drew O'Doherty, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover, 21+

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
All-Asia Cafe *334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee College of Music *1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-8820). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Boston Harbor Hotel *70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave. Roxbury (617-541-5400).*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Cottonwood Café *222 Berkeley St., Boston (617-247-2225). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential*
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ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Addison Groove Project Dec. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Aerosmith and Kiss Nov. 26, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Blind Boys of Alabama Dec. 2, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
David Bowie and Macy Gray Dec. 9, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Harry Connick Jr. Dec. 20 and 21, Colonial Theatre (617-931-2000).
The Disco Biscuits Nov. 26, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Donna the Buffalo Nov. 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Kathleen Edwards and the Thorns Nov. 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Cesaria Evora Nov. 22, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Fun Lovin' Criminals Dec. 2, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Galactic and Louque Nov. 20, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Godsmack and Adema Nov. 26 and 28, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Phil Lesh and Friends Nov. 23-25, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Le Tigre Nov. 19, the Roxy (617-931-2000).
Dave Matthews, Emmylou Harris, Tim Reynolds and Trey Anastasio Dec. 16, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Phish Dec. 2, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Robert Randolph & the Family Band and Los Lonely Boys Nov. 19, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Saves the Day and Taking Back Sunday Nov. 21, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Seal Dec. 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Martin Sexton and Melissa Ferrick Dec. 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Simon & Garfunkel Dec. 11 and 13, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Stereophonics Nov. 29, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Take 6 Jan. 15, 2004, Northeastern University (617-373-2247).
Tell Us the Truth Tour with Billy Bragg, Lester Chambers, Steve Earle and the Nightwatchman Nov. 23, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Trans-Siberian Orchestra Dec. 7, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
The Waterboys Dec. 5, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
The White Stripes and Whirlwind Heat Nov. 21, Tsongas Arena (617-931-2000).

Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
First and Second Church *66 Marborough St., Boston (617-267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
FleetBoston Pavilion *290 Northern Ave., Boston (617-728-1600). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Forsyth Chapel *Forest Hills Cemetary, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-3354)*
Gillette Stadium *One Patriot Place, Foxborough (800-543-1776).*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (617-876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Jacob Wirth *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Kresge Auditorium *MIT campus, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-275-8777).*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Old South Church *645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
P.A.'s Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557).*
Pat Flanagan's *79 Parkingway St., Quincy (617-773-3400). MBTA: D Green Line to Mission Hill.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-876-4275).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
TechSpace *80 Harrison Ave, Boston (617-275-7000).*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Washington Square Tavern *714 Washington St., Brookline (617-232-8989). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Boston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). www.blo.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30 pm. $33-$152. Stephen Lord conducts Verdi's *Rigoletto*, the tale of a duke who, to save his daughter, must allow his adversary to control his fate.

Music in the Cathedral
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826 ext. 1103). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Pianist John Ferguson performs.

Vienna Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-266-1200). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $32-$67. As part of the Fleet-Boston Celebrity Series, Vladimir Fedoseyev directs the Vienna Symphony Orchestra in an all-Beethoven program. With guest violinist Nikolaj Znaider.

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $26-$86. Hans Graf conducts Tchaikovsky's *Little Russian* and *The Tempest*, along with Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1, featuring cellist Claudio Bohorquez.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). www.blo.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30 pm. $33-$152. Same program as Nov. 5.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30 pm. $26-$86. Same program as Nov. 6.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956 ext 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Guest conductor David Seamon leads the Longy Chamber Orchestra in a performance of works by Beethoven, Faure and Mendelssohn.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-267-6502). www.cantatasingers.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $20-$48. David Hoose directs the Cantata Singers and Ensemble in Mozart's *Requiem* and the Boston premiere of Marjorie Merryman's *One Blood*. The program commemorates the 300th anniversary of the 1704 attack on Deerfield. Preconcert lecture at 7 pm.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $26-$86. Same program as Nov. 6.

Exsultemus
First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley St., Boston (617-945-2786). www.exsultemus.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 8 pm. $10-$20. Eight singers perform music by Italian composers Giaches de Wert, Carlo Gesualdo, Luca Marenzio and Claudio Monteverdi.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $32-$60. In his Boston debut, Chinese pianist Lang Lang performs.

Longy School of Music
Edward Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-254-1125). www.benandbrad.com/amclass.html. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $25. American Classics presents Rodgers and Hart's *Peggy-Ann*. Pre-concert talk at 7:30 pm.

Musica Sacra
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-349-3400). www.musicasacra.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12-$20. The 2003-2004 season opens with a performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. The chorus is joined by the Orchestra of Emmanuel Music.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). www.blo.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3 pm. $33-$152. Same program as Nov. 5.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass Ave., Boston (888-310-7100). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 5 pm. $50-$100. Conductor David Zinman leads the orchestra, with pianist Claude Frank as a guest soloist, in the 2003 Concert for the Cure, which benefits breast cancer research.

Forest Hills Educational Trust
Forsyth Chapel at Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3354). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $10. Amelia LeClair conducts medieval and contemporary music.

International Music at MIT
Wong Auditorium, MIT Tang Center, 2 Amherst St., Cambridge (617-258-7971). web.mit.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 4 pm. $8-$18. MIT Heritage of South Asia presents a concert featuring vocalist Palghat Ramprasad, violinist Palghat Rajaram and Trivandrum Balaji on *mridangam*.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1 pm. $5. The woodwind quintet Vento Chiaro presents Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Luciano Berio's *Opus Number Zoo*, a musical fantasy about animals.

Longy School of Music
Edward Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-254-1125). www.benandbrad.com/amclass.html. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4 pm. $25. Same program as Nov. 8. Preconcert talk at 3:30 pm.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $20-$48. Same program as Nov. 7.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-267-6502). www.cantatasingers.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Pianist Victor Rosenbaum performs.

Wellesley College Concert Series
Houghton Memorial Chapel, Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu/Music/concerts.html. 7 pm. Free. Hans Davidsson performs music by Matthias Weckmann on the Fisk organ.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). www.blo.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30 pm. $33-$152. Same program as Nov. 5.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext. 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Paul Brust directs Longitude, Longy's new-music ensemble dedicated to presenting 20th- and 21st-century chamber works.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. The NEC Contemporary Ensemble performs.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. NEC students perform Perkin Opera Scenes, directed by faculty member John Greer.

Guitarist Thomas Noren presents a concert at Longy School of Music Nov. 13.

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by Giuseppe Verdi

November 5, 7, 9m 11, 14, 16m, 18, 2003

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Sung in Italian with English translation.

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TIGER'S BAKU

Weds, Nov. 12
ORQUESTA ARAGON

Thurs, Nov. 13
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The Boston Early Music Festival is at the Jesuit Urban Center Nov. 15

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

Classical Music at MIT
Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Dr., Cambridge (617-253-2826). http://web.mit.edu/abd. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 12 pm. $5. The Silverwood Trio performs.

Music in the Cathedral
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Tenor Stephen Bomgardner and pianist Mark Engelhardt perform.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. The NEC Wind Ensemble performs.

Steinert Hall
162 Boylston St., Boston (617-264-4501). www.home.earthlink.net/~johfergu. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 7 pm. Free. Pianist John Ferguson performs Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956, ext. 500). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free. Guitarist Thomas Noren celebrates his ninth anniversary as a Longy faculty member with works for solo guitar.

MIT Chapel Concert Series
MIT Chapel, opposite 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-2826). http://web.mit.edu/arts. 12 pm. Free. The Lenora Quartet features Bartok's *String Quartet #4* and Mozart's *String Quartet.*

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Pianist Gabriel Chodos performs.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-349-0086). www.bostonchambermusic.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. $16-$42. The Society performs pieces by Beethoven, Dvorak and Prokofiev.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). www.blo.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 7:30 pm. $33-$152. Same program as Nov. 5.

Boston Modern Orchestra Project
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-363-0396). www.bmop.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $25. Gil Rose conducts the orchestra in a performance of *Uptown*, a program that includes pieces by Milton Babbitt, Mario Davidovsky, Jason Eckardt, Leon Kirchner and Fred Lerdahl. There is a pre-performance lecture with the composers at 7 pm.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

Boston Early Music Festival
Jesuit Urban Center, 775 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-424-7232). www.bemf.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8 pm. $22-$58. Reinhard Goebel directs Musica Antiqua Köln from Germany, featuring soprano Nancy Argenta and alto Nathalie Stutzmann. There is a preconcert lecture with Goebel at 6:30 pm.

Chameleon Arts Ensemble
First and Second Church, 66 Marlborough St., Boston (617-427-8200). www.chameleonarts.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8 pm. $15-$30. Harpsichordist Peter Sykes joins the Ensemble in a program entitled Forever Is Composed of Nows, featuring music by George Antheil, Manuel de Falla, Gabriel Faure and others.

Classical Music at MIT
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-2826). http://web.mit.edu/arts. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. 8 pm. William Cutter conducts the MIT Chamber Chorus in works by Bach, Monteverdi and John Harbison.

Wellesley College Concert Series
Houghton Memorial Chapel, Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu. MBTA: D Green Line to Riverside. 8 pm. Free. The Wellesley College Choir, conducted by Lisa Graham, gives its Dober Memorial Concert, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Ballet Company. The program includes the music of Kirke Mechem, Rachmaninoff and others.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

Boston Chamber Music Society
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-349-0086). www.bostonchambermusic.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. $16-$42. Same program as Nov. 14.

Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway, Boston. (617-912-9222) www.bostonconservatory.edu. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 4 pm. $10-$12. The Boston Conservatory Chamber Players perform works by Hugo Wolf, David Pinkham and Robert Schumann under the direction of Michael Lewin.

Boston Lyric Opera
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-6772). www.blo.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 3 pm. $33-$152. Same program as Nov. 5.

Coro Allegro
Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4011). www.coroallegro.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 3 pm. $15-$30. Conductor David Hodgkins and chorus present *From Bach to Britten and Bach Again*, choral music of the 18th and 20th centuries.

The Masterworks Chorale
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.masterworkschorale.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. $16-$36. Allen Lannom conducts the Chorale in a performance of music by Berlioz.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306) www.mfa.org/concerts. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 3 pm. $20-$24. John Gibbons and Daniel Stepner perform a selection of Mozart's pieces for keyboard and violin.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-536-2412). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Guitarist Robert Paul Sullivan performs.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: D Green Line to Riverside. 3 pm. Free. Soprano Jean Danton, pianist Brian Mc and trumpeter Dennis Alves present a concert featuring songs by Haydn, Purcell, Gershwin and more.

Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Heath. 3 pm. $37-$67. The Brandenburg Ensemble performs keyboard concertos by Bach.

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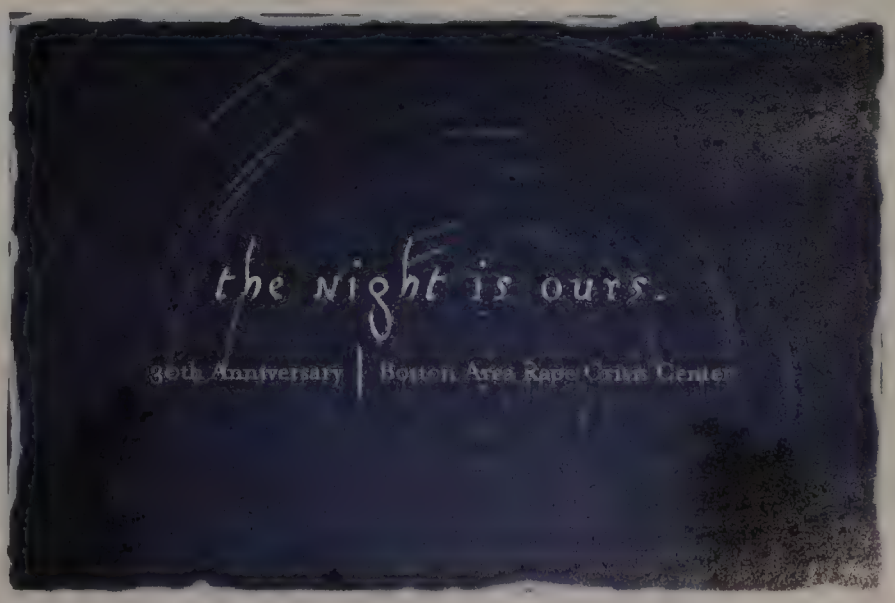

An evening to recognize the importance of supporting victims of rape and sexual assault in our community

6:30pm | Wednesday, November 12th, 2003 | the charles hotel, cambridge, massachusetts

with honored guest Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey

6:30pm | silent auction and cocktail reception

8pm | dinner & awards ceremony

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center is the second oldest rape crisis center in the U.S. BARCC is a community based, grassroots organization that provides free crisis counseling and advocacy services to survivors of rape and sexual assault.

BARCC has recently learned that a large part of their funding has been lost due to budget cuts. Please join in supporting BARCC at this important time.

Tickets $175

For event tickets and information, please contact: Sarah Bruno at BARCC at 617.492.8306.

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Ceremony A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 10 and 17, Join the Patriots' Lonie Paxton and friends in a benefit for the Active Force Foundation, 9 pm.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
S.I.N. Service Industry Night DJ Tony Moreno spins house, breaks and hip hop, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

TUESDAYS

An Tua Nua
What's Up Night A night of R&B, house, funk and soul music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Aria
One Nation DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm, followed by live music, $5, 18+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs Matt Diamond and John Davis bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins, 10 pm. •Nov. 11, ZMQ performs live, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 18, Jose Ramos & the No Way Jose Band perform, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Tonic
Splash Industry Night Sir Isaac Phillips accompanies the DJ with live percussion, $5, 21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, no cover for 21+ (men), $5 for 19+ (women).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Felt
Weekly Therapy Party Guest DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Bobby B spins top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 5, live music with Groove Authority, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. Nov. 12, BlackSole performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
The Skinny DJ Ren Justice spins techno, top-40 and hip-hop 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and guests play rap and Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami and John Debo host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indian and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix features tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

Embassy
DJ JC spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz and electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
KISS 108's DJ Randy hosts the night and spins Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou spins late night. •Nov. 6, Brick Park performs.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free, guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstairs, 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia spin dance tunes and old-school, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progressive, and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts spins house and hip-hop. 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Parris
Nov. 6, Central Basement performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge, night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Daile, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
DJ Littles spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 6, Joe Bargar & the Soul Providers perform, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 13, U-Neq Aproach performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a mix of electro, funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
Deja Vu DJs and weekly guest hosts spin lounge music, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play 60s and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Preview

Making His Mark

DJ and producer Demarkus Lewis spins the house

Demarkus Lewis doesn't simply play house music—he creates his own. A native of Dallas, Texas, Lewis has enjoyed a groundswell of global recognition over the past year for his work as both a DJ and a producer. On "In Da Musik," a standout track from his *Pandemonium* EP on Alluv Recordings, released earlier this year, Lewis samples a soft and gentle British voice: "Alright, see, I want to tell you about acid. I'm not talking about tablets or any kind of drug, see, I'm going to tell you what I know. It's music. Alright? The acid is in the music. It is music." The term "acid" has always had a lot to do with the soul of house music, and Lewis uses the sample to explain how acid, house and soul all fit together as one.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, Lewis brings his uniquely deep brand of house music grooves to Bump at Phoenix Landing in Cambridge. Crowds may have thinned at some of Boston's bigger club nights during recent months, but the underground house music scene has continued to heat up. From the jazz-inflected sounds of the West Coast to the tough beats of Chicago and the tribal rhythms of Portugal, Bump covers the full spectrum of house music. "It's sleek, sexy, deep-down and dirty," says promoter Randy Deshaies. "We're putting the fun back in funk."

Phoenix Landing, 512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260). Nov. 16, 10 pm–1 am. Free before 10 pm, $5 after. 19+. —Daniel Spurling

The Place

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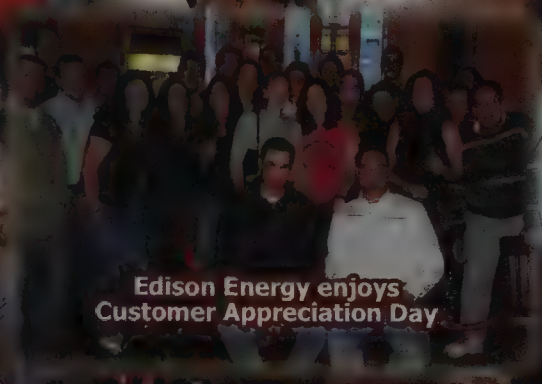

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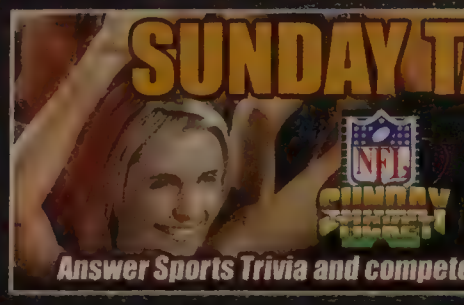

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FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Superlovers DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40 from the '70s, '80s and '90s, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+. •Oct. 24, 10 pm, Seb Fontaine CD release.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins a mix of international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Nailz and DJ Eddie Lee spin hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $20, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
After-work live jazz, 5-9 pm. KISS 108's Billy Costa hosts the party and DJ Ricky Fatts spins high-energy dance, hip-hop and Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Nov. 7, Drop Dead Sexy performs live. •Nov. 14, live music with the Zoo.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house and DJ Steve Spinelli plays top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, proper dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•Nov. 7, Central Basement performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+. •Nov. 14, Catunes performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sports video highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dress required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm. •Nov. 14, the Marcells perform.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 7, live music with First Class, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 14, Part-Time Lovers perform, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins a mix that includes neosoul and a few feel-good classics, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; downstairs: live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21+.

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Tequila Rain
DJ Tim Collins spins top-40, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $5.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Vivid Lounge

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

Aria
Classic Spin Back Guest DJ's spin classics of the '70s, '80s and '90s plus old school hip-hop. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+(men), 19+(women).

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Roger M spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Ghost spins hip-hop and house, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Nov. 8, Drop Dead Sexy performs live. •Nov. 15, live music with the Zoo.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 10 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal house, travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ G Spin of JAM'N 94.5 plays hip-hop while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+; $20, 18 ladies only.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ort spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee plays hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dan music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez a Willie D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 bef 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**T Male Encounter** New England's longest-runni all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show run pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes. Prop dress, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Benn spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atm phere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Underground** spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Uptown** Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '9 Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•Nov. 8, the Benjamins perform 10 pm, co varies, 21+. •Nov. 15, the Catunes perform 10 p cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new w and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. Pro dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 2 •Nov. 8, live music with Pig Pen. •Nov. 15, Moo coon performs.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 R&B.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

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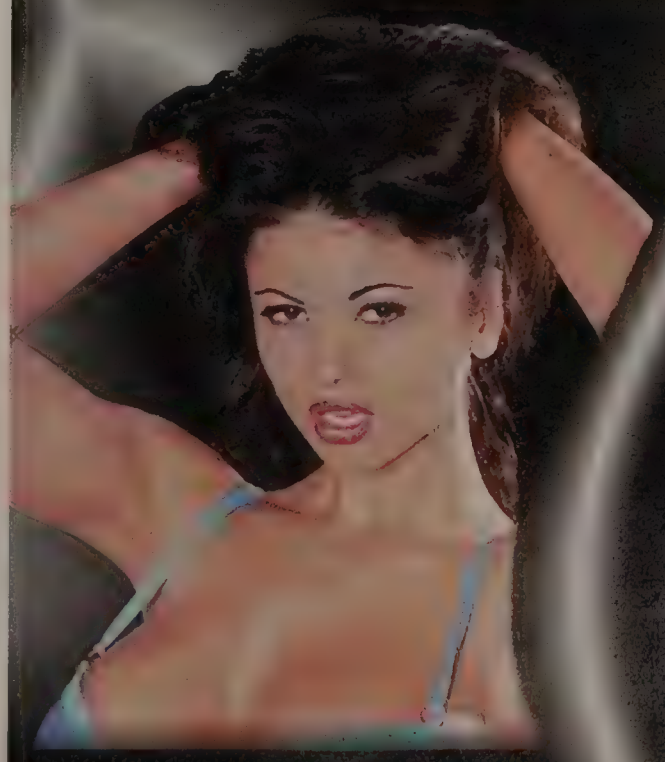

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River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins house and techno, 9 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house and funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit-pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $3, 19+.

Aria
DJ Roger M spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
DJs Doc and Kieran spin top-40, 11 pm, no cover.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian nigh as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae an world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-78 4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-946*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-908*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 150 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-779*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002).*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-700*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Tequila Rain *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-030*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-669*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-760*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-030*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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BEST OF BOSTON 2002

museums & galleries

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4, 2004.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*Pescadores: Photographs by Irene Turner*, an exhibition of images from the Isle of Margarita off Venezuela, displays through Nov. 28. •*Photography in the Human Experience*, an exhibition of photographs from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, displays through Nov. 30.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface* features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. •*Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows through Jan. 18, 2004. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibition, shows through May 16, 2004. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Marcel Breuer: A Special Installation of 1930s Furniture* shows through Nov. 2. •*The City of Sardis: Approaches in Graphic Recording* displays through Nov. 16. •*Before Expressionism: Art in Germany circa 1903* features drawings, prints and paintings from German avant garde artists. Through Feb. 15, 2004. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22, 2004.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Into the Mountains* features the photography of mountaineer Bradford Washburn. Through spring 2004. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize* shows temporary installations that Weathersby created while cleaning at the ICA. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Through Jan. 4, 2004.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection features more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banker: The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti* features a painting by Raphael, sculpture by Cellini and busts of Cosimo de'Medici and Altoviti. Through Jan. 11, 2004. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

Kenny Mac's monoprint *The Black Sheep* displays in a group show at Gallery AA/B Nov. 6-Dec. 20.

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). www.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children.* •*The ZENetic Computer: The Work of Naoko Tosa and Seigo Matsuoka* is an interactive exhibition that combines Buddhist principles, Asian philosophy and traditional Japanese culture. Through Nov. 13. •*Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* shows 50 color landscapes. Through Jan. 30, 2004. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*John Currin Selects*, an exhibition assembled by the MFA's associate curator, displays works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*Rembrandt's Journey: Painter/Draftsman/Etcher* is a comprehensive exhibition of more than 200 of Rembrandt's works. Through Jan. 18, 2004. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists whom he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25, 2004. •*The Maker's Hand: American Studio Furniture, 1940-1990* features one-of-a-kind pieces made in small shops. Nov. 12-Feb. 8, 2004. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children.* •*Canstruction* features 21 cubic structures designed by architects, engineers and students and made out of nonperishable food. Through Nov. 7. •*Magic: The Science of Illusion* is an interactive exhibition focusing on mind reading, levitation, transformation and the "disembodied head" illusion. Through Feb. 22, 2004. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of computers from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features models of a wave tank, Mount Everest and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*Children's Favorites: Candy-Filled Glass Toys* shows through Nov. 16. •*Close-up in Black: African American Film Posters* features 90 posters that chronicle black film history. Through Jan. 4, 2004. •*Generals, Admirals, and American War Leaders*, an exhibition of personal and official autographs from famous American leaders, shows through Jan. 11, 2004 •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1, 2004. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community* is ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (978-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Uncommon Legacies* features more than a hundred 18th- and 19th-century Native American works. Through Dec. 13. •*Luxury and Innovation: Furniture Masterworks by John and Thomas Seymour* features 72 examples of classic American furniture. Nov. 17-Feb. 17, 2004. •*Vanished Kingdoms: The Wulsin Photographs of China, Tibet, and Mongolia 1921-1925*, an exhibition of color images taken by American explorers Janet E. and Frederick R. Wulsin, shows through Feb. 29, 2004. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2, 2004. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30, 2004.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children.* •*Dia de los Muertos: The Day of the Dead* features Aztec art and objects from the Alice Melvin Mexican folk art collection. Through Nov. 30, Sat. and Sun, 10 am-4 pm. •*Portraits from China, 1923-1946: Photographers and Their Subjects* features the work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frederick Wulsin. Through Jan. 15, 2004. •*These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004 •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the response of Native Americans across the continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28 2004.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art

38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue. Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Lillian Orlowsky shows her abstract work in *The Fifties*. Through Nov. 15.

Alianza Gallery

154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Clockwork* shows sculptural clocks by 12 artists. Through Nov. •*Accessories*, a group show of glass, steel and sculptural accessories, displays Nov. 8-Dec. 31.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue. Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Anne Neely shows abstract paintings. Through Dec. 3.

Arden Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon. Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •John Stockwell shows paintings in *New Landscapes*. Through Nov. 2

Barbara Krakow Gallery

10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490) www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Generic Space* features paintings, drawings and prints by Mel Bochner. Through Dec. 10. •*Print Publisher's Spotlight Edition Schellmann*, a group show, displays through Dec. 10.

Berenberg Gallery

4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •*Free Wheelin'*, a group show of artistic cars, planes, boats and trains, displays Nov 5-Dec. 20.

Bernard Toale Gallery

450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •David Hilliard shows new photographs, and Colleen Kiely shows drawings. Nov. 12-Jan. 3, 2004.

Brickbottom Gallery

1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410) www.brickbottomartists.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Open Studios Preview Show* displays Nov. 9-23.

Brookline Arts Center

86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5746) www.brooklineartscenter.com. *Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm.* •*100 Weaves of India* displays through Nov.

Chappell Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington*

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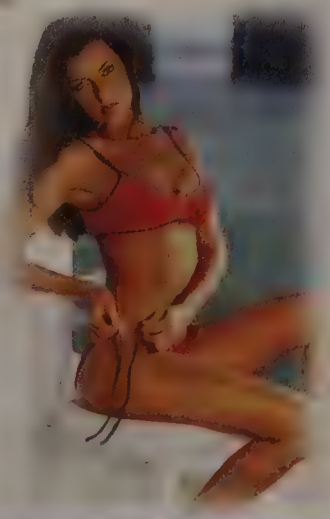

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Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment. •*Kathleen Holmes: Something to Say in Glass* shows through Nov. 11.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm;* Sun., *12-6 pm.* •Joe Piccillo shows sketches of horses in *New Work*. Through Nov. 30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. MBTA:*Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*Florence Robinson in Italy* (paintings), *Prints of the Roman High Renaissance* and *The Power of Myth* (sculptures, lithographs, paintings and engravings) show through Nov. 16. •*The Art of Music*, a show of watercolors, painting and sculpture, displays Nov. 17-Jan. 3, 2004.

Clifford-Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Suite 300, Boston (617-695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Hannah Barrett shows family portraits. Nov. 7-29.

Copley Society of Art
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •*Suzanne Ulrich: An Invitational Exhibition* shows through Nov. 15. •*Maloney & Sons: William, Paul and Robert* shows through Nov. 15.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •Ming Lu shows watercolors. Nov. 4-29.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley.* www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Open Studios Group Show* features works in all media. Through Nov. 9.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery AA/B
535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 -0022). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; Fri., 11 am-3 pm* •Terry Rose, Kenny Mac and Jane Kamine show monoprints. Nov. 6-Dec. 20.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm.* •Photographs from the gallery's collection show through Nov. 16.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Alex MacLean shows aerial photography in *Patterns on the Land*. Nov. 7-29.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). *Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Frederick Lynch shows paintings and drawings. Nov. 7-Dec. 2

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century antique prints. Ongoing. •Ronalee Crocker shows recent oil paintings. Through Nov. 20.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Hilla and Bernd Becher show industrial landscape photographs. Nov. 7-Dec. 26.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •David Kupferman shows paintings. Through Nov. 29.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment.* •The *30th Anniversary Exhibit* at the Prudential Center's Huntington Arcade features paintings, drawings, ceramics and calligraphy by Kaji Aso and his students. Nov. 7-24.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www. cambridgeart.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Energy*, a juried exhibition of paintings, sculpture and photography, displays Nov. 6-Dec. 5.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kidder smithgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Graham Gillmore shows paintings in *New Work*. Through Nov. 29 .

The New Baby, by Vietnamese artist Huynh Van Thao, shows at the Boston International Fine Art Show Nov. 13-16.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •Garth Bariffe shows new paintings. Through Nov. 29.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Duet: Harmony in Oil and Bronze* features the abstract oil paintings and bronze sculptures of Tom and Carol Odell. Through Nov. 6. •Dan McDermott shows bronze sculptures in *New Work in Bronze*. Nov. 7-Dec. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Fri. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •Juan Jose Barboza Gubo and Bobbi Kovner show their work in *Visions, Views and Vistas*. Through Nov. 14.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington.* www.martinlawrence.com. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm.* •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Philip Jones: Boston*, a photography exhibition, shows through Nov. 5.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •*Joe Kievitt: Recent Drawings* shows through Nov. 12. •Scott Peterman shows photography in *New Work*. Nov. 15-Dec. 21. •Kay Ruane shows graphite drawings. Nov. 15-Dec. 21.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*What If?*, a group exhibition of video, installations, glasswork, paintings and sculpture, shows through Nov. 30.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*The Michael Pierschalla Scholarship Exhibition* features contemporary furniture. Nov. 7-29.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment.* •Mags Harries displays glass sculptures. Nov. 5-Dec. 20.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm.* •*Find the Next Francis Bacon for Not a Lot of Bread*, a group show of 20 local artists, displays through Nov. 9.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Artists Without Borders* displays through Nov. 29.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm.* •David X. Levine shows *Recent Drawings*. Nov. 5-Jan. 3, 2004.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.pepper galleryboston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Phyllis Berman: Paintings* shows through Nov. 15.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Mark Davis shows metal work in *New Work*, and Zevi Blum shows etchings in *Artistic Equilibrium*. Through Nov. 10. •*Makoto Yabe: Life Affirmed*, a ceramics exhibition, shows Nov. 15-Jan. 6, 2004.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery has an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Photographs by Aaron Siskind and Carl Chiarenza display through Nov. 15.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Fine and Rare Aquatint Etchings, Lithographs and Pochoirs* features works by Chagall, Matisse and Georges Rouault. Through Dec. 31.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Domesticated Animals*, a group show of mixed-media works, displays through Jan. 18, 2004.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm; Mon. by appointment.* •*Mixed Medium*, a group show of paintings of Newport, Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Provence, Taos and Santa Fe, displays through Nov. 30.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm.* •*The Latin Connection: Scenes from Italy, France and Brazil*, a group show of mixed-media works, displays Nov. 5-24.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •Susan Walt shows drawings. Through Nov. 29.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •David Brega displays his paintings in *Eye*. Through Nov. 15.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). www.wentworthgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's collection shows through November.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: *Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •*Jan Staller: Retrospective* shows through Nov. 28. •*Hard Boys & Bad Girls*, photographs by Thomas McGovern, shows Nov. 6-Jan. 15, 2004.

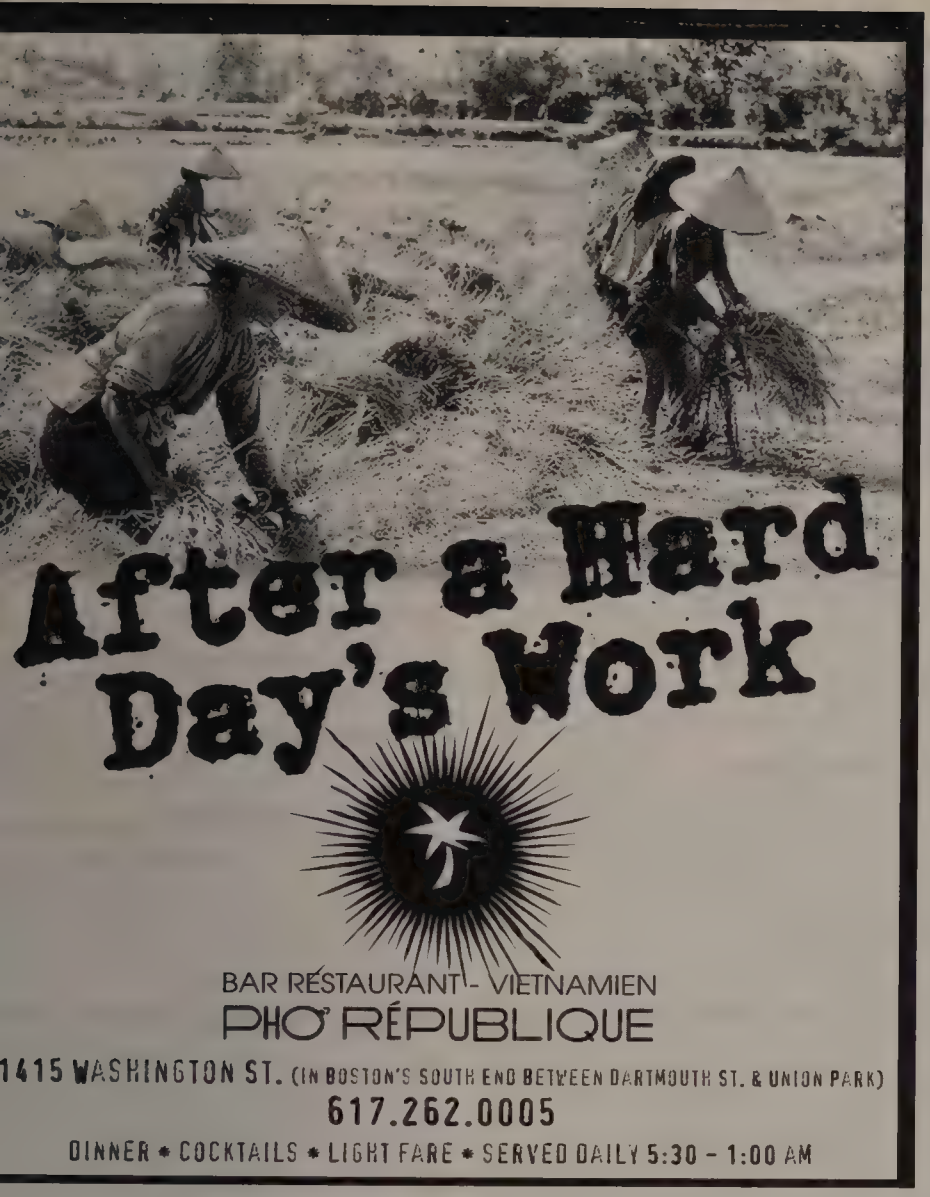
New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-421-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*Ruth S. Nickse Memorial Photographic Exhibit* shows through Dec. 5.

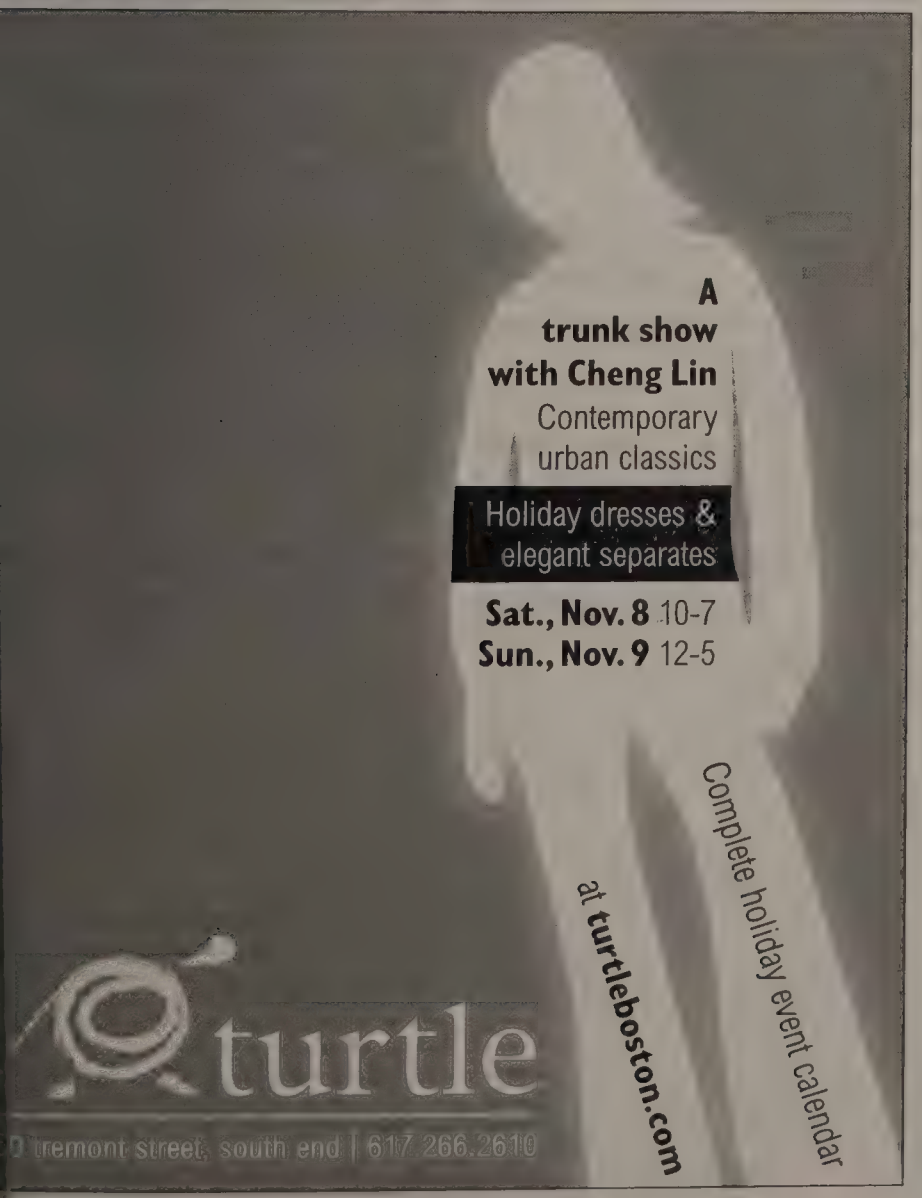
Panopticon Gallery
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). *Commuter Rail to Waltham.* www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •*A Music Show*, photographs by Ron Pownall and Herb Greene, displays through Jan. 3, 2004.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Allston/Brighton Open Studios
(617-254-3333). www.allstonarts.org. *Nov. 8 and 12-5 pm. Free.* Local artists showcase their work throughout the Allston/Brighton neighborhood.

Boston International Fine Art Show
Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-787-2637). www.fineartboston.com. *Nov. 13, 6-9 pm; Nov. 14, 1-8 pm; Nov. 15, 11 am-6 pm; Nov. 16, 11 am-6 pm. $10.* • At the 7th Annual Boston International Fine Art Show, more than 30 American and European galleries display and sell contemporary and traditional paintings, ancient sculpture, photography, prints, tribal art, studio furniture, glass and ceramics.





As seen in **People** *magazine, March 17, 2003*

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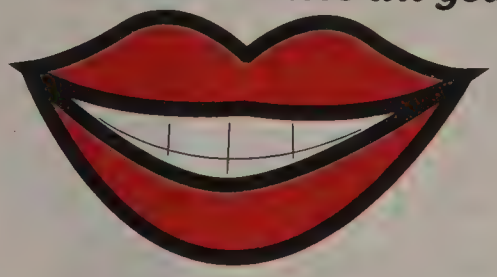

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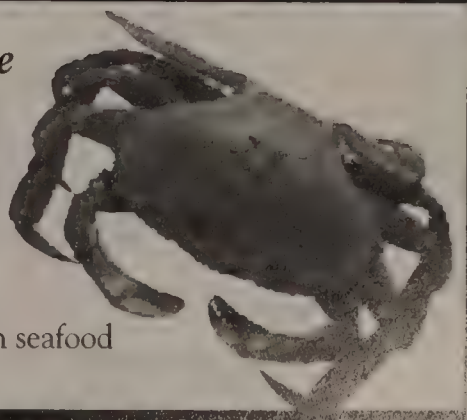

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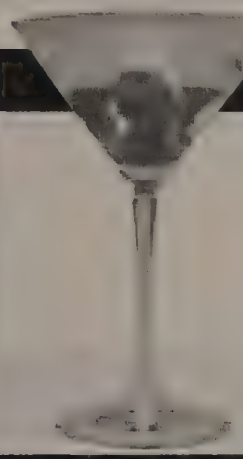

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

Center for New Words
Simmons College, 3rd Fl. Conference Center, 300 The Fenway, Boston (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. MBTA: *D Green Line to Fenway. 7 pm. Free.* **Bonnie Tusmith** and **Maureen Reddy** read from the book they edited, *Race in the College Classroom*, which examines the effects of affirmative action on American college campuses.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
The Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., Dorchester (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *6 pm. Free.* **Wil Haygood** reads from *In Black and White: The Life of Sammy Davis, Jr.*, his biography of the famous performer.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free with ticket, available at Harvard Book Store.* **David Macaulay** reads from his book *Mosque*, which looks at the methods and materials used to design and construct a mosque in late-16th-century Turkey.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Diane Middlebrook** reads from her book *Her Husband: Hughes and Plath, Portrait of a Marriage*, a look at the marriage of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath.

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

Arlington Center for the Arts
41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. *7:30 pm. Free.* **Naomi Chase** reads from her new collection of poetry, *One Blue Thread*, and **Carol Hobbs** reads her poems.

Authors @ MIT
MIT E25-111, 45 Carleton St., Cambridge (617-253-5249). web.mit.edu/bookstore/www/events. MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall. 6 pm. Free.* **Nancy S. Seasholes** discusses her book *Gaining Ground: A History of Landmaking in Boston*, an investigation of why and how Boston was transformed by landmaking.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: *C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Ann-Marie MacDonald** discusses her novel *The Way the Crow Flies*, about a family who leaves Germany to move to a Canadian air force base in 1962.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard.* **Sue Halpern** reads from her novel *The Book of Hard Things*, about an unlikely friendship between two men—a blue-collar teen and a 30-something sophisticate—living in a small town.

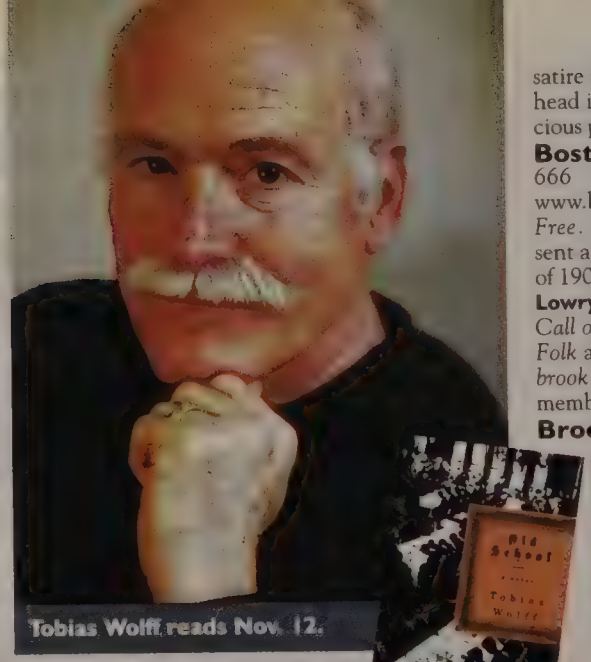
Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* **Michael Steinberg** reads from his memoir *Still Pitching*, about his experiences growing up in New York as a baseball fan during the 1950s.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free.* **David Herbert Donald** reads from his book *We Are Lincoln Men: Abraham Lincoln and His Friends*, which examines the 16th president's dealings with his friends and close associates.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge. www.direreader.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free.* **Emily Franklin** reads from her debut novel *Liner Notes*, about a mother and daughter who bond on a road trip. Also, **Adam Pachter** reads from *Ash*, his collection of short stories set in Maine.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm.*



Tobias Wolff reads Nov. 12.

Free. **Alex Ross** and **Chip Kidd** discuss their new book *Mythology: The DC Comics Art of Alex Ross*, a collection of Ross' work for DC Comics including never-before-seen sketches and new material.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 5 pm. Free.* Poets **Aaron Tieger** and **Christopher Rizzo** read from their work.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (617-558-6442). www.lsjcc.org. *4 pm. $10.* Authors **Marjorie Agosin** and **Silvia Berger** discuss how their childhoods in Latin America influenced their creative writing.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 5 pm.* Poets **Dorothea Lasky** and **Mary O'Sullivan** read from their work.

MONDAY, NOV. 10

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton (617-558-6442). www.lsjcc.org. *7:30 pm. $13* Actor and Jewish activist **Theodore Bikel** reads from his autobiography, *Theo*.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **David Roberts** discusses his book *Four Against the Arctic: Shipwrecked for Six Years at the Top of the World*, the story of four Russian sailors who survived for six years on a barren Arctic island.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

Borders Boston
10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: *Red or Green Line to Government Center. 12 pm. Free.* **Mitch Albom** reads from his new novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, about a man who dies and arrives in heaven, where his life is explained to him by friends and strangers.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
First Parish Church, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **Gary Wills** reads from *Negro President: Jefferson and the Slave Power*, which explores the connections between Jefferson's presidency and slavery.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* **John Shattuck**, a former chief human rights official in the Clinton Administration, reads from his book *Freedom on Fire: Human Rights Wars and America's Response*, a firsthand look at how the U.S. government responds to human rights wars around the world.

WordsWorth Books
Venue to be announced. (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *7 pm. Free.* **Nick Hornby** reads from *Songbook*, a collection of essays about his 31 all-time favorite songs.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

Borders Boston
10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: *Red or Green Line to Government Center. 6:30 pm. Free.* **Martin Amis** reads from his new novel, *Yellow Dog*, a satire about a Japanese man in London who suffers a head injury and becomes a completely different, vicious person.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free.* The Associates of Boston Public Library present a panel discussion on the National Book Award of 1903. Authors **Robert Finch**, **Glen Loury** and **Lois Lowry** discuss the three contenders: Jack London's *Call of the Wild*, W.E.B. Dubois' *The Souls of Black Folk* and Kate Douglas Wiggin's *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. Following the discussion, audience members cast their vote to determine the winner.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: *C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Peter Carey** reads from his new novel, *My Life as a Fake*, about an Australian poet who invents an elaborate literary hoax that eventually takes over his life.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www. harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **Tobias Wolff** reads from his novel *Old School*, about a young boy at a New England prep school who is obsessed with visiting authors.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www. wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Franz Wright** reads from *Walking to Martha's Vineyard*, a collection of his poems.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Authors @ MIT
Bartos Theater (Building E15), 20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-5249). web.mit.edu/bookstore/www /events. MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall. 5:30 pm. Free.* **Bill Mitchell** discusses his new book, *ME++: The Cyborg Self and the Networked City*, about the effects that wireless technology and an interconnected world have on our lives.

Barnes and Noble at BU
660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). www. bkstore.com/bu. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free.* **Alan Lightman** reads from his book *Reunion*, about a middle-aged man who attends his 30th high school reunion and has flashbacks to his senior year.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: *C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Israeli author **A.B. Yehoshua** discusses his novel *The Liberated Bride*, about people searching for the truth in politics and in their personal lives.

Center for New Words
Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free.* **Marjorie Agosin** reads from her poetry collection *At the Threshold of Memory*. Also, poets **Bridgit Milligan**, **Talia Kingsbury** and **Raquel Evita Seidel** read from their work.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www. harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **David Shrayer-Petrov** and **Maxim Shrayer** read from their book, *Jonah and Sarah: Jewish Stories of Russia and America*, a collection of fictional short stories about Russian immigrants in America.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www. newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* Poets **Richard Hoffman** and **Nancy Mitchell** read from their work.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www. wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Thomas Doherty** reads from his book *Cold War, Cool Medium*, an exploration of how television aided the decline of 1950s anti-Communist hysteria.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www. harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free.* **Peter Galison** reads from his book *Einstein's Clocks, Poincare's Maps: Empires of Time*, a look at Albert Einstein and Henri Poincare's groundbreaking work on the science of time.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www. wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Ilan Stavans** reads from *Spanglish: The Making of a New American Language*, which explores the blending of the English and Spanish languages.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). ww wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 5 p* Poet **Katie Degentesh** reads from her work.

MONDAY, NOV. 17

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle Square, Cambridge (617-547-6789, ext. www.ccae.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 8 p* $3. **Susan Wood** reads from her collection of poen *Asunder*. Also, poet **Ira Sadoff** reads from his colle tion *Barter*.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). ww brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: *C Green Line Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* Psychiatrist **Robert Lifton** reads from his book *The Superpower Syndrom America's Apocalyptic Confrontation with the World*, a p sentation of the American and Islamic perspectives massive destruction in the name of global purificatio

TUESDAY, NOV. 18

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-666 www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: *C Green L to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Sheri Holman** re from her novel, *Mammoth Cheese*, about residents rural Virginia town who try to give the presiden 1,200-pound wheel of cheese, like the one given Thomas Jefferson by residents of Cheshire, Mass.

Center for New Words
Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl St., Cambri (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.c MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free.* **Dolo Hayden** reads from her book *Building Suburb Green Fields and Urban Growth 1820–2000*, a loo the history of Americans moving to the suburb search of affordable housing.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Holyoke Center, 1530 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: *Red Lin Harvard. 6 pm. Free with ticket, available at Harv Book Store.* **Henry Wiencek** reads from his book *Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, the Creation of America*, which explores Washi ton's relationship with slavery.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). w wordsworth.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 Free.* **Dale Peck** reads from his book *What We L* an account of his father's childhood on Long Isl and later on a farm in upstate New York.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 354-2685). MBTA: *Red Line to Central. 8 pm.* Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge h a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-20 MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free.* Hear w other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (Tuesda
255 Elm Street, Somerville (617-591-1616). w jimmytingle.com. *$10. 8 pm.* Eight local poets form their own work in a two-hour theatrical s every third Tuesday of the month.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam (Sunday
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). w poetryjam.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard.* P *slam, 7 pm. $5.* The Jeff Robinson Trio plays b ground tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBT *Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm.* O'Brien's pres a mix of rock and spoken word one Mond month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Camb (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Centr pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the eve is titled Open Bark—and a spoken-word event t place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Monday
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Camb (617-227-0845). MBTA: *Red Line to Central.* pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursd
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-4995). MBTA: *Red or Orange Line to Down Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free.* The second Thursd each month offers a selection of featured poets an opportunity for others to take the open mike

education

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

Art of Francisco Goya

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum/Ruggles. 7 pm. Free. Writer **Robert Hughes** gives a lecture on the art of the Spanish painter.

Careers in Food

Boston University, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2130). MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. www.bu.edu/lifelong. 6 pm. $40. This class is for anyone involved in or interested in the food business. Members of the food industry—from restaurant owners to nutritionists to cookbook authors—discuss their professions and answer questions.

Race in the College Classroom

Emmons College, Third Floor Conference Center, 100 The Fenway, Boston (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum/Ruggles. 7 pm. Free. **Bonnie TuSmith** and **Maureen Reddy**, co-editors of *Race in the College Classroom: Pedagogy and Politics*, speak about diversity and affirmative action programs on college campuses.

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

Alliance for Children Panel Discussion

Copley Theatre, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston (781-321-7148). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 7 pm. $0. A screening of *Casa de los Babys*, a film about women who attempt to adopt children from Colombia, precedes this panel discussion with **Filis Casey**, founder of the Alliance for Children Foundation, and **Jane Queram**, who has worked in orphanages in Columbia.

Beyond Mushrooms: A Look at the Biodiversity of Fungi

Harvard Museum of Natural History, Geological Lecture Hall, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu/events. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. Botany professor **Donald Pfister** looks beyond popular associations of fungi with mushrooms and mold and shares his research into the biodiversity of fungi.

Carpenter Center Lecture Series

Harvard University, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-5666). www.ves.fas.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. In the second part of this series, novelist, historian and critic **Marina Warner** speaks about her studies in mythology and fairy tales. Warner is a visiting professor at Birbeck College at the University of London and St. Andrew's University in Scotland, and she has recently published a collection of essays, *Signs & Wonders*.

Every Picture Tells a Story: New England Tales and Treasures

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State. 12:15 pm. $5. **Nancy Carlisle**, curator of the exhibition *Cherished Possessions* at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, talks about how objects from the 17th to the late 20th century reflect historical times of revolution, immigration, industrialization and reform.

The Garden in the City: Landscape Design and Public Art in the Urban Setting

Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-437-7544). MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. 6:30 pm. Free. Professors of architecture and urban design from Harvard Graduate School of Design, Wentworth Institute of Technology and Northeastern University, as well as professional landscape designers, architects and public-art experts, discuss how the design of parks, streetscapes and public art can help create a neighborhood that is diverse, welcoming, safe and lively.

Intertwining Identity and Politics

Brandeis University, Epstein Building, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-8100). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. 12:30 pm. Free. **Rhoda Unger**, a scholar in the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, discusses college students' attitudes toward the war in Iraq.

Mass Audubon Land Protection Workshop

Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, 280 Eliot St., Natick (508-655-2296). 6 pm. Free. Mass Audubon's director of land protection, **Bob Wilber**, presents a new science-based approach to protecting the nature of Massachusetts. He discusses Mass Audubon's land protection priorities for the next 10 years and how citizens can help.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

The Secret Hunt for North American Diamonds

Museum of Science, Wright Theatre, Science Park, Boston (617-723-5000). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. 7 pm. Free. Journalist **Kevin Krajick** tells the story of modern-day prospectors who found diamonds in Canada's frozen north. Hear about the technological tools these two men used, the geology that provides conditions where diamonds are formed and the fortune found and claimed under the noses of large multinational companies.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

Secrets, Secrecy and Self in Jane Austen's Novels

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). www.ci.newton.ma.us. 2 pm. Free. **Nancy Yee**, professor emeritus of English at Fitchburg State College, presents this lecture sponsored by the Jane Austen Society.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

Israel/Palestine: Voices from the Ground

Cambridge Forum, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. Free. Editor **Robert Tobin** discusses a new collection of essays, *How Long, O Lord? Voices From the Ground and Visions for the Future in Israel/Palestine*, written by contributors living in Palestine, Israel and the United States.

Moïse Nahon and the Invention of North African Jewish Culture

Lown Building, Room 315, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-2125). Commuter Rail to Brandeis/Roberts. 12 pm. Free. **Susan Miller** of Harvard University discusses Moïse Nahon, an advocate for development and modernization in Morocco during the 20th century.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Architecture for the People: Civic Architecture and the Cultural District

Wentworth Institute of Technology, Annex Auditorium, 550 Parker St., Boston (617-437-7544). www.fenwayculture.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Longwood. Experts discuss how the architecture of an institution interacts with the physical and cultural climate of its neighborhood and city.

Bridal Survival Club

Marriott Long Wharf, 296 State St., Boston (617-227-2127). MBTA: Blue Line to State or Aquarium. 6:30 pm. Free. This monthly meeting provides support for brides-to-be. Exchange tips with other women who are planning weddings and talk with wedding professionals.

Family Treasures: 1650-1930

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State. 12:15 pm. $5. **Kenneth Turino**, director of exhibitions at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, shares stories of how the objects in the *Cherished Possessions* exhibition were preserved and managed to survive to the present day.

My Father, the Genius: The Impact of Genius/Creativity on the Self and Family Relationships

Fisher College, 118 Beacon St., Boston (617-566-2200). www.bostoninstitute.org. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 3 pm. Free. Panelists discuss Lucia Small's film *My Father, the Genius*. Topics include the role of creativity in pursuing one's genius and the risks of nonconformity in the spheres of work and love.

MONDAY, NOV. 17

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Safety: Balancing Civil Rights and National Security

Ford Hall Forum, Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-373-5800). www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State. 6:30 pm. Free. Is the United States safer now than it was before 9/11? Have democratic freedoms been sacrificed in the name of domestic preparedness? **Juliette Kayyem**, an expert in counterterrorism, law enforcement, homeland security and America's national security strategy, leads an exploration of the tension between fighting terrorism and preserving civil liberties.

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gay & lesbian

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Submit information, including telephone numbers and nearest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or e-mail gaylesbian@improper.com.

Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
214 Pi Alley, Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Nightly, 5 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party. 10 pm, $8 for ages 19-20; $5 for 21+.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. DJ Darrin Friedman spins house. 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month. 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until 2 am. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am- 9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham. No cover, 21+. •On the first Sunday of every month, join PrideSports representatives for cocktails from 7:30-10 pm.

Diesel Café (Daily)
257 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-8717). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Thu. 7 am-midnight, Fri., 7-1 am, Sat., 8-1 am, Sun., 8-12 am. Diesel is a popular place for GLBT people to go for coffee and snacks. All ages.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. No cover, 21+. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features disco and pop music, guest DJs and weekly contests. 9 pm-2 am, $4-$7, 21+.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown.*

The musical *A Man of No Importance* is at Boston Center for the Arts through Nov. 9.

10 pm-2 am. This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night. $8, 21+.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $5. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. 10 pm, $5 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. 10 pm, $5-$8.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 18+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing. $5, 21+.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.* Gay men and women, transgendered persons and their allies can start the night early at Candyland; live entertainment includes Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. A dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila caps off the evening. 7:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night. 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday. No cover, 21+.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Tuesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Tue.: Lounge with DJ Michael. 19+, no cover. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson and host Evian Waters. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ KC spinning deep house and DJ Ron Stele spinning R&B, hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $8, 19+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJs Danae and Michael Sheehan. 21+.

Upstairs @ Dedo's (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. A predominantly gay crowd frequents the upstairs lounge at Dedo's, which features a nightly piano bar and club room. •Mon.: S.I.N. (Service Industry Night), no cover, 21+. •Tue.: Stage and Screen. Classic movies screen 7-9 pm. Show-tune videos screen, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+. •Wed.: Latino Lounge with Latin groove music, no cover, 21+. •Thu. and Fri.: Boys in Ties and complimentary after-work buffet, 5-7 pm. House music pumps, 7 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+. •Sat.: High Energy Night with house music, no cover, 21+. •Sun.: Disco Night, no cover, 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Fri., 12-8 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* The New Words Live series features an array of feminist and lesbian author events.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, th community-centered gay and lesbian bookstor stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Be a Burlesque Star or Just Look Like One
Grand Opening!, Arcade Bulding, 318 Harvard St Suite 32, Brookline (617-731-2626). www.gran opening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Co ner. Nov. 18, 7:30 pm. $25.* Amie M. Evar ("Princess Amie") of the Princesses of Porn and th Dukes of Dykedom teaches clients how to perfor burlesque. Open to all those who identify them selves as female.

Boston Jewish Film Festival
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Broo line (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line Coolidge Corner. Nov. 10, 5:30 p. Melissa Levi and Roxana Spicer's documentary *Class Queers* about the Triangle program in Toronto, Canada only classroom for gay, lesbian, bisexual ar transgendered high school students.

The Comedy Studio
The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 6, pm. $7-$9. Greg Rodrigues hosts the Gay & Lesbia Good-Time Comedy Jamboree.

Gay Dads and Their Kids Photography Exhibit
Eclipse Salon/Gallery, 164 Newbury St., 2nd F Boston (617-247-6730). www.gfergphoto.cor *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Through Nov. 7. 9 am pm. Free.* Photographer Gretje Ferguson displays h photography exhibition, *Gay Dads and Their Kids.*

The Gulls
Machine, 1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-622 MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through Nov. 8. F and Sat., 8 pm. $25. Ryan Landry's play *The Gul* loosely based on Hitchcock's *The Birds*, is the sto of rebellious seagulls exacting revenge on Provinc town developers.

Harvest Ball for Contra Dancers
1st Church of Jamaica Plain, corner of Centre and El streets, Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.o *Nov. 8, 7:30 pm. $15.* The Boston Gay and Lesbi Contra Dancers sponsor a night of tradition dances and music with caller Chris Ricciotti and t band Spare Parts. There is a potluck supper fr 5:30-7 pm.

A Man of No Importance
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Bost (617-437-7731). www.speakeasystage.com. MBT *Orange Line to Back Bay. Through Nov. 9. Wed. a Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun. and 7 pm; $25-$35.* Based on the 1994 movie, t musical tells the story of a bus driver living in 196 Dublin who is a passionate fan of Oscar Wilde. wants to stage a version of *Salome* at his church, spite the objections of church authorities, and the process of fighting for the play, he is fina forced to confront his own homosexual feelings.

The New Acts 10-Minute Play Slam
Boston Playwrights' Theater, 949 Comm. Av Boston (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwor org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. N 12, 8 pm, $10. The 10-Minute Play Slam: Jun Starting Diverse Voices in Theatre* combines live t ater with the format of a poetry slam. The winn play is selected by the audience.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bos (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBT *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* FCH has collabora with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide t safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relati ships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin Boston (617-227-4313). www.bagly.org. MB *Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisex Transgendered and Questioning Youth h weekly meetings and social events for young p ple seeking community, support and a place to cuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling Leag
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617- 1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and bians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bo (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. MB

Green Line to Hynes. 7 pm. This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual men.

Bi Rap
The Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (617-354-8807). Tuesdays, first and third week of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning women.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Friday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm, 9-10 am beginners. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dancers
1st Church of Jamaica Plain, corner of Centre and Eliot Streets, Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.org. *Every Wed., 7:30 pm, $8.* Square-dancing and English country dancing lessons are available for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 3-5 pm. The center provides social activities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., 7-9 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Boston Uncommons
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.org/bu. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Wednesdays, 7 pm.* A gay and lesbian square-dancing group.

Cambridge/Boston Volleyball
(617-633-2180). www.gayvolleyball.net. This drop-in, play-when-you-can league costs $6 per session.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. A 1,400-member gay club with outdoor activities.

COLAGE
(617-417-0876). 3rd Saturdays, 10:30 am-12 pm. COLAGE (Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere) meets in Medford for support and activities and holds a concurrent meeting for interested parents and their partners. For info, e-mail medfordcolage@hotmail.com.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Boston's Bisexual Resource Center (BRC), at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. First Wed. and third Thurs. of each month, 7 pm, free.* An informal group for people who think they may be bisexual or attracted to more than one sex.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Compass
(781-899-2212). Compass is a New England–area support, information and social group for people assigned female at birth who feel that is not an accurate or complete description of their gender. Part of the FTM (Female-to-Male) Center, this group meets monthly. E-mail CompassFTM@usa.com for details.

Controversy Thursday
Matrix (B Room), 275 Tremont St (lower level of Proxyplex), Boston (617-542-4077). Certain Thursdays (call for details), $8, no sneakers. This gay and lesbian dance party features DJ John Morris at 10 pm.

Cosmetically Correct
Casa Restaurant, 439 Tremont St., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Fridays, 6:30 pm, free. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month. Lipstick encouraged. E-mail M.Antoinette@ididitmyway.com for info.

Dagger
Cambridge Multicultural Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge (617-542-4214). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. First Friday of the month. 7-9 pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.eastcoastwrestlingclub.org. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women 40 and older who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated to get together with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Tue., Wed., Sat. All are welcome to join this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001 or 888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 6-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
First Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham. (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm, $2.* This group is for gay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, and their partners.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings. The groups are moderated by psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlfriends: Bisexual and Lesbian Women of Color
Cambridge Family and Children's Services, 929 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-876-4210 ext. 60). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Girlfriends, a discussion group for all ages, meets every Saturday morning from 10:30 am-12 pm.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078 ext. 277). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

Greater Boston Business Council
PO Box 1059, Boston (617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals. The group meets on a monthly basis.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

LGBT Considering Parenting Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term (eight-week) group for LGBT persons who are considering becoming parents. Sliding fee scale available. Call for information.

Liquid Assets Swimming
www.swim-lanes.org. *Tue., Wed. and Thu. evenings and Sat. and Sun. mornings.* This predominantly gay and lesbian swim team is open to both competitive and fitness swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Living Art
www.bostonglass.org. *Mon., 6-8 pm, free. (617-266-3349).* This group is for women ages 13-25 who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. They focus on expression through art, and explore issues ranging from self-identification to sexism in the media.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community. For women 21+.

The Network/La Red
(617-427-7233). The Network is a support group working to end abuse in lesbian, bisexual women's and transgender communities. E-mail info@the networklared.org for more information.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provide confidential information, referrals and support.

Post Transition Association
(781-899-2212). Designed for transsexuals who have transitioned and are dealing with issues such as relationships. This group is open to female-to-males and males-to-females.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-4528). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

The Rainbow Cafe
rainbowboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. A social group for activist, academic, intellectual or artistic lesbians that meets bi-weekly in gay-owned or gay-friendly establishments.

Slice of Rice
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass Ave., Boston. sung yun@chickmail.com. *MBTA: Green Line to the Hynes/ICA. Mondays, 7-8 pm.* A peer-run and peer-led gay Asian youth group that meets for support, understanding, and discussion. For Asian youth under 25.

Somos Latin
somoslatinoslgbt@hotmail.com. The only social and networking group for GLBT Latinos and Latinas in the Boston area. Viernes Sociales take place every month. E-mail for more information.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month. Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Lesbians with Cancer
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed. evenings, twice a month. Free. For those who want to discuss the impact of this disease, and its treatments, on their lives. Also offered: Support Group for Partners of Lesbians with Cancer.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing, $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

TransAction
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). www.bostonglass.org. *MBTA: Green Line to the Hynes.* A transgendered support group run by trans-identified youth (ages 13-25). Open to all GLBTQ youth, friends and family (ages 13-25).

Violence Recovery Program (VRP)
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6250). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. VRP provides free support groups for GLBT people.

Wonder Women Boston
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. WWB is a social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s. It meets the first Thursday of every month.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
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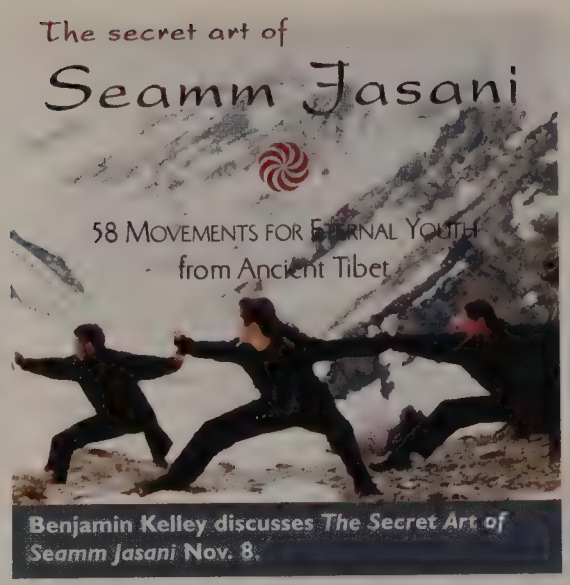
When it came to our tasting of "white goods," the superpremiums ruled the day. Here, our top three in each category, plus our tasters' comments:

LIQUOR BRAND/PRICE*	OUR AWARD
TOP 3 GINS	
Hendrick's $30/750ml	Most Flavorful
Tanqueray No. Ten $26/750ml	Smoothest
Juniper Green Organic $26.50/750ml	Best Presentation

body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.



Benjamin Kelley discusses *The Secret Art of Seamm Jasani* Nov. 8.

Events

Cutting-Edge Vegan Nutrition
Veggie Planet Restaurant at Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-5300). http://boston.earthsave.org. *Nov. 9. Doors open at 2 pm, starts 2:30 pm. Free, $10 for dinner.* Learn about a vegan diet from dietitian and author Brenda Davis. The talk is followed by a gourmet vegan dinner.

Dharma Film: Red Beard
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Nov. 7, 7 pm. $10.* Co-sponsored with the Institute for Meditation and Psychotherapy, this film series explores the mind and spirit of the cinema. This evening's film, Akira Kurosawa's *Red Beard*, depicts a struggle between an arrogant young doctor and his mentor. Refreshments and discussion follow the screening.

Fall Forum: Caring for the Whole Person on the Cancer Journey
Institute for Body, Mind and Spirituality, Lesley College, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (617-349-8129). www.lesley.edu. *Nov. 8. Advance registration required.* This all-day conference addresses a model for health care that integrates a mind-body-spirit approach. Dr. Rafael Campo provides the keynote address, "The Poetry of Healing." Eleven workshops are available.

Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy Demo
Karma Yoga Studio, 1132 Mass. Ave, Cambridge (617-547-9642). http://karmayogastudio.com. *Nov. 16, 12:45-2:15 pm. $5.* Find out how assisted yoga poses may lead to relief from stress and chronic pain.

Saluting the Spirit: 108 Sun Salutations
YWCA, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-556-9922). www.pathwaystcm.org/saluting.htm. *MBTA: Orange line to Back Bay. Nov. 16, 9 am-12 pm. $20 donation.* This session is devoted to Sun Salutations, a series of yoga poses designed to invigorate the body and mind.

Lectures

Psyche in the Flesh: Queer Experience Meets Post-Jungian Theory
The C.G Jung Institute, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston. (617-267-5984). www.cgjungboston.com. *Nov. 7, 7-9 pm. $25.* Jungian analyst Susan McKenzie offers a look at gender, heterosexuality and homosexuality in Jungian theory and contemporary culture. The talk is intended to provide new analytic perspectives on gender and sexuality.

The Secret Art of Seamm Jasani
Borders, CambridgeSide Galleria, 100 CambridgeSide Place, Cambridge (617-480-8237). www.boabom.org. *MBTA: Red line to Kendall or D Green Line to Lechmere. Nov. 8, 2 pm. Free.* Translator Benjamin Kelley gives a lecture on the new book, *The Secret Art of Seamm Jasani*, by Asanaro. Seamm Jasani is an ancient Tibetan system of relaxation and self-healing.

Workshops

Arm Balance Intensive
O2 Yoga Studio, 288 Highland, Somerville (617-354-6169). www.o2yoga.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Nov. 2, 1 pm-4 pm.* Yoga arm balances are designed to build strength and help refine inner balance. Try out approaches from the simplest to the most complex. Open to all levels.

Beginners Meditation Workshop
Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Nov. 15, 10 am-4 pm. $40.* This daylong workshop, for people with little or no meditation experience, features meditation instruction, formal sitting, walking practice and group discussion.

Conscious Eating
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. *Nov. 15, 2-5 pm. $40.* Explore your relationship to food and learn how to devote conscious attention to how you eat. The workshop also includes stretching and breathing exercises and discussion.

Exploration: Tango
Boston Center for the Arts, 551 Tremont St., Boston. www.upscaletango.com. *Nov. 11, 7-9 pm. $20.* Learn elements of Argentine tango along with movement focusing on strength and flexibility.

Good and Mad: A Holistic and Humorous Approach to Transform Your Anger
Boston Learning Society, 1089 Great Plain Ave., Needham (781-453-9800). www.bostonlearningsociety.com. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Needham Center. Nov. 15, 10 am-5 pm. $99.* This workshop aims to help participants deal with anger in new ways. Learn to use inner wisdom, humor and natural creativity to transform the reaction to, and expression of, anger.

Introduction to the Art of Touch
Grand Opening Sexuality Boutique, 318 Harvard St., Suite 32, Arcade Bldg., Brookline (617-731-2626). www.grandopening.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Nov. 2, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. $34.* This workshop taught by Ani Colt, publisher of *Spirituality and Sexuality*, explores touch consciousness. It's not about massage, but focuses on deeply feeling the energy of touching to enhance the experience.

Managing Back and Shoulder Pain Naturally
Bailey Therapeutic Massage, 14 Nason St., Suite 201, Maynard (978-897-0110). http:web.maynard.ma.us/biz/bmassage. *Nov. 16, 2-4:30 pm. $35.* Learn self-care techniques that may help ease pain without drugs and prevent future pain.

Winter Cooking for Strength
Charles River School of Shiatsu,180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.charlesrivershiatsu.com. *Nov. 9, 2:30-5:30 pm. $45.* Learn how to use food choices to aid with everything from cold weather tolerance to fear and anxiety disorders. Dishes from soup to dessert are served.

Yoga and Energetic Pathways
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Nov. 15, 2-4:30 pm. $25.* Learn stretches, acupressure points, yoga asanas and breathing exercises, with the goal of activating and balancing the chi, or life force energy.

Ongoing

Mindful Modern Dance
CasaNia Studio, 46 Porter Rd., Cambridge (617-491-5144). www.casania.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Thurs., 9:30-11 am. $15, drop in. First class is free.* Modern dance movements are slowed down to focus on the body's alignment, breathing and centering to help participants dance with ease and without pain. Partnering and hands-on work are included.

Shintaido: Movement for Transformation
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363 or 774-353-7175). www.dancecomplex.org or www.shintaido.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon., 6:30-8 pm. $12, drop in.* Shintaido body movement synthesizes personal expression, meditation, and exercise.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 617-931-2000
Nov. 6, 7:30 pm vs. San Jose Sharks
Nov. 8, 7 pm vs. Dallas Stars
Nov. 11, 7 pm vs. Edmonton Oilers
Nov. 15, 7 pm vs. Vancouver Canucks

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 800-462-2849
Nov. 7, 7:30 pm vs. New Jersey Nets
Nov. 9, 6 pm vs. Sacramento Kings
Nov. 12, 7 pm vs. Chicago Bulls
Nov. 14, 7:30 pm vs. Cleveland Cavaliers

New England Patriots
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Nov. 16, 8:30 pm vs. Dallas Cowboys

Events

New England Tournament of Champions Boxing
30 Sturtevant St., Somerville (617-628-5559). Nov. 10-11, $15. The first step toward qualifying for the 2004 U.S. Olympic team, this annual amateur boxing tournament has produced such champs as Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Johnny Ruiz.

Submission: Impossible Wrestling Championship
Framingham Civic League, 214 Concord St., Framingham (508-875-5218). www.necwwrestling.com. *Nov. 14, 8 pm. $15.* Challenger "Brutal" Bob Evans takes on Maverick Wild in the New England Championship Wrestling heavyweight showdown. Other events include a grudge match between "The Golden Greek" Alex Arion and "MoFo" Steve Bradley, who threw Arion through a table the last time they met.

True Heroes of Sport Awards
Gillette Stadium, Foxboro (617-373-4975). www.sportinsociety.org. *Nov. 11, 6:30-9:30 pm. $15.* ESPN's Bob Ley hosts this awards gala to benefit Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. Honorees this year include tennis pioneer Althea Gibson and former Bruin Cam Neely.

WWE at the FleetCenter
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.wwe.com. *Nov. 10, 7:45 pm. Tickets start at $20.* Triple H, Goldberg, Ric Flair and other World Wrestling Entertainment stars smash chairs and settle scores at the FleetCenter.

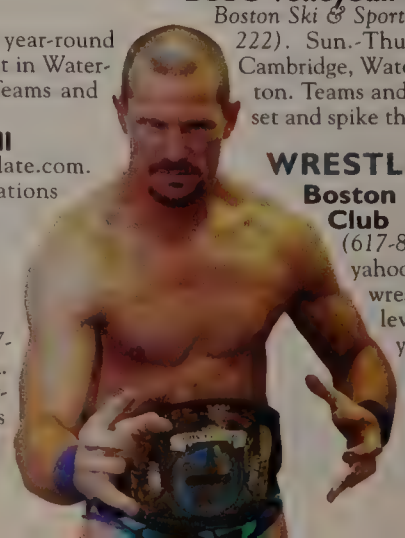
To Play

BASEBALL
Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-40.

BASKETBALL
BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING
Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. *Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus.* The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.


Maverick Wild defends his title at Submission: Impossible Nov. 14.

FENCING
Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the basics of fencing

FLOOR HOCKEY
BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL
BSSC Coed Indoor Flag Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends

HIKING
Winter Hiking Course
Appalachian Mountain Club, 4 Joy St., Boston http://world.std.com/~bostonhb/programs/winter_course.html. *Tuesdays, Nov. 11-Dec. 9, 7-9:30 pm. $30 members/$35 nonmembers in advance, $35/$40 at the door.* Learn the basics of winter backcountry hiking in five sessions.

RUGBY
Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com *Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton.* New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mystic-rugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. *Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays.* New and experienced players are welcome.

RUNNING
Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem.

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.*

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. *Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.*

SKATING
Bay State Skating School
Various area MDC rinks (781-890-8480). www.baystateskatingschool.org. *$108.50 for a seven-week class. Check Web site for schedules.* Skating classes for adults and children teach the fundamentals using either figure skates or hockey skates.

SOCCER
BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set and spike their way to glory.

WRESTLING
Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) o Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to :hildren@improper.com. Include address, phone umber, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a rief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks rior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over he telephone.

Things to See

Arts 4 Kids Sake
'55 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sat., 10 am. $5, children free. Ad-ance reservations required. •Nov. 8: American Sam-ler. Musician Jeff Davis performs songs about Revo-utionary War heroes, Appalachian clogging songs, ailors' work songs, African-American banjo tunes, rish fiddle tunes, cowboy ditties and more. •Nov. 5: African Dance and Drumming with Marilyn Middleton Sylla of Bamidele. Experience dances, hythms, folklore and songs from West Africa, Brazil nd the Caribbean.

Kids Variety Show
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-738-6533). www.coolidge.kidsshow.info. MBTA: G Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 10:30 am. 10, $8 children. •Nov. 8: Alex the Jester. •Nov. 15: George Saterial performs magic and comedy.

Museum of Fine Arts, Film for All Ages
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. Sat., 10:30 am. $15 adults, children nder 17 free. •Nov. 8: *An Angel for May* is the story f a young boy who runs away from home and stum-les into a portal to the past, where he meets new iends and tries to alter the course of history. Recom-ended for ages 8 and up. •Nov. 15: *Artful Animation* a smorgasbord of international cartoons that in-ludes works based on Edward Lear's poetry, an bridged Shakespearean play and three popular chil-ren's books. Recommended for ages 6 and up. •Tue. nd Wed., 3:30 pm. *Books Bring Art Alive.* Museum nstructors read books, poems and stories to bring he paintings to life and encourage kids to talk bout what they see.

The Phantom Tollbooth
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston 617-879-2300). www.wheelock.edu/wft. Fri., 7:30 n; Sat. and Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 30. $12-$18. bored protagonist Milo believes that almost every-ing is a waste of time. But then a mysterious toll-both appears in his bedroom and he is whisked way to the Land of Expectations. Follow Milo's agical adventures in this musical.

Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company
The Center for Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-027). www.pocketfulloftales.com. Sat., 11 am. $8, 5 children. •Nov. 8, 15 and 22: Participate in *Silly ketches*, an afternoon of sketch comedy during hich children supply the topics for the commer-al breaks.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.uppetshowplace.org. MBTA: D Green Line to rookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. Nov. 8 and 9, 1 and 3 pm, ages 4-8: *Raccoon Tales* cludes three humorous tales inspired by the Na-ve American tales of the Seneca Tribe: "How the ox and the Raccoon Trick Each Other," "Why e Blue Jay is Blue and the Gray Wolf Isn't" and Why the Bear has a Stumpy Tail." •Nov. 12 and 3, 10:30 am, ages 3-6. *Frog Prince* is a new version the classic fairy tale. •Nov. 15 and 16, 1 pm and pm, ages 4-9. *Singalong with Uncle Nappy.*

Smalls Tells TALL Tales
The Clayroom South End, 374 Mass Ave., Boston 617-262-5529). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave. ov. 15, 11 am. Free. Author, storyteller and histo-an Irene Smalls tells stories.

The Star Keeper
Theatre de L'oeil at Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis quare, Somerville (617-876-4275). MBTA: Red ne to Davis. Nov. 8, 11 am and 3 pm. $15. A haracter named Pretzel ventures into celestial and derwater realms to return a fallen star to its oper place. Along the way, he encounters a mul-ude of eccentrics in the form of more than 30 in-cate puppets.

Story Hour at the Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Every Sat., 11 am. Preschool age. Free. Story hour for children.

The Victory over Everything Circus
Cambridge Family YMCA Theatre, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-9622). First week: Thu.-Sun., 8 pm; second week: Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. Nov. 13-23. $10. Bread & Puppet Theater director Peter Schumann and his band of seven Vermont puppeteers are joined by 25 local puppeteers. The show combines slapstick acts and graceful dances.

Things to Do

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Sat., 12 pm. Staff members read from new and classic storybooks.

Boston Public Library Children's Tour
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sat. 11 am. Through Nov. 29. Free. Ages 5 and older. Take a tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. •Nov. 9 and 11. The Dancing Chickens of Ventura Fabian is a project designed to share and celebrate aspects of Mexican folk art and culture with children. Visiting from Oaxaca, Mexico, woodcarvers Ventura and Norberto present their hand-carved creations, including dancing chickens, strumming mermaids and drumming cats. •Nov. 15, 11:15 am, 1:15 pm, and 2 pm: Critter Day. Get up close with alligators and crocodiles, learn about these creatures, and maybe even get to hold one. •Nov. 16, 12-4 pm: Festival of Native American Thanksgivings. Learn about the many ways Native Americans give thanks for all they receive from the earth. •Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm; ages 5 and older: PrintShop for Kids •Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11am-12 pm; ages 3 and younger: Music and Movement. Shake, wiggle and giggle in the Smith Family Playspace.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. $10 for one adult with one child; $4 per additional child. •Nov. 8 and 15, 10 am-12:30 pm; ages 5-12: *Splat Boom Pow-errrrrr!* Accompany an artist on a journey to explore the influence of cartoons in contemporary art and create work that is silly, funny, strange, scary or thrilling.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children. •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!*, featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •*Magic: The Science of Illusion.* Discover how illusions come together through science, math, psychology and the art of performance at this new exhibition. Through Feb. 22. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events during the presentation *The Sky Tonight.* •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., 12 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 children. *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees* and *Africa: The Serengeti* •*Theater of Electricity:* Daily at 12 and 2 pm. The Van de Graaff generator provides a risk-free lightning show.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5. The Museum of Transportation has a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the museum and receive a free prize.

Saturday Scholars
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 6 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sat., 9 am. $35 for membership. Discover dinosaurs, animals, minerals, insects, oceans, ancient civilizations and the microworld in this class taught by museum science educators. Through Feb. 28.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free. Tours: May-Oct., 2 pm on the last Sunday of the month, $5.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamericanmuseum.org. MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 seniors and children.

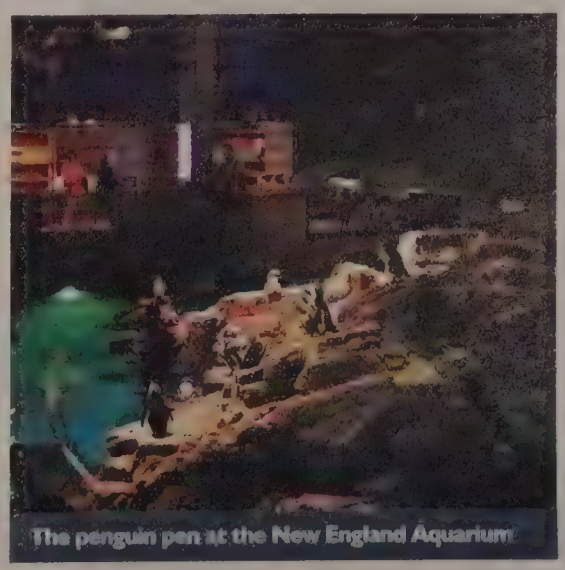
Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State, Orange or Green Line to Haymarket, or Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange or Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.


The penguin pen at the New England Aquarium

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA or E Green Line to Prudential. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Summer ship hours: Tue.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AFC Mentoring Program
(617-695-2441). Mentor an adopted child.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 100 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040). Educate the public about HIV.

Cambridge School Volunteers
(617-349-6794). Volunteer in Cambridge schools for one or two hours per week.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

March of Dimes
(508-663-2100). This maternal and child health care organization seeks volunteers.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast t...

Recording for the D...
Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Help in the dining room

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with other young professionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless and street children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity.) Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

IMPROPER IMPERSONALS
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE
142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116
FAX: 617-859-1446 E-MAIL: impersonals@improper.com
RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Bread & Circus Symphony

It was around 3:15 on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 11. You were behind me in line at the register in Bread & Circus. We looked at each other and smiled a couple times. You were wearing a white shirt with stripes. You had a great smile, and my heart was pounding wildly. I wanted to ask you for a cup of coffee, but I was in a rush to watch the Sox game and too nervous to even turn around to look into your eyes again until you went to a different direction. I was the girl holding an American flag. I would love to see you again.

—sarahandjazz@hotmail.com

Jeremy from Brookline

I met you Oct. 17, outside Natalie's. My friend thought you would be perfect for me, so she brought you outside to meet me. I was waiting in her car, and was completely thrown off guard. You had dark hair and a phenomenal smile, and all I know is that your name is Jeremy and your friends were in a rush to get going. I should have asked for your number, but missed my chance. If you remember me at all, write to me.

—missedachance@yahoo.com

Smitten with P-Town Vixen

I'm looking for the one that got away Oct. 18 at the Pied Bar in P-Town at the end of Women's Week. You are a sultry eyed, cat-faced beauty who resembles Shalom Harlow with dark, curly hair. I believe you said your name was Victoria and you were there with a guy with blond hair. I was the dark-haired minx in red. Your eyes flirted with me and I took the invitation. We danced together, then later I worshiped your loveliness from below while you were up on the box. If you're reading this, your eyes haunt me, I can't stop thinking of you and I'd love to do more than dance again, so write. I remember what the blond guy's name is, so tell me and I'll know it's you. And if anyone else thinks they know my elusive vixen, please pass this along.

—vixensmittenkitten@yahoo.com

Cool City B

You: a tall, devastatingly handsome, "associate." Me: totally in love with you. Thank you for supporting me over the last five months of training hell. You are the best roommate, companion and friend ever. I am so lucky to have you in my life. And if no one else ever gets a single one of our jokes—it's comforting to know that we will still walk away laughing together. I love you tremendously.

—SMAY

Spiky, Dykey Girl on the No. 88 Bus

I see you get on at odd hours on the stop near Sycamore, and you always exit at Davis Square. Sometimes you have a frown in your changing-color eyes, but that can't reflect your real nature; I can only assume that you work for a psycho hose-beast boss. I know that your true nature is warm and snuggly, like the fabulous sweaters you wear. Won't you let me buy you a Pepsi?

—An admirer

Chance Encounter Long Shot

Well, this is quite a long shot, but what is there to lose? You: the Los Angeles man from the Ritz, lost on Stuart Street on Oct. 20 around 8 pm. You and your daughter (Amanda?) were coming from the Ritz—Boston Common, where you were staying, looking for Stuart Street and Legal Seafood. We met at the corner of Boylston and Tremont (where there are no street signs) and I offered directions because you both looked lost. You were in Boston with your daughter, who was scouting colleges, namely, Emerson, Harvard, BU and Brown. You both told me of your awful experience at the "Shining" Hotel in Seekonk—no rooms were available in Providence. Since you were from LA, you were surprised at the double parking and lack of street signs in Boston, but commented that the people are friendly. We usually are. I was alone, and on my way for a bite to eat at the Rock Bottom Brewery, and almost asked you both to join me to continue our conversation about the benefits of college in Boston, and to tell you what a great city this is. I think you both might have accepted the invite, which I regret not extending. Well, chance encounter, you seemed very nice, were handsome, with a good sense of humor, had a good rapport with your daughter, and appeared to be a single dad? At least, I didn't notice a ring. If you are unattached and interested, please respond.

—nosignforstuart@yahoo.com

Thank You, "Happily Employed"

Reading the venomous pronouncements heaped upon "The Great Triumvirate of Insurance Dunces" (Oct. 22 issue) made my chilly ol' heart swell and throb with joy. It's always a fine day when someone utilizes the Impersonals for what they are meant for. If I read one more lame-ass whining message to that Special Someone who Shared a Special Moment on the T (in a bar, restaurant, Filene's Basement, White Hen Pantry, take your choice) I will surely cry. Readers: Please take advantage of this tasty little outlet for indulging the dark side that we all have. You'll feel better and goddammit, so will I.

—Happily Annoyed

Entranced

I saw you across the row from me at the R-rated hypnotist Oct. 23 and you were with a girl you hardly spoke to. I was the girl he picked out from the audience to be the target. You got up on stage. You were such a good sport. I wanted to give you my number then but was too hypnotized. Hope to hear from you.

—S_Surette@msn.com

Brian the Marine (from the Kells)

Brian, I'm really sorry if I scared you off. I had such a great time talking to you all afternoon that Sunday that I kind of jumped the gun and probably freaked you out by calling too much (both while you were away in Maine and after you returned). Keep in mind it's been a really long time since I've been out on a date with someone new I think that everything about you is incredibly sexy and I can't get you out of my mind: your body, your South Shore accent, your incredible determination and desire to protect our country. I admire what you do and I wish that you and I had more time to get to know each other. Oh, and by the way...if you have time before you leave, stop by my bed for a nightcap, will you? You know the number. Good luck in California!

—E from the Kells

B Line Angel

I saw an angel on Oct. 25. You and I both got on a Green Line B train at Government Center station around 5:30 pm. I was on my way home after a long, hard day at work. Just when I thought there would be no bright spot in my day, I saw you! The instant I saw you and your bright eyes, everything else around me disappeared. You are a stunning petite girl, brunette, with light skin and bright eyes. It looked like you were coming home from a day of shopping. We looked at each other and smiled a couple of times. I would have introduced myself, but the train was (as the B Line always is) too crowded for me to get near you. You got off at one of the stops near Boston University. If my B Line angel is out there, please contact me so I can find out if your heart and soul are as beautiful as you are!!

—UnionJack1212@aol.com

rockie horoscope

NOVEMBER 5 – 18, 2003

BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

More than the five other signs that make up the rare Grand Sextile, yours is the one we'll all be watching, especially during the total lunar eclipse on the 8th. Until then, whatever drama has been building since the Scorpio new moon would benefit from a colleague's or a financial adviser's insights. Ask and ye shall receive. Total immersion in water while your Mars co-ruler is in Pisces could cool you out on many levels—emotional, spiritual and psychic—and may lead to a sudden outpouring of artistic creativity.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

As above, so below. The six-pointed star, the Seal of Solomon, the Grand Sextile consisting of two grand trines—one in water signs, the other in earth—suggests something monumental is about to take place on this plane. What will the Seer see? Because your Jupiter ruler is at the top of the configuration, in your Virgo midheaven, any vision you may have of a future world, your place in it and your family should be recorded immediately. Whether or not it comes to pass could be the bedtime story you'll tell your grandchildren.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Twice blessed, or is that thrice? Being a Goat is not always easy, but this autumn you're in the enviable position of having two guardian angels. Chiron, the wounded healer and teacher in your sign, is one; all-knowing, protective Jupiter in health-conscious Virgo is the other. Meanwhile, because your Saturn ruler is in Cancer, your cosmic complement, your partner probably has your best interests at heart, even if he/she won't admit it. Take the initiative in a financial matter, but try to wait until the eclipse is over.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

With so much planetary interaction, so many signs hooking up with each other, you might not notice that Uranus, your ruling planet, is getting ready to come out of retrograde. Right now you may feel that you're marking time, stuck on pause, but once Uranus flips, your life can switch into fast-forward really fast. Try to maintain an emotional or intellectual distance, but be prepared to shift focus, attitude and positions when the need arises. More than one opportunity may suddenly arise and surprise you.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

If you would only stop picturing yourself in alternative situations and focus instead on the obvious, the opportunity that's right before your eyes, you can probably make significant strides. Except for challenges to your Neptune ruler that are activating your imagination, and paranoia, everything in the heavens is indicating "go." Ambitious, energetic Mars in Pisces is the driving force, and it's getting reliable financial and emotional support from the other water signs. Even the earth signs are greasing your path.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Knowing which route to take, which stream leads to your ultimate destination, can be tricky when you're given very different choices. Enthusiasm may be intoxicating, but the tried-and-true alternative will probably serve you best in the long run. While your Mars ruler is in a double sign like the Fish, you've got to trust your intuition and hope that you don't become distracted by yet another tempting sexual attraction. For the next two weeks, lovey-dovey Venus and horny Mars are into their bag of no-good tricks once again.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

This year's Taurus full moon is a major, multifaceted total eclipse, an integral part of the Harmonic Concordance, which shouldn't be confused with the Harmonic Convergence of 1987. Although Luna won't reach perfection until November 8, you may sense its significance building well before then. On a less cosmic, more human scale, if you're not involved in a crucial partnership matter and there are no secretive Scorpio-like maneuverings going on, how about celebrating your recent good fortune and/or a happy love life?

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

A once-in-a-couple-of-millennia event like the Harmonic Concordance will no doubt have an effect on everyone. But you might be relieved to learn that the Twins may be able to slip through the Gordian knots of cosmic complication because your Mercury ruler is not one of the six planets that make up the Grand Sextile alignment. Feel free to continue pursuing whatever currently intrigues you, knowing full well that you'll have to be a sounding board for the Pisces, Cancers, Scorpios and Virgos who are about to freak out.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

If you remind yourself that only good results will come from the enormously productive Grand Trine between Saturn in your sign, the Scorpio sun and energetic Mars in Pisces, you might avoid being overwhelmed by feelings of omnipotence. Repeat three times: I am not Dear Leader. Since the Moon child is especially responsive to anything that concerns your ruling "light," make sure you're in a good place emotionally during the total lunar eclipse the evening of the 8th, and also that you're nowhere near an air sign given to ranting and raving.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Don't invest too much of yourself in wishful thinking or in a partner whose vivid imagination could lead you down the primrose path. Delusional Neptune in your marriage house is very active right now, and that emphasis might make you misinterpret the bigger picture coming into focus at the full moon/lunar eclipse. There's money to be made if you can keep your ego out of the equation, and if you let public opinion develop naturally, without applying your usual spin. Have faith that prosperous Jupiter in your money house will protect your funds.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Yin is where it's at. All the earth and water signs, the so-called negative or feminine signs, are the ones pulling the strings this week. Stick to your own kind and you're liable to be amazed at the amount of support you'll be showered with. You already know that earth signs are easy to hang with, but trusting an emotional and often elusive water sign to be a reliable source of comfort may take some doing. Since this is the best time in eons to reach out, to let the world know what's on your mind and in your heart, why not do it?

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

None of the transiting planets are currently in Libra, so you can probably sidestep the personal dramas leading up to the full-moon eclipse. Concentrate instead on the awesomeness of the unusual planetary configuration being hailed as the Harmonic Concordance. Six supportive sextiles will offer lots of opportunities, especially to the Bulls, Crabs and Scorpions in your life, but if you don't want to become involved, just say no. Trust that the cosmic forces are keeping your funds secure and your secrets secret.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

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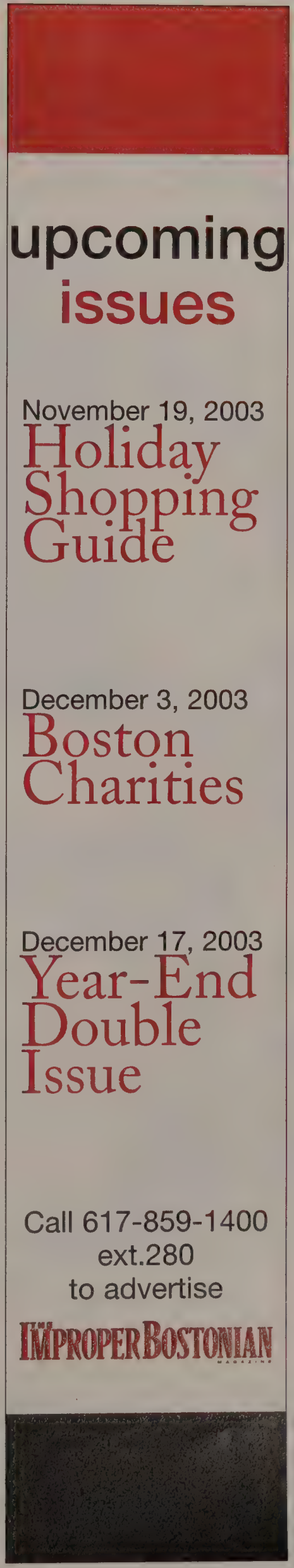

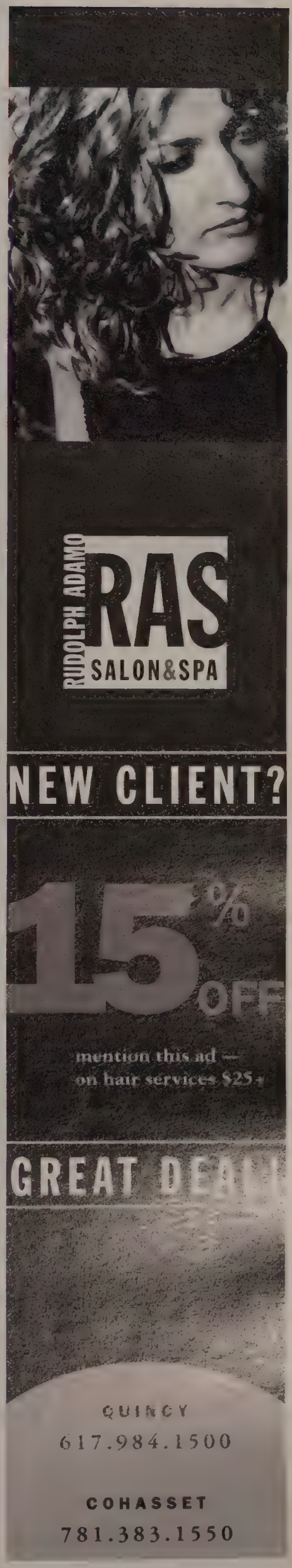

IMPROPER sightings

UNLIKE THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS, WE WANT TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

Robyn Meaney and Joanna Chitko prove that they are definitely not scared of heights on a rooftop in Santorini, Greece.

National Guard heavy-equipment operator Kathleen Swiatek wishes her truck weren't painted in forest camouflage in Arifjan, Kuwait.

Governor Felix Camacho of Guam agrees that Miss USA Susie Castillo is da buam.

Joan Babigian attends the annual National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jen Peeples pulls in to meet Steve Gilleo for a pit stop at the Off Road Rush dune buggy racing course in Port Douglas, Australia. Her car was apparently sponsored by Levitra.

Chris and Deb Ende enjoy their honeymoon in Moorea, French Polynesia, where convenience store signs read, "No tattoos, no loincloth, no service."

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: Yawning along to "Beautiful Dreamer," practicing sign language or watching an early Charlie Chaplin movie at the annual Quiet Festival, held in November in Ocean City, N.J.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
MAGAZINE

IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Thursday, October 9, **The Improper Bostonian** hosted "Comedy & Cocktails" to celebrate **The Harp**'s 10th Anniversary. Six Boston comedians lent their talents to the event, which was sponsored by **Stolichnaya Vodka** and **Bud Light**.

1. **Tony Moschetto**, **Ben Boime** and **Sam Walters**, three of the evening's hilarious performers.
2. **Glen Lawler**, on-premise sales manger, Horizon Beverage; **Sheri Saperstein Richberg**, marketing manager for the Briar Group; and **Matthew Matosic** of Firstchoice Marketing.
3. **Mike Szalaji**, architect with Dewing & Schmid; **Meredith Baker**, project coordinator for the Hay Group; **Rob Rottenbucher** director of Bridge Inspection Services; **Vicky Scolnik**, program manager of the Office of the Attorney General; and **Brandon Goyette**, president of Delta Investment Group.

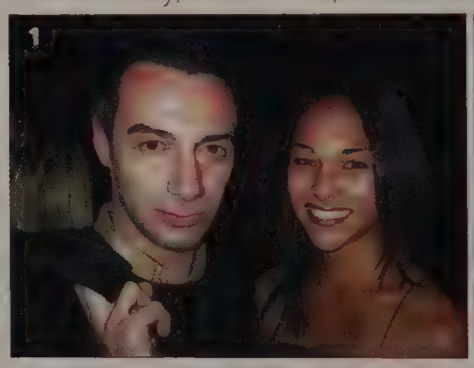
On Monday, October 6, **Labatt USA** entertained their VIP clients aboard the **Spirit of Boston** to celebrate the introduction of **Bass** into their portfolio.

1. **Larry Mohs**, sales manager; **Steven Shaughnessy**, brand development manager; **Jerry Moore**, area sales manager; **Mark Doogue**, area manager, all of Burke Distributing Corporation, and **Jack Kiley**, proprietor of Sevens Ale House.
2. **Jarrod DiFranco**, Massachusetts district manager; **Dan Moerman**, field marketing manager, Northeast division; and **Bob Stacey**, draft manager, Northeast division, all of Bass.
3. **Linda Palladino**, associate brand manager for Bass; **Beth Simpson**, private dining coordinator for McCormick & Schmick's and grand prize winner of a trip to London; **Colin Westcott-Pitt**, brand manager for Bass; and **Carol Francolini**, European development manager for Labatt USA.

On Wednesday, October 8, **Toast** held its opening in Union Square, Somerville.

1. **Christine Glesmann** and **Erik Anderson**, bartenders at Toast.
2. **Alan Pearsall**, mural artist for SpaceyGraphics.com, and **Brooke Robinson**, interior designer for Toast.
3. **Victoria Samuel** of Winston Flowers; **Ken Kelly**, owner of Toast; **Linda Tonkunas** of Boston; and **Ian McLaughlin** of IJM Design.

On Thursday, October 16, **Vinalia** had its grand opening celebration.



1. **Christophe Muller**, and **Courtney Mei O'Regan**, public relations manager, Caprice.
2. **Virginia Depetris**, marketing director, Vinalia and Felt; **Ed Kosta**, co-owner, Vinalia; and **Jessica Sobel**, manager, Preston Marketing.

On Thursday, October 9, **Boston Design Center** and ***Bon Appétit*** magazine hosted the third annual Don't Dessert Us! **The Improper Bostonian** was a sponsor of this event that brought chefs and designers together to raise money for **Community Servings**.

1. Robert Palmer, principal, R.L. Palmer Design **Allison Curran**, student, New England School of Design; **Juliette Cox**, president, Verona Public Relations; **Chris Bates** and **Bates**, co-owners, Montage.
2. **Caterina Bandini**, **Amy Johnson** and **Frances Rivera**, all co-anchors from WHD 7 News.
3. **Susan Doyle**, head buyer; **Carrie Zeisse**, marketing directo; **Jackie Raffi**, vice president; and **Elisa Gomez**, gift buyer, all from Long's Fine Jewelers.

PHOTOS: LABATT CRUISE, ALISON MORANT; TOAST, MICHAEL BURNS; THE HARP, SARA SCHIANO; BOSTON DESIGN CENTER, VINALIA, JULIE K

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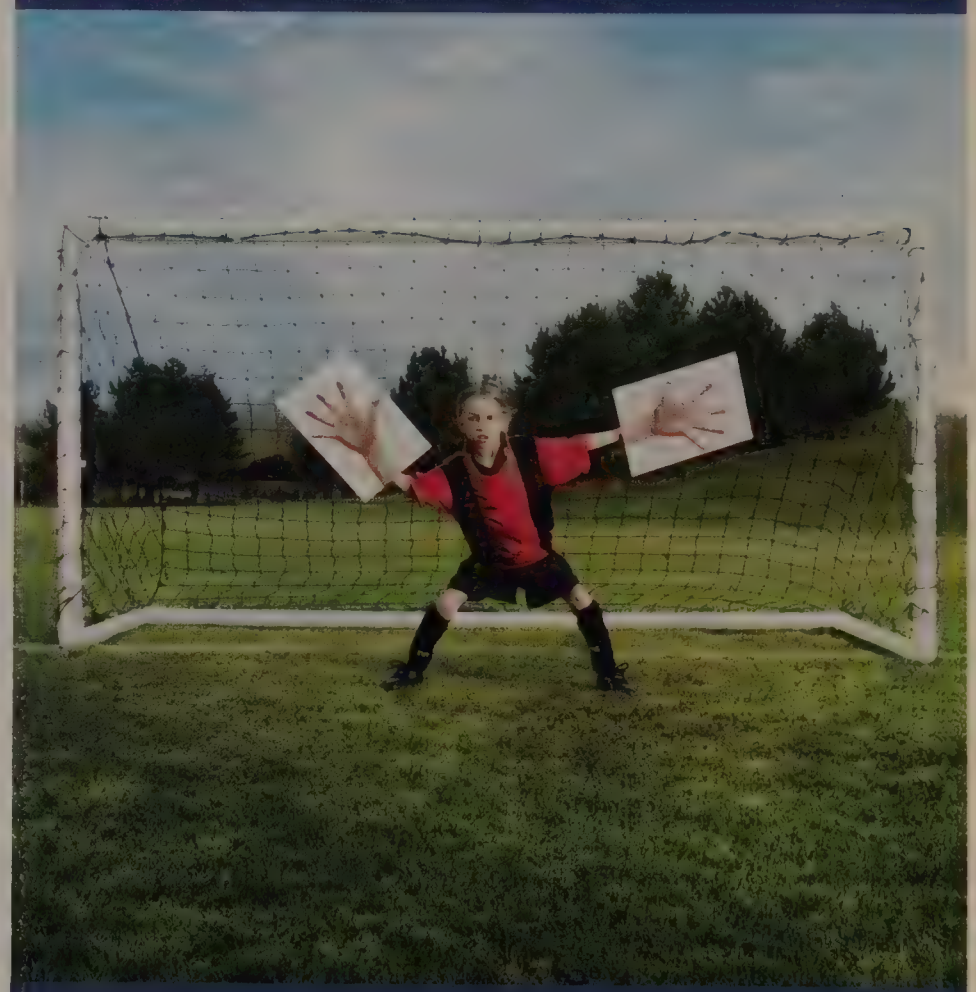

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Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch

RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC,V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston, 617-357-5825. www.luckyslounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere inthe heart of downtown Boston. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Science Street Café *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out Boston's newest nightspot - The Science Street Café at the Museum of Science. Try our out-of-this world signature martinis, gourmet appetizers and decadent desserts - all while listening to live music. Perfect before or after an Omni film. Open 6-10pm. Parking available.

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/nightclub/billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance Bars

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious

meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston, 617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11 Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For more info, please call or e-mail info@theblackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St .617- 236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston , 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

Sports Bar - Upscale

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 3 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

BRUNCH

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended. 617-661-5005.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

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LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At Symphony Hall, top: Arnold and Ellen Zetcher. Middle row, from left: Marilyn Horne; Rosalie Cohen, Caroline Collings, Alfred Fiandaca and Joanne Dickinson. Bottom, from left: Rob Serio and Dyan Goodwin; Barbara Cook

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE, DOUBLE YOUR FUN...

What's better than hearing one of the world's great sopranos in **Symphony Hall**? Hearing two of the world's great sopranos in Symphony Hall. Proving that sometimes too much of a good thing still isn't enough, the **FleetBoston Celebrity Series** opening night concert featured opera supernova **Marilyn Horne** and Tony and Grammy winner **Barbara Cook** performing selections from the American songbook.

The black-tie evening, which began with an elegant cocktail reception and dinner, attracted the likes of co-chairs **Caroline Collings** and **Peter Wender**; Huntington Theatre head **Nicky Martin** with Broadway star **Nathan Lane**; Boston Ballet artistic director **Mikko Nissinen**; art dealers **Terry** and **Judy Vose**; arts patron **Lee Day Gillespie**; gorgeous blonde investment banker **Dyan Goodwin** and her other half, **Rob Serio**; Talbot's CEO **Arnold Zetcher** and his fashion-plate wife, **Ellen**; fashion designer **Alfred Fiandaca** and the devastatingly handsome **Scott Rixford**; ubiquitous party pair **Edgar Knudson** and **Louis Mula** (just back from somewhere warm and relaxing); Copley Plaza doyenne **Peggy Dray**; and various other operazzi.

Following the performance, there was dessert and dancing (a first), and the VIPs got a chance to rub elbows with the remarkably down-to-earth divas. In fact, the only downside to the evening was that they upped the ante so high that next year's opening night crowd will be expecting the Three Tenors.

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a) Subscribe to one or more magazines devoted to beautifying the home?

b) Experience frequent and persistent interior envy?

c) Often find yourself tuning in to one of those TV shows where a dumpy-looking room is fabulously transformed by a team of annoyingly chirpy decorators?

If you answered yes to any of the above, you would have enjoyed the first annual **Walk About Boston's Design District** to benefit the **Massachusetts College of Art**.

At the Ultimate Dinner Party, from left: Ron and Joyce della Chiesa; Andre and Fontaine Dubus

Guests were issued passports to carry with them as they toured high-style furniture showrooms **Repertoire**, **Kartell**, **Landry & Arcari**, **Shoomine**, **Adesso**, **Montage** and **The Morson Collection**, and everyone who received a stamp from all of the stores became eligible to win raffle prizes worthy of a *Price Is Right* showcase.

After all that walking around, it was high time for a glass of wine and a few little nibbly things (courtesy of **Davio's**) while a DJ spun some groovy tunes in the atrium of **10 St. James Ave**. Present and accounted for: sexy contemporary furniture mogul **Rick Garofalo**; Channel 5 investigative reporter **Jorge Quiroga** and his unstoppable firecracker of a wife, **Barbara**; nattily dressed restaurateur **Steve DeFilippo** of Davio's; Iranian fabulon **Fabby Abbasi** of Shoomine; interior designer and Dudley Do-right doppelganger **Duncan Hughes**; soft-spoken style setter **Paul Niski**; bubbly MIT bigwig **Martha Ballard** and her other half, **Steve Matthews**; Mass. Art head honcha **Kay Sloan**; Gallic force of nature **Francoise Theise** of Adesso; gallery owners **Rob Clifford** and **Jim Smith**, and one guest who said, "It's too bad they weren't serving drinks earlier—I might've bought that glass coffee table."

CORE CURRICULUM

They could have called it How to Host a Wing-Ding 101 and charged tuition when the **Boston Center for Adult Education** threw its **Ultimate Dinner Party** fund-raiser.

Like all great dinner parties (ultimate or otherwise), it boasted an impressive guest list that included the likes of co-chairs **Sandy Krakoff** and **Lois Kunian** and their adoring husbands, **Robert** and **Stephen**; author and *Globe* columnist **Alex Beam**; best-selling novelist **Andre Dubus III** and his gorgeous wife, **Fontaine**; marketing grande dame **Irma Mann**; Channel 5 GM **Paul LaCamera** and the delectable **Mimi**; right-brain/left-brain couple **Denise** and **Ari Nachmanoff**; the super-groovy **Maura Connolly** and **John Egan**; Back Bay nabobs **Lois** and **Norman Silverman**; publishing titan **Nader Darehshori**; velvet-voiced radio personality **Ron della Chiesa** and his scrumptious wife, **Joyce**; eminent M.D. **Jordan Ruboy**; charity stalwarts **Nancy** and **Joseph Serafini**; and so on and so forth.

Guests gathered at the Ritz-Carlton for cocktails and then dispersed to some of the finer homes in the Back Bay and Beacon Hill for intimate dinner parties, like the visually spectacular Moroccan feast held on the floor of a ballroom on Commonwealth Avenue, or the elegant dinner with superior and beautifully decanted wines in a townhouse on Marlborough Street.

By the time dessert was served, everyone was feeling fat and happy, and had there been a final exam, the evening would have earned straight A's. IB

At the Walk About Boston's Design District event, clockwise from upper left: Ted Schwalb, Rob Clifford, Jim Smith and Caroline Taggart; Paul Niski; Rick Garofalo; Cecile Lemley; Emily Newman, Barbara and Jorge Quiroga, and Francoise Theise

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RICHARD SMITH

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Greg Henry/LaMoine Photo Group

Hair: **Rene Valadez/Vidal Sassoon Beverly Hills;** makeup: **Gregory Arlt/MAC;** stylist: **Renee Howard/EIC Agency;** location: **Carin Krasner Studio, in Century City/Los Angeles;** dress: **Elie Saab**

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

RATED XY

In October, our humor columnist and staff writer, Ezra Dyer, came up with the idea for a story called "Straight Eye for the Queer Guy" that would turn Bravo's popular reality show inside out. Ezra (who is straight) and some of his straight friends would give the IMPROPER's Jonathan Soroff (who is gay) and some of his gay friends a straight-guy makeover. They would school them in how to dress poorly, ogle women and behave crassly—in other words, stereotypical heterosexual-male behaviors.

It was one of those ideas that made us wonder why no one had done it yet—and a chance for our two resident wits to work together. Hoping to beat anyone else to the punch, we cleared a space in our feature lineup, and Ezra and Jonathan went to work setting up an itinerary and recruiting friends to participate. You can read the results of their experiment, which included taking a trip to the New England Dragway, tailgating with a tackle dummy and dining at Hooters, on page 20 of this issue.

Thankfully, the day seems to have had no long-lasting effects on Jonathan and friends William and Paul. (As we went to press, Reuters reported that Comedy Central will debut a show called *Straight Plan for the Gay Man* in February.)

There's more to make you laugh in Soroff's interview with our cover model, Burlington native Amy Poehler of *Saturday Night Live* (page 18), and in Andrew Graham's musings on holiday hangovers (page 30). Then, get serious about your holiday shopping list by checking out two separate features filled with gift ideas (pages 26 and 32)—some don't even require wrapping.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

GOOD FUR NOTHIN'

On the cover of the Nov. 5 issue is a photo of a young woman snuggling in white fur. Inside, the magazine offers an article flaunting coats with fur ("It's a Wrap," page 36) and then devotes its "I on Style" column (page 40) entirely to fur.

We would like to ask, Would you show a photo of a model wearing dog fur? Cat fur? An endangered species' fur? Those animals' fur is certainly beautiful enough. Or is it that you will not show people wearing the skin and fur of a once-living animal if the animal is politically correct enough for your standards? Is that where your magazine draws the line for fashion?

We respectfully ask you to discontinue promoting such cruelty. There are plenty of alternatives to fur—please push them instead.

—STEVEN AND HELEN RAYSHICK
Barre

For years, we have embraced THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN as a conduit for progressive thought and a guidebook for the hip and chic. Based on the cover of the Nov. 5 issue, I guess we can therefore assume that the new hip style is fur. In one fell swoop, your magazine has managed to deconstruct its previous image.

The reality of the fur industry is a far cry from the fashion runways of London and Milan. Animals are routinely trapped in steel leg traps that leave them with broken appendages, waiting for days to die. Those animals raised on fur farms spend their time in cages too small to move around in and are left exposed to freezing conditions in order to bulk up their coats. Finally, they can look forward to a death based on crude methods such as anal electrocution or a gas chamber. Please make every effort possible to undo the harm you have done in promoting this cruel and heartless industry. The animals, and your readers, deserve better.

—BRADFORD STADLER
Marlboro

CORRECTIONS

The photo caption on page 62 of the Nov. 5 issue should have said that Julie White will star in the Huntington Theatre Company's upcoming production of Bad Dates.

The correct name of the drag queen pictured in Oct. 22's "Last Scene Here" column is Rainbow Frite, not Rainbow Brite. Our apologies to Ms. Frite.

CONTRIBUTORS

RICHARD SMITH

Photographer Richard Smith was raised in the UK, called Australia home for many years, and moved to Boston with his wife 18 months ago. He's been working as a professional photographer for the past year, and the IMPROPER is one of the many publications that have featured his work. To check out Smith's latest photos, turn to "Straight Eye for the Queer Guy" on page 20.

KRISTEN PAULSON

Columnist and lifestyle writer Kristen Paulson has written for the *Boston Globe* and *Art New England* on topics ranging from single life to musical subcultures and fashion trends. Paulson was recently a guest on PBS's *Greater Boston*, where she spoke about online dating. Her debut work for the IMPROPER, "Giving Outside the Box," begins on page 26.

COVER IMAGE: BILL STREICHER

Tell Us What You Think

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO: The Improper Bostonian, 142 Berkeley St., Third Floor, Boston, MA 02116. E-mail: letters@improper.com. Fax: 617-859-1446. Letters must be signed; please include your town and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Suratt**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Kelli Acciardo, Katelyn Belyus, Kristen Grieco, Kate Hedgpeth, Ashley Klauss, Sarah Korval**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Marilyn Chung, Vanessa Earl**

FASHION & BEAUTY EDITOR **Samantha House**

FASHION ASSISTANT **Sara Schiano**

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER **Alison Morant**

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES **Julie Kane, Carrie Wallace**

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES **Michael Burns, Cheryl Jackson**

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE **Sherry Riccio Atamian**

CLASSIFIED ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE **Katie Schmidt**

ADVERTISING ART DIRECTOR **Julie Betters**

V.P. PRODUCTION **Jeff Gill**

TRAFFIC MANAGER **Karen Dana**

MARKETING MANAGER **Martha Brown**

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING INTERNS **Melina Legaki, Sarah McManus, Julie Milinazzo, Victoria Segal**

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE **Bill Marks**

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RECEPTIONIST/SALES ASSISTANT **Gretchen Bostrom**

FOUNDER **Mark Semonian**

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new in town

A BOSTONIAN ANTHEM

With a resume that includes stints at Grill 23 & Bar, the Federalist and currently Azure, renowned chef Robert Fathman has had a blast developing the menu of comfort-food faves for Anthem, a palatial new restaurant near North Station. It's a pretty big departure for a guy who's more accustomed to preparing such delicacies as confit of *loup de mer* and sautéed sand dabs than Southern fried chicken salad, meatloaf and shrimp po' boys. At Anthem, he gets his hands dirty while "having a tremendous amount of fun" at the same time, he says. Fathman's much-anticipated dessert, the deep-fried Twinkie with berry coulis, has already been touted in nearly every publication in town (including this one) and has had some folks shaking their heads in dismay (and others drooling with anticipation).

The Briar Group (the experts behind a handful of Irish bars, as well as Azure and City Bar) opened Anthem in the former Commonwealth Brewing Company space in mid-October with a new decor and a totally new feel. Gone is the German beer hall–like atmosphere. It's now sleek and chic, with funky furniture, lush velour curtains and a dark mahogany bar. The downstairs, formerly the Downstairs Lounge, is now an extension of Anthem, offering cocktails and late-night fare. In the unlikely event that you're not happy with your meal, whether it be a fried egg sandwich or chicken fried steak (paired with a martini, of course), keep in mind the menu's disclaimer: "All items are quality food and therefore, whiners and cry babies will not be smiled upon!" *138 Portland St., Boston (617-523-8383). —Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt*

Executive chef Robert Fathman (left) and chef de cuisine Sildo Junior

sports

HOOP DREAMS

Think your basketball skills deserve a better showcase than the plastic hoop stuck to the wall of your cubicle? If you and nine friends each pony up $350—or better yet, get your company to foot the bill—you can bring your crazy ups to the same court where the Celtics play. On Nov. 23 the Play on the Parquet tournament, a benefit for the Association for Retarded Citizens, lets schlubs like yourself suit up in the Celtics locker room with a jersey (each bearing a retired number—you can arm-wrestle over number 33) and play a 45-minute full-court game at the FleetCenter. The game is meant to replicate a real Celtics game, complete with play-by-play coverage, referees and Tommy Heinsohn screaming at players who don't dive for loose balls (we're kidding about that last one). Call 781-891-6270 to get in on the game.

Going, Going.... In other basketball news, Celtics legend Bob Cousy is auctioning his collection of basketball memorabilia online at www.sportscardsplus.com. The most prized items are a picture of the 1963 Celtics in the Oval Office signed by JFK, a 1957 championship ring, and a picture of the NBA's 50 Greatest Players—signed by 49 of them. At press time, the picture was already bid up to $30,000, but four citations from the city of Worcester (one of them naming Cous mayor for two days) stood at $165.—*Ezra Dyer*

inner view

ELISABETH HASSELBECK

It's been nearly three years since Elisabeth Hasselbeck (nee Filarsky) outwitted, outplayed and outlasted 12 contestants to land in the final four on the second season of CBS's *Survivor*. Since her stint in the Outback, the Boston College graduate and former Puma footwear designer has been busy. After *Survivor*, she signed on as host of the Style Network's *The Look for Less* and married her college sweetheart, Washington Redskins quarterback Tim Hasselbeck. Not bad for a 26-year-old. Now she's one of three finalists competing to fill Lisa Ling's shoes as a cohost on ABC's *The View*. This week, the Rhode Island native auditions for the role of fifth wheel with Barbara Walters and the queens of coffee klatch. Below she shares her views on lasting impressions, survivors and Mother Teresa.

IB: *You were one of thousands to make* Survivor *and are one of the three finalists on* The View. *What's the secret to a good first impression?*
EH: I wouldn't say that I have a secret. I just think that whatever I do, whether it's meeting someone for the first time or going to the grocery store, I try not to alter anything. I said it about *Survivor* and I'll say it about *The View*: I want to be right for the show. If it's not me, then I'm meant for something else.
IB: *Do you keep in touch with anyone from* Survivor?
EH: I keep in touch with Rodger Bingham from Kentucky. We've become dear friends and our families have become close because of us. Jeff Varner works out in L.A. so I see him every now and then, and I talk to Mitchell and Tina.
IB: *How did you get the audition for* The View?
EH: It's funny because two things were going on simultaneously. My brother was calling me four times a day after they announced they were looking for a new host for *The View*. He said, "Elisabeth, I think you should go for it." And at the same time, my agent was putting my demo out there. I actually spoke with one of the executive producers on the phone. We had a really great conversation, and he said he was going to give me a shot.
IB: *Are you nervous about sharing the stage with Barbara Walters and company?*
EH: Not nervous. I'm excited. Everyone's asking me what they're like and if they're nice. And they *were* nice, but they were also challenging. That's the kind of relationship I have with my friends. We like to challenge each other, and we all like to make our voices heard.

IB: *Debbie Matenopoulos didn't fare so well on the original cast of* The View. *Do you have any fears about going in as the new girl?*
EH: I don't really have any fears. I'm kind of just getting ready for the best and the worst. I might say something people don't agree with, and I better be sure I can back it up.
IB: *If you get the job, who is your dream interview?*
EH: Oh gosh. That's a good question. Maybe Barbara Walters herself. It's funny because when I was there the first time, my first interview was Hillary Clinton. Interviewing a senator—I don't know where it goes from there. I would love to have the opportunity to interview President Bush. And for someone of all time, I would have loved to sit for a moment with Mother Teresa. Just to talk to someone who was so selfless her whole life.
IB: *Describe your typical visit to Boston?*
EH: A typical weekend in Boston would definitely include seeing all of [my and my husband's] families. Going for a long run along the Charles and seeing one of my favorite people of all time, Father Neenan at BC. Maybe stopping for a little BC football game, and walking around Harvard Square or grabbing some frozen yogurt from Angora.
—*Jessica Iredale*

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B. GOOD FOR YOU

Happy (and Healthy) Meal...An alternative to Au Bon Pain, Souper Salad and food courts is on the horizon. Longtime buddies Anthony Ackil and Jon Olinto are opening B.Good, a breakfast, lunch and dinner joint that promises healthful tasty meals without lengthy waits and high prices. The 48-seat diner is slated to open in a new building on Dartmouth Street in early December, and everything on the menu—from the burgers to the salads to the fries—will have nutritional information posted. "We're just regular people who can't find a good meal that doesn't have 100 grams of fat and make you feel awful," says Ackil. He expects the average check will run $7 and reports that everything will be made with all-natural ingredients. "We're not health freaks. I love McDonald's—I just don't like how I feel afterward." *131 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-424-5252).*

Fragile Elements...It seems like just yesterday that we wrote about the opening of Elements in Arlington. It was actually June when chef Bill Flumerfelt assumed leadership of the suburban eatery previously known as Tea Tray in the Sky. Now, before even making a blip on the radar, Elements is no more. Despite Flumerfelt's culinary expertise, Elements couldn't stay afloat in the current bear market. RIP.

What's in a Name?...Those looking to grab a bite at Geoffrey's, the popular Back Bay breakfast bungalow, are out of luck. Seems management had a little falling out. One of the partners, Michael Aplin (who founded the restaurant in the South End with his life partner, Geoffrey Seelen), bid a not-so-amicable adieu, and the joint has been renamed Dartmouth Café (left). Speaking of name changes, George, the Boylston Street tavern formerly known as Rattlesnake, has rechristened the upstairs bar with its old moniker.

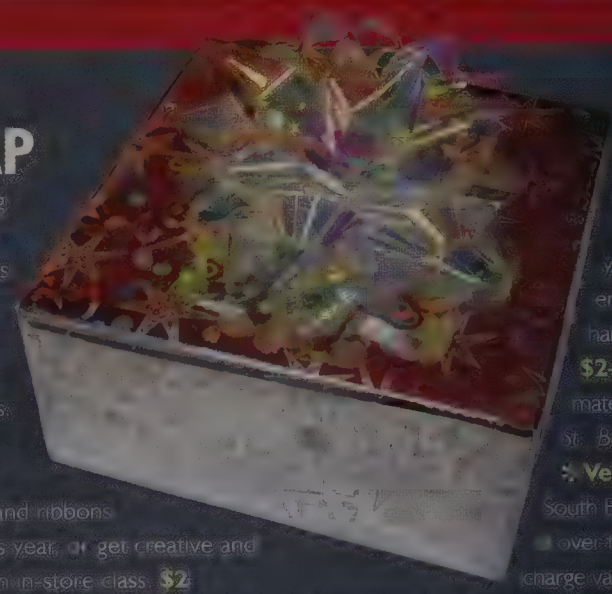
New Dim Sum...If you're like us, you're always on the lookout for dim sum, so we're happy to announce that Mass. Ave's pan-Asian restaurant Island Hopper now offers a dim sum weekend brunch. But don't expect to see the traditional carts wheeling around with steaming dumplings and egg tarts. Island Hopper's dim sum is à la carte from a special menu, so there's no preview of the goods. Items include steamed pork buns and sweet egg custard, and prices range from $1.75-$9.95 a dish. *91 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1618). Sat., 11:30 am-3 pm; Sun., 12-3 pm.*

Sunday Dinner...It's almost like dining with JFK and Jackie. History buffs with an appetite can sink their teeth into Camelot at Sunday Dinner at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. The buffet-style dinner at the museum isn't exactly four courses in the Kennedy Compound, but $40 ain't bad for panoramic views of the city skyline and plenty of grub by Gourmet Caterers. Dinner is served at one seating beginning at 4:45 pm in the Museum Pavilion, and Nov. 23 and Dec. 7 are the final dates. Show up early: Diners with reservations receive free admission to the museum between 9 am and 5 pm. *Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1586). $40.—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

improper reports

IT'S A WRAP

There are no excuses for using comic strips or brown bags as last-minute wrapping paper this holiday season. You can look like a pro courtesy of one of the following stores and outfit your family's best wrappers.



Paper Source Choose from several stylish papers and ribbons to complement your gift this year, or get creative and design your own paper at an in-store class. $2 service charge, materials extra. *338 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-3444); 1361 Beacon St., Brookline (617-264-2800); and 1810 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1077).*

Papyrus Choose pretty paper and a matching bow to accent your gift. $3 and up, depending on the size of the box (materials extra). *70 Franklin St., Boston (617-330-5172); 800 Boylston St., Boston (617-262-6449).*

Rugg Road Wrap your present with embroidered or handmade papers. $2–$10 service charge, materials extra. *105 Charles St., Boston (617-742-0002).*

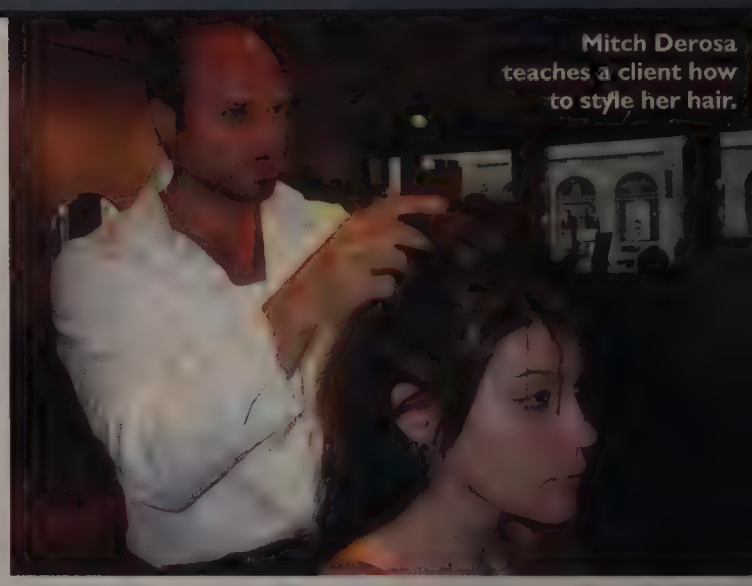
Vellum Paper at this new South End boutique hails from all over the world. Service charge varies, materials extra. *555 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-247-2323).*

Try the following stores if you want to buy unique paper and wrap your own: Diane Particular Papers and Gifts and La Ruche in Boston, Pearl Art & Craft Supplies in Cambridge, Bijutsu in Newton, and Papers & Presents in Wellesley. —*Kelli Acciardo*

sam says

LOCKS LESSON

Even as a beauty school graduate, I struggle to achieve the fresh-from-the-salon look that seems so effortless for the pros. But getting that look isn't hocus-pocus. Products and technique are the secret weapons of seasoned stylists, and practice makes perfect. New hair care products come out every day, and the only way to keep up on trends is to use them daily. Of course, it's best to learn from a pro. Mitchell John Salon offers 30-minute private training sessions with seasoned stylists who teach you two styles (one for daytime and one for evening) and recommend hair products. They'll even tell you how to perfect the hard-to-reach areas in the back. Lessons cost around $50—a small price to pay for a future of good-hair days. *67 Broad St., Boston (617-951-0122).* —*Samantha House*



Mitch Derosa teaches a client how to style her hair.

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Chain Gang...KISS 108 FM's Chain of Fools stunt drew to a close on Nov. 7, and 31-year-old Dana Gaughan of Waltham emerged $10,000 richer. The five men and five women who were chained to KISS morning show producer Lisa Roach and music director David Corey, respectively, endured 160-plus hours by each others' sides, including sleeping in a king-size bed and showering (G-rated) together. Each day the teams voted off one of their chainmates, and the public voted online for the final winner. After seven days attached at the hip, something juicy must have happened. "I have so many good stories," says Roach. On day four, Lisa and the boys ditched their scheduled day at the gym for manicures and then headed to Coyote Ugly. Eight shots apiece later, the group was down five pairs of boxers and a brassiere. Surprisingly enough, the chainees aren't all recent grads with time to kill. Two of the women are married with kids, and 3 of the men have girlfriends. Five men showering and sleeping with a strange woman? Wonder how that went over. "Oh, we won't even go there," says Roach.

KISS' Dave Corey and Lisa Roach

Hoof It...For most of us, winter is the time of year when we go outside as infrequently as possible. However, there are those dedicated few who enjoy a brisk walk every now and then, which might explain the late-September release of the Appalachian Mountain Club's *WalkBoston*. The AMC outdoor achievers and tour guide publisher WalkBoston put together this guidebook of 30 scenic and historic walks through Boston neighborhoods. Each route was designed by a WalkBoston member and features step-by-step directions, time and level of endurance, and highlights historic landmarks. Jamaica Plain's greenways, Brookline's hill paths, the South End's brownstones and Roslindale Square are among the featured terrains. *$14.95.* www.outdoors.org.

Space Invaders...In a city where an 800-square-foot two-bedroom qualifies as spacious, it's easy to see why people ooh and ahh over storage space. StorageEvolutions, a recently launched property storage company, offers an alternative to renting a truck and hauling your gear to a cinderblock cubbyhole with an orange door. Director of operations and business development Brandon Najarian likens his service to Stop & Shop's Peapod. They'll help you pack up your items and then deliver them to a private storage bin in a Framingham warehouse. With a day's notice, they'll return stored items whenever you want them. It's a perfect solution for skis and boots, which take up valuable space in the warmer months. *$29.99 a month and up. (877-551-4348).* www.storageevolutions.com.

Gifted...The holidays are almost upon us, and this year, the Boston Public Library wants a piece of the action. The BPL now sells a line of holiday cards, clothing and other gifts that can be embellished with one of more than 350 images from the online gallery. Options include rare Victorian prints, images from 19th-century artist Louis Prang and vintage images from the 1903 World Series. —*E.H., J.S. & J.I.*

The Boston Public Library has a holiday collection on its online store.

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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PROPER BOSTONIANS

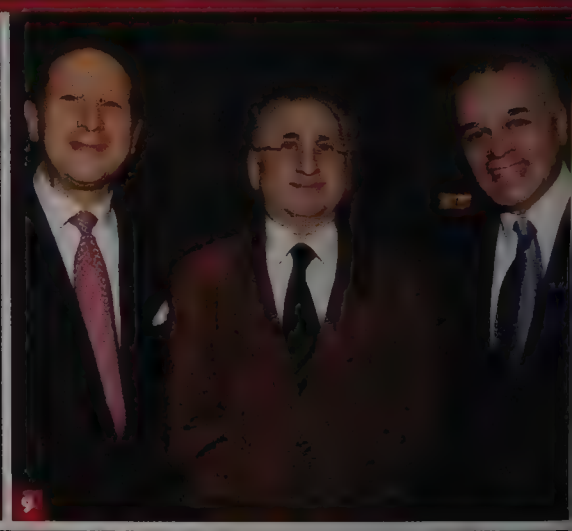
BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

The **44th Annual Ellis Antiques Show Young Collectors Night** was held Oct. 30 at the Castle at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. More than 300 young professionals gathered to preview the offerings of 44 dealers vending American and European furniture, ceramics, glass, silver, rugs, books, jewelry, prints, paintings and folk art. All proceeds benefited Bright Beginnings, an organization that focuses on children's health.

1. From left: **Frederick Velander**, vice president of business development for Froghop Inc. in Cambridge; his wife, **Rebecca**, co-chair of the event; **Cecily Colburn**, co-chair of the event; and her husband, **Ben**, principal of Sage Properties.
2. From left: **George Lynch**, vice president of Fidelity Investments; his wife, **Melissa**, sales manager for Forrester Research in Cambridge; and **Tobias Welo**, vice president of Blackrock.
3. **Stephen Sheffield**, artist, and his wife, **Alison**, student at the New England School of Art & Design.
4. From left: **Tom Gilbane**, private equity for Rockpoint Group; his wife, **Kate**, nursery school teacher at the Spruce Street School; **Laura Wilmerding**, co-owner of The Design Shop; and her husband, **Michael**, co-owner of Firefly Outfitters.
5. From left: **Carolyn Rodeno**; **Brian McKenna**, executive vice president of Susquehanna Financial Group LLP; and **Molly Dunne**.
6. **Heather Bell**, co-owner of Eliza Gray in Weston, and her husband, **Brian**, owner of West Coast Distributing.

Rogerson Communities celebrated its fifth annual **Welcome Home!** event Nov. 6 at the Four Seasons. The party raised funds for housing and health services for the low-income elderly.

7. **Sara Libin** and **Kim Bilderback**, sales associate and vice president of sales, respectively, for AT&T.
8. From left: **Jim DiStasio**, COO of Ernst & Young; **Susan Logue**; **Kathleen McGillycuddy**; and Susan's husband, **Ron Logue**, president of State Street Bank.
9. From left: **Gordon Silver**, senior managing director of Putnam Investments; **Dr. Barry Jaye**, owner of the Endodontic Center in Brockton; and **John Moscardelli**, board member of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority.
10. From left: **Carol Campo**, administrator for Stoughton Public Schools; **George Brown**, CFO of the Massachusetts Lodging Association; and his wife, **Paula Jac'Lyn**, clothing designer and owner of Paula Jac'Lyn in Martha's Vineyard.
11. From left: **Jorge Quiroga**, investigative reporter for WCVB-TV 5; **Heather Unruh**, HealthBeat reporter for WCVB-TV 5; and **Barbara Quiroga**, president of BQ&A Public Relations.
12. From left: **Nader Darehshori**, CEO and chairman of Cambium Learning in Wellesley; **Cory Laverack**, and her husband, **Bill**, private investor for Whitney & Co. in Stamford, Conn.



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ezra

BY EZRA DYER

ZEKE SHOW

My roommate and I are subjects in a three-man kingdom

I ran into my next-door neighbor—we'll call him Elmer—in the hallway between our apartments recently. "You think Ezra's a bad name?" he asked rhetorically. Well, no, I actually like it quite well, I wanted to say, but before I could open my mouth Elmer continued, "Well, my family used to call me Zeke when I was growing up!" I wasn't sure how to respond to this information, so I said something along the lines of, "Is that right, Zeke?" Personally, I like the name Zeke. It conjures images of hillbillies, and I like hillbillies.

In my experience thus far, Elmer/Zeke is always friendly, unless you are somehow engaged in defying the Tao of Elmer. The tao is easy to figure out, since most of it is posted around the building's common areas on large, easy-to-read signs. Such as those in the laundry room.

Elmer presides over the laundry room, and his signs enforce order where there would otherwise be laundry anarchy. Elmer writes his signs with hyphens between each word, possibly on the theory that hyphens are too much fun to limit their use to adjectival compounds, such as "obsessive-compulsive." There are signs commanding launderers to throw only lint in the lint-specific trash can, to clean the lint screens after a load is done, to turn off the lights on the way out, not to leave detergent bottles on the table or they'll be thrown away, and to close the lid to the washer when it's not running (to-prevent-dust-from-entering-the-drum). Over the spigots for the washer's two water lines are the words "hot" and "cold," just in case the spigots' colors—red and blue—get confusing.

The other day I was in Elmer's Laundromat putting my laundry in the dryer and was shocked to discover that some Snuggle-wielding nihilist left a sheet of fabric softener in there. I thought of forging a sign in Elmer's trademark blue marker reading, "Remove-Snuggle-from-dryer-or-I-will-kill-you. I-am-watching," but figured that would only spawn another sign that read "No-unauthorized-posting-of-signs."

And Elmer is authorized as a manager-type person for our building. He has keys to my apartment and he's not afraid to use them. Shortly after we moved in, our apartment was repainted by a Tibetan guy. Apparently the Chinese took away his brushes, because his only tool was a roller and he didn't come within an inch of any corner, which gives the place an interesting two-tone look. I tell visitors that "shabby edges" is the latest interior decorating craze and it took me months to find a guy who knows how to do it. As might be expected from an absent-minded, avant-garde creative type, the painter left the lights on when he was done, which caused Elmer to swing into action with his "emergency" keys. Seeing that the lights were on in our apartment but the painter had left, Elmer let himself in and turned off the lights, then notified the management company that there had been a key-worthy incident. The building managers, in turn, were horrified, and suggested that perhaps Elmer should relinquish his keys before any other emergencies arise, like someone leaving the TV on.

I know about this situation because Elmer confronted me one day after work, explained what happened and offered to turn in his keys. I didn't want to take away Elmer's keys, because I really didn't care if he'd been in the apartment, and he seemed pretty repentant about the whole thing. After all, he'd probably saved us at least 25

ELMER PRESIDES OVER THE LAUNDRY ROOM, AND HIS SIGNS ENFORCE ORDER WHERE THERE WOULD OTHERWISE BE LAUNDRY ANARCHY.

cents in electricity, and I've got nothing to hide. My roommate, Scott, might've been upset if Elmer had walked in while he was inside practicing kung fu moves and wearing women's underwear, but as far as I know Scott doesn't even do that. I don't know why I even mentioned it.

At first I thought that Elmer's iron rule of the building's basement territory bordered on oppressive, but I've come to think of him as an arbiter of order in a chaotic universe. Inside Elmer's Laundromat, the light is always off when you arrive and the lint screens are always clean. The question is what will happen when we have a party, and eventually we will. It might be hard to stay on Elmer's good side with bass thumping through our paper-thin doors, even if we do adhere to the building's 10 pm quiet rule. I see only one solution: A party ain't a party till it includes a guy named Zeke. iB

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AMY POEHLER

BY JONATHAN SOROFF PHOTOGRAPHED BY GREG HENRY/LAMOINE PHOTO GROUP

Now in her third season as a cast member of *Saturday Night Live*, Burlington native Amy Poehler graduated from Boston College, where she was in an improv troupe called My Mother's Fleabag, and then moved to Chicago to pursue a career in comedy. After performing with Second City and ImprovOlympic, she joined the sketch comedy group Upright Citizens Brigade and moved with it to New York in 1996. The troupe had a TV show that ran on Comedy Central for three years, and it also opened its own theater. In addition to being a regular on *SNL*, Poehler has played recurring characters on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and *Undeclared*, and her film credits include *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*, *Wet Hot American Summer*, and *Martin & Orloff*. In her forthcoming film appearances, she stars opposite Jack Black and Ben Stiller in *Envy*, and opposite Alec Baldwin and Anthony Hopkins in *The Devil and Daniel Webster*. Recently married, she lives in New York.

Jonathan Soroff: *So are Trix really for kids, or does the rabbit in that commercial have grounds for a discrimination suit?*

Amy Poehler: Is this a thinly disguised drug reference, or what?

JS: *Never mind. Were you a handful growing up?*

AP: I was always a "Look at me!" kid. I'd spend a couple of hours putting together a routine and making everyone come out and watch me perform it in the driveway. I wasn't shy.

JS: *Now that you're a big, huge star, what's the juiciest piece of gossip you've heard about yourself?*

AP: I haven't. But sometimes I'll read the blind items in [the *New York Post*'s] Page Six and pretend it's me they're talking about—y'know, the starlet with the drug problem?

JS: *So how much rehearsal time do you guys get on* SNL*?*

AP: The one thing people don't realize (or maybe they do after watching the show) is that it's so last-minute. On Monday, you meet the host and pitch ideas to them. Tuesday, you stay up all night writing. Wednesday, you read all the sketches, and they get picked. You rehearse Thursday and Friday, tape any taped pieces and rehearse any songs, and block a scene maybe once or twice. Saturday, you have a run-through, a dress rehearsal in front of a live audience, and then there's the live show. Sketches will be added on a Saturday. Or you can work on a sketch all week—there's a set and costumes—and then, after the dress rehearsal, at a meeting between 10:30 and 11:30, that sketch can go away. Lorne Michaels' quote is that the show airs because it's 11:30, not because it's ready. And that's what I love about it.

JS: *Favorite guest host?*

AP: Anyone who compliments me. If a host says something flattering, it's very easy to fall in love with them. We have all these glamorous movie stars who come in with beautiful skin, and we've all stayed up all night, and we're like, "I don't really like him or her." Then they walk by and say, "That was really funny," and they're instantly my new best friend.

JS: *Tell me a guest-host horror story—someone who was a wicked big dink.*

AP: People are usually too scared to be nasty. The interesting thing with the host is they're out of their element. You have these big stars used to controlling everything thrown into a show where they don't have very much control, working with people who have worked together for years, and they're asked to do things they don't normally do. If they surrender to it, they do great. It's people who try to come in and control the situation. Sometimes, an actor will say, "I can't really understand the motivation here," or use all these actor-y terms, and I'm like, "You mean you can't do it funny? Just read the f——g cue cards."

JS: *So is Britney Spears really made out of marzipan?*

AP: [Laughs.] You're not gonna get me to dig on celebrities.

JS: *Then just give me one "Jeane Dixon Predicts," like, is Tori Spelling due for a big comeback?*

AP: There are a lot of people I worry about in the world. Tori isn't one of them.

JS: *Scariest Christopher Walken moment?*

AP: He's really good at sitting there and not talking. Y'know how most people feel compelled to fill in the silence? He could just sit there forever and not talk, which shows either incredible discipline or that he's able to sleep with his eyes open.

JS: *Ever seen Ben Stiller naked?*

AP: God, no. You're not gonna get me on any of this.

JS: *Is Jack Black the Orson Welles of our generation?*

AP: [Laughs.] He's awesome. I love people who take some of the vanity out of comedy. You can always win my heart by doing a pratfall or walking around with a plate of spaghetti on your head. He just kind of barrels along in a way that I really like.

JS: *You play his wife in a movie called* Envy. *Name one thing you envy.*

AP: Just one? God! I envy people who automatically get up early. I can't quite figure it out, because it's a battle for me every morning. So I envy early risers, and I envy people who can speak another language, so they can more readily talk about other people while they're standing right next to them. I could go on. I envy people who can jog, and I think these might be the same people who are early risers and speak French, but they get up and run and sweat, and then just go about their day. It's shocking to me. I find that fantastic.

JS: *Funniest thing you ever did or said onstage that your audience didn't get?*

AP: Because they didn't hear it, or because they didn't understand? Can you imagine if I just rolled out 500 examples? "One time, I did a sketch on Love Canal and not a single person got it. Another time, I referenced this crazy tree that grows in Africa." [Laughs.] I've blocked all those horrible moments out.

JS: *The thing you miss most about living in Boston?*

AP: My family—and the Burlington Mall, which never fails to delight.

JS: *In* Deuce Bigalow, *your character had Tourette's syndrome. If you really had it, what inappropriate thing would you love to be able to say?*

AP: I'd want to comment on poor service. I've waited tables since I was 16, and it's true everywhere—in restaurants, at the airport—people are so f——g rude! And I'm sick of it. I believe myself to be an easy customer, but once in a while, I'd like to blurt out, "You should definitely be fired."

JS: *You created the role of a one-legged dating-show contestant on* SNL*. Any angry letters from one-legged women?*

AP: No. I'd like to think I've shown the world that one-legged women can be as trashy and despicable as everyone else.

JS: *If you lived in a trailer park, what would you have in your front yard: a pink flamingo, a bathtub Mary, one of those reflective balls?*

AP: No. I would probably have an old, broken-down tanning booth filled with used scratched tickets from the lottery, none of them winners, and miscellaneous baby effects, slightly burned from a fire, but nobody really knows the whole story.

JS: *OK, that's deeply disturbing. You know what freaks me out? When you see a sneaker or a sweatshirt lying on the side of the highway. It's really ominous.*

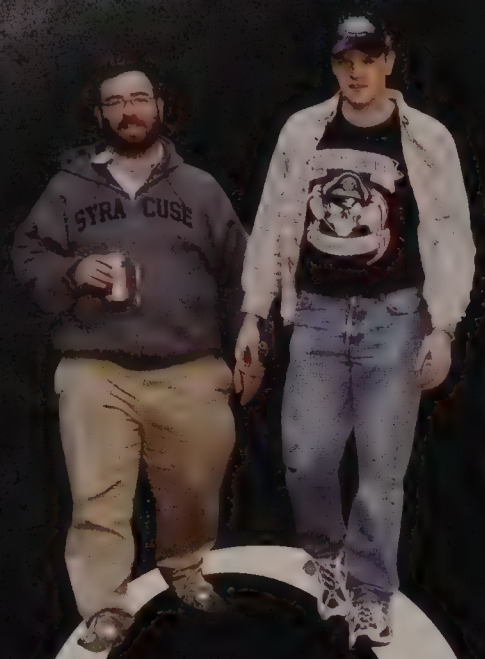
AP: [Laughing.] When you live in New York, the things you see on the street are amazing. You'll look down, and there's like a china plate, filled with chicken wings and a dirty sock. I'm like, "What the f——?!" It's so gross.

JS: *OK, fill in the blank: On the whole, Amy Poehler would rather* _____.

AP: Amy Poehler would rather you mind your own business. With three exclamation points. Just kidding. IB

CITY/LOS ANGELES. CLOTHES AND JEWELRY: CASHMERE FLOWERED HALTER SWEATER, ITRO ZILLIA PLATINUM NECKLACE WITH DIAMONDS. SPREVE, CHOPP & COW

"LORNE MICHAELS' QUOTE IS THAT THE SHOW AIRS BECAUSE IT'S 11:30, NOT BECAUSE IT'S READY. AND THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT."



STRAIGHT EYE for QUEER GUY

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD SMITH

Gay culture is in vogue, as the popularity of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* demonstrates. But every cultural movement needs a counterculture, and so we decided to flip the *Queer Eye* premise and let three card-carrying meatheads educate three stylish gay guys in some of the finer aspects of straight life. The itinerary: drag racing at New England Dragway; tailgating outside the Boston College–Notre Dame football game; and having dinner at that bastion of busty dining establishments, Hooters. Our goal: to demonstrate that straight life can be a pretty gay time if you know what you're doing. Here's the tale of our outing, as seen by each side. Let the high-octane, beer can–crushing, tobacco-chewing fun begin.

From top: A gourmet lunch, New England Dragway style; Murph outfits the gay boys in some stylish New England Dragway apparel; Murph declares you may only wear a bear fur coat if you have a matching beard; Jonathan wonders worriedly whether the tech inspector will allow a leather interior; Ezra attempts to explain what an engine is.

THE STRAIGHT EYE...

BY EZRA DYER

GASSING UP

Just after dawn on a Saturday in October, I pile into the car with straight-guy Murph and our (straight) photographer, Richard, and hit Route 93 North. Behind us are fellow IMPROPER writer Jonathan Soroff and his gay compatriots, William and Paul. We need to get an early start to fit in all the straightness we've got planned, which includes meeting up with our third straight, Millman, who awaits our arrival at the Boston College–Notre Dame game for some serious tailgating.

Our first destination is the New England Dragway in Epping, N.H. This weekend's theme is Import Wars—any import car is eligible to line up at the track's 4,000-foot strip of pavement to see what it'll do in the quarter-mile. Our car is the butch Infiniti M45, a midsize sedan that packs a V-8 making 340 horsepower—only 10 less than a Corvette. The M45 is fast enough to make your passengers sink their fingernails into the armrests. It's not trendy and it's certainly not "cute"—basically, it's the antithesis of a Beetle convertible with a daisy in the dashboard bud vase. The perfect car to drive in a straight line, as it were.

While the Infiniti is a straight-guy car through and through, my reference heterosexual male, Murph, displays a few characteristics of the rainbow tribe. But despite his Audrey Hepburn poster (see Jonathan's side of the story for further incriminating evidence), Murph chews tobacco, knows a lot about cars and harbors a well-documented affinity for Asian women. Plus, he has a beard.

Our two-car caravan makes a pit stop at a great little coffee shop in Newburyport called Dunkin' Donuts. There we begin our day the healthy straight way, with coffee and some breakfast sandwiches that make Kevlar seem tender. Murph and I chastise William, who orders the Dunkin' caramel latte instead of the "regular" with cream and eight tablespoons of sugar. I choke down a sausage, egg and cheese croissant to set a good dietary example for the gays. (I ordered it on a bagel, not a croissant, but what was I going to do, be a diva about it?)

MURPH CHEWS TOBACCO, KNOWS A LOT ABOUT CARS, AND HARBORS A WELL-DOCUMENTED AFFINITY FOR ASIAN WOMEN. PLUS, HE HAS A BEARD.

On the ride to Epping, Murph and I discuss manly things like snow-tire tread compounds while Richard suffers through our (OK, my) post-breakfast gastrointestinal distress. Richard, who is British, punctuates his frequent stabs at his window's down button with wry one-liners, such as "I hope the only skid marks are on the dragway" and "You're not a well man." When Murph recounts his recommendation to his father that he chew tobacco to relieve constipation—"Not only will you be able to go, you won't be able to stop!"—we laugh so hard we cry. I'm not sure our gay counterparts would also find this subject to be comedy gold.

We arrive at the track and wait in line for our tech inspection behind cars that are so fast they carry parachutes to slow down. I warn Jonathan that it might not be a good idea to ask the driver of one such vehicle if he can pack his chute after the races. While waiting, we evaluate my attire, which is intended to set the standard for our sartorially challenged friends. I'm wearing a flannel shirt, Bon Jovi concert T-shirt, Viagra NASCAR hat and wicked awesome tapered jeans. As William puts it, my look is "very 1995." William compliments Murph on his more stylish attire—a Syracuse sweatshirt and khakis—and Murph replies defensively, "These are the same clothes I wore yesterday." Recycling, we all agree, is a decidedly nongay trait.

After waiting several hours to get a tech inspector to certify that the car does have seatbelts and doesn't have anything more dangerous than New England Dragway concession food on board, we're ready to race.

As the cars filter to the line, I give designated dragger Paul a quick lesson in brake-torquing for a drag-race launch. When the light turns

green, there's a whiff of tire smoke and he's off. It looks like a perfect launch, and when Paul returns with his time slip, I feel like a proud parent. He's run the quarter-mile in 14.26 seconds at 97 mph. *Car and Driver* lists the M45 at 14.5 seconds, and *AutoWeek* turned a 14.68 at 95 mph, so Paul has handily beat the published times for this car in his first try. You know what that means: Time for some brewskis!

TESTOSTERONE TEST

We arrive at Millman's BC tailgate party to find that "tailgating" is a loose description of what he's doing, given that he has no tailgate. Also, he's not exactly at the game, per se. He's sitting in a folding chair next to a cooler of beer on a lawn across from the campus on Comm. Ave., wearing fleece sweatpants and a sweatshirt. In his right hand is his cell phone—he's using it to listen to updates on the horse races at Saratoga. In his left are his off-track betting tickets, which he's checking for winners while attempting to guess the score of the BC–Notre Dame game based solely on the occasional waves of cheers that spill out of the unseen stadium. He's also drinking a beer, pausing every now and then to yell come-ons at every girl who happens to walk past. Paying attention to multiple sporting events while gambling, drinking beer and hitting on women: This is straight-guy multitasking at its finest.

PAYING ATTENTION TO MULTIPLE SPORTING EVENTS WHILE GAMBLING, DRINKING BEER AND HITTING ON WOMEN: THIS IS STRAIGHT-GUY MULTITASKING AT ITS FINEST.

Eventually, Millman's friends, Southie Bill and Derek, come out (or maybe a better word choice is "arrive") and join the crew. After I give an impromptu demonstration of how to shotgun a beer, we turn our attention to the tackle dummy, Gilman.

Gilman is a padded, armless torso with straps on his back that allow the "coach" to bolster him while testosterone-fueled steakheads practice their tackling technique. Derek takes the coach role first; he's wearing a nylon jacket, aviator glasses and a whistle lanyard around his neck for coachlike realism. After hitting Gilman/Derek several times, I take the straps and encourage Jonathan and William to get mean. Jonathan musters decent enthusiasm for hitting Gilman, but William treats Gilman as if he's said something contemptuous about fur coats or Paul Smith shirts. He puts his shoulder into the dummy and gets low, driving me back until I give up. Well done.

We try to get Millman to make a few tackles, but he's bored with Gilman. "I humped Gilman earlier," he explains. "I flipped him over. A Missy Elliott, if you know what I mean." Take that thang down, flip it and reverse it—right. None of our gay tailgaters show any inclination to hump Gilman, so the molesting of inanimate objects will hereby be deemed a straight attribute.

Then I toss the football around with Paul, who throws a better spiral than I do. But that's not really worth talking about.

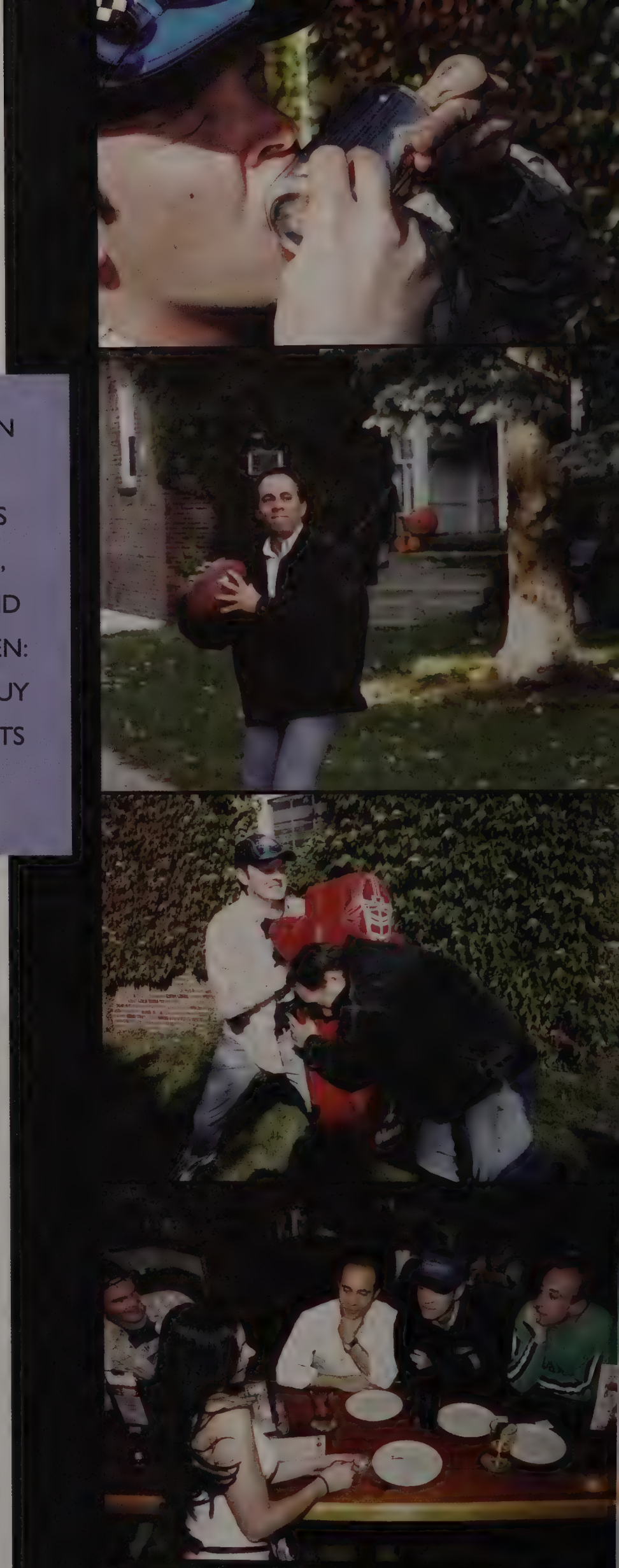
NICE...EYES

All that activity makes us mighty hungry, so it's time to head downtown for some sustenance, Hooters style. Two of our three subjects have never been to Hooters, although Paul has been once before, possibly because he thought it was an owl-themed restaurant and might be really campy. Seeing Hooters for the first time, Jonathan and William have interesting observations. The first is that many of the tables in Hooters are inordinately tall. In fact, they're just about high enough that if you were a well-endowed woman, you could rest your charges there while, say, taking an order for 50 buffalo wings from a bunch of slobbering fools. Budweiser's "Real Men of Genius" commercials should devote 30 seconds to Mr. Hooters' table designer sometime.

The second observation is that Hooters is surprisingly family-oriented, with several tables occupied by parents and their li'l hooters. As Paul says, "I think it's all about Dad's choices."

The waitresses are friendly but become even more friendly when they find out that three of our party would use a putter instead of a wedge when hitting a golf ball from the rough. (Note to self: Bring gay guys to Hooters more often.) Murph and I coach the fellas at ogling while devouring wings and watching football on TV. Richard gets lots of attention from the waitresses because of his accent. (Another note to self: Cultivate a British accent.) To wrap up the day in fine straight fashion, none of us manages to get the digits from our waitress (the lovely Marissa) or any of the other girls.

I hope that our three volunteers have learned a little something over the course of the day about the wonders of straightdom. I've learned a few things myself—for instance, that gay guys constantly call their friends fags, too. But I'm glad it's over. My face is dry from being outside all day, and I'm dying to get away from the gays. They're fun to hang out with and all, but my Lancôme moisturizer costs $40 a bottle and I don't want to share.



From top: Ezra shotguns a beer; Paul gets ready to show off Ezra's football skills; Paul tackles a couple of dummies; Ezra coaches Paul, William and Jonathan on how to act sketchy at Hooters.

From top: After taking this picture, Richard, the photographer, suggests that Paul's IHRA (International Hot Rod Association) hat should stand for Improper Homosexuals Rapidly Accelerating; Jonathan and William perform the gay tech inspection, confirming that the Infiniti has lighted vanity mirrors; the gay contingent enjoys the motorcycle races, as well as the motorcycle racers; Paul prepares to get in touch with his straight side with a 97 mph quarter-mile run in the M45.

THE QUEER GUY

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

When Ezra Dyer, THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN's resident joker, proposed turning the tables on the hottest show on TV by giving me a straight-guy makeover, my initial reaction was, "What for? I already know how to scratch my privates and belch in public."

But then I thought about it. As a style-savvy gay man, I like to stay ahead of trends, and since gay is the new straight, it's only a matter of time before the pendulum swings back and it's cool to be a clueless hetero guy again.

True to stereotype, I can make a soufflé, artfully arrange knickknacks and cobble together a passable outfit from anyone's wardrobe, but my eyes tend to glaze over when the talk turns to sports, and if I'm staring at a woman's breasts, it's only because I'm wondering if she's had a boob job. A few pointers wouldn't hurt.

With that in mind, I recruited two gay friends, and we agreed to undergo a butching up at the hands of Ezra, an avowed heterosexual. At least that's what he says, and I have no reason to doubt him, even if he did wear rainbow flip-flops around the office last summer. (Plus, a guy who lives in Bay Village and asks you to go "drag racing" does make you wonder.) Ezra's friend Murph, by comparison, is practically Clint Eastwood, and Murph drives a Mercedes, gets $100 haircuts and has a framed photo of Audrey Hepburn in his apartment.

DRESSING 'N' DRAG

You know you're gay when you wonder what kind of cologne to wear drag racing. This is the thought that occurs to me as I get ready at 6 am to pick up my fellow homosexuals—Paul, the de facto husband-type-person of my interior-decorator friend Duncan, and William, who owns a chi-chi hair salon on Newbury Street.

After choosing what I consider an appropriately sporty outfit (striped sweater, jeans, black leather jacket, minimal jewelry), I drive into town to collect Paul, who's dressed essentially like the frat boy he once was, and William, who's wearing $200 Moschino blue jeans, a Paul Smith shirt with French cuffs and a vintage bear fur coat. (Needless to say, William will be the only person, male or female, wearing a fur coat at the New England Dragway.) He also, quite sensibly, has come equipped with Clarins Eye Contour Gel and a matte face cream called Never Let Them See You Shine, since, as he points out, "there's going to be a camera."

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GAY WHEN YOU WONDER WHAT KIND OF COLOGNE TO WEAR DRAG RACING.

We meet up with Murph and Ezra, who has borrowed what I take to be a muscle car in Infiniti clothing, and head north in two separate cars, stopping along the way at Dunkin' Donuts for breakfast. A brief comparison of the scenes in the two cars is telling: In ours, we're listening to a chill CD called *Café St. Germain*, and our conversation topics have included Rita Hayworth and the Aga Khan. In theirs, the stereo is blasting a compilation featuring Guns N' Roses, Def Leppard and Garth Brooks, while the conversation has mainly been about snow tires.

Clearly, they have their work cut out for them.

Although the three of us are sharp enough to know that drag racing has nothing to do with men dressed in women's clothing, William does say, "I see a couple of women who could pass for drag queens...but they wouldn't win any prizes."

What we haven't anticipated is the endless standing around. Before you can drive your car on the track, it has to get "teched," which involves lining up behind a hundred or so other cars and waiting for an official with a clipboard to check the engine, tires, transmission, seatbelts, etc.

While we wait, William makes the observation, "A gay tech would be more like: leather interior, CD player, lighted mirror on the visors..."

When a guy carrying engine parts and french fries passes by, someone asks, "Anyone hungry?"

"Yeah," says one of the straight guys. "Let's go get some street meat."

Ever helpful, William points out: "In my culture, that means something completely different."

Besides snacking on the kind of greasy, high-carb carnival food most of our gay brethren wouldn't be caught dead choking on (curly fries and hot dogs), we take the opportunity to do a complete wardrobe change at the souvenir stand. For $200, the three of us go from fab to drab in 60 seconds, buying T-shirts, baseball caps and sweatshirts

emblazoned with racing logos in lurid colors. But for the first time that morning, we actually look like we fit in.

"I'll be back in a few minutes," says William. "I wanna go see what the motorcycle guys look like off their bikes."

Paul is the reluctant captain of Team Homo, having agreed to drive the car. "Why don't we just blast disco music and make our way leisurely to the finish line?" he jokes. But when it finally comes time to race, he covers a quarter of a mile in 14.26 seconds—faster than the recorded time for the car. In fact, any faster and, by law, he would have needed a helmet.

He's modest about his accomplishment, though, observing that "only a straight guy would wait four hours for a thrill that lasts 14 seconds."

Score one for the Gay Boys.

TAILGATING FOR DUMMIES

Ezra's friend Millman greets us at Boston College with a Coors Light in one hand and a tackle dummy in the other. "Hit it! Hit it!" he screams, and we all dutifully crash into him, although I go for the comic effect of making out with it. (As it turns out, the tackle dummy is a better kisser than some of the men I've dated.)

Like all good tailgate parties, no one pays much attention to the game, except to say, "What happened?" when the crowd erupts in a roar. This allows me to hide my complete and total ignorance of football and concentrate, instead, on drinking beer, which is something I do at a varsity level. However, we all decline Ezra's offer to do a beer bong, politely begging off as he wipes the foam out of his nostrils.

William asks to use the bathroom and Millman directs him to a row of shrubs, saying, "The neighbors won't mind."

Meanwhile, Ezra picks up a football and tosses it to Paul, who throws back a perfect spiral.

"Ouch!" says Ezra, catching it.

By the time we leave, I'm the only guy who has had a conversation with the only girl there.

Score another for the Gay Boys.

BY THE TIME WE LEAVE, I'M THE ONLY GUY WHO HAS HAD A CONVERSATION WITH THE ONLY GIRL THERE. SCORE ANOTHER FOR THE GAY BOYS.

GUESS THE GAY MAN

Next stop, Hooters. After getting us a table in the middle of the restaurant, Paul goes to the men's room. Upon his return, he reports that while he did read the sports pages posted above the urinal, he studiously tried to ignore the menu hanging next to it.

Our nubile and extremely friendly waitress comes over to take our order. In keeping with the day's testosterone theme, it's beers all around and a platter of 50 extra-spicy buffalo wings. When Ezra tells the waitress why we're there and asks her to pick out who's gay, she gets it all wrong, pointing at our photographer and saying, "He's not?"

"No," I explain. "He's just British."

While Murph tries to remove the stick-on paper bracelet from New England Dragway from Ezra's arm, Ezra screams, "It's stuck to the hair!"

William turns to me and says, "Imagine how he'd fare with chest waxing."

We hold our own with the straight guys in guzzling beer and inhaling iridescent-orange chicken parts, although we're noticeably neater about it.

When the waitress returns with the check, she singles out William to chat with.

"First time at Hooters?" she asks.

"Yeah," he answers.

"How do you like it?" she asks.

"I thought the guys would be hotter."

She laughs uproariously, gives William a flirtatious little hug and agrees to pose for a photo in which William, Paul and I are brazenly staring at her chest.

As he pays the bill, I overhear Ezra trying to convince our waitress to give him her phone number, because, he says, in actual point of fact, he's gay, too.

"No, really! I mean it!" he says lamely, watching her walk away.

Score another for the Gay Boys.

At the end of the day, we've all learned a lot about how to be a straight guy, which Paul and William sum up:

"Basically, it's like being a lesbian," says Paul.

"Only you have to dress like it's 1985," adds William.

It's an important lesson, I think, and one that shouldn't be lost on members of the far-right or groups like the Gay Recovery Movement, who believe that an individual's sexual orientation is something they choose. After all, who in their right mind would choose to dress badly, behave like a buffoon and be uncomfortable talking to women? iB

From top: Jonathan and Paul can't restrain their pinkies, even while chugging Coors Light; while the straights hit the tackle dummy, Jonathan hits on him; Ezra prepares to catch a blistering spiral from Paul, the gay Brett Favre; Jonathan talks to a woman; Jonathan quickly picks up the ways of the hetero at Hooters.

Du it.

Du boeuf

Wine created with passion by Georges Duboeuf ("du buff").
What are you passionate about?

GIVING OUTSIDE THE BOX

JUMP-START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH THESE CREATIVE IDEAS THAT DON'T REQUIRE YOU TO BATTLE HORDES OF SHOPPERS OR EVEN FUSS WITH WRAPPING PAPER AND BOWS

BY KRISTEN PAULSON

Treat your busiest friend to a home cooked meal by hiring Catherine Thompson for kitchen duty

You're eating lunch at your desk (again), contemplating what to give the people on your holiday list. Remember how you felt when you unwrapped that reindeer sweater one year? ("Gee, um, thanks....") What if, instead, you came up with a truly creative present that broadened the recipient's horizons—literally or figuratively? And what if buying that gift didn't require you to battle for parking or stand in line at a store? To help you make those "what ifs" a reality, we set out to find gifts that are both out-of-the-ordinary and easy to purchase. Just point, click or pick up the phone, and your loved one can have an experience like snowboarding, exploring an exotic locale or learning how to give a massage. Our ideas will help you think outside the gift box—without actually requiring that you wrap one.

READY, SET, GO

Housed in a former seminary in the Berkshires, the **Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health** has a beautiful view of the mountains, and its flexible Holiday Retreat and Renewal weekends can bring peace and serenity to someone you care about. Guests can practice yoga, hike, meditate, choose from a host of spa services, dance to live drumming and savor vegetarian meals (breakfast in the main dining hall is silent, to encourage a meditative environment). Activities are geared for all fitness levels. The one downside may be that no caffeine is served, but if your giftee must have some, he or she can take a short drive to downtown Lenox, Mass., for a fix. The center's nightly rate is $120-$273 depending on room type; meals and all program activities are included. 800-741-7353. www.kripalu.org.

The eagle has landed. On your friend's arm. At the 1,300-acre **Equinox Resort** in Manchester Village, Vt., city folk can learn "country pursuits" such as archery, off-road driving and falconry. Falconers keep 13 Harris hawks and two eagles at the British School of Falconry located on the premises. Guests can take a "hawk walk" (a stroll with a hawk flying nearby), go hunting with the birds for pheasant and quail (Brittany spaniels and English setters flush out the prey), or simply hold a bird (protective equipment is provided). More traditional recreation options include ice skating, cross-country skiing or early-morning snowshoeing. Guests can also receive a beauty treatment, like a facial, at the Equinox's Avanyu Spa. An introductory lesson in falconry costs $85; facials at the spa range from $145–$250. 888-367-7625. www.equinox.rockresorts.com.

For those who love to travel, the skies just got friendlier. You can purchase **Delta gift certificates**, available in $350 increments, for a friend, a spouse or someone cherished whom you want to send far, far away. Recipients can apply the certificate toward any Delta flight or vacation package or an annual Crown Room Club membership that provides preflight amenities. The certificate is valid for one year after the issue date, which should give you enough lead time to convince your loved one to bring along a travel companion. $350. 800-221-1212.

BODY & MIND

We finally figured out how to get boyfriends to reciprocate massages: Hire a professional to supervise. During a **Giuliano Day Spa** Massage Partners treatment, a massage technician teaches pairs to massage each other in two (back-to-back) 50-minute sessions. Watchful experts give hands-on instruction in draping the body, Swedish technique, foot massage and gauging how much pressure is appropriate. Many couples also purchase essential oils at the spa for home practice. The service isn't just for couples, though—mothers and daughters and pairs of sisters have also been flocking to the Newbury Street spa's massage school. $160 for two back-to-back sessions. 617-262-2220. www.giulianodayspa.com.

Couples can learn the art of massage at Giuliano Day Spa.

Anybody on your list can benefit from **Kate Lubin**'s life coaching. Lubin, founder of a company called Upshot, doesn't simply cheer her clients on or tell them to get in touch with their feelings. The Cambridge-based consultant is more of a drill sergeant for life goals—without the pushups—helping people formulate a game plan for getting what they want. Her clients, the majority of them male, learn to take action and thrive, whether that means improving a current relationship or angling for a promotion at work. Upshot holiday packages, $225-$445 for two to four 30-60 minute sessions per month. Complimentary introductory session. 617-621-8037. www.raiseyourstandards.com.

Does someone you know need the Reformer? The machine, one of several at **Boston Pilates**, may sound like a form of strict religious intervention, but the fitness buff in your life will thank you. Thanks to Pilates' regimen of stretching and building long, lean muscles, one female client at the fully equipped studio lost two inches from her waist and hips and actually gained a quarter inch in height. That's because Pilates works to elongate the spine, which can get compressed over time without enough stretching, according to instructor BrieAnn Voeller. This gift gives new meaning to personal growth. $15 and up per person for groups of five; $65-$85 per hour for individuals. 617-524-0118.

FEATHERING THE NEST

Anatoly Tsirelson of **A.R.T. Consulting** in Brookline is a trained practitioner of Black Hat Sect feng shui. Though the name might seem more fitting for an outlaw gang in a Western movie, Black Hat Sect feng shui is a popular form of the Chinese art that's said to promote positive energy through proper arrangement of the home and work environment. Two of A.R.T.'s consultants go through your friend's living space, asking questions about his or her lifestyle and observing the placement of furniture and objects. After the evaluation, they make recommendations about colors, textures, fabrics, artwork, plants, lighting and accessories that will encourage a harmoniously balanced living space. $450 for a three-hour consultation. 617-566-5995. www.fengshuiart.net.

Interior design is a more concrete reconfiguration of space. At the South End firm **IOI Inc.**, a consultant works one-on-one with clients, asking them to collect images that they like (or don't like, since people are generally better at that) with the aim of understanding and interpreting their wishes and tastes. The consultant uses the information to help the client choose furniture as well as fabrics and colors for interiors. Lately, according to the company's principal Io Oakes, the trend has been toward open, one-room spaces and professionally equipped kitchens. $115 per hour with Io Oakes; less for other designers. 617-338-0436.

Some people find cleaning therapeutic. Then there are the rest of us who seem to barely have time to control the clutter. Give the gift of time to someone on your list who isn't so enamored of cleaning. The staff at **MaidPro** will expertly tidy the recipient's home, including cleaning cabinets and vacuuming upholstery. Charges vary based on number of bedrooms and floors; a 2.5-hour session costs $99. 877-624-3776. www.maidpro.com.

CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION

Tell your friend to imagine the warm weather, soaring gulls and the roar of the ocean when you send him or her a **Legal Sea Foods** Maine Event lobster dinner. One meal—shipped overnight via Federal Express—includes a fresh, live lobster, nine littleneck steamer clams, one pint of Legal's award-winning New England clam chowder with oyster crackers, a bib, a claw cracker and a moist

The speedster in your life can drive like a pro at the Skip Barber Racing School.

towelette for each person. Cooking instructions are included. $119.95 (for two), $199.95 (for four). 800-328-3474. www.legalseafoods.com.

Do you have a friend who's mastered the art of boiling water? Whatever the person's skill level in the kitchen, there's an appropriate cooking class at the **Cambridge Center for Adult Education**. Anyone Can Cook is a crash course in the basics. The class usually has a wait list—a sure sign that many of us out there are culinarily challenged. Sweet tooths may go for Crafting with Chocolate or Cake Decorating, while the Friday night cooking series has lots of savory choices from Japanese Cooking to Spanish Paella to Roasted Duck. Good thing bathing-suit season's a long way off. $41-$121. 617-547-6789. www.ccae.org.

For the busy professional who has no time to cook, give the gift of Somerville chef **Catherine Thompson**'s home-style meals. Every Monday, Thompson prepares a weekly menu from scratch and delivers the meals by 6 pm. Delivery is available to Cambridge, Somerville, Arlington and five other towns north of Boston. Thompson balances her offerings, providing healthy entrées like fish and one or two indulgences, such as cream sauce. The food isn't fussy—think stuffed chicken breast, not rabbit medallions—but recent menus have included salmon, asparagus and leek crepes. The price per meal is $14. For carb counters, Thompson offers low-carbohydrate meal options (for Tuesday or Friday delivery). 617-538-2386. www.catherinescuisine.com.

For the gastronome on your list, you can purchase a gift certificate from one of two outlets. The Diner's Choice gift card from **Certificates, Etc.** can be redeemed at 130 New England restaurants, from Davio's in Cambridge to Vito's in West Bridgewater plus options in Rhode Island, west of Boston, and on Cape Cod. It's available in denominations of $25, $50, $75 and $100 and can be redeemed for the full value for one meal, or on multiple occasions at different restaurants. **Dinegift** offers a choice of 60 restaurants including Boston's Elephant Walk and Icarus, plus others on the North and South shores, Cape Cod and west of the city. Available denominations are $15, $25, $50 and $100. Both gift cards offer some of the same choices (Bob the Chef's, Ambrosia). You may want to check each site's restaurant list to make the best choice for your favorite gourmand. www.certificatesetc.com, 508-285-8793. www.dinegift.com, 877-705-4438.

MaidPro will serve as Felix to the Oscar on your list.

SCHOOL'S IN

"So much of snowboarding is jumps and half-pipes—it's more chick related," says **Wachusett Mountain Ski & Snowboard School** director Bruce McDonald. Uh, whatever. Chicks and guys can learn the two-edged sport that's hard to start but fairly easy to pick up with a bit of instruction. Group lessons last 1.5 hours, and you need your own equipment (rentals are available). See you in the half-pipe. The Princeton, Mass., ski area is an hour-and-a-half drive from Boston. Cost ranges from $28-$250, depending on the number of lessons and whether you choose private or group instruction. 978-464-2300. www.wachusett.com.

During one of the coldest months of the year, it may be difficult to imagine learning striptease, but Take It Off!, taught by proprietrix Kim Airs, is **Grand Opening! Sexuality Boutique**'s most popular class for women (and women only—sorry, guys). Participants learn to flaunt their bodies and turn on their partners by saucily removing their clothes. Airs creates a warm and supportive classroom environment in the Brookline shop; but you can reassure your giftee that participation isn't required in class. That comes later, when she busts out her skills in the privacy of her own home. $34. Feb. 25, 7:30-9:30 pm. 617-731-2626. www. grandopening.com.

"In our **Skip Barber** Three Day Racing School, we gradually 'unlimit' your speed," reads the Skip Barber Web site. "By the last day, the top speed on the straightaways is well over 100 mph." Auto enthusiasts on your list will need no further convincing. They'll drive single-seat, open-cockpit, open-wheel Formula Dodges in Intro to Racing classes ($595-$695) or R/T 2000 Formula Dodges in the Advanced Two-Day Racing School ($1,925-$2,295). The company offers classes year round at locations nationwide; they're held in Lime Rock, Conn. (2.5 hours from Boston) from April through November. A bonus: Recipients can brag they went to the same school as Mario Andretti's 16-year-old grandson, Marco. 800-221-1131. www. skipbarber.com. iB

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HANGOVER HELPER

BY ANDREW GRAHAM

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US. WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU WAKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BOTTLE?

Ever have Night Train? It smells like paint thinner mixed with Kool-Aid, and feels just as smooth going down. The last time I had it was at my friend Sean's place. The aftereffects were nightmarish, mainly due to the fact that once I polished off the Night Train, all those little bottles of candy-flavored Jack Daniel's sorority-girl whiskey on the coffee table started to look really good. I don't think I have to tell you what happened next. At least I hope I don't, because I can't remember. All I can remember about that night is the next morning, and the pain.

I experienced another grand mal hangover a couple of years ago, and gin was to blame for that one. You know how after a few gin and tonics, they just get easier and easier to make and drink? Until eventually you're just skipping the tonic part altogether? Yeah, that's the sweet part. The slightly more bitter part was waking up the next day at 12:45 and miserably scampering to meet my girlfriend. When I got there a half-hour late, she said I literally looked green. Then I turned and sprinted to a nearby restroom and, bending only slightly at the waist, orally emitted a powerful burst of used gin and some faint traces of tonic.

Good times, good times. But the question we're addressing today is how to avoid experiences like those during the holiday season. The obvious answer is total abstinence—no drinks, no problems! But who among us is willing to take that drastic step onto the wagon? As long as there are football games, company holiday parties and opening bands, there will be drinks and drunks. So is there a way to avoid the consequences? Dr. Beers of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dr. Sober of Mass. General both declined to participate in this story, so instead we turned to trusted sources like gut instinct and urban legend. Shall we?

Bloody Mary morning: Good for a lightweight hangover—the vodka helps numb your pain while the Tabasco snaps your other senses back to consciousness. Best used in combination with greasy food, if possible. Top drinking scientists have discovered there's a direct correlation between the amount of grease in a breakfast of homefries, bacon and a western omelette, and the speed at which a hangover slides out of your system. There's no documentary evidence of this phenomenon, but that's just because no one's gone through the scientists' pockets to find the crumpled-up cocktail napkins they took their notes on.

The breakfast cure, part two: If you're too hung over to cook or even leave the house, I've found V8 or Gatorade to work OK, but not miraculously. I've also heard friends recommend Froot Loops with beer, but if you think I'm even going near a bowl of that, hungover or stone sober, you're drunker than I am. But I'm skeptical of morning-after cures. As a rule, I've found that cleanup doesn't cut it; you have to lay the groundwork in advance.

Hair of the dog: I remember waking up foggy and wasted in a strange Indiana house two years ago to the sight of my friend Cam filling a cup from the keg. I looked at him with tears in my eyes. "Please be gentle with me, Cam, I'm on my beeriod," I said. "No breakfast till you finish this," he replied, handing me the cup. It was a pretty good weekend. I kept drinking the rest of that day and the next, and eventually felt healthy again about a week later. So it must have worked. What did we have for breakfast? Search me.

Top shelf beats rail: If you're healthily wealthy, you stand a better chance of avoiding a hangover. Pricier liquors are generally more meticulously distilled than the rotgut the rest of us proles drink. Also, they contain fewer of the congeners (that's a fancy drinking-scientist term meaning "poison") that contribute to the morning-after monster. Similarly, lighter colored liquors (say, vodka) have fewer congeners than darker ones (like whiskey). So remember: Clear is cool, dark is dangerous.

Try being a man instead of a woman: Researchers at the University of Missouri recently discovered that women's hangovers are statistically more harsh than men's. So if you're a girl, you might try some testosterone injections. Now that'll put hair on your chest!

Mystery pills: Are you a Russian spy? If so, you'll be familiar with RU-21. No, it's not a fake-ID pill (pause, wait for laugh). It's a drug that was developed to allow KGB agents to drink without getting drunk. So while the target got soused, Agent X could match him drink for drink and still be lucid enough to photograph the secret files and disarm the bomb under the hood of his spymobile before driving off (safely!) into the dark Soviet night. Anyway, that was the theory. In practice, it turned out that the agents and their targets both got soused at the same rate, *but*, the KGB boys felt a whole lot better the next morning. What's the Russian word for "eureka"? And then there's Sob'r-K, which comes to you from the wonderful world of the Internet. The trick with Sob'r-K is that you take two before you start drinking, two while you're drinking and then two when you're done. I guess the premise is, you'll be totally hung up on remembering to take your pills, and you won't want to get too drunk and forget. Anyway, I wish you the best of luck with Internet pharmaceuticals; me, I'm choosing life.

Good old H_2O: This one is boring, but possibly the most effective. Not to get all scientechnical on you, but a huge contributor to every hangover is dehydration. The simplest way of using water to avoid the alcoholocaust is to drink a large glass before retiring for the evening (or a couple of glasses if you've really been swingin'). A more dedicated method involves drinking a glass of water for every alcoholic drink you consume. It's sort of a double-edged sword, though; drinking all that water slows your buzz down, so you have to drink more. But then, well, you're drinking more. So eventually, with patience, determination, and a little bit of old-fashioned elbow grease, you'll be as drunk as you wanna be. (Note: Please do not try to drink elbow grease.)

I hope this has been an informative and entertaining read. I did it all for you, you know. You're my best friend, really. You know that? I really, really love you. Hey, pal, what are you looking at? You got something to say? Do you want a piece of this? Huh? Do you? IB

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GREAT TO GET

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

1 2

1. Porcelain cups with tray (not shown) by Kahla, $7 per set of four, at Lekker, 1317 Washington St., 617-542-6464.

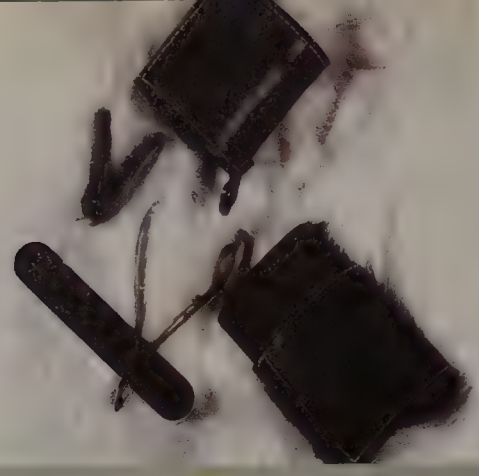
2. Seven eyes palette, $30; seven lips palette, $30. Both by MAC at Filene's, 426 Washington St., 617-542-5655.

3 4

3. "Pleece" scarf, $40; matching mittens, $25; hand-stitched canvas and felt photo albums, $45 ea All at Koo de Kir, 65 Chestnut St., 617-723-81

4. La D de Dior gold eye-o tiger watch by Christian Dior, $12,475, at Alpha Omega, 57 JFK St., Cambridge, 617-864-91

On left: Yellow-gold and diamond watch, $16,600; yellow-gold and diamond necklace, $12,400; yellow-gold and diamond bracelet, $10,275. All at Cartier. Pink slip, $252, at La Perla. On right: Heart-shaped diamond necklace, $240,000; white-gold and diamond watch, $33,800; white-gold and diamond ring, $20,000. All at Cartier. Red embroidered soft bra, $103; matching thong, $59. Both at La Perla. Cartier, 40 Newbury St., 617-262-3300. La Perla, 250 Boylston St., 617-423-5709. Not on location at the Four Seasons Hotel. Models: Emily Girvin and Stephanie Garneau for Maggie Inc. Hair: Samantha Gulslander for James Joseph Salon. Makeup: Jenny Brown.



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5. Manicure kit with leather c by Bobbi Brown, $48, at Sa Fifth Avenue, the Prudentia Center, 617-262-8500.

6. Large martini-glass makeup bag, $45; small martini-glass makeup bag, $35; corduroy belt with martini glass, $48; corduro belt with horseshoe, $48. A at ShopBlueDragonfly.com

7. Men's custom gift sets, $60 and up, at Kiehl's, 112 Newbury St., 617-247-177

8. Blue gurgling cods: large, $ medium, $30; small, $25. Small silver gurgling cod, $ All at Shreve, Crump & Lo 330 Boylston St., 617-267-9100.

9. Luxury travel gift basket by Crabtree & Evelyn, $94.60 at Wrentham Village Premium Outlets, 1 Premi Outlets Blvd., Wrentham, 508-348-0600.

10. Hudson stool, $135; Medi lamp, $104.30; Hudson pillow, $32.70; Adagio tas $21.80. All at Madura, 14 Newbury St., 617-267-02

11. *The Art of Shaving* book an brush set, $100, at Neima Marcus, Copley Place, 61 536-3660. Men's care kit Tweezerman, $30 at Folica.com.

12. Tinseltown gift basket, $149.95, at Lush, 166 Newbury St., 617-375-58

13. Soft bra with thong and s sack, $120; cami with th and satin sack, $165. Bot Yamamay at Gipore, 176 Newbury St., 617-424-1

14. Travel brush set and case by Clinique, $25, at Bloomingdale's, the Mall Chestnut Hill, 617-630-6

nion Jack zip-front.
veater, $245; striped
ool knit cap, $55;
atmeal wool scarf,
5; indigo buckle-
ack jeans, $265;
ouble-wrap leather
ff, $45. All at Market,
8 Tremont St., 617-
38-4500. Shot on
cation at Market.
odel: Kevin B for
aggle Inc.

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15. Romantic Moments gift set by Vera Wang, $125; fragrance wardrobe b Chanel, $65; En Joy fragrance gift s by Jean Patou, $85. All at Saks Fifth Avenue, the Prudential Center, 617-262-8500.

16. Luxury custom gift set, $75 and up Deluca's Market, 11 Charles St., 617-523-4343.

17 18

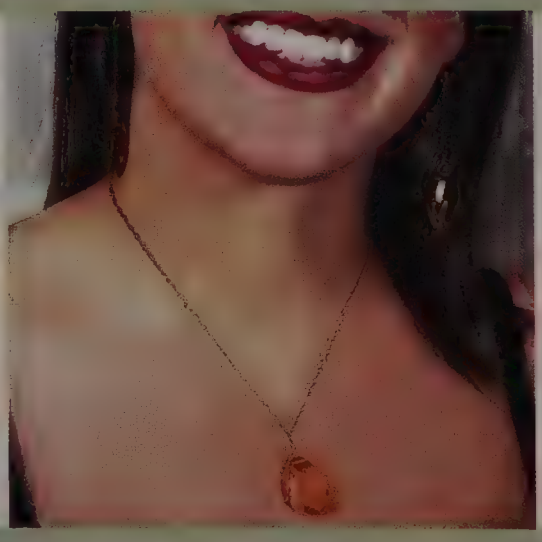
17. Hand-knit lingerie ribbon corset ha $110 each by Front Co. at *www.front.bz.*

18. L'ombre Dans L'eau box of three soaps, $34; Feuille de Lavande scen candle, $45; L'ombre Dans L'eau ge moussant pour le corps, $26; L'omb Dans L'eau gel moussant pour le co et cheveux, $26. All at Diptyque, 1 Newbury St., 617-351-2430. Body scrub gift crate by Little Wing Naturals, $38. Littlewingnaturals.cc

19 20

19. Interchangeable 18-karat white-go ornaments on colored mesh band S&R Designs, $399 and up, at Arle & Roberta, 233 Needham St., Newton, 617-527-3344.

20. Cashmere sweater, $275; quilted $145; lamb's wool turtleneck swe $175; black leather bag, $295; ribb belt, $32. All at J. McLaughlin, 34 Charles St., 617-228-4195.



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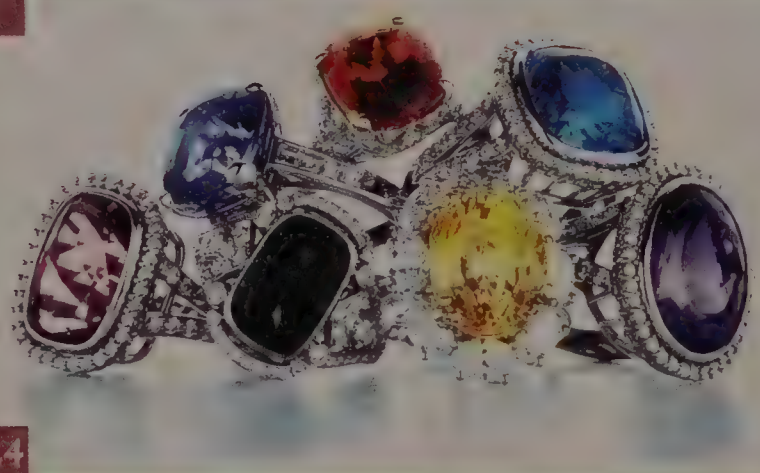
21. Triplet lip polish collection by LORA $35 each; Gift-giving Cosmetic Pac Bloom, $25. Both at Sephora, the Prudential Center, 617-262-4200. L and Cheek Palette by NARS, $70, a Nieman Marcus, Copley Place, 617 536-3660. Small Wonders gift set b Tony & Tina, $34, at Filene's, 426 Washington St., 617-547-5655.

22. Yellow quartz teardrop necklace earrings by Jane, $215 set, at Janejewelry.com.



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23. Hello Kitty charm, $28; red heart necklace, $75; blue heart necklac $86; beaded necklace with flowe $175; Swarovski crystal bracelet, $130. All at Flat of the Hill, 60 Charles St., 617-619-9977.

24. Pink tourmaline, aquamarine, gre tourmaline, mandarin garnet, yell sapphire, Paraiba tourmaline and tanzanite rings. All set in platinum 18-karat gold, $10,000–$1million, all at Tiffany's, Copley Place, 617-353-0222.

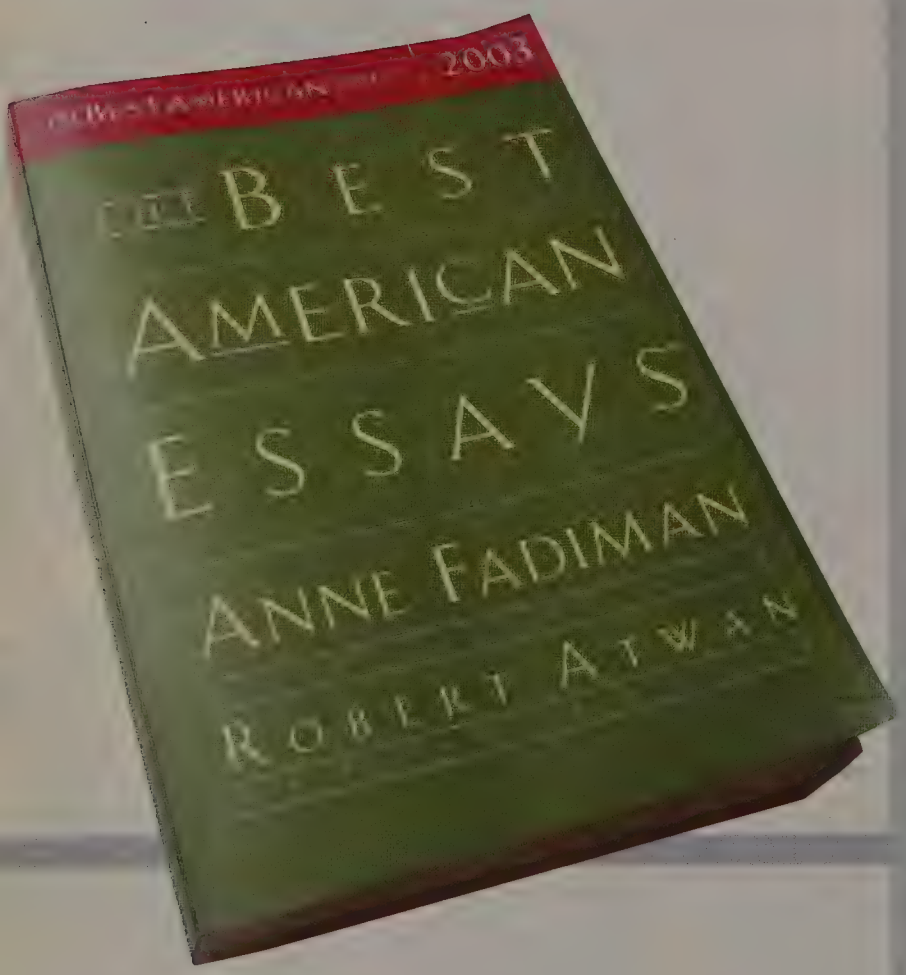
On her: Crimson satin halter, $265; lack silk evening skirt, $275. Both by armen Marc Valvo. Eighteen-karat ellow-gold sapphire and diamond neck- ce and earrings, $360,000 set; heart- haped diamond and platinum bracelet, 72,000; sapphire, diamond and plat- um ring, $54,000. All by Egg ollection, all at Saks Fifth Avenue. On m: Charcoal three-piece suit, $2,165; nk shirt, $360. Both by Prada. Red and ack silk tie by Charvet, $145. All at ks Fifth Avenue, the Prudential enter, 617-262-8500.

ot on location at Saks Fifth Avenue. odels: James Matranga and Munjeet r Maggie Inc. Hair: Mitch Derosa for itchell John Salon. Makeup: Paige alton for Stila.

MOPSY

SERENDIPITOUS SHOPPING: OUR UNFETTERED CORRESPONDENT SEEKS OUT THE SALUBRIOUS AND THE CEREBRAL

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



ANSWERS TO THE ESSAY QUESTION

***The Best American Essays*, edited by Anne Fadiman—a western Mass. resident who lectures at Smith College—delivers a meaty handful of thought in many styles, from *The New Yorker*, *Harper's* and elsewhere.**

The essay form is a wonderfully rich and varied genre. Remember your college ones, so bursting with feeling and electrified significance? Stylistic liberties make the essay a repository of exposition and argument that's also subjectively tinged, holidaying in the first-person realm of quasi-fiction at times. All these flavors abound in the 2003 edition of *The Best American Essays*. Critic Susan Sontag discusses, with furious passion, the perverse power of war photography to make the horrific banal, while draining away the "narratives" these images supplant. The effects of a mother's death—subtly evolving and weird—are explored by Cheryl Strayed, who, though married, reacted to her loss by sleeping with lots of men. Donald Antrim writes about how he responded to the same event in his life by torturously shopping for an expensive bed, full of zig-zagging associations. Dr. Atul Gawande takes readers through the respect and terror that a surgeon feels as he cuts human flesh for the first time. Adam Gopnik writes of his daughter Olivia's imaginary friend named Charlie Ravioli, who, in ironic replication of grown-ups, is chronically too busy to talk. These substantial literary bites satisfy.

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This spacious store, crammed with merchandise, is divided into like-minded sections. In one, you'll find a dizzying array of scrapers and peelers, including a long-as-your-arm grater, intricate widgets for florifying radishes or peeling asparagus, and specialized little items to score the shiny, withholding skin of chestnuts. Whisks as big as baseball bats await giant bowls of yolks. "The world has decided créme brûlée is its dessert," says SLT's Jacob. So there are ramekins, pertinent cookbooks and a caramelizer. Elaborate cutlery here includes a subtly beautiful Japanese santoku knife, part cleaver, part chef's knife, with a hand-friendly wooden handle; the blade sports subtle, aesthetic squiggles. Sur la Table's window is filled with big and bigger sunny copper cookware pieces; one professional pan has a long, imposing iron handle. Rock-solid, colorful FrancisFrancis! espresso machines are an apotheosis of chic Italian design (the red one is almost a sculpture). With elegant minimalism of gesture, your dark, glamorous brew emerges. KitchenAid mixers come in frothy pale pink and green. And Moroccan tagines—decorated earthenware towers—invite exotic cooking and sexy presentation.

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Phinney's Friends needs volunteers to help people with AIDS take care of their animals—walking them, feeding them, taking them to the vet, etc. For information on training, opportunities and requirements, call 617-541-5064.

Imagine the daily complications brought about by AIDS; think of the essential treasures and comforts a patient still hopes to preserve. For many, that would be an animal, radiating cozy acceptance. But weakness and unpredictable hospitalizations add uncertainty about walking, feeding and caring for an animal. Phinney's Friends (named after an animal-loving MSPCA policeman) helps AIDS patients keep their pets around by providing volunteers who help walk dogs, take cats to the vet, clean bird cages, deliver pet food and sometimes even foster pets temporarily. Some people, intimidated by doctors' dreaded orders to "get rid of that dog," need help getting preventive care for a pet's fleas or other conditions that immuno-compromised people need to be vigilant about. Deep and touching friendships sometimes develop within this patient-animal-volunteer triangle, especially when families have become estranged. Dogless volunteers get a huge benefit of companionship too.

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REVIEW

ZON'S HAS ZIP

This chic boîte in Jamaica Plain offers comfort food with a twist

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

The concept of comfort food makes me uncomfortable. The phrase suggests straightforward, unfussy, home-cooked food. Admittedly, the nourishment created by a loved one's labors in the kitchen is often far superior to standard restaurant fare, but I have never felt moved to travel across town, try to find a parking space, and pay restaurant prices to eat something I could get at home. My dad was an excellent cook, but he took us out to restaurants to broaden our horizons, to deepen our appreciation for the arts of the table and to enjoy things we could not get at home because they were too laborious or time-consuming to prepare or could not garner a consensus in family menu construction.

Despite Zon's billing as a comfort food emporium, it is far more than that. It's a chic, almost trendy boîte on Perkins Street in Jamaica Plain. A high, black, sculptured metal ceiling continues part way down one wall, where it gives way to a deep shade of red. Black wrought-iron sconces with red candles continue the color motif, as do handsome black-and-white rectangular lampshades with silhouetted arches. Track lighting illuminates plate shelves lined with tchotchkes, and votive candles bathe the room with their flickering glow. Heavy absorbent cotton napkins and tall-stemmed, ample wine glasses add to the ambience.

Our waitress asked whether we would like bread, which is not brought as a matter or course—apparently the Atkins diet has arrived in JP. Our affirmative response produced chewy-crusted slightly sourdough from Iggy's, served with soft butter. The menu's seven appetizers (eight counting the occasional special), five sandwiches and 10 main courses included comfort food staples like macaroni and cheese and meatloaf, as well as more epicurean options. From the appetizers, we chose spinach salad ($7), barbecued pork flatbread ($10) and grilled clams ($10), a cross-section of offerings that, while not un-"comfortable," were a far cry from the staples in most home kitchens. The bowl of silky leaves of stemless baby spinach, crispy fried shallots, tangy goat cheese and well-balanced vinaigrette provided perfumes and flavors of the Mediterranean, redolent of fruity, aromatic olive oil.

Roasted beet salad with cabernet vinaigrette, blue cheese mousse and toasted spicy pepitas

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The flatbread was an oval pizza layered with tender, smoky braised pork; sweet and spicy barbecue sauce; heavily garlicked swiss chard; creamy, mild Fontina cheese; and sweet caramelized onions. The clams, almost a dozen plump, tender littlenecks steamed open in their shells, were bathed in Tabasco-parsley butter, garlic and a lemony broth from which a mammoth, coarse-textured crostini of toasted sourdough bread protruded.

From the main-course selections, despite my skepticism about comfort food, I could not overlook the meatloaf ($15). While its presentation—mounted atop a mound of mashed potatoes pureed with sour cream and chives—followed the tedious, formulaic layering practice that is de rigueur in so many restaurants, the meatloaf's hearty, beefy goodness carried the day. A rich, shallot-infused gravy rendered from the cooking juices enhanced both the meat and the potatoes, while somehow failing to impair the first-rate texture and freshness of the accompanying slender French green string beans, firm to the bite and vivid in flavor.

Zon's meatloaf far outshined one night's "daily comfort," a braised shank of lamb ($22). First, I was surprised at its tariff, which turned out to be the highest-priced offering that night, a fact neither disclosed on the menu nor mentioned by the server—the only lapse in otherwise outstanding service. (When a special is not within the price range of other menu offerings, I think it's incumbent on the server to mention its price.) Moreover, while the lamb was fall-off-the-bone tender, it had a somewhat bland flavor, lacking the enrichment that a good braising liquid, based on flavor-exchanging vegetables and herbs, usually imparts. The pleasantly bitter swiss chard and large-grained Israeli couscous that accompanied the lamb helped rescue the dish.

The 10-ounce sirloin steak ($21) arrived rare as ordered, but I was surprised to see that it was presliced in the kitchen and presented in somewhat busy and muddled fashion among its garnishes. Fortunately, the garnishes were first rate, including a luscious creamed spinach laced with garlic and a toothsome preparation that the menu called pommes anna, slices of intriguingly flavored potatoes layered in the fashion of potatoes Lyonnaise. The star of Zon's main-course lineup was the cod ($19). This double-thick filet of flaky, perfectly textured fish transported us from JP to Gloucester. Pristine in its freshness, the cod was enhanced by the accompanying sweet potato–acorn squash hash and caramelized balsamic onions studded with nuggets of bacon. The ensemble, simple yet elegant, provided reason by itself to come to this eatery.

Along with its well-conceived and well prepared food, Zon's offers a reasonable selection of wines. These ranged from a first rate Prosecco ($23), a slightly off dry Italian sparkler that made a superb aperitif

Roasted salmon with mustard lentils du Puy, creamed spinach and leeks

Ice cream sandwiches are drizzled with caramel and hot fudge.

to a full-bodied, aromatic 2001 Sangiovese from the house of Coltibuono. This well-structured red, with good acid balance and fine tannins, remarkably mellowed for its youth, proved a satisfying accompaniment to the food.

Zon's pleasures continued through dessert. Selections (each $7) included a warm pear brioche bread pudding, moist with cinnamon custard and pears that had been poached in Port, with an intoxicating rum crème fraîche sauce. Warm apple crumb pie brought a rich pecan crumb topping and a luxurious scoop of slightly sweetened whipped cream. Finally, the chocolate cake, a warm, semisweet flourless cake, boasted intense chocolate flavor and a texture far more moist than the usual specimen of this genre, which has become a standard on Boston dessert cards. The pleasantly tart citrus curd that accompanied it also elevated it among its peers.

So tastefully conceived and professionally prepared were the dishes at Zon's that they totally disabused me of the idea that this is a place to come for comfort food. When my wife suggested that I did the restaurant a disservice by failing to order its signature macaroni and cheese, I replied that anyone who can take comfort in macaroni and cheese was not brought up in a staunchly Catholic home in the 1950s. The next thing you know there'll be a move to bring back mac and cheese's Friday night sibling—fish sticks. Holy quenelle! IB

Chef Lisa Ugalde prepares upscale comfort food.

Zon's dining room is cozy and intimate.

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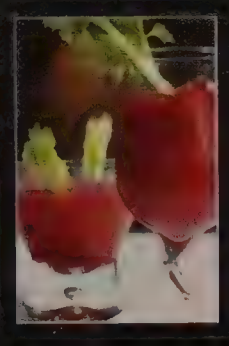

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper. com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Bayou & Game Festival
Magnolias, 1193 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1971). www.magnoliascuisine.com. Through Nov. 22. Enjoy alligator fritters, barbecued wild boar, snails sautéed with garlic, blackened ostrich steak or roasted rack of venison.

Beaujolais Nouveau Fete
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Nov. 20. $30. TV Diner host **Billy Costa** and singer **Kate Sullivan** host this cocktail party featuring hors d'oeuvres from the Burgundy region of France, live French music and samples of the 2003 Beaujolais Nouveau tapped directly from a 15-liter French cask.

Beaujolais Nouveau Party
Brasserie Jo, Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-425-3240). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential. Nov. 19, 9 pm-12:30 am. $35. Celebrate the release of the 2003 George Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau at a grand tasting highlighting the wines and food of the Beaujolais region. Artists, mimes, accordion players and caricature artists help create Montmartre in Boston. A portion of the proceeds benefits the French Library and Cultural Center.

Craft Beer Dinner
The Independent, 75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6021). Nov. 20, 6 and 8:30 pm. $45. Enjoy an evening of robust flavors paired with the craft-brewed beers of Ipswich Brewery.

Fireside Chats
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. $35. Chef/owner **Jim Solomon** offers a 10-month series of chats; topics range from American wines and New England micro-brews to spring produce and local cheeses. •Nov. 22, 3 pm: Merlot.

Food, Glorious Food
UpStairs on the Square, 91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-661-9422). www.wibconnection.org. *Nov. 19, 11:45 am-1:30 pm. $40.* Women in Business Connection hosts this event featuring three panelists discussing the food industry: **Julia Shanks**, chef/owner of Interactive Cuisine; **Carol Coutrier**, owner of the Launching Pad & Co., which assists start-ups and established companies; **Mary-Catherine Diebel**, co-owner of UpStairs on the Square; and **Ellen Callaway**, owner of Callaway Photography, which specializes in food imagery.

Lolonis Wine Dinner
Stonehedge Inn, 160 Pawtucket Blvd., Tyngsboro (978-649-4400). Nov. 24, 7 pm. $105. **Maureen Lolonis**, owner of Lolonis Winery, speaks at this wine dinner.

Makeovers and Martinis
Mitchell John Salon, 67 Broad St., Boston (617-591-1400, ext. 5). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Nov. 19, 7 pm. $25, $30 at the door. Enjoy complimentary martinis from Pravda Vodka and Chambord while you get makeup and hair advice from stylists. Receive touch-ups, tips and goodie bags, and possibly win a full makeover by Stila Cosmetics. All proceeds benefit the Big Sisters Association of Greater Boston.

Monica's Pasta and Sauce Exchange
Monica's, 130 Salem St., Boston (877-666-4222)). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 8 am-8 pm, through Nov. 24. Donate a jar of any commercially packaged, brand-name tomato sauce and receive a jar of Monica's Homemade Tomato Sauce. Or donate a box of pasta and receive a half pound of Monica's fresh pasta. All donated pasta and tomato sauce goes to the Pine Street Inn.

New Beaujolais Party
Tosca, 14 North St., Hingham (781-740-0080). Nov. 19, 10 pm-12:30 am. $20. Chef **Kevin Long** offers a late-night celebration with hors d'oeuvres and samples of the Beaujolais Nouveau.

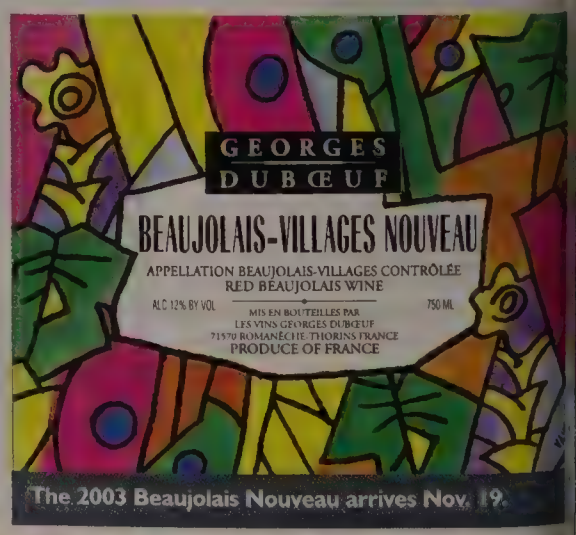
Oysterology Nights
McCormick & Schmick's, Park Plaza, 34 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-482-3999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue., 7-9 pm. Free. Chef **Eric Naruszewicz** and general manager **Paul Tietge** offer shucking lessons and discuss the differences among the wide array of oysters served at the raw bar.

Sunday Night Regional Tasting Menu
Pigalle, 75 Charles St. South, Boston (617-423-4944). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sun., 5-9:30 pm. $35, $40 (with wine). Chef **Marc Orfaly** offers a three-course tasting menu paired with Languedoc wines.

Ultimate Dinner
Davio's, 75 Arlington St., Boston (617-357-4810). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Nightly, through Dec. 30. $150. Chefs **Stephen Brown** and **Eric Swartz** create a four-course menu followed by a special tasting of the Grande Champagne Cognac, Louis XIII de Rémy Martin (which retails at $1,400 a bottle).

Westport Rivers Winery and Buzzards Bay Brewing Holiday Open House
417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). Nov. 29, 11 am-5 pm. Free. Take a tour of Buzzard's Bay Brewing and Westport Rivers Winery, taste beers and wines, and enjoy a hayride.

The Will & Lil Show
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org: *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 22, 8 pm, and Nov. 23, 3 pm. $15.* **Will McMillan** and **Lillian Rozin** share a stage in their cabaret act, *Food, Glorious Food!* The duo revels in the significance of food—tackling everything from canapés to cannibalism—while performing songs by Cole Porter, William Finn, Gilbert & Sullivan, Stephen Sondheim and Lionel Bart *and* preparing and eating food.



The 2003 Beaujolais Nouveau arrives Nov. 19.

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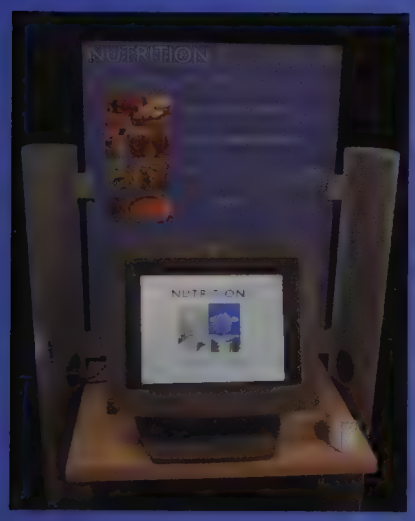

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Longwood Galleria
101 Merrimac St.
New England Medical Center
Northeastern University, Huntington Ave.
26 Park Plaza
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53 State St.

BRAINTREE, South Shore Plaza
BURLINGTON, Burlington Mall

CAMBRIDGE
27 Brattle Street
Cambridgeside Galleria
Harvard Square
Kendall Square
684 Mass. Ave.
1100 Mass. Ave.
MIT Coop

HYANNIS, Cape Cod Mall
NATICK, Natick Mall
PEABODY, North Shore Mall
SAUGUS, Square One Mall
SOMERVILLE, Davis Square
WELLESLEY, 55 Central St.
WOBURN, Woburn Business Ctr., 130 New Boston St.
WORCESTER, Worcester Commons

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St. Francis Hospital
FARMINGTON, West Farms Mall
NEW HAVEN, Yale University, One Broadway

MAINE

PORTLAND, Maine Mall

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LEBANON, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Ctr.
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SH

ipped from the Ed Lines

lieu, Ed Gannon...

e you soon, Ed Doyle!

AROLYN FAYE FOX

hange is good...especially when you're a hugely respected who can call his own . After nine years at **ürd'hui** in the Four ons, chef **Ed Gannon** eft the mainland for na's Vineyard. Gannon versee the renovations e 3-year-old **Winnetu and Resort** on South n, then take over the 140-seat ocean-view rant, **Opus**, when the al resort reopens in the g. Fans of the fabulous rd'hui are advised to calm and refrain from king; after all, you don't think Gannon d every morsel of food himself, do you? *change, plus c'est la même chose*.

anwhile, chef **Ed Doyle** (long ago of) has been keeping his irons in a mul- of fires as he prepares to eventually his own restaurant, **Haven**. And just will that be?

e'll keep you posted" is his cautious re- e. "The process is really speeding up, e are really getting excited."

ile keeping local foodies in suspense, has stayed active. "I've been very consulting," he reports. "Right now I rking on five projects." Among them ans to bring the **Farmer's Diner**, a pt he helped launch in Vermont, to n. He is also working with the owner ini restaurant called **Pressed** that's to open in the Financial District.

Boston, and time as a wine salesman, he's got the know-how to keep diners happy with fare such as New World pizza with fresh corn, feta and parsley, or artichoke lasagna.

WWW.catchy.idea: Wine, Women and the West Side Lounge. In Cambridge (where else?) the **West Side Lounge** kicks off a new Women and Wine series with a winemaker dinner this month featuring Susie Selby, CEO of Selby Winery. It's a logical concept to spotlight women winemakers, since the WSL has a female chef, general manager and owner.

"It is so much fun—we are so psyched," says owner **Holly Heslop**, who is currently planning the next event for January. "One in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring," she says. Not once a month... that would be all too predictable. For future alliterative dinners, we suggest Girls & Grenache...Chicks & Champagne... Vixens & Vouvray...???

Happy first birthday to **Davio's** Arlington Street location....The new chef at **Top of the Hub** is **Mark Porcaro**, most recently an executive sous chef at the Manele Bay Hotel in Lanai City, Hawaii. Porcaro is no stranger to New England; he's previously worked at Top of the Hub and Le Meridien, as well as the Chatham Bars Inn on Cape Cod....**Harvest** pastry chef **Molly Hanson**, who has a special fondness for desserts made with honey, must be busy as a bee now that she's also the official pastry chef of **Grill 23 & Bar**....Now that we're full speed ahead into the busy fall season of events, it's time to plan ahead and mark your calendar for the annual Anthony Spinazzola Gala Festival of Food & Wine, Jan. 30, 2004. IB

OND COURSE

ing of the Financial ct, those who bemoan ck of lunchtime op- have a new choice. **Mazzotta** has opened -seat **Pepperoncini's n Café** inside Pi Alley, ashington Street. Re- g Mazzotta's back- d as a graduate of New Pratt Institute, Pepper- 's decor is aesthetically ing, combining handblown glass created by local artists, cheerful yel- alls and giant, Boston-themed paint- Because Mazzotta's résumé includes at Papa Razzi and the Four Seasons

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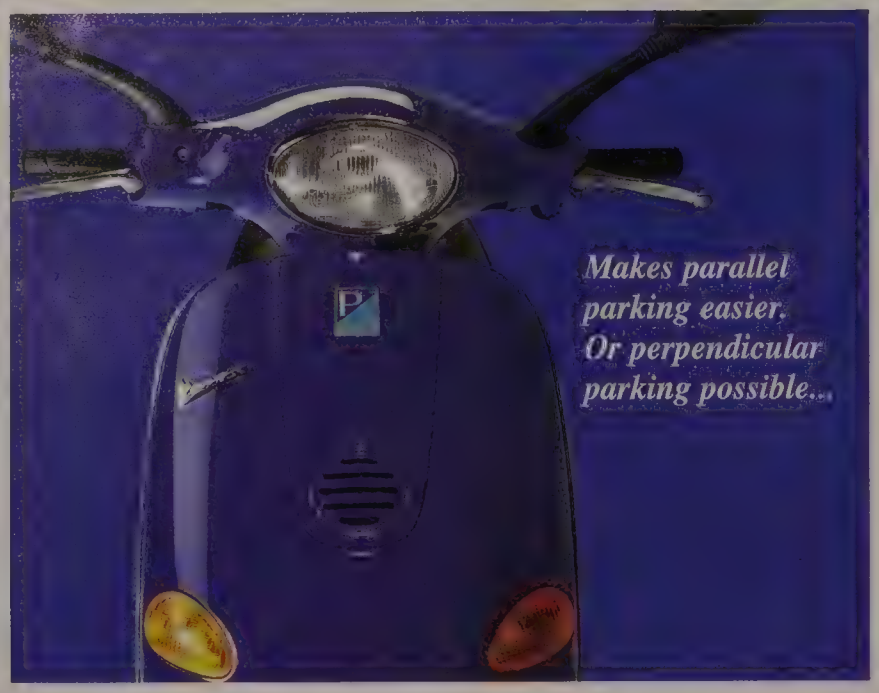

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WINE

The Beauty of Burgundy

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

Ask almost any wine lover of a certain age and you're likely to find that a bottle of red Burgundy first fired the flames of his or her passion. Not that too many people are discovering wine through Burgundy today. Overall quality may be better than ever, but outside of a few committed restaurants and specialty stores, the wines have pulled a disappearing act. Why? Too expensive, too obscure, too inconsistent from vintage to vintage and producer to producer, just too much of a bother.

What makes Burgundy so alluring is the fact that so many thousands of different wines are produced in such small lots, and they all taste subtly different. Unfortunately, those characteristics are also what makes Burgundy so irrelevant to the demands of today's American market. The formula that works is slick labeling, varietal designation, strong branding, dark colors, new oak aromas, potent alcohol and flavor impact—wines that make an unmistakable impression and are therefore easy to buy and sell. One of the reasons we're not drinking Burgundy is that it's the antithesis of easy. It's a wild card, and most of the people who control which products appear in stores and restaurants tend to avoid it.

But make no mistake, Burgundy's worth knowing. If you explore its mysteries, no wine is potentially better or more satisfying. In a world of increasing sameness, the wines are always unique. And in a region whose weather has been maddeningly inconsistent, Burgundy is on something of a roll. Call it climate change, but much like other northern European wine districts, such as Alsace, the Loire and Germany, Burgundy's most recent vintages have yielded riper and more delicious fruit than any other comparable stretch in recorded history. By all indications 2002 will be something special: A droughtlike summer and a dry, sunny autumn have everyone talking about potentially the most perfect tasting grapes since 1990. And the reports are that the wines will be delicious at every level of the quality hierarchy, from village wines through Premier and Grand Crus.

The best producers' 2002 red Burgundies won't even be shipped until late in 2004, but there are currently plenty of fine vintages on hand. Despite uneven weather, 2001 was quite good for northern Burgundy's Côte de Nuits, especially the villages of Gevrey-Chambertin and Vosne Romanee; it strikes me as a year for which paying up for quality and buying wines at the upper end of the hierarchy is wise. The year 2000 produced elegant wines, early-maturing and charming, with the slightly less pricey southern Côte de Beaune wines quite impressive. The widely available 1999 yielded outstanding quality across the board but in a more massive, uncharacteristically full-bodied style. These are good cellar candidates. We have to go back to 1998 for a vintage that presented problems, but even here the top producers made very fleshy, fruity reds, with the Côte de Nuits standing out again. To my taste, the quality producers separated themselves from the pack and made delicious, early-maturing (as in now, today) reds in 1997, an unusually warm variable vintage. And 1996 produced classic Burgundy with good ripeness, big tannins and strong overall consistency from village to village.

But the reputation of the producer and the characteristics of the place where the grapes originate are even more important than vintage in selecting Burgundy. The vaunted French notion of *terroir* reflects the fact that a small plot of land, angled to the sun on a slope at a particular pitch, with sand, clay and limestone in the subsoil, makes very different tasting grapes than a neighboring plot oriented slightly differently with another geological formation. The finest Burgundies emphasize aromas and flavors arising from the vineyard.

If you want to explore Burgundy wines, do it with friends. The wines lend themselves to tasting and discussion. A start would be to line up four wines of diverse geographic origins, perhaps made by the same producer in one vintage to eliminate some of the variables. Spend some time comparing the aromas, which in young Burgundy often reveal more than is immediately apparent upon swallowing. You might try a more generic wine, (such as a Côte de Beaune-Villages) with a village wine from the south (Volnay is among the most delicate and perfumed), one from the north (Gevrey-Chambertin tends to be vigorous and sturdy by contrast) and a Premier Cru–designated wine, which should reveal more aromatic layering and concentration (Vosne Romanee and Chambolle-Musigny both have several). For the advanced session, throw in a Grand Cru at the luxury end of the scale (Corton is a good relative value) and a Premier Cru from the Côte de Beaune (the village of Beaune boasts several which are usually very accessible, and there are also many top sites in Pommard). ■

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master of wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.

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agenda

MPROPER PICKS

november 19–december 2

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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EDITED BY:
ERIN HAGEDORN
Books & Poetry, Gay & Lesbian, Movies, Music
JULIE SURATT
Around Town, Children, Education, Performing Arts
ADDITIONAL [illegible]
Ezra Dyer [illegible] Dance Clubs, Sports
Jessica Iredale Museums & Galleries
Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind
Paul Sherman Film Capsules

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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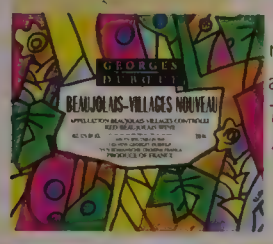
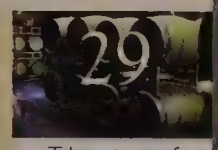


The 2003 Beaujolais Nouveau releases tonight at midnight. *See Tastings on page 44 for places to imbibe.*

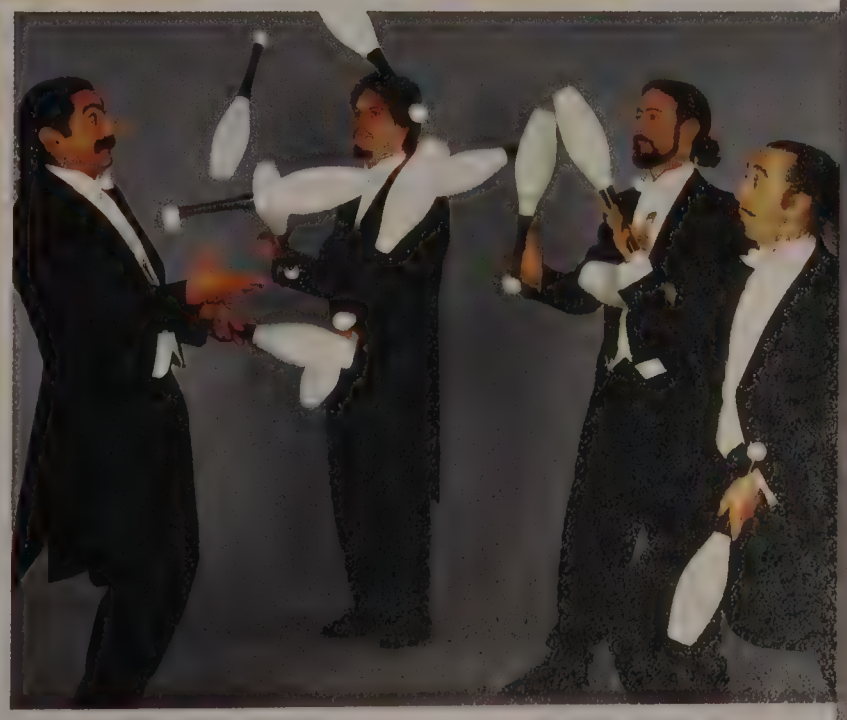
Gore Vidal reads from *Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson.* *See Books & Poetry on page 102.*



Take a tour of Buzzard's Bay Brewing and Westport Rivers Winery at an open house. *See Tastings on page 44.*

Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi classic *2001: A Space Odyssey* shows at the Brattle. *See Movies on page 66.*

The Boston Center for Adult Education hosts a reading with novelist Oscar Hijuelos. *See Books & Poetry on page 102.*



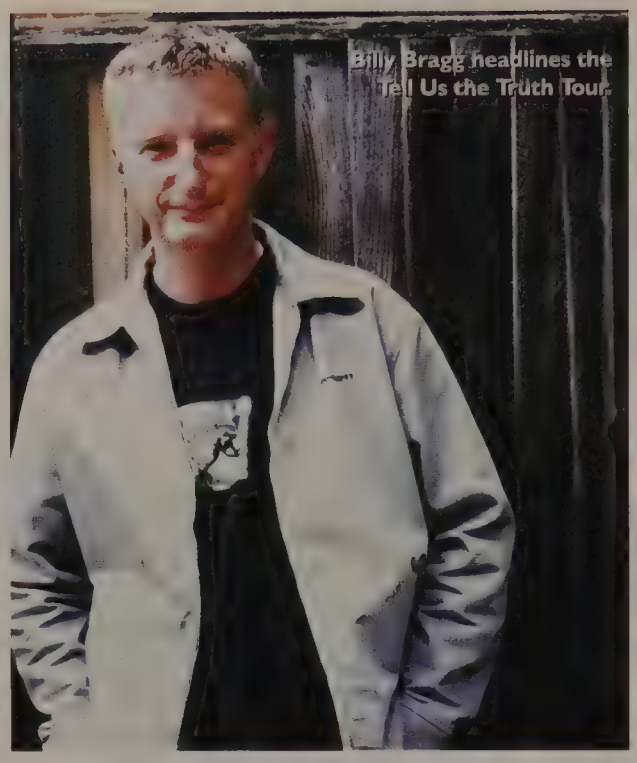
SUN./NOV. 23

Performing Arts: It's up in the Air

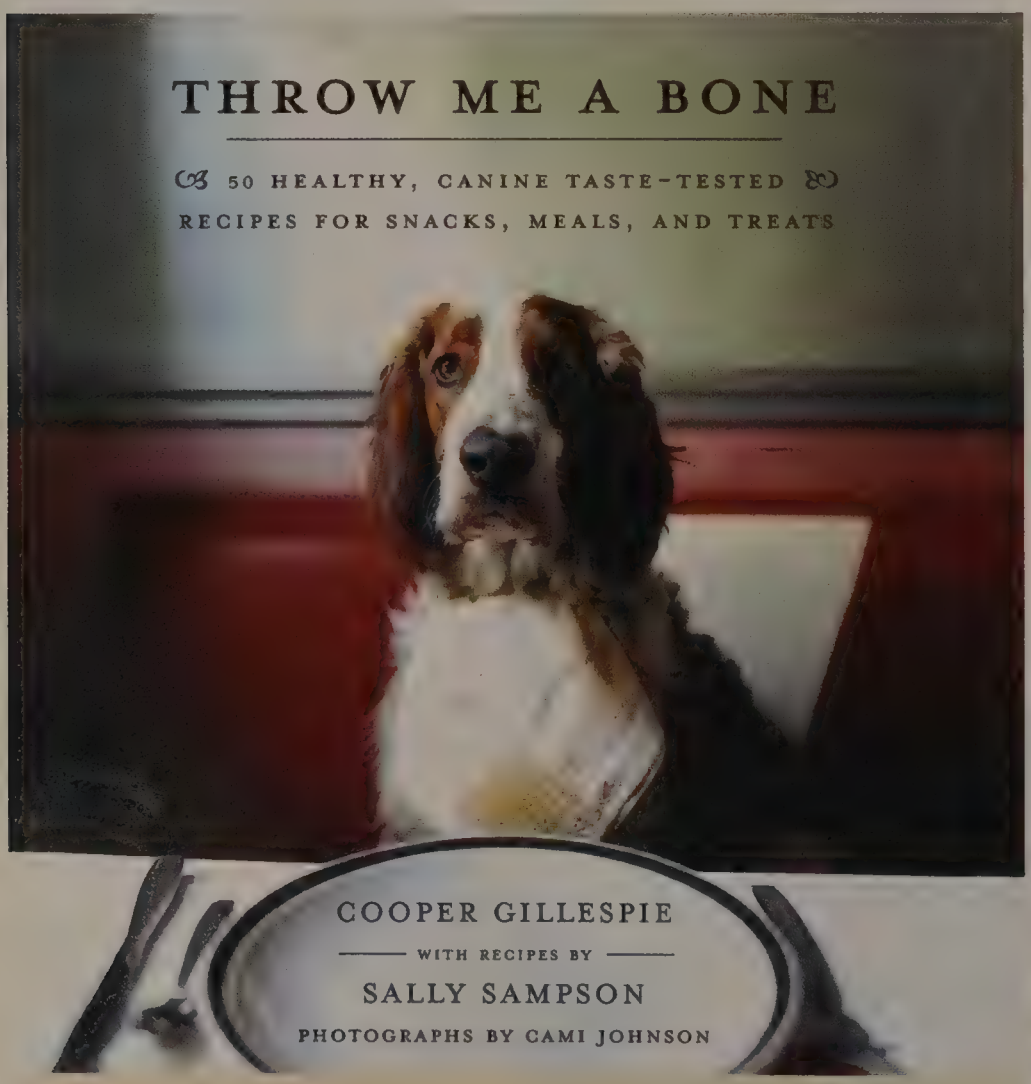
The Flying Karamazov Brothers don't actually fly during their show—but objects do. During a segment called "The Gamble," the Flying K's ask audience members to hand over whatever objects they think will prove unjugglable—past audiences have brought livers, computers, ice cream, and even a nine-pound dead octopus. Betting a standing ovation against a pie in the face that it can be done, the juggling "Champ" wows audiences with his agility and skill. A caveat: He won't juggle "any live animals or anything that might stop the Champ from being a live animal." These former street performers put on quite a show, including a taiko drumming session on cardboard boxes and a Polish Appalachian clog dance. Ringling Bros. beware! *Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-266-1200). 3 pm. $37-$57.*

SUN./NOV. 23

Music: Protest Songs


Billy Bragg headlines the Tell Us the Truth Tour.

Protest music is alive and well. A group of politically minded musicians have joined together to speak/sing their minds on the Tell Us the Truth Tour, a sort of group cri de coeur to raise awareness of the relationship between "bad policies and bad journalism" and encourage activism. With support from unions and environmental, religious and media reform groups, musician Billy Bragg assembled the tour and enlisted Audioslave guitarist Tom Morello (a.k.a. the Nightwatchman), gospel-soul singer Lester Chambers and comedian Janeane Garafalo. (Country great Steve Earle is on hand for the Boston show.) The 12-city cross-country tour, apart from being a forum for the artists to voice their political frustrations, raises funds to support future artist/activist partnerships. If you can't make the concert, you can still read the online tour diary at *www.tellusthetruth.org*. *Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-931-2000). 7:30 pm. $30–$35.50.*



TUE./DEC. 2

CityScope: Dog on It

We all know a pet freak—someone who regales his or her officemates with stories of little Ned's latest hiding spot in the linen closet or Coco's amazing leap off a dock into the water. A new book called ***Throw Me a Bone: 50 Healthy, Canine Taste-Tested Recipes for Meals, Snacks, and Treats*** might make the perfect holiday gift for dog owners who like to spoil their precious pup. Authors Susan Orlean (of *The Orchid Thief* fame) and Sally Sampson conferred with the "canine James Beard," a Welsh springer spaniel named Cooper Gillespie, to come up with recipes for such delicacies as "pawcakes" and "grrrnola." The resulting creations are so delicious, dog owners may be tempted to nibble themselves. Orlean and Sampson (along with Cooper) sign and present recipes from their book at the Hotel Marlowe's Holiday Book Drive to benefit Cambridge's East End House. *25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-395-2523). 4 pm. Free.*

Qian Yi stars in *Snow in June*

SAT./NOV. 29-SUN./DEC. 28

Performing Arts: *Snow in June*...in December?

The challenges posed to the American Repertory Theatre's set and prop shops for *Snow in June* sound like something out of the Learning Channel's *Junkyard Wars*. Make a handful of props—including a lawnmower, brooms, an umbrella and a bicycle—appear transparent. Then figure out how to stage a nightly snowstorm using three different types of shredded plastic—each falling and accumulating differently—to pile 500 pounds of artificial snow across the stage. The designers worked long and hard to create an ethereal fantasy world for this 13th-century Yuan drama adapted and directed by Chinese director Chen Shi-Zheng from a text by Charles L. Mee. It's about a young girl who returns to earth to seek revenge on the society that caused her death. The show features a blend of Beijing opera and contemporary Americana, including bluegrass, Delta blues, Appalachian, Tex-Mex and Cajun music composed by Paul Dresher and performed by the Boston-based band Andromeda. *Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-8300). www.amrep.org. $35–$69.*

THU./NOV. 20

Music: Two Turntables and No Microphone

What's with kids these days? Nobody wants to pick up a guitar and rock anymore. They just want to sit in their rooms and fiddle with record players, making those wicky-wicky noises. And they've got plenty of role models. "Turntablism" has been a growing art form for years now, and the Scratch Tour presents some of its most skilled practitioners and innovators, like the X-Ecutioners, Z-Trip and QBert, as well as old-school originators like Jazzy Jay. Loosely linked to the hip-hop documentary of the same name, the Scratch Tour emphasizes the difference between a DJ, who simply plays tunes, and a turntablist, who uses records and turntables as tools to create new music. With a focus on mixing, scratching and turntable trickery and hijinks, these vinyl virtuosos pull off solos that would make Eddie Van Halen stop in his tracks. Say, maybe there's some rock left in the kids after all. *Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-423-NEXT). 8 pm, $20, 19+.*

The X-Ecutioners come to Avalon for the Scratch Tour.

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Advice to Contributors

Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19

Beaujolais Nouveau Party
Brasserie Jo, The Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-425-3240). Nov. 19, 9 pm-12:30 am. $35. Celebrate the release of the 2003 George Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau at a tasting highlighting the wines and food of the Beaujolais region. Artists, mimes, accordion players and caricature artists help create Montmartre in Boston.

HurryDate Event
33 Restaurant and Lounge, 33 Stanhope St., Boston (212-871-6707). www.hurrydate.com. *7 pm. $35.* Singles ages 25 to 35 are invited to try the HurryDate format of 25 three-minute dates in a single night.

Lights, Camera, Holidays
Shreve, Crump & Low, 330 Boylston St., Boston (617-267-9100). 6-9 pm. Suggested donation of $25. The second floor is filled with classic film–inspired vignettes that use Shreve's jewelry and furniture from the Boston Design Center. The items are auctioned off to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Makeovers and Martinis
Mitchell John Salon, 67 Broad St., Boston (617-591-1400, ext. 5). 7 pm. $25, $30 at the door. Enjoy complimentary martinis from Pravda Vodka and Chambord while stylists offer makeup and hair advice. Receive touch-ups, tips and goodie bags and a chance to win a full makeover by Stila Cosmetics. All proceeds benefit the Big Sisters Association of Great Boston.

Rock & Roll Library Holiday Benefit
Harper's Ferry, 156 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-73 1711). 8:30 pm. $8. The Medea Connection, An Love Project, Grubstake, and others perform at th party to benefit the Rock & Roll Library.

THURSDAY, NOV. 20

Barmakian Jewelers Holiday Party
496 Cochituate Rd., Framingham (508-872-5454, ex 215). 6-9 pm. Hors d'oeuvres from the Capit Grille and scotch are served at this preholiday je elry sale. Guests can check out the latest Bentley a tomobiles. A silent auction benefits the Home f Little Wanderers.

Charles Street Holiday Shopping Even
E.R. Butler & Co., 38 Charles St.; J. McLaughlin, Charles St.; Koo de Kir, 65 Chestnut St., Boston (61 723-8111). 4-7 pm. This three-store shopping eve includes a trunk show at E.R. Butler, martinis at McLaughlin and cocktails from Peking Tom's Lon tang Lounge at Koo de Kir.

Faces of GreenSpace Party
The Union Club, 8 Park St., Boston (617-42 7980). www.greenspacealliance.org. *6-9 pm. $6* Friends of Boston's parks are honored at this ben fit party for Boston GreenSpace Alliance. Th evening includes live music and food.

Home Is Where the Art Is
Lekker Home Furnishings, 1317 Washington St., Bost (617-426-4996). www.amearts.org. *7-9 pm. $50.* B on art and home design items to benefit an arts organ zation, Abstraction Made Elementary. The party i cludes hors d'oeuvres and open wine and beer bar.

Wild Turkey Games
Hurricane O'Reilly's, 150 Canal St., Boston (61 722-0161). 7-11 pm. Wild Turkey Bourbon sponso this canned food drive for the Greater Boston Fo Bank. Contests include rubber turkey bowling.

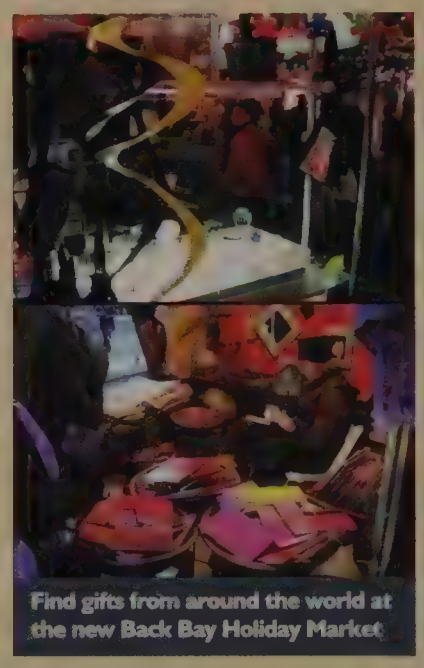
FRIDAY, NOV. 21

Holiday Wine Tasting
The Boston Center for Adult Education, 5 Comm Ave., Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. *7- pm. $65.* This fund-raising evening for th

Preview

To Market

The Back Bay Holiday Market makes its debut outside the Prudential Center



Find gifts from around the world at the new Back Bay Holiday Market

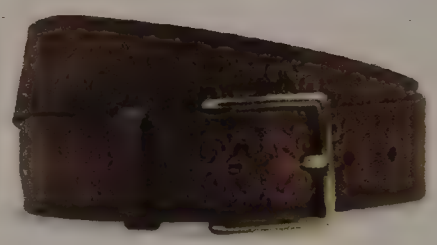
By now you've realized that your friends don't want another picture frame or "Kiss the Chef" apron for the holidays. You've also realized that finding a good gift is hard work. The Back Bay Holiday Market might help ease the burden. More than 60 vendors from Massachusetts and beyond have set up for the season outside the Prudential Center to sell unusual gifts.

For bookworms, consider Michael and Sally Daner's Hookmarks. Michael calls the couple's Hookmarks "book jewelry," and he's not too far off. These hooked bookmarks are made of sterling silver–, gold-, or silver-plated brass, and are adorned at the hooked end with anything from an ancient coin design to a Swarovski crystal. Hookmarks cost $10–$40 each.

Handmade pottery is another gift that departs from the mass-produced mundane. At the Potteryville booth you can find pieces—festive red vases, goblin jugs and more—by potters from North Carolina, India and elsewhere.

The market, open until Christmas Eve, also sells sheepskin accessories, wooden boxes from Poland, ceramics from Turkey, Zimbabwean sculpture, Peruvian chess sets, soaps from Greece—the list goes on and on. Maybe this year, when your niece thanks you, she'll actually mean it.

Prudential Center, Boylston Plaza, through Dec. 24. Hours through Nov. 26: Mon.-Sat., 10 am-8 pm; Sun, 11 am-6 pm. Closing times extended one hour Nov. 28-Dec. 24.
—Kate Hedgpeth



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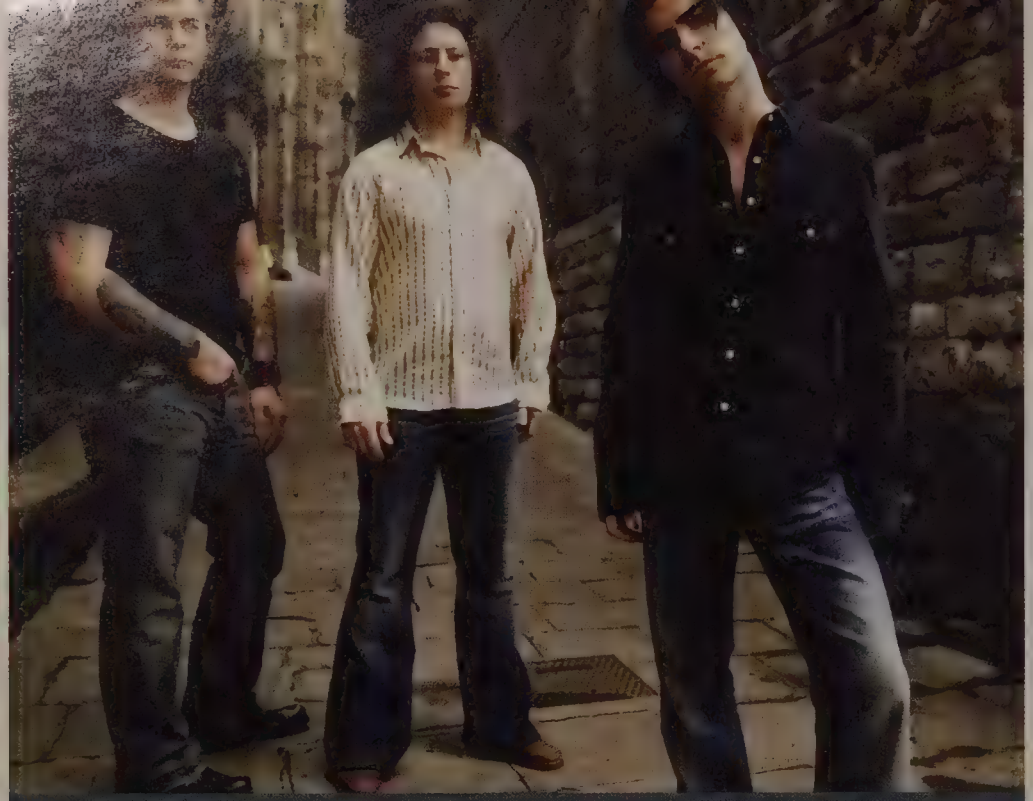


The Stereophonics play the WBOS 92.9 Thanksgiving Music Feast at Avalon Nov. 29.

BCAE's educational programs includes wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and a silent auction.

Juvenile Diabetes Benefit Party
American Legion Post 440, 295 California St., Newton (617-332-2582). www.postclub.com. 7:30-11 pm. $35. The Post Club singles organization raises money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation with a party featuring food from the Kowloon restaurant, a silent auction and dancing.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

Boston Cure Party
MIT Faculty Club, 50 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (781-788-0880). www.bostoncure.org. 6:30-10 pm. Free. Learn about the Boston Cure Project for multiple sclerosis at this party, which includes cocktails, music, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. Cocktail attire.

Greater Boston Antiques Festival
Shriner's Auditorium, Wilmington (781-862-4039). www.neantiqueshows.com. Nov. 22, 10 am-5 pm; Nov. 23, 10 am-4 pm. $6, $10 for early 9 am admission on Sat. More than 160 antiques dealers (who are screened for the quality of their merchandise) offer photographs, furniture and much more at this annual show.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

Simon Evening of Giving
Burlington Mall, Burlington (781-272-8668). 7-10 pm. $8. The Burlington Mall is open for private holiday shopping for supporters of participating charities. Shoppers receive discounts and the mall provides entertainment, food samples and more.

Somerville News Writers Festival
Jimmy Tingle Off Broadway Theater, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). 7 pm. $15. Humorist Jimmy Tingle hosts this literary bonanza, which features authors Michael Patrick MacDonald, Elizabeth Graver, Steve Almond, Laura Zigman and others.

Tell Us the Truth Tour
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-747-2261). www.tellusthetruth.org. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at $30. Janeane Garofalo, Billy Bragg, Steve Earle and others perform in this concert to raise awareness of media reform and trade issues.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Peabody Essex Museum Antiques Show
Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem (866-745-1876). www.pem.org. Preview party, Nov. 28, 6-9 pm, $100. Show runs Nov. 29-30, 10 am-5 pm. $12. Jewelry, furniture, paintings and more are on sale from more than 35 dealers at this annual show. Proceeds benefit the Peabody Essex Museum's educational programs.

Single Executives Club Thanksgiving Ball
Sheraton Tara Hotel, 37 Forbes Rd., Braintree (781-848-0600). 8:30 pm-12 am. $20 in advance, $25 at the door, $10 with formal attire. Jackets and ties required. Single professionals ages 35 and over are invited to this ball, which includes hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and dancing to live music from Beau Paris. A portion of proceeds benefits the Children's Food Pantry.

Toys for Tots Toy Drive
The Purple Shamrock, 1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). Fridays through Dec. 20. Bring an unwrapped toy to contribute to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

Zimbabwe Stone Sculpture Exhibition and Sale
The Inn at Harvard, 1201 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-308-7026). Through Nov. 29, 9 am-6 pm. African Authentics and a Thread of Hope present this sale of Shona art, which includes a variety of hand-dyed garments and a weaving demonstration.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

Big Sister Gala
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Ave., Boston (617-236-8060). 7 pm-12 am. $200. WBZ-TV 4 news anchor Liz Walker is among the honorees at this black tie–optional fund-raiser for the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. The evening includes a champagne reception and silent auction, dinner and dancing to live music from the Urban Renewal Band.

Fall 'N' Love Fashion Show
John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley St., Boston (617-423-6794). 6 pm. $25. Haitian Brothers Networking Nationwide hosts this fashion show, which includes designers Andy Jacques, SilberBack D'zyne, A Dalliance Lingerie and others. Music provided by O.B.K. (Original Black Kings) and One Love.

Greater Boston Food Bank Benefit
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). pm. $15. The Stereophonics headline the WBO 92.9 Thanksgiving Music Feast, which raises mone for the Greater Boston Food Bank. All ages.

Westport Rivers Winery and Buzzards Bay Brewing Holiday Open House
417 Hixbridge Road, Westport (508-636-3423). am-5 pm. Free. Take a tour of Buzzards Bay Brewi and Westport Rivers Winery, taste beer and win and enjoy a hayride.

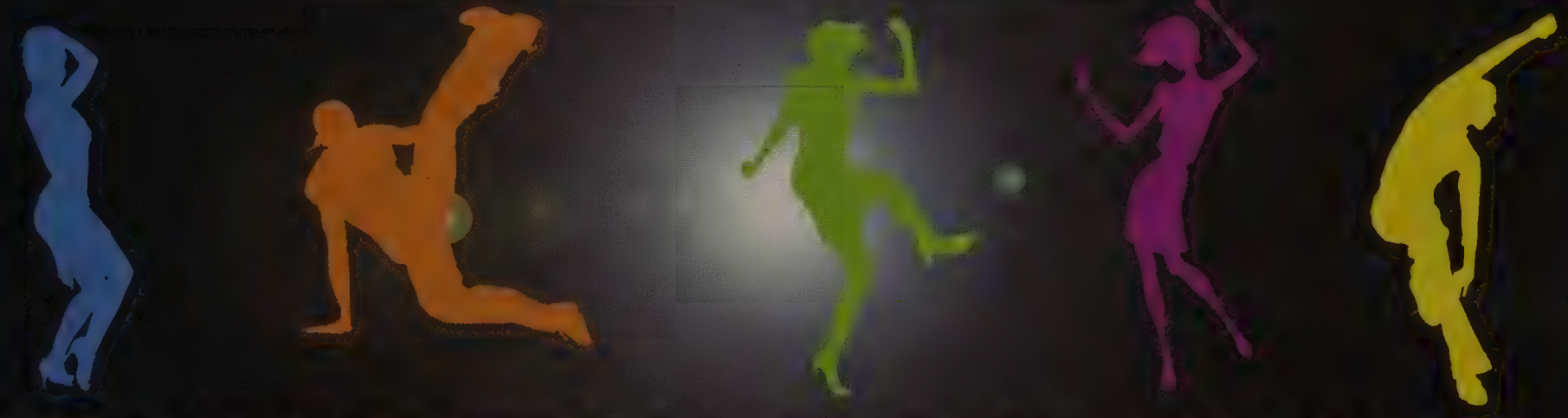
MONDAY, DEC. 1

Holiday Hair Care Collection
Women's Hair Loss Center, 233 Needham St., Newto (800-980-4247). 9 am-5 pm, through Dec. 19. T Women's Hair Loss Center collects workout-relate hair accessories such as barrettes and kerchiefs, as we as shampoo and other hair care products, for the mem bers of the Healthworks Foundation Fitness Center.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston. 4:3 6 pm. The Boston Harbor Hotel kicks off the Fra ciscan Hospital for Children's annual toy drive wi a tree-lighting ceremony. Hot chocolate and cid are served.

Parris



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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth)*. Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

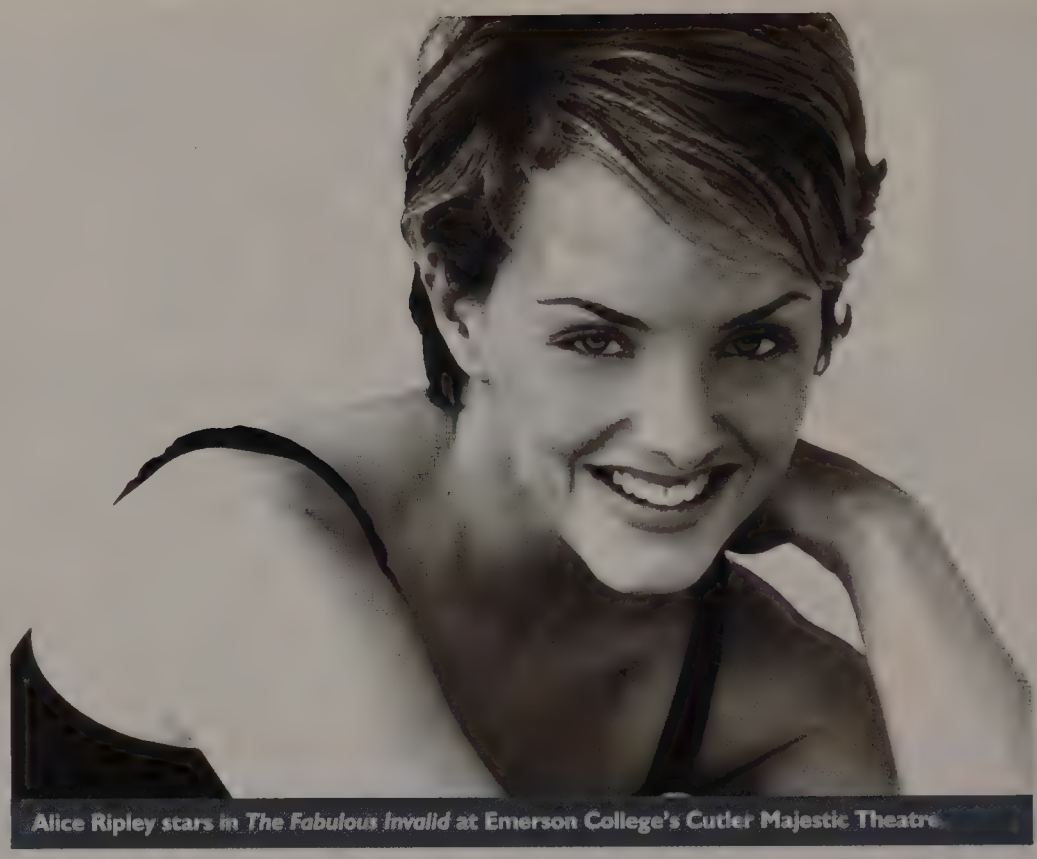
Anger Box
TheatreZone at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea (617-887-2336). MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm. Nov. 20-Dec. 13. $12, $15 at the door. Writer, director and actor Jeff Goode's production includes 10 monologues ranging from the sanctimonious to the sacrilegious.

Back to Before
Wild Geese Productions at the Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 13. $20, $25 at the door. Five years after Aiden O'Toole is murdered by a Boston bookie, his twin brother and a friend reunite in Los Angeles. Dave McLaughlin's drama moves from the nostalgic banter of the old neighborhood to searing confrontations about the murder.

Candide
Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-451-9944). www.bostonacademy.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 28-29, 7:30 pm; Nov. 30, 2 pm. $24.* Opera Boston presents Leonard Bernstein's operetta based on the novel by Voltaire. *Candide* takes a satirical and philosophical look at the search for happiness through the eyes of its once-privileged characters.

A Christmas Carol
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 21. $32.* Troy Siebels has adapted Charles Dickens' tale into a musical extravaganza.

The Ecumenical Nunsense: Meshuggah-Nuns!
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 27. $22-$41. In their latest *Nunsense* adventure, the Sisters are on an all-expenses paid trip on the Faiths of All Nations cruise. Most of the cast members of the ship's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* have succumbed to sea-sickness, and the ship's captain requests that the sisters put on an original revue.


Alice Ripley stars in *The Fabulous Invalid* at Emerson College's Cutler Majestic Theatre.

The Flying Karamazov Brothers: Catch
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (88-266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Nov. 23, 3 pm. $32-$57. The Flying Karamazov Brothers' new show celebrates the past successes of these juggling punsters. Among the highlights: a taiko drumming session on cardboard boxes, a Polish Appalachian clog dance, the Nine Objects of Danger, and the skit "The Gambler," in which a juggler handles three items brought by audience members.

John Kuntz's Holiday Comedy
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 13. $25. Fatal Attraction meets Santa's workshop as actor/playwright John Kuntz does Christmas.

Snow in June
Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-495-2668). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm; Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm. $35-$69. Nov.29-Dec.28.* The spirit of a young girl returns to seek revenge on the society that caused her death. Based on a 13th-century Chinese play by Charles L. Mee, the show blends Beijing opera and contemporary Americana, including bluegrass, Delta blues, Appalachian, Tex-Mex and Cajun music.

The Will & Lil Show
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 22, 8 pm, and Nov. 23, 3 pm. $15.* Will McMillan and Lillian Rozin share a stage in their cabaret, *Food, Glorious Food!* The duo performs songs by Cole Porter, William Finn, Gilbert & Sullivan, Stephen Sondheim and Lionel Bart, among others.

NOW RUNNING

As You Like It
Wilbur Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 21. $25-$67. This production directed by Sir Peter Hall (founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company) tells Shakespeare's story of Rosalind and her cousin Celia, who have run away to the idyllic Forest of Arden.

Blanche and Her Joy Boys
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646.). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7 pm; Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 14. $33-$42. Chris Calloway, daughter of famed big-band leader Cab Calloway, performs this one-woman show about her aunt Blanche (Cab's sister). The performance features a jazz combo with Calloway singing the songs that made Blanche popular, including "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and "I Need Lovin'."

Blue Hair Troupe
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (866-443-2248). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Dec. 7. This musical revue takes place at a senior center for the performing arts where the retirees create and perform their own shows.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53. This production abandons all dialogue and focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

Book of Days
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 22. $22-$41. A quiet Midwestern town with more churches than bars serves as the setting for Lanford Wilson's play about adultery, theft, lies and the politics of community theater.

Boston Fringe
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-5000). www.companyone.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through Nov. 22. $25. Company One offers a dynamic collection of plays and performances produced by Boston's leading alternative companies, including Centastage, Hysterical Performance, Mill 6 Theatre Collaborative, New African Company, Tricord Productions and Zeitgeist Stage Company. Performances feature poets, dancers, musicians and storytellers.

Butley
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Wed. 2 pm.; Tue.-Thu. 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and pm; Sun. 2 and 7 pm. Through Nov. 30. $14-$64. Two-time Tony Award winner Nathan Lane stars in Simon Gray's dark comedy about a literary professor whose wife and lover both leave him on the same day.

Creation of the World and Other Business
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. Fri.-Sat., pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 13. $20. Arthur Miller's play alternates scenes of humor with confrontations between God and Lucifer, and God and his fallible creations, and explores the dilemma: When every person wants justice, why do people go on creating injustice?

The Crucible
The Salem Theatre Company, St. Peter's Church, St. Peter St., Salem (978-790-8546). Thu. and Sat., pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through Nov. 22. $15. Arthur Miller's play confronts issues of principle, paranoia and passion within the historical context of the Salem witchcraft hysteria of 1692.

Fiddler on the Roof
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., pm. Through Dec. 30. $22. Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, this musical tells the story of a Jewish peasant in pre-Revolutionary Russia who must cope with the day-to-day problems of shtetl life.

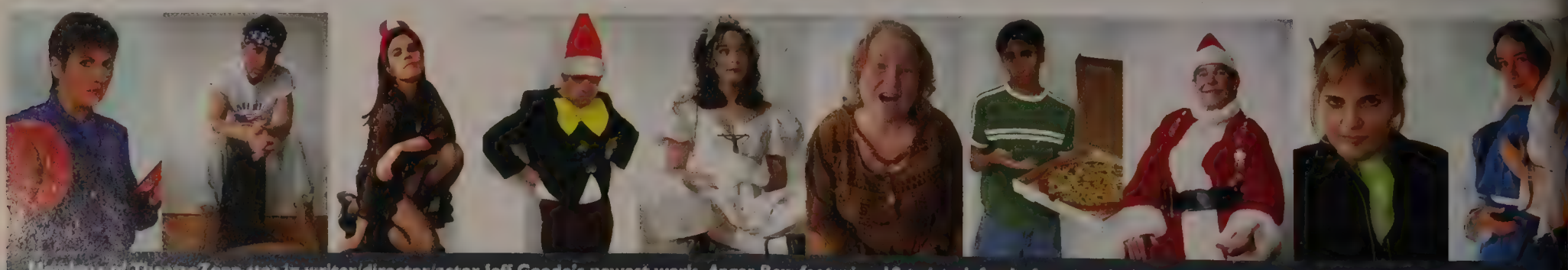
Follies
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Nov. and 22, 8 pm. $30. In this fully staged version of Stephen Sondheim's 1971 musical, a group of Follies girls holds a reunion at their old theater on the night before it's scheduled to be leveled to make way for a parking lot.

G.R. Point
Hovey Players, Abbott Theatre, 9 Spring St., Walthan (781-893-9171). Nov. 21-22 and 28-29, 8 pm; Nov. 23, 2 pm. $15. David Berry's war drama is set at Graves Registration Point in Vietnam in 1969, where bodies of combat victims are processed before being sent home. Through the experience of a young draftee and the situation he and others are thrust into, the play explores what leads decent young men to commit horrible acts.

Haymarket
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave. Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. MBTA: Green Line to Pleasant Street. Through Nov. From Zayd Dohrn, the author of *Shameless*, comes the story of anarchist labor activists Lucy and Albert Parsons. When dynamite explodes and a riot breaks out in Haymarket, killing 11 people—seven of them policemen—the tenor of 1886 Chicago grows murderous.

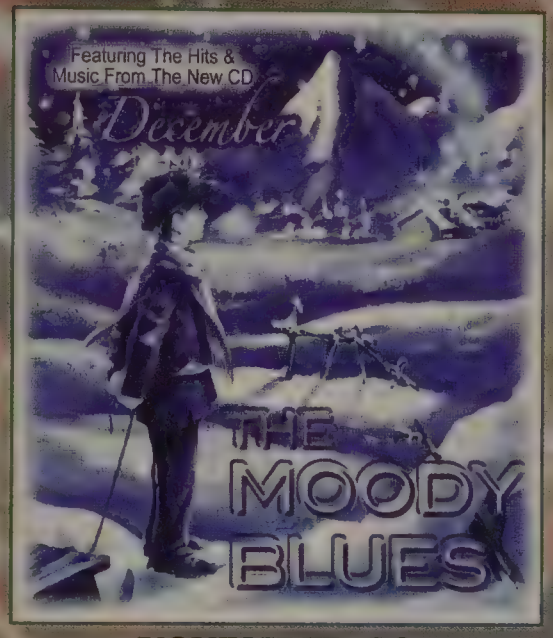
Les Miserables
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 7. $3 $87. Based on Victor Hugo's novel, this musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg tells the story of the fugitive Jean Valjean, who is pitted against the cruel and self-righteous Inspector Javert in a lifelong struggle to evade capture.

Lettice and Lovage
Founders' Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. $27-$42. Lettice Douffet lectures as a tour guide


Members of TheatreZone star in writer/director/actor Jeff Goode's newest work, *Anger Box*, featuring 10 twisted, fresh, funny and offensive monologues, at Chelsea Theatre Works.

Make live music a part of your holidays

NOVEMBER 22
LOWELL MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



NOVEMBER 30
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DECEMBER 9
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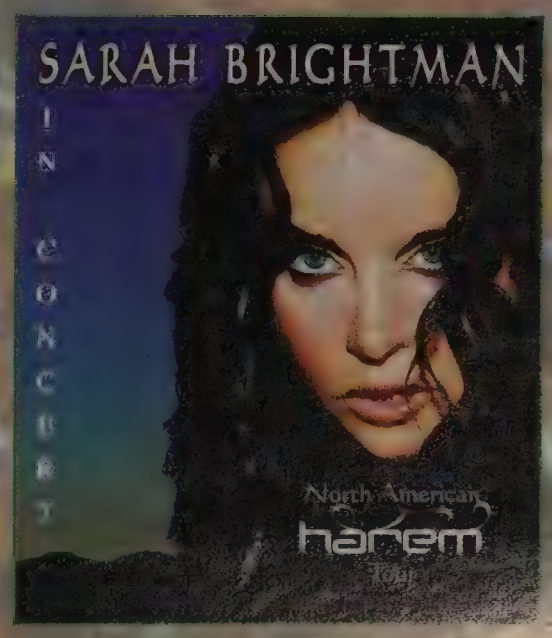

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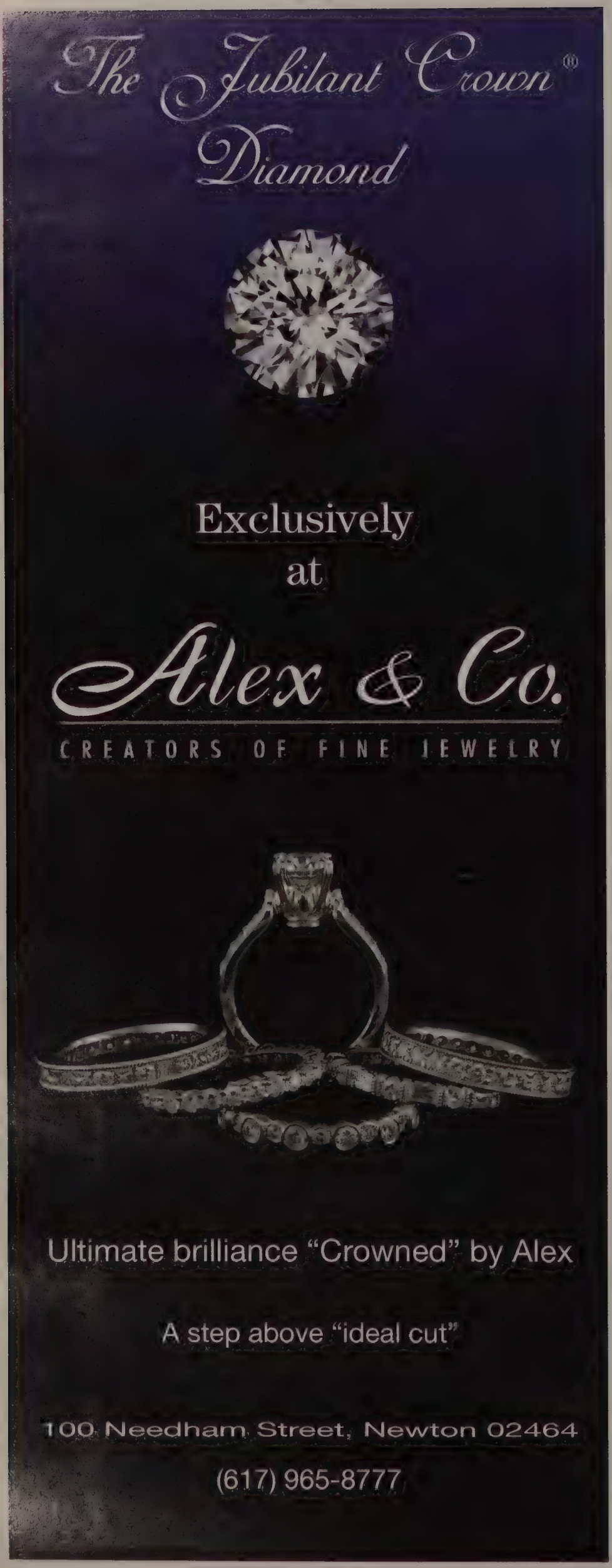

Robert Schimmel is at the Comedy Connection Nov. 21-22.

one of Britain's least stately homes in this play by Peter Shaffer. The house has so little relative importance that Lettice begins to embellish its history. This gets her in trouble with an inspector from the Preservation Trust. But eventually the two women forge an alliance to "awaken their fellow citizens to the dreariness of their lives."

Moving Target
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Nov.19 and 26, 8 pm. $18. Local singer and actress Celia Slattery offers this one-woman show with music about growing up in the '60s and '70s.

Oratorio of the Possibilitarians
Cambridge Family YMCA Theatre, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-9622). Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. Through Nov. 23. $10. Bread & Puppet Theater director Peter Schumann and his band of seven Vermont puppeteers are joined by 25 local puppeteers in a show addressing social, political and environmental themes.

The Phantom Tollbooth
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-879-2300). www.wheelock.edu/wft. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat. and Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 30. $12-$18. Bored Milo laments that "almost everything is a waste of time." But then a mysterious tollbooth appears in his bedroom and he is whisked away to the Land of Expectations. Follow Milo's magical adventures in this musical based on Norton Juster's 1961 novel.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

She Loves Me
St. John's Episcopal Church, Central and Prospect streets, Saugus (781-231-5204). Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Nov. 29. $15. The Theatre Company of Saugus performs this romantic musical by Joe Masteroff (book), Jerry Bock (music) and Sheldon Harnick (lyrics). Set in a European perfume shop in the 1930s, the story revolves around two of its clerks who feud daily but, unknown to both, are romantic pen pals.

The Silent Movie Play
Boston Center for the Arts, Leland Center, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Nov. 22. $10-$12. Rough & Tumble Theatre presents this original physical comedy about a lowly shop boy and his trials and travails.

West Side Story
North Shore Music Theatre, 6 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. Tue., 8 pm; Wed., 2 and 8 pm; Thu.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Nov. 23. $26-63. B Stephen Sondheim, the modern day version of *Romeo and Juli* finds two young lovers caught be tween warring street gangs and op posing cultures.

Who's Afraid of Virgini Woolf?
Piano Factory. 791 Tremont St Boston (617-247-9777). MBTA Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sat 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through No 23. $19. The Devanaughn The atre presents Edward Albee's pla about George and Martha an their world of drunkenness, sa agery and truth.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

Don Quixote
Spingold Theater Center, Brande University, 415 South St., Waltha (781-736-3400). Commuter Rail Brandeis/Roberts. Tue.-Sat., 8 pm Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Through Nov. 2 $16-$20. Double Edge Theat partners with Brandeis Universi to create a unique version Miguel de Cervantes' tale.

The Fabulous Invalid
Emerson College, The Cutler Ma jestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St Boston (888-889-8587). MBTA Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 2 21, 8pm; Nov. 22, 2 and 8 pm $8-$21. In 1903, a famous actin couple dies on stage during the opening-night pe formance at a new theater. The pair stays an haunts the theater in a new adaptation of this pla by George Kaufman and Moss Hart. Alice Riple stars.

Lorenzaccio
Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617 469-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 2 22, 8 pm. $12. This show is a steamy portrait 1530s Medici Florence at the height of the Renai sance. Alfred de Musset's drama tells the story of th assassination of the tyrannical duke, Alessandro Medici, by his cousin, and the Republican revol tion that fails to ignite in the wake of this event.

Dance

José Mateo's The Nutcracker
The Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cam bridge (617-354-7467). MBTA: Red Line to Ha vard. Mon. and Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat, 2 and 7:30 pm Sun., 2 and 6 pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 28. $15-$35. Jos Mateo offers a smaller-scale production of *Th Nutcracker* starring nonprofessional dancers in intimate setting.

Massive Departure/Why Things Fall
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridg (617-864-3191). MBTA: Red Line to Centra Nov. 21-22, 8 pm. $15. Digby Dance presen modern-dance works choreographed by Ka Digby and guest Alexandra Beller.

The Nutcracker
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-45 6343). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 28-De 30. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 7 pm; Sun., 1 and 5: pm. $19-$77. Boston Ballet's annual presentation E.T.A. Hoffman's story about Clara and her fantast dream adventure is set to Tchaikovsky's classic scor The show features a full concert orchestra and a liv chorus accompanying more than 200 performers.

Origins
Sargent Dance Studio, 1 University Road, Bosto (617-353-1597). Nov. 21, 8 pm; Nov. 22, 6 an 8:30 pm. $7. This annual production from Bosto University's Dance Theatre Group showcase works by students and faculty from a wide cross section of dance genres.

Stomp
Stuart Street Playhouse, 200 Stuart St., Bosto (800-447-7400). www.stomponline.com. MBTA Green Line to Boylston. Wed. and Thu., 8 pm; Fri 7 and 10 pm; Sat.5 and 9 pm; Sun. 3 and 7 pm. On going. $45-$55. In its ongoing run in Boston, th percussion hit continues its tradition of no dialogue. Performers use everyday objects such

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brooms, garbage lids and their own bodies to create music for their dance numbers.

The Temperamental Wobble

Casey Theater, 235 Wellesley St., Weston (617-718-2497). www.snappydance.com. Nov. 21, 7 pm. $45. Inspired by the works of illustrator Edward Gorey, this program will include a selection of Snappy Dance Theatre's repertory.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle

Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. 8:30 pm. $10. •Nov. 22: George Hamm, Kelly MacFarland and Carolyn Plummer •Nov. 29: Robbie Printz.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. MBTA: *Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Nov. 20: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Nov. 21, $22.50: Robert Schimmel from *Scary Movie 2* •Nov. 22, 6 pm, $22.50, and 8 and 10:15 pm, $27.50: Robert Schimmel; 12 am, $25: Sommore, one of the Queens of Comedy •Nov. 23, 7 and 9:30 pm, $25: Sommore •Nov. 24: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Nov. 25: Paul Nardizzi and Johnny K. •Nov. 28, $22.50: Craig Shoemaker, the Love Master •Nov. 29, $25: Craig Shoemaker •Dec. 1: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Dec. 2: Paul Nardizzi.

The Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$10. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Nov. 19, $10: Kelly MacFarland's Girls Go Wild •Nov. 20: Tim McIntire, Janet Cormier, Tommy Morello, Tammy Two Tone, Larry Starr, Patrice Vinci, Andy O'Fish, Lee Ann Price and Corey Manning •Nov. 21: Larry Murphy, Davey Walsh, Joe Wong, Will McNeill and Mandy Donovan, Erik Charles Neilsen, Erin Judge, Chrissy Lavoie and Korte Yeo •Nov. 22: Brian Gordon, Rob Reuter, Amanda White, Erin Judge, Alana Devich, Dan Sulman and the Comic Shrink •Nov. 23: Sam Walters, Tony Moschetto, Jesse Gersten, Jon Rineman, Myq Kaplan, Steve Woodhall, Deb Farrar-Parkman, Steve Farrell, Mike Anthony and Dan Sulman •Nov. 25: Mystery Lounge magic/comedy show featuring Eric Rochelle, David Oliveer and Steve Kradolfer •Nov. 26: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Steve Hubbard, Andy O'Fish, Tony Moschetto, Corey Manning, Eric Cheung, Carolyn Plummer and Peter Bowes •Nov. 28: Val Kappa, Steve Calechman, Larry Murphy, Chris and Dave Walsh, Eric Charles Neilsen, Jeff Goldberg and Dot Dwyer •Nov. 29: Adam Gropman, Val Kapa, Steve Calechman, Erik Charles Neilsen and Brian Gordon •Nov. 30: Sam Walters, Ku, Mary Beth Cowan, Owen Myers, Jay Montepare, Mikey D., Sandy Asai and Dan Sulman •Dec. 2: Mystery Lounge Magic Show with Mike Bent and Jon Stetson.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Nov. 20, 8:30 pm: Joe Yannetty •Nov. 21, 8:45 pm: Paul Nardizzi, Sam Walters and Benny Karl •Nov. 22, 8:45 pm: Paul Nardizzi, Sam Walters and Benny Karl •Nov. 28, 8:45 pm: Bob Siebel, Mark Riley and Danny Kelley •Nov. 28, 8:45 pm: Bob Siebel, Mark Riley and Danny Kelley

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8.* Improv comedians pok[e] fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA: *Green or Orange Line t[o] Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner package also available.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in th[e] North End. •Wed.-Sat.: *Improv Asylum Announces th[e] End of Major Hostilities*, a new show on the mainstage.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617 576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: *Re[d] Line to Central . $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everythin[g] on the spot: the characters, the stories, the set tings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm $5: *The Hump*. This series for experimental and im provisational theater features ScripTease and Th[e] Tribe •Thu., 8 pm, $12: *Unnatural Selection*. A mas ter of ceremonies randomly eliminates players unti only one is left. 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secre[t] Comedy Show*. Brothers Chris and David Walsh per form stand-up and music, play short films and d[o] character sketches in a display of sibling rivalr[y] •Fri. 8 pm, $12: *Luv Boat*. Instead of washed-u[p] celebrities setting sail, the audience members ar[e] the passengers on this cruise; 10 pm, $12: *Theat[re] Sports*. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show*; 8 and 10 pm $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage*. Blending storytelling music, audience participation and joyful chaos, cast of improvisers creates a show that changes wit[h] every performance.

COMEDY SHOWS

Haunted Dinner Theatre

Three Cheers, 332 Congress St., Boston (800-69[7] 2583). www.mysterycafe.com. MBTA: *Red Line t[o] South Station. Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm. $32.95-$42.9[5] for dinner and show.* Mystery Café and Haunted Dinne[r] Theatre present *Ghost of Bad Table Manor* by Lar[ry] Blamire. Join Chives and Master Chase and as the search for the rare million-dollar Tom Jones stamp.

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (80[0] 733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. Sat., 7:30 pm. Through Nov. 29. $49. This intera[c]tive dinner show follows Maria and Joey throug[h] their wacky wedding. Throw on a blue tuxedo [or] your puffiest gown and join the festivities.

Maria's Bachelorette Party

Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-73[3] 5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 21, pm. $42. At this dinner-theater show, Maria's friend and bridesmaids throw her a bash that she—or th[e] audience—will never forget.

Murder Cacciatore

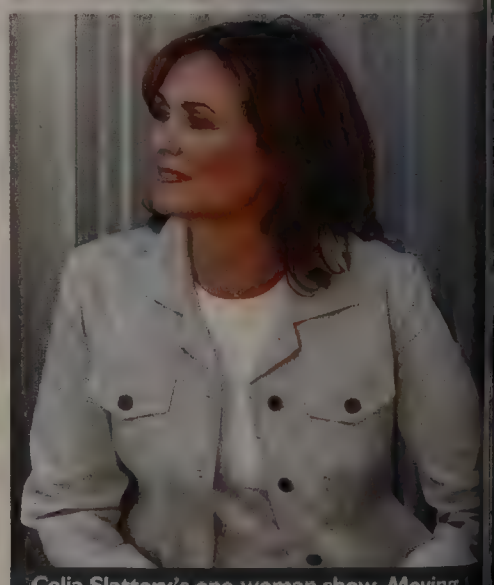
Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambrid[ge] (800-697-2583). www.mysterycafe.com. MBT[A] *Red Line to Porter. Nov. 22 and Dec. 4, 7:30 pm. $4[5] for dinner and show.* The Gourmet Detective serv[es] up Italian cuisine with a murder mystery.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61[7] 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-49[7] 1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcome[dy] jam.com. *First and third Sunday of every mont[h] 8 pm.* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mi[c] with host Stash.



Celia Slattery's one-woman show, *Moving Target*, plays at Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway

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Crowe's Nest

The star sails on Peter Weir's naval epic

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Has there ever been a naval battle sequence quite as jarring as the one that opens *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World?* It takes place on a foggy, initially quiet morning off the coast of Brazil in April 1805, in the midst of the Napoleonic wars. Britain's HMS Surprise is suddenly set upon by the French vessel Acheron, which slips out of the fog and repeatedly pounds the Surprise with cannon fire that shears its wooden railings, splits its mast and penetrates its decks and hull. You're forgiven if you flinch to avoid the flying splinters of wood, or cringe as the impacts send bodies flying.

Russell Crowe stars as Captain "Lucky Jack" Ambrose in Peter Weir's new epic, *Master and Commander*.

Director Peter Weir, in his first movie since *The Truman Show*, makes the battle all the more intense by not laying music over the battle noises, frantic dialogue and ever-present creaks and squeaks of wooden boats on the high seas. So there are no musical cues pushing us toward certain emotions or telegraphing important events. Like the characters onboard, including Captain "Lucky Jack" Ambrose (Russell Crowe) and ship's scientist and doctor Stephen Maturin (Paul Bettany), we're left to our own devices.

This early action also mixes in great little glimpses of what life on the sea 200 years ago involved, such as the groups of men working the manual pumps in the ship's bowels to bail out water let in by the cannonball holes, or the hurried prebattle preparations in which men scurry to battle stations while others clear the decks and rooms of any objects that aren't nailed down. And, in an amazing battle detail, when the French attack knocks out most of the Surprise's sailing capacity, the English pull off an amazing escape by dropping three lifeboats, tethering them to the big ship and having a dozen sailors in each boat row like crazy.

That remarkable opening battle and Weir's realistic storytelling—especially compared with the last big naval battle movie, the melodramatic confection *Pearl Harbor*—help *Master and Commander* sail over dull patches, gabby interludes and hohum subplots. Its level of authenticity is so much higher than any mere piece of spectacle.

Not that the quieter moments are always the meat of the film, which is based on a series of novels by the late Patrick O'Brian. The characters of Ambrose and Maturin appear in many of them, but the movie isn't always convincing in portraying the two as lifelong best friends. (The pair's musical respites with Ambrose on violin and Maturin on cello are silly, and Bettany is a colorless performer, especially next to robust Crowe.) Those characters fit their larger functions in the story, though. Although Ambrose is hardly brutish (in fact, he's more worldly than all but a few men would have been in 1805), he is unscientific, and his famous battle skill relies as much on hunch as knowledge. Maturin is, of course, a scientist, and when the ship docks in the Galapagos Islands and he observes wildlife there, it's obvious we're supposed to see him as a forerunner to Darwin.

So Ambrose and Maturin represent, essentially, the physical and mental sides of man, and a running joke in the movie is that Ambrose's pledges to give Maturin time for science always get deferred by his quest to pursue the Acheron around Cape Horn. The shipmates' philosophical struggle is the real battle in *Master and Commander*, but it can't compare with the more explosive and more cinematic battle between the English and French ships.

The other great compliment you can pay these battles—and there is indeed a climactic rematch—is that the special effects are rarely obvious, although there must be a ton in the movie, especially during a ferocious storm sequence. For once, the effects serve the story in a big movie, and not the other way around. And despite its battle prowess, *Master and Commander* is anything but gung ho. With cannonballs ripping through boats as well as people, and realism a priority (check out the amputation scene), you feel the loss of war in this one. After all, Weir is the man who gave us one of the most tragic war movies ever made, *Gallipoli*. iB

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World ★★★

Directed by Peter Weir. Written by Weir and John Collee, based on the novels of Patrick O'Brian. With Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany. Rated PG-13. Twentieth Century Fox.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

The Human Stain ★★★
I wouldn't call Robert (*Twilight*) Benton's adapta tion of Philip Roth's novel well made—it's unfo cused and bursting with loose ends, and Ga Sinise's character is deadwood that might hav been trimmed away. But for the most part, this ta of a retired professor (Anthony Hopkins) with secret, and the emotionally wounded younge lover (Nicole Kidman) he takes up with, is involv ing. Hopkins employs unexpected restraint, whil Kidman's stretch as a self-destructive, workin class divorcée is impressive. (At Boston Commo Kendall Square and suburbs.)

In America ★★★
My Left Foot director Jim Sheridan's semiautobio graphical drama about a young Irish family's mov to New York sometimes has a TV-movie feel, pe haps because it's told from the perspective of on of the wide-eyed daughters. But there's dramati meat in the tale. The family has left Ireland fo lowing the death of one child, and the mo (Samantha Morton), dad (Paddy Considine) an two young daughters (Sarah Bolger, Emma Bolge bring a mixture of grief and optimism to their ne home. Sheridan's tale turns out to be about feelin at home—be it in your surroundings, your life your own skin—and his characters' emotiona journey is worth taking. Morton's fragile woma on-the-edge schtick has gotten pretty tire though. (At Kendall Square.)

In the Cut ★★
Subtext isn't so interesting when the text above is uninvolving. That's what you get in this thrill in which director Jane Campion (*The Piano* seems bored with the serial-killer whodunit th drives the story. Campion seems more concerne with the repressed teacher (Meg Ryan) who gets touch with her wrapped-up desires when a hom cide detective (Mark Ruffalo) turns into her litt guilty pleasure. The undercurrent spotlighting th woman in peril in a voyeuristic society of ma predators might have worked had Campio pumped more energy into the story and less in the artsy cinematography and editing. (At Boste Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Intolerable Cruelty ★★★
It's "Coen Brothers lite" in a way, as *The B Lebowski* brothers have revised a pre-existin script for their latest and co-produced it wi Brian Grazer (*A Beautiful Mind*). But even if th absurdity only occasionally hits the Coens' usu pitch (especially during a hilarious trial scene this fast-paced battle-of-the-sexes comedy is sti very funny. George Clooney is just right as a va divorce attorney with no conscience—no one el today can do a movie star turn as he can—whi curvaceous Catherine Zeta Jones keeps right with him as the golddigger who turns out to be h match in more ways than one. (At Boston Com mon, Fenway and suburbs.)

Kill Bill—Vol. 1 ★★
Within the first few minutes of Volume 1 Quentin Tarantino's long-awaited action epic the second half arrives in February—you get fo 1970s references. There's the Shaw Brother "Shawscope" logo from the team's old martial films, the swirly "Our Feature Presentation" int that cinemas showed back then, a circa-19 Klingons reference and a taste of the *Iron* theme song. Those references go to show th Tarantino's style, cool and clever a decade ago now only as adventurous as an episode of VH1 *Love the '70s*. Make that VH1 with literal geyse of blood. Tarantino's story is a revenge tale wi Uma Thurman as a modern-day warrior seeki revenge on the assassins who left her for dead. T pop-cultural quotes come fast and hard—spaghe westerns, Japanese manga comics, Tarantino's o *Reservoir Dogs*, etc.—so much so that you wish would just settle down and let his characters words do their jobs, as in the movie's best quence, when the warrior enlists a philosophic Okinawan sword maker (Sonny Chiba). Let's ho the second half has more stretches like that. Boston Common, Fenway, Harvard Square a suburbs.)

Lost in Translation ★★★½
Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her 20 directorial debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, and she co jures up a similar funny-sad tone in her tale of t Americans (Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson) ad in Tokyo. He's a washed-up movie star making bundle endorsing Japanese booze; she's the wife a work-consumed photographer (Giovan Ribisi). They're staying at the same hotel a

A gentleman

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killing time at the same hotel bar, and their misery loves company. The characters make a great movie couple, although their relationship is platonic (with its share of sexual tension). Murray gives a Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance built mainly around physical and especially facial reactions to absurd situations, and Johansson is a little heartbreaker. (At Boston Common, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Love Actually ★★

Veteran English writer Richard Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) makes his directorial debut with this shameless romantic comedy, which operates under the same say-it-loud and pile-on-the-exclamation-points concept as the oversized greeting card. In his movie's case, that means he piles on about eight half-baked romantic subplots, hoping they'll miraculously accumulate into one big plot. If only. Nearly all of these subplots are flimsy and shallow, especially one with Hugh Grant as the new English prime minister. Unfortunately, Grant is back to his pre-2000 bumbling. Bill Nighy, as a desperate, aging rock star, and Rowan Atkinson (a frequent Curtis collaborator) add genuine comic relief occasionally. But a romantic movie as weak as this should not be allowed to use a song as good as the Beach Boys' "God Only Knows" during its climax. There oughta be a law. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Matrix Revelations ★★

The first *Matrix* had a thrilling sense of discovery, but ultimately, this trilogy had little to offer once that initial thrill was gone. How did that lively original ever morph into the ponderous, self-important saga in this second sequel? They ought to hand you Cliffs Notes going into this one, because unless you're a no-lifer who's seen the previous movies 10 times, it's hard to follow the many plot intricacies, and the movie does little to reacquaint you. As in the first sequel, the bad guys—specifically Hugo Weaving's Agent Smith and Lambert Wilson and Monica Bellucci's Eurotrash couple—offer most of the fun. Aside from Jada Pinkett Smith, the heroes are robotic stiffs, while the fight scenes verge on self-parody and the Neo-as-Christ climax is worth a snicker or three. (At Boston Common, Fenway, suburbs and IMAX theaters.)

Meg Ryan and Mark Ruffalo star in Jane Campion's new psychological thriller, *In the Cut*.

Mystic River ★★

Where are Robert Mitchum and *The Friends of Eddie Coyle* when you need them? Clint Eastwood's adaptation of Dennis Lehane's novel would like to be the same sort of somber, blue-collar crime story as that 1970s Boston-shot classic. But this disappointing film is plodding and literally and figuratively murky. Eastwood assembles a great cast whose efforts don't always pay off, especially Sean Penn, whose character, Jimmy, suffers most from the loss of the novel's background detail. Kevin Bacon and Tim Robbins play the other two childhood friends whose fates become intertwined anew when Jimmy's daughter is murdered—one is the detective investigating the crime and the other is the prime suspect. As a whodunit, this is competent enough, but its ambitions run larger than that, and its reach exceeds its grasp. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Pieces of April ★★★

Black humor and optimism blend surprisingly well in this story of the title character (Katie Holmes) fixing Thanksgiving dinner for her visiting family. While she deals with kitchen problems in her Manhattan apartment, like finding a neighbor who'll let her use a stove after she realizes hers doesn't work, we also see the family (including dad Oliver Platt and ill mom Patricia Clarkson) trekking their way downstate to see her. The feeling of dread is mutual for the black-sheep daughter and her disappointed parents, and the colorful cast pulls off the heightened reality in writer-director Peter Hedges' story. (At Copley Place, Coolidge Corner and Kendall Square.)

Runaway Jury ★★★

The latest John Grisham adaptation is a fun popcorn thriller, with Gene Hackman's cynical jury consultant stealing the movie. Hackman and his minions' appetite for jury members' dirty secrets—all the better to twist their arms with—would do Edgar Hoover proud. John Cusack and Rachel Weisz are in on the fun, too, as one person in the jury and one outside the jury who've teamed to sway the votes to the highest bidder in a high-profile case against gun manufacturers. As the crusading plaintiff's attorney, Dustin Hoffman has the left-out look of a teetotaler at happy hour. The movie occasionally acts like Hoffman's character too, especially during its earnest last few scenes, but this courtroom drama zips by. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

School of Rock ★★★½

Jack Black has the big-screen breakthrough he's been destined for ever since his scene-stealing role in *High Fidelity*. Here, he's a failed rock-and-roller who impersonates a substitute teacher and schools his fourth-graders to be his new band. Writer Mike White, who also plays a supporting role, tailors the story to Black's manic talents, and he and director Richard Linklater (*Dazed & Confused*) take what could have been a lame David Spade or Rob Schneider movie and made a very funny, genuinely feel-good movie. So, the next time one of those painful movies starring a *Saturday Night Live* cast member comes out, remember it didn't have to be so bad. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Shattered Glass ★★★

The story of Stephen Glass, the hotshot *New Republic* reporter who turned out to have faked many of his articles, becomes a fascinating drama that avoids the usual stodginess of docudramas. Instead of showing us the hows and whys of Glass' fakery—does anyone really know that besides Glass himself?—the movie presents Glass (Hayden Christensen) as an eager-to-please go-getter who appears to be taken in himself by his own veneer of guilelessness (and also appears to be the best coworker anyone could ever have). That self-

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ception may be the biggest and most interesting deceit in the movie, which also touches upon entertainment's dangerous seductive power over journalism. The strong supporting cast includes Peter Saarsgard, Chloe Sevigny, Hank Azaria and Melanie Lynskey. (At Kendall Square.)

The Singing Detective ★★

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. So why this two-hour adaptation of Dennis Potter's deeply involving seven-hour 1980s miniseries? Naturally, much of the drama gets dulled by the abridgement of Potter's tale of a writer trapped in the hospital by a debilitating case of psoriasis. In its full-strength form, it's an intoxicating mix of present-day action, the detective story reeling inside the writer's head (which casts him as a glib gumshoe), surreal hallucinations (usually involving Potter's trademark device of characters lip-synching to old tunes) and childhood flashbacks revealing the writer's emotional scars. Potter wrote the screenplay before his 1994 death, so it touches upon his main points, but there isn't a single aspect in which the movie matches up to its miniseries predecessor. (At Copley Place and Harvard Square.)

The Station Agent ★★★

This comedy about a dwarf (Peter Dinklage) who moves into an abandoned train depot in a small New Jersey town might have been a cloyingly quirky indie film. Instead, it's a pretty special experience. Dinklage's deadpan performance as Fin wryly captures how his character's expectations of his fellow man have been pounded down by their reaction to his height. Broader comedy comes from Bobby Canavale, as a food-truck owner who tries to befriend Fin, and Patricia Clarkson, as a woman escaping a fizzled marriage whom Fin tries to befriend. There's a wise and endearing clash of humanity here, and an unpredictable story to go along with it. Along with *Pieces of April* (see page 64), another brittle yet funny Clarkson performance. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

21 Grams ★★

Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu used time to great effect in his bracing debut, *Amores Perros*. In his follow-up (his first American-made movie), his use of nonlinear structure doesn't go so smoothly. Again Gonzalez blends three stories—of a newly widowed woman (Naomi Watts), a born-again ex-con (Benicio Del Toro) and a terminally ill professor (Sean Penn)—but the film's first half is so hyperactive that it's hard to get into it. That's when the action jumps so often—in time, and among the three characters—that it lacks a center. When the film finally settles down, and we see the three lives intersect, the action gets genuinely dramatic at last, and Watts' raw performance is especially compelling. But that first half is a big price to pay to get to the second. (At Coolidge Corner and Kendall Square.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Popular Request: Katharine Hepburn

•Nov. 24, 6 pm. **The Philadelphia Story** *1940*. In this comedy, Katharine Hepburn plays a spoiled aristocrat whose ex-husband (Cary Grant) shows up the day before her wedding. George Cukor directs.

•Dec. 1, 6 pm. **Woman of the Year** *1942*. An independent young woman and her sports reporter husband have trouble merging their relationship and their careers. George Stevens directs.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Mondays and Tuesdays—Make It Wide: Celebrating Widescreens at 50

•Nov. 24. **2001: A Space Odyssey** 1968. In Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi classic, astronauts contend with a willful computer named HAL.

•Nov. 25. **West Side Story** *1961*. Natalie Wood and Richard Beymer star in this musical adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, set in New York City. Directed by Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise.

•Dec. 1 and 2. **Scarface** 1983. Al Pacino plays gangster Tony Montana, who builds a drug empire in Miami. Directed by Brian De Palma and written by Oliver Stone.

Wednesdays—Recent Raves

•Nov. 19. **Swimming Pool** *2003*. Seeking inspiration for her new novel, a British mystery author goes to stay at her publisher's house in the south of France and finds more than she expects. Directed by François Ozon. •Also showing. **Demonlover** *2002*. Olivier Assayas directs this thriller about hard-nosed business women fighting for control over Internet porn technology.

•Nov. 26. **American Splendor** *2003*. File clerk Harvey Pekar, who was inspired by Robert Crumb to write his own comic books, appears in this film about his life. Directed by Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini.

Thursdays—Feasts for the Eyes

•Nov. 20. **Como Agua para Chocolate** (*Like Water for Chocolate*) *1992*. This love story set in Mexico is about a woman who can't marry her lover because tradition mandates that she take care of her mother. Directed by Alfonso Arau. •Also showing, **Tom Jones**. *1963*. An abandoned child raised by an English gentleman grows up to be a wild young man with a weakness for women. Directed by Tony Richardson.

•Nov. 27. **Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory** *1971*. In Mel Stuart's beloved musical, with screenplay by Roald Dahl, an eccentric candy maker (Gene Wilder) comes out of seclusion to hold a contest. Young Charlie Bucket and four other "golden ticket" holders win a tour of Willy Wonka's unusual factory.

Weekend Highlights—The Lubitsch Touch

•Nov. 21 and 22. **Ninotchka** 1939. Greta Garbo stars as a stern Russian woman who visits Paris and is unexpectedly romanced by a playboy. Also showing. **The Shop Around the Corner** 1940. Jimmy Stewart stars a young store clerk who is in love with a woman he has never met but only corresponded with. When a brash young woman is hired, the two hate each other—until he discovers she is the woman he has been writing to.

•Nov. 23. **Trouble in Paradise** 1932. A jewel thief meets his match in a woman he was intending to rob—a pickpocket posing as a countess.

•Nov. 28-30. **Casablanca** *1942*. Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman star in this romantic World War II classic.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Now playing. **Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election** *2002*. Richard Ray Perez and Joan Sekler document the battle over the state of Florida in the 2000 election.

•Now playing. **Elephant** *2003*. Gus Van Sant's film, an expressionistic take on the 1999 Columbine shootings, follows students at a fictitious high school.

•Now playing. **Teknolust** *2002*. Tilda Swinton stars in a quadruple role as a nerdy chemist who clones herself into three different man-hungry women. Lynn Hershman-Leeson directs.

•Opening Nov. 26. **21 Grams** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

•Opening Nov. 28. **Steve Earle: Just an American Boy** *2003*. Amos Poe directs this documentary about musician, author and antiwar activist Steve Earle.

Midnight Movies

•Through Dec. 6, 12 am. **The Animation Show** *1994*. A collection of the world's best animated short films, compiled by Mike Judge and Don Hertzfeldt.

•Nov. 21 and 22, 12 am. **Cabin Boy** *1994*. A spoiled finishing school graduate (Chris Elliott) mistakenly ends up on a fishing boat and faces the wrath of the crew. Adam Resnik directs.

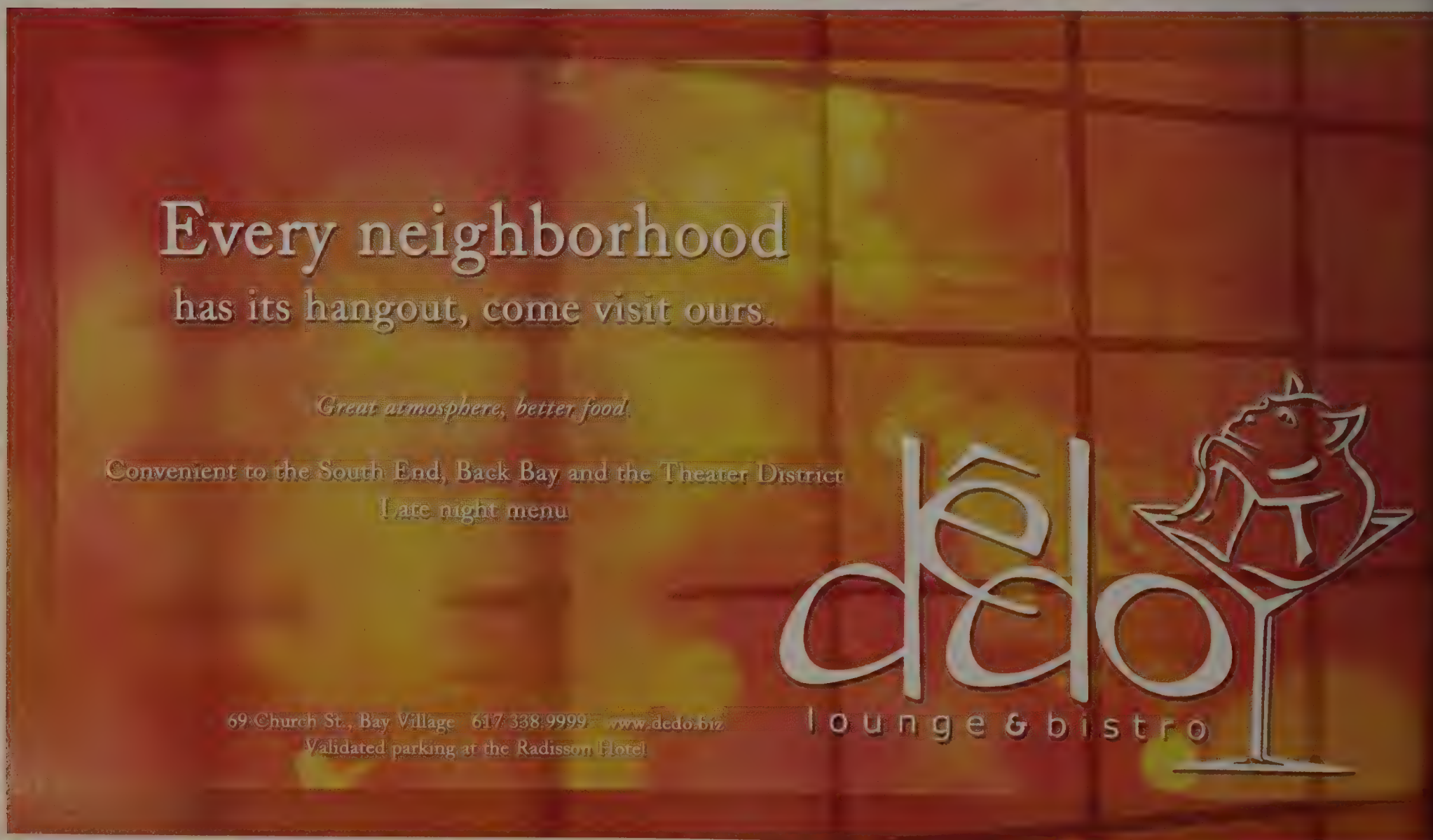
•Nov. 28 and 29, 12 am. **Tron** *1982*. A hacker is literally abducted into the world of a computer and forced to participate in gladiator games.

Special Events

•Nov. 24, 7 pm. **Memorias del Subdesarrollo** (*Memories of Underdevelopment*) *1968*. An aspiring writer looks at some of the major changes that have occurred in Cuba, including the Castro revolution and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Tomás Gutiérrez Alea directs. A discussion with Cuban-American photographer Abelardo Morell and his wife, filmmaker Lisa McElaney, follows the screening.

Video Balagan Series

•Nov. 20, 7:30 pm. **Afghan Spring** *1990*. Japanese documentarian Tsuchimoto Noriaki directs this look at Afghanistan, from the Cold War to the Taliban.



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HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Film Architectures

•Nov. 25, 7 pm. **Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House** *1948*. Cary Grant plays an advertising executive who experiences problems when he and his wife (Myrna Loy) try to build their dream house out in the country. H.C. Potter directs.

Films of Ning Ying

•Nov. 21, 7 pm, and Nov. 24, 9 pm. **Xi Wang Zhi Lü** *(Railroad of Hope) 2002*. Ning Ying's documentary follows the thousands of Chinese women who make an annual trip to harvest cotton in the Northwestern region of Xinjiang.

•Nov. 21, 9 pm, and Nov. 23, 7 pm. **Zhao Le** *(For Fun) 1993*. A former opera house manager meets elderly amateur singers in the park and organizes them into a performing troupe.

•Nov. 22, 7 pm, and Nov. 23, 9 pm. **Ming Jing Gu Si** *(On the Beat) 1995*. This documentary portrays modern Beijing though the eyes of several police officers.

•Nov. 22, 9 pm, and Nov. 25, 9 pm. **Xiari Nuan Yangyang** *(I Love Beijing) 2001*. A Chinese cab driver has a series of short relationships with women.

The Moving Image: Film and Visual Representation

•Nov. 19, 7 pm. **Russkij Kovcheg** *(Russian Ark) 2002*. Alexander Sokurov's film takes the audience on a tour of the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, in a single, continuous, 87-minute tracking shot.

The New German Cinema

•Nov. 19, 9 pm. **Die Patriotin** *(The Patriot) 1979*. A German schoolteacher searches for new ways to teach her country's history. Alexander Kluge directs.

•Nov. 24, 7 pm. **Bleierne Zeit, Die** *(Marianne and Juliane) 1981*. Margarethe von Trotta's film focuses on the relationship between two sisters. One is an editor at a progressive feminist journal, the other a committed revolutionary.

The (Silent) Lubitsch Touch

•Nov. 28 and 30, 7 pm. **Lady Windermere's Fan** *1925*. A woman is jealous of her husband's interest in an older woman, who is actually her long-presumed-dead mother.

Naomi Watts plays a newly widowed woman in director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's *21 Grams*.

•Nov. 28, 9 pm. **The Marriage Circle** *1924*. The fickle wife of a professor sets her sights on her best friend's husband.

•Nov. 29, 7 pm. **Die Austerprinzessin** *(The Oyster Princess) 1919*. The daughter of a American businessman in Europe tries to get her father to buy her a prince. •Also showing. **Passion** *(Madame Dubarry) 1919*. Ernst Lubitsch's film focuses on the romantic and political intrigues of Louis XV and reimagines the origins of the French Revolution.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•Nov. 22, 4:10 pm; Nov. 29, 10:30 am. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2001*. This documentary follows sculptor Andy Goldsworthy as he works outdoors with ice, driftwood, leaves, stone and dirt. Thomas Riedelsheimer directs.

Arts Alive: Free Film for All Ages

•Nov. 22, 10:30 am. **Creative Kids Cabaret**. This series of short films is geared toward children ages 7 and up.

•Dec. 1, 12 pm. **Condoms, Fish and Circus Tricks: The AIDS Pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa** *2003*. Brenda and Robert Rooney's documentary is about the battle against HIV/AIDS and the effect of the epidemic on the community of Malawi, South Africa.

Boston Festival of Films from Iran

•Nov. 21, 6pm. **Namehay Bad** *(Letters in the Wind) 2002*. Director Ali Reza Amini portrays Iranian society as seen by young Iranian soldiers stationed at a camp near Tehran.

•Nov. 21, 7:45 pm; Nov. 23, 3:45 pm. **Vakonesh-e Panjom** *(The Fifth Reaction) 2003*. A widowed Iranian teacher and her children escape from her father-in-law and try to make it safely out of the country.

•Nov. 22, 12 pm. **A Walk with Kiarostami** *2003*. American film professor and director Jamsheed Akramii interviews Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami in this film. •Also showing, Nov. 22, 12:45 pm. **Gagooman** *(The Twilight) 2002*. A warden tries to bring happiness to two inmates in an Iranian prison and ends up complicating their lives even more.

•Nov. 28, 6 pm; Nov. 30, 10:30 am. **Raghs Dar Ghobar** *(Dancing in the Dust) 2003*. A man's family forces him to divorce his wife when they suspect her mother of being a prostitute.

•Nov. 28, 8 pm; Nov. 30, 12:20 pm. **Sokoote Beine Do Fekr** *(Silence Between Two Thoughts)*

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2003. In this film inspired by the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan, an executioner faces the decision of whether or not to murder a woman for a crime that was never revealed.

•Nov. 29, 12:30 pm. **Banoo-Ye Ordibehesht** *(May Lady) 1997.* The relationship between a divorced mother and her son becomes complicated when the mother starts dating.

Chinese Cinema

•Nov. 20, 1pm. **Nashan Naren Nagou** *(Postmen in the Mountains) 1998.* Huo Jianqi directs this movie set in the Hunan province of China where a man has spent his life as a mailman and prepares his son to take over the job.

The Fantastic Cinema of Jean Cocteau

•Nov. 20, 3 pm; Nov. 23, 10:30 am. **Le Baron Fantôme** *(The Phantom Baron) 1943.* A baron disappears, setting in motion a puzzling series of events. Serge de Poligny directs. •Also showing. **Jean Cocteau, Auto-Portrait** *(Jean Cocteau: Autobiography of an Unknown) 1985.* Egardo Cozarinsky's biographical documentary incorporates interviews with Jean Cocteau about his experiences as a filmmaker, poet, novelist, painter, illustrator, playwright, critic and fashion plate.

•Nov.22, 2:20 pm; Nov. 28, 2 pm. **La Belle et la Bête** *(Beauty and the Beast) 1946.* This interpretation of the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale was the first film that Cocteau directed.

•Nov. 23, 12:15 pm. **Les Enfants Terribles** *(The Strange Ones) 1950.* Cocteau based this screenplay on his novel about a brother and sister who retreat into a dreamlike world to play out erotically charged games. Jean-Pierre Melville directs. •Nov. 28, 4 pm; Nov. 30, 4:15 pm. **Les Dames du Bois de Bologne** *(The Ladies of the Park) 1945.* Realizing that her lover is losing interest in her, a society woman gets revenge by tricking him into marrying a former prostitute. Written by Cocteau and directed by Robert Bresson.

•Nov. 29, 2:15 pm **L'Aigle à Deux Têtes** *(The Eagle Has Two Heads) 1947.* Jean Cocteau directs this story of a queen who falls in love with her would-be assassin. •Also showing, 4 pm. **Les Parents Terribles** *(The Storm Within) 1948.* A man tries to cope with his mother's smothering affection. Jean Cocteau directs.

•Nov. 30, 2:15 pm. **Le Sang d'un Poète** *(The Blood of a Poet) 1933.* This film, written by Cocteau, is both a surreal and autobiographical story of an artist's first foray into film. •Also showing. **La Villa Santo Sospir** *1952.* This film chronicles the summer of 1950, during which Jean Cocteau began decorating the villa's walls in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. Jean Cocteau directs.

New England Film Artists Present

•Nov. 20, 6:15 pm. **Dog Days** *2000.* A man who has started acting like a stray dog hangs around outside a family's home hoping for scraps of food and affection. Ellie Lee directs. •Also showing. **The Perfect Gooseys** 2002. The son of a janitor at an elite private school attends the school and is harassed. Andrew Mudge directs. •Also showing. **Pretender's Dance** *2003.* This short focuses on a rare mental disorder called apotemnophilia, whose victims feel compelled to amputate their healthy limbs. Tom Keefe directs.

•Nov. 20, 8 pm and Nov. 23, 2:15 pm. **Different Drummers: Daring to Make Peace in the Middle East** *2003.* Israelis who are promoting peace provoke others to join in their cause. Boston College professor and filmmaker John Michalczyk directs.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Dec. 16. **Africa: The Serengeti.** This Omni film depicts the 1.5 million animals that migrate across the African plains. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 16. **Space Station.** Blast into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts of the International Space Station. *Call for show times.*

•Through Feb. 12. **Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees.** Enter the world of the wild chimpanzees of Africa's Gombe Stream National Park. *Call for show times.*

•Through June. **Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West.** Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of their journey, brought to life by *National Geographic. Call for show times.*

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Through November. **The Matrix Revolutions.** In the sequel to *The Matrix*, Neo and the rebel leaders battle the machines that have overpowered the human race. *Call for show times.*

•Through June. **Bugs! 3D.** This film focuses on the world of insects in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size. *Call for show times.*

•Opening Nov. 20. **Ghosts of the Abyss.** Director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea's surface to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. *Call for show times.*

•Opening Nov. 20. **Ocean Wonderland 3D.** This film explores the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef and finds sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. *Call for show times.*

•Opening Nov. 20. **Santa vs. the Snowman 3D.** A lonesome snowman turns his jealousy of Santa Claus into a full-scale war, with squirt guns and a 50-foot tall toy soldier. *Call for show times.*

Cinema Venues

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
Copley Place Mall, 100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

MIT List Visual Arts Center
Whitaker Building (No. 56), 20 Ames St., Cambridge (617-253-4400). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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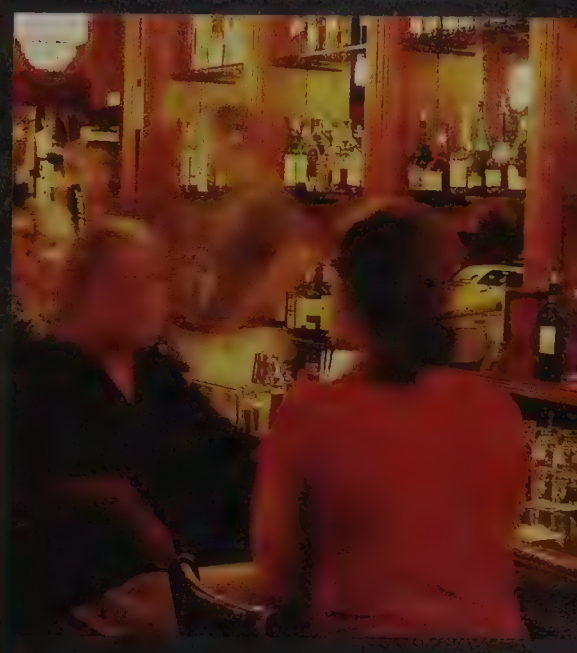

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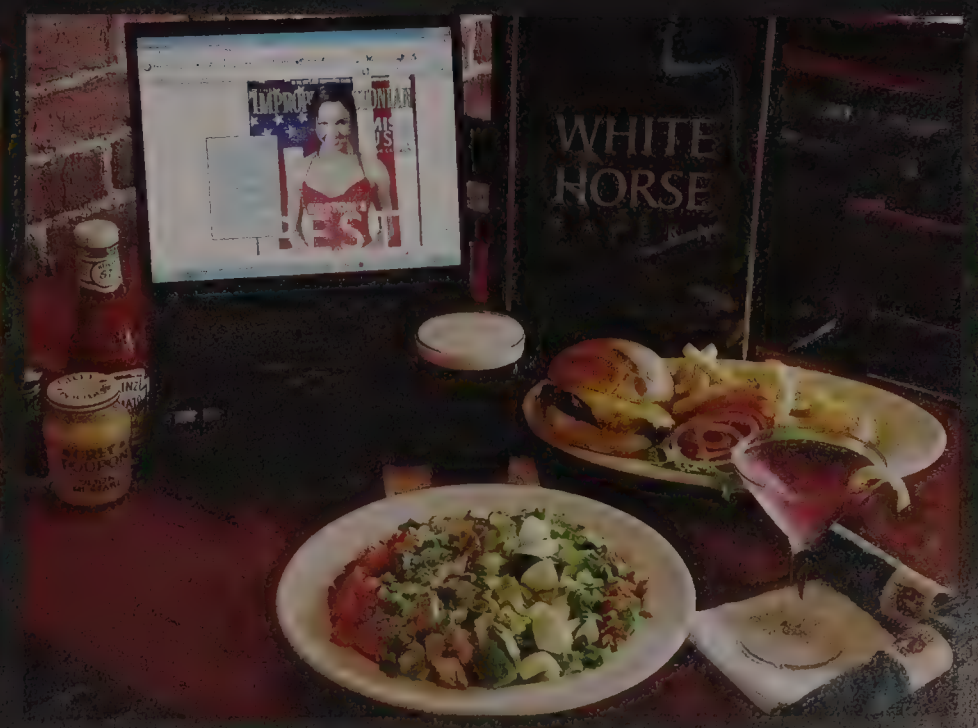

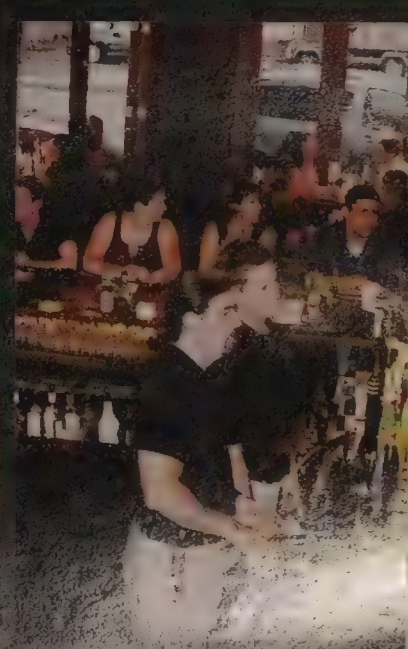

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Spiritual Archaeology

With the reconstituted Waterboys, Mike Scott shares new inspiration

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

Back in 1985, when U2 had just ignited its unforgettable fire, the Waterboys swept out of the British Isles with "The Whole of the Moon," a similar slice of big-beat rock with spiritual import. Then, rather than follow formula, the Waterboys embraced a fiddle-laced Irish traditional lift for its 1988 standout LP, *Fisherman's Blues*.

But leader Mike Scott made one shift too many in 1990 when he condensed the Waterboys to a more typical rock lineup—and lost both fiddler Steve Wickham and the band's audience in the process. Scott disbanded the group to make two solo albums, and he admits, "I recognized the brand name, if you like, after 10 years of Waterboys records and tours, had much more effect."

For his second solo CD, Scott had begun to play with other musicians again. But it didn't feel right under his own name. "I realized, if I play with a band, it's got to be the Waterboys," says the Scottish-born musician. "There's an extra, indefinable magic, something bigger than me that comes into play when it's the Waterboys name."

Mike Scott leads the Waterboys at Berklee Performance Center Dec. 5

So the Waterboys have returned, with Dublin-bred fiddler Wickham back in the fold. On the heels of its 2001 comeback disc, *A Rock in the Weary Land*, the group has solidified its standing with a new CD, *Universal Hall*, and the Waterboys' first acoustic tour of America, which comes to Berklee Performance Center Dec. 5.

"I felt free as an artist to follow where my fascination is," says Scott, 44, who was influenced by Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones and punk rock when he was a teenager, then was drawn to Hank Williams, country, blues and gospel in his twenties. "All of those had a big effect. They became colors of the palette that I'd use when I paint songs."

Lyrics play a huge role in his writing as well. Scott takes a more direct, personal approach to spirituality on the new CD, named after a concert hall at the Findhorn Foundation Community, a spiritual campus where he lives in Scotland.

"Spirituality has to be a practical, daily experience," Scott says from London. "Otherwise, it's meaningless."

One new song, "Peace of Iona," celebrates a Scottish island sacred to both Christian and Druid history. And while the music on *Universal Hall* is comparable to the past work of Scott and the Waterboys, songs such as "This Light is for the World" and "The Christ in You" may give the impression that he's shifting closer to Christian music. But Scott contends he doesn't belong to any specific religion.

"I've always felt that there's a lot more to spirituality than Christianity," he says. "I'm not talking about Jesus Christ. I'm talking about the Christ energy, what Jesus was infused with—at least in my understanding. To me, the Christ is the presence of God in every individual."

Findhorn attracts people from many religious backgrounds, Scott says. "When you get 500 to 600 people all committed to working on their spirituality, especially the kind of nonoppressive spirituality that's practiced at Findhorn, it creates a very powerful, transformative atmosphere."

Scott has appeared solo, with the Waterboys, and as a "community musician" backing other singers at Universal Hall, a striking, polygonal theater. "It has seating in steep rows like Berklee, and performers play on the floor in the middle," he says. "It's almost like playing in the round."

The Waterboys settled into a small studio beneath the hall to record the disc, and while much of the music was sparely arranged, touching on solo, duo and trio settings, there was room for experimentation. Besides his usual guitars and keyboards, Scott is credited for loop "archeology," "earth resonator" (a bass guitar played through organ speakers) and "fireworm," a guitar fed through a micro-synthesizer.

"I call it a fireworm, because that's what it sounds like," says Scott, who uses the setup on "Seek the Light," a psychedelic march with fuzzed-out vocals. "I love putting effects on instruments that aren't meant to be on those instruments."

The Waterboys' U.S. tour will be more stripped down, featuring Scott, Wickham and pianist Richard Naiff—today's core incarnation of a band that once included Karl Wallinger, who left to launch the group World Party, and Anthony Thistlethwaite, of late with the Saw Doctors.

The shows will draw from *Universal Hall* as well as material from throughout the Waterboys and Scott catalogs. However, fans shouldn't expect to hear "The Whole of the Moon."

"Generally my songs translate easily to the acoustic format, but 'Whole' is different," Scott says. "Getting a real keyboard player to duplicate the way I played it on the record is like asking Picasso to draw the funnies for the *New York Post*. I play in sort of a caveman style: one finger on one hand, and three on the other!" iB

The Waterboys
play Berklee Performance Center Dec. 5

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or by email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Aerosmith and Kiss
Nov. 26, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Art Alexakis Nov. 26, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Beenie Man, Tantro Metro & Devonte and John Hype Dec. 2, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Blind Boys of Alabama Dec. 2, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Chimaira Nov. 21, Axis (617-262-2437).
The Disco Biscuits
Nov. 26 Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Donna the Buffalo Nov. 21, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Cesaria Evora
Nov. 22, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Fun Lovin' Criminals Dec. 2, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Galactic Nov. 20, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Godsmack Nov. 26 & 28, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Hoobastank, Die Trying and Andrew W.K.
Nov. 30, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Kill Hannah Nov. 22, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Phil Lesh and Friends Nov. 23-25, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Phish Dec. 2, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Robert Randolph & the Family Band and Los Lonely Boys Nov. 19, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Saves the Day, Taking Back Sunday and Moneen
Nov. 21, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Scratch 2003 Tour, with Q-bert, X-ecutioners, Z-Trip and the Original Jazzy Jay
Nov. 20, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Stereophonics Nov. 29, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Tell Us the Truth Tour with Billy Bragg, Lester Chambers, Steve Earle, the Nightwatchman and Janeane Garafolo Nov. 23, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
The Thorns and Kathleen Edwards
Nov. 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Le Tigre Nov. 19, Roxy (617-931-2000).
Vendetta Red Nov. 28, Axis (617-262-2437).
Wadaiko Yamato, Nov. 22, Berklee Performance Center (617-876-4275).
Zebrahead and Lucky Boys Confusion
Nov. 30, Axis (617-423-NEXT).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19

Abbey Lounge Father Grundy, Grass Cowboys, Un likely Cowboys and Lisa Bastoni, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Avalon Robert Randolph & the Family Band and Los Lonely Boys, 8 pm, $18, 18+.
Axis Stryper and Mars Hill, 8 pm, $16, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Ray Brown, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway Jeff Felder, 7:30 pm, $5, 21+.
The Burren Frankie and Sean Gavin, 9 pm, n cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+ Downstairs: Boston poetry slam, 8 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Lowen and Navarro and Dave's Tru Story, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort The Shauntrelles, 7:20 pm, n cover, 21+.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6 pm, no cove 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraf 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Fireplace Rich Greenblatt, 9:30 pm, no cover, a ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Green Line.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10: pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Benefit for the Rock 'n' Roll Libra with Grubstake, Damian David, the Goodby

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Anti-Love Project and Medea Connection, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Johnny D's Amy Rigby and Patrick McAloon, 8:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Michelle Currie.
Kinsale Brehan Law, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The So and So's CD-release show, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the Alarm, $15, 18+. ZuZu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm.
Paradise The Thorns and Kathleen Edwards, 8 pm, $20, 18+.
The Rack Diamond Life, 6 pm.
Regattabar The Issi Rozen Quartet, 8:30 pm, $12, all ages.
Roxy Le Tigre, DJ Rekha and Yuka Honda, 8 pm, $14, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Lola Danza, 8:30 pm, $8.
Scullers Lou Rawls, 8 and 10 pm, $45, 21+.
Skellig Singer-songwriter series with Tom Bianci, 10 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Sasquatch and the Sick-a-billys, Drive Like It's Stolen and Black Chrome, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Annie Raines and Paul Rishell, 7-9 pm, no cover, 21+; the Coachmen, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Halogens, Rocketscience, Army of Jasons, Lincoln Conspiracy, Kyle Vincent, Ray Paul, Brian Charles and Philip Price, $8.
Western Front Eric Bloom Ensemble and Jarrett Cherner Ensemble, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Josh Roseman Unit, 9:30 pm, $10, all ages.
Les Zygomates The David Eure Band, 7:30 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, NOV. 20

Abbey Lounge The Pickups, Spittz and the Marvels, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Avalon Scratch 2003 tour, with Q-bert, X-ecutioners, Z-Trip and the original Jazzy Jay.
Black Horse Tavern Sunday's Well.
Bob the Chef's Hakim Law, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway Margo Thunder, 7:30 pm, $5, 21+.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Addison Groove Project Dec. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
David Bowie and Macy Gray Dec. 9, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Sarah Brightman Jan. 31, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Harry Connick Jr. Dec. 20 and 21, Colonial Theatre (617-931-2000).
Catie Curtis and Laura Love Dec. 5, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Gomez Jan. 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Dave Matthews, Emmylou Harris, Tim Reynolds and Trey Anastasio Dec. 16, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Natalie McMaster Jan. 11, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000).
Bette Midler Jan. 20, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Mix 98.5 Holiday Hoedown with Howie Day, Gavin DeGraw, Guster and Sarah McLachlan Dec. 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
The Prodigals Dec. 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Seal Dec. 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Martin Sexton and Melissa Ferrick Dec. 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Simon & Garfunkel Dec. 11 and 13, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Sol y Canto Jan. 31, Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University (617-373-2247).
Take 6 Jan. 15, 2004, Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University (617-373-2247).
Trans-Siberian Orchestra Dec. 7, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
The Waterboys Dec. 5, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).

The Burren The Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: the Cheeries, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Willy Porter and Rachel McCartney, 7 and 10 pm, $20, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Groove Authority, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Fireplace The Jody Grind Band, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Chocolate Starfish, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Briar Maxie Courtney.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Dick-n-Jane and DJ Lou.
Harper's Ferry The Lost Trailers and the Low Life, 8 pm, $10-$13, 18+.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Oteil Burbridge and the Peacemakers, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown John Mansfield.
Kirkland Café Jess Tardy, Polyethelene and Mr. Sparkle, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The So and So's CD-release show, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: All the Queen's Men, Blizzard of '78, Pure Fiction and Aloud, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Umphrey's McGee, $15, 18+. Corner: Mitchell Kalsuness, 21+. ZuZu: Milo Jones, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm.
Paradise Galactic, 9 pm, $22.50, 18+. Lounge: the Wells and Annette Farrington, 9pm, 21+.
The Rack BlackSole, 6:30 pm.
Regattabar The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 8:30 pm, $20, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club John Baboian Quartet, 8:30 pm, $9.
Scullers Lou Rawls, 8 and 10 pm, $45, 21+.
Skellig Scratch My Back, 10 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Busker and Seabiscuit, 8 pm, $5. 21+.
Sophia's The Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Toad The Family Jewels, 7-9 pm, no cover, 21+; Caged Heat, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Charlie Chesterman, the Day Jobs, the Irresponsibles, Raymond, the Charms, Paul Melancon and the Trouble Dolls, $8.
Western Front Stout Style, 8 pm, $5.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Fat Little Bastard, 7-9 pm, $7, all ages.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

Abbey Lounge Nancy Mroczek PhD, Let It Ride and SoulBeFree, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+. Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Attic Sean Kelly and Tom Askin of the Samples, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Avalon Saves the Day, Taking Back Sunday and Moneen, 6 pm, $18.50, all ages.
Axis Chimaira, Soilwork, Bleeding Through and Cannae, 6 pm, $15, all ages.
Big Easy Dick-n-Jane, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Tony Riordan.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren The Well, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Brooks Williams, Jonathan Byrd and Dromedary, 8 pm, $14, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Grover Mooney and the Moon Unit, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Borderland, 9:30, no cover, 21+.

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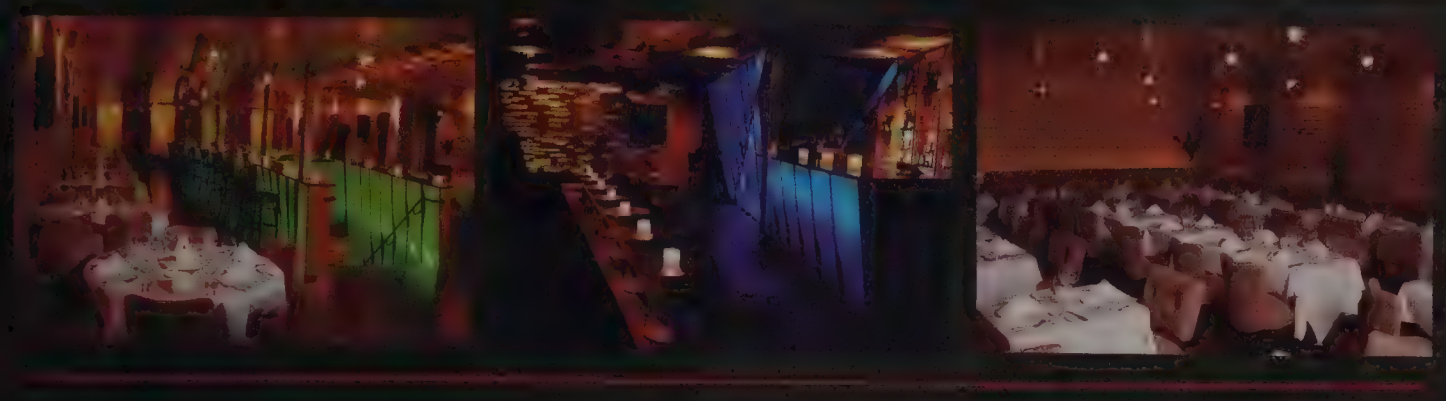

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Harper's Ferry The Ben Taylor Band and Mr. North, 8 pm, $12, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Sing-along with Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Chicken Slacks Soul Revue, 9:45 pm, $7, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Matt Fulton.
Kirkland Café The Motive, Kevin Emerson, Walk Don't Run and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The So and So's CD-release show, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: John Wesley Harding and Blake Hazard, $12, 18+. Downstairs: Mondo Generator and Bad Wizard, $12. Corner: Sam Hooper Group, 21+. ZuZu: Latin with Giancarlo Buscaglia, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy Courtney and Alan Loughnane.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Quartet, 8:15 pm.
Paradise Donna the Buffalo, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Peatmoss.
The Rack U-Neek Aproach, 6:30 pm, $5.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 7:30 and 10 pm, $20, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Black Sea Salsa, 8 pm, $10, all ages.
Sanders Theatre The Jane Monheit Quintet, 8 pm, $22.50-$27.50, all ages.
Scullers Lou Rawls, 8 and 10:30 pm, $55, 21+.
Skellig The Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar The Plain Janes, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Sophia's The Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Toad Cash Monies and the Jetsetter, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Francine, Ad Frank and the Fast Easy Women, the Rudds, Brett Rosenberg Problem, Señor Happy, Lemonpeeler, the Gladstones and the Suggestions, $10.
Western Front Def O.S. with DJs Tommee and Knife, 8 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

New Orleans–based jazz rockers Galactic play the Paradise Nov. 20.

Zeitgeist Gallery Sleeper Cell, 9 pm, $7, all ages.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

Abbey Lounge Coffin Lids, Tampoffs, Whitetrash, Deluxe and Contrarians, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Asgard Christy O'Connell, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+. Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Attic Michelle Lewis, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Avalon Thursday, Thrice, Coheed and Cambria, 6:30, $19, all ages.
Axis Kill Hannah, 7 pm, $8, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Wadaiko Yamato (Taiko drummer), 8 pm, $25-$37, all ages.
Big Easy Kick, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle and Tony O'Riordan.
Bob the Chef's Black Sole Ensemble, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Tarbox Ramblers, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Christ Episcopal Church Highland Jazz concert, features Warren Wolf, 8 pm, $16, all ages.
Club Passim Carol Noonan and Juliet Wyers, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort The Big '80s, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Borderland, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Mike Shea Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Incadence.
The Green Briar Infractions.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis.
The Harp Chorduroy, DJ Rowdy B, and DJ Lou.
Harper's Ferry Slipknot (classic rock covers), 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Swingin' Johnsons, 9:45 pm, $7, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Dorothy Miller.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Kirkland Café Rover, Joel Henry, Alison Block, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The So and So's CD-release show, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Papermoon CD-release show, Vacationland and M-Lab, $9, 18+. Downstairs: the Push Stars, $12, 18+. ZuZu: Ready, Steady, Go-Go, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Tommy Courtney and Alan Loughnane.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Quartet, 8:15 pm.
Orpheum Cesaria Evora, 8 pm, $30-$40, all ages.
Paradise Broadcast and Manitoba, 9 pm, $15, 18+. Lounge: Elgin James, Jason Bennett, Mike McGan, Johnny Rioux, Nate Albert, Favorite Atomic Hero and more, 9 pm, 21+.
Parris Peatmoss.
Regattabar The Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, 7:30 and 10 pm, $20, all ages.

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Ryles Jazz Club Stan Strickland, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers Lou Rawls, 8 and 10:30 pm, $55, 21+.
Skellig Groove Authority, 10 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Medinasod and the Amazing Mudshark, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Ellis Paul and Vance Gilbert, 8 pm, $22.
Toad Greg's Saturday Showcase, 7-9 pm; Georgia Overdrive, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Brain Surgeons, the Pills, the Flashcubes, Paula Kelley, Heavy Stud, the Spaceshots and the Crybabies, $10.
Western Front Best of Boston Hip-Hop Festival, 8 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Kevin So, 7-9 pm, $8. David Tronzo and the Gill Aharon Trio, 9:30 pm, $10, all ages.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

Asgard Christy O'Connell, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center Tell Us the Truth Tour with Billy Bragg, Steve Earle, Lester Chambers, the Nightwatchman (Tom Morello) and Janeane Garafolo, 7:30 pm, $30-$35.50, all ages.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Jim Coyle.
Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with Zeke Martin's Jazz, 10 am-3 pm, $18.95.
Breezeway Hakim Law, 11 am-3 pm, $13.95 jazz brunch, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Jazz brunch with Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Singer-songwriter series, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Café Boston Sings Boston III: Neil Casey, 7:30 pm, $13, 21+.
Club Passim James Keelaghan, 7:30 pm, $12, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Gospel brunch with Silver Lining, 10 am-3 pm; Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Donegal Cords and Finbar Doyle.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Matt Dorko and Larry Kukers 9 am-2:30 pm; blues jam, 4:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jazz brunch piano trio, 11 am-3 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Jazz brunch with Keza Hirsey.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Lizard Lounge poetry slam with the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Ren Gender, 7 pm, $6, 21+.
McGann's Pub Toneburst Crew, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East ZuZu: Rockabilly night, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
Orpheum Phil Lesh and Friends, 7 pm, $39.50.
Paradise Lounge: the Frolic Room with Thru the Keyhole Burlesque, 7 pm, 21+.
Regattabar Rebecca Parris: Rushing the Season with Mike Monaghan, Brad Hatfield, Peter Kontrimas and Matt Gordy, 3 and 5:30 pm, $18, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch with Steve Rochinski, 10 am-3 pm, no cover.
Sky Bar Pug Uglies, Sed, Mongrel and No One's Kind, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Dan Zanes + Friends, 11 am and 3 pm, $15, all ages.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Spring Hill Rounders, 7-9 pm, no cover, 21+. Session American: Ry Cavanaugh, Sean Staples, Dinty Child, Jimmy Fitting and Billy Beard, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon St. Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Marshall Wood Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Fooled by April, Violet Nine, Fireking, the Marlowes, IKE, Cliff Hillis and the Forward Thinkers, the Montgomerys and Shyne Factory, $8.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Rick Drost with Parts and Labor, 7 pm, $7; the Roland Cosby Experience, 9 pm, $5, all ages.

MONDAY, NOV. 24

Asgard Eamon Sheehan, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Geoff Bartley's open mike, 8 pm; Matt Griffin, 10 pm, 21+.
Choppin' Block Jazz session with Marianne Solivan Quartet, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Club Café Boston Sings Boston III: Kathy St. George, 7:30 pm, $13, 21+.
Club Passim Rachel Sage, Molly Zenobia and Jenny Bruce, 7:30 pm, $5, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Seisiun.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike night.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kinsale Eamon Sheehan, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Lizard Lounge Comedy Hour and open mike, 7-9 pm, no cover, 21+; Gary Wicks, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Pub Pablo Picker, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Sinapse, Two Steps to Infinity, Third Shift and Debris, $8, 18+. ZuZu: Unhappy Hour with the Weisstronauts, no cover, 21+.
Orpheum Phil Lesh and Friends, 7 pm, $39.50.
Paradise Lounge: Chris Korwin Band with Dean Fields, Jon Frederick and Arum Rae, 8 pm, 21+.
Skellig Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Zen Bastards, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Dangerous Brothers.
Toad Shwang and Anita Suhanin, 8-10 pm, no cover, 21+. the Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Marshall Wood Trio, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Sofia Koutsovitis Group, 7-9 pm, $7, all ages.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Asgard Tom Courtney, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7 pm, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm, 21+; Chris Pandolfi and Friends, 10 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Cool Black Kettle.
Johnny D's John McCormick, 8:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kinsale Tom Courtney, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Rose Polenzani, Felix McTeigue and Rachel McCartney, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: the New Amsterdams and Kevin Devine, $10, 18+. Corner: Noche Mexicana with Gustavo & Andres, 21+. ZuZu: Frank Moore, no cover, 21+.
Orpheum Phil Lesh and Friends, 7 pm, $39.50.
The Rack ZMQ, 6 pm.
Regattabar Either/Orchestra, 8:30 pm, $12, all ages.
Scullers Jerry Portnoy's 60th Birthday Bash, 7:30 pm, $25, 21+.
Sky Bar Amber Spyglass, Lucretia's Daggers and Robotzen, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Christian McNeill and the Dangerous Brothers, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 7 pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26

Abbey Lounge Road to Ruin (Ramones tribute), Drugwar and the LW's, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Avalon Disco Biscuits, 8 pm, $20, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm.
Breezeway J-Vibes, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Burren Blue Light Special, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+. Downstairs: Boston Poetry Slam, 8 pm, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Fireplace The Rick Costa Jazz Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.

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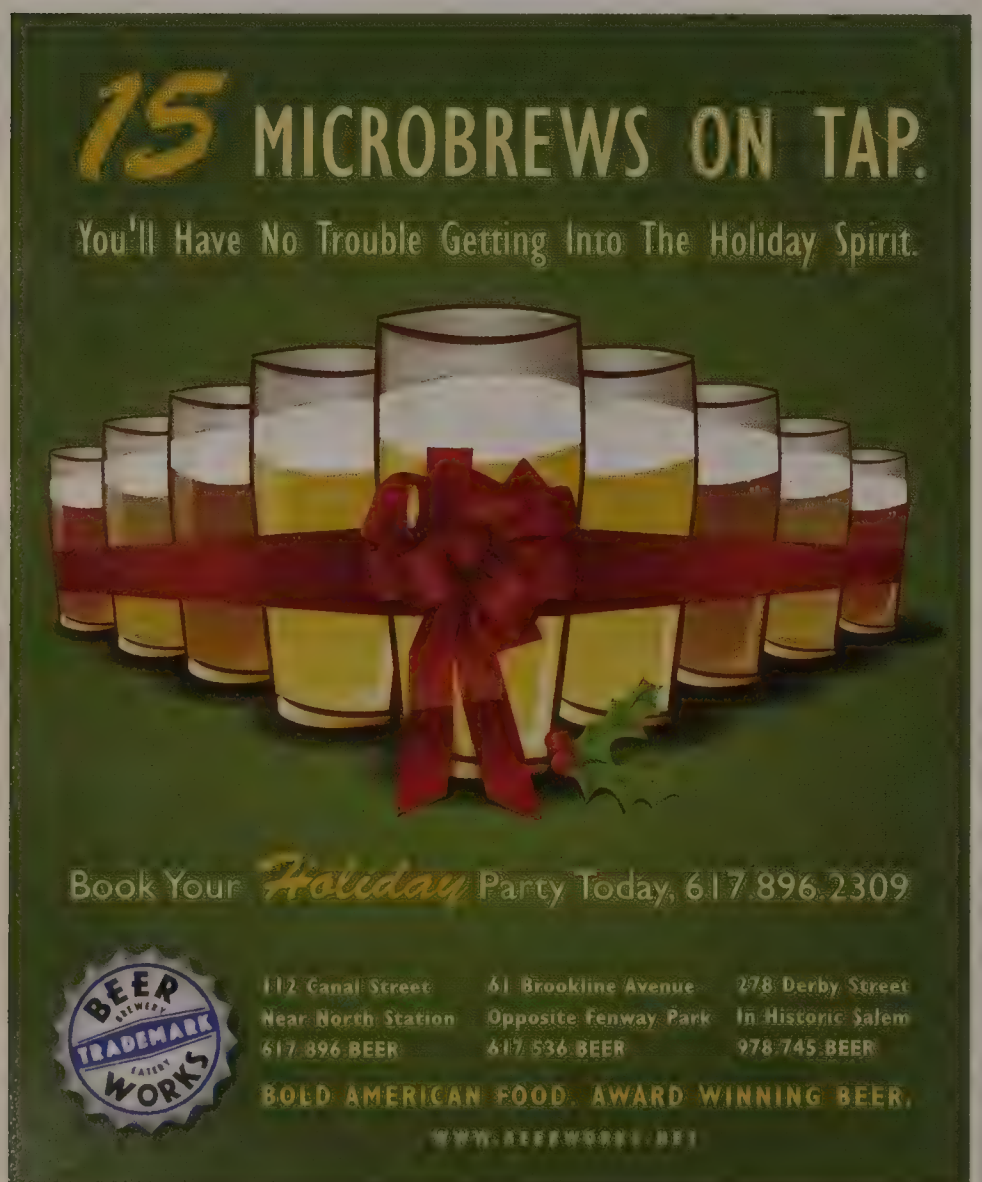

FleetCenter Aerosmith and Kiss, 7 pm, $45-$125.
The Green Dragon Tavern Green Line.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Michelle Currie.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Buckners, Audrey Can't Die and Typhoon Ferri, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: September Twilight, 6gig, Cade and Breathe, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Meet the Day and Boatyard Resin CD-release show, $9, 18+. ZuZu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm.
Orpheum Godsmack, 7:30 pm, $35.
Paradise Art Alexakis (of Everclear), $15, 9 pm, 18+.
Parris Flavor.
The Rack Suagarfoot, 6 pm.
Regattabar El Eco with Guillermo Nojechowicz, Kim Nazarian, Helio Alves, Dino Govoni, Jay Ashby and Fernando Huergo, 8:30 pm, $16, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Patricia Vlieg, 8:30 pm, $9.
Skellig The Johnny Come Latelies, 10 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Final Hour, Moontide and Black Nasty, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Annie Raines and Paul Rishell, 7-9 pm, no cover, 21+. Planet 3, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Paddy Saul and Boris McCutcheon, 9:30 pm, $7, all ages.
Les Zygomates The David Eure Band, 7:30 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

The Black Rose Eugene Byrne.
Breezeway Margo Thunder, 7:30 pm, $5, 21+.
The Burren The Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar DJ Stelah.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies.
The Harp DJ Lou.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown John Mansfield.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, no cover, 21+; Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis Vendetta Red, S.T.U.N., Armor for Sleep and On the Might of Princes, 6 pm, $10, all ages.
Big Easy Joe Rockstar, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Adam Ezra Group, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Bob Franke, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Soul City, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Borderland, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Grover Money and the Moon Unit, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Kick the Cat.
The Green Briar DJ Stelah.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis.
The Harp Flavor, DJ Rowdy B, and DJ Lou.
Harper's Ferry Jiggle, 8 pm, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Sing-along with Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Beatlejuice, 9:45 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Matt Fulton.
Kirkland Café BJ Snowden, Liz Stahler, Midnight Moon and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Reed Foehl, 9 pm, $12, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Mary Lou Lord, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Akrobatik, 18+. Corner: Sam Hooper Group, 21+. ZuZu: Latin with Giancarlo Buscaglia, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Sundays Well.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Quartet, 8:15 pm.
Orpheum Godsmack, 7:30 pm, $35.
Parris The Interns.
The Rack Sugarfoot, 6:30 pm, $5.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Swingin' the Blues—Basie and Beyon Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchest with Monica Lynk and Kevin Mahogany, 7:30 ar 10 pm, $20, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Gilson Schachnik, 9 pm, $9.
Scullers Oleta Adams, 8 and 10:30 pm, $30, 21+.
Skellig The Johnny Come Latelies, 10 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar The Robby Roadsteamer Band, Kranksqua and Voodoo Screw Machine, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Sophia's The Latin Party Boys, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Toad David Johnston, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Sugarman 3 with L Fields, $8.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMaho 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

Abbey Lounge Bowman, Gone Baby Gone ar Endway, 9:30 pm, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm, n cover, 21+. Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Stereophonics at the WBOS 92.9 Thank giving Music Feast Benefit for the Greater Bosto Food Bank, 7 pm, $15, all ages.
Big Easy Joe Rockstar, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne, Frank Ryan ar Celtic Clan.
Bob the Chef's Pat Loomis, 7:30 pm.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, n cover, all ages.
The Burren Tarbox Ramblers, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and th Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Deb Talan, Steve Tannen and th Weepies, 7 and 10 pm, $15, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 8:30 pm, no cove 21+.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover, a ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Borderland, 9:30 pm, n cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Mike Shea Tri 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Grand Canal Syndicate.
The Green Briar Pie Alley.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syptifo.
The Harp Flavor, DJ Rowdy B and DJ Lou.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover.
Johnny D's Beatlejuice, 9:45 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Dorothy Miller.
Kirkland Café Chapter and Verse, Immunity Proje and Christie Leigh, $5.
Lizard Lounge The Subject and Seanna Carmody, pm, $5, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Mike Boston, Al Rock, Ma Unique, Black Swan, Holl-A-Fam, Iron Monke Desperate Measures, Headwrap and John-John, $ 18+. Downstairs: Elevation 74 and Focusin, $9, 18 ZuZu: Soul-le-lu-jah, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Sundays Well.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Quartet, 8:15 pm.
Parris The Interns.
Regattabar Swingin' the Blues—Basie and Beyon Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchest with Monica Lynk and Kevin Mahogany, 7:30 ar 10 pm, $22, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Lance Martin Band, 9 pm, $10.
Scullers Oleta Adams, 8 and 10:30 pm, $30, 21+.
Skellig Undercover, 10 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Lemonstone, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub The Brian McCree Group, 8 pm.
Western Front Urban Family Band, 8 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, n cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Leah Schulman Group, 8:30 pm $8, all ages.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

Asgard Christy O'Connell, 9:30 pm, no cover, a ages.
Axis Zebrahead and Lucky Boys Confusion, 7 pm.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Frank Ryan.
Bob the Chef's Sunday jazz brunch with Trace Rose, 10 am-3 pm.
Breezeway Hakim Law, 11 am-3 pm, $13.95 ja brunch, 21+.
Bristol Lounge Jazz brunch with Dan Greenspa Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Café Boston Sings Boston III: Bobbi Carre 7:30 pm, $13, 21+.
Club Passim Lisa Schneckenburger, 7:30 pm, $1 all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Gospel brunch with True Belie ers, 10 am-3 pm; Big Time, 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+

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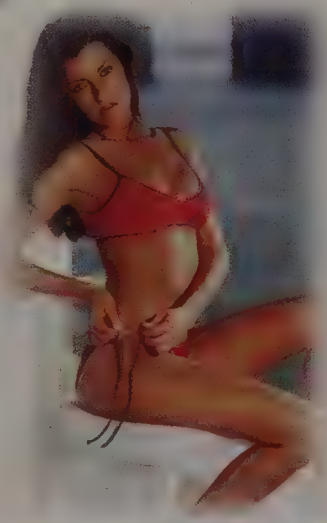
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Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Sunday's Well and Finbar Doyle.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Ridgley Snow 9 am-2:30 pm; blues jam and salsa dancing with Rumba NaMa.
Julien Bar Jazz brunch piano trio, 11 am-3 pm.
Kennedy's Midtown Jazz brunch with Keza Hirsey.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell, 7:30 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge The Lizard Lounge poetry slam with the Jeff Robinson Trio and featured poet Shane Koyczan, 7 pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East ZuZu: Rockabilly night, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 8 pm.
Paradise Hoobastank, Andrew W.K. and Die Trying, 8 pm, $17, 18+. Lounge: the Frolic Room with Thru the Keyhole Burlesque, 7 pm, 21+.
Regattabar The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra performs *The Golden Dreydl: A Klezmer Nutcracker*, 3 and 5:30 pm, $16, all ages.
Sky Bar Suicide Dream, Tamperproof, Absolve and Black Hand, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies.
Toad The Freelance Bishops, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon St. Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Gordon Beadel Group, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Liars, Young People and Tunnel of Love, $10.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Western Front Merida Castillo Band, 5 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, DEC. 1

The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan.
Choppin' Block Jazz Session with Marianne Solivan Quartet, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Club Café Boston Sings Boston III: Brian DeLorenzo, 7:30 pm, $13, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Coolidge Corner Theatre Thoth, 9:30 pm, $10, all ages.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar Traditional Irish Seisun.
Johnny D's Daniel Mille, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Matt Murphy's Pub Brad Barr (the Slip), 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Arashi, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Avalon Beenie Man, Tantro Metro & Devonte and John Hype, 8 pm, $20.25, 18+.
Berklee Performance Center Blind Boys of Alabama, 7:30 pm, $25-$37, all ages.
The Black Rose Celtic Clan.
Club Passim Boris McCutcheon, Jimmy Ryan and Duncan Walters, 8 pm, $10, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
FleetCenter Phish, 7:30 pm, $39.50.
Johnny D's Jordan Carp and Woodpile, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm.
Paradise Fun Lovin' Criminals, 7 pm, $12, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Ryles Jazz Orchestra, 8 pm, $8.
Scullers Julia and Zerounian Ensemble, 8 and 10 pm, $18, 21+.
Sky Bar The Difference Engine and Soul Be Free, pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, n cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
All-Asia Café *334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Atrium Lounge *Millenium Bostonian Hotel, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-236-5300). MBTA: Green or Blu line to Government Center.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684) MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave., Bosto (617-266-1400). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Big Easy Bar *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286) MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave., Roxbury (617-541-5400).*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Christ Episcopal Church *1132 Highland Ave., Nee ham (781-444-2460).*
Club Café *209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-5981). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Coolidge Corner Theatre *290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudentia*
Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Boston (617-350-9977). MBTA: Blue Line to State.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Fireplace *1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (61 624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central*

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The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (617-876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Jacob Wirth *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
McGann's *197 Portland St., Boston (617-227-4059). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
PA's Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Redline *59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
The Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Skellig *240 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0679).*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-876-4275).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Washington Square Tavern *714 Washington St., Brookline (617-232-8989). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square.*
The Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central Square.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Boston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19

Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 110. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. Fr. Organist Louise Mundinger performs as part of t Music in the Cathedral series.

Honan-Allston Branch Library
300 N. Harvard St., Boston (617-787-631 MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard. 6:30 pm. Fr. John Ferguson performs Franz Liszt's arrangement Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

New England Conservatory of Musi
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Guest co ductor Alasdair Neale leads the NEC Philharmo in a performace of Richard Strauss' *Also Spra Zarathustra*, Mozart's Symphony No. 41 in Major, *Jupiter* and John Adams' *Short Ride in a F Machine*.

THURSDAY, NOV. 20

Boston Philharmonic
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-2 0999). www.bostonphil.org. MBTA: Red Line Harvard. 7:30 pm. $23-$63. Mezzo-soprano Mitsu Shirai and soprano Heidi Grant Murphy perfo works by Mahler.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-2 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Sy phony. 8 pm. The BSO performs works by Haydn a Elgar, conducted by Sir Colin Davis.

New England Conservatory of Musi
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. The N Chamber Orchestra performs Mozart's Sympho No. 29 and two works by Stravinsky.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

All Newton Music School
321 Chestnut St., West Newton (617-527-455 www.allnewtonmusicschool.com. 8 pm. Free. Lo group NanBei Winds performs works by Arth Berger, Elliot Carter, Eugene Bozza and Leos Janac

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-423-3883). www.bost classicalorchestra.com. MBTA: Green or Ora Line to North Station. 8 pm. $23-$45. The Bost Classical Orchestra performs Beethoven's Fi Symphony, Handel's *Water Music*, Barber's *Ada for Strings* and other works in a concert honoring t late Harry Ellis Dickson. Steven Lipsitt conducts.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-2 1200). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Sy phony. 1:30 pm. Same program as Nov. 20.

Classical Music at MIT
Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambri (617-253-2826). web.mit.edu/arts. MBTA: Red L to Kendall. 8 pm. $5. William Cutter directs the C cert Choir in a performance of works by Bach a Britten.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory of Music, Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). ww celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Sy phony. 8 pm. $41-$46. The Emerson String Quar performs works by Mendelssohn, Debussy a Shostakovich.

Music at the Immaculate
The Immaculate Conception Church, 775 Harris Ave., Boston (617-536-8440). 8 pm. $10-$15. T Rodland Duo performs works by Bach, Brahm Chris Theofanidis, Max Reger and John Weaver.

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble
Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambri (617-492-4758). www.sarasamusic.com. $15-$1 children under 12 free. The ensemble performs qu tets by Brahms, Mozart and Britten.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

Boston Philharmonic
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory of Music, Gainsborough St., Boston (617-236-0999). ww bostonphil.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony pm. $15-$54. Mezzo-soprano Mitsuko Shirai and s prano Heidi Grant Murphy perform works Mahler.

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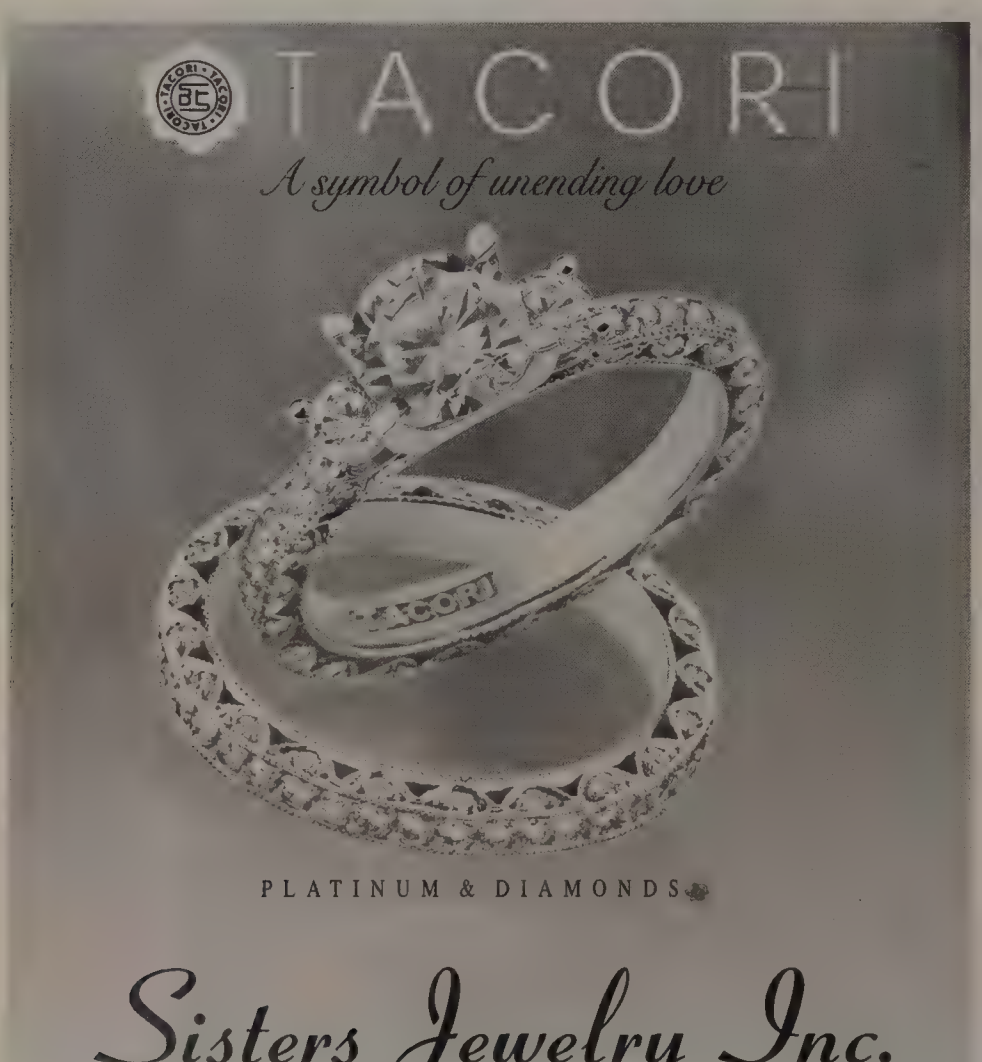

Frederick Moyer plays with the Civic Symphony Orchestra of Boston Nov. 23.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm.* Same program as Nov. 20.

Classical Music at MIT
Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-452-2394). web.mit.edu/arts. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 8 pm.* The Zehetmair String Quartet performs works by Bach, Britten and Schubert.

First Congregational Church
11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-492-8902). www.spectrumsingers.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $25-$35.* John Ehrlich directs the Spectrum Singers in A Christmas Prelude, a program featuring the works of Giovanni Gabrieli and Gustav Holst.

Radius Ensemble
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-792-7234). www.radiusensemble.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $10.* The Radius Ensemble performs works by Amy Beach, Nino Rota, John Harbison and Olivier Messiaen.

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble
Cambridge Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-492-4758). www.sarasamusic.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $18.* Same program as Nov. 21.

Wellesley College Concert Series
Houghton Memorial Chapel, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu/Music/concerts.html. *8 pm. Free.* Neal Hampton conducts the Wellesley-Brandeis Orchestra.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

All Newton Music School
321 Chestnut St., West Newton (617-527-4553). www.allnewtonmusicschool.com. *4 pm. $25.* The Radius Ensemble performs works by Amy Beach, Nino Rota, John Harbison and Oliver Messiaen in a benefit concert for the All Newton Music School.

Boston Classical Orchestra
Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-423-3883). www.bostonclassicalorchestra.com. *MBTA: Green or Orange Line to North Station. 8 pm. $23-$45.* Same program as Nov. 21.

Boston Conservatory Orchestra
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-931-2787). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12, $5 students. Bruce Hangen leads the Orchestra and pianist Mia Chung in a performance of Debussy's *The Afternoon of a Faun*, Mozart's Piano Concert No. 21, K. 467, and Brahms' Symphony No. 2.

Boston Philharmonic
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.bostonphil.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. $23-$63.* Same program as Nov. 22.

Brandeis University
Slosberg Recital Hall, 415 South St., Waltham (617-269-7171). www.brandeis.edu. *3 pm. $5.* Neal Hampton conducts the Brandeis-Wellesley Orchestra in a program including Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony*.

The Civic Symphony Orchestra of Boston
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1260). www.csob.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2 pm. $23-$28.* Pianist Frederick Moyer performs Debussy's Prelude to *The Afternoon of a Faun*, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 C, *Elvira Madigan* and Brahms' Symphony No. 1.

Emmanuel Music Chamber Series
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 4 pm. $22.* Emmanuel Music performs works by Haydn and Brahms.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Gardent St., Cambridge (617-267-2502). www.cantatasingers.org. *3 pm. $15 suggested donation.* The Cantata Singers perform selections from HugoWolf's *Goethe Songbook*. Pianist Kayo Iwama directs.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1360). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *MBTA: D Green Line to Riverside. 2 pm. Free.* Violinist Peter Hanly and pianist Roberto Poli perform works by Elgar, Debussy and others.

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble
Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-492-4758). www.sarasamusic.com. *7 pm. $15-$18, children under 12 free.* Same program as Nov. 21.

Wellesley College Concert Series
Jewett Auditorium, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu/Music/concerts.html. *8 pm. Free.* The Chamber Music Society performs, directed by Nancy Cirillo and Isabelle Plaster.

MONDAY, NOV. 24

New England Conservatory of Music
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* The NEC Bach Ensemble, led by John Gibbons, performs baroque works on modern instruments.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 12:15 pm. $2.* Dong-Ill Shin performs works by Buxtehude, Du Mage and Bach on the C.B. Fisk Organ.

New England Conservatory of Music
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* William Drury leads the NEC Jordan Winds in a performance of pieces by Dvorak, Haydn and others.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26

Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 1103). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. Free. Organist Robert Rivera performs as part of the Music in the Cathedral series.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1:30 pm.* The BSO performs works by Beethoven and Shostakovich. Conducted by Kurt Masur.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm.* Same performance as Nov. 28.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handelandhaydn.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $29-$74.* The Handel and Haydn Society gives its 150th performance of Handel's *Messiah*, conducted by Grant Llewellyn.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 12:15 pm. $2.* Heinrich Christensen directs the King's Chapel soloists and period string ensemble in cantatas by Buxtehude, Vivaldi and others.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *2 pm. Free.* Pianist Barbara Lieurance performs music by Prokofiev, Beethoven and Debussy.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 The Fenway, Boston (617-912-9222). www.bostonconservatory.edu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 8 pm. Free.* Pianist Jung-Ja Kim performs Schubert's Sonata in A Minor, D. 845, Rachmaninoff's 4 Preludes from Op. 32, George Perle's *Ballade (1981)* and Brahms' *Klavierstucke*, Op. 76.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (888-266-1200). www.bso.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm.* The BSO performs works by Beethoven and Shostakovich. Kurt Masur conducts.

Tuesdays with Sebastian
Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston (617-661-0570). www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info. *MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. 8 pm. $10.* Organist Christa Rakich performs works by Bach.

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Every Thursday Night, 6-10pm

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Every Friday Night, 6pm

Join us right after work for with Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party featuring live music and DJ Johnny C.

Every Saturday Night, 8pm

The Saturday Night Dance Party just got bigger in a little way!
DJ Littles spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

Every Sunday Night, 8pm

Dance 11pm - 2am with DJ Mike Janedy.

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THE RACK

dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Ceremony A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats. Classy dress, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, Join the Patriots' Lonie Paxton and friends in a benefit for the Active Force Foundation, 9 pm.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
S.I.N. Service Industry Night DJ Tony Moreno spins house, breaks and hip hop, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

Vertigo
DJ's G-Squared and Steve Austin spin hip-hop, house, old-school and R&B, 10 pm, no cover, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

TUESDAYS

An Tua Nua
What's Up Night A night of R&B, house, funk and soul music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Aria
One Nation DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm, followed by live music, $5, 18+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs John Davis, Matt Fortes and Dev bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins, 10 pm. •Nov. 25, ZMQ performs live, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Preview

Rising Again

Rise is back with a new and improved after-hours party

Boston's members-only after-hours club, Rise, is set to reopen its doors on Nov. 28 for a weekend-long extravaganza. The club was shuttered by a fire in a neighboring business nearly a year and a half ago, and its reopening was delayed in the wake of the Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island. Rise owners Tom Beaulieu and Darrin Morda originally opened the club five years ago to provide a safe space for people to dance all night, so the Rhode Island tragedy caused them to rethink their plans while refurbishing. The rebuilt club includes new safety features, such as a sprinkler system, and also boasts upgraded sound, lighting and video.

"Two things come to mind," says Beaulieu, describing his favorite moments at Rise. "One of them is when I look out on the dance floor and see such a diverse group of people enjoying the music and space—black, white, gay, straight, male and female. It makes me very proud that we've been able to create this place where the walls of society can come down. The second thing, and it almost brings me to tears, is watching someone react to entering the club for the first time. They go from being a bit nervous and curious to happy and excited. You can see it in their eyes and it's a really great thing to watch."

The grand reopening weekend hosts a spectacular DJ lineup and extended hours. Orbit on Friday features a special double bill with Rise residents Steve Porter and John Debo; Storm on Saturday features Montreal's Mark Anthony; and Boston's own Richie LaDue takes over for Earth on Sunday.

Although Rise is a private, members-only club, it is now welcoming new members. Anyone interested in joining must be sponsored by an existing member.

306 Stuart St., Boston (617-423-7473). Opening weekend, 1 am-7 am; regular weekends, 1:30 am-6:30 am. $10 members, $15 guests ($20 for guests on opening weekend). 18 +.

—Daniel Spurling

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party. Proper dress, 11 pm, no cover for 21+ (men), $5 for 19+ (women).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Felt
Weekly Therapy Party Guest DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights spins, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Parris
Nov. 26, Flavor performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21 +.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back. Proper dress, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cove 21+. •Nov. 19, live music with Diamond Li 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 26, Sugarfoot pe forms, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R& Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hi 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Din Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Anal Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Per Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky hou 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
The Skinny DJ Ren Justice spins techno, top- and hip-hop 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger spins vocal house. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 2 (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and gue play rap and Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Aja and John Debo host a night of progressive dan music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orlean themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hi hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indi and hip-hop music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Everything '80s DJ Brian's Love Night mix featu tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 p 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $ 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hi hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

Embassy
DJ JC spins international house, 10:30 pm, $1 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz a electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
KISS 108's DJ Randy hosts the night and sp Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe sp acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou spins late night. •Nov. 20, Dick 'n' Jane p form.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christi Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fr guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downsta 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party start upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia sp dance tunes and old-school, 10 pm, no cover, 21+

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 a 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progress and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reg 10 pm, $10, 21+.

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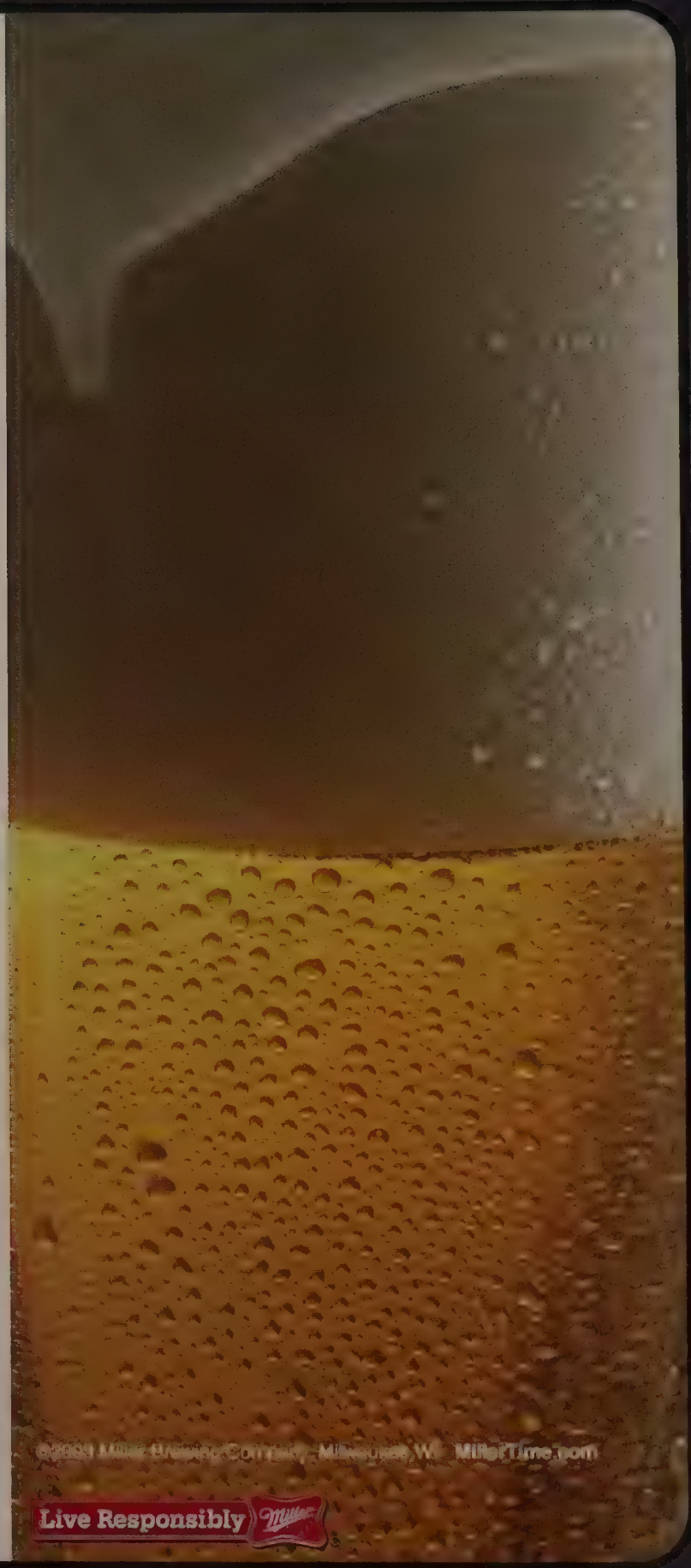

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts spins house and hip-hop. 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
Superstar Thursdays DJs Manolo, Paul Dailey, Rick Naples and Josh Carl share a weekly rotating residency.

The Rack
DJ Littles spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 20, live music by Black Sole, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a mix of electro, funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
Deja Vu DJs and weekly guest hosts spin lounge music, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

SW1
DJ Renel and guest MCs spin hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $5, 18+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Sender plays hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 10 pm, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Superlovers DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40 from the '70s, '80s and '90s, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins a mix of international, Latin and house music. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Nailz and DJ Eddie Lee spin hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $20, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour (5-8 pm) is followed by DJ Renell spinning top-40 and dance, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
After-work live jazz, 5-9 pm. KISS 108's Billy Costa hosts the party and DJ Ricky Fatts spins high-energy dance, hip-hop and Top 40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Nov. 21, Chorduroy performs live. Nov. 28, live music with Flavor.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house and DJ Steve Spinelli plays top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longes running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 p show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21 •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, prop dress, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Benn spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmo phere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpi** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotati bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**U town** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '7 '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cov 21+.

Parris
•Nov. 21, Peatmoss performs, 10 pm, cover varie 21+. •Nov. 28, The Interns perform, 10 pm, co varies, 21+. •

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Just spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston spo video highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs. Proper dr required, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ Josh Spitaleri spins house, 9 pm.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 p 2 am, no cover, 21+. •Nov. 21, live music with Neek Approach, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21 •Nov. 28, Sugarfoot performs, 6:30-10:30 pm, cover, 21+.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins a mix that includ neosoul and a few feel-good classics, 7 pm, cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, R&B and old-school, 9:30 pm, $15, 19+

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; downstai live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21

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Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 7-10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and DJs Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SWI
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Tequila Rain
DJ Tim Collins spins top-40, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $5.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress a must, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

Aria
Classic Spin Back Guest DJ's spin classics of the '70s, '80s and '90s plus old-school hip-hop. Proper dress, 11 pm, $15, 21+(men), 19+(women).

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover bands play the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds. Classy dress, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
The Let Down DJs Brian, Ken and Boothnavy, 10 pm, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Roger M spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
DJ Rennel spins top-40 dance tunes, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Ghost spins hip-hop and house, 9 pm, no cover

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Nov. 22, Chorduroy performs live. •Nov. 29, live music with Flavor.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal house, travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Matrix
DJ G Spin of JAM'N 94.5 plays hip-hop while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+; $20, 18+ ladies only.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee plays hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin da music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and W D. Proper dress. Ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male counter** New England's longest-running all-m dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $ 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top and hip-hop mixes. Proper dress, $15, 18+; $10, 2 •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-ho a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. • **derground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, tec and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $ •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '80s and '90s. Proper dress, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+

Parris
•Nov. 22, Peatmoss performs, 10 pm, cover var 21+. •Nov. 29, Live music with the Interns, 10 cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new w and disco, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance. Pro dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 2 •Nov. 22, live music with Spike the Punch. •N 29, Brick Park performs, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house, hip-hop, top-40 and R&

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins house and techno, 9 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and inter tional music. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Do stairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm

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Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

SW1
DJ Bruno plays house and funk, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Stell plays R&B, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night. Proper dress, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit-pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $3, 19+.

Aria
DJ Roger M spins international house and Latin pop. Proper dress, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night. Proper dress, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz. Casual dress, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Sexique DJs Gunnar Bjorn and Eric Edge spin downtempo, dub, indie, electro, hip-hop, 11 pm, no cover.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synthpop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
In the Biz Night DJ Johnny C spins top-40 hits.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae and world beats. Proper dress, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
Emily's *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-5302).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-908*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-680*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (61 524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 15 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-779*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
Saint *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134)*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-000*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-700*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
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Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
SW1 *43 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
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Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
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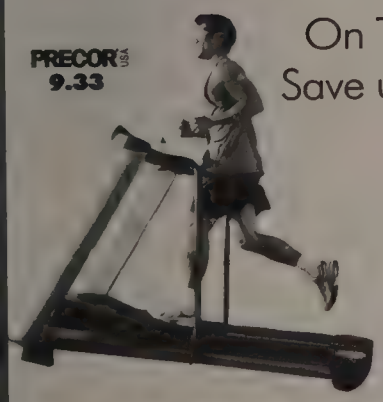

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museums & galleries

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Arts. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century shows through Dec. 7. *•Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm. •Pescadores: Photographs by Irene Turner, an exhibition of images from the Isle of Margarita off Venezuela, displays through Nov. 28. *•Photography in the Human Experience*, an exhibition of photographs from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, displays through Nov. 30. *•The Stinehour Press: The Work of the First Fifty Years* features rare books from a Vermont printing company. Through Dec. 26.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. •Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. *•Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows through Jan. 18. *•Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Through Jan. 18. *•Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows through Jan. 18. *•Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibition, shows through May 16. *•Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •Before Expressionism: Art in Germany circa 1903 features drawings, prints and paintings from German avant garde artists. Through Feb. 15. *•Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm. •Into the Mountains features the photography of mountaineer Bradford Washburn. Through spring 2004. *•The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. *•Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors. •Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize shows temporary installations that Weathersby created while cleaning at the ICA. Through Jan. 4. *•Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Through Jan. 4.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm. •The permanent collection features more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. *•Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banker: The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti* features a painting by Raphael, sculpture by Cellini and busts of Cosimo de'Medici and Altoviti. Through Jan. 11. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). www.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children. •Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn shows 50 color landscapes. Through Jan. 30. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. *•Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. *•Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost. •John Currin Selects, an exhibition assembled by the MFA's associate curator, displays works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4. *•Rembrandt's Journey: Painter/Draftsman/Etcher* is a comprehensive exhibition of more than 200 of Rembrandt's works. Through Jan. 18. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists whom he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25. *•The Maker's Hand: American Studio Furniture, 1940-1990* features one-of-a-kind pieces made in small shops. Through Feb. 8. •Johannes Vermeer's *Young Woman with a Water Pitcher*, a rare painting on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, displays Nov. 19-Feb. 22. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. *•18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. *•Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children. •Magic: The Science of Illusion is an interactive exhibition that looks at mind reading, levitation, transformation and the "disembodied head" illusion. Through Feb. 22. *•A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. *•The Computing Revolution* traces the history of computers from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. *•Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. *•Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features models of a wave tank, Mount Everest and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free. •Close-up in Black: African American Film Posters features 90 posters that chronicle black film history. Through Jan. 4. *•Generals, Admirals, and American War Leaders*, an exhibition of personal and official autographs from famous American leaders, shows through Jan. 11. *•Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1. *•The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. *•Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. *•Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. *•Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community* is ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (978-745-1876). www.pem.org. Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free. •Uncommon Legacies features more than a hundred 18th and 19th-century Native American works. Through Dec. 13. *•Luxury and Innovation: Furniture Masterworks by John and Thomas Seymour* features 72 examples of classic American furniture. Through Feb. 17. *•Vanished Kingdoms: The Wulsin Photographs of China, Tibet, and Mongolia 1918-1925*, an exhibition of color images taken by American explorers Janet E. and Frederick Wulsin, shows through Feb. 29. *•Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2. *•Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children •Dia de los Muertos: The Day of the Dead features Aztec art and objects from the Alice Mellon Mexican folk art collection. Through Nov. 30, Sat and Sun, 10 am-4 pm. *•Portraits from China, 1917-1946: Photographers and Their Subjects* features the work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frederick Wulsin. Through Jan. 15. *•These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb. 2004. *•Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. *•Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. *•Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. *•Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the response of Native Americans across the continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. *•Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm. •The Lost Theatres of Somerville combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28.

Preview

Reaching for the Ring

A photography exhibition captures professional wrestling dreams

The WWE's soap opera–like matches and over-the-top characters like Stone Cold Steve Austin and the Rock have pushed professional wrestling's popularity to ridiculous heights over the past few years. Thanks to behind-the-scenes documentaries on wrestling schools and the MTV reality series *Tough Enough*, more and more young adults know where to go to pursue their dream of becoming a professional wrestler. *Hard Boys & Bad Girls*, Thomas McGovern's new exhibition in the Emerging Artist Gallery at Winchester's Griffin Museum of Photography, examines those looking to become the next big sensation in the ring.

Iron Warrior shows in Hard Boys & Bad Girls at the Griffin Museum.

The California-based photographer stumbled upon the School of Hard Knocks wrestling academy in his hometown of San Bernardino. Intrigued by the number of students and the entertainment aspect of the sport, McGovern decided to focus his lens on the aspiring stars. "As an artist, I really connected with the idea that these young men and women were pursuing a far-fetched dream," says McGovern. "Even though most of them aren't particularly well educated, they are keenly aware of how photography constructs an identity and blurs fiction into fact." His ongoing project consists of in-character portraits of the men and women of the School of Hard Knocks paired with action shots. "I'm not trying to reveal what these people are really like," adds McGovern. "There's great manipulation going on with any image. These kids seem to understand it, and I find it fascinating and provocative."

Hard Boys & Bad Girls. Through Jan. 15, 2004. Griffin Museum of Photography, 67 Shore Rd., Winchester. (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. Tue.-Sun. 12-4 pm. $5 adults.
—Jessica Iredale

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •Provincetown Painters, a group show of 20th-century work, displays Nov. 20.-Dec. 20.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •Accessories, a group show of glass, steel and sculptural accessories displays through Dec. 31.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Anne Neely shows abstract paintings. Through Dec. 3.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. •John Stockwell shows paintings in *New Landscapes*. Through Nov. •Pamela Sienna shows oil paintings in *Fabrica*. Dec. 2-30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm. •Generic Space features paintings, drawings and prints by Mel Bochner. Through Dec. 10. *•Print Publisher's Spotlight: Edition Schellmann*, a group show, displays through Dec. 10.

Berenberg Gallery
4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •Free Wheelin', a group show of artistic cars, planes, boats and trains, displays through Dec. 20.

MONTAUK

He left me. Good riddance.

He never picked up his socks.

He thought I was his mother. He didn't

make me laugh anymore. He's gone.

Who cares... All I wanted was the sofa and the dogs.

sofa by montauk

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Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •David Hilliard shows new photographs, and Colleen Kiely shows drawings. Through Jan. 3.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410) www.brickbottomartists.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*Open Studios Preview Show* displays through Nov. 23.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •Preston Singletary shows glass work in *Preserving the Traditions in Glass*. Nov. 22-Dec. 20.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* •Joe Piccillo shows sketches of horses in *New Work*. Through Nov. 30.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. *MBTA:Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of Music* (watercolors), *Winter Wonderland* (winter-themed etchings) and *19th-Century Caricatures: Daumier, Gavarni and Gillray* displays through Jan. 3, 2004.

Clifford-Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Suite 300, Boston (617-695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Hannah Barrett shows family portraits. Through Nov. 29.

Copley Society of Art
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •The annual *Small Works* show features more than 1,000 reasonably priced sculptures, photographs and prints. Nov. 21-Dec. 24.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •Ming Lu shows watercolors. Through Nov. 29. •Richard Stimpson shows line drawings. Dec. 2-Jan. 3.

Equator Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. *Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •John Axon and Tory Fair show sculpture, video and photography in *Seeking Clarity*. Nov. 21-Jan. 3.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery AA/B
535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 -0022). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; Fri., 11 am-3 pm •Terry Rose, Kenny Mac and Jane Kamine show monoprints. Through Dec. 20.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri.-10 am-5 pm. •The gallery's collection of black-and-white photograms shows through Dec. 2.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Alex MacLean shows aerial photography in *Patterns on the Land*. Through Nov. 29.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arltington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Peter Brooke shows landscape oil paintings in *Fugue*. Through Dec. 20.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Frederick Lynch shows paintings and drawings. Through Dec. 2

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri.,*

Barbara Bashlow Guzman's oil-on-linen painting *Girls, Tan Room* shows at the Soprafina Gallery.

10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment. •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century prints. Ongoing. •Ronalee Crocker shows recent oil paintings. Through Nov. 20.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Dante and Joseph Marioni show paintings and glass work. Through Dec. 2. •Hilla and Bernd Becher show industrial landscape photographs. Through Dec. 16.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Thu., 12-7 pm.* •*Ukiyo-e: Designs from Three Centuries* features more than 60 Japanese woodblock prints. Through Dec. 24.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •David Kupferman shows paintings. Through Nov. 29. •*Small Wonders*, a group show of small works, displays Nov. 30-Jan. 3.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment.* •The *30th Anniversary Exhibit* at the Prudential Center's Huntington Arcade features paintings, drawings, ceramics and calligraphy by Kaji Aso and his students. Through Nov. 24.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Energy*, a juried exhibition of paintings, sculpture and photography, displays through Dec. 5.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Graham Gillmore shows paintings in *New Work*. Through Nov. 29 .

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •Garth Bariffe shows new paintings. Through Nov. 29. •Joan Baldwin shows interior scenes made of fabric in *A Look Inside*.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •Dan McDermott shows bronze sculptures in *New Work in Bronze*. Through Dec. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Fri. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •*The Gift*, a show of more than 25 artists, including painter John Lobosco, displays Nov. 20-Dec. 23.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. www.martinlawrence.com. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm.* •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Gallery artists show their work. Through Nov. 28.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •Scott Peterman shows photography in *New Work*. Through Dec. 21. •Kay Ruane shows graphite drawings. Through Dec. 21.

Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-7700). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical Center. Wed. and Thu., 12-5 pm; Fri. and Sat., 12-10 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •*What If?*, a group exhibition of video, installations, glasswork, paintings and sculpture, shows through Nov. 30.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*The Michael Pierschalla Scholarship Exhibition* features contemporary furniture. Through Nov. 29. •Harold O'Connor shows handmade jewelry. Through Dec. 12.

MPG
50 Harrison Ave., #315, Boston (617-778-5265). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •Dmitri Cavander shows new oil paintings. Through Nov. 29.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11-4 and by appointment. •Mags Harries displays glass sculptures. Through Dec. 20.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 11 am-6 pm; Fri. and Sat., 11 am-11 pm. •The *Second Anniversary Holiday Show* features the work of 30 local artists, and includes oils, watercolors, photography, mixed-media works and sculptures. Through Jan. 15.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •*Artists Without Borders* displays through Nov. 29.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Tue.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm; Sun. by appointment.* •Alice Denison shows floral paintings. Through Nov. 29.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm.* •David X. Levine shows *Recent Drawings*. Through Jan. 3.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Stanley Bielen: Paintings* shows through Dec. 23.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Makoto Yabe: Life Affirmed*, a ceramics exhibition, shows through Jan. 6.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •The gallery has an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Gallery Selections*, a show of works by gallery artists, displays Nov. 20-Dec. 24.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. •*Fine and Rare Aquatint Etchings, Lithographs and Pochoirs* features works by Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse and Georges Rouault. Through Dec. 31.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Domesticated Animals*, a group show of mixed-media works displays through Jan. 18.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. •Barbara Bashlow Guzman shows abstract and figural paintings in *Girls: In-Between*. Through Dec. 7.

St. George Gallery
245 Newbury St., Boston (617-450-0321). www.stgeorgegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm; Mon. by appointment.* •*Mixed Medium*, a group show of paintings of Newport, Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Provence, Taos and Santa Fe, displays through Nov. 30.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 10 am-1 pm. •*The Latin Connection: Scenes from Italy, France and Brazil*, a group show of mixed-media works, displays through Nov. 24.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*18th- and 19th-Century Natural History Drawings* displays through Jan. 3.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Realism Now: Traditions and Departures, Mentors and Protogées*, a group show of contemporary realist painters and sculptors, shows Nov. 24-Jan. 17.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). www.wentworthgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's Modern Masters collection, which includes Dali, Chagall, Miro and Picasso, shows through December.

William Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-542-4030). www.williamscottgallery.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Anet Jacque shows multicanvas installations and religious paintings. Through Nov. 29.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. *MBTA: Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •*Jan Staller: A Retrospective* shows through Nov. 28. •*Hard Boys and Bad Girls*, photographs of aspiring professional wrestlers by Thomas McGovern, shows through Jan. 15.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*Ruth S. Nickse Memorial Photographic Exhibit* shows through Dec. 5.

Panopticon Gallery
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Commuter Rail to Waltham. www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •*A Music Show*, photographs by Ron Pownall and Herb Greene, displays through Jan. 3.

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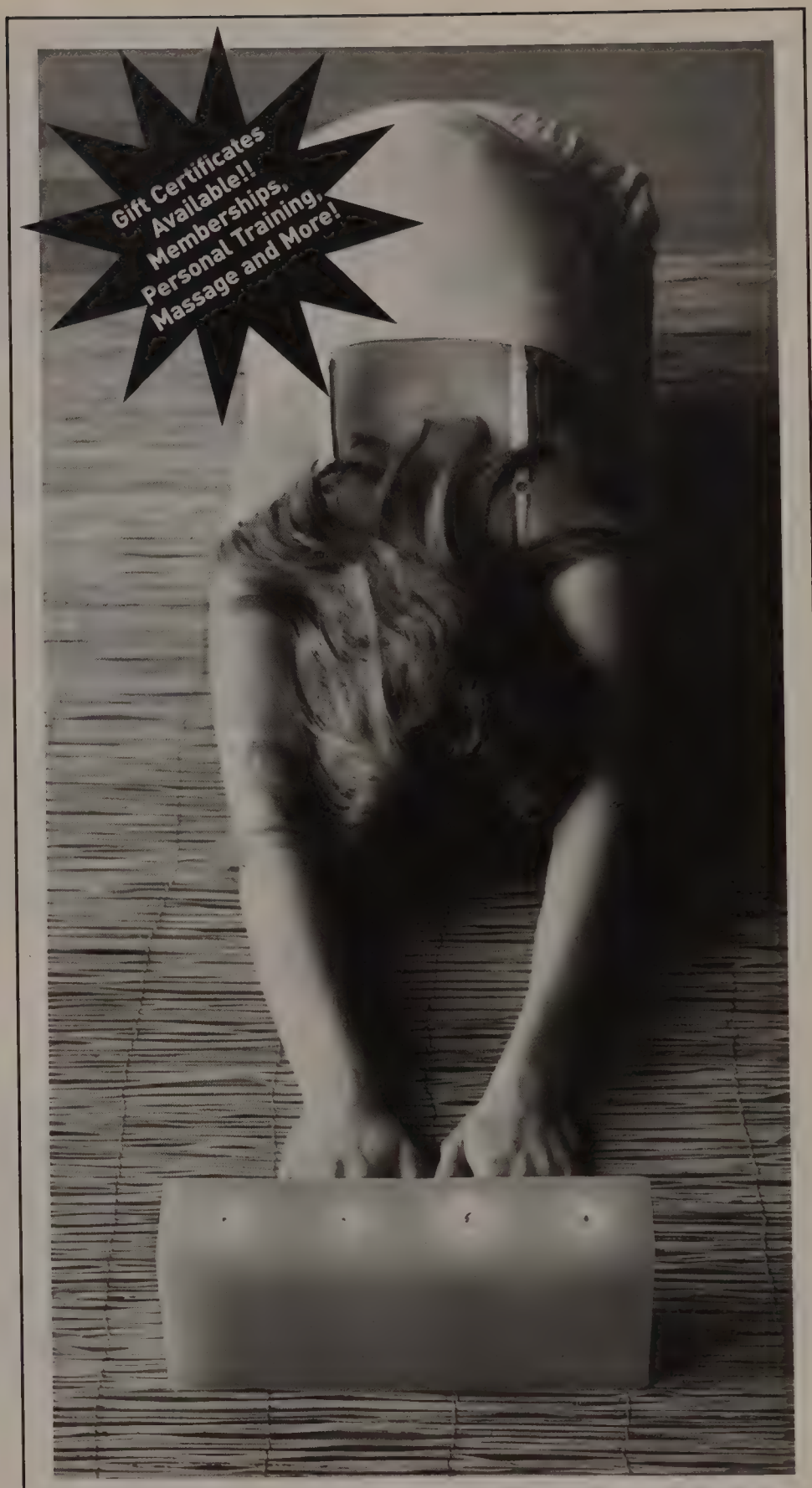

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Neil Douglas-Klotz** reads from his memoir, *The Genesis Meditation: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims*, which explores the three faiths' emphasis on creation and spiritual beginnings.

Borders Boston
10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 12:30 pm. Free. NHL Hall of Famer **Phil Esposito** discusses his book, *Thunder and Lightning: A No B.S. Hockey Memoir*, which recounts his days playing for the Blackhawks, Bruins and Rangers, and managing the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Boston Center for Adult Education
Great Hall at Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-267-4430). www.bcae.org. MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 7 pm. $15. **Anita Shreve** reads from her novel *All He Ever Wanted*, about the failing marriage of a stuffy New England college professor and his vibrant wife. A champagne reception at the Bostonian Hotel precedes the reading. *24 North St., Boston. 5:30 pm. $15 (lecture only), $50 (includes reception). Reservations required.*

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. **Khassan Baiev** reads from his memoir, *The Oath: A Surgeon Under Fire*, about his experience as a doctor during the Chechen-Russian conflict.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Cliff Hakim** discusses his book *We Are All Self Employed: How to Take Control of Your Career*, a self-help guide.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Keith Morris** reads from his novel *The Greyhound God*, about a gambling addict who is forced to confront his problem when his wife and son leave him.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge. (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Linda Lawrence Hunt** reads from *Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America*, which recounts Estby's 1896 walk from Spokane, Wash., to New York to prevent foreclosure on her house.

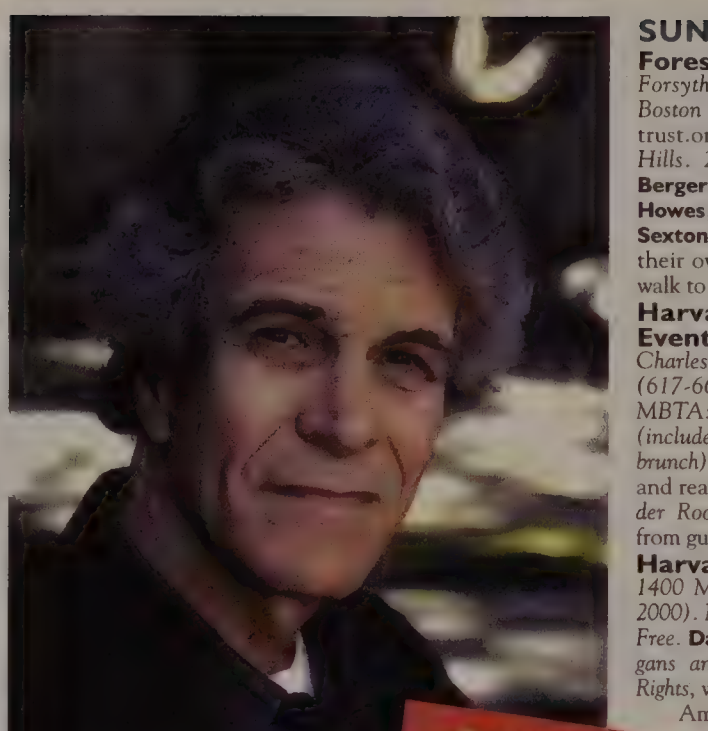
WordsWorth Books Author Event
Charles Hotel, 1 Bennet St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. Former major league baseball pitcher **Jim Bouton** reads from *Foul Ball: My Life and Hard Times Trying to Save an Old Ballpark*, in which he details his efforts to save the oldest ball park in America.

THURSDAY, NOV. 20

Arlington Center for the Arts
Gibbs Theater, 41 Foster St., Arlington (781-648-6220). www.acarts.org. 7:30 pm. Free. **Susan Donnelly** reads from her first book of poetry, *Eve Names the Animals*. Poets **John Hildebidle** and **Dan Tobin** also read their work.

Barnes and Noble at BU
Level 5 Reading Room, 660 Beacon St., Boston (617-236-7448). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 7 pm. Free. **Leslie Epstein** reads from *San Remo Drive: A Novel from Memory*, his work about the family of a famous filmmaker in 1950s Los Angeles told through the eyes of the eldest son.

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Sanjay Nigam** reads from his second novel, *Transplanted Man*, which looks at the intersection of Indian and American culture.



Leslie Epstein reads Nov. 20 and Dec. 2.

First Light Author Event
Best Cellars, 1327 Beacon St., Brookline (617-232-4100). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 5 pm. Free. Newton author **Alison Theaker** reads from her debut novel, *No Rhyme nor Reason*, about a woman in college who gets involved in illicit activities.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Askwith Hall, Longfellow Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free. Historian **Gore Vidal** reads from *Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson*, about the pressures that the first three U.S. presidents faced in the early stages of the nation's development.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Patricia Stacey** reads from her memoir, *The Boy Who Loved Windows: Opening the Heart and Mind of a Child Threatened with Autism*, an account of her efforts to save her son from a neurological disorder similar to autism.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30 pm. Free. Local author **Kristie Helms** hosts New Voices Open Mike Night, a spoken-word event for women.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4 pm. Free. Evolutionary biologist **Richard Dawkins** reads from his collection of essays, *A Devil's Chaplain, Reflections on Hope, Lies, Science and Love.*

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Gregory Basshman** discusses the book he co-edited, *Lord of the Rings and Philosophy: One Book to Rule Them All*, a collection of essays by writers who examine the philosophical foundations of Middle Earth.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 5 pm. Free. Photographers **Jane Bernard** and **Polly Brown** display photos from their book, *American Route 66: Home on the Road*, a collection of photographs and first-person accounts from people who have traveled along the famed highway.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Francis Bok** discusses his memoir, *Escape from Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity—and My Journey to Freedom in America*, about his experience being taken from his home in Sudan and enslaved by Muslim farmers.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

Forest Hills Educational Trust
Forsyth Chapel, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $4. **Lois Ames**, **Suzanne Berger**, **Robert J. Clawson** and **Victor Howes**, four local poets who knew **Anne Sexton**, read from her works as well as their own. The reading is followed by a walk to Sexton's burial site.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 11 am. $65 (includes signed copy of the book and brunch). **P.D. James** is the guest of honor and reads from her new novel, *The Murder Room*. She also answers questions from guests.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Dana Eilers** reads from her book *Pagans and the Law: Understanding Your Rights*, which explores pagan rights in the American judicial system.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway Theater
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7 pm. $15. **Jimmy Tingle** hosts the *Somerville News* Writers Festival. Authors Steve Almond, Timothy Gager, Elizabeth Graver, Michael Lee, Michael Patrick MacDonald, Patricia Wild and Laura Zigman, as well as poets Linda Haviland Conte, Marc Goldfinger, Douglas Holder and Deb Priestly read from their work. Musician Jennifer Matthews performs.

MONDAY, NOV. 24

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www. brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free. **Clare Robson** reads from her memoir, *Love in Good Time*, about growing up in a conservative English family, embracing radical politics and eventually acknowledging her homosexuality.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Susan Playfair** discusses her book *Vanishing Species: Saving the Fish, Sacrificing the Fisherman*, about the ongoing conflict between New England fishermen, federal regulators, scientists and environmentalists.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **William Martin** reads from his novel *Harvard Yard*, in which a book lover becomes an unlikely detective on a case that links Harvard's founder to Shakespeare.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free. **Robert Lifton** discusses his book *Superpower Syndrome: Entering a New Age of Extremes*, an analysis of American power in the context of the global war on terrorism.

Newtonville Books and Brews Series
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Katherine Shonk** reads from *The Red Passport*, her debut collection of short stories that explore the challenges facing an American living in post-Communist Russia.

MONDAY, DEC. 1

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. $3. **John Skoyles** reads from his memoir, *Secret Frequencies: A New York Education*, about growing up in 1960s New York City. Also, **John Fulton** reads fr his novel *More Than Enough*, about a struggl blue-collar family in Salt Lake City.

Katherine Shonk reads from her collection of short stories Nov. 25.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Boston Center for Adult Education
Great Hall at Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-267-443 www.bcae.org. MBTA: Blue or Green Line to G ernment Center. 7 pm. $15. **Oscar Hijuelos** re from his novel *A Simple Habana Melody*, abou Cuban composer who returns home in search of muse after leaving a Nazi concentration camp champagne reception at the Bostonian Hotel ($ lecture only) precedes the reading. *24 North S Boston. 5:30 pm. $50 (includes reception). Reser tions required.*

Boston Jewish Book Fair
Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 N hanton St., Newton (617-558-6442). 7:30 pm. Call ticket information. **Leslie Epstein** reads from his w *San Remo Drive: A Novel from Memory*. See Bar and Noble at BU Nov. 20 listing for description.

Hotel Marlowe
25 Edwin H. Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-395-252 MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 4 pm. Free. **Sus Orlean** and **Sally Sampson** sign and present reci from their new book, *Throw Me a Bone: 50 Healt Canine Taste-Tested Recipes for Meals, Snacks, Treats* to kick off the Marlowe's Holiday Book Dr to benefit Cambridge's East End House.

Newtonville Books and Brews Serie
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). ww newtonvillebooks.com. MBTA: D Green Line Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free. **Alan Lightm** reads from his novel *Reunion*, in which a lonely p fessor revisits the greatest love of his life and the takes he has made. Also, local writer **Karl Iagnem** reads from *On the Nature of Human Interaction*, collection of short stories about rational thinking a the desires of the heart.

Ongoing

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (6 354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge ho a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-200 MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear wh other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sund the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange Level Two.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (Tuesday
255 Elm Street, Somerville (617-591-1616). ww jimmytingle.com. $10. 8 pm. Eight local poets p form their own work in a two-hour theatrical sh every third Tuesday of the month.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). ww poetryjam.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poe jam, 7:30 pm; poetry slam, 9 pm, $6. At the poe slam, the Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tun for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. O'Brien's p sents a mix of rock and spoken word one Monda month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Ca bridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Ce tral. 8 pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night the evening is titled Open Bark—and spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Sa urday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 1 Prospect St., Cambri (617-227-0845). MBT Red Line to Central. 7: pm. $4. Since 1971, t Stone Soup Poets ha held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voic (Second Thursday
Borders Boston, 10- School St., Boston (61 557-4995). MBTA: Red Orange Line to Downto Crossing. 6:30 pm. Fr The second Thursday each month offers a sel tion of featured poets a an opportunity for oth to take the open mike.

education

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19

ig Dig Tour

orld Trade Center Boston, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston 800-544-1898). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. ww.buildboston.com. Nov. 19-20, 8 am-12 pm. earn about the historical roots of the design, con- ruction and politics of the Big Dig with author **Dan cNichol**. Board a bus and visit the most critical and mplex construction sites. Maps and graphics ex- ain the Big Dig's list of superlatives, including videst cable-stayed bridge" and "the most sophisti- ated gantry crane ever built."

ffective Business Communication in n Electronic World

oston Women Communicators, Lenox Hotel, 710 oylston St., Boston (617-422-1855). MBTA: Green ne to Copley. 6 pm. $55, $65 at the door (includes ght supper). **Michael J. Katz**, founder of Blue Pen- in Development, talks about electronic communi- ation's impact on business, and others advise on mmunicating effectively with clients, customers, rospects and employees.

nventing Iraq: The Failure of Nation- uilding and a History Denied

ambridge Forum, First Parish, 3 Church St., Cambridge 617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 n. Free. ABC News Iraq expert **Toby Dodge** dis- usses the formation of modern Iraq and the troubling arallels between the policies of a declining British mpire and those of the current American govern- ent. He believes that Britain's failure to create emocracy in the region between 1920 and 1932 hould serve as a cautionary tale to the current Bush dministration.

IFA Architecture Series: The Memo- ial at the New World Trade Center

luseum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium, 465 Hunt- gton Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). MBTA: E reen Line to Museum. www.mfa.org. 7 pm. $13. **nita Contini**, vice president of Memorial, Cultural and Civic Programs at the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., shares an insider's view of the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site.

Music Industry 101

Learning Connection Metro West, 796 Beacon St., Newton Centre (800-432-5520). MBTA: Green Line to Newton Centre. www.learning connection-metrowest.com. *7-9:30 pm. $50 (includes materials fee).* Entertainment lawyer **Daphne Clarke** teaches the ins and outs of success in the music business, including critiquing and producing a demo, shopping a demo to record companies, negotiating a contract and more.

People Who Love to Read About Food

Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *7:30 pm. Free.* Cookbook author **Lora Brody** leads a roundtable on what makes for good food writing. Audience members are encouraged to bring their favorite food passages from novels, plays, poems and movies to read aloud.

THURSDAY, NOV. 20

Craft in Context

Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge St., Boston (617-227-0155). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center. www.nbss.org. *6:30 pm. Free.* **Brian Kelly**, former instructor of cabinet- and furniture-making at North Bennet Street School, and **Nancy Carisle**, curator of collections at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, discuss furniture production between the Civil War and World War I.

Creative Defiance

Rabb Lecture Hall, 666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. Zimbabwean graphic designer **Chaz Maviyane-Davies** offers an illustrated talk on creative defiance in art.

Low-Tech to High-Tech: Conserving Cherished Objects

Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. *12:15 pm. $5.* The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities has the largest collection of New England art and artifacts—a total of nearly 100,000 items. Assistant conservator **Michaela Neiro** explains how beeswax and clay, as well as computer technology, are used to save cherished objects.

Preserving Family Stories and Family History Through Scrapbooks

Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway St., Cambridge (617-349-4040). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~CPL. *6:30 pm. Free. Preregistration preferred.* Cambridge Public Library presents a workshop by **Beverly Crocker** of Creative Memories, who teaches participants how to create an original scrapbook.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

Duck Walk at Olmsted Park

Leverett Pond parking lot on the Brookline side of the pond, off Pond Avenue, Brookline (617-566-1689, ext. 216). 8:30 am. Free. The National Park Service and the Brookline Bird Club continue their series of bird walks with this duck walk of Olmsted Park at Leverett Pond. See mallards, buffleheads and mergansers.

Gaston Institute Lecture

Community Church of Boston, Lothrop Auditorium, 565 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay. 10:45 am. Free. A representative from the Mauricio Gaston Institute—whose mission is to inform policymakers about issues vital to Massachusetts' growing Latino community—speaks on Latinos and the new demographics of Boston and the United States as a whole.

Insulin and Worms

Current Science and Technology Center, Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston (617- 723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. www.mos.org. *2:30 pm. Free with exhibit hall admission.* A tiny roundworm may hold answers for the future treatment of diabetes. Harvard Medical School geneticist **Gary Ruvkun,** who is investigating these worms to understand how insulin works in humans, discusses his research.

Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher

Museum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. www.mfa.org. *1 and 2 pm. Free with museum admission ($15).* This slide talk provides background for the museum's Rembrandt exhibition and suggests ways of looking at and understanding this master artist's work.

MONDAY, NOV. 24

Franchising101

Learning Connection Metro West, 796 Beacon St., Newton Centre (800-432-5520). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre. www.learningconnection-metrowest.com. *7-9:30 pm. $45 (includes materials fee).* **Mark Roberts**, executive director of 1st Venture Foundation and author of the book *The Boss Workbook: Jump Start Your Business*, discusses how to acquire a franchise.

The Monroe Doctrine: An ABC Guide to What Great Bosses Do

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Gutman Conference Center, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-495-9068). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4:30 pm. $75 (includes dinner). **Lorraine Monroe** offers lessons in the craft of leadership.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Social Justice and Art Education

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Larsen Hall, Appian Way, Cambridge (617-495-9068). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1 pm. Free. **Elizabeth Garber**, associate professor of art and art education at the University of Arizona, speaks about the ways in which art education can address social questions.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

Grassroots Organizations Confront HIV/AIDS in Africa and Asia

Community Church of Boston, Lothrop Auditorium, 565 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-6710). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 10:45 am. Free. **Deh Chien Chen**, a doctoral student in health care public policy at Columbia University, discusses her work with the International Red Cross. Her research focused on the delivery of education and direct services in the developing world to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Space Exploration: Then and Now

John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Boston (866-535-1960). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30 pm. Free. **Dr. Mae Jemison**, the first African-American woman in space, discusses U.S. efforts in space exploration from the Kennedy years to the present.

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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
14 Pi Alley at 275 Washington St., Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Fri., 2 pm-2 am.; Sat. and Sun., 12 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 10 pm, $5 19 and 20, free 21+. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 10 pm, $15, 21+. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. Rotating DJs spin house.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 10 pm, $7, 19+. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 10 pm, $10, 21+.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until 2 am.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-4 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am. No cover, 21+.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham.

Diesel Café (Daily)
257 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-8717). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Thu. 7 am-midnight, Fri., 7-1 am, Sat., 8-1 am, Sun., 8-12 am. All ages. Diesel is a popular place for GLBT people to go for coffee and snacks.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. No cover, 21+. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502). www.hereboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 11 pm-2 am. No cover, 21+.* Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features gay cabaret 7 pm-11 pm and disco and pop music.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *$8, 21+. MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night.

Kristie Helms reads at New Words Nov. 21.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 10 pm, $6 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $6. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1256 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ McWhiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 19+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am. $5, 21+.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.* Candyland night is for gay men and women, transgendered persons and their allies. Live entertainment includes Fireballs Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. A dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila caps off the evening.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan. 10 pm, $10, 21+.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am. No cover, 21+.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Vapor (Wednesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-695-9500). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ Ron Stele spinning hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5 before 11, $2 after 11, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $10, 21+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJ Danae and Niterain classical oldies. 21+.

Upstairs @ Dedo's (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 21+. A predominantly gay crowd frequents the upstairs lounge at Dedo's, which features a nightly piano bar and club room. •Mon.: S.I.N. (Service Industry Night), no cover. •Tue.: Stage and Screen. Classic movies screen 7-9 pm. Show-tune videos screen, 9 pm-1 am, no cover. •Wed.: Latino Lounge with Latin groove music, no cover. •Thu. and Fri.: Boys in Ties and complimentary after-work buffet, 5-7 pm. House music pumps, 7 pm-1 am, no cover. •Sat.: High Energy Night with house music, no cover. •Sun.: Disco Night, no cover.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon., 11:30 am-5:30 pm; Tue..-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:30 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Biversity Brunch
Veggie Planet at Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-661-1513). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 30, 1 pm. This vegetarian brunch sponsored by Boston's Bisexual Women's Network is open to all who identify themselves as bisexual.

Fenway Community Health Center Panel Discussion
Club Cafe, 109 Columbus Ave., Boston (888-242-0900). Nov. 20, 7-9 pm. Free. Panelists discuss the "sexual ecology" of men who have sex with men. The panel debates issues concerning monogamy and promiscuity.

New Voices Open Mike
New Words Reading Room, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). Nov. 21, 7:15 pm. $5. This supportive open mike night for women is held the third Friday of the month. All genres of writing are welcome, and participants should come prepared for a 5- or a 10-minute slot. This month's featured writer is Kristie Helms, author of *Dish It Up, Baby.*

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* FCH has collaborated with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide this safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relationships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth holds weekly meetings and social events for young people seeking community, support and a place to discuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-8 1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bos (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 7 pm.* This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion of bisexual and bicurious men.

Bi Rap
The Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (617-354-8807). First and third Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning women.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bos (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Thursday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dancers
First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner of Centre & Eliot streets, Jamaica Plain (617-926-92 www.lcfd.org. *Every Wed., 7:30 pm, $8.* Square dancing and English country dancing lessons are available for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri. 3-5 pm. The center provides social activities for lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-58 MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Mon. and Thu., 6:30-8 pm. Rugby players of any level, age, race and orientation are welcome to play.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: G Line to Hynes/ICA. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu 8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Boston Uncommons
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns A Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.org *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Wednesdays, 7* A gay and lesbian square-dancing group.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. This 1,4 member gay club takes part in outdoor activities.

COLAGE
(617-417-0876). 3rd Saturdays, 10:30 am-12 COLAGE (Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere) meets in Medford for support and activi and holds a concurrent meeting for interested ents and their partners. For info, e-mail med colage@hotmail.com.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Boston's Bisexual Resource Center (BRC), at the Bo Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-95 www.biresource.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back First Wed. and third Thurs. of each month, 7 pm,* An informal group for people who think they ma bisexual or attracted to more than one sex.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Bo (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MB Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* A short-term group for and women to discuss issues related to coming out

Compass
(781-899-2212). Compass is a New England– support, information, and social group for pe assigned female at birth who feel that is not ar curate or complete description of their gen Part of the FTM (Female-to-Male) Center,

roup meets monthly. Email CompassFTM@usa. om for details.

Controversy Thursday
Matrix (B Room), 275 Tremont St (lower level of oxyplex), Boston (617-542-4077). Certain Thurs-ays (call for details), $8, no sneakers. This gay and i dance party features DJ John Morris at 10 pm.

Cosmetically Correct
Masa Restaurant, 439 Tremont St., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Fridays, 6:30 pm, free. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the rst Friday of each month. Lipstick encouraged. mail M.Antoinette@ididitmyway.com for info.

Dagger
617-621-6090). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla heater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from pm-9 pm to create performances representing omen's perspectives. For more information, e-ail dagger@theateroffensive.org.

The Down Low
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes. First Friday of the month. 7-9 pm.* discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.east oastwrestlingclub.org. This club for gay male restlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group elcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women 40 nd older who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated to et together with like-minded women for conversa-ons, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes.* An ongoing support group for eople born into female bodies or who have grown up eing viewed as biologically female.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join oston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual pring season, followed by a formal fall season. All re welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., oston (617-937-5858). Sat., 10 am. All are wel-ome to join this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
617-267-9001 or 888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., -11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hot-ne is confidential and provides support for gay, les-ian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
irst Parish Church, 50 Church St., Waltham (617-742-397). www.gayfathersboston.org. *First and third Tues-ays of each month, 8-10 pm, $2.* This group is for ay/bisexual fathers and men in child-nurturing roles, nd their partners.

GayLab
ww.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing ealthy gay relationships features alternatives for eeting and dating, communication games, singles ixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to in this business-networking organization for gay, sbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay en and lesbians. Members get together on a regular sis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston 617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA.* Biological males meet on onday evenings. The groups are moderated by ychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlfriends: Bisexual and Lesbian Women of Color
Cambridge Family and Children's Services, 929 Mass. ve., Cambridge (617-876-4210 ext. 60). MBTA: *d Line to Central Square.* Girlfriends, a discussion oup for all ages, meets every Saturday morning om 10:30 am-12 pm.

Girlz 2 Girlz
617-482-1078 ext. 277). This mentoring program r girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bi-xual, transgendered or questioning meets the sec-nd and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. ontact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
enway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. 617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *reen Line to Hynes/ICA. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

Greater Boston Business Council
PO Box 1059, Boston (617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals. The group meets monthly.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

LGBT Considering Parenting Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243) www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes.* A short-term (eight-week) group for LGBT persons who are considering becoming parents. Sliding fee scale available. Call for information.

Liquid Assets Swimming
www.swim-lanes.org. *Tue., Wed. and Thu. evenings and Sat. and Sun. mornings.* This predominantly gay and lesbian swim team is open to both competitive and fitness swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community. For women 21+.

The Network/La Red
(617-427-7233). The Network is a support group working to end abuse in lesbian, bisexual women's and transgender communities. Email info@the networklared.org for more information.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provide confidential information, referrals and support.

Project 10 East
402A Highland Ave., Somerville (617-864-4528). GLBT youth and their straight allies meet regularly to organize projects, which include making communities safe.

The Rainbow Cafe
rainbowboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This social group for activist, academic, intellectual or artistic lesbians meets bi-weekly in gay-owned or gay-friendly establishments.

Slice of Rice
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass Ave., Boston. sung yun@chickmail.com. *MBTA: Green Line to the Hynes/ICA. Mondays, 7-8 pm.* A peer-run and peer-led queer Asian youth group that meets for support, understanding and discussion. For Asian youth under 25.

Somos Latin
somoslatinoslgbt@hotmail.com. The only social and networking group for GLBT Latinos and Latinas in the Boston area. Viernes Sociales take place every month. Email for more information.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. First three Tuesdays of each month, 6-8 pm.* Discuss new safe-sex practices, strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Lesbians with Cancer
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed. evenings, once a month. Free. For those who want to discuss the impact of this disease on their lives.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing, $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

TransAction
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). www.bostonglass.org. *MBTA: Green Line to the Hynes.* An inclusive transgendered support group run by trans-identified youth (ages 13-25). Open to all GLBTQ youth, friends, family and significant others (ages 13-25).

Violence Recovery Program
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6250). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. VRP provides free group support for GLBT people.

Wonder Women Boston
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. WWB is a social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s. It meets the first Thursday of every month.

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body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Dances of Universal Peace
Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Nov. 21, 7:30-9:30 pm. Requested donation, $6-10. Join hands in meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. Everyone welcome. All dances are taught and are accompanied by live music.

Nia Thanksgiving Dance
The Arlington Center, 369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. Nov. 29, 8-9:30 pm. $10. Nia is a form of movement that combines music, dance and martial arts for a whole-body, cardiovascular workout.

Lectures

The Ayurvedic Approach to Wellness
Theosophical Society, 21 Maple St., Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. Nov. 21, 7:30 pm. $5. Ayurveda is a holistic health system from India that addresses individuals' varying constitutions. This workshop presents teachings from Ayurvedic masters on health issues and provides practical lifestyle ideas for preventing illness.

Body Talk
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.ccae.org. Nov. 20, 10:30 am. $2. Combining philosophy, Western and Eastern medicine, modern physics, advanced yoga and astrology, body talk is a system designed to increase health and spiritual awareness.

Karma, Reincarnation and the Soul
New Acropolis Organization, 2000 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-5720). www.newacropolis.org. Nov. 18-Dec. 16, 5 Tuesdays, 7:30-9 pm. $50, please preregister. Participants investigate both the visible and invisible dimensions in nature represented in the literature of the Bhagavad Gita, the spiritual disciplines of Tibet and other classic texts.

Love, Power and Relationship
The C.G. Jung Institute, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston. (617-267-5984). www.cgjungboston.com. Nov. 22, 10 am-5 pm. $70. This workshop focuses on the mystery of love, its power to transform, and the use of this power in relationships. Discussion topics include personal and family identity and marriage.

Retreats

Holiday R&R
Kripalu Center, Lenox, Mass. (800-741-7353). www.kripalu.org. Nov. 26-30. $192-618 for accommodations, or $120-273 per night with a two-night minimum. Thanksgiving Day at this Western Mass. yoga center features a celebration and a vegetarian feast, followed by a choice of hiking, yoga or lazing about.

The Society of Saint John the Evangelist hosts a spiritual retreat Nov. 21-23.

Spiritual Retreat for Beginners
The Society of Saint John the Evangelist, 980 Memorial Dr., Cambridge (617-876-3037). Nov. 21-23, 2 pm. $175, includes room and meals. Participants join the brothers of the monastery for worship, silence and meals along with talks and meditation.

Workshops

Advice for a Happy Heart
All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon St. Brookline (508-999-6723). www.meditationinnewengland.org. Nov. 19, 7-8:30 pm. $10 suggested donation. Gen Kelsang Choma, an American Buddhist nun, leads this class, which features a talk and a guided meditation to help participants practice contentment.

Art, Body and Soul Day
Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-661-7376). www.art-and-soul.info. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Nov. 22, 10 am-5 pm, $75. This workshop, led by expressive arts therapist Kat Mitchell, features facilitated body work, movement and creative expression through sound, imagery and words.

Feng Shui and How It Works
Circles of Wisdom Bookstore and Resource Center, 90 Main St., Andover (978-474-8010). www.circlesofwisdom.com. Nov. 18, 7:15-9:15pm. $30. This workshop explains the principles of feng shui, which uses light, sound, color, movement, scent and symbols with the aim of transforming one's environment and state of being.

Introduction to Reiki: Empowerment Through Natural Healing
Concord-Carlisle Adult Education, Concord-Carlisle High School, 500 Walden St., Concord (781-648-9334). www.arlingtonreiki.com. Nov. 19, 6:30-8:00 pm. Learn about reiki, an ancient hands-on healing technique for reducing stress, relieving pain and facilitating personal growth.

Mindful Modern Dance
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (857-928-2288). http://greenstreetstudios.org. Nov. 29, 12-1:30 pm. $8. Modern dance movements are slowed down to focus on alignment, breathing and centering, and are designed to help participants move without pain. Partnering and hands-on work is included.

Sensing, Sourcing, and Witnessing Movement Workshop
The Tree of Life, 440 Somerville Ave, Somerville (617-320-9792). Nov. 22, 1-5 pm. $55-$95 sliding scale. This workshop combines movement and creativity with the mind, body and spirit. The afternoon features silent sitting, contact improvisation, contemplative dance and discussion.

Sweat Your Prayers Dance Jam
Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-9363). www.dancecomplex.org. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Dec. 1, 8-9:30 pm. Sliding scale, $8-$11. This freestyle dance workshop features deep listening, improvisation and other exercises designed to stimulate creativity. All levels welcome.

Tai Chi: Push Hands Basics
Charles River School of Shiatsu,180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.charlesriversshiatsu.com. Nov. 22 and 23, 10 am-4 pm. Herman Kauz, author of *The Tai Chi Handbook*, demonstrates a noncompetitive method of tai chi that emphasizes mutual cooperation, repetition and tai chi theory to fortify and relax the body, mind and spirit.

Ongoing

Beginner's Yoga/Allston
Beacon Light Yoga, 215 Brighton Ave. Allston (617-562-0717). www.beaconlightyoga.com. MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. or #57, 64, 66 and 501 bus lines. Wed., 6:30-8pm. $15-$20, drop-in. Call ahead if you're dropping into this yoga class for the first time. Parking available.

Free Yoga Classes
Prana Power Yoga, 282 Centre St., Newton (617-641-9642). www.pranapoweryoga.com. Wed., 7:15-9:45 pm. This yoga center offers community outreach classes covering the fundamentals of Prana power yoga. Participants are taught the basic breathing and posture techniques of this style, which is based on the flowing postures of Vinyasa yoga. Open to all levels.

Yoga/Cambridge
St. Mary's Church, 8 Inman St. , Cambridge (781-648-3455). www.yoganow.net. Wed., 5:30-7 pm. $17, drop-in. Take a beginner-level class in BKS Iyengar yoga, a spiritually integrated form of yoga, with instructor Patricia Walden.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Bruins
• FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 617-931-2000
Nov. 20, 7 pm vs. Washington Capitals
Nov. 28, 12 pm vs. Nashville Predators
Nov. 30, 7 pm vs. Phoenix Coyotes

Boston Celtics
• FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 800-462-2849
Nov. 19, 7 pm vs. New Orleans Hornets
Nov. 24, 7 pm vs. New York Knicks
Nov. 28, 7:30 pm vs. Milwaukee Bucks
Dec. 1, 7 pm vs. Memphis Grizzlies

Events

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble Road Race
Start at Davis Square, Somerville (781-395-0349). www.srr.org. Nov. 27, 9 am. $20. Work up an appetite at this four-mile road race to benefit Project Soup and the Somerville High School college scholarship program. A post-race party and awards ceremony follows at the Burren.

UFC 45: Revolution
Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Conn. (800-477-6849). www.tickets.com. Nov. 21, 10 pm. Tickets start at $30. Ultimate Fighting Championship's 10th anniversary show features 16 fighters facing off in eight no-holds-barred matches.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-40.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus. The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Learn the basics of fencing.

FLOOR HOCKEY

BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

HIKING

Winter Hiking Course
Appalachian Mountain Club, 4 Joy St., Boston. http://world.std.com/~bostonhb/programs/wintercourse.html. Tuesdays through Dec. 9, 7-9:30 pm. $30 members/$35 nonmembers in advance, $35/$40 at the door. Learn the basics of winter backcountry hiking in five sessions.

Joe Thornton and the Bruins take on the Washington Capitals Nov. 20.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.co Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field the Irish Cultural Center in Canton. New and expe enced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looki for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Clu
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club see new players for games in Brookline and Cambridg

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.myst rugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club we comes both new and experienced players who wa to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. Tue. a Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays. New a experienced players are welcome.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bost hash.com. *Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. yea round.* If you enjoy running, drinking and singi bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-pr claimed "serious drinkers with a running problem.

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First S Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. Week runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun Ru
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (78 275-1584). www.srr.org. Weekly runs on Thursd nights, 7 pm.

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
Various area MDC rinks (781-890-8480). ww baystateskatingschool.org. *$108.50 for a seven-we class. Check Web site for schedules.* Skating classes f adults and children teach the fundamentals usi either figure skates or hockey skates.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games play in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading a Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ex 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in Cam bridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Tea and individuals are welcome to set and spike the way to glory.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. An ateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill le els. Weekly practices held year-round.

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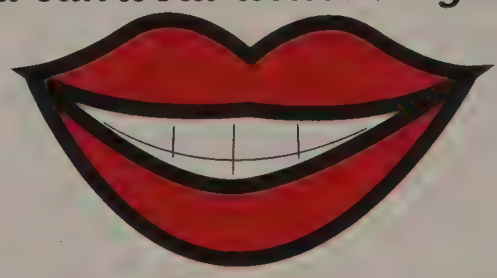

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children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Things to See

Arts 4 Kids Sake
Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Sat., 10am. $5, children free. Advance reservations required. •Nov. 22: Tony Toledo and Karen Rose Glickman present *Unseen Borders*, an American Sign Language program •Nov. 29: The Tanglewood Marionettes present *Cinderella.*

The Flying Karamazov Brothers: Catch
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (88-266-1200). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Nov. 23, 3 pm. $32-$57. The Flying Karamazov Brothers' new show celebrates the past successes of these juggling punsters. Among the highlights: a taiko drumming session on cardboard boxes, a Polish Appalachian clog dance, the Nine Objects of Danger, and the skit "The Gambler," in which a juggler handles three items brought by audience members.

Kids Variety Show
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-738-6533). www.coolidge.kidsshow.info. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 10:30 am. $10, $8 children. •Nov. 22: Lui Collins performs songs and stories. •Nov. 15: mime David Zucker.

Museum of Fine Arts, Film for All Ages
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3687). www.mfa.org. Nov. 22, 10:30 am. $15 adults, children under 17 free. Creative Kids Cabaret is a selection of short films highlighting imagination, creativity and resourcefulness. Characters fingerpaint, play the violin, dream of ballet dancing, sing in an operetta, invent a time machine, illustrate a story and build bikes from junkyard scraps.

The Phantom Tollbooth
Wheelock Family Theatre, 180 The Riverway, Boston (617-879-2300). www.wheelock.edu/wft. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat. and Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 30. $12-$18. Bored Milo laments that "almost everything is a waste of time." But then a mysterious tollbooth appears in his bedroom and he is whisked away to the Land of Expectations. Follow Milo's magical adventures in this musical based on Norman Juster's 1961 novel.

Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company
The Center for Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. Sat., 11 am. $8, $5 children. •Nov. 22: Kids can participate in Silly Sketches, an afternoon of sketch comedy during which children supply the topics for the commercial breaks.

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended. •Nov. 19 and 20, 10:30 am, ages 3-6: *Forest Tales* features bears, raccoons and foxes. •Nov. 22 and 23, 1 and 3 pm, ages 4-9: *The Three Pigs* features Liz Joyce and her puppets retelling the classic fairy tale. •Nov. 26, 10:30 am, ages 3-6. *The Singing Turtle* is inspired by Japanese folklore and follows Taro on his journey to buy medicine for his mother. •Nov. 28-30, 1 and 3 pm, ages 5-12. *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* is presented by the Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers. This comedic version of the classic tale includes a dance medley and music.

The Victory over Everything Circus
Cambridge Family YMCA Theatre, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-9622). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sat.-Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 23, 8 pm. $10, $5 students and seniors, children under 2 free. Bread & Puppet Theater director Peter Schumann and his band of seven Vermont puppeteers are joined by 25 local puppeteers. The show combines slapstick acts and graceful dances.

Things to Do

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Sat., 12 pm. Staff members read from new and classic storybooks.

Boston Public Library Children's Tour
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-426-8855). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Sat. 11 am. Through Nov. 29. Free. Ages 5 and older. Take a tour of the art and architecture of the Boston Public Library, and then enjoy an art activity in the Sargent Gallery.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: Red Line to South Station. •Nov. 22., 11:30 am-1:30 pm, ages 6 and older. Experiment with everyday kitchen products in Grandparents' House Kitchen. •Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm; ages 5 and older: PrintShop for Kids •Mon., Wed., and Fri., 11am-12pm; ages 3 and younger: Music and Movement. Shake, wiggle and giggle in the Smith Family Playspace.

Coop Kids
Harvard Coop, 400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Free. •Nov. 22, 11 am: Read Thanksgiving stories and make a paper turkey. •Nov. 25, 11 am: Learn about Eid Ul-Fitr, the Muslim festival of breaking the fast. •Nov. 29, 11 am: Read stories by Tomie DePaola and make a necklace.

Ice Skating at Frog Pond
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (617-635-2120). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Sun., 10 am-9 pm; Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Tue.-Thu., 10 am-9 pm; Fri.-Sat., 10 am-10 pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day. $3, free for children under 14 (not including skate rental). Lace up your skates for a few laps on the ice.

JFK Library & Museum
Smith Center, John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1646). www.jfklibrary.org. MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. •Nov. 28, 10:30 am. Free. Join performers Gould and Stearns as they decide whether to buy gifts they can't afford for their families—or to give gifts from the heart. Part of the Celebrate! series. •Sat., 11 am-3 pm, through Dec. 27. $5-$7. Create your own sundae from an ice cream bar after viewing the *Caroline Kennedy's Doll Collection* exhibition and *Space Race*, which features footage from John Glenn's first ride around the earth.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children. •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!*, featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •*Magic: The Science of Illusion.* Discover how illusions come together through science, math, psychology and the art of performance at this new exhibition. Through Feb. 22. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events during the presentation *The Sky Tonight.* •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre: Mon.-Sun., 12 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm. $8.50, $6.50 children. *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees* and *Africa: The Serengeti* •*Theater of Electricity:* Daily at 12 and 2 pm. The Van de Graaff generator provides a risk-free lightning show.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5. The Museum of Transportation has a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt and receive a free prize.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1410). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: Green Line to Newton Highlands. Registration required. • Nov. 20, 4:30 pm. Ages 5 and up. Pippi Longstocking's Birthday Party .• Nov. 20, 7 pm. Ages 9 and up. Playreading. • Nov. 21 & 28, 10:30 am. Preschool films at the Drucker Auditorium. •Nov. 24, 7 pm. Ages 10 and up. Poetry Workshop. •Nov. 25, 4 pm. Ages 7 and up. Top Secret Science. • Dec. 2, 7 pm. 5th- and 6th-grade Parent/Child Book Discussion.

Saturday Scholars
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 6 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sat., 9 am. $35. Through Feb. 28. Discover dinosaurs, animals, minerals, insects, oceans, ancient civilizations and the microworld in this class taught by museum science educators.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 seniors and children.

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State, Orange or Green Line to Haymarket, or Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange or Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Winter ship hours: Thu.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AFC Mentoring Program
(617-695-2441). Mentor an adopted or foster care child.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their lo treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a gi

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opport nities are available.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization for pe ple between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization nee volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events

Call to Action Project
(781-395-8307). *datalova@aol.com.* Donate qu blocks to be pieced into quilts and placed on aucti to benefit the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AI Foundation.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support children and adults with developmental disabiliti

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a chi

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-431-1211). Provide foster care for homele rabbits.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly i dividual, mentor children or teach an adult to rea

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusett
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helplin
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone wi people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elde

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guest

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexi
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital forma

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agenc

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322).Volunteers needed for the dini room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour d mestic violence program.

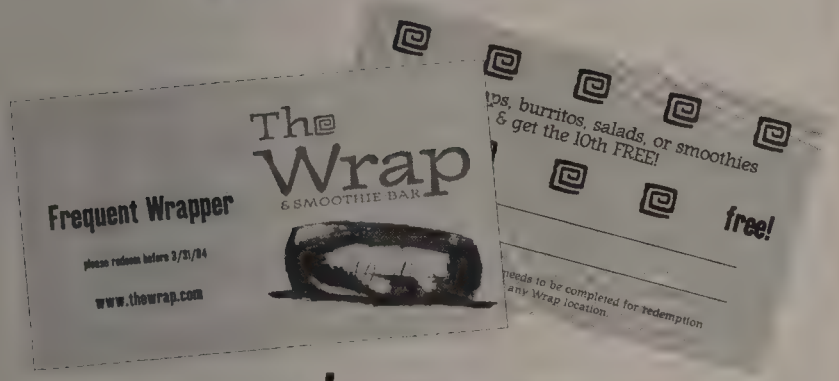
Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely pe ple over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young professiona

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

What Frequency Are You On?



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617.859.7222

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158 Newbury Street
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Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury Street
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Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury Street
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617.262.0550

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
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617.437.1518

Kidder Smith Gallery
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Neilson Gallery
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617.266.4835

Pepper Gallery
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Richardson-Clarke Gallery
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617.266.3321

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury Street
617.267.7997

St.George Gallery
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617.450.0321

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writers & readers series

12/2 Tuesday 7PM

OLAF OLAFSSON *Walking Into the Night*

In their starred review, here's what Kirkus has to say about Icelandic-born Olaf Olafsson's new novel, *Walking Into the Night:* "Clear-eyed and captivating, Olafsson writes effortlessly, seemingly incapable of a dull paragraph or page. His people are real, period atmosphere and detail unobtrusively perfect, his novel a gem and a small masterpiece." See you there.

12/4 Thursday 7PM

HENRY HORENSTEIN *Honky Tonk*

Henry Horenstein's new book of photographs, *Honky Tonk*, offers us a unique glimpse into an exciting and transitional time in country music, as it was performed and enjoyed. So stop by, check your gun at the door, and get exposed to Henry's lyrical photos as the 'Smith gets down juke joint style! That means live music and a slide show, ya'll!

12/9 Tuesday 7PM

MARGE PIERCY *The Third Child*

Booksmith favorite Alice Hoffman says, "each new novel by Marge Piercy is a cause for celebration." Well, it's time to jubilate! The celebrated poet and novelist brings us *The Third Child*, a contemporary love story that takes us into the twin realms of college and national politics.

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If everyone kept their feelings bottled up like warm beer, we'd soon have antisocial behavior exploding all over the place and ruining the upholstery. So send us your letters of love and spleen, and we'll print them for the world to see. (Impersonals may be edited for taste, space and clarity.) Heck, it's better than making a fool of yourself in person. And IT'S FREE! Pick up a pen or keyboard (hint: we like the fact that we don't have to type up e-mailed messages) and write to:

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Prince Street Princess

Thursday, Oct. 23: Wow. As I walked out of my pad to mail money to Mastercard, I was struck by the beautiful sight of you, walking up Prince Street. Hmm...how could I get your attention as we walked and weaved our way toward your Salem Street stop? Pizza at Ernesto's never seemed so absolutely appetizing. Is this just another sexy smile that slips silently away, or something surely special that deserves a date?! You: jeans and a brown top, sunglasses, smile, sexy. Me: happy, hungry (for pizza?) and here.

—northendfriend@yahoo.com

Asian Beauty at Lord & Taylor

We exchanged several glances in the men's section of the downtown Lord & Taylor on Oct. 18. I sensed an instant attraction, but wasn't able to speak with you. You are a petite Asian beauty with amazing long black hair. You checked out (a gift for your father?) at the men's store register closest to the door on Boylston Street. I had on khakis and a blue shirt and have a goatee and a tan. I'd love to get a second chance for an introduction and possibly a shopping date!

—brevets00@hotmail.com

To the Company That Fired Me

No, I am breaking up with you. I thought we were finished until you called, after I had been terminated, to ask some questions about work I had left behind. It proved to me how incompetent you are, but unfortunately, I'm the one with the stigma of being fired. But I want to set the record straight.

I was embarrassed every time you brought clients through the office to see broken computer parts and messy files, never mind the "quirky" receptionist. It felt like you cheated on me when I found out an intern was paid more per hour than I was just because they were related to a client. I felt like you didn't listen when I insisted I had done everything asked of me, and practically begged you to spy on me so I could prove it. It was humiliating to have packages ripped open to see if I'd placed the correct cover sheet in them.

But there were good times. You made me laugh when you confessed you had no idea what our clients did. I agreed you were "fashion mavens" in your sweater dresses. I loved the hours of discussions about pie charts. And I formed a survivors' unit with some amazing co-workers.

It hurt that the salary and training I was given didn't seem to equal what the contract promised, and supervisors' salaries were tripled so they could shop J. Crew online all day. But I know money doesn't buy them happiness, which is the one thing I've got since you fired me.

So I am breaking up with you. Myself and other exes will get together for drinks and chat about how lousy you were. We're going to remember how badly you dressed, how low you paid and how unprofessional you acted when you didn't get your way. We're going to have a great time.

—A Star

Starbucks Regret

On Nov. 4 I went into the Starbucks on School Street in Boston to buy a newspaper. You came in and got in line right behind me and noticed that the tag on my shirt was hanging out. You told me this and then very gently tucked it back in. We chatted about my work and about you being a full-time student at a local university. I found you to be a charming, beautiful lady whom I would like to know better. I truly regret not following up with you after I bought my newspaper. I've heard it said that people sometimes regret the things they haven't done more than some of the things they have done. That is certainly true in this case. If you are not in a committed relationship at this point and would like to communicate with me further, please contact me. I have much to offer and will be leaving my tag out in hopes of seeing you again.

—jendaman@rcn.com

You Checked Me Out at My Burlington Office Building

It was 5 pm one October afternoon, and I was leaving my office building, which is just off the Middlesex Turnpike in Burlington. You were walking and your path was intersecting mine as I was heading to my car. After I had passed by you I turned around and saw that you were heading towards the door...and then you turned and looked at me...and then we did it again, and again when I reached my car (a red VW Beetle). You are slim, tall, and cute with what appeared to be brown hair. I believe you were wearing a striped blue shirt. I am slim and tall with a blonde shag haircut and I was wearing a black leather jacket, black skirt, and black boots, which I believe is what caught your eye! I am sorry that I didn't smile or say hello to you, but if this sounds like you and you are single and available please e-mail me. And for anyone reading this, if this sounds like I am describing a friend of yours, please let him know!

—groovychick_40@hotmail.com

21?

You: completely belligerent at the 21st Amendment on a recent weekend. You swung your long brown hair, smoked like a chimney, danced to Def Leppard and started fights, all the while never letting go of your Magners cider. Me: completely smitten. Let's go out and paint the town drunk! E-mail me if you want to take a chance.

—towndrunk@yahoo.com

Lori

We met a few years back (18+ years ago) on a road trip to Toronto. You were 18 or so, and I was a bit younger. I believe you went to Emerson at the time, but I'm not sure. We spent most of the trip up there chatting, and kept in touch for a bit after we got back to Boston. I think you had said that you grew up in New Hampshire. I don't know if you're around this area anymore but if you are and remember me, drop an e-mail.

—no_longer_jailbait34@yahoo.com.

Shift_Hooking Up

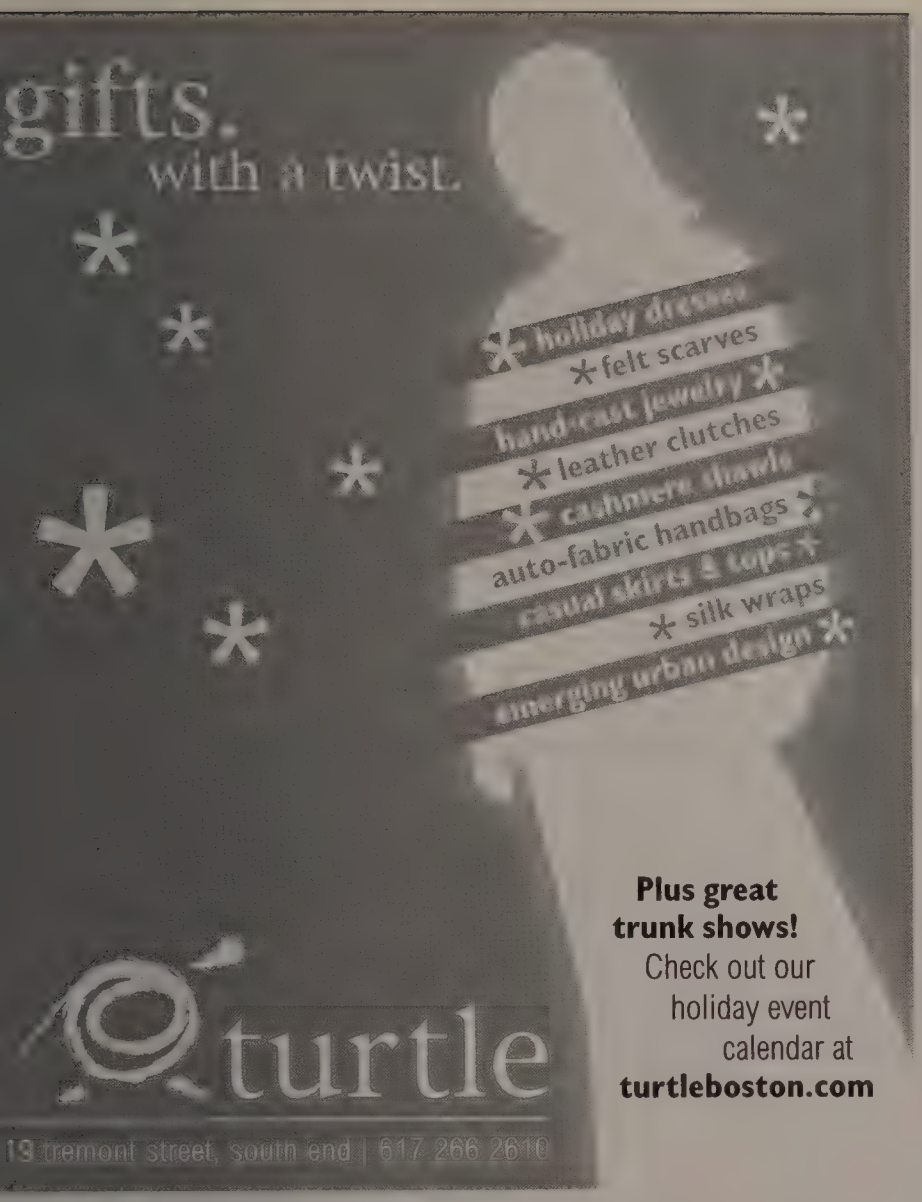
You: silver 350 Z, license plate beginning with 91J. Me: dark red Xterra. I enjoyed our game of cat and mouse on the night of Nov. 9! We started out with you following me somewhere near Tolland, Conn., on 84, then me following you and a BMW trailing me. We finally lost the BMW around Sturbridge and you tailed me, in and out of traffic, to the tolls at the Pike. Once through there, we swapped positions and I kept up until I had to sadly get off onto 95. If you're out there, I'd love to find out who you are!

—drkredxterra@hotmail.com

No Mistake, This Hi's for You

Cafe Delite, Winthrop Center, Oct. 27, around noon: My half of the errands was coffee-fetching, and when I turned to leave, my cohort was standing behind you (you: 6'3"-ish, dark brown hair, crisp blue eyes, great smile). I said hi to her and instead, you answered with an easy hi and that great smile. I was excited and too slow to react, but as we left and I glanced back in and there you were, waiting in line and laughing at yourself, flinging another smile at me (me: 5'6", curly brown hair, large brown eyes, big smile). I work around the corner from there and I can't decide if it's sweet or stalker-ish to go in every office to look for you. Plus, I figure you looked hip enough to be an IMPROPER reader. I'd love to have the chance to greet you intentionally. By the way, I'm cream and sugar...you?

—cafedelitehi@hotmail.com



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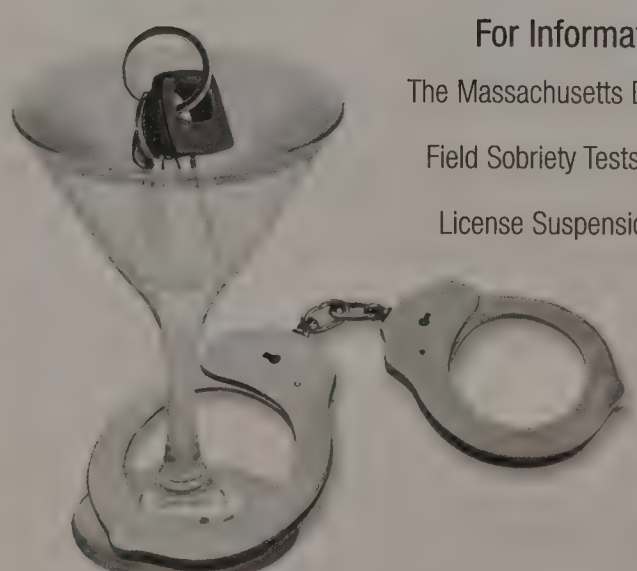

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rockie horoscope

NOVEMBER 19–DECEMBER 2, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

The big payoff. Don't be surprised if bribery is the solution to what develops when Venus, the tantalizing flytrap, puts moves on your Pluto co-ruler. Maybe you should claim, "Not my fault, I've been misled!" It's possible that the holiday season won't have such dramatic overtones, but not likely. Whether you're involved with a "holier than thou" organization or immersed in strenuous recreational activities, anticipate having at least two memorable experiences before Santa shows up.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Concentrate on your career, spreading your good name and the rewards that lucky Jupiter in your midheaven can bring. You might not have such easy access to growth opportunities for another four years, which is when your ruling planet will travel through Sagittarius. But nothing comes without a tradeoff: maybe increased tension among family members, maybe an accident in the kitchen. With magnetic Venus in your sign, you'll undoubtedly attract more than your usual share of attention, both the good and the bad kind. Be careful.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

A sudden glitch in a financial matter is probably temporary; while unpredictable Uranus is in your Aquarius money house, there's not much you can do except double check every transaction. This time, the error might involve a social or political organization, maybe a group of your peers. And while you're at it, be on the lookout for holiday charity scams. You're more vulnerable than most. If you're in your isolationist mood, you won't be thrilled to learn that after the 26th, you become the "must have" guest on everyone's party list.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

You can't let down your guard yet; while the sun is illuminating your career midheaven, continue to put your best foot, and face, forward. Who knows? An enticing opportunity could pop up when your Uranus ruler is tested around the 21st. Plus, the seeds of something special may be sown with the new moon/solar eclipse on the 23rd. Remember how your life changed 19 Thanksgivings ago following the previous solar eclipse at 1 Sagittarius? Or failing your failing memory, how about after the lunar eclipses in May of 1993 and 1994?

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Be nice to the girl! Woo the women, and the artists, who can help advance your career or at least say something interesting about you, your work, even your family. This time of year, when Venus, as well as chatty Mercury, is in your Sag midheaven, any sort of gossip can have a positive effect. While your name is being bandied about, it might strike a chord in someone's distant memory. Before you know it, a happy reunion, a well-received revival, maybe, once Venus conspires with Pluto, bittersweet revenge. Enjoy, your back is covered.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Educational opportunities are to the left of you, career opportunities to the right. And you thought Thanksgiving was going to be about family, paying homage to your elders and reminiscing about the traditions you embraced as a child! Uh-uh, kiddo. This holiday get-together has political ramifications popping up all over. You'll fare best, i.e., come out intact, by avoiding the manipulative men and the blatantly seductive woman in the group. Also by giving up on a plan that could be so self-destructive I dare not speak its name.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

The realm of the senses will draw you back from the ethereal place your heightened spirituality may have taken you. Because your pleasure-loving Venus ruler is currently involved with lusty Mars, jolly Jupiter and passionate Pluto, you could be the favorite plaything of quite a few people, e.g., Aries, Pisces, Virgo, Sag and Scorpio. Enjoy the role while you can. The closer we get to Thanksgiving, the more respectable you'll become. Once Venus make the leap from "love the one you're with" Sag to Capricorn on the 26th, the party's over.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

Firstly, you're apt to get caught in the crosshairs, then in the cross fire. On your own, you'd be fine; perhaps overly influencing a youngster's request, but no biggie. However, when responding to your parents, boss or a partner, you may be setting yourself up to be screwed. In the future, you can look back on this period and be grateful for the opportunity to dodge these many bullets so gracefully, a true test of Gemini tact and adaptability. But for now, it is best if you walk a fine line, and keep an open mind and your trap shut.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Serious fun with a co-worker, a workout partner or perhaps a mental health professional is keeping you sane. While sociable, affable Venus in your Sagittarius house of work and health touches base with an assortment of service personnel you'll respond accordingly. These contacts may be fleeting and feel somewhat strained, but they'll become eminently rewarding after Thanksgiving weekend. An opportunity to expand your area of expertise and satisfy a taste for adventure, too, may arise on the 20th. Keep the channels of communication open.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Don't let a chance to latch onto a somewhat risky but potentially very profitable opportunity slip past you unnoticed. If there are no bells and whistles announcing its arrival around the 20th, rely on your intuition or, better yet, inside information. Although a bunch of personal planets are congregating in your house of family and entertainment for Thanksgiving, you could have a better time sneaking away just before the holiday and doing something nobody will ever know about.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

A family secret may surface this week, something that could change the way you relate to those folks now and forever more. Ah, yes, another happy Thanksgiving in the offing, with even more to be grateful for. Be sure to give thanks that Virgos can easily adapt to new, even nasty situations, plus, with jolly Jupiter in your sign, that you can make jokes at your own as well as everybody else's expense. Just remember to bite your tongue as you prepare to offer precious pearls of wisdom. Nobody likes a know-it-all.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You can't help it; this time of year, while your lovable Venus ruler gads about in Sagittarius, you exude a "come and get it" vibe that is irresistible. Try to keep your amorous activities hush-hush, especially as the goddess draws close to sexy Pluto. Otherwise a scandal could erupt and spread like wildfire. Good for the memoirs you one day may write, but not so hot for the neighbors and relatives who could be affected. The new moon on the 23rd is more about bringing in money and stuff than about how you'll disperse it.

Curious about the future? Order a personalized Transit Forecast (30 to 40+ pages) detailing the major themes and issues that will arise over the next 12 months. Send name, date, time and place of birth, plus a check or money order for $42.50 per report to ROCKIE GARDINER, 6701 Colbath Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91405, *www.rockiehoroscope.com*. Read my daily forecast online at *www.laweekly.com*.

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
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e-mail to Bostonbach@improper.com

Entries must be received no later than December 19, 2003

Please nominate your favorite local single guy or gal to be featured in this issue.
(Sorry boys and girls, you may not nominate yourself.)

IMPROPER sightings

UNLIKE THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS, WE WANT TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

South Dakota governor Mike Rounds checks out his favorite rectangular magazine.

Matt Bushell and Dana Bushell cruise through Ketchikan, Alaska, on the cruise ship Mercury, which is actually larger than its namesake planet.

Red Sox fans John Palumbo and Jimmy Phan couldn't find any takers for Manny's contract in Arizona's Monument Valley.

Kendall and John Quackenbos take a break from skiing in Val Gardena, Italy. It's very tempting, but if they expect us to make fun of their name, they're smoking quack.

Mimie Winston's clan (the MacLeods) gathered in Auckland, New Zealand, near the Takapu Refuge. We want a T-shirt that reads "Kiwi forest rangers do their business in Takapu."

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER: Eating some fresh pumpkin with the Swazi king at the Festival of the First Fruits, held every December in the Mbabane region of Swaziland.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

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THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE

IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

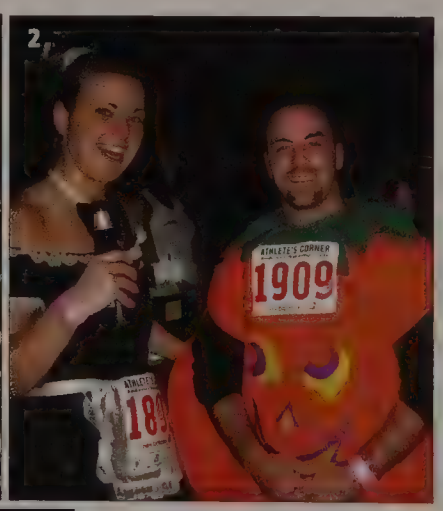
On Tuesday, October 21, **Caliterra** Restaurant hosted a **Robert Mondavi** Wine Dinner.

1. **Mark Riggio**, general manager of Caliterra; **Kathy Parker**, project manager for Fidelity Investments; and **Jim Jurbala**, general manager of Red Rock Bistro.
2. **Carly Semerjian** of Longhorn Steakhouse and **Louis Paparella**, assistant general manager for Sydney's Grille.
3. **Janine Palmer**, sales assistant for UBS Investment Bank; **Melissa Politi**, catering manager for the Wyndham Boston; and **Danielle Orcutt**, sales assistant for UBS Investment Bank.

On Saturday, October 25, **Aqua** hosted an elegant fashion show. Designer Kriste Michelle introduced her Saffron 2004 collection. The evening featured **Ciroc Vodka** and will benefit the **Ellie Fund**.

1. **Jocelyn Sloane**, executive assistant for Arnold Worldwide; **Chrissy Lenz**, creative assistant for Arnold Worldwi and **Scott Sack** of Boston.
2. **Michael Rossi** of Avanti Salon; **Daniel Karp**, director of the Ellie Fu **Andrea Toland**, intern for the Ellie Fund; **Sarah McManus**, student at Northeastern University; and **Michae Clavadetscher** of the New England Center for Children.
3. **Alex Iacobacci**, owner of Avanti Salon; **Chairen Desmaratte**, of Ava Salon; **Patrick Brown**, school teache and **Kristen Michelle**, designer.

On Thursday, October 30, **The Improper Bostonian** hosted the 9th Annual **Halloween Fun Run** at **The Rack**. The yearly event benefits the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**.



1. **Steve Sweet**, **Bob Mood**, and **Bob Blake**, local firefighters and members of the Boston Gaelic Fire Brigade.
2. **Annie Smithfield**, distributor with Bayer, and **Jim Tenor**, cashier for Roche Brothers.
3. **Sara Colgan**, human resource manager for Sebastian's; **Mike Anderson**, manager for Wave Health and Fitness; **Lisa Wholey**, training director for the Seaport Hotel World Trade Center; and **Dave Pete**, project manager for Seaport Asset Management.

On Wednesday, October 22, **The Improper Bostonian** presented a Burlesque Show and party at **Peking Tom's** to celebrate the restaurant's arrival. Revelers enjoyed song and dance numbers, as well as cocktails provided by **WET by Beefeater**.

1. **Michael Conlon**, owner, and **Jenny Walsh**, manager, both of Peking Tom's.
2. **Dan Motherway**, assistant branch manager for Smith Barney; **Gretchen Heims**, consultant for KNF&T Staffing; and **Kerri Rizotto**, consultant for Hoffman Recruiters.
3. **Cy Clark** and **Peter McCarthy**, co owners of Peking Tom's and the 21 Amendment; **Stephen Larkin** vice president at Hill Holliday; and **Rob McIntyre**, marketing manager at Fidelity.

PHOTOS: CALITERRA, MIKE BURNS; AQUA, SARAH MCMANUS; THE RACK, MELINA LEGAKI; PEKING TOM'S, VICTORIA SEGAL AND JULIE MILINAZZO; TARA SHOWHOUSE, KERRY BRETT HURLEY; BOSTON SPORTS CLUB, REGAN COMMUNICATION

The **Tara Drive ShowHouse** was open the entire month of October in Conjunction with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This showhouse for home decorating featured a room dedicated to the photography of **The Improper Bostonian**'s Kerry Brett Hurley. The house tour benefited the **Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation** as well as the **South Shore YMCA**, and the **Norwell Food Pantry**.

1. **Susan Bach**, president of ShowHouse Media; **Lydia Shire**, chef and co-owner of Locke Ober and Excelsior; and **Hilary Povec**, event and tour manager of Boston By Design Inc.
2. **Marc Bordet**, owner of Bordet Interiors, and **Kate Dickerson**, principal designer for Kate Dickerson Arts & Interiors.

On Monday, October 20, **Celtics** legends past and present gathered at the **Boston Sports Club** at the Sports Authority Training Center for the Inaugural Opening Night Celebration. The evening was a big success. The Boston Celtics Charitable Foundation and the Shamrock Fund raised $750,000 to benefit **Children's Hospital Boston**, **The Horizons Initiative** and the **Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children**.

Wyc Grousbeck, managing partner & CEO of the Boston Celtics; **Marcus Banks**, rookie guard for the Boston Celtics; **David Stern**, commissioner for the National Basketball Association; and **Paul Pierce**, all-star guard for the Boston Celtics.

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75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@theblackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled PortabellaPaninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC,V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston,617-357-5825 www.luckys-lounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere inthe heart of downtown Boston. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap:130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/nightclub/billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theatre District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

Dance Bars

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-208 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617 227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston,617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-74*

2286. Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston,617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled 'brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@theblackrhino.com

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St.,617- 236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St.,Boston 617-722-0161.* The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300.* Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St., (in the Tremont Hotel), Boston , 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston,617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

Sports Bar - Upscale

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 3 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

BRUNCH

Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended 617-661-5005.

Museum of Science – Skyline Room *Science Park, Boston, Ma, 02114.* Enjoy Sunday Brunch in the beautiful Skyline Room overlooking the Charles River at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., then check out the latest Omni film. Combination tickets start at $32 and include on-site parking when available. Brunch only, $24. Reservations recommended. For more information call 617-723-2500 or visit mos.org.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

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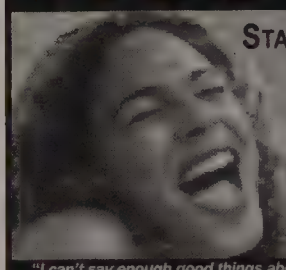

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As new business owners, making a choice in advertising avenues is a difficult decision. Regardless of the size of your advertising budget, you must be selective in choosing the medium that best reaches your target audience. At The Bustonian, we researched many avenues that appeared to be "Win-Win" situations, but when it came decision time, we chose to focus on the *Improper Bostonian*. Over the past few months, we've established a strong relationship with our *Improper* representative, Katie Schmidt, who has really helped us get the best response possible from our advertising dollars!!! We've found the entire Improper staff to be extremely nice and helpful. All in all, we're very pleased with the revenue that *The Improper Bostonian* has helped generate for our new business and we highly recommend investing in the *Improper* to work for you!!!

Brian Napolean & Matt Robitaille - Owners

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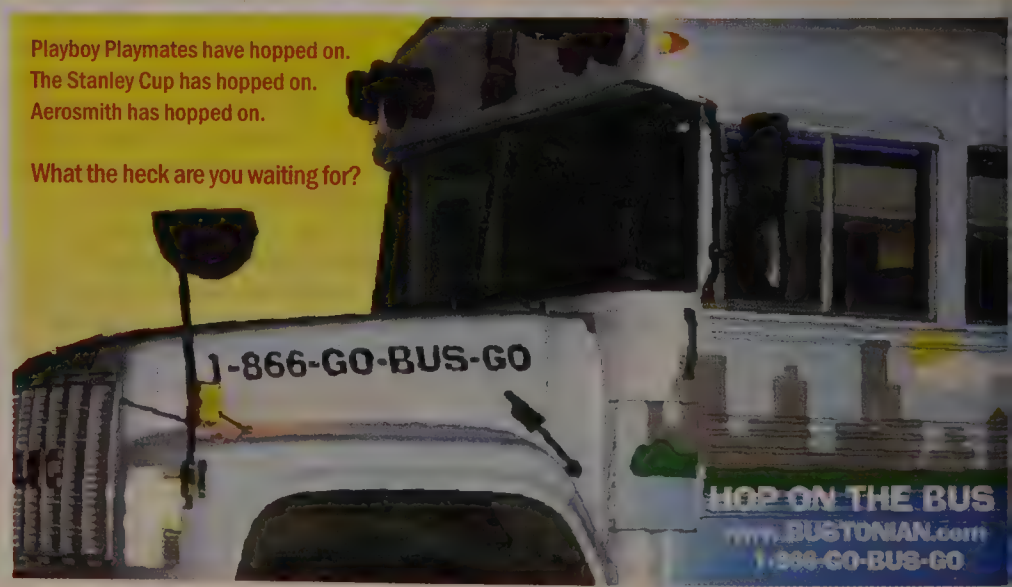

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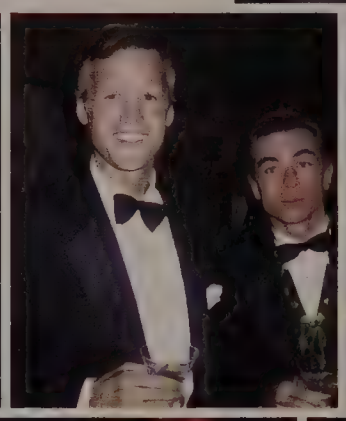
THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
MAGAZINE

LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



At the Storybook Ball, top: Jennifer and Lenny Clarke. Middle row (left to right): Jennifer Donaldson James and Tom James; Charlie Gifford and Sam Atkinson; Rachael Goldfarb and Lisa Pierpont. Bottom row: Kay Bernon and Lynne Smith; Chris Cooper and Marianne Leone Cooper.

OH, THE PARTIES YOU'LL GO TO...

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That (or something like it) is how Theodor Geisel might have described the Dr. Seuss–inspired **Storybook Ball** to benefit **Mass. General Hospital for Children**, held beneath a big top on **Boston Common**.

All the Whos from Who's-Whoville were there, including comedic force of nature **Lenny Clarke** and his fishing boat captain wife, **Jennifer**; Oscar-winning actor **Chris Cooper** and his *Sopranos*-star spouse, **Marianne Leone Cooper** (who was off to New York the next day to film new episodes); acerbic funnyman **Denis Leary**; Aerosmith hipster **Tom Hamilton** and his prettier half, **Terry**; celebrity pediatrician **Dr. Murray Feingold**; lovely blonde art collector **Beth Johnson**; car czar **Herb Chambers**; sexy brunette TV producer **Lisa Pierpont** and her affable other half, **Alex**; the dazzlingly toothsome **Randi Cutler**; blonde bombshell **Beth Dickerson** and the dashing **David Drubner**; Back Bay fun couple **Courtney** and **Michael Forrester**; the incomparable **Jeryl Oristaglio**; do-gooding bluebloods **Carla** and **Carlton Cabot**; swanlike socialite **Patty Ribakoff**; and on and on down the list of prominent Sam I Am's. In fact, the evening's only no-show was the event's patron, Her highness, Princess Inaara (the Begum Aga Khan), who was stuck somewhere else but sent along a $150,000 Cartier necklace that some thrifty gazillionaire won in the live auction for a piddling $90,000.

No one could stop commenting on the over-the-top decor, which took a page from *The Cat in the Hat* and included bars serving jellybeans along with martinis flavored to match, a Vespa (the raffle prize) hanging from the ceiling, puppet rattles as auction paddles, colorfully trippy children's book touches and enough flowers (courtesy of the **Winston** family) to give Horton a terminal case of hay fever.

Summing up the scene, hospital honcho **Dr. Alan Ezekowitz** said, "It's Whoville on the Common," and he was right, except that instead of green eggs and ham, guests had to content themselves with Veuve Clicquot and filet mignon, and there was a bit more decolletage on display than your average children's book would allow.

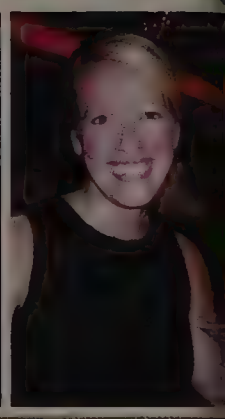
KIDS SAY THE DARNEDEST THINGS...

It's hard to say which was scarier—the spooky costumes or the amount of candy intended for youngsters but consumed by adults—at the **Halloween Spectacular** fund-raiser to benefit the **Max Warburg Courage Curriculum**.

The intergenerational party, held in the grand ballroom of the **Copley Plaza**, featured an appearance by **Tito Gaona's Flying Fantasy Circus** (complete with clowns on stilts, acrobats and trapeze artists) and attracted the likes of event chair **Pamela Humphrey** and her husband, **John**; the charity's founders (and parents of **Max**), **Stephanie** and **Jonathan Warburg**; Channel 4 anchorina **Kasey Kaufman** and her daughter, **Alexa**; ex-senatorial spouse **Joan Bennett Kennedy**; arts patron **Marjie Kargman**; the improbably gorgeous **Nina Fialkow**; party pair **David** and **Wendy Murphy** with their two little girls, **Laura** and **Jane** (dressed like a fairy and a ladybug); Brookline bright young things **Douglas** and **Teresa Choape** with their daughter, **Clasby** (dressed like a little ghoul); and social stalwarts **Susan Poduska** and **Wendy Shattuck** (dressed as two of Giorgio Armani's best customers).

"Is that a costume?" one guest asked a friend, who said, "No, this is what I'm wearing to the dinner party I'm going to later."

But the afternoon's funniest exchange came when the guy making balloon animals asked a 5-year-old girl in a vampire get-up what she wanted, and she answered, "An axe."



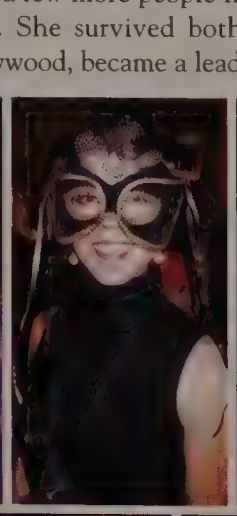
At the Audrey Hepburn UNICEF party, top row: Jay Calderin and Marie Galvin; Cici Seth. Middle: Nathan Frank, Cynthia Fredrick and Cedric Tonello. Bottom: Sean Hepburn Ferrer and Kim Treacy.

OUR FAIR LADY...

One can't help but wonder if the world wouldn't be in such a sorry state if there were a few more people like Audrey Hepburn. She survived both the Nazis and Hollywood, became a leading lady without ceasing to be a true lady, and worked tirelessly on behalf of the world's children as a goodwill ambassador—all the while looking like the illustration in the dictionary next to the word "stylish." Who better then, to honor at a gala to benefit the **U.S. Fund for UNICEF**?

The evening started with a private reception at the **Ritz-Carlton** hosted by Hepburn's son, **Sean Hepburn Ferrer** (who recently published a memoir about his mother), and it attracted such local arbiters of taste as milliner **Marie Galvin**; fashion designer **Jay Calderin**; PR powerhouse **Jan Saragoni**; jewelry pusher **Cedric Tonello** (the new GM of Cartier); Cambridge glam our couple **Bill** and **Sally Fay Cottingham**; thoroughbred racehorse syndicator **Cynthia Fredrick**; and the absurdly gorgeous **Cici Seth**, to name only a handful.

After a few cocktails, everyone headed over to the **Loews Boston Common** for a screening of the Hepburn classic *Funny Face*, followed by an after-party in a space transformed for the evening into a café on the Left Bank. All in all, a delightful time on a par with, say, a Roman holiday or having breakfast at Tiffany's. IB



At the Halloween Spectacular party, clockwise from upper left: Kasey and Alexa Kaufman; Nina Fialkow; Susan Poduska and Wendy Shattuck; Lynne and Gary Smith; Lloyd Dahmen.

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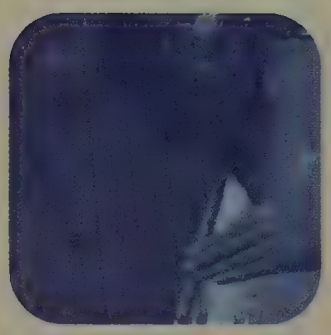

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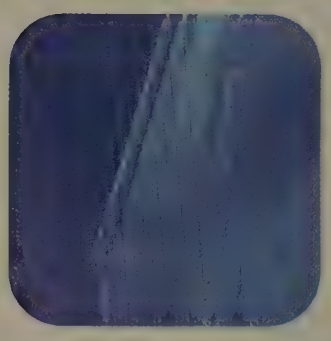

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL STREICHER

Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
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Grooming: **Samantha House;** clothing: **Class Roberto Cavalli plisse shirt, Replay jeans and Class Roberto Cavalli belt all available at Market;** chair: **available at Kartell**

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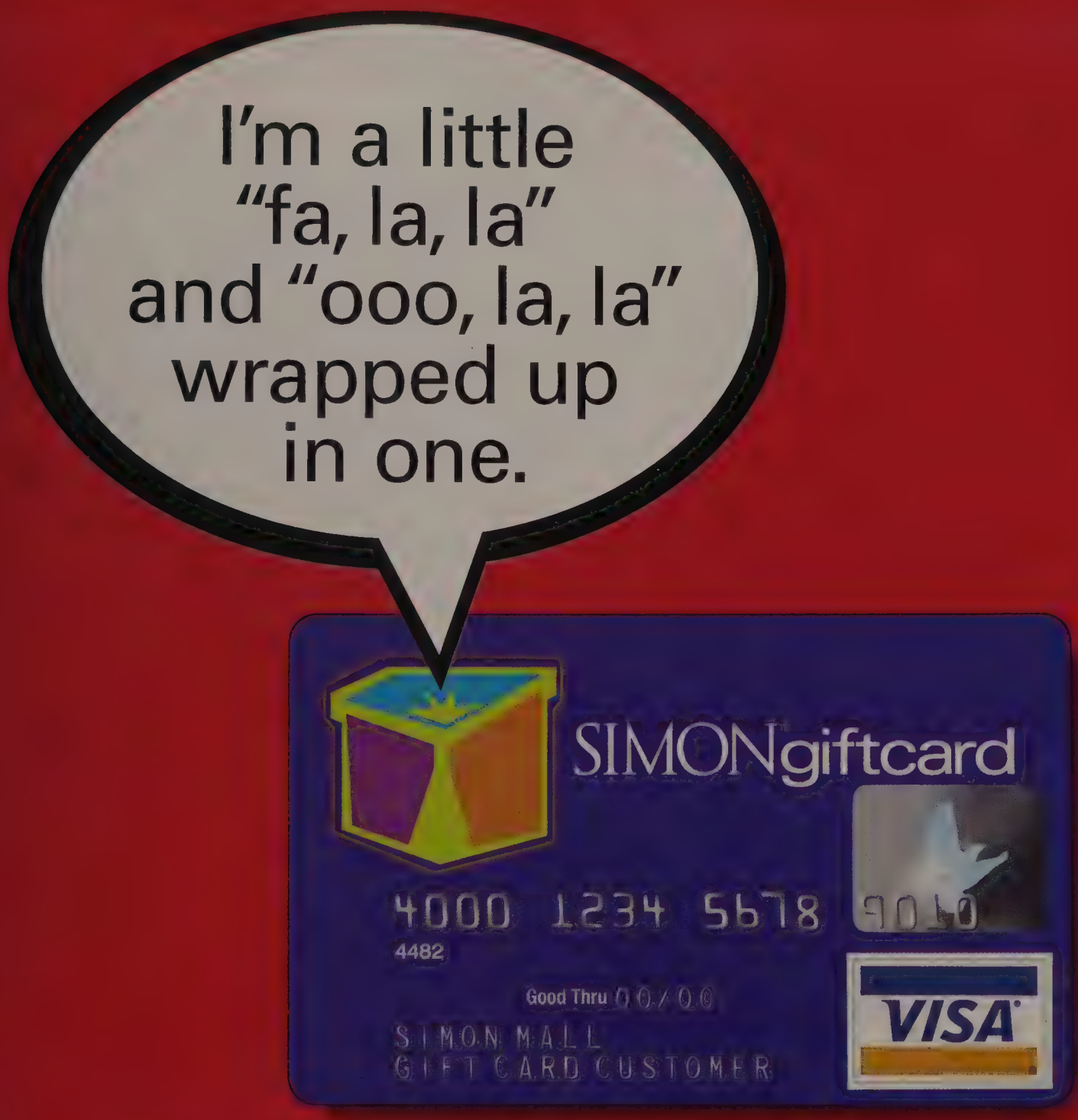

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

THE ART OF GIVING

Between parties, gift buying, travel, and family bonding, your schedule's probably pretty booked this time of year. But with this issue, we hope to inspire you to add one more item to your to-do list: doing some good for others.

Finding a cause you're passionate about is the first step, and with thousands of nonprofit groups in the Boston area alone, there are plenty to choose from. In "Making a Difference" (page 18), writer Martha Mangelsdorf offers just a tiny sample of the interesting local projects you may not have heard of yet—from a tutoring program for preschoolers to a shelter for homeless mothers that also sustains an urban farm.

Even if you've not a penny or a free day to spare, you can still help those in need with the gift of worldly goods. Julie Suratt's story "Creative Charity" (page 24) is a guide to the groups that can put your old eyeglasses, formal gowns, bikes, computers and even leftover banquet food to good use.

Our message here, if we've been too subtle: Get involved, no matter how small the contribution. Nearly 400,000 people read this magazine—if everyone did one small thing, that would amount to something big.

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

THE GAY WAY IS A-OK

My husband grooms and dresses impeccably. He cooks like a chef (there is no greater turn-on), has a great body that he takes care of, does volunteer work every week and has a spiritual relationship with God. We go to shows in London together. He's a fabulous father. He doesn't play sports, eat fast food or drink beer. He's very romantic, very funny and very straight. While I found your article amusing ("Straight Eye for the Queer Guy," Nov. 19), why do we have to lump every clean, attractive man into the "gay" category and every fat, dirty slob into the "straight" category?

To be honest, I would love to see straight men praised for acting a little "gayer." Go ahead, men: Wear lip balm, take a cooking class, mentor a child, introduce yourself to the arts, learn to dress, volunteer, pamper yourselves, take pride in your bodies and in your souls. Discover the "Renaissance man" that you can be. Any woman in her right mind is a lot more attracted to that than the "stereotypical straight man."

—ASHLEY EDDINGTON
Brookline

WELL HUNGOVER

"Hangover Helper" (Nov. 19) was a riot. Does Mr. Graham have tips for any other holiday traditions, such as regifting? Or public places to hide the Christmas tree if you're not sure you're allowed to leave it in the road after Valentine's Day? I look forward to his next IMPROPER appearance.

—MASAMI STAMPF
Somerville

UNIFORMLY BORING

Your "Clothes Call" article (Nov. 5) was enlightening. I just wish you and your panel had explored that universally dull and unimaginative uniform that has engulfed fashion nation: For men it's a blue shirt with khaki or cargo pants; for women it's a black shirt or blouse with tan or khaki pants.

People who choose this boring combination should be escorted to a room by the fashion police and beaten with axe handles.

—THOMAS TERRY JR.
Boston

EATING CROWE

Captain Jack Ambrose? How could your movie reviewer confound such a conspicuous detail as the main character's name (*Master and Commander*, Nov. 19)? Makes one wonder how closely he paid attention to the movie. That would be like a reviewer of a *Star Trek* movie repeatedly referring to Captain James Kirk as James Kaplan. What gives? It's AUBREY! Captain Jack Aubrey!

—D. ALLEN
Waltham

TO BE HONEST, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE STRAIGHT MEN PRAISED FOR ACTING A LITTLE "GAYER."

—ASHLEY EDDINGTON
BROOKLINE

CONTRIBUTOR

LISA DRAGANI

Photographer Lisa Aileen Dragani studied at the Art Institute of Boston in the mid-1990s and went on to work as a master printer for photographer John Huet. In addition to printing full-time, she exhibited her own photographs and worked on editorial jobs and personal projects. Dragani left the darkroom in 2001 to shoot and travel and has since worked on everything from CD covers to fashion spreads. Turn to "Inman's Inner Beauty" on page 28 to see her debut photographs for the IMPROPER.

POEHLER COVER PHOTO: GREG HENRY/LA MOINE PHOTO GROUP

Tell Us What You Think

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Suratt**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Kelli Acciardo, Katelyn Belyus, Kristen Grieco, Kate Hedgpeth, Ashley Klauss, Sarah Korval**

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PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

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the word

EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SURATT

new in town

WHOLE HOG

When we heard that the venerable House of Blues was to become a barbecue joint, our first thought was, "Oh no!" We were so attached to Redbones, our favorite barbecue spot in nearby Davis Square, that we were immediately skeptical. But we duly paid a visit to Brother Jimmy's to check out the newcomer...and 10 crispy hush puppies dripping with maple butter later (plus a bowl of creamy mac and cheese and a bunch of tangy barbecued wings), we were sold. Here's serious BBQ competition.

The vast space still has a downstairs dining area and a spacious upstairs with a long bar and a stage, where, starting soon, bands will belt out blues-based rock and New Orleans funk three nights a week. The theme, according to owner Josh Lebowitz, is "a tour of Southern barbecue," with an emphasis on North Carolina slow-cooked meats. "Some people say that's where pulled pork was invented," says Lebowitz. "Down South, they'll barbecue the whole hog and pick the meat off. Northerners don't want to see a whole pig on a spit, so we serve it chopped up."

To get the real Southern feel, Lebowitz, who owns three other Brother Jimmy's in New York, imported an 800-pound smoker from Oklahoma and decorated the joint with Southern-themed trinkets like tobacco baskets and ACC pennants. (Lebowitz is a huge college sports fan and plans to show all the games.) Park yourself at a wooden picnic table and indulge in a combo plate of three different types of ribs: Southern (coated with a crushed pepper–and–vinegar sauce), Northern (wet and saucy), and dry rub (a mixture of 30 different spices). You can wash it all down with swamp water—a potent concoction that's served in a fish bowl with a plastic alligator stuck in it—or some wallet-friendly $2 PBRs. "We're a home away from home for Southerners," Lebowitz says. And now for Northerners as well. *96 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-547-7427).*

—Erin Hagedorn and Julie Suratt

sam says

CHIC & CHARITABLE

Finding gifts for friends with impeccable taste is challenging enough. Finding them something that won't break the bank is nearly impossible. Local jewelry designer Josie Hewitt's JoJo line features glamorous necklaces, bracelets and earrings that would catch any girl's eye. Some of the bigger baubles run over $200, but her Austrian crystal bracelet with a star-shaped, mother-of-pearl charm retails for a modest $20. Still not sold? JoJo is donating 100 percent of the holiday season proceeds from the bracelet to Toys for Tots. So your gift will touch more than just one. Here's to being charming, cheap and charitable all at once. *www.jojoware.com.*

—Samantha House

inner view

ANDRE DUBUS III

Four years after Andre Dubus III's somber novel *House of Sand and Fog* became an Oprah's Book Club pick, topped best-seller lists and was nominated for the National Book Award, the Newburyport resident (and former IMPROPER cover boy) awaits the release of the big-screen version of his book. Dubus' first foray into the land of Hollywood novelists is no B-list affair. The Dreamworks picture, which opens Dec. 26, stars two Academy Award winners— Jennifer Connelly as a recovering drug addict and Ben Kingsley as a former Iranian colonel—whose characters battle over a foreclosed property. Dubus chatted with us about the transition from page to screen.

IB: *Whenever a book is adapted for film, people always say the book is better. What do you think in this case?*

AD: Well I'm the wrong guy to ask because I wrote the book. I do think if people like this book, they'll like the movie. It's very loyal to the essence of the book.

IB: *How much involvement did you have with the film?*

AD: Very little. Vadim Perelman, the writer and director, was kind enough to include me in the loop. He sent me drafts and took my input and editing suggestions. And I went out to the set and made a cameo appearance. It was a very surreal and gratifying experience.

IB: *Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly, both Academy Award winners, headline the film. Did you picture anyone else in their roles?*

AD: I always thought Kingsley. My wife actually sent him the book just after it was released, and I thought there was no way he would ever read it. And he loved it and signed on. For Jennifer Connelly, [her character] Kathy Nicolo is a working-class, Italian-American Saugus type. And [Connelly] is so refined. I just never thought she would do it. But she proved me wrong.

IB: *Did you have any say in the casting?*

AD: No. I'm not J.K. Rowling. When [Perelman] first asked me, "Who the hell can play the Colonel?" I said "Kingsley."

IB: *Did you picture this book being made into a film when you were writing it?*

AD: No. Never. Every now and then it's a fantasy I have over a couple of beers, like, "Hey, wouldn't that be cool." But for me, the thing is the book. Anything after that is gravy.

IB: *Obviously the film isn't exactly the same as the novel. In particular, the ending is quite different. Is it hard to see your work changed?*

AD: Well, it was hard for me when I read the script. I called, and we had fights about it. You know, civil arguments. But I learned something here. A good adaptation isn't just a literal translation. Ultimately, I love where it went, and I was totally surprised to see how it works.

IB: *Do you think you'll be the next John Grisham or Michael Crichton?*

AD: Well, actually my first novel, *Bluesman*, is very close to being made into a film. It's been optioned for the last 10 years, and it looks like they're very close to packaging a deal.

IB: *So you'll be a household name soon?*

AD: Whatever. I just want to write well.

—Jessica Iredale

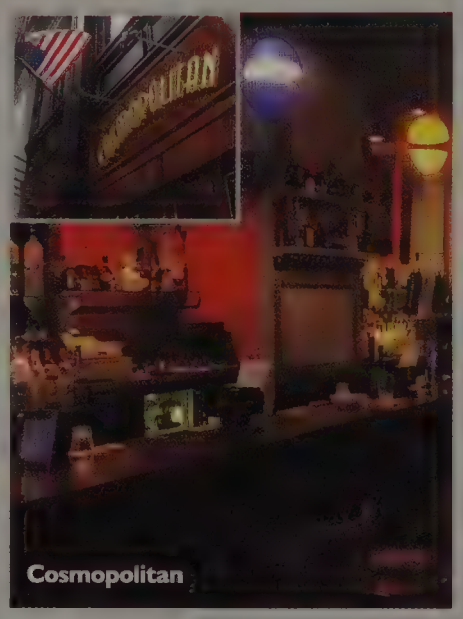
Be merry and smart. Drink responsibly.

Liqueur, 21-50% Alc. by Volume, Southern Comfort Company, Louisville, KY © 2003 www.southerncomfort.com

tasty tidbits

THAI TALK

Real Thai...Back Bay's Chilli Duck has introduced a second menu to its offerings: authentic Thai. The new menu features appetizers, entrées and noodle soups that are hard to find in a typical Thai restaurant in America. Chilli's Annie Ruang warns that the authentic Thai dishes are for "the person who really loves hot and spicy" foods. Pad Thai lovers fear not—Chilli Duck still offers its old menu too. *829 Boylston St., Boston (617-236-5208).*


Cosmopolitan

Downtown Lounge...There's a new restaurant/nightclub heating things up for the Financial District's after-work crowd. Cosmopolitan opened in September under the ownership of George Spirodopoulos and George Papakostadinous. (We thinks they're Greek.) The co-owners have turned what was once a cozy Irish pub into a sleek eatery with an international feel. The light fare has caught on with Financial District suits, and a DJ spins international tunes Thursday through Saturday nights to keep it fun. *33 Batterymarch St., Boston (617-695-9333).*

Coffee Klatch...Everyone knows Boston tea parties can be a wild time. More than 1,000 people are expected to gather at the Old South Meeting House to commemorate the 230th anniversary of the world's most legendary tea-related event. In order to make this year's celebration the best yet, the brewing experts at Flavia Beverage Systems are giving away the Flavia SB100 home coffee/tea brewers in exchange for outdated coffee machines. Flavia makes a donation to the Boston Tea Party celebration for each pot exchanged (up to a total of $5,000). Bostonians can bring their tired old brewers to the Old South Meeting House Dec. 8-13, from 8 am to 1 pm, and get themselves a state-of-the-art coffee/tea/hot chocolate maker free of charge and support a historic celebration in the process. *www.flavia.net/revolution.*

Noodle Bug...Chinatown has a new addition: Noodle Alcove. Its speciality? You guessed it: noodles. Options range from *dao-chay* (knife-cut) to *la-mein* (pulled), and the average check is under $20. We hear the roast pork noodle soup and the pan-fried Peking ravioli are the way to go. *10 Tyler St., Boston (617-542-5857).*

Sealed Vault...Sadly enough, our 2003 Boston's Best-Kept Secret winner in the Food & Drink category, Carmen Quagliata at the Vault, may have been too much of a secret. Co-owners Brian O'Neill and Quagliata served the Financial District hidden gem's last dish November 15. A spokesperson for the Vault says O'Neill is turning his full attention to his other local ventures, the Good Life and Centro, while Quagliata is "taking a step back and thinking through his options. I'm sure he's already getting calls [about future projects]."

—E.H., J.I. and J.S.

this just in

NANNY PACK

[redacted] page #63 [redacted] which has financially strapped [redacted] can't even afford a nanny. The $15 CD is available at [redacted].com

—Eve Orr

improper reports

SNEAK A PEEK

There are tons of Web cams around Boston that let you see everything from traffic patterns to tracheotomies—in real time. Here are a few local cams to check out:

*The **New England Aquarium** has a Web cam on the penguin pool and another in the giant ocean tank. Watch the penguins at *www.thebostonchannel.com/entertainment/955048/detail.html* and the fishies at *www.neaq.org/vtour/webcam.g.html.*

*__Mass General and Brigham and Women's hospitals__ both regularly give live Webcasts of their surgeries (center photo). Go to *www.or-live.com* and search by institution to find an archive of their Webcasts and a list of broadcast times.

*Before you head to work, check **SmarTraveler**'s traffic cams (second photo from top) to see what your morning commute looks like minute-by-minute. Go to *www.smartraveler.com* and click on Boston, then Traffic Cameras.

*If you're ever wondering about local **air pollution levels**, go to *www.hazecam.net/allsites.htm* (top photo) or a view of Boston's skyline, updated every 15 minutes. It even has a page showing how Boston looks on high- and low-pollution days, so you can compare.

*Simulate a night out on the town at *www.therackboston.com*. **The Rack** lets you eavesdrop on the fun.

*Get a great view of sights like the State House, Boston Common, Fenway Park and the Charles River from the top of the **Prudential Tower**. *www.earthcam.com/usa/massachusetts/boston/prudential.*

*Curious as to what those crazy kids at **Boston University** are up to? Check out the second-by-second views of Marsh Plaza on Comm. Ave. and the construction sites for the new research building and the fitness and recreation center at *www.bu.edu/alumni/cam.*

*Get up close and personal with **Harvard Yard** on the continuously running Web cam at *http://ncd3.math.harvard.edu.*

*Take a closer look inside the lounge at the **MIT** Pi Tau Zeta residence hall (second photo from bottom) at *www.mitwebcam.com* to see old computers being made into fish tanks. Or see what's cookin' in the dorm's kitchen at *www.collegecoedsgonewildinthekitchen.com* (bottom photo). If you come across a blank screen, it's because the coeds aren't hungry. But they'll be back.

IMPROPER SPEAKING

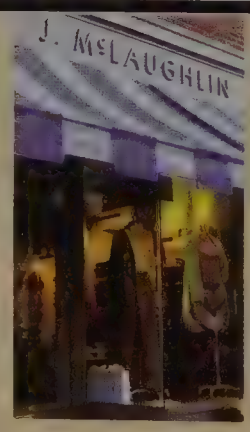
SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Live Acts...BeanTown Jazz Festival founder and Bob the Chef's Jazz Café owner Darryl Settles recently paired up with local saxophonist Paulo Danay and music producer Craig Eleazer to put years of music connections to good use. The trio's new booking company, BeanTown Sounds, specializes in matching local jazz, R&B and blues artists with corporate and private events. Twenty-five musicians are already on the roster, including heavy hitters Boston Horns, Herman Johnson, Jose Ramos, and Ashanti (not to be confused with the Murder Inc. label darling) & Umoja 9. *(617-822-9576).*

Brookline Burnout...Brookline's expansive stretch of funky restaurants and shops has had a run of bad luck. Looks like 13 is an unlucky number for Boston Daily Bread and Bombay Bistro on Beacon Street's 1300 block. Sub shop Quiznos is slated for the bakery's former digs, while the Bistro's successor is to be announced. Down the street at 1028 Beacon, Natural Frontier Market shut down following internal problems and a September skirmish with health inspectors. Perhaps these failed businesses should have followed the lead of arts and crafts shop the Pear Tree, which vacated its 1355 Beacon St. locale in July and moved to a smaller location around the corner.

Sweet Repeats...For some, the lure of a second-hand store is treasure-hunting for vintage finds. For others, it's all about sticking to a budget. Rewind Clothing and Gift Emporium, the latest addition to the eclectic SoWa neighborhood, offers a bit of both. Jim Leombruno and partner Brian Caesar opened their preowned and vintage clothing store in the former location of the Pine Street Inn's thrift store Sept. 15. The shop is filled with tables and racks of meticulously organized men's and women's clothing—from jeans and blazers to vintage coats—plus tchotchkes galore. Clothes average between $8 and $30, and that's exactly how the owners want it. "This isn't supposed to be the Garment District," says Leombruno. "It's more functional." *1736 Washington St., Boston (617-424-7677).*

Collars Up...With the tagline "Well-bred clothing for the well-heeled," it makes sense that J. McLaughlin stores would be found only in posh areas like Madison Ave., Southampton, Greenwich, Nantucket and now Beacon Hill. The company set up shop on the corner of Charles and Chestnut streets in September. The sportswear outpost's flamboyant green, blue and purple walls are a vibrant addition to Charles Street, but the clientele is the classic type. Expect to rub elbows with Burberry-clad women while perusing the quilted riding coats, argyle cashmere sweaters and belts embroidered with images of dogs (purebred, naturally). *34 Charles St., Boston (617-228-4195).*



Quiet T...There's a rumblin' beneath the city streets, and it ain't just the trains rolling by. Buskers across the city are up in arms about a new MBTA policy that was due to go into effect Dec. 8. Members of the Subway Artists Guild filed a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union against the MBTA Subway Performers Program, the result of a post–Sept. 11 safety initiative. For the first time in what MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo describes as "a long time," T performers are required to pay $25 for an annual permit. The policy designates performance-appropriate locations and demands that buskers "be neat in appearance." Amplifiers, horns, drums and all electric instruments are now banned too. "It's not against the performers," says Pesaturo. "They're still allowed to be there."

—E.H., J.I. and J.S.

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Let us know what it is. Send an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

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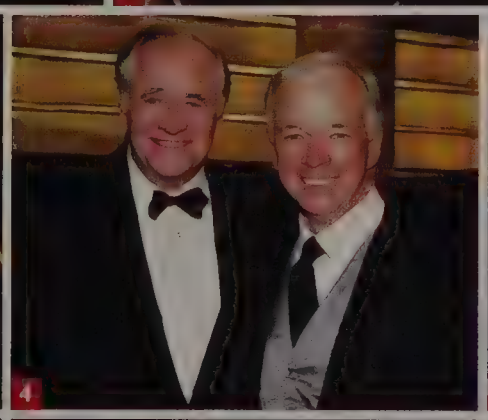
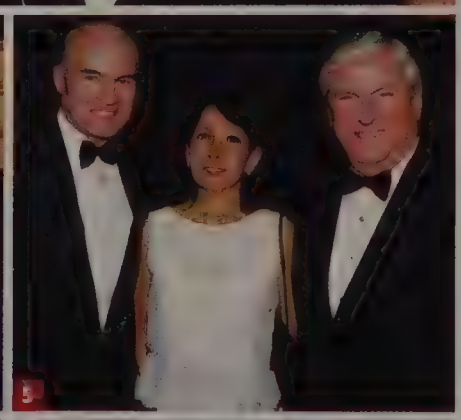
PROPER BOSTONIANS

BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY





The **American Ireland Fund's 22nd annual Boston Gala Dinner** was held Nov. 19 at the Marriott Hotel Copley Place. More than 1,400 members of the Boston business community attended the cocktail party and dinner for the American Ireland Fund donors. Bob Reynolds of Fidelity Investments chaired the event, and the Tom LaMark Orchestra and the Right-On band provided the entertainment. The evening raised more than $2.3 million to benefit projects in Ireland.

1. From left: **Laura Reynolds**, Fidelity Investments COO **Bob Reynolds** and Lieutenant Governor **Kerry Healey**.
2. From left: **Shellee Stenstrom**, marketing for HNW; **Fred McCarthy**, chairman of Triumph Capital; and **Kathryn Maguire** of Lyme Properties.
3. From left: **George Regan**, president of Regan Communications; **Karyn Frisch**, account manager for Winter Wyman; **Charlie Clapp**, investment counselor for Howland Capital; and **Constance Hubbell Clapp**, president of the Hubbell Group in Norwell.
4. **Chad Gifford** (left), CEO of FleetBoston, and **Pat Purcell**, publisher of the *Boston Herald*.
5. **Jim Connolly**, vice president of Gillette; his wife, Jean; and **Jack Connors**, chairman of Hill Holliday.
6. From left: **Paul Guzzi**, CEO of Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce; **Joe O'Donnell**, chairman of Boston Concessions Group; and **Jack Driscoll**, partner at Nutter, McClennen & Fish.
7. **Jerry Dunfey** (left), president of Global Citizens Circle, and **John Silber**, chancellor of Boston University.
8. **Larry Lucchino**, CEO of the Boston Red Sox, and his wife, **Stacey**.

The Night Is Ours 30th Anniversary Gala for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) was held Nov. 12 at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge. One hundred forty party-goers attended the dinner, and the event raised $40,000. Highlights included live and silent auctions and a speech by Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey.

9. **Jane Forrer** (left) and **Hillary Woodyatt**, co-owners of Beauty and Main in Hingham, Cambridge and Wellesley.
10. From left: **Nancy Friedman** and her husband, **Dick Friedman**, owner of the Charles Hotel in Cambridge, and **Sophie Zunz**, director of public relations for the Charles Hotel.
11. **Panamai** and **Perry Manadee**, co-owners of Bliss Home.
12. From left: **Juliann Decker** and **Andrea Sweeney**, both volunteers for BARCC; and **Donna Decker**, teacher at Franklin Pierce College.

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BY EZRA DYER

THE HOST WITH THE LEAST

My guests know the true value of a night at the Holiday Inn

I rarely host houseguests. And if I do, it's generally one of my college friends like Whits or Neskey, who both fall under the category of "low maintenance." We go out, get drunk, and when we get back to my place they pass out on my couch. I'll usually give them a pillow and a blanket, but that's only to keep them comfortable enough that they don't attempt to crawl into bed with me during the night. It's like when you're camping and you tie your food up in a tree to keep bears away from your tent.

Given my decidedly limited background in the hospitality industry, I had reason to worry when Roommate Scott called one recent Saturday and informed me that there were two Japanese women at our door and they would be staying with us for several days. Apparently, they were friends of one of his friends. He hadn't expected them to show up yet, and he wouldn't be home for 45 minutes. I walked outside and sure enough, there were two Japanese women standing there. I may not be Martha Stewart, but I figured I could entertain until Scott got home.

We sat on the couch and made our introductions. One of the women, Yuko, spoke English, but the other, Rie, was fluent only in nodding and smiling. We began by talking about what they planned to do during their two days in Boston, which was a short discussion because they were interested in going to lots of cultural attractions and museums and I'm an ignorant slob.

After we talked about Boston museums that I know the names of (I recommended the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, which I'm told is great), I gave them a primer on Boston using my trusty laminated map. "This is the North End, where all the Italian restaurants are. This is Newbury Street, where everyone walks too slow. This is the Public Garden, where the Pilgrims protested the tea tax by burning witches during the Civil War." Lucky for them, I happen to know a lot about Boston history.

Eventually, though, I ran out of helpful tips about the city, and we were all reduced to staring intently at the map and wondering where the hell Scott was. Lacking any better ideas, I turned on the TV and began watching college football, which is what I'd planned on doing anyway. But now, instead of just being lazy, I was sharing my culture.

Yuko and Rie watched politely for a few minutes, but I could tell that the in-state rivalry between Miami and Florida State wasn't captivating them quite like a pink leather Hello Kitty cell phone cover. So I proposed taking a walk to Newbury Street, where we could people-watch, browse shops, and curse Scott's lineage for his disappearing all day while I convinced two foreigners that Americans are rude, clueless imbeciles. In case they didn't think that already.

After I took them to Banana Republic, which I learned is also very popular in Japan, Yuko and Rie jumped in a cab and fled to the Gardner Museum. Scott called soon thereafter asking where the Japanese girls were, to which I replied that they'd managed to shake me somewhere on the second floor of Banana Republic but I didn't think they'd get very far—the map I gave them ends on the edge of Brookline.

Eventually our Japanese visitors did return, no doubt despite their better judgment, and the next night they set about cooking a fantastic multicourse meal. They were easily the best guests we've ever had, which made me feel extra bad that Rie was excluded from the dinner conversation. So,

I COULD TELL THAT THE FOOTBALL RIVALRY BETWEEN MIAMI AND FLORIDA STATE WASN'T CAPTIVATING MY JAPANESE GUESTS.

reaching back to my days hanging out with Nobuo, my Japanese exchange-student friend from high school, I tried to think of a few Japanese words to toss into the ring. Unfortunately, all Nobuo ever taught me was obscenities, but I figured that was better than nothing. "Chin-chin omanko!" I said hopefully. Both women's heads snapped toward me and they put their hands over their faces while I wondered what, exactly, I'd said. Fortunately, they both started laughing. "She says that was very surprising to her," said Yuko. "She didn't understand anything anyone was saying, and then all of a sudden heard you say, 'pee-pee sex.'" I suppose that would be surprising to me, too, if I were having dinner in Japan and someone turned to me and declared "pee-pee sex!"

You may be wondering where Rie and Yuko slept. The answer: Scott's bed. He slept on the couch. Hey, I gave him a pillow. Who says I'm not a good host? IB

YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?

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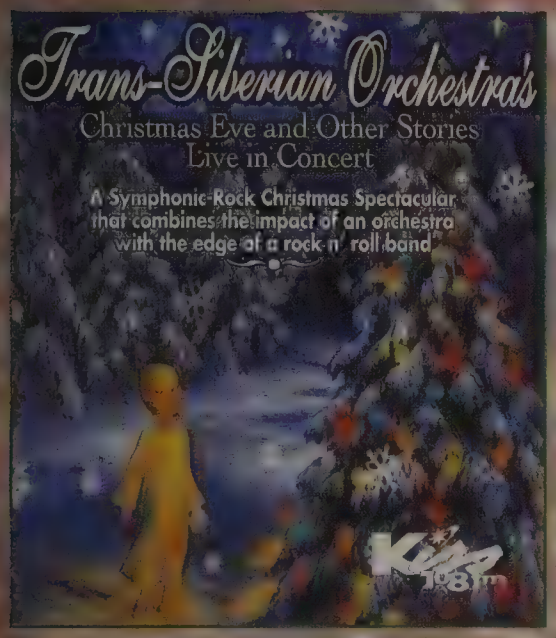
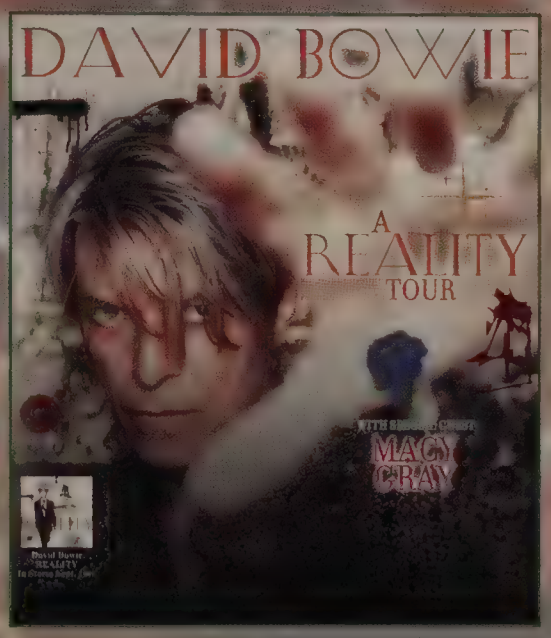


DECEMBER 7
FLEETCENTER



DECEMBER 9
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Soroff ON

JONATHAN TUCKER

BY JONATHAN SOROFF PHOTOGRAPH BY TRACY AIGUIER

Up-and-coming actor Jonathan Tucker, 21, was born and raised in Boston (aside from a brief stint in Paris), the son of art historian/professor/curator Paul Hayes Tucker and marketing analyst Maggie Moss-Tucker. By third grade, Jonathan was starring in Boston Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. After attending the Park School in Brookline, he moved to California to pursue an acting career. (He recently graduated from the Thacher School in Ojai and has deferred admission to Columbia University.) His film credits include Barry Levinson's critically acclaimed *Sleepers*; the art house hit *The Deep End*, opposite Tilda Swinton; the romantic comedy *Two if by Sea*, with Denis Leary and Sandra Bullock; and Sofia Coppola's *The Virgin Suicides*. On television, he has appeared in *The Practice*, a role that immediately segued into a guest-starring spot on Steven Bochco's *Philly*. The past year has been Tucker's busiest to date, with roles in the remake of the horror classic *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, a film with Val Kilmer entitled *Stateside* that will be released next spring, and the upcoming Steven Soderbergh/George Clooney con man thriller *Criminal*. He lives in Los Angeles.

Jonathan Soroff: *First of all, what was it like playing a Hobbit and filming* The Lord of the Rings *trilogy for all those months down in New Zealand?*

Jonathan Tucker: I imagine it was as exciting as the movies, but I'm not in them.

JS: *Just wanted to be sure you were paying attention. So you're 21, huh?*

JT: I just turned 21, and my girlfriend bought me a Kegerator, so that even though I'm not in college, I can feel like it, with all that Sam Adams pumping through my system.

JS: *What, pray tell, is a Kegerator?*

JT: It's like a mini-refrigerator that keeps a keg cold.

JS: *Ahhhh. Your parents must be so proud.*

JT: Just trying to pay homage to the Irish Catholic Boston boy in me.

JS: *What's your take on being a child star?*

JT: I don't think anyone's ever described me that way, since that implies being a star. I was just fortunate enough to work as a teenager.

JS: *So you never made it to the cover of* Teen People *or* Tiger Beat*?*

JT: No, but both myself and my manager weren't trying to go in that direction.

JS: *So what was the most annoying thing about being underage in Hollywood—not being able to do tequila shots with the crew?*

JT: Being underage in Hollywood certainly doesn't negate the possibility of going out and having a few drinks, but it does maybe limit your ability to finesse the script supervisor or anyone on the set over the age of 35. Once you hit 21, pretty much all the women on the set are fair game. When you're under 21, they're a little skeptical.

JS: *Your first public performance was in* The Nutcracker*?*

JT: Yeah. I was in Boston Ballet for four or five years.

JS: *How much grief did you get for that?*

JT: My class knew how cool it was. But all the grades above? Not so understanding. When my picture was on the front page of the Living/Arts section of the *Globe*, the next day was a tough one at school.

JS: *Didn't you get incredibly sick of the music? By the end of the Christmas season, I want to slap Tchaikovsky for writing it.*

JT: It does get to be a bit like a dentist's drill, and I can tell you every single beat of that score, but I wouldn't want to.

JS: *Do you still dance?*

JT: No.

JS: *Which one of the Three Stooges would you most like to play?*

JT: Is Moe the big guy?

JS: *No, that's Curly. Moe was the grouchy one who was always in charge.*

JT: That's the one.

JS: *You've starred opposite Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino. Who overacts more?*

JT: To be honest with you, when I bring my truth to that set, they both kinda calm down and shut up and listen to what I have to say. I let 'em know what's goin' on, and of course, both of them have been quoted a few times saying they've learned a lot from "the Tuck." I'm not gonna refute that.

JS: *So you're a wiseass. What are the odds that with that innocent face you'll ever play a drug kingpin?*

JT: Seriously high. I love that kind of stuff. I'm drawn to the dark and twisted.

JS: *It shows in the fact that you've been in some seriously creepy movies. What's the grossest thing that happens in the remake of* The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*?*

JT: Some of the death scenes are pretty fantastic. In fact, they're so exciting that some of the people in the audience stood up to applaud the shots.

JS: *On the subject of actors you've worked with: Is Tilda Swinton part alien, part feline or what?*

JT: Part feline, quite possibly. It's like she's got this truth machine in her that doesn't allow her to do anything but breathe the moment. You can't believe you're working with such a talented actor. She's incredible.

JS: *Thing you'd most like to read about yourself in a tabloid?*

JT: Seen leaving a nightclub with 15 underage women in a stretch Humvee, drinking rye whiskey. Or even better, that Rene Russo was trying to pick me up.

JS: *Who do you get mistaken for, because you're at the point in your career when people must stop you and try to place you?*

JT: What I get is guys who are 45 saying, "Didn't we go to high school together?" I'm like, "No, no, no. You're 100 years older than me." Or they're like, "I know you from somewhere," and I'll say, "I was great on *Celebrity Mole*," or "Maybe you saw me on *Fear Factor*?"

JS: *Three things Boston has that L.A. doesn't?*

JT: Deep-rooted character. A true sense of history. And the best little dive bars in the world.

JS: *How about one thing you like better about L.A.?*

JT: It's got more cheap ethnic restaurants that are really good. There are all these little shopping centers and strip malls where you'd never think to eat, and they have the most spectacular Indian, Cuban, Japanese or Middle Eastern food. You can eat well for $5 a day.

JS: *Ever secretly rehearse an Oscar acceptance speech?*

JT: No, but I've certainly rehearsed other things, like my Nobel Prize acceptance speech.

JS: *On the flipside of Oscar-worthy, there's* Two if by Sea. *Did anyone actually see that?*

JT: Well, I don't think it turned out as successfully as Denis Leary would have liked, and it certainly wasn't his fault.

JS: *So it was all Sandra Bullock's fault?*

JT: No. She became immensely famous right when that movie came out. She was on the cover of every magazine on the newsstands. You can't blame anyone.

JS: *You deferred admission at Columbia. Will you ever go?*

JT: Yes, definitely, at some point. The long academic history in my family will propel me to get there, but right now, I don't want to close the door I've been trying to get my foot through for the past 10 years.

JS: *So maybe you'll be the oldest living undergraduate. In all seriousness, what's the likelihood that you'll go back once you've been anointed the new It Boy on the cover of* Vanity Fair *and you're doing back-to-back movies?*

JT: Well, college is flexible. People do it. I know that I could take off, say, four months to do a movie, or get a few acting jobs in the can and then concentrate on school. With the education I've already been fortunate enough to have, and the importance of education in my family, it can't be any other way.

JS: *What is your dream role?*

JT: I'd love to play a back-country, dope-smoking chess master, some guy who's an idiot savant at chess but very strange otherwise.

JS: *Fantasy love-scene partner?*

JT: Does it have to be an actress?

JS: *No, why?*

JT: Well, there's this Harvard professor I've seen on *Charlie Rose* a few times. Helen Goggin, I think it is. She's the hottest thing I've ever seen. I think Cokie Roberts is pretty hot too. I'm a news junkie.

JS: *So you've got a thing for the news ladies?*

JT: Well, don't try to tell me Joyce Kulhawik isn't smokin'. You'd be lying.

JS: *Last question: What do you want to have accomplished by the time you turn 30?*

JT: I'd like to be in a position to greenlight any project I wanted to. And be anchoring *CNN Headline News*. That would be pretty fantastic. IB

"I'D LOVE TO PLAY A BACK-COUNTRY, DOPE-SMOKING CHESS MASTER, SOME GUY WHO'S AN IDIOT SAVANT AT CHESS BUT VERY STRANGE OTHERWISE."

India Smith, shown here with her son, Jared, takes part in workshops on topics such as budgeting and parenting at Re-Vision House.

MAKING A difference

EVEN IN A TOUGH ECONOMY, CREATIVE NONPROFITS ARE STAYING THE COURSE

Don't be surprised if requests for donations sound especially urgent this season.

That's because for many Boston nonprofits, this is not an easy time. The local economy has seen some rough years (which can lead to leaner individual donations). There have been cuts in state spending (which affect nonprofits that get government funding). And in general, the endowment investments that fund many foundations have not performed as well in the last few years as they did in the late 1990s (which means smaller pools of money are available to make grants). Put all three factors together, and it's a tough combination.

"It's definitely an economically challenging time," explains Jeff Bellows, vice president, marketing communications and public relations at the United Way of Massachusetts Bay. According to Bellows, spending by the state of Massachusetts on health and human services has been reduced by nearly $2 billion from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2004. Meanwhile, he says, the number of Americans donating to health and human services charities has hit its lowest level in 40 years.

"Those nonprofits that deal with health and human services have been hit very hard," observes Terry Saunders Lane, vice president for program at the Boston Foundation, a philanthropic foundation that supports Greater Boston nonprofits.

Arts-related organizations, too, have faced particular challenges. Many local arts nonprofits are small, with annual budgets under $500,000, and such smaller organizations, Lane says, are "really struggling." Another area of concern: small, neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations that serve low-income families and newcomers.

Lane points out, however, that she's seeing some creative responses to the economic challenges local nonprofits face. Those responses can include sharing back-office resources such as payroll with other nonprofits, forming strategic partnerships, merging, or strengthening fund-raising efforts. Because running a nonprofit is "really, really hard" right now, that's "forcing a lot more collaboration," observes Andrew Wolk, president and CEO of the Boston-based Root Cause Institute, which consults with nonprofits on developing entrepreneurial leadership. Wolk, too, says he's seeing mergers and alliances—as well as some nonprofits just closing.

Despite those difficulties, lots of nonprofits continue to do useful, important work all over the city. Some are well-known, but many, particularly the smaller ones, are not. Here are just a few of their stories.

BY MARTHA E. MANGELSDORF PHOTOGRAPHED BY TRACY POWELL

Jumpstart pairs college students with preschoolers who need special attention.

FROM HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL TO PRESCHOOLS

Despite the generally challenging environment facing nonprofits, CEO Rob Waldron has big plans for Jumpstart, an early-literacy program headquartered in Boston. Jumpstart operates in 44 communities around the country; its model involves pairing a college student with a 3- to 5-year-old preschooler who is behind in the skills needed for school. According to Waldron, the 10 to 15 hours of extra attention and learning activities each week that Jumpstart provides helps children increase their academic skills at a 20 percent greater rate than children in the same preschool who do not participate in Jumpstart.

Waldron says research shows that investments in early childhood education yield a high economic return for society. In fact, he claims, some governors look at the number of students behind in literacy in elementary school to help predict the prison population in future years. Investing in early childhood education is, for society, "one of the single best investments if you want to produce results and save money," he says.

Waldron, a Harvard Business School graduate who ran one of the nation's largest for-profit tutoring companies before joining Jumpstart, describes his organization as one of the few AmeriCorps-funded programs to grow over the past fiscal year. He has ambitious goals. Currently, more than 1,600 college students around the country are involved with Jumpstart; Waldron hopes eventually to increase that number to between 10,000 and 20,000 students. That way, Waldron believes, Jumpstart could have a significant effect on teacher-student ratios in federally funded Head Start preschool programs, which is where most Jumpstart activities take place. Waldron also says his organization is thinking about expanding its programs in Boston considerably.

Key to those growth plans is a diversified funding stream. In addition to AmeriCorps government funding, Waldron says Jumpstart is funded by a combination of individual donations and support from foundations and corporations. Corporate supporters include some big names. For example, until the end of the year, the Starbucks Foundation will make a $5 donation to Jumpstart every time a customer uses a Starbucks Card Duetto Visa for the first time.

Waldron notes that the Jumpstart program has had an unanticipated effect: This year, 30 percent of the graduating college seniors who worked as mentors in Jumpstart applied to be Head Start or early-education teachers, even though two-thirds of them had not previously intended to go into teaching. *(617-542-5867). www.jstart.org.*

Sisters Thien-an (left) and Ana Nguyen are learning to play piano with help from Zumix, an East Boston–based nonprofit.

DOING MORE WITH LESS

Like so many others, Madeleine Steczynski faces a conundrum. Zumix, the East Boston–based nonprofit for which she serves as executive director, has seen its funding decline. Some funders, particularly those that are government organizations, are offering smaller grants, as their own budgets have shrunk. But at the same time, she sees increasing demand for Zumix's programs—instruction for low-income youth in songwriting, instrumental music, music production and performance. She's seen other agencies, particularly those that once received a lot of government funding, shut down; a housing project near Zumix, she says, just closed its youth center.

So Steczynski is trying to figure out how to do more with less. Formerly a manager in an architecture firm, she co-founded Zumix in the early 1990s with Bob Grove, a professional musician, out of concern over high rates of violence among urban youth at that time. In the current funding climate, Zumix has made a conscious decision to try to serve more youth, to "let them be part of a place that is caring and safe." Steczynski and her three full-time staff members have rejiggered responsibilities, so they can devote more staff to offering programs. "Finances are tight," she says. On the positive side, she notes the organization is looking at better uses of partnerships, working with an area middle school and also with interns from schools such as Berklee College of Music. However, "there are definitely many more kids to serve than we are able to serve," she says. "We still have long waiting lists for all of our programs." *(617-568-9777). www.zumix.org.*

CREATING SHELTER—AND AN URBAN FARM

Like Stecyzynski, Yvonne Miller-Booker started a nonprofit because of her concern about the youth violence that plagued Boston in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Miller-Booker, who worked for a state legislator at the time, remembers going to meeting after meeting where people talked about the problem. At some point, she'd had it with talking about the city's problems and wanted to start thinking about solutions.

Miller-Booker's solution to urban problems was to focus on particularly vulnerable families: homeless women with young children. Re-Vision House, the Dorchester-based nonprofit she and a group of other women launched in 1989 and 1990, currently provides shelter to 22 women and up to 30 children. While staying at the shelter, residents are required to work 20 hours a week or go to school as

well as attend mandatory workshops on topics such as budgeting and parenting. "Sometimes they get upset with me because everything is mandatory," Miller-Booker says.

Over the years, Miller-Booker has expanded Re-Vision House—it now occupies two triple-decker buildings. Remarkably, she has also added a small farm—about an acre of working gardens, divided over three locations. Meanwhile, the back porches of one of the triple-deckers have been converted for a pilot program in aquaculture and hydroponic agriculture. None of this was easy to set up. Staff member Judy Lieberman describes the remediation process that had to take place before the largest farming area, formerly a vacant lot, could be ready for agricultural use. The soil had to be tested, contaminated soil (which had low levels of lead) removed and new, clean soil brought in. But now Re-Vision Urban Farm produces flowers and vegetables—including basil and a lettuce mix that is sold to several area restaurants—and tilapia (a type of fish).

And, importantly, the farm and aquaculture projects provide internship opportunities for Re-Vision House residents. As interns, residents get a chance to earn some money and fulfill their work requirement while learning a variety of skills, such as dealing with retail customers at a farmer's market. Although Miller-Booker doesn't expect the women who stay at the house to become farmers, she notes that they are acquiring a knowledge of container gardening, which can provide supplemental nutrition for their families. Plus, Miller-Booker, who grew up on a Pennsylvania farm, thinks working on the project brings some intangible benefits as well. "Working with the soil is so therapeutic," she says. "You'd be amazed at the changes in the attitudes of the women."

Re-Vision House's biggest challenge at the moment? According to Miller-Booker, it's finding permanent housing for residents. Because Section 8 rental housing subsidies in Massachusetts are currently frozen, residents are staying longer in the house—which means that fewer families can be served. "It's very difficult to find housing for these women," says Miller-Booker, who adds that none of the Re-Vision House residents can afford market-rate rents in Boston.

On the whole, though, Miller-Booker says her organization, which receives a mix of federal, foundation and private funding, has been "very blessed." And a block that included drug dealers and vacant lots when she started now houses both the small farm and the shelter for women. "All the children here call me Nana," even those who have moved on from Re-Vision House, says Miller-Booker, who is 62. "So I'm Nana to about 600 children." *(617-825-8642). www.re-visionhouse.com.*

GROWING THE ECONOMY—THROUGH ARTS

At the Arts, Cultural & Trade Roxbury Consortium (ACT Roxbury), Candelaria Silva is also thinking about growth—from a different perspective. ACT Roxbury, which is a program of Madison Park Development Corp., a nonprofit community development corporation, aims to encourage economic growth in Roxbury by promoting arts and cultural events. "Art and culture do more to revitalize a community than any businesses do," says Silva, ACT Roxbury's director.

Instructor Laurel Sims (left) works with residents Melinda Merritt (center) and India Smith at Re-Vision House, a Dorchester-based shelter for women and children.

COMING THROUGH IN THE CLUTCH

New England's pro sports teams score with local charities

BY EZRA DYER

Top: The Boston Bruins Foundation made a $25,000 donation to SCORE Boston, a nonprofit that teaches inner-city youth to play hockey. Center: Adam Vinatieri's jersey brought in $1,300 for charity. Bottom: Nomar Garciaparra with a Jimmy Fund kid.

Sometimes it's easy to be cynical about professional sports, a business where multimillionaire team owners pay multimillionaire athletes to hit a small leather ball with a wooden club or throw an inflated sphere through a metal ring. Perhaps that's one reason why all of Boston's professional sports teams—and many individual players—run charitable organizations that funnel some of that cash flow back to worthy causes. The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund, for instance, has been synonymous with the Red Sox for the past 50 years, but all the local pro franchises are involved in efforts to give something back to the community.

New ownership is part of the reason for the upturn in goodwill. When John Henry, Tom Werner and company bought the Red Sox last year, they set up the Red Sox Foundation, which funds children's charities. Henry and the other Sox owners kicked in $17 million last year. The Sox also hosted charity-themed days throughout the season, like the Red Sox Wives' Picnic in the Park and the Sept. 11 blood drive. Besides the new charity work at Fenway, the Sox have also become sponsors of the Pan-Mass Challenge pledge bike ride, which is the biggest athletic benefit in the country and raised $16.2 million for the Jimmy Fund this year.

The Celtics are another venerable Boston franchise that recently came under new ownership, and like Henry, Celtics CEO Wyc Grousbeck and his partners have created new charitable avenues for the team. October marked the inaugural Opening Night Celebration, a party for the Boston Celtics Charitable Foundation that raised more than $750,000 for children's charities. The Celtics are also heavily involved at the individual level, with Paul Pierce, Eric Williams, Vin Baker and Walter McCarty all running their own foundations. Budding R&B singer McCarty is donating a portion of proceeds from his new album, *Moment for Love*, to his I Love Music Foundation, which supports music-related causes for youth.

The Celtics' FleetCenter comrades, the Bruins, also began new community work this season with the launch of the Boston Bruins Foundation. The Bruins Foundation, like the Celtics and Red Sox public-service arms, benefits children's charities. The foundation runs charity auctions and raffles (the next auction will be held March 7, 2004), schedules player hospital visits, donates game tickets and organizes regular benefit events. Two of this season's early successes were "Hockey 101 for Women," where 184 women received a behind-the-scenes primer on hockey—including a tour of the locker room—and a wine-tasting event at Morton's where several hard-nosed Bruins players like Martin Lapointe (who estimates that he owns between 1,300 and 1,400 bottles of wine) revealed they also have a nose for nice vino.

In Foxboro, the Patriots and New England Revolution both contribute to the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, which has made donations to thousands of nonprofits since its inception in 1994, when Robert Kraft purchased the team. The Patriots Foundation raises money through major annual events like a golf tournament and a preseason party, but the Pats also cater to smaller spenders with a continuous online auction of memorabilia—recently Chris Calloway's game-worn cleats went for $55, and an autographed Adam Vinatieri jersey brought in more than $1,300—and paid scoreboard messages. The latter offer a chance to give someone a unique birthday present—or marriage proposal—for a $75 donation. "We could charge $1,000 per message, and we'd still be turning people away," says Patriots corporate affairs spokesman Will McDonough. "But the paperwork that goes into any donation over $75 isn't worth the money, and we want to keep it cheap as a service to the community."

So the next time you're bemoaning scarce, expensive tickets or outrageously priced concessions, remember your rabid devotion to the local teams in some small way helps the less fortunate. And enjoy the game.

For more information

BOSTON BRUINS FOUNDATION
617-624-1923
www.bostonbruinsfoundation.com

I LOVE MUSIC FOUNDATION
www.ilovemusicfoundation.org

JIMMY FUND
800-525-4669
www.jimmyfund.org

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AUCTIONS
www.proteamauctions.com

PAN MASS CHALLENGE
800-932-9253
www.pmc.org

Silva has growth statistics to report: Roxbury Open Studios, which is organized by ACT Roxbury and just completed its fifth year, has increased from roughly 60 participating artists in its first year to 150 this past year. And the consortium's annual Roxbury Film Festival, which showcases films written, produced or directed by filmmakers of color, started as a one-and-a-half day event and has grown to five days in length. Other ACT Roxbury programs include a series of workshops for artists (open to any artist, not just Roxbury residents) on topics like publicity and Web design. The organization also helps run "Discover! Roxbury" historical and cultural tours (*www.discoverroxbury.org*) in conjunction with a Lexington-based group called the Bridges Program.

Silva, too, has had to cope with a difficult funding environment: She says the Massachusetts Cultural Council was a big financial supporter until its budget was cut. (The MCC, a state agency that funds programs in the arts, sciences and humanities, had its state funding cut 62 percent for fiscal 2003, according to MCC communications director John Michael Kennedy.)

GRASSROOTS PHILANTHROPY

It would be nice to have millions to give away to worthy causes, yet most of us don't. But what if you could be a philanthropist for just a dollar a day?

That's the intriguing premise behind the Daily Muses Fund. In 2001, a small group of professional women in the Boston area formed the Daily Muses as a "giving circle"—a group where members commit to donate $365 each per year through the group, pooling their donations for greater impact. The group currently consists of 10 women ranging in age from their 20s to their 40s. "We're just working gals who really are trying to make a difference in our communities," says Rebekah Kaufman, a founding member.

The group gives grants to two nonprofits per year and focuses on organizations that serve women and children in the area. In 2002, the group gave about $2,000, according to Kaufman. And members are encouraged to donate not just their money but also their time and expertise. For example, Kaufman, a marketing manager, and Julie Duncan, a Daily Muse member who is a graphic designer, created publicity and fund-raising materials for one of the nonprofits to which the group gave a grant. "You want to contribute what your skills are," explains Kaufman. And that kind of contribution can be worth a lot; Kaufman estimates that the value of the work on the publicity and fund-raising materials was greater than the Daily Muses' grant.

Curious about the giving circle phenomenon? You can find more information—and send for a free Giving Circle Starter Kit—at *www.givingnetwork.org/circpage.html*. Some giving circles involve larger amounts of money per year than the Daily Muses Fund. But Kaufman sees the Daily Muses as a sort of training ground for aspiring philanthropists. Donating $365 a year is "a lot of money," she says. "But it's doable and it's comfortable." *dailymusesfund@yahoo.com*.

Members of the Daily Muses, clockwise from lower right: Rebekah Kaufman, Natalie Schnipper Tunney, Julie Duncan, Amy Morris and Melissa Geoffroy

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Most of the time, nonprofit organizations apply for grants. But four times a year, the grantmakers at the Boston Foundation give what it calls an "Out of the Blue" grant—an unrestricted $75,000 grant that no organization can apply for. "We basically do this to recognize outstanding work by organizations," says Terry Saunders Lane, vice president for program at the Boston Foundation, a philanthropic community foundation for Greater Boston.

What are some of the Boston Foundation's picks? Here are the organizations that have received an Out of the Blue grant in the past 12 months:

September 2003

BOSTON COMMUNITY CAPITAL

www.bostoncommunitycapital.org

Serves as a "community development financial intermediary" through its affiliates, the Boston Community Loan Fund and the Boston Community Venture Fund.

June 2003

BOSTON PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

www.bpe.org

Works to improve Boston public schools.

March 2003

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

www.icaboston.org

Showcases contemporary art.

December 2002

BOSTON NATURAL AREAS NETWORK

www.bostonnatural.org

Focuses on preserving and improving green spaces in the city.

But ACT Roxbury, whose other funding sources include foundations, is trying to further diversify its financial base; it has started a membership program for individuals and businesses and is working to increase giving by individual donors. And the organization has growth plans: It has acquired Hibernian Hall in Roxbury's Dudley Square, a long-unused building that was slated to be demolished. By the end of 2004, ACT Roxbury hopes to renovate the building, which Silva describes as the only one of five former Irish dance halls in Dudley Square that has its ballroom still intact. The aim? To give the building new life—as the Roxbury Center for Arts, Culture & Trade.

Silva sees part of ACT Roxbury's mission as changing people's perception of Roxbury, through consistent cultural programming, to let people know that Roxbury is "more than they see on the nightly news." Those news stories, she says, tend to emphasize the negative. *(617-541-3900 ext. 222). www.actroxbury.org.*

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

At another Boston nonprofit, the Dorchester-based Boston Learning Center, executive director Ayéle Shakur is also working on changing perceptions. But in Shakur's case, the attitudes she hopes to change are those of teenagers in the Boston public schools. Shakur, who graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and worked as a teacher in Compton, Calif., and later in Boston, saw a trend where "students just did not think it was cool to be smart."

With a program called the BIFF Paradigm Project, Shakur and her husband, Gary Bracey, hope to change youths' negative perceptions of school and education. (BIFF stands for Building Inspiration to Fight Failure.) The BIFF project, which was piloted in a Boston charter school in 1999, has expanded to six schools. BIFF has foundation funding, Shakur says, while the Boston Learning Center's other tutoring programs are self-supporting, through tuition fees.

What is the BIFF program? It's an after-school motivational and learning program aimed at bright and capable students who are underachieving, Shakur explains. Many of the students in BIFF tend to be social leaders in their schools, she says, and often their social leadership and academic failure are related. The program uses the story of a fictional wealthy entrepreneur named Biff Jones, an underachieving student who turned his school performance around—and realized later that the same habits that helped him become a successful student also helped him succeed as an entrepreneur. So, the story goes, Biff designed the program to encourage young people to envision a future where they could run their own businesses, where "you're the employer, not the employee."

"It's really about changing kids' paradigm" about what it means to be smart, says Shakur. The program aims to teach kids study skills and also provide them with role models other than rap stars and drug dealers. "We're really trying to show them there's another path," Shakur says. The program is generally co-taught by a teacher and an entrepreneur, she says. One highlight: A limo comes to school at the end of the term to take students on the BIFF honor roll out for ice cream or pizza.

Shakur reports some impressive results. When the first class of students who took BIFF graduated from high school, she says, 100 percent got into their first-choice college. And she says 80 percent of the students who go through the program have averaged an increase of 10 to 33 points in their combined grades in English, math, science and history. What the program aims to do, Shakur says, is teach students that they face two paths—one leading to failure and the other to prosperity. "They choose," she says. *(617-265-7170).* iB

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CREATIVE *charity*

THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WITH FULL HEARTS AND EMPTY WALLETS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. YOU CAN STILL HELP THE NEEDY BY DONATING OLD OR UNUSED ITEMS—FROM CARS TO CLOTHES TO COMPUTERS AND MORE—TO A HOST OF CHARITABLE CAUSES.

BY JULIE SURATT ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT MAGOON

If you've got chestnuts roasting on an open fire, and Jack Frost is nipping at your nose, then chances are, local and national charities—anyone to whom you've ever contributed even a $2 check in years past—are bombarding you with pleas for money. 'Tis the season…for goodwill and emptying thy pockets.

But if you're feeling a bit strapped for cash this year, why not consider making a material donation? We're not talking just about clothing. Charitable organizations will take everything from outdated cell phones or computers to formal wear, used bikes or cars—even the untouched platters of leftover food from your company's holiday party. Below is a list of places that will gladly put your items to good use. Most are local, since we're all more likely to give if we can drop something off or have it picked up. (Convenience is a "huge factor in giving," confirms Lisa Rowan-Gillis of the Home for Little Wanderers, which is why the organization, like others listed here, has convenient drop-off hours. Many have accessible drop boxes and some even do curbside pickup.) What's more, if you donate by Dec. 31, you might be able to deduct the fair market value of the gift from your taxes—just ask the organization if your contribution is tax-deductible, and be sure to get a receipt. Let the giving begin.

BANQUET FOOD

Both the Greater Boston Food Bank and the Boston Rescue Mission have perishable-food rescue programs and will pick up prepared food from locations within a reasonable driving distance from Boston. For health reasons, neither organization can accept food that has been on the table. The GBFB donates the food to one of its 750 affiliated pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters in the Boston area. The Boston Rescue Mission offers the food to its residents and homeless guests.

- **The Greater Boston Food Bank,** 99 Atkinson St., Boston. 617-427-5200. *www.gbfb.org.*
- **Boston Rescue Mission,** 39 Kingston St., Boston. 617-482-8819, ext. 1228. *www.brm.org.*

BICYCLES

In 1984, while the U.S. government was sending military aid to Nicaragua to sponsor anti-Sandinista guerrillas, **Bikes Not Bombs** responded by sending a different type of aid to Nicaragua: used bicycles. The program now exports 1,000 bikes a year to its affiliate bike shops and businesses in four Central American countries and has recently expanded its program to Ghana. In the Boston area, BNB sponsors an Earn-a-Bike program for 12- to 18-year-olds who take classes on bike safety and the fundamentals of bike mechanics. BNB can't use women's 10-speed-style bikes (partly because the frames aren't as sturdy for cycling on unpaved roads), but other women's frames are fine if they're hybrids, mountain bikes or three-speeds. There's a $5 suggested donation per bicycle for processing, and BNB does not have a pick-up service. Call ahead because BNB's storage lots fill up, and they may not be able to accept your bike. 59 Amory St., #103, Boston. 617-442-0004. *www.bikesnotbombs.org.*

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

The Fairy Godmother Project of Massachusetts accepts new or gently worn gowns (preferably cleaned and on hangers), shoes, unopened makeup and nylons, jewelry and purses for underprivileged high school students to use for proms or other special occasions. 508-824-7748. Drop off: WBCN, 1265 Boylston St., Boston. Mail: P.O. Box 222, Raynham Center, MA 02768. *www.fairygodmotherprojectofma.org.*

CARS

Several organizations resell donated vehicles—including cars, SUVs, motor homes, boats and even Jet Skis—at auction for profit. Many even accept vehicles that don't run; others require the vehicle be in working condition. All will tow the car for you as long as you have keys for the vehicle and a title printed in your name (and the car is free of any liens). Most organizations sell the cars at auction, and proceeds benefit the group's programs.

- **AIDS Action Committee:** *www.aac.org.*
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters:** *www.bbbsa.org.*
- **Cars 4 Charities:** *www.cars4charities.org.*
- **Help in Crisis International Inc.:** *www.helpincrisis.org.*
- **The Home for Little Wanderers:** *www.thehome.org.*
- **The National Kidney Foundation:** *www.kidney.org.*
- **The New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans:** *www.neshv.org.*
- **Salvation Army:** *www.salvationarmy-ma.org.*
- **Special Olympics Massachusetts:** *www.recycleforgold.org.*
- **Volunteers of America of Massachusetts:** *www.voamass.org.*

CELL PHONES

- **Staples** takes cell phones, personal digital assistants and pagers (with their batteries and chargers) and refurbishes them to sell at affordable prices to people living in developing countries (usually Latin America or the Caribbean)—in many cases offering a family its first modern communication system. A portion of the proceeds from the sale benefits the Sierra Club, which uses the funds for environmental education and conservation programs. Drop boxes are located at all Staples locations. *www.staples.com.*
- **Verizon Wireless** sponsors the HopeLine wireless phone recycling program. The company works with a vendor who either refurbishes or recycles phones of any carrier, make or model. Verizon donates some of the refurbished phones (as well as calling time) to victims of domestic violence. Others are sold by the vendor, and a portion of the proceeds goes to domestic violence shelters. Drop off phones at all Verizon Wireless stores. *www.verizonwireless.com.*

- **The Wireless Foundation's Donate a Phone program** collects and resells used wireless phones (as an economical alternative to a new phone) to raise funds for a variety of charities. Some donated phones are refurbished to serve as lifelines for domestic violence victims. Drop off phones at Franklin Covey and Wireless Zone stores in Boston and Cambridge. *www.wirelessfoundation.org*.

CLOTHING

Most shelters accept a wide range of clothing and accessories. Wish lists include belts, backpacks, baseball caps, umbrellas, suitcases and linens. Warm clothing (including coats, hats, gloves and boots) and large sizes are especially in demand. Most of the organizations listed below also accept unused toiletries, including soap, deodorant, shampoo and toothbrushes. If you travel often and stay at hotels, remember that you can donate the sample-size toiletries that often collect in the bathroom at home.

- **Big Brother Big Sister Foundation.** Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Clothing is sold in bulk to secondhand stores to raise money to support the mentoring programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Drop box at Stop & Shop, 60 Everett St., Allston. Call for curbside pickup: 800-483-5503. See Web site for additional drop box locations: *www.bbbsfoundation.org*.
- **Bread & Jams Inc.** Desired items: clothing for men. Clothing is distributed to at-risk and homeless people. 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Drop-off hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm. 617-441-3831. *www.breadandjams.org*.
- **Epilepsy Foundation.** Call for curbside pickup. Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Proceeds from the sale of clothing to secondhand stores support the foundation's epilepsy awareness and education programs. 617-436-6283. *www.epilepsymassri.org*.
- **Goodwill Industries.** Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Donations are sold in 1,900 Goodwill retail stores across North America. Proceeds go to career and job training services for handicapped and low-income people. Clothing donation centers are also located at all Zoots dry cleaners. 1010 Harrison Ave., Boston. Mon.-Sat., 8 am-4 pm. 617-445-1010. *www.goodwillmass.org*.
- **The Home for Little Wanderers.** Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Proceeds from the sale of the clothing at the Thrift Shop of Boston benefit the Home for Little Wanderers, a child welfare agency. 17 Corinth St., Roslindale. Drop-off hours: Mon., Wed. and Sat., 9:30 am-4 pm. 617-325-5300. *www.thehome.org*.
- **On the Rise.** Desired items: women's clothing. Donations go directly to homeless women in Cambridge. 341 Broadway, Cambridge. Mon.-Fri, 9 am-5 pm; Sat. 8 am-4 pm. 617-497-7968. *www.ontherise.org*.
- **Pine Street Inn.** The Pine Street Inn no longer accepts clothing donations. However, the organization needs gently worn shoes of all types, which are given directly to the homeless. 444 Harrison Ave., Boston. 617-482-4944. *www.pinestreetinn.org*.
- **Planet Aid.** Drop boxes located around Boston. Call for locations. Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Donations are sold in secondhand/vintage stores in Boston and Cambridge. Proceeds fund programs in Latin America, Africa and Asia, with the bulk of the revenue going to health education and AIDS prevention programs in sub-Saharan Africa. 508-893-0644. *www.planetaid.org*.
- **Red Cross.** Drop-off bins located in Boston and Cambridge. Call for locations. Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Proceeds from the sale of the clothes to a local vendor benefit Boston-area programs and services, including hunger and disaster relief. 285 Columbus Ave., Boston. 617-375-0700, ext. 277. *www.bostonredcross.org/donate/clothing.cfm*.
- **Rosie's Place.** Desired items: women's and children's clothing. Donations go directly to local women and their children who visit or stay at Rosie's Place. 889 Harrison Ave., Boston. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Sat. and Sun., 9-11 am. 617-442-9322. *www.rosies.org*.
- **Salvation Army.** Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Donated items are distributed to Salvation Army Thrift Stores or given directly to those in need. Proceeds from the sale of donated goods fund residential alcohol and drug treatment programs. 147 Berkeley St., Boston. Mon.-Thu., 8:30 am-4 pm. 617-542-5420. Call 800-958-7825 for pickup. *www.salvationarmy-ma.org*.
- **Society of St. Vincent De Paul.** Desired items: clothing for men, women and children. Clothing is sold in this Catholic lay organization's thrift stores around the state or given directly to needy families. 1524 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury. 800-820-7837. See Web site for drop box and retail store locations: *www.svdpboston.com*.
- **Solutions at Work.** Desired items: children's clothing and toys (both new and used), baby equipment (such as cribs and car seats) and diapers. The organization provides transitional employment and household goods to help homeless people get back on their feet. Children's clothing accepted at Grace United Methodist Church, 56 Magazine St., Cambridge. Drop-off hours: Tue., Wed. and Thu., 10 am-4 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 617-576-0039. To donate all other items, call 617-492-0300.
- **St. Francis House.** Desired items: clothing for men and women. Donations benefit the homeless men and women who visit this nonsectarian daytime shelter. 39 Boylston St., Boston. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-4 pm; Sat.-Sun., 8:30 am-1:30 pm. 617-542-4211. *www.stfrancishouse.org*.

COMPUTERS

Several local organizations take donations of working computers. Most organizations test the computer (to make sure it works) before accepting it.

- **Cambridge Chamber of Commerce.** Call to arrange a pickup. Desired items: new or used computers and accessories. Refurbished computers go to public schools, nonprofit organizations and charities in Cambridge. 859 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. 617-876-4100. *www.cambridgechamber.org*.
- **TecsChange.** Call before dropping off equipment. Desired items: any computer-related equipment, including Pentium III (minimum) desktop computers, laptop computers with at least 24 MB of memory, 17-inch monitors and small laser printers. Donated equipment is used in TecsChange's computer repair courses for people who can't afford to purchase new computers. Each student works on several computers, learning about repair and maintenance. Upon graduation, each student gets to take home a computer. TecsChange also provides recycled computers, services of skilled volunteers and computer training to local nonprofit groups. 83 Highland St., Roxbury. 617-442-4456. *www.tecschange.org*.

EYEGLASSES

Several eyeglasses retailers accept donations of used prescription and nonprescription eyeglasses to distribute to the needy.

- **LensCrafters** recycles and hand-delivers glasses to local communities and developing countries as part of its Gift of Sight program. Stores are located in Boston, Cambridge and Brookline. 800-533-5367. *www.lenscrafters.com*.
- **Pearle Vision** supports New Eyes for the Needy, which ships eyeglasses to more than 25 developing nations. Stores are located in Boston, Somerville and Chestnut Hill. 617-523-7400. *www.pearlevision.com*.

HAIR

Ladies, if you've got long, luscious locks down to your waist, you can donate your hair to Locks of Love, a nonprofit that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. The following salons work with the organization, sponsoring hair drives and offering free haircuts. Hair must measure at least 10 inches long from the nape of the neck.

- **Dekwa Elements of Hair,** 132 Newbury St., Fourth Floor, Boston. 617-236-8081. Ongoing. Free.
- **Dellaria Salon,** 78 Summer St., Boston. 617-350-7868; 73 Newbury St., Boston. 617-267-5100. Ongoing. Free.
- **Hair West,** 558 Washington St., Wellesley. 781-237-3993. Wed., 10 am-8 pm. Free.

KITCHENWARE AND APPLIANCES

The following organizations take small to midsize kitchen appliances, pots and pans, dishes (packed for moving), glasses and utensils. Some even take refrigerators, washers, dryers and portable dishwashers if they're in working condition and less than five years old. Depending on the organization, the goods are either distributed directly to the homeless or sold to local thrift shops for profit. (See addresses for all of the following under the Clothing section.)

- **Big Brother Big Sister Foundation.** In addition to the above, BBBS also accepts clean furniture in good repair. *www.bbbsfoundation.org*.
- **Epilepsy Foundation.** Also accepts small furniture in good repair. *www.epilepsymassri.org*.
- **Goodwill Industries, Inc.** Also accepts small furniture in good repair. Mon.-Sat., 8 am-4 pm. *www.goodwillmass.org*.
- **The Home for Little Wanderers.** Also accepts clean furniture in good repair. *www.thehome.org*.
- **On the Rise.** *www.ontherise.org*.
- **Salvation Army.** Not currently accepting small appliances, but household furniture in good condition is needed. *www.salvationarmy-ma.org*.
- **Society of St. Vincent De Paul.** Also accepts clean furniture in good repair. *www.svdpboston.com*.
- **Solutions at Work.** Call for appointment: 617-492-0300. *www.solutionsatwork.org*.

WOMEN'S SUITS

Donate new or nearly new and cleaned interview-appropriate skirt and pant suits, blouses, blazers, jackets and professional shoes for women. Larger sizes are preferred.

- **Dress for Success.** Provides interview suits, encouragement and career development for low-income women. 20 Birch St., Roslindale Village. (617-323-7544). *www.dressforsuccess.org*. iB

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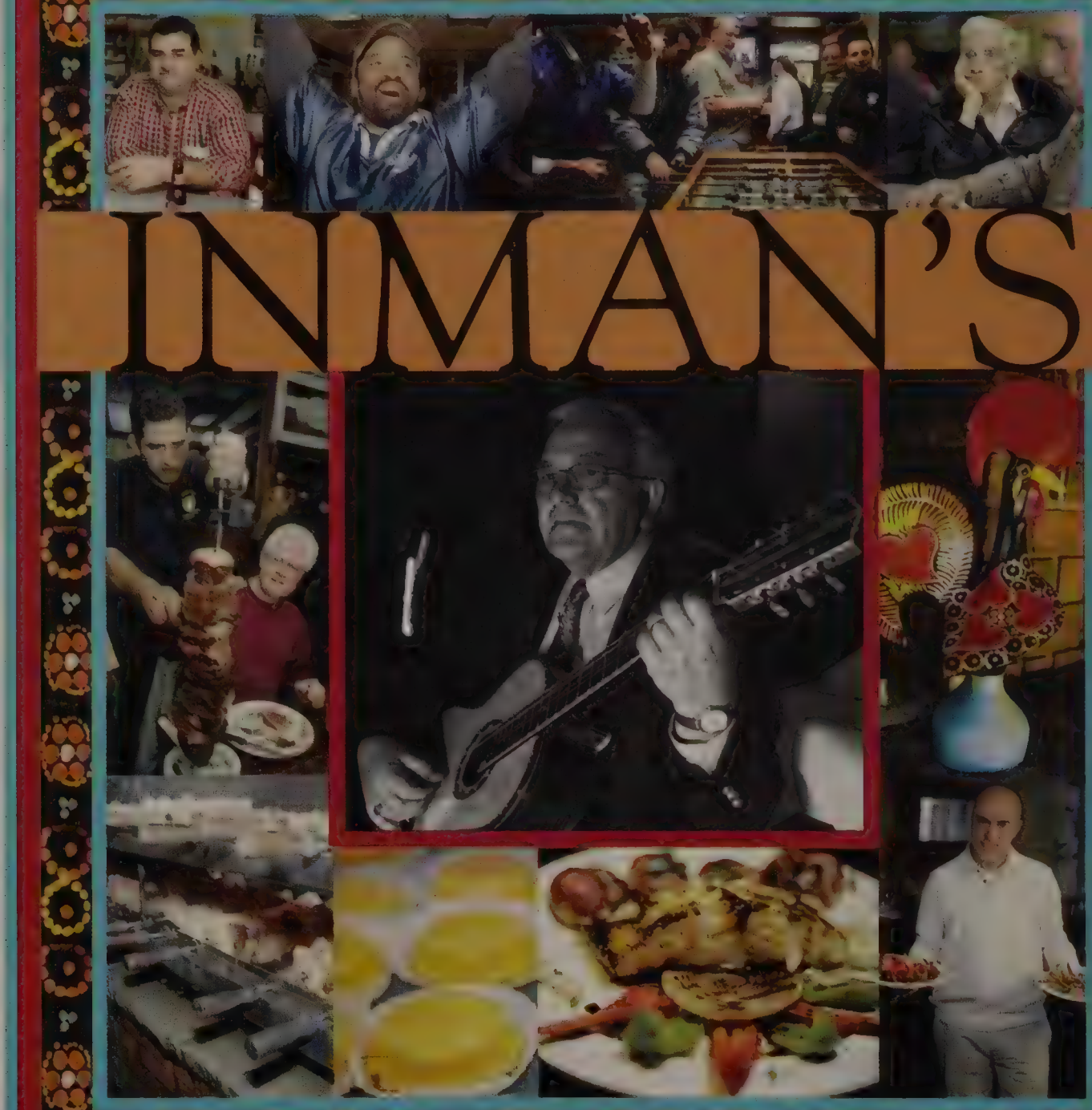

INMAN'S INNER BEAUTY

Inside the shops and restaurants of this Portuguese-speaking community, there's an exotic world waiting to be explored.

BY MICHAEL FREIDSON

PHOTOGRAPHED BY LISA DRAGANI

Top row: The Faialense Sports Club is a neighborhood center of activity.

Other photos, clockwise from center right: a rooster at Atasca; Atasca owner Joe Cerqueira; a seafood dish at Atasca; goodies at Casal Bakery; meat roasting at the Midwest Grill; a waiter serves up the Midwest's rotating barbecue; a guitarist entertains at the Sunset Café.

The Portuguese-speaking community of Inman Square is hidden in the most existential sense of the word—even when you're there, you don't know *it's* there. Lining Cambridge Street, and including the area north of that street and east of Prospect Street (and lately, spilling over into Somerville), the neighborhood is nondescript: working-class, few visible tourists, hardly any Portuguese or Brazilian flags fluttering outside. Some sidewalk renovation work means construction everywhere. Exhaust from MBTA buses dissipates in the air. Pug-faced old men stand against gray, decades-old storefronts. In many ways, it's the urban version of Anytown, USA.

While it's hardly a tourist destination, there are regular visitors who make this neighborhood part of their Boston itinerary. Walk inside a restaurant or store and you'll see why: Friendly natives speak in an exotic tongue, carving hocks of meat and downing purple potions imported from the Amazon. Portuguese and Brazilians sit side-by-side, talking—that is, when they're not visiting Saint Anthon Church or feasting at one another's restaurants. Inside: ba chanalia and warmth. Outside: boring milieu. It explai why this area doesn't have the notoriety of more conce trated neighborhoods like Chinatown or the North En And with few signs overtly touting ethnicity, it's sometim hard to tell a Portuguese restaurant from a common din "Portuguese people are not the type to promote ther selves," says Maria Cerqueira, who, with her husband, Jo runs three area restaurants. "We're very down-to-earth a humble—unless we have a few glasses of wine."

Vinho verde, a fruity, naturally sparkling beverage, just one reason to visit a neighborhood filled with hea food (like traditional fish stew), a growing nightlife (wi a few old-school hangouts) and kindly natives happy give newcomers some attention.

There are about 200,000 Brazilians, Portuguese a Cape Verdeans in the Greater Boston area, and Ca bridge is their "hub," according to the Massachusetts A

ance of Portuguese Speakers, a group that helps new immigrants settle in. Portuguese immigrants headed to Cambridge in the 1950s, escaping a dictatorship and a ad economy. They continued to come until the economy back home improved during the past decade. Now hey've been joined in the neighborhood by Brazilians nd Cape Verdeans fleeing their own troubled lands.

It's a solid community that shares a language yet remains iverse. "You don't end up with a Chinatown or Little Italy feeling] because this community was never made that vay," says Cambridge mayor Michael Sullivan, who's been ating in the area all his life. "Inman Square was originally rish, then Italian, then Portuguese and now Brazilian."

The latter two ethnicities have made the 'hood their wn. In a few short blocks, you'll find Portuguese and razilian travel agencies; grocery stores featuring quince am and jars of mackerel in hot sauce; bakeries; hair sa-ons; video and CD shops; bars; clubs; clothing huts and public library where you can read works by contempo-ary Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho (or by Danielle teel) in Portuguese.

It's a bounty—and a little overwhelming for a visitor. t's easy to see why, when lucky outsiders first discover the ommunity, they head straight for the restaurants. The rea hosts more than 15 eateries serving either Por-uguese or Brazilian cuisine, and these offer a tasty intro-uction to the cultures.

Though the two cuisines are similar, there are important ifferences. Since Portugal is mainly coastal, many dishes re seafood-based. Brazilian dishes, with their origins in cat-e country, offer more meat and sausage—with Portuguese pices, but also palm oil and coconut flavoring, ingredients ontributed by the African slaves who populated Brazil dur-ng the Portuguese colonization in the 1800s.

The most popular Portuguese restaurant among visitors o the neighborhood is Atasca, if only because there are wo locations (50 Hampshire St. and 279A Broadway). oe and Maria Cerqueira own both plus a café, O'Can-nho (1128 Cambridge St.). At Atasca, you'll find earty seafood dishes, like *carangejos moles à lgarvia*—soft-shell crabs sauteed with almonds, white ine and garlic—and *arroz de marisco à Valenciana*, a itchen-sink special that includes lobster, shrimp, mus-els, clams, squid, pork, linguiça and chicken cooked ith saffron rice. A meal there averages $27. The café, more affordable option, offers lighter fare like ham ndwiches ($4.95), but also serves classics, including *fe com ovo*, steak with a fried egg on top ($10.95).

Born in Portugal, the Cerqueiras met in Boston in 980, when he was a waiter and she worked at Blue ross Blue Shield. Three years later, they married at aint Anthony's; 10 years later, they opened the roadway Atasca, which they designed to look like ome, with warm lighting, green walls and *azulejos*, hite tiles painted with blue scenes of farmers and fish.

Now, the duo are fixtures in the community, shaking ands with everyone from the local architect to the ailman. "The neighborhood is so different now," says laria Cerqueira, who moved here at age 4. "Growing p on [Cambridge's] Tremont Street was very tough. Ve spoke Portuguese in the house but not outside. It as very racial; some other kids would make fun. We idn't have all these Portuguese vendors."

"It was a different world back then. The attitude to-ard immigrants has changed," agrees David Castan-eira, owner of the neighboring Sunset Café (851–857 Cambridge St.). He bought the long-running restau-ant/bar from his father in 1988, and now the place is nown for live *lado* music on Friday and Saturday ights—usually, a guitarist and two viola players strum ld-world tunes that sound like the perfect title-credits usic to a bouncy foreign romance. The dreamy at-mosphere goes well with impress-your-date specialties like the Sunset cod ($16.95), a barbecued-fish and potato dish that's as filling as a steak. (Try it with a glass of vinho verde.) "There are a few new restaurants these days, and I hope we can all attract a younger audience," says Castanheira. "My bar is full of regulars. It's a neighborhood place, but we're always trying to attract new customers."

Sunset, like Portugalia (723 Cambridge St.) and Casa Portugal (1200 Cambridge St.), hearkens back to an older era. And the newer, Brazilian restaurants fit right in. One of the finest is Muqueca (1093 Cambridge St.), a small, homey, mostly undecorated café named after one of its dishes, a light fish stew cooked in a clay pot (with cilantro, tomato, onions and annatto, a natural muddy coloring) and served piping hot over rice ($9.95). Owners Antonio and Fafa Gomes import red snapper and hearts of palm from Brazil, as well as exotic juices made from the cashew fruit and *açai* (pronounced "aah-sigh-ee"), a purple berry from the Amazon that's believed to be full of vitamins and anti-oxidants. It's also rumored to boost your sex drive, which may explain why the thong is so popular in Brazil.

"People usually come here, see what other people are eating, start chatting," says Gomes, who lives in the back. "They're curious about these dishes."

Across the street, at the Brazilian Midwest Grill (1124 Cambridge St.), speeding waiters crisscross the dining room, carrying eight pounds of meat on a sword—they slice off an order at the diner's table before rushing back to the grill. "It's always hot," says co-owner Gilmar Pinto of the *churrasco rodizio*, or rotating barbecue ($16.95 before 4 pm; $21.96 after), which includes pork loin, chicken, chicken hearts, sirloin, lamb and two types of sausage. "People start to laugh because it looks like too much. They make fun of each other, especially the first time. Some people eat for two hours. And sometimes they say they're not going to eat for three days."

Casal Bakery sells coconut cake and other treats.

Pinto, born in Brazil, opened the restaurant in 1993 and says his Portuguese neighbors have always been friendly. "We speak the same language. It's like we're brothers."

"The culture is very similar," says Joe Cerqueira. "It's not a contest."

Those warm-and-fuzzy feelings were best illustrated six months ago, when the Portuguese owner of the Casal Bakery (1075 Cambridge St.) sold his business to Brazilian Daniel Lopes. The 28-year-old institution is where many locals buy their beloved Portuguese bread, a sugary, thick round loaf so firm it's often served with soup—as the bowl. "In the beginning, some customers left because of the owner change," says Lopes, who hardly changed the recipes. "But many came back to buy the bread when they found out it's similar to what it was before."

It's after dinner that you notice the biggest difference between the two cultures: The Brazilians party harder. At Portugalia's bar, which caters to the Portuguese, old-timers chat about the old days. Portuguese folks also hang at the Faialense Sports Club (1121 Cambridge St.), a members-only joint that's representative of the patrons' idea of a good time: For $30 a year, you can come in, drink beer and watch soccer games on the big-screen TV in a brightly lit room. "Anyone can join," says the club's president, though on a recent visit it was filled solely with Portuguese-speaking men over 50. If you really want to study the community—or learn a few Portuguese swear words—watch a game with these guys.

But if you want to dance, you can walk a few blocks to Somerville's Union Square, where the Toast Lounge (70 Union Square) represents the community's expansion beyond the Cambridge border. The first thing you'll see: a Brazilian flag hanging outside the club. The second thing you'll see: attractive, young Brazilian men and women in their mid-20s, wearing tight jeans, tank tops and sunglasses, forgetting they ever left Rio.

Nights like that could catch on with a diverse crowd—at Toast's opening night in October, people of all ethnic backgrounds joined the Brazilians on the dance floor. But so far, only a few businesses in the Portuguese-speaking community consistently attract patrons from beyond the neighborhood. Neither Inman nor Union Square has its own T stop. O'Cantinho and the Midwest Grill are close to other Inman Square businesses—big draws like the S&S Deli, Christina's Homemade Ice Cream and the East Coast Grill—and benefit from the location. But move east, down Cambridge Street, and you'll find some places that are still mostly locals-only. "It's tough being out here," says Sunset's Castanheira. "We've tried every coupon deal you can think of. No one wants to walk down."

If you do explore the 'hood, it's worth the effort. This visitor had *moqueca* at Muqueca; struck up a breezy conversation with a fellow diner, Rafael DaSilva, a 22-year-old Brazilian student who eats there because "it's my food"; and then took a tour of the Cambridge Public Library (826 Cambridge St.) where "ethnic librarian" Ana Morais hosts reading groups in Portuguese for an adjoining children's day school. Inman Square may be a behind-closed-doors community, but those doors are easy to open.

Paulo Pinto, executive director of the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, has his corner office right on Cambridge Street. Every day, he watches his neighborhood's progress, searching for new faces. "You have people coming from all over the place, but it's still a lot of locals," he says. "They're hanging out, having coffee and talking. The other day, I went to buy paint and all of a sudden, I'm exchanging business cards. It's a neighborhood, really. And it would be cool to have other people come." **iB**

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THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING AND THE ANNUAL GIFT DILEMMA IS LOOMING. As you consider gift items such as the latest high-tech gadgets, home accessories or fashion, think twice. Don't fall for fleeting trends; consider a gift of lasting value, style and sentiment: diamond jewelry.

For centuries, diamonds have been a cherished gift and a universal symbol of love and devotion. Diamonds, though, represent much more than tradition, these sparkling gems are a personal expression of style.

The latest diamond jewelry designs reflect today's fashion, culture and lifestyle. From elegant three-stone pendants to right hand rings with a "wow" factor, there are diamond jewels to suit every woman's style.

Moreover, diamonds are a natural gift made of pure carbon formed within the earth millions of years ago. They reveal a sparkling, ethereal beauty and at the same time are the hardest natural substance known to man. In fact, the name diamond comes from the Greek word "adamas," meaning unconquerable. Since they were first discovered in India over 4,000 years ago, diamonds have captivated man with their inherent strength and scintillating brilliance.

While diamonds are being redefined in innovative and modern ways, they will always signify classic luxury.

Isn't It Romantic?

One of the hottest gifts is *Three-Stone Diamond Jewelry*, a romantic notion that symbolizes a couple's past, present and future. Not surprisingly, the three-stone diamond ring is a popular anniversary gift. *Three-Stone Diamond Jewelry* combines three diamonds of the same shape such as round brilliant, oval or emerald cuts. For a more unique look consider a larger center diamond flanked by trapezoid or shield cut diamonds.

Three-Stone Diamond Jewelry reflects a classic simplicity in diamond drop earrings or elegant pendant necklaces with diamonds cascading down the décolletage. Even celebrities such as Gwyneth Paltrow, Madonna, Sharon Stone and Sarah Jessica Parker have been spotted wearing *Three Stone Diamond Jewelry*. Decidedly feminine and romantic, *Three-Stone Diamond Jewelry* is an ideal way to express your love this holiday season.

Classic Cool

Every well-heeled woman needs a wardrobe of basic diamond jewelry such as stud earrings, a pendant necklace and a diamond line bracelet. Classic diamond designs add a touch of luxury to everything from jeans and a T-shirt to eveningwear.

Clearly, women are opting for comfort and convenience more than ever, and classic diamond jewelry has that no-fuss attitude. They are a must-have any season, which makes simple diamond jewels an easy gift item for women of any age or attitude.

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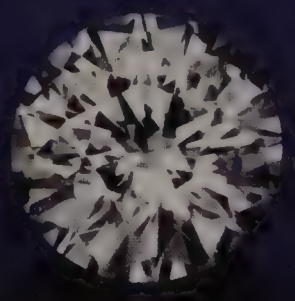

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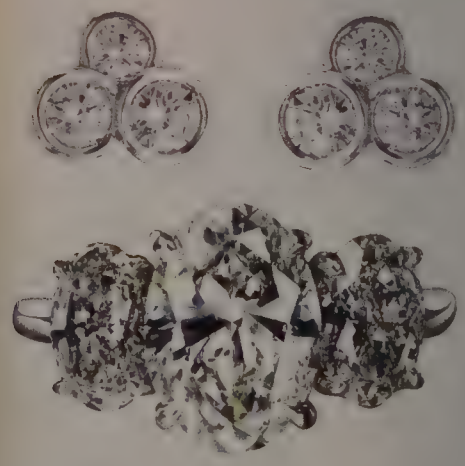
princess-cut diamond stud earrings with a matching necklace. Another hot item is the diamond line bracelet available in a wide range of diamond shapes and sizes.

The *Right* Idea

For those with a fashionable edge, the *Diamond Right Hand Ring* is the ultimate holiday gift. For centuries, the ring on your left hand has symbolized your love and relationship. Now, women are discovering a wealth of beautiful diamond ring designs for their right hand, giving them a vibrant new means to express their own unique style and personality.

Celebrities are flaunting large, striking *Diamond Right Hand Rings* as a bold expression of style and luxury. What's more, top fashion houses such as Christian Dior and Chanel have created



their own signature versions of the *Diamond Right Hand Ring* designed specifically for the modern, independent woman.

With an incredible range of inspiration, from organic to spiritual to contemporary art and architecture, there is sure to be a *Diamond Right Hand Ring* for every woman this holiday season.

A Cut Above

Innovative new diamond cuts are for consumers looking to express their individuality. Increasingly, diamantaires are developing their own innovative diamond cuts, giving couples an opportunity to personalize their jewelry. Diamond cuts like the Leo, Elara and Ashoka, as well as branded diamonds such as Rand are among the numerous "signature" diamonds with a novel concept. Plus, many name brand diamonds are laser-inscribed with a signature that is invisible to the naked eye, thus ensuring the authenticity of the gem.

The Ashoka, for instance, presents a distinctive image in its oblong shape with faceted corners. The Elara is a square-shape with cut corners. The Leo Diamond is a 66-faceted stone designed to maximize light refraction and reflection. The Rand comes with a Provenance Report, which tracks the diamond from the mine to cutting room to ensure its country of origin. Each Rand Diamond owner is given the report with their individual diamond, which is cut to specific proportions to ensure the utmost sparkle and brilliance.

The Royal Asscher is a modern version of the authentic Asscher diamond that was popular prior to World War II. The Asscher family partnered with M. Fabrikant, one the largest American diamond companies, to reintroduce the diamond. This square-shape diamond, considered a precursor to the emerald cut, is a step-cut with 74 facets and a high crown to create an understated elegance.

Shop Smart

Did you ever wonder why diamonds of similar size can vary significantly in price? No doubt, shopping for diamond jewelry can be confusing, but with a little knowledge, consumers can confidently shop for diamond jewelry within a budget and still get the "wow" factor.

A great place to get started is browsing reputable Internet sites such as **www.adiamondisforever.com** for a wide overview of designs and prices. In fact, the Design Gallery presents hundreds of

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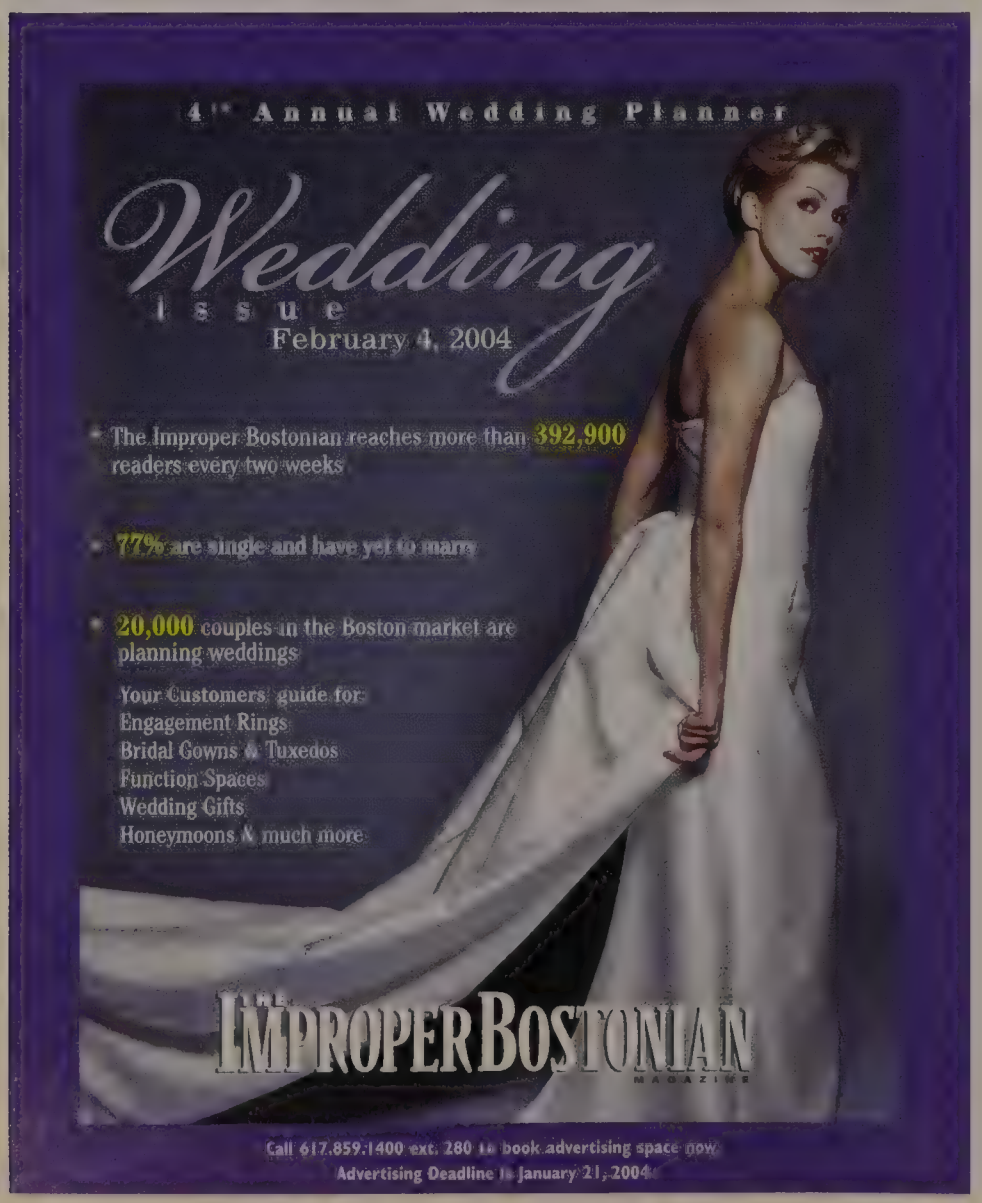

diamond designs from world-class manufacturers and designers along with referrals to nearby retailers who carry the pieces. Among the site's most popular features is the "Design Your Own Ring," which gives consumers the ability to customize either a Three-Stone Diamond ring or Engagement ring with their choice of center diamond, side stones, in gold or platinum.

Once you familiarize yourself with a wide variety of styles and prices, it's important to learn the famous Four C's – Cut, Color, Clarity and Carat Weight – the industry standard for evaluating a diamond's unique characteristics to determine its value.

Cut: In the hands of a skilled diamond cutter, a rough diamond is transformed into a sparkling jewel. Traditional diamond cuts, such as the Round Brilliant, are cut proportionately with 58 facets that reflect and refract light through the diamond to unleash its fiery brilliance. It is the quality of a diamond's cutting proportions, angles, symmetry and finish that give it brilliance, sparkle and the spectral display of rainbow colors that dance across the diamond's facets.

Color: Most diamonds appear white yet nearly all have slight traces of yellow, brown or gray color. The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) color grading scale is an alphabetical scale beginning with the letter D, representing an absolutely colorless diamond, descending alphabetically to the letter Z. The color grades of D, E and F are rare and command top dollar. However, the untrained eye may not be able to tell the difference between diamonds in the D to H grades. Beyond the Z grade, yellow diamonds fall into the "fancy color" category.

Clarity: When light enters a diamond, it is reflected and refracted out. If there is anything disrupting the flow of light in the diamond, such as an inclusion, a proportion of light will be lost. As a result, brilliance could be diminished. Inclusions, which are sometimes referred to as "nature's fingerprints," are usually not visible to the naked eye unless magnified. Inclusions are ranked on a scale of perfection, known as clarity, which was established by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). The clarity scale, ranging from Flawless to Included is based on the visibility of inclusions at a magnification of 10X. A Flawless diamond is exceptionally rare and valuable. After Flawless, the clarity scale ranges from VVS (very very slightly included) down through the I grades (included).

Carat: The metric carat is the standard unit of weight used for gemstones: One carat weighs 0.200 grams. Some jewelers refer to diamonds using points: 100 points is equal to one carat.

Take note: Recent surveys show that most women say bigger is better when it comes to diamond jewelry. You may decide to compromise slightly on the clarity or color of a stone to get a larger diamond within your budget.

Above all, when it comes to diamond jewelry, buy what you love. A diamond is a gift that will be cherished for its heritage, inherent worth as a precious gem and its sentimental value. You can't go wrong with a gift of diamonds this holiday season.◆

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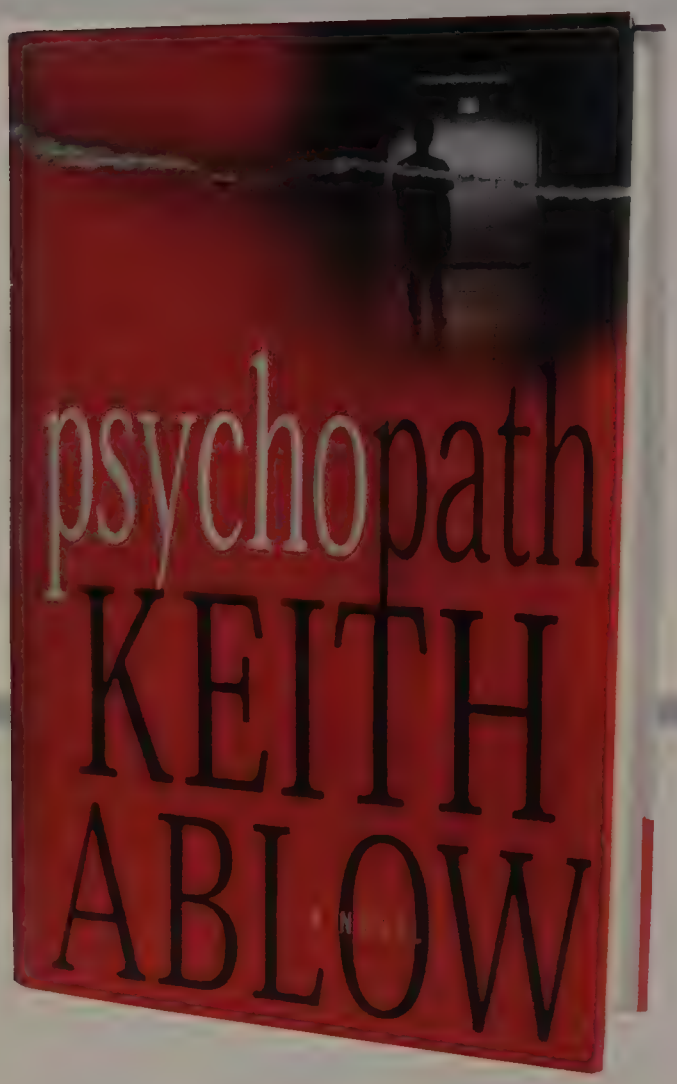
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



DR. KILLER THRILLER

Keith Ablow, author of the Frank Clevenger mystery series, is a former IMPROPER columnist.

It's one of those delicious truths that, at least sometimes, just a fine glinting line separates sanity and madness. In Keith Ablow's latest novel, *Psychopath*, the treader of that line is a psychiatrist, Jonah Wrens, who is also a serial killer. Jonah is being pursued by another psychiatrist, Frank Clevenger, hired by the FBI. Cranking up the scintillation another notch—writer Ablow is himself a forensic psychiatrist. Oh, those shrinks! Jonah happens to radiate some kind of intuitive, receptive aura that makes his patients—and his upcoming, unwitting human roadkill—feel safe, understood, listened to. As he stalks his prey, he and Frank engage in an out-on-a-limb mutual therapy of sorts, writing each other letters, in deep, dark brooding tones, that are printed on Page 1 of the *New York Times*. They challenge each other with swirling theories full of wild psychoanalytic speculations about trauma and passion. That old devil, the unconscious, spits up its irrational contents. Each man speculates about the symbolic meanings of the murders, but the saner Frank is equally on the hot seat, made hotter by the fact that he's dealing with a drug-addicted adopted son. It's an unsettling, exciting ride.

LUCKY LITTLE CONSIGNMENT GIRL

Poor Little Rich Girl, at 416 Highland Ave. in Davis Square, Somerville, is a fancy consignment shop run by Meredith Byam. Open Mon.-Sat., 12-7 pm, and Sun., 12-6 pm. Call 617-684-0157.

From the outside, this shop looks like an attractive venue for new clothes. But inside lie the joyous treasures and plunder of a well-bred consignment shop. Recently, owner Meredith Byam scored a huge haul from Birke's, a famous department store in Lowell. Never-worn clothes bear fading price tags from the 1940s through the '60s. There are coats, scooter dresses with cute little shorts and lounging gowns that are the fashion equivalents of Dorian Gray. You'll also find solid coats, often heroically double-breasted, brightly colored or plaid, with pleats, flares, belts, furry collars and starbursts on the back. Old movies and Jackie O. come to mind. Some items tip toward the rarified end, with jolts of Versace, Dolce & Gabbana and Marc Jacobs. One pair of Manolo Blahnik shoes still sports an original price tag of $1,900—talk about diamonds in the soles! (They're much cheaper now.) More often, though, it's contemporary clothes—a pretty pink cuffed suit, an intricately patterned Scandinavian sweater, a short, sparkly patterned black dress for dancing and lots of jeans (actually used but looking new).

TRAVEL FIRST-CLASS BY COACH

Arena Group is a results-oriented coaching service in Cambridge, for individuals and companies. Clients can get one month of weekly half-hour phone sessions for a price similar to therapy. Participants can opt for a weekly fax supporting their goals, or check-ins with a coach between sessions. Call 617-491-2661 or visit www.arenacoaching.com.

First what Arena Group is not: Its consultants are not "fluffy" coaches, and they assiduously avoid creating the sticky dependency that in therapy is called transference. Nor do they purport to motivate you with pie in some distant sky. Putting the cart before the horse, in a sense, they help clients crystallize goals, thereby creating the desire to reach those goals. With zest, warmth and an exhilarating just-do-it kick, Bet Mac - Arthur and Lynda Hill, with their respective backgrounds in therapy and business, help you first identify that single get-going action that will get you moving toward some postponed, feared or even much-desired goal. Like crowds funneling into a gate, the swirl of intentions, avoidances and information is brought to bear on that one pure thing. The long-delayed thesis, the paralyzing bills, the itchily considered geographical or career move, the hard-to-find windows of family time—these are distilled down to goals with firm deadlines. Clients' learning styles and values are considered, but participants should be ready to accept the cutting-room floor sacrifices and trade-offs that are often necessitated by new decisions and priorities.

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REVIEW

FLIGHT OF FANCY

Chef/owner Tim Partridge finds a bigger nest for Perdix in the South End

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Talented chef Tim Partridge first attracted attention among the city's foodies with his tiny restaurant on Centre Street in Jamaica Plain. When he and his former manager at that enterprise, Krista Kranyak, parted company several months ago, Kranyak stayed at the JP location (which she turned into Ten Tables, reviewed in this space eight months ago). Partridge kept the name, Perdix, and applied it to his new restaurant on Tremont Street.

The new Perdix is located in the space of the former Truc, a restaurant that had a long and successful run under Corinna Mozo, and a shorter but no less distinguished tenure under her successor, Philip Wang. Hence, in addition to venturing into the competitive South End dining scene, Partridge has large shoes to fill. So far, he has succeeded admirably. Perdix's limited menu and nightly specials provide a good range of tastefully conceived and well-executed dishes.

From the half dozen appetizer selections, I tried the grilled figs with arugula, prosciutto, Parmesan and blood orange vinaigrette ($9). Notwithstanding the chill in the late autumn air, this warm-weather dish delighted with the taste and texture contrasts provided by sweet, coarse-textured figs; pleasantly bitter, tender arugula; smoky-salty, crisp prosciutto; creamy-sweet Parmesan cheese; and citrusy vinaigrette. More suited to the cold weather were the braised short ribs with maple and sage ($9). This dish, with its in-your-face robustness, came bathed in a dark sauce rendered from the braising liquid and spiked with maple. As testimony to its fall-off-the-bone tenderness, it was served without the bone.

A special appetizer one evening, a duck confit salad ($10), featured shredded duck confit, with fresh chicory and preserved dark cherries. The savory flavor of the duck met my expectations, and its dry texture was rescued by the moistness of a well-balanced vinaigrette. The only real disappointment among the appetizers was the mussels with white wine, garlic and tomatoes ($10). While I applauded their presentation—in an attractive white bowl with an identical bowl inverted as a cover to retain the heat and serve as a receptacle for the shells—the mussels' flavor ranged from bland to ripe, and the insipid broth added nothing.

Poached sole à la nage with tomato, caperberries, Swiss chard and fingerling potatoes

PERDIX
560 Tremont St., Boston
(617-338-8070)

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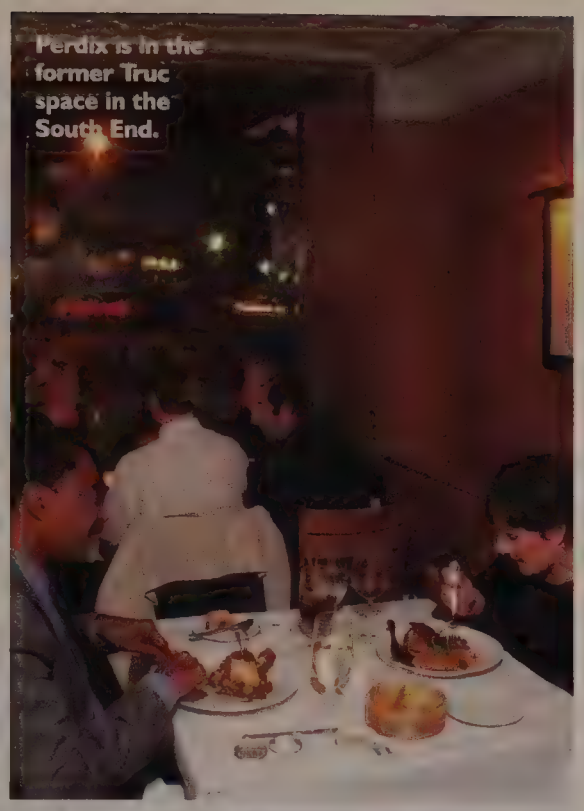
Listed main courses, also six in number, included a superb roasted monkfish with French lentils, brown butter cauliflower and sweet garlic gremolata ($21). This underappreciated fish, sometimes called mock lobster because of its texture, takes particularly well to roasting, which preserves that texture. In Perdix's preparation, the roasting had the added benefit of mellowing the garlic and browning the butter that coated the toothsome, al dente cauliflower florettes. Green apple and smoked cheddar stuffed chicken ($19) came with crisp skin, succulent flesh and a marvelous assortment of garnishes including wild rice, currants, pecans and hearty chunks of earthy carrots. The cheddar and apple stuffing married compatible tastes that enhanced the first-rate flavor of the chicken without overwhelming it.

Cornmeal fried scallops with butternut squash, bacon and bourbon cream ($22) yielded a generous mound of cape scallops—midway in size between tiny bay and large sea scallops—that had been lightly breaded and quickly fried, sealing in their sweet goodness and preserving their tenderness. The soft butternut squash, cut into bite-size cubes, provided a felicitous counterpoint to a garnish of mild, slightly resilient blanched fennel. Pork has made its way onto the menus of almost all of Boston's serious restaurants, and Perdix's roast pork chop with vanilla-whipped sweet potato, port-soaked prunes, endive and walnuts belongs in the upper ranks of area pork dishes. A hefty double rib, a good two inches thick, it had been partially sliced away from the bone. With its remarkably tender flesh, the result, no doubt, of a long soak in a marinade or more likely brine, the pork had the kind of flavor that evoked fond memories of Sunday dinner at home. The sweet potatoes, with their hauntingly delicious infusion of vanilla, were whipped to a smooth puree. Sliced endive, sugared walnuts and plump prunes, drunk on port, added to this kaleidoscope of flavors and textures. This was an extraordinary dish.

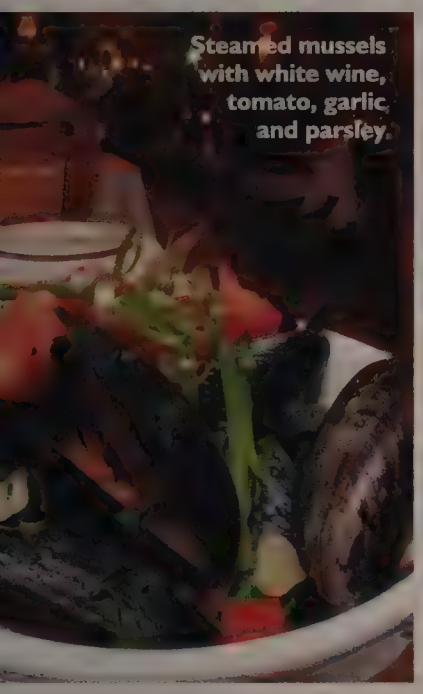
For a small restaurant, Perdix has a well-constructed wine list that includes some interesting and infrequently encountered wines and a number of good values. A glass of Vernaccia ($6), a well-balanced, medium-bodied white from Tuscany—it is the only white grape variety grown in that region—went splendidly with seafood, while a glass of Chinon ($6), a red from the Loire Valley—usually associated solely with white wines—complimented the pork. A bottle of Chateau Jonqueyres ($27), a remarkably full-bodied 2000 Bordeaux Superieur (a blend in which cabernet sauvignon predominated) went particularly well with the short ribs. Perdix's excellent bread would make it a challenge to adhere to an Atkins regime. Procured from Sel de la Terre's bakery, these chewy-crusted baguettes would have been even more enjoyable had they not been served with a bizarre, almost disagreeable dipping sauce that combined olive oil and some derivative of tomato.

While Perdix's main courses were uniformly outstanding, the desserts, each $7, were uneven. The "freakin' good" chocolate cake, moist and almost intoxicatingly rich, boasted an intense chocolate flavor enlivened with espresso coffee. Warm apple cake, on the other hand, suf-

Perdix's Tremont Street entrance



Perdix is in the former Truc space in the South End.

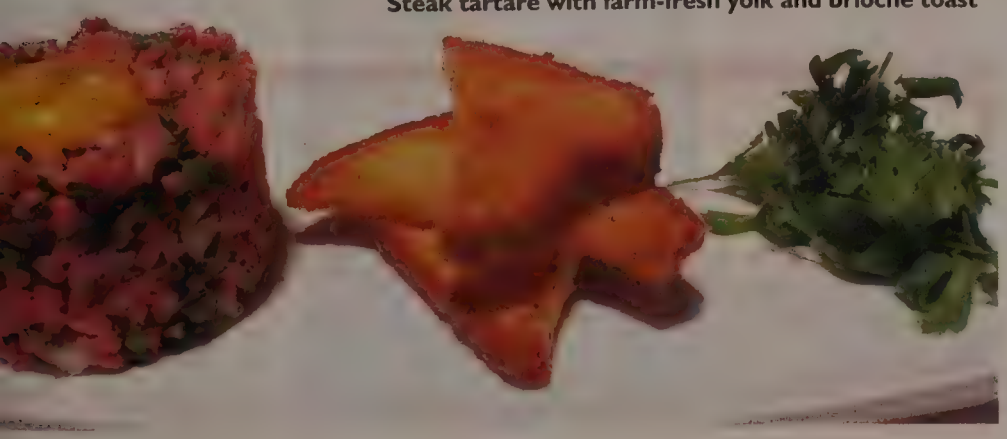


Steamed mussels with white wine, tomato, garlic and parsley.

Chef/owner Tim Partridge

fered from dryness. A third dessert, pumpkin bread pudding with crème fraîche ice cream, delivered good, spicy pudding and sauce, but the ice cream lacked flavor.

Perdix's capacity is just over 50 diners—40 in the main dining room, where banquettes line the walls, and another dozen or so in a small greenhouse to the rear of the restaurant. While I feared that our seating in the greenhouse might cause us to be ignored or overlooked on a busy Saturday evening, my apprehensions proved unfounded. Although our table was really too small to hold the plates of four diners, bread basket, votive candle, wine bottle and glasses, the excellence of the cuisine made this minor inconvenience fade. Our experienced and attentive waiter—a holdover from Truc—took excellent care of us despite the frenetic pace that a steady stream of patrons imposed. He recognized me from my visits to Truc, but if he knew my mission, it did not cause him to confer any greater degree of attention on our party than he displayed with respect to other tables. From what I could see, all the patrons of this estimable eatery appeared to be enjoying well-paced, efficient service. iB



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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Events

Beacon Hill Bistro Birthday Party
Beacon Hill Bistro, 25 Charles St., Boston (617-723-1133). MBTA: Red Line to Charles/MGH. Dec. 3. Select from an expanded menu and receive a slice of cake in honor of Beacon Hill Bistro's third anniversary.

Beer Dinner
Tremont 647, 647 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-4600). Dec. 8, 6:30 pm. $45. Harpoon CEO and co-founder **Rich Doyle** discusses the different types of beer served at this four-course dinner.

Caribbean Rum Night
Rouge, Columbus Ave., Boston (617-867-0600). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Dec. 15, 6:30 pm. $45. Enjoy a four-course dinner paired with Caribbean rum.

Champagne Tasting
33 Restaurant & Lounge, 33 Stanhope St., Boston. www.bostonunlisted.com. Dec. 9, 6:30-8:30 pm. $25, $30 at the door. Boston Unlimited invites 30-somethings to a tasting of Moet & Chandon. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Home for Little Wanderers.

Feast for the Eyes
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-876-6838). Temple Bar, 1688 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Dec.4, 5 and 7:30 pm. $9. See Peter Greenaway's film *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, and afterward, get a free appetizer and two beers with the purchase of two entrées at Temple Bar.

Fireside Chats
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. $35. Chef/owner **Jim Solomon** offers a series of chats. •Dec. 6: cabernet sauvignon.

The Foods of Northern Italy
Lifelong Learning, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). Dec. 3, 6-9 pm. $50. Co-owners **Jeannie Rogers** and **Rich Barron** of Il Cappriccio in Waltham demonstrate the preparation of northern Italian dishes and talk about wine pairings.

Gifts for Guacamole
Olé Mexican Grill, 11 Springfield St., Cambridge (617-492-4495). Through Dec. 20. Bring an unwrapped toy to the restaurant for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and receive a free order of corn tortillas and guacamole prepared at the table.

Hands-On Cooking with the *Boston Globe*'s Sheryl Julian and Julie Riven
Lifelong Learning, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). Dec. 11, 6-9 pm. $150. Food editors **Sheryl Julian** and **Julie Riven** teach tricks of the trade from their cookbook, *The Way We Cook.*

Harpoon Christmas Party
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666). MBTA: Red Line to South Station, transfer to shuttle. Dec. 5, 5:30-11 pm; Dec. 6, 3:30-9 pm. $10. Enjoy a wide selection of beer, live music and hot food under the heated tent.

Harvest Review
Harvest, 44 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-868-2255). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 16, 6 pm. $35. This five-course tasting by chef **Eric Brennan** honors the great cheesemakers of New England.

Oysterology Nights
McCormick & Schmick's, Park Plaza, 34 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-482-3999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue., 7-9 pm. Free. Chef **Eric Naruszewicz** and general manager **Paul Tietge** offer shucking lessons and discuss the differences among the wide array of oysters served at the raw bar.

Paulaner Beer Dinner
The Elephant and Castle, 161 Devonshire St., Boston (617-350-9977). Dec. 15, 7 pm. $35. Take a culinary adventure from Europe to Asia, from German sausages to Indian curries, paired with Paulaner beers.

Rialto Wine Classes: Home, Sweet Rhone
Rialto, The Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge (617-661-5050). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 6, 11 am. $45. Is the California wine industry a worthy rival for the Rhone Valley? Wine director **Patrick Dubsky** explores several of California's best winemakers and their interpretations of traditional Viognier, Rousanne, Syrah, Grenache and Mourvedre wines.

Sparkling Wines from Around the World
Wine Experiences, 71 Worcester St., Boston (617-859-7170). Dec. 9, 7-9 pm. $45. Compare sparkling wines from Italy, Spain, California, New Mexico and Massachusetts.

Sunday Night Regional Tasting Menu
Pigalle, 75 Charles St. South, Boston (617-423-4944). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sun. 5-9:30 pm. $35, $40 (with wine). Chef **Marc Orfaly** offers a three-course tasting menu paired with Languedoc wines.

Tea Tasting
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Dec. 11, 12-1pm. **Frank Sanchez** from Upton Tea Co. discusses the history of tea and offers a tasting of a variety of blends—including substitutes for tea that were used during the boycotts preceding the American Revolution.

Wine and Dine
75 Chestnut, 75 Chestnut St., Boston (617-227-2175). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. $85. Limited to 12 guests, this bi-weekly wine table offers a three-course food and wine pairing menu. •Dec. 15: Napa Valley cabernet.

Beacon Hill Bistro celebrates its third anniversary with free slices of cake Dec. 3.

DISH

Things That Make You Go "Moo"

Atkins deluxe…farm harm…raw truths

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX

Role-playing of raw ingredients usually doesn't figure in a chef's repertoire. After all, who wants to reenact the growth curve of a stalk of broccoli?

Ah, but Kobe beef, that's another story. These cattle lead a pampered existence that's a shining example of blissful ignorance. Born into the privileged family of Japanese cattle known as Wagyu, they are fed a diet generously enriched with beer. They receive regular massages, and in short, are indulged to within an inch of their lives, after which time they make an equally rarefied appearance on the plates of pampered gastronomes.

For centuries, the only Wagyu cattle lived in Japan's Kobe region. Only royalty and other elite had access to—and the means to afford—Kobe beef. Today, a few ranches in California adhere to strict guidelines to raise Wagyu cattle that will yield the legendary meat. Some Boston restaurants now serve Kobe beef, but **Grill 23 & Bar** is the first to feature it in three main courses: Kobe Delmonico steak in 10- and 16-ounce portions, and Kobe steak Diane, with Dijon-cognac cream. Grill 23 is also the first local restaurant whose executive chef, **Jay Murray**, dared to walk a metaphorical mile in the cattle's hooves.

Grill 23 & Bar general manager Jason Babb treats chef Jay Murray like a slab of Kobe beef.

According to tradition, happy cattle produce the finest, most tender beef. So Murray subjected himself to an experiment: He bravely drank beer while submitting to a massage at the muscular hands of Grill 23's general manager, **Jason "Magic Fingers" Babb**. Babb reports that Murray was, indeed, happy. "He asked me if he could trade his wife in—she's got really small hands," he says. And the Kobe beef? You can have your Happy Meal—this plush-textured, richly flavored beef is more like an Ecstasy Meal. Diners are feeling the happiness too. "The consensus is really positive," says Babb, who adds that the ultra-luxurious beef is almost as popular as filet mignon and New York sirloin.

The dark side of the moo: Not all livestock is raised in spa-like surroundings. If you want to take a look at how they all-too-often keep 'em down on the farm, check out a movie that's as close as your computer: www.themeatrix.com. It's an animated feature that's no *Charlotte's Web*. In fact, it might prompt you to consider a fling with "raw food." Raw foodists, who believe that heating foods above 115 degrees kills nutrients, and eat a totally vegan diet, are obviously not a target demographic for cookbook publishers. However, that hasn't stopped Healthy Living Books from publishing *The Complete Book of Raw Food: Healthy, Delicious Vegetarian Cuisine Made with Living Foods*. A sample recipe—sweet potato soup that calls for blending shredded potato, chopped onion, apple, garlic and seasonings with water—makes one wonder: Why do we need a recipe for compost? iB

Serving Dish

Seen a food fight? Got a restaurant rant? Send it to dish@improper.com.

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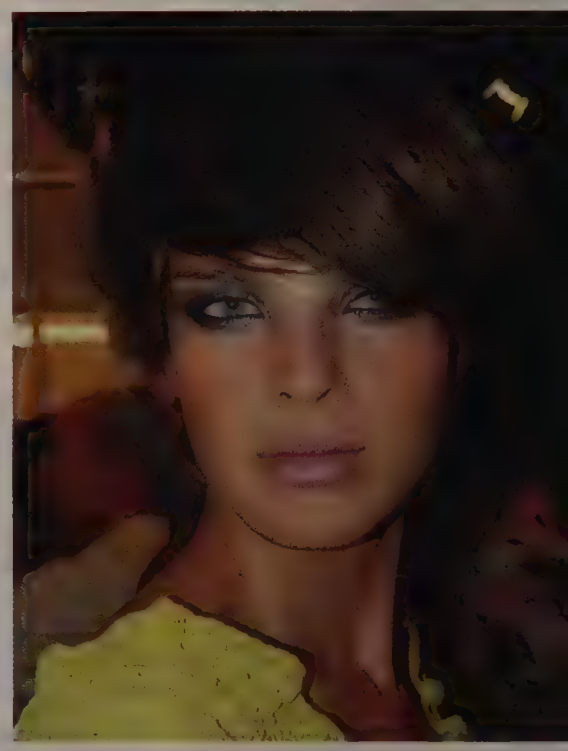

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MPROPER PICKS

december 3 - 16

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			3 Stock up on holiday gifts at the **MassArt Holiday Sale**. *See CityScope on page 54.*	4 Continue the shopping frenzy at the **School of the Museum of Fine Arts December Sale**. *See CityScope on page 54.*	5 Forget your lengthy to-do list for the night and drink beer at the **Harpoon Christmas Party**. *See CityScope on page 54.*	6 The **Downtown Crossing Holiday Stroll** will get you in the seasonal frame of mind. *See CityScope on page 54.*
7	8	9 **David Bowie** and **Macy Gray** play at the FleetCenter. *See Music on page 70.*	10	11 **Simon & Garfunkel** perform at the FleetCenter. *See Music on page 70.*	12	13
14	15 The Katharine Hepburn/Spencer Tracy movie *Without Love* screens for free at the BPL. *See Movies on page 62.*	16				

DEC. 7

Music: Deck the FleetCenter Halls

In recent years, a newcomer has made quite a splash on the holiday scene—the **Trans-Siberian Orchestra.** The group, which is actually U.S.-based, returns to Boston this year to perform its rock opera, *Christmas Eve & Other Stories*. In the show, the contemporary music ensemble performs a combination of pop-rock, holiday standards, classical pieces and Broadway-style music—all with a heavy dose of '80s nostalgia. (Producer Paul O'Neill and keyboardist Jon Oliva are graduates of the Florida-based heavy metal outfit Savatage.) We hear the light show is half the fun. *FleetCenter, One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-931-2000). $30-$51.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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ADDITIONAL LISTINGS BY:

Ezra Dyer CityScope, Dance Clubs, and Sports

Jessica Iredale Museums & Galleries

Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind

Paul Sherman Film Capsules

Sarah McLachlan performs at the Holiday Hoedown Dec. 16.

WED./DEC. 3; MON./DEC. 15; TUE./DEC. 16

Music: Radio Rivalry

This month, local radio stations duke it out for the biggest and best holiday concert lineup...ever (according to the hype, that is). Three worthy of notice are the **WBCN XMas Rave**, **KISS 108's Jingle Ball** and the **Mix 98.5 Holiday Hoedown**. WBCN spreads the cheer around to six different venues on Dec. 3: Avalon (featuring Rancid, Brand New and Switchfoot), Middle East (Kings of Leon and Black Rebel Motorcycle Club), the Orpheum (Blink-182, Eve 6 and Something Corporate), the Paradise (Ryan Adams and Bleu), T.T. the Bear's (Yellowcard, Billy Talent and Damone) and Axis (Alien Ant Farm, Smile Empty Soul, Three Days Grace and Crystal Method). A ticket gets you admission to a specific venue, and there are early and late shows for those with the stamina to check out more than one. KISS 108 and Mix 98.5, meanwhile, take the palooza approach. On Dec. 15 at Lowell's Tsongas Arena, see Clay Aiken, Dido, Hilary Duff, Jessica Simpson, Nick Lachey, Maroon 5, Sean Paul, Simple Plan and Stacie Orrico at KISS 108's Jingle Ball. The next day, Mix 98.5's Holiday Hoedown at the Orpheum features Howie Day, Melissa Etheridge, Gavin DeGraw, Guster and Sarah McLachlan. *See Music on page 66 for more information.*

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Performing Arts: It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...

You've got a ton of options to get into the holiday spirit this year. There are the traditional shows like Boston's Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (see it this year, as it may not be around in '04). But there's also *José Mateo's The Nutcracker, Not the Nutcracker!* and *Urban Nutcracker*. Then there are three different versions of *A Christmas Carol*, one of which stars Stacy Keach, a.k.a. Mike Hammer, at the Cutler Majestic Theatre. Add to that list holiday favorites *Black Nativity* and the *Christmas Revels*. And if those aren't enough to make you start seeing red...and green, try the two satires, John Kuntz's *My Life with the Kringle Kult* and Ryan Landry's *Who's Afraid of the Virgin Mary?*, for a little comic relief. *See Performing Arts on page 56 for more information.*

The women of Punk Rock Aerobics are among the DJs at the Bazaar Bizarre.

SAT./DEC. 13

CityScope: How Bizarre

Judging by how many folks turned up at last year's Bazaar Bizarre, the most offbeat crafts fair imaginable, you've probably already heard the hype. This year, the bazaar is open for twice as long as in previous years, allowing more folks to shop for oddities like bowls made out of records, flower vases crafted from blenders, political T-shirts and hand-knit beer cozies—all made by local artisans. In addition to the hipster vendors hawking their wares, there's plenty of entertainment to keep things interesting: punk rock makeovers by Keira Flynn-Carson, sets by local DJs including the Punk Rock Aerobics team, and holiday theremin carols performed by WMBR DJ Jonny "Spaceman" Bernhardt. And if you want to take home a memento, you can get your picture taken with Sleazy Santa and his Naughty Elves...in a sleigh bed. Ho, ho, ho. *Dilboy VFW, Davis Square, Somerville (617-666-8794). 4–10 pm*, www.bazaarbizarre.org.

Poetri performs in *Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam.*

TUE./DEC. 9–
SUN./DEC. 14

Performing Arts: A Slammin' Good Time

Think all poets are quiet, bookish types? Think again. The eight poet superstars of *Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam* are anything but retiring as they confront (and we don't use that word lightly) issues like 9/11, obesity, government and identity for two straight hours. Add a DJ spinning music by Marvin Gaye, the O'Jays, the Fugees, Outkast and Biggie Smalls, and you get one of the most unique experiences you'll ever have at the normally staid Colonial Theatre. A word of warning: Throw on a slicker before you go—when these poets start to jam, the spit flies. Winner of a Tony Award for the Best Special Theatrical Event, *Def Poetry Jam* stars slam poets Beau Sia, Black Ice, Mayda Del Valle, Georgia Me, Suheir Hammad, Lemon, Poetri and Bassey Ikpi, who take turns expounding on the virtues of a Krispy Kreme doughnut or recounting the horrors of passing through airport security. The result is an energizing, penetrating and entertaining look at the world we live in—all set to music by DJ Jedi. *Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). Dec. 9–14. $25–$65.*

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Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Cheers for Children Benefit
Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston (617-854-7667). 5:30-9:30 pm. $20. This annual cocktail party features celebrity bartenders and live and silent auctions. Proceeds benefit the Globe Santa Fund, the Neely Cancer Fund, the Jimmy Fund and Friends of Floating Hospital for Children.

MassArt Holiday Sale
Tower Building Lobby, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-879-7710). www.massart.edu. 10 am-6 pm, through Dec. 6. More than 150 artists display work in media including ceramics, painting, photography, jewelry and more. Proceeds support artists and scholarships at MassArt.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

Feet of Clay Pottery Holiday Show and Sale Opening
Feet of Clay Pottery, 21 Station St., Brookline Village (617-731-3262). www.feetofclaypottery.com. 6-10 pm. Show continues weekends through Dec. 21. Free. The Feet of Clay artists collective offers a chance to view and buy pottery and meet the artists. Wine and cheese are served.

HurryDate Reunion Party
Big City, 138 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-782-2020). www.hurrydate.com. 7 pm. $15 in advance, $25 at the door. This HurryDate year-end party doesn't conform to the usual format—there are no three-minute dates—but there are drinks, giveaways and lots of single people.

One for the Kids Benefit
Venu, 100 Warrenton St., Boston. www.oneforthekids.com. 5:30-10:30 pm. $30. This annual party raises money for children in foster care and includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages from 5:30-6:30 pm.

School of the MFA Art Sale
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, 230 The Fenway, Boston (617-267-6100). www.smfa.edu. Dec. 4, 12-8 pm; Dec. 5-7, 12-6 pm. Alumni, students, faculty and staff of the Museum School have produced more than 4,000 pieces of art in many price ranges. Proceeds from the sale benefit the school's scholarship fund.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

Harpoon Christmas Party
Harpoon Brewery, 306 Northern Ave., Boston (888-427-7666). Dec. 5, 5:30-11 pm; Dec. 6, 3:30-9 pm. $10. Harpoon's annual Christmas party features a selection of beers, live music and food under a heated tent.

SnowBall
Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington St., Boston (866-468-7619). www.scaboston.org. Black Diamond reception, 7:30-9 pm; SnowBall, 9 pm-2 am. SnowBall $60 in advance, $70 at the door; reception $100 each or $180 per pair in advance, $125 each or $200 per pair at the door. The SnowBall, Santa Claus Anonymous' annual black-tie fund-raiser, features live music from NovaKane, a gaming room with a live auction and late-night VIP seating at Whiskey Park (12-2 am, with tickets to the reception).

Toys for Tots Toy Drive
The Purple Shamrock, 1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). Fridays through Dec. 20. Bring an unwrapped toy to contribute to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Angela Adams Trunk Show
Bliss Home, 121 Newbury St., Boston (617-421-5544). www.blisshome.com. 2-5 pm. Free. Designer Angela Adams hosts a trunk show featuring her wool rugs, notebooks, belts and handbags. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society.

Downtown Crossing Holiday Stroll
Washington, Summer, Bromfield, Temple and West streets, Boston (617-482-2139). www.downtowncrossing.org. 11 am-4 pm. Participating Downtown Crossing stores offer discounts and specials today. Santa visits Macy's, a band plays Aztec Christmas music outside Borders, and KISS 108 DJ Chris Shine gives away prizes on Summer Street.

Evening of Music Benefit
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-4338). www.hosp.org. 8 pm. $40. Tickets must be ordered in advance. The Longwood Symphony Orchestra performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*) to benefit Hospitality Homes, an organization that provides no-cost housing for families of patients at Boston hospitals. Post-concert reception included.

Gateway Holiday Fair
Gateway Arts, 60-62 Harvard St., Brookline Village (617-734-1577). www.gatewayarts.org. 10 am-5 pm. Free admission. Gateway Arts, a nonprofit art center for people with disabilities, offers craft items and art such as hand-painted velvet scarves. The fair includes holiday music and refreshments.

German Holiday Fair and Christkindlmarkt
German International School Boston, 54 Essex St., Cambridge (617-497-8454). www.gisbos.org. 11 am-4 pm. Free admission. This re-creation of a German holiday market includes music, refreshments and a variety of holiday wares on sale. Proceeds benefit the German International School Boston.

Marché de Noël
French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). www.frenchlib.org. 10 am-5 pm. This French Library and Cultural Center hosts a holiday market with a French flair. Items for sale include interior decorations, jewelry, food and more.

Swedish Yuletide Celebration
The Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (877-793-2267). www.sweabostonorg/xmasfair.htm. 10 am-4 pm. $5. The Swedish Women's Educational Association hosts this annual Christmas fair, which includes two traditional St. Lucia processions (at 11:30 am and 2 pm), Swedish gifts and crafts and Swedish food like meatballs, pickled herring and glogg. Proceeds benefit scholarships and local Scandinavian charities.

Winterlights Festival
The Shops at the Prudential Center, Boston (781-729-7229). Sat., 12 pm-Sun., 7 pm. This annual festival includes performances, participatory activities for families and a visit from Santa. The festival also coincides with the Back Bay Holiday Market.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Benefit for Children
Davio's, 75 Arlington St., Boston (617-248-8688). 4-8 pm. $40. This holiday party features carols from Chorus pro Musica and big-band music from the Winiker Orchestra. Proceeds benefit the Home for Little Wanderers and St. Ann's Home.

Raise the Roof for Tot Lot
Cambridgeport Children's Center, 71 Cherry St., Cambridge (617-868-4275). www.totlot.org. 2:30-5 pm. Free. This party and silent auction includes music, wine, raffles and food from local restaurants. The event raises money for the Cambridgeport Children's Center to renovate its facility.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

Holiday in the Back Bay
Saint, 90 Exeter St., Boston (617-461-7325). www.bostontoys.com. 6-10 pm. $25 donation, or an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. This holiday party includes hors d'oeuvres and benefits Toys for Tots. Proper attire required.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Champagne Tasting
33 Restaurant and Lounge, 33 Stanhope St., Boston. www.bostonunlisted.com. 6:30-8:30 pm. $25 in advance, $30 at the door. Learn from experts how to select champagne for the holidays. Ten percent of proceeds benefits the Home for Little Wanderers.

Inner-City Scholarship Fund Benefit
The International, 184 High St., Boston (617-778-5981, ext. 212). 5:30-9 pm. $20. This holiday party, which includes food, raffles, door prizes, live music, cash bar and a surprise visitor, benefits the Inner-City Scholarship Fund.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Bike Night
Cambridge Brewing Company, One Kendall Square, Cambridge (617-542-2453). www.massbike.org. 6-9:30 pm. $20 in advance, $25 at the door, $15 MassBike members. MassBike's annual fund-raiser promotes biking with a "State of the Bicycling State" address, awards, a silent auction and food. Bike valet parking available.

Boston KidSmart Gallery Tour
Various art galleries, Newbury Street, Boston (617-905-4729). www.bostonkidsmart.com. 6-8 pm. Fifteen Newbury Street galleries participate in this tour, with a portion of the evening proceeds benefiting Boston KidSmart's childrens' art programs.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

Gardner Museum Black Tie Holiday Celebration
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 the Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. 7 pm. $350. This annual fund-raiser includes cocktails, a buffet supper and a performance by the string trio Time for Three.

Mistletoe Meltdown
The Ballroom, 75 West School St., Boston (617-591-1400, ext. 5). www.bostonypa.com. 7 pm. $35. The Boston Young Professionals presents a holiday party that's all about kissing. The event includes open bar from 7-9 pm, a DJ and a raffle to benefit Shattuck Shelter. Festive cocktail or creative black-tie attire.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

Centennial Holiday Celebration
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. 7 pm. $125. This benefit party for the Gardner Museum includes holiday food, musical performances and a re-creation of the choral performance that opened the museum in 1903.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Bazaar Bizarre Craft Fair
Dilboy VFW, 371 Summer St., Somerville (617-694-8493). www.bazaarbizarre.org. 4-10 pm. Billed as a "punk rock DIY fair," the third annual Bazaar Bizarre features items like hand-knit beer cozies and lamps made of recycled musical instruments. Local DJs provide music, and visitors can get their picture taken with "Sleazy Santa" in his sleigh bed. Proceeds from the raffle benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

CCAE Holly Fair
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 and 56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. Sat. 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. The CCAE's Holly Fair features handmade crafts, jewelry, ornaments, clothes and other gifts. Food and refreshments, including hot wassail and chili, are available. A portion of proceeds benefits the CCAE scholarship fund.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

Boston Tea Party Celebration
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org. 5:30 pm. $5, free to those wearing colonial costumes. Celebrate the 230th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party with the History Channel, as actors re-create the debate at the Old South Meeting House and the subsequent march to dump tea into the harbor.

Bridal Gown Benefit Auction
La Reine Bridal, 20-22 High St., Waltham (781-899-0348). www.lareinebride.com. 1-4 pm. $10 entry fee. Twenty gowns ranging in value from $500 to $2,500 are available in a silent auction, with proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Brookline Arts Center Jazz Brunch
Brookline Arts Center, 86 Monmouth St., Brookline (617-566-5715). www.brooklineartscenter.com. 11 am-12 pm. $35. Tom Pendergast plays this jazz brunch and ceremony for the BAC's Art Treasures Award. The event is part of the BAC's crafts showcase, which features locally made holiday gifts.

Jazz Christmas Concert Benefit
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3355, ext. 24). 7:30 pm. $15. The Aardvark Jazz Orchestra performs a selection of Christmas songs to benefit the Emmanuel Church's homeless outreach programs.

Celebrate the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party Dec. 14 at the Old South Meeting House.

Preview

Top Dogs

Four-legged friends and their masters redefine friendly competition in a barking spectacle

Roll over to the Bay Colony Cluster Dog Show, Dec. 4-7.

A new set of contestants is in town for a reality show that features more energy, ambition and hair-sprayed divas than the cast of *Joe Millionaire*. Freshly primped poodles, shih tzus, terriers and 160 other breeds strut their stuff during the Bay Colony Cluster Dog Show, Dec. 4-7. The talent component of the show includes a timed obstacle course, where canine competitors race through jumps and tunnels. In the obedience trials, dogs compete at important pooch pastimes like retrieving and scent discrimination.

While man's best friend is busy competing for the Best in Show trophy awarded at the end of each day, humans can peruse the concession booths. Holiday gifts ranging from diamond collars to hand-knitted sweaters and gourmet treats can be purchased for a quadruped friend, and breeders are on hand to answer questions from dog-seekers. A portion of proceeds benefits dog-related organizations.

Bayside Expo Center, 200 Mount Vernon St., Columbia Point, Boston (508-533-1153). www.baycolonydogshow.com. Dec. 4-7, 8 am-5 pm, $12, $7 children.

—Kelli Acciardo

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Black Nativity
Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-6398). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3:30 and 8 pm; Sun. 3:30 pm. Dec. 5-21. $17.50-$37.50. Poet Langston Hughes' song-play is a musical retelling of the birth of Christ based on the Gospel of St. Luke. This production includes 160 singers, dancers, actors and musicians.

A Christmas Carol
Trinity Repertory Company at the Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-824-8000). www.maj.org. *Tue.-Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 7:30 pm; Sun. 2 and 7:30 pm. Dec. 9-27. $15-$68.* Stacy Keach stars in Oskar Eustis and Amanda Dehnert's adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale.

A Christmas Carol
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Wed., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun. 2 pm. Dec. 5-21. $30.* North Shore Music Theatre presents its award-winning production of Charles Dickens' holiday classic for the 15th consecutive year.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-469-4595). www.revels.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Times vary. Dec. 12-13, 18-23 and 26-30. $20-$40.* Directed by Patrick Swanson and music director George Emlen, this year's Christmas Revels is set in Scotland. The 80-member cast includes the Auld Reekie Singers, the Laird's Consort, the Revels Bairns children's chorus, soloists David Coffin and Jayne Tankersley, two-time New England Scottish fiddle champion Emerald Forman, Highland Dance Boston, the Pinewoods Morris Men and the Cambridge Symphonic Brass.

The Grapes of Wrath
Boston University Theatre, Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.bu.edu/huntington/bu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Dec. 10-14. $5-$10.* Frank Galati's adaptation of John Steinbeck's epic novel follows the Joad family as they depart from the Oklahoma dust bowl and seek a new life in California.

Holiday Memories
Boston University Theatre, Studio 210, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.bu.edu/huntington/bu. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 4 and 8 pm; Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Dec. 3-7. $20.* Making its Boston premiere, this play, adapted by Russell Vandenbroucke from Truman Capote's memoir novellas *The Thanksgiving Visitor* and *A Christmas Memory*, weaves together holiday stories of young Buddy and his eccentric Aunt Sook.

John Kuntz stars in *My Life with the Kringle Kult*.

Looking over the President's Shoulder
Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-3926). Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through Dec. 21. $35. This one-man show by James Still tells the story of Alonzo Fields, the first African-American chief butler at the White House, who served from 1931-1953.

Monticel'
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Dec. 4-21. $20.* In this play by acclaimed author Russell Lees, political machinations threaten to undermine Thomas Jefferson's run for the presidency—but life at Monticello has never been better for Jefferson's slave and mistress Sally Hemmings. But Hemming's brother James, freed long ago, is back and stirring up trouble.

Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 9 pm; Sat., 5 and 9 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Dec. 9-14. $25-$65. Winner of the 2003 Tony Award for Best Theatrical Event, Def Poetry Jam brings eight performance poets—including Beau Sia, Black Ice, Mayda Del Valle, Georgia Me, Suheir Hammad, Lemon, Poetri and Bassey Ikpi—together on stage, with music by DJ Jedi.

Six Degrees of Separation
The Longwood Players, Cambridge Family YMCA Theatre, 820 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-9622). www.longwoodplayers.com. *Dec. 5-6, 11-13. $16-$20.* A pair of rich Manhattan art dealers receives a visit from a young man who says he's their children's friend from Harvard. They offer him a bed for the night, but the next morning, they learn he's not all that he seems.

Who's Afraid of the Virgin Mary?
Machine, 1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-265 6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Thu., Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. Dec. 4-27. $20. This Christmas parody by Ryan Landry takes place in Bethlehem, where Mary and Joseph struggle though their daily existence and drink themselves into oblivion. Then the Kringles stop by for a holiday nightcap.

NOW RUNNING

Anger Box
TheatreZone at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea (617-887-2336). www.jeffgoode.com/pgabx *MBTA: Green Line to Haymarket. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm.Through Dec. 13. $12, $15 at the door.* Writer, director and actor Jeff Goode's production includes 10 monologues ranging from the sanctimonious to the sacrilegious.

As You Like It
Wilbur Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 21. $25-$67. This production directed by Sir Peter Hall (founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company) tells Shakespeare's story of Rosalind and her cousin Celia, who have run away to the idyllic Forest of Arden.

Back to Before
Wild Geese Productions at the Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.bcaonline.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Through Dec. 13. $20, $25 at the door.* Five years after Aiden O'Toole is murdered by a Boston bookie, his twin brother and a friend reunite in Los Angeles. Dave McLaughlin's drama moves from the nostalgic banter of the old neighborhood to searing confrontations about the murder.

Blanche and Her Joy Boys
New Repertory Theatre, 54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands (617-332-1646). www.newrep.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Wed., 2 and 7 pm; Thu. and Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 and 8:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 14. $33-$42.* Chris Calloway, daughter of famed big-band leader Cab Calloway, performs this one-woman show abou her aunt Blanche (Cab's sister). The performanc features a jazz combo with Calloway singing th songs that made Blanche popular, including "I'm Jus Wild About Harry" and "I Need Lovin'."

See Not the Nutcracker! at the Tsai Performance Center.

Blue Hair Troupe
Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont St., Boston (866-443-2248). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu., 2 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Dec. 7. This musical revue takes place at a senior center for the performing arts where the retirees create and perform their own shows.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). www.blueman.com/ticketinfo/boston *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53.* This production abandons all dialogue and focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

A Christmas Carol
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., pm. Through Dec. 21. $32.* Troy Siebels has adapted Charles Dickens' tale into a musical extravaganza.

Creation of the World and Other Business
Theatre Cooperative, 277 Broadway, Somerville (617-625-1300). www.theatrecoop.org. *Fri.-Sat., pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 13. $20.* Arthur Miller's play alternates scenes of humor with confrontations between God and Lucifer, and God and his fallible creations, and explores the dilemma When every person wants justice, why do people go on creating injustice?

The Ecumenical Nunsense: Meshuggah-Nuns!
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Dec. 27. $22-$41.* In their latest *Nunsense* adventure, the Sisters are on an all-expenses-paid trip on the Faiths of All Nations cruise. Most of the cast members of the ship's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* have succumbed to seasickness, and the ship's captain requests that the sisters put on an original revue.

Fiddler on the Roof
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Newton Highlands. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 30. $22.* Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, this musical tells the story of a Jewish peasant in pre-Revolutionary Russia coping with the day-to-day problems of shtetl life.

Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living In Paris
Stuart Street Playhouse, Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 9 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Through Dec. 21. $42.50-$47.50. This musical revue features the lyrics and music of Belgian poet/lyricist/songwriter and performer Jacques Brel.

Les Miserables
The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). www.broadwayinboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 7. $30-$87.* Based on Victor Hugo's novel, this musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg tells the story of the fugitive Jean Valjean, who is pitted against the cruel and self-righteous Inspector Javert in a lifelong struggle to evade capture.

Lettice and Lovage
Spring Lawn Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., 70 Kemble St., Lenox (413-637-3353). www.shakespeare.org *Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 14. $27-$42.* Lettice Douffet lectures as a tour guide at one of Britain's least stately homes in this play by Peter Shaffer. The house has so little relative historical importance that Lettice begins to embellish its past. This gets her in trouble with an inspector from the Preservation Trust. But eventually the two women forge an alliance to "awaken their fellow citizens to the dreariness of their lives.

My Life with the Kringle Kult
Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston (617-426-2787). www.bcaonline.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Through Dec. 13. $25.* Fatal Attraction meets Santa's workshop as actor/playwright John Kuntz does Christmas.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). www.shearmadness.com/Boston/boston *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm*

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Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34. This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Snow in June

Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-495-2668). www.amrep.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm; Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm. $35-$69. Through Dec.28. The spirit of a young girl returns to seek revenge on the society that caused her death. Based on a 13th-century Chinese play by Charles L. Mee, the show blends Beijing opera and contemporary Americana, including bluegrass, Delta blues, Appalachian, Tex-Mex and Cajun music.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Piano Factory. 791 Tremont St., Boston (617-247-9777). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Nov. 23. $19. The Devanaughn Theatre presents Edward Albee's play about George and Martha and their world of drunkenness, savagery and truth.

UNIVERSITY THEATER

A Bright Room Called Day

Emerson College, Greene Theater at the Tufts Performance Center, 10 Boylston Place, Boston (617-824-8369). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Dec. 3-7. $12. Playwright Tony Kushner presents a story about a group of artists and friends who argue, make love and discuss politics in the looming shadow of Hitler's rise to power. The show combines humor, politics and philosophy to examine dilemmas during times of political upheaval.

The Crucible

Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston (617-912-9142). Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Dec. 4-7. $12. Directed by Eric Engel, Arthur Miller's play confronts issues of principle, paranoia and passion within the historical context of the Salem witchcraft hysteria of 1692.

Dance

Cowboy, Red and No Rain

Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-931-2787). Dec. 13, 8 pm; Dec.14, 6 pm. $12-$15. The Caitlin Corbett Dance Company premieres two new works. *Cowboy, Red* is choreographed to video images from old films; *No Rain* is a piece for nine women set to the music of a Mexican string ensemble.

A Dancer's Christmas

Robsham Theater Arts Center, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (617-552-4002). www.blde.org. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Dec. 12-21. Special children's performance: Dec. 20, 2 pm. $25. In its 23rd year, the Boston Liturgical Dance Ensemble tells the story of Christmas through dance.

José Mateo's The Nutcracker

The Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cambridge (617-354-7467). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon. and Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat, 2 and 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 and 6 pm. Nov. 28-Dec. 28. $15-$35. José Mateo offers a smaller-scale production of *The Nutcracker* starring nonprofessional dancers in an intimate setting.

Mansaku-no-Kai Kyogen Company

Copley Theatre, 505 Boylston St., Boston (617-451-0726). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 14, 6 pm. $35. Mansaku Nomura, designated a Living National Treasure by the Japanese government, and his son Mansai present *kyogen*, comic intervals that satirize human frailties through stylized movement and dance. Developed by samurai in the 14th and 15th centuries as an interlude to the dramatic dance-drama of Noh theater, the plays are characterized by realism and down-to-earth humor.

Not the Nutcracker!

Tsai Performance Center, Boston University, 685 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-8725). MBTA: Green Line to BU East. Dec. 5, 8 pm; Dec.6, 2 and 8 pm. $15-$20. The Jeanette Neill Dance Studio presents a holiday concert of jazz, modern theater and hip-hop dance.

The Nutcracker

Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-456-6343). www.wangcenter.org. MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Nov. 28-Dec. 30. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 7 pm; Sun., 1 and 5:30 pm. $19-$77. The Boston Ballet's annual presentation of E.T.A. Hoffman's story about Clara and her fantastic dream adventure is set to Tchaikovsky's classic score. The show features a full concert orchestra and a live chorus accompanying more than 200 performers.

Rites of Passage

The Dance Complex, 536 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-522-9797). www.dancingoutloud.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Dec. 5, 8 pm; Dec. 6, 8 pm. $15. The ensemble Being Seen Being Heard presents a playful performance about the journey of life.

The Boston Ballet presents E.T.A. Hoffman's tale of *The Nutcracker* set to Tchaikovsky's score.

Urban Nutcracker

Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Road, Dorchester, (617-282-8000). Dec. 12, 7 pm; Dec. 13, 2 and 7 pm; Dec. 14, 2 and 7 pm. $10-$27. BalletRox presents this collage of classical and contemporary dance, including ballet, hip-hop, doo-wop, urban tap and swing, backed by a Duke Ellington–infused Tchaikovsky score. Created by artistic director Anthony Williams and directed by Leslie Woodies, it follows the storyline of E.T.A. Hoffman's fairytale but is set in a contemporary urban setting.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors

Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle

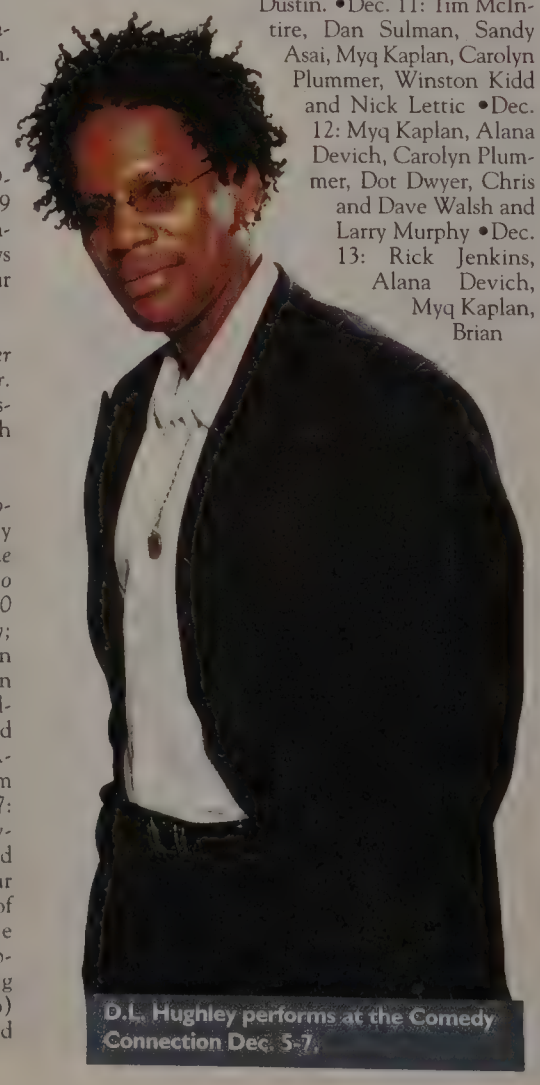
Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Dec. 13, 8:30 pm. $10. The Montreal Comedy Festival audition show features Rich Gustus, Jon Fisch and Paul Nardizzi.

Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12. The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Dec. 3: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebens •Dec. 4: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Dec. 5, $29: D.L. Hughley, from *The Original Kings of Comedy* •Dec. 6, 8 pm, $17: Frank Santorelli of *The Sopranos*, and Brian Powers; 10:30 pm, $33: D.L. Hughley •Dec. 7, 7 and 9:30 pm, $27: D.L. Hughley •Dec. 8: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Dec. 10: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Dec. 11: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Dec. 12, 8 and 10:45 pm, $27: Stuttering John & Friends (Artie Lange and Nick DiPaolo) from *The Howard Stern Show* •Dec. 13, 8 pm and 12 am, $32: Stuttering John & Friends.

Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$10. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Dec. 3: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Dan Sulman, Derek Gerry, Mike Anthony, Sean Lily, Sean Edwards, Alana Devich, Shane Mauss and Eric Andre •Dec. 4: Dan Sally's "This Date in History" show featuring Evan O' Television, Erin Judge, Corey Manning and Eric Cheung •Dec. 5: Larry Murphy, Chris and Dave Walsh, Walter Dixon, Tommy Morello, Chrissy Lavoie and Michael Della Penna •Dec. 6: Brian Gordon, Walter Dixon, Chrissy Lavoie and Jesse Shapiro •Dec. 7: Evan O' Television's "Idiot Box" •Dec. 9: Mystery Lounge magic/comedy show featuring Eric Rochelle, David Oliveer and Steve Kradolfer •Dec. 10: Tony V, Kelly MacFarland, Rob Reuter, Myq Kaplan, Andy O'Fish, Erin Judge, Reggie Harris, Dot Dwyer and Tom Dustin. •Dec. 11: Tim McIntire, Dan Sulman, Sandy Asai, Myq Kaplan, Carolyn Plummer, Winston Kidd and Nick Lettic •Dec. 12: Myq Kaplan, Alana Devich, Carolyn Plummer, Dot Dwyer, Chris and Dave Walsh and Larry Murphy •Dec. 13: Rick Jenkins, Alana Devich, Myq Kaplan, Brian Gordon and Michael Della Penna •Dec. 14: Sam Walters, Rob Reuter, Peter Dutton, Myq Kaplan, Mary Beth Cowan, Corey Manning, Tony Moschetto, Patrice Vinci and Tom Dustin •Dec. 16: Mystery Lounge Magic Show with Mike Bent and Jon Stetson.



D.L. Hughley performs at the Comedy Connection Dec. 5-7.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Dec. 4, 8:30 pm: Jim Lauletta, Larry Norton and Mark Scalia •Dec. 5, 8:45 pm: Jim Lauletta, Larry Norton and Jack Lynch •Dec. 6, 8:45 pm: Jim Lauletta, Larry Norton and Jack Lynch •Dec. 11, 8:30 pm: Teddy Bergeron, Paul Keenan and Wayne Previdi •Dec. 12, 8:45 pm: Teddy Bergeron, Paul Keenan and Wayne Previdi •Dec. 13, 8:45 pm: Teddy Bergeron, Paul Keenan and Wayne Previdi.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm. $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA:Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available. Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed.-Sat.: *Improv Asylum Announces the End of Major Hostilities*, a new show on the mainstage.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central . $5-$12. Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm, $5: *The Hump*. This series for experimental and improvisational theater features ScripTease and The Tribe •Thu., 8 pm, $12: *Unnatural Selection*. A master of ceremonies randomly eliminates players until only one is left. 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secret Comedy Show*. Brothers Chris and David Walsh perform stand-up and music, play short films and do character sketches in a display of sibling rivalry. •Fri. 8 pm, $10-$12: *Playbook*. Eight playwrights submit outlines for an original play, and the troupe improvises a full-length play. 10 pm, $12: *Theatre Sports*. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., 8 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show*. 8 and 10 pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage*. Blending storytelling, music, audience participation and joyful chaos, a cast of improvisers creates a show that changes with every performance.

COMEDY SHOWS

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. and Sat., 7:30 pm. $49. This interactive dinner show follows Maria and Joey through their wacky wedding. Throw on a blue tuxedo or your puffiest gown and join the festivities.

Larry Lee Lewis Comedy Show

Chops Lounge, 1271 Boylston St., Boston (617-267-8300). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Saturday, 10 pm. $15. The Triple L Show presents 90 minutes of variety entertainment.

Murder Cacciatore

Ristorante Marino, 2465 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-697-2583). www.mysterycafe.com. MBTA: Red Line to Porter. Dec. 4, 10 and 11, 7:30 pm. $49 for dinner and show. The Gourmet Detective serves up Italian cuisine with a murder mystery.

Nick & Zita's Funny Fat Greek Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Dec. 5, 7:30 pm. $49. A spoof on the hit movie, this dinner show follows a Greek girl who is about to marry outside her culture.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., 8 pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Soprano's Last Supper

Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800-733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Dec. 12, $49. 7 pm. This interactive dinner show spoofs the HBO show about an Italian mob family.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcomedyjam.com. First and third Sunday of every month, 8 pm. Enjoy standup comedy at this open mike with host Stash.

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Tom Turkey

Enlightenment is elusive in Cruise's *Last Samurai*

BY PAUL SHERMAN

I liked *The Last Samurai* much better when I saw it the first time—as *Dances with Wolves*. The new movie tells a similar tale of a disillusioned American soldier who reinvents himself after spending time with "primitives" his Army opposes. In this case, though, Captain Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise) steeps himself in the ways of Japan's samurai, not the Indians of the Wild West.

Tom Cruise plays disillusioned American soldier Captain Nathan Algren.

A witness to George Custer's brutal campaigns against the Indians, Algren heads to Japan as a reluctant member of a team of American officers sent to train the forces of Japan's imperial government in squashing opposition to the modernization of Japan in the 1870s. Taken prisoner after the Japanese and American higher-ups force the green trainees into attacking a band of samurai, with disastrous results, Algren comes to respect the honor of warlord Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe), the discipline of Katsumoto's warriors and the gentility of their community. Like the Indians back home, they're nothing like the government said they were.

I also liked this story much better when Tom Cruise wasn't in it. Only Cruise could make Kevin Costner seem modest, but as it has so often, Cruise's star treatment and need to dominate the story tear the stuffing out of *The Last Samurai*. This latest Cruise vehicle falls into the "humbled Cruise" mini-genre that also includes *Jerry Maguire*, *Vanilla Sky* and *Minority Report*. In these films, the star either won't let his character get genuinely humbled or simply can't portray humility. Typically, in *The Last Samurai*, the "humbling" of Cruise results in no real loss to Algren. (In fact, the utter defeat to the samurai only vindicates Algren, who told his superiors the troops weren't ready.)

At the samurai mountain camp where the victors take wounded Algren, he's nursed back to health by the warlord's sister (Koyuki), who also is the widow of a warrior Algren killed in the battle. Naturally, she falls for him, in an unconvincing romantic subplot. Meanwhile, the spiritual enlightenment that accompanies Algren's physical recuperation and leads him to switch sides in the battle just doesn't wash, because trying to attach spirituality to Cruise is like trying to connect two magnets on the equally charged sides. They repel each other. With Johnny Depp, Daniel Day-Lewis or Sean Penn in the part, it might have worked; with Cruise, forget it.

The glorification of Cruise/Algren pushes aside everything else as *The Last Samurai* progresses. At one point, unarmed Algren defeats *four* sword-wielding attackers (and they're not green trainees). Later, when it comes time for the outmanned samurai to make their last stand and claim at least a moral victory over their ruthless opponents, the imperial forces, now supplied with the latest American weapons, mow down samurai with rapid-fire Howitzers. But does Algren meet the same fate as these superior warriors? Don't get me started.

Previous movies directed by Edward Zwick, such as *Glory*, *Courage Under Fire* and *The Siege*, have long saluted those who act in service of others or dig for hidden truths. There are elements of that social conscience in *The Last Samurai*, too. The American government indulging in questionable "nation building" abroad in this story certainly recalls Vietnam and Iraq, and here the government shows little concern for the Japanese; it just wants a market in which it can sell weapons. The movie also shows a healthy cynicism toward power structures, with both the American superior officer (Tony Goldwyn) and the Japanese politician (Masato Harada) who are brokering the two nations' deals being concerned only with what they'll gain.

But the weight of having Cruise atop *The Last Samurai* puts a dent in Zwick's social conscience. It rings especially false for a movie that looks askance at such selfish behavior in its characters to tolerate the same from its star. *The Last Samurai* has its heart in the right place, but lacks credibility from the start. And how potent would *Glory* have been had Matthew Broderick's Robert Gould Shaw lived while all of his African-American troops died around him? For all its big-budget ambition, *The Last Samurai* is compromised in epic proportions. **iB**

The Last Samurai ★★

Directed by Edward Zwick. Written by John Logan, Marshall Herskovitz and Zwick. With Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe, Timothy Spall, Koyuki, Tony Goldwyn and Billy Connolly. Rated R. Warner Bros.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Bad Santa ★★★½
Finally, a Christmas movie about a degenerate. A cussing, sex-addicted, drunk degenerate in a Santa suit. Billy Bob Thornton is an absolute hoot as the department store St. Nick who, with his midget, elf-costumed partner (the equally ticked-off Tony Cox), sets up shop every December in a different city and a different store, and then robs the store safe on Christmas Eve. This Santa's aversion to anything and everything besides drink and tail makes him an unrepentant poster boy for misanthropy, while director Terry Zwigoff (*Ghost World*) again proves his integrity by not wimping out with a soft, *Elf*-style ending. Full of bad taste and good laughs. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Elephant ★★
The plodding artsy touches in Gus Van Sant's movie, especially all those tracking shots of characters walking and walking (left over from his *Gerry*), make this the clear runner-up to *Zero Day* in the Columbine-inspired indie movie sweepstakes. The idea is sound: matter-of-factly following a group of characters on the day of a school shooting—some are victims, some are shooters, some are neither. In doing so, the movie exposes all sorts of little everyday details. But there's little drama, little emotion, little reason to care. It seems more like a science project than a tragedy. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Elf ★★½
The tale of a human (Will Ferrell) raised by North Pole elves, who travels to New York to find his biological father (James Caan), is amusing most of the way. Jon Favreau's direction adds some unexpected touches, like a strong eye for casting small parts well. But much of the good time is spoiled by the over-the-top, cloying, "heartwarming" ending. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

In America ★★★
My Left Foot director Jim Sheridan's semiautobiographical drama about a young Irish family's move to New York sometimes has a TV-movie feel, perhaps because it's told from the perspective of one of the wide-eyed daughters. But there's dramatic meat in the tale. The family has left Ireland following the death of one child, and the mom (Samantha Morton), dad (Paddy Considine) and two young daughters (Sarah Bolger, Emma Bolger) bring a mixture of grief and optimism to their new home. Sheridan's tale turns out to be about feeling at home—be it in your surroundings, your life or your own skin—and his characters' emotional journey is worth taking. Morton's fragile woman-on-the-edge schtick has gotten pretty tired though. (At Kendall Square.)

Kill Bill—Vol. 1 ★★
Within the first few minutes of Volume 1 of Quentin Tarantino's long-awaited action epic—the second half arrives in February—you get four 1970s references. There's the Shaw Brothers' "Shawscope" logo from the team's old martial arts films, the swirly "Our Feature Presentation" intro that cinemas showed back then, a circa-1970 Klingons reference and a taste of the *Ironside* theme song. Those references go to show that Tarantino's style, cool and clever a decade ago, is now only as adventurous as an episode of VH1's *I Love the '70s*. Make that VH1 with literal geysers of blood. Tarantino's story is a revenge tale with Uma Thurman as a modern-day warrior seeking revenge on the assassins who left her for dead. The pop-cultural quotes come fast and hard—spaghetti westerns, Japanese manga comics, Tarantino's own *Reservoir Dogs*, etc.—so much so that you wish he would just settle down and let his characters and words do their jobs, as in the movie's best sequence, when the warrior enlists a philosophical Okinawan sword maker (Sonny Chiba). Let's hope the second half has more stretches like that. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Lost in Translation ★★★½
Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her 2001 directorial debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, and she conjures up a similar funny-sad tone in her tale of two Americans (Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson) adrift in Tokyo. He's a washed-up movie star making a bundle endorsing Japanese booze; she's the wife of a work-consumed photographer (Giovanni Ribisi). They're staying at the same hotel and killing time at the same hotel bar, and their misery loves company. The characters make a great movie couple, although their relationship is platonic (with its share of sexual tension). Murray gives a Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance built mainly around physical and especially facial reac-

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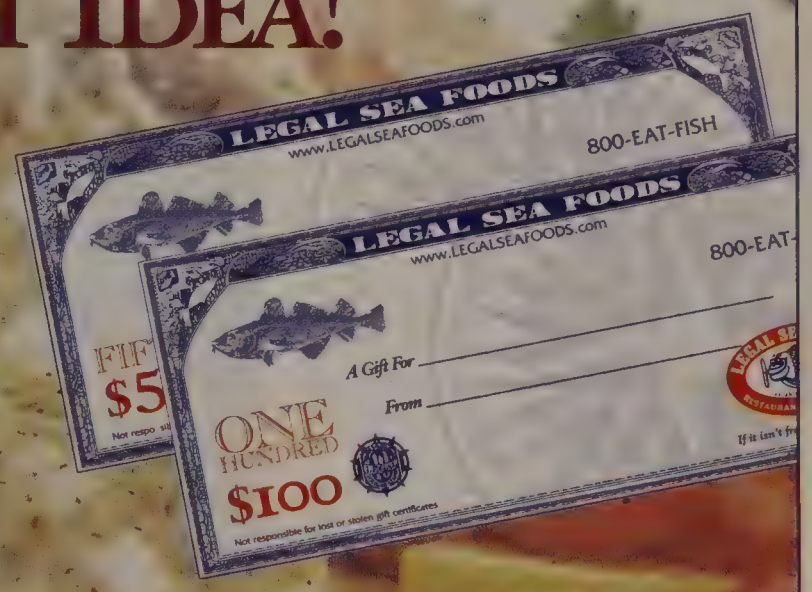

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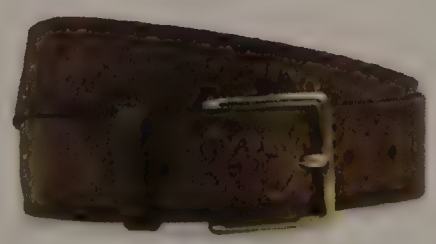

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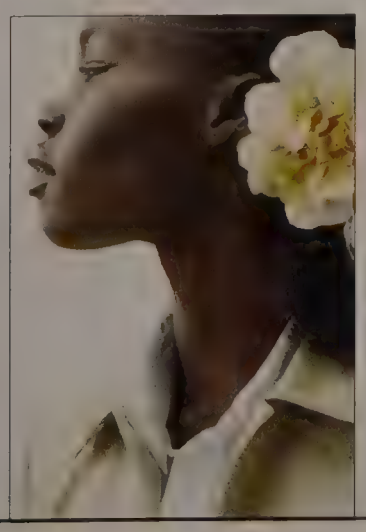


tions to absurd situations, and Johansson is a little heartbreaker. (At Boston Common, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Love Actually ★★

Veteran English writer Richard Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) makes his directorial debut with this shameless romantic comedy, which operates under the same say-it-loud and pile-on-the-exclamation-points concept as the oversized greeting card. In his movie's case, that means he piles on about eight half-baked romantic subplots, hoping they'll miraculously accumulate into one big plot. If only. Nearly all of these subplots are flimsy and shallow, especially one with Hugh Grant as the new English prime minister. Unfortunately, Grant is back to his pre-2000 bumbling. Bill Nighy, as a desperate, aging rock star, and Rowan Atkinson (a frequent Curtis collaborator) add genuine comic relief occasionally. But a romantic movie as weak as this should not be allowed to use a song as good as the Beach Boys' "God Only Knows" during its climax. There oughta be a law. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World ★★★

An intense, eye-popping opening battle and director Peter Weir's realistic storytelling help this naval epic sail over dull patches, gabby interludes and ho-hum subplots. The level of authenticity is so much higher than in any mere piece of spectacle in this 1805 story of the crew of an English ship that is attacked by a French ship, and then spends the rest of the movie tracking it to get revenge. Russell Crowe plays the battle-wise captain, and Paul Bettany is the ship's inquisitive scientist. And though these friends' dialogues about the merits of science can't compare with the action sequences, Crowe especially breathes great life into his character. For once, the special effects serve the story in a big movie, and not the other way around. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Matrix Revolutions ★★

The first *Matrix* had a thrilling sense of discovery, but ultimately, this trilogy had little to offer once that initial excitement was gone. How did that lively original ever morph into the ponderous, self-important saga in this second sequel? They ought to hand you Cliffs Notes going into this one, because unless you're a no-lifer who's seen the previous movies 10 times, it's hard to follow the many plot intricacies, and the movie does little to reacquaint you. As in the first sequel, the bad guys—specifically Hugo Weaving's Agent Smith and Lambert Wilson and Monica Bellucci's Eurotrash couple—offer most of the fun. Aside from Jada Pinkett Smith, the heroes are robotic stiffs, while the fight scenes verge on self-parody and the Neo-as-Christ climax is worth a snicker or three. (At Boston Common, Fenway, suburbs and IMAX theaters.)

The Missing ★½

Endless, bloated and bland as a Saturday night in Wichita, Ron Howard's western features a flimsy plot, underdeveloped characters and his own tired direction. Cate Blanchett plays an 1880s frontier woman whose daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) is kidnapped by Indians, while Tommy Lee Jones plays her estranged father, who "went Indian" long ago and now offers to help find the girl, despite his daughter's resentment of him. Along the way, Blanchett's character learns that there are good Indians and bad Indians, that Indian healing can work where her sort of healing won't and that dad isn't the total dirtbag she thought he was. But don't expect this soggy, soulless movie to actually have a point of view. Every time a benefit of Indian, "nontraditional" culture pops up, a benefit of Eurocentric, Christian culture is sure to follow, and vice versa. And every time a drawback of Indian culture comes up, a drawback of Eurocentric culture falls in place, too. This is multiculturalism in the worst, safest sense. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Mystic River ★★

Where are Robert Mitchum and *The Friends of Eddie Coyle* when you need them? Clint Eastwood's adaptation of Dennis Lehane's novel would like to be the same sort of somber, blue-collar crime story as that 1970s Boston-shot classic. But this disappointing film is plodding and literally and figuratively murky. Eastwood assembles a great cast whose efforts don't always pay off, especially Sean Penn, whose character, Jimmy, suffers most from the loss of the novel's background detail. Kevin Bacon and Tim Robbins play the other two childhood friends whose fates become intertwined anew when Jimmy's daughter is murdered—one is the detective investigating the crime and the other is the prime suspect. As a whodunit, this is competent enough, but its ambitions run larger

Cate Blanchett plays an 1880s frontier woman in Ron Howard's *The Missing*.

than that, and its reach exceeds its grasp. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

One from the Heart ★★★½

Francis Coppola's dazzling, much-maligned 1982 movie gets a deserved big-screen reissue before its DVD debut. But don't hesitate, because this is probably a quick revisit. Coppola's story of Las Vegas couple Teri Garr and Frederic Forrest breaking up, and perhaps making up, on their July 4 anniversary has one of the great song scores of any film, by Tom Waits (mainly in duets with, of all people, Crystal Gayle). Filmed in eye-popping color on studio sets, it's full of spine-tingling moments of adventurous style, while the story boasts a bittersweetness you'd never find in a Hollywood romance these days. (At Kendall Square.)

School of Rock ★★★½

Jack Black has the big-screen breakthrough he's been destined for ever since his scene-stealing role in *High Fidelity*. Here, he's a failed rock-and-roller who impersonates a substitute teacher and schools his fourth-graders to be his new band. Writer Mike White, who also plays a supporting role, tailored the story to Black's manic talents, and he and director Richard Linklater (*Dazed & Confused*) take what could have been a lame David Spade or Rob Schneider movie and made a very funny, genuinely feel-good movie. So, the next time one of those painful movies starring a *Saturday Night Live* cast member comes out, remember it didn't have to be so bad. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Shattered Glass ★★★

The story of Stephen Glass, the hotshot *New Republic* reporter who turned out to have faked most of his articles, becomes a fascinating drama that avoids the usual stodginess of docudramas. Instead of showing us the hows and whys of Glass' fakery—does anyone really know those besides Glass himself?—the movie presents Glass (Hayden Christensen) as an eager-to-please go-getter who appears to be taken in himself by his own veneer of guilelessness (and also appears to be the best coworker anyone could ever have). That self-deception may be the biggest and most interesting deceit in the movie, which also touches upon entertainment's dangerous seductive power over journalism. The strong supporting cast includes Peter Saarsgard, Chloe Sevigny, Hank Azaria and Melanie Lynskey. (At Kendall Square.)

The Station Agent ★★★

This comedy about a dwarf (Peter Dinklage) who moves into an abandoned train depot in a small New Jersey town might have been a cloyingly quirky indie film. Instead, it's a pretty special experience. Dinklage's deadpan performance as Fin wryly captures how his character's expectations of his fellow man have been pounded down by their reaction to his height. Broader comedy comes from Bobby Canavale, as a food-truck owner who tries to befriend Fin, and Patricia Clarkson, as a woman escaping a fizzled marriage whom Fin tries to befriend. There's a wise and endearing clash of humanity here, and an unpredictable story to go along with it. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

21 Grams ★★

Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu used time to great effect in his bracing debut, *Amores Perros*. In his follow-up (his first American-made movie), his use of nonlinear structure doesn't go so smoothly. Again Gonzalez blends three stories—of a newly widowed woman (Naomi Watts), a born-again ex-con (Benicio Del Toro) and a terminally ill professor (Sean Penn)—but the film's first half is so hyperactive that it's hard to get into it. That's when the action jumps so often—in time, and among the three characters—that it lacks a center. When the film finally settles down, and we see the three lives intersect, the action gets genuinely dramatic at last, and Watts' raw performance is especially compelling. But that first half is a big price to pay to get to the second. (At Coolidge Corner and Kendall Square.)

Zero Day ★★★½

The thought of a movie inspired by the Columbine school shooting isn't very appealing. But director and cowriter Ben Coccio's debut is a very potent and totally involving tale of two high school outsiders (Andre Kreuck, Calvin Robertson) planning just such an attack. The movie is comprised of excerpts from the video diary the characters are filming to chronicle their preparations for the big day, and the action feels amazingly authentic. Kreuck and Robertson are simply tremendous. They're also smart and initially likeable, which makes their characters' on-camera gun demonstrations and their climactic attack all the more tragic. (At Coolidge Corner.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors

Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Popular Request: Katharine Hepburn

•Dec. 8, 6 pm. **Keeper of the Flame** *1942*. Spencer Tracey stars as a journalist writing a biography of a national hero who died in a car accident. Hepburn is the widow who could have prevented his death. George Cukor directs.

•Dec. 15, 6 pm. **Without Love** *1945*. Harold S. Bucquet directs this comedy, in which Hepburn plays a character who marries Spencer Tracey in the name of science.

BRATTLE THEATRE

Feasts for the Eyes

•Dec. 4, 5 and 7:30 pm. **The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover** *1989*. Peter Greenaway directs this twisted story about a crime boss' wife who takes solace in the arms of a bookseller. •Also showing, 10 pm. **Hrvatski vs. the Avant Garde**. Local electronic musician Hrvatski performs a live soundtrack to a selection of avant garde films.

Recent Raves

•Dec. 3, 5 and 7:15 pm. **Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion** *2003*. Tom Peosay spent more than nine years traveling through Tibet, Nepal and India to make this documentary. •Also showing, 9:30 pm. **Disc** *2002*. In this comedy, a group of altar boys devote their summer to repentance and church service after being framed for vandalism. Calvin Swaim directs.

Special Engagements

•Dec. 5-11, 7, 7:30, and 10 pm; also at 12 and 2:30 pm on Dec. 6 and 7. **Bus 174** *2003*. Jose Padilha directs this documentary on a 2000 bus hijacking in Rio de Janeiro. •Dec. 6 and 7, 12 pm; Dec. 12-16, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:45 pm. **From Here to Eternity** 1953. Fred Zinnemann's film chronicles the lives and loves of a group of soldiers stationed in Pearl Harbor during World War II.

CAMBRIDGE CENTER FOR ADULT EDUCATION

Beyond Bollywood

•Dec. 6, 1 pm. **Tapish** *2001*. Two Indian girls—one conservative, one rebellious—grapple with patriarchal society when one enters into an arranged marriage. Jai Prakash directs. A panel discussion of Bollywood (the Indian film industry) follows. •Also showing, 7 pm. **Bombay Boys** *1998*. Kaizad Gustad's film follows three Indian men from America, England and Australia as they try to rediscover their roots in Bombay.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Now playing. **21 Grams** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

•Now playing. **Elephant** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

•Now playing. **Steve Earle: Just an American Boy** *2003*. Amos Poe directs this documentary about musician, author and antiwar activist Steve Earle.

•Now playing. **Teknolust** *2002*. Tilda Swinton stars in a quadruple role as a nerdy chemist who clones herself into three different man-hungry women. Lynn Hershman-Leeson directs.

•Now playing. **Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election** *2002*. Richard Ray Perez and Joan Sekler document the battle over the state of Florida in the 2000 election.

•Opening Dec. 5. **Zero Day** *2003*. Ben Coccio directs this fictional movie based on the Columbine school shootings.

Midnight Movies

•Dec. 5 and 6, 12 am. **The Animation Show** *1994*. This collection of short animated films was compiled by Mike Judge (*Beavis and Butthead, King of the Hill*) and Don Hertzfeldt (*Billy's Balloon, Rejected!*).

•Dec. 5 and 6, 12 am. **Tron** *1982*. A hacker is abducted into the world of a computer and forced to participate in gladiatorial games.

•Dec. 12, 12 am. **Meatballs** *1979*. Ivan Reitman's comedy follows the hijinks of a camp counselor and his charges.

•Dec. 13, 12 am. **Scrapple** *1998*. In this comedy, a small-time drug dealer sells pot to his friends to raise money to buy a house. Christopher Hanson directs.

Outsider Music

•Dec. 15, 9:30 pm. **Jandek on Corwood** *2003*. This documentary examines the life and music of Jandek, a singer from Texas who, after 25 years and 34 albums still refuses to do live shows or make public appearances. Director Chad Friedrichs tells Jandek's story through interviews with the artist and music lovers inspired by his music.

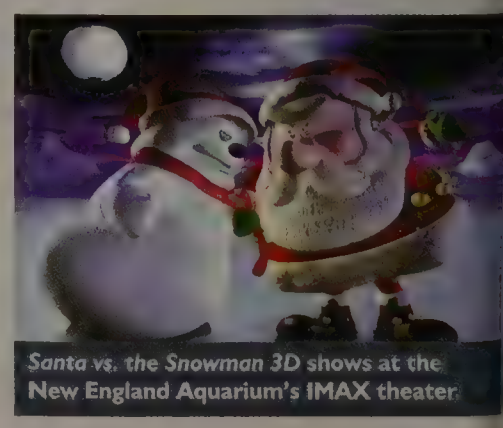
Video Balagan Series

•Dec. 8, 7:30 pm. **Big Balagan: The First Balagan Fundraiser**. This collection of short works by local and international filmmakers is centered around the theme of money.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Family Bonds: New Films from Europe

•Dec. 5, 7 pm. **Son Frére** *(His Brother) 2003*. Director Patrice Chéreau is present for the screening of his film about two estranged brothers who are reunited when the elder becomes ill. •Also showing 9 pm. **Jesus Du Weisst** *(Jesus, You Know) 2003*. Ul



Santa vs. the Snowman 3D shows at the New England Aquarium's IMAX theater.

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Billy Bob Thornton and Tony Cox spread the joy in the Christmas comedy *Bad Santa*.

rich Seidl's documentary chronicles six Catholics' discussion of Jesus.

•Dec. 6, 7 pm; Dec. 12, 9:15 pm. **Oltre Il Confino** *(Beyond the Border) 2002*. A Bosnian illegally living in Italy befriends an ailing Italian and his daughter. Rolando Colla directs. •Also showing, 9 pm; Dec. 15, 9 pm. **En Construcción** *(Work in Progress) 2001*. José Luis Guer'n's docudrama traces the construction of an apartment building in a rundown section of Barcelona.

•Dec. 7, 7 pm. **Vai e Vem** *(Come and Go) 2003*. An old widower looks into hiring a housekeeper in João César Monteiro's comedy.

•Dec. 12, 7 pm; Dec. 13, 9 pm. **Ondskan** *(Evil) 2003*. A young boy is forced to attend a private school where the older boys brutally haze the younger ones. Mikael Håfström directs.

•Dec. 13, 7 pm; Dec. 14, 9:15 pm. **The Little Life** *2002*. A mother struggles to keep her premature baby alive. Sarah Gavron directs.

•Dec. 14, 7 pm. **Diskoli Apocheretisi: O Babas Mou** *(Hard Goodbyes: My Father) 2002*. A young boy refuses to come to terms with his father's untimely death in a car accident. Penny Panayotopoulou directs.

•Dec. 16, 7 pm. **L'Isola** *(The Island) 2003*. A 14-year-old boy dreams of pursuing his dreams away from his island home of Favignana off Sicily. Costanza Quatriglio directs. •Also showing, 9 pm. **Rengeteg** *(Forest) 2003*. Hungarian director Benedek Fliegauf's film follows two people through separate experiences at a busy shopping mall.

Film Architectures

•Dec. 3, 7 pm. **The Belly of an Architect** *1987*. While working in Rome, an American architect's obsession with his abdominal pain causes him to lose his focus on his work and wife. Peter Greenaway directs.

•Dec. 9, 7 pm. **Der Himmel über Berlin** *(Wings of Desire) 1987*. A pair of angels descends to Earth to eavesdrop on the lonely citizens of Berlin. Wim Wenders directs.

The Moving Image: Film and Visual Representation

•Dec. 10, 7 pm. **Blade Runner** *1982*. Ridley Scott's adaptation of Philip K. Dick's *Do-Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, set in 2019, follows a former cop (Harrison Ford) charged with terminating a group of genetically engineered androids.

New German Cinema

•Dec. 3, 9 pm. **Dragon Chow** *1987*. An illegal Pakistani immigrant befriends a young waiter at a Hamburg Chinese restaurant. Together they try to open their own venture. Jan Schütte directs.

•Dec. 8, 7 pm. **Lola Rennt** *(Run, Lola, Run) 1998*. A small-time gangster misplaces 10,000 Deutsche marks, and his girlfriend has 20 minutes to help him find it. Tom Tykwer's thriller features three different conclusions.

•Dec. 10, 9 pm. **Winterschläfer** *(Wintersleepers) 1997*. Four 20-somethings' lives intersect in a village in the Alps. Two romances, a death and a birth ensue. Tom Tykwer directs.

•Dec. 15, 7 pm. **Unberührbare, Die** *(No Place to Go) 2000*. Oskar Röhler's film is based on the story of his mother, author Gisela Elsner, a longtime sympathizer of Communism who is unable to cope with life after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

(Re)screening Shakespeare

•Dec. 8, 9 pm. **Hamlet** *2000*. Michael Almereyda's adaptation of Shakespeare's play takes place in modern-day Manhattan and stars Ethan Hawke, Kyle MacLachlan and Bill Murray.

Screening Modern China

•Dec. 9, 9:15 pm. **The Wedding Banquet** *1993*. A gay New York landlord marries his Chinese tenant who needs a green card. The marriage becomes an inconvenience when the landlord's Taiwanese family arrives. Ang Lee directs.

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

The United Nations Association of Greater Boston Film Festival

•Dec. 5, 6:30-10:30 pm; Dec. 6, 1-6:15 pm. The UNAGB's second annual film festival features documentaries by international filmmakers that touch on human rights, environmental survival, women's issues, religion, refugee protection, racism, disease control, universal education and war and peace. Filmmakers Anne Macksoud and John Ankele discuss their documentary, *The Global Banquet: Politics of Food*, Dec. 5, and filmmaker Gayle Ferraro discusses her documentary, *Anonymously Yours*, Dec. 6.

THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Films on Art

•Dec. 4, 8 pm. **New England Film and Video Artists**. Filmmaker Karen Aqua screens her animated films, including the short film *Andaluz*.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•Dec. 14, 10:30 am. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2001*. This documentary follows Scottish sculptor Andy Goldsworthy as he works outdoors with ice, driftwood, leaves, stone and dirt. Thomas Riedelsheimer directs.

Boston Festival of Films from Iran

•Dec. 5, 6 pm; Dec. 13, 10:30 am. **Iran Sous Le Voile des Apparences** *(Iran, Veiled Appearances) 2002*. Thierry Michel directs this documentary about life in contemporary Iran, from its paramilitary religious sects to the increasingly modern youth culture. •Also showing, 8 pm; Dec. 7, 12:15 pm. **Ravaryete Makdush** *(Black Tape: A Tehran Diary—The Videotape Friborz Kambari Found in the Garbage) 2002*. An 18-year-old "trophy wife" receives a camcorder for her birthday and uses it to record her stifling life. Friborz Kambari directs.

•Dec. 6, 10:30 am; Dec. 14, 12:15 pm. **Nargess** *1992*. A young thief tries to live an honest life and win over a beautiful girl from a poor family. Rakshan Bani Etemad directs.

•Dec. 7, 10:30 am; Dec. 14, 4 pm. **Rusari Abi** *(The Blue-Veiled) 1995*. A plantation owner falls in love with a young field hand but must overcome race and class boundaries as well as the objections of his daughters in order to be with her. Rakshan Bani Etemad directs.

•Dec. 12, 6 pm; Dec. 13, 12:15 pm. **Nafas-e Amigh** *(Deep Breath) 2002*. Two well-off young men try to find purpose in their lives. Parviz Shahbazi directs.

Cinema India

•Dec. 4, 1 pm; Dec. 6, 2:30 pm. **Dil Chahta Hai** *(Do Your Own Thing) 2001*. Farhan Akhtar presents his spin on Bollywood movies in this light-hearted story of three young jet-setters searching for love.

Czech Horror and Fantasy on Film

•Dec. 11, 2pm; Dec. 14, 12:30 pm. **Krysar** *(The Pied Piper) 1986*. Jiri Barter uses the German legend of the Pied Piper to create a visual metaphor for the fall of a materialistic society. Three short films follow. •Also showing, 3:30 pm. **Kdo Chce Zabit Jessii?** *(Who Killed Jessie?) 1966*. This sci-fi comedy explores what happens when unpleasant dreams become reality in the story of an unhappily married scientist couple. Vaclav Vorlicek directs.

•Dec. 13, 3 pm. **Spalovac Mrtvol** *(The Cremator) 1968*. Juraj Herz directs this film set during the Nazi occupation in which the operator of a crematorium becomes murderous. •Also showing, 3:45 pm. **Morgiana** *1971*. Based on a story by Aleksandr Grin, Juraj Herz's film is about a jealous woman who uses a slow-acting poison to ruin her sister's life.

The Fantastic Cinema of Jean Cocteau

•Dec. 6, 12:30 pm. **La Princesse de Cleves** *1960*. A young teen becomes a princess by marrying an older man. Despite her faithfulness, her husband doubts her fidelity. Jean Delannoy directs.

•Dec. 7, 2 pm. **Orphee** *(Orpheus) 1949*. Jean Cocteau directs this adaptation of the myth of Orpheus set in 1940s Paris. •Also showing, 4 pm. **Le Testament d'Orphee** *(The Testament of Orpheus) 1960*. In his final film, Cocteau creates a self-portrait in which he encounters figures from history while examining his own life.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Dec. 16. **Africa: The Serengeti**. This Omni film depicts the 1.5 million animals that migrate across the African plains. *Call for show times.*

•Through Jan. 16, 2004. **Space Station**. Blast into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts of the International Space Station. *Call for show times.*

•Through Feb. 12, 2004. **Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees**. Enter the world of the wild chimpanzees of Africa's Gombe Stream National Park. *Call for show times.*

•Through June 2004. **Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of their journey, brought to life by *National Geographic*. *Call for show times.*

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Now playing. **The Matrix Revolutions**. In this sequel to *The Matrix*, Neo and the rebel leaders battle the machines that have overpowered the human race. *Call for show times.*

•Now playing. **Bugs! 3D**. This film focuses on the world of insects in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size. *Call for show times.*

•Now playing. **Ghosts of the Abyss**. Director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea's surface to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. *Call for show times.*

•Now playing. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. This film explores the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef and finds sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. *Call for show times.*

•Now playing. **Santa vs. the Snowman 3D**. A lonesome snowman turns his jealousy of Santa Claus into a full-scale war, with squirt guns and a 50-foot-tall toy soldier. *Call for show times.*

Cinema Venues

BELMONT

Studio Cinema
376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)
100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre
201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St. (617-266-5152). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Loews Boston Common
175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science
Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema
399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Cambridge Center for Adult Education
42 Brattle St. (617-547-6789). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond
168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema
One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Kennedy School of Government
79 John F. Kennedy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Loews/Sony
10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

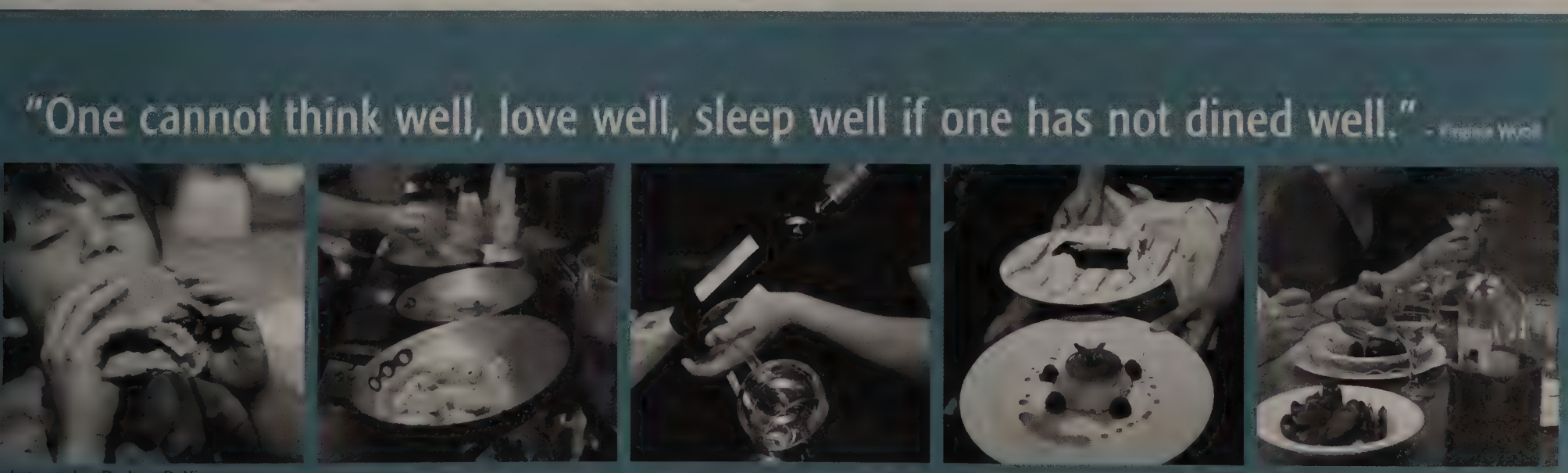
Chestnut Hill Cinema
27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema
1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony
35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.



photography: Darlene DeVita

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Blues Blood

Avant-jazz guitar legend James Blood Ulmer reveals his Southern soul through his reincarnation as a blues preacher

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

James Blood Ulmer fondly embraces a two-decade-old memory of playing Streets, a long-defunct Allston punk club where he unleashed the volcanic hybrid of jazz, funk and blues he forged on early '80s landmark albums *Free Lancing* and *Black Rock*.

"A power club we called it," says Ulmer, a South Carolina native who honed his chops with organ combos and free-jazz maverick Ornette Coleman. "You could play real loud."

Ulmer will be working at a different volume, however, when he pulls into Johnny D's Dec. 11 in his current incarnation as a surprisingly traditional blues player. "It's just another addition to the family," according to Ulmer, who says his current music fits Coleman's hard-to-define "harmolodic" approach (in which all instruments share rhythmic, melodic and harmonic roles) because he is still finding the best way to adapt to varied situations. "Coleman told me I was a natural harmolodic player, so I only had to worry about how I am as a person."

James Blood Ulmer brings his harmolodic style to Johnny D's Dec. 11.

In any case, Ulmer's deep, rough-hewn singing voice and barbed, angular playing style inspired long-admiring guitar protégé Vernon Reid of the rock band Living Colour to suggest that Ulmer try blues. "He was very serious about making a blues record," Ulmer says of Reid, who himself once served with Coleman disciple Ronald Shannon Jackson. "I never thought about it."

"I never would have thought about doing somebody else's songs," Ulmer says from his New York home. "Vernon picked the songs, got the band, got the studio and all I did was [show up]. He didn't even let me know what songs I was doing until two or three days before the session."

Their first session, at Memphis' famed Sun Studios, yielded 2001's Memphis Blood, a disc of standards that was released days before September 11 on a record label that shut down a week later. Nonetheless, the CD earned a Grammy nomination.

This year, Ulmer and producer Reid teamed up for *No Escape from the Blues*, recorded at New York's Electric Lady Studios, Jimi Hendrix's legendary facility. Opening with the jug band–styled "Goin' to New York," the CD traces the migration of blues from the South to the urban North—a path that Ulmer himself followed—and shows Ulmer moving toward a unique bridge between a traditional and contemporary repertoire.

Guests include singer Queen Esther and two old Ulmer associates, trumpeter Olu Dara and electric violinist Charlie Burnham, whose wah-wah attack blends with Ulmer's and Reid's guitars.

Ulmer ranges from a whispery shuffle through "Who's Been Talkin' "—sounding more Tom Waits than Howlin' Wolf—to a version of "Trouble in Mind" undercut with an Indian drone to a romp through Earl King's "Come On (Let the Good Times Roll)" that nods to Hendrix's cover of the tune.

"I knew those songs like you know 'The Star-Spangled Banner' or the Lord's Prayer," says Ulmer, 61, whose father was a Baptist deacon and later a preacher. "I was 20 years old before segregation left. So I know those songs from a child, those old blues songs. My daddy used to hum those songs. It would tie in with church music. It would sound the same way without words if you were humming it." As a preteen, Ulmer also sang in a gospel quartet called the Southern Sons. "That quartet music had the same feeling as the blues," he adds. "We were just singing about Jesus."

However, while Ulmer's father taught him to play guitar at age 4, his mother disapproved of the blues. "One guy used to get drunk, and take out that guitar and start playing blues," Ulmer says. "So she didn't think it was the kind of stuff for me to listen to."

Now, all these years later, he has secured a new niche. "I got a good concept of solo blues," says Ulmer, who includes haunting solo versions of his originals "Are You Glad to Be in America?" and "Satisfy (Story of My Life)" on *No Escape*. "You speak the way you feel, or tell the truth about some story. It's like a Baptist preacher."

He plans to do solo blues at Johnny D's, without the Reid-assembled Memphis Blood Blues Band from his recent CDs. But Ulmer also hopes to find two Boston rhythm players to back him on his own music, if he can get them an advance tape.

"I want somebody who really wants to play with me," Ulmer says. "If there are some funk players, that would be good." He says he intends to play vocal tunes, since instrumentals demand more preparation. But when he's told that Johnny D's also presents jazz on occasion, Ulmer's harmolodic spirit kicks in. "If there are some jazz players that can play my music," he chimes, "then I've got music for them too." iB

James Blood Ulmer
plays Johnny D's Dec. 11.

Advice to Contributors

Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or by email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers

Information for the Music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Ryan Adams and Bleu (WBCN XMas Rave) Dec. 3, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Alien Ant Farm, Crystal Method, Smile Empty Soul and Three Days Grace (WBCN XMas Rave) Dec. 3, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Kings of Leon (WBCN XMas Rave) Dec. 3, Middle East (617-931-2000).
Blink-182, Eve 6 and Something Corporate (WBCN XMas Rave) Dec. 3, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000)
David Bowie and Macy Gray Dec. 9, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Catie Curtis and Laura Love Dec. 5, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
The Irish Tenors Dec. 5-6, Lowell Memorial Auditorium (978-454-2299).
Stephen Kellogg, Zox and Rich Price Dec. 11, Paradise Lounge (617-423-NEXT).
KISS 108's Jingle Ball, with Clay Aiken, Dido, Hillary Duff, Jessica Simpson, Nick Lachey, Maroon 5, Sean Paul, Simple Plan and Stacie Orrico Dec. 15, Tsongas Arena (617-931-2000)
Dave Matthews, Emmylou Harris, Tim Reynolds and Trey Anastasio
Dec. 16, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Mix 98.5 Holiday Hoedown, with Howie Day, Melissa Etheridge, Gavin DeGraw, Guster and Sarah McLachlan Dec. 16, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
The Prodigals Dec. 13, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Rancid, Brand New and Switchfoot (WBCN XMas Rave) Dec. 3, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Seal Dec. 11, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Martin Sexton and Melissa Ferrick Dec. 12, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Simon & Garfunkel Dec. 11 and 13, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Trans-Siberian Orchestra Dec. 7, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
The Waterboys Dec. 5, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).
Yellowcard, Billy Talent and Damone (WBCN XMas Rave) T.T. the Bears (617-931-2000).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Abbey Lounge The Probates, Shanghai Valentini and Crumb Sullivans, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Avalon Rancid, Brand New and Switchfoot, 7 pm, $20.25.
Axis Alien Ant Farm, Smile Empty Soul, Three Days Grace and Crystal Method, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Bill's Bar Paranoid Social Club, 9 pm, cover varies.
Bravo @ the MFA Pianist Ronnie Ron, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, no cover, 21+. Downstairs: Boston poetry slam, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Boris McCutcheon Band, Jimmy Ryan and Duncan Walters, 8 pm, $10, all ages.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6:30-9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Fireplace Rick Costa Jazz Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Green Line, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grille Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Otis Grove and Paper Thin Stages, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Jay Sharron, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's WMFO Helping the Homeless Benefit with Sam McClain, 8:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Place

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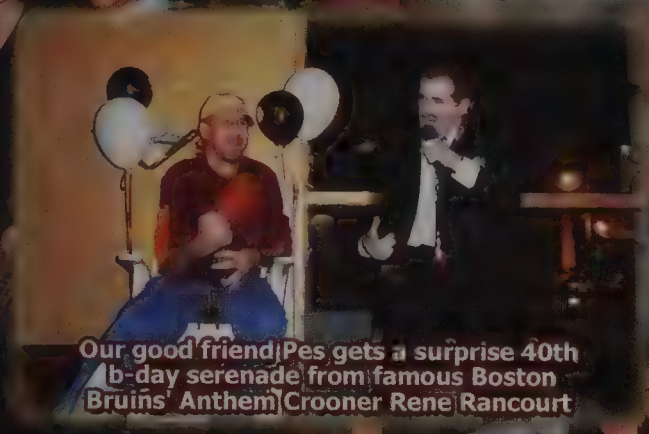

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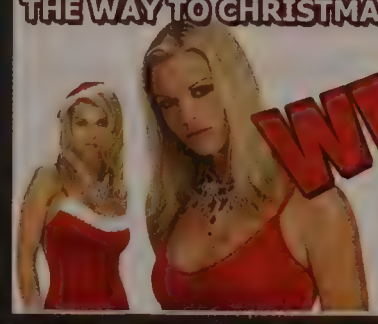

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Kennedy's Midtown Michelle Currie, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Middle East Upstairs: The Naked Sams, Chewy, Din and 23 Skeedoo, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Downstairs: Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Kings of Leon, 8 pm, $17, 18+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Orpheum Theatre Blink-182, Eve 6 and Something Corporate, 7 pm, $28.50-$38.50, all ages.
Paradise Ryan Adams and Bleu, 9 pm, $25, 18+.
The Rack Boston Horns, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Shimon Ben-Shir Group, 8:30 pm, $9, 18+.
Sky Bar The Difference Engine and Soul Be Free, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 9 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Yellowcard, Billy Talent and Damone, 8:30pm, $10.
Wally's Cafe Wally's Stepchildren I and II, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates David Eure Band, 7:30 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

Abbey Lounge Triple Thick, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Groove Authority, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Bill Duffy, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Garnet Rogers and Danya Rivers, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Fireplace Edward Khachaturyan, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grille Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Joshua Tree, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Jazz Mandolin Project and Jennifer Hartswick Band, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Hennessy's Death by Marriage, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Marta Gomez, 9 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown John Mansfield, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Linwood Low Budget Superhero's Old Dogs/New Tricks, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Jon Benjamin and Brendan Smalls, Eugene Mirman, Tigers & Monkeys and the Jack McCoys, 9 pm, $8, 18+. Downstairs: The Rapture, Casiotone and the Painfully Alone, 8 pm, $14, 18+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Clem Snide, 9 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Central Basement, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack U-Neek Approach, 6-10 pm; DJ Littles, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.
Regent Theatre James Montgomery and Johnny Winter, 8 pm, $29-$100, all ages.
Sky Bar Just Another Victim, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 9 pm, no cover.
T.T. the Bear's Place Antigone Rising and No More Dolls, 9:15 pm, $10, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Latin Jazz Francisco Mela Quartet, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

Abbey Lounge Rajas, Ross Phasor and the Rudds, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis RZA, Das EFX and Northstar, 7 pm, $17, all ages.
Berklee Performance Center The Waterboys, 7:30 pm, $25-$28, all ages.
Bob the Chef's Andrew Clark Band, 7:30 pm, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Kyle Aho, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center Pablo Ablandeo Octet, 8 pm, $18, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Greg Greenway and Sonia, 7 pm, $15, all ages.
Common Ground The Swinging Johnsons, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

David Bowie plays at the FleetCenter Dec. 9.

Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grille Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Steamroller Picnic, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Entrain and Evan Goodrow Band, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 5-7:30 pm, 21+.
ICA Theater Andy Biskin Sextet, 8 pm, $16.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Beat Soup and the Allstonians, 9:45 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Matt Fulton, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Linwood Afterparty and Biopop, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Amun Ra, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Lowell Memorial Auditorium The Irish Tenors Christmas Spectacular, 8 pm, $35-$75, all ages.
Middle East Upstairs: Chauncey, Violet Nine and the Contes, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Wheat, Steve Burns and the Spaceshots, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Firewater, Calla and Scott McCloud, 9 pm, $12, 18+. Lounge: Firewater, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Zone, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
The Rack First Class, 6-10 pm; DJ Johnny, 10 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Somerville Theatre Catie Curtis and Laura Love, 8 pm, $25.50.
Sky Bar Tar Beach and Dave Pittenger Band, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Sam Roberts and the Russians, 10:30 pm, $8, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Darren Barrett Quintet, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Abbey Lounge Sparkola, Bamboo Kids and Irresponsibles, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center Haitian musicians Gifrants and Segwe and storyteller Charlot Lucien, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Brian Webb and Rich Price, 7 pm, $14, all ages.
Common Ground Heather Hates You, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Addison Groove Project Dec. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Sarah Brightman Jan. 31, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Catch 22, Big Wig, Fallout Boy and Punchline Dec. 28, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Harry Connick Jr. Dec. 20 and 21, Colonial Theatre (617-931-2000).
Jen Durkin and the Bomb Squad Jan. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
E-Town Concrete, God Forbid and All That Remains the Same Dec. 26, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Art Garfunkel Jan. 31, Marriott Copley Hotel (617-931-2000).
Gomez Jan. 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Ari Hest and the Clarks Jan. 22, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Natalie McMaster Jan. 11, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000).
Bette Midler Jan. 20, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Mindless Self Indulgence Dec. 19, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Sol y Canto Jan. 31, Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University (617-373-2247).
Star Sailor and Tim Burgess Jan. 20, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Take 6 Jan. 15, Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University (617-373-2247).
Cassandra Wilson Feb. 7, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).

Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grille Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Steamroller Picnic, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Satellite (Dave Matthews cover band), Jude Nemo and Patrick McAloon Band, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's DJ Misha, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Tarbox Rumblers, 9:45 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Dorothy Miller, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Linwood Rubikon, Absolve, New Son Rising and Grey Cell Green, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Lowell Memorial Auditorium The Irish Tenors Christmas Spectacular, 8 pm, $55-$75, all ages.
Middle East Upstairs: Helicopter Helicopter, the Beatings, the Jazz June and Chubby, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Arab Strap, Magnolia Electric Co. and Malcolm Middleton, 8 pm, $14, 18+.
Nameless Coffeehouse Carl Cacho, Dave Dersham, Russell Wolff and Marc Herman, 8 pm, $8.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Lounge: John Brown's Body and Mister Rourke, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Zone, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Red Door Coffeehouse Aine Minogue, 7:30 pm.
Sky Bar Blue Letter Days, Satellite 7 and Mersa, 8 pm, 45, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rocket from the Tombs, US Maple and Unnatural Axe, 9:30 pm, $15, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Darren Barrett Quintet, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with ZMQ, 10 am-3 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Jazz brunch with the Ronnie Ro Duo, 11:30 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, no cover 21+. Downstairs: Boston poetry slam, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Tish Hinojosa, 7:30 pm, $18, all ages.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
FleetCenter Trans Siberian Orchestra, 7:30 pm, $30.50-$51, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis, 9:30 pm, 21+, no cover.
Green Street Grille Cuban Rhumba Brunch with Tony Perez, 12-3 pm; Balla Tounkara, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Miss Mineola and Guilty, 8 pm, $4 21+.
Hennessy's Danny Tucker and the Vibe Tribe Reggae Band, 9 pm, 21+.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Matt Dorko and Larry Kukers, 9 am-2:30 pm; Blues jam 4:30-8:30 pm, no cover.
Kennedy's Midtown Keza Hirsey, 12-4 pm, no cover, all ages.
Middle East Upstairs: Mark Kozelek and Drew O' Doherty, 9 pm, $15, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch with John Purcell, 11 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Sky Bar Downward Deception, Under Falling Skies, Whiskey Chapel and Speak Easy, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-pm; Tim Ray Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place The Prids and Medea Connection, 9:15 pm, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Wally's Stepchildren III, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:3 am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+

MONDAY, DEC. 8

Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Open mike with Geo Bartley, 8 pm; Joe Stead, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Choppin' Block Jazz session with Marianne Soliva Quartet, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8 pm, $10, all ages.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Hennessy's Joe Carson, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

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Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Maeve, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Tim Ray Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Nashville Pussy and Randy, 9:50 pm, 21+.
Wally's Cafe José Ramos Special Blend Band, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; Kruger Brothers, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
FleetCenter David Bowie and Macy Gray, 7:30 pm, $38.50-$76, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Cool Black Kettle, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grille High Plains Drifters, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Mountain of Venus, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Hennessy's Scott Damgaard, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Springhill Rounders, 8:30 pm, $6, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East The Modifiers, the Jumblies and Jetlagger, 9 pm, $8, 18+.
Paradise The Alternativity Holiday Show with Radio 4, the Audio Bullys, Star Spangles, Apollo Sunshine, Mondo Diao and Loveless, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
The Rack ZMQ, 6:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jeff Friedman Group, 8:30 pm, $7, 18+.
Scullers Peter White and Mindi Abair, 8 pm and 10 pm, $25.
Sky Bar Alex Tobin, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg David Johnson Band, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place A Wish for Fire, Houston Cassettes, Los Halos and International Pen Pal, 9 pm.
Wally's Cafe Wally's Stepchildren I and II, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Abbey Lounge The Wild Dogs, Invercaron and Bismarc, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Bravo @ the MFA Ronnie Ron, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, no cover, 21+. Downstairs: Boston poetry slam, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Ina May Wool and Sloan Wainwright, 8 pm, $12, all ages.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Encore Lounge Stavey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Fireplace Cookie the Sax Man, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Green Street Grille Blue Rhino Group, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Hennessy's Jay Sharron, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Taylor Street, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Soul Position, DJ Przm and Illogic, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, 8 pm, $20, 18+.
The Rack Groove Authority, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Ryles Jazz Club Berklee Big Band Festival, 8:30 pm, $10, 18+.
Scullers Peter White and Mindi Abair, 8 and 10 pm, $25.
Sky Bar The Ticks, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
Wally's Cafe Wally's Stepchildren I and II, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+
Les Zygomates David Eure Band, 7:30 pm, no cover.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

Abbey Lounge Triple Thick, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Avalon Seal, 7 pm, $30.75, 18+.
Bob the Chef's Joe Bargar and the Soul Providers, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Ronnie Ron, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Jason Harrod, 8 pm, $14, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Death by Marriage, no cover, 18+.

A Wish for Fire celebrates the release of its debut CD at T.T. the Bear's Place Dec. 9.

Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Fireplace David Kidd, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
FleetCenter Simon & Garfunkel and the Everly Brothers, 8 pm, $50-225, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grille Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Virginia Coalition, 8 pm, 18+.
Hennessy's Me and Julio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Boston Standard Jazz Group, 6 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's James Blood Ulmer, 9 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Fooled by April, the Charms, the Tint and Baby Ray, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Rasputina, Reverend Glasseye and his Wooden Leg, and Annete Farrington, 8 pm, $14, 18+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Zox. Lounge: Steven Kellog, Zox and Rich Price, 7 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris Central Basement, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Shannell, 6-10 pm; DJ Littles, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Megalodon, 8:30 pm, $7, 18+.
Sky Bar Lesser Green, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Adult, Electronicat and Tamian 12 Inch, 9:15 pm, $10, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Latin Jazz Francisco Mela Quartet, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+
Zeitgeist Gallery Jason Anderson, Wolf Colonel, Picastro and Tiger Saw.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

Abbey Lounge Coffin Lids and the Dents, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30 pm-8:30 pm; Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Bill's Bar Melbourne, 9 pm, cover varies.
Bob the Chef's Shannell, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Cathie Ryan, 8 pm, $17, all ages.
Common Ground Big Delicious, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Briar John Frederik Band, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Green Street Grille Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Burnt Sienna, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Fighting Gravity, Stepanian and Brian Alex, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller Sing-along, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Pressure Cooker, 9:45 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Satanicide, Shake Dog Shake, Sugabomb and the Drags, 9 pm, $10, 18+. Downstairs: Sam Kinninger Band, Hi8us and NBFB, 8 pm, $15, 18+.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Orpheum Theatre Martin Sexton and Melissa Ferrick, 8 pm, $30-$36, all ages.
Paradise Lounge Mappari and the High Ceilings (with American Sign Language interpretation), 8 pm, $8, 18+.
Parris The Zoo, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
The Rack U-Neek Approach, 6-10 pm; DJ Johnny, 10 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.
Redline The Shadowkings, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Boatyard Resin, Pawnshop Roses and Chris McCarty Band, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Quick Fix, the Halogens, Reverse and Raymond, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
VFW Post 299 Josh Lederman y los Diablos, Gone Baby Gone, the Kickbacks and the Twilight Ranchers, 8 pm.
Wally's Cafe Darren Barrett Quintet, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Abbey Lounge Andrea Gillis, the Mules and Kitty Kill, 9:30 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30 pm-8:30 pm; Bert Seager Jazz Duo, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim John Wesley Harding, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
FleetCenter Simon & Garfunkel and the Everly Brothers, 8 pm, $50-$225, all ages.
Green Street Grille Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Burnt Sienna, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Young Neal and the Vipers, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Jacob Wirth The Steve Fell Band, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Sleepy LaBeef, 9:45 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Papa M, EZT and the Watchers, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: 7L and Esoteric, Porn Theater Ushers, Edan, Insight and OVM, 8 pm, $18, 18+.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Lounge: the Prodigals and the Tarbox Ramblers, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Parris The Zoo, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
PA's Audrey Ryan Band, Barn Burning and the Deal, 9 pm, $5.
Sky Bar Joint Custory, Dana Mier and Dustin Dwyer Band, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Somerville Theatre A Christmas Celtic Sojourn Concert, 8 pm, $24.50-$44.50, all ages.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Raging Teens, Sean Mencher Combo, Jittery Jack, Dana Steward & the Old Howards, King Memphis and Brenda Vee, 8:15 pm, $10, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Darren Barrett Quintet, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with Pat Loomis, 10 am-3 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Jazz brunch with the Ronnie Ron Duo, 11:30 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Emmanuel Church Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, $15, all ages.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grille Cuban rhumba brunch with Tony Perez, 12-3 pm; Balla Tounkara, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Jim Gilmour and Nathan Sigman, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Ridgley Snow, 9 am-2:30 pm; Blues Jam 4:30-8:30 pm, no cover.
Middle East Upstairs: Big Bear and Certainly Sir, 1 pm, $5, 18+; the Natural History, Read Yellow and Hero Pattern, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch with Frank Vardaros, 10 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Sky Bar Lucubro, Gaiah and Second Audio Program, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Paul Schmelling Trio, 8 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Dave Derby, 10:55 pm, $7, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Wally's Stepchildren III, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11 am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+

MONDAY, DEC. 15

Axis From Autumn to Ashes, 6 pm, $12, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Open mike, 8 pm; Kat Eggleston and Kate MacLeod, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Choppin' Block Jazz session with Marianne Solivan Quartet, 8 pm, $4, 21+.
Club Passim Arabesque, 8 pm, $10, all ages.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Open mike, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Matt Murphy's Timo Shanko, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Boxingwater, Lock and Key, Tovero and the Call Up, 9 pm, $8, 18+.

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Melissa Ferrick performs at the Orpheum Theatre Dec. 12.

Top of the Hub Paul Schmelling Trio, 8 pm.
Tsongas Arena KISS 108's Jingle Ball with Clay Aiken, Dido, Hillary Duff, Jessica Simpson, Nick Lachey, Maroon 5, Sean Paul, Simple Plan and Stacie Orrico, 7 pm, $50-$85, all ages.
Wally's Cafe Jose Ramos Special Blend Band, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; King Wilkie, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
FleetCenter Dave Matthews, Emmylou Harris, Tim Reynolds and Trey Anastasio, 7:30 pm, $52.50, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Cool Black Kettle, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grille High Plains Drifters, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Old Time Music Night Annual Christmas Show, 8:30 pm, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Duvall, 9 pm, $9, 18+.
Orpheum Theatre Mix 98.5 Holiday Hoedown with Howie Day, Gaven DeGraw, Melissa Etheridge, Guster and Sarah McLachlan, 7 pm, $56, all ages.
The Rack Herman Johnson, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Our Glass Figure and Every Last Windmill Must Fall, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg David Johnson Band, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm.
T.T. the Bear's Place Apollo Sunshine, Laguardia and Washington Social Club, 9:45 pm, $7, 21+.
Wally's Cafe Wally's Stepchildren I and II, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
All-Asia Cafe *334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Atrium Lounge *24 North St., Regal Bostonian Hotel, Boston (617-523-3600). MBTA: Green or Blue line to Gov. Center.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee Performance Center *136 Mass. Ave, Boston (617-266-1400) MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Boston Harbor Hotel *70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Bravo @ the MFA *465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (617-369-3474). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.*
Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave. Roxbury (617-541-5400).*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center *41 Second St., Cambridge (617-577-1400, ext. 10). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: E Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Cottonwood Café *222 Berkeley St., Boston (617-247-2225). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Boston (617-350-9977). MBTA: Blue Line to State.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Fireplace *1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington.*
First and Second Church *66 Marborough St., Boston (617-267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to North Station.*
Forsyth Chapel *Forest Hills Cemetary, 95 Forest Hill Ave., Boston (617-524-3354)*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112) MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (617-876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010) MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harpers Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121) MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
ICA Theater *955 Boylston St., Boston (617-354-6898). MBTA: Green line to Hynes/ICA.*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Jacob Wirth *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900) MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*

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Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Midtown *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Kresge Auditorium *MIT campus, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-275-8777).*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Lowell Memorial Auditorium *50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-2299).*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Nameless Coffeehouse *3 Church St., Cambridge (617-864-1630). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Old South Church *645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Paradise Rock Club and Lounge *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
P.A.'s Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557).*
Pat Flanagan's *79 Parkingway St., Quincy (617-773-3400). MBTA: D Green Line to Mission Hill.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Red Door Coffeehouse *Calvary Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-646-8679).*
Redline *59 J.F.K. St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Regent Theatre *7 Medford Street., Arlington (781-646-4849).*
Remington's of Boston *124 Boylston St., Boston (617-574-9676). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-876-4275). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
TechSpace *80 Harrison Ave, Boston (617-275-7000).*
Tír na nÓg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Tsongas Arena *300 Arcand Ave., Lowell, MA (978-848-6900).*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
VFW Post 299 *288 Green St., Cambridge (617-547-9320). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wally's Cafe *427 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-424-1408). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass Ave.*
Washington Square Tavern *714 Washington St., Brookline (617-232-8989). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Boston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060).*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 the Fenway, Boston (617-912-9222). www.bostonconservatory.edu. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8:30 pm. Free. The Boston Conservatory Opera Department presents an evening of opera scenes, featuring pieces composed by Mozart, Berlioz, Gian Carlo Menotti and Gaetano Donizetti.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Kurt Masur and John Oliver conduct the BSO, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in Wynton Marsalis' *All Rise*.

Classical Music at MIT
Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-253-1712). www.web.mit.edu/abd. 12 pm. Free. Violinist Barbara Hughey and pianist Bob Beckwitt perform works by Prokofiev and Brahms.

Music in the Cathedral
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826 ext. 1103). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Organist Henry Lebedinsky performs.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Sergio Monterisi conducts the NEC Sinfonietta in works by Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and Nino Rota.

Wellesley College
Jewett Auditorium, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu. 12:30 pm. Free. The Triple Helix Lecture-Recital features a preconcert discussion led by philosophy professor Nicolas de Warren and a performance of works by Shostakovich and Schubert by the Triple Helix.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

Boston Conservatory
Seully Hall, 8 the Fenway, Boston (617-912-9222). www.bostonconservatory.edu. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8:30 pm. Free. Same program as Dec. 3.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Same program as Dec. 3.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3306). www. mfa.org/concerts. 7:30 pm. $24. The Boston Museum Trio performs pieces by Bach with flutist Christopher Krueger and violinist Jane Starkman.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free. Lucy Stoltzman directs a concert of chamber music.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

Boston Cecilia
Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St., Boston (617-232-4540). www.bostoncecilia.org. 8 pm. $15-$40. Donald Teeters conducts Sing We Nowell, a Christmas concert featuring British carols.

Classical Music at MIT
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-2826). www.web.mit.edu. 8 pm. $5. Dante Anzolini directs the MIT Symphony Orchestra in works by Giovanni D'Aquila, Glazunov and Shostakovich.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrityseries.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $37-$46. The Vienna Choir Boys perform their annual holiday concert.

Goldberg's Variations
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston (617-354-6898). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 8 pm. $16. The Boston Creative Music Alliance concludes its fall season with a performance of *Goldberg's Variations: Music Inspired by the Drawings of Rube Goldberg*, a 12-part suite composed by clarinetist Andy Biskinnd and performed with his sextet.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handelandhaydn.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. $29-$74. Grant Llewellyn conducts Handel's *Messiah*, featuring soloists Lisa Saffer and Matthew White and Benjamin Butterfield.

Pianist Maurizio Barboro joins the Longwood Symphony Orchestra at Jordan Hall for a concert Dec. 4.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Amahl and the Night Visitors
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 3 pm. $10. Gian Carlo Menotti's classic one-act opera is a children's story about a poor shepherd boy who awakens one night to find three kings at his door.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). www.bso.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Same program as Dec. 3.

Boston University Choral Society
Marsh Chapel, 735 Comm. Ave., Boston MBTA: B Green Line to BU Central. 8 pm. Free. Music director Sean Burton and assistant conductor James Wilson lead the BU Choral Society's fall concert, entitled *A Choral Mosaic*, featuring works by Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Vaughan Williams.

Classical Music at MIT
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-2826). MBTA: Red Line to Ksendall. 8 pm. $5. Frederick Harris directs the MIT Wind Ensemble in works by Bach, Shostakovich and Wagner.

Festival of Women Composers
Brandeis University, Carl J. Shapiro Theater, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). www.brandeis. edu. 3 pm. Free. Brandeis presents a concert featuring compositions by the university's female graduate students.

Festival of Women Composers
Brandeis University, Carl J. Shapiro Theater, 415 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). www.brandeis. edu. 8 pm. $10-$25. This performance marks the premiere of the Rebecca Clarke New Music Competition prizewinning compositions performed by the Boston Secession with guest artist soprano Nancy Armstrong.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). www.celebrity series.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $37-$46. Same program as Dec. 5.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handelandhaydn.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $29-$74. Same program as Dec. 5.

Longwood Symphony Orchestra
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1260). www.longwood symphony.org/season.html. 8 pm. $15-$25. Italian pianist Maurizio Barboro joins the orchestra in an all-Beethoven concert.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4:30 pm. Free. Longy's Preparatory Division, a group of three children's chorales, joins the Faith Christian Church Heritage Choir in Here We Come A-Wassailing, a performance of Christmas and Hanukkah songs.

Wellesley College
Houghton Memorial Chapel, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu. 8 pm. Free. The Triple Helix Piano Trio presents a program titled Beethoven and His Vibrant Legacy, Concert II, featuring music by Beethove Shostakovich, Mahler and Brahms.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Amahl and the Night Visitors
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA Green Line to Copley. 3 pm. $10 su gested donation. See Dec. 6 listing.

Boston Cecilia
All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon St Brookline. www.bostoncecilia.o MBTA: C Green Line to Dean St. 3 p $15-$45. Same program as Dec. 5.

Classical Music at MIT
Kresge Auditorium, 48 Mass. Ave Cambridge (617-253-2826). ww web.mit.edu/band. 8 pm. Free. T MIT Concert Choir, directed Thomas E. Reynolds and Robe Rucinski, performs pieces by Gust Holst and Percy Aldridge Grainger

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury S Boston (617-536-3356). www.e manuelmusic.org. MBTA: Green Li to Arlington. 11 am. Free. Craig Smi conducts the orchestra and chorus Emmanuel Music in a Bach cantata

Festival of Women Composers
Brandeis University, Carl J. Shapiro Theater, 4 South St., Waltham (781-736-3400). www.brande edu. 8 pm. $5-$15. The Auros Group for New Mu performs works composed by women.

FleetBoston Celebrity Series
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, Gainsborough St., Boston (617-482-6661). ww celebrityseries.org. 3 pm. $41-$51. Mezzo-sopra Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, accompanied by pian Peter Serkin, performs works by Mozart, Brahms a Debussy.

Handel and Haydn Society
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-26 3605). www.handelandhaydn.org. MBTA: E Gre Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $29-$74. Same program Dec. 5.

Lyrica Boston
First Church Congregational, 22 Garden St., Ca bridge (617-552-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Harva 3 pm. $10-$15. Violinist Malcolm Lowe and pian Victor Rosenbaum perform works by Brahms a Mendelssohn.

New England Conservatory
St. Botolph Hall, 241 Botolph St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. Free. Cellist Suzan Friedrich-Cohen, accompanied by pianist Roy Imp rio. performs works by Beethoven, Prokofiev and B huslav Martinu.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT Green Line to Symphony. 4 pm. Free. Patricia-Ma Weinmann directs opera scenes and arias.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT Green Line to Symphony. 4 pm. Free. Lucy Stoltzm directs a concert of chamber music.

Trans Siberian Orchestra
FleetCenter, One FleetCenter Place, Boston (617-9 2000). www.fleetcenter.com. MBTA: Green or G ange Line to North Station. 7:30 pm. $30-$51. T symphonic rock orchestra performs its annual to ing show, *Christmas Eve and Other Stories*.

Wellesley College
Houghton Memorial Chapel, 106 Central St., Well ley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu. 8 pm. Fr Lisa Graham conducts the Wellesley College Ch and the Wellesley College Glee Club in a holi Vespers concert.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT Green Line to Symphony. 7 pm. Free. Lucy Stoltzm directs the NEC Gala Chamber Music Showcase.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free. Patricia-Ma Weinmann directs opera scenes and arias.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-6 9280). www.bso.org. MBTA: Green Line to Sy

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THURSDAY DEC 4

FRIDAY DEC 5

SATURDAY DEC 6

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phony. 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Keith Lockhart conducts the Boston Pops in its annual holiday concert.

New England Conservatory
Keller Room, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *Green Line to Symphony. 2 pm and 7 pm. Free.* Lucy Stoltzman directs a concert of chamber music.

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* Student composers present new music.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Music in the Cathedral
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). MBTA: *Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2.* Organist Leonardo Ciampra performs.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* Donald Palma conducts the NEC Symphony Orchestra in works by Wagner, Prokofiev and Mendelssohn.

Wellesley College
Houghton Memorial Chapel, 106 Central St., Wellesley (781-283-2028). www.wellesley.edu. *8 pm. Free.* Tom Zajac directs Collegium Musicum in works by Hildegard of Bingen.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

Boston Early Music Festival
Jesuit Urban Center/Church of the Immaculate Conception, 775 Harrison St., Boston (617-424-7232). www.bemf.org. MBTA: *Orange Line to Mass. Ave. 8 pm. $22-$58.* Peter Philips directs the Renaissance choir the Tallis Scholars in a cappella performances of sacred Renaissance repertory highlighting neglected composers of the 16th century.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-638-9280). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 1 pm and 8 pm. $22-$105.* Same program as Dec. 9.

Chorus Pro Musica
Mission Church, 1545 Tremont St., Boston (617-267-7442). 8 pm. $20-$50. Jeffrey Rink directs a performance of Berlioz's oratorio, *l'Enfance du Christ.*

New England Conservatory
Williams Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *Green Line to Symphony. 2 pm. Free.* Lucy Stoltzman directs a concert of chamber music.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* Ching Chun Lai and Tyson Wunderlich conduct the NEC Wind Ensemble and the NEC Jordan Winds.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. Free.* Colin Durrant conducts the NEC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers in a concert of works by Bach, Buxtehude, John Tavener and Jan Sandstrom.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

Boston Baroque
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-484-9200). www.bostonbaroque.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $20-$62.* Martin Pearlman directs Handel's *Messiah,* featuring soprano Sharon Baker, countertenor David Walker, tenor Don Frazure and bass Michael Dean.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-638-9280). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm and 7:30 pm. $22-$105.* Same program as Dec. 9.

The Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-972-8300). www.revels.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12-$40.* Patrick Swanson and George Emlen direct traditional carols and dances from Scotland.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden St., Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. Free.* The Opera Gala features arias and scenes that pertain to the holiday season. A potluck dinner for audience and performers follows.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Boston Baroque
New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-484-9200). www.bostonbaroque.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony pm. $20-$62.* Same program as Dec. 12.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-63 9280). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Sy phony. 11 am, 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105.* Same p gram as Dec. 9.

The Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy S Cambridge (617-972-8300). www.revels.org. MBT *Red Line to Harvard. 1 and 5 pm. $12-$40.* Same p gram as Dec. 12.

Musica Sacra
First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambri (617-349-3400). www.musicasacra.org. MBTA: *Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12-$20.* Mary Beekman rects Welcome Yule, a program of English Christm carols.

New England Philharmonic
Tsai Performance Center, Boston University, 6 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-868-1222). www.nep harmonic.org. MBTA: *B Green Line to BU East pm. $45-$75.* Richard Pittman directs a program music by Brahms, Peter Child and Wallingfo Riegger.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

Aardvark Jazz Orchestra
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (61 536-3356). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. 7: pm. $15.* Aardvark performs jazz pieces and tra tional carols in this concert to benefit programs the homeless.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-63 9280). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Sy phony. 3 pm and 7:30 pm. $22-$105.* Same progra as Dec. 9.

Cambridge Community Chorus
Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 48 Mass Ave., Cambri (617-625-6588). www.cambridgechorus.org. MBT *Red Line to Kendall. 3 pm. $5.* William Thomas co ducts the Cambridge Community Chorus in a perf mance of Handel's *Messiah,* featuring soloists Je Danton, Krista River, Charles Blandy and Vince Stringer.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (61 536-3356). www.emmanuelmusic.org. MBT *Green Line to Arlington. 11 am. Free.* Craig Smi conducts the orchestra and chorus of Emmanu Music in a Bach cantata.

Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden S Cambridge (617-876-0956). www.longy.ed MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* The Lon Chamber Singers and the Longy Chamber Orch tra present A Festival of Light, featuring holid songs plus music by Bach, Daniel Pinkham a Rachmaninoff.

New England Conservatory
Brown Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT *Green Line to Symphony. 4 pm. Free.* Lucy Stoltzm directs a concert of chamber music.

MONDAY, DEC. 15

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-63 9280). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Sy phony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105.* Same program Dec. 9.

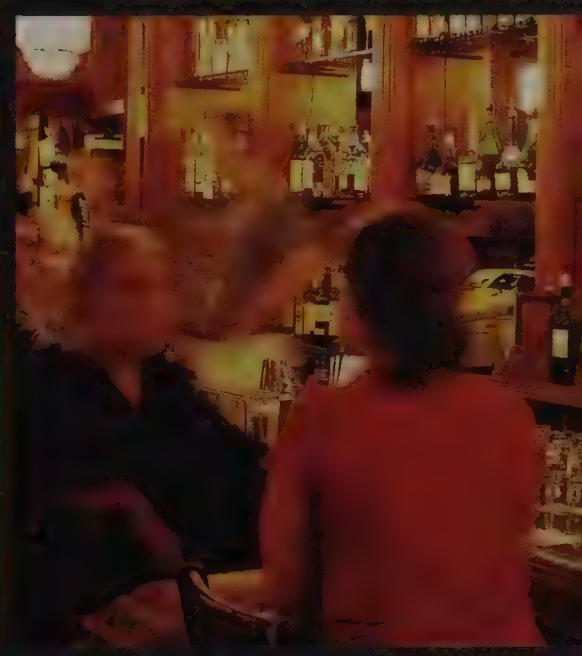
New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-58 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT *Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $5-$10.* Aaron K directs the NEC Youth Symphony in works Tchaikovsky, Brahms and Shostakovich.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-6 9280). www.bso.org. MBTA: *E Green Line to Sy phony. 3 pm and 7:30 pm. $22-$105.* Same progr as Dec. 9.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-5 1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBT *Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. Free.* Mich Mucci directs the Massachusetts Youth Wind E semble in a performance of pieces by Adam Go Edward Gregson, Martin Ellerby, Donald Granth and Clare Grundman.

Tuesdays with Sebastian
St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul St., Brookline (617-6 0570). www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info. MBT *C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 8 pm. $10.* Pe Sykes performs a selection of Bach's works for harpsichord.



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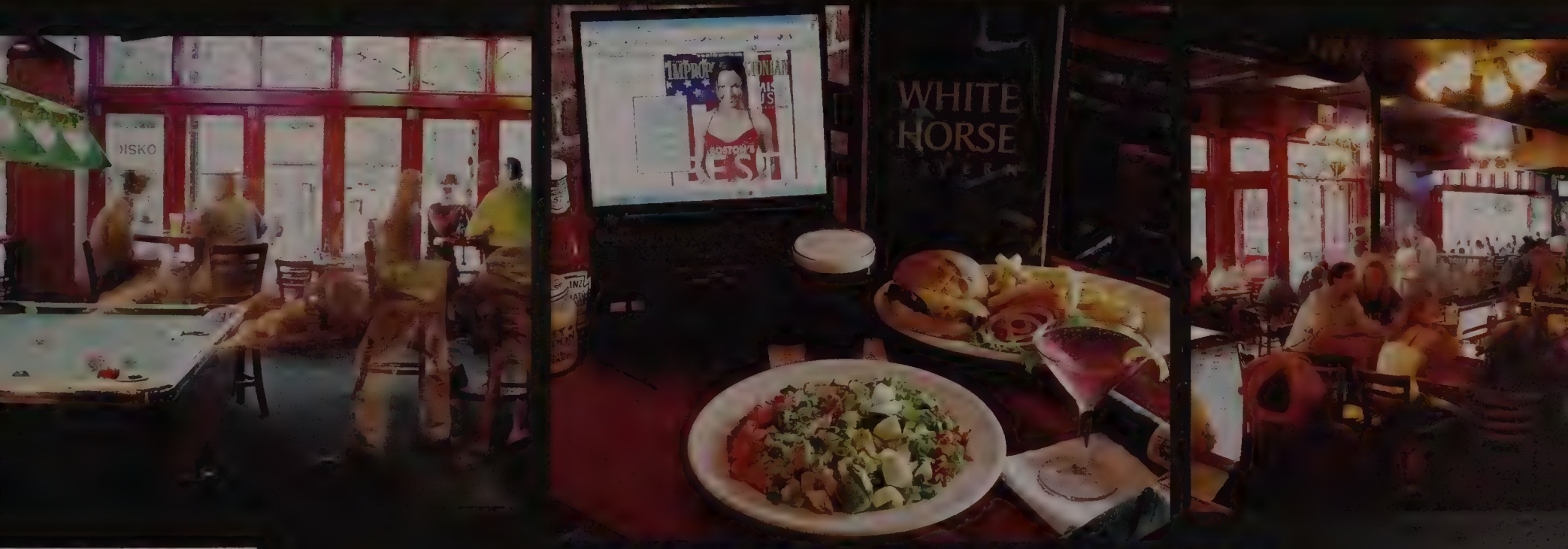

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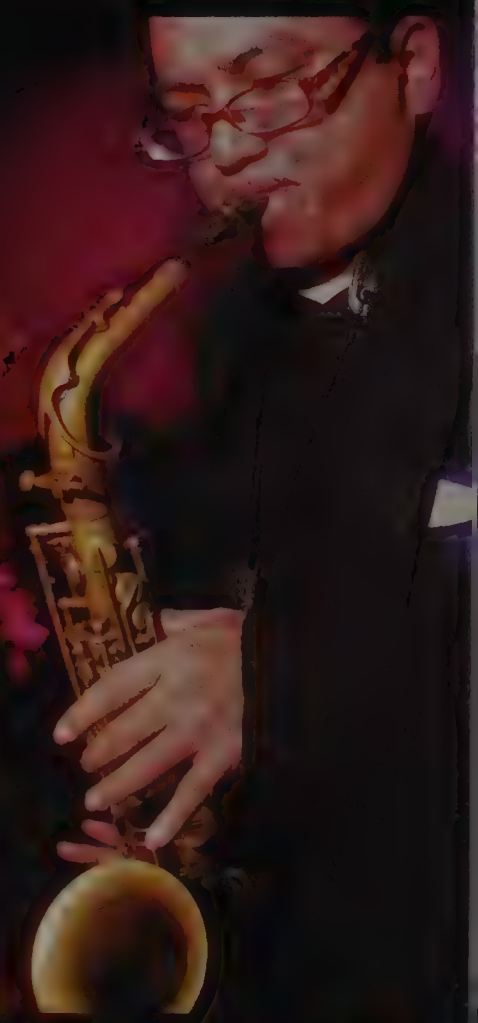
To benefit the Active Force Foundation.



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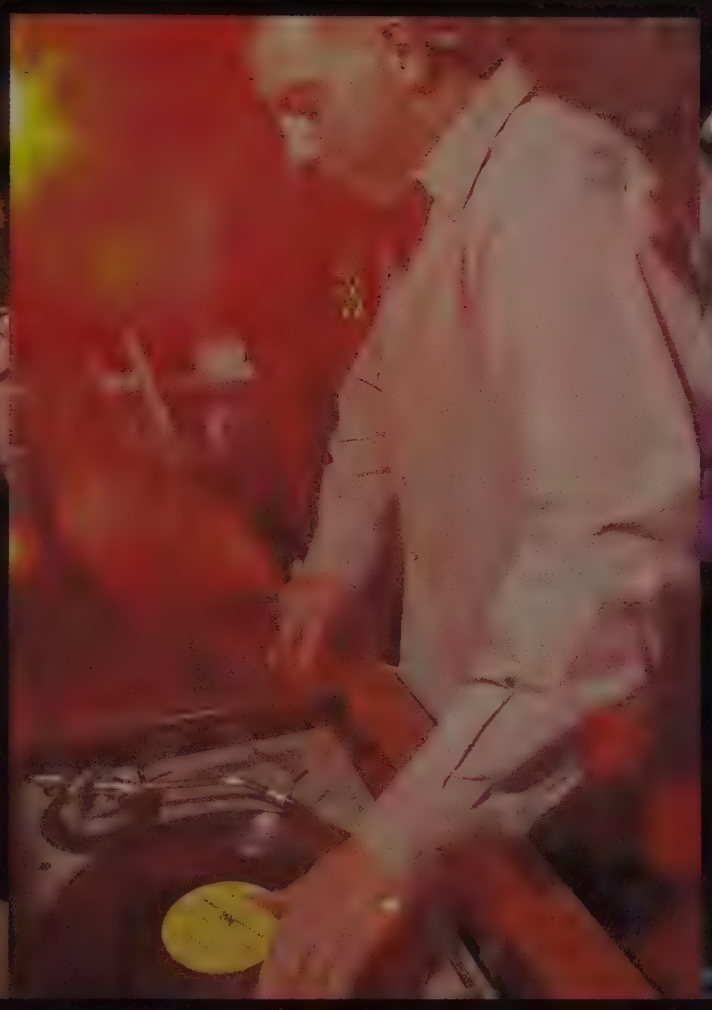

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Join us right after work with Kiss 108's Artie the One Man Party featuring live music and DJ Johnny C.

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Saturday Night Dance Party! DJ Ricky spins while Star 93.7's Vinnie Peruzzi broadcasts live, 8pm-2am.

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Ceremony A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 8 and 15, Join the Patriots' Lonie Paxton and friends in a benefit for the Active Force Foundation, 9 pm.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
S.I.N. Service Industry Night DJ Tony Moreno spins house, breaks and hip hop, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

TUESDAYS

An Tua Nua
What's Up Night A night of R&B, house, funk and soul music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Aria
One Nation DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm, followed by live music, $5, 18+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs John Davis, Matt Fortes and Dev bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

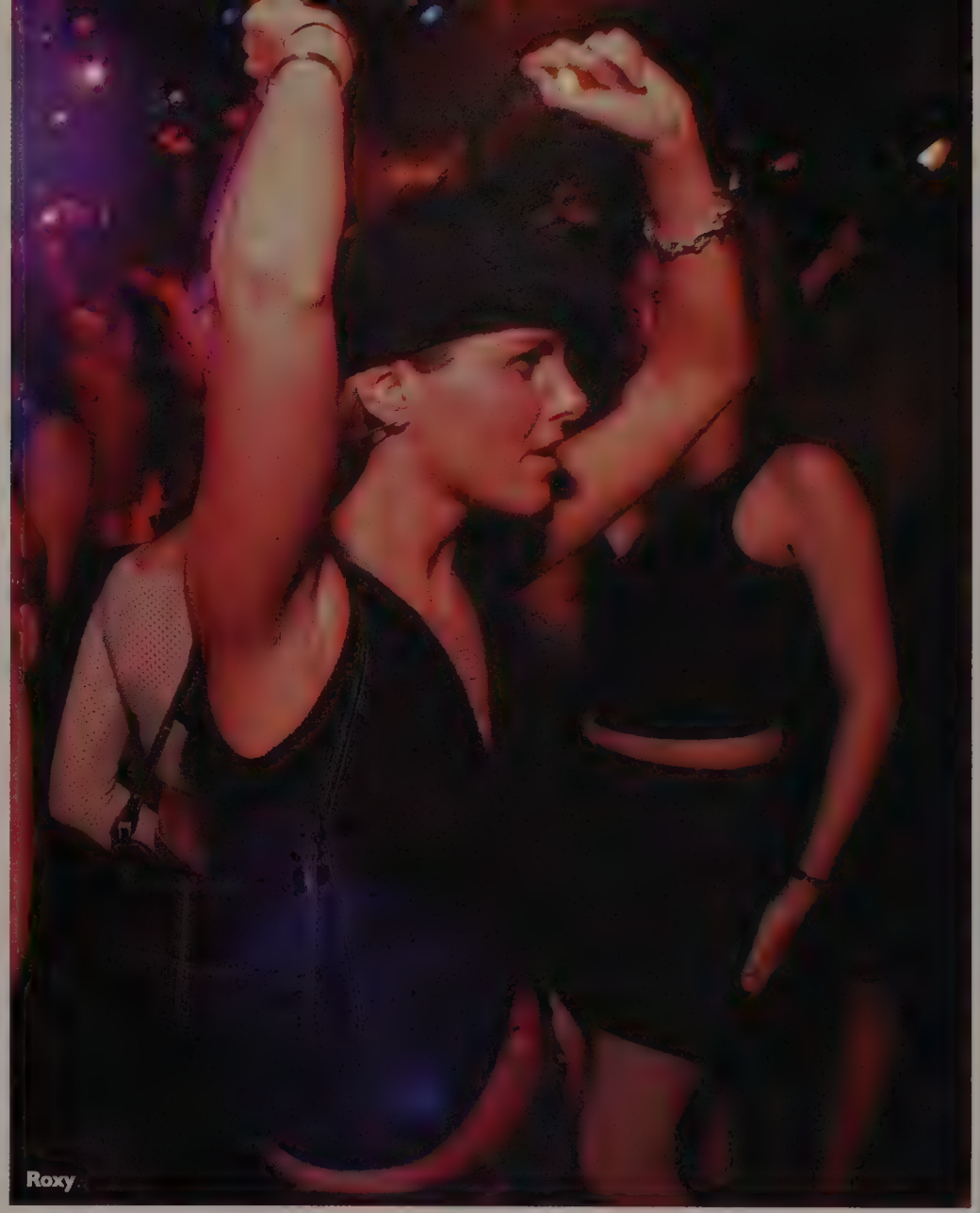
The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins, 10 pm. •Dec. 9, ZMQ performs live jazz, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 16, more live jazz with Herman Johnson, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.


Roxy

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, 11 pm, no cover for 21+ (men), $5 for 19+ (women).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go Go Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Felt
Weekly Therapy Party Guest DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights spins, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Dec.3, live music with Boston Horns, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 10, Groove Authority performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
The Skinny DJ Ren Justice spins techno, top-40 and hip-hop 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and guests play rap and Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami and John Debo host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indian and hip-hop music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Love Night DJ Brian's mix features tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

Embassy
DJ JC spins international house, 10:30 pm, $1 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz an electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
After work live jazz, 6 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spi acid jazz, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou spins late night. •Dec. 4, Joshua Tree pe forms.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christian Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies fre guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue u the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstair 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party starte upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ Mike Gioscia sp dance tunes and old-school, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 a 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progressiv and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reggae 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Light
DJ Gabriel David Leon spins house, 5 pm, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts spins house and hip-hop. 10:30 p $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando prese drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $ 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techn downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
DJ Hustle Simmons from JAM'N 94.5 spins hi hop all night long, 9 pm, $5, ladies free all nigh 21+.

The Rack
DJ Littles spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21 •Dec. 4, U-Neek Approach performs, 6-10 pm, cover, 21+. •Dec. 11, live music by Shannell, 6- pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a mix electro, funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cov 21+.

Saint
Deja Vu DJs and weekly guest hosts spin loun music, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins hou music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 p 2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance a R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan M shall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm. cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 1

Vertigo
Connection entertainment, Brazilian and Latin m with DJ's Guy and Bruno, 10 pm, $10.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play fu and top-40 all night, 10:30 pm, 21+.

FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech a funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

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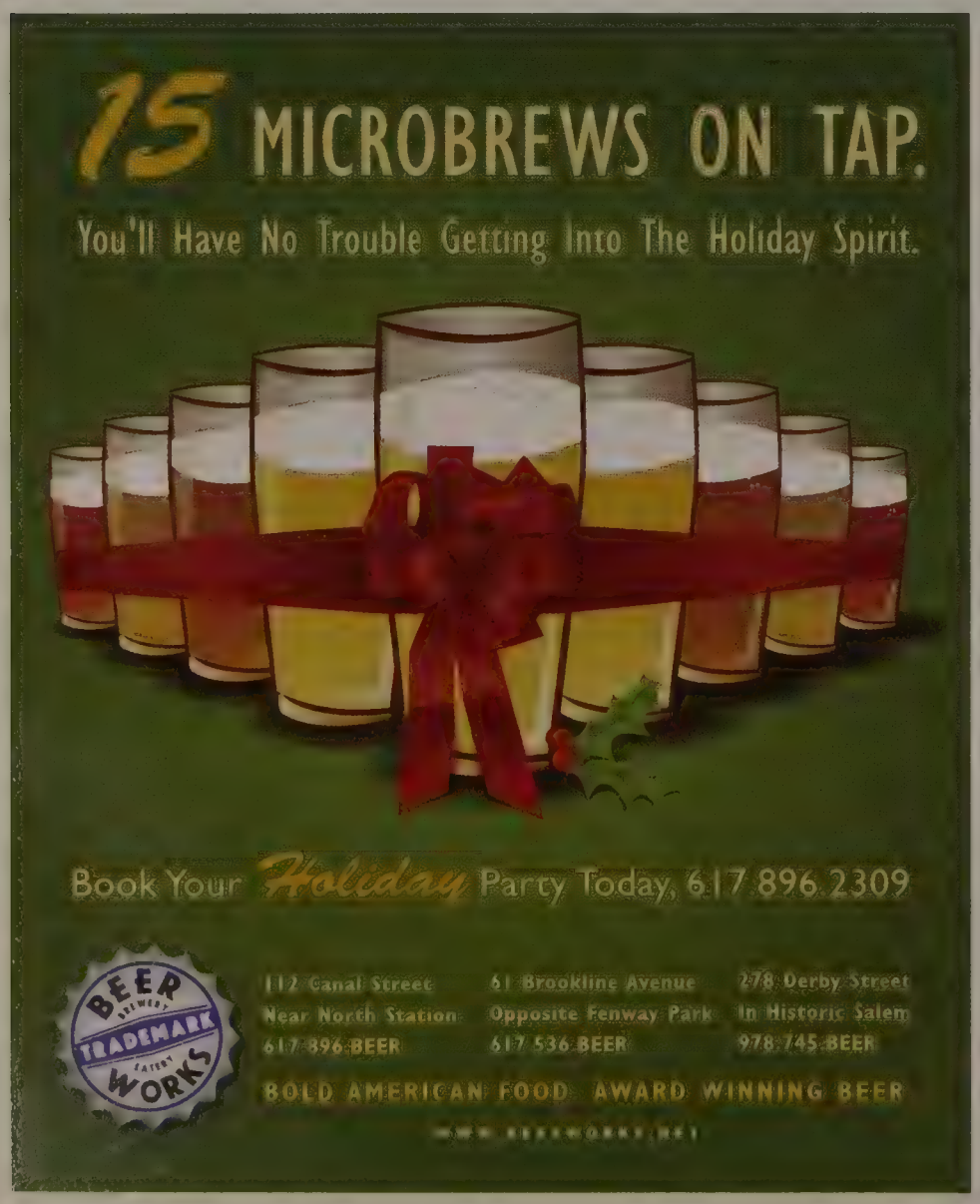

An Tua Nua
Superlovers DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40 from the '70s, '80s and '90s, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and cover band Bob's Day Off plays the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Nailz and DJ Eddie Lee spin hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $20, 19+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
After-work live jazz, 6-9 pm. KISS 108's Romeo hosts and DJs the party, spinning high-energy dance, hip-hop and top-40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The G Spot
DJs Paul Incus and Mike Traylor spin deep house, 9 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Dec. 5, Steamroller performs live. •Dec. 12, live music with Burnt Sienna.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Niko spins Greek and international tunes on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Light
DJ Gabriel David Leon spins house, 5 pm, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energy house and DJ Steve Spinelli plays top-40 and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, and rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•Dec. 5, The Zone performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Justice spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston sp video highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, 10 pm, $ 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ B-Spin spins hip-hop and top-40, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 p 2 am, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 5, live jazz music w First Class, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Dec. U-Neek Approach performs, 6:30-10:30 pm, cover, 21+.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins a mix that includ neosoul and a few feel-good classics, 7 pm, cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, top-40, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $15 18+, $10 for 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; downsta live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 2

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $ 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Boss plays hip-hop and dance, 9 pm, $8, 21+

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, 21+.

SW1
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Tequila Rain
DJ Tim Collins spins top-40, hip-hop and house, pm, $5.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit p mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international hou while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vib Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $ 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play fu and top-40 all night, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house a soul, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

Aria
Classic Spin Back Guest DJ's spin classics of the '70 '80s and '90s plus old-school hip-hop, 11 pm, $ 21+(men), 19+(women).

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and tran 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 p 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s h 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover ba "Syndicate," plays the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance musi night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Wa presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interac video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice s ning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Frankli ates a lounge atmosphere with his internati Latin and house sounds, 10 pm, no cover, 21+

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Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Roger M spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Ghost spins hip-hop and house, 9 pm, no cover

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The G Spot
DJs Paul Incus and Mike Traylor spin deep house, 9 pm, 21+.

Hannah's
Dance, house and top-40 hits from DJ Artie V, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Dec. 6, Steamroller Picnic performs live. •Dec. 13, live music with Burnt Sienna.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40, while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm, 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 108 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** DJ Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal house, travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Light
DJ Gabriel David Leon spins house, 9 pm, 21+.

Matrix
DJ G Spin of JAM'N 94.5 plays hip-hop while the back room features dance favorites from the '80s and '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+; $20, 18+ ladies only.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ortíz spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee plays hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin dance music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez and Willie D, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $15, 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-running all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 am, $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spins top-40 and hip-hop mixes, $15, 18+; $10, 21+. •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40, dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd, 7-11 pm, $14. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•Dec. 6, The Zone performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new wave and disco, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

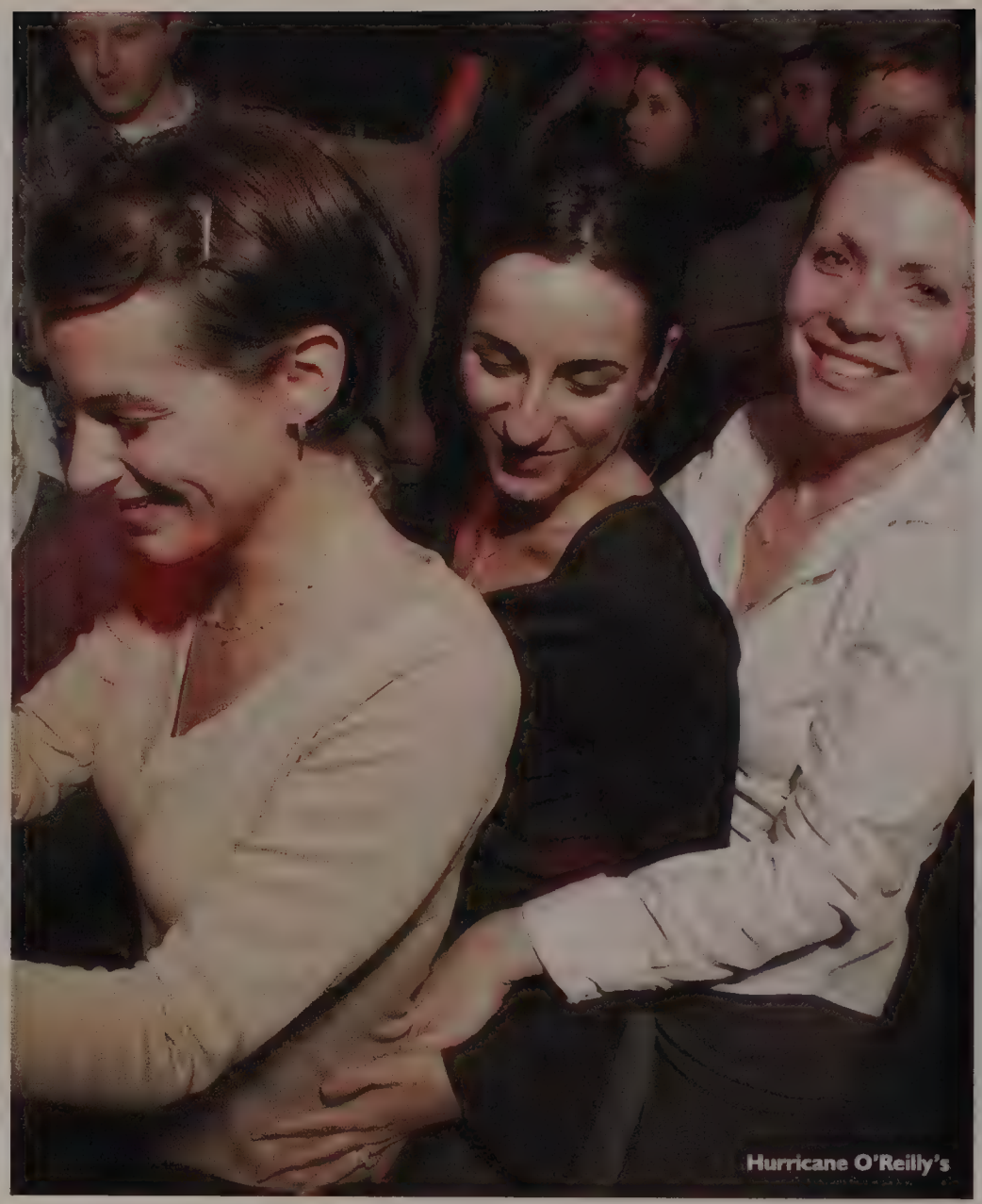
The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house and hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host the live broadcast and dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins house and techno, 9 pm, $15, 21+.


Hurricane O'Reilly's

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and international music, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm; Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover before 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin band plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spins Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $5, 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tarek Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, 11 pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steele plays R&B, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit-pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $3, 19+.

Aria
DJ Roger M spins international house and Latin pop, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night, no cover.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Sexique DJs Gunnar Bjorn and Eric Edge spin downtempo, dub, indie, electro and hip-hop, 11 pm, no cover.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae, R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae world beats, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-h house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-242*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-967*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-11*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080)*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-987*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*
Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-018*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-760*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-7 4100).*
The G Spot *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649*
Hannah's *499 Broadway, Somerville (617-623-530*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-101*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-90*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Light *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (61 524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 15 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051)*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
Saint *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134)*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-00*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-651*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-70*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-70*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
Tequila Rain *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-669*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061)*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-760*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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museums & galleries

Advice to Contributors

Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Galleries. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Where Traditions Meet: Paintings in India from the 14th Century* shows through Dec. 7. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4.

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*The Stinehour Press: The Work of the First Fifty Years* features rare books from a Vermont printing company. Through Dec. 26. •Medical students Seema Jain and Lisa Denny show photographs of chronically ill patients from Africa, Haiti and India in *Living with Illness*. Through Dec. 30.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park

51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface* features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. •*Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows through Jan. 18. •*Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Through Jan. 18. •*Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows through Jan. 18. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibition, shows through May 16. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum

32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Before Expressionism: Art in Germany circa 1903* features drawings, prints and paintings from German avant garde artists. Through Feb. 15. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22. •*Life as Art: Paintings by Gregory Gillespie and Frances Cohen Gillespie* shows Dec. 6-March 28.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Into the Mountains* features the photography of mountaineer Bradford Washburn. Through spring 2004. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art

955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize* shows temporary installations that Weathersby created while cleaning at the ICA. Through Jan. 4. •*Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Through Jan. 4.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection features more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banker: The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti* features a painting by Raphael, sculpture by Cellini and busts of Cosimo de' Medici and Altoviti. Through Jan. 11. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

Agnes Weinrich's wood block print *At the Farm* shows at Acme Fine Art through Dec. 20

MIT Museum

265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). www.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children.* •*Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* shows 50 color landscapes. Through Jan. 30. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life and learning over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*John Currin Selects*, an exhibition assembled by the MFA's associate curator, displays works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4. •*Rembrandt's Journey: Painter/Draftsman/Etcher* is a comprehensive exhibition of more than 200 of Rembrandt's works. Through Jan. 18. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists whom he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25. •*The Maker's Hand: American Studio Furniture, 1940-1990* features one-of-a-kind pieces made in small shops. Through Feb. 8. •Johannes Vermeer's *Young Woman with a Water Pitcher*, a rare painting on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, displays through Feb. 22. •*Draped in Dragons: Chinese Court Costumes* features clothes worn by members of the Qing imperial court. Dec. 3-May 2. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children.* •*Magic: The Science of Illusion* is an interactive exhibition that looks at mind reading, levitation, transformation and the "disembodied head" illusion. Through Feb. 22. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of computers from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features models of a wave tank, Mount Everest and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*Close-up in Black: African American Film Posters* features 90 posters that chronicle black film history. Through Jan. 4. •*Generals, Admirals, and American War Leaders*, an exhibition of personal and official autographs from famous American leaders, shows through Jan. 11. •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community* is ongoing.

Peabody Essex Museum

East India Square, Salem (978-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Uncommon Legacies* features more than a hundred 18th- and 19th-century Native American works. Through Dec. 13. •*Luxury and Innovation: Furniture Masterworks by John and Thomas Seymour* features 72 examples of classic American furniture. Through Feb. 17. •*Vanished Kingdoms: The Wulsin Photographs of China, Tibet, and Mongolia 1921-1925*, an exhibition of color images taken by American explorers Janet E. and Frederick R. Wulsin, shows through Feb. 29. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children* •*Portraits from China, 1923-1946: Photographers and Their Subjects* features the work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frederick Wulsin. Through Jan. 15. •*These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the response of Native Americans across the continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum

One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810 www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art

38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., am-5 pm.* •*Provincetown Painters*, a group show of 20th-century work, displays through Dec. 20.

Alianza Gallery

154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Accessories*, a group show of glass, steel and sculptural accessories, displays through Dec. 31.

Alpha Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Works on Paper* features the art work of Bernard Chaet, Aaron Fink and Graham Nickson. Dec. 6- Jan. 7.

Arden Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Pamela Sienkiewicz shows oil paintings in *Fabricated*. Through Dec. 30.

Barbara Krakow Gallery

10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490 www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Generic Space* features paintings, drawings and prints by Mel Bochner. Through Dec. 10. •*Anything but Prayers*, a group show to benefit the Boston Pediatric AIDS Project and the African AIDS Initiative, shows through Dec. 20. •Alex Katz shows paintings. Dec. 13-Feb. 4. •*Print Publisher's Spotlight: Graphic Studio* group show, displays Dec. 13-Feb. 4.

Berenberg Gallery

4 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0800). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Free Wheelin'*, a group show of artistic cars, planes, boats and trains, displays through Dec. 20.

Bernard Toale Gallery

450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •David Hilliard shows new photographs, and Colleen Kelly shows drawings. Through Jan. 3.

Brickbottom Gallery

1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410) www.brickbottomartists.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •The Affordable Art Show features the work of Brickbottom artists. Dec. 5-2

Chappell Gallery

14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •Boston Singletary shows glass work in *Preserving the Traditions in Glass*. Through Dec. 20.

Chase Gallery

129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* •Nathan Wilson displ

il-on-linen and oil-on-wood work in *New Work*. Dec. 3-30.

Childs Gallery
69 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. MBTA:*Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm. The Art of Music* (watercolors), *Winter Wonderland* (winter-themed etchings) and *19th-Century Caricatures: Daumier, Gavarni and Gillray* display through Jan. 3.

Clifford-Smith Gallery
50 Harrison Ave., Suite 300, Boston (617-695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Nuno DeCampos shows painting and drawings. Dec. 5- 27.

Copley Society of Art
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •The annual *Small Works* show features more than 1,000 reasonably priced sculptures, photographs and prints. Through Dec. 24.

Crump Gallery
122 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm. Richard Stimpson shows line drawings. Through Jan. 31.

Equator Gallery
118 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4110). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. www.equatorgallery.com. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •John Dixon and Tory Fair show sculpture, video and photography in *Seeking Clarity*. Through Jan. 3, 2004.

Galerie d'Orsay
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery AA/B
535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 -0022). BTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; ri., 11 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •Terry Rose, Kenny ac and Jane Kamine show monoprints. Through ec. 20.

The Gallery at Black and White
95 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). BTA: *E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to ass. Ave. Mon.-Fri, 10 am-5 pm.* •Eva Hidvegi emjen shows gelatin silver prints in *Still Life*. hrough December.

Gallery Katz
50 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.llerykatz.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Tue.-t., 11 am-5 pm.* •Alexis Saxton shows oil paintgs. Dec. 5-20.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.llerynaga.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. ue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Peter Brooke shows ndscape oil paintings in *Fugue*. Through Dec. 20.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
11 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). ue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Catherine Carter splays new paintings. Dec. 5-Jan. 1. •Mary ochever presents new digital prints. Dec. 5-Jan. 1.

Haley & Steele
234 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleyeele.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century prints. ngoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
522 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to rlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Hilla and rnd Becher show industrial landscape photographs. Through Dec. 16.

Hurst Gallery
57 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). ww.hurstgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. ed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Thu., 12-7 pm.* •*Ukiyo-e: Dens from Three Centuries* features more than 60 panese woodblock prints. Through Dec. 24.

International Poster Gallery
105 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters. •*Fresh Powder*, the gallery's 10th annual holiday show, features vintage ski posters from Europe. Dec. 5-Jan. 30.

Vintage ski posters show at the International Poster Gallery.

Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Small Wonders*, a group show of small works, displays through Jan. 3.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment.* •*Holiday Store*, a group show of paintings and ceramics by 15 artists, displays through Jan. 15.

Kathryn Schultz Gallery
25 Lowell St., Cambridge (617-876-0246). www.cambridgeart.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Energy*, a juried exhibition of paintings, sculpture and photography, displays through Dec. 5. •*Celebrate with Art*, a multimedia members show, displays Dec. 9-17.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Phil Bower recreates historic photographs from the past 150 years in his paintings in *Phil Was Here*. Through Jan. 10.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •Joan Baldwin shows interior scenes made of fabric in *A Look Inside*. Through Dec. 27.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •Dan McDermott shows bronze sculptures in *New Work in Bronze*. Through Dec. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Fri. and Sat., 12-6 pm; and by appointment.* •*The Gift*, a show of more than 25 artists, including painter John Lobosco, displays through Dec. 23.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington*. www.martinlawrence.com. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm.* •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Out of the Studio*, a group show of landscapes and seascapes, displays Dec. 6-Jan. 7.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •Scott Peterman shows photography in *New Work*. Through Dec. 21. •Kay Ruane shows graphite drawings. Through Dec. 21.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobiliagallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •Harold O'Connor shows handmade jewelry. Through Dec. 12.

NAO Project Gallery
535 Albany St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-451-2977). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay or Green Line to Copley. Wed., Fri. and Sat., 11 am-4 pm and by appointment.* •Mags Harries displays glass sculptures. Through Dec. 20.

New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 11 am-6 pm; Fri. and Sat., 11 am-11 pm.* •The *Second Anniversary Holiday Show* features the work of 30 local artists, and includes oils, watercolors, photography, mixed-media works and sculptures. Through Jan. 15.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •Gregory Gillespie shows paintings in *Demons and Paradise*. Dec. 6-Jan. 17. • Stuart H. Williams shows works on paper. Dec. 6-Jan. 17.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Tue.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm; Sun. by appointment.* •*A Holiday Sale* of jewelry, blown glass and small works shows Dec. 11-18.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm.* •David X. Levine shows *Recent Drawings*. Through Jan. 3.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.

Mark Gallery's The Gift includes stoneware by Ken Parsons.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Stanley Bielen: Paintings* shows through Dec. 23.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Makoto Yabe: Life Affirmed*, a ceramics exhibition, shows through Jan. 6.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery has an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Gallery Selections*, a show of works by gallery artists, displays through Dec. 24.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Fine and Rare Aquatint Etchings, Lithographs and Pochoirs* features works by Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse and Georges Rouault. Through Dec. 31.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Domesticated Animals*, a group show of mixed-media works, displays through Jan. 18.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: *Red Line to Davis. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm;* •Barbara Bashlow Guzman shows abstract and figural paintings in *Girls: In-Between*. Through Dec. 7. •*vARieTy Exhibition*, a group show of glass, ceramics, paintings and watercolors, displays Dec. 10-Jan. 17.

Upstairs at Johnson's Art Gallery
355 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4065). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Fri. 10 am-5:30 pm.; Sat., 10 am-1 pm.* •*The 7th Annual Johnson Staff Exhibition*, a group show of mixed-media works, displays Dec. 11-23.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*18th- and 19th-Century Natural History Drawings* displays through Jan. 3.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Realism Now: Traditions and Departures, Mentors and Protegées*, a group show of contemporary realist painters and sculptors, shows through Jan. 17.

Wentworth Gallery
73 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-8770). www.wentworthgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's Modern Masters collection, which includes works by Dali, Chagall, Miro and Picasso, shows through December.

William Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-542-4030). www.williamscottgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Harry Folsom shows oil paintings. Dec. 5-28.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: *Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •*Hard Boys and Bad Girls*, photographs of aspiring professional wrestlers by Thomas McGovern, shows through Jan. 15.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*Workshop Show* displays Dec. 15-Jan. 30.

Panopticon Gallery
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). *Commuter Rail to Waltham*. www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •*A Music Show*, photographs by Ron Pownall and Herb Greene, displays through Jan. 3.

books & poetry

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Books and Poetry or e-mail to books @improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

Borders Boston
10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 12:30 pm. Free. **Roger Berkowitz**, president and CEO of Legal Sea Foods, discusses *The New Legal Sea Foods Cookbook.*

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-739-6002). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7:30. $5. Several writers and filmmakers, including **Dennis Lehane**, **Margot Livesey**, **Scott Heim**, **Maureen Foley** and **Jan Egleson** discuss the role of literature in the age of the screenplay. Novelist **Joseph Finder** moderates the discussion.

Emerson College Reading Series
Emerson Room, 120 Boylston St., Boston (617-824-8750). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 6 pm. Free. **David Daniel** reads from his collection of poetry, *Seven-Star Bird.* Also, **Alden Jones** reads from her memoir, *The Hot Season: Three Summers in Cuba*, about the time she spent teaching in Cuba.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **Stephen Prothero** reads from his book *American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon*, which examines the ways Americans have reshaped the image of Jesus over time.

Hotel Marlowe
25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 6:30 pm. Free. **Jeremiah Healy** reads from *Cuddy Plus One*, his collection of short stories about a Boston-based private eye.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* **David Rees** discusses his book *My New Fighting Technique Is Unstoppable*, a collection of his clip-art karate comics.

WordsWorth Books Author Event
The Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm.* **Tama Janowitz** reads from her novel *Peyton Amberg*, about a modern-day Madame Bovary who sleeps her way around the world.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

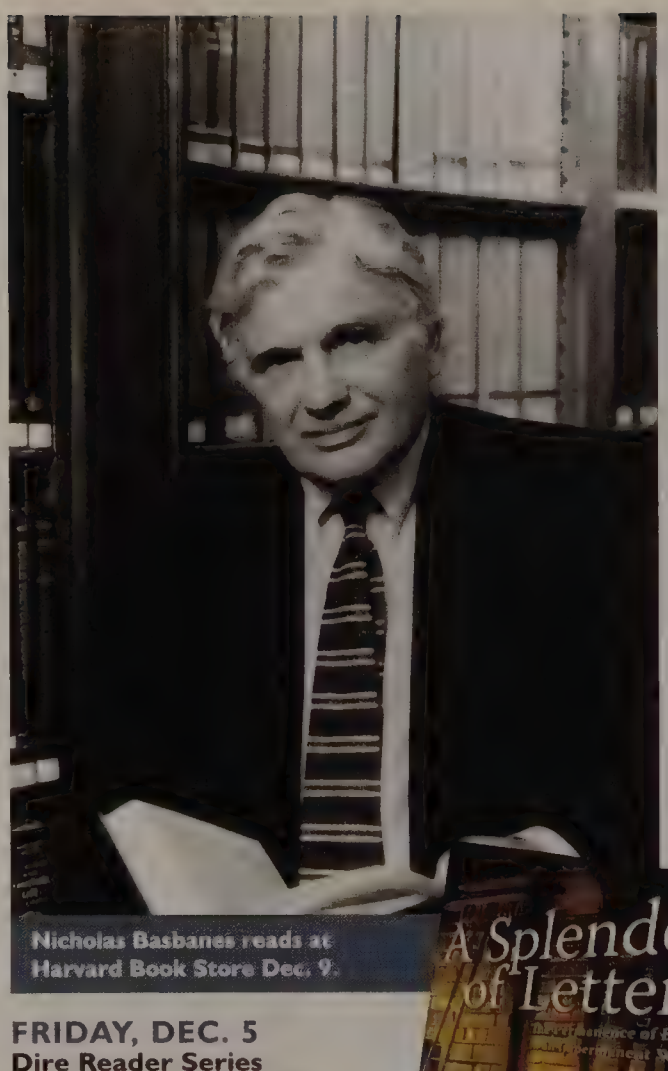
Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Henry Horenstein** discusses his book *Honky Tonk: Portraits of Country Music 1972-1981*, a collection of photographs of musicians and fans.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7 pm. Free.* **Marge Piercy** reads from her new novel, *The Third Child*, about a love affair between the daughter of a conservative U.S. senator and the adopted son of liberal lawyers.

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Gutman Conference Center, 6 Appian Way., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **Wendy Luttrell** reads from her book *Pregnant Bodies, Fertile Minds: Gender, Race and the Schooling of Pregnant Teens*, which looks at a public school program for pregnant teens.

McIntyre & Moore Booksellers
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-4840). www.mcintyreandmoore.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Davis. 7:30 pm. Free.* Local writer **Adam Pachter** reads from *Ash*, his collection of short stories set in Maine.

Writers with Drinks
Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Porter. 6 pm. $3-$5. Mystery writer **Jeremiah Healy** (aka Terry Devane) reads from his book *A Stain upon the Robe.* Comedian **Tissa Hami**, *Other* magazine publisher **Charlie Anders**, author **Lisa Haines** and poet **Raquel Evita Seidel** also participate.


Nicholas Basbanes reads at Harvard Book Store Dec. 9.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

Dire Reader Series
Out of the Blue Art Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $4-$5. Author **Timothy Gager** hosts an open mike followed by readings by **Joe S. Harrington**, author of *Sonic Cool: The Life and Death of Rock N Roll*, and **M. Elaine Mar**, author of *Paper Daughter: A Memoir.*

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free.* **Marla F. Frederick** reads from her book *Between Sundays: Black Women's Everyday Struggles of Faith*, a look at African-American Baptist women and spirituality.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). http://harvard.bkstore.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 12 pm. Free.* **Joseph Badal** discusses his new novel, *The Pythagorean Solution*, about an American man in the Greek isles who becomes mixed up in a scandal involving a sunken ship, a fortune and a thieving German SS officer.

WordsWorth Books Author Event
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm.* Poets **Leslie Scalapino** and **Brenda Iijima** read from their work.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. 3 pm. Free.* **Alison Bechdel** discusses her comic strip book *Dykes and Sundry Other Carbon-Based Life Forms to Watch Out For*, about the lives of lesbian women.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $3.* Local poet **Sue Standing** reads from her collection, *False Horizon.* Also, **Alicia Suskin Ostriker** reads from her collection of poetry, *The Volcano Sequence.*

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Borders Boston
10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 12:30 pm. Free. **Suheir Hammad**, **Black Ice**, **Beau Sia** and other poets from the Colonial Theatre's production of Def Poetry Jam read from *Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam on Broadway...and More.*

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Marge Piercy** reads from her new novel, *The Third Child.* See Center for New Words Dec. 4 for a description.

Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* **Nicholas Basbanes** reads from his book *A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World*, which examines efforts to save books from destruction or deterioration.

Newtonville Books
296 Walnut St., Newton (617-244-6619). www.newtonvillebooks.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:30 pm. Free.* **Nicole Krauss** reads from her novel, *Man Walks into a Room*, about a man who suffers from amnesia caused by a brain tumor.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Harvard Book Store Author Event
Longfellow Hall, Askwith Lecture Hall, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge (617-661-1515). www.harvard.com. *Free. 6 pm.* **R.F. Foster** reads from *W.B. Yeats, a Life: The Arch-Poet, 1915-1939*, the second volume in his two-part biography of Yeats.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). http://harvard.bkstore.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Tom Peters** discusses his new book, *Re-Imagine!*, which outlines his business strategy focused on brand-driven organizations.

Hotel Marlowe
25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge (617-868-8000). MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 6:30 pm. Free. **Lisa Borders** reads from her novel *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, the story of a Texas street musician who moves her way north and eventually pairs up with a rock and roller in Philadelphia.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

WordsWorth Books Author Event
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm.* Poets **Katie Degentesh** and **Noah Eli Gordon** read from their work.

MONDAY, DEC. 15

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $3.* **Mark Doty** reads from his new collection, *Source*, which features poems that deal with the themes of gay male desire and post-AIDS mourning. **Paul Lisicky** reads from his memoir, *Famous Builder*, about his childhood and coming to terms with his sexual identity.

Harvard Coop
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). http://harvard.bkstore.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Free.* **Susan Suleiman** discusses *Contemporary Jewish Writing in Hungary*, a collection that she edited featuring works by 24 Hungarian writers about being Jewish in post-Holocaust Eastern Europe.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 7 pm. Free.* **Chris Kimball** discusses his book *The Kitchen Detective: A Culinary Sleuth Solves Common Cooking Mysteries with 150 Foolproof Recipes*, a guide to creating popular dishes.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

Borders Boston
10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 7 pm. Free. Chef **Ming Tsai** discusses hi new cookbook, *Simply Ming: Easy Techniques fo East-Meets-West Meals.*

Special Events

Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617 931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue. Fri., 9 pm; Sat., 5 and 9 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm Dec. 9-14. $25-$65. Winner of the 2003 Ton Award for Best Theatrical Event, **Def Poetry Jan** brings eight performance poets—Beau Sia, Blac Ice, Mayda Del Valle, Georgia Me, Suheir Ham mad, Lemon, Poetri and Bassey Ikpi—together o stage, with music by DJ Jedi.

Ongoing

Amazon Poetry Slam (Last Sunday)
Milky Way, 403-405 Center St., Jamaica Plai (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Ston Brook. 9 pm. $7. The last Sunday of every month the Milky Way hosts the all-women Amazon Po etry Slam.

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617 354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $ Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hos a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000 MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear wh other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday th Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on level tw

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (Tuesdays
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). www.jimn tingle.com. *$10. 8 pm.* Eight local poets perfor their own work in a two-hour theatrical show eve third Tuesday of the month.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). ww poetryjam.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poet jam, 7:30 pm; poetry slam, 9 pm, $6.* At the poet slam, the Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tun for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. O'Brien's pr sents a mix of rock and spoken word one Monda month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambric (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 p $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening titled Open Bark—and a spoken-word event tak place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambric (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7: pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets ha held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursda
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-5 4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downto Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday each month offers a selection of featured poets a an opportunity for others to take the open mike.

Margot Livesey participates in a panel discussio at the Coolidge Corner Theatre Dec. 3.

education

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Education or e-mail to education@improper.com. *Deadline is at least four weeks prior to publication.*

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

The Elephant in the State House: Republican Success in "Democratic" Massachusetts
Faneuil Hall at Quincy Market, Boston (617-373-5800). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. www.fordhallforum.neu.edu. *6:30 pm. Free.* Find out why Republican leaders believe the citizens of Massachusetts share their party's values. This panel discussion features **Darrell Crate**, chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party; **Kerry Healey**, lieutenant governor of Massachusetts; and **Dominick Ianno**, executive director of the Massachusetts Republican party.

Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies
Cambridge Forum, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Square. www.cambridgeforum.org. *7:30 pm. Free.* Professors **David Kang** of Dartmouth College and **Victor Cha** of Georgetown University debate their positions on what should be done about the nuclear buildup in North Korea. They discuss the volatile history of the region and strategies for diplomatic resolution. An open discussion follows the presentation.

Why the United States is a Target for Terrorism
MIT Center for International Studies, Ames Street, Cambridge (617-258-7608). lfee.mit.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 12 pm. Free.* **Martha Crenshaw**, professor of government at Wesleyan University, speaks at this lecture sponsored by the Center for International Studies.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

The Joys of Tea
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. 12:15-1 pm. **Frank Sanchez** of the Upton Tea Co. discusses the history of tea and offers a tasting of a variety of blends—including tea substitutes that were used during the boycotts preceding the American Revolution.

MIT and the City of Cambridge: Collaborating on Climate Protection
Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, 77 Mass. Ave., Building 66, Room 110, Cambridge (617-258-1508). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 4 pm. Free. A panel of leaders from MIT and the city of Cambridge discuss how they are taking action separately and together on the issue of climate.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

Beyond Bollywood: Tara Deshpande
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle Street, Cambridge (617-547-6789) MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.ccae.org, *1 pm-5:30 pm. $15.* Indian film star **Tara Deshpande** introduces her 2000 film, *Tapish*, and then leads a panel discussion entitled "Bollywood: A Mirror of Contemporary Indian Culture." Part of the proceeds from the event will support FIRE: Funding Indian Rural Enterprise.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Close-Up in Black: African American Film Posters
National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington (617-547-6789). www.monh.org. *2 pm. Free.* The museum offers a guided tour of its *Close-Up in Black* exhibition, which traces the story of African-American actors, directors, writers, designers, crews and artists from the 1920s to the present.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

Interpreting the Record of Climate Change
MIT Faculty Club, MIT Sloan School Building, 50 Memorial Drive, Cambridge (617-962-4430). boston club.mit.edu/events/031208.html. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 5:30 pm. $42.50.* Oceanographer **Carl Wunsch** describes the climate record from the study of cores drilled into the seafloor and into the Greenland and Antarctic ice caps. This record shows that in the past, climate was radically different from today. Understanding what the records mean is essential for predicting what human disturbances mean for the future.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

Human Rights Wars and America's Response
John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (617-514-1643). www.jfklibrary.org. *MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. 5:30-7:30 pm. Free (reservation required).* **John Shattuck**, former assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, discusses America's response, or lack thereof, to human rights wars around the world. He's joined by **Samantha Power,** author of *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide.*

Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, 10 Garden St., Cambridge (617-495-8600) MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.radcliffe.edu/events. *12-1 pm.* **Robert J. Sampson**, professor of sociology at Harvard University, discusses his work tracking the lives of formerly incarcerated and troubled adolescents over seven decades.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Bike Night: Celebrating Bicycling in Massachusetts
Cambridge Brewing Company, 1 Kendall Square, Cambridge (617-542-2453) www.massbike.org. *6 pm. $25.* At MassBike's annual meeting, learn about the organization's efforts to help revise the state road design manual, create a national police education program and resolve environmental contamination along rail-trail corridors.

Excellence by Design: The 2003 Boston Society of Architects Design Awards
Remis Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. www.mfa.org. *7 pm-8:30 pm. $13.* **Elizabeth Pajean**, editor of *Architecture Boston*, moderates a panel discussion on award-winning architects and buildings, highlighting new trends, emerging talent and established, innovative designers.

How to Protect Your Ideas and Trade Secrets
Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). www.ci.newton.ma.us. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. 7:15 pm. Free.* Attorney **Seth H. Salinger** hosts a talk on protecting intellectual property and original ideas with the use of tools such as copyrights and trademarks.

Little Red Riding Hood Uncloaked: Sex, Morality and the Evolution of a Fairy Tale
Cambridge Forum, 3 Church St., Cambridge (617-495-2727). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.cambridgeforum.org. *7:30 pm. Free.* Journalist and cultural critic **Catherine Orenstein** discusses the cultural significance of the story of a little girl lost in the woods. In discussing the evolution of the fairy tale, Orenstein analyzes modern cultural attitudes concerning morality, sex and relationships among men and women.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

Carpenter Center Lecture Series: Sam Taylor-Wood
Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-5666). www.ves.fas.harvard.edu/events/eventsframe.html. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 6 pm. Free.* Photographer **Sam Taylor-Wood** speaks about her work.

230 Years and Counting: The Boston Tea Party Revisited
Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Local historian, author and tour guide **Charlie Bahne** takes audiences back to 1773, when the talk of the town was tea. Learn about the importance that tea played in daily life.

Vagina Warriors: An Emerging Paradigm, An Emerging Species
Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall, Harvard University, Appian Way, Cambridge (617-495-8600) www.radcliffe.edu/events. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4 pm.* Obie Award–winning playwright, activist and author of *The Vagina Monologues*, **Eve Ensler** outlines the unique qualities of activists working to end violence against women and girls.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher
Riley Seminar Room, Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 2 -2:30 pm. Free with museum admission ($15).* This slide talk provides background for the museum's Rembrandt exhibition and suggests ways of looking at and understanding this master artist's work.

gay & lesbian

If you want to be listed
Submit information, including telephone numbers and nearest T-stop, by fax (617-859-1446) or mail, or e-mail gaylesbian@improper.com.

Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
14 Pi Alley at 275 Washington St., Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Fri., 2 pm-2 am.; Sat. and Sun., 12 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 10 pm, $5 for 19 and 20, free for 21+. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 10 pm, $15, 21+. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. Rotating DJs spin house.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 10 pm, $7, 19+. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 10 pm, $10, 21+.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until 2 am.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-4 pm. This small (five tables) laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am. No cover, 21+.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham.

Diesel Café (Daily)
257 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-8717). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Thu. 7 am-midnight, Fri., 7-1 am, Sat., 8-1 am, Sun., 8-12 am. All ages. Diesel is a popular place for GLBT people to go for coffee and snacks.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

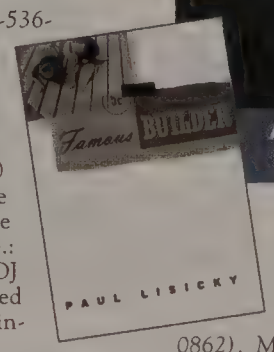
Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. No cover, 21+. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

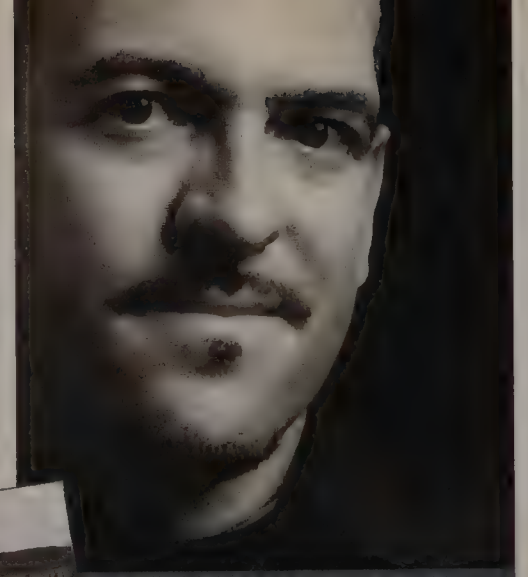
Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502). www.hereboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 11 pm-2 am. No cover, 21+.* Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features gay cabaret 7-11 pm and disco and pop.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *$8, 21+. MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night.

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $6. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. *10 pm, $6 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. $6-$8.* •On the second Friday of the month is the Raw Bar series at Jacques Underground. The typical line-up features singer Leah Callahan with guest musicians, puppeteers, poets, dancers, performance artists and comedians.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ Mc-Whiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite. •Wed.: Game Nite hosted by either Diamond Dunhill or Rainbow Frite, 10 pm, no cover.




Author Paul Lisicky reads at the Blacksmith House Dec. 15.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 9 pm-1 am, 19+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am. $5, 21+.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.* Candyland night is for gay men and women, transgendered persons and their allies. Live entertainment includes Fireballs Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. A dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila caps off the evening. •On the last Sunday of every month, the Milky Way presents the all-women Amazon Poetry Slam, a popular lesbian event. It's at 8 pm, 7:30 pm sign-up, $7. Every Sunday there is free bowling with dinner.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan. 10 pm, $10, 21+.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am. No cover, 21+.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Upstairs @ Dedo's (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 21+. A predominantly gay crowd frequents the upstairs lounge at Dedo's, which features a nightly piano bar and club room. •Mon.: S.I.N. (Service Industry Night), no cover. •Tue.: Stage and Screen. Classic movies screen 7-9 pm. Showtune videos screen, 9 pm-1 am, no cover. •Wed.: Latino Lounge with Latin groove music, no cover. •Thu. and Fri.: Boys in Ties and complimentary after-work buffet, 5-7 pm. House music pumps, 7 pm-1 am, no cover. •Sat.: High Energy Night with house music, no cover. •Sun.: Disco Night, no cover.

Vapor (Wednesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-422-0862). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ Pauli Paul and DJ Ron Stele spinning hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5 before 11, $2 after 11, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $10, 21+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJ Danae grooving to local, tribal, and house while DJ Niterain spins classic oldies. 21+.

Books

Blacksmith House Poetry Series
56 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-547-6789). www.ccae.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 15, 8 pm. $3.* **Mark Doty** reads poems from his book *Source*, which explores gay male desire in post-AIDS culture. Also, **Paul Lisicky** reads from his memoir, *Famous Builder*, about his childhood and his sexual identity.

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Center for New Words
186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. •Dec. 7, 3 pm. Free.* **Alison Bechdel** discusses her comic strip book *Dykes and Sundry Other Carbon-Based Life Forms to Watch Out For*, about the lives of several lesbian women. *•Dec. 4, 7 pm. Free.* Novelist and poet **Marge Piercy** reads from her book *The Third Child*.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon., 11:30 am-5:30 pm; Tue..-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6:00 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* Opened in 1994, this community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

Boston Holiday Celebration and Toys-4-Tots Event
Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). www.pridesportsboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Dec. 7, 7 pm.* The public is invited to this holiday party sponsored by PrideSports Boston and local publication *In Newsweekly*. Guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the HIV/AIDS ward at Boston Children's Hospital.

Frontrunners 16th Annual Yuletide Stride
Charles St., Boston (617-937-5858). www.frontrunnersboston.com. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Dec. 7, 12 pm, $25.* This annual 5K holiday run begins and ends on Charles Street between Boston Common and the Public Garden. Costumes are optional. Prizes are awarded to the top three male and female runners.

The New Acts 10-Minute Play Slam
Boston Playwrights' Theater, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-876-5310). www.centerfornewwords.org. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Dec. 10, 8 pm, $10. The 10-Minute Play Slam: Jump Starting Diverse Voices in Theatre* combines live theater with the format of a poetry slam. The audience selects the winning play.

The Wedding Banquet
Harvard Film Archive 24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 9, 9 pm. Ang Lee directed this film about a gay New York landlord who marries his female tenant to appease his parents. The marriage becomes an inconvenience when the landord's Taiwanese family arrives.

Who's Afraid of the Virgin Mary?
Machine, 1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Dec. 4-27 Thu., Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $20. This Christmas parody by Ryan Landry takes place in Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph struggle though their daily existence and drink themselves into oblivion. Then the Kringles stop by for a holiday nightcap.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* FCH collaborates with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide this safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relationships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9 pm.* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth hosts weekly meetings and social events for young people seeking community support and a place to discuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-288-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 7 pm.* This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual and bicurious men.

Bi Rap
The Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (617-354-8807). First and third Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning women.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Thursday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue., 7 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dancers
First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner of Centre and Eliot Streets, Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.org. *Every Wed., 7:30 pm, $8.* Square-dancing and English country dancing lessons are available for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri., pm. The center provides social activities for questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Cl
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-581 MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Rugby players of any le age, race and orientation are welcome to play. Th are a variety of events and matches taking p throughout the fall.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: G Line to Hynes. www.lesbianavengers.org. *Thu., pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-actior litical group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Boston Uncommons
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns A Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.org *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Wednesdays, 7* A gay and lesbian square-dancing group.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. This 1, member gay club takes part in outdoor activities

COLAGE
(617-417-0876). Third Saturday of the month, 10:30 am-12 pm. COLAGE (Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere) meets in Medford for support and activities and holds a concurrent meeting for interested parents and their partners. For info, e-mail medfordcolage@hotmail.com.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Boston's Bisexual Resource Center (BRC), at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. First Wed. and third Thurs. of each month, 7 pm, free. An informal group for people who think they may be bisexual or attracted to more than one sex.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. A short-term group (10 weeks) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Compass
(781-899-2212). Compass is a New England–area support, information, and social group for people assigned female at birth who feel that is not an accurate or complete description of their gender. Part of the FTM (Female-to-Male) Center, this group meets monthly. Email CompassFTM@usa.com for details.

Controversy Thursday
Matrix (B Room), 275 Tremont St (lower level of Roxyplex), Boston (617-542-4077). Certain Thursdays (call for details), $8, no sneakers. This gay and bi dance party features DJ John Morris at 10 pm.

Cosmetically Correct
Masa Restaurant, 439 Tremont St., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Fridays, 6:30 pm, free. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month. Lipstick encouraged. Email M.Antoinette@ididitmyway.com for info.

Dagger
(617-621-6090). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6-9 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives. For more information, e-mail dagger@theateroffensive.org.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Last Friday of the month. 7-9 pm. A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.eastcoastwrestlingclub.org. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women 40 and older who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated to get together with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female.

GLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. Saturday mornings. Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Sat., 10 am. All are welcome to join this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001 or 888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 7-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
The First Parish Church in Waltham (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. This group for gay/bisexual fathers meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 8-10 pm. $2.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join in this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Biological males meet on Monday evenings. The groups are moderated by psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlfriends: Bisexual and Lesbian Women of Color
Cambridge Family and Children's Services, 929 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-876-4210). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Girlfriends, a discussion group for all ages, meets every Saturday morning from 10:30 am-12 pm.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078 ext. 277). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mondays. Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

LGBT Considering Parenting Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243) www.fenwayhealth.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. A short-term (eight-week) group for LGBT persons who are considering becoming parents. Sliding fee scale available. Call for information.

Liquid Assets Swimming
www.swim-lanes.org. Tue., Wed. and Thu. evenings and Sat. and Sun. mornings. This predominantly gay and lesbian swim team is open to both competitive and fitness swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community. For women 21+.

The Network/La Red
(617-427-7233). The Network is a support group working to end abuse in lesbian, bisexual women's and transgender communities. Email info@the networklared.org for more information.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provide confidential information, referrals and support.

The Rainbow Cafe
rainbowboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This social group for activist, academic, intellectual or artistic lesbians meets bi-weekly in gay-owned or gay-friendly establishments.

Slice of Rice
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). sung yun@chickmail.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed., 6-7 pm.* A peer-run and peer-led queer Asian youth group meets for support. For Asian youth under 25.

Somos Latin
somoslatinoslgbt@hotmail.com. The only social and networking group for GLBT Latinos and Latinas in the Boston area. Viernes Sociales take place every month. Email for more information.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. First three Tuesdays of each month, 6-8 pm. Discuss new safe-sex practices and strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Lesbians with Cancer
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed. evenings, once a month. Free. For those who want to discuss the impact of this disease on their lives.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing, $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Wonder Women Boston
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. WWB is a social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s. It meets the first Thursday of every month.

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body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Dances of Universal Peace
Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 5, 7:30-9:30 pm. Requested donation, $6-10. Join hands in simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. Everyone welcome. All dances are taught and are accompanied by live music.

Ethnic, Urban, New Age Music with Leroy White
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Dec. 13, 7:30 pm. $15. White's "inner-tainment" performance blends music with lights, theater, drums, sound samples and movement.

Holistic Health and Wellness Fair
Sheraton Hotel, 1657 Worcester Rd., Framingham (978-394-5166). www.myholisticnetwork.com or www.frankieboyer.com. Dec. 7, 10 am-4 pm. $8. Meet holistic health and metaphysical practitioners from a variety of disciplines. Guests can also see hands-on demonstrations and try free samples and treatments. Nationally syndicated health talk show host Frankie Boyer broadcasts her radio show live from 10 am to noon. A portion of proceeds support the local Humane Society.

Open House
Charles River School of Shiatsu, 180 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-643-1545). www.charlesrivershiatsu.com. Dec. 13. Visitors can tour the school, speak with students, check out shiatsu, martial arts and acupuncture demonstrations, and learn about the shiatsu certification process.

Lectures

Cancer and Its Life Themes
The Biological Medicine Network, The Marion Institute, 3 Barnabas Road, Marion (508-748-0816). Dec. 6-7. This seminar with Dr. Thomas Rau of Switzerland and Dr. James Odell of Louisville, Ky., focuses on the treatment and management of cancer; topics include the development of cancer, testing, Chinese herbs, nutrition and more.

Fire in the Soul/On Wings of Light
Institute for Body, Mind and Spirituality, Lesley College, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (617-349-8129). www.lesley.edu. Dec. 5, 7-9 pm. $20 Dr. Joan Borysenko and artist Joan Drescher present a slide show with music and meditation to create an atmosphere of hope, healing and spiritual optimism. Advance registration required.

Indoor Air Quality
Veggie Planet Restaurant at Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Harvard Square, Cambridge (617-824-4225 or 617-492-5300). http://boston.earthsave.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 14. 3 pm. Free, $10 for dinner. Jeff May, author and certified indoor air quality professional, offers practical advice and speaks on a range of air-quality issues that can affect well-being.

Workshops

The Art of Christian Listening
The Society of Saint John the Evangelist, 980 Memorial Dr., Cambridge (617-876-3037). www.cowleypublications.org. Dec. 13, 10 am-3 pm. This workshop is designed for those who would like to improve their listening skills and offer help to others.

Finding Hope When the Heart Needs Healing
Institute for Body, Mind and Spirituality, Lesley College, 29 Everett St., Cambridge (617-349-8129). www.lesley.edu. Dec. 6, 9 am-5 pm. $135 ($125 students). Explore how art and science can unite to positively affect the mind, body and spirit of those who are experiencing illness, transition or loss. Participants create personal journals as part of the workshop. Advance registration required.

Kundalini Weight Loss Workshop
Earthsong Yoga Center, 186 Main St., Marlboro (508-480-8884). Dec. 6, 11:30 am-3 pm $45. Ann Finn, certified kundalini yoga instructor, teaches breathing exercises that are designed to eliminate cravings, reduce stress, increase metabolism and break thought patterns related to unhealthy eating habits.

Lesser Kan and Li Meditation
The Healing Tao Center of Boston, 440 Somerville Ave., 2nd floor, Somerville (617-628-6570). www.bostonhealingtao.com. Dec. 14, 12:30-5:30 pm. $100. Lesser Kan and Li, the "water and fire" meditation, is the core of the Taoist internal alchemy philosophy. This style of meditation combines yin and yang with the goal of developing and nourishing one's chi, or life force energy.

Mindful Modern Dance
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Central Sq., Cambridge (857-928-2288). http://greenstreetstudios.org. Dec. 6, 12-1:30 pm. $8. Modern dance movements are slowed down to focus on alignment, breathing and centering. There is some partnering and hands-on work.

Restorative Yoga with Nia
Living Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. Dec. 12, 7-9 pm. $20. Combined with Nia, a form of movement that uses music and provides a whole-body workout, restorative yoga is designed to provide deep relaxation.

Strength, Spirit and Surrender with Yoganand
Back Bay Yoga Studio, 1112 Boylston St., 3rd Floor, Boston (617-375-0785). www.backbayyoga.com. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes Convention Center. Dec. 5th 6:30-9 pm. $35. Master teacher Yoganand provides a brief talk about the purpose of yoga before leading a two-hour class that delves into the art and pure experience of yoga. All levels welcome.

Retreat

Sadhana of Mahamudra Community Weekend
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (617-734-1498). www.primordialdot.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Dec. 5-7, 18.5 hours. $150, lunch included. The Sadhana of Mahamudra, a Buddhist text written by Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, unites devotion, lineage and the crazy-wisdom tradition. Participants explore the Sadhana's meaning and how it relates to them. Open to all.

Ongoing

Lunchtime Yoga on Beacon Hill
The Paulist Center, 5 Park St., Boston (617-970-5320). www.yogame.com. MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park St. Tues. and Wed., 1-1:45 pm. $10. These short yoga classes can be completed during a lunch break. All levels welcome.

Leroy White performs at Back Bay Yoga Dec. 13

Yoga/Newton
The Green Planet, 22 Lincoln St, Newton Highlands (617-320-9792). www.thegreenplanet.com. Sun., 9-10:30 am. $16/class. Or at Myrtle Church, 21 Curve St, West Newton (617-320-9792). Wed., 6-7:15 pm. $12/class. This yoga class is intended to assist with development of movement awareness so that balance, strength and flexibility can emerge naturally.

Zen Insight
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (617-576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. Mon., 6:45pm. Free. This drop-in meditation session may help participants get centered at the beginning of the work week.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Home Games

Boston Bruins
• FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 617-931-2000
Dec. 4, 7 pm vs. Toronto Maple Leafs
Dec. 6, 7 pm vs. Philadelphia Flyers
Dec. 8, 7 pm vs. Ottawa Senators

Boston Celtics
• FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 800-462-2849
Dec. 5, 7:30 pm vs. Phoenix Suns
Dec. 10, 7 pm vs. Seattle Supersonics
Dec. 12, 7:30 pm vs. Toronto Raptors
Dec. 15, 7 pm vs. Minnesota Timberwolves

New England Patriots
• Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Dec. 7, 4:15 pm vs. Miami Dolphins
Dec. 14, 1 pm vs. Jacksonville Jaguars

Events

Boston Ski & Sports Club Sugarloaf Blues and Demo Day Ski Trip
Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine (617-789-4070). www.bssc.com. Dec. 5-7. $269, $299 nonmembers. $40 less for nonskiers. The BSSC's first weekend ski trip of the season includes transportation from Boston, lodging in a mountainside condo, a two-day lift ticket, breakfast and a Saturday cocktail party. Skiers and boarders can also demo new equipment and attend the Sugarloaf Blues Festival, which features five live bands.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-40.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals are welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus. The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays Learn the basics of fencing.

FLOOR HOCKEY

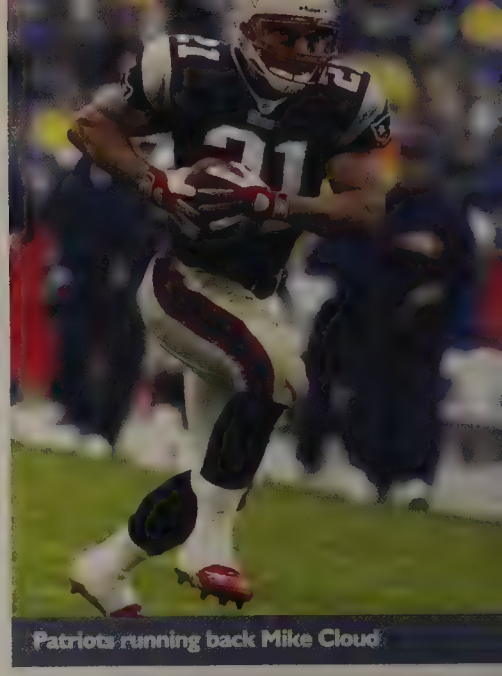
BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

HIKING

Winter Hiking Course
Appalachian Mountain Club, 4 Joy St., Boston. http://world.std.com/~bostonhb/programs/wintercourse.html. Tuesdays through Dec. 9, 7-9:30 pm.


Patriots running back Mike Cloud

$30 members/$35 nonmembers in advance, $35/$4[illegible] at the door. Learn the basics of winter backcountr[illegible] hiking in five sessions.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field [illegible] the Irish Cultural Center in Canton. New and experienced players are welcome.

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is lookin[illegible] for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seek[illegible] new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.myst[illegible] rugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club we[illegible] comes both new and experienced players who wan[illegible] to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. Tue. an[illegible] Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays. New an[illegible] experienced players are welcome.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostc[illegible] hash.com. Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. yea[illegible] round. If you enjoy running, drinking and singi[illegible] bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-pr[illegible] claimed "serious drinkers with a running problem.

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First S[illegible] Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. Weekl[illegible] runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun Ru[illegible]
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (78[illegible] 275-1584). www.srr.org. Weekly runs on Thursd[illegible] nights, 7 pm.

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
Various area MDC rinks (781-890-8480). ww[illegible] baystateskatingschool.org. Check Web site for sch[illegible] ules. $108.50 for a seven-week class. Skating clas[illegible] for adults and children teach the fundamentals us[illegible] either figure skates or hockey skates.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games pla[illegible] in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading [illegible] Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, [illegible] 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in Ca[illegible] bridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Te[illegible] and individuals are welcome to set and spike th[illegible] way to glory.

WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

New England Storm Indoor League
Greater Boston Indoor Sports, Revere (781-3[illegible] 8326). Saturday mornings. Teams play eight-on-e[illegible] flag football each week.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. [illegible] ateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill [illegible] els. Weekly practices held year-round.

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Things to See

Arts 4 Kids Sake
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). MBTA: *Red Line to Davis. Sat., 10am. $5, children free. Advance reservations required.* •Dec. 6: Musician Jeff Davis performs songs about the Oregon Trail.

Boston Children's Theatre
C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University, 55 Temple St., Boston (617-424-6634). www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park. Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 27-30, 2 pm. $10-$22.* Experience Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella.*

Kids Variety Show
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-738-6533). www.coolidge.kidsshow.info. MBTA: *C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 10:30 am. $10, $8 children.* •Dec. 6: master puppetmaker Michael Wolski with William K. Whiskers •Dec. 13: *Étienne,* an action comedy performed by Steven Anthony Étienne McGinley.

Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company
The Center for Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *Sat., 11 am. $8, $5 children.* •Dec. 6 and 13, 11 am: Enjoy one-act holiday plays, including *Yours Truly Jack Frost* and *The Mouse Who Was Stirring.*

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. MBTA: *D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •Dec. 3 and 4, 10:30 am, ages 3-6: In *The Three Pigs and Other Tales,* Deborah Costine uses shadow puppets to perform versions of "The Three Little Pigs" and "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." •Dec. 6 and 7, 1 and 3 pm, ages 4-9: *Jack and the Beanstalk* is performed by Michael Graham and his Spring Valley Puppets. •Dec. 10 and 11, 10:30 am, ages 3-6: Sarah Lamstein performs *Funny Bone Tales,* a story about a little boy trying to find a present for his friend and a cat with a hearing problem. •Dec. 13 and 14, 1 and 3 pm, ages 3-8: *Eeyore's Birthday,* presented by the Magpie Puppets, is about a grumpy donkey who feels neglected on his birthday. •Dec. 17 and 18, 1 and 10:30 am, ages 3-6: After a performance of *The Gingerbread Boy and Other Tales,* presented by Pat's Puppets, kids can learn how to make puppets from items around the house.

Sing We Nowell
Dec. 5, 8 pm: Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St., Boston (617-232-4540). •Dec. 7, 3 pm: All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline. www.bostoncecilia.org. *$15-$40.* The Boston Cecilia performs its annual holiday concert with the All Saints Scholar Children's Choir, conducted by Keith Hlavash. Highlights include Britten's "A Boy Was Born" and other carols.

Things to Do

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8355). www.bostonkids.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. $8/ $7 children.* In the exhibit *Making America's Music: Rhythm, Roots & Rhyme,* kids can mix hip-hop tunes in the Streetscape, jive in the jazz club and rock at the school dance. •Mon., Wed. and Fri., 11 am-12 pm, ages 3 and under: Come shake, wiggle and giggle in Music and Movement. •Fri., 3-5 pm; Sat. and Sun., 2-4 pm: Science activities based on the PBS show *ZOOM!* •Fri., 7 pm: Sing-A-Story •Dec. 13, 12-2 pm, ages 6 and older: Experiment with everyday kitchen products in Kitchen Science. •Mon., Tue. and Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm: Experience the world of performing arts in KidStage. •Sat. and Sun., 10:30 and 11:30 am, 2:30 and 3:30 pm: In the Art Studio.

Fête de Noël
The French Library and Cultural Center, 53 Marlborough St., Boston (617-912-0400). Dec. 13, 1-5 pm. $10/ $4 children. Celebrate the holiday season by decorating cookies, making crafts, watching a movie, enjoying a puppet show and meeting Santa.

Ice Skating at Frog Pond
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (617-635-2120). MBTA: *Green Line to Park. Sun., 10 am-9 pm; Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Tue.-Thu., 10 am-9 pm; Fri.-Sat., 10 am-10 pm. $3, free for children under 14 (not including skate rental).* Lace up your skates for a few laps on the ice.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. MBTA: *Red Line to Kendall. $5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Light Fantastic.* The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyond.* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children.* •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!,* featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •*Magic: The Science of Illusion.* Discover how illusions come together through science, math, psychology and the art of performance at this new exhibition. Through Feb. 22. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Fri., 7 pm and Sat., 12:30 pm. $8.50 adults/$7.50 seniors/$6.50 under 12. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events during the presentation *The Sky Tonight.* •Mugar Omni Theatre, check Web site for show times, $8.50, $6.50 children: *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees; Africa: The Serengeti; Space Station; To Fly!*

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5.* The Museum of Transportation has a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in.

Newton Free Library
330 Homer St., Newton (617-796-1410). www.ci.newton.ma.us. MBTA: *D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Registration required.* •Dec. 5 and 12, 10:30 am: Preschool films •Tue., 10:30 am: Preschool sing-a-long •Dec. 9, 10 am-4 pm: Annual Puppet Sale fund-raiser •Dec. 9, 4 pm: World Cultures Day: St. Lucia's Day celebration.•Dec. 14, 2 pm: *Once Upon a Wintertime* with storyteller Diane Edgecomb.

Saturday Scholars
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. $35.* •Dec. 6, 9-11 am, preschool: Legends and Lore. Listen to tales about nature and then meet live animals. •Dec. 6, 9 am-12 pm, grades K-3: Lumpy, Bumpy Dinosaurs. Peer into the lives of ancient reptiles by examining fossils, footprints and more.

SparkleFest: Santa Sails Across the Charles
Harvard Square, Cambridge (617-491-3434). www. harvardsquare.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard Square. Free. Dec. 6, 2-3 pm. $5, $2.50 children.* Join Santa as he sails from the Galleria Mall on the Charles Riverboat and docks at Harvard's Weld Boathouse. From there, Santa and guests ride a bright red double-decker around the square. A parade of costumed characters will meet in Winthrop Park at 4 pm for holiday lighting, music and readings.

Sundaes on Saturday at the JFK
The Pavilion, John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (866-JFK-1960). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK. Sat., 11 am-3 pm. $5-$7. Through Dec. 27.* Create your own sundae from an ice cream bar after viewing *Caroline Kennedy's Doll Collection* and the *Space Race* exhibit, which features footage from John Glenn's first ride around the earth.

Teddy Bear Teas
The Ritz-Carlton, 15 Arlington St., Boston (617-536-5700). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Dec. 6 and 16, 12-2 pm. $30/$20 children. $10 with a teddy bear or toy to donate to Toys for Tots. Bring a teddy bear for afternoon tea in the Dining Room of the Ritz-Carlton, plus cookie decorating and storytelling with Mrs. Claus.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: *B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm. Free.*

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: *Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.*

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: *Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: *Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.*

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: *Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.*

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.*

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroamamuseum.org. MBTA: *Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: *Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.*

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: *Blue Line to State, Orange or Green Line to Haymarket, or Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.*

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: *Orange or Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3 donation requested.*

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: *Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.*

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: *Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.*

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: *Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.*

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.*

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Winter ship hours: Thu.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AFC Mentoring Program
(617-695-2441). Mentor an adopted or foster care child.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Befriend a girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Call to Action Project
(781-395-8307). datalova@aol.com. Donate quilt blocks to be pieced into quilts and auctioned off to benefit Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins/Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-431-1211). Care for homeless rabbits.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. Volunteer with young professionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

Spend your lunch hour reading to children with Everybody Wins/Power Lunch.

So you forgot his Birthday - Big Deal!
Bubbles aren't as much fun in
January anyways

JANUARY 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Little Bobby's Birthday	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Chris M at An Tua Nua

It was at a little get-together for Oberlin, Macalester and Carleton alumni. You're a Macalester alum who recently moved back to Mass to help with your family's inn. I'm the long-haired Oberlin alum who's a massage therapist here in Boston and was asking whether your inn was haunted. I would like to have had more conversation with you, but fellow alumni came and you were reminiscing about soccer with them and I didn't get a chance.

—bostondesiregoddess@yahoo.com

CC

Over a year has passed, and all roads seem to lead me back to this place with you. I try to respect and accept what I see before me. I know I cannot possess something that belongs to someone else, as much as it still makes me grind my teeth and clench my fists. Despite all of this, there you are, always on the edge of my consciousness. I don't know what it is...the flirtations, the looks, the awkward subtext to every passing touch or look across a room that runs like electricity through me. My mask always stays on, not only because I try to show respect for your happiness, but to conceal the genuine delight your smile has a way of giving me. I have come to accept that it is something that does run deep in me. My recent ex did not know your name, but he knew you were there the entire time, somewhere in my heart... something that could not be touched because it belongs to you. I guess now I have to tell the whole world here, because I just don't know what else to do as I try to move on. Always know that there is a big part of me that wishes you could have been my man...and that I didn't have to wear any masks, and that the good and bad was all out there in plain view. I know that I can be the one who is complicated and a hard nut to crack, but so are you. How else would I really want it? I hope that this all means something to you. XXOO.

—Say Goodbye?! Say Hello?!

Meet me at the SnowBall Dec. 5?

I know you are more comfortable in jeans, but when I saw you in that tux, I melted. You were playing blackjack at the next table; a pile of chips indicated your skill. I came over to watch and you noticed my interest. You closed out your marker and escorted me to the ballroom, where you took me into your arms and...I woke up! I know you're out there, reading the Impersonals. Maybe we will find each other December 5 at the SnowBall. I'll be wearing a tight, black, strapless gown...looking my best and hoping you notice me. Not sure who I am? I'll wear a silver "C" around my neck to help you spot me among all the other beautiful women. Don't miss our only opportunity to finally get together.

—cometothesnowball@hotmail.com

Hi

That's what I should have said to you at Coogan's on Nov. 1.

—TallRoy@excite.com

Notable

To the guy who got the courage to approach me at my work with a cute note. I wish I got your name. I am sorry I did not give you my number. Please e-mail me, or you know where to find me!

—mcdgal1116@yahoo.com

Lady Blue

Our eyes met at the MFA, in the bistro area. I was with another woman and you were with a lady friend. We made eye contact as you approached your table to the front and to my left. My first thought was: "stunning." Dark blond hair, gorgeous figure, ruby-red lips and a wonderful smile. Your clothes were simple but classy—light blue slacks, dark blue sweater. You are simply blessed with beauty. I nodded and you smiled. But what I remember most: our mutual glances across the floor to one another. When our eyes met there was so much electricity! We weren't even smiling—it was attraction at first sight and desire. My lady friend finally wanted to leave. I think she knew my heart wasn't with her. And when I actually realized I had forgotten my sunglasses and returned to the table, alas, you were gone. I want very much to hear your voice. RSVP.

—koltrayne@yahoo.com

Bussholes

To two of the most ignorant people ever to ride a bus—a man and woman talking about vacations. The woman says she was thinking Hawaii, Aruba or the Bahamas. The man says that they're all nice but at least if she were to go to Hawaii, it's "American" and she won't have to deal with all the "natives" trying to sell her their shit. The woman agrees, saying that when she was in Jamaica the natives harassed her every day about getting her hair braided, like she'd ever do that. Listen: You're both self-absorbed wastes of life. You have enough money to go on vacations when those "natives" don't have enough money for food or clothes. No wonder the rest of the world hates us.

—Disgusted Bus Rider

From MN to the E Line

At the end of the day on Nov. 18, we boarded the T at Longwood and listened to some memorable announcements from the driver before strolling into Downtown Crossing together. I enjoyed our brief conversation (your thoughtful observations on public transit, missing the lakes, Manchester-by-the-Sea) and certainly your good sense of humor. After meeting again while shopping, I wished I had invited you to join me for a cup of coffee or tea. I hope you'll see this and give me a chance to extend the offer.

—FellowMidwesterner@yahoo.com

Soup Star

I was patronizing the Fenway Star Market on the evening of Oct. 31. I was foraging for fresh cilantro for my famous gazpacho soup. As I reached for my cilantro stalks, I noticed a slender, graceful hand reaching for fresh spinach leaves. The spinach leaves were tossed up on the top shelf.

Being much taller, I politely reached for the freshest-looking spinach leaf bundle and handed it to you. What I saw struck me like a frozen lightning bolt! Your blazing green eyes, satin skin and dazzling smile stopped me dead in my tracks. You graciously accepted the spinach leaves, lightly touched your left hand on my sleeve and mouthed a breathless thank you.

You began pushing your fully stocked cart away and I was like a mastodon trapped in the La Brea tar pits. My reaction to your departure was like molasses in a cryogenic state I was letting you get away! Then I remembered the checkout lines being stacked five or six shoppers deep upon my arrival. I had time!

I had dinner guests arriving in a few hours, so I frantically surged forward to complete my gazpacho soup safari. I rounded the last aisle before the checkout and my heart sank like the Bismarck. The cashiers had opened two additional registers! I quickly scanned the remaining lines and you were gone! I unceremoniously tossed my plastic basket aside and raced for the exit. I feverishly checked the parking lot and both ways on Boylston Street. Nothing. You were gone!

I was wearing a striped button-down shirt with an argyle sweater vest, charcoal cargo pants and a pair of tan Birkenstock sandals. You were wearing a flowing mid-length maroon skirt, black "Misfits" T-shirt, leather biker jacket and Doc Marten boots. If this is you or you know this beautiful creature, please contact me!

—cilantroboy@hotmail.com

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rockie horoscope

DECEMBER 3 – 16, 2003 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

You could be heading for your first full-blown outing of the year on the day when the Sagittarius sun squares your Jupiter ruler and you realize what your next move has to be. For some, the "Eureka!" moment concerns your expanding career; for others, your reputation and the legacy you want to leave to your family. What happens around the 10th could be particularly significant, since those events may be a testament both to your maturation over the past 12 years as well as the metamorphosis Pluto recently put you through.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

Eventually it happens to every sign, but this winter it's your turn. Mercury enters Capricorn on the 3rd, then advances slowly for the next two weeks until it stops entirely and turns retrograde on Dec. 17. For the next three weeks Mercury works its way back through Capricorn, crosses the cusp and finally goes direct on Jan. 6 at 26 Sag. Then, ever so slowly, the Messenger picks up speed, reenters Capricorn on January 14 and on the 26th, returns to the degree, 13, at which it flipped six weeks before. How about taking that slow boat to China?

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Romance, right now, might be tricky, especially if you're getting unsolicited advice from friends. Could they possibly have their own agendas? Too much talk and not nearly enough sugar may harden even the softest, most sentimental heart. Opt instead for tried-and-true remedies: flowers, candy and music for the object of your affection, happy hour with your pals. On a more professional note, now would be a good time to connect with folks who can promote your career skills and spread your good name.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Although Mercury doesn't rule your sun sign, it does affect your family and married life, your fourth and seventh astrological houses. Get some idea about the upcoming Christmas–New Year's holiday, when Mercury will be retrograde, by reading the Gemini and Virgo forecasts. While we're in solar Sagittarius, your mind tends to encompass the big picture, aim for the higher truth and seek out a painless escape from the ordinary. Daydreaming usually works, and so can shopping online for those picky relatives.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

Whatever has been incubating in your unconscious since your Mars ruler entered Pisces in June is about to burst out into your scene. Although Mars will only be in Aries from Dec. 16 until Groundhog Day, the impact the Warrior can make on your looks and your self-esteem can be tremendous. If you're considering eye surgery, dental work or even a run-of-the-mill makeover, schedule it for that period. Until then, investigate ways of keeping in touch with a wide audience of knowledgeable folks; they'll be your personal power grid.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Besides wondering what they're buying you for Christmas, turn your attention for the next few days on other people's money. While your Venus ruler is in prudent Capricorn, you can concentrate like nobody's business on somebody else's business. Efficiency will be your middle name, and propriety your calling card. Next week, when prosperous, protective Jupiter favors Venus, you'll be rewarded for your efforts, no matter how meager they are. Then you can celebrate like the party animal you aspire to be.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

What you think about, your approach to a problem, even your position in a debate can change since your Mercury ruler entered Capricorn on the 2nd. Instead of contemplating the philosophical implications of an idea or how it'll improve your life, you'll be more concerned with its implementation. What works suddenly becomes what's best. So while your interests may narrow down to a precious few, don't forget that they are precious. Also remember that significant progress can be made before Mercury goes retrograde from the 17th until Jan. 6.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

Despite having more social obligations—popular Venus in your Capricorn complement tends to draw you out of your shell—the Crab can still clear time to enjoy personal pleasures, i.e., the pursuits that you alone find entertaining and recreational. Although there might not be a higher goal or ethical imperative attached to whatever pastime gets you off, be thankful that it does accomplish its purpose. You're also poised, if need be, to get a lot of work done over the next two weeks without much stress or strain.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

For the good of the house, for the good of the family, do it. No matter what it costs—and while your sun ruler is under pressure from expansive Jupiter, it will be expensive—you won't be happy until you meet the challenge. Luckily, because Jupiter is in your Virgo house of values, the expenditure will be in good taste and will improve whatever situation you're trying to correct. The loopy relative, the leaky faucet; it hardly matters where the problem lies. You're in the proper mood for rescue and reconstruction.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Read for Gemini. Any information pertinent to Mercury, that sign's ruling planet, applies to you, too. Although the Messenger will be retrograde from Dec. 17 until Jan. 6, turning this Christmas into the holiday from airport hell, all is not lost. Firm up your reservations well beforehand, and you can be fairly confident that you'll be able to come and go more or less as planned. If you got through the total solar eclipse and Thanksgiving (with its destructive Mars-Pluto square) OK, then December should be a breeze.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Wrapped in a cloak of family loyalty and respect for tradition, the occasionally ruthless Libra may operate this week with impunity. Such is often the case when your Venus ruler runs into stiff opposition from stern Saturn, the planet overseeing frustration and failure. If things aren't going your way, if time is not on your side, then pull whatever strings you can lay your hands on. Librans are basically fair-minded, although they've been known to tip the scales when the situation demands it, when someone special will be very grateful.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Try to remember that, astrologically speaking, the outside world doesn't have much influence on your actions this holiday season. You might go through the motions of making money, but you'll be more interested in expressing yourself creatively and showing your loved ones a good time. Carpe diem, because once Mercury flips into retrograde on the 17th, details and delays will be a continuing annoyance. At the same time, your Mars co-ruler shifts out of idealistic Pisces into aggressive Aries, and your mood changes accordingly.

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Winter Whimsy

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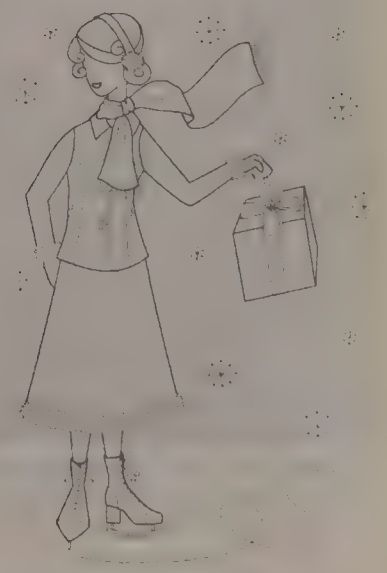
"a whimsical collection of holiday gifts"

HOLIDAY DRESSES, SPORTSWEAR, FESTIVE TRINKETS & GIFTS GALORE!



Thur, Dec. 4th, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.*
Fri, Dec. 5th, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.*
Sat, Dec. 6th, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun, Dec. 7th, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Mon, Dec. 8th thru Sat, Dec. 13th, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mon, Dec. 15th thru Fri, Dec. 19th, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SARA CAMPBELL LTD.
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**10% of all proceeds go to "Kids Clothes Club"*
Every $25 provides a child in need with a new winter coat!

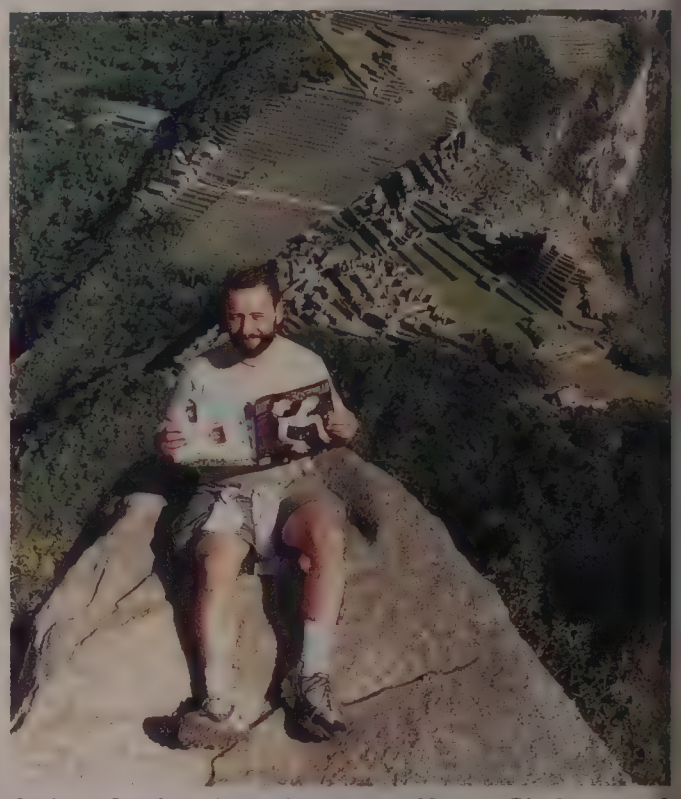
IMPROPER sightings

UNLIKE THE REST OF YOUR FRIENDS, WE WANT TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP.

Where do you take us? Send us a picture of you or a friend, or better yet, someone famous reading THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN and tell us where you were. The wilder your destination and the more creative your photo, the better your chances of making the cut in the esteemed Improper Sightings.

Amy Callen and Betsy Navam prepare to stand directly beneath the raging torrent of Niagara Falls. Fortunately, they're wearing protection.

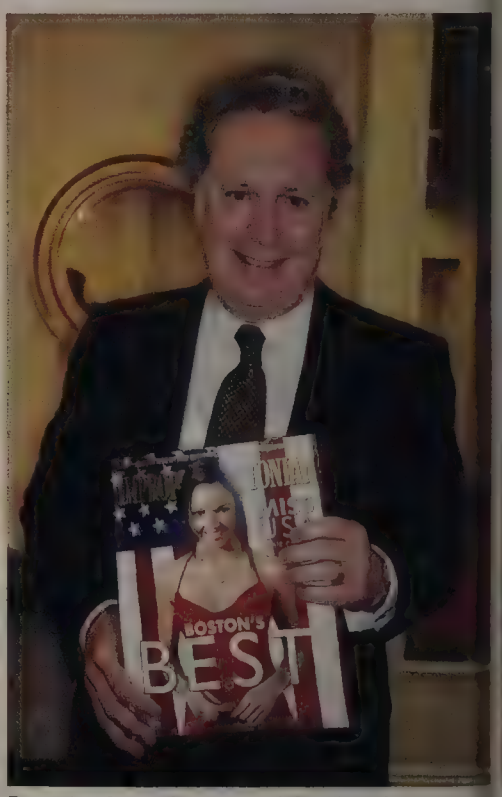
Christie Friesen and Scott Sarian get buck wild at the Calgary Stampede and Rodeo in Calgary, Alberta. They say the rodeo was fun but the stampede hurt.



Andrew Stachyra is scaring us atop Huayna Picchu, one of the peaks at Machu Picchu, Peru. Andrew, you get down from there this instant. We're going to count to 10. One...

Colleen Snow waits to take a gondola ride in Venice, Italy. While there she spotted the latest doofus Joe Millionaire, who said, "I reckon them granola boats is mighty pointy!"

Joanie Leonard reveals a little-publicized attribute of the Sydney Opera House in Australia: plenty of parking. If Joanie didn't make it to the Australian outback, at least she saw what it looks like out back o' the Opera House.



Premier Jean Charest of Quebec knows which Boston magazine has that certain je ne sais quoi.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

BONUS POINTS TO ANYONE WHO CAN CAPTURE AN IMPROPER READER...

Protesting the invention of dynamite at the annual Nobel Prize awards ceremony, Dec. 10 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Send color or b&w prints (min. 3x5) to: Improper Sightings, The Improper Bostonian Magazine, 142 Berkeley St., 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02116.
Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and photo location. All photos become the property of THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN MAGAZINE and will not be returned.

DOUBLE

your pleasure

The Improper Bostonian's Year-End Double Issue is out on stands for three weeks!
There will be twice as much to look at, twice as much to learn,
and twice as much to make you laugh. There will also be twice as much Agenda,
covering all the New Year's Eve activities and more!

Take this chance to advertise in *The Improper Bostonian* magazine—you'll be doubly glad you did!

The Improper Bostonian reaches more than 392,900 readers every two weeks!

96% purchased a product or service advertised as a result of reading *The Improper Bostonian.*

86% use *The Improper Bostonian* to entertain guests from out of town.

The Improper Bostonian's readers earn an average household income of $84,080.

Call 617-859-1400, ext. 280, to book advertising space now.
Issue Date: December 17
Advertising Deadline: December 3

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN
MAGAZINE

IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Thursday, November 13, Michael Barsamian, president and founder of **Lord's and Lady's Hair Salon** was named Man of the Year by the Greater Boston ARC at the **Seaport Hotel** in Boston.

1. **Pam Gechijian** of Concord; **Denise Lavino**, **Jennifer Barsamian**, **Marisa Russo**, all stylists at Lord's and Lady's; **Sahara Hayes**, Jennifer's daughter; **Donna Joyce** and **Michelle Barsamian**, both stylists at Lord's and Lady's.
2. **Marian Walsh**, state senator; **Randy Price**, news anchor for WHDH-TV; and **Michael Barsamian**, president of Lord's and Lady's.
3. **Jessica Barsamian**, salon manager, and **Sally Drinkwater**, director of education, both of Lord's and Lady's Hair Salon, and **Kathryn Shehade**, president of K4 Inc.

On Tuesday, November 18, **T's Pub** launched their new interactive Family Feud game night. The competition will be held every Tuesday night, and a cash prize will be awarded.

1. **Mark Awdycki**, graduate student at Salem State, and **Dan Lyons**, manager of Fenway affairs for the Boston Red Sox.
2. **Tracy Awdycki**, and **Laura Mackin**, both assistant buyers for Filene's, and **Maura Lyons**, nurse at Tufts Medical Center.
3. **Erin O'Connor**, manager for NEOB; **Beth Sullivan**, sales representative for Commercial Insurance; and **Jeanne-Marie Casey**, staffing manager for Express Personnel Services.

On Wednesday, November 19, **Mitchell John Salon** hosted "Martinis and Makeovers." **The Boston Young Professionals Association**, the **Big Sisters Association of Boston** and **Chambord Liqueur** and **Pravda Vodka** sponsored the smooth sippin' event.

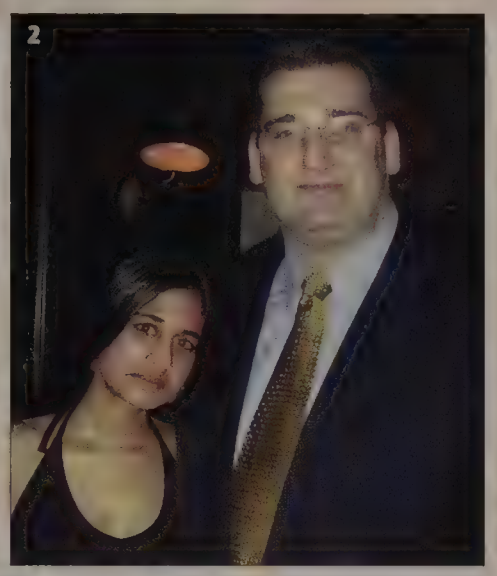
1. **Mitchell DeRosa** and **Lisa DeRosa**, owners of the Mitchell John Salon, and **Kristen Paccione**, recent graduate of Northeastern University.
2. **Anne Harrell**, president of the Boston Young Professionals Association; **Jillian Harwich**, lead artist for Stilla Cosmetics; and **Chris Sinclair**, vice president of the BYPA.
3. **Dawn Herrick**, marketing director for Chambord and Pravda Vodka; **Tammy Newhall**, promotional model for Chambord; **Adrienne Meier** of Bear Stearns; and **Ashley Knopf**, customer relations manager for Liberty Chevrolet.

On Thursday, November 13, **Anthem** invited guests to enjoy live music, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails in celebration of its grand opening.

1. **Lynne Kortenhaus**, president of Kortenhaus Communications, and **Christopher Langley**, account executive at Kortenhaus Communications.
2. **Andrew McLaughlin**, sales staffing manager for Robert Half International; **Marissa Foster**, assistant buyer for Talbots.
3. **Leslie Palmiter** of Boston; **David Shinney**, managing partner of The Briar Group, and **Peter Christi**, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

PHOTOS: LORD'S AND LADY'S, CAPRICE, JULIE KANE; T'S PUB, MICHAEL BURNS; MITCHELL JOHN SALON, KATIE SCHMIDT; BLACK ROSE, ALISON MORANT; ANTHEM, SAGI RICHBERG, MICHAEL BURN

On Wednesday, November 19, **Caprice** hosted a Beaujolais Wine Dinner, a traditional French dinner celebrating the Beaujolais Nouveau event.

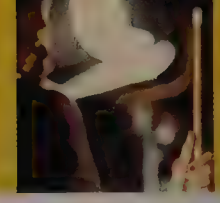


1. **Courtney O'Regan**, marketing director, and **Mike Moran**, owner, both of Caprice.
2. **Bansi Patel**, hostess, and **Manos Demakes**, manager, both of Caprice.
3. **Krystal Hatchett**, model for Maggie Inc.; **Christophe Muller**, co-owner of Caprice; **Fabiana Souza**, model for Maggie Inc.; **Brant Welty**, manager at Alpha Omega; and **Dee Rodrigues**, model for Maggie Inc.

On Wednesday, October 29, **The Black Rose** hosted a casino night to benefit the **Boston Komen Race for the Cure**. **Mohegan Sun** and **Seagram's Vodka** sponsored the event.

1. **Tracy Saradnik**, director of marketing and sales for the Glynn Hospitality Group, and **Ian Lawson**, district manager for Pernod Ricard USA.
2. **Bobbie Batten**, manager of the Purple Shamrock, and **Travis Talbot**, vice president of operations for the Glynn Hospitality Group.
3. **Christine Bellany** and **Tali Kulbeda**, promotional representatives from Signature Marketing.

Restaurants, Bars, Clubs & Brunch



RESTAURANTS

75 Chestnut *75 Chestnut St., Boston, 617-227-2175, www.75chestnut.com.* Providing regional American cuisine served in an intimate setting. Bar opens at 5pm. Dinner served from 5:30pm - 10pm.

Backstage *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* Faneuil Hall's hottest restaurant and nightclub offers the very best in Americana food. Located adjacent to the Comedy Connection you can dance the night away every Wednesday through Sunday with Top 40 and dance classics by DJ's Jonny and Freddi C. For more information call 617-726-1110.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Blue Cat Cafe *94 Massachusetts Ave., at Newbury Street, Boston,617-247-9922.* A hip restaurant with a jazz-infused atmosphere, the Blue Cat Cafe's signature it it's cool jazz tunes and American classics menu. Select from items such as the Grilled Portabella Paninni or Pan-Seared Tuna with Wasabi Aioli. The Blue Cat Cafe also makes it's mark with unique martini selections such as the now-famous Blue Cat Cosmopolitan and City Search's Best of Boston Espresso Martini. Open daily 5pm-1am. AE, DC, MC,V.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St., 617-236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurant in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston, 617-262-9874.* South End bistro offering Contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable European-style setting. Menu features grilled gourmet pizzas, handmade pasta and unique entrees.

The Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Financial District, Boston, 617-350-9977.* English style Pub offering over 100 types of beer, great food and the financial district's most comfortable bar. Specialties include beer battered fish and chips and shepherd's pie. We also offer a great selection of single malt scotches and a variety of cigars. We have two levels of operation with our lower level providing private rooms for both business meetings and after work parties.

Henrietta's Table *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* Chef Davis, whose motto is "fresh and honest", creates a lively menu that features the freshest market produce daily. Food at Henrietta's Table is fresh, pure and wholesome. Full bar, casual dress. Outdoor dining in season. Reservations strongly recommended. Breakfast, Mon-Fri 6:30am-11:00am, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am, Sunday 7:00am-10:30am; Brunch, Sat-Sun noon-3:00pm; Lunch, Mon-Fri noon-3:00pm; Supper, Daily 5:30pm-10;00pm. For reservations and information, please call 617.661.5005.

Iguana Cantina *313 Moody St., Waltham, 781-891-3039;* The Iguana Cantina serves a variety of Caribbean, Tex-Mex and Southwestern fare. The atmosphere is fun and the food is tasty. Visit our website at www.theiguanacantina.com.

Legal Sea Foods *Park Square at the MotorMart - 617-426-4444, Copley Place 617-266-7775, Long Wharf (outdoor dining) 617-742-5300, Prudential Center 617-266-6800.* Indulge in Boston's freshest raw bar, our inaugural clam chowder, a succulent lobster or any of your favorite dishes in a relaxed yet sophisticated atmosphere. Legal also offers an award-winning wine list at the best value in town. Stop by for a taste of Boston's Best - our chefs have a table waiting for you.

Lucky's Lounge *355 Congress St., South Boston,617-357-5825 www.luckys-lounge.com.* Located in the trendy artist district of Fort Point Channel, Lucky's is a den of cocktail cool with swanky spirits, traditional fare, and live music featuring the soothing sounds of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Darrin and more. Open seven days a week, Lucky's also hosts Sinatra Sundays, a weekly tribute to "Old Blue Eyes" by the Al Vega Trio.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant *Boston Park Plaza Hotel ,34 Columbus Ave, Boston 617 482-3999; Faneuil Hall Marketplace, North Market Bldg. 617-720-5522.* Recognized nationwide for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere, McCormick & Schmick's offers over 40 varieties of fresh seafood, and a unique menu that changes daily. The bar is also a popular destination where all cocktails are made fresh and hand-shaken. $1.95 Bar menu served Monday through Friday 3:30-6:30 p.m. and late night every night from 10 p.m - midnight.

M.J. O'Connor's *27 Columbus Ave., at Park Plaza, Boston 617-482-2255* Eclectic Irish Food and spirits, a warm friendly staff and beautifully handcrafted woodwork and murals make this authentic upscale Irish pub one of Boston's best. Starting with only the finest ingredients, each dish is slow cooked according to recipes that have been used for generations. If you're looking for a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city, M.J. O'Connor's is a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a delicious meal, have a pint and some great conversation. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Ned Devine's *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Located in historic Faneuil Hall Marketplace's Quincy Market Building, Ned Devine's is an upscale Irish Pub concept which features hearty Irish specialties and contemporary American cuisine. Whether it's an afternoon business meeting, dinner with family or after work social gathering, Ned's is a warm meeting spot to enjoy conversation and a wonderful meal. Hand painted murals, imported Irish woodwork, original brickwork and ambient lighting create a comfortable atmosphere inthe heart of downtown Boston. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of Improper's 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. Whether you choose to dine in our streetside greenhouse, at the bar, in the dining room enjoying live entertainment, or snack at your pool table, expect nothing less than a first class meal from The Rack. We serve lunch and dinner from 11:30 am - 1 am. From fresh, homemade pastas and blackened center-cut tuna steaks to grilled pizzas, tasty burgers and Faneuil Hall's most original sandwiches.

Science Street Café *Science Park, Boston, 617-723-2500, www.mos.org.* Looking for something different to do this Friday night? Check out Boston's newest nightspot - The Science Street Café at the Museum of Science. Try our out-of-this world signature martinis, gourmet appetizers and decadent desserts - all while listening to live music. Perfect before or after an Omni film. Open 6-10pm. Parking available

Solas *710 Boylston St., Lenox Hotel, 617-933-4803.* Solas means comfort in Gaelic and comfort is exactly what you will find here, along with a lot of "Irish" good fun. Solas, a Boston pub with an Irish soul, illustrates its Irish influences in the architectural styles and furnishings. The menu is influenced by a traditional, yet decidedly modern Irish cuisine. And you'll always find a warm, hospitiable staff looking to pour you a cold pint. Open 11am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Don't just come for Boston's Best Beer Selection featuring 112 taps and 380 microbrews. Come also to enjoy Boston's award winning steam beer burgers and famous curly fries, original buffalo wings and giant nachos. Still hungry? Try our juicy BBQ steak tips, grilled fish, homemade pastas, tender Yankee ribs or our sizzling fajitas. Full menu until 1 am.

Temple Bar *1688 Mass Ave., Cambridge, 02135 617-547-5055. Open Mon.-Sun. 5pm-1am, Brunch Sat. and Sun. 11am-5pm.* Located just outside of Harvard Square, Temple Bar has been both a destination and a local for the educators, professionals and students of Cambridge and its surrounding towns. It's colorful European/American menu, home style Ala-Carte weekend brunch and funky interior, complete with a solid copper bar stretching the length of the restaurant, have won many awards and accolades from many local publications.

BARS/CLUBS

Beer Specialty

Boston Beer Works *112 Canal St., near the Fleet Center, 617-896-BEER, 61 Brookline Ave., across from Fenway Park, 617-536-BEER and 278 Derby St., in Historic Salem, 978-745-BEER.* Boston's oldest and largest restaurant brewery with 3 locations! Bold American Food. Award Winning Beer. 15 microbrewed beers always on tap. 16 American wines by the glass. 15 championship billiards tables at our Canal Street location. Complete party planning capabilities. Private Rooms. Customizeable menus. Lunch. Dinner. Late Night. Always a good time. Check out the BIGGER and BOLDER menu.

Sunset *Grill & Tap: 30 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina: 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* Something's always brewing at Best of Boston's award winning beer bar. Here you'll find the largest selection on the East Coast-112 taps and 380 microbrews and exoic imports. Join our beer club and enjoy every style of beer under the sun. Take advantage of the yards, cask conditioned beer, flight samples, vintage and new beers, seasonals, meads, ciders, etc. Full menu until 1 am. Experience our beer festival 365 days a year.

Billiards

Felt *533 Washington St., Boston, 617-350-5555.* Felt is located in the shadow of the new Ritz Carlton, in the heart of the buzzed about Ladder District. A tri-level venue offering sophisticated billiards, New York style lounge, a hip bar scene and fine dining. Enjoy a gourmet dinner while lounging in a plush, red-velvet booth; while listening to a DJ accompanied by live jazz rifts. The perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two or for a big birthday bash. The hip atmosphere combined with the delicious creative entrees is the perfect blend to satisfy all your cravings. American Eclectic cuisine by Chef Casey Lloyd.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/nightclub/billiards club offers 22 gorgeous Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Clubs

Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700.* The Comedy Connection located in the heart of historical Faneuil Hall features the biggest names in comedy with apearances by Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Wendy Liebman and Jay Mohr. Located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building, the Connection offers the best in local and national stand-up seven nights a week.

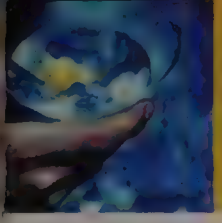
Dance Bars

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening – and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much



more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish specialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston,617-742-2121.* Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112.* Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11am - 1am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055.* Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11am - 2am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101.* The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

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Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Dowtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1am (til 2am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

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LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

At Steppin' Out, top: Nicole and Jeff Bellows. Middle row: Brian Latson and Patrick Petty; Marvin and Marque Gilmore. Bottom: Sheldon Lloyd, Ivana Flodl and Darryl Settles.

At the Cat in the Hat party, top row: the party's namesake; Eddie Andelman. Middle: John and Susan Spooner, Amanda and Brendan Frank. Bottom: Mitt and Ann Romney.

ALL THAT JAZZ...

Putting on a tuxedo for a charity gala is no guarantee of a good time, unless, of course, you're attending the 16th annual **Steppin' Out** fund-raiser for the **Dimock Community Health Center**.

The **World Trade Center** was transformed into a multiplex of legendary jazz clubs—Wally's, the Hi-Hat, the Savoy, the Lobby Café—and guests wandered from room to room, enjoying performances by the likes of **Walter Beasley**, **Kilombo Mambo**, the **Paulo Danay Jazz Quartet**, and the **Boston Gay Men's Chorus**. The headliner, however, was the incomparable **Roberta Flack**, who killed everyone softly with her songs, and then brought them all to their feet for a thunderous standing ovation after both sets.

It was an everyone-who's-anyone kind of crowd, but among those I spied with my little eye: legal eagle **Lani Guinier**; prominent Chestnut Hillions **Kathy** and **Richard Taylor**; Harvard B-School bigwig **Rosabeth Moss-Kanter**; unofficial mayor of Cambridge **Marvin Gilmore**, with his son, **Marque**, who lives in London; Newbury Street hipster honcho **Patrick Petty**; Boston Police teddy bear **Brian Latson**; Bob the Chef's proprietor **Darryl Settles**; the ubiquitous **Sheldon Lloyd** squiring the ridiculously pretty **Ivana Flodl**; *Boston Globe* VP **Scott Meyer** and his spectacular wife, **Andrea**; Meyer's colleague, **Aisha Saunders**, with her eminent husband, attorney **Kirk P. Jackson**; and so on and so forth.

As if all that weren't entertaining enough, there was the chance to stand between the two escalators and socialize, which is the only thing some people ended up doing.

"I've been coming to this party for years," confessed one, "and by the time I say hello to everybody, it's time to go home."

SOCIAL HABITS OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE...

If aliens had landed at the **Festival of Lights** gala to benefit the **Young Professionals of the Boston Public Library Foundation**, they might have left with the impression that the BPL is the most happening spot in Boston on a Friday night.

All the bright young things were there, among them: co-chairs **Alec Stern**, **Lee Ostrowski** and **Heather Earl**; uber-philanthropists **Paul** and **Kelley Verrochi**; haute couture entrepreneur **Leslee Shupe** of Serenella; salt-stained sailors **Tom Zaulli** and **Steve Woolfson**, with the latter's babe-a-licious main squeeze, **Lisa Rebello**; loft-dwelling fabulons **Sarah** and **Jonathan Koerner**; brunette firecracker **Siobhan McCourt**; curvaceous tech cutie **Kiki Mills**; Boston's answer to Dean Martin, **Caesar Belbel**; Boston's answer to Jimmy Stewart, **Peter Creighton**; former Houghton Mifflin chief **Nader Darehshori**; BPL head **Bernie Margolis**; and others too numerous to mention but every bit as glittery.

The interesting mix of young marrieds, trustafarians, single upper-yuppies and pre-facelift socialites made for much witty banter, like the following exchange between a handsome lawyer who has houses in Brookline and Martha's Vineyard, and the attractive blonde who refused to give him her number:

"I guess two houses isn't enough for you. You want four."

"Hell, I'd date a grad student," she shot back, "I just say things like that to get rid of guys like you."

The party's snarkiest comment, however, came from a woman who greeted a friend with kisses on each cheek and said, "I haven't had enough cocktails to deal with you yet."

ALL THAT AND A BAG OF POPCORN...

If you couldn't immediately figure out which holiday blockbuster was being screened upon arrival at the gala reception for the **Joey O'Donnell Film Premiere**, to benefit the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Joey Fund**, you probably flunked out of kindergarten.

Guests entering the **Atrium Mall** in Chestnut Hill were confronted by a sea of volunteers, waiters and bartenders, all wearing the unmistakable red and white striped stovepipe hat made famous by Dr. Seuss' most obstreperous and subversive feline.

"I guess we're seeing *The Cat in the Hat*," ventured one guest.

"I'd be a little scared if we weren't," said another.

"I'm going to have to sit through it again with my kids," said a third.

At the pre-screening party, there were copious quantities of food by restaurants like Olive's, Sonsie, the Capital Grille and Legal Sea Foods, while the cocktails flowed free and easy and assorted bigshots and billionaires grazed and guzzled among the mall's three marble floors.

Present and accounted for: top dog **Mitt Romney** and his wife, **Ann**; the evening's hosts concessions mogul **Joe O'Donnell** and his wife, **Kathy** (whose son's death from cystic fibrosis gave rise to the charity); retired financial titan **Jack Sidell** (who timed his arrival and departure around the kickoff of the Patriots game); broadcasting giant **Eddie Andelman** (looking tan and svelte) with his three sons, **David**, **Dan** and **Michael**; sports journalism scion **Sean McDonough**; real estate mogul **Steve Karp** and his wonderful wife, **Jill**; Back Bay party pair **Jeff** and **Christine McCormick**; stockbroker-to-the-stars **John Spooner** and his utterly charming other half, **Susan**; their daughter and son-in-law, **Amanda** and **Brendan Frank**; and some kids who couldn't resist touching the ice sculptures to see if they were, in fact, cold and wet.

At 8:30, everyone grabbed a goody-bag stuffed with candy and Universal Studios tie-in merchandise and high-tailed it over to the Chestnut Hill Cinema for the screening, and for the next five days they all enjoyed bragging rights about having already seen the biggest blockbuster of the holiday season before anybody else. IB

At the BPL, clockwise from upper left: Jeff and Christine McCormick; Kiki Mills; Michele Nadeem; Tom Zaulli; Lisa Rebello and Steve Woolfson; Caesar Belbel.

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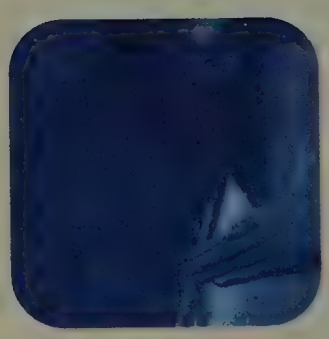

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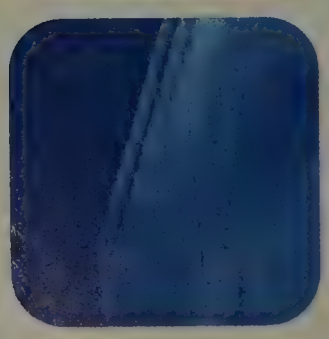

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Happy Holidays

from

The Improper Bostonian

Magazine

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Photographed for THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN by
Bob Perachio

Photo assistant: **Lisa Dragani;** location: **Hotel Commonwealth, Kenmore Square;** grooming: **Samantha House;** clothing: **provided by Neiman Marcus;** jewelry: **provided by Shreve, Crump & Low;** hair clip: **provided by the Altered Bride**

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LETTERS

FROM THE EDITOR

ON TO '04

It was a warm day in early October when we met up with the fun-loving Coors Twins, Diane and Elaine Klimaszewski, but they had no trouble getting into the holiday spirit as we showered them with confetti for this issue's New Year's–themed cover. You can see more of the lovely Worcester natives in the fashion section ("Twice as Nice") of this issue, which takes us out of the old year and into the new.

If you're reading the magazine early in its three-week life and haven't yet finished your holiday shopping, Amy MacMillan's look at some talented local jewelry makers ("All That Glitters") may spark a few last-minute gift ideas. These artists' studios are worth looking into any time of year for unique, handmade pieces you won't find in a department store.

Somerville's annual trolley tour past lights-bedecked houses offers the chance to see sparkly things of a different kind, and in "Touring the Lights Fantastic," Julie Suratt explores how one man carries on the decorating tradition his father started 45 years ago.

Safe travels and happy holidays!

Veronica Chao

VERONICA CHAO, Editor
veronica@improper.com

THE AIDS ACTION COMMITTEE'S THRIFT STORES ACCEPT EVERYTHING FROM CLOTHES TO CARS TO CHEESE PINS AND CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS.

—MARIO SCHIAVONE
BRIGHTON

LOST IN TRANSLATION

I got a good laugh out of Ezra's last column, "The Host with the Least" (Dec. 3). Or at least I was laughing until I mentioned part of it to a good friend and coworker of mine, who happens to be Japanese. When I asked her what the Japanese phrase Ezra used in the article meant she freaked out! She informed me that his translation is inaccurate and that the words are actually extremely vulgar slang terms for the male and female genitalia. I enjoy Ezra's writing very much—I just think he should check his terminology next time. He got me in a lot of *mierda* for that one!

—CHRISTINE L'ECUYER
East Boston

GIVE IT AWAY NOW

Kudos to the IMPROPER for the article "Creative Charity" (Dec. 3). This time of year, I feel much better about donating actual things of use than just writing another check. Julie Suratt's clear report of who needs what makes this job easier for all of us. I only wish I'd had this information when I moved to Colorado last year—instead of watching people sift through everything that I ended up leaving on the curb. Thanks for helping us help others.

—CASSIE WICKES
Denver, Colo.

I was pleased to see an article concerning ways to give back this season ("Creative Charity") but saddened to have been left off the list.

Boomerangs is a chain of resale stores wholly owned and operated by AIDS Action Committee. Though AIDS Action was mentioned in your article, our hub for "creative giving" was not. Boomerangs accepts everything from clothes to cars to cheese pins and Christmas ornaments. We also strive to keep our costs low, allowing us to give back a lion's share of the profits to the AAC.

With our recent addition of a Boomerangs in Brighton Center, we plan to provide a new experience in thrift-store shopping. Boomerangs is in Brighton at 298 Washington St. and in Jamaica Plain at 716 Centre St.

—MARIO SCHIAVONE
BOOMERANGS MANAGER
Brighton

CONTRIBUTOR

KAREN CARLSON CUMMINGS

Karen Carlson Cummings has been a Boston resident for eight years, but she previously lived in ski country and was the features editor for the *Mountain Ear*, a weekly paper in North Conway, N.H. She covered skiing, both racing and recreational, among many other things. Currently, she contributes to the ski guide books *Ski Snowboard America and Canada* and *Ski Snowboard Europe*, and to the Web site www.skisnowboard.com. Cummings dates someone she met at the hot springs in Steamboat, Colo., but you can learn about New England mountains' singles scenes in her article, "Cold Chemistry," on page 22.

JONATHAN TUCKER COVER: TRACY AIGUIER

Tell Us What You Think

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PUBLISHER **Wendy Semonian**

EDITOR **Veronica Chao**

MANAGING EDITORS **Erin Hagedorn, Julie Suratt**

COPY CHIEF **Susan Abbattista**

COPY EDITOR **David Plunkett**

FEATURE WRITER/SOCIAL COLUMNIST **Jonathan Soroff**

STAFF WRITER **Ezra Dyer**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Jessica Iredale**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS **Sandy Block, M.W., Carolyn Faye Fox, Mopsy Strange Kennedy, Laurel Kirtz, J. Charles Mokriski, Paul Robicheau, Paul Sherman, Daniel Spurling**

EDITORIAL INTERNS **Kelli Acciardo, Julie Babayan, Katelyn Belyus, Ashley Clauss, Kristen Grieco, Kate Hedgpeth, Sarah Korval**

ART DIRECTOR **Carolyn Bowes**

PHOTO EDITOR **Rita Greeley**

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Kerry Brett Hurley**

ART DEPARTMENT INTERNS **Marilyn Chung, Vanessa Earl**

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FOUNDER **Mark Semonian**

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EDITED BY ERIN HAGEDORN & JULIE SURATT

new in town

JIM H'S JOE V'S

Since closing G Lounge in June 2000, Jim Hamelburg has been itching to open a restaurant that was the "complete antithesis" of the former night club—as he says, "a place where you go to relax, eat and share a nice bottle of wine...not get drunk and dance on the bar" (activities that were known to happen at the Leather District nightspot). He found the ideal setting at the South End's On the Park, which he purchased and renovated to create Joe V's, a casual and cozy boîte on the corner of Shawmut Avenue and Union Park. Hamelburg describes it as a "Franklin Cafe–type of restaurant that serves really good food at reasonable prices."

The lunch and dinner menu focuses on pasta dishes, like the lobster ravioli with vodka cream sauce, as well as thin-crust pizza, which Hamelburg raves about. "We didn't settle on the recipe until a week before opening," he says. "We were making pizzas—all with different crusts—until we found the right combination." The crunchy crust is topped with a zesty plum tomato– and–basil sauce, plus a choice of spicy sausage, barbecued pork or goat cheese, among others. But Hamelburg's favorite is the tomato and basil—"I'm vanilla...a simple guy with simple tastes." The decor matches that philosophy as well, with lots of blond wood, floor-to-ceiling windows and seating for 37. If the staff looks vaguely familiar, it's because many hail from the old G Lounge.

As for the name, Hamelburg decided on "Joe's" after a visit to a cool bar in New York with the same name. Then he added the V in honor of his bartending friend Joe V of West Street Grill. "Now everyone thinks he owns it," he says with a laugh.

Weekend brunch is also available at Joe V's, with staples like French toast, eggs Benedict and waffles joining pizza and pasta on the menu. *315 Shawmut Ave., Boston (617-338-5638). —E.H. and J.S.*

sports

STOVETOP STUFFING

You Tellem...Memo to Nomar's agent, Arn Tellem: There are no sacred cows in the Red Sox clubhouse these days, and the big-contract heyday of 2000 is as dead as our Toys.com stock. So when you're talking about $60 million over four years in a market where Miguel Tejada can be had for $8 million per year, don't be surprised when you hear that John Henry was seen sharing a pu-pu platter with A-Rod. We love Nomar, but one gets the idea that Theo Epstein would trade himself and an unborn child to be named later if he thought it would upgrade next year's team. Just something to keep in mind, Arn.

On the opposite side of the greedy-agent coin, we have newly acquired pitching ace Curt Schilling, a man who—horrors!—represents himself and says that any money he makes at this point is just more money he can't spend anyway. Schilling immediately donated $500,000 to the Jimmy Fund upon signing with the Sox. If he pitches well, that would be icing on the cake.

As we go to press, the A-Rod–for–Manny deal is up in the air and we're no closer to closer Keith Foulke. But even if the rest of the winter doesn't produce another Schilling-level deal, the 2004 Sox are looking better than the team that came so close to the World Series (and the most obvious reason for *that* disappointment has been addressed by the hiring of new manager Terry Francona).

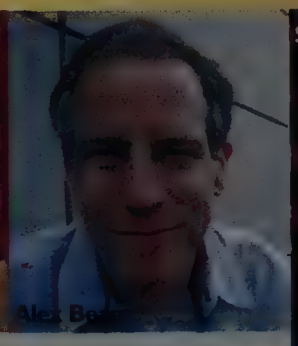
Speaking of teams that look better than their predecessors, dare we mention a certain team in Foxboro...

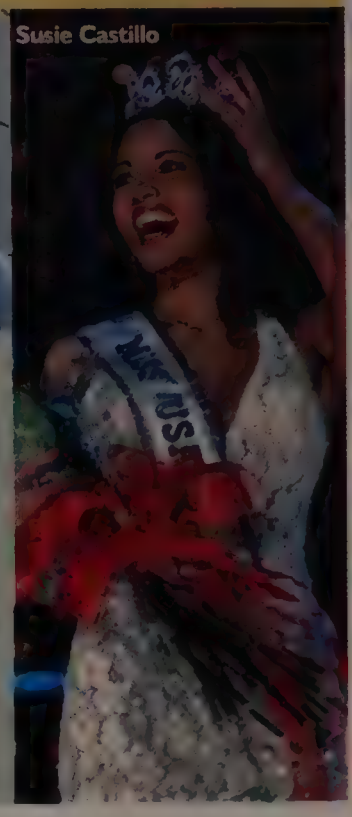
—Ezra Dyer

inner view

WISHFUL THINKING

It's that time again: the season of giving, peace on Earth and goodwill toward men. Yeah, yeah. We all know what's really important here: presents. Like a 50-inch Pioneer high-definition plasma-screen TV, a diamond-encrusted Cellini Rolex or an end to world hunger. Here's what a few local celebs had on their holiday wish lists.





Jodi Applegate, *Fox25 Morning News* co-host:
I want a weekend at a spa. The self-indulgent kind...not the spartan health-nazi kind.

Ming Tsai, chef/owner Blue Ginger, cookbook author of *Simply Ming*:
I would like world peace. Seriously. I'm not sure where you can buy that, though. I need to get the next-generation PDA, cell phone, laptop, BlackBerry combo that can also take pictures and play DVDs. It's going to be out there soon. I also want another huge snowstorm the day after I get to Salt Lake City to go skiing in January. And the last thing: I have two little kids who've recently been sick with the flu. I hope Christmas brings us a consistently healthy household.

Kelly Malone, Mix 98.5 morning show co-host:
Since the position hasn't been permanently filled, for Christmas I'd like to be Adam Vinatieri's new ball holder.

Alex Beam, *Boston Globe* columnist:
What I want for Christmas: An Oscar for Billy Bob Thornton's depiction of Mr. Claus in *Bad Santa*. A vast upturn in newspaper advertising revenue that would allow all writers with more than 10 days' experience at the *Boston Globe* to retire on Cyprus. A Supreme Court ruling freezing the number of U.S. "bloggers" at 150, ranks to be determined by lottery. As always: no books, no sweaters, no fleece. Lastly—no, not world peace—but a modicum of inner peace for them that needs it, and I think we know who we are.

Susie Castillo, Miss USA 2003:
I need a car. I'm desperate. I think this is the first year Miss USA hasn't gotten a car. I'd also like Carrie Bradshaw from *Sex and the City*'s shoe wardrobe. And this whole year has been wonderful, but the one thing I don't get to do is spend time with my family. That's the number one thing this Christmas. All that and a partridge in a pear tree.

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tasty tidbits

MINI MEXICAN

Olé on the Go...From the proprietors of Arlington's Olé Mexican Grill comes Andale, a smaller, faster version of its suburban forerunner. The Financial District Mexican takeout spot, which opened mid-December, serves up tamales, burritos and enchiladas for 9-to-5ers on the go. Co-owner Ricardo Ramos and his partner, Armida Amor, offer favorites from the original Olé (not to be confused with the one in Inman Square), like chicken, pork, chorizo or vegetable burritos—at a much faster pace. *125 Summer St., Boston (617-732-2820). Mon.-Fri., 10 am-4 pm.*

The folks from Olé in Arlington have opened Andale.

Casual Encounter...As promised, the barkeeps behind the White Horse Tavern and the two Last Drops have reopened their Brighton spot formerly occupied by the Elbow Room. According to owner Doug Bacon, the restaurant, which closed in early June, "just didn't do well enough." His new venture, Harry's Bar and Grill, opened mid-December, and is more of a friendly, neighborhood pub than a night spot. "It's beer instead of martinis," says Bacon. "Burgers and wings instead of swordfish and risotto." *1430 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-738-9990).*

Fine Dining...Kudos to Michael Schlow and company at Via Matta. *GQ*'s notoriously finicky food critic, Alan Richman, ranked the Park Square eatery fourth in his "Top Ten Restaurants at the Top of Their Game" in the December issue. Richman specifically praised Schlow's crispy polpette meatballs. He also cited Jamaica Plain's Arbor as one of the nation's top three newcomers not to be missed.

Pho Redux...Fans of South End hot spot Pho Republique will be happy to hear that the chic Vietnamese eatery has announced plans to open a sibling venture in Cambridge. Kowtow Lounge is moving into the former digs of Giuseppe's (née Metro, née Cottonwood Cafe) in Porter Square in March. Fans of Pho's scenester vibe can expect the same stylish atmosphere at Kowtow, plus a few extras like dim sum carts, whole fish, a more extensive creative cocktail list and a private function room.

Black Goose Down...A new restaurant is slated to top Beacon Hill in late January. A 1920s-themed (red velvet seats, mahogany walls, sidecars and Manhattans) establishment called Scollay Square is moving into the former Black Goose. Co-owner Brad Dalbeck describes his venture as "upscale but casual American comfort food" that "falls somewhere between the Federalist, No. 9 Park and the Beantown Pub." Executive chef/co-owner Chris Damian will be whipping up seared sea scallops with Maine crab orzo and roasted asparagus and blue cheese–crusted lamb rack. *21 Beacon St., Boston (617-742-4900).—E.H., J.I. and J.S.*

sam says

TOPPING OFF

Like ice, snow and sub-zero conditions in general, hats are a matter of course during Boston winters. But keep in mind that cold weather is no excuse to sacrifice fashion to function. Boston hat designer Marie Galvin has been creating stylish lids for the past decade and has recently caught the eye of celebs and designers worldwide. Her latest collection includes styles that will keep you cozy and cute all season long. Two of my favorites are a modern Daisy Buchanan–style hat with ear flaps and a detachable flower (pin it on your coat for a little flair), and a soft cap (almost like a hood) with an even bigger flower. Both come in wool, corduroy and polar fleece combinations, and nearly every color of the rainbow. Prices range from $66-$129. *Available at Turtle, 619 Tremont St., Boston (617-266-2610).* www.galvinizedhats.com.
—Samantha House

improper reports

TO A TEA

Whether you want to sit for high tea, take part in a Japanese tea ceremony, or just grab a hot drink to go, local tea sellers have something for you during January's National Tea Month.

•**Tealuxe** offers a seasonal pumpkin spice chai with vanilla and herbs. *108 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-0400).* **$2.75**

•**Dado Tea** recommends its Eight Treasure Tea, a blend of green tea and seven different herbs (which they tell us are difficult to find outside of China). *955 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-9061).* **$3.50**

•**The Edwardian Tea Room** serves weekend high tea, complete with scones, pastries and finger sandwiches, in an authentic replica of an early 1900s tea room. *1332 Mass. Ave., Arlington (781-648-6508). Sat. and Sun., 9 am-5 pm.* **$19.95**

•**Kaji Aso Studio's Japanese Tea House** offers a two-hour Japanese tea ceremony on Sundays from 4 to 6 pm. Sample hand-delivered macha (green) tea from Kyoto served with red bean and wyeteria-root pastries. *40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-7419). Reservations required.* **$25.**

•**1369 Coffee House** offers a seasonal special, Cranberry Cozy, a combination of hibiscus tea and cranberry juice. *1369 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-576-1369); 757 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-4600).* **$2.25**

•The folks at **Virtuous Teas**, a tea shop in Newtonville, recommend Rooibos vanilla herbal tea for the new year. They call it the "ultimate herbal tea since it has twice as many antioxidants as green tea and many health benefits." *108 Madison Ave., Newtonville (617-928-0576).* **$6.50** (for four ounces, makes 10 cups)

•Edelweiss tea, served with finger sandwiches and assorted pastries, is popular at the **Ritz Carlton Boston**'s traditional English high tea. *Arlington, Boston (617-536-5700). Wed.-Sun., 2 and 4 pm.* **$25**

IMPROPER SPEAKING

SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

Discount Deal...A new discount deal for Bostonians and their visiting friends and relatives offers tons of opportunities to tour the town on the cheap. Or cheaper. The Go Boston Card is available in 1-, 2-, 3- and 5-day increments and offers free admission to 31 of the city's top attractions and $1,000 in discounts. Available at Go BostonCard.com or at the Grayline Tour office in the City Transportation Building, 16 S. Charles St., Boston.

Latin Connection...The Latino arts community has put itself on the map with the opening of the Center for Latino Arts. After a year of hard work, the Inquilinos Boricuas en Acci's project celebrated the opening of its new building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 20 with Mayor Tom Menino. The three-floor structure (originally All Saints Lutheran Church's parish house) is adjacent to the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center and features a gallery, stage, and art and dance studios. Program director Sabrina Aviles promises the center will feature art and programs that have "a Latino twist and offer a sense of empowerment and identity." She hopes to fill the house with artists-in-residence, theater, ceramics, dance programs and music. *85 West Newton St., Boston (617-927-1730).*

Mayor Menino christens the Center for Latino Arts.

Warming Up...There's at least one good thing about the onset of cold weather (besides snow days, that is): the Colonnade Hotel's Frosty Fridays promotion. Through March 29, guests who make a reservation for Saturday night (at a discounted rate of $229) pay the temperature last read by the National Weather Service at 5 pm for Friday night's stay. In other words, if it's a chilly 20 degrees, your rate is $20 for the night. And if the temp drops below zero, it's on the house. The Frosty Fridays deal includes a double-occupancy room and a choice between two tickets to an Old Town Trolley Tour or skating at the Frog Pond—two outdoor activities whose appeal could be limited when rates are lowest.

Double the 'Do...The majority of fine hair salons in town have been concentrated neatly in a row on Newbury Street. Claire Torpey is helping to expand the territory with her new boutique, Mayfair on the Hill, on West Cedar Street in Beacon Hill. Torpey, a British expat, got her start on London's Regent Street and has been working on the South Shore for a number of years. Even though there are a few salons on Charles Street, none claim coloring as their specialty, as Mayfair does. "I just thought there was a need for a salon that does lots of coloring in Beacon Hill," says Torpey. "I wanted to open something that was chic but rich with nice quality." Just across the Public Garden, 12-year hair styling veteran Amad Saab opened Amaci Salon in mid-December. Saab left Comm. Ave.'s Leeba to open his own joint in Park Square. Straightening, coloring, facials and waxing are among Amaci's specialities. *Mayfair on the Hill, 81A West Cedar St., Boston (617-742-6662); Amaci, 230 Stuart St., Boston (617-292-0202).*

Claire Torpey

Taxicab Revolutions...A local company is turning over a new green leaf in livery. Revo-T operates two Toyota Prius hybrids (a cross between a gasoline-powered car and an electric car) on a circuit to and from Logan Airport. Founder Seth Riney says he got the idea about a year ago. "The technology is here, and it's not that much more expensive, so why shouldn't we use it?," he asks. Revo-T (short for revolutionary transportation) has been up and running since September with cars out of Newton and Cambridge. Of course the Prius' super-low emissions rates and unheard of gas efficiency aren't without their price. Riney reports that the average ride costs about a third more than a taxi, and while tipping is accepted, it's not expected. Revo-T requests that reservations be made 48 hours in advance, although it provides service in the Boston metro area with as little as eight hours' notice. *(617-872-1573).* www.revot.com.—*E.H., J.S. & J.I.*

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PROPER BOSTONIANS

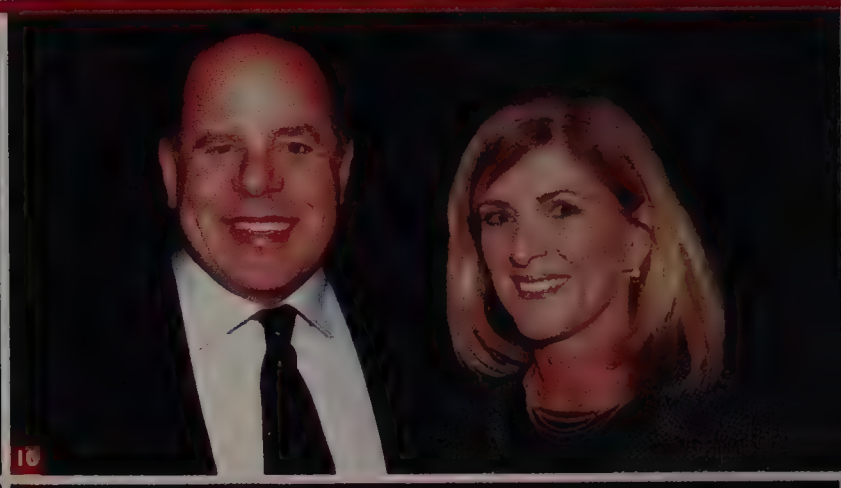
BY KERRY BRETT HURLEY

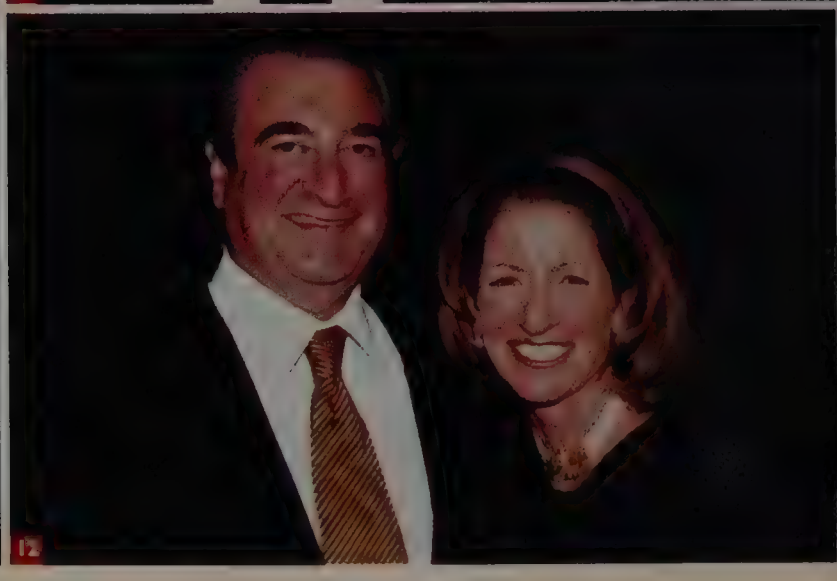
The preview performance and party for the world premiere of **Back to Before**, a new play directed and co-written by Dave McLaughlin, was held Nov. 26 at the Black Box Theater at the Boston Center for the Arts. The cast includes local actors Robert Wahlberg, Lance Greene, Rosalind Landman and Heather Lee accompanied by musicians Brian Queally, Matty Metcalfe and Johnny Coe. Performances run through Dec. 20.

1. From left: **Dave McDonald**, co-writer of the film *Southie*, and writer/director of *Back to Before*; his wife, **Beth**; **Amy Poehler**, actor on *Saturday Night Live*, and her husband, **Will Arnett**, actor on *Arrested Development*.
2. Actor **Mark Wahlberg** (left) and his brother **Robert**, actor and star of *Back to Before*.
3. **Kathleen** and **Bill Harris**, of the Exigen Group.
4. From left: **Susan Elsbree**, spokesperson for the Boston Redevelopment Authority; her husband, **Bill**, president of Real Estate Financial Services; and **Carole Brennan**, director of communications for Massport.
5. Boston City Councilor **John Tobin** and his wife, **Kate Plunkett Tobin**, sales representative for the Encompass Group.
6. **Paul McLaughlin**, Boston homicide detective, and his wife, **Paula**, director of development for the Westwood Land Trust.
7. **Michael Patrick MacDonald** (left), author of *All Souls*, and **Patrick Lee**, owner of Grafton Street Pub & Grille.
8. **Michael Devlin**, president of Curragh Capital Partners, and **Marnie Schreiber**.

The **Food for Thought Dinner** to benefit the Boston Medical Center was held at Rialto at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge on Nov. 24. More than 225 friends of the hospital attended the 10th annual soirée. A three-course meal prepared by chef Jody Adams was one of the evening's highlights. The dinner raised than $1 million for the Grow Clinic for Children at Boston Medical Center.

9. From left: **Lauren Bogart**, vice president of the Bogart Group; **Steve Belkin**, president and CEO of the Transnational Group; **Heidi Fink**; and **Michael Bogart**, president of the Bogart Group.
10. **Rick Wayne**, president of Capital Crossing Bank and **Berni Rehnert**.
11. **Terry Rosenberg**, organizational consultant, and **John Fish**, president and CEO of Suffolk Construction Co.
12. **Richard Glovsky**, attorney for Prince, Lobel, Glovsky & Tye, and **Elaine R. Grossman**, founder of the event.





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BY EZRA DYER

THE FAM DAMILY

It's a long haul when the Dyers spend more than 10 hours in a minivan

After driving down to New York with my brother and parents over Thanksgiving weekend, I have newfound understanding of my parents' longstanding aversion to road trips: Put four people who know how to push each other's annoyance buttons in a metal box for five hours, add the highway's odd combination of boredom and stress, and by the time you arrive at your destination you're fantasizing about pulling a Thelma and Louise off the nearest precipice.

At least I had the best possible vehicle for the job, having blagged a Toyota Sienna minivan. I feel about minivans the same way I feel about prostate exams—I'm not ready for one yet, and even when I do need one I'm going to avoid it. But the Sienna figured to have enough space that the various occupants would be out of strangling distance from one another, and there was a DVD player in back so the passengers could watch the governor of California battle a hot female robot while I, as driver, had an exciting widescreen view of brake lights.

The most important difference between my family and I, from a road-trip perspective, is the fact that they all smoke. Since I wouldn't let them smoke in the car, this ratcheted up the tension level considerably. Their nicotine breaks were structured around my bathroom breaks, which is probably one reason my mother offered me water roughly every 30 seconds. "Here, want some water?" she'd ask, shoving her unwieldy gallon jug in my face. When I declined on the grounds of saturation, she'd turn around and satisfy her compulsion to give someone some water by offering it to George, who, being a dog, lacked the ability to tell her that he was all set with that.

I tried to avoid stopping too often, because every time I did it turned into a half-hour project of smoking, buying junk food and water, and trying to get George to go to the bathroom so he'd stop farting in the car (although that may have eliminated someone's alibi). At one such stop, at a Mobil station somewhere near the taint of New England that is New Haven, Conn., I was cornered by a local TV news crew doing the obligatory "Is this Thanksgiving traffic bad or what?" story. I was asked on camera how I was dealing with the traffic. Later on, as I pulled out onto I-95, I thought of plenty of things I should have said:

"Well, Chet, I figured I'd pull over right here and poke my eyes out with a sharpened Slim Jim, because that would be more fun than sitting in this traffic."

Or, "Ain't this one o' them rest areas where a fella can get some servicin', if you know what I mean? You's purdy."

Instead I said something stupid about needing beef jerky. Whatever I said, I'm just glad the Dyer family trip to New York is getting the intense media coverage it deserves.

I may not have been able to do anything about the traffic or mysterious in-car odors, but as driver, I had absolute control of the radio. For the most part everyone ignored my musical selections and my constant channel-changing, but my father and I did find unlikely common musical ground when the Biz Markie song "Pickin' Boogers" came on. It turns out my dad and I both think that raps about boogers are hilarious. My mom and my brother, however, didn't seem to share our opinion that lines like "playin' ball in the gym, I put boogers on the basketball and pass it to him" are high comedy.

> MY FAMILY'S NICOTINE BREAKS WERE STRUCTURED AROUND MY BATHROOM BREAKS, WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY MY MOTHER OFFERED ME WATER EVERY 30 SECONDS.

In between smoke breaks and long stretches of silence we managed to pack in lots of bickering, as I mentioned. But bickering is better than sexual innuendo, at least when the innuendo is between your parents. They were sitting in back watching *Old School* when it got to the part where Will Farrell comes out with an inflatable woman and asks if he should dress her as a nurse or a cheerleader. This prompted my mom to ask my dad, "Do you like the nurse or the cheerleader?" This may have been slightly (but only slightly) less disturbing if my mom wasn't a nurse. I told them to stop that right away or I was getting out and running into the woods to see if it wasn't too late to be raised by wolves.

Hey you two: get a room. And a plane ticket. iB

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CASEY AFFLECK

BY JONATHAN SOROFF

Casey Affleck, 28, was born in Falmouth and raised in Cambridge, the son of Chris, who works in the Cambridge school system, and Tim, a former actor who now works at a treatment center for alcohol and drug abusers. His older brother is mega-celebrity Ben, with whom he starred in the movie *Good Will Hunting*. Casey landed his first real acting job at age 12, playing Kevin Bacon's little brother in the PBS production *Lemon Sky*. When he was 15, he played a young Robert Kennedy in the miniseries *The Kennedys of Massachusetts*. After finishing high school, he moved to California and landed a major role opposite Nicole Kidman in Gus Van Sant's *To Die For*. When that film wrapped, he enrolled at Columbia University, where he studied physics before leaving to devote more time to acting. His film credits include *200 Cigarettes*, *Hamlet*, *Desert Blue*, *Chasing Amy* and *Race the Sun*. A committed vegan and animal rights activist, he lives in New York but spoke to Jonathan Soroff at a Boston fund-raiser for Farm Sanctuary, a grassroots organization opposed to factory farming.

Jonathan Soroff: *First of all, how do I look?*
Casey Affleck: You look, ahh...you're an attractive man. I wouldn't feel bad if I were you.
JS: *Thanks. So is that what you're wearing?*
CA: Right this minute? Yeah. How do I look?
JS: *Fabulous. So you're a vegan, but every fan site I looked at says your favorite food is orange peel chicken.*
CA: That is something someone made up, as happens all the time in the media, as I'm sure you know, and as I'm sure you've been responsible for yourself.
JS: *Absolutely. I'm going to make up things about you too. When was the last time you ate meat?*
CA: I was 18, I think.
JS: *So you're against factory farming. Does that mean you believe there's a moral absolute about eating another creature? Or is free-range chicken OK? Or say, a duck I hunted myself?*
CA: Not in my opinion. I wouldn't want to shoot a duck or eat a free-range chicken. I don't totally trust the restrictions. When they say free-range, does that mean they have five inches of space? I don't know.
JS: *What one thing made you take the leap to veganism?*
CA: It was gradual. I stopped eating dairy because I found that it made me feel better. I started to find out a bit about factory farming, which turned me off entirely on meat. I ate fish for a while, and then I finally saw the light. It happened over the span of about three years.
JS: *Favorite vegan recipe?*
CA: These days, I've been eating a lot of tofu salad sandwiches. Tofu crumbled up, with some celery, onion, tomato, salt and pepper. It's delicious.

> THERE ARE A MILLION THINGS I WANT TO DO, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SAY BECAUSE I'M NERVOUS I'LL NEVER DO THEM. I'LL BE DOING AN INTERVIEW 10 YEARS FROM NOW, AND SOMEONE WILL SAY, "SO, YOU WANTED TO BE PRESIDENT, HUH? JACKASS."

JS: *If cows could eat us, do you think they would?*
CA: Probably not. Although they have a lot to be angry about.
JS: *What's the one thing you'd say to people to get them to stop eating animals?*
CA: There's more than one. It's bad for you. It's bad for the environment. It's cruel. It's bad karma. If I showed you how any one thing got to your plate, that would be convincing enough.
JS: *You just mentioned karma. What were you in a previous lifetime?*
CA: A little bit better of an actor.
JS: *OK, where do you stand on sex with farm animals?*
CA: I've only ever had sex with rabbits, so I can't really speak to farm animals.
JS: *What's your take on PETA, or the animal rights activists who do stuff like destroy medical labs?*
CA: Honestly? I think they do good work. I think that what's happening is so awful that they're doing something necessary. As far as I know, they've never hurt human beings or animals, and they raise awareness. People who wear fur coats and get paint on them? F--- 'em. It may not be pleasant, but they've contributed to something so awful that I feel like it's justified.
JS: *Tell me you don't miss McDonald's food.*
CA: No, I never really liked it. But I do love seeing signs for the McVeggie Burger, or whatever. They're finally getting a clue. Fast food is the next tobacco industry. They've plagued this country for too long.
JS: *You studied physics at Columbia?*
CA: Astronomy, yeah, but I left before I got my degree, and I'm an idiot, so I probably wouldn't have graduated. I snuck in and I dropped out.
JS: *Do you think we'll see cold fusion in our lifetime?*
CA: Yeah.
JS: *So were you the inspiration for the mathematical and scientific genius in* Good Will Hunting?
CA: [Laughs.] No, Matt was the inspiration for that. It was a big huge fantasy of his, about being a genius.
JS: *Is acting it for you?*
CA: There are a million things I want to do, but I don't want to say because I'm nervous I'll never do them. I'll be doing an interview 10 years from now, and someone will say, "So, you wanted to be president, huh? Jackass."
JS: *Favorite thing about acting?*
CA: The attention.
JS: *Least favorite?*
CA: The attention.
JS: *Does acting come from a place of need?*
CA: For me it does, because I know that if I haven't worked for six months, I need to do something.
JS: *Biggest lie you ever told for an acting job?*
CA: I once claimed to speak fluent Italian because it was an Italian-speaking role, with subtitles. I was pretty quickly found out. But I still think I could've done a good job.
JS: *One role you wish you never did?*
CA: Every single one. I can't watch myself. I think that I suck. For me, it's hard to see something I've done and not be critical. Then there are the things I wish I'd done but didn't.
JS: *But you're big in Japan, right?*
CA: [Laughs.] I don't know about that. For some reason, *200 Cigarettes* did very well over there. They just loved it.
JS: *Have you done any cheesy Japanese TV commercials? That's where the cash is.*
CA: I think that is where the cash is, but I don't think they're hard up for actors to come over and help sell their products.
JS: *Speaking of products, what kind of hair products do you use?*
CA: Palm sweat.
JS: *I thought you'd say some cruelty-free thing. When you buy stuff at a pharmacy, do you look for that "No Animal Testing" label?*
CA: Definitely. Always.
JS: *Any phobias?*
CA: Interviews. Waking up. Going to sleep.
JS: *Most inexplicable pop culture phenomenon?*
CA: Well, I'd say *The Bachelor*, except I love it, and I completely understand it, and I think it's a brilliant use of television. I never really watched TV until reality shows took over. Sitcoms depressed me. I couldn't watch them. But I like most reality TV.
JS: *Last question: Where's Waldo?*
CA: Waldo is downstairs waiting for us to come down and have a drink. IB

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WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU MIX NEW ENGLAND'S SKI SLOPES, SNOW AND SERIOUS SOCIALIZING? SIZZLING SINGLES ACTIVITY

chemistry

Di

If the sheer number of beach-themed movies is any indication, Hollywood seems convinced that romance and true love are mainly to be found someplace warm and sandy.

Not so. Thousands of Bostonians know that if they're looking for amour or just a great workout combined with a rollicking good time, they can also find it in places that are cold and snowy. New England's more than 65 mountains and ski resorts are easy to reach and filled with fit and friendly people who love the outdoors.

"Ski areas are some of the most beautiful places in the world and provide unbelievably romantic settings," says Ace Morin, a 40-something engineer from Watertown who's active in the S-kimos Ski Club in Jackson, N.H. His only complaint? "There are definitely more men than women skiing. I wish it wasn't that way."

Though the odds may favor women, in this part of the country one of the best places to find singles of both sexes is on the slopes. Hurtling yourself down a frozen mountain might not seem the most obvious way to meet Mr. or Ms. Right, but as you'll see, black diamonds could even lead to a diamond of another sort.

BY KAREN CARLSON CUMMINGS

PHOTOGRAPHER: BOB PERACHIO. HAIR: SUNSHINE BARNETT & MICHELLE BARSAMIAN/ LORD'S & LADY'S. MAKEUP: ELAINE JOLLY/ LORD'S & LADY'S. MODELS (LEFT TO RIGHT): ROB, ANTHONY, STEPHANIE, LUIS AND JOHN/ MAGGIE INC. LOCATION: SWEETWATER CAFE. CLOTHES/GEAR: ON ROB: DROP GLOVES, SWIX HAT, SMITH GOGGLES, BURTON JACKET AND PANTS. ALL AVAILABLE AT SKI MARKET, 860 COMMONWEALTH AVE., BOSTON; NORTH FACE BOOTS: AVAILABLE AT REI, 401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON. ON ANTHONY: PATAGONIA HAT AND SHIRT, BURTON JACKET AND COLUMBIA PANTS; ALL AVAILABLE AT REI, 401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON. ON STEPHANIE: RABBIT FUR NECK PIECE, PEARL SKI JACKET, GREEN SKI PANTS AND VELVET BOOTS, ALL CHANEL (PANTS AND BOOTS AVAILABLE AT NEIMAN MARCUS). ON LUIS: TURTLEFUR NECKWARMER, QUICKSILVER SHIRT, ARC'TERYX JACKET, BURTON PANTS, NORTH FACE JACKET AND SOREL BOOTS, ALL AVAILABLE AT REI, 401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON. ON JOHN: OAKLEY GOGGLES, MARMOT GLOVES AND JACKET, NORTH FACE PANTS, ALL AVAILABLE AT SKI MARKET 860 COMMONWEALTH AVE., BOSTON; BAFFIN BOOTS AND JULBO SUNGLASSES: AVAILABLE AT REI, 401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON. WOMEN'S SALOMON SKIS AND LEKI POLES, MEN'S K2 SKIS AND BURTON CUSTOM SNOWBOARD, ALL AVAILABLE AT SKI MARKET 860 COMMONWEALTH AVE. BOSTON

"SKIERS ARE IN A VACATION MENTALITY. YOU DON'T NEED A PICKUP LINE— PEOPLE JUST TALK AND FEEL COMFORTABLE."

— PETER ESSELSTYN, CHARLESTOWN

SHARED PASSION

On any given winter weekend, some 150,000 skiers and snowboarders (more than half of them in the 25-to-45 age range, and 60 percent of them male) flock to New England's slopes, according to rough estimates from state ski promotion bureaus and ski areas. And of those snow enthusiasts, 33 percent are single, according to figures provided by SnowSports Industries America (SIA) and the Simmons Market Research Bureau.

What's more, skiers and snowboarders are passionate about their sport, and many skiers say that when looking for romance, finding a partner who shares that interest is a top priority. "I love to ski," says Peter Esselstyn, a single, 39-year-old engineer from Charlestown. "For me, it's defying gravity—a physical challenge that you can spend ungodly amounts of money on. Finding someone who shares your passion is fantastic."

"I used to hibernate in the winter; then a boyfriend introduced me to skiing," says Janie Dretler, an organizational consultant from Somerville. "I started skiing a lot because I met people with the same interests. Skiing really opened up my entire year to being athletic and having fun." She met her husband, Jeff, at Sugarbush in Vermont in 1999, and they were married last year.

"Skiing is my passion, my number one favorite hobby," says Melissa Bell, weekend meteorologist at WBZ. "I wouldn't even think about going out with someone who didn't ski or wasn't willing to learn."

"If the person you're seeing doesn't ski, it creates a little stress when you take off every weekend," says Adam Westaway of Chelmsford, a furniture maker in his late 20s who met Bell last year when both taught skiing at nearby Nashoba in Westford. "It's perfect when they love skiing too."

THE DATING GAME, MOUNTAIN STYLE

Opportunities to meet abound at ski resorts—in a bar, with a ski club, at the lodge, on the lifts, taking group lessons, waiting in line or even tumbling down the trails. Here are some suggestions from the veterans we spoke with:

The chairlift conversation. Talk about three-minute dating. Get on a chairlift with someone who looks appealing to you, and you have just about that amount of time to determine if your first-glance impression is correct and to make an impression yourself. "Riding a chairlift is very social," observes Esselstyn, who has been skiing since he was 3. "You've got a captive audience. It's more awkward *not* to talk to someone."

Find 'em or leave 'em. Skiing also lends itself to "accidentally" running into (not literally, of course) someone who looks interesting by taking the same trails or arriving at the lift line at the same time. And, conversely, being on the slopes also works well when you want to lose someone. Says the Back Bay's Jen Bennett, a 30-something graphic designer, "You can just ski a little faster and lose them, or ski behind them and head a different way."

Vodka vamps. On-slope encounters aside, bars rank as the most common spot for meeting new people at a ski area (see sidebar, "Best Bars in Ski Country"). A woman who wished to remain anonymous commented that meeting a guy at the Hyde Away, a watering hole near Sugarbush in Waitsfield, Vt., is like shooting fish in a barrel. (An informal poll indicates that this holds true for almost any bar in skidom.) From the guy's vantage point, the approach proves easier. "Skiers are in a vacation mentality," says Esselstyn. "You don't need a pickup line—people just talk and feel comfortable."

Shacking up. Another way skiers meet is through a ski house or ski club. (Most find houses by word-of-mouth—through friends of friends; check out *www.eicsl.org* or *www.bssc.com* for information about clubs.) These are affordable ways to have your own place in ski country and a surefire way to make sure you're not sitting home alone when the skiing day is through. Meals are generally communal, weekend parties commonplace, and camaraderie runs rampant.

Everyone had already gone to bed when Jeff Dretler, 40, a Boston lawyer, arrived late on a Friday night as a guest in a friend's ski house near Sugarbush. An avid skier, he had no idea that the next morning he would meet his future bride, but when she appeared at the group breakfast in her pajamas, sparks flew. That it was Valentine's Day weekend—a time when several ski houses host parties—just helped things along. "It was a pretty friendly atmosphere," he says. "We really hit it off." Jeff proposed to Janie three years to the weekend after that fateful meeting, while they skied cross-country on a gloriously sunny day.

Julie Lydon, a 32-year-old public relations consultant from Boston, met her current beau, Jonathan Vinet, a software salesman from York, Maine, at the top of the quad chair on Mount Mansfield in Stowe, Vt., last year. "It wasn't a sparks flying kind of thing," she says, "but I definitely checked him out." After skiing with a group all day, the two met again at a mutual friend's dinner party, and the rest is history. Now sharing the same ski house in Stowe, the couple has already spent one weekend on the slopes this season.

WHERE TO GO

Boston-area skiers have almost too many choices in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts alone. Add in the Quebec ski areas—Mont Tremblant, Mont Ste. Anne, Le Massif—and it's hard to know where to start.

If you're a beginner, unless money is no object, it's good to start slowly and make sure this is a sport you're going to enjoy. Pick a nearby ski area. Maybe plan a day trip to a resort within two hours' driving time. If you've never skied before, search the ski areas' Web sites to find the best beginner packages—ones that offer learn-to-ski programs with lift ticket, ski rental and lessons all for one price.

If it's not a sport you fall in love with, though, don't fake it. "Romances between a nonskier and a skier often don't work," says Ace Morin. "Skiing isn't like golf or tennis where it's a couple of hours here and there. It's a whole weekend, week after week, all winter long."

Skiing isn't cheap—hence, the more than 50 percent of skiers with salaries above the national average. Esselstyn figures it costs him at least $100 a day with lift ticket, lodging, meals and libations, and that doesn't include equipment costs.

Hands down, the top singles ski area in New England is Killington in central Vermont—a three-hour drive from Boston. Its legendary access road is lined with rowdy and steamy après-ski bars, most popular with the 20-somethings. Skiers come from everywhere to fly down this beast of the East. The bad news: too many Yankees fans.

Sugarbush and Mad River Glen, in Waitsfield and Warren, Vt., respectively, rank high and are practically a Boston North for the slightly more mature crowd

Clockwise from top left: Eva Merrian takes flight on Mount Mansfield at Stowe Mountain Resort; snowboarding at New Hampshire's Attitash Bear Peak; a skier beneath the K-1 gondola at Killington; sunrise on top of White Cap, one of Sunday River's eight interconnected mountains; snowshoeing in Sugarbush's picturesque Mad River Valley; Mount Snow's main base area

(the 30-somethings who say it's still fun to act like 20-somethings). The nightlife is quieter and concentrated in only a couple of bars. The upside: Down-to-earth people, many of whom own second homes in the Mad River Valley. The skiing here, with glades and many narrow, steep trails, is not for novices.

Just up the road is Stowe, one of the most upscale New England resorts. As the Northeast's original ski village, it has the obligatory white steepled church, rolling snow-covered fields and quaint shops. The skiing is at nearby Mount Mansfield, where both the macho and the meek can find terrain to satisfy them. This is another Boston North, although Stowe attracts many New York and Connecticut skiers. "I can't believe how many people I've met up there that I run into [in Boston]," says Lydon.

The most popular mountains in New Hampshire's Mount Washington Valley are Attitash, in Bartlett, and Wildcat, off Route 16 in Pinkham Notch. Social ski clubs prosper in this cradle of skidom, and the nightlife extends over the valley's three main villages—Jackson, North Conway and Bartlett. Bars range from rowdy country hangouts with loud bands and people to those featuring folk singers and catering to the early-to-bed, superfit cross-country crowd.

Other New Hampshire destinations include Waterville Valley, Loon Mountain and Cannon, all just off I-93, two to three hours north, and filled with day trippers. These spots have plenty of early après-ski action, but limited dining and nighttime activity.

Many dedicated skiers head to Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, almost the center of the state. It's a five-hour drive from Boston, but the resort, a breathtaking single peak, has top-to-bottom trails and terrain from open snowfields to traditional tree-lined narrow runs, making it unquestionably the best skier's mountain in New England. Its remoteness means lots of locals—a fair share with beards. But they're interspersed with skiers from all over the East who stay for a few days and make their own fun in the small and intimate bars and clubs at the base of the slopes. Immediate après-ski is animated and busy, but all that challenging skiing means late-night activity tapers off quickly.

Maine's Sunday River, another extensive ski area located in Bethel, a four-hour drive from Boston, aspires to be just like Killington and has nearly the same level of challenging slopes. But it can't compete for nightlife, mainly because Sunday River is more spread out. Since it's Maine, you won't find nonstop partying; it's more mellow than that, with brew pubs, heated outdoor swimming pools and quiet inns the preferred places to meet and mingle.

If a long-distance relationship appeals, try Mount Snow in southern Vermont. While relatively close to Boston (a two-hour drive), it attracts corporate types and executives from Connecticut and New York because Mount Snow is a straight shot north for them.

If you're not quite ready to venture that far, think about trying out a local mountain for size. Wachusett—just over an hour outside Boston in Princeton, Mass.—and Nashoba, in Westford, have weekday night skiing and race leagues that attract a large number of dedicated skiers who are, most often, young business professionals. Both also have busy bars slopeside that are popular places on those cold winter nights.

THINK SNOW!

Once skiing enters your life, there's no more dreading the cold. Nor'easters and "storm of the century" predictions start to sound good. For the next four months, skiing and good times will go together, guaranteed. Even if you don't meet your perfect match, you're bound to have more fun than you would hibernating all winter in Boston. "It's the absolute cliché thing," says Julie Lydon, "but if you do what you love and if you're not looking to meet someone, then it happens." IB

"I STARTED SKIING A LOT BECAUSE I MET PEOPLE WITH THE SAME INTERESTS. SKIING REALLY OPENED UP MY ENTIRE YEAR TO BEING ATHLETIC AND HAVING FUN."

— JANIE DRETLER, SOMERVILLE

BEST BARS IN SKI COUNTRY

Clockwise from top left: Red Parka Pub; Gepetto's; the Rusty Nail; the Wobbly Barn; the Foggy Goggle

An après-ski decision at Killington in Vermont: Get pickled at the Wobbly or wobbly at the Pickle?

Killington, with its nightlife choices stretched out along Killington Road, often tops polls as the ultimate nightlife destination for Eastern skiers. Both the **Wobbly Barn Steakhouse** and the **Pickle Barrel** are good places to go for après-ski and late-night dancing to live music—often featuring big-name bands on busy weekends. **The Grist Mill** is sometimes referred to as "Jurassic Park" because the "more mature" skiers who frequented it in the 1980s are still showing up. Regulars recommend the rum and fruit juice Goombays and say the place rocks on weekends.

The nightlife at Stowe and Mount Snow, also both in Vermont, comes highly recommended. "**The Matterhorn** (on the mountain road in Stowe) is so much fun—a dive-like bar with the best pizza and healthy sushi options too," says Bostonian Julie Lydon, 32, a marketing consultant. "Saturday après ski always involves a band and group games—it's kind of like a mini spring break every Saturday from 4:30 to 7:30ish." Giving away a "best-kept secret," Lydon recommends the retro-style **Stowehof Inn**, on Edson Hill Road just outside the village of Stowe, with its classic '70s sunken fireplaces and a downstairs pub surrounded by niche rooms where people play board games. "Very cool place," she says. Other Stowe notables include the **Rusty Nail**, **Mr. Pickwick's at Ye Olde England Inne** and **Miguel's Stowe Away** (all on Mountain Road).

Mount Snow skiers head first to **Cuzzins** in the resort's base lodge. "It's cult après ski," says Erica Steckler, 29, of Newton. Skiers find it hard to be shy with the DJ encouraging dancing on the tables. **The Snow Barn** is walking distance from Mount Snow's parking lot and often features up-and-coming bands. **The Silo**, a converted grain silo on Route 100, tends to attract a younger crowd. It has 10-cent wings from 4 to 6 pm and also features a cigar bar in the basement.

Called the "grand dowager of ski bars" decades ago by the *Globe*'s Tony Chamberlain, the 31-year-old **Red Parka Steakhouse & Pub** on Route 302 in Glen, N.H., still rates as the top ski bar in Mount Washington Valley (close to Attitash and Wildcat). With live bands or comics, beer in mason jars and a good mixture of locals and "flatlanders"—the Massachusetts skiers who fill the place every weekend—meeting people is easy. Other contenders in "the Valley" include the folksy, quieter **Wildcat Tavern** on Route 16A in Jackson Village and **Tuckerman's Tavern at the New England Inn** on Route 16A in Intervale. Overstuffed sofas, fireplaces and the cross-country crowd at the Wildcat and more than 25 beers on tap at Tuckerman's are notable aspects of these hangouts.

If skiing at Sunday River in Bethel, Maine, stop first at the **Foggy Goggle** in the South Ridge Base Lodge at the base of the mountain. Top spots for later include the **Sunday River Brewery** or the **Matterhorn**, both along the Sunday River access road. Further north at Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, **Gepetto's** and the **Bag and Kettle** are recommended for post-ski fun, while for live music and dancing, the **Widowmaker Lounge** is the choice. All are right in the village at the base of the ski area.

Après-ski action can be found at virtually every ski area in New England. To find the hot spots near your mountain of choice, check out the nightlife listings on the comprehensive ski site *www.skisnowboard.com*.

House decorations on the Somerville Illuminations Tour run the gamut from Santa and snowmen to religious themes, like the Carvalhos' manger scene (bottom left).

TOURING THE *Lights Fantastic*

With their annual lighted nativity scene, the Carvalhos join in East Somerville's brightest holiday tradition

BY JULIE SURATT PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRIAN SILVERSTEIN

Joseph "Jerry" Carvalho starts sorting through his boxes of Christmas decorations about the same time the rest of us are contemplating our Halloween costumes. On a warm weekend in mid-October, the 51-year-old Somerville resident lugs a giant plywood structure to his front yard and assembles a 12-by-8-foot manger that all but obscures the first floor of the two-family home he shares with his wife, daughter and father.

But before it houses Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in all their glowing plastic glory, the manger becomes Joe's Meat Market on Halloween night. Lit with fluorescent lights, this scene of mayhem features fake blood splattered on the walls, a guillotine in the corner and a small refrigerator with body parts spilling out. "We had between 800 and 900 kids come by this year," says Carvalho. "There were cops directing traffic on either end of the street."

A week later, Carvalho and his wife, Diane, clear out the manger, and it sits empty for a few weeks until neighbors begin to ask, "Hey Jerry, when're the lights goin' up?" This year in particular, Carvalho feels the pressure.

Carvalho's house is the first stop on the Somerville Arts Council's annual Illuminations Tour, a 45-minute trolley tour of 50 of the most extravagantly decorated houses in the city, including 20 show-stoppers. These are the kind of displays that make you squint from the glare of thousands of tiny lights and dozens of illuminated ornaments—from colossal candy canes, inflated snowmen and animated gingerbread men to Santa's sleigh perched on a rooftop and glowing signs that read "Reindeer Parking."

More than 900 people climb aboard the trolleys to gape at the awesome creations as guides offer interesting tidbits about the neighborhood (for example, Marshmallow Fluff was invented down the block from Carvalho's house on Springfield Street). The tour started seven years ago with eight trips, and now it's up to 24 tours in one night.

What some might dismiss as gaudy, Rachel Strutt, program manager at the Somerville Arts Council, calls folk art—"an artistic expression that often elevates mundane, everyday objects, like a string of lights, for example, to something of exceptional beauty." On a more basic level, the families are "simply carrying on a cultural custom that brings them pleasure and pride," she says.

Holiday displays are also a blending of old and new, says Strutt. In Somerville's lights, especially within the city's significant Italian and Portuguese communities, you'll find a meshing of centuries-old religious tradition—the Catholic crèche—with the modern American "madcap stringing of twinkly lights and inclusion of secular holiday characters like Santa and Snoopy," she says.

"You might find similar displays in Medford or Chelsea, both of which have strong working/middle-class ethnic communities," says Greg Jenkins, the Somerville Arts Council's director. "But you wouldn't find it in the South End, for example."

Carvalho, whose family is Portuguese, says his mother used to set up a small-scale nativity scene in their house every Christmas when he and his brother were kids. Eventually, his dad took the tradition outside. Now 85, his father can't help put up the lights anymore, but he watches from the sidelines, calling out suggestions.

Wearing a down jacket, jeans, workboots and a tan baseball cap, Carvalho has a full day of work ahead of him. A neighbor has donated a bale of hay, left over from Halloween, to line the bottom of the manger, saving Carvalho and his father a drive to a farm. To begin, Carvalho pulls out the 15 or so plastic figurines—from the Three Kings to the shepherd to the cherub angels—stored in his basement. He wipes them off with a damp cloth and plugs them in one at a time. He's had to replace some of the figurines over the years due to dry rot—not an easy task, since he's particular about their facial expressions. He hefts huge cardboard boxes filled with hundreds of light strings to his workbench to check for broken bulbs. "It gets me excited for Christmas, but it's a chore," he admits. Carvalho does the bulk of the work on his own now that his four daughters are grown. Why does he do it? "It's a tradition. People make pilgrimages here to see the lights. And it's really important to my dad," he adds.

After he puts the figures into place, plugging them into giant power strips, he'll line the roof of the manger with fresh evergreen branches and pipe in Christmas carols through speakers located underneath the manger. "It's a full sensory experience—from the scent of the pine and hay, to the sound of the music," says Carvalho. As a last touch, he and his brother project images of a giant Christmas tree and a wreath, respectively, onto the side of each other's houses.

Jerry Carvalho, shown with his granddaughter Amber DaRosa, carries on the decorating tradition that his father started at the family's house 45 years ago.

Carvalho finishes up right before Thanksgiving—a full month after he started. "If I was to do it straight out, working eight-hour days, it would take almost a full week to do the whole thing—48 hours, including all the prep work down cellar." He says his electricity bill goes up between 25 and 30 percent in December. "Working for the electric company, you'd think I'd get a discount," he says with a chuckle.

But he says it's worth it for the joy it brings to passersby. "People throw money into the manger," says Carvalho's wife, Diane. For all his hard work, does he reward himself by keeping the money? No, says Diane with a smile, "We donate it to the local church."

The seventh annual Illuminations Tour takes place on Dec. 20 from 4:30–8:45 pm. Tickets are $10, $5 for children (with proceeds benefiting the Somerville Arts Council's public programs) and can be purchased at McIntyre and Moore Booksellers, 255 Elm St., Somerville. iB

Earrings and pendant (with sterling silver neckwire) made by Michele Mercaldo in 18-karat yellow gold and sterling silver

ALL THAT *Glitters*

Local jewelry makers offer unique pieces in styles from classic to cheeky

BY AMY MACMILLAN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDREW BRILLIANT

Ask women which accessory they can't live without, and many will reply, without hesitation, jewelry. Which gift a man will always win points for? Same answer. Some jewelry is timeless (grandmother's single strand of pearls), some is nostalgic (that art deco brooch found at the flea market) and some is simply dazzling (the four-carat engagement hardware that someone in the office is flashing around). What we're focusing on here, though, is a different subset: contemporary jewelry that's handmade in Boston. Though you may have to make an appointment to see this work, or keep tabs on the local craft shows and open studios where it is shown, there's lots of interesting, quality jewelry being made by talented Boston artisans and awaiting discovery. Using skills like metal casting and glass blowing, these craftspeople create beautiful pieces from scratch in their own studios. You just might find the next family heirloom.

MICHELE MERCALDO, MICHELE MERCALDO JEWELRY
South End

Platinum, gold, silver. The materials are beautiful but the process of turning them into jewelry is decidedly gritty. Most days of the week, you'll find Michele Mercaldo (Mimi to her friends) in her South End studio casting, soldering, filing, sanding and polishing those metals into some beautiful forms. "I'm here Monday through Thursday doing benchwork, and I do appointments [with clients] on weekends," says Mercaldo.

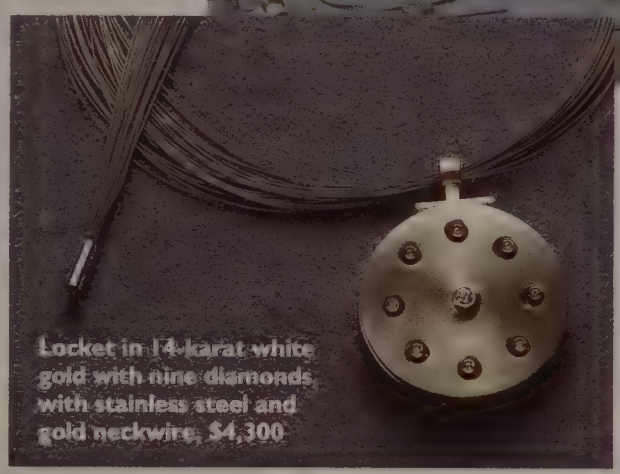
It's a craft the Cape Cod native has been practicing in Boston's South End for 11 years, and though the work is demanding, Mercaldo says she loves the permanence of the pieces she creates. "All craft materials have their different inherent traits," says Mercaldo, who has a degree in printmaking and sculpture from the Massachusetts College of Art. "Metalworking is difficult to master, but the nice thing is once you make it through the process, it's a very durable, lasting material."

In the showroom attached to her studio, you'll find a wide variety of pieces—everything from affordable silver earrings to pricey platinum and diamond engagement rings—all with Mercaldo's signature look. "Modern and clean, not overembellished," is how Mercaldo describes her style. "You can wear these pieces with jeans or to the office."

Earrings in the form of inverted cone drops are decorated with a simple white or black pearl or an 18-karat gold ball. A white-gold locket is set with nine diamonds and features a magnetic closure. In the rings, earrings and bracelets in Mercaldo's Marriage of Metals line, materials seamlessly blend together—gold earrings in a barrel shape that include an oxidized stripe of sterling silver, for example. Her higher-end line features the Groove band and bracelet, in which a groove runs around the ring with a channel setting of diamonds. A platinum band with diamonds or a "wave" of gold is another option.

Mercaldo also custom-makes rings and wedding bands and can reset a stone for an engagement or commitment ring. "I spend most of my bench time designing and making the higher-end rings," she says.

Michele Mercaldo in her South End showroom



Locket in 14-karat white gold with nine diamonds with stainless steel and gold neckwire, $4,300

Creating such lasting pieces gives Mercaldo an artist's satisfaction. "I hope that my work does express the time period that I live in more than anything else," she says. "Hopefully this stuff that I make will be passed down to somebody and will bring back this time period. That's the nice thing about making things by hand—things that will last."

Mercaldo's studio and showroom are open by appointment. Visit www.michelemercaldo.com *to see more of her work; call 617-350-7909 to arrange an appointment. Prices range from $50 to more than $10,000.*

JOYCE ROESSLER, ROESSLER GLASS
South End

Joyce Roessler admires Michele Mercaldo's skill as a metalsmith and considers her a mentor, even though Roessler's chosen material couldn't be more different than Mercaldo's. "Glass encompasses everything for me," says Roessler. "I went to school to be a painter and sculptor. When I started working with glass, I realized it involves painting, dealing with color and light, and all those great things painters love to do."

Still, if you're making glass jewelry, you must also use metal. "I have a pretty sophisticated understanding of glass, but I'm not a metalsmith—I've had to learn to work with metal as something to hold the glass, and to get the two things to work well together," says Roessler. "Mimi Mercaldo has taught me everything I know about metal."

After an apprenticeship at Flat Glass Penco Studios in Louisville, Ky., and more than a decade of owning her own glass shop in Maine where she sold her glass sculptures, Roessler turned to jewelry making when she arrived in Boston in the early '90s. Today, she has a thriving wholesale business and a retail shop in the South End where she sells her jewelry, as well as the glass beads she makes, and teaches jewelry-making classes. The Chappell Gallery on Newbury Street is currently showing some of Roessler's high-end pieces.

Roessler blows all of the glass parts for her jewelry at Diablo Glass and Metal in Mission Hill, where anyone is welcome to visit and observe. Here, Roessler manipulates the glass in its molten state, straight from the furnace, using mouth-blowing and hand tools, as opposed to molds, to shape the glass. Working with an assistant, she forms beads by drawing a strand of hot glass all the way across the studio. The glass tube that forms—sometimes as long as 30 feet—is then cut into slices of varying thickness with a diamond saw. Roessler finishes up the process at her "cold working studio" at her South End shop, where she tumbles (polishes) and solders the jewelry.

Above: You can see Joyce Roessler's glass jewelry at her retail store in the South End.

Left: Roessler (left) and assistant Suzanne McDonnell prepare glass by hand.

Roessler's pieces are playful and vibrant. Some of her necklaces feature curved glass with pearls or simply a bundle of beads delicately dangling off a link chain. Her one-of-a-kind silver neck cuff with a large glass pendant and freshwater pearl is a substantial piece of jewelry. Her glass lariat necklaces were big sellers this past year, she says, and her riveted-bead sterling silver rings are a treat to wear.

"I love the sensuousness of glass," says Roessler. "There's something about the weight of it and the way it warms to the body. It feels great."

Roessler's South End studio and showroom, at 46 Waltham St. Courtyard, are open between 10 am and 6 pm, Monday through Friday, or by appointment. Call 617-426-4705, or visit www.roesslerglass.com. *Prices range from $25 to $2,500.*

JULIA GROOS, HALO DESIGNS
Fort Point Channel

Julia Groos knew at an early age that she wanted to create jewelry. She bought her first tools and drawing board when she was a teenager growing up in Munich, and went on to a vocational school for glass and jewelry working. "All you do is jewelry—it's very thorough," says Groos of that training. "We had to be precise to a tenth of a millimeter."

After graduating, Groos went to work for a Munich jeweler, and in 1988 she and a friend opened a jewelry and accessories company where she learned how to run her own business. She moved to Boston in 1994 and studied photography, stone carving and computer graphics, as well as some jewelry design, during a year at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. In 1997, she launched her own jewelry making business, Halo Designs.

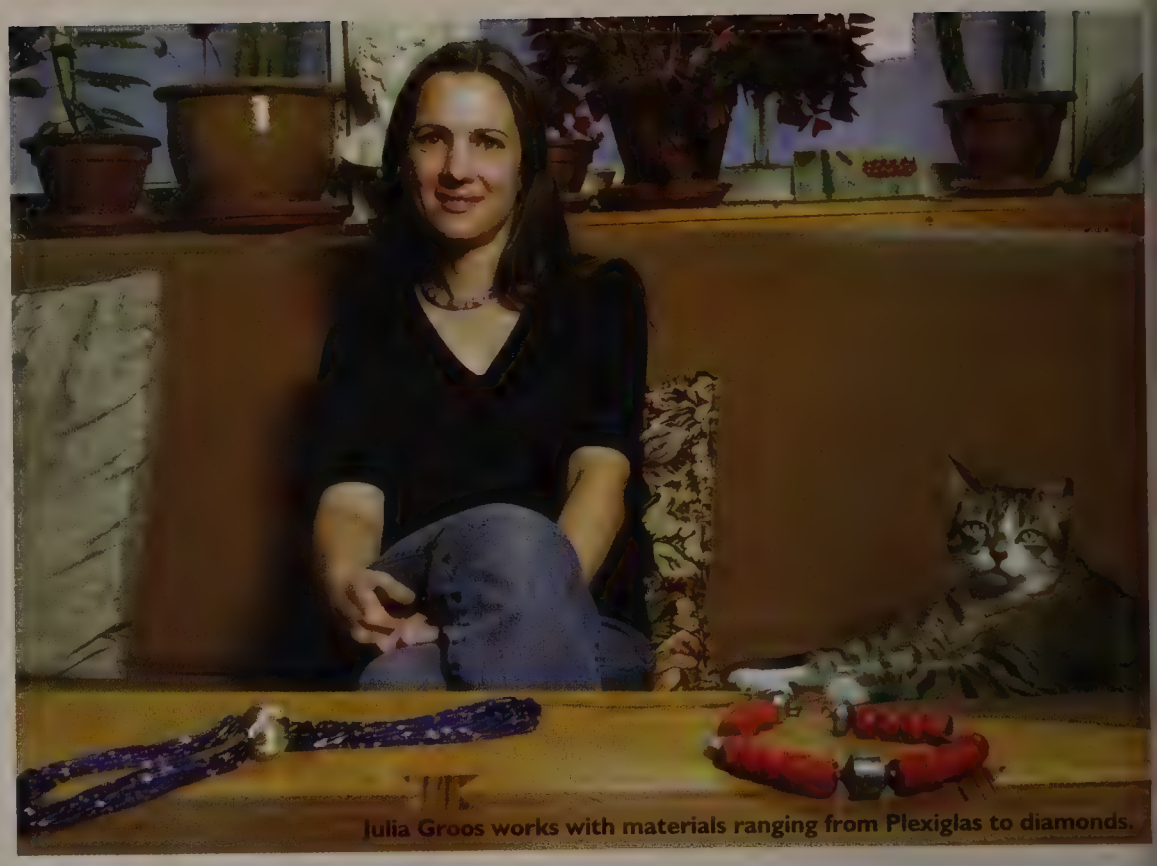
Enter her Fort Point Channel showroom today, and you'll find jewelry that incorporates materials from plastic to diamonds. Perhaps her best-known piece is her Plexiglas bracelet, a cuff in which gold or silver leaf is placed between two layers of transparent Plexiglas in bright shades like blue, green and red. "They are really fun," she says. "The colors of the Plexiglas are what attract me."

"I tend to connect with people looking for more unusual items," Groos says of her customers. She scours gem shows worldwide to find interesting shapes and colors to work with. "I do a lot of one-of-a-kind pieces—I go to gem shows and look for fancy-cut big stones, and I make something special out of them," she says. Halo Designs' latest line, the Rock Me collection, reflects Groos' love of "big jewelry." Several of the rings feature a single gem set on a square shank (the part of the ring that wraps around the finger). A sterling silver choker shows off a chunky rutilated quartz pendant.

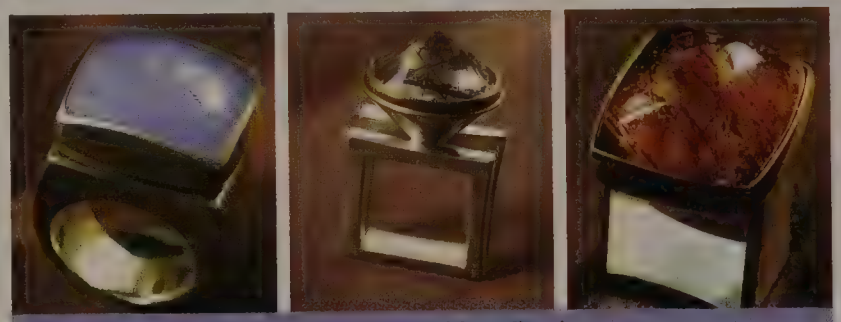
Some of her work shows off her interest in mechanical processes. Her interchangeable-parts earrings allow the wearer to slip on different designs. An 18-karat gold ring features a pearl held in place by two rivets that allow the pearl to spin freely. Groos' sterling silver "puzzle rings" include a colorful inlay of Plexiglas and can be worn individually or interlocked to form the wearer's own creation.

"I always have some interesting stuff when you come to my studio," says Groos. "I like to carry a variety."

Groos creates jewelry in a wide price range ($50 to $2,000), including custom work. You can visit her showroom by appointment. For more information, visit www.juliagroos.com.



Julia Groos works with materials ranging from Plexiglas to diamonds.



Three rings from Halo Designs' Rock Me collection

MORE BAUBLES AND BIBELOTS

JENNIFER CHIN
LUSH METALS
Westford

Jennifer Chin creates rings, bracelets, earrings and necklaces almost exclusively in sterling silver. Her work unites the dual themes of nature and machinery—flower buds, pods and berries mix interestingly with geometric shapes and mechanical renderings of gears, chains, nuts and bolts. Some of her pieces are stamped with patterns and textures, while others have decorative scrolls, vines or flowers. Prices range from $20 to $600. *www.lushmetals.com. 978-692-8461.*

MATTHEW FELDMAN
Cambridge

Matthew Feldman works mostly in yellow, rose and white gold. Influenced by Russian constructivism and Japanese design, his work is uncluttered and incorporates gems discreetly. A pair of gold earrings hangs straight, embellished only with a tiny tsavorite (an African green garnet). Some of his sterling silver and rose gold bracelets feature magnetic closures that make them easy to put on and take off. Prices range from $525 to $15,000. *617-876-1011.*

JADE MORAN
JADE MORAN JEWELRY
Somerville

Jade Moran's Bon Mot line features chunky, signet-style rings and bangles stamped with words—from names to personalized phrases like "pugnacious" or "sanguine." Other offerings at Moran's Somerville gallery include simple, elegant rings—like her silver and gold bands engraved with tiny stars—and her popular Galileo rings, some featuring a bezel-set stone, others simple, unadorned bands. You can see her selection of jewelry, which includes custom-made engagement and wedding rings, at her studio or at *www.jademoran.com*. Prices range from $30 to more than $400. *257 Highland Ave., Somerville. 617-628-3929.*

Top: Jade Moran's Galileo rings; center row: Jennifer Chin's Meteor earrings and Lush ring; bottom: Coco Raynes' Japanese white coin pearl necklace

COCO RAYNES
COCO RAYNES ASSOCIATES
Back Bay

She owns an architectural graphics and industrial design firm, but in her spare time, Coco Raynes makes jewelry. Her handcrafted creations include strings of pearls with removable pendants—a simple strand of black pearls can be worn on its own or clasped in front with a cluster of flat white pearls in the shape of a daisy. Similarly, a string of white freshwater pearls can be paired with a smooth yellow turquoise stone and South Sea pearl pendant. Raynes also creates woven necklaces featuring Japanese coin pearls in iridescent hues. Prices range from $400 to $3,400. *617-536-5777.* IB

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HOLI-dazzle

HOLIDAY LOOKS THAT WILL HAVE THEM SINGING YOUR PRAISES WELL INTO THE NEW YEAR

BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

When I heard that Gordon Espinet, global executive director of makeup artistry for MAC Cosmetics, was at Boston's Saks Fifth Avenue, I ran over to meet him and get the dirt on how we Bostonians can look even more beautiful.

Samantha House: *What's the trend in makeup right now?*

Gordon Espinet: The trend right now is modern classic. Playing up either eyes or lips while simplifying the other.

SH: *What's the one makeup faux pas you see on the street that makes you cringe?*

GE: I hate it when women hide behind their makeup. They plaster it on and you can't see who they are.

SH: *What's the one MAC lipstick that looks great on everyone?*

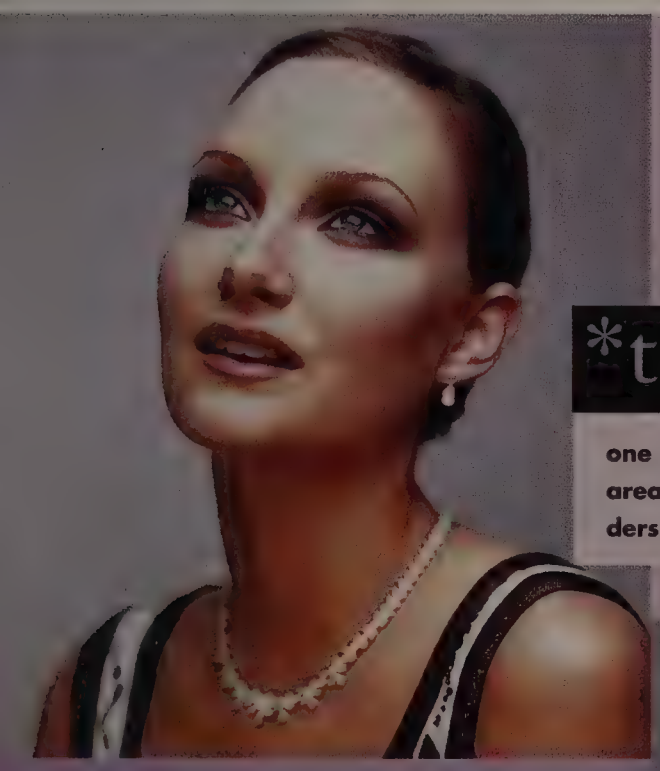
GE: I love the lipstick "O." It has a pink base with copper overtones. It looks fabulous on literally everyone, and it's not too overpowering.

SH: *What's MAC'S best eye shadow in your opinion?*

GE: My favorite eye shadow is carbon. It's black, but it can be worn sheer over other colors just to add some depth. It can also be worn alone for a smoky effect.

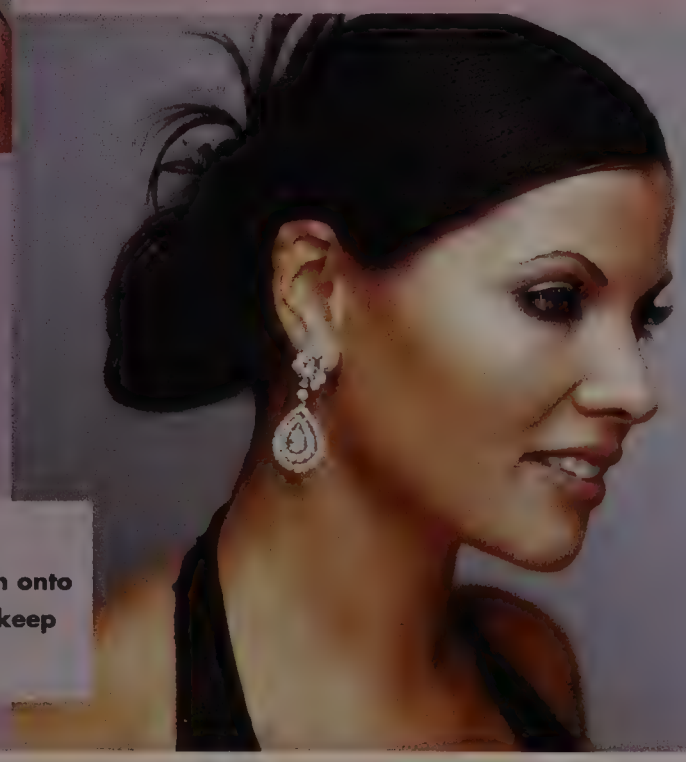
SH: *Do you think that less is more?*

GE: I was doing a job where Beyonce was scheduled to perform and she was warming up on stage with no makeup on. She usually wears makeup, so I actually found it refreshing to see her fresh-faced. It's always fun to wear makeup, to reinvent yourself with new shades or new ways to apply it. It really taps into your alter ego. But I think women need to realize that they don't always have to have a lot of makeup on.



On Katrine: Espinet gives Katrine a smoky eye effect while keeping a bit of color in shades of pinks and plum. He plays down her lips and gives them a little shine, then adds some natural blush for a healthy glow.

***tip** **For that glowing look the movie stars have, use two different color foundations—one for the T zone area as highlight (this one should match your skin) and another for the outer area of your face—(this shade should match your shoulders) and blend well.**



On Anya: Espinet accentuates Anya's eyes with a little sparkle, some eyeliner and false lashes. He keeps her lip color subtle and adds a natural blush that's just right for her skin tone.

***tip** **When using glitter on your eyes, remove the pieces that have fallen onto your face with a piece of tape to keep a polished and neat look.**

TRY THESE PRODUCTS FOR MORE HOLIDAY LOOKS

Clockwise from top: Red Currant Glace lipstick by Shu Uemura, $20; Gold Shimmer glosswear for lips by Clinique, $13.50; Russian Doll lipstick by Nars, $22; Bengal cream lipstick by Chanel,$23; Kiss lipstick by Nars, $22; Shimmer White glosswear for lips by Clinique, $13.50; Cranberry Sorbet lipstick by Shu Uemura, $20; Tanarama lipstick by MAC, $14; Jaipur glossimer by Chanel, $24.50; India cream lipstick by Chanel, $23; Zanzibar glossimer by Chanel, $24.50; Red Essence lipstick by MAC, $14

1. Crimsonette eye shadow by MAC, $12.50. 2. #102 Play On eye shadow by Biotherm, $14. 3. #613 Play On eye shadow by Biotherm, $14. 4. #218 Play On eye shadow by Biotherm, $14. 5. Color Palette, Rouge Dessert, Strawberry Souffle by Shu Uemura, $55. 6. Star Iridescent Powder by MAC, $18.50. 7. Sugar Sugar eye shadow by Clinique, $12. 8. Orgasm eye shadow by MAC, $12.50. 9. Night Breed single eye shadow by Nars, $18. 10. Lustdust Glitter by MAC, $14. 11. South Beach eye shadow by Clinique, $12. 12. Spices Quadra eye shadow, $53.50

Left to right: Red drop-waist floor-length gown, $348; red ruched floor-length gown, $355. Both by Elie Tahari, both at Neiman Marcus. Drop earrings, $285; cascading necklace, $840; cascading earrings, $275. All by Pianegonda, at Shreve, Crump & Low.

Twice

The Coors Twins, Elaine and Diane, get decked out for a night on the town.

as Vice

PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB PERACHIO

Brown accordion dress by Carmen Marc Valvo, $940 at Neiman Marcus. Red pendant necklace, $435; red drop earrings, $345. Both by Baccarat, at Shreve, Crump & Low.

Blue cocktail dress by Marc by Marc Jacobs, $428 at Neiman Marcus. Gold clutch, $95; beaded handbag, $95. Both at the Altered Bride. Left to right: Gold bracelet, $2,350; gold twist earrings, $610; gold loop earrings, $875; gold necklace, $4,250. All at Shreve, Crump & Low.

Red floor-length gown by Dina Barrel, $330 at Neiman Marcus. Earrings, $385, long necklace, $2,495. Both by Baccarat, at Shreve, Crump & Low. Silver and rhinestone stilettos, $265 at Stuart Weitzman.

The Altered Bride
376 Boylston St.
671-859-8289

Neiman Marcus
Copley Place
617-536-3660

Shreve, Crump & Low
330 Boylston St.
617-267-9100

Stuart Weitzman
Copley Place
617-266-8699

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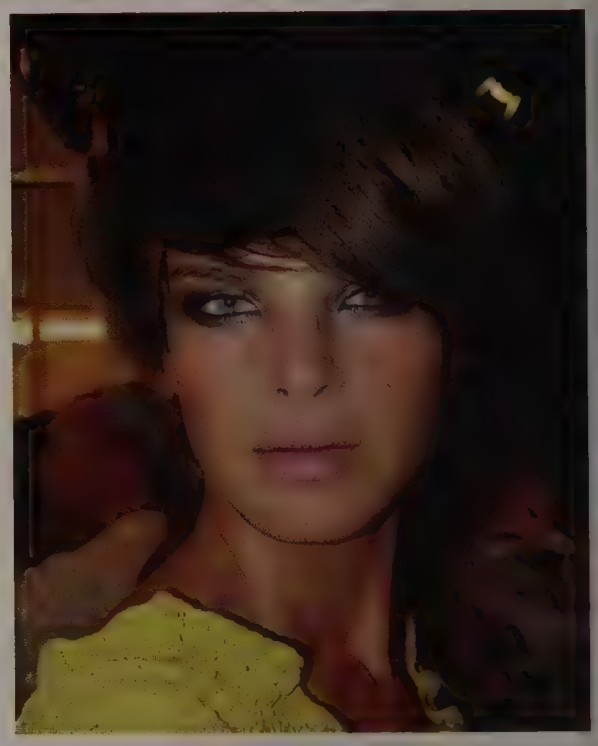

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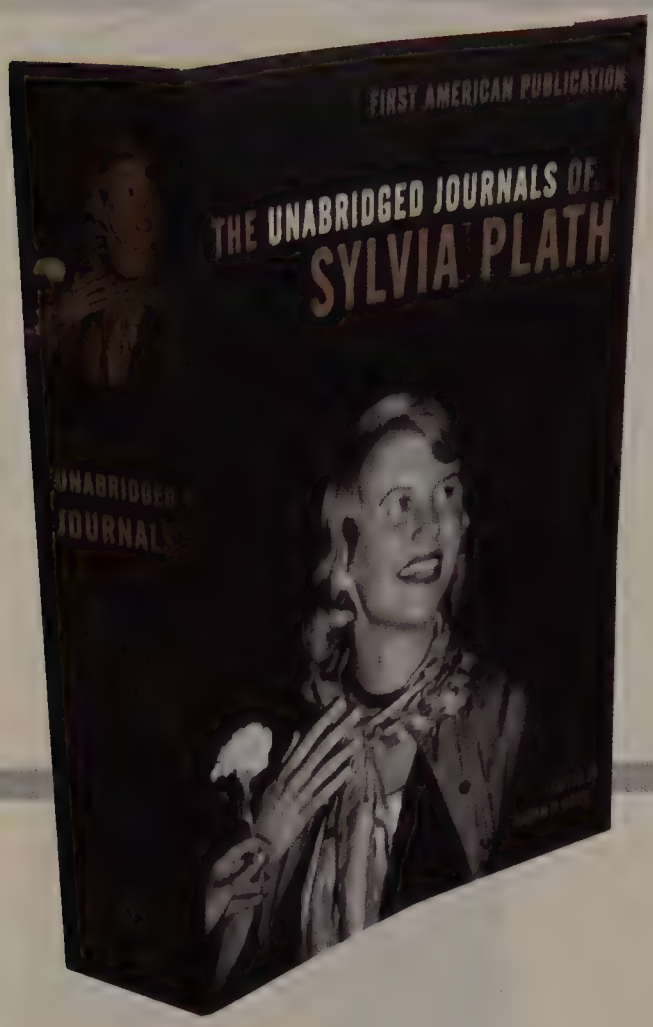
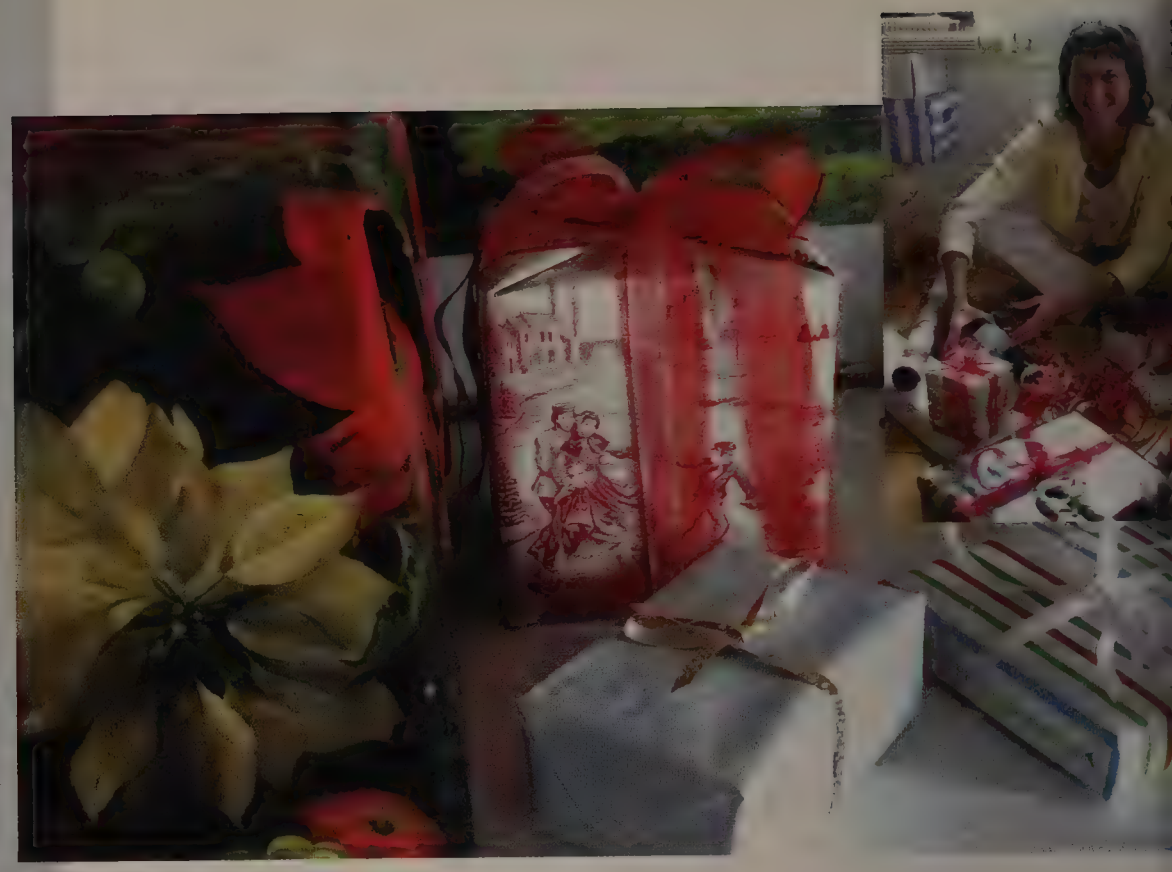
BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY



SYLVIA, EVERLASTING

***The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath* includes her personal writings from 1950–1962, including years spent in Wellesley and Boston.**

It's been 41 years since her suicide at age 30, but bookstore shelves are spilling over with books by and about Sylvia Plath and her husband, the poet Ted Hughes. The movie *Sylvia* has put both her energy and her despair on view. These unabridged journals—from her Wellesley youth, her time at Smith College and her return to Boston from England—display her intensity and tormented self-doubt as much as they do her lyricism and discipline. Reading these often self-lacerating pages, you might picture a woman who had more suffering than success. As a teenager, she grinds ferociously over questions of her intellect, ambition and marriage. She is at war with herself and her mother, and jealous of Ted's sometimes greater success, always whipping up into fevers of writing that foreshadow her tragic end. "Two silent strangers. Going back, there is the growing sickness, the separate sleep, and the sour waking. And all the time the wrongness growing, creeping, choking the house, twining the tables and chairs and poisoning the knives and forks, clouding the drinking water with that lethal taint." But Plath's tone of Rembrandt-tinged darkness often gives her misery a remarkable beauty.



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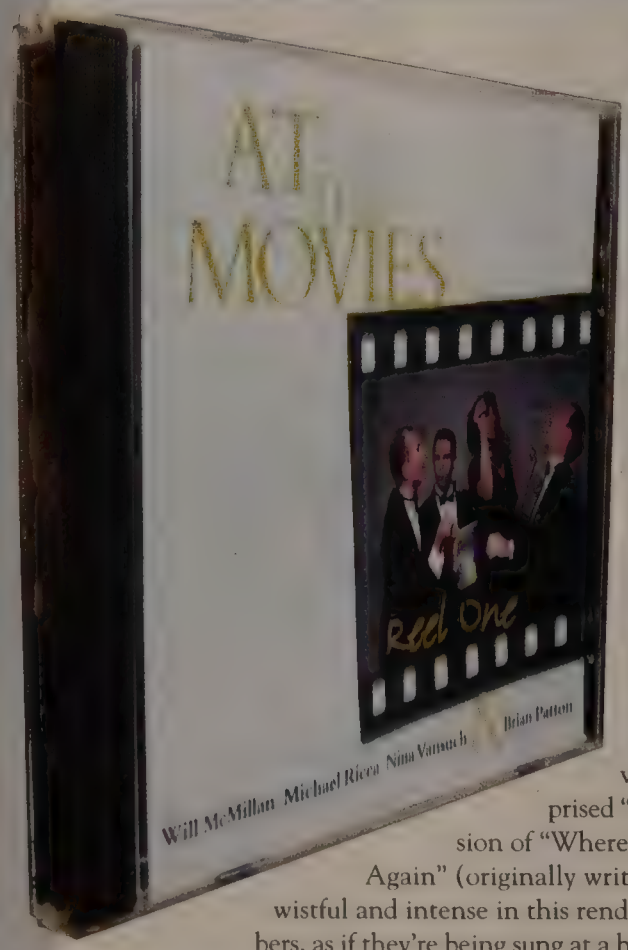

SOUND TRACKS, MERRILY SUNG

Local cabaret group At the Movies plays songs from the flicks of yore. The group performs Dec. 31 at 10 and 11:15 pm at the Rabb Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library as part of the First Night celebration. Their CD, *Reel One*, is available at www.atmmusic.biz.

You're constrained from croony swooning and dancing around the cinema when a movie contains a delicious song. But you can emote a if you want to *Reel One*, the CD by local cabaret revue At the Movies. The group, comprising Will McMillan, Brian Patton, Michael Ricco and Nina Vansuch, reprises songs from the most Technicolor-sweet movies of the 1950s and '60s as well as a few newer ones. "Secret Love" and "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes," for instance, are given a revue-style swooping energy and cheerfulness by these three guys and a girl. One riotous number begins with Vansuch vocalizing the theme from "A Summer Place" (which starred Sandra Dee and Troy Donahue) until a voice whispers "Troy is gay." Vansuch's perky, surprised "Oh!" becomes the segue into the guys' queer version of "Where the Boys Are." Carly Simon's "Coming Around Again" (originally written for the Jack Nicholson movie *Heartburn*) is wistful and intense in this rendition. Sophistication reigns in most of the numbers, as if they're being sung at a hatbox-sized nightclub. Then the group turns on a dime and does a witty ditty from the TV show *Animaniacs* about *Variety*'s fast-talking, breezily abbreviated language of show-biz. The group's live performance also includes its take on more recent tunes from the likes of *South Park*.

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REVIEW

LOW-FAT, NO-FAT FARE

Lucy's in Coolidge Corner makes an earnest attempt at healthy meals—with mixed results

BY J. CHARLES MOKRISKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERTA A. DANIELS

In order to distinguish themselves from the competition in the crowded Coolidge Corner restaurant scene, Lucy's energetic and engaging owner Mitzi Kaitz and her chef Owen Tilley have dedicated themselves to providing a haven for weight-conscious diners. Their single-minded assault on obesity is to be applauded. Unfortunately, the unevenness of their offerings may give a bad name to weight-conscious dining. If fat-free preparations are going to be effective and accepted, they must satisfy the craving for the good flavors and pleasant textures that make dining an enjoyable human experience, not just the mere ingestion of nourishment.

Lucy's physical appointments are attractive. An imposing wood-burning oven—nicknamed Bertha—dominates the bar side of the restaurant, which one enters from the street. Here, 10 or so bar stools and a scattering of tables accommodate patrons who flock to Lucy's on Thursday nights to hear live jazz. To the right of the entrance is an attractively decorated dining room, with two walls covered with paintings of musicians and their instruments in bold, primary colors. A third wall is hung with several mirrors of differing shapes and varying art deco frames, which strike a gleaming contrast to the lovely Williamsburg blue of the walls. Banquettes upholstered in pre-Columbian-design fabrics line one wall, and tables are covered with butcher paper over polyester tablecloths. Large blue tulip blossom sconces provide subdued lighting.

A decent way to begin a meal is with one of Lucy's wood oven pizzas, and the one I chose—prosciutto, roasted pear, Great Hill blue cheese, and caramelized onion ($12)—hit the spot. The salty ham; moist, mellow fruity pear; rich, creamy blue cheese; and sweet caramelized onions did justice to the crisp and resilient herb-garlic white flour crust. In addition to the pizza, Lucy's dinner menu includes 11 starters and 10 main events, all of which hew to the no-cream, no-butter protocol. In a recent menu revision, however, Lucy's has added another category to its dinner menu: "scale tippers...for those who are looking for a weightier meal—butters, oils and creams included." In the course of three visits to Lucy's, I tried three starters, one pizza, five main events and two desserts. The results were mixed at best.

Baked whole trout stuffed with scallion brown rice over garlic green beans and lychee symbal

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One starter, pulled chicken tamale over mole verde and salsa fresca ($7), featured a large slab of formed cornmeal—a sort of Mexican polenta—garnished with shredded chicken and chopped fresh tomatoes, red peppers and parsley. While the flavor seemed timid, with the mole providing little kick, the dish turned out to be one of the better I tried. Even better were the steamed mussels with fresh basil, ginger, garlic and lemongrass ($9). The two dozen plump, sweet mussels, unflawed by even a grain of sand, arrived in a handsome ceramic pot filled with a heady, assertive broth that turned out to be the highlight of my three visits to Lucy's. In contrast, a soup of the day from the scale tipper side of the menu—shrimp gumbo—contained a good number of decent-textured shrimp. But both they and the thick, dark liquid in which they were swimming were so devoid of flavor that after dispatching most of the shrimp, I abandoned the rest of the soup. Remarkably, corn bread from Lucy's breadbasket mimicked the blandness of the soup. Better among the breads, all baked on premises, was the challah, particularly enjoyable when moistened with Lucy's balsamic and charred-tomato vinegar, a popular house condiment.

Lucy's main events ranged from quite good to disagreeable. On the quite good side was the baked whole trout stuffed with scallion brown rice over garlicky ginger green beans and lychees ($18). This firm-textured fish had been expertly boned and stuffed with moist, flavorful brown rice studded with scallions and garnished with cool, luscious, velvety lychees. Splendid, al dente green beans laced with fresh ginger enlivened the dish.

On the negative side of the ledger, two beef offerings competed for last place. Oven-roasted espresso-rubbed tenderloin of beef with butter-free basil mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, peppers, onions and horseradish calamata tapenade ($20) combined meat that lacked flavor (save for the unpleasantly bitter overtones of the espresso), coffee (a seasoning whose time has not, and never will, come) and vegetables that had the flavor somehow stewed out of them, leaving only the piquant earthiness of a small dollop of tapenade which seemed almost an afterthought, to tease the palate. The other beef offering, ground sirloin burger, "cooked to perfection," with grilled onion, ripe tomatoes, lettuce, Great Hill blue cheese and no-fry french fries ($12), demonstrated the perils of excessively lean beef. Without fat, no matter how cooked to perfection ground beef is, the result resembles cardboard or moistened sawdust, and Lucy's sirloin burger hovered between the two. Beside its dismal texture, the beef had an unpleasant, oddly sour flavor that could be masked only by eating it together with the cream, good, pleasantly sharp Great Hill blue cheese, one of Massachusetts' truly great products. The no-fry french fries replicate the burger's cardboard-like texture, demonstrating why french fries are called fries and ought to be cooked that way.

Chef Owen Tilley grills entrées in a colorful wood-burning stove nicknamed Bertha.

Another main event offering, a wood-oven-roasted salmon with sweet parsnip puree and fresh steamed vegetables ($17) delivered decent flavor, but the fish had a flabby, flaccid texture. The toothsome parsnip puree far outshone the bland steamed vegetables. Finally, Lucy's weighed in with the obligatory double-thick pork chop ($17), served with cranberry-wheat crumb stuffing, three-apple sauce and garlicky seared greens. The pork chop arrived rare as ordered, but it was flawed by imperfect trim that left too much fat. (The fat was difficult to avoid, hidden as it was under a coating of apple sauce.) The greens—multicolored chard, also served as a side dish—had an unpleasantly astringent, almost acrid flavor.

Due to a mix-up one evening, our waiter brought a cheese plate with an assortment of relishes, compotes and house-made crackers ($10) instead of the baked cheese preparation that I had ordered. This turned out to be a fine trio of mellow Taleggio cheese from Italy, dark-veined blue cheese from Spain and lively goat cheese from France, and the fruit compotes, including dates, figs and cranberries, provided the perfect accompaniment. When, on a subsequent visit, I finally did get to the baked cheese with roasted pearl onions, fresh herbs and assorted crostini ($8), it struck me as underwhelming—the cheese without character, the pearl onions AWOL, and the crostini a pile of toast points.

From Lucy's dessert selections, I homed in on the chocolate offerings. Warm chocolate soufflé with a lava center ($8) was so good that I ordered it twice. Chocolate espresso mousse with raspberry whipped cream ($8) scored a close second. Lucy's wine list was aggressively priced, and while the Badia y Coltibuono chianti ($7 a glass) combined good forward fruit with a fine bouquet and good structure, the skimpiness of the pour dismayed me.

Service at Lucy's was as inconsistent as the food. On one visit waitpersons sometimes seemed to operate as independent contractors, blissfully unaware and unresponsive to the needs of the tables for which they did not have direct, personal responsibility. One waiter seemed unfamiliar with ingredients or components of menu items. Still, the owner-hostess and the upbeat, energetic bartender—who was at once amiable, suave and even courtly—brought an earnestness and desire to please that compensated for a multitude of sins.

Lucy's principals hope to provide a haven for health-conscious diners.

Espresso-rubbed, oven-roasted beef tenderloin with basil mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, peppers, onions, horseradish and kalamata olive tapenade

A final note about the restaurant's concept. Now that carbohydrates, and not just fats, have been identified as a major culprit in America's obesity epidemic, Lucy's seems somewhat behind the curve. The ill-fated sirloin burger was accompanied by a huge doughy roll, and throughout the nonfat offerings, carbohydrates abounded. The sacrifice of flavor that accompanies the eschewing of butter, oil and cream is a high price to pay for food that may not have a palpably beneficial effect on the waistline. IB

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TASTINGS

BY JULIE SURATT

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Tastings, or e-mail information to tastings@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Events

Barolo Sundays
The Wine Bottega, 341 Hanover St., Boston (617-227-6607). MBTA: Green Line to Government Center. Dec. 21 and 28. Free. Taste the latest releases of Piedmont Nebbiolo.

Chocolate Tour
From the Trolley Stop Store, corner of Boylston and South Charles streets, Boston (617-269-3626). Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am and 12:45 pm. Jan. 3-March 28. $60. This fully narrated three-hour trolley tour stops for chocolate desserts at the Top of the Hub restaurant, the Omni Parker House Hotel and Le Meridien hotel.

Cooking Class
Sel de la Terre, 255 State St., Boston (617-720-1300). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Saturdays, 11 am. $35 (includes brunch). Pastry chef **Michael Rhoads** teaches a class on how to make holiday breads. Class size is limited to eight people.

Dead Brunch
Jake's Dixie Roadhouse, 218 Moody St., Waltham (781-894-4227). Sundays, 12-3 pm. A la carte. This brunch features a Grateful Dead–themed menu with a Southern slant (biscuits with sausage and gravy, for example), plenty of tie-dye and Dead tunes.

Fireside Chats
The Fireplace, 1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square. $35. Chef/owner **Jim Solomon** offers a series of chats. •Dec. 20: sparkling wine.

Gifts for Guacamole
Olé Mexican Grill, 11 Springfield St., Cambridge (617-492-4495). Through Dec. 20. Bring an unwrapped toy to the restaurant for the Home for Little Wanderers and receive a free order of corn tortillas and guacamole prepared at the table.

Gordon Hamersley Cookbook Signing
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 17, 7 pm.* Local restaurateur **Gordon Hamersley** talks about his new cookbook, *Bistro Cooking at Home.*

Holiday Tea
Boston Harbor Hotel, Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Daily, 2:30-4 pm, through Jan. 10. $29.50. Enjoy sparkling wine with fresh-cut strawberries and Devonshire cream followed by tea, sandwiches and cookies.

Meet Mr. Chateauneuf du Pape
Silks of Stonehedge Inn, 160 Pawtucket Blvd., Tyngsboro (978-649-4400). Dec. 22, 7 pm. $105. Importer **Alain Junguenet** discusses the wines of Chateauneuf du Pape.

Ming Tsai Cookbook Signing
•*Dec. 17, 3:30 pm: Wellesley Booksmith, 82 Central St., Wellesley (781-431-1160). Free.* •*Dec. 17, 7 pm: Borders Boston, 10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Free.* Chef **Ming Tsai** discusses his new cookbook, *Simply Ming: Easy Techniques for East-Meets-West Meals.*

Oysterology Nights
McCormick & Schmick's, Park Plaza, 34 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-482-3999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue., 7-9 pm. Free. Chef **Eric Naruszewicz** and general manager **Paul Tietge** offer shucking lessons and discuss the differences among the wide array of oysters served at the raw bar.

Sandrine's Celebrates Birthday Week
Sandrine's, 8 Holyoke St., Cambridge (617-497-5300). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Through Dec. 21. $70. Celebrate Sandrine's birthday with a three-course prix-fixe meal.

Sunday Night Regional Tasting Menu
Pigalle, 75 Charles St. South, Boston (617-423-4944). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Sun. 5-9:30 pm. $35, $40 (with wine). Chef **Marc Orfaly** offers a three-course tasting menu paired with Languedoc wines.

Surf's Up for Tuscan Wine
Lifelong Learning, 808 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-9852). Dec. 17, 6-8 pm. $60. Sample and discuss Tuscan wines and cuisine with master of wine **Bill Nesto** and chef **Daniele Baliani**, formerly of Pignoli.

Wine Dinner
UpStairs on the Square, 91 Winthrop St., Cambridge (617-864-1933). Dec. 17. $40. Wine director **Shane Lessard** matches four champagnes with tasting plates prepared by chef **Susan Regis**

Wine Gala
Whole Foods Market, 340 River St., Cambridge (617-876-6990). Dec. 18, 6-9 pm. $8, $10 at the door. Sample holiday wines, cheese and seafood dishes at this benefit for Globe Santa.

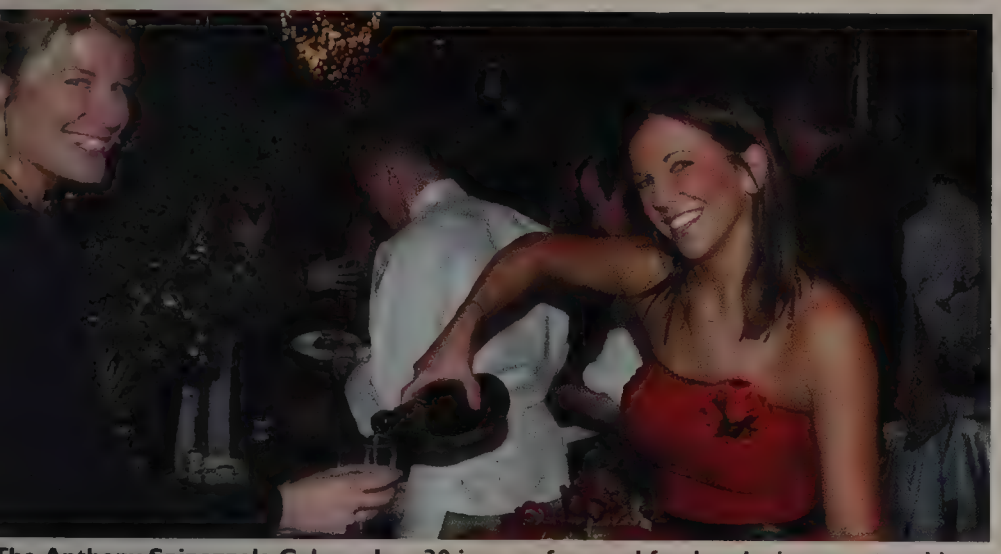
Jake's Dixie Roadhouse offers a Grateful Dead–themed brunch.

DISH

Silence of the Sponsors

DineAround on hold...Grillfish sold... Toast breaks the mold...

BY CAROLYN FAYE FOX



The Anthony Spinazzola Gala on Jan. 30 is one of several food and wine events taking place early in the New Year. The 2003 event is pictured here.

Nothing helps us get through a blustery, bone-chilling Boston winter like the annual lineup of cold-weather food and wine events. There's the **Anthony Spinazzola Gala** at the World Trade Center Jan. 30, with enough sequins and champagne to brighten the dead of winter. Running concurrently, as well as the next day, is the **Boston Wine Expo**. Starting in mid-January, the **Boston Wine Festival** at the Boston Harbor Hotel includes a series of receptions, tastings, seminars and dinners scheduled through the last of April's slush. And we're always cheered by the **Boston DineAround**, a multi-week extravaganza highlighting nationally-known chefs and cookbook authors, hosted by many of the area's best restaurants.

Well, no such cheer this year. The DineAround has been temporarily disconnected from the usual string of festivities for 2004, although we're assured it will return in 2005. What happened is that long-time corporate sponsor Fleet Bank was purchased by Bank of America several months ago, leaving the DineAround without its title sponsor, and with inadequate time to round up a replacement with deep enough pockets. Also cancelled this year is the annual bash at Le Meriden that kicks off the DineAround, which means less money will be raised for the Spinazzola Fund and the Greater Boston Food Bank. So if you're feeling disappointed, chip in a little extra this season to a good cause that fights hunger.

SECOND COURSE

Tanks for the memories: When some restaurants—we won't name names—close their doors, nobody cares. But when a dependable neighborhood favorite like **Grillfish** leaves, it's greatly missed. According to **Michelle Stella**, one of Grillfish's managers, the building on Columbus Avenue has been sold, and the space will reopen in a month or so. Sources tell us the new place will be an Italian restaurant. Ho-hum.

Spire hire: **Gabriel Frasca** is the new executive chef at **Spire** in the **Nine Zero Hotel**. Frasca, who recently returned to Boston after spending several months in Nantucket, was formerly chef de cuisine at **Radius**.

Toast opened in Somerville's Union Square just a few months ago with plans to serve an upscale menu created by **Petal Joseph**, formerly executive sous chef at **Rialto**. Given that the basement space proved to be bad feng shui for two previous very good chef-owned and -driven restaurants (**Macondo** and **Rauxa**), the concept seemed half-baked at best. It didn't take long, says general manager **Sean Sullivan**, to find that "the menu we were dealing with didn't fit the environment, wasn't making the money." And so it was replaced by a new pub menu, which includes "chicken teriyaki, a pasta dish, shrimp cocktail, chicken fingers, all of it from scratch," says Sullivan. After Joseph's menu became, uh, toast, she decided (not surprisingly) to leave. We'll let you know where she turns up next. iB

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WINE

Popular Pinot Noir

BY SANDY BLOCK MW

It's official: Americans are now drinking more red wine than white, and the word from virtually every retailer I've spoken with this holiday season is that pinot noir has finally gone mainstream. For years this was the ultimate connoisseur's grape, a wine that critics lionized but consumers shunned. But it's suddenly become hot, and people are coming into stores asking for it, not just in cosmopolitan Boston but way out in the hinterlands.

What's caused the shift? For white wine fans transitioning to red, pinot noir's characteristic flavors and textures are easier to appreciate than those of the bigger, bolder and higher-tannin wines like cabernet, zinfandel or even a lot of syrah. These dark, impressively flavored macho wines are generally higher in alcohol and fruit extract, but they're more of an acquired taste and they definitely work better in autumn than in winter, unlike the all-season pinot. Another big factor is the ceiling on price that's impacted the wine market in a major way. As we pull out of the downturn that's gripped the economy for the last few years, the one habit that has yet to return is freewheeling spending on wine. For many people a $20 bill constitutes an almost absolute barrier they won't cross, unless they're shown a compelling reason. And good pinot noir has moderated in price recently—where it once was virtually impossible to find a good bottle for less than $25, now there are plenty of juicy, delicious ones out there for $15. It's partly a result of improvements in vineyard and winery practices that have enabled winemakers to actually make better wine for less money; that and the famed "wine glut" that's forced everyone to become more competitive in order to survive.

Our changing dietary preferences play a big part in pinot's newfound popularity as well. Here's where the perceived health benefits of two very different products converge, because pinot noir is the ultimate "red wine with fish" selection. As we turn increasingly to lower-cholesterol, higher-protein foods, it's no secret that fish consumption is on the rise. The problem is that most of the other well-known red wines on the market taste jarring and incongruous with most fish preparations; they're too full-bodied and potently flavored. These impressively big wines often also don't balance vegetarian or highly spicy ethnic dishes. On the other hand, a light- or medium-bodied red wine with mild tannins, silky textures, prominent fruitiness and acidity, like pinot noir, has an unusually high batting average when it's facing all of these foods.

I remember the first time I ordered pinot noir with fish in a restaurant, the waiter looked at me twice to make sure he'd heard correctly. Now this choice has become commonplace, particularly with salmon, swordfish or other meatier fish, like mako shark. In fact, industry veterans tell me that diners perplexed by what to order when everyone at the table is eating something different—from seafood to poultry to red meat—are more often satisfied with a pinot noir selection than any other. The one problem with ordering pinot in a restaurant is that it's often served too warm, which throws the flavors out of whack: too harsh and alcoholic. This is one red wine that can stand just a bit of a chill. Even 5 degrees difference can magically transform the wine from blah to delicious. So at times I've even asked for an ice bucket to get the wine down to proper temperature.

So where do we look for pinot noir today? I've been converted by the sunny charms of California. Where once I'd go to tastings of dozens of wines and not find a single California pinot noir I would willingly drink, the equation is almost exactly reversed today. Because it was such an unfashionable grape for so long, the weak players in the market were shaken out until only the committed remained. The vineyards that were planted in unsuitably warm parts of the state have been converted to other grapes, and there are new regions, particularly in the Central Coast's Monterey and Santa Barbara counties, that have arisen almost overnight to take up the mantle. There are five points of origin I would look for on a California wine label that are most consistently excellent in producing pinot noir. In generally descending order of price, they are: Sonoma's Russian River Valley, the Carneros district, Monterey's Santa Lucia Highlands, the Santa Maria Valley in Santa Barbara County, and, reversing direction to way up north, Mendocino County. Other great sources are Oregon's Willamette Valley and New Zealand. If you're invited to dinner and you don't know what's being served, you probably can't go wrong if you bring a bottle of pinot from any one of these places. Just make sure the bottle's not too warm. ■

One of only 18 Americans certified as a master of wine, Sandy Block is assistant vice president of wine for Horizon Beverage.

Be merry and smart. Drink responsibly.

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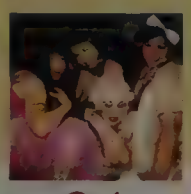
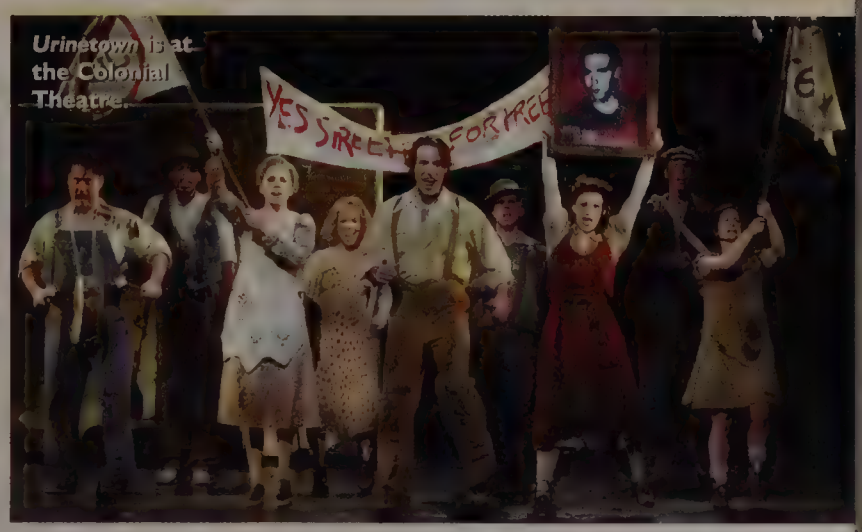
agenda

IMPROPER PICKS

december 17, 2003 - january 6, 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			17	18 This year's ***Christmas Revels*** at the Sanders Theatre is set in Scotland. *See Performing Arts on page 58.*	19 Poet Langston Hughes' song-play, ***Black Nativity***, is at the Tremont Temple. *See Performing Arts on page 58.*	20 The MFA features the **Czech Horror and Fantasy on Film Series**. *See Movies on page 68.*
 21 **Thru the Keyhole Burlesque** performs at the Paradise Lounge with DJ Brother Cleve. *See Music on page 74.*	22	23 Stacy Keach stars in ***A Christmas Carol*** at Emerson's Cutler Majestic Theatre. *See Performing Arts on page 58.*	24	25	26 Sax great **Branford Marsalis** performs at the Regattabar. *See Music on page 76.*	27
28	29	30	31	1 **Wim Wenders'** photographs show at the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts. See Museums and Galleries on page 98.	2	3
4	5	6				



TUE./JAN. 6-SUN./JAN. 18

Performing Arts: Who's in Town?

At its most basic level, ***Urinetown***—the wildly popular musical that started its life in 1999 at a fringe festival in New York—is about two kids who fall in love in the midst of a water-shortage crisis. At its most pretentious level, it's a "neo-Brechtian absurdist melodrama." And in the words of reviewer Michael Criscuolo from NYTheatre.com, "It's crude. It's offensive. It quotes heavily from other musicals. It's blatantly self-conscious...It's often quite tasteless...But *Urinetown* is also one of those rare shows that lives up to its own hype."

Winner of 2002 Tony Awards for Best Director, Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score, this surprise hit by Greg Kotis both spoofs and celebrates Broadway favorites like *Les Miserables*, *Annie* and *West Side Story*. *Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Jan. 6-18. $30-$87.*

THE CALENDAR GIRLS' GUIDE TO WHAT'S UP, IN AND AROUND BOSTON

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Jessica Iredale Museums & Galleries
Laurel Kirtz Body & Mind
Paul Sherman Film Capsules

FRI./JAN. 2-SUN./FEB. 1

Performing Arts: Great Bad Dates

To find 200 pairs of slingbacks, pumps and stilettos for its production of ***Bad Dates***, the props department at the Huntington Theatre Company had to borrow shoes from friends, family—even the playwright, Theresa Rebeck. The one-woman show stars *Six Feet Under*'s Julie White (for whom Rebeck wrote the play) as shoe connoisseur and restaurant manager Haley Walker. It's kind of a *Sex and the City...10 Years Later*. Haley's a single mother re-entering the dating scene. As she prepares for or unwinds from her dates (changing into more than a dozen outfits in the process), she relates her experiences to the audience. The *New York Times* said of the show, which premiered this summer at Playwrights Horizons Theatre in the Big Apple, "There is no more endearing character portrayal onstage in New York." *Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. Tue., 7:30 pm; Wed., 2 and 7:30 pm; Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. $14-$64.*

Six Feet Under's Julie White stars in *Bad Dates*.

WED./DEC. 31

CityScope: Creative Carvings

There's always one First Night ice sculpture that gets more attention than the rest, and this year's big kahuna at center stage on Boston Common is the ice sculpture of Japan's Edo Castle. The castle, sponsored by the **Japan Society of Boston** as part of its centennial celebration, will be created by three Japanese ice sculptors and several American artists. The team will work on the sculpture the entire week after Christmas and will finish it on the morning of New Year's Eve. The mammoth sculpture will weigh 45 tons, and stand 20 feet tall (pre-meltage, that is). The First Night opening ceremony is at the castle site on the Common at 11:30 am. You can even take home a commemorative gift box filled with an assortment of Edo Castle–shaped dark chocolates ($5-$50), sold by the Japan Society of Boston *(617-451-0726)*.

Sample martinis with Mrs. Claus at Vinalia Dec. 20.

SAT./DEC. 20

CityScope: Pre-Party Prep

There's only one way to develop a high tolerance for alcohol (a must if you're going to survive the holidays), and we all know what that entails. So, to prepare for the onslaught of New Year's festivities, we recommend starting early. On Dec. 20, there are two party options to help bolster your yuletide stamina. The Mayflower Foundation's annual holiday party takes place at a most unusual locale—the **Franklin Park Zoo**'s tropical forest, a 3.5-acre indoor exhibit, where party-goers can dine among gorillas and assorted wildlife. It's open bar, and dress is semiformal. Proceeds from the $75 ticket go to development programs to benefit the Egleston Square Youth Center. The second option is Y Pro's (Young Professionals of New England) annual Martinis with Mrs. Claus fete at **Vinalia**. It's also got an open bar (with specialty martinis), plus dinner, apps, music and dancing. A $30 ticket gets you into the party, $59 gets you the three-course dinner. You have to be a member to attend, but membership is free and you can join online. *Franklin Park Zoo, One Franklin Park Zoo Road, Boston (888-215-5506). 9 pm-2 am. Vinalia, 101 Arch St., Boston (617-983-2232). www.ypro.com. 8 pm-2 am.*

SAT./JAN. 3

Tastings: Decadent Fun

Imagine indulging in a white chocolate lemon parfait with chocolate ravioli stuffed with apricots and pecans and drizzled with white chocolate sauce and apricot coulis as an appetizer at the Top of the Hub. Then you move on to the Omni Parker House for an entrée of Boston cream pie. Finally, when you think your stomach can't handle any more, you head to Le Meridien for dessert: an all-you-can eat buffet of chocolate mousse, chocolate cake, chocolate tortes, chocolate eclairs, crepes, ice cream, cookies and pies. Ready? Or not? The **Boston Chocolate Tour** starts up again on Jan. 3. It's a three-hour journey aboard a trolley, complete with fun facts about Boston's rich chocolate history. And did we mention that Finale provides chocolate snacks for the ride? Prepare to pig out. *Boylston and South Charles streets, Boston (617-269-3626). Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am and 12:45 pm. Jan. 3-March 28. $60.*

Le Meridien's Chocolate Bar is a challenge for even the most die-hard chocoholic.

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Submit updated listings for festivals, events and benefits by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: CityScope. Or e-mail information to cityscope@improper.com. Include address, phone number, ticket price, dates and times, and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Festivals, Benefits & Events

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

Artists for Humanity Holiday Sale
South Station, Boston. www.afhboston.com. *10 am-7 pm.* The Artists for Humanity teen artists group holds a holiday sale, offering greeting cards, clothing, messenger bags and more.

Dakini/Salvation Army Fleece Drive
Dakini, 1704 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-864-7661). Through Dec. 25. Donate your used sweater or fleece to the Salvation Army at the Dakini store and receive 25 percent off a new garment.

Get Out of Town Benefit
Johnny D's, 17 Holland St., Somerville (508-650-6999). 7 pm. $10. Lloyd Thayer and the Matthew Stubbs Band perform to raise money for their trip to Memphis, where they'll represent Boston in the 2004 International Blues Challenge.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Beantownshows Holiday Benefit Concert
Harpers Ferry, 156 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). www.beantownshows.com. *8:30 pm. $13 for guests ages 18-20; $10 for ages 21 and over.* Ryan Montbleau, the Boston Horns, and the Benefit All-Stars perform to benefit the Boston Rescue Mission homeless shelter.

Ultimate Christmas Party
Whiskey Park, 74 Arlington St., Boston. www.jetsetevents.com. *8 pm-2 am. $20 in advance, $25 at the door.* This holiday party includes open bar from 8-10 pm, hors d'oeuvres, music from DJ Sensae and door prizes.

Wine Gala for Globe Santa
Putnam Café, 340 River St., Cambridge (617-876-6990). 6-9 pm. $8 in advance, $10 at the door. This wine tasting benefits the Globe Santa fund.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Toys for Tots Toy Drive
The Purple Shamrock, 1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060). Bring an unwrapped toy to contribute to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Martinis with Mrs. Claus
Vinalia, 101 Arch St., Boston (617-983-2232). www.ypro.com. *8 pm-2 am. $30, $59 with dinner.* This annual holiday party features specialty martini bars, appetizers, dinner (optional), music and dancing.

Mayflower Foundation Holiday Party
Franklin Park Zoo, One Franklin Park Zoo Road, Boston www.mayflowerfounation.org. *9 pm-2 am. $75. Semi-formal attire.* Sip cocktails amongst the wildlife in the Franklin Park Zoo's 3.5-acre indoor tropical forest. Proceeds benefit the Egleston Square Youth Center. The party includes hors d'oeuvres, dessert and open bar.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

Substance 2k3 Benefit
Middle East Downstairs, 472/480 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. www.substanceboston.com. *7 pm-1 am. $10. 18+.* This benefit for Forrest Frazier, a local photographer who was injured in a motorcycle accident, includes live music and DJs, plus exhibits from artists and fashion designers.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

Matzoball
Avalon, 15 Lansdowne St., Boston (888-633-5326). www.matzoball.org. *8 pm. $20 in advance, $25 at the door.* The 17th annual Matzoball Jewish singles party (and general holiday bash) returns to Avalon.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26

Disney's Jungle Adventures on Ice
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.disneyonice.com. *10 shows, Dec. 26-29. $12-$65.* Disney on Ice combines the *Jungle Book*, *Tarzan* and the *Lion King* in one show, using props like a 15,000-pound jungle tree and including above-ice acrobatics.

New Year Cheer

Don't drop the ball on finding a party for when the ball drops

The Big Easy Bar
The Alley, 1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000). www.bigeasyboston.com. The party features live music by Bob's Day Off, hors d'oeuvres, a buffet, full open bar, party favors and a 2004 VIP card.

Caprice
275 Tremont St., Boston (617-922-0080). www.capricelounge.com. *7 pm dinner seating or 9 pm; open till 3 am.* Caprice's New Year's party features two dinner seatings (menu is prix-fixe and the meal is five courses), a midnight champagne toast, party favors and music from an international guest DJ.

Crystal Ball
Bay Tower Room, 60 State St., Boston (508-276-1200). www.sudiko.com. *8 pm-2 am. VIP $125 before Dec. 24/$150 after or at the door; general admission $85 before Dec. 24/$100 after or at the door.* Get a view of the fireworks over the harbor from the 33rd and 34th floors of 60 State St. Tickets include open premium bar, live entertainment from Souled Out and party favors. VIP tickets also include a private bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Felt: The Bed Party
Felt, 533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555). www.feltboston.com. *$50 general admission, $125 VIP, $400 for a bed, $600 for VIP bed.* Felt's over-the-top bed party, hosted by Playboy Playmate Cara Wakelin and KISS 108's Matt Siegel, offers several different options for partyers: General admission includes a champagne toast and appetizers; VIP admission adds open bar, a private cocktail reception and a late-night breakfast bar. Then there's the option of renting your own bed to hang out on all night.

First Night: Edo Castle Ice Sculpture
Boston Common Parade Ground, Boston (617-522-8633). www.firstnight.org. *Opening ceremony at 11:30 am.* This 45-ton, 20-foot tall ice sculpture of Edo Castle in Japan commemorates the Japan Society of Boston's 100th anniversary.

First Night: Fireworks
Boston Common and Boston Harbor, Boston. www.firstnight.org. *Family fireworks celebration over the Common at 7:10 pm; main fireworks over the harbor at 12 am.* For the fifth year, Boston offers two fireworks shows—the traditional midnight blowout over the harbor and an earlier show above the Common for revelers with an earlier bedtime.

First Night: Grand Procession
Boylston Street (Dalton Street to Charles Street) and Charles Street (to Beacon), Boston. www.firstnight.org. *5:30-7 pm.* This year First Night's annual parade celebrates "the wonders of Boston" and features floats representing the Emerald Necklace, the future and multiculturalism. Performers include Punk Rock Aerobics, Theatre Offensive, the Cycling Murrays and more.

Glen Foley Wings Foundation Benefit Cruise
Odyssey, Rowes Wharf, Boston. www.nickersonpme.com. *8-1 pm. $150.* This New Year's cruise includes a buffet dinner and dessert, open premium bar, a

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New Year Cheer cont.

live band and DJ and a view of the fireworks from the harbor. Proceeds benefit the Glen Foley Wings Foundation's work to fight polycystic kidney disease.

The Green Briar
304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100). 8 pm. $25. Party includes a champagne toast, party favors, DJ and dancing.

The Harp
85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). 8:30 pm. $30. The Harp's annual New Year's bash includes a DJ and dancing both upstairs and downstairs.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
150 Canal St., Boston (617-451-7400). www.irishconnection.com. *8 pm. $100.* Hurricane O'Reilly's kicks off the New Year with an appetizer buffet, champagne toast and open bar.

Irish Village
224 Market St., Brighton (617-787-5427). 8 pm. $50. This party features open bar, a champagne toast, a buffet and music from DJ Calvin of the Shadowkings.

Jose McIntyre's
160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). 8 pm. $100. Jose Mac's rings in the New Year with an appetizer buffet, champagne toast and open bar.

Last Night 5K Fun Run
VFW James Logan Post, 1192 Broadway, West Somerville (617-625-2140). www.clydesdale.org/BAEvents/schedule/index.html. *9:30 pm. $20.* Get some exercise with your partying at this 3.2-mile fun run, which includes post-race food and refreshments, live music by Cat Sass Blues Band and a midnight champagne toast. Runners are encouraged to wear costumes.

The Living Room
101 Atlantic Ave., Boston (617-723-5101). 9 pm. $50 in advance, $60 at the door, $135 including dinner. The Living Room celebrates its one-year anniversary and the new year with passed appetizers, a DJ, dancing, party favors, champagne toast and the option of a four-course prix-fixe dinner.

Parris/Ned Devine's
Quincy Market Building, Upper Rotunda, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-248-8800). 8 pm. $50. Parris and Ned Devine's provide live music by Flavor, dancing, a DJ, hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast.

The Rack
24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). www.therackboston.com. *8 pm-2 am. $50.* KISS 108's Artie hosts this party, which includes a buffet dinner, midnight champagne toast, party favors and music from DJ Johnny C.

Redline
59 JFK St., Cambridge (617-491-9851). Dinner at 7 pm and 9 pm. $50 for dinner. DJ George spins until 3 am. No cover charge.

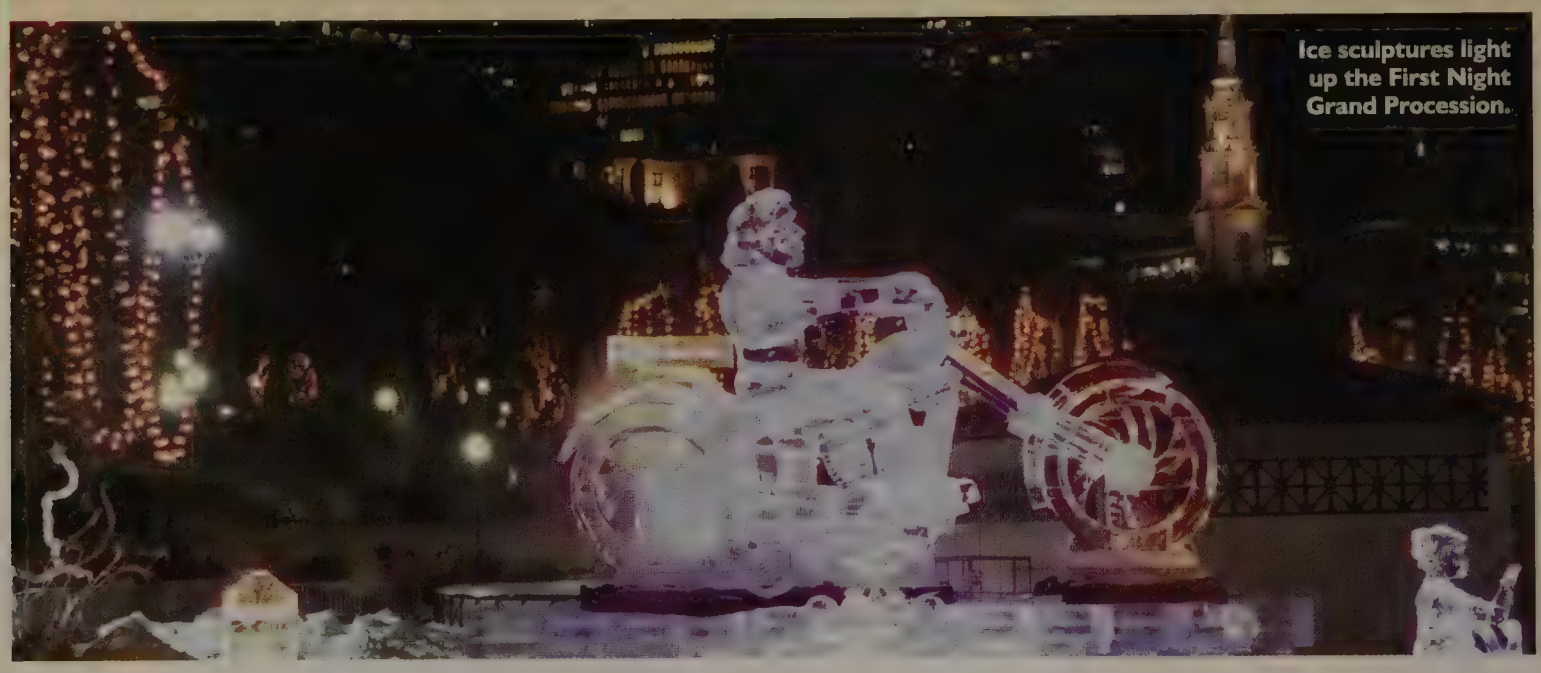
Saint
90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134). www.saintnitery.com. *$54.* Saint's Studio 54–themed New Year's party returns with three DJs and appetizers. Dress is cocktail attire or "54 fab."

Soho
386 Market St., Brighton (617-562-6000). www.sohoboston.com. *$100.* Party includes open premium bar, champagne toast, gourmet buffet and party favors.

White Horse Tavern
116 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-6633). 8:30 pm-2 am. $65. Includes open bar, champagne toast, hors d'oeuvres, DJ, a champagne toast and silly hats.

Vinalia
101 Arch St., Boston (617-737-1777). Dinner, 8 pm; VIP open bar 10 pm-1 am. Dinner, $75; VIP ticket, $75; Gala ticket, which combines dinner and open bar, $140. Vinalia offers a wine-pairing dinner before the festivities, and party-goers can choose either the dinner, a VIP party ticket, or a combination of the two. Live music, dancing, party favors and champagne toast included.

Les Zygomates
129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). Dinner seatings at 6, 8 and 10 pm. $100 for 10 pm seating. Les Zygomates' 10 pm dinner is followed by a celebration including live music, a champagne toast, party favors and a late-night crepe station.



Ice sculptures light up the First Night Grand Procession.

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performing arts

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Tickets

Ace Tickets
(800-MY-SEATS or 617-734-6666). www.acetickets.com. Get tickets to sold-out shows.

Bostix
(617-723-5181). www.artsboston.org. *Booths located at Faneuil Hall (on the south side of the hall) and Copley Square (at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth).* Same-day tickets at half price.

Next Ticketing
(617-423-NEXT). www.nextticketing.com.

Out of Town Tickets
(617-247-1300 or 800-442-1854). Purchase tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticket City of Boston
(617-787-2370). www.coolguitars.com/tickets.htm. Open seven days a week, Ticket City sells tickets to sold-out shows.

Ticketmaster
(617-931-2000). www.ticketmaster.com.

Theater

JUST OPENED

Bad Dates
Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). www.huntingtontheatre.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Tue., 7:30 pm; Wed., 2 and 7:30 pm; Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Jan. 2-Feb. 1. $14-$64. Six Feet Under's* Julie White stars in Theresa Rebeck's play about a restaurant manager re-entering the dating scene.

Disney on Ice
FleetCenter, One FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.disneyonice.com. *Dec. 26 and 29, 1 pm and 5 pm; Dec. 27-28, 11 am, 3 pm and 7 pm. $12-$42.* This musical ice show features characters from *The Jungle Book, Tarzan* and *The Lion King.*

Urinetown
Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Jan. 6-18. $30-$87. Winner of 2002 Tony awards for best direction, best book and best original score, this musical by Greg Kotis is about a couple who fall in love during a water-shortage crisis.

What We Know About Singapore: The Barrett/Gray Project
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.unnameabletheatre.com. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Dec. 26 and 27, 8 pm. $20.* Marty Barrett of *The Orange Show* teams up with his wife Rebecca Gray for a two-act collection of sketches, music and banter about their five-month marriage.

NOW RUNNING

As You Like It
Wilbur Theatre, 106 Boylston St., Boston (617-931-2787). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 21. $25-$67. This production directed by Sir Peter Hall (founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company) tells Shakespeare's story of Rosalind and her cousin Celia, who have run away to the idyllic Forest of Arden.

Black Nativity
Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont St., Boston (617-423-6398). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3:30 and 8 pm; Sun. 3:30 pm. Through Dec. 21. $17.50-$37.50. Poet Langston Hughes' song-play is a musical retelling of the birth of Christ based on the Gospel of St. Luke. This production includes 160 singers, dancers, actors and musicians.

Blue Man Group
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-6912). www.blueman.com/ticketinfo/boston. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Wed., 8 pm; Thu., 5 and 8 pm; Fri., 7 and 10 pm; Sat., 4, 7 and 10 pm; Sun., 3 and 6 pm. Ongoing. $43 and $53.* This production abandons all dialogue and focuses on making an impact through tribal rock music, humorous antics, props and three men painted blue.

José Mateo's Ballet Theatre performs *The Nutcracker* through Dec. 28 at Sanctuary Theatre

A Christmas Carol
North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Road, Beverly (978-232-7200). www.nsmt.org. *Wed., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun. 2 pm. Through Dec. 21. $30.* North Shore Music Theatre presents its award-winning production of Charles Dickens' holiday classic for the 15th consecutive year.

A Christmas Carol
Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham (781-279-2200). www.stonehamtheatre.org. *Wed. and Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 21. $32.* Troy Siebels has adapted Dickens' tale into a musical extravaganza.

A Christmas Carol
Trinity Repertory Company at the Cutler Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston (617-824-8000). www.maj.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 7:30 pm; Sun. 2 and 7:30 pm. Through Dec. 27. $15-$68.* Stacy Keach stars in Oskar Eustis and Amanda Dehnert's adaptation of Dickens' classic tale.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Times vary. Dec. 18-23 and 26-30. $20-$40.* Directed by Patrick Swanson and music director George Emlen, this year's Christmas Revels production is set in Scotland. The 80-member cast includes the Auld Reekie Singers, the Laird's Consort, the Revels Bairns children's chorus, soloists David Coffin and Jayne Tankersley, two-time New England Scottish fiddle champion Emerald Forman, Highland Dance Boston, the Pinewoods Morris Men and the Cambridge Symphonic Brass.

The Ecumenical Nunsense: Meshuggah-Nuns!
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon St., Boston (617-437-7172). www.lyricstage.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4 and 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Through Dec. 27. $22-$41.* In their latest *Nunsense* adventure, the sisters are on an all-expenses-paid trip on the Faiths of All Nations cruise. Most of the cast members of the ship's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* have succumbed to seasickness, and the ship's captain requests that the sisters put on an original revue.

Fiddler on the Roof
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton (617-244-0169). www.turtle-lane.com. *MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Highlands. Thu.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 30. $22.* Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, this musical tells the story of a Jewish peasant in pre-Revolutionary Russia coping with the day-to-day problems of shtetl life.

Holiday Memories
Studio 210, Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-266-0800). Tue., Wed., and Thu., 7 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm; Sun., 2 and 7 pm. Through Dec. 21. $20. Making its Boston premiere, this play, adapted by Russell Vandenbroucke from Truman Capote's memoir novellas *The Thanksgiving Visitor* and *A Christmas Memory*, weaves together holiday stories of young Buddy and his eccentric Aunt Sook.

Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living In Paris
Stuart Street Playhouse, Radisson Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston (800-447-7400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 and 9 pm; Sun., 3 and 7 pm. Through Dec. 21. $42.50-$47.50. This musical revue features the lyrics and music of Belgian poet/lyricist/songwriter and performer Jacques Brel.

Looking over the President's Shoulder
Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell (978-454-3926). Wed.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 4:30 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Through Dec. 21. $35. This one-man show by James Still tells the story of Alonzo Fields, the first African-American chief butler at the White House, who served from 1931-1953.

Monticel'
Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-358-7529). www.bu.edu/bpt. *MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant Street. Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 21. $20.* In this play by acclaimed author Russell Lees, political machinations threaten to undermine Thomas Jefferson's run for the presidency—but life at Monticello has never been better for Jefferson's slave and mistress, Sally Hemmings. But Hemming's brother James, freed long ago, is back and stirring up trouble.

Shear Madness
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton St., Boston (617-426-5225). www.shearmadness.com/boston. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Tue.-Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 6:30 and 9:30 pm; Sun., 3 and 7:30 pm. Ongoing. $30-$34.* This comedic whodunit set in a unisex hair salon holds the record as Boston's longest-running play.

Snow in June
Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-495-2668). www.amrep.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Sun., 2 and 7:30 pm; Tue.-Thu., 7:30 pm; Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 and 8 pm. $35-$69. Through Dec.28.* The spirit of a young girl returns to seek revenge on the society that caused her death. Based on a 13th-century Chinese play by Charles L. Mee, the show blends Beijing opera and contemporary Americana, including bluegrass, Delta blues, Appalachian, Tex-Mex and Cajun music.

Who's Afraid of the Virgin Mary?
Machine, 1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-265 6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Thu., Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. Dec. 4-27. $20. This Christmas parody by Ryan Landry takes place in Bethlehem, where Mary and Joseph struggle though their daily existence and drink themselves into oblivion. Then the Kringles stop by for a holiday nightcap.

Dance

A Dancer's Christmas
Robsham Theater Arts Center, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (617-552-4002). www.blde.org. *Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Through Dec. 21. Special children's performance: Dec. 20, 2 pm. $25.* In its 23rd year, the Boston Liturgical Dance Ensemble tells the story of Christmas through dance.

José Mateo's The Nutcracker
Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard St., Cambridge (617-354-7467). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Thu. and Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat, 2 and 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 and 6 pm. Through Dec. 28. $15-$35. Jose Mateo's Ballet Theatre, Boston's second-largest professional ballet company, offers a smaller-scale production of *The Nutcracker* in an intimate setting.

The Nutcracker
Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston (617-456-6343). www.wangcenter.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 7 pm; Sun., 1 and 5:30 pm. Through Dec. 30. $19-$77.* The Boston Ballet's annual presentation of E.T.A. Hoffman's story about Clara and her fantastic dream adventure is set to Tchaikovsky's classic score. The show features a full concert orchestra and a live chorus accompanying more than 200 performers.

Salute to Vienna
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1492). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Jan. 4, 2:30 pm. $29-$86. Celebrate the New Year with a re-creation of Vienna's New Year's Day concert. More than 75 dancers, musicians and singers perform waltzes, polkas and Viennese operettas. Viennese Strauss specialist Manuel Hernández Silva conducts.

Comedy

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Comedy. Or e-mail info to comedy@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

STAND-UP CLUBS

Beantown Comedy Vault
Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston (781-729-2565). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Thu.-Sun., 9 pm. $10-$12. The Beantown Comedy Vault at Remington's features local stand-up comedians. •Fridays and Saturdays: Dick Doherty's Comedy Pro Tour •Sundays: Open-mike night.

Comedy at the Isle
Emerald Isle Bar, 1501 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester (617-288-3481). MBTA: Red Line to Fields Corner. Dec. 20, 8:30 pm. $10. DJ Hazard performs.

The Ecumenical Nunsense is at Lyric Stage through Dec. 27.

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Comedy Connection

245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-248-9700). www.comedyconnectionboston.com. MBTA: *Green or Blue Line to Government Center; Green or Orange Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Wed., 8 pm, $12; Thu., 8:30 pm, $12; Fri. and Sat., 8 pm, 10:15 pm, prices vary; Sun., 7 pm, $12.* The oldest comedy club in Boston draws nationally known comedians on weekends and showcases up-and-coming local talent during the week. •Dec. 17: Don Gavin and Harrison Stebbins •Dec. 18: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Dec. 26, $30: Dane Cook •Dec. 27, 8 and 10:15 pm and 12 am, $30: Dane Cook •Dec. 28, $20: Dane Cook •Dec. 29: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Dec. 30: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz •Dec. 31, 7 pm ($49), 9 pm ($60) and 11:15 pm ($39): New Year's Eve with Steve Sweeney, host of WZLX's Morning Show •Jan. 1: Frank Santos, the R-Rated Hypnotist •Jan. 2: Bob Marley •Jan. 3: Bob Marley •Jan. 5: Amateur Showcase hosted by Kevin Knox, the Wildman of Comedy •Jan. 6: Paul Nardizzi and Robbie Printz.

Comedy Studio

The Hong Kong, 1236 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-661-6507). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. $7-$10. Sketch comedy troupes and local comedians perform. •Dec. 17: Kelly MacFarland, Tony V, Robby RoadSteamer, Janet Cormier, Andy O' Fish, Sean Lilly, Carolyn Plummer, Tommy Morello and Ku •Dec. 18: Tim McIntire, Peter Dutton, Cydi Stiles, Dan Sally, Tony Moschetto and Chrissy LaVoie •Dec. 19: Baratunde, Erin Judge, Joe Wong, Jesse Shapiro, Eric Cheung, Larry Murphy and Chris & Dave Walsh •Dec. 21 Tony V's Annual Holiday Show •Dec. 26: DJ Hazard and Val Kappa•Dec. 27: DJ Hazard, Val Kappa and Dan Sulman •Dec. 28 Same Walters, Dan Sulman, Peter Dutton, Derek Gerry and Dot Dwyer •Dec. 31, 8 pm: New Year's Eve Show •Jan. 2: Erin Judge, Chris Walsh, Derek Gerry, Dave Walsh and Larry Murphy •Jan. 3: Erin Judge, Brian Gordon and Rick Jenkins •Jan. 4: Tommy Morello, EJ Murphy, Corey Manning, Erin Judge and Dan Hershon •Jan. 6: Mystery Lounge magic show.

Nick's Comedy Stop

100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-423-2900). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston or Orange Line to New England Medical Center. $10-$22. •Dec. 18, 8:30 pm: John David, DJ Hazard and Artie Januario •Dec. 19, 8:45 pm: Jim McCue, DJ Hazard and Artie Januario •Dec. 20, 8:45 pm: Jim McCue, DJ Hazard and Artie Januario •Dec. 26, 8:45 pm: John Fisch, Joe Carroll and Kelly MacFarland •Dec. 27, 8:45 pm: John Fisch, Joe Carroll and Kelly MacFarland •Dec. 31, 8 pm: Ken Rogerson •Jan. 2 and 3, 8:45 pm: Patty Ross, Ira Proctor and John Joyce.

IMPROV COMEDY

Faces for Radio

Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-510-4447). www.faces4radio.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Thu., 8 pm.* $8. Improv comedians poke fun at everything, including themselves.

Improv Asylum

216 Hanover St., Boston (617-263-6887). www.improvasylum.com. MBTA:*Green or Orange Line to Haymarket or Government Center. Wed.-Thu., 8 pm; Fri. and Sat., 8 and 10 pm. $15-$20. Dinner packages also available.* Improvisation and sketch comedy in the North End. •Wed.-Sat.: *Improv Asylum Announces the End of Major Hostilities*, a new show on the mainstage.

ImprovBoston

1253 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge (617-576-1253). www.improvboston.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central . $5-$12.* Boston's longest-running improvisational comedy troupe creates everything on the spot: the characters, the stories, the settings—even the songs and dances. •Wed., 8 pm $5: *The Hump*. This series for experimental and im provisational theater features ScripTease and The Tribe •Thu., 8 pm, $12: *Unnatural Selection*. A mas ter of ceremonies randomly eliminates players unti only one is left. 10 pm, $5: *The Great and Secre Comedy Show*. Brothers Chris and David Walsh per form stand-up and music, play short films and d character sketches in a display of sibling rivalr •Fri. 8 pm, $10-$12: *Playbook*. Eight playwright submit outlines for an original play, and the troup improvises a full-length show. 10 pm, $12: *Theatr Sports*. Two teams of improvisers face off. •Sat., pm, $12: *ImprovBoston Family Show*. 8 and 10 pm $12: *ImprovBoston Mainstage*. Blending storytelling music, audience participation and joyful chaos, cast of improvisers creates a show that changes wit every performance.

Stacy Keach plays Scrooge at the Cutler Majestic Theatre.

COMEDY SHOWS

The Best of Jimmy Tingle

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway, 255 Elm St., Somervill (617-591-1616). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Fri. an Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Additional performances o Dec. 28, 7 pm; Dec. 29 and 30, 8 pm; Dec. 31, 4pm 7 pm and 10 pm ($30). Through Jan. 4. $25. Se greatest hits and new bits from the Boston comedia and social commentator.

Joey & Maria's Italian Wedding

Tremont Playhouse, 275 Tremont St., Boston (800 733-5639). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Fri. an Sat., 7:30 pm. $49. This interactive dinner sho follows Maria and Joey through their wacky wed ding. Throw on a blue tuxedo or your puffiest gow and join the festivities.

Larry Lee Lewis Comedy Show

Chops Lounge, 1271 Boylston St., Boston (617-267 8300). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Saturday, 1 pm. $15. The Triple L Show presents 90 minutes nonstop variety entertainment. •Dec. 20: Spik Tobin •Dec. 27: John David.

Open Mike Night

Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (61 547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon., pm. Open mike for creative talent.

Stash's Comedy Jam

All Asia Cafe, 334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-49 1544). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. www.stashcome jam.com. *First and third Sunday of every mont 8 pm.* Enjoy standup comedy at this open mi with host Stash.

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Gone Fishin'

Despite iffy ideas, Burton hooks a keeper

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Sometimes the old Marshall McLuhan saying is right: The medium *is* the message. Tim Burton's comfortably rambling *Big Fish* is proof. Its central relationship, between a tall-tale-spinning Southern dad (Albert Finney) and his skeptical grown son (Billy Crudup) is only of mild interest. The bulk of the plot involves the semi-estranged son returning home after his father becomes ill, to try to wring some truth out of all the myths his father has repeatedly told about himself. Ultimately, the son learns to embrace the myths dad has wildly spun out of the truth, tales that, like Dorothy's dream in *The Wizard of Oz*, build from real people in his life. This gives the movie a dubious "fabrication over fact" message, embracing wishful embellishment over reality.

Ewan McGregor plays optimistic dreamer Edward Bloom in Tim Burton's new movie, *Big Fish*

That message might have been enough reason to dismiss *Big Fish*, if it weren't for the fact that Burton is its storyteller. *How* Burton tells the story trumps what he's telling here. That's because the exciting parts don't involve Finney and Crudup, and that's no jab at them. It's the flashbacks and fantasy sequences featuring Ewan McGregor that give the movie its life, that Burton really sinks his imaginative teeth into and that are the first things anyone will remember from this movie.

Ewan McGregor plays young Edward Bloom, Finney's character, in adventures rife with metaphor and larger-than-life fate. Most of them find Edward encountering his destiny in some way. In one, he leads a group of friends in approaching a dreaded local witch (Helena Bonham Carter), so each can look in her glass eye and, as legend holds, see his moment of death. In another, he lands an "uncatchable" fish in his hometown's river on the same day his son is born. In a third, he parachutes into China on a secret military mission and, in addition to carrying out his task, liberates a pair of Siamese-twin torch singers (Ada and Arlene Tai).

And in perhaps the most bewitching fantasy, Edward volunteers to talk to a giant (George McArthur) who's scared the local townspeople, and the experience makes him realize that, like the giant, he needs to leave town for larger surroundings. When Edward takes "the old road" out of town, he comes out in the hidden and blissfully idyllic town of Spectre, where Edward's life would be just grand if he stayed put. But he realizes it's not the life he's meant to have, so he moves on. (In Spectre, Edward also meets the wayward poet played by Steve Buscemi, one of the movie's more memorable characters, who returns in later action.)

These flashback tales emerge like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle, filling in gaps about Edward's life at different places. Another memorable incident comes when young Edward and the giant go to work in a circus (run by Danny DeVito's character), where Edward catches a fleeting glimpse of the woman he decides he's destined to marry (Alison Lohman) and eventually courts her. (Jessica Lange plays this woman later in life.)

Burton gives many of these fantasy sequences eye-popping colors suggestive of a View-Master slide, while McGregor's lively performance might remind you of another optimistic dreamer from a Burton movie—Johnny Depp's Ed Wood. With his performance as swaggering Camelot-era man-about-town Catcher Block in *Down with Love* and now his role as young Edward Bloom, McGregor has improbably shown himself to be a crackerjack portrayer of American gumption, amusingly capturing Edward's oversized personality.

The comparisons with *Ed Wood*—the least-seen Burton movie, but one of his best—run deeper than both movies' eager, undaunted heroes. *Big Fish* has a similar sense of community, and of colorful characters orbiting the hero. But those supporting players had more to do in *Ed Wood*, so the sense of community came across with more feeling and panache. In the uplifting ending of *Big Fish*, in which the son realizes the foundation of truth in his father's tall tales, there's a glib, pat closure that feels out of place in a Burton movie. But those colorful tales, and those exploits in fishing holes, hidden towns and witches' scary houses speak much louder than anything else in *Big Fish*. iB

Big Fish ★★★

Directed by Tim Burton. Written by John August. Based on the novel by Daniel Wallace. With Albert Finney, Billy Crudup, Ewan McGregor, Jessica Lange, Alison Lohman, Danny DeVito, Helena Bonham Carter, Robert Guillaume and Steve Buscemi. Rated PG-13. Columbia Pictures.

New Releases

BY PAUL SHERMAN

Bad Santa ★★★½
Finally, a Christmas movie about a degenerate. A cussing, sex-addicted, drunk degenerate. In a Santa suit. Billy Bob Thornton is an absolute hoot as the department store St. Nick who, with his midget, elf-costumed partner (the equally ticked-off Tony Cox), sets up shop every December in a different city and a different store, and then robs the store safe on Christmas Eve. This Santa's aversion to anything and everything besides drink and tail makes him an unrepentant poster boy for misanthropy, while director Terry Zwigoff (*Ghost World*) again proves his integrity by not wimping out with a soft, *Elf*-style ending. Full of bad taste and good laughs. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Cooler ★★
As he often has, William H. Macy plays a guy getting the fuzzy end of life's stick in this Vegas comedy-drama. He's a sad sack whose luck is so bad that his job is merely to turn up at the casino where he works and cool down gamblers' hot streaks. He's about to quit and, presumably, try to change his luck in life, especially now that he's started a relationship with a round-the-block casino waitress (Maria Bello). That might have been an interesting tale had writer-director Wayne Kramer stuck to it. Instead, the story brings in too many outside forces—including the return of the cooler's estranged son (Shawn Hatosy) and the pressures the casino manager (Alec Baldwin) is feeling to "modernize"—that clutter the plot. The interesting hero at the center just gets smothered by it all. (At Copley Place and Harvard Square.)

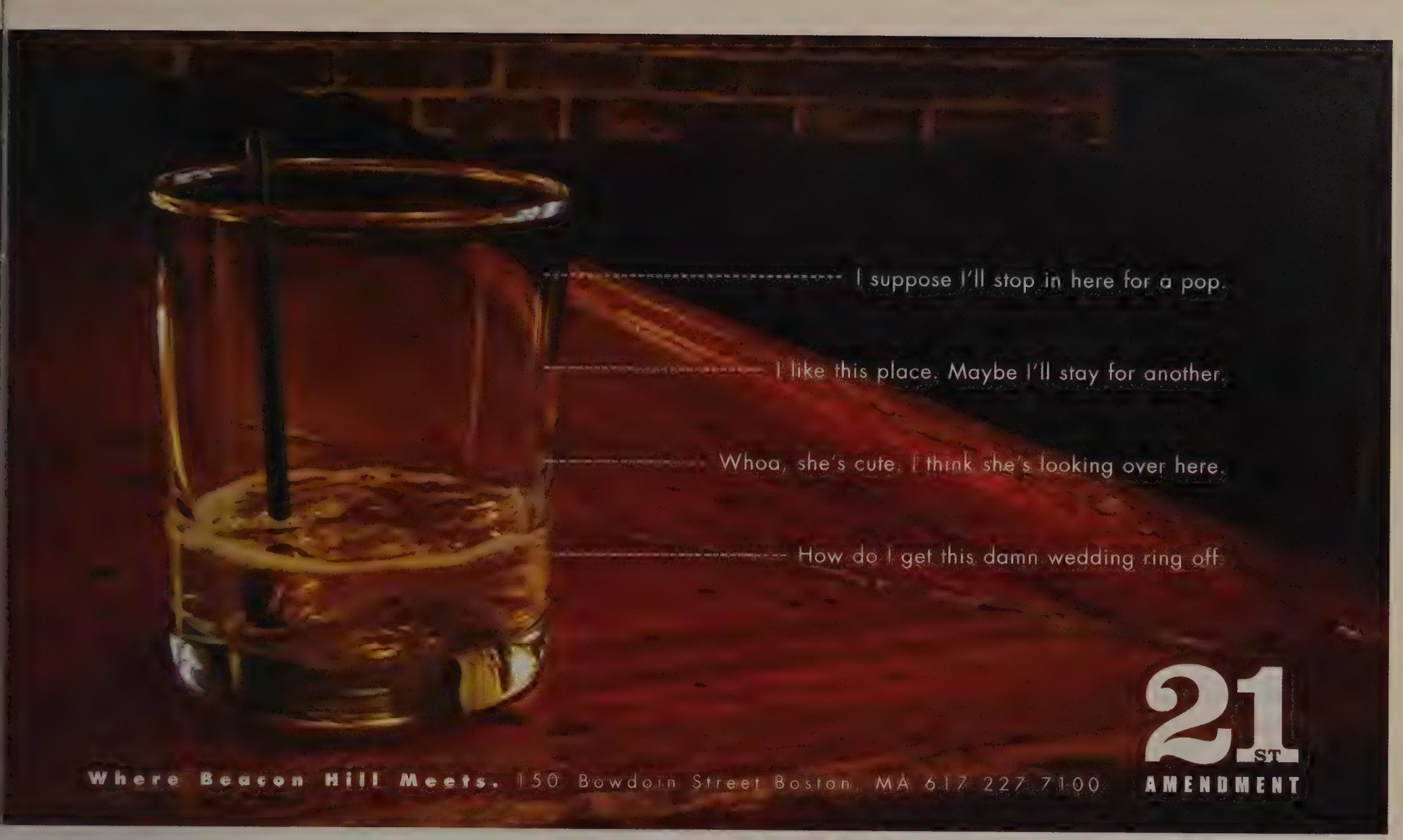
Elephant ★★
The plodding artsy touches in Gus Van Sant's movie, especially all those tracking shots of characters walking and walking (left over from his *Gerry*), make this the clear runner-up to *Zero Day* in the Columbine-inspired indie movie sweepstakes. The idea is sound: matter-of-factly following a group of characters on the day of a school shooting—some are victims, some are shooters, some are neither. The movie exposes all sorts of small everyday details, but there's little drama, little emotion, little reason to care. It seems more like a science project than a tragedy. (At Kendall Square and Coolidge Corner.)

Elf ★★½
The tale of a human (Will Ferrell) raised by North Pole elves, who travels to New York to find his biological father (James Caan), is amusing most of the way. Jon Favreau's direction adds some unexpected touches, like a strong eye for casting small parts well. But much of the good time is spoiled by the over-the-top, cloying, "heartwarming" ending. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The House of Sand and Fog ★★
Local author Andre Dubus III's father wrote the story on which *In the Bedroom* was based. Now the younger Dubus has had a novel adapted, and you could call this similar film *In the Three-Bedroom*. Like the previous movie, it compounds tragedy upon tragedy. The first is when emotional wreck Kathy (Jennifer Connelly) loses her house when it is mistakenly seized for nonpayment of taxes. Before she can correct the mistake, the house goes up for auction and is grabbed by a down-and-out former Iranian colonel (Ben Kingsley) who wants to sell it to maintain his family's standard of living. The struggle between these two people dependent on the house is inevitably headed for more tragedy, but the plot takes a convoluted and not very involving path to get there, and is too dependent on an imprudent sheriff's deputy (Ron Eldard) who tries to help Kathy but repeatedly messes things up. (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

The Human Stain ★★★
I wouldn't call Robert (*Twilight*) Benton's adaptation of Philip Roth's novel well made—it's unfocused and bursting with loose ends, and Gary Sinise's character is deadwood that might have been trimmed away. But most of this tale of a retired professor (Anthony Hopkins) with a secret, and the emotionally wounded younger lover (Nicole Kidman) he takes up with, is very involving, despite those problems. Hopkins employs unexpected restraint, while Kidman's stretch as a self-destructive working-class divorcée is impressive. (At Copley Place and Kendall Square.)

The Last Samurai ★★
Dances with Wolves goes east in this 1870s tale of a cavalry officer (Tom Cruise) who's sent to Japan to help train the emperor's troops to fight off a rebellion by samurai opposed to Japan's modernization. When the officer, who's been disillusioned ever since witnessing Custer's brutal campaign against Nativ



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Americans, is taken prisoner by the samurai and carted back to their mountain camp, he sees that, like the Indians back home, they're not the savages the government claims they are. Director Ed Zwick (*Glory*, *Courage Under Fire*) again exhibits the social conscience that is his trademark, but his message is compromised by his casting of Cruise. Although the movie salutes community and unselfishness, it also expends most of its energy glorifying its star. Ultimately, it's as hypocritical as someone who says "Do what I say, not what I do." (At Boston Common, Fenway and suburbs.)

Lost in Translation ★★★½
Sofia Coppola dealt with shared pain in her 2000 directorial debut, *The Virgin Suicides*, and she conjures up a similar funny-sad tone in her tale of two Americans (Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson) adrift in Tokyo. He's a washed-up movie star making a bundle endorsing Japanese booze; she's the wife of a work-consumed photographer (Giovanni Ribisi). They're staying at the same hotel and killing time at the same hotel bar, and their misery loves company. The characters make a great movie couple, although their relationship is platonic (with its share of sexual tension). Murray gives a Buster Keaton–like, sad-clown performance built mainly around physical and especially facial reactions to absurd situations, and Johansson is a little heartbreaker. (At Copley Place, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Love Actually ★★
Veteran English writer Richard Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) makes his directorial debut with this shameless romantic comedy, which operates under the same say-it-loud and pile-on-the-exclamation-points concept as the oversized greeting card. In his movie's case, that means he piles on about eight half-baked romantic subplots, hoping they'll miraculously accumulate into one big plot. If only. Nearly all of these subplots are flimsy and shallow, especially one with Hugh Grant as the new English prime minister. Unfortunately, Grant is back to his pre-2000 bumbling. Bill Nighy, as a desperate, aging rock star, and Rowan Atkinson (a frequent Curtis collaborator) add genuine comic relief occasionally. But a romantic movie as weak as this should not be allowed to use a song as good as the Beach Boys' "God Only Knows" during its climax. There oughta be a law. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World ★★★
An intense, eye-popping opening battle and director Peter Weir's realistic storytelling help this naval epic sail over dull patches, gabby interludes and ho-hum subplots. The level of authenticity is so much higher than any mere piece of spectacle in this 1805 story of the crew of an English ship that is attacked by a French ship, and then spends the rest of the movie tracking it to get revenge. Russell Crowe plays the battle-wise captain and Paul Bettany is the ship's inquisitive scientist, and though these friends' dialogues about the merits of science can't compare with the action sequences, Crowe especially breathes great life into his character. For once, the special effects serve the story in a big movie, and not the other way around. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

The Missing ★½
Endless, bloated and bland as a Saturday night in Wichita, Ron Howard's western features a flimsy plot, underdeveloped characters and his own tired direction. Cate Blanchett plays the 1880s frontier woman whose daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) is kidnapped by Indians, while Tommy Lee Jones plays her estranged father, who "went Indian" long ago and now offers to help find the girl, despite his daughter's resentment. Along the way, the frontier woman learns that there are good Indians and bad Indians, that Indian healing can work where her sort of healing won't and that Dad isn't the total dirtbag she thought he was. But don't expect this soggy, soulless movie to actually have a point of view. Every time a benefit of Indian, "nontraditional" culture pops up, a benefit of Eurocentric, Christian culture is sure to follow, and vice versa. And every time a drawback of Indian culture comes up, a drawback of Eurocentric culture falls in place, too. This is multiculturalism in the worst, safest sense. (At Boston Common, Fenway, Harvard Square and suburbs.)

Shattered Glass ★★★
The story of Stephen Glass, the hotshot *New Republic* reporter who turned out to have faked most of his articles, becomes a fascinating drama that avoids the usual stodginess of docudramas. Instead of showing us the hows and whys of Glass' fakery—does anyone really know that besides Glass himself?—the movie presents Glass (Hayden Christensen) as an eager-to-please go-getter who appears taken in by his own veneer of guilelessness (and also appears to be the best co-worker anyone could have). That self-deception may be the biggest and most interesting deceit in the movie, which also touches upon entertainment's dangerous, seductive power over journalism. The strong supporting cast includes Peter Saarsgard, Chloe Sevigny, Hank Azaria and Melanie Lynskey. (At Kendall Square and Copley Place.)

The Station Agent ★★★
This comedy about a dwarf (Peter Dinklage) who moves into an abandoned train depot in a small New Jersey town might have been a cloyingly quirky indie film. Instead, it's a pretty special experience. Dinklage's deadpan performance as Fin wryly captures how his character's expectations of his fellow man have been pounded down by their reaction to his height. Broader comedy comes from Bobby Canavale, as a food-truck owner who tries to befriend Fin, and Patricia Clarkson, as a woman escaping a fizzled marriage whom Fin tries to befriend. There's a wise and endearing clash of humanity here, and an unpredictable story to go along with it. (At Kendall Square.)

21 Grams ★★
Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu used time to great effect in his bracing debut, *Amores Perros*. In his follow-up (his first American-made movie), his use of nonlinear structure doesn't go so smoothly. Again Gonzalez blends three stories—of a newly widowed woman (Naomi Watts), a born-again ex-con (Benicio Del Toro) and a terminally ill professor (Sean Penn)—but the film's first half is so hyperactive that it's hard to get into it. That's when the action jumps so often—in time, and among the three characters—that it lacks a center. When the film finally settles down, and we see the three lives intersect, the action gets genuinely dramatic at last, and Watts' raw performance is especially compelling. But that first half is a big price to pay to get to the second. (At Boston Common, Coolidge Corner and Kendall Square.)

Zero Day ★★★½
The thought of a movie inspired by the Columbine school shooting isn't very appealing. But director and cowriter Ben Coccio's debut is a potent and involving tale of two high school outsiders (Andre Keuck, Calvin Robertson) planning just such an attack. The movie is composed of excerpts from the video diary the characters are filming to chronicle their preparations for the big day, and the action feels amazingly authentic. Keuck and Robertson are simply tremendous. They're also smart and initially likable, which makes the characters' on-camera gun demonstrations and their climactic attack all the more tragic. (At Copley Place and Coolidge Corner.)

Repertories and Revivals

Advice to Contributors
Submit film listings by fax (617-859-1446), mail to Calendar: Film or e-mail to film@improper.com. *Deadline is four weeks prior to publication.*

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
By Popular Request: Katharine Hepburn
•Dec. 22, 6 pm. **The Sea of Grass** *1947*. In this melodrama, the wife of a wealthy farmer (Spencer Tracy) discovers her husband's true nature and has an affair. Elia Kazan directs.
•Dec. 26, 6 pm. **Adam's Rib** *1949*. When a woman is accused of murdering her husband, she hires the wife (Hepburn) of the prosecuting lawyer (Spencer Tracy) to defend her in court. George Cukor directs.

BRATTLE THEATRE
Special Engagements
•Dec. 17, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 and 9:45 pm; Dec. 18, 2:15 and 4:45 pm. **From Here to Eternity** *1953*. Fred Zinnemann's film chronicles the lives and loves of a group of soldiers stationed in Pearl Harbor during World War II.
•Dec. 18, 8 pm. **It's a Wonderful Life** *1946*. Frank

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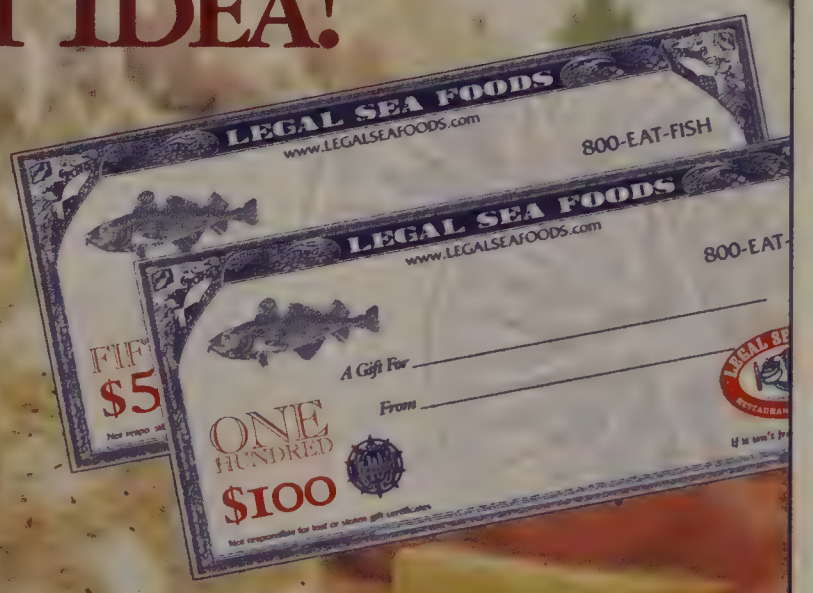

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Capra's classic tells the story of an angel who shows a despondent man (Jimmy Stewart) what life would have been like if he had never been born.

•Dec. 19, 22 and 23, at 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm; Dec. 20-21, at 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 pm. **Wings of Desire** *1987*. When an angel falls in love with a human, he descends to earth to live among the humans. Directed by Wim Wenders.

•Dec. 25, 29, 30, 31, Jan. 1, at 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 pm; Dec. 27-28, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 pm. **Modern Times** *1936*. Charlie Chaplin's last silent film tells the story of a man trying to adjust to the world of modern technology.

•Dec. 25-30, 9:45 pm; Jan. 1, 9:45 pm. **Gojira, Mosura, Kingu Gidora: Daikaiju Soukougeki** *(Godzilla, Mothra, King Ghidorah: Giant Monster All-Out Attack!) 2001*. Fifty years after his attack on Tokyo, Godzilla comes back to destroy Japan.

CLOUD PLACE

First Night Boston

•Dec. 31, 1-5 pm. **Cloud Place Film Series**. Teenagers from Lynn's Raw Art Works screen their short films.

COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Selects

•Opens Dec. 19. **Prisoner of Paradise** *2003*. Malcolm Clarke and Stuart Sender's documentary looks at Kurt Gerron, a German-Jewish actor who was sent to a concentration camp and forced to write and direct a pro-Nazi propaganda film.

•Opens Dec. 26. **Les Triplettes de Belleville** *(The Triplets of Belleville) 2003*. When her grandson is kidnapped during the Tour de France, Madame Souza and her dog Bruno team up with the Belleville Sisters, a song-and-dance troupe, to rescue him. Sylvain Chomet directs this animated film.

•Now playing. **21 Grams** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

In *Elf*, Will Ferrell plays a man raised by North Pole elves who travels to New York to find his biological father.

•Now playing. **Steve Earle: Just an American Boy** *2003*. Amos Poe directs this documentary about Steve Earle, the musician, author and antiwar activist.

•Now playing. **Zero Day** *2003*. See New Releases for a description.

Midnight Movies

•Dec. 19, 20, 26, and 27, 12 am. **Scarface** *1983*. Al Pacino stars in the story of Tony Montana, a Cuban émigré who builds a drug empire in early-1980s Miami.

•Dec. 19 and 20, 12 am. **Ghostbusters** *1984*. In this comedy, three unemployed parapsychologists (Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis) work as ghost exterminators in New York City.

•Dec. 26 and 27, 12 am. **Scrooged** *1988*. Bill Murray plays a tyrannical TV executive in this modern version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Richard Donner directs.

•Jan. 2 and 3, 12 am. **Ed Wood** *1994*. Tim Burton directs this fictionlized story about the life of Ed Wood, the director who made famously bad movies.

Special Screenings

•Dec. 22, 7:30 pm. **Scarface** *1932*. Howard Hawks' classic film tells the story of Tony Camote, a brutal, arrogant gangster who sets out to rule the mob world.

•Dec. 31, 12 pm-12 am. **First Night Film Festival**. WFNX's Connie White curates this film festival. See *www.firstnight.org* for a schedule.

THE FRENCH LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER

Rendez-Vous Celebrates Noël

•Dec. 18, 8 pm. **Astérix et Obélix Contre César** *(Asterix and Obelix Take On Caesar) 1999*. Based on the French comic books by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo, Claude Zidi's film depicts a small village and a magic potion that affects its people. (No subtitles.)

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

Family Bonds: New Films from Europe

•Dec. 17, 7 pm. **Lichter** *(Distant Lights) 2003*. Hans-Christian Schmid's film interweaves five story lines to reflect life in the areas near the Poland-German border.

New German Cinema

•Dec. 17, 9 pm. **Kurz und Schmerzlos** *(Short Sharp Shock) 1998*. Faith Akin directs the story of an ex-con who is reluctant to join his friends involved in organized crime.

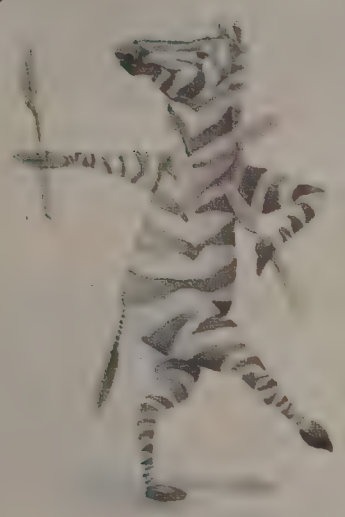
There are no screenings Dec. 18–Jan. 6.

HYNES CONVENTION CENTER

First Night Boston

•Dec. 31, at 1, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 7:30, 8:45 and 10 pm. **Japanese Anime**. The New England Anime Society screens short films made during the pas

UPSTAIRS ON THE SQUARE



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40 years. •Also showing, 1-6 pm and 7:30-11 pm. **Flippin' the Lid: Live Rock Music in Boston 25 Years Ago**. Jan Crocker's documentary features footage of local and national acts touring Boston from 1978-1982, including La Peste, Mission of Burma, Nervous Eaters, Unnatural Axe, Neighborhoods, Thrills, Lyres, Human Sexual Response, Someone & the Somebodies and Fabulous Billygoons. The 45-minute film runs continuously. •Also showing, 7:30-11 pm. **Roxbury Film Festival: Mid-winter Repeats**. Selections from the 2003 Roxbury Film Festival screen.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art on Film

•Dec. 26, 1:30 pm; Dec. 27, 10:30 pm; Dec. 28, 11 am. **Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time** *2001*. Thomas Riedelsheimer's documentary follows artist Andy Goldsworthy as he creates works of art out of leaves, stones, ice and other natural materials.

Czech Horror and Fantasy on Film

•Dec. 20, 12:30 pm. **Prolekti Domu Hajnu** *(The Damned House of Hajn) 1988*. The crazy uncle of a young bride stalks her and eventually drives the newlyweds mad. Jirí Svoboda directs. •Also showing, 2:20 pm. **Valerie a Tyden Divu** *(Valerie and Her Week of Wonders) 1970*. A 13-year-old girl receives a pair of magic earrings that make her fantasize about vampires and witches. Jaromil Jires directs. •Also showing, 4 pm. **...A Páty Jezdec Je Strach** *(...And the Fifth Horseman is Fear) 1964*. After removing a bullet from a resistance fighter, a Jewish physician searches for morphine through the Prague streets. Zbynek Brynych directs.

•Dec. 21, 2:20 pm. A series of short Czech horror and fantasy films screens. •Also showing, 4:10 pm. **Ucho** *(The Ear) 1970*. A couple worries about Communist authorities when they find their house bugged and their power and phone lines down. Karel Kachyna directs.

First Night Boston

•Dec. 31, 12:15-4:45 pm. The MFA's Festival of International Short Films screens.

French Cinema

•Dec. 17, 6 pm; Dec. 18, 3 pm; Dec. 19, 6 pm; Dec. 20, 10:30 am; Dec. 26, 8 pm; Dec. 27, 8 pm; Dec. 28, 1:45 pm; Jan. 3, 12 pm; Jan. 4, 4 pm. **Almost Peaceful** *2002*. A Jewish tailor and his wife try to re-establish their business in Paris in 1946.

•Dec. 19, 8 pm; Dec. 26, 6 pm; Dec. 27, 1:30 pm; Dec. 28, 3:45 pm; Jan. 2, 4:15 pm; Jan. 3 and 4, 12 pm. **Comment J'ai Tue Mon Pere** *(How I Killed My Father) 2000*. A French doctor's happiness is threatened by the arrival of his estranged father, who abandoned his family years ago to practice medicine in Africa. Anne Fontaine directs.

Italian Cinema: Restored Film Classics

•Dec. 17, 7:50 pm; Dec. 18, 12:30 pm; Dec. 21, 12 pm; Dec. 26, 3:30 pm. **The Great Dictator** *1940*. Charlie Chaplin directs and stars in this story of a lowly Jewish barber who is mistaken for the German dictator Adenoid Hynkel. •Dec. 21, 10:30 am. **The Tramp and the Dictator** *2001*. Kevin Brownlow and Michael Kloft directed this documentary about the making of *The Great Dictator*.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Mugar Omni Theater

•Through Jan. 16. **Space Station**. Blast into space with the astronauts and cosmonauts of the International Space Station. *Call for show times*.

•Through Feb. 12. **Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees**. Enter the world of the wild chimpanzees of Africa's Gombe Stream National Park. *Call for show times*.

•Through June 2004. **Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West**. Trek through raging rivers and uncharted wilderness to commemorate the bicentennial of their journey, brought to life by *National Geographic*. *Call for show times*.

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Simons IMAX Theater

•Now playing. **The Matrix Revolutions**. In this sequel to *The Matrix*, Neo and the rebel leaders battle the machines that have overpowered the human race. *Call for show times*.

•Now playing. **Bugs! 3D**. This film focuses on the world of insects in the tropical rain forests of Southeast Asia. See bugs magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size. *Call for show times*.

•Now playing. **Ghosts of the Abyss**. Director James Cameron takes audiences two miles beneath the sea's surface to explore the wreckage of the Titanic. *Call for show times*.

•Now playing. **Ocean Wonderland 3D**. This film explores the ocean floor of the Bahamas and Australia's Great Barrier Reef and finds sharks, sting rays and rainbows of tropical fish. *Call for show times*.

•Now playing. **Santa vs. the Snowman 3D.** A lonesome snowman turns his jealousy of Santa Claus into a full-scale war, with squirt guns and a 50-foot tall toy soldier. *Call for show times*.

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

•Dec. 20, 10 pm. **Sex, Lies, & Superheroes** *2003*. Constantine Valhouli's documentary looks at the writers and artists who have made comic books a medium for sophisticated stories and artwork.

Cinema Venues

BELMONT

Studio Cinema

376 Trapelo Rd. (617-484-1706).

BOSTON

Boston Public Library

666 Boylston St. (617-536-5400). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Cloud Place

647 Boylston St. (617-262-2949). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.

Copley Place (Loews/Sony)

100 Huntington Ave. (617-266-1300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley or Orange Line to Back Bay.

Fenway 13 Theatre

201 Brookline Ave. (617-424-6266). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.

Hynes Convention Center

900 Boylston St. (617-954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA.

Loews Boston Common

175 Tremont St. (617-423-3499). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave. (617-267-9300). MBTA: E Green Line to Museum.

Museum of Science

Science Park (617-723-2500). MBTA: Green Line to Science Park.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf (866-815-4629). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.

BROOKLINE

Circle Cinema

399 Chestnut Hill Ave. (617-566-4040). MBTA: C Green Line to Cleveland Circle or D Green Line to Reservoir.

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St. (617-734-2500). MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner.

CAMBRIDGE

Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle St. (617-876-6837). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Fresh Pond

168 Alewife Brook Parkway (617-661-2900). MBTA: Red Line to Alewife.

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St. (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

Kendall Square Cinema

One Kendall Square (617-494-9800). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT.

Loews/Sony

10 Church St. (617-864-4580). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.

NEWTON

Chestnut Hill Cinema

27 Boylston St. (617-277-2500). MBTA: D Green Line to Chestnut Hill.

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St. (617-964-6060).

SOMERVILLE

Loews/Sony

35 Middlesex Ave. (617-628-7000). MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan Square.

Somerville Theatre

55 Davis Square (617-625-5700). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.

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Sound and Vision

Concert DVDs and CDs to stuff the music lover's stocking

BY PAUL ROBICHEAU

'Tis the season for year-end lists and last-minute holiday gifts. Here are my picks for CDs and concert DVDs. The CD list is slanted toward my critical favorites of 2003, and the DVDs lean toward popular entries in a booming field. DVDs can't replace the experience of seeing these artists on tour, but they provide great bang for the buck, and are the next best thing to being there when the weather leaves you housebound.

CDs

1. Radiohead, Hail to the Thief (Capitol). The great Brit hope of modern art-rock splices abstract soundscapes with a return to accessible melodies and a bleak political outlook.

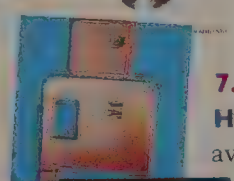
2. Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Nocturama (Anti/Epitaph). Shifts from melancholy poetry to the 14-minute opus "Babe, I'm On Fire," a relentless rave of tongue-in-cheek testimony.

3. Rufus Wainwright, Want One (DreamWorks). A new high for Wainwright's opulent, ambitious pop, which transcends its cabaret, Tin Pan Alley and operatic influences. A musical shouldn't be far behind.

4. The White Stripes, Elephant (V2/Third Man). The bastard child of Zeppelin-esque blues and cocky grunge, Jack White trades his duo's candy-cane minimalism for widescreen wallop.

5. Isley Meets Bacharach, Here I Am (DreamWorks). Soul legend Ronald Isley performs first-take magic, tenderly reinterpreting Burt Bacharach chestnuts with a live studio orchestra. American Idols need not apply.

6. Kings of Leon, Youth & Young Manhood (RCA). The South will rise again, led by scruffy sons of a Pentecostal preacher who found their rock and roll salvation in Tom Petty and the Stones.



7. The Bad Plus, These Are the Vistas (Columbia). A jazz piano trio deconstructs offbeat covers and originals with punk-rock attitude, classical finesse and sly counterpoint.

8. AFI, Sing the Sorrow (DreamWorks). Post-hardcore misfits whip their punk, metal and gothic ambitions into shape with dream-team producers Jerry Finn (Green Day) and Butch Vig (Nirvana, Garbage).

9. OutKast, Speakerboxxx/The Love Below (Arista). Andre 3000's "Hey Ya!" might be the single of the year, but these twin solo CDs prove hip-hop partner Big Boi's own funkadelic party is equally potent.

10. The Dresden Dolls, The Dresden Dolls (Eight Foot). A punk-cabaret duo in whiteface, Boston's most original act in ages exorcises the dark emotions in Amanda Palmer's theatrical songs of piano and pathos.

Concert DVDs

1. The Rolling Stones, Four Flicks (TGA). Stones fans get three concerts (theater, arena and stadium shows) from the recent Licks tour, plus a fourth documentary disc and DVD features like mixable setlists and "Select-a-Stone" camera isolation. Retailers fume at Best Buy's exclusive on this set. But as a sweeping souvenir of Stones classics and soul covers for only $30, it's a steal for fans.

2. Led Zeppelin, DVD (Atlantic). It's been a long time since anyone could rock to Zeppelin on tour, but that's all the more reason to marvel. Overdue footage from four different eras, amazingly restored, provides clear proof of the band's prowess and breadth, from the brash jazz-blues attack of 1970 to the swan song of 1979, plus rare TV clips and interviews.

3. Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Live in Barcelona (CMV). There's supposedly Fenway Park footage in the bonus featurette, but good luck spotting it. Get this DVD for the full-length concert in Spain. Not the hottest night of the Rising tour, but there are plenty of highlights from a flexible, front-row perspective.

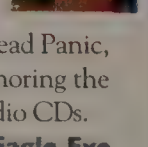
4. Peter Gabriel, Growing Up Live (Real World/Geffen). Better on DVD than in person. Fans get an inside/upside view of the fantasy props that transformed the center stage of this art-rocker's last tour, including his roll around the stage in a transparent ball, and an upside-down stroll.

5. U2, Go Home: Live from Slane Castle (Interscope). A climactic communion with the supergroup's hometown "tribe" at Slane Castle outside Dublin, where the exhilarating setting and emotional energy make up for sometimes blinding spotlights. Includes a 1984 documentary on the *Unforgettable Fire* sessions at Slane.

6. Rush, Rush in Rio (Anthem/Zoe). Another wild setting: The Canadian power trio plays its tour finale in front of 60,000 cheering Brazilian fans. Easy navigation (except for two hidden clips), a tour documentary and camera isolation (perfect to zero in on drummer Neil Peart).

7. Bjork, Vespertine: Live at the Royal Opera House (One Little Indian). Iceland's visionary avant-pop star mesmerizes with her band featuring the electronic duo Matmos, a harpist, an Inuit choir and full orchestra. The show is well filmed and interviews are included.

8. Dave Matthews Band, The Central Park Concert (RCA). A big event heavy on vintage DMB favorites, topped by a cover of Neil Young's "Cortez the Killer" with guitarist Warren Haynes (Gov't Mule, Allman Brothers). Briskly shot, but with good angles and exceptional sound.



9. Gov't Mule, The Deepest End (ATO). Shot in New Orleans with straightforward clarity onstage and earthy charm backstage. Guests range from the Dirty Dozen Brass Band to bassists from Widespread Panic, Los Lobos, Deep Purple, Primus and the Meters, honoring the late Mule bassman Allen Woody. Packaged with audio CDs.

10. Pat Metheny Group, Speaking of Now Live (Eagle Eye Media). No extras, but crisp sound and footage from Japan of the guitar virtuoso's most recent tour with his textural jazz-fusion outfit. iB

Advice to Contributors
Submit information labeled "Rock," "Blues," etc. by fax (617-859-1446), by mail to Calendar/Music, or by email to music@improper.com. Include dates, times, prices, phone numbers and nearest T stop. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication date. Listings not accepted over the phone.

Advice to Readers
Information for the Music section is compiled from different sources. Although we make every effort to provide accurate dates and times, changes do occur. Call ahead to double-check dates and times (see complete list of venues at the end of the section).

Top Billings

Addison Groove Project Dec. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Catch 22, Big Wig, Fall Out Boy and Punchline Dec. 28, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
JC Chasez Dec. 20, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Harry Connick Jr. Dec. 20 and 21, Colonial Theatre (sold out).
The Dresden Dolls Dec. 31, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
E-Town Concrete, God Forbid and All That Remains the Same Dec. 26, Axis (617-423-NEXT).
Jane's Addiction and Marilyn Manson Jan. 2, Tsongas Arena (617-931-2000).
Branford Marsalis Dec. 26-30, Regattabar (617-876-7777).
Mindless Self Indulgence Dec. 19, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).

Rock, Jazz and Blues

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

Abbey Lounge Army of Jasons, Jay Allen, Malibu Lou and the Benjamin Cartel, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Asgard Tom Groleau, 9 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bravo @ the MFA Ronnie Ron, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Breezeway Amigos.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Blues jam, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Lorraine and Bennett Hammond, 8 pm, $12, all ages.
Desmond O'Malley's Kellie and Captain.
Dick's Last Resort Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Fireplace Cookie the Sax Man, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Green Line, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grille Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Boston Blues Society Benefit with Matt Stubbs and Lloyd Thayer, 8:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Michelle Currie, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Lizard Lounge Billy Martin and Grant Calvin, 9 pm, $15, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Beantown Project and the New Youth, 9 pm, $9, 18+. ZuZu: Fully Celebrated Orchestra, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Lounge: Blackout Bar with DJs Mark and Damian, 9 pm, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Groove Authority, 6pm, no cover, 21+.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Roxy Miracle on Tremont St., 8 pm, $30, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Gypsy Schaefer CD-release show, 7:30 pm, $7, 18+. Dave Bryant Quartet, 9:30 pm, $7, 18+.
Skellig Singer-Songwriter Series with Tom Bianchi, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Logan, Groove Trust and Stymie, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Boris McCutcheon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Annie Raines and Paul Rishell, 7-9 pm, no cover, 21+. Ken Clark Organ Trio, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mary Timony, the Arrangement and Roh Delikat, 9 pm, $7.

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Western Front Zaccai Curtis Ensemble/Glenn White Ensemble, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Geoff Mullen and Eli Kessler, 10 pm, $6, all ages.
Les Zygomates The David Eure Band, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Abbey Lounge Destruct-a-Thon, Brett Rosenburg, White Trash Deluxe and the Marvels, 9 pm, $5-$7, 21+.
Asgard Brian Preman and Brogue, 9 pm, all ages, no cover.
Bill's Bar Baby Strange, Munk and Pure Fiction, 9 pm, $8-$10, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Bryne, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Mike Valares, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Kyle Aho, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Breezeway Pocket.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: New Day, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Scott E. Moore and Kevin So, 8 pm, $15, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Groove Authority, 7:20 pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Fireplace Erin Byrne, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge The Darren Simon Band, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Twisted Root, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Brick Park and DJ Lou, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Benefit Allstars, 8 pm, $10-$13, 18+.
Johnny D's Stevie & the Soul Shakedowns, Mick Mondo & Streaker, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown John Mansfield, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café Chris Pandolphi, Teliopop and New Renditions, 8:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Club D'Elf, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Blackline, Crumble, Era for a Moment, Oma and SED, $9, 18+. ZuZu: the Turpentine Brothers, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way Weekly Dig's Christmas Bash with Big Digits, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Lounge: Chords and Discourse Series featuring songs by the Clash, with Street Dogs, Lenny Lashley (Lenny and the Piss Poor Boys/Darkbuster), Chris and Henry Skel (the Skels), Jason Bennett (Suspect Device) and Rocco Antonelli (the USM), 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris Central Basement, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Shannell, 6:30 pm, 21+.
Sky Bar Rooftop Suicide Club, Brokenmadison, Riding Shotgun and Simple Discourse, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Paved Country, 7-9 pm; Caged Heat, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Just a Fire, Helms and Eyes Like Knives, 9:15 pm, $8.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Abbey Lounge Choo-Choo La Rouge, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Asgard Ryan McHugh, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon Mindless Self Indulgence, Tub Ring and Unkle Fucker, 6:30 pm, $18.25, all ages.
Bill's Bar Paranoid Social Club, Asect and Blue Ribbon Envy, 9 pm, $8-$10, 18+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Herman Johnson Jazz Quartet, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Damon Carter, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Shirley Lewis, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Church of the Covenant Traditional Christmas music with the Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drums, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Club Passim Jeffrey Gaines, 7 and 10 pm, $18, all ages.
Common Ground The Allstonians, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Grover Money and the Moon Unit, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Homeland Security Orchestra, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Freeze Pop, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Peatmoss, DJ Lou and DJ Rowdy B, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller Sing-along, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Lovewhip and Dr. Awkward, 9:45 pm, $7, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Matt Fulton, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café Natalie Flanagan, Jess McDonough, Karen Grenier and the Mickey Bliss Organ Combo, 8:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Dear Leader and Jed Parish & the Mother Tongues, 9:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East Corner: Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way The Anchormen, the Operators and Asian*Babe*Alert, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Namaste Cafe Open mike, 8-10 pm, $3, all ages.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Lounge: the Pill with DJ Ken, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris Central Basement, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Craig, cover varies, 21+.
The Rack Part Time Lovers, 7-11 pm, $5, 21+.
Roxy DJ Val Beatz, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Eguie Castrillo Group, 8 pm, $10, 18+.
Skellig Latitude, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Sky Bar Yellow Brick Ed, Living Inward and Local Radio, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad The Stacey Queen Band, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place American Analog Set, the Album Leaf and Shenzhou 5, 9:30 pm, $10.
Western Front Dis 'n' Dat, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Outtakes Unlimited, 9 pm, $10, all ages.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Abbey Lounge GTL All-Stars and the Other Girls, 9 pm, $5-$6, 21+.
Asgard Nate Watkins and Jack & Present Co., 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Avalon JC Chasez, 7 pm, $20, 19+.
Bill's Bar Bill's Dance Night, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne, Kevin Byrne and Sunday's Well, 4:30 and 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Tracey Rose, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Pondering Judd, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.

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Club Passim Felix McTeigue and Lori McKenna, 7 and 10 pm, $20, all ages.
Colonial Theatre Harry Connick, Jr., 8 pm, $39-$79, all ages.
Desmond O'Malley's Jim Gilmour Band.
Dick's Last Resort The Big '80s, 8:30 pm, no cover after 9pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Homeland Security Orchestra, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown The Mike Shea Trio, featuring Barbara Boudreau, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Random Axis, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Peatmoss, DJ Lou and DJ Rowdy B, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Michigan Blacksnake, 9:45 pm, $8, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Dorothy Miller, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Kirkland Café Surf Squad, Gein and the Graverobbers, the Clams, the Come Arounds and MC Mickey Bliss, 8:30 pm, $5, 21+.
The Linwood Pavlov's Dogs, Bossa Noga and Cheredovanie, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Paula Kelley and Her Orchestra, 9:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Damn Personals, Damone and Motion Sickness, 9 pm, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Chin Strap, Black Nasty and Travel for Days, 18+. Corner: Fifty Mission Crush and Dylan, no cover, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Brogue, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Murphy's Law Off the Wall, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
O'Brien's We're All Gonna Die, Medicine 4 Tim, Gut and Disengaged, 7 pm, $8, 21+.
Paradise Lounge: Adam Ezra Band with Rebecca Correia, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris Chad LaMarsh Band, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Brick Park and DJ Tom, cover varies, 21+.
Roxy DJ Adilson, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Teresa Ines Group, 8 pm, $12, 18+.
Skellig Jim Ambrose, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Sky Bar Passenger, Will Wilde Band and Tainted, 8 pm, $6, 21+.
Toad Greg's Saturday showcase, 7-9 pm; Sam Bisbee, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Mr. Airplane Man CD-release show, Dan Melchior's Broke Revue, Tunnel of Love and Michael Tarbox, 9 pm, $10.
Western Front Hot Like Fire, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Levin, Hollander, Morris and Cat Show Snapshots, 9:30 pm, $10, all ages.

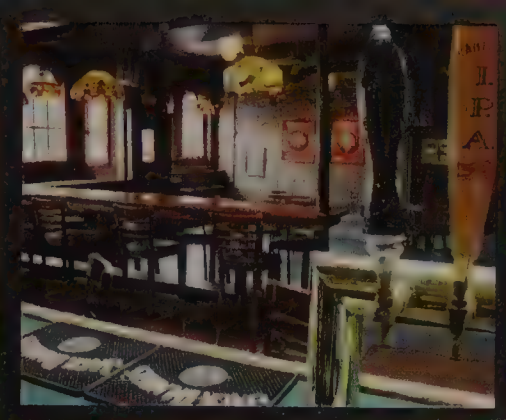
Addison Groove Project plays Dec. 31 at the Paradise Rock Club

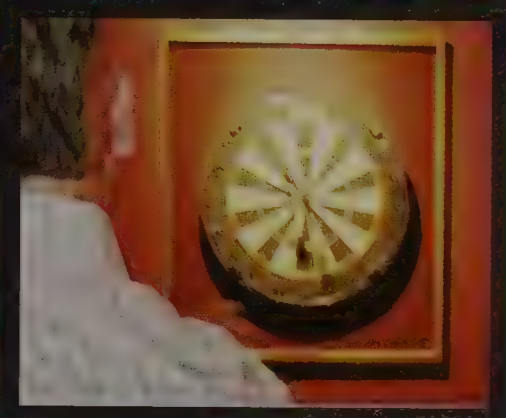
SUNDAY, DEC. 21

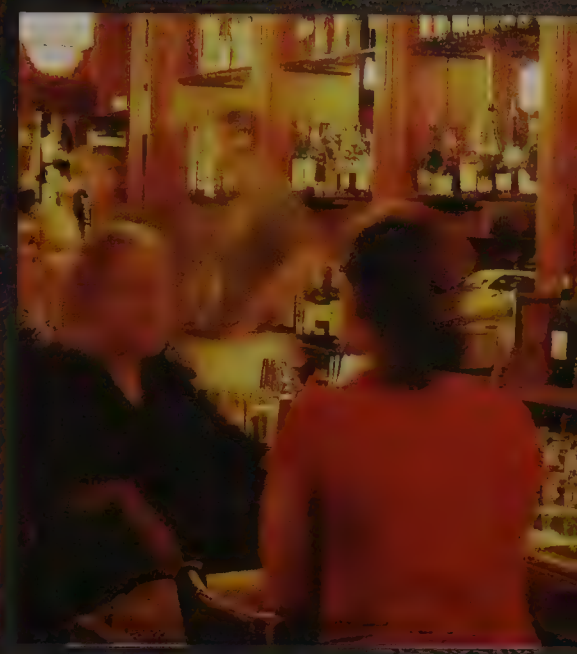
The Attic The Coalboilers, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Bill's Bar Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
The Black Rose Eugene Byrne and Kevin Byrne, 4:30 and 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with Sonny Watson, 10 am-3 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Jazz brunch with the Ronnie Ron Duo, 11:30 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Breezeway Michael Shea.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Blues jam, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Aine Minogue, 7:30 pm, $12, all ages.
Colonial Theatre Harry Connick, Jr., 3 and 8 pm, $39-$79.
Common Ground Blue Plate Special, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Bishop Charlie's Angels Gospel Brunch, 10am-3pm, no cover, all ages; Big Time, 7:20pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
First Church Cambridge Traditional Christmas music with the Middlesex County Volunteers Fife and Drums, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Swinging Johnsons, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Balla Tounkara, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harper's Ferry Nathan Sigman and Jim Gilmour, 8 pm, $5.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Matt Dorko and Larry Kukers, 9 am-2:30 pm, no cover, 21+. Blues jam, 4:30-8:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Sunday jazz brunch with Kezia Hirsey, 12-4 pm, no cover, all ages.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge The Jeff Robinson Trio at the Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam featuring Adam Rubenstein, 7:30 pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Suburban Sky, $8, 18+. Downstairs: SubStance 2K3 Benefit with Flutter, Mindfield, One of Us, Project Sphere and Salem Fires, $10, 18+.
Milky Way All the King's Men, 8 pm, $8, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Newton Free Library Lorraine and Bennett Hammond, 2 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Lounge: the Frolic Room with Thru the Keyhole Burlesque and DJ Brother Cleve, Electrolux and Heywood Wakefield, 7 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, cover varies, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Moadon Tsavta Boston, 7:30 pm, $12, 18+.
Sky Bar Haverchuck, Rule 56 and Bucky Spins, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Ry Cavanaugh, Sean Staples, Dinty Child, Jimmy Fitting and Billy Beard, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11 am-3 pm; Gordon Beadle Trio, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Tribute to Elliott Smith featuring Mary Lou Lord, Apollo Sunshine, Ad Frank and Jason Hatfield, 3 pm (rare film footage of Elliott shows at 2 pm), $12.
Washington Square Tavern Sunday jazz brunch with the Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Nat Mugavero, 3-5 pm, $3, all ages; Hey Rim Jeon and the Art of Trio, 7-9 pm, $7, all ages.

MONDAY, DEC. 22

Bill's Bar Monsta Monday, Bury Your Dead, A Perfect Murder, Since the Flood and Death Without Warning, 9 pm, $10, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Fishken and Groves, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Middle East Upstairs: Cherry S/T, Dead Friend and Purge D.I., 9 pm, $8, 18+. Corner: the Listening Post, no cover, 21+.







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Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, cover varies, 21+.
Skellig Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 8pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Mando Mania, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Shwang, 8-10 pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Gordon Beadle Trio, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Morning Theft, Mike Patterson and Dan Rogers, 8:30 pm, $3.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery The Fringe, 10 pm, $10, all ages.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23

Bill's Bar DJ Master Millions, 9 pm, $10, 19+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm, 21+; Howie Tarnower and Friends, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Cool Black Kettle, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill High Plains Drifters, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Tom Courtney.
Lizard Lounge The Twinemen, Maybe Baby and the Coots, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Corner: Mike Flanagan, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Lounge: The Ghost of Tony Gold with Slim Jim and the Mad Cows, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
The Rack ZMQ, 7-11 pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg David Johnson Band, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad The Frank Morey Band, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ad Frank, Meghan Toohey, Paula Kelley, Bo Barringer, Kevin Stevenson, Corin Ashley, Jake Zavracky, the Other Girls and Brett Rosenberg, 8:30 pm, no cover.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Raqib Hassan and the Interdimensional Science Research Orchestra, 10:30 pm, $5, all ages.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

The Attic The Coalboilers, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Breezeway J-Vibes.
The Green Dragon Tavern Green Line, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, cover varies, 21+.
Skellig Singer-Songwriter Series with Tom Bianci, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Trio, 8:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates The David Eure Band, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.

THURSDAY, DEC. 25

The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge New Day, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp DJ Lou, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Purple Shamrock Jim Plunkett.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Ronan "Fluffy" Quinn, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26

Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis E-Town Concrete, God Forbid and All That Remains, 6:30 pm, $10, all ages.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Celtic Clan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's ZMQ, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Damon Carter, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Jim Ambrose, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, 21+.
Club Passim Derek Rando and Mary Lou Lord, 8 pm, $12, all ages.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Grover Mooney and the Moon Unit, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Freeze Pop, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Flavor, DJ Lou and DJ Rowdy B, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller Sing-along, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Johnny D's Evan Goodreau Band, 9:45 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Matt Fulton, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Lizard Lounge The Chandler Travis Philharmonic, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Middle East Downstairs: Tru Indeed, Storm Session, Diogenes and Expert, $10 (free for women before 10pm), 18+. Corner: Whiskey Bent, Hell Bound and Mark Santorro, no cover, 21+.
Milky Way James O'Brien and the Church of the Kitchen Sink, the Karaugh Brown Band and the Scissormen, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's The McTaggarts, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Namaste Cafe Open mike, 8-10 pm, $3, all ages.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Paradise Lounge: the Pill with DJ Ken, 9 pm, $5, 21+.
Parris The Catunes, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Craig, cover varies, 21+.
Regattabar Branford Marsalis, 7:30 and 10 pm, $32, all ages.
Roxy DJ Val Beatz, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.
Ryles Jazz Club Herman Johnson, 8 pm, $8, 18+.
Scullers Pieces of a Dream, 8 and 10:30 pm, $24, 21+.
Skellig Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad The Armadillos, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Rocketscience and Superlow, 10 pm, $7.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27

Abbey Lounge Henry, 9 pm, $5-$6, 21+.
Asgard Jude Nemo and Matt McClusky, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Bill's Bar Bill's Dance Night, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, Jim Coyle and Celtic Clan, 4:30 and 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Pat Loomis, 7:30 pm, $3-$7, all ages.
Bristol Lounge Suzanne Davis Jazz Duo, 7 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Burren Tarbox Ramblers, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Upstairs: Little Joe Cook and the Thrillers, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim Felix McTeigue and Jess Klein, 7 and 10 pm, $20, all ages.
Common Ground The Joint Chiefs, 10 pm, $5, 21+.
Desmond O'Malley's Jug of Punch.
Dick's Last Resort Death by Marriage, 8:30 pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Borderland Allstars, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Mike Shea Trio, featuring Johnny Souza, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Syptifo, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.

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ADVANCE SEATING

UPCOMING HEADLINERS

Against Me, Anti-Flag, None More Black, and Rise Against Jan. 23, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Big Head Todd and the Monsters Feb. 27, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Sarah Brightman Jan. 31, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
Elvis Costello Feb. 27, Wang Center (617-931-2000).
Jen Durkin and the Bomb Squad Jan. 31, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Melissa Ferrick Jan. 31, Somerville Theatre (617-931-2000).
Art Garfunkel Jan. 31, Marriott Copley Hotel (617-931-2000).
Gomez Jan. 19, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Josh Groban Feb. 24, Wang Center (617-428-9393)
Hamza el Din Jan. 10, Somerville Theatre (617-876-4275).
Ari Hest and the Clarks Jan. 22, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Ill Nino and Sevendust Jan. 9, Avalon (617-423-NEXT).
Natalie McMaster Jan. 11, Symphony Hall (617-931-2000).
Bette Midler Jan. 20, FleetCenter (617-931-2000).
The Samples Feb. 29, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Sol y Canto Jan. 31, Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University (617-373-2247).
Starsailor and Tim Burgess Jan. 20, Paradise Rock Club (617-423-NEXT).
Take 6 Jan. 15, Blackman Theatre, Northeastern University (617-373-2247).
Three Doors Down Jan. 20, Orpheum Theatre (617-931-2000).
Cassandra Wilson Feb. 7, Berklee Performance Center (617-931-2000).

Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Harp Flavor, DJ Lou and DJ Rowdy B, 10:30pm, $10, 21+.
Johnny D's Milo Z, 9:45 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Dorothy Miller, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge Jim Infantino and Jim Bianco, 9 pm, $8, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: The Jabbers, Meat Depressed, the McGunks and Necrowafers, $9, 18+. Downstairs: Tede Afro and Nabugda, $25, 18+. Corner: DJ Kevyn Burnes.
Mr. Dooley's The McTaggarts, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Parris The Catunes, 10 pm, $10, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen and DJ Tom, cover varies, 21+.
Regattabar Branford Marsalis, 7:30 and 10 pm, $36, all ages.
Roxy DJ Adilson, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Herman Johnson, 9 pm, $9, 18+.
Scullers Pieces of a Dream, 7 and 9 pm, $24, 21+.
Skellig Johnny Come Latelies, 10 pm, $3, 21+.
Sky Bar Milkbar Droogies, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Toad Porterdavis, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Chris Taylor Quartet, 9 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ducky Boys, River City Rebels, Suspect Device and the Glow, 9 pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Blaise Siwula, Adam Lane and the Gill Aharon Group, 9:30 pm, $10, all ages.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28

The Attic The Coalboilers, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Axis Catch 22, Big Wig, Fall Out Boy and Punchline, 6 pm, $12, all ages.
Bill's Bar Monsta Monday, 9 pm, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well and Jim Coyle, 4:30 and 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Bob the Chef's Jazz brunch with the Rusty Scott Organ Group, 10 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Bravo @ the MFA Jazz brunch with Ronnie Ron Duo, 11:30 am-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Breezeway Jeff Felder.
Bristol Lounge Dan Greenspan Duo, 11 am-2 pm, no cover, all ages.
Cantab Lounge Blues Jam, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Club Passim The Resophonics, 7 pm, $12, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Silver Lining Gospel Brunch, 10am-3pm, no cover, all ages; Big Time, 7:20 pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Swingin' Johnsons, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Balla Tounkara, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Ridgley Snow, 9 am-2:30 pm, no cover, 21+; blues jam, 4:30-8:30 pm, cover varies, 21+ (under 18 with parent).
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Sunday jazz brunch with Kezia Hirsey, 12-4 pm, no cover, all ages.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell.
Lizard Lounge The Jeff Robinson Trio at the Lizard Lounge Poetry Slam, featuring Jared Paul, 7:30 pm, $6, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Paradise Lounge: the Frolic Room with Thru the Keyhole Burlesque and DJ Brother Cleve, 7 pm, $5, 21+.
Purple Shamrock DJ Massi, cover varies, 21+.
Regattabar Branford Marsalis, 3 and 7 pm, $32, all ages.
Ryles Jazz Club Jazz brunch with Steve Rochinski, 10 am-3 pm, no cover, 18+.
Sky Bar Backwoods, Gilt: the Lily, Under Falling Skies and Q, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Johnny Come Latelies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Ry Cavanaugh, Sean Staples, Dinty Child, Jimmy Fitting and Billy Beard, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bourbon Street Paraders, 11am-3 pm; Marshall Wood Trio, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Washington Square Tavern Sunday jazz brunch with the Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Western Front Merida Castillo Band, 5-11 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Kat Mugavero, 3-5 pm, $3, all ages; Naftule's Dream, 7-9 pm; Natraj Quartet, 9:30 pm, $8, all ages.

MONDAY, DEC. 29

Bill's Bar Monsta Monday, 9 pm, $8, 18+.
The Black Rose Tony O'Riordan, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Singer-songwriter open mike, 8pm; John Schindler, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Songwriter Tribute Night to Warren Zevon, 7 pm, $12, all ages.
Dick's Last Resort Nate Watkins, 7:20 pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Houghie Purcell.
Middle East Corner: Listening Post, no cover, 21+.
Purple Shamrock Scott Damgaard, cover varies, 21+.
Regattabar Branford Marsalis, 7:30 and 10 pm, $28, all ages.
Skellig Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.
Tír na nÓg Mando Mania, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Shwang, 8-10 pm; Tim Gearan Band, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Marshall Wood Trio, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Ad Frank, Cubby and Chris Zerby of Helicopter Helicopter, 8:45 pm, $3.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Three Play, 7-9 pm, $8, all ages; the Fringe, 10pm, $10, all ages.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30

Bill's Bar DJ Master Millions, 9 pm, $10, 19+.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
The Burren Open mike with Hugh McGowan, 7 pm, no cover, 21+.
Cantab Lounge Bluegrass Pickin' Party, 8 pm; Frank Drake's Short Life of Trouble, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

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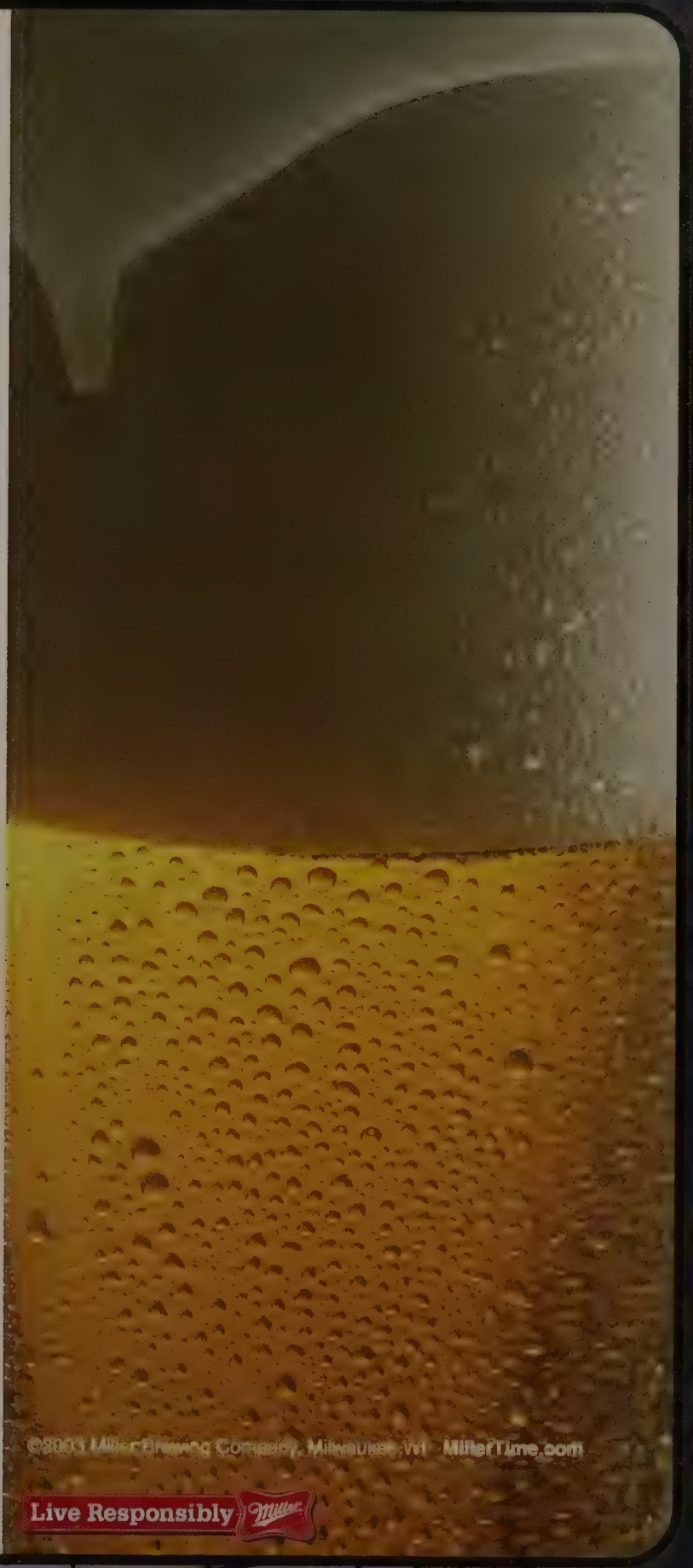

Club Passim Flynn and Ellis Paul, 7 and 10 pm, $20, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Cool Black Kettle, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill High Plains Drifters, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Richard Buckner, 8:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Celtic Clan.
Lizard Lounge Twinemen, the Family Jewels and Bourbon Princess, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Carbondale and Seneca, $8, 18+. Corner: Mike Flanagan, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Joe Bargar, 7-11 pm, no cover, 21+.
Regattabar Branford Marsalis, 7:30 and 10 pm, $28, all ages.
Sky Bar Natural Aggression and Black Apple, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Tír na nÓg David Johnson Band, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Frank Morey Band, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Bob Nieske Group, 8:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Mr. Curt and Open Hand, 7 pm, $7, all ages.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31

Abbey Lounge Beefy DC and Downbeat 5, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Axis The Dresden Dolls, 10 pm, $25, 21+.
Berklee Performance Center First Night presents Andre Ward, 8:30 and 9:45 pm, all ages.
The Black Rose Sunday's Well, 9:30 pm, $5, 21+.
Boston Common First Night presents Lonely Gus, and the One Night Stand, 7:30 pm; Dr. Awkward, 10 pm, all ages.
The Burren The Tarbox Ramblers, 21+.
Choppin' Block The Shitehawks, $5, 21+.
Club Passim Laura Distasi and Ellis Paul, 7 pm, $25, all ages; Owen Plant and Ellis Paul, 10 pm, $25, all ages.
Desmond O'Malley's Brogue.
Dick's Last Resort Classic Trix, 8 pm, no cover after 9 pm, 21+.
Elephant and Castle Pete Massa, 6 pm, no cover, 21+.
Emmanuel Church First Night presents Karin Parker, 6 and 7:45 pm; Donal Fox, 9 and 10:15 pm, all ages.
Encore Lounge Stacey Baker and Emily DeGraff, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Jose Ramos and the No Way Band, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Mike Shea Trio, featuring Eula Lawrence, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Green Dragon Tavern Green Line, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Blue Rhino Jazz Group, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Harpers Ferry Superhoney, 8 pm, $25-$30.
Hynes Convention Center First Night presents Chris and Meredith Thompson, 1:50 and 3:05 pm; Tarbox Ramblers, 7:30 pm; Kris Delmhurst, 9:15 pm, all ages.
Johnny D's Babaloo, 8:30 pm, $5-$15, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kinsale Christy O'Connell Band.
The Linwood Gang Green, Granite Ave, the Marvels, Nobody's Heroes and the Country Doctors, 9 pm, 21+.
Lizard Lounge Fooled by April, Flynn and Go Nova, 9 pm, $20, 21+.
Middle East Upstairs: Red Pill, 21+. Downstairs: Waltham, Kicked in the Head and Random Acts of Violence, 21+. ZuZu: Lyres, 10:30 pm, $10, 21+.
Milky Way Countdown to 1984 with Memories Forever and DJ Joseph, 9 pm, $20, 21+.
Oak Bar Rebecca Cline, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Orpheum First Night presents Josh Ritter, 7:30 and 9:30 pm; Pernice Brothers, 8:30 and 10:30 pm, all ages.
Paradise Addison Groove Project and RAQ, 9 pm, $25, 21+. Lounge: New Year's Eve party.
Park Plaza Terrace Room First Night presents Robbie O'Connell, 10 and 11:15 pm, all ages.
Parris Flavor.
Regattabar Didi Stewart and Friends, 9:30 pm, $95, all ages.
Remington's Al Vega Trio and Johnny Souza, 8:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Ryles Jazz Club Nicole Nelson Band, 8 pm, $40.
Scullers Spyro Gyra, 8 and 11 pm, $60-$70, 21+.
Skellig Boston Soul Revue, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
St. Paul's Cathedral First Night presents New England Bluegrass Band, 7:30 and 8:45 pm, all ages.
Tap Bruce Jacques, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Toad Sticky, no cover, 21+.
Top of the Hub Maggie Galloway Group and Common Ground Orchestra, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
T.T. the Bear's Place Lenny and the Piss Poor Boys, the Konks, the Charms and Valhalla Kittens, 9:20pm, $10.
Wonder Bar Barry Ries, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Zeitgeist Gallery Supergoo, Pear and Hebeats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates The David Eure Band, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.

THURSDAY, JAN. 1

The Attic The Coalboilers, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Burren Swingin' Johnsons, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.
Encore Lounge Mary Callahan and Brian Patton, 9:30pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern The Spitting Vinnies, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Dwight Ritcher Band, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch, 10 am-4 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town John Mansfield, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Oak Bar Sarah Brindell, 7:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Roxy DJ Val Beatz, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.
Sky Bar The Nitlings, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Grant Langford, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Silas Hubbard, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2

Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager, 9pm, no cover, 21+.
Bravo @ the MFA Bill Duffy, 5:30-9 pm, no cover, all ages.
Choppin' Block Jamie McLaughlin, $5, 21+.
Club Passim Steve Gillett, Cindy Mangsen and Jack Hardy, 8 pm, $15.
Encore Lounge Jan Peters, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Grover Mooney and the Moon Unit, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Fred Woodard Trio, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Jacob Wirth Mel Stiller Sing-along, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Midtown Matt Fulton, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Linwood Confront, Bottlefight and the Blue-Bloods, 9 pm, $6, 21+.
Milky Way Rockabilly.
Namaste Cafe Open mike, 8-10 pm.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Regattabar Roomful of Blues, 7:30 and 10 pm, $18, all ages.
Roxy DJ Val Beatz, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.
Scullers Spyro Gyra, 8 and 10:30 pm, $30, 21+.
Sky Bar The Bocks and the Screwdrivers, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Chronic and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Les Zygomates Ronnie Ron Trio, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.

SATURDAY, JAN. 3

Atrium Lounge Alfredo Cardim, 5:30-8:30 pm; Bert Seager, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Club Passim Grey Eye Glances, 7 and 10 pm, $18.
Desmond O'Malley's Clarlas.
Encore Lounge Kezia Hirsey, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Good Life Cambridge Weepin' Willie, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Good Life Downtown Mike Shea Trio and Johnny Souza, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Kilombo Mambo, 11:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's James Montgomery, 9:45 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Dorothy Miller, 8 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Linwood Foam-n-Mesh, the Tint and Laguardia, 9 pm, $7, 21+.
Oak Bar Bill Laughlin Jazz Quartet, 8:15 pm, no cover, all ages.
Purple Shamrock Pig Pen.
Regattabar The New Black Eagle Jazz Band, 7 and 9:30 pm, $14.

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Roxy DJ Adilson, 9 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Sky Bar Torque, Wicked, Heretic's Fork, Mongrel and No One's Kid, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Wonder Bar Rusty Scott Quartet, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4

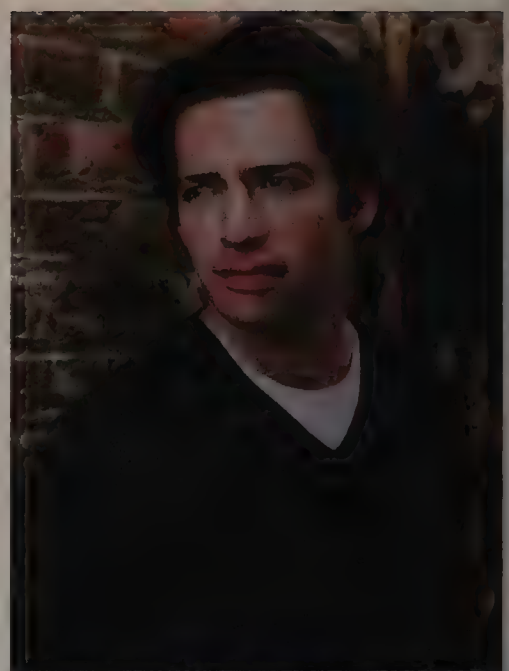
Bravo @ the MFA Jazz brunch with Ronnie Ron Duo, 11:30-3 pm, no cover, all ages.
Encore Lounge Carol O'Shaughnessy, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Swingin' Johnsons, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill Balla Tounkara, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Johnny D's Jazz brunch with Matt Dorko and Larry Kukers 9 am-2:30 pm; Blues Jam, 4:30-8:30 pm, cover varies, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Kennedy's Mid-Town Jazz brunch with Keza Hirsey, 12-4 pm, all ages.
The Linwood The Toiletboys, the Streetdogs and Biopop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.
Mr. Dooley's Mike Barrett, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Noise Gate CD-release show, Red Velvet Slide and Dave Horton, 8 pm, $7, 21+.
Washington Square Tavern Jon Hazilla Trio, 11:30 am-2:30 pm.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

MONDAY, JAN. 5

Encore Lounge Steve Heck, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
Wonder Bar Johnny Horner and Joe McMahon, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

Club Passim Open mike, 7 pm, $5, all ages.
Encore Lounge Bobby Femino, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
The Green Dragon Tavern Cool Black Kettle, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Green Street Grill High Plains Drifters, 10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.
Julien Bar Jeffrey Moore, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.
The Rack Myanna, no cover, 21+.
Sky Bar Barn Burning, 8 pm, $5, 21+.
Wonder Bar Mike McKenna Trio, 9:30 pm, no cover, all ages.
Les Zygomates Alvin Terry Trio, 8 pm, no cover.



Harry Connick Jr. performs sold-out shows Dec. 20 and 21 at the Colonial Theatre.

Music Venues

Abbey Lounge *3 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-9631).*
All-Asia Cafe *334 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-1544). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Asgard *350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-577-9100). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Atrium Lounge *Millenium Bostonian Hotel, Faneuil Hall, Boston (617-523-3600). MBTA: Orange or Green Lines to Haymarket.*
The Attic *107 Union St., Newton (617-964-6684). MBTA: D Green Line to Newton Centre.*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
Berklee College of Music *1140 Boylston St., Boston (617-747-8820). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Bill's Bar *5½ Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
The Black Horse Tavern *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston (617-227-2038). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Bristol Lounge *200 Boylston St., Boston (617-338-4400). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Bob the Chef's *604 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-743-2286). MBTA: Orange Line to Mass. Ave.*
Boston Harbor Hotel *70 Rowes Wharf, Boston (617-439-7000). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Bravo @ the MFA *465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3474).*
Breezeway *153 Blue Hill Ave. Roxbury (617-541-5400).*
The Burren *247 Elm St., Somerville (617-776-6896). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Cantab Lounge *738 Mass Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Choppin' Block *724 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-734-4177). MBTA: Green Line to Brigham Circle.*
Church of the Covenant *67 Newbury St., Boston. (617-266-7480). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Club Passim *47 Palmer St., Cambridge (617-492-7679). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Colonial Theatre *106 Boylston St., Boston. (617-426-9366). MBTA: Orange Line to NE Medical Center.*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Cottonwood Café *222 Berkeley St., Boston (617-247-2225). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Desmond O'Malley's *30 Worcester Road, Framingham (508-875-9400).*
Dick's Last Resort *55 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-8080). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
Elephant and Castle *161 Devonshire St., Boston (617-350-9977). MBTA: Blue Line to State.*
Emmanuel Church *15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3355). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
Encore Lounge *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
The Fireplace *1634 Beacon St., Brookline (617-975-1900). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Square.*
First and Second Church *66 Marborough St., Boston (617-267-6730). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
First Church Cambridge *611 Garden St., Cambridge (617-547-2724). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
FleetCenter *One FleetCenter, Suite 200, Boston (617-624-1000). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Forsyth Chapel *Forest Hills Cemetary, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Boston (617-524-3354)*
The Good Life Cambridge *720 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-868-8800). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Good Life Downtown *28 Kingston St., Boston (617-451-2622). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street.*
Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston (617-523-1112). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
The Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The Green Dragon Tavern *11 Marshall St., Boston (617-367-0055). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Green Street Grill *280 Green St., Cambridge (617-876-1655). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010). MBTA: Green Line to North Station.*
Harper's Ferry *158 Brighton Ave., Allston (617-254-9743). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Hennessy's *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Hynes Convention Center *900 Boylston St,, Boston (617-954-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes ICA.*
The Independent *75 Union Square, Somerville (617-440-6022).*
Jacob Wirth *31-37 Stuart St., Boston (617-338-8586). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Johnny D's *17 Holland St., Somerville (617-776-2004). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium.*
Julien Bar *250 Franklin St., Boston (617-451-1900). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
Kendall Café *233 Cardinal Medeiros Way, Cambridge (617-661-0993). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall.*
Kennedy's Mid-Town *42 Province St., Boston (617-426-3333). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Kinsale *2 Center Plaza, Boston (617-742-5577). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*

2003

Crystal Ball

NEW YEARS EVE

The Bay Tower Room

60 State Street (33rd Floor) Boston, MA

$85
10:00 p.m.
to
2:00 a.m.

$125
8:00 p.m
to
2:00 a.m

Lavish Hors d'oeuvres, OPEN BAR,
Champagne, Wine & Martini Bars,
LIVE Entertainment DJ "Lance Kussell"
Party Favors, Midnight FIREWORKS on the Harbor,
and Decadent Desserts.
Black Tie Optional

$85 / $125 ALL INCLUSIVE by (12/24/03) $100 / $150 door

www.sudiko.com or (508)276-1200

Kirkland Café *425 Washington St., Somerville (617-482-4920). MBTA: Red Line to Davis.*
Kresge Auditorium *MIT Campus, 48 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (800-275-8777).*
Linwood *69 Kilmarnock St., Boston (617-267-8644). MBTA: D Green Line to Fenway.*
Lizard Lounge *1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Marriott Copley Place *110 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-236-5800).*
Matt Murphy's Pub *14 Harvard St., Brookine (617-232-0188). MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village.*
Middle East *472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-492-9181). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Midway Café *3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, (617-524-9038). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Milky Way *403 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook.*
Mr. Dooley's *77 Broad St., Boston (617-338-5656). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
Murphy's Law *837 Summer St., South Boston (617-269-6667).*
Namaste Cafe *340 River St., West Newton (617-964-2985). MBTA: D Green Line to Riverside.*
Newton Free Library *330 Homer St., Newton (617-552-7145). MBTA: D .Green Line to Riverside*
Oak Bar *Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston (617-267-5300). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
O'Brien's *3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave.*
Old South Church *645 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1970). MBTA: Green Line to Copley.*
Orpheum Theatre *Hamilton Place, Boston (617-482-0650). MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park Street.*
Paradise Rock Club *967 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St.*
Parris *250 Quincy Market Building (617-248-8800). MBTA: Green or Blue Line to Government Center.*
Park Plaza *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-426-2000). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington.*
P.A.'s Lounge *345 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-776-1557).*
Pat Flanagan's *79 Parkingway St., Quincy (617-773-3400). MBTA: D Green Line to Mission Hill.*
Plough and Stars *912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-441-3455).*
Purple Shamrock *1 Union Square, Boston (617-227-2060). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center.*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051). MBTA: Green or Orange Line to Haymarket.*
Regattabar *Charles Hotel, Cambridge (617-661-5000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Remington's *124 Boylston St., Boston (617-574-9676). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-ROXY). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston.*
Ryles Jazz Club *212 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-9330). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Sanders Theatre *45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard.*
Scullers Jazz Club *400 Soldiers Field Rd., Cambridge (617-562-4111). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
The Skellig *240 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0679).*
Sky Bar *518 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-623-5223). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Somerville Theatre *55 Davis Square, Somerville (617-876-4275).*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore.*
St. Paul's Cathedral *138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-5800). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park.*
Tap *19 Union St., Boston (617-367-0033). MBTA: Orange or Blue Line to State.*
TechSpace *80 Harrison Ave, Boston (617-275-7000).*
Tír na nOg *366 Somerville Ave., Somerville (617-628-4300).*
Toad *1912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-497-4950). MBTA: Red Line to Porter.*
Top of the Hub *Prudential Tower, Boston (617-536-1775). MBTA: E Green Line to Prudential.*
T.T. the Bear's Place *10 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-492-BEAR). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Virgin Megastore *360 Newbury St., Boston (617-896-0950). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.*
Washington Square Tavern *714 Washington St., Brookline (617-232-8989). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington.*
Western Front *343 Western Ave., Cambridge (617-492-7772). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Wonder Bar *186 Harvard Ave., Boston (617-351-2665). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard.*
Zeitgeist Gallery *1353 Cambridge St., Cambridge (617-876-6060). MBTA: Red Line to Central.*
Les Zygomates *129 South St., Boston (617-542-5108). MBTA: Red Line to South Station.*

classical music

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in a program of Christmas favorites.

Music in the Cathedral
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston (617-482-4826). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. The Cathedral Church presents its annual *Messiah* sing-along concert.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Arnold Arboretum
Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (617-524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 7 pm. $15. Harpist Margot Chamberlain and recorder player Tom Megan perform early music as part of the Arboretum's Winter Solstice in Legend and Song program.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 17.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. $12-$40. Patrick Swanson directs this theatrical holiday celebration of Scottish music and dance.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1260). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $10. Benjamin Zander conducts the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of works by Cesar Franck, Paul Hindemith and Beethoven.

FRIDAY, DEC. 19

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 17.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

Church of the Covenant
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-7480). www.mcvfifesanddrums.com. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 8 pm. $15. The Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes and Drums perform traditional Christmas music with orchestral woodwinds, strings, fifes and drums.

Handel and Haydn Society
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handeland haydn.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $29-$58. John Finney leads An Italian Christmas, a program of Italian Baroque choral pieces.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Arnold Arboretum
Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain (617-524-1718). MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 7 pm. $15. Same program as Dec. 18.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 11 am, 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Guest conductor Bruce Hangen leads the Pops in a program of Christmas favorites.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 and 8 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

Handel and Haydn Society
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handeland haydn.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 8 pm. $29-$58. Same program as Dec. 19.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 1 pm. Free. The Prep Winter Festival features children's choruses, the String Training Orchestra, the Preparatory String Orchestra and the Youth Repertory Orchestra.

Martin Pearlman leads Boston Baroque Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Parish of All Saints
209 Ashmont St., Boston (617-435-3520, ext. 221). MBTA: Red Line to Ashmont. 4 pm. Free. Jeremy Bruns leads the All Saints Men and Boys Choir in *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.*

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 20.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1 pm and 5 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

First Church in Cambridge
11 Garden St., Cambridge (617-547-2724). www.mcvfifesanddrums.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $15. See listings for Dec. 19, Church of the Covenant.

Handel and Haydn Society
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-266-3605). www.handeland haydn.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm. $29-$58. Same program as Dec. 19.

MONDAY, DEC. 22

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 pm and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 20.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-585-1122). www.newenglandconservatory.edu. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 7:30 pm. Free. David Samour directs the Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble in a program of works by Vaughn Williams, Frank Ticheli and Philip Sparke.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 20.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

King's Chapel
Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 12:15 pm. $2. Collette Camp performs on hand bells, and Russell Camp performs on keyboard.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 12 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 20.

Emmanuel Music
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-3356). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. 11 am. Free. The chorus performs Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols.*

King's Chapel
Corner of Tremont and School Streets, Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 10:30 pm. $2. Organist Heinrich Christensen leads the King's Chapel Choir in a performance of Christmas carols by Hammerschmidt, Poulenc and others.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 20.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 20.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 and 8 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 17.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 1 and 5 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

MONDAY, DEC. 29

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 17.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7:30 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 3 and 7:30 pm. $22-$105. Same program as Dec. 17.

Christmas Revels
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-496-2222). www.revels.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. $12-$40. Same program as Dec. 18.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31

Boston Baroque
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-484-9200). www.bostonbaroque.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $20-$62. Martin Pearlman directs Bach's Orchestral Suites Nos. 2 and 3.

Boston Pops
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-1200). www.bostonpops.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 10:15 pm. $75-$158. Same program as Dec. 17.

King's Chapel
Corner of Tremont and School streets, Boston (617-227-2155). www.kings-chapel.org. MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. 9 pm. Heinrich Christensen performs works by Bach on the C.B. Fisk organ as part of the First Night celebration.

THURSDAY, JAN. 1

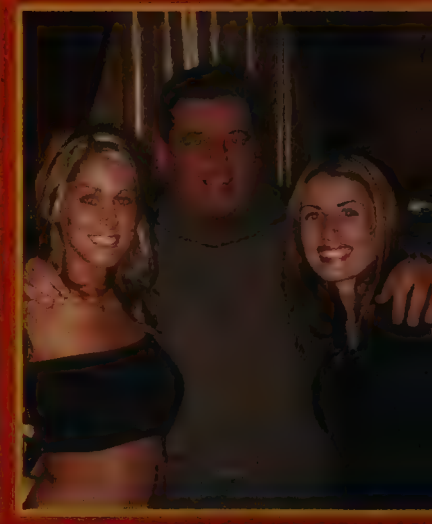
Boston Baroque
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-484-9200). www.bostonbaroque.org. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 8 pm. $20-$62. Same program as Dec. 31.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4

Salute to Vienna
Symphony Hall, 301 Mass. Ave., Boston (800-545-7807). MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. 2:30 pm. $38-$86. Manuel Hernández Silva leads the Strauss Symphony of America in a re-creation of the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Day concert.

Happy Holidays

THE RACK



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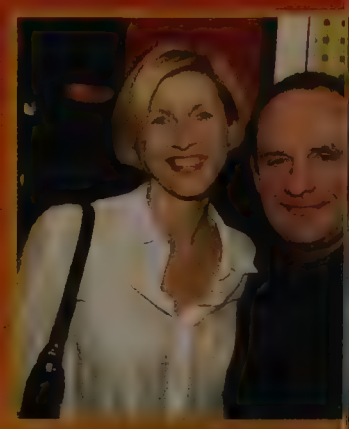

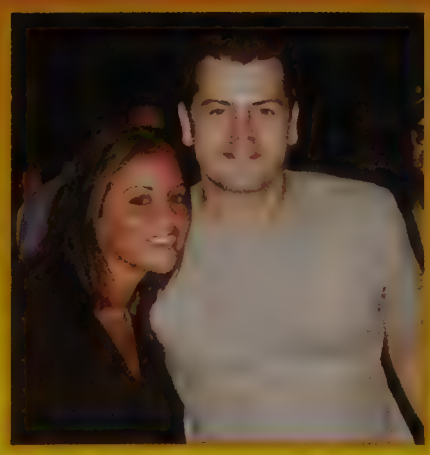

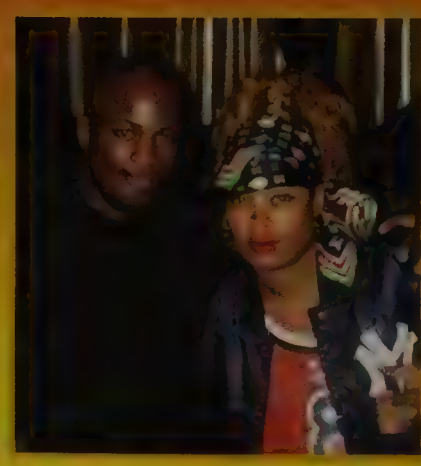

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dance clubs

Nights

MONDAYS

An Tua Nua
Ceremony A night of gothic and industrial music, 9 pm, $5, 19+.

Axis
Static Gay night with DJ Jay Ine spinning house, 10 pm, $7, 19+.

Bill's Bar
Monsta Mondays DJ Kaptain Krunch spins rock, and live bands perform, 9 pm, $6, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Martini Mondays DJ Sensae spins R&B and hip-hop, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Buddha Lounge DJ Kamel and DJ Christophe spin a mix of Middle Eastern and international beats, no cover, 21+.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, 9:30 pm, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Makka Mondays Featuring hip-hop, reggae and rap, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Scott Damgaard, live music, 9 pm, 21+.

The Rack
Dance Party with DJ Mike Janedy, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 22 and 29, Join the Patriots' Lonie Paxton and friends in a benefit for the Active Force Foundation, 9 pm.

River Gods
Weekly Wax Each week two local DJs hold a musical face-off, 8 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
S.I.N. Service Industry Night DJ Tony Moreno spins house, breaks and hip hop, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJs spinning top-40 tunes, R&B and dance. Downstairs: live acoustic music with Justin Beech.

TUESDAYS

An Tua Nua
What's Up Night A night of R&B, house, funk and soul music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Aria
One Nation DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Bill's Bar
Phat Tuesdays Old-school hip-hop with DJ D Sharp, 9 pm, $10, 19+, college ID required.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm, followed by live music, $5, 18+.

The Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The Kells
Orange DJs John Davis and Pat Fontes bring the house music, and weekly guest DJs drop by for a spin, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee spins house, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Phoenix Landing
Spectrum DJs Flack, Verbnine and C combine dub, retro-futurism and breakbeats, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

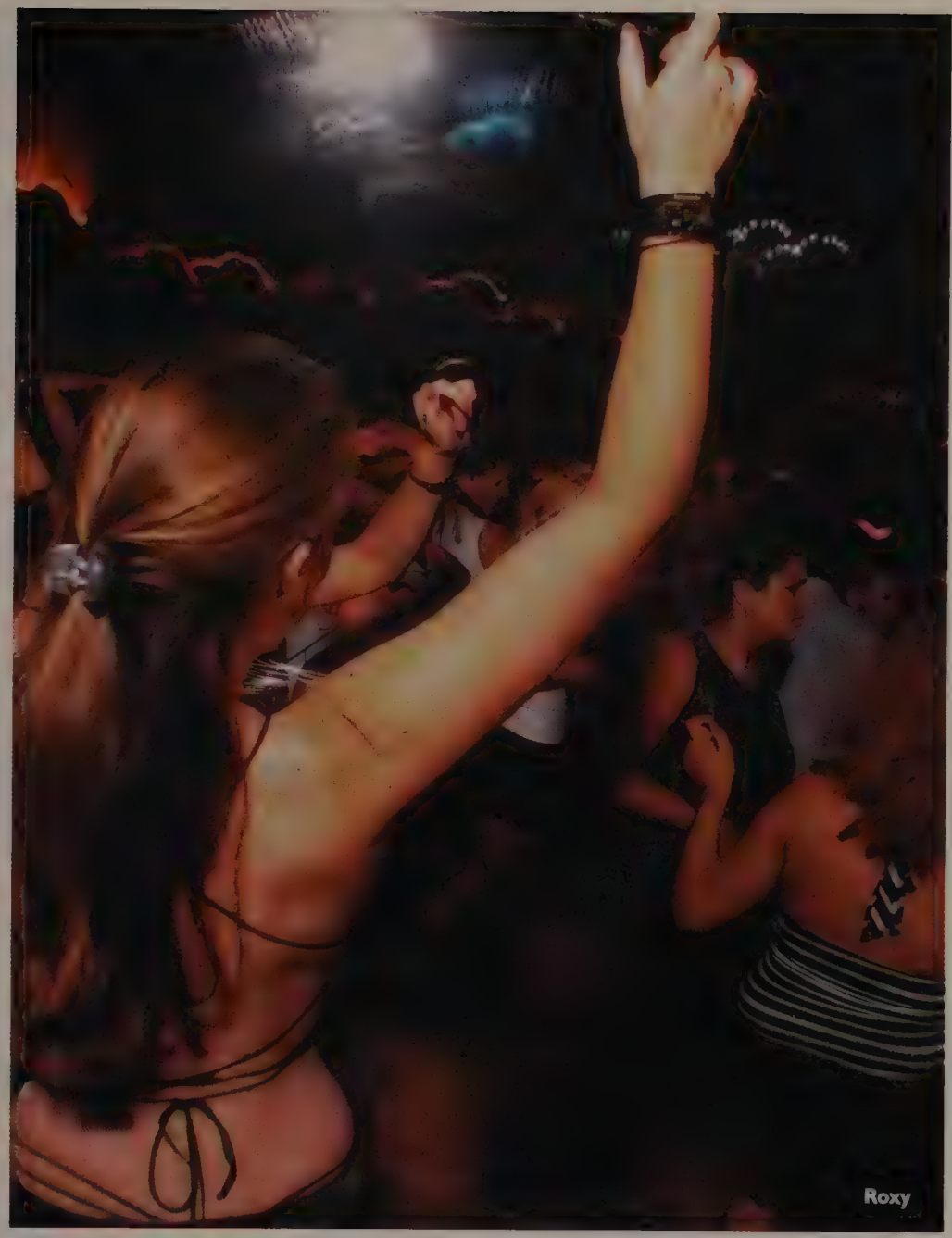
The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins, 10 pm. •Dec. 23, ZMQ performs live jazz, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 30, more live jazz with Joe Bargar, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+. •Jan. 6, Myanna performs, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Eavesdrop The weekly listening party kicks off at 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins top-40 and R&B. Downstairs: Stu Sinclair, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, $21+.

Venu
MYNT International Tuesdays DJ Eddy Lee spins hip-hop and house. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 19+.


Roxy

WEDNESDAYS

Aria
Lust DJ John Morris spins progressive house for a gay and lesbian dance party, 11 pm, no cover for 21+ (men), $5 for 19+ (women).

Caprice
DJ Vagellis spins Greek and international tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
What a Way to Go Go Mod Night with DJ Vin, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Emily's
DJs pump up the After Work Rush Hour, 5-8 pm.

Felt
Weekly Therapy Party Guest DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights spins, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
Get Over the Hump Wednesdays DJ Doc cues up R&B, top-40 and dance, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Milky Way
Mercury Lounge DJs Nomadik and Timmy Allen host this evening of soul, funk and house, 9 pm, $3, 21+.

Parris
•Dec. 31, New Years Eve Bash with Flavor, 8 pm, $50, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
DJs Shalako, Caseroc and Skye spin deep house, trance and grassroots techno, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

The Place
Beach Party night with DJs spinning top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
International Wednesdays DJ JC is in the Latin Lounge; DJs Alex and Felix are in the back, 10 pm, $15, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Q
DJ Sean spins a retro mix of '70s and '80s tunes.

The Rack
DJ Ricky spins spins dance, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 17, live music with Groove Authority, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 31, New Years Eve Bash, 21+.

River Gods
Cabin Stabbin' Wednesdays Dub and DJ Boogie Ba Do start the party reggae-style, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Dave Jordan spins dance and R&B. Downstairs: Live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Mastermillions spins hip-hop and top-40 hits, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Vertigo
Downstairs: Psychedelic trance music by DJs Dino, Mathwin and Dave Henshaw. Upstairs: Analog Lounge with DJs Pete Yagmin, Special Pete, Peter Ellis and Greg Blake, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

THURSDAYS

An Tain
DJs spin hip-hop, progressive, tech and funky house, 6-11 pm, no cover, 21+.

An Tua Nua
The Skinny DJ Ren Justice spins techno, top-40 and hip-hop 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Aria
Fashion House Weekly fashion shows; DJ Roger M spins vocal house, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
International Thursdays DJ Gee Spin and guests play rap and Eurohouse tunes, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Axis
Square One Thursdays Resident DJs Ali Ajami and John Debo host a night of progressive dance music, 10 pm, $5, 19+.

Big Easy
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40 in this New Orleans–themed nightspot, 9:30 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
On the Rocks DJ Mike spins top-40 dance and hip-hop, 7 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

Caprice
Hip Hop & International DJ Pup Dawg spins Indian and hip-hop music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Clerys
DJ Rhythm Nights, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Common Ground
Love Night DJ Brian's mix features tunes of the '80s, 10 pm, $3, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Steve spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Red Velvet DJs Geespin and Master Jay spin hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, 19+ (women), 21+ (men).

Embassy
DJ JC spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Emily's
After Work Rush Hour 5-8 pm; live funk, jazz and electronica, 8 pm, $5, 18+.

Felt
After work live jazz, 6 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Johan Van Cauwenberghe spins acid jazz, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou spins late night. •Dec. 18, Brick Park performs.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Nonstop music and dancing with DJs Christian, Massi, Joshua Carl, Damon and Push, ladies free; guys $5 after 10 pm, 21+.

I/D
Spend Resident DJs Nailz, Taner and Tasty cue up the beats, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Rhythm Nights hosts karaoke downstairs, 8-11 pm, 21+. DJ Massi gets the dance party started upstairs, 11 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
The Fun House DJ Edgar and DJ David James spin dance tunes and old-school, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Kinvara Pub
DJ Doc spins the latest tunes, 21+.

La Boom
Privilege DJ Felix cranks the noise, 11 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Life DJ Adilson pumps house, trance and progressive and DJ NFerna spins hip-hop, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Light
DJ Gabriel David Leon spins house, 5 pm, 21+.

The Modern
DJ Ricky Fatts spins house and hip-hop. 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

Parris
Central Basement performs, 10 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Elements DJs Crook, Lenore and Rando present drum 'n' bass with special guests, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Place
DJ Mike Janedy spins top-40 and dance, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ David Mee spins deep house, progressive techno, downtempo and soul classics in the front lounge all night, $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
Jim Plunkett performs live, 9 pm, 21+.

Q
DJ Hustle Simmons from JAM'N 94.5 spins hip-hop all night long, 9 pm, $5, ladies free all night, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Littles spins from 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 18, Shannell performs, 6-10 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
For Real, Too Reel DJs Dali and Ross spin a mix of electro, funk and '80s flashback, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Saint
Deja Vu DJs and weekly guest hosts spin lounge music, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

711 Boylston
Play Thursdays DJ trio Groovefire spins house music with special guests Beat Khemistry, 6 pm-2 am.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins new dance and R&B; Downstairs: Justin Beech, 9 pm-1 am, 21+.

Sophia's
DJ JR Vega hosts Latin Night with live music by the Latin Party Boys; free salsa lessons with Dan Marshall, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin plays hip-hop and house, 10:30 pm, no cover, 19+ with college ID.

Sweetwater Café
Dance to top-40 tunes, 5 pm, no cover, 21+.

Venu
Nu-Lite Hip-hop and house music, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Connection entertainment, Brazilian and Latin mix with DJ's Guy and Bruno, 10 pm, $10.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, 10:30 pm, 21+.

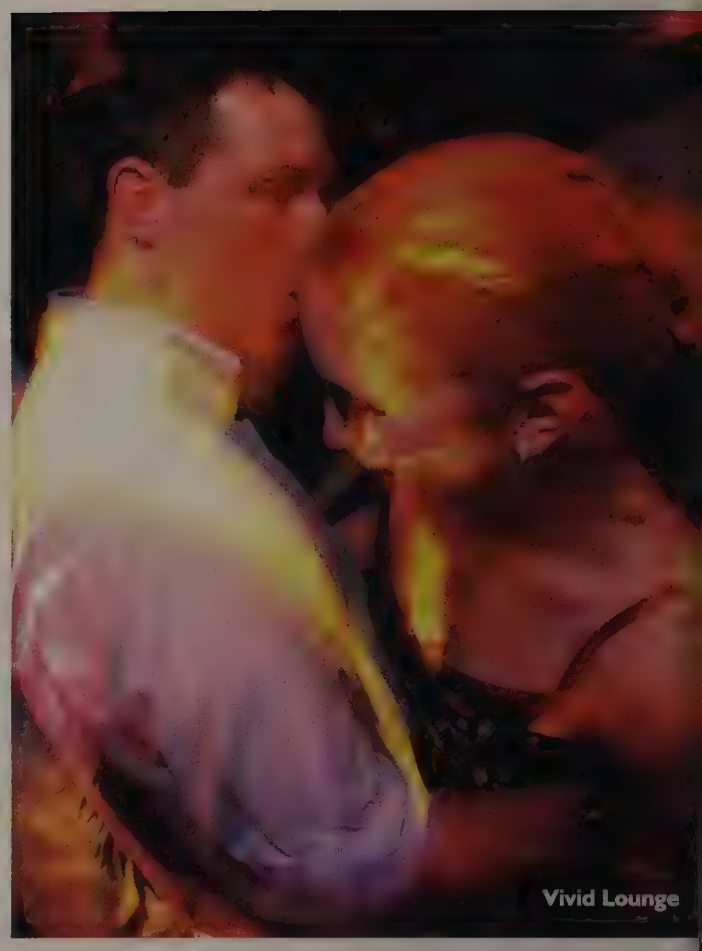
FRIDAYS

An Tain
TGIF DJ David spins hip-hop, progressive tech and funky house, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
Superlovers DJ Vinney spins disco and top-40 from the '70s, '80s and '90s, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Aria
Floss DJ Thanos spins hip-hop and R&B, 11 pm, $15, 21+ (men), 19+ (women).

Avalon
Avaland Guest and global DJs spin progressive dance music, 10 pm, $15, 19+.


Vivid Lounge

The Avenue
DJ Steve Austin spins hip-hop, old-school and dancehall, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and cover band Bob's Day Off plays the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
F Night WBCN's Bradley J spins '80s classics, and alternative and rock tribute bands perform live, 9 pm, cover varies, 18+.

Boston Rocks
Fridays at the Loft DJs Sensae and Johnny Walker Black spin top-40 dance and hip-hop tunes accompanied by interactive video shows, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Caprice
DJ Eddie K spins a mix of international, Latin and house music, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Circuit Girl
Anything Goes Melinda Ancillo hosts this women's night with DJ Kris Kono spinning house, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Tom spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Nailz and DJ Eddie Lee spin hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $20, 19+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
After-work live jazz, 6-9 pm. KISS 108's Romeo hosts and DJs the party, spinning high-energy dance, hip-hop and top-40, 9 pm, no cover.

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ Bob Gallagher spins '70s, '80s, '90s and vocal house, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The G Spot
DJs Paul Incus and Mike Traylor spin deep house, 9 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Dec. 18, Peatmoss performs live. •Dec. 26, live music with Flavor.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, $10, 9 pm, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Big Daddy spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
Ladies Night DJ Doc spins top-40, R&B and dance while DJ Mike Gioscia or DJ Edgar spins house and old favorites, $5, ladies free before midnight, 21+.

La Boom
Fashion Fridays Firefly Promotions hosts this fashion night featuring DJ Rick Naples, 10 pm-2 am, 21+.

Level
Secret Society DJ Hoff spins hip-hop, reggae an R&B on the fourth and fifth floors, and DJ Nik spins Greek and international tunes on the thir floor, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Light
DJ Gabriel David Leon spins house, 5 pm, 21+.

Matrix
DJ Adilson of Roxy Saturdays spins high-energ house and DJ Steve Spinelli plays top-40 and hip hop, 9 pm, $10, 18+.

The Modern
DJ JC plays Latin rhythms, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**The Male Encounter** New England's longest-run ning all-male dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show run 9 pm-1 am, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+. •**Oxygen** D Chaos spins a hip-hop mix, $15, 18+; $5, 21+. •**Ri** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip-hop in Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cover, 21- •**Rockpile** WAAF's Jay Ferrera broadcasts live, an rotating bands perform, 9 pm, $15, 18+; $5, 21- •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes up hits from the '70 '80s and '90s, $15, 18+; no cover, 21+.

Parris
•Dec. 19, Central Basement performs, 10 pm, cov varies, 21+. •Dec. 26, The Catunes perform live, pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Shake What Your Mama Gave You DJ Ren Justic spins disco, hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
Hang out with VJ Laptop and enjoy Boston spor video highlights, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
Glo Promotions hosts weekly guest DJs, 10 pm, $1 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Craig spins the latest hits, 10 pm.

Q
DJ B-Spin spins hip-hop and top-40, 9 pm, $ 21+.

The Rack
DJ Johnny C with KISS 108's Artie, 10:45 pm 2 am, no cover, 21+. •Dec. 19, live jazz music wi Part Time Lovers, 6:30-10:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Lite Nite DJ Easy spins a mix that includ neosoul and a few feel-good classics, 7 pm, cover, 21+.

The Roxy
Hip-hop, top-40, R&B and reggae, 10 pm, $15 f 18+, $10 for 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Steve Sosong spins dance; downstai live music, 9 pm-1 am, no cover before 10 pm, 21

Sophia's
Sangria and Salsa Salsa and merengue lessons, 10 pm, followed by the Latin Party Boys and D Mike C and Zino spinning Latin dance, 9 pm, $1 21+.

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Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in the front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro favorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ Boss plays hip-hop and dance, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows on two floors, 5 pm, $5, 21+.

SWI
DJ Littles spins, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Tequila Rain
DJ Tim Collins spins top-40, hip-hop and house, 10 pm, $5.

The Upstairs Lounge
The Pill DJ Ken spins U.S. and U.K. indie, Brit pop, mod, British invasion and '60s soul.

Venu
Roomba DJ Tarek Antabi spins international house while DJ Roger M kicks things up with Latin vibes. Jacket required, 11 pm, $15, 21+.

Vertigo
DJs spin hip-hop, house and vocals, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SATURDAYS

An Tain
Old-school house with DJ Steve, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

An Tua Nua
DJ Ren Justice mixes top-40, hip-hop, house and soul, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

Aria
Classic Spin Back Guest DJs spin classics of the '70s, '80s and '90s plus old-school hip-hop, 11 pm, $15, 21+(men), 19+(women).

Avalon
Resident DJ Nailz plays house, techno and trance, 10 pm, $15, 19+.

The Avenue
DJ Kevin Munroe spins house and trance, 9 pm, 21+.

Axis
Start! DJ Gibby spins alternative rock and '80s hits, 10 pm, $10, 19+.

Big Easy Bar
DJ Matt Phipps spins top-40, and local cover band, "Syndicate," plays the hits, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Dance Night DJ Rob Nockshis spins dance music all night, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Boston Rocks
Cover bands perform, 9-11 pm. VJ Johnnie Walker presents top-40 dance and hip-hop interactive video shows, 11 pm-2 am, $5, 21+.

Buzz
The gay crowd gets busy with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Caprice
Masai-Latin International Lounge DJ Franklin creates a lounge atmosphere with his international, Latin and house sounds, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

Coogan's
DJ Craig spins a mix of dance favorites, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Dockside
DJs spin R&B, reggae and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Ekco Lounge
Hollywood It's women's night at Hollywood with two floors of hip-hop and house music, 10 pm, $8, 21+.

Embassy
DJ Roger M spins international house, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Exchange
DJ G-Squared spins hip-hop and R&B, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Felt
DJ Ghost spins hip-hop and house, 9 pm, no cover

Golden Temple
The E Room DJ John Reed spins retro favorites, disco, Motown and the latest top-40, hip-hop and vocal house, 9:30 pm, 21+.

The G Spot
DJs Paul Incus and Mike Traylor spin deep house, 9 pm, 21+.

The Harp
DJ Lou is downstairs and DJ Rowdy B is upstairs with hip-hop, R&B and top-40, $10, 21+. •Dec. 20, Peatmoss performs live. •Dec. 27, live music with Flavor.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
DJ Massi spins top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Jose McIntyre's
DJ Dennis McCarthy cues up top-40, R&B and hip-hop, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

The Kells
DJ Darren Drag spins dance, R&B and top-40 while downstairs DJ O'Toole plays top-40, 10 pm 21+.

La Boom
Wild on @ La Boom DJ Tim Collins and KISS 10 host a night of music and dancing, 10 pm, 21+.

Level
•**Red Square Russian Lounge** DJ Albertik spins Russian and international music on the third floor 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+. •**Suspended Saturdays** D Peter D and DJ Rob D spin mainstream, vocal house travel and funk music on the fourth and fifth floors 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Light
DJ Gabriel David Leon spins house, 9 pm, 21+.

Matrix
DJ G Spin of JAM'N 94.5 plays hip-hop while th back room features dance favorites from the '80s an '90s and top-40 tunes, 9 pm, $10, $21+; $20, 18 ladies only.

Milky Way
Mango's Latin Dance Night. DJ Antonio Ort spins merengue, salsa and bachata beats, 10 pm, $7

The Modern
DJ Eddie Lee plays hip-hop, 10:30 pm, $15, 19+.

The Palace
•**Club Copa** Shake it to Spanish and Latin danc music and hip-hop by DJs Rip Hernandez an Willie D, ladies free, men $5 before 10:30 pm; $1 18+; $10, 21+ after 10:30 pm. •**The Male En counter** New England's longest-running all-mal dance revue, doors at 8 pm, show runs 9 pm-1 an $15, 19+; no cover 21+. •**Oxygen** DJ Chaos spin top-40 and hip-hop mixes, $15, 18+; $10, 21+ •**Rio** DJ Donnie Bennett spins mainstream hip hop in a Brazilian atmosphere, $15, 18+; no cove 21+. •**Underground** DJs spin hip-hop, top-40 dance, techno and reggae for the under-21 crowd 7-11 pm, $14. •**Uptown** DJ Freddy C mixes u hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s, $15, 18+; n cover, 21+.

Parris
•Dec. 20, Chad LaMarsh performs, 10 pm, cove varies, 21+. •Dec. 27, Live music with the Catunes, 1 pm, cover varies, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Boom Boom Room DJ Vinney spins 80s, new wav and disco, 10 pm, $4, 21+.

The Place
VJ Laptop entertains, 10 pm, $5, 21+.

Pravda 116
DJ Rick Naples spins high-energy dance, 10 pm $10, 21+.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Tom Hogan spins the groove, 10 pm, $5, 21+ •Dec. 20, Brick Park performs. •Dec. 27 and Jan. Live music with Pig Pen.

Q
DJ Josh Carl spins house and hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21-

The Rack
Star 93.7's Vinny Peruzzi and DJ Littles host the liv broadcast and dance party, 8 pm, 21+, no cover.

River Gods
Peer Pressure DJ Unlockedgroove spins, 9 pm, n cover, 21+.

The Roxy
DJ Adilson spins house and techno, 9 pm, $15, 21+.

711 Boylston
Fever DJ Yorgo spins a mix of ethnic and interna tional music, 10:30 pm, 21+.

Sissy K's
Upstairs: DJ Tom McKenna spins dance, 8 pm Downstairs: Kevin Kirrane, 9 pm, no cover befo 10 pm.

Sophia's
DJ Zino spins salsa and merengue while a Latin ban plays on the first floor and DJ Edwin Matos spi Latin dance on the second floor, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Spin
DJ Anthony Salvatie spins top-40 dance in th front room and DJ Steve Anderson spins retro f vorites in the white room, 10 pm, 21+, $5.

The Sugar Shack
DJ B-Spin blends hip-hop and house, 9 pm, $ 21+.

Sweetwater Café
Top-40 and acoustic shows, two floors, 8 pm, $ 21+.

Venu
Nula DJ JC plays Latin house, and DJs Tar Antabi and Gamble spin house and hip-hop, pm, 19+.

Vertigo
DJ Ron Steele plays R&B, hip-hop and house, pm, $15, 21+.

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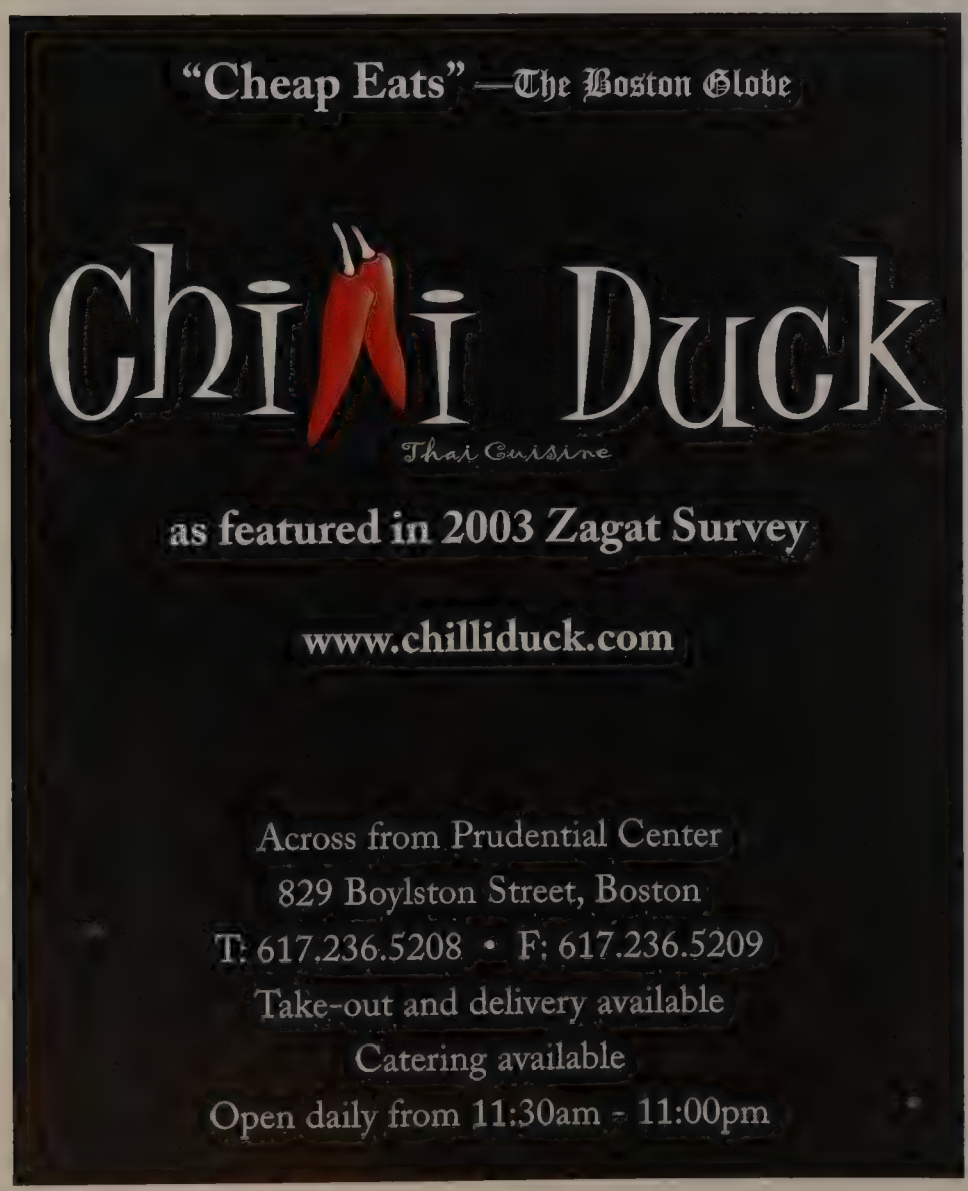


Vivid Lounge
Brian Roache spins top-40, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The West Street Grille
Late Night Lounge DJs Laze and Gabe play funk and top-40 all night, 10:30 pm, 21+.

SUNDAYS

An Tua Nua
DJ Adrienne spins Brit-pop and new wave tunes, 9 pm-1 am, $3, 19+.

Aria
DJ Roger M spins international house and Latin pop, 11pm, $15, 21+.

Avalon
Gay Night DJs spin progressive house, trance and techno, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Bill's Bar
Reggae Sundays Sunday night reggae features Dub Station and DJ K-Don, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Boston Rocks
DJs spin hip-hop, 9 pm, $5, 21+.

Felt
Play DJ Eddy K spins the tunes at service industry night, no cover.

Hurricane O'Reilly's
Fluid Sundays DJs Joshua Carl and Paul Dailey spin tribal and deep house, breaks, techno and jungle beats, 9:30 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Kells
SIN DJs Doce spin hip-hop, house and top-40, 11 pm, no cover.

La Boom
Futurebeat: Alien Disco DJ Addambombb spins a mix of retro progressive tracks, trip-hop and synth-pop, 9 pm, $8, 21+.

Level
Rotating DJs spin Latin and international on the third floor and hip-hop, reggae, R&B and house on the fourth and fifth floors, 10 pm-2 am, $10, 21+.

Milky Way
Mystic Reggae DJ Junior Rodigan spins reggae, 9 pm, $10, 21+.

Phoenix Landing
Bump This house-music night has a rotating roster of local and international guest DJs, 10 pm, $3, 19+.

The Place
DJs spin top-40 and dance, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Pravda 116
Red Square Lounge The front bar becomes a lounge, 10 pm-2 am.

The Purple Shamrock
DJ Massi tops the weekend off with an array of tunes, 10 pm, no cover, 21+.

The Rack
DJ Mike Janedy spins hip-hop and top-40, 10 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+.

River Gods
Reverie Boston DJ Shannon and weekly guest DJs spin goth, industrial and lounge, 9 pm, no cover, 21+.

Sissy K's
DJ Dave Jordan plays an array of top-40 tunes; then check out Greg Lattrell, 9 pm, 21+.

Trio
Vibe Lounge DJs provide the vibe, 10 pm, 21+.

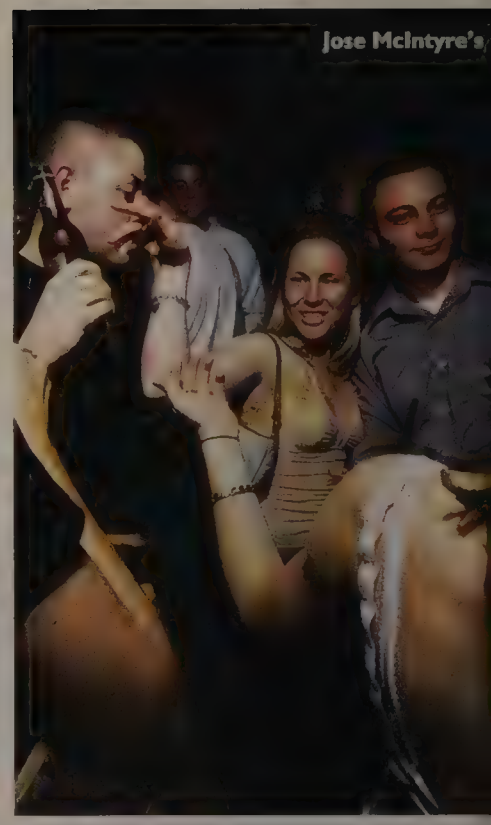
Venu
Carnivale comes to Boston with this Brazilian night as DJ Leandro spins Brazilian beats, 11 pm, $15, 19+.

Vertigo
Haitian Connection DJ Deville spins reggae and world beats, 10 pm, $10, 21+.

Whiskey Park
Cherry DJ Ricky Fatts spins rock classics, hip-hop, house and R&B.

Club Venues

An Tain *35 India St., Boston (617-426-1870).*
An Tua Nua *835 Beacon St., Boston (617-262-2121).*
Aria *246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080).*
Avalon *15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424).*
The Avenue *1249 Comm. Ave., Allston (617-782-9508).*
Axis *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Big Easy Bar *Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000).*
Bill's Bar *5 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-421-9678).*
Boston Rocks *245 Quincy St., Boston (617-726-1110).*
Buzz *51 Stuart St., Boston (617-482-3939).*
Caprice *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-292-0080).*
Circuit Girl *Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000).*
Clerys *331 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-262-9874).*
Common Ground *85 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-2071).*
Coogan's *173 Milk St., Boston (617-451-7415).*
Dad's *911 Boylston St., Boston (617-296-3237).*
Dockside *183 State St., Boston (617-723-7050).*



Ekco Lounge *41 Essex St., Boston (617-417-0186).*
Embassy *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-536-2100).*
The Exchange *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7601).*
Felt *533 Washington St., Boston (617-350-5555).*
Golden Temple *1651 Beacon St., Brookline (617-277-9722).*
Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton (617-789-4100).*
The G Spot *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston (617-742-1010).*
Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St., Boston (617-722-0161).*
I/D *13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437).*
Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston (617-451-9460).*
The Kells *161 Brighton Ave., Brighton (617-782-9082).*
Kinvara Pub *34 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-783-9400).*
La Boom *One Boylston Place, Boston (617-357-6800).*
Level *295 Franklin St., Boston (617-338-1000).*
Light *48 Winter St., Boston (617-423-3649).*
Matrix *275 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4077).*
Milky Way *403-405 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740).*
The Modern *30-36 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-351-2581).*
The Palace *(El Copa, Male Encounter, Officers' Club, Oxygen, Rio, Underground and Uptown) 1500 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston (617-248-9900).*
Phoenix Landing *512 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6260).*
The Place *2 Broad St., Boston (617-523-2081).*
Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston (617-482-7799).*
The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston (617-227-2060).*
Q *25 Union St., Boston (617-742-2121).*
The Rack *24 Clinton St., Boston (617-725-1051).*
River Gods *125 River St., Cambridge (617-576-1881).*
Roxy *279 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7699).*
Saint *90 Exeter St., Boston (617-236-1134)*
711 Boylston *711 Boylston St., Boston (617-437-0002)*
Sissy K's *6 Commercial St., Boston (617-248-6511)*
Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston (617-351-7001)*
Spin *1466 Broadway, Saugus (781-321-1660).*
Sugar Shack *1 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-7000)*
Sweetwater Café *5 Boylston Place, Boston (617-351-2515).*
Tequila Rain *3 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-437-0300).*
Tonic *1316 Comm. Ave., Brighton (617-566-6699)*
Trio *174 Lincoln St., Boston (617-357-8746).*
The Upstairs Lounge *65 Causeway St., Boston (617-792-3382).*
Venu *100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-338-8061).*
Vertigo *126 State St., Boston (617-723-7277).*
Vivid Lounge *148 State St., Boston (617-726-7600)*
West Street Grille *15 West St., Boston (617-423-0300).*
Whiskey Park *64 Arlington St., Boston (617-542-1483).*

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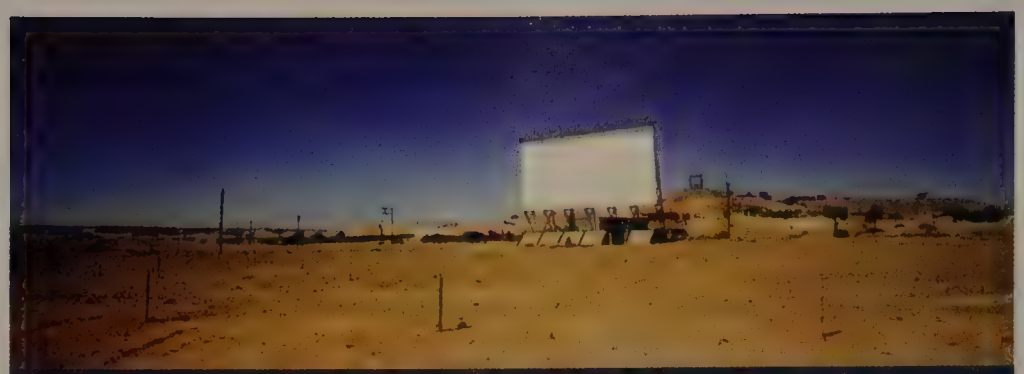
museums & galleries

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated gallery and museum listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Museums/Galleries. Or e-mail arts@improper.com. *Include dates, nearest T stop and phone number. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the phone.*



The Old Drive-In Theatre by Wim Wenders displays at the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts.

Museums

Arthur M. Sackler Museum
Harvard University, 485 Broadway, Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Buddhist Art: The Later Tradition* shows through Jan. 4. •*The Continuous Stroke of Breath: Calligraphy from the Islamic World* features Arabic, Indian, Persian and Turkish calligraphy from the 9th through 20th centuries. Dec. 20-July 18.

Boston Public Library
666 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Thu., 9 am-9 pm; Fri. and Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 1-5 pm.* •*The Stinehour Press: The Work of the First Fifty Years* features rare books from a Vermont printing company. Through Dec. 26. •Medical students Seema Jain and Lisa Denny show photographs of chronically ill patients from Africa, Haiti and India in *Living with Illness*. Through Dec. 30.

Carpenter Center for Visual Arts
24 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-3251). www.ves.fas.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-11:30 pm; Sun., 12-11:30 pm. Free.* •*Wim Wenders: Photos* features photographs from the German filmmaker's travels in Australia. Through Jan. 11.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln (781-259-8355). www.decordova.org. *Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Debra Weisberg: (Sub)Surface* features an architectural installation along a 40-foot elevator shaft. Through Jan. 2004. •*Gifts from Stephen and Sybil Stone*, an exhibition of more than 150 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Stones' collection, shows through Jan. 18. •*Ron Kuivila: An Outgoing Message* is a sound-art exhibition of dial tones, busy signals and rings from telephone systems. Through Jan. 18. •*Puppets, Ghosts, and Zombies: The Sculpture of Pat Keck* shows through Jan. 18. •*Joseph Wheelwright: Stone Heads and Tree Figures*, a sculpture exhibition, shows through May 16. •*Landscapes Seen and Imagined: Sense of Place, Part II* features paintings by various artists. Through summer 2004.

Fogg Art Museum/ Busch-Reisinger Museum
32 Quincy St., Cambridge (617-495-9400). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sat., 10 am-12 pm. •*Before Expressionism: Art in Germany circa 1903* features drawings, prints and paintings from German avant garde artists. Through Feb. 15. •*Harvard Collects American Art* shows through Feb. 22. •*Life as Art: Paintings by Gregory Gillespie and Frances Cohen Gillespie* shows through March 28.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, $5 students and seniors; free Sun., 9 am-12 pm.* •*Into the Mountains* features the photography of mountaineer Bradford Washburn. Through spring 2004. •*The Glass Flowers* features the Ware Collection of glass models of plants, including more than 830 plant species by glass artists Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka. Ongoing. •*Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline* showcases the museum's collection of fine jewelry and rough tourmalines. Ongoing.

Institute of Contemporary Art
955 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-5152). www.icaboston.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Wed. and Fri., 12-5 pm; Thu., 12-9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Free admission Thu. after 5 pm. $7, $5 students and seniors.* •*Douglas R. Weathersby: 2003 ICA Artist Prize* shows temporary installations that Weathersby created while cleaning at the ICA. Through Jan. 4. •*Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* features more than 60 multimedia works that examine the influence of cartoons on contemporary art. Through Jan. 4.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway, Boston (617-566-1401). www.gardnermuseum.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5 pm. $10, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for those under 18. Guided tour Fridays, 2:30 pm.* •The permanent collection features more than 2,500 paintings, sculptures, tapestries, furniture, manuscripts, rare books and decorative pieces, including works by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli and Degas. •*Raphael, Cellini, and a Renaissance Banker: The Patronage of Bindo Altoviti* features a painting by Raphael, sculpture by Cellini and busts of Cosimo de' Medici and Altoviti. Through Jan. 11. •Elaine Reichek's embroideries, which depict Biblical images borrowed from Dürer, Michelangelo and other artists, display online in the virtual exhibition *Madam I'm Adam*. Ongoing.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). www.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall/MIT. Tue.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm; weekends 12-5 pm. $5, $3 students and seniors, $1 children.* •*Knowing Where to Stand: Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* shows 50 color landscapes. Through Jan. 30. •The interactive exhibit *Robots and Beyond: Exploring Artificial Intelligence at MIT* is ongoing. •*Mind and Hand: The Making of MIT Scientists and Engineers* explores student life over the past 150 years. Ongoing. •*Holography: The Light Fantastic* displays selections from the world's largest hologram collection. Ongoing.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. Sat.-Tue., 10 am-4:45 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-9:45 pm. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, only the West Wing is open. $15 adults, $13 students and seniors, free for children 17 and under. Thu. and Fri. after 5 pm, admission is reduced by $2. Wed., 4-9:45 pm, admission is free. Special exhibitions are an additional cost.* •*John Currin Selects*, an exhibition assembled by the MFA's associate curator, displays works from the museum's collection. Through Jan. 4. •*Rembrandt's Journey: Painter/Draftsman/Etcher* is a comprehensive exhibition of more than 200 of Rembrandt's works. Through Jan. 18. •Works by French printmaker Jacques Callot and artists whom he influenced show in *Callot and His World: Princes, Paupers and Pageants*. Through Jan. 25. •*The Maker's Hand: American Studio Furniture, 1940-1990* features one-of-a-kind pieces made in small shops. Through Feb. 8. •Johannes Vermeer's *Young Woman with a Water Pitcher*, a rare painting on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, displays through Feb. 22. •*Draped in Dragons: Chinese Court Costumes* features clothes worn by members of the Qing imperial court. Through May 2. •More than 200 jades dating from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty display in *Chinese Jades from the Hartman Collection*. Through Aug. 2004. •*18th Century French Royal Furniture from the Swan Collection* features the only complete set of 18th-century French royal furniture in the United States. Ongoing. •*Arts of the Colonial Americas* displays historical American masterpieces. Ongoing.

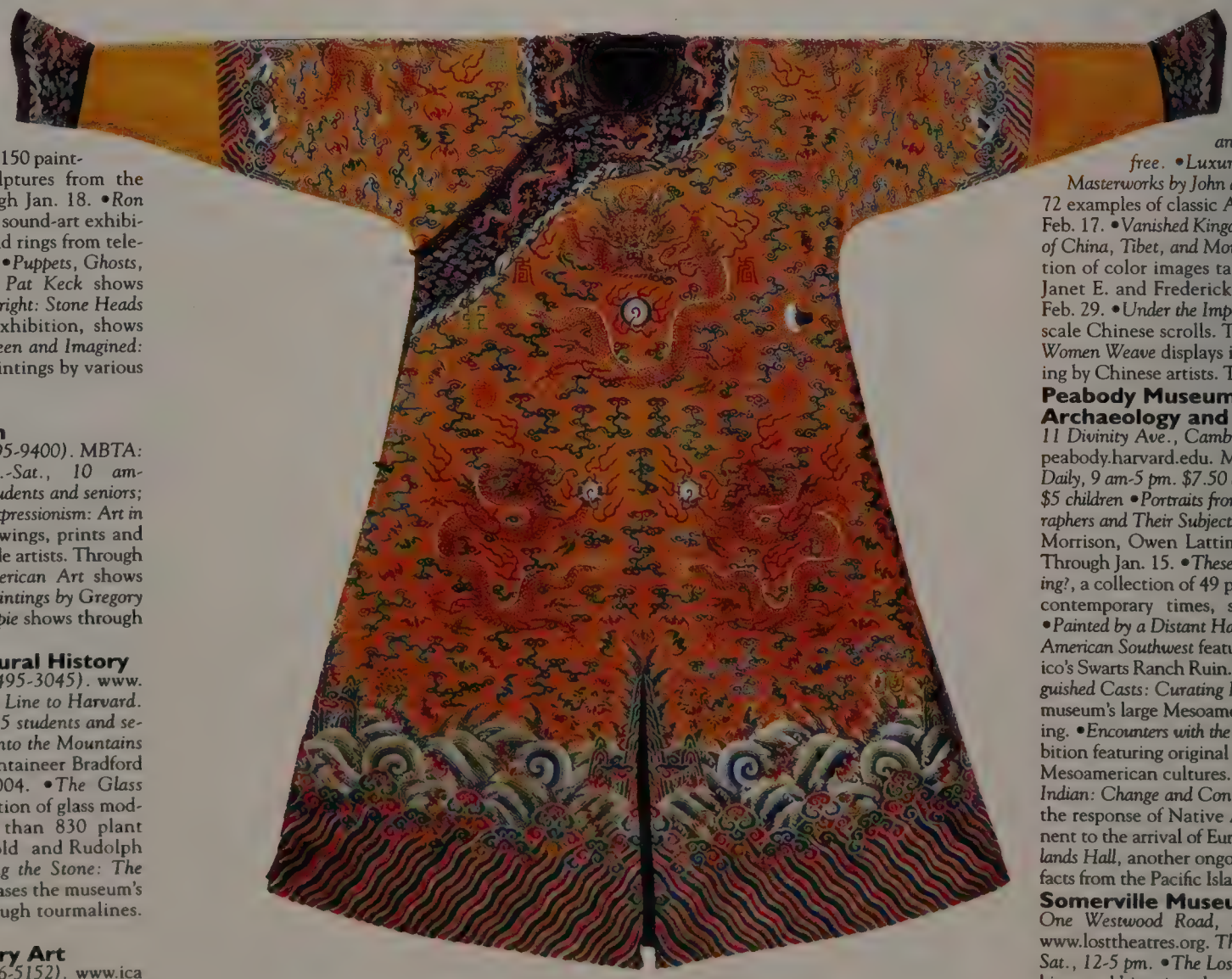
Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13 adults, $11 seniors, $10 children.* •*Magic: The Science of Illusion* is an interactive exhibition that looks at mind reading, levitation, transformation and the "disembodied head" illusion. Through Feb. 22. •*A Bird's World* explores the behavior and calls of birds in the wild. Ongoing. •*The Computing Revolution* traces the history of computers from the electronic giants of the 1940s to today's smallest laptops. Ongoing. •*Dinosaurs: Modeling the Mesozoic* showcases the museum's collection of dinosaur models, including the giant T. rex. Ongoing. •*Making Models*, an interactive exhibition, features models of a wave tank, Mount Everest and a giant grasshopper. Ongoing.

National Heritage Museum
33 Marrett Road, Lexington (781-861-6559). www.monh.org. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free.* •*Close-Up in Black: African American Film Posters* features 90 posters that chronicle black film history. Through Jan. 4. •*Generals, Admirals, and American War Leaders*, an exhibition of personal and official autographs from famous American leaders, shows through Jan. 11. •*Coming Up on the Season: Migrant Farmworkers in the Northeast* traces the lives of the workers who harvest produce in the Northeast. Through Feb. 1. •*Hatch Show Print's Rock'n'Roll Posters* features letterpress posters for concerts by musicians including Johnny Cash, Frank Zappa and Bruce Springsteen. Through June 13. •*The Enchanted Clocks of George McFadden* is ongoing. •*Lexington Alarm'd* is an exhibition of 18th-century local history. Ongoing. •*Made in Massachusetts* features household objects from the past three centuries. Ongoing. •*To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community* is ongoing.

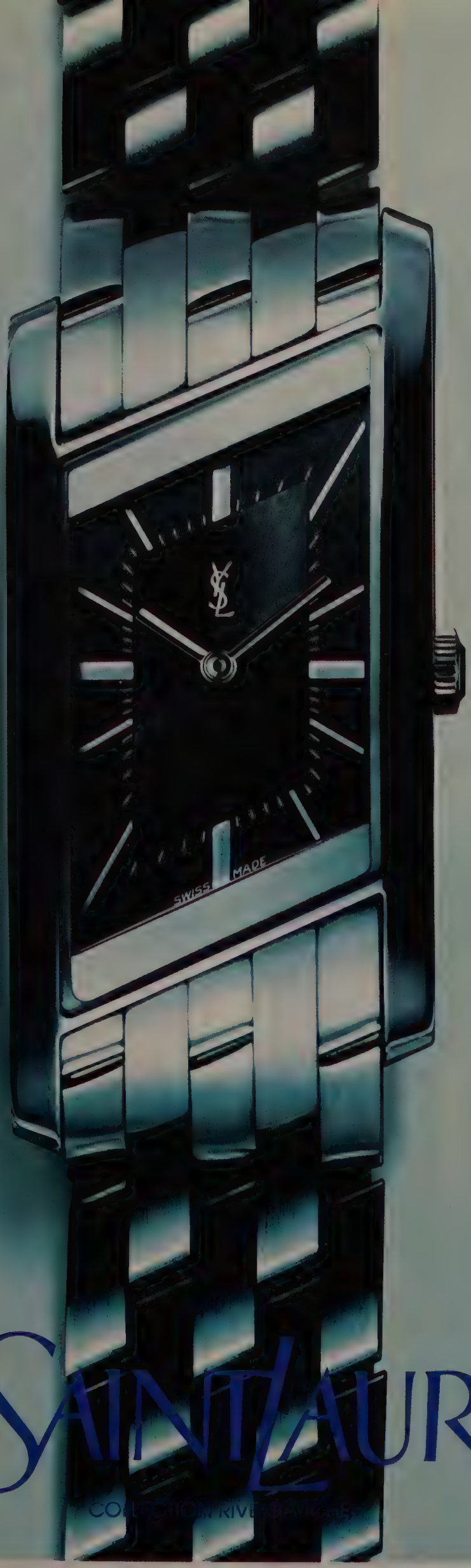
Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square, Salem (978-745-1876). www.pem.org. *Sun.-Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Thu., 10 am-9 pm. Adults $12, seniors $10, students $8; children 16 and under and residents of Salem free.* •*Luxury and Innovation: Furniture Masterworks by John and Thomas Seymour* features 72 examples of classic American furniture. Through Feb. 17. •*Vanished Kingdoms: The Wulsin Photographs of China, Tibet, and Mongolia 1921-1925*, an exhibition of color images taken by American explorers Janet E. and Frederick R. Wulsin, shows through Feb. 29. •*Under the Imperial Gaze* features two large-scale Chinese scrolls. Through May 2. •*Men Plow, Women Weave* displays images of weaving and plowing by Chinese artists. Through May 30.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge (617-496-1027). www.peabody.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $7.50 adults, $6 seniors and students, $5 children* •*Portraits from China, 1923-1946: Photographers and Their Subjects* features the work of Hedda Morrison, Owen Lattimore and Frederick Wulsin. Through Jan. 15. •*These Shoes Were Made for...Walking?*, a collection of 49 pairs of shoes from ancient to contemporary times, shows through Feb. 2004. •*Painted by a Distant Hand: Mimbres Pottery from the American Southwest* features artifacts from New Mexico's Swarts Ranch Ruin. Through Dec. 2004. •*Distinguished Casts: Curating Lost Monuments* features the museum's large Mesoamerican cast collection. Ongoing. •*Encounters with the Americas* is an ongoing exhibition featuring original sculpture and plaster casts of Mesoamerican cultures. •*Hall of the North American Indian: Change and Continuity* features art depicting the response of Native Americans across the continent to the arrival of Europeans. Ongoing. •*Pacific Islands Hall*, another ongoing exhibition, displays artifacts from the Pacific Islands.

Somerville Museum
One Westwood Road, Somerville (617-666-9810). www.losttheatres.org. *Thu., 2-7 pm; Fri., 2-5 pm and Sat., 12-5 pm.* •*The Lost Theatres of Somerville* combines oral histories, photographs, memorabilia and interactive media to explore the rise and fall of Somerville's 14 historic movie theaters, only one of which operates today. Through March 28.



A semiformal court robe worn by a Qing Dynasty emperor displays in *Draped in Dragons* at the Museum of Fine Arts.



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Harry Folsom's *Two Man Plow* is at the William Scott Gallery through Dec. 28.

Galleries

FINE ART

Acme Fine Art
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-585-9551). www.acmefineart.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Provincetown Painters*, a group show of 20th-century work, displays through Dec. 20.

Alianza Gallery
154 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-2385). www.alianzagallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Accessories*, a group show of glass, steel and sculptural accessories, displays through Dec. 31.

Alpha Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4465). www.alphagallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Works on Paper* features the artwork of Bernard Chaet, Aaron Fink and Graham Nickson. Through Jan. 7.

Arden Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-0610). www.ardengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •Pamela Sienna shows oil paintings in *Fabricated*. Through Dec. 30. •Ron Ehrlich shows paintings. Jan. 2-31.

Barbara Krakow Gallery
10 Newbury St., 5th floor, Boston (617-262-4490). www.barbarakrakowgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Anything but Paper Prayers*, a group show to benefit the Boston Pediatric AIDS Project and the African AIDS Initiative, shows through Dec. 20. •Alex Katz shows paintings through Feb. 4. •*Print Publisher's Spotlight: Graphic Studio*, a group show, displays through Feb. 4.

Bernard Toale Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-482-2477). www.bernardtoalegallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •David Hilliard shows new photographs, and Colleen Kiely shows drawings. Through Jan. 3.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410) www.brickbottomartists.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Lechmere. Thu.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •The Affordable Art Sale features the work of Brickbottom artists. Through Dec. 21.

Chappell Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-2255). www.chappellgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •Preston Singletary shows glass work in *Preserving the Traditions in Glass*. Through Dec. 20.

Chase Gallery
129 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-7222). www.chasegallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm.* •Nathan Wilson displays oil-on-linen and oil-on-wood work in *New Work*. Through Dec. 30. •Dean Richardson shows paintings. Jan. 6-31.

Childs Gallery
169 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1108). www.childsgallery.com. MBTA:*Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Mon. and Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*The Art of Music* (watercolors), *Winter Wonderland* (winter-themed etchings) and *19th-Century Caricatures: Daumier, Gavarni and Gillray* display through Jan. 11.

Clifford-Smith Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Suite 300, Boston (617-695-0255). www.cliffordsmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sun., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Nuno de Campos shows painting and drawings. Through Dec. 27.

Copley Society of Art
158 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-5049). www.copleysociety.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •The annual *Small Works* show features more than 1,000 reasonably priced sculptures, photographs and prints. Through Dec. 24.

Crump Gallery
622 East Broadway, Boston (617-268-8050). MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •An exhibition of works by Jeff Eldredge, Dan McCole and Norman Crump is ongoing.

Eclipse Gallery
164 Newbury St., Boston (617-247-6730). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 9 am-6 pm.* •Richard Stimpson shows line drawings. Through Jan. 31.

Equator Gallery
450 Harrison Ave, Suite 201, Boston (857-540-9236). MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay.* www.equatorgallery.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •The gallery specializes in Latin American fine art, including paintings, textiles and ceramics.

Fort Point Arts Community Gallery
300 Summer St., Boston (617-423-4299). www.fortpointarts.org. MBTA: *Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •John Axon and Tory Fair show sculpture, video and photography in *Seeking Clarity*. Through Jan. 3.

Galerie d'Orsay
33 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-8001). www.galerie-dorsay.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •An ongoing exhibition of paintings, sculpture and fine prints from the 15th to 20th centuries focuses on Rembrandt, Pissarro, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall.

Gallery AA/B
535 Albany St., Suite 3B, Boston (617- 574 -0022). www.artadvisoryboston.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Thu.,12-6 pm; Fri., 11 am-3 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm.* •Terry Rose, Kenny Mac and Jane Kamine show monoprints. Through Dec. 20.

The Gallery at Black and White
295 Huntington Ave., Suite 205 (617-266-2641). MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony or Orange Line to Mass. Ave. Mon.-Fri, 10 am-5 pm.* •Eva Hidvegi Demjen shows gelatin silver prints in *Still Life*. Through December.

Gallery Katz
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-423-6328). www.gallerykatz.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Broadway. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •Alexis Saxton shows oil paintings. Through Dec. 20.

Gallery NAGA
67 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9060). www.gallerynaga.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Peter Brooke shows landscape oil paintings in *Fugue*. Through Dec. 20.

Genovese/Sullivan Gallery
23 Thayer St., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-426-9738). Tue.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm. •Catherine Carter displays new paintings. Through Jan. 1. •Mary Voochever presents new digital prints. Through Jan. 1.

Haley & Steele
91 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6339). www.haleysteele.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •The gallery displays 18th- and 19th-century prints. Ongoing.

Howard Yezerski Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-262-0550). www.howardyezerskigallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •Bernd and Hilla Becher show industrial landscape photographs. Through Dec. 24. •*Paper Prayers XV*, an installation to benefit the Boston Pediatric and Family AIDS Project, shows through Jan. 2.

Hurst Gallery
53 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-491-6888). www.hurstgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Thu., 12-7 pm.* •*Ukiyo-e: Designs from Three Centuries* features more than 60 Japanese woodblock prints. Through Dec. 24.

International Poster Gallery
205 Newbury St., Boston (617-375-0076). www.internationalposter.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* •The gallery's permanent collection showcases a variety of vintage posters. •*Fresh Powder*, th

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Judi Rotenberg Gallery
130 Newbury St., Boston (617-437-1518). www.judirotenberg.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Small Wonders*, a group show of small works, displays through Jan. 3.

Kaji Aso Studio
40 St. Stephen St., Boston (617-247-1719). www.kajiasostudio.com. MBTA: *E Green Line to Symphony. Tue. and Thu., 4:30-6:30 pm; Sat., 3-5 pm, and by appointment.* •*Holiday Store*, a group show of paintings and ceramics by 15 artists, displays through Jan. 15.

Kidder Smith Gallery
131 Newbury St., Boston (617-424-6900). www.kiddersmithgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm.* •Phil Bower recreates historic photographs from the past 150 years in paintings in *Phil Was Here*. Through Jan. 10.

Kingston Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., 2nd Floor, Boston (617-423-4113). www.kingstongallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Tue.-Sat., 12-5 pm.* •Joan Baldwin shows interior scenes made of fabric in *A Look Inside*. Through Dec. 27. •Ed Fetter shows his photography. Jan. 6-31.

L'Attitude Gallery
218 Newbury St., Boston (617-927-4400). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •Dan McDermott shows bronze sculptures in *New Work in Bronze*. Through Dec. 31.

Mark Gallery
141 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-576-6275). www.markartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard. Fri. and Sat., 12-6 pm, and by appointment.* •*The Gift*, a show of more than 25 artists, including painter John Lobosco, displays through Dec. 23.

Martin Lawrence Gallery
77 Newbury St., Boston (617-369-4800). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington.* www.martinlawrence.com. *Mon.-Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-7 pm.* •The gallery's ongoing exhibition includes works by Chagall, Erté, Hallam, Kondakova, Lichtenstein, Picasso and Warhol.

Mercury Gallery
8 Newbury St., Boston (617-859-0054). www.mercurygallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Out of the Studio*, a group show of landscapes and seascapes, displays Through Jan. 7.

Miller Block Gallery
14 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-4650). www.millerblockgallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Sat., 10:30-5:30 pm.* •Scott Peterman shows photography in *New Work*. Through Dec. 21. •Kay Ruane shows graphite drawings. Through Dec. 21. •Arlayne Peterson shows new mixed-media work. Jan. 4-Feb. 4.

Mobilia Gallery
358 Huron Ave., Cambridge (617-876-2109). www.mobilia-gallery.com. *Tue.-Fri., 11 am-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-5 pm.* •*Making Magic* (mixed media), *The Ring* (jewelry), and *Beaded Beads* (beadwork by Axl Russmeyer) show through January.

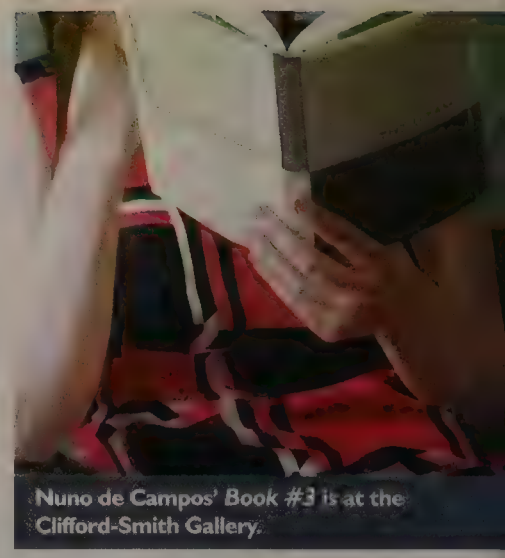
New Art on Newbury
285 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7727). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Thu., 11 am-6 pm; Fri. and Sat., 11 am-11 pm.* •The *Second Anniversary Holiday Show* features the work of 30 local artists, and includes oils, watercolors, photography, mixed-media works and sculptures. Through Jan. 15.

Nielsen Gallery
179 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-4835). www.nielsengallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Wed.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm and by appointment.* •Gregory Gillespie shows paintings in *Demons and Paradise*. Through Jan. 17. • Stuart H. Williams shows works on paper. Through Jan. 17.

108
108 Beacon St., Somerville (617-441-3833). www.gallery108.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Harvard or Porter. Tue.-Fri., 12-6 pm; Sat., 12-5 pm; Sun. by appointment.* •A *Holiday Sale* of jewelry, blown glass and small works shows through Dec. 18. •*Metadata: Paintings by Reese Inman* shows through Jan. 3.

OSP Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., #304, Boston (617-778-5265). www.ospgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11am-5 pm.* •David X. Levine shows *Recent Drawings*. Through Jan. 3.

Out of the Blue Gallery
106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). www.outoftheblueartgallery.com. MBTA: *Red Line to Central. Mon.-Sun., 12-6 pm.* •A local-artists showcase is ongoing.



Nuno de Campos' *Book #3* is at the Clifford-Smith Gallery.

Pepper Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-236-4497). www.peppergalleryboston.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Stanley Bielen: Paintings* shows through Dec. 23.

Pucker Gallery
171 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-9473). www.puckergallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm.* •*Makoto Yabe: Life Affirmed*, a ceramics exhibition, shows through Jan. 6.

Richardson-Clarke Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-3321). MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •The gallery has an ongoing exhibition of 19th- and 20th-century American and European paintings.

Robert Klein Gallery
38 Newbury St., Boston (617-267-7997). www.robertkleingallery.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Arlington. Tue.-Fri., 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Gallery Selections*, a show of works by gallery artists, displays through Dec. 24.

Rolly-Michaux Galleries
290 Dartmouth St., Boston (617-536-9898). MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-4 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.* •*Fine and Rare Aquatint Etchings, Lithographs and Pochoirs* features works by Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse and Georges Rouault. Through Dec. 31.

The Society of Arts and Crafts
175 Newbury St., Boston (617-266-1810). www.societyofcrafts.org. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm.* •*Domesticated Animals*, a group show of mixed-media works, displays through Jan. 18.

Soprafina Gallery
99 Beacon St., Somerville (617-498-0999). MBTA: *Red Line to Davis. Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm;* •*vARieTy Exhibition*, a group show of glass, ceramics, paintings and watercolors, displays through Jan. 17.

Victoria Munroe Fine Art
59 Beacon St., Boston (617-523-0661). www.munroefineart.com. MBTA: *Green or Red Line to Park Street. Tue.-Sat., 11 am-5:30 pm and by appointment.* •*18th- and 19th-Century Natural History Drawings* displays through Jan. 3.

Vose Galleries
238 Newbury St., Boston (617-536-6176). www.vosegalleries.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Copley. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm.* •*Realism Now: Traditions and Departures, Mentors and Protegées* is a group show of contemporary realist painters and sculptors. Through Jan. 17.

William Scott Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston (617-542-4030). www.williamscottgallery.com. MBTA: *Orange Line to Back Bay. Wed.-Sat., 10:30 am-5:30 pm.* •Harry Folsom shows oil paintings. Through Dec. 28. •Chet Jones shows paintings. Jan. 1-13.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Griffin Museum of Photography
67 Shore Road, Winchester (781-729-1158). www.griffinmuseum.org. MBTA: *Commuter Rail to Winchester Center. Tue.-Sun., 12-4 pm. $5.* •*Hard Boys and Bad Girls*, photographs of aspiring professional wrestlers by Thomas McGovern, shows through Jan. 15.

New England School of Photography
Gallery One, 537 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-437-1868). www.nesop.com. MBTA: *Green Line to Kenmore. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm.* •*Workshop Show* displays through Jan. 30.

Panopticon Gallery
435 Moody St., Waltham (781-647-0100). Commuter Rail to Waltham. www.panopt.com. *Mon.-Fri., 10 am-6 pm.* •*A Music Show*, photographs by Ron Pownall and Herb Greene, displays through Jan. 3.

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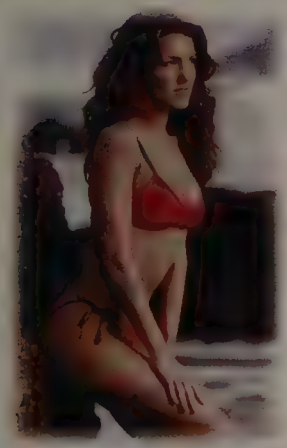

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Readings & Signings

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

Borders Boston
10 School St., Boston (617-557-7188). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. 7 pm. Free. Chef **Ming Tsai** discusses his new cookbook, *Simply Ming: Easy Techniques for East-Meets-West Meals.*

Wellesley Booksmith
82 Central St., Wellesley (781-431-1160). 3:30 pm. Free. **Ming Tsai** discusses his new cookbook, *Simply Ming: Easy Techniques for East-Meets-West Meals*, and shares samples with the audience.

WordsWorth Books
30 Brattle St., Cambridge (617-354-5201). www.wordsworth.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 7 pm. Local restaurateur **Gordon Hamersley** talks about his new cookbook, *Bistro Cooking at Home.*

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. **Nancy S. Seasholes** reads from her new book, *Gaining Ground: A History of Landmaking in Boston*, a geographical look at how Boston was built.

Brickbottom Gallery
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville (617-776-3410). www.brickbottomartists.com. MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. 7:30 pm. Contributors to the Ibbetson Street Press **Marc Goldfinger**, **Doug Holder**, **Timothy Gager** and **Jennifer Matthews** read from their work.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30

Boston Public Library
Rabb Lecture Hall, 700 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5400). www.bpl.org. MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 6 pm. Free. **Walter Wangerin** reads from his young-adult novel *The Crying for a Vision*, about a boy's attempt to save the Lakota Indian nation from the aftermath of a war.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31

First Night Poetry Slam
Hynes Convention Center, Room 208, 900 Boylston St., Boston (617-542-1399). www.firstnight.org. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 7:30-11 pm. Free. Several local poets compete before judges and the audience.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4

Four Poets for the New Year: The Mind in the Physical World
Forsyth Chapel, Forest Hills Cemetery, 95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. 2 pm. $5. Local poets **Jocelyn Emerson**, **Jean Monahan**, **Mary O'Donoghue** and **Walter Howard** read from their works.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline (617-566-6660). www.brooklinebooksmith.com. MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. 6 pm. Free. **Hiroko Sherwin** reads from her novel, *Eight Million Gods and Demons*, a story of three generations of a Japanese family. Also, Sherwin's daughter, **Mako Yoshikawa**, reads from her novel *Once Removed*, about two stepsisters struggling to be friends after their parents divorce.

Ming Tsai discusses his cookbook at two locations Dec. 17.

Ongoing

Amazon Poetry Slam (Last Sunday)
Milky Way, 403-405 Center St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. 9 pm. $7. The Last Sunday of every month, the Milky Way hosts the all-women Amazon Poetry Slam.

Boston Poetry Slam (Wednesdays)
Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-354-2685). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Wednesday night, the Cantab Lounge hosts a poetry slam downstairs in the Third Rail.

Harvard Square Coop (Sundays)
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 3 pm. Free. Hear what other Boston-area poets are doing; every Sunday the Harvard Coop hosts a poetry exchange on Level Two.

Jimmy Tingle's Off Broadway (Tuesdays)
255 Elm St., Somerville (617-591-1616). www.jimmytingle.com. $10. 8 pm. Eight local poets perform their own work in a two-hour theatrical show on the third Tuesday of the month.

Lizard Lounge Poetry Night (Sundays)
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-547-0759). www.poetryjam.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Poetry jam, 7:30 pm; poetry slam, 9 pm, $6. At the poetry slam, the Jeff Robinson Trio plays background tunes for the featured poet of the week.

O'Brien's Pub (Mondays)
3 Harvard Ave., Allston (617-782-6245). MBTA: B Green Line to Harvard Ave. 9 pm. O'Brien's presents a mix of rock and spoken word one Monday a month. The performers are all predetermined.

Out of the Blue Poetry (Saturdays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-354-5287). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 8 pm. $3. Every Saturday is poetry night—the evening is titled Open Bark—and a spoken-word event takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Stone Soup Poetry Night (Mondays)
Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St., Cambridge (617-227-0845). MBTA: Red Line to Central. 7:30 pm. $4. Since 1971, the Stone Soup Poets have held weekly readings.

Tapestry of Voices (Second Thursday)
Borders Boston, 10-24 School St., Boston (617-557-4995). MBTA: Red or Orange Line to Downtown Crossing. 6:30 pm. Free. The second Thursday of each month offers a selection of featured poets and an opportunity for others to take the open mike.

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

American Furniture: 17th Century to the Present
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 6 pm. Free with museum admission ($15). **Catherine Lanford** discusses the history of American furniture.

Astronomical Holidays
Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, 280 Eliot St., Natick (508-655-2296). 7 pm. $12 (advance registration required). **Ed Jameson**, former director of the Natick High School Planetarium, takes a look at the winter sky. Participants can look through a telescope to identify various constellations.

Object Lessons: First Flight, First Fabric—Aviation's Most Precious Relic
MIT Museum, 265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. Dec. 17, 12-1 pm. Free. **Deborah Douglas**, curator of the museum's *Hub of the Air Universe* exhibit, discusses the invention of the airplane and the impact of aviation on society.

What Are Presidents For?
Harvard University, 34 Concord Ave., Cambridge (617-495-8600). www.radcliffe.edu/fellowships/current/2004/loaeza.html. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. 4 pm. Free. As part of the Radcliffe Fellows' Presentations series, **Soledad Loaeza**, whose current research focuses on Mexican president Gustavo Diaz Ordaz's administration from 1964-1970, speaks on the nature of Mexican presidential power in the 20th century.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Draped in Dragons: Chinese Court Costumes
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 11 am. Free with museum admission ($15). **Pam Parmel**, curator of textiles and fashion arts, speaks on Chinese court costumes.

Tips on Finding a Job in a Tough Economy
The Workplace at Jewish Vocational Service, 105 Chauncy St., Sixth Floor, Boston (617-737-0093). MBTA: Orange Line to New England Medical. 1:30-3 pm and 6-7:30 pm. $15. Learn creative ways to target companies plus inventive strategies to get an interview and job offer.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Following the Silk Road: Ceramics from China and the Middle East
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-369-3300). www.mfa.org. MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. 12 pm. Free with museum admission ($15). 12pm. At this MFA gallery talk, **Melody Rodari** discusses ceramics from China and the Middle East.

MONDAY, DEC. 22

Let's Make a Deal: Salary Negotiations
The Workplace at Jewish Vocational Service, 105 Chauncy St., Sixth Floor, Boston (617-737-0093). 10-11:30 am. $15. This workshop teaches negotiating strategies that will help you maximize your earning power.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

Genealogical Workshops
Regional Archives Building, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham (866-406-2379). 1:30 pm. Free. Learn what exists in the National Archives—Northeast Region and how to find what you're looking for. Material includes documents, photographs, maps and architectural drawings dating from 1789 to the 1970s. This class focuses on census and naturalization data and passenger lists.

Web Site Usability
MIT, Building 3, Room 133, 33 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-1000). http://web.mit.edu/is/usability. MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. 1 pm. Free. Is your Web site user-friendly? Find out how to test and observe your users and improve your site.

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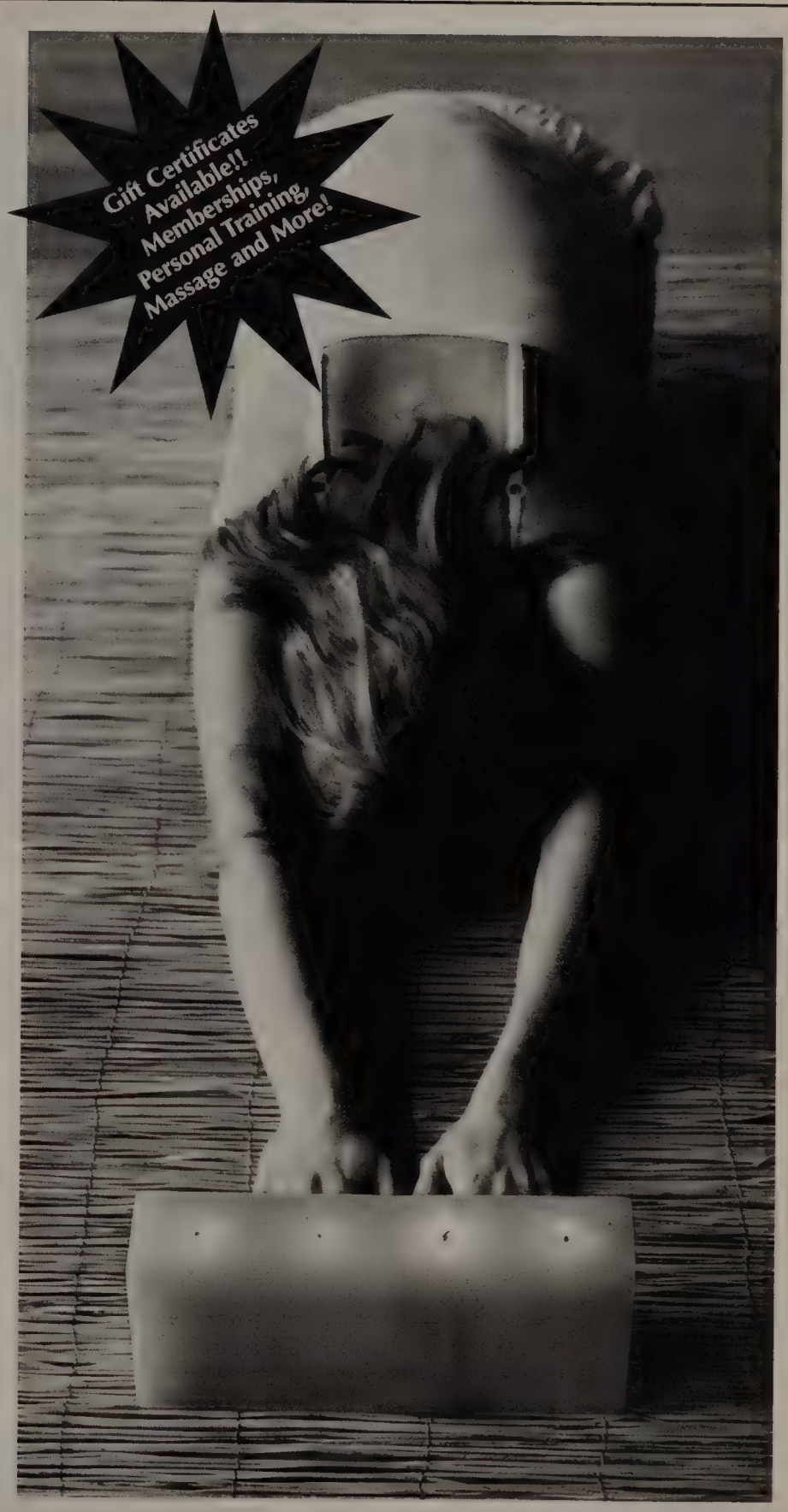

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JEROME GROOPMAN M.D.
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Jerome Groopman has gleaned many astonishing and profound discoveries in his thirty years as a physician, in addition to being one of the most respected literary voices on the science and human dimension of medicine. With *The Anatomy of Hope*, he charts a journey of discovery with often-painful lessons that offer insight into how hope acts in the drama of medicine.

1/22, Thursday 7PM
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After trading his Brooklyn co-op for a century-old home in Vermont, Chris Bohjalian, a Booksmith favorite and the best-selling author of *Midwives* and *Buffalo Soldier*, soon began chronicling life in Lincoln (pop. 985) for magazines and a weekly newspaper column. Serving as a diary of Chris' life and a measured example of how America has changed in the last fifteen years, *Idyll Banter* collects sixty-two of these thoughtful essays.

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Clubs, Bars & Hangouts

The Alley (Daily)
14 Pi Alley at 275 Washington St., Boston (617-263-1449). MBTA: Blue or Green Line to Government Center. Mon.-Fri., 2 pm-2 am.; Sat. and Sun., 12 pm-2 am, no cover, 21+. Boston's new leather-and-Levi's neighborhood bar offers pool, pinball, a jukebox and video games as well as regular theme nights.

Aria (Wednesdays)
246 Tremont St., Boston (617-338-7080). MBTA: Red or Green Line to Park Street. 10 pm, $5 for 19 and 20, free for 21+. DJ John Morris spins progressive house for Lust, the Wednesday night gay and lesbian dance party.

Avalon (Sundays)
15 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2424). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 10 pm, $15, 21+. For 20 years, these folks have cranked out Sunday night parties for the boys of Boston. Enjoy three separate dance floors plus drag acts. Rotating DJs spin house.

Axis (Mondays)
13 Lansdowne St., Boston (617-262-2437). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 10 pm, $7, 19+. The glamorous Mizery hosts a drag show, and DJ Jay Ine spins progressive house. An amateur drag show takes place the last Monday of every month.

Buzz (Saturdays)
67 Stuart St., Boston (617-267-8969). www.buzzboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. 10 pm, $10, 21+.* On Saturdays, Buzz's two dance floors—with DJ Mary Alice spinning popular dance and DJ Michael Sheehan's deep house and trance—pool room and lounge keep the men busy until 2 am.

CityGirl Caffé (Daily)
204 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-864-2809). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Tue.-Fri., 11 am-9 pm; Sat., 10 am-9 pm; Sun., 11 am-4 pm. This small laid-back café in Inman Square, lesbian owned and operated, draws a mixed gay/hetero crowd for lounging and sandwiches. Brunch is served every weekend.

Club Café and Moonshine Bar (Daily)
209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-536-0966). www.clubcafe.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 am-2 am; Sat., 2 pm-2 am; Sun., 11 am-2 am. No cover, 21+.* This South End spot draws a dressy bunch for dining and unobtrusive music in the front room or video entertainment in the back at Moonshine. •On Wednesdays, join VJ Cliff Cunningham. •On Thursdays and Fridays,VJ Tom Yaz hosts a nonstop show featuring new and classic music videos. •On Saturdays, it's Boys' Night Out with VJ Cliff Cunningham.

Diesel Café (Daily)
257 Elm St., Somerville (617-629-8717). MBTA: Red Line to Davis. Mon.-Thu. 7 am-midnight, Fri., 7 am-1 am, Sat., 8 am-1 am, Sun., 8 am-12 am. All ages. Diesel is a popular place for GLBT people to go for coffee and snacks.

Eagle (Daily)
520 Tremont St., Boston (617-542-4494). Mon.-Fri., 3 pm-2 am; Sat., 1 pm-2 am; Sun., 12 pm-2 am. MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. This quiet, friendly neighborhood bar starts hopping as it gets closer to 2 am.

Fritz Lounge (Daily)
26 Chandler St., Boston (617-482-4428). MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon.-Fri., 12 pm-2 am; Sat. and Sun., 10:30 am-2 am. No cover, 21+. TV sets show satellite sports broadcasts, and Fritz is home base to a softball league. Brunch is served until 3:30 pm on weekends.

Here at 711 Boylston (Tuesdays)
711 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-5502). www.hereboston.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Copley. 9 pm-2 am. No cover, 21+.* Boston's Tuesday night gay dance party features and disco and pop.

Hollywood at the Ekco Lounge (Saturdays)
41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283). www.shuttavac.com. *$8, 21+. MBTA: Orange Line to Chinatown. 10 pm-2 am.* This lesbian bar has two floors with go-go girls and live music all night.

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus sings seasonal favorites at Jordan Hall Dec. 21

Jacques Cabaret (Daily)
79 Broadway, Boston (617-426-8902). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. Patrons relax with a friendly crowd and mingle with disco-dancing drag queens. •Tue., Thu.: Avalon bartender Miss Kris performs. •Fri. and Sat. feature live music. •Sun.: Drag-on Showgirl Showcase produced by Diamond Dunhill. 10 pm, $6. •Mon.: Cabaret drag show. *10 pm, $6 weekdays; $8 weekends, 21+. $6-$8.* On the second Friday of the month is the Raw Bar series at Jacques Underground. The typical lineup features singer Leah Callahan with guest musicians, puppeteers, poets, dancers, performance artists and comedians.

Machine (Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-536-1950). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Fri.-Sat., 12 pm-2 am. •Wed.: Game Nite hosted by either Diamond Dunhill or Rainbow Frite, 10 pm, no cover. •Thu.: Karaoke Competition with PJ Mc-Whiskers. •Fri.: Best Night Out with NYC DJ/producer Darrin Friedman spinning deep house. 10 pm-2 am, $6, 21+. •Sat.: Machine with DJ Brad Gwynn playing house music. 10 pm-2 am, $7, 21+. •Tue.: Service Industry Night with DJ Afrodite.

ManRay (Wednesdays-Saturdays)
21 Brookline St., Cambridge (617-864-0400). www.manrayclub.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Wed., 9 pm-1 am; Thu. and Fri., 9 pm-2 am; Sat.,10 pm-2 am.* Catering to a young, alternative clientele, ManRay features two dance floors. •Wed.: Crypt features DJ Chris Ewen in the cage and DJ Mothra in the front room. 19+. •Thu.: Campus is a testosterone night with DJ Brad Gwynn and DJ Chris Ewen. $12, 19+; $8, 21+. •Fri.: Rotating themes include Sin, Hell, Fantasy Factory, Ooze and scheduled special events. •Sat.: New Wave Dance Party with DJ Chris Ewen and Disco Inferno with DJ Gary Conzo. $12, 19+; $8, 21+.

Midway Cafe (Thursdays)
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-9038). www.dykenight.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Green Street. 9 pm-2 am. $5, 21+.* On Thursday nights, the Midway hosts Kristen Porter's Dyke Night, with rotating DJs, pool and dancing.

Milky Way Lounge (Sundays)
401 Centre St., Jamaica Plain (617-524-3740). www.milkywayjp.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Stony Brook. 7:30 pm, no cover, 21+.* Candyland night is for gay men and women, transgendered persons and their allies. Live entertainment includes Fireballs Drag Bingo, spoken-word events and jazz. A dance party hosted by resident DJ Jamila caps off the evening. •Every Sunday there is free bowling with dinner. On the last Sunday of every month, the Milky Way presents the all-women Amazon Poetry Slam, a popular lesbian event. 8 pm, 7:30 pm sign-up, $7.

Night Games (Fridays)
Holiday Inn, 30 Washington St., Somerville (617-628-1000). www.circuitgirl.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Sullivan. 10 pm, $10, 21+.* Resident DJ Kris Kono pumps the dance tunes at Circuit Girl's Anything Goes night.

Paradise (Daily)
180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-494-0700). www.paradisecambridge.com. *MBTA: Red Line to Central. Sun.-Wed., 7 pm-1 am; Thu.-Sat., 7 pm-2 am. No cover, 21+.* Male strippers perform every night. The dance floor features top-40 tunes Thursday through Saturday and T-Dance on Sunday.

Ramrod (Daily)
1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-266-2986). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. 12 pm-2 am. Billing itself as the largest leather bar on the East Coast, Ramrod enforces a strict dress code (leather is obligatory for the back room on weekends). •Wed.: Twitch with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Thu.: Fire and Ice with DJ Dan Leavey. •Fri.: Leather Cruise with DJ Danae Jacovidis. •Sat.: Leather Cruise with DJ Dennis Sargent. •Sun.: Mandance with house music. •Mon.: Pool tournament and pizza. •Tue: DJ Scott Thinsdale.

Upstairs @ Dedo's (Daily)
69 Church St., Park Square, Boston (617-338-9999). MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. No cover, 21+. A predominantly gay crowd frequents the upstairs lounge at Dedo's, which features a nightly piano bar and club room. •Wed.: Latino Lounge with Latin groove music. •Thu. and Fri.: Boys in Ties and complimentary after-work buffet, 5-7 pm. House music pumps, 7 pm-1 am. •Sat.: High Energy Night with house music. •Sun.: Disco Night. •Mon.: S.I.N. (Service Industry Night). •Tue.: Stage and Screen. Classic movies screen 7-9 pm. Show-tune videos screen, 9 pm-1 am, no cover.

Vapor (Wednesdays-Sundays)
100 Warrenton St., Boston (617-422-0862). MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. •Wed.: Latino night with DJ Adilson. 19+. •Thu.: The Music Factory with DJ Pauli Paul and DJ Ron Stele spinning hip-hop, reggae and funk. $5 before 11, $2 after 11, 21+. •Fri.: Inner Circle. $10, 21+. •Sat.: Evolution with DJ Jay Ine. •Sun.: T-Dance party with DJ Danae grooving to local, tribal, and house while DJ Niterain spins classic oldies. 21+.

Books

Calamus Bookstore
92B South St., Boston (617-338-1931). www.calamusbooks.com. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Mon.-Sat., 9 am-7 pm; Sun., 12-6 pm.* Boston's bookstore for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

We Think the World of You Bookstore
540 Tremont St., Boston (617-574-5000). www.wethinktheworldofyou.com. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. Mon., 11:30 am-5:30 pm; Tue..-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 11:30-5:30 pm.* This community-centered gay and lesbian bookstore stocks literature, art books, DVDs and videos.

Shows & Events

The Frolic Room
Paradise Lounge, 969 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-562-8800). MBTA: B Green Line to Pleasant St. Dec. 21, 8:30 pm. $5. Drag king Heywood Wakefield guest hosts Thru the Keyhole Burlesque's Very Vegas Winter Wonderland Show, featuring the Thru the Keyhole Cuties Chorus Line, DJ Brother Cleve, the Daredevil Chicken Club and the Indestructible Don Bryson.

Glitter Switch Drag Show
Ekco Lounge, 41 Essex St., Boston (617-338-8283) . MBTA: Green Line to Boylston. Dec. 20, 7:30 pm. $5. Dress in drag for Hanukkah Karaoke with Drag king Heywood Wakefield and Through the Keyhole Burlesque. Prizes are awarded to those who bring their own Hebrew karaoke CDs.

New Voices Open Mike
Center for New Words, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge (617-876-5310). MBTA: Red Line to Central. Dec. 19, 7:30 pm. $5. This open mike for lesbians and their friends features all forms of writing.

'Tis the Season
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston (617-424-8900). www.bgmc.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony. Dec. 21, 8 pm. $12-$44.* The Boston Gay Men's Chorus presents a night of traditional carols and seasonal favorites including Benjamin Britten's classic, *A Ceremony of Carols.*

Who's Afraid of the Virgin Mary?
Machine, 1254 Boylston St., Boston (617-265-6222). MBTA: Green Line to Kenmore. Through Dec. 27; no show on Dec. 25, Thu., Fri. and Sat., 8 pm. $20. This Christmas parody by Ryan Landry takes place in Bethlehem, where Mary and Joseph struggle though their daily existence and drink themselves into oblivion. Then the Kringles stop by for a holiday nightcap.

Ongoing

Atención Latina Lesbians
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (800-834-3242). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* FCH collaborates with the Elizabeth Stone House to provide this safe, confidential space to discuss healthy relationships, domestic violence and other issues.

BAGLY
St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St., Boston (617-227-4313) www.bagly.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Wednesdays, 6-9 pm.* The Boston Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning Youth hosts weekly meetings and social events for young people seeking community, support and a place to discuss relevant issues.

Beantown South G/L Bowling League
Boston Bowl, Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (617-889-1552). 7 pm. This bowling league for gays and lesbians in the Boston area meets Wednesdays.

Bi-Curious Men's Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6032). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 7 pm.* This group meets the second Tuesday of every month for a discussion with bisexual and bi-curious men.

Bi Rap
The Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge (617-354-8807). First and third Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm. This discussion group is open to all bisexual, bi-friendly and questioning women.

BOSS
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. 6-8 pm.* This group for gay and bisexual men of color meets the last Thursday of each month to discuss culture, lifestyle, creativity and health.

Boston Bay Blades
www.bayblades.org/boston. All are welcome to join this competitive, recreational group of rowers and scullers.

Boston Boasts Squash
(617-536-0316). www.bostonboasts.com. *Tue. 7-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-12 pm. MBTA: E Green Line to Symphony.* The league comprises gay and lesbian players and their friends.

Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dancers
First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner of Centre and Elio Streets, Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.org *Every Wed., 7:30 pm, $8.* Square-dancing and English country dancing lessons are available for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends.

Boston Gay Basketball League
(617-424-8990). www.bgbl.com. The league offers a full regular season and playoff schedule each year.

Boston GLASS Community Center
93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mon.-Thu., 3-8 pm, Fri, 3-5 pm. The center provides social activities for questioning young people, ages 13-25.

Boston Ironsides Rugby Football Club
Moakley Field, South Boston (617-524-5814) MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Rugby players of any level age, race and orientation are welcome to play. There are a variety of events and matches taking place throughout the fall.

Boston Lesbian Avengers
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. www.lesbianavengers.org *Thu., 7-8 pm.* This bi- and transsexual-friendly direct-action political group focuses on issues affecting lesbians.

Boston Uncommons
Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-926-9267). www.lcfd.org/bu *MBTA: Orange Line to Green St. Wednesdays, 7 pm.* A gay and lesbian square-dancing group.

Chiltern Mountain Club
(888-831-3100). www.chiltern.org. This 1,400-member gay club takes part in outdoor activities.

COLAGE
(617-417-0876). Third Saturday of the month, 10:30 am-12 pm. COLAGE (Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere) meets in Medford for support an

activities and holds a concurrent meeting for interested parents and their partners. For info, e-mail medfordcolage@hotmail.com.

Coming Out as Bisexual
Boston's Bisexual Resource Center, at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston (617-424-9595). www.biresource.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Back Bay. First Wed. and third Thu. of each month, 7 pm, free.* An informal group for people who think they may be bisexual or attracted to more than one sex.

Coming Out Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* A short-term group (10 weeks) for men and women to discuss issues related to coming out.

Compass
(781-899-2212). Compass is a New England–area support, information, and social group for people assigned female at birth who feel that is not an accurate or complete description of their gender. Part of the FTM (Female-to-Male) Center, this group meets monthly. Email CompassFTM@usa.com for details.

Controversy Thursday
Matrix (B Room), 275 Tremont St. (lower level of Roxyplex), Boston (617-542-4077). Certain Thursdays (call for details), $8, no sneakers. This gay and bi dance party features DJ John Morris at 10 pm.

Cosmetically Correct
Masa Restaurant, 439 Tremont St., Boston. MBTA: Green Line to Arlington. First Fridays, 6:30 pm, free. This social group for lipstick lesbians meets on the first Friday of each month. Lipstick encouraged. Email M.Antoinette@ididitmyway.com for info.

Dagger
(617-621-6090). The Theater Offensive's guerrilla theater group, Dagger, gathers on Wednesdays from 6-9 pm to create performances representing women's perspectives. For more information, e-mail dagger@theateroffensive.org.

The Down Low
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6235). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Last Friday of the month. 7-9 pm.* A discussion group for gay and bisexual men of color to address heritage, lifestyle, culture and health.

East Coast Wrestling Club
(401-467-6737 or 617-937-5858, ext. 6). www.eastcoastwrestlingclub.org. This club for gay male wrestlers has more than 160 members.

Elegant Outings
(866-335-7730). www.elegantoutings.com. This group welcomes gay and gay-friendly professional women 40 and older who are intelligent, chic and sophisticated to get together with like-minded women for conversations, dinners, theater and networking.

Explore Gender in a Safe Place
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* An ongoing support group for people born into female bodies or who have grown up being viewed as biologically female.

FLAG Flag Football
www.flagflagfootball.com. *Saturday mornings.* Join Boston's GLBT Flag Football League for a casual spring season, followed by a formal fall season. All are welcome, regardless of skill level.

Frontrunners Boston
Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston (617-937-5858). Sat., 10 am. All are welcome to join this running club.

Gay and Lesbian Helpline
(617-267-9001 or 888-340-4528). Mon.-Fri., 5-11 pm; Sat. and Sun., 5-10 pm. This toll-free hotline is confidential and provides support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning callers.

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston
The First Parish Church in Waltham (617-742-7897). www.gayfathersboston.org. This group for gay/bisexual fathers meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 8-10 pm. $2.

GayLab
www.gaylab.org. This experiment in developing healthy gay relationships features alternatives for meeting and dating, communication games, singles mixers and a date-matching system.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Professionals Building Community
(617-236-4222). www.gbbc.org. All are welcome to join this business-networking organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered professionals.

Gaymes Group
(508-339-4250). Gaymes is a social group for gay men and lesbians. Members get together on a regular basis to play board, card and parlor games.

Gender Questioning Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6202). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* Biological males meet on Monday evenings. The groups are moderated by psychologist Randi Kaufman.

Girlfriends: Bisexual and Lesbian Women of Color
Cambridge Family and Children's Services, 929 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-876-4210). MBTA: Red Line to Central. This discussion group for all ages meets every Saturday from 10:30 am-12 pm.

Girlz 2 Girlz
(617-482-1078 ext. 277). This mentoring program for girls aged 13-19 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning meets the second and fourth Friday of each month, 6-8 pm. Contact Jayms Battaglia.

GLBT Seniors
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-927-6272). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Mondays.* Support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors ages 60 and over.

HIV Counseling and Testing
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston. (617-267-0159). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* Anonymous HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

LGBT Considering Parenting Group
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). www.fenwayhealth.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes.* A short-term (eight-week) group for LGBT persons who are considering becoming parents. Sliding fee scale available. Call for information.

Liquid Assets Swimming
www.swim-lanes.org. *Tue., Wed. and Thu. evenings and Sat. and Sun. mornings.* This predominantly gay and lesbian swim team is open to both competitive and fitness swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Meow Boston
groups.yahoo.com/group/Meow_Boston. This social group caters to feminine bisexual women and lesbians in the Boston community. For women 21+.

The Network/La Red
(617-427-7233). The Network is a support group working to end abuse in lesbian, bisexual women's and transgender communities. Email info@thenetworklared.org for more information.

Out to Dance
(617-363-0029). www.outtodance.com. Swing, Latin and ballroom dance classes and workshops are held in a gay-friendly environment.

Out TwentySomethings Boston
This social and peer support group is for lesbians, gay men, bisexual, transgendered and questioning folks and their straight allies in their 20s and early 30s. Email TwentySomethings Boston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Peer Listening Line
(800-399-7337). Trained GLBT volunteers provide confidential information, referrals and support.

The Rainbow Cafe
rainbowboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This social group for activist, academic, intellectual or artistic lesbians meets biweekly in gay-owned or gay-friendly establishments.

Slice of Rice
Boston GLASS, 93 Mass. Ave., Boston (617-266-3349). sungyun@chickmail.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed., 6-7 pm.* This peer-run queer Asian youth group (under 25) meets for support.

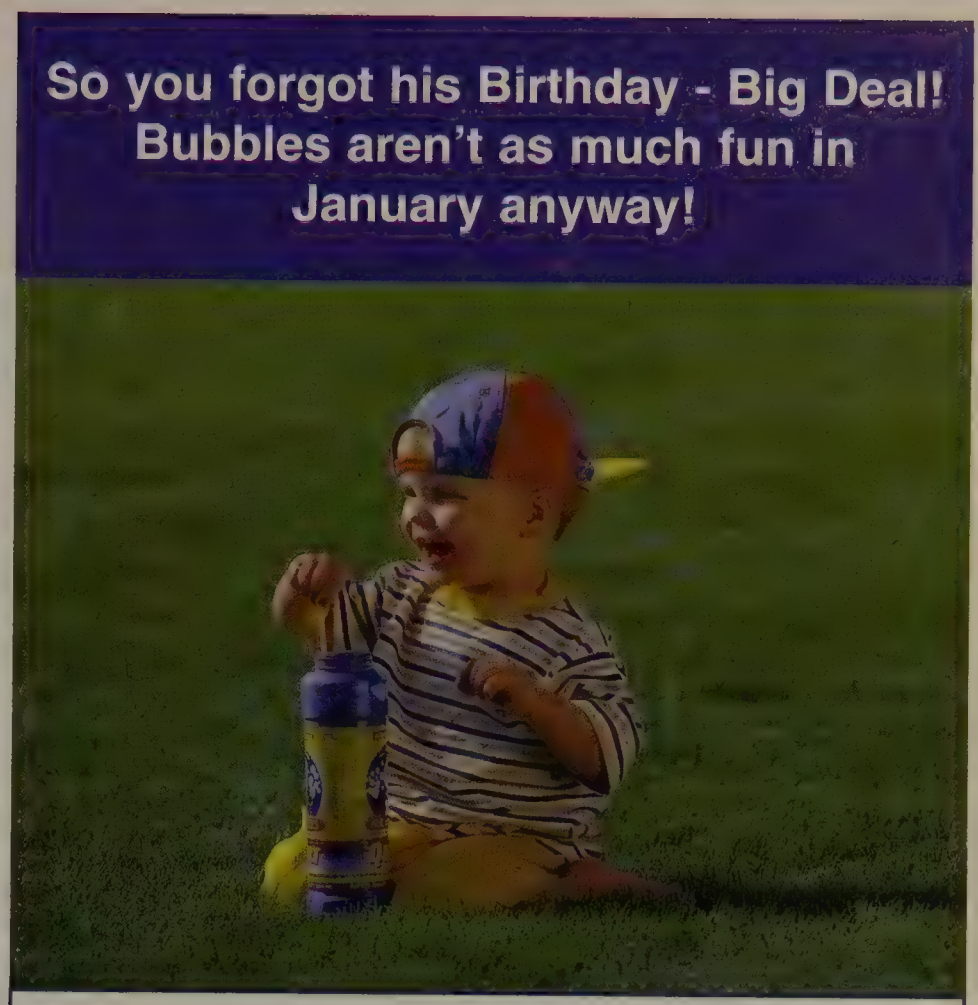
Somos Latin
somoslatinoslgbt@hotmail.com. The only social and networking group for GLBT Latinos and Latinas in the Boston area. Viernes Sociales take place every month. Email for more information.

Support Group for HIV-Negative Gay and Bisexual Men
7 Haviland St., Boston (617-967-6231). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. First three Tuesdays of each month, 6-8 pm. Discuss new safe-sex practices and strategies for managing risk and communicating with sexual partners.

Support Group for Lesbians with Cancer
Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland St., Boston (617-927-6243). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes. Wed. evenings, once a month. Free. For those who want to discuss the impact of this disease on their lives.

Swingtime Boston
Brookline Academy of Dance, 185 Corey Rd., Brookline (617-364-7207). MBTA: C Green Line to Washington Street. First Saturday of each month. 8-9 pm, lesson; 9-11:30 pm, dancing, $8. Swing, Latin and ballroom dancing classes are offered for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community.

Wonder Women Boston
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wonder_women_boston. WWB is a social group for lesbian and bisexual women in their 20s and 30s. It meets the first Thursday of every month.



body & mind

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated information by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Body/Mind, or e-mail information to bodymind@improper.com. Include a brief but thorough description of the event, including time, date, location, directions, cost and contact information. Listings cannot be accepted by phone and must be received at least four weeks in advance.

Events

Celebrate and Meditate
Theosophical Society in Boston, 21 Maple Street, Arlington (781-648-0101). www.tsboston.org. Dec. 22, 7 pm. Free. Participants celebrate their power as individuals, as a community and as light-bearers in the world through song, candlelight and meditation.

Dances of Universal Peace
Cambridge Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge (617-776-5767 or 617-491-8694). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 19, 7:30-9:30 pm. Requested donation, $6-10. Join hands in simple, joyous and meditative circle dances honoring the spiritual traditions of the world. Everyone welcome. All dances are taught and are accompanied by live music.

Drum and Dance Saturday
Earth Drum Council, First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge (978-371-2502). www.earthdrum.com. MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Dec. 20, 8-11:30 pm. $6. Bring drums, spoons, tambourines and clapping hands for this day of dance and percussion.

Meditation
Dr. Trish Whynot, Middleton (978-314-4545). www.holisticoncepts.com. Dec. 19, 7-9 pm. This celebration features guided meditation to help participants focus on making a fresh start in the new year. Light refreshments will follow.

New Year's Eve
Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, 331 Broadway, Cambridge (617-441-9038). www.cimc.info. MBTA: Red Line to Central. Dec. 31, 7:30 pm-1 am. Free. Join this meditation community for periods of sitting, walking, chanting and sharing readings or reflections. Refreshments are served after midnight. Guests welcome for part or all of the evening.

108 Sun Salutes for Solstice
Earthsong Yoga Center, 186 Main St., Marlboro (508-480-8884). www.earthsongyoga.com. Dec. 21, 10 am-12 pm. Free. Celebrate the solstice with sun salutations, a series of yoga poses designed to invigorate the body and mind.

Solstice Gathering
Mystical Wisdom, 185 Commonwealth Rd., Wayland (508-653-3443). www.mysticalwisdomma.com. Dec. 18, 7-9 pm. Free. Join others at this holistic center for a short meditation along with a holiday ritual. Light refreshments will follow.

Yule Celebration
Green Street Studios, 185 Green St., Cambridge (617-864-3191). www.earthspirit.com. Dec. 14, 7 pm. This gathering focuses on connecting instead of getting lost in the rush of holidays. Take part in rituals celebrating the winter season and the longest night of the year.

Yule: Outer and Inner Change
Unicorn Books, 1210 Mass Ave., Arlington (781-646-3680). www.unicornbooks.org. Dec. 20, 7-9 pm. $25. Learn about the holiday traditions of this day and celebrate it through ritual, music and a personal shamanic journey to find the new light born inside yourself. All faiths and traditions welcome.

Open House

The Arlington Center
369 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781-316-0282). www.arlingtoncenter.org. Jan. 4, 11am-6pm. Free. This day features free classes in yoga, meditation, pilates, tai chi and dance, plus refreshments and more. Meet the Center's wellness providers and receive a free consultation.

Retreat

Calm Abiding Retreat
Shambhala Meditation Center, 646 Brookline Ave., Brookline (617-734-1498). www.primordialdot.org. MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. Dec. 26-31, 31 hours. $100. Close the year on a note of gentle mindfulness and compassionate reflection through the practice of shamatha meditation. The retreat culminates with a community celebration on New Year's Eve.

Workshop

All Levels Yoga Class
Circles of Wisdom Bookstore and Resource Center, 90 Main St., Andover (978-474-8010). www.circlesofwisdom.com. Dec. 22, 7-8:15 pm. $15. This class starts with yoga fundamentals and gradually refines the poses for additional challenge.

Ongoing

Inner Workout Yoga
Living Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown (617-924-6085). www.livingyogactr.org. Fri., 5:30-6:30pm. Donation appreciated. Relax your mind and body at this drop-in kundalini yoga and meditation class.

Personal Protection For Adults
Brookline Community Center for the Arts, 14 Green St., Brookline (781-405-1248). www.busseystyle.com. MBTA Green C Line to Coolidge Corner. Wed., 8-9:30 pm or Sun., 1-2:30 pm. This class teaches the Bussey style of self defense with adults in mind. Learn practical moves in a hands-on workout, as well as concepts to help improve confidence.

Yoga for Fitness of Body, Mind and Spirit
YWCA, 7 Temple St. Cambridge (781-648-0722). www.innerfocusyoga.com. MBTA: Red Line to Central Square. Tues., 7:30-8:45 pm. Suggested donation: $10. Certified Kripalu yoga instructor Dee Greenberg teaches participants to experience breathing as the body's link with the mind.

Yoga/Watertown
Integral Yoga, 613 Mt. Auburn St. Watertown (617-924-6085). www.integralyogaofma.com. Beginner's hatha yoga: Tue. and Wed., 7:30-9 pm. $15/drop-in. Meditation sitting: Sun., 7-8 pm. Free. This yoga center offers regular hatha yoga classes, weekly meditations and workshops.

Yoga Wellness Services
Mind/Body Medical Institute, 824 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill (617-991-0102). www.mbmi.org. Gentle yoga, Wed., 4-5pm. Yoga in the day: Wed., 12-1 pm and Thurs., 12:30-1:30 pm. This holistic medical center provides yoga classes for general well-being. Gentle yoga is for people experiencing pain and chronic illness.

Zen Insight
Cambridge Zen Center, 199 Auburn St., Cambridge (617-576-3229). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. www.cambridgezen.com. Mon., 6:45 pm. Free. This drop-in meditation session is designed to help you get back to the center of your being.

Christopher Penczak teaches "Yule: Outer and Inner Change" at Unicorn Books Dec. 20.

sports

Advice to Contributors
Submit listings by fax (617-859-1446) or mail to Calendar: Sports. Or e-mail information to sports@improper.com. *Include address, phone number, subway stop, dates and times, and a brief description of the league or event. Deadline is four weeks before publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.*

Home Games

Boston Bruins
•FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 617-931-2000
Dec. 18, 7 pm vs. Calgary Flames
Dec. 20, 1 pm vs. Carolina Hurricanes
Dec. 23, 7 pm vs. Tampa Bay Lightning
Dec. 30, 7 pm vs. Ottawa Senators
Jan. 1, 7 pm vs. Toronto Maple Leafs
Jan. 3, 7 pm vs. New York Islanders

Boston Celtics
•FleetCenter, Boston.
Tickets: 800-462-2849
Dec. 17, 8 pm vs. Dallas Mavericks
Dec. 19, 7:30 pm vs. Utah Jazz
Dec. 21, 6 pm vs. Philadelphia 76ers
Dec. 31, 2 pm vs. New Orleans Hornets
Jan. 2, 7:30 pm vs. Indiana Pacers
Jan. 5, 7 pm vs. Detroit Pistons

New England Patriots
•Gillette Stadium, Foxboro.
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Dec. 27, 1:30 pm vs. Buffalo Bills

Events

Boston Bruins' Wives Charity Carnival
FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.bostonbruins.com. Jan. 4. 3:30-6:30 pm. $15. Hang out with Bruins players and play interactive games like bubble hockey to benefit the Boston Bruins Foundation and the Star House children's home.

To Play

BASEBALL

Henry's Baseball
(781-891-0621). Seeking players ages 17-40.

BASKETBALL

BSSC Basketball
(617-789-4070, ext. 238). Coed year-round basketball. All levels. Leagues exist in Watertown, Brookline and Dedham. Teams and individuals are welcome.

Never Too Late Basketball
(781-488-3333) www.nevertoolate.com. Adults of all ages practice in locations throughout Boston.

BOXING

Boston Sport Boxing Club
125 Walnut St., Watertown (617-972-1711). www.bostonboxing.com. Mon.-Sat., 2-10 pm. Red Line to Harvard, then #71 bus. The club offers amateur Olympic-style boxing lessons for all levels.

FENCING

Boston Fencing Club
110-112 Clematis Ave., Waltham. (781-891-0119). www.bostonfencingclub.org. Adult classes evenings and Saturdays. Learn the basics of fencing.

FLOOR HOCKEY

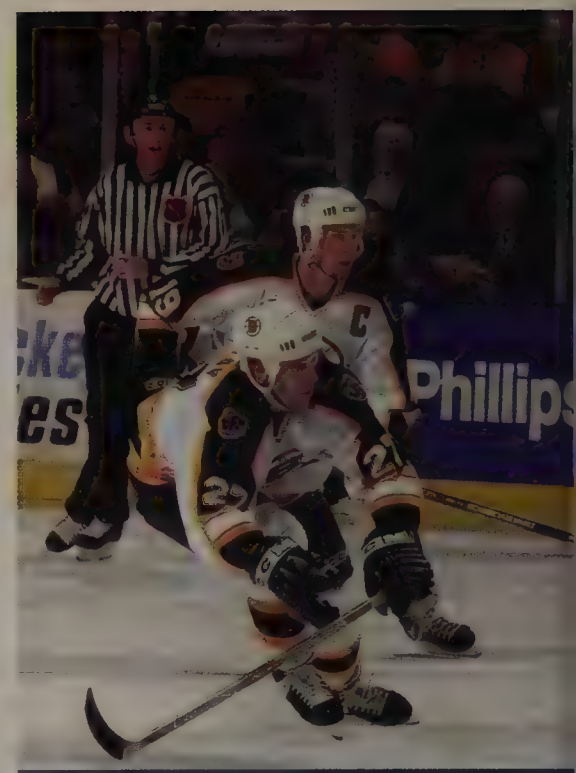
BSSC Coed Floor Hockey
Leagues are held in Newton and Brighton (617-789-4070, ext. 238). www.bssc.com. All levels, individuals and teams are welcome.

FOOTBALL

BSSC Coed Indoor Flag Football
Games are played in Brighton. (617-789-4070, ext. 242). Sign up individually or with a group of friends.

RUGBY

Boston Irish Wolfhounds
(617-254-9732). www.bostonirishwolfhounds.com. Training Tue. and Thu. in Jamaica Plain. Home field at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton. New and experienced players are welcome.


Glen Murray and Joe Thornton kick off the new year by taking on the Toronto Maple Leafs Jan. 1

Boston Rugby Club
(617-566-2732). www.brfc.org. The club is looking for players for its national-level team.

Boston Women's Rugby Football Club
(781-340-2192). www.bwrfc.org. The club seeks new players for games in Brookline and Cambridge.

Mystic River Rugby Club
P.O. Box 477, Malden (781-322-0898). www.mysticrugby.com. This Division I men's rugby club welcomes both new and experienced players who want to play a high level of competitive rugby.

Old Gold Rugby Club
(617-742-0678). www.oldgoldrugby.com. Tue. and Thu., 6:30-8:30 pm. Games on Saturdays. New and experienced players are welcome.

RUNNING

Boston Hash House Harriers
Various locations (617-499-4835). www.bostonhash.com. Weekly runs on either Wed. or Sun. year-round. If you enjoy running, drinking and singing bawdy songs, then consider joining these self-proclaimed "serious drinkers with a running problem."

Cambridge Friday Night Fun Run
Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, 215 First St., Cambridge (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. Weekly runs on Friday nights, 6 pm.

Khoury's Thursday Four-Mile Fun Run
Khoury's Pub, 118 Broadway, East Somerville (781-275-1584). www.srr.org. Weekly runs on Thursday nights, 7 pm.

SKATING

Bay State Skating School
Various area MDC rinks (781-890-8480). www.baystateskatingschool.org. Check Web site for schedules. $108.50 for a seven-week class. Skating classes for adults and children teach the fundamentals using either figure skates or hockey skates.

SOCCER

BSSC Indoor Soccer
(617-789-4070). Teams forming now. Games played in Charlestown, Cambridge, Brighton, Reading and Canton. Individuals and teams are welcome.

VOLLEYBALL

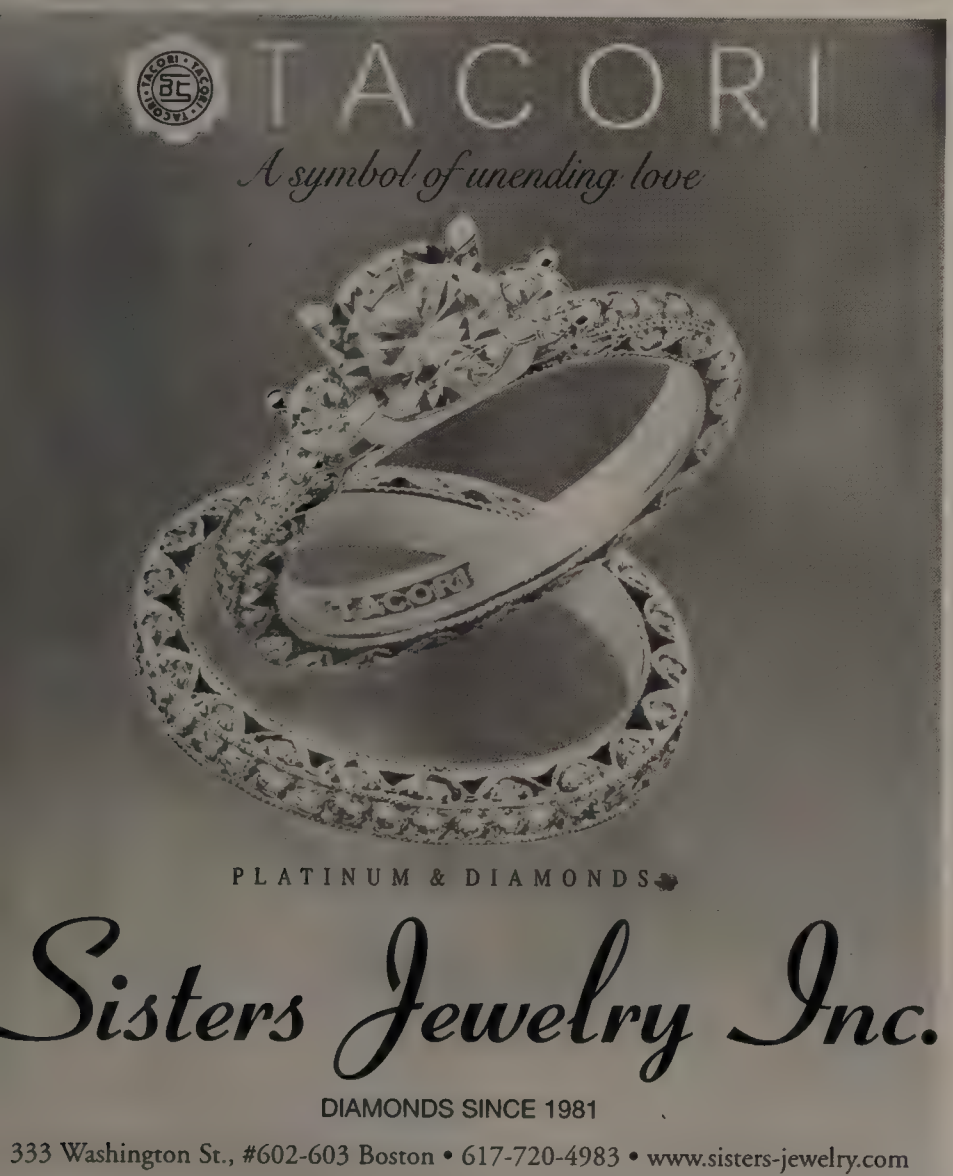
BSSC Volleyball League
Boston Ski & Sports Club (617-789-4070, ext. 222). Sun.-Thu. Coed teams forming in Cambridge, Watertown, Brookline and Newton. Teams and individuals are welcome to set and spike their way to glory.

WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

New England Storm Indoor League
Greater Boston Indoor Sports, Revere (781-395-8326). Saturday mornings. Teams play eight-on-eight flag football each week.

WRESTLING

Boston Union Wrestling Club
(617-868-8379). bostonwrestling@yahoo.com. Amateur folk-style wrestling group open to all skill levels. Weekly practices held year-round.



WINNER ELLE CANADA 2003 BEAUTY GRAND PRIX

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This salon exclusive, natural and botanically based line of products delivers stunning results gently, without the use of harsh chemical formulas. **TOSCA's** special complex, derived from herbs, plants and special proteins, will leave your hair and skin feeling clean, healthy and luxurious.

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amaci salon 230 Stuart St, Boston Massachusetts
Tel.: (617) 292-0202 www.amacisalon.com

children

Advice to Contributors
Submit updated listings by mail or fax (617-859-1446) to Calendar: Children, or e-mail information to children@improper.com. Include address, phone number, subway stop, ticket price, dates, times and a brief description of the event. Deadline is four weeks prior to publication. Listings cannot be accepted over the telephone.

Things to See

Borders Books and Music
Cambridgeside Galleria, Cambridge (617-679-0887). www.bordersstores.com. *MBTA: Green Line to Lechmere. Sat., 12 pm.* Staff members read from new and classic storybooks.

Boston Children's Theatre
C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University, 55 Temple St., Boston (617-424-6634). www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org. *MBTA: Green or Red Line to Park. Dec. 20-21 and 27-30, 2 pm. $10-$22.* Experience Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella.*

Chorus Pro Musica Holiday Concert
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Boston (617-267-7442). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Dec. 19, 8 pm. $20-$40. Jeffrey Rink directs Chorus pro Musica and the Children's Chorus of the New England Conservatory in a holiday carol sing-along.

A Dancer's Christmas
Robsham Theater Arts Center, Boston College, Chestnut Hill (617-552-4002). www.blde.org. *Dec. 20, 2 pm. $25.* At this special children's performance, the Boston Liturgical Dance Ensemble tells the story of Christmas through dance.

Disney on Ice
FleetCenter, One FleetCenter, Boston (617-931-2000). www.disneyonice.com. *Dec. 26 and 29, 1 pm and 5 pm; Dec. 27-28, 11 am, 3 pm and 7 pm. $12-$42.* This musical ice spectacular features characters from *The Jungle Book, Tarzan* and *The Lion King.*

Folktales East and West
Boston Public Library, 419 Faneuil St., Brighton (617-782-6705). www.bpl.org. *Dec. 30, 3 pm. Free.* Professional actors dramatize three traditional tales from Chinese, European and Native American cultures with audience interaction.

Kids Variety Show
Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline (617-738-6533). www.coolidge.kidsshow.info. *MBTA: C Green Line to Coolidge Corner. Sat., 10:30 am. $10, $8 children.* •Dec. 20: A Kids' Holiday Extravaganza features the storytelling of Scott Kepnes, plus music, dance and comedy.

Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company
The Center for Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick (617-842-7927). www.pocketfulloftales.com. *Sat., 11 am. $8, $5 children.* •Dec. 20, 11 am: Enjoy one-act holiday plays, including *Yours Truly Jack Frost* and *The Mouse Who Was Stirring.*

Puppet Showplace Theatre
32 Station St., Brookline (617-731-6400). www.puppetshowplace.org. *MBTA: D Green Line to Brookline Village. $8.50. Reservations recommended.* •Dec. 17-18, 10:30 am, ages 3-6: Fairy tales come to life in *The Gingerbread Boy and Other Tales* by Pat's Puppets •Dec. 20-21, 26-28, 1 and 3 pm; Dec. 24, 1 pm, ages 5-10: In *Puss and Boots*, a boy's cat helps him achieve his wildest dreams with only a book, a loaf of bread and a pair of tiny red boots. •Dec. 29-30, 1 and 3 pm, ages 4-9: *Hansel and Gretel*, presented by the Tanglewood Marionettes, features music from the Humperdinck opera. •Jan. 2-4, 1 and 3 pm, ages 5 and older: Puppet Kabob Productions presents *What the Moon Saw.* Travel deep beyond the forest to a land never seen.

Things to Do

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). www.bostonkids.org. *MBTA: Red Line to South Station. $8 adults/$7 children.* Check out the exhibit *Making America's Music: Rhythm, Roots & Rhyme* and mix hip-hop tunes in the Streetscape, jive in the jazz club and rock at the school dance through hands-on settings. •Mon., Wed. and Fri., 11am-12 pm, ages 3 and under: Shake, wiggle and giggle in *Music and Movement.* •Fri., 3-5 pm; Sat. and Sun., 2-4 pm: Science activities based on the PBS show ZOOM! •Fri., 7 pm (except Dec. 19 and 26). Participate in Sing-a-Story. •Dec. 20, 12-2 pm: Meet animals up close at Critter Day. •Mon., Tue. and Wed., 11:30 am and 12:30 pm; Thu., 11:30 am; Fri., 11:30 am, 12:30, 6:15 and 7:15 pm; Sat. and Sun., 11:30 am, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm: Experience the world of performing arts in KidStage. •Sat. and Sun., 10:30 and 11:30 am, 2:30 and 3:30 pm: In the Art Studio.

Coop Kids
Harvard Coop, 400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-499-2000). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Free. •Dec. 20, 11 am: Read Hanukkah stories and play the dreidel game. •Dec. 21, 5 pm: Participate in Rick Goldin's Hanukkah sing-along. •Dec. 27, 11 am: Read Kwanzaa stories.

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.mhnh.harvard.edu. *$7.50/$5 children.* •Dec. 20, 9 am-12 pm, grades 2 and 3, $35: Millions of Minerals. Dig through the galleries to find different minerals and their uses, and make a mineral craft. •Jan 3, 9-11 am, preschoolers, $35: Movers and Shakers. Learn about the ways animals move, and make a craft; 9-11 am, grades K and 1, $35: Spineless Wonders. Discover creatures that don't have bones in their bodies, and make a critter craft.

Ice Skating at Frog Pond
Frog Pond, Boston Common, Boston (617-635-2120). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Sun., 10 am-9 pm; Mon., 10 am-5 pm; Tue.-Thu., 10 am-9 pm; Fri.-Sat., 10 am-10 pm. Closed Christmas Day. $3, free for children under 14 (not including skate rental). Lace up your skates for a few laps on the ice.

MIT Museum
265 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617-253-4444). web.mit.edu/museum. *MBTA: Red Line to Kendall. $5, $1 children.* •*Holography, the Light Fantastic.* The MIT Museum displays the largest collection of holograms in the world and describes the artistic and scientific facets of the medium. •*Robots and Beyond.* Take a look behind the scenes of MIT's artificial intelligence research labs in this interactive exhibit.

Museum of Fine Arts Children's Room
465 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-267-9300). www.mfa.org. *MBTA: E Green Line to Museum. $15, free for children 17 and under.* Children ages 6-12 can participate in hands-on art projects. •Jan. 5-9, 3:30-4:45 pm: The Maker's Hand: Mixed-materials construction.

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 children.* •Sat. and Sun., 11 am-12 pm. The museum's Science Theater Program offers *Animals and Stories Alive!*, featuring professional storytellers who combine folk tales and myths with visits from live animals. •*Magic: The Science of Illusion.* Discover how illusions come together through science, math, psychology and the art of performance at this new exhibition. Through Feb. 22. •Charles Hayden Planetarium: Tue.-Thu., 3:30 pm; Fri.-Sat., 3:30 and 7 pm; Sun., 1:30 and 4 pm. Free. Learn to identify the stars, planets, constellations and celestial events during the presentation *The Sky Tonight.* •Gilliland Observatory: Fri., 8:30-10 pm (weather permitting). Free. Use the observatory's two telescopes to find the moon, stars, constellations and planets. •Mugar Omni Theatre, check Web site for show times, $8.50, $6.50 children: *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees, Africa: The Serengeti, Space Station* and *To Fly!*. •*Theater of Electricity:* Daily at 12 and 2 pm. The Van de Graaff generator provides a risk-free lightning show.

Museum of Transportation
Larz Anderson Park, 15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). www.mot.org. *Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5.* The Museum of Transportation has a large collection of rare and antique cars as well as exhibits on automobile history. •*The Evolution of Speed* exhibit explores the history of American auto racing with race cars and displays. •*Racing of Our Youth* lets kids explore the world of slot cars, Hot Wheels and soapbox racing with go-carts to climb in, tracks to build and races to compete in. •Daily: Join the Family Scavenger Hunt through the museum and receive a free prize.

Sundaes on Saturday at the JFK
The Pavilion, John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston (866-535-1960). MBTA: Red Line to JFK. Sat., 11 am-3 pm. $5-$7. Through Dec. 27. Create your own sundae from an ice cream bar after viewing *Caroline Kennedy's Doll Collection* and the *Space Race* exhibit, which features footage from John Glenn's first ride around the earth.

around town

Sights to See

Boston University Observatory
725 Comm. Ave., Boston (617-353-2630). MBTA: B Green Line to BU East. Wednesdays (on clear nights), Oct.-March, 7:30-8:30 pm; April-Sept., 8:30-9:30 pm. Free.

Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Museum Wharf, Boston (617-426-8855). MBTA: Red Line to South Station. Sept.-June, Tue.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Fri., 10 am-9 pm; June-Aug., daily, 10 am-5 pm, Fri. until 9 pm. $5, $3.

Dreams of Freedom
One Milk St., Boston (617-338-6022). MBTA: Green Line to Park. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 am-6 pm. $7.50.

Forest Hills Cemetery
95 Forest Hills Ave., Jamaica Plain (617-524-0128). www.foresthillstrust.org. *MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills. Daily, 7:30 am-sundown. Free.*

Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St., Cambridge (617-495-3045). www.hmnh.harvard.edu. *MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm. $6.50, students and seniors $5, children $4; free to all Sun., 9 am-12 pm.*

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Dorchester (617-514-1600). MBTA: Red Line to JFK/UMass. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. $8.

King's Chapel
58 Tremont St., Boston (617-227-2155). MBTA: Blue or Orange Line to State. Tue.-Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Free.

Mount Auburn Cemetery
580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge (617-547-7105). MBTA: Red Line to Harvard. Daily, 8 am-8 pm.

Museum of Afro-American History
46 Joy St., Boston (617-739-1200). www.afroammuseum.org. *MBTA: Red Line to Park Street. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm. $5, $3 students, seniors.*

Museum of Science
Science Park, Boston (617-723-2500). www.mos.org. *MBTA: Green Line to Science Park. Mon.-Sun., 9 am-5 pm; Fri., 9 am-9 pm. $13, $10 seniors and children.*

Museum of Transportation
15 Newton St., Brookline (617-522-6547). Tue.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. $5, $3 children.

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston (617-973-5200). MBTA: Blue Line to Aquarium. Sept. 2-June 30: Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat.-Sun., 9 am-6 pm. July 1-Sept. 1, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-6 pm; Fri.-Sun., 9 am-7 pm. $15.50, $8.50 children.

Old Faneuil Hall
Boston (617-635-3105). MBTA: Blue Line to State, Orange or Green Line to Haymarket, or Green Line to Government Center. Daily, 9 am-5 pm. Tours start at 9 am. Free.

Old North Church
193 Salem St., Boston (617-523-6676). MBTA: Orange or Green Line to Haymarket. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-6 pm; Sat., 9 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. $3.

Old South Meeting House
310 Washington St., Boston (617-482-6439). MBTA: Blue Line to State. Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm; weekends, 10 am-5 pm. $3.

Old State House Museum
206 Washington St., Boston (617-720-3290). MBTA: Red Line to Downtown Crossing. Daily, 9 am-6 pm. $3.

Prudential Center Skywalk
800 Boylston St., Boston (617-859-0648). MBTA: Green Line to Hynes/ICA. Mon.-Sun., 10 am-10 pm. $6, $4 seniors.

Trinity Church
206 Clarendon St., Boston (617-536-0944). MBTA: Green Line to Copley. Open daily 8 am-6 pm. $3.

USS Constitution & Museum
Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston (617-242-5671). Museum open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Winter ship hours: Thu.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Volunteer

AFC Mentoring Program
(617-695-2441). Mentor a foster care child.

AIDS Action Committee
(617-450-1235). Help someone with HIV/AIDS.

American Cancer Society
(617-556-7400). Drive cancer patients to their local treatment appointments.

Old South Meeting House

Big Brothers
(617-956-0281). www.bbmb.org. Be a big brother.

Big Sister Association
(617-236-8060). www.bigsister.org. Become a friend to a young girl.

Boston Cares
(617-263-2273). More than 70 volunteer opportunities are available.

Boston Jaycees
(617-367-5710). A volunteer organization of people between the ages of 21 and 40.

Boston Living Center
(617-236-1012). HIV/AIDS organization needs volunteers for kitchen, office work, special events.

Call to Action Project
(781-395-8307). datalova@aol.com. Donate quilt blocks to be pieced into quilts and placed on auction to benefit the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Cambridge Cares About AIDS
(617-661-3040, ext. 213). Volunteers are needed to educate the public about HIV.

Charles River Arc
(781-444-4347). www.crarc.org. Provide support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
(617-632-3307). Help adults living with cancer.

Everybody Wins Power Lunch
livmates@rcn.com. Spend your lunch hour reading at an elementary school in Cambridge or Somerville.

Home for Little Wanderers
(617-585-7521). www.thehome.org. Mentor a child.

Horizons Initiative
(617-287-1900). Play with homeless children.

Hospice Home Volunteers
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

House Rabbit Network
(781-431-1211). Provide foster care for homeless rabbits.

Jewish Volunteer Program
(617-558-6585). Share your time with an elderly individual, mentor children or teach an adult to read.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts
(617-367-1313). Teach an adult to read.

Mass. Association for the Blind
(800-852-3029). Read or shop with a blind person.

Mass. Substance Abuse Info Helpline
(617-536-0501, ext. 201). Talk over the phone with people affected by alcoholism and substance abuse.

MATCH-UP Interfaith Volunteers
(617-536-3557). Volunteers are needed to assist elders.

Neighborhood Action Inc.
(617-723-5800). Serve meals to the homeless.

Parental Stress Line
(617-528-5800). Telephone counselors needed.

Pine Street Inn
(617-521-7626). Serve breakfast to homeless guests.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
(617-577-1111). Record textbooks in digital formats.

Respond Inc.
(617-625-5996). Work at a battered-women's agency.

Rosie's Place
(617-442-9322). Volunteers needed for the dining room, clothing room and groceries program at this homeless shelter.

SafeLink
(617-521-0114). Volunteers needed for 24-hour domestic violence program.

Samaritans of Boston
(617-536-2460). Provide friendship to lonely people over the phone.

Single Volunteers Boston
www.svboston.org. SVB offers one-shot opportunities to volunteer with other young professionals.

StandUp for Kids
(800-365-4543). Help rescue homeless children.

VNA Care Network
(617-547-2620). Support terminally ill patients.

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWS.

Blue and Curly

Beantown Pub, sometime in the middle of October on a Friday: My friend and I pulled in for a few bourbons and were standing next to your group of friends by the window. We threw eyes back and forth but you guys were just having too good of a time for me to break it up. I was the tall, curly-haired boy in the blue shirt; you were the tall blond girl dressed in black. I figure you're one to read this, so why not? How about getting ahold of me?

—blueatbeantown@yahoo.com

Red Your Book

Red shoes, red hat, red corduroy pants, red fur-lined coat. I red your book in the Braintree Barnes & Noble the night of Nov. 22 and am oh-so-blue we didn't connect. You: reading a home decorating magazine in the children's section. Me: 5' 11", slender, with scarf and yellow cashmere sweater, looking for music software to teach kids harmony and counterpoint. I need advice on renovating my living room and would like your input. Let's meet for red zinger tea and cherry pie sometime.

—redyourbook@yahoo.com

Nov. 21, Peat Moss Show at Ned Devine's

You: the most beautiful girl I have ever seen in Boston. You have amazing black, curly hair that bounced around as you danced without spilling your Bud Light. In the movie of your life, you would be played by Julianna Margulies. I talked to your friend, Sarah, who said your name was Patricia—and then tried to sell me a condo. Then you disappeared. Me: smart-looking guy wearing a corduroy shirt, jeans and a look on my face that said...wow. I'd like to take you out for a Bud Light sometime.

—patriciarocksmyworld@yahoo.com

Home and Garden's Youngest and Most Attractive Reader

I'm pretty sure that's enough, but just in case: Green Line, Tuesday before Thanksgiving, 6 pm. You have a terrific smile. So sorry I had to leave. I'd love an opportunity to have a longer, more relaxed conversation.

—ggardener6@hotmail.com

South End Elizabeth

It was 2 pm, Nov. 29, at Flour Bakery on Washington Street. After bribing a guy for information, you ordered a tuna sandwich, a salad and a raspberry seltzer. Coldplay playing in the background, you sporting a wooly Patagonia fleece, golden (tan-ish) cargo pants, and light brown hair. You walked all the way up West Newton to probably Tremont, when I realized what a mistake I had made by not introducing myself. I was the tall hottie with Diesel jeans and a turtleneck. E-mail me, and the next seltzer is on me!

—charles_cedarleaf@yahoo.com

Game On

We were in a Newbury Street basement bar watching the Red Sox. You were waiting for your friends, I was waiting for mine. You are blond and were wearing prescription sunglasses to see the game. We exchanged stalker stories and Charlestown haunts—ring a bell? I wanted to stay and chat, but I left when our friends arrived. Want to talk now? E-mail me.

—redsoxtalk@yahoo.com

Betsy, Who Lives and Works in Dudley Square

We met at a store on Bromfield Street. I left first and waited for you. We joined up near Tremont and walked and talked until we were near Boylston. You wanted a good place to invest some cash; I gave you the phone number to call. It was my mistake not to include my cell phone number as well. You were on your two-week vacation, staying in Boston, while I was in Vegas the following week. I'd love to get together again. We can meet at the same store, or you could just leave a note addressed to Vacation Guy in a sealed envelope there. I look forward to getting together with you.

—Vacation guy

Let's Eat Some Hay and Lay by the Bay

I want you bad! More than you'll ever know. Now that you're back, I don't want you to ever go. I feel it's a second chance for me to make my move; I would be so good to you, that I can prove. Waiting for my chance to make your heart smile, the same way you've made mine for a while. I know we're just friends with a strong physical attraction, but we could be so much more and have complete satisfaction. I'm down if you're down to have something real with someone who adores you, and wants to explore you, just let me know and I would be all for you.

—zbrown@msn.com

Dear Gentle Consumer

Do I look like a punching bag? A stress ball, perhaps? Or better yet, your therapist? No, I look like none of these things, yet as soon as you put a sales counter between you and me you treat me with all the disrespect in the world. Do you think I care that your grandmother/aunt/mother/cousin twice removed has to get these cards tomorrow? Why yell at me when you could have had your cards made last September, when you took the picture? Gentle Consumer, why at this time of the year do you think that you can yell, scream, and stamp your feet to get your way? It's Christmas and I don't need your money—there are 30 other people who are just as stressed and busy as you are who will treat me like the sales professional that I am. So yes, I know there are long lines, lots of traffic and lots of things to do. But, Gentle Consumer, you know what? I also have all these things to do after spending nine hours on my feet serving you and your needs. And I do it with a smile on my face and few nice comments to the sales professional behind the counter—because he too is a person with many people to help and lots of things on his list to do.

—The person behind the counter

Hark!

I was the woman with the short, red hair and the vacant look in her eyes at the Hark at HLS during Thanksgiving week, so lost in my own thoughts that when you asked "Is this seat taken? I hate sitting at these big tables alone," I automatically said "No. Please sit," and barely glanced up at the nice-looking man who sat across from me. I rudely did not even think about you and that you might have liked to talk. I finished lunch quickly, looked at you briefly, and said "Have a nice lunch," then left. It wasn't until I got back to my office that I thought about the incredulous shrug you gave me. If you ever want to have lunch again, I would be happy to be your companion, and I will actually pay attention this time. I'm usually very friendly, but sometimes I'm just...

—cluelessjane@hotmail.com.

To All You Rude Idiots on Public Transportation

Turn your music down, stop shouting at your friends, offer your seat to the elderly, take your feet off the seats and move your bags off of the empty seat next to you. You are not at home, so quit treating the trains and buses like your living room.

—Tired of dealing with inconsiderate people

Giving Thanks

Copley Square Fleet ATM, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving: You turned in my ATM card, which I foolishly left in the slot. The babies got fed and I got to see the Paris video without taking out a loan. Holiday saved! You have one free on your Karma card—feel free to trip an old lady. Thank you, bubeleh!

—Absent-minded ATM'er

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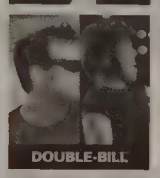

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Métropolis, July 7, 9 pm

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Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PdA, July 8, 8:30 pm

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Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PdA, July 9, 8:30 pm

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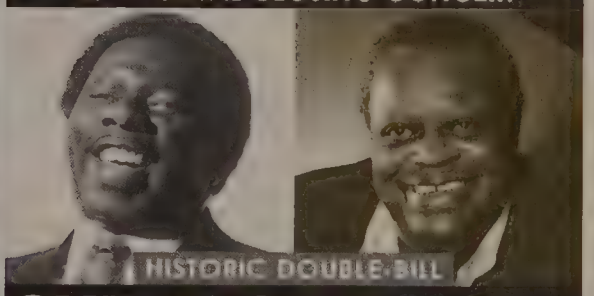

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rockie horoscope

DECEMBER 17, 2003 – JANUARY 6, 2004 BY ROCKIE GARDINER

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Ahh, the joys of self-absorption. It's primarily during Sagittarius that you are blessed with enough opportunities to show your true colors and get away with it. You know you're supposed to be thinking of your fellow humans and what they want for Christmas, but, truth be told, until your birthday has come and gone, the holidays are all about you. Since Mercury will be retrograde in your Capricorn money house, take it easy with the credit cards when shopping. And watch out for identity theft.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 20

How to handle having Mercury retrograde in your sign at this time? Give up all hope of controlling the flow of anything, except maybe the eggnog. Add hours, even days, to your travel plans, and bring extra money for contingencies and food to sustain you while you wait to get where you're going. Or don't go. Like your Sag buddy, you shine your brightest during the holiday season, so no matter where you spend it, you'll have an excellent time. Just ignore, don't smack, the Scrooges and Grinches.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 18

Who has the most friends? Who should wait until Mercury flips on Dec. 17th before finalizing their gift lists? Who's naughty, who's nice? Who knows, because something unexpected could alter your sense of allegiance, your identification with a particular group during Mercury's turnaround. While romance might not figure into your holiday plans as yet, admit that you're attracting a new crew of admirers, an artier bunch than the folks who usually gravitate to your place. Thank Venus and her sidekick, Eros.

PISCES

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19

Say yes. Graciously accept whatever goodies you're offered this holiday season, no matter how inappropriate they may seem at the moment. It'll be another 12 years before wise and generous Jupiter visits your Virgo house of allies again. By Christmas 2015, your self-sacrificing Neptune ruler will be in Pisces, and you may already be a monk or a nun. So if there's anything on the material plane you have your eye on, drop hints to anyone remotely close. One person could be your good luck charm, another, your future guru.

ARIES

MARCH 20-APRIL 19

On the 16th, your passionate Mars ruler finally stepped out of the tepid tub it had been soaking in since mid-June. If you hadn't noticed, six months of navigating through ambiguous Piscean waters could feel like forever. Even though Mars will spend only seven weeks in Aries, imagine how much you can accomplish when you have loads of energy and clear-cut goals. Just be sure to look carefully before you leap into action. Mercury turns retrograde on the 17th, so, despite your agenda, progress will slow down and signals will get crossed. But hey, it's party time.

TAURUS

APRIL 20-MAY 20

Network like mad. Coincidentally, the holidays are the best time for you to reach out to folks who may be helpful in the future but are fun to socialize with now. The more varied the assortment of faces, the more enjoyable and valuable the experiences. This is also a good time to get away from the usual office party circuit and explore new terrain and cultures. There's something quite romantic and spiritually satisfying waiting for you as the year winds down; the call, not only of the wild, but the gorgeous as well.

GEMINI

MAY 21-JUNE 20

As a Gemini, you know better than most signs how strange things tend to get in the days before your Mercury ruler does an about-face. Since the messenger will be stopping and starting, doing a stutter-step from Dec. 17th on, consider putting all your plans on hold and winging it. See what happens and where you're at come Epiphany, when the Mardi Gras party season begins. If you're not being pressured to make Yuletide promises and New Year's resolutions, you can't break them. Despite a heightened sense of duty, you're not compelled to obey orders. Not unless you're flying.

CANCER

JUNE 21-JULY 22

If you're doing things by the book, observing family traditions and feeling a strong sense of obligation, blame it on strict Saturn in your sign. Better to embrace the holiday spirit so that you'll be commended rather than condemned for trying to avoid the emotional overload of the season. So much planetary attention is currently centered in your house of significant others and so many people feel connected to you this year that you'll really disappoint them if you pull a disappearing act and please yourself instead.

LEO

JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Lucky Leo. This time of year your house of romance, recreation and other pleasures is lit like a Christmas tree. Make the most of the goodies and good times while you can. But if you want to be known as a useful, upstanding member of the community, be generous donating time and money to the sick and poor or to the folks who provide the services you can't live without. Charity begins not at home—folks there don't need it—but at the office, the blood bank and Goodwill.

VIRGO

AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Great expectations: Prosperous, protective Jupiter in your sign this year promises you'll have a particularly enjoyable holiday season. Don't screw it up by insisting that everyone does what you want or shares your feelings. Because your Mercury ruler will be retrograde for the duration, plans probably won't materialize the way you envision, and words will be taken the wrong way. At least there'll be less overt friction; Mars, the god of slash and burn, is finally out of Pisces, where, for the past six months, it managed to irritate most of your partners.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

As usual, your neighbors, friends and family will try to orchestrate your comings and goings during the holiday season. However, you can easily make time for an offbeat admirer and his or her pursuit of whatever is new, different and thrilling. You don't have to be your compliant self, especially since retrograde Mercury will mess up arrangements without your having to make excuses. But try not to fib during the purest of spiritual connections: when your romantic Venus ruler joins idealistic, artistic Neptune for New Year's.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Thank the gods that your Mars co-ruler is in fiery Aries, breathing energy into your love life, instead of in watery Pisces, where it was drowning you in lethargy and waves of confusing emotions. With your Pluto co-ruler also in a fire sign, you might actually feel spirited and sexy this holiday season, eager for adventure and whatever comes your way. Money can be an ongoing issue while Mercury is retrograde in your house of income and assets. Shop early, spend prudently, keep track of receipts and anticipate delivery delays.

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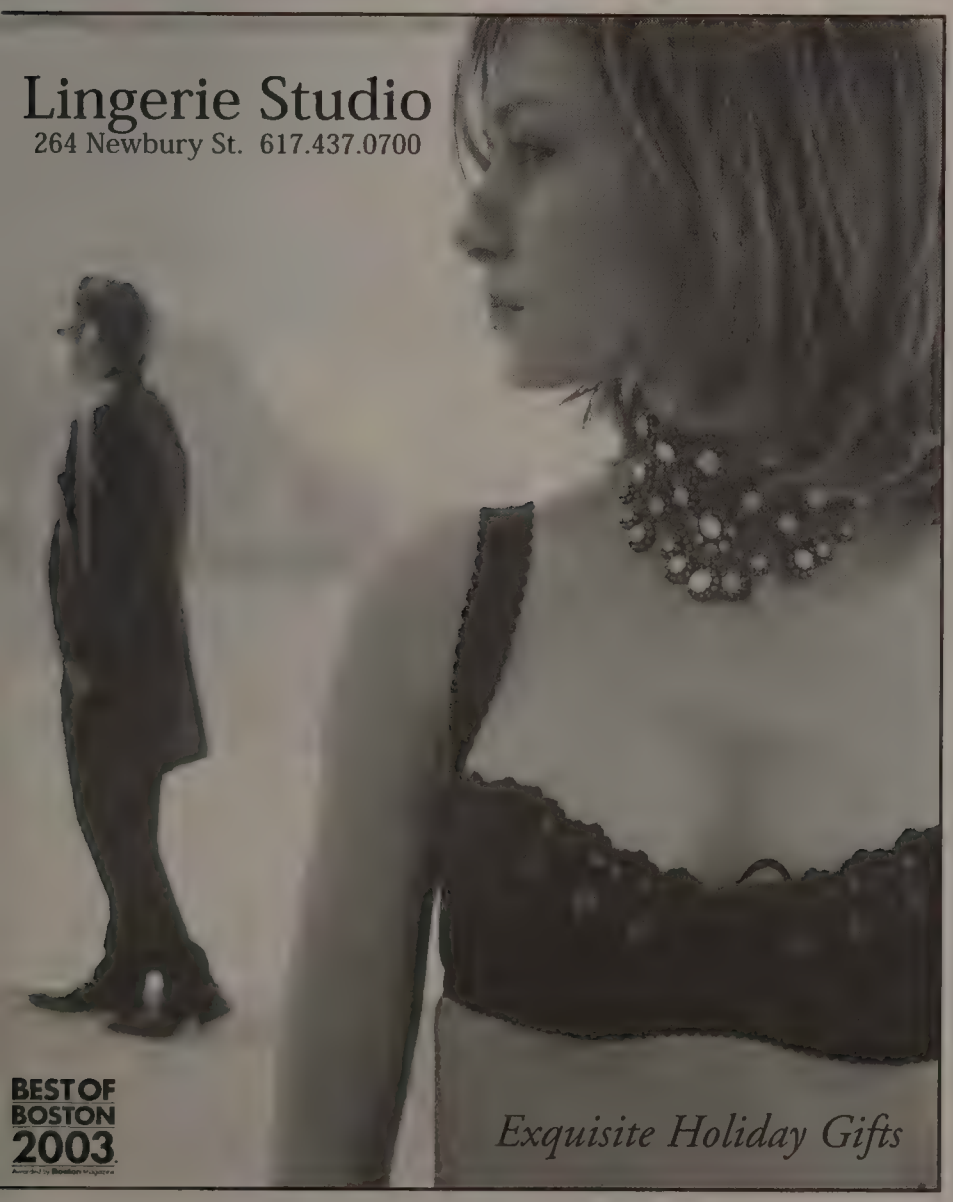

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US Ambassador to Canada Argeo Paul Cellucci (left) and Canadian Ambassador to the US Michael Kergin avert war.

Brent and Melissa Blackmon spot a rainbow on the southern coast of Maui during their honeymoon. In Hawaii, rainbows lead to roasted pigs and poi instead of pots o' gold.

Prince Faisal al Saud of Saudi Arabia and members of the Saudi-American exchange program are all up in the house—the House of Saud! Cultural tip: If you don't know how to type in Saudi Arabia, just hunt and OPEC.

Leena Bitar (left) and her friend Clara tower over buildings in Madurodam, Holland. We can't figure out how they got a magazine that big.

Dena Friedman (center) and her friends KJ (left) and Melissa hang out with stuntmen on the set of the new Tom Cruise film, *The Last Samurai*, in New Zealand's Taranaki region. Take a wild guess who the stuntman on the right stands in for.

Key West Fantasy Fest participants Kelly Swift and Mark McGoldrick show why Cubans escape to Florida: Castro doesn't allow schoolgirl outfits.

IMPROPER BOUNTY

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IMPROPERAZZI

The Improper Bostonian's client-related promotions and events

On Thursday, November 20, **Brother Jimmy's** celebrated it's grand opening in Harvard Square. Singer/songwriters Livingston Taylor and Kate Taylor delighted the crowd with a special performance.

1. **Bill Hogan**, director of corporate partnerships for ANC Sports, and **Jennifer Martinelli**, artist.
2. **Livingston Taylor**; **Dick Friedman** and **Josh Leibowitz**, co-owners of Brother Jimmy's; and **Kate Taylor**.
3. **Sophie Zunz**, director of public relations, and **Jennifer McMahon**, director of sales, both of the Charles Hotel.

On Tuesday, November 25, **Pilsner Urquell** hosted a party at **Villa Victoria** to celebrate the Pilsner revolution!

1. **Rick Wetmore**, northeast area manager, and **Marc Salsman**, business sales representative, both of Pilsner Urquell.
2. **Jessica Sparks**, and **Aliz Csaki**, both marketing managers for Preston; **Brendan LeGros**, business sales representative for Pilsner Urquell; **Terri Cronin** and **Kate Sturk**, marketing managers for Preston.
3. **Marge Huntington**, meeting planner for AMS; **Jamie Bracken** and **Kathleen Boutin**, both of McKinsey & Co.; **Brian Napoleon**, owner of the Bustonian; and **B.A. Doherty** of McKinsey & Co.

On Tuesday, December 2, **The Improper Bostonian** celebrated the Winter Fashion Issue with "Winter Nights." The fashion show held at **Vinalia** featured clothing by **GiPore** and jewelry by **Barmakian Jewelers**. Party-goers also enjoyed **Pravda Vodka** martinis, **Moët & Chandon** champagne, and chocolates from **Godiva**. The **Maggie Inc.** models wore make-up from **MAC** and hair by **Mitchell John Salon**.

1. **Mike Milne**, market manager for Schieffelin & Somerset; **Kim Sawyer**, president of Locater Services Group; and **James Tye**, executive vice president of United Group.
2. **Susan Baranyi**, senior account executive, and **Lynne Kortenhaus**, president, both of Kortenhaus Communications.
3. **Mike Moran**, co-owner of Caprice, Felt and Vinalia; **Dawn Herrick**, marketing director of Chambord and Pravda Vodka; and **Brian O'Donnell**, co-owner of Vinalia and Felt.
4. Maggie Inc. models.
5. **Jihan** of Maggie Inc.

PHOTOS: BROTHER JIMMY'S, MIKEY BURNS; PILSNER URQUELL, KATIE SCHMIDT; HAMPSHIRE HOUSE, ALISON MORANT; VINALIA, JULIE KANE, DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

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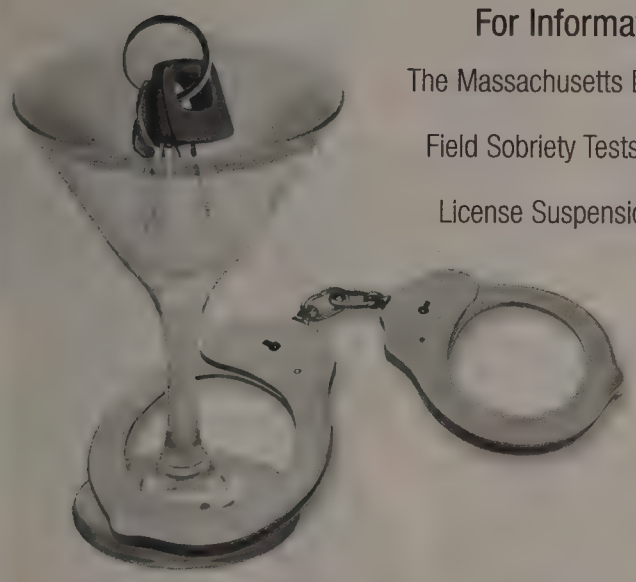

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On Wednesday, December 3, **The Kershaw Foundation** and the **Hampshire House** presented the Bull & Finch Pub's 24th annual "Cheers for Children" party and grand auction. Numerous local celebrities helped to raise money for **The Globe Santa Fund**, **The Neely Cancer Fund**, **The Jimmy Fund**, and **Friends of Floating Hosptial for Children**.

1. **Matt Siegel**, morning DJ for KISS 108 FM and celebrity auctioneer, and **Joe Castiglione**, Red Sox sportscaster for WEEI.
2. **Mark Fidrych**, former major league pitcher; **Joe Morgan**, former manager of the Red Sox; and **Ric Morant**, director of ServiceQuotes.com.
3. **Athene Wilson-Glover**, vocalist; **Brian Hanaford**, owner of Hanaford Associates; and **Jeffrey Harris**, vocalist for Brian Walkley's Allnighters.
4. **John Kennedy**, former Red Sox player, and **Lisa Mulvey**, Mrs. Massachusetts.

On Saturday, Decembe 6, **Vinalia** restaurant hosted the **Three Kings Event**, proceeds will benefit **Leslie's Links**.

1. **Anthony Sgro**, risk manager for KPMG; **Gary Murad**, vice president of O'Neill and Associates; **Bo Timperio**, project manage for E.W. Howell & Compan and **Domenic Visocchi**, director of physical therapy at Columbus Rehabilitation Center.
2. **Jackie Falla**, director of marketing for Gappe Associates; **Marion Kassler**, marketing directo for the Boston Design Center; and **Dan Karp**,director of marketing and development for The Ellie Fund.
3. **Frank McHugh**, owner of Perfect 10 tanning salon; **E Kosta**, co-owner of Vinali **Shawn McHugh**, sales Manager for Westboro Mitsubishi; **Justine Kurland**, manager of Perfect 10 tanning salon; and **Jason Stuckey**, real estate appraiser for Grasso Appraisal.

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Pravda 116 *116 Boylston St., Boston, 617-482-7799.* Located in Boston's trendy Theater District, Pravda 116 is a chic restaurant, bar and club. The menu focuses on contemporary American cuisine with specialties like roasted pork medallions. DJs in the bar and dance club keep the energy level high. Restaurant open Tuesday-Saturday, 5:30-10pm, bar, 5pm-2am and dance club Wednesday-Saturday 10pm-2am. AE, CB, DC, MC, V.

Roxy *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Comedy

The Comedy Connection *245 Quincy Market Place, Boston, 617-248-9700. www.comedyconnectionboston.com. 18+.* The Comedy Connection, located on the 2nd Floor of the Quincy Market Building in the heart of Historical Faneuil Hall, is open seven nights a week and offers the best in local and national comedy. During the week, the nationally renowned club offers some of Boston's best comics like Kevin Knox, "The Wildman of Comedy," Paul Nardizzi and Don Gavin. On Thursday nights, Frank Santos, "The R-Rated Hypnotist" mesmerizes the audience and on the weekends, this is the only place to see the biggest names in comedy such as Jon Stewart, Chris Rock, Margaret Cho, Brian Regan, Jay Mohr, Dane Cook and George Lopez.

Dance Bars

Jose McIntyre's *160 Milk St., Boston 451-9460.* Boston's only Irish/Mexican cantina is a great escape in the financial district! Two floors, three bars, open-air dining, pool tables upstairs and live bands downstairs!

The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www. theplaceboston.com.* Drink. Dance. Mingle. Let your hair down; see and be seen on the big screen. Simply the hippest way to spend a night of all-out fun in Boston's Financial District. Come after work. Come to dance. Come to go wild with your friends. There's always something exciting happening—and you never know who you'll bump into. Join us and experience what the buzz is all about.

The Purple Shamrock *1 Union St., Boston, 617-227-2060.* Known for its great food, live entertainment and relaxing atmosphere! Menu includes American and Irish specialties. Live cover bands nightly.

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston,617-725-1051.* Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Irish

The Black Rose *160 State St., Boston, 617-742-2286.* Boston's legendary Irish Pub celebrates its 25th year! Considered one of the best Irish pubs in America, the menu features American and Irish spe-

cialties. Live Irish music nightly.

Hennessy's of Boston *25 Union St., Boston,617-742-2121*. Boston's most authentic Irish pub next to Faneuil Hall serves a great menu with daily specials and Irish traditions. A huge bar with an extensive beer and wine list, Hennessy's has Boston's best appetizer menu. Enjoy live entertainment five nights a week with pop bands direct from Ireland. Hennessy's of Boston, "Purveyor's of Fine Food and Spirits," are part of the Somers' Pubs Fleet.

The Grand Canal *57 Canal St., Boston, 617-523-1112*. Hailed as the "crown jewel in the Irish pub empire of John Somers," this premiere Irish Bar features over fifty micro brews, an extensive wine list, a full international menu, and Boston's best appetizer menu. The Grand Canal hosts "Boston's Best Bands," and features Boston's only 12 foot video screen playing Bruins, Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox games. Enjoy a true "Irish Pub Experience."

Green Briar *304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100.* A little taste of Ireland with great tasting, affordable food. One of the most popular nightspots in town, the Green Briar has become the area's headquarters for international sports viewing and live entertainment. Live music five nights a week, featuring local bands on weekends, a traditional Irish Seissun every Monday night and Prime Time Trivia every Tuesday. The hospitable atmosphere makes the Green Briar an excellent place to hold luncheons, wedding rehearsals, social gatherings and small business meetings. Open 11 am - 1 am 7 days a week. Cover charge varies on Friday and Saturday nights and some sporting events on Sundays.

The Green Dragon *11Marshall St., Boston, 617-367-0055*. Hailed "Headquarters of the Revolution," this favorite after work meeting place is famous for it's "giant cocktail drink special menu." A comfortable place serving lunch and dinner and highly acclaimed Irish breakfast every Sat. & Sun. from 11 am to 3pm. The tavern boasts over 15 beers on tap, 20 different bottled "brewskies" and imported Irish brews. Live music and entertainment every Thursday through Sunday night.

Kinvara *34 Harvard Ave., Allston 617-783-9400.* At the Kinvara, the crowd is spirited, the staff is hospitable, the food is great and everyone is treated as a "regular". It's the local gathering place with authentic Irish pub flavor. Live international sports viewing via satellite includes soccer, rugby and hurling. Live bands entertain to a lively crowd on weekends. The mainstream pub fare menu ranges from grilled sandwiches and fish & chips to traditional Irish dishes and innovative daily specials. At the Kinvara, you'll enjoy a true Irish pub experience. Open 11 am - 2 am 7 days a week.

Mr. Dooley's Boston Tavern *77 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-5656.* Hailed by the Globe as "the gem of the Financial District," Mr. Dooley's is a favorite meeting place for young professionals. The authentic Irish pub with over 13 imported beers on tap has been voted "Boston's Best Burgers" and "Best Cheap Eats." Open daily until 2 am, featuring live bands every Fri. through Sun. night. "A great place for a pint and a chat."

General

The Alley *Boylston Place, Boston, 617-351-7000. www.alleyboston.com.* The Alley brings the best of Bourbon Street to Boston with the hottest live bands and DJs, specialty drinks, billiards, two patios and a wrap around balcony for plenty of people watching. The Big Easy, Sweetwater Café, Bishop's Pub and the Sugar Shack have something for every mood, so grab your beads and head to The Alley where it's Mardi Gras every night!

Aqua *120 Water St., Boston, 617-720-4900.* Boston's newest place to be seen is now open in the heart of the Financial District. Whether relaxing with a martini in one of our cozy booths, sipping a margarita on our roof deck or watching your hometown favorites on our high definition plasma TV. Aqua has what you're looking for after work and late night with our resident and guest DJs spinning your favorite mixes through our state of the art sound system all night long.

The Black Rhino *21 Broad St., Boston, 617-263-0101*. The Black Rhino Bar, Restaurant and Club is located in the heart of the Financial District just one block from Faneuil Hall. With four floors, a roof deck and a patio, it is an ideal venue for corporate and social event planning. Live music and resident DJs Wed. through Sat. nights. For mor e info, please call or e-mail info@the blackrhino.com

Boston Rocks *245 Quincy Market Place Boston,617-726-1110 www.boston-rocks.net. 21+.* Located on the 2nd Floor of the Historic Quincy Market Bldg. in Faneuil Hall, with entrances on the street level, as well as through the Comedy Connection, BOSTON ROCKS provides "A Unique Brand of Entertainment". Open seven days a week from 5PM-2AM, it offers the best in TOP 40, Hip Hop and Dance music with a rotating roster of Boston's Best DJs in a very intimate setting. Casual and relaxing atmosphere with comfy leather sofas, television screens and a VIP Lounge. It's a great place to unwind, meet friends, listen to music or enjoy live bands. We can accommodate corporate functions, bachelor, bachelorette and birthday parties.

Cactus Club *939 Boylston St.,617- 236-0200.* Have the notorious Cactus margarita, voted Improper's Best in 2002. Our southwestern specialties include Sizzlin' Fajitas, Chimichangas, or Quesadillas and the daring wash it all down with a Cactus Bowl. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Visit our suburban Iguana Cantina restaurants in Waltham. Amex, Visa and Diners Club. www.bestmargaritas.com.

Cheers *Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston, 617-227-0150, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Offering pub fare until 11:45pm. Live entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Cheers *Beacon Hill 84 Beacon St., Boston, 617-227-9605, www.cheersboston.com.* Open daily from 11-2am. Full menu available until 11:45pm. Watch your favorite team on DirecTV.

Downtown Lounge *138 Portland St., Boston 617-523-8383.* Tempting tapas, modern martinis and contemporary cocktails are just a few of the elements awaiting your arrival. A distinctive destination in the heart of North Station, located just one block from the Fleet Center. Share crab taquitos, shaved portobello mushrooms or grilled white pizza. Revive with a specialty martini while sinking into soft curvy seating. Spacious and sublime, Downtown Lounge is an attractive meeting place for business, luncheons, social, after work cocktails and events.

Encore Lounge *279 Tremont St. Boston (in the Tremont Hotel), 617-338-7699* A new twist on Boston's Cabaret Tradition! Live Music 7 nights a week 9:30pm-1 am (til 2 am on Saturdays). Always open mike! Party where the Stars go after the Show! Tuesday: Bobby Femino (Piano Bar), Wednesday: Brian Nash & Stacey Baker (Standards/Pop), Thursday: Mary Callahan (Contemporary Cabaret), Friday: Jan Peters (Contemporary Cabaret), Saturday: Clara Lofaro (Standards/Pop), Sunday: Dorothy Miller & Michael Larson (Contemporary Cabaret).

The Harp *85 Causeway St., Boston 617-742-1010.* Voted Boston Magazine's "Best After The Game", the Harp is a favorite downtown hotspot any day of the week, located directly across from the Fleet Center. Live bands from Boston, Philadelphia and New York plus DJs spinning tunes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights set the pace for the great high-energy environment. The Harp provides a crowd-pleasing menu with tastes from around the globe. Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Harp also serves as an excellent meeting place for business luncheons, social gatherings and events.

Hurricane O'Reilly's *150 Canal St.,Boston 617-722-0161*. The newest edition to Boston's night scene. This New Orleans style bar is just steps away from the Fleet Center. Hurricane O'Reilly's serves up the best that Boston nightlife has to offer. Come dance the night away with the hottest music around. We will leave you yearning for Bourbon Street.

Jillian's Boston *145 Ipswich St., Boston, 617-437-0300*. Jillian's is a 70,000 square foot entertainment megaplex featuring more than 200 high tech games, six full bars, 50 pool tables, racing simulators, Black Jack for Fun and much more. Atlas Bar and Grill on Jillian's first floor offers full service dining featuring innovative American cuisine, a giant screen video wall and dancing every Friday & Saturday night. www.jilliansboston.com.

Parris *Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Quincy Market Building, Boston 617-248-8800.* Lounge. Cocktails. Dancing. Nightlife. Come see the lights of Parris. Sample the eclectic lounge menu featuring grilled pizza, oyster shooters ans steak tartar. Sip a Classic, Apple or French 75 martini, and then motion onto the huge dance floor featuring Live Music with the best bands and DJs Thursday through Saturday. Named for the original architect of the Greek-revival-style building, Alexander Parris, you're nightlife experience at Parris will be Boston and beyond. Open 5pm - 2 am Wednesay - Saturday. Cover charge on Friday and Saturday.

Roxy *279 Tremont St.,(in the Tremont Hotel), Boston , 617-338-7699.* We've got it ALL right here! The hottest dance venue in the City! Thursdays: THE LATIN QUARTER, salsa, merengue and contemporary latin dance. Doors at 10:30, proper dress & I/D. Fridays: MONDO BAR, international and house spun by DJ Felix of Boston Beat and Eddy K. Doors at 10pm, proper dress & ID. Saturday: ROXY SATURDAY NITES, high energy house, dance mixes, spun by DJ Adlison. Door at 9pm, 21+, No jeans, sneakers, hats or athletic wear.

Jazz

The Rack *24 Clinton St., Faneuil Hall Marketplace Boston,617-725-1051*. Winner of The Improper Bostonian's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 & 2003 Boston's Best awards. This restaurant/ nightclub/ billiards club offers much more than a game of pool. Come enjoy a delicious meal, a martini and a fine cigar. Casual indoor & outdoor dining until 1 am. Live jazz afterwork and bands 7 nights a week, dancing with DJ Littles and Johnny C til 2 am. House bands include Sugarfoot Horns, Black Sole and Zeke Martin.

Regattabar *Located in The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* The Regattabar is the only place to hear top-flight live jazz Tuesday-Saturday nights and occasional Sunday afternoons. It's the "Diva" of Boston's Jazz Clubs at The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square. Shows at 8:30pm Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm & 10:00pm Fri. & Sat. Full bar and bar menu, casual dress. Parking available at the Charles Hotel garage. Call 617.876.7777 for tickets and information, 800.881.1818 for hotel reservations and information.

Latin

Sophia's *1270 Boylston St., Boston 617-351-7001.* A multistory Latin-themed restaurant and club, Sophia's treats guests to a tantalizing Tapas-style menu, live Salsa bands and hi-energy Latin dance. From a romantic dinner and salsa lessons to hi-energy dance and mingling on the roof deck over sangria and Salsa, an evening at Sophia's is always Hot! Hot! Hot

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The Place *2 Broad St., Boston, 617-523-2081 www.theplaceboston.com.* Voted Boston's Best Sports Bar 3 years in a row by The Improper Bostonian! Mingle with your favorite sports celebrities: Brady, Thornton, Walker, Garciaparra. You never know who you'll run into. Enjoy the wildest party atmosphere in the heart of the Financial District. It's never the same experience twice – we've got exclusive sports video productions and game coverage on our state-of the-art flat screen TVs. So join us to see what the buzz is all about and find out why people in-the-know feel right at home.

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Dick's Last Resort *Prudential Center, 55 Huntington Ave., Boston, 617-267-8080, www.dickslast-resort.com.* On Sunday, Dick's has live gospel music for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet includes salads, hot entrees, carved beef and ham stations, an omelet station, waffles and desserts. Adults $15.99 and children $6.99. Live music - no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Open daily, Dick's Last Resort is billed as "The shame of Boston."

Harvard Gardens *315 Cambridge St., Beacon Hill, Boston, 617-523-2727. www.harvardgardens.com.* Cozy up to the beautiful mahogany bar or slip into a comfy booth and enjoy Harvard Gardens' menu of cool cocktails and comfort food. Brunch serves up eggs and pastrami hash, thick-cut French toast with caramelized bananas, specialty pizzas and Boston's best Bloody Mary. Harvard Gardens serves brunch Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am - 3:00pm.

Henrietta's Table *Located in the Charles Hotel, One Bennett St., Cambridge.* It's "Boston's Best" brunch Saturdays and Sundays at Henrietta's. Saturday's a la carte brunch features mouthwatering entrees. Sunday's buffet brunch is flat-out lavish with everything from Salad of Smoked Duck to Oysters to Waffles to Omelettes. The menu changes every week so it always features what's freshest and best on the market. Outdoor dining in season. Saturday brunch: Appetizers from $5-$9; entrees $14 or all 3 courses for $21. Sundays: $42 adults; $25 ages 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended 617-661-5005.

Sunset Grill & Tap *130 Brighton Ave., Allston, 617-254-1331; Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 617-731-8646.* "Beer's not just for breakfast anymore." At the Sunset Super Sunday Brewers Brunch, try our thick-cut French toast, potato skins and eggs, eggs benny, crispy quesadillas or our All You Can Eat Brunch Taco Bar, including a free Sunday paper and your first beery mary or mimosa. Full menu also available. 112 taps, 380 microbrews.

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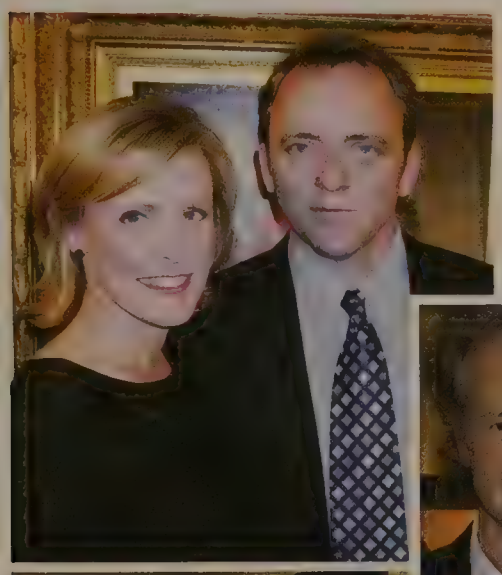
LAST SCENE HERE

BY JONATHAN SOROFF



At the Boston Adult Literacy party, from top: Lisa Hughes and Dennis Lehane; Gordon Hamersley; Joan and Robert Parker.

A HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND SHE CAN STILL KICK UP HER HEELS...

The magnificence meter was somewhere up in the Gilded Age range when the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum** hosted **A Centennial Evening** to thank major donors to its **Centennial Program Fund**.

Guests in black tie or period dress arrived to a string quartet playing in the courtyard, which was lit with Japanese lanterns, while waiters passed trays of champagne and irresistible little nibbly things. The jewels came out of the vault for the evening—we're talking serious rocks here—and that was just on the guests. Then there were the models hired to show off some rare gems, like a black opal surrounded by diamonds and an emerald as big as the Ritz, from Tiffany's (one of the evening's sponsors).

The net worth in the room, meanwhile, rivaled the GNP of some civilized countries, with a guest list that included the likes of mutual fund poobah **Ned Johnson** and the soignee **Lilly**; cable TV gazillionaire **Amos Hostetter** and the stunning **Barbara**; high-tech mogul **Ray Stata** and the statuesque **Maria**; real estate titan **Bill Poorvu** and the lovely **Lia**; fashion plate **Nina Fialkow** (whose husband, **David**, was on a golfing trip with his father) squired by Boston Ballet big cheese **Mikko Nissinen**; Cambridge architectural giant **Graham Gund**, whose wife, **Ann**, co-chaired the evening with **Wendy Shattuck**; the latter's distinguished other half, **Sam Plimpton**; recent transplants to Chestnut Hill **Julie** and **Brant Binder**; white-hot interior designer **Dennis Duffy**; a woman who recognized someone from her yoga class by saying, "I'd know your ass anywhere"; and a man who told a prominent socialite, "I love your hair," to which she responded, "Thanks. It's not mine."

Dinner was served upstairs in the **Tapestry Room**, at tables decorated to a fare-thee-well with giant flower arrangements that had pheasant feathers sticking out of them, and the entertainment included some warbling by world-famous mezzo-soprano **Jossie Perez**, a dramatic reading by ART actor **Jeremy Geidt**, and a flamenco performance paying homage to the John Singer Sargent painting *El Jaleo* in the museum's cloisters. As one attendee put it, "You know you're at a serious party when the *New York Times* sends a photographer."

MIGHT WE SUGGEST FAMILY COUNSELING?

Wine and hors d'oeuvres might not solve all the world's problems, but they put a dent in one when the **Boston Adult Literacy Fund** celebrated its 15th anniversary in the showroom of **Skinner Auctioneers**.

Attendees were treated to a preview of American and European paintings, along with an opportunity to rub elbows with the likes of WBZ blond glamazon **Lisa Hughes**; best-selling detective novelists **Dennis Lehane** and **Robert B. Parker**; the latter's firecracker of a wife, **Joan**; celebrity restaurateurs **Gordon** and **Fiona Hamersley**; tastemaker **Tina Sutton** and her broadcast journalist husband, **John Carroll**; superchic decorator **Eileen Patterson**; talk show hosts **Smoki Bacon** and **Dick Concannon**; and one woman who said, "I just heard the two words you never want to hear your hairdresser use—'Oh, no!' It's like your surgeon saying, 'Whoops.'"

However, the most memorable comment came from a woman who said, "I had such screwed-up parents, my husband could be a serial killer and I probably wouldn't notice."

LIKE IT'S 1999...

Everyone knows those Junior Leaguers do good deeds, but who knew they knew how to party? It was like a Texas sorority mixer meets Studio 54, or a country club dinner dance crossed with a Roman orgy, at the **Junior League's Fall Ball**, held in the grand ballroom of the **Ritz**.

During the cocktail hour, guests tippled while bidding on an almost obscenely extensive silent auction. The wine flowed freely throughout dinner, and by the time dessert and coffee were served, at least one table had already dug into their goodie bags and donned the light blue bug-eye sunglasses they found there.

Present and accounted for: L.A. and Boston interior designer **Jim Swan** and his swanlike assistant, **Suzanne Logan**; engineering whiz kid **Vanu Bose**; North Shore party pair **Trevor** and **Gigi Gowdy**; flawless southern belle **Winston Jenkins**; and **Matt Kelly**, who proposed to fiancée **Evangelea Spirounias** half an hour before the party started. Thankfully, she said yes.

Instead of pearls and twin sets, there were lots of up-dos and cleavage, and the dance floor stayed as busy as the bars did until it was time for the cows to come home. Among the choice comments overheard during the course of the evening:

"She told me the ring she tried on at Shreve's was so expensive they brought out a security guard. Six carats. $160,000. I said, 'Why didn't you look at the good stuff?'"

"I know her from boarding school. Or riding school. Whatever. Same thing."

And from one woman, "My family was in the tannery business on the North Shore," to which the man she was speaking to replied, "Oh. Well, my family was busy tanning in Florida." iB

At the Junior League's Fall Ball, top: Suzanne Logan, Vanu Bose and Kenn Gray. Middle row, from left: Evangelea Spirounias and Matt Kelly; Gigi and Trevor Gowdy. Bottom: The blue glasses come out of the goodie bags.

At the Gardner Museum, clockwise from far right: Wendy Shattuck, Graham and Ann Gund; Julie and Brant Binder; Anne Hawley, Ray and Maria Stata; Jan and Jeremy Geidt; Chris and Hillary Gabrielli.

Avez-vous dish?

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